

Excavation of a Menhir at Try, Gulval

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SUMMARY

The menhir was found to be standing by a cairn of stones which covered a stone cist containing a beaker burial. The menhir had been put in position before the cist, but it is probable that they form a single monument. Sherds found in the surrounding soil suggest the insertion of secondary burials in the cairn, which had been scattered by ploughing.

The main excavation was undertaken in the winter of 1958 by the writers, with the assistance of Miss M. I. Somerscales and Mr. A. Guthrie. A further short excavation was carried out in August 1962 when the ground was again available.

THE SITE

Try Farm lies about $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles N. by W. of Penzance. The menhir stands in the second field S. from the farm (O.S. 192; O.S. 6-in., 1908 edn., Cornwall LXVIII NW and SW; SW 460350). It is just above the 500 ft. contour, on a ridge from which the land falls gently to the E. and more steeply to the Try Valley on the West. Mulfra Hill rises on the opposite side of the valley, the Quoit being just out of sight over the crest. The field is called Longstone Field in the Tithe Apportionment of 1843, but there does not appear to be any other record of the monument. There is another Longstone Field a quarter of a mile to the E.N.E., but no menhir stands there now.

The stone, which is of the local coarse-grained granite, stands 8 ft. high above the present ground level. Below the top, which is pointed, the cross-section is nearly an equilateral triangle; further down, the eastern-most edge loses its sharpness and broadens towards the base of the stone into a fourth side. At turf level, the sides measure 24 in., 24 in., 23 in. and 8 in. There were no surface indications of any structures around the stone.

THE EXCAVATION

The menhir was found to have been bedded in a pit dug in the rab. Part of this pit was excavated to a depth of 4 ft. below turf level, and the base of the stone was found by probing to be 6 in. lower. It was considered inadvisable to clear the pit any further, having regard to the stability of the stone. There were few packing stones round the menhir, and the socket was mainly filled with dark soil. The edge of the pit was about a foot from the stone on the S. and E. sides and 1 ft. 6 in. on the N. On the W. side a later disturbance of the ground had destroyed the side of the original pit; some horse bones and a coin of Gallienus (259-268 A.D.) were found here.

On the E. side of the menhir, 3 ft. 4 in. from its base, was a stone cist. For this, a pit had been dug separately from that which contained the menhir. It must have been dug after the erection of the menhir, since the rab upcast from this pit partly overlay the soil filling of the menhir socket. Each wall of the cist is formed by a single rectangular stone with a flat inner face and straight edges. They appear to have been trimmed to shape, though no tool marks are visible. They are not grooved to fit into each other, but are wedged vertically against each other, and the spaces behind them are packed with small stones. The resulting enclosure is not strictly rectangular, being wider at the S. end than the N. and longer on the W. side than the E. The average internal measurements are length 4 ft. 2 in., width 1 ft. 9 in., depth 1 ft. 7 in. The long axis of the cist lies N/S, and the centre point is almost due E. of the menhir.

The floor is paved with rough unshapen stones with more or less flat surfaces. Three or four of these appear to have been specially chosen and the remaining spaces filled in with small stones. This was probably done after the setting-up of the walls, as none of the paving stones go under the walls.

On the bottom of the cist, near the S.W. corner, a handled beaker was found lying on its side with its rim towards the N. Near it were two unburnt bones which were too decayed even to allow of their identification as human.

The cist appears to have been deliberately filled in before being covered over, and to have been filled in at once, as there was no silt on the base. The filling consisted of a very gritty soil with frequent traces of rab, and scattered throughout it were fragments of calcined human bone, a few sherds [nos. 7-12], charcoal, two small pieces of haematite, and many small waterworn pebbles. (Throughout this report, the sherd numbers in square brackets refer to the excavators' catalogue and not to the illustrations.) The filling of the beaker was identical with this, and it included some of each of the objects mentioned above except for the haematite.

The cist was covered by a single flat block of granite. It is irregularly shaped, its maximum measurements being 6 ft. 8 in. by 3 ft. 10 in., its thickness 8 to 10 in. On the N. and E. sides it rested directly on the walls of the cist; on the S. side it was trigged by three flat stones placed on the S. wall; and on the W. side there were a number of small stones which were probably rammed underneath to steady it after it was in position.

Close to the S.W. corner of the cist, an irregularly-shaped pit about 2 ft. by 1 ft. 6 in., 9 in. deep, was dug into that already dug for the cist. It was filled with soft dark soil which contrasted sharply with the leached, gritty, stony soil found in the main pit. At the base, against the sides, were three smears of charcoal, and near the top three beaker sherds [nos. 13-15] were found. A flat slab of granite about 2 ft. 4 in. by 1 ft. 8 in. lay horizontally over this pit but did not fully cover it.

