



The British Village Site at Lanthwaite Green ;
seen from the north.

Phot. by Mr. H. Valentine.

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TO FACE P. 117.

ART. XII.—*The British Village Site at Lanthwaite Green and other Earthworks in West Cumberland.* By J. R. MASON and H. VALENTINE.

Read at Penrith, July 5th, 1923.

LANTHWAITE GREEN.

HALF a mile east of the foot of Crummock Water is the site of a "British Settlement" or ramparted ring containing partitions and hut-circles, of a type familiar in the district. We owe information of its existence to Mr. Richard W. Hall of Cockermouth, who told us that Professor John E. Marr of Cambridge had found relics there. The plan (p. 119) was made by Mr. C. A. Valentine on July 2nd, 1923, since when some dilapidations have been reported; but by the kind intervention of Lord Leconfield and of Mr. W. H. Marshall of Patterdale Hall, owners of the site and adjacent property, further interference is now, we hope, prohibited.

The site is 534 feet east by south from the centre of the road at Lanthwaite Gate to the centre of the ring, and the ring is about 65 paces from the left bank of the stream flowing from the gully between Whiteside and Grasmoor. The settlement is in the form of a rough circle, hollowed like a saucer, and is over 200 feet in diameter, and at the lower (west) side there is a break which probably may have been the gateway. The rim of this huge saucer is practically on a level with the surrounding countryside, but the litter of small stones lying all along the circumference points to the fact that a rampart once ran round the place. At the entrance the rampart is still in evidence and rises to the height of about 2 feet.

Within the ring are bases of hut-circles and heaps of stones 8 or 9 feet in diameter; also some ovals, one of which measures 21 by 9 feet in plan.

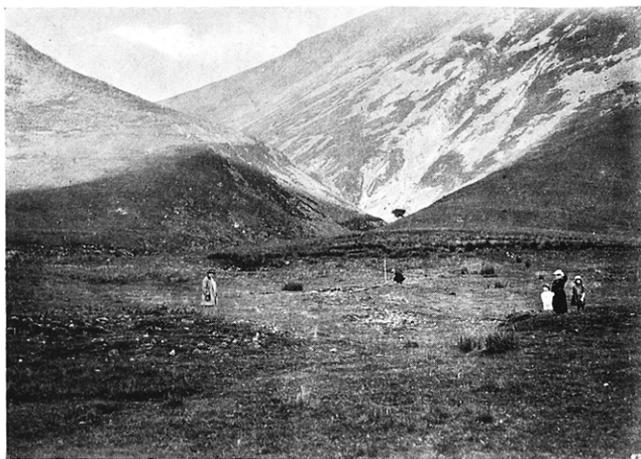
Then again, within the large circle are two long compounds enclosed by mounds or walls of earth, each with an opening of about 6 feet into it.

On the east side we observe that the rampart is cut with a stepped recess, 7 feet wide, and on the south it is hollowed out in three places with semicircular recesses, which if original might be hut-circles as at the Hugill "settlement" (plan by C. W. Dymond in these *Transactions*, o.s. xii. 6).

Mr. R. W. Hall informs us that on the occasion of one of his visits to the place his cousin, Miss Kathleen Dixon, picked up a stone, not quite a foot across, which Professor Marr identified as a quern. It is now in the Keswick Museum, as are the objects obtained by Professor Marr.

Subsequently to the first reading of this paper, the editor asked Professor Marr for particulars of his find, and by his kindness we are able to add considerably to the plan and details now visible. Professor Marr made his notes on July 22nd, 1919, and generally his observations coincide with the above. In addition he noticed traces of other partitions shewn on the plan as running (1) in a semicircle a, a', a'' ; (2) completing the line b, b' to the great boulder near b'' ; (3) joining the last in a line c, c', c'' ; (4) completing the eastern "compound" with a fence d, d' ; and (5) in a semicircle on the north. e, e', e'' .

Professor Marr notes that at a , in the minor rampart or fence of the "compound," there were many potboilers. At b , in one of the principal ramparts, was a flat disc of Skiddaw slate about 6 inches diameter, perforated by a hole bored by pecking from either side; a little polishing occurs at one place close to the hole. He also observed traces of a rampart extending for many yards in a W.S.W.

