

THE RUDE STONE MONUMENTS OF EXMOOR AND ITS BORDERS.

PART I.

BY REV. J. F. CHANTER, M.A., AND R. HANSFORD WORTH.

(Read at Princetown, 21 July, 1905.)

INTRODUCTION.

WRITING in 1879, the late R. N. WORTH stated that "the antiquities of this district [Exmoor] have never received the attention they deserve, and the Forest may therefore be commended to the attention of zealous and discreet archæologists." With the exception of the record of one stone row, and the description of the inscribed stone on Winsford Hill, matters remained as when he wrote, until the spring of the present year.

The effort now made to remedy this neglect had its origin in the limited intent of barrow-opening. It soon, however, became evident that the stone monuments, at first regarded as interesting adjuncts to barrows, must from their number and importance receive more detailed treatment. In this paper we deal only with a selection, and those only which are within reasonable reach from *Parracombe*. There remain many others which we hope subsequently to describe.

The boundary between Devon and Somerset, after passing north-west to *Shoulsbury Common*, proceeds almost due north to *Saddle Stone*, and here, just four miles from the coast, turns abruptly eastward, continuing in the last-named direction for a distance of five miles to *Badgeworthy Water*, and then following that stream northward. There is thus given to Devonshire a stretch of moorland which, taken with the area west of the boundary from *Saddle Stone* to *Five Barrows*, justly entitles us to regard Exmoor as in part our own. Archæology can, however, know nothing of artificial limits, and we shall not hesitate when necessary,

which it rarely will be, to make short excursions over the border.

Surrounding the forest of Exmoor, and undivided from it, there were, in the old days, large and wild commons, many of which have only been enclosed within the past thirty years or so. The process of enclosure has sadly told on the rude stone monuments. These were hindrances to tillage, and in a county where large, well-shapen stones are scarce, the requirements of field drains and gateposts have to a great extent been met by the pillage of prehistoric remains, and we suspect, with only too good reason, that the boundary stones marking the limits of Devon have mainly been derived from the same source. Thus it comes that we have a mere remnant of the former wealth of our district to describe, and that remnant is in present danger of disappearance. Dartmoor itself has known no such wholesale destruction.

LITERATURE.

Although so long forgotten, the rude stone monuments of North Devon and Exmoor are by no means without references in literature. To this we owe it that we can reconstruct with fair certainty some of the remains which formerly existed on *Maddocks Down*, and to this also we probably owe in part the neglect of the *Exmoor* district. For it is curious that, as long ago as 1630, we find WESTCOTE categorically denying the existence of the very stones which we are about to describe.

The importance of this literature is such that we now quote fully those references which we have been able to discover. The authors are:—

- (1) WILLIAM CAMDEN, "Britannia," dating 1607.
- (2) JOHN SPEED, description attached to his map of Devon, possibly dating from 1611, but quoted from 1627 edition.
- (3) TRISTRAM RISDON, "Chorographical Description of Devon," *circ.* 1630; quoted from 1811 edition.
- (4) THOMAS WESTCOTE, *circ.* 1630; quoted from Polwhele's transcript of portion of Portledge MS., given in "Historical Views of Devonshire." The original manuscript since lost.
- (5) "A GENTLEMAN FROM BARNSTAPLE," 1751. A correspondent of Dean Milles, cited by Polwhele in work mentioned above.

- (6) An anonymous correspondent of Polwhele, *circ.* 1793, *op. cit.*
- (7) REV. SAMUEL BADCOCK, *circ.* 1786. Notes on Chapple.
- (7a) BADCOCK, prior to 1793, to Sir George Yonge, cited by Polwhele, *op. cit.*
- (7b) BADCOCK, prior to 1793, cited by Polwhele, *op. cit.*
- (8) D. & S. LYSONS, 1822, "Magna Britannia," Vol. VI, "Devonshire."
- (9) J. LL. W. PAGE, 1890, "An Exploration of Exmoor."
- (9a) J. LL. W. PAGE, 1890, "Transactions of Somersetshire Archaeological Society."

And we might possibly add to the literature the Ordnance Survey of 1886-7, published in 1890-1. On this many groups of stones are marked, without recognition of their antiquity. Many others which we describe are not entered on the Survey, and in some instances the word "stones" refers to rare natural outcrops.

(1) CAMDEN, 1607, p. 147.

Hic flu. (Isca) fontes habet in *Exmore* squallenti & infæcundo iuxta Sabrinianum fretum solo, quod magna ex parte Somersetensis censetur agri, & in quo nonnulla visuntur antiqui operis monumenta, videlicet saxa alibi in triangulum, alibi in orbem disposita, & inter ea unum Anglo-Saxonicis, vel potius Danicis literis inscriptum ad dirigendum eos, ut videtur, qui illac iter haberent.

1610, p. 203.

This river (Isca) hath his head and springeth first in a weely and barren ground named *Exmore*, neere unto Severne sea, a great part whereof is counted within Sommersetshire; and wherein, there are seen certaine monuments of anticke work, to wit, stones pitched in order, some triangle wise, others in a round circle; and one among the rest with an inscription in Saxon letters, or Danish rather, to direct those (as it should seeme) who were to travaile that way.

(2) JOHN SPEED. Ed. 1627. Bk. I, chap. x. p. 19, "Devonshire."

Places memorable in this countie remaining for signes of Battles, or other antiquities are these: upon *Exmore* certaine Monuments of Anticke worke are erected, which are stones pitched in order, some triangle-wise, and some in round compasse: these no doubt were trophies of victories there obtained, either by the *Romans*, *Saxons* or *Danes*, and with *Danish* letters one of them is inscribed, giving direction to such as should travell that way.

This quotation reached Polwhele through the intermediary of Wormius. We append the reference:—

SPEED. Cited by *Wormius*, who in turn is quoted by

Polwhele, 1793, "Historical Views of Devonshire," Vol. I, p. 61.

J. Speed in descriptione Devon, ad Exmore Saxa in Triangulum, alia in orbem erecta (trophæa certe victoriarum quas Romani, Saxones, vel Dani obtinuerunt) ac Danicis literis unum inscribi refert.—(Worm., p. 67; *Polwhele, op cit.*, p. 61.)

(3) TRISTRAM RISDON, *circ.* 1630, "Chorographical Description of Devon."

East Down. In this parish stand certain stones, circular-wise, of more than the height of a man, which may seem to be purposely set for a memorial of some notable achievement there performed, the Truth whereof Time hath obliterated; only the field is known by the name of Madocks-Down; which many conjecture was in memory of one Madocke there vanquished; for no man will think that they were set there in vain.—(p. 345, 1811 edition, from MS. then in possession of John Coles of Stonehouse.)

Risdon was born at Winscott, near Torrington, and there lived and died. It may well be, therefore, that on this matter he wrote as of personal knowledge.

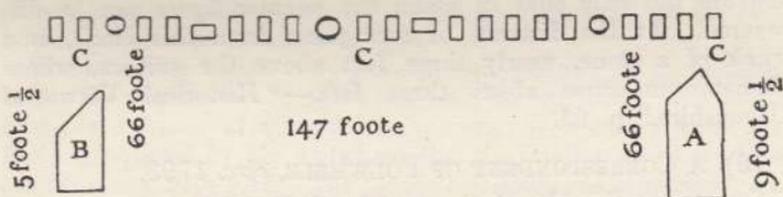
(4) THOMAS WESTCOTE, 1630.

Now you expect and hope for more pleasing objects, and more comfort after these uneven, rocky, tiring, stumbling, melancholy ways; but I cannot promise you presently; I see a spacious coarse barren and wild object, yielding little comfort by his rough complexion, have but a little patience your stay shall not be long, I will shorten the way by guiding you by a direct line without ambages, you shall not have a bow of a tree to strike off your hat, or drop in your neck. It is Exe-moore we are come unto; the greatest part whereof lieth in Somersetshire and yieldeth no metal, as yet known, only good summering for sheep and cattle, and that in good quality and quantity, and therefore we should soon pass it over, were I not to show you certain stones, supposed, as I am informed, to be there erected, some in trianglewise, others in circle, as trophies of victories, gotten of (or by) the Romans, Saxons or Danes, on which are engraven certain Danish or Saxon characters. . . . Others again suppose them to be set as markes and guides to direct passengers. But let us leave the cause and find those stones, which I could never as yet, neither can they that I have purposely employed in quest of them, find any such, either in the North-moore, between Horeoke-Rydge and Snab-hill;¹ nor southward, from Exaborough to Exridge, or in the Middle Moore westward, between the Long Chayne to Rexable and Settacomb, or in the south from Dryslade to Vermyball, neither from Wester Emmott to Lyddenmoore, and all the other noted Hills and Combes therein, to name all which would be, I think, somewhat wearisome to you as the journey to myself, for

¹ An error in transcription, almost certainly *Scobhill*.

I was vext with a jealous care, to a particular and serious inquisition of what occurs in reading, taken up of the writers upon credit of the Reporters, for I find only near Porloch Commons a stone not pitched but lying, which they call Longstone; but that may breed another question, why it should be so named, being not above 4 foot in length and less in crassitude. Also in the west from Woodborough toward Rodely-hedd upon Chollacomb Commons is a plain stone erected, in height near 6 foot, and 2 in thickness, yet without any antique engraving.

But somewhat nearer to our purpose do I find in the parish of East-Doune in the farm of Northcott (. . .) in a large spacious field inclosed, by the name of Maddock or Maddockes-doune, 4 or 5 miles from the Forest, certain stones erected in this manner: first there stand two great stones in nature or fashion (though not curiously cut) of Pyramids, distant the one from the other 147 foot; the greatest is in height above this ground nine foot and half, every square bearing four foot. The height of the other stone is five foot and a half, but in square well nigh equals the other, being somewhat above three foot. These two stones, or as may be said Pillars, stand in a right line, one opposite to the other. Sixty-six foot on the side of these, are laid a row or bank of 23 great unformed stones also, but not equalling the other two by much, and reaching from one of these stones to the other in direct line and making a reciprocal figure as having the sides equally proportioned but double as long, or more than square (which as I am told is called a Parallelogram), but for your better understanding I present them this to your view.



