

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT OAKES PARK, NORTON, DERBYSHIRE.

Second Report.

By W. A. TIMPERLEY, M.B., Ch.B., M.Sc.

A PRELIMINARY notice of extensive remains found at Norton in 1946 was published in this journal for 1951. The "Q" holes which are described here are part of these remains.

As we found them, the holes were circular depressions in the ground, from 3 to 6 ft. deep, with a raised berm around part of the edge, internal diameter from 9 to 14 ft., external diameter about 22 ft., with a gutter like outlet through the berm. So far we have found 86 of them. For the present we call them "Q" holes because of their shape, and because we have not yet established their original purpose or age.

All are placed on sloping ground, mostly along the edges of ravines in woodlands from 300 ft. to 700 ft. above sea level, and they have remained dry for the five years or so they have been under investigation.

Before any excavations were attempted the following possibilities were considered: (1) were they natural holes or (2) were they artificial? The evidence was strongly in favour of their being artificial. If so, were they (a) pits of no significance or definite purpose, (b) pits dug for farm or other work, (c) iron stone pits, (d) wells or water holes, (e) quarryings for stones, (f) outcrop workings for coal, (g) furnace pits, (h) charcoal pits, (i) military formations, (j) bomb craters, or (k) archæological formations?

There are at Norton a number of Delve Holes from which ironstone and coal have been removed, but the "Q" holes are quite distinct from these, and no reference to similar structures could be found in the literature.

However, in the spring of 1947, W.R.T., then aged 10, reported finding a hole ("Q" 1) in which dry walling could be seen, and a test hole which we dug into the centre showed ash. This "Q" hole was then excavated, and in May, 1948, on the invitation of Mrs. Bagshawe, the owner of the land, Dr. A. Court and Mr. W. H. Hanbury, both of the Derbyshire Archæological Society, visited the site. In July, 1948, together with Mr. J. B. Himsworth of the Hunter Archæological Society, they again saw it, and all agreed that the structure was of archæological importance.

INVESTIGATION OF "Q" 1.

This is in Nor Wood, latitude $53^{\circ} 19' 10''$ north, longitude $1^{\circ} 26' 50''$ west, on a slope of 1 in 20 from south to north, and was excavated between June and October, 1947.

Dimensions before excavation.

External diameter	...	21 ft.
Internal diameter	...	9 ft.
Depth	...	5 ft.
Berm height	...	$1\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

The northern part of the rim is raised by the berm about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. so as to counter the natural slope of the ground and to bring the top horizontal. The berm has a gutter 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. deep leading out of the centre of the northern edge.

The surface soil and humus was removed to expose a layer of scattered stones laying flat, the largest being 9 ins. long. This layer appeared to be purposely laid and not stones which had fallen into the hole, although it was not complete.

Beneath these stones there was a layer of fine brown sand 1 in. thick, and under this a layer of yellow clay 10 ins. thick, then a layer of deep black earth 3 ins. thick, which thickened into a globular mass 14 ins. diameter in the western part of the hole. Along the northern part of the "Q" hole at the level of the stone layer a platform of stones was exposed, and projecting into the hole from the south end there was a "tongue" of hard fired clay,

covered with larger stones. The platform was in two parts separated by a gap a foot wide. At this stage the "Q" hole presented three main features, viz.: the containing berm, stone-lined on the inside and having an interior platform-like ledge, a centrally placed tongue, and a U-shaped chamber occupying most of the hole. The stone floor and most of the wall of the platform was stained with fire. The end of the tongue was so intensely fired that the clay was baked hard to a depth of 2 ins.

Structure of outer edge. The edge of the hole was formed by sandstone slabs, laid singly except for 3 ft. or so of the north-west quadrant where they formed a wall seven layers deep, and the south-east where the edge stones had fallen into the hole.

Structure of the platform. The platform ran across the northern part of the hole, was 3 ft. below the level of the rim, and horizontal. The part to the west of the gap was built of sandstone slabs, laid one on the other, whilst the rest was formed by a clay support on which were placed stones to form the upper surface.

