

## ADDENDA ANTIQUARIA.

---

### A RECONSIDERATION OF THE FINDS FROM LOW LIGHTBURN PARK, ULVERSTON.

By Clare I. Fell.

The Editor recently asked me to examine a number of objects on exhibition in the Barrow-in-Furness Museum which were said to have been found while making the public recreation ground at Low Lightburn Park, Ulverston between 1922 and 1925. A report on some of the finds was published by the North Lonsdale Field Club in 1923, in which it was stated that "the site is a Late Celtic one belonging to the Iron Age, say 100 B.C. to A.D. 100."<sup>1</sup>

A cursory examination of the material made it quite clear that no evidence exists for ascribing such a date. Many of the objects, claimed to be of bronze, were cheap brass-ware and not ancient at all; jet beads and brooch had a Victorian appearance, while the pottery, apart from a few small pieces, suggested an XVIII, or XIX century date.

Through the courtesy of Mr. F. Barnes, Librarian and Curator of the Barrow-in-Furness Public Library and Museum, I was allowed to send a number of the exhibits to Professor C. F. C. Hawkes, F.S.A. for his opinion for which I am indebted. He agrees that the majority of the objects are of XVIII or XIX century date and are of no interest. Fragments of glass may be as old as XVI century. Glazed earthenware may be of XVII or XVIII century date. Other objects such as a carved plate of bone and perforated flint pebbles and oyster shells are undateable without genuine associations. Three fragments of pottery he identifies as Romano-British:—

- (a) No 5107/1. Worn sherd of wheel-made grey ware. II-IV century.
- (b) No. 5109/4. Rim of wheel made reddish ware with grey core. III-IV century.
- (c) No. 5107/2. Sherd of pitted grey ware. Probably Romano-British of "native fabric."

<sup>1</sup> North Lonsdale Field Club Publication—"Two reports dealing with finds of Prehistoric Remains in the Furness District." (The Ulverston Press, Salmons Yard, Queen St., Ulverston, December, 1923. Price 1/6).

Low Lightburn Park lies on the Carboniferous Limestone at a point very near which that formation joins the shales and flags of the Coniston series on which the greater part of Ulverston is built. In addition to the objects mentioned above a few worked flints were recovered from the site, but the lack of information preserved regarding the exact position, or association of the finds reduces their value as evidence of early settlement. One of the flints is a small round scraper of a type similar to those in use throughout the Bronze Age, but others are of black flint, square in shape and are more likely to be gun-flints, or strike-a-lights and not ancient at all. However, a large polished celt of thin-butted type made of indurated shale was found some years ago, together with a flint flake, near Watery Lane, Ulverston close by the site now under discussion. The cutting edge of the celt is missing. The finds in no way suggest occupation during the Early Iron Age and it is doubtful whether the site was known to prehistoric man. The presence of Romano-British pottery indicates that a settlement may have existed here during the early centuries of the Christian era, but the lack of records regarding the circumstances of the finds makes it impossible to claim this supposition as a certainty and the three sherds may only be cast-outs from a later collection.<sup>2</sup>

#### AXE-HAMMER FROM BRANTHWAITE.

By H. Valentine.

In August of this year Mr. Isaac Gate of Far Branthwaite Edge, while digging a drain half a mile south of Branthwaite and a quarter of a mile from the site where a burial urn was found in 1876, during the construction of the railway, found an axe hammer. It is  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and weighs 6 lbs. 1 oz. It has been drilled from both sides but the hole does not go right through the stone. There is a small hair crack in the hole which may account for the drilling not being completed. It is in the possession of the finder.

#### TUMULUS. LOW PRIOR SCALES.

By H. Valentine.

In Ponsonby parish on Low Prior Scales farm there is a large tumulus 35 yards in circumference edged with large stones for two thirds of the periphery. Some of these stones are three feet

<sup>2</sup> [A photograph of the ancient finds mentioned above has been deposited in the Jackson Library, Tullie House. *Editor.*]

long and are placed horizontally end to end, not vertically. The tumulus is about five feet high and is hollow in the centre due to disturbance. Nearby are many more heaps of stones and remains of hut circles one of which has an internal diameter of 13' 0" The remains are situated between 700 and 800 feet above Ordnance Datum, Lat. 54° 27' 7" Long. 3° 26' 0", two thirds of a mile East of Low Prior Scales and one third mile West by North from Farmery.

#### CROSS-HEAD FROM STANWIX, CARLISLE.<sup>3</sup>

By Robert Hogg, B.Sc.

The fragmentary cross-head described below was found by the writer in March, 1947, in the garden of Old Croft, Stanwix, Carlisle, the property of Carr's Flour Mills, Ltd., and has been kindly given by Mr. F. I. Carr, the chairman of the directors, to Carlisle Museum.

