

NOTES

1. *Dating and rates of sea level rise*
By T. CLARE

Fig. 3 of my paper on “Holocene coastal change” (CW2, c, 1-24) was based on a diagram in the work of Zong (1996) and the rate of sea level rise compared with the height of sea levels. The basis of this comparison was the use of the linear scales which formed the upper axis of Zong’s Table 7. Those two scales show both radio-carbon years and calendar years and in each the passage of time is shown as constant. For example, each one thousand radio-carbon years might be shown as 150 mm and every one thousand calendar years as 130 mm. However, because of the character of the variation between the two types of date it is not possible to show time in this way; one scale can be constant but the other must vary. For this reason the calendar year axis and the rate of sea level part of my Fig. 3 should be separated from the upper part of the diagram.

2. *Long Meg Mid-Winter shadow path*
BY STEVEN HOOD, B.SC. (HONS.) AND DOUGLAS WILSON

On 22 December 2000, we paid an evening visit to the sixth biggest circle in Britain, Ireland and Brittany, in order to study the actions of the shadow path of the Long Meg stone during sunset. Our observations on mid-winter’s day were hampered by cloud, so making an allowance for the effects of “standstill”, when for three or four days the sun appears in the same spot, we returned that following day to a clear sky and perfect conditions.

After considering the work of Martin Brennan,¹ describing the spiralling effect of the sun’s shadow from mid-winter through to mid-summer and vice versa, we felt the shadow of the Long Meg stone required some investigation, especially on this specific day, as the stone’s alignment with the mid-winter setting sun had been discussed by Burl.²

We began our observations at 1500 hours for a period of about half an hour; the sun was sinking and we saw the lengthening shadow path slowly moving across the circle. From our vantage point beside Long Meg we watched the shadow crossing the fallen “portal” stones and reaching beyond.

The narrow tip of Long Meg’s shadow path began precisely to cover the surface of stone 1 (Fig. 1) until the whole of the surface of the stone was in shadow, with the path through the circle still remaining visible.

As the shadow continued its course and once again allowed sunlight to touch stone 1, the sloping interior of the circle was immediately cast into shadow and the once perceptible path disappeared, leaving the distant circle stones still illuminated by the setting sun.

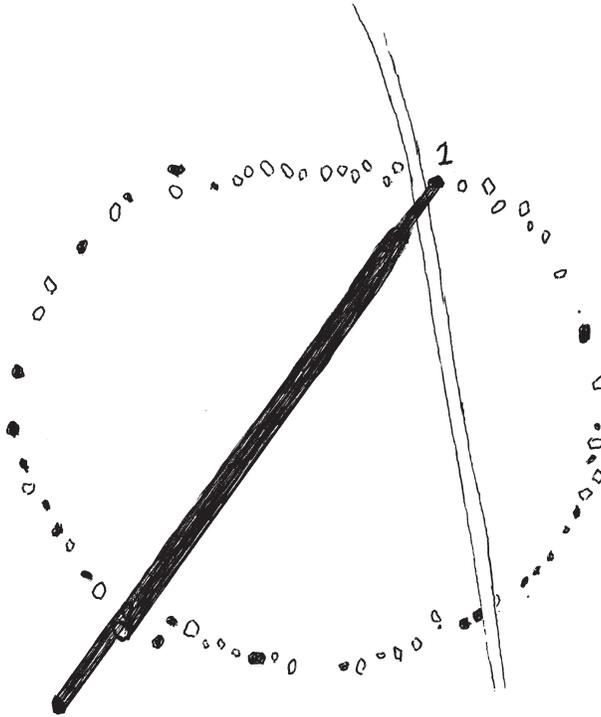


FIG. 1. The shadow of Long Meg catching stone 1.

References

- ¹ Brennan, M., *The Stars and the Stones* (London, 1983), 190.
- ² Burl, H. A. W., "The stone circle of Long Meg and Her Daughters, Little Salkeld", *CW2*, xciv, 1-11.

3. *Environmental change and Castlerigg stone circle* By T. CLARE, D. M. WILKINSON AND S. R. PILE

The existence of a former tarn in the Naddle valley to the east of the Castlerigg stone circle was reported elsewhere in *Transactions* (Clare, 1999). At that time, however, it was only possible to speculate when the open water may have disappeared and the present (remnant) mire system begun to form. However, there is indirect evidence obtained from palynological analyses (Corkish, 1999 in Wilkinson *et al.*, 1999; and Pile, 2000) which provide clues about environmental change. Here we review this evidence and report a new radio-carbon date which allows a more detailed reconstruction of the tarn.

Evidence that the basin may still have been primarily open water at a time contemporary with the building of the stone circle is provided by two cores: one from the western side (NY 295226) and one from Birks Wood (NY 297224) to the south-east. Of these, the western core (Pile, 2000, N3 and Fig. 1 here) revealed mineral wash to a depth of some 60 cms, overlying organic deposits with woody

fragments and charcoal which in turn overlay a mixed layer of organic and clay material at depth of 97 cms. This lower deposit can be interpreted as open water and wood from within it, and at a depth of some 135 cms, yielded a radiocarbon date of 3890+/-70BP (Beta-136191). Calibrated, this date of 2500 to 2145 BC or 2565 to 2515 BC is similar to that when stone circles appear to have been built and used (e.g. Burl, 1987).

