

ART. XXXVIII.—*Some Prehistoric Remains in North Lonsdale.** By H. SWAINSON COWPER.

Read at Ulverstone, September 13, 1887.

I N September last year, at the Meeting of this Society at Kendal, I had the honour to lay before it the result of some excavations in a prehistoric cairn on Hawkshead Hall Parks. Since then I have made some further researches in the same mound, and have also examined three others near Torver, one only of which proved at all fruitful; two, if not all three, had been imperfectly examined about 30 years ago.

The first cairn, situate at Hawkshead, and partly examined by myself in 1883, had revealed, as described in my paper of last year, an interment of burnt bones, and a flint knife, placed in a rude square 2 ft. 9in. by 1 ft. 9in. dug in the natural soil, and situated N.E. of the centre of the cairn; a noticeable feature being that these explorations had shown that there was no central interment: as there was still a considerable portion of the cairn unexamined I thought that there might be an interment left.

On April 25th and 26th of this year, I accordingly had the whole of the remainder of this cairn turned completely over, the result being that no other interments were discovered, but the following facts of interest were noticed: 17 ft. W.N.W. of the centre a thickish deposit of charcoal mixed with earth and covered by a stone: deposits of ashes, burnt earth and charcoal, were observed at the following places: 12 ft. E.S.E. of centre; 13 ft. S.W. of centre; 14 ft. E.N.E. of centre, in this case accompanied by puddled earth.†

* Lancashire Ord. Surv. 6 in. Sheet 5, N.W., *ante* p. 200.

† See *British Barrows*, Greenwell and Rolleston, p. 246.

Burnt earth and charcoal were found to exist in the natural soil in many parts of the N.W. side, but notably, 15 ft. N.W. of centre a deposit of soil and ashes, and 13 ft. N.N.W. of centre a similar deposit mixed with charcoal. On the N.E. side many of the stones showed signs of having been subjected to the action of fire, while the S.W. side was found to be more soily, and less stony, than any other part of the cairn.

This completed the examination of this cairn, every piece of earth in it having been turned over down to the natural soil, showing that it contained but one interment, that not at the centre but E.N.E. of it, and consisting of a burnt body, placed in a hole 2 ft. 9 in. by 1 ft. 9 in., accompanied by a flint knife, and covered by a large stone.*

BLEABERRY HAWS, TORVER.

The district in which the following discoveries were made is a high tract of fell land lying W. of Coniston Lake, and is very prolific in ancient remains. The place is mentioned by the late Mr. Clifton Ward, in his paper entitled "Archæological remains in the Lake district,"† printed in the 3rd Vol. of the Transactions of this Society, in which he gives a very full list of remains of various ages in Cumberland, Westmorland, and parts of Furness. His reference to this particular place is as follows :

