

ART. XVI.—*Some Prehistoric remains in North Lonsdale.*

By H. SWAINSON COOPER.

Read at Kendal, Sept. 8, 1886.

THE part of Lancashire usually known as North Lonsdale is, as it is almost unnecessary to say here, the district which is separated from the rest of the county by Morecambe Bay. Great part of it is occupied by a range of moors called Furness Fells, and its position is one that might be expected to prove a fruitful field of exploration to the prehistoric antiquary, but it possesses few of those great megalithic monuments or tumuli which usually induce archæologists and antiquaries to search in the neighbourhood for remains, and hence the results have not as yet been great.

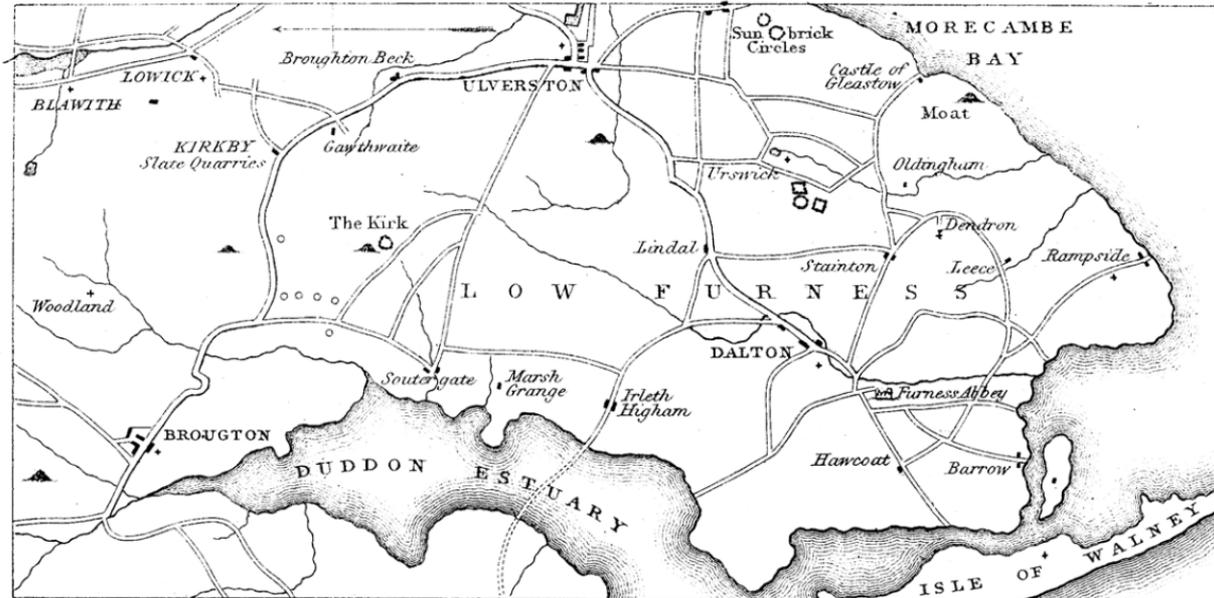
Prehistoric remains may be classed into megalithic monuments; tumuli, cairns, dykes, &c.; stone and bronze implements; personal ornaments; urns, cups, &c.; of megalithic monuments, there is in this district an unwanted scarcity. The finest specimen in the neighbourhood is, I may almost say unfortunately, outside the range of this paper being the beautiful and well preserved circle at Swineside. This circle however I need hardly say, has been thoroughly described by various authorities.* Returning however, at Swarthmoor there are remains that are well worthy of our notice.

The object of this paper being rather to collect and condense evidences of these remains for the help of antiquaries, than to discuss, or speculate upon their uses, I have considered it better to give a brief account extracted from a paper in the *Archæologia* which consists of a letter

* These Transactions vol. v. p. 47. *Journal British Archæ. Association* vol. xxxiv. pp. 31-36.

