

## NOTES

### 1. *Three Axe Roughouts and a Mortar from West Cumbria.*

By J. CHERRY, B.Sc. and P. J. CHERRY, B.A.

1. A small roughout axe of volcanic tuff was found while digging a hole for a fence post below a disused sand quarry at Bleawath, near Seascale (Map reference: NY00 3054 5027). The land is farmed by Mr P. P. Richardson of Moorside, Gosforth.

The axe is 18.7 cm long, 5.8 cm maximum width tapering to 2 cm at the butt and 5.2 cm at its cutting edge which is slightly curved and asymmetrical. One side of the axe has flaking along both edges and there is resolved flaking along the cutting edge. The reverse side of the axe exhibits much less flaking and seems to have traces of a pebble surface still remaining. Because of the oxidized condition of the axe it is not possible to be certain whether this surface indicates the use of a pebble or whether polishing of the artefact had been started, before it was lost or discarded. The axe weighs 362 g and is at present in the possession of Mr Richardson.

2. During our search of ploughed fields in the Seascale area we found a roughout axe of volcanic tuff in a field belonging to Mr D. Shepherd of Drigg Moorside farm, Holmrook (Map reference: NY00 3053 5006), Fig. 1, B. The axe was found at the lower end of the field about sixty metres below the area where we had previously picked up flint artefacts.<sup>1</sup> It is heavily oxidized and much of the original surface has been destroyed but it appears to be a roughout 24 cm long, 7.5 cm maximum width and 5 cm maximum thickness. The cutting edge is slightly curved and shows signs of recent damage. It seems to be a roughout for a Cumbrian type axe and is similar in its overall dimensions to a polished stone axe from Low Borrowdale Ground, Corney.<sup>2</sup> The axe weighs 936 g.

3. This roughout axe in volcanic tuff, Fig. 1, A was found in an eroding field bank on the east side of Williamson's Moss, Eskmeals, in 1976 (Map reference: SD34 3083 4915). It was found in the area described as Site 3 in the report of 1969.<sup>3</sup> Another roughout from the western side of the moss is described in the same report. It is similar to the roughout from Bleawath but is slightly bigger overall. The material seems to be a banded tuff of the Borrowdale volcanic series, but, as was the case with the roughout found at the other side of the moss, it is somewhat coarser than those usually classified as Group VI. It is heavily oxidized; the small area which was exposed in the field bank is nearly white but the remainder is stained a buff colour. It is 18.4 cm long, 6.6 cm at its maximum width, 5.5 cm maximum thickness and weighs 567 g.

4. A mortar made of a block of red sandstone was ploughed up in a field belonging to Town End farm on the high ground above Calder Abbey, and on the opposite side of the river Calder. The base is intact but the top portion has broken away. The fragment is sub-circular with two flattened sides, and measures 28 cm in diameter, 17 cm in height and the cup depression is 18 cm in diameter and 13 cm deep. All measurements are maximum dimensions.

The objects described in 2, 3 and 4 have been deposited at the Carlisle Museum and Art Gallery.

## References

<sup>1</sup> J. Cherry, 'Prehistoric Habitation Sites at Seascale', CW2, lxxvii, 1.

<sup>2</sup> J. Cherry, 'A Stone Axe-head from Low Borrowdale Ground, Corney', CW2, lxxvi, 214.

<sup>3</sup> J. Cherry, 'Early Neolithic Sites at Eskmeals', CW2, lxix, 40.

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to our member, Mr Frank Bowman, for the drawings of the axes, and to Miss C. I. Fell for her comments on the axes.

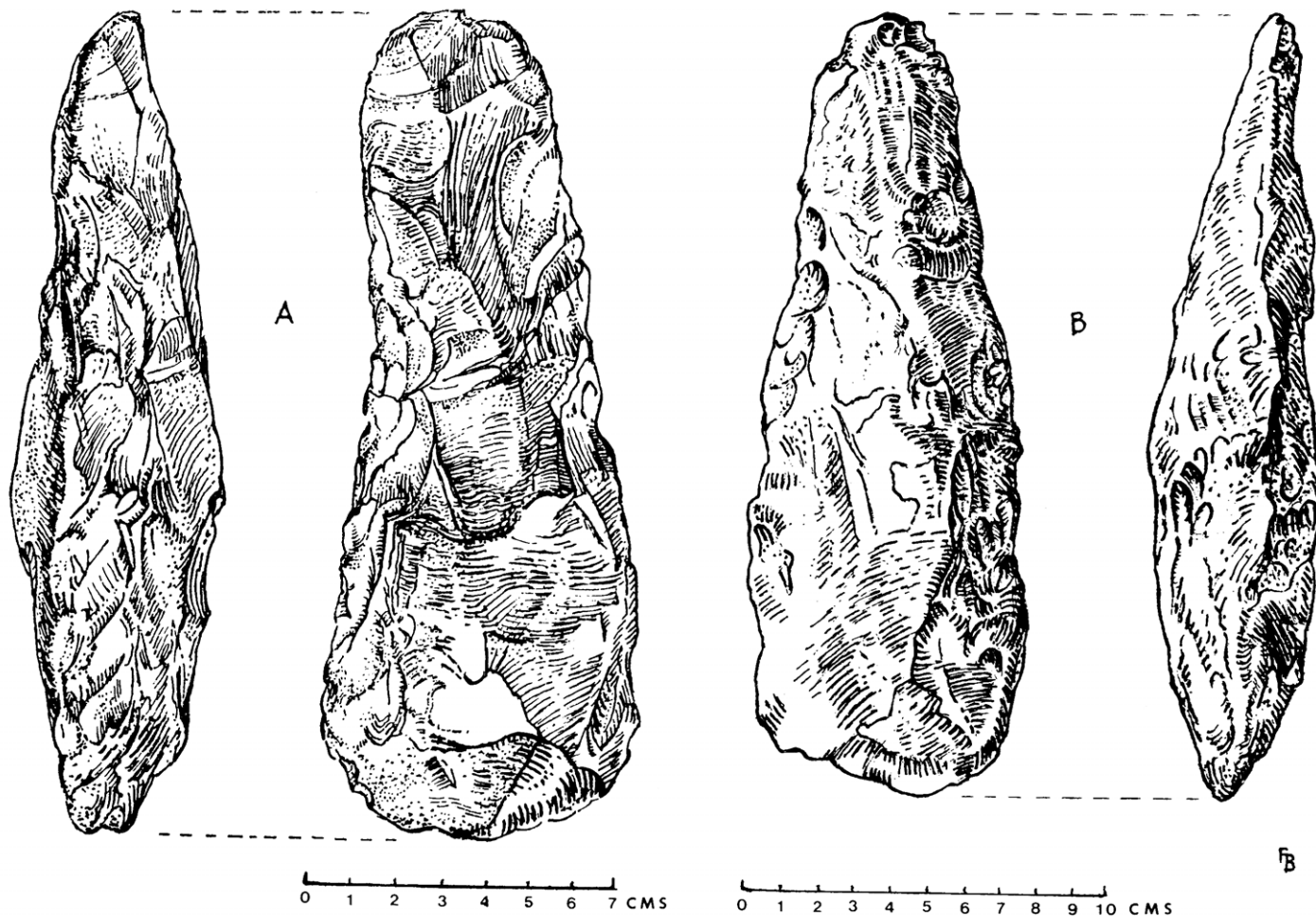


FIG. 1. A. Roughout Axe from Williamson's Moss, Eskmeals.  
B. Roughout Axe from Drigg Moorside Farm, Holmrook.

2. *Roman Inscriptions.*  
By IAN CARUANA.

