

SIXTY-SIXTH REPORT ON BARROWS

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AVON VALLEY, above *Brent Moor House*.

A kistvaen which was referred to in the last report ; I now add details as to position, Devon, six inch *O.S.* cxiii, *S.E.*, lon. $3^{\circ}-51'-35''$, lat. $50^{\circ}-27'-38\frac{3}{4}''$. It is on the right bank of the Avon, about 50 feet below the intake weir of the Kingsbridge and Salcombe water-board. Since this weir is not at present marked on the *O.S.* the following particulars may be useful :—a little stream which flows past the south end of *Riders Rings* is a tributary of the *Avon*, which it joins on the right bank. A hundred and seventy feet below the junction and a little under fifty feet west of the west bank of the *Avon* lies the kistvaen. Although the view given in the sixty-fifth report gives the appearance of a fairly well preserved kist, the removal of one sidestone has so far disturbed the structure that a plan would give little information additional to the view ; the end stones, in especial lean very considerably. The view now given (Plate 1) will show the extent to which the stones have been disturbed. The one feature which can be recovered with accuracy is the direction of length which is $N.61^{\circ}W$. The kistvaen stands in a small cairn which, as is occasionally found, consists of relatively large stones.

Being so near the river it is necessarily on low ground ; this is by no means unique ; well up the *Langcombe Brook*, in the valley of the *Plym*, there are two kists of which one, now commonly called *Grims Grave*, is but 180 feet north of the stream, its companion lies 125 feet south of the brook. From these and other examples it is certain that the idea of burying in high places had no universal acceptance. The fact that hill-top cairns are necessarily more conspicuous has given them a false predominance.

MEAVY VALLEY, near *Stanlake*.

I am indebted to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Watkin of Torquay for the knowledge of a kistvaen which lies between the *Princetown* road and the extreme western angle of the enclosures of *Stanlake Farm*. It is less than 100 yards from the road, and it is difficult to understand why it has hitherto been overlooked. But it may be that it has not been uncovered

until comparatively recently, say within the past twenty years. The cairn in which it stands contains some useful stone, and has certainly been robbed, perhaps by road contractors. The position is, Devon, six inch *O.S.*, *cvi. S.E.*, lon. $4^{\circ}-1'-32''$, lat. $50^{\circ}-31'-9''$. The cairn is eighteen feet in diameter, and about three feet in height; there are remains of a retaining circle. On a bearing $S.26^{\circ}E.$, at a distance of 84 feet, centre to centre, lies another cairn, 21 feet in diameter, in which no kist can be seen, and to which there does not appear to have been a retaining circle.

The kistvaen is now represented by two side and one end stones; there is no trace of the cover. Its inside dimensions were probably 3 feet by a little less than 2 feet, and the direction of length is $N.19^{\circ}W.$ See Plate 2, in which fig. 1 is a view, looking $N.9^{\circ}E.$, and fig. 2, a plan.

CORRINGDON BALL GATE GROUP.

The recent discovery of a stone row near *Corringdon Ball Gate*, having the same general direction as the rows between the *East* and *West Glazes*, makes it desirable to collect the data as to the sepulchral remains in this immediate neighbourhood; and I have prepared a plan, Plate 3.

The eastern post of *Ball Gate* is a convenient point of origin; distant 125 feet from which, in a direction $N.11^{\circ}W.$ lies the centre of a ring-cairn (cairn 1), the diameter of which is 69 feet. As is the case with all ring-cairns of which I have knowledge on Dartmoor, its form is not original, but has been derived from a heaped cairn by the removal of the bulk of the stone.

One hundred and twenty feet from the centre of the cairn, and bearing a few degrees south of west, are the remains of a dolmen (or large kistvaen). This was obviously at one time covered by a considerable mound, which has been thrown aside to the north of the dolmen, and now forms a marked bank (Plate 1). It would appear that a considerable part of this mound consisted of soil, and that it was thrown aside in the search for treasure rather than for roadmaking or walling material.

Three hundred and eighty feet from the dolmen, on a bearing $N.61^{\circ}W.$ is the centre of a cairn (cairn 2), 45 feet in diameter; and standing at the head of a double row, the direction of which is $S.55^{\circ}W.$ This row extends to within 80 feet of east bank of the *East Glaze*. A gap of 380 feet follows, at the end of which is a small cairn (cairn 3), 22 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height. Cairn 3 lies in the line of the row attached to cairn 2, if produced.

From cairn 3 runs a single row, 507 feet in length and bearing $S.48^{\circ}-30'W.$, thus deviating slightly from the direction of length of the row attached to cairn 2.

Forty-one feet to the south east of the centre of cairn 3 lies the centre of a retaining circle of 37 feet internal diameter ; and from this circle run two triple rows, bearing respectively, $S.50^{\circ}-30'W.$, and $S.53^{\circ}-30'W.$

If we regard this assemblage as a group, then its present length is 1,650 feet.