This date may be consistent with the finding nearby of a polished stone axe now in Keswick Museum. The "Report of the Committee for Prehistoric Studies" published in *Transactions* in 1935 states that the axe had been found at a depth of 5 ft "near St. John's in the Vale parsonage". When this occurred is not clear but the only parsonage in the area at the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map was at Dale Bottom at the south-west corner of the former tarn. It is possible, therefore, that the axe had been placed in the tarn. However, the actual parsonage building is above the break of slope suggestive of the edge of the tarn in Clare, 1999 (Fig. 1b)

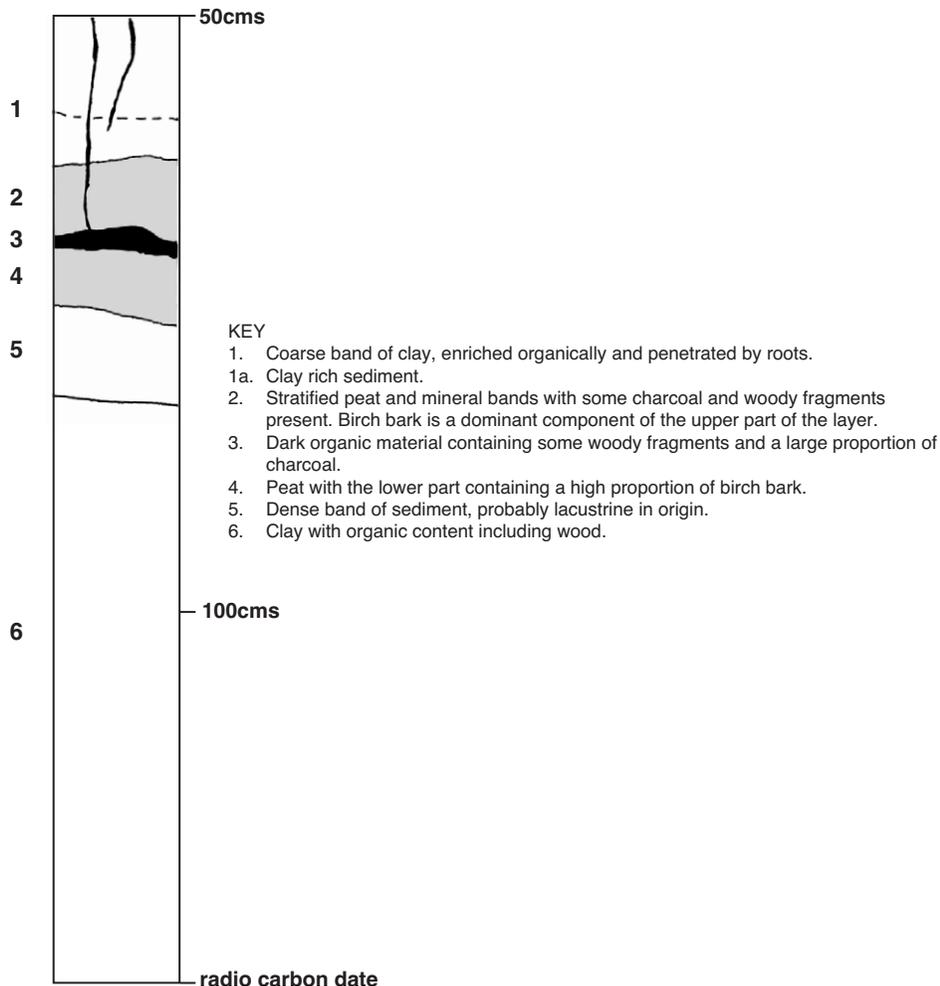


FIG. 1. The stratigraphy recorded at the western side of the former tarn. Based on Pile 2000.

