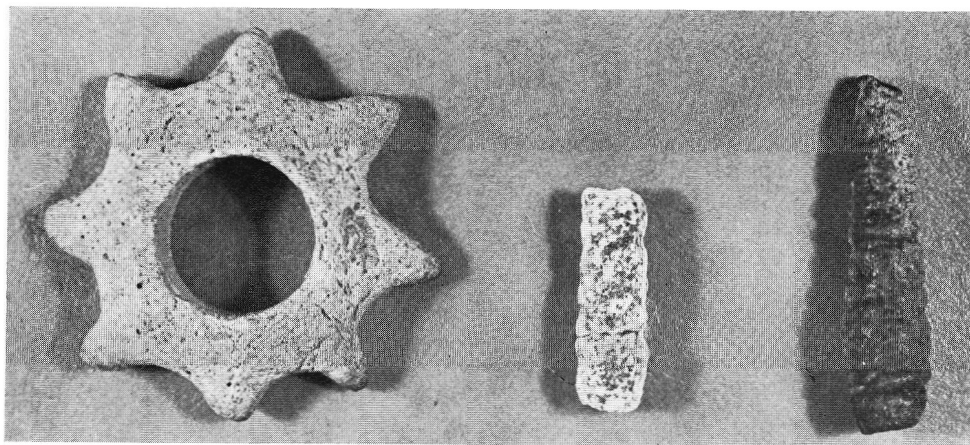




a. The triple cairn after reconstruction, cairn C in the foreground and the rectangular cairn at right centre. [M. Plant]



b. Faience beads. Left and centre from Stanton Moor, right from rectangular cairn. The first two are almost white, the other is turquoise coloured. [M. Plant]

A TRIPLE CAIRN AND A RECTANGULAR CAIRN OF THE BRONZE AGE ON BEELEY MOOR

By JEFFREY RADLEY

Introduction

IN 1966 R. Carr of Chesterfield discovered a surface scatter of charcoal, cremated bone and fragments of a bronze age cinerary urn around a recently excavated hole on Beeley Moor. A detailed examination of the vicinity revealed what may be two of the most significant prehistoric monuments in the Pennines.

The recent hole proved to be in the bottom of an earlier robbery trench, in the centre of a low cairn which was surrounded by a fragmentary kerb. This cairn proved to be attached to another kerb which appeared to enclose a large oval cairn. At some time in the last decade this oval cairn was devastated by a "treasure-hunter", who had gutted the centre of the mound and left a chaotic scatter of rubble which almost obscured the fact that it was an archaeological site. It is extraordinary that such illegal excavation can still occur, without being seen, and in spite of the care taken by the landowners, the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees. It is unfortunate that this robbing has undoubtedly removed important evidence, but sufficient remained to permit a reasonable restoration of the monument.¹

The site

The site was excavated from June to November 1967. This included the removal of all the disturbed rubble and almost total excavation of the remainder of the site. The monument was reconstructed with all the cairn material being returned at random, but where a kerb stone had fallen it was only moved through 90°, even though the final upright position may be off the general line of the kerb. No attempt was made to make up any gaps in the kerb or to tidy the general plan.

Part of Beeley Moor forms a large triangle between the Beeley and

¹ The writer would like to acknowledge his indebtedness to the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees for permission to excavate, and to the following for their unstinted help in the excavation: M. Plant, A. Miller, R. Carr, and M. Murphy. Thanks are also due to C. Simms of the Yorkshire Museum, York, for identifying the bones; to J. P. Heathcote for making his collections available for study, and for permission to photograph his faience beads, and to G. Willmott, Keeper of the Yorkshire Museum, for permission to draw the Darley urn.

Rowsley to Chesterfield roads and the west-facing millstone grit "edge" which is called Raven Tor at its summit. It overlooks the junction of the Wye and Derwent valleys and commands a good view of Stanton Moor 2 miles to the south-west. The main monument (SK 281668) is located just below the summit at 1125 ft. O.D. on a south-facing slope and very close to the "edge". Two smaller mounds lie a few yards to the west and north-east.

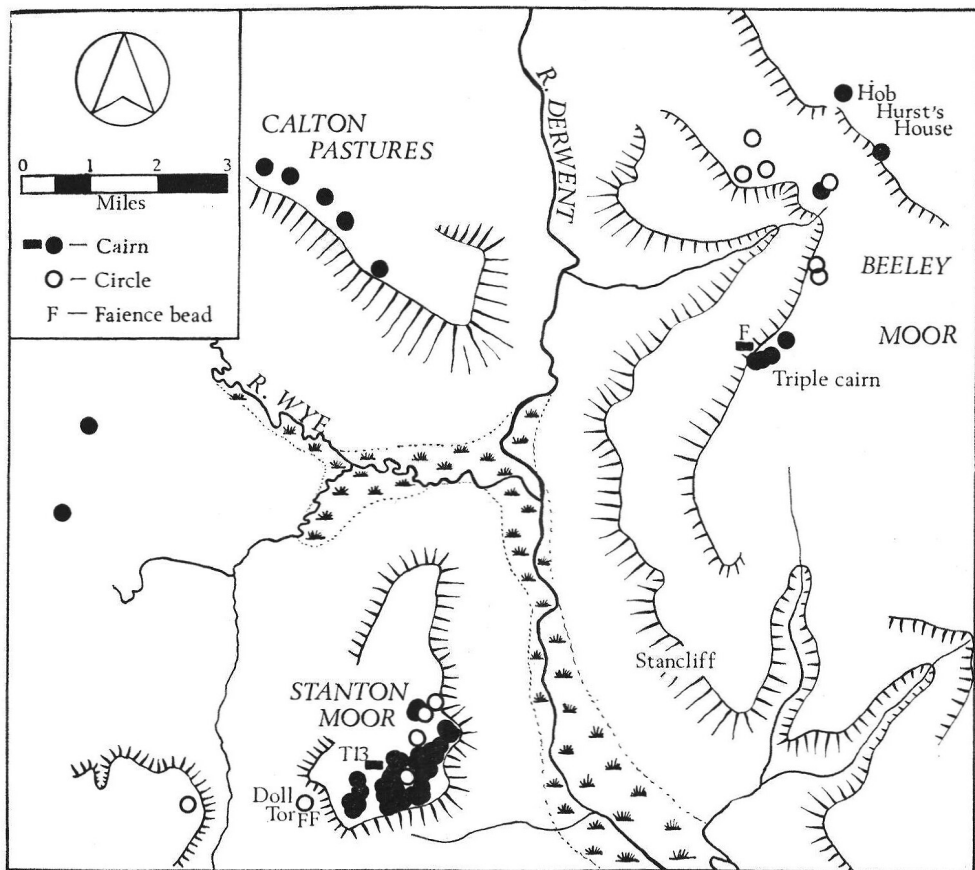


FIG. 1. Map of Beeley and Stanton Moors.