It is made of St. Bees Sandstone and the approximate original dimensions are (head only): height 21", width 22", thickness 5".

Drawings and photographs were submitted to Mr. C. A. Raleigh Radford, M.A., F.S.A., for examination and he reported as follows upon them:

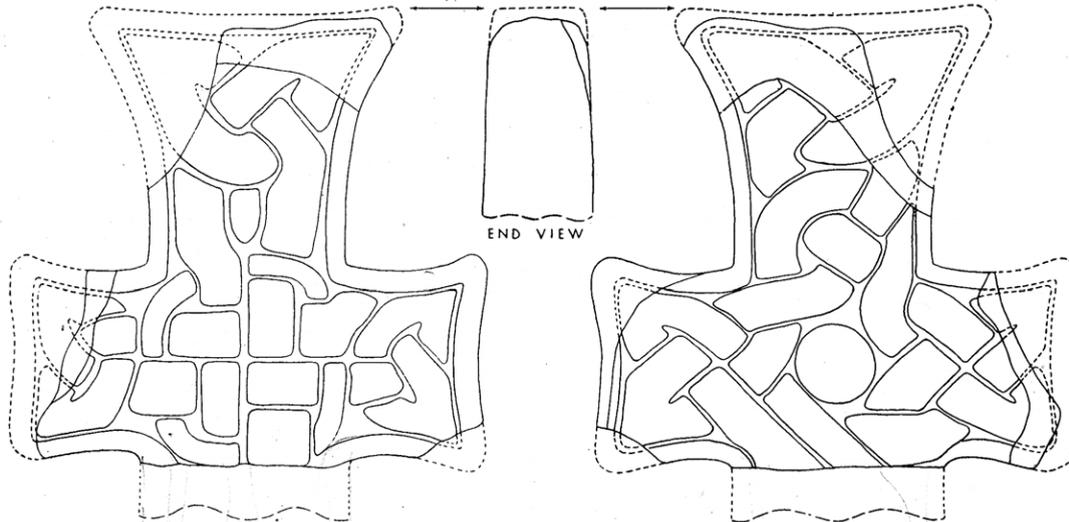
" Imperfect sandstone cross-head. The lower arm is missing and the top and sinister arms are mutilated. The fragment probably belonged to a tall standing cross.

The arms have slightly curved sides and expanded ends. Both faces are ornamented but the edges are plain. The front is covered with symmetrical plaitwork surrounding a small central boss. The plaitwork is angular but well designed, with a single strand filling the head and extending into the arms. Other plaits starting in the arms possibly formed part of a single strand filling the whole of the lower arm and completing the symmetry of the design. On the back the plaitwork is less carefully executed. It is combined with a circular ring and there is no central boss. On both faces the head is framed with a plain narrow border.

The free head and the organically designed plait belong to the Anglian tradition of Northumbria. The central boss, the flat strap-like character and the closed angular design of the plaits are features which appear in the later ninth century (Cf. W. G. Collingwood, *Northumbrian Crosses of the pre-Norman*

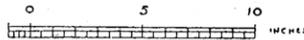
<sup>3</sup> [Photographs of the cross have been deposited in the Jackson Library Tullie House, Carlisle. *Editor.*]

# CROSS - HEAD : STANWIX.



REAR FACE

FRONT FACE



CROSS-HEAD FROM STANWIX (c. 900)

Age, pp. 42, 48 and 51) on crosses like those at Collingham and Thornhill (ibid., figs. 31 and 78). The ring on the rear face of the Stanwix cross is an even later development, which Collingwood (op. cit. p. 64) considers to have been invented by a Cumbrian carver and which becomes common in the tenth century series in Cumberland and at Whithorn. The cross head from Stanwix, though more advanced in character than the two Northumbrian crosses mentioned, shews none of the late features of the tenth century series. It should be dated about A.D. 900."

A TWELFTH CENTURY CHARTER PERHAPS RELATING TO  
DRIGG CHAPEL. (See Plate).

By R. Sharpe France.

Among the muniments of Sir Roger Hulton, Bart. (to whom thanks are due for allowing the publication of this charter) deposited in the Lancashire Record Office is a very fine late twelfth century charter. It measures 4.75 inches by 4.4 inches, with a brown beeswax seal 2.1 inches in diameter, hanging from four light and dark brown plaited silk tags. There is no endorsement. The seal bears the figure of a bird, possibly a peacock, with wings folded, facing right, but the inscription is illegible owing to the shallowness of the impression. The reverse is very regularly convex and quite plain.