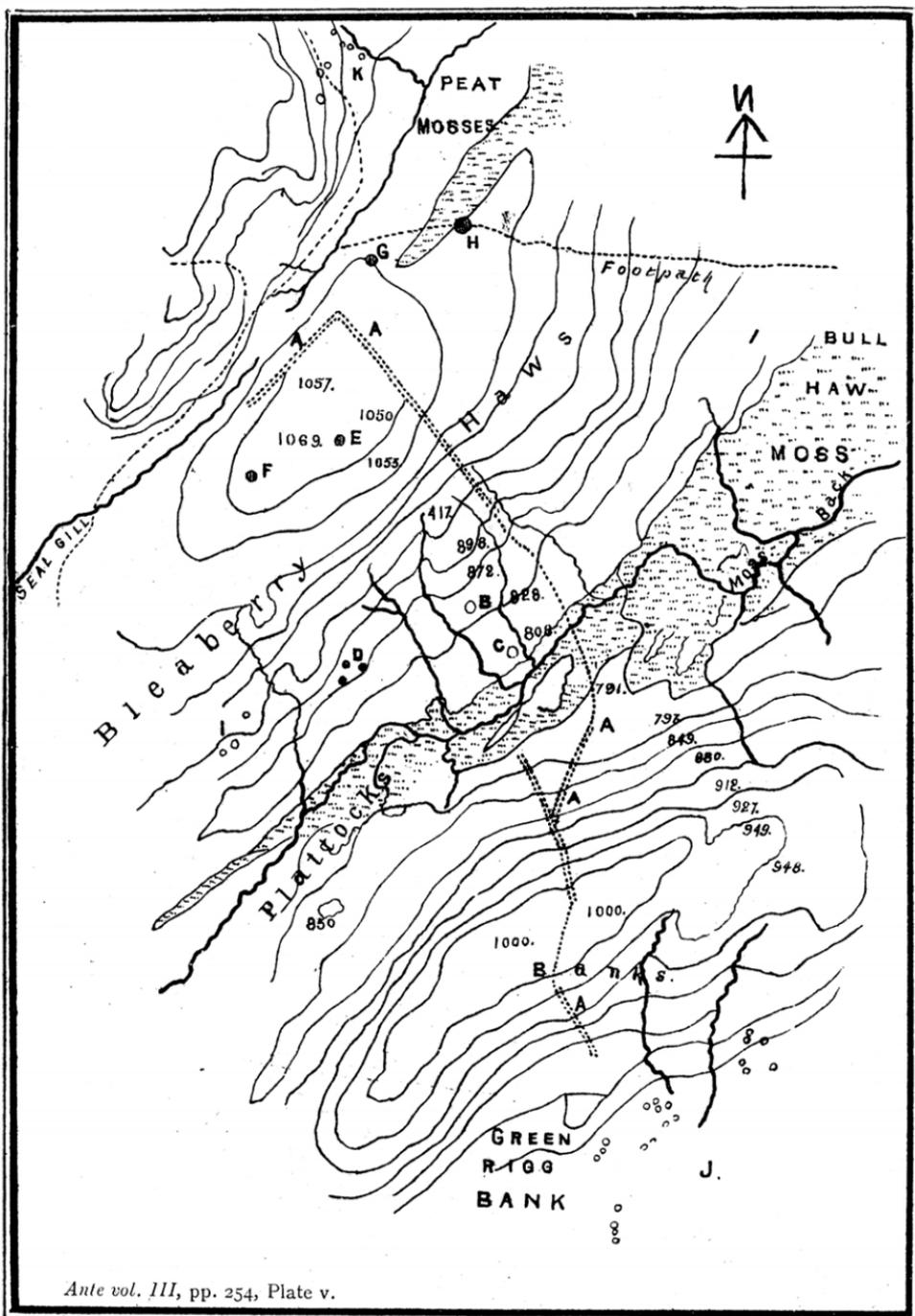
Sheet 4, Lancashire S.W. A mile W. of Torver there crosses Bleaberry Haws, an ancient entrenchment evidently belonging to the period of the cairns and stone circles which are grouped closely around it (see fig. 22),‡ and which speak for themselves.

* In my former paper on prehistoric remains in this district *ante* p. 202, of these Transactions, I stated that this cairn contained a circle of stones; this opinion was I am afraid, rashly formed, as this further examination, showed that there was no regular circle, although many large stones were placed near the circumference in more than one place.

† Notes on Archæological remains in the Lake district, by J. Clifton Ward, F.G.S., of Her Majesty's Geological Survey, *ante* Vol. iii., p. 241.

‡ Fig. 22 is a map of these remains, plate 5 of his paper.

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Ante vol. III, pp. 254, Plate v.

ANCIENT REMAINS NEAR BLEABERRY HAWS, TORVER.

The main feature in this particular batch is, as intimated in Mr. Clifton Ward's notice, the entrenchment which extends for nearly a mile (6 in. Ord. Surv).* It commences amongst a group of cairns at a place called Green Rigg Bank, about half a mile due W. of Brocklebank Ground in Torver, and runs in a northerly direction over an eminence marked on the Ord. 6 in. maps as Banks, and down a steep hill into a valley which separates Banks from Bleaberry Haws. Here, close to the bottom, it separates into two branches, one running N.N.E. and the other N.N.W., the latter being a continuation in the line of its direction before the division.

This branch is lost after about 100 yards. The other branch going N.N.E. turns however before it crosses the stream and pursuing, roughly speaking, a N.N.W. direction, crosses it, ascends Bleaberry Haws, passes the summit, and just after the descent is commenced it takes a sudden turn to the left at a right angle, and after about 150 yards comes to an end. (See A.A.A. on Map given herewith).