A cairn of rough, unshapen stones lay over the whole area. When excavated, it spread over the main capstone, the pit dug for the cist and the smaller pit, and beyond; on the W. side it came halfway round the menhir. Its original size could not be determined as no retaining wall was found, and the stones, on the E. side at least, appeared to have fallen outwards or to have been spread by ploughing. The soil among the stones was dark and gritty, and contained occasional flecks of charcoal and waterworn pebbles. Among the cairn-stones, near the top of the smaller pit, was a granite saddle-quern. This was found broken in two pieces, but had evidently been intact when inserted in the cairn.

Over the cairn, on the S. side, was a patch of heavily charcoal-flecked soil two to three inches thick, measuring about 2 ft. 6 in. by 1 ft. 10 in. This contained some sherds [nos. 1 - 5] and a large quantity of very small waterworn pebbles; a slight depression in the surface, 6 in. in diameter, was packed full of these pebbles. This layer would appear to fix a limit to the height of the cairn near its edge, though it may have been higher in the centre.

A trench continuing the line of section eastwards showed that outside the cairn, below the modern ploughsoil, was a deep layer, reaching to within 3 in. of the undisturbed rab, of gritty soil containing a number of stones of approximately cairn-stone size. This layer probably represents mediaeval ploughing which has caused a spreading of the cairn. Sherds [nos. 17, 19-98], fragments of calcined human bone, and four flint flakes were found in this layer, and the trench was extended to give good clearance to the finds. These are possibly from a secondary burial inserted into the cairn. It may be noted that secondary burials have been found in several beaker tumuli in Wales (*Griffiths, 1957, 79*).

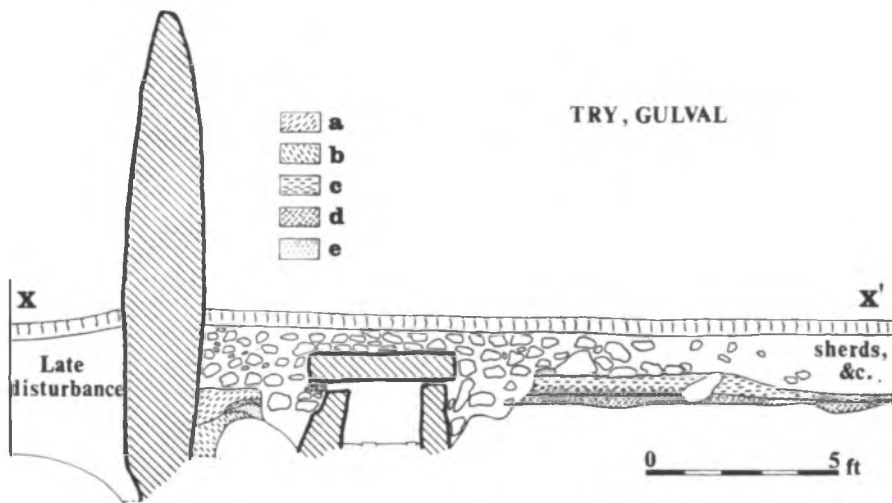
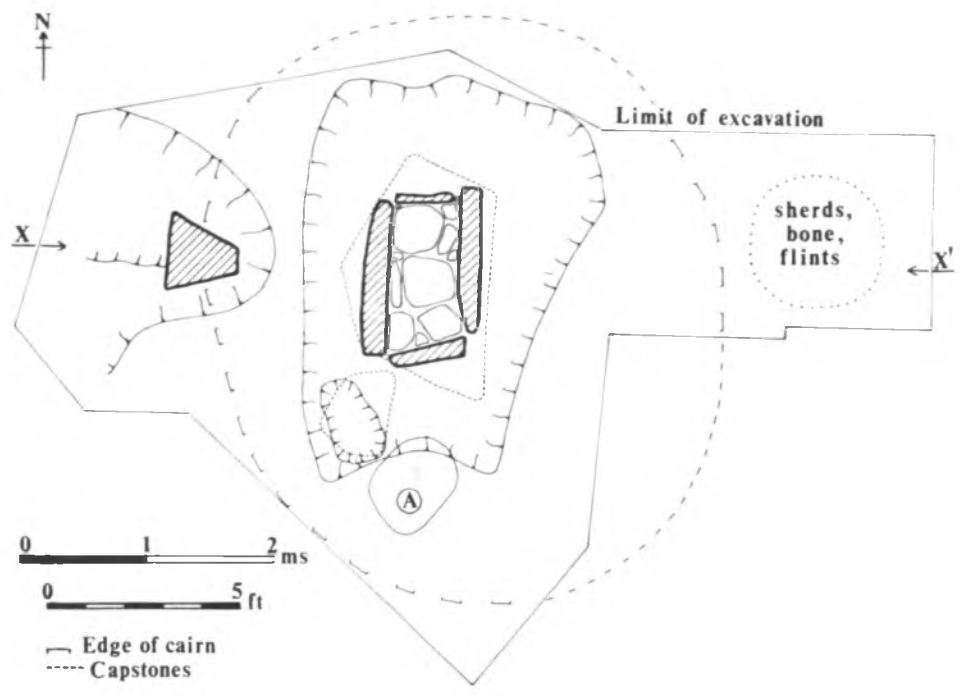


Fig. 5. Above, plan as excavated (A, area of charcoal-flecked soil with pebbles). Below, section; key, a—medium brown soft soil, b—dark brown soft soil, c—grey leached gritty soil, darker at base of layer, d—chocolate-brown weathered rab (?), e—rab upcast.

