

Fig. 1.

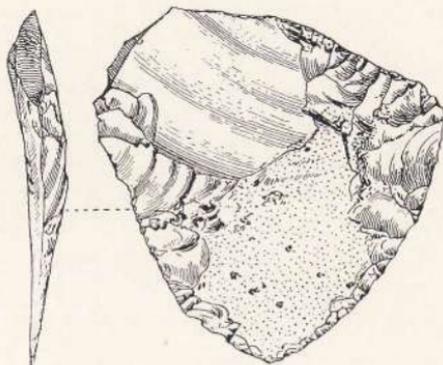
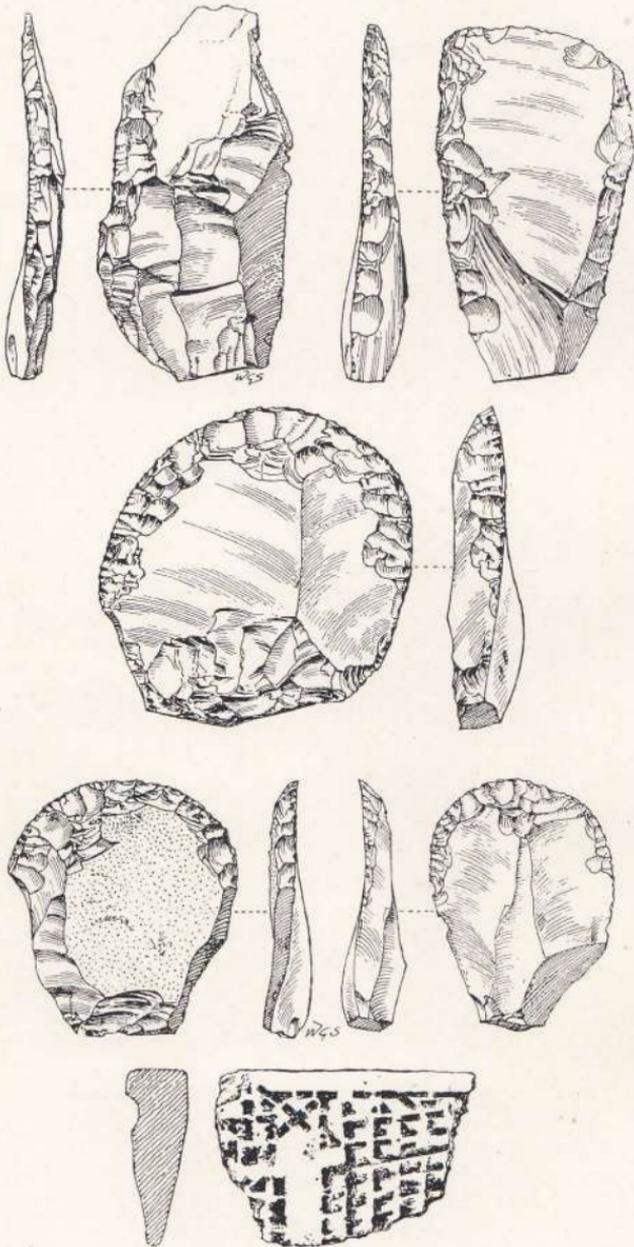


Fig. 2.

Flint Knife, Lake Head Kistvaen.

LAKE HEAD KISTVAEN.
Flint Knives and Scrapers.



Fragments of Pottery.

SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

SEVENTEENTH REPORT of the Committee, consisting of Mr. P. F. S. Amery, Rev. S. Baring-Gould, Dr. Brushfield, Mr. R. Burnard, Mr. P. O. Hutchinson, Mr. J. Brooking Rowe, and Mr. R. Hansford Worth, appointed to collect and record facts relating to Barrows in Devonshire, and to take steps, where possible, for their investigation.

Edited by R. H. WORTH, Hon. Secretary.

(Read at Honiton, August, 1898.)

YOUR Committee presents but a short report this year. The most noteworthy feature is, that from the results obtained in exploring the kistvaen at Lake Head Hill it may be gathered that many kistvaens hitherto passed over as having been previously rifled will well repay investigation.

This is being systematically taken in hand by the Committee at various parts of Dartmoor, and results of some value have already been obtained. Inasmuch however as no one district has yet been completely investigated, these results are held over until next year.

Your Committee is endeavouring to collect information as to the existence of unopened barrows, and as to the results known to have been obtained from such barrows as have been opened within living memory. A short report from one district is given herewith as an example of the nature and character of the information desired.

EXPLORATION OF A KISTVAEN ON LAKE HEAD HILL, POSTBRIDGE.

There is a small kistvaen on that part of Lake Head Hill which is included in sheet 99 S.W. 6-inch survey. It is not shown in any of the sheets hitherto published, but will be included in future editions. The accompany-

ing plan illustrates construction and conveys dimensions. This small kist stands like a box, with about half its height showing above the surface of the ground. Its extreme depth is 2 feet. The cover-stone has been removed. (Plate I. fig. 1.) No trace of a surrounding circle is visible, but there are slight remains of the once existing barrow. It had been opened at some unknown period, but as there seemed to be a good deal of undisturbed soil immediately contiguous to the inside walls, I determined to clear it out and subject the interior to a close search.

The result was very gratifying, for no less than three flint knives and three scrapers of the same material were found packed in close against the S.S.E. end stone of the kist. (See illustration, Plate I. fig. 2, and Plate II.) The scrapers are apparently quite unused, and are very fine specimens. One of the knives by its shape suggests the idea of a spear-head. It may however be safer to include it in the knife class.

In addition to these implements about thirty small potsherds were found representing two vessels, one evidently being a large urn, and the other a small food vase. The pottery is of the usual type, and the vessels were hand-made.

The small specimen was considerably ornamented, judging from a portion of the rim which is herein illustrated. (Plate II.)

Some wood charcoal was found, but no trace of bones or bone-ash.

When originally rifled the kist was not entirely cleared out around the sides, so that the flint implements were not discovered.

The urns were probably broken up, leaving some of the sherds in the bottom of the kist.

The small heap of debris which either came from the interior of the kist or formed part of the barrow was carefully examined, but nothing was found.

The large urn evidently held the cremated remains, and the small example the offering of food. The interment indicates the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age—the same period as the hut circles which have been explored by the Dartmoor Exploration Committee. (ROBERT BURNARD.)

Lew Trenchard.—Galford Down, a dilapidated and unopened cairn.

Maristow.—Middle Raddon, a large tumulus at apex of hill, much defaced and trampled by cattle, unopened, on the property of J. Tremayne, Esq.

Lydford.—Gallows Hill, a fine tumulus, unopened.

Exbourne.—A large tumulus, unopened, on the property of J. S. Tattershall, Esq., Court Barton.

Okehampton, near "Roman Road," two or more cairns unopened, on the property of Mrs. Trevor Roper.

Bridestowe.—O. S. lxxxviii. N.W., beside road from Bridestowe to station, on left side in field opposite guide post, and where marked 722, a barrow so ploughed down that it would not be noticed, but that it is indicated on an early 16th century map of the Bidlake Estate, in possession of Rev. J. B. Wollacombe, as Crossheath Burrow, and drawn on it. Crossheath, so called on the same map, has 2 crosses indicated as then standing, where is now Leawood plantation. Crossheath Farm, now in ruins, is now set on O. S. as Cocksheath. (S. BARING-GOULD.)