

## Excavations on Stanton Moor.

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By J. P. HEATHCOTE, M.A.

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THE EXCAVATIONS HERE RECORDED ARE A CONTINUATION OF THOSE CARRIED OUT BY MR. J. C. HEATHCOTE AND THE WRITER, PUBLISHED IN *D.A.J.*, N.S. VOL. IV AND N.S. VOL. X, AND WERE MADE BETWEEN THE YEARS 1931 AND 1933. THE NUMBERS OF THE BARROWS REFER TO THE PLAN IN *D.A.J.*, N.S. VOL. X, p. 40.

### T. 17.

THIS mound appeared before its excavation as a small oval-shaped cairn about 16 feet long and 8 feet wide (Fig. 1). The outer stones on the north side were fixed in a leaning position inclined towards the centre, showing they had been rolled up to the cairn. On the south side a stone 3 feet 6 inches long, now lying flat, had the appearance of having once been upright. The mound had a depression in the middle.

A. Somewhat behind this stone, and below it, was found a flattened urn with a deposit of cremated bones, "a male not quite adult" (Sir A. Keith). Also were found a large flint scraper and four pieces of flint, all burnt white. Amongst the bones was a pin or needle perforated, made from a deer bone. It was cremated and so was probably in the garments of deceased. Two flints and the bone pin are shown in Plate V. The urn is shown in Fig. 2. It is 6 inches in diameter and 8 inches in height, and plain.

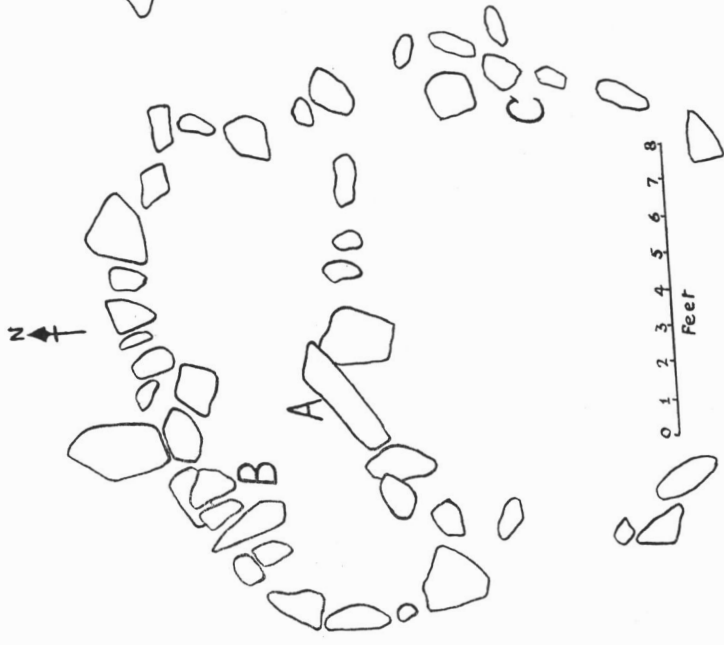
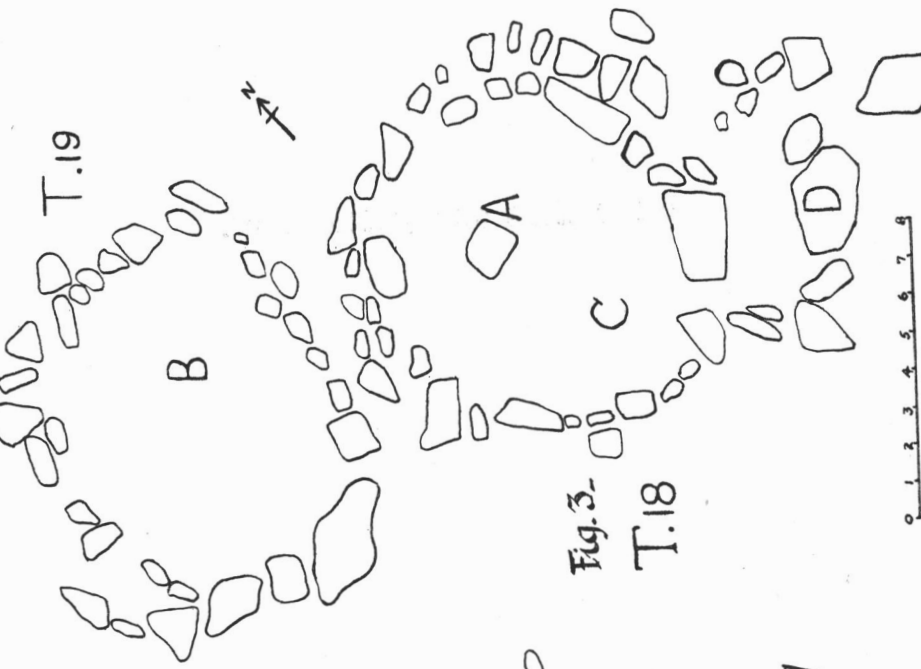
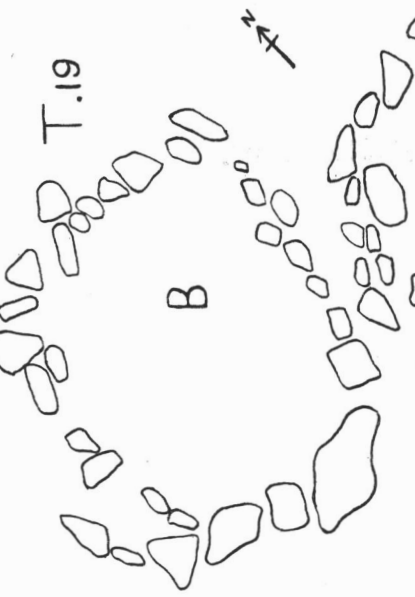


Fig. 1-T.17

T.19



*B.* A deposit of bones "an adult male" (Sir A. Keith) with no grave goods.

After this mound had been excavated the plan of the stones appeared as a semi-circle. Attempts were made to see if the remaining half of the circle had ever been made as a part of the barrow. The outline ring of stones was found, but no trace of a cairn inside it. It was considered unlikely that the mound had ever been completed.

*C.* Here was found an urn under two flat stones. It was lying on its side very near the surface and badly crushed. In addition, it was of poor texture and so badly perished that no rim or base could be preserved. The neck is decorated with irregular punch marks, terminated with three rows of similar marks closer together. Its height was about 10 or 12 inches. Amongst the few cremated bones was a beautiful flint arrowhead cremated white. (Plate V). It is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches long.

