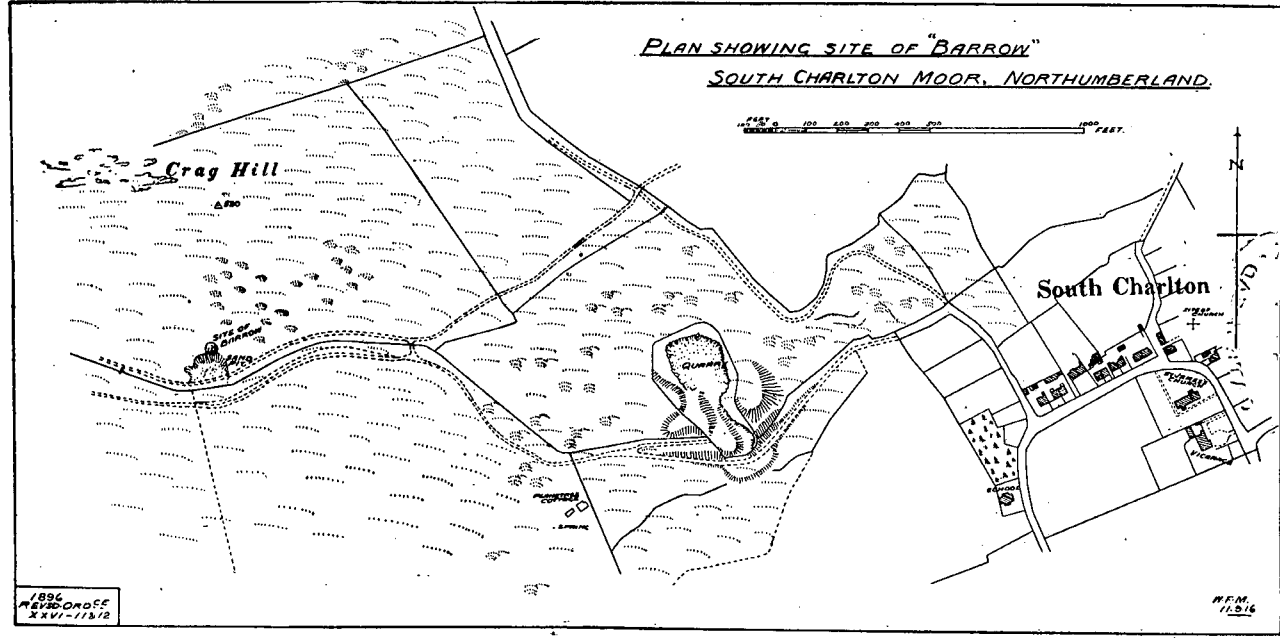
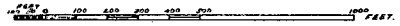


*PLAN SHOWING SITE OF "BARROW"  
SOUTH CHARLTON MOOR, NORTHUMBERLAND.*



1896  
W. E. D. O. R. O. S. F.  
XXVI-11/12

W. E. D. O. R. O. S. F.  
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W. E. D. O. R. O. S. F.  
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## IV.—A PRE-HISTORIC BARROW NEAR SOUTH CHARLTON, NORTHUMBERLAND.

By J. C. HODGSON, M.A., V.P.

[Read on 29th November, 1916.]

[Ordnance Map 25 in. scale; Northumberland, Sheet xxvi-11.]

On the extensive moor of the township of South Charlton, in the ancient parish of Ellingham, there is a knoll, or hillock, rising to a height of about 490 feet above sea level, behind which is Craig hill rising to an altitude of 520 feet. That knoll is sheltered on the north, and north-east, by rising ground and commands an extensive and diversified view to the south, the south-west, and west. In the foreground is the whale-backed Shipley-hill, with its strikingly placed farm buildings which may well occupy the site of an Anglian town or village. Farther off may be marked Hefferlaw bank, with its dark pine plantations, Holywell, and Alwick White-house hill, and Folly, the tower of Brizlee, Shipley, Jenny Lantern, Titlington-mount, Kimmerlough, with Bolton and Beanley woods. In the far west the eye reaches the highlands in Redesdale and the mighty shoulder of Cheviot. The hillock, which runs out to the south-west, is composed of yellow sand, the base of which has been used for generations as a sand-pit for building purposes. This excavation has encroached on a cairn, crowning a hillock, with a diameter of about 35 feet. At a spot where the turf and stones of the cairn have fallen away into the sand-pit, an urn (Find i) described below, was found about the year 1908, and another urn (Find ii) on the 26th of June, 1916.