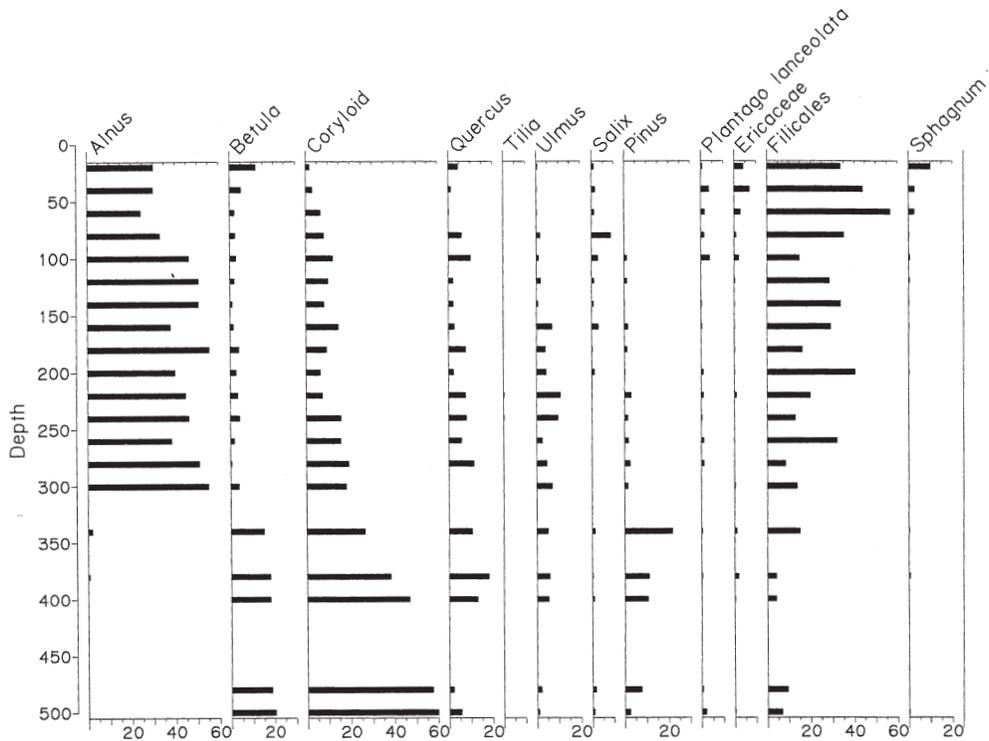


FIG. 2. Percentage pollen diagram for principal taxa for Birks Wood, from Wilkinson *et al* 1999.

so that it is equally possible the axe was buried by other types of deposit, such as alluviation or land slip. The basic problem is that it is not clear whether the axe was found in the actual grounds of the parsonage or in the vicinity.

The evidence from Birks Wood is also consistent with the basin floor containing an area or areas of open water at a time contemporary with the building of the stone circle. There macro fossil remains of aquatic plants, such as Pond weed *Potamogeton spp*, Bog bean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and yellow water Lily *Nuphar lutea*, and cadis fly species indicative of still water with aquatic and marginal vegetation, were not found in the core above 350 cms (Wilkinson *et al.*, 1999). An indication of when the transition from open water to a mire environment took place was provided by a radiocarbon date of 3460+/-50BP (OXA 5085) obtained from a twig at a depth of 300 cms i.e. the transition began, perhaps some time before 1800 BC and, therefore, during the period when the stone circle may still have been in use.

The pollen diagram from this core (Fig. 2 here) does, however, indicate another environmental change at a depth of about 300 cms, that is a dramatic increase in Alder *Alnus glutinosa* at a time when Birch *Betula* decreases. The appearance of Alder at this time is much later than that recorded elsewhere (e.g. Chambers and Elliott, 1989) and may therefore be attributed to localised conditions. Nevertheless, this localised rise in Alder is broadly contemporary with a general move to wetter climatic conditions (e.g. Anderson *et al.*, 1998).

It can, therefore, be concluded that during the *floruit* of the stone circle the local environment underwent considerable change. Apart from any human impacts, such as woodland clearance or abandonment of farmland, valley mire fringed with alder rather than birch woodland replaced an area of open water in the valley to the east and by the end of the period the climate deteriorated. However, it is necessary to recognise that whilst these changes were considerable they may not have been noticeable within the lifetime of any one individual. On the other hand such changes may have required adjustments in farming or settlement location and in that respect may have caused social stresses which in turn led to changes in monument types.

Notes and References

- Anderson, D., Binney, H. A. and Smith, M. A., 1998, "Evidence for abrupt climatic Change in northern Scotland between 3900 and 3500 calendar years BP", *The Holocene* **8.1**, 97-103.
- Burl, A., 1987, *The Stonehenge People* (Dent).
- Chambers, F. M. and Elliott, L., 1989, "Spread and expansion of the *Alnus* Mill". In "The British Isles; timing, agencies and possible vectors", *Journal of Biogeography* **16**, 541-550.
- Clare, T., 1999, "The environs of the Castlerigg stone circle: an analysis of the landscape of the Naddle Valley near Keswick", *CW2*, xcix, 67-87.
- Pile, S. R., 2000, "The effects of past anthropogenic activities on vegetation composition over time within the Naddle valley in the English Lake District". Unpublished Dissertation, Liverpool John Moores University.
- Wilkinson, D. M., Clare, T. and Corkish, J., 1999, "The history of carr woodland at Birks Wood northern Lake District", *Naturalist* **124**, 157-162.

4. Recent Roman coin finds from Cumbria

By DAVID SHOTTER

A: HOARDS

1. Distington: A collection of sixty-seven coins of the third and fourth centuries was found in 2001 on private land adjacent to the main road through the village. It is evident that some, at least, of the coins were contained in a leather wallet. It remains unclear, however, whether the coins constituted one hoard or two, because of the scatter of locations from which they were retrieved. For a full discussion of this find see these *Transactions* pages 67-78. The sixty-seven coins were distributed chronologically as follows:

Gallienus	2
Claudius II	2
Divus Claudius	1
Victorinus (or Tetricus I)	1
Uncertain Radiate copy	1
Constantinian (A.D.324-346)	12
Constantinian (A.D.346-364)	21
Valentinianic	22
Theodosian	1
Illegible	4

This is one of the few hoards from north-west England with a termination-date in the late-fourth century; it may, therefore, have implications for our understanding of late Roman coastal activity, particularly since the coin-assemblage from Maryport also contains such late issues, and Muncaster Castle has yielded a Theodosian *solidus* (Shotter, 1997). It is hoped that the coins will be placed on display in the Senhouse Roman Museum at Maryport.

2. Old Carlisle: An *aureus* of Titus as Caesar (*RIC* (Vespasian), 218) was found in 2000, together with approximately twenty *denarii* (including issues of Trajan and Hadrian). The findspot was in the vicinity of the fort and extra-mural settlement, and the coins undoubtedly represent a disturbed hoard. It is hoped that further information will become available concerning this find.

