



FIG. 1.—FOX HOLE, GREAT DUNFELL, Looking South.



FIG. 2.—SHELTER ON LITTLE DUNFELL, Looking S.W.

FACING P. 107

ART. XV.—*Milburn: Archaeological Notes.* By WILBERT GOODCHILD, M.B.

Read in abstract at Penrith, September 16th, 1932.

THESE notes are intended to be an addendum to the "Notes on the Archaeology of Milburn and its neighbourhood," by J. G. Goodchild, read at the Carlisle meeting, August 3rd, 1882 (o.s. vi, 481). Of the early settlements, one is mentioned on p. 488 of that paper as situated on Middle Tongue, part of Little Dunfell. Another, on Great Dunfell, has been known to me since 1887, though unrecognised until a few years ago as an early settlement. During the last three years two others on Milburn fell (Great Dunfell and Little Dunfell) have been noticed, and two groups on Crossfell.

The ones in Milburn parish from South to North are as follows:

1. A group of crescent-shaped enclosures on the S.W. end of Great Dunfell amongst masses of loose sandstone blocks at 1400 ft. (Lat. $54^{\circ} 40' 0''$ N., Long. $2^{\circ} 28' 15''$ W.); remains of hut circles are not so well seen as at the sites to the north.

2. The group on Great Dunfell, S.E. of New Greuve Shop, with the structure locally known as Fox Hole, below "Yow Hwoles." The story of it, as given to me by the late Mr. T. Nixon, was to the effect that a man was much troubled by a fox which attacked his lambs; he decided to build a circular enclosure with walls sloping inwards and bait it with a lamb. This was done and the fox entered; the man climbed in, but in stooping to catch the fox, the fox jumped upon his shoulder and escaped.

Actually it consists of the remains of a circular structure some twelve feet in external diameter with in-curving walls at present rising to a height of 6 to 7 feet with an overhang of 2 feet. There is an entrance way about 3 feet wide and 7 feet long, facing east; for a considerable distance around are the remains of crescentic enclosures, grouped about the circular building as a centre, as though one piece of land after another had been taken in by a wall of horse-shoe shape in plan. The central structures lie in a hollow on a shelf above the beck; an excellent spring rises near the circular building. Elevation 1500 ft., Lat. $54^{\circ} 40' 59''$ N., Long. $2^{\circ} 28' 40''$ W.

3. On the opposite side of the beck, on Little Dunfell, is another series of enclosures, again in a well watered hollow; it is invisible from the beck and inconspicuous from the main ridge above. In 1929 a small shelter, still partly roofed over, was noticed; the roofing consists of massive slabs of sandstone set so as to overstep; the opening faces north, and the shelter, with its short entrance passage, is about 6 ft. by 4 ft. inside. The roof that remains appears to be untouched, and in the careful fitting of the large stones is an interesting contrast to a similar shelter on Crossfell, which about 30 years ago still had what appeared to be the original roof; this later fell in, but it has been replaced; in this instance the fitting of the stones is much more loose, and easily distinguished from the masonry of the Little Dunfell shelter. The elevation is again 1500 ft. and the situation Lat. $54^{\circ} 40' 59''$ Long. $2^{\circ} 28' 40''$; it is very close to group No. 2, but separated from it, by a small post-glacial gorge.

4. In May, 1930, on deviating only a few hundred yards from a track frequently used a group of enclosures was noticed for the first time on the north-west corner of Little Dunfell. The situation is very similar to that of groups 2 and 3, and again there is an excellent spring. In this instance the hut circles are clearly seen and



FIG. 3.—SHELTER ON CROSSFELL, RECENT ROOFING, Looking N.

