NOTES

1. *Antiquities from Cumbria in West Midlands Museums*
By P. J. Watson and D. J. Symons

The following note is a result of a survey of archeological collections in West Midlands museums carried out by the West Midlands Archeological Collections Research Unit under the auspices of the West Midland Area Museums Service. All museums in the counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire were included in the survey, but not private collections or material currently under study at Field Units. One of the aims of the project was to make awareness of the collections more widely known, especially artefacts of non-local origin, through a series of short notes in relevant county and specialist journals. This method of disseminating information was thought preferable to the compilation of a single catalogue which would be so disparate as to be of little appeal to the researchers we are trying to reach.

Five West Midlands museums have antiquities from Cumbria (post 1974 boundaries) and these are presented below, arranged alphabetically by site. Many do not have a more precise provenance and the four figure grid references in brackets are given merely as an aid for locating sites; where further details about findspots or circumstances of discovery are known these are noted, together with a fuller grid reference if available. Resources have not allowed the compilation of full catalogue details nor the commissioning of professional drawings or photographs; however, outline drawings are provided where it was thought they might help with typology or further identification. Likewise, extensive trawls through documentation and literature have not been possible. As the primary intention of the listing is to give researchers an idea of the type and quantity of material held in West Midlands museums it is hoped that this brevity will be forgiven. The majority of artefacts date from the prehistoric periods; two sherds represent Roman time but nothing from later periods was found during the survey.

All dimensions are in mm. and the following abbreviations have been used when citing museum accession numbers: Bir = Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery; Cov = Coventry, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum; Her = Hereford City Museum and Art Gallery; Kee = University of Keele, Geology Department; Lap = Birmingham University, School of Earth Sciences, Lapworth Museum.

Prehistoric – P. J. Watson

Burns, near Ambleside (NY3704)
Three grooved stone mauls (Bir 1970A63-65).

Harrison Stickle
Three flake and two rough-outs (Lap B163-165, 167, 169).

Hesket Newmarket (NY3438)
Fragment, approximately half, of a large stone axe hammer; pointed end preserved and broken through perforation. L 190, W 135, Th 73. (Bir 1970A60). (Fig. 1).

Langdale (NY2707)
Stone axe rough-out (Lap B168).
Group VI axe rough-out from Langdale factory site (Bir 1958A261).
Fourteen group VI flakes and rough-outs from **Stake Pass** (Bir 1958A477).
Five group VI flakes and rough-outs from **Great Langdale** (Bir 1963A175).

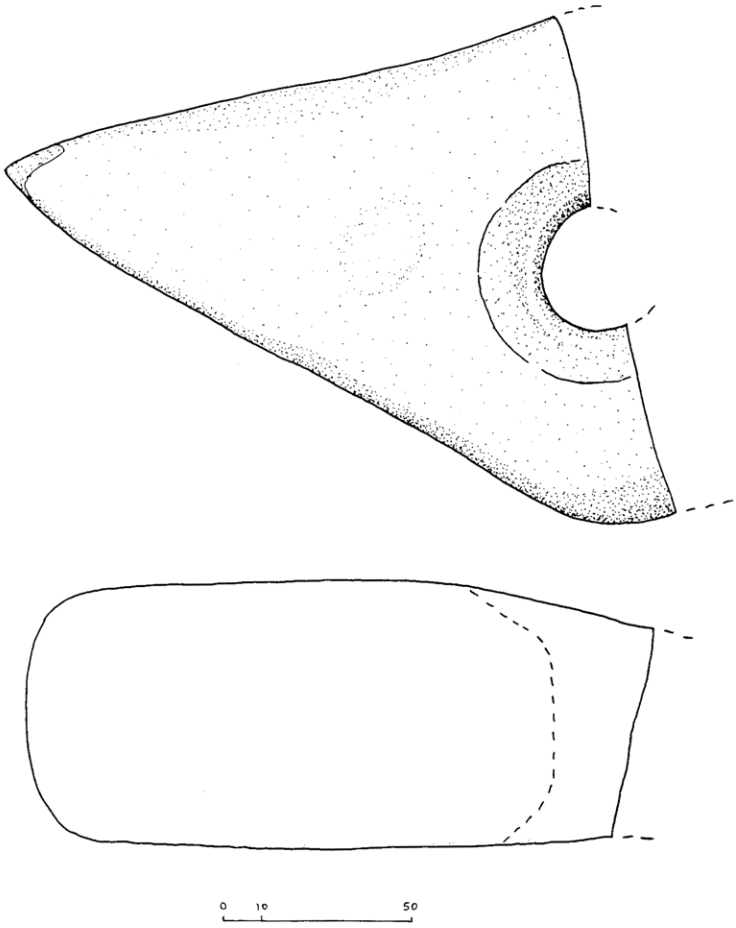


FIG. 1 Fragment of stone axe hammer from Hesket Newmarket in Birmingham Museum.

Well formed rough-out, more or less ready for polishing/grinding; from Langdale factory site. L *c.*200, W 79 (Cov 62/58/1).

Long Meg area (NY53)

Bronze Age sandstone whetstone of oval section found at **Langwathby** (NY5733) near Penrith in 1882. L 155, W 50, Th 21 (Bir 1937A32).

Neolithic/Bronze Age sandstone saddle quern from **Langwathby** near Penrith (Bir 1937A32.1).

Bronze Age whetstone of plano-convex section; from **Long Meg**. L 115, W 37, Th 18. (Bir 1973A1376).

Whetstone or rubber; a naturally sub-cylindrical stone, slightly wider at one end, which has been flattened from use, from **Long Meg**. L 120, W 33, Th 23. (Bir 1933A76.6).

Stone axe blank or wedge with straight sides tapering to a thick rounded butt; straight, very blunt edge. Deliberately shaped but not ground or polished; from **"near Long Meg"**. L 108, W 78, Th 50. (Bir 1973A283).

