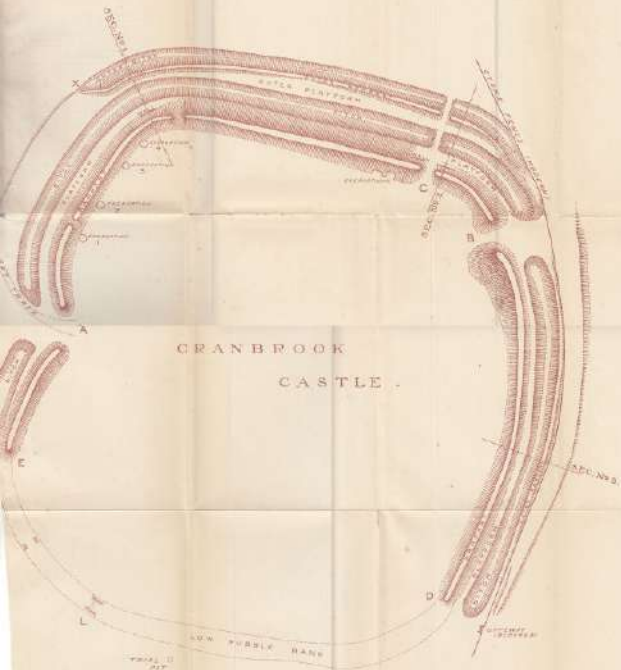


CRANBROOK.



CRANBROOK
CASTLE.



SECTION NO. 1.



PROBABLE RESTORATION, SEC. NO. 1



SECTION NO. 2.



SECTION NO. 3.



Note: Slight changes made in the level of the tower & ramparts in this plan and in the plan on page 10.

J. Mansfield White
1900

SEVENTH REPORT OF THE DARTMOOR
EXPLORATION COMMITTEE.

SEVENTH REPORT of the Committee, consisting of the Rev. I. K. Anderson, Mr. R. Burnard, the Rev. S. Baring-Gould (Secretary), Mr. J. D. Pode, Mr. J. Brooking-Rowe, and Mr. R. Hansford Worth, for the purpose of exploring Dartmoor.

Edited by the Rev. S. BARING-GOULD, Secretary.

(Read at Exeter, 31st July, 1901.)

CRANBROOK CASTLE lies in the parish of Moretonhampstead, and is figured on Sheet XC., N.W., six-inch Ordnance Survey.

It crowns an eminence 1,100 feet above the level of the sea. The approach to this height from the south is not very steep; the rise from the old way leading from Cranbrook Farm to Uppacott at the cross-roads is just 100 feet in about 400 yards; on the east and west the approaches are somewhat steeper; whilst on the north, for about 200 yards, the slope drops nearly 200 feet, with a further steep fall of about 460 feet to Fingle Bridge, a distance of about 700 yards.

Cranbrook, above the right bank of the Teign, looks down on Prestonbury Castle, which is almost vis-à-vis above the left bank. The latter is an earthen camp of unknown age.

From the position of these two camps, it may at first strike one that they were designed to guard the gorge of the Teign; but this impression is not continued on reflection, for if these forts were intended to prevent an enemy from traversing the gorge either up or down, they could be avoided in easier country by proceeding north or south. In fact, the gorge would be the least likely route which would be traversed by a hostile force proceeding into or from the wild recesses of the moor.

There is at present no evidence to show that these forts or camps were contemporary.

They were not forts as we understand such, but were merely strong places into which the inhabitants could retire with their flocks and herds when some temporary danger threatened them.

A glance at the plan accompanying this report will at once disclose the fact that the easiest approach to the camp from the south is the most strongly defended. The western defence is but little inferior as far as the point marked D, and the eastern tails off in effectiveness at E. The northern defence between E and D, the side facing the steepest declivity, consisted of a single rampart. The curious termination of the outer parapet at the point marked X on plan should be noted. It is turned through a considerable angle, as if to screen the end of the outer dyke.

The ample defence towards the south can readily be understood by referring to the section. (Fig. 1.)

F is a shallow outer moat.

G, a slight earthen parapet.

H, platform with varying widths of 16 feet down to 6 and 8 feet.