DISCUSSION

It is evident that the menhir was placed in position before the cist, since the rab upcast from the pit dug for the cist partly overlies the soil filling of the menhir pit. From the absence of any layer which can be recognised as being due to silting or weathering, it

seems likely that there was only a short interval between the two operations. Thus the menhir and the cist can probably be regarded as a single monument.

The cremation would have taken place elsewhere, and the remains have been scraped up and placed in the cist with the beaker, thus accounting for the fragmentary state of the calcined bones and for the mixture of rab found in the soil in the cist. Dr. Cornwall suggests that the unburnt bones found near the beaker might have been a joint of meat put in as a funerary offering.

The small pit to the S.W. of the cist with its separate capstone contained beaker sherds and is probably contemporary. The cairn would presumably have been raised soon after the other structures were in position, and this overlay both capstones. If, however, part of the cairn had been removed in order to dig the pit at a later date and the stones replaced, it is doubtful whether this would have been apparent in the course of excavation.

Some time later, burials were probably inserted into the upper part of the cairn. One of these is probably represented by sherds [1-5] found in the charcoal-flecked layer still in situ over the surviving part of the cairn; others by sherds [17 and 19-98], including parts of two urns, which were probably scattered, perhaps in mediaeval times, when the cairn was demolished for agricultural purposes. In his report on the pottery, Mr. ApSimon states that two of the sherds found in the cist filling [7 and 11] are from one of these urns, and suggests that they and the beaker sherds so found may have been washed into the cist by heavy rainstorms. The excavators feel, having regard to the massive nature of the capstone and the manner in which it fitted on the cist, that this suggestion is improbable, but they have no alternative to offer.

No other double monument of this kind—a menhir standing by a cist containing a beaker burial—is so far known in Cornwall. At Tregiffian in St. Buryan, W. C. Borlase found a menhir fallen across the capstone of a cist, and in his opinion this must have stood by it; but the cist contained only bone and ashes, and was not dateable (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 108*). In the majority of recorded menhir excavations the finds have been contained in a pit in the rab, either in the one dug for the menhir or in a separate pit a short distance away, and none has been of beaker date. (The appendix contains a brief account of findings in West Penwith.) Outside Cornwall, at Porth Dafarch on Holyhead Island a fallen menhir was found near a cist, and an AI beaker was found near the cist, which was empty (*Griffiths, 1957, 75, 86*). At Longstone Rath near Naas in Co. Kildare, a cist containing a Bronze Age cremation and possibly beaker artifacts was found on the W. side of a menhir (*Macalister et al, 1913, 351-360*). At Prat-Palud in Plomeur (Brittany) 8 to 10 cists containing urns and cremations were found 20 metres E. of a menhir, while a beaker or E.B.A. urn lay at the foot of the stone on the N. side (*Matériaux, 1881, xii, 60*).

Only two other beakers (both type A) have been recorded in West Penwith—at Tregiffian in St. Buryan (*Patchett, 1953, 23*) and at Trevedra in St. Just (*Russell and Patchett, 1954, 41; Thomas, 1961, 189*). Both were found in stone cists but with no menhir or barrow marking the site, though it is always possible that either or both may have existed and have been removed in the course of cultivation.

THE FINDS

REPORT ON THE POTTERY by A. M. ApSimon (Queen's University of Belfast)

GENERAL

The pottery as received was in a very fragile condition and had suffered some damage in transit. Before it could be examined it had to be impregnated with Polyvinyl Acetate. This was done in the Department of Archaeology laboratory by Mr. S. Rees-Jones, who also made up the joining sherds as far as possible.