#### T. 18 and 19.

These two cairns appeared before excavation as a long barrow entirely covered by bilberry bushes. The outlines of two mounds and an extension can now easily be seen from the plan (Fig. 3).

*A.* Under a flat stone was a cremation with a small urn (Fig. 2) now only fragmentary. It is decorated by cord impressions arranged in chevrons on the rim and panels of incised lines, alternatively slanting right and left, on the neck and body. The cremation was of an "individual about 16-17 years of age. The chief bones have not completed their growth."

*B.* Here there was a "single cremation—adult, probably a woman."

*C.* There was a small deposit of "cremated human bone and charcoal. Only some fragments of a cremation are represented here."

*D.* At the end of the mound there was a fairly well-made extension and a large flat stone, under which was found a good deposit of greyish sand and charcoal, but examination by Sir A. Keith failed to find any trace of bone ash. Structurally it had every appearance of a secondary interment.

The material of the mounds was replaced.

T. 20.

This barrow appeared as a large well constructed cairn which had not been disturbed at any point. It was about 2 feet high with a flattish top. (Fig 4).

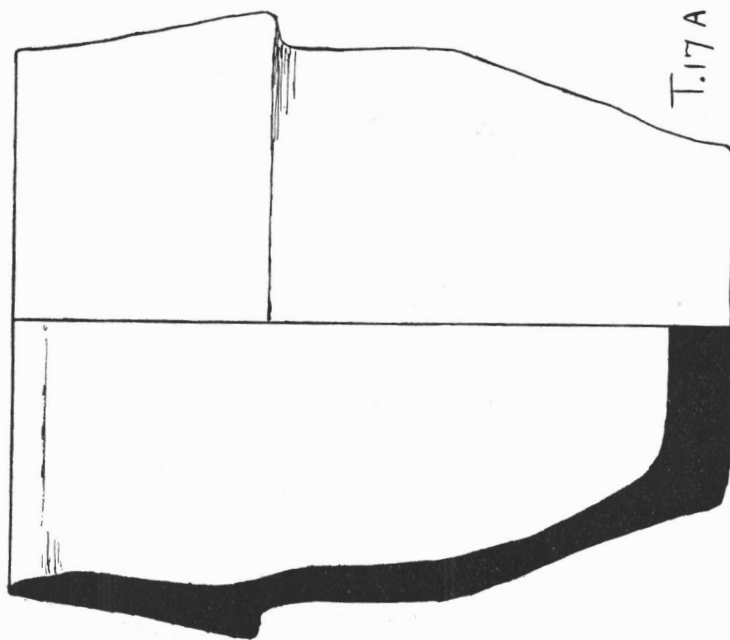
*A.* Here there was a small deposit of cremated bones and charcoal under a stone. Three flakes of calcined flint were also picked up here.

*B.* Here as at *C* the deposit was surrounded by hard sand, perhaps a result of the ashes having been put in hot. The original surface seemed also to be a very hard black soil. There was one flake of flint and a piece of decorated pottery in the deposit.

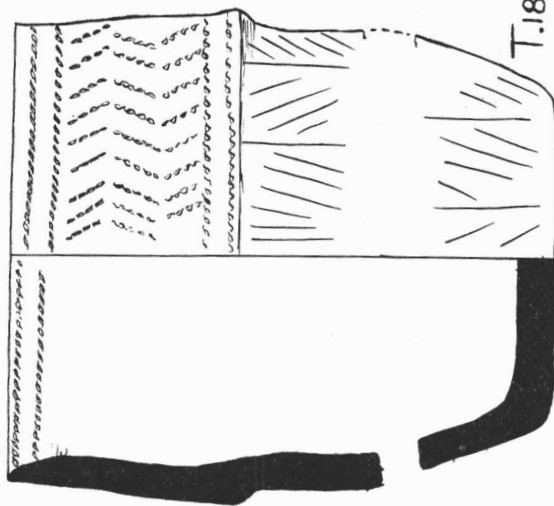
*C.* At *C* there was a small urn inverted under a flat stone. The pit was small and contained no bones; the pit was full of black soil and charcoal. The urn is shown in Fig. 5. It is 6 inches high and 4.25 inches in diameter, decorated on the rim and neck by impressions of twisted cords. The urn is of poor material and parts of the rim are missing.

*D.* Here was found a deposit of bones, "remains of an adult man," and a broken inverted urn. It was not deeply buried and had evidently been put in later than the others. The urn (Fig. 6) was hard but badly made and is now only fragmentary. It was about 10.5 inches high and had a rim diameter of 8 inches. The rim is decorated by rows of cord impression, and the neck by punch marks.

*E.* An interment with a fair amount of charcoal and few bones was found not deeply buried.



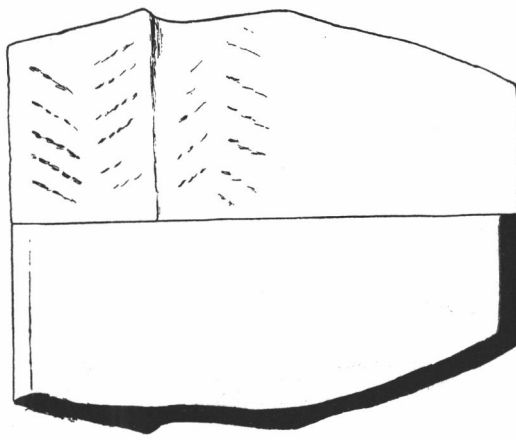
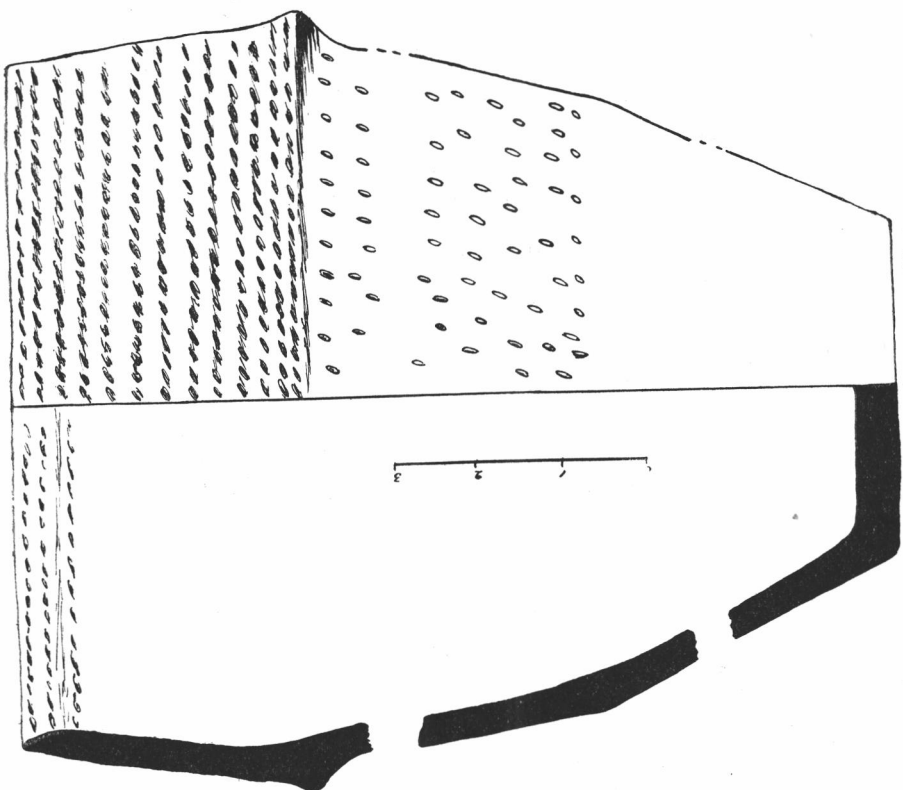
T.17 A