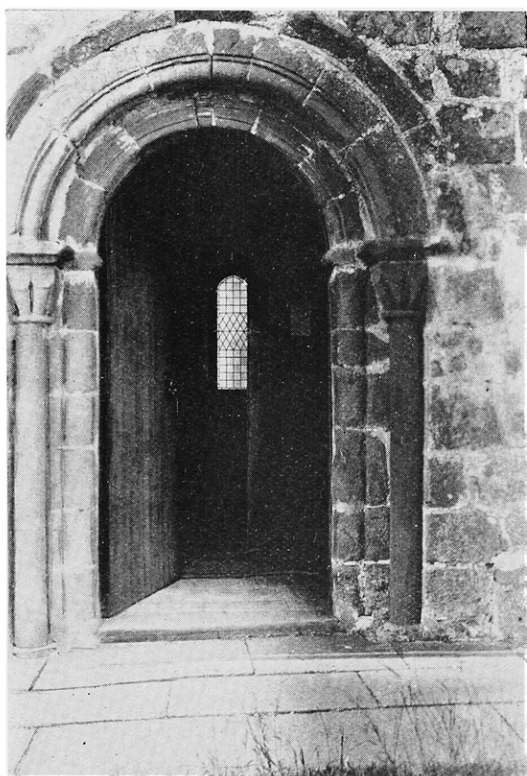


FIG. 4.—INVERTED DIAL, MILBURN CHURCH,
Re-exposed 1894.

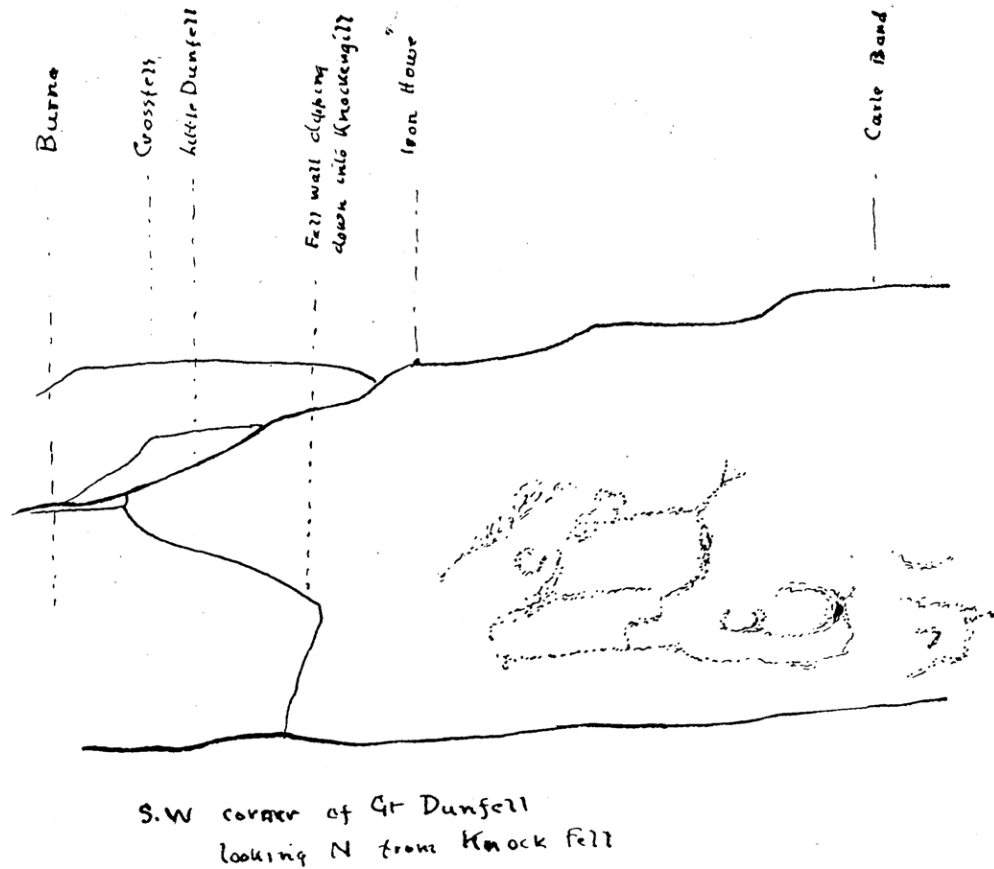
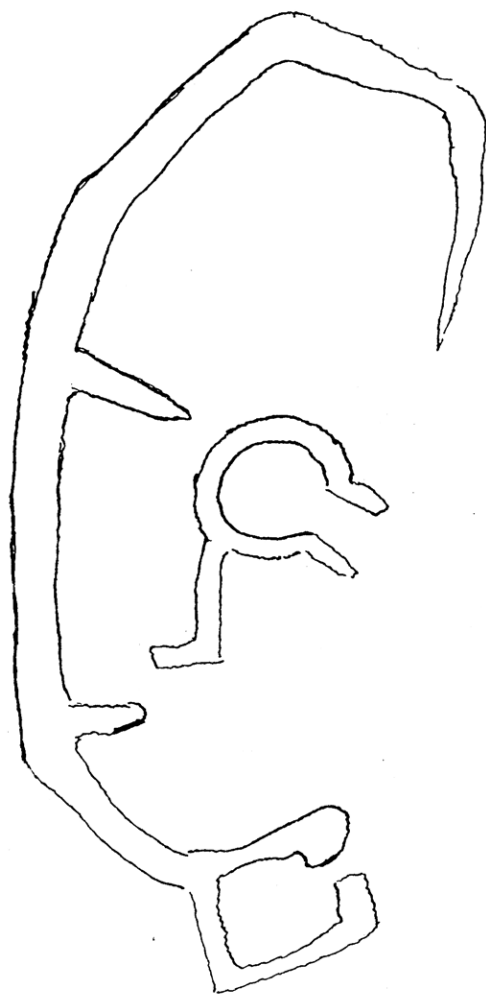


