The description of this place of defence given by Dr Playfair is generally correct, except in one or two particulars, where he has allowed conjecture to assume the appearance of fact. Of all the vitrified forts I have seen, it is the most interesting, inasmuch as the vitrified matter occupies a position relatively to the other parts of the works different from what I should have expected, whatever hypothesis in regard to its origin we may assume.

The rampart surrounding the summit of the hill has been of considerable height, judging from the great quantity of loose stones that appears to have been thrown down from it on all sides. The stones are of the same kind as the rock of the hill, a red sandstone conglomerate. I found a few masses of vitrified stones among the ruins of this rampart, and they resembled those from other vitrified forts in every particular, the stones being primitive rocks, gneiss, granite, sienite, and hornblende rock. When I first observed these, I concluded that their presence had been accidental among the stones of the rampart on which the fires had been lighted. On going to examine what Dr Playfair has called a bridge, I found that this considerable mass consisted of primitive rock stones vitrified. It had not the slightest resemblance to a bridge, either in its form or apparent use. I was much surprised on observing its position, which is as in this section. It is in the bottom of the trench, between the summit and the outer rampart.

It immediately occurred to me, that it was probable that a greater extent of indications of fire existed; and on searching about c, on the north side, I found vitrified masses, and also at e; and as there is a low rampart extending all along the bottom of the trench, I think it will probably be found, on clearing away the turf, that the marks of fire extend along the whole of it, and that b is merely a portion of the general mass. That part of the trench at the end d appears to be formed by a natural rise of the hill beyond it. But from d to e appears to be an artificial rampart.

The singularity of Barry Hill is in the vitrified matter being in the trench. If it shall afterwards be found that the whole extent is composed of united stones, this circumstance also will be remarkable, as it will indicate an intended collection of vitrifiable stones. But if detached vitrified masses only shall be found, then their presence may be presumed to have been accidental.
desire to have the vitrified masses on the outer rampart freed from the soil which covers them.