

FIFTEENTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

FIFTEENTH REPORT of the Committee, consisting of Mr. P. F. S. Amery, Dr. Brushfield, Mr. Burnard, Mr. P. O. Hutchinson, Mr. J. Brooking Rowe, Mr. R. Hansford Worth, and Mr. R. N. Worth (Secretary), appointed 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 Ashburton, July, 1896.)

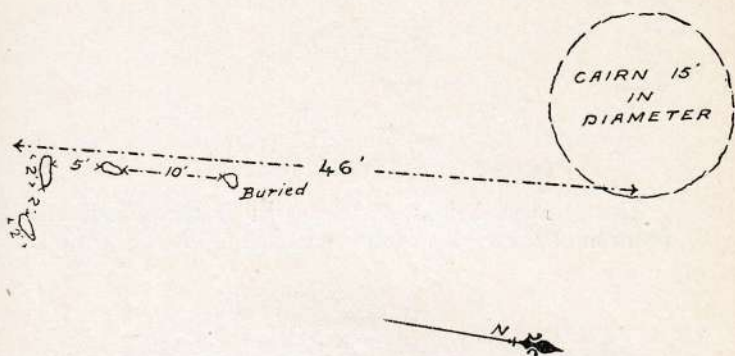
THE Committee are enabled to furnish a very interesting account of the exploration of a barrow at Halwill, by their colleague Mr. R. Burnard. The most interesting, perhaps, is the finding of an amber ornament, which, of course, suggests Scandinavian connection.

A small barrow at Shaugh Lake has also been explored by Mr. R. Hansford Worth, but it did not reveal any features of especial interest, beyond a platform or hearth of granite, and a rounded flint pebble; an even less result attended the opening by him of one on Cosdon Beacon.

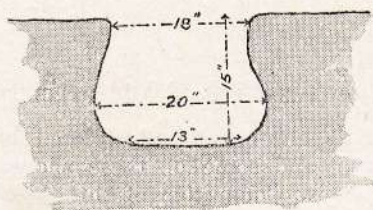
EXPLORATION OF A CAIRN IN STANNON BOTTOM.

In the enclosure north of Stannon is a kistvaen, marked, in the Ordnance Survey, six-inch, sheet 99, N.E. Four hundred and forty feet W.S.W. of this, in the direction of Stannon Tor, is a small cairn, fifteen feet in diameter, not noticed by the surveyors. Forty-six feet south of the cairn are two standing stones, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height, with their broad planes facing the monument. These, and two others in line, suggest the remains of a stone row, which was probably

destroyed to furnish the materials of an ancient hedge. If it be the remnant of a row, it will be noted that it does not point to the centre of the cairn.

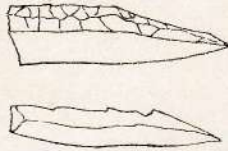


The cairn had been previously opened in the centre to a slight extent, and no kistvaen being found, the exploration was evidently abandoned. The remainder was intact. The first operation was to drive a trench through the mound (composed entirely of small stones), from N.E. to S.W. This disclosed a thick layer of wood-charcoal, resting on the surface level; and, four feet from the foot of the slope, at N.E., a circular hole, dug in the "calm," of the following figure and dimensions.



It will be noticed that this hole is urn-shaped, the mouth being eighteen inches in diameter, swelling lower down to twenty inches, with a bottom of thirteen inches, the depth being fifteen inches. This cavity was filled with wood-charcoal and ashes, among which were a few fragments of calcined bone, too small and indefinite to determine whether

of human or animal origin. It also yielded a finely-worked, pointed, yellowish, translucent flint, which may be either a portion of a long arrow-head, a spear, or dagger.



The greatest height of the cairn is three feet, and the position of the cavity is shown in the following section.



A trench was also driven from N.W. to S.E., but nothing further was found. The cairn probably marks the site of a cremation, but whether of a human being or an animal it is impossible to determine.

Several of these small cairns have been opened in recent years, and no result has accrued. It should be borne in mind that they require very complete investigation, and, with the experience of the Stannon Bottom example, the whole of the "calm" covered by the cairn should be most carefully examined for similar cavities.

(ROBERT BURNARD.)

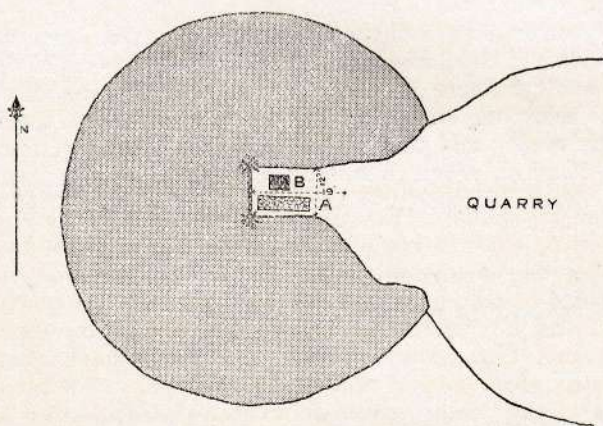
EXPLORATION OF A BARROW IN THE PARISH OF HALWILL.