Local newspapers have provided information on the discovery of two Roman inscriptions which can supplement the data already collected by R. G. Collingwood and R. P. Wright in *Roman Inscriptions in Britain*. The archaeological references were assembled by Mr T. Patten and I am indebted to him for the use of his file.

*RIB 885 (Papcastle)*. RIB says the stone was found before 1873. Its discovery was recorded by the *Carlisle Journal* of 22.5.1866 ("A few days since . . .") and the *Carlisle Patriot* of 28.5.1866. The findspot, Mrs Harris' residence at Lindenside, is as given in RIB.

*RIB 985 (Bewcastle)*. The *Carlisle Patriot* of 23.5.1863 describes the finding of this altar: "A small neat and nearly perfect Roman altar has within the last few days been dug up by drainers about a quarter of a mile from the Roman station at Bewcastle . . . This altar was found within a few yards of the old Roman road called the Maiden Way . . ." The *Patriot* infers that the legion mentioned in the last line was II Aug but seems to be arguing from comparison with RIB 991 and it seems unlikely that it preserves a better reading than the one given in RIB.

3. *Unpublished Excavations by the Late George Richardson in Matteredale.*  
By IAN CARUANA.

For several years prior to his death the late George Richardson had been working on the problem of tracing the Roman roads of Cumbria. This note is a report on the last sections he dug to test road alignments, in May and July 1980. The result of these small excavations was not entirely conclusive and would no doubt have been tested against further research. It seems best to publish them now as they stand for others to use as they can when they come to take up the problem again. The author took part in both days' excavations but this report is almost entirely a summary of George Richardson's notes and drawings.

The road under investigation (Fig. 1) left Ambleside for the north, crossing the Kirkstone Pass, visible in Glencoyne Wood (NY 385185) and traced in Matteredale Churchyard by Miss Hodgson (CW2, lxxx, 160). It presumably continued on to meet the road from Old Penrith (Voreda) not far from Troutbeck.

The field near Moorend chosen for trenching shows clear signs of an *agger*. To the south of the field the *agger* is cut by a damp area, running NW-SE. Three trenches were dug across the line of the *agger* to the north of the disturbed area. Two small trial pits in the line of Trench A were dug to establish profiles of plough soil and subsoil uninfluenced by other human activities. The presence of large quantities of cobble from the glacial drift caused some problems of interpretation.

*Trench A* (Fig. 2) produced two stone surfaces. The upper one, of cobbles, at a depth of 15 cm extended over a width of 5 m and sealed a sherd of modern dark olive green glass. At a depth of 35 cm was a surface of broken stone at least 4.30 m wide with a possible stone lined gutter to the east but cut by a modern field drain to the west.

*Trench B* was a small cutting which established the east edge of the *agger*. *Trench C* was located 15 m north of Trench A and was designed to check the results from the first trench. George Richardson recorded his belief that the road was present in this trench but that the line of it deviated by about 15° to the north of where it was expected.

Examination of a ploughed field to the south showed no signs of the road. (NY 401 229) (CW2, lxxxii, 195).

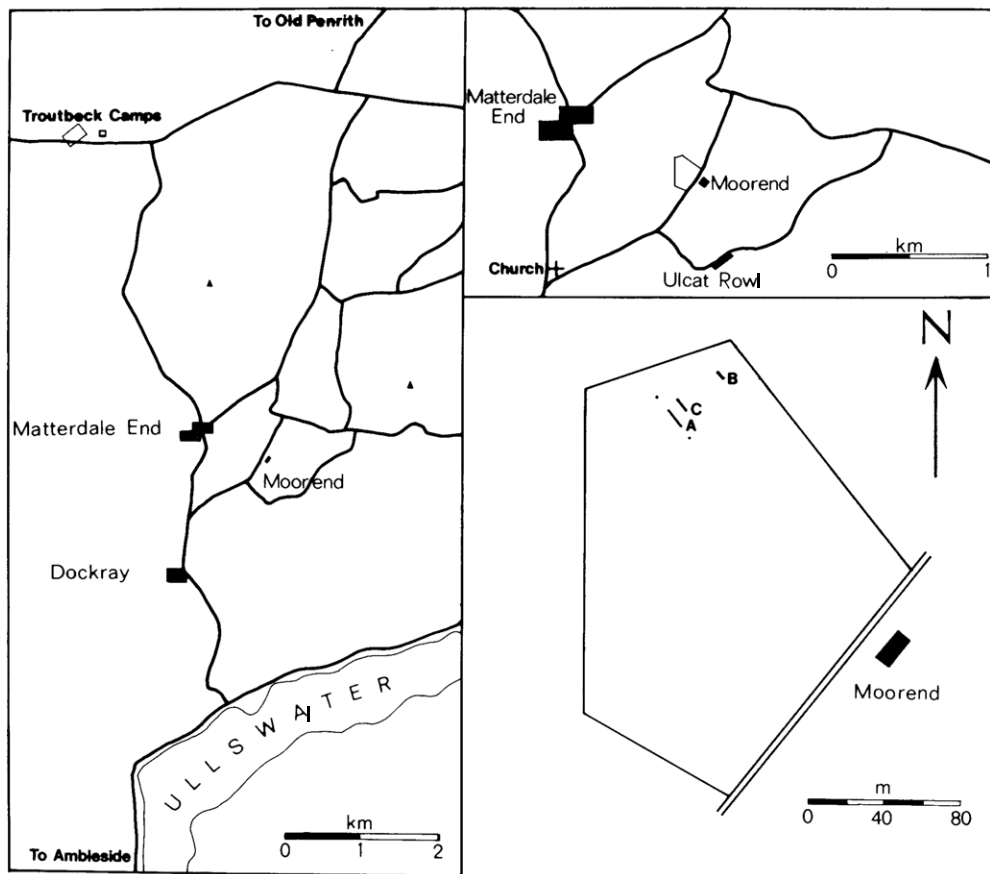


FIG. 1. – Matteredale: location plan.

*Conclusion (IDC).* The evidence for the presence of a road is strong. The surface remains of an *agger* are undoubted and excavation showed signs of one, and probably two, road surfaces. That the upper layer of stones in Trench A was in use in modern times (if not laid then) seems certain. Whether the upper layer was a localized patching or the remnant of an extensive road surface and how it relates to the surface in Trench B is uncertain. The possibility that the *agger* visible in the field is largely of medieval or post medieval origin cannot be discounted. There is no conclusive evidence for the date of any earlier road, if it existed.

#### Acknowledgements

Permission to dig was kindly granted by Dr Bruce of Moorend. Participants in the excavations were T. Scott, S. Smith, A. Richardson, A. J. Timperley. The drawings were prepared by R. G. Annis. Excavation records, together with all George Richardson's archaeological papers, are deposited in the Society's collection at Tullie House.

