

FORTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

FORTY-FIRST REPORT of the Committee—consisting of the Rev. S. Baring-Gould, Mr. T. Cann Hughes, Preb. 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.

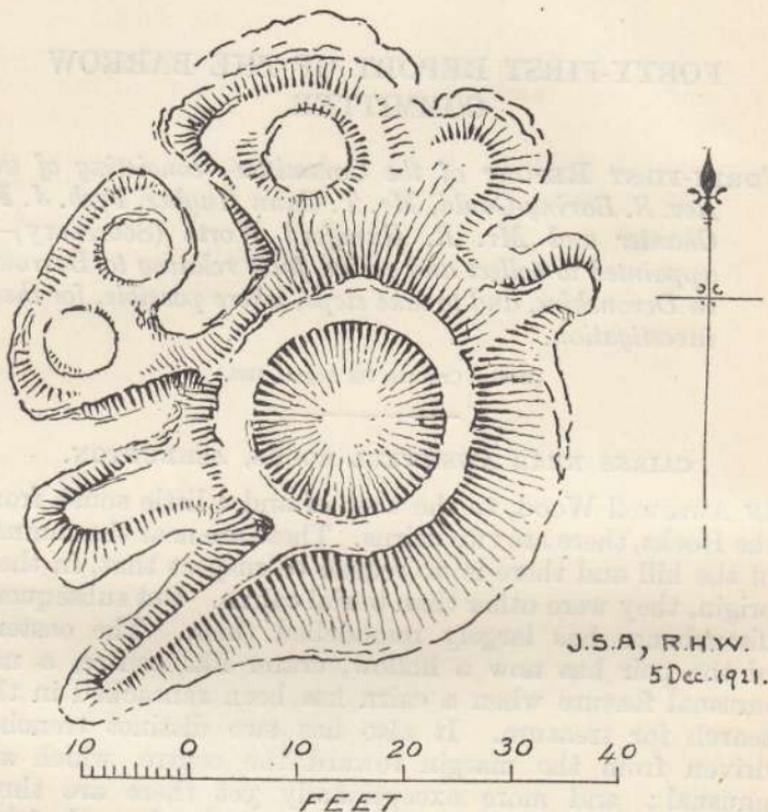
(Read at Crediton, 9th August, 1922.)

CAIRNS NEAR AWSEWELL ROCKS, ASHBURTON.

IN Awsewell Wood, to the west of and a little south from the Rocks, there are two cairns. These are near the summit of the hill and there is no reason to suspect that, in their origin, they were other than burial cairns. But subsequent disturbance has largely remodelled them. The eastern of the pair has now a hollow, crater-like centre, a not unusual feature when a cairn has been ransacked in the search for treasure. It also has two distinct trenches driven from the margin toward the centre, which are unusual; and more exceptionally yet there are three small round chambers, much like hut-circles, formed within the margin, and two other irregular openings have been formed. At what date these changes were wrought is unknown. Within Mr. J. S. Amery's recollection the cairn has always stood much as it now is. Mr. Amery and the Secretary made, last December, a survey of this cairn, which is here reproduced. The height of the heap is between 7 and 8 ft., its diameter at the base is about 60 ft.

The Western Cairn, as Mr. Amery first knew it, had an even more unusual feature. The crest was flat, but around the summit there was a dry stone wall, about 3 ft. high and 3 ft. 6 in. wide at the base. Of this wall, which extended about two-thirds around the circumference, the only part now reasonably well preserved is a few feet in length on

the west side. The diameter of the cairn at the top is 28 ft. 6 in., at the base 51 ft. 6 in., and its height is about 7 ft. There is no hollow in the crest.



Plan of Eastern Cairn, Awsewell Rocks.

Both cairns will be found marked on the six-inch Ordnance Survey of Devon, on quarter sheet, CVIII. S.W. The location of the eastern cairn is, longitude $3^{\circ} 47' 4''$ W. and latitude $50^{\circ} 31' 52''$ N., approximately.

CIRCLE ON YELLOWMEAD DOWN, SHEEPSTOR.