The main site was stripped of peat and vegetation by the extensive 1959 fires and the re-vegetation of the area is only partly completed. Excavation has shown that an average of 8 in. of silt and soil has formed since the bronze age on top of the cairns and over the area immediately adjacent to it. This soil cover and lack of vegetation, the frequent natural boulders and quarry spoil heaps help to explain why the site has not been previously recorded, although several local archaeologists claim to have known of the site for at least ten years.

The 1967 excavation

Cairn A was excavated in quadrants and proved to be a haphazardly constructed mound 27 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. high. The kerb was flattened on the western side where a medieval lead bole was inserted into the cairn. A hollow pack-horse way undermined the north-west side and caused part of the kerb to slip out of line, leaving only the eastern half of the kerb reasonably complete. The central, and presumably primary, burial

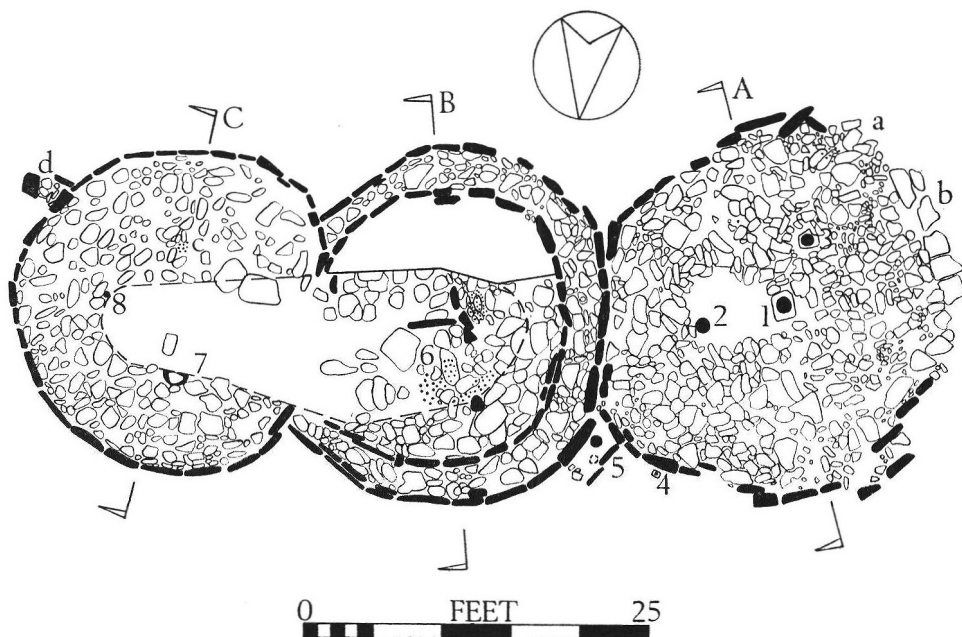


FIG. 2. The triple cairn showing the disturbed area (enclosed by a broken line) and the position of the sections.

was a cremation with an urn (fig. 2. 1) which originally was set in a rough cist, placed on one stone and covered by another larger one (fig. 4). Partly demolished by the robbery hole, a secondary burial was found in the hard compact natural yellow sand beneath the cairn, which showed signs of incipient podsolisation. Five feet south of the primary burial an urned cremation (fig. 2. 3) had been inserted into the top of the mound, and was placed on a flat stone. Two small groups of bronze age pottery were found between rocks in undisturbed positions (fig. 2. a and b).

The kerb of cairn A abuts on to the kerb of cairn B, and where the two kerbs meet on the north side, parts of a small enclosure could be seen on the surface. Excavation first revealed outside this enclosure a tiny cremation on a small slab set on the outside of the kerb (fig. 2. 4) in front of a particularly large vertical stone. Adjacent to it on the east was a

flat stone which covered a small lense of charcoal. In the corner, the enclosure proved to be 3 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 3 in. internally and, sealed beneath a layer of compact stones, was a small urned cremation, but with part of the base 1 ft. away (fig. 2. 5).

