

FORTY-FIFTH REPORT ON BARROWS.

BY R. HANSFORD WORTH, RECORDER.

(Read at Bideford, 21st July, 1926.)

[*Transactions of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature, and Art.* 1926.—Vol. lviii. pp. 117-118.]

KISTVAEN AND RETAINING CIRCLE, SOUSSONS COMMON.

ON Soussons Common, near Ephraims Pinch, there stands a fine example of the "retaining" circle, the stone circle which was so frequently constructed around an interment, and frequently must originally have stood within the margin, and covered by the mound of the barrow.

It has long been known, and is to be found marked on the Ordnance Map, Devonshire, 6 inch, Sheet XCIX S.E. But it is indicated as a circle only, and no mention is made of the kistvaen, which it encloses.

In the Twenty-second Report of the Barrow Committee will be found a record, by Mr. R. Burnard, of the discovery of a kistvaen within this circle, and its examination. It was here that human hair, of comparatively recent origin, was found. Almost certainly evidence of the practice of witchcraft.

The turf had once more covered the stones of the kistvaen when Mr. J. S. Amery and myself revisited the spot last August. We cut back the turf, thus exposing the side stones of the kistvaen, and I measured the circle and kist; I also took photographs from which the blocks have been prepared, which illustrate this Report.

Neither plan nor photographs require much explanation. The circle consists of twenty-three stones, still standing, but one of which may not be in its precise original posture. The largest stone is 3 feet 9 inches in length, 8 inches in thickness, and stands 2 feet 5 inches above ground. The greatest internal diameter of the circle is 28 feet 4 inches, and the least is 26 feet 11 inches.

The side stones of the kistvaen are respectively 5 feet 2 inches and 4 feet 6 inches in length; they stand 1 foot 10 inches apart. The direction of length of the kistvaen is N. 28° W

R. H. WORTH.

FORTY-FIFTH REPORT ON BARROWS

BY R. H. WORTH, ESQ.

(Continued from page 117)

Proceedings of the Society for the Study of the History of the County of York, 1884-85, Vol. III, p. 117-118.

THE BARROWS AND THE KISTVAEN

The barrows, however, that I found in this circle, the stone circle which was so frequently constructed around an interment, and frequently must originally have stood within the margin, and covered by the mound of the barrow.

It has long been known, and is to be found marked on the Ordnance Map, to consist of two, three, four, &c. But it is indicated as a circle only, and no mention is made of the kistvaen, which it encloses.

In the Surveyors Report of the Barrow Committee will be found a record by Mr. M. Bennett, of the discovery of a barrow within this circle, and its examination. It was here that human hair, of comparatively recent origin, was found. I think certainly evidence of the existence of a kistvaen.

I should have once more covered the stones of the kistvaen when Mr. J. M. Arney and myself revisited the spot last August. We cut back the turf, thus exposing the side stones of the kistvaen, and I measured the circle and set; I also took photographs from which the blocks have been prepared, which illustrate this Report.

Neither plan nor photographs require much explanation. The circle consists of twenty-three stones, all standing, but one of which may not be in its precise original position. The largest stone is 3 feet 9 inches in length, 3 inches in thickness, and stands 2 feet 5 inches above ground. The greatest internal diameter of the circle is 28 feet 4 inches, and the least is 26 feet 11 inches.



SOUSSONS CIRCLE.

Photo R. H. Worth.



KISTVAEN IN SOUSSONS CIRCLE.

Photo R. H. Worth.