- A the great stone 9 foot 6 inches
- B the other great stone 5 foot 6 inches
- C C C the row of 23 stones

But on neither of these are there any characters to be perceived, neither are they capable of any such, being impossible (as I suppose) or very difficult to engrave in them; that these stones should grow so by nature I cannot be persuaded, neither can I as yet by any reading or reason or by any man's else understand or by tradition guess, why they should be here erected, but for some victory there gotten; and the monument of the interment of some famous or eminent persons: but to conjecture by the name of Maddock or Mattock I cannot allude to any authencal

history or person; to think upon Madock who in the 23rd year of Edw 1st, 1294, raised an Uproar or Rebellion in Wales. . . . I find no likelihood therein, and therefore will leave it to the scrutiny of him that is better read than myself, and so may leave Ex-moore.—(Portledge MS., pp. 45, 46, 47, 48. As quoted by Polwhele.)

We have modernized the spelling, with the exception of such proper names as occur.

(5) "A GENTLEMAN FROM BARNSTAPLE," 1751. (Cited by Polwhele.) Writing to Dean Milles.

On *Maddoc-common*, one stone is of a remarkable size, and one only. It is of a conic figure, not so large at the base, as near its centre, occasioned by the sheep rubbing against it. At the centre, it measures fifteen feet four inches. The height, about which I could not be so exact, I take it to be eleven feet, if not more. In a line parallel to this great stone, from south to north, and at a distance of twenty-four paces, lies a trunk of stone, above a foot from the ground, whose diameter is two feet eight inches. About twelve paces distant from this, in a line from west to east, is a stone not a foot above the ground, and about a foot in diameter. Were there another to correspond to the large one, these four would include a space of ground, whose opposite sides would be equal. I counted more than one hundred clusters of stone in different parts. In some places, six, eight or more are to be seen together, but not remarkable for their height. At one group of six, the eye is particularly engaged. These stand circular-wise, and are the only ones in which the circular figure can be discovered. At the distance of four paces from this circle, is a trunk of a stone, nearly three feet above the surface, whose diameter measures about three feet.—"Historical Views of Devonshire," p. 63.

(6) A CORRESPONDENT OF POLWHELE, *circ.* 1793.

On the north side of the parish of *East-Down*, is an estate which, though now inclosed, still bears the name of *Maddoc's Down*. On this place stands a remarkably large stone of the spar kind—in the midst of a plain, about twelve feet above ground, and of a size too large ever to have been fixed there by art. At the distance of some yards are several other stones, lying flat—which they call the Gyant's Quoits.—"Historical Views of Devonshire," p. 63.

(7) REV. SAMUEL BADCOCK. (Notes on Chapple.)

A stone near *Holywell*, on the borders of *Exmoor*, on which some large characters were engraved.

I have searched for this stone, and employed others in the same pursuit. At last I was informed, to my great mortification,

that about ten or twelve years since, it was made the foundation of a little bridge on the rivulet where it originally stood. The man who erected this bridge said "there were nearly twenty letters on it—that they had an indenting between them, and were not of the common figure, for many persons, who examined them, pronounced them to be Greek." (Cited by Polwhele, "Historical Views of Devonshire," p. 65.)

(7a) BADCOCK. (Cited by Polwhele.)

Mr. Badcock informs Sir George Yonge, that "of the stones which bear the name of Maddoc the larger ones still remain, and that the smaller ones may be traced out, though they are almost buried beneath the turf."—"Historical Views of Devonshire," p. 63.

(7b) BADCOCK. (Cited by Polwhele.)

"A fine Barrow, immediately beyond the outer row of stones on Maddoc's-down, and my curiosity will lead me to open it." "I do not find," adds Polwhele, "that he put his design into execution."—"Historical Views of Devonshire," pp. 99, 100.

(8) D. AND S. LYSONS, 1822.

Risdon speaks of some circular stones on Maddock's Down, more than the height of a man; but Westcote, who, in his manuscript, gives a rough sketch of them, describes two great upright stones, 147 feet apart, of unequal size; the larger nine feet and a half, and the smaller five feet and a half in height, and placed parallel with these, in a row, at a distance of 66 feet, 23 smaller stones of various shapes.

The two large stones only remain, and are now in an enclosed field; the smaller one of these has been thrown down. The larger stone is a block of quartz. It appears, by a letter from Mr. Badcock, quoted by Mr. Polwhele, that the smaller ones have been long covered with turf. The stones are doubtless sepulchral, and are supposed by tradition to commemorate some great battle fought on the down, in which Maddock, or Madoc, one of the contending chiefs, is said to have been slain.—"Magna Britannia," p. cccvii. Vol. VI, "Devonshire."

(9) J. LL. WARDEN PAGE, 1890. "An Exploration of Exmoor," pp. 80, 81.

As to the avenues or *parallelitha*—those strange parallel lines of upright stone, which have been variously regarded as commemorative of a battle, as Druid processional paths, or as approaches to graves—there appears to exist one solitary specimen, and that a mere fragment, consisting of but six small stones, extending some fifty feet, on a hill between Badgeworthy Water and Challe Water; in fact, could any other use be assigned to it,

I should hesitate to regard these lines of stones as an avenue at all.

Page 129.—There are but six low slabs, having a height of about two feet, and set opposite each other at very nearly equal distances. The avenue is fifty-two feet long, and about twenty-one wide.

(9a) J. LL. WARDEN PAGE, 1890 ("Somersetshire Archæol. and Nat. Hist. Society," p. 83) states that his attention was directed by Mr. W. BIDGOOD to an inscribed stone on Winsford Hill. This he examined in company with other antiquaries, and with the assistance of Prof. Rhys the inscription—

CARĀACI
NEPUS

has been deciphered as "Caratacus Nepus."

MADDOCK'S DOWN.

We are indebted to RISDON (3) (1630) for the first statement as to the existence of a stone circle on this Down. He describes the stones as "more than the height of a man."

WESTCOTE (4) (1630), although giving particulars of other remains, omits all mention of this circle; and a correspondent of Dean Milles, "A Gentleman from Barnstaple" (5) (1751), describes a circle of six stones, but infers that they were "*not remarkable for their height.*"

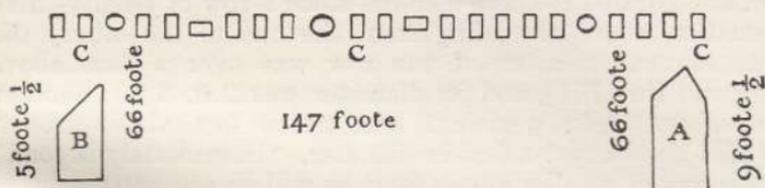
No remains of any circle are now discoverable. But our reading of the evidence is that at least two formerly existed, the one as described by RISDON, consisting of large stones of about six feet in height, the other of smaller stones. WESTCOTE'S silence is not to be taken as evidence against the existence of these circles, since both contemporaneously with him and long subsequently other writers are clear on the matter.

If we could positively identify one of the two stones still standing on Maddock's Down with the "trunk of stone nearly three feet above the surface, whose diameter measures about three feet, which stood four paces from the circle of smaller stones," then we should have located the site of the latter within reasonable limits.

The stone in question stands within a field in *long.* 4° 0' 2" west, *lat.* 51° 10' 42 $\frac{3}{4}$ " north, near the high road known as *Long Lane*, and now measures 4 ft. in height, and about 2 ft. 11 in. in diameter. The data do not suffice for identification.

WESTCOTE (4) (1630) makes amends for his silence on the last named matter by giving a detailed description of a stone

row, with two associated mênhirs. The happy chance of POLWHELE having transcribed this portion of the Portledge manuscript has preserved this for us. We repeat here WESTCOTE'S diagram.



A the great stone 9 foot 6 inches
 B the other great stone 5 foot 6 inches
 CCC the row of 23 stones

"The Gentleman from Barnstaple" (5) (1751) describes a mênhir, the height of which he "takes" to be eleven feet, its girth he knows to be 15 ft. 4 in. It has a "conic figure." The height is admittedly a guess; the girth of 15 ft. 4 in. corresponds well with WESTCOTE'S "every square bearing four foot, and the "conic figure" with the same author's "in nature or fashion of pyramids (though not curiously cut)."

"The Gentleman from Barnstaple" proceeds to describe the obvious remains of a row, lying north of the mênhir, and distant 24 paces; at 33 in. to a pace this precisely equals WESTCOTE'S 66 foot. The remains of the row ran east and west. Thus we supply a compass direction to WESTCOTE'S sketch.

A correspondent of POLWHELE (6) (circ. 1793) notes a "remarkably large stone of the spar kind" (quartz, thus agreeing with WESTCOTE'S suggestion that the mênhirs were not capable of being inscribed, "being impossible (as I suppose) or very difficult to engrave in them"). He makes the stone about 12 ft. high, and says that "at a distance of some yards are several other stones, lying flat—which they call the Gyant's Quoits." Again in all probability the remains of the row.

BADCOCK (7a) informs Sir George Yonge that "of the stones which bear the name of Maddoc, the larger ones still remain; and that the smaller ones may be traced out," etc. POLWHELE also quotes him as writing that "a fine Barrow" exists "immediately beyond the outer row of stones on Maddoc's-down" (7b).

