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Grinsell, Leslie V. *Folklore of  
Prehistoric Sites in Britain*  
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# FOLKLORE OF PREHISTORIC SITES IN BRITAIN

LESLIE V. GRINSELL



DAVID & CHARLES  
NEWTON ABBOT LONDON  
NORTH POMFRET (VT) VANCOUVER

# ENGLAND



# 1 SOUTH-WEST

## CORNWALL

\*BARROW HILLS *Newquay* sw 820623

A headless horseman rides through the air at midnight carrying his head under his arm. Horses have been heard rushing overhead. Spooner 1919.

\*BOLEIGH FOGOU *St Buryan* sw 437252

The Devil pipes to witches who formerly held their sabbats here. The witches assumed the form of a hare and ran into the fogou. Hunt 1881, 244-7; Spooner 1915.

CARBURROW TOR (two round barrows)

*Warleggan* sx 155708

Two kings are buried here in golden coffins. A flock of birds will drive away any intruder. During World War II an attempt to dig a Home Guard lookout post on the Tor was stopped by a flock of birds. Informant: Andrew Saunders, 2 February 1956.

\*CARN GLUZE round barrow *St Just* sw 354313

'Miners returning from their work at night have . . . seen lights burning and rings of fairies dancing on and around it.' Borlase 1885, 190.

\*DEVIL'S QUOIT chamber tomb *Pawton* sw 966696

Folklore implied by the name. Hunt 1881, 185.

DODMAN PROMONTORY FORT *St Goran* sx 002398

Known locally as *Thica Vosa* or the Hack and Cast; the work of a giant who built it in one night. Hunt 1881, 75-6.

GIANT'S CASTLE cliff castle *St Mary's, Scilly* sw 924101

Borlase 1756, 17; Halliwell-Phillips 1861, 237-8; Hencken 1932, 31.

- \*GIANT'S CRAW (Giant's Hovel) *Zennor* sw 447376  
An entrance-grave so-called. Hencken 1932, 40.
- GIANTS' GRAVES *Isles of Scilly* Various  
The normal term for the Scillonian type of megalithic entrance-grave. Borlase 1756, 29-33; Ashbee 1974, 22.
- GIANT'S QUOIT burial chamber *Caerwynnen* sw 650373  
Known also as the Giant's Frying Pan. Dyer 1973, 41.
- \*HARLYN BAY Iron-Age cemetery *Harlyn Bay* sx 877753  
'The main road from Padstow along the coast cuts through this ancient cemetery. It is interesting to note that this portion of the road has ever been dreaded by passengers at night as haunted.' Baring-Gould 1913, 227-8.
- \*THE HURLERS stone circles *Minions* sx 258714  
'Fixed in suche straglinge manner as those Countrye men doe in performinge that pastime Hurlinge'; Norden 1584/1966, 66. 'A redoubled numbering never eveneth with the first . . . But far stranger is the country people's report that once they were men, and for their hurling upon the Sabbath, so metamorphosed'; Carew 1602/1953, 203. 'They are easily numbered but the people have a story that they never could till a man took many penny Loafes and laying one on each hurler did compute by the rem<sup>a</sup> what number they were'; Worth 1878, quoting Yonge c 1675. Borlase 1769, 199; Bond 1823, 196, 201; Hunt 1881, 177-8.
- KERRIS ROUNDAGO earthwork (Iron-Age?), destroyed  
*Paul* sw 445273 approx  
Horses employed in drawing the stones from it died before the work was completed. Halliwell-Phillips 1861, 187.
- KING ARTHUR'S HALL *St Breward* sx 130777  
Date uncertain. A rectangular enclosure. Norden 1584/1966, 49.
- \*LANYON QUOIT *Madron* sw 430337  
Known also as the Giant's Quoit and the Giant's Table. Halliwell-Phillips 1861, 85.

LESNEWITH round barrow *Lesnewth* sx 1390 area

Opened c 1870 when a contracted skeleton of an unusually tall man was reported from a stone-lined grave. 'A legend, told by the crones of the neighbourhood, recorded that a gigantic figure could often be seen on the top of this mound.' Borlase 1872, 79, note 1.

LONG STONE NW of *St Austell* sw 984562

A saint, probably either St Roach or St Austell, 'was returning across St. Austell Downs to his cell when his hat blew off in a storm, and he fixed his staff into the ground to free himself to run after his hat. He lost both in the storm; but the following morning he went to search for them, only to find that they had both been transformed into stones by the Devil.' The saint's 'hat' was destroyed in 1798. Hunt 1881, 264.

LONG STONE *St Mabyn* sx 0473 area

A standing stone destroyed by the mid-nineteenth century. A whetstone thrown by the Devil at a smith with whom he was having a reaping competition. Couch 1883.

\*MEN-AN-TOL *Madron* sw 427349

Holed stone (known in nineteenth century as the Devil's Eye) and associated standing stones. When Borlase visited it in 1749, he was told by a local farmer that many persons had crept through the hole for cures to pains in the back and limbs; and that children are passed through the hole for cure of rickets; also if two brass pins are laid across each other on the top edge of the stone, any question put to it will be answered by the pin acquiring, through some unknown agency, a peculiar motion. The stone has also been known as the Crick Stone from its supposed property of curing children suffering from 'crick in the neck'. Passage through the hole had to be three or nine times and usually against the sun. Boys for cure had to be passed from a woman to a man; girls from a man to a woman. Borlase 1769, 178-9; Blight 1861, 19; Hunt 1881, 176-7; Lukis 1883, 56-9; Thomas, 'Present day charmers . . .', 1953, 304-5.

**\*MERRY MAIDENS, PIPERS, AND BLIND FIDDLER** *St Buryan* sw 433245, 435247, and 425282

Stone circle and other standing stones. Known also as the *Dawns Mên* (the dancing stones). The local belief, that they are dancers or pipers turned into stone, goes back at least as early as c 1730. The fuller story is that they were transformed into stone for profaning the Sabbath, and the Blind Fiddler and the Two Pipers were turned into stone after trying to escape. Borlase 1769, 194; Cotton 1827, 21-2; Gilbert 1867, 159, quoting Hals c 1730. Hunt (1881, 177-8) adds that the musicians accelerated their playing, causing the dancers to increase their speed until they collapsed from exhaustion. The stones cannot be moved, and attempts to move them have failed, the cattle employed having fallen down and soon died. Halliwell-Phillips 1861, 149-52.

**\*MULFRA QUOIT** burial chamber *Madron* sw 453354  
Known also as the Giant's Quoit. Halliwell-Phillips 1861, 99.

**\*NINE MAIDENS** Boskednan, *Madron* sw 434351  
Stone circle. Halliwell-Phillips 1861, 97.

**\*NINE MAIDENS** *St Buryan* sw 412274  
A circle of nineteen stones with one in the centre, representing girls turned into stone for dancing on the Sabbath. Hunt 1881, 177-8; Hencken 1932, 52-4.

**\*NINE MAIDENS** stone row *St Columb Major* sx 937676  
Known to Norden as the Nine Sisters (Norden 1584/1966, 48). 'The Nine Maids or Nine Sisters . . . not so many maids turned into stones for dancing on the sabbath day, as the country people will tell you'; Gilbert 1867, 227-8, quoting Hals c 1730; Hunt 1881, 177-9; Hencken 1932, 59. A stone c 750m away is called the 'Old Man' or 'Fiddler'. Lukis 1885, 16.

**NINE MAIDENS** *Stithians* sw 683365  
Stone circle. 'Nine stones called the Nine Maids or Sisters,



"not women turned into stones as the English name implies, and as the country people there about will tell you".' Gilbert 1872, 180, quoting Hals c 1730.

NINE STONES *Altarnun*

sx 236782

A stone circle, believed to have been restored to approximately nine stones by a well-meaning landowner who thought that was the original number of stones in the circle. Spooner 1953, 485.

\*RILLATON round barrow *Linkinhorne*

sx 260719

The stone-lined grave in this barrow contained the Early Bronze-Age gold beaker which was found in 1837 and is now in the British Museum. Baring-Gould mentioned a tradition that a prophet dwelt near the Cheesewring (a rock outcrop nearby) and had an inexhaustible cup of gold, from which he offered drinks to hunters from Trewartha Marsh (SX 240750). One day a hunter determined to drink the cup dry took the cup from the prophet, and drank until he could drink no more, and then, furious at his failure, threw the remaining contents of the cup in the prophet's face and made off with the cup, until he and his horse fell over the rocks and were killed. A well-known Scandinavian legend, the location of which in this area seems unsupported by any other printed source earlier than Baring-Gould 1899, 107-8; Allcroft 1908, 532. Compare Craigie 1896, 132-3, and Hartland 1890/1925, chapter vi, 'Robberies from Fairyland'.

TABLE MEN (the stone table) *Sennen*

sw 359259

A slab (natural?) on which several early kings are said to have dined around AD 600. Gilbert 1868, 286, quoting Hals c 1730.

TOLVAN STONE *Constantine*

sw 706283

A holed stone 2.7m high, reputed to possess healing power. 'The ceremony consists of passing the child nine times through the hole, alternately from one side to the other; and it is essential to success that the operation should finish on that side where there is a little grassy mound, on which the patient must



The Constantine Tolven.

Fig 9 Tolvan Stone, Cornwall, ex Bottrell 1870

sleep, with a sixpence under his head.' Blight 1862, Appendix 1.

TREGESEAL DANCING STONES *St Just* sw 384327

Two stone circles (one destroyed), with tradition of maidens turned into stone. Hencken 1932, 55.

\*TRERYN DINAS cliff castle *St Levan* sw 398220

Known also as the Giant's Castle. The key is kept by the giant in a holed rock called the Giant's Lock. Hunt 1881, 47-8.

\*TRETREVY QUOIT burial chamber *St Cleer* sx 259688

Known also as the Giant's House. Halliwell-Phillips 1861, 116.

TREVEGIAN DOWN barrow *St Just* sw 3729 approx

In a barrow in this area opened before 1600 were found 'the bones of an excessively big carcase' in a long rectangular vault. Carew 1602/1953, 237; Halliwell-Phillips 1861, 194.

TREWEY DOWN *Zennor*

Roughly sw 463370

A gathering place of witches of Penwith on midsummer eve, when they lit fires on the surrounding 'cromlechs'. Hunt 1881, 328.

VERYAN BEACON barrow *Veryan*

sw 913387

Among the largest round barrows in Cornwall if not in southern England. It was opened in 1855 when a stone cist and secondary cremations were found. It is traditionally the burial place of the Cornish saint and king Gerennius, whose corpse was conveyed across Gerrans Bay in a golden boat with silver oars which were interred with him in the barrow. There was evidence from the mid-nineteenth century opening that the site had been dug into on several previous occasions. Adams 1856; Borlase 1872, 155-9; Hunt 1881, 459-60; Courtney 1890, 102-3, who adds that he was buried 'with his crown on his head'. For the hagiology see Doble 1964, 74-88.

\*WARBSTOW BURY *Warbstow*

sw 202908

A hill-fort, the habitation of a giant who was killed by a tool thrown by the giant of Launceston Castle. A long mound within the hill-fort has been known as Arthur's Grave. Spooner 1965, 16-17.

WEST LANYON QUOIT *Madron*

sw 423338

Remains of burial chamber. 'The person who pulled down this cromlech is said to have brought a number of misfortunes about him in consequence; thus his cattle died and crops failed, which left a warning impression on the minds of his neighbours.' Blight 1861, 18.

\*ZENNOR QUOIT burial chamber *Zennor*

sw 469380

Known locally as the Giant's Quoit; erected by a giant and immovable. An attempt to remove it in 1861 was stopped by Reverend W. Borlase, vicar of Zennor. If it is moved the stones will return of their own accord. Halliwell-Phillips 1861, 138-41; Hunt 1881, 175-6.

## DEVON

BROKEN BARROW round barrow *Challacombe* ss 666425

An attempt to open it for treasure before 1630 was followed by the sound of phantom horses which so terrified the opener that he soon afterwards went deaf and blind and died. Westcote 1630/1845, 301-2; Grinsell *Archaeology of Exmoor* 1970, 156.

BURLEY CAMP SW of *Bridestowe* sx 497875

An Iron-Age hill-fort with Norman motte-and-bailey added. A crock of gold is buried there; but anyone who attempts to dig for it is scared from his purpose by thunder and lightning. Francis 1928.

\*CADBURY CASTLE *Cadbury* ss 913053  
A hill-fort.

When Cadbury Castle and Dolbury down delved were,  
Then Denshire might plough with a golden coulter  
And eare with a golden sheer.

Westcote 1630/1845.

If Cadbury Castle and Dolbury Hill down delved were,  
Then Denshire might plow with a golden coulter,  
And eare with a golden shere.

Risdon 1630/1970, 78.

\*CHAPMAN BARROWS *Challacombe* ss 695434

A group of round barrows, at which fiery dragons were often seen. King 1873, 776.

\*CHILDE'S TOMB *Lydford* sx 626703

A stone cist with remains of cross on cairn. To this site has become attached the myth of a wealthy man named Childe of Plymstock, who died during a snowstorm on Dartmoor leaving the following note:

They fyrste that fyndes and brings me to my grave  
The priorie of Plimstoke they shall have.

The legend in its present form was known in 1630 but may be based on an original of eleventh century. Risdon 1630/1845, 198-9, 223; Brown 1955.

\*CROCK OF GOLD stone cist *Lydford* sx 613731

So-called from a tradition of treasure formerly buried in it. Burnard 1890, 204-6.

DENBURY hill-fort *Torbryan* sx 817686

If Denbury Down the level were  
England might plough with golden share

Crossing 1911, 21.

If Denbury Down was levelled fair  
Denbury could plough with a golden share.

Partridge 1917, 314.

When Exeter was a furzey down,  
Denbury was a borough town.

Partridge 1917, 314.

DOLBURY hill-fort N of *Broad Clyst* ss 972003  
See CADBURY CASTLE.

EIGHT ROCKS, Cosdon *Sticklepath(?)* sx 645925 area

Probably a stone row or stone circle, long ago destroyed. The stones danced when they heard the church bells of South Tawton. Crossing 1912/1965, 213.

\*GIANT'S BASIN round barrow *Sheepstor* sx 593670  
This is named from the large crater in the top where it has been opened.

\*GIANT'S GRAVE *Moretonhampstead* sx 767874  
Remains of an oval cairn with retaining kerb, on Mardon Down. The name dates from before 1823. Jones 1823, 3.

- \*GREYWETHERS stone circles *Lydford* sx 638831  
The stones turn round at sunrise. King 1873, 780; St Leger Gordon 1972, 71-2.
- \*GRIM'S GRAVE stone cist *Shaugh Prior* sx 612664  
The name Grim's Grove, or Grim's Grave, is shown near here on the surveys of Dartmoor Forest of 1240 and 1609, and was identified as this site by C. Spence Bate, an identification which has had supporters and critics. Bate 1872, 531-2; Crossing 1912/1965, 408.
- \*GRIMSPOUND *Manaton* sx 701809  
A pound with huts, probably Bronze Age, named from the heathen Grim which can mean the Devil, Woden, or any goblin or spectre. *PN Devon*, ii, 482.
- HARTLAND STONE *Hartland* ss 226245  
Between Hartland Quay and St Catherine's Tor, a stone which turns round when it hears the bells of Hartland church ring. Harris 1931.
- \*HEATHFIELD BEACONS *Lamerton* sx 455796  
A headless horse and spectral pack of hounds have been seen in the area of the group of round barrows here. Bray 1879, i, 234; ii, 114-16.
- \*HEMBURY CASTLE *Buckfastleigh* sx 726684  
A hill-fort, the defence of which was left to ladies who 'welcomed the enemy, took them to their beds, and stabbed them all in the night'. Brown 1964, 148.
- \*LONG STONE *East Worlington* ss 775159  
A standing stone thrown there by the Devil. It is incised with five crosses, one on each side and the fifth on the top. It is considered immovable, and efforts to move it with horses have failed. Tyler 1927; Grinsell *Archaeology of Exmoor* 1970, 49, 106.

\*LONG STONE, Shovel Down *Chagford* sx 660856

At the beating of the bounds of Gidleigh Common, the first man to reach the Long Stone is (or was) given a money prize. Fielden 1933.

\*MERIVALE stone rows and other stones

*Walkhampton* sx 555748

Formerly called the Potato Market or the Plague Market, perhaps from a time when goods were brought here for sale when the plague was raging in Tavistock. Bray 1879, letter ix; Crossing 1912/65, 94, note.

\*NINE STONES *Belstone* sx 612928

The retaining circle of a cairn, of which seventeen stones are now visible. Maidens turned into stone for dancing on the Sabbath, they still dance at noon. King 1850; Cresswell 1924, 58; St Leger Gordon 1972, 70. There is a poetic version in Eden Phillpotts, *Book of Avis*.

\*RINGMORE DOWN *Sheepstor* sx 575665

Site of round cairns and hut sites. 'Whoever shall find the treasure hidden on Ringmore Down, may plough with a golden ploughshare and yoke his oxen with golden cross-sticks.' King 1850; Lean 1902, i, 68.

\*SIMOND'S BARROW *Hemyock* ss 146166

A round barrow, destroyed c 1870. The burial place of a British chief named Simond or Symmond, killed in a battle near here. It was known also as the Devil's Lapful from a belief that the Devil brought the stones there in his apron. A crock of gold was concealed there. As fast as the stones were removed they returned to their place of their own accord (until c 1870!). Five small mounds (barrows?), now probably destroyed, formed when the Devil's apron-strings broke, were known as the Devil's Glove. Tongue 1965, 14; Grinsell 'North Devon Barrows' 1970, 103.

