PART II

THE EVIDENCE FROM CORREZE, CREUSE AND HAUTE-VIENNE:

SITE SURVEY AND EVALUATION.
3 CORREZE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Departement of Corrèze is geographically the most varied in Limousin. It extends from the Bas Pays of the Bassin de Brive to the Plateau de Millevaches, and is marked by a varied climate (Ministère de l'Agriculture, 1959).

The area of the departement is c 587,000 ha (Joanne, 1875: Ministère de l'Agriculture, 1959). The main changes in the landscape this century have been the extension of woodland at the expense of heathland and rough grazing and pasture at the expense of arable. The area of woodland, estimated at 41,000 ha in 1875 (Joanne, 1875), reached c 108,000 ha in 1912 (including 56,000 ha in the arrondissement of Tulle) (Page, 1917) a figure maintained in the late 1920s: by 1952, the area of woodland had reached 130,000 ha, and is now approaching one-third of the departement. Contrastingly, the area of arable land has been in decline: from 195,000 ha in 1875 (Joanne, 1875, 35) to 137,000 ha in 1952.

The nineteenth century saw a considerable literature develop on the archaeology, both real and imagined, of the departement. Corrèze has supported two vigorous societies since that period, one based at Tulle (BSLSAC) and one at Brive (BSSHAC). As with many fields of its archaeology, the dominating figure in nineteenth century hill-fort studies was Philibert Lalande, who produced various syntheses (1872, 1890 a,b) on the field monuments. These formed the critical basis for the syntheses of Imbert (1894) and de Mortillet (1906). The CEEPFA list, (BSPF, 10, 1913, 296-8), inventoried monuments in 26 communes.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the only site with clear la Tène III occupation was at Yssandon, but the beginning of excavations at Puy du Tour, Monceaux in the first decade of this century produced an/
an 'oppidum' more readily assimilable to those known elsewhere. Field work has continued, the single most impressive contribution being due to Maurius Vazeilles (1936a, 1954a, 1962: full bibliography in Lemaitre, 1974). Cotton and Frere (1961) integrated this evidence into a wider perspective and supported it by excavation. Inventory work, the planning of monuments and synthesis have been taken a stage further by Couchard (1968: Couchard et al, 1970, 1973) and Lintz (1979a, n.d.).

I would estimate that Correze is one of the better-known départements of central France in terms of its iron age archaeology. Fuller publication of the Puy du Tour would represent a major step forward; and larger-scale excavation than that hitherto attempted would clearly also be of considerable significance.
3.2 SITE SURVEY AND EVALUATION

19004 ALBUSSAC Roche de Vic/Roc de Vic
(XXI-35 : Brive-la-Gaillarde)
Lambert zone III $x = 556.85$ $y = 313.65$ $z = 636m$

Roche de Vic is one of the best known sites in Corrèze, despite its small size. Already figuring in fantastic reconstructions in the first half of the XIXth century (e.g. Hugo, 1836 pl XXXVIII), it has continued to attract attention since that time. It is essentially a small contour fort, enclosing considerably less than a hectare of usable space, which takes advantage of an isolated summit of erosion-resistant gneiss bedrock.

Lalande (1890b,c) provided the first detailed and reasonably accurate description of the site. The neighbouring village, rather than the summit, appears already to have been recorded as Rochadavit in a manuscript from Obasine (= Aubazine) abbey in 1191 : from the XIXth century, the statue of the Virgin which crowns the summit and makes of it a conspicuous landmark above the surrounding plateau was already in position.

Quarrying appears to have been taking place on the site in the late 1880s, and Lalande was able to collect a few small finds from the ditch. Essentially blades and one scraper of flint or jasper, these suggested to him that the site, like the then recently-examined Catenoy in Oise, was neolithic rather than gaulish.

In 1894, Lalande published a further commentary on the site, based on communications with Bial, who had carried out limited excavation in the vicinity. Apart from rehearsing several of the arguments which have subsequently surfaced in hill-fort studies since that time — the religious significance of sites, temporary versus permanent habitation etc — Lalande also reported excavations conducted by Bial in the vicinity/
19004 ALBUSSAC Roche de Vic
vicinity of Roche de Vic in 1865, during the period of Napoleon III's Commission.

Bial claimed the existence of numerous small mounds on the slopes below the hill, most of which were hidden in the rank heather. Lalande was disinclined to believe in their presence, since he was unable to locate them subsequently. Bial claims to have found 'numerous sherds of coarse, black, badly-fired pottery' (Lalande, 1894, 608) in the one examined in 1865: this had been lost. A further example of what appears to have been a stone clearance heap was examined by Bial and his family in 1893, but without further small finds coming to light.

Bombal, reporting to the Société Préhistorique Française Commission (BSPF, 5, 1908, 360) again put forward the suggestion of old field walls surrounding the site, since when the matter has not been discussed further in print. Four years earlier, the same author advanced the idea that there might be a souterrain within the enclosure (Bombal, 1904, 77).

Since the last war, the evidence from the site has been reviewed by Vazeilles (1954, 15-16) and by Cotton and Frere (1958 in Brogan and Frere; Cotton and Frere 1961) and the site has been studied in more detail by Couchard. Cotton and Frere (1961, 45-6) noted that Roche-de-Vic was the only contour fort considered in their survey (excluding large tribal oppida), revised the enclosed area of the site downwards from 2 ha to 0.8 ha and offered a sketch plan of the site (Fig 13 p 46).

Couchard's main statements on the site are a report on sondages carried out there (1957) and an annotated plan (1968, 68-71 with plan Fig 19). This work may be summarized to suggest that the essence of Roche de Vic is probably of Iron Age date, but that the site had both earlier and more recent use.

The site of Roche de Vic is on the watershed between the Correze and Dordogne basins. The fort dominates the surrounding terrain, which consists/
19004 ALBUSSAC
ROCHE DE VIC
after Couchard 1968
consists of woodland, pasture, heathland and marshes, by about 60m, and enjoys wide views. As recorded by Lalande, the site was extensively used as a quarry, suggesting that quantities of free stone could readily be collected from it: in 1893 (Couchard et al., 1957) the demolition of a "very old building" near the southern mass of outcropping bedrock within the site produced several pieces of a tin (?) vessel, and several bronze spearheads: these were removed by a dealer from Clermont-Ferrand, and have not been seen since. In the mid-1950s, a large iron object was found in the ditch by Parisians, the standard Limousin enemy.

Since the XIXth century, and more particularly in the 1920s, when Canon J. Bouyssonie inventoried mesolithic material from Limousin, flint and jasper objects have been recorded from both Roche de Vic and its vicinity. A possible source for the latter material has been located at lieu-dit "Bout de la Côte" some 5km S of Roche de Vic (Couchard, 1957, 664), but there do not appear to be any sources for flint within 100km of the site. Couchard identified working sites, which produced both mesolithic artefacts, including geometric microliths, and neolithic material, within 1km of the site to the NE and NW: one site, 0.5km away to the NE produced pottery as well as flint and jasper debris. Couchard's 1956 excavations were restricted to 19 small sondages largely in the S half of the site (for their positions see Fig 3 of Couchard et al. 1957, 665). Each trial pit was 0.4m x 0.4m and most were dug to a depth of 0.4m. Small finds were mostly restricted to the top 25cm of the stratification, with the pottery being recovered between 0.15m and 0.25m of the surface.

A statistical breakdown of the small finds recovered is offered by Couchard (1957, 668). The salient details appear to be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked jasper</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked flint</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherds of pottery</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragments of bone</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most/
19004 ALBUSSAC Roche de Vic : principal rampart
Most of the pottery came from two sondages, no 4 (88 sherds) and no 13 (77 sherds) which were tentatively identified as 'fonds de cabane'. Most of the pottery is coarse, quartz tempered, black and has a red slip: the illustration of it (Couchard 1957 planche 1 fig 4 p 667) is not helpful, and some of it, as Couchard conceded, might potentially belong to the medieval period: but at least some of the simpler rim forms would not be out of place in the later Iron Age. In any case, there is every indication that the stratification of the site has been extensively disturbed, and examination of the defences will probably be necessary to clarify the chronology of the site.

These latter are the most prominent feature of the site, and the plan here follows Couchard (1968 fig 19) with modifications. The defence consists essentially of a V-shaped ditch, locally accompanied by a bank on the upslope side, and by a counterscarp bank downslope. These defences link up the major rock outcrops, to form an oval enclosure, approximately 200m (NW/SE) by 105m. The structure of the defences is not altogether clear: Cotton and Frere (1961) examined an erosion scar, and concluded that much of the bank was of earth. Elsewhere, on the W side, it is possible to trace fragments of what appears to be a dry-stone wall, with footings about 2m apart. This latter feature is however in the vicinity of a dry-stone built structure examined by Couchard (1957, sondage no 16, fig 2) which may be later, on the basis of its associated pottery: it is thus possible that the bank here may have been subsequently modified.

Despite Cotton and Frere's plan (1961, 46 fig 13), we are not convinced that the original entrance has been identified. About 20m E of the position as sketched by these authors, there is a short stretch where the ditch has not been completed, but, as the bank continues, it is perhaps safer to interpret this feature as evidence of gang work.

The site is thus far from understood. Its high altitude, and the climatic problems posed by its position, must always have set it in a landscape/
landscape which was marginal in agricultural terms. Even in the
XVIIth century, the peasants of the area had to make recourse to the
Limousin staple of chestnuts when their crops failed after June frosts
(Lherbiel, 1971, 78).

Visited.

19009 LES-ANGLES-SUR-CORREZE Camp du Puy du Merle
(XXII-34 : La Roche Canillac)
Lambert zone III  x = 558,1  y = 335,1  z = 418m

The Puy du Merle is a ridge sitting approximately 150m above the
meandering course of the Corrèze river which flows along its northern
margin. The Corrèze contrives to flow round three sides of this site,
although at rather greater distance on the W and S.

Although admirably suited for defence, no clear indications of fort-
ifications have been reported in print. However, as well as gallo-
Roman brick-built structures on the summit (Lintz, n.d., vol II, no 51),
at least one celtiberian coin is recorded, and this wooded ridge would
repay further investigation. (Couchard et al, 1970, no 179b).

Visited.

19010 ARGENTAT 1/d A la Fosse
(XXII-35 : Argentat)
Lambert zone III  x = 565  y = 312  z = c 400

Bombal (1904, 78) described this feature as a 'fold in the landscape'
to the south of the gorge on the Malefarge stream between the hamlets
of Chadiot and Pradix. Even he was far from convinced that this
feature was other than completely natural. The site has not been
examined, and is not considered further.
AUBAZINES formerly OBAZINE Le Puy de Sault, Le Puy de la Bernère (? la Roche Bergère) and Le Puy de Pauliac/Pauliat

Lambert zone III $x = 548.5$  $y = 320.5$  $z = 520$

'Forteresses gauloises' on these summits to the SE of the R. Corrèze were much in fashion during the middle part of the XIXth century. There is certainly a rather strange enclosure of upright stones set between outcropping bedrock on the Puy de Pauliac (Couchard, 1968, 56-9 with plan fig 14 p 57), which is usually described as a 'cromlech', but whose constructional techniques mirror those of nearby field boundaries. The enclosed area is c 35m x 33m: sondages in 1972 proved negative (Couchard et al, 1973, 358).

Although other dolmens and megaliths are recorded in the commune (Couchard et al. 1973, 346), Trembleau de Rochebrune (1866b) made short work of some of the more exaggerated claims, remarking trenchantly, "ces rochers gigantesques placés dans un ordre stratégique, ces forteresses, ces autels, ces tombeaux, ces fortifications", amounted to no more than "cette réunion étonnante de monuments hypothétiques décrits avec emphase": Lalande (1890b, 105-6) concurred with this view.

Not mapped.

AURIAC Puy de la Valette

Lambert zone III $x = 586.5$  $y = 247$

The site is the only one in Xaintrie recorded by Lintz (1979a, map 3 no 12) as having produced Dressel 1 amphorae sherds. The commune lies S of the valley of the Dordogne, and the La Tène III material has been recorded from the slopes of this promontory (Lombard, 1977b): it dominates the confluence of the Dordogne and the Luzege.
19016 BAR Chastres
(XXII-34 : La Roche-Canilhac)
Lambert zone III  x = 559  y = 338  z = c 250m

The main reason to draw attention to this site as a possibility to be eliminated is its alternative name of 'Le Camp de César', often applied to hill-forts or small rectangular enclosures. (Touring Club de France, Guide-Répertoire de la Corrèze, 48). In this case, the site is clearly a major stone-built Roman one, nestling in a bend in the Corrèze, as Bessou was able to detect by surface examination of crop-marks (Bessou, 1901 : Lintz n.d., vol II, no 74). The site is not considered further.

19020 BEAUMONT Seignolles/Segnolles/Geignole
(XXII-33 : Meyniac)
Lambert zone III  village:  x = 559  y = 347,3  z = c 480m

Boudrie (1964, 90) located an amphora sherd in a spring near this village, which is located on a steep slope with a southerly aspect. Lintz (1979a, fig 3 no 9) has subsequently identified this as Dressel 1. Such associations between amphora sherds and springs are not unrecorded in Corrèze, and need not necessarily imply settlement nearby, though this is clearly a possibility.

19023 BEYNAT Le Puy Sarjani/Le Fort Sarjani and Le Puy de Rochan
(XXI-35 : Brive-la-Gaillarde)
Lambert zone III
Le Puy Sarjani near hamlet of Puy de Noix:  x = 554,8  y = 316,5  z = 562
(from Lalande)
Rouchamp:  x = 554,2  y = 312,4  z = c 533

Both these sites were advanced in the earlier part of the XIXth century as possible forts, or at least unspecified hill-top structures, but were dismissed by Lalande (1890b, 105). Assuming 'Rochan' to be rendered in the XXth century by 'Rouchamp', this locality, which has produced a gallo-roman gold finger ring, is actually in the commune of Serilhac. Both sites are discounted from further consideration.
Brive-la-Gaillarde, now spread over the floodplain on both banks of the Corrèze, appears to have been a settlement of some status both in Roman (Lintz, n.d. vol II, no 39) and in post-Roman times, when Gregory of Tours recorded the crowning of King Gondebaud of the Franks there (Desbordes, 1978a, 52).

However, there does not appear to be any clear evidence of pre-Roman Iron Age occupation, although Perol (1934) suggested that the plateau de Ressaulier and its neighbour, Bassalier, on the valley-edge between the Corrèze and the ruisseau de Planchetorte, on the SW of the modern city, as a possibility. Gallo-roman finds, both coins and tiles, are recorded from Ressaulier, but the areas has not been subject to modern excavation.

Desbordes (1978a) has also identified a possible position for a ford across the Dordogne here, and suggests it may have been Iron Age in origin: there is late la Tène material from the nearby commune of Malemort.

Visited.

Bombal referred to the existence of an "enceinte probable" in this commune, overlooking les Gorges de la Cere, in the extreme S of Corrèze (BSFF, 3, 1906, 366). I am grateful to M. Guy Lintz for the information that the only known structure at this locality is constructed of bricks.

Not mapped.
Since the excavations carried out under the direction of the Abbé Joyeux during the XIXth century, the summit of Le Montceix has been recognized as an important gallo-roman site, producing both important structural evidence as well as a coin series which spans the period from Claudius to Constantine (Lintz, n.d. vol II, no 130). Discussion of earlier use cannot be based on excavation evidence.

Le Montceix is a major hill which dominates the surrounding valleys on the SE, S and W by over 200m. Many of the steep S slopes were wooded\(^1\) but the drop in altitude to the N is less pronounced, although still involving a descent of c 100m over 3km. (The modern route up to le Mont-Cé village approaches from Remenieras in this direction). The hill is the source of numerous springs - at least 9 in number. The summit area is extensive; Lintz (n.d., vol II, no 130) suggests an area of 500-600 ha for the entire Mont-Cé, but the extent of the putative fortification is about 10% of that.

The main source on the possible defences is Joudoux (1972), who examined the site shortly after much of the vegetation was cleared by fire. Like the site of Puy Chalard at Chamboulive, these consist of a series of terraces, five in number where the system is at its most developed, but only three on the N side above Remenieras. Without excavation, it seems unlikely that these may be considered defensive in intention, and a more likely interpretation - especially in view of the interspersed level areas - is that the system is essentially agricultural in origin.

Gady (1947), suggested another possible enclosed site in this commune at Lacipiére, but solely on the basis of the toponym.

Checked from the air.

\(^1\) Much of the woodland was destroyed by fire in 1971.
19036 CHAMBERET
LE MONTCEIX

sketch after Joudoux 1972

1 : terraces
2 : chapel
3 : farm
4 : l/d "Cimetière des Gaulois"
5 : springs
19037 CHAMBOULIVE Le Puy Chalard
(XXI-33 : Uzerche)
Lambert zone III  x = 549.7  y = 345.8  z = 492m

The partially-wooded summit to the N of the farm of Le Puy Chalard has been suggested as an "oppidum à terrassements" in the recent literature (Boudrie, 1974, 87-9 : 1979, 183), which refers to the finding of two polished stone axes in the vicinity.

Seem from the back road which links the N140 to the D34, this site gives every indication of being an 'oppidum'. The low detached hill forms part of a ridge which overlooks the ruisseau du Gobelet to the SW, and is set in pasture land. Moreover, there is a clear talus running round the hill just above the present-day cultivation/improved grass-land margin.

However, closer inspection suggests otherwise. There are two major talus slopes, each c 5m high, running around the NW side of the hill, but they are topped by a track and elsewhere on the hill these talus slopes correspond to field margins and have a rectilinear appearance foreign to hill-fort construction.

One possible burial mound on the summit proved on inspection to be outcropping bedrock capped by recent field clearance.

The site is set in rough pasture and woodland. Whilst the 'oppidum' hypothesis for this site may not perhaps be rejected out of hand, some clear evidence of occupation would need to be recovered before the suggestion might be acceptable. Not mapped.

Visited.

19039/
Vazeilles (1936a, 29) draw attention to the presence of tiles from three summits around a field called 'Le Camp César'. Subsequent reports (summarized by Lintz, n.d., vol II no 65) confirm the presence of gallo-roman material, but give no indication of any fortifications at Le Camp de César itself. The site is therefore not discussed further, and is not mapped.

Various sites have been proposed in this commune: Rateau (1866) suggested the position of the contemporary village as a likely one for a gaulish oppidum, but this was rejected by Lalande (1890b).

Attention was first drawn to La Grèze enclosure by Perol (1936, 227-8) although he sited it in error in the neighbouring commune of Chartier-Ferrière. His description has however been superseded by descriptions from Couchard (1968, 60-1) and Couchard et al (1973, 320-2).

The site is located on a summit in the Forêt de Couzage to the S of the valley of the Couze, and consists of several elements, the contemporaneity of which is far from certain. These comprise: the footings of several dry-stone 'cabanons', a stock enclosure, a tumulus and a short cist. Their disposition is shown in the accompanying figure.

The principal feature is the enclosure, maximum (N/S) internal diameter 67m, which Perol had already noted was insufficiently walled to qualify as a defensive work. The enclosure has a dry-stone wall, spread to an average width of c 2m. There is no clear entrance.

Sondages/
Sondages in the enclosure wall by Couchard and Boudrie (Couchard et al 1973, 322) showed this to have an original width of c 1.6m and to consist of stones laid either flat or on edge. The lack of tumbled material from the wall confirmed Perol's suggestion that it could never have been very high. The interior, as far as could be discerned in the woodland, appeared to be archaeologically featureless, this prompting the suggestion that the enclosure was for stock control.

Four rectangular 'fonds de cabanes' located c 100m W of the enclosure, were excavated by Lestrade in the 1920s: the surviving examples are extremely small, with their major axis some 2m long. Nothing is known of what Lestrade found.

Other elements seem to represent burials: a dry-stone cairn, also excavated by Lestrade, covered an inhumation burial, this latter perhaps enclosed in a stone cist. A second cist, recently bulldozed (and therefore probably underlying another tumulus) was located during Couchard's survey. A small quantity of sherds and bones were found: the former were described as being probably of Iron Age date.

This group of features has been related to a transhumant pastoralist system which drew on both the valley of the Couze and its S affluent, the Sorpt, as well as the limestone uplands. On the basis of the burials and the few sherds recovered, an Iron Age date has been proposed.

Perol (1936: Couchard, 1968, 60-1) also tried to relate this site to a natural rock-outcrop, overlooking the Sorpt valley to the S of Neyragnes. Called 'Le Répaire du Rocher de Pille-Brive', the only archaeological evidence from this latter site appears to be a polished stone axe.

Other 'fonds de cabanes' of similar type in the Foret de Couzage/Cousages are discussed by Perol (1936) and Couchard (1968, 60).
This minute fort was first mentioned by Vazeilles (1954, 12-13: Couchard et al., 1973, 361). The site is located on a narrow ridge between two southward-flowing streams in steep-sided valleys: these converge c 0.5km downstream from the site to form the ruisseau de la Douyge.

The site is located on a sloping ridge with a southerly aspect, and encloses an area approximately 35m x 10m in extent. The N, upslope, side is the more heavily defended, with a bank and external ditch, the latter some 10m wide when Vazeilles saw it. The defence is less than 10m long, although sufficiently wide to bar access along the ridge. The S defence, marked by a ditch, appears to have been of less imposing proportions, since the natural slope of the land already conferred topographical advantages to the inhabitants of the fort.

Described by Cotton (in Brogan and Frere, 1958) as a ridgeway camp, it is unexcavated and has produced no surface finds.

This site is located in a peat-bog at the source of one of the tributaries which flows directly into the Vézère, which itself rises approximately 2.5km to the S (Vazeilles, 1952, 30-1). The site occupies a small basin W of Puy Chavirangeas, near some of the highest ground in Corrèze (976m at Mont Bessou, approximately 5km to the SE).

The evidence is restricted to a small collection of sherds, for which Lintz (n.d., no 194) proposes a date possibly as early as late la Tène and not later than the Augustan decades. Pollen analysis of the peat around/
around the sherds, suggested oak as the most prominent tree species, followed by beech, elder and birch at this horizon. Interestingly, cereal pollen was also recovered in some quantity; although long-distance transport cannot be eliminated, the likelihood must be that cereal cultivation was being carried out in the vicinity. From the location, this site itself cannot represent a settlement, which may nonetheless have existed nearby. Material of a similar date is also known at other spring-sites in Corrèze, for example at Espagne, in the commune of Eygurande (Louradour and Lintz, 1972).

19055 CHIRAC-BELLEVUE La Toire (XXIII-33 : Bort-les-Orgues) x = 599.5 y = 351 z = c 600

Lemaître (1967, 12), mentions the possibility of a small 'oppidum' overlooking the gallo-roman site of Les Gorces, near Eybout, which is well-known from finds of bricks and tiles (Lintz, n.d. vol II, no 157). Vazeilles, cited by Lemaître, also refers to an enclosed site in this commune, which he considered to be a Merovingian stock enclosure: there appears to be no evidence to substantiate this claim.

No further information on this putative fort has been published, and, in the light of the absence of any clear site for a fortification above the W bank of the Artaude stream, this site has been discounted for the present survey.

Not mapped.

19057 COLLONGES-LA-ROUGE Plateau du Puy de Vézy/Vézy (XXI-35 : Brive-la-Gaillarde) Lambert zone III x = 545 y = 307 z = c 200m

The main protagonist for a gaulish site in the commune of Collonges was Bial (1896, 540-2). His main evidence appears to be the belief that Collonges was called Leodun during the pre-roman period. From this, he/
he proceeds by topographical analogy with Vieille-Toulouse to suggest that the pre-Conquest site must have been on one of the hills round Collonges. Le Puy de Vézy, where local legend refers to the previous existence of a town, appeared to be a suitable candidate.

There is no pre-Conquest material from the commune, but gallo-roman material is documented (Lintz, n.d., vol II, no 29): Le Puy de Vézy may well have been occupied during the latter period (Lintz, pers. comm.).

Not mapped.

19058 COMBRESSOL La Ville en Bois
(XXIII-33 : Bort-les-Orgues)
Lambert zone III x = 586,3 y = 352,2 z = c 593m

The recovery of Hallstatt sherds, without further qualification, from a series of pits, at this lieu-dit was signalled to the Direction des Antiquités Historiques du Limousin in 1973. Other material from the same site is gallo-roman and includes first century terra sigillata (Lintz, n.d. vol II, no 143).

19060 CONDAT-SUR-GANAVEIX Le Puy-Chatras or La Pétourie
(XXI-33 : Uzerche)
Lambert zone III x = 540,5 y = 349,3 z = 381

The sole published reference to this site is Couchard, Couchard and Lintz (1973, 361). This records the finding of 'sherds, flint and a polished stone axe' and describes the site as a 'petit oppidum'. M. Lintz has described the site to me as 'at least an upland settlement', but the evidence for defences appears to be unclear. I have no further information on the pottery.

The site sits on a summit to the E of La Pétourie, above the confluence of/
of the Bradascon (flowing from the NE) and the des Forges (flowing from the N) streams: these join the Vézère a short distance downstream from Uzerche.

The site appears topographically suitable for defence in protohistoric times, and would repay further study.

19062 CORREZE Le Puy Chabrier and Le Camp d'en Chastre
(XXII-33 : Meymac)
Lambert zone III x = c 342 y = c 564,5 z = c 500m

The two possible sites were recorded by Brunie (1930, 26) in a discussion of gallo-roman ruins in the vicinity of Corrèze. One, le Puy-Chabrier, has reappeared more recently in the literature (Couchard, Couchard and Lintz, 1973, 359). Le Puy Chabrier dominates the right bank of the river Corrèze near Neupont, and Brunie placed the camp on its summit. He described it as being enclosed by dry-stone walls which locally reached 1m in height. This description was followed by Couchard and his collaborators. There appears to be nothing to indicate a later protohistoric occupation at Le Puy-Chabrier.

The Camp d'en Chastre appears to occupy a similar location overlooking the Corrèze river, but Brunie (1930) describes its dry-stone walling as having been supplemented by ditching. It would seem likely that this is the gallo-roman site at lieu-dit Chastres near the hamlet of Lacour (commune of Bar) approx 7km downstream from Corrèze and on the left bank of the river, as described by Lintz (n.d. vol II, no 74).

19070 DARNETZ Le Châtelet
(XXII-33 : Meymac)
Lambert zone III x = 584,6 y = 348,6 z = c 560

Although the better-known Le Châtelet lies close to the communal boundary between Darnetz and Lamazière-Basse, and is sometimes attributed to/
19070 DARNETZ: Le Châtelet lies between the track and the river.
to the former commune, it is located in Lamazièrê (vide infra). This site, previously misidentified by Vazeilles (1948, 54) as a motte, is another promontory fort (Gallia, 33, 1975, 439).

Like the Lamazièrê-Basse site, this small promontory site (dimensions approximately 60m x 50m : information from M. Guy Lintz) occupies the high ground dominating an incised meander of the Luzège. It is however located on the W side of the river.

The defences appear to be restricted to a univallate system on the W landward approach : the interior is featureless and no finds have been recorded. The two Châtelets are some 5km apart as the crow flies, and the intervening stretch of the Luzège offers several similar topographical locations. Le Châtelet at Darnetz now sits in cleared ground on the margins of the Forêt de Ventadour.

Air photography.

19071 DAVIGNAC L'Hort des Fades
(XXII-33 : Meymac)
Lambert zone III $x = 579.5, y = 557, z = 876m$

First signalled by Vazeilles (1936, 51), this site was published by Cotton as a contour fort (in Brogan and Frere, 1958), though the site was subsequently excluded from consideration in the following paper (Cotton and Frere, 1961). The sole published description is by Vazeilles (1954, 11).

The site occupies the summit of the Puy du Rocher, one of a series of summits which exceed 800m to the SW of Meymac. It is presently located in a conifer plantation and is very heavily overgrown.

The enclosure occupies less than 0.5 ha on the southern side of the summit : the enclosing wall consists of a low stony bank, approximately 1m/
1m high on average and reaching a maximum height of 1.5m, defining an irregular polygonal area. The stones are rounded, field gathered, granites, and no built wall-faces are apparent. A possible entrance exists on the SE side, but otherwise the circuit appears to be unbroken. Outside the wall, there are short, but steepish, slopes on all sides except the N.

Inside the enclosure, near its W margin, is a pile of stones c 6m in diameter associated with a rock 'à bassins' - a natural feature. Immediately outside the enclosure on its N side are the dry-stone foundations of a small rectangular hut.

The most likely context for this high-altitude site would appear to be transhumant agriculture, but it would appear presently hazardous to estimate the chronological span during which such cabanons may have been built.

Located on the SW margin of the Plateau de Millevaches, the site enjoys wide views over an area extending to the E as far as the Monts-Dore of the Auvergne.

Visited.

19075 ESPAGNAC
Le Puy Lavialle or Puy-la-Vialle

Mougenc de Saint Avid (1891, 31) described features on this summit which might have amounted to defensive works: they are variously described as "mounds" and "supporting walls". Bricks and pottery fragments have also been recorded from the site, but M. Guy Lintz informs me there are no indications of a later prehistoric occupation of the site. Gallo-roman material is listed by Lintz (n.d. vol II, no 59). Not mapped.
This site lies above an incised meander of the R Vézère, on its S side, and c 1km NNW of the village of Espartignac. First described by Vazeilles (1954, 16), it was assimilated by Cotton and Frere to their group of small rectangular camps (1961, 49, no 5) to which category it most certainly does not belong.

La Blanche is in fact a conventional promontory fort, which overlooks the Vézère on the N and E. The principal axis of the site is aligned approximately N/S and is c 72m in length: the width of the summit averages c 28m, but widens slightly towards the principal defence at the S end, which is c 30m long. This rampart seems to take advantage of the presence of a ridge of bedrock, and dominates the interior of the site by a maximum of 5-6m. Hollows along the N side of the main rampart would appear to indicate the position of an unrecorded excavation. The former line of the ditch outside this bank, approximately 6m wide, is occupied by a track.

On the other sides, subsidiary defences appear only to have been required on the W side, where the slope of the promontory is naturally less steep. Here, traces of a less substantial bank, accompanied by a ditch, are present, but are not connected to the principal rampart.

Much of the interior of the site, which is now wooded, is marked by the presence of outcropping bedrock. A little off the summit, near the NE apex of the site, is a small megalith, 'La Maison du Loup'; although the authenticity of this feature has been questioned by Couchard (Couchard et al, 1970 no 199), who has described it as a 'pseudo-dolmen'.

No finds are known from the interior of the enclosure. Although it is undated, the site is fairly close (c 1km) to the substantial find of amphorae at les Garennes on the opposite bank of the Vézère. It is clearly/
clearly a location of considerable defensive potential, as Cotton
(in Brogan and Frere, 1958) had previously noted.

Visited.

19077 ESTIVALS
Puy de l'Armée

Although sometimes put forward as a possible hill-fort site, all the
known evidence from here is gallo-roman (Mazaleyrat, 1901, 266-7).
There are no indications of defences in the litterature, and the site
will not be discussed further. Not mapped.

19078 ESTIVAUX Camp de la Barrière/Camp du Moulin de la Peyrade
(XXI-34 : Tulle)
Lambert zone III x = 533,8 y = 338,0 z = c 280m

The main descriptions of this site are by Brousse (1920) and Couchard
(1968). Although it has more recently been described as a tumulus
(Joudoux, 1979, 181 no 70), there can be no doubt that the site is a
promontory fort. Marque (1917, 190) attempted to accommodate the site
in the events surrounding the attack on Uxellodunum (taken by him to
be Uzerche : vide infra) described in de B G VIII, 35.

The site occupies the end of a promontory, the steep-sided summit of
which overlooks the course of the Vézère, which flows some 50m below
on the N and W sides. The valley of a tributary, the ruisseau de Cessac,
makes access difficult on the S side. The W end is defended by a
substantial earth-and-stone bank, locally 6m high, the surviving length
of which is c 42m : an access track has been cut through its N end
(this had been done prior to 1920). The bank, which runs more-or-less
N/S (350°/170°) is bordered by the vestigial remains of an external
ditch. The overall width of the promontory is c 50m, and the length is
a little in excess of 100m, though the W end of the summit, marked
by a chaos of large boulders above the Vézère, is not capable of
precise definition. The site is presently wooded.

Brousse (1920, 74) notes the discovery of surface finds from the site.
These included both flint and quartz artefacts, some with indications
of retouch, some polished, and a bronze ring some 2cm in diameter. A
small polished axe, in serpentine, perforated for suspension and
therefore described as an amulet, was found just outside the camp
(Brousse, 1920, 75). Pottery from the interior was restricted to a
few badly-fired and coarsely-tempered (with quartz) body sherds.

Although Brousse (1920) was keen to attribute this site to the neolithic,
Couchard (1968, 68) is rightly much more cautious about the significance
of the finds. The absence of iron, by which Brousse set considerable
store, may hardly be viewed as significant.

Visited.

19080 EYGURANDE Espagne
(XXIII-32 : Ussel)
Lambert zone III x = 607,9 y = 72,0 z = c 760m

A collection of late la Tène material was recovered during the clearing
out of the environs of a spring in the mid-1960s (Louradour and Lintz,
1972) in the bottom of a valley in the S of the commune. Apart from
the proximity of the spring, there is nothing to indicate the character
of the site.

The assemblage consists of two sherds of Dressel 1a amphorae, a
'campanian copy' paralleled in cutting C of the rampart at Camp de
Charlat, Ussel (Cotton and Frere, 1961, fig 10 no 9); and non-wheel-
turned pottery including 'ovoid vases' (Périchon et al, 1977 type 2).
Louradour and Lintz were not prepared to hazard a precise date for
this assemblage, as it may have accumulated over time: but a first
century BC date seems reasonably secure.
Vazeilles (n.d.) described the remains of a rectangular camp, which lay on an uncultivated plateau near the heathland of Brassey: the above grid reference refers to Brasseix. Vazeilles described the site as a long rectangle, with one curved side, marked by an earthen bank. The bank was very slight.

The entire area between the ruisseau de Feyt and la Méonzette to the NW of Feyt consists of a gently-undulating high-altitude (all above 750m) plateau. It would not be an impossible location for a **Viereckschänze** but the site was not located in field survey. Not mapped.

This possible site was identified by M. Lintz (Couchard et al 1970 no 253): it lies NW of the Montant stream and Gimel and E of Touzac. The site is surrounded by a road, the D53e, which isolates a summit of considerable size which would have offered a suitable location for a contour fort. Clear evidence, by way of finds or structural features, is however absent meantime, and the site has not been considered further. Not mapped.

**Visited.**

The Chateau Fort occupies the summit of an isolated rounded hill, set between/
between the northward-flowing ruisseau de Ganette to the W and the route followed by the N120 to the E. Although the site would be admirably suited to a contour fort, and has been described as such by Couchard (Couchard et al, 1970, no 171), examination in 1980 suggested this not to be the case.

The summit of the hill is in fact crowned by a well-preserved elliptical motte, with its long axis of c 50m running c WNW/ESE, and it being c 38m at right angles to this. The summit of the motte dominates the bottom of the surrounding ditch by 4-5m: the outer edge of this is marked by a platform c 8m wide, on the edge of which there is a slight bank. But the course of this seems intimately related to the shape of the motte, and there is no real case for viewing this bank as a separate defensive feature.

Further disturbance c 15m away from the motte proper, on the S side, seems to represent an old quarry: otherwise this wooded summit, which was studied in ideal circumstances in April 1980, exhibits no indications of man-made enclosure. It should therefore be eliminated from any discussion of hill-forts. Not mapped.

Visited.

19102 LAMAZIERE-BASSE Camp de Châtelet at lieu-dit Le Bessades
(Section A, parcelle 347)
(XXII-33 : Meymac)
L = zone III  x = 585.2  y = 344.3  z = c 520m

This site was discussed several times by Vazeilles (1935 : 1936 a,b : 1949 : 1954; and n.d.): it is sometimes described as lying in the commune of Darnetz, near the parish boundaries of which it is located. However, I am grateful to Mr G. Lintz for pointing out to me the discovery of another promontory fort above the course of the Luzège in the commune of Darnetz (vide supra).
1902 LAMAZIÈRE-BASSE: le Châtelet
The site occupies a promontory jutting over an incised meander in the Luzège which flows S from the Plateau de Millevaches to join the Dordogne. Le Châtelet lies on the right bank of the river, in the fields of the hamlet of La Gane, by which name the site is also sometimes recorded. The promontory terminates naturally in a narrow steep-sided ridge, which is separated from the plateau S of La Gane to the E by a narrow neck of land, which is traversed by two ditches fronting rubble banks. The N side of this promontory is steeply scarped, and no man-made defence has been required. On the downstream, S, side, and at the apex of the promontory, there are the spread remains of a rubble wall off the summit of the promontory. The summit of the promontory stands about 40m above the river.

The principal defences are located at the landward, eastern, end of the site. This defensive zone is some 15m wide, and consists of two ditches separated by a stony bank, which dominates the ditch bottom by c 2m: some 20m behind this lies the main defence, which consists of a stony bank drawn across the neck of the promontory: this is made up primarily of gneiss with some granite, like the geology of the area.

Although the entire ensemble occupies c 1 ha 27, the usable area defined by this major defence (itself only about 20m long) is less than 50% of that area.

Vazeilles made both surface finds on this site; and subsequently carried out limited excavations therein. He noted vitrified stones among the tumble at the eastern end of the inner wall (1935) and subsequently was able to examine this feature further by excavation in 1945 and 1948. The following digest includes all the salient published information about these excavations.

A The inner bank.

Vazeilles recovered further vitrified gneisses, not only in the tumble from the bank, but also at the E end of the wall, on its outer side, where/
19102 LAMAZIERE BASSE

Le Châtelet

after Vazeilles, 1954
where they apparently sat above unaltered dry-stone walling, including some blocks up to 0.5 m$^3$ in volume. The largest size of vitrified stone recovered appears to have been of maximum dimension c 20cm.

Traces of burnt-out wood casts were also recovered. Vitrification appears to have been limited to this portion of the site; and certainly such restricted numbers of vitrified stones as were apparent in 1974 were confined to this area.

B Small finds from the interior.
Excavation appears to have been limited to a narrow zone along the inner margin of this wall. Finds, apart from pottery, were restricted to a small piece of copper and some rusty fragments of iron, including some objects described as 'fiches' or 'clous', the terms normally applied to 'murus-gallicus'-type-nails, though clearly the latter term has much wider usage: Vazeilles unfortunately does not provide dimensions.

By contrast, 'numerous' sherds were recovered. A basic comparison was made with the assemblage from La Moutte at Serandon. Recognizably medieval wares (as with other artefacts) were notable by their absence. Vazeilles described the bulk of the assemblage as spanning the period from the Bronze Age to La Tène III, with a preponderance of 'Hallstatt' elements.

One coarse-ware sherd had an applied finger-impressed cordon. The La Tène material was dominated by grey- or black-ware open forms, which were undecorated. Two sherds in rather finer ware reminded Vazeilles (1954, 10) of Campanian forms. From one locality behind the vitrified wall, the sherds of an amphora, described as being of Dressel 1 type were recovered. One badly-fired neck of a vase, suggested as gallo-roman, appeared to represent the most recent find amongst the occupation debris.

C Structural evidence.
This appears to be restricted to a mention of a hearth, associated with some/
some water-worn cobbles, found behind the rampart. No contexts for any of the small finds are offered in the report.

In 1958, Mrs Cotton offered a complex interpretation of this site (in Brogan and Frere 1958), in which she envisaged two defensive phases: the first consisting of a Preist-type wall, subsequently vitrified, succeeded by a 'murus gallicus'. In the light of the above evidence, this sequence appears overcomplex, and the readiest comparisons may perhaps be made with other small vitrified sites in the Massif Central, such as the Puy de Sermus, at Saint-Geniez-o-Merle and Escouailler near Mauriac in Cantal, the latter also dominating a tributary (the Auze) of the Dordogne, as Vazeilles noted (1935, 213).

Visited.

19107 LARCHE
Château de Larche

This site was suggested as a likely one for a Gaulish 'oppidum' in the mid-XIXth century eg by Rateau, 1866. Most suggestions depended on the etymological equation of arx with Larche, and various localities, for example at the confluence of Vézère and Couze were suggested. The lack of evidence was pointed out by Lalande (1890b) and more strongly by Laffon (1913, 163). Not mapped.

19108 LAROCHE-PRES-FEYT Camp de Chabanas/de Chabannes/"Tchabana"
(XXIV-32 : Bourg-Lastic)
L = zone II  x = c 614,5  y = c 76 z = c 650m

This site has been intermittently signalled in the literature since last century (Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule, II, 452) and would repay further attention. The fullest description is by Longy (1892, 216-7) who described it as lying on a plateau in heathland above/
above the gorges of the Chavanon. It is located about 500m NE of
the village of Meymond.

The site is now in woodland, which locally is accompanied by a thick
understorey of briars, making it impossible to verify some details.
Longy describes an earthen bank 100m long and 5m high, flanked on its
inner margin by a ditch 4m wide, drawn across the W end of the plateau
which is partially defined by the course of the Chavanon. Visible
internal details at the end of last century included a spring in the
SW part of the site, and a circular earthen bank, 1.5m high, defining
an area about 14m in diameter. Overall dimensions of the promontory
are c 300m along the W/E axis, and 100-200m N/S. Longy sought a
historical context for the site: he suggested that it might have been
constructed by the English, during the Hundred Years War.

Vazeilles (1936a, 32) offered further details on this promontory fort,
between the river Chavanon and its tributary, the Miouzette. Much less
impressive dimensions are ascribed to the western defence - a bank 2m
high, spread to 7/8m, cut by a single entrance. The internal ditch,
4-5m wide, survived to a maximum depth of 1.5m. He suggested that the
circular enclosure, at the edge of the camp on its steep NE margin,
represented a 'bastion', within a fort which extended to several
hectares.

In the mid-1950s, Vazeilles reported late Roman finds from limited
excavations within the circular enclosure in the NE part of the fort:
Cotton (in Brogan and Frere) repeats this report: four sherd were
recovered, but their context in this 'fond de cabane' is not clear
(Vazeilles, 1954, 12).

In 1974, the site was considerably overgrown, but the following details
were observed. The promontory is dog-legged, running E/W and then
turning through 90° to run approximately N/S: it is bordered on its S
margin by the stream course, and the river Chavanon runs round the site
on/
on the E and N. The slopes above the river are locally very steep.

The principal defence, as described by Vazeilles, cuts off the higher, E/W-aligned, part of the promontory, and is flanked on its inner margin by the ditch. The N/S part of the promontory, at slightly lower altitude, is edged on its W margin at the break of slope by a detached segment of a triple-bank-and-ditch system, running at about 080°. These slight banks are separated by wide (c 10-15m) berms, and seem unlikely ever to have offered much defensive potential, unless they were originally crowned by palisades.

Vazeilles estimate (1954, 11) of the size of the camp of 4 ha may be a slight over-estimate, but is of the right order of magnitude. Finds from the site were in his personal collection (Dayras, 1961), and are described as late Roman and post-Roman (Brogan and Frere, 1958).

Visited.

19108 LAROCHE-PRES-FEYT La Miouzette/Méouzette
(XXIII-32 Ussel)
Lambert zone II

Both Longy (1892, 218; 1893, 188) and Vazeilles (1976a, 32-3) refer to a second site (excluding the motte) in this commune. Longy described it as a mound c 22.5m long, 9.5m broad, and 3.5m high. Vazeilles described the site as lying at the edge of a meadow 300m W of the village; his dimensions are smaller all round c 18m long, 4-5m broad and 2-2.5m high; it is possible that they are referring to two distinct sites. Longy describes his mound as occupying the summit of la Miouzette hill, a ridge which is now heavily wooded.

Neither author committed themselves to the work they described being defensive in intent, or indeed forming part of an enclosure. In these circumstances/
circumstances, it has been omitted from further discussion. A surviving mound, some 200m from the village church resembles a motte which has been abandoned during construction.

Visited.

LORLIAC  Yeux
(XXIII-33 : Bort-les-Orgues)
Lambert zone III  x = 596,2  y = 345,1  z = c 600m

Signalled by Lintz (1971b) this site was located below high water mark on the E margin of the artificially-controlled Lac de Neuvic. It consisted of an irregular heap of stones, measuring c 3m by 10m, in plan and about 0.5m high. The following material was recovered between the stones of this mound, perhaps more akin to a clearance heap than a cairn.

Of 20 sherds, only 3 were considered diagnostic and of these two were coarse hand-made vessels: there were also five sherds of amphora. Such an assemblage is clearly not susceptible to close dating, but the bracket late-la-Tène-through-Augustus seems appropriate. The stone heap may be compared to those at La Forêt, commune of Maussac, and may be indicative of a settlement in the vicinity. The material has not been illustrated in print.

LISSAC-SUR-COUZE  La Grotte de Puy Gerald ou des Contrebandiers
(XXI-35 : Brive-la-Gaillarde)
L = zone III  x = 532,4  y = 311,3  z = c 180m

This site has been the subject of only preliminary publication (Gallia, 12, 1954, 198) and I am grateful de M. Y de Kisch for making some further information on the site available to me.

The/
The cave is a natural one, located on the NW flank of the limestone hill (alt 259m) of Le Puy Gerald, about 30m above the ruisseau de Bancharel, an intermittently-dry tributary of the Couze. Examined before the First World War, the site was considered to be archaeologically sterile until 1952, when sherds appropriate to late Hallstatt and 'gallo-romain précoce' were recovered during an attempt to follow a stream course: this pot appears to have been found about 2.5m below the level of the cave floor: the context has not been further described.

This pottery has been classed into two series, which are believed to be chronologically disparate. Much of the assemblage is not wheel-made, the clay has been tempered with quartz or calcite, and the vessels' colours after firing are reddish-browns. Decoration is limited both quantitatively and qualitatively: only finger-impressions and pinched raised cordons are represented. Whilst some of the forms represented can be paralleled in First Iron Age contexts in SW France, others would still be possible in la Tène III assemblages.

The second series consists of finer wares, usually grey or black in colour, having been fired in a reducing atmosphere. Whilst an early gallo-roman date has been proposed for this fraction of the assemblage (Gallia, 12, 1954, 198 fig 8), some of the forms were certainly already present in La Tène III, eg the 'écuelle à bord rentrante'.

It is thus perhaps most economical to envisage this small quantity of material, apparently found together, not as representing two distinct chronological episodes, but as typical of the mixed assemblages of late la Tène/gallo-romain précoce, as seen for example at the Camp du Charlat, Ussel. It is unlikely that the cave would have been chosen for permanent settlement.
This site was initially recorded by Lalande (1881), but further material was collected in the 1960s during roadworks on the RN 89 (Lintz, 1969). The latter consisted of the sherds of a dozen amphorae, the rim profiles of some at least (Lintz, 1969, 60) suggesting la rather than lb forms, and a collection of pottery. Most of this latter was extremely fragmentary, but Lintz concluded that the assemblage was at least "de tradition gauloise". Delage (1938, 139) illustrates a complete Dressel la amphora from here.

The above material was found associated with tegulae, imbrices, and three fragments of clay drain. This apparent link led to the suggestion that the assemblage might be later rather than early in the first century BC, and the existence of a gallo-roman settlement in the vicinity might be construed in support of this view. Nonetheless, the extremely fragmentary remains would allow the possibility that at least part of the assemblage might represent debris of a settlement datable to a few decades earlier than that.

Nash (1978a, 278) drew attention to this site as one at which a La Tène III horizon might be represented. The group of monuments consists of five major structures, three of which are fana located within an enclosure. The complex appears to have been essentially ritual in function, and interim summaries of the work are provided by Sirat (1974) and Lintz (n.d.). Available reports do not dwell at length on the stratification of the site, but its use at the end of the La Tène III period seems likely. Apart from the series of stone buildings, which span the first to the fifth centuries AD, little structural evidence has/
has been published, although Lintz (n.d., no 164) mentions various post-holes, apparently not forming recognizable constructions.

The essence of the presently-accessible material is however artefactual rather than structural. The best case for an unadulterated La Tène III occupation is perhaps to be found in the layer underlying structure A4, itself built on the line of the enclosure around the three fana (plan in Sirat, 1974, 85). From here came La Tène III sherds, and a roman republican denier. The building itself appears to have been in use by the middle of the first century AD, (Lintz, n.d.).

More mixed material was recovered outside the E entrance of the principal fanum. Three main horizons have been identified here, the basal one of which has been labelled 'Augustan' by Lintz. It was from here that 16 Celtic coins were recovered (Nash, 1978a ), again associated with pottery in La Tène III tradition. From the upper horizons, other potentially early artefacts were recovered, of which Nauheim fibulae are perhaps the most significant (Lintz, n.d., 143).

Whether the La Tène III evidence is sufficient to postulate a separate settlement at the site as opposed to its initial ritual use in the immediately post-Conquest decades is, presently, a moot point: however the as of the colony of Nîmes must post-date 2 BC. The coins have been considered above.

19129 MASSERET
Camp de César and other sites

Repeated references to a camp here, or in the neighbouring commune of Saint-Germain-des-Belles (in Haute-Vienne) (eg Marvaud, 1842, 21; Ledain, 1884) appear to refer to an area of spoil tips associated with mineral extraction. The site lies c 1km S of Chargeas in Saint-Germain: Imbert, who provides a plan (1894, 141-2) did not accept it as a defensive/
defensive work of any kind.

