

TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT of the Committee—consisting of Mr. P. F. S. Amery, Rev. S. Baring-Gould, Dr. Brushfield, Mr. R. Burnard, Mr. J. Brooking-Rowe, Rev. J. F. Chanter, and Mr. R. Hansford 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. HANSFORD WORTH, Secretary of the Committee.

(Read at Axminster, 24th July, 1907.)

YOUR Committee regrets that the weather has again, as it has frequently in past years, materially interfered with the work which falls within their sphere.

The present Report includes:—

- (1) The exploration of barrows on Martinhoe Common.
- (2) The record of a rifled kistvaen in the Plym Valley, near the Drizzlecombe group of menhirs and stone rows.

MARTINHOE COMMON.

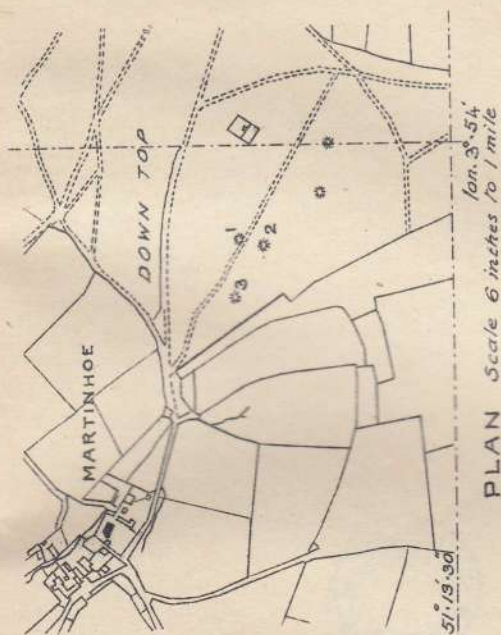
Both the Rev. J. F. Chanter and the Rev. R. W. Oldham have reported on the examination of these barrows, in the exploration of which they co-operated. Mr. Chanter reports:—

There is a small group of four barrows on Martinhoe Common, lat. $51^{\circ} 13' 5''$, long. $3^{\circ} 54' 30''$; they average about 30 feet diameter and 18 to 20 inches high; all show signs of previous disturbance, some of them having been almost entirely dug out and now presenting more the appearance of hut circles than cairns.

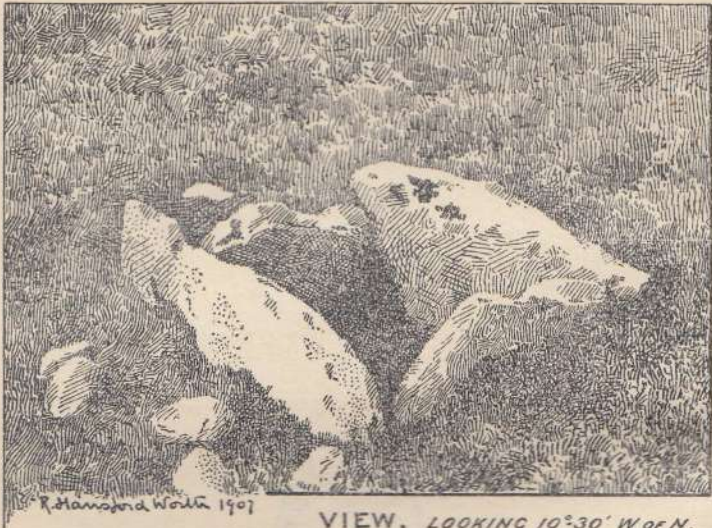
In conjunction with Captain Harold Fergus, D.S.O., and Rev. R. W. Oldham, an examination of those which showed the least signs of interference was made during the months of July and

MARTINHOE BARROWS.

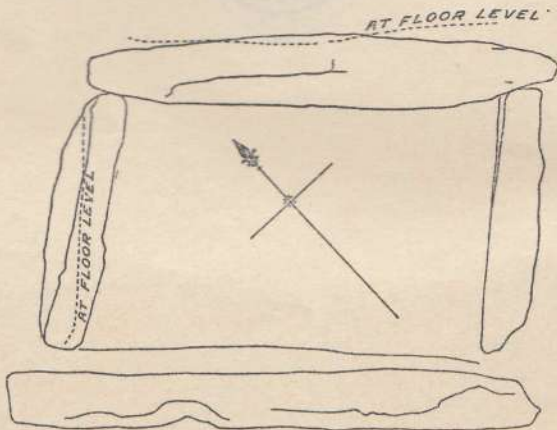
- A.B. THE LINE OF FORMER EXCAVATION.
- C.D. THE LINE OF EXCAVATION JULY, 1906.
- E.E. FINE WHITE SAND.
- F.F. DARK SAND AND LOAM.
- Q.Q. STONES.



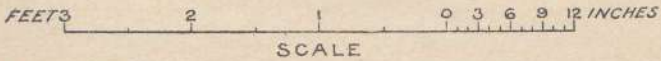
DRIZZLECOMBE



VIEW, LOOKING 10°30' W of N.



PLAN



R H WORTH. 1907.

August, 1906; trenches 2 feet 6 inches wide were driven in at ground-level. All the material passed through proved to have been previously disturbed, and consisted of stones and peaty soil indiscriminately mixed up in about equal proportions, nothing of any interest being found except a few bits of charcoal. The barrows had evidently originally consisted of small cairns of stones over interment pits, on top of which there had been a covering of turf and soil.

The very wet and rough weather this spring has prevented any further work on any of the barrows in the Exmoor district.

The Rev. R. W. Oldham's Report, accompanied by a section of one of the barrows, has been mislaid, and that gentleman retained no copy, but forwards the following note:—

MARTINHOE BARROWS.

In July, 1906, Captain Harold Fergus, D.S.O., and the Rev. R. W. Oldham opened three barrows on the common at Martinhoe, about half a mile east from Martinhoe Church. A trench about 2 feet wide was dug right through and down to the level of the surrounding soil, and carefully sifted, but nothing was found except some charcoal. All the barrows in the neighbourhood had evidently been opened before.

PLYM VALLEY.

Your Committee's Secretary has previously described with plans and sketches all the then known kistvaens in the Plym Valley. It seemed that no example could well have escaped survey. But last year, on the occasion of the visit to Drizzlecombe of the members of the Plymouth Institution and Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society, another, and rather fine, specimen was discovered.

It lies in lat. $50^{\circ} 29' 22''$, long. $3^{\circ} 59' 5\frac{1}{2}''$, not far out of a line due north of the cairn known as the Giant's Basin, about 1740 feet from it, and within 140 feet of the small stream which occupies Drizzlecombe. Its length is 36 inches, its width 25 inches, and its depth before excavation 28 inches. The direction of its longer sides lies $47^{\circ} 30'$ W. of N. A thorough re-excavation has not yet been made. The accompanying illustration gives a plan and view.