FIG. 5. Group No. 1.
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Fox Hole
Gr. Duffell
22.2.32



w.e.

Scale 1" = 24'

FIG. 6. Group No. 2.

around them are the remains of crescent-shaped walls enclosing successive pieces of land. Elevation 1600 ft., Lat. $54^{\circ} 41' 18''$ Long. $2^{\circ} 29' 10''$. So far there is no definite evidence of the age of these enclosures, but they all bear a strong similarity to the "British Village" on Threlkeld Knotts, though on a smaller scale; so far no signs of pit dwellings have been noticed at Milburn. (For the Threlkeld Settlement, see J. C. Ward, o.s. i, p. 217, and iii, p. 247; C. W. Dymond, o.s. xv, p. 309 and n.s. ii, p. 38). It is hoped at a future time to explore by digging some of these shelters with the rather slender chance of finding objects to date them approximately. Their secluded but undefended character suggests the survival and migration of a pastoral people of peaceful type when the more fertile valley was occupied by a more dominant race. The bronze celt (palstave) shown at the meeting at Penrith (Sept., 1930) was found about 60 years ago on the farm of Lownthwaite in a field north of the stack-yard; it is now in the possession of Mrs. W. Goodchild. It is interesting on account of the exactness with which its location can be fixed. In type compare with one from Ambleside described by Mr. H. S. Cowper in n.s. v, p. 183, (fig. 3).

Of Roman remains only one item falls to be recorded—a bronze key found by the writer on the S.E. side of the village in 1893, and now in the Tullie House collection; it is of interest in connection with J. G. Goodchild's note on the possible Roman age of the road known at different parts as Low Street and High Street.

At the Church, in addition to the dials described by J. G. Goodchild (*loc. cit.*) and W. S. Calverley, o.s. viii, p. 220, *et seq.*, one more was noticed by the writer in 1894 during the "restoration" of the church; it is another inverted one, and is situated low down at the east side of the Norman doorway, where it had been obscured by turf. The ground was cleared and it can now be

seen easily. Both the writers mentioned regarded these dials as pre-Norman. The inverted and therefore useless position of two of the five dials at Milburn Church points to chance having guided the builders in placing them in their present situations, and leads one to infer that their use was unknown at the time they were built in.

