

DISCOVERY  
AND  
EXCAVATION

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SCOTLAND  
1959

SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP  
COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

*Price 2'6*

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## FOREWORD

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I hope the time is not far off when a Foreword to *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland* will no longer be necessary. For when that time comes it will mean that this booklet is sufficiently well established among archaeological periodicals to need no introduction.

In the meantime this year's publication is as comprehensive as ever, and covers a vast amount of ground, and countless types of archaeological material. No doubt the brilliant summer has been largely responsible for this. The Executive Committee of the Scottish Regional Group is grateful to all who have contributed.

Our appreciation and thanks go to Miss Anne S. Robertson, temporary acting Secretary of the Scottish Regional Group, and to Mr T. M. Lighbody of the Glasgow Archaeological Society for their work in connection with the production of the booklet.

In this my last year as President of the Scottish Regional Group I would like to take the opportunity of wishing *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland* continuing success.

MARGARET E. C. STEWART,  
President.

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*Discovery and Excavation, Scotland, 1959*, may be obtained, price 2s. 10d. per copy, post free, from Miss Anne S. Robertson, Hunterian Museum, The University, Glasgow, W.2.

December 1959.

## ANGUS

### MEADOWSIDE, DUNDEE

*From Mr J. Barwick*

Two pieces of the skull, bearing the horn cores, of the small Celtic ox (*Bos Longifrons*) were found by workmen excavating the site for a new building at Meadowside. The skull was found in clay at a depth of 22 ft., just below the level of the "forest bed" which is a feature of the clays in the Meadowside region.

### HURLEY HAWKIN, LIFF AND BENVIE

*From Mr D. B. Taylor*

NO/333328. The excavation reported in D. & E. 1958, 2, continued during the summer of 1959. The central area contains a number of post holes in the clay subsoil, but the entrance has not yet been excavated. New finds include spindle whorls, fragments of iron and bronze, but no pottery.

### RED CASTLE, INVERKEILOR

*From Mr and Mrs J. Wilson*

NO/688511. A mediaeval kitchen midden was discovered at the bottom of the slope beneath the NE. corner of the tower on the S. bank of the river Lunan. As a result of high tides and spates during many winter storms, the midden had been exposed by the falling away of the bank on which the castle stands. Many types of bones were exposed. The Royal Dick Veterinary College, Edinburgh, reported that they were of various animals including Celtic ox and Soay sheep and terrier dog. Sherds of pottery were found on the river edge and an excavation was carried out to establish the correct position of the pottery in the midden with the hope of being able to date it. A key  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ins. long was also found. All the pottery and the key have been gifted to the National Museum of Antiquities. Most of the pottery appeared to be of the 15th-16th century, which corresponds with the date of the tower house.

### BLACK JACK, CRAIG

NO/710535. Excavations were continued. Rectangles were opened on the site of the castle and fragmentary foundations of a building with beaten clay floor were discovered. Finds were very small sherds of 16th century pottery, animal bones and several pieces of corroded ironwork, not yet identified.

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## ARGYLLSHIRE

### CLADICH, MID ARGYLL

*From Mr and Mrs J. G. Scott*

NN/101223. In a field at Cladich about 100 yds. from the main Inveraray-Dalmally road stands an oval mound approximately 110 ft. long by 80 ft. broad which, though partly natural,

undoubtedly represents a large cairn of Clyde-Carlingford type. About 40 ft. from the NE. end of the mound is the entrance to a slab-built burial chamber, now roofless, approximately 13 ft. 6 ins. long by 3 ft. 6 ins. wide. The chamber appears to have been segmented at least once about 4 ft. 6 ins. from the terminal slab. No evidence of a façade was noted.

#### **LOCHORODALE, CAMPBELTOWN, KINTYRE**

NR/658163. Overlooking the now drained Lochorodale about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile NW. of Glecknahavill farm on the road leading from Campbeltown to Glen Breackerie in Southend is an oval mound approximately 55 ft. long, 32 ft. wide and 5-6 ft. high covered with turf and bracken. At its NW. end is a megalithic burial chamber about 8 ft. long and 3 ft. 6 ins. wide. The burial chamber is roofless and appears to be incomplete and there is no sign of a façade; nevertheless the cairn is probably of Clyde-Carlingford type.

The site was visited as the result of information supplied by Mr D. Colville of Machrihanish.

#### **BEACHARRA. KINTYRE**

NR/692434. In May and June by kind permission of Mr W. J. Nicholls the owner of Beachar Farm, of Mr M. MacCallum the tenant, and of the Ministry of Works, excavation was undertaken of part of the chambered cairn known as Beacharra, from the burial chamber of which, the well known pottery vessels, now in Campbeltown Museum, were recovered in 1892.

The object of the excavation was to examine the entrance to the burial chamber, which was apparently not reached by the original excavation, and to see if there was any evidence of a forecourt. The burial chamber proved to be over 20 ft. long and 4-5 ft. wide, aligned almost N.-S. The E. portal stone and a sill stone survived, but the W. portal stone had disappeared. From the E. portal stone the edge of the cairn was marked by well-built drystone walling surviving in places to a height of over 2 ft. and which ran in an easterly direction in a straight line, uninterrupted by orthostats, for 18 ft. to end in a neatly built right angled corner. The corresponding W. side was not examined.

The entrance and the whole length of the drystone walling had been blocked by a mound of closely packed boulders, slabs and earth extending out for 9 ft. in front of the entrance. Under the blocking in front of the entrance a few broken and probably abraded Neolithic potsherds were found.

It is difficult to find parallels for this interesting structure among other Clyde-Carlingford cairns in Kintyre, or indeed in Scotland generally.

## KILMAHO, KINTYRE

NR/679242. In April a group of three short stone cists was discovered during ploughing in a field about 75 yds. S. of the main road on the farm of Kilmaho about 4 mls. NW. of Campbeltown. Mr D. Colville of Machrihanish, the owner of the farm, was aware that a cist had been recorded in the field which was being ploughed, and the search for this led to the discovery of the other two. The cists lay in a line approximately N.-S. with intervals of about 3 ft. separating them; all were built of stone slabs and each had a single large cover slab. The dimensions were approximately the same for each cist, namely 3 ft. 6 ins. long, 2 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep. The longer axes of the two outer cists lay in a NE.-SW. direction, whilst the middle one was aligned almost E.-W.

The northernmost cist which lay nearest the surface had obviously been disturbed and may well be the one originally recorded. It held the broken and scattered remains of the skeleton of an adult. The middle cist had also been disturbed but not necessarily in recent times for it contained the incomplete crouched burials of two adults, one overlying the other. After the second burial the cist seems to have been deliberately filled with gravel. The only find to accompany the two burials was a small flint flake.

The third and northernmost cist was by far the most interesting and, fortunately, the best preserved. Protecting it was a massive capstone 4 ft. long by 3 ft. 9 ins. wide and some 15 ins. thick at one end. Inside the cist there lay the skeleton of a middle-aged adult crouched on its right side. Behind the back stood a Food Vessel 6½ ins. in diameter and originally over 7 ins. high which had toothed stamp decoration. In front of the skeleton there lay two flint knives or scrapers and a round-heeled bronze dagger about 3¾ ins. long corroded to a bright green colour. Subsequent cleaning of the dagger has shewn that lying on top of it was a bronze awl in very good condition. The association of Food Vessel, bronze dagger and awl in one burial gives this discovery an unusual interest.

## LARGYBAAN, KINTYRE

At the suggestion of Mr D. Colville of Machrihanish two sites were visited about ½ mile WSW. of the hamlet of Largybaan, which is itself about 3½ miles W. of the road from Campbeltown to Glen Breackerie in Southend.

NR/609140. On the summit of a low ridge is a circular mound, probably a cairn, about 35 ft. in diameter and 5 ft. high. In the centre is apparently a lidless cist so thickly overgrown

with rushes that it could not be properly examined; it appeared to measure 3 ft. 9 ins. in one direction. Several other mounds in the vicinity seem artificial but what they represent is uncertain.

NR/607141. Some 300 yds. WNW. of the cairn in the adjacent glen there is a green knoll on which stands a small fort about 85 ft. in overall diameter surrounded by a much robbed stone wall apparently 8-9 ft. thick originally. Inside are the foundations of a rectangular stone building approximately 26 ft. by 11 ft. in size.

#### TANGY LOCH, KINTYRE

*From Mr D. Colville*

NR/692279. In August a small boy, on holiday with his parents, found a polished stone axehead about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins. long amongst the gravel on the shore of Tangy Loch. The axehead remains in his possession.

#### KILMELFORT CAVE

*From Mr J. M. Coles*

NM/840147. A cave, discovered in 1956 during the construction of a Hydro-Electric power station, was examined by members of the Department of Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Edinburgh. The cave lies 315 ft. above sea level, in the side of the hill called An Sithean, and excavation revealed a single occupation horizon yielding a backed blade and scraper industry on flint and quartz. The flints are not typical either of the Scottish microlithic or of the west coastal Mesolithic industries.

Samples from the cave earths are being examined at the Macaulay Institute, and faunal remains at the Royal Scottish Museum.

#### KINTRAW

*From Mr D. D. A. Simpson*

NM/830050. Excavation was begun in July 1959 of the cairn at Kintraw. The cairn, which stands 8 ft. high at the centre, is surrounded by a kerb 48 ft. in diameter, its stones being largest on the W. and S. sectors. During this last season the material within the kerb was removed down to the old ground surface. At the centre of the cairn was a post-hole c.5 ins. in diameter which could be traced to a height of 3 ft. 4 ins. within the cairn above the old ground surface. In the NW. quadrant and only a few inches from the kerb was found a cist, oriented NE/SW., trapezoid in plan with a capstone of similar form. Quartzite fragments, which were scattered throughout the cairn, were particularly numerous in the vicinity of the cist. It measured internally 3 ft. long and was 10 ins. broad at the SW. end, 1 ft. 8 ins. at the NE. It was divided into two unequal compartments by a transversely placed stone. The larger compartment contained

a deposit of cremated bone and carbonised wood; the smaller compartment was empty. On the SW. sector there projected from it two slabs 3 ft. 6 ins. apart forming a "false portal." Large quantities of carbonised wood were found in the area between these two stones, and beyond it, lying parallel with the kerb, was a large stone 7 ft. 6 ins. long. The only small objects from the excavations were six jet beads found scattered in the mass of cairn material. Five of the beads are c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long and the sixth measures an inch in length. All are fusiform, longitudinally perforated and ornamented with spiral fluting.

#### ACHANARNICH, CRAIGNISH

*From Miss M. Campbell*

3 sheets of cup-and-ring marks were found by Miss Caroline Younger, daughter of the proprietor, in autumn 1958.

(1) NM/775026. SW. of the farm buildings and to S. and E. of the farm road, a narrow rock outcrop bears a large number of cups, some small and faint, others ringed, and at least one pair, of 3 rings each, with the outer rings tangential to each other. Another set, of unringed cups, is arranged in a rosette around a central cup; this arrangement has been noted at other sites in Mid Argyll. (See D. & E. 1958, 5 and Kilbride, below).

(2) NM/776028. NW. of house and visible from it, a low heathery knoll has at least 5 cups, none apparently ringed, low on its E. side.

(3) NM/777031. On a rocky outcrop on the N. side of an old track are a large number of cups, some ringed; these are on bed rock close to the steep drop on W. edge of the outcrop.

When these sites were visited with Mr and Mrs Younger, an enclosure was found at NM/777029 between sites 2 and 3 above, between 2 and the old track. The enclosure is roughly circular, 31 ft. in internal diameter, with a possible entrance on W. The walls are low and grassy, from 1 ft. to 1 ft. 6 ins. high, and the interior appears to be slightly higher than the outside ground level.