B: CASUAL LOSSES

1. Arnside: A *dupondius* of Trajan has been reported; the coin was in a poor condition, although fragments of the obverse legend suggest that it was an issue of A.D. 103-111, whilst the reverse may depict the seated figure of Vesta.
2. Bardsea: Two separate areas have been pinpointed as findspots of Roman coins over the years – Sea Wood and “on the coast nearer to Bardsea”. No details of the coins have as yet become available.
3. Dalton-in-Furness: A little-worn *denarius* of Hadrian (*RIC* 110 of A.D. 119-122) was reported as having been found in 2001.
4. Kirkby Lonsdale: Three radiate copies have been reported from Low Biggins; one was an issue of Claudius II (*RIC* 14), whilst the other two could not be precisely identified. Anecdotal evidence suggests that these coins could have formed part of a scattered hoard.
5. Old Carlisle: A *denarius* of Hadrian (*RIC* 228 of A.D. 134-138) was reported to Tullie House Museum in 2000.
6. “Solway”: An *antoninianus* of Probus is reported to have been found in the area of Solway during 2000; no indication of the precise findspot is available. The coin is a little worn issue, minted in Antioch (*RIC* V (Antioch), 925 of A.D. 276-282). Coins of “legitimate” emperors of the 270s and 280s are relatively uncommon as site-finds in Britain.
7. Workington: It has been reported (by Ian Caruana) that approximately forty years ago – that is, in the 1960s – a *denarius* of Elagabalus was found; the coin, which is moderately worn, is *RIC* IV (Elagabalus), 146 of A.D. 218-222.

References

- RIC*: Mattingly, H. *et al.*, *The Roman Imperial Coinage* (London, 1923-).
- Shotter, 1997: Shotter, D. C. A., “Roman Coins from Maryport”, in Wilson, R. J. A. (ed.), *Roman Maryport and its Setting* (Kendal), 132-140.

5. *Some probable Roman roads in East Cumbria*

By ALAN RICHARDSON

A problem in researching lost Roman roads is the absence of any consensus on criteria for assessing the evidence. Some roads are accepted as Roman simply on the basis of tradition, while others associated with *Street* and *gate* place-names, parish boundaries, mediaeval references and even extant remains of *agger* and kerbs, remain unrecognised. There are at least four roads in East Cumbria which fall into this class and are worthy of further consideration

Appleby Street

In 1984 I gave an account of a putative Roman road, known as *Appleby Street* in the 14th century, running along the Eastern Fells from the A66 Roman road at Castrigg, north of Appleby, at least as far as Castle Carrock.¹ The evidence includes several miles of modern straight road alignment, a length of parish boundary, four *street* names, and three mediaeval references. I was able to find only one possible causeway remnant at Round Wood, near Gale Hall, Melmerby, but this has since been destroyed. North of Cumrew its course was not obvious though its mean line from Castrigg pointed to the Wall fort of Castlesteads and almost certainly it crossed the former Castle Carrock Common and joined *Thief Street* (see below).

Thief Street

In 1907, Graham gave an account of an ancient road known as *Thief Street*, which began just south of Low Gelt Bridge (352.10E 558.99N), south-west of Brampton, and ran roughly SSE across Hayton High Common before it was enclosed.² It then crossed Castle Carrock Common to Ring Gate (352.90E 556.20N).³ Graham wrote that it was used by reivers, hence its name, and by drovers *en route* to Appleby, which suggests that it did link with *Appleby Street* (above). Whether or not it originated at Castlesteads, or Old Church Brampton fort, it also joined the *Street* from Armathwaite (see below).

Graham gave its course, which is also marked on early editions of the OS map. Today, it may be followed from Low Gelt Bridge (352.10E 558.99N) first as a footpath between dykes and then as a broad causeway perceptible under the turf along the edge of the field into which the path leads. It rises up Watch Hill to 352.20E 558.70N as a hollow-way, with a broad *agger* on the western side. From there to 352.30E 558.25N it is mainly a modern track but with intermittent *aggers* and ditches on both sides, giving the impression that the modern track hops from one ditch to the other, the *agger* being seen intermittently on either side. It is carried on a substantial terrace at 352.70E 557.60N and, by the junction with the road to Hayton Townhead (5260 5785), there is a wide *agger* on the west. From there the track is about 2.5 metres wide and marked all the way to Two Top by intermittently metalled surfaces and ditches adjacent to the causeway, though not by kerbs. The *agger* is visible in Long Wood (352.56E 557.78N). The track marks the western edge of Two Top Wood and meets the modern eastern section of *How Street* (see

below) at 352.62E 557.14N. Immediately south of this point, a well made straight *agger* runs down through a hollow and ends abruptly at a railway cutting (352.85E 557.10N).

How Street

This lane runs 3.5 kms along the 557.00 northing from just east of Corby Hill to *Street House* (351.50E 557.00N). The author has suggested that it is a centurial *limes*.⁴

The Street from Armathwaite Bridge

A late 18th century map shows that on Castle Carrock Common, *Thief Street* formerly connected with the “High Road from Armathwaite Bridge commonly called the *Street*”.⁵ The course of the modern road from Armathwaite towards the former common is very straight. From 351.40E 546.60 to 353.30E 555.20N, between Armathwaite and Ring Gate, it is aligned 10 degrees W of N, deviating only between Holmwrangle and Hornsby Gate to avoid a steep scarp on the east bank of the River Eden. Hodkinson and Donald’s map of *c.1774*⁶ shows it crossing mostly open land and the *gate* element at Hornsby Gate suggests an early date. Armathwaite is also connected to the Carlisle-Brougham Roman road at High Hesket by a road running south of the former Tarn Wadling, and in the other direction lies *Street House* (354.20E 547.25N), hinting at another connection to *Appleby Street*, near Croglin.