Other suggested locations for an 'oppidum' in this commune (eg Rateau, 1866) include the site of the motte, which occupies the extremity of a plateau and is flanked by an outer ditch and counterscarp bank.

The only reason to include the site of this village is that it is described as an "oppidum naturel" by Couraud (1965, 30). The proximity of the metal-rich area on the border of the departements of Haute-Vienne and Correze may have underscored this assertion, but there is no evidence of fortification. Not mapped.

19130 MAUSSAC La Forêt
(XXII-33 : Meymac)
Lambert zone III  x = 582.2  y = 49.7  z = c 600m

An assemblage was found associated with two irregular cairns during reafforestation on the saddle between the summits (themselves little elevated) crowned by Bonneval and Ventadour forests. Both mounds had been damaged by machinery, and this led to the discovery of the material. The assemblage, of 50 sherds, was dominated by Périchon et al 1977 types 1 and 3 - the bowl with inturned rim and the ovoid vase. Decoration was limited to finger-tip impressions, found on two vessels.

Lints (1971a), in discussing this material, compared the assemblage with that from the commune of Malemort (19), but noted the absence of amphorae sherds. The Maussac material was found associated with 5kg of iron slag, a neolithic stone axe and two fragments of tegulae: none of these, with the exception of the iron slag, need detain us. The metal waste need indicate nothing more than domestic-scale metal-working on site. The available material is perhaps sufficient to suggest a possible settlement, bracketed in the transition period La Tène III - Gallo-Romain precoce. Parallels for these irregular heaps of stone may be cited in the communes of Tarnac and Liginiac (19).
This site occupies a summit in the rolling upland plateau country to the S of Roche de Vic (commune of Albussac). It was described by Lalande (1890b, 103-4) for the Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule (vol II, 188): the best description, accompanied by a sketch-plan, is that of Couchard (1968, 72-3).

The site lies W of the village of Menoire, from which it is separated by the valley of the ruisseau de Menoire. Lalande noted that this site had 'rien de commun avec les véritables oppidum gaulois'.

The enceinte takes the form of a contour fort which encloses the rounded upper summit of the hill, which includes a substantial area of outcropping bedrock. For much of the circuit, the defences are limited to a scarped slope: for a restricted portion of the E side this is accompanied by a second, outer, talus, giving a drop of a little over 3m from the interior of the site. In places eg on the SE side, the outer margin of even the inner talus is uncertain, as the land continues to slope away without a pronounced change in the angle of slope.

Artificial defences of a more impressive character are restricted to the arc between SW and NE: in their most developed form these consist of a detached length of ditching drawn across one access to the summit, edging a near-level platform averaging about 8m in width. The inner edge of this is marked by a ditch which follows the base of the scarped slope, which is locally accompanied on its upper edge by the vestigal remains of a small stony bank. A gap on the line of the inner ditch may correspond to the original entrance position. The top of this vestigial bank dominates the ditch bottom by a little over 2m.

The main visible feature of the interior is the area of outcropping bedrock/
19132 MENOIRE
Puy de Châtellux
after Couchard 1968

natural outcrop
bedrock: this is flanked on its NE margin by a short stretch of bank and ditch, difficult to explain in defensive terms.

The enclosed summit includes an area about 45-50m in diameter, extremely small even by the standards of Limousin. There are no small finds recorded from the site, and it is completely undated. It most closely resembles the site of Roche de Vic, some 2km to the N, with which it is intervisible. The site is sometimes placed in the commune of Meilhards.

19136 MEYMAC Emplacement du Bourg (XXII-33 : Meymac)
L = zone III x = 585,1 y = 359,6 z = c 660

The site of a Benedictine establishment from 1085, Meymac became a walled town during the Middle Ages (Desbordes, 1978b, 49-50). The present-day town is sited at the SE extremity of a level platform above a basin surrounded by hills. Evidence of its earlier occupation appears to be restricted to observations by Vazeilles (1936a) during construction work within the town.

Vazeilles detected the presence of three ditches, whose functions he envisaged as defensive, though he offered no dating evidence for them. All were located at varying depths below the present ground surface. Other observations come from the stratification of destruction levels, pits and "fonds d'habitations". Whilst some of this material was recognized as belonging to the later Roman Empire, Vazeilles suggests that the assemblage may be in part earlier.

Such material would include two round-based pots overlying a burnt clay horizon in one of the ditches, a context from which Vazeilles also believed he could recognize fragments of a Hallstatt sheath in iron (rue du Four). The lowest horizon opposite the Maison Orluc, below a layer which included late Roman pottery, might also be early:
amongst iron debris from this horizon, possible Hallstatt fragments were claimed. Amongst other possible Iron Age material was a spherical glass bead in greenish opaque glass, found re-deposited, with more recent material, but probably originally from the place de l'Eglise.

In sum, the quantity of material recovered by Vazeilles seems to point to the occupation of the site, perhaps continuously from the later Roman period. An Iron Age occupation remains unproven; and still less can the system of ditching be fixed securely chronologically. Although the site would appear topographically anomalous for a later prehistoric defended site, occupation here may not be excluded.

None of this supposedly pre-Roman material has, to the best of my knowledge, been discussed subsequently in print: although Lintz (1979a, map 3 no 14) has mapped Dressel 1 amphora sherds from 1/4 Sous-le-Chemin-de-Bois, outside the village.

Visited.

19140 MONCEAUX-SUR-DORDOGNE Le Puy du Tour (XXII-35 : Argentat)
Lambert zone III x = 567,1 y = 309,2 z = 408m

Introduction

Le Puy du Tour is the most extensively examined of the supposed late la Tène oppida in Limousin. It has been the subject of two sets of excavations, the first series conducted by Bombal from 1902, and continuing intermittently during the first decade of the century: the second campaigns, initiated by Murat and Murat about 1954 continued until the late 1960s. Other excavations appear to have been carried out in the inter-war years, but no report of then has been forthcoming.

As no definitive work on the excavations has been published, it seems advisable to outline what the various excavations have produced. In view/
View across the Dordogne valley

Aerial view of summit.
view of the description of this site as a 'major urban oppidum' (Nash, 1978b), it seems appropriate to stress that the total number of man-days spent on excavations here is unlikely to have exceeded 2,000.

The Puy du Tour forms a conspicuous summit dominating the flood plain of the Dordogne, some 200m below, to the SW of Argentat. It forms a detached outlier of the high plateau country which stretched away to the NW. From a distance, the hill appears even-sided, but closer inspection shows areas of bare rock and a more irregular outline.

The site dominates the confluence of the Dordogne and the Maronne, a position which may accord it some strategic significance. To the NE of the hill, the upland is dissected by the valley of the Sourigne, a right-bank tributary of the Dordogne, and on the SW, the Ruisseau de Malefarge, which flows through Monceaux itself, contributes to the isolation of the block of upland on which the Puy du Tour sits. Water provision at the site itself is in the form of springs, all of which lie outside the putatively enclosed area: the most prominent is marked on the Murats' plan (Murat and Murat, 1967).

As well as the excavation reports, various authors have drawn attention to the assemblage from the site: in particular, Hatt (1941) recorded the material which survived in Argentat museum at that time and in 1967 A and J Murat re-published finds from the site made up until 1953. Unfortunately, the Argentat collection has suffered various vicissitudes, particularly during the war years, but nonetheless the small finds are considerably better known than the structural and stratigraphical sequence from the site, which, with the exception of a few details, remains ill-known and little discussed in the publications. Cotton considered the fort in her list of those defended by 'murus gallicus' type constructions in 1957, but her 1961 study of the forts of the Lemovices adds little (Cotton and Frere, 1961).

Bombal's/
19140 MONCEAUX

PUY DU TOUR

after Murat and Murat 1947

--- Proposed Course of Rampart

--- Natural Defences

1919

ONO

mall

Proposed Course of Rampart

N

Modern track

NATURALS

1932

--- Proposed Course of Rampart

--- Natural Defences

N

Modern track

NATURALS

1932
Bombal's excavations

By 1902, Bombal had discovered pottery, iron slag and flints on the summit of the Puy du Tour. In that year he carried out two sondages on the summit, both on its E side. One was a circular depression, which Bombal took to represent a gaulish hut, and which produced a few sherds. The second was more rewarding, although natural was not reached. This trench was dug across the uppermost terrace on the E side, and produced nails and other iron debris, pebbles from the Dordogne, and about 4kg of pot from a 1m² excavation. The pottery included one sherd, the description of whose decoration resembles the "tessons ocellés" known for example from Mont Beuvray. A fibula, described as being made of brass, was also uncovered.

Bombal also drew attention to souterrains in the vicinity of the fort, including one at le Charlat, some 400m N of the summit of the Puy (Bombal, 1904, 83 no 14).

The 1906 excavations (Bombal, 1906) involved six workmen for a total of 90 man-days between late July and early September: this season, which appears to be typical of Bombal's operations, gives an indication of the scale of the undertaking. Both the interior and the defences were examined, but no plans were made. Trenches across the defences showed these to consist primarily of earth, which Bombal reckoned had probably been scraped from the summit of the Puy: large numbers of nails were recovered, and Bombal percipiently attributed the configuration of the earth layers of the defences to the decay of a timber framework. The nails were subsequently described as having been found vertically in place (Bombal and Muzac, 1911, 409).

On both the E and W sides of the summit Bombal was able to recover traces of an occupation horizon sealed below the ramparts: the principal feature of this was a dozen post-holes, 30-35cm in diameter, cut up to 60cm into the natural rock, and which contained charcoal. A red clay floor found in the vicinity seemed to confirm this interpretation.

There/
There were more widespread indications of the preparation of a level surface on which the rampart was to be constructed. Inside the rampart on the N, W, and S sides of the site, a rock-cut trench 60cm wide and 20cm deep was recorded: on the N side this had been back-filled with pebbles from the Dordogne which would have been very suitable as slingstones, and which were a common find on the site (Bombal, 1906, 409).

Most of the report is concerned with listing the small finds that were made: Bombal noted the absence of recognizably Roman material such as carved stone, glass, and tuiles à rebord. About 30 bronze items were collected, mostly rings, fragments of bracelets and fibulae: iron objects included a socketed spearhead, and pieces of metal sheet which Bombal reckoned might have been from helmets or body-armour, as well as latch-lifters (cf Déchelette, 1914, 1391, fig 619) and large quantities of nails, these latter varying in length from 5 to 30cm. Apart from the quantities of sling-stones, to which reference has already been made, the principal stone finds were one-third of the lower stone of a rotary quern in granite and two used whetstones (Bombal, 1906, 413). Debris of charcoal and animal bones were also recorded.

The pottery assemblage was large and heterogeneous: some decorated sherds were noted, and some pottery in a grey-black micaceous clay was compared to pottery found with a hearth at a souterrain at Moustoulat, in the same commune. Bombal recorded no evidence for pottery manufacture on site, but suggested that some of it may have been made nearby, at La Borie, where a red clay similar to one of the fabrics used on the site was known (1906, 410). Contrastingly, metal slag clearly indicates that iron-working was being carried out on site: at one point on the E side of the site, over 1kg of slag, resembling debris from the bottom of crucibles, was recovered.

The 1906 excavations produced 9 coins: these were found on the E and NW sides of the summit, and only two came from near the surface. All are/
are bronzes, and were attributed by Blanchet (Bombal, 1909) to the Pictones. They ranged in diameter from 15 to 19mm, with the modal size (5 examples) being 16mm. They depict:

**Obverse:** Beardless head to right.
**Reverse:** Galloping horse, with bird above.

Further excavations in 1907 (Bombal, 1908) were concentrated on the east side of the summit where occupation traces, described as 'sols de cabanes' had already been recognized. Some sixty man-days of work were carried out, and several of the 'sols' were completely excavated:

Bombal's report indicates that stratigraphical differences were noted although they are not recorded in any detail. Post-holes found in association were similar to those described previously, and suggested that the buildings had been generally rectangular. Associated with one floor was the lower, and one-third of the upper, stone of a rotary quern: four fragments of quernstones were also unearthed. A central paved hearth was noted associated with one floor.

Near this habitation area, evidence for burials was also recorded: these consisted of cremations deposited inside amphorae. Other fragments of amphorae were found. Two stamped examples were recorded: one HER, one Vª. Pottery was again varied, but included more decorated pieces than in 1906.

The bronze and copper objects recovered did not extend the range documented previously. Three iron knives or daggers (blade lengths 25, 22 and 10cm) were however recovered as well as a further socketed iron spearhead. Three glass items, including a green-and-white bead, were noted.

Nine further coins were recovered, including six of the type already detected in the previous season's work. The other three are Arvernian bronzes with the legend MOTVIDIA (Bombal, 1909, reporting Blanchet): for the type, see Nash (1978a, 168-9).
Further excavations were not carried out until 1911 (Bombal and Muzac, 1911): again these were concentrated on the E side of the fort, and consisted of clearing overburden, averaging 1.5m in depth, from a strip measuring 25 x 6m, a task which took 55 man-days. The irregularity of the rock-cut surface in which post-holes were recorded led the excavators to suggest that the buildings here may have been two-storeyed, with the ground floor used for keeping stock and/or storage. Fifteen post-holes were recorded, varying in diameter from 35-70cm and in depth from 20-65cm.

Small finds from the overburden included:

**Bronze:** Applique depicting a human head (L = 36mm) wearing a cap or helmet, with a hole below the nose to allow it to be attached: a selection of 15 rings, and fragments of necklets, fibulae and bracelets: a snake-shaped bracelet.

**Iron:** From a post-hole (no 15): fragment of a sword-blade (length 27cm) and a knife (12cm long). Other finds included a further knife, a small sickle, iron rings (max diam 37mm) as well as iron slag. One lump of iron slag included a bronze bracelet.

**Pottery:** Again varied in type, this was accompanied by plentiful amphorae fragments.

**Stone:** Three fragments of rotary querns, and seven whetstones, as well as many slingstones, were recovered.

**Coins from the 1911 excavations:**

1 x silver, weight 1.5g.

- O/. Head, with long hair, to right. Convex.
- R/. Horse facing left with severed head above. Concave.

Originally attributed to the Bituriges - but is akin to the Lemovices series (Colbert de Beaulieu, 1955).

1 x bronze coin

- O/. Boar facing left with crescent above.
- R/. Hippocamp, facing right.

6 x bronze coin

- O/. Head to right
- R/. Horse walking right, bird above.

These/
These were attributed by Blanchet to the Pictones (1910, 295 fig 175).

In total, the excavations to 1911 produced 26 described coins from the site, primarily from its E sector. In general, the early excavations showed something of the potential significance of the Puy du Tour, although Bombal felt that much of the material he had excavated pre-dated the defences and represented an earlier occupation. Much of the collection was taken to Argentat museum, but some sling-stones, pottery and ironwork were left on the hill. Although excavations appear to have continued after the 1914-18 war, nothing was published (Murat and Murat, 1965) nor was all the material deposited at Argentat museum. In 1941, Hatt recognised the importance of the Bombal collection as an assemblage attributable to La Tène III, and illustrated much of the salient material.

The Murats' excavations: structural details.

Little has been published on the Murats' excavations, although the most recently published plan (Murat and Murat 1967, fig 1) suggests that an extensive series of sondages have been carried out in the interior of the site. No further work has been done on the defences, described in outline by Bombal: indeed even their position is uncertain, and, from fieldwork, parts of the line suggested by the Murats.eg N of Bombal's trench, appear unsatisfactory. Intermittent traces of outer defences in those areas where natural cliff-lines are not present have been claimed, taking the form of both dry-stone walls and stretches of rampart, but nothing was seen on fieldwork. The hill, which offered rough-grazing and heath in the early years of this century, is now heavily overgrown.

Several of the reports, beginning with Murat (1958), draw attention to a stratigraphical sequence represented in sondage A 10. This consisted of Layer I, described as soil derived from the heathland vegetation, which contained stones, amphorae sherds and fine pottery, to a depth of 50cm, overlying layer II, a clayey soil containing plentiful fragments of charcoal. Layer II was sub-divided, on the basis of the contained finds/
POSTHOLES OF 'CABANES GAULOISES'
after Bombal and Muzac 1911 ~ Murat and Murat 1967
finds, into three horizons, a-c; layer IIa, like layer I, was taken to represent material which had slipped downslope. At the base of the stratigraphy, layer III consisted of hard clay, perhaps an occupation floor, and a hearth. The internal stratification of Layer II was repeated in the *Gallia* reports (eg by Fournier in *Gallia*, 12, 1954) but subsequent finds in Layer IIc caused doubts to be expressed about the integrity of this stratification (Murat, 1962, 88) and it should, even for this localized deposit, be abandoned.

The building at A10 consisted of a long rectangle approximately 10m N/S by 2.50m E/W, defined by a low stone wall and cut artificially into a terrace. At least one rotary quern-stone was re-used in the wall construction: the structure was sub-divided into three rooms, of which the southernmost, some five metres long, appears to be equipped with two entrances. The central room is the smallest and has a hearth built against its E wall. This hearth measured 0.9 x 0.75m and consisted of a layer of hardened clay, into which were set stones and amphorae sherds. This was covered with charcoal. Set inside the W wall of the N room are two post-holes, presumably for supports for the roof.

Other published structural information on the site is extremely sparse, and consists of notes on the sondages that have been conducted on the summit of the site (in the vicinity of the cross and the radio mast) and on the eastern terrace, some 8m below the summit, although still above the point at which Bombal obtained most of his structural evidence.

Evidence from the summit area consist of two holes, both rock-cut and c 60cm in diameter, and c 70 and 35cm in depth, found at points A1 and A2 respectively (Murat, 1958, 96) and a further pit or silo, located 10m SW of the cross: two smaller ones were also excavated at the outer edge of the upper platform (Murat, 1958). The discovery of further silos on the summit is referred to by Murat and Murat (1967, 394): these contained quantities of charcoal and sherds of coarse pottery; they presumably correspond to the 'cisterns' marked on the 1967 plan.
Further structures located on the summit appear to be restricted to a schist pavement edged with roughly squared stones running N/S about 1m W of the cross (Murat, 1958, 96) and further possible indications of a wall some 20m west of the cross.

To the SE of area A10, and similarly below the upper terrace, the sondages labelled B appear to have produced structures akin to A10; though these further examples of semi-rock cut and stone-walled buildings appear to be extremely poorly preserved (Murat, 1958: Gallia, 29, 1971, 313). Comparisons have however been made with structures in the Midi, particularly at Montlaurès (Murat, 1963, 195). Six such structures were mentioned by Fournier (1965, 50).

Only two elements possibly connected with the defences have been described: a lump of vitrified stone (Murat, 1962, 86) and a heap of stones at H6. This latter feature was about 1.50m high. The stones were set in clay and on a roughly levelled area of bedrock, but the feature was not completely excavated. At the base of this heap of stones, but apparently not sealed by it, were found amphorae sherds, nails and a bronze coin attributed to the Bituriges (Murat, 1958; 97: Murat, 1962, 90).

Although most of the finds have been published from the site without regard to their provenance, one or two indications have been put forward to suggest that they may be used to indicate social differentiation on the site, and this view has been taken up by a recent commentator (Nash, 1978a, 276). For example, it has been suggested that the finer pottery comes from the highest platform of the site, and that its appearance e.g at A10 in the upper layers may be attributed to subsequent slippage (Murat, 1962, 88). Similarly, two stone cups, one in basalt (ht. c 8cm: Murat, 1962, fig 4 no 132) and the other in pink sandstone, come from the summit of the site, as does a multicoloured glass ring, all three objects being attributed to the upper social strata.

Contrastingly/
Contrastingly, the published evidence for the silos from the upper platform hardly supports the hypothesis of a concentration of wealth, though the comparative lack of decorated pottery from Bombal's 1906 excavations on the periphery of the site may offer some support. If coins offer any possibilities in this framework, it is perhaps worth remarking that the bulk of these come from either Bombal's excavations, or, if from the Murats' work, from sondages other than those on the summit. In sum, the published evidence does not allow us to judge this contention satisfactorily.

Material culture: a summary

The first clear indication of a chronology for the site was offered by Hatt (1941) in his consideration of the material that had survived from the early part of the century: he dated the essentials of the assemblage to La Tène III. Subsequent work has produced little that cannot be assimilated to that period. The published material may be regrouped as follows:

STONE
- Quantities of sling-stones, frequently of quartz, from the valley of the Dordogne: other functions have been suggested for some of this material. Such stones are still liberally spread on the hill. (Murat and Murat, 1967, 370).
- Whetstones: 5 schist examples are recorded, one perforated for suspension. (Murat and Murat, 1967, 370 and fig 2 no 1)
- Quernstones: the majority of querns from the early excavations consist of rotary querns found in 1907, although one red sandstone saddle quern has been recorded (Murat and Murat, 1967, 372 and fig 2 no 2). All the rotary quernstones found pre-World War I are of granite: one is equipped with a horizontal handle hole (Murat and Murat, 1967, 372 and fig 2 no 3). At least one quernstone of volcanic material has been recorded (Gallia, 12, 1954, 198).
- Flint: little flint has been recorded from the site.
- Polished stone axes: Vazeilles (1953) records two examples.

GLASS

The few glass objects recovered consist of beads and rings: one pale blue/
blue bead carries a design of circles in dark blue/grey, (Murat and Murat, 1967, 382 and fig 8 no 1) and the finest of the rings is decorated with radial lines (Murat and Murat, 1967, fig 8 no 1).

**IRONWORK**

The ironwork from the site consists of tools and weapons, some elements of possible horse-gear, nails (Hatt, 1941, planche 7) rings and chains and pieces of sheet-metal (Murat and Murat 1967). Quantities of iron slag are also known from the Puy suggesting ironworking, and some items have been described as either punches or ingots.

Amongst tools and weapons recovered are:

1 sickle blade
1 bill-hook
1 socketed spearhead
4 knives, varying in length from 11-38cm
6 socketed spikes
1 iron sword in bronze sheath: surviving length 28cm.

**SILVER**

Apart from coins, only 1 ring (ø 15mm) in this material is recorded: it has been lost.

**POTTERY**

In his original treatment of the pottery from the site, Hatt (1941) distinguished between hand-made pottery, usually made without recourse to the wheel, and finer wheel-turned pottery. The coarse pottery is usually brownish-black in colour, and has mica grains prominently represented in the fill. Decoration consists normally of either simple incised motifs or of applied cordons eg Hatt (1941, fig 6, no IX), and whilst these designs in some instances have clear Hallstatt prototypes, the vessel shapes on which they are found fall into the late La Tène idiom.

The finer ceramics, either grey or off-white in colour (Hatt, 1941, planche 5, nos I, IV, V) are wheel made and a late la Tène date seems appropriate. Such pottery appears to have represented a minor component in the assemblage from the Bombal excavations, but finer pottery appears to represent about 35% of the sherd count from the excavations of the 1950s and 1960s. Much of the assemblage illustrated by Murat and Murat, (1967) might readily be accommodated in the decades around the/
the Conquest.

**BRONZE**

The assemblage includes both cast- and sheet-bronze items. Decorative items include fibulae, rings and bracelets. Pieces of bronze tubing are also recorded. A bronze arm for a set of scales suggests precision measurement (Hatt, 1941, planche 4 no 1). The only "art" object is the small cast bronze mask (Hatt, 1941, planche 1, no IX) referred to above.

Of the elements in this assemblage, the fibulae appear to offer the best possibility for close dating. The following types, attributable in both cases to La Tene III, have been recognized:

- pseudo-la Tene II : (eg Murat, 1962, fig 1, no 7)
- Nauheim : (Hatt, 1941, planche 1 no XII and planche 2, VII and IX : Murat, 1962 fig 1 no 1 : Murat and Murat, 1967 fig 10).

Bronze slag again testifies to the working of this material on site.

**COINS**

In all, the early excavations appear to have produced approximately 40 coins, mostly of the bronze type originally attributed to the Bituriges. Only 7 survive (Murat and Murat 1967, 390-1).

A southern coin, inscribed NERONCEN, represents the most northerly example of the type recorded, and suggests contact with the Narbonnaise: otherwise, little detail has been published on coins from the more recent excavations.

**IMPORTS FROM THE CLASSICAL WORLD : AMPHORAE**

The principal material represented here is amphorae sherds: recognizable vessels are of Dressel 1/Benoit Republican III type, and in some places amphorae sherds were so plentiful that they were re-used in constructions eg the hearth in structure A10. Bombal found others which had served as depositories for cremated bone, a trait paralleled at Mont Beuvray.

Two marks are known from amphorae: HER and V\(\text{r}\) (Hatt, 1941, planche 5 nos II and VII): the precise classification of these amphorae, whether 1a/
la or lb, is impossible to decide from Hatt's drawing (1941, planche 6, no VII). There were at least 10 amphorae from the early excavations judging by the surviving fragments.

**CAMPANIAN**

Hatt noticed two sherds among the material from Bombal's excavations (1941, 17). By 1963, two further sherds believed to be imitations (Murat, 1963, 199) had been discovered.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Despite the fact that it is three-quarters of a century since excavations began at the Puy du Tour, we know disappointingly little about the site. It appears to have been enclosed by a wall akin to a 'murus gallicus' of Avaricum type, and to have been occupied in La Tène III. Apart from the sword, which it has been suggested is of La Tène II type, and one of the glass beads, the bulk of the assemblage clearly spans La Tène III. There appears, pace Fournier (1965), little reason to support the view that the occupation begins about the 5th century BC. The absence of diagnostically gallo-roman material (Lintz, n.d., Fournier, 1965) supports the notion that the occupation did not survive the Conquest by more than a few decades. Indications of the complexity of the occupation are tantalizingly imprecise.

Visited.

19140 MONCEAUX Le Puy Grasset/Granet lieu-dit Le C(h)astel or le Chastelou, at the village of Raz

(XXII-35 : Argentat)

Lambert zone III  \( x = 566 \quad y = 307.5 \quad z = c 350m \)

This site, described by Rupin (1893, 197-8) on the basis of a letter from Bombal, was substantially destroyed during the construction of a house in c 1875. The location was on the eastern side of Le Puy Grasset, above the village of Raz, but below the summit of the hill. The/
The description appears to fit that of a motte, rather than a protohistoric work: but signs of vitrification were noted amongst the schist rocks found on the summit of the motte. Pottery and iron debris found in clearing the site were not kept, but samples of the vitrified stonework were taken to Argentat library.

The site commands a wide view to the E over the Dordogne valley. It is described by Rupin as lying in the commune of Argentat, but is actually sited in Monceaux. Joudoux (1968), describes it as defined by a rampart on the W, a man-made ditch on the S, and the slope of the land to the Dordogne on the E. The site also appears to be fringed by various terraces, the relation of which to the defences is unclear. Joudoux noted the presence of two quarries for stone for the rampart in the interior: small finds appear to be limited to fragments of brick, a few sherds, and iron ore.

Desbordes (in Gallia 35, 1977, 431) describes the defences as vitrified and ascribes this small promontory site to the medieval period.

19140 MONCEAUX-SUR-DORDOGNE
Other possible sites

There are two brief mentions of other possible sites in this commune, though neither offers any real precision. BSPF, 4, 1907, 195 notes the presence of an enclosure similar to that at Saint-Bonnet-le-Pauvre (Saint-Bonnet-les-Tours-de-Merle) at Moustrolat, without further precision. Bombal (BSPF, 5, 1908, 360) noted heaps of stone at Puy Lagarde which he regarded as the probable remains of walling: I am grateful to Mr G. Lintz for the information that remains at the latter site appear to be restricted to the Gallo-Roman period.

19145/
MONSTIER-VENTADOUR
1/d le Cingle

Lemonzi no 41, bis, 1972, 85 describes a promontory surrounded by a meander of the Luzège here. Although a rocky outcrop defining a platform appears to offer defensive possibility, there are no indications of man-made defences, nor any artefacts from the site. It is therefore discounted.

NAVES Crédit Agricole building
(XXI-74: Tulle)
Lambert zone III x = 555.2 y = 334.5 z = c 500m

Lintz (1979a, fig 3, no 10) mentions this commune as one which has produced sherds of Dressel 1 amphorae. The best-known site in the commune, partially excavated in the first half of the XIXth century, lies between Tintignac and La Geneste (evidence reviewed by Lintz, n.d., no 56), and has been interpreted as a rural sanctuary, comprising theatre and temple and ancillary structures, but lacking evidence of permanent settlement. As with Margerides, the Fuy du Jouer and other sites in Limousin, the possibility of pre-Conquest use of such sites cannot be discounted.

Antignac and Lombard (1977) report the result of salvage work in the village. In all, four pits and a kiln were identified below a mixed layer which incorporated tegulae and sherds attributable to the 'gallo-romain précoce', although only one of the pits was systematically excavated.

The furnace included a non-wheel-turned "jatte carénée" (cf Périchon et al, 1977, no 5) of a form already known from the first period at Aulnat (although it has a long lifespan). The pit which was examined was packed with Dressel 1 amphorae sherds, and a small number of associated pots. From the illustration (Antignac and Lombard, 1977, 99) the two amphorae/
amphorae illustrated are clearly of Dressel la type. Deposits of clay in the bottom of this pit suggest that its initial function may have been related to the kiln, and that it was subsequently used for rubbish. An unstratified Nimes as was also recovered.

19149 NEUVILLE(S)
Puy du Tour (no 2)

Around 1890, various claims were advanced for a hill-fort site overlooking the valley of Saint-Chamant, (Tixier, 1890, 170; Lalande, 1890b, 116; Imbert, 1895). The ultimate source for all these appears to have been Bombal, who in 1908 (BSPF, 5, 1908, 360) gave a brief account of possible traces of walling near the edge of the flat summit of this hill. Even at this stage, the site appears to have been severely degraded by agricultural practices (the S side of the hill had terraces for viticulture), and no further records survive.

This possible site was not inspected on the ground and is meantime discounted. It lies near the border with the commune of Saint-Chamant, to which it was sometimes attributed. Not mapped.

19151 NOAILLES Les Allées, near la Fage (parcelle A 1629)
(XXI-35 : Brive-la-Gaillarde)
Lambert zone III x = 535,4  y = 309,4  z = c 240m

This cave occupation was first recorded in 1958, and includes material attributed to Urnfield, Hallstatt, la Tène and gallo-roman periods (Labrousse et al, 1960): excavation was extremely limited in scale but sufficient to show that the deposit was recognisably stratified.

Chronologically, the earliest material appears to be typologically 'céramique à légères cannelures', the rilled ware of Sandars (1957), represented by the remains of four vessels. The assemblage also included/
included a small amount of 'céramique graphitée' (also referred to as 'plombaginée')(Labrousse et al, 1960, 63 fig 4) as well as coarse pottery decorated with impressions.

On the Kimmig typological sequence (1952/4) the rilled ware should be CU 2 or CU 3, but here it does not seem to be distinguishable from the 'céramique graphitée' on stratigraphic grounds. Both these types of pottery are recorded from cave deposits further S: ceramique graphitée at Siréjol, Gignac (Lot) (Couchard and Riquet, 1966), late bronze age metalwork as well as graphite coated pottery from Rocadour, Thémines, Lot (Couchard et al, 1969) rilled ware from Escabasses, Thémines and graphite-coated pot from la Fée, Thémines (Lorblanchet and Genot, 1972). Thus it seems possible that the Corrèze site may already have been in use at the beginning of the first millennium BC. Sherds from one elaborate vessel attributed to La Tène III (Labrousse et al, 1960, fig 5) were also recovered, as well as a considerable quantity of gallo-roman material. Despite the quantity of debris found here, it appears unlikely that this cave was ever permanently inhabited.

There appears to be considerable evidence of occupation in the vicinity (Labrousse et al, 1960, fig 1). Gallo-roman debris is recorded from S of the chateau at La Fage (Lintz, n.d., no 38). Lintz (1979a, map 3, no 4) has also identified Dressel 1 amphorae sherds, giving rise to the possibility of a La Tène III settlement here. The site appears to lie on a north-facing slope about 2km S of the ruisseau de la Couze. There are also several coins from this commune.

19158 PANDRIGNES Camp de Plateau des Saulières
XXII-34 : La Roche Canillac
Lambert zone III x = 562,7 y = 324,4 z = c 402m

The site occupies a ridge, oriented NW/SE, in dissected plateau country to the S of the village of Pandrignes itself. The ridge drops steeply to the line followed by the D29e road to the W of the site and to a small/
19158 PANDRIGNES
CAMP DU PLATEAU DES SAULIÈRES
after Couchard et al. 1973 with modifications

[Diagram with labels and annotations]
small tributary stream of the ruisseau de la Ganne and meadows on the E. The summit of the ridge dips gently NW, this inclination becoming more marked beyond the perimeter of the fort and its NW end.

The only plan, and a reasonably complete description of this small site, can be found in Couchard et al (1973, 323-5). Couchard's plan is reproduced here (Couchard et al, 1973, fig 7) modified to take account of features noted on visits in 1975, and more particularly in 1980. It must be stressed that this site lies in open woodland with a subjacent vegetation layer including rank old heather and tangled briars, and to that extent these notes must be regarded as provisional.

The internal dimensions of this ridge fort are c 70m NW/SE, by approximately 40m on average NE/SW, although only at places where the edge of the summit is defined by exposures of bedrock, can this latter dimension be delimited with ease. The defences are most developed at the most accessible point, the SE end, and man-made works are otherwise restricted to the NW end of the spur. In the following description, the system of lettering and numbering used by Couchard is adopted.

Outer ditch (F1): This ditch is still clearly visible, although the access through it is now heavily overgrown.

Between F1 and F2, and not shown on Couchard's plan, there is a slight mound suggestive of the spread remains of a rampart in the final stages of attrition.

Inner ditch (F2): Although the gap in F2 is not certainly original, it seems likely that it does represent the entrance. F2 shows signs of recent disturbance.

Neither ditch exceeds 5m in width at maximum, and 1m in depth.

At the NE end of the camp, ditch F3's terminals return towards the interior of the site, and not in the way suggested by Couchard's plan.

Inside the fort, the only detectable features on this heavily overgrown site are the two mounds illustrated by Couchard: both are very slight: the/
19158 CAMP DU PLATEAU DES SAULIÈRES

Longitudinal and transverse profiles
Ralston and Lintz, unpublished
the horseshoe-shaped arrangement in B2 is a modern hole, and little can be read in its overgrown section beyond the presence of a layer of decayed regolith.

At two points on the E side of the fort, above the stream course, Couchard identified the presence of the fragmentary remains of a dry-stone-wall, interspersed with the craggy bedrock which outcrops on this side of the site. Couchard's M2 was too overgrown to reach, but no sign of a wall was visible at M1 in 1980.

The available space for occupation within this minute fort is clearly very limited: although the slope between the two interior terraces (P1 and P2) is less steep than Couchard's plan suggests, it is quite sufficient to rule out that area for occupation without substantial modification.

Excavation at this site appears to have been rather desultory. Abbé Faurie, who initially identified the site, appears to have recovered pottery and iron objects: Vazeilles' researches produced only flint (Brunie and Vazeilles, 1953, 15; Couchard, Couchard and Lintz, 1973, 323). More recent finds from the site have been mentioned by Lombard (1972): in one article (1972b, 74) he refers to Hallstatt material from the site without further detail. Otherwise, two bronze coins appear to have been found on the site shortly before 1972 (1972a, 44-8). One of these coins has been ascribed to the tribes of the Centre-West and the other to the Senones. No details of any associated stratification or material are recorded.

Visited.

19176/
This site was first reported before the war as a result of limited excavations carried out by Lucas-Shadwell (Vazeilles, 1936a, 27-8). In her surveys of the sites of Corrèze, Cotton first described Pont-Maure as a contour fort (in Brogan and Frere, 1958) but subsequently identified it as a small rectangular enclosure (in Cotton and Frere, 1961).

The site lies in woodland approximately 350m SW of the cross-roads at le Pont-Maure (which is in the commune of Vitrac-sur-Montane, to which this site is sometimes wrongly attributed eg Gouchard et al, 1970, no 266). The terrain is in local terms low-lying, being dominated to the SW by the rounded summit ($z = 657m$) which lies to the N of the village of Terriou. Although the area is drained by the ruisseau de la Montane, which flows past Pont-Maure itself, the immediate environs of the site are ill-drained and marshy. Such a valley-bottom position suggests that the interpretation of the site as a farm is perhaps unlikely.

The site (Vazeilles, 1954 : Cotton and Frere, 1961, 48-9 and figs 15, 16 and 18) is substantially as described by these authors, who had the advantage of being able to examine Lucas-Shadwell's sections, less visible in 1974. The maximum dimensions of the site are c 120m along the main axis NNW-SSE, by c 60m at right angles to that. It is edged by a simple talus, broken by an entrance gap, 4m wide, on the E side, defining a platform elevated by some 2m above the surrounding terrain. The enclosed area is 0.61 ha in extent.

Cotton and Frere's re-examination (1961 fig 16) of one of the sections on the N side of the site illustrates two salient factors: first, the previous configuration of the edge of the site and, second the quantity of subsequent overburden - consisting essentially of yellowish sand - which/
RECTILINEAR SITES IN CORRÈZE after Cotton and Frere 1961

19199 FENOUILLAC
Le Fort

19256 SÉRANDON
La Moutte

19176 ROSIERS D'EGLETONS
PONT-MAURE

Section cut by Lucas-Shadwell after Cotton and Frere 1961
which masks the subjacent features. Let us deal with the second point first. It is difficult to account for the deposition of so much sand, subsequent to the backfilling or silting of the ditch, by natural agencies: behind the rampart (3 on Cotton and Frere’s section) this layer exceeds 1m in depth. It also appears to have been deposited before the rampart had much opportunity to slump, as the angle of rest of the sand indicated by its profile in section would seem to suggest; additionally, no turf layer appears to have developed on the surface of the rampart itself. My conclusion from this evidence would be that there is at least the possibility that the yellowish sand overburden had been deliberately imported to the site at a date not far removed from its use as a rectilinear banked-and-ditched enclosure.

Were this to prove an acceptable provisional hypothesis, there are two sets of ramifications. The first of these would seek to explain the recasting of the site in this form, and a suitable explanation might perhaps be proffered in terms of the marshiness of the environs. The second set of problems concern the relationship of this hypothesis to the few notes available on the stratification of the small finds from the site. It is probably redundant to stress the weakness of an argument based on this solitary piece of evidence.

The surviving evidence suggests that the bank was located on slightly sloping ground; that its basal width was 3m, and its height at the time it was enveloped in overburden was of the order of 1m. There is a narrow berm between this bank and the external ditch, which was at least 1m deep, but is of unknown width. Although Cotton and Frere (1961, 49) note that the ditch was flat-bottomed, their section, which indicates that they perhaps did not reach the bottom of layer 5 ('dark sandy silt') may be subject to re-interpretation. Although an angle is recorded below the sand on the inner edge of the ditch (layer 4), again this overlying layer appears to have a rather steep angle of rest for such a potentially mobile material as sand. We may perhaps conclude that, on the basis of the evidence Cotton and Frere were able to wrest from/
from an unpublished trench dug 30 years prior to their visit, it is possible to suggest that the sequence of use of this site may be more complex than originally suggested.

The finds from the site have never been fully published, and were not amongst the material transferred from Lucas-Shadwell's house, the Chateau de Bity to Tulle museum (Cotton and Frere, 1961, 49 fn 45: G. Lintz, pers. comm.). The Chateau is now archaeologically impenetrable, being the country retreat of a senior French politician.

All the available information on the finds is to be found in Ward-Perkins (1940, 49, 54, and 79-81 with fig 22). From Ward-Perkin's comments, the following important points may be extracted:

- Lucas-Shadwell recovered a rich series of stratified deposits on the site
- the finds include numerous imports from the south
- fabrics which Ward-Perkins was prepared to classify as La Tène are absent
- the material illustrated by Ward-Perkins is drawn from the second phase of the occupation of Pont-Maure, and the selection was typical of the finer grey wares from the site

Clearly the major problem is that we have no definite statement as to what 'the second phase of occupation' at the site comprised in terms of the stratification discussed supra, but we may allow the possibility that this consisted of the yellowish sand overburden. In parentheses, we may remark that the argument advanced by Cotton and Frere (1961, 49) to suggest that the finds came predominantly from the ditch on the N and NE sides of the site is difficult to evaluate.

The dominant impression of the assemblage as known is that it is clearly post-Conquest (cf Ward-Perkins, 1940, 79-81 and fig 22). The pottery consists exclusively of varieties of hard, grey, wheel-turned ware, which when polished becomes a glossy black.
The forms may be described as follows (with numbering following Ward-Perkins):

No 1: Vessel with several raised cordons. Périchon et al. (1977, type 14) suggest that a similarly decorated series of containers from the Institution St. Joseph at Roanne represent the translation into ceramics of a wood prototype. This decoration appears to be typical of the first period at that site (Bessou, 1976, planches 30, 31, 63), which it has been suggested may belong to the second quarter of the first century BC, although the presence of certain items eg La T II fibulae in iron and sherds of Greco-Italic amphorae might individually point to a higher initial date (Bessou, 1976, 62-3). A simpler version of this form is also represented at Mainxe, Charente, in a La Tène III context: Pautreau (1976b, 774 and fig 2, 5) has compared it to an attic pyxis.

No 2: Appears to represent an elaborate form of the 'vase haut à piédestal' identified at the Institution Saint Joseph (Bessou, 1976, 33), where the majority of examples are painted. Bessou notes that although the form is represented in his first period, it continued with slight modifications until the first decades AD. The site of Champsemard, at Tournus, offers another parallel, here referred to as a 'jatte tournée à carène vif' (Perrin, 1975, 61 type 22 Ba): an initial date for the appropriate horizon would be 70 BC.

No 3: This vessel, not discussed by Ward-Perkins would appear to be fairly close in shape to Périchon et al 1977, form 261, taken to represent a copy of Dragendorff form 44. The Pont-Maure vessel however differs from 261, in both the projecting lip and the angle of the body, although Périchon et al (1977, 40) note that open vessels occur in this form.

No 4: The form enjoys a much wider geographical currency than Ward-Perkins suggests, and is found in both coarse (Périchon et al 1977 type 1) and fine (type 1a) wares. It is one of the few dominant forms in the early assemblage at Levroux (Büchsenschütz, 1981b/
1917b ROSIERS D'EGLETONS
Pont-Maure
after Ward-Perkins 1940 fig 22
but continues in use thereafter.

No 5: This form, often decorated, may be paralleled at the Institution St Joseph at Roanne (Bessou, 1976 pl 31); pottery there is however usually more closely hemispherical. A close approximation to the form occurs in Campanian A = Lamboglio type 31. As it has also been suggested that some examples owe their form to wooden prototypes (Bessou, 1976, 36-37), close dating is perhaps presently unsafe, though Bessou suggests that their maximum currency was probably not far removed from 50 BC. An example of the form with simpler foot is illustrated from Tournus (Perrin 1975, pl 5, 8). The form with Campanian links is Périchon et al, 1977, type 203.

No 6: Périchon et al (1977, 29) (type 29) describe this form as rare: such bucket-shaped vessels probably had metal prototypes. The type occurs at Aulant, in Périchon's second period (Périchon et al, 1977, 144-5) and at the Institution St Joseph at Roanne in period 1. Further west, it occurs on Tène III settlement sites such as Muron, Charente (Pautreau, 1976b fig 3, 8).

No 7: This appears to be an elaborate variant of the common "vase ovoide" form (Périchon et al, 1977 type 2): a close parallel can be seen in the second period at the Institution St Joseph (Périchon et al, 1977, 166-7 type 2g), and the type also occurs on Cr ét-Chatelard and Gergovie in the NE of the Massif Central.

No 8: Campanian copy: Perichon et al (1977, type 201) describe this as the most frequently imported and copied form.

No 9: This elaborate vessel, not discussed by Ward-Perkins, looks distinctly like two forms grafted together. The upper part resembles the "jatte à carene anguleuse", variants of type 5 of Périchon et al 1977 (eg type 5c, 194-5). Such composite vessels also occur in the post-Conquest sequence at Levroux.

No 10: This looks like a taller variant of no 6: somewhat similar vessels occur in the Beuvray assemblage (Bulliot, 1899, pl XXIV, 6, 11, 14).

Although/
Although this brief discussion deals with a set of ceramics which cannot be regarded as a secure, closed assemblage, and omits the decoration on the vessels (not reproduced by Ward-Perkins, 1940, 81), it seems worthy of inclusion for two reasons. First, because, although certain forms are clearly present in pre-Conquest contexts amongst the eclectic selections from which parallels have been drawn, the assemblage, if closed, may clearly belong to a period a few decades later. More fundamentally, however, it is clear that much of the assemblage may be readily paralleled as well to the north and east, as to the west and south, the predominant directions in which Ward-Perkins looked.

In view of the topography around this site, it would appear to be a strong candidate for inclusion in the series of Viereckschanzen.

Visited.

19189 SAINT-BONNET-LES-TOURS-DE-MERLE L'Hort des Reitres (XXII-35 : Argentat)

The sole published reference to this site is by Bombal (in BSPF, 4, 1907, 195), when the commune was, less picturesquely, known as Saint-Bonnet-le-Pauvre. The commune lies to the S of the Maronne, west of Saint-Geniez-ô-Merle, at an average altitude of around 500m. The plateau is dissected by various minor tributaries of the Maronne, and the site would appear to be located towards the edge of this upland massif.

Bombal describes the site as being located at the upper margin of a gorge linked to the Maronne, and located about half way between Saint Bonnet and the Château de Rieu. His description is otherwise brief: the enclosure is non-defensive, and is formed of a semi-circular bank, 48m in length, which reaches a maximum height of 3m.

This/
This site was not located, but Bombal's measurements are sufficiently precise to suggest that there is clearly some form of monument represented. His allusion to the site as "non-defensive" is however puzzling, and suggests that, since Sermus was already known (Rupin, 1893), this site had a rather different character. Not mapped.

SAINT-CERNIN-DE-LARCHE Le Fournet
(XX-35 : Terrasson)
Lambert zone III \(x = 527.9\) \(y = 311.9\) \(z = 218m\)

The site occupies the NW extremity of a limestone spur immediately E of the hamlet of le Fournet, and dominates the valley of the Couze, a left-bank tributary of the Vézère, to the E, and the undulating agricultural land of the southern margins of the Vézère valley to the N. To the SE, the plateau climbs gently. At the extreme NW end of the promontory is a statue of the Virgin Mary.

The promontory, some 150m in overall length, is bordered by limestone cliffs which restrict access, except on the SE side, to narrow defiles, one of which descends from the statue of the Virgin. The plateau is presently (1975) unused, and is grass-covered, except where locally interrupted by outcrops of limestone pavement: the area is also being recolonized by shrubby vegetation.

The principal feature visible on this promontory is a low stony bank which partially blocks it some 50m SE of its apex. This runs across the promontory, but stops nearly 10m short of the cliff on the W side, and a smaller distance short of the E break of slope. This stony bank is 3-4m in width, and comparatively slight: Couchard (1968, 64-7) envisages this surviving material to have been the core of a more substantial defence, the wall-faces of which have been robbed out to provide building stone: it seems likely that only excavation could confirm this hypothesis. Otherwise, the defences are restricted to tumbled/
SAINT-CERNIN - DE-LARCHE : Le Fournet occupies the apex of his promontory
tumbled sections of dry-stone walling which bar some of the narrow access-ways through the cliffs; most of the latter are however S of the restricted area isolated by the stone bank.

Otherwise, detailed description of this site and its environs must draw heavily on Couchard's report (1968, 64-7 with plan) which is based on detailed survey, surface collection, and limited sondages. Previous sondages by Bouyssonie appear to have been negative.

Couchard noted the following finds from the site: a large quantity of sherds, attributable to various periods, some worked flints, and fragments of calcined bone. The pottery includes one diagnostically late-Chassey handle, as well as 'Hallstatt' material, which was more widely distributed on the site. Some of the flintwork is apparently neolithic in character, and the butt of a polished stone axe was also recovered.

The majority of the structures claimed for the site are located outside the apparent defensive line. Some have apparently been the subject of limited sondages, which confirmed their existence. Both features related to the bank appear to be secondary to it. Although I am sceptical about the existence of some of these features, it should be stated that I have only visited the site on one occasion, in the spring of 1975, on an overcast and drizzly day - far from ideal conditions for verifying such minor landscape features. The numbering of the plan here follows Couchard (1968), and the following statements include all the published information on these features.

No 5 Irregular hummocky terrain which forms the likely site of Bouyssonie's work: conceivably a tumulus in the final stages of attrition.

No 6 Dry-stone construction backed on to the decayed stone bank.

Nos 7-12 represent slight depressions, sometimes edged with alignments of stone (this was not confirmed in the field), and representing, a priori, house sites. It might also be suggested/
19191 SAINT-CERNIN-DE-LARCHE
Camp du Fournet
after Couchard 1968

statue

stone wall
suggested that some represent irregularities in the upper surface of the limestone. There is no indication in the report as to whether any of these have been investigated archaeologically.

Nos 13-15 were detected by vegetation changes (again not apparent in spring 1975), and no 13, a circle with two gaps on its NW side, was apparently the subject of a successful sondage. It might be remarked, in addition, that no 14 appears in plan to resemble structures like the Grange de la Cournille in the same commune.

In sum, Le Fournet is a site well-endowed naturally for defence. Small finds indicate both neolithic and later prehistoric occupation, but their relation to both the tumbled defence and the other structural indications is insecure.

Visited.