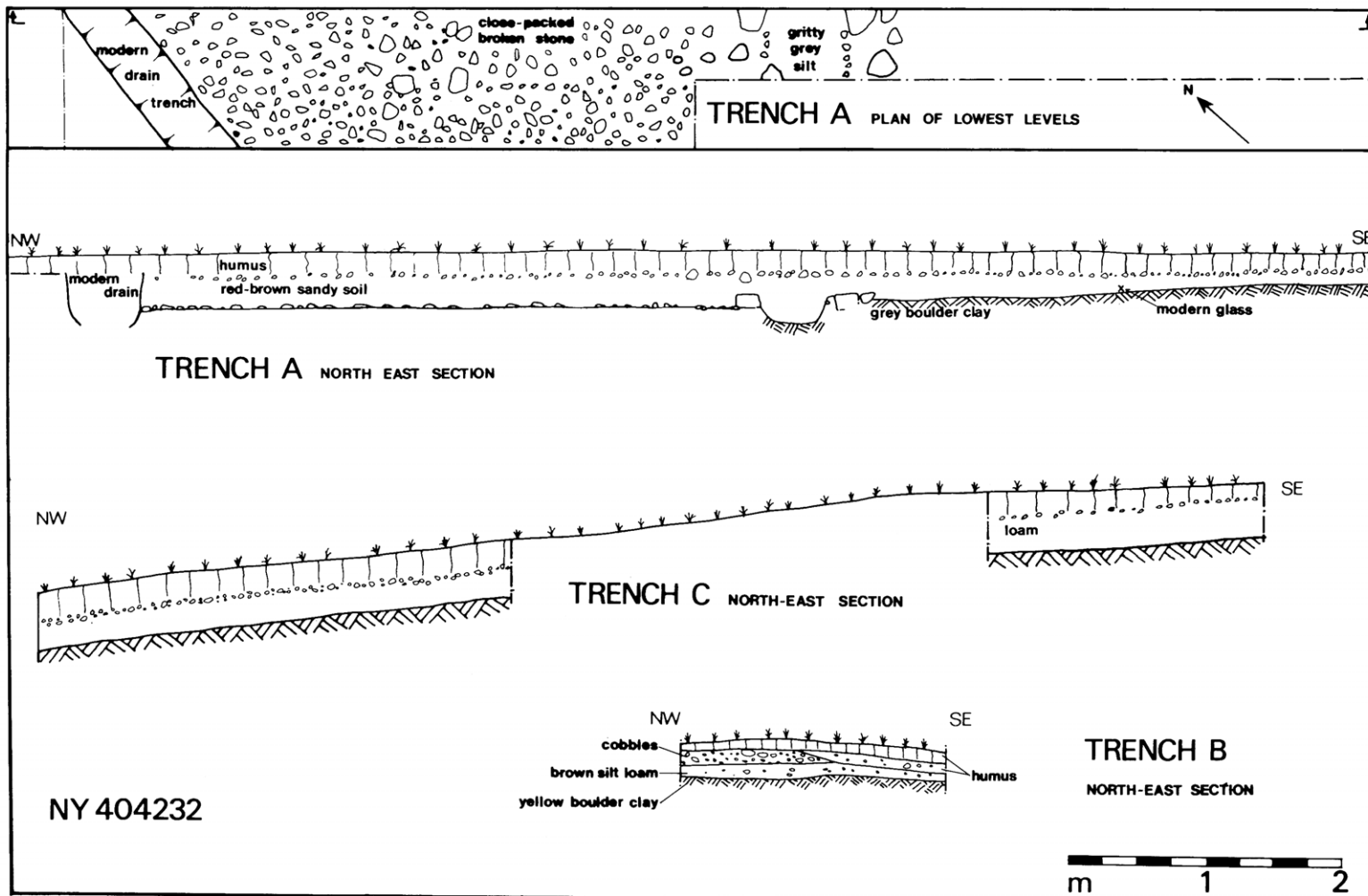


FIG. 2.

4. *Samian Pottery from Milecastle 64.*

By J. BUTTON and I. CARUANA.

When the excavations on Hadrian's Wall and Milecastle 64, inside Hadrian's Camp to the north-east of Carlisle, were published (CW2, lxxx, 17), all finds from both the 1941 and 1961/2 investigations seemed to be lost. Subsequently, the three pieces of Samian Ware recorded here and relating to the 1941 excavation were located in the store of Carlisle Museum (Acc. 21/1942).

1. Half of the base of a bowl. (Dr. 37. Central Gaulish). Probably second century. Abraded.
2. Small piece of the side of a campanulate cup. (Dr. 27. Central Gaulish). The well-rounded curves suggest a date in the first half of the second century. This is presumably the sherd referred to by F. G. Simpson as being found in July 1941 while searching for the turret. (*Op. cit.* p. 17.)
3. Small wall fragment of a dish (Dr. 18/31R or 31R Central Gaulish). Second century. Abraded.

All three sherds are probably Hadrianic or Antonine which is entirely consistent with finds made along Hadrian's Wall and near Milecastle 64.

We are grateful to J. Taylor for advice and to C. Richardson for finding the pottery.

5. *Roman Coin Hoard(s) from Hainings Farm, Kirksteads, Carlisle.*

By DAVID SHOTTER and ALAN JAMES.

Details of Roman Coin finds at Kirksteads are confused; Collingwood's inventory (CW2, xxiii, 1923, 235) records a hoard consisting mainly of coins of Diocletian and Constantine found in 1785 at a point 750 yards north of Cobble Hall; nothing further is known of this hoard. More clearly recorded is a hoard found in 1855 at a point approximately 450 yards south-west of Cobble Hall (Whellan, 171, CW2, lxxix, 5-17). It is stated that the find consisted of an "earthenware vase containing 1,100 Roman denarii. The coins were of bronze and principally of the reigns of Constantine and Diocletian". The fate of this hoard is largely unknown beyond the fact that some were dispersed through a Carlisle dealer until this "illicit" process was apparently discovered and stopped.

Since 1977, 300 coins have been found near the point of the second find; 223 of these were recorded by P. J. Casey (*Coin Hoards*, iv (1978), 50-5). Of the coins found since those which were the subject of Casey's article, it has not been possible to trace all, because of the rather complicated nature of their dispersal. However, it has been possible to trace in detail 31 coins, found in 1979, 1981, 1982 and 1983. It should be noted that the recent finds have not been made at the exact spot recorded for the 1855 discovery, but on the other (western) side of the same field. It is, therefore, not clear whether these are additional to the original discovery and that the original find-spot may have been incorrectly noted; it has, however, been suggested that the recent finds represent a part of the original 1,100 which was redeposited, perhaps following the discovery of the "illicit" traffic that was in progress.

It is possible that seven coins, which were part of the "Dalzell Collection" (CW2, lxxviii (1978), 203), derived from this hoard. These consisted of three coins of Diocletian (*RIC* Carthage 17a, Ticinum 23a and 45a), three of Maximian (Antioch 44b, Aquileia 29b, Ticinum 55b) and one of Maximinus Daia (Siscia 222b).

The latest coins do not alter the outline of the hoard as already noted by Casey, although no. 14 represents a type not present amongst those which Casey recorded.

**Acknowledgements**

Our thanks are due to Mr David Young (landowner and co-finder), to Mr Ian Caruana (of the Carlisle Archaeology Unit) and to Mr Colin Richardson (of Carlisle Museum and Art Gallery),

for assistance in tracing and recording portions of the recent finds. It should be noted that Carlisle Museum now has 35 of the coins, made up of 15 from 1977 (Acc. No. 116-1977), 13 from 1979 (Acc. No. 127-1979) and 7 from 1982 (Acc. No. 118-1983).

The Museum has in its collection or will acquire all the above coins with the exception of No. 20 which is in the possession of the landowner. In addition the landowner has possession of 136 coins and fragments, which represent a portion of all finds that have been made since 1977. An approximately similar portion was in the hands of a co-finder, Mr Robert Tweddle.

