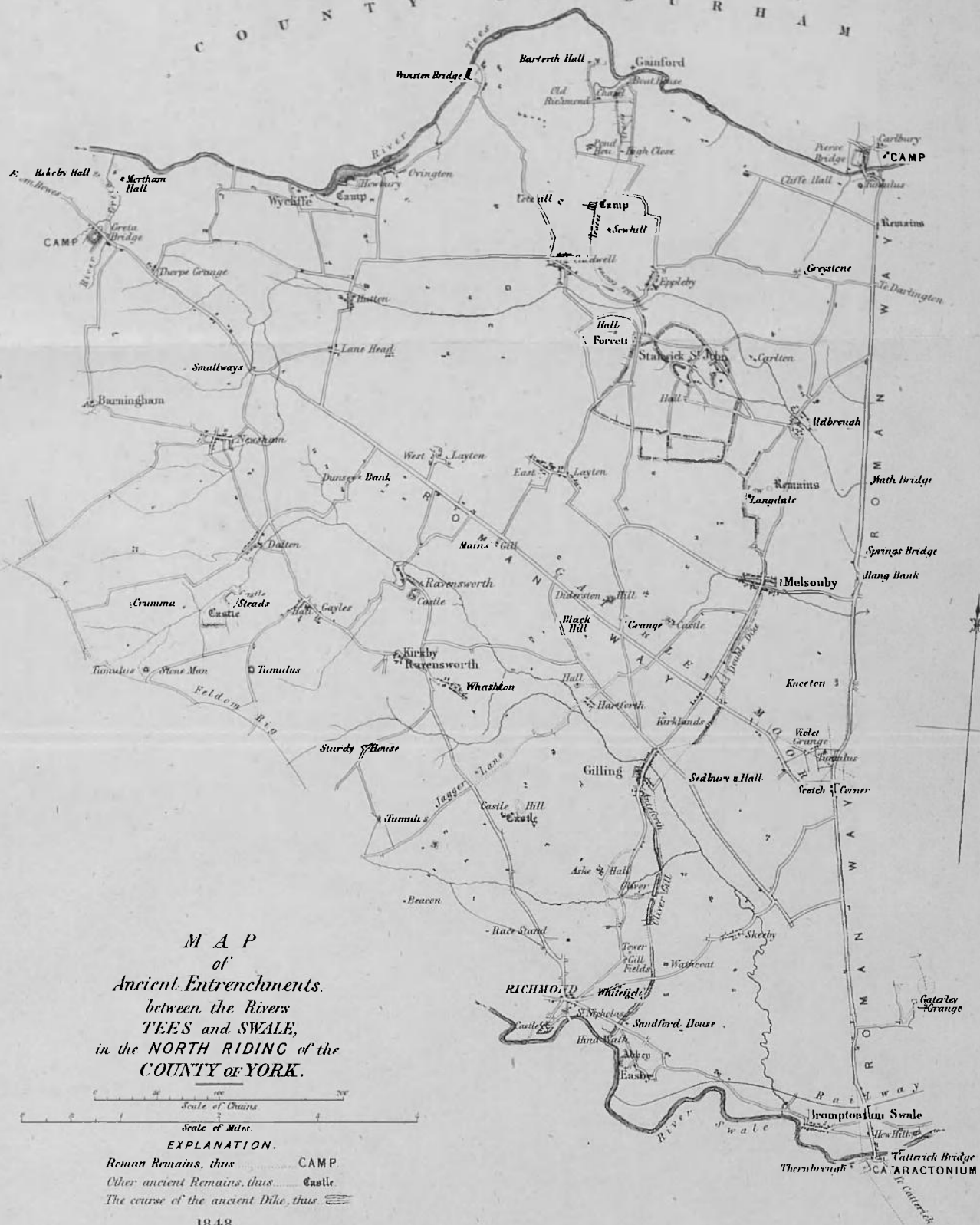


# C O U N T Y O F D U R H A M



M A P  
of  
Ancient Entrenchments.  
between the Rivers  
TEES and SWALE,  
in the NORTH RIDING of the  
COUNTY OF YORK.

Scale of Chains  
Scale of Miles

EXPLANATION.  
Roman Remains, thus CAMP.  
Other ancient Remains, thus Castle  
The course of the ancient Dike, thus

1848.

## The Archaeological Journal.

SEPTEMBER, 1849.

ON THE ROMAN ROADS, CAMPS, AND OTHER EARTHWORKS,  
BETWEEN THE TEES AND THE SWALE, IN THE NORTH  
RIDING OF THE COUNTY OF YORK.

THE district of Yorkshire, situated between the Tees and the Swale, between Darlington on the north, and Richmond on the south, was one of the most important military positions occupied by the Romans in the north of Britain. It is in this district that the great Roman road, which may be traced through the county in a continuous line, from Doncaster to Catterick, separates into two branches, one of which, passing by Greta Bridge and Bowes, proceeded to Carlisle (Luguvallium), the other crossing the Tees at Pierse Bridge, was continued to Newcastle (Pons Ælii). These two lines of communication, by which the south of England was thus connected both with the eastern and western extremity of the Roman Wall, may be still very clearly traced, from their point of divergence a little north of Catterick, throughout the whole of their course northward through Yorkshire; and the site and scale of the camps by which they were defended are most clearly indicated by the remains at Catterick, Greta Bridge, Pierse Bridge, and Bowes.<sup>1</sup>

The extent, the preservation, and the historical importance of these monuments of Roman occupation, well deserve the study of the archaeologist; but this part of Yorkshire has other special claims on his attention.

<sup>1</sup> The maps to which the following observations refer, were made at the desire of the Duke of Northumberland, under the direction of Mr. C. Newton, of the Department of Antiquities, British Museum. Great advantages were derived from the use of maps in possession of his Grace, and of the Earl of Zetland; from those of Sir

William Lawson, as well as from his local knowledge; from those of Mr. Gilpin of Sudbury; from the Tithe Maps under the care of the Ven. Archdeacon Headlam, and the clergy of the Archdeaconry of Richmond. In the derivation of names of places, assistance was rendered by Mr. Just, of Bury, Lancashire.

The district, which has been already described as situate between the Tees and the Swale, is traversed throughout this whole space by a vast dike, or line of earthworks, which extends, with more or less of continuity, from Easby on the Swale to Barforth on the Tees, passing in its course some entrenchments of a singular kind, at Stanwick and Forcett.

It is proposed in this memoir, to give some account of the whole of these early remains ; commencing with the Roman roads and camps. We shall then proceed to trace the course of the dike, offering some conjectures as to its origin and purpose. A notice of some other camps and earthworks in the district, of uncertain period, will conclude the memoir.

The shape of the whole district is that of an irregular triangle, containing between sixty and seventy square miles ; the south-west boundary of which, as will be seen by the accompanying General Map, may be defined by a line drawn from the junction of the Greta and the Tees to Barn-ingham, passing over the elevated moorlands of Crumma and Feldorn to Richmond, and continued from this spot to Catterick along the course of the Swale. The River Tees itself may be taken as the north-west limit ; and the east side of the triangle is formed by the Roman Way from Catterick Bridge to Pierse Bridge.

The valley of Gilling, which runs up from Catterick in a north and west direction, appears to have been taken advantage of by the Romans as a line of defence on the south of their road to Greta Bridge, to which it forms an enormous ditch ; and, at the same time that this road overlooks the Gilling Valley, it forms a triangle with the other Roman Way, on the eastward, and the course of the Tees ; within this smaller triangle lie the entrenchments at Stanwick and Forcett, to which we have already alluded.

The whole of this area from the moorlands on the south to the Tees on the north is completely commanded by Two posts of observation ; the elevated and rounded hill of Diderston, situated on the north side of the Roman Way to Greta Bridge, and nearly in the centre of the whole district, and the Camp at Cauldwell, which is placed about the centre of the smaller triangle formed by the Roman Roads and River Tees.

We shall now proceed to trace the Roman Road which

forms the east side of our triangle, commencing at the south extremity, near to Catterick Bridge.

Most writers on the Roman antiquities at Catterick have placed the station of Cataractonium<sup>2</sup> in Thornbrough<sup>3</sup> Pasture; but it remained for Sir William Lawson, the present proprietor of this spot, to discover the foundations, and thus to place the site beyond doubt. The station appears to have been placed on a gently rising ground, on the south bank of the Swale, about 180 yards above Catterick Bridge, in a field known as Thornbrough Pasture.

About half of the east wall has been uncovered, from about the centre to the south-east angle, which is rounded off; thence in continuation, the south wall has been laid bare by digging, as far as the gateway, on which the road from Aldborough (Isurium) runs in a straight line, as may be traced across the fields. The remains, consisting of two or three courses of masonry, standing on the foundation course, are 7 ft. 6 in. in thickness, and without slope, as far as can be seen at present; the length on each front that has been opened, may be about 90 yards, and the depth of the excavation from 2 to 3 feet below the surface. The bearings of these foundations run in the direction of the four cardinal points, *by compass*, and the north wall must run nearly parallel to the course of the River Swale.

The Roman Way from Isurium forms at the gateway an angle with the south front; and that in continuation towards the north leaves the north front at the same angle, the two roads forming an angle of  $150^{\circ}$ , with the ~~angular~~ point towards the west; the east front consequently has been drawn at right angles to the line bisecting this angle of the roads.<sup>4</sup> How far the walls extended to the westward is yet to be discovered; but, from an irregular line of defence which has been uncovered, and which commences about the same distance from the south gate, that the gate is from the south-east angle, it seems probable that the gate where the road entered, will be found to be in the centre of the front.