19191 SAINT- CERNIN- DE- LARCHE  La Grange de Cournille/Le Pied de la Cour/ Le Roc Blanc

(XX-35 : Terrasson)
Lambert zone III  x = 526.4  y = 311.5  z = c 250

This site lies towards the edge of the wooded upland which borders the Vézère valley on its southern site, to the WSW of Saint-Cernin-de-Larche. Although described several times in the XIXth century as a building or settlement site, some authors (including Imbert, 1894 no 7) have classed it as an enclosure. Available evidence on the site is summarized by Couchard (1968, 61-3 with plan and photographs fig 17).

First described by Lalande (1876, 301), followed by the Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule (II, 488-9), the site was described as a probable/
19191 SAINI-CERNIN-DE-LARCHE

La Grange de Courville
after Couchard 1908

The structure is clearly seen in the small plan where the superimposition of some areas is, and adjacent to the right wing is the southern half of Fionn. Couchard, Clacht, 1936, C. 132, and in its date of construction. It is the best preserved of the great forts and the evidence of superimposition of some walls from other forts as Iron Age in the Western Cournille (Couchard, 1908, 11 May 11).
probable settlement site, a view with which de Mortillet, who visited it in 1875 (Perol, 1936), concurred: de Mortillet further compared the structure with dry-stone constructions in Sardinia.

Perol (1936) carried out limited excavations on the site: it was at that stage on an unused plateau, which was being colonised by briars etc. His finds were restricted to a flint flake and pottery which he described as comparable with local Iron Age material.

Couchard's plan and description indicate a structure with its long axis aligned NW-SE, defined by a dry-stone rubble-filled wall, and measuring 15.5m by 6.25m. The structure is subdivided into two rooms approximately 5m from its NW end by a slighter wall, which may be secondary, although both parts are provided with an entrance on the SW side. The most distinctive characteristic of the site is the architecture of its enclosing wall. This consists of two faces separated by a rubble and earthen core, forming a wall 0.7m in width, and surviving to an average height of 0.5m. Both faces consist of slabs placed orthostatically and contiguously, and even the stone content of the wall-core, where visible, appears to be set on edge.

The monument is clearly akin to the small dry-stone constructions of many areas in, and adjacent to, the upland massifs of the southern half of France. Couchard (1968, 61), however, reserved judgment on its date of construction, though subsequently, arguing primarily from the evidence of juxtaposition of some similar sites with apparently Iron Age barrows, he was prepared to map Counille and other sites as Iron Age in the Causse Corrèzien (Couchard, 1974, 72 map 4).

19197 SAINT-DEZERY

This commune has now been amalgamated with Ussel.
Although initially published in English as a contour fort, (Cotton in Brogan and Frere, 1958), this minute site in fact encloses an area which places it well below the mean size of the small rectangular enclosures, to which category it belongs (Cotton and Frere, 1961). The site is located in woodland on the rolling plateau country to the west of the river Chavanon gorge, where the promontory fort of Fontjaloux (same commune) is located.

Descriptions of this site have been given by both Vazeilles (1954, 13) and Cotton and Frere (1961, 47-8): salient points which may be noted are the smallness of the enclosed area (c 0.3 ha), the sharpness of the angles at the corners of the site, and the fact that the ditch is uninterrupted at the position of the apparent entrance on the NE side.

The site's location is hardly suggestive of defence: it is unexcavated and no surface finds are known. Both Vazeilles and Cotton and Frere advocated an Iron Age date for it.

Outside the enclosure, but bordering on its ditch, lay a small mound, maximum height c 1m and diameter 4-5m. Although this has sometimes been described as a motte, it appears more likely to be either a burial mound or a feature akin to those excavated by Lintz (1979b) at Tarnac. This site may be suggested as a possible Viereckschanze.

The promontory fort of Fontjaloux, like that at Laroche-près-Feyt (Vazeilles, 1954) occupies a spur of land jutting into the gorge of the/
19199 SAINT-ÉTIENNE-AUX-CLOS
FONTJALOUX
after Cotton and Frere 1961
the river Chavanon, which flows round the site on the north and east, some 160m below its summit. On the S, slopes are equally steep down to the course of a tributary of the river. Access is most readily attained from WNW, across a shallow saddle which appears natural and is rather far from the single line of defences to suggest a ditch. The bank which cuts off the promontory, presumably scraped up from the surrounding area, and showing no indications of the presence of a ditch, varies in height around 4m. It is straight for most of its course, but both SW and NE extremities are recurved, thereby permitting access along the edge of the upper surface of the promontory. Cotton and Frere (1961, 44) note that the rampart intermittently exhibits indications of a stone capping along its length. The interior is archaeologically featureless and the site is unexcavated.

Like many promontory forts, the exact area enclosed by the defence at Fontjaloux is subject to a measure of doubt, depending which break of slope is taken on the non-artificially fortified sides to represent the limits of the site. The surface of the promontory is 2 ha 22 in area: including the upper, gentler slopes of the promontory before they become too steep for ready use would extend the area to c 3 ha.

In parenthesis, Fontjaloux exhibits the effects of land going out of use in these upland areas. In 1954, Vazeilles described it as rough grassland: by 1961, when Cotton and Frere reported the site, the woodland of the slopes towards the Chavanon was complemented by scrub within the site; and the site was difficult to view comprehensively by 1974/5.

Vazeilles (1950a) reported a burial near Fontjaloux, at lieu-dit la Chapelle. The three pots which accompanied this were coil-built, ochre-brown through black in colour, and coarse in regard to their temper. The tallest vessel (ht c 11cm), a carinated vase, was decorated with minute bosses ('des cupules de trois à quatre millimètres de diamètre') at its waist. A date within the Iron Age, but prior/
prior to pronounced La Tène III influences in this area, may perhaps be suggested. The pottery is illustrated by Vazeilles (1963,33). The chapel lies immediately W of Fontjaloux and is c 1km from the promontory fort.

Visited.

192106 SAINTE FORTUNADE
Puy des Foursches

Although cited as a possible fortification in the Annuaire de la Corrèze for 1831 and by Marvand (1866), this location (alt 592m) was rejected by Lalande (1890b, 105). Not mapped.

19204 SAINT-FREJOUX-LE-MAJEUR
La Croix Rouge, parcelle AR 28 (XXIII-32 : Ussel)
Lambert zone III  $x = c$ 602.2  $y = c$ 63.5  $z = c$ 700m

Passien (1970) recorded the chance find of a collection of la Tène III sherds and debris of Dressel 1b amphorae during land clearance in 1969. The assemblage was subsequently studied by Lintz (1972), and although there is no clear indication of the function of the site, it appears reasonably clear that a burial, proposed by Passien (1970) and accepted by Nash (1978a) is unlikely.

La Croix Rouge lies in bocage country, on a granite subsoil, about 6km SW of the site of Fenouillac, in the commune of Saint-Etienne-aux-Clos. The site lies on gently sloping ground about 0.5km above the right bank of a minor watercourse, the Dozanne: there is no indication of any contemporary enclosure. If the site does represent a settlement, the existence of a spring, a roman road and three unexcavated borrows in close proximity may be significant.

The/
The assemblage was recovered during site clearance at a depth of 1.5m. Amongst the 21 items of local pottery, the dominant forms represented are Pétricon et al. 1977 types 1, 2 and 4, as well as type 11 (the 'grande jatte à col rentrante'). The majority of this assemblage appears to be coil-built, though some show use of the slow wheel. Three wheel-turned sherds (Lintz, 1972, nos 22-4) were sufficiently different to suggest that they might be imports. Apart from them, one neck of a Dressel 1b amphora was recovered. Although Lintz argues that much of this assemblage is linked to the local ceramic tradition with Hallstatt antecedents, the 'import' sherds and the 1b amphorae led him to propose a late date, perhaps little before Augustus. In favour of this site representing a settlement, we may cite two blocks of clay with traces of wattling.

19205 SAINT-GENIEZ-O-MERLE Puy de Sermus/Vieux Sermus (Excavations : Section B3, parcelle 474, lieu-dit le Bos) (XXII-35 : Argentat)
Lambert zone III x = 580.7 y = 306.8 z = 496m

The remains of a vitrified fort on the Puy de Sermus were first discussed in detail by Rupin (1893) : he prefaced his discussion with a review of much of the work which had been done on the vexed question of vitrification in both France and Scotland : Rupin concluded his review (1893, 191) by siding with those who envisaged that vitrification was a constructional process, destined to strengthen the wall.

Rupin noted that the site occupied a steep-sided promontory, joined on the NW by a narrow isthmus to a granite plateau, and dominating the course of the river Maronne, which flowed round it from NE to S, by some 200m. The site overlooks the confluence of the Maronne and a left-bank tributary, the ruisseau de la Bedaine.

The main indication of defences consisted of a remnant of vitrified wall preserved to a height of 1.5m and 3m in length, located on the NW side/
19205 SAINT-GENIEZ-Ô-MERLE

Puy de Sermus
above the R. Maronne
(aerial view)

vitrified stonework cleared of vegetation.
side of the site, corresponding to the easiest access. Rupin estimated that the original enclosure was probably circular and measured c 100m in diameter. He noted that the site was at that time cultivated, and that it was being slowly destroyed by agricultural activities.

Cotton and Frere (1961) reported that the site was then heavily overgrown, but that the defences consisted for the most part of a dry-stone wall, extending to 300m in length and reaching 1.5m in height. They were unable to verify Rupin's claim of vitrified stonework. The area they attribute to the enclosure, 4 ha 85, appears to be based on Rupin's dimensions for the entire promontory, and is clearly a substantial overestimate. Cotton and Frere's conclusions were that the site probably represented a Hallstatt construction (1961, 50). Vazeilles' inventory (1954) does not draw specific attention to the site, but Fournier (1961, no A3), although adding little to the description of the locality, was able to report sherds in Hallstatt tradition from the interior.

In 1974/5, M. Guy Lintz undertook limited excavations on the site, which had recently become communal property and had been cleared of the scrub woodland which had colonized it. The site was planned and this showed that the likely occupied area was restricted to an oval summit, with its long axis oriented N/S and measuring some 120m in length. The width of this upper summit was approximately 50m.

At the southern end of this, and less than 2m below the 1GN marker placed centrally on the summit of the site, was a small level platform measuring approximately 30m long by 25m wide. The defences, consisting of fragments of vitrified walling externally bordered by a made slope, could be identified at two points and the plan indicated the likely position of the defensive line.

Both elements of vitrified walling, that on the NE identified by Rupin and another of even more restricted length on the NW, are similar in appearance. The most severely heat-altered granites noted in both surface/
SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION

- river
- roads
- track
- stream

19205 SAINT-GENIEZ-Ô-MERLE
LE PUY DE SERMUS
after Lintz 1976

sondage
contour separation 1m
---course of rampart (tentative)
surface examination and excavation are located on the outer surviving margin of the fragments of wall. Average dimensions for these stones rarely exceed 20cm, and the rock has in places attained a molten state, with occasional traces of the former presence of wood being intermittently recognized. Approximately 50cm behind the present face of the wall, the evidence for heat suggests decreasing intensity: the stonework is merely cracked and fire-reddened, and a further 50cm towards the interior the effects of fire are no longer readily apparent. No indication of an internal face to the wall has been reported.

On excavation at the NW side, it was shown that the vitrified wall had been constructed directly on the bedrock, which itself exhibited signs of superficial vitrification (Lintz, 1976, fig 2). The excavation was restricted to 22m², but suggested that little by way of stratification survived in the vicinity of the wall. Below the present vegetation horizon, a layer of soil, formerly arable, was identified, overlying the decaying upper surface of the bed-rock. Extremely shallow, (max depth 10-15cm), this layer contained some small abraded sherds associated with small stones.

Amongst the collection of pottery, in which no wheel-turned sherds were recognized, two broad categories were distinguished. One consisted of coarse pottery, and included two decorated sherds, one bearing a finger-impressed applied cordon and the other a line of oval impressions. Finer material consisted largely of the sherds of the neck of a vessel with slightly inturned rim, in a dark ware with orange surfaces, and with the external surface exhibiting a slip and signs of burnishing. Finds were otherwise restricted to three stones, including a flat basalt pebble with signs of wear on one face. In so far as the pottery is datable, the assemblage appears to pre-date la Tène III and to fall into the Hallstatt tradition.

Despite the unpromising results from this limited excavation, it seems possible that occupation traces may survive on the steep-sided slopes of/
of this small site. Although the E and W flanks are slightly irregular, there are no clear platforms of the kinds frequently identified in Britain. Their potential exclusion from the defended area need not be regarded as significant. Clearly too, the lower terrace at the southern end of the site may have constituted a likely area for settlement - one thinks of the houses of the Wittnauer Horn for example - and this area may have escaped the deprivations of subsequent cultivation.

Whether the defences were ever more elaborate than their reconstituted line suggests appears questionable. A distinct possibility is that access to the site may have originally been achieved along one or other flank of the hill, thereby obviating the need for an entrance. In view of the proximity of the bedrock to the surface, and the lack of any surviving indications, ditching too appears unlikely at this site.

19219 SAINTE-MARIE-LAPANOUZE l/d Cornecu (XXIII-33 : Bort-les-Orgues)
Lambert zone III

Lintz (1979a, fig 3, no 16) lists this commune, in the SE of Corrèze, as another from which Dressel 1 sherds have been recorded. Pottery of the appropriate period is in Brive museum (50 143 11). Two of the neighbouring communes - Liginiac and Margerides - have also produced evidence of potential la Tène III open sites: all lie N of Serandon, with its small rectilinear enclosure.

19226 SAINT-MERD-LES-OUSSINES
Les Cars

The possibility of a later Iron Age occupation underlying the Gallo-Roman establishment at Les Cars appear to be raised by the discovery of what was taken to be a La Tène II sword (Vazeilles, 1954, 364, and fig 1). The object has since been reclassified as a IIIrd century AD hunting sword (G. Lintz, pers comm). Not mapped.
Although the principal finds recorded from the vicinity of this village, above the left-bank of the ruisseau de Sarsonne, a tributary of the Dièze, are tegulae (Vazeilles, 1959 : Lintz, nd), Lintz (1979a fig 3) maps it as a potential open la Tène III site on the basis of Dressel 1 amphorae sherds.

The remains of vitrified material at this site were first cited by Vazeilles (1936a, 81 : 1938, 102). Confolent is the site of a medieval castle which occupies a steep-sided promontory enveloped on the S, E and N by a meander in the river Dièze. Its position is thus akin to that of Le Châtelet at Lamazière-Basse, but the vitrified material at Confolent, which is still visible, appears to be part of a medieval structure.

Thus, although the topography appears ideally adapted to a promontory fort, formal proof of its existence is lacking. It is by no means certain that the vitrified material referred to above represents reuse, rather than being in situ. The citation of a camp in Couchard, Couchard and Andrieu, 1970, 33 no 190, probably refers to this site. Not mapped.

Visited.
19236 SAINT-PRIEST-DE-GIMEL Enceinte de Brach, lieu-dit les Salles (XXII-34 : La Roche-Canillac)
Lambert zone III  x = 565,5  y = 336,5  z = c 540

Information on this site is based on two site visits in 1974 and 1980 and on unpublished information from M. Guy Lintz. The site lies on a plateau in regenerating woodland approximately 1,25km SE of the crossroads at la Gare de Corrèze and 1,5km N of the ruisseau de la Montagne. Only parts of the circuit are now traceable, N of the track through the woodland from the fields of the plateau to the W.

The site consists of the NE angle of a raised area akin to that defining other small rectangular sites in Limousin, and is flanked by an artificial slope surmounted by the slightest traces of a bank, and edged by a shallow and narrow ditch.

The raised area dominates its immediate surroundings by approximately 1.5m: on the E side, the external ground is presently marshy. The enclosing works on the east-side can be followed for approximately 70m, being most marked towards the NE angle and fading southward towards the track. On the N side, the artificial slope and ditch can be traced for approximately 33m, before they disappear in a plantation which edges the eastern margin of the fields on this summit.

At the north-east corner, the interior dominates the ditch bottom by approximately 2m: the ditch, 2m wide, is defined by a slight declivity of c 0.5m on its outer margin. Figures elsewhere are less impressive: the ditch bottom lies 1.20m-1.50m below the internal surface and is 1.80m, 1.50m and even 1.20m wide.

There are no finds from the overgrown interior of the site, but sherds of Dressel 1 amphorae have been recovered from the ploughed fields on the summit to the west of the enclosure (Lintz, 1979a). This latter plateau is of considerable extent and, being at much the same altitude as the surrounding terrain, appears ill-adapted to defensive purposes.

An/
19236 SAINT-PRIEST-DE-GIMEL
Brach 1/4 les Salles
after Lintz (unpublished)
An unfortified settlement would appear to be indicated.

Lintz has done considerable fieldwork in the area and has identified numerous round barrows or cairns on neighbouring summits. The excavated example at the Puy de LaFont in the same commune is remarkable for its internal architecture (Gallia, 31, 1973, 429-32 : Gallia, 33, 1975, 441-2), any may be attributed to the end of the Hallstatt period.

The above evidence suggests that this site may well represent a Viereckschanze.

Visited.

19237 SAINT PRIVAT
Puy Lagarde

Although cited by the BSPF list, the remains here appear to be gallo-roman and do not include any indications of fortifications. Not mapped.

19238 SAINT REMY

Two late XIXth century authors (Joanne, 1875 followed by Imbert, 1894) cite a camp here without further precisions. Not mapped.

19239 SAINT-ROBERT

Forot (1921) noted the presence of gallo-roman material from the village and suggested that various higher points of the plateau might have been occupied in gallo-roman or earlier times. Despite the presence of iron and copper ores in the area, an Iron Age occupation is not recorded. Not mapped.
At la Frétille, between the right bank of the ruisseau des Forges and the Puy Hardy, two amphorae and four pots were found during the construction of the railway in the 1890s (Ducourtieux, 1891). The amphorae appear to have been of Dressel 1 form, (Lintz, 1979a, map 3, no 7) and the associated pottery may have been of La Tène III type (Lintz, nd, no 119). A settlement may be implied by this material.

The sole published reference to an enclosed site nearby is by Imbert, who visited it in 1892 (Imbert, 1894, 144-5, no 11). He describes it as lying on the flank of a hill (Le Puy Roger : but marked Le Puy Hardy on the 1:50,000 map) between Salon and la Frétille. It was clearly not primarily defensive in character. It is described as a rectangle with rounded corners, measuring 28.5m x 15m, enclosed by a rampart of varying height, intermittently flanked by a ditch. The earthen rampart is described as attaining a maximum height of 3.5m on the best preserved western side, but elsewhere the height appears to have averaged 1m.

Material from the vicinity of the site appears to be restricted to tuiles à rebord and a possible standing stone (height 1m), the latter being positioned approximately 100m W of the enclosure.

It is possible that a further site is represented in the vicinity as a "Puy Rogier" is marked on the IGN map at the junction of the communes of Saint Ybard, Condat-sur-Ganaveix, and Salon. Labrousse (1940, 20-1) records a gallo-roman burial accompanied by second-century coins from the Puy.
This small enclosure first appears in the local literature through the attentions of Vazeilles (1936, 60-1). He noted the remains of a parapet surrounding a raised platform, and that ashes and iron debris had been found in the vicinity of the E angle of the site. He made a comparison with Pont-Maure.

Vazeilles excavated at the site in 1939 and again in 1949. Two trenches, approximately 10m apart, were cut through the W rampart: examination of the interior (9 small areas and trenches) was essentially confined to its E part, adjacent to La Moutte farm, and the E slope of the site.

The interior of the site was cultivated up to the beginning of the XXth century, but now carries a softwood plantation. It dominates the surrounding landscape by in excess of 1m.

Vazeilles describes entrances at the SW and NE corners of La Moutte, that on the NE being marked by a change of direction of the enclosing rampart. Whether these entrances are original, given the network of tracks which surround the site, and the access which would have been required for its previous cultivation, seems dubious. Water would have been available at a spring which rises some 40m outside the camp on its SW side.

Excavations
Vazeilles excavation reports (n.d.; 1954) give little indication of the stratification of the site. Both the western rampart cuttings produced gallo-roman material. One (Vazeilles trench 9) produced, apparently at shallow depth, since it had been plough-damaged, a gallo-roman granite funerary urn, from the vicinity of which came a quantity of pottery, including terra sigillata. Vazeilles (n.d. 5) dated this assemblage to the second century AD. Trench 10 produced two fragments of tuiles à rebord/
19256 SERANDON
La Moutte
after Vazeilles 1954 showing trenches
rebord, but again their stratigraphic position is not recorded.

No details of the construction of the bank are given, but we may surmise that it consisted of the same soil with degraded gneiss as the site interior, and therefore occasioned no surprise. Examination in the vicinity of the southern rampart and in the bank surrounding an apiary in the south-east corner of the site, produced sherds of black burnished ware (? graphite-coated pottery) and a chip described as being from a polished axe made of bluish flint (Vazeilles, 1949). Two chips of identical material were unearthed in the site's interior. As well as this material, but apparently from disturbed deposits, a few iron points and a granite burnisher were noted.

Material from the interior appears essentially to have been recovered from the ploughsoil, or if associated with the banks on the SE side, was often near the surface. Pottery described as being of La Tène III type, wheel-turned, and with small quartz inclusions, was found in several unspecified locations, but presumably including trenches 1, 4, 7, and 8. Other hand-made pottery, some consisting of substantial vases, were also attributed to a La Tène occupation.

Two sherds with applied finger-impressed cordons, but in different wares, were also recovered. One came from the interior, the other (without indication of its stratigraphical position) from the made slope on the southern side of the site. Coarser material, attributed to the Hallstatt period, appears to have been confined to sherds recovered at some depth in the bank of the apiary (trench 5) or on the southern slope of the site (trench 6). Material from these contexts includes a spindle-whorl.

The only imported material consisted of amphorae sherds from 'several' such vessels: one at least was of Dressel 1b type, with a wide (4cm) neck-collar (Vazeilles, n.d., 5). This material was recovered at shallow depth on the external face of the southern rampart. The excavation/
excavation and finds were noted in *Gallia*, 9, 1951, 111, where it was simply acknowledged that the "Hallstatt" sherds might well belong to the "hallstattien prolongé", a concept then gaining favour in SW France through the work of Fabre (eg 1952).

Subsequent work has been limited to Cotton's accommodation of it into her consideration of the southern forts of the Lemovices. In 1958 (in Brogan and Frere 1958) she suggested that the short iron points might be sufficient to suggest a murus gallicus - defended contour fort, a view she rescinded in 1961 (Cotton and Frere, 1961, 46-8) in favour of an enclosed farmstead, with its surviving defences best preserved on the western side.

Although there is clearly some cultivation around La Moutte at the present time, and the plateau at 600m on which the site is located is not particularly elevated, the fact that there was subsequently a gallo-roman burial in the bank of the enclosure suggests that a cult use should also be borne in mind with regard to its earlier utilization.

Visited.

19256 SERANDON Village des Boysses/Camp de César

Borif, 1930, 222

Couchard, Couchard and Andrieu, 1970, no 139 note.

Despite the appellation 'Camp de César', which is often attributed to protohistoric works in Limousin, this mound appears to be a motte. It is not considered further.
19258 SERVIERES-LE-CHATEAU Champ d'Astier

Only a very bald reference by Bombal and Muzac (BSPF, 8, 1911, 606) is known to this site. Remains of dry-stone walls associated with a blackish soil layer containing charcoal and tiny sherds were reported beside a menhir on top of a cliff dominating the river Glane. The site lay in the lands belonging to the village of Couderc: Le Coudert lies SE of Servières. Not mapped.

19261 SORNAC Camp du Clamoudeix/Clamondeix (XXII-32 : Bugeat)
Lambert zone II x = 585,8 y = 72,8 z = 820m (= village of Clamoudeix)

Vazeilles (1936a, 62 : 1954, 12) describes this site as a small promontory fort set between two steep-sided stream courses which merge near the village of Clamoudeix. The site was, and is, in overgrown woodland. M. Guy Lintz accompanied me over the ground to the S of the village between Puy-Brule and Puy-Chabrier, where local information told us the site was located: nothing was seen (1974). The same informant however remembered a visit by two English archaeologists in a Bentley, nearly twenty years earlier.

Subsidiary information given by Vazeilles, and by Cotton (in Brogan and Frere 1958) however suggests that the site is liable to be medieval. Structures were visible inside what appears to be a very small fort, and terraces and walls – presumably parts of an agricultural system – were noted on the ridge outside it. Not mapped.

Almost visited.

19265/
The first mention of a possible enclosure here is by Lalande (BSPF, 3, 1906, 418). The site, as described by Vazeilles (1936a, 21) appears to consist of a motte-and-bailey, the latter with entrances on its eastern and northern sides. Vazeilles located iron slag in a dry-stone hut within the bailey, but his hypothesis, of a later prehistoric site re-equipped in the medieval period seems needlessly complex. The motte and bailey occupy about 0.65 ha.

Other indications of medieval occupation have been located at Lagorse in the same commune (Vazeilles, 1956). Not mapped.

This line of hills, oriented SW/NE from the Puy de Besseau, lies on the N side of the upper basin of the Vienne and has been the subject of fieldwork and excavation in recent years. A series of round stone cairns has been located occupying the crests of these hills. Numbering 27 in all, these are located above 780m. Their minimum diameter is c 6m, and clustered near some of them are groups of stone clearance heaps. These latter, less regular in form, have maximum diameters of 5m: the best recorded series are to be found on the Puy de Broussas, where a set of 8 cairns are accompanied by 47 stone clearance heaps (Lintz, 1979b; 1980).

Excavation of two of the cairns, now set in bracken-covered heathland, partially planted with conifers, suggests that the set may have developed from the late Iron Age. No 21, slightly damaged, appears to have covered an extended inhumation, which had been destroyed by soil acidity. Available/
able dating evidence is restricted to a bronze bracelet, for which Lintz suggests parallels dating to La Tène I-III, an undiagnostic collection of sherds from a single large vessel, and a radiocarbon date of $55\pm 135$bc (Ny -499).

No 15, on the W slope of the Puy de Broussas, was c 6m in diameter prior to excavation. A stone clearance heap (Lintz, 1980 photo C) represented a secondary addition to this monument. The main mound was overlain by a sherd of samian ware. Dating is thus restricted to a single radiocarbon date for wood charcoal in a primary context, which is quoted at $200\pm 85$AD (NASCA correction : Ny-552), a date also supported by the secondary terra sigillata.

None of the three stone clearance heaps examined produced any clear dating evidence. Two at least appear to be of some antiquity, since they are based on natural rock : a third was discounted since it proved, on examination, to be essentially superficial. The area was afforested in the XVIIIth century, but these clearance heaps could date to any period prior to that : Lintz (1980, 108) suggested medieval use.

However, there seems to be no reason why such clearance heaps – notoriously difficult to date as they are – should not be contemporary with the cairns themselves : indeed, no 15 in particular is only inferentially funerary. In the light of pollen evidence, eg Rié-Grand, for high-altitude cereal cultivation at about the right period, the possibility of settlement and agriculture at altitudes of around 800m during the Iron Age may perhaps not be completely discounted.

19265 TARNAC Camp du Treich
(XXII-32 : Bugeat)
Lambert zone II $x = 571,5 \quad y = 77,5 \quad z = c 680$

The Camp du Treich lies on a spur at an altitude of c 680m overlooking the/
the Vienne from the W, c 1km SW of the cross-roads at Le Trech.

The site was first noted by Vazeilles (1936a, 20), who described it as a promontory fort 18m across, to which access was barred by a double rampart and ditch measuring 10m wide each. The enclosed area is approximately 4 ares in extent (Vazeilles 1954, 10-11). Excavations were conducted by the local school-mistress and produced carbonized remains, attributed by Vazeilles to a palisade, from the top of the rampart, some iron debris, including a knife-blade, and sherds, some of which were medieval.

Cotton redescribed the site (in Brogan and Frere, 1958). The dimensions attributed to it (Couchard, Couchard and Lintz, 1973, 359) are in error. This minute site is perhaps most readily accommodated in a medieval context: Vazeilles (1936a) compared it to the site at Confolens, commune of Saint-Pardoux-le-Vieux. Not mapped.

19272 TULLE Puy Saint Clair
(XXI-34 : Tulle)
Lambert zone III x = 556.2 y = 330.4

The site of Tulle appears to have been occupied from the second century AD (Lintz, n.d., no 50), but Desbordes remarks (1978b, 50) that it is unlikely to have been of administrative significance during the Roman period. Various authors have suggested the possibility of an early fortification at the confluence of the Corrèze and the Solanne (eg Fage, 1885, 182), often related to the important Roman constructions at Tintignac.

The most likely site is the Puy Saint Clair (Lintz, n.d.), but formal proof is lacking for a fort on this rocky promontory. It lies to the north of the site of the medieval castle, from which site gallo-roman material has been recorded. Two polished stone axes are recorded from the Puy-Saint-Clair, one found in the digging of a grave in the cemetery which/
which now occupies the site (Lalande 1866a, b) and it would perhaps be surprising for Iron Age material to have escaped detection for so long in these circumstances. Not mapped.

19273 TURENNE Les Horts
(XXI-35 : Brive-la-Gaillarde)
Lambert zone III x = 537.75  y = 306.40  z = c 350

Although the name of Turenne appears to be gaulish, there is no record of a later fortification at the site, which appears to have been of significance from the 6th century AD (Desbordes, 1978b, 49).

At Les Horts (Couchard, 1968, 64 and fig 16, 2) is a dry-stone built longhouse with walls c 1m thick, forming a rectangle with rounded corners, which measures 14m long by 5.5m-6m wide. The structure, whose long axis runs N/S, is sub-divided into two rooms. That on the N has no obvious entrance, but there is a gap 2m wide on the E side of the S half. The site is unexcavated, and there are no finds.

The site lies on undulating plateau country to the E of Turenne. It may be compared with 'cases' and 'cabanons' elsewhere, and there appears no particular reason to attribute it to the Iron Age (Couchard, 1974).

19275 USSEL Saint-Dézéry, near the village
(XXIII-32 : Ussel)
Lambert zone II  x = 602  y = 63.8  z = c 710m

Lintz (1979a, fig 3) maps this site as one producing Dressel 1 amphorae sherds. The material appears to be restricted to one amphora sherd and four sherds of pottery (Lombard, 1975, with fig opp p 80). The commune of Saint-Dézéry, lying on the NE side of Ussel has now been amalgamated with the latter. The site lies on the plateau, to the SE of Saint-Dézéry, to the E of the ruisseau de la Dozanne, a tributary of the Diege/
19273 TURENNE
LES HORTS
after Couchard 1968

The first indication of intense occupation of the Iron Age
with the discovery at Marcilhac-sur-Célé of a intact necro-
the Fert (Marcilhac, 1963) - an area of a 1 ha. Iron Age habitation, well preserved and infilled with
a Neolithic tomb as well as an area of a 1 ha. Iron Age habitation, well preserved and infilled with
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Diège. This is one of a number of potential La Tène III open sites to the NE of Ussel, from which numerous gallo-roman finds have been recorded (Lintz, n.d., 174).

By 1936 (Vazeilles, 1936a, 72) this small fort was already being subjected to quarrying. British excavations at it were conducted in the 1950s (Brogan and Frere, 1958 : Cotton and Frere, 1961) and more recent collection and sondages have been carried out as the quarry face advances (Lombard, 1968c : 1970).

The site sits on a small plateau on a bluff some 40m above the RN682 and the right-bank of the Diège some 2km S of Ussel. It is naturally defended by steep slopes on all sides except the south. The enclosed area appears originally to have extended to 1.3-1.4 ha, and was ploughed at the turn of this century.

The first indication of later prehistoric occupation of the area came with the discovery of a cremation burial a few hundred metres south of the fort (Vazeilles, 1950b). Of the eleven pots found over an area of c 1m², four were handmade, and the remainder, wheel-turned, were attributed by Vazeilles to 'gallo-romain précoce'. The cremation itself was in an ovoid vase with raised cordons in a fine pale-grey clay: other forms broadly comparable to those from the Charlat burial appear in the second period at the Institution St Joseph at Roanne, or in the Bois du Cimetière at Crêt-Châtelard (Périchon et al, 1977, 188-91).

Although the manufacture of the other pots represented (Vazeilles, 1950b, nos 8-11) is extremely coarse, their shapes fall into the range typical of the late la Tène and adjacent periods (eg Périchon et al, 1977, types 1 = 'écuelle à rebord rentrante' and 4 = 'urne grossière').
19275 USSEL
CAMP DU CHARLAT
after Cotton and Frere 1961

--- approx. edge of quarry, 1973
--- rampart section in quarry face
The Excavations

By 1957, when excavations began at le Charlat, quarrying had already all but eliminated a lower annex (Vazeilles, 1954) attached to the northern end of the fort (Brogan and Frere, 1958, 72). Vazeilles had already recovered Dressl 1 amphorae sherds and pottery in "hallstatt tradition" from the quarry work at the north end of the site.

The 1957 work consisted of two sondages in the rampart. The first of these took place in the W end of the S, major, defence of the site, which still survived to a height of 4-5m. Partial excavation showed two distinct elements to the construction of this defence. On the N side, towards the interior of the fort, the defence consisted of a dump of sand and gravel, some 7m wide and surviving to a height of a little over 2m. Amongst the build-up material of this rampart, which appears to be constructed on an old land surface, were amphorae sherds. Piled against the outer face of this, was a stone wall, with vertical stone-built outer face, set in a construction trench: at least one beam-hole penetrated this outer face, which survived to a height of about 11 courses (1.6m) (Brogan and Frere, 1958, section p 73). The facing-stones attained maximum dimensions of 36 x 16cm, and the beam-socket (one of two discovered) was 13cm x 13cm. There was no indication of the presence of a ditch.

Excavation in 1959 further E on the S rampart produced a different constructional sequence (Cotton and Frere, 1961): this excavation (site C) consisted of a limited sondage of a massive dump rampart, with a broad summit 4.6m high and 5.5m wide: the inner side of this dump-rampart spilled over a pre-existing quarry. No indications of a dry-stone wall were recovered, but in view of the massiveness of the dump rampart and the limited scale of excavation undertaken (Cotton and Frere, 1961, fig 4) this is perhaps not surprising.

Further excavations at the 1957 site were also undertaken (site A). These showed the existence of a second stone-built face, similarly embellished with beam-holes, set back from the external face by about 1.3m/
19275 CAMP DU CHARLAT
after Cotton and Frere 1961 - Trench A Plan

after Brogan and Frere 1958 & Cotton and Frere 1961
TRENCH A SECTION

- amphora sherd
- Late Hallstatt sherd
+ Campanian sherd
1.3m, (Cotton and Frere 1961 figs 5-7), and bedded on the sandy layers of the dump construction. No indications of either longitudinal or vertical timbers were recovered.

A third rampart section was cut in 1959 on the subsidiary defence on the NE margin of the plateau. The rampart here consisted of a dump bank with a core of stones overlain by sand and faced with a dry-stone revetment, much of which had tumbled. The rampart survives to a height of approximately 2m and was built on an earlier occupation surface. In 1974 a further section of this rampart was inaccessible in the quarry face. Excavation appears otherwise to have been restricted to the entrance passage of the fort, at the E end of the S rampart, but this produced no evidence (Cotton and Frere, 1961, 33).

Further material was collected from the site towards the end of the 1960s, mostly from the vicinity of a cross-rampart which separated the upper fort from its northerly annexe. In 1968, Lombard recovered two iron fragments, described as a sword blade, but perhaps rather an iron sheath given the protuberance visible on one side. Examination of material tipped by the quarry in the vicinity produced sherds of Dressel 1 amphorae, and sherds of blackish pottery, some of which may have been wheelmade, and belonging either to La Tène III or Hallstatt prolongé.

Further work in 1970 (Lombard, 1970) showed this supposed cross-rampart to be essentially natural. Material disturbed by the quarrying activity was however collected on the surface. As well as more sherds of Dressel 1 amphorae, forty-two sherds were recovered, half wheel-turned, half hand-made. The handmade pottery was usually extensively tempered with mica, and sometimes with quartz grits; it was undecorated, except for a 'dolium' (Périchon et al, 1977, type 4) with incisions at the collar. Some of this material, including a fine wheel-turned vase of yellow clay are clearly post-Conquest, an impression confirmed by the presence of tuiles à rebord and a sherd of Terra sigillata from the site.

Thus/
Thus the material excavated in 1957 and 1959 represents the only assemblage which can be related to the enclosure of the site. The associations of this material are:

Pre-rampart occupation horizon, site B
- bronze ring bent by heat Cotton and Frere 1969 fig 9, 2
- 1 large and several small iron nails idem fig 9, 3-4
- pottery: vase neck in coarse pottery (fig 10, 1): simple rounded rim (fig 10, 2): red body sherd with combed surface (fig 10, 5):
  rim-sherd (fig 10, 6): base of a straight-sided vessel with raised mouldings (fig 10, 7) rim sherd with moulding at base of neck (fig 10, 11): basal fragment akin to no 7 above.
Sherd no 7 is the latest-looking vessel here: I can find no parallel for the vase form in a clearly pre-Conquest context in central France: at Rodez, Pajot and Vernhet (1976 fig 4 no 13) would place such a vessel post-Conquest: the presence of a parallel at Mont Beauvray (Bulliot, 1899, pl XXIII, 3) similarly cannot be used in support of a high date. More helpful is perhaps a somewhat similar vessel from la Croix-des-Sables, Mainxe, Charente (Pautreau, 1976b, fig 3, no 5).

Material from a pit behind the rampart, site C
This pit appears to be sealed by the tail of the rampart: amphorae sherds from one layer here (8) are accepted as being pre-rampart construction.
- amphorae sherds Cotton and Frere 1961 fig 11, 5
- one wheel-turned basal sherd Cotton and Frere fig 10, 12
- fine wheel-made buff sherd with surface painted with two parallel red lines fig 10, 13

In the rampart, site A
Apart from amphorae sherds, the most significant find is a sherd of Campanian A (Cotton and Frere, 1961, fig 10, 10). There is also a concave rim in fine red ware, with external ochre coating: compared by Cotton and Frere (1961 fig 10, 3) to gallo-belgic terra rubra beakers/
beakers: the form also occurs at Gergovia (Ward-Perkins, 1940, fig 19, 4-5).

**In the rampart, site B**
- amphorae sherds and the rim of an open bowl with inturned rim
  (Périchon, 1977, type 1: Cotton and Frere, 1961, fig 10, 8).

**In the rampart, site C**
- amphorae sherds: these would include a Dressel 1b rim (Cotton and Frere, 1961, fig 11, 2).

**On old ground surface below rampart, site C**
- rim sherd of an open bowl with inturned rim (Périchon 1977 type 1: Cotton and Frere, 1961, fig 10, 4).
- rim sherd in grey polished ware (Cotton and Frere, 1961 fig 10, 9)

**Material not fixed stratigraphically**
1. iron socketed spearhead, site C Cotton and Frere 1961 fig 9, 1

Whilst acknowledging that the bulk of this material could be attributable to La Tène III, two items prompted Cotton and Frere (1961, 41-2) to the suggestion that the rampart was unlikely to have been constructed before the Augustan period. These were the rim (fig 10, 3) with terra rubra affinities and the moulded foot in pale-grey ware (fig 10, 12), the latter paralleled at Gergovia. The former sherd has been described as a possible campanian imitation (Collis, 1975), but overall there appears little reason to suggest that this assemblage should pre-date the Conquest by much.

The defences of le Camp du Charlat are of interest because of their complex structure as evidenced in section A: the addition of a "murus duplex" with transversal timberwork to a dump rampart appears to reverse the constructional sequence which normally obtains in the late la Tène.

Visited.
19276 UZERCHE "Uxellodunum" or 'Usercodunum' (XXI-33: Uzerche)'
Lambert zone III $x = 340$, $y = 347.3$, $z = 342m$

The justification for including the site is that it is a minor contender for the role of the Uxellodunum of the final book of the Gallic War: the present-day town occupies a promontory around which the Vézère flows in a prominent meander. The site lies between 300 and 350m O.D. Examination of the vicinity took place in the years preceding the first World War, when Luzech and Puy d'Issolu were also being excavated (Viré, 1913: Ducourtieux 1913) and work continued for about a decade.

The research was carried out by Brousse and Lejeune, and consisted of identifying prominent spots outwith the town where defences might be recognized: sites claimed included le Plateau du Cimetière, les Vignes, les Fargeas, le Puy Bouzou (Viré, 1913), Sainte-Eulalie, Pleux and Puy-Grolier. On this last-mentioned summit, to the east of the town, the discovery of pottery and ‘tuiles à rebord’ accompanied claims for a defence running all the way round the hill (Héron de Villefosse, 1913): in all, a total of 27 trenches were laid out and finds included nails, two arrowheads, a spearhead and a spur (Lejeune, 1920, 63).

Most of the literature concentrates on attempting to show how the situation of Uzerche may be made to fit the description in the text of the Gallic War (Rivet, 1971 no 30), and as such is not particularly convincing (Marque, 1917; 1919: Lejeune 1920: Marque 1925). Finds from the site of Uzerche itself, since they consist of Roman coins issues all post-dating 26 BC, are not helpful, as Brousse conceded (1923).

This is not to deny that the configuration of the landscape would not lend itself to a fortification. The Vézère, about 40m wide as it flows round the promontory, is however very shallow in summer (c 60cm) and can be readily forded: the neck of the promontory is about 100m wide, and parts of its edge are very steep (Marque, 1917).
For the moment, however, there is no clear evidence for a La Tène III occupation of the site. Of the sites in the vicinity of Uzerche, only Puy-Crolier appears to have attracted attention since that time (Delage, 1938): but, apart from remarking that the nails recovered there in 1913 were large enough to have nailed a palisade, little more is added.

Marque (1917, 191) provides a sketch-map of the sites he claimed in the vicinity of Uzerche, but Viré (1928) remained sceptical about Usercodunum and also Eisarnodunum (Yssandon).

Visited.

(b) l/d les Garennes.
Some 3km from Uzerche, and north of the Vezère, the proprietor has located a site which has produced c 100 kg of Dressel 1 amphorae and some La Tène III pottery. (Gallia, 33, 1975, 442).

19287 VITRAC-SUR-MONTAGNE

(a) Camp de Lavergne
This site, described by Vazeilles (1954a, 15) as a camp of about 1 ha at an altitude of c 600m, was rejected by Cotton and Frere (1961, 51 fn 53) to whom it appeared to represent a fortuitous juxtaposition of positive and negative lynchets.

(b) lieu-dit Alas
Surface collection here included an iron ring and a collection of Hallstatt sherds, of which one was graphite-coated (Antignac and Lombard, 1975: Gallia, 33, 1975, 442). Although there are ploughed-out barrows known at the lieu-dit, it is suggested that some of this pottery may have been fired on site, and there is at least the possibility of a settlement in the vicinity of the barrows during Hallstatt final.
The present-day village of Yssandon crowns the summit of a prominent ridge aligned WNW/ESE, which dominates the surrounding countryside by in excess of 100m. The sides of the hill, particularly on the E, are extensively covered by cultivation terraces: the Puy de Chalard represents a lower and small extension of this system on its SE side (alt 304m). The configuration of the hill would suggest that it was admirably adapted as the site for an Iron Age fortification, but centuries of agricultural modification have meant that no clear remains now survive: conceivably, the "remains of concentric enclosures" recorded by the Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule, (II, 784), represent more than terracing of subsequent origin, but this is unprovable at present. The hill is of limestone, and parts of its summit and much of its skirts are presently cultivated.

The principal early report on the site was provided by Trembleau de Rochebrune (1866a), extensively followed by Lalande (1875). The former author appears to be the ultimate source for the description of enclosures on the Puy de Chalard. Three lines of stone walls were claimed, with, it would appear, an admixture of cement. At least some of these constructions were Roman, in Trembleau's view. The innermost enclosure enveloped 0.25 ha of usable space. It would thus appear unlikely that this (now no longer extant) represents a later Iron Age defence.

Apart from the doubtful structural details, a certain amount of artefactual evidence was recovered in the XIXth century. The coins, from both puys, have been discussed above. Other material illustrated by Trembleau (1866a) consisted of:

Three bronze fibulae: One, complete, appears to be of pseudo-La Tene II construction (Trembleau de Rochebrune, 1866a, no 1) whilst the third, although bent, and lacking the pin and foot-plate may be akin to Nauheim/
19289 YSSANDON: Le Puy: le Chalard is the wooded summit right of the church (aerial view).

ground view
Nauheim type. The pseudo-La Tene II form may be readily paralleled at eg Vienne (Chapotat, 1970, plate III).

Other late la Tène material described by Trembleau includes a convex-headed bronze nail decorated with grooves and with a quadrangular shaft (no 4); an amber bead (no 6); a glass bead coloured black and violet (no 7); a pottery spindle whorl and two small bronze rings (nos 9 and 10).

Other records of the sites are perhaps less helpful. Lalande (1890b, 112) recorded the presence of "puits funéraires" at Yssandon without further comment; and also recorded coarse pottery from the site. Further storage pits were located in the 1930s (Delsol, 1936), but the debris recovered within them included "tuiles à rebord," suggesting their attribution to the gallo-roman period.

The Mediterranean coins from the two puys nominally at least suggest a longish occupation. These consist of a silver drachma of Marseilles (Lacroix, 1882, no 1), attributed to the first half of the first century BC, and two "crocodile" bronzes from the Nimes colony (Lacroix 1882, nos 2 and 3). There is also an extensive series of Roman coins beginning with Republican issues of the 2nd century BC, and continuing until the fifth century AD (Lacroix, 1882, 1887; Lintz, n.d., gazetteer no 90).

In sum, the twin puys of Yssandon and Chalard appear likely to have been extensively settled, and perhaps fortified, in la Tène III. The usable space - depending on how far down the sides of the plateau one is prepared to extend occupation - is of the order of 25 ha - large by Limousin standards. The environs are fertile, but the site is disadvantaged in that it is some distance from a major river. Ultimately, the testimony of the spade will be required.
19289 YSSANDON

Le Puy d'Yssandon et le Puy du Chalard

after IGN 1:25,000 Juillac 7/8 (1966)

contour separation 10 m.

- woodland
- terraces
- roads
- tracks
3.3 CORREZE: SITES RETAINED AS ACTUALLY OF POTENTIALLY LATER PREHISTORIC

3.3.1 Criteria

The criteria for inclusion in this list include:

(1) Fortification dated to the Iron Age or typologically appropriate to later prehistory

and/or (2) Artefactual evidence, not exclusively funerary, of later prehistoric use

and/or (3) Potential evidence of later prehistoric agriculture

3.3.2 The List

004: ALBUSSAC, Roc de Vic, Contour fort: undated.
014: AURIAC, Puy de la Valette: possible settlement: La Tène III.
020: BEAUMONT, Ceignole: ritual: Tène III.
036: CHAMBERET, Monteix: ritual?: late.
051: CHAUMEIL, Monedien: promontory fort: undated.
058: COMBRESSOL, la Ville en Bois: settlement?: Hallstatt?
076: ESPARTIGNAC, La Blanche: promontory fort: undated.
078: ESTIVAUX, La Barrière: promontory fort: undated.
113: LIGINIAC, Yeux: Agriculture?: Téne III/later.
123: MALMONT, Roumégoux: settlement?: Téne III/later.
130: MAUSSAC, La Forêt: settlement: Téne III/later.
136: MEYMAC, Sous-le-Chemin-de-Bois: settlement?: Téne III/later.
This list includes 44 of the 285 communes in the departement of Correze. Mottes and other medieval works, not dealt with in section 3.2, are listed in an appendix.


CREUSE

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The Departement of Creuse extends northwards from the suite of high plateaux in the S of the region to the skirts of the plains of Berry to the N. Climate is modified by relief, which varies from 931m near Saint-Oradour-le-Chirouze (Joanne; P, 1907) to less than 200m in the N.

The area of the departement is c 557,000 ha (Ministère de l'Agriculture, 1960) : with the exception of about 12 communes in the S, this area drains towards the Loire. A major factor in land use is the nature of the soil: 380,000 ha are based on granites and granulites and 125,000 ha on schists and gneiss.

Creuse lacks natural limits, but its component divisions are traditionally differentiated in terms of history and human geography rather than physical differences of landscape. Le Bas Berry, for example, encompasses portions of various cantons in the N of the departement: Bonnat, Boussac, Chatelus, Dun-la-Palestel and La Souterraine. Most of the departement consists of a mosaic of arable land, pasture, heathland and forest. In 1907, these accounted for 270,000 ha, 135,000 ha, 80,000 ha and 36,000 ha respectively (Joanne, 1907), but these proportions will have altered according to much the same formulae as those noted for Correze. By 1972, for example, afforestation was increasing at 1100 ha per annum, and forest covered 110,000 ha (Anon, 1974, 57).

In the middle of the XIXth century, Boutelas-Desmoulins (1867) indicated that approximately 250,000 ha could be classified as heathland and uncultivated areas.

The nineteenth century literature on the enceintes of Creuse developed rather differently than that of the other two departements with which we are concerned. Although site descriptions and inventorying was done, the predominant effort was devoted to the description and examination/
ination of (as well as speculations about) the vitrified forts.

Pierre de Cessac is probably this most important of the XIXth century commentators. From the mid-1860s, he contributed a series of important papers, reassessing much of the earlier speculative literature (eg Joulloton, 1814; Barailon, 1784; 1806), and participating in the debate about the vitrified forts. His sparring partner in the latter endeavour was J B Thuot, whose most important work was probably done at the Puy de Gaudy near Gueret. De Cessac's manuscript Dictionnaire is a source of the first importance in any assessment of the prehistory of Creuse, and Imbert's inventory (1894) drew heavily on his work.