Combining our information, we have a mênhir 9 ft. 6 in. in height, 4 ft. side or 15 ft. 4 in. girth, conic or pyramidal at the top, smaller near its base than higher up, and com-

posed of quartz. We prefer to ignore the guesses of 11 ft. and 12 ft. as to height. One hundred and forty-seven feet to the west of this stood another *mênhir*, also of spar, 5 ft. 6 in. in height, with a little over 3 ft. sides. Sixty-six feet north of and parallel to these *mênhirs* stood a row of twenty-three smaller stones extending from the one to the other; the easternmost member of the row was over a foot above ground (in 1751), and its diameter was 2 ft. 8 in.; another member, 33 ft. westward, was not a foot above ground (1751), and about a foot in diameter. "Immediately beyond" this row of smaller stones (and, as will be presently seen, to the eastward of it) stood a fine barrow.

The progressive spoliation is traceable through the various quotations which we have given above from previous authors.

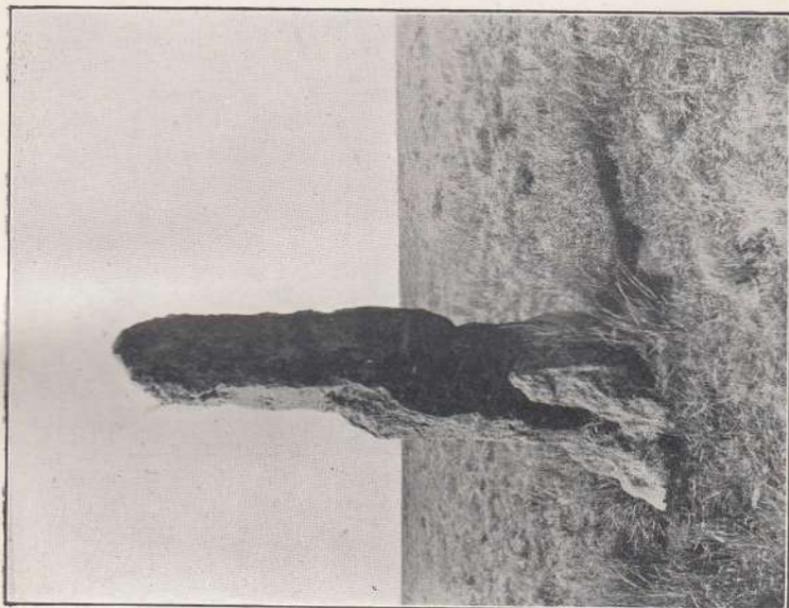
In 1630 or thereabouts *Maddock's Down* was "*a large spacious field, inclosed*" (4). In 1751 it was referred to as *Maddoc-common* (5), and was probably still a large field. Meanwhile the greater part of the stone row had disappeared; but one of the circles still remained, and numerous smaller groups of stones. In 1822 (8), the two *mênhirs* formerly associated with the row still remained, but the smaller had fallen. To-day the fields are small, and all but two stones (both marked on the Ordnance Survey) have gone from their original sites, while two barrows which remain have been much reduced by the plough.

It is very true to-day that on *Maddock's Down* "*one stone is of remarkable size, and one only*" (5). The smaller stone we have already mentioned; we now describe the surviving large *mênhir*.

Visible from the *Long Lane* it is situate in *long.* 4° 0' 7" west, and *lat.* 51° 10' 35 $\frac{3}{4}$ " north. Its height is 10 ft. if measured from the depression worn around it by the feet of the sheep, or precisely 9 ft. 6 in. from the surface-level of the adjacent turf. At a height of 5 ft. 3 in. from the ground-level it girths 16 ft. 4 in., as measured round the largest part; at 2 ft. from the ground it girths 13 ft. It presents four faces, standing north, south, east, and west. The north face measures at an extreme point 4 ft. 9 in., but a fair dimension is 4 ft.; the south face measures at an extreme point 4 ft. 7 in., but a fair measurement would be 4 ft. The east face measures 4 ft., and the west face 4 ft. 3 in.

The apex of the stone is pyramid-shaped, and, viewed from the south, the western slope of the pyramid is shorter than the eastern; this corresponds with WESTCOTE'S sketch, if we take the stone row as lying north of the *mênhir*.

PLATE I.



LONGSTONE, CHAPMAN BARROWS.
Looking 18° W. of N.



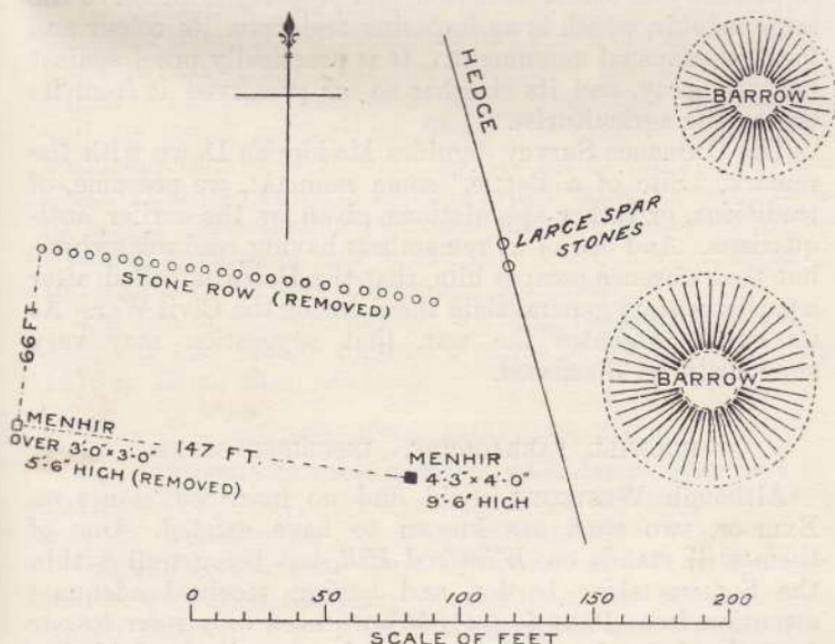
GREAT MÉNHIR, MADDOCK'S DOWN.
Looking 3° E. of N.

These dimensions agree well with WESTCOTE'S description of the "great stone" A. The material is vein quartz or spar, and here and there a slight adherent patch of slate betrays its origin. The shape (excepting the guess as to the height) is well described by the "Gentleman from Barnstaple" (1751), but his suggestion that the stone near its base has been reduced "by sheep rubbing against it" we are obliged to demur from. All the generations of sheep that Exmoor has ever known would not have sufficed to materially reduce a stone of this mineral composition; beside which, the angles are sharp to this day. There can be no doubt as to the identity of this *mênhir* with WESTCOTE'S "great stone."

To add confirmation, in the adjacent field to the eastward there still stands BADCOCK'S "fine barrow" (7b); it has a companion which he does not mention.

The north face of this *mênhir* presents an almost perfect plane, which stands in a line 7° north of west. From analogy with other remains, we conclude that this gives the original bearing of the second stone, and therefore the parallel alignment of the stone row, thus confirming the indications of the literature on the subject, that the row bore east and west.

We now present a plan showing a reconstruction of this monument.



The "Gentleman from Barnstaple" (5) mentions more than a hundred clusters of stone in different parts of this Down. Of these no trace remains. They were probably of a nature similar to others, which we shall presently describe, as still standing on *Exmoor*. The only possible suggestion we have to make is that the last phase of their history is to be found in the fact that "Farmer John Watts dug up a lot of old graves," a statement made to us by one who has worked in the neighbourhood. Possibly, however, the "graves" may actually have been such. We are inquiring further as to this.

The destiny of many of the larger stones of the spoliated monuments is easily traced. The hedge between the large *mênhir* and the barrow contains two fine "spars" just in the line of the formerly existing row, but eastward of it. There are three more spar stones in this hedge before we reach the road, one of which is four feet in length; in the eastern hedge of the next field east there are six stones, all quartz; and in the foundations of Long Lane cottage, thirteen large "spars" are to be found. Careful search would probably discover many more. The larger slate stones are now very possibly gateposts; the smaller are almost certainly gutter covers, and some have been used in hedging. We would appeal to present and future owners of the property to preserve the large *mênhir*, which is an imposing and, from its colour and form, an unusual monument. It is practically proof against natural decay, and its size has so far preserved it from its enemy the agriculturist.

The Ordnance Survey dignifies Maddock's Down with the remark, "Site of a Battle," some remnant, we presume, of traditions, or rather speculations, given by the earlier antiquarians. And one of us remembers having read somewhere, but the reference escapes him, that the Down is called after a parliamentary general slain there during the Civil War. As its name antedates the war, that suggestion may very summarily be dismissed.

HOLWILL, PARRACOMBE. INSCRIBED STONE.

Although WESTCOTE could find no inscribed stones on *Exmoor*, two such are known to have existed. One of them still stands on *Winsford Hill*, but being well within the Somersetshire border, and having received adequate attention from PAGE (9a) (1890), we need only refer to our quotation from that author. The other inscribed *mênhir* has

long occupied an inaccessible position in the foundation of the bridge at *Parracombe* village: our last and only evidence is that of *BADCOCK* (7), according to whom it was built into the masonry of that structure in or about the year 1775, having previously stood somewhere very near *Holwill Castle*. We have examined the bridge, which was widened in 1864, and think it probable that the stone is still there, and if ever reconstruction becomes necessary there may be some hope of the recovery of this relic, provided its existence has not by that time been again forgotten.

CHAPMAN BARROWS, MÈNHIR.

Hard by *Chapman Barrows* stands a mènhir, now known as the *Longstone*. Its extreme height is 9 ft., its greatest width about 2 ft. 2 in., and its average thickness 7 in. The widest face lies approximately N.E. and S.W. The material is slate. This is beyond doubt the stone which *WESTCOTE* (4) places "*from Woodborough toward Rodely-hedd, upon Challacombe Commons.*" He gives its height as "near 6 foot," and its width as 2 ft. The situation is too exactly described to admit question, and estimated heights are particularly apt to error. Precise location, *long.* 3° 51' 8½" west; *lat.* 51° 10' 18" north.