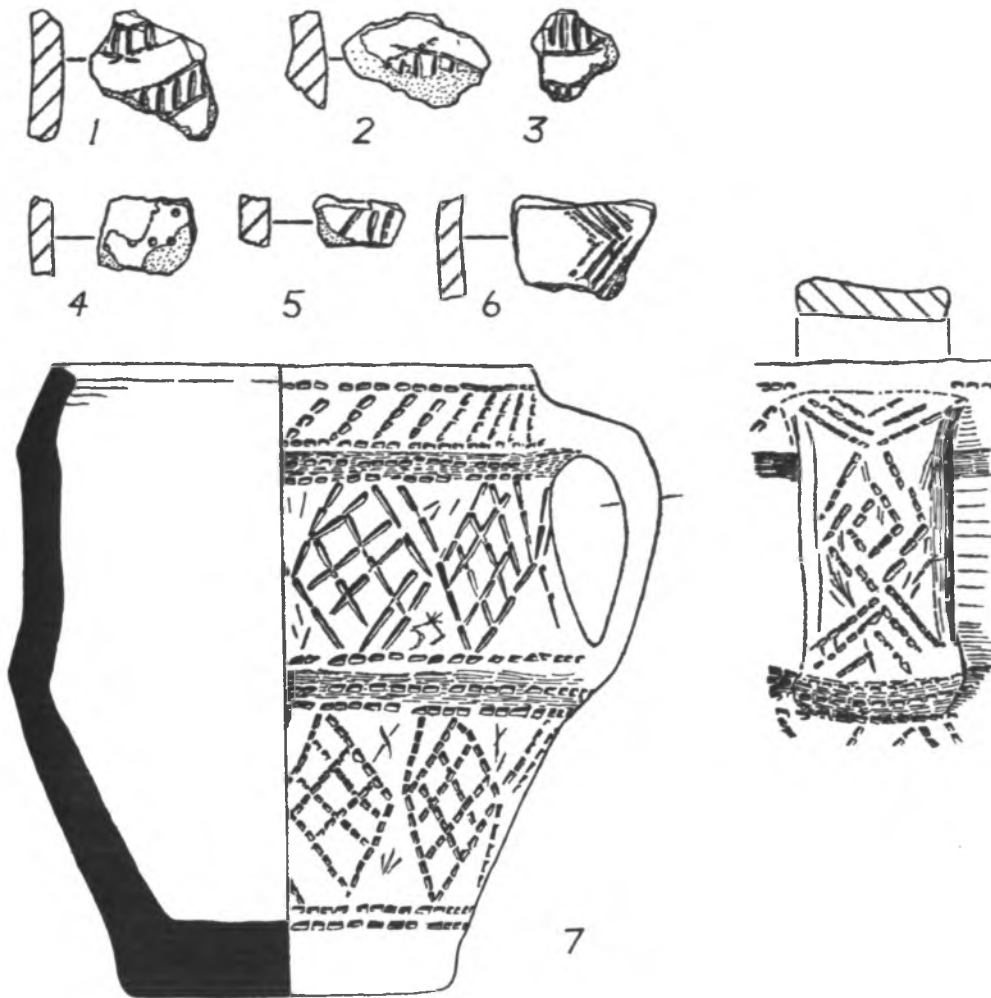


Fig. 6. Try: sherds and handled beaker (scale: one-half)

DESCRIPTION OF POTTERY

Fig. 6. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 are from the cist, no. 1 being found inside no. 7; nos. 5 and 6 are from the pit under the small capstone S.W. of the cist.

1-3. Three body sherds of fine reddish-brown beaker ware containing very small yellowish-white grits, the surfaces smooth. The decoration on the outside consists of vertical thumb-nail impressions between deeply impressed lines of comb impressions, forming running hatched chevron zones, alternating with plain zones. It would appear that the pot was held with the left hand and decorated with the right thumb-nail. The nail impressions suggest either a female hand or a male hand no larger than the writer's. No. 1 may be from the waist of the pot, 2 perhaps from near the base. [18, 8, 9]

4. Worn sherd of fine reddish-brown beaker ware, buff inside, one large white stone grit and fragments of quartz in the paste. Circular impressions on the outside. [10]

5. Decorated sherd of the same ware as nos. 1-3, probably the same pot. Another scrap found with this fitted on before being cleaned. [14, 15]
6. Body sherd of fine brown ware with white stone grits, very like nos. 1-3, the surfaces reddish (inside black in part). The outside is decorated with impressed lines which very careful examination suggests were made with a comb, although the tooth impressions are almost imperceptible. The sherd is worn although the fractures are still sharp. It is certainly beaker and could possibly be from the same pot as nos. 1-3 and 5. [13].
7. Complete handled beaker, hard lumpy medium-gritted ware, fired reddish-brown outside, brown inside. 6.65 in. high, rim diameter 5 in. The upper part of the profile slopes inward and the rim has an inward bevel. The middle part of the profile is concave and the greatest diameter coincides with the lower end of the handle. The handle is strap-like in section. The outside is decorated with comb impressions, much coarser and more carelessly arranged than those of the other beaker pottery. On the middle part of the pot the comb impressions are replaced by deep wedge-shaped impressions perhaps made with the back of the comb. The pattern on the upper part consists of a narrow zone of sloping lines in between horizontal lines. The middle and lower parts have broad zones of diamond pattern enclosed between further horizontal lines, the diamonds being mostly divided up into nine smaller diamonds. In places there are outer lines roughly parallel to the edges of the diamonds, but the pattern is too irregular to be certain exactly what was intended. To the right of the handle the space between it and the nearest diamonds is filled with 5 vertical chevrons parallel to the outline of the diamond. The outer surface of the handle has a central diamond with a smaller one inside, meeting triple nested half diamonds above and below, the whole being rather irregular. The base and the rim bevel are left plain. A feature of the outside are the numerous small impressions, perhaps of chaff. [6]

Also from the filling of the cist were a rim sherd and a scrap belonging to the urn, Fig. 7, no. 1 [7,11]. From the packing behind the cist stones came a scrap of reddish beaker ware with comb decoration [16]; this was thinner than nos. 1-3 and 5, but might be from the same pot.

