

SEVENTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

SEVENTH REPORT of the Committee—consisting of Mr. P. F. S. Amery, Mr. G. Doe, Mr. P. O. Hutchinson, Mr. E. Parfitt, Mr. J. Brooking Rowe, and Mr. R. N. Worth (Secretary)—to collect and record facts relating to Barrows in Devonshire, and to take steps where possible for their investigation.

Edited by R. N. WORTH, F.G.S., Secretary.

(Read at Seaton, July, 1885.)

THE Barrow Committee beg to present their Seventh Report, which consists mainly of further instalments of the Barrow literature of the county, from sources hitherto unnoted.

They will be glad to receive original notes of observations on Devonshire Barrows, and earnestly appeal to the members for aid in this direction in their several localities.

J. BROOKING ROWE, Chairman.
R. N. WORTH, Secretary.

ALVINGTON, WEST.

“Upon the lands of Jonathan Hayne, esq., about a quarter of a mile North-East of the clump of firs at Sorley-Green, in the manor of Sorley and parish of West Alvington (now occupied by Mr. Samuel Heath,) a barrow or tumulus of stone has recently been noticed, where some labourers, employed in the month of August, 1818, to dig materials to repair the highways, found—stones standing on their edge, about 5 feet in length, which might be regarded as an ancient sepulchre. They said they saw nothing within but a fine earth and then destroyed it! On the report of these circumstances reaching messieurs Joseph Cranch and John Cowling of Kingsbridge, (two ardent and most zealous

antiquaries,) they went to see it, when they had the mortification to pick up some fragments of an urn broken in pieces."—*Kingsbridge and Salcombe* [A. Hawkins], 1819, p. 114.

BOLT DOWN.

"Here are two barrows, which appear to have been opened." Cited from JOHN CRANCH in *Kingsbridge and Salcombe*, p. 204.

Between Red-Throat Cove and the Bolt Tail—"A very lofty barrow, having a large pit in the top as if it had been opened, or else used as a watch-station."—Ditto. *Ibid.* p. 205.

DEVONPORT.

About twenty-five years since, in the process of removing a portion of the cliff facing the Hamoaze, immediately to the east of the landing steps, Mount Wise, Devonport, a skeleton was found just below the surface of the ground, under conditions that seemed to indicate a very ancient interment. The burial was at full length, and the remains were those of a man of gigantic stature. The thigh bone was more than two inches longer than that of a man above six feet with which it was compared, and the height indicated reached if it did not exceed seven feet. A very old thorn-tree growing immediately above the skeleton proved that the burial was at least antecedent to the erection of any buildings in the vicinity, when the hill which terminated in the low cliff next the Hamoaze was a rugged furze brake, a condition in which it had existed from "time immemorial." Nothing was found but the skeleton itself. R. N. WORTH.

HOUND TOR.

"I observed and measured a fine specimen [of a Kistvaen] in June, 1846, about a furlong south of Hound Tor, within a circular enclosure (constructed of slabs closely set) twenty-six yards in circumference. The Kistvaen itself is formed of four stones,—one of the lateral slabs remains almost upright in its original position; it is not less than six feet one inch long, one foot in average thickness, and fifteen inches wide. At the south end, the head or foot stone remains erect, two feet three inches broad, and thus giving the breadth of this aboriginal sarcophagus. The other side and end stones are thrown down."—Rev. S. ROWE. *Perambulation of Dartmoor*, 2nd edition, p. 43.

HUISE, SOUTH.

"About twenty yards to the south of this entrenchment [on an estate called Burley, half a mile north of Malborough church] towards the summit of the hill, a walled cave was discovered in the year 1788, which Mr. Lindon caused to be dug up. It was twenty feet long, seven or eight feet broad, and ten or twelve deep, but had nothing therein."—*Kingsbridge and Salcombe*, p. 110.

LEW, NORTH.

"There are several barrows on the hills near it." [Broadbury Castle.]—J. DAVIDSON. *Notes on the Antiquities of Devon*, p. 64.

MALBOROUGH.

"Twenty or thirty yards behind the [South-Down] house towards the sea are the remains of a very large conical eminence, which has greatly the appearance of a tumulus. Near it, towards the house, is the semblance of a smaller one, but which at present cannot so well be ascertained, by reason of a woodrick having lately stood upon it."—JOHN CRANCH, cited in *Kingsbridge and Salcombe*, pp. 205–6.