T.18 A



Fig. 2 - Urns from T.17 & 18



*F.* Outside the mound was found an extension which was thought might have been added to cover up the interment *D.* A few fragments of cremated bone were found at *F.*, but not sufficient to prove that a separate interment had been made.

After excavation the cairn was re-erected.

#### T. 21.

Before excavation very little of this barrow could be seen. No trace of a mound was visible, but a few stones showed above the surface of the ground. These, on uncovering, proved to lead on to others, and so the outlines of a cairn with two extensions was found. The plan is shown in Fig. 7. The area was practically flat, and it was considered that many stones had been taken from the top for repairs of the road near-by. A large flat stone, slanting towards the centre, was uncovered on the edge of the mound. This was evidently the displaced covering stone of the rough cist arrangement at *A.*, formed by small upright stones in the form of a rectangle about 2 feet by 4 feet.

*A.* The remains at *A.* were "those of a young adult, probably a woman." Two flint scrapers, burnt white, were found here, one broken into three pieces (Plate V). Seven other flint flakes nearly all burnt were found near *A.* Fragments of a small thick vase were found. This was not decorated and not of the over-hanging rim type. The rim was about 4 inches in diameter, badly moulded, and the vase a somewhat globular one of later incense-cup type. With these fragments were also found a piece of rim and a piece of base of a better made urn (rim diameter 5.5 inches and base about 2.8 inches in diameter). The inside of the lip is decorated by two rows of cord impression, and the rim was probably similarly decorated.

Fig. 7 - T.21

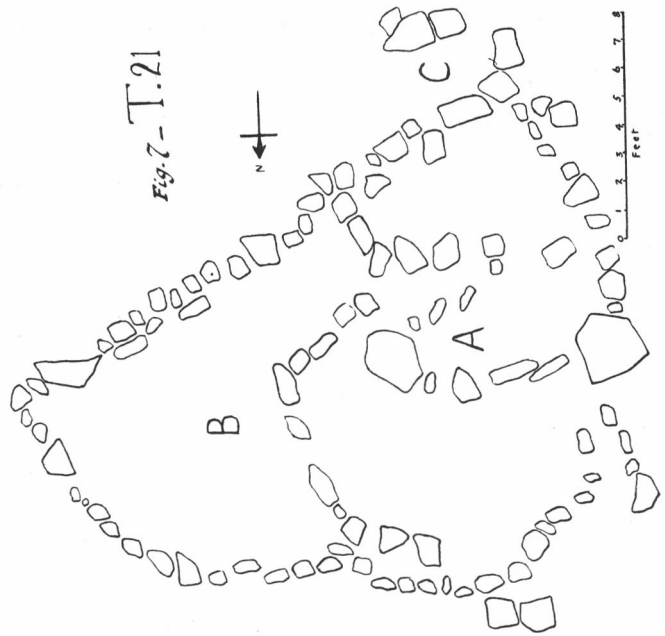
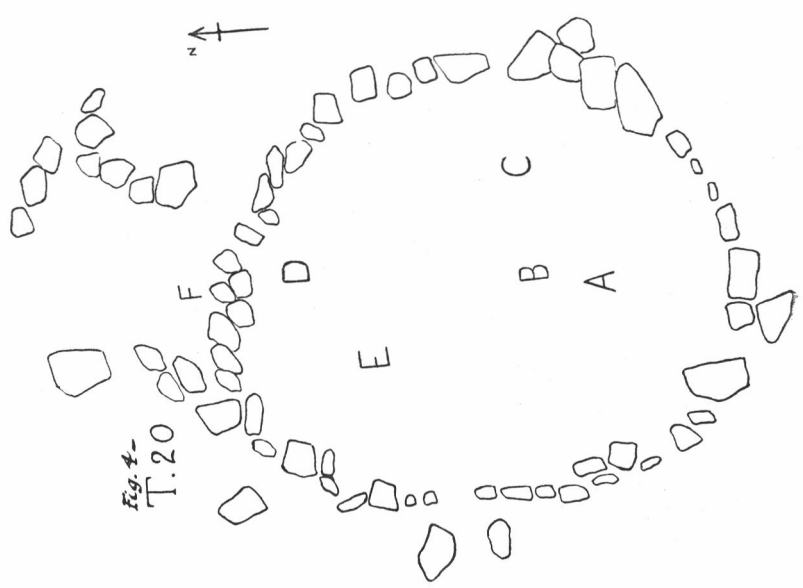
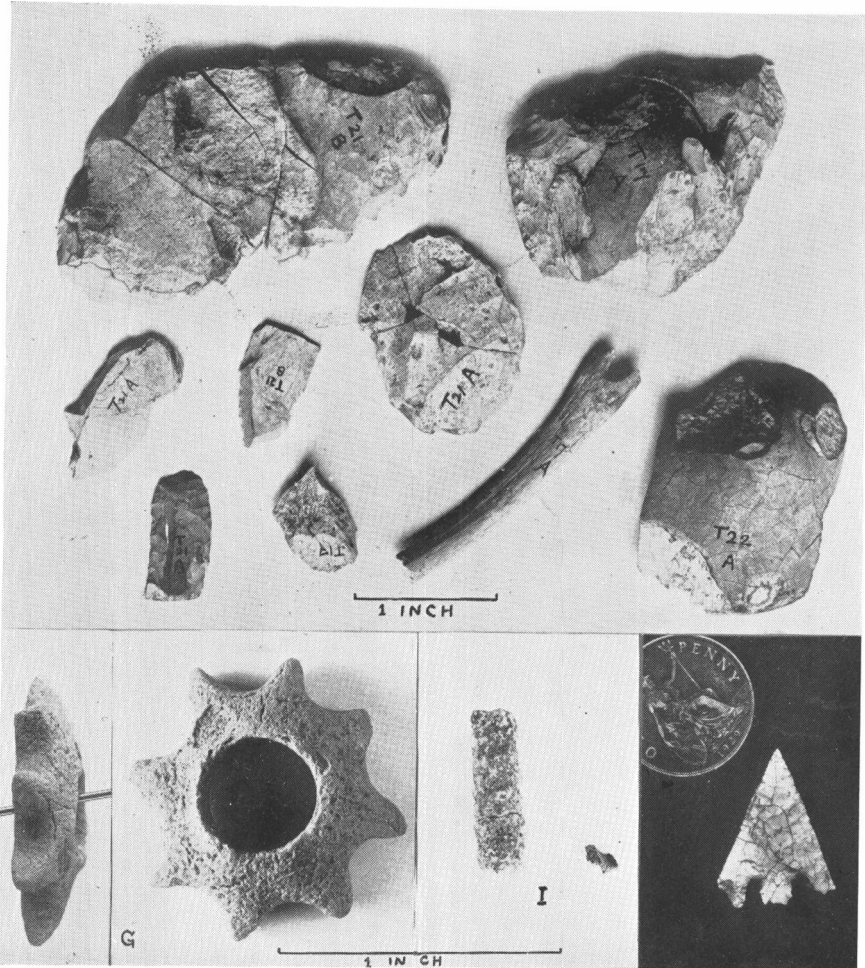