Corbridgegate

Evidence of a road connecting Corbridge with the Eden Valley comes from references to the *Corbriggate*, 1½ miles north of Alston, in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries, and one in the 15th century which specifically refers to its joining Penrith to Corbridge, via Hexham.⁷ North east of Alston there is a straight 4 kms alignment of modern road, farm lane and rough track which is probably its remnant. From 372.50E 549.00N on the A696, a farm lane runs to Moscow Farm and its line is continued by a field boundary and then a track which rejoins the A686 at 373.90E 550.80N. From there to the Northumberland county boundary, a reduced *agger* accompanies the road just over the wall on the west. From the county boundary the modern road enters open moorland and the *agger* on its western side becomes very substantial; covered in heather, it is five metres wide within its marginal ditches. At 374.70E 552.00N, the modern road swings east but the line of the *agger* is maintained, with a slight shift of alignment, as a metalled track across the open moor to the modern road at 375.00E 555.00N. The fact that the name *Corbriggate*, rather than *Hexhamgate*, clung to a road north-east of Alston is a strong hint that it predated the foundation of Hexham Abbey and was associated with the Roman town.

This road was probably heading for Whitley Castle, where it would have connected with the Maiden Way but it may have continued over Hartside Fell to Brougham. It may be significant that the old crossing of the River Eden at Langwathby, (356.95E 533.40N), south of the modern bridge, is continued by a

very straight field boundary to Edenhall and then, with a shift of line, by the road towards Penrith from 356.52E 532.42N to 353.60E 530.00N.

Discussion

These roads at least deserve to be considered as probably Roman on account of their directness, the *street* names and mediaeval references showing their existence before modern road building. All require further study but some tentative conclusions can be drawn. *Appleby Street* almost certainly was intended to connect Stainmore with the Wall along the eastern side of the Eden, and *Thief Street* probably represents its northern section. The *Street* from Armathwaite to *Thief Street* may well be part of a route from the Old Penrith fort to the middle part of the Wall.

Notes and References

- ¹ A. Richardson, "An Old Road in the Eden Valley", *CW2*, lxxxiv, 79-83.
- ² T. H. B. Graham, "An old Map of Hayton Manor", *CW2*, vii, 42-53.
- ³ *A Plan of Roads leading from Carlattan gate to High Gelt Bridge in the parish of Castle Carrock and from thence to the village of Talkin* CRO(C) DMh/10/7 Vol. 3, 197
- ⁴ A. Richardson, "Further Evidence of Centuriation in Cumbria", *CW2*, lxxxvi, 71-78.
- ⁵ *A Plan of Roads*, *op. cit.*
- ⁶ Hodskinson and Donald's map of Cumberland, 1771-74, CRO(C).
- ⁷ A. M. Armstrong, A. Mawer, F. M. Stenton, and R. Dickens, *The Place-Names of Cumberland*, English Place Name Society XX (i), 151.

6. *A Roman quernstone from Ainstable, Cumbria* By PHILIP CRACKNELL

An upper quernstone (Fig. 1) was found by Mr Paul Hetherington of Beck Brow, Ainstable in the bank of North Gill, Ainstable (NGR NY 5288 4758), and remains in the possession of the finder. It is now listed as SMR No. 19782.

The stone is complete except for some damage around the circumference. The upper surface has been dressed to a smooth finish. The lower, grinding surface, was originally peck-dressed over the entire surface but is now worn smooth around the edge. The grinding face is slightly concave. The central hopper has a diameter of 88 mm on the upper surface, narrowing to 56 mm before expanding to 66 mm on the lower face. There is a handle socket in the side of the stone that curves upwards to reappear on the upper surface. It measures 40 mm by 36 mm at the upper end, 48 mm by 36 mm at the lower, tapering to a diameter of 8 mm at the centre. The stone is a fine-grained white/yellow sandstone. It exhibits the characteristics of a Roman quernstone, which is its probable date. Dia. 504 mm; Th. 80 mm (at edge), 72 mm (at centre).

There is some evidence of ancient settlement in the vicinity of the find spot, including a Bronze Age axe-hammer from the opposite side of the gill (*CW2*, xxxv, 171). Possibly more relevant, but as yet undated, is a cropmark of a dyke about 500 m to the west (SMR No. 6035 at NGR NY 522 478), which may suggest a Romano-British settlement nearby.

