

2. PATTINSON PLANT STABLE CHARTERHOUSE-ON-M ENDIP

by. Frank Hawtin

Ten yards to the NW of the Pattinson plant, the foundations of a stable have been found. Between September 1968 and July 1970 the site was excavated by Chard Holyrood, Keynsham Wellsway, Shepton Mallet Whitstone, Backwell and Wincanton Modern Schools and Frome Milk Street and Minehead Junior Schools as well as a party of teachers on a one day course.

The site was a fairly simple one consisting of a single rectangular building built on a terrace cut into the limestone hillside. Clearing showed it to be an open fronted stable 15 ft. 6 ins. x 13 ft. with a central wooden partition to accommodate two horses.

Longitudinal axis is NW - SE and the SW side was the open one. The foundations of the walls stand about 2 ft. above ground level and are of mortared limestone. The floor is of pitched limestone setts except for a strip 4 ft. wide adjacent to the NE wall which is of limestone slabs laid on an 8 ins. bed of sand and which is evidently where the manger was situated. A central posthole 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. and 1 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. deep and 6 ft. from the open front had black earth and the remains of a charred post in the bottom of it. This post was the support for the central partition. A drainage gully runs along the length of the stable, turning at right angles along the SE wall.

The finds on the floor were few in number consisting of the shoe of a medium sized cart horse, several horse-shoe nails, and some portions of nineteenth century clay tobacco pipes.

