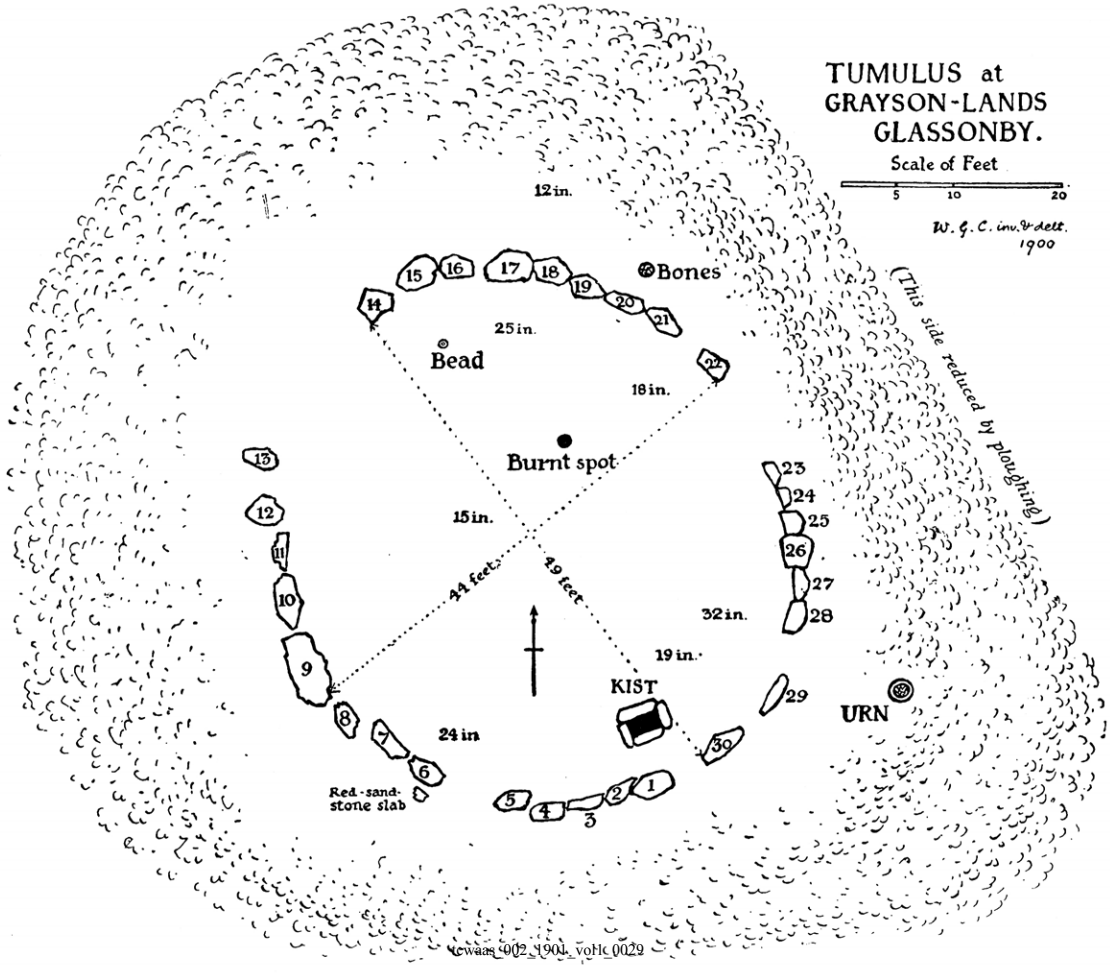
ART. XXVI.—*Tumulus at Grayson-lands, Glassonby, Cumberland.* By W. G. COLLINGWOOD.

Read at Carlisle, June 20th, 1900.

THIS tumulus is mentioned by Canon Greenwell and Dr. Rolleston in *British Barrows*, pp. 7-8, and by Chancellor Ferguson in these *Transactions*, vol. xiii., p. 394. "Standing on it," he said, "one can trace a stone circle or fence within its circumference. It would probably repay investigation, but such would be a very expensive piece of work."

By the kindness of the owner, Mr. W. E. Rowley, an investigation has now been made, under the care of the Rev. Canon Thornley. Most of the digging has been done by George Cheesebrough, who had the previous experience of opening the Parks tumulus, just across the beck in Dale Raven. The accompanying plan was made by the present writer on repeated visits in May and June, 1900, during the progress of excavation.

The limits of the tumulus are ill defined; the north-east side has been shaved off by the plough; but it is about 100 to 110 feet in diameter, and 310 feet in circumference. It was formed of small water-worn cobble-stones taken "off the land," and thrown upon an irregular natural elevation, to an average height of about 2 feet over the central area, inside the circle. The depth of the layer of cobble-stones at various places is marked in the plan; the great inequality in the figures is due to the undulation of the natural floor, for the surface of the tumulus was fairly level, and defined by a layer of stones which seemed to have been broken intentionally, as if the whole had been gone over with a hammer, smashing the hard pebbles to make them lie close. Upon this in recent times some clearings from the fields have been thrown.



