

hedgerow east of the road. Whether it has any connection with the Deer Leap Stones is unknown, probably not. The legend of the Deer Leap is variable but all variants contain the essential elements of a hunted stag or deer leaping over the cliff and being killed by its fall. One or more huntsmen also went over [and, presumably, several dogs] and were killed.

Stone 1. ST 51794878. Composed of Triassic Conglomerate. Much weathered. Base at ground level 80 × 40 cm. and top 50 × 35 cm. Height 95 cm.

Stone 2. ST 51794876. Composed of Triassic Conglomerate. Much weathered. Roughly cuboidal. Base at ground level 35 × 70 cm., top 45 × 60 cm. Height 1.0 m.

Stone 3. ST 51804881. Composed of Carboniferous Limestone. Largely buried. Recumbent. Visible part measures 50 × 50 cm. and length 1.2 m.

Stones 1 and 2 are being used as rubbing posts by the cattle and already (Feb. 1968) a ditch is thus being formed round them.

Geological identification was by Messrs. C. A. Wright and A. K. Yeats.

E. K. TRATMAN

*Beaker Sherd from Piney Sleight (T. 21), Cheddar*

This sherd which is the only find surviving from the pre-war excavation of this barrow by the Society (see Read [1925] p. 135), is of black paste, 5 mm. thick, with some fine yellowish white grits, and finely vesicular where the minute grits have been leached out. Possible traces of comb-stamp impressions survive on the weathered outside. It might be matched among the material from Gorsey Bigbury close by, and this is probably a sherd of one of the many varieties of Bell Beaker pottery.

A. M. ApSIMON

*A Secondary Cremation Burial from Barrow T184 at Tynning's Gate, Charterhouse, Mendip. ST 46485579*

Barrow T184 is situated approximately 700 metres S.W. of the Tynning's Farm Barrow Group. It was first recorded in 1926 when a note and sketch plan, which showed kerbstones and a central stone, were published (Tratman, 1929).

When the site was visited, shortly after it had been ploughed in Spring 1966, three small areas of disturbed cremation were noted (*Fig. 58*). One was accompanied by a scatter of recently broken sherds. In addition several of the western revetment stones had been removed and also the

large slab, which was formerly situated in the region of the burials (see 1926 plan).

The two cremations were scattered over an area of about 0.5 sq. m. The bone fragments were small in both size and number and no identification has been possible. It may be worth noting that, although no enclosing stones or slabs were associated with these cremations, recent ploughing would have been quite sufficient for their removal.

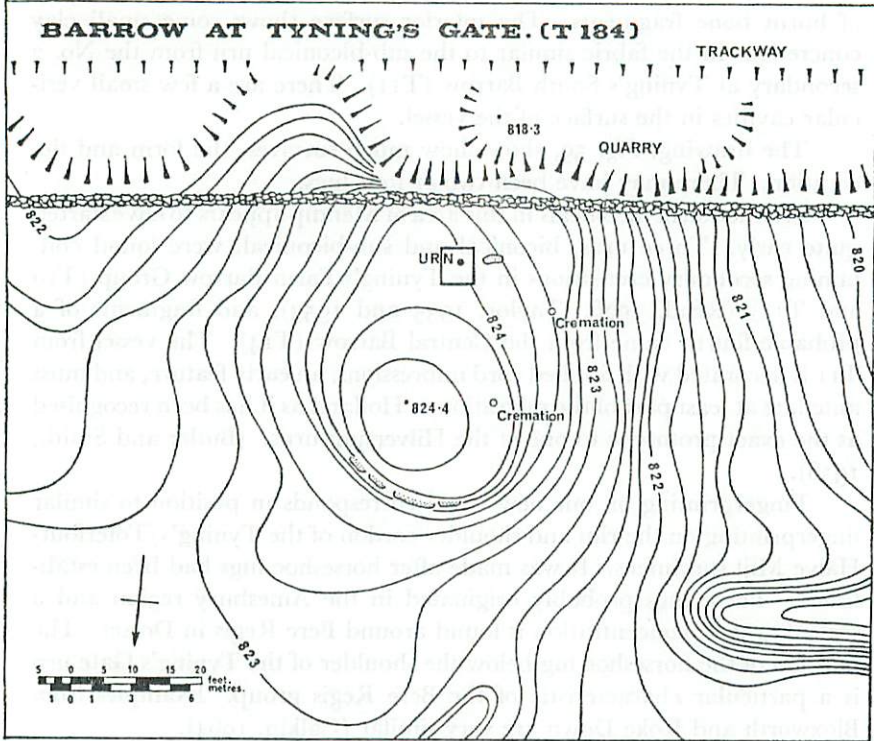


Fig. 58.

The third cremation lay in the S.W. quadrant of the barrow and was scattered over a somewhat larger area than the other two. A small limestone slab lay in a disturbed position nearby.

A trench 1.5 × 1.5 m. was cut to a depth of 30 cm. through the ploughed surface to recover any further bone and pottery fragments turned-in by the plough. About 20 cm. below the plough level was the remaining half of an inverted biconical urn *in situ*. The trench was cleared to 10 cm. below the rim but the only accompanying material was a few small fragments of charcoal.

A Radiograph since taken through the vessel shows further fragments of a cremation but no evidence of accompanying grave goods.

The vessel is 27 cm. in diameter and probably stood originally to a height of about 42 cm. (*Fig. 59*). It is brown in colour, becoming a light reddish brown below the shoulder. The matrix is black and, although similar in appearance to the other biconical urns from the Tynning's Group (T10 and T11), there is a notable absence of the limestone grit tempering which, in this case, is replaced, apparently, by a small amount of burnt bone fragments. The interior surface shows some small clay concretions in the fabric similar to the sub-biconical urn from the No. 2 secondary at Tynning's South Barrow (T11). There are a few small vesicular cavities in the surface of the vessel.

