



THE
LEY HUNTER

Acting Editor and Secretary: Jimmy Goddard, Wynchlands, Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex.

E D I T O R I A L

Due to university work, Philip Heselton has found he is unable to bring out this issue of The Ley Hunter, so I have had to stand in for him this quarter. Unfortunately, due to limitations of time that I have myself, the magazine is not its usual size, but I expect this will be made up for in the next issue.

An interesting article by Nicholas Odell has had to be left until the next issue, simply because I would probably make a mess of reproducing the accompanying map. This will certainly appear in the next LH, when the Editor will be back at the helm once again.

Included in this issue is a report on ley-hunting in the Warminster area, in which you will notice the accent is very much on the connection of leys with flying saucers. Normally Philip does not like to include too much on this particular aspect of leys, as he believes that leys ought to be a study in themselves, not thought of as just an aspect of UFO study. However, due to the area under investigation in this case, the two can hardly be separated. In any case, I believe that this is a most important branch of ley study, and one which certainly should not be overlooked. If, as we now suspect, beings from other worlds had a hand in building leys (even if only an indirect hand) it surely must rank as one of the most important aspects of our subject.

o-o-o-O-o-o-o

LEYS IN BRITAIN

by Philip Heselton.

I am hoping in the summer to produce a little booklet describing the sort of pattern of leys which have been discovered in various parts of Britain. Meanwhile, after taking a quick look through some of my maps, here is a very brief survey of leys which I and other people have discovered. I have divided the country into various regions for this purpose, taking each in turn.

Cornwall.

Working from 1" maps, I have found a few leys, but nothing approaching a co-ordinated pattern. The many prehistoric sites, stone circles and holy wells suggest that valuable future work could be done here. St. Michael's Mount would probably be a centre.

Devon.

The county has been fairly well covered by the researches of Major F. C. Tyler and reference is made here to his book The Geometrical Arrangement of Ancient Sites (Simpkin Marshall, 1939) which gives many ley examples. Miss Theo Brown, Mrs. B. Carbonell and Miss Sheila Hutchinson have also contributed useful work in this county. The pattern seems to consist of parallel stone alignments, particu-

larly in the eastern part of the county.

Somerset.

Here, of course, we have Glastonbury and the legendary Temple of the Stars. There is evidence that this fits in with the ley pattern fairly well and research could well be done on this aspect of the subject. Southern Somerset and Western Dorset - the area between Taunton and Lyme Regis (O.S. 1" map sheet 177) - seems to be ground particularly thick with leys, with parallel systems much in evidence. Here may be a convenient area to test theories of distance as advocated by Lawton and others.

Dorset.

A particularly strong pattern emerges, especially between Yeovil and Blandford. Church alignments predominate. To the north this extends to Cranborne Chase and the equilateral triangle pattern of Salisbury Plain.

Wiltshire.

Salisbury Plain, the Vale of Pewsey and the Marlborough Downs all exhibit very distinct patterns. The most prominent is the equilateral triangle system mentioned by most observers, which extends over most of Salisbury Plain and south into North Dorset. Is there a link-up between the angles at Stonehenge and the ley pattern on Salisbury Plain? A detailed research could well be done on this. The Vale of Pewsey has many church alignments.

The Cotswolds.

An area rich in leys which has received attention by such people as F.R. Watts and H.F. Trew. A good area nevertheless for further research, as is the rest of Gloucestershire.

The Welsh Borders.

Herefordshire and Radnor have, of course, been intensively studied by Alfred Watkins, and it seems that from Monmouthshire to Shropshire is an area with many leys showing parallel systems and also camp alignments in places. By contrast, the rest of Wales seems remarkably sparse of leys. Perhaps this is only an indication of the need for further research. Anglesey could well repay study. The same can be said for the Isle of Man, research into which is going on at the moment.

The Midlands.

A varied area topographically, and no generalisations can be made. Leys are abundant in most parts. A "star" system seems quite common and church and moat leys predominate.

East Anglia.

W.A. Dutt has done some early research in Norfolk and Alfred Watkins' book Archaic Tracks Round Cambridge should also be studied. Rewarding work could be done in Essex and Suffolk, where extensive ley systems seem to exist.

South-East England.