I, inner moat or ditch cumbered with stones fallen from above.

J, a berme on which it is suggested a palisade of wood might have stood.

K, a rampart, now very much ruined. It was found on examination that the outer face of the rampart was lined with stones of considerable size for about half its height. It was doubtless all walled when perfect, and possibly continued to a greater height than the rampart, so as to form a protective parapet. Elderly residents in the locality can remember when this wall was at least 6 feet in height. It has been almost destroyed by road-menders.

A study of the plan will reveal the fact that from X to A the outer dyke and the parapet are together replaced by a broad platform raised only a few feet from the general surface level. From a point midway between the entrances C and B and down to point D the platform behind the outer parapet is omitted; there is no trace of it, nor space which it could have occupied, and along this side there is also a platform of considerable width, but of small height, lying outside the outer parapet and replacing the outer ditch or dyke.

The platform behind the parapet and the outer ditch are alike confined to the length X - B.

The southern is thus the only side which is really elaborately entrenched. The eastern and western sides differ slightly, the western having apparently a slight outer rampart which is absent on the eastern.

The termination of the trench at point D is also more

abrupt than at E, where it is allowed to die out at the hillside. Curiously, too, the platform inside the outer parapet is at its greatest width in the centre of the south side.

The downward slope of the area enclosed by the ramparts towards the north is so great that when standing on the summit of the southern rampart it is not possible to view the northern. The defenders of these two positions were not within view of each other. There are numerous gaps in the rampart made by sheep; one, however, referred to later on, is apparently a sort of sally-port.

Geologically the site consists of altered carboniferous rock, the junction with the granite being but a short distance off. The rock is covered with some 7 or 8 feet of soil and loose rubble "head," rendering the work of excavation easy, and at the same time it would not be necessary to go far to find all the stone required to face up the rampart. Much could undoubtedly be derived from the excavation of the trench.

The exploration was commenced on May 29th, 1900, and was continued to the 31st. It was again resumed on July 3rd to the 6th, and the examination concluded on August 27th and 28th. During these periods four to five men were busily employed in digging operations.

The results at first were very discouraging, the only finds being a few round pebbles of the size of pigeons' eggs, used probably as sling-stones, and one piece of flint. These objects were found under the surface at the inside foot of rampart south-west.

Pits were sunk in the inner moat or ditch south-west and south, and rendered several sling-stones and large pieces of wood charcoal, which seemed to be from oak.

These fragments were large enough to suggest that they may have been the remains of a palisade which might formerly have stood on the berme under the outer face of the rampart. No traces of such could, however, be found.

This inner ditch was very much cumbered with earth and stones fallen from above. When examined, the true bottom was found to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet below the present trench surface. A small enclosure lying inside the rampart, close to and north of the present eastern entrance, was examined with no results, and the same non-success attended the exploration of a similar site close to the northern and inner side of the western entrance.

The latter appeared to be a modern accumulation of small stones.

The interior of the fortress is studded with small, round tumps of stone with a diameter of about 4 to 5 feet, and these are continued over the north slope of the hill, where they are dotted about in dozens, until it becomes densely wooded and drops to the Teign below with a steep descent. Several of these tumps were examined both inside and outside the camp, and were found to be little heaps of stone placed on the grass surface. No information could be obtained regarding them, and their occurrence is inexplicable.

Attention was then directed to the exploration of the interior of the camp, with the hope of finding sites of huts or shelters.

With this object a long trench was dug in what looked like a favourable position near the south-west portion of the inner foot of the rampart, close to the previous digging at the same point, but the only result was another find of sling-stones. On further carefully searching the inner foot of the rampart, 86 feet south of the eastern entrance, a small curb-like enclosure (No. 1 on plan), 11 feet long north to south, and 9 feet wide east to west, was observed, and this was found on investigation to be the site of a hut or dwelling of some kind. From 9 inches to 1 foot below the grass surface a good deal of wood charcoal was observed strewn on the ground, forming the original floor of the shelter, and at the western end a fire-hole was opened out. This had a diameter north to south of 22 inches, whilst east to west it was 16 inches. It was not stone-lined, but simply a hole scooped out of the subsoil. It had a depth of 22 inches, and contained much wood charcoal. Some of the fragments were fully 2 inches long and 1 inch wide, forming thin flakes. Further search revealed some small fragments of pottery, one or two pieces of which bore incised lines and dots as ornamentation, and the bottom stone of a granite quern, 13 inches in diameter, with circular hole in centre 2 inches in diameter and half an inch deep. The greatest thickness is 5 inches. The back of the stone is rounded. This stone does not show much sign of use. There is a fissure in the stone from centre to edge, and this fault probably condemned it as a nether grinder of a mill. The upper stone could not be found. Although no further curb-like enclosures were visible, exploration was continued in the direction of No. 2 on plan, and finds of more charcoal, sling- and rubber-stones were made.

