of our national heritage and the need to preserve the beauty of our countryside and the highest standards in our way of life.
Pollution is no longer tolerated. Noise is pollution and continuous noise is continuous pollution. It must not be tolerated when it can be prevented.
I am confident that those responsible will see clearly the very great harm which would be done to many aspects of life here in the Otter Valley if this ill-considered venture is given the go-ahead. Certainly any such approval would create deep resentment and have a long-lasting effect on the intricate pattern of relationships between the electorate, the environmental organisations and the various councils in the area.

Frank Taylor (Capt.). Worfield House
Combe Raleigh. Honiton.

Dumpdon

Dilemma of the fallen trees of Dumpdon Hill
A Honiton District Diary PWN 25 Jan. 1977

Photo →

Felled by nature, dissected by man, a view of the fallen beeches at Dumpdon Hill.

Honiton's famous landmark, the prehistoric hill fort of Dumpdon Hill has been under attack from the ravages of the weather lately and much concern has been voiced about protecting the lofty clump of trees which can be seen on the skyline for many miles in several directions.
As our picture, taken by Staff Photographer Steve Roberts, shows, several of the huge trees have simply been ripped out of the ground in recent months and efforts in the past to replant on the

hill have met with only limited success.

In the 1950's when Mr John Udale, a well known nurseryman, was chairman of the Rotary Club, a big effort was made to re-plant at Dumpdon. But recently, the lonely hill-top with that famous outline of trees has taken a bad beating.

Jan 1967 on Stone

Mr Udale told me last week that five large trees had fallen on the hill recently, and he tried to clear them up as they fell. Ever since the 1950's he has kept an eye on the hill and some re-planting is done every other year. I have established some pine trees on the Honiton side of the top but the shallow-rooted beech trees are proving very difficult. One of the main obstacles to successful planting is the rate the hill dries out in the spring he said. Mr Udale does not think there are any instant solutions to the problem, instead he thinks it will be a long fight to build up the tree strength on the wind swept hill.

The owner of the land is Miss Joan Hussey. She said last week that many people asked her what was going to happen on the hill, but it was a very difficult problem. Many organisations - including Honiton W.I. and Monkton W.I. - had asked about planting trees on the hill during Silver Jubilee year. She had referred these offers to the people who looked after the hill for her. Miss Hussey explained: 'Although it is fenced off, the deer still get in to the trees, and the beech trees are still very shallow-rooted.' Miss Hussey had been advised that possibly the only way to

new growth on the hill would be to plant a belt of conifers on the lower plateau, to grow up and protect the beech saplings.

As the hill is an ancient monument, Miss Hussey has asked the National Trust if it would like to take it over. But she explained: 'They are very strict about the condition of property that they take over. It must be in such a condition that they don't have to spend any money on it.

Talking about Dumpdon Hill, at last week's Silver Jubilee public meeting in Honiton, it was suggested that permission could be obtained to light a celebration bonfire at the top of the hill.

The suggestion was made shortly after the committee had been hearing of the problems in maintaining trees on the hill.

But apparently the bonfire could be lit using fallen trees on the famous landmark and there would be no danger – according to one local expert – of the whole landmark providing the biggest bonfire the town has ever seen by the trees catching light.

'Bodies' found on Dumpdon.

Honiton News 9th June 197[illegible]

Excavations are taking place on Dumpdon Hill near Honiton, following the discovery of a series of graves by Mr Arthur Salter, the well known dowser of Cob Hill Farm, Luppitt. Mr Salter has identified "bodies" lying in a line running roughly north to south. "There are a lot of them" he told the News. "There are also about six bodies together beneath a mound." If graves are discovered it is likely

that they will date back for more than 2000 years to the time when Dumpdon was an Iron age hill fort. The fort has never been scientifically excavated. When 150 trees were planted recently under a Honiton Rotary Club jubilee project no ancient remains were found. But Mr Salter has many years experience as a successful dowser - a person who devines substances, usually water, with the aid of birch rods or pendulums. His ability is recognised and he is often called upon to find water for clients.

