

Barland Barrows, Lilliput Farm A Geophysical Profiling Project South Gloucestershire, UK Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society

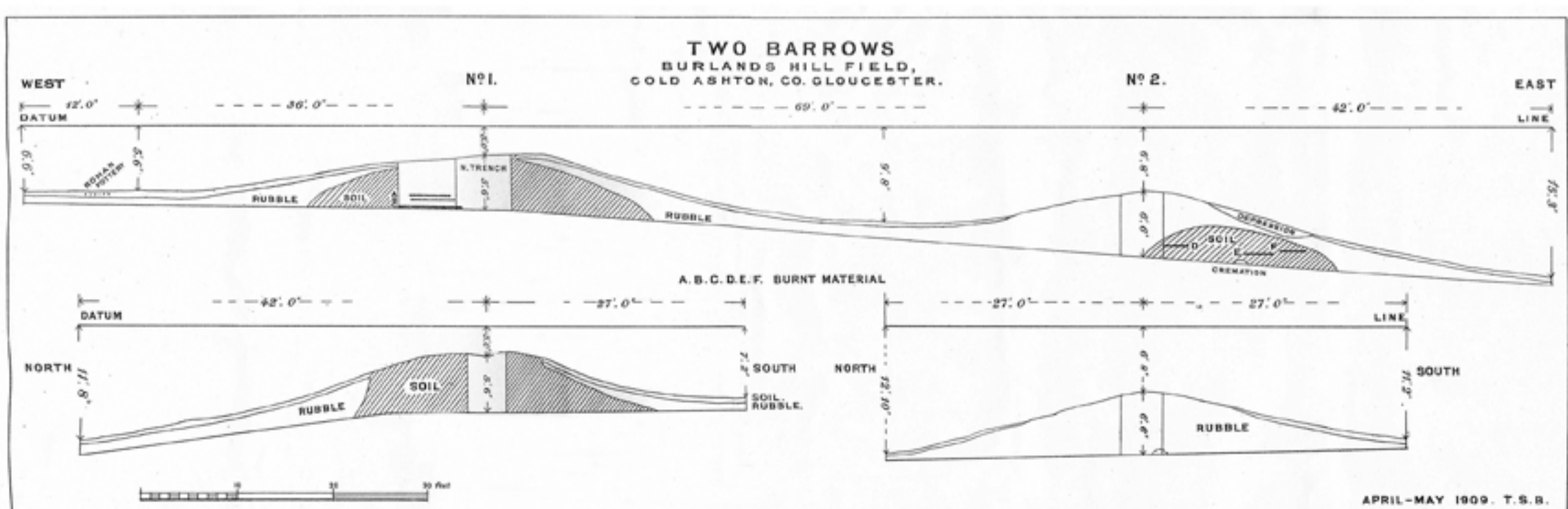
Background

Two tumuli (ST 733704) sit at 180m elevation on a north eastern spur of the Lansdown plateau, dominating the Hamswell valley, at the head of the Swainswick valley running south to the River Avon at Batheaston. They were excavated in 1909 with trenches running East-West and North-South through the centre of each mound and were considered to be twin round barrows. The west mound contained burnt material, animal bones and fragments of black pottery. The east mound contained the remains of a cremation with small pieces of human bones. The location of the barrows on the false crest as seen from the valley bottom would be normal for round barrows. The barrows were revisited in 1960 and were again thought to be two round barrows, but with debris dumped at the western end of the east barrow.



Barland Barrows today from the southwest. The Round Barrow is on the left.

Visual inspection of the western barrow shows a vertically truncated circular mound with the centre dug out, confirming the impression of a round barrow. However the east barrow is 3m high, on a rectangular base 16x10m with the long axis oriented ESE, and with a steep face to the E, suggestive of a long barrow. These appearances suggest a round barrow to the west and a long barrow to the east, with the long barrow being much earlier.



Plan from 1909 excavations