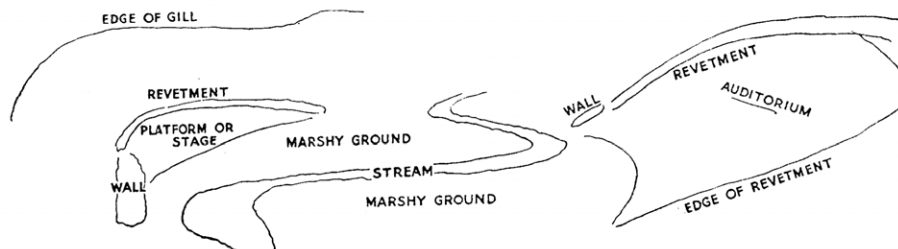


CAW GILL ENCLOSURE.
Ennerdale and Kinniside Parish.

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ART. IV.—*Ancient Remains in Ennerdale and Kinniside Parish.* By DR. J. E. SPENCE, F.S.A.

Read at Ulverston, June 30th, 1938.

ON the southern shoulder of Boat How, 346 feet south east of the sheep beild under Gray Crag, 1000 feet above ordnance datum, is an oval enclosure. It is 69 feet long by 64 feet broad. The foundations of the walls, about four feet six inches broad, are well preserved in the upper part but in the lower half they have been disturbed and the outline of the enclosure is incomplete. There is no definite evidence of an entrance, it may have been on the south side and have been destroyed, nor are there any indications of foundations within the enclosure. To the north of the enclosure, between it and the sheep beild, is a group of five cairns, from 16 to 18 feet six inches in diameter, and 56 yards to the south east is another group of four smaller cairns, while at a further distance to the west is a group of eight cairns. Immediately to the south of the enclosure is a sunken trackway.

On the slopes of Boat How to the south east of the enclosure are the remains of ancient walls which have bounded more or less rectangular enclosures. These enclosures have been much larger than the oval or irregular enclosures ascribed to the prehistoric or Romano-British inhabitants of the district and are probably medieval.

About 200 yards north of Gray Crag, almost half-way between it and the cairn on Boat How, is a flat grass grown cairn, 14 feet in diameter, which appears to have been disturbed.

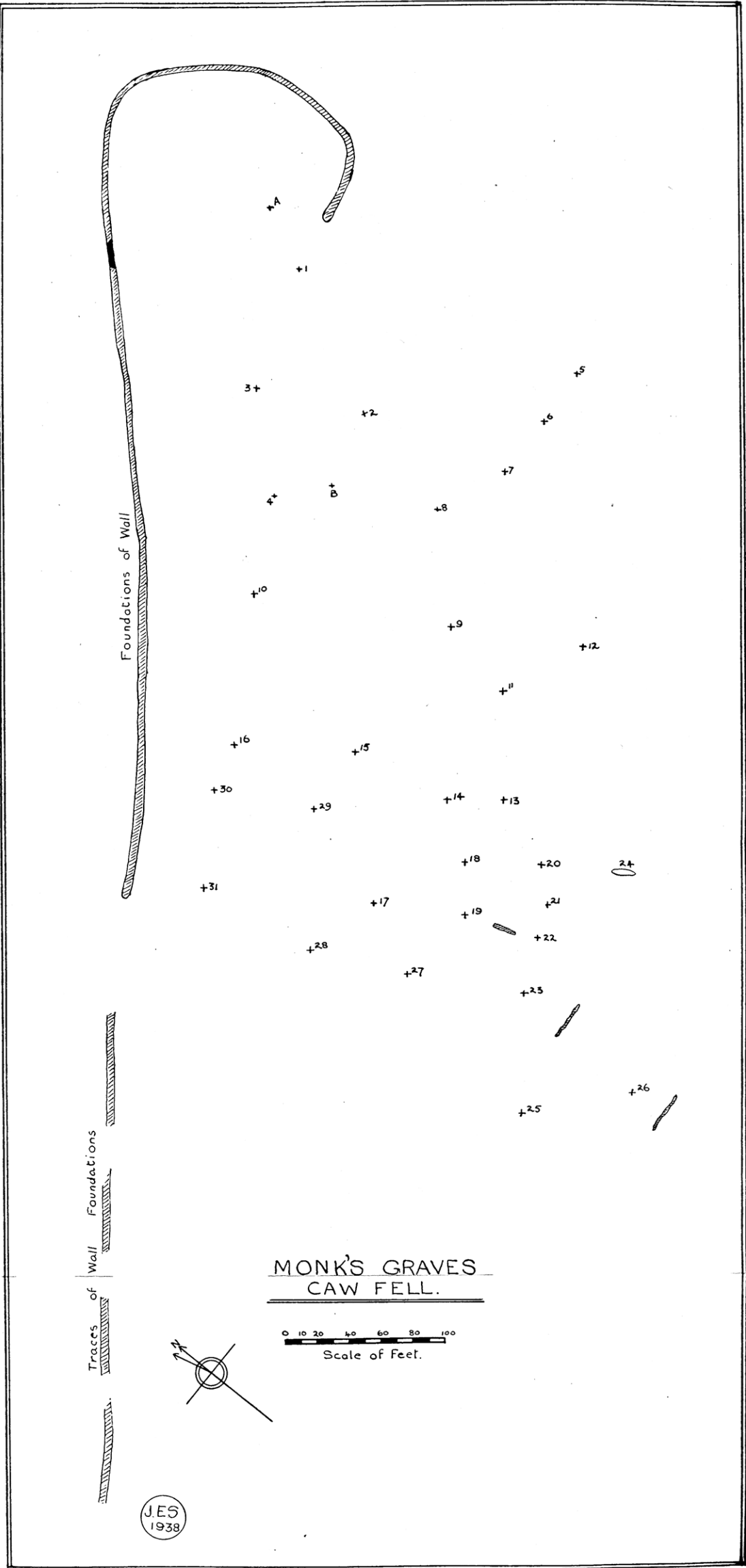
Immediately to the North of the trigonometrical cairn on Boat How is a cairn and another, 15 feet in diameter, which has been disturbed, lies to the south east. Near these are three circular piles of stones, hollow in the centre which appear to have been constructed as small wind-breaks but possibly may be disturbed cairns.