The CEEPFA list (BSFF, 4, 1907, 148-9 extended by BSFF, 11, 1914, 143-6) included sites in 29 communes. Comparatively little by way of synthesis on the hill-forts of Creuse appeared in the first half of this century. Autorde (1907) returned to the theme of vitrification and the production of the centenary volume of the Societe des Sciences Naturelles et Archeologiques de la Creuse in 1932 gave Janicaud and Lacrocq an opportunity to review the evidence. Both these authors, and Dayras, contributed important notes on individual sites.

In recent years, however, research on this period has revived considerably (reviewed by Leger, 1980). Important forts have been or are being investigated by M. Patrick Leger (Camp des Chastres, Aubusson : Puy des Trois Cornes, Saint-Vaury) and Mlle Nadine Dussot (Puy de Gaudy, Sainte-Feyre).
4.2 SITE SURVEY AND EVALUATION

23001 AHUN (Acitodunum)
(XXII - 29 : Gueret)
Lambert zone II \(x = 120.5\) \(y = 577.5\) \(z = c 400m\)

Desbordes (1976) has reviewed the evidence for a possible Iron Age site here: essentially, this takes three forms. These are: place-name evidence, small finds, and a suggested defended site. The last-mentioned site lies in the neighbouring commune of Moutier d'Ahun, and will be considered in that context.

There appears to be no doubt that Ahun was a centre of considerable importance in the Creuse valley during the gallo-Roman period. Desbordes (1976, 462 fig 2) maps the estimated extent of the settlement at that period, and shows it to occupy an extensive irregular polygon between Ahun and Moutier d'Ahun, an area where surface finds of bricks, tiles etc are frequently found.

The Peutinger table records a major settlement on the Lyons-Saintes road, between Clermont and Limoges (Augustoritum), referred to as Acitodunum. Although referring to Ahun, it does not necessarily follow that there was a pre-Conquest settlement on the site. Desbordes (1977, 463) points out that although the derivation of the name is gaulish - it may mean "the enclosure on a steep-sided summit" - it may well have been bestowed on the site after the Conquest: indeed, the same applies in Limousin at Limoges itself, where no pre-Conquest material has been recorded (vide supra).

Apart from the presence of iron ore, in the commune of Ahun at Chanteau, and elsewhere in the vicinity, there appears to be limited evidence for potential Iron Age activity in the neighbourhood of Ahun. Small finds are restricted to a fragment of a potin coin found near the town (de Cessac, ms).
In the current state of our knowledge, it would thus seem preferable to suggest that the gallo-roman foundation took place de novo. Not mapped.

23008 AUBUSSON Les Chastres/Les Châtres; le Marchedieu and le Chateau/le Chapitre

(XXIII-30 : Aubusson)
Lambert zone II x = 586.5 y = 104 z = 550m

This major fort, occupying the promontory of the Bois des Chastres to the SSW of Aubusson, has been well-known since last century, and has been the subject of much speculation and a little excavation.

The summit of the promontory on which the site sits lies at 557m, but the main defensive line, drawn across the promontory from WNW to ESE, excludes this; however the plateau is very gently undulating, and this exclusion is not a serious disadvantage. The promontory slopes gently NW, before dropping steeply to the Creuse river, here flowing at about 440m. The principal defence, consisting essentially of a rampart, is drawn across the plateau summit from the top of the slope of the valley of the Bauze, a tributary of the Creuse which joins it at Aubusson, almost to the road which adopts the dry valley between the Bois des Chastres and the Colline de la Rebeyrette. This latter, isolated hill, flanking the R Creuse, appears to have been excluded from the defensive scheme.

The rampart, approximately 450m in length, thus isolates an area of about 15 ha, the extent of which cannot be accurately measured since parts of it have been built over by the expansion of Aubusson itself. Various interpretations of the significance of the promontory fort at the Bois des Chastres have invoked relationships with sites proposed for other hills in the vicinity of Aubusson. Of these, le Marchedieu is the most commonly cited, followed by the position occupied by the later, medieval, Château d'Aubusson. Le Marchedieu is a prominent spur located/
23008 AUBUSSON
Camp des Chastres
after Courteau and Dayras 1925
located to the E of Aubusson, between the R Creuse, the ruisseau de la ville and the village of la Seiglière. It again attains c 560m in altitude. These potential subsidiary sites will be considered below in relation to Les Chastres.

In the XIXth century, it was already known that the rampart contained an admixture of earth and carbonized wood (de Cessac, ms). De Cessac also noted that a feebly-marked ditch was present outside the rampart. No finds were known from the interior of the site, but gallo-roman tiles had been recovered from the margin of the old Aubusson-Felletin road just outside it.

Thuot (1873) rehearsed the known evidence from Aubusson and its vicinity in an effort to show that Caesar's two legions were quartered there in the winter of 51 BC. Although his thesis is essentially speculative, and was disliked by de Cessac (ms) and others, it does provide useful information on the Bois des Chastres. Thuot noted gallo-roman material from the foot of the castle walls, from the Marchedieu, at la Cube, and between the faubourg Saint Jean and the Bois des Chastres (1873, 64-5). Of the sites in the vicinity of Aubusson, the Plateau des Chatres (or Bois de Felletin : Thuot, 1873, 59) offered the best location for Caesar's legions. Approximately 750m in length, he recorded the main rampart running at right angles to this, as 445m long, with a basal width of 17m and surviving to a height of between 2.6m and 3.6m. The rampart runs over the edge of the scarp for a distance of c 20m on the Bauze side. A road cut through this rampart shows it to have been constructed to earth and stone, apparently without evidence of internal structure. Thuot (1873, 83) also noted a subsidiary rampart running along the edge of the scarp overlooking the Bauze for 260m. It survived to a maximum height of 2.4m. Although some of the interior of the fort was under plough, no small finds were known. Various springs were recorded on the promontory, which Thuot estimated as 35 ha in extent (Thuot, 1873, 86). The apparent entrance in the main S rampart corresponded to the original Aubusson-Felletin road, which/
23008 AUBUSSON: Les Chastres from the town

external face of the principal rampart
which traversed the site.

Thuot (1873, 80 fn 1) discounted the site of the castle as a likely location for Iron Age fortification on topographic grounds. Pérathon (1886, 4), returning to this theme, was less prepared in the light of further finds made around the Château (destroyed by Richelieu) to dismiss this site entirely.

Pérathon was able to record the discovery of Roman coins from the vicinity of the "Levée de Cesar", as the main rampart on Les Chastres was called. He also records that 'iron bullets' (1886, 6) were found nearby in the early XIXth century, but attributes these to a re-occupation of the site during the Wars of Religion. Subsequently (1894, 413) Perathon noted that the breach in the rampart on the line of the Aubusson-Felletin road was clearly secondary.

Elsewhere, Perathon (1886, 9) noted the existence in the XVIIIth century of a strong wall along the line of the "rue des Tanneurs" on the Colline de Marchedieu, which he envisaged as part of a network for the Roman control of this area. Lacrocq (1921, 187) added a further possible site near Aubusson - on La Montagne de Saint Jean, but without any details.

In 1923, Courteau and Dayras (1923, 80) reviewed the evidence for a Roman Castellum on the site of Le Chateau, but despite the apparent strength of its position their survey was inconclusive. In 1925, the same authors rehearsed Thuot's theories re Le Camp des Chastres and its progenitors (Courteau and Dayras, 1925), but added little detail about the camp beyond that already cited by Thuot and Pérathon: they did however revise the area of the fort downward to c 20 ha. Additional defensive works were also suggested: these included two semi-circular lengths of rampart, almost levelled by 1925, covering an entrance to the fort at N end.

Subsequent/
Subsequent reports were restricted to the intimation of various small finds from Chastres. Dayras (MSSNAC, 27, 1938/40, 39) noted a diorite stone axe: in 1937, Guéret museum received a perforated whetstone found within the camp (MSSNAC, 26, 1937, 667).

In the mid-1960s, the Association des Amis d'Aubusson began excavations on a small scale inside Le Camp des Chastres (MSSNAC, 35, 1966, 58): apart from tegulae, no small finds were made inside the camp. The following year, Dayras and Champagnat (1967) reviewed the evidence for the various sites around Aubusson, and published notes on the 1965 sondages.

East of the old Aubusson-Felletin road, the principal rampart had decayed considerably since Thuot quoted dimensions: the enclosed area of the fort was reduced further to c 13-15 ha. Excavation in the camp seems to have been addressed solely to a stone-built granite cistern, 24.5m long, 3.25m wide and over 1m deep. Located at the division between parcelles 154 and 155, this cistern produced no finds, and could only tentatively be associated with the fortifications, (Dayras and Champagnat, 1967, 7, 13). In sum, there appeared to be every reason to suggest that Le Camp des Chastres pre-dated any possible use as winter quarters at the end of the Gallic War.

The Chateau site was also the subject of work in the mid-1960s. The coin series from the site was reviewed (Dayras and Champagnat, 1967, 16): gaulish coins are absent, and the Roman series begins with a republican as, a denarius of Augustus and a Nimes coin.

Although rather lower than Chastres and the Marchedieu, the Castle site (lieu-dit, Chapitre) occupies a commanding position overlooking the junction of several valleys (air photograph: Dayras and Champagnat, 1967, 21). Excavation was made more difficult by a thick layer of debris distributed over the site in the XVIIIth century: but, at some depth (2m) sherds described as of La Tène III type (Dayras and Champagnat, 1967/)
1967, 22) were discovered: some of the sherds, illustrated on p 24 of the same article, however, look potentially earlier (eg finger-impressed cordons are represented) and nothing looks particularly diagnostic of la Tène III.

It would thus appear possible, that the Chapitre (= Le Château), measuring approximately 110m long and 50m wide, and dominating the Creuse itself by 40m, may also have later prehistoric occupation (Dayras, 1967).

Subsequent work has been carried out on the principal rampart at Chastres, essentially cleaning up and extending a clandestine excavation through the rampart. Interim reports have been published (Leger, 1972; 1973: Gallia, 31, 1973, 423; Gallia, 33, 1975, 445) and I am grateful to M. Patrick Leger for discussing his work on the site with me.

The section was dug through the rampart W of the old Aubusson-Felletin road cut: the rampart here is covered by a mature conifer plantation. Approximately 1m-2m wide and 20m long, the excavation was extended to examine the upper levels near the crest of the rampart. As noted previously by Dayras, gallo-roman tiles were found on top of the rampart.

The rampart stratification may be divided into three major elements, labelled I-III, from the bottom. As the cutting at the core of the rampart was less than 1m wide, and the sub-rampart surface was not examined, (a) the full significance of the features recovered in unit I cannot be assessed and (b) it is not certain that unit I represents the earliest construction on the site. Further, more extensive excavation, would not however be possible without removing trees.

Unit I
This consisted of a low, spread bank of earth and stones, the latter not forming any form of built structure eg a retaining wall. A hearth was sealed/
sealed under the rear of this bank, but its chronological position is otherwise uncertain since no material was found associated with it. In the centre of the cutting, a major vertical timber was located. This had been squared, and had survived because it had been carbonized. The vertical timber was set round with substantial chocking stones, themselves incorporated in the mass of the unit I stratification. Because of the narrowness of the cutting, all that can be said with certainty is that the vertical timber did not form part of a continuous stockaded defence. Whether or not there was a post-hole in the old ground surface into which this post had been set was not established.

The surviving depth of unit I was c 1 metre, and the most likely interpretation - bearing in mind the uncertainties discussed above - appears to be a stockaded defence (with vertical posts set at unknown intervals) set into a substantial bank.

Unit II
Although this has been described as a series of alternating layers of yellowish clayey soil and hearths associated with layers of soil showing severe indications of burning ('rubefied' : Leger, 1972), this unit may most simply be described as a burnt timber-laced rampart in which the few stones represented have not been vitrified. Both transversals and longitudinals appear to be represented, with the transversals being inclined towards the interior of the site, perhaps as an original constructional feature. Chocking stones were also recovered in association with the transversal timbers. According to the information conserved in the section, this second unit appears to have been constructed on the top of the levelled surface of unit I: the section may suggest that the basal timbers were set into small trenches excavated into the summit of unit I. No evidence of any facing walls was recorded in association with this phase of construction, which the surviving remains suggest was at least 6m wide.

Unit III took the form of a massive dump of yellow clay and stone which enveloped/
23008 Aubusson Les Chastres: the old Aubusson-Félicité road near the levée de César

burnt timbervork in unit 2, levée de César (photo Patrick Léger).
enveloped the entire defence, and constituted about half of the surviving elevation of the rampart. It is conceivable that the angular stones represented in this trial element of the construction had been recovered by scrapping the external facing of the unit II work. The unit III work was added to the levelled upper surface of the unit II work. Towards its outer edge, the yellow clay fill was consolidated and retained by a roughly-built dry stone wall.

This defence was fronted by a slight ditch which could have furnished some of the materials required in the construction: the ditch would appear to be contemporary with the first period of construction.

The small finds associated with the rampart consist of two saddle quern stones, one re-utilised in unit II, one in unit III, about 40 sherds, most of which are too small to be diagnostic, and a bronze fibula, as well as earlier material incorporated in the material used in the rampart build-up.

The sherds include one believed to be in the Urnfield tradition, but otherwise comment on this pottery has been restricted: none of the pottery appears to be wheel-turned, and four distinct wares have been identified. The fibula was unfortunately not sealed, and lay on the external slope of the rampart. The pin is missing: the bow is a rounded arc, and the foot is bent back and ornamented with a sphere, engraved with two lines, set vertically. Parallels for this design would seem to span the transition Hallstatt final – la Tène Ancienne.

In sum, the "Levée de Cesar" shows every indication of being a multi-period work, reconstructed at least twice on the same line. The enclosed area, at 13-15 ha, is substantial by the standards of the western Massif Central and suggests that the Camp des Chastres was of considerable importance, at least locally. Further excavation would be required to confirm this, and indeed to confirm whether certain elements of the site are genuinely antique, or by-products of the traffic across the site/
site when it was on the Aubusson-Felletin road.

Additionally, the other sites in the commune merit further consideration. Desbordes (1978c, 36-7) has drawn attention recently to the Chapitre, noting its strategic position (in a sense better than that of Le Camp des Chastres) at the intersection of routes in the Creuse valley.

Amongst the earlier authors, Thuot, Pérathon and Dayras were all advocates of envisaging the camp des Chastres in relation to other sites in the vicinity: these will be discussed below. The essentials of this argument were however concerned with the role Chastres may have played at the end of the Gallic War, as a garrison position for the winter "in finibus Lemovicum non longe ab Arvernis". Such a geopolitical interpretation would seem grossly to exceed the evidence presently available for this large promontory site.

Visited.

23009 AUGE
Command

The principal source on this extremely doubtful site is Barailon (1806, 25), repeated, rather sceptically, in de Cessac's manuscript Dictionnaire. All Barailon says is that before the Revolution, a camp was visible in the lande de Commaud. He believed it to have been used against the English in 1357. As Barailon claimed that 'even the soldiers' tables' were visible, scepticism is perhaps altogether appropriate.
2/107

23012  AURIAT Dourdanas  
(XXI-31 : Saint-Leonard-de-Noblat)  
Lambert zone II  x = 544.7  y = 096.5  z = c 550m

Couraud and July (1968) suggested the plateau to the S of Dourdanas as a possible hill-fort site. Well-marked slopes were present on the N, E and S slopes, but the W side of the site had been destroyed. Sherds of black pottery were recovered from the summit.

The site's position in relation to the Roman road network is plotted by Couraud and July (1968, 93 pl 9 no 5). I have not visited this site. Not mapped.

23018  BAZELAT  
Les Redoutes, near L'Age du Mont.

According to de Cessac's manuscript Dictionnaire, les Redoutes is a name applied to a group of five substantial barrows in the vicinity of the village of L'Age du Mont. It may be these features which are referred to as a "gallo-roman refuge" by Valadeau (1892, 28). Not mapped.

23022  BETETE  Les Terrasses  
(XXII-28 : Aigurande)  
Lambert zone II  x = 577.8  y = 153.1  z = 377m (village de Belair)

The sole reference to this site is in de Cessac's unpublished Dictionnaire in the Creuse Departmental Archive.

He described the site as being a square with each side c 100m long, and considered it to be either a Roman Camp or of XIV-XVIth century date. The enclosing banks he considered never to have been of great height, perhaps 2.5m, and they survived to his day more particularly at the rounded corners. It lay in the dependancies of the village of Belair.

No/
No small finds were known from the site, but a neighbouring summit, le Duchaud, had produced gallo-roman debris, including tiles. Like a possible enceinte c 20km W at La Celle-Dunoise, this earthwork might well fall into the class of Viereckschanzen.

23023 BONNAT
Le Camp de Cesar

This potential site has been mentioned several times, most recently by the Touring Club de France Guide (1972, 31). The original error appears to have been committed in the Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule, which attributed the commune to the wrong departement, according to de Cessac (in ms). Not mapped.

23031 BOUSSAC Le Château
(XXII-28 : Boussac)
x = 590,5  y = 149,7  z = c 380m

Various suggestions have been put forward in the past that the site of the castle at Boussac - until 1789 the seat of one of the nine baronies of Berry - (Valadeau, 1892, 45 : Desbordes, 1978c) might have been fortified in the Iron Age.

The site, on a rocky promontory dominating the right bank of the Petite Creuse river, and between it and its tributary, the Beroux, clearly has potential as a defensive position. However, there appears only to be legend (de Levillatte, 1907, 27-9) and an anomalous small-scale feature, perhaps an unfinished souterrain (Blanchet, 1923, 219), by way of support. Peuch (1921, 397-8) suggests that a promontory fort on the site would have been c 100m long by 25m broad.
Sometimes referred to as "Le camp de l'ennemi" (de Cessac, ms), this camp was twice described in the XIXth century, but, despite its survival until the present time, has only received passing mention since that time (de Cessac, 1862b, 329-30; Bonnafoux, 1866, 27; Desbordes, 1978c, 36; Lecler, 1902, 85).

The site occupies a plateau NE of the Bois de Montmoulard and SE of the stream of the same name: it lies about 0.8km SE of the village of Villeville. It is slightly trapezoidal in shape, with the long axis, running N/S, approximately 150m long, whilst the E/W axis is a little over one third of that in length. The N side runs at 070°, and consists of a broad bank, surviving to a height of less than 1m for a width of 5-6m: no ditch is present. The rampart on the E side runs more-or-less due N/S, and consists of a rampart spread to c 4m and less than 1m high. Again, no evidence of a ditch survives. No enclosing bank is present on the S side, but a track, running at c 250° may occupy the former line of the ditch, as it sits c 1m below the interior of the enclosure. The W side, running at 350°, retains the most impressive evidence of enclosing earthworks. The bank here dominates the interior of the site by c 2m, and the bottom of the V-shaped external ditch present on this site by about 4m.

Two entrances are present on the W rampart: one occurs c 70m from the NW angle and consists of a gap c 4m wide in the rampart, but no corresponding interruption appears on the ditch line. The second entrance, again on the W side, is some 30m from the NW corner and is marked by a causeway across the ditch.

Compared to the dimensions cited in the XIXth century, the earthworks appear to have decayed considerably, but Bonnafoux chose to see the site/
site as similar to others, such as in the commune of Lourdoueix-Saint-Pierre, which suggest that it may be considered as a Vierecksschanze.

Small finds are unknown, except for a cannon ball (Bonnafoix, 1866) and sherds (de Cessac, ms) from the interior. However, in the village of Villeville, there is a house with complete Dressel 1 amphorae standing outside: it is conceivable that these came from the Camp de Montmoulard or from the excavation of the "Nouvel Etang", which lies some 300m NW of it (information from M. Leger). According to Chénon (1921, 434), the Roman road from Châteaumeillant (Cher) (= Mediolanum) to Ahun passes through this commune.

Visited.

23035 BUDELIERE Camp d'Entraigues (XXIII-29 : Eaux-les-Bains)

This commune, established on the border of the dioceses of Bourges and Limoges, was suggested as containing a camp at the village of Entraigues (Janicaus, 1932, 110). However, it appears more likely that spoil tips from gold mining (Filippini, 1931) are all that is represented. Entraigues lies to the E of Budeliere, on the promontory between the rivers Tardes and Cher. This site is not considered further.

More recently, M. Patrick Leger (pers comm) has identified two small fortifications of apparently medieval date near this confluence. That at Saint Marien occupies the apex of this promontory:—

Lambert zone II  x = 613.6  y = 137.5  z = c 350

whilst opposite it, on the W bank of the Tardes, there is a further site on the promontory of Sainte Radegonde:—

Lambert zone II  x = 612.9  y = 137.4  z = c 350

M. Leger informs me that one of these sites exhibits signs of vitrification. Not mapped.
Two sites have been proposed in this commune, but nothing concrete has appeared in print about them since the 1920s. This excludes the site of the main settlement itself, where one quarter was referred to as "Les Fosses" on the cadastral plan of 1826 (Lacrocq, 1922/3, 216).

Martin (1905), repeated by Lacrocq (1923, 405-6), spoke of "retranche- ments" at a lieu-dit Chatelus/or Les Chastelas near the village of Chiers. The latter lies above the Creuse river on its left bank at an altitude of c 370m:
Lambert zone II  \( x = 559.5 \quad y = 143.7 \)
Martin believed this site to lie close to the Roman road south from Mediolanum (Chateaumeillant) and Aigurande (Lacrocq, 1923, 405).

Subsequently, Lacrocq (1926, 299) mentioned another possible site, the "Camp des Anglais" or "Camp de Cesar", which was known by tradition to have lain on La Petite Brande, a communal grazing area, since sub- divided. All that survived of this were "extremely vague traces of ramparts", defining a rectangle with a side length c 100m. In view of the other rectangular (and possible) enclosures in this area, (eg communes of Lourdoueix-Saint-Pierre and Béthôte) a further Viereckschanze in this frontier area would appear distinctly possible.

The Touring Club de France Guide (1972, 32) suggests the possibility of an 'oppidum' in this commune at lieu-dit Le Chatelard. Nothing further is known about the site, but the location of this commune, on the interfluvial plateau between the Creuse and the Petite Creuse (here c 5km wide), and approximately mid-way between the rectangular site at Lourdoueix/
Lourdoueix-Saint-Pierre and the possible example at la Celle-Dunoise, suggests that further fieldwork might be profitable. Not mapped.

Chambon-sur-Voueize (= Chambon-Sainte-Valérie)
Chateau-Guillaume, La Motte etc.

Lambert zone II  
Chateau-Guillaume : x = 605.2 y = 132.2 z = c 350  
Chateau de Barbe Bleue : x = 606 y = 134 z = c 350

Chambon-sur-Voueize is located at the confluence of the Voueize and the Tardes. Both rivers flow through steep-sided valleys, and the new 1:25,000 IGN map (Evaux-les-Bains: 3-4) shows several ruined chateaux on promontories dominating the rivers. Of the two examples mentioned above, the latter overlooks the Gorges de la Voueize, whilst the former is between Saint-Sornin and Thaury on the Tardes.

Clearly, there are possibilities for earlier fortifications in this area. Available evidence is however very slight. Most comes from de Cessac's manuscript commentary on Barailon's Recherches sur le Peuple des Cambiovicences. De Cessac notes a probable motte near Sainte Valérie's fountain, at the foot of a wooded mountain, le bois Mallo. Following Barailon, he reports a possible small circular stone-built enclosure in a neighbouring field.

Barailon also noted that small dry-stone circular structures found in clearing land near Chambon itself, but de Cessac was sceptical that these were anything more than comparatively recent buildings, of the kind still being built in upland Creuse last century.

Lacrocq (1927, 358) noted an area E of the Colline du Puy which bore the name "Le Fort-La Motte" on the Cadastre. He was at that stage looking for the motte of the lords of Chambon, which he subsequently (MSSNAC, 27, 1938-40, 30-1) identified lying beneath the stone-built remains of Chateau-Guillaume. Subsequently, Janicaud, MSSNAC, 29, 1944, 21) identified/
identified a further motte lying 1 km N of Chambon.

Meantime, however, definitive pre-Roman evidence appears to be lacking.

Not mapped.

23048 CHAMPAGNAT Fanum du Champ
(XXIII-30 : Aubusson)
Lambert zone II x = 595.5  y = 113.5  z = c 550 (village)

In examining air photographs in connection with the excavation of the gallo-roman fanum N of the school in this commune, Alamy and Dalbavie (1965) recognized a rectangular enclosure nearby. This measured 40m x 25m, and lay on a slight summit: they were able to confirm one side on the ground. This consisted of a ditch 40 cm deep and about 30 cm wide. No associated material is recorded.

This possible site is not considered further, as it would appear to be too slight to qualify for inclusion.

23055 CHATELARD Un-named site
(XXIII-30 : Aubusson)
Lambert zone II x = 610  y = 107.1  z = c 738

M. Patrick Leger has identified a motte with outworks beside the chapel and cemetery in this commune (per comm). Although the motte occupies the summit of a promontory, there is nothing to suggest that the accompanying bank and ditch are other than contemporary with it.

23062/
23062 CHENIERS Les Chatres
(XXII-28 : Aigurande)
Lambert zone II \( x = 561.5 \ y = 153 \ z = c \ 330m \)

The evidence for the existence of this site is extremely slight. The place-name \( (BSPF, 2, 1904, 149) \) is one strand. The other is the position of the site on a fairly steep-sided summit: Martin, in his consideration of the roman road network in the vicinity of Aigurande, (1905, 53) suggested that the rectangle formed by the road around Les Châtres village itself might correspond to one of the quadrangular sites of this area (eg Lourdoueix-Saint-Pierre), which had been discussed by Ledain (1884). There is no evidence on the ground to substantiate the claim, and, the toponym apart, the site may, for present purposes, be discounted.

Visited.

23065 COLONDANNES Butte de la Cazine
(XXI-28 : Dun-le-Palestel)
Lambert zone II \( x = 542.9 \ y = 142.5 \ z = c \ 350m \)

Only brief mentions of a possible fortified site in this commune have appeared in print (Lauzanne in MSSNAC, 37 pt 3, 1971, lxxxii : Bertrand, 1974, 381) : both record only "traces d'un oppidum" in the commune. This report is thus partially based on an un-published file, to which I was permitted access by M. Yves de Kisch.

The site sits near the N limit of a rolling plateau at 350/400m, edged by the villages of Saint-Agnant-de-Versillat, Saint-Léger-Bridereix and Colondannnes, and dominating the lower ground towards the plains of Berry to the N. The site sits on the edge of a plateau above the right bank of the ruisseau de la Cazine, which here forms the boundary between Colondannes and Saint-Leger, the butte de la Cazine lying SE of the village of Châtillon in the latter commune.
The available evidence suggests that this substantially wooded plateau edge is traversed by a number of dry-stone dykes, of which the thickest is c 2m wide and others are considerably less impressive. These cover an area approximately 300m in diameter, locally extending downslope to the SW to include areas of meadow and marshland beside the stream. On the basis of a sketch plan (DAHL fichier) it is extremely difficult to suggest that anything more than a field system of uncertain antiquity is indicated.

However, this area, towards the norther fringes of the Marche and embracing some of the lower land in Creuse, deserves much fuller prospection. The Cazine is a tributary of the Sedelle, whose confluence with the Creuse at Crozant offers an important early site.

Not mapped.

23067 LA-COURTINE-LE-TRUCQ Le Puy des Potences
(XXIII-31 : Felletin)
Lambert zone II  x = 594.2  y = 081.6  z = c 860m

The rectangular camp shown on the new (1:25,000 Felletin 5/6) map within the military training area of La Courtine, and near the firing range of Le Puy de Boutignon, is a modern installation. It is not considered further. Not mapped.

23067 LA-COURTINE-LE-TRUCQ Le Cros Charpeaud
(XXIII-32 : Ussel)
Lambert zone II  x = 592  y = 079  z = c 770

De Cessac's manuscript Dictionnaire records a retranchement, enclosing about 8 ares, on the hill between Saint Denis and Le Cros Charpot. The enclosure has not been mentioned in the literature and would appear to enclose too slight an area to be a protohistoric work. Not mapped.
23068 CRESSAT Un-named site
(XXII-29 : Guéret)
\[ x = 583 \quad y = 126 \quad z = c 500 \]

The sole reference to this site refers to a "barrage de montagne en piliers" near the station (Autorde and Lemoine, reported in BSPF 4, 1907, 149). No further information is known. Not mapped.

23070 CROZANT Le Château
(XXI-28 : Dun-le-Palestel)
Lambert zone II \[ x = 545 \quad y = 155.3 \quad z = 256 \]

In the XIXth century, the possibility of protohistoric use of this promontory was noted in passing in discussing the ruins of the medieval castle (Mazet, 1895), but it is only with excavations conducted by Mr B. Lasnier in the last ten years that securely stratified material of this period has been recovered, albeit in part re-deposited.

The site occupies a steep-sided promontory at the confluence of the Creuse and the Sedelle. Access is restricted along a narrow isthmus from the south, where the village of Crozant is located. Although both rivers are now artificially high because of the hydroelectric dam on the Creuse to the N, this does not detract from the original defensive strength of the site. The promontory dominated the river courses by 65m before the scheme (Dayras, 1940).

Rouzier (1897, 7) appears to have been the first seriously to discuss the possibility of a protohistoric fortification on the site, although the material he chose to support this contention was certainly electric. He did, however, note gallo-roman material, including amphorae sherds and coins from the site of the village itself. He also illustrated the principal defensive feature to survive on the site - a rock-cut ditch 40m long and 8m deep which traversed the S end of the promontory.

Dayras/
23070 CROZANT LE CHÂTEAU
Dayras (1940, 500-13) added little to discussion of possible early use of the promontory: he remarked on the ease with which it could be defended, but felt that the available level areas in the interior were too restricted to have encouraged pre-Roman settlement. He did however note that 2 polished stone axes and 3 flint arrow heads had been recovered from the bank of the Sedelle within the site: Janicaud noted a third axe from the rock-cut ditch (MSSNAC, 27, 1938-40, 51).

During the 1960s, a neolithic flint-working site was located at the northern end of the promontory by Dhéron (MSSNAC, 35 pt 3, 1965, lxxv). Some of this material, and subsequent finds, were published in Gallia Préhistoire, 11, 1968, 440 fig 23).

Subsequent small-scale excavation, apparently limited to one trench, has been conducted in the vicinity of the neolithic finds previously mentioned (Gallia, 29, 1971, 315: Gallia, 31, 1973, 423-4: Allain and Lasnier, 1975, 47-54); this trench being located on the NW side of the promontory. It was 72m long and 80cm wide, and was sterile except in the sector located beside the medieval curtain-wall of the castle.

In this sector, two other earlier stone-built defences were recognized: the small finds associated with the stratification here were somewhat mixed, but enough survived to propose an outline chronology. Rampart II, immediately downslope from the medieval wall-line, was stratified above at least some gallo-roman small finds and hence probably belonged late in that period. Rampart I, again of dry-stone construction, some 3.4m in width, and located c 10m downslope, was not examined fully. However it appears likely, in view of the stratification (see sections here) that this defence is protohistoric.

The slope on which these defences is located is such that an undisturbed occupation sequence has not survived: nonetheless, three principal horizons have been identified (Allain and Lasnier, 1975, 50). These/
23070 CROZANT
Éperon du Château
after Allain and Lasnier 1975
These are: 1. Pre/protohistoric, uncontaminated by gallo-roman admixture.
2. gallo-roman material associated with earlier finds.
3. medieval associated with gallo-roman and earlier artefacts.

The following details concerning the small finds have been published, but much of this material (there were more than 30,000 sherds found) is still under study. The Neolithic is represented by not only polished stone axes but also flint examples, and certain forms of pottery handles. However, in contrast to other sites in the region, like La Groutte in Cher, no specifically Chassey material has been identified. To the later Neolithic of Chalcolithic belong a series of barbed-and-tanged arrow-heads and the point of a dagger made of Grand Pressigny flint. To the beginning of the middle Bronze Age belongs a flat bronze axe with slightly raised flanges, (Allain and Lasnier, 1972, 51 fig 3) though this item was a surface find. Somewhat later occupation is suggested by a small collection of sherds with excised decoration (Allain and Lasnier, 1972, 50). Decorated sherds, with finger- or nail-impressions, or with thumb-impressed cordons, are more difficult to position chronologically, but may belong in the earlier part of the bronze age. Such pottery was recovered in some quantity.

The pottery of the first millennium BC is dominated in terms of significance by a collection of painted sherds. These graphite-painted sherds, on a black- or dark-brown burnished ceramic are widely paralleled in funerary contexts in Limousin, and represent both the most NW discovery of this ware and the first instance where they have been recovered from a settlement site (Allain and Lasnier, 1972, 52 fig 4) in Limousin. About 200 sherds, some decorated on both surfaces, of this ware have been recovered (Gallia, 31, 1973, 423-4). To the same chronological horizon may belong a fragment of a large iron fibula, again paralleled in the series of Limousin barrows, as at Glandon, Haute Vienne.

The sole diagnostically later protohistoric artefact recovered from the excavation/
23070 EPERON DU CHÂTEAU

'Ceramique graphitée' after Allain and Lasnier 1975
excavation is a fine bronze fibula (Allain and Lasnier, 1972, 51 fig 5). This is a type appropriate to the transition Hallstatt Final - La Tène Ancienne, and appears to be more elaborately decorated than that from Le Camp des Chastres at Aubusson. The bow is a slightly flattened arc with incised decoration, and the vertically-set foot is capped by a small and incised spheroid. The spring has four spirals and an external chord.

La Tène II and III artefacts and indeed those of the earlier centuries of the gallo-roman period are absent on the promontory. Diagnostic artefacts begin again with a series of 4 late Roman coins, and continue with ceramics of the High Middle Ages.

Thus the site appears to have enjoyed a long, if not necessarily continuous, occupation during the last three or four millennia BC. At what stage the first dry-stone defence was constructed is unclear, although Allain and Lasnier (1972, 54) suggest a Hallstatt date without ruling out the possibility of it being an earlier construction. As with several sites for which an earlier Iron Age use is indicated, the absence of La Tène III material, and that or chronologically contiguous periods, may be considered a significant recurrent factor.

Restricted examination of the interior of the site, whose entire surface, now heavily overgown, probably extends to between one and two hectares, suggests that little material is likely to survive in situ here. This is because much of the upper surface appears to have been scraped down to the granite to provide secure foundations for the medieval castle wall. This activity may also partially account for the quantities of material recovered downslope.

Visited.
First noted by Rouzier (1897), on the basis of the place name, Dayras (1940, 501) suggested that this might be a 'roman camp' - the terminological equivalent of a Viereckschanze. He was able to adduce "vestiges de retranchements" by way of supporting physical evidence, but offered no geographical precision about where these might lie.

This site has not been verified on the ground, but it potentially represents one of a series of small rectangular works known near the Marche-Berry frontier.

Barailon (1806, 37-8) appears to be the first author to have noted this site. He described it as measuring 92m x 94m, defined by ditching 3m wide, with four entrances, and attributed it to the English during the Hundred Years War. His report was more or less exactly followed by various authors nearly a century later (Valadeau, 1892, 107 : Tailleu, 1894, 113 : Lecler, 1902), who added that shafts, or wells, fragments of weapons, funerary urns and ancient pottery had all been recovered from the site.

I have not had an opportunity to visit the site, but consultation of the new 1:25,000 map (Evaux-les-Bains 7/8) suggests that several of the parcelles E of the D996 near the cemetery on the N outskirts of the village would be of the appropriate order of magnitude. This site is worth retaining as a possible Viereckschanze.
Vazeilles (1936a, 82) notes the presence of a fortified enclosure on the Puy d'Arfouillat near Mouliéras in this commune without further detail. Since that time, only one further reference to this possible site appears to have been published (Touring Club de France: Guide-Répertoire, 1972, 31).

The site has not been investigated on the ground: according to the 1:25,000 map (Royère 7/8), Arfouilloux is a hamlet ESE of Mouliéras. Two possible locations for Vazeilles' site would be Le Puy des Faux (NW of Arfouilloux) or the Bois d'en Haut (SW of the hamlet): both are shown as heavily wooded. Despite their considerable elevations, both are comparatively slight summits, dominating the surrounding plateau by a matter of tens of metres. Altitude by itself, given continued settlement at this altitude, is not sufficient reason to discount this site.

Le Puy des Faux  x = 573.8  y = 085.2  z = 834m
Bois d'en Haut  x = 573.7  y = 084.5  z = 849m

The presence of tegulae appears to be the sole evidence which led Bonnafoux (1847, 83) to suggest an "oppidum" in this commune. It is therefore discounted.
The above grid reference identifies the most likely site for the Camp de César. First mentioned by de Cessac (1862b, 329), the site was described as lying on the opposite bank of the River Gartempe from the ruins of Salagnac castle. He classed it as an univallate work defined by a ditch enclosing a parallelogram-shaped area. In the manuscript Dictionnaire, de Cessac added that the enclosed area measured 4-5 hectares, and that the interior was heavily overgrown. No objects had been recovered from the site.

Janicaud (in Janicaud and Lacrocq, 1929, 374), added further precision to this description. The Gartempe flows round the base of a steep slope on the N and E of the site. The easiest approach is across a neck of land to the S, and from here a substantial earth-and-stone rampart, dominating the interior of the site by 1-2m and the exterior by 4-5m, is drawn round the flanks of the hill towards the steep slopes of the E and N. Slight indications of ditching survive on the S and W. A second line of defence complements the first at the entrance at the S, forcing attackers to expose their right arms on entering the camp. The enclosed area formed an ellipse measuring approximately 250m x 80m, indicating a surface area of half the extent suggested by de Cessac. The only find from the interior recorded by Janicaud is a fragment of worked Grand Pressigny flint.

The most likely location for this camp appears to be the wooded promontory SW of Salagnac, between le Moulin du Pont and le Moulin Sebrot. In view of subsequent discoveries in this commune (vide infra), the site would certainly repay further investigation.
Janicaud (in Janicaud and Lacrocq, 1929, 375) records a possible site on the summit of the above Puy, which is said to lie 1500m W of Le Camp de César.

The site is a small rectangle measuring 20m x 20m, defined by a bank which dominates the interior by 2m, surrounded by a deep ditch. From the bottom of the ditch to the crest of the rampart is c 6-7m. A possible entrance was identified in the SE corner. No finds are known.

Despite its location on a summit and near a possible roman road S from Aigurande and Bridiers, the scale of the defences relative to the diminutive (400m$^2$) enclosed area would suggest that this is a medieval work. It is not considered further.

A collection of material attributable for the most part to La Tène III was recovered by M. Patrick Leger during roadworks to the W of the road NW of the Chateau de la Ribbe, on the undulating plateau to the SE of Grand-Bourg.

Although the material lacks a secure context, it is of considerable importance as the first La Tène III assemblage of any size from the Departement de la Creuse. It may be taken to suggest the presence of a La Tène III settlement, presumably, in view of the location, unfortified, above the ruisseau du Peyroux, a tributary of the Gartempe.

The assemblage, which I have been permitted to inspect, includes parts of/
of at least four examples of Dressel la amphorae, represented by both rim fragments and bases. The La Tène pottery ranges from a fairly fine black burnished ceramic through to coarsely-tempered sherds. Common forms include the "assiette plate à rebord" and the carinated vase with slightly out-turned lip. One rim sherd is pierced by a suspension hole. Five different decorated body sherds have been recovered. In all 65 sherds are represented: there is also a pottery spindle whorl.

As collected, the assemblage has an admixture of about seven sherds which are medieval in appearance. The site is unpublished.

23103 LAFAT Camp de la Ligne/Camp Romain (XXI-28 : Dun-le-Palestel)
Lambert zone II  x = 545.1  y = 147.8  z = c 320m

Apart from brief mentions by various authors (Imbert, 1895, 16 no 2 : Janicaud, 1932, 110) the main reference to this site is Genevoix (1955). The site lies on the upper margin of sloping ground SW of the steading at La Ligne, which itself is located about 500m SW of and 40m above the ruisseau de la Brézentine, a tributary of the Sedelle.

When recorded in 1955, the area enclosed appeared to amount to c 2 ha: ditching was only preserved at the NW corner of the site. The farmer noted the presence of tegulae and potsherds in ploughing this part of the field, but also in the neighbouring field, suggesting that the spread of gallo-roman material was not confined to the immediate environs of the site.

La Ligne was visited twice: in 1974 and again in 1980. In the intervening period the site had continued to be eroded by ploughing, such that features, detectable by their vestigial remains in 1974 were more difficult to see in 1980. It should however show fairly straightforwardly from the air.

The/
The best-preserved side of the site is on the NE, where part of the bank survives on the margin of woodland, at the top edge of a natural break of slope which otherwise serves to delimit this edge of the site. This bank can be traced for c 30m running at 060°, and then after a gap of c 35m it continues on the same bearing for a further c 30m. This bank dominates the interior of the site by c 1.2m-1.5m and the base of the external slope by about 4m-5m. Here, an accompanying ditch would be superfluous and none is present. From the NE corner, a very spread bank departs in the direction of 146°/148°, and therefore very nearly at right angles to the bank on the woodland edge. This line was followed for c 60m in 1974.

In 1974, a corresponding feature was tracable running at 140° from beyond the SW end of the woodland edge bank. This consisted of a line of bracken, which could be followed for c 106m before turning through a right angle where part of the SE side could be seen as a very spread bank in 1974: this was not apparent in 1980. No evidence of ditching survives.

The two long sides, on the NE and SW, are c 135m apart: the SW side, at 106m, offers the best dimension from which the overall surface of the site may be estimated. This suggests an area of c 1.4 ha.

Apart from a small trench dug by badger-hunters and reported by Genevoix (1955), the site is unexcavated. In view of the gallo-roman material reported in the literature (the site was in grass on both visits so this could not be confirmed), the identification of this site as a Viereckschanze must be regarded as tentative.
This site lies E of the village of Ranciat, at the confluence of the ruisseau du Gautron with La Petite Creuse. It is clearly a motte, and for our purposes the main interest lies in whether that construction represents a secondary use of the site. The latter possibility certainly occurred to Martin (1905, 51-2), who noted in particular the proximity of the roman road from Limoges to Avaricum via Aigurande, and suggested an earlier use of the site as a small fortified station of c 0.41 ha prior to the construction of the motte: he did not rule out an Iron Age foundation for the site, but personally chose to attribute it to the unsettled times of the later Roman Empire.

The fullest description of the site is by Janicaud (1945). It occupies the S extremity of a plateau which dominates the above-mentioned confluence by c 25m. The main feature is an elongated oval mound on the summit (and not a 'quadrangular' mound as Martin suggested) with its main axis oriented NE/SW. The summit of the mound measures 10m in maximum width for a length of 25m and stands a maximum 8m above the general level of the plateau. The mound is essentially constructed of quartz and micaschists, with a slight admixture of soil.

On its NW margin, this mound is flanked by a ditch 7-8m in width. This is at its deepest at its N end above the steep slope to the ruisseau du Gautron and fades out progressively as it heads SW, leaving an access path along the top of the talus above the Petite Creuse. It is fairly clear from the available plan (Janicaud, 1945, 360) that this is a unitary work, the ditch serving as additional defence on the easiest approach (from the NW) as well as furnishing material for the construction of the motte.

A sondage on the summit of the motte by Janicaud (1945, 360) produced a range of medieval artefacts, but nothing diagnostically earlier. It also/
23109 LINARD
Château-Gaillard
after Janicau 1945
also produced evidence of vitrified stonework, thereby confirming the earlier reports eg of Autorde (1907, 722 note 1) to this effect.

Instances of vitrified and calcined stonework associated with mottes and apparently medieval works are recorded by Ralston (1981, fig 12 no 39). Despite subsequent reports of an 'oppidum' at this site (eg Touring Club de France, Guide-Répertoire 1972, 35) there would appear to be no good reason to dispute Janicaud's assessment of the site as a motte. Not mapped.

23112 LOURDOUEIX-SAINT-PIERRE Le Camp de César à Lignaud
(XXI-28 : Dun-le-Palestel)
Lambert zone II x = 557.3 y = 153.9 z = c 330m

Since its description last century, this site has appeared periodically in the literature and is one of the better-known of the central French Viereckeschanzen (Bächenschütz, 1968, 70).

The Camp de Cesar is located on a plateau which is gently inclined to the SE, about 100m E of the road which joins Lignaud to the Route Nationale 151 bis. The site is not selected for defensive purposes. Duval (1881) notes that in 1859 the site was surrounded by a rampart with an average height of 2.5m, bordered by a ditch, partly filled in, which still attained 8m in width.

He noted that an iron helmet and a medieval weapon had been found in the camp, and compared this with a cannonball from the camp de Montmoulard at Boussac. He cited a document which suggests that the camp was in use in 1569, but doubts (1881, 295) whether this was the original use of the site.

Thuot (1886, 69-82) noted the discovery of souterrains in the vicinity of the camp during the construction of the road: the associated pottery made/
made the former features celtic in his estimation. Other details on the camp are restricted to mentioning a tradition that there was a shaft or well in the SW corner of the site (where he was able to note a depression) and noting that the ditch was extremely shallow. He also notes that tegulae and sherds had been found in the vicinity of the site. Imbert (1894, no 3) repeats essentially the same details.

The overall dimensions of the camp are c 112m x 92m: the enclosed area is 1 ha 17. The site was partially destroyed, and then repaired, by bulldozer in 1966.

The SW side of the site is edged by a hollow way: for around 40m at the SW corner, slight evidence of a ditch is preserved beside the chemin. No rampart survives on this side, but the interior of the site dominates the track by c 1.5m. The modern field entrance (the interior of the site was in pasture in 1980) is at the S corner of the site. A hedge at the base of a break of slope forms the modern limit of the parcelle on its SE side; here again there is no ditch presently visible, as is also the case on the NE side. The N corner and the W side appear to be the best preserved, but they are substantially clad in a thick hedge.

This would appear to be the same site as the Fosses des Châtres referred to by Valadeau (1892, 142) and classed as an 'oppidum' by the Touring Club (Guide-Répertoire, 1972, 35).

23113 LUPERSAT Puy-du-Bais

Blanchet (1923, 227) refers to an enclosure beside a souterrain on the flank of the Puy-du-Bais: sherds of coarse pottery had been recovered from the former. De Cessac's manuscript Dictionnaire provides the ultimate source of this information: it is Barailon (1784, 49) who noted a small external enclosure, which he associated with food preparation, dug into the hill-side beside the souterrain. The site is not discussed further.
Dayras (1950, 119-26) suggests that by 960 AD the site was surrounded by a palisaded bank: this was destroyed in 1005. Thereafter a stone-built castle was constructed. It may have been for this purpose that stone was quarried from the Puy du Château, leaving a series of ditches now heavily overgrown, to which attention was drawn by Depoux (in MSSNAC, 24 pt 3/4, 1929, 1). There has been no suggestion that these were defensive in intent.

The site is not considered further. Not mapped.

(a) Les Redoutes and Le Camp
Despite the above place-names, there do not appear to be any fortification in this commune. Valadeau (1917, 342) claimed a secondary roman road on the basis of "le Camp", but both sets of features appear to be mines. The trenches at les Redoutes, near the village of La Gaudinière, are 20-30m deep (Mayaud, 1885, 121: Lecler 1902). Valadeau (1892, 171) suggests they were primarily in search of tin.

(b) Le Dolmen de Mourioux
Material found in examining this chamber tomb included 77 sherds which may be La Tene or gallo-roman (Gallia Preh., 20, 1977, 493).
This site was first described as a Roman camp by Barailon (1847). It occupies the summit of a rounded wooded hill which borders the valley of the Creuse to the W of Moutier d'Ahun. When described by Janicaud in 1935, earthen defences were apparently visible on all sides save the N. The entrance appears to have been at the SW. Ditching, apparently double on the W side, was noted round much of the site, though Barailon noted that at least part of this system appeared to consist of hollow ways.

According to the cadastral plan of 1809, published by Desbordes (1976, 465, fig 3), the Bois-de-la-Combe-aux-Moines occupies a triangular parcelle of modest dimensions (less than 100m in maximum length E/W).

Finds from the site are exclusively gallo-roman: Janicaud (1935, 46-7) noted bricks and tegulae, the former in particular being poorly fired and this tending to suggest a fairly late date. Despite this he felt able to suggest that it was perhaps this site which had originally had the name of Acitodunum, subsequently transferred to the settlement at Ahun.

Desbordes (1976, 464), accepting the gallo-roman date for the utilization of the site of the Bois-de-la-Combe-aux-Moines, went further to suggest that this represented not a re-occupation, but the original occupation of the site. This contention would seem to be supported by a summary report of sondages carried out on the site (Bugeaud, 1976, 475-6).

Bugeaud reported that the stratification of the site had been severely disrupted by ploughing, such that the upper surface of the underlying granite had been scarred by the ploughshare, at a depth of 40cm. Quantities of tile, amphora and pottery fragments were found in the lower/
lower 20cm of the stratigraphy, but the shallowness of the soil profile meant that this deposit was extensively permeated by the roots of scrub oakwood in which the site is clad.

The report gives no indications of the scale of the sondage, nor of the date range within the gallo-roman period of the material recovered. (Janicaud, (1935) suggested III/IV AD). Nonetheless, Bugeaud (1976, 482) concluded that the main function of this enclosure was for trade rather than defence, on the basis of the quantity of amphora sherds recovered. All the small finds indicated that its use was restricted to the gallo-roman period.