The charter, which can be assigned to a date about 1180, reads as follows: *Randulfus filius Wallteri omnibus hominibus suis et amicis clericis et laicis tam futuris quam presentibus salutem. Noverint omnes tam futuri quam presentes me concessisse et hac mea presenti carta confirmasse Ansello filio Michalis de Furnais et Agneti nepti mee Donacionem quam Patricius filius Edgari et Aliz mater sua eis dederunt et concesserunt et ut carte eorum testantuur. Salvo servicio quod mihi pertinet. Test. Willelmo filio Willelmi, Roberto filio comiti, Adam filio Gileberti, Adam de Buuentun, Iohanne del Pleieiz, Adam filio Edgari, Wallero fratre suo, Alano filio Benedicti, Henrico filio Roberti, Roberto de Berier, Alano fratre suo, Nicolao le Survais, Roberto de Tirewit qui hac carta spricist [sic], et multis aliis.*

That is to say, Randle son of Walter has conceded and confirmed to Anselm son of Michael of Furness and Agnes his (Randle's) niece, the *advowson*<sup>4</sup> which Patrick son of Edgar and Alice his (Patrick's) mother had given to Anselm. He excepts

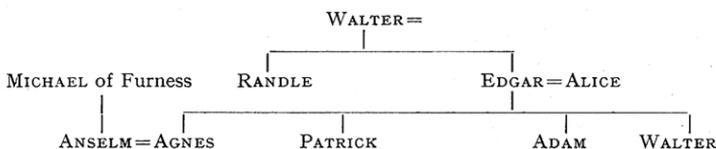
<sup>4</sup> This is the probable though not certain meaning of *advocatio* here.

the service owed to him. The witnesses were William son of William, Robert son of the Earl, Adam son of Gilbert, Adam of Bovington, John of the Pleieiz, Adam son of Edgar, Walter his brother, Alan son of Bennet, Henry son of Robert, Robert of Berier, Alan his brother, Nicholas the Surais and Robert of Tirewit who wrote the charter, with many others.

It will, of course, have been noticed that the advowson is not specified.

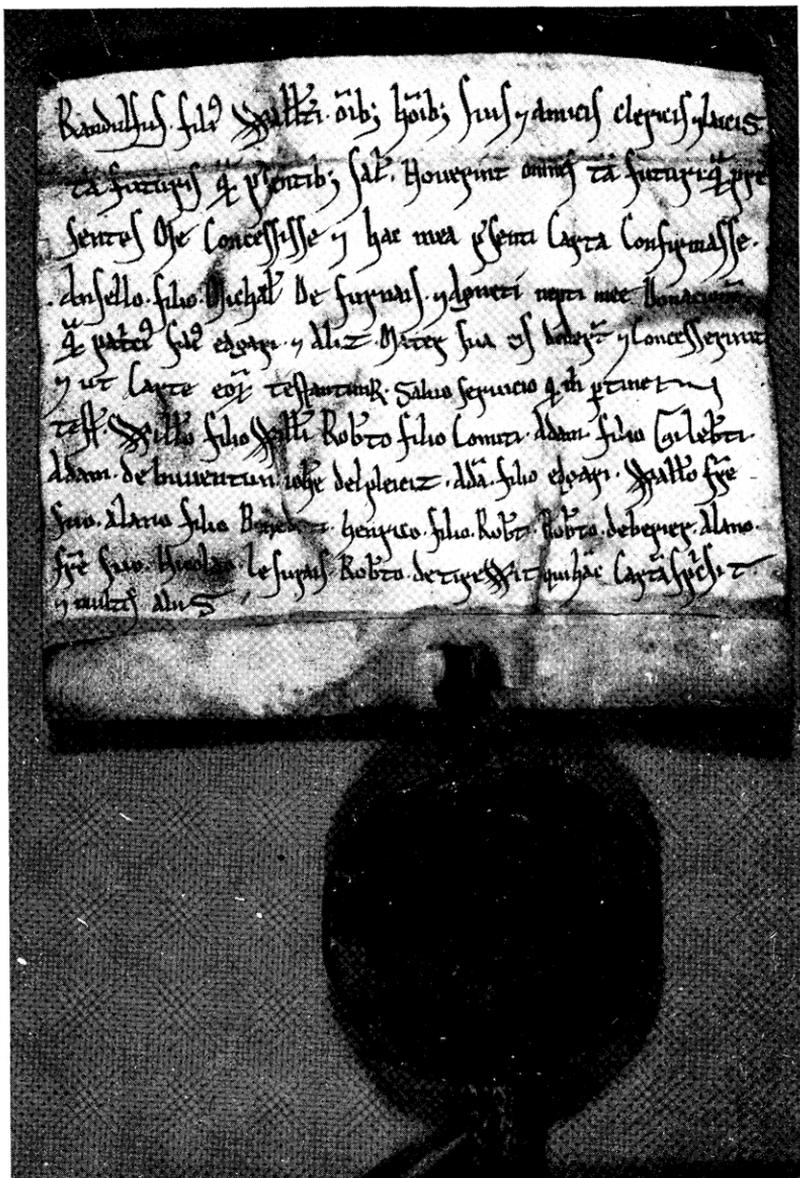
According to the *Victoria History of Lancashire*, Vol. II, p. 140, Anselm son of Michael le Fleming of Furness gave to the priory of Conishead the Advowson of Drigg in West Cumberland, and it is here suggested that the advowson mentioned in the charter under consideration is that of Drigg. A footnote in the Register of the Priory of St. Bees as published by the Surtees Society, states in relation to the chapel of Drigg that "Anselm [of Furness] seems to have been the founder of the chapel," but if the identification of this charter is correct its existence can be shown over a longer period.

