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Norchard

Beacon 3532 3504 3533-

In 1851, after the Tenby meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, the late Mr. Dearden of Rochdale, explored some of the Ridge-way Barrows. He opened Carew Beacon, XL. S.E. (7) and tried Norchard Beacon, but not coming to anything indicative of burial, he opened the second barrow to the westward. In this he came on a sort of buried cromlech, the covering stone being 9 feet long, 3 feet 6 ins broad, and 20 ins deep. It was broken in three parts, and rested on a head and foot stone, but had no sides. The floor of the grave was pitched with water-worn pebbles, and on these lay the skeleton of a man at full length east and west. He was about 5 feet 6 ins in height, some 30 years of age, "and had what phrenologists term a handsome cranium". A similar interment had been discovered in the adjoining land about the year 1820. After Mr. Dearden was gone, the Rev. G.B. Smith of Gumfreston opened another of these barrows, and found therein three small urns; the first quite plain, 6 ins in height, now in the Tenby Museum; the second very highly ornamented, 4 ins in height, in possession of the finder's son; the third 6½ ins in height, decorated with three rows of dots. This was given away before the writer knew Mr. Smith. In his account of the diggings (Arch. Camb. II, ii, 291) Mr. Dearden gives a plan of the district, but as he places these barrows opposite the third milestone from Tenby, whereas they are really about half way between the fourth and fifth, it is somewhat misleading.