Iron age

The reaction of the rod or pendulum tells the dowser where he will find water under the ground. But dowsers are often able to devine other things, including ancient remains. Mr Salter said "The force came to me when I was up Dumpdon as a tingling in my hands. I did not use anything like a rod.

He first discovered that he could devine bodies when the tingling started in a chapel on land where he had been asked to devine water. "I said I felt that someone was buried in the chapel, and this was later confirmed" he added.

Yesterday Mr Salter returned to Dumpdon, well known as a tree topped landmark on the north side of the A30, with a member of the Devon Archeological Society.

The Mayor of Honiton, Dr Terry Glanvill, was going with them. The land belongs to Miss Joan Hussey of Church Hill, Honiton, and she has given permission for the excavations, providing no trees are damaged.

Dumpdon 'ashes' may reveal secrets of past.

Honiton News 16th June 197-

Photo. Arthur Salter, divining rod in hand, stops the digger at ten feet to search the ground for a "response" to his dowsing.

A plastic bag containing an ashy substance excavated from a barrow at the top of Dumpdon Hill, near Honiton, may hold the key to a fascinating new theory about the people who lived at the ancient hill fort as much as 6,000 years ago. If scientific tests on the soil at laboratories in Bristol prove that the substance is human remains it will substantiate the theory of Luppitt dowser, Mr Arthur Salter of Colekit

He believes that within the triangle of trees topping Dumpdon Hill about 300 bodies are buried in neat rows aligned east to west, with the bodies lying in a north-south line, all eight to nine feet apart. Two weeks ago, Mr Salter visited Dumpdon for the first time in 19 years to "divine" the presence of bodies. And on Thursday last week he went back again to take careful notes on the reaction he received through his divining rod, and through his hands.

Time and time again the rod twisted independently in his hands in response to something in the soil that Mr Salter believes to be bodies dating back to the Iron Age or Stone Age

On a hillock outside the trees he divined six more "bodies" not only with a divining rod, but with his hands clenched together at his abdomen. A reaction from the ground showed as a rhythmic and uncontrolable pounding

of his hands.

Mr Gordon Tucker, also of Luppitt, brought in his digger to bite 12 feet into the soil in an attempt to find remains. Among onlookers were amateur archeologists Mr & Mrs Louis Haynes, the mayor of Honiton, Dr Terry Glanvill, the chairman of Luppitt commoners, Mr Arthur Blackmore, and his son Peter.

Within three feet of the surface, the digger broke through flints and an underlying grey substance. Mr Haynes commented that the soil strata was in keeping with the formation of a barrow, or ancient burial ground.

Divining the grave goings-on at Dumpdon Hill — Pulmans Weekly News 13th June 78

Photo. With jerking clenched hands, dowser Arthur Salter paces the trench.

Photo. Among the trees of the famous Honiton landmark, Dumpdon Hill, Arthur Salter's power as a dowser seems to have located many graves evenly spaced apart.

Dumpdon Map August 1978

Following the above reports, I went to Dumpdon Hill with Mr Arthur Salter, and marked out lines with baler cord, and then took many measurements, according to his dowsing responses. From these I was able to plot a rough map of the enclosed area to a scale of 1 inch = 16 feet.

Seen on a tea towel

Rule of the Road.

S. Some countries decided that the right side to drive on is the left side, which left the right side as the wrong side.

O. Other countries felt that the right side was the right side, which left the left side as the wrong side

S. So when you have left a country where the right side is the left side and the wrong side is the right side, to drive in one where the right side is not the wrong side, and the side which is left is not the right side

NO WONDER YOU'RE CONFUSED — MESS. I

Why worry? Seen on a mug.

In this life
There are only two things to worry about,
Either you are well, or you are sick;
If you are well, there's nothing to worry about,
If you are sick, there are still only two things
to worry about;
Either you get well, or you die;
If you get well, there's nothing to worry about.
If you die, there's only two things to worry about
Either you go to Heaven, or you go to Hell;
If you go to Heaven, there's nothing to worry about,
But if you go to Hell, you'll be so busy
meeting all your old friends
you won't have time to worry.