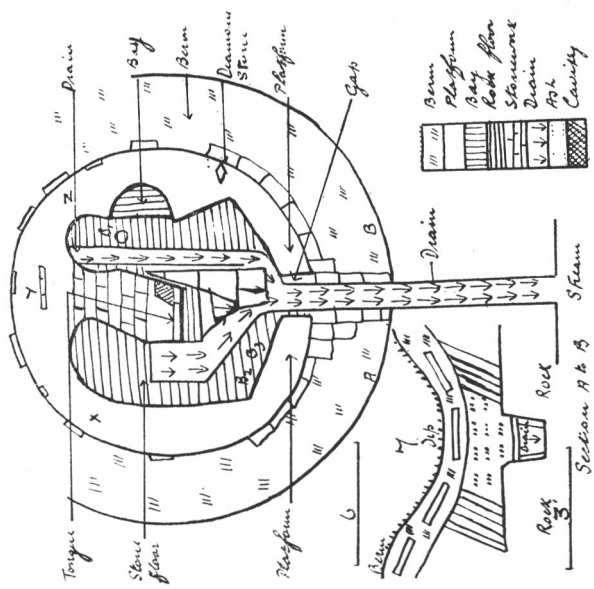
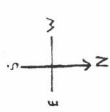
Structure of "tongue". This projected 6 ft. into the hole, and was rectangular and 3 ft. wide. It consisted of a body made of clay and small stones, with the top of a large stone at the base and four smaller stones to form the top of the tip. The sides were deeply fire-stained and the outer clay baked hard.

Stone floor. The whole of the interior was lined with slabs of unworked sandstone which were fire-stained. Resting on this floor there were several other stones which appeared to have been placed by some design in a pre-determined pattern. Two blocks 5 ins. square and 4 ins. thick were placed 4 ins. in front of the tip of the tongue equidistant from each end of it. Opposite to these, three fire-stained stones were arranged, a triangular slab 9 ins. across vertically, and supporting two other stones as a "roof". It looked as if these were placed deliberately and had not just fallen into the hole from above.

A line of floor a foot wide was removed from each chamber to show beneath it a layer of coal ash and cinders from 3 ins. to 6 ins. deep, resting on the bedrock which was deeply fire-stained.

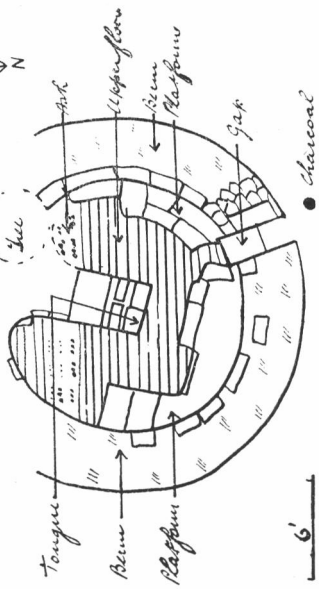
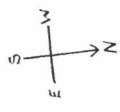
Q2
6

Plan after excavation

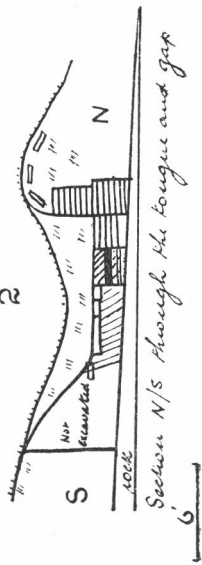


Q1
1.

Plan after excavation



Q2



The gap between the two parts of the platform was cleared, and followed through the berm. The west wall of the gap was made of small slabs of sandstone, whilst the east was formed by 2 ft. wide slabs. The trench was continued for 20 ft. to cut into a circular patch of ground, which had been disturbed by rabbits and charcoal thrown up from the lower levels. The berm was shown to consist of surface soil 6 ins. deep, then a covering of small slabs of stone, laid on brown soil 4 ins. thick, below which was clay. A foot from the gap and between the surface soil and clay, a heap of charcoal, about half a pound in weight, with pieces up to 2 ins. long and 1 in. diameter, was found. The trench exposed the bed-rock, over which was light yellow clay some 3 ft. deep, and over this the topsoil. 14 ft. from the berm, and within the area of ground disturbed by rabbits and which showed signs of charcoal having been thrown up, a layer of burnt clay 2 ins. deep, with charcoal above it, was found to stretch in a line for 7 ft.

Dr. A. Court and Mr. W. H. Hanbury saw the excavations again at this stage, but the interpretation of the findings was difficult and a large beech tree growing by the side of the "Q" hole prevented a full exposure. We therefore decided to leave this hole for a time, and to investigate another which allowed of a fuller excavation around it.