There is also a large cairn, almost circular, 32 feet by 36 feet in diameter, 400 yards south west of the summit of Lank Rigg. It is composed of rough stones loosely piled together. The top has been disturbed to erect a mark-cairn on its summit.

MONKS GRAVES, CAW FELL.

On the south west side of the Caw Fell between the 900 and 1000 foot contours, on ground sloping down to the junction of Cawfell Beck and Worm Gill, there is a large cairn field known locally as "The Monks Graves." Round the east and higher end of the field are the foundations of a wall about four feet broad. The foundations run down the north west side of the cairn field for a distance of 500 feet and are continued intermittently in the same direction for a further 380 feet. At the upper end, 80 feet from the point where the foundations turn towards the east, the wall stands to a height of two feet six inches. To the south west of this enclosing wall lies the cairn field which contains 41 cairns of varying sizes, from 10 to 23 feet in diameter. 33 of the cairns are shown on the accompanying plan, the remaining eight are widely scattered to the south west.

The easternmost cairn (A) has a well marked curb of larger stones, and, to the east of its centre, there is a large orthostat two feet high. Seven of the cairns are between 20 and 23 feet in diameter, seven between 15 and 20 feet and the remainder less than 15 feet in diameter. They vary between one and two feet in height and some are oval with the long axis east and west. They are all composed



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of water worn boulders and a number have a well marked curb of larger stones. Several appear to have been disturbed. The cairn, numbered 24, which is 24 feet long by eight feet wide appears to be two closely adjacent cairns.

Between cairns numbered 19 and 22, 23 and 26, and to the south of 26 are lines of stones which may be the foundations of walls.

ENCLOSURE, CAW GILL.

