

FIFTH REPORT OF THE DARTMOOR EXPLORATION COMMITTEE.

(Read at Honiton, August, 1898.)

THE following works have been undertaken since the presentation of the last report:—

1. Exploration of a hut circle in Berry Field, Huccaby.
2. Examination and measurement of an unrecorded stone row on Stannon Newtake.
3. Exploration of a collection of hut circles within and without an enclosure on the slope of Yes Tor Bottom, a valley which lies south of the Princetown Railway, and east of Swell Tor Quarries. (See CVI. S.E.)
4. Exploration of hut circles at West Dart Head.
5. Examination and measurement of an unrecorded stone row on Soussons Warren Hill, near Postbridge.
6. Exploration of Cox Tor.
7. Exploration of barrows and stone circle at Fernworthy, of three small barrows close to Langstone stone circle, and two small barrows near the Grey Wethers.
8. Examination of an unrecorded stone row on Whiten Tor.
9. Discovery of a hoard of Roman coins at Park Hill, near Okehampton railway station.

STONE ROWS.

Stannon outer Newtake. (XCIX. N.E.)

This row runs N.N.E. to S.S.W., starting from a ruined cairn. The total length is 320 feet, but was probably longer, for it has been pillaged and stones used in the construction of the newtake wall. No blocking stone remains. There are twelve small standing stones, and about the same number were traced which were either fallen, broken, or buried. The row appears to have been originally a double one. It is too dilapidated and unimportant for accurate planning.

Soussons Warren Hill. (XCIX. S.E.)

There are four fine tumuli on the highest point of this hill, the largest of which was apparently once surrounded by a circle of stones, but of these one only now remains. These tumuli show some signs of having been dug into, but if so the operations were of a very superficial character, and the mounds should be properly explored.

They are honeycombed with rabbit burrows, and the appearance of previous partial explorations may be due to the sinking in of the centres owing to the extensive underground excavations made by these animals.

Due north on the ridge near Golden Dagger is a rifled cairn 31 feet in diameter, and starting from this is a very ruined and pillaged stone row, which seems when perfect to have been composed of three lines of stones. The standing examples are small, and only seven in number, but numerous fallen and buried stones can be traced. This row has been very recently destroyed, probably within the last twelve months, for the pits from which the stones contributing to the row were taken are freshly dug and very apparent. The surface of the moor for a considerable distance around the row has been carefully picked over and almost every stone removed.

A newly-built wall in the near neighbourhood is the evident reason for this destruction and collection. The former was probably done in pure ignorance, for the stones were evidently mostly fallen and small, and with the surrounding surface stones not easily recognized as the work of man.

Had the Committee known of this row earlier, and set up the fallen stones, the nature of the remains would have been recognized and respected. The row runs from north to south, the ruined cairn being north, and it can be traced for 202 feet.

Higher Whiten Tor. (XCIX. S.W.)

On ascending the hill at the back of the Powder Mills a newtake wall is encountered, which must be crossed to reach the ridge connecting Longaford Tor and Higher White Tor; on this ridge, but near the latter tor, and running roughly parallel with the newtake wall, are the remains of what is apparently a double stone row, that runs from N.N.E. to S.S.W. No traces of any cairn can, however, be found in connection with it, and the position is exceptionally near the clitter of stones of the tor; stone rows are almost

always, if not always, planted where the surface is free from such natural clitters.

The double row can be traced for 330 feet. But ten stones remain in the southern row, and fifteen only in the northern. Of these all in the former are standing, and eleven in the latter. The height of the stones varies from three feet to a few inches. The rows apparently end in a long earth-fast stone or rock at the N.N.E. extremity. But their extent S.S.W. is uncertain, the rows having been pillaged for the construction of the newtake wall.

HUT CIRCLES.

Berry Field, Huccaby. (CVII. N.E.)

This field contains the remains of a small "pound," and within this, at the eastern end, was a heap of stones which supplied the road-menders with material. These, finding fragments of rude pottery, reported the matter to the Committee, and the heap was thoroughly examined.

The remains of a hut circle were found underneath, and this, on exploration, yielded wood charcoal, a red grit rubber stone, seven cooking stones, the rim of a small shallow vessel, and a large sherd which formed part of the mouth of a hand-made cooking pot. The paste and ornamentation were of the usual type.

Yes Tor Bottom. (CVI. S.E.)

The Princetown Railway, just beyond the twentieth milestone, and between Foggin Tor and Swell Tor Quarries, makes a considerable bend to the south-east and south, and a reference to the six-inch Ordnance map discloses the fact that south of this bend there is a small collection of hut circles. Six of these are within an irregular enclosure (not shown on the map), and five lie outside between the enclosure and the field on the west, which has in its north-east angle a single hut circle.

This enclosure and the hut circles are visible from the train, and with this description of locality should be easily seen and recognized.

The exploration of the collection was commenced by the examination of the hut circle nearest the railway. This is a fine circle, with a diameter N. to S. of 26 feet 9 inches, whilst E. to W. it is 26 feet 6 inches. The wall is double-faced, with a core of small stones and earth between, and is 4 feet wide from out to out. On the western side the wall was between 3 and 4 feet in height, and this hut

circle would have been a very perfect example, but for the fact that during recent years stonecutters had been at work within it. Large stones from the wall had been thrown down, and piled against the inside of the western circumference of the circle, and left unworked. Others again had evidently been cut and worked and removed, for underneath the turf of the hut quantities of spalls struck off by the stonecutters were found.

The Committee at first thought that the heap of unworked stones formed a ruined portion of the structure of the dwelling, but their removal and evidence of the spalls made it perfectly clear why they had been thus accumulated.

The excavation was commenced at the ruined entrance, which faces S.S.W., and continued over the whole of the floor of the hut.