ANTIQUITIES IN FURNESS COMMONLY ASCRIBED TO THE DRUIDICAL PERIOD.

Archeologia vol. lxxi, p. 448.



The Carns are distinguished thus ▲
The Stone Circles &c. ○

J. Busire sc.

in Vol. 31 by Mr. Chas. Jopling, describing the remains commonly ascribed to the Druidical period in the part of Lancashire called Furness.

Mr. Jopling says, referring to a map of Furness, which illustrates his paper and which by the kind permission of the Society of Antiquaries is here reproduced.

Within this space we count five of those structures usually denominated temples; four or five large cairns; two large barrows and several smaller ones; cromlechs; and stone hammers have been found in abundance.

These remains consist of :

- (1). An oblong enclosure with a good cromlech situated near the centre.
- (2). A remarkable wheel-shaped enclosure, the encompassing wall of which is 10 ft. thick.
- (3). An irregular four sided figure nearly approaching a square of 215 ft., in the middle of which a quarry has been worked.
- (4). Another cromlech.
- (5). The Sunbrick circles on Birkkrigg Hill overlooking Bardsey, which are two in number; close to them is a British camp called Appleby Slack.

Mr. Jopling also says, that on Kirby Moor there is a circle called "the Kirk" where tradition says the Lord of the manor used to hold yearly sports. Close by there is a cairn. And lastly at Aldingham there is a moat or moat hill about 30 ft. in height and overlooking the sea.

There are many remains of which it is hard to say whether they are prehistoric or not: although the Aldingham moat hill was classed by Mr. Jopling as Druidical, it is really in all probability a Danish or Saxon thingmote or law court, and belongs to the same class as the Tynwald in the Isle of Man. Amongst the doubtful class may be placed the dykes on Torver Moor: a similar dyke passes close to the prehistoric cairn on Hawkshead Hall Park, whose opening I shall presently describe.

Mr.

Mr. Jopling likewise mentions tumuli at Heathwaite, Woodlands, Blawithknott, Broughton Moor, Penningtons, and Mountbarrow.

Stockdale, in his *Annals of Cartmel*, says that tradition speaks of a rocking stone on Hampsfield Fell near Cartmel, but, if so, it has long since disappeared.

With regard to cairns, tumuli, and other interments, there is a fair proportion, as at Torver Moor and other places before mentioned and no doubt many more exist in remote districts as yet unnoticed.

Few of these have been opened. In September 1883, however, I opened one situated on Hawkshead Moor, which, although the find was small, is worth recording. In the first place, I cut two trenches through it, the first revealing nothing but large stones about one and a half yards from the circumference. The second showed these stones to be part of a circle. I then excavated the corners formed by the crossing of the two trenches, and in the north-east of these I found the interment. It consisted of a rude square about 2 ft. 9 in. by 1 ft. 9 in. dug in the boulder clay beneath the filled in matter, and was covered by a large ice worn boulder. In this hole, I found mixed with soil, a deposit of calcined human bones, and a small but beautifully worked flint knife.

Interments are sometimes found without tumuli as at Ireleth, where eight urns of baked clay were found, each containing human bones arranged in a straight line north-east and south-west. Stockdale mentions a similar but smaller discovery.*

Menhirs and other single stones no doubt exist in the wilder districts of Furness, but probably would not be noticed, especially if fallen, when they assume the appearance of an ordinary glacial boulder.

Coming now to stone implements, consisting of celts,

* At Aynsome Lane, p. 251, *Annals of Cartmel*.

stone hammers (generally perforated), pestles, flint knives, arrow heads, scrapers, and smaller tools of various shapes, I may mention that examples of all these occur in this district with the exception of arrow heads and scrapers, but as an arrow head has been found in the adjacent hills of Westmorland, it seems probable that they exist also in Furness.