\*SPINSTERS' ROCK *Drewsteignton* sx 700908

A burial chamber, erected by three spinsters one morning before breakfast. The tradition was current in 1789. King 1850; Cresswell 1924, 38; Worth 1941, 221.

WIDECOMBE stone cist *Widcombe* sx 734755 area

Opened by a former parson of Widcombe, whose house was destroyed by an explosion the following night. Crossing 1911, 20.

WOOD BARROW (barrow near) *Challacombe* ss 716425 area

Opened before 1630 in search of a 'great brass pan' full of gold and silver; operation stopped by a thunderstorm. Westcote 1630/1845, 301-2; Grinsell *Archaeology of Exmoor* 1970, 156-7.

## SOMERSET

\*BATTLEGORE *Williton* st 074416

Remains of chamber tomb(?). The stones were thrown into their present position as the result of a contest between the Devil and a giant, perhaps the giant of Grabbist near Dunster. The imprint of the Devil's hand is visible on the leaning stone. The monument is immovable. Grinsell 'North Devon Barrows' 1970, 158, 160.

\*BEACON HILL round barrows

*Ashwick/Doulting* st 635460

A golden coffin is buried in the vicinity. Grinsell 1971, 68.

CHURCHINGFORD FAIRY MARKET *Otterford* st 230140 area

Round barrows (Robin Hood's Butts) are in the vicinity. The fairy fair or market was first described in the late seventeenth century, as of pedlars smaller than men, and dressed in red, blue or green, with high crowned hats. Those who saw them suffered paralysis or other misfortune afterwards. Bovet 1684, 208-9; Poole 1877, 35-8; Briggs 1959, 38-9.



\*COMPTON BISHOP STONES *Compton Bishop* ST 409548

Two stones, one still standing, thrown from Shute Shelve on Mendip in a throwing contest between the Devil and another. Knight 1915, 332-3.

\*COW CASTLE *Exmoor* ss 794373

A small hill-fort, built by the fairies to protect themselves against the earth-spirits. Tugwell 1863, 51-7.

\*DEVIL'S BED AND BOLSTER *Beckington* ST 815533

Remains of a chamber tomb. Attempts to move the stones failed. Wicks 1933; Grinsell 1971, 68.

\*GIANT'S GRAVE *Holcombe* ST 678513

Chamber tomb: the burial place of the giant Gorm and the scene of a battle. Grinsell 1971, 68.

\*KINGSDOWN CAMP *Mells* ST 719517

A hill-fort, the site of a battle in which two kings were killed. The slain were interred in a large barrow nearby, which was partly levelled before 1791, when a large quantity of human bones were found. Collinson 1791, ii, 462.

\*MURTRY HILL long barrow *Buckland Dinham* ST 763507

Remains of chamber tomb, haunted by a lady in white, and local people have dreaded passing the site after dark. A golden coffin is buried in it. The barrow is immovable. Grinsell 1971, 68.

NINE BARROWS *Priddy* ST 539515

A group of round barrows. Grinsell 1971, 70, 113.

\*NORTON FITZWARREN CAMP *Norton Fitzwarren* ST 197263

A hill-fort, Late Bronze/Early Iron Age. The area was formerly ravaged by a serpent which is carved on the screen of All Saints' Church. Poole 1877, 103-4.

Norton was a market town  
When Taunton was a vuzzy down.

Lean 1903, i, 188-9, where a variant is given.

**\*ROBIN HOOD'S BUTTS** round barrows

*Otterford*

ST 234126

'Robin Hood and Little John *undoubtedly* used to throw their quoits from one to the other . . . for there is the mark made by pitching the quoits!' (alluding to the hollow in the top of each barrow, where it has been opened in former times). *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1818, ii, 306-7.

When one of the barrows said to contain treasure was opened, the earth was mysteriously replaced each night. The barrows resulted from giants throwing heaps of earth at one another. They are the burial place of hundreds of Oliver Cromwell's soldiers. Mathews 1923, 99-100; Grinsell 1969, 14.

**\*ROBIN HOW and JOANEY HOW** *Luccombe*

ST 907427

Round barrows, possibly named from Robin Hood and Little John. Grinsell 1969, 14.

**\*RUBOROUGH CAMP** *Broomfield*

ST 228355

A hill-fort, concealing an iron castle full of gold and silver guarded by gnomes and spirits; the iron gateway can be found only by digging at noon, and the treasure has to be dug for in silence. The site is in Money Field, so called from the supposed finding of coins. Collins 1857; Grinsell *Archaeology of Exmoor* 1970, 157-8.

**\*SMALL DOWN** round barrows *Evercreech*

ST 666406

A golden coffin is buried in one of these mounds. Grinsell 1971, 69.

**\*SOUTH CADBURY** *South Cadbury*

ST 628252

An Iron-Age hill-fort with Dark-Age reoccupation. A local belief that the hill is hollow is reinforced by a tradition that sounds from King Arthur's Well can be heard from Queen Anne's Wishing Well, about 220m apart but both within the area covered by the ramparts. The association with King Arthur



*Pic. 6* Willy Howe (Thwing/Humberside); a notable round barrow with which a tradition of the theft of a cup from fairyland has been associated since the late twelfth century

*Pic. 7* The Beedon barrow (Berkshire); now much reduced by centuries of ploughing, this barrow has been the subject of much folk tradition including the story that when a ploughman was away getting tools to mend his plough, the devil in the barrow mended it for him



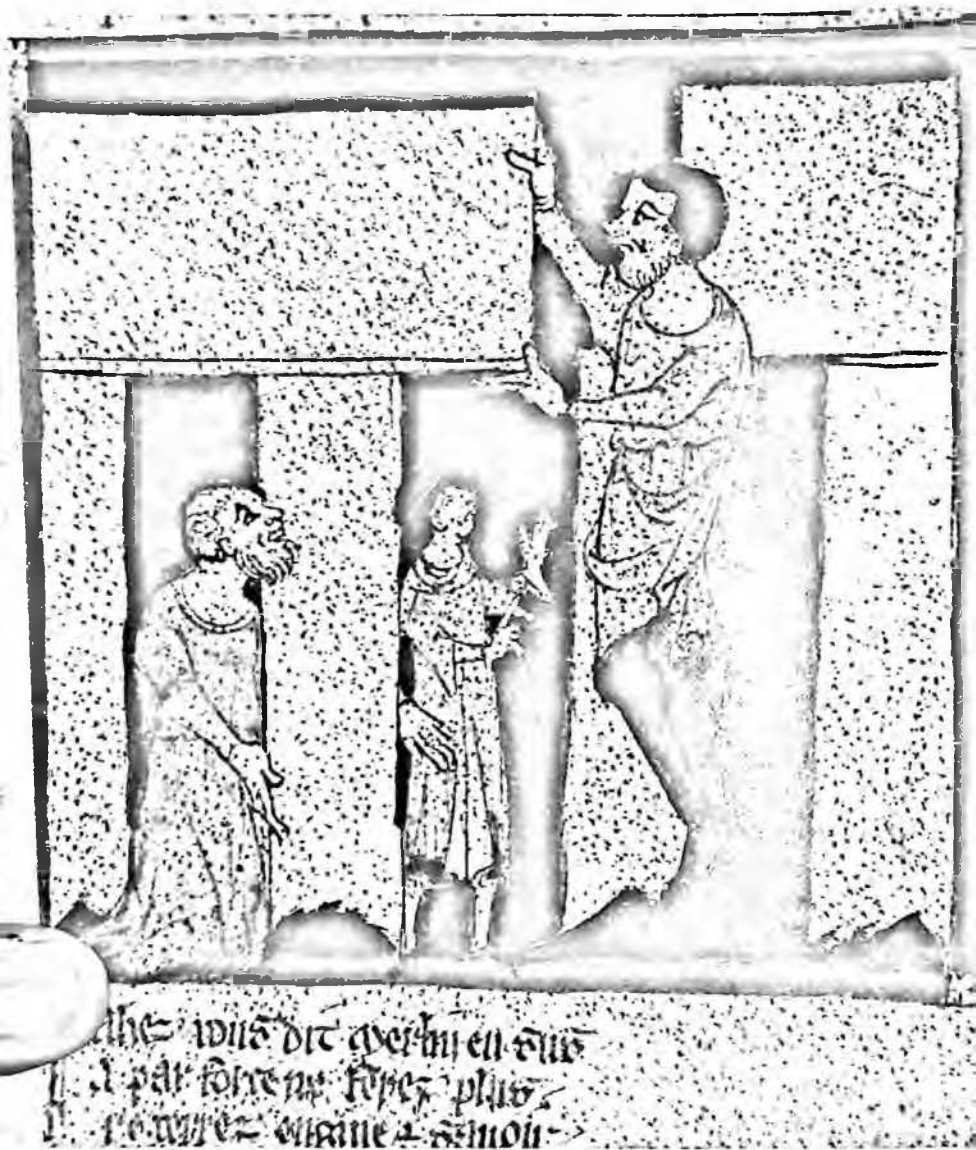


Plate 11 Merlin supervising the building of Stonehenge, from a manuscript of the fourteenth century in the British Museum (Egerton 3028, folio 30); Merlin is shown placing a lintel in position (*British Library Board*)

dates from Leland if not earlier, and his report of the finding of a silver horseshoe may have provided the basis for the tradition that King Arthur and his men ride round the hill on horses shod with silver horseshoes on nights of full moon. It is uncertain whether the hill in which Arthur sleeps, near Glastonbury, is in fact this hill, but the tradition was extant in the sixteenth century. About 1900, visitors were told that if one goes at midnight to the crossroads between Sparkford and North Cadbury, one might hear or see King Arthur and his hounds go by. Fairies living in the vicinity used to bring up corn from an arable field below, but they departed when the church bells were installed, leaving their gold behind them. The folklore of South Cadbury is the subject of an anonymous poem quoted in Gray 1914, 5-6. See also Leland *c* 1550/1964, i, 151; Bennett 1890; Robinson 1923; Alcock 1972, 12, 19-20, 51.

\*TWO BARROWS *Exmoor* ss 748362

Round barrows, haunted by a barrow guardian of terrifying type. Grinsell 1969, 14.

\*WAMBARROWS *Winsford* ss 876343

Round barrows, the locality of which is haunted by a black dog which may be guarding treasure. Grinsell 1969, 14.

\*WHITSTONES *Porlock* ss 853462

Uncertain whether naturally or artificially placed, these two stones were hurled by the Devil from Hurlstone Point at a giant (the giant of Grabbist?). Grinsell 1969, 14.

\*WHITSTONE *Shepton Mallet* st 637417

The court of the Hundred of Stone met here, and the proceedings sometimes began by pouring a bottle of wine over the standing stone. Gomme 1880, 108.

\*WICK BARROW *Stogursey* st 209456

A round barrow, known also as the Pixies' Mound. Pixies make music here at nights. A ploughman, finding the broken

peel (wooden shovel used in baking cakes) of a lamenting pixey on the barrow, mended it and replaced it on the mound; passing by it later in the evening on his way home, he found a freshly baked cake on the mound as his reward. If the barrow is removed by day it will be replaced during the night. Whistler 1908; Grinsell *Archaeology of Exmoor* 1970, 158–60, where reservations are expressed concerning the reporting of Whistler who was a prominent member of the Viking Society.

\*WIMBLESTONE *Shipham-on-Mendip* ST 433585

Perhaps on a round barrow. Treasure concealed beneath the stone; an effort to move it with chains and two horses failed. 'When it hears the clock strike 12 it leaves its bed and ranges up and down the country', sometimes exposing a heap of gold shining in the moonlight. Grinsell 1971, 69.

## 2 WESSEX

### BERKSHIRE

\*BEEDON BARROW *Beedon* SU 467786

A round barrow, known also as Burrow Hill, the burial place of a man named Burrow interred in a gold or silver coffin; and known also as the Soldier's Grave. The mound is inhabited by fairies. A ploughman who broke his share near here went to get tools to mend it, but on his return found that the fairies had mended it for him in his absence. The barrow remains the same size however often it is ploughed, and if anyone tries to shift it, it goes back again (this was recorded c 1940 before the introduction of deep ploughing). Attempts to open the barrow are followed by thunderstorms. The opening of c 1850 was in fact followed by a thunderstorm which the local people attributed to the sacrilege. Long 1850; Smith 1940.

BOTHAMPSTEAD STONE *Hampstead Norris* SU 510760

A large stone (naturally or artificially placed?), which 'turns over when it hears the clock strike twelve'. Smith 1940; Peake 1946, 254.

\*COMBE GIBBET long barrow *Inkpen* SU 365622

The gibbet was erected to hang George Broomham and Dorothy Newman in 1676. Since then there have been at least four replacements. 'Whoever re-erects it first after it has got blown down or fallen down, holds the right of feeding his sheep on the hillside.' Gillett 1923; *Hampshire Countryside* 1949-51, 154; *Southampton Evening Echo*, 15 March 1965.

\*ENGLAND'S BATTLE *Yattendon* SU 532741

The name of the field in which there is a round barrow. Grinsell 1935, 184.

\*GRIMSBURY CASTLE *Hampstead Norris* SU 512723

A hill-fort named from the mythical personage Grim. In a

wood near is a bottomless pond, at the bottom of which is a golden calf. *PN Berkshire*, 252; G. B. Bull of Kingsclere to L.V.G., c 1950.

\*GRIM'S DITCH *Aldworth/Streatley* SU 562788 and  
areas transferred to OXFORDSHIRE, mostly between  
SU 497836 and SU 597796

Its date is probably either Iron-Age or Dark-Age. Known also as Grim's Bank and the Devil's Ditch, it was ploughed by the Devil in one night. Two round barrows near (SU 520833) are scrapings from his ploughshare, and a smaller mound in the area was thrown at his imp for driving crooked. Hayden 1901, 12; Field 1913, 84; *PN Berkshire*, 6, 496.

\*INKPEN DOWN round barrows *Inkpen* SU 350620 area  
One contains a gold or silver coffin. Peake 1946, 254; Crawford 1954, 21.

\*PERBOROUGH CASTLE *Compton* SU 520780  
A hill-fort in which a golden calf is buried. Berkshire Local History Records, Reading Public Library.

\*ROBIN HOOD'S ARBOUR (OR BOWER)  
*Maidenhead* SU 852810  
An Iron-Age earthwork enclosure so-called.

\*SADLER'S FARM round barrow *Inkpen* SU 346642  
It is haunted by a headless ghost. Its opening was on occasions previous to Crawford's excavation of 1907 stopped by thunder and lightning. Grinsell 1935, 15, 16; Crawford 1954, 23.

SEVEN BARROWS *Lambourn* SU 327830 (centre)  
A group of more than forty round barrows. Grinsell 1939  
*White Horse Hill*.

\*WASH COMMON round barrows *Enborne* SU 454648  
These are said to cover those killed in the Civil-War battle of Newbury, 1643. The parish registers of Newbury and Enborne show that the dead were in fact buried in the churchyards. Peake 1946, 250-1.



## DORSET

ASHMORE barrow *Ashmore*

ST 897168

A round barrow now destroyed. It was formerly haunted by Gabbygammies or Gappergennies who made strange noises which ceased after the barrow was opened and human bones found in it removed to the churchyard and reburied there. Grinsell 1959, 56, 87.

\*BADBURY RINGS *Shapwick*

ST 965030

Multivallate hill-fort. According to Treves (1906, 113), a gold coffin is said to be buried here; according to Smart (1890, 20), it is buried somewhere between Badbury Rings and Shapwick village.

BETTISCOMBE SKULL *Bettiscombe*

ST 402003

The suggestion has been made that this skull, which has been at Bettiscombe Manor House for centuries, might have come from one of the barrows in the area of Racedown near Blandford, as both estates were at one time owned by the Pinney family. It has been identified recently as an adult female of twenty-five to thirty years at time of death. The tradition is that the house would collapse if the skull were removed from it. Udal 1922, 146-51; Palmer 1973, 98-101.

\*BOTTLEBUSH DOWN round barrow

*Wimborne St Giles*

SU 019159

A phantom warrior on horseback was 'seen' by the late Dr R. C. C. Clay at the barrow on his way back to his home at Fovant after visiting Heywood Sumner at South Gorley near Fordingbridge during the winter of 1927-8. A man who rested on a barrow on this down thought he was surrounded by a crowd of 'little people in leather jerkins' who danced around him as he lay on the mound. Grinsell 1959, 57; Park 1963, 482, 485.

DUNGEON HILL *Buckland Newton* ST 669045

A hill-fort in which a golden table is buried at the bottom of a well. Palmer 1920.

\*EGGARDON *Askerswell/Powerstock* ST 541947

A hill-fort. 'It is as old as Eggardon' was at one time a local proverb. Lukis 1883, 124 (letter to Roger Gale, dated 23 July 1709).

FLOWERS BARROW *East Lulworth* SY 863805

Promontory fort. A spectral army was reported as seen on an evening in December 1678 marching from Flowers Barrow over Grange Hill making a 'great noise and clashing of arms'. It seems that preparations for defence were made resulting from the circulation of this rumour. It is thought that it might have been a mirage. A skeleton of gigantic stature was found in the area. Hutchins 1861, 606-7; Warne 1872, 64; Dacombe 1951, 128.

FRYING PAN *Cerne Abbas* ST 667016

An earthwork enclosure on Trendle Hill above the Cerne Giant, formerly the scene of May Day revels. Udal 1922/1970, 39-40.

\*GIANT'S GRAVE *Melcombe Horsey* ST 757017

A rectangular mound of unknown date, the burial-place of a giant who lost in a stone-throwing contest. Nearby are two stones, thrown by the giants, which move when they hear the cocks crowing at Cheselbourne. Warne 1866, iii, 72; 1872, 83; Udal 1922, 161-2.