Fig. 4 - T.20







Flints from Tumuli, T17, T21, T22; Bone pin and arrow head from T17;  
 Faience 'star' bead (G) and segmented bead (I) from Doll Tor.

*B.* The extension, in the middle of which was found the interment at B, was not so well made as the part nearer the centre. The remains are "those of a young male about 18 years of age." With these were found a small urn, an incense-cup and four flint scrapers. The urn (Fig. 8), 4.5 inches in height, is neatly decorated by cord impression on the rim and neck, the latter terminated by a row of punch marks. The urn is bipartite, thus agreeing as to the later date with the vase at A.

Of the flints, two scrapers are shown in Plate V, both well chipped and one broken by the fire into three parts.

The incense-cup (Fig. 9) is small, roughly made and devoid of decoration. It is round bottomed.

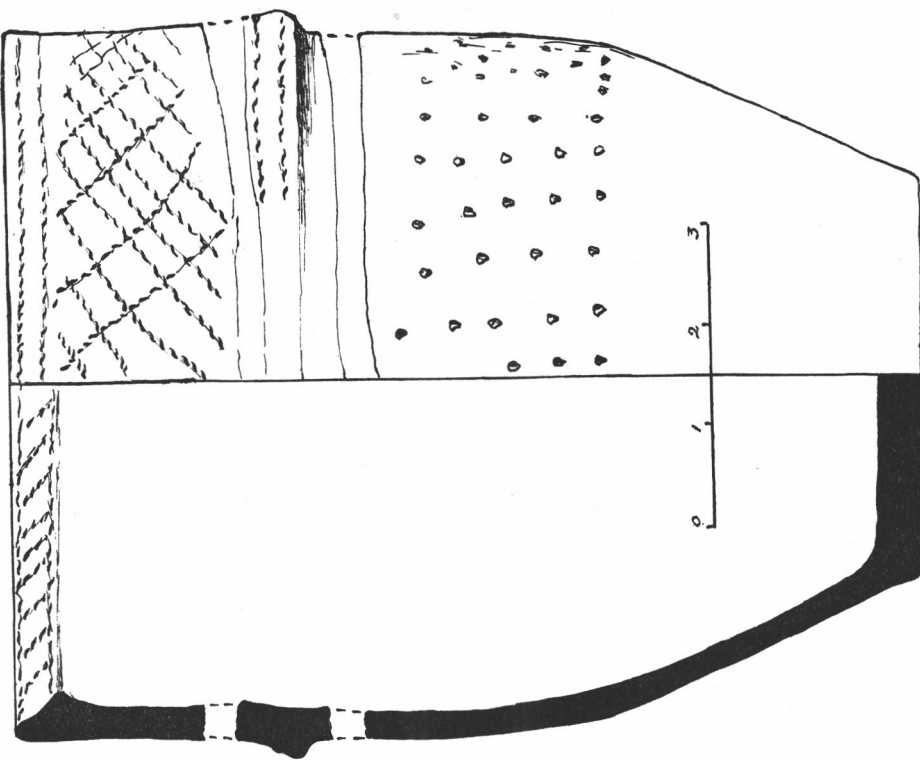
*C.* An extension, not visible above the surface, was followed up on the south side. A cremation deposit was found at C. The remains are "those of an adult, sex uncertain."

#### T. 22.

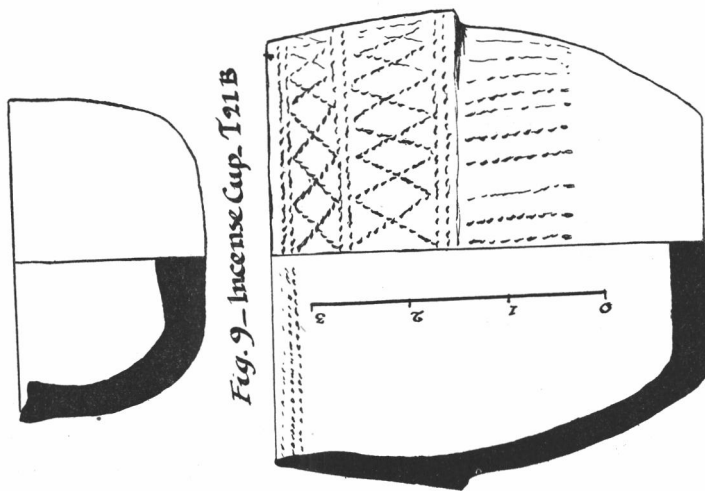
This barrow was a simple, well constructed cairn of stones, 17 feet in diameter and 2 feet 6 inches high. The plan is not reproduced here. The stones forming the outer ring are all large. There was a slight depression in the centre, but the strata showed no signs of being disturbed except by the roots of a large tree.

