

FOURTEENTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

FOURTEENTH REPORT of the Barrow Committee, consisting of Mr. P. F. S. Amery, Dr. Brushfield, Mr. P. O. Hutchinson, Mr. E. Parfitt, Mr. J. Brooking Rowe, and Mr. R. N. Worth (Secretary), 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 Plymouth, July, 1892.)

THE Committee are indebted to Mr. R. Hansford Worth, C.E., for the following notes on kistvaens, &c., observed by him in the valleys of the Meavy, Yealm, Torry, and Erme :

“Within the past few years a kistvaen has been uncovered at Nuns Cross Farm and totally destroyed. No relics were found. William Hooper told me that the cover stone of the kist had long been exposed on the surface of the field, and that one day when the necessity for just such a stone arose he took this up, and to his surprise uncovered the kistvaen. Some effort seems to have been made to examine the spot and unearth any relics, but without success.

“Numerous cairns are scattered over the slope of Shell Top, and one crowns the summit of Pen Beacon. The last has been much disturbed, having been interfered with by the Ordnance Surveyors among others. It has a diameter at the base of about 69 feet, and at the summit of about 32 feet. Immediately to the west is a square hut, evidently built from stone appropriated from the cairn. It measures 32 feet by 13 feet outside, and is of most uncertain date.

“Near Yadsworthy, in the Erme Valley, there is a stone circle of about 33 feet in diameter, surrounding a barrow which has at some time been opened. Connected with this

is a stone row. Exactly in a line between the circle at the end of the row and the mass of rocks crowning the tor to the eastward, and 280 feet nearer the tor, is a smaller but more perfect circle of 18 feet diameter, with nine stones still standing and apparently one side of the kistvaen in place.

"There is another circle with stone row attached near Hook Lake.

"On Stalldon Moor is a circle of large diameter, from which a stone row extends for over two miles. There are the remains of a barrow in the circle, and at about a third of a mile the row passes to the east of a large stone cairn. The row extends to a tumulus on Green Hill, which most likely contains the remains of a kistvaen. There is a broken stone on the surface, which has either been a small menhir or a kist cover.

"Kistvaens are not so numerous in the Erme as in the Plym Valley. There is a fine example on the left bank about a mile and a half above Harford, which has a circle of stones round it, one exceptionally broad. The circle is 14 feet in diameter, and consists of seven stones, still standing, the largest 4 feet 3 inches wide by 3 feet 3 inches high. The kist is 3 feet 11 inches long and 3 feet deep, the breadth varying from 2 feet at the south-eastern end to 1 foot 4 inches at the north-western. 100 feet up the hill in the direction of the length of the kist is a single large stone, and 100 feet down the hill in the exact line of the last mentioned, and the largest stone in the circle, is the centre of a barrow of 20 feet diameter.

"There is another kist near Erme Pound; and another on the hill above Hortonsford Bottom—this last on a mound with a circle of stones surrounding it.

"On the left bank of the Wallabrook in the Plym Valley is a hitherto unrecorded kistvaen which stands on a mound 8 feet 6 inches in diameter, and its length lies north-west by west. The north-east and two end stones are in place, but the south-west has fallen aside a little, and the cover stone, which is unbroken, lies on the edge of the mound to the north-west. The original dimensions of the kist were 2 feet 3 inches in length by 1 foot 5 inches in width and 2 feet deep. The greatest length of the cover stone is 5 feet and the greatest width 2 feet 4 inches."

Near Down Tor, connected with a stone row, is a large circle averaging 35 feet in diameter, enclosing a barrow. The row points towards a stone cairn, between 50 and 60 feet in diameter.