There was a pavement of rough flat stones in the entrance, and this was carried a short distance inside. On removing the turf and "meat" earth to a depth of six inches, not only were stonecutters' spalls met with, but occasional small pieces of unmistakable tin-slag, and the latter increased in quantity as the N.E. part of the circle was reached. Here was a large stone which had fallen inwards from the wall of the circle, and on removing this more slag was found underneath, together with some of the fragments of a mug or jug of highly-glazed ware. These were too small and few in number to settle shape of vessel.

The paste is well made and thin, barely an eighth of an inch at the rim; the interior is somewhat deeply corrugated, but this is only faintly apparent on the exterior. These sherds have been submitted to experts at the British Museum, and compared with standard examples of late mediæval pottery. They correspond with fourteenth century work and some early fifteenth century, and may be ascribed to these periods. These sherds and the slag were found together, and the age of the former is the measure of the age of the latter. Both were found sub-surface, and both were covered by the stone which had fallen from the wall.

Yes Tor Bottom has been very extensively streamered for tin, but so far no sign of a blowing-house has been observed. A closer search may reveal this. Smelting must have been carried on in the neighbourhood, and either smelters or streamers must have temporarily sheltered in the hut. There was no evidence of their use of the hut as a habitation, as the further exploration demonstrated.

Further stopes of the surface were removed until a depth

of 20 inches was obtained, and the floor of the hut resting on the "calm" was reached. This, the prehistoric level, yielded the rim and two fragments of a hand-made cooking pot, with chevron ornamentation and one fragment of flint and a flake of the same material. There was a cooking hole nearly in the centre of the circle 1 foot 9 inches long, 1 foot 4 inches wide, and 1 foot 3 inches deep. The hole had within it three cooking stones and much charcoal. No regular hearth or fireplace was found, but the whole floor was more or less strewn with wood charcoal.

Hut Circle No. 2 lies south of No. 1, and is represented on the Ordnance map as two circles attached to each other. No. 2 is really a hut 22 feet in diameter N. and S., and 19½ feet E. and W., constructed with a semicircular outer wall protecting the northern half of the dwelling. Both arms of the semicircle embrace the southern half of the wall of the circle, and are therein merged, so that it is not quite a circle within another, although at first sight it looks very much like it.

The wall of the circle proper is about 4 feet in width, the width of the wall of the semicircle due north is 5 feet, and at this point the space between the two walls is 4 feet 7 inches.

This space was explored, but yielded no sign of human occupancy, and the Committee came to the conclusion that the semicircular wall was erected for the protection of the hut below it, for the slope of the ground is somewhat steep, and such a barrier on the high ground above would be desirable in very wet weather for the purpose of preventing surface-water from washing through the lower wall into the dwelling.

The arrangement is unusual, and the explanation may be inadequate. It is however more reasonable and likely than that the builders intended in the first place to construct a larger hut circle, and subsequently built a smaller one, for had this been the case they would surely have used up the stones of the outer circle for the construction of the inner.

The entrance to the hut circle proper faces S.S.W., and is unusually massive. The wall at the entrance is 5 feet thick. On the east side of the door there is a fine stone 4 feet 7 inches high, with a breadth varying from 2½ feet at ground level to 18 inches half-way up, and about 1 foot at the top. This forms an outer jamb, which projects somewhat from the outer wall of entrance.

Another stone 3 feet 2 inches high forms the inner jamb, and this is flush with the inner wall.

The corresponding inner jamb on the west side of doorway is standing; this is 3 feet 5 inches high, with a greatest breadth of 2 feet 5 inches. The outer jamb on this side has been removed.

The lintel was evidently placed over the inner stones, so that the entrance must have been about 3 feet high and 2 feet wide.

The outer standing stones probably supported a porch or penthouse, which protected the entrance. Outside this is a paved plateau, with a width of 14 feet nearest the entrance; this curves somewhat on each side, and has a total length of 14 feet. The paving is composed of rough flat stones.

A trench 4 feet wide was dug through it from the door outwards, and the following objects were unearthed:—Two fragments of flint, a small river stone, and five small rough pieces of slate.

Deep pits were dug E. and W. of this paved plateau with the hope of finding middens, but none were discovered.

The exploration of the hut was commenced at the entrance as usual, and it was found that the paving was continued a short distance in the interior and towards the western circumference. The following results were obtained:—

Under western wall, the stones of which leaned somewhat inwards, some sherds of rude hand-made pottery were found. These were without ornamentation.

About 2 feet from the centre towards the northern portion of the circle more broken pottery occurred, and on carefully removing this the bottom of a cooking pot was found resting on the "calm." (Plate L.) It had a diameter of 11 inches, and the inside bottom was strengthened by ridges crossing each other at right angles and forming a cross. These ridges are an inch wide, and raised a quarter of an inch above the bottom. There was a good deal of charcoal around the remains of the pot, but no cooking hole could be made out near it. As a rule the cooking holes and most of the finds occur either in or about the centre of the hut, or from this point to the entrance, and often under the western portion of the wall. If the hut is built on a slope, as they mostly are, the lower portion of the hut gives, as a rule, the best results; but in this case this experience was reversed as far as the cooking holes are concerned, for no less than three were uncovered in the northern part of the circle, and on the higher portion of the slope.

PLATE I.

DARTMOOR EXPLORATION.

FIFTH REPORT.

YES TOR BOTTOM
NEAR PRINCETOWN
HUT N^o 2



HALF SIZE

No. 1 was 1 foot 5 inches long, 1 foot wide, and 9 inches deep, and contained some charcoal.

No. 2 was 1 foot 5 inches long, 1 foot 7 inches wide, and 14 inches deep, and contained much charcoal.