*The Coins**LONDON*

1-3	CONSTANTINVS AVG SOLI INVICTO COMITI	<u>T/F</u> PLN	RIC 94	A.D. 316-17
4	IMP CONSTANTINVS P AVG SOLI INVICTO COMITI	<u>T/F</u> PLN	RIC 88	A.D. 316-17
5	IMP CONSTANT[ VICTORIAE LAETAE[	<u>PLN</u>	RIC 157ff	A.D. 319-20
6-7	CRISPVS NOBIL C BEATA TRANQVILLITAS/ VOTIS XX	<u>PLON</u>	RIC 230	A.D. 321-2
8-9	CONSTANTINVS P AVG BEAT TRANQLITAS/ VOTIS XX	<u>PLON</u>	RIC 261	A.D. 323-4

*LYONS*

10	IMP DIOCLETIANVS AVG GENIO POPVLI ROMANI	<u>PLC</u>	RIC 72	A.D. 300
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*TRIER*

11	IMP MAXIMIANVS P AVG GENIO POPVLI ROMANI	<u>C/Γ</u> TR	RIC 181b	A.D. 296-7
12	MAXIMIANVS NOBIL C GENIO POPVLI ROMANI	<u>S/F</u> ITR	RIC 530b	A.D. 302-3
13	FL VAL CONSTANTINVS NOB C PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS	<u>S/A</u> PTR	RIC 734	A.D. 307
14	FL CL CONSTANTINVS IVN N C PRINCIPI [IVVENTVTIS	<u>S/F</u> ATR	RIC 143	A.D. 317
15	IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP	<u>PTR</u>	RIC 208a	A.D. 318-19

*TICINUM*

16	MAXIMIANVS NOB CAES GENIO POPVLI ROMANI	<hr/> RIC 306	A.D. 295-6
		PT	
17	IMP C DIOCLETIANVS PF AVG GENIO POPVLI ROMANI	<hr/> RIC 29a	A.D. 295-6
		PT	
18-19	CONSTANTIVS NOB C GENIO POPVLI ROMANI	<hr/> RIC 30a	A.D. 295-6
		ST	
20	CONSTANTIVS NOB CAES GENIO POPVLI ROMANI	<hr/> RIC 30a	A.D. 295-6
		ST	

*MINT-MARK ILLEGIBLE*

21	D N DIOCLETIANO QVIES AVGG		A.D. 305-7
22-25	(MAXIMIAN) GENIO POPVLI ROMANI		
26	(DIOCLETIAN) GENIO POPVLI ROMANI		
27	(CONSTANTIUS) GENIO POPVLI ROMANI		
28	GENIO POPVLI ROMANI (Obv. illegible)		
29	(CONSTANTINE I) SOLI INVICTO COMITI		
30-31	TOTALLY ILLEGIBLE		

6. *Numismatic Notes from Cumbria.*

By D. C. A. SHOTTER, B.A., Ph.D.

1. *Roman Hoard from Fisher Street, Carlisle.*

Since publication of my paper on Roman Coin Hoards from Cumbria (CW2, lxxix, 1979, 5-17), Mr Alan James has drawn my attention to a report in the *Cumberland Pacquet* for September 24, 1782. This refers to the hoard found in that year in Fisher Street, Carlisle (No. 5 in my Inventory). It shows that the hoard consisted of approximately 1,000 coins in a pot: the range is given as "from Julius Caesar to more than thirty succeeding emperors".

2. *An Alexandrian Tetradrachm from Melmerby, Penrith.*

A recent discovery at Melmerby, nr. Penrith, is a billon tetradrachm from Alexandria; it is in good condition and belongs to Hadrian's reign.

*Obv.* AVTKAITPAIAΔIACEB

*Rev.* Isis LH (Milne 1049).

LH indicates Regnal Year 8 (that is, A.D. 123-4).

Finds of Alexandrian imperial coins are not uncommon in Britain; whilst some may be relatively recent importations, it is clear that many were lost during the Roman period, having presumably reached the province by way of trade.

*Ref.* Milne: Milne, J. G., *A Catalogue of Alexandrian Coins* (London, 1971).



3-4. *Two Roman Coins from Carlisle.*

Two Roman coins have recently been reported from the Carlisle area, and have been brought to my attention by Mr Colin Richardson of the Carlisle Museum and Art Gallery.

a. From Kingmoor (precise location recorded at Carlisle Museum).

A Grade I copy of an *as* of Claudius I (*RIC* 68), exhibiting little wear.

*Obv.* TI CLAV]DIVS CAESAR AVG P M TR P IMP

*Rev.* CONSTANTIAE AVGVSTI S C.

Copies of Claudius' coins of variable quality were made, mainly in the 50's A.D., to combat a shortage of official coinage reaching Britain. Very few such coins are likely to have survived in circulation beyond the earliest years of the Flavian period, after which time Vespasian's mint re-organization guaranteed far more plentiful and regular supplies of *aes* coinage. (For Claudian copies, see C. H. V. Sutherland, *Coinage and Currency in Roman Britain*, Oxford, 1937, 8-13).

b. From Botcherby Mill, a surface find (precise location recorded at Carlisle Museum).

A *Sestertius* issued for Domitian during the reign of Titus (A.D. 80-1, *RIC* (Titus) 157); the coin is moderately worn.

*Obv.* CAES DIVI AVG VESP F DOMITIANVS COS VII

*Rev.* Minerva S C.

5. *A Roman Coin from Borrowdale.*

A discovery of the early 1970's in Borrowdale is an *As* of Nero, minted at Lugdunum in A.D. 64-66 (*RIC* 175):

*Obv.* NERO CLAVD CAESAR AVG GER P M TR P IMP P P

*Rev.* PACE P R TERRA MARIQ PARTA I ANVM CLVSIT S C.

According to local information, other Roman coins (unfortunately unrecorded) – have come to light at the same place.

7. *A Viking-age Sword from Morland, Cumbria.*

By RICHARD N. BAILEY, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

In October 1982 a seminar was held at Morland church to discuss the date and significance of its pre-Norman tower. In the course of that meeting the convenor, Canon Gervase Markham, showed me a sword which he had found in a drawer at Morland House some years previously. The weapon was clearly of Viking-age date. Though Cumbria is richer in this kind of material than other parts of the country such finds are infrequent (Cowen 1934, 1948; Wilson 1968) and I am therefore grateful to Canon Markham for allowing notice of his sword to appear in our *Transactions*.

*Description* (Plate 1).

The weapon is a two-edged iron sword, now heavily corroded but with some metal remaining. The blade is broken into two pieces and has also been bent near the break-point. The length from the top of the pommel to the rounded end of the tip is 77 cm and the length of the blade is 62.5 cm. The one-piece pommel is semi-circular in plan, has a flat base and is 3.6 cm high. At the point where the tang passes into the pommel the base is 2.5 cm deep but it narrows to 1.3 cm at the edges. There is now no trace of a hilt on the tang. The cross-guard is straight and flat but rounded at either end; it is 10.5 cm broad and 1.7 cm deep. The top of the tapering blade is 5.5 cm broad.

The blade has been bent in different directions at two points. One of these resulted in the break whilst the upper bend, which runs across the corrosion hole, has left a sharp "crease" across the blade. There are no traces of pattern-welding, inlay, stamps or inscription visible on the X-ray photographs and no associated material could be traced in microscopic examination of the corrosion rust.

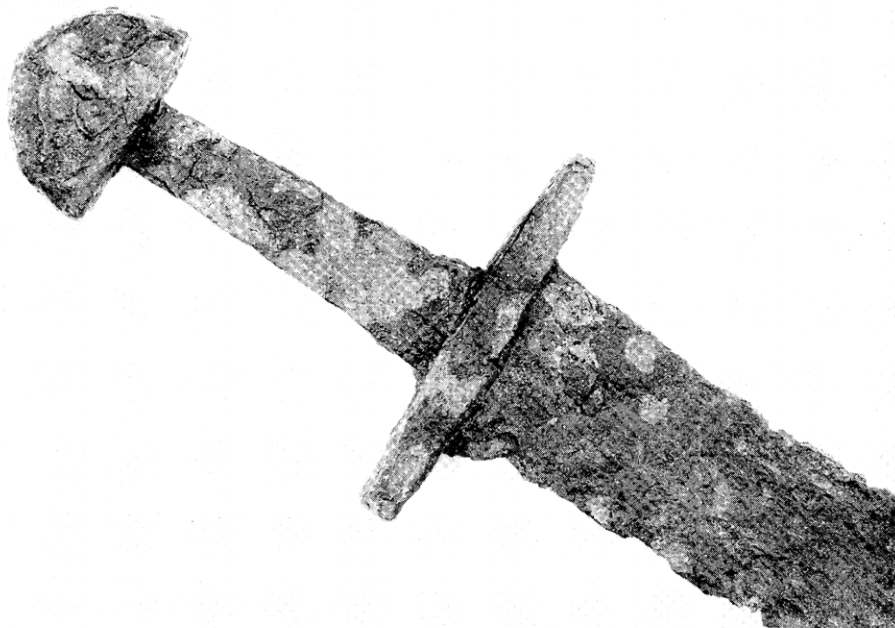


PLATE I. - The Morland Sword.