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The circle and kist are now fully exposed, and will be allowed to remain *in situ*. The circle, or rather oval, is 49 feet in diameter on the longer axis, and 44 feet on the shorter, internal measurement. Several of the stones had been removed before digging was begun; but there are now thirty remaining. Beginning from the kist, they are :—

No.	Material.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.
1.	Red sandstone	44 in.	24 in.	33 in.
2.	Gray cobble	33	19	20
3.	Do., with glacial striæ	46	14	18
4.	Blue whin	42	22	16
5.	Gray cobble	43	29	32
	Gap of 65 inches.			
6.	Brecciated greenstone	44	27	36
	(Close to this was a red sandstone slab)	20	15	2
7.	Gray Skiddaw granite	60	20	23
8.	Brecciated greenstone	41	28	16
9.	Cleaved greenstone	85	36	6
10.	Cleaved brecciated greenstone ...	59	30	14
	(Near this were five fragments of red sandstone slabs).			
11.	Red sandstone	40	12	16
12.	Brecciated greenstone with glacial striæ	33	37	16
	Gap of 30 inches.			
13.	Brecciated greenstone	23	34	10
	Gap of 14 feet 10 inches from which stones have been removed.			
14.	Granite (?)	37	30	12
	Gap of 14 inches.			
15.	Brecciated greenstone	46	33	19
16.	Hard white sandstone	32	22	12
	Gap of 17 inches.			
17.	Gray Skiddaw granite	52	32	26
18.	Cobble	40	26	12
19.	Cobble	42	24	24
20.	Red sandstone	44	12	22
21.	Gray cobble	42	26	24
	Gap of 30 inches.			
22.	Gray cobble	42	22	28
	Gap of 98 inches.			

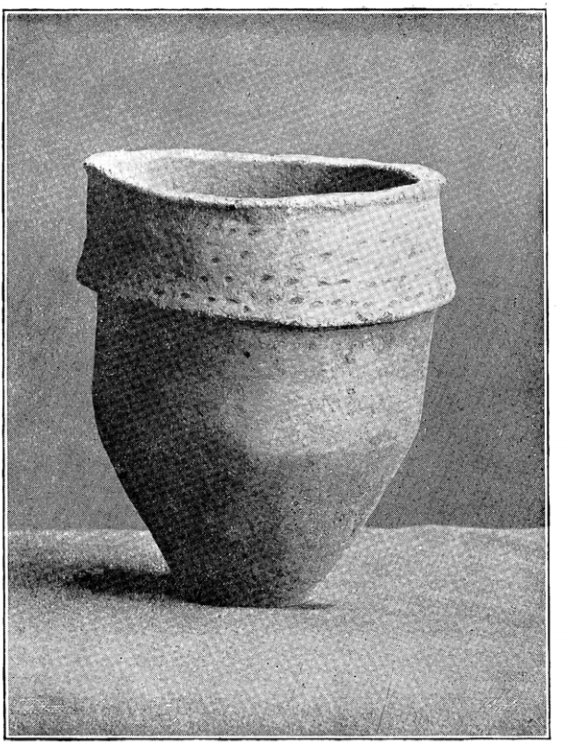
23.	Red sandstone	28	14	12
24.	Do.	24	14	14
25.	Do.	28	18	17
26.	Granite	32	30	22
27.	Cobble	27	16	11
28.	Cobble	42	23	19
	Gap of 51 inches.			
29.	Granite	36	6	22
	Gap of 55 inches.			
30.	Greenstone	48	23	28
	Gap of 48 inches at the kist.			

The measurements are given as the stones now lie, but many of them, on the western side especially, have fallen in course of digging, and originally what is given as their breadth must have been their height. They were set on edge on the natural ground, close together, to form a continuous fence, and not sunk in the soil but propped with the small cobbles which form the tumulus.

Between 30 and 1, or between 5 and 6, there was, about 25 years ago, a stone described by Mr. Thomas Glaister, of Glassonby, as over 3 feet long, about 6 inches thick, and 2 feet high, of red sandstone, with a spiral or concentric circles, like the figure on Long Meg, incised on its side.

The kist measures internally 39 to 34 inches by 19 to 20 inches, and is 19 to 24 inches deep. Its walls are formed of four red-sandstone slabs 8 to 12 inches thick; its floor is of red sand from the stone. Its cover is in three pieces, 5 to 6 inches thick. The top of the cover is a little below the original surface of the ground. It had been opened and rifled long before our explorations were begun.

At the place marked in the plan "Burnt Spot" there was charcoal on the original floor. At the place marked in the plan "Bead," and at or near the original surface, was found the bead of light blue transparent glass with a wavy line of opaque white, now in Tullie House Museum. Such beads have been found in interments from the



THE GLASSONBY URN.

(TO FACE P. 299.)

Bronze Age through Roman times up to the Anglo-Saxon period.

THE GLASSONBY BEAD, REAL SIZE.

Outside the circle two interments of burnt bones were found. One was four feet north of stone No. 20, a mere loose deposit in a hole in the natural surface of the ground, with neither urn nor flag nor even cobble-paving to protect it. The other was under an urn, at a point E. 20° S. of the gap between Nos. 28 and 29, 10 feet 6 inches from the circumference of the circle. The urn is 12¼ inches high, 10 to 10½ inches in diameter at the mouth, which is not quite circular as the urn is hand-shaped, not turned. It has a band of ornament usual in urns of the period, consisting of six lines of incised marks. Great credit is due to George Cheesebrough for getting it out in an absolutely perfect condition, and it is now in Tullie House Museum. The bones are described in the subsequent article.

The site is called by some Grayson or Graystone-lands, with which Canon Thornley compares "Gray Yauds" (horses), the name of the circle of stones formerly existing on King Harry moor, six miles to the north of this; adding that "Grayson" is not one of the family names in the neighbourhood. I understand, however, that "Grayson-lands" is the name in the title-deeds. Long Meg is 1¼ mile to the south, and there are other circles in the immediate neighbourhood, though none more interestingly showing so many features of a burial of the Bronze Age.