There are large numbers of unexplored barrows in the county of Devon, and some of these should be taken in hand by the Barrow Committee of this Association.

As a contribution in this direction, I give the following particulars of the partial exploration of a barrow in the parish of Halwill, which I was enabled to perform through the kindness of W. J. Harris, Esq., of Halwill Manor.

There are about a dozen round barrows on this property: most of these I have seen, and all seem to be intact as far as the interior is concerned; but all appear to be gradually disappearing by being ploughed down. There were doubtless

more, but these have entirely been shaved down under the plough, leaving but faint traces behind. The barrow examined is in a field known as Burrow Park Tolly, and lies close to the road leading from Halwill railway station to the Manor House. A quarry has been opened (now disused) on the eastern side of the barrow, and has bitten a considerable piece out of the circumference, but without in any way touching the central portion of the monument, which stands five feet high in the centre above ground level. After clearing the opening nearest the quarry down to the level of the subsoil, a trench was driven, twenty feet long, twelve feet wide, and five feet deep, in a westerly direction, and to the centre of the barrow.



PLAN OF BARROW IN A FIELD KNOWN AS BURROW PARK TOLLY, PARISH OF HALWILL, DEVON.

Present diameter of barrow, 78 feet; original diameter probably 60 feet.

× Face of cutting in which pottery, bones, and amber pendant were found.

A, platform of small flat stones, 12' x 6' and one foot thick.

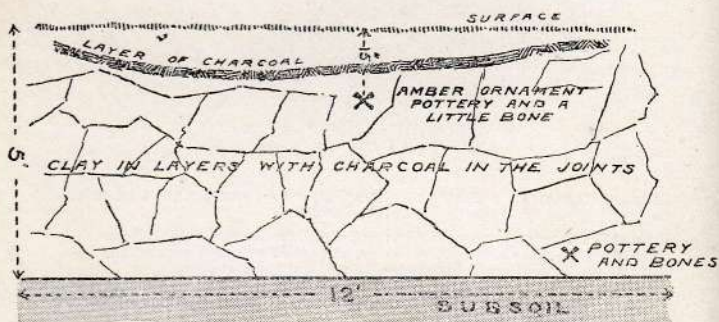
× B, pit 4' 6" x 3' and 4' deep, dug into subsoil, and full of "meat" earth and fragments of calcined animal bones. Shaded portions of barrow not explored.

This disclosed a platform of small flat stones, twelve feet long, six feet wide, and one foot thick, resting on the "meat" earth. It was strewn with "gobs" of wood-charcoal of a very fibrous nature, and resembling the kind of charcoal to be obtained from furze, and covered with wood ashes. The stones of this platform showed signs of firing. Close to this platform was a pit, four and a half feet by three feet, and four feet deep, dug out of the subsoil, and full of "meat" earth mixed with fragments of calcined animal bones.

The barrow was made of stiff clay, and some of this, near the platform, was burnt so hard as to resemble pottery. Nothing more was found, either around the platform or in the pit. Unfortunately, it was impossible to sift anything, for the clay was too heavy and plastic; but every shovel-full was carefully watched and overhauled before it was thrown on one side.

Careful scrutiny of the face of the western cutting, however, yielded an amber ornament, some fragments of pottery, and a few small pieces of calcined bones, fifteen inches below the surface; whilst, close to the subsoil, more pottery and bones were found. The clay from this face was carefully removed in small chunks, and closely examined, but nothing further was discovered.

The barrow presented the appearance of having been made with layers of clay, on each of which a fire had been kindled; then another layer of clay, and another fire, until, nine inches below the surface of the top of the barrow, the last fire was made; and this is represented by a band of fibrous wood-charcoal, seven feet long, and three to four inches thick, covering apparently the whole of the summit of the mound.



BARROW IN BURROW PARK TOLLY, HALWILL.

Face of cutting shown at $\begin{matrix} \cdot \times \\ | \\ \cdot \times \end{matrix}$ in previous figure, showing position of amber ornaments, pottery, and bones.

No interment was found; and, although but a small proportion of the barrow has been explored, the indications are that the interesting portion has been exhausted.

The bone fragments were submitted to Professor Stewart, of the Royal College of Surgeons, who pronounced them to be of animal origin.

The pottery was seen by Sir Wollaston Franks, who stated

that it was similar to sepulchral specimens associated with the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. It is hand-made, three-quarters of an inch thick, black on the inner surface. The paste is well made, hard burnt, and of the clay of the district, with very little sand to strengthen it.

The amber ornament is a pear-shaped pendant, three-quarters of an inch long. Unfortunately the perforated top is missing. It is exactly similar to that figured in *Archæologia*, vol. xliii. page 501, "Objects found in a tumulus at Lake."
(ROBERT BURNARD.)