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FIG. 1.—Distribution of tumuli, etc., near Carrock Fell.

ART. XIII.—*Tumuli near Carrock Fell.* By MABEL M. BARKER, B.Sc., D. ès L.

WHILE engaged in the revision of the geological survey of Carrock Fell, Dr. S. E. Hollingworth noted and mapped many stone heaps which appeared to be of artificial origin: and for the use of some students of mine at a vacation meeting held in Caldbeck in August, 1930, he gave me a tracing from the 6-inch map showing some of these tumuli. I had already suspected the presence of a settlement at the base of Carrock; and after examining some of the prehistoric sites on Divock Moor with Miss Mary Champness in 1931 and subsequently, we visited Carrock, and noted the undoubted similarity of the tumuli and cup-shaped depressions on the two sites.

Including those mapped by Dr. Hollingworth, we have now noted over 200 "tumuli" (using the word to include all types). They lie roughly between the 1250 and 700 ft. contour lines, and may for convenience be grouped into three "settlements." The highest of these is on the north side of the fell, on the south bank of the Carrock Beck, and lies on both sides of a very obvious old track, its beginning and end now lost in peat bog, but which seems to be making for the Hill Fort on the summit. No excavation has as yet been made here.

Another group lies between the Howthwaite Stone (with one good tumulus near it), Calebrack Farm, and the present road, stretching S.E. and on both sides of the old road. A third group lies east of the present road, between Linewath and Stone Ends Farm. As shown by the accompanying map (fig. 1), these groups are not sharply defined and there are many outlying tumuli (notably some where the old track known as the Ling Gate comes

down from Carrock to Bowscale). The numerous old tracks are not yet mapped satisfactorily, nor are the many indefinite earthworks, which might be the remains of enclosures of any date.

The stone mounds are mainly of three types:—

(a) Tumuli, which are generally on or near the tops of hillocks or moraines.

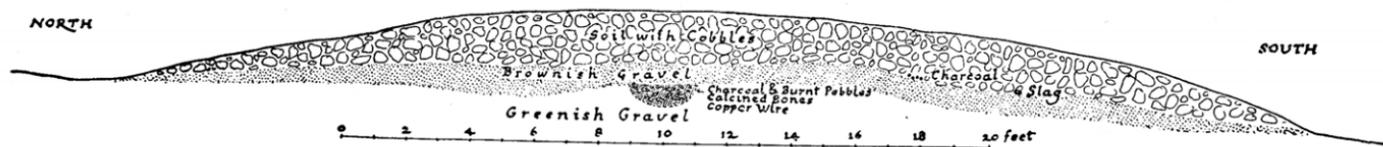
(b) Rings round a saucer-like depression.

(c) Indefinite heaps, which may be poor examples of the above; or of quite other origin and date.

There are also several much larger rings, which could be good hut-circles; and there are three depressions about 20 yards in diameter lying to the east of the old road near the High Wath.

Work in the district is somewhat complicated by the abundance of old mines; their trial holes, refuse dumps and leats; also by partial clearings which may account for some of the stone heaps; and by much morainic matter and gravel pits.

As it was clear that excavation alone would give evidence to justify further archaeological work in the district, Dr. Hollingworth, Dr. Goodchild and the writer, in the summer of 1932 made a trench across a tumulus a little south of the High Wath and east of the old road. A plan and section of the result is shown (fig. 2). It proved to be a burial, containing burnt bones and charcoal in a small pit in the centre. This material was carefully riddled. The bones were much calcined and very frail, but a few pieces, including some bits of skull, were recognisable. As Dr. Goodchild was not satisfied that they were all human, and also thought that there were too many for one body, they were sent to Dr. Barty Mears. He, and Professor Waterton of St. Andrews who also examined them, report that they are the bones of an adult human with some animal bones as well, probably wolf, fox or dog. Among them was a small piece of bronze or copper wire.



SECTION
TUMULUS NEAR CARROCK FELL: JULY 1932:

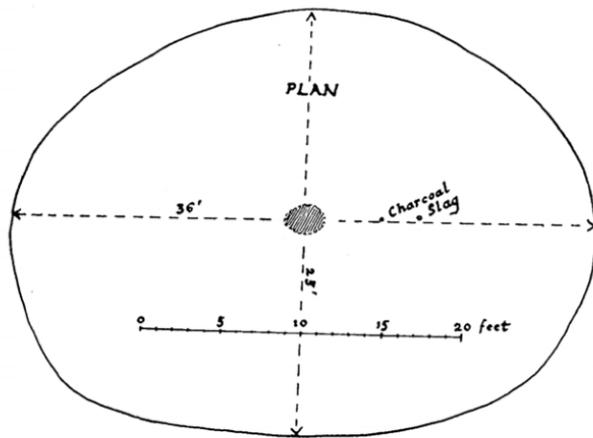


FIG. 2.