Should this be the case, the camp will have been com-

<sup>2</sup> Probably derived from *Caer-dar-ich*, Brit.,—*Camp on the water*.

<sup>3</sup> The frequency of the occurrence of the word Thorn, (Thor) at places of defence, renders it probable that the camps were dedicated to the Norse Deity.

<sup>4</sup> The Roman Station at Lincoln appears to have been formed at an angular point of the Roman Way in a similar manner; though at Lincoln the angular point is towards the east.

manded by the higher ground above on the west ; but this construction may have been adopted perhaps to secure a moderate descent from the north gate to the river.

Should the above conjecture as to the position of the other angles prove correct, the sides will be relatively 240, and 175 yards, and the area within the walls of the station about 9 acres. The remains that have been from time to time discovered at Thornbrough, are in themselves sufficient evidence that a Roman camp, as well as a town, has been placed here. In Whitaker's *Richmondshire* (ii., p. 24), are engravings of two portions of columns with their bases, resembling those recently dug up at Aldborough, and which probably formed part of a temple. As early as the reign of Charles I. a large bronze caldron, full of Roman 3rd brass coins, was discovered on this spot ; the caldron is preserved at Brough Hall, but the coins have disappeared. Sir William Lawson possesses a number of other interesting Roman antiquities found on the site of the camp, among which may be particularly mentioned two lions, sculptured in stone, and probably of a late period, and two bronze fibulæ, exhibited in the Museum of the Archaeological Institute at the York Meeting. Representations of these ornaments, probably of early Saxon date, are here submitted to the reader. (See Woodcuts, half orig. size.) Horsley found no inscriptions at Thornbrough, but one has been discovered since, dedicated to the "Dea Syria."<sup>5</sup> Traces of the Roman Road, where it left the station on the north, are visible in the black earth on the edge of the river, and in a slight elevation on the opposite bank. In proceeding to the north it joins the present road at about a mile from Catterick Bridge, and coincides with it till we come to the second mile-stone, where the present road deviates a little to the eastward and shortly rejoins it again. The Way continues straight to about 300 yards to the north of Scotch Corner, where the traces of the Roman Road, from Greta Bridge, have been found to fall in at a farm called Violet<sup>6</sup> Grange ; here the road to Pierse Bridge, makes a bend to the eastward, at right angles to the line from Greta Bridge, and about a quarter of a mile in length. This spot is about 510 feet above the sea.

<sup>5</sup> Whitaker's *Richmondshire*, ii., pp. 19—24.

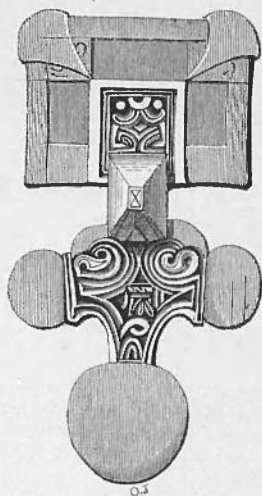
<sup>6</sup> Whether this very unusual name may be derived from the Roman "Via," and

have marked the intersection of these roads at this point, is left for the consideration of the philologist.

SAXON FIBULÆ FOUND NEAR CATTERICK BRIDGE.



Saxon Fibula found near Catterick Bridge  
(Length, 6½ inches.)



Bronze Cruciform Fibula, in the possession of Sir William Lawson, Bart.  
Found at Thornbrough, near Catterick Bridge, Yorkshire.  
(Length, 5 inches.)





On the north of this place; and on a line bisecting the right-angle just mentioned, at the distance of about 220 yards, are the remains of a tumulus, which, as far as could be judged from cursory examination and inquiry on the spot, seemed to be ancient. It is probable, that, when this was at its original height, Cataractonium to the south, Hang Bank on the north, and the hill of Diderston on the north-west, may have been visible from its top; it would thus have served as a convenient signal post. At about a quarter of a mile north of the point of intersection the road makes a counter bend so as to point due north; it is difficult to explain the necessity for this second angle, for, though the original change to the westward was required in order to reach the favourable ford over the Tees at Pierse Bridge, this deviation would have been more readily accomplished had a straight line been drawn from the point of intersection to Pierse Bridge, than by the double bend adopted in this instance, for which the nature of the ground does not suggest any reason.

In proceeding northward towards Pierse Bridge, the Roman Way was to the right of the present road, and distant from it about its own breadth, and, as Horsley observes, "continues visible,"<sup>7</sup> though the stones have been nearly all taken to mend the modern road. It is indicated on the map by a dotted line. Between Kneeton and Hang Bank it falls in with the present road, and continues along it till we come within about 150 yards of Hang Bank, where the present road, and probably the ancient one, turns aside to the eastward to avoid the hill, regaining the line a little below the bank, and crossing to the westward to avoid a small stream at Springs Bridge, regaining the line again about 130 yards beyond Springs Bridge.<sup>8</sup> Thence it crosses Wath Bridge at about 290 feet above the sea, and, rising to a height of 325 feet at Loesy Cross, continues the same straight line to within 500 yards of the Tees, where it bends to the eastward, coinciding with the present road, to within 180 yards of the river; thence the Roman line seems to have continued straight down the narrow lane and over the ford to a hollow way, which now forms the boundary between Gainford and Carlbury.<sup>9</sup> See the Plan of Pierse Bridge Camp in the accompanying illustrations.

<sup>7</sup> Brit. Romana, p. 401.

<sup>8</sup> One of the men employed in making the causeway at this place, some years since, informed us, that the Roman work was found considerably below the surface.

<sup>9</sup> The occurrence of this name so near to the Roman Camp, renders it probable that the Britons called the place *Cæ*r, and that the Saxons added their own word *Bury*—a "Camp."



Thus it appears that the Roman Way did not pass through the station at Pierse Bridge ; but Mr. Denham of that place, who has paid considerable attention to the antiquities of the village, affirms, that in dry weather the mark of a way may be seen across the field called the Tofts, to the Roman Road. In descending the hill from the turnpike gate towards Pierse Bridge, at a spot where the modern road branches off to Cliffe Hall, a Roman monumental slab, with an inscription, was recently found, in lowering the bank to join the Roman Way. A representation of this slab will be given hereafter.

We have now traced this road to the most northern limit of our map, the River Tees ; thence it is continued with more or less interruption to Vinovium (Binchester).

Returning to the point of divergence at Scotch Corner, which we have already noticed, we find that the Greta Bridge line of road runs through the farm called Violet Grange, and falling into the present road at the turnpike gate, continues straight for about 600 yards further ; at which point it is about 600 feet above the sea.

Here the line makes a bend of about four degrees towards the north. It was probably here that Dr. Horsley considered the road to turn towards Catterick Bridge.<sup>1</sup>

About 300 yards beyond this last mentioned place, the Roman Way, which continues to coincide with the present road, crosses the road from Melsonby to Gilling.

On reaching Diderston it runs about 300 yards south of that very remarkable hill, between it and Black Hill ; these, it is presumed are the two spots alluded to by Dr. Horsley as " a tumulus on the east side, and an exploratory fort on the west."<sup>2</sup>

Though Black Hill is a commanding position, there does not appear to have been any entrenchments made on it ; but Diderston probably has had some addition on its summit, whether for sepulchral or exploratory purposes.

This hill has been conjectured by Mr. Cade<sup>3</sup> to be the *Wilfare's Dun* of Bede, which opinion may be strengthened by the derivation the name admits of from the British,—*Wylfa-dun*,—the *watch-hill*.

<sup>1</sup> " This branch has generally been thought to strike into the other branch about two or three miles north from Catterick Bridge ; the present highway does so in fact, and this no doubt has occasioned the mistake. For the Roman Way,

after the modern has left it, proceeds as nearly as I could judge, directly to Thornbrough, still continuing large and conspicuous."—Brit. Romana, p. 401.

<sup>2</sup> Idem.

<sup>3</sup> Archaeologia, vol. x., p. 55.

About 1100 yards to the east of Diderston Hill is an entrenched spot with the ruins of some building on it, called Grange Castle.

In the parish register of Melsonby at an early period (1587) an entry occurs frequently of "Didersey<sup>4</sup> Grange," which is supposed to refer to this enclosure.

From the appearance of the entrenchment it would seem to have been a Roman camp to defend the signal post ; but, as the masonry has been decided by a competent judge to be medieval, we must suppose the building to have been constructed subsequently to the camp ; this is the more probable, as the foundations do not extend over the whole of the interior of the work, nor touch the rampart in any part.

This appears to be the "square platform, with a small one in the middle resembling a table, both of which are entrenched," mentioned by Warburton ;<sup>5</sup> but, if by his "larger piece of ground entrenched in the figure of a triangle on the south-west of the above," he meant the elevated spot called Gilling Bank, this seems to have nothing more on it than the rubbish from a quarry.

At Diderston the Way gains its greatest altitude, being 670 feet above the sea ; and a change in the line takes place of about two degrees to the northward. This inclination is still further continued in order to pass the stream at Mains Gill, the modern road coinciding in the bend. On the top of Dunsey Bank the altitude is about 610 feet above the sea ; here the road bears still further to the north, till it has descended part of the hill, when it bears away south towards Smallways, to pass the brook with the advantage of higher ground, and a better foundation than could have been found by continuing the straight line.