No. 3 was a double example, like a big-waisted figure 8; one was 10 inches by 14 inches, and the other 9 inches by 10 inches, whilst the waist connecting the two was 9 inches wide. The holes were respectively 10 inches and 15 inches deep.

These holes yielded a goodly quantity of charcoal, a broken cooking stone, and sherds representing about one-third of a shallow vessel. These were of hand-pottery of the usual type, without ornamentation.

A round hole in the "calm," 6 inches deep and 3 inches in diameter at the top, was found, 4 feet 6 inches from the north to south central line of the circle towards the east, and about 4 feet from the centre. A similar hole was found in a hut circle at Cullacombe, Shapley Common,¹ and in the latter case the Committee thought it might have contained a support for the roof. In the present case this explanation does not appear to be so feasible, as the hole is not sufficiently central.

The further finds in this hut circle were two fragments of flint, two more cooking stones, and some fragments of slate, which were probably the remains of a pot coverer.

On the whole this proved to be a most interesting hut, and justified the two days which were spent over its thorough exploration.

Hut Circle No. 3. Diameter 11 feet, entrance facing south. The only finds made were charcoal and a flat river pebble.

Hut Circle No. 4. Diameter 17 feet, entrance facing south. This circle was partially paved, mostly over the southern half. A little charcoal only was found.

Hut Circle No. 5. Diameter 15 feet. The feature of this dwelling was a large fire or cooking hole 4 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 15 inches deep. It contained much charcoal. The exploration of the floor of the hut yielded a flint scraper, two portions of a river pebble, and three rubber stones of grit.

Hut Circle No. 6. The floor near the entrance was paved. There was a cooking hole in the N.E. portion of the circle, which was 11 inches deep and 9 inches in diameter. This circle yielded charcoal, one cooking stone, a crystal of quartz, and some fragments of pottery.

¹ See p. xxvii. 89.

Hut Circle No. 7 was commenced, but owing to changes in weather which came on last autumn the further examination of this and other hut circles in the neighbourhood was postponed.

West Dart Head. (XCIX. N.W.)

There are four small hut circles on the east slope of the hill lying between Horse Hole Bottom and West Dart Head. They are in a very remote district, and are close to the great central bogs. The attraction to the primitive dwellers of these huts seems to have been the dry pasture land which lies between West Dart Head up to Flat Tor on the north, Horse Hole Bottom on the west, and the slope of the hill on the east known as Summer Hill—a dry oasis sandwiched between the great bogs.

On the south this firm pasture land runs down to Longaford Tor and beyond. This district is a valued cattle and sheep run to-day, and in the summer is always well stocked with beasts.

The whole of the four small hut circles, which are all connected with the ruins of small paddocks, were explored, but only one gave any results, and that was the first dug into. This had a diameter of 14 feet, a wall, very ruined, 2 feet wide, and a dilapidated entrance facing S.S.W.

The floor of the hut resting on the "calm" was 20 inches below the surface, and on this were found much charcoal, some rotten fragments of pottery, eight cooking stones very much fired, two flint scrapers, three fragments of the same material, and a flint arrow-head, the only one the Committee has so far found *in* a hut circle. It is of the tanged and barbed variety, one of the barbs being missing, but otherwise it is in a fairly perfect condition.

EXPLORATION OF COX TOR.

The following is a list of the antiquities on Cox Tor:—

1. The outcrop of granite on the summit is surrounded by an ancient wall, enclosing a space of some 70 feet in diameter, built of small stones brought from the surrounding slopes in immense quantities. What is left of it is 4 to 5 feet high, with a width at the base of some 6 to 7 feet approximately. It has been pillaged, and part of it has been used in the erection of the cairn for the 1887 Jubilee. There is no trace of any cairn in the centre, which is a mass of rock, though at one side there is a collection of

stones which may possibly prove to be a cairn. One would suppose it to be for purposes of defence were it not for its analogy to Nos. 4 and 5, which are certainly not intended for that purpose.

2. In a sheltered nook twenty yards below the summit of this cairn, but forming part of it, on the N.E. side, there is a little hut circle with a doorway facing north. The walls have been recently raised, apparently to afford additional protection for a fire or some such purpose, and the doorposts have been carried off. It is an oval, 8 feet from N. to S., and 5 feet 6 inches from E. to W. There was no regular floor, and the walls seem to have been laid on the solid rock just below the original surface of the soil. It is possible that it served as a shelter for the man who managed the beacon or kept a look-out. Nothing was found in it, and there was no trace of charcoal.

3. Three or four hundred yards north of the summit is a very large cairn of stones which has been much pillaged, but which is still large enough to form a landmark. The centre is hollow, and has every appearance of having been pillaged.

For this reason, and also because five or six workmen would be required to explore it, no exploration was attempted, but it will have to be examined at some future time. Dimensions were not taken. It is composed of small stones only.

4. Some two hundred yards N.N.W. of No. 3, at a lower level, there are two very curious cairns close together on a grassy plateau. The larger of the two and No. 3 are marked on the six-inch Ordnance map. They were both partially examined last autumn, and the larger may be described as follows:—

It is a ring of small stones 55 feet in diameter, the ring wall varying in breadth from 4 to 6 feet, and raised 15 to 18 inches above the surrounding grass. It is a perfect circle, but 28 feet from the eastern side occurs a line of original rock outcrop bisecting the circle. West of this line of rock the circle appears to have been continued for the sake of symmetry, because the intervening space is encumbered with original earth-fast rocks and can contain nothing, and here the circle itself is less carefully made. On the eastern side of the ring there are two small hollows 3 feet 6 inches in diameter. From one of these we drove a trench westward to the line of rocks, and a second trench north at right angles. We found that in the ring the stones

were laid on the "calm," built in with very little earth, but when the ring was passed we came to larger stones loosely impacted with meat earth. The "calm" was encountered at 18 inches, and no trace of charcoal or flint was found.