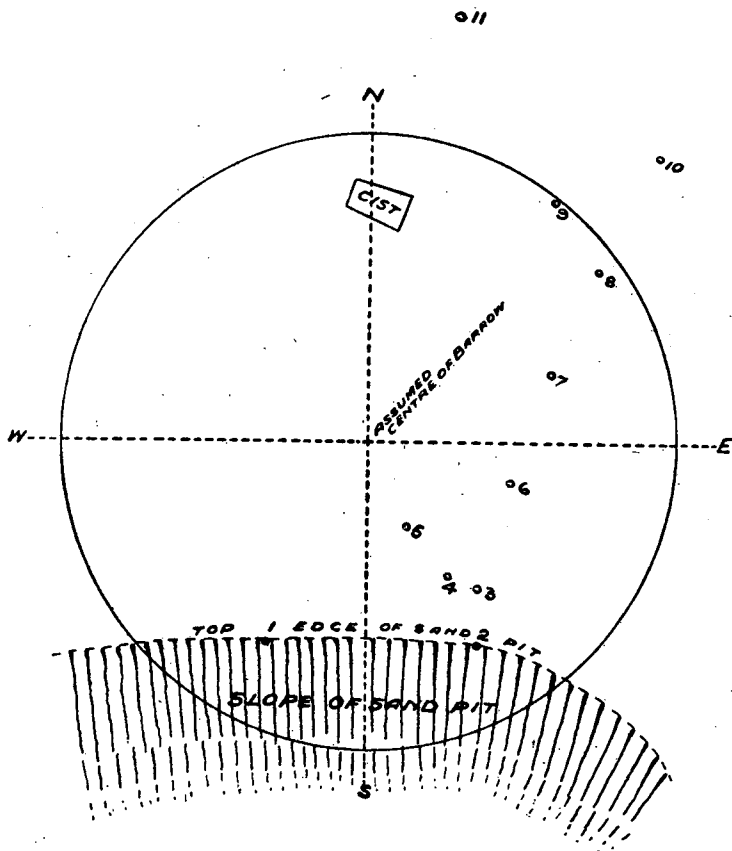
By the duke of Northumberland's direction the barrow was explored in the months of August and September of this year when the primary interment and not less than nine secondary interments were found. The upper face of some of the stones near the surface was apparently discoloured, as if by fire. Most of the interments seem to have been made in small pits, or basins, hollowed in the yellow sand. They were from 18 inches to three feet below the present surface, and covered by the stones of the cairn with the earth and vegetable mould of centuries.

#### PRIMARY INTERMENT.

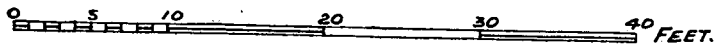
A cist in the north sector of the assumed ambit of the cairn<sup>1</sup> was opened on Monday, the 25th September. It was constructed in the usual manner of four massive slabs, or stones, of the native freestone, set edgeways, with a fifth stone as a cover. Its dimensions were: Length from east to west, 3 ft. 10 ins.; breadth at west end, 1 ft. 11 ins.; breadth at east end, 2 ft. 5 ins.; depth to bottom of side stone, inner measurement, 1 ft. 11 ins. The covering slab, or stone, was 4 ft. in length with a breadth at east end of 3 ft. 7 ins. and at west end of 2 ft. 10 ins., in thickness 10 ins. tapering to 6 ins. It had an estimated weight of half a ton. The cover of the cist, although 2½ ft. below the present surface, was seemingly flush with the original surface. The joints of the stones forming the walls of the cist had been cemented or mortared with clay.