*(photo: T. Middlemass)*

*Discovery*

The history of the sword before its recent emergence from the Morland House drawer is frustratingly obscure. The house has been in the possession of Canon Markham's family since 1828 when the Reverend Rice Markham became vicar. This nineteenth-century clergyman, who died in 1878, had married Jane, daughter of Nathaniel Clayton, the well-known Northumberland archaeologist, in 1840. Her surviving library shows that she inherited her father's antiquarian interests and it was during this period that Roman material from Kirkby Thore seems to have been acquired by the Markhams. (RCHM 1936, xli, 145; Shotter 1978, 19). Such archaeological enthusiasm could have brought the sword to Morland House during Jane and Rice's tenure. The fact that there is no mention of the sword's existence in the account of our Society's visit to the village in 1875 is no barrier to this assumption (CWI, ii, 1876, xx) for on that occasion members were chiefly interested in the church and apparently did not even see the Kirkby Thore coins which are known to have been at Morland by that date. Jane Markham's death in 1871 no doubt explains why the archaeological interest of the house remained unnoticed.

It must be stressed, of course, that there is no certain evidence that the sword first arrived in Morland House in Jane Markham's time. It is, however, the most attractive explanation. Canon Gervase Markham's long familiarity with the house and family would seem to rule out any recent acquisition and if it had been discovered in the early part of this century then it would surely have come to the notice of Collingwood's county inventory of 1926 or the Royal Commission's survey ten years later (Collingwood 1926; RCHM 1936). Furthermore Rice Markham's immediate successors, though extraordinarily gifted in other fields, do not seem to have had antiquarian interests.

Given the lack of information about the date of the sword's discovery it follows that we are equally ignorant about the place and circumstances of the find. It might seem reasonable to assume that the weapon came from Morland village, and perhaps even from its churchyard. In that case it could be grouped with a small set of Viking-age burials in which grave-goods were deposited with the dead in churches or churchyards (Wilson 1967, 38, 43-4; Morris 1983, 61). This is the group represented locally by finds from Ormside and Rampside (Cowen 1948). At present, however, this can only be speculation.

*Date and Discussion*

The sword with its short straight guard and flat "tea-cosy" pommel is clearly of Petersen's Type X (Petersen 1919, 158-67). This type includes a variety of pommel forms but the plain, relatively flat, version from Morland belongs to a sub-group which Petersen illustrates by an example from Skeie, Kvinnherred in Norway (Petersen 1919, fig. 128). Most commentators refer the form to the tenth century and this would fit well with the known period of Viking activity in north-west England. There is good evidence, however, that the type persisted in use into the eleventh century (Oakeshott 1951, 51-2; Oakeshott 1964, 27), and it would therefore be unwise to restrict the dating of the Morland sword too closely.

Type X swords are not common in Britain (Evison 1968, 175) and this plain-pommel variety is even rarer; from the published literature it is only possible to cull examples from York, Kildale in Yorkshire, Nottingham, Hertford, Sanday in the Orkneys, Dublin and Larne in Ireland (Waterman, 1959, fig. 5 and p. 72; Elgee 1930, fig. 67; Shetelig 1940, fig. 3; Adams 1974; Greig 1940, fig. 86; Fanning 1970). In 1919 Petersen was able to cite very few such swords from either Norway or Denmark but he did note that they had been found in Sweden, Finland, Schlesvig-Holstein, Poland and Switzerland. Others could now be added from Holland and France but much more important is the fact that two recent surveys have confirmed Petersen's suggestion that the origins and development of this form of the sword lie outside Scandinavia (Bakay 1967; Adams 1974). It is a type which originated in western Europe whence it was adopted further east as well as in Scandinavia; from there (to judge by its distribution in the British Isles) it was carried westwards to Britain with the Viking raids and settlement.

We have already noticed that the sword has been bent at two points. The mutilation of weapons is a well-known Viking-age phenomenon associated with burials and ritual offerings (Rygh 1877, 183; Wilson 1966, 88). Locally the sword found with the Hesket cremation provides a spectacular example of this treatment as does the weapon found at West Seaton near Workington (Hodgson 1832, plate II; Collingwood 1904, 335). At first sight the Morland sword seemed to provide a further instance of this ritual "killing" of a weapon. The balance of opinion in the Conservation Laboratory (University of Durham) was, however, that the bending had occurred *after* corrosion was well advanced. It may well have taken place when the sword was first discovered in modern times. It is hoped that further details about the date and place of that original discovery may now be forthcoming as a result of this note.

### Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Canon Markham for permission to publish the sword and for information about the ownership of Morland House. I am also indebted to Janey Cronyn and the staff of the Conservation Laboratory at the University of Durham for a report on their examination of the sword. I acknowledge with thanks the careful photographic record provided by Mr T. Middlemass.

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8. *Medieval Pottery Kiln at Muckleground, Waberthwaite.*

By J. and P. J. CHERRY.

Map Reference: 3107 4938.

Since our discovery of a large quantity of medieval pottery in the sand-dunes at Eskmeals<sup>1</sup> we have found the site of a destroyed kiln at Muckleground, about two kilometres east of the sand-dune site, which yielded sherds and wasters of green glazed, brown glazed and unglazed wares. These have been tentatively dated to the thirteenth century by Mr B. J. N. Edwards, although pottery made in this style in a remote area of West Cumbria might possibly have been of a later date. An archaeometric survey of the site has been carried out on behalf of the Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeological Unit, based at Lancaster University, and it is hoped to define the position of the kiln and confirm the date of its use.

**Reference**

<sup>1</sup> J. Cherry, 'Eskmeals sand-dunes occupation sites, phase II – Iron manufacture', CW2, lxvi, 46.

9. *Shielings in Upper Eskdale.*

By ANGUS J. L. WINCHESTER.

Several years ago Mr G. Ellwood of Taw House, Eskdale, drew my attention to a group of oval structures in Scale Field, the field north of the confluence of Scale Gill and the river Esk. In August 1982, a plan of the site (Fig. 1) was prepared with the help of a group of American volunteers recruited by the Earthwatch organization of Belmont, Massachusetts, for a field project organized in conjunction with the Brathay Centre for Exploration and Field Studies.<sup>1</sup>

The site (at NY 2157 0233) is on a terrace on the interfluvium between Scale Gill and the Esk. It comprises the footings of a cluster of at least five sub-rectangular or oval huts approximately 6 m × 4 m in diameter. There appear to be no associated field boundaries, but a track (not surveyed) cut into the steep north-eastern side of the Scale Gill valley near its confluence with the Esk appears to lead to the huts. The nature of the site – a group of small huts with no associated enclosures – and its location on a grassy interfluvium bear a close resemblance to medieval shieling sites recorded elsewhere in northern England, although the huts themselves are smaller and less rectilinear than many other recorded shielings. A parallel for the Eskdale huts is to be found, however, in the smaller shielings at White Lyne Common, Bewcastle, thought by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments to be considerably older than the more numerous, rectangular huts in the area, and possibly to be of early medieval date.<sup>2</sup>

Documentary evidence confirms that the Eskdale shielings are likely to be medieval. The structures surveyed in Fig. 1 are almost certainly the "scales" (i.e. huts) referred to by the names Scale Gill and Scale Field (the field in which they lie). As "Skale closes", the field name is recorded in 1578,<sup>3</sup> confirming that the shielings pre-date the later 16th century. The place-name and documentary evidence for shieling practices in medieval Copeland as a whole, discussed elsewhere,<sup>4</sup> suggests that the use of shielings declined during the Middle Ages, references to them being fairly frequent in the 13th century, but infrequent in 15th and 16th-century documents. It is thus probable that the site in upper Eskdale is a tangible reminder of the use of the upper reaches of the valley as a shieling ground in the early Middle Ages.