Being so near London, much evidence has already been destroyed, but from work

done by numerous researchers in all parts of Kent, Surrey and Sussex comes evidence of a system extending over the whole of the Weald. Here is an area which is small enough for a co-ordinated plan of everybody's work on leys in the area to be plotted and the results analysed. Would anyone like to volunteer?

The North of England.

The Peak District of Derbyshire seems to have a system associated with its stone circles, and a well-developed "parallel-and-star" system also appears on the North York Moors, but most of the Pennines and the Lake District appear to be rather lacking in anything approaching a ley system. Here again, this may be the result of a lack of research. The Fylde area of Lancashire (O.S. 1" Sheet 94) may however repay some study.

Scotland.

Nothing approaching a ley system has really been found here. The stone circles in the Orkney Islands and elsewhere appear to be aligned, and closer study of them may prove rewarding.

A booklet may well be produced later in the summer giving a fuller account (together with references) to the leys in Britain.

o-o-o-O-o-o-o

LEY HUNT

Kenneth Rogers and Jimmy Goddard investigated the leys in the area of Warminster, Wiltshire over the Easter weekend (April 8-10). Here is the report of the various sites visited:-

i) "The Minster". This church, of which we were unable to find the exact age, is situated in an area of Warminster with the very significant name of "Cold Harbour". It is on a ley to the 12-ley centre in Boreham (southern Warminster) where a very spectacular UFO sighting occurred. It has a 1,000 year old yew tree in front of it where Saxon chiefs are reputed to have sat when the Danes invaded.

ii) St. Lawrence's Church. This is on the same ley, and dates back probably to 1290.

iii) Collegiate Ch. of Sts. Peter and Paul, Heytesbury. Two miles out of Warminster and on another ley to the Centre, this church dates back at least to the 16th century. It was very near this ley, not far out of Heytesbury, that "little men in balaclava helmets and glistening trousers" were reputed to have run across the road in front of a car.

iv) Bishopstrow Mill. This is an old mill on a ley from the Centre, where a frightening UFO incident took place.

v) Bishopstrow Church. This is on the same ley as the mill, but its age is a bit of a mystery. In the booklet we found in the church, it was stated to be only 19th century, but on the wall there was a stone plaque to someone in the 18th

century, so the original church here could have been older.

vi) The Warminster Centre. Although a very important centre, where many of the Warminster "Things" have been seen, it is not very inspiring to see. It is just a muddy backwater of the small River Wylde, with no prehistoric site of any kind.

vii) Cley Hill. The most important ley site of the trip. This is a really remarkable structure. The hill itself is 784 feet high, and one side of it seems to be hollowed out into a kind of huge crater. All around the top of the hill are lots of weirdly shaped earthworks which look so unearthly one cannot wonder at the hill being a centre of Thing activity. There are four leys skirting it, all of them being of great significance. One of them is one of Philip Heselton's "Great Isosceles Triangle" leys - the base-line. This runs right across the country, and thus is evidence against Alfred Watkins' theory that these lines were built by a primitive race for foot travel. Another ley is from the Charlton Crater ley centre - national news in 1963 - and the other two are from the Warminster centre.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

LETTERS

(In the past there have been very few letters from readers to LH. We would remind you that this is your magazine, and all information and comments are welcome).

Dear Mr. Goddard,

Thank you for The Ley Hunter which is most interesting. Was amused by the "Merlin" article, which I sent to Heselton some years ago. It was from the Radio Times or The Listener at the time when they were printed out of London by reason of air raids. The date was March 1942.

I think Miss Symms is a bit off beam in coupling Taurus with Atlantis. Taurus ended 2350 and began in B.C. 4500. The fall of Atlantis occurred about the beginning of Leo, or towards the middle according to the date given to Atlantis.

Egerton Sykes, 14, Montpelier Villas, Brighton, Sussex.

ODD NOTES

Stewart Miller of Cambridge University is to use a computer ("Titan") to see if leys are due to chance, and if not where they exist and how numerous they are. He will do this by feeding the grid-references of all the prehistoric sites in Britain into the computer.

"The Ley Hunter" is published by the Ley Hunter's Club. Subscription 4/6 for four quarterly issues. Editor: Philip Heselton, 12, Heathcroft Avenue, Sunbury, Middlesex. Secretary: J. Goddard, 43, Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex. Please send publication material to the Editor and subscriptions to the Secretary.