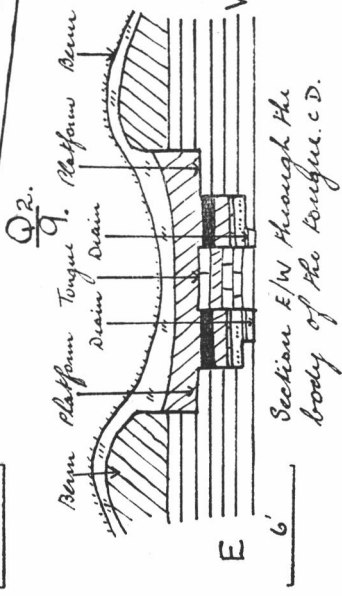
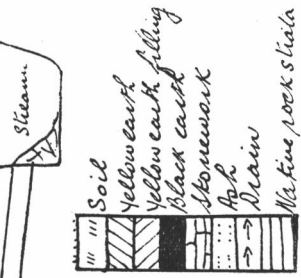
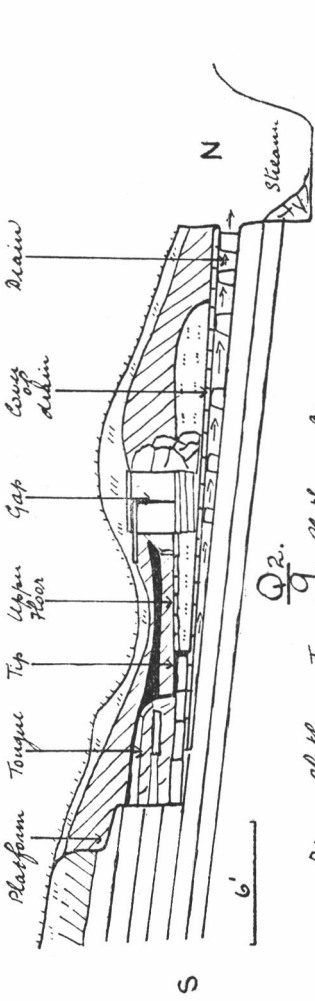
INVESTIGATION OF "Q" 2.

This hole, at latitude $53^{\circ} 19' 20''$ north, longitude $1^{\circ} 26' 40''$ west, is also in Nor Wood, by the side of a stream which flows from west to east, and on ground which slopes 1 in 10 from south to north.

Dimensions before excavation.

External diameter	...	22 ft.
Internal diameter	...	14 ft.
Highest point of berm above ground level	...	3 ft.
Deepest point of hole below ground level	...	5 ft.
Height of southern edge above top of gap	...	3 ft.
Width of gap	...	2 ft.
Length of gully from gap to edge of stream	...	10 ft.

Q.2.
Section N/S through the tongue and gap. E.F.



Section E/W through the body of the tongue. c.D.

Details of excavation October, 1948 to May, 1949.

Mr. J. B. Himsforth helped with the excavation of this site. A trench 1 ft. wide was cut from east to west, 4 ft. from the southern edge. Turf and topsoil 8 ins. deep, below which there was yellow earth in which were embedded irregularly placed sandstone slabs, formed the berm. When the vegetation was cleared over the centre part of the hole, a tongue of earth was seen to divide the hole from north to south. The trench was deepened into each half of the structure. In the east depression we found yellow earth beneath the humus and soil. Here were nine sandstone slabs up to 18 ins. long and 10 ins. wide, irregularly embedded and resting on edge, as if they had fallen into the hole from the edge above. The soil was cleared from the tongue which protruded into the hole, and showed that it was covered with regularly placed slabs of sandstone. The filling of the west half contained yellow earth and small stones, none so large as those in the eastern half.

"Q" 2 was confirmed as similar to "Q" 1 in general structure. The excavation was continued by horizontal dissection. The layer of yellow earth stretched throughout the hole to a depth of 10-12 ins. Beneath this ran a layer of black earth 4 ins. deep at the centre of the hole, deepening to 12 ins. at the periphery. Fifteen slabs of sandstone ranging from 18 ins. by 12 ins. to 7 ins. by 6 ins. were embedded in these layers, mostly in the north-east quarter. They were not placed in any order and appeared to have fallen into the hole from the edge. Beneath this layering we found yellow earth in which were small stones together with burnt clay. These rested upon a well-made floor of sandstones laid flat. The flooring was of stones from 6 ins. to 18 ins. across and 1 in. thick, placed edge to edge to form a complete covering.