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> I should like to record my thanks to Mr G. Ellwood for permission to survey the site; the volunteer team for carrying out the survey; members of staff at the Brathay Centre for Exploration and Field Studies for their help in organizing the project of which this survey formed a part; and Earthwatch and the Center for Field Research for funding the project.

<sup>2</sup> H. G. Ramm, *et al.*, *Shielings and Bastles* (R.C.H.M., 1970), pp. 7, 18.

<sup>3</sup> Cumbria Record Office (Carlisle), D/Lec, box 301, Percy Survey, f. 134.

<sup>4</sup> A. J. L. Winchester, 'Territorial Structure and Agrarian Organization in Medieval and 16th-century Copeland, Cumberland', pp. 238-41 (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of Durham, 1978).

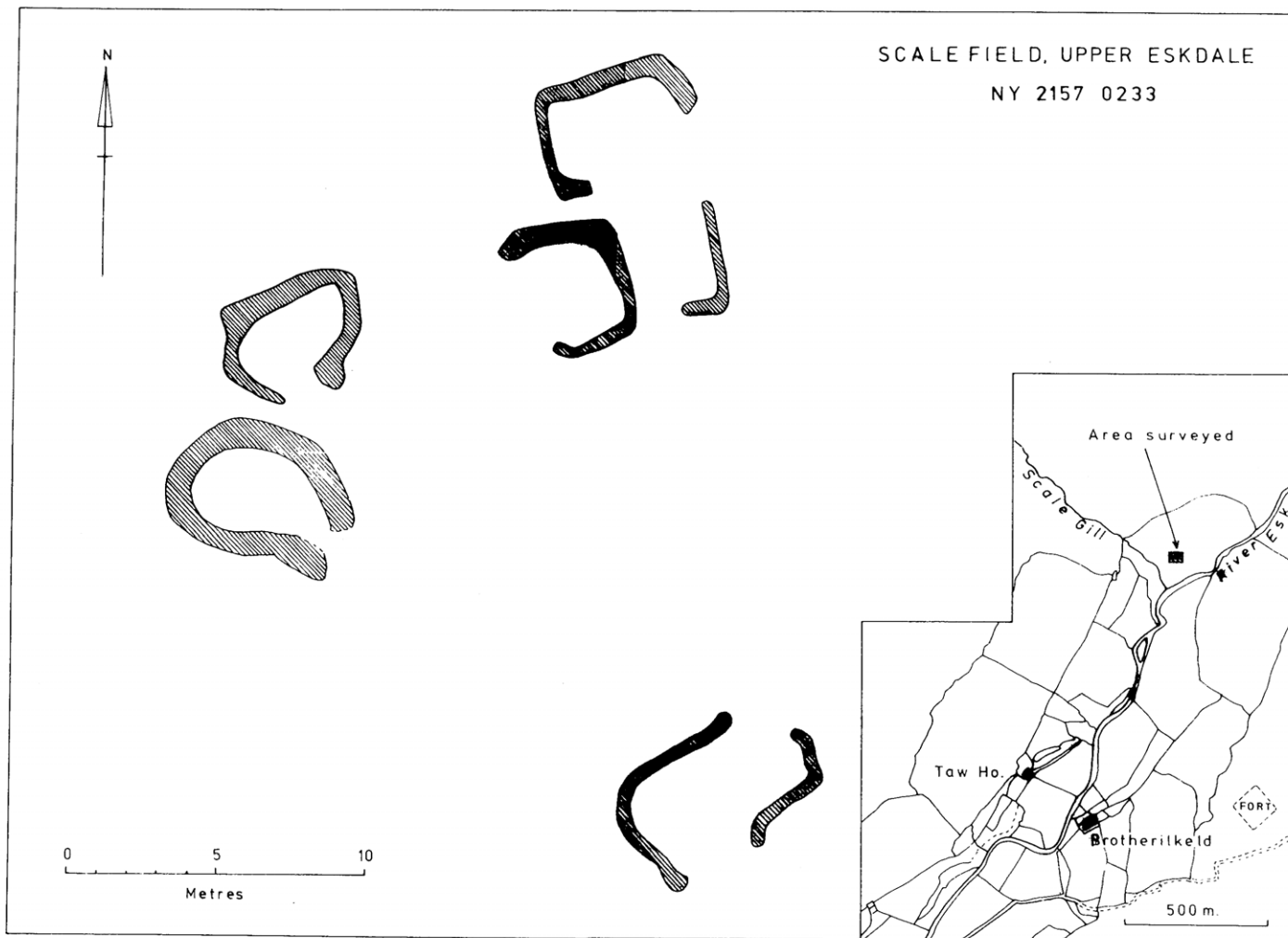


FIG. 1.

10. *Blencow Old Hall.*

By B. C. JONES, M.A.

On Blencow, Nicolson and Burn say "Little Blencow gives name to a family which is of ancient standing in these parts. Their first seat was at Great Blencow close by but on the other side of the river Petterell where they still have a demense; and where the ruins of an old tower are to be seen".<sup>1</sup>

Blencow family deeds preserved among the deeds and papers of Mr Stafford Howard of Greystoke Castle and now deposited in the Record Office at the Castle, Carlisle, help us to trace the history of this lost Cumbrian manor house and show how the house and the demesne on which it stood was converted from leasehold to a tenantright estate in the 16th century and was then bought back again by the family in the early 17th century. This estate at Great Blencow was finally sold by Henry Prescot Blencow to William Troutbeck in 1802.<sup>2</sup>

The old hall in Great Blencow is mentioned for the first time in a conditional gift by the trustees of Thomas of Blencow's estate to Thomas's son William and Joan his wife dated 5 June 1406. Through his trustees Thomas had alienated to his son William his lands and tenements on the Skelton side of the Petteril (probably in Little Blencow) called "Ridellandes", lands and tenements which were Lord Dacre's and lands called "Seint John land" also on the Skelton side, and a tenement in Great Blencow on the other side of the river in which his father Adam of Blencow had lived with land there called "le Keppelandes".<sup>3</sup>

Adam was the founder of the family fortunes. His considerable estate was built up gradually from about 1340. On 9 October 1344 he received by gift of Sir Robert Veteripont a tenement in Great Blencow then in the tenure of Thomas Todd, with toft and croft, twenty acres of land and meadow, six acres of arable land in the close of "Blenkow Howys" and a share of "Birkemyre" pasture from the angle of the long lands of Newbiggin to "le Nowytewath".<sup>4</sup> In 1347, the King granted to him the closes of Calthwaite and Braithwaite in the forest of Inglewood and by 1350 he was able to entail lands, messuages and tenements in Carlisle, Skelton, Blencow, Motherby and at Skiprigg near Gatesgill.<sup>5</sup> In 1358 the Crown made a further grant to him of the lands which had belonged to John Riddel in Greystoke, Blencow and Newbiggin – part of which may have formed the nucleus of the later Blencow Hall demesne in Little Blencow.<sup>6</sup> He appears to have died about 1386. His last recorded act was a quitclaim dated 12 November 1386 written whilst he was living at Carlisle and "in sound mind" abandoning his right and claim in all his lands in favour of his son Thomas. The quitclaim was sealed at the Blackfriars in Carlisle.<sup>7</sup>