*A.* The first interment was found near the outer circle at the base of one of the stones which might possibly have been upright. It was leaning when discovered, as are several of the outer stones. The remains are "those of an adult, probably female." No urn was with them, but a piece of white burnt flint (Plate V). It appears to have been a scraper.

*B.* Near the centre, but in the western half, was an interment with an urn. The remains, which were very considerable, were those of a "young person, probably male, under 18 years of age." The urn (Fig. 10) had its rim almost destroyed by the tree roots. It was about



*Fig. 9—Incense Cup. T21B*



9 inches high and 7 inches in diameter. The rim is decorated by cord impression lattice-work, as well as the inside of the lip. The neck is covered by vertical lines of punch marks made by a pointed stick, each mark forming a triangular impression.

After excavation the cairn was replaced.

#### T. 23.

This was noticed as a very small mound by the side of a group of cairns of which T. 6 and T. 22 form a part. It was roughly circular and about 8 feet in diameter. It was excavated and found to be a barrow which apparently had been added to the group. A small interment of cremated remains was found under a flat stone in the centre. "All that can be said is that they are human."

#### T. 24.

This was an oval-shaped cairn by the side of a large stone. The mound was 16 feet by 9 feet. No interment was found, but it was considered that the long stone which was inclined, must have been upright. It is 5 feet 7 inches long. The mound was definitely a made one and therefore probably a barrow. It was also suggested that the stone might have been a pointer for the adjacent disc barrow, T. 56.

The plans of T. 23 and T. 24 are not reproduced. The original constructions can be seen *in situ* and the interior stones have been replaced.

Thanks are due to Mrs. McCreagh Thornhill for kind permission to continue excavations, and to Sir Arthur Keith for examination of cremated bones.

## Excavations at Doll Tor Stone Circle, Stanton Moor.

By J. P. HEATHCOTE, M.A.

THE excavations at this Bronze Age Stone Circle were carried out during the period 1931 to 1933 by Mr. J. C. Heathcote and the writer. The site, marked on the Map of Tumuli on Stanton Moor in *D.A.J.*, 1936, p. 40, is about 250 yards south-west of the Andle Stone. (o.s. xxviii, S.E. Derbys.). It overlooks the Harthill Moor Stone Circle to the west.

The circle was first recorded by Bateman in *Ten Years' Diggings*, p. 84. He describes a casual afternoon's work in 1852 when he and his companions noticed a circle of six stones, two being prostrate. They "cleared a considerable space in the centre of the enclosure where a grave had been dug for the reception of three or four cinerary urns and as many incense cups, all of which had been emptied of their calcined contents by former diggers, who, however, left the fragments." Some of these urn fragments have been recently reconstructed at the Weston Park Museum, Sheffield.

Since 1852 the site has remained unnoticed until it was rediscovered by the present excavators in 1931. It was then overgrown by grass and heather except for the tops of the four upright stones. The plan, Fig. 1, shows the stone circle uncovered. The six stones are numbered in a clockwise direction. The upright stones are shown in black, the sloping stones shaded. Stones 5 and 6 are nearly flat on the ground but have obviously been upright.

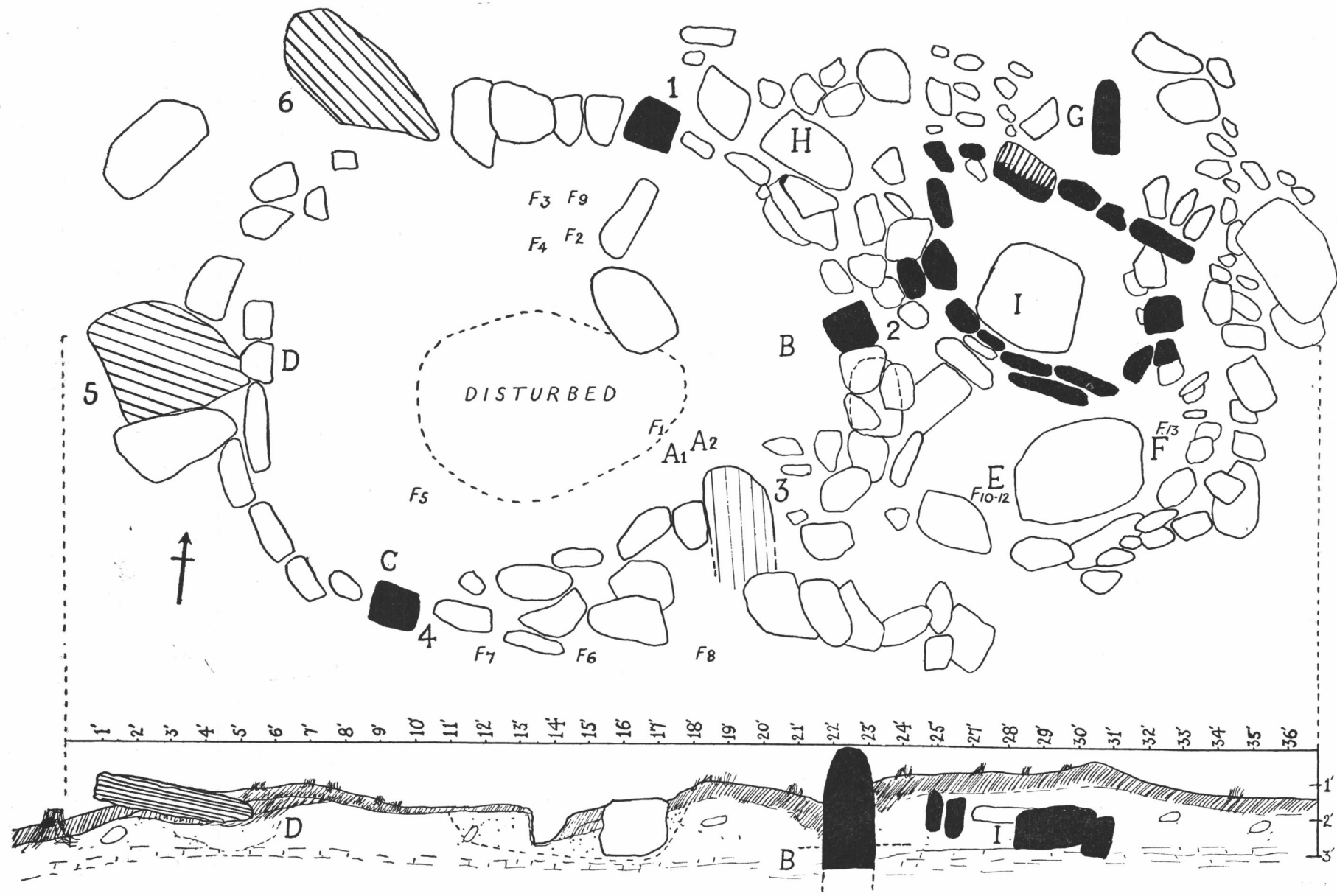


Fig. 1— PLAN and SECTION of DOLL TOR CIRCLE

Excavation work was commenced in the centre with a section running north and south. The centre was lower, showing that Bateman had not replaced his material. In the disturbed area was found a burnt flint knife (Plate VI, 1). A large deep stone was found nearly in the centre of the circle. Bateman had evidently dug under this and rabbits had also disturbed the area considerably.