At 120 yards beyond Smallways the modern road returns to the original line, and we must suppose that the Roman Way followed the same course, for there are no traces of any other line.

Thence with small deviations it runs to Greta<sup>6</sup> Bridge, and probably passed the river a little below the present

<sup>4</sup> This name is spelt in various ways, Diderston, Diddersley, and Didersey ; in Domesday we find, "Malsanabi and Dirdreston." The height of Diderston Hill is about 700 feet above the sea.

Its derivation is possibly from the

British 'Y-dre-dun,—the "Home near the hill," or the "Camp."

<sup>5</sup> Lansdowne MSS., 911.—Pp. 164-5.

<sup>6</sup> Perhaps the name of this river may be derived from *Griota*—"Pebbles,"—(old Norse, or Danish) and *Æ*—"a Stream."

bridge, though there is not any appearance of it in the banks of the stream.

Had the Way traversed the camp through the east gate, which is still visible, it must have deviated from the line for that purpose, which was not the case at Pierse Bridge, neither is there any appearance on the banks of the Tutta Stream to lead to a supposition that the road had issued at the western gate. (See the Plan of Greta Camp, in the plate at page 217.)

It is therefore probable that it kept the line of the present road, under Rokeby Wall, to the end of the Park, and then took its new direction towards Bowes, (Lavatræ) entering that station at the north gate.

Horsley says, "The fort itself has not reached within the Park, but the Military Way has gone through it, and crossed the Greta a little below the present bridge, and falls in again with the high road, at a house a little south of Greta Bridge,"—"It leaves the fort about a furlong or two on the southward side."<sup>7</sup>

No signs of this are visible in the Park, nor could any traditional account of it be met with in the locality.

For an account of the Roman inscriptions found at Rokeby, the reader is referred to Horsley and Whitaker in their notices of this Station. With respect to the position of the camp, in regard to that at Pierse Bridge and Catterick Bridge, it may be remarked that they are placed nearer one another than is usual with Roman stations in Britain, which generally occur at intervals exceeding twelve miles; and that in each case, the river is placed between the Romans and their enemies, the Brigantes; by such an arrangement of camps, any outbreak on the part of this powerful tribe would probably have been more easily suppressed than by any other mode of defence known to the Romans.

It is further presumed, from the remains discovered at each place, that Pierse Bridge<sup>8</sup> and Greta Bridge camps, were both inferior in construction, and probably long subsequent to that of Cataractonium.<sup>9</sup> And, on a careful examination of the remains, mentioned by Horsley, and other writers, with such as have been lately brought to light, it seems evident that this part of England was occupied by the Romans to a late period.

<sup>7</sup> Brit. Romana, p. 486.

<sup>8</sup> Pierse Bridge is the "*Ad Tisam*" of Richard of Cirencester.

<sup>9</sup> Whitaker's Richmondshire, i., p. 148.

Having thus described the Roman Works within this triangular piece of country, we will now proceed to trace the course of the remarkable dike, which runs nearly north from the Swale to the Tees, and, though not in a straight line, is nearly parallel to the Roman Road which forms the east side of the triangle. Its entire course is laid down in the General Map to which we have already referred. Commencing on the south, it appears to have crossed the Swale at a place, called in the old boundary rolls of Richmond, Hind Wath, about three miles above Catterick Bridge, and half a mile below Richmond.

The exact spot where it passed the river can only be inferred from the traces of the dike; in the district on each side south of the river it is called *Sixon's Loaning*, and on the north, *Road Dike*,<sup>1</sup> in the boundary rolls to which we have already referred.

Ascending from the low ground, called Lowbackhouse Jug, where it is obscured by the alluvium of the valley, it suddenly appears in great strength and perfection as the boundary to the lands of St. Nicholas, where advantage of the ground has been taken to form the rampart so as to be a defence against the east. This character the work maintains more or less the whole way, the dike on the *west* of the ditch being stronger than that on the *east* of it.

About 350 yards from the Swale, it crosses the road from Richmond to Easby, and seems to have followed the course of the lane, on the west of the house called Sandford House, but it is here so obscured, that whether the lane occupies the space of the ditch, or of the rampart, it is impossible to say.

At the end of the lane, it ascends Whitfield Pasture, forming the east boundary of it, and also of the Borough of Richmond; here it is in great preservation, both dikes and ditch being frequently visible, and it is probable that this is the part referred to as Road Dike in the before-mentioned boundary roll.

Crossing the road from Richmond to Skeeby it proceeds nearly straight up the fields, called in the maps of the property, the Gill Fields, which, it is presumed, were so called from the formidable ditch which thus traverses them.

On gaining the summit of Breckon Fields, it runs about 400 yards to the east of the Watch Tower, or Gazebo, called

<sup>1</sup> Clarkson's History of Richmond, p. 425.

Oliver Duckett, and seems so placed as to command the ground to the eastward. At this point of its course it is about 600 feet above the sea, and an extensive and beautiful prospect may be seen from it; descending thence, it becomes obscure and obliterated by the plough for two fields, when it enters the grounds of Oliver Farm, and is known to the old people by the name of Oliver Gill.

Through these grounds the whole work may be easily traced, till it descends to the small brook which flows from the plantations at Aske Hall, where it is obliterated for a short distance, and again appears tolerably perfect in a field called the Cow Pasture, or Gore Field, so called perhaps from the ditch. It is then lost in the low grounds as we approach Gilling. Had it proceeded straight from thence it would have passed the east end of the lane in Gilling, called Mill Gate; but in that case it would have had to traverse ground which, before the modern drainage, must have been frequently submerged; and, as there are traces of a dike similar to it on the side of the road entering Gilling, on the borders of some fields, called collectively *Anteforth*, it is presumed that the dike took the line of the present road through Gilling, and maintaining its curve, was continued to the spot a little on the south of the farm called Kirklands, where remains of it are still visible.

On crossing the Gilling Beck it would be 315 feet above the sea. Here the dike exists well preserved, having been planted with trees by the Vicar of Gilling, to whom, on the enclosure of Gaterley Moor, this portion was allotted. Following the line beyond his house for about 400 yards, we cross the Roman Way from Greta Bridge towards Catterick.

Here the dike is about 600 feet above the sea.

At this place we might expect to find some evidence to show whether the formation of the dike was prior to that of the road, but the entrenchment is so much obliterated on each side the road that this cannot be positively decided.

The ground seems to show that the dike has been destroyed on each side to form the road; at the same time it must be remembered that the road has been in use for centuries as a high road to Carlisle and the north-west of England.

Proceeding northwards, the traces of the ditch are very visible, and vestiges of the two dikes occasionally, where the fences cross it, by which they have been preserved.

Before its enclosure this district was called Gaterley Moor, and the earthwork was called the "Double Dikes," from the perfect state of the entrenchment. Old people take pleasure in describing the height of the dikes, and the enormous depth of the ditch ; all this is now levelled, nothing remains to test the accuracy of their memory but the crossing fences.

Thence the dike proceeded to Melsonby, where are persons still living who can recollect and point out its course through the village, but the inquirer must rest satisfied with their accounts, for there are no traces to be seen. A little north of Melsonby, however, there are faint traces of the ditch in the field called Ladywell, and after crossing the lane which leads to Upper Langdale, and following a short lane, through which it doubtless ran, we find traces of the ditch in the field beyond, easily to be distinguished from the more natural water-course which falls into it from the westward. From this place it becomes very visible, and, after making two considerable angles, for which no apparent cause can be assigned, one to the westward, and another to the northward, it passes the farm called Lower Langdale, and, a little beyond, branches out into those singular entrenchments of which the origin and purpose have given rise to much ingenious conjecture.

Over what space of ground these works originally extended cannot now be determined, but it is probable that they originally included the abrupt angles at Langdale, which we have just mentioned.

It is equally impossible to fix the precise point at which the dike entered these entrenchments, and where it issued from them to resume its course as a single line.

But, as we draw near these earthworks from Langdale we find that at the south-east corner of the Park the dike is brought up to the angle of the earthwork in such a manner, that the rampart of the work serves as a traverse to the approaching line ; and, supposing the dike to have been a road, this feature would seem to mark the spot where it entered the entrenchments from the south ; and, if we adopt the same kind of indication as our guide, the double and treble traverse approaching the Tofts' earthwork, from Forcett, would seem to have defended the entrance to the north.

Not less are the difficulties in tracing the line of the dike beyond Forcett, where it appears to emerge from the entrenchments at a place near the village Pound.



Vestiges, but of a somewhat questionable character, induce us to believe, that it may have proceeded along the pathway by the road side to Eppleby, and thence into the Cow-pasture by the side of the road to Cauldwell, through which the footpath runs, and where remains of a ditch and two dikes are still visible ; but it must be observed that these faint and isolated traces are not necessarily connected, and that they are separated by a brook, at the ford, over which no marks of the dike are to be seen, though they might have been expected there had the main line proceeded in this direction.

The farther course of the dike through Cauldwell, as laid down in the accompanying General Map, is purely conjectural, till we come to the Camp at Sowhill ; in the field immediately south of this, the fence of the bridleway appears to have been placed on the mound, and the road probably runs in the ditch itself.

The camp, which seems to have been a post of observation, is about 450 feet above the sea, but is so obliterated by the plough, as to make it difficult to say whether it has been in the form of a square or an ellipse.