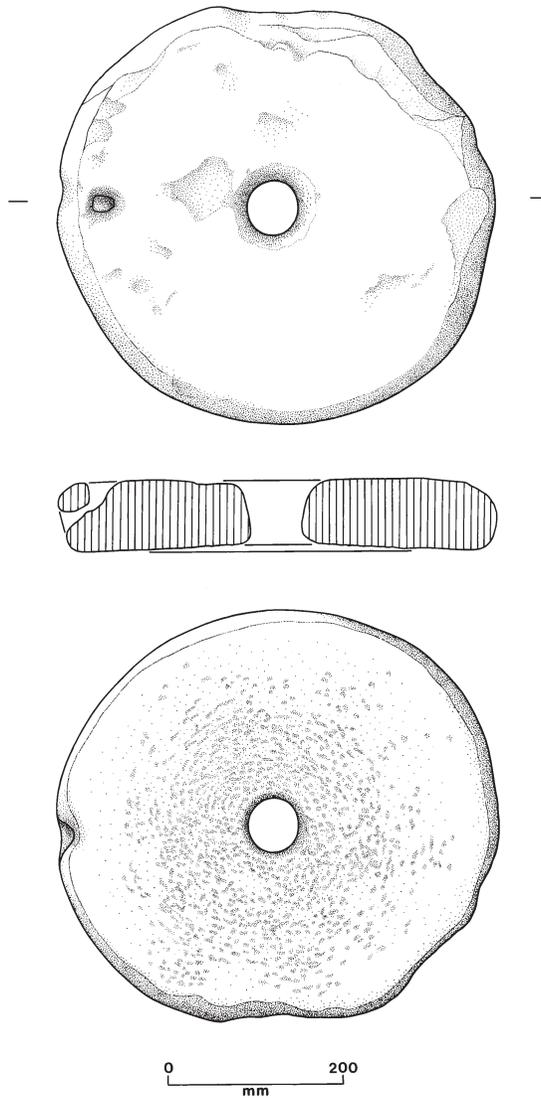


FIG. 1 – Upper quernstone from near Ainstable. Scale 1:8. (Drawn by P. Cracknell).

7. *The Cumbric name of Harthkyn, a field near Ponsonby*

By ANDREW BREEZE, M.A., Dip.Celt.Stud., Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S., F.S.A.

*Harthkyn*¹ is the long obsolete name of an unidentified field near Ponsonby (NY 0505), two miles from Sellafeld in south-west Cumbria. The name appears as *Ardekin* c.1212.² The authors of *The Place-Names of Cumberland* and Richard Coates take it as a Gaelic form, evidence for Norse-Irish settlement in the tenth and eleventh centuries, and suggest an etymology from Old Irish *ard* “height” and *choin* “hound’s” (or the genitive plural *con*), with the meaning “height of the dog(s), hill of the hound(s)”.³

Yet one may disagree with this. It does not explain *Harthkyn*'s initial *h* or representation of supposed *d* by *th*. The first element seems, rather, to be the Cumbric equivalent of Welsh *hardd* "beautiful, fair". This is familiar from Harlech in south Gwynedd, where Edward I's castle squats on a crag, the "fair slab of stone" (Welsh *hardd* + *llech*) that gives the place its name and is attested as *Hardlech* in the twelfth-century *Four Branches of the Mabinogi* (which describe the king of Gwynedd's holding court there).⁴

As for the second element, a clue is suggested by Halkyn (Welsh *Helygain*), a village (SJ 2071) two miles from Flint in North Wales. Sir Ifor Williams associated the name with Welsh *helyg* "willow".⁵ Hence *-kyn* here may imply that *Harthkyn* also had an original ending resembling *-gain*. If so, it was probably the Cumbric equivalent of Old Welsh *kein* "back, ridge" a cognate of Old Cornish *chein* (glossing *dorsum* "back"), Modern Cornish *cein* "back ridge", and Middle Breton *queyn* "back". An eighth-century grant of land, perhaps at Senghennydd (ST 1190) in Glamorgan, refers to a *cecg* "ridge" there. The word figures today at Llanrhaeadryng-Nghinmeirch (SJ 0863), a village (church of the waterfall in [the region of] the ridge of the horses) two miles from Denbigh. It also gives the name of Sir Gawain's horse Gryngolet (in the poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*) from Welsh *Keincaled*, which apparently means "hard back, firm back". Gryngolet was a steed that did not throw its rider, even when he fought a dragon, troll, bull, bear, boar, giant or other hazard in the north-west of England.⁶

So it seems *Harthkyn*, once the name of a field at Ponsonby, could mean "beautiful back, fair ridge". As such it may help us locate the spot. In any case it suggests that Ponsonby was reoccupied by Britons in the early tenth century, when the Northumbrians lost much of Cumbria to Strathclyde.⁷ It was apparently then that a Cumbric-speaker, perhaps from Strathclyde, settled at Ponsonby and gave an appreciative name (equivalent to Welsh *hardd* + *cein* "fair ridge") to a field there (perhaps on the rising ground behind this hamlet), which figures in a later document as *Harthkyn*.

Notes and References

¹ A. M. Armstrong, A. Mawer, F. M. Stenton, Bruce Dickins, *The Place-Names of Cumberland*, English Place-Name Society, ii (Cambridge, 1950), 428 gives *Harthkyn* as occurring c.1270.

² Rev. James Wilson (ed.), *The Register of the Priory of St Bees* (1915), 303.

³ A. M. Armstrong *et al.*, *op. cit.*; Richard Coates and Andrew Breeze, *Celtic Voices, English Places* (Stamford, 2000), 286.

⁴ Melville Richards, "Harlech", in *The Names of Towns and Cities in Britain* (ed.) W. F. H. Nicolaisen (London, 1970), 104.

