

Burial of the entire body in slight excavations of the ground was very generally practised by the British natives of the north of England, but it was not usual among their Anglo-Saxon successors; and until a tumulus is opened we cannot positively say whether it belonged to Briton or Roman, Saxon or Northman. Heaps of earth, even if not originally similar, lose in time some of their distinctive marks, and tumuli, whether raised over Greek or barbarian heroes, are pretty much alike in outward show. Only one material character has occurred to us in the fossa which surrounds the tumulus—this is usually circular; but all the tumuli at Skipwith and Thorganby are environed by square fossæ, and one of those at Arras, near Weighton, has the same character.

The experience we have gained in opening Barrows in Yorkshire seems to indicate as of Anglian work the larger and lower mounds; while a few high steep tumuli, and many smaller and lower, are often associated in British burial-places. But our data are too few for the establishment of any general rule.

The larger tumuli have often yielded little or no remains beyond a few bits of charcoal of the oak. Perhaps these were barbarian cenotaphs, erected in honour of warriors of widely extended renown, whose bodies may have been laid in other graves, or, in the spirit of the old religion, prepared for disembodied souls which, for want of the due solemnities, might otherwise wander for a hundred years before entering the Elysian plain.

When opened, the difficulty of determining the owners of the barrows soon vanishes. No purely Roman tumuli have, I believe, been opened in Yorkshire, while a great number of Roman burials without sepulchral mounds have been recognized. A few Anglian tumuli have been opened; but the far greater proportion of hundreds of these mounds in the eastern parts of Yorkshire may safely be pronounced British.

In some of these the skeleton, in others the burnt ashes, and in a few both modes of burial occurred. The skeleton was either