\*GIANT'S GRAVE and GIANT'S STRETCHER

*Swanage* SZ 012811

Two mounds (barrows?) on Godlingston Hill.

\*GRIM'S DITCH *Various parishes* SU 051220 to 143232 approx

Known also as the Devil's Ditch. Warne 1872, 6; Sumner 1913, 57-62.

\*HELL STONE *Portesham* SY 606867

Chamber tomb, the stones of which were thrown by the Devil from Portland, about 14km away, while playing at quoits. Hutchins 1863, 759, where a rhyme is given about neighbouring stones; Dunkin 1871, 151; Moule 1888; Udal 1922, 152.

\*KING BARROW *Arne* ST 920857

A round barrow at Stoborough which yielded, in 1767, a princely inhumation, perhaps headless, in a hollowed tree-trunk coffin, with a cup of shale or wood and some 'gold lace'. Warne 1866, iii, 3; Grinsell 1959, 87.

\*KNOWLTON CIRCLES *Woodlands* SU 024103

A ceremonial circle, probably Early Bronze Age, within which are the ruins of a church dating from twelfth century or earlier; possibly an instance of Christianisation of a pagan site. Sumner 1913, 46; Daniel 1972, 36.

\*MUSIC BARROW *Bincombe* SY 680857

A round barrow at the apex of which music is said to be heard at midday. Warne 1866, iii, 1; Udal 1922, 151.

\*MUSIC BARROW *Whitcombe* SY 699855

A round barrow, the meeting place of Culliford Tree Hundred. Music is reputed to be heard by those listening at the top at midday. Warne 1866, iii, 1, note; Udal 1922, 162; Grinsell 1959, 56.

\*NINEBARROW DOWN *Corfe Castle* SY 995816

A linear group of round barrows and one long barrow, locally thought to be the graves of nine kings killed in battle. There are more than nine in the group (Hutchins thought there were at least sixteen). Hutchins 1861, 533; Warne 1872, 239; Grinsell 1959, 55-6.

\*NINE STONES *Winterborne Abbas* SY 611904

A stone circle, sometimes called the Devil's Nine Stones (Wightman 1968, 86), and the Devil, his wife and children

(information from local person). They are said to be children turned into stone for playing Five-Stones on a Sunday. Informant E. Waring 1975.

\*PIMPERNE LONG BARROW *Pimperne* ST 917105

A notable long barrow, formerly the meeting place of a Hundred. Fägersten 1933, 50.

\*ROBIN'S BARROW *Puddletown* SY 724946

A round barrow, perhaps originally known as Robin Hood's barrow. Grinsell 1959, 56, 128.

ROBIN HOOD'S BUTTS *Verwood* SU 095104

A group of round barrows so-called. Warne 1866, ii, 27.

\*SLAUGHTER BARROW *Gillingham* ST 787272

A long barrow, reputedly the burial place of those killed in a battle between Saxons and Danes. Blood flowed from here to Slaughter Gate 0.4km distant. Warne 1866, iii, 50; Grinsell 1959, 56.

\*THICKTHORN DOWN long barrows

*Gussage St Michael* ST 971123

During excavation in 1933 the local people asked if the diggers were looking for, or had found, the golden or silver coffin thought to be buried there. Grinsell 1959, 56.

\*WOODBURY HILL *Bere Regis* SY 857948

A hill-fort, within which is the Anchoret's Well, containing a golden table or tablet. People used to come to this well on 21 September annually and drink the waters which are supposed to have healing properties. Woodbury Fair was flourishing in the time of John Aubrey (1687/1881, 108). Pickard-Cambridge 1885.

## HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

\*ANGLEDOWN COPSE barrow *Litchfield* SU 463528

'A golden image is said to be buried in it. People dug for it

one moonlit night, but while digging saw a headless man on horseback carrying his head under his arm, on the sight of which they fled.' Grinsell 1938, 28, quoting G. B. Bull of Kingsclere.

**\*BEAULIEU HEATH round barrows** *E of Lyndhurst*

SU 330085 area

Locally said to have been made by the troops of Oliver Cromwell (who may have been responsible for other earthworks near). Read 1911, 312.

**BEVIS'S GRAVE** *Havant*

SU 692064

Possible long barrow so-called, now destroyed, on Portsdown. Site located from air photographs taken 1972.

**BEVISBURY** *Tangley*

SU 326541

The site of a hill-fort, presumed Iron-Age, known by this name in the eighteenth century; later known as Bury Field Camp. Williams-Freeman 1915, 111.

**\*CAESAR'S CAMP** *Aldershot*

SU 838500

A hill-fort.

**\*COLDPIXEY'S CAVE** *Boldre*

SU 350016 area

Round barrow so-called. Grinsell 1938, 29.

**DEVIL'S DITCH** *Andover/St Mary Bourne boundary*

SU 401480

Linear earthwork so-called. Williams-Freeman 1915, 33.

**\*DEVIL'S JUMPS round barrows** *Privett*

SU 667281

Said variously to be the scene of a battle between Saxons and Danes, and to be the graves of soldiers killed in the Civil War. Godwin 1904, 177; Beddington and Christy 1937, 155-6.

**GIANT'S BARROW** *Overton*

SU 512542(?)

A barrow so-called in an Anglo-Saxon charter. Grinsell 1938, 31.

- \*GIANT'S GRAVE** *Breamore* SU 139200  
A long barrow on Breamore Down.
- GRIM'S DITCH** *Hurstbourne Tarrant* SU 367566 to 378565  
A linear ditch on the Linkenholt boundary, known also as Woden's Dyke. Probably either Iron Age or, more likely, post-Roman.
- \*MONEY BUNT** *Longstock* SU 341376 area  
The name of a copse containing a round barrow. Horses with golden shoes are buried there (presumably in the barrow). Beddington and Christy 1937, 115.
- \*MONEY HILLS** *Coppythorne* SU 318151  
A group of round barrows so-called.
- \*OLD WINCHESTER HILL** *Exton* boundary SU 641206  
A hill-fort, traditionally the original site of Winchester; but whenever the building materials were assembled they mysteriously moved away, until eventually it was decided to build Winchester on its present site some 17km to north-west. Benham 1889; Read 1911, 311-12.
- ROBIN HOOD'S BARROW** *Bournemouth* SZ 080928  
A round barrow, now destroyed. Grinsell 1938, 29.
- \*ROBIN HOOD'S BARROW** *Sparsholt* SU 414293  
A round barrow, known also as Skilling's Barrow, Grinsell 1938, 29; 1940, 353.
- Isle of Wight*
- \*DEVIL'S PUNCH BOWL** *Brading* SZ 597870  
The name of a round barrow. Grinsell and Sherwin 1941, 189.
- \*LONG STONE** *Mottistone* SZ 408842  
The remains of a chamber tomb. A giant threw the larger stone from St Catherine's Hill 11km away; a variant story is that the larger stone was thrown by a giant and the smaller by

the Devil; another variant states that the Devil passed by with his cart overloaded and dropped the surplus stones here. Grinsell and Sherwin 1941, 188, 214.

**\*MICHAEL MOOREY'S HUMP** *Arreton* sz 525874

A round barrow. Michael Moorey was hanged from a gibbet on it for the murder of his grandson in 1736. Grinsell and Sherwin 1941, 188, and information from the Arreton church records, extracted by the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey.

**\*WROXALL DOWN barrows** *Wroxall* sz 567787 area

A supposed tradition of a spirit dwelling in this barrow was put into the form of a sonnet by Miss Mary F. Johnson (*Original Sonnets*, 1810, 16). Grinsell and Sherwin 1941, 189.

## WILTSHIRE

**\*ADAM'S GRAVE** long barrow *Alton Priors* su 112634

It was Woden's Barrow in Saxon charter BCS 390. In the nineteenth century the site was known locally as Old Adam, and a stone at its base was called Little Eve. Thurnam 1869, 45. On 29 August 1950, L.V.G. was told by a local person that if someone runs round it seven times the giant will come out.

**\*AVEBURY monuments** *Avebury* su 103699

The Cove was known in the mid-eighteenth century as the Devil's Brand Irons (Stukeley 1743, 23-4). A large standing stone of the outer circle, known as the Diamond Stone, west of the Swindon road, has since at any rate the early part of the present century been said to cross the road when it hears the clock strike midnight. Mrs M. E. Cunnington and others to L.V.G., c 1935; confirmed locally 1975.

**BOWERCHALKE DOWNS barrow** *Bowerchalke* su 020230 area

'At certain times, seven men can be seen dragging a golden coffin over the downs; it had been taken from a barrow.' Olivier and Edwards (1930), 73-4.

BULFORD 'Stone in the River Avon' *Bulford* SU 165440

The belief that this stone was dropped by the Devil on the way to build Stonehenge is probably not earlier than the mid-eighteenth century. Teams of oxen failed to move the stone; whenever it was turned over (!) it always righted itself again. (It was in fact removed from the river Avon some years ago, but those employed in the work were at first reluctant to have anything to do with it.) It is of oolitic limestone. Emslie 1915, 167; Grinsell 1976.

\*CASTERLEY CAMP *Upavon* SU 116535

A hill-fort. During her excavation Mrs Cunnington was told that the site contained treasure (letter to L.V.G., 11 February 1937). A farm worker in the area told O. Meyrick (c 1950) that a gold chair is buried somewhere in the ramparts. There is also a local belief that the village of Upavon was once at Casterley but was eventually moved to its present position in the valley. Cunnington and Cunnington 1914, 85, note 1.

CHOLDERTON sarsen *Cholderton* SU 225440 area

Dropped by the Devil on his way to Stonehenge about 10km to the west. It has recently been searched for without success but the area has much dense undergrowth. Olivier and Edwards 1930, 75; Grinsell 1975.

\*CLEY HILL *Corsley* ST 839449

The hill itself was dropped by the Devil on his way to smother Devizes. It is crowned by a hill-fort and two round barrows. One of the latter was the habitation of a guardian spirit of the folk of the neighbouring hamlet of Bugley, which directed people to a local well, the water from which cured weak eyes. Powell 1901, 78-9; Manley 1924, 4-5.

\*DANE'S TUMP *Colerne* ST 835732

A round barrow of uncertain date, so-called in seventeenth century from the tradition that a Danish king was buried there. Aubrey c 1670/1862, 77.



**\*DEVIL'S DEN** *Preshute* SU 152696

Remains of chamber tomb. When horses or oxen were harnessed to pull it away, their chains always broke. Water poured into cup depressions on the cover slab overnight will be drunk by a fiend or demon by the following morning. Smith 1884, 203; Gomme 1909, 80; Partridge 1912, 340; Thacker 1932, 86.

**\*DEVIL'S DITCH** *Cholderton* SU 225440 approx

A ditch and bank forming the boundary between Hampshire and Wiltshire for some kilometres.

**\*DEVIL'S QUOITS** *Beckhampton, Avebury* SU 089693

There were three stones here until c 1720 when one was broken up. Since that date they have had the alternative names of Adam and Eve and the Long Stones. Aubrey 1670/1862, 323; Stukeley 1743, 35; Cunington 1913.

**EAST KNOYLE stone** *East Knoyle* ST 882312

'In a field at the foot of the downs, a large irregular stone or rock, of which it was said that there was as much below ground as above, and that many horses had been employed in a vain attempt to remove it. A labourer working in the garden of Knoyle House once told me, "they do say as Old Nick dropped it there, when he was carrying it to build Stonehenge".' Skipwith 1894 (recorded 1869-72). There seems little doubt that the stone recently located as above is the one with these legends.

**\*ENFORD round barrow** *Enford* SU 130517

Among the largest round barrows in Wiltshire apart from Silbury Hill. A golden chair is buried at the bottom. Visitors tried to open the barrow but were stopped by the local people. Christopher Oliver (Shaw House, West Overton) to L.V.G., c 1950.

**\*GIANT'S CAVES** *Luckington* ST 820829

A chamber tomb so-called, 'according to the language of ignorance, fear, and superstition', Childrey 1661, 45. According

to Aubrey the site was found accidentally in 1646 so the name is unlikely to be earlier than that date. Aubrey 1670/1862, 106.

\*GIANT'S CHAIR *Downton* SU 163227

A large round barrow so-called.

\*GIANT'S GRAVE *Aldbourne* SU 246764

A large round barrow so-called.

\*GIANT'S GRAVE *Milton Lilbourne* SU 189583

A long barrow. If anyone runs round it seven times the giant will come out. Local woman to L.V.G., August 1933.

\*GIPSY LANE round barrow *Chisledon* SU 175764

It conceals a huge golden coffin. 'In years gone by, men had dug therein and either their tools broke . . . or else "the government" stopped them.' Passmore 1929.

\*GRIM'S DITCH *Various parishes* SU 051220 to SU 143232

A linear ditch part of which forms the southern boundary of the county. It is known also as the Devil's Ditch. Warne 1872, 6n; *PN Wiltshire*, 15.

\*GUN'S CHURCH *Longbridge Deverill* ST 891372

A round barrow around which 'Old Coker' (of a local land-owning family) used to drive his hounds at nights. Powell 1901; Manley 1924, 19.

HACKPEN HILL barrow NE of *Avebury* SU 1375 area

Aubrey mentioned a shepherd who lost his way at night and went into a Fairy Hill on Hackpen Hill (surely a round barrow), and was brought into strange places underground where he heard music. Briggs 1970, 89, quoting from *Hypomnemata Antiquaria A* (Bodleian Library).

\*HATT HOUSE barrows *Box* ST 834673

Three round barrows, traditionally the graves of three kings. Mellor 1937, 175.

- \*KING BARROW *Amesbury* SU 135414  
An exceptionally large round barrow so-called.
- \*KINGSTON DEVERILL round barrow  
*Kingston Deverill* ST 836369  
Contains a golden coffin. Manley 1924, 37.
- \*KNAP HILL camp *Alton* SU 121637  
A hill-fort with Romano-British enclosure adjoining. While excavating the site, Mrs Cunnington was told of a local belief that it contained treasure. M.E.C. to L.V.G., 11 February 1937.
- \*LUGBURY long barrow *Nettleton* ST 830785  
A chamber tomb, containing a golden wheelbarrow. Reverend B. Lamplugh (then vicar of Littleton Drew) to L.V.G., c 1950.
- \*MANTON ROUND BARROW *Preshute* SU 165691  
This site was excavated by the Cunningtons in 1906, when a primary skeleton of an old woman was found, with a rich grave-group. Mr Bucknall, of Barrow Cottage adjoining, who kept the skeleton for a time in a shed, gave away a finger of it to a friend from abroad. Soon afterwards one of his own fingers (which had for some time been giving trouble) had to be amputated because he had Raynaud's disease combined with sclerodermia (Dr W. B. Maurice of Marlborough to L.V.G., c 1950; he owned the finds until he presented them to Devizes Museum about 1953). It is understood that Mr Bucknall used his amputated finger to replace that given away from the skeleton, and replaced the whole skeleton in the barrow. The ghost of the old woman buried in the barrow looked in at the windows of the cottage after dark for some weeks after the barrow was opened. A journalistic account of the folklore of this barrow appeared in the *Daily Express*, 9 November 1906. Cunnington 1944, and information from the late Dr W. B. Maurice.

\*MARDEN barrow hills *Marden* SU 091583

A henge monument and round barrows including Hatfield Barrow, originally among the largest in Wiltshire. Treasure was concealed in this barrow, and the area is the site of a battle. Cunningham 1913.

\*MARTINSELL hill-fort *Pewsey* SU 177639

On Palm Sundays the local youths used to slide down the escarpment on horses' skulls. Jackson 1878, 289-90; Partridge 'Wiltshire Folklore' 1915.

\*OGBOURNE ST ANDREW barrow *Ogbourne St Andrew*  
SU 189724

A round barrow, reconditioned as a Norman motte-and-bailey, in the churchyard. The abode of venomous vipers and avoided by children. Goddard 1944, 31.

\*OLD AND NEW KING BARROWS *Amesbury* SU 135425 (centre)

Linear groups of round barrows, so-called by Stukeley, who stated that the group nearest the road were 'vulgarly called the Seven Kings' Graves'. Stukeley 1740, 13.

\*OLIVER'S CASTLE *Roundway* SU 001647

A hill-fort probably re-used during the Civil War at the Battle of Roundway 1643. Treasure is concealed there, and in 1950 L.V.G. was told by local youths that explorers had been examining the ground with mine-detectors to locate the golden coffin.

\*ROBIN HOOD BALL *Netheravon* SU 109463

It is uncertain whether the name refers to the plantation or to the round barrow within it, but probably the latter.

\*ROUNDWAY HILL barrow *Roundway* SU 015642 area

The area was haunted by a man with his head under his arm, who disappeared at a small round barrow opened in 1855. Since the barrow was opened the ghost has ceased to walk. Coward 1895; Law 1900, 347.

\*SANCTUARY ceremonial site SE of *Avebury* SU 118680

Human bones, obtained by Dr R. Toope of Marlborough probably from the adjoining round barrows, were incorporated in his medicines which gave great relief to his distressed neighbours c 1670. Piggott 1962, 4.

\*SIDBURY hill-fort *North Tidworth* SU 216505

King Ine had a castle there according to local belief. An underground passage from here to Everleigh contains a golden chair. Hoare 1812, 181; Thomas 'Folklore from . . . Everleigh' 1955.