The fallen stones were removed and found to have been resting against the rock wall which formed the edge of the "Q" hole here, and which was deeply fire-stained. Clearing to the line of the rim of the hole showed that this rock formed a platform running round the hole.



"Q" 2—after excavation.

Details of platform. The platform ran as a shelf 2 ft. wide inside the hole, 3 ft. below the edge of the berm, and was formed by the removal of top-earth to the level of the natural rock, which had been cut away internally to make the central chamber hole. The upper surface was level, smooth and not fire-stained. The inner face was fire-stained all round. The stone forming the inner edge was not weather worn, but sharp and angular. At the gap the rock had been cut through to form the gully or outlet. The outer limit of the platform was found when the inner edge of the berm, as shown by small stones, was reached. The eastern half was L-shaped, while the western half had the long limb broken by a semi-circular bay cut into it at its middle. The fire-staining was most intense on the gap end, where it covered the whole width of the platform (14 ins.) and narrowed down to 5 ins. of staining at the south end. A gritstone measuring 14 ins. by 10½ ins. by 15 ins. of rhomboidal shape was found on the north-west corner of the platform. One side of this stone showed fracture lines which indicate that the stone was artificially shaped. It was not fire-stained. A foot to the south of this stone and on the platform two pieces of *Lepidodendron* fossil were found. A hammer stone was found between the gritstone and the fossils.

Details of "tongue". A hump which protrudes into the hole is present in some "Q" holes before excavations, but filling with earth and vegetation obscures it in most of them. After excavation the position of this hump is taken by a "Tongue" or pier which runs into the hole. In "Q" 2 it is 3 ft. wide at its base, 5 ft. long and 30 ins. long, with its long axis 20° to the east. The upper surface is made of sandstones laid flat 6 ins. or so deep, beneath which is 18 ins. clay, resting on a bottom of sandstone strata. The tip of the tongue is 2 ft. lower than the body, and is formed by the natural rock which had been cut away to form the floor of the hole. The western half of the tip was further cut away to make a cavity 14 ins. x 9 ins. x 11 ins. The whole of the tip and both sides to a depth of 11 ins. shows fire-staining. The end of the tip was well marked with geological ripple ridges.

Details of stone floor. It consisted of sandstones up to 12 ins. wide, unworked, and laid horizontally: it was not fire-stained. In front of the centre of the gap in the platform one stone was reared on edge to form a support for a stone shaped as a heart.

Details of gap. The gap between the halves of the platform was cleared of soil, and found to consist, working downwards, of (a) a layer of stones laid flat 3 ft. in extent, (b) a rhomboidal-shaped slab of sandstone 17 ins. x 15½ ins. and 14 ins. x 14 ins. Its long axis was north-south and its short axis was east-west, whilst there was a saucer-shaped depression 9 ins. across in its centre part. (c) That part which had been cut through the rock was filled with stones arranged vertically on edge. These rested on (d) stones laid flat. The stones were not fire-stained. Immediately in front of the gap, resting on the floor were found four hammer stones.

Ash filling and lower floor. In the southern end of the west chamber, some of the stones forming the floor were arranged as a circle about 11 ins. diameter, distinct enough to focus our attention on that spot, and we lifted the central stone. Resting beneath it we found a small white object pointing to the south. When washed and cleaned it was seen to be an arrow-head shaped piece of bone. It measured 20 mm. by 11 mm. by 3.5 mm. thick weighing 33 mgs. One face was divided by a ridge into equal facets, whilst the other was cut into three facets by ridges. The shaft was 5 mm. long. There is no doubt that this is an artifact, and had been cut to shape. Beneath the bone artifact there was 1 in. of black earth, then 5 ins. of ash and cinders, resting on fire-stained rock.

The stone floor was then removed to show beneath a layer of ash and earth, 5 ins. deep at the south ends and thickening to 14 ins. at the north ends to bring the filling level so as to make the upper floor horizontal. The whole of the lower floor was deeply fire-stained. Part of it sounded hollow when struck, and a cavity or drain was found to be the cause of this.

The floor was the bedrock, and ran downwards to the gap 1 in 10. Running from the gap a channel had been cut into the rock, here 6 ins. deep. After a foot or so

it branched, one limb running 9 ins. wide to the top of the west chamber, where it had shallowed to 1 in. deep, and the other limb broadening across the front of the tongue and 2 ft. more to end midway along it, 1 in. deep. This channel was covered throughout by stones laid flat, and supported in places by stones on edge within the channel. The base of the "Q" hole has been cut out of the natural rock strata, and the usual water level is at the level of the floor. When discovered, the channel was still functioning as a drain, with water dripping from the upper part of the chambers into it, and there can be little doubt that this was its original purpose.