#### BLARBUIE, LOCHGILPHEAD

Mr A. MacLaren of the RCAMS drew my attention to a ms. note on a 6 in. OS sheet in the RCAMS office referring to a "cup-marked rock" not far from those reported by Mr E. R. Cregeen (D. & E. 1955, 7). On investigation, a flat rock projecting from a green sloping hill-top was found at NR/889899. It bears at least 4 large symbols, the largest, with 5 rings, measuring 1 ft. 9 ins. across; all these 4 have gutters from the cup to outside the outer ring. There are at least 3 fainter cups-and-rings, and some are linked by gutters. The main slab measures 10 ft. by 7 ft. and smaller fragments each side of it also have cups-and-rings.

#### GLASVAAR, NEAR EDERLINE, FORD

A local report of a "Covenanter's Communion Table" (cf. D. & E. 1958, 5) led to the finding of a cup-marked boulder at NM/884013, on the edge of a natural terrace below the access road to Glasvaar Farm. The boulder is an erratic, measuring 5 ft. by 3 ft. by 1 ft. 6 ins. approx. It has 20 or more cups, some very faint, on its upper surface, none on the sides. The largest cup measures 3 ins. in diameter by at least 1 in. deep. Five, and a possible sixth, of the cups are in a row along the approximate centre of the long axis of the stone.

The boulder lies on the NE. edge of a probable cairn, rather obscured by recent field-clearance. Some traces of a kerb could be made out, and the cairn approximates to the size of the nearby one on the other side of the farm road.

#### KILBRIDE HOUSE, RHUDIL

NR/854966. The proprietor, Mr Patterson, has reported cup-marked rocks in his garden. These have been visited, but not closely studied yet. They consist of two long narrow outcrops of rock, one at either side of the garden in front of the house. The outcrop on the N. side of the garden has at least 71 cups in a space of 20 ft. by 6 ft., mostly fairly shallow, but there is one enormous basin 1 ft. across and 7 ins. deep which is ringed by small faint cups. There are other groups of cups which seem to be arranged in "rosettes" around a central one. At the extreme W. end of the outcrop there may be one of the locally uncommon kidney-shaped symbols, two cups connected by a short curving gutter whose width is nearly equal to the diameter of the cups.

On the S. ridge there are at least 11 cups on 16 ft. of rock, the cups being only on the top edge of the sloping rock as far as our examination has gone. No rings were found on either outcrop.

#### ARDRISHAIG

NR/848866. On a steep nose of rock above a junction of two streams, in a beech wood behind the Glenfyne Distillery buildings on W. side of the Crinan Canal, is a site locally known as "The Robber's Den." The site proves to be a promontory fort, defended by a rock-cut ditch across the neck between the streams and by steep cliffs on the other two sides of the triangular point. The ditch is 5 ft. wide at its base, 6 ft. high on the outer side and 5 ft. high with tumbled upcast fallen beyond it, on the inner side. It is crossed by a causeway about 10 ft. wide. Immediately inside the ditch there is a subrectangular building measuring 21 ft. by 10 ft. internally, with a possible doorway on its inner long side. Further from the ditch there is a large house, (shown as a ruin on the 6 in. OS sheet CLXX.NE.). The walls



of this stand 4 ft. high in places. The building measures 54 ft. by 21 ft. 6 ins. externally, with walls 2 ft. 6 ins. thick with squared outer angles. Inside it seems to be divided into two rooms, the larger with a door to the outside at its southern corner on the W. long side, and measuring about 35 ft. by 11 ft. 6 ins. and the smaller room at the N. end much confused by tumble but measuring about 8 ft. long; the N. wall seems to be 5 ft. 6 ins. thick but some of this may be due to a fallen gable.

Outside the ditch, a path leads down to a partly dammed pool on the stream to N. of the site.

#### ST. COLUMBA'S CAVE, ELLARY

NR/747767. This cave is traditionally connected with St. Columba and contains an altar on a shelf of rock above which crosses have been carved on the cave wall. During the late 19th century a previous proprietor removed about 4 ft. of rubbish from the floor of the cave which was tipped near-by. The present owner, Mr Rogers, permitted an examination of the cave floor to be made with the assistance of Mr R. B. K. Stevenson of the National Museum, Edinburgh, Mr R. G. Livens of the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University, and members of the Mid-Argyll Antiquarian Society; the tipped material was carefully examined and yielded over 700 pieces of worked bone, worked and unworked pieces of antler, fragments of pottery, quantities of metal slag, a small crucible and fragments of others, fragments of moulds, and a large quantity of animal and human bones. The most striking find was a bronze balance of Viking type with folding arms, one of which was broken.

Unfortunately all stratification had been destroyed by the 19th century operations but enough material is available to suggest occupation from at least Iron Age times until shortly before "tidying." A trial trench near the cave mouth showed hearths and refuse, with some tools, extending at least 3 ft. 6 ins. below the level at which the 19th century work had stopped. It is hoped to find another cave nearby which has not been disturbed and where a stratified dig might be made to obtain a framework into which these finds might be fitted.

#### EILEAN dà MHEINN, CRINAN HARBOUR

The finding of a bead of blue-and-white glass was reported here in D. & E. 1958. The outline of a small sub-rectangular building (possibly two buildings) has now been traced in the garden ground where the find was made, by the proprietrix, Mrs Ascherson.

## FIELD SURVEY OF MID ARGYLL

This survey, by the writer assisted by members of the local Antiquarian Society, is to be brought to an end in the next season, (in so far as it can ever be completed). A full account of new sites will then be published. In the meantime it may be of interest to record that an examination of place names with the element "Dun" shows that of 67 such sites listed, 44 are in fact forts, 6 are cairns or cairn sites, 9 show no trace of any structure though the site is suitable for a fort, and the remaining 8 have not yet been visited. There are also at least 21 forts for which no name has survived, so it seems that the chances of a name in "Dun" actually marking a fort site are at least 2 to 1 in favour, and may in fact be considerably higher. This statistical note may be of use and encouragement to others engaged on Field Surveys elsewhere.

*From Mr F. Newall*

**TOM NANRAGN (DALINLONGART)** *located by Miss E. B. Rennie*

NS/145818. About 100 ft. E. of the TOM is an artificial raised mound 58 ft. 6 ins. by 52 ft. and walled all round. An outer wall follows the mound along the N. and E. sides. At the S. end is the suggestion of a rectangular build which protrudes E. beyond the edge of the mound proper.

NS/158806. A heel shaped structure 18 ft. by 16 ft. This may be either a hut or a much denuded Bronze Age cairn.

Miss Rennie has also located a Bronze Age cairn near Tighna-bruaich.

*From Mr F. Newall*

**COWAL, LETTERMAY VALLEY**

*located by Mr R. C. Scott*

NS/165995. On the N. side of the streamlet from Curra Lochain a ruined croft, four hut circles 9-10 ft. in diameter and a possible fifth outlined by reeds, were found; about 150 ft. W. and SW. are also three ruined crofts and two hut circles each 9 ft. in diameter. About 200 ft. further W. are two more ruined crofts, two hut circles 9 ft. and 10 ft. in diameter, and a 7 ft. square sub-rectangular enclosure with its W. side formed of natural rock.

NS/166994. Sub-rectangular build 12 ft. by 10 ft. 6 ins., 9 ft. from which is a setting of placed slab stones covering an area of 6 ft. by 3 ft.

NS/170995. Tumbled stones in arc, 9 ft. by 7 ft.

NS/169997. Sub-rectangular build 17 ft. by 12 ft., a circle 9 ft. in diameter, and a ruined croft.

NS/182999. A circle 8-9 ft. in diameter, a D shaped enclosure of 6 ft. radius, and three crofts.

## MULL

### TORR COTTAGE, ACHNADRISH

*From Mrs U. V. G. Betts*

NM/450524. Mr A. McCallum has found in this area a Neolithic flint arrowhead, and a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead with serrated edges.

### DUN HAUNN NORTH

NM/334471. A small almost circular fort, visited in the course of the Mull Archaeological Survey.

### DUN HAUNN SOUTH

NM/334471. A few hundred yards from the above is a flat topped rock-stack defended by a wall on the S. and E. sides and with an entrance from the S.

### TORR AINT, DERVAIG

NM/443500. A fort has been identified on this flat-topped knoll S. of Dervaig: there is an entrance on the N. and possibly another at the S.

### DUN BAN, TOSTARIE

NM/391453. A small fort stands on a low coastal crag below the village of Tostarie. Good walling survives on the landward side.

### DUN BAN, KILNINIAN

NM/394454. An oval enclosure with a well-built wall about 6 ft. thick stands on the edge of the shore, and has an entrance on the E.

### REUDLE

NM/367463. A Bronze Age ring cairn stands 200 yds. S. of the farmhouse of Reudle. The field in which it stands is known as "The Field of the Dead."

On a shelf of the hill on the same farm (NM/364457) lies what appears to be the façade of a destroyed Clyde-Carlingford type cairn.

### MAOL MOR

NM/435532. The remains of a small ring-cairn were noticed immediately to the W. of the Maol Mor standing stones.

### ULUVALT

NM/548301. In a field to the W. of the Craignure-Bunessan road is a single standing stone and 50 yds. W. of this is a similar

stone, fallen. About the same distance to the N. are the fragmentary remains of a circular structure some 40 ft. in diameter. The remains suggest an almost completely destroyed chambered cairn.

#### CREAG A' CHAISTEIL

NM/358496. Standing on a jutting spur of the cliff this promontory fort still has a wall which is 5 to 6 ft. high at the SE. angle; the gate is on the E. or landward side. The inside of the fort has been cultivated at one time but three hut circles have been observed; the best-preserved measured 15 ft. in diameter.

#### IONA

*From Mr A. C. Thomas*

The fourth season of excavations for the Russell Trust, University of Edinburgh, took place during August.

The small hill-top site on the W. coast, Dun Bhuirg (D. & E., 1957, 10: *ibid.* 1958, 14) was further examined during the first week by Mr P. J. Fowler, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), who completed his excavation there. Dun Bhuirg possesses two huts, roughly circular, keyed into the outcrops of rocks, and in the case of the larger, butted against a much-fallen stone rampart. Examination of the rest of the interior of the *dun* showed scattered traces of occupation, but no additional hut sites. A further extensive series of sherds was recovered, and two small yellow beads of a flattened circular type. The 1959 pottery amplifies rather than modifies the conclusions reached in 1958, and it is still considered that the tiny fort was occupied rather before the Columban landing in 563 A.D.

Careful field survey of the S. end of Iona resulted in plans of three small settlements, two clearly of sub-recent or at the earliest, mediaeval, date, and local tradition as well as their layout suggests that these are deserted shielings. The third, at Port Laraichean, is however defined by low stone walls forming circular enclosures and huts of varying sizes, a small stone cairn (or collapsed corbelled structure) and a sizeable artificial bank protecting the settlement from the sea, on the crest of a steeply-shelving shingle beach.

Work on the actual monastery of Columba was concentrated on the course of the vallum; by courtesy of Mr Walter Tindal, the occupier, two fields previously unexamined were excavated. N. of the Abbey the putative line of the vallum was sectioned twice, revealing the ditch and a much collapsed bank. The ditch here is shallow and water-logged, and some wooden fragments, some clearly shaped, were recovered in good condition from below the water-table, whilst a sherd of the type previously regarded as of 6th or 7th century date was found sealed below the counterscarp in one cutting. It now seems that the vallum runs N.-S. below the modern refectory building, across the

cloisters (but in such a way as to enclose the structures referred to in the second paragraph of the 1958 D. & E., note) and out again in the angle formed by the chancel and the western side of the south transept of the Abbey. In the field S. of the Abbey, the ditch was located in the SE. corner just by the Releig Orain chapel, and probably runs through the present graveyard to an entrance approximately on the line of the present-day road.

