



Monday, April 5th.

Mr. OXLAND, V.P., in the Chair.

Mr. Spence Bate drew attention to a very fine specimen of Sponge (*Halichondria coalita*) that had been brought in by the trawlers, and presented by him to the Museum.

The following paper was then read:—

*Account of certain supposed British and Druidical Remains in the Parishes of Chagford and Gidley, and the adjoining part of the Forest of Dartmoor.* By G. WAREING ORMEROD, M.A., F.G.S., of Chagford, Corr. Member of the Plym. Inst. and Devon and Cornw. Nat. Hist. Soc.

[Abstract.]

THE author referred to Polwhele, Mr. Bathurst Deane, Mr. Rowe, and Dr. Croker, as authors who had noticed certain of the remains described in this memoir, and stated that he believed no exact plans or particulars of them had hitherto been laid before the public; reference was also made to the 'Gentleman's Magazine.'

The remains noticed in this memoir are near Kestor or Castor Rock, and the first-described were ancient habitations called "Hut Circles," and boundaries of inclosures known as "Track Lines." Those in the north-eastern district of Dartmoor are found at intervals from Cawson Hill, by Clanaboro Common, Shellstone, Endsworthy Hill and Buttern Down, to the North Teign River, and to the south of that river at Batworthy, Shuffledown, Teigncombe, Frenchbere, Fernworthy, Hurston Ridge, and the Grey Wethers north of the Moreton and Tavistock Road; for sites south of that road reference was made to Rowe's 'Dartmoor.' The "hut circles" are generally congregated together; and the remains on Teigncombe Common are a very perfect example of a hut village. In this case it consists principally of two main parallel lines of road, and between or near to them the greater number of huts are situate; there are also side roads leading to back land and huts. The land was first divided by walls running parallel to the roads, and then subdivided by cross walls: the general direction of the main division walls is from north-east to south-west, and these terminate at a

wall that runs from near the North Teign at the east of Batworthy inclosures by Kestor Rock in a general S.S.E. direction. This wall the author considered to be the western boundary of the "hut village," although some large irregular inclosures and a few very small huts lay to the west. There appear to have been only two passages through this wall; one near Kestor, which is simply an opening to the moor, and the other near the northern extremity; from the last, a road, walled on both sides, can be traced to the remains called the Round Pound and thence along the hill-side above the Teign: there are remains of another road near Middleton.

Two of the "hut circles" were particularly described, namely the Round Pound and Square Pound. The Round Pound consists of an outer inclosure of nearly triangular form, about 95 feet from apex to base across the inner inclosure, which is circular, and about 34 feet in diameter: the space between the two is divided into six courts; in one of these there is a "hut circle" about 10 feet in diameter, in another a triangular inclosure. The entrance to the inner inclosure is 2 feet wide and at the south-east; that to the outer at the western angle and to the road. The Square Pound is near, and to the S.S.E. of that last-mentioned. The first court is triangular, and contains about 15 square perches; the entrance faces towards the Round Pound, and is between a "hut circle" 15 feet diameter, and the western wall of the other parts of the inclosure. These consist of a small court, about 50 feet square, which is entered into from the triangular court, having in its centre a "hut circle" 9 feet in diameter; on the north-east and north-west sides of this square court there are small courts between it and the outer wall, and at the north-east angle there is a "hut circle" 12 feet diameter between the outer and second wall.

The author suggests that these remains were possibly the habitations of the chief person, the one guarding the main road, the other the farm and store; and he states that he has not observed remains of similar character or importance anywhere else in the hut villages of Dartmoor. One square hut was mentioned, near Kestor, measuring 17 feet on each side, and having a small chamber at the northerly side measuring 7 feet at one end and 4 feet at the other. None of the "hut circles" at this locality were divided, but the author mentioned one on Endsworthy Common which had an inner chamber. The diameters of the huts vary from 9 to 36 feet: for the manner of construction, reference was made to Mr. Rowe's paper read before this Society, and his 'Dartmoor.' Mr. Ormerod remarked that in some cases large slabs of stone were laid at the foot of the inner stones, probably to keep them firm. A semicircular

inclosure occurs at one place, and reference was made to two of the same form on Shapley Common, being the only others noticed by the author. On Shuffledown there are "hut circles" and "track-lines," and also the remains of two pounds; but they are not extensive, and are very irregular and imperfect.

The following remains are mostly situate in the valley between Kestor and Shuffledown, and, with the exception of the eastern boundary-line of the Druidical remains, and the Three Boys, and the avenue leading to it from the Longstone, have been mentioned by Mr. Rowe; but as the dimensions and descriptions given by him are not always full, nor agree with those taken by the author, the remains are in such cases redescribed.