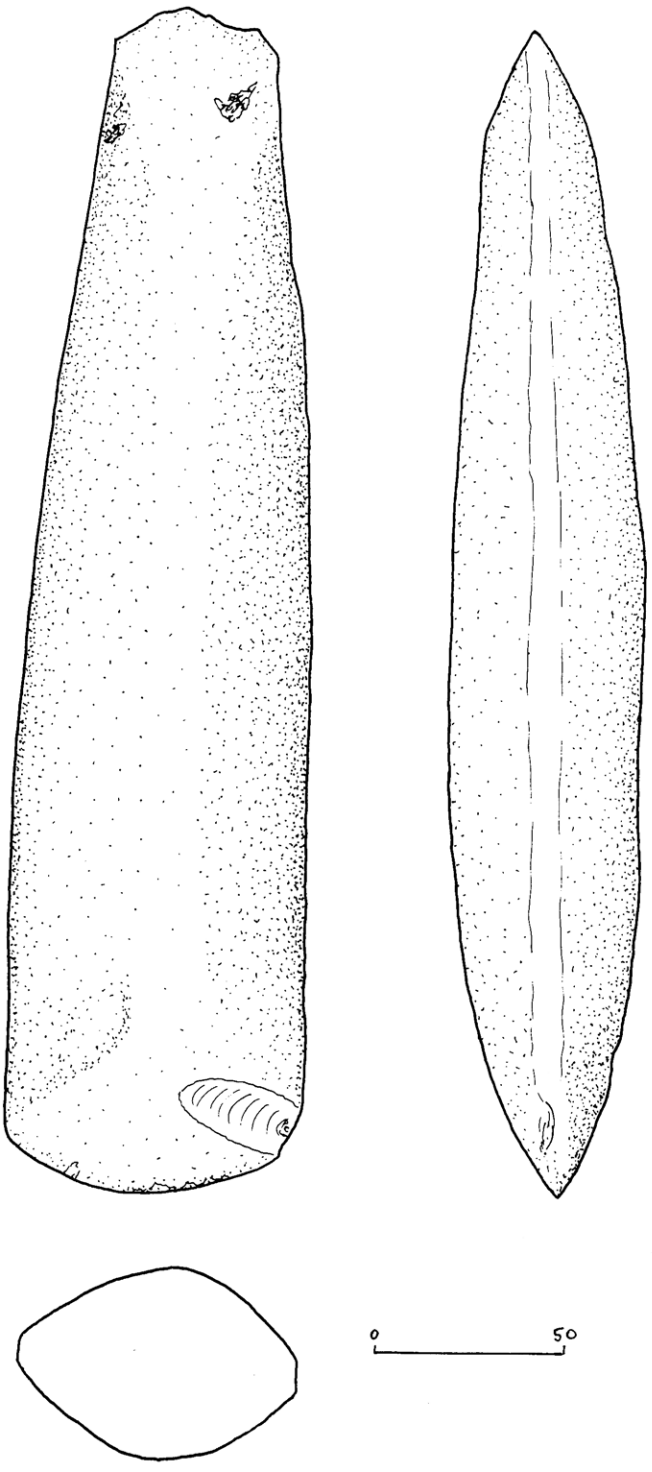


FIG. 2 Massive green stone axe in Birmingham Museum.

Stone axe blank or wedge with one straight and one convex side tapering to a thick rounded butt. Edge straight. Thick section. L 185, W 89, Th 62 (Bir 1973A284).

Polished cylindrical pestle? Slightly tapering at one end to a worked flattened end; other end flat but unworked. L 160, Di 60. (Bir 1973A282).

Triangular block of stone with flat faces labelled "neolithic stone plough". L 210, W 165, Th 70. (Bir 1973A1358).

Pike of Stickle

Axe rough-out (Lap B170).

Two axe flakes from south scree (Cov 71/36/1-2 – not seen).

Axe rough-out "from factory site below Pike of Stickle" (Her 9227).

Two axe rough-outs, presumably from this site; both are marked "P of S SS" with a date, respectively 8/8/54 and 7/?/57? (Kee un-numbered).

Thorn Crag

Axe rough-out (Lap B166).

Cumberland, no detailed provenance

Massive green stone axe, polished all over. Slightly convex, flattened, sides tappering to a damaged, thin rounded butt; cutting edge gently rounded. L 305, W 80, Th 53. (Bir 1970A62). (Fig. 2).

Roman – D . J. Symons

Carlisle (NY3956)

Decorated Central Gaulish Samian ware sherd from lower wall of a bowl of Dragendorff form 37. A continuous winding scroll with a pair of birds in the concavities; below, a basal wreath. Probably. *c.* A.D. 100-120 (Bir 1978A305).

Decorated Central Gaulish Samian ware sherd from the wall of a bowl of Dragendorff form 30. A panel defined by bead rows contains a circular medallion with a female figure facing left. This figure is a mirror image of F. Oswald, *Index of Figure-Types on Terra Sigillata* (Liverpool, 1936-37), pl. XIX no. 363. Probably *c.* A.D 110-140 (Bir 1978A306). [Both of these pieces were found unaccessioned among material previously used for lending to schools and there is no record of how or when they were originally acquired. They are however both marked "Carlisle" and this provenance is quite credible].

2. *Note on a stone find from Lake Windermere*

By Alan King

Research on early mining, particularly on prehistoric mining, has always been bedevilled by the destruction of the surface workings by subsequent mining or by the clearance of the mine rubbish from the earlier galleries.

Recently the early mining at the Great Orme, Llandudno has been carbon dated to the early and middle Bronze age, the impetus from this work has focussed attention on the deposits and associated finds from northern Ceredigion and western Montgomery in mid-Wales, from northern Anglesey, and Alderley Edge in north-east Cheshire. An isolated Cumbrian example has been recognized from Alston Moor where like the majority of the other finds it is associated with either copper or lead extraction.

Stone mine working tools have now been classified by John Pickin, using the forms produced by the pecking, the waisting, and on few finds by the multi-grooving of the stones.[1] Invariably the tools are produced from hardstone pebbles ranging from ovoids to rounded triangular forms.

Some years ago Prof. E. Birley published details of two waisted pebbles from Ambleside Roman fort which he described as net sinkers[2], and another was found by G. Jackson while

sub-aqua diving in Lake Windermere some years ago.

More recently, in the same lake, another sub-aqua diver, Shane Drysdale, working along the bottom of the channel off Haws Wood (NGR 383903), found the subject of this note.

Petrologically it appears to be a coarse Greywacke or a very fine grained sandstone. The original pebble shape now features a finely pecked waist and some abrasion on the artefact's broader end (Plate 1).

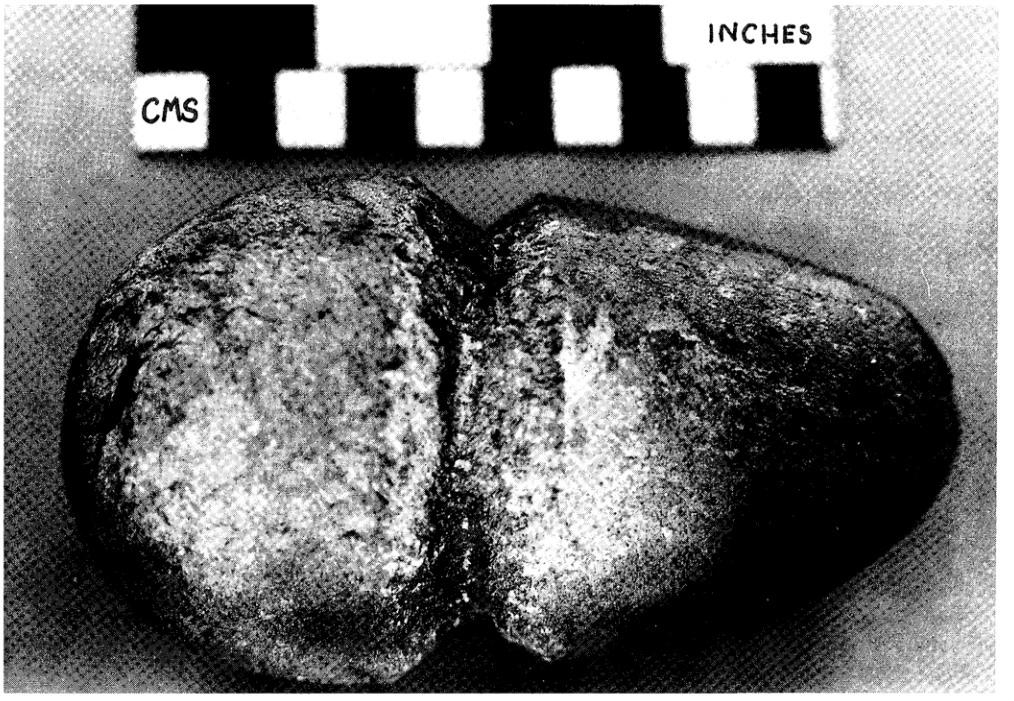
From ethnological evidence a case could be argued that these finds were net sinkers but the writer believes it is now time to reconsider many of the hammerstones, mauls and maceheads in our notes and collections. The wear on this illustrated example is such as we would expect on a used hammer but not I think on a net sinker and it also matches perfectly the finds mentioned above from the various Bronze Age metalworking sites.