Within this, various features were uncovered in over twenty cuttings. Some settings of very large post-holes, some associable with a sleeper-beam trench, and with an irregular layer which appears to indicate extensive burning (characterised by a thick pan of clinker), are provisionally regarded as belonging to the first monastery, and may indicate the position of the larger "public" buildings. This tends to confirm the idea, *contra* W. F. Skene, Reeves, and subsequent writers, that the first monastery was centred about Tor Abb, the present Abbey block, and points S., and not as has generally been stated about a quarter-mile further N.

From a later phase, following the Benedictine foundation in 1195-1200 A.D., the precinct wall previously located just W. of the Abbey was cut again, this time at its gateway. From this point, stretching roughly S. across Mr Tindal's field, across the centre of the Releig Orain, and joining the present road outside the Columba Hotel, a roadway was recovered at a number of points. This is some 7 or 8 ft. wide, is largely composed of round boulders of pinkish Mull granite, has a carefully-built kerb of flat schist slabs, lies on an old land surface, and is drained at one, if not two, places by a large deep stone-lined gully running towards the original Columban vallum ditch. There seems no doubt that this is the traditional "Street of the Dead," visible until a few centuries ago, connecting the landing-place S. of the village with the Nunnery, the Releig Orain, and the Abbey. It would appear to be slightly later than the Benedictine precinct walls, and must be referred to some stage between the 13th and 16th centuries A.D.

A full report is now in preparation, and a preliminary account with a sketch map will appear in a winter, 1959, issue of *The Coracle* (Journal of the Iona Community).

Note: The "possible ring-cairn," mentioned in D. & E., 1957, 11, and 1958, 15 is now regarded as a collapsed corn-drying kiln, of a type represented on Iona and elsewhere.

#### DRUMYEONBEG, GIGHA

*From Mr R. E. MacCallum*

NR/648495. A small cist was found in the SW. corner of a field to the S. of Drumyeonbeg Farm during ploughing in 1953. On examination it proved to be made from four flagstones, to have no capstone, and contained no relics.

NR/23305825. A flint knapping site on the line of the Kilchiaran-Port Charlotte road has been conveniently, though destructively, sectioned from E. to W. by the two drains along the sides of the road, and from N. to S. by a sand quarry. Finds from the ditches and the face of the quarry fix the site limits at 290 ft. by at least 166 ft.

The flint bearing layer is a spread of grey peaty sand 2-3 ins. thick covered by a layer of peat about 1 ft. deep. The grey sand rests on a 5 in. thickness of brown sand which, in turn, overlies a 7-9 in. layer of harder brown sand stiffened with gravel. All of this rests on a purer brown sand of undetermined depth.

Mr A. D. Lacaille, who very kindly examined the material from the site, considers that the general form of the collection is that of a debased Mesolithic type and that it is earlier in character than any of the finely made and trimmed flints so far collected by the Islay Group.

*From the Islay Archaeological Survey Group  
through Dr W. Lamont*

NR/389652. About 50 yards S. of Kilmeny churchyard is an oval mound with an undressed stone 2 ft. 2 ins. high erected at the NE. end.

NR/398648. Near the two standing stones at Knocklearoch farm is an oval enclosure, about 30 by 15 yds., the low turf-grown wall being of loose stones without visible entrance.

NR/393635. An islet almost connected to the N. bank of Loch Bharradail may be a "crannog." It may be largely natural, but there are on it patches of gathered stones and an artificial line of stones.

NR/468559. Dun on Carraig Mor, below Maol Ardtalla. To Gordon Childe's note in *PSAS*, LXIX, 81-4, add: This promontory fort is called "Dun nan Gall." On the promontory side of the innermost wall, across the neck, are the remains of a roughly circular structure (about 30 ft. in diameter) which may be older than the landward walls. Immediately S. of the promontory is "Aonan nan Gall" (presumably "Aonach nan Gall"—the shore sward of the Strangers), and both sides of the promontory would have been suitable for medium Viking vessels.

NR/466553. On the SE. slope of Maol Ardtalla are numerous ruins. There is a "terrace" plot of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre. There are also the remains of a circular wall, the enclosure being about 25 ft. in diameter and containing a rectangular structure 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  ft. by 8 ft.

NR/467546. At Ardtalla farmhouse is a roughly shaped stone standing 5 ft. high and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. square in cross-section.

NR/462534. Cill an Ailein (immediately W. of the road at Claggain Bay) is a ring of stone and earth, 25 ft.-30 ft. in diameter, containing one major and several minor cairns.

NR/455529. SE. of Cnoc Mor na Claigin, and rising beside some ruins in copsewood, is a rocky fortified knoll. Being very small, it may have been a mere signal-station; it certainly commands a surprisingly good view of the country E. and S.

NR/442519. About one mile WNW. of Kintour is Dun Fhinn, an eminence oval in ground plan and shaped like a jelly-mould. On top are traces of a building, low parapet walling and a scree of large boulders on the NE. and SE. ends. This Dun was noted by Gordon Childe (*loc. cit.*) but not visited by him.

NR/443493. "4 standing stones" near Ardilistry farmhouse, shown on the 6 in. Map. These are difficult to locate, for the tallest is about 20 ins. and the smallest 9 ins. high. The four stones form a rectangle about 6 ft. square—probably a grave.

NR/432480. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile NNW. of Kildalton House is a suspected hut circle, 17 ft. in diameter, made of closely packed small stones.

NR/402458. At Lagavulin distillery is Cill Maire. The circular wall, 4 ft.-5 ft. thick, with an entrance 3 ft. wide at the NNE., encloses an area about 27 ft. in diameter. Superficial inspection did not disclose any structure inside; but immediately outside are one or two roughly trimmed stones which may be monumental in some sense.

NR/396462. Near the ruins of Bailenaughton Mor the 6 in. Map shews a standing stone now incorporated in a drystone wall. It is carefully dressed and tapered—like so many in this part of the island—standing  $11\frac{1}{2}$  ins. above ground and measuring 4 ft. x 16 ins. at the base. It is actually one of a pair; the other one, having fallen, lies broken immediately outside the wall.

NR/389461. At Achnancarraighean (Field of the pillar-stones) about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile SW. of Bailenaughton Mor ruins, the O.S. Maps shew three standing stones. One has fallen, but its base and a fragment almost buried in turf may be seen. The two still standing are the typically dressed, tapering stones of this district, but the tops of both have been broken off. The northerly one now stands 8 ft. by 4 ft. by 11 ins., and the southerly one 9 ft. by 3 ft. by 9 ins.

NR/391465. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile W. of Bailenaughton Mor ruins is the segmented chambered tomb in which T. H. Bryce (*PSAS*, XXXVI, 109-114) found the rouleau of coins deposited during

the reign of Elizabeth I. The evidence suggests that they were collected in Ireland by a MacKay of Bailenaughton Mor, descended from the Brian Vicar MacKay who received a charter (in Gaelic) from Donald, 2nd Lord of the Isles, in 1408 (Lamont, *PRIA*, 1959, 167-8).

NR/391452. Cill Luchaig, within the grounds of Laphroaig distillery, is much overgrown by bracken, but it appears to be a circle of stones or boulders, 15 ft. to 20 ft. in diameter. Local tradition is that it is the grave of a chief of the MacDonalds.

NR/368467 approx. Near Borraichill Mor is a "cairn" marked on the map. It is an oval area, with sunken centre, about 24 ft. by 6 ft. There are signs of walling on the outside.

NR/372457. In the NW. corner of the field containing the "Baile Neill" standing stone, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile NE. of Port Ellen, there is an area which remains unploughed because it is believed to be a burial place.

NR/347443. Among the numerous heaps of stones above Port Ellen Lighthouse is one of special interest—an oval "platter," the circumference higher than the centre, about 66 ft. by 26 ft.

NR/312431. What is now called "Loch Ard Achadh" (High field loch) appears on a 1749 map as "Loch Espary," the ground to the E. is still called "Casaberry," and "Asabus,"  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the W. and "Port Asabuis," SE. on the coast, indicate that "Casa-" or "Asa-" was part of the old name of this whole district. Presumably, then, "Espary" and "Casaberry" derive from "Asa-borh" or "Casa-borh."

The point is of interest because, immediately E. of the modern ruins above Loch Ard Achadh, are the extensive turf covered remains of much older buildings. These may conceivably belong to the Norse period. Certainly the site was apparently occupied in the Bronze or Early Iron Age, a looped, socketed bronze axe having been found near the loch (*PSAS*, LXII, 18).

NR/317434 approx. With regard to the bronze sword found here (the drain through Leannan Buidhe on Lower Coillabus farm), and the evidence that it was in use just before being dropped or stuck in the ground (*PSAS*, XX, 102-4), there is a local tradition that a great battle was fought about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile northward on the ground between the old Manse and Upper Coillabus.

NR/311401 - 313404. On this short coastal strip between Rudha nan Leacan and Carraig Bun Aibhne are numerous heaps of stones. One is a "platter" cairn, similar to that above Port Ellen Lighthouse, 54 ft. by 27 ft. It lies 50 to 75 yds. in from the shore, and about 25 yds. on the S. side of a wire fence.



NR/285408. Dun Athad is a fortified promontory on the SW. coast of Oa. There is not much to confirm information given in the *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, VII (1845), 663. The present "causeway" linking the promontory to the mainland is essentially natural. The remains of the fortifications crowning the ascent from the causeway on the promontory side belong to at least two periods. The early part consists of a chamber, 39 ft. NW.-SE. by  $19\frac{1}{2}$  ft. NE.-SW., with an entrance in the NW. wall opening on the narrow freeway giving access from causeway to promontory. Later, the landward wall of this chamber was continued across the freeway to the cliff face. The whole site would repay careful study. For the present, a brief note on the name must suffice.

The derivation of "Dun Athad" is controversial; but as the local pronunciation is approximately "aid" there is a strong probability that the derivation is from an old Irish word, *aed*, meaning "fire." The site would have been ideal as a beacon-station for sea and land.

NR/306435. On the SE. side of the road from Risabus (church and school) to Leannamhor is a group of about half-a-dozen low cairns, round or oval, with long axis or diameter anything from 8 ft. to 20 ft.—all contained in an area of about 50 square yards.

NR/327460. A stone on the lower slope of Druim na Croise, standing 5 ft. above ground, is roughly pointed and triangular in horizontal section. At its greatest girth its sides are 40 ins., 32 ins. and 48 ins.

NR/324462. Also on Druim na Croise, between the stone just mentioned and the summit, a natural outcrop seems to have been used as the site of a double cairn—now effectively despoiled.

NR/324455. Corrary Hill Stone, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile NNW. of Middle Cragabus, is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. high and roughly trimmed to a point.

NR/319463. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile W. of the summit of Druim na Croise is a mound, partly natural and partly artificial, about 60 ft. high at the WSW. end and 25 ft. at the ENE. end. Base is about 80 ft. and the flat top 60 ft. long. A roughly squared pillar-stone (now about 6 ft. long and 14 ins. square in section) lies down the northern slope of the mound. A roughly formed ring (4 ft. in diameter) on top of the mound was presumably its original position.

NR/310469 approx. . On a bracken covered mound between Frachdale ruins and those at Tokamol is a denuded segmented chamber tomb.

NR/303474. The standing stone at Grasdale ruins (shewn on 6 in. Map) is unique among the stones observed up to the present in the Oa. Though small (3 ft. high), it is dressed and rounded at the top in the manner of the better stones of Kildalton. The block was probably brought up from the neighbouring coast.

NR/301473. A large boulder, irregular in shape but having an upper surface about 17 ft. by 4 ft., and lying roughly 35 yds. NE. from the last of the old garden walls at Tokamol, has a number of depressions which appear to be ancient cup-marks without any associated rings.