The circle locally known as "The Longstones," but described as the Gidley or Scorhill Circle, now consists of twenty-nine erect and two fallen stones; the diameter is 90 feet. The Tolmen the author considered to be formed by natural causes: similar hollows are in the course of formation by the river Teign in other places. The eastern boundary of the Druidical remains between Shuffledown and Kestor is marked by a line of small stones that commences near the south angle of Batworthy inclosure, and, though imperfect, can be traced to near the Longstone Pillar.

The Parallelitha are five in number: the first is about 50 yards to the west of the above boundary, and leads in a southerly direction to the Triple Circle, where it terminates at two large stones that are now thrown down; this is the only avenue that leads directly to the Triple Circle: Mr. Ormerod has traced it 140 yards, being nearly 100 yards more than the length given by Mr. Rowe; but the avenue is very imperfect. A second avenue occurs about 13 yards to the west of the terminal stones just mentioned, and can be traced also 140 yards, pointing on the Tolmen and Gidley Circle, and running in a N.N.W. direction, and not parallel with the last-mentioned avenue. The author considered that this avenue had possibly joined by a sharp turn, opposite the Triple Circle, another avenue that leads to a dilapidated cairn, having in its centre the remains of a kistvaen; but a track-line crosses between them, and has caused confusion. The length of this last-mentioned avenue that can now be traced is 110 yards; Mr. Rowe, in the memoir, states it as 140 yards. Mr. Ormerod considered that a deviation from a right line in the direction of this avenue, referred to by Mr. Rowe, was merely an appearance caused by the contour of the ground, as the eastern side of the avenue presents nearly a straight line to a person looking along it from the cairn. A fourth avenue, 126 yards long, runs in a direction a little west of north from the Longstone Pillar: this is described by Rowe. From that same pillar an avenue extended 217 yards in a

southerly direction to a spot where three stones, called "The Three Boys," formerly stood. Two of the Three Boys and the stones of the avenue have been removed to form part of a wall; small pits mark the places from whence the stones of the avenue were taken; like the others it was from 3 to 4 feet wide. The Three Boys consisted of three stones, about 5 feet apart, forming a triangle; the stone remaining is 4 feet 6 inches high: these stones possibly formed parts of a cromlech. This avenue and the Three Boys have not been before noticed.

The Triple Circle consists of three concentric circles: in the outermost ten stones remain, in the middle six, and in the inner eight, and three stones stand in the centre: this enumeration nearly agrees with that by Mr. Rowe; but he is in error in stating the "diameter of the whole" to be 15 feet, as the diameter of the outer circle is 26 feet, of the middle circle 20 feet, and of the inner circle 15 feet. Between the Three Boys and the Fernworthy Circle, and near to that circle, there are imperfect traces of stone avenues. Fernworthy Circle consists of twenty-six stones erect and one fallen: Mr. Rowe states that twenty-seven stood erect: the diameter is 64 feet, as mentioned by him. With this circle the series of remains commencing at the Gidley Circle terminates.

The Grey Wethers, situate in a neighbouring valley distant about a mile and a half to the south-west, consist of two inclosures lying north and south: that to the south is circular; seven stones are erect, seventeen fallen, and the diameter is 110 feet: that to the north Mr. Ormerod considered a square with the angles rounded off; but it is so imperfect, that this appearance, he adds, may arise from the absence of some stones and the slipping of others: ten stones are erect, four fallen; the diameter is about 110 feet. Mr. B. Deane, in his memoir on *Dracontia*, notices an inclosure of similar shape at Carnac, that had previously been considered a circle (*Archæologia*, vol. xxv.).

Mr. Ormerod noticed the Rock Basin on Kestor, discovered by himself in 1856, measuring on the surface 96 inches by 80 inches, and 31 inches in depth, being one of nine basins on that rock, where Mr. Rowe stated in his memoir there was one basin 24 inches by 18 inches, and in his 'Dartmoor,' that there was no basin; and Mr. Ormerod added, that of the sixty-one rock-basins in the granite of the Dartmoor district, of which he had collected the particulars, he found that one on Hell Tor, near Bridford, was the largest, and that on Kestor the second in size; and suggested that if rock-basins were used for collecting rain-water for lustration, possibly the existence of this basin and the Tolmen (both of them, in his opinion, not made by hands) might have been reasons for the selection of this spot by the Druids.

From this basin or kist, the rock probably derives the name of Kestor.

The paper was illustrated by a general plan, showing the hut village and Druidical remains, on a scale of 33 yards to the inch, and separate plans of the circles and chief huts on a scale of 10 feet to the inch; and also by sketches of the various remains described.