Fig. 7 This pottery came from the spread of sherds to the east of the cairn.

1. Urn, represented by joined rim, shoulder and body sherds, also 3 other decorated sherds and 5 plain sherds of which 2 may be from the base. Chocolate-brown ware with stone grit, mainly small and yellowish, but some up to 7 mm., core dark brown to black, coarse and poorly fired. Surfaces originally smooth but now much weathered in places. The pot was ring-built and the join between shoulder and rim shows as an oblique line of fracture. Where this surface is exposed two thumb impressions can be seen on the ring forming the rim. The shoulder cordon probably also marks a join but this is not visible. The decoration consists of lines of deeply impressed twisted cord impressions. These are arranged in two horizontal lines on the outside of the short upstanding neck formed by the rim, with a triple row of slanting zig-zag impressions covering the shoulder below. The lower part of the pot and the rim bevel are left plain [27, 28, 29, 35, 39, 52, 53, 70 etc.].
2. Urn, represented by 4 rim sherds, 3 shoulder sherds, 7 other decorated sherds and a dozen plain body sherds. Some of the body sherds join but their place on the profile cannot be established because of uncertainty about their orientation. The diameter is uncertain but was probably more than 8 in. inside the rim and perhaps at least a foot at the shoulder. The height of the upper

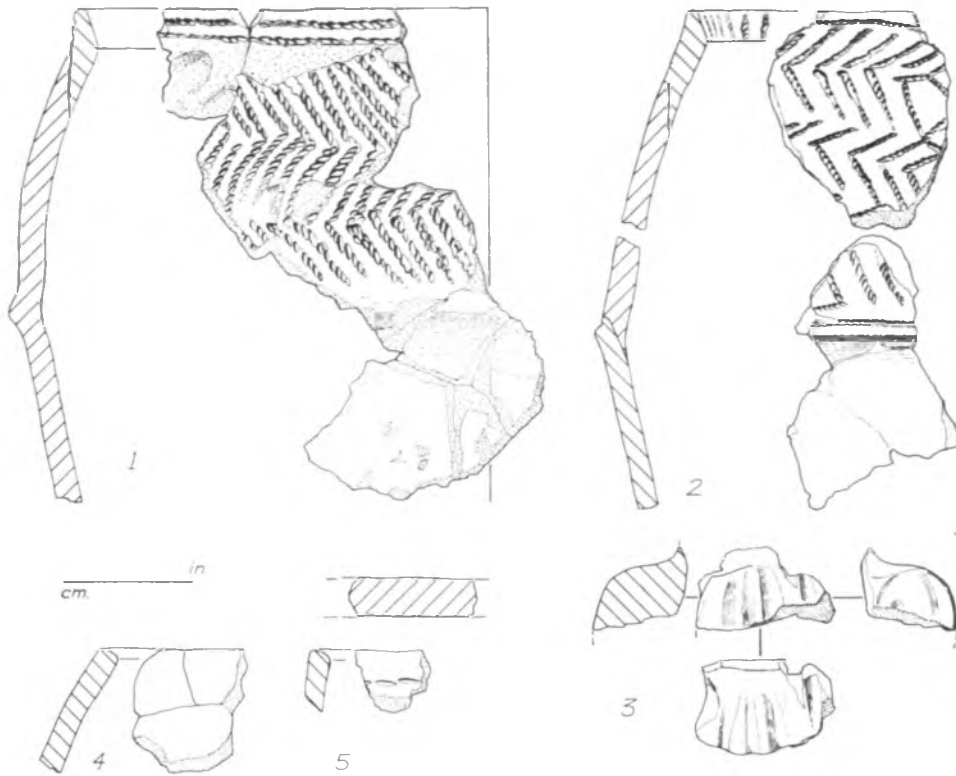


Fig. 7. Try: pottery from east of cairn (scale: one-third)

part is uncertain and it is possible that the two parts as drawn overlap. Probably, though, this urn was not very different from urn 1 in size and proportion. The ware is black, stone-gritted (to 4 mm.) with surfaces varying from black to dark brown. Below the shoulder the outer half of the core is reddish-brown and the outside brown. The outside is finger-worked and smoothed. Two ring joins are visible on the parts drawn, one just below the rim and one just above the shoulder, marked externally by a raised ridge, and there appears to be another on the body sherds mentioned above. The decoration consists of lines of cord impressions similar to, but a little finer than, those on urn 1. The arrangement of the decoration is similar except that here the zig-zag pattern is limited above and below by a single horizontal line and there are short vertical lengths of cord impressions on the rim bevel. On this urn, as on the last, the decoration is muddled and confused in places and it seems that the vertical zig-zag pattern was a difficult one to carry through correctly. Despite the appearance of greater neatness many of the impressions are smudged. [26, 31, 32, 34, 46, 47, 55, 65, 68, etc.].