\*SILBURY HILL *Avebury* SU 100685

The exceptional size of this mound has given rise to several legends: (i) it was raised while a posset of milk was seething; (ii) it is the burial place of a king, probably Sil or Zel, buried on horseback, or in a golden coffin; (iii) every Palm Sunday people from the surrounding villages went there and made merry with cakes and ale; (iv) a man is buried beneath it in golden armour on horseback; (v) it was made by the Devil wiping his spade while making Wansdyke; (vi) while on his way to smother either Avebury or Devizes, the Devil met a man carrying a sack of shoes and asked him how far it was to Avebury (or Devizes); he replied that he had worn out all those shoes coming from there, and at this the Devil dumped his load which thus formed Silbury. (i) Aubrey 1670/1862, 332; (ii) ditto and Hoare 1819, 80; (iii) Stukeley 1743, 42-4; (iv) Law 1900, 347; (v) Gomme 1909, 79; (vi) Heanley 1913, 524.

\*SNAIL DOWN round barrows *Everleigh* SU 218522

The burial place of those killed in a battle on Sidbury Hill to the south. Thomas 'Folklore from . . . Everleigh' 1955.

\*STONEHENGE *Amesbury* SU 122422

The legendary history dates from Geoffrey of Monmouth's account of the bringing by Merlin of a stone circle from Ireland and setting it up on Salisbury Plain as a memorial to British



Fig 10 Stonehenge, by William Rogers 1600

chiefs slain by the troops of Hengist. His reference to the supposed healing virtues of the stones is supported by later writers.

There are several variants of this tradition. Leland (c 1540) stated that Merlin supervised the moving of stones from Salisbury Plain for building Stonehenge. Rowley (c 1640) described them in a play as a monument to Merlin's mother. Aubrey (c 1670) mentions a stone bearing the imprint of Merlin's heel, having been thrown at him by the Devil, but it is different from the present Heel Stone. Wood (1747) states that Merlin employed the Devil to build Stonehenge from stones obtained from 'a backside belonging to an old woman in Ireland'.

The belief that the stones cannot be counted correctly dates from the late sixteenth century if not earlier; later versions add that anyone who does count them correctly will be struck dead. The 'countless stones' tradition seems to have died out during the nineteenth century.

The name 'Giants' Dance', given to the circle first by Geoffrey of Monmouth, seems to imply an otherwise unrecorded belief that the stones danced, and this is portrayed in the illustration in the 1600 edition of Camden's *Britannia* (Fig 10). When seen on the horizon on a hot summer day the stones occasionally, through an optical illusion, appear to dance.

The supposed connection of Stonehenge with the Druids dates from the mid-seventeenth century or slightly earlier, but in its present form it is a mixture of outdated antiquarianism and the recurrence of sects of Latter Day Druids. However, the absence of any indications of early cultivation around Stonehenge, recently confirmed from air photographs, seems to show that it was a sacred area until after the Roman period, and the possibility that Druidical rites were practised there cannot be absolutely excluded. Grinsell 1976 for full bibliography.

\*SWANBOROUGH TUMP *Manningford*

SU 130601

Apparently a Bronze-Age round barrow but in an unusually

low-lying situation, this mound was the meeting place of a Hundred.

**\*WEST KENNET LONG BARROW** *West Kennet* SU 104677

Famous chamber tomb. It was dug into in the late seventeenth century by Dr R. Toope of Marlborough for human bones, which he incorporated into his medicines. Piggott 1962, 4.

**WICK FARM** *Pewsey or Wootton Rivers* SU 172627  
(West Wick Farm) or SU 189639 (East Wick Farm)

Below Martinsell Hill, on one of these farms, a gold table is concealed. Treasure seekers once reached the top of it; but when one of them said 'here it is', it sank out of sight. The story implies that there was a known pin-point to dig into, and this might indicate a barrow and there is one at SU 183647 between Martinsell Hill and East Wick Farm. Costello 1861, 26-7.

**\*WINKELBURY HILL** *Berwick St John* ST 952215 area

The hill is crowned with a hill-fort and round barrows. According to the landlord of the Talbot Inn (c 1950 to L.V.G.), a golden coffin is buried somewhere on this hill.

**\*WINTERSLOW** *Winterslow* SU 230350 area

There is a tradition of a golden coffin buried in this parish which contains some notable round barrows. The late Dr J. F. S. Stone to L.V.G., c 1937.

**\*YARNBURY** *Berwick St James/Steeple Langford* SU 036404

A hill-fort where fairs were held periodically until early this century.



### 3 SOUTH-EAST

#### KENT

\*ADDINGTON long barrow *Addington* TQ 653592

A chamber tomb. When Thomas Wright explored it c 1850, he was helped enthusiastically by a local man who dreamed that a crock of gold was buried there, but whose keenness soon waned. Wright 1854, 181.

\*COLDRUM long barrow *Trottiscliffe* TQ 654607

A chamber tomb, the stones of which have been held to be countless. Evans 1946, 39.

\*COUNTLESS STONES *Aylesford* TQ 744604

The remains of a chamber tomb, known also as Lower Kit's Coty, which was probably its only name before it was pillaged in c 1690. The myth of the stones being countless probably arose well after that date. An Aylesford baker tried to count them by placing a loaf on each stone; but (a) one of the loaves mysteriously disappeared and the Devil appeared in its place; (b) on counting his loaves at the end, he found one more than he had brought with him; (c) just as he was about to call the number of stones he fell dead. Numbers chalked on the stones show that the 'countless stones' myth is still current (L.V.G., c 1947). Wright 1854, 174; Igglesden 1901, 3, 84-6; Evans 1946, 38-9.

\*JULLIBERRIE'S GRAVE *Chilham* TQ 077532

A long barrow, known also as the Giant's Grave. The idea that it is the grave of (Julius) Laberius Durus, a Roman tribune killed by the Britons, dates from the first edition of Camden's *Britannia* (1586, 171-2). The burial place of a giant named Julaber, whose name may be the first element in that of Chilham. Jessup 1937, 123; 1939, 260.

\*KIT'S COTY *Aylesford* TQ 745608

Remains of chamber tomb. 'Traditions' associating the site with Hengist, Horsa and Catigern date from Lambarde 1576 who tried to explain it in terms of historical events. A local belief that Kit's Coty and Lower Kit's Coty were erected in memory of two contending kings of Kent, killed in a local battle, was mentioned by Hercules Ayleway in 1722 (Lukis 1883, 225). The megalithic parts were built by three witches who lived on Blue Bell Hill, and the capstone was raised with the help of a fourth witch. Evans 1946, 39, 41-2.

## SURREY

\*GOSTRODE FARM round barrow *Chiddingfold* SU 964335

In Goldhorde Field, so-called from the local belief that it contained treasure. Douglas 1793, 93.

## SUSSEX, EAST AND WEST

\*BEVIS'S THUMB long barrow *Up Marden* SU 789155

Known also as Solomon's Thumb. Gordon 1878, 112; Grinsell 1934, 219, 239.

\*CHANCTONBURY RING hill-fort *Washington* TQ 139120

'If you run round it seven times the Devil will come out of the trees!' . . . planted within the earthwork at the end of the eighteenth century. Simpson 1969; Simpson *The Folklore of Sussex* 1973, 67.

\*CISSBURY RING *Findon* TQ 139080

Hill-fort superimposed on Neolithic flint-mines with which the hill is riddled. Treasure is concealed in an underground tunnel guarded by serpents. Latham 1878, 16-17; Simpson *The Folklore of Sussex* 1973, 37.

\*CLAYTON HILL round barrows *Clayton* TQ 304134

A golden calf is buried on the hill, but it was not stated specifically to be in the barrows. Grinsell 1934, 238; Simpson 'Sussex local legends' 1973, 206.

\*CLIFFE HILL long barrow Hill E of *Lewes* TQ 431110

It has been known also as the Warrior's Grave and the Camel's Humps – the latter name from the dent in the middle where it has been opened. There are also vague traditions of a golden calf and a silver coffin buried somewhere on Caburn of which this hill forms a part. Grinsell 1934, 238–9; Simpson 'Sussex local legends' 1973, 206, adds a knight in golden armour.

\*DEVIL'S DITCH N of *Chichester* SU 833080 to SU 919085  
Linear ditch (Iron-Age?) so-called.

\*DEVIL'S DYKE *Poynings* TQ 259111

The name is applied to a deep valley made by the Devil trying to flood the churches in the vicinity, and the hill-fort above it was formerly called 'Poor Man's Wall'. The Devil and his wife are buried in two mounds nearby, perhaps abandoned ox-stalls. Allcroft 1926; Simpson *The Folklore of Sussex* 1973, 63; 'Sussex local legends' 1973, 209–11.

\*DEVIL'S HUMPS *Stoughton* SU 819110

Four round barrows, known also as the Kings' Graves, the burial place of Danish chiefs killed in battle. The Devil can be raised by running six (or seven?) times round the barrows. Grinsell 1934, 238–9; Simpson *The Folklore of Sussex* 1973, 66; local information to L.V.G., c 1941, from an evacuee.

\*DEVIL'S JUMPS *Treyford* SU 825173

Five large round barrows and the remains of a sixth. A story linking them with a contest between Thor and the Devil is given in Simpson 'Sussex local legends' 1973, 211.

\*FIRLE HILL barrows *Firle* TQ 475040 area

The long barrow on this hill is the burial place of the giant of Firle. A silver coffin is buried somewhere on the hill where round barrows also occur. Allcroft 1908, 679; Emslie 1915, 164.

GILL'S GRAVE *Beddingham* TQ 458087 approx

The name of a (destroyed?) round barrow in which Saxon intrusive burials were found, near Glynde railway station. Gill was a mythical personage who threw a hammer from the top of the hill. Lane-Fox 1881, 426; Grinsell 1934, 239; Meaney 1964, 249.

\*HARROW HILL flint-mines *Angmering* TQ 081100

Neolithic flint-mines and small Iron-Age enclosure: the last home of the fairies in England, who left when the flint-mines were opened c 1925. Simpson *The Folklore of Sussex* 1973, 58-9.

HOVE round barrow *Hove* TQ 294047

Site of round barrow between Salisbury Road and 13 Palmeira Avenue, destroyed 1856 when an important grave with amber cup was found, now in Brighton Museum. Until then it was 'famous every Good Friday as the resort of hundreds of young persons of both sexes to join in the rustic game of "Kiss in the Ring"!' Phillips 1857; Merrifield 1950; Simpson *The Folklore of Sussex* 1973, 112-13.

\*MONEY BURGH *Piddinghoe* TQ 425037

A long barrow so-called. Grinsell 1934, 238.

\*MOUNT HARRY round barrows *Lewes* TQ 380120 area

These were formerly thought to be the graves of those killed in the Battle of Lewes 1264. Allcroft 1924, 9-10.

\*TARBERRY hill-fort *Harting* SU 779203

Known also as Torberry, but now almost destroyed.

If Torberry digged were,  
Of gold should be the share.

Who knows what Tarberry would bear  
Would plough it with a golden share.

Fairies dance there (or used to) at midnight on Midsummer Eve. Gordon 1877, 17-19; Lean 1902, i, 204; Simpson *The Folklore of Sussex* 1973, 58.

\*TRUNDLE hill-fort *Goodwood* SU 878109

The earthwork is superimposed on a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. Aaron's golden calf is buried there. Simpson *The Folklore of Sussex* 1973, 23-4.

\*WILMINGTON HILL monuments *Wilmington* TQ 543034 area

The dimples of the flint-mines on the hill are the marks made by the giants of Firle and Wilmington Hill throwing boulders at one another. The Wilmington giant lost, and is either buried in one of the long barrows here, or lies on the hill-slope as the Long Man turf-cut figure, beneath which 'one of the Romans' is buried in a golden coffin. Emslie 1915, 163; Curwen 1929, 135.

\*WOLSTONBURY hill-fort *Pyecombe* TQ 284138

The Ascension Day procession of the choirboys of Hurstpierpoint College to the top of this hill to sing a hymn in Latin was started by its first headmaster, Dr E. C. Lowe, in the mid nineteenth century. Baring-Gould 1923, 275, and information from the College.

## 4 HOME COUNTIES

### BEDFORDSHIRE

CAESAR'S CAMP *Sandy*

TL 1649 approx

A hill-fort so-called.

\*FIVE KNOLLS SW of *Dunstable*

TL 007210

A group of round barrows, the burial place of five kings or chiefs. In 1667 Elizabeth Pratt, afterwards committed to Bedford gaol for witchcraft, had a meeting here to bewitch two children. Smith 1904, 159; Grinsell *The Witch Figure* 1973, 74.

\*KNOCKING KNOLL *Pegsdon*

TL 133311

The remains of a long barrow. Its interior is hollow, and at certain times an old man can be heard knocking to be let out. Dyer 1961, 12.

\*MAIDEN BOWER W of *Dunstable*

SP 997225

A hill-fort on the site of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. According to W. G. Smith, there was a local tradition that a queen cut a bull's hide into narrow threads and joined them together and arranged them in a circle on the ground. The king then ordered his troops to dig the rampart and ditch now visible. It seems too ingenious a story to be genuine folklore; but see *Lled Croen yr Ych*, 264. Smith 1904, 156-7.

### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

DANESBOROUGH *Wavendon*

SP 922348

A hill-fort so-called.

DANE'S CAMP *Cholesbury cum St Leonards*

SP 930072

A hill-fort so-called.

\*DANES' DITCHES *Medmenham*

SU 808847

Earthworks, possibly Iron Age.

- GREAT KIMBLE barrow *Kimble* SP 826060  
 Adjoining the church, a mound supposedly thrown up during the Civil War. Allcroft 1908, 80.
- GRIM'S DITCH *Naphill* and other parishes  
 SP 857020 to SP 949142 approx  
 At Bayman's Green Wood there was once a talk of filling up Grim's Ditch which passes it; but 'the people were afraid to do it'. Heather 1932, 110.
- \*MONEYBURY HILL *Pitstone* SP 970137  
 A round barrow so-called, probably from the finding of a coin of Cunobelin and some Roman coins a few hundred metres from the barrow before 1870. Grinsell 1967, 28.
- NEWPORT PAGNELL, barrow near  
*Newport Pagnell(?)* SP 870441  
 'If anyone runs nine times round the barrow without stopping, the fairies will appear.' From a note on paper watermarked 1819, communicated by A. Halcrow Verstage to L.V.G., c 1949.
- SHUCKLOW WARREN *Little Horwood* SP 795319  
 The site is named from Anglo-Saxon *scuccan hlaew*, the goblin's hill or barrow. The former existence of a barrow on or near the 500ft contour south-east of Warren Farm, haunted by a goblin, is strongly suggested. *PN Buckinghamshire*, 69-70.
- GREATER LONDON
- \*BOADICEA'S GRAVE *Camden* TQ 274865  
 A circular mound, probably a round barrow, in Parliament Hill Fields. 'I have been told by an old resident of the neighbourhood, of a tradition of a gold coffin or table buried in the mound.' Read 1895.
- \*CAESAR'S CAMP *Wimbledon Common* TQ 224711  
 An Iron-Age hill-fort so-called. The name is modern; it was

Baencesbyri in Saxon charter BCS 994, and Bensbury in Camden's time. *PN Surrey*, 39.

\*CORONATION STONE *Westminster Abbey* TQ 301795

The Scottish monarchs were crowned on this stone until 1296 when it was moved from Scone (Perthshire) to Westminster Abbey by Edward I. It is thought to have been the base for an early Christian cross, but is included here in view of the admittedly extremely remote possibility that it might, before then, have been part of a megalithic structure. Simpson 1958.

GRIM'S DITCH *Harrow/Stanmore* TQ 114904 to TQ 174937

Probably Iron Age or post-Roman. The name dates back at least to 1306. *PN Middlesex*, 11.

KING'S STONE *Kingston-on-Thames* TQ 1869 area

The earliest kings of all England were crowned here: Aethelstan (924-39). Eadmund (939-46), Eadred (946-55), and Eadwig (955-9). This site is included in view of the very remote possibility that the stone may have originally formed part of a prehistoric monument.

## HERTFORDSHIRE

DEVIL'S DITCH/GRIM'S DITCH

- \*(a) N and W of *Berkhamsted*. It enters the county at SP 917086 and continues to approx TL 013090
- (b) In the rural parish of St Michael, *St Albans*, there is a portion centred around TL 123083 and shown on the maps as the Devil's Ditch
- (c) In *Wheathampstead*, centred around TL 184134, is another earthwork called the Devil's Ditch. *PN Hertfordshire*, 7-8.

GOLDENLOW *Gaddesdon Row* TL 053125

A barrow opened in 1290 by Matthew Tyler of Dunstable, who found much treasure therein. It may have been Saxon. Dyer 1961, 9, 11, 19.



HIGHLEY HILL *Ashwell*

TL 285379

A round barrow said to have folklore. Early forms of the name are Nylowe and variants, suggesting perhaps a group called Nine Lowes. *PN Hertfordshire*, 153.

HILLS OF THE BANNERS *Redbourn(?)*

TL 1012 area

A group of barrows, perhaps Saxon, opened in 1178 by monks of St Albans Abbey in search of the bones of St Amphibalus their patron saint, which they were lucky enough to find to their own satisfaction, together with the bones of nine other saints. Dyer 1961, 9, 12.

\*MONEY HILL *Therfield*

TL 340401 area

One of a group of barrows, so-called from a hoard of thirteen copper bars found in it in 1861. Two of them are in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge. Grinsell 1967, 2; Dyer 1961, 11, 23.

WAYTING HILL *Hexton*

TL 102299

A round barrow, in which there is a warrior who lies sleeping until the day when he can arise and march to victory. Dyer 1961, 13, 19.

## 5 EAST ANGLIA

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE

\*DANE HILL *Kennet* TL 695682

A round barrow. Local children told L.V.G. c 1938 that it was thought to be the burial place of those killed in a battle with the Danes.