The east chamber was plain rock, apart from the drain, but the west floor showed a definite patterning in that four stones, with the western edge an inch above the general level of the rock, formed an isosceles triangle.

The ash consisted of small cinders, fragments of unburnt coal, charred shale (no piece more than two ounces in weight), and was indistinguishable from the ash in "Q" 1. It was sieved and carefully examined. Several pieces of charred bone were identified microscopically. Only one piece was large enough to make any attempt at classification, and this was 1 in. x $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. x $\frac{1}{4}$ in. of a curvature similar to that of a skull vault. The ash had a greasy feel, and 200 grams of it were extracted with boiling alcohol in the laboratory, yielding .7 gm. of a lecithin-like compound. Four samples of ash from other parts of the hole were similarly treated, but three gave no alcohol-soluble matter, and the one from where the bone artifact was found gave .25 gm. Less than two ounces of charcoal were found in the whole of the ash.

Samples of the ash were boiled with hydrochloric acid, and the extract tested for iron, but only a feeble reaction was obtained. Equal amounts of the subsoil were similarly tested, and yielded a much greater concentration of iron. It is very improbable that the burning was done to extract iron. The district in which the "Q" holes are situated is hilly country where there are many outcrops of coal, some within a few feet of "Q" holes, whilst opencast working is being carried on within half a mile. At any date therefore, from early prehistoric to the present

day, small amounts of coal could easily have been obtained, even without tools, for the streams which flow down the ravines beside the "Q" holes cut through the coal seams, and good coal can be prized out by hand. The presence of coal ash therefore could be accounted for at any age.

The stones which filled the gap were next removed and the outlet cleared. This showed that the drain continued through the gap into the rock, as a channel 1 ft. wide and deep and 10 ft. long through the rock, and covered with stone slabs to the edge of the stream, the bank of which is formed by the vertical face of the rock. The layering above this channel to the berm was 1 ft. of ash, over this 2 ft. of yellow earth filling, covered by a layer of stones, in the line of the berm, with 6 ins. of soil above.

The stones which covered the outlet drain were fire-stained for 3 ft. from the gap. The covering stones of the channel were supported partly by the edge of the rock channel and partly by stones placed on edge within the cavity. The channel was partly filled with alluvium and ash, but it still functioned as a drain when found. This drain is comparable with those described by Prof. V. Gordon Childe and W. G. Grant in "Stone Age Dwellings at Rinyo, Orkney" (*Proc. R.S.A. Scot.*, 1946-48, p. 16) and with those described by Sir Lindsay Scott in "The Problem of the Brocks" (*Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 1947, p. 27, and 1948, p. 46, "Gallo-British Colonies", plate iv, opp. p. 56).

The five stones, shaped as hammer stones, found within the "Q" hole, all show signs of wear at the ends. The largest, of millstone grit, weighs 2 lbs. 4 ozs.; the others are of quartzite, weighing 1 lb. 1 oz., 1 lb. 13 ozs., and 9 ozs. respectively.

Gritstones in relation to "Q" 2. Ten yards to the west of the hole there are two large gritstones, both artificially worked to shape. One 3 ft. high is set upright on the rock edge. It is roughly triangular-shaped, with a ridge cut across its southern face. Beneath it we found fire-staining of the rock, small pieces of charcoal and two flint flake tools of the Aurignacian type. The rock edge falls 4 ft. to a flat rock platform, on which is set a flat

gritstone, 5 ft. long and 3 ft. wide, its edges showing where large flakes have been knapped off to shape it.

Six yards to the east are two more gritstones, one diamond-shaped with its top having a small "head". This stone could well be a "fertility" type. Six feet further downstream there is a flat gritstone.

"Q" 2 was left for three years, and then excavations around it resumed. The weathering of the stone platform which took place makes it clear that the ash, soil filling and upper floor must have been added very soon after the structure was made, otherwise neither of the platform edges would have been left.

We are now excavating the ground at the exit of the drain, and the edge of the gap, and have found seventeen flint flake tools together with a polishing stone such as was used for working bone. This stone is 2 ins. long, 1 in. wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick, with one face worn by use. One flint is a good example of a tanged arrowhead. None of the flints shows signs of firing.