In "Chapman" we probably have preserved some form of the older name of this stone, a name which has now attached itself to that portion of the associated group of barrows which lies to the north-west. Both *Longstone* and barrows will be found marked on Sheet VI, S.E., of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey of Devon. South-east of the mènhir, and about 1250 feet away, is a barrow which takes its name from it, and a little further eastward are two more, while the whole group may be said to end with *Wood Barrow*, forming the boundary between Devon and Somerset.

The site of this assemblage is a long east-and-west ridge, which is one of the highest grounds of Exmoor, reaching 1575 ft. above mean sea-level.

CIRCLES, ROWS, TRIANGLES, ETC.

We now come to those remains which were described by *CAMDEN* (1) (1607, namely, "*stones set in the form of a triangle in some places; in others of a circle.*"

CAMDEN's statement does not cover all the facts, and indeed we find it necessary to originate a nomenclature, so widely different are some of these stone assemblages from those of our experience in other parts.

Rows and *circles* are terms in general use, and we shall not depart from their established meaning.

The expression *Triangle* is sufficiently self-descriptive, but we are left with the necessity of explaining and defining our intent in speaking of *Quadrilaterals* and *Parallelograms*.

These stars * * * are arranged in the form which we name *Quadrilateral*. The essential features are, four stones placed on or near the circumference of a circle so as to form an approximately rectangular figure; at the intersection of the diagonals of this figure, and hence approximately at the centre of the imaginary circle, there stands a fifth stone.

The simplest form of *Parallelogram* is here represented.
 * * * The examples which we have so far met with consist
 * * * of nine stones each. The angles are not necessarily
 * * * right angles, but the centre stone stands at the exact inter-
 section of both diameters and diagonals.

GENERAL REMARKS ON PLANS.

The plans are drawn in each instance to as large a scale as convenient; the stones are usually slightly exaggerated in size. To each stone are appended figures, the first of which gives the width, the second the thickness, and the third the height above ground, all in inches.

In many cases an arrow has been drawn alongside the stone; this gives the direction of its greatest width, or that in which the stone points. No significance attaches to the arrow-point, which might in every instance have been equally well drawn at the other end of the line.

The north point in each case is true, and not magnetic, meridian. Where this feature is marked as "approximate," it has been taken with a pocket compass only, and hence may be open to slight error.

In some plans the word "Horiz." occurs, accompanied by an angle, plus or minus. This indicates the elevation or depression of the visible horizon in the alignment of the stones.

"VII, N.W.," "XI, S.W.," and similar entries refer to the quarter-sheets of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey of Devon, on which the remains are marked, or should be marked.

All longitudes are west of Greenwich, and all latitudes are north.

All distances are stated between the centre points of stones, and not from out to out or face to face.

INDIVIDUAL STONES.

Unlike *Dartmoor*, to which we naturally look for comparison, *Exmoor* is not well provided with surface blocks. The Devonian slates and grits, which are the predominant rocks, weather into rounded and grassy slopes for the more part unencumbered with boulders of any sort. Materials being much less abundant, the rude stone monuments are of comparatively restricted size, and possessed of much fewer members. These members in turn are almost always small; about 14 in. wide by 6 in. thick by 22 in. high would be fair average dimensions. Slate is the usual material, and this naturally cleaves to slab-like forms, in which the broader faces will be parallel planes, and the width markedly greater than the thickness. Spar or quartz is rarely used, the great *mênhir* on Maddock's Down being a notable exception; here, too, many of the smaller stones were quartz. The circle around a barrow on Whitefield Down is of the same material, but these are distinctly unusual.

Small and few the stones may be, but the slate gives very neatly formed little pillars, which attribute a distinctive character to the groups.

In almost every instance the uprights are found wedged into the ground with one or more smaller slabs used as triggers on either broader face.

Where a stone has gone the triggers not infrequently remain, valuable evidences to its previous existence and position.

A great many pillars are not more than three or four inches in thickness, and not calculated to resist small forces such even as sheep might very probably apply; hence some are found broken short off at or near ground-level, and at times the upper portion lies hard by. To this source of destruction must be added others of a more serious and wholly preventable nature. In a country where stone has to be quarried, and where enclosures have been made on a large scale and much ground brought into cultivation, it is too much to expect that any reverence for the past will protect slabs which are easily seen, and which are well fitted for hedging, for gutters, and the larger for gateposts. Wholesale spoliation has resulted, while groups which fell within lands brought under the plough have necessarily been removed entirely. Many of the old camps and barrows are disappearing also.

TRADITION.

CAMDEN is silent on this point; SPEED says that no doubt the triangles and circles were trophies of victories; RISON that many conjecture the stones on Maddock's Down to be in memory of one Madocke; WESTCOTE deals only in suppositions, and asserts that no tradition remains; and not until we come to the LYSONS do we meet with any traditional evidence, and this has obviously grown from the speculations of former antiquarians.

WESTCOTE'S flat denial of the existence of any stone remains on *Exmoor* has saved us from a Druidical invasion such as has devastated the archæology of other districts.

None the less, modern traditions do exist, and Antell, of *Parracombe*, asserted that he had heard that the quadrilateral at Chapman Barrows had been erected by "Farmer Crang," and used as a help in sheep telling. Cross-examined, he admitted that it was not the work of the present farmer of that name, but of one of his forbears. The method of counting was said to be by driving the sheep up to the stones and enumerating them "as they walked away between them." Any one acquainted alike with the stones and the Exmoor sheep can form his own judgment as to the feasibility of this procedure.

Antell, of *Whimb, Furzehill*, asserted that the stones were used as marks to which to gather the sheep, or that some of them were so used, and gave the name of Farmer John Watts as the last to put them to this purpose on Furzehill Common. There is nothing improbable in the remains having been thus utilized, in a land where natural landmarks are somewhat wanting. When or how the custom grew up, or to what extent it has been followed, we have no means of ascertaining. Certainly it was not known in WESTCOTE'S time, or he could never have failed by inquiry to find the stones. Antell also states that the hut circles were erected as shelters from which to shoot black-cock!

TRIANGLES.

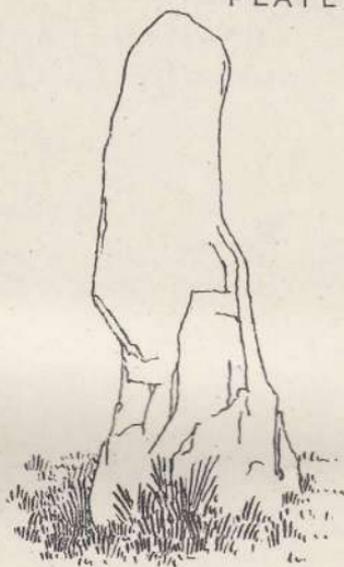
Challacombe Common, now enclosed land, VI, S.E., long. $3^{\circ} 53' 4\frac{1}{2}''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 15\frac{1}{4}''$ north. From *Radworthy* toward *Holwell Barrow*. Not marked on Ordnance Survey.

This is the only instance of an isolated triangle which we give in the present paper. It is associated with a group of barrows. The triangle is not quite equilateral, the sides

PLATE II.



MADDOCKS DOWN
looking S by E 1/2 E



CHAPMAN
looking E 1/2 S.

CHALLACOMBE COMMON
VI. S.E.

lon. 3°-53'-4 1/2"
lat. 51°-10'-15 1/4"

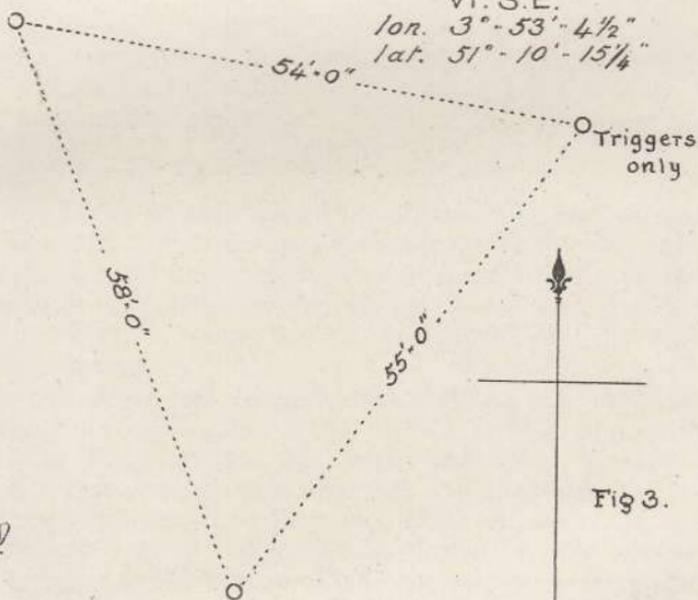
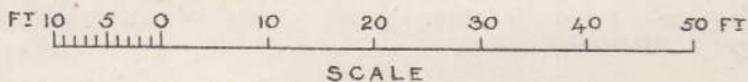


Fig 3.