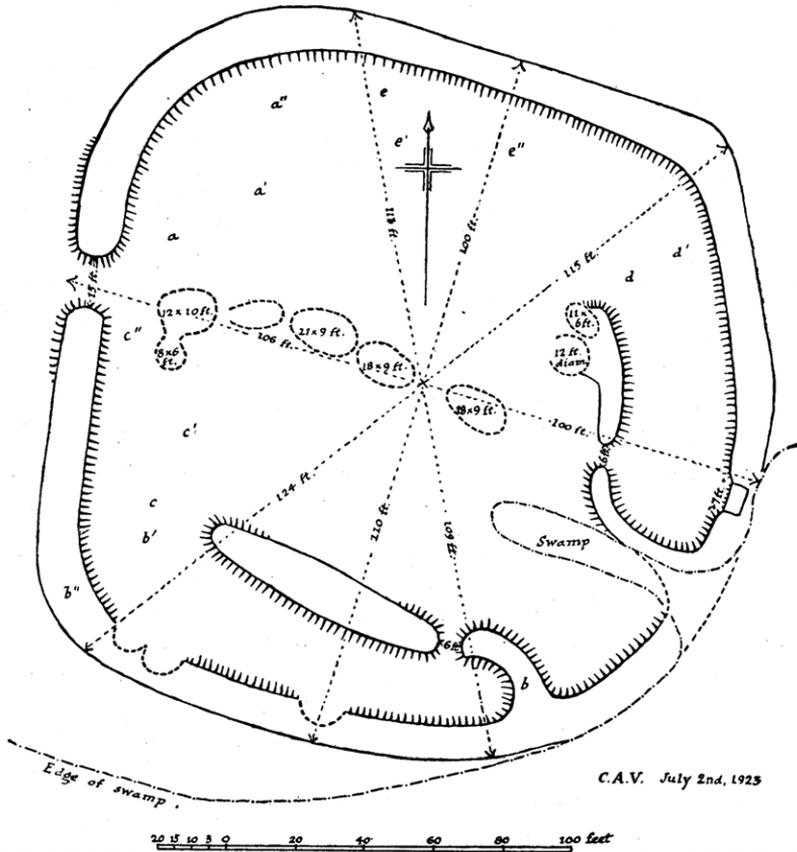


The entrance to the Lanthwaite Green village site,
seen from the west.

Phot. by Mr. H. Valentine.

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direction from the south end of the circle. These ramparts are made, he says, of loose stones, chiefly waterworn Skiddaw slates, no doubt derived from the delta during the excavation of the interior of the settlement; many of the stones appear to have been burnt.



BRITISH SETTLEMENT, LANTHWAITE GREEN.

We noticed a broad line of stones protruding through the sod extending in a westerly direction from near the entrance. Turning abruptly south, it crosses the rampart

mentioned by Professor Marr, still proceeds south for a little distance, then circles up the hillside to the east and is lost.

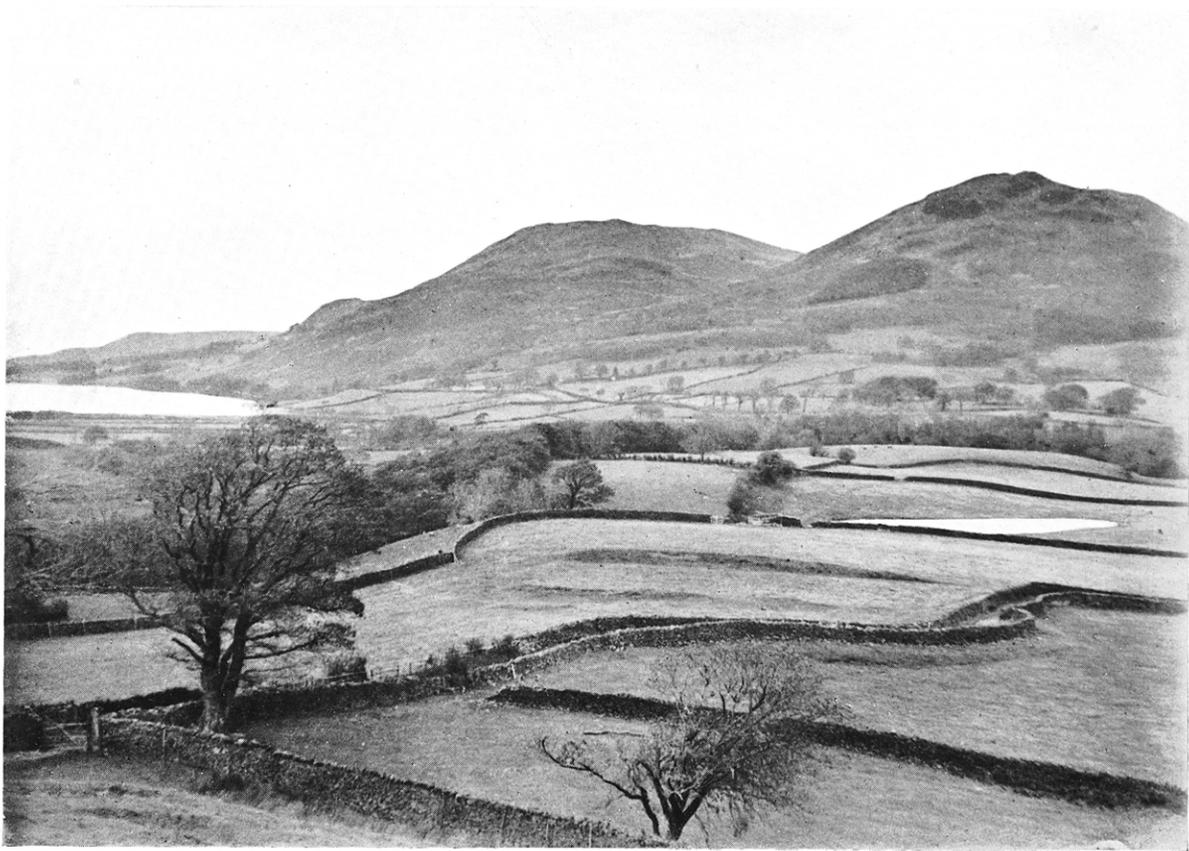
The photograph, taken from the north, shows the "entrance" at about the middle of the picture, between a tuft of rushes and a heap of bracken. The rim of the saucer continues along by the left of the big stone and then in front of the distant fringe of rushes. In the background is Grasmoor, sloping down to Crummock Water. The photograph taken from the west shows the entrance and the saucer-like hollow of the enclosure, with the gill of Liza beck, between Grasmoor and Whiteside, in the background.