\*MUTLOW HILL *Great Wilbraham* TL 547543

A round barrow, in which a gold coach is buried. It was probably used as a Saxon meeting place or moot. Neville 1852, 226.

TWO CAPTAINS *Stretchworth(?)* TL 620610

Sites of two destroyed round barrows on Newmarket Heath. Tymms 1853.

WANDLEBURY hill-fort *Stapleford* TL 493534

A tradition has been on record since the early thirteenth century that if a warrior enters this site at dead of night, when the moon is shining, and shouts, 'Knight to knight, come forth!', he will immediately be confronted by a warrior armed for a fight, who charging horse to horse, either dismounts his adversary or is dismounted. The first recorder was Gervase of Tilbury, c AD 1211. Loomis 1955; Lethbridge 1957.

WAR DITCHES *Cherry Hinton* TL 4856 approx  
Iron-Age(?) earthworks, now destroyed.

### ESSEX

LEXDEN BARROW *Colchester* TL 975247

An Iron-Age round barrow, possibly of Cunobelin or one of his family. Excavation in 1924 revealed a skeleton with mail and tunic of cloth-of-gold with a rich grave-group including a

bronze table. According to Verrill (1931, 27), there was a tradition of a king buried there in golden armour with weapons and a gold table. Laver 1927; Grinsell 1967, 30.

MUTLOW HILL *Wenden's Ambo* TL 5136 area

The site of a destroyed barrow known as Motelawe in 1316 and used as a meeting place. *PN Essex*, 543.

## NORFOLK

\*BIRCHAM COMMON barrows *Bircham* TF 775310

A group of round barrows, said to have been thrown up by soldiers. Clarke 1913, 419.

\*BLOOD HILL *Lynford/Thetford* boundary TL 841877

A round barrow, known also as Bloody Hill. Clarke 1921, 103.

\*DANISH CAMP *Warham* TF 944409

Hill-fort, excavation of which showed it to have been built in the Iron Age; there was no evidence of Danish or Viking occupation. Gray 1933.

### DEVIL'S DITCHES:

(a) Garboldisham Heath TL 990825

(b) Narborough-Caldecote TL 3456 to TF 7413 approx

(c) Weeting/Didlington TL 765925 area

Their dates are likely to be either Iron Age or Saxon. (That at Beechamwell, TF 745085, is certainly Saxon.)

\*FIDDLER'S HILL *Warham* TF 961410

Round barrow. 'A fiddler is said to have proceeded to the site and disappeared underground with his dog.' R. R. Clarke to L.V.G. c 1938, from an article in a Norwich newspaper.

\*GARBOLDISHAM HEATH barrows *Garboldisham* TM 990820

Round barrows, burial-places of soldiers killed in the wars;

one known as Boadicea's Grave, another as Soldier's Hill. Clarke 1913, 419; Clarke 1921, 101.

**\*GRIME'S GRAVES** *Weeting-with-Broomhill* TL 817898

An extensive group of flint-mines. A mound or barrow to the east is known as *Grim's Hoe*, and may have been the meeting-place of the Hundred of that name. Gomme 1880, 105-7.

**\*HANGOUR HILL** *Beachamwell* TF 752086

A round barrow. According to a local shepherd, this was formed by the Devil scraping his spade against a tree after making a ditch. Grinsell 1953, 79.

**\*PEPPER HILL** *Weeting* TL 787882

A round barrow, from which Oliver Cromwell peppered Weeting Castle, 1.5km north-west. Clarke and Clarke 1937, 69.

**\*THETFORD CASTLE** *Thetford* TL 874828

A hill-fort converted into a Norman motte-and-bailey; formed by the Devil scraping his shoes after forming the Devil's Ditches in the area. Treasures, according to one account golden bells, are under the motte. Clarke 1907; Clarke and Clarke 1937, 146.

**VIKING'S MOUND** *Quidenham* TQ 027878

A round barrow so-called; supposed burial-place of Boadicea. Clarke 1913.

**\*WHITE HEATH BARROWS** *Bergh Apton* TG 309025 area

Round barrows, near which a battle was fought. Manning 1859.

## SUFFOLK

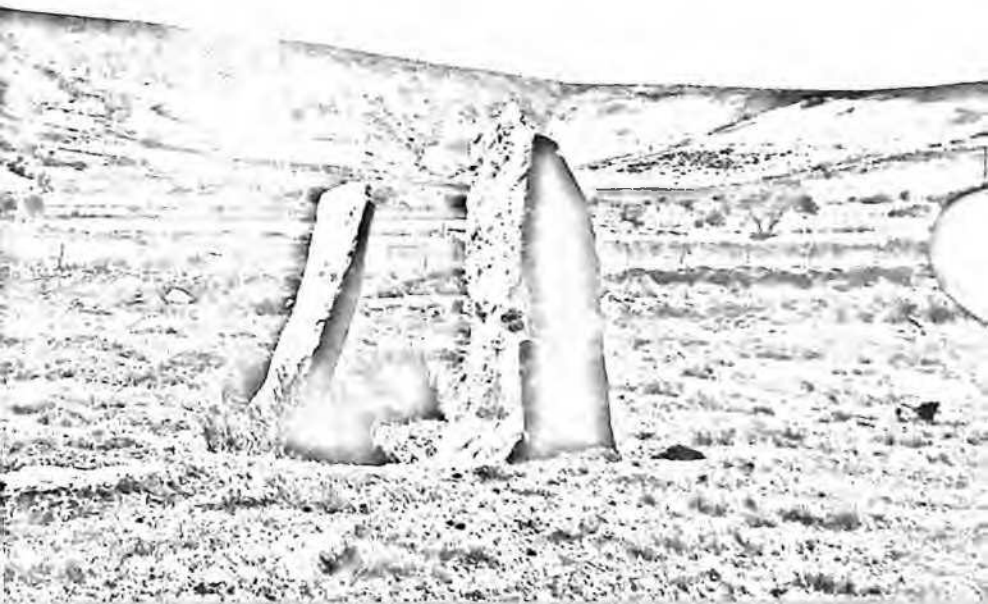
**BELL HILL** *Fritton* TG 466014

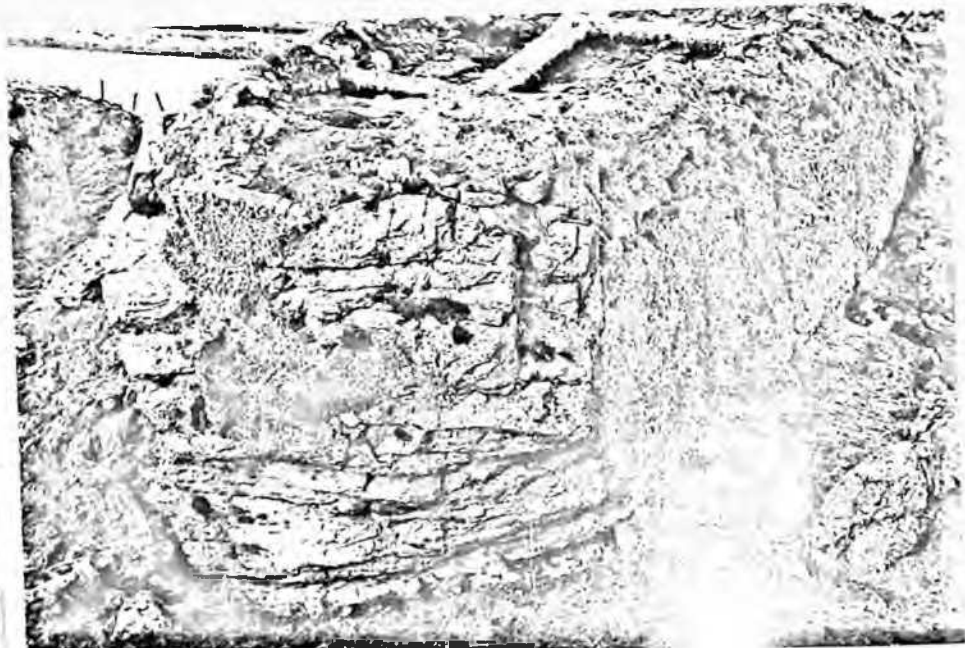
A round barrow on Fritton Warren, west of Caldecott Hall.



*Plate 12* Wood chamber tomb (Glamorgan); *Gwal-y-filiast*, the kennel of the end bitch, is believed to derive from Arthurian tradition

*Plate 13* *Meibion Arthur*, the Stones of the Sons of Arthur (Mynach Dyfed/Pembrokeshire); standing stones in a valley south west of Caerlaver





*Plate 14 Dun Fhinn (Argyll/Kintyre); a fort nam*  
*(Crown copyright, Royal Commission on Ancient M*

*ossianic legend*  
*Scotland)*

*Plate 15 Diarmaid's Grave and Pillar (Glen Lomond); both sites*  
*illustrate the influence of Irish tradition in south-west*  
*copyright, Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments*

*ell); both sites*  
*Scotland (Crown*  
*aid)*



'And there came one Cook of Calkett Hall, and shewed me that there was much money about this place, and especial in the Bell Hill, and desired me to come thither'; letter from William Stapleton to Cardinal Wolsey, quoted in Turner 1847, 57f. A golden plough lies buried in the hill. Fisher 1939; Briggs 1959, 257-8.

\*DEVIL'S RING *Brightwell* TM 241444

The name for a saucer-shaped round barrow among the group of round barrows on Brightwell Heath, mostly now levelled.

OLIVER CROMWELL'S HILL *Eye* TM 152723

A round barrow, on which Cromwell placed his cannon to bombard Peterborough Cathedral (an incident for which there is no historical evidence). Excavation by Leeds 1911 showed the barrow to be Bronze-Age. Leeds 1912.

PIN FARM BARROW *Gazeley* TL 724673

The excavator heard from several sources that this round barrow is locally believed to contain silver bells. Petersen 1973, 28, note 3.

\*SEVEN HILLS *Ampton/Little Livermore* TL 864737

A group of round barrows covering 'those killed in the Battle of Fornham' (the adjoining village). Greenwell 1869; Raven 1895, 80-1.

\*THREE HILLS *Mildenhall* TL 743742

Round barrows where Cromwell is thought to have hidden treasure chests. During the opening of one of these barrows in 1866, many people from the neighbouring villages visited the site in response to a rumour that one of the treasure chests had been found. Prigg 1873, 289; Raven 1895, 12.

\*TROSTON MOUNT *Troston* TL 897742

A round barrow in which 'all the guns and everything' are buried. Nearby cottager to L.V.G., c 1938.

## 6 COTSWOLDS AND SURROUNDINGS

### AVON

\*CADBURY hill-fort *Congresbury* ST 442650

Recent excavation has brought to light evidence of recurrence of occupation in post-Roman times. Formerly inhabited by fairies; used by witchcraft devotees until 1898. Miss R. L. Tongue's 1971 notebook, p 32.

\*CRICK STONE *Horton* ST 777828

Standing stone. The usual explanation, that a Greek officer was buried there, is probably due to folk etymology. A more likely explanation of the name is that it may have had attributed to it the property of curing young people from 'crick-in-the neck' (compare MEN-AN-TOL, Cornwall). O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 52.

DEVIL'S QUOITS *East Harptree* ST 576565 approx

In Shrowl Field, two standing stones thrown by the Devil from Widcombe Hill at the church fell short of their target. They were removed before 1882. Nutt 1882, and information from Mrs Frances Neale, 1975.

\*DOLEBURY hill-fort *Churchill* ST 450590

If Dolebury digged were,  
Of gold should be the share.

Leland c 1540/1964, v, 85.

\*DRUID STONE burial chamber *Stoke Bishop* ST 561762

The cover-slab was thrown by the giant Gorm of Blaise Hill at the giant of Clifton, but it fell short of its target. Grinsell, forthcoming.



\*FAIRY'S TOOT *Butcombe* ST 520618

Chamber tomb, destroyed during the nineteenth century. 'The haunt of ghosts, goblins, and fairies; strange noises were to be heard in its interior, and visions, portentous to children, were seen waving in the bushes growing on it.' Bere 1789, 1792; Collinson 1791, ii, 318; Grinsell 1971, 68.

\*MAES KNOLL *Norton Malreward* ST 600660

A hill-fort, formed from scrapings from a giant's spade. Poole 1877/1970, 117.

ST OSWALD'S RING *Marshfield* ST 795745

Site of a round barrow among a group of round barrows destroyed c 1947. It seems to have resembled a very small disc-barrow. A drawing by Aubrey shows 'the excavated place where they took up the earth to doe cures on man and beast' (Aubrey 1862, 415, pl XXXIX, fig 583). 'At night the country people used to pray to St. Oswald to keep the sheep safe in the fold.' Aubrey c 1687/1881, 16. (The grave of St Oswald, where according to Bede many miracles were performed, is believed to have been near Oswestry, Salop.)

\*STANTON DREW *Stanton Drew* ST 601633 area

Stone circles, avenues, and cove. Since the seventeenth century the group has been supposed to be a wedding party turned into stone for continuing their Saturday night festivities into the Sunday morning. The menhir known as Hautville's Quoit was thrown by a fourteenth-century local landowner named Sir John Hautville from Norton Hill to north. The monument to Sir John Hautville in Chew Magna church was wrongly attributed to him in the mid-nineteenth century. The stones were formerly thought to be countless. Grinsell *Folklore of Stanton Drew* 1973; Menefee 1974.

\*WATER STONE *Wrington* ST 501644

Remains of a burial chamber, so-called from a cup-shaped

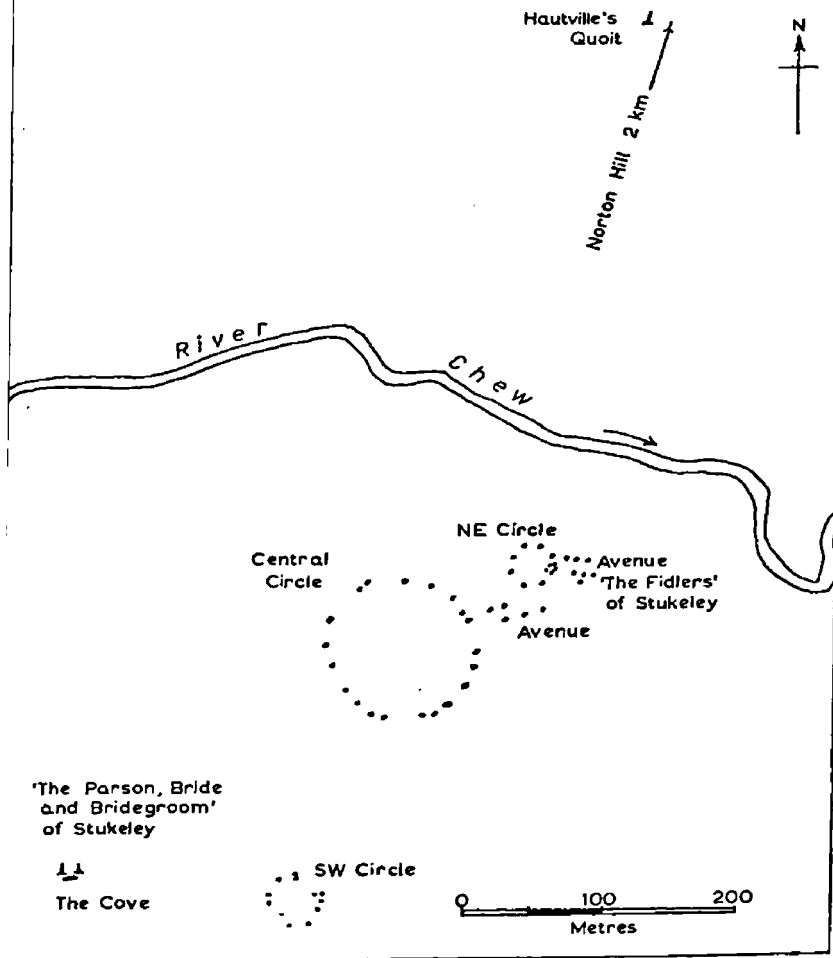


Fig 11 Stanton Drew megalithic sites, Avon

depression in one of the stones, which collects water. Offerings of milk and primroses were made there. Tongue 1965, 12; Grinsell 1971, 68.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

### \*BROAD STONE *Tidenham* ST 578972

A standing stone 2.4m high, known also as the Devil's Quoit. It was thrown by the Devil in a contest with Jack o' Kent who threw his stone across the Severn to Thornbury. Greene c 1893/c 1975, 14-15; *PN Gloucestershire*, iii, 266.

### DRAKESTONE *Stinchcombe* ST 736980

A probably naturally placed stone, which in 1651 was called Dragon Stone, near an Iron-Age(?) earthwork. The name suggests a tradition of treasure guarded by a dragon. *PN Gloucestershire*, ii, 252; iv, 58.

### \*GATCOMBE LODGE long barrow *Minchinhampton* ST 884997

Chamber tomb. About 1810 it was dug into by a woman locally known as 'Molly Dreamer' who dreamed of treasure hidden there. Partridge 1912, 341; Crawford 1925, 98.

### \*GIANT'S STONE BARROW *Bisley-with-Lypiatt* SO 918061

Chamber tomb where 'men have had the terrifying experience of seeing headless human beings which have vanished'. Burton 1932, 256; O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 51.

### \*GOLDEN COFFIN *Swell* SP 141265

A round barrow so-called. Grinsell 1964, 28.

### \*GOLDEN COFFIN FIELD *Bisley-with-Lypiatt* SO 926038

A round barrow in a field so-called from the belief that 'a Roman general' is buried there in a golden coffin. Burton 1930, 259; 1932, 258; O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 51.