5. The second ring cairn lies 41 feet E. by S. from No. 4. It is exactly similar in shape, though smaller, and not encumbered by a line of rocks, though several earth-fast stones were encountered in the middle. It is 27 feet in diameter. The "calm" lay 15 inches below the surface. The construction of the central portion was somewhat looser, much earth being mingled with the stone. The whole of the contents of the ring was examined, but not the ring wall. Nothing was found, nor was there any pit in the "calm."

These ring cairns are a puzzle. They were certainly not dwellings; they cost great labour to erect; and so far they have shown no trace of interment.

6. On the southern slope of the Tor, 200 feet below the summit, there is a cluster of little cairns, evidently sepulchral.

Five are certainly cairns, while there are other mounds which are doubtful. Two were examined. They were 9 feet by 4 feet, but originally circular, and 18 inches high, composed of earth and stones, similar to the barrow near Langstone Circle, which yielded a small kistvaen. In neither was anything found. The rest remain to be examined.

7. On the S.E. slope (S.E. of No. 1), about 200 yards, there is a single hut circle. The surrounding land is rocky and grassed, and traces of other hut circles were detected, which have been pillaged for road-mending, as indeed have all the remainder in this neighbourhood quite recently. The walls of this circle are exceptionally high. Doorway faces S.E., doorposts fallen. 100 yards south of the circle runs an old wall or trackway, which is probably more modern than the circle, because the circles nearest to it seem to have been pillaged to build it. The floor was very uneven. Not a trace of charcoal was found, nor of a cooking hole or pottery; but on the "calm," about the centre, a flint flake and a pebble were found. The stones on the "calm" showed traces of long exposure to the weather. Interior measurement 11 feet by 12.

1. On the S.W. slopes of the Tor are several (six or seven) hut circles not yet examined.

EXPLORATION OF BARROWS AND STONE CIRCLE AT
FERNWORTHY.

This very important group of antiquities received considerable attention at the hands of the Committee during last autumn, permission to do so having been very kindly granted by Sir John D. Ferguson-Davie, Bart. The stone, or so-called "sacred" circle, is the prominent feature of the group. It is almost a true circle, being $64\frac{1}{2}$ feet from N. to S., and 64 feet from E. to W., internal diameter. There are 27 stones standing, the highest being $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet above ground, and the shortest 1 foot. There is a gap in the south circumference of the circle, probably caused by the removal of a stone or stones. This can be verified by a search for the pit or pits in which these stood.

But for this gap the circle would be a very perfect one; as it is it is a good example, notwithstanding the smallness of the stones.

About 80 yards E.S.E. of the circle is a small barrow, which was reported to the Committee by Mr. F. N. Budd, of Batworthy, as being unviolated. It stands on a slight rise in the ground, and is numbered 1 on the accompanying plan.

No. 2 is another barrow, containing a ruined kistvaen, from which a stone row starts, connecting No. 2 with another barrow, No. 4.

No. 3 is also a small barrow, encircled with small standing stones, from which another stone row leads to a large stone fixed in the newtake wall. This stone looks very much as if it might have been the blocking stone of the row. Both the latter are of the double variety, but have been much robbed for wall-building.

Barrows numbered 2, 3, and 4 have all been disturbed at some unknown time.

A little way north of the stone circle are the remains of another double stone row. This also has been pillaged, for the pits in which the stones originally stood can be traced for a considerable distance.

The row points to the stone circle, but whether it was ever actually joined to it is doubtful.

The graves and stone rows are grouped about the stone circle, all evidently being in connection one with the other, and probably erected at about the same period.

The leading idea was evidently sepulchral, and as No. 1 barrow appeared to have escaped previous disturbance it

was determined to devote a large share of time to the thorough exploration of the whole of the group of antiquities. If the exploration of No. 1 resulted successfully, it was felt that the age of the remains could be determined, and probably some light would be thrown on the purpose of the "sacred" stone circles.

To incontestably settle the period of the erection of three stone rows in addition to the circle and the barrows seemed almost too good to expect. The most sanguine expectation was happily fulfilled by the thorough exploration of No. 1. It had a diameter of 19 feet, was 2 feet above ground in the centre, but was concealed by a growth of heather and short furze and bracken—the roots of the two latter were found deep down into the barrow. The barrow was originally surrounded by standing stones; three of these were in position 9 to 10 feet from the existing foot of the slope of the barrow.

The accompanying plans (Plate II.) explain the structure of the barrow. It was evidently made by clearing away a circular area of ground, with a diameter of about 19 feet, and excavating about 14 inches into the "calm," and in about the centre sinking a pit to a depth of 18 inches. This pit was 4 feet wide from E. to W., whilst from N. to S. it was 7 feet.

The depth of this pit from original ground-level was 3 feet 3 inches, so that the total depth from the highest barrow surface was 5 feet 3 inches.

A trench was dug from W. to E., and subsequently another was cut from N. to S., so that almost the whole of the interior of the barrow was exposed.

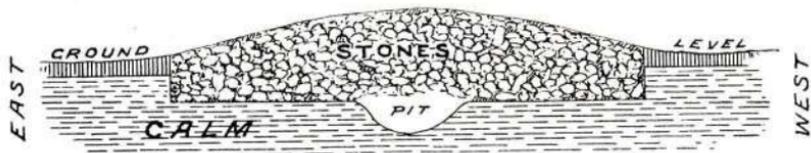
These trenches disclosed the area occupied by the pit. The portions of the barrow left intact were subsequently examined, but nothing was found in these.

On removing the turf of the barrow it was found to be built of handy-sized stones, gathered from the surface. Some were large enough to require two hands to lift. Not only was the barrow piled up of these stones, but the entire pit was filled up or packed with them, so that some little difficulty was experienced in getting them out.