I am grateful to Miss Clare Fell for the information, including a sketch, about the initial sub-aqua find from Lake Windermere.

Notes and References

[1] J. Pickin, "Stone Tools and Early Metal Mining in England and Wales" in *Early Mining in the British Isles*, Plas Tan y Bwlch Occasional Paper No 1 (eds) P. and S. Crew (1990), 39-42.

[2] *CW2*, lxi, 297f.



3. *The Bewcastle Cauldron*

BY J. DAVENPORT

In the collection at the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle there is a large bronze cauldron (Acc no 51-1947), which was donated on 22 July 1947 by Mr I. Wallace of Shawfoot Cottage, Heathersgill, Cumbria. Mr Ritson Graham, a local Councillor, had taken an interest in the cauldron when he saw it being used as a cornbin by Mr Wallace.[1] The cauldron had originally been found *c.*1907 during the cutting of peat on Black Moss, High Grains, Bewcastle, Cumbria: NY 359575.

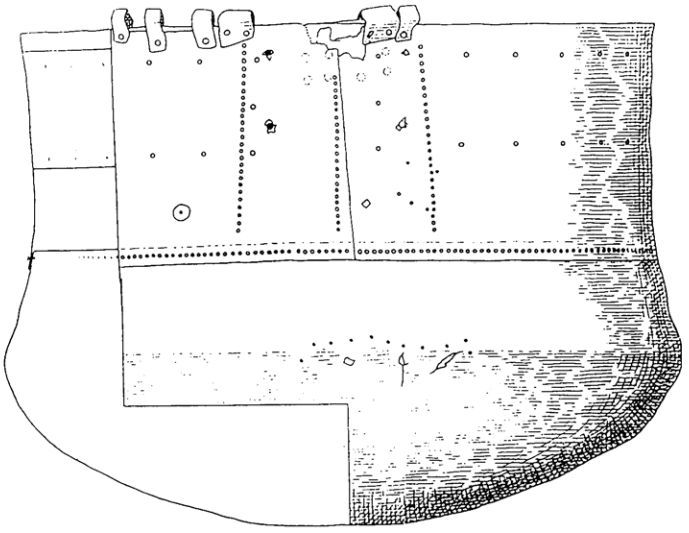
The cauldron is "Santon" type, being similar in style to the one found at Santon Downham, Suffolk in 1897.[2] The diameter of the rim of the Bewcastle Cauldron measures *c.*63 cm and the greatest diameter is *c.*67 cm. It has a depth of *c.*48 cm and a present weight of *c.*4 kg. The vessel was made of three pieces of sheet bronze *c.*0.5mm thick. The bottom of the cauldron was beaten out of a single sheet to form a shallow, slightly carinated bowl 27.8 cm deep. Two bands of bronze sheet 23 cm wide which overlap the base by *c.*18 mm were closely riveted to it. The joint was made more secure by beating it. The bands themselves overlap on opposite sides of the cauldron by *c.*8 cm at the rim and *c.*12 cm at the lower edge and were fastened by two rows of rivets. A third row of rivets is equidistant from the two which hold the bands together, but this row is purely decorative (the right hand row in the drawing). Most of the rivets are round-headed and *c.*3 mm in diameter and have been driven into the cauldron from the outside. Surprisingly only a few of the rivets are flattened out on the inside of the vessel; the majority appear to have been cut off. Two pairs of rivet holes near the rim, on opposite sides of the cauldron, indicate where handles could have been attached but none were found. These rivet holes were centred on the middle line of rivets so that the handles would have been fastened to the double thickness of bronze sheet at one side only. There are also six loops made of sheet bronze attached by rivets to part of the rim of the cauldron.[3] To give the cauldron stability the rim would have needed strengthening but there is no indication of how this was achieved.

A careful examination of the Santon Downham Cauldron in the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology revealed that it has, at the rim, a corroded but complete iron ring. In some places it is still closely attached to the fragmentary sheet bronze. If the Bewcastle Cauldron had a similar component it would have given additional strength to the vessel. The Santon Downham Cauldron also has two iron ring handles which are riveted to the cauldron on narrow vertical iron mounts. Unlike the Santon Downham Cauldron, which was discovered in an area of dry heathland, the Bewcastle Cauldron and others from north-west Britain and from Ireland came from lochs or peat-bogs. It has been suggested that, because of the acidic watery conditions of their environment, any strengthening rings and handles of iron could have disappeared due to an electro-chemical reaction.[4]

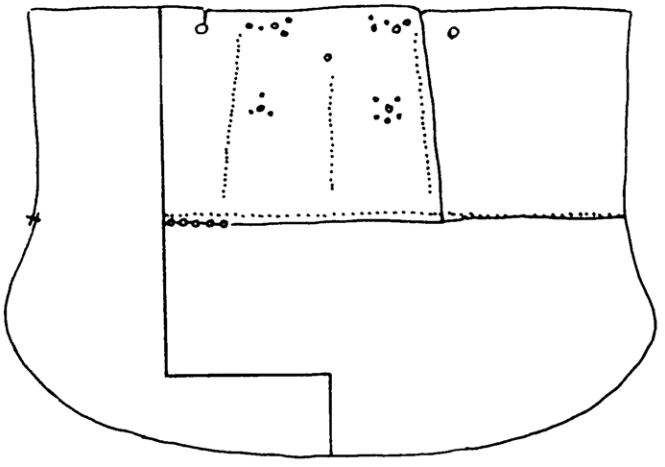
The Bewcastle Cauldron has been repaired with sheet bronze patches, some probably in antiquity, as the rivets are similar to those holding the upper and lower parts of the cauldron together. There are thirteen inner patches and six outer patches and all the rivets have been flattened out on the inside. Three similar cauldrons also have many repairs, one from Carlingwark Loch, Dumfries and Galloway[5] and two other cauldrons from Ireland: one from Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny and the other of unknown provenance.[6] This seems to suggest that these large bronze cauldrons were highly valued possessions and were patched and repaired to make them last as long as possible.