22/12/88

See P 66
Vol I 58.140
Vol IV 104

Historic Buildings Survey

Recently received from Diocesan Authorities

ST 10 NE

6/73 22.2.55 G.V. LUPPITT

Church of St Mary I

Font — Parish Church. Norman origins and font, rebuilt in the late C13 – early C14.

Tower — refurbished in the C15 with new tower (the top part rebuilt in 1905) and the

Porch — south porch, the church was renovated

Chancel — 1885-90 and the chancel was rebuilt at the same time, renovated again in 1923. Local stone and flint rubble; original Beerstone ashlar detail; C19 Hamhill stone detail/ashlar; slate roof with some C19 crested ridge tiles.

Plan: cruciform plan church, its long C19 chancel lower than the nave and transepts;

Chancel Tower Porch — west tower and south porch. The tower is now used as the baptistry.

Tower — Exterior: tall west tower of 3 stages with diagonal buttresses to the top of the second stage. The eaves cornice (rebuilt in 1905) is moulded with gargoyle water-spouts. The parapet has moulded coping.

Stair — Semi-hexagonal stair turret on south side. 2 light belfrey windows with perpendicular tracery. The West tower doorway is a 2-centred arch with moulded surround and directly above is a 4 light

Window — windows with perpendicular tracery and hoodmould with carved head label stops. The south side of the nave is 3 bays.

It contains a central doorway, a possibly late C13 - early C14 2-centred arch with moulded surround and hoodmould with carved head label stops and above it is a shallow image niche.

Porch — It has a C15 gabled porch with a 2-centred outer arch with moulded surround and hood-mould with carved head label stops. Its open wagon roof with moulded purlins is original. The porch is flanked by 2-light windows with Decorated tracery and hoodmoulds with carved foliage label stops. The gable-ends of the transepts have early Decorated style

Windows — 3-light windows with stilted Y-tracery; the north transept window is original. The north side of the nave has 2 similar 2-light windows

Doorway — one either side of a blocked doorway. The chancel has C19 windows with Perpendicular tracery and the south side includes a reset

Doorway — probably late C13 - early C14 priests door with trefoil head.

Roof — Good interior: the roof of the nave and transepts may be original; that is to say late C13 - early C14, but maybe later C14 or C15. Whatever the date the roof is magnificant. It is an open, common rafter truss, vault with moulded purlins and wall plates. The

Crossing — crossing is most impressive and made up intersecting arch-braced trusses with a replacement carved oak boss at their inter-section. The large moulded arch braces spring from half engaged octagonal shafts with moulded capitals. The chancel has a C19

Chancel Arch — open wagon roof. C15 tall panelled tower arch with moulded surround and

Arch

caps to the shafts. The chancel arch has a triple-chamfered arch ring springing from shafts with moulded caps. There is a plain 2-centred arch from the chancel to the vestry and small trefoil-headed piscina in the north transept. The walls are plastered.

Vestry
Piscina

Floor

The floor of the nave and transepts is flagged and there are some ancient graveslabs included in the transepts. The chancel floor is c19 tile.

Floor

Reredos

Altar

c20 oak reredos and c19 altar table. On the south side of the sanctuary a length of Norman carved stone has been adapted to a piscina. c19 oak altar rail with twisted iron standards (similar standards are incorporated in the stall frontals). The furniture is all c19, built of oak, and some have minimal Gothic decoration.

Piscina

Font

The font is very good and though probably Norman may be late Saxon. It is built of Hembury stone. It has a square bowl with round rim moulding. The bowl is covered with a rich and elaborate sculpture. The east face features a martyrdom, and the other sides feature a fabulous monster, wild animals and patterns. Each corner has a large mask-like head. Most of the shaft and the base are c20. There are no memorials except for a late c13 or c14 sepulchral arch which has been reset in the chancel. The c19 glass scheme is simple but complete. Various old fragments, such as part of a medieval brass, acoustic bowls, c15 carved oak bosses from the tower, and other architectural fragments are displayed

Reported incorrect.

Memorial

Bosses