In the central pit at a depth of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the surface a small piece of oxidised bronze was found, with fragments of some fibrous wood attached to it. The bronze object is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, with a greatest width of three-quarters of an inch, and weighs half an ounce; it is apparently either the remains of a small knife or spear-head, most likely the former.

FERNWORTHY

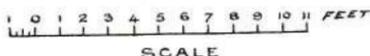
BARROW



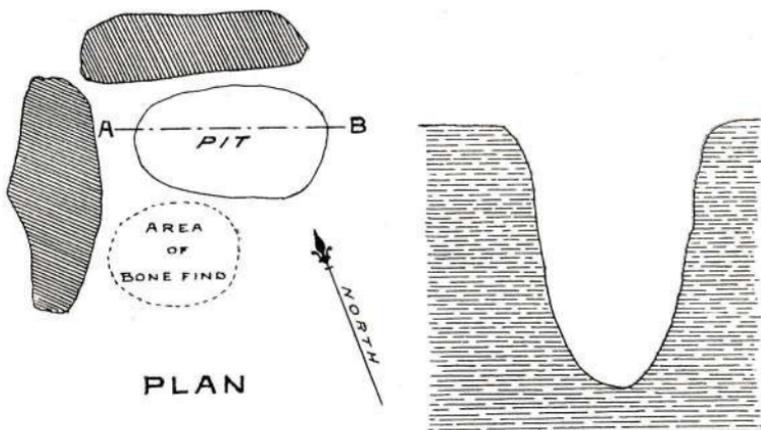
SECTION EW



SECTION N.S.



RUINED KIST



SECTION A.B.

RHW

FERNWORTHY.



URN FROM BARROW NO. 1.

Half-size.

Near this were two or three fragments of pottery, and close under these a small urn was discovered (Plate III.), which had been crushed by the subsidence of the cairn stones. Before the latter was removed a large dress-fastener, or button of Kimmeridge "coal" was found on the same level as the bronze (Plate IV.), and distant 2 feet towards the N.W. The upper surface is polished, and has a brown lustre.² The bottom of the urn was resting on the "calm," and lying amongst the sherds was a flint knife (Plate V.) in such a manner as to suggest that it might have been placed in the urn.

The sherds still had adhering to them some light brown soil, which gave traces of phosphoric acid. This appears to be "calm" with a similar composition to the substance found in the urn discovered in the kist on Western Down.³ It contained a little peaty matter.

The urn from its size and shape corresponds with those known as food vases, and the presence of traces of phosphoric acid in the fine soil which was therein contained may indicate the remains of food.

Not a trace of bone, burnt or unburnt, could be detected anywhere in the pit of the barrow, nor were there any of the larger sized urns or remains of same for containing a cinerary interment.

This absence of bone may seem surprising, but when it is remembered that the roots of the furze, etc., penetrated down to the lowest depths of the barrow it is not difficult to realize that these plants growing for an unknown period had assimilated, and thus entirely removed, any signs of phosphatic matter.

The food vase was evidently placed in the bottom of the pit on the "calm," and some of the cairn stones were roughly built around it, two flat stones forming the cover of this rude receptacle. The bronze object was found lying on the upper coverer.

Although no bone ashes were found the Committee has no hesitation in considering this to be an interment after incineration, for wood charcoal was discovered in the bottom of the pit.

The dress fastener or button may have been deposited in the barrow alone or it may have been attached to the dress, and the whole placed therein with the ashes of the dead, the food vase, the bronze object, and the flint knife

² Kimmeridge, Dorset. The brown lustre is conclusive against its being jet or "cannel coal" from Yorkshire.

³ See "Barrow Committee's Report," vol. xxix.

at the time of interment. This most interesting and important exploration settles the period of the interment as that of the period of culture known as the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age.

The bronze object above the food vase and the flint knife below links the Stone and early Metal Periods in a most satisfactory manner, and in addition to this there is the decoration on the food vase and the evidence of the dress fastener.⁴

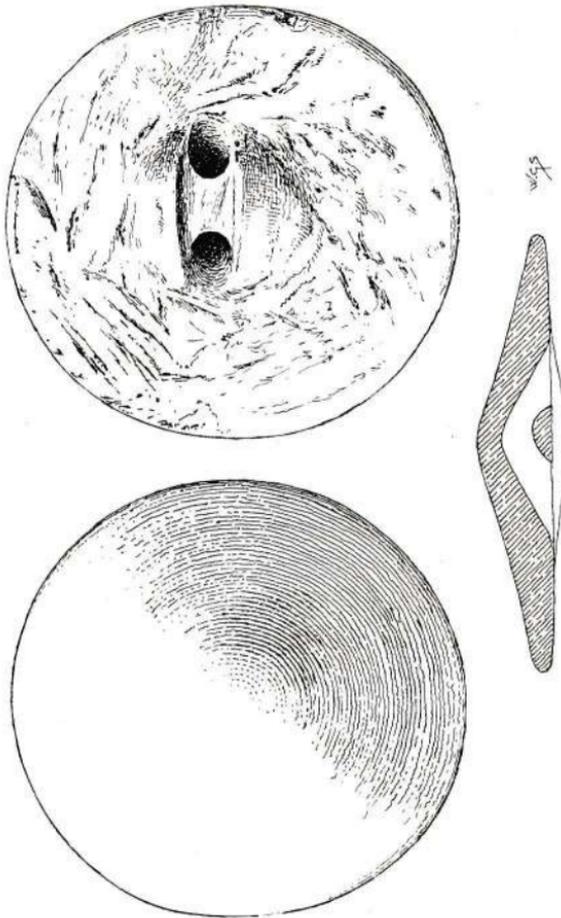
The dimensions of the vase are as follows: Extreme height, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter of bottom, 3 inches; at mouth (internal), 5 inches; thickness at rim, one-eighth of an inch. The dress fastener has a diameter of $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. (Plate III.)