There were no associated finds or contextual evidence with which to date the Bewcastle Cauldron.

The Carlingwark Loch Cauldron, which contained the hoard, is so similar in appearance to the Bewcastle Cauldron that they could have been products of the same metalworker but for a distinctively different method of riveting. Stuart Piggott dated the Carlingwark Loch



The Newcastle Cauldron 1/6



The Carlingwark Cauldron 1/6

Cauldron to the second century A.D. because of the Roman pottery it contained. This gives the latest date for the cauldron's manufacture but it could be much older because, like the Bewcastle Cauldron, it had been repaired many times.

Acknowledgments

I am indebted to Colin Richardson, Keeper of Archaeology at Carlisle Museum, for access to the Bewcastle Cauldron and for the help and information he has so kindly given. My sincere thanks also go to Dr Robin Boast, Assistant Curator (British Archaeology) Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology who provided information and made possible the examination of the Santon Downham Cauldron. The work was part of a larger project for a Certificate in Celtic Studies at the C.D.C.E., the University of Manchester, under the supervision of the Course Tutor Margaret Worthington.

Notes and References

1 On being donated to the Carlisle Museum the Bewcastle Cauldron was sent for repair to the firm of James Bendall and Sons Ltd, Albion Works, London Road, Carlisle who are Sheet Metal Workers. Four bronze strengthening bands, 11.5 cm deep were riveted by them to the inside top of the vessel where it was crumpled and very fragile. They found that the original rivets could not be reproduced – the modern ones are larger and flat-headed.

2 P. Smith, *Proceedings Cambridge Archeological Society*, xiii (1909) 146-63.

3 The bronze loops at the rim of the cauldron are probably later additions because the strengthening ring could not have fitted in place if they were present.

4 Spratling, *Glasgow Archeological Journal*, vol. 2 (1971), 111-12.

5 S. Piggott, *PSAS*, lxxxvii (1952-3), 1-50.

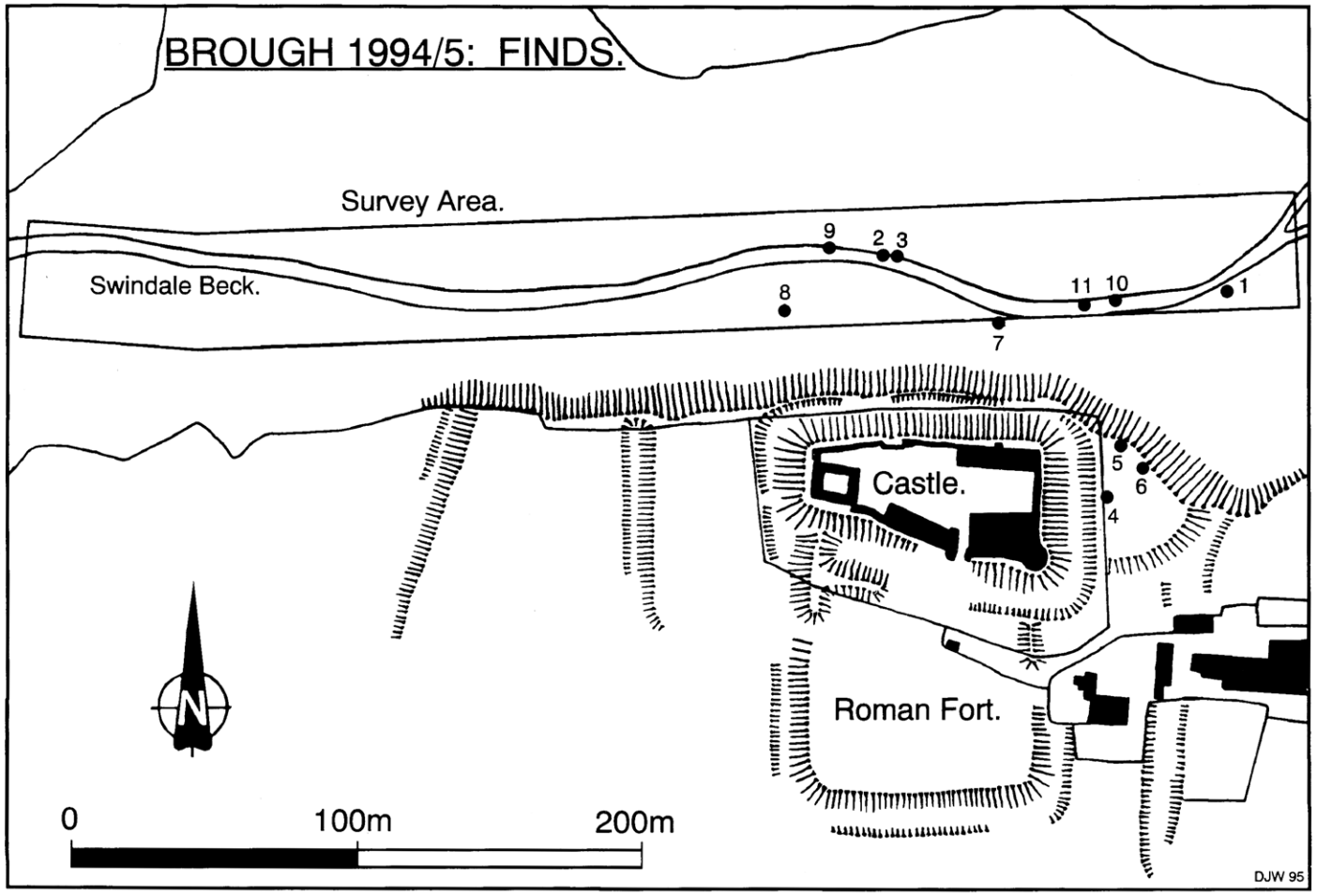
6 B. Raferty, *A Catalogue of Irish Iron Age Antiquites*, vol. 2 (1983), figs. 170-171.

4. *Finds from Veterae, The Roman Fort of Brough*

By D. J. Woolliscroft and N. J. Lockett

The history of the Roman fort of Brough-under-Stainmore remains only poorly understood. Little excavation has taken place[1] and much of the site is covered and/or badly disturbed by the Medieval Castle. But, a number of inscriptions and small finds have been published over the years,[2] along with the remarkable collection of lead seals recovered from the Swindale Beck in the 1820s.[3] The evidence suggests that the fort was built in the Flavian period, and the fact that it was still recorded as garrisoned in the Notitia (by the Numerus Directorum), coupled to the discovery of a ring with a Chi Rho monogram,[4] both point to its retention into the very late Empire. This scanty material is only enough to provide the barest outline of a story, however, and it is not known whether the fort was in unbroken occupation for the whole of this period. A scarcity of material from the late third century has suggested a break at this time (although this has been put forward as the date of the seal corpus) and Breeze and Dobson[5] have also seen signs of a short abandonment in the mid second century, when garrisons were stripped from Hadrian's Wall and its hinterland to man the Antonine Wall. But, for the moment, little can be stated with certainty.