It is about 90 yards square ; near it is a spring, and the spot is called Old Cauldwell.

North of this spot, the dike cannot be traced along the bridleway ; but, an old man named Thomas Eland, of High Close, states that he remembers destroying a large dike in the field to the west of his house, traces of which are still visible, and we may therefore conjecture that the line passed in this direction.

North of High Close, traces begin to reappear, which are laid down in another of our illustrations. (See the Plan of the supposed course of the Dike from this point to the Tees.) On the west side of the fields called the Cross Close we find a fence standing on a bank, and a little farther a ditch partially filled up, with remains of a dyke running sometimes on one side of it, sometimes on the other, accompanied by an old footpath. Here the traces become more distinct, and the dikes with the included ditch are very visible, forming a curve to descend to the ford over the Tees opposite Gainford ; and it is within the remembrance of people now living, that the ditch has been filled up which ran through the garden at the back of the cottage known as the Boat-house at this ford.



It has been supposed that the present road from the ford to Eppleby (See the Plan), which is paved, is connected with this line, but its construction noway resembles any part of the ancient dike ; nor is it probable that any way over the ford is now to be traced, as the river is much too powerful during floods to have left remains of a causeway constructed in ancient times.<sup>2</sup>

The last place where we have any trace of the dike in Yorkshire, is the top of the Cliff. This appears at an early period to have been scraped down and made precipitous for a considerable space ; and on the mound called "the Chapel Garth," which commands a considerable view both up and down the river, has probably stood a castle or watch-tower to defend this passage.

HENRY MACLAUCHLAN.

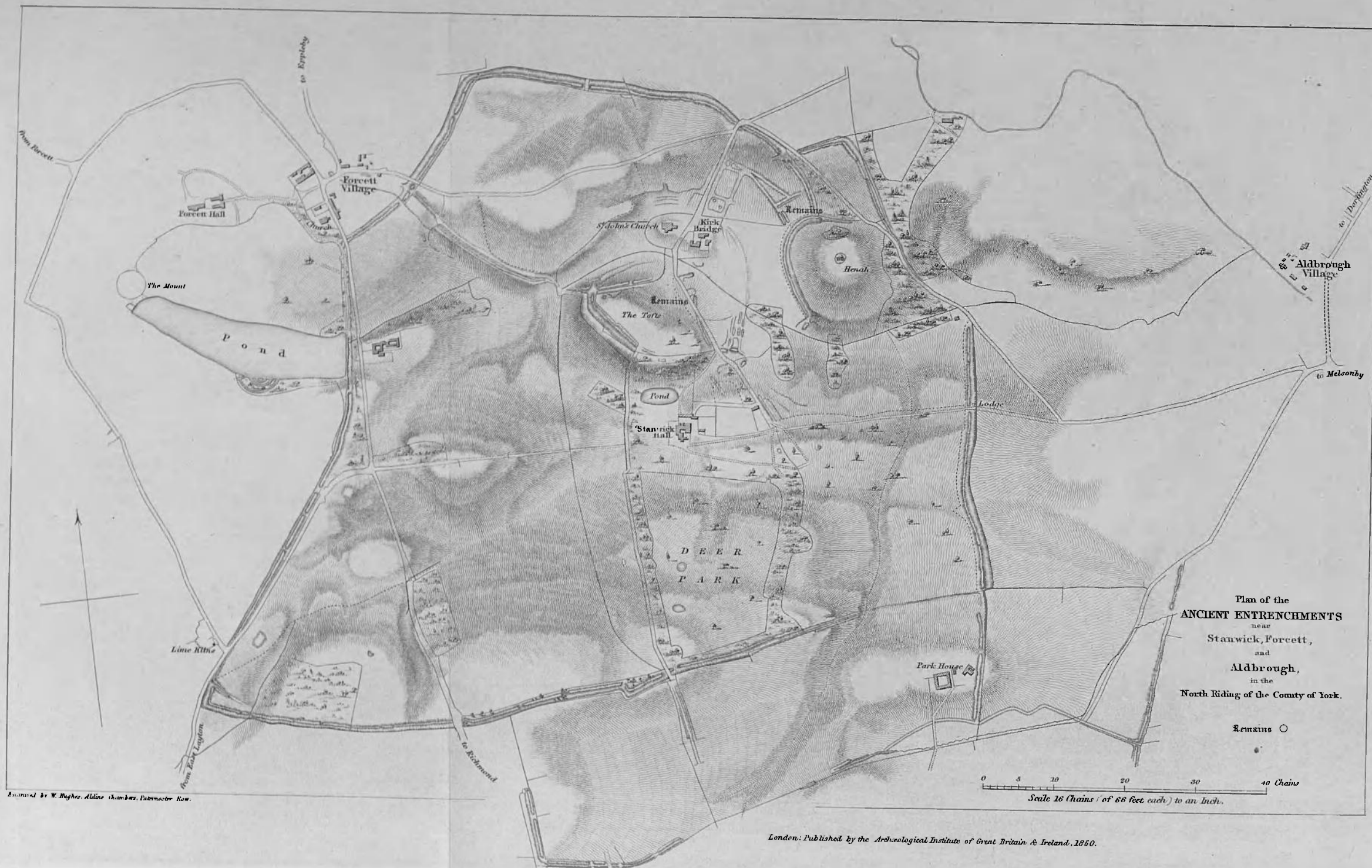
*(To be continued.)*

In publishing this valuable Memoir, the Central Committee of the Institute wish at the same time to express their thanks for the great services rendered to Archaeology by his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, not only in furthering generally the objects of the Institute, but more especially by originating and promoting researches relative to British and Roman Yorkshire. They would, above all, take this occasion to record, and most gratefully to acknowledge, the act of noble liberality which has placed at the disposal of the Institute the survey of a part of the North Riding, between the Tees and the Swale, recently prepared with the utmost care and ability by Mr. Maclauchlan, by his Grace's order.

The Committee regret that they are unable at present to engrave this Map in a manner worthy of the accurate and beautiful execution of the original. In this Memoir more illustration has not been attempted than is compatible with the limits of this journal ; and the principal object has been to call attention to the remarkable vestiges of early occupation in the part of Yorkshire in which Mr. Maclauchlan's researches have been made, and to induce archaeologists to examine more closely the system of military defences to which these remains appear to belong. At a future period the Committee hope to publish the whole of Mr. Maclauchlan's plans on an adequate scale, together with other valuable illustrations of antiquities from the same district, kindly contributed by the Duke of Northumberland ; and they trust that they will ultimately be enabled to complete that History of British and Roman Yorkshire, originally undertaken by the Institute at his Grace's suggestion, and of which the general outline was traced out at their meeting at York.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. J. R. Walbran says, "In dry weather, I have seen in the Tees at Gainford a track of large rough stones ridged up towards the centre, which is connected with an elevated paved road which may be traced southward towards Forcett, and

probably is of the same age as the Scots Dike, and other earthworks in the parish of Forcett."—MS. notices communicated to the Archaeological Institute at their meeting in York, 1847.



ON THE ROMAN ROADS, CAMPS, AND OTHER EARTHWORKS,  
BETWEEN THE TEES AND THE SWALE IN THE NORTH  
RIDING OF THE COUNTY OF YORK.

(Continued from p. 225.)

In the foregoing remarks we have traced the dike from its commencement at the Swale, to its northern boundary, the Tees. The spot where it crosses this river is called Barforth,<sup>1</sup> and gives that name to a large township in the parish of Gilling. It is written Bereford in Domesday,<sup>2</sup> and both Berford and Berforth in Kirkby's Inquisition, in the 15th of Edward the First, where we find under Barforth that "Emma de Berforth tenet 3 caruc. in eadem villa de Roaldo de Richemond."<sup>3</sup> It is probable that, in the Saxon period, there was a place of defence at this important ford; and that the foundations now visible in the fields, called the Old Garths, are those of dwellings which arose around the Chieftain's Castle on the Chapel Garth.<sup>4</sup>

The situation of the chapel is one which would very naturally have been chosen, close to the walls of the castle, and separated from the village by the small stream as we now find it.

As the place is said in the Inquisition, above quoted, to be held "de Roaldo de Richemond," it is probable that this may have been the origin of the name Old Richmond, which is given to this spot in the old maps, and which some writers are disposed to discredit.<sup>5</sup> It is, however, possible, that both this and the Richmond on the Swale have derived their name from the ancient dike, or Riche-mound. Such a dike running such a distance through a country which, in the Saxon period, was probably in great part a wood, must have been looked upon, as other similar works were, as the labours of some supernatural being.

<sup>1</sup> It has been asserted that the dike passes out of Yorkshire at Winston, and, entering Durham at that point, is known in its further course as the Scots' dike, used either as a way, or to defend a passage over the Tees. Barforth seems a much more probable place than Winston, where the ford was never a good one, nor the approach from either side more favourable than at Barforth.

<sup>2</sup> See also Gale, *Reg<sup>m</sup> Honoris de Richmond*, pp. 24, 27, 29, 31, 33, 36, 51, 68, 83.

<sup>3</sup> Whitaker's *Richmondshire*, vol. i., p. 74; Gale, p. 51.

<sup>4</sup> The foundations on the Chapel Garth are more spacious than village walls, and probably are of a castellated dwelling designed for Barforth Hall.

<sup>5</sup> "Which in the old maps is called, but without any apparent authority, *Old Richmond*. It was, doubtless, the village of Barford." *Antiq. of Gainford*, by J. R. Walbran, p. 34, *note*.