Barrow No. 2. A very much wasted example contained a ruined kistvaen. (See plan, Plate II.) Although this had been previously rifled, masses of burnt bone mixed with "calm" and peaty earth weighing $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds were found in the bottom of the kist. This was submitted to Professor Stewart, F.R.S., of the Royal College of Surgeons, who could not positively identify them as human, as they were too fragmentary and burnt, but they correspond with the characteristics of human remains. The kist also contained a little wood charcoal, but no trace of pottery. It is curious that the bony matter found in this kist should have survived the disintegrating effect of time and vegetation, for thus far the experience of the Committee has been that in other cases the bone has almost or wholly disappeared; in fact, in only one other case has burnt bone been visible in unviolated barrows, whether the interment was placed in a kistvaen or in a hole dug in the "calm." (See Barrow No. 2., Langstone Circle.)

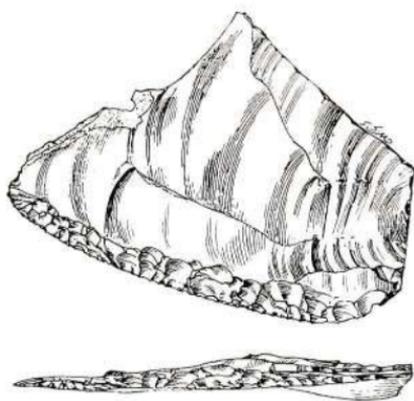
Barrows Nos. 3 and 4 gave no results, with the exception of a tiny flint chip in No. 4. Both had pits dug in the "calm," which contained nothing but soil. Each had been extensively pillaged, doubtless for material for the newtake wall hard by. No. 4 might be further examined in its S.W. and western portion, but the prospect is not encouraging.

The next step taken was to examine the interior of the

⁴ For further particulars of buttons or dress fasteners consult EVANS'S *Stone Implements* and GREENWELL'S *British Barrows*, and especially MUCH (Matthaeus), *Die Kupferzeit in Europa*, Jena, 1893, who bases his argument in favour of a Copper Age having preceded that of Bronze, in part on the fact that buttons of this character, with the peculiar V perforation for fastening to the dress, belong only to the very earliest Bronze Period. At the request of the Committee Sir J. D. Ferguson-Davie very graciously consented that these extremely interesting objects recovered from this barrow should be given to the Plymouth Municipal Museum to form a portion of a collection of relics illustrative of the antiquities of Dartmoor.



BARROW No. 1, FEENWORTHY.
Kimmeridge "Coal" Dress-fastener.



BARROW NO. 1, FERNWORTHY.

Flint Knife.

stone circle, and this was done by driving a trench north and south and another east and west. These were cut through peat locally known as "ven" forming a layer 18 inches thick, and which rested on the "calm." There was no meat earth. The trenches were driven right through the circle with a width of 2 feet, and from end to end it was observed that the floor of the "calm" was strewn with small pieces of wood charcoal. There was no charcoal *in* the "calm"; it was all existing *on* it, and the floor of this material was as definite as those found in the hut circles.

Three pits were dug between the trenches, and another at the foot of the large square stone at A. The whole of these gave the same indications of charcoal—the remnants of fires of wood; in fact, fires seem to have been kindled all over the circle, for every scoop of the pick and shovel which was removed from the "calm" floor displayed charcoal.

This is a very interesting and important discovery, for it may unravel the mystery of the so-called "sacred" circles.

Fernworthy Stone Circle is the important and predominant feature of a group of sepulchral remains, and it is very probable that we can now see in this the crematorium or the site of the funeral feasts, or both.

It is likely that similar circles will yield the same results. A preliminary exploration of the Grey Wethers confirms Fernworthy; and but for the fact that the Committee recognized that the Grey Wethers were probably part and parcel of a sepulchral arrangement, the unviolated barrows, which were found and examined later on near them, would never have been discovered.

It is also likely that more unviolated barrows will be found near the large stone circles—their mounds perhaps wasted down so as to be hardly recognizable, or interments might have taken place in pits with no definite mounds over them—the latter being almost hopeless to find. The Committee intend pursuing this subject further, and hope to give additional particulars and the results of the exploration of some of the well-known stone circles in next year's report.

It is hoped that more unviolated barrows will be found, and some valuable results obtained from their exploration. It is evident that the mode of interment in the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age varied, some being in kistvaens with an urn, others being in kistvaens with no urn, or in pits dug in the "calm" with neither kistvaen nor urn. If the bulk of the people were disposed of in the latter manner it would account for the few visible graves compared with the large

number of hut circles. The important folk were buried in the more imposing graves, whilst the common people were disposed of in a cheaper manner.

EXPLORATION OF THREE SMALL BARROWS NEAR THE STONE
CIRCLE ON LANGSTONE MOOR.

No. 1. 336 feet from the centre of the stone circle in an E.S.E. direction is a wasted barrow 15 feet in diameter. There are the remains of a circle of stones surrounding it. The usual pit, 2 feet wide and 1 foot 10 inches deep, dug in the "calm," was found, but no kistvaen. This contained no trace of the interment, nor even a particle of charcoal.

No. 2. 42 feet S.W. of No. 1. Diameter 11 feet. Slight trace of surrounding circle. The barrow is 1 foot above ground in centre, and is made up of small stones and earth. Found a large thick stone in about the centre, and under this a large flat stone, which on removal disclosed an unviolated kistvaen. It was packed full of "calm," containing small pieces of wood charcoal and a little bone ash. No pottery or implements.

The bottom of the kistvaen was paved.

