

THE TUMULI AT TWEMLOW HALL, CHESHIRE.

Contributed by J. W. Walker, O.B.E., F.S.A.

THE place-name Twemlow (Twamlawe, 1210, Twemlawe, Tuamlawe, 1259,¹ Tuamlowe, 1283, Tamlawe, Theumelowe,² Twamlowe, 1287), O.E. *be twæm hlawum*, by the two hills, would appear to be associated with two burial-mounds.

Professor J. A. Twemlow, late of Liverpool University, saw these two tumuli in 1921 on the south side of the moat between the garden of Twemlow Hall and the pasture field south of the moat, and in this he is supported by three other observers in that year.

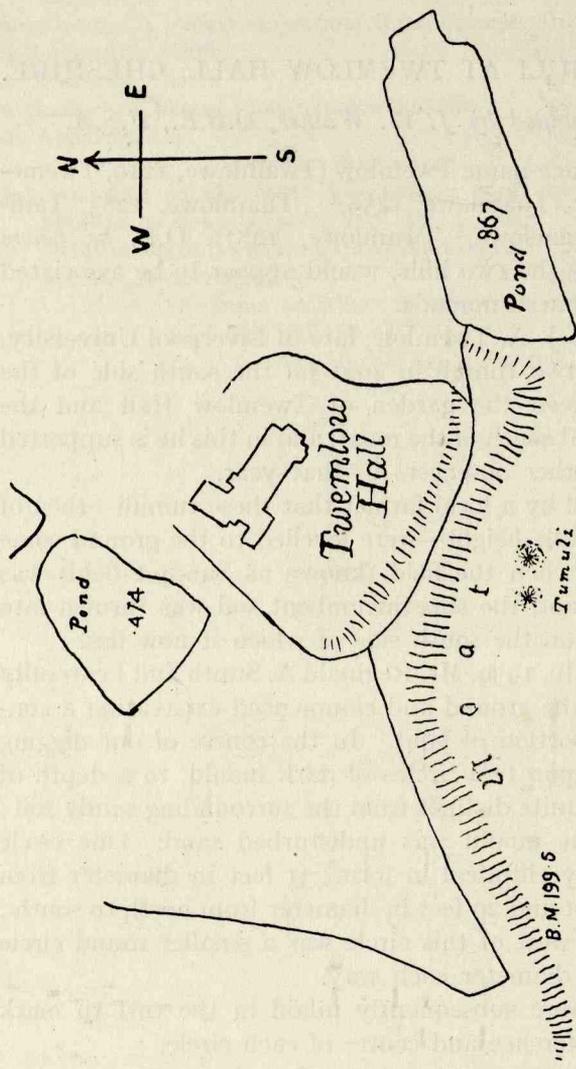
I am told by a local farmer that these tumuli—then of a considerable height—were levelled to the ground some years ago when the field (known as Sandpit field) was ploughed, and the superincumbent soil was thrown into the moat, on the south side of which it now lies.

On 12 July, 1939, Mr. Reginald A. Smith and I carefully examined the ground and commenced excavating a considerable portion of land. In the course of our digging we came upon two circles of dark mould, to a depth of 14 inches, quite distinct from the surrounding sandy soil; beneath the mould was undisturbed sand. One circle was slightly elliptical in form, 31 feet in diameter from east to west and 29 feet in diameter from north to south; 7 feet due west of this circle was a smaller round circle 13 feet in diameter each way.

Stones were subsequently inlaid in the turf to mark the circumference and centre of each circle.

¹ Chetham Soc., N.S., Vols. 79, 82; Index to the Charters and Rolls in the British Museum.

² Ekwall, E., *English Place Names*; Chartulary of The Abbey of St. Werburgh, Chester; Harleian MSS. 1965, f. 34b.



The Tumuli at Twemlow, Cheshire.

The centre of the larger circle is exactly 100 feet from the boundary wall of Sandpit field north of the moat, and 230 feet from the western end of the pond, the centre of the smaller circle being 110 feet from the same wall, as shown on the accompanying plan.

No encircling trenches or stake-holes were found nor any bones or implements; if there had been any they were probably dispersed during ploughing operations, but none has been found in the irregular heaps of soil from the demolished tumuli lying on the south side of the moat.

These tumuli may be assigned to the late Bronze Age period.