

TWELFTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

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

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

(Read at Barnstaple, July, 1890.)

THE Committee have to present, as their Report for 1890, some results of recent investigations on Dartmoor, which will serve to indicate the quantity of material remaining to be collected in that region. They are glad to know that Mr. R. Burnard is now making a full examination of the kistvaens of the moorland (see his paper, *post*¹); but they much regret that so little interest seems to be taken in the practical investigation of the subject by other members of the Association.

J. BROOKING ROWE, Chairman.

R. N. WORTH, Secretary.

DARTMOOR.

Several additional facts relating to sepulchral remains on Dartmoor have been made public during the past year.

A paper by Mr. R. Hansford Worth, C.E., on "The Moorland Plym," published in the *Transactions of the Plymouth Institution*,² gives an account of the antiquities of the valley of the Plym above Shaugh Bridge. The sepulchral elements include the following:

"Near the angle of Cadworthy Farm [Wigford Down] is a

¹ See also the paper by Dr. Prowse, "The Neighbourhood of Taw Marsh."

² Vol. x. pp. 289-310.

kistvaen, the cover-stone of which measures four feet, by four feet, and still rests on one of the sides. A circle of about twenty feet diameter of large stones surrounds it, and near by, to the north, stand two more circles, in one of which are what may be the remains of another kistvaen." On the same Down the existence of a number of small cairns, possibly sepulchral, is recorded.

"On the height of Wigford Down, which overlooks Cadover, are a group of remains. These consist of a kistvaen, the cover-stone of which has been removed, and now lies to one side, while the tomb itself has collapsed; around the kist is a circle twenty-four feet in diameter, the stones composing which are exceptionally large, the dimensions of one being nine feet by four feet by three feet." Near Cadover Bridge and its cross two tumuli of small size are noted.

The cavity in the rocks on the summit of Hawks Tor, referred to in the *Perambulation* as a cromlech, is claimed as artificial.

Emmetts Post "stands on a fair-sized tumulus, which at least looks ancient."

On Legis Tor "there is a hitherto unrecorded kistvaen, the cover-stone of which measures five feet by four feet one inch. The sides have fallen in."

"About 400 feet to the west of the Shavercombe Brook, and 900 feet above the waterfall, are the remains of a kistvaen, of which the cover-stone has been thrown on one side, while the kist itself has fallen in. A circle of stones surrounds the whole."

On Drizzlecombe "stands a group of remains hitherto, so far as I can discover, undescribed. They consist of three long rows of stones, each terminated at one extremity by a fallen mênhir, and at the other by a barrow. Associated with these are two large tumuli, and a large enclosure surrounding two hut-circles. At a short distance to the north there is a very fine kistvaen, from which the cover-stone has been removed, and there are remains apparently of a stone row leading from this to a small circle of stones, standing and fallen, and probably surrounding another as yet unopened kist." The first row of stones from the west begins with a fallen mênhir, and is 488 feet in length—"terminated by a small barrow of about eighteen feet diameter, which apparently covers a kistvaen. A stone, probably the cover of this kistvaen, lies a few feet away from the barrow to the south. . . . 119 feet to the south-east of this barrow is the large cairn known as the Giant's Basin, probably on

account of the concavity of its upper surface. This cairn is thirty-four feet in diameter at the top, and eighty-four at the base. Between it and the barrow is a group of stones consisting of a large flat slab held in an inclined position by resting on smaller blocks." There is another mênhir 132 feet north-west of the cairn, the commencement of a row of stones 491 feet long, which "terminates at the east in a barrow or tumulus twenty-nine feet wide at base, and surrounded by a stone circle of which nine members can still be traced. These, as are those around the other two barrows, are flat slabs inclined away from the mound, and supported in that direction by smaller stones. About equidistant on either side of this last barrow are two others of similar size, the northern of which has no stone row attached, but is surrounded by a circle of which thirteen members can still be traced. The southern barrow, which is sixty-eight feet from the central, is surrounded by a circle of which twelve stones still remain, and in addition to this a row, now incomplete, extends towards the barrow by Giant's Basin, and terminates, after continuing over 276 feet, in a fallen mênhir. . . . Further to the east, and in the alignment of this last row, is an enclosure containing two hut-circles, and last of all a large cairn fifty-nine feet in diameter. To the north of all is a kistvaen standing on an artificial mound thirty-five feet in diameter at base. The cover-stone, which measures six feet by four feet three inches, has been raised, and now rests inclined against one of the edges of the kist, which itself measures four feet long by two feet three inches wide, and three feet six inches deep. An exceedingly fragmentary row extends from this 250 feet to the eastward, where it terminates in a stone circle of twenty feet diameter."

The two tumuli on Eylesbarrow are noted as much disturbed, and appearing to have been chambered, "though this may be due to recent interference." On the slope of Lower Harter Tor "is a cairn which has been broken into."

"Near the head of Langcombe, on the eastern hill, is the kistvaen known as Grimgrove or grave. The tomb is better built than is usual, and the cover-stone, which has now fallen in, was trimmed square to fit it. The dimensions of the kist are three feet three inches by two feet nine inches by two feet deep, and a circle of stones fourteen feet in diameter surrounds it. This circle contains nine stones, all of which are standing. Near Calveslake Tor is a mound eighteen feet in diameter supporting a kistvaen one foot six inches wide by three feet seven inches long and one foot

seven inches deep. The cover-stone has been removed, and rests in a slanting position partly overhanging the tomb. It is irregularly shaped, and its longest diagonal is seven feet, its shorter being six feet."

Mr. Hansford Worth has also supplied some additional notes of his observations in the Plym Valley, which is one of the richest localities on Dartmoor for pre-historic remains of various kinds. He writes :

"In the valley of the Wallabrook, on the eastern side, and opposite Hentor Meadow, is a kistvaen occupying a somewhat isolated position. When the bracken is standing it is almost impossible for anyone not knowing its exact locality to find it. The sides have fallen in, and the cover-stone, which is intact, has been moved, and lies a few feet off.

"In Drizzlecombe, to the eastward of Giant's Basin, are two stones which stand parallel to each other, and resemble the two longer sides of a kistvaen, but whether they ever formed part of such it is impossible to discover.

"In Langcombe, about a couple of hundred yards to the north-east of the junction of the tributary which joins Langcombe Brook on its northern side, some distance above the main river, are a group of stone remains, prominent among which are two kistvaens. Curiously enough in both these the whole kist stands above ground level, and the barrows, if they were at any time enclosed by such, have been removed. These are the only instances of kists without supporting mounds in the Plym Valley. Of the more important of these, three sides, the northern, southern, and eastern still stand; while the western side, and the unbroken cover-stone, lie close by. This kist is three feet long by two feet five inches wide by two feet deep, and stands in a stone circle of twenty-one feet diameter, of which the eastern side is still perfect. The cover-stone measures four feet eight inches by six feet.

"The other kistvaen has collapsed, with the cover-stone still resting on two of the sides."