"Le Kepelandes" is next mentioned on 8 September 1411 when William and Joan Blencow leased them to Sir John Skelton together with all his lands and tenements in Blencow on both sides of the Petteril. The lease was to run for 20 years at nine marks, seven shillings and eight pence a year – but there was an earlier repairing lease for seven years at 20s. a year to William Southwaick dated 11 November 1407 of a tenement with lands and meadow "in the vill of Blencow in the parish of Dacre" which may refer to the same property and if so describes what it may have been like. Covenants required William Southwaick to repair the roof of the hall with slate, the kiln of six crucks, the barn and the cowshed and to enclose the garden towards the fold with a stone wall five feet high. He was also required to act as agent to maintain and enforce the tenancies of Thomas Blencow, his son William and his wife Joan and to defend their rights in all respects.<sup>8</sup>

William was succeeded by his son Richard about 1464. A great grandson Richard and his wife Isabel received the entail of a "new manor in Blencow" where they lived on 31 August 1513. On 17 December 1537 he entailed his estate in Greystoke and Motherby in favour of his eldest son Anthony and on 12 January 1548/9 made a gift for life to his second son Christopher of a messuage, two barns, a garden and fifteen acres of land and pasture called "Kepplande" in the parish of Dacre which Thomas Sanderson then held at will.<sup>9</sup> A generation later on 12 June 1581 John Sanderson of the "Keepe" in the parish of Dacre, labourer, and Matthew and Henry Sanderson his young brothers sold to John Marshall, yeoman, for £30 their "estate right title interest and

tenantright" in a tenement or farmhold called the "Keepe" of the yearly rent of 20s. being the inheritance of Henry Blencow, gentleman. Finally John Marshall's son, John Marshall of Nuffield, Oxfordshire, clerk, sold the Keep for £70 to Henry Blencow on 22 January 1616/17.<sup>10</sup>

Later references to the property now called "Blencow Old Hall" occur in a memorandum of an extension of a lease to Robert Whitlock on 25 March 1716 and in a lease for two years at £30 a year to John Turner of Great Blencow and John Nicholson of Newton Reigny on 20 February 1721/2.<sup>11</sup> On at least two occasions on 13 October 1784 and 24 September 1785 the manor court of the manor of Blencow was held at the house of Ann Todd, widow, called the Old Hall in Great Blencow.<sup>12</sup>

From the Blencow deeds and papers it is not possible to say precisely where the Keep or the Keelands were but in a dispute between the tenants of Great Blencow and the tenants of Newton Reigny in 1773 about rights of common on Newton Hows, maps were drawn which mark "Keep field" at NY 83 468328 on the south side of the Petteril opposite Laithes. The "nout" or "neat wath" and the "Longlands of Newbiggin" referred to in the gift of 1344 are also marked at 468328, where the modern bridge crosses the river, and at 462313 to the south and east of Spire House.<sup>13</sup> The Stainton, Newbiggin and Blencow enclosure award, 1775 shows Henry Prescott Blencow holding demesne land at 468328.<sup>14</sup> Interest therefore centres on the field to the east of the Grammar School where on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1864 an elongated pond is marked near the river at 458328, as a possible site for Blencow Old Hall.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Nicolson and Burn, vol. 2, 375.
- <sup>2</sup> M. W. Taylor, *The Old Manorial Halls of Westmorland and Cumberland*, CW Extra Series, viii, 288.
- <sup>3</sup> C.R.O., Carlisle, D/HG B.1/13.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, D/HG B.1/3.
- <sup>5</sup> Taylor, *op. cit.*, 288 and D/HG B.1/4.
- <sup>6</sup> Taylor, *loc. cit.*
- <sup>7</sup> D/HG B.1/8.
- <sup>8</sup> D/HG B.1/22 and 16.
- <sup>9</sup> D/HG B. 1/29, 34, 36, D/HG B.1/Marshall's estate Pedigree in N. & B. vol. 2, 376 and in CW2, vii, 120 omits Richard who married Isabel.
- <sup>10</sup> D/HG B.1/Marshall's estate.
- <sup>11</sup> D/HG B/estate papers.
- <sup>12</sup> D/HG B/manorial records.
- <sup>13</sup> C.R.O., Carlisle D/Lons/L. Newton Reigny bundles 7 and 8.
- <sup>14</sup> C.R.O., Carlisle QRE 1/38.

## 11. *Plotting of Archaeological Sites from Vertical Air Photographs: an Interim Report.* By V. E. TURNER.

The Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeological Unit are currently engaged in a project to identify and plot archaeological sites in upland Cumbria from vertical air photographs. It is not generally realized that the uplands of north-west England contain many areas of well preserved prehistoric landscape comparable to better known areas of outstanding archaeological importance, such as Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor. This project, and the Unit's Lake District National Park Survey are thus being funded by the Department of the Environment as projects of national importance.

The photographs being used were taken in the early 1970s during February-May, by the Ordnance Survey, in clear, bright weather conditions and have been acquired by the Lake District