It may be worth while here to remark, that a similar dike and ditch, though of less extent, at Newmarket, was known by the name *Ryche dike*, (or *Rech dike*, in the middle ages,) which, perhaps, may be derived from the old German word *Recken*, a hero or warrior.<sup>6</sup>

And another exceedingly like it runs from Lerrin to Looe, in Cornwall, and is called the *Giant's Hedge*. This is seven miles in length, its outer dike is nearly invisible throughout, except for a short distance in a wood.

This is not the only name along the course of the dike which indicates early occupation.

Barforth has preserved its sound and spelling nearly to the present day; the first syllable is presumed to mean a *stream* in British, and, with its cognates *Var* and *Yar*, to be found in several places.<sup>7</sup>

The second syllable, *forth*, is presumed to be the British *Efordd*—a way, a road—in support of which derivation we may remark that the Anglo-Saxon term for a passage of a stream is not *ford*, but *wath*, a word in constant use even now in the North Riding of York; and that the English use of the word has been adopted from the ancient British, as Hartforth,<sup>8</sup> and Anteforth, near Gilling. That the dike was used for a way in part, if not actually constructed with that intention, may be seen from the words of the ancient boundary roll of the borough of Richmond, which beginning at the river Swale at “Hind Wath,” proceeds up “*Road dike*.”<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Palgrave, Hist. of the Anglo-Saxons, p. 41. Clarkson, History of Richmondshire, p. 16, supposes the name of the castle of Richmond to have been borrowed either from a castle of the same name in Brittany, or from the circumstance that it was situated in a fertile district.

It has been suggested by Mr. Just that Richmond may be derived from the Anglo-Sax. *Reced*, a dwelling; and, as the Norse language has thoroughly modified the Northumbrian Anglo-Saxon, and in many instances totally superseded it in names of places, *Recedmund* would become *Reiki-mund*, and ultimately *Richmund*, meaning either the fortified mound or dike, or the dwelling or settlement on the *dike*.

The name Richmond is spelt *Rychemunde*, Hil. Rec., 11th Eliz., Rot. 31; and *Rychemond*, Trin. Rec., 15th Eliz., Rot. 5;

as cited by Clarkson, History of Richmond, p. 343.

<sup>7</sup> *Bar-gate*, at Richmond, was doubtless the *river gate* (*gate* being a *way*), notwithstanding what Mr. Clarkson says in his History of Richmond, p. 65. *Bar-ton*, which is very common as the name of a place, will be found generally to be near a stream. *Bar-flow* is the name of the banks of a stream, formerly often flooded, between Aldbrough and Loesy Cross.

<sup>8</sup> *Hartforth*, near Gilling, is on one of the oldest roads in the country, supposed to have been used for conveying lead on horses' backs from the mines, and called *Jagger-lane*.

<sup>9</sup> “Beginning in the middle stream of the river Swale, at a place called Hind Wath, in Low Back House Ing, thence up the length of *Road Dike*.” Clarkson's Hist. of Richmond, p. 425.



It had been suggested by Mr. Just, that possibly the Celtic word *argel*, "a covered way," might be recognised along the dike; and on inquiry it was found that the present road out of Gilling towards Melsonby, is called Hergill. As there is no occurrence of the name Gill there, except for the part of the dike called Oliver's Gill, it is most likely that the name is corrupted from *argel*, and originally designated that part of the dike which runs near to the present road in the same direction.<sup>1</sup>

The name Carlton, which occurs close to the entrenchments at Stanwick, and perhaps, at one time, within them, is very probably derived from *Caer*, the British word for an encampment, and *tun*, or *dun*, a town, or fortress.<sup>2</sup>

If the occurrence of these names along the line of the dike be considered as indications, however slight, of British occupation, they would seem to confirm the conjecture of Dr. Whitaker, with regard to the remarkable entrenchments at Stanwick, of which a map is here given. He was of opinion that these earthworks formed the defence of a British village, and that they are of a date anterior to the Roman conquest. This theory has never been positively disproved, and it seems worth while to consider how far the nature of the ground, or the names of places at Stanwick, afford any evidence to justify it.

The field called the Tofts, between the Church and the Hall, has much the character of a citadel, not only from its central position, but from the bastion-like form of the entrenchment which bounds it on the south and west sides. The elevated part, where an ice-house now stands, and which may have been an ancient tumulus, has much the appearance of a *salient angle* to this supposed *bastion*, with the angle cut off to give the defenders a more complete front to the approach along the hollow way towards it from Forcett. This hollow way seems to have been the entrance from the westward, defended as it is by two traverses, which, as we have already remarked, are apparently connected with, if not actually a

<sup>1</sup> The word *Hergill* occurs at Kirkby Ravensworth, near a quarry on the west of the church, which bears the appearance of being on a line of entrenchment, which ran north and south, isolating the village. It occurs also on the north-west of the town of Richmond.

<sup>2</sup> Compare the name Carlbury, at the Roman Camp at Pierse Bridge; the Saxons frequently adopted the British word, and put their own meaning at the end of it. *Caer-bury*, each of the words which form this compound meaning a camp; Brae-hill, &c.

continuation of, the great dike, between the Swale and the Tees. See the accompanying plan.

The spot where the Church and Kirkbridge Farm stands would seem to have been isolated at one time, for even now on the north and east sides traces of water courses are visible ; and, in digging a drain lately, the gravelly bottom of the stream was apparent,—indeed, the form of the ground on the north of the Church would lead to the supposition that the natural course of the stream was on that side, and that the present channel has been formed subsequently. This spot having been undoubtedly much occupied, the discovery of ancient remains might have been expected here, and some small tumuli immediately north of the house were accordingly excavated, but nothing remarkable was found.

If the supposition of Dr. Whitaker, that these singular entrenchments are British, be entertained as probable, some traces of Druidical worship might not unreasonably be looked for in such a locality.

Such a spot presents itself in *Henah*, possibly the *Hénallt*—or “ancient Height” of the British tribes, who may have occupied the several quadrilaterals with their cattle *independently*, and *collectively* have worshipped on the mount, and fought together within the bastion of the Tofts.

No Druidical stones, however, have as yet been found beneath the undisturbed, rich pasture of the hill, nor can the small circle round the decayed and picturesque trees assure the inquirer, that it was raised for other purpose than to protect the rising plantation.

But, if the entrenchments are British, the tribe who dwelt within them had, it is presumed, an altar, for which this elevated spot, from its eastern position and the deep circumvallation round a great part of it, would seem a very probable situation.

It must be confessed, however, that nothing like these entrenchments have ever come under our notice, either in Cornwall, where works of the Britons are supposed to abound, or in South Wales, where their encampments are very common.

We can hardly suppose that these earthworks are Roman, on account of the irregularity of their angular formation.

A third supposition has been entertained, that they are of Saxon or Danish origin ; but we have no certain evidence

that either of these races constructed earthworks of this character. If, in the absence of more direct proof, afforded by the form of the entrenchment themselves, we seek for a clue to their origin in the remains found in the district which they occupy, we are equally at fault, for the very singular fragments of horse furniture found at Stanwick some years ago,<sup>3</sup> and of which examples have been given in the York Volume of Proceedings of the Institute, pp. 36, 37, and 38, present quite as much the characteristics of late Roman as of Saxon work, and the most competent judges have failed to decide positively to which race they belong. No other antiquities have been found at Stanwick, except a bronze spiral armilla, part of a fibula found near the church, and two or three celts; the two former objects are probably late Roman, the latter British; but we cannot infer much from such slight and isolated remains. The dike, as we have already pointed out in tracing its course, seems certainly connected with these entrenchments, and its entrance defended, particularly on the western side; the bastion on the Tofts also points its salient angle towards the entrance on the west; this, with the inflexion of the general line in advance of it, has much the appearance of a rude attempt at the formation of a place of defence.

After this examination of the dike and entrenchments between the Tees and the Swale throughout their whole course, it may be worth while to take a glance at the geological structure of this part of Yorkshire, so far as it could be observed in a hasty survey.

The valley of Gilling seems to be one of those dislocations which geologists call a "valley of elevation," or an anticlinal line.

The strata which lie beneath the coal, and are of the Yoredale series of Professor Phillips, dip generally to the eastward; but, in consequence of a dislocation along the line of the valley, the strata on each side dip gently away from it, the strata at Richmond to the south-east, and those at Melsonby to the north-east.

At each of these places the great or upper limestone is worked, and the sandstone at Gaterley Moor may be con-

<sup>3</sup> In a field, a little to the north-east of Lower Langdale. See the spot indicated by the word "Remains" in the south-

east corner of the accompanying plan. See also the general map in the preceding part of this memoir, page 213.

sidered the equivalent of that at Aske Hall, its underlying bed of lime being worked on the south of Gilling, and making its appearance in the road north of Gilling, and through the plantations of Sedbury Hall. If this be correct, the Gayles sandstone lies below the Gaterley Moor sandstone. It is probable that this anticlinal line takes its rise in the Penine Chain, between Kirkby Stephen and Brough, and perhaps may be a continuation of the line on the other side through the lake district. For between Bowes and Greta Bridge the limestone quarries dip gently to the northward, and preserving their easterly dip, reach the confluence of the Greta with the Tees.