In an attempt to supplement this picture, a field walking program was carried out in late 1994 and early 1995[6] which involved the metal detecting of the present and recent channels of a *c.*450 m reach of the Swindale Beck to the north of the fort/castle. In particular, it was hoped that additional lead seals might come to light. None were forthcoming, but the following finds were made (see Fig. 1 for find spots):[7]



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Coins

1. Bronze *dupondius* of Faustina II. *Ob*, the coin is very badly corroded and no lettering survives, but the portrait can be assigned to Faustina's time as Empress (161-176) and not to her father, Antoninus Pius' reign or to the posthumous "DIVA" issues. To judge from the style of both the engraving and the Empress' hair, it is probably from later, rather than earlier, in that date range. *Rev*, totally illegible. Despite its corroded state, the coin was probably lost in good or near mint condition.
   In addition to the one coin found during the fieldwork, two more have been found by the farmer over the years. Their exact find spots are unknown:
   a) A fragment of a *denarius*. *Ob*, shows only the hair and part of the beard of an Emperor, probably Hadrian. *Rev*, illegible. Despite the coin's damaged state, the detail remains very clear and the piece must have been lost in near mint condition.
   b) A posthumous *denarius* of Faustina I. *Ob*, DIVA FAUSTINA, *Rev* AETERNITAS, showing Providentia or Faustina with veil and globe. (*RIC* (Antoninus) 351), early 140s. The coin was in perfect condition and must have been lost very soon after issue.

Metal

2. Horse shoe nail 3.7 cm long, pre-modern, from stream channel.
3. Square section nail 6.5 cm long, pre-modern, from stream channel.

Pottery

Samian

4. Small fragment. Probably Central Gaulish, probably Hadrianic or Antonine. Nos 4-6 found in cattle scrapes outside the survey area.
5. Small fragment. Possibly South Gaulish and, if so, form 18, Flavian or Trajanic.
6. Small fragment. Burnt, but probably Central Gaulish, 2nd Century.
7. Four scraps of unidentifiable form, one probably of foot ring, all from different vessels. All central Gaulish and of 2nd century date.

Coarse Ware

8. Six assorted sherds found together in land slip. All could be 2nd century, but probably not later.
   a) Inverted rim jar sherd. Oxidised, but reduced core, with much fine grit as temper.
   b) Plain wall/base sherd. Same fabric as a).
   c) Small bead rimmed jar sherd in a grey ware.
   d) 3 oxidised jar sherds.

Post Roman

9. Three sherds of late Medieval green glazed pottery, found eroding from stream north bank.
10. Small fragment of 18th century brown glazed dish, found eroding from stream north bank.

Glass

11. Slightly green, clear glass base fragment of square bottle from stream channel, probably Roman and, if so, 1st or 2nd century A.D.

Although relatively little material was recovered, three interesting observations can be made. Firstly, the presence of an early 140s coin in such perfect condition might be thought

to cast at least some doubt on the site's putative Antonine occupation hiatus. Secondly, it is noticeable that the bulk of the datable material is Roman rather than Medieval, despite the greater time separation in an environment subject to constant erosion, and despite the fact that the Castle was occupied for a not dissimilar length of time, albeit, presumably, by a much smaller garrison. It is also worth noting that the only definitely Medieval material (No. 9 above) came from the north bank of the stream, the side away from the castle, whilst the Roman finds came from south of the stream or from the channel itself. Lastly, although the survey area extended more than 250 m down steam (west) of the fort/castle no finds of any kind were found in this sector, except for modern rubbish and scrap metal. Two Roman finds were, however, found up stream (east) of the fort and it is noteworthy that by far the easiest means of access to the stream lies on this side, and the cemetery and possibly the vicus were also to the east of the fort.

Finally, it is worth drawing attention to the current state of the monument. Despite the fact that concrete river defences have now been constructed on the south side of the Swindale Beck, erosion is continuing to destabilise areas of the very steep bluff face below the northern defences. This has already removed a considerable length of the northern ditch counterscarp, which was still well preserved when the air photograph published in *Transactions* 1958[8] was taken, and the presence of large cracks and areas of bare earth suggest that the collapse is continuing.

Notes and References

[1] E. Birley, "The Roman Fort at Brough-under-Stainmore", *CW2*, lviii, 31ff.

[2] E. Birley, *op cit.*, note 1 and "The Roman Fort at Brough-under-Stainmore", *Arch J.* 115, 1958, 237ff.; W. G. Simpson, "Roman Pottery From Brough-under-Stainmore, *CW2*, lxii, 73ff and M. J. Jones *et al*, "Archeological Work at Brough-under-Stainmore 1971-72: 1 The Roman Discoveries", *CW2*, lxxvii, 17ff. For the inscriptions: *RIB* 757 and 758.

[3] *Parson and White's Directory*, 1829. I. A. Richmond, "Roman Leaden Sealings From Brough-under-Stainmore", *CW2* xxxvi, 104ff; R. P. Wright, "A New Leaden Sealing From York and Further Examples From Brough-under-Stainmore", *CW2*, lv, 102ff and *RIB*, Vol II, Fasc 1, 87ff.

[4] J. Simpson, "The Present State of Antiquarian Research in Westmorland and Cumberland", *CW1*, i, 9 and E. Birley, "A Christian Monogram from Brough-under-Stainmore", *CW2,* lxi, 298ff.

[5] D. J. Breeze and B. Dobson, "Roman Military Deployment in North England", *Britannia*, 16 (1985), 10f and fig. 6.

[6] The writers would like to thank the land owner, Mr L.Toynbee and the farmer Mr Beckwith for allowing access to the land.

[7] Our thanks to Dr D. C. Shotter for his advice on the coins, to Mrs F. Wild for identifying the Samian, to Dr J. P. Wild for identifying the coarse ware and to Fr B. Hoffmann for her report on the glass.

[8] E. Birley, *op. cit.*, note 1, Pl. II, opposite page 45.

5. *The supposed Roman harbour at Maryport*

BY PERCIVAL TURNBULL

The suggestion that Maryport was an important Roman naval base has gained currency over a considerable time: as is the case with other pseudodoxies, there is a danger that the assumption may pass into the canon of accepted facts without the original basis of evidence having been reviewed. It may be salutary to look afresh at the origins of the idea and to see how flimsy is the factual foundation.

The notion of a Roman military harbour at Maryport may be traced back to suggestions made in 1923 by J. B. Bailey,[1] a prominent, and largely reliable, local antiquary. Bailey's paper is broad in its scope, and is mainly concerned with the Roman road network in the area,

but also makes the case for a Roman naval harbour. Three main pieces of evidence are adduced, and deserve reappraisal.