Two questions arise ; how are we to interpret stone rows which point to barrows or cairns, to which they do not extend ; and, are the members of the sepulchral group, with which we are dealing, all of one age.

As to the first question ; there are three Dartmoor rows which point with precision to more or less distant cairns or barrows. Each has a barrow directly associated with it at one end, and, at the other end points to a distant barrow.

These rows are :—

(20) *Down Tor*, pointing to a barrow approximately 700 feet distant.

(24) *Sharpitor*, pointing to a barrow 255 feet distant.

(59 I) *Brent Fore Hill*, pointing to a barrow 380 feet distant.

At *Down Tor* the row appears to be formally terminated at either end ; a barrow at one end, and a relatively small menhir at the other.

At *Sharpitor* the row is certainly formally terminated at either end ; a barrow at one end and a blocking stone at the other.

At *Brent Fore Hill* the row is terminated by a barrow at one end, and has now no formal termination at the other ; hence it might have continued to its target barrow ; but there is no trace of any such continuation, and the levels of the ground are quite unfitted for its construction. I think, considering the precision which is attained in each instance, that the alignment on the distant barrows must be regarded as purposeful ; or, in the alternative, that the distant barrows were later work, and were purposely constructed to align with the direction of the rows. But we have no ground on which to assign a reason.

The second question turns on one feature alone. There is no reason to question the identity of period in the matter of the cairns and stone-rows, but the dolmen needs consideration.

Celtic in origin, the word *dolmen* needs definition ; translated it is *table stone*, and can be applied to any flat stone set on vertical supports ; essentially the cover and sides of every kistvaen constitute a dolmen. In practice the term is of restricted use, and the idea of magnitude attaches to the dolmen ; in other words, it is, relatively to the kistvaen, a large structure.

But where is the line of distinction to be drawn? Objects accepted as kistvaens range, on Dartmoor, from a mere box of internal dimensions 21 inches by 13 inches and 14 inches in depth (*Langstone Moor*) to 57 inches by 27 inches and 31 inches in depth (*Black Newtake*). I omit restorations, which I regard as doubtful. The dolmen (or kistvaen) near *Ball Gate*) may have been a little over 84 inches in length and 63 inches in width.

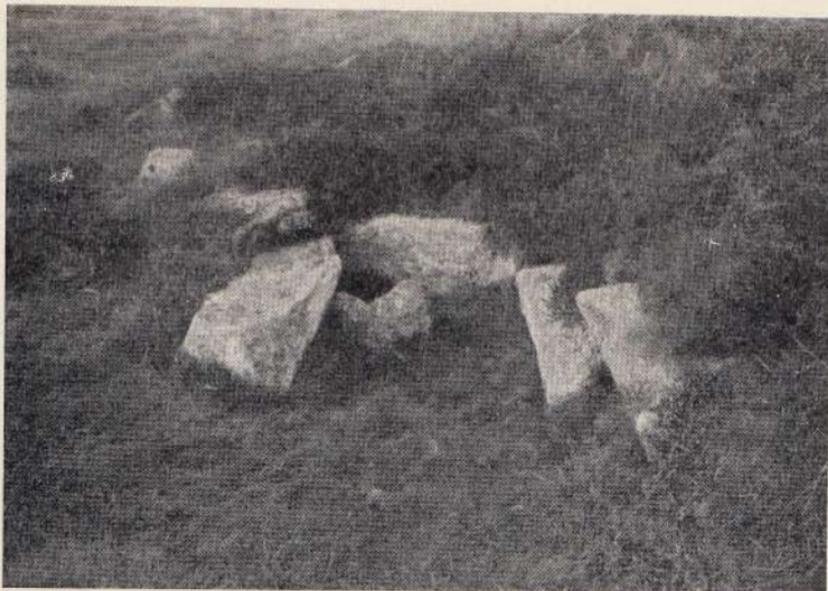
Authorities who should have known better have set another criterion, that the space beneath the cover-stone should not be wholly enclosed, especially that the supporters, or the sides, should be no more than three in number. Thus Paul Gruyer (*Menhirs et Dolmens bretons*) writes: "qui est une table faite d'un bloc plat, posé sur une triple rangée de pierres levées, le tout formant grotte." Which, translate it as one will, involves that at least one end is open, and may often be true when the covering barrow or cairn has been removed, and the chamber broken into.

The dolmens in Brittany have yielded grave goods consistent with the Early Bronze Age. I conclude that the object which in these notes I have called a *dolmen* (with intent to raise the question discussed) is not in its nature other than a kistvaen, and is probably of the same period as the other remains with which it is associated. Hitherto I have always referred to it as a kistvaen, and to that nomenclature I return.