The same limestone beds appear to be thrown up again by a cross fault at Loan Head, where they dip more rapidly to the north, and the fault seems to run south by Dalton at right angles to the anticlinal line.

From Loan Head the limestone can be traced on the north of West and East Layton to High Langdale, dipping to the north, between which place and Melsonby it is probably thrown up again; this fault seems to range by Hartforth and the valley of the Whashton Springs.

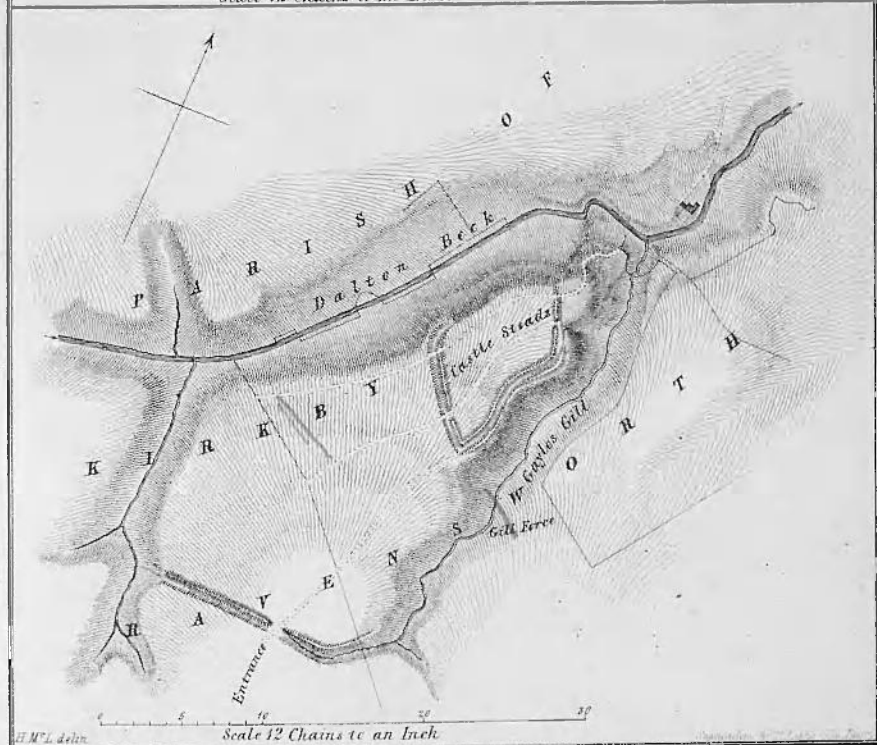
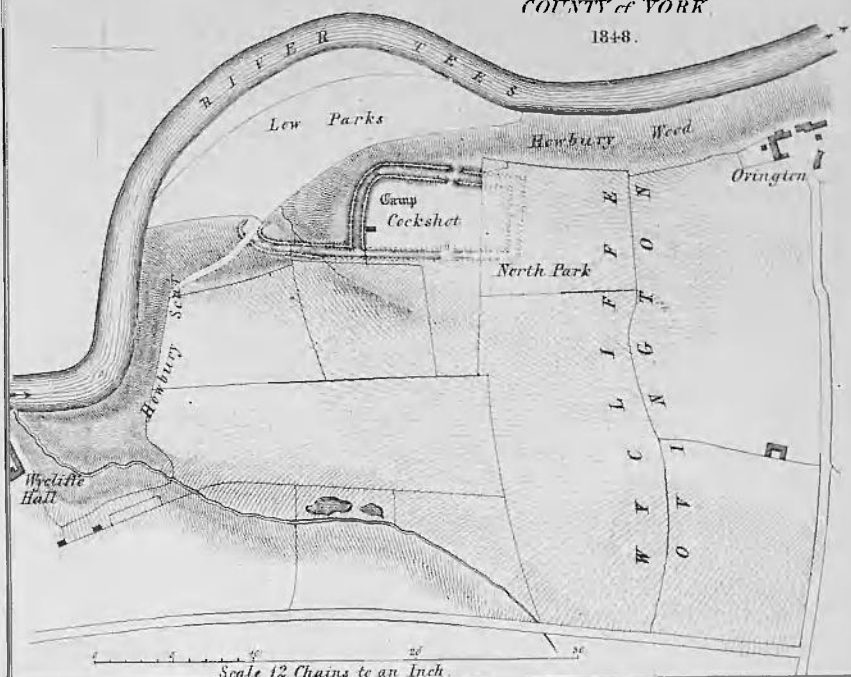
From Melsonby the limestone continues by Lower Merrybent Farm, where there is an upthrow and a reverse dip; thence it mantles round by Middleton Tyas, and, sinking beneath the New Red, or Trias, beds, appears again on the other side the anticlinal, on the south of Skeeby.

The undisturbed beds of the New Red may be seen near Thornbrough, and as they are nearly level in position, it is presumed that the disturbance of the older rocks took place before the deposition of the New Red sandstone.

After this account of the Roman works and ancient entrenchments, which form the principal subject of this memoir, we will proceed to notice certain other camps in the neighbourhood, which, though not at all situate within the triangular district we have undertaken to describe, may be considered as more or less connected with the whole scheme of military defence for this part of Yorkshire. The first of these is Howbury camp, of which the remains situate about midway between Wycliffe and Ovington, on the cliff immediately above the Tees, do not appear to have been noticed by any local historian. See the accompanying Plan.

Ancient Camps  
in the NORTH RIDING of the  
COUNTY of YORK

1848.



The field in which the greater part of the camp stood is called Cockshot, but the rampart and ditch have both been levelled, and only traces of the site exist at present.

The part which is in the wood overhanging the river is in good preservation, as well as the entrenched road to the river ; the other part of the rampart, more than half of the whole camp, is so obscure, that it is not possible to say precisely what form or dimension the work had originally ; but most probably it was a parallelogram, with one side rounded off to suit the form of the ground, with a length of about 200 yards, and breadth of about 110 yards.

The defences seem to have consisted of two ramparts and a ditch, with two entrances apparently, besides that from the entrenched road ; these entrances are opposite each other, one being on the side of the wood, but they do not divide the sides of the camp in the middle.

The wood, above which the camp is situated, is called Howbury.

A labourer who had worked on the farm of which Cockshot is a part, for twenty years, mentioned that he had assisted in throwing down the rampart, and filling up the ditch, of a part near the south-west angle ; and that a fellow-labourer had once found the point of a sword within the camp, but as he had been dead some time, no further information could be obtained respecting the discovery.<sup>4</sup> The ground from Ovington, which is within two fields of the camp, falls gently towards it, but the site itself is nearly level.

The position is well chosen, for it commands a view of the river as far as Winston Bridge on the one side, and above the ford at Wycliffe on the other ; being also equidistant (three miles) from the Roman camp at Greta Bridge, and the commanding post at the fords at Barforth, called Old Richmond ; it may thus have formed with the Roman station at Pierse Bridge, which is about three miles below Barforth, a line of defence for that part of the river.

There is no ford near Ovington, nor is the ground suited for a passage down to the river, though persons pass over at the island, which is a little below the village.

<sup>4</sup> The name of the first-mentioned of these labourers was George Bilton ; of the second, Richard Nicholson.



## CASTLE STEADS

Is the name of a camp above Dalton, in the parish of Kirkby Ravensworth; it is in good preservation, though immersed in plantations, and difficult to survey. See the accompanying Plan.

It stands on an elevated promontory, being about 800 feet above the sea, and at the junction of a small brook with the Dalton Beck.

The sides of the hill have been scarped down, apparently to strengthen the position, originally strong by nature, and, to give room for a large force, the terre pleine has been extended towards the south 300 yards, so as to join the higher parts of the brook by a strong entrenchment running from the small stream to the Beck, a distance of about 270 yards.

In this rampart, towards the east end, is a gateway, to which there is an inflexion of the line of defence.

The area of the whole is about 30 acres.

No remains have been found to aid our conjectures as to the origin of this camp; but, as great care appears to have been taken to make the irregular line of the ground conform to a general curve, particularly on the east side, where, to preserve the line of the ditch, a sort of *counterscarp* and short *glacis* have been formed at each end, the construction is probably not British, or, if British, more recent additions, the work of Saxons or Danes, have been made to it.

It much resembles one of those promontory camps on the coast of Cornwall, which, according to Borlase, were made more as a defence against the inhabitants by the sea kings, than for the defence of the people themselves.

Though there have not been found any remains in the entrenchment, there are tumuli in the neighbourhood, which have been accidentally opened, and skeletons found therein.

The stone pillar, called *Stone Man*, which is about a mile south west of Castle Steads, was a stone tumulus, which, being destroyed to form the fences at the general enclosure of the moors, was found to cover a skeleton; the resident proprietor at Gayles Hall (Mr. Wycliffe) had the bones replaced, and the present irregular structure raised over them.

Another tumulus, according to the same tradition, was on a height three quarters of a mile south-east of *Stone Man*, and a quarter of a mile south of *Feldom Rig*; this is said to have contained a stone chest, or coffin, and by the side of it a *cael pot*, containing coins, but the discovery of the coins is disputed.<sup>5</sup>

There is also a round hill with fir trees on it, on the road from Gayles, over the moors, a little south of a cottage called *Paces House*, which has much the appearance of an ancient tumulus. It seems placed as a guide to mark the turn towards the entrance to the camp along the line of approach from the eastward, which is probably an ancient road.