With regard to the village itself, its "Town plan" has been shown by Mr. F. C. Mears (Town Planning Institute, 1923) to be almost in its original form; the houses have changed, but the plan has been so closely kept that it afforded a clue to the plans of many large cities (e.g. Edinburgh). Mr. Mears suggests the 12th century as a possible time for the planning of Milburn. That such a rare survival in town planning should be mutilated seems greatly to be regretted; yet it is happening. The essential point about the plan was that all the houses were built in a rectangle around the village green (in the centre of which a maypole still stands); at the four corners were narrow entrances, which were walled up every winter; the walling up was done as lately as 1826 and the writer has had an account of it from the son of a man who did it then. Outside the houses were the gardens and garths, and outside these again a continuous lane; when the entrances were walled up access to the back lane was by the "throughgangs"—ways that existed between every few houses, a few of which are still in use though some have fallen into disuse within the writer's memory; even part of the at one time essential back lane has gone during the last 25 years. Outside the lane were the crofts, and then other fields in groups according to the type of soil. Each holder seemingly had a Pezba, a Pika, a Thornbarrow, a Sandilands, a Howlands, and so on, giving a fair distribution to all, while the fell rights extended over the Pennines and down to the Durham boundary. Over these wild fells went the pack horse trains, of which the

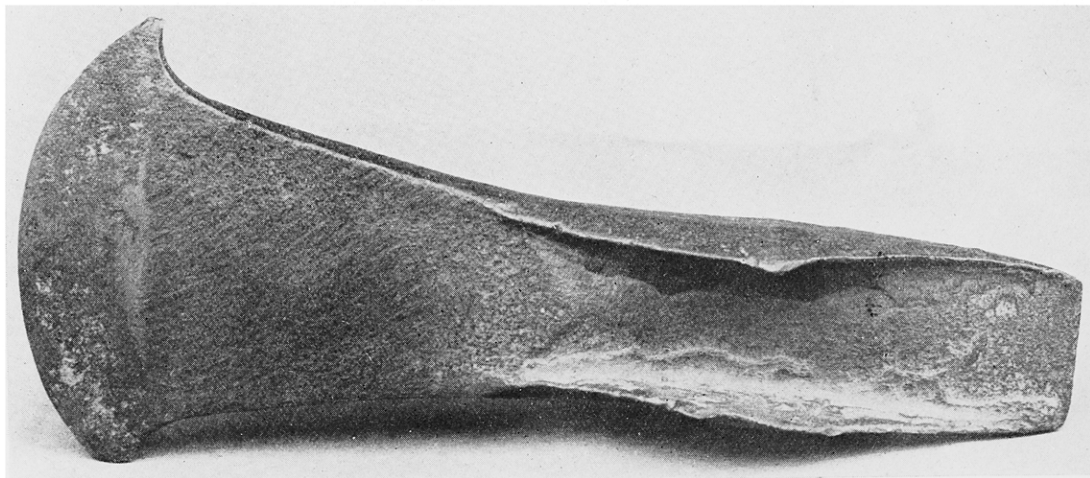


FIG. 8—BRONZE CELT FROM MILBURN.

Length 139 mm.
Width at edge 58 mm.

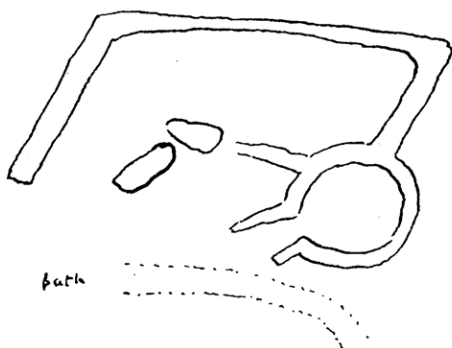
Width at socket 26 mm.
Breadth of flange 38 mm.

Photograph natural size.