KIRKSTEAD, BARGATE.

A mile and a half west of Lanthwaite Green, at the foot of Mellbreak, in a pasture-field adjoining the derelict farmstead of Bargate in Loweswater, is another ancient earthwork, of which we give a sketch-plan by Mr. W. G. Collingwood, and a photograph showing its appearance and surroundings as seen from the slope of Mellbreak on the south-east.

It is in the form of a parallelogram. A floor of 136 by 70 feet, sloping slightly to the east and perhaps levelled by ploughing, of which there are traces, is surrounded on three sides by an almost unbroken rampart of small stones (so far as surface-indications show). The rampart rises to about 3 feet in height and varies in breadth, being 16-20 feet wide in its northern limb, 20-26 feet in its southern limb, and averaging 30 feet in the western part, which joins the two. This western bank is lower as well as broader than the others, but as the ground slopes away pretty sharply towards the west some of its material may have slipped down the hill.

Outside the southern rampart at its western end is a smaller enclosure, with floor space 42 by 15 feet, and the

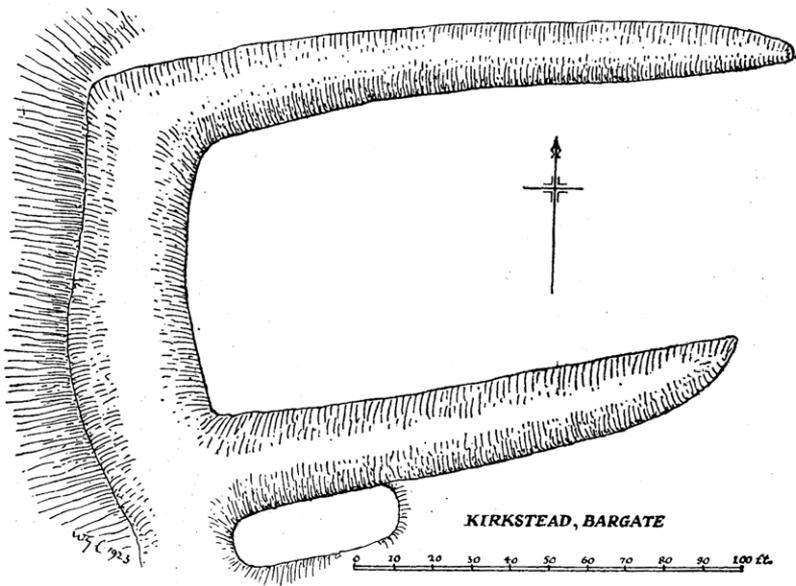


Kirkstead, Bargate, seen from the side of Mellbreak.

Phot. by Mr. H. Valentine.

bank surrounding it is not so high. From this the ground runs up towards Mellbreak.

The field in which this earthwork stands is called Kirkstead, and local tradition regards the place as the remains of a church. There are no other indications of earthworks in the field, which has been ploughed.



The only other earthwork in our district to be compared with this for plan is that at Little Asby, in Westmorland (Canon Mathews and Mr. C. W. Dymond in these *Transactions*, o.s. xi, 329). The Asby site also shows a flat floor enclosed by ramparts on three sides of a parallelogram, but its area is rather greater, and it has much higher and more massive ramparts, and towards the upper end a detached mound, as if the ruin of some building, also a well inside the enclosure. But it has no lateral chamber or enclosure as at Kirkstead. No relics are at present known from either site.

TERRACES NEAR CAMERTON.

From the railway between Cockermouth and Workington the hillside on the south, about 300 yards above Camerton station, can be seen to be terraced. Closer inspection shows that the terraces run on for a distance of about 340 yards, though at one point the configuration is somewhat marred by a landslide, and that one of them is 33 feet wide and others almost as broad. On the site are a few aged whitethorns and one or two quite large forest trees; these are all growing on the sloping banks—none on the flat. If these are, as they seem to be, cultivation terraces, it is curious that a northern aspect should have been chosen. The upper photograph shows a part of these terraces seen by a spectator looking south; the lower photograph is a nearer view of another part, looking west. These terraces will, we hope, be marked on the new Ordnance map of Cumberland.



Cultivation Terraces, near Camerton : (above) looking west and
(below) general view, facing north.

Phot. by Mr. J. R. Mason.

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