

ART. XII.—*Two Settlements and the Building Laws.*  
By THOMAS HAY.

A HITHERTO unrecorded settlement has lately been found in Glencoin Park. As it is more complete than many others in this area it may not be out of place to give a short description of it. All the small becks in this piece of land run south-east into Ullswater. These streams have not all got names, but the Near, Middle and Far Swan becks will be found on the 6 inch Cumberland map LXV S.E. Two similar little becks lie to the north-east of Far Swan beck but have no name. This new settlement lies on the left bank of the second of these becks at an elevation of 850 feet. It is roughly elliptical in shape and its main features can be seen from the diagram. With a longer diameter of 55 yards and a shorter one of 48 yards it covers less than half an acre of land. The foundation of the encircling wall is complete all round, giving a bank with slopes on both sides except for one short space towards the fell above. Here débris descending the slope has filled up the ground to the wall level but the slope down on the inside is well marked. There are four hut circles which stand up well above the general level of the surrounding area.

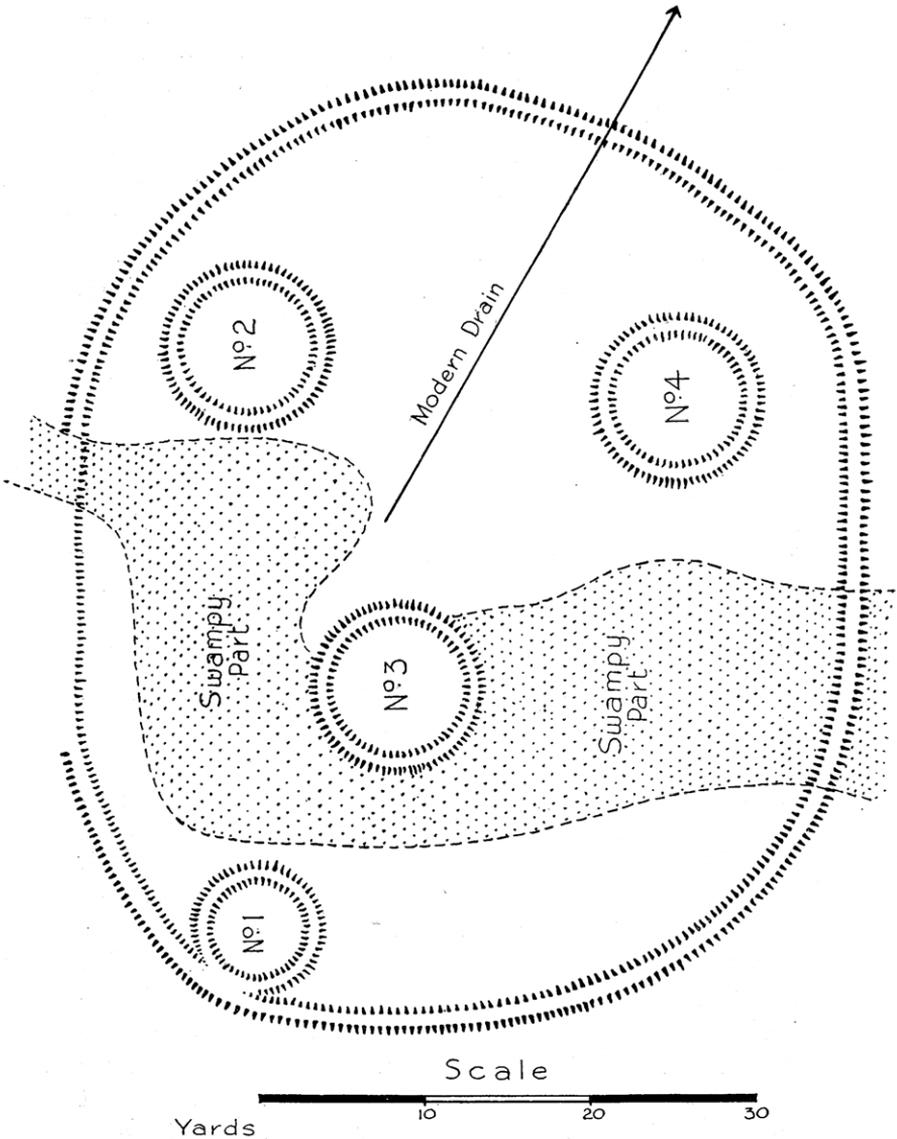
Usually these settlements are well placed as far as surface drainage is concerned but that is not true in this case. Subsequently to the occupation of this hamlet, descending drainage from the fell above has worked its way right through the settlement. This has been mainly done by a slow process of percolation of water and abstraction of surface soil. The result is that over a tract stretching right across the settlement about two feet

of surface have been removed. Hut No. 3 on the diagram stands up well above this boggy area which nearly surrounds it. An open farm drain has been cut across part of the settlement but even now it is not an eligible property to investigate in wet weather.