### \*HOAR STONE long barrow *Duntisbourne Abbots* SO 965066

Remains of chamber tomb, in field called the Flights, or the

Devil's Flights. The stones turn over or walk round the field at midnight. Haine and Birchall 1951, 4, 29.

\*HOAR STONE *Swell* SP 172258

A standing stone. 'They tried to move it and found it 8 feet deep in the ground, and the tackle broke as they were making the attempt.' Crawford 1925, 29, 197.

\*HYDE BARROW *Minchinhampton* SO 890015

Round barrow, uncertain whether Bronze-Age or Roman. Gold was buried there, and the locality had a ghost. Partridge 1912.

\*LAMBOROUGH BANKS *Bibury* SP 107094

Chamber tomb, with tradition of underground passage. Crawford 1925, 29; O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 51.

\*LODGE PARK long barrow *Farmington* SP 142125

Chamber tomb with tradition of underground passage. Crawford 1925, 29; O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 52.

\*LONG STONE *Minchinhampton* ST 884999

A standing stone pierced by two large and several small natural holes, possibly the remains of a chamber tomb. A smaller standing stone was moved to form a stile in a wall 10m away where it remains. The Long Stone runs round the field when it hears the clock at Minchinhampton strike midnight. Children with whooping cough or rickets were cured by being passed through one of the large holes. Many years ago, efforts were made to move the stone by attaching several oxen to it, but 'something held it firm'. A black dog has been seen in the vicinity. Hartland 1892, 41; Partridge 1912; Crawford 1925, 113-14; Burton 1932, 256; O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 52-3.

\*MONEY TUMP *Bisley-with-Lypiatt* SO 903048

Round barrow, the name of which seems to imply a belief that money or other treasure has been buried there. 'On the

night of Bisley Feast two Chalford men returning from the festivities followed the track past Money Tump towards France Lynch. Seeing people in front and supposing them to be friends who had started before them, they hurried to overtake them, and found a group of men without heads. The consequent fright had an abiding effect on the men.' Partridge 1912; Burton 1932, 256; O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 51.

\*NOTGROVE long barrow *Notgrove* SP 096212

A chamber tomb, in which a golden coffin is buried. O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 53.

\*'RAGGED JONATHAN' *Minchinhampton* SO 854017 approx

A standing stone, known also as 'Holey Stone' from the many holes with which it is pitted. Children used to be lifted over the stone as a cure for whooping cough. Partridge 1912.

\*TAR BARROWS *Cirencester* SP 030026

Two round barrows, probably either Early Bronze-Age or Roman unless one is a misshapen chamber tomb. To one of these barrows has been attributed the following story recorded in or before 1685. Two men discovered an entrance which led into rooms in one of which were 'several images and urns, some with ashes, others full of coins, with Latin inscriptions on them. Entering another, they were surprised at seeing the figure of a man in armour, having a truncheon in his hand, and a light, in a glass like a lamp, burning before it. At their first approach, the image made an effort to strike, so at the second step, but with greater force; but at the third it struck a violent blow, which broke the glass to pieces, and extinguished the light. Having a lanthorn, they had just time to observe, that on the left hand (I suppose of the figure) lay two heads embalmed, with long beards, and the skin looking like parchment, when hearing a hollow noise like a groan, they hastily quitted those dark apartments, and immediately the earth fell in and buried all the curiosities.' This sounds like a highly imaginative des-

cription of an entry into a Roman barrow, or less probably a prehistoric chamber tomb. Rudder 1779, 347; Hartland 1892, 41; O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 51-2.

\*TINGLESTONE long barrow *Avening* ST 882990

A chamber tomb; at east end is a standing stone which 'runs round the field when it hears the clock strike 12'. Partridge 1912.

\*UPPER SLAUGHTER round barrow *Upper Slaughter* SP 143258 area

A round barrow on Eyford Hill, opened in 1900, when the local people assumed that the golden coffin was being sought. *Birmingham Weekly Post*, 29 September 1900.

\*WHISTLESTONE *Swell* SP 173253

The present site is as stated; the site from which it was moved c 1880 is SP 172258. Probably the remnant of a chamber tomb as human bones were found beneath it in the mid-nineteenth century. 'When the Whistlestone hears Stow clock (a mile away), strike 12, it goes down to Ladywell (at the bottom of the hill) to drink.' 'All the King's horses and all the King's men' failed to move it. (It was in fact moved to the paddock of Lower Swell vicarage c 1880). It is known also as the Whittlestone. Royce 1883, 75-6; Crawford 1925, 140; O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 53.

\*WINDMILL TUMP *Rodmarton* ST 932973

Chamber tomb containing an underground passage and a golden coffin. O'Neil and Grinsell 1961, 53.

## OXFORDSHIRE

BRIGHTHAMPTON ring ditches *Standlake* area SP 3803 area

Circles of round barrows or ancient huts. 'During dry seasons, when the corn was young, large circles have been noticed where the foliage was much darker than on the surrounding parts of the field. These were considered to be what

are commonly called "Fairy Rings"; but it now seems probable that they mark the sites of ancient trenches.' Phillips 1859.

\*CUCKHAMSLEY *East Hendred* SU 456850

A large round barrow of uncertain date. The meeting-place of a gemot. The burial-place of a Captain Scutchamer, 'killed in the Civil Wars'. Attempts to open it have been stopped by thunderstorms. Gomme 1880, 63-4; Grinsell 1935, 15, 17, and information obtained locally in 1940. See also GRIM'S DITCH.

DEVIL'S DITCH See GRIM'S DITCH

DEVIL'S QUOITS *Stanton Harcourt* SP 410050

Ceremonial site, the standing stones of which were removed during World War II for an aerodrome. The village is most likely named from the stones. 'The Devil was playing quoits on a Sunday, and, in a rage at being told that it was wrong, threw the three quoits to Stanton Harcourt. One of the Devil's Quoits was removed to make a bridge, but it was always slipping, so it was returned to its original place.' Manning 1902, 294.

\*DRAGON HILL *Woolstone* SU 300869

A natural hill with artificially flattened top on which is a chalk patch where grass never grows. It is where St George (locally King Jarge) killed the Dragon; the chalk patch is where the dragon's blood poisoned the ground. Wise 1738, 45-6; Hughes 1859, chapter 2; Grinsell *White Horse Hill* 1939, 12.

DRAGONHOARD and BROKENBARROW *Garsington* SP 5802 area

The forms are *Drakenhord* and *Brokeneberewe* in the thirteenth century. It is uncertain whether they relate to the same site but the meaning seems to be a hoard of treasure in a barrow guarded by a dragon. *PN Oxfordshire*, 175.

GRIM'S DITCHES

\* (i) *Ardington/Hendred* and other parishes SU 445854 (centre)

\* (ii) *Aston Upthorpe/Blewbury* and others SU 538832 (centre)

(iii) *Crowmarsh/Nuffield* parishes SP 610882 to SP 683868

Known also as Devil's Ditches. See under BERKSHIRE. *PN Oxfordshire*, xx, 5.

HAWK STONE *Spelsbury* SP 339235

A standing stone which goes down to the water to drink when it hears the clock strike 12. The slit in the top was worn by the friction of the chain when witches were chained to it and burned. Corbett 1929.

\*HOAR STONE *Enstone* SP 378236

Remains of chamber tomb, 'put up in memory of a general Hoar, killed in the Civil Wars'; if anyone tried to drag the stones away they would go back of their own accord. The main stone is known also as Old Soldier, and goes down to the village to drink on Midsummer Eve. When it hears the clock at Lidstone strike 12 it goes down to the water to drink (but there is no striking clock at Lidstone). Manning 1902, 295; Corbett 1929 and 1931, 4.

HOAR STONE *Steeple Barton* SP 458241

Beside the Hoar Stone are two other stones. Whenever the latter were dragged away with horses, they would roll back of their own accord. Manning 1902, 295.

\*RIDGEWAY near *Woolstone* SU 295860 area

A golden coffin is buried between Wayland's Smithy and the Uffington White Horse. Williams 1913, 265.

\*ROLLRIGHT STONES *Rollright* SP 296308

A stone circle (the King's Men) and associated stones (the Five, or Whispering, Knights); one stone (the King Stone) is just in Warwickshire. This group of monuments has associated with it one of the richest collections of folklore of any British prehistoric site.

(a) *Countless Stones* The belief that the stones are countless dates from or before 1853 when the story of the baker and his loaves was recorded (Cowper 1853), to the effect that 'his loaves



were not sufficiently numerous, or some sorcery displaced them'. A variant states that 'anyone who counts the stones three times and gets the same number each time can have any wish he cares to make'. Anon 1904.

(b) *Animism* The stones 'formerly' went down to a brook on New Year's Eve to drink at 12 o'clock. 'Now' (1902), they do it when they hear the Long Compton clock strike 12 midnight. Manning 1902, 292.

(c) *Consequences of Moving Stones*. The tallest stone of the 'King's Men' was taken to make a footbridge over the stream by Little Rollright; but the tenant who did it 'could have no rest until he removed it back again'; Lukis 1887, 157. The version told to L.V.G. in 1936 by an inhabitant of thirty years' standing was that two men were killed on the downward journey done by four horses and a waggon, but only one horse succeeded in dragging the stone uphill on the return journey. The two men, L.V.G. was told, are buried in Little Rollright churchyard. One of the stones was used as a dam for a mill-pond, but every morning the water collected had disappeared.

(d) *The Returning Army* 'But some day, they do say, the spell will be broken. The stones will turn into flesh and blood once more, and the King will start as an armed warrior at the head of his army to overcome his enemies and rule over all the land.' Evans 1895, 19.

(e) *The Petrification Legend* The essence of this legend was already in existence by 1695: 'A great monument of Antiquity, a number of vastly great stones placed in a circular figure, which the Country-people call *Rolle-rich stones*, and have a fond tradition, that they were once men, thus turn'd into stones . . . The highest of them all, . . . they call *The King*; because they fancy he should have been King of England, if he could have seen *Long-Compton*, a village within view at three or four steps farther; five larger stones, which upon one side of the circle touch one another, they pretend were Knights or Horsemen; and the other Common Soldiers'; Camden (ed Gibson 1695),

253-4. This story has been elaborated in both prose and poetry. It is enough to add that as the king was taking a stride across the country he was met by a witch who said:

Seven long strides shalt thou take, and  
If Long Compton thou canst see,  
King of England shalt thou be.

On his seventh stride, however, there rose before him a long mound which prevented him from seeing Long Compton. The witch then said,

As Long Compton thou canst not see,  
King of England thou shalt not be.  
Rise up, stick, and stand still, stone,  
For King of England thou shalt be none,  
Thou and thy men hoar stones shall be,  
And I myself an eldern tree.

Evans 1895, 18-19.

(f) *Midsummer Eve and the Elder Tree* 'On Midsummer Eve, when the "eldern" tree was in blossom, it was a custom for people to come up to the King Stone and stand in a circle. Then the "eldern" was cut, and as it bled "the King moved his head".' Evans 1895, 20, 24.

(g) *Removal of Bits of Stone* 'I have, as hundreds have done before me, carried off a bit from the King, his Knights, and Soldiers, which I intend to send or keep for you'; W. Parry to W. Stukeley 24 December 1742. Lukis 1887, 156-8. The King Stone in particular 'is daily diminishing in size, because people from Wales kept chipping off bits to keep the Devil off'. *Notes and Queries*, 2s, 7 (1859), 393.

(h) *Mother Shipton* Some accounts associate the stones with the witch named Mother Shipton (1488-1551?) first mentioned in a tract of 1641, and supposedly of the nearby village of Shipton-under-Wychwood. She it was who addressed the king and turned him and his knights and men into stone. Costello 1861, 215-22; Evans 1895, 18, note 2.

\*SNIVELLING CORNER Stone *Ashbury* SU 262868

A standing stone (believed destroyed since 1940), thrown by Wayland Smith at his imp Flibbertigibbet, for going birds' nesting when sent to get some nails. The story was current from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. Akerman 1847; D'Almaine 1929; Grinsell *White Horse Hill* 1939, 21.

\*WAYLAND'S SMITHY *Ashbury* SU 281854

A chamber tomb of two structural phases. The name occurs in Saxon charter BCS 908, reputed date AD 955. The variant name Wayland Smith's Forge, occurring on one-inch OS map of 1828, may have resulted from the popularisation of that form of the name in *Kenilworth* (1821) by Sir Walter Scott, whose son Charles sometimes stayed with Canon and Mrs Thomas Hughes at Uffington rectory.

Wayland the invisible smith shod the horse of anyone travelling along the Ridgeway nearby, in exchange for a coin or other suitable payment. The legend was first published by Francis Wise (1738, 37), then under-keeper of the Bodleian Library. It was also mentioned in a letter to Stukeley from his daughter Anna, 3 October 1758 (Lukis 1883, 8). The finding of two iron bars, thought by Reginald A. Smith to be Iron-Age currency bars, at the site in 1919, appeared to provide factual support for the legend, until re-examination of the bars c 1940 showed that they are probably medieval. Thurnam 1862, 328-33; Grinsell *White Horse Hill* 1939, 16-20. For witch relics said to be from the site see Grinsell in *The Witch Figure* 1973, 76. For the occurrence in Saxon charters of the vicinity of names resembling other personages in the Wayland cycle, see Grinsell 'Wayland's Smithy' 1939 (for) and Gelling 1968 (against).

\*WHITE HORSE *Uffington* SU 302866

A turf-cut figure, usually attributed to the Iron Age on the basis of its stylistic resemblance to the horse designs on the ancient British coins of the Dobunni and the Atrebatas near whose tribal boundary the Horse is situated; but the theory of a

Saxon origin, dating from Wise 1738, has been recently revived (Woolner 1967). There are records of scourings every few years since 1677, and until 1857 they were usually accompanied by festivities. At the scouring of 1780 and probably others, these included riding down the hill on the jawbone of a horse (*Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 29 May 1780). The scouring of 17-18 September 1857 was described in *The Scouring of the White Horse*, a historical novel by Thomas Hughes, author of *Tom Brown's School Days*. During the present century the scourings have been done by the government department concerned with the conservation of ancient monuments, which changes its name from time to time. For many years it has been considered lucky to wish when standing in the eye of the Horse. Grinsell *White Horse Hill*, 1939, 4-6; Huntingford 1957.

## WARWICKSHIRE

\*KING STONE, Rollright *Long Compton* SP 296309

A standing stone forming a component of the Rollright Stones (the rest in Oxfordshire). On Midsummer Eve, people used to come to the King Stone and stand in a circle. As the elder tree was cut and bled, the King Stone moved its head. The King Stone goes down to the spring at Little Rollright Spinney when it hears the clock strike 12 midnight. Fairies used to dance around this stone at night after coming out of a hollow in the mound on which the stone is placed. Children put a stone in front of this hole but they always found it turned over by the next morning. Pieces were formerly chipped off the King Stone for luck, notably by soldiers before going into battle. Evans 1895, 18-25.

On a square oblong patch near the stone, 'on a certain day of the year, the young men and maidens customarily meet, and make merry with cakes and ale'. Stukeley 1743, 13. 'Humphrey Boffin' moved the King Stone to the courtyard of his house, but such awful noises occurred the following night that he moved

it back. Although it took twenty-four horses to move the stone into his courtyard, only two horses were needed to replace it. This was just before the Civil War, when Cromwell's troops ransacked Humphrey Boffin's house and drowned him in a well. Costello 1861, 220-2. See also ROLLRIGHT STONES, Oxfordshire.

SHUCKBURGH *Upper and Lower Shuckburgh* SP 495620

The name means 'the hill, or barrow, of the evil spirit, or of the Devil'. The name may derive from a barrow now destroyed. *PN Warwickshire*, 143-4.

## 7 THE WEST MIDLANDS

### CHESHIRE

BRIDESTONES *Congleton* SJ 906622

A chamber tomb, on boundary of Biddulph (Staffordshire). The burial place of a young newly-wedded bride of a general, who accompanied her husband to the wars and was killed near this spot. Burne 1896, 27; Gunstone 1965, 22, 33.

ROBIN HOOD'S TUMP *Tilstone Fearnall* SJ 5760 area

A round barrow probably of two structural phases. Robin Hood stood on it to shoot an arrow at Beeston Crag. Hole 1937, 197.

### HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

#### *Herefordshire*

\*ARTHUR'S STONE *Dorstone* SO 318431

Chamber tomb. Arthur killed a giant here; the stone on the Bredwardine side is where the giant fell, and the hollows in it mark the giant's elbows. The hollow on the stone known as the Quoit Stone bears the marks of either Arthur's knees as he knelt to pray, or his thumb and fingers while he was playing quoits. These hollows are said by others to be where Jesus knelt to pray (informant Miss M. Wight 7 August 1958). A Christian service has been held on the site on the fourth Sunday in July for some years. Anon, 1872; Leather 1912, 5; Crawford 1925, 147-9; *Hereford Times*, 27 July 1956.

HOAR STONE *Tedstone Delamere* SO 6958 area

The petrified thief of a mare and her colt whose footsteps enabled the thief to be traced. Duncumb 1812, ii, 197; Barker 1899, 144-5.

\*KING ARTHUR'S CAVE *Whitchurch* so 545155

A cave occupied by man in Palaeolithic and Mesolithic times. 'King Arthur . . . was fleeing from his enemies, and being hard pressed, hid his treasures here. Merlin enchanted the hiding place, so that the treasure should never be found.' Symonds 1935.