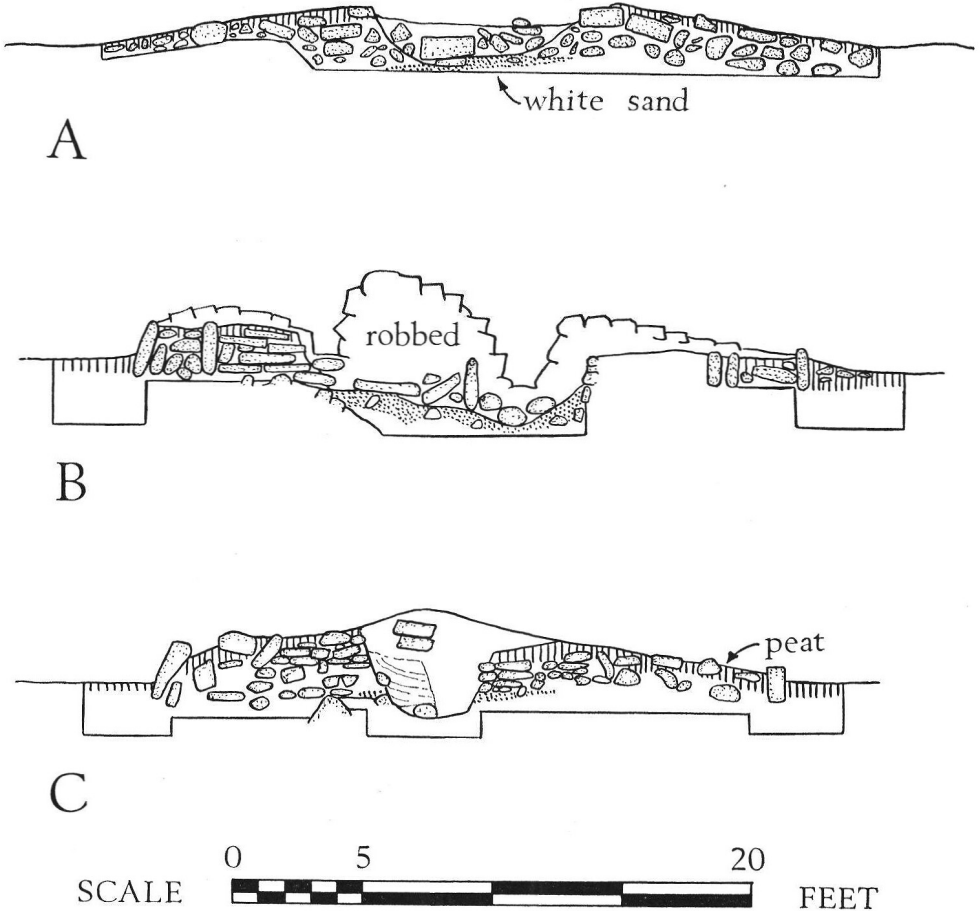


FIG. 3. Sections through the triple cairn shown on fig. 2.

Because of the disturbed nature of the site, cairn B was excavated in two halves and proved to occupy only part of the oval heap of rubble. The kerb is roughly circular and 26 ft. overall, and about 3 ft. high, with an inner kerb 20 ft. overall. The mound, where it was intact, was carefully constructed of layers of large flat gritstone slabs with lesser stones in the gaps. Most of the centre of the mound had been previously dug out and some large slabs, which may have been horizontal, are now standing on end, but may have been originally in this position, forming

a large cist. Parts of the central cremation (fig. 2. 6) were found scattered over 35 sq. ft., and some large pieces of urn and bone were found hidden beneath a recumbent stone in a "Boots" paper bag. Part of the southern sector was left intact in case the buried soil horizon should be of interest to future ecologists. No other burials were found.

Cairn B appears to be attached to cairn C but unfortunately an important part of the kerb, where the two cairns touch, has been destroyed by the robbing. Cairn C, which was excavated in two halves, is roughly circular, measuring 25 ft. overall, 3 ft. high, and with a single complete kerb. The primary burial has been totally removed unless it was off-centre; fig. 2. 7 represents a part of it. Six inches beyond the east end of the robbery trench there was a small cremation on a flat stone in the top of the mound (fig. 2. 8). A small group of bronze age sherds was found near the surface of the mound but below the peaty soil cover at fig. 2. c. Outside the east part of the kerb a small, deep set natural rock had been linked to the kerb by a compact layer of stones and one vertical slab but no remains were found (fig. 2. d).

The structure of the triple cairn

The central cairn is the most complex structure. The double kerb was carefully made with weathered tabular slabs of gritstone often placed so that slopes and angles of stone ends interlock with adjacent stones.

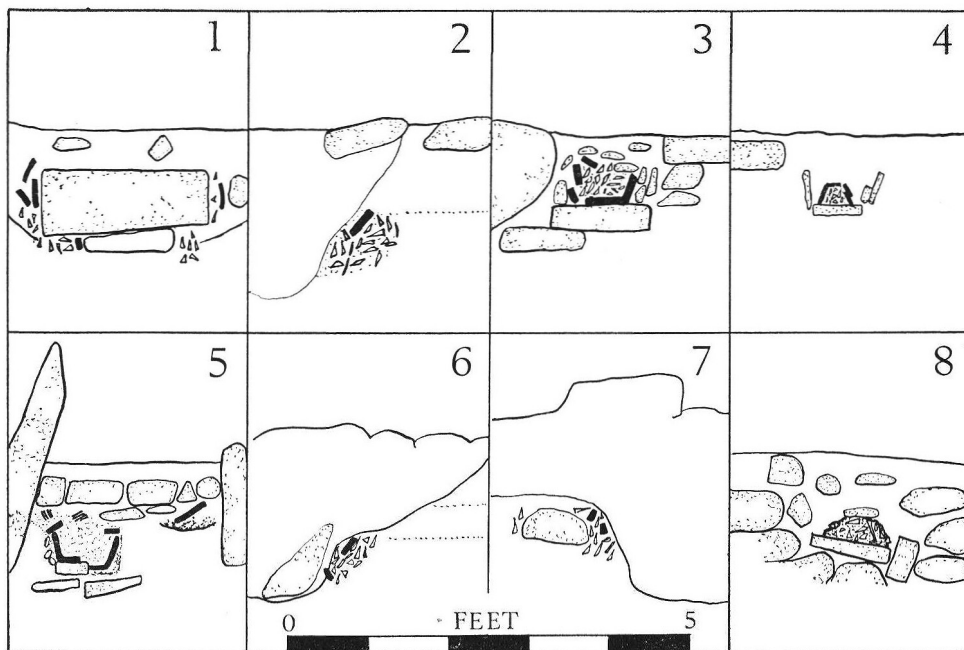


FIG. 4. Sections through the burials showing the pottery (black) and bone (open triangles).

Where undisturbed the individual stones tend to lean towards the zone between the two stone rings, resting against smaller horizontally laid slabs and lesser stones. This may mean that the circle was originally the free-standing perimeter of a circular enclosure. Within this, the cairn was carefully made of large flat weathered stones for two or three courses and was topped with smaller stones. Beneath this cairn, the enclosure appeared to be completely covered with a layer of coarse white sand, free from stones but stained brown in places by iron salts and incorporating lumps of charcoal.

The other two cairns are more conventional in that there seems to have been no plan in the construction of the mounds which appear to be piles of stones, the spaces still surviving between stones in the lower part of each mound. The kerbs are single rows of contiguous stones. Both mounds had a layer of white sand resting on the natural ground surface.

The stones used in the kerbs must have been collected over a wide area of Beeley Moor, since the gritstone is not essentially flaggy or tabular but usually breaks down into rough lumps. Some of the stones are over 4 ft. long, 3 ft. high, and up to 1 ft. thick. In spite of the effort needed to collect so many useful stones, most of the upright stones have only a few inches set into the soil and some of this may be attributed to subsequent settling; in general it appears that most of the stones were set either on the original land-surface or in only shallow holes. There is no evidence of any foundation trench or hole.