On the floor of the cist to a depth of two inches, there was a deposit showing traces of organic matter. This was passed through a riddle but no fragment of skull or any other bone, earthenware, stone, metal, or charcoal, was found, with the exception of one small piece of flint. The surface of the deposit was fairly level, without elevation or depression.

<sup>1</sup> The plans have been made by Mr. William Meech, of the Estate Office at Alnwick castle.



ENLARGED PLAN OF BARROW EXCAVATED AUGUST 1916  
ON  
SOUTH CHARLTON MOOR, NORTHUMBERLAND.



Mr. Greenwell has expressed the opinion that the cist undoubtedly originally contained an unburned body—as is shown by the presence of animal matter in the deposit—probably buried with the head at the wider or easterly end.

#### SECONDARY INTERMENTS.

FIND I.—An urn found about the year 1908 on the edge of the sand-pit, by Redhead, at that time shepherd at Brockley-hall, was temporarily placed by him on the window-sill of his kitchen whence it was flung down by a hen. The spot where it was found was pointed out by Mr. T. Bowden, and was excavated on the 10th August; much charcoal being found near by.

FIND II.—An urn of the food vessel type, in perfect condition, found on the 26th June, 1916, by Mr. T. Bowden, at light of day, upside down, and covering a quantity of bones, probably human. Its dimensions are, height  $12\frac{1}{2}$  ins., diameter at mouth 10 ins., diameter of base [...] ins., ornamented by lines impressed on the clay by a twisted thong.

FIND III.—This 'pit' was opened on the 10th August and was found to contain an urn, standing upright, with a quantity of charcoal and fragments of bone. The dimensions of the urn, which is of the food vessel type, are, height 8 ins., diameter at mouth  $6\frac{3}{4}$  ins., and at base  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ins. It is ornamented with eight horizontal lines, impressed by a twisted thong, and below the lines a row of small horse-shoe markings half-an-inch apart, fig. 1, p. 129.

FIND IV.—This 'pit' was opened on the 10th August, and was found to contain a small urn, lying on its side, with fragments of bone, probably human, also lumps of charcoal, and an 'incense cup.' The dimensions of the urn, which is of the food vessel type, are, height  $5\frac{3}{4}$  ins., diameter at mouth  $5\frac{1}{4}$  ins., and at base  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ins. A wide band round the top is ornamented by two marginal lines, with cross diagonal markings between them; the