Just S.W. of the dyke where the stream is crossed by it is a cairn 36 ft. in diameter, [C on Map, and plate I., (2)], which I examined and will describe presently. Less than 100 yards N.N.W. of this is another, 18 ft. in diameter. About 200 yards W.S.W. of these there are several small cairns the diameter of the greatest of which is about 15 ft. (D on Map), and about the same distance again, in the same direction are more small cairns, (I on map).

On the summit of Bleaberry Haws, a little due S. of the place where the dyke turns off at a right angle, stands a cairn (E on Map), about 29 ft. in diameter, which I examined but which I found to have been explored in former times.

A short distance S.W. of this is a small circle of seven stones, [F on Map, and plate I., (3)], not a true circle its

* As far as it has been traced. It is quite possible that a careful survey would shew a greater extent. I find this class of remains are very imperfectly marked in the Ord. Surv.

length

length being 17 ft. and its width 13 ft. (its length lying N.E. and S.W.). This circle was dug into in my absence, and a rough pavement of cobble stones was found at a depth of from 2 to 3 ft. resting upon the natural rock.

About 100 yards N.E. of the angle of the dyke is a cairn (G on Map), about 26 ft. in diameter, and about the same distance E.N.E. of this is a circular enclosure of earth and stones [H on Map, and plate I., (4)], 54 ft. in diameter,* and a little further to the N., but hardly to the classed with this particular group, are more cairns. There are besides these a considerable quantity of small mounds of stones lying about the rough ground S. of this dyke, which seem to me artificial and are doubtlessly burial mounds.

CAIRNS NEAR TORVER.†

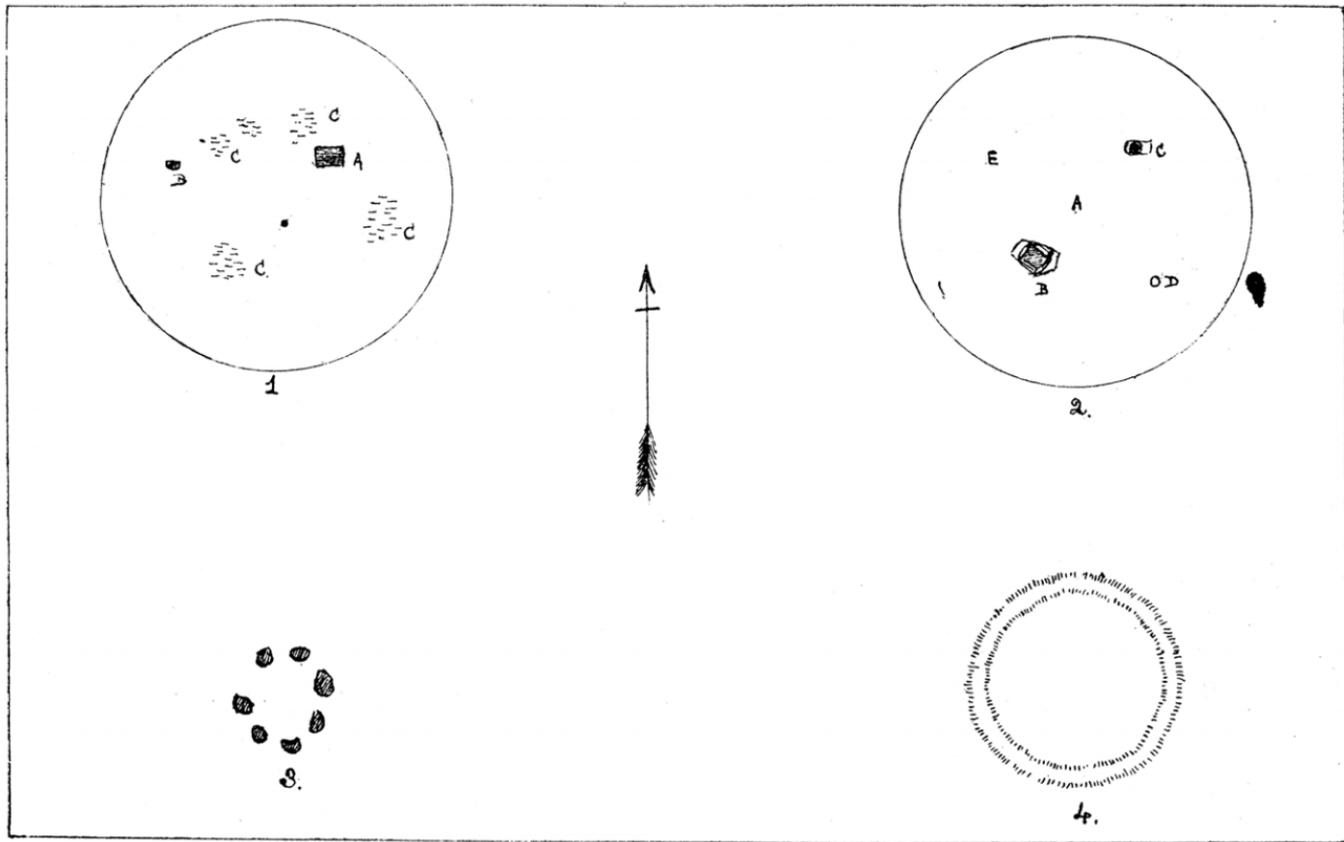
Among these remains I have examined three cairns, one of which had contained three interments, while the other two were absolutely unprolific, owing in at least one case to having been examined before; the first and prolific one [C on Map, and plate I., (2)], lying as I have said S.W. of the dyke where it crosses the stream, was 36 ft. in diameter, and about 2 ft. high. I examined the whole of this cairn, except a small portion on the N.W. side: at the centre a great many stones had been removed, down in fact to the natural surface, thus forming a large bowl-shaped cavity. This excavation I am told was made by a gentleman about 35 years ago, and there is no doubt he found here a central interment.‡ This hole extended beneath where the interment had been found, and was filled in with gravel and sand of uncertain depth. No stones were found in this