The site should thus perhaps meantime be discounted from this survey, but the available evidence seems far from conclusive.

23140 MOUTIER-ROZEILLE Le Bois du Couret/Le Camp de César (XXIII-30 : Aubusson)
\[x = 589.9 \quad y = 102.6 \quad z = c 600m\]

All the published references to this site appear to depend ultimately on Pérathon (1891, 261) : these include Imbert (1894 no 8) and Courteau and Dayras (1925, 49). They consist of references to 'traces of an ancient fortified post' on the wooded hill which dominates the confluence of two right-bank tributaries of the Creuse, the Rozeille and the ruisseau d'Arfeuille. Courteau and Dayras refer to the site as 'Le camp romain'. No small finds appear to be documented.

The de Cessac manuscript Dictionnaire, drawing on comments by Mallard, notes two series of shallow ditches on the flanks of the granite hills on either side of the valley. These are parallel, and run at 010°-015°, for lengths of up to 500m, and are accompanied by tips of spoil. De Cessac remarked that these remains of mineral extraction were often taken as "Restes de retranchements", and assuming identity between these sites and the Bois du Couret, the latter may be eliminated meantime. Not mapped.
The Châteauvieux at Pionnat lies on a slight summit, on the SW side of which the present-day hamlet of Châteauvieux is located. It is on the interfluve between the catchment of the Creuse and Petite Creuse rivers. The principal sources in which it is considered are: Thuot, 1868; 1883; Autorde, 1907; de Cessac, 1867b; Mayaud, 1881, 1883; Frou, 1909; Janicaud, 1945; but there are many others. The site was listed by Déchelette (1913) as a vitrified fort, and was considered by Youngblood et al 1978 (esp 109 and fig 5a) in their treatment of these sites. Much of the literature is devoted to a consideration of the origins of vitrification and will not be discussed here (see Ralston, 1981: Büchenschütz and Ralston 1981b, and below).

The site lies approximately 100m from the village, on an inconspicuous summit. I have visited it twice, in April 1975, in the company of Patrick Léger, and again in May 1980. In 1975, the defences, although intermittently visible, could not be followed in detail because of the dense understorey to the woodland, then being cut, which cloaked the site. In 1980, a dense mass of thorny scrub and cut branches similarly impeded study of the defences.

The only plan of the site thus remains that of Mayaud (1883), which is certainly inexact, but is of approximately the correct order of magnitude: however Mayaud's estimate of the enclosed area (3 ha 20) is clearly excessive, perhaps by as much as 50 per cent. The defences also appear to adopt a much less rectilinear course than Mayaud's plan suggests.

Thuot, de Cessac and more recently Autorde (1907, 726-9) all excavated at Châteauvieux, restricting their examination to the defences. Autorde's trenches produced evidence in one area of a well built mortared (?) wall - "une/
"une muraille en maconnerie de mortier de chaux" (Autorde, 1907, 728), 1.9m at the base and 1.7m wide at its upper margin, buried in an earth-and-stone rampart which included vitrified lumps. A second trench produced less severe evidence of burning, in a rampart which consisted primarily of earth, with an admixture of carbonized wood, blackened stones and the occasional piece of vitrified debris. Autorde claimed to have found two small samian sherds associated with this construction. Other trenches came up with essentially the same stratification, consisting of a dry-stone built wall near the summit of the rampart.

The samian sherds are not referred to further, but it seems worth remarking that one of the rocks which forms a minor constituent of the wall is orange in colour, and disintegrates by exfoliation: it is conceivable that worn splinters of this rock could be taken as abraded sherds of samian. The same may apply to Janicaud's suggestion of fragments of tegulae incorporated in the wall.

Apart from these possible sherds, Autorde (1907, 742 fn 3) was only able to cite a small "gaulish" axe and an arrowhead from Châteauvieux. Mayaud, contrastingly, excavated in the interior of the fort (1883). He noted that, in contrast to Le Puy de Gaudy, Sainte-Feyre, (vide infra), small finds were absent on the surface. One trench, which ran close to the vitrified wall produced evidence of a hearth, but otherwise Mayaud's finds appear to have been restricted to natural stones, which he chose to interpret as axes, sling-stones and similar.

Other references to features in the interior are restricted to a souterrain and the round dry-stone footings for huts (Janicaud, 1945, 351), but these were not visible at all either during Janicaud's visit, nor in 1975 or 1980. A local paysan did not know of them, but informed me that, despite the outcropping granite tors which are a feature of the site, the soil can be intermittently of considerable depth - up to 3m.

The defences remain the clearest feature of the site, despite the many problems/
23154 PIONNAT
Châteauvieux
Sketch of outline : IBMR
problems inherent in studying them in detail. The original entrance is believed to have been on the eastern side of the fort, but this was unproven since the gap had subsequently been widened to permit access along a track from Châteauvieux village. The internal tracks are now impossible to follow, being buried under a swathe of cut branches. Other, narrower, gaps have been recorded elsewhere on the circuit of the defences.

Nonetheless, there are plentiful indications of vitrified stonework, included at least one bloc of vitrified walling extending to about 4m in length. Elsewhere, old excavations revealed heat-shattered debris in the core of the wall, and similar observations could be made in the sockets left by uprooted trees in 1980. On the N side of the site, a more substantial bank, surviving to a height of 2m-2.5m for a breadth of c 7m, was detected. Amongst the debris from some of the better-preserved sections of the wall, pieces of vitrified stone with traces of timber casts could be recognized.

The lengths of walling, less rectilinear than Mayaud suggests, were in places abutted against substantial granite tors, whose presence therefore contributed to the strength of the emplacement. At no place did I see walling surviving to a height of 4m, the figure Janicaud quotes (1945, 349) for the eastern sector. In places dry-stone facing slabs were seen in situ.

The pace-and-compass plan prepared for this site is meant purely to give a more reasonable assessment of its shape: the author has no particular faith in the scale attached to it. Only one vestigial sector of the internal cross-wall shown by Mayaud was detected, and is not planned here.

Mayaud (1883) claimed an external ditch outside the fort on the E side, a claim which was reiterated by Janicaud (1945, 351), who did not see it, but suggested that it may have represented an external enclosure on the/
23/54 PIONNAT Châteauvieux: vitrified stonework

portion of walling
the E and more accessible site of the plateau. No confirmation of the existence of this feature was obtained.

The stones which showed the clearest indications of vitrification appeared to be granites ('granit à deux micas' = muscovite and biotite): this appeared to be the dominant rock type from which the enclosing wall had been constructed. According to Youngblood et al (1978, 115) the parent rock of Châteauvieux is gneiss. In that study, a sample from the wall at Châteauvieux containing a timber cast of oak, was shown on the basis of a fractured quartz grain to have been fired at a temperature in excess of 1,000°C.

In summary, Châteauvieux is a small fort constructed on an inconspicuous summit, taking advantage of natural rock outcrops. It shows considerable evidence of vitrification. Apart from doubtful claims about the presence of Roman material, and legendary associations with the Visigothic presence in Limousin, it remains essentially undated. Both Janicaud (1945) and Déchelette (1913) however considered that a Hallstatt construction was possible. The site is presently too heavily overgrown for detailed study.

Visited.

23159 PUY-MALSIGNAT

see 23220 SAINT-MÉDARD

26163 LA ROCHETTE Puy Mourier

Guebhard reported this site to the CEEPFA on behalf of Autorde and Lemoine (BSPF, 4, 1907, 148-9). They had not visited it. De Cessac reports having seen two dry stone walls, 80m apart and running parallel, running for c 50m near the village of Ceyrat. There does not seem to be/
be sufficient to postulate a settlement within these walls, which were 1.0m wide and 1m high (de Cessac, ms), although one sherd of non-wheel-made pottery is recorded from Puy Mourier. Not mapped.

23165 ROYERE-DE-VASSIVIERE Camp du Puy Charvaud, Retranchement des Chapelles, Camp de Vergnolas

(XXII-31 : Royere)

Three possible sites are mentioned in this commune (Toumieux, 1886): the essence of this material is repeated by Vazeilles (1936a) without comment. Much of the area of the commune lies at altitudes in excess of 700m. These sites have not been visited.

1) Camp du Puy Charvaud
   Toumieux describes this as an oblong camp on the summit of the Puy Charvaud. He describes it as having 'towers', mostly about 10m in diameter, but including one of 25m diameter. Three other 'towers' are placed at lower altitudes on the same puy (1886, 16).

2) Retranchement des Chapelles
   An unexcavated site, sometimes called 'Le Camp de César' or 'Le Camp Romain' (Toumieux, 1886, 15) is located on a summit near the Bois des Sagnes. It is characterized as a rectangular enclosure (Vazeilles, 1936a, 84), dominating an external ditch by 3m. According to Toumieux's description, the site appears to have trivallate defences, with ditches 10m, 5m, and 4m wide.

3) Camp de Vergnolas
   A comparatively precise location is provided for this site - between the hamlets of Jansanetas and Vergnolas, on the plateau, but its remains are described as being less impressive (Toumieux, 1886). The approximate co-ordinates of this site would therefore be: Lambert/
Lambert zone II \( x = 568.8 \quad y = 092 \quad z = 761m \)

Of these three sites, Le Puy Charvaud appears unlikely to be protohistorical, unless Toumieux's towers are illusory - Vazeilles (1936a, 84) describes them as tumuli, which appears a more likely interpretation: the site at lieu-dit Chapelles, again taking Toumieux's description at face value, appears overcomplex for the period under consideration. The status of the camp at Vergnolles is completely unclear.

23171 SERMUR Le Château de Sermur
(Aubusson : XXIII-30)
Lambert zone II \( x = 607.3 \quad y = 108.6 \quad z = 721m \)

The main advocate of a gaulish site on the isolated rocky summit on which the Château de Sermur now stands was Janicaud (1930a). The site is a naturally strong position, immediately beside the church in the village of Sermur, which dominates the countryside for many kilometres in all directions.

The later castle occupies the elliptical summit of the hill, which is aligned NNE/SSW: the level area on the summit is approximately 60m in that dimension by 30m at right angles to it. There is a substantial outcrop of bedrock at the N end of this summit. This summit is surrounded by a steep slope with a ditch at its foot, clearly related to the medieval castle, which has been somewhat damaged on its E side. Some 18m below the curtain wall of the castle, the wide ditch bottom is edged externally by an earth-and-stone counterscarp bank, which reaches a maximum height of c 5m and is breached by two entrance gaps. For Janicaud (1930a, 719) it was this entrance system which seemed to suggest an earlier fortification on the site. Outside this system, and especially on the N and W sides, there is an arrangement of fairly wide terraced fields which could define the margins of a pre-existing fortification, but this is clearly very hypothetical.

However/
23171 SERMUR
Roc du Château
after Janicau, 1930, 722
However, apart from the wide views which the site enjoys – as far as Toulx-Sainte-Croix, the Monts Dores, and the Millevaches plateau – and the possible attraction of this for defensive, or other purposes, there is no conclusive evidence for an Iron Age fortification on this site. The two souterrains referred to by Janicaud (1930a) in the site of the hill are most likely to be medieval, and finds from the locality appear to be restricted to a MBA axe and some Roman coins.

(b) The Touring-Club de France Guide Répertoire (1972, 37) suggests another possible oppidum site at Graves, a village which lies about 2km SE of Sermur. A possible site for this would appear to be on the Puy de Lavaud between Graves and Chassagne (z = 691m), but I was unable to test this site on the ground.

Visited.

23173 SCUBREBOST Nadapeyras

First signalled by Cancalon (1843), it appears likely that this boulder-strewn hill has not been modified for defensive purposes by man (Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule, II, 647: Dayras, 1964). The major features to have attracted attention are small granite tors and granite boulders, some of which exhibit surface depressions resulting from erosion. Not mapped.

23174 SOUMANS Montebras (Mines d'étain)

(XXIII-28: Boussac)

Lambert zone II x = 597.3 y = 146.9 z = c 450m

The extraction of tin at Montebras is well-documented (Naigeon, 1940). The mine appears to have been worked intermittently until 1859, and then more consistently – insofar as the evidence is clearer from then at least/
least until the outbreak of World War II. The principal ore sought appears to have been cassiterite. The site lies on rolling plateau country to the NW of the Petite Creuse valley near the border with the departement of Allier. The spoil-heaps from the mine appear to have suggested earthworks to various commentators.

Le communal des Tureaux
This area, W of the village of Montebras, was considered as a 'roman camp' by Barailon (1806, 27) and as 'gaulish habitations' by Bonnafoux (1850). Consisting of a series of irregular conical depressions, up to 8m below the summits of the surrounding spoil-tips, the site is clearly the product of ore extraction (de Cessac, 1885, 324-5).

Le pacage du Cros, près de la Baclière
This site was favoured as the location of a roman camp by Naigeon (1940) who provides a sketch-plan (274): again the arrangement of a series of disconnected banks running in a variety of directions, and surrounded by ditches filled with water from the Petite Creuse, indicates the remains of mineral-working.

Two other sites again appear likely to be simply the by-products of mineral extraction. Barailon (1806, 27) mentions a possibility at Entrailles: this lies in the commune of Budélière, and is dealt with there. That at lieu-dit 'le Creux de la Maison du Garde' (de Cessac, 1885, 332) consists of two high banks which meet at right angles: de Cessac felt that this might represent a fraction of an enclosed camp. Again, however, the lieu-dit lies on the W flank of the ridge on which mineral extraction evidence is plentifully represented.

If evidence of early enclosed sites at Soumans is lacking, the same does not apply to small finds. Near a skeleton found in a gallery at le Creux de la Maison du Garde, in November 1869, an iron pick was found, (Chausset, 1885: de Cessac, 1885, 329-30). Although undated and of considerably smaller size, this pick was compared to one from the/
the iron-workings on Mont Beuvray by de Cessac. Amongst the small finds listed by Naigeon from the area of 70 ha over which the evidence of pre-recent mining is spread, are five bronze gaulish coins. One is a bronze coin of EPASNACTUS (de Cessac, 1885, 331 : to add to Nash, 1978a, 161-5), which ought to be post-Conquest (Nash, 1978a, 161). One other did not bear a legend (Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule, II, 648). A third coin of which I have details is a coin of the colony of Nimes with the crocodile.

23176 LA SOUTERRAINE Camp de Malouze/Malonze
(XXI-29 : La Souterraine)
Lambert zone II x = 535.6 y = 136.2 z = c 380m

The essential description of this site is by de Beaufort (1851, 206 and Plate VI), followed by Ledain (1884) and Imbert (1894 no 5). It lies on a gently undulating plateau to the SSE of La Souterraine, to the E of the D10. As described by de Beaufort, the enclosure consists of a small rectangle defined by an earthen bank which dominated the interior by approximately 1m and the exterior by up to 4m: no evidence of an accompanying ditch was noted. The sides were of approximately these lengths: NE - 54m; SE - 46m; SW - 54m; NW - 45m; giving an enclosed area of approximately 0.27 ha. The bank, some 6m wide, was interrupted by a gap, 16m long, at the S corner, which suggested that the site was unfinished, and by an entrance, 4m wide at the mid-point of the NE side.

According to Fesneau (1862, 211) a dagger, a fragment of a rotary quernstone and some lead bullets were found in the interior, but nothing further is known of this material. The site appears to lie close to the roman road to Limoges, as does another possible rectangular camp at Petit-Nuit (Fesneau, 1862, 212 : P Leger pers comm) approx 3km further S in the same commune.

The size of the camp de Malonze would seem to differentiate it clearly from the series of 1 ha rectangular camps of which several examples exist/
exist in the border area between Creuse and Indre.

23176 LA SOUTERRAINE Bridiers/ville de Brede
(XXI-29 : La Souterraine)
Lambert zone II  $x = 536.8, y = 138, z = c 412$

This site is mentioned persistently in the XIXth century literature as a gaulish oppidum which was succeeded by a Roman town. The site occupies a slight rise to the NW of the intersection of the N142 and the N151 bis, about 3km E of La Souterraine itself. Nash (1978a, 274-5) drew attention to the site, but restricted herself primarily to a discussion of the coin finds made there in 1862: this hoard consisted of 36 to over 40 silver coins found in a pot with a balck slip (Nash, 1978a, 303-4). These have been classified as Silver Bridiers Groups I-III, for which a date of emission before 200 BC has been proposed, making them the earliest silver coins in the N of the Massif Central. Recent excavations have also been carried out at lieu-dit Les Chastres (parcelle CO 27), as the result of the discovery of a fragment of a limestone statue, displaying a portion of a human torso with a torc around the neck.

Amongst the grandest claims made for 'Breith' were by Fesneau (1862), who examined the site on the instructions of Prosper Merimee and commented on previous discussions of its significance. Early excavations were carried out by both Texier and Fesneau himself (1862, 206) and clearly established Roman occupation, which Fesneau claimed extended over an area of four sq km - four times as large as had previously been claimed by de Beaufort. The number of burials suggested that the gallo-roman town had been of considerable importance. Already discussion focussed/

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1 According to Janicaud, MSSNAC, 31, 1950-3, xxxv, variant spellings including Breith are spurious.
focussed on the significance of the mottes, located near the gallo-
roman cemetery, and efforts were made to see them as earlier constructions. It was to these that de Cessac devoted his attention in his manuscript Dictionnaire.

The 36 coins first described and illustrated by Fillioux (1862b, 457-67; 1881) are noted as the remains of a hoard: a second hoard of over 200 coins were sold prior to an opportunity for them to be studied (Buisson de Mavergnier, 1863, 51). In a speculative paper entitled "La juridiction druidique de la ville ruinée de Breth", he noted, on the basis of the coin evidence (a) that the town must have been gaulish in origin and (b) that it was potentially very rich. Vincent (1885, 368) accepted Fesneau's statements, and noted the discovery of further Gaulish coins at the site, although there may be some confusion with coins from Pionsat, Puy-de-Dôme, which Fillioux also discussed in a later paper (1881). Thereafter, Bridiers crops up frequently, in Joanne, in Imbert (1894, no 4), in the Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule (II, 650) as the 'cité gauloise de Breth'.

Jouhanneaud (1890, 406) introduced a note of caution by remarking that the XIXth century finds had been the result of some rough-and-ready digging. Valadeau (1912) continued in this mould: he estimated that the gallo-roman town may have extended to 40 ha, but that a celtic predecessor was more likely to have lain to the NW. He was still prepared to concede the existence of "two vast camps" in the neighbourhood of the mottes, but discounted another site, suggested by Fesneau, between Quéroy and la Chéronnade. Excavation convinced him that the features involved were natural. Valadeau could see no evidence of fortifications in the Bridiers complex, with the exception of the mottes.

In more recent years, the strongest claims for a celtic oppidum on this site have been made by Janicaud (1937b, 637 : 1948, 243). In 1937, Janicaud made two specific claims. First, the ruins of the gallo/
gallo-roman town, occupying an area of 1500 x 500m, were enclosed by the remains of a wall, thereby suggesting that the gallo-roman centre had been preceded by a La Tène 'oppidum'. Second, that the mottes had produced gallo-roman burials from their flanks and had been originally Hallstatt barrows.

In 1948, Janicaud noted that the remains of the enclosing wall survived in a very fragmentary state and that in contrast to other sites in Creuse there was no evidence for vitrification. He then speculated, on the basis of what he admitted was defective evidence, consisting of a few distorted transversal channels noted in the stonework, that the wall may have been a 'murus gallicus'. Although no confirmation of this could be found on the ground, it is interesting to note that M. Caillat recorded the discovery of "alvéoles, les unes encore apparentes dans le talus, les autres détruites lors des terrassements effectués en vue de l'édification d'une maison" in parcelle section D no 794p (in MSSNAC, 36 part 3, 1968, lvii). Clearly, it is far from certain that this record has anything to do with a rampart, but the indications are nonetheless tantalizing.

Further surface collection on the site (MSSNAC, 38 part 3, 1974, lvii) produced an extensive collection of tuiles à rebord, and pottery as well as the statue fragment mentioned above. Excavation at the point where the last-mentioned item was found produced a range of gallo-roman material and one bronze coin attributed to the Petrocorii (de la Tour, Atlas, pl. XII, 4326): unfortunately the stratification had been extensively disturbed by an earlier excavation, and tile was recovered from the basal spit examined, (Gallia 33, 1975, 444: P. Léger, pers comm).

In sum, the evidence from Bridiers is inconclusive with regard to pre-Conquest settlement. The gallo-roman centre, whose name is unknown, appears to have been abandoned about the end of the IIIrd century AD (Janicaud, 1948, 261; 1949a, 9 : Desbordes, 1978c, 38-9) although an occasional/

Fesneau excavated at Bridiers over four decades from 1835, but at his death his collection was mixed with other material (including Breton bronze age axes) or dispersed. The coins offer the best surviving evidence of early occupation: the 1862 hoard of 36 (or 40?) silver coins were found at the foot of a hedge which followed the course of the gaulish rampart, according to Janicaud (1948, 260). The hoard found subsequently, again in a pot, came from within a structure referred to as the "Maison du Gaburos", by Fesneau (Janicaud, 1948). The fact that one coin was doubtfully inscribed Vergasillaunus (Buisson de Mavergnier, 1863: Janicaud, 1948) may suggest that a coin of VERCA (Nash, 1978a, 168) may have been present. Stray coins are also recorded.

Otherwise the archaeological evidence may perhaps be considered enigmatic, and leaves Bridiers in the "possible" category for sustained pre-Conquest occupation. Bridiers certainly continued as an important administrative centre at a later date, as the stronghold of the viscounts of Bridiers (Desbordes, 1978c, 38-9), but in view of the significance of the numismatic evidence, the site has seemed worthy of treatment in extenso.

23176 LA SOUTERRAINE Bridiers: mottes

These mottes mentioned here because of their location relative to the gallo-roman centre and its possible gaulish predecessor. Two of these, called "Les Tours", were the subject of limited excavation by Fesneau (1862, 213-4) who considered them to lie within his "Camp de César"; his discovery of gallo-roman granite urns, and support from Prosper Mérimée, seems to have been sufficient to have convinced him that they were burial monuments, and he argued against de Beaufort's interpretation/
interpretation of them as mottes. De Cessac (ms) describes the two adjacent mottes, set within outworks, as part of a more extensive set of mounds of this kind, which were partially destroyed in 1793. Some of the recovered material was clearly medieval and could be paralleled at La Tour Saint Austrille. He doubted whether the context of the gallo-roman funerary remains, in relation to the mottes, was secure.

Jouhanneaud (1890, 406) states that the dimensions of the larger surviving motte are height 15-16m; basal circumference 184m. Janicaud's view, that the mottes were added to pre-existing Hallstatt tumuli, may be discounted (Desbordes, 1978c, 38-9).

The principal advocate of a fortified site - not necessarily pre-Conquest - in this commune was Vincent (1885, 353-4), who envisaged it as one of the posts occupied by the Roman army in the terminal stages of the Gallic War. Vincent describes the site as occupying a low hill overlooking the Vige stream: the 'near Beauvais' appellation comes from Lecler (1902). According to Vincent, the site had been ploughed out by 1885.

Further E in the same commune, Calinaud (1972) remarks on the disposition of the ground around the hamlet of Puy-Chalat, where there is a level terrace constructed from made soil extending to an area of approximately 200m x 120m. But there is no indication that this forms either an enclosure or is defensive in intent. Associated surface finds are neolithic and gallo-roman.

The terrain of this area would seem to offer various possible locations for contour forts, according to the map, but these have not been examined. Not mapped.
The BSFF report on this site appears to derive from de Cessac's manuscript Dictionnaire. This records a dry-stone built wall, 1m wide and 20-30cms high running across the summit near the natural rock outcrop referred to as an "autel druidique". It is clear that this monument is not a fortification and it is not considered further (Lecler, 1902).

The configuration of three substantial mounds close together here clearly suggests a motte-and-bailey complex, and excavations by de Cessac (1867c) produced a range of small finds which would confirm this attribution. De Cessac did however find evidence of vitrification in two of the mounds. The Grande Butte, basal diameter 55m, with an upper platform 17m in diameter, and 13m high, produced vitrified granite from the summit. 'Calcined' stones were also found in association with the other two less substantial mounds, which were subject to more cursory examination. Not mapped.

From the description of these sites (two are recorded), and despite their dimensions (c 100m x 100m), it is clear that they represent waste tips from mineral working: they are intimately associated with circular shafts (Lecler, 1902, 599-600). Not mapped.
Vague mention of a possible contour fort at this location was made by sundry authors prior to about 1910 (Vincent, 1885; Valadeau, 1892; Villard, 1907; Imbert, 1894): all these authors appear to draw exclusively for their descriptions on de Cessac's opinion, expressed most fully in his manuscript Dictionnaire.

In this, he describes a series of fortifications. The outermost, located about one-third of the way up an isolated conical hill, is described as a substantial earthen bank with an external ditch. This latter was some 2m wide in the middle of last century, but almost entirely infilled. The bank had large granite boulders piled on its summit in such a manner as to leave substantial hollows (described as 'grottes') in the stonework. This defence is however absent on the most accessible side.

A second bank includes earth and substantial boulders in its make-up, but there is no mention of an accompanying ditch. On the most gently sloping side of the hill, an earthen bank runs across the slope to join the inner and outer defences.

Near the summit is located a third defence, enclosing an area some 175m in diameter. Its ditch is described as the most substantial on the hill, with maximum dimensions attaining 8m in width and 5m in depth.

The sole find from the site appears to be a polished stone axe (MSNAS, 35 part 2, 1964, p liii). This site, which has not been visited during this survey, is nonetheless a distinct possibility for a fortification.
This major fort has long attracted the attention of antiquarians and archaeologists and has thus accumulated a very considerable bibliography, both regional and national. The site occupies the summit of a conspicuous hill which lies c 3-4 km S of Guéret.

Description

The Puy de Gaudy is a northerly outlier of the range of granite hills which trend SW/NE along the W fringe of the valley of the R Creuse. These continue N almost to La Bussière-Dunoise, with rounded summits lying between 600 and 700m in altitude being the dominant landform. Le Puy de Gaudy is steep-sided, except on the NW, where the land slopes more gently towards Pissarate. Much of this upland is extensively wooded, and the upper slopes, and parts of the summit of Le Puy de Gaudy are no exception to this rule.

Chronology of researches

Amongst the first to discuss the Puy de Gaudy critically was de la Lande (1837): he noted the defences, particularly on the W side of the summit, which he considered to be gaulish. In the interior he remarked on two stone coffins, fragments of 'tuiles à rebord' and a well, in addition to the chapel, and a rectangular structure built in dry-stone which he took to be a 'gaulish sanctuary'.

Further details were provided by a near contemporary of la Lande, Coudert-la Villatte (1847): he traced the earliest mention of the site back to the late XVIIth century. He described the finds from the stone coffins as Merovingian and described the defences, then located in an area of heathland extending to 56 ha, as being 950m in circumference, attaining maximum dimensions of 360m N/S and 168m E/W: no artificial fortifications were visible on the S side which is naturally well-defended. On the less steeply sloping W side, a series of defences could/
23193 SAINTE-FEYRE Puy de Grady
(photo Olivier Büchsenschütz)
could be made out, and the summit could be approached via three entrances, on the NE and NW and in the middle of the side above the village of Les Bains. For both these authors, the preferred chronology for the site envisaged use which straddled the Roman period, beginning in the Iron Age and continuing into the post-Roman centuries.

Thuot (1868) examined and excavated at the site. He described the defences as being 1285m long, of which some 520m, essentially concentrated in the NW and adjacent sectors, could be considered as vitrified, excluding the overtime of the NW entrance. His excavations seem essentially to have been confined initially at least to the upper parts of the defensive wall, which he described as consisting of an inner and outer face of dry-stone, each c 0.7m thick and surviving to a maximum height of two courses, separated by a narrow band of earth and small stones from the central part of the wall, a vitrified core some 1.6m wide.

Thuot also proposed that the enclosure on the S side of the hill embraced part of the slope around the spring discussed below, thereby taking the enclosed area to c 15.5 ha, but he noted that extensive robbing of parts of the circuit made definitive measurement impossible. Small finds from his work appear to have been dominated by pottery and sling-stones: the latter are frequently reported thereafter.

In 1872, Marion listed objects collected by Thuot on the Puy-de-Gaudy and sent to Paris: these included flint items, presumptively neolithic, and three fragments of what are described as wooden bracelets, but which were presumably of jet. One of these was decorated with a line of triangles along each margin, and may perhaps suggest a similar period to those discussed from Chalucet, Saint-Jean-Ligoure, in Haute-Vienne. A silver celtic coin and two Roman bronze coins were also noted. Other material was described as being Roman or medieval: the former category included a quern (presumably a rotary example) and pottery. By this stage, the fact that the principal wall of the fort exhibited signs of vitrification/
23193 SAINTE-FEYRE
Puy de Gandy
after Janicaud (1941) after Thuot

A - village of Bains
B - roads
C - West entrance destroyed
D - Bois Rond
E - terrace with ditch
F - NW entrance
G - Bois de l'Enfer
H - cistern
I - chapel
J - Cemetery
K - dry-stone huts
vitrification was already known: excavations appear, however to have concentrated primarily on the interior of the site. Thuot (1875) remarked on having the assistance of soldiers from the garrison at Guéret in his continuity work on the post-Roman cemetery near the chapel.

The first summary to re-assess the evidence from the Puy-de-Gaudy was written by de Cessac (1878). He noted the variable character of the defences, which were located a little below the summit plateau: on the N, E and much of the S side, natural steepness was complemented by a man-made terrace, sometimes edged with stonework, including one vitrified block. Contrastingly, the NW and W were protected by a massive earthen bank, which dominated the interior of the site by 2–3m, the exterior by 3–7m, and which was up to 11m wide: associated stonework exhibited signs of vitrification. A spring, then rising outside the enclosure and canalized to the village of Bains, was noted as previously having risen some 40–50m upslope, within the enclosure on its S side. De Cessac noted various internal walls which he considered to be contemporary with the principal rampart: in contrast to de Lavillatte and Thuot, however, he was prepared to consider only the inturned NW entrance as original: it was flanked by an outer protective work, some 52m long, of uncertain make-up.

De Cessac also detailed the structure of the rampart which had been examined by himself as well as by Thuot: the wall consisted of two dry-stone walls with the intervening gap, some 8m wide, infilled with smaller stones. The effect of heat had been to distort these wall-faces, such that their upper sections leant towards each other until they were only 4m apart. The evidence for heat was clearest in the centre at the bottom of the wall, and became less marked in the upper portions: neither wall-face had been much affected by the fire. De Cessac also noted that the wall had been the subject of subsequent additions, as two dry/stone wall-faces had been constructed on top of the vitrified wall, running parallel to the original wall-faces. He argued that these additions/
additions must be post-Roman, since tumble from them covered Roman tile and ceramic debris. De Cessac however reported two fragments of tiles incorporated in vitrified granites, one on the NW side near the entrance to the site and a second on the N side: from this and other evidence he concluded that the defence was unlikely to have been destroyed much into the Roman period. He was prepared to envisage the secondary facings overlying this wall as a Gallo-roman or Dark Age re-fortification, in contrast to Thuot who had envisaged (1873) the original defensive phase as Visigothic.

In the interior, and S of the chapel site, various dry-stone structures were located, with rectangular forms predominating. These measured about 6m x 6m and were arranged in two rows along the contours: although little material was recorded securely associated with them, they appear to belong with more recent use of the site, since an excavated example included samian sherds; de Cessac made comparisons with the stone foundations of the Mont Beauvray houses.

By this stage, it was clear that use of the hill extended back to the neolithic, and now included a grooved stone for polishing stone axes, as well as at least three axes themselves. Sling-stones and sherds (including examples which were not wheel-turned) were also recorded from these excavations, as well as further rotary quernstones.

In 1879, Thuot claimed to have found further evidence that the burning of the principal rampart was late (Thuot, 1879): these included a fragment of what Thuot described as a granite column which bore traces of fire, enough to suggest to him that it had belonged originally with the burnt wall, although it had been discovered on the S side of the site near the village of Bains. Other indications, in the form of rough squaring of stones extracted from the rampart by peasants were pressed into service to argue for a late date for the rampart and a sequence which saw an initial celtic establishment being replaced by an enlarged/
enlarged gallo-roman one and subsequently by an even more substantial defended visigothic settlement. Two years later, Thuot (1881) described an excavation that he had carried out on the rampart: his main conclusion (1881, 274-5) was that gallo-roman material underlay the rampart construction at this point.

For the remainder of the century, although discussion on the vitrified wall (Manouvrier, 1884; Daubrée 1881; 1882; Autorde, 1907) continued, little work appears to have been done on the site itself: Vincent (1885) for example merely reported the earlier description in outline and attributed the fort to the Bituriges. Imbert (1894) and Déchelette (1913) added it to their inventories. Autorde, following up Thuot and de Cessac's trenches, re-excavated but added little detail beyond advocating a gallo-roman date for the vitrified wall, on the basis of two small sherd s incorporated in vitrified material. He subscribed to the view that vitrification was likely to be an accidental by-product of fire related to metal-working in the vicinity of the wall: and the small finds discussed by Janicaud (1927, 728-30), which included iron ore, iron slag and a piece of vitrified granite adhering to a fragment of what was described as an iron tuyère, led him to support the view that the wall was partially constructed of slag and metalwork waste. In the same decade, the Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule accepted that the defences were of two periods (II, 1923, 421).

Janicaud (1943a), studying the origins of Guéret, returned to the nature of the evidence from Puy-de-Gaudy. He was able to note six polished stone axes from the site, as well as a socketed bronze axe. Later prehistoric evidence was more prevalent, and he again asserted that the house foundations noted by Thuot (1866) and de Cessac (1878) were gaulish on the analogy of those recorded from Alesia. Three successive enclosures, the most substantial enclosing 15 ha, and the previous two, 3 ha and 4 ha respectively, were again proposed as the defensive configuration of the site. The sequence of use envisaged gaulish settlement, the establishment of a temple (of which the remains of/
of a clay Jupiter with the wheel insignia is an indication) on the site during the Haut Empire (settlement being displaced S to the village des Bains) and the re-utilization of the fort after the troubles of the latter part of the IIIrd century AD: a coin of Tetricus (270-3 AD), Janicaud (1943a, 6), associated with re-used elements from the temple apparently found in the wall, seemed to lend substance to this possible sequence.

There the matter seems to have rested until the 1960s, when clandestine excavations appear to have taken place on the site (MSSNAC, 35 part 2, 1964, xxxv).

Excavation at the site began again in 1970 (parcelle BG-167) under the direction of M R P Bordier (MSSNAC, 37 part 3, 1971, lxxii-lxxiii): material from an area excavation of 16m² appears essentially to have been restricted to the gallo-roman period, in so far as it is datable: 1900 sherds including Terra sigillata, as well as tegulae, fragments of glass, nails, metal slag, sling-stones and a bronze hook, were recovered. In the same year, the only Terra sigillata bearing a potter's mark from a hill-fort in Creuse was published (Drouhot, 1971, 588 no 25): it is from Puy-de-Gaudy. Inscribed "MALLVRO F", it belongs to the later first-earlier second centuries AD and would lend support to the continuing use (though at an unknown scale) of the site during the Haut-Empire. Bordier's work appears otherwise to have been restricted to small sondages in the interior (1971, 652-4 : 1973) and suggests that this area continued to have at least intermittent use (associated with a chapel) through to the mid-XVIIth century: Bordier appears to have recovered little that is recognizably pre Roman Iron Age (1973, 42).

Excavations, directed by Dussot, recommenced on 1979 (Bourbigou et al, 1980). The principal trench excavated was in the W rampart (Bull. Soc. Antiq. Hist. Limousin, 1981, 11) previously examined by Thuot, de Cessac and Autorde. The two phase nature of this work was confirmed, with the primary/
23193 SAINTE-FEYRE Le Puy de Grandy: the bank on the plateau edge above Guéret

Eroding section of main bank at field entrance.
primary phase, constructed directly on the underlying granite, consisting of 'alternating layers of sediments, stones and carbonized wood'. The secondary construction consists of the narrower dry-stone wall, capping the primary phase, as noted by the earlier excavations. Dating is provided by both small finds and $^{14}$C analyses: the pottery redeposited in the primary rampart has been attributed typologically to La Tene II and III: decoration, when present, is incised. An iron key with a suspension loop and a number of sling stones were associated with this pottery. Associated radiocarbon dates have been construed as favouring construction of this rampart in the La Tene II period: they are for constructional timbers (primarily pedunculate oak with some beech).

$\text{Ny - 759 : } 200 \pm 105 \text{ bc}$

$\text{Ny - 760 : } 285 \pm 160 \text{ bc}$

The secondary phase of the rampart, marked by the narrow upper wall, contains nothing earlier than the gallo-roman period: tegulae, pot and amphora sherds. Radiocarbon dates for material from a sealed context suggest a substantially post-Roman date for this construction.

One of the internal banks was also examined: as the stratification revealed the most recent objects (medieval or modern tiles) at the base, it seems clear that this may be either an enclosing bank for the later cemetery or a field bank (Bourbigou et al, 1980, 28). Further stone coffins were also recovered: the overburden contained sherds, presumably re-deposited, described as "protohistoric" (Bourbigou et al, 1980).

In essence the sequence of use of this hill would thus seem to begin in the neolithic: some activity in the earlier part of the first millennium BC is suggested by the socketed bronze axe, perhaps followed by the jet bracelets, referred to above, and by sherds of graphite-coated pottery (Bourbigou et al, 1980). More information is required on the status of the $^{14}$C samples and the context and condition of the sherds from/
from the primary rampart for definitive statements to be made, but a
date c 100 BC +/- 50 does not seem an unreasonable estimate for its
construction on the evidence presently published. Re-fortification
occurred either later in the Gallo-Roman period or subsequently, and
followed essentially the same line. Both religious use and occupation
of the site appears to be attested for this period, with the former
role continuing to be important in succeeding centuries. Although
internal structures are described in nineteenth century reports, their
dating is insecure and does not appear to pre-date the gallo-roman
period. The dating and indeed the existence of other enceintes within
the 14-15 ha main fortification circuit remains to be demonstrated in
print.

Fieldwork evidence
Much of the perimeter of the site is overgrown and the following notes
are based on cursory examination of parts of the site, most recently
in May 1980.

A section through the main bank adjacent to the new car park on the NW
side of the hill shows some indications of both the external stone
wall-face and traces of the burnt internal timberwork within the rampart
core, the fill of which here appears to be dominated by earth (though
this may be partially attributable to slumping). Near here, too, the
secondary external pavement, consisting of substantial granite blocks,
is also visible, and a partial ivy-covered section some 10m to the E
shows the internal secondary pavement, suggesting that the secondary
rampart is a little over 2m wide here.

E of the carpark, the main rampart is a prominent feature, dominating
the exterior by c 5.5m and the interior by 1.5-2m. The inturned
entrance at F certainly exists, with inturns some 30m in length, but
differs markedly from the conventional Zangentor of late la Tène type
(Dehn, 1961; Collis and Ralston, 1976) in that it incorporates sub-
stantial numbers of large glacial erratics and rock outcrops. The 'fort
du/
du Bois de l'Enfer' certainly exists, but does not appear to be an addition to the original design: it is substantially overgrown. To the E of this, the rampart fades out, being replaced by a substantial natural slope, with a few stones protruding through the forest litter at the break of slope.

Comprehensive study of the NE side of the fort is impeded by a conifer plantation, but various points may be noted. In places, the remnants of the line of the wall are set back about 30m from the natural military crest, here represented by the plateau edge. Elsewhere in this sector, particularly E of the conifer plantation, it may be suggested that the outer face of the wall may have originally been stepped: one line of stones is set back about 1.2m from the other. However, although there are intermittent traces of walling along this NE side, which offers wide views over the N Marche, the primary defensive feature is the pronounced break of slope at the edge of the plateau: it is conceivable that this feature has been artificially steepened. Internal features near here include a detached sector of bank about 40m S of the talus and 30m in length: this would appear to be too slight to be of military significance.

Proceeding round to the SE, the talus slope becomes a less marked feature and appears to diverge in places from the plateau edge before becoming too heavily overgrown to follow. The defensive line was not followed above Bains d'en Haut and the pronounced change in direction near the spring shown on Thuot's plan cannot be confirmed. Further W, the wall line can be seen again, below the W summit within the fort: it appears to be descending across the contours towards the village of Bains: a partial section in this sector shows the wall, which incorporates granite outcrops, to be constructed of substantial stones. I was unable to confirm the existence of the subsidiary enclosure 'E' marked on Thuot's plan.

Conclusion/
Conclusion
The course followed by the principal defence, insofar as it was recoverable, coupled with the excavation evidence, would appear to lend support to a construction erected late in the la Tène period: the fact that the defence appears to diverge from what might be considered the optimal defensive line (as is clearly the case in some well-attested oppida) may be significant in this regard. Various factors clearly differentiate this site from the more complex examples of oppida, not the least of which are its location, in terms of both access and proximity to fluvial routeways. The presence of a thin top soil and quantities of outcropping bedrock within the site is also of note. In sum, this is clearly, by Limousin standards, a major fort of the later Iron Age, probably with some earlier use (and this possibly enclosed), but it would appear to be significantly different from the sites of Berry, for example, to the N.

Visited.

23198 SAINT GEORGES NIGREMONT Le Muraut/Murand
(XXIII-31 : Felletin)
Lambert zone II  x = 594.2  y = 093.7  z = 721m

Le Muraut lies on a wooded promontory overlooking the valley of the Rozeille river approximately 0.5km NNE of St-George-Nigremont. The fullest account of the monument is by de Cessac (1867d, 152–4).

The site is located towards the NW margin of an area of undulating high ground (most of the summits in the vicinity are between 700 and 800m in altitude), bordering the left bank of the Rozeille. The promontory is steep-sided on all sides save on the SW, and the sole man-made defence is represented by a low stony bank, spread to c 2m, which follows the contour round the promontory. It does not however appear to be drawn across the neck of this spur. Two tracks, intermittently edged with large erratics, are described by de Cessac as giving access to the promontory/
promontory: only one of these was located in fieldwork on the SW of the site, and would be readily explained as an old farm track.

De Cessac describes a second, less definitive enclosure within the area approximately 220m SW/NE by 100m SE/NW defined by the first: he describes this in part as being formed of circular house foundations, but no trace could be found of these in the wooded interior in 1974.

De Cessac drew attention to a series of erratics and outcrops of granite which appear within the site, in particular at its NE end, where one has a series of natural basins in it. A substantial outcrop of bedrock considerably restricts access to the promontory at the SE end of the site.

Bordering the inner edge of the intermittently stone-faced talus which now effectively delimits the site, is an almost-level terrace varying in width from c 10-15m: it is from this area that most finds recorded from the site appear to have come.

Small finds include axes and flint arrowheads as well as coarse pottery (de Cessac, 1867d): the Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule (II, 512) adds that the arrowheads included barbed examples and leaf-shaped ones: the presence of flint waste suggested to Janicaud (1929, 340-1) that this was a later Neolithic (Campignien) flint-working site. Quantities of charcoal-rich soil were noted behind the perimeter bank.

The character of the enclosure and the nature of the finds suggest that this is a Neolithic site: as Guébhard noted (BSPF, 4, 1907, 149) nothing more recent has been reported from the site, and this appears still to hold true.

Desbordes (1978c, 44-5) has suggested recently that the Fines recorded on the Peutinger Table at the E of the territory of the Lemovices may have been located near St Georges Nigremont, and suggests that the gallo/
gallo-roman site at *lieu-dit* Champ-des-Buis near the village of Chaucet in this commune may offer a suitable site. Desbordes goes further to speculate that the VIth century battle between Caribert and Chramme in the vicinity of Saint-Georges, documented by Gregory of Tours (*History of the Franks* IV, 16) see also (Valadeau, 1892, 242) may be explained by a centre of political decision being located nearby at the frontier of the *civitas*. Be that as it may, the Muraut would seem ill-adapted locationally and architecturally on present evidence for such a function.

Visited.

23197 SAINT-GEORGES-LA-POUGE Le camp de César (XXII-30 : Saint-Sulpice-les-Champs)
Lambert zone II  \( x = 571.3 \quad y = 111.9 \quad z = 550m \)

The camp de Cesar occupies a comparatively inconspicuous summit in rolling country (summits 500-600m), NE of Saint-Georges-la-Pouge, N of the stream which separates the bourg from the village of Lavaud.

The site is mentioned as a rectangular enceinte by Autorde and Lemoine (*BSPF*, 4, 1907) their description seeming to rest on de Cessac's manuscript *Dictionnaire*. This also describes the site as rectangular, and as being surrounded by a substantial ditch. There was clearly the possibility that a *Viereckschanze* might lurk behind such a description.

In the event, the site discovered at the location described by de Cessac was circular, with an internal diameter of c 33m. The site was defined by a bank of maximum width 6m, which dominated the interior of the enclosure by c 1m, and the general level of the exterior by 2m. The bank was flanked by an external ditch, 1.5m deep and maximum width c 2m at the base. Possible entrances are indicated by causeways, each c 2m broad, at the NNW and NE sides. On the most readily approachable side, the SW, an external counterscarp bank some 0.75m high is present. The interior/
interior is planted with conifers and is much disturbed: the only discernible feature is a stony bank bordering the SW rampart, and this appears to be secondary.

This site would appear likely from surface indications to belong to the series of small circular enceintes of the medieval period. It appears unlikely that de Cessac could have described the site as rectangular, unless his manuscript account was based solely on others' reports. There must clearly be the possibility of a second enceinte '2km E of the dolmen of Ponsat', but the only other possible site put forward on the basis of the place-name in this commune - Puy Chalard - (Valadeau, 1892, 241) is not in this direction. Not mapped.

Visited.

23200 SAINT GOUSSAUD Millemilanges

Although this site appears intermittently in the literature as a "camp carré romain" (often a synonym for a Viereckschanze) - most recently in the Touring Club de France Guide-Répertoire (1972, 39) - this particular example may be dismissed as spoil tips from ore extraction (de Cessac, ms). Not mapped.

23200 SAINT-GOUSSAUD Le Puy or Le Mont de Jouer

(XXI-30 : Bourganeuf)
Lambert zone II  \( x = 540.3 \)  \( y = 115.3 \)  \( z = 694m \)

This site has attracted attention recently in a survey of potential la Tene III sites (Nash, 1978a, 275): most of the work done on it to date has been intimately concerned with seeing it as the Praetorium of the Peutinger Table, located on the Clermont-Ferrand (Augustonemetum) - Saintes (Mediolanum) road: little effort has been expended in trying to locate/
locate and examine any pre-Roman activity.

The Puy de Jouer is a prominent summit on the watershed between the Taurion catchment to the S and the Garateme to the N. It is a conspicuous hill, now partially cleared of woodland as a result of fire, in an area of upland (summits 600-700m) W of the Col de la Roche, and flanked on its N margin by the valley of the ruisseau du Rivalier, some 100m below. The geology is dominated by granites.

The most recent review of the evidence (Bost, 1977), drew on the excavations of Buisson de Mavergnier, who examined at least one structure (1863b) and those of abbé Dercier who excavated c 20 buildings in the early part of this century. Bost’s conclusions are that the principal structures are a small theatre and a sanctuary with a double enclosing wall: the numismatic evidence suggests that the site was in use by about the second decade of the first century AD and continued at least until the end of the second century AD. There is little to suggest that this high-altitude site was permanently inhabited and Bost envisages it as a cult centre established during the Roman period at a point previously used by the native population for religious purposes: "l'originalité de ces centres est d'offrir, en rase campagne, des monuments dont, habituellement, seuls les villes se parent" (Bost, 1977, 696).

The evidence for use before the early part of the first century AD is however presently slight: at least one coin of the Bituriges Cubi, 1 denier of Caesar, and an as from Nimes pre-dating Augustus' reform. However, the supposed la Tène III fibula is actually considerably more recent (Bost, 1977, fn 44).

The coin attributed to the Bituriges Cubi was described by de Laborde in the following terms:

Obv: Coarsely drawn head facing right with rinceau in front of the mouth

Rev: Horse galloping to the right with a bird with a long beak standing on its rump

it/
it led him to suggest that the site may have begun as a 'celtic oppidum' (1921, 520-3).

Other recent reviews have taken rather different approaches to the site: Dayras, Louradour and Pericaud (1964) considered it primarily in terms of the roman road network and defined the location of the rectangular stone-walled sanctuary (Section Cl : les Charbonnières : parcelles 258, 260, 261). The site lies near the junction of the E/W route mentioned above, and the N/S route from Burdigala to Avaricum.

Contrastingly, Laporte (1966) prefers to see the site's primary function, in the Roman period at least, as a penitentiary where the slave- and convict-labour used in mining would have been kept. He supports this contention by reference to the site's location on the periphery of two gold-bearing areas believed to have been the subject of substantial exploitation in antiquity: to the W, the eastern fringes of the Monts d'Ambazac: to the E, the zone S from Bénévent-l'Abbaye to Saint-Dizier-Leyrenne. Laporte would see the Mont du Jouer as part of a network of such sites, which would also include Le Châtelard at Jabreilles (Haute-Vienne), some 6km to the W. He suggests that the lack of obvious wealth in the material recovered from Mont du Jouer may be significant in this regard.

