

The Dine Stones, Barthill Moor.

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WITHIN living memory this stone circle has consisted of three stones upright, or nearly so, and one nearly horizontal. One of these larger stones has been leaning slightly for several years and fell flat in 1936.

It was considered advisable to re-erect this stone while the recollection of its original position was still fresh. The Council of the Society agreed to contribute the cost of the cement and transport, and the equipment was kindly loaned by Messrs. Ackroyds of Birchover. Mr. F. Pinder and two other employees of the same firm provided the experience and labour for the erection.

The horizontal positions of the stones can be seen from the plan where the shaded areas represent the ground plan of each stone when erect. Opportunity was also taken to fix Stone 4 upright again. It had been lying in a nearly horizontal position since prehistoric times. This is proved by the fact that the weathering grooves are on its side, whereas they are on the top of the stones which have remained upright.

Stone No. 1 evidently fell because it was erected in fairly loose sand with only one stone which could be called a packing stone. The stone had its pointed end in the ground which made it difficult to fix erect. Its base might also have been loosened by excavations made by Jewitt and Canon Greenwell in 1877.

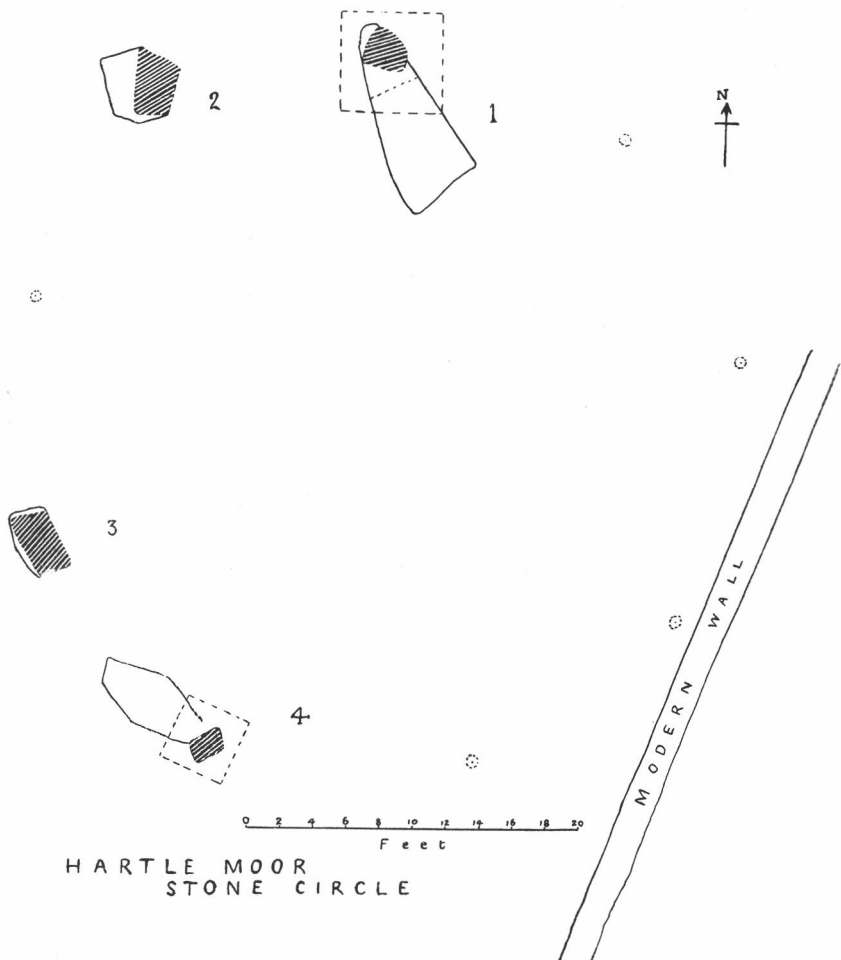


FIG. 1.—The raising of Stone No. 1.



FIG. 2.—The raising of Stone No. 1 at a later stage.

Before the re-erection square holes, as shown in the plan, were dug to a depth of 4 feet in order to prepare



a solid bed of concrete. The stones were set at the same depth as by the Bronze Age people. Nothing was found in the excavation, and it was considered that only very small stone holes had been dug. Stone No. 1 is 11 feet

8 inches long and had 4 feet 4 inches below ground. It is a good example of Type A (of the two types which Messrs. Keiler and Piggott have described at Avebury).

The plan also suggests the positions of the other stones. Nine stones would fit into a circle of 45 feet diameter quite easily. There is little doubt that the stone in the gateway to the south was originally in the circle.

Thanks are due to Mrs. McCreagh Thornhill and Mr. Carson, of Hartle Moor Farm, for allowing the work to be done; to Messrs. Ackroyds for loan of equipment; to Mr. F. Pinder for expert supervision; and Mr. A. Keiler for advice on methods.

The Harthill Moor stones are the biggest, and apart from Arbor Low, the most impressive in Derbyshire. Dr. Phillips, in his recent map of the Megalithic Monuments of the Trent Basin, includes them in the earlier Large Stone Monuments of the Neolithic times, but notes that they are probably a survival into the Bronze Age. The process of raising the stones is shown in Plate VII.