The first piece of evidence is drawn from the *Britannia* of Camden: Bailey provides transcripts of the original text, which is nonetheless worthy of repetition. Camden said: "Hinc (i.e., from Workington) murum ad defendum littus quatuor plus minus mill. pass. commodis locis ductum fuisse credunt nonulli, a Stilicone . . . Adeo enim continuae sunt parietinae ad Eleni ostium". In the translation of Philomen Holland, this reads: "From hence some think there was a wall made to defend the shore in convenient places, for four miles, or thereabouts, by Stilico . . . There are also as yet, such continued ruins and broken walls to be seen as far as to Elne Mouth".

This description has been taken, by Bailey and his successors, as referring to major Roman structures at the mouth of the Ellen. Far more readily, however, it admits of an alternative reading: that Camden wrote of Roman remains which were *continual*, but *discontinuous*, between the Derwent and the Ellen, and that he refers to the surviving vestiges of the system of Hadrianic defences along the Solway coast. There may be an element of these defences at Mote Hill, in the area suggested as the site of the Maryport harbour. The reference to the "wall" near Workington remains obscure, but it is surely impossible at the same time to read Camden's reference as alluding to harbour installations at Maryport and to understand him to refer to an otherwise unattested continuous work northwards from Workington. Certainly, to cite this rather obscure reference as evidence for a harbour at Maryport is a case of special pleading.

The case for a naval base at Maryport is even more precarious when reliance is put on the second piece of evidence, the military career of Marcus Maenius Agrippa. The case is put by Bailey, thus: "(Agrippa), officer in command of Hadrian's British fleet, was for a time stationed at Maryport. We may doubtless infer that the fleet also lay there, and that Maryport was the chief naval station on this coast during the building of the Wall. The walls lately discovered are therefore apparently connected with the docks used by Hadrian's fleet".

Bailey's "walls" will be considered below, but the career of Agrippa is also well worth consideration. When stationed at Maryport, his post is defined by a series of inscriptions[2]; he served as tribune of the *cohors I Hispanorum*, a part-mounted milliary unit. This was, of course, a perfectly ordinary military appointment, with no suggestion of additional duties of a naval character. More is known, however, of Agrippa's subsequent career from an inscription in his home town of Camerinum:[3] he went on to hold a high command in *Classis Britannica*. He did not, as Bailey suggests, hold that post while at Maryport. Nor should it be assumed that his later naval appointment was awarded because of appropriate experience gained at Maryport: indeed, his promotion may have had more to do with the fact that he seems, according to the Camerinum inscription, to have been a personal crony of the Emperor. Despite the wealth of epigraphic evidence from Maryport, there is nowhere a reference to a naval base or to a serving naval officer or official. Certainly, the *cursus honorum* of M. Maenius Agrippa cannot realistically be produced as evidence for a naval base at the mouth of the Ellen, and Bailey's leaps of logic should not be followed too enthusiastically.

The third piece of evidence introduced in favour of a military harbour at Maryport depends upon some rather equivocal structures recorded by Bailey. He writes of ". . . the foundations of a massive wall in Ellenborough Place, Glasson . . . This ran southwards for eighty yards, then was joined by a similar wall at right angles, also about eighty yards long. This second wall was found in Gilmour Street, behind Ellenborough Place. One wall had also evidently been prolonged for some 250 yards on the opposite or right bank of the river as far as the western foot of Mote Hill". It is interesting that a close reading of Bailey's text reveals no suggestion that he had actually seen the walls himself, though elsewhere he writes in the first person when he is clearly speaking from personal observation. The walls are said to be very deeply buried, at an average depth of between three and four metres.

The area identified by Bailey as the Roman harbour is on the left bank of the Ellen, immediately above the nineteenth-century dockyards: the course of the river since the original eighteenth-century development of Maryport as a harbour has been considerably altered, and the natural river-mouth would be well to the north of the modern one. No trace whatever is visible of Roman remains in the area, even though the Ellen would seem to have cut its course right through the supposed Roman harbour. Close examination of exposed and eroding sections through what should be harbour deposits has revealed nothing, and there is no history of Roman finds from the area, although such a major installation might be expected to yield an abundance of material. The solution to the problem of Bailey's deeply buried walls may be found in the depth at which the local red sandstone bedrock underlies the riverine and marine silts: there is a close correlation between the depth of the sandstone and the location of the supposed walls.[4] Machine-cut test-pits dug under the supervision of the writer in 1993 further bore out the coincidence of depth between Bailey's walls and a solid bedrock, which has a rectangular, blocky structure and could easily be mistaken for masonry. It is unfortunate that Bailey gives so little information about the circumstances of the discovery of his walls, but it seems likely that an initial casual observation made by another party, recorded at second- or third-hand, has led to a hopeful but erroneous interpretation. It is interesting also to note that the supposed northward extension of the harbour walls, to the foot of Mote Hill, coincides with a well-defined change in geology, still clearly visible as an abrupt scarp representing a change in the level of the basal sandstone.

There is but little evidence to support any claim that naval power was ever an important element in Roman military policy in Britain. The fleet which accompanied Agricola on his great expedition was there primarily for purposes of supply, and was probably an *ad hoc* flotilla commandeered and scraped together expressly for the purpose. *Classis Britannica*, similarly, was mainly concerned with maintaining supply links. Unquestionably, the role of sea transport in the military commissariat has been under-stated and under-explored, but there is a major leap from recognising this to trying to identify strategic naval bases. The importance of Maryport to an understanding of the development of the Roman North-West is beyond doubt, on account of its fort (and the remarkable collection of inscriptions) and, perhaps to an even greater extent, because of the fascinating, and largely unexplored, civil *vicus*. To claim, in addition to all of this, a major naval base, seems to be an attempt to over-egg the pudding, an attempt which can be sustained only by special pleading and by an uncritical acceptance of earlier statements and arguments.

Acknowledgements

The writer is indebted to discussions with that Maryport sage, Commander Brian Ashmore, who incurs no responsibility for the opinions here expressed. Thanks are also due to Miss Deborah Walsh, who has been able to bring her usual acuity to bear upon her personal knowledge of the Maryport harbour area.

References

[1] J. B. Bailey, "Maryport and the Tenth Iter. With further notes on Roman Antiquities", *CW2*, xxiii, 142-153.

[2] *R.I.B.* 823-6.

[3] *C.I.L.* xi, 5632; *I.L.S.* 2735.

[4] Borehole information in the possession of North-West Water, p.l.c.