At present, Bost's interpretation seems best to suit the available information. A pre-Roman origin as a cult centre may be postulated, but certainly not demonstrated. In general terms, the size and topography of the hill as well as the apparent lack of an enceinte may be considered as factors which would mitigate against the likelihood of a conventional 'oppidum' at this location.

Visited.
This site first came to light in discussion of the possible role of the Bois des Chastres at Aubusson during the terminal stages of the Gallic War: it was considered in that light, for example, by Courteau and Dayras (1925, map 2); they record that it was first recorded as a 'Camp de César' by Pierre Robert de Dorat in 1656.

The site lies on a summit in an area of undulating upland (summits 580-630m), N of the ruisseau de la Bauze, the left-bank tributary which joins the Creuse at Aubusson. As described by Pérathon (1886, 6), the site consisted of a circular enclosure, some 46m in diameter, defined by an earth-and-stone bank about 1m high. Pérathon reported that excavations here (though doubtfully within the camp - Courteau and Dayras, 1925) in the XVIIIth century produced weapons, Roman coins and white pottery vessels containing cremated bone. Pérathon also reported that this site was linked to the Bois des Chastres by a paved roadway, but this may be considered with some scepticism. Conceivably the site may have served as a Roman signal station, but a more recent origin appears likely.

By 1974, the site had been bull-dozed and was located in pasture. Its position could be recognized only by a slight mound c 0.2m-0.3m high, spread to c 50m in diameter, to the SSE of the farm at Frongier. The site enjoys wide views over the surrounding countryside, but its size and lack of reliance on natural defence would seem to rule it out as a protohistoric work. Not mapped.

Visited.
Péraphon (1886, 6) reported in his discussion of another site in this commune, la Tente de César, that local tradition referred to a second 'Camp de César' near the village of Villescot. The report was repeated by Imbert (1894). Courteau and Dayras (1925, 49) were unable to find it, but suggested the plateau S of Villescot as a likely location. Reference to the cadastral plans would seem to be the most likely way to locate this site. It is not considered further. Not mapped.

Fieldwork by Urien (1966, 1967) on the margins of the artificial lake formed by damming the Thaurion W of Saint-Marc produced a series of mesolithic, neolithic and gallo-roman sites. One apparently Hallstatt rimsherd, decorated with incisions, was recovered during this work on the S side of the lake and E of the former course of the Thaurion (Urien, 1967, 269 and pl III).

In view of the comparative lack of evidence from this sector of the Plateau de Millevaches, and the possible fortifications in the neighbouring commune of Royere-de-Vassiviere, this isolated sherd, although lacking a context, appears worth recording. Not mapped.
Various possible sites in this commune may be advanced - one on the basis of small finds, the remainder on placename evidence.

Grotte de la Croisière (Section F, parcelle 372)
Crédot and Dominique (1967) report that the principal horizon from this cave consisted of an impoverished neolithic assemblage. Overlying this, a small collection of pottery was recovered: this was considered undatable, but it might include protohistoric elements, since coil-built sherds were noted.

Various possible locations for fortifications were suggested by Chatreix (1940) on the evidence of toponyms. None of these has been verified on the ground:
'Camp Petit Puy' - located between la Vallade and la Bachellerie (1938 cadastre: section F, 662-3)
'Châteauvieux' - near Lérecy (section B, parcelles, 1437-8-9)
'Châtelus' - near Grand Couret (section C, 81-2)
'Du Château' - near Rissac (section B, 587 and 592)

These sites all appear to be distributed around the 360m contour, and it is conceivable that one or more enclosures may remain to be detected either in the woodland of this commune, or from the air. Not mapped.

The sole reference to this site (Perathon, 1885, 208, 219) suggests that it was almost ploughed out by the end of the 19th century. Circular in form, 45m in diameter, and enclosed within an earth-and-stone/
stone bank, the site was located on a summit. At Boueix itself, a Gallo-Roman cemetery, marked by cremations in granite urns, was also located.

Pérahon (1885, 208) also recorded another possible site in this commune: it was located on the plateau where "l'arbre des Meris du Puy-Malsignat" grew. Its defences were described as being of similar construction to those at Boueix, but the only other detail offered is that it differed in shape.

The reason for the confusion over the commune name is that part of the commune of Saint-Medard was hived off in the late XIXth century to form the commune of Puy-Malsignat. The nearest comparison for Boueix would seem to be in the commune of Saint-Marc-à-Frongier: neither appears likely to be protohistoric in origin. Not mapped.

23230 SAINT-PIERRE-CHERIGNANT

Although Lefort (1969, 29) makes mention of "restes de ramparts en terre" in this commune, the term does not appear to be used to refer to defensive enclosure. Not mapped.

23233 SAINT-PIERRE-LE-BOST

M. Patrick Léger (pers comm) has identified a diminutive quadrangular enclosure 'not larger than a motte' in this commune. Not mapped.
This site was first recorded by Duval (1881, 294), who however located it in the commune of Villard. Duval described it as occupying quite an extensive area at the confluence of the Creuse and a left-bank tributary which he called the "ruisseau d'Arroux-le-Vieux". Martin (1905, 63-3) corrected this to the ruisseau de Lavaud, and suggested that the site consisted of a Ledain-style Chatellier - normally suggestive of a small rectangular camp. Martin also noted that Roman foundations had been located in the vicinity before 1845.

Essentially the same evidence is offered in digest in the Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule (II, 591) which however indicates that there are three substantial mounds at the same location: these stood 10-12m high. According to de Cessac's manuscript Dictionnaire, the three mounds at "la côte des Mottes" lie at lower altitude, and closer to le pont du Trou d'Enfer than le Camp de César. However, he expressed the opinion that the entire work, including the stonework mentioned previously, was medieval in date, and this seems a reasonable interpretation. Not mapped.

Although Valadeau (1892, 293) and Leclerc (1902) baldly mention "fortifications gallo-romains" at Hays, Janicaud (1926, 552) makes clear that domestic structures are involved. Not mapped.
23245 SAINT-SULPICE-LE-GUERETOIS Mazaudoueix
(XXII-29 : Gueret)
Lambert zone II  x = 558, 5  y = 132,2  z = 580m

The sole published reference to a site near Mazaudoueix refers to "terrassements" (Autorde and Lemoine in BSPF, 4, 1907, 148-9). The new 1:25,000 map (Gueret 1-2) shows stone walls partially surrounding a wooded hill called Chavanon directly NE of Mazaudoueix and it is certainly possible that a fortification may be present here.

23247 SAINT VAURY Le Puy des Trois Cornes / Le Mont Bernage
2 sites: one known as Le Berceau de Saint Valerie /
le Jardin de Saint-Vaury
(XXI-29 : La Souterraine)
Lambert zone II  x = 558, 8  y = 136,3  z = 635m (SE summit)

The Puy des Trois Cornes is an imposing mountain, cloaked in woodland, whose principal axis runs NW/SE for a distance of c 1.5km, and which culminates in a rocky tor at 635m at the SE end. There are two subsidiary summits, that at the NW attaining 626m and the central one being in excess of 600m, which contribute to the name of the site. The site dominates the surrounding terrain by in excess of 100m, but despite its imposing profile the Puy des Trois Cornes has attracted comparatively little attention until the recent work of Monsieur P Léger.

De Cessac (ms) drew attention to the site and pointed to the existence of two possible fortifications on it. He noted the many granitic outcrops on the hill and appeared satisfied as to the existence of a small enclosure, possibly gaulish, enclosed by a substantial earthen bank and ditch on the central summit, "Le Jardin de Saint-Vaury". The SE summit was crowned by a disintegrating tor, and de Cessac appears to have been the first to suggest that the remnants of a fort existed amongst this tumbled debris.

His opinion was followed by Vincent (1885, 368), who attributed both forts/
23247 SAINT VAURY Le Puy des Trois Cornes:
the protohistoric site occupies the highest summit.
forts to the Bituriges. The Dictionnaire (II, 595) accepted the dry-stone fort, describing it as being built of "quarts de Rochers posés de champ", and noted that the site had been damaged by the construction of a chemin. Several stone axes and one bronze axe from the lower lying vicinity were noted, and further examples of the former have continued to be noted (eg MSSNA, 37 part 2, 1967, xxxviii: from Roches).

Janicaud (1949b) noted the absence of any indication of ditching around the SE summit, and claimed a barrow in its interior. He too noted the absence of Iron Age artefacts from the environs of the site, and compared this with both neolithic and bronze age artefacts, which had been recovered in some numbers.

I visited the sites most recently in May 1980, prior to M. Leger's excavations. The SE summit showed indications of level terraced areas and vestigial walling, suggestive of more than one circuit of defences, amongst the massive granite boulders which littered the summit. Traces of two lines of ditching could be noted on the W side, that most easy of access along the spine of the hill. The site was heavily overgrown and cloaked in plant litter. Nonetheless its scale and character bore remarkable resemblances to the nucleated forts of Dark Age Scotland, like Dunadd, though without the formal arrangement of subsidiary enclosures which characterizes that series of sites. Postulating a date for such an enceinte as that on the SE peak of the Puy des Trois Cornes is clearly a hazardous business, but its high elevation, the restricted area usable within its enceinte, and its use of outcrops of bedrock, would prompt me to suggest an early date, perhaps in the Late Bronze Age or indeed conceivably - if the artefacts from Saint-Georges-Nigremont are contemporary with its enceinte - even in the later Neolithic.

Contrastingly, the whole character of the 'Berceau de Saint Valérie' which crowns the central - and much less marked - summit, suggests a much more recent date. This small sub-rectangular enclosure, backed on to the northern edge of the narrow plateau which forms the summit, and thereby/
thereby strongly defended naturally on its N side, has the appearance of a natural knoll which has been altered to produce a fortification. This has been achieved by scarping the other three sides of the knoll to produce a rampart and ditch, with the small internal area distinctly elevated relative to the surroundings. This appears to be foreign to Iron Age tradition, and seems to have more in common with other putative medieval fortifications, like Oradour-sur-Glane in Haute-Vienne.

Clearly this imposing hill on the Northern margin of the 600m contour and enjoying wide views may have been of military significance at more than one period, but we may suspect that these periods might not have included la Tène III.

Visited.

23250 SAIN T-YRIEIX-LES-BOIS Châte de las Fadas

Although this site dominating the village of Beaumont, has a potentially significant place-name, it has never been suggested that the outcrops of rock which crown its summit are other than completely natural (Valadeau, 1892, 302 : Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule II, 599). The site is not discussed further.

23253 THAURON 'Oppidum' de Thauron/emplACEMENT du Bourg (XXII-30 : Saint-Sulpice-les-Champs)
Lambert zone II  x = 559,8  y = 111,2  z = 525m

The site at Thauron was sufficiently well-known for its inclusion in Dechelette's list (1913) of vitrified forts in France. It sits on the summit now occupied by the village of Thauron directly N of the valley of the Thaurion about 6km E of Pontarion. The site, now heavily overgrown/
23253 Thaurton
Emplacement du Bourg
after Janiceaud 1949
grown and partially incorporated in the village, was in a terminal stage of destruction by the end of World War II (Janicaud, 1945), and I saw nothing during a cursory examination: indeed, it was already substantially destroyed by 1868 (Thuot, 1868, 412).

Comparatively recent interpretations of the site have been offered by Janicaud (1945, 341-7) and Laborde (1958), both of whom reviewed the evidence collected about the site since it first attracted the attention of Pierre Benoit, seigneur de Compreignac, in the seventeenth century. Laborde reported that about one-quarter of the 700m perimeter of the site showed evidence of vitrification, and that the wall appeared to have been about 5m high and 2m thick (1958, 427) though one may question whether these dimensions have not been reversed.

Janicaud (1945) offers the only fuller treatment of the site to have been written this century. He described two defensive systems, of which the inner appears to have been very poorly distinguishable even at that stage. The geology of the site is of leptynite with two micas, which contains veins of iron ore: one of these latter, on the riverward side of the site, is stated to have been exploited in antiquity.

The enclosing stone wall appears to have been roughly quadrangular, with rounded corners, and only the NE side exhibited signs of vitrification. There were no indications of an accompanying ditch.

The bank appears to have been constructed with dry-stone facings around a rubble core: the vitrified side appears to have contained a series of "amas de cendres" which could conceivably correspond to a former timber framework. The degree of vitrification observed in this wall appears to have been uneven: Thuot claimed to have seen five fragments of tegulae incorporated in the vitrified mass. This wall has been partially dismantled to make field-dykes in the vicinity. The entrance gap in the NE side may have been an original feature, perhaps related to/
to the use of an external water supply. Outside this wall, near its SW corner, about 20 trenches, a little over 1m apart, and 3-4m long, are recorded, but their function and their date are alike unclear.

Janicaud quotes the following overall dimensions for the site; length: 180m; width: 160m; greatest internal measurement (NW-SE diagonal): 250m.

The internal enclosure is described as being considerably smaller; encircled by a slighter stone bank and with no indications of vitrification. About the only potential diagnostic trait referred to by Janicaud (1945, 344) in relation to this smaller enclosure (diameter c 100m) is an inturned entrance compared to that of Puy-de-Gaudy.

Internal features included three souterrains discovered last century or in the early part of this. These appear all to have been located in the vicinity of the church and may be assumed to date to the medieval period. A storage pit close to one of them may also be of that date.

Debris from the site appears to have included quantities of ashes, amongst which a stone-built hearth, attributed to metal-working activity, was found in 1868. Roman remains includes at least two funerary cippes, as well as Imperial coins and apparently a fragment of a brick-built aquaduct, visible in the cemetery in the early part of this century. Prehistoric material appears to be restricted to a number of polished stone axes and a flint flake recorded by de Cessac (ms).

Excavation at Thauron appears to have been restricted to that carried out by Cancalon in the 1840s (1843, 107). His work appears to have been restricted to delving into parts of the vitrified wall, which he describes as having a vault-like arrangement where he examined it, the vault being infilled with charcoal, burnt bone, calcined iron pottery and tile. The structural state of this wall reminds me of the present state of the S side of the vitrified fort at Dunnideer (Aberdeenshire), where/
where the buckled and twisted remains of the vitrified wall form certain gaps, which could have been infilled subsequently with later material.

In the series of papers which de Cessac and Thuot contributed to the debate on vitrified forts in Creuse, that at Thauron (sometimes spelt Thoron) clearly posed the most problems. Most subsequent authors clearly drawn on their reports, themselves at least partially based on Canoalon and other earlier accounts. A full cadastral-based survey to check what may remain of this potentially important site, perhaps intimately related to iron-working, is clearly a priority. The deliberate destruction of the remains at Thauron may have begun early, for they are said to have been robbed in the XVIIIth century to provide building material for Pontarion.

Other potential sites in this commune may deserve brief mention. In the SW of the commune, the Mont de Transet has an extensive area (c 9 ha) of dry-stone huts on its western slopes. Calinaud (1969, 103) remarks that both circular and rectangular structures are present, but attributes this particular settlement to the medieval period, whilst acknowledging that others may be earlier. "Le Châtelard" as a place-name does not however seem to represent a fortification, though there is a barrow at this lieu-dit (Calinaud, 1975).

Elsewhere in the commune, near les Tuiles, just above the R Taurion, a series of small mounds are reported (Calinaud, 1975): these vary in diameter from 2-5m and 0.5-1m in height. Their location near a lieu-dit of that name may concede the possibility of at least gallo-roman date, if not agricultural clearance and they may be compared to the examples examined by Lintz at Tarnac in Corrèze.
The first in extenso treatment of this site was by Barailon (1806); a man, blessed, as Janicau, (1949c, 398) would have it, by "une imagination exhubérante et une absence totale de sens critique", who apparently was not above forgery.

The village of Toulx (Toull) attracted his particular attention and he claimed both internal structures and a series of enclosing stone walls running round the site. The essence of his claims may be summarized as follows:

Defences

The triple enclosures consisted of stone-built walls, the innermost being 5.5m maximum in width. The middle wall, 3m or less wide, was partially a dry-stone construction, but in part showed evidence of mortared stonework. The outermost rampart was the slightest, being 2m wide. Barailon argued this wall must always have been of limited height, owing to the absence of debris in its vicinity. An accompanying ditch was almost completely infilled. The outer two defences had been constructed using very substantial stones, but the innermost was built using stones squared 'in the Roman manner' and jointed using yellow clay. Thereafter, Barailon's account gets more bizarre, in that he claims six entrances to the site, at least one of which was supposed to be flanked by the remains of towers. The outer rampart was 1200m in diameter.

Internal structures

Both round and rectangular dry-stone structures were claimed. Barailon noted that the entrances of some of them, flanked by more substantial stones were visible: that excavation failed to produce any evidence of tiles he took as an indication of their antiquity. These structures were/
23254 Toulx-Sainte-Croix

(photo Olivier Büchsenschütz).
were essentially confined within the innermost of the enceintes. Other internal structures included souterrains and at least one well.

Similar buildings were also noted elsewhere in the commune, for example on the Puy-Chabrut to the W (Barailon, 1806, 309): the likelihood that many were much more recent cannot be discounted.

Small finds
Barailon's listing of small finds again contains a hotch-potch of the possibly-antique and the doubtfully so: examples include debris of thick green window glass, a cup in "terra campana" (presumably Samian ware at this date?) and sherds from large coarse vessels, as well as an iron-hilted sword, an as of the colony of Nimes and metalwork waste.

Can any of this claim be retained? De Cessac, predictably, took a much more sanguine view (ms). He personally had only seen two flints and a polished stone axe from the site. He described the hill as an "espèce d'océan de pierre", and was prepared to accept only one of the three walls proposed, describing it as in a very tumbled state: the other two he attributed to field clearance. The Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule (II, 690) essentially offered a digest of Barailon's view.

This century, the main study of the site was again by Janicaud (1949c): in 1935 (MSSNAC, 26, part 1, 1935, lxiii) he reported that a hundred metre stretch of the bank had been dismantled and had been shown to contain Merovingian and medieval material. The subsequent paper reviewed the evidence more fully.

A major factor to be borne in mind is the weathering characteristics of the granulite (with Muscovite, white mica) of which the hill is constituted. This rock is schist-like in character and splits readily at right angles to its main jointing planes. Hence the quantities of debris on the hill and the opportunities for seeing defensive alignments in/
23254 TOULX-SAINTE-CROIX
Cadastral plan of supposed hillfort (1830)

- supposed early structure
- walling
in their midst. Barailon's remark that at least the outer two walls seem to have been constructed of stones thrown downslope seems to fit with this model of natural disintegration. Given that the material recovered under the innermost (and previously most believable) of the circuits included a merovingian stone coffin and coins of XVIIth century date, it too must be discarded: field clearance may thus be advanced as an explanation for this feature too.

By 1949, only vestigial traces of the dry-stone huts remained: by Janicaud's description, some are clearly secondary to the innermost wall, and therefore may be taken to post-date the XVIIth century. With internal diameters as small as 3m, they may perhaps be accommodated more readily in a regime of transhumant agriculture. About 26 are visible on the cadastral plan of 1830, and Barailon may well have exaggerated their original number.

Although further neolithic finds, including about four stone axes, have been recovered from the Montagne de Toulx-Sainte-Croix since de Cessac wrote, material of the metal ages appears to be completely lacking. Even gallo-roman material appears to have been infrequently recovered: a double stone-walled rectangular enclosure, of sides 5m and 17m, described by Barailon, appears likely to have been a small rural temple of this period.

The most recent statement on Toulx (Desbordes, 1978c, 44) dismisses the idea of a later prehistoric hill-fort on this hill, and considers its most likely function during the Roman period to have been in the religious sphere. Nonetheless he is prepared to concede the possibility of a castrum or castellum during the Later Empire.

This suggestion reflects the fact that the Montagne de Toulx-Sainte-Croix, with wide views over the Marche and E to the Monts d'Auvergne, and with a comparatively easily defended summit area c 350m x 250m, looks naturally well-suited for later prehistoric fortification, failing which/
which later Roman use. But, for the moment, a verdict of 'not proven' must be advanced, even for fortification in the gallo-roman period.

Visited.

23257 VALLIERES
(a) Le Boueix
(XXII-30 : Saint-Sulpice-les-Champs)
Lambert zone II x = 578.8 y = 100.7 z = c 600m

There is a bald mention of a possible "oppidum" in a 20 ha wood at this lieu-dit (du Cray, 1961, 260). Neolithic, gallo-roman and medieval finds are recorded in the vicinity (Lacroq, MSSNAC, 26, 1926, lxvii), and the lieu-dit is also the site of an abandoned village (Calinaud, 1967).

(b) Camp des Farges
(details as above)
  x = 576.3 y = 100.1 z = c 575m

I am grateful to M Urien and M Lintz for the information that a possible rectangular camp above the River Thaurion at lieu-dit les Farges is the result of mining activities: the site is within the gold-bearing zone centered on Bénévent-l'Abbaye.

(c) Camp de César at Gourre de l'Entonnoir
The Commission d'Enceintes, Creuse list, (BSPF, 11, 1914, 143-6) includes the above site on the basis of a report in the Bulletin of the Touring Club de France, 1911. There is no further information about it in print to my knowledge.
VIDAILLAT Motte du Château
(XXII-30 : Saint-Sulpice-les-Champs)
Lambert zone II  \( x = 564.5 \) \( y = 109.2 \) \( z = c 500 \text{m} \) (village)

De Cessac (ms) refers to a motte close to the left bank of the Thaurion, near the village of Virolles. It is included here as de Cessac refers to 'calcined granite' from its summit.

VILLARD
see SAINT-SULPICE-LE-DUNOIS
4.3 CREUSE: SITES RETAINED AS ACTUALLY OR POTENTIALLY LATER PREHISTORIC

4.3.1 Criteria

The criteria used are (1) and (2) of section 3.3.1 (see above).

4.3.2 The List

008: AUBUSSON, Bois des Chastres: promontory fort: First Iron Age and later.
008: AUBUSSON, Château: settlement?: Tène III (or earlier?)
031: BOUSSAC, Château: promontory fort?: pre-medieval.
032: BOUSSAC-BOURG, Montmoulard: quadrangular enclosure: Tène III?
083: FONTANIERES, un-named site: quadrangular enclosure?: undated.
095: GRAND-BOURG-DE-SALAGNAC, la Ribbe: settlement?: Tène III.
103: LAFAT, la LIGNE: quadrangular enclosure: undated.
138: MOUTIER D'AHUN, Camp de César: promontory fort?: post-Conquest.
171: SERMUR, Château: contour fort?: pre-medieval.
176: LA SOUTERRAINE, Brediers: settlement/fortification?: (Tène III)/later.
191: SAINT ELOI, Montpigeaud: contour fort?: undated.
200: SAINT GOUSSAUD, Puy de Jouer: ritual: (Tène III)/later.

This/
This list includes 23 of the 260 communes in the Département of Creuse. Mottes and other medieval works, not dealt with in section 4.2, are listed in an appendix.
5 HAUTE-VIENNE

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The Département of Haute-Vienne embraces the extreme NW of the Massif Central and extends beyond it towards the plains of Berry and Poitou. The highest points, around 778m, are reached near the border with Corrèze, at the Signal de Grammont.

At c 550,500 ha, Haute-Vienne is marginally the smallest of the three Départements considered in this study (Ministère de l'Agriculture, 1958). The main rivers, the Vienne and Gartempe, traverse the Département E to W, the former isolating the Basse Marche, towards Berry to the N. The vast bulk of the département (470,000 ha) drains to the Loire, with smaller sectors forming part of the Garonne (50,000 ha) and the Charente (30,000 ha) basins (Joanne, 1912). The Basse-Marche is the area with the highest proportion of arable land, and heathland and forest are more significant in extent further S: by the late 1950s, about 10% of the département was wooded (Ministère de l'Agriculture, 1958, 45).

In recent years, the Département of Haute-Vienne has seen the most considerable published fieldwork effort, in the studies of July (1975 onwards). One fort has also recently been the subject of small-scale research excavation, at Jabreilles-les-Bordes (Desbordes, 1980). Behind this recent work lies much solid achievement in particular by three scholars, two of whom at least were principally concerned with the gallo-roman period. Perrier considered the native record as a background to his study of Gallo-Roman Haute-Vienne (1964 : 1972). Couraud, in his papers on the Gallo-Roman road network, (1961 onwards) digressed on fortifications and potential fortifications nearby (1972). Delage contributed a number of important papers, but is best remembered here in connection with his important work at the massive site of Villejoubert/
Villejoubert, Saint-Denis-des-Murs, in the 1920s.

By that stage, the CEEPFA was able to note 39 potential sites in 28 communes (BSPF, 19, 1922, 128-30), almost doubling the numbers recorded by de Mortillet (1906), though the latter included sites on a more selective basis. The single most important individual recording monuments in the later part of the XIXth century and in the succeeding decades was the Abbé Lecler, but in Haute-Vienne the amount of information on our period contributed to BSAHL was provided by rather more individuals than was the case in Corrèze and Creuse and is probably quantitatively more important.

Amongst the earliest pioneers, Allou (1821) and Arbellot (1852, 1854) deserve mention honoris causa. However, the fieldwork record of Haute-Vienne has not been matched by much excavation on the defended enclosures: Villejoubert and Jabreilles, as well as La Grande Châtre at Saint Gence, have all only been subject to very limited examination. This contrasts with the record of barrow excavations, where the département has seen much more work undertaken, by Masfrand and others (Masfrand, 1904, 1910) than the other two départements. We may note, in conclusion, that the high water mark of fieldwork, site visiting and other activities appears to occur, for the first period of hillfort studies, a decade or two later than in many areas of France. BSASAR and Le Dolmen-Club de Bellac joined BSAHL as publication media in the decades around 1900, rather than in the 1860s-1880s.
5.2 SITE SURVEY AND EVALUATION

87002 AMBAZAC Le Card or Le Camp de César
(Xx-30 : Ambazac)
Lambert zone II  x = 528.0  y = 105.1  z = 373m

This site occupies the promontory SW of the village of Card, immediately
W of the steep-sided valley of the ruisseau de Beuvreix, a right-bank
tributary of the Taurion (Couraud, 1965, 39 plate SG3). The fort is in
a coniferous plantation, and is separated by a depression from Card
itself.

The structure is essentially as described by July (1976 no 3). The
principal defence, itself slight, cuts off the N end of the promontory,
thereby isolating an area of about 0.75 ha. The bank, slightly
crescentic in form, is a little over 40m in length and is punctuated by
a modern track and footpath. Best preserved at its W extremity, this
bank is fronted by a ditch of maximum width 4m : the bank rarely dom-
inates the ditch bottom by more than 1.5m. Most of the perimeter of
this site is edged by a slope which in its uppermost lm-1.5m gives
indications of having been artificially steepened, though the differ-
ence in angle between this sector and the generally steep sides of the
promontory is very slight.

July (1976, 46) gives the overall length of the site as 165m : about
135m N of the principal rampart, there is a vestigial length of bank
about 23m long. This dominates the exterior by lm at most, and the
interior by considerably less. It is by no means clear that it is an
original feature of the site; as it is military-speaking in a non-
sensical position, about 30m short of the steep-sided apex of the
promontory, around which the perimeter talus appears to run, more
clearly on the NE side than on the NW.

If this second transversal bank is an original feature, this small
enclosure/
enclosure may perhaps bear comparison with the small ridgeway camps of Correze. The interior of the site is covered in light scrub, and shows no sign of internal archaeological features. No small finds are known, and the site is therefore formally undated.

Visited.

87003 ARNAC-LA-POSTE Camp de Martineix/Martinet
(XX-29 : Magnac-Laval)
Lambert zone II  x = 524,4   y = 138,1   z = c 345m

The rectangular enclosure at Martineix, which lies about 500m NW of the village of the same name, has been known since the middle of last century (de Beaufort, 1851, 204-5) at which stage its interior was already cultivated. Subsequent reports, apart from offering slightly varying dimensions for the site (listed by July, 1975, no 44) have added comparatively little information.

The site lies near a summit in gently rolling plateau country 5km N of the valley of a minor river, the Brame. Apart from the NE side of the site which is wooded, its surroundings are extensively cultivated, as is its interior. Despite this, no archaeological material was visible on the surface during site visits in 1975 and 1980, although tegulae and gallo-roman sherds have been reported (M P. Picard, pers comm 1975).

The interior of the site stands about 1m proud of the surrounding terrain, and the site is delimited partly by a bank and partly by a scarped slope, the survival of which may be attributed to the former presence of trees along their lines. The site is aligned NNE/SSW, and the modern access to the site occurs at the SE corner, where a track leads into the interior. The E side is delimited by a low talus for about five-sixths of its length, but the northernmost sector, about 14m in length, is marked by the survival of a substantial bank. Much of the N side, internal length c 86m, is similarly edged (except at its two extremities/
87003 ARNAC-LA-POSTE Martineix: talus and rampart
extremities) by a talus slope: the woodland directly outside this offers the best chance of the conservation of a ditch, but none was noted. It thus seems possible that the bank (now heavily vegetated) has simply been scraped up from the light brown soil which covers the plateau.

The NW corner is well preserved, and the W side is edged by a substantial bank running a little W of S (about 198° magnetic) for about 45m: there is then a gap of about 20m, where the margin of the site is again formed simply by a talus about 1m high, and then the bank is again present for c 32m towards the SW corner. At that corner, the bank is best preserved: here it dominates the site's interior by about 2m, and the exterior by about 4m. The S side, bordered by a modern farm-track, is about 100m long, and is edged solely by an artificial scarp.

July (1979, no 44) has speculated that the original entrance may have lain in the middle of the W side, which is certainly possible. He gives the total area occupied by the site as 1.45 ha, making the internal area rather smaller, closer to 1 ha, than previous commentators have suggested.

This site would appear to have much in common, by way of location and size, with the class of sites referred to as Viereckschanzen. Against this, the original scale of the enclosing bank, if the SW corner can be taken as an indication, is rather more substantial than is usual in this series, although clearly less imposing than sites such as Luant in Indre (Büchsenschütz and Ralston, 1981a) which may have to be withdrawn from this group. In the absence of excavation evidence and small finds, this site, otherwise known as 'Le Camp de César' (Droualt, 1905, 451; 1906, 626) may be tentatively ascribed to the later La Tène periods.
This site, mentioned by Leclerc (1926, 93) and the Touring Club de France (1972, 11) is almost certainly the same as that described below in the commune of Jabreilles.

BLOND Les Gastines

BSAHL (87 part 2, 1959, 238) carried a report of a "sorte d'enceinte" located here. Dominique (1965, 174) subsequently described Les Gastines as a rocky promontory, overlooking the town of Blond, at the foot of which flows the R Issoire. At least three structures, described as 'coffres' were excavated at this locality: they contained an assemblage which was predominantly neolithic in character, although one sherd, bearing a finger-impressed applied cordon may be of Urnfield or First Iron Age date. There is no indication that this promontory is fortified. Bricks, tiles and iron debris have also been recovered from les Gastines (BSAHL, 87, part 3, 1960, 519).

The name of Blond, as conserved for example on Merovingian coinage appears originally to have been BLATOMAGUS, suggesting that the place may early have had a market function (Desbordes, 1977, 59). This author also drew attention to an extensive area (over 10 ha) of gallo-roman remains located about 1km N of the town - the Ville de Lupe. He suggests that it may have been a vicus which specialized in the extraction and commerce of tin, since the site is surrounded by old open-cast trenches, whose purpose was the extraction of stanniferous quartz. In view of the settlement's name (- Magos/- Magus) it is conceivable that this place might have had pre-Conquest antecedents; but this is unproven.
Although intermittently suggested in the literature as an enclosed site (eg Imbert, 1894, no 9), it is clear that the remains here represent the by-products of mineral extraction (July, 1975, 39).

July (1975, 38 no 56) failed to locate this camp, mentioned briefly at the beginning of this century, and concluded that it may be located in the neighbouring departement of Charente. Not mapped.

The site of the village of Cars, dominating the right bank of the Arthonnet, was listed as a potentially fortified plateau by July (1975, 39). Not mapped.

The DAHL fichier records the recovery of Dressel 1 amphorae and sherds of La Tène III pottery 100m NE of the hamlet of Lesignas. They appear to have been devoid of context when they were found in 1970.

The site lies on the plateau between the River Vienne and its left-bank tributary the Gorre, about 0.5km N of the latter, and c 3.5km SE of their confluence. The hamlet of Lesignas itself appears to occupy the neck of a promontory around the end of which flows the Gorre.
37031 LE CHALARD Site du bourg
(XX-32 : Nexon)
Lambert zone II  $x = 505.5$  $y = 61.2$  $z = c\ 320m$

This potential site was first suggested by Couraud (1964, 18-19 and pl 5). He saw an 'oppidum' and then a 'castrum' on the promontory SW of the bourg of Chalard, to the N of the river Isle. These, and a further series of potential sites listed below, he envisaged as a direct consequence of mineral extraction in the vicinity. July (1975, 39 no 62) was prepared to accept le Chalard as a potential site for a promontory fort, but neither structures nor finds are recorded to substantiate its existence. Not mapped.

Visited.

37031 LE CHALARD Camp de César
(XX-32 : Nexon)
Lambert zone II  $x = 505.4$  $y = 63.8$  $z = c\ 350m$

Although accepted as a possible fortification by Imbert (1894, no 21) and Couraud (1964, 18-19 and pl 5), this site, located on a heath beside the road N from le Chalard to Ladignac, is almost certainly spoil tips from mineral working (M. F. July pers comm, 1974). Imbert attributed the site to the fifteenth century AD in any case. Not mapped.

37031 LE CHALARD and neighbouring communes
Other potential sites
(XX-32 : Nexon; XX-33 : St-Yrieix-la-Perche)

Couraud (1964, 18-19) proposed a series of possible sites for fortifications in the vicinity of le Chalard: again, the rationale for these was suggested to be the need to protect mining activities. None of these has been visited, and none has, to my knowledge, been confirmed in/
in the literature. They are mapped by Couraud (1964, pl 5) and are listed here in order N to S.

**Le bois de la Biche**
This site occupies the summit of a promontory between Ladignac-le-Long and Haut-Bessous, in a bend of an un-named right-bank tributary of the L'Isle.

**Quérie**
The wood to the S of Quérie is advanced as a possible site.

**le Chalard**
The wood to the E of le Chalard is also proposed: with the other possible site at Chalard, and nearby Quérie, this would represent a third site within about 1 sq km.

**la butte de la Tour**
Couraud (1964) appears personally to have been more convinced by this site, which lies on the Isle river to the S of le Chalard.

**Lardy**
The site suggested is the summit to the W of Lardy, about 2km ESE of le Chalard.

**Tindeix (XX-33)**
Couraud was least happy with this site, lying S of the Isle river, and SE of the hamlet of Tindeix. It appears to lie on the wooded summit, marked by the IGN triangulation point (z = 391m).
The plateau N of the Tardoire river, subsequently occupied by the great medieval castle fought over during the Hundred Years War, is suggested by July (1975, 39 no 64) as one which may have been fortified at an earlier stage. The slightly craggy summit is certainly suitable, but no proof can be offered.

Visited.

This site appears to have escaped detection until the 1970s: it was described in 1972 as a fortified location which had been occupied since the Late Bronze Age (Gallia Préh, 15, 1972, 484). The site dominates the left bank of the river Tardoire approximately 1km N of Lageyrat, between the villages of Jarosses and Chalard.

It is well described by July (1976 no 7). The essence of the sequence (following July and a site visit in 1974) would appear to be that the apex of a steep-sided promontory projecting northwards to the Tardoire is occupied by a substantial mound, accompanied by a ditch on the side towards the plateau. This configuration of motte-like mound, 5m high, and accompanying bailey occupies an area of about 0.25ha.

A further possible line of fortification, of interest in the light of the discovery of unspecified late Bronze Age material, is however to be found c 120m further S, in the vicinity of the junction of the tracks from Jarosses and Lageyrat, which converge where the promontory is about at its narrowest. Here it may be suggested that the Jarosses track/
track follows the line of a pre-existing ditch, thereby delimiting the S side of a potential fortification: the W side may tentatively be taken to coincide with a negative lynchet and its accompanying scarp slope. On the N and E, the natural slopes to the Tardoire would offer sufficient protection. From surface inspection, the area of excavations would appear to have been confined to the apex of the promontory.

This potential outer line would enclose about 0.75ha, which might still appear somewhat small even for a LBA fortification: the somewhat rectilinear line of the W cultivation margin might also be a factor arguing against its antiquity.

Visited.

87035 CHAMPAGNAC-LA-RIVIERE La Bétoule
(XIX-32 : Chalus)
Lambert zone II  x = 489,5  y = 81,0  z = 355m

This site, a plateau about 1.5km NE of the river Tardoire, was suggested to have begun as a 'celtic oppidum' by Perrier (1964, 91 no 74), although no evidence was adduced in support of this view. It was visited in 1975 and the location was considered unlikely as the emplacement for an 'oppidum', essentially on topographical grounds. It is therefore rejected. July (1975) does not appear to consider the site. Not mapped.

(The Motte de Jouveaux in this commune, mentioned by Vandemarq (1890, 265-6), and subsequently destroyed, appears more likely to have been a barrow).

Visited.
First published by Leclerc (1873, 230), this small rectangular camp was subsequently inventoried by Imbert (1894, no 14) and de Mortillet (1906). Fuller publication came early this century, in two articles by Drouet (1913a, b).

When described, le Thouaurd was already damaged: where best preserved, on the NE, the site was defined by an earthen bank dominating the interior by 1.50m and the ditch bottom by 2.50m, the ditch itself being about 0.7m deep. The ditch was not present outside the W rampart, itself conserved over its total length of c 80m, with an entrance midway along the side. A further entrance, some 3-4m wide, was noted midway along the 70m length of the N side. The remainder of the circuit had not survived, but Drouet (1913a) estimated the enclosed area at 0.56 ha.

July (1976, no 14) recorded that the site was in a terminal state of decay in a cultivated field: by 1974, when I visited it, very little indeed could be seen on the ground. On the basis of AP evidence, July tentatively identified one stretch of ditching which he felt might represent the remains of a second enclosure, added on the NW side of the first, but the surviving evidence seems inadequate for this to be stated at all categorically. The debris in the field suggests that the rampart may have originally included an admixture of stone. July (1976, 60) also records that the field has intermittently produced the remains of amphorae.

As both Drouet and July noted, the situation of the site hardly indicates that defence was a priority in regard to its location. The site lies off the summit of the rounded plateau now covered by the forest of Châteauneuf, on its NE, and lies just at the edge of a terrace, such that/
that its E side appears to have been limited to an artificial steeping of the natural slope which drops towards a marshy valley.

July (1976) estimates the total area occupied by the site at 1.1 ha, and the enclosed area at about 0.7 ha: as such, and taking into account both location and the record of amphorae sherds, a later la Tène date may be advanced.

Visited.

87040 CHATEAUNEUF-LA-FORET Le Chalard (parcelle E 1331) (XIX-32 : Châteauneuf-la-Forêt)
Lambert zone II $x = 542.3$ $y = 79.5$ $z = c 400m$

The plateau of le Chalard lies due W of Châteauneuf and enjoys wide views, dominating the surrounding landscape. Excavation in the early 1970s showed the presence of a gallo-roman bathhouse on the summit (Gallia, 33, 1975, 448-9).

Less than 50m E of this (Lintz, 1979c, fig 1), ploughing dislodged a massive stone which partially covered a pit. On excavation, this proved to be 2m long, 1m wide and 0.5m deep, with the long axis aligned N/S. Directly below the boulder a quantity of pottery and ironwork was discovered: below this, the fill of the pit consisted of a basal layer of burnt soil, which was devoid of artefacts. The excavators suggest that the pit may represent a grave, with the acid soil conditions of the area provoking the disappearance of bone material.

Whilst this is possible, Lintz (1979c, 65) points out that much of the pottery is in a fragmentary state, with some of the 28 vessels represented by a single sherd. The intentional breakage of pottery is however documented in gallo-roman burials in Limousin, and La Tène III burials are otherwise unknown. It would appear appropriate in present circumstances to retain the possibility that this solitary pit is an indication of a settlement in the area. No surface finds are however recorded/
recorded in the vicinity. The site lies about 2.5 km NE of the site at Le Thouraud.

The assemblage has been studied in detail by Lintz (1979c). The recognizable ironwork was limited to an oval plaque, 0.2 m long, and a long iron bar (0.7 m approximately) quadrangular in cross-section. This latter was found in the NW sector of the pit, associated with other iron debris.

The ceramic assemblage was found distributed in packets around the remainder of the perimeter of the pit. The only Mediterranean imports were amphora sherds of Dressel 1a type (Lintz, 1979c, 71). With the exception of one pot, the assemblage is not wheel-made. The range of forms substantially duplicates that classified by Périchon et al (1977).

The forms largely parallel those identified by Büchsenschütz (1981b) as being the dominant shapes at the village des Arènes at Levroux: conspicuous absentees at le Chalard are the tall sinuous vases of "balustre" type = variants of Périchon et al (1977), form 3. Types represented include "écuelles à rebord rentrant" (form 1), "vases ovoïdes" (form 2) "urnes grossières" (form 4) (= Büchsenschütz "le pot à cuir à fond plat = Kochentopf) and various forms of "jattes carenées" (form 5).

Additional forms at Chalard include a basin, effectively an enlarged 'écuelle à rebord carenée' (Lintz, 1979c, 69, fig IV, 11): a beaker with concave sides (fig V no 26), and a sherd of a sieve (fig V no 21) paralleled amongst the material from Bombal's excavations at le Puy-du-Tour. Apart from the beaker, where parallels with the Toulouse region might be taken to advocate a late date, the overall character of this assemblage is early. As Lintz has argued (1979c, 61) the beaker diverges from the Toulouse examples in that it is not wheel-turned, and to that extent it may well be chronologically earlier: Fouet (1970, 27 and/
and fig 13 G-J) has noted that, whilst the form appears to be late (Augustéen) at Toulouse, and to be paralleled in the repertory of samian shapes (Dragendroff, 4, 22, 23), it does not seem to survive far into the first century AD.

Within Limousin, Lintz suggests that the most ready comparisons can be made with part of the assemblage from Saint-Gence (which also contained Dressel la amphorae) rather than the somewhat later assemblages - with higher proportions of wheel-turned pots and black-slipped vessels, perhaps imitating Campanian types - as at Eygurande, Correze (Espagne).

The assemblage is thus likely to be pre-Conquest and may date from as early as the later second century BC. Whether or not the pit represents a grave, there is clearly the possibility of a settlement on this plateau. In the light of comparisons with Levroux-Arènes and Aulnat, it is clearly redundant to insist that this is likely to have been enclosed, although both the location and comparisons with the material from Puy-du-Tour would allow the possibility.

Visited.

87041 CHATEAUPONSAC Chéguerat/Camp de Cesar lieu-dit Puy-Méry
(XX-29 : Magnac-Laval)
Lambert zone II  x = 517.7  y = 128.5  z = c 330m

The Camp de César is a distinctive fortification which has been discussed in the regional literature since the XIXth century (bibliography in July, 1975, no 16) and was inventoried by both Imbert (1894), and de Mortillet (1906). It looks uncannily like a miniaturized version of the inner stone-built fort at the White Caterthun (Angus), set on a promontory.

The site occupies the steep-sided apex of a promontory projecting southward/
87041 CHÂTEAUPONSAT Chégréat: the site is masked by the pale-coloured vegetation at the apex of the promontory.

The promontory from the Semme valley.
southward from the gently undulating and extensively peneplained plateau on which the village of Chégurat itself sits. The enceinte is cloaked in mature heather, as is the plateau to the N. To the W and E, the terrain drops steeply to marshy valleys, whilst the S end, exhibiting small-scale quarrying in the granite bedrock, is marked by an equally steep descent at the Moulin d'Hervaud and the meadows of the valley bottom of the Semme.

The main discussion of this site in the first half of this century was offered by Delage (1923, 1924, 1933). He noted that although the site was a promontory fort, defences were visible around its entire perimeter. A double line was present on the N side, and for part of the W side: the defences appeared to be entirely stone-built. His second article (1924) offered further details: the maximum length of the enclosed area was c. 85m, and no finds were known from the interior. A second rampart on the W side was noted downslope from the principal line. At the N end, the heaviest defences consisted (from N/S) of a 3m-wide ditch, a small stony bank (4m wide), a 7m ditch dug as far as bedrock, and a second more impressive bank, 5/6m wide and standing up to 3.5m above the inner ditch bottom. He suggested that the original entrance may have lain at the NW end of this, as the outer defence works appeared to continue slightly down the W slope to cover it.

The 1933 article, accompanied by an annotated schematic plan, represented a further revision of Delage's view. He now felt that the position of the original entrance to the inner enclosure was uncertain, and provides further measurements of the site, suggesting that the total work occupied about 1.12 ha. He noted that water would have been available in the valley about 40m W of the promontory. The main errors in the schematized plan would seem to be in that it suggests that the degree of preservation of the works is more or less standard, when in fact it is quite variable (Delage, 1933, 491): for example, on the SW, near the apex of the site, the stone bank has almost slipped away entirely/
87041 CHÂTEAUPONSAC
Chégurat
after Delage 1933
entirely. Delage (1933, 496) concluded that in both shape and in the heavy use of stone, Chêgurat was very different from the other fortifications of Haute-Vienne: the absence of small finds made dating impossible, but a 'celtic' or 'pre-celtic' date might be advanced.

A further description of the site (July 1977 no 16), fieldwork in 1975 and 1980, and the preliminary results of excavations by M P. Picard (1977-9) (Gallia, 37, 1979, 487-8; and Desbordes, J-N pers comm 1980) allow further details to be elucidated, although the chronology of the site is still far from clear and artefacts are still essentially lacking.

The other rampart on the N side has been sectioned and the resulting cutting appears to show a primary core, behind acrudely-built external face: a secondary mound appears to have been added to the back of this stony bank. This outer bank is about 68m long, and is punctuated by a modern pathway about 6m from its W end: at the W end it curves round to the S, and can be followed for a few metres before it fades into the break-of-slope which marks the rest of the circuit. The ditch which fronts this has been examined (Gallia, 37, 1979, 487, fig 16) and has been shown to be infilled with tumble from the rampart, below which was sealed a single post-Roman sherd: the ditch itself appears to have been 4m wide and dug into the rotted granite bedrock to a depth of 1.3m. The external face of the wall, set a little way back from the ditch, survives to a height of c 0.8m.

Where this bank turns southward, a subsidiary work, of uncertain antiquity, heads off downslope towards the stream. This heather-covered, stony bank, fronted by a slight ditch, appears more substantial than the banks usually defining the parcellaire here, and is conceivably a secondary feature not far removed in date from the original construction: it has a less clear parallel on the wooded eastern slope below the plateau.
87041 CHÂTEAUPONSAT Chégerat: inner face of inner wall (excavations P. Picard).
Behind the outer rampart is a berm about 15m wide, delimited on its southern margin by the ditch which fronts the inner and more imposing line of defence. The inner face of this second defence drawn across the promontory has been cleaned, and can be seen possibly to represent two phases of work: the lower part of the wall is carefully constructed, with large stones at the base, but the upper part, with markedly less accomplished masonry, may represent a secondary repair. This defence continues right round the southern end of the promontory, affecting in plan a shape not unlike the prow of a ship. The overall length of the site (N/S) behind the inner rampart is about 86m, with the defences on the E and W sides converging gently for at least 60m (where the enclosed area is still 41m wide) before curving round more sharply. For much of the perimeter of the site, the defence is more akin to a stone-fronted terrace than a wall, and in places (particularly on the SW, as noted above) its course is very ruinous.

On the E side in particular, but also on the N half of the W side, this terrace-bank is fronted by a berm approximately 5m wide (described as a 'chemin de ronde' on Delage's plan (1933)) before the edge of the plateau is reached. This width is extraordinary, and exceeds anything that would have been required from the engineering viewpoint to stop the outer face of the bank slipping downslope. As Delage has remarked, this inner enclosure lacks clear proof of an entrance: there is a gap about 2m wide in the middle of the N side, and, although it corresponds to a causeway across the inner ditch, this need not be an original feature. July (1977, 28) has tentatively identified an access ramp at the NE corner, but I am not convinced of its significance. There is a track running obliquely southward up the W slope of the plateau, but this seems likely to be later in date.

In the interior, a small sondage of 25m² appears to have drawn a blank, coming down on stony subsoil directly below the heather. Thus, the dating evidence appears to be restricted to the sherd discussed above, which does little except offer a terminus ante quem for the decay of that/
that bank, and a $^{14}$C date for carbonized wood from high up in the outer bank, which fell within the medieval period, (Desbordes, pers comm: Desbordes, 1980, fn 17: Ny-692: 1185 ± 85 ad).

In conclusion, all the available dating evidence might readily be accounted for in terms of secondary re-use/modification to this enclosure. To return to the parallel with the White Caterthun, the regular shape might be explainable by the incorporation of straight lengths of timber in the defence, but the character of the perimeter work would seem to mitigate against this. Nonetheless, despite the restricted area, estimated by July (1977, 28) at 0.42 ha, enveloped by the inner defence, I would be inclined to attribute this site to the later bronze age or first Iron Age.

87041 CHATEAUPONSAC Peu-Buy
(XX-29: Magnac-Laval)
Lambert zone II $x = 522$ $y = 127$ $z = c$ 310m

The principal reason for including Peu-Buy, located 7km E of Chateauponsac in the Lande de Durzat, in this compilation, is the size of the site. It is clearly an exception to the rule which sees a scale-shift in the surface area of sites from the protohistoric period to the medieval (Büchenschütz and Ralston, 1981a).

