

ART. VII.—*Stone Circle, Summerhouse Hill, Yealand Conyers.* By Lt.-Col. O. H. NORTH, D.S.O., F.S.A., and J. E. SPENCE, M.B., D.P.H.

ON Summerhouse Hill, which lies to the west of Yealand Conyers, are six large limestone monoliths and a tumulus. The deposition of four of the monoliths is suggestive that they are the remains of a megalithic stone circle and, with a view to confirming this opinion, a careful survey of the site was made.

Summerhouse Hill is a limestone formation which rises to 400 feet above Ordnance datum and lies one mile north-east of Wharton Crag. The summit is a large flat plateau about 500 yards long and 200 yards wide with a gentle slope towards the south. Near the middle of the eastern side of the plateau, a summerhouse was erected about the middle of the eighteenth century, standing on a massive octagonal plinth, 40 feet in diameter and three feet in height, composed of rough limestone blocks, several of which show evidence of drilling and blasting.

A survey of the site proved that the four large monoliths lettered A to D on the plan are situated on the circumference of a circle 460 feet in diameter. On the west side of the site were a number of slight depressions in the ground, some of which appear to be the sites of stones of the circle which have been destroyed. On the east side, near the summerhouse, the ground is more even and has possibly been levelled. The area within the circle has been levelled and is now used as a cricket pitch. To the south-south-east there is an outlying stone 335 feet

from the centre of the circle and 330 feet to the west of the centre is another outlier.

On the north-western side, about 260 feet from the centre, is a depression ten feet wide and fifteen inches deep, which may be the remains of a ditch. 420 feet south-east from the centre of the circle are the remains of a tumulus which was opened by the late Mr. Ford's father when an urn was found which was afterwards unfortunately destroyed.

On the eastern side the circle approaches the limestone out-crop which marks the commencement of the declivity towards the east. Some little distance down this slope below the summerhouse is a large boulder which may possibly have been one of the stones of the circle which has been dislodged and rolled down the hill.

The monoliths are of local limestone well weathered and varying in size from seven to eleven feet long, three to six feet in width and four and a half to five and a half feet high, weighing from five to ten tons. The stone A is split and shows evidence of drilling and blasting.

The plinth of the summerhouse is of stone similar to the megaliths; probably the missing stones of the circle were broken up to form the plinth when the summerhouse was constructed.