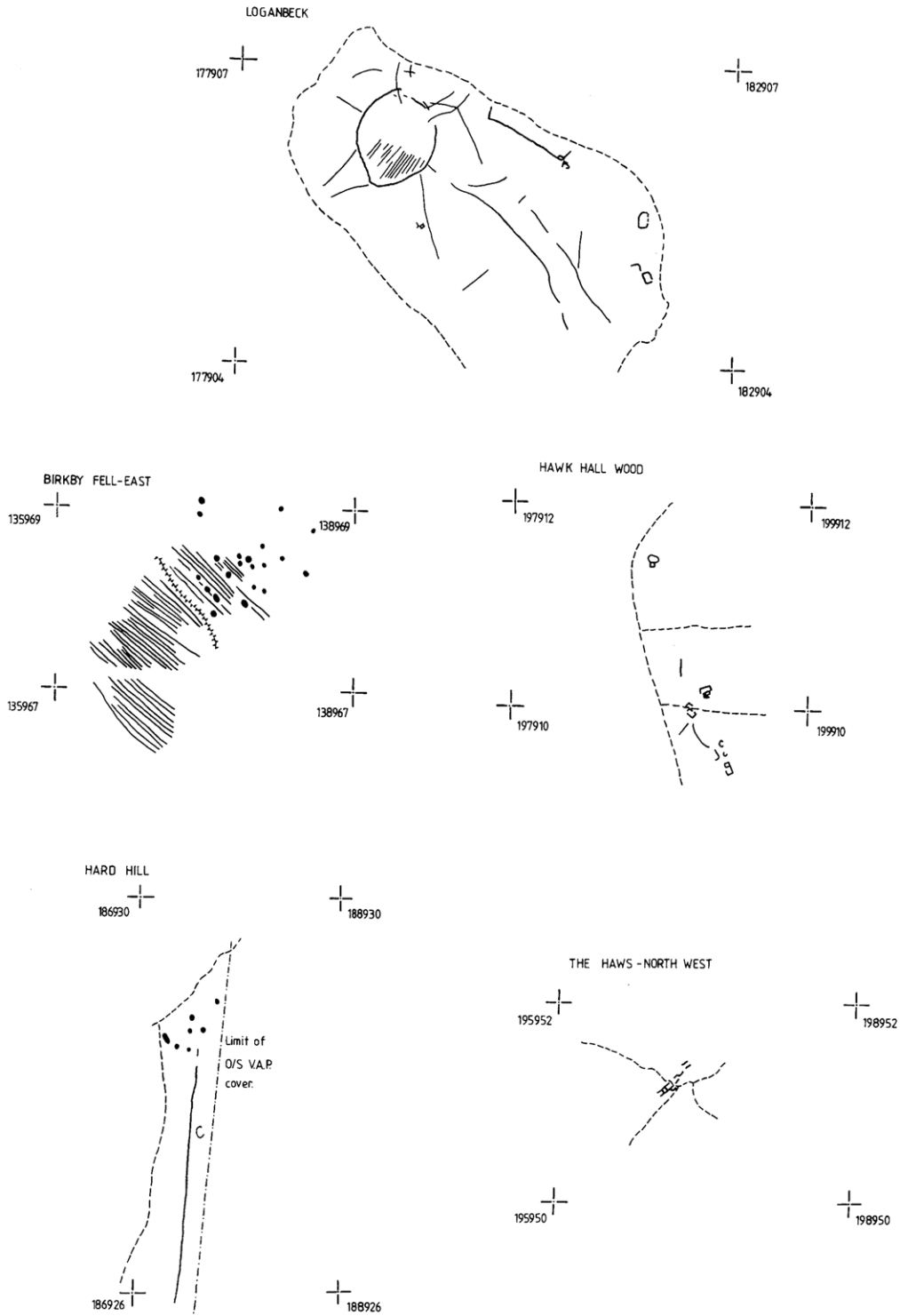


FIG. 1.

Special Planning Board for planning purposes. The average height at which they were taken is 7,500 feet. Sites are identified stereoscopically, and then crudely sketch-plotted on 1:10,000 O.S. maps. All the sites (which are largely earthworks) are then examined on the ground, to ensure that features which are not archaeological, do not become incorporated into the Sites and Monuments Record. The sites are plotted in detail at 1:2,500, using an A and W Rost, Wien, Planvariograph for enlarging. In many cases this plot is liable to remain the only plan for several years. The outline of the site is drawn on to 1:10,000 overlays. The details of the site (such as landuse, state of survival, ownership etc.) are recorded as fully as possible to the format now decided upon for the County Sites and Monuments Record in order to facilitate the output of catalogues by computer.

Work on the 10 km grid square, SD 19, has been completed; 94 new sites were added to the S.M.R. (listed below) and 23 known, but previously unplanned, sites have been plotted. Another 300 sites already await ground validation and work is now proceeding upon an area of the north Pennines. The results are also being incorporated into the Unit's Lake District National Park Survey. The photographs have been kindly made available by the Lake District Special Planning Board. The data from the project is being input to the County Sites and Monuments Record and will be used by the County Council and the Department of the Environment in the formulation of scheduling and rescue policies. I am particularly grateful to Mr T. Clare and Dr R. H. Leech for their assistance in the undertaking of the project.

Fig. 1 shows five of the sites so far plotted and some of the conventions being used for mapping. The sites are all listed in the accompanying gazetteer.

#### GAZETTEER

Sites identified from vertical air photographs in SD 19. (Further details can be found in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record.)

##### *Cairnfields* (without associated features)

SD 136 968	Birkby Fell – East
SD 1245 9578	Birkby Fell – South
SD 126 925	Charlesground
SD 1328 9260	Charlesground Gill – West
SD 1272 9105	Crispen Cottage
SD 1937 9594	Freeze Beck
SD 1850 9447	Hesk Fell
SD 126 913	Lambground
SD 1275 8880	North Coppy Cow
SD 1859 9076	Park Moss
SD 173 902	Thwaites Fell
SD 1780 9507	Ulgra Beck
SD 177 910	Wincop
SD 1775 9607	Woodend Bridge
SD 1800 9552	Woodlands

##### *Field systems* (?prehistoric)

SD 125 925	Charlesground (bank, wall)
SD 136 925	Corney Fell (walls)
SD 1190 9580	Ellerbeck – South (cairns, ridge and furrow)
SD 1870 9195	Frith Beck (cairn, enclosure)
SD 1865 9270	Hand Hill
SD 1658 9845	Hare Hill

SD 1340 9422	The Intake (walls, ridge and furrow – associated with hut and cairnfield)
SD 1342 9278	The Intake – North (walls, track)
SD 1358 8958	Levens Moss (cairns, hut circle, banks)
SD 1280 927	Oldclose Gill
SD 1290 8920	Oldclose Gill
SD 1582 9542	Rigg Beck
SD 1280 9360	Whitrow Beck – East
<i>Field Systems</i> (?medieval)	
SD 1990 9095	Hawk Hall Wood
SD 120 966	How Bank
SD 1675 9900	Tonguesdale Moss (ridge and furrow, cairns, building)
SD 1880 9142	Ulpha Park (bank, ridge and furrow)
SD 122 932	Welcome Nook
<i>Ridge and Furrow</i> (narrow)	
SD 136 986	Birkby Fell – East
SD 132 982	Coppice Springs
SD 122 909	Crispen Cottage
SD 122 913	The Dawns
SD 118 938	Fell Lane
SD 123 941	Grange
SD 123 937	High Corney (with quarry)
SD 123 932	High Corney
SD 128 931	High Corney – North East
SD 1784 9310	Hole House (with enclosure)
SD 117 970	Low Eskholme
SD 119 903	Middle Kinmont
SD 132 950	Stainton
SD 119 931	Welcome Nook
SD 1808 9142	Whinfield Ground
<i>Field Systems</i> (?post medieval)	
SD 135 965	Barnscar – North
SD 128 957	Barnscar – South West
SD 119 962	Birkby – West (enclosure, wall, trackway)
SD 129 975	Crople How (banks, enclosures)
SD 123 965	Ewe Crag
SD 1935 9570	Great Worm Crag
SD 1980 9570	The Haws
SD 121 952	High Dyke Wood – North East
SD 1800 9317	Hole House
SD 1453 9958	Hollow Mire
SD 116 926	How End
SD 1811 9052	Logan Beck (with enclosure)
SD 1853 9316	Pike Side
SD 134 967	Ravencrag – south (with enclosure)
<i>Enclosures</i> (?prehistoric)	
SD 1663 9065	Cloven Stone
SD 1718 9935	Greenhow
SD 1355 9473	The Intake

SD 1297 9210	High Corney – West
SD 1328 8888	Oldclose Gill
SD 1815 9510	Ulgra Beck
SD 1632 9079	White How (with walls and hut circle)
SD 126 940	Whitrow Beck

*Enclosures* (?post medieval; probably animal pens)

SD 131 963	Barnscar – North
SD 1782 9379	Bigertmire Pasture
SD 1765 9485	Hesk Fell
SD 1855 9275	Lady's Dub
SD 128 964	Latter Barrow – West
SD 146 976	Linbeck Gill – South
SD 1187 9575	Primrose Hill Plantation – East
SD 133 973	Ravencrag
SD 1637 9220	Sele Bottom
SD 1617 9673	Washfold Point

*Hut Circles*

SD 1839 9272	Churn Hole
SD 1789 9566	Wood Knotts

*Farmsteads* (?medieval)

SD 1973 9571	Crosbythwaite Bridge
SD 1685 9912	Tonguesdale Moss

*Farmsteads/Dwellings* (?post medieval)

SD 1835 9283	Churn Hole
SD 1222 9091	Crispen Cottage
SD 1195 9595	Ellerbeck
SD 1960 9513	The Haws – North West
SD 1230 9075	High Kinmont
SD 1165 9260	How End

*Quarry*

SD 1781 9321	Bigertmire
SD 1763 9566	Wood Knotts

*Stone Avenue*

SD 149 974	Birkby Fell
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