Another fire-hole was found with a diameter of 2 feet north-north-west to south-south-east and 1 foot 6 inches

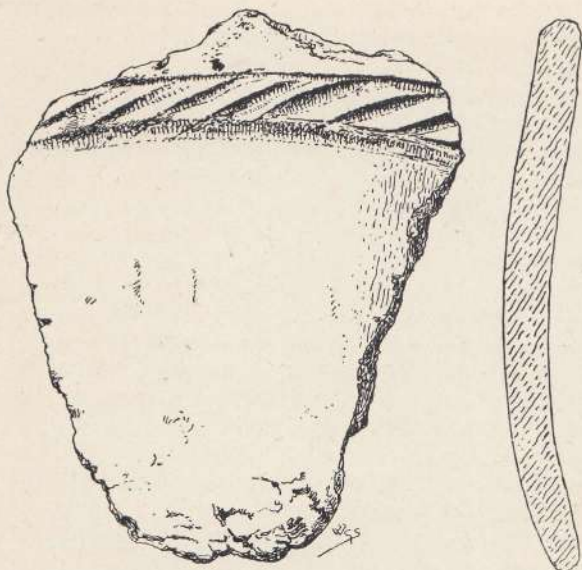


FIG. 2 (full size). Fragment of Pottery, Cranbrook Castle.

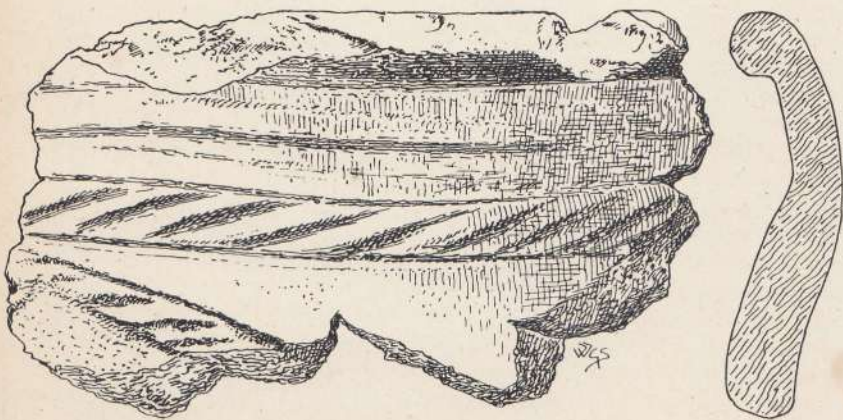


FIG. 2 (full size). Fragment of Pottery, Cranbrook Castle.

south-south-west to north-north-east. It was 2 feet deep. The bottom, paved with flat stones, was full of wood charcoal, some in large pieces, and in addition contained two sling-stones.

At the point marked No. 2 on plan another site of a dwelling or shelter was discovered, and this yielded charcoal and some ornamented pottery (Fig. 2), and near this another fire-hole was uncovered with a diameter of 2 feet and a depth of 2 feet; it contained charcoal, and close by some small fragments of pottery and a small piece of flint.

Excavations marked 3 and 4 yielded some charcoal and sling-stones, but no pottery.

Pits and trenches were dug inside the eastern, western, and northern ramparts, but no traces of human occupation could be discovered. As far as could be ascertained, the only dwellings or shelters were located inside the south rampart, between the points A and B, and along this line nineteen pits and two trenches were dug.

Some of the notches alluded to in the general description were examined, and most of these appear to have been made by the removal of stones and the ingress and egress of sheep into the enclosure formed by the rampart. One near the western entrance may have been a sally-port (C), for here the notch is 6 feet in width, and a causeway of earth crosses the defences at this point.