*A1.* A charcoal deposit was found enclosed by two small stones placed upright. Near these were found several fragments of pottery from a thick plain urn.

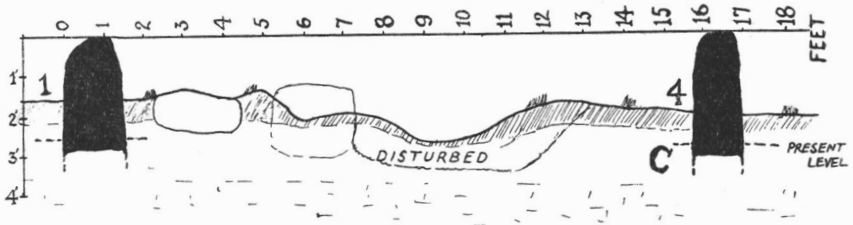


Fig. 2 — SECTION FROM NORTH TO SOUTH — DOLL TOR.

Adjoining the stone, helping to support Stone 3, was found a further quantity of plain pottery a foot from the surface. These fragments apparently all belong to the same large urn and were on the edge of the disturbed area.

*A2.* Here were found more fragments of decorated pottery (Fig. 3), with a charcoal deposit. The decoration was made by long straight slanting incised lines. Although scattered they are all probably from the same urn. The cremated remains were those of a young child, small for its age. (See Report on Cremations appended).

*B.* Next was found a fairly large upright stone which appeared to have formed a kind of protection to a very large deposit of cremated remains. These remains

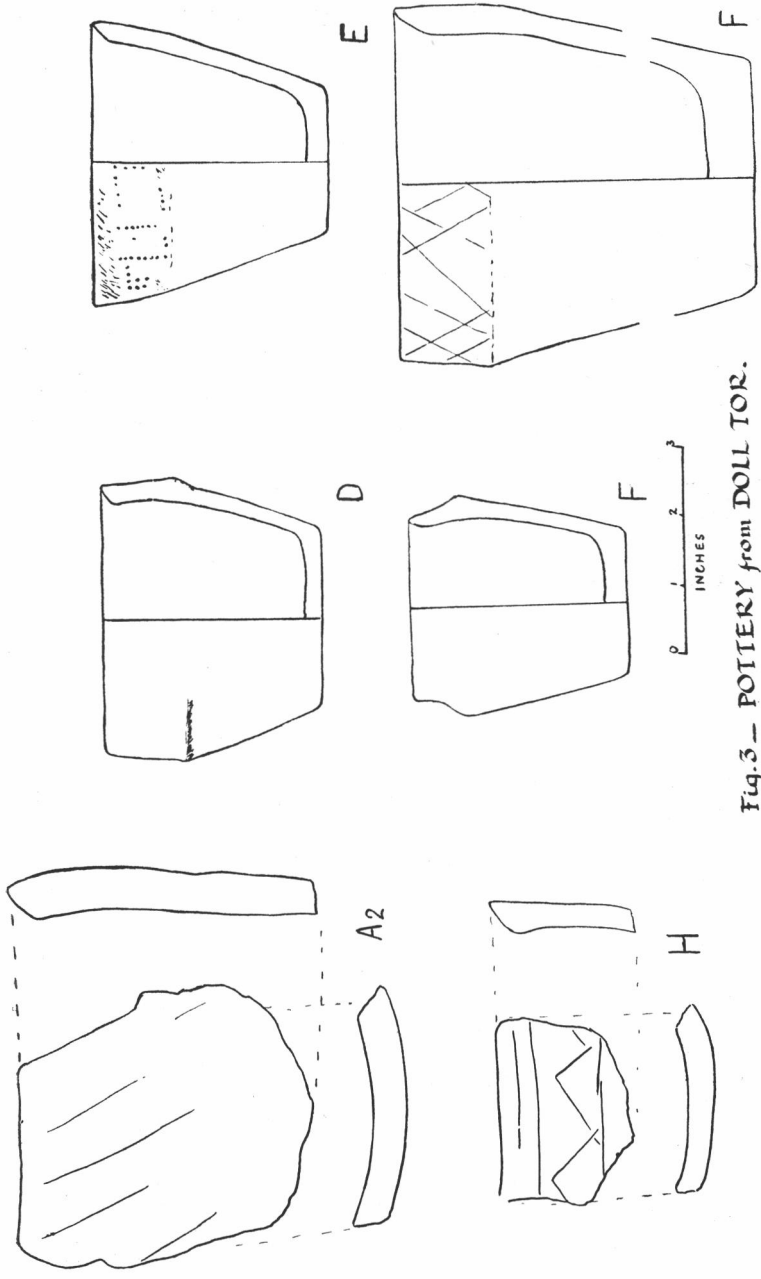


Fig. 3 — POTTERY from DOLL TOR.



extended right up to the base of Stone 2. No pottery was buried with the deposit which was undisturbed. Owing to the size of the deposit it appeared as if several pieces of bones had been dropped outside the pit. The bones were those of an adult, probably male. They had been placed in the pit after the erection of Stone 2.

The excavations followed the circle of flat stones which linked up the standing stones. Generally there was only one course. The large stone adjoining Stone 2 was particularly noticeable.

A careful search was made for deposits at the foot of Stone 1. Two very small fragments of pottery and a few small pieces of bone were found, but not sufficient to say that an interment had been made there. A fairly large stone was uncovered near Stone 1 and partly underneath the centre stone. It was thought that this might have formed part of Bateman's "grave." Four flints were found in this locality as marked on the Plan. Two had been calcined.

*C.* The western half of the circle was then uncovered. At the foot of Stone 4 a clear deposit of charcoal was found, the cremation probably having reduced the remains completely to ashes.