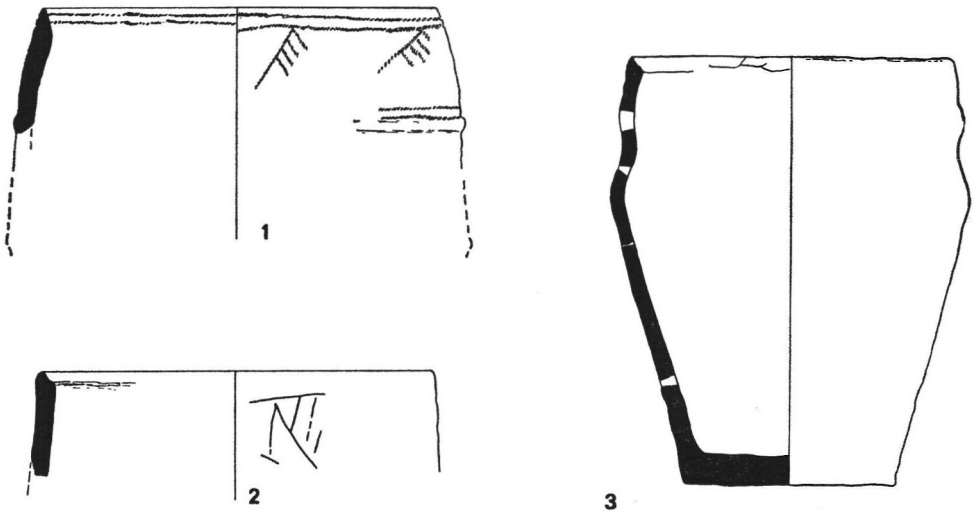


FIG. 5. Grave goods from the triple cairn, numbers as for fig. 2 (1/5).

THE FINDS

A. *The burials* (Numbers as on fig. 2)1. *Cremation with urn*

A large stone 2 ft. 2 in. x 1 ft. 8 in. x 10 in. was set in a disturbed area of cairn A with charcoal, bone, and sherds of cinerary urn around it. Beneath this stone was a smaller one. The fresh breaks on the sherds suggest that a small cist was probably opened in the last century, the urn broken and thrown back.

About 9 oz. of cremated bone was recovered including the roots of 4 teeth, and a few large fragments of charcoal. The bones belong to an adult of 16-25 years.

Several hundred fragments of pottery were recovered belonging to a large cinerary urn with the rim up to 15 mm. thick and the body 9-11 mm., probably over 30 cm. high. The orange-brown fabric has a black core and numerous large grits. The rim has a pointed top in place of the more usual bevelling, decorated inside with two rows of whipped cord-impressions. There are two rows of cord-impressions above and below cord-impressed triangles, on the outside. Fig. 5. 1 is a tentative reconstruction showing two ridges round the body. It is not possible to say whether the urn was upright or whether it had held the cremation.

2. *Cremation with urn*

The recent robbery hole in cairn A had removed most of this burial, but the lower part remained, embedded in the partially podsolised soil beneath the cairn, which must have formed since the burial. There was no sign of a pit. A few large bones, over 60 fragments of cinerary urn and one or two bits of charcoal were recovered. The 9 oz. of cremated bone come from an adult of about 25 years.

The pottery is a typical orange-brown fabric on a dark core, 12 mm. thick, and full of crushed sandstone and quartz. One large piece has a bevelled rim and an external decoration of crudely incised pendant triangles (fig. 5. 2), probably *c.* 25 cm. diameter.

3. *Cremation in urn*

This secondary burial was surrounded by vertical stones and rested on a flat stone 1 ft. 3 in. x 1 ft. 3 in. x 4 in. The cremation was contained in an upright urn intact to a height of 7-8 in. Above this was 5-6 in. of dark soil with numerous roots. The cremated bone was concentrated in the bottom of the urn, while the upper part was filled with stones and soil and some bone. The 20 oz. of bone, including 4 worn teeth, come from an adult over 25 years.

The urn was partly crushed and must have been 10-11 in. high when complete. The orange-brown fabric has a smooth surface ruptured by large gritstone inclusions. The rim is irregular and has an incipient collar (fig. 5. 3).

4. *Cremation in urn*

Below 8 in. of silt and outside cairn A was an inverted urn 3 in. deep and 5 in. wide on a stone 7½ in. square. The urn held fine sand and small stones with only traces of charcoal and no bone.

Roots have broken much of the urn into small fragments but a few large pieces remain. The top of the urn appears to have been ground down, and some of the urn is missing. The urn is brick red on a dark core and was about 15 cm. wide, with 8 mm. thick walls. The paste is finer than usual and is free from grit save for one piece of flint 9 mm. long. The urn appears to have been globular and the upper part was decorated with a narrow cord-impressed necklace of triangles (fig. 6. 4).

5. *Cremation in urn*

Below a 6-in. layer of silt and stones was an upright urn standing on two small stones. The urn contained charcoal-rich sand with a few flecks of bone. Part of the base was 1 ft. away below the stony layer.

The urn is 14 cm. high and 13 cm. wide, and the fabric is typical with quartzite inclusions. There are faint traces of whipped cord-impressed triangles resting on a horizontal line which almost touches the vestigial shoulder ridge (fig. 6. 5).

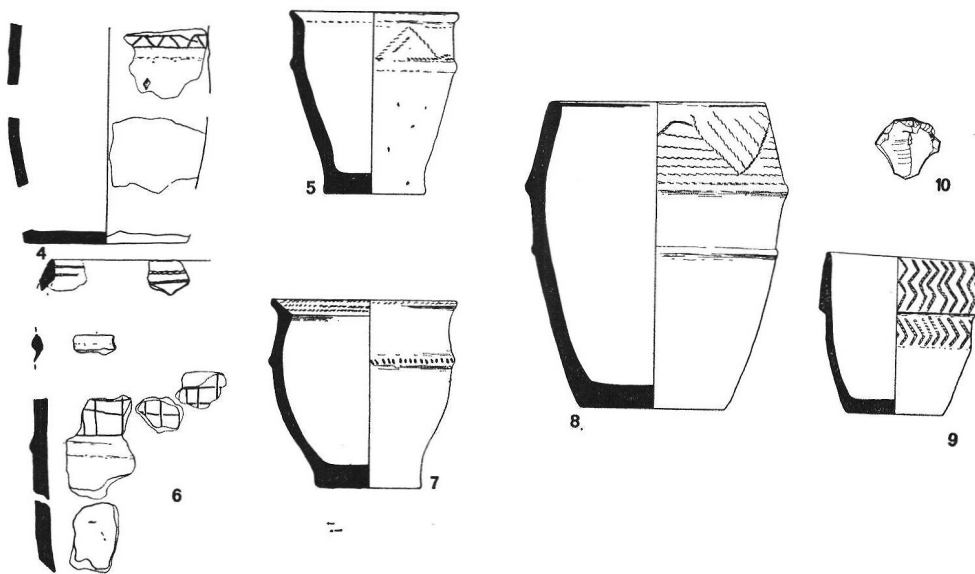


FIG. 6. Grave goods from the triple cairn and parallels 4-6 as for fig. 2, 7 Stanton Park food vessel, 8 the Darley Dale urn, 9 urn found by C. Gregory, 10 flint found near burial 6 (1/6).

