

Archæological Notes

A possible chambered tomb west of Whitnell Farm, Mendip. On my copy of O.S. map, 6-in., there is an M.S. note by Mrs. K. M. Crook to a "sarsen" stone at ST 60085002 and a statement that there is a folklore story attached to it. In Nov. 1966 during a conversation with Mr. Dudden (see Tratman, 1966) he described a site, which it was possible to pin down as the site of the "sarsen" stone. His version of the story, which he had from his father, is in summary this. "About a century ago a man obtained permission to remove a large mound to fill in a quarry on the other [east] side of the road. In the course of removing the cairn a very long flat stone was found weighing about 4 tons. It was supported on four uprights. '25 horses could not move it'. Underneath was a skeleton 'which went to powder'."

The site was visited on 24/11/66 under excellent lighting conditions. The flat capstone is about 2 m. long \times 70 cm. wide at its wider base and about 50 cm. thick. It lies on the top of a very low grassy mound with indefinite edges on the tip of a very minor spur of a minor ridge, i.e. the highest point in the immediate area. The mound is about 18 m. in diameter and 60 cm. high. To the east are two other very low mounds each about 8 m. in diameter and 50 cm. high. The edges are difficult to determine.

They have been provisionally catalogued as three tumuli, (W.-E. T 351A, B and C). They could be the remnants of a single long barrow, which would fit better to a chambered tomb than a round barrow.

Mr. Ian Ford of the Department of Geology, University of Bristol has identified the stone for me as being a block of local silicified Jurassic rock.

E. K. TRATMAN

The Deer Leap stones. (ST 54 N.W.). The site is west of the road west of Hope Wood, Ebbor. Several years ago two large stones were observed standing in an old hedge bank. No local history of them was obtained at that time. In 1967 the hedge was grubbed out but the stones were left standing. An enquiry was made to the owner. According to him the stones (*Plate 37*) were known as the Deer Leap Stones; they were haunted and must not be moved. There is a third, but recumbent stone, in an old