*D.* At the foot of Stone 5 was found a small plain urn (Fig. 3). This was slightly tilted and accompanied by a very few bones. The urn,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches high, is of rough texture and full of small cracks. Stone 5 has its pointed base still embedded in the ground. The circle of flat stones is not so well constructed as the plan would seem to indicate, and this fact probably partly explains the insecure position of Stone 5 when it was erected.

As the excavations progressed it became clear that a mound had been added to the circle at its eastern end. The construction of this can be seen from the plan and section. (Fig. 1). It had not been noticed nor dis-

turbed by previous excavators. After our excavations the stones are still left *in situ* and uncovered.

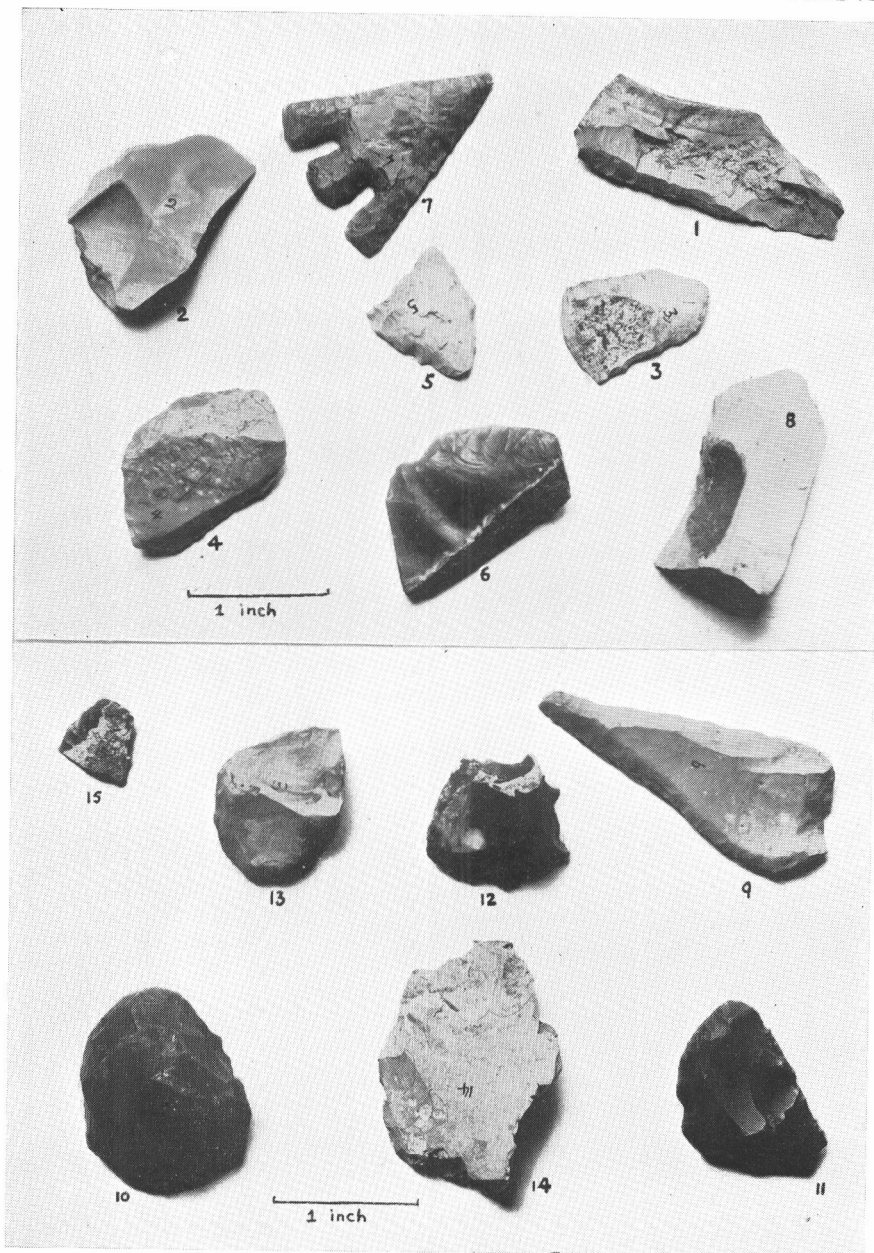
At the extreme eastern end of the mound a large flat stone seemed likely to be the covering stone of an interment. It had been placed over smaller stones in a horizontal position, but no trace of an interment was found under it.

*E.* The interment at E was placed on the edge of a large flat stone which it was expected would form the capstone of a cist. The material under this stone was loose and there was a cavity under it but no trace of an interment could be found. Rabbits had scratched a good deal of sand from under it. There were very few bones at E and no report could be made on them. A small urn,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, was inverted and a few very small pieces of bronze were picked up. Three good black unburnt scrapers were found placed with the interment (Plate VI, 10, 11, 12). Another flat stone was found almost immediately above E, and all the stones near here were well placed.

*F.* At the further end of the large flat stone were found two urns. Both were lying on their sides with the larger urn pressing into the smaller. One is  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches high and has its rim decorated with a very badly made incised lattice work. The other is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches high. The remains were those of a child. A flint scraper (Plate VI, 13) was also found.

*G.* At G a well constructed pit was found with an upright stone at its side. The remains were those of an adult, probably male. In this deposit was a faience star bead (Plate V, G). Mr. H. C. Beck reports as follows:

“Diam. 1.04 in. Length .26 in. 8 points. Weight 1.833 grammes. Specific Gravity 2.49. This is the finest English star bead that I have seen. The shape is very regular. The colour is not very deep as it has partly corroded, but it shows fairly well on the curved surface when moistened.



Flints from Doll Tor Stone Circle.

“ One of the points of the star has been slightly chipped and this chip shows that the base is of a red colour not dissimilar to the base of the segmented bead from Interment I. This coloration of the base is very interesting as in all the Wiltshire specimens I have examined the base has been white. It seems very doubtful whether this bead and the Wiltshire faience beads have been made in the same place.

“ The other specimens of faience star beads that I have seen are in the Ashmolean Museum. They came from the Knowles collection and are supposed to be Irish. Specimens have also been found in Scotland.

“ The specific gravity of your bead was tested after it had been immersed in water for 14 hours in an air pump with the pressure reduced to about one inch. The specific gravity of this specimen is lower than that of the star beads in the Ashmolean, but is exactly the same as that of one of the faience quoit beads brought with them.”