This was dug into, and proved to be not made, but original ground, and was apparently left so as to give access to this notch.

One access to the castle was evidently through the western opening, where there is a wide approach of undisturbed soil, untouched by the trenches. This undisturbed character of the soil was tested by trenching.

The opening on the eastern side also appears to be original, for here again the single trench at this point ceases and continues when the opening is reached and passed. The incurving of the rampart at this point favours this assumption. A trackway passes through this entrance from Cranbrook Farm, which, though doubtless ancient, is probably comparatively modern.

The exploration was not rich in results, but the discovery of hand-made pottery, found in the interior under the south rampart, of Bronze Age type, in unmistakable dwellings or shelters, is evidence of the period when human beings occupied this camp.

The sherds found are apparently the remains of small vessels, probably drinking-cups. No pottery suggestive of

cooking-pots was found, nor were any cooking-stones observed.

Small sling-stone pebbles were unearthed in almost all the pits and trenches excavated, and some of these were battered and broken as if by impact. They were so numerous as to suggest that they may have been slung or used in an attack on and defence of the place. No metal of any kind was discovered. The two pieces of flint which turned up during the exploration were unimportant, only one piece showing any secondary flaking.

But for the discovery of the ornamented hand-made pottery in the floors of undoubted huts or shelter sites the exploration would have been unsatisfactory; but these finds saved the situation, and enabled the explorers to form a definite opinion that a people who lived in a Bronze Age state of culture occupied Cranbrook Castle, and probably built it as a temporary place of refuge for themselves and their flocks and herds.

Like most of the other camps, Cranbrook had no water, the nearest efficient spring being at Cranbrook Farm, some 700 yards away. There are indications of water in a quarry a short distance from the western rampart, and this may have reached the surface under normal conditions of weather.

When occupation took place, food, water, and forage must have been stored within the camp.

It is not known how water was contained on these occasions, but in the absence of evidencé of cisterns, etc., it is presumed that the storage vessels were of skins, these being the largest and most effective vehicles which could be employed for the purpose. Excepting under the south rampart, there were no traces of hut or shelter sites within the area of the camp.

At the point marked L on plan the ruin of the northern rampart was trenched right through, and was found to be composed of rather small stones, with no indication of walling. It is impossible now to form any idea of the original aspect of this portion of the defence, for it has been robbed for many years past by road-menders and others. This pillaging has now ceased, for a quarry has been opened out west of the castle from which road-metalling and building-stones are obtained. Some 1,800 yards of stone are annually raised from this quarry, a fact which gives some indication of what the spoliation of the walls must have formerly been. It is certainly curious that whilst two-thirds of the camp is most effectively defended by double ditches and

ramparts, the remainder was only protected by a single rampart. It was at first thought that this lack of ditching was due to the rock being near the surface at this point, but a test excavation carried down to $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet gave no indication of such being the case.

It leads to the supposition that the camp, begun on a large and perfect scale, was never completed. It is true that the natural trend of the ground towards the north favours the defence on that side, but on the other hand this is not sufficiently pronounced to prevent an enemy creeping around and delivering an assault where the fortifications seemed weakest.

Hut Circles at Hemstone Rocks and south of railway near Devil's Gully, Princetown.

One at Hemstone Rocks was explored, and trial pits were dug in others, with the result that some charcoal only was discovered. A thunderstorm on July 16th, 1900, drove the explorers off the ground.

The same poor results attended the partial exploration of the hut circles between Devil's Gully and the Princetown Railway. It was found that these huts had been much pulled about by stone-cutters, and their further examination was abandoned.

EXPLORATION OF KISTVAENS.

Although the whole of the following had been previously opened at some unknown time, it was thought advisable to examine them, in the hope that they might still render some object of archæological interest.

A commencement was made on the small kistvaen situated in Archerton Newtake, close to and on the south side of the Powder Mills leat, and about 350 yards due north of Archerton House (Sheet XCIX., S.W.).