The Lande de Durzat occupies part of a gently undulating plateau between the valley of the Gartempe to the S and the valley of a right-bank tributary, the Semme, to the N: however, all the defensive potential of the site derives from its artificial defences. Despite the considerable area occupied by the site - 1.6 ha - (July, 1976, no 15), the disposition of the defences do not allow one to suggest that this is other than a unitary work of comparatively recent date.

The configuration of the site is well-described by July (1976): in essence/
essence, a substantial central motte, approximately 40m in diameter, and 5-6m in height, is surrounded by the irregularly-preserved remains of an oval enclosing bank, defining an area 150m NW/SE by 138m SW/NE in maximum extent. The area between bank and motte is marshy (a small stream flows through it), and shows indications of subsidiary ditching and an artificially-levelled area, annular in form, surrounding the motte, but separated from it by a ditch.

Clearly, the only possibility which would allow a two-period hypothesis for this site would be to detach the external bank (which shows no sign of ditching) from the remainder of the works and make this a separate, primary phase. But the disposition of the site, and the marshy area enclosed by this bank would be firmly against such an argument.

Busson de Mavergnier appears to have excavated in the central mound in 1861: this would account for irregularities in its upper surface.

The site lies about 1.2km NE of the gallo-roman villa with its late chariot-burial at Bussière-Etable, and this may account for efforts to see Peu-Buy as a gallo-roman construction (Bauberot, 1953 : Perrier, 1964 : Dayras, 1968, 582-3 (following Grenier)). Not mapped.

Visited.

87042 LE CHATENET-EN-DOGNON Châteaux de Dognon (XXI-30 : Bourganeuf)

Attention was first drawn to this site by a comparison between it and the site of Crozant in Creuse made by de Corbier (1905, 554) : Chatreix (1969) draws attention to the ditch surrounding the hill on which the castle was constructed. However, following the admirable description of July (1979), there seems no reason to see this as other than a wholly medieval work. It is thus not considered further.
July (1975, no 65) suggested this as a possible fortified site, but recognized that proof in the form of either defences or artefacts was lacking. The wooded promontory to the S of la Croix de Daumart is certainly a possible site, a plateau jutting southward between two streams: but the hill to the N of the hamlet is higher. Not visited, and not mapped.

Lecler (1873, 233-5) cites various possible 'retranchements' in this commune. July (1976, 38) did not follow them up and it is likely that some at least are associated with mineral extraction. La Croisille lies across the valley of the Briance from Saint-Germain-les-Belles, and Lecler notes the presence of mineral working elsewhere in the commune of la Croisille.

**Camp retranché, Mauloup**
Described as 'a levelled area at Mauloup' by Lecler, who was prepared to concede that this site was probably attributable to mineral working.

\[(x = 541.6; y = 66.5; z = 477m)\]

**Le camp, near la Fouillade/la Fouillère**
Accepted by Lecler as excavations for iron ore.

\[(x = 542.8; y = 65; z = c 530m)\]

**Reyneix/le Raineix**
Lecler maintained the view (1873, 235; 1926) that there was an enclosed site/
site near the village of Reyneix. The only other published detail is that it is "of considerable size".

\(x = 542; y = 65.8; z = c 490m\)

A fifth site mentioned by Lecler (1873, 235), la Ribièrè, is a gallo-roman villa. It is noticeable that the identified sites are aligned NW/SE: to the NW, the place-name "les Tranchées" occurs, to the SE, "Laurièrè". To that extent, it appears likely that the whole series may be attributable to mineral working. Not mapped.

87053 CRONAC Site du bourg
(XX-28 : Saint-Sulpice-les-Feuilles)
Lambert zone II \(x = 520.2; y = 149.7; z = c 260m\)

July (1975, no 66) describes the site of the village of Cromac as a plateau which could have been fortified. The site occupies a summit between two right-bank tributaries of the Benaize river, which flows through a steep-sided valley at this point. The site is bordered to the NE by a pond, to the W by a quarry on the Montlambert road, and to the S by the near-precipitous drop to the river. But there do not appear to be any clear indications of artificial defences, nor is any material of later prehistoric date signalled from Cromac. The site, were it to be proven, would be unlikely to extend beyond 5 ha in area.

The site of Les Châtelliers in this commune was also visited, as it seemed possible that this was a promontory fort, subsequently modified: but this hypothesis was rejected in favour of that advanced in the appendix. Not mapped.

Visited.

87058/
87058 DOMPS Moulin du Roc

July (1975 no 58), citing Lecler (1926), mentions this site as one for which information was inadequate for it to be located. Indeed, at the end of last century, Dubois (1899, 261) noted that it was only tradition which mentioned a "camp romain" between Domps and 1/d Moulin du Roc. The site is not considered further here.

87059 LE DORAT Porte Saint Louis

Bonnaud (1970) mentions the recovery of roughly squared chestnut timbers near the Ancienne Porte Saint Louis. They were in association with a wall, but the relationship is uncertain. They are most likely to be attributed to the defences of Le Dorat, destroyed in 1298 AD. Not mapped.

There does not seem to be any known site to link with the coin finds from this commune.

87060 DOURNAZAC Le Grand Puy Counieux/Puycounieux
(XIX-32 : Chalus)
Lambert zone II  x = 487.2  y = 74.3  z = 498m

Lecler (1883, 32-3) noted gallo-roman material from this prominent hill which overlooks the hamlet of the same name on the NE. A cursory examination in 1975 showed that the site dominates the surrounding landscape and now has a radio relay station on the summit: there are however no signs of fortification. July (1975, 39) listed the site amongst his potential fortifications. The site is not considered further.

Visited.
This motte is located just W of the chateau of Montbrun (Faucheux, 1971, 126). Lecler (1883, 28-9) and Masfrand (1904, 51-2) both reported vitrified granite from the summit of the 12m-high mound, the present outline of which was modified last century (July, 1980, 94). This is the site attributed by Cotton and Frere (1961, 45 fn 38) to the departement of Corrèze.

Visited.

First signalled by Lecler (1883, 32) (July, 1976, 38, no 52), and described as "strategic works", the mound bearing this name is drawn across the plateau which projects SE from the Pinelou to the NW of chez Mourillou. The site consists of two thirty-metre long lengths of bank, bisected by a track, and running approximately 40°/220°. The work seems unfinished, and is not located in a strong position militarily-speaking. A hole in the summit of the SW part indicates that it is partly stone-built (micaschists and quartz), rather than being earthen, as Lecler suggests. Not mapped.

Visited.
Although a site has been proposed here, the appropriate summit, which was being cleared of scrub woodland in 1975, was checked without result. One depression may perhaps be attributed to mining activity. The site lies SW of the château de Montbrun, between it and the hamlet of Mappa. Not mapped.

Visited.

Les Rudelles is one of a series of sites which occupy rounded but defensible positions on the southern flanks of le Pinelou to the N of Dournazac. It is of particular interest because of the relationship between its size and its degree of conservation. The plan and description of July (1976, no. 11) supersede previous work on the site (references in July, 1975, 32): of these, the most useful is probably Lecler (1883, 22), who described the site as the best preserved in Limousin. It is certainly imposing, and despite a cover of light woodland, it is possible to appreciate that the site enjoys wide views over southern Haute Vienne.

The site is enclosed by an artificially-sharpened talus slope about 5m in height, defining a diamond-shaped area approximately 180m E/W by 125m N/S: the original entrance is at the W end, on either side of which a flat-topped bank is piled on top of the talus slope. As Lecler noted (1883), there is another entrance at the E end but this appears to be a secondary feature, possibly of little antiquity. Within the enclosure thus defined there is a prominent mound, again edged by an artificially/
87060 DOURNAZAC
Camp des Rudalles
after July, unpublished
artificially-steepened slope, and occupying an area of about 60m N/S by 45m E/W. There is no sign of stonework, nor of ditching, nor of any structure in the area enclosed by the outer talus. The sharpness of the surviving works is perhaps eloquent of a comparatively recent monument, to which the fact that the site has been wooded at least since the XIXth century (Lecler, 1883) may have contributed.

The character of this site clearly implies that it is most likely to be attributed to the medieval period, being a 'motte avec basse-cour': the problem arises because of the area enclosed by the bailey. The entire site extends to about 1.2 ha, with about 0.85 ha enclosed by the bailey, excluding the 0.11 ha occupied by the motte. This clearly overlaps with the size-range of protohistoric enceintes, as tentatively differentiated by Büchsenschütz and Ralston (1981a): similarly, the location of the site on a summit, suggests that differentiation between protohistoric and medieval work may be less easy than we had previously advanced.

Such sites, if numerous, might tend to cast doubts on the ease with which the old SPF lists may be used to derive a global total for the protohistoric enceintes of France: but I do not feel that present information on their numbers suggests that they are likely to cause a significant problem.

By way of comparison, the enclosing bank defines an area of approximately the same scale order as the perimeter of the outer works at Ruffus Castle (Moray) (Simpson, 1968, fig 11): the bailey of the Motte of Urr, Kirkcudbright, extends to 5.5 acres (= 2.2 ha) (Dunbar, 1978, 40), so that there is clearly the possibility of an overlap with the locational - and scale - ranges of protohistoric works. Les Rudelles is an instance of this, although the character of this particular work ensures that it is indeed medieval.

Visited.
The camp de la Rue occupies the wooded summit of the spur of land which projects SW from the hamlet of Dournadille, and is edged by the steep-sided valleys of the Reille to the NW and the river Dronne to the S. The central of three contiguous enclosures occupies the highest point of the plateau and is presently easily recognized by the line of tall conifers which mark its N edge. Like Les Rudelles in the same commune, the size and position of this site, whilst originally allowing the possibility that it might be at least in part a protohistoric work, tends to disguise the fact that it is a motte accompanied by at least one bailey, and possibly a second. Lecler (1883, 21) in speaking of a 'vast' camp occupying the entire summit of the hill, rather sets this tone: July's description (1976, no 10), whilst being immeasurably more precise, does not fully bring out the character of the work, and the subtle use of the terrain exhibited in the site is perhaps more characteristic of some protohistoric sites than of the generality of mottes.

The total area occupied by the site amount to 2.27 ha, with the usable enclosed space amounting to about 1.4 ha (July, 1976). The central motte measures approximately 77m E/W by 52m N/S and is edged by an artificially-scarped slope, which attaining 6-8m in height, is most impressive on the E side of the mound, and less impressive for most of the rest of the circuit, varying between about 2 and 4m. It is least high at the E end of the S side, decreasing to about 1.7m. There is no evidence of any structure on this mound.

Outside this motte, on the SE side, is a bailey - averaging 70m E/W, and about 100m N/S. This is quite clearly joined to the motte on the E side, where the slope of the side of the motte is continued south-eastwards, averaging 5/6m in height. About 28m along the side of this from the motte an indistinct path snakes up into the bailey: it is not certainly/
certainly original. Around the S apex of the bailey, where the land begins to fall away towards the R Dronne, and on the W side, the degree of human modification of a naturally steep slope decreases. Another possible entrance is located at the junction of this bailey and the motte on the W.

A further subsidiary enclosure has been added to the NW side of the motte: the E side, on a different alignment from that of the motte and SE bailey, is again the most clearly marked. The indications are thus of a wholly medieval work, whose size and situation may be compared with le Camp des Rudelles, in the same commune, where the type is discussed.

Visited.

87064 EYMOUTIERS Parish of Saint-Pierre-Château
(XXI-31 : Saint-Leonard-de Noblat)
Lambert zone II  x = 554.5  y = 81.5  z = c 505m

The parish of St-Pierre-Château lies SE of the town of Eymoutiers on the opposite bank of the River Vienne. For Desbordes (1977, 56), this name is indicative of the presence, or at least the memory, of a fortification: this he is prepared to suggest may have been antique, and he suggests further that it may have been the site of Ahunt, a place-name of celtic origin. The site is on the summit of a hill, but no indications of defences or of artefacts have been recorded. Not mapped.

87076 JABREILLES-LES-BORDES Puy-du-Châtelard/Le Camp de César
(XXI-30 : Bourganeny)
Lambert zone II  x = 534.3  y = 115.8  z = 565m

Le Puy du Chatelard occupies a summit at the W of the ridge of the Bois des Echelles to the S of Laurière. It dominates the Col de la Roche, an/
87076 JABREILLES-LES-BORDES le Châtellard: the site
under snow: note the double terrace in the foreground.

The rampart at 1/4 le Puy de Château
an important communications corridor between the Basse-Marche and Limousin, which lies 100m below on the W.

The site lies at the N limit of the commune of Jabreilles, within 200m of the commune of Saint-Sulpice-Laurière, in which it is sometimes misplaced. The last name of the latter indicated that the site is on the margin of the gold- and tin-bearing metamorphic areas which border the granulite in this region (Musée Municipal, Limoges, 1967 map opp p 80): indeed the excavations in gold-bearing deposits at Millemilange are c 1km E of le Grand Vaux, another enclosed site in Jabreilles (see below).

The site first appears in the literature in 1867 (references in July, 1975, no 19: to which may be added: Coulaud, 1978: Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule II, part 1, 1878, 48: and Delage 1933, 497).
In contrast to many sites in the area, a considerable amount has been written on le Puy du Chatelard since the Second World War, notably by Penicaud (1964), July (1977 no 19) and Desbordes (1980), the latter in connexion with limited trial sondages on the summit, and an excavation of the principal rampart. The following account draws on these sources and on field visits in 1974 and 1980.

Topographical position
The point to stress here is the site's position in relation to the Col de la Roche, the main natural access route through the Monts de la Marche to the E and the Monts d'Ambazac to the W, connecting the upper reaches of the Gartempe basin with those of the Vienne and the Thaurion. It is thus at the divide between Limousin sensu stricto to the S, and the Marche to the N. The easiest access to the site is from the W, from the direction of les Combes. Despite the considerable altitude of the Puy du Châtelard, and the fact that it is now extensively wooded, the site was intermittently cultivated until the end of the Second World War (Penicaud, 1964), with consequent alterations to the enclosure.

The/
The nature of the site

Desbordes (1980, 79) has recently stressed that the site should be classed as a promontory fort (éperon barré) and to the extent that one sector of the defences, towards the plateau des Combes, is more heavily defended than the rest of the circuit, this view may be sustained.

The principal defence (1/d le Puy du Château) is on the W, and presently consists of a massive bank preceded by a ditch: the full defensive configuration is only clearly visible for about 75m, and consists of the bank which dominates the interior by about 2.2m, and the ditch bottom by a little over 5m: the rounded summit of the rampart is 2.8m wide, but the bank itself is quite variable in height (max 7m: Desbordes quotes an average range of 3-4m). The ditch is defined on its outer edge by a length of counterscarp bank, now spread to a maximum of about 6m, the crest of which dominates the exterior by about 1m and the ditch bottom by as much as 1.7m. Because of the slumping of bank and counterscarp materials, the original profile of the ditch is not altogether clear, but it includes a flat sector, 3-4m wide, which would seem to be potentially significant. The total width of the ditch, taking the crest of the counterscarp as the outer limit, is of the order of 10-12m. The overall length of the rampart-and-ditch sector is of the order of 200m: it is very gently curving and sits more-or-less on the 540m contour.

The remainder of the circuit is less heavily defended, being delimited by one or two terraces, the system being at its most developed in the NE sector, overlooking the Col de la Roche. In this area, the platform between the two terraces shows some indications of cultivation, which takes the form of low rickles of stone and stone clearance heaps, and here, as elsewhere on the site, they seem to be elements of the parcellaire. The terraces hug the contours round the convex summit of the hill, to the extent that the inner one circumvents a dry-valley on the S side of the hill. For a short distance (c 20m) on its N side the inner talus, here some 5m high, has at its base a small ditch with a sharply/
sharply-defined counterscarp bank which takes up about half the width of the outer terrace at this position. The sharpness of the ditch and counterscarp suggests that this is not an antique feature, but it is difficult to imagine a purpose related to the agricultural exploitation of the hill. The main entrance, modified to permit access to the interior, is on the W side, and exhibits no special features.

The area enclosed by these works is c 8.5 ha (July, 1977) : apart from the walling noted above, the interior is essentially archaeologically featureless, though it is possible that some irregularities along the inner face of the principal rampart may be of significance. Outside the enclosure, and to the dry-valley on its S side, are two dry-stone cabanons, but these appear to be comparatively recent constructions.


(1) The interior

Very little work appears to have been carried out in the interior of the site : certainly not enough to pronounce as emphatically as Desbordes has done on the character of the occupation. As of 1980, excavation appeared to have been restricted to diminutive sondages, and the essential evidence from these appears to be stratigraphic. Towards the centre of the site, on the summit, the soil appears to have been very shallow, and to have been archeologically sterile : contrastingly, there was a considerable build-up of soil (up to 1m-1.5m) in the immediate vicinity of the rampart. Here too (Desbordes, 1980, 82), the report makes no mention of the recovery of artefacts.

The rampart

The description is based on two partial sections of the W rampart, one of which examined the external face of the wall and the adjacent portion of the ditch. The other consisted of a cut in from the inner side of the rampart as far as its crest. Reconstructions have been proposed on this/
87076 Le Puy Châtelard
W. rampart: reconstruction after Desbordes 1980

87076 JABREILLES
Le Puy Châtelard
Cadastral Plan 1813
this evidence, but these seem to pose considerable problems.

The constructional sequence proposed by Desbordes is as follows: First, the site for the rampart was stripped as far as undecayed bedrock, and then the resultant irregularities were levelled out using rotted granite material, probably from the ditch. The initial constructions consisted of a dry-stone external face of the wall and a wooden internal face, this latter constructed apparently of oaks which had had their branches, but not their bark removed. The core of the wall was then infilled, the lower part with large stones and the upper with rotted granite, this latter heavily compressed towards its top. Desbordes then argues for a platform on the summit, the evidence for this latter consisting of a muddy layer sitting on top of the tamped-down rotted granite.

Subsequent modifications appear to have resulted from the destruction by fire of the internal wooden face of this wall. This destruction, involving the combustion of the palisade over its entire height, was in itself enough to persuade Desbordes that he could not be dealing with a 'murus gallicus', as this latter type of wall was indestructible by fire (Gallia, 37, 1979, 490).

It also led to a secondary modification of the rampart. This consisted of a dump of granite blocks of varying size against the inner face of the wall: Desbordes was of the opinion that this represented a constructional feature, rather than the product of the collapse of the upper part of the original wall, and was designed to stabilize the inner face after the destruction of the palisade. (Desbordes, 1980 fig 4; Gallia, 37, 1979, fig 20).

The external face of the wall was separated from the ditch by a narrow berm, 0.8m wide. Much of the fill of the latter could be described as disturbed by recent agricultural activity, but the initial fill which, if/
if one may judge by its angle of rest as illustrated by Desbordes (1980, fig 6), is unlikely to have accumulated quickly, consisted of a dark-coloured fine soil incorporating charcoal fragments attributable to periodic burning.

The dating of this rampart depends on radiocarbon and associated artefactual material, and on assessment of its architectural comparanda. With regard to the artefacts, these seem comparatively unhelpful: none was recovered from the core of the wall, and none has yet been illustrated. Contexts from which material has come appear to be restricted to the upper layers of the ditch, the accumulated deposits against the tail of the rampart, and outside the rampart on the S side. This material has been described as being small in quantity (pot, tegulae, iron nails) and "augustéen". Desbordes (1980, 86) has also perceived Roman influence in various elements of the architecture of the defence, which he parallels, in terms of structure, with the Antonine Wall in Scotland. Other indications of a Roman model are taken to include (i) the fact that the entrance passage cuts through the rampart at right angles - Desbordes (1980, 86) compares this with the oblique approaches he believes to be characteristic of protohistoric works and (ii) the almost rectilinear course adopted by the W rampart, although we would prefer to see this as to a considerable degree dictated by the terrain.

Three radiocarbon dates are available: available information is tabulated below:

Ny - 672 carbonized wood 'base of S rampart' 60 ± 90 AD
Ny - 556 carbonized wood 'destruction of W rampart' 150 ± 90 AD
Ny - 482 carbonized wood 'basal soil layer of ditch' 1030 ± 90 AD

On the strength of this evidence, Desbordes proposes as post-Conquest date for the construction of the fortification, although he does not discount the possibility of protohistoric use of the site. He also suggests that it may have been re-utilized as a fortification in the Carolingian/
Caroltingian period, in proximity to one of the courts (curtes) which may have existed at the nearby hamlet of La Cour.

Whilst I have no objection whatsoever to the construction of fortifications after the Conquest, I would argue that none of the dating evidence presented actually dates the construction of the defence. Even Ny - 672, collected in association with 'augustéen' pottery, consists of "éléments détritiques, collectés sur place ou à proximité immédiate, puis déversés à la base du rempart, peut-être bien longtemps après leur usage domestique". (Desbordes, 1980, 87): this hardly inspires confidence that the date can be used as a terminus relative to the rampart construction.

Furthermore, I do not accept Desbordes comparison with the Antonine Wall, with its foundation of a stone raft and a turf superstructure. Nor do I accept the proposed reconstruction of the primary defence: the essence of the difficulties lies with the timber internal face. For Desbordes' constructional sequence to be credible, the wall must have been built in short sectors, otherwise the in-filling of the core materials would have been very difficult and time-consuming. I also find it difficult to accept that a palisade line, as shallowly interred as Desbordes' reconstruction shows, would have retained the core materials, and supported a wall-walk along the top, unless this wooden face was tied into the core of the wall. Desbordes talks of "alvéoles" amongst the core materials directly above the initial, stone, fill, but the context of this reference suggests air-holes rather than the positions of former timbering. If the work is indeed two-phase, the construction of the stone ramp against the inner palisade must have followed very quickly on the destruction of the phase I work, before this had time to collapse. Even accepting the cross-section and reconstruction as advanced by Desbordes, the application of Occam's razor might suggest that a unitary work might make more engineering sense.

Desbordes/
87076 JABREILLES, Châtelard rampart cutting

87076 JABREILLES, Grand Vaux: W rampart
Desbordes suggests that a dense long-term occupation of the site appears unlikely. Apart from the finds from his work, little else appears to be known from the interior of the site. Penicaud (1964, 423, 428) records the discovery of a Nimes bronze coin ("au crocodil") from a heap of stone at lieu-dit le Trésor: again a post-Conquest date would be appropriate.

Recently, speculation that this site might be identified with the Praetorium mentioned on the Peutinger Table between Ahun and Limoges has been revived (BSAHL, 89, 1962, 204-6) and although Desbordes (1980, 88) is not prepared to accept that the name can be attached to Châtelard, he nonetheless envisaged Châtelard as a post-Conquest fortification constructed to protect an intersection in the road network with routes leading to Poitiers, Argenton, Bourges, Clermont, Limoges, Perigueux and Bordeaux. This seems to me a fundamentally unlikely role for a hilltop site like Chatelard.

Visited.

87076 JABREILLES-LES-BORDES Grand Vaux/Vaud (XXI-30 : Bourganeuf)
Lambert zone II  x = 537.5  y = 111.5  z = c 450m

Inventoried by de Mortillet in 1906, this small rectangular site has only been fully described once (July, 1977 no 20). It lies on a plateau, which is tilted gently to the SE, between the ruisseau des Egaux to the W and a dry valley to the E. Its surroundings consist of woodland, pasture and abandoned fields. The site, which lies about 250m SE of le Gros Hêtre, is about 9.5km SE of le Châtelard, in the same commune.

The N side is the best preserved, particularly towards its E end, where a rampart dominates the exterior by two metres and the interior by rather less: the rampart is considerably spread here. This side runs almost due E/W magnetic, and shows no evidence of an accompanying ditch, although/
although there is a hollow way about 5m N of the outer edge of the rampart, which could conceivably occupy its former course, though this would seem unnecessary. Towards its S end (the entire length of this face being c 97m measured externally) this rampart fades into a talus slope, still c 2m high, and is traversed obliquely by a track, which then crosses the interior of the site. The NW corner is considerably more than a right-angle, and leads to the W side, some 76m long, again measured externally. Here, too, a track occupies what would have been the position of the ditch. The SW corner is again a right-angle, and the S side can be followed for c 18m before it has been destroyed. E of the track which traverses the site, this side can be followed on a slightly different alignment for about 50m to the SE corner. Again a hollow way along the foot of the talus may obscure former ditching: a slight mound along the summit of the talus, dominates the interior by about 30cm. The SE corner has a drainage ditch for an abandoned field directly outside it, and the E side is again defined primarily by a talus slope, 2 to 3m high.

The enclosed area is thus a little over half an hectare: this is, as far as could be judged, archaeologically featureless. The essence of the scheme consists of a single rectilinear bank/talus slope, possibly fronted by a ditch. Neither of the presently-used entrances is certainly original, though that towards the middle of the S side is perhaps the likelier candidate.

Couraud (1965, 42-3 and plate SG5) shows the course of a roman road running NE/SW about 500m NW of the enclosure at Grand Vaux, which is referred to as a 'roman camp'. Despite the presence of early mining debris at Les Fossés de Millemilange about 500m NW of the site, the closest parallels for the site and its essentially non-defensive position in the landscape would seem to lie with the Vierreockschanzen.

The 1:25,000 map (Bourganeuf 1/2) shows various other rectangular fields/
fields amongst woodland in the vicinity of Grand Vaux, and these may correspond to further enclosures of the type discussed here: these were not checked during fieldwork in 1975 and 1980.

Visited.

87078 JAVERDAT Le Grand Champ, Laplaud (Section C, parcelles 619-22) (XIX-30 : Oradour-sur-Glane)
Lambert zone II  x = 495,3  y = 105,8  z = c 280m

This site, first noted by Couraud (BSAHL, 93, 1966, 209) lies on the summit of a gently-sloping plateau between the ruisseaux de Javerdat and de Vergogne, two right bank tributaries of the Glane, about 1.1km SSE of Javerdat. When noted by Couraud, the site had already been substantially ploughed away, with only the SE corner and the N rampart, bordering a track to Laplaud, reasonably conserved.

When visited in 1975, much of the former course of the work could be detected by soil colour differences, especially on the W side. The N side, now partially edging the track to Laplaud, is approximately 90m (July, 1977, no 33) in length, with the NE corner, nearly a right angle, best conserved in scrub woodland. The bank here dominated the raised interior of the site by approximately 0.5m and was fronted by a wide and shallow ditch. The overall size of the rectangular enclosure is of the order of 1 ha.

Couraud reported tiles from the site, and Loustaud and Couraud (1979) published a gallo-roman tile-making kiln which had been built into the W bank of the site. Although not closely datable, Loustaud suggests, on the basis of parallels with sites in Puy-de-Dôme, that this feature might be Tiberian, thereby providing a terminus ante quem for the construction of the bank. The only other object generally associated with the site is a male torso in limestone (cf Perrier, 1964, 95 no 91) found/
found last century near the rampart.

Again the closest parallels would seem to be offered by the Viereck-
schanzen: the terrain selected for this construction hardly suggests
that defence was a primary consideration. Less than 10km away, to the
NW, on the N side of the Forêt de Brigueil, near Montrollet in Charente,
two further Viereckschanzen appear under the toponym 'Camp de César'.

Visited.

87079 LA-JONCHERE-SAINT-MAURICE Trasport

Although placed by Couraud (1965) in this commune, this possible site
actually lies in the neighbouring commune of Saint-Laurent-les-Églises.

87082 LADIGNAC-LE-LONG Un-named site
(XX-32 : Nexon)
Lambert zone II  x = 504,9  y = 66  z = c 350

The wooded summit above Ladignac is another of the series advanced by
Couraud (1964, 16-18 and pl 4) as the possible site of an 'oppidum'.
The reasons prompting this suggestion are the natural strength of the
position and the proximity of the gold deposits of S Haute-Vienne (see
also the neighbouring commune of le Chalard). No finds are known :
the site is not discussed further.

87085 LIMOGES Puy Saint Etienne
(XX-31 : Limoges)
Lambert zone II  x = 517  y = 93,2  z = 257m

Nash (1978, 272) describes la Tène III material from Limoges as being
"poorly recorded": in fact, as far as I can judge, it is all but
absent/
absent as far as our knowledge extends at present, and despite quite substantial examination of the gallo-roman city in recent years (eg Chevillot and Loustaud, 1977).

There are clear attractions in the site: Limoges lies on the N bank of the Vienne below its confluence with the Taurion, at a place where the river is apparently fordable. The site is in the heart of this river basin, bordered to the N by the Monts de Blond, d'Ambazac and the massif de Saint Goussaud. To the E lies la Montagne and to the SW, the Monts de Chalus (Verynaud, 1973, 3 fig 1). The site itself lies between the valley of the Vienne on the SE, and on the NW, and flowing parallel to that river, a minor river called the Aureance.

If pre-Conquest site there were, the favoured location would seem to be the Puy Saint Etienne, where the Cathedral now sits: this was subsequently surrounded by defences in the Xth and XIIth centuries (Rouger, nd). The Puy is a promontory which juts out towards the river valley and enjoys wide views to the S. But it is not the sole contender: the area between the Hotel de Ville and the church of St-Michel-des-Lions has also been advanced (Levet, 1970), and there has been a tradition since the XVIIIth century that the initial site may have been located near the gué de la Roche, slightly upstream from where the railway line to Toulouse now traverses the river. Of these sites, the cathedral hill perhaps has most to commend it, in that it was originally flanked by two right-bank tributaries of the Vienne, the Aigueperse to the N, and the Enjoumard to the S, both now canalized underground.

Although Roanne type C bowls (Nash, 1978a) have been recovered from two contexts in Limoges (boulevard Gambetta and Rue des Soeurs-de-la-Rivièrè) their context remains firmly in the middle of the first century AD (Loustaud, 1978). The reconstructed form is Périchon (1974, type 16A), not found before the Augustan period and more common thereafter (p 26) in the Loire Valley. Another slightly post-Conquest assemblage is/
87085 LIMOGES
Céramique de Roanne
after Loustaud, 1978
is suggested for the Texonnieras horse-track, but this evidence lacks a secure context (Chevillot and Roulière, 1976, fn 10). This material apart, there appears to be nothing meantime to argue for a La Tene III occupation at Limoges itself. As will be mentioned in the discussion, there are other gallo-roman provincial capitals which resolutely refuse to divulge pre-Conquest material.

Visited.

87062 MARVAL Vansannaud/Le Puy-Chalard
(XIX-32 : Chalues)
Lambert zone II \( x = 481.4 \quad y = 74 \quad z = c 400m \)

Known since last century, and inventoried by de Mortillet (1906), this site, initially described as "un petit oppidum gaulois" (Lecler, 1883, 58-9: 1881, 203) may be convincingly ejected from the category. Although gallo-roman debris has been recorded from the flanks of the hill, the constructions on the summit appear to be distinctly medieval. The following account is based on fieldwork in 1975 and July (1979, no 40).

The site is located on a summit in the dissected terrain of the Monts de Chalus. It lies between the hamlet of le Vangannaud and the D67, in woodland. The principal enclosure consists of a stony bank, less than 1m high defining three sides of a rectangle less than 50m x 50m : the E side is edged by a natural steep slope, along the top of which runs a track. In the interior of this area are the robbed remains of a rectangular structure. There is a diminutive annexe on the S side. Although there are further terraces located down the hill, neither July nor I could make a coherent defensive pattern from them, and they appear most likely to be agricultural in origin.

Like the communes of Chalus and Dournazac further E, there are several small fortifications in Marval (see appendix) : the obvious historical context/
context into which to set this plethora of sites would appear to lie in the proximity of the Aquitaine/Gascony frontier. Not mapped.

Visited.

87110 ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE Le Repaire
(XIX-30 : Oradour-sur-Glane)
Lambert zone II  x = 497.5  y = 102.9  z = 0 250m

Le Repaire was first recorded by the abbé Joyeux (BSAH, 38, 1891, 491), who described it as a "castrum romain": three years later, in the hands of Imbert (1894), it had become a "castrum gaulois", and was subsequently inventoried by de Mortillet (1906). The site was first fully described in print by July (1978, no 34) and the following account is based on that source and fieldwork in 1975.

The enclosure lies on the edge of the plateau between Le Repaire and the river Glane, whose winding course, downstream from its confluence with the Glanet, it dominates by 15-17m on the W. The N defence, an artificially steepened slope topped by a spread bank, dominates the marshy exterior by about 12m. The least impressive defence is on the SW, and even this rises above the plateau outside by over 5m. The diminutive area enclosed (about 0.1 ha) coupled with the heaviness of the defences and the location of the site in the landscape, all strongly suggest a medieval work although no small finds are apparently known.

July has claimed a more substantial enclosing work embracing 1.95 ha, on the basis of the parcellaire and air photograph evidence, but the lines of this again suggest a direct link with the medieval redoubt (1968, 66-7). Not mapped.

Visited.
Les Chalards (XIX-32 : Chalus)
Lambert zone II  x = 488  y = 78,9  z = c 370m

Known since the late XIXth century (Vandermarcq, 1891, 432-3 : Delage, 1933) and inventoried by both Imbert (1894) and de Mortillet (1906), this small site was fully described by July (1978, no 29). It is located on the north-facing slope of the hill immediately S of Chalards, above the ruisseau de Brie, a left-bank tributary of the Tardoire.

The enclosure enjoys strong natural defences on the NE, where the ground drops steeply in woodland, the W side being severely damaged by the houses of Chalards village. The fortification is best preserved on the S side, the most readily attackable. This consists of a lunate length of rampart, curving for c 75m, and punctuated by a modern entrance 3m wide. Erosion here shows the bank, which dominates the ditch bottom by 2.5m and the interior of the site by 1.5m, to consist of earth and schist blocks. The ditch is 8m wide and is edged by a sharply-defined counterscarp, at the NE end of which traces of a counterscarp bank survive. The rampart, much eroded and lacking its external ditch, turns at the SW corner before it has been destroyed by the more recent buildings. This rampart shows traces of a narrow dry-stone wall on its summit, but this appears likely to be secondary.

The interior of the site slopes markedly to the NW, before plunging steeply NW about 90m beyond the rampart, and is edged elsewhere by undatable stone walling. The interior is presently occupied by gardens and allotments. The usable interior area of the site is reckoned by July (1978) to amount to about 0.6 ha, and the siting and restricted internal area of the site might combine to suggest a medieval work. Whilst this is distinctly possible, the absence of small finds eliminates greater certainty.

Vandermarcq/
Vandemarcq (1891) notes that workmen, extracting earth from the curving portion of the rampart near the village found carbonized wood therein. Whether this was an internal timber framework, or the debris of a palisade (or indeed, even securely related to the rampart) is unclear. Imbert (1894 no 4) says that the site was traditionally attributed to the Hundred Years War.

Visited.

87112 PAGEAS Plateau de Valette
(XIX-32 : Châlus)
Lambert zone II $x = 499, y = 75, z = 518m$

The long wooded hill, labelled "Tuquet de la Garde" on the IGN 1:50,000 map to the E of la Valette, appears the most likely contender for potential fortification, suggested by July (1975, 39). Not mapped.

87115 PENSOL Redoute de l'Amiral Coligny Aux Eaux Joignantes
(XIX-32 : Châlus)
Lambert zone II $x = 481,5, y = 079, z = c 300m$

This promontory enclosure named on the 1:50,000 map, lies in the Forêt de l'Epinasse about 500m SW of the village of Pensol, and virtually due W of the steading at Mazières. The site takes its name from the leader of the Protestant cause who succeeded the Prince de Condé after the latter's death at the battle of Jarnac in 1568, and traditionally the protestant army is supposed to have camped at the site (Lecler, 1883, 69).

Imbert (1894) and de Mortillet (1906) both included it in their surveys, and as early as 1883 Lecler expressed the opinion that it might be an 'oppidum gaulois'. The interior, cultivated in 1840, was in scrub woodland/
INTERIOR: scrub woodland

ditch

Treehole with fire-reddened granite

87115 PENSOL
Aux Eaux Joignantes/
Redoute de Coligny
after Ralston, 1974
unpublished
woodland by the end of the century (Boissot, 1901).

The fort occupies the W apex of a gently undulating promontory: it is surrounded on two sides by the river Bandiat at its confluence with the ruisseau de la Bourarias, due E of the artificially-dammed Etang de l'Epinassie. About 60m from its naturally scarped apex, the promontory is barred by a single rampart which runs right across it, and is curved outwards in plan. The overall length of this work is about 85m, and for the northernmost 30m this bank is fronted by a slight ditch.

Where best preserved, this bank stands about 2m proud of the thin sandy soil of the interior of the site, and is 2m broad at the summit. The bank dominates the ditch bottom by almost 3m. The ditch itself is about 3m wide at the base, which is c 1.4m below the ground surface outside. The bank is covered by smallish granites (maximum length c 30cm) and where disturbed reveals an earth-and-stone make-up, with no sign of wall-faces. One or two stones in the rampart appear fire-reddened.

Entrance to the site appears to have been via a slight terrace about 2m wide at the break of slope below the N end of the rampart. The interior of the site appears to be archaeologically featureless and is now occupied by scrub woodland.

From fieldwork (1974, 1980) and the observations of earlier authors (e.g. Berret, 1927) it seems likely that the dimensions stated by July (1979, no 43) are a considerable underestimate. The enclosed area, of about 0.4 ha, is nonetheless extremely small for a protohistoric work.

Visited.

87119/
Desbordes (1978d) has recently drawn attention to the strength of the position of Pierre-Buffière, and has pointed out that rocky spurs, like that here between the converging Briance and Ligoure rivers, were often chosen as the sites of fortifications from the 8th century. His comparanda, at Chalucet (commune of Saint-Jean-Ligoure, 87), Uzerche (19) and Crozant (23) all have at least tentative evidence for earlier use. Pierre-Buffière is some 12 km from both lead- and gold-bearing deposits: and the likelihood that here somewhere should lie an Iron Age site has rightly endured in the literature.

The usual site suggested is that of the Villa d'Antone (Perrier, 1964) towards the N end of the plateau between the Petite and the Grande Briance rivers. Indeed, Delage (1953) on the basis of five celtic coins from the site, suggested that the gallo-roman villa may have been preceded by a gaulish settlement: the coin evidence, which consists of four bronze coins (2 attributed to the Arverni, 1 to the Bituriges and 1 to the Lemovices) and a silver copy of an Emporiae issue would appear to be post-Conquest: there does not seem to be a la Tène III deposit on the site, contrary to what Nash (1978a, 272) suggests. Couraud's statement in support of a possible fortification here may be considered extremely guarded (1965, 22-3 and pl M3), and, for the moment, a collection of latish coins may be regarded as insufficient evidence to ensure a La Tène III settlement at the Villa d'Antone.

However, on the lower ground further W, where the new Pierre-Buffière bypass on the N20 was constructed, Dressel 1 amphorae have been found during road construction (M. G Lintz, 1980 per comm). On analogy with other sites, this find might be taken to strengthen the possibility of a fortification in the vicinity.
The site of the village of La Porcherie, on the confines of Haute-Vienne and Corrèze in the ore-bearing zone, was one advocated by Couraud (1965, 30) as a possible 'oppidum' site. July (1975, 39), sanguinely proposes the site only as a plateau which could have been fortified. Not mapped.

This fortification, although undoubtedly medieval, appears worthy of consideration on two grounds: first, the surface area it occupies (2.76 ha, July, 1976, no 5) and second, the fact that, despite its reasonable state of preservation at that time it appears to have escaped mention in the literature, until it was detected on aerial photographs by Gandillot (BSAHL, 87, 1960, 516).

The site is now figured on the 1:25,000 map (Ambazac 3/4), which shows it to lie a little above the valley-floor of the Couze about 2km NE of Razès. The location of the work would appear to be typically medieval, and despite the massiveness of the external rampart, which dominates the ditch-bottom by a maximum of 6m and encloses 1.9 ha of usable space, much of it apparently deliberately marshy around a central elliptical motte (July, 1976, no 5), there seems no doubt that the monument is essentially unitary in conception. The motte has traces of stone walling on its summit (Touring Club de France report, 1964, (DAHL): BSAHL, 95, 1967, 290).

The immediate parallel for this site, although less complex, would appear to be Puy-Bey at Chateauponsac. Not mapped.

Visited.
These sites occupy the summit of the hill to the S of Lastours and were, by 1975, substantially destroyed in an area of remembrement. They were the subject of sondages by Imbert in 1883 and 1887, and have recently been described by July (1977, 40-3).

(A) Le Puy Chateau
This was unevenly preserved by the end of last century, with only sectors of enclosing bank and ditch round an approximately circular area being visible (Imbert, 1894): the enclosed area appeared to have been artifically levelled, with the bank constructed of earth scraped up from the vicinity. The enceinte is backed against the N slope at the edge of the plateau of the Tuquet, and the enclosing bank on the SW dominates the surroundings by as much as 13m. By 1975, the NW side was very feebly marked in the fields. The profile on the S side exhibited a small earth-and-stone counterscarp bank dominating the ditch bottom by a little over 1.7m. The ditch is now about 4m wide at the bottom, which is roughly flat. On its inner margin is a bank, dominating the ditch bottom by 5-6m, and the interior of the site by about 1.7m, with a level summit approximately 2m wide. At the NE, the ditch widens to a semi-circular terminal.

The diameter of the site is about 95m E/W crest-to-crest, making the enclosed area approximately 0.6 ha, rather more than twice the size proposed by July (1977, 43).

Gandillot (1960) suggested that this might be a bronze age enclosure, whereas others have envisaged the site as being related to the exploitation of gold in this southern part of Haute-Vienne. Imbert's sondages appear to have produced no artefacts, and it would seem distinctly possible that this enclosure might be considerably more recent in date.
Les Combes, 1/d Terre Barrade

Since first described by Imbert, this site, 100m W of that discussed above, has decayed further, and has been cleared of the scrub woodland which served to protect it. Enough survives to describe it as a rectangular earthwork, measuring about 125m along its long axis (NE/SW) by about 70m. The enclosed area is thus a little under one hectare in extent. A talus slope, about 1m high, borders the NW side; a similar slope, about 0.5m high survives on the SE side, being more readily defined at its E end. When visited by Imbert, the E rampart appears to have been fronted by a ditch, but this no longer survives clearly. This rampart is unusual in that it dominates the interior of the site by 1.8m-2m, but the exterior by only 1.3m. Imbert excavated part of the earth-and-stone rampart on the NE side, but recovered no dating evidence (1894, no 6).

This site is unusual topographically for a one-hectare rectangular camp in being located on a summit, but otherwise would seem to have marked similarities with the series of Viereckschanzen; whether it is contemporary with the Puy Château enclosure is unknown.

Trenches dug elsewhere by Imbert on the Puy-Château appear to have been sterile.

Visited.

87127 LA ROCHE L'ABEILLE

Two possible sites have been suggested here, but both may be discarded.

The "retranchement", mentioned by Arbellot (1854, 213) on a summit at le Cros de Marot, appears to be the by-product of mining (Lecler, 1926, 591), whereas a possible 'oppidum' site amongst the rock outcrops to the S of the cemetery (Couraud, 1964, 8) is unproven. Not mapped.
Couraud (1962, 24) has been the strongest advocate for this site: he described it as "incontestably the most predestined in Haute-Vienne to have become an oppidum". July (1975, no 37) noted the site as a promontory fort, but was subsequently much more cautious in accepting the site definitely (1978, 71). In essence, the problem is one of a location admirably adapted topographically for settlement and defence, but which lacks definitive evidence. The following account is based on Couraud (1962), July (1978) and field visits in 1975 and 1980.

The village of Saint-Auvent sits in the metamorphosed zone of schists and gneisses on the margins of the Massif Central. Directly SW of the Forêt de Rochechouart, the rivers Gorre and Gorret flow parallel for about 1.5km in the steep-sided valleys which they have excavated for themselves, before converging at the NW end of the interfluvial promontory on which the village of Saint-Auvent is built. The rocky edge of the steep-sided promontory has been modified locally by a set of walled terraces, with the soil thus retained being used for gardens: a clear, if somewhat disturbed, set can be seen for example E of the road below the Lagarnaudie factory S of the cemetery. Couraud has argued that these systems are as likely to be on the line of a prehistoric defence as of the wall of the medieval enceinte: whilst this is possible, it could not be demonstrated without excavation.

A more serious difficulty is presented by the absence of any coherent line of defence barring the S, most ready, access to the site. Two have been proposed: the first is a slight depression S of the cemetery towards the hamlet of la Pouge. Couraud (1962) describes this as being 'perhaps natural', but I can see nothing about this slight undulation to suggest that it is other than geomorphological.
87/35 SAINT AUVENT: depression beside the cemetery.
The second line occurs S of la Pouge, where a deep rock-cut trench, presently being filled with rubbish, reaches a maximum depth of about 10m for an equivalent width. This however appears to have served to link the etang of Laycuras with the river Gorre. In the vicinity, near the marker indicating 1km from Saint Auvent, and W of the road, there are doubtful traces of a bank in a pine plantation which dominates the houses at La Pouge by several metres. These features are also present on the other side of the causeway across which the road runs, but they are less impressive and disturbed by quarrying there.

Couraud (1962, 23-4 and pl 5) also suggests that some of the tracks leading up to the castle at the N end of the promontory look early, but such statements can hardly be definitive.

If the line S of la Pouge is accepted, and I am not personally inclined so to do, the resultant flat-topped promontory would be extremely strong and, at about 1600m in length, of considerable size. Unfortunately, small finds, which appear to be restricted to a coin, two gallo-roman pots and a funerary cippe, do not help to clarify the position.

Visited.

87142 SAINT-DENIS-DES-MURS Camp de la Monte/des Anglais/Prassaud (XXI-31 : Saint-Léonard-de-Noblat) Lambert zone II x = 537  y = 084,5  z = 407

This site was discovered about twenty years ago (BSAHL, 95, 1967, 290) and has since been described by July (1978, no 38). Although finds from the interior are extremely sparse, being restricted to a few unidentifiable sherds (Dupuy, 1965 in DAHL) and a fragment of a flint axe (BSAHL, 99, 1972, 327), there is a strong temptation to see the site in relation with the massive oppidum of Villejoubert in the same commune.

The/
87143 SAINT-DENIS-DES-MURS
Prassaud
unpublished survey July and Ralston 1974

field boundary
The Camp de la Monte sits on a rounded summit (marked 407 on the 1:50,000 map) in undulating terrain on the margin of the Vienne valley, almost 4km SW of Villejoubert, over which it enjoys wide views. Access is by way of a track which leads up from the road between Mas and Combret.

The camp straddles three parcelles, such that in places its enclosing bank is unevenly preserved and confusable with lynchets. The long axis of the site is aligned NE/SW, and the S portion is the best preserved. Here, a bank about 70m long, sits on top of a scarped slope and dominates the exterior by 4/5m and the interior by a maximum of about 1.5m: a small excavation in the best preserved corner, the SE, shows the make-up of the bank to include substantial quantities of stone: this bank can be followed for about 30m before it is replaced by a field margin. Progressing W, the bank fades out, such that the NW side of the site is defined solely by a scarped slope, which now corresponds to the parcelle limit, and is a maximum of about 5m high. The NE side of the camp has proved the most difficult to define, owing to the nature of the vegetation: but traces of a bank and of a talus slope are detectable about 10m into the neighbouring parcelle (in scrub woodland in 1975), giving overall dimensions of about 105m NE/SW x 70m NW/SE, and a usable internal area of about 0.6 ha (July, 1978). The interior of the site, which is archaeologically featureless, is tilted gently W, in common with that of the slope of the hill.

It seems likely that this site can be linked with the group of Viereckschanzen of central France.

Visited.

87142/
Although this would seem to be the largest late la Tène site of France, incorporating an enclosed area about two-and-a-half-times greater than Mont Beuvray, it has attracted comparatively little archaeological attention: its very size may well have been an inhibiting factor. Mention by Allou (1821, 278), it thereafter appears to have escaped comment until inventoried by Imbert (1894) and de Mortillet (1906).

The site occupies a steep-sided promontory, aligned SE/NW, between the R Vienne and its right-bank tributary, the Maulde, now artificially heightened by a hydro-electric scheme. This latter river curves SW north of l'Artige to join the Vienne, thereby surrounding the promontory, which is a little under 4km long from this point to the outer defensive line. The plateau itself is of gneiss, is very gently undulating, and is covered by a thin soil layer, which is extensively cultivated. The plateau in fact becomes slightly higher outside the fort, N of the Bois Vert, but well beyond the range where this might constitute a military hazard. That access is slightly easier up the SW flank from the Vienne than from the Maulde is shown by the various side-roads on this side of the hill. The plateau de Villejoubert is best regarded as a detached segment of undulating hill ground, varying in altitude around 350–400m: eastward the view stretches to the high ground of the Plateau de Millevaches and the Monédières, the source of the two rivers which envelop the plateau de Villejoubert. Water availability on the plateau itself is restricted (Delage and Gorceix, 1923, 211). The rivers flow about 80m below the summit.

The most profitable way to introduce this key site is probably briefly to review the literature which has accumulated about it during this century. Many of the earlier reports were related to the work of the Société préhistorique française's Commission (CEEPFA).
Villejoubert - proposed enclosure after July, 1978

Villejoubert after Delage & Gorceix, 1923 (fig 1 p. 210)
Drouet (1914, 208-9) appears to have been the first to put a figure on the area enclosed by the principal rampart: at least 300 ha. Drouet reported this rampart's external ditch as still being 2-3m deep, but rather negates the value of his account by referring to the previous existence of vertical posts in the ditch bottom, which were recalled by the older inhabitants of the area. The existence of ditching elsewhere on the margins of the promontory at places where the natural defence was insufficient, was also noted. Small finds known at that stage appear to have been restricted to unspecified sherds, roman coins, and small quern-stones.