Of stone hammers I may say that several of these implements of the perforated type have been found in the lake district, but most of them have been lost again: my uncle Mr. J. C. Cowper, of Keenground, Hawkshead, has a very good specimen, which I exhibit, of the type 130 of Evans,* which he found in a ploughed field near Carke while out shooting. It shows considerable signs of abrasion at the pointed end. From Rusland I myself have, and now exhibit, a very fine specimen varying in type between Nos. 131 and 132 of Evans. From the hammering end of this specimen two large flakes have been removed, probably in use.

It is worthy also of remark, that a specimen almost identical in form was found at Troutbeck in 1884.

The Rev. Mr. Ellwood of Torver, has a small hammer head found in his parish identical with 156 of Evans; and Mr. Evans himself mentions a large perforated hammer found at Newby Bridge.

The next two specimens are both in my possession, and differ considerably in character from the ordinary hammer.

The first is a perforated stone adze, which was found while altering a road at Yewfield. This specimen is well preserved, but possesses one peculiarity. The hole is not bored straight through, but diagonally. This of course may be an accident or otherwise. The effect would be that the head would not sit straight on its shaft.

The second specimen I call a pestle, and it was found

* Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain.

at Bank Ground on the east margin of Coniston lake. It is about 8 in. long, narrow and light at one end, broad and heavy at the other, the narrow end having, as will be seen, a perforation suitable for suspending it by a string. One side is flat while the other is formed into two rounded ridges: the use this implement has been put to is to my mind very plain from the abrasion on one side of the thick end which is the side that would be worn when used by a right handed man. This specimen has been, I think, used for agricultural purposes, and is, so far as I know, the only specimen of the sort found in the district.*

Stockdale mentions stone and bronze implements found at Nuns Hill, Nab Green, Wraysholm, and Flookborough; with regard to celts, these also have been found in fair quantities in the district. Mr. Fildes of Lakeside has a very fine specimen from Syke Side farm near Hawkshead, similar to type 53 Evans. The Peel Park Museum Manchester, possesses a celt of dark grey diorite from the Ulverstone district.

In the Wray district not far from Ambleside, celts and hammers have been discovered by the Wilson family, while at High Haume near Ireleth, four celts were found together, one of which was polished, and the rest not.

Of the smaller stone implements such as knives, arrow heads, and scrapers, which are almost always composed of flint, I know of no discovery, except the flint knife found in the cairn which I opened on Hawkshead Hall Park. This however, although small, is an unusually fine specimen, being of better workmanship perhaps than any of those illustrated by Mr. Evans.

Of bronze implements I have heard of two discoveries only; in both cases they were celts. The localities were Gleaston and Kirkdale near Ulverstone.

† This specimen was exhibited before the Society of Antiquaries of London, on Thursday Dec. 16, 1886, and was pronounced by Mr. T. W. U. Robinson, F.S.A., to be a thatcher's mallet: it hangs by a string from the thatcher's waist, ready to his hand to beat the straw down with.

And

And here I may mention, what I cannot but think a remarkable discovery, which was made in a peat moss at Out Dubs near the foot of Esthwaite Lake, and which I believe to be of the prehistoric period. The peat diggers turned up about four feet from the surface six large objects of felt, not unlike in shape to those large wide brimmed felt hats so much in vogue for lawn tennis a few years ago. This discovery took place in 1867. Mr. Postlewaite of the Sun Hotel, Hawkshead, has told me that when they were discovered they were decided to be Covenanters' hats, but for my own part I reject such an idea, believing them certainly to belong to a much earlier and ruder age: the specimen in my possession has been cut by the peat digger's spade.*

In "Lubbock's Prehistoric Times," garments of the bronze age are described and figured: also of the iron age by Joseph Anderson in "Scotland in Pagan Times."

* These very curious objects were also exhibited at the Society of Antiquaries, Dec. 16, 1886. and excited great interest: many very different opinions were expressed about them, and it was suggested they should be sent for examination to the Museum of Natural History at South Kensington.