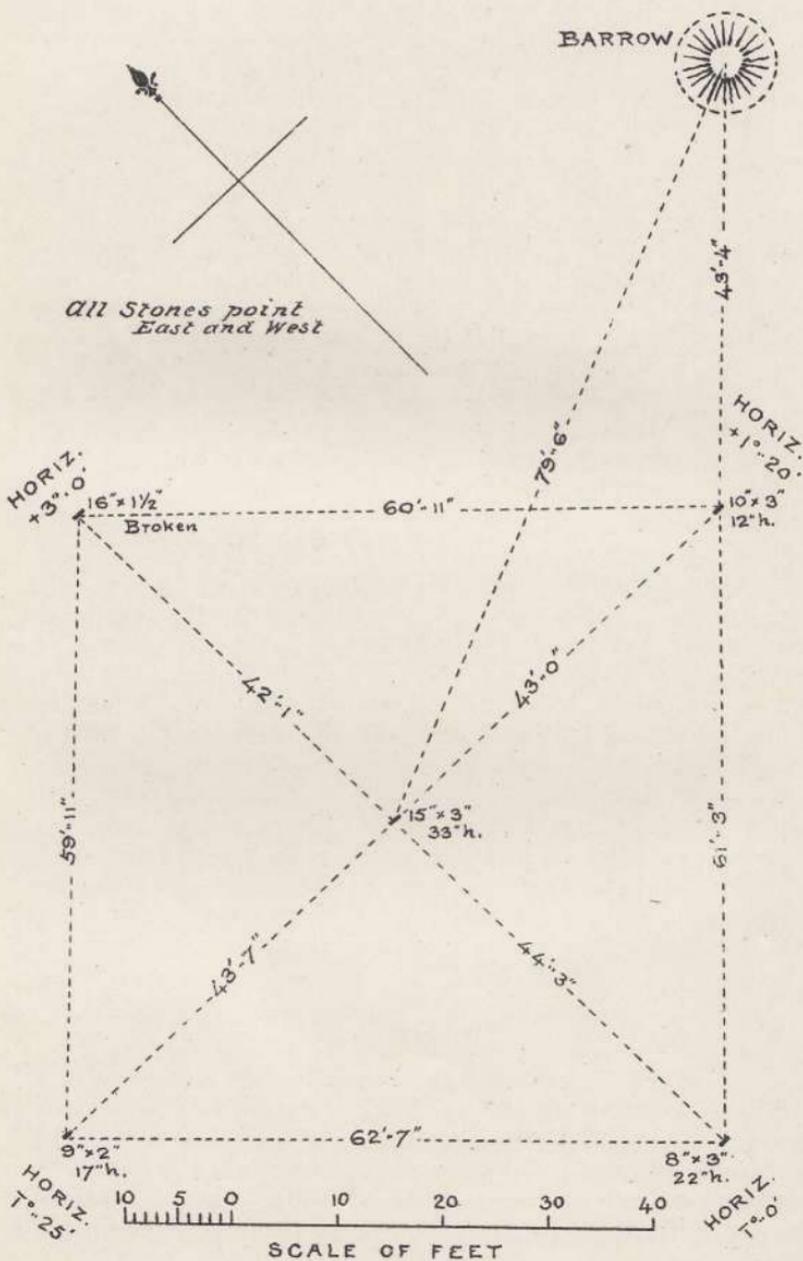
R.H.W.



LONGSTONE ALLOTMENT
 CHAPMAN BARROWS. VI. S.E.

PLATE III

lon. $3^{\circ}-51'45''$
lat. $51^{\circ}-10'25\frac{1}{2}''$



being, north 54 ft. 0 in., south-east 55 ft. 0 in., and south-west 58 ft. 0 in. The stones are small; one is missing and represented by its triggers only.

[See Plate II, fig. 3.]

QUADRILATERALS.

Longstone Allotment, Chapman Barrows. VI, S.E., long. $3^{\circ} 51' 45''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 25\frac{1}{2}''$ north. Not marked on Ordnance Survey.

This is the only instance of an isolated quadrilateral which we give in the present paper. It is very nearly a square, and all the stones are present, although one is broken off near ground-level. The centre stone occupies the precise point of intersection of the diagonals. The sides are—north-west 59 ft. 11 in., north-east 60 ft. 11 in., south-east 61 ft. 3 in., south-west 52 ft. 7 in. The width of each stone runs east and west. The centre is occupied by the largest stone, 15 in. wide, 3 in. thick, and 33 in. high. The east-and-west diagonal bears 33 minutes north of east, and the other diagonal deviates by a greater angle from the north-and-south line.

Almost in a line with the south-east side, and lying north-east from it, and distant 43 ft. 4 in. from the nearest stone, is a small barrow 9 ft. in diameter and 1 ft. 9 in. in height. This we opened and found a small interment pit, without a cover, but containing charcoal.

[See Plate III.]

To the north of this quadrilateral and 500 feet distant from its centre, a line drawn practically parallel to the east-and-west diagonal would pass through seven barrows of the Chapman group; other barrows lie south and east, and the Longstone itself is companion to this quadrilateral, although 2440 feet distant.

Seven hundred and thirteen feet distant, in a direction approximately 30 degrees south of east, is a large barrow which has been opened this year, and which yielded a covered interment pit with charcoal and bone ash.

Fourteen hundred and fifty feet from the centre of the quadrilateral, and in a direction approximately 21 degrees north of west, is the barrow which was opened in 1885, and which yielded an inverted urn and burnt bone. For further details reference should be made to this year's Barrow Report.

TRIANGLE AND QUADRILATERAL COMBINED.

Near *Woodbarrow Arms* (given by Ordnance as "*Woodbarrow Hangings*"). VII, S.W., *long.* $3^{\circ} 50' 16\frac{1}{2}''$ west, *lat.* $51^{\circ} 10' 11\frac{1}{4}''$ north. Shown on Ordnance Survey.

There is a marked difference between the lengths of the sides of this figure; the north-west and south-east sides measure 24 ft. 0 in. and 23 ft. 8 in. respectively, the north-east and south-west sides 18 ft. 8 in. and 20 ft. 3 in. The centre stone occupies the exact intersection of the diagonals. Symmetrically arranged, there is none the less no general agreement in the direction of the widths of the stones, the largest of which measures $14\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide by 4 in. thick, and 34 in. high. The most easterly stone has been broken since 1887, but the top lies hard by.

So far we have treated this as a quadrilateral; it remains to note a stone broken off at ground-level and situate to the south-east. It is 21 ft. 6 in. and 21 ft. 7 in. respectively from the nearest stones of the quadrilateral, and thus gives a point bisecting the angle made by the intersection of the diagonals. The triangle which it forms with the nearest side is not quite equilateral, the third side being 23 ft. 8 in.

[See Plate IV, fig. 1.]

Woodbarrow is about 1140 feet distant to the southward.

PARALLELOGRAMS.

We are indebted to Antell, of *Whimb*, for information as to a parallelogram which he destroyed in a field at *Furzehill*, taking the stones for gutter covers. There were nine stones, arranged in three rows of three each, and distant in every direction from each other about twelve or fifteen feet; perhaps thus, but he would not bind himself as to exact measurements:—

*	15 ft.	*	15 ft.	*
12 ft.				
*		*		*
12 ft.				
*		*		*

The field is shown on VII, N.W., and its centre lies *long.* $3^{\circ} 48' 21''$ west, *lat.* $51^{\circ} 11' 35''$ north.

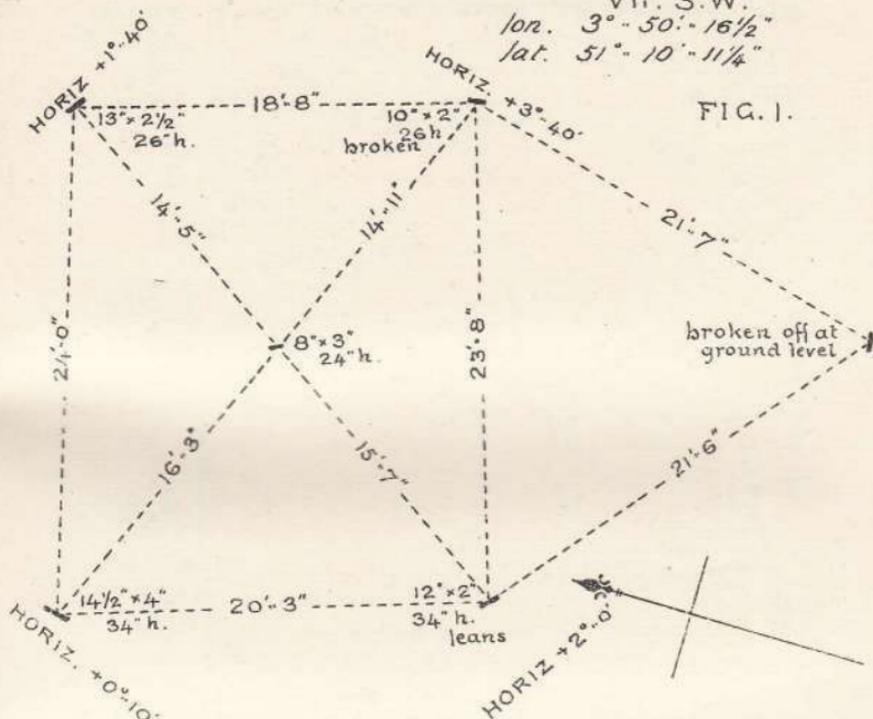
PLATE IV.

WOODBARROW ARMS

VII. S.W.

lon. $3^{\circ}-50'-16\frac{1}{2}"$

lat. $51^{\circ}-10'-11\frac{1}{4}"$



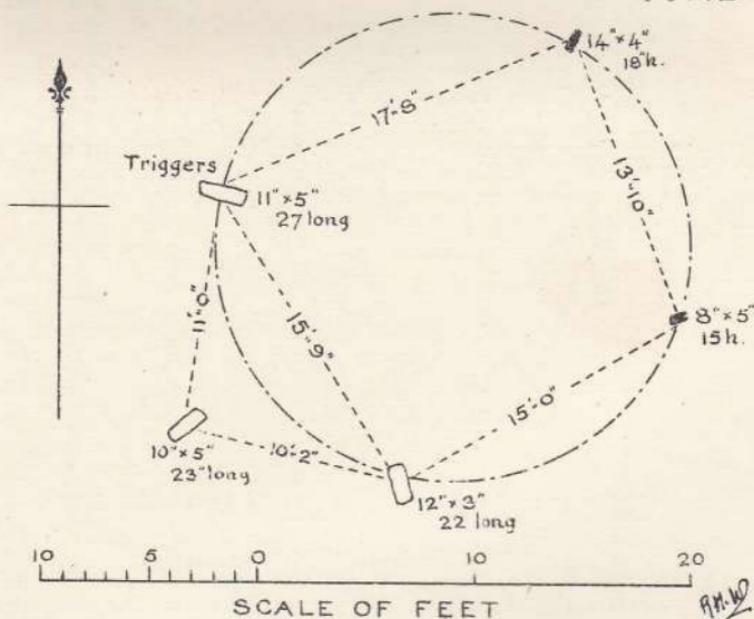
FURZEHILL COMMON NR HOAROK

VII. S.W.

lon. $3^{\circ}-48'-11\frac{1}{4}"$

lat. $51^{\circ}-10'-34"$

FIG. 2.