6. *"Robin Hood", near Langwathby*

BY JEREMY GODWIN

On top of a low rise on the south side of Briggle Beck, between Winskill and Langwathby, is a red sandstone kist and large capstone. This spot is known locally as "Robin Hood", and "is the site of an ancient battle"; under this mound, they say, "are buried the slain".[1]

The mound, if any, and its low hill look merely natural, but the kist and capstone are real enough. The kist is on an east-west axis; its two east-west sides are each four feet long and fourteen inches above ground; the northern one is five inches wide, the southern one is four inches wide. The two shorter sides are each twenty-one inches long, eight inches above ground, and three inches wide; all four sides are single blocks. The kist's interior is filled with lesser stones. The capstone, now laid aside on the west, nearby, is roughly oblong, of local red sandstone, with narrow veins raised in it. Its length is five feet; its widest breadth (on the north end) is three feet nine inches, while at the base of its "nose" (southern end) its breadth is three feet. "Robin Hood" is east of, and visible from, the footpath from Langwathby to Winskill, which after passing it, crosses the Briggle Beck and a swampy area before climbing to Winskill.[2] The site grid reference is NY 577345.[3]

Why Robin Hood's name is attached to this site is not clear; but his name is found elsewhere in Cumberland and Westmorland, though all reported cases are late in time as place-names. They include Robin Hood's Butt and Well, the former a Roman signal station on Gillalees Beacon north of Spadeadam Farm in Lanercost parish; Robin Hood's Butts, a meadow in Farlam parish in 1598; Robin Hood, a place in Shap Rural; Robin Hood's Grave, a cairn on Crosby Ravensworth Fell; and Robin Hood Island and Wood, in Helsington [4] – all far from Robin Hood's traditional milieu in Sherwood Forest.

Notes and References

1 Ex inf. from Mr Ian Whalley of Langwathby.

2 Observations from a visit I made in April 1989.

3 W. G. Collingwood's Cumberland Inventory (*CW2*, xxiii, 220) omits this site.

4 Gillalees, *CW2*, i, 82, reassessed in *CW2*, xxxiii, 241; Farlam 1598, Bruce Dickins (ed.), *The Place-names of Cumberland*, i (English Place Name Society), 87; Shap Rural, A. H. Smith, *The Place-names of Westmorland*, ii (English Place Name Society), 176; Crosby Ravensworth, *ibid.*, ii, 161; Helsington, *ibid.*, i, 111. In *The Place-names of Westmorland*, i, xlviii, these Westmorland examples of Robin Hood place-names are merely ascribed to "the legend of Robin Hood", and the matter left at that.

7. *"The Battling-stone" near Sockbridge*

BY JEREMY GODWIN

A small early 18th century map[1] of the large field lying between the River Eamont and Sockbridge's ancient nucleus shows the houses and buildings with owners or uses named, the field's name, use, and the footpaths through it. At that time the north-east half was a unit, Uckardale, part of the ancient demesne. Long narrow crofts of the Sockbridge farms occupied the other half, and the map seems to show the Estate's progress in buying these up and stopping-up the unofficial paths "pretended" by the tenants. These latter included "the way pretended from the towne to the Battlingstone in the river Emont where they washe". Branching from it, a third of the way from Sockbridge, was "Another way made thorough the midle of the Corne to litle Stainton stepps". It led across Uckardale, not the crofts, meeting at its north-west corner "A way made from the Batlinge stone to Stainton stepps". Another "way lately made, tho' not pretended to of right", ran on the Uckardale side of the outermost croft

("Gibson's croft lately purchased"), forking left for the Battlingstone-Sockbridge path and forking right at the alehouse.

The map is thought to date from 1725; the houses shown were demolished and that part of the Green enclosed before 1839.[2] A house nearby bears a lintel dated 1741.[3] The alehouse is still there, though at grid reference NY 499270;[4] it was evidently rebuilt *c.*1800, and lies beyond the modern bungalows in "Sander's Garth" (*c.*1725 map). "Little Stainton Stepps" have been replaced by a late 19th century footbridge across the Blea Wath of Eamont. Here, on the Cumberland side, stood the now totally deserted hamlet of Little Stainton, beside the river and wath. Only faint traces of it remain. In the 19th century the crossing was called Blawith.[5] The river runs fast here; the wath has gone.

An old road, not marked on the *c.*1725 map, runs from just north of the modern sewage plant at Sockbridge but on the west side of "The Lady beck discendinge into the river Emont from the Brigstones neare Sockbridge towne". "The Brigstones", still "Stepping Stones" by the road's ford in 1859,[6] but now an old-looking bridge, stood at the east foot of the "towne". The old road, a hollow way about five feet wide, three-four feet deep, runs just inside the hedge on the brink of "Lady banck part of the antient Demeiznes", descending to the beck at the head of a small haugh or meadow. Thorns choke the old road and beck-bottom, as do oaks. The Battling Stone path follows the brink's curve as shown on the *c.*1725 map, as also the path from it "to Stainton stepps" follows that map's route today. Both paths converge on the east by the modern footbridge over the small Lady Beck, continuing as a right of way to Yanwath; and at grid reference NY 503274, at the dot marked on the *c.*1725 map, is the Battling Stone itself, eight feet east of the beck mouth, set at the edge of a fast current, at the only place along this stretch of Eamont with a break in the vertical banks, affording access and pebbly shallows both dry and wet, for rinsing and drying.

For this is the place where Sockbridge did its washing; having steeped the garments in water, the women laid them in folds upon the stone and beat the dirt out with battling-sticks.[7] The sources cited by Wright[8] describe much larger battling-stones in the Eden and in the Hart (near Morpeth) used for beating the lie out of webs in bleaching, to soften them, as well as for washing clothes. The Eden stone, "a large, flat-topped blue cobble, or boulder . . . sloped slightly outwards"; as do Sockbridge's, not one, but two such stones, blue-grey, about ten feet from the bank. The west stone lies east-west 25 feet long by 26 feet broad, its height at the beck 15 feet sloping to the water at the front. The centre stone is 14 inches east of it, is flatter, ridge-backed, lying north-west to south-east 63 inches water to water, breadth 48 inches water to water and 24 inches on its top, height 15 inches. East of it, 4 inches away, is a lesser notch-topped stone 14 inches high and 16 inches wide. A line of six outer lesser stones draw a lighter current through the shallows; north of the outer stones runs the deep fast river. East of the Battling Stones is a further pebbly shore *c.*20 feet long, making a total shore of *c.*45 feet from the beck-mouth to the sheer bank's resumption. The two main battling-stones are smooth and mossy at present; for those in need of battling sticks, there are oaks in the field, and alder, ash, elm and hawthorn along the river banks. The elms are now dead. This battling stone or stones is/are known by this map, and from the descriptions in Wright; but there may well be other battling stones still in position awaiting recognition and recording.[9]

Notes and References

1 C.R.O. Carlisle, D/Lons/L/Boxed plans/Sockbridge/C271, cited as "*c.*1725 map", by permission of the Trustees of the Lonsdale Estate Trust in whom copyright resides. A further small *c.*1800 map shows the whole of this large field as "Sockbridge Demesne".

2 See C.R.O. Carlisle D/Lons/L/Plans/Sockbridge/C203.

3 Noted on a visit on 9 April 1988.

4 Ordnance Survey 1¼ in. Landranger Sheet 90 (1981).

5 C.R.O. Carlisle, D/Lons/L/Boxed Plans.

[6] O.S. 6" 1st edition 1859-63 Westmorland Sheet VII

[7] *Lonsdale Magazine* (1822), iii, 291 describing Westmorland usage in 1822.