A gravel floor underlay the earth and cobbles forming the tumulus, and on this, at a depth of 18 inches from the surface and 11 feet from the South edge, was a piece of slag. Occasional pieces of slag were also found further in. Small pieces of charcoal were found on the gravel 18 inches from the surface and 13 feet from the edge: also 10 feet from the west edge. The top of the small pit containing the bones was 2 ft. 1 inch from the surface; and 2 ft. 10 inches from the surface to the bottom. It was about 1 ft. 3 inches by 2 ft. in area.

A hole sunk 15 ft. from the south edge gave dark brown soil with boulders: 15 inches; an ochreous layer of gravel 17 inches in depth; and below this dirty greenish gravel which appeared to be undisturbed. The results of measurements taken at various points from the centre are shown in the section. At 1 foot from the edge of the tumulus, outside it, a trial hole gave eleven inches of dark soil and then greenish gravel, with no ochreous layer. The boulders used showed a high proportion of the local granophyre from Carrock, with a number of igneous rocks from the central Lake District. They are all found in the glacial gravels, but had probably been carried some hundred yards at least.

With regard to the slag it seems unlikely that it had worked down from the surface to the level at which it was found, but more evidence on this point is desirable.

We then excavated a site of the second type mentioned; i.e. a saucer-shaped depression near the Black Beck where it approaches Linewath Farm (fig. 3). This proved to be a "hut," or at least a sunk pit with a comparatively long and wide entrance passage. It is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter and 3 ft. deep and is lined with large and carefully fitted but untrimmed local boulders 1 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet across. The lining or facing has an outward inclination and extends along the entrance passage. The foundation stones are shown on the plan. The facing wall is 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$

feet high in the "pit" decreasing to 2 feet at the entrance of the passage, but from the quantity of boulders removed during the excavation of the central area was probably considerably higher originally. The floor was covered with clay much stained with charcoal. In the

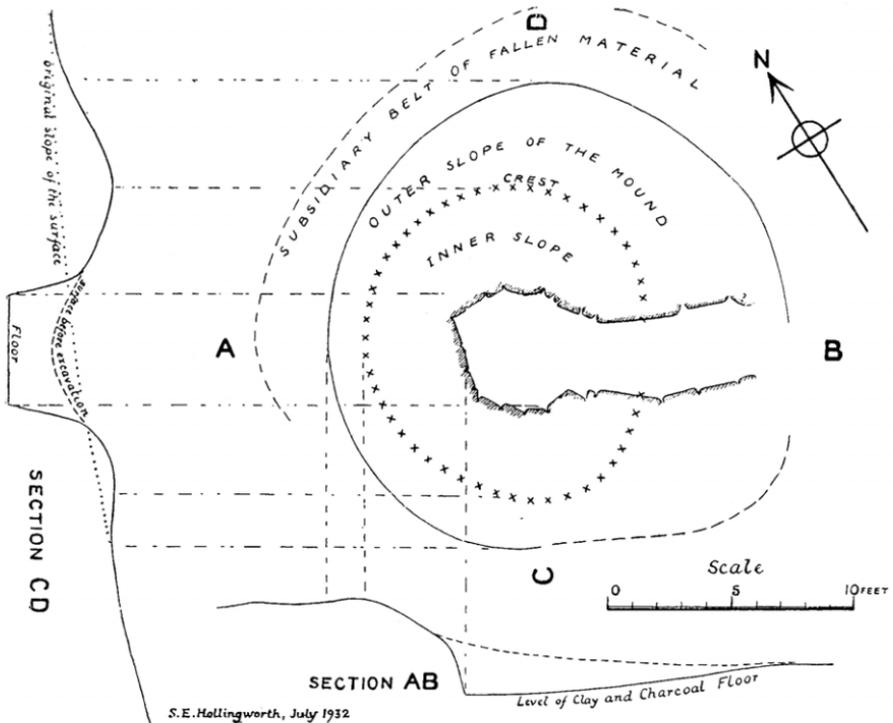


FIG. 3.—Plan and Sections of Excavation near Linewath Farm.

centre a section of this gave $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of clay and charcoal: $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches with more charcoal: reddish earth for about 2 inches: and below this large irregular stones, fire-stained and with charcoal among them for 5 or 6 inches. Below this was yellowish gravel. The floor slopes upwards to the entrance, and showed dark earth

and charcoal to a distance of 26 ft. from the back of the hut.

No implements or bones were found whereby it could be dated, though all the flooring removed was carefully riddled.

The tumulus was filled in, and the best of the bones from it are now at Tullie House. The hut is still open.

It may be of interest to recall that the bronze spear-head figured by Mr. W. G. Collingwood was found at Linewath Ford, and is still in the possession of Mr. Oldman of Linewath Farm, for whose courtesy and help during the excavation we are grateful.

A cut through one of the indefinite heaps of stone of what we have called the third type, made in the group to the north of Carrock Beck, gave no evidence at all as to its origin.