The following pedigree can be suggested:



It is probable that the original grant of the advowson was made to Agnes—on the occasion of her marriage to Anselm—by her brother Patrick as head of the family, associated with Alice his mother by virtue of her rights of jointure. If this were so the necessity of Randle's confirmation of the grant suggests that he was elder brother of the dead Edgar and gave this charter in order to remove any doubts as to the title to the advowson. The witnesses Adam and Walter, sons of Edgar, were possibly brothers of Patrick.

It is not improbable that this charter was once among the vanished Conishead muniments, for the late Sir William Hulton married Ethel Richmond-Gale-Braddyll, a descendent of the John Braddyll to whom Conishead Priory came through his marriage with Sarah Dodding. There had been an earlier connexion of the families in 1837, when Edward Richmond-Gale-Braddyll married Sophia Hulton.



Randulfus filius regis Anglorum omnibus hominibus suis et amicis clericis et laicis  
causis et personis salutem. Hinc inde omnia et singula que pre-  
sentis nostre concessisse et hac nostra presentis carta confirmasse.  
Anselmo filio Michael de Furness et heredibus suis et successoribus suis  
et patris sui et alii mater sua et heredibus et concessisse  
et ut carta eorum testantur. Salvo seruitio quod in presentibus  
testibus filio regis Roberto filio Comitis Adam filio Carleberti  
Adam de Brunton regis de plenaria ad filio eorum. Gallo filio  
suo Alano filio Bertrando Henrico filio Roberti de Bevere Alano  
filio suo Henrico de Furness Roberto de Furness et quibus carta facta est  
et aliis aliis

A CHARTER TO ANSELM OF FURNESS (c.1180)

## ST. NINIAN'S CHURCH, BROUGHAM.

By Rev. C. M. L. Bouch.

Recently some interesting discoveries, not listed by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, have been made at this church. These include two additional medieval grave slabs and the pre-reformation altar stone. The latter, found just outside the church porch, measures 4 ft. 10 by 2 ft. 10; three of the five consecration crosses can be clearly seen. The discoveries were made by myself, Mr. A. Priestman and Mr. G. W. Titherington.

FOUR PERFORATED STONE IMPLEMENTS FROM LOW FURNESS.  
(See Plate).

By F. Barnes and J. L. Hobbs.

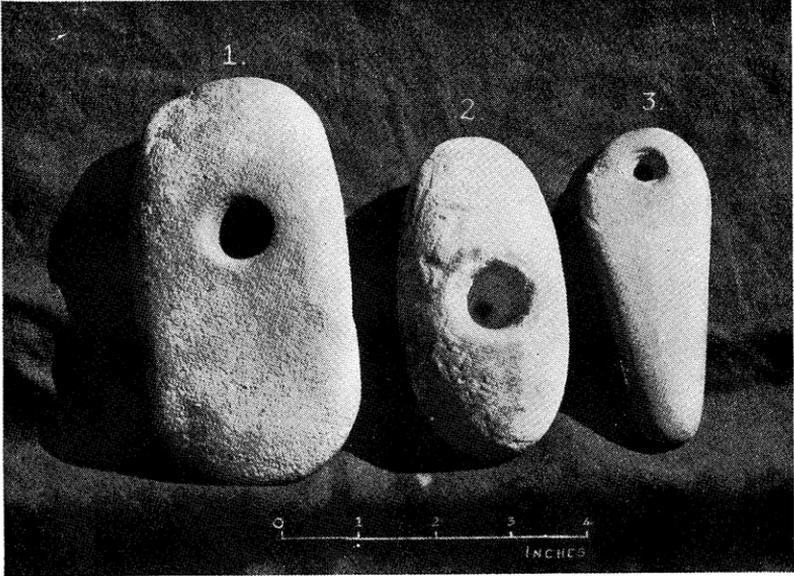
During 1946 and 1947 four more perforated stone implements were found in Low Furness. Three of these are illustrated in the accompanying plate:—