The evidence from "Q" 1 and "Q" 2 enabled us to exclude several possibilities, but not to come to a final conclusion, although it was almost certain that they were structures for ritual purposes, possibly cremation burial cavities. Further excavation at "Q" 1 would destroy three trees which we wished to preserve, and "Q" 2 showed such a well defined structure that we did not think it worth while to destroy it in order to prove further finds at this stage. The "Q" holes are situated in an area which contains megalithic arrangements (not yet reported fully), some as alignment of stones and others as groups of stones. The evidence points to both being parts of the same cultural remains. We know over eighty "Q" holes, some within the megalith groups. At least three of them contained a diamond shaped gritstone in the centre of the hole — found by probing beneath the topsoil humus filling — and we decided to excavate one of these with a gritstone in it as the most likely to give conclusive data about the stone arrangements in relation to "Q" holes.

EXCAVATION OF "Q" 3.

This is situated within a site which contains mounds, earthworks and shaped megalith arrangements. As with the other holes, the outlet of "Q" 3 ran into a slope away from the hole, but the rock stratum beneath lay at a depth of 20 ft., so that stone-flooring and platform could not here be made from the natural rock, as in "Q" 1 and 2. It is 500 ft. above sea level, on a slope of 1 in 7, and has remained dry for the five years we have known it.

The excavation was done as with "Q" 1 and "Q" 2, layer by layer over the whole of the structure, to uncover tongue, chambers, platforms, outlet and similar layerings to the first two. The pattern is the same in each hole, but "Q" 3 was wholly made by building within a hole which had been dug out of the clay, whereas the natural rock was used for parts of others. The edges were made of gritstones set into the clay, the tongue of clay and small stones on which are set larger gritstones as topping. The upper floor is of small gritstones, the platform of small sandstones on clay and the lower floor is formed by the natural shale layer, whilst the centre of the hole contains a group of upright, shaped gritstones arranged around a large gritstone, diamond shaped. The outlet was blocked by two gritstones wedged to fill it and leave a space beneath so that drainage was free. There were many gritstones in the berm and around the edges, and the excavation was continued for some yards on each side of the "Q" hole to define the arrangements. These stones should be regarded as part of the "Q" hole complex, for there is no zone of separation.

Central group of stones. There are seven stones in the centre of the hole — five set upright, one at an angle of 45°, probably a fallen upright, and one placed horizontally. These stones have been artificially shaped and placed for some precise reason. The central stone, around which the others are grouped, is gritstone, 10 ins. thick, set flat on the upper floor, with its upper surface level, and is diamond shaped. Its axes lie north-south and east-west.

To the east and west of this stone there is a triangular upright stone, and running with its long axis from the

stone to the gap is a horizontally placed stone. In the upper surface of this stone there is a saucer-shaped depression, in the centre of which a hole 1 in. square has been cut. Another triangular upright is placed between the east triangular stone and the platform. All these stones show signs of having been worked to shape by some process of "knapping". The triangular stone to the east of the centre is set directly upon a large stone placed flat upon the upper floor. There can be no doubt about the arrangement being artificial and made at the same time as the "Q" hole.

Tongue. This juts into the hole from the south end. It is 3 ft. wide and 3 ft. 5 ins. long. The body is made of small stones and clay, and the tip is formed by three larger gritstones, two set level, and a third used as a support and part of the edge.

Outer edge. The edge of the chambers is formed by gritstones about 1 ft. long set as a topping, the outer wall of the chambers being the natural clay, except in the east chamber. Here the greater part of the wall is made of a large gritstone built into it. This stone is 3 ft. high and shows curved surfaces of fracture where it has been shaped into a "T" shape, the long arm being upright.

Platform. The west platform is well defined, 2 ft. wide, and stretches half-way round the side of the chamber, where it ends in a line of stones laid to the edge of the berm. It is floored with small sandstones. The east platform is not so well preserved, and is made of gritstones. It is 2 ft. wide, runs three-quarters of the way round the chamber and ends in a line of stones set across it to the berm. In the middle of this platform the gritstones are mounted to form a semi-circular arc or bay towards the hole. As in the other "Q" holes, the platforms in the two chambers are not identical.