The drawing, *Fig. 59*, shows how much survives, the form and decoration. There may have been two or four lugs.

Production of biconicals in this area of Mendips appears to have started quite early. Three urns, biconical and sub-biconical, were found containing secondary cremations in the Tynning's Farm Barrow Group (T10 and T11) (Read, 1926. Taylor, 1935 and 1953), and fragments of a probable fourth came from the Central Barrow (T14). The vessel from T11 is decorated with applied cord impressions, an early feature, and must antedate at least part of the migration to Holland as it has been recognised as the exact prototype to one of the Hilversum urns. (Butler and Smith, 1956).

Fingerprinting on our new vessel corresponds in position to similar fingerprinting on the rim and shoulder cordon of the Tynning's/Toterfouthalve Mijl specimens. It was made after horseshoe lugs had been established. These lugs probably originated in the Amesbury region and a second area of concentration is found around Bere Regis in Dorset. The position of the horseshoe lug below the shoulder of the Tynning's Gate urn is a particular characteristic of the Bere Regis group. Examples from Bloxworth and Roke Down are very similar (Calkin, 1964).

The Tynning's Gate urn is one of a small number of local Wessex biconical urns, which was probably deposited during a late period of Wessex II. Later still in this series are the two secondary urns from T10, which are here classified as sub-biconical, and which represent a degeneration of this ceramic tradition.

By kind permission of the landowner, Mr. King, the site was surveyed in April 1968 and now remains unploughed. Levelling was taken from the bench mark at Tynning's Gate and contours drawn at 2 inch intervals (*Fig. 58*). Many thanks are due to Miss C. O. Jenner and Mr. C. D. Crook for their assistance in the survey.

DAVID J. TOMALIN

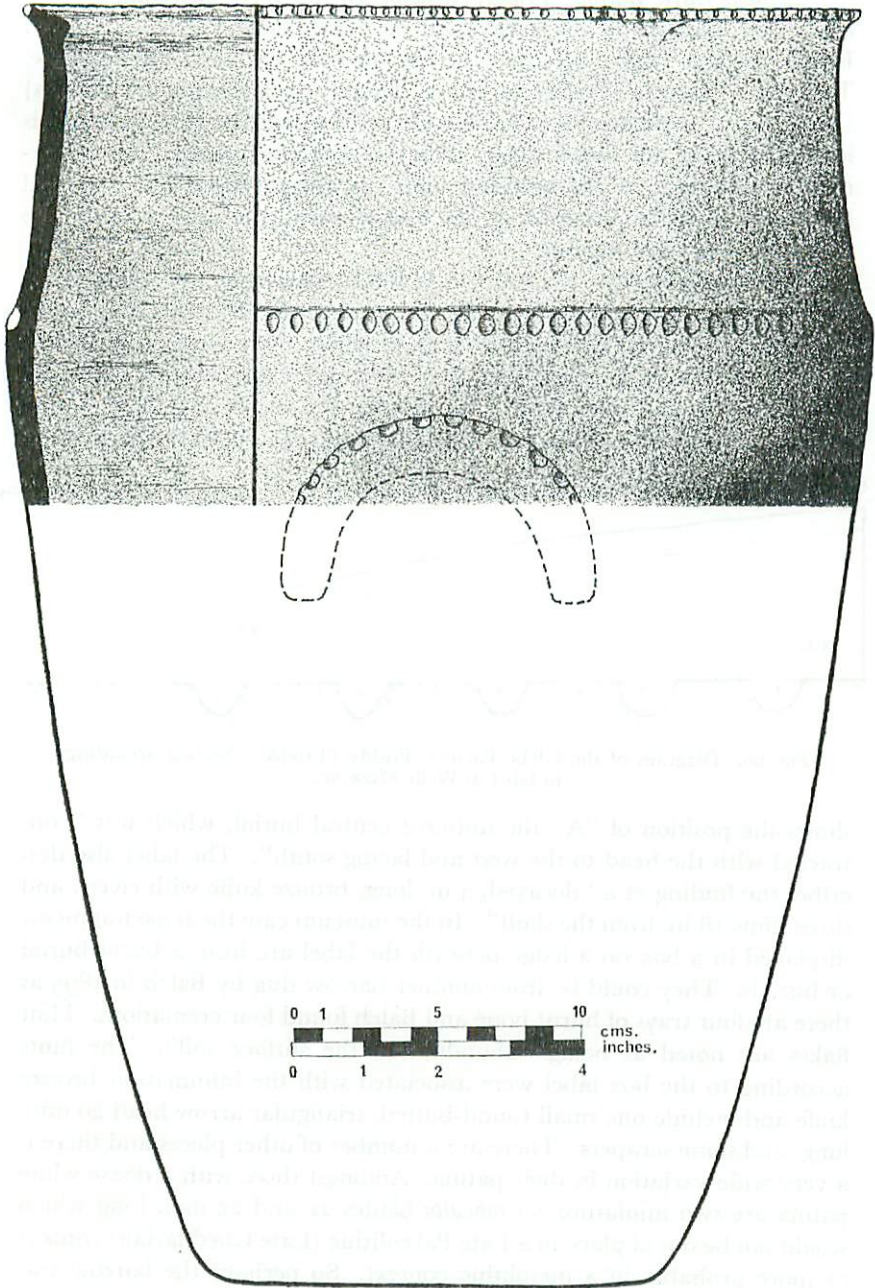


Fig. 59. Cinerary urn from T184.