6. *Cremation and urn*

The primary burial of cairn B is represented by the thrown-out remains of the recent robbery, and the bag of bones and sherds. The 8 oz. of large bone fragments include large pieces of skull, jawbone and parts of 5 teeth of a young adult.

The urn is represented by a considerable quantity of sherds, and has the large size, sharp rim and decoration of no. 1. Three sherds show that this urn also had at least one slight horizontal ridge, but differs from no. 1 in having incised cross-hatching on the body of the urn (fig. 6. 6).

7. *Cremation and urn*

This is possibly part of the primary burial of cairn C and was found between two stones at the base of the cairn. Only a few nondescript pieces of cremated bone and charcoal were found. The sherds are 7-10 mm. thick, and the fabric is similar to the other urns. One sherd has part of four rows of cord-impressed lines which may belong to a pendant triangle.

8. *Cremation*

A secondary burial on a flat stone 11 in. x 11 in. and one foot deep. The inverted-saucer-shaped deposit of bones on the stone held a mass of tiny bone fragments. One thin fragment of skull suggests a child. The deposit also yielded a few tiny fragments of cinerary urn pottery.

9. *Urn*

A secondary urn from high up on cairn C was found several years ago by the late Mr. C. Gregory of Pilsley. It is noted here, but is excluded from the discussion because of the lack of details relating to its discovery. The urn is oval shaped, 12.2 cm. high and 11.2 cm. across its rim (fig. 6. 9). The fabric is red-brown, thin and quite well made. The decoration is confined to cord-impressed zigzags on the collar and body. The well defined collar and slight shoulder suggest a late form.

B. *Other finds*

1. *The medieval lead bole*

There are numerous remains of lead boles on Beeley Moor wherever a place is exceptionally exposed to the wind. There are several boles near Raven Tor (SK 281672, 284674, etc.) and one was made in the west-facing end of cairn A. A hollow was scooped out of the cairn and the kerb was levelled, perhaps to be used as a threshold to the hearth. The hearth deposit, 3 ft. 9 in. x 2 ft. 6 in., was made up of layers of slag and charcoal 6-8 in. thick. There was no evidence of a proper wall, but stones with signs of burning and fusing, and coated in lead slag were spread over a considerable area which might suggest that the bole was used several times. In the soil around the cairn were small quantities of slag and one piece of melted lead which may represent one "tapping" of the bole.

The lead ore was brought by pack-horses from the High Peak, and local fuel was used. The ore and fuel were piled up and surrounded by a crude kiln-like structure with a flue to concentrate the draught. Boles were not used after the late 16th century.²

2. *Group of bronze age sherds*

Five fragments of typical fabric were found between two large stones in cairn A (see fig. 2. a). The sherds belong to an urn with walls 6-7 mm. thick. Similar sherds were found nearby (fig. 2. b).

3. *Group of bronze age sherds*

A dozen typical sherds were found near the surface of cairn C (fig. 2. c).

4. *Clay-pipe stem*

This was found down the inner side of the inner kerb of cairn B. It had probably slipped down a crack between the stones.

5. *Piece of flint*

The only piece of flint from the site was found in the disturbed earth in cairn B. It is a large worked flake of mottled white flint, and may have been with one of the burials.

6. Stone marked "S Lott", found on the edge of cairn A. Another marked "F Lott" was found nearby. They probably relate to early quarry allotments, some of which were delimited by a bank and ditch.

² Donald, M. B., *The History of the Company of Minerals and Battery Works, 1565-1604*, 1961, 148-9.

The rectangular cairn

Twelve yards west of the triple cairn a group of vertical stones forming a rectangle were noted in the early stages of the excavation, but it was considered that it was unlikely to be ancient because of its shape and because it might have been associated with the pack-horse ways which pass on either side of it.

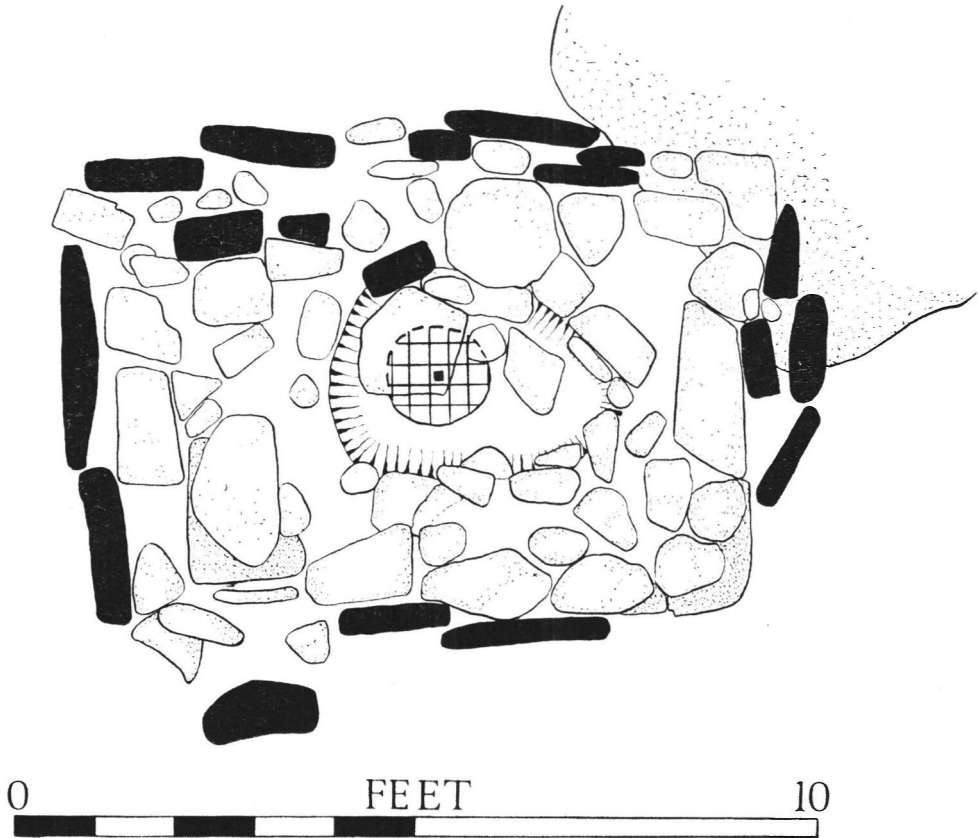


FIG. 7. The rectangular cairn showing the upright stones (black), cremation (cross hatching) and the position of the faience bead (black square).

