

DESCRIPTION OF THE ANCIENT HILL FORTRESS OF
ULEYBURY.

It seems desirable to append to the preceding description of the Tump on Crawley Hill, a further short account of the fine fortress called Uleybury, from recent examination, in addition to that given at page 324.

This intrenchment is placed upon, and occupies the whole of the top of a lofty oolite hill, situated just above the village of Uley, and connected by only a narrow neck with the adjoining higher elevation named Crawley Hill. The fortification was made by taking advantage of the steep slope of the hill, and it consists of a narrow terrace of about seven feet in width, placed at a variable distance, but usually about sixty feet down the steep slope ; and of a low rampart made of loose stones covered with turf placed just on the verge of the descent, and backed by a broad nearly level space of about 45 feet in width, which is bounded internally by a short ascent to the level top of the hill. These works have extended all round the enclosure, although in parts the steepness of the hill has rendered the lower terrace rather faint, and in others it has been recently destroyed by quarrying or otherwise.

The top of the hill has long been under cultivation, and therefore presents no trace of antiquity.

The shape of the hill-top is quadrangular, but not very regularly so, and the sides deviate considerably from straight lines. The intrenchment following its outline is of similar form, and has, from possessing such an outline, often been supposed to be of Roman origin.

The entrances are placed at the south-eastern and northern angles. They were approached at the two former places by hollow ways ascending the buttress-like angles of the hill. Each passes through a deep gap in the rampart, and that at the southern entrance is defended by two mounds placed one on each side of the opening. The eastern entrance is much altered. At the northern entrance, which was apparently the principal approach to this important place, the narrow portion of high land connecting the hills rendered more

defence desirable. This approach is therefore found to be defended by a lofty mound raised upon the rampart, and three ditches with their corresponding banks placed in its front. The trenches and banks extended quite across the narrow ridge, which is only about 50 yards in width, and the sides of which descend very precipitously.

The measurements of this enclosure are nearly as follows :

The south-eastern side about 700 paces ; the north-eastern side 320 paces ; the north-western side 800 paces ; the south-western side 300 paces.

Mr. Baker estimates the contents at about 32 acres. The same antiquary has given a tolerably full account of this fortress in the *Archæologia*, vol. xix., p. 167, pl. xi.

As is the case in most instances, it is very difficult to arrive at any definite opinion concerning the people by whom this place was first fortified. There seems, however, to be little reason for doubting that it was occupied by the ancient inhabitants of Britain anterior to the Roman invasion, and that the latter people afterwards held it. It forms one of a chain of strong posts placed upon the edge of the range of oolitic hills bounding the valley of the Severn and the Avon ; a position of much consequence to the possessors of the central part of England. Mr. T. J. L. Baker has illustrated many of these forts in the paper already quoted. Sir H. Dryden has paid much attention to the same chain of fortresses. It does not appear that he has published any account of his researches, although he gave a short account of them at a meeting of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society in the year 1841, illustrated by a lithographic map of the country in which they are situated.

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