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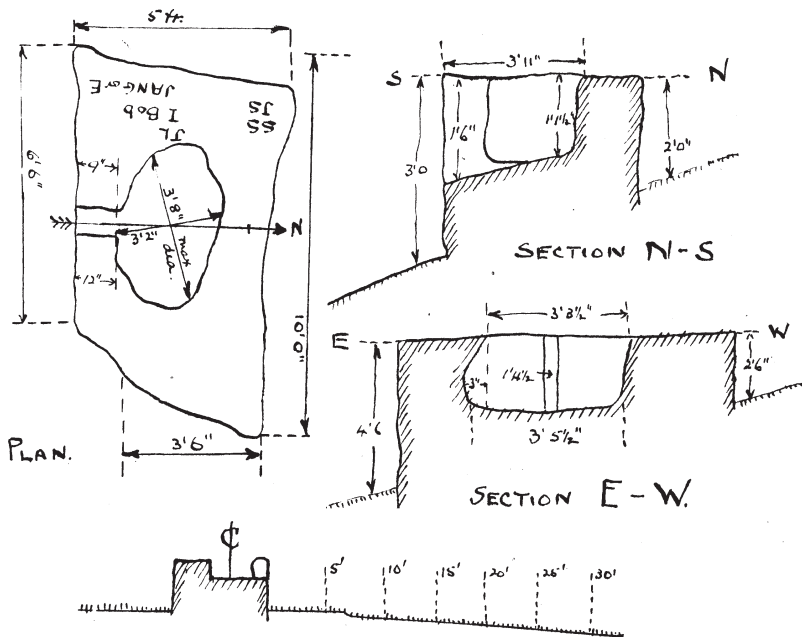
THE SAM OON STONE

By N.M.R.S. Records

Harald Bruff described the Sam Oon Stone, on Greenhow (SE110645), as a crushing mortar. There is similar stone near Sam Oon, and another at Paradise. He excavated around the stone in September 1921, and the following is an abridgement of his notes.

It is a coarse gritstone erratic with a roughly circular basin, 42 inches in diameter by 18 inches deep, and on the south side a 10 inch wide channel, leading to the outside, cut in it. The basin's floor and lower sides are smooth, whereas the upper part is rough, and there are no traces of fire reddening.

A trench, between the stone and the beck, found pieces of flagstone - some bedded on coarse grit sand, and some with smooth surfaces. He saw this as the remnants of an outfall channel. The oldest pottery finds, from the bed of coarse sand, were dated to between 1450 and 1600. Down the slope was a layer of finely crushed fluorspar and calcite, with pieces of barytes from the size of a pea to pebbles about one inch in diameter. The latter were smooth, probably being rounded during the crushing process. Barytes is tougher than fluorspar, calcite or galena, and lumps of it would hamper crushing, so it is likely that this was why the stone was abandoned as a dressing apparatus.



Section through Sam Oon in N & S direction