⁵ Ifor Williams, *Enwau Lleoedd* (Lerpwl, 1945), 51.

⁶ A. C. Breeze, "Gryngolet, the Name of Sir Gawain's Horse", *English Studies*, lxxxi (2000), 100-101.

⁷ K. H. Jackson, "Angles and Britons in Northumbria and Cumbria" in *Angles and Britons* (Cardiff, 1963), 60-84, at 72.

8. *The Countess's Pillar: a misrepresentation corrected.*

By BLAKE TYSON

In his book, *Lady Anne Clifford*¹, R. T. Spence made errors which need correction

before his readers are misled. He was supposedly drawing information from a note in these *Transactions*² in which I identified Jonathan Gledall as one of two masons who built the Pillar, near Brougham. This conclusion relied on his mason's mark which exists in three places on the monument and also in Lady Anne's accounts on 29 November 1665, as a "signature" acknowledging receipt of payment for work done at Brough Castle with his colleague Daniel Whitfield.³ Such positive evidence allowing a name to be matched with a mason's mark is rare and has been discussed elsewhere.⁴

Regarding the Pillar, Spence correctly reported that "The mason she employed has been identified by his mark", but then named the wrong mason. It was NOT John Stainton whose proven mark is very different and has survived on the dated lintel of the gable-end doorway of Abbey Farmhouse, St Bees and also in Sir John Lowther's 1679-81 accounts for extending the pier at Whitehaven. Both of these West Cumberland contracts were undertaken by a team of masons mainly from Lancaster, including Roger Lawson, Richard Caton, Richard Crozier and Francis Caton. The latter's mason's mark can be found on the parapet of the middle section of the old pier at Whitehaven and in the accounts.

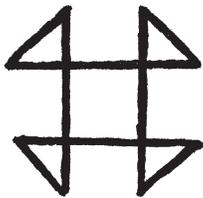


FIG. 1 – The mason's mark of Jonathan Gledall found in Lady Anne Clifford's 1665 accounts and on her Pillar at Brougham.



FIG.2 – The mason's mark of John Stainton found in Sir John Lowther's Whitehaven pier accounts (1679-81) and at Abbey Farm, St. Bees (1679), but NOT on Lady Anne's Pillar.

There is no evidence to support Spence's further assumption that his John Stainton was "associated with" Gledall or Whitfield. Certainly, on 24 July 1671, Lady Anne gave 10s. "to John Stainton who was formerly my Tenant when he now came about a lease to me".⁵ But this is no indication that he was a mason; and a search of the microfilms of Lady Anne's accounts failed to find any contrary evidence.

As Stainton was a fairly common name around St Bees but rare around Lancaster, John the mason was no doubt related (probably a younger brother) to Richard Stainton, Sir John Lowther's tenant of the Abbey Farm. The Lancaster men could have taken John on as a junior partner to increase the number of local skilled men without the need to provide for lodging him with about twenty other builders in the late Caesar Barnes's house in Roper Street, Whitehaven.⁶ Also, after 1682 several children of John Stainton were buried at St Bees. Therefore, it appears that Richard Spence mistakenly linked two men with the same name, on works twenty-five years and more than forty miles apart, and then compounded his error by associating a John Stainton with the Countess's Pillar when there is no evidence even to suggest it.

Notes and References

- ¹ R. T. Spence, *Lady Anne Clifford* (Sutton, 1997), 150.
- ² CW2, lxxxviii, 243-246.
- ³ CRO(K), WD/Hoth, Acc. 988/17.
- ⁴ B. Tyson, "Identifying and Classifying Masons' Marks", *Vernacular Architecture*, 25 (1994), 4-15.
- ⁵ "Accounts, 15" at CRO(K), microfilm JAC/495.
- ⁶ CRO(C), D/Lons/W, Whitehaven Street Books. Barnes was a ropemaker but, with his wife, two children and a servant, was drowned near Dublin when the *Charity* (Capt. William Woodall, master) sank in September 1672. (D/Lons/W, Tickell letters, box 1; 23, 141, 160 and box 2; 456. A full account of building the pier and Abbey Farm house is in B. Tyson, "Some Harbour Works in West Cumberland before 1710", *Ancient Monuments Society, Transactions*, 29 (1985), 173-208.

9. *Peter Rabbit and industrial archaeology: a previously unrecognised picture of a bark peeler's hut.*

By TOM CLARE

In an early paper relating to industrial archaeology Swainson Cowper described charcoal-burners' and bark-peelers' huts in south Lakeland.¹ There the bark-peelers' hut was said to differ from the "colliers" in its "addition of the hearth for cooking, from which . . . the smoke escapes from a specially constructed chimney, and not from a mere hole in the roof".²

This distinction as well as the plan form described by Cowper may enable us to identify or suggest former bark-peeler's huts but it is unfortunate that Cowper's own photograph does not show a chimney, nor do the illustrations of woodland structures published by others³ feature bark peelers' huts.

However, if the presence of a chimney was the principal feature distinguishing the two types of hut then there is a well-known picture which shows precisely this arrangement. It is the picture of the hut into which Mr Todd entices Jemimah Puddleduck. As we are now celebrating one hundred years of Peter Rabbit and almost one hundred years since Cowper's article it is perhaps appropriate that at last we should recognise the significance of Beatrix Potter's drawings as illustrating the character of our woodlands and wider landscape at the end of the nineteenth century.