The kist is irregularly shaped, with a depth of 3 feet, except in the centre, where a small pit, 2 feet 3 inches by 1 foot 6 inches, had a greater depth of 1 foot. It stands in the centre of a small wasted cairn with a present diameter of 14 feet. The coverer of the kist is gone, but there are traces of an enclosing ring of stones. On carefully clearing out the interior some wood charcoal was observed, together with a worked flint flake in the pit.

A thorough search under the eastern side-stone resulted in the discovery of an archer's wrist-guard (Fig. 3), fashioned

from a fine, gritty stone, and rubbed down perfectly smooth. It is perforated at each corner; two of the holes on the reverse side are countersunk to accommodate the knots of the thongs which bound the guard to the wrist. The obverse is slightly convex and the reverse concave. This is the first recorded find of such an object on Dartmoor, and its discovery encouraged the explorers to persevere in the examination of pillaged kistvaens.

These bracers or guards are not uncommonly found in barrows and kistvaens, mostly of the Bronze Age. Examples have been furnished by Scotland, Denmark, and Germany, and in several counties of England, both in stone and bone.

There are several in the British Museum. One specimen is very similar to that under review. These objects were first recognised by the Rev. Canon Ingram, and his suggestion that they were bracers or guards to protect the wrist of the wearer against the blow of the bow-string has been adopted by Sir John Evans and other eminent authorities.

Among the archers of ancient Egypt similar guards were in use.

On a Roman monument found in the North of England a soldier is represented with a bow in his hand and a bracer on his left arm. A bracer of carved ivory is in the Meyrick Collection, and Mr. C. J. Longman has a collection of them, many artistically engraved, dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The Eskimos of the present day also make use of a guard to save the wrist from the recoil of the bow-string.¹

The kistvaen on the east side of Great Whiten Tor, near Post Bridge, was examined, and gave faint indications of bone ashes contained in a pit 1 foot 10 inches in diameter and 16 inches deep. This pit was covered by a flat stone nearly 2 feet square.

The cover-stone of the kist had been removed and thrown back on the west side of the grave.

The kistvaens near Powder Mills and on the western slope of Bellaford Tor were explored, but nothing was discovered in them.

The kist on the south slope of Crow Tor yielded a flint scraper.

There are two cairns in Archerton Newtake between Row Tor Marsh Brook and the Cherry Brook, and south of the kistvaen in the boundary wall. They have been pillaged and imperfectly dug into.

¹ EVANS, *Stone Implements*, pp. 429-30.

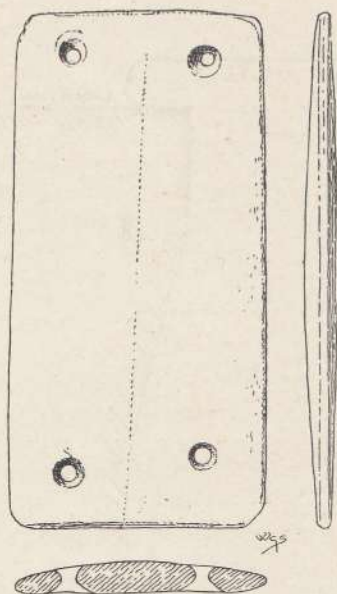


FIG. 3 (full size). Archer's Wrist-guard.



FIG. 6. Section E to W of ruined Cairn Hurston Ridge. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to 1 foot. Diameter 6 inches at bottom. Rt 14 inches diameter, 14 inches deep. This was filled with