3. Detached fragment of lug handle. To judge from the fabric this probably belongs to urn 2 but this is not certain. The fragment represents less than half the handle, the lower half and part of the right hand side being missing. The inner surface is probably not that of the wall of the pot but rather that of the tenon by which it was attached to the pot. The left hand side is slightly dished while the top surface and back show slight vertical finger tip grooving. This feature is likely to be deliberate as it is known to occur on at least three other pots. To judge from the fragment the lug was solid and devoid of the usual

- horizontal hole. Such lugs are usually attached to the shoulder of the pot. [33].
4. Rim sherd of fine brown stone-gritted 'speckled' fabric, with some quartz grits to 3 mm., surfaces dark brown, no decoration. The slope of this rim sherd is as drawn, but this may have varied round the rim. [24, 51]
 5. Rim sherd of flaky dark ware with some angular stone grits, surfaces light brown, worn and perhaps burnt. A horizontal line of impressions on the outside which may be of twisted cord. [81].

The remaining fragments from this area seem likely to be from urns 1 and 2 and there is nothing clearly different. The sherds and fragments from the layer of charcoal flecked soil on the south of the cairn were of coarse brown ware with whitish stone grits and were similar to the urn sherds described above. [1-5]

COMMENTS ON THE POTTERY

The handled beaker from the cist is the first to be found in Cornwall. As handled beakers are seldom found in beaker graves south of the Thames, this is not surprising, in view of the small number of such graves so far found in Cornwall. At least one is known from Dorset and there are three detached handles from settlement sites in Somerset so there is nothing surprising in this occurrence. Such handled beakers are characteristic of the A Beaker group and are so excessively rare among other beaker groups in the British Isles, as to suggest that they may be regarded as one of the indications of renewed contact with Central Europe (where handled beaker mugs are common) that can be seen in the material equipment of the A Beaker group. The rather flat handle as compared to good round-bodied handles, and the rather coarse decoration and clumsy shape, may be signs of typological devolution, possibly but not certainly an indication of late date. The diamond pattern occurs on handled beakers in the Midlands, but such parallels have only general and not special significance.

The decoration has plainly been arranged to suit the shape. The inbent rim of this beaker appears to be a characteristic developed in Britain, perhaps first on handled beakers, though it occurs on beakers without handles, including two of those from Cornwall, Praa Sands (*Patchett, 1946, 23*) and Tregiffian Vein (*Patchett, 1953*).

The other beaker sherds are all acceptable as belonging to the 'A' group in respect of fabric, technique of decoration and the pattern of running chevrons which is quite common in south-west England, occurring for example on the Praa Sands beaker.

The two large urns are of a type belonging to a distinctive group whose pottery is known from over 150 burials and settlement sites in south-west England and south Wales, with solitary outliers in Ireland and northern France. The time span of this group extends from the Early Bronze Age through the Middle Bronze Age, but not certainly into the Late Bronze Age. The present examples are similar in shape and decoration to urns found associated with daggers and other objects assigned to the Wessex phase and may be thought to date from near the end of the Early Bronze Age. The two rim sherds, Fig. 7, 4 and 5, can also belong to this group, much of whose pottery was published by Miss Patchett in her two articles on Cornish Bronze Age pottery (*Patchett, 1946 and 1952*). Some of the problems relating to this material have been discussed in my report, as yet un-published, on the pottery from Trevisker Round, St. Eval.

The presence of stray sherds of beaker and urn in the cist requires brief discussion here. The urn sherds, deriving as they do from the secondary burials, can only have got into the cist by accident, presumably through being washed in. This raises the question whether the other stray sherds and the material filling the cist may not also have been introduced in the same manner. A succession of heavy rain storms might perhaps suffice for this. Such an agency could explain why the handled beaker was found lying on its side, rather than upright as one might have expected it to be. The presence of the beaker sherds in the cist, in the small pit to the south-west of the cist and in the packing stones

of the cist, raises the question of whether there was not more than one phase of beaker activity on the site. Cremation burial is so unusual in the A Beaker group that its occurrence suggests external contacts, and, in conjunction with the typological features of the handled beaker, the possibility of a relatively later date. On the other hand the cist in which it was found was big enough to take the normal inhumation burial and the stray beaker sherds could represent the remains of a typologically earlier beaker associated with such a burial. The absence of flint and other sherds (except Fig. 6 no. 4) seem to argue against the bringing of débris from a domestic site, while several examples of beaker burials being disturbed by subsequent beaker burials are known.