Layering. The upper level of the chambers is made of small gritstones which show fracture marks as if they were broken from larger stones, probably the larger ones which are fixed around the "Q" hole. Beneath this floor there is 6 ins. of yellow clay soil under which is a layer of ash from 4 ins. to 11 ins. deep, then the bottom which is the natural shale. The lower part of the soil layer is

stained by fire, and the whole of the shale floor is deeply fire-stained. The ash is composed of small pieces of coal, cinders, and some charcoal. The largest piece of coal ash is 2 ozs., and the largest charcoal $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. The coal is not fully burnt.

Coal. The presence of coal ash in the "Q" holes does not mean that they are of recent date — the other evidence points to an early age. The area in which the "Q" holes are situated is at the junction of the New Red Sandstone and the Midland Coal measures. They are on the banks of streams which have cut deep ravines through the district, and have exposed several seams of good coal. At least four of the Megalith sites are directly on top of exposed seams of coal, so that the coal must have been known to the people who erected these. Outside the ravines there are many places where outcrop coal can be found very near the surface. This, together with the deep upper soil which permits the holes to be dug and the sloping banks for drainage may be one reason why the "Q" holes are here. It is also significant that no coal ash has been found in the circular flat patches near the "Q" holes: each contains several small hearths on which charcoal is found.

Gap and Outlet. Beneath the topsoil a large flat sandstone slab was set facing the tongue, obviously purposely sited. Under this were stones, then two gritstones wedged against each other to leave a channel beneath, through which the drainage ran. Draining of "Q" 3 was secured by the hole having been dug down to the shale layer which forms the natural water table here. It is quite clear that the "Q" holes were intended to remain dry. Where natural drainage could be obtained by using the strata, no channel need be cut, but where — as in "Q" 2, the hole was dug into rock lower than the natural water table, then a drain channel was constructed. This rules out the channel in "Q" 2 as being for draught purposes: apart from this feature the channel could not function as a flue. It is a drain.

The outlet is 7 ft. long, 3 ft. wide at the top, tapering to 10 ins. at the bottom, walled by earth and stones at the edge of the berm. Three feet from the edge of the

“Q” hole a triangular stone 2 ft. high was set upright in the middle of the gully: 3 ft. distant from this stone was a smaller pear-shaped stone pointing along the centre line of the groove.

Berm. The southern half is the natural soil on which gritstones have been placed to contain the hole. The northern half is built up from the natural slope so that it becomes level with the rest. Soil and stones have been added to the ground layer and carried outwards level for 3 ft. each side, then to slope down to the periphery which is defined on the west by a ring of eleven stones, two of them upright, set in a semi-circle 21 ft. radius to the central diamond-stone of the “Q” hole.

At the south-west corner, stones are arranged in two rows at right angles for 8 ft. each side. Opposite the tongue we found a large stone 3 ft. high which had been shaped into a “body” and a “head”. When found, it was resting at an angle of 45° , but at its foot was a wedge of stones into which it fitted when pushed upright, which was probably its original position. There can be little doubt about this stone being a fertility symbol stone, and its placing directly opposite to the root of the tongue must be significant. Between this stone and the tongue we found another large stone laid flat, again roughly “bodied and headed”, with a hollow 1 ft. across at the southern end. The stone of this hollow was fire-stained.

The area on the east side of the “Q” hole contains many stones which have been shaped and arranged, and which are most probably part of the “Q”-hole complex.

Across the northern end of the berm there are from east to west: (a) a ring of stones enclosing a circular cavity 3 ft. across, (b) a saucer-shaped group $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. across, (c) a ring enclosing a hole 2 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep, (d) a ring of stones, one 2 ft. high, set upright containing a cavity 3 ft. in diameter. The northern wall of the hole *c* is formed by stones which have been built up from the lower slope, and 1 ft. away from this wall we found a stone comparable in shape to a toad. This stone is 3 ft. long, has its sides knapped to shape and part of the northern end cut away beneath to form a protruding head, in which are cut two oblong holes similar

to nostrils or eyes. It is supported by a heart-shaped stone set upright into the ground beneath, and the western edge propped up by another upright. This stone, the central diamond-shaped stone in the "Q" hole, and the two "headed" stones opposite the tongue are directly in line.

When found, all these stones were covered with earth, and it is certain that they are not naturally placed or shaped. A full description cannot be given here, but enough is known to show that the "Q" holes linked with ritual stone arrangements. Several of the stones have markings cut into their surfaces. We propose to give a full account in a separate paper. The evidence is now extremely strong in favour of the "Q" holes being some form of ritual memorial, possibly in connection with cremation, in a culture of the Megalithic Fertility type.