NR/301478. Low on the NW. slope of Cnoc Mor Grasdail is a small standing stone, roughly trimmed and 2½ ft. high, surrounded by others in what was probably a rectangle originally. It is likely to be a burial site.

NR/295479. The promontory of Ard Fhraoch, about 150 yds. NE. of Slochd Maol Doiridh, has been fortified on the same principle as the *earlier* work on Dun Athad (NR/285408). Though more commodious, Ard Fhraoch has fewer natural defensive advantages, the ascent from the causeway being less steep and the sides less precipitous. The artificial defence is also less imposing. Above the causeway, on the promontory side, is a long oval chamber (without visible entrance), the internal axes being 12 ft. by 3 ft. It is not possible to tell on superficial inspection whether the walls were of stone or of earth and stone.

It may be noted here that there are at least two types of promontory fortification in Islay. Ard Fhraoch and Dun Athad, besides having "chamber" defence work, were chosen for their natural defence against landward attack, and are quite inappropriate as bases for seafarers. They are essentially refuges for the local population. On the other hand, Dun nan Gall (NR/468559) and Dun Trudernish (NR/468527), though defended by three lines of walling, are contemptuous of the high ground commanding them, and must have been chosen by seamen for their good harbourage.

*From Mr R. E. M. Davies*

NR/283727. In the SW. corner of Ardnave Loch is a circular "island" 100 ft. in diameter joined to the shore by a short earthen causeway in which are embedded several rounded stones and a line of stepping stones. A group of at least seven cist-like structures were exposed by removal of the turf.

*From Mrs M. L. Davies*

NR/312648. The dun site on Borichil Mor was visited. The eminence lies within the 200 ft. contour and is surmounted by a cairn. There is much exposed stone on the S. and W. sides. The

dun site appears to be roughly circular with a diameter of 100-130 ft.

NR/196570. This stone circle is about 100 ft. in diameter and consists of two upright stones and at least eight recumbent stones. About 130 ft. due N. of the northern upright stone there appears to be, possibly, a barrow measuring about 90 ft. on the N.-S. axis, and about 110 ft. on the E.-W. axis. (This circle has also been reported by Dr W. Carter).

*From Miss P. Dobbins*

NR/212536. Outside the chapel near Glannagoidh in the Rhinns Mrs Ian Ramsay has found carved stones not recorded in R. C. Grahame's "The Carved Stones of Islay," or elsewhere. According to tradition these stones had been transferred from a chapel on Orsay. There are four stones; the largest, 4 ft. 7 ins. by 1 ft. 7 ins. has an elaborately carved cross and other markings. The second, 3 ft. 9 ins. by 10 ins. has a simple cross of double incised lines. The other two stones are smaller and more weathered; on one a carved pattern is just discernible, and the other may have a groove across the centre.

*From Miss M. Edwards*

NR/298432. Within sight of Kinnabus Farm a standing stone, not previously recorded, was noted in July, 1959. The measurements are :—height 5 ft. 4 ins., cross-section half way up 2 ft 5 ins. by 1 ft. 2 ins.

*From Miss L. Gaster*

NR/351632. In a ploughed field near Redhouses, Bridgend, was found some years ago a tanged and barbed flint arrowhead  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ins. by 1 in. It is now in the possession of Mr W. Christie, Wool Mill, Bridgend.

*From Miss M. J. Gold*

NR/298702. On the E. side of the road between Bun-an-Uillt and Killinallan and roughly level with Crois Mhòr, there are remains of a quasi-rectangular enclosure and other smaller annexed enclosures.

The large enclosure is 85 ft. by 57 ft.; the length of an attached compartmented enclosure on the N. side is 48 ft. and that of an adjacent and similarly compartmented enclosure is 37 ft.

*From Mr E. N. Kitson*

NR/231591. A possible burial site was observed on marshy ground ESE. of Gearach and NE. of the Kilchiaran-Port Charlotte road.

*From Miss M. McCormack and Miss S. Bryan*

NR/388680. On Eilean na Comhairle, a circular island near the castle island on Loch Finlaggan, were noted remains of buildings and on the shore some flint flakes were found, one of which was artificially struck.

NR/387674. On Eilean Mhuireill, said locally to have been the prison island of the Macdonalds, remains of a building about 24 ft. by 13 ft. with several nearby remains were seen.

*From Mr B. and Mrs C. Mackrory*

NR/395686. On the boundary of a field on the N. side of the road leading to Finlaggan Farm from the Ballygrant road were observed two large stones, one, very smooth in comparison with its neighbour, was 5 ft. 10 ins. by 3 ft. 5 ins. by 1 ft. 10 ins. The rougher stone was of similar proportions. These were noted because they may be part of a megalithic arrangement and because they might be those mentioned in M. Martin's "A Description of the Western Islands of Scotland" (written about 1695 and published in London in 1703): "There are two stones set up at the east side of Loch-Finlaggan and they are six feet high." These stones are now partly covered by the turf.

NR/403685. A mound about 30 ft. high and roughly 500 ft. in circumference was noted SW. of Finlaggan Farm about 100 ft. from a derelict cottage. Its position is near Cnoc Seannde on the 6 in. sheet 198. The mound shewed traces of a boundary wall.

NR/379666. The standing stone about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile W. of Dun Cheapasaidh Mòr and overlooking Loch Finlaggan, which is marked on the 6 in. sheet 197, was visited and found to have been prostrate for many years. Its dimensions are 7 ft. 8 ins. by 4 ft. 8 ins. by 1 ft. 10 ins. One edge has a notch  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ins. deep by  $13\frac{1}{2}$ - $16\frac{1}{2}$  ins. wide.

NR/464530. By Claggan Bay, in a hayfield near Rudh-a-Bhuic, a standing stone with the top broken off was noted. Maximum height 5 ft. 10 ins. by 2 ft. wide by 1 ft. thick. It is of the same greenish blue stone as the Kildalton Cross.

*From Miss S. Pearce*

NR/287723. Through the kindness of Mr MacClellan of Kilellan Farm a sand bunker N. of the farm was again excavated. A trench 8 ft. by 4 ft. was dug at the edge of the bunker and at 1 ft. 6 ins. to 2 ft. 6 ins. below the surface there was a layer of dark sand with specks of charcoal, shell and decaying phyllite. Below this lay 3 ins. of densely packed shells 2 ft. wide and extending 3 ft. in from the edge of the bunker.

The finds consisted of flint blades, scrapers, a barbed arrow-head, and decorated pottery, probably Bronze Age. The pottery is being examined by Mr D. Simpson of the Department of Pre-historic Archaeology of the University of Edinburgh.

NR/285748. Mr MacClellan found in the dunes at Cnoc na Faire, Ardnave Point a skeleton of "a girl with fine teeth." In July 1959 he shewed visitors a rusty iron object which he found "under her" and which may well have been a spearhead. The bones were re-buried in the sand a little distance from the find place.

NR/287674. At the S. end of Loch Gruinart and possibly near the site of the battle of 1594 A.D. was found an 18th century sword which is in the possession (1958) of Mr Malcolm Macasser, 14 Hawthorn Park, Bowmore, Islay. The sword is traditionally regarded as having been made by the MacEacherns of Kilchoman. Its date precludes it from being a relic of the 16th century battle.

NR/373462. A standing stone 4 ft. high by 4 ft. wide by 2 ft. thick was discovered W. of the path going N. from Port Ellen to Kilbride.

*From Dr H. Richards and Mr P. Lewin*

NR/308545. During 1959 the Islay Archaeological Survey Group continued the survey of the coastal bunkers at Cruach Mhòr near Duich Farm. A trench 6 ft. long was cut into the vertical sides of a bunker and after layers of sand had been removed a dark layer of buried soil was found which on analysis corroborates the view that this had been a land surface in the past.

The surface finds included waste flint flakes, some "Bronze Age" sherds many of which were decorated, a leaf-shaped arrowhead, a crude tanged and barbed arrowhead, fragments of brass, bronze, slag, volcanic pumice, and pieces of glass and enamel.

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## AYRSHIRE

*From Mr J. Clarke*

Small-scale excavations, financed by Glasgow University and Tinwald Trust, were conducted in the summer of 1959 with two purposes in view, (1) to examine possible evidences of a Roman road in the Mauchline-Cumnock area, and (2) to ascertain the nature of a small structure observed near Kirkconnel by Dr St. Joseph in 1952.

The results of project (1) were inconclusive and may be summarised thus: four previous roads were found to converge on the crossing of the Cessnock (NS/477329); three of them were clearly of 18th-early 19th century date, but one which approached the Cessnock ford in a rock-cut bottom deep under a hollow way was apparently much more ancient. Evidence was obtained of an ancient road connecting by direct line this ford and a similar one on the Ayr (NS/504254). SE. of Old Cumnock in the area extending from Avisyard Hill to Watsonburn several stretches of road were observed sufficiently impressive to merit further investigation.

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## DUMFRIESSHIRE

### KIRKCONNEL

NS/747118. Project (2) revealed, on a terrace of sloping ground SE. of Bankhead Farm, a regularly constructed fortlet similar to the known Antonine fortlets at Milton and Durisdeer. It had a ditch-system single on the N., E., and S., double on the W. which was the weakest side, a 12 ft. stone-based rampart, and a single gate on the S. side whence a metalled road issued. Its dimensions externally were 166 ft. by 135 ft., internally 114 ft. by 70 ft. The small amount of excavation done in the interior produced no dating evidence; two post-holes indicative of a wooden structure in the W. half, and paved and flagged surfaces were noted but there was no evidence of intensive occupation nor of the two periods observed at Milton and Durisdeer. The fortlet is conclusive evidence of Roman occupation in Upper Nithsdale for a time, at least. A suspicion by Dr St. Joseph of the existence of a marching camp on the higher ground N. of the site appeared to be confirmed by the single cut made.

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## AYRSHIRE

### SYMINGTON

*From Mr J. G. Scott*

NS/3731. Mr T. Murdoch of Symington reports that a polished stone axehead 6½ ins. long by 2 9/16 ins. wide with rounded butt and squared sides was found in the garden of Townend, Symington.

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## BUTESHIRE

### BALLILONE

*From Miss D. N. Marshall*

NS/078632. With the help of the Bute Junior Naturalists, stone walling near the deserted croft of Ballilone was cleared and shewed what may be an Iron Age hut circle of about 40 ft. diameter.

## LITTLE DUNAGOIL

NS/086534. With the help of a grant from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland further excavations were carried out at Little Dunagoil. On top of the hillock a well-built rampart was uncovered. It was built against the steep slope facing the sea and had post-holes on the top. Coarse pottery, a mould for an axe and a fragment of decorated bone were found among the stones. Fragments of two moulds were also found at the central level where further digging confirmed last season's supposition that it had been used occasionally rather than continuously over a fairly long period. At the base of the hillock the foundations of two Norse Longhouses were defined. A trench through the more westerly one uncovered a bench on the sea-ward side.

## DUN SCALPSIE

*From Mr R. E. MacCallum*

NS/055586. A trench was cut through the rampart at the SW. side of this hill fort and revealed a well-made dry-built wall consisting of large stones of local origin. The wall reached a height of 2 ft. 11 ins.; there appeared to have been two occupation levels. The finds included a spindle whorl with hourglass perforation, whetstones, slag, "pot boilers," animal bones and teeth, and a fragment of a one-piece comb.

All the finds are in the Bute Museum, and a report will appear in the Transactions of the Buteshire Natural History Society.