When the area was excavated it proved to be an almost perfect rectangle, 9 ft. by 6 ft. overall and 1 ft. high (fig. 7). The interior had numerous horizontal tabular stones, some of which were carefully set behind the kerb which is now incomplete. The small mound over-rides the edge of a large slab of gritstone which may be part of the bedrock.

In the centre of this curious structure there was a shallow depression in the natural soil which was covered by a flat slab of rock. At a depth of

1 ft. beneath the stone was a saucer-shaped mass of black, greasy, compact sand 1 ft. 9 in. across, which was full of large pieces of charcoal and a few fragments of cremated bone. On top of this deposit and in the middle was a segmented faience bead.

DISCUSSION

a. *The triple cairn*

The triple cairn is unique in having three conjoined cairns with such elaborate kerbs set more or less on the same axis, aligned N.E.-S.W. It would appear that cairn C was made first and cairns B and A were subsequently added, but it could be argued that one might expect the most elaborate structure, that is cairn B, to be made first and then two less sophisticated cairns added on either side. The missing portion of the kerb between B and C might have been conclusive on this point because, if the inner kerb of B was complete, it is possible that C was cut into the side of B. As a result, it is not possible to say with complete certainty what the order of building was, and the pottery types are not helpful on this point.

Kerbs are by no means uncommon in Derbyshire, nor are similar stone rings underneath cairns, but it is difficult to parallel the three attached cairns-with-kerbs. There is no really close parallel but some of the Stanton Moor barrows have vaguely similar features. T.16 was a cairn with a rough form of kerb, with a lesser cairn attached to it on its north side. T.2 had a double ring of large stones which were under the edge of the mound, but in plan they look rather like the central cairn on Beeley Moor.³ No cairn is known in Derbyshire with such large and consistently regular stones in height and thickness as the Beeley triple cairn.

No true parallels are known from Yorkshire, but the complex cairn on Great Ayton Moor (NZ 594115) is worth noting.⁴ Attached to the late neolithic mound and chambered tomb are two stone embanked circles, one 28-30 ft. across and the other 25-27 ft. across. These dimensions are similar to the Beeley Moor cairns, and the Great Ayton circles each yielded cremations with urns from beneath flat cap stones.

The only area in Britain with several triple barrows is Wessex, for example, near Amesbury, Bincombe, and Winterbourne Abbas. The Everley barrows have ditches joined in the same manner as the Beeley kerbs. Where they have been excavated they have proved to be part of the Wessex culture. It would seem, therefore, that the Beeley triple cairn is the northernmost example of this form of burial and is probably a single structure in conception like the triple barrow south of Woodhenge, which is surrounded by a single ditch which gives the group unity.

³ J. P. Heathcote, *D.A.J.*, LVII (1936), 21-42; *LI* (1930), 1-44.

⁴ R. H. Hayes, *The chambered cairn . . . on Great Ayton Moor*, Scarborough and D.A.S. Research Report, no. 7, 1967.

b. *The white sand*

The thick layer of white sand under each cairn was proved by excavation to be confined to the cairns. Charcoal was mixed with the white sand in cairns B and C suggesting that the white sand was placed as a covering for the area as part of the process or ritual of making the cairns. Unfortunately, all three primary burials had been disturbed and no other burial bore any relationship to the white sand.

Riley has described a similar deposit under a barrow on Harland Edge, Beeley Moor, and an analysis of the sand proved that it was produced by artificial means.⁵ It may have been produced during the excavation of the primary burial pit, but other burials with food vessels were also sealed by the white sand.

When Bateman excavated the barrow called Hob Hurst's House, also on Beeley Moor, he found a large rectangular enclosure in the centre measuring 10 ft. 3 in. x 9 ft., made with large vertical stone slabs and with the floor covered in a layer of white sand and with a cremation in the corner.⁶ The enclosure has been regarded as a sub-megalithic cist,⁷ but it did not have any capstones, and, lacking any other evidence, it seems reasonable to suggest that it is related to the people who made the Harland Edge barrow and the triple cairn, since all have a white sand layer, evidence of cremation, and the last two have similar large slabs.

On Stanton Moor only two cairns (T.2 and T.3) have yielded a thick layer of white sand.⁸ Under T.2, the layer was 4-8 in. thick, and under T.3 the sand was 3-6 in. thick with some burials in pits cut through the white sand.

c. *The pottery*

The urns with burials 1, 6 and 7, i.e. the primary burials, appear to be similar in form. They are large, well-made, and have a sharp upright rim. The urns appear to have a simple profile, being probably biconical or barrel-shaped with two small raised cordons about a third and two-thirds of the way down the urn. For decoration, they have two lines of cord impressions inside the rim, and outside cord-impressed pendant triangles with lines above and below. All the cord-impressions are made by whipped cord. The body of urn 6 has an incised lattice pattern but the others are plain.

The secondary burials are accompanied by a variety of smaller vessels. Urn 2 has crudely incised triangles on a piece of rim which could belong to a normal collared urn, and since it was set beneath the white sand (whether through rather than under is not known) it is probably almost contemporary with the primary urn 1. Urn 3 is quite different, for it belongs to the early narrow-rimmed urn forms. Urn 4 is unfortunately

⁵ D. N. Riley, *D.A.J.*, LXXXVI (1966), 31-53.

⁶ T. Bateman, *Ten years' diggings*, 1861, 87-8.

⁷ J. X. W. P. Corcoran, *D.A.J.*, LXXV (1955), 92.

⁸ Heathcote, 1930, 22-37.