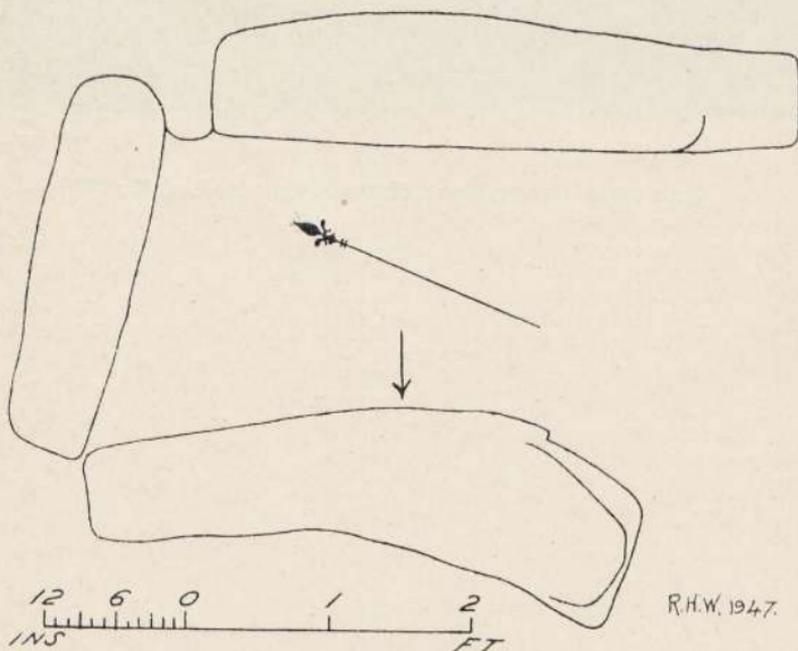
R. H. Worth

KIST NEAR BRENT MOOR HOUSE. View looking N.28°W.



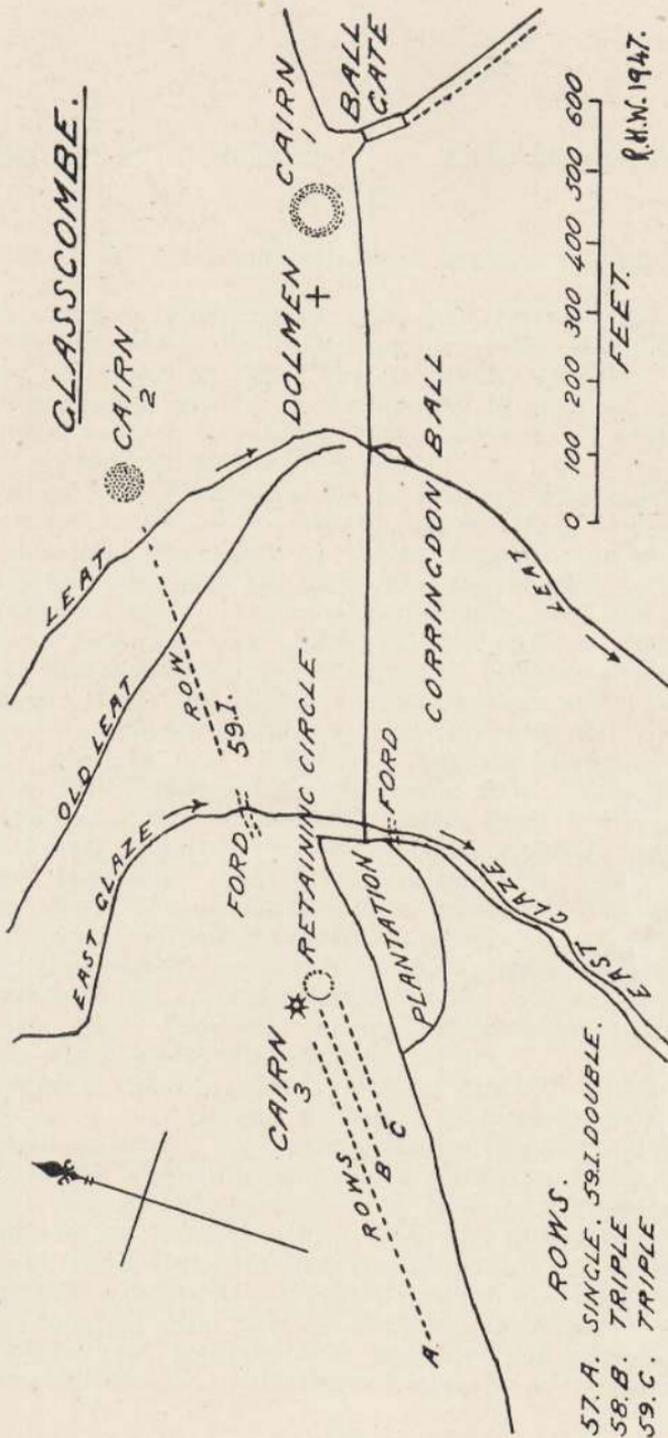
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FIG. 1. KIST NEAR STANLAKE. View looking N.9.°E.

STANLAKE.



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FIG. 2. KIST NEAR STANLAKE. Plan.



Sixty-sixth Barrow Report—To follow Plate 2.