#### KIRKBY RAVENSWORTH.

This place has the character of an anciently fortified position, though no positive remains have been discovered there.

About 220 yards west of the church, a dike or way seems to have crossed the road, towards what had probably in late years been a quarry, and, stretching up the hill along the western boundary of the glebe lands, to have turned off into a valley, where a stream joins the *Whashton Springs* brook. This stream crosses the road from *Whashton* to *Sturdyhouse*, about 1100 yards south of *Whashton*.

This may have been the ancient way from *Ravensthorth Castle*; but the name *Hergill*, applied to the road up the hill, close to the quarry above-mentioned, may possibly indicate that the occupation of the ground about the church dates from a very remote and even from the British period.

The ruins of *Ravensthorth Castle* stand on a less exposed situation than the church, close to the village, and near the ford over the *Gilling Beck*, which probably gave name to the

<sup>5</sup> James Coates, an old resident at *Kirkby Ravensworth*, "can remember having heard his father say, that he assisted, when young, to lead stones from the heap called *Stone Man*, to make the fences at the time of the enclosure of the commons.

"That in so doing, the skeleton of a man was found; and that Mr. Wycliffe, who then lived at *Gayles Hall*, ordered that the bones should be replaced, and gave a man of the name of *Porter* half-a-crown to build up the stones in the form they

assume at the present time." He further says, that "his father found another skeleton in a stone coffin on a neighbouring hill, between *Stone Man* and the farmhouse called *Feldom Rig Farm*; the height is on the south of the road, and is called *Springs Hill*.

"His father was quarrying stones at the time when he broke into the place; and in the square coffin was a *cael pot*, but what was in it is unknown, though it was said at the time that his father had found money in it." Oral Tradition. August, 1848.

place ; for in ancient writings the name is Ravenswath. and *wath* is the Anglo-Saxon word signifying a "ford," occasionally used in this sense in the present day by the old inhabitants of the North Riding.

The antiquities of this castle have been already described in topographical works, and do not come within the immediate object of this paper. The Norman family of Fitzhugh possessed this place.

These are the only camps, or places of defence, within the triangular district ; but, as there are others in the neighbourhood which may be considered to form a part of the defences of the whole country, a notice of them may not be out of place here.

#### MAIDEN CASTLE.

About nine miles to the south-west of Castle Steads camp, and about a mile south-west of Reeth,<sup>6</sup> at the junction of Arkendale with Swaledale, are the remains of a camp, with two tumuli, called Maiden Castle.<sup>7</sup>

The importance of this position will be admitted, when we view it with respect to Castle Steads on the north ; to Brough (Bracchium ?), nearly equally distant on the south ; and the mountainous mining district around. The camp is about 130 yards by 90, of an irregular figure, suited to the shape of the ground, which is a ledge in the side of the rapidly descending hill, on the south of the Swale, about twelve miles above Richmond.

The defences consist of a strong rampart and ditch, which are both in tolerably good preservation ; the entrance on the west seems to have been defended by a tumulus, about 200 yards from the gate. On the east, an approach of about 70 yards in length, with a strong rampart on each side, terminates with another tumulus on the north side of the entrance, at about 20 yards from the outer gate.

There is a singular line of entrenchment, about a mile or less to the eastward of Maiden Castle, and half a mile above

<sup>6</sup> This name is supposed to be derived from the near neighbourhood of the camp ; probably a corruption of *Rath*, the Erse name for a *fort*, or place of defence, common in Ireland (Ratheale, Rathcormick, &c. &c.) Reeth is in the parish of Grendon.

<sup>7</sup> This name, which occurs so often attached to fortified places, is, perhaps, derived from *maes-dun*. British *maes*, a *field* ; also a *battle*, a *fight*, (T. Richard's Dictionary) ; and *dun*, a *hill*, a *fortress*.

Grendon Church, on the west bank of the stream which falls into the Swale at that place.

The object of the work seems to have been the enclosure of a large space by taking advantage of the confluence of the stream with a small affluent, a little above which point the entrenchment is finished; the rest of the plan seems never to have been carried out.

No tradition was collected respecting the age of these remains, but as they are situated in a fork where two rills meet, either this, or the greater fork at the confluence of the Arkle and Swale, has, probably, in early times given name to the parish; and Grendon may possibly be derived from *Grein*, Danish for *fork*, and *dun*, a *fortress* or *hill*.

Though Maiden Castle, and the works at Catterick, are out of the triangular district, they are sufficiently near to be connected with the works of defence within it.

#### CATTERICK.

The churchyard of Catterick has apparently formed the interior of an ancient camp.

Its position, where the course of a small stream had preserved an opening through the steep banks excavated by the waters of the Swale, and had so formed the ground as to have rendered it easily capable of defence, must readily have caught the attention of any one in search of a site for temporary encampment. The triangular promontory was probably cut off by one of those deep trenches which the ancients were in the habit of making, where nature had already cut the principal outline, and where generally a commanding view and an ample supply of water were obtained.

The village of Catterick had a further advantage of position by being on the great northern road over the Swale,<sup>s</sup> at the most accessible ford on that stream, after its course through the rocky and picturesque reaches below Richmond.

Traces of the commencement and termination of the deep trench may not, perhaps, be very well made out at the present day; but the conformation of the ground, and the hollow where the present street runs on the west of the Parsonage, and round on the north of it and the church,

<sup>s</sup> The Swale may have derived its name from *Svali*,—*gentle stream*. Norse, or Danish.  
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tend to support the supposition that this was the original extent of the work ; and that the tumulus called Palet Hill, with perhaps a ditch round it, was the addition of a later age.

Small as this area may appear, it is probable that it was the extent at first of the camp ; and that subsequently the town was extended about 180 yards to the west of the tumulus, where a slight descent in the ground seems to show the remains of entrenchment.

Whether this camp is of a date anterior to the Roman station at Thornbrough, or was subsequently constructed by the Saxons, cannot now be determined, but the name Catterick seems to point to a Celtic origin.

About a mile south-east of Catterick, on the western banks of the Swale, are the remains of a strong entrenchment, called Castle Hills ; between this camp and Catterick it is conjectured that an old road, known further south as the lower Leeming Lane, crossed up towards the ford on the Swale, near Catterick Bridge.

The exact site of this ford is not known, though a place said to be the best ford, at a tumulus on the north bank, called How Hill,<sup>9</sup> seems likely to have been the spot, particularly as it leads directly towards Gaterley.<sup>1</sup> This seems a place of great antiquity, as may be seen from the remains dug up there by the proprietors of the soil, the Messrs. Saunderson, and from the traces of a road said to have run continuously thence towards Scotch Corner, traversing the centre of the ground, which may be in extent about twenty-five acres. There are no traces of any kind of fortification ; a small stream forms the southern boundary of the enclosure, and here remains of sepulchral urns have been found.

On the south of Cataractonium, on the side of the Roman Way, and about 650 yards from the gate, are slight traces of tumuli, which were standing in the fields called Thrummy

<sup>9</sup> This word *How*, spelt *Hough* occasionally, is frequently applied to hills, and the English word *Hill* added. Mr. Just is of opinion that it is the Norse, or Danish, *Houpp*, a place of sepulchre, or round hill ; the same as the Anglo-Saxon *Loe*, or *Low*, so frequent in England formerly, though now nearly obsolete. In this case the How Hill looks very much like an ancient small camp to defend the ford.

<sup>1</sup> *Gate* is still used in the North Riding,

to signify a way, or road, and may have been the origin of the name of this place. It seems, on the authority of the Saundersons, that the boundary on Gaterley Moor is still to be indicated as low down nearly as Gaterley Grange, by the difference in the productive power of the soil ; and, as there is reason to suppose it stretched as far as Diderston Hill, we may infer that Gaterley was a place of some consequence.

Hills, within the remembrance of people now living. Sir William Lawson states, that he has a deed early in the reign of Edward I., probably about 1270, in which the field called Thrummy Hills is written Thyrmhou, and that in another deed, dated 1376, it is written Thremhoes.<sup>2</sup>

There is a road running tolerably straight from Thornbrough, in a westerly direction, which Sir William Lawson thinks may have been a Roman road to the lead mines to the south and west of Richmond.

This seems more probable than that one should cross from Scorton to Brompton-on-Swale, as related by Warburton in his letter to Gale. He says, "This way, which comes from Easingwold to Thornaby, shows itself very plainly in the village of Romanby, from which place it goes to Yafforth, Langton, Bolton-on-Swale, and by the north side of the Friery Wall in Richmond, to the top of Richmond Moor, where I lost it."<sup>3</sup>

At present, tradition is silent, and evidence wanting to prove the line from Bolton to Richmond ; there is a tolerably straight line of road, which may be an ancient line, but no traces of Roman lines, such as those alluded to by Gale. The part said to be visible at the Pigeon-house at Scorton, keeping to the west of that building and village, thence crossing the road from Scorton to Cittadella,<sup>4</sup> seems more like the mark left by water on a bed of gravel, near a powerful stream when the valley was formed, than remains of an ancient road, or earth work of any sort.

#### CASTLE HILLS.

On the west bank of the Swale, about a mile south-east of Catterick, is the camp called Castle Hills.

The form is an irregular pentagon, with the sides about 66, 60, 44, 33, and 20 yards. On the north side is a tumulus, separated from the work by a deep ditch, which surrounds the camp, except on the side next to the river, where the bank is very precipitous, and about 40 feet high.