FURZEHILL COMMON
over HOAROK WATER

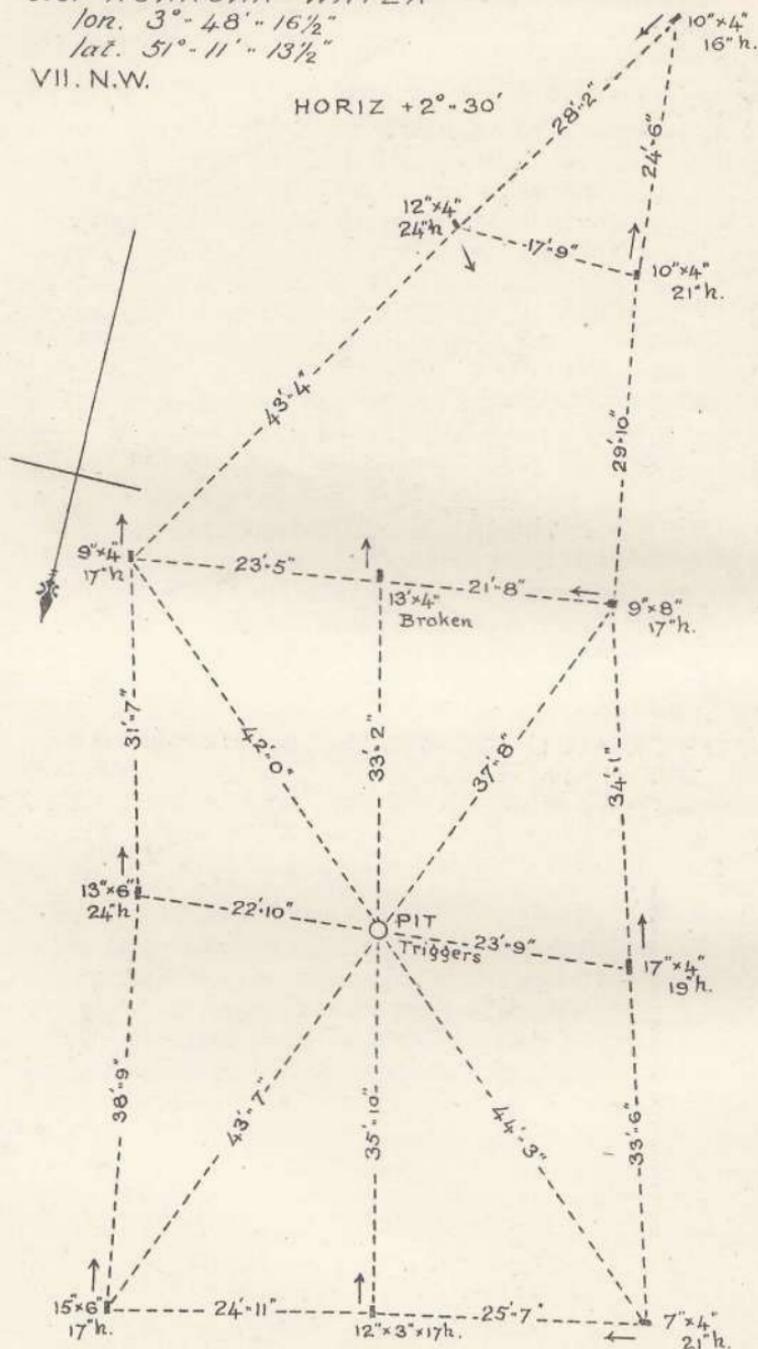
lon. $3^{\circ}-48'-16\frac{1}{2}''$

lat. $51^{\circ}-11'-13\frac{1}{2}''$

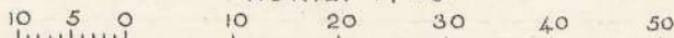
VII. N.W.

PLATE V

HORIZ $+2^{\circ}-30'$



HORIZ. $+1^{\circ}-0'$



SCALE OF FEET

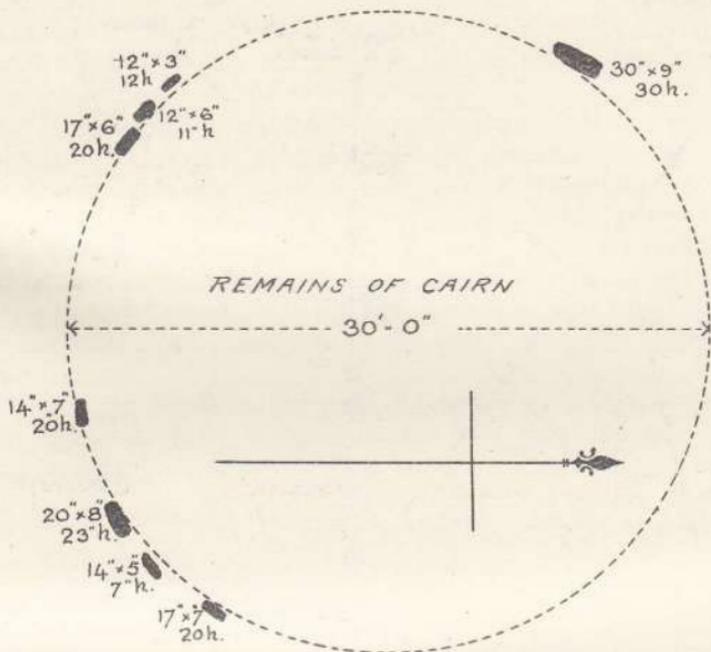
gkh

CHERITON RIDGE
 above ALSE BARROW
 lon. $3^{\circ} 49' 46''$
 lat. $51^{\circ} 8' 2''$

VII. N.W.

PLATE VI

Fig 1.



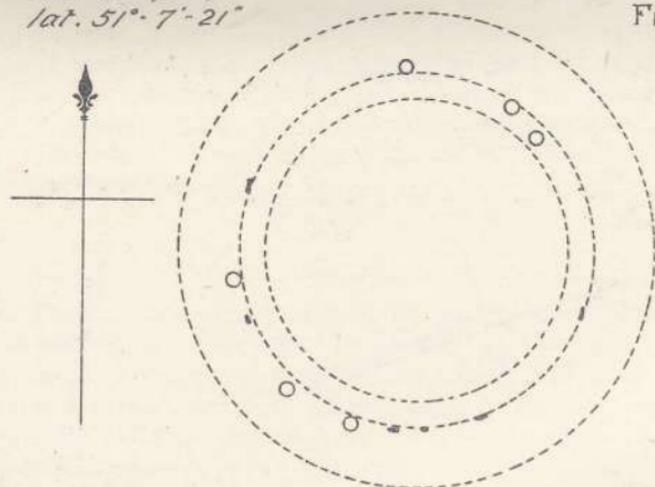
Scale 10 feet to 1 inch.

WHITEFIELD DOWN

XI. S.W.

lon. $3^{\circ} 49' 7''$
 lat. $51^{\circ} 7' 21''$

Fig 2.



Scale 40 feet to 1 inch.

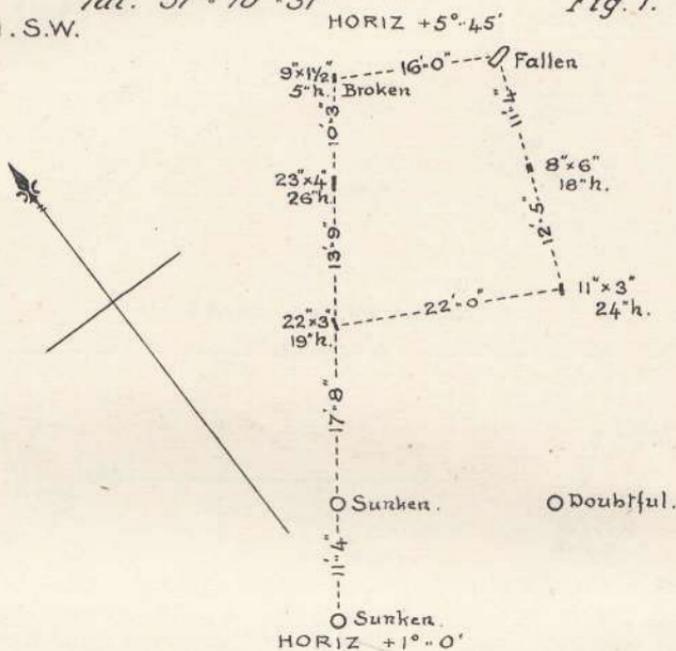
SECTION

Handwritten signature

BENJAMY
 RUCKHAM COMBE
 lon. $3^{\circ} 49' 13\frac{1}{2}''$
 lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 31''$
 VII. S.W.