On Yellowmead Down, near Sheepstor, the Secretary some years ago found a stone circle. Only three stones were then standing, but the fallen stones, although mostly overgrown, were clearly traceable as mounds. It was obvious that there were at least three, approximately, concentric circles. Last year the Rev. H. H. Breton determined to uncover the fallen stones and to re-erect

them for their better preservation. The result proved that the circle was fourfold, the innermost member being obviously the retaining circle of a barrow or cairn long since levelled or removed. It also appeared that there had been a stone row, leading away from the circle, but not pointing truly to its centre. The restoration was very faithfully done, and no stone was shifted from the point at which it lay; save only one, which was lying some distance away from the circle and was brought up and placed in a pit from which a stone was missing, which was in the outermost circle. Strictly this is perhaps a flaw in the otherwise perfect system of restoration adopted, but it is not without reasonable excuse, and certainly should not mitigate our gratitude for Mr. Breton's very valuable work, and for the interest taken and assistance freely given by Mr. Manning, of Yellowmead Farm, and his son. Since the innermost circle clearly indicates the former existence of a barrow it is thought well to describe the monument in this Committee's Report.

The Secretary has prepared a plan, reproduced herewith. The innermost circle has a diameter, from out to out, of about 21 ft. 9 in. It now consists of 21 stones, but there are gaps and there may have been some 8 or 9 more. The stones are rather closely set, many only a few inches apart. The greatest breadth of each stone lies along the circumference of the circle. The broadest measures 36 in. along the circumference, is 8 in. thick, and stands 20 in. above ground. The tallest stone measures 23 in. in breadth, 15 in. in thickness, and 36 in. in height. The greatest diameter of the second circle is 39 ft. 6 in., its least 37 ft. 2 in. There are now 31 stones, there may formerly have been about 10 more. Perhaps the stones originally averaged about 18 in. apart; they are as a whole smaller than those of the inner circle and none of them stand more than 18 in. in height; one of the largest is 23 in. wide by 6 in. thick and 12 in. high; this circle has distinctly the smallest stones of any, on the average.

The third circle has a greatest diameter of 50 ft. 6 in., and its least is 46 ft. 4 in. It is not quite concentric with the second circle, approaching to within less than 2 ft. of it on the west side, while being more than 6 ft. distant from it on the east. The present number of stones is 28, but there were once, in all probability, several more, perhaps 14. The size of the stones is about intermediate

between those of the stones in the first and second circles. One of the largest is 28 in. broad, 9 in. thick, and 32 in. high; but the more ordinary heights range between a foot and 18 in.

The fourth, and outermost, circle has a greatest diameter of 68 ft., its least is 63 ft. 4 in. This is not concentric with the third circle, from which it is distant—on the west or south-west a little over 5 ft., and on the east 9 ft.

The result of the accumulated eccentricities is that from the centre of the first circle the margin of the fourth is distant westward about 27 ft. 6 in., and eastward about 36 ft. The eccentricity of the fourth circle is even greater along a diameter about W.N.W. On this line toward the south the distance from the centre of the first circle is 39 ft. and toward the north it is less than 29 ft. There are now 24 stones in this circle (one of which has been brought in from outside); there are obvious gaps, and it would take at least 13 more stones to fill them. The stones are the largest in the whole monument; the finest is 40 in. in width, 17 in. in thickness and 44 in. in height; another is 46 in. by 8 in. by 36 in. Many, however, are much smaller.

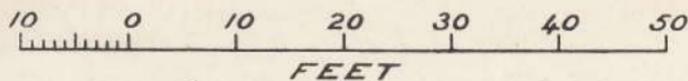
A difficult feature is the presence outside this fourth circle, to the west, of six moderately large stones which point their greatest breadths radially to the circle. If these are regarded as the first members of a row, then with the two lines which still contain four members each, there would have been an eightfold row, directed westward. No evidence of other stones exists to confirm this. The traceable double row is shown on the plan; there are indications of its former extension further westward.

Taken as a whole the monument is unique on Dartmoor and is one which no student of moorland antiquities can afford to neglect. It has a companion of very ordinary type, a barrow, 10 ft. in diameter within its retaining circle, situate 161 ft. 4 in. from the centre of the first circle and bearing S. 75° E. therefrom.

Neither the circle nor the barrow finds place on the Ordnance Survey, the six-inch sheet is Devon CXII, N.E., and the location of the fourfold circle is longitude 4° 0' 34½" W. and latitude 50° 29' 3" N.

R. H. WORTH.

YELLOWMEAD DOWN.



P. Mansford Worley
1922.