## BLACKWATERFOOT, ARRAN

*From Mr and Mrs J. G. Scott*

NR/903276. In March, while ploughing at Broombrae Farm about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile SE. of Blackwaterfoot, Mr J. Craig discovered a short stone cist, 2 ft. 9 ins. long, 1 ft. 8 ins. wide and 2 ft. 4 ins. deep, protected by a stone cover slab lying just beneath the surface. The cist had apparently contained a crouched burial though most of the bones had perished. Associated with the burial were three flakes of flint and pitchstone as well as a Food Vessel,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  ins. high and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ins. in diameter, of the tripartite bowl type of which several examples have been found in Arran, Bute and Argyll.

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## CAITHNESS

### REAY

*From Mr A. G. McLeod*

NC/988646. Between the Reay Burn behind the Post Office and the former Drill Hall two hut circles were uncovered by Mr McLeod some time ago. The smaller hut was 40 ft. in diameter and the larger hut was unfortunately incomplete. A description of the excavation was published in the "John O'Groat Journal" dated 6th Sept. 1957.

Picked up near the above huts was a stone spindle whorl.

## DUMFRIESSHIRE

RAEBURNFOOT. ESKDALEMUIR

*From Miss A. S. Robertson*

NY/251991. A fortnight's excavation was conducted in July 1959 on the Roman site at Raeburnfoot, Eskdalemuir, Dumfriesshire, under the auspices of the Hunterian Museum, and with the assistance of several members of the Glasgow Archaeological Society and of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society. The site lies on a low hill at the junction of the River Esk and the Rae Burn, and it was first recognised as Roman early in the 19th century. A brief excavation took place at the end of that century, and a little additional trenching was carried out by Dr St. Joseph in 1946. These excavations, together with ground observation, have established the existence of two rectangular enclosures on the site, a small enclosure inside a larger one. Some of the pottery found in the late 19th century excavations is of Antonine date, thus proving a second-century occupation of the site.

The 1959 excavations shewed that the inner enclosure was a typical Antonine fort or large fortlet, measuring about 210 ft. by about 240 ft. internally. It was defended by a turf rampart about 20 ft. wide and by two ditches, each less than 10 ft. wide. There were gates in the north and south sides through which passed a roadway about 15-16 ft. wide. Inside the fort there were discovered the sleeper trenches of what appeared to be barrack blocks, each measuring approximately 48 by 24 ft.

The outer enclosure measured internally over 530 ft. from north to south, and at least 360 ft. from its east side to the steep slope down to the River Esk on the west side. It was defended by a clay rampart about 18-19 ft. wide and by a single ditch about 18 ft. wide. Only two entrances were discovered, in the north and south sides. No remains of buildings were identified in the outer enclosure. The apparent absence of permanent buildings and the fact that the rampart was of clay and not of turf suggest the possibility that the outer enclosure had never been occupied as an independent fort. Further excavation may be expected to throw more light on the history of the site.

WHITESTONES AND GLEDENHOLM MOORS *From Mr A. E. Truckell*

General Scott-Elliot continued his study of the groups of hut-circles and associated stone heaps on these moors near the E. edge of the plateau between the Nith and Ae Valleys, and discovered several more structures.

NY/046913. Uphill from Courancehill Farm E. of the Ae, Mr R. Little of Lockerbie has made a study of a probable mediaeval earthwork at Maggiemant Knowe consisting of an isolated hillock carefully scarped, ditched and walled, and with



the outline of a rectangular building visible on its flattish top. The site may represent a hitherto unidentified knight's fee known to be somewhere in the district.

#### MAGGIEMANT KNOWE

NY/041918. Along the slope W. of the reservoir at the head of which Maggiemant Knowe stands just below the plateau edge on a steep slope is a stepped series of cottage foundations, now mere turf mounds, each with an enclosed garden shewing pronounced riggs. This tiny community seems to have farmed and herded on the plateau above it. It can be identified as the hamlet of Knock abandoned during the 18th century.

NY/047917. Upstream from the reservoir is an obvious promontory fort with a deep ditch and a clearly defined entrance.

NY/039831. General Scott-Elliot cleared turf from a large hearth on the shoulder of Hightown Hill. It seems likely that the hearth is within a hut-circle.

#### CHAPEL HILL FARM, GLENCAPLE

NY/010678. General Scott-Elliot also established the existence of an apparently rectangular cobbled structure shewing post-holes and a shallow ditch. The site is SW. of Chapel Hill Farm and above Kenneth Bank near Glencaple.

#### DINWOODIEGREEN, ANNANDALE

NY/107884. Messrs Cormack and Little of Lockerbie closely observed the Dinwoodiegreen site (D. & E. 1958, 18) as the new trunk road was being carried through it and obtained many more pieces of late 13th century pottery.

#### CARZIELD

Dumfries Burgh Museum carried out a small excavation in the rubbish spread just N. of Carzield fort and found about 50 pieces of amphora, several fragments of Samian ware, six pieces of cooking pot, several jar necks, many pieces of quern, several nails and an iron bracket, and two flat pieces of lead. All these were found in a large hearth which had been dug into the old soil-level and surrounded by three concentric rows of small sandstone slabs set on edge.

Mr J. Hope, Architect, made a plan of the structures shewing as parched marks in the main fort field.

In the E. of the county further work was done by Dr Reid in tracing the line of the probable Roman road up Eskdale and just over the border into Roxburghshire and in attempting to trace the continuation of the Raeburnfoot-Craik Cross road down the

Borthwick Water. At the moment it seems that the road traced down the upper Borthwick Water, across the valley from the modern road, is 18th century and it may be that the Craik Cross road strikes NE. across the high moors to Oakwood.

The site by the Borthwick Water opposite Borthwick Braes called "Africa" has been identified by Mr C. A. R. Radford as a motte and bailey. The site over a mile away shewn as "Africa" by the Ancient Monuments Commission is not known locally as such.

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## DUNBARTONSHIRE

DRUID TEMPLE, CASTLECARY GLEN,  
CUMBERNAULD

*From Mr R. G. Livens*

NS/783772. The Field Research Group, formed within the University of Glasgow to further the active study of Prehistoric Archaeology, undertook the excavation of a possible cairn-site from which the discovery of an "urn" is reported. The site is in the immediate vicinity of Cumbernauld New Town and consists of a group of four large erratic boulders which are surrounded by traces of Cairn material on top of a natural mound. Also on the mound are traces of stone dykes and walls, and a ruined gazebo or shooting box probably of 17th-18th century date.

So far the excavations have revealed no traces of any burial cairn, but a complex of heavily robbed stone walls and disturbed paving has been disclosed. Quantities of green-glazed pottery of, probably, 15th century date are associated with these structures.

## KIRKINTILLOCH

*From Rev. C. H. H. Scobie*

During the summer of 1958 digging was carried out in Kirkintilloch, in an area W. of the Peel Park. Previous digging here, on a limited scale, in 1953, had uncovered parts of the stone base of a wall. The 1958 excavations found further traces of stonework, though mostly in a poor state of preservation. Kerb stones were almost entirely lacking, but enough survives to shew that the wall could hardly be less than 15 ft. in width. For the first time on this site, a ditch was located, lying to the N. of the wall, and parallel to it. Although it was not possible to determine its exact width, since its presumed N. edge lies under a road, it appears to have been at least 35 ft. wide. The width of the berm is about 22 ft.

These dimensions and the character of the remains suggest most strongly that what we have there is the Antonine Wall and Ditch. The portions of stone base prove to be exactly in line with the section of wall previously discovered in the NW. corner of the Peel Park. This section too must be part of the

Antonine Wall which, as the 1958 digging confirmed, continues from the corner of the Peel Park in a SW. direction, and in a straight line, for at least 250 ft. Digging to the S. of the wall, however, failed to discover any trace of the fort which is known to have existed in this area.

The work during 1958 was carried out for the Hunterian Museum, with the assistance of students from Glasgow University, and with the kind co-operation of Miss Fletcher of "Sunnyside."

#### BEARSDEN

*From Master R. Haslam*

NS/535726. In September 1959 after a mechanical plough had turned over the clay-textured soil of a garden at Westbourne Crescent an iron knife 7½ ins. long was found about 9 ins. from the surface. The back of the garden is 105 ft. distant from the Antonine Wall, and ½ mile to the W. is Castle Hill fort.

The knife was cleaned at the Hunterian Museum but cannot certainly be identified as Roman.

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#### KINCARDINESHIRE

##### KEIR HOUSE, FORDOUN

*From Professor A. C. O'Dell*

Two fragments of rotary millstones were ploughed up in the area of a Roman camp. On inspection they were found to be of an age later than the Roman period.

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#### LANARKSHIRE

##### POLLOK ESTATE, GLASGOW

*From Mr A. H. Johnson*

NS/557627. In August 1959 the Glasgow Archaeological Society conducted the excavation of the earthwork in the North Wood of Pollok Estate.

A platform about 100 ft. across is enclosed by a ditch with upcast banks on its inner and outer sides. To the E. the ditch is interrupted by a wide embanked entrance causeway; there is another less definite break to the NW. and the ditch had been roughly bridged by a secondary mound at the W. edge of the site.

In investigating the defences and the peripheral part of the platform in the N. half of the monument, a rough but substantial inner foundation kerb of stone was found under the inner bank. The entrance way was furnished with heavy paving for its full width and was also demarcated laterally by kerbs.

A considerable part of the enclosure was roughly cobbled and, near the centre, part of a low stone foundation was discovered which apparently had been the rounded angle of a house floored with superior cobbling.

Small finds included a stone incompletely perforated from both sides, and a perforated shale disc. No pottery or any material of Roman or mediaeval associations was found.

#### FORTH

*From Mr J. G. Scott*

NS/9453. Mr R. Pillans of Musselburgh reports that a polished stone axehead 4½ ins. long by 2¼ ins. wide with squared sides was found a short distance to the W. of the sewage works at Forth.

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### MIDLOTHIAN

#### CORSTORPHINE

NT/194724. In a letter to the "Scotsman" on 1st July 1959 the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland stated that the supposed Roman fort on the Broomhall estate (D. & E., 1958, 22) had been independently examined, and unanimously rejected, by officers of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate, the National Museum of Antiquities and the Archaeological Division of the Ordnance Survey.

#### CRAMOND

*From Mr and Mrs Alan Rae*

Investigation of the Roman fort and its approaches by Moray House Archaeological Society continues. An area outside the E. rampart has yielded timber structures, a hearth, and pottery including hammerhead mortarium.

The road from the S. gate has been excavated for 400 yds. outside the fort and shews a width of 23 ft., metalling 1 ft. thick, kerb, gutter, and with amphora and cooking pot fragments trodden into the surface. Work has been completed on the granary and shews a loading platform.

Miss Craigie-Halkett, the owner of Cramond House, by whose kindness most of the discoveries were made possible, died in January. Her executors permitted work on a modest scale; her estate has now been purchased by Edinburgh Corporation who have offered full facilities.

#### GLADHOUSE RESERVOIR

*From Miss A. S. Henshall*

NT/298539. Mr Bolam Johnson reported a long cist exposed when the water level dropped during the summer drought. It is on the end of a low ridge, orientated NE.-SW. It is some distance away from the long cists found in 1903. (PSAS, XXXVIII, 96).

## PERTHSHIRE

*From Mrs M. E. C. Stewart*

### DALNAGLAR, BLACKLUNANS

*and Mr J. M. Coles*

NO/151643. Excavations financed by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the Department of Prehistoric Archaeology, Edinburgh University were resumed on the hut circle (D. & E., 1958, 29). The SW. quadrant was examined in four 14 ft. squares; about 1 ft. below the present surface and inside the circle there was found a greyish loam deposit containing carbon flecks. No hearth was discovered and only one post-hole appeared in the interior; it seems likely that the circle was not completely roofed.

The wall was mainly composed of a single line of large boulders packed with smaller stones and earth. The bulk of the wall material had fallen outwards and overlay most of the pottery finds.

The pottery adds one or two new types to the mass of material obtained last year.

Soil and pollen analyses are being undertaken by the Macaulay Institute.