\*ST WEONARD'S barrow *St Weonards* so 497243

Probably a Bronze-Age round barrow converted into a Norman motte. St Weonard is buried here in a golden coffin, or on a golden coffer filled with gold, the lid of which is inscribed:

Where this stood  
Is another twice as good; ·  
But where that is, no man knows.

It was formerly the scene of village fêtes and Morris dancing. Wright 1861, i, 60; Leather 1912, 9.

\*SUTTON WALLS *Sutton* so 525464  
Hill-fort.

Sutton Wall and Kenchester Hill  
Are able to buy London were it to sell.

Lean 1902, i, 100.

TURNASTONE stone and well *Turnastone* so 358364

In 1410 the Bishop of Hereford issued a proclamation forbidding the committing of idolatry at the stone and well here. Durham 1932, quoting Hereford Cathedral Registers.

WHETSTONE *Kington (?)* so 260566 area

On or near Hergest Ridge, a stone which goes down to drink in the brook when it hears the cock crow. Leather 1912, 6.

WORMELOW TUMP *Wormelow*, on parish boundary so 492303

Site of a destroyed mound (barrow?) which gave the name to a Hundred. It has been claimed as the mound thus described

by Nennius: 'the name of the man who was buried in the tumulus was . . . Anir. He was the son of Arthur the soldier, and he killed him in the same place and buried him. And men come to measure the tumulus, sometimes 6 feet in length, sometimes 9, sometimes 12, sometimes 15. In what measure you should measure it in its turn, the second time you will not find it the same measure, and I have tested it myself.' Nennius. *Historia Brittonum*, § 73.

### *Worcestershire*

BANBURY STONE *Eckington/Kemerton* boundary so 957402

A natural stone on the edge of the hill-fort on Bredon Hill. Treasure is beneath it, and the stone goes down to the river Avon to drink when it hears the church clock strike 12. Partridge 1912; Crawford 1925, 186-8.

BECKFORD village *Beckford* so 975358

The village is said to have been formerly on the south slope of Bredon Hill near Conderton hill-fort (SO 972383) in an area where Roman coins and foundations have been found. Walker 1911.

CLEEVE HILL round barrow *Littleton* SP 071470

This barrow is crowned by a large stone, 'evidently the base of a 14th century cross'. This stone was thrown by the Devil from Meon Hill (where there is a hill-fort) at Evesham Abbey, but its course was deflected by the sound of the abbey bells. Potter 1914.

DRAKELOW *Wolverley* so 8279 approx

The name has been traced to 1582 and should mean a hill, or barrow, containing treasure guarded by a dragon. Bury Farm might be a likely site. *PN Worcestershire*, 258.

\*MEON HILL *Quinton* SP 178453

Hill-fort. A farm labourer, ploughing within it, was interrupted by his ploughshare striking a pot inverted over a hoard



of gold coins, as a result of which he became a rich man. One version states that the coins were of the time of Charles I. Hodges 1911.

## SALOP

BURY DITCHES *Lydbury North* so 328837

A hill-fort, containing a pot of gold belonging to the fairies. A clue of gold wire is attached to it, which will lead the seeker to the spot. Burne 1883, 640.

BURY WALLS *Weston-under-Redcastle* SJ 577275

Hill-fort with possible later occupations. 'The Roman coyns that are found there, with such bricks as they us'd in building, are evidence of its antiquity and founders. The people of the neighbourhood . . . affirm it to have been very famous in King Arthur's days.' Camden (ed Gibson, 1695), 545.

GIANT'S SHAFT *Abdon* so 594866

A recumbent stone so-called, within the hill-fort on Abdon Burf. Wall 1908, 359.

\*MITCHELL'S FOLD *Chirbury* so 304983

A stone circle. The name occurs as *Medgel's fold* in a MS by Edward Lhuyd c 1690 (Llanstephan MS 185B, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth). The earliest record of the tradition occurs in two letters from James to his brother Dr A. C. Ducarel, one dated 11 May 1752: *Medgley's Fold*, 'where they say a great personage, I believe a Giant, used to milk his cows in that inclosure' (a). A more detailed account occurs in Stukeley's Diary under November 1753: '*Midgel's Fold* . . . a proverb in this country, for one that gives a deal of milk. The report of this temple is that a cow in this place gave milk to all the honest and good folks of the neighbourhood, but one of evil life milked her into a sieve, whereupon the cow disappeared, and never came more . . .' (e). Later versions add that the

'honest' and good folks' took only one pail of milk each, until the arrival of the one of evil life (a witch), Medgel or Mitchell, who milked the cow into a sieve. The witch was turned into stone, and surrounded by the stone circle now to be seen. A farmer who blew up some of the stones and used the fragments to surround his horse pond 'never did no good after' (d). (a) Nichols 1822. iv, 621, 623; (b) Hartshorne 1841, 30-8; (c) Wright 1862, 59-60; (d) Burne 1883, 39-43; (e) Lukis 1887, 178-9; (f) Lewis 1893.

The church at Middleton-in-Chirbury (SO 298993), 1.5km north-west, has the capital of its north column decorated with scenes illustrating this legend beautifully carved by the vicar, Reverend W. Brewster, in 1879 (informant Miss L. F. Chitty).

\*OLD FIELD barrows *Bromfield* so 492778

A group of round barrows, some known as Robin Hood's Butts. From that at the north end, Robin Hood shot an arrow at the weathercock on the steeple of Ludlow church. A tradition of treasure in these barrows, guarded by a dragon, was recorded by Wright (1862), but there seems to be some doubt on the identification of the site. Grinsell 1967, 26.

OLD OSWESTRY *Oswestry* sj 296310

An impressive hill-fort, the inhabitants of which migrated to form the present town of Oswestry (sj 293298), about 2km from the other site. Burne 1883, 9.

PONTESFORD HILL *Pontesbury* sj 409048 and sj 409056

Two hill-forts. 'A wake is annually held on Palm Sunday, on the top of "Ponsert Hill" . . . under the pretence of seeking for the golden arrow.' Hartshorne 1841, 179.

PONTYLINKS STANDING STONE *Clun* so 277823(?)

Attempts to move this standing stone, using eight horses with iron chains, failed; other attempts were countered by violent thunderstorms. Informant A. D. Passmore, 1938.

\*ROBIN HOOD'S BUTTS *All Stretton* so 430966

Two round barrows so-called, on the Long Mynd. Cobbold 1904, 35-7.

ROBIN HOOD'S CHAIR *West Felton* sj 34 25 area

The site of a destroyed stone circle. Burne 1883, 638.

STIPERSTONES CAIRN *Ratlinghope* so 367990

A cairn, said to have been dropped by a giantess who tried to carry away the Devil's Chair (a rock near) in her apron, but the Devil came up from behind and cut her apron-strings. Informant Miss L. F. Chitty.

## WEST MIDLANDS

WARSTONE 'Between *Dudley and Birmingham*' sp 0688 area

Known also as the Whorestone or Hoarstone. 'The Dudley giant in his rage threw a large stone all the way from Dudley at the Birmingham giant, and demolished his castle and killed him. Some of his surviving followers erected a stone in the lane as a memento of prowess and rage, and called it the War Stone, whence the name Warstone Lane.' Noake 1856, 204; *PN Warwickshire*, 39.

## 8 CENTRAL AND EAST MIDLANDS

### DERBYSHIRE

COCK CROWING STONES See under EAGLE STONE and TURNING STONE

DRAKELOW *Drakelow* SK 240190

The name is probably derived from Saxon words meaning the Dragon's (or Devil's) hill or barrow; it is first mentioned in Saxon charter BCS 772 as *Dracan hlawen*. *PN Derbyshire*, xxiv, 633.

EAGLE STONE *Curbar* SK 250750 approx

A stone which turns round when the cock crows. Addy 1895, 56.

GOSPEL HILLOCK Near *Brushfield* SK 169723(?)

A round barrow so-called. Bateman 1861, 70.

GOSPEL HILLOCKS *King Sterndale* SK 086716

Barrow so-called. The name of both these sites seems to indicate former use for preaching, perhaps by Methodists. Compare Whitefield's Tump, Gloucestershire. O'Neil *et al* 1961, 56.

\*HOB HURST'S HOUSE *Beeley* SK 287692

Chambered round barrow, so-called after a supernatural being. 'Hob Hurst's House signifies the abode of an unearthly or supernatural being, accustomed to haunt woods and other solitary places . . .' Bateman 1861, 87-8, 292; Dickins 1942, 15, who shows that the second element in Hobthrush probably had no connection with any wood.

MONEYSTONES *Hartington* SK 150617

Two round barrows so-called; one was 'rifled by treasure-seekers allured by the attractive name'. Bateman 1861, 40.

**\*NINE LADIES** *Stanton* SK 248635

A circular stone setting of about nine stones, probably the retaining circle of a round barrow. At 30m to south-west is a standing stone called the King Stone. These names were applied to the site in 1848. Bateman 1848, 112.

**\*NINE STONES** *Harthill* SK 227625

Remains of a circular stone setting, probably a sepulchral cairn, as suggested by exploration of the interior in 1847. Of six stones then present, only four remain. 'Some writers described these interesting relics . . . as the "Grey Ladies", because of the tradition that they danced at the solemn hour of midnight. There is little of this tradition now, and it is more than probable that early guidebook writers invented it.' Heathcote 1947, 12.

**ROBIN HOOD'S CAVE** *Hathersage* SK 244836

A natural cave occupied in Upper Palaeolithic times.

**ROBIN HOOD'S PRICKS** *Near Grindleford Bridge* SK 2778

Cairns of this name were explored in the eighteenth century and contained urns of which at least one was inverted. Bateman 1861, 247, 252.

**TURNING STONE** *Ashover* SK 3462 approx.

A naturally placed(?) stone. 'There are cock-crowing stones in the neighbourhood of Ashover', and it seems reasonable to assume a local tradition that this stone turns 'when it hears the cock crow'. Addy 1895, 56.

## **LEICESTERSHIRE including RUTLAND**

**BOROUGH HILLS** *Burrough-on-the-Hill* SK 761119

Hill-fort. 'To thes Borow Hilles every yere on Monday after White Soday cum people of the contery therabowt, and shote, renne, wrastel, dawnce, and use like other feates of exercyse.' Leland c 1540/1964, iv, 20; Billson 1895, 82.

DANE HILLS *Leicester*

SK 5805 area(?)

Earthworks, among them being a cave called Black Annis's Bower, named from a 'savage woman with great teeth and long nails' who devoured human victims. A fair used to be held here on Easter Mondays. Billson 1895, 7, 77.

HOSTON STONE *Humberston*

SK 6206 approx

A stone formerly believed to be inhabited by fairies. A land-owner who damaged it in or before the eighteenth century never prospered afterwards. The name is an extension of Hoar Stone. Hamper 1833, 53; Allies 1856, 369, 385; Billson 1895, 9-13.

LINCOLNSHIRE

BARDNEY barrow *Bardney*

TF 121708

A round barrow near the abbey; said to be the burial place of King Ethelred of Mercia: surely a piece of outdated antiquarianism. Gutch and Peacock 1908, 331.

CAENBY barrow *Caenby*

SK 970889

A round barrow, the burial place of a king with his golden crown. Excavation in mid-nineteenth century uncovered the burial of an Anglian adult male with remains of a shield with mounts of silver and bronze, seventh-century, suggesting a chieftain status. Rudkin 1955, 392-3; Meaney 1964, 152-3.

GIANT'S GRAVE *Ludford*

TF 173923

A long barrow. Gutch and Peacock 1908, 1; C. W. Phillips 1933, 197-8.

\*GIANTS' HILLS *Skendleby*

TF 429711

Two long barrows so-called; one was excavated in 1933-4; the other was almost levelled many years ago.

\*HOE HILL *Swinhope*

TF 215953

The finest long barrow in Lincolnshire, known also as Cromwell's Grave. C. W. Phillips 1933, 184.

HOGSTHORPE earthworks *Hogsthorpe* TF 5371 approx  
Earthworks attributed locally to the Danes. Gutch and Peacock 1908, 341.

\*SPELLOW HILLS *Langton-by-Spilsby* TF 240690  
Long barrow, known also as 'the Hills of the Slain', and locally believed to cover soldiers killed in a mythical Civil War battle of Partney (a nearby village). C. W. Phillips 1933, 176, 193-6.

WALMSGATE long barrow *Walmsgate* TF 373776  
Phillips was unable to get any folklore on this site, but since then (1933) a story has been put on record that one of three dragons was slain and buried in this mound, and that the place-name is not Walmsgate but Wormsgate from this dragon. C. W. Phillips 1933, 187-9; Rudkin 1955, 388.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

HORESTONE *Edgcote* SP 5246 approx

If we can Padwell overgoe, and Horestone we can see,  
Then Lords of England we shall be.

Padwell probably survives in the local name Paddle Cott south-east of Edgcote. Compare the folklore of Rollright Stones c 26km to south-west. Morton 1712, 542; *PN Northamptonshire*, 34.

HUNSBURY *Hardingstone* SP 737584

Hill-fort, known also as Danes' Camp, possibly from Morton 1712. Allcroft 1908, 127-8.

KETTERING *Kettering* SP 8778 approx

About 1527 a man was prosecuted for demanding a fee for showing another person where treasure could be found by digging into a bank or hill (barrow or other earthwork?). He stated that 'ther was iij thousand poundes of gold and sylver

in a bank besides the crosse nygh hand to Kettering, and that it is in ij pottes within the ground . . . A man sprite and a woman sprite did kepe the said ij pottes'. Peacock 1885, 254-6.

OSTER HILL *West Haddon(?)* SP 6372 approx

A possible barrow, so-called from a piece of antiquarianism which held it to be the burial place of a Roman general named Publius Ostorius Scapula. Edgar 1923, 15, 34.

ROBIN HOOD AND LITTLE JOHN 'Between Alwalton and Castor'  
TL 1395/TL 1298 area

Two large standing stones, arrows aimed by those two famous archers from Alwalton churchyard. Morton 1712, 551; Saunders 1888, 105-8; *PN Northamptonshire*, 233.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

CROSS HILL *Willoughby-on-the-Wolds* SX 6426 approx

' . . . You find a *tumulus*, on Willughby side of the road, famous among the country people: it is called Cross hill: upon this they have an anniversary festival.' Stukeley 1776, 106.

## STAFFORDSHIRE

CAULDON LOW *Waterhouses* SK 0849 area

It is uncertain whether this name refers to the hill or to a barrow on it. At all events fairies danced on it, as in the poem 'The Fairies of the Caldron Low: a Mid-summer Legend' (Howitt 1847, 63-8):

Oh! tell me all, my Mary,  
All, all that ever you know;  
For you must have seen the fairies,  
Last night, on the Caldron Low.  
Then take me on your knee, mother;  
And listen, mother of mine,  
A hundred fairies danced last night,  
And the harpers they were nine.



Witcutt 1943; Gunstone 1965, 51.

COCK LOW *Leek* SJ 9855 approx

A destroyed round barrow originally c 40m in diameter and c 5.5m high; almost certainly the 'Cocklom' which was the subject of a treasure-digging authorisation issued to Prince Rupert c 1680. To this site may relate a tradition of a phantom coach haunting the Ashbourne road to Lowe Hill near Leek. Hill 1936, 254-5; Witcutt 1943.

DEVIL'S RING AND FINGER *Mucklestone* SJ 707377

Probably the remains of a chamber tomb incorporating a holed stone (the Devil's Ring). Gunstone 1965, 22, 44.

HOAR STONE *Acton Trussell (or Tryssul)*

A stone known also as the War Stone. Hamper 1833, 56.

\*LONG LOW *Wetton* SK 122539

Long barrow. 'On Christmas Eve the fairies of Long Low behind Castern Hall held high revel.' Witcutt 1943.

ROBIN HOOD'S BUTTS *Wigginton* SK 208062 approx

Two round barrows so-called; one was destroyed in the eighteenth century. Gunstone 1965, 58.

## 9 NORTH-WEST

### CUMBRIA (formerly Cumberland)

DUNMAIL RAISE *Grasmere* NY 326119

Cairn partly restored in 1901. It is reputed to be the burial place of Dunmail, the last king of Strathclyde and Cumbria, who was defeated there c AD 950. Identification with this site dates back to Saxton 1610. Collingwood 1923, 254. *Inv Grasmere* 51 (Westmorland)

ELF HILLS *Hutton-in-the-Forest* NY 4635 approx  
Barrows(?) so-called. Denham 1895, 78.

ELVA HILL *Setmurthy* NY 179318

The name was Elfhow in *Inquisitions* AD 1488. The spot is occupied by a stone circle, probably the retaining circle of a round barrow.

GIANT'S GRAVE *Castlecarrock* NY 559538

Round barrow so-called, on Hespeck Raise. Collingwood 1923, 216.

\*KESWICK stone circle *St John Castlerigg* NY 292236  
Known also as the Carles stone circle.

\*LONG MEG AND HER DAUGHTERS *Hunsonby* NY 571372

A stone circle. Little Meg, to north-east, is the retaining circle of an Early Bronze-Age cairn. The earliest reference is a description by three Norwich soldiers (1634) of 'Stony Meg and her 77 daughters as hard-hearted as herself' (Legg 1904; Denham 1892, 166-7). Meg may possibly have been Meg of Meldon, reputed to have been an early seventeenth-century witch (Denham 1895, 244-56).

(a) *The Petrification Legend* was already in existence in 1690:

'The story is that these soliciting her to an Unlawfull Love by an Enchantment are turned w<sup>th</sup> her into stone; the stone in the middle w<sup>ch</sup> is called Mag is much bigger and have some fforme Like a statue or ffigure of a body, but the Rest are but soe many Cragg stones' (Fiennes c 1703/1949, 201). A similar tradition was given by Stukeley (1743, 83), and a variant stating that they were witches turned into stone was quoted by Hutchinson (1794, i, 225-8).