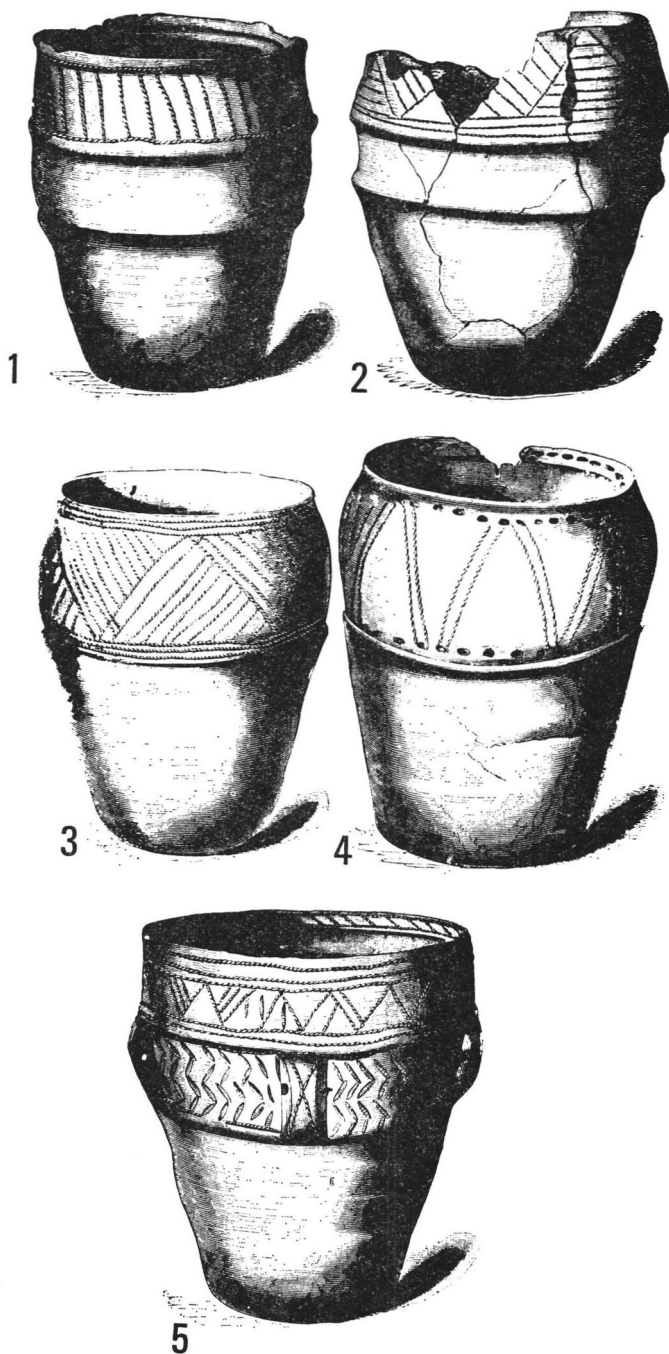


FIG. 8. The urns from Stancliff, Darley Dale, drawn by L. Jewitt. No scale.

incomplete but is again different; its thin-walled, well-made fabric and narrow necklace of cord-impressed triangles set it apart from the normal urn fabric. Urn 5 is a small food vessel which again differs from the other vessels. To summarize, then, there are the following forms:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| 1. Cordoned urns | — | Urns 1, 6, ?7 |
| 2. Collared urn | — | Urn 2 |
| 3. Narrow-rimmed urn | — | Urn 3 |
| 4. Small cinerary urn | — | Urn 4 |
| 5. Food vessel | — | Urn 5 |

The primary urns conform to Abercromby's type 5, the cordoned or hooped type, of which he quotes only one example from Derbyshire, found at Darley Dale.⁹ Since that time, another has been found in a disturbed part of the Harland Edge cairn on Beeley Moor,¹⁰ and others can be noted from Darley Dale. Jewitt figured five urns (fig. 8) from Stancliff, Darley Dale, which is about a mile to the south of the triple cairn.¹¹ The five urns were found in 1871, and sold at Derby in 1883, one finding its way to the Yorkshire Museum where Abercromby presumably saw it. This one (fig. 8. 2, and fig. 6. 8) is clearly a cordoned urn, comparable in size, shape, and decoration to the triple cairn's primaries. Fig. 8. 1 is similar and fig. 8. 3 and 4 stand close to the same tradition. Fig. 8. 5 has two cordons, and a similar cord decoration to the rest but with perhaps "maggot" decoration on the body and four cord-decorated ribbon handles. The cordoned urns have several southern parallels, in particular the Cornish ribbon-handled urns,¹² which have a Wessex II context, but normally have only two cord-decorated handles, for example the Crig a Mennis urns.¹³ At Sheep Down pond barrow there are urns with cordons with food vessels, narrow-rimmed urns, and fully collared urns, in a late Wessex context.¹⁴ The cordoned urns from Scotland appear to be a separate group, and the Beeley examples can be satisfactorily explained in the terms of Wessex contacts.

The secondary collared urn, urn 2, is represented by only one large rim-sherd but the secondary narrow-rimmed urn, urn 3, is like the group from the pond barrow defined as Sheep Down urns.¹⁵ A similar urn was found in fragments below the Harland Edge cairn,¹⁶ and this must be broadly contemporary with the three food vessels from pits 1 and 2 under the same cairn.

Urn 5 seems to be a food vessel used as an urn and is also in a secondary position. Its simple form is paralleled by a food vessel, found in the

⁹ J. Abercromby, *Bronze age pottery*, 1912, 2, 52 and fig. 481.

¹⁰ Riley, fig. 10. 2.

¹¹ L. Jewitt, *Ceramic art in Great Britain*, 1878, I, figs. 7-10, 22.

¹² Lady Aileen Fox, *South-west England*, 1964, 77-8, 107. The status of cordoned urns is at present being reviewed by Mr. I. H. Longworth.

¹³ P. M. Christie, *P.P.S.*, XXVI, 84, fig. 4. 1.

¹⁴ R. J. C. Atkinson, *Arch. J.*, CVIII (1951), 1-24. The urns with cordons, however, may not be the same as Longworth's cordoned urns.

¹⁵ Atkinson, fig. 5. 19, 20.