- (1) *Perforated stone Adze*. Length  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches; width  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches; thickness 1 inch; hour-glass perforation  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter centred  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches from the cutting edge; weight 1 lb; material—Borrowdale volcanic-ash, or possibly metamorphosed sandstone, but no petrological analysis has been made. This implement was found during the screening process at a gravel pit south of Biggar village, Walney Island. It has been given to the Barrow-in-Furness Museum by the finder Mr. G. Nelson. It may be compared with a porphyry adze found at High Haume Quarries, Ireleth in 1921 (see *Trans.* N.S. xxxv, p. 181). The type was in use during the Bronze Age.
- (2) *Oval Mace-Head*. Length  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches; width  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches; thickness  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; weight 10 ounces; an hour-glass perforation, almost centrally placed is 1 inch in diameter on both surfaces, tapering to  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch in the centre, where the two holes meet. This suggests that the implement was not finished and had not been used. It is made from an oval pebble of grey sandstone, with chocolate coloured scars. It may be compared with a mace-head of slightly different shape from Rathvale, Pennington (see *Trans.* O.S. xv, p. 170-171 and Fig. 8, Plate IV) and with an example from Vickerstown, Walney Island, in which the perforation had not been completed (see *Trans.* N.S. iv, p. 328 and fig. 1). This class of implements has been studied by Dr. Eliot Curwen whose analysis appeared in *Sussex Archaeological*

Collections, Vol. lxi, p. 83 ff. Mace-heads of this type have usually been found with Early or Middle Bronze Age associations and are thought to have been derived from the perforated mace-heads, or clubs of Mesolithic times. However, we would like to submit a suggestion that such pebbles were used as hand-grips for drills and not as mace-heads. The implement was found by Mr. Benson of 77 Teasdale Rd., North Scale, Walney Island while carrying out draining operations in a field near North Scale. It lay at a depth of 2 feet below the present surface at the junction of the red and blue clay. It has been presented by the finder to the Barrow-in-Furness Museum.

- (3) *Loom-weight, or whetstone.* Length 4 inches; maximum width near perforation  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches; thickness  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch; edges and end rounded; hour-glass perforation  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from broad end is  $\frac{9}{16}$  inch in diameter on both surfaces and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch at the centre; weight  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ounces; material—a fine sandstone of uncertain origin. This object was found 3 feet below the present surface in the glacial drift at Devonshire Quarry, Stainton. The finder, Mr. C. Faulkner of the Barrow Naturalists' Field Club, has presented it to the Barrow-in-Furness Museum. The object is of an unusual type and it is suggested that it may have been used as a loom-weight, or as a whetstone, though it shows no signs of having been used for the latter purpose and is unlike the well-known cylindrical loom-weights of Late Bronze Age date, or the triangular and pyramidal loom-weights of slightly later times. Many finds attributable to the Middle and Late Bronze Age were found last century at Stainton, and a settlement site known as Stone Close was destroyed by the workings at the Devonshire Quarry (see *Trans.* N.S. xii). It is therefore probable that this object is of Bronze Age date.

The fourth implement is a circular, perforated stone, found on 17th August, 1947 south of Biggar village, Walney Island. It lay half buried in sandy soil. It measures  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter, is  $1\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{5}{8}$  inches in thickness and weighs 25 ounces. The hour-glass perforation has first been pecked out and afterwards drilled from both sides. It is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter on both surfaces and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches at the centre. The implement is of sandstone, but it is impossible to say whether it is of local origin. Except that it is considerably larger and heavier, it bears a resemblance to the



PERFORATED STONE IMPLEMENTS FROM LOW FURNACE

specimen found in the Public Park, Barrow-in-Furness in 1910 (see *Trans.* n.s. xi, p. 483). Miss C. Fell notes that similar objects are described in the *Victoria County History of Lancashire* Vol. 1, p. 227 and illustrations, and considers it to be of fairly late Bronze Age date. The purpose of such perforated pebbles is obscure. This specimen seems too large for a net-sinker and is not of a type usually described as a mace-head. It bears no marks of having been used as a hammer. It is suggested that it may have served as a digging-stick weight.

This object has been presented to the Barrow-in-Furness Museum by the finder, David Williams, a pupil at Walney Modern School.