(b) *Countless Stones* The tradition that the stones in the circle cannot be counted twice alike was mentioned by Celia Fiennes (c 1703/1949, 201): 'they affirme they Cannot be counted twice alike as is the story of Stonidge'. It has been repeated by numerous later writers.

(c) *Retribution following damage* "The late Colonel Lacy" attempted to move the stones by blasting. The result was thunder, rain and hail so terrible that the workmen fled for their lives.' If a piece be broken off Long Meg, she would bleed. Sullivan 1857, 127-8; Whellan 1860, 502.

MAIDEN CASTLE west of *Pooley Bridge* NY 451243  
An earthwork enclosure so-called.

MEG'S CAIRN *Ousby* NY 657374  
A cairn on the Maiden Way. Collingwood 1923, 220.

SAMPSON'S BRATFUL on Stockdale Moor  
*Ennerdale and Kinniside* NY 099080  
A long barrow. 'Brat' is the local word for apron, and a folk tradition of an apronful of stones is here implied.

SWINSIDE stone circle *Millom Without* SD 172882  
A stone circle known also as Sunken Kirk. The stones are locally thought to be countless. Informant Miss M. Cross to Dr E. M. Guest, c 1939.

*Formerly Westmorland*  
GIANTS' GRAVES *Mallerstang* SD 778944  
Cairns so-called. *Inv Mallerstang* 18.

\*KING ARTHUR'S ROUND TABLE *Yanwath/Eamont Bridge* NY 523283

Henge monument. The site was 'of sum caulled the Round Table, and of summe "Arture's Castel" ' in the time of Leland c 1540/1964, v, 48. Drayton 1622, end of Song XXX; *Inv Yanwath* 12.

ROBIN HOOD'S GRAVE *Crosby Ravensworth* NY 617107  
Cairn on Crosby Ravensworth Fell. *Inv Crosby Ravensworth* 50.

## LANCASHIRE

CALDERSTONES *Liverpool* SJ 406877

Remains of important megalithic tomb with foot-carved slabs. 'They were looked upon with awe by the people about as having some religious significance quite beyond their comprehension.' Hand 1912.

FAIRY HOLES CAVE *Bowland with Leagram* SD 651467  
This site has yielded evidence of occupation during the Bronze Age.

GIANT'S GRAVE cairn *Kirkby Ireleth* SD 256880  
Cairn so-called among a group on Heathwaite Fell.

KIRKBY MOOR ring cairn *Kirkby Ireleth* SD 251827  
A circle of stones and earth; traditionally a place of worship where games were held formerly. Partridge 'Lancashire Folklore' 1915.

ROBIN HOOD'S STONE *Allerton* SJ 299865  
A scheduled ancient monument.

## 10 YORKSHIRE

### CLEVELAND (formerly in Yorkshire North Riding)

\*HERD HOWE *Moorsholm* NZ 704118

A round barrow, so-called perhaps from a tradition of treasure buried in it. Atkinson 1891, 135-41; Elgee 1930, pl XIX, Fig 1.

\*HOB ON THE HILL *Guisborough* NZ 640124 area

A round barrow on Guisborough Moor. The name is probably a variant of Hobthrush. Elgee 1930, 148; Dickins 1942, 19.

ROBIN HOOD BUTTS *Moorsholm* NZ 705116

The name of one or more round cairns.

### HUMBERSIDE (formerly parts of North Lincolnshire and Yorkshire East Riding)

DANES' DYKE *Flamborough* TA 213732 to TA 216692

A pre-Roman linear ditch across the hinterland of Flamborough Head; inhabited by the ghost of the 'White Lady'.

DANES' GRAVES *Nafferton* TA 019639

Iron-Age barrow group so-called; they are said to have been the site of a battle. Gutch 1912, 204-5.

FAIRY HILL *Driffield* TA 023583

Round barrow so-called, near east side of stream at north end of Driffield. It is known also as Moot Hill, Mude Hill, and Mud Hill. Mortimer 1905, 295.

FIMBER Church Hill barrow *Fimber* SE 894605

An oval barrow, Mortimer's C33, uncertain whether Neolithic or Bronze-Age, opened by Mortimer in 1869. 'Many churches in various parts of England are in immediate proxi-

mity to barrows, but few are known to occupy the sites of three succeeding churches and to represent the burial place of four different people, viz, British, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, and English.' The barrow was found while digging foundations for the most recent of the three churches. Mortimer 1905, 189-92.

MONEY HILL *Dalton Holme*

SE 921455

Round barrow on an estate boundary; so-called because money was scrambled for at the spot during former Perambulations of the parish boundaries. Greenwell 1877, 329-30.

RUDSTON standing stone *Rudston*

TA 098678

The tallest prehistoric standing stone in England, this stands in the churchyard, and has been described as the 'Grandmother of the Church'. It grew there in one night. Informant Mrs Derwas Chitty, 27 April 1937. The Devil shot his arrow at the church just as it was completed, but missed. Informant Raymond Hayes, 1975.

\*WILLY HOWE *Thwing*

TA 061724

A very large round barrow beside the stream known as the Gypsy Race; explored without satisfactory result by Greenwell c 1887, but analogies with Duggleby Howe near the source of the same river suggest a Neolithic date. It is the subject of a remarkable piece of folklore recorded by William of Newburgh (died c 1198):

In the Yorkshire province, too, not far from the place of my birth, a miraculous thing occurred, which I have been familiar with since my boyhood. There is a village some miles away from the North Sea, near which the famous waters, which are generally known as GIPSEY [Race], gush out of the ground in a number of springs, not all the time, but at intervals of some years; they create a large torrent which flows over the lower areas into the sea . . . From this village a countryman went to call on a friend who was staying in the next village. Late at night he started the return journey, and he was rather drunk. Well, suddenly from a nearby mound (I have seen it quite often; it is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the village) he heard the voices of people singing, like the members of



*Plate 16* Wayland's Smithy (Ashbury/Oxfordshire): a chamber tomb named from this smith in Scandinavian mythology connected with Vulcan. It is here seen in 1963, as it was restored in 1963

*Plate 17* Spinners' Rock (Drewsteignton/Devon); probably the remnant of a stone tomb and said to have been erected by three spinsters one morning over breakfast





**Plate 18** Silbury Hill (Avebury/Wiltshire); perhaps the largest artificial chalk mound in western Europe, it is 38 metres high and covers 2.2... said to have been raised while a posset of milk was seething

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es. It is

**Plate 19** *Haltadans* (Fetlar/Shetland); the trows were dancing until sunrise when they and the fiddlers were turned to stone. danced to dates from 1642 or earlier (Crown copyright, Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments, Scotland)

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a Festal banquet. Wondering who would break the silence of the dark night with ceremonial rejoicings in that place, he decided to investigate more closely into this mystery, and, seeing an open door in the side of the mound, he drew near and looked inside; he saw a spacious building, well lit, filled with people reclining at tables, as many men as women, apparently there for a ceremonial meal. Now one of the attendants, seeing him standing at the entrance, offered him a cup. Taking it, he deliberately refrained from drinking, but threw out the contents, kept the container, and went off with it at top speed. Uproar broke out at the banquet over this theft of the goblet, and, when the guests pursued him, it was through the speed of his beast that he escaped and took refuge in the village with his remarkable booty. In the end this goblet of unknown material, unusual colour, and unfamiliar shape, was bestowed on Henry the Elder, King of the English [for a large consideration?], and, after him, it was delivered over to the Queen's brother, David, of course, King of the Scots. It was kept many years in the Treasury of Scotland, and some years ago (as I hear from a reliable source) was transferred to Henry II by William, King of the Scots, when Henry expressed a wish to see it.

Hartland 1890/1925, 146-7; revised translation by Basil Cottle and Mrs S. J. Beare, 1973.

A local man told Mr Raymond Hayes c 1938 that the man who stole the cup escaped on horseback, but the fairies overtook him at the Gipsey Race stream, and cut off the hind quarters of his horse which had not crossed the stream. He escaped clinging to the fore part.

There is also a story that people dug into the mound and reached the top of a chest of gold; they attached a train of horses to it and then shouted:

Hop Perry, prow Mark,  
Whether God's will or not, we'll have this ark.

The chest then sank deeper into the barrow, and further efforts to get it have been in vain. Denham 1895, 254-5; Gutch 1912, 6-7.

## NORTH YORKSHIRE

ANN'S CROSS and BARROW *Goathland/Sneaton* boundary  
NZ 878002

A cross on a round barrow.

APRONFUL OF STONES *Thornton-in-Lonsdale* SD 709788  
A round cairn.

BRIDESTONES *Bilsdale Midcable* SE 576979  
Stone circle and round cairn.

BRIDESTONES *Eskaleside-cum-Ugglebarnby*  
High Bridestones: NZ 850045 Low Bridestones: NZ 846048  
The former site may be the remains of a prehistoric stone-setting but seems partly natural. The latter is the remnant of a stone-walled enclosure. Elgee 1930, 105, 159, and information Raymond Hayes 1975.

DANES' HILLS *Skipwith/Riccal* boundary SE 655376  
A group of Iron-Age grave-mounds, traditionally connected with the defeat of a Norse army which landed at Riccal in 1066. Gutch 1912, 6.

DEVIL'S ARROWS *Boroughbridge* SE 391665  
A group of tall standing stones, originally at least four but now only three. The name has been traced back to 1721 (Stukeley's *Commonplace Book*). They have also been known locally as the Devil's Bolts. They were aimed by the Devil from How Hill near Fountains Abbey at Aldborough, but fell short of their target. Stukeley suggested that St Barnabas Fair, held on the summer solstice in a field between the Devil's Arrows and Boroughbridge, may have succeeded ceremonies at the Devil's Arrows. Turner 1853, 59-67; Lukis 1882, 137; 1887, 359, 376; Parkinson 1888, 115-19.

DRAKE HOWE *Bilsdale Midcable and Kirby* NZ 537029  
The name of a round barrow, perhaps derived from Dragon

Howe, the barrow containing treasure guarded by a dragon. It was known as Odin's Grave in 1637-40. Elgee 1930, 71; cf *PN Yorkshire West Riding*, Part ii, 52 (Kirk Smeaton).

ELF HOWE *Folkton* TA 042772

A round barrow on Flixton Wold. Greenwell 1877, 271.

GIANT'S GRAVES *Flasby-with-Winterburn* SD 933575

GIANT'S GRAVE *Halton Gill* SD 856734

A round chambered cairn.

HARDHURST HOWES *Harwood Dale* NZ 974975

A group of round barrows named possibly from Hobthrush or Hob Hurst.

LILLA HOWE and CROSS *Fylingdales* SE 889987

A round barrow surmounted by a medieval stone cross. Those who dig for the treasure in the barrow are disturbed by a violent storm or by a snake. Informant Raymond Hayes 1975; Woodward 1926.

LOUVEN HOWE *Gothland*, on boundary SE 887992

A round barrow containing a 'pot of gold' guarded from treasure-hunters by a big 'hag-worm' or adder, and by violent storms. Dowson 1947, 4.

MONEY HOWE *Bilsdale Midcable* SE 594951

A round barrow, named possibly from a belief in money or treasure buried in it.

OBTRUSH ROOK *Farndale West* SE 662944

A circular cairn within a double retaining circle of stones and containing a stone cist. The name is derived from Hobthrush or Hob o' the Hurst, and the site is haunted by a goblin. The word *rook* means a heap. Elgee 1930, 70-1; Dickins 1942, 19.

\*OLD WIFE'S HOWES *Fylingdales* NZ 9002 area(?)

A group of three round barrows, one with retaining circle. Greenwell 1890, 39-40; Elgee 1930, 94, 102.

**\*PUDDING PIE HILL** *Sowerby* SE 437810

A round barrow, raised by the fairies. Those who run round it nine times and then strike a knife into the centre of the top, and place their ear on the spot, will hear the fairies conversing inside. Grainge 1859, 167; Bogg 1906, 185-7.

**\*ROBIN HOOD'S BUTTS** *Danby* NZ 712113

A group of round barrows on Danby Low Moor.

**ROBIN HOOD'S BUTTS** *Fylingdales* NZ 960020 area

A group of round barrows on Brow Moor.

**\*THORNBOROUGH RINGS** *East and West Tanfield* SE 285795

Three circles of 'henge' type. During excavation of the central member in 1953, local people mentioned their tradition that one of them, at least, was known as the Charging Ground, from the belief that protagonists on horseback entered from the opposed entrances for an encounter. One is supposed to have treasure in its centre. Thomas 'Folklore from northern henge' 1953; 'Folklore of Thornborough henge', 1955.

**THREE TREMBLERS** *Brompton* NZ 936879

A group of three round barrows, of which one at least has a retaining circle of stones. Greenwell 1877, 357; Elgee 1930, 70.

**WADE'S STONE** *Barnby* NZ 831130

A standing stone south of the road between Whitby and Guisborough. There were formerly two other, smaller, stones of the same name near Goldsborough. One or other of these sites was in Leland's time known as Wade's Grave: 'the north hille on the toppe of it hath certen stones comunely caullid Waddes Grave, whom the people there say to have bene a gigant and owner of Mougreve [Mulgrove]. There is by these stones a bekyn [beacon].' Leland c 1540/1964, i, 59; Elgee 1930, 106.

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE

APRONFUL OF STONES *Bradfield*

SK 244946

A round barrow so-called.

COCK-CROWING STONE *Sheffield*

SK 3585 approx

This stone is (or was) in Hollow Meadows. It turned round on a certain morning in the year when the cock crowed, or when it heard the cock crow. Addy 1895, 56.

## WEST YORKSHIRE

BRIDESTONES *Morley*

SE 2627 area

These comprised an upright stone called the Bride and a stone near it called the Groom. The place-name experts consider the name to be derived from Old English words for bride and stone. *PN Yorkshire West Riding*, 3, 174.

\*SKIRTFUL OF STONES *Aireborough*

SE 145441

\*LITTLE SKIRTFUL OF STONES *Ilkley*

SE 138452

A larger and a smaller round cairn on Rombald's Moor. The giant Rombald and his wife had a quarrel, and his wife filled her apron with stones with which to pelt her husband, but she overloaded and her apron-strings broke, thus forming the Great Skirtful and perhaps the other. Shuttleworth (1881 or later), 86; Cowling 1946, 116.

TWELVE APOSTLES stone circle *Ilkley*

SE 127450

The name implies folklore but none is known to L.V.G.

## 11 NORTH-EAST

### DURHAM

FAIRIES' CRADLE *Hetton-le-Hole* NZ 3547 area

A round barrow, around which the fairies led their moonlight circles. Brockie 1886, 80.

MAIDEN CASTLE *Durham* NZ 282417

Hill-fort so-called.

### NORTHUMBERLAND

AULD WIFE'S APRONFUL OF STONES *Kirknewton* NT 9130 area

A large cairn (now destroyed) west of Tom Tallon's Crag, known also as Tom Tallon's Grave. Tate 1862, 445.

BARRASFORD STONES *Barrasford* NY 9273 approx

Two standing stones, destroyed many years ago, thrown by two giants at one another. Hall 1876, 11-12; Denham 1895, 217.

DEVIL'S LAPFUL *Kielder* NY 638922

A long cairn; to south-east, at NY 642929, is a round cairn called Deadman. Newbigin 1937.

DEVIL'S ROCK OR DEVIL'S STONE *Birtley* NY 8879 area

A standing stone 3.8m high in Standing Stone Field, near the camps at Birtley Holywell. 'It was the scene of a Satanic leap, the very hoofmarks being yet visible.' Denham 1895, 216.

DUDDO STONES *Duddo* NT 931437

In its present condition this site is an ellipse of five stones; it was probably originally a stone circle. Two traditions have been noted:

- (i) erected in memory of Scots who fell at Grindon Marsh in 1558;

- (ii) five men who worked on their turnips on the Sabbath and were punished by being turned into stone, and their leader knocked flat on his back, where he remains.

Rutherford 1919.

FAIRY HILL *Brinkburn*

NZ 0899 area

'The last of the fairy race are said to be interred in Brinkburn under a green mound.' Denham 1895, 143.

FAIRY STONE NW of *Warden*

NY 893680

One of the four stones said to bound the township of Four-stones. 'This stone, which has a secret cavity [known as the Fairy Trough], has attained a celebrity owing to the letters placed therein, to and from the unfortunate Earl of Derwent-water, during the '15.' Denham 1895, 79, 145.

FIVE KINGS *Harbottle*

NT 958001

Standing stones, traditionally erected in memory of five brothers who were kings. Dixon 1903, 122-3.

MAIDEN CASTLE *Earle and Wooler*

NT 984273

An earthwork known also as the Kettles Camp; to south-east is a Fairy or Wishing Well. Denham 1895, 151-2.

\*MARE AND FOAL *Haltwhistle*

NY 726664

Two standing stones so-called.

SPLIT THE DEIL *Alwinton*

NT 862155

A standing stone near a group of cairns, one called Russell's cairn said to mark the spot where Lord Francis Russell (time of Elizabeth I) was killed.

THREESTONE BURN stone circle *Ilderton*

NT 971205

There was a local belief that it was originally of twelve stones but now comprises only eleven stones; treasure awaits the finder of the site of the twelfth stone. A farmer who found thirteen stones here went unrewarded. Denham 1895, 207-9.

At the foot of the north side of the hill on which this Dark-Age site stands, is a standing stone, at one time known as the Druid's Lapful, where a Druidess's apron-string broke, causing her to drop the stone from her load. The stone may be that shown on OS as 'Battle Stone' at NT930303. Denham 1895, 216.