PLATE VII

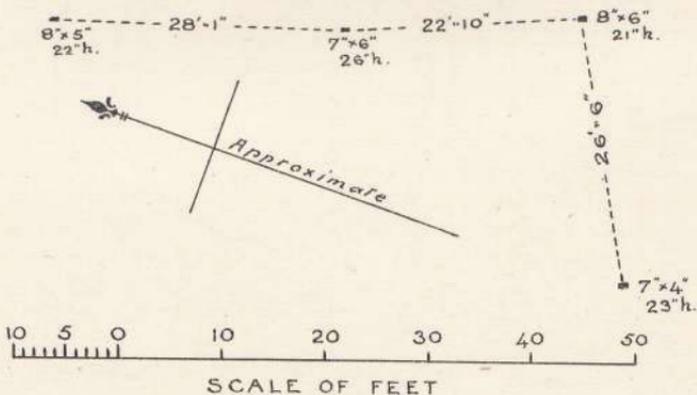
Fig. 1.



WINAWAY
 lon. $3^{\circ} 49' 33\frac{1}{2}''$
 lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 4\frac{1}{2}''$
 VII. S.W.

Fig. 2.

○ Fallen doubtful.



We asked Antell if he had destroyed any other remains, and he said, "Oh, well, if I wanted a stone."

Furzehill Common, over Hoar oak Water. VII, N.W., long. $3^{\circ} 48' 16\frac{1}{2}''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 11' 13\frac{1}{2}''$ north. Shown on Ordnance Survey.

This is a fine instance of the parallelogram, and the more interesting in that it is associated with a triangle.

Originally it consisted of three rows of three members each; now the central pillar of the figure is represented by its triggers only, while the southern centre stone is broken off at ground-level. There are considerable irregularities in the spacing, but through it all the diameters and diagonals intersect with great exactitude at the point where the centre stone has been.

We need not dwell on the unequal distances of the stones, as the figure is fully dimensioned. The parallelogram is approximately 69 ft. long by 47 ft. broad. The tallest stone is 13 in. wide, 6 in. thick, and 24 in. high. All stones point one way, along the length of the figure (approximately north and south), except the north-west and south-west corner stones, which lie at right angles to this.

To the south, and about 30 feet distant, lies a triangle, which makes no attempt at equilateral symmetry, its north side being 17 ft. 9 in., west side 24 ft. 6 in., and south-east side 28 ft. 2 in. There is no parallelism or precise alignment between the members of the triangle and of the parallelogram. Were it not for the exact accuracy of the work where it was evidently intended to be precise, we might suggest that the south-east side of the triangle was designed to point to the south-east corner of the parallelogram, and the west side of the triangle to the south-west corner.

[See Plate V.]

CIRCLES.

We have at present no undoubted peristyle to record, and feel considerable diffidence in permitting the use of the word circle in connexion with the next described monument; it is rather "nondescript." It may even have been a quadrilateral, and we only place it here for convenience.

Furzehill Common, near Hoar oak. VII, S.W., long. $3^{\circ} 48' 11\frac{1}{4}''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 34''$ north. Shown on Ordnance Survey.

Only two stones still stand; three others have fallen, and of these we can only find one set of triggers. But a circle can be drawn through the two standing stones, the triggers

of a third stone, and one of the other recumbent stones as it lies on the ground, while the spacing is not that of a quadrilateral. The largest upright member measures 14 in. wide by 4 in. thick and 18 in. high.

[See Plate IV, fig. 2.]

Cheriton Ridge above *Alse Barrow*. VII, N.W., long. $3^{\circ} 49' 46''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 8' 2''$ north. Shown on Ordnance Survey as "Hut Circle."

This, again, is not a true peristyle, nor is it a hut circle. The remains of a cairn are surrounded by the remains of its retaining circle, of which eight stones still stand, distributed around rather more than one-half the original circumference. The diameter of the circle is 30 ft. The largest stone measures 30 in. by 9 in. by 30 in. high.

[See Plate VI, fig. 1.]

Whitefield Down. XI, S.W., long. $3^{\circ} 49' 7''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 7' 21''$ north. Marked on Ordnance Survey.

A low barrow is surrounded by a shallow trench 5 ft. wide, which really lies within the margin of the barrow. The outer edge of the trench is marked by a circle of stones, 67 ft. in diameter; twelve stones remain, distributed around the whole circumference. None could be called pillars; the majority are irregular blocks of vein quartz, and the largest measures 36 in. by 11 in. by 9 in. high. The total height of the barrow does not much exceed 2 ft. 6 in.

[See Plate VI, fig. 2.]

STONE ROWS.

Benjamy, above *Ruckham Combe*. VII, S.W., long. $3^{\circ} 49' 13\frac{1}{2}''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 31''$ north. The position is approximate only, as the stones are not marked on the Ordnance Survey, and the weather at the date of our visit did not admit delay on our part.

A double row, convergent toward the north. The western half shows five stones in place, the spacing varying from 10 ft. 3 in. to 17 ft. 8 in. The largest stone measures 23 in. by 4 in. and stands 26 in. high.

The eastern row consists of three stones, of which one has fallen; the largest is 11 in. by 3 in. by 24 in. high.

The spacing roughly corresponds to the similar "bays" on the west. The rows, which are 16 ft. apart at the north end, diverge 6 ft. in a distance of 24 ft. southward. This row is over the Somerset border.

[See Plate VII, fig. 1.]

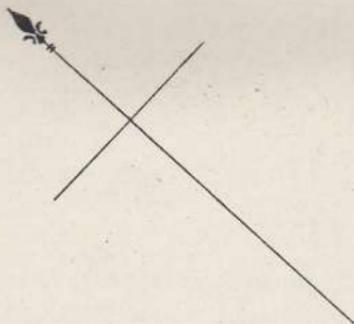
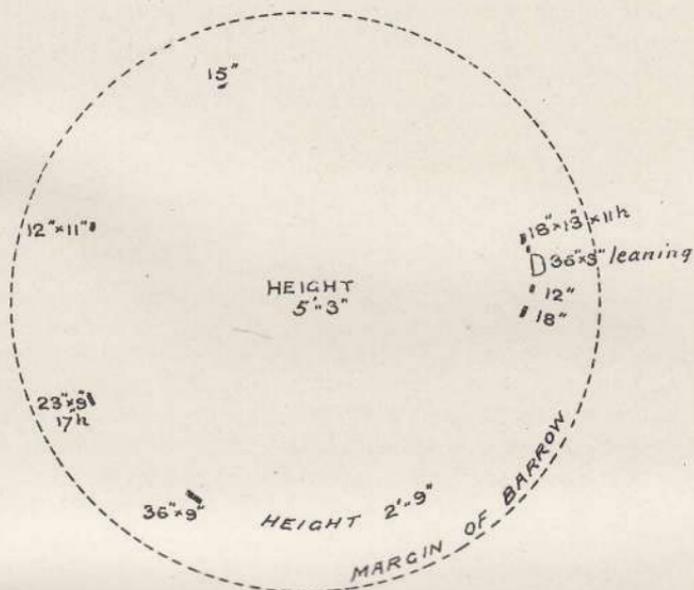
NEAR SETTA BARROW

PLATE VIII

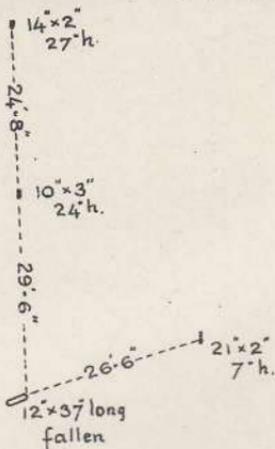
XI. N.W.

lon. $3^{\circ} 49' 15\frac{1}{2}''$

lat. $51^{\circ} 7' 33\frac{1}{2}''$



O PIT?



10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

SCALE OF FEET

Winaway. VII, S.W., long. $3^{\circ} 49' 33\frac{1}{2}''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 4\frac{1}{2}''$ north. Shown on Ordnance Survey.

Four stones in place, probably the remains of a double row. The eastern side now represented by three stones 22 ft. 10 in. and 28 ft. 1 in. apart; the western side by one stone only; distance across between the rows, 26 ft. 6 in.; largest stone, 8 in. by 5 in. by 23 in. high.

[See Plate VII, fig. 2.]

Near *Setta Barrow.* XI, N.W., long. $3^{\circ} 49' 15\frac{1}{2}''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 7' 33\frac{1}{2}''$ north. Stones not shown on Ordnance Survey, but associated barrow is marked.

Three stones in place, and one fallen, probably the remains of a double row. It must, however, be remembered that we are not yet sufficiently familiar with all the groups on *Exmoor*, and this and the last may really be complete and in their original condition, in which case we should have to recognize a form of which the type would be thus—

* * *
*

with the single stone indifferently placed on either side of the row of three. In the present instance the row lies west and north of the single stone; the spacing is 24 ft. 8 in. and 29 ft. 6 in., with 26 ft. 6 in. between the head of the row and the outstanding stone.

The row points to a barrow, but not to its centre. The barrow is 80 ft. in diameter, and 8 ft. 3 in. in height. Nine feet within its margin it has a retaining circle, the tops of nine stones of which are visible.

[See Plate VIII.]

Brendon Common, Cheriton Ridge. VII, N.W., long. $3^{\circ} 47' 24''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 11' 1\frac{3}{4}''$ north. Shown on Ordnance Survey.

This group lies touching and to the east of a well-defined cart track. It has accordingly suffered spoliation. Whether originally a triple row, or a double row with a triple head, cannot now be ascertained, but the probabilities favour the latter. We find three stones standing, and one fallen. The Ordnance Survey of 1887 shows three stones more, which have now disappeared. The spacing of the remaining stones of the north row is 19 ft. 8 in., of the south row 21 ft. 6 in. The average distance between the rows is 40 ft., and this at

the west end is divided into somewhat unequal parts by a single stone.

The largest member is 14 in. by 6 in. by 22 in. high.

[See Plate IX, fig. 1.]