Nevertheless Beatrix Potter's drawing shows a circular hut, whilst it has always been accepted, presumably on the basis of Swainson Cowper's account, that bark-peelers' huts were subrectangular. Did Beatrix Potter combine the two types of structure with artistic licence or was Swainson Cowper reporting a specific site which just happened to be subrectangular?

Notes and references

- ¹ H. S. Cowper, "A Contrast in Architecture", CW2, i, 129-143.
- ² *Ibid.*, 143.
- ³ J. Marsh, *Life in Old Lakeland* (Dalesman, 1985); J. Garbutt and J. Marsh, *Lancashire North of the Sands* (Suttons, 1991).

10. *Tyne (or Brewery) Bridge, Alston*
By R. W. RENNISON

As with many bridges, not least those of the North East, the history of the bridge at Alston (NY 717 462), crossing the river South Tyne, is not simple. The earliest reference located refers to 1697 when it was noted that the bridge, presumably of some antiquity, had been saved from collapse and orders were given by the Cumberland County Justices that it should be repaired; otherwise its rebuilding would cost £200.¹ Repairs were put in hand by John Kirton but their utility is questionable as further repairs were undertaken in 1711 and again in 1757 and 1758.²

In common with the other crossings of the Tyne – except for that at Corbridge – the bridge at Alston was destroyed by a calamitous flood in 1771, immediately after further expense had been incurred. Nevertheless, it was decided that it should be rebuilt and an advertisement was placed seeking contractors to undertake the work;³ in the interim period, William Howatson and Jonathan Hilton were paid £39 for the provision of a temporary structure. The advertisement led to John Wilson, John Macvety and Joseph Palmer being appointed for the rebuilding work.⁴ Some uncertainty follows: it is possible that progress was unduly slow; that the new bridge collapsed; or the contractors failed. Whatever the reason, it was not until 1784 that the arch of the new bridge was “completely closed”⁵ on Saturday, 3 July, its builders not those appointed earlier.

Proposals had been received from several contractors. John Parkin offered to build a bridge with two spans of 48 and 32 ft for £300 while Lovinger Maddison and Thomas Alan each submitted proposals. Maddison offered to build a bridge with two spans of 39 ft for £220 “and Giv sufishont Bond for hupolging [upholding?] it for seven years”⁶ while Alan’s price was £380. If built as a single span of 63 ft. Maddison’s price would be £330 and Alan’s £350. John Gaskin and Thomas Gowling – later with John Turner and William Robinson – had estimated the cost at £199 and John Threlkeld £270. In July 1784 Gaskin and Gowling were paid £70 “due upon completion of the Arch over the river Tyne at Alston”⁷ and later received the balance of the cost, possibly for a structure of 63 ft span. Alternatively the bridge could have been of 66 ft span with a width of 12 ft, built in accordance with an extant drawing and specification, possibly by Francis Murray, then the County’s bridge surveyor.⁸

Repairs to the new bridge, although not specified, were required by 1816 and in 1825 the County bridge surveyor, William Sanderson, met John Loudon McAdam regarding new roads in the vicinity of the bridge, affecting its approaches. In 1832/3 discussions took place regarding the replacement of the bridges at both Alston and Warwick Bridge and the surveyor, by then Christopher Hodgson, produced designs for both. In the event, Warwick bridge was built to the design of Francis Giles, Engineer to the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, while that at Alston is presumed to have been built to the designs of Hodgson, its cost not to exceed £1400.⁹

The builders of the new Alston bridge were Paul Nixson and William Smith Denton but on 21 November 1833, it was written by Richardson, “the new bridge . . . , fell with a tremendous crash, the western abutment having been entirely carried away by a flood. This beautiful structure consisted of only one arch probably the

longest in the country [county?], and was nearly completed.”¹⁰ In the records of the County Quarter Sessions it was noted that “Alston Old Bridge be put into a state of repair sufficient to secure its security till the completion of the New Bridge; and that the Materials carried into the water by the late floods be recovered and secured”.¹¹

By this time Thomas Milton, formerly engineer to the River Wear Commissioners, had been appointed as Bridgemaster and it was he who became responsible for the design and subsequent rebuilding of the bridge by Grisenthwaite & Co. On 28 November 1835 “the new bridge at Alston was opened to the public, though not quite completed”.¹² With two spans of 35 ft and a width of 19 ft the bridge remains unaltered except for the addition of a cantilevered walkway on the downstream side.

References

- ¹ *Cumberland County Petitions*, Easter 1697 CRO(C) Q/11.
- ² *Bridge Order Book* CRO(C) Q/AB/2.
- ³ *Public Orders*, 25 February 1772 CRO(C) Q/7/3.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, 7 October 1772.
- ⁵ *Alston Bridge* CRO(C) Q/AB/5.
- ⁶ *Ibid.*
- ⁷ *Public Orders*, 14 July 1784 CRO(C) Q/7/4.
- ⁸ *Alston Bridge* CRO(C) Q/AB/5.
- ⁹ *Public Orders*, 10 April 1833 CRO(C) Q/7/6.
- ¹⁰ M. A. Richardson, *Local Historians Table Book*, 4 (1844), 21 November 1833.
- ¹¹ *Public Orders*, 31 December 1833 CRO(C) Q/7/6.
- ¹² M. A. Richardson, *op. cit.*, 28 November 1835.