* A similar enclosure but bigger, caps a hill about two-thirds of a mile due E. of this, unnoticed either by Ord. Surv. or Mr. Clifton Ward, and there are other enclosures of a similar character a little further N. at the foot of Coniston Old Man.

† Lancs 6 in. Ord Surv., Sheet 4, S.W.

‡ What he did find I have been unable to ascertain. The usual account of "old bones" is all I have got.

part



CAIRNS AND ANCIENT REMAINS AT HAWKSHEAD HALL PARK,
AND BLEABERRY HAWS TORVER.



CIST. containing burnt bones

length of cover stone 3ft 9in breadth 2ft 9in thickness 5in
interior measurement 2ft 5in by 1ft 4in depth 1ft.

CAIRN AT BLEABERRY HAWS, TORVER.

part of the cairn, which were likely to have formed a cist, so this interment was probably, but not certainly, without one; a quantity of burnt bones found scattered loose, chiefly on the S. side of the cairn, were probably the disturbed remains of this interment which consequently must have been by cremation, [I., (2) A],* 12 ft. E.S.E. of the centre, [I., (2) D], was a hole excavated in the natural soil measuring 1 ft. 3 in. in diameter, and 1 ft. 2 in. in depth, and filled with charcoal. 10 ft. N.E. of the centre in a hole 1 ft. 4 in. in diameter, [I., (2) C], and of the same depth, and nearly round, dug in the natural soil and covered by a large cobble, was a considerable deposit of burnt bones, accompanied by the remains of an earthenware vessel, very much decayed and very fragmentary: near the bottom of the hole and amongst the bones was a rudely formed flint instrument, one edge of which was serrated, probably for sawing purposes. This instrument has been exposed to the action of fire but not apparently to the same extent as the bones. The vessel is of course red earthenware, and has been ornamented with circular dots or impressions placed in perpendicular rows: the pieces are too fragmentary to ascertain whether it has been a food vessel, drinking vessel, or cinerary urn, but from its size it has probably been one of the former.†

8 ft. S.W. of the centre [I., (2) B], placed on the natural soil, was a cist formed of four stones set on edge and covered by a large flag, its length lying N.W. and S.E. The interior measurement of this cist was 2 ft. 5 in. by 1 ft. 4 in. and its depth 1 ft. The greatest length of the cover stone was 3 ft. 9 in. and greatest breadth 2 ft. 9 in. and thickness 5 in. On removing this cover stone we found a deposit of burnt bones very decayed and unaccompanied by urn or implement of any description. Just N. of

* Sheet I., plan 2, No. of interment A.

† In filling in, a curious cylindrical bone object was found, it is about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long, perforated lengthways and through one side near the end, and although burnt is very hard. It may have been a whistle.

centre

centre of, and outside of the N.E. side of this cist, were discovered some fragments of pottery, very decayed and apparently without design.