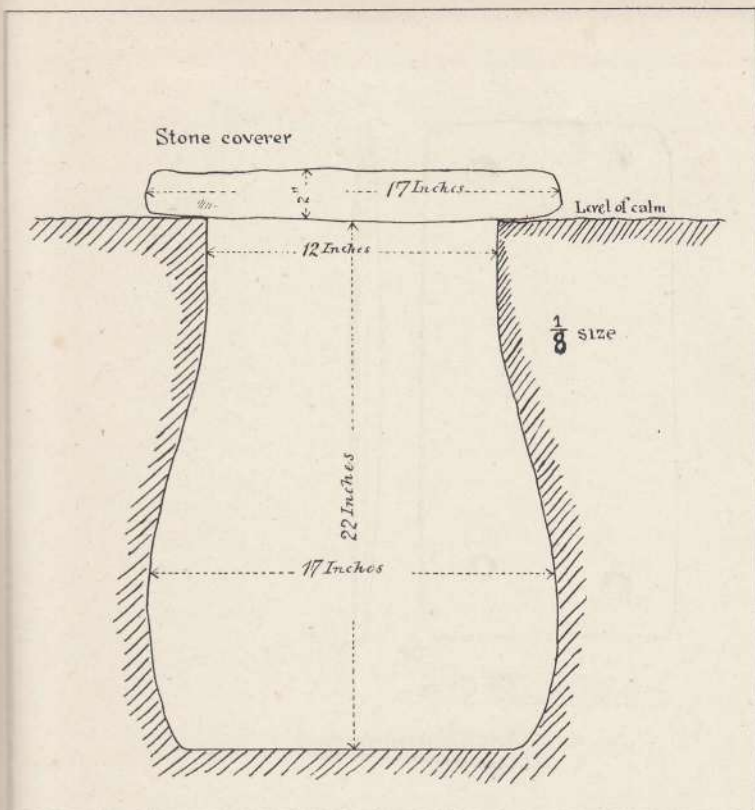
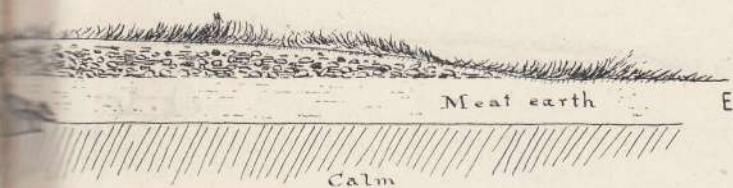


FIG. 4. Pit in Cairn near Hemstone Rocks.



Cairn 26 feet : leaning stone 30 inches long, 2 inches wide at top,

The eastern cairn has a diameter of 30 feet and is still 4 feet high in the centre. A depression in the "calm" near the centre yielded some wood charcoal and a few ounces of burnt bones.

The western cairn is 24 feet in diameter, and in the centre a round pit was found 17 inches in diameter and 13 inches deep, filled with wood charcoal, and probably originally contained burnt bones as well.

Near the large cairn on Lakehead Hill, by which runs the miners' path leading to the stepping-stones in the wall east of Bellafield Gate, three small ruined cairns were observed.

Two of these were blanks, but the small example 135 feet east of the large cairn had also a pit in the "calm," 17 inches in diameter and 8 inches deep, containing wood charcoal.

North of Hemstone Rocks (Sheet LXXXIX., S.E.) and about 200 yards from the brow of the "clatter" are the remains of a kistvaen, three ruined cairns, and three hut circles.

Only the side-stones of the kistvaen remained.

This grave yielded a flint flake.

The westernmost cairn had been denuded of its stones, but on digging into the stump a pit in the "calm" was discovered 22 inches in diameter and 15 inches deep. It contained burnt bones, wood charcoal, and two small pieces of fired flint. This pit was surrounded by a circle of small stones 3 feet in diameter.

A small cairn had rendered a little wood charcoal in a hollow depression in the "calm."

Further east is another ruined cairn, and this had a neat pit dug in the "calm," and covered with a flat stone (Fig. 4). It contained much wood charcoal.

One of the hut circles was examined, and this gave a flint scraper and a cooking-stone.

Nine small cairns were examined on Chagford Common. These all rendered some wood charcoal; four of these had pits in the "calm" from 8 to 20 inches in diameter, and in one of these burnt bones as well as wood charcoal were observed.

A hut circle in the same locality yielded a flint knife.

A stump of a pillaged cairn 26 feet in diameter was observed on Hurston Ridge (Sheet XCIX., N.E.), and this on exploration yielded a large portion of a broken urn, with a circumference of 4 feet 5 inches, resting mouth downwards on a flat stone which covered a pit filled with wood charcoal.

The urn was partially protected by a leaning stone which was kept in a suitable position by means of trigger-stones.

The remains of the urn are covered with ornamentations. The pottery is dark and friable and contains but little clay (Fig. 5).

After much trouble the remnant of the urn resting on the stone was conveyed to the Municipal Museum at Plymouth, where it will soon be on exhibition exactly as it was found.

