

WHITELEAF BARROW, MONKS RISBOROUGH.

Sir W. Lindsay Scott, in addressing a meeting of the Society, gave the following interim account of his work on the above-named earthwork:

This barrow, the excavation of which is not yet completed, lies on the ridge of the Chilterns and is a kidney shaped mound, hollow on the eastern side, surrounded by a ditch. It consists of an inner mound of earth, revetted with large timbers laid horizontally along its sides, and an outer covering of chalk. In the centre, opening towards the hollow eastern side of the barrow, was a small wooden chamber containing an intact left foot. The rest of the burial—that of a dolichocephalic male aged 35—had been shovelled out and lay in confusion in front of the chamber, but no second burial had been made. Around the chamber were shallow, flatbottomed trenches, sterile of artifacts, cut in the solid chalk floor; these were divided longitudinally by lines of stakes and packed on one side of these with clay and on the other side with clean chalk. Just outside the earth mound on the western side, but within the chalk covering, was a “peristalith” trench, some 6 feet deep and 1 foot wide, packed with clay and flints and containing big posts.

Numerous animal bones, flints and pottery sherds were found scattered in the earth mound. The pottery is of Neolithic A2 type, linking with the Upper Thames valley and with the Cambridge district.