N.W. of the centre, [I., (2), E], lying loose in the cairn, was found a flint flake, quite whitened but apparently not burnt. Throughout the mound many burnt stones were observed, but especially on the N.W. side.

The second cairn, less than 100 yards N.N.W. of the last, (B on Map), 18 ft. in diameter, and about 1 ft. in depth, was of a different composition, being formed of larger stones: although it was turned completely over, no interment or remains of any sort were found, but about the centre, a rather peculiar deposit of dark coloured earth was observed. I have not yet been able to ascertain whether this cairn had been examined before or not.

The other cairn I examined (E on Map), and which was equally unprolific with the last, having been rifled about 35 years ago, is situate on the summit of Bleaberry Haws, and placed on a natural hillock: it is 29 ft. in diameter. Stones showing the action of fire were found all the way through, as well as small quantities of charcoal.

This cairn probably had but one interment, and that at the centre, which part showed most sign of disturbance, having like the first, a deep excavation at that part. This interment was probably, but not certainly, by inhumation as all signs of bone seem to have been removed by former excavators, which would be easier in the case of an interment by inhumation, than one by cremation. No signs of a cist were observed.

I have also to record the following incidental discoveries of remains to the stone age.

1. Celt and quern from Selside, Westmorland.
2. Celt from Castle Hill, Pennington.
3. Flint flake and scraper from Dendron.

I.

1. The celt and quern first named, I had the honour of describing last year, in a paper to the Society of Antiquaries in London. They were found about two fields apart, at Whitwell Folds, a farm at Selside, about four miles N.E. of Kendal. The celt was discovered about 6 ft. deep in draining a peat moss, which had formerly been a tarn, is $7\frac{1}{8}$ in. long, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. broad at the cutting edge, and 2 in. broad at the butt, and is composed of what seems to be a very hard volcanic stone. The edge of the blade is oblique: the sides are carefully ground off, and if carefully examined seemed to be formed into almost three facets: the butt end is left rough, perhaps to enable some gummy substance with which it was hafted to adhere more firmly. The whole surface is carefully polished, and the minute *striae* which cover it are both lateral and longitudinal. It was found about 1847.

The quern, which is of the beehive-shape, was found about 1857, close by on the same farm and at about the same depth. Its height is $10\frac{3}{4}$ in., breadth across base 1 ft., and across top of hole $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. A nearly identical specimen has been found at Wray, near Ambleside.

2. The celt from Castle Hill, Pennington, is rather peculiar in form. It was found in the spring of 1886, in a ploughed field, and is now in the possession of John Bigland, Esq., of Bigland Hall. Its peculiarity consists in its being only the butt end of a long celt, of a common northern county type, broken off short, perhaps by accident, and then roughly chipped to a new edge. The edge thus formed, has never been polished like the rest of the weapon. Its present length is nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. and its greatest breadth $1\frac{4}{5}$ in. and its thickness about 1 in. and it is composed of green stone. It has originally been polished all over, but not in such a workmanlike fashion as the Selside specimen, as the surface is left in facets or ridges: the sides are flattened.

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The place where this object was found, Castle Hill, Pennington, is occupied by some ancient earthworks, the antiquity of which seem to be a matter of some dispute. Both Baines, in his "Lancashire," and Whitaker, in his "Richmondshire" mention a square enclosure which they consider to be the remains of the ancient castle of the Penningtons. Dr. Barber, however, in his "Prehistoric Remains," writes as follows of it : " it consists of a large circular enclosure with an entrance towards the S.E., the circle being defended on the S. and E. by a vallum of earth and a deep ditch, and on the N. and W. by precipices, at the base of which runs a streamlet draining the moor above. But as there are no indications of foundations of buildings, it is more likely to have been a British fortress."

There is also close by in a field named Ellabarrow, a tumulus called Conynger Wood, and the same author relates that while building the residence Conynger Hurst, a circular tomb was discovered, together with ancient bones and a sword, and that when the railway was being constructed, several querns, stone balls, and axes, were found 12 ft. below the surface.

3. The two flints I found on April 1st this year, between Dendron and Newton : one has nothing remarkable about it, being an ordinary spell or flake ; the other is a fairly worked scraper of black flint.