This is the smallest and the best made kistvaen yet explored by the Committee, and is yet another variation in the form of burial.

It is only 21 inches long, 13 inches wide, and 14 inches deep. (See accompanying plan, Plate VI.)

Owing to the beauty of the little kistvaen, the Committee has approached His Grace the Duke of Bedford with the request that he would allow of its removal to the Plymouth Municipal Museum.

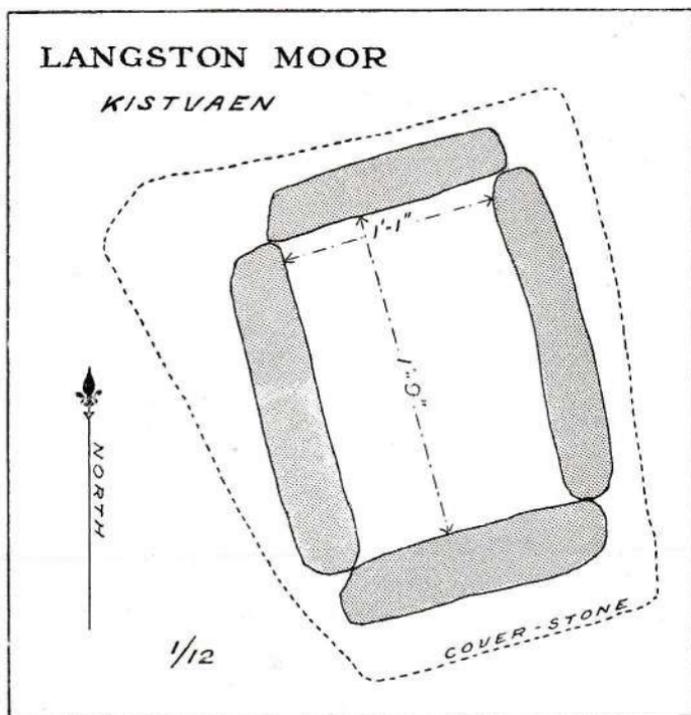
No. 3. Small barrow very much ruined. The interment hole in the "calm" was 18 inches square and 12 inches deep. It contained nothing but soil.

EXPLORATION OF TWO SMALL BARROWS NEAR THE
GREY WETHERS.

No. 1 lies 700 yards south of the stone circles known as the Grey Wethers. Diameter 16 feet; not very visible, as it stands only about 9 inches above the ground, and is concealed with heather.

It was found to be quite intact, and on exploration disclosed a large hole in the "calm," in which nothing was found excepting a little wood charcoal.

The interment pit was oval in shape, 4 feet by 3 feet, and



KISTVAEN No. 2, LANGSTON MOOR.

2 feet 2 inches deep. As it was cleared out water came in plentifully, the grave being situated in a damp, boggy place.

If it ever contained bony matter this had long since disappeared through the medium of the water. No pottery or implements were found. There was no stone circle around the barrow. This was probably a cinerary burial, the ashes being thrown into the pit, without urn or implements.

No. 2 is situated about 300 yards east of the stone circles. Like No. 1 it had never been violated.

Diameter 16 feet. The pit in the centre of the barrow was 3 feet by 3 feet, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep.

In both these cases the soil and charcoal taken from the pits were carefully examined for phosphoric acid, but only traces in either case could be detected.

If they had originally contained bone or bone ash these substances had in process of time been assimilated, and had disappeared.

DISCOVERY OF ROMAN COINS IN OKEHAMPTON PARK,

LXXVI. N.E.

On October 6th, 1897, a workman named R. Furze found a hoard of Roman coins under a rock on Park Hill, above the present Okehampton Railway Station, and within a stone's throw of the old Roman road, or supposed Roman road. He showed those that he had found to Dr. Young, of Okehampton, who at once communicated with the Dartmoor Exploration Committee, and a deputation was appointed to at once examine the spot, and continue the clearing of the place where the hoard had been discovered. Accordingly on October 12th the investigation was made, Dr. Young and R. Furze being also present.

The collection would seem to have been secreted under a leaning natural rock on the side of the hill; earth had accumulated, and the whole covered up till discovered by Mr. Furze. He had originally found about 160, and 40 more were recovered by sifting the earth by the deputation.

A considerable number of the coins was broken or so corroded as to be indecipherable. The entire collection was made up of third brass pieces of dates between A.D. 320 and 330. It is very probable that it was the store of a beggar who sat beside the Roman road begging, as every coin was of the smallest size and most insignificant value in itself. The beggar either died, or could not find the place where he had deposited his collection.

The coins were kindly classified by H. A. Grueber, Esq., of the British Museum, as follows:—

3 copper denarii of Constantine the Great, with on Reverse, "D. N. CONSTANTIN. MAX. AUG." and a wreath with "VOT. XX"; the date, 325-330.

1 ditto of Licinius I., with on Reverse, "IOVI CONSERVATORI" and Jupiter, with attributes; date, *circ.* 320.

4 ditto of Constantine the Great. Reverse, "PROVIDENTIAE AUGG." and gateway; date, 325.

1 copper denarius of Constantine the Great, struck at Lyons; *circ.* 330. Obverse, Head of Constantine; Reverse, Victory.

5 ditto of Constantine II. as Cæsar, with Reverse, "CAESARUM NOSTRORUM," a wreath, and "VOT. X"; date, 325-330.

1 ditto of Constantine II. as Cæsar, with Reverse, "PROVIDENTIAE CAESS." and gateway; *circ.* 325.

42 ditto of Constantine the Great, with Obverse, "URBS ROMA" and head of the city; and Reverse, Wolf and Twins; *circ.* 330.

34 ditto of Constantine the Great, with Reverse, "GLORIA EXERCITUS" and two warriors holding standards; date, *circ.* 330.