The following decade saw the production of a series of papers (Delage 1922, 1923 : Delage and Gorceix, 1923 : Gorceix and Delage, 1926 : Delage, 1927) which recorded the principal work done to date on this site. The 1922 paper detailed discoveries made in "travaux de terrassements" in the previous year, when enough evidence was recovered from the outer line of defence to suggest to Delage that this at least dated to La Tène III. This consisted of a dry-stone wall, with a well-built external face, placed on a flattened surface below the crest of the ramp behind the wall. The external face conserved traces of the former positions of timberwork, in the form of two rows of beam-holes, 0.8m apart vertically, and about 0.4m apart horizontally. In the beam-holes were found the diagnostic feature of 'murus gallicus' construction, iron spikes of quadrangular cross-section. These were headless, and varied in length between 0.16m and 0.39m : some had been twisted and broken.

The following year saw the description of the first group of finds from the site: these were described as coming from a promontory jutting over the Vienne, but outside the fortification. The likely candidate for this description lies about 700m WNW of Bois-Vert. The material, buried at a depth of 1.5m (Delage, 1927), was described as follows, and was attributed in the main to the Hallstatt period but perhaps belongs to the terminal stages of la Tène III. The only association appears to have/
87/42 SAINT-DENIS-DES-MURS Villejoubert: principal rampart with Vienne valley in the background.
have been with "Restes charbonneux":

1) A damaged iron socketed axehead.
2) A lump of tin, apparently slag from a mould.
3) A length of copper wire, square or rectangular in cross-section.
4) A fragment of a bronze ring.
5) A selection of sherds. Some coarse wares were paralleled in the neolithic; others were described as being coated with black material, wheel-made, but resembling Hallstatt vessels in shape; this description seems possible for La Tène III pottery in the "Hallstatt prolongé" tradition.
6) Fragments of gallo-roman amphorae.

In 1923, Delage and Gorceix reviewed the evidence on the site and added further details on the defences. The main rampart, it transpired, had first been cut around 1890, when a road along the promontory was built through it; although the finds from this work had been lost, their description as "weapons" (Delage and Gorceix, 1923, 214) allows the suggestion that the 'murus gallicus' disposition was also represented in this central sector of the defences. The overall length of this outer defence is about 350m, cutting off the promontory: it starts at the break-of-slope to the Maulde and runs SW to the slope to the Vienne, where it curves round to run along the slope above the Vienne for c 50m. Apart from the modern road referred to above, this rampart is uninterrupted. The rampart is sited on the SE side of one of the four slight hummocks on this part of the plateau, and dominates the interior by very little: fieldwork in 1975 suggests a maximum figure of about 2m, although for much of the length nothing approaching this height is attained.

Backing the rampart is a wide depression: Delage and Gorceix, (1923, 214) suggested that this might have been at least in part a man-made feature, resulting from the need to scrape up soil from the area for the defences: however, two factors suggest that this feature is substantially natural. First, the present day cultivation margin extends to the back of the rampart, suggesting that little soil can have been removed from this area. Second, the magnitude of the depression, about 50/
50/60m across, seems excessive to have been caused primarily by man's activities, especially in view of the fact that the product of the ditch (see below) would also have been available for the construction of the defences. Additionally it may be remarked that the scale and configuration of this depression are of the same order as that of other similar features on the plateau, for which no human modification has been suggested.

In the 1920s, the SW portion of the external ditch was already fairly feebly marked, although wide - about 15m. Its shallow, almost Fécamp-like profile, may well be a product of the occurrence of the gneiss bedrock close to the ground surface: further E, for about 60m above the Maulde, the ditch has a narrower V-shaped profile, fronted by an impressive counterscarp slope, rather akin to La Cheppe and Wheathampstead as described by Wheeler and Richardson (1957, 13-14).

Few details were added on the previously-mentioned examination by some workmen of the W sector of the 'murus gallicus'. The best-preserved section of the external face stood 3m high, but even here only two rows of beam-holes appear to have been noted. Only transversal beam-slots running into the earth-and-stone core of the wall has been noted: these were about 0.3m across, but their length was not recorded. Nails were restricted to two levels - 0.5m above the levelled ground, and a further 0.8m above that.

Finds within the site - where there had been no excavation - were not numerous, but Delage and Gorceix (1923, 224-6) were able to list the following (apart from the iron nails from the wall):

1) Half a flint axe found in the base of a trench cut into the rampart.
2) Sherds of amphorae and tegulae at various points on the plateau
   (i) west of the hamlet of Villejoubert
   (ii) near the slope between Villejoubert and Courieux
   (iii) near la Boulade
   (iv) most frequently - between le Taret and la Clautre.
3)/
3) Five rotary quern-stones, of which 4, three from the plateau and one from the bed of the Maulde, included one upper and three lower stones.

4) The record of 'fragments of pottery and weapons' which had been found some twenty years previously in the vicinity of the spring located just outside the main rampart at its SW corner, near a now-abandoned farm.

The remainder of this paper deals with subsidiary defences on the promontory, and is best considered in relation to July's discussion of the site, detailed below.

The 1926 paper by Gorceix and Delage added little, beyond noting that they had recovered sherds of "amphores ou grandes jarres" amongst the tumbled stone on the external face of the rampart. They confirmed various measurements, which we believe may be of crucial significance, with regard to the position of the 'murus gallicus' relative to the present configuration of the defences: these are

- summit of counterscarp 343m5
- platform on which 'murus gallicus' constructed 347m
- present crest of rampart 353m5

The surviving summit height of the rampart was quoted at 349m8 by Delage (1927).

Further excavations were conducted in the rampart in 1923 by Gorceix and Delage (Delage, 1927), towards the NE end: although the wall was very decayed at this position, enough survived to indicate that it had two dry-stone revetments with a rubble core. The external face was built on a prepared platform downslope from the external revetment: the overall width of the wall was 2-3m. No nails were recovered from a trench 2m wide, suggesting that the defence in this sector (fronted by the more impressive ditch) was of different construction.

The finds from the plateau by the late twenties embraced essentially the same types as before, though by this state six rotary quern-stones had been recovered from the plateau itself. As regards the nails from the 'Murus/
87142 SAINT-DENIS
DES-MURS
Villejoubert
E end of principal
defence (a) counterscarp
and ditch (b) bank

404
'Murus gallicus', the only additional information was that some had previously been unearthed in 1868.

Cotton's summary (in Wheeler and Richardson, 1957, 189-90) is uncontentious, except in regard to several of the figures she quotes: the most serious error, is her estimation that the internal cross-rampart reduces the area of the site to, rather than by 120 ha: and this figure is repeated in Cotton and Frere (1961).

Since that time, the only published material from inside the fort is a gallo-roman granite funerary urn from 100m S of La Boulade farm on the S slope of the plateau at an altitude of c 330m. This has been attributed by Perrier (1968, 37-40) to the Flavian or Antonine periods, and joins other examples from the plateau (Perrier, 1964: July, 1978)

July (1978, no 39) offered a new discussion of the fortifications represented on the plateau and these will now be considered in relation to the subsidiary works described by Delage and Gorceix (1923). I have not visited all these subsidiary works, and therefore cannot confirm their existence:-

1) Located 400m NE of the main rampart, on the slope to the Maulde, above the Moulin de Villejoubert - the position of a ford - this consisted of a length of ditching, backed by a slight hollow, perhaps indicative of the margin of a former bank.

2) A talus slope fronted by a ditch, the former 6m high, the latter 3-4m wide, bordered on the W by one of the ravines which cuts into the edge of the promontory. This forework was supposed to cover the access to the plateau from the confluence of the Vienne and Combade rivers. I searched for this work in 1975, but could not find it.

3) This, the principal internal rampart is still a well-marked feature running across the promontory between the rivers: it is located to the/
the S of the village of Courrieux, and is now shrouded in a plantation. Like the principal rampart, this feature curves NW at its W end: it is also situated on the margin of one of the hillocks on the plateau summit. This bank dominates the exterior by 3 to 4, and exceptionally by 5m, but has been ploughed out towards its E end above the Maulde, where a slope c 1m high runs on to the top of the precipitous slope above the river. No trace of a ditch fronting it survives: this bank is unexcavated, and nothing is recorded from the destruction of its E portion.

4) Located on the W side, above the ford which gives access to La Boulade, is a stretch of ditch and talus at c 3/4m on the side of the plateau. Delage and Gorceix (1923, 222) postulated that this might be more recent than the principal defence.

5) Again not certainly antique, was a length of bank between le Taret and the steep slope to the Maulde. Although Delage and Gorceix were prepared to discount it, the fact that the farmer had recovered two complete amphorae from earth at one end of the bank provoked doubts (Delage and Gorceix, 1923, 223).

6) An artificially scarped slope N of the domaine de la Clautre was attributed to the medieval period.

Apart from the addition of the defensive works associated with the Château des Murauds, July's account fits reasonably well with these earlier records (July, 1978, 3 no 39). No 6 above belongs to a rectangular enceinte which surrounds the domaine de la Clautre, and has been partially destroyed by some of its buildings. The enclosed area amounts to about 1.5 ha on the summit of the hill. The 300m line of the enceinte du Courieu (July, 1978 no 39C) corresponds to no 3 above.

It is with regard to the principal rampart that July (1978, 39D) proposes the most radical departure. He sees the NW end of the principal rampart being continued by a suite of terraces above the Vienne, and takes the length of ditch above the Moulin de Villejoubert (no 1 = July 1978 "moulin de Chez Nina") as the equivalent on the Maulde side. In 1980/
1980 I had the opportunity to visit the wooded suite of terraces on the Vienne side and was not convinced of their defensive intent overall, though parts of the scheme may correspond to Delage and Gorceix's no 2 (1923). From these works, and despite the absence of any corresponding line at the NW end, July (1978, 78) proposes a contour fort embracing just the hillock (itself substantial - taking in about 44 ha) which surrounds the plateau of the village of Villejoubert itself.

Ingenious as this scheme is, I find it perverse on a number of grounds. These include the variety and discontinuity of the defences of the proposed enceinte, which could equally well, despite their configuration, correspond to the flanking works proposed by Delage and Gorceix (1923): that a stronger enclosure of equivalent area could be achieved by constructing towards the NW end of the plateau; that one is still left with a 230 ha fort enclosed by the cross-rampart N of Le Courrieux; and finally that I am unaware of any parallels for siting contour forts on promontory sites amongst the 'murus gallicus' forts.

July (1978) provides a helpful sketch of small finds recovered from the promontory: this - extremely partial as it undoubtedly is - indicates that occupation was denser within the enclosure defined by the Courrieux bank. There seems no escaping the fact that, as our evidence stands at present, the plateau de Villejoubert represents the "grand oppidum de tribu" (Cotton and Frere, 1961) par excellence: the ramifications of this will be discussed further.

Two observations may be made, both speculative, by way of conclusion. First, there are again metal resources in the vicinity of this plateau: the Mine du Puy des Vignes, which produced cassiterite (as well as wolfram) is located less than 3km due N of Lartige at the N end of the plateau, in the neighbouring commune of Saint-Léonard-de-Noblat. Second, at its most impressive, the external slope of the main rampart at its NE end dominates the ditch bottom by about 13m: although much of this height/
height is achieved by the artificial scarping of the natural slope of the Puy du Font, the impression gained is of a massive bank and ditch, compared to which the dry-stone wall recovered by Delage and Gorceix in 1923 appears disproportionately puny. As Viré remarked (in Delage and Gorceix, 1923, 227-8), there are precedents for the construction of a 'murus gallicus' (as at the SW end of this rampart) below the summit of a slope, and at dry-stone walled forts too: the Puy d'Issolud, Murcens, and the Camp de César near Périgueux all provide examples. But two other possibilities merit consideration: one is that this major imposing defence represents a hybrid construction: the alternative, although far from clear-cut, is that the work may contain at least two phases, the second involving material dumped over the 'murus gallicus': this might have the merit of satisfactorily accounting for the mass of material above the 'murus gallicus' position, as recorded previously. Such a hypothesis, in implying refortification, might also have chronological ramifications.

Unlike another potential, if rather unsung, "grand oppidum" - that on the promontory between the Maine and the Loire at Sainte-Gemmes-sur-Loire (Maine-et-Loire) (Gallia, 38, 1980, 400) Villejoubert lacks major internal Roman buildings. The 360 ha, enclosed by an intermittently-visible rampart at Sainte-Gemmes, include a theatre and baths. Villejoubert, perhaps significantly, seems to revert to rural insignificance in post-Conquest times.

87143 SAINT-GENECE La Grande Chaîne/Camp de César/Camp Romain (XX-30 : Ambazac)
Lambert zone II x = 506,3 y = 103,3 z = c 290m

First signalled towards the end of last century (Lecler, 1894b; July, 1975, no 28), this site has been the subject of a number of reports since that time, most recently by July (1978, no 28) and Nash (1978a, 271-2), the latter author laying stress on the role envisaged for the site/
87/43 SAINT-GENECE Grand Châtre from the S. The external pits lay near the new houses
site in the commerce in wine. It is one of the few sites in Limousin which can be reasonably safely dated and which has evidence of external settlement.

**Topographical location**
The Grande Châtre occupies a slightly elevated rounded plateau E of the village of Saint Gence and S of the river Glane. Although higher ground exists reasonably close to the site, notably to the N of la Châtre Plane, la Grande Châtre is separated from this by a valley through which the road to Vauzelle runs: it is perhaps worth stressing that the Glane here is a minor river, and represents neither a military obstacle nor a potential trade artery of much significance. The neighbouring landscape is one dominated by low rounded hills, by pasture and forest, and which is decreasing gently in altitude from SE to NW. This landscape is broken up by various minor valleys which contain tributaries of the Glane, and it is between two brooklets of this kind that la Grande Châtre sits.

**The site itself**
For most of its circumference, the natural slopes defining the margins of the site above the Glane and its tributaries offer sufficient protection to the site, and are complemented only by a stone-fronted revetment to the terraced edge of the plateau which makes up the interior of the site. This stone revetment is very similar to the feature which borders the less approachable sectors of the perimeter of La Grouitte in Cher. However, it is by no means certain that this feature is antique, as similar stone retaining walls are visible elsewhere in the locality. Only in the S sector, where the site is joined to the plateau is a more substantial defence required. This takes the form of a massive crescentic bank, about 180m long, most developed to the S and joined to the natural scarped slopes to E and W: maximum dimensions for this imposing work are domination of the interior by about 7m and the exterior by 11/12m, but it is considerably lower particularly towards its W end. This bank is fronted by a marshy area, about 20m wide, and edged/
87146 SAINT GENCE
La Grand Châtre
after July unpublished with additions
edged externally by a slight counterscarp, sufficient to suggest that some modification by the hand of man may have taken place. Towards the W end, the bank is punctuated by a modern field entrance, approached by a track which crosses the marshy ditch and the external talus below the bank obliquely, and which may well correspond to the original entrance through the bank. July (1978) describes a second entrance to the site at the N end which leads to a track which traverses the marshy depression and links Saint-Gence with a ford downstream from the Moulin du Rabaud: this is not certainly original.

The interior of the site is slightly convex and is cultivated (in 1980 it was in pasture): it is now archaeologically featureless.

Finds and structural evidence
The fact that the interior has been cultivated for many years and that the modern access traverses the rampart means that there have been several reports of material from the site. Wincler (Drouet, 1912) noted late la Tène and early Gallo-Roman ceramics, including amphorae sherds from the interior, but felt that pottery which had been recovered from the bank ought to be older: this had been recovered in 1905 when the proprietor had cut through it (Winckler, 1912: 1916). Gallo-roman pottery was found about 1909 (Brisset, 1939). In 1958 (BSAHL, 87, 1958, 122: Winckler 1912) roman bronze coins from the site were republished: these had been found by Dr Thouvenet in 1857, and on the descriptions given of them, none would seem to be pre-Conquest: Nash (1978a, 272) however claims Roman coins dating to the second century BC: Milard (in Juge et al 1969) dates these coins from the early 1st to the late IInd century AD. Later use was suggested by the discovery of two spindle-whorls as stray finds within the camp: one was of lead, the other possibly of tin. Berlaud and Dominique (1966, nos 3 and 4) attributed these to the Frankish or Merovingian periods. More recently, further finds from the interior included sherds of Dressel 1 amphorae, a glass bead, and coil-built pottery (Gallia, 35, 1977, 446-7). From the/
SAINT-GENE Grande Châtre: the inner face of the main rampart

the surviving sector of flat-bottomed ditch?
the section through the rampart on the S side, cut (Delage, 1926) or extended in 1905, came a fragment of blue glass bracelet decorated with a yellow line (Gallia, 35, 1977, fig 22): by 1980 further erosion had exposed an external revetment, one stone thick, high up in the section and sitting on the gravels and sands of which the bank is constructed. Unfortunately, many of the early finds appear to have been lost (Delage, 1926).

External settlement
Quantities of amphorae sherds have been recovered from the vicinity of La Grande Châtre since last century (Lecler, 1894, 112) : these do not seem to have been retained. However, the discovery of a group of amphorae N of the road from la Grande Châtre to the village in 1967 (Perrier and Couraud, 1968) during the construction of a drain led to small-scale excavation and a re-examination of the evidence for the area around la Grande Châtre (Juge et al, 1969), previously considered by Winckler (1916). The resulting distribution map shows amphorae sherds widely distributed to the S of the Glane in the vicinity of la Grande Châtre, but particularly on its SE side, as far as the cemetery on the S side of Saint Gence village, nearly 1km from the fort as the crow flies (Juge, et al 1969 : Büchsenschütz and Ralston, 1981a, fig 11).

Excavation was restricted to the examination of two pits at l/d la Côte, E of la Grande Châtre. Pit 1, which had already revealed the three complete amphorae, was 2.8m long and a maximum of 0.6m deep. Further finds were restricted to dispersed sherds of amphorae and a series of 'late la Tène' rim sherds. Pit 2, NE of, and 50cm from, Pit 1, was not completely excavated. It was however 4m long, but was again shallow, being not more than 0.60m deep. The contents of this pit were restricted to further coarse pot, found distributed above and below a layer of amphorae. Some of these were near-complete, but had been crushed : others were represented by only a few fragments. Juge and his collaborators estimate that about 15 amphorae may be represented by this debris. Only one sherd (no 101), apart from the amphorae, has been described as a possible import. Amongst the amphorae the Dressel la type/
Amphore 'gréco-italique de transition' and Dressel 1a
rum forms after Juge et al 1969

Comparable amphorae from Châteaumeillant (Cher)
after Chénon, 1884
type appears to be the earliest, but Juge and Dupuy and collaborators (1969) express the opinion that the external settlements continues into the gallo-roman period.

The evidence would thus seem to point to use of both the hillfort and the external settlement in the last century BC, although it is presently difficult to say whether the occupation of the fort and the external settlement are contemporary or not. The piecemeal examination of the external area makes it difficult to provide any realistic assessment of its extent, but the usable area within the fort, 2.36 ha (July, 1978, 60) is considerably smaller than Nash suggests (1978a).

In the light of these comments, my interpretation of this site would differ fairly radically from that advanced by Nash (1978a, 271-2) and some consideration of the basis of her view must now be given. Some remarks are perhaps appropriate, and may be read in conjunction with Nash's summary of this site:

(a) the enclosed area is 2.36 ha, not 6 ha: apart from the 1905 work, most of the finds are from surface collection and not from excavation.

(b) Juge and Dupuy's comments on the road network follow Couraud (1961) and do not consider the pre-Conquest communications pattern.

(c) In contrast to Nash's opinion, Juge and his collaborators (1969, 26) remark on the lack of pottery other than amphorae sherds.

(d) Nash's discussion of the amphorae types is difficult to follow because it is based on the non-standard terminology used by Juge et al : they describe the amphora no 114 as both 'greco-italic' and 'italic', and attribute it to the second half of the first century BC : but the type is almost certainly earlier. It occurs alongside Dressel 1 at Chateaumeillant (Chénon, 1884, pl III opp p 139 ; Gourvest and Hugoniot, 1957) although the associations of Chénon's examples are not clear (Hugoniot, 1963) and appears to have been in/
in production from the third to the early first centuries BC. The size of both the Saint-Gence and Châteaumeillant examples would tend to date them towards the end of the series (ht = c 0.8m). The two other sherds of amphorae illustrated (Juge et al 1969 pl III, nos 113 and 201) are both Dressel 1 ('amphore republicaine') and to judge by the rim profiles (Berger and Furger-Gunti, 1981 fig 8) should be early in that series. A date around 100 BC would therefore not be unacceptable for these two pits which would between them had included remnants of more than the fifteen amphorae Nash mentions. This chronology is based on the impression that the amphora no 114 is an early "greco-italic" example and not a Dressel 2/4 type. It does however seem to exhibit the bifid handle (though not the angularity) of the latter series. Recent work in Italy strongly suggests that the Dressel 2/4 family of amphorae may be substantially later. Rathbone (pers comm) indicates that a start date for the series, as indicated by Italian kiln evidence, may be as late as 50 BC, and 70 BC at the earliest. This would tend to lower the date for the Saint-Gence assemblage:Perrier and Couraud, describe the amphorae recovered in 1967 as 'greco-italique de transition'.

(e) The associated pottery, described as, and acceptable as, 'Late la Tène' in Juge and Dupuy's report, inexplicably becomes 'post-hallstattien' in Nash's account.

(f) The Celtic coin mentioned in this report (Mitard, in Juge and Dupuy, 1969, no 9) has nothing to do with the excavation in the context of which Nash mentions it.

(g) Nash exaggerates the importance of Saint Gence by misquoting Juge et al 1969 on the trade in wine. They speculate that it may have been transferred to barrels at Saint Gence for ease of transport. Three routes are postulated by which the wine could have reached Saint Gence: from Toulouse (where Dressel 1 and 4 amphorae are known at Saint Roch); from Clermont-Ferrand; or - in view of the location of Saint-Gence - from Poitou, making use of the Atlantic route/
route. They make no assessment of the importance of Saint Gence in this regard: the assessment 'important stage' is Nash's. Contrastingly Juge and his collaborators are of the opinion that Saint Gence must have had a significant settlement - 'cet habitat devait être assez important pour être un centre commercial (soit de distribution, soit de transit) ...' (p 33).

(h) They suggest that Limoges was less important than Saint-Gence, and point to the lack of significant celtic material from that site. They also however point out that there are "d'autres oppida plus importants en Haute Vienne" (p 34): the suggestion that Saint Gence was "a much more important settlement" (than Limoges) is again Nash's.

(i) It should be pointed out that Nash's "so many amphoras" are in fact not quantifiable beyond the c 20 recovered and reported in 1969: whether the number is "exceptional" (?) by the standards of Limousin - not by those of Châteauméillant or Toulouse) is thus a moot point.

(j) The chronology of the Roman coins referred to by Nash seems suspect.

All in all, Nash's attempt to elevate the pairing of Saint Gence - Limoges to a par with Mont-Beauvray - Autun and Gergovia - Clermont-Ferrand seems ill-founded: it does less than justice to Juge and his collaborators for Nash (1978a, 272) to suggest that the bones of this argument come from their much more sanguine report. For the moment it seems preferable to regard Saint Gence as a small hillfort with external settlement in a rich pasture area with external linkages which permitted its inhabitants to obtain wine not only in Dressel 1 amphorae.

Visited.

87146/
Both Delage (1913) and, in more elaborate form, Couraud (1965, 29 and pl M6), have claimed a fortified site here (the site is also sometimes attributed to the neighbouring commune of Masséret in Correze). It is clear, however, that the dominant feature represented is mining spoil, and Couraud’s claim that this is bordered by the ploughed-out remains of a double rectangle is unconfirmed. July (1975, 39) lists the bourg as a possible site for an early fortification. This site is not discussed further. Not mapped.

Le Mont Gargan is the highest of a crescentic range of hills which stretches SE from Châteauneuf-la-Forêt, and which are presently cloaked in the forest which takes its name from that locality. These hills form the watershed between the Combade and Briance basins. The site bears considerable resemblances to le Montceix, commune of Chamberet (19) which lies about 8km to the E.

Le Mont Gargan retains a symbolic significance in that the church of "Notre Dame de Bon-Secours" on its summit is still a place of pilgrimage. But, despite excavations at the end of last century, there is no evidence for pre-Conquest use, nor for fortification, suggested as a possibility by Imbert (1894, no 15). Excavations by the Abbé Joyeux (Joudoux, 1964a, b) and stray finds (Lecler, 1873, 237-8) do not appear to pre-date the Roman period: and Joyeux’s excavations, in contrast to his work on the neighbouring Puy-Château, do not appear to have been very productive. This latter certainly had Roman-style buildings on the summit, interpreted by Joudoux (1964a, 164) as a "sanctuaire de hauteur de tradition celtique", a view which does not contradict the available/
available evidence.

The scale and topographic configuration of le Mont Gargan would not seem to favour its use as an 'oppidum', and it is therefore discounted.

Visited.

87151 SAINT-JEAN-LIGOUER Plateau de Chalucet/Chalusset
(XX-31 : Limoges)
Lambert zone II  x = 520,2  y = 81,7  z = c 260m

The level-topped and now cultivated plateau which dominates the right bank of the Ligoure to the S of its confluence with the Briance is well-known on account of the impressive castle which occupies its N end. The massive rock-cut ditch in front of the XII-XIIIth century castle, dug into the micaschist bedrock, would have obliterated any earlier fortification at the point of the spur dominating the Briance.

The existence of a protohistoric occupation several hundred metres S of the castle was first published in 1968 (Fitte, 1968) when 29 concentrations of sherds on the surface were noted. This pottery was often associated with masses of charcoal and some cremated bone: other material recovered included fragments of schist bracelets, copper debris, and worked flints, some of which had been burnt. By 1970, the site was provisionally dated to the Hallstatt period on the excavation of a ditch by C. Chevillot (B3AHL, 97, 1970, 292): the contained material had been burnt close to the ditch, and included both Mousterian of Acheulian tradition and neolithic flints which had been disturbed during the First Iron Age. Subsequently, a focus for neolithic settlement was identified (Fitte and Chevillot, 1971).

The first excavation results were published by Chevillot (1975a) and consisted of a 4m² examination of the extensive concentration identified on/
SAINT-JEAN-LIGOURE Chalucet

(phot oligier Büchsenschütz)
on the surface ('no 9'). This corresponded to an irregularly-shaped oval pit, less than 1m deep, cut into the rotted micaschist of the plateau. The fill of the pit was rich in small finds, particularly pottery, which tended to be concentrated in the vicinity of stones: charcoal was also recovered in quantity from the fill. This latter seems to have accumulated over a period of time, with a lens of sand indicating a period of abandonment. The material from this feature included:

- 3 fragments of undecorated lignite bracelet
- a blue glass bead, with central perforation
- a bronze pin, probably from a fibula, and bronze slag
- about 30 fragments of iron objects, and sufficient metal slag to show that iron and bronze were both worked on site. The fill of the pit also included two fragments of a clay hearth stone.

The ceramic assemblage was rich and includes both elements attributable to the late bronze age (Bronze Final IIIb) and to the Hallstatt period - though perhaps excluding early Hallstatt (Chevillot, 1975a, 13), with the earlier material paralleled for example at Camp Allaric (Vienne). The later material, amongst the 5,000 sherds from this pit, is dominated stylistically, but not numerically, by graphite-coated sherds. A few painted sherds were also recovered. The assemblage is considered in detail by Chevillot. The graphite-coated wares are most likely to have been made on site, and can be sub-divided into two classes on the basis of the standard of their firing: three lumps of graphite were recovered in sieving the fill, and graphite occurs naturally in the vicinity of the site. The closest source, identified by Chevillot (1975a, 21) appears to be at Gilardeix, commune of Boisseuil, about 2km from Chalucet to the E, and others are signalled at la Megie, commune de la Roche l'Abeille and near Pierre-Buffière. The decorative traits found on the graphite-coated wares are paralleled on the nine sherds of painted pot, one of which is decorated on its inner face with graphite.

It seems likely that the debris in the pit comes from a settlement, not least because the pit also contains fragments of wattle: the original function/
87151 SAINT-JEAN-LIGOURE
Habitat de Chalucet
after Chevillot, 1978
Areas of concentrated surface finds

87151 Sketch of Location after Fitte 1968
function of the pit is however uncertain but Chevillot (1975a, 26) suggests either that it was a storage pit - or, in view of the irregularity of its sides - dug for the extraction of clay.

In sum, the excavation and the surface finds from locus no 9 suggest utilisation in Bronze final IIIb, Hallstatt moyen (fibula with a long foot) and final (hispanic fibula and graphite-coated pottery).

Further work has tended to lengthen the span over which the site was in use, to the beginning of the Second Iron Age (Chevillot, 1978), whilst confirming that the main occupation runs from the Bronze final IIIb to Hallstatt final. It has also confirmed that the main occupation areas have been severely eroded by deep ploughing, and that even on the margins of the plateau (sondage no 3) preservation is sometimes little better.

Sondage no 3 was sited on the slope of the plateau (concentration no 6). A pit, 6.5m long, and 0.2m to 2m wide was examined: like sondage no 1, this feature was very shallow (max depth 0.6m). Its fill appears to have been deposited in a single episode, although, as with sondage no 1, the sherds which formed the bulk of the assemblage, could be subdivided typologically. Two-thirds of this material could be attributed to Bronze final III: as well as links with the principal Urnfield areas to the E, minor components of the assemblage could also be compared with Languedoc, in Mailhac I contexts (Chevillot, 1978, 207).

The separation of First Iron Age material is further complicated by the fact that several forms and decorations show little change from the preceding period on stratified sites like Camp Allaric, and thus do not lend themselves to close typological subdivision. Amongst the fine wares, the graphite-coated pottery continued to be most important: apart from the barrow excavations in Limousin, some of this material could be paralleled, both from an enclosed site (Écorneboeuf, commune of Coulounieix - Chamiers, Dordogne) and a cave (Igles de Magnague in Lot) (Chevillot/
87151 SAINT JEAN LIGUERE
Locus 6 - Sondage 3
after Chevillot 1978

Selected Sherds from Sondage 3

IMPRESSED CORDON
The original function of this pit seems clearly to have been as a quarry for clay.

Further work on the promontory and elsewhere in the commune has tended to increase the number of later neolithic (Chevillot, 1979, 5 and fig 1) and late bronze age/initial iron age sites known from the area. **Locus 20** on the promontory has been shown to be dominated by material that is typologically Bronze final IIIb, as has locus 3 (Chevillot, 1981a), at least from surface collections. Examination of **Locus 25** (Chevillot, 1978, 219) has produced a rectangular pit: from the preliminary report, the associated material belongs to the initial stages of the Second Iron Age.

2km further S, but still in the same commune, Chevillot (1976, 9-11) has identified another site which, from surface collection, has produced an impoverished version of the assemblage recovered from Chalucet (fig 1, p 10): Chevillot hypothesized that this material might represent the location of the cemetery for Chalucet, but it does not seem impossible that this plateau above the right bank of the Ligoure might also represent a settlement area. A further site at Vigeries in the same commune was published by Chevillot and Sazerat (1976). Further material, notably two glass beads and a decorated lignite bracelet datable to Hallstatt final (Chevillot, 1975b, 5 and fig 2) have been recovered from the Domaine d'Envaud, to the N of the Aurance in the commune of the Isle-sur-Vienne. The bracelet is closely paralleled at Chalucet, and may well have been worked at that site: again Chevillot speculates that this material may be from a burial, but a settlement seems possible.

Clearly, only preliminary remarks about this key site are appropriate at the present time. For the moment it is clear that the site qualifies as a 'habitat de hauteur', as indisputable evidence of enclosure is lacking: but the plateau is certainly fortifiable. The importance of the assemblage comes not only from the evidence for on-site metalworking, pottery manufacture and lignite bracelet production, but also because it/
it represents by far the most important First Iron Age site known in Limousin.

The assemblage has elements which can be paralleled further E, in the Midi and in the late Hallstatt barrows of Limousin, none of which is known at present in the vicinity of the site. Elsewhere in Limousin, relatable material from settlement sites is restricted, though Crozant (Creuse) and the Fuy de Gaudy ( lignite bracelets) clearly indicate the possibilities. In other respects however, the assemblage from Chalucet allows Limousin to be compared with other areas on the western margin of the Massif Central including Lot, Charente, Dordogne and Vienne from which similar material has been recovered from settlement sites and caves.

Visited.

87152 SAINT JOUVENT Plateau to the S of the bourg
(XX-30 : Ambazac)
Lambert zone II  x = 512  y = 107  z = c 320m

This plateau, some 7km NE of Saint Gence, has been suggested as a possible location for a fortification (July, 1975, 39). The proposed site, which appears to lack evidence of man-made defences, is about 1km long, running E/W, above the left bank of the Glane. Not visited, not mapped.

87153 SAINT-JULIEN-LE-PETIT Motte de Rochein at Larron
(XXI-31 : Saint-Leonard-de-Noblat)
Lambert zone II  x = 551.8  y = 91.4  z = c 380m

The remains of this motte, which occupies a promontory jutting northward into a meander of the river Maude, have recently been well described by July (1977 no 18) and their setting was sketched by Dubois (1900, 299/
299-300). The main reasons to draw attention to what is clearly the remains of a medieval site are as follows: vitrified granites, some with imprints of the former position of timber have been recovered, and some small finds of possibly earlier manufacture have been reported. These are however not sufficient to suggest that the entire complex is other than medieval.

The vitrified granites, found in association with the principal motte, have the appearance of having been altered in situ, and do not appear to represent re-use in the manner of the Balliol stronghold at Dunnydear, Aberdeenshire (Feachem, 1966). Three clay spindle-whorls, although claimed as indications of prehistoric occupation (DAHL, 1971 : BSAHL, 99, 1972, 323), are best regarded as undated.

In the same commune, Couraud (1972) drew attention to a promontory bearing the potentially significant name of 'Chatreix'. This was visited in 1975, but no indications of early defence of occupation were noted. Not mapped.

Visited.

87156 SAINT-JUST-LE-MARTEL Pierrefitte 1/4 Le Fort Manoir

The Dictionnaire Archeologique de la Gaule (II, 532) records the discovery of ten silver celtic coins here, but gives no indication of associated structures. Not mapped.

87157/
87157 SAINT-LAURENT-LES-ÉGLISES Trasport
proposed site from Ambazac
It is easy to see what attracted Couraud (1965) to propose this site as an 'oppidum' when its setting is viewed from the N714 outside Ambazac. July (1975, 39 no 71), more cautious, simply describes it as a plateau 'susceptible d'avoir été fortifié'.

The site has the appearance of a detached outlier on the SE margin of the Monts d'Ambazac. It dominates the surrounding terrain by 40-80m, the ground sloping fairly sharply to the ruisseau de la Barge on the NE and less steeply, to the SW of Traspont itself, to the ruisseau de la Sauve: both are tributaries of the Taurion.

The site, as envisaged by Couraud, would be 1.5km long NW/SE (1965, 41 pl SG 4) and about one-third of that in width. The upper surface of the plateau is rocky, but it was the talus slopes at either end of the promontory which suggested fortifications to Couraud.

Whilst it would certainly be possible for there to be another major site about 6km SSW of Chatelard at Jabreilles-les-Bordes, evidence confirming this is presently lacking. No finds of the protohistoric period appear to be known from the site. Not mapped.

Visited.

This site has been frequently recorded since the middle of last century and was inventoried by both Imbert (1894) and de Mortillet (1906): indeed/
indeed a good description and plan, showing that the site was degraded was published by de Beaufort (1851, 202-4 and pl VI). The view that a rectangular site of this kind was likely to be Roman appeared early (de Couronnel, 1884, 7) but the site is unexcavated and now more extensively damaged.

The enceinte lies on a near-flat plateau W of the Ruisseau de l'Asse, to the SW of the Bois de Bouéry. It is marked as l/d Camp de César on the IGN maps, and lies in scrub birch wood due E of the road from le Chêne Vert to la Roussellerie. The landscape around the Grand Fa is dominated by woodland and rough pasture. The site itself does not appear to have been cultivated this century (Neraud, 1943, 45). The subsoil is clayey with small pebbles and appears to be somewhat impermeable: some water was noted in the ditch here in March 1975 and April 1980, and has been repeatedly commented on by earlier authors (de Beaufort, 1851; de Couronnel, 1884; July, 1977 no 22).

The bank encloses an area of about 0.7 ha, and the internal dimensions of the site are approximately 80m NE/SW and 85m NW/SE. About 30m of the NE side is preserved, and this rampart is fronted by a water-filled ditch some 3-4m wide: outside this is a slight counterscarp bank less than 1m high, and 2-3m wide. The NW side is the best preserved, dominating the ditch bottom by about 5m and the interior by 1.2m: the internal slope is very gentle. Although the corners of the earthwork are rounded, the ditch is cut very square at its outer margin. The S end of the SW ditch is dry and about two-thirds of the way along this side there is a modern causeway across the ditch, which appears to have been used to extract material from the bank, the NW corner of which in particular shows signs of damage.

The SW corner has been trimmed by the road, which has destroyed the counterscarp bank at this position, and here too a modern path gives access to the interior of the site. The S side is marked only by a slight/
slight talus, showing that the interior of the site is higher than the surroundings, but this becomes progressively less marked eastward. The remainder of the perimeter is all but destroyed. Thus the original entrance position is uncertain.

The interior of the site appears to be featureless: a modern drainage ditch cut through the NW bank indicates that the interior is prone to wetness. The shepherd at Camp de César cottage told me that stones had previously been recovered from the interior.

Since the entire area occupied by the site is 1.03 ha (July, 1977, no 21), and in view of the location of the site on land of marginal agricultural significance, there would be reasons to relate this site to the Vier-eckschansen discussed elsewhere. Against this view, however, and discounting the water in the ditch, which may be an unintentional by-product of the character of the subsoil - the character and scale of the surviving portion of the enceinte, and perhaps the reference to stone from the interior, suggest it may be more recent.

Visited.

87171 SAINT-NICOLAS-COURBEFY Courbefy
(XIX-32 : Châlus)
Lambert zone II  $x = 499.8$, $y = 66.9$, $z = c 540m$

The village of Courbefy, and the castle on the promontory beside it, occupy a commanding position towards the NW margin of the Forêt de Vieillecour, to the S of the Monts de Chalus. Since the middle of last century, this plateau has been claimed as an 'oppidum gaulois', extending beyond the medieval castle which occupies the point of the promontory. The principal advocate of the most elaborate plan was de Verneilh (1863, 87-8), who envisaged two enceintes on the summit; one surrounded the castle; the second was described as lying to the SE, and being defined/
defined by a ditch and heaps of stone. It surrounds the modern hamlet of Courbefy. A similar view - of an 'oppidum gaulois' succeeded by a castle, was propounded by Marquet (1906).

Imbert (1894) was considerably more sceptical: he was prepared to attribute all the works directly surrounding the XII/XIII century to the chateau and to the motte which preceded it on the same site. He was also unconvinced by the claims for an enceinte surrounding the hamlet of Courbefy itself.

Study of the medieval castle and its immediate environs is complicated by the fact that the former was blown up with explosives during the Wars of Religion, but despite its commanding position, there seems nothing to suggest that the surrounding works are other than contemporary: a good account of these is offered by July (1976, no 13). Indeed a field visit in 1975, confirms July's view (1976, 60) that the medieval entrance does not appear to have followed the line of a previous defence, in view of the unitary plan which it suggests. The discovery of tegulae towards the hamlet of Courbefy and a single coin appear to be the only artefactual evidence for the earlier use of this site.

87181 SAINT-SULPICE-LAURIERE Puy du Châtelard/Camp de César

Despite frequent attribution to this commune, most recently by Penicaud (1964), this site lies in the commune of Jabreilles (87076).

87181 SAINT-SULPICE-LAURIERE Gaudeix

(XXI-30 : Bourganeuf)
Lambert zone II  x = 535.2  y = 118  z = c 500m (village)

Despite a description of dry-stone walls associated with two large mounds (Delage, 1934, x) on the E side of the village of Gaudeix, it is/
is clear that these are the result of mining activity (Musée Municipal, Limoges, 1967: M F July, pers comm).

87182 SAINT-SULPICE-LES-FEUILLES Seugé/Cheuger
(XX-28: Saint-Sulpice-les-Feuilles)

Both de Beaufort (1851, 239-40) and the abbé Joyeux (in BSAHL, 30, 1883, 328) mention a 'roman camp' to the NW of Saint-Sulpice-les-Feuilles. No mention is made of fortification and associated finds appear to be restricted to tegulae. The area concerned appears to be an undulating plateau to the S of the Ruisseau de la Chaume.

It is clearly possible that this may represent another small rectangular enclosure, but proof is lacking.

87187 SAINT-YRIEIX-LA-PERCHE Le Tuquet du Château
(XX-32: Nexon)
Lambert zone II x = 515,9 y = 63,2 z = 498m

First clearly described by Basse de Ménorval (1956) and subsequently noted from the air, Gandillot (1960), this site was accepted as prehistoric by Couraud (1964, 11 and pl 2). A fuller description has now been provided by July (1979, no 46).

The site occupies the summit of a wooded hill N of the hamlet of la Condamine. The site is more or less rectilinear in outline, with rounded corners making an irregular parallelogram. The W and S sides are defined by a bank and ditch with external counterscarp bank: the bank dominates the interior of the site by about 0.8m, and the 3.5m wide ditch bottom by about 4m. The counterscarp bank is very spread, and survives to a maximum height of about 1m. On the N and E, the main element of the enceinte is a naturally scarped slope. Of the three entries/
entries into the enclosure, only that on the NW appears to be original, both the others (on the S and SW) being apparently related to small quarries in the interior of the site.

The area of the site is 1.83 ha (July, 1979), and, in the absence of small finds, a protohistoric occupation seems not unlikely, though Basse de Menorval's argument - that it should be pre-Iron Age - cannot be sustained. Other authors have commented on the site's proximity to the metal-rich zone around Saint-Yrieix.

Visited.

87191 SEREILHAC Butte de la Baisse/la Rénaudie
(XX-31 : Limoges)
Lambert zone II  x = 502.7  y = 88.4  z = 250m

Now substantially destroyed (July, 1980, lxix), this site sits above the right bank of the ruisseau de la Baisse. By the time it was examined in the 1960s, the site appears to have decayed considerably relative to its state as described at the turn of the century (d'Abzac, 1895: Masfrand, 1904, 52-3; BSAHL, 95, 1967, 266). It was however clearly a motte accompanied by outer works, and its main significance for us is the report (Belligaud in DAHL) of a radiocarbon date for charcoal associated with a 'four catalan' and apparently vitrified stone near the summit (there was also iron waste). The date was 630 ± 120 ad. Not mapped.

87192 SOLIGNAC Chalucet
(XX-31 : Limoges)

This site was suggested by July (1975, 39) as a possible promontory fort. Not mapped.
Located 300m from Chez-Beyjard, this site was described as an 'oppidum' by Masfrand (1896); he described it as an isolated hill, the summit of which was surrounded by a double ditch. From the description given by July (1978 no 38), the site clearly consists of a motte with substantial enclosing works, the whole occupying a little over 1 ha. July notes that there may be two stages represented in this work, as there are anomalies in the line followed by the principal ditch relative to the position of the motte. It is conceivable, but perhaps not likely, that the outer work may correspond thus to an earlier defence: in the absence of any supporting finds, this hypothesis may perhaps be discarded meantime. Not mapped.

This site lies about 200m from Chez Beyjard, and appears first to have been mentioned by Vandermarcq (1891b). He described the "butte de Chalat", lying to the N of the village of the same name, as being fortified with a 'roman wall': it is clearly possible that this is the same site as Chez Beyjard. Vandermarcq claimed to have found tegulae, bricks and a variety of types of pot at it. He also noted neolithic material from the S flanks of the same hill: this included eleven fragments of flint axes, an unfinished axe and a collection of flints.

More recent work (Piel-Desruisseaux, 1971, 57-63) has concentrated on the neolithic debris, but has suggested a stone-walled enclosure on the promontory (alt 320m) from which the artefactual remains have been recovered. Such stone-walled enclosures, incorporating orthostatic granites/
granites, and flanked by ditches, which have been claimed as Bronze Age further S, where they have been described as "villages clos" S of the R Tardoire in Dordogne. Whilst there is every reason to suspect that remains of early enclosures should exist on these Limousin uplands, these banks look little different from those of the parcellaire which is secondary at Chez Beyjard, a few hundred metres away. Material from the eroding face of the quarry near the walls produced neolithic/early bronze age material (Piel-Desruisseaux, 1971, 62) but also some pottery, described as gallo-roman, decorated with 'sapin' designs, which may suggest a date comparatively early in the gallo-roman period.

However, I would agree with July (1978, 30) that there is nothing to suggest that these banks are of any antiquity. Not mapped.

87201 VERNEUIL-SUR-VIENNE La Place d'Orsay/Viallebost (XX-31 : Limoges)
Lambert zone II x = 507,6 y = 95,4 z = c 340m

First noted by Lecler (BSAHL, 30, 1883, 325-6; 1887, 135) and inventoried by de Mortillet (1906), this site has been subjected to increasing plough damage since that time, and latterly to housing development. In 1975, when M F July took me to the site, the slight rise which the site had occupied was still distinguishable, and a build-up of earth visible in a section, machine-cut for a drain, indicated the line of one of the ramparts. By 1980 even these vestigial traces had been eliminated.

As described by July (1976 no 1), the raised surface of the interior was still edged by four talus-slopes defining a quadrilateral with rounded corners, occupying about 0.92 ha. Lecler (1883) placed the entrance in the S side. The ditch section cut by machine suggested that this had originally been about 2m wide and 1m deep.

Although only about 1km N of the roman road from Limoges to Chassenon and/
and related to it by Couraud (1962, 16-18 and pl II), it would seem possible to consider this site with the Viereckschanzen. The location, on a near-level plateau (the ground rises gently to the NW towards les Quatre-Vents) and between two minor tributaries (the ruisseau du Pré Vieux and the ruisseau de Tranchepie) of the Vienne is hardly defensive, nor does the scale of the enceinte suggest that this was a significant factor. Unfortunately, no small finds are recorded from the site.

La Place d'Orsay lies less than 10km WNW of the Cathedral at Limoges, and it would therefore be, one may speculate, the nearest surviving rectangular enclosure for any late Iron Age occupation at that location.

Visited.

87203 VICQ-SUR-BREUILH Various sites (XX-32 : Nexon)
Lambert zone II

Over the years, various sites have been proposed in this area, mostly in the NW of the commune. These appear to cluster on the wooded summits to the W of the ruisseau de Blanzon (Couraud, 1965, 25, pl M4). Both Joyeux (BSAHl, 24, 1876, 381) and Imbert (1890) speak of a 'roman camp' with a tumulus nearby, whereas the Dictionnaire Archéologique de la Gaule (II, 747) described the 'Camp de César' as two probable mottes: this was identified as being located at l/d Luchapt by Lecler (1926, 810). Furthermore, Couraud (1965) suggested that the crête de Vergnas would merit further investigation, as there was a rectangular parcelle on the summit.

July (1980, nos lxx-lxxii) has identified three diminutive sites in this area, but none of them appears likely to be protohistoric. He makes no further mention of two plateaux, considered potential locations for fortifications (July, 1975, 39). Not mapped.
87024 VIDEIX Camp Romain
(XIX-31 : Rochechouart)
Lambert zone II

The only reference to this site appears to be Masfrand (1894). He described the site as lying 2km from the bourg, and being about 10,000 sq m in extent. A parallelogram was defined by an earthen bank with an external ditch, and two entrances were apparent on the mid-points of the E and W sides.

I have been unable to visit this site, which, on the basis of the available description, might well represent a Viereckschanze. Its non-appearance in the subsequent literature I have consulted may be because it actually lies in Charente. Not mapped.
5.3 HAUTE-VIENNE : SITES RETAINED AS ACTUALLY OR POTENTIALLY LATER PREHISTORIC

5.3.1 Criteria

The criteria used are (1) and (2) of section 3.3.1 (see above). The large number of 'potentially fortified' sites in this departement, identified by Couraud, July and others have been excluded from the following list.

5.3.2 The List

032 : CHALUS, Bannaud : promontory fort? : LBA?
041 : CHATEAUPONSAC, Chéguat : promontory fort : pre-medieval.
085 : LIMOGES, Fuy Saint Etienne : "oppidum" : very doubtful pre-Conquest.
151/
This list includes 23 of the 201 communes in the Département of Haute-Vienne. Six communes, however, include two or more sites. Mottes and other medieval works, not dealt with in section 5.2, are listed in an appendix.
APPENDIX : LIST OF MOTTES AND OTHER PRESUMED MEDIEVAL WORKS IN LIMOUSIN

The lists on which this survey was initially based did not always differentiate between 'enceintes prehistoriques' and 'fortifications anhistoriques' (CEEPFA). The following list incorporates mottes and other works apparently of medieval type, but excluding undated sites discussed in the main text. The following list does not pretend to be complete, and may include the occasional large barrow.

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The medieval enclosed sites are not discussed further here, as they are the subject of an independent enquiry (Barrière and Cantié, 1981). It should however be emphasized that, whilst the division between later prehistoric and post-Roman sites is less clear than in Berry, small size in itself is perhaps not sufficient in itself to advocate a medieval date.