Since making the above report Mr. H. C. Beck and Dr. J. F. Stone have made a thorough investigation of the Faience Beads of the British Bronze Age (*Archaeologia* LXXXV, p.203, 1936). A distribution map shows the star beads are concentrated in Scotland. The authors conclude that the faience beads are of foreign origin. They were first imported about 1400 B.C., there being little doubt that they were made in Egypt. The Scottish beads are also probably Egyptian but of a later date.

*H.* At H there were traces of another small interment under the flat stone placed rather high up between Stones 1 and 2. The remains were those of a child, probably a girl. The pottery fragments belonged to a fairly large urn showing the incised chevron. (Fig. 3).

*I.* This interment was underneath a large flat stone

and was surrounded by a rectangular enclosure of small upright stones. The flat capstone did not anywhere rest on the uprights, but there is no doubt that the structure is a degenerate form of cist and formed the primary interment in the mound. The cremated remains were those of an adult, probably a woman.

A faience segmented bead (Plate V, 1) was found in the remains. Mr. H. C. Beck reported as follows:

“Length .56 in. Diam. .18 in. 6 segments. Blue glaze corroded white on a dark red base. Weight of the two main pieces after cementing them together .185 grammes. Specific Gravity 2.50.

This bead is a very roughly made segmented faience bead of a similar type to those found in the Wiltshire barrows. It has, however, a dark red base instead of the white base usual in the Wiltshire beads.”

*Main Conclusions.* The relative positions of this group of interments can be seen from the plan. The pottery in both circle and mound can belong to the same period, late Bronze Age. Bateman, in 1852, recorded the fact that the “large urns were more straight-sided than is common in this part of England; they approach the form of a common red garden flower pot and are sparingly decorated with the everlasting chevron. Most of the urns of this type hitherto discovered have been in the South-West of England, the Deverell barrow having afforded specimens.”

Our excavations have fully borne out this evidence, and on type alone the pottery would be placed in Abercromby's Period IV (900 B.C.—650 B.C.). The pottery from the mound is contemporary, or perhaps a little later than that from the circle.

Deposits were found at the foot of four standing stones and not at the other two. It was felt, however, that considering the small diameter of the circle, about 15 feet, and the number of the interments in the centre, that

the deposits at the foot of the stones may not have had any particular significance. The cremated deposits were nearly all small, evidence of almost complete burning or perhaps careless burial.

The two fallen stones, 5 and 6, had apparently not been so deeply embedded as the others. The circle, therefore, would have shown originally a slope upwards from east to west. The ground itself slopes gently the opposite way. The slope of the circle would be increased by the fact that the Stone 2 is smaller and lower than the others. The fallen stones, 5 and 6, differ considerably in other ways from the remainder, being flatter and quite possibly dressed. Keiler and Piggott in *Antiquity*, Dec. 1936, p. 417, have shown that the stones at Avebury could be divided into two main types, A, a tall stone, higher than it is broad, and B, a stone broader in proportion to its height, somewhat resembling an asymmetrical diamond. If this is true Stones 5 and 6 are excellent examples of these types. Furthermore, a desire to emphasise these two stones would have led to their being fixed less deeply in the ground. Their shapes and sizes can be seen from the plan.

Before the excavations were completely finished three of the standing stones were maliciously damaged by some unknown person. Stones 1 and 4 were smashed into dozens of fragments, and considerable patience and skill were required to cement the pieces together. They are now approximately the same shape and height as when originally fixed upright. Stones 5 and 6 have not been moved. From their present appearance it would seem they fell at a very early date.

Some part of the excavated material was replaced in the circle, but in order to leave open the construction of the ring the present level is about one foot lower than before the excavations began. The mound has been left entirely open and the excavated sand and loose stones have been scattered outside the site.

The finds are in the possession of Mr. J. C. Heathcote, Birchover. Thanks are due to Mrs. McCreagh Thornhill for allowing the excavations to be continued; to Miss M. L. Tildesley, of the Royal College of Surgeons, for reports on the bones; to Mr. H. C. Beck for his reports and photographs of the beads; and to Mr. T. E. Routh for photographs of the flints.

REPORT ON CREMATED REMAINS FROM DOLL TOR  
BY M. L. TILDESLEY, HUMAN OSTEOLOGICAL  
CURATOR, R.C.S.E.

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*Deposit A*, scattered remains with broken pottery:

Remains of a child. A fragment of the lower articular surface of the left thigh-bone shows the inter-condylar fossa to be already well moulded and sharply marked off from the condyle, indicating that the child was probably ten years or older; this fragment, however, as well as the small size of the pyramid of the temporal bone, and of a fragment of lumbar vertebra, and the thinness of the few skull fragments, agree in suggesting that the child was young and small even for the age which is indicated by the sharp moulding of the femur fragment.

*Deposit B*, at the foot of Stone 2; no urn:

Remains of an adult, most probably male. Some fragments of the lambdoid suture remain and show no sign of union. This suture rarely begins to close until the late twenties and is completely united in the majority of cases by the age of fifty.

*Deposit D*. Remains of an adult; woman?

*Deposit F*, with urn:

Remains of a child. Part of a lumbar vertebra is preserved, and comparison of this with the corresponding portion of other young skeletons suggests that the child was probably of about the same age as the one represented by the remains scattered at A.

*Deposit F*, with small urn:

These very few fragments are those of a child; the age cannot be determined. They may belong to the same skeleton as the last.

*Deposit G*, with bronze pin-head and faience star bead:

Remains of an adult; the strong linea aspera on a fragment of femur suggests a male; bits of open lambdoid suture make it more likely that he was under fifty than over.

*Deposit H*, scattered remains with broken pottery behind  
Stones 1 and 2:

Bones of a child. One of the two teeth preserved (the other being an upper incisor) is a first premolar, which gives us a lower limit of age. This tooth may erupt under nine years of age, or after eleven, though more often in the eleventh year. The premolar, which is relatively small, shows no signs of wear; and the thinness of the skull fragments, the smallness of the left mandibular condyle which remains, and of the base of the left zygomatic arch, all agree in suggesting that the child had only recently acquired this premolar, and was probably a girl.

*Deposit I*, under large stone:

Remains of an adult; woman? probably under 40 years of age.

The three teeth have not been subjected to fire. They are a canine and upper premolar, both considerably worn down—those presumably of a person approaching middle age—and a lower premolar, much less worn. The slighter degree of wear may not indicate that it derives from a younger individual; they might all come from the same individual, who had lost the tooth in the upper jaw which was opposed to this premolar. The teeth are all rather different in colour, but this may perhaps be due to differences in the soil in contact with the teeth, if these were even a little distance apart from each other.