"From the Lower-Sewer farm-house we set out for Stare-hole Bottom. Just within the Warren gate a few yards south of the ruins of a small shepherd's cot, and of a pinfold, adjoining thereto, we observed a very large and lofty mound or rampart of earth and stones, which unless it were thrown up in order to shelter the house and pinfold, is probably a tumulus. Whether, being originally a tumulus, the founder of the cottage and pinfold took advantage of it as a sheltered situation when he built the place; or whether it was worth his while to form so enormous a bank for that purpose, I cannot confidently judge; but much incline to the former opinion, and that it may now well merit to be opened as a barrow."—Ditto. *Ibid.* p. 207.

MARTINHOE.

"There are several British Barrows on the lofty and exposed downs around this remote village."—J. DAVIDSON. *Notes on the Antiquities of Devonshire*, p. 60.

MEMBURY.

"A British sepulchral deposit was found in this village in the year 1809. On digging a foundation for a house the

workmen discovered a cavity in the limestone rock, in which was placed an urn of coarse unbaked clay, about nine inches high, and ornamented with a rude border. It contained a quantity of ashes with fragments of burnt bones and charcoal."—J. DAVIDSON. *Notes on the Antiquities of Devonshire*, p. 60.

NORTH LEW.

See Lew, North.

PILTON.

In this parish stand two remarkable maenhirs or single monumental stones. One of them approaches to a pyramidal form, and is about ten feet in height. The other, which is on Bradiford Hill, and is called Longstone, is about nine feet high, and stands in front of a rocky tumulus or cairn."—J. DAVIDSON. *Notes on the Antiquities of Devonshire*, p. 66.

REWE.

"There have been found some sepulchral Cists, or holes, containing coarse baked Urns, near Rewe."—W. T. P. SHORTT. *Collectanea Curiosa Antiqua Dunmonia*, p. 20.

SHAUGH.

On the crest of the ridge immediately east of Shaugh church, known as Saddleback or Saddleborough, and a short distance to the north of a reputed cromlech (but which is undoubtedly a natural grouping of rocks) there is a barrow. It is forty-two feet in diameter, very slightly hollow in the centre, and at present not more than three feet high. It is thickly overgrown with heather, and so far as can be ascertained without definite exploration is chiefly composed of stones—in fact a cairn rather than a barrow in the ordinary acceptation. The site is commanding. On the eastern slope of the hill are traces of hut circles.

R. N. WORTH.

STANBOROUGH.

"Messieurs John Cranch, William Cranch, John Gibbs, John Cowling, James Willcocks, and James Willcocks, junior, were led to search some of these barrows [at Stanborough, *vide* first Report Barrow Committee, *Trans. Devon Association*, vol. xi. p. 158] on the 21st of October, 1799, and the following MINUTE of their success was then made by the former :

"We opened a barrow about North of the intrenchment, by digging a section of 3 feet wide about N.W. and S.E. In the middle of this barrow, placed on the natural or original

surface of the ground, we found a structure which we called a British or Druid sepulture, which was formed of 4 massy stones, one for each side and one for each end, making an oblong square area, 3 feet 3 inches long, 1 foot 8 inches wide, and 1 foot 2 inches deep. The area was covered by 3 longish stones placed parallel across it; the whole was surmounted, covered, and kept firm together by a single stone, 4 feet 2 inches long, 2 feet 8 inches wide, and 1 foot 2 inches deep. This stone we think might weigh from 6 to 700 pounds. The cavity was very carefully uncovered, and its contents were a few fragments of human bones, and some charcoal and ashes, which we conceive time, and the access of rain water through the crevices, had adulterated with earth, the general substance of it appearing of a dark earthy compound. We found no teeth nor hair, nor any weapon or instrument, nor in short any other vestige of humanity. It was stated to us that, in another barrow, which had been lately dug for stones to mend the roads, an urn had been discovered, but immediately broken to pieces and scattered by the unthinking and ignorant persons who dug it up."—*Kingsbridge and Salcombe*, pp. 199–201.

STONEHOUSE.

"That the ancient Britons had a settlement in this neighbourhood is clear from a discovery made in 1815. Near to the turnpike gate between this place [Stonehouse] and Plymouth, on digging six feet below the surface, a kistvaen was found in perfect condition, made by six slabs of stone, four of which formed the sides, the others the top and bottom. It measured three feet six inches long by two feet two inches wide, and two feet three inches deep. Within it were found some fragments of bones, and a rude urn of baked clay containing a quantity of ashes."—MSS. of HENRY WOOLLCOMBE in the Library of the Devon and Exeter Institution, cited by J. Davidson in *Notes on the Antiquities of Devonshire*.

SOUTH HUISH.

See Huish, South.

TRENTISHOE.

"There are many barrows scattered over the desolate moors of this remote parish."—J. DAVIDSON. *Notes on the Antiquities of Devonshire*, p. 79.

WEST ALVINGTON.

See Alvington, West.