Brendon Common, Cheriton Ridge, near Farley Water. VII, S.W., long. $3^{\circ} 46' 57''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 30''$ north. Shown on Ordnance Survey.

This is a very irregular assemblage, most perfect as regards the north and west sides, each of which consists, or has consisted, of four stones, arranged in exact line.

The southernmost stone of the western side appears isolated, and the direction of its width suggests that it has always been so. Leaving this member out of consideration, the remainder would most nearly fall into a triple row, each of four stones. If so the rows were never parallel, and the matter is further complicated by the presence of a stone which refuses to agree with any suggested arrangement. We restored three pillars which had fallen to their original positions, as marked by the triggers.

The south-westernmost stone is the largest, and measures 24 in. by 6 in. by 33 in. in height. The spacings vary from 13 ft. 7 in. to 23 ft.

[See Plate IX, fig. 2.]

Bray Common, Little Melcombe. XI, N.W., long. $3^{\circ} 49' 46''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 8' 2''$ north. Not shown on Ordnance Survey.

Two stones only, spaced 27 ft. 3 in., with their widths in the line of direction of the two. The largest is 8 in. by 5 in. by 29 in. high. Twenty-seven feet three inches from the south-western stone, and measured in a southerly direction, is the centre of a small barrow of nine feet diameter.

[See Plate X, fig. 1.]

Five Barrows. XI, S.W., long. $3^{\circ} 48' 55''$ west, lat. $51^{\circ} 7' 14''$ north. Stones not shown on Ordnance Survey, but associated barrow is.

There are eight barrows in the "Five-Barrow" group, and of these the westernmost has two stones standing near it. They are 43 ft. 8 in. apart, and from the fact that the directions of their widths do not lie in the line joining them, they are probably the remnant of a larger assemblage. One stone measures 9 in. by 3 in. by 24 in. high; the other 8 in. by 5 in. by 25 in. high. The barrow is 97 ft. in diameter, and 9 ft. 9 in. high; its margin is 18 ft. from the nearer stone.

BRAY COMMON

LITTLE MELCOMBE

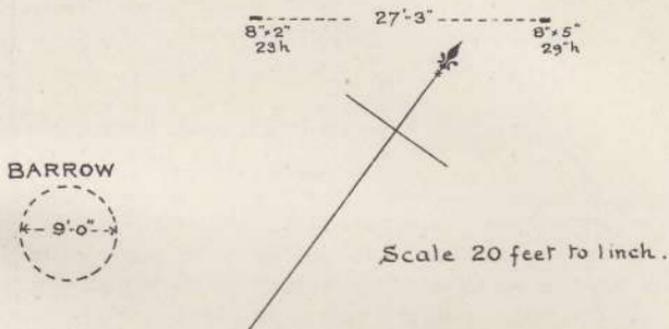
lon. $3^{\circ}49'46''$

lat. $51^{\circ}8'2''$

PLATE X.

XI. N.W.

Fig 1.



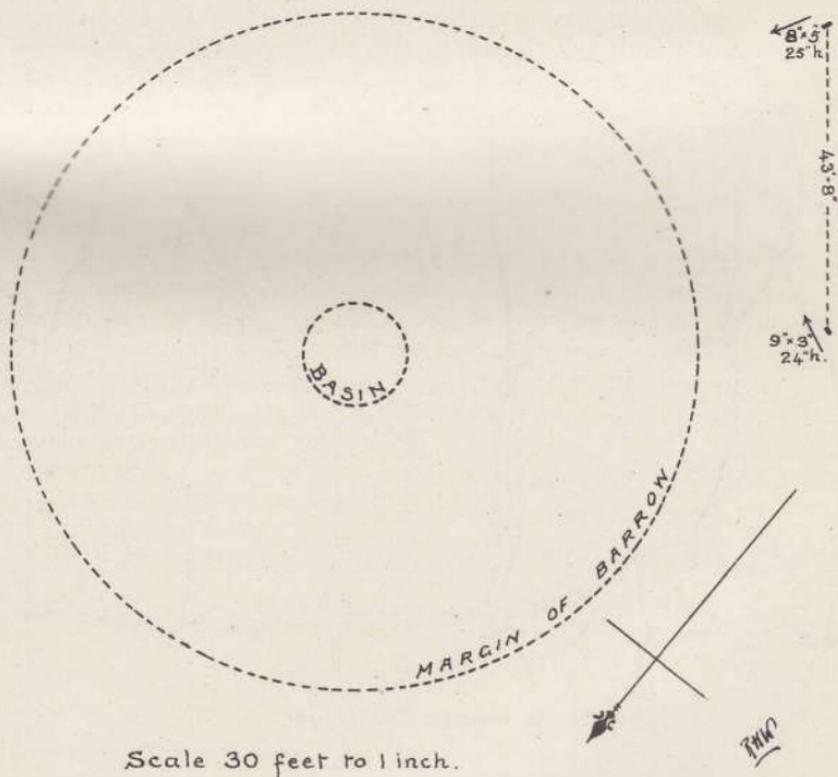
FIVE BARROWS

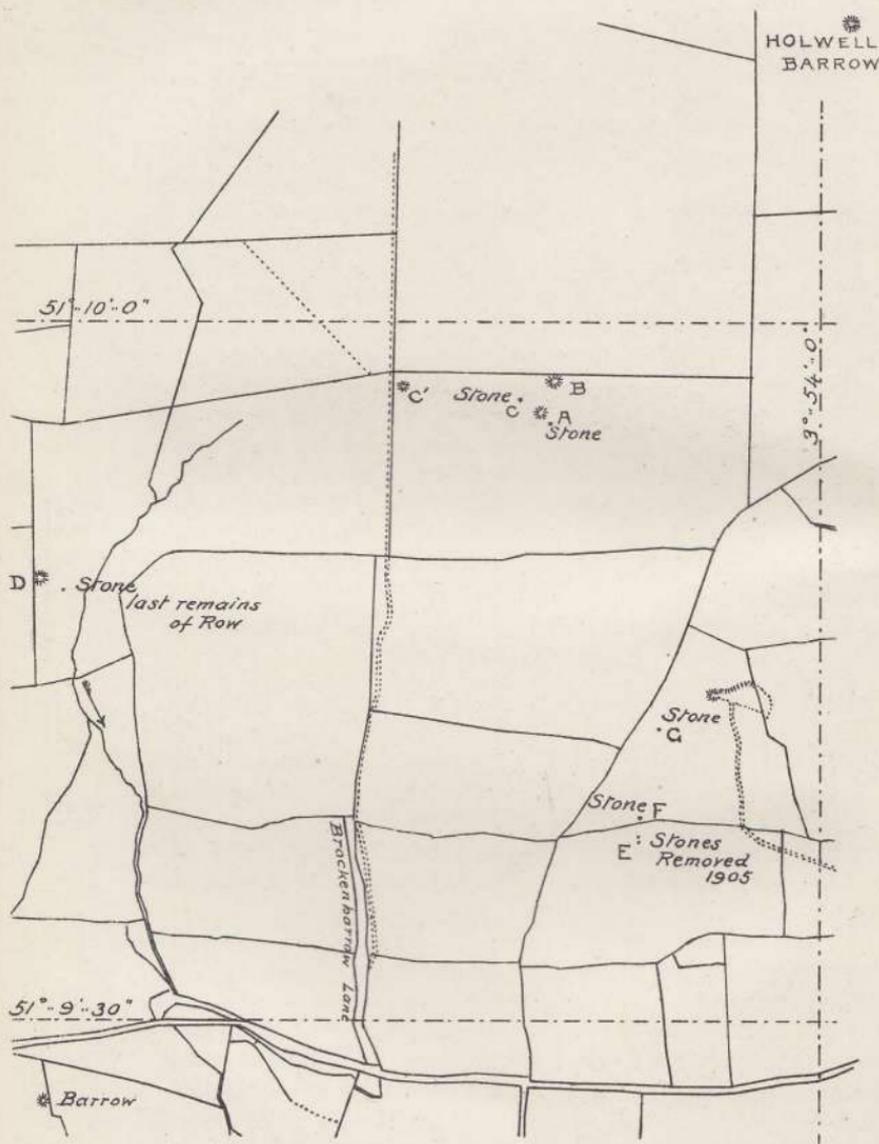
lon. $3^{\circ}48'55''$

lat. $51^{\circ}7'14''$

XI. S.W.

Fig 2.





Scale 6 inches to 1 mile.

At the top is a depression, 14 ft. in diameter, the result probably of an attempt at opening the mound.

These two stones have a number of inscriptions upon them, the names of visitors, some dated early in last century.

[See Plate X, fig. 2.]

Near *Brockenburrow Lane*, Challacombe Parish.

[See Plan, Plate XI.]

This group of remains is in part shown on the Ordnance Survey. Commencing with the barrows marked A, B, C', on plan, we have at C a large recumbent spar stone, but although fallen, its place is still marked by the triggers. The length of the stone is 56 in., and its width 34 in., while one end comes to a point. S.S.E. (magnetic) from this stone, and distant 96 ft., lies barrow A. Six feet beyond the barrow, and in a line with the recumbent rock, is a small stone 14 in. wide by 2 in. thick, and now only 6 in. high; a broken piece that lies hard by would give an original height for this pillar of 3 ft. The barrow C' has several recumbent stones near it, but no reconstruction of their arrangement is possible.

The stones at E were removed in May or early June of this year; these are shown on the Ordnance. At F and G are large recumbent stones, which may originally have formed part of one monument with E.

Stone D on plan is associated with barrow D, which last is not marked on the Ordnance Survey. This stone is set almost exactly W.N.W. by E.S.E., magnetic (50° north of west corrected), and points to the barrow. It measures 36 in. wide by an average thickness of 14 in., and 36 in. in height. It is, so we are informed, the last remnant of a stone row which formerly existed at this point.