[8] J. Wright (ed.), *English Dialect Dictionary* (1961) defines "battling" as "The process of beating linen to clean it, or to soften the homespun webs before being worn, particularly on battling-stones in rivers or brooks; a word, now obsolete, used in Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire, and America. Some used wood ashes as detergent for the preliminary soaking".

[9] Deeds of a burgage in Highgate, Kendal, from 1716 onwards reserve a footway to the River Kent from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. to use "the battling stone" there, also the north-east hedge for drying C.R.O. Kendal, WD/MG/Box 12/27 (ex. inf. Richard Hall who tells me that this battling-stone has now gone).

8. *List of objects found by metal detectorists in the Kendal area in recent years*

BY JOHN MARSH

Unless otherwise indicated finds have remained in the possession of the finder. A copy of this list is retained at Kendal Museum of Natural History and Archaeology with added detail of the finder thereon. The writer is assuming the role of reporter only and assumes that all parties concerned are aware of their legal rights and responsibilities. None of the finds are from scheduled sites.

Descriptions of Nos. 1 to 5 are from the Lancaster University Archaeology Unit who have examined those finds.

1. CAST LEAD AMPULLA: Found at approx. SD 89 503917 near old road line: "Cast lead ampulla in the form of a two handled bottle. Undecorated. The object is complete but distorted (one handle bent) and damaged. Leaden ampulla are well known from the medieval period, usually as souvenirs of pilgrimage, intended to contain holy water, liquid relics (e.g. 'blood'). This example is extremely plain and thus difficult to identify closely. For an example of the more ornate types see those excavated at Southampton which commemorate visits to Canterbury".

2. CLOISONNE ENAMELLED HEART-SHAPED OBJECT: Found at approx. SD 89 503937 – near the original Helsfell Hall.

"Strongly convex heart-shaped object, possibly an item of jewellery. The surface is largely decorated with cloisonne enamelling. The object is cast and is either unfinished or only poorly finished, there are untidy casting flashes around the inner lip. The shape suggests that this object was intended to fit inside another element but the rough finish would not have rendered a close fit easy, thus, even if intended, this object could not have functioned as a locket. Perhaps it served as an inlay. The object is of a religious nature with a central cross in white enamel surrounded by a turquoise heart-shaped field and a dark red heart-shaped band in dark blue and black. The object appears to have been cleaned recently and yellow metal on the cloisonne compartments may indicate gilding. At present no parallels can be supplied for this object though a general very late medieval – early post medieval might be suggested."

3. ROMANO-BRITISH TRUMPET BROOCH: Found at approx SD 89 506908 – near Helsington Laithes.

"Romano-British Trumpet brooch. Hinged pin. Incomplete, foot and catchplate and pin missing. 1st-2nd century A.D."

4. CROSS SHAPED METAL PIECE: Found at SD 89 495918 – near Underbarrow Scar. "The basic cross-shape is pierced centrally by a lobate cross, outlined with a raised, plain bead of varying width. The edge of the perforation is only roughly finished, with casting flashes still visible. The outside margin of the object is covered with an irregular band of crude? foliage or

other decoration. The object is now unpatinated (recently cleaned?) with a slightly oily feel to the surface. Distorted and probably incomplete with the bottom of the cross probably broken/missing. The object remains unidentified, possibly (1) part of a decorative lock plate (but has no fixing points and is decorated both sides); (2) Free standing Cross ? votive; (3) Part of decorative filigree. It is NOT a pendant since there is no attachment point at the head of the cross – to suspend it upside down would not be considered desirable. The object cannot be precisely dated, but the general appearance suggests a late medieval date. The decorative style is reminiscent of a buckle plate recently excavated from Freckleton and dated, by parallel to one from Southampton, to the later 14th century."

5. METAL HEAD: Found on Lakeside Path near Storrs Park, Windermere. (Exact site not reported) "Small male head in cast lead alloy – pewter? As yet no parallel but gives appearance of being medieval".

6. BRONZE MACE HEAD (broken): Found at SD 85 588011 by a bridge below the Roman Road through the Lune/Shap Fell, Borrowdale.

45 mm high with rimmed socket for wooden pole 22 mm diameter. Five remaining, approx. 10 mm high raised triangular, "knobs", with probably four other knobs lost in a missing portion. Previous undated newspaper reference to a similar mace head found complete on pasture land near Carlisle Castle, illustrates similar object. Presumed to be Medieval. Deposited in the Kendal Museum by finder.

7. HENRY II SHORT CROSS PENNIES (illustrated Plate 1, Type 3a Richard I): Found at SD 85 516901 at Barley Field, Natland, (on the Roman road line and pre-19th century road line south from Kendal) – two separate finds reported but seems to be part of scattered hoard if rumours of other similar coin finds in same field are true. Coins coincidental with period of great changes in the Kendal Barony, the granting of the Kendal Market Charter in 1189 and the building of a new castle and a new church. The Kendal metal detector group are attempting to discover the full extent of this hoard with a view to correctly reporting the matter.

PLATE 1

8. WOOL SEAL (Plate 2): Found at SD 85 502918 west of old Stainbank Farm on very old Brigsteer road line. Currently being researched by Dr Satchell of Kendal Civic Society.

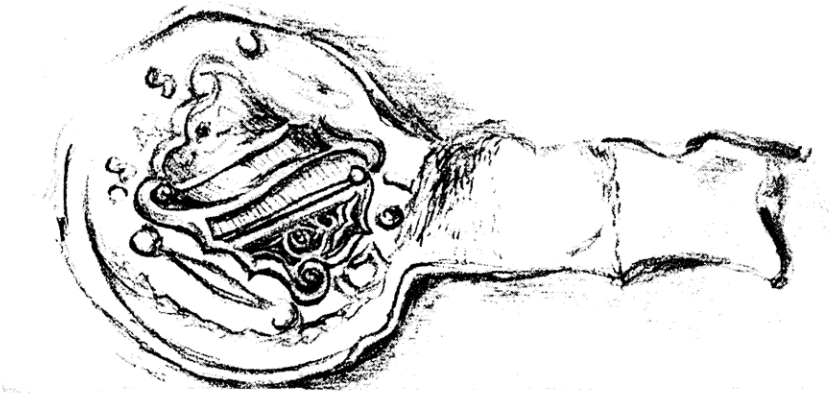

PLATE 2

9. BRONZE SEAL FOB: Found at SD 85 535835 field near Peasey Beck bridge A65 – possible medieval ecclesiastical origin. Seal illustrates? female figure with two palm leaves and indistinct lettering on surround * SMVAHMWI – SNK111M. Subject to further investigation.

10. BRONZE METAL FRAGMENT: Found at SD 85 528899 – the fields west of Oxenholme Station, Kendal. Has incised markings – possibly piece of armour. Part destroyed by fire. Antiquity confirmed by the Lancaster Unit but source or use could not be discovered. "Likely iron age?"