### WOODSIDE, COUPAR ANGUS

*From Mr W. Davidson*

There was found on a holding a sterling struck at Mons for John D'Avennes sometime between 1284 and 1304 as Count of Hainault.

### BALBEGGIE

During potato harvesting at Frankley Den Farm, in a field which had not been ploughed within living memory, there was found a carved stone ball with six projecting plain discs.

### HILLOCKS OF GOURDIE

*From Mr J. Barwick*

Two pieces of amphora were discovered in a newly ploughed field at Hillocks of Gourdie Farm. This site, which has never been excavated, lies two miles N. of Inchtuthill and is alongside the so-called Steed Stalls, within the area recognised by Professor Richmond and Dr St. Joseph as the probable site of a Roman fort.

### INCHTUTHILL

*From Professor I. A. Richmond*

The fragments are now in the Central Museum, Dundee.

Excavations were continued at Inchtuthill by Professor I. A. Richmond and Dr J. K. St. Joseph in 1959. The system of colonnaded store-rooms flanking the *via praetoria* was traced on either side of the street from the *porta praetoria* to the junction with the *via principalis*. On the east side of the *via praetoria* the

colonnade and series of store-rooms were broken by the insertion of a gravelled courtyard 40 ft. wide and 45 ft. from back to front, out of which opened an aisled hall 40 ft. wide and 85 ft. long. This was flanked by rooms, of varying width, at back and sides, while the front was occupied by a porch opening on to the courtyard. The building compares closely with a larger structure in not dissimilar position in the legionary fortress at Chester, and may be interpreted as a *schola*. Behind the store-rooms further south the granary and barracks partly revealed by air-photography in 1949 were checked for size and position. The corresponding space west of the *via praetoria* was not filled by a granary, but the six barracks still further west were traced, thus completing the picture of the barracks in the *praetentura*. Of the total of 64 barracks, 58 have now been traced, leaving six to come in the north-west angle of the fortress.

#### EAST LIX, KILLIN

*From Dr H. Fairhurst*

NN/555302. An extensive settlement, comprising five or six clusters of ruined dwellings, is located E. of the road from Glen Ogle just before its junction with the Killin-Tyndrum road at Lix Toll. Depopulation seems to have occurred about a century ago but the old houses, roads, field dykes, etc., are still clearly recognisable. Under the direction of Mr G. Petrie, students from the Geography Department, Glasgow University, have been constructing a detailed map of the area. With Dr Proudfoot's help, some excavation was carried out in a characteristic dwelling, a house just over 50 ft. long. It was found that the dry-stone walls had been plastered internally with clay. The hearth was centrally placed in an earth floor and the living quarters were not clearly divided from the byre which most unexpectedly proved to occupy the upper end of the long house. In spite of the dilapidated appearance, there was nothing to shew that the house was built much, if at all, before 1800 A.D., though it clearly had replaced some older structure represented by pits and hollows beneath the floor. From the pavement, in which they had been re-used, came two complete matching quern stones.

Next season it is hoped to excavate the foundations of more primitive dwellings on the site which probably were in occupation from at least the 16th century.

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#### RENFREWSHIRE

##### EAGLESHAM

*From Mr F. Newall*

NS/58424795, NS/58374812 and NS/58994708. Three hill-top mounds, of the Topfaulds Hill type, have been located by Miss E. B. Rennie and Messrs H. M. Sinclair and F. Newall.

All the mounds are about 20 ft. in overall diameter with a 9ft. hollow at the centre and are entered from the E. by a narrow passage. It was previously suggested that these were probably height marks replacing stone hill-top cairns. It now seems more likely that these were shepherds' look-out shelters.

NS/58224759. Built into a mass of scree are two hut circles, 11 ft. and 12 ft. in diameter. Around the SE. and E. sides may be traced a sporadic line of boulders which may indicate an enclosure. Patterns in the dense scree suggest that further huts may exist.

NS/58754812. A turf circle 38 ft. in diameter with a slight ditch hollow 9 ft. wide around it.

NS/58524811. A turf circle 47 ft. in diameter with no trace of surrounding ditch.

NS/57344705. The O.S. Trig cairn lies near the centre of an earlier low spreading cairn 65-70 ft. in diameter. Around it are the remains of a circular sheep reive. The cairn, constructed of small stones as compared with the heavy scree boulders on the N. face of the hill, has all the appearance of a Bronze Age burial mound. Downhill round the NW. corner a line of single boulders en arc appear to be concentric with it.

NS/56804740. Here the entire plan of a 17th-18th century hill croft can be clearly traced, including a D shaped enclosure alongside the farmhouse, yard, and enclosed grazing contained within a turf mound which swings round the foot of the hill from E. to S.

#### GREENOCK

##### LURG MOOR ROMAN FORTLET

NS/295737. The area to the S. and W. of the fortlet appears to have been occupied as an annexe. S. of the fortlet and along the N. side of the marsh is a line of heavy stones which may have formed part of a rampart. The remains of an earth mound running N.-S. may mark the W. limit of the annexe.

NS/295736. Immediately SW. of the fortlet were found about a dozen fragments of Antonine cooking ware.

#### GREENOCK

NS/297737. E. of Lurg Roman fortlet is a round house 27-30 ft. in diameter within a 5-6 ft. thick wall. A 6 ft. wide entrance in the E. is covered by a wall which runs diagonally across it for 18 ft. from the S. side of the entrance. To the W. about an acre of ground, now reclaimed by heather, is partly enclosed by a widely spread earth wall.

NS/296733. 8 ft. S. of Lurg Hut A was found a scraper of smoky white flint, struck from a pebble. Within the hut was found a fine fractured stone disc. From the moor to the N. were collected a number of pieces of worked quartz, a scraper of jasper, a flake of chert, and a fragment of chalcedony. A barbed and tanged flint arrowhead, of Bronze Age date, was also found.

#### COPLIE BURN

NS/31576561. 300 yds. downstream from Coplie Burn Homestead there was recovered from a sheep scrape a chert scraper similar to that from Lurg Moor. From this general locality, "Duchal Moor above Newtonhead," a fine flint axe was recovered by Mr W. Cowan about 1895-1900 and exhibited in Kilmalcolm School but thereafter lost.

NS/37707040. Just within the moor surface was found a small steatite whetstone.

#### NETHER BROADFIELD STEADING

NS/40205882. Robert Barrowman of Lochwinnoch J.S. School produced a brown flint end scraper  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. by 1 in. which was found by him when weeding outside the stable door of the steading. A graver of the same flint was also handed in; this was probably found some time ago in the same area.

#### BURNBANK

NS/295684. Near Burnbank Hut A a small struck flake of white chert without secondary flaking, was found in a sheep scrape.

#### INVERKIP, GRYFE RESERVOIR

NS/28237147. Site A has been planned by Messrs R. G. Livens, H. M. Sinclair and F. Newall (D. & E., 1955, 25). It can now be seen that the settlement contains 16 hut circles, discounting 3 further outliers to the S., and that early field dykes are possibly to be associated with it.

*From Messrs F. Newall, H. M. Sinclair*

#### INVERKIP, GRYFE RESERVOIR

*and W. O. Black*

NS/26787178. At site B there is a croft complex situated on a low hill which is encircled by a much robbed turf and boulder dyke. The croft comprises a hut circle 14 ft. in diameter with, situated 93 ft. to the W., a larger circle which may have been a cattle pound. Here an original build 36 ft. in diameter has been intersected by a smaller build 26 ft. in diameter.



NS/26687199. At site C there is a similar croft site consisting of a circular hut but with the SE. corner squared. The hut is 25-26 ft. across and lies 106 ft. W. of a larger circle 35-39 ft. in diameter. S. of the hut and 10-12 ft. higher there is a field system roughly outlined by boulders. A central unit 58 ft. by 54 ft. is clear, but of two smaller enclosures on E. and W. the walling is confused.

NS/26397139. This reference shews a roughly D-shaped pound, 106 ft. E.-W. along the "diameter" and 78 ft. N.-S., contained by 6-7 ft. wide turf and boulder wall built against a low cliff.

#### HOUSTON

*From Mr F. Newall*

On the lands of West Glen are three cairns; (1) NS/37657015, a long cairn built downslope, the N. side being but little raised, the S. some 9-10 ft. high, 23 ft. by 16 ft. on level top and 40 ft. by 28 ft. at the base. (2) NS/37117010, a long cairn about 66 ft. by 42 ft., and (3) some 50 yards to the W. a round cairn about 30 ft. in diameter reared on a rocky knoll.

#### LOCH THOM, INVERKIP

NS/258732. A flint arrowhead of Bronze Age date, found at Loch Thom, was handed to the McLean Museum, Greenock, by the finder, Mr L. Scanlan.

#### AUCHENCLOICH, KILBARCHAN

NS/365638. Alexander McIntyre, a pupil in Lochwinnoch J.S. School, has in his possession a slate green claystone polished axe, which was found at Auchencloich by Mr Wm. McPherson.

#### KILMACOLM

*Located by Mr W. O. Black*

NS/297722. A green hillock comprises a rectangular build 22 ft. by 18 ft.; an apsidal build of outstanding large stones N. of a very markedly hollow rectangle, 17 ft. 6 ins. by 14 ft.; and a rectangular build 22 ft. by 15 ft. with, possibly, internal cross divisions.

NS/29647234. A similar green hillock with aligned stones but too disturbed and buried for definition.

NS/299725. A large boulder-walled circular enclosure, distinctly hollow at the centre, overall diameter 31-32 ft., internal diameter 20-25 ft. On the E. side there is an entrance 8 ft. wide and S. of a projecting wall tumble which runs out 28 ft. to the E. from the N. side of the entrance.

NS/30007258. Hut circle 16 ft. in diameter.

NS/292729. Large circle, 32 ft. overall diameter, 25 ft. internal diameter.

NS/29857180. Green mound with suggestions of alignment. It may be a sub-rectangular build with outer containing wall, or a disturbed circular mound 25 ft. across.

NS/35067228. The small fort, 102 ft. by 54-74 ft., has been planned by Messrs F. Newall and W. O. Black.

NS/34586605. A small crag fort, 206 ft. by 135-160 ft., containing a house, 40 ft. by 30 ft., has been planned by Messrs F. Newall and W. O. Black.

#### LOCHWINNOCH

NS/34655824. A high rectangular hillock, cut off from almost ground level to the E. by a depression, and approached from lower ground on the W. by a path which follows the crest of a rampart is possibly the original Barr Castle Motte.

NS/35456138. In the angle of the Kilmacolm-Lochwinnoch road and the branch road to Kame Farm a circular crop mark appeared toward the end of June and was fully developed by Mid-July. The mark was 15-20 ft. broad and 150-200 ft. across. The area contained a confused mass of crop marks.

NS/38085686. On information from Mr A. W. Miller a small stone trough at the roadside below West Burnthills was visited. The perfectly bowl-shaped finely-pitted trough measured 1 ft. 6 ins. across and had slightly curved sides and rounded corners. It bore a mason's mark 1XX and may be of 16th-17th century date.

#### KNOCKMADE HILL, LOCHWINNOCH

*From Mr R. G. Livens*

NS/352618. A fortnight's excavations on Knockmade Hill was undertaken for the Hunterian Museum. The site is a group of circular banks within an enclosing bank about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles N. of Lochwinnoch; these surface indications suggested the presence of a farmstead presumably of Early Iron Age date.

Preliminary investigation has led, so far, to the following conclusions:—

(1) The surrounding bank was apparently a substantial structure containing some quantities of stonework.