FLINT ARTIFACTS

Four fragments of flint were found with the pottery in the layer of gritty soil E. of the cairn. These are simply waste, incomplete flakes with no sign of retouch or use.

BONES by Dr. I. W. Cornwall (Institute of Archaeology, University of London)

Calcined bones from cist. These are human, consisting of fragments of skull, mandible, limb-bones and extremities. All are very incomplete. The state of the sutures of the skull-fragments show that the individual was fully adult, as does part of the socket of a fully-erupted third molar (wisdom-tooth). The thinness of the bones of the skull-vault suggest possibly female sex, in view of the above conclusions as to age. A much-warped fragment of the occipital bone, with the impression of one of the transverse bold-sinuses, is also notably thin where, if male, it would normally be rather thick.

Calcined bones from pot. These included a fragment of a human vertebra and of a (?) unciform bone of the wrist, with some other indeterminable chips, some of long bones.

Unburnt bones from cist. These were too crumbled for any determination even as between man and a lower animal. The mass seems to consist exclusively of fragments of long bone—possibly a tibia, but nothing can be said beyond this. If contemporary with the cremated remains, it is possible that it represented a joint of meat put in as a funerary offering, but this is only a guess from its unburnt condition.

Calcined bones from outside the cairn. Most are pieces of the shafts of long bones; two are certainly skull; one perhaps pelvis. From the characteristic distortion and shrinkage and circumferential cracking they are clearly calcined by heat, and the two skull-fragments confirm their humanity.

CHARCOAL by Dr. I. W. Cornwall

Oak, birch, willow and ivy were identified among the charcoals. The first two only were found in the collection from the small pot. All were present in the cist.

QUERN

The quern, of which two pieces were found in the cairn, is incomplete. It would probably have been roughly oval, about 14 by 10 ins., $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 ins. thick. It has not been trimmed to shape, but one of the two opposing flat faces has been worn to a silky smoothness. Mr. G. J. Shrimpton (Museum of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, Penzance) states that the stone appears to be a fine-grained biotite granite. This can be found a short distance E. of the site in the Gulval-Ludgvan area, so the quern is probably of local provenance.

PEBBLES

Water-worn pebbles have been noticed on many burial sites in Cornwall, such as Bosavern-Ros in St. Just (*W. Borlase, 1769, 235*), Boscregan in St. Just (*W. C. Borlase, 1879, 204*) and Trewavas in Breage (*Blight, 1867, 308*). Those found at Try ranged from about a fifth to half an inch in diameter. The nearest possible source would seem to be the stream which runs down the valley about 200 yards W. of the site, but they do not resemble any seen there now, and their provenance is not known.

HORSE BONES

These were found in a late disturbance of the ground on the W. side of the menhir. Judging by the relatively undecayed state of the bones, as well as by the coin which appeared to be in the same disturbance, they were probably buried in Roman times. Horse bones have also been found at the foot of a menhir at Lavenael in Plomeur (Brittany) (*Matériaux, 1881, xii, 63*).

COIN (Identified by Mrs. J. S. Martin, Dept. of Coins and Medals, British Museum).

The coin of Gallienus (259-268, mint of Rome) found here recalls the urn with coins (presumably Roman) found in 1789 at Carne in Morvah at the foot of a very long and large stone (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 183*). Another recorded Roman find is that of three sherds of Samian ware by a menhir at Lestridion in Penmarc'h (*Matériaux, 1881, xii, 59*). The Roman coins found by W. C. Borlase in a barrow on Watch Croft in Morvah may also be mentioned in this context. (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 251*).

The finds from this excavation have been placed on loan in Truro Museum (Royal Institution of Cornwall), by kind permission of Mr. W. R. Bolitho.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Mr. W. R. Bolitho, the landowner, and to Mr. A. Roberts of Try Farm, for permission to dig. Mr. Roberts also gave much valuable help in the course of the excavation.

Thanks are also due to Mr. A. M. ApSimon for his report on the pottery and flints; to Dr. I. W. Cornwall, for reports on the bones and charcoal; to Mrs. E. M. Minter for drawing the beaker; to Mrs. J. S. Martin, for identifying the coin; to Mr. A. C. Thomas, for identifying the horse bones; and to Mr. G. J. Shrimpton, for reporting on the granite quern.

APPENDIX

MENHIRS IN WEST PENWITH

More than 80 menhirs are recorded in West Penwith, either by actual report or indicated by place names. They are mainly concentrated in two areas—the highland part of Madron, Morvah and Zennor, and the relatively lower land of St. Buryan and Paul. Nearly 40 are still standing; of these, 17 have been explored and the results are summarised below, by parishes.

ST. BURYAN

Boleigh (Piper, N.E.). Excavated by W. C. Borlase in 1871. Nil result (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 106-7*).

Boleigh (Piper, S.W.). Excavated by W. C. Borlase in 1871. Nil result (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 106-7*).