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LITTLE DUNFELL

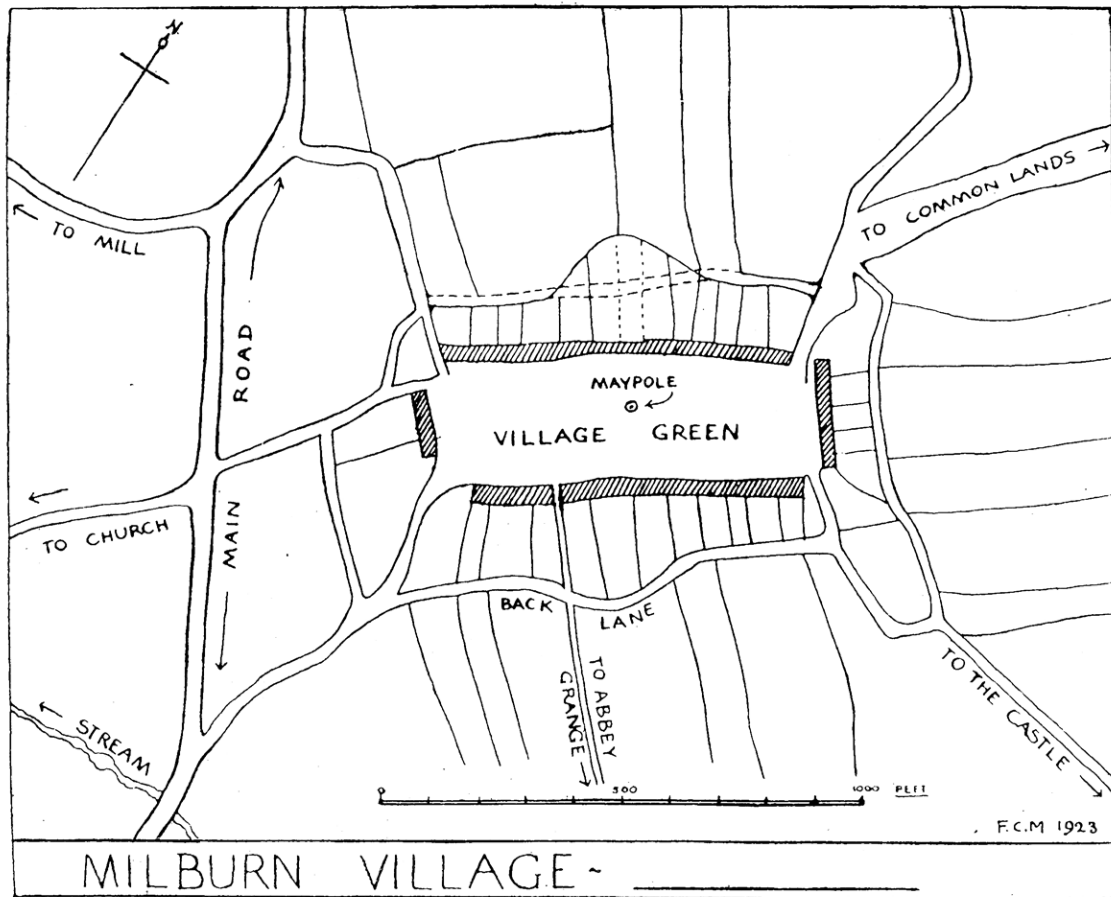
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Approx: Scale
1" = 24'
w 9.



FIG. 6. Group No. 3.



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 FIG. 7.

By permission of Mr. F. C. Mears.

writer has had a verbal account from an old friend who in his youth was a pack horse driver. Sitting in a mist recently on the pack horse road at Tees Head it was easy to visualise the string of twenty ponies following the road from currick to currick, with the leader clanging his bell as he walked, the driver bringing up the rear, slowly making the journey into Tynedale, and on towards the sea.

(For other articles on Milburn Church, see Rev. R. S. E. Oliver, N.S. ix, p. 202, and D. Scott, N.S. xxii, p. 442, and (on the Wheel Cross) Canon Bower, N.S. vii, p. 171).