THE STONE ROWS OF DARTMOOR.

PART X.

BY R. HANSFORD WORTH.

THE tale of the stone rows of Dartmoor is by no means fully told, but of those who in the past have made their discovery an earnest occupation some are lost to us and others have been unable to pursue the search.

To the industry of the Rev. H. H. Breton, M.A., we are indebted for two new records, a short row on the slopes of Pen Beacon, and a more considerable monument on Shaugh Moor.

PEN BEACON.

On Pen Beacon the row lies 2200 feet south by a little east from the summit of the hill. Those who have the six-inch quarter sheet, Devon, cxix. N.W. can mark it at 100 feet south of the "B.M." 1239·0, on the chain of levels from Rook Wood to the top of the Beacon. Its eastern end lies in longitude W. 3° 58′ 22½″, latitude N. 50° 20′ 43¾″.

There are but nine stones, of which four still stand earth-fast. The total length is 22 paces, and the largest remaining stone forms the present western end ; it stands 31 inches above ground and measures 16 inches wide across the row, and 15 inches along the row.

The spacing, starting from the east, is as follows. Stone seven paces east of an old boundary reeve, commencement of row. Four paces further on, a fallen stone. Nine paces a standing stone. Eleven paces a fallen stone. Fifteen paces a standing stone. Seventeen paces two standing stones. Nineteen paces a fallen stone. Twenty-two paces a standing stone. In each case the paces are counted from the easternmost member of the row, and the pace may be taken as fairly accurately 3 feet.

SHAUGH MOOR.

lon. 4°"2'"13¾"
lat. 50°"27"7¾"
Scale 100 feet to 1 inch.

:F
:F

:F

:F

:F
:F
:F

:F

:P

:F
:F

Remains of
Stone Circle

Wall of
Hut Circle

BARROW

R. Hansford Worth.
1918.

The direction of the length of this row is N. 82° 38′ W., approximately parallel to the contour of the hill. Mere remnant as it would appear to be, there is no doubt as to its claim to inclusion among the stone rows.

SHAUGH MOOR.

Like the last this row consists of small stones, and there is even no one stone approaching in height the tallest of that row. The northern end stone is in this case the highest, being 20 inches high and measuring at ground 15 inches along the row and 6 inches across the same. A very few of the remainder are 1 foot in height, many are only four or five inches, and some have sunk almost level with the grass. No fallen stone is more than 2 feet in length, and we may safely assume that the sunken stones never stood much more than 1 foot high.

Notwithstanding that the relative insignificance of its members has caused the row to be long overlooked, and I myself have passed it many a time without seeing, yet it is no inconsiderable or doubtful monument. Its present length from the north end to the centre of the circle at the south end is 578 ft. 9 ins. ; there are 48 stones still earth-fast and 10 fallen stones lying practically in place, besides many rather fresh looking pits from which stones have been removed. The original spacing would appear to have varied from 3 ft. 3 ins. to 5 ft., centre to centre. The row is single. At the south end three stones still standing indicate the former presence of a circle of between 50 and 51 ft. diameter; the row points slightly to the east of the centre of this circle.

About 15 feet south of the southern circumference of this stone circle is the wall of a hut circle, which has been partially destroyed by the road-menders.

Three hundred and sixty feet west by a little south from the centre of the stone circle is a well-preserved barrow, not shown on the Ordnance Survey, on which, however, the hut circle is indicated.

The Ordnance quarter sheet is, Devon, six inch, cxviii. N.E. The position is readily found by producing eastward the line of the southern hedge of Shaden Plantation, when at 591 feet from the east side of the Cadover Road the hut circle will be found marked, touching the line so produced. If now from this point a line be drawn to the

marginal indication of longitude 4° 2′ to the north, this very nearly corresponds with the direction of the row; the line should be stopped just short of crossing the first full black line met, which indicates an artificial water course.

The barrow lies on the line of the south hedge of Shaden Plantation, produced as aforesaid, and may be placed 360 feet away from the centre of the hut circle westward, with sufficient accuracy.

The ground on which the row stands slopes slightly northward, a little more than 1°; it is a little steeper for the last 193 feet at the north end, and accordingly this becomes another instance of a row in which by the contour of the ground each end is hidden from the other.

The technical data are: Position of centre of stone circle at southern end of row, to nearest half-minute, longitude west 4° 2′ 13″, latitude north 50° 27′ 7½″. Direction of row N. 20° 40′ E. Length of row from centre of circle 578 ft. 9 ins. Elevation of northern horizon as viewed from centre of stone circle +1° 30′. Elevation of southern horizon, viewed from the furthest point north on the row from which the circle can be seen, +1° 0′. Height of eye in each case 5 ft. 5½ ins.

The row is unusually straight. See plan annexed.