The rampart is as irregular as the form, for in some parts it is nearly level with the interior, and, towards the angles,

<sup>2</sup> Probably from *Thyrmr*,—*Giant* ; and *Haugr*,—*tumulus*, (Norse).

<sup>3</sup> Clarkson's History of Richmond.

<sup>4</sup> Traditional account on the spot.



heaped up as if it had been made subsequently to the original construction of the work.

The south rampart appears to have been thrown down to fill in the ditch, where the entrance probably was, and where an excavation was made by the Earl of Tyrconnel, and some Roman remains found.<sup>5</sup> But this camp so much resembles the camp at Sedbergh, on the Rotha, and at Hornby, on the Lune, that we are inclined to consider it of later construction than the time of the Romans, and probably formed by either the Saxons or the Danes.

#### GILLING CASTLE.

Of Gilling Castle, Dr. Whitaker observes, "The vestiges of Gilling Castle, the seat of the Saxon Earls, are well remembered, and were lately removed from the summit of the hill, about a mile to the south of Gilling Church."<sup>6</sup>

There was some difficulty in making out the spot precisely where these "vestiges" were to be seen; but John Allen and Jenny Feetham, very old labourers residing at Gilling, the latter eighty-nine years of age, remember working on the spot still called Castle Hill, and helping to break up and remove the foundations.

Castle Hill is about 300 yards north-west of the farmhouse called Low Scales; the ground at the present time is of an oval form, with a fence running across the oval, dividing the space into two fields, both having the name Castle Hills.

John Allen says, that "William Collier held the farm when he first knew it, and at that time the Castle Hills was a pasture field. Anthony Collier took the farm after his uncle William, and ploughed up the pasture, and it was at this time that he helped to rip up the stones of the castle. The foundations were covered with swarth; the wall seemed about four feet thick, and the stones run together with quick lime; there was also a trench in the field near towards the middle, but most towards the east side."

The ground at present is so reduced by the plough, that the traces of the trench mentioned by Allen are lost; but

<sup>5</sup> These have been since presented, by Lord Tyrconnel, to the British Museum.

<sup>6</sup> Whitaker's *Hist. of Richmondshire*, vol. i., p. 68.

there is a slight depression on the west, with a little change in the colour of the vegetation, which may mark the curve of ancient ditch ; and the soil on the more eastern part of the hill has that black appearance, so constantly observable within the area of ancient camps.

The present tenant, Mr. Carter, cannot remember that anything was ever dug up within the oval area ; but on the north there is a drain or conduit for water, running under the castle, formed of cut stone, which he saw opened some time since, when the water from the fine spring, which is near to the spot, was conveyed to his farm-house : the spring is called Tibby's Well. He lately found an ancient stone celt about 400 yards south-west of the Castle Hill, about three inches long, with a mean width of two inches. The farm and castle stand within the parish of Gilling, close to the spot where it is joined by Mouldran, in Aske, in the parish of Easby. The site has a most commanding view of the country to the east and north, but the ground rises abruptly to the west and south. Thornbrough (Cataractonium) is visible from Castle Hill, as well as Diderston.

Though Bowes (Lavatræ) and Reycross are far beyond our district, a word may be said concerning them.

The Roman road from Greta Bridge to Bowes, the Lavatræ of the Romans,<sup>7</sup> does not appear to have been made straight, though there is no reason why it should not have been so ; it makes a considerable angle at the corner of Rokeby Park, about half a mile from the Greta, and after passing the source of the Tutta brook, bends more to the south, and, without any great change of direction, runs towards Bowes, where it seems to have entered the station at the central gate originally, though now the road runs through what was probably the ditch of the Station, and also that of the Castle subsequently, as conjectured by Horsley.

<sup>7</sup> "That here was the Lavatræ of Antonine, and the Lavatres of the Notitie, no antiquary ever doubted. It is equally clear that vestiges of the name yet remain in the name of the adjoining stream, still called Laver. This was probably the British appellation, and denominated the fortress itself."—Whitaker's Richmond-

shire, vol. i., p. 189. "This is a very unusual situation for a Roman station, being placed on the bleak exposed summit of a moderate elevation, ill-watered, and wholly unsheltered ; but the length and difficulties of the march from Brough probably account for the selection of this halting place." Ibid.

## BOWES.

The South Gate does not seem to have been in the middle of that front exactly, but something to the westward. Near to the south-east angle is still to be seen the Roman Hypocaust, or Bath.

This was opened about thirty years ago by Mr. Wilson, the rector of Bowes at that time ; and since that, in digging in the churchyard, a piece of stone, like a conduit stone, and a piece of lead pipe, have been found ; from this discovery, it is presumed that the water for the bath had been brought in that direction. The sides of the camp are about 130 yards by 140.

About 550 yards, on the west of the Castle, is a field called Roundhill-field, in which are four tumuli ; they appear never to have been opened, and are rather elliptical than circular.

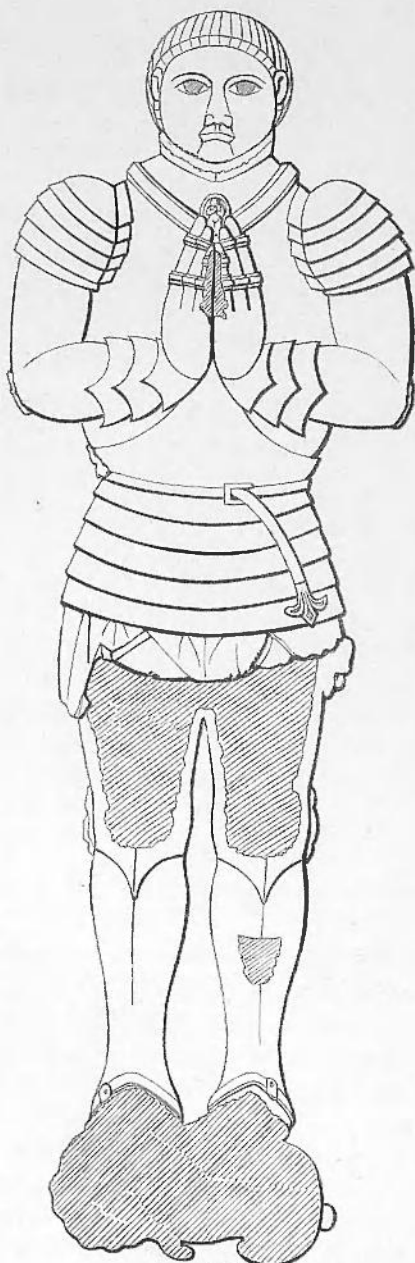
Though this camp does not stand on a *lingula*, or tongue of land, as most other Roman camps do, there is a small stream on the east, and another on the west, at a short distance, which, with the river Greta on the south, renders the place difficult of approach on all sides but one.

Though the road from Greta to Bowes, which is about six miles, and onward from Bowes to Reycross on Stainmoor, which is about six more, is not straight, there is every reason to conclude, from the appearance of the ground, that the present road coincides with what was the Roman Way.

## REYCROSS.

Reycross, which, it is presumed, took its name from the stone standing within the camp at Stainmoor, is supposed by General Roy to be a Roman work, showing an unusual form of castrametation. It has, however, more the character of a British entrenchment ; for, though nearly a square, it has not the symmetrical form of a Roman camp ; the west and east sides are not parallel by ten degrees, and there seems no reason why they should not have been so, for the ground offers no obstruction. The greater part of the north rampart has become submerged in the peat, and, at the north-east angle, within the work, is what appears to have been a tumulus.

MONUMENTAL EFFIGY. XV<sup>th</sup> CENTURY.



Effigy of a Knight, discovered in the Church-Yard at Minster,  
Isle of Sheppey, in 1833

Date, Fifteenth Century.

Great part of the interior of the camp has been worked for limestone, and the work necessarily injured, but it does not appear that there ever was a regular ditch round it.

In excavating near the "fine square tumulus," mentioned by General Roy, the workmen found some pottery, and, if the interior of the tumulus were examined, some urns would probably be found.

The northern side of the camp has three gates, or openings in the rampart, with a tumulus opposite each opening on the outside. There seem to have been four similar openings in the west rampart, and four in the east, through one of which the Roman Way had been made.

Two similar openings, at an unequal distance from the others, were in the south side, where the ground falls precipitously to the river Greta. Though these gates or openings cannot have contributed to the strength of the camp, they were covered by tumuli, and it seems difficult to explain why they were made so numerous. The northern side of the camp is the longest; the two obtuse angles about  $105^\circ$ , and the acute ones  $75^\circ$  each, the side of the figure being about 300 yards.

Neither Brough, Bowes, Greta Bridge, nor Diderston, can be seen from Reycross.

HENRY MACLAUCHLAN.

#### EFFIGY OF A KNIGHT OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY,

DUG UP IN THE CHURCHYARD AT MINSTER, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, IN 1833, AND NOW PRESERVED IN THE CHURCH THERE.

It is not always that a monument of rude art is the least valuable to the historian or the archaeologist. While we contemplate with delight the beautiful proportions and graceful decorations of the finest examples of mediæval skill, let us not turn away in contempt from the productions of the rustic stone-cutter, or the unskilful "lattener." The single, impressive notion of truth, by which these latter are evidently actuated, gives their works a claim to consideration which we do not always so readily accord to more sumptuous designs, elaborated in "the most fine and fayrest wise." In that very curious brass of De Knevynnton, at