¹⁶ Riley, fig. 8. 5.

digging of drains in Stanton Park (fig. 6. 7),¹⁷ which is slightly more rounded and has a slight impressed pattern on its vestigial ridge, and both resemble the simple forms from the Harland Edge cairn. The Sheep Down pond barrow has one food vessel very like urn 5,¹⁸ and another with a vestigial Yorkshire food vessel's stopped ridge.¹⁹ One food vessel occurs with stopped ridges in the Harland Edge cairn, which, with its five food vessels, compares very well with the six food vessels from Quernhow.²⁰ The Darley Dale ribbon-handled urn may owe its four handles, portrayed by Jewitt as considerably smaller than the Crig a Mennis examples, to a food vessel influence. No doubt other parallels could be found, but the mixed nature of the ceramic group from the pond barrow adequately demonstrates the contact with Wessex. Whether it is all or partly a south-north contact or the reverse cannot be decided here.

Stanton Moor has no similarly complex cairn but several urns are probably early. A 14-in. high flower pot type of urn with a cordon was found last century with an incense cup which has triangular openings.²¹ Both the urn, which has a single cordon and is like fig. 6. 8, and the incense cup are preserved in the Heathcote Museum, Birchover. The incense cup can be related to similarly decorated incense cups from Wessex. Longworth, who includes the Sheep Down urns in his primary series of collared urns, also includes urns from Stanton Moor, T.1, 2, 3, 13, 20, 21, 61 and others.²²

d. *The rectangular cairn and the faience bead*

Both the rectangular cairn and its faience bead are unique on the east side of the river. One cairn form does not make a type, but there is a parallel for the bead and a probable second rectangular cairn on Stanton Moor.

Doll Tor circle has a fine dominant position and is 30 x 27 ft. with six standing stones, two of which are now prostrate. Bateman cleared the centre out and obtained three or four cinerary urns with as many incense cups; he describes the urns as being more like flower pots which were more straight-sided than usual. Mr. J. P. Heathcote obtained more similar urns from the circle in 1931-3.²³ On the east side of the circle, a mound 18 ft. in diameter had as its central feature a roughly rectangular enclosure formed by upright stones, measuring c. 9 ft. x 6 ft. overall. Under a large flat stone in the centre was a cremation with a segmental faience bead. Outside the enclosure and at the foot of an isolated upright stone was an adult cremation with a star-shaped faience bead. This

¹⁷ T. Bateman, *Vestiges of the antiquities of Derbyshire*, 1848, 85; Sheffield City Museum, J. 93. 852.

¹⁸ Atkinson, fig. 4. 1.

¹⁹ Atkinson, fig. 5. 4.

²⁰ D. Waterman, *Ant. J.*, XXXI (1951), 1-24.

²¹ *D.A.J.*, XIII (1891), 45.

²² I. H. Longworth, *P.P.S.*, XXVII (1961), 263-306.

²³ J. P. Heathcote, *D.A.J.*, LX (1939), 116-25. Mr. Heathcote, in conversation, has agreed with the writer's suggested sequence for Doll Tor, which may not involve much elapse of time.

rectilinear feature is directly comparable to the Beeley barrow in form and content so it seems reasonable to conclude that the star bead and its burial represent another primary or satellite burial included before the cairn was made. Two secondary urns in this mound are similar to the urns from the circle which demonstrates that the circle is an annexe to the mound. Since the pottery, however, is unlike the triple cairn's grave goods, it is no help in dating the triple cairn.

One other barrow on Stanton Moor which has a rectilinear outline, 40 x 20 ft., is T.13,²⁴ which, it should be noted, Heathcote suggests was probably two separate barrows but he could find no evidence of this. Burial A is probably the primary, which was a cremation accompanied by fragments of a collared urn and a bone toggle. Other secondary burials also yielded collared urns and an incense cup. The bone toggle may be a copy of a faience bead and is paralleled in Cornwall.²⁵ Longworth has placed the urns in his primary series.

Conclusion

Many of the bronze age monuments of the Peak District are clearly concentrated on the eastern side of the Peak, around the Derwent valley. An examination of one part of this area, centred on Beeley Moor, shows that two equally distinctive funerary monuments can be recognized in the triple cairn and the rectangular cairn, the former being attributed to the period before the main middle bronze age was established in Derbyshire.

The triple cairn belongs to the small group of barrows which have yielded a variety of ceramics, which in this case probably derive from Wessex prototypes. It is reasonably certain that there are no well-developed "Pennine" urns from the cairns, and where parallels exist the urns appear to be derived from a period when urns and food vessels were in contemporary use. Although the food vessel in the triple cairn is in a secondary position, all the ceramics are probably very close in time. The white sand inside the kerbs, several tons of it, is a distinctive feature which is repeated in the cairn excavated by D. N. Riley, which yielded a similar range of ceramics, and in Hob Hurst's House which has internal stonework of comparable magnitude to some of the stones in the triple cairn's kerbs. The sand also occurs in T.2 on Stanton Moor which yielded some type of food vessel, suggesting that the white sand, although used elsewhere, was emphasized in the local funeral ritual.

The rectangular cairn is a deliberate feature which can be matched on a larger but less definite scale in T.13 on Stanton Moor, and the Doll Tor mound has several points of similarity. These three cairns have in common the rectangular plan, cremated remains and the presence of two segmented faience beads and one bone toggle. The close proximity of the

²⁴ Heathcote, 1936, 29. Mr. Heathcote has told the writer that he has critically re-examined the kerb and has shown that it is not at all definite.

²⁵ Lady Fox, 1964, 73.

Beeley rectangular cairn to the triple cairn probably involves a relationship of the smaller barrow being placed near an older larger monument, which must have been quite conspicuous in the early days of its existence.

The cultural position of the new Beeley material appears to be reasonably certain because of its Wessex connections, but the chronological position will obviously be a matter of debate for some time to come. Longworth favours a terminal date of *c.* 1400 B.C. for his primary series of collared urns. The Darley ribbon handled urn, the T.13 bone segmented bead, and the form of the Beeley triple cairn can be attributed to the Wessex II period, *c.* 1550-1400 B.C. The C.14 date for pit 2 in the Harland Edge cairn at 1490 ± 150 B.C. (BM. 178) could place the food vessels in the same bracket, but a C.14 date of 1750 ± 150 B.C. (BM. 210) for pit 3, the central pit of the same barrow might suggest a somewhat earlier date. An early date for the collared urn from Barbrook II cairn circle of 1500 ± 150 B.C. may be in keeping with the pit 3 date.

One thing which emerges from this examination is the general poverty of most of the burials. Bronze is very rare in the whole area, flints occur occasionally, and there are a few beads and buttons. The triple cairn and its pottery contributes more to the story of the apparent move outwards from the limestone on to the gritstone in the Peak District, and provides a useful assemblage of pottery forms.