

SIXTY-SECOND REPORT ON BARROWS.

BY R. HANSFORD WORTH, RECORDER.

IN continuation of the policy of reproducing in the Barrow Reports all significant literature on the subject the following two extracts have been made from the *Report of the Proceedings of the Teign Naturalists Field Club*, 1887, p. 12. They are taken from a paper read to the Club by the late ROBERT DYMOND on the 20th September, 1887.

CAIRNS ON CORNDON TOR. (DYMOND.)

"More than sixty years ago, a party of about fifty holiday folk from Bovey Tracey, who were joined by many rustics of the neighbourhood, set to work to rifle these great stone heaps. They found only 'an old jar or two,' which, if these vandals had but known it, was of far more value than the coveted gold. Even in more recent times people who really should have known better have resorted to these cairns as quarries of building stone."

The cairns were illustrated and briefly described in the fifty-sixth *Report on Barrows*, D.A., vol. LXIX, plate viii and p. 81.

KISTVAEN ON YAR TOR. (DYMOND.)

"A ruined kistvaen lies between Corndon Tor and Yar Tor, and about sixty-two yards to the west of the road leading to Sherwill. It may readily be distinguished by a conspicuous ring of stones around it and measuring twelve feet in diameter, the stones set on edge and standing about two feet high. . . . It was ruined in quest of treasure about twenty years since; but two side stones of the kist still remain to indicate its original form, whilst the large flat cover stone lies overturned alongside. Its internal dimensions must have been about 3ft. by 2½ft. and its depth rather more than 2ft."

This kistvaen was illustrated and described in the fifty-sixth *Report on Barrows*, D.A., vol. LXIX, plate vi and pp. 76-77. It will be noted that the roadmenders of 1895-1897 were not the first to attack this grave. DYMOND's estimate of the original dimensions was made under more favourable conditions than now prevail, and is valuable.

CAIRN ON EASTERN BEACON, UGBOROUGH.

There are two cairns on the summit of Eastern Beacon, in the southern of these some of the stones of the retaining circle still stand in the margin.

BUTTERDON HILL, HARFORD AND UGBOROUGH

There are several cairns near the summit of Butterdon Hill, of which the northernmost lies approximately 200ft. S.S.E. from the retaining circle at the end of the stone row. There are clear remains of a marginal wall on the eastern circumference of this cairn. It does not seem possible to decide whether or not this wall is an original feature of the cairn. There is no reason apparent why it should have been added at a later date.

WIGFORD DOWN, MEAVY

On or near the summit of Wigford Down there are five cairns or the remains of cairns. The sites of four of these are shewn on the six inch to the mile Ordnance sheet (Devon CXII, S.E.) first edition.

(1) The northernmost is still a recognisable heap of stones, and is marked as a *Tumulus* by the Ordnance. This cairn is low and has always within my recollection been considerably disturbed; it is now much more troubled by the erection of an abandoned "Observation Post." The diameter of the cairn is 72ft., and its height is 3ft.

(2) Approximately 100ft. to the S.W. of this is a "ring cairn," the recent history of which is known. Formerly an ordinary "bowl" cairn, it was robbed for road making; only the margin, where the stones were partly merged in the turf, being left. Accordingly it has somewhat of the appearance of a small pound; and it has been called by the Ordnance an "Enclosure". The diameter of this cairn from E. to W. is 100ft., and from N. to S. 65ft.

An iron sword was found not far below the surface when the stones of this cairn were carted away. Those who saw it agree that it was a weapon of modern type; and some said that they thought it was a Yeomanry sword.

(3) Approximately 380ft. to the S.S.E. of (2) lies another ring cairn of similar origin, being a robbed bowl. The diameter is 52ft.; and this example the Ordnance has called a "Hut Circle".

(4) Almost touching (3) on the S.E. is the retaining circle of yet another cairn, the mound itself being now represented by merely stony ground. The internal diameter of the circle is 20ft. 6ins. Several of the stones are now missing. Those which remain are unusually large; the largest measuring

8ft. 8ins. in length along the circumference, standing 3ft. 1in. above the present ground level, and having a thickness of 1ft. 6ins. Within the circle lies a flat stone 5ft. 2ins. in length and of, probably, much the same breadth. This may have covered the interment, but more probably it is a stone displaced from the circle. The Ordnance marks this antiquity as a "*Kistvaen*". There is no clear evidence of any kist. It may be added that the stones of the circle lean slightly toward the centre. (See Plate 10, fig. 1, for view of largest.)

(5) A normal type of cairn, 37ft. in diameter, and 3ft. in height. Not marked on the Ordnance Survey. Its centre lies 970ft. from the centre of No. 1, on a bearing E. $3\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ S., and a very little to the north of the green track leading to Brisworthy Lane End.

KISTVAENS IN ERME VALLEY

Stalldown. See 37th Barrow Report, D.A., vol. L, p. 186, where a plan was published. A view of this kistvaen is now given—Plate 10, fig. 2.

Lower Piles. See 36th Barrow Report, D.A., vol. XLIX, p. 80, where a plan was published. Two views of this kistvaen are now given, one showing the retaining circle. (Plate 11, figs. 1 and 2.)

The following are the locations of the various cairns and kistvaens mentioned in this report:—

	<i>Ordnance Sheet, 6", Devon.</i>	<i>Longitude.</i>	<i>Latitude.</i>
Corndon Tor, summit.	CVII, N.E.	$3^{\circ}-51'-19\frac{1}{2}''$	$50^{\circ}-33'-8\frac{1}{2}''$
Yar Tor.	CVII, N.E.	$3^{\circ}-51'-39''$	$50^{\circ}-32'-56\frac{1}{2}''$
Eastern Beacon.	CXIX, S.E.	$3^{\circ}-52'-33''$	$50^{\circ}-24'-47''$
Butterdon Hill.	CXIX, S.E.	$3^{\circ}-53'-31''$	$50^{\circ}-24'-57''$
Wigford Down, 1.	CXII, S.E.	$4^{\circ}-2'-53''$	$50^{\circ}-28'-1\frac{1}{2}''$
Wigford Down, 5.	CXII, S.E.	$4^{\circ}-2'-38''$	$50^{\circ}-28^{\circ}-1''$
Stalldown.	CXIX, N.W.	$3^{\circ}-55'-34\frac{1}{2}''$	$50^{\circ}-27'-8\frac{1}{2}''$
Lower Piles.	CXIX, S.E.	$3^{\circ}-54'-27\frac{1}{2}''$	$50^{\circ}-25'-33''$



Fig. 1

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Fig. 2

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FIG. 1. STONE IN CIRCLE, WIGFORD, looking N. 40° E.
 FIG. 2. KIST ON STALLDOWN, looking S. 27° E.



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FIG. 1. KIST NEAR LOWER PILES, looking S. 40° E.

FIG. 2. KIST AND CIRCLE, LOWER PILES, looking N. 58° W.