Tregiffian (Goon Rith). Excavated by W. C. Borlase in 1871. Nil result (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 106-7*).

Tregiffian. Excavated by W. C. Borlase in 1871. A fallen menhir 11 ft. long lay across a capstone 9 ft. in diameter. On the capstone were bone splinters, ashes and a flint flake. The capstone rested at the S. and W. sides on two upright stones, at the other end on the ground, forming a cavity 2 to 3 ft. deep. Under the capstone were more bone and ashes. Under a smaller flat stone, beneath the S. end of the capstone, was a pit lined with shell-sand from Porthcurnow containing a quantity of bone and ashes (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 108-10*).

Pridden. Excavated by W. C. Borlase in 1871. There were probably the remains of a cairn heaped against the menhir. A cremation was found in the side of the pit dug for the menhir, 1 ft. from it, apparently on the S. side, covered by a flat stone 1 ft. in diameter which rested partly on the rab and partly on two small stones (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 100-1*).

Trelew. Excavated by W. C. Borlase in 1871. A cremation was in the side of the pit dug for the menhir, 3 ft. from it on the N. side. Finds were bone, charcoal, a flint flake and a baked clay plug. There were no covering or side stones (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 101-2*).

Treverven. Excavated by Mr. Tonkin in 1922. Nil result (*Henderson, 1912-16, I.50*).

GULVAL

Carfury. Excavated by the present writers in 1958. Nil result (*Pool and Russell, 1959, 128*).

Try. See present paper, above.

MADRON

Trewern. Excavated by Dr. Borlase in 1752. The monument consists of two menhirs 10 ft. apart on a line E.N.E./W.S.W. Between the two stones was a pit 6 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 9 in., 4 ft. 6 in. deep, close to the westernmost stone. Near the bottom it contained black greasy earth but no bones (*W. Borlase, 1769, 187, Pl. 164*). It was re-opened in c.1870 and was seen by W. C. Borlase, who considered the black earth to be natural peaty soil (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 22-3*).

MORVAH

Carne. In 1789 an urn and coins were found at the foot of a very long and large stone inserted in a wall, about a foot from the surface covered by a flat granite stone (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 183*).

PAUL

Tresvennack. Opened in 1840 by the farmer. A stone 18 in. square covered a pit cut in the rab about 2 ft. E of the menhir. This contained a large M.B.A. urn standing upright which contained calcined bones; smaller fragments of bone and ashes were found in the rest of the pit. A small M.B.A. urn, also standing upright, was found 18 in. N.E. of the large one, filled with snuff-coloured powder; there were no covering or side stones for this urn (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 102-6*).

Kerris. Excavated by W. C. Borlase. Nil result (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 175*).

SANCREED

Trenuggo. Opened by a labourer in the 19th cent. He found bone chips and ashes at the foot of the menhir (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 102*).

Higher Drift. Excavated by W. C. Borlase in 1871. The monument consists of two menhirs 17½ ft. apart on a line N.N.W./S.S.E. A rectangular pit was found cut in the rab, 6 ft. by 3 ft. 3 in., 5 ft. deep, lying E./W., its W. end midway between the menhirs. This contained only disturbed rab (*W. C. Borlase, 1872, 23-4*).

ZENNOR

Kerrow. Excavated in 1935 by Col. F. C. Hirst and Miss D. Dudley. Two urns, published as L.B.A., one inside the other, were found on the E. side of the menhir in heavily burnt soil, standing upright on a small pile of charcoal. There was no bone (*Dudley and Patchett, 1954, 44*).

Porthmeor. Excavated by W. C. Borlase in 1879. Nil result (*Lukis and Borlase, 1885, 26*).

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The Rumps, St. Minver: Interim Report on the 1963 Excavations

R. T. BROOKS

Introductory

The Rumps, Wadebridge, North Cornwall (O.S.1" 185, SW 934812) is a cliff castle of approximately 6.1 acres joined to the mainland by an isthmus about 550 feet wide and defended by three ramparts and ditches set across it. The primary object was to elucidate the sequence of construction and occupation of these defences. The writer is much indebted to the National Trust and their Area Agent, Mr. G. E. M. Trinick, for permission to carry out the work; also to Mr. Old of Pentire Farm on whose land most of the volunteers camped. He is very grateful to Mr. A. Guthrie, the assistant director; to Mrs. F. Nankivell on whose shoulders fell most of the organisation of a happy and successful camp; to Mr. Charles Woolf for his fine series of photographs; to Mr. Desmond Bonney for his plan of the site, and to Dr. Raleigh Radford and Mr. A. C. Thomas for much advice and generous encouragement. Some 40 volunteers, of whom 35 were members of the Society, participated and sincere thanks are due to them for their willing and thorough work. Lady Aileen Fox, Mr. A. D. Saunders, Mrs. Christie and Mr. P. V. Addyman were amongst those who visited the site and gave the writer the benefit of their experience.

The excavations covered:—