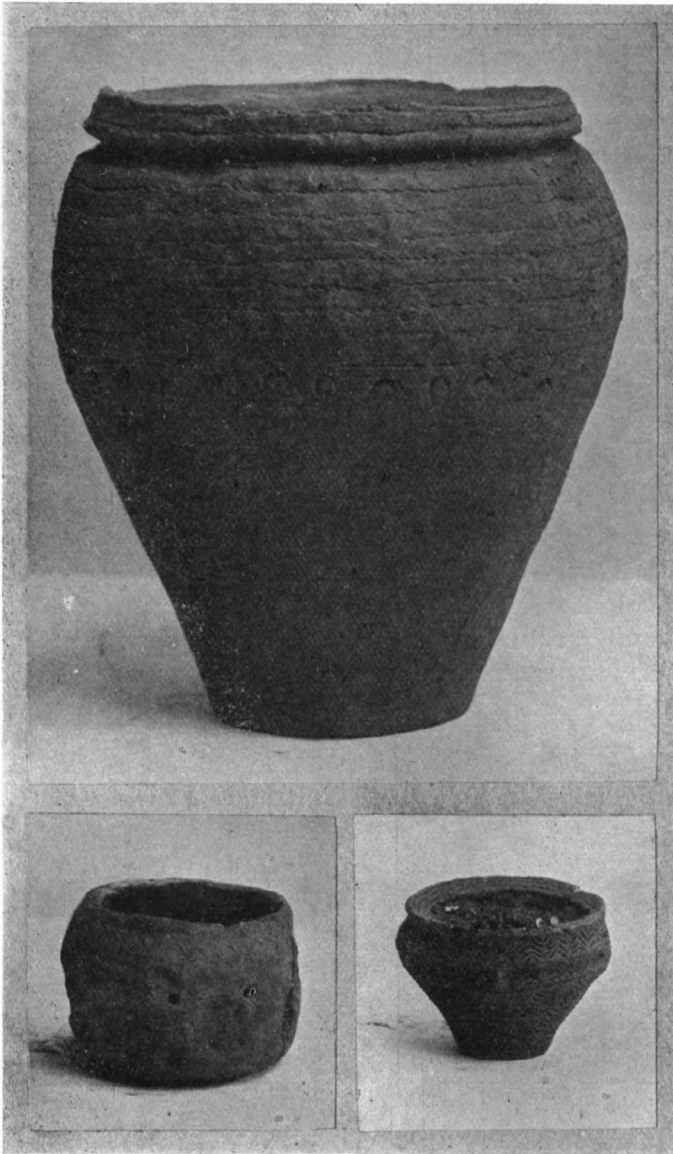


FIG. 1.

FIG. 3.

FIG. 5.

body of the urn is without ornament (fig. 2). The dimensions of the 'incense cup' are, height  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ins., diameter at mouth  $2\frac{7}{8}$  ins., and at base  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ins. It is slightly ornamented on the edge by fish-bone design made by a pointed stick (fig. 3), p. 129.

FIND V.—This 'pit' was opened on the 10th August, and found to contain fragments of bone, a quantity of charcoal, believed to be of oak, one piece of which has apparently been cut off the tree by a sharp knife. No urn.

FIND VI.—This 'pit' was opened on the 11th August, and found to contain a quantity of charcoal, mixed with particles of bone, also some minute fragments of earthenware.

FIND VII.—This 'pit' was opened on the 17th August. It contained the shattered fragments of a small urn of thin and brittle clay, protected by two flat stones set edgeways. The approximate dimensions of the urn, which is of the food vessel type, are, height  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins., width at base  $2\frac{3}{4}$  ins., rudely ornamented by surrounding lines (fig. 4), p. 131.

FIND VIII.—This 'pit' was opened on the 17th August. It comprised a box eight inches square, formed by four flat stones, set edgeways, covered by another stone. It contained no trace of charcoal, but a quantity of bone, probably human, with an 'incense cup' of beautiful proportion and design. Its dimensions are height  $2\frac{3}{16}$  ins., diameter at mouth  $2\frac{3}{4}$  ins., at base  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ins. It is ornamented by two grooves round the top, the under one having had four knobs, one of which is missing, perforated apparently for suspension, fine twisted thong-marks on the ridges of the grooves, thong-marks round base, which is hollow; the whole surface enriched by chevron marks made with a pointed stick, margin of cup flat, sloping inward, enriched by three rows of twisted thong-marks (fig. 5), p. 129.

FIND IX.—This 'pit' was opened on the 18th August. It contained a limited quantity of charcoal mixed with fragments of bone, and the fragments of two small urns, of the food vessel



FIG. 2.

FIG. 4.