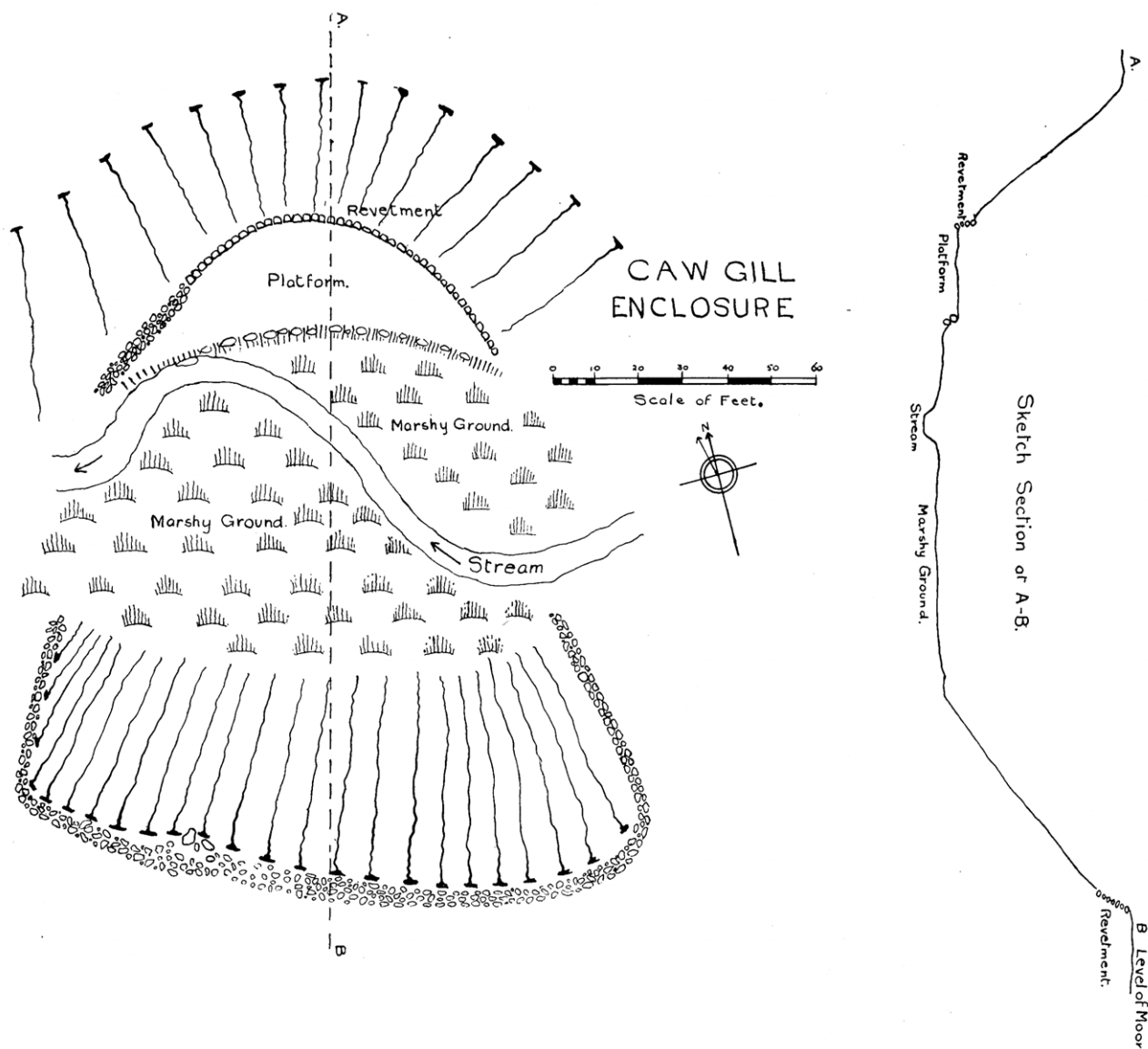
In Caw Gill, about 200 yards East of the junction of Caw Gill Beck with Worm Gill, is an ancient enclosure. At this point the gill, through which the beck flows, forms a natural amphitheatre which has been improved by man.

It is divided in two by the beck and the marshy ground on either side of it. The south side, which might well be designated the auditorium, consists of a gently curving bank sloping upwards at an angle of approximately 45 degrees, the length of the slope being 66 feet. The upper eight feet of this bank rises at a steeper angle of approximately 60 degrees, and is revetted with stone. West of the centre, the upper part of the slope is not so steep, nor is it so closely revetted, and at this point several larger boulders interrupt the smoothness of the slope. At either side of the amphitheatre the revetment is carried down the hill towards the stream. Here it is about four feet deep and behind it is a slight mound of soil, which appears to have been removed before the revetment was constructed. At the lower part of the slope, on both sides of the enclosure, the revetment, as it reaches the more level ground, become a low wall running for a few feet towards the beck. The distance across the amphitheatre between the ends of the side walls is 110 feet. The foot of the slope has a curve corresponding approximately to the top of the enclosure. Between the bank and the stream, which takes an S-shaped course through the enclosure, the

ground is fairly level but is now marshy and overgrown with rushes.

On the other side of the stream the bank is revetted vertically to a height of four feet, the distance between the ends of the revetment being 66 feet. The revetment follows approximately an arc of a circle and at the west end it is continued towards the stream, for a distance of 33 feet, by the remains of a wall. The western half of the revetment still stands undisturbed to a height of four feet but on the eastern side the upper part has fallen in three places. In front of the revetment is a level platform, 28 feet wide at its widest part, which stands one foot six inches above the marshy ground between it and the stream. Its south edge shows large boulders in the turf and it appears to have been levelled and strengthened at the edge by the boulders. The slope to the north above the revetment is steep but appears to be natural.

The enclosure has no evidence of habitation within it. It cannot have been an enclosure for cattle as it is wide open on the east and west sides where the stream flows through, nor is it a "cockpit," as the central marshy area and the stream would render it totally unsuited for this purpose. It has the appearance of an excellent open air theatre and the suggestion is tentatively put forward that the Romano-British inhabitants of these fells, who may have been familiar with Roman Amphitheatres and gladiatorial displays, have reproduced in the vicinity of their settlements a passibly good imitation of a amphitheatre, in which gladiatorial displays could be staged.



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