(2) Within the enclosed area was a large hut approximately circular in ground plan with a diameter of some 40 ft. The extant remains consist of ruined stone wall-footings on a circular plan, with post-holes apparently associated with them. The interior area of the hut was divided approximately into two parts, the one

nearer the door being at a slightly lower level and more roughly cobbled; it may have been a byre. The second part of the hut was floored with cobbles and gravel and had, in the approximate centre of the hut, an almost circular hearth, surrounded by a stone kerb; past the hearth ran a stone-covered drain.

(3) There is, as yet, no evidence as to the date of the site; the only datable finds indicate that the surrounding bank was probably ruined in pre-mediaeval times. Finds from the hut consist of quantities of charcoal from the wall-footings and some minute fragments of burnt bone. A further season of excavation is planned for 1960.

#### CRAIGBET

*From Mrs A. Hallifax Craeford*

Rediscovery of a sundial. The following is an extract from Timothy Pont's "Ayrshire," p. 164; edited by Dobie:—

"An old sundial which stood in the garden at Giffen Castle was sold when the Castle was unroofed. After passing to several places in the parish it is now preserved at Crumnock, Beith. The capital of its horizontal plane is divided by volutes between which a lion's head alternates with a rose."

This sundial has now been found at Craigbet, Renfrewshire, once the home of Gabriel Semple in the 16th century and now the residence of Mrs Watson.

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#### STIRLINGSHIRE

##### SILVER ROW, FALKIRK

*From Miss D. M. Hunter*

In the spring of 1959 excavations were made in Silver Row S. of its junction with Horsemarket Lane to see if there was any trace of a town wall alluded to in the 17th century. At three points on the W. side of the Row, wall footings were found which appeared to be not later than two other successive foundations on this side. At the point where it was best preserved, 50 ft. from Horsemarket Lane, it was found to be made of shaped boulders and to be 2 ft. 9 ins. wide. In the circumstances it seems most probable that the wall belonged to Rashiehill House, a 17th century mansion on this site of which no other trace was found.

##### STENHOUSEMUIR

*From Miss D. M. Hunter*

During the summer of 1959 a sandpit was extended over the greater part of a field in Stenhousemuir where a kiln and other traces of pottery manufacture were found in 1954. A considerable quantity of mediaeval sherds, some of which found their way to

the Museum in Falkirk, was found in pits, top sand and top soil, and certain unexpected groups of large stones were observed during the removal of top soil by employees of Mr P. Buchanan, without whose constant assistance and guardianship nothing could have been achieved. Three kilns built in shallow pits were found lying in line. There was also found one domestic (?) hearth.

The first kiln, on a N.-S. axis was damaged in discovery and destroyed by children during an early stage of the excavation.

The second kiln, of pointed oval form 6 ft. 6 ins. long was one course high of boulders and clay packing; under its level clay floor there was a second steeply concave "floor" of ashy sand, with, on the S., its own stokehole below the southern flue of the main floor. The intermediate fill contained two complete vessels. The deposit in the kiln included much pottery embedded in soft clay.

The third kiln stood at one point to five courses high; it retained at the N. end two boulders forming an arch over the stokehole or flue, and a packing of clay and stones *in situ* sealing each end. Both pits and their extension down one side of the kiln were excavated; that on the N. had a wide shelf or shallower flat-bottomed pit beside it, and a lower step; that on the S. was also roughly stepped. In the base of both pits and on and under the sills at each end was a quantity of carbonised matter, much of it fibrous.

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## S H E T L A N D

### ST. NINIAN'S ISLE

*From Professor A. C. O'Dell*

HU/367207. During a season which lasted from June 22nd-August 15th 1959, clearance was completed within the nave of the church and also over an area about 100 yds. by 12 yds. immediately to the S. of the church. The main finds were as follows:—

(a) The lower courses of the Pre-Norse church at 3 ft. 2 ins. below the mediaeval foundation. This was found in the S. end of the nave, and the angle of the inner face of this wall, which had been plastered, has been kept open for inspection by a locked hatch.

(b) A complex of Iron Age structures immediately below the pre-Norse church level. This complex rested on gley at a depth of about 6 ft. below the mediaeval foundation.

(c) Immediately S. of the chancel four graves with kerb stones and foot stones but no head stones were found, at the same level as the pre-Norse church. These graves had not been disturbed by

later burials and have been left exposed at the close of the season as they can be reasonably dated to the Dark Ages.

(d) To the W. and S. of (c) were a group of Iron Age graves which centred on a crouched burial of late Bronze Age type. The whole is resting on a midden which contains a great quantity of whelks, dog whelks, limpets, a few oyster shells and a considerable number of small white quartz pebbles.

The nave has been filled again with sand in order to preserve the mediaeval walls, but the pit to the S. has been rimmed with a dry stone dyke and the surface turfed to protect it during the winter. A plan is being placed on the site to help visitors.

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## SUTHERLAND

DUN PHAIL, GARTYMORE, HELMSDALE *From Miss A. S. Henshall*

ND/015139. This monument is listed as a "site" in the Inventory of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (No. 387) as there is no structure visible on the ground; it is reputed to have been partly destroyed for making the harbour of Helmsdale towards the end of last century. It is situated at the very edge of the precipitous scarp dropping to the coast; inland the ground rises gently and is cultivated in long strips so that soil has shifted down to the edge of the scarp and is very deep there. In clearing the ground of stones early this year Mr J. G. Murray has exposed a convex wall-face for about 4 ft., the main feature being a tall boulder on end, about 4 ft. high, with irregular boulders on either side set in two courses, the interstices filled with careful walling of thin slabs. There is a great deal of stone tumble outside the wall-face.

Mr Murray found pieces of a small triangular crucible, iron bloom, a bone pin, and animal bones.

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## WIGTOWNSHIRE

ANNAT HILL

*From Mr A. E. Truckell*

NX/464385. The "fort" site on the S. end of the grassy ridge of Annat Hill on Comford Farm was examined and found to be a rectangular structure about 80 ft. by 50 ft. with a rubble bank much ploughed away. It seems likely that this site is mediaeval or later.

From .

## Scotland : Aerial Discoveries

Dr J. K. St. Joseph

Among the most interesting discoveries made from the air is the recognition of a considerable number of prehistoric native sites, settlements and small hill-forts, seen in terms of crop-marks, in East Lothian and Berwickshire, as listed below :—

One-inch sheet	Site	N.G.R.
S75	Enclosure, 1½m. W. of Spott, E. Lothian	652753
"	Enclosure, ¼m. NW. of Spott, E. Lothian	665757
"	Enclosure, 2¼m. SSW. of Dunbar, E. Lothian	690757
"	Enclosure, Doon Hill, ¼m. F. of Spott	686754
"	Enclosure, SE. of Innerwick, E. Lothian	725734
"	Enclosure, ¾m. SE. of Innerwick, E. Lothian	732734
"	Enclosure, Greenwood, 4¼m. WSW. of Coldingham, Berwickshire	835644
"	Enclosure, 1m. NNW. of Reston, Berwicks.	874635
"	Enclosure, East Reston, 1¼m. ESE. of Reston, Berwicks.	809615
"	Enclosure, 1¼m. SE. of Reston, Berwicks	903604
"	Ring ditches, Ayton, Berwicks.	919615
"	Enclosure, Ayton, Berwicks.	919612

## Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments

From Mr S. H. Cruden, Inspector of

CLATCHARD CRAIG, FIFE

Ancient Monuments for Scotland

Mr R. Hope Simpson undertook a first season of rescue excavation on the hill-fort of Clatchard Craig near Newburgh.

Sections were cut through the ramparts on the S. and W. sides. The innermost rampart, 11 ft. wide, was stone-faced at back and front. Two transverse timbers were found in the structure. The next rampart in the outward sequence was 11-12 ft. wide, again faced with stone at back and front. The front face was preserved to a height of 4 ft. at one point. In the make-up of this rampart was a masonry block with adherent mortar in which were several fragments of tile. Underneath the rampart was a layer of carbonised brushwood. The third rampart, about 14 ft. wide, had also been built on a layer of timber and brushwood. Transverse timbers were found within this rampart and at one point the stones were vitrified. In the cutting on the west side a billet of timber was found outside the front face.

Finds included pottery, moulds, querns and iron objects.

### LOCHLOY, NAIRN

The North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board reported the find of human remains made when digging a pole pit near the farm of Lochloy. Five adults and a child were represented in the

bones recovered. Examination of the site shewed midden material and a small fragment of wall. It is possible that there may have been a hut circle on the site. There was nothing to indicate date.

#### KILDRUMMY CASTLE, ABERDEENSHIRE

The objects of the 1959 excavation season were to discover the nature and sequence of the defensive and other structures in front (i.e. S.) of the existing gatehouse.

These were found to be (in succession from N. to S.):—

- i The foundations of the fore-part of the gatehouse.
- ii A stone built drain running S. from the gatehouse pit.
- iii The foundations of an 8 ft. thick fore-wall or outer curtain.
- iv A 60 ft. ditch deepened towards the castle to form in effect a ditch within the ditch.
- v A bank overlying a shallow marker trench.

The drain was contemporary with the gatehouse pit and post-dated the fore-wall which was in ruin at the time the drain was built. The ditch was of one build in spite of its profile but contained the remains of a secondary feature, probably the foundation of a bridge pier. The relationship between drain, fore-wall and ditch was not finally established.

Excavation will continue in this area in 1960.

#### ROUGH CASTLE, STIRLINGSHIRE

In July and August 1959 the investigation of timber buildings in the western half of the *praetentura* continued. As in previous years, the progress of the work was impeded by the disturbances caused by the 1903 excavation. A sequence was established of temporary structures succeeded by substantial timber-framed buildings. The final evaluation of the work must await the next season of excavation in 1960.

#### TENTFIELD PLANTATION, STIRLINGSHIRE (Section through Antonine Wall)

A high-pressure gas pipe line planned by the Gas Board was routed to cross the Antonine Wall about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile E. of the annexe of Rough Castle (G.R. 846800), in the Tentfield Plantation. After discussion with the Ministry of Works it was agreed that the point of crossing should be dug as an archaeological section through the rampart, ditch and upcast mound of the Wall. Labour was generously provided by the Gas Board to cut a trench 200 ft. long. The precise form of the ditch and the detailed composition of the rampart and the upcast mound was established, and a section was drawn under the supervision of Miss A. S. Robertson of the Hunterian Museum. The section will be published in the

**CAERLAVEROCK CASTLE. DUMFRIESSHIRE**

**EXCAVATION OF ANCIENT BRIDGES 1959**

Excavation at Caerlaverock, in progress since 1955, was in 1959 concentrated in the area N. of the gatehouse. The abutments of the existing 19th century bridge were removed in the course of clearance down to the rock-cut bottom of the inner moat. Substantial remains of four ancient timber bridges were discovered.

The earliest bridge, contemporary with the construction of the castle in the late 13th century, had consisted of three wooden piers supporting four bridge spans, the southernmost of which had been a movable span leading into the gatehouse. The upright members and struts of the piers had been morticed into base-plates laid on the rock. These base-plates, timbers up to 27 ft. long by 11-14 ins. square, survived intact with the stumps of uprights remaining in some of the mortices.

Several other fragments of the first bridge were found in the silt which accumulated in the moat. During the active history of the castle from the 13th century until the siege in 1640 the moat was never cleared out, and the base-plates of the three bridges which succeeded the first were laid at increasingly higher levels in the silt: the fourth bridge was constructed on a surface over 4 ft. 6 ins. above the level of the original rock cutting.

The second bridge was erected as part of the reconstruction of the castle in the 15th century, when a forework was added to the face of the castle. The moat being thus narrowed, the spans were reduced in size: but the design of the second bridge is similar to that of the first with four spans of which the southernmost is a drawbridge: The housing and the lifting mechanism of the drawbridge are still apparent in the gatehouse forework.

The third bridge was almost identical with the second, and was presumably constructed in the late 15th or early 16th centuries. Substantial portions of the superstructure of the third bridge were recovered, and it should be possible to make reconstruction drawings of the superstructure of the fixed spans of the bridge.