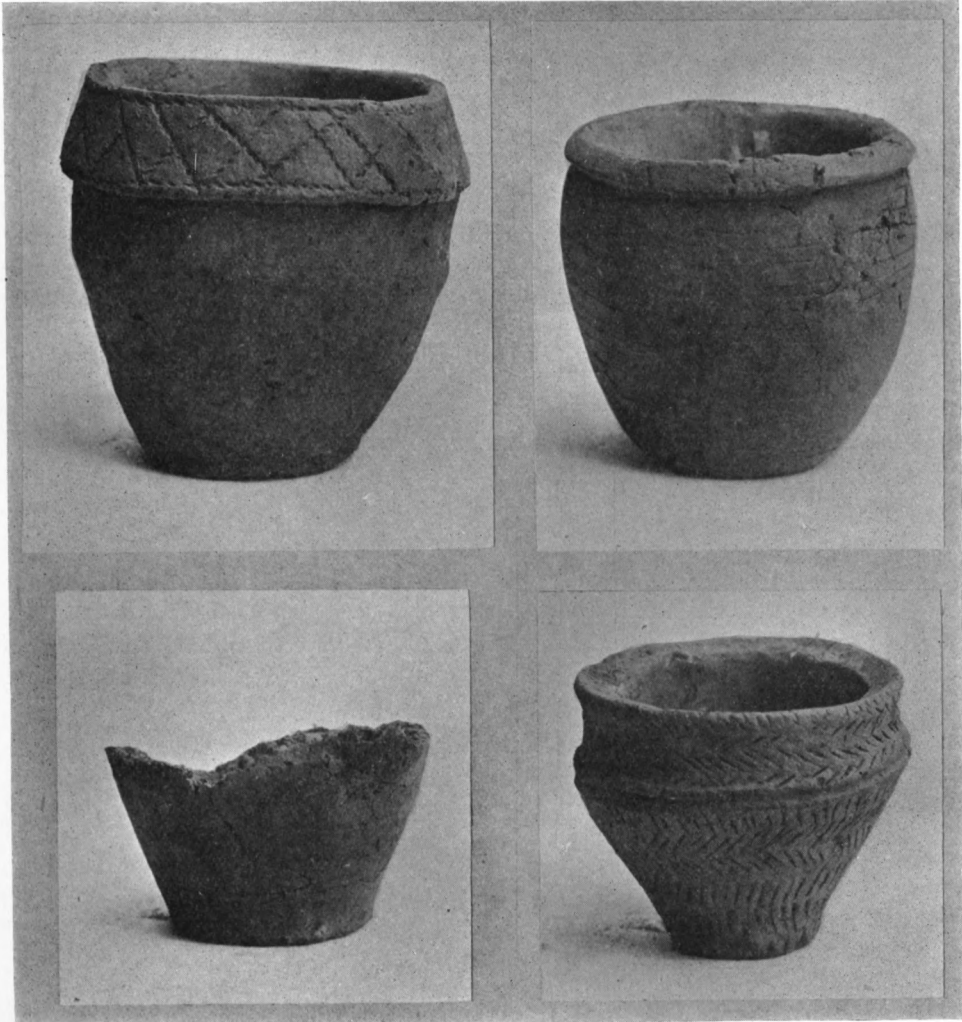


FIG. 6.

FIG. 7.



type, protected by the two small flat stones, or slabs, set edgewise. The approximate dimensions of the larger urn are, height  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins., diameter at top of fragment  $4\frac{3}{4}$  ins., at base 3 ins. (fig. 6). The diameter at the base of the second urn is 2 ins.

FIND X.—This 'pit' was opened on the 24th August and comprised a small cist, or box, formed by four flat stones set edgewise, covered by another stone. The dimensions of the cist are  $23\frac{1}{2}$  ins., north and south,  $22\frac{1}{2}$  ins., each and west, depth 18 ins. It contained one or two fragments of charcoal, and a small urn, but neither bone nor any other object. The dimensions of the urn, which is of the food vessel type, are, height  $4\frac{1}{8}$  ins., diameter at mouth  $4\frac{1}{8}$  ins., at base 2 ins. It is ornamented by a wide grooved band at top, with chevron markings, made by a pointed stick, immediately below which is another groove, narrow and deep; the remainder of the surface rudely ornamented by chevron and perpendicular markings, also made by a pointed stick (fig. 7), p. 131.

FIND XI.—This 'pit' was opened on the 25th September. It contained a very rude cist three feet below the present surface. Its length from north-west to south-east was 3 ft. 2 ins., and its breadth about 2 ft. and depth 18 ins. It was covered by three flat stones, and was filled with earth, seemingly a mixture of sand and mould, with suggestions of organic matter. The earth was carefully riddled, but no object of stone, bone, earthenware or metal was found. nor any charcoal.