Another unrecorded settlement lies within Broomhill plantation in Grisedale valley. This hamlet lies flush on the left bank of Grisedale beck with a frontage of 100 yards on that stream. The surrounding embankment has a roughly semicircular shape, the part most distant from the beck being destroyed through the erection on it of a modern wall. The ground occupied by the settlement lies just at the foot of a steep fell slope covered with morainic mounds and ridges and it has thus been very open to attack by descending flood water from the hill above. So much is this the case that a good deal of the surface has been removed and part of the area now forms a marsh. This may account for the fact that only one good hut circle survives although it certainly looks as if at least one other could be detected. This settlement lies near a ruined wooden foot-bridge marked on the 6 inch Westmorland map XII S.W. Starting from the end of the enclosing bank nearest to this bridge the embankment is well marked for 58 yards but after that only the inside slope is discernible for the next 72 yards. The next piece is quite clear terminating some little distance from the stream. There is a curious re-entrant arm which looks as if protection from encroaching water had been necessary even during the time of the occupation of the hamlet.

This settlement is particularly unnoticeable as it is at present covered by and enclosed in the modern plantation. It has a delightful situation—at least in summer time, but it has been open to destruction from the following causes:

1. The cutting across of several fellside runners making their way to the beck, some natural and some artificial;



SETTLEMENT—GLENCOIN PARK.

2, building of a modern wall on the embankment; 3, Up-rooting by wind of trees bedded in the stonework.

Perhaps the most interesting thing connected with this settlement is a ruined enclosure near at hand formed of huge boulders. The moraine mounds here are littered with great erratics of the most striking appearance and these have been used to form a very primitive corral for animals. It is conceivable that the settlement and the enclosure are not connected with each other but the fact that both are examples of most elementary design and execution tempt one to regard them as belonging to the prehistoric type of inhabitant associated with these early settlements.

The three larger huts of the first settlement measure about seven yards in diameter from mid-point to mid-point of the surrounding wall. No. 1 is slightly smaller and has been built osculating with the outside embankment. This measurement of seven yards across the hut circle is the usual size for the huts in the group of settlements around Ullswater. It is interesting to see if it corresponds with the size given by other observers. Professor R. G. Collingwood, Dr. Spence and the authors of the Westmorland Book (Historical Monuments) have all given scaled diagrams from which the size of the huts can be found. Some of the diagrams show the hut circles by means of firm lines giving the inner and outer faces of the wall. Some give the position of the ruined wall by means of hachures showing the two slopes. In the former case it is easier to get the internal diameter of the hut. Making use of Professor R. G. Collingwood's article on "Pre-historic settlements near Crosby Ravensworth" (these *Trans.* n.s. xxxiii) and taking the average of 38 huts we get the value of 16 feet internal diameter. If three feet is allowed for the half thickness of the wall, that would give 22 feet as the diameter from mid-point to mid-point of the encircling wall. This tallies very well with the

measurement already given. Dr. Spence and the Westmorland book show the huts by means of hachures and in that case it is easiest to reckon the diameter from mid-point to mid-point. Taking the average of 15 huts from various articles by Dr. Spence in these *Trans.* N.S. xxxviii and elsewhere we get 20.5 feet as the diameter from mid-point to mid-point. This again gives very nearly the same result. The Westmorland book covers some of this same ground but taking about nine huts not covered by the other authors it gives just under 23 feet as the diameter. Thus we may take it that the usual size of the hut in this area was about 21 or 22 feet measured from mid-point to mid-point of the wall. It is quite impossible to give an exact measurement without excavation and the above method using the middle points is much the most satisfactory for merely observational work.

Professor Collingwood explains the big hut at Ewe Close with a diameter of 50 feet as that of the chieftain of the district. This explanation seems very probable but there are two cases in which this distinction cannot be thus accounted for. The first is the settlement in Glemara Park referred to in the Westmorland Book in which there are two large oval sinkings, one measuring 13 yards by  $9\frac{1}{2}$  yards and the other 10 yards by 9 yards. The second example is Stone Carr where there are two similar sinkings both measuring 20 yards in diameter.

Now if all these four excavations were for big huts, the size in this case was caused by something quite apart from chieftainship. Were these big huts contemporary with the usual seven yard examples or were they earlier or later? Obviously the labour of roofing a 20 yard hut was very much greater than that of roofing a seven yard one. Possibly a more accurate analysis of the available hut measurements may lead to further enlightenment.

In these *Trans.* N.S. xxxix, Dr. Spence describes an enclosure at Caw Gill and suggests that it may be an

imitation of an amphitheatre in which gladiatorial displays could be staged. This suggestion has a possible application in the Ullswater area. In Glencoin Park one of the settlements which lacks anything definite in the way of hut circles has a very interesting excavation forming a rough oval scooped out of the fell slope. It certainly would make a good audience chamber for contests or performances. It was in this settlement that a fragment of a beehive quern was found which is one of the few datable objects recovered from these early settlements. This irregular oval has a length of 22 yards. The breadth is more difficult to assess as one side is erratic in shape but it may be put at 16 yards which includes a good deal of the steep slope where the main excavation took place.

The other similar hollow is near Measand in the Haweswater Valley. It lies close beside the new track on the west side of the lake. Here we have a regularly excavated oval hollow dug out of the hillside and completed by a regular embankment on the opposite side. It measures just the same as the last mentioned one, viz.: 22 yards by 16 yards.

It might be contended that these hollows are nothing but sammel-pits, but this suggestion is contradicted by the definite regular design in the excavation and in the Haweswater case by the trouble taken to complete the hollow by a frontal embankment. Some variation of Dr. Spence's suggestion seems at present the only explanation that fits the case.