The fourth bridge is contemporary with the late 16th century construction of outworks to the castle for defence against artillery. On a smaller scale than the earlier bridges, it was approached by a stone causeway from the north, which reduced the number of spans to three. This bridge continued in use until 1640.

The excavation yielded many finds besides the remains of the major structures. Objects dropped or thrown from the bridges



had been preserved in the silt, and a great variety of objects of leather and wood were recovered, as well as a remarkable group of tools and weapons.

The programme of excavation will continue in 1960.

#### **BROUGH OF BIRSAY, ORKNEY**

A further season of excavation was again supervised by Mr C. A. R. Radford who reports as follows :

The excavation of the Pictish and Norse site on the Brough of Birsay was continued by the Ministry of Works. The N. side of the Pictish cashel wall was traced and found to lie near the outer wall of the 12th century Bishop's Palace. The Pictish levels had been largely destroyed by the Norse builders. It was established that the cells of the Pictish monks had lain on this side, under the palace, but no plan could be recovered owing to the later levelling of the area. Site D, an isolated Norse dwelling NW. of the Cathedral was also explored. The walls had been exposed before 1939. A careful clearance of the interior disclosed the post-holes of the roofs of three different houses, which succeeded each other in the same area. The whole series belonged to the 9th, 10th and early 11th centuries. The permanent layout of the site has now been begun and the Norse level restored over the W. part of the cemetery and the area of the Bishop's Palace.

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### ***Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Scotland)***

*From Dr K. A. Steer, Secretary*

This year the Commission has published an account of the carved medallion from the roof of the King's Presence Chamber at Stirling Castle, under the title *The Stirling Heads* (see Bibliography, p. 48). Further progress has been made with the survey of monuments in Peeblesshire, and a start has been made with the Inventory of Argyllshire.

Details of excavations carried out by the Commission's staff are given below.

#### **LYNE, PEEBLESSHIRE**

NT/1840. A section cut through the E. defences of the Roman fort at Lyne revealed only a single structural period, which, on the evidence of the pottery, is probably of late Antonine date. Early Antonine occupation of the site may therefore be restricted to the fortlet discovered a short distance to the

N. of the fort by Dr St. Joseph. This was examined by Mr and Mrs R. W. Feachem and proved to measure 90 ft. square internally. It has, however, been almost completely destroyed by ploughing, and no dateable material was found within it.

#### CARDON, PEEBLESSHIRE

NT/106328. A homestead of early Iron Age date, discovered on National Survey Air Photographs, was excavated by Mr and Mrs R. W. Feachem. The enclosure proved to consist of a stout wooden fence set in a continuous, narrow trench and having an in-turned entrance. There was evidence that the area enclosed had been slightly increased at a time of reconstruction. Of the two circular wooden buildings within the enclosure, one was completely, and the other partly, uncovered. The frame of the former was found to have been supported by 10 posts set on the circumference of a circle, outside which was a slight intermittent depression. A fire pit lay in the E. sector and the entrance in the N.-W. Finds consisted entirely of stone implements.

#### LOUR, PEEBLESSHIRE

NT/179357. In the second fortnight of July excavations were begun by Messrs J. G. Dunbar and G. D. Hay on a house lying within the supposed site of the old village of Lour. The western half of the house was exposed and it was found that the walls, which were of rubble laid in clay mortar, remained to a maximum height of about 2 ft. It is hoped to determine the internal arrangements of the house by completing the excavation of the eastern half of the building next year. A provisional interpretation of the finds, which include pottery, glass and ironwork, indicates that the house was occupied in the 17th and 18th centuries, but the discovery of an unstratified fragment of a glass armlet lends support to the theory that the earthworks that surround the village are of Early Iron Age date.

#### STANHOPE, PEEBLESSHIRE

NT/117291. Excavations were carried out by Mr A. MacLaren on the dun known as "Norman's Castle." A section was cut across the outer ditch and rampart, and the entrance passage and interior of the dun were completely cleared. A number of post-holes were found in the interior and the finds included a bronze penannular brooch and an assortment of whetstones and "pot-boilers."

#### CAMELON, STIRLINGSHIRE

NS/8581. During excavations for a storage tank at the Gothic Works, a pit containing a small group of Agricolan pottery

was discovered close to the north rampart of the Flavian fort. At the invitation of the owners of the Gothic Works, Messrs R. & A. Main, Ltd., Mr MacLaren cut a trial trench in the area, only to find that modern levelling had completely removed the Roman surface.

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## ***Archaeology Division, Ordnance Survey***

*From Mr A. L. F. Rivet, Assistant  
Archaeology Officer*

As explained in last year's report, the programme of the Archaeology Division has to be related to that of the Ordnance Survey as a whole. Accordingly our work during the past year has been concerned with a number of diverse areas, ranging from Durness in the N. to Northumberland in the S. At the large scale (25 ins. to the mile), antiquities have been investigated and surveyed in parts of Fife, Stirling, Lanark, Ayrshire and Kintyre; and at the medium scale (6 ins. to the mile) in Sutherland and in the so-called "Moffat Block" on the borders of Lanark, Peebles and Dumfries.

As might be expected, new discoveries are most numerous in the 6 in. areas. This is especially so in the case of Durness, where the known antiquity content of the very few sheets so far investigated has been raised by one half. A much larger area, stretching from Cape Wrath to Helmsdale, is scheduled for re-survey next year. A list of the more important new discoveries is given below.

During the year amendments have been made at reprint to the following sheets in the Seventh Series of the One-Inch Map: 46, 47, 55, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66, 71 and 76. Further sheets have been published in the Provisional (National Grid Sheet Lines) Edition of the Six-Inch, which now extends up the east coast to Caithness; and two sheets of the new edition of the quarter-inch map are at present in hand.

Once again we would like to thank our honorary correspondents in different parts of Scotland for their continuing assistance.

NGR	County bin.	Parish	Location	Character
<b>DURNESS BLOCK</b>				
NC 468589	Sutherland	15SE	Durness	West of Loch Hope
NC 469588				Chambered Cairn (?)
NC 468590				Round Cairn
NC 458457	Sutherland	33SE		Broch
			Alltnacaillich	Cairns and Hut Circles
<b>MOFFAT BLOCK</b>				
NT 092274	Peebles	19NE	Drumelzier	Glenkerie Burn
NT 063219	Peebles	23NW	Tweedsmuir	Glenwhappen Burn
NT 085234	Peebles	23NE	Tweedsmuir	Nether Rigs
NS 972221	Lanark	47NE	Crawford	Normangill
NS 978163	Lanark	50NE	Crawford	Paddy's Rickle
NT 028119	Dumfries	9NW	Moffat	Urchin Knowe (S. of deserted farm)
NT 069114	Dumfries	9SW	Moffat	SW of Erickstane
NT 045069	Dumfries	16NW	Moffat	Middlegill
NT 046062			Kirkpatrick Juxta	Earthworks
NY 047952	Dumfries	33NW	Johnstone	Enclosure
				Fort
				Enclosure
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
NS 851665	Lanark	9NW	Shotts	Cairn
NS 852663				Homestead

#### NEW DISCOVERIES, 1958/59.

An additional stretch of the Roman Road heading from West Plein towards Camelon has been located and surveyed; this passes to the east of Torwood Castle.

We have been unable to trace published references to any of the sites listed above and should be grateful for any that can be supplied.

# ***The Scottish National Buildings Record***

(MINISTRY OF WORKS)

*From Miss C. H. Cruft,*

*Officer-in-Charge*

The Scottish National Buildings Record was established to compile a complete record of architecture in Scotland by means of photographs and measured drawings, to maintain a library in which the above records are available to the public for consultation, to supply the public with photographs when the negatives are available, to maintain an index of architectural records, measured drawings, photographs and engravings in public and private possession and to assist the study of buildings of all periods.

Although the Buildings Record collection is slowly growing there are still large omissions in what should be the basic material of the Record such as systematic photography of Churches and Dovecots. It is hoped that during the next year a start will be made in this direction.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

During the last exceptional summer a great deal of photographic work has been carried out, the most important of which has been the commencement of the systematic photography of the Provisional lists of Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest compiled by the Department of Health. The areas which have been covered are Lerwick, Lochmaben, Nairn, Grantown-on-Spey, Burghead, Rothes, Macduff, Gardenstown and Lossiemouth, Elgin and Glasgow (partial surveys). Those areas covered in Moray and Nairn include towns where a certain amount of demolition is forthcoming due to road widening. In future our recording will be largely influenced by the above lists, unless we are called away to cover a demolition or other emergency.

Among the principal houses photographed are the following :—

NEWHAILES, Midlothian (c. 1730-40). Hall by William Adam c. 1740. Complete photographic survey including details of the smallest architectural features.

LEUCHIE, East Midlothian (1777 with large additions of 1850). Complete survey of exteriors and main rooms.

CESSNOCK CASTLE, Ayrshire (16th and 17th century). Complete exterior and interior survey, including the fine 17th century painted ceiling.

GARDEN, Stirlingshire (1830 addition to an 18th century). William Stirling of Dunblane, an architect unknown to us until now. Complete survey.

BRODICK CASTLE, Bute (17th century with large addition by James Gillespie Graham in 1844). National Trust for Scotland. Complete survey exterior and interior.

Much has also been done in the partial recording of a large number of other properties including Rankeillor, Fife, classic with early 20th century additions; Culzean Castle (Camelia House, Swan Cottage and Aviary) Robert Adam 1777; Mounteviot, Roxburghshire, 18th century with large 19th century additions; Ancrum House, Roxburghshire, c. 1885; Ferniehurst Castle, Roxburghshire, late 16th and early 17th century; Avontoun, West Lothian, late 18th century; Inverleith House, Edinburgh, David Henderson, Architect, 1774; Greenlaw Town Hall, Berwickshire, John Cunningham, architect, 1829-31; and Polmont Park, West Lothian (demolished), c. 1800 with later additions.

A number of other subjects were also photographed including Mausoleums, Farmhouses and Summer Houses.

We also received through the generosity of his widow, the negative collection of the late Mr H. D. Wylie comprising about 1,000 negatives of buildings in and around Edinburgh.

The Ministry of Works photographic section presented us with a number of old negatives taken about 1885 including a number of houses demolished before the war.

## RESEARCH

Additions have also been made to the Scottish National Buildings Record plan collection. With the help of Sir John Clerk of Penicuik and H.M. Register House, we were able to have three sketch books of plans and elevations by James Adam photographed, and a few drawings made by his brother Robert in Italy were also photographed, a very valuable addition to our already interesting collection of Adam material available for research.

Mr James Stirling of Garden loaned the original plans of Garden to be copied, and the Buchanan Estate Office sent four drawings by Sir Charles Barry of a reconstruction for Old Buchanan House which was never carried out; these were also copied.

Berwickshire County Council loaned the original drawings of Greenlaw Town Hall also for copying.

Additions to the Scottish National Buildings Record from any source will always be welcome, especially any material, photographs or drawings, of demolished houses, as yet unrepresented in our collection.

# A Scottish Bibliography for 1959\*

This section has been compiled by Mr R. B. K. Stevenson

The following abbreviations are used:—

<i>AAC</i>	Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History Society's Collections.
<i>AHR</i>	Agricultural History Review
<i>AIF</i>	Arbok hins Islenska Fornleifafelags, Reykjavik
<i>Ant. J</i>	Antiquaries Journal
<i>BNJ</i>	British Numismatic Journal
<i>BOEC</i>	Book of the Old Edinburgh Club
<i>HBNC</i>	History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club
<i>HMSO</i>	H.M. Stationery Office
<i>PPS</i>	Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society
<i>PSAS</i>	Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
<i>TDGAS</i>	Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society

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