28 ditto of Constantine the Great, struck at Trèves; *circ.* 330. Obverse, Head of Constantinopolis; Reverse, Victory.

1 ditto of Crispus, with Reverse, "CAESARUM NOSTRORUM," a wreath, and "VOT. X"; *circ.* 325.

4 ditto of Constantine the Great, with Reverse, "BEATA TRANQUILITAS" and altar with globe; *circ.* 325.

1 ditto of Constantine the Great, with Reverse, "SARMATIS DEVICTIS."; *circ.* 325.

4 ditto of Constantine II. as Cæsar, with Reverse, "GLORIA EXERCITUS" and two soldiers holding standards; *circ.* 330.

2 ditto of Crispus, with Reverse, "BEATA TRANQUILITAS" and altar with globe; *circ.* 325.

18 copper denarii of Constantine II. as Cæsar, with Reverse, "GLORIA EXERCITUS" and two warriors holding standards; *circ.* 330.

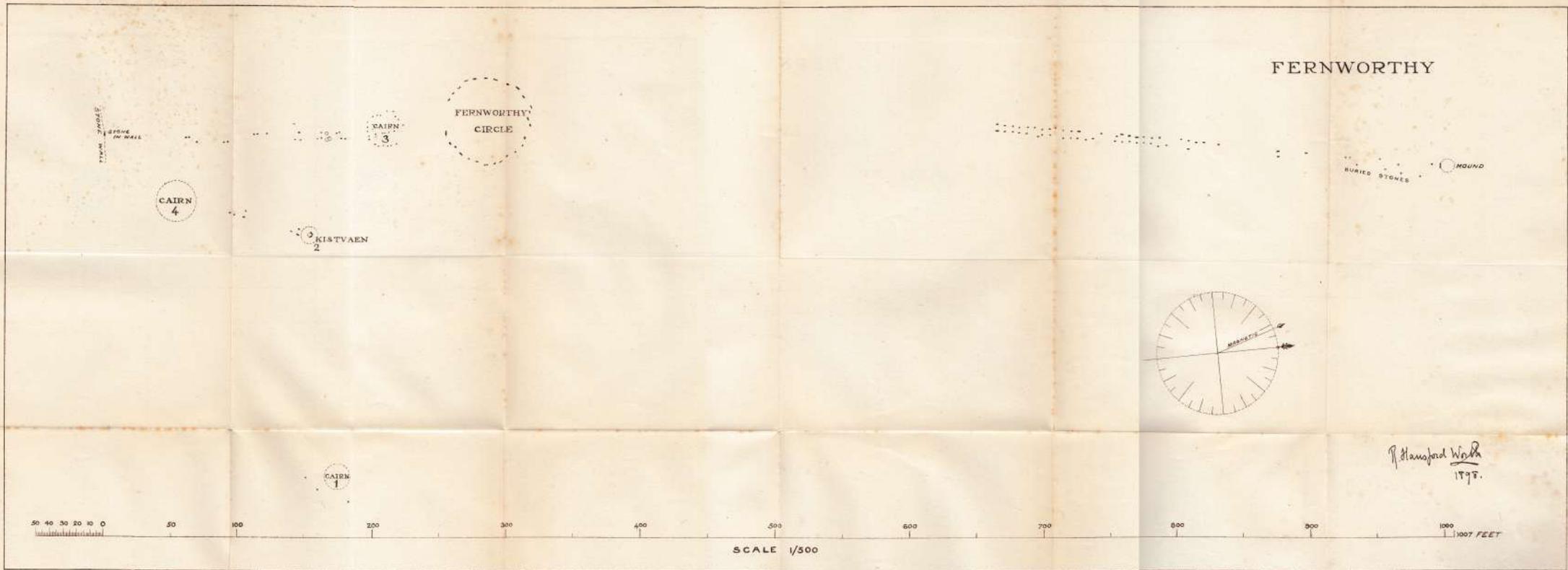
10 pieces of denarii of copper of Constantine II. as Cæsar, so corroded as not to be decipherable.

15 pieces of denarii of copper, with figures holding standards.

Other fragments of which nothing could be made.

The Committee deemed it imperative to secure the entire

FERNWORTHY



R. Mansford Wark
1898.

collection by purchase of the finder, and then communicated with Mrs. Trevor Roper and Mrs. Lees, to whom the manor belongs. These ladies, after reserving some specimens, kindly allowed the Committee to retain the rest of the purchase for presentation to the Plymouth Municipal Museum.

The collection, though of very small intrinsic value, as the coins are of the commonest, is important as being the only Roman coins found on the outskirts of Dartmoor, as far as is known; the sole exception being a couple discovered at Princetown, but these probably had come from the pockets of some of the French prisoners. French peasants have very generally a number of such coins about them which are found in quantities in ploughing, and are often dropped by them into the collecting-bags in the churches.

It will be seen that the date of this little store can be pretty accurately determined, as between 320 and 330, and the hoard cannot have been made earlier than the latter date. Constantine the Great died in 337, on May 22nd. The denarii with the head of Constantinople on them are interesting, because it was precisely in 330 that Constantine dedicated the New Rome at Byzantium on the Bosphorus, and called it after his own name. No coin in the hoard is later in date than that.

In conclusion your Committee may mention that the exploration of the very interesting crest of White Tor, near Cudlip town, has been commenced, and that it is hoped that the report that will be presented at the ensuing meeting of the Devonshire Association, the sixth of the Exploration Committee, may contain an account of this examination.

It is also hoped that the next report will contain further experiments with clay obtained from the Forest and its borderland. Some samples have been collected, but these arrived too late for present report.

S. BARING-GOULD.

ROBERT BURNARD.

J. BROOKING ROWE.

JOHN D. PODE.

R. HANSFORD WORTH.