The section (Fig. 6) from east to west, drawn to a scale of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to 1 foot, will enable the reader to understand the details of this grave.

Accompanying this report is a plan of the settlement on Langstone Moor.

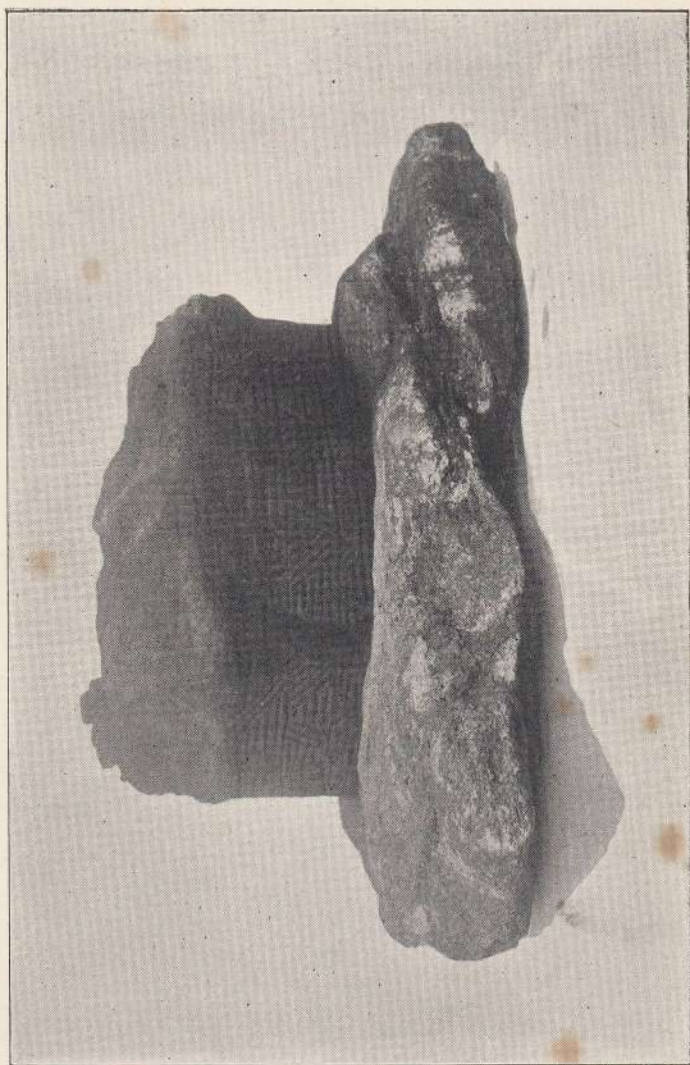
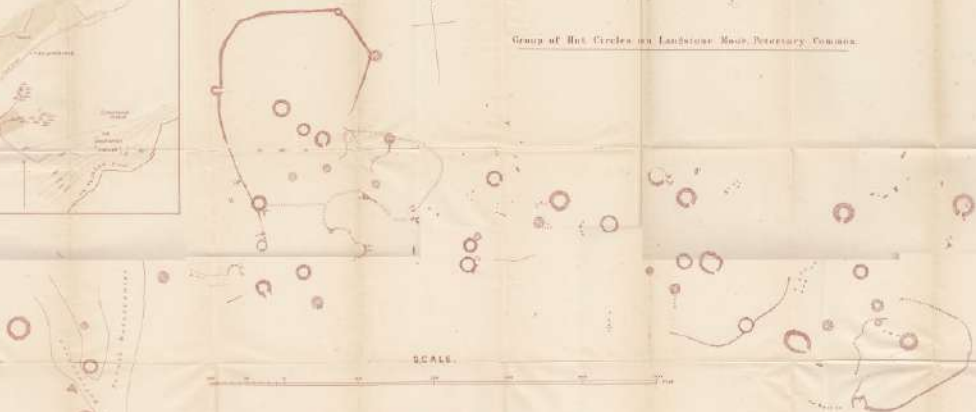


FIG. 5. Remains of Urn found on Hurston Ridge.



Group of Hut Circles on Lanstone Moss, Peterborough, Canada.



Surveyed by Rev. Dr. Irving K. Anderson, 1901.