



Circle A.

The remains of a circle of approximately 104 ft. diameter, consisting of an arc, approximately 90 ft. long, and composed of large glacier-borne boulders of volcanic tuff and granite. The spaces between the stones are filled in with other large stones and built up to form a thick stone wall. Deposited within the chord are large, broken boulders, removed from the field. The area occupied by the circle is visible as a fairly level site on the sloping hillside.

Circle B.

The remains of a circle of approximately 72 ft. maximum diameter and 62 ft. minimum, consisting originally of about fifteen or sixteen stones, of which nine remain. Six appear to be in their original positions and the others are near their old sites. Within the circle and due north-east of the centre is a large area of cobbles, containing at least seven large stones. Miss Fell considers that these stones are the remains of a cairn within the circle. Outside the circle, and east-south-east of the centre is a very large stone and the tips of two smaller stones. The stones are mostly of rocks of the Borrowdale volcanic series and of granite, the largest measuring 6 ft. by 3 ft.

Circle C.

A small circle of about 24 ft. diameter, originally consisting of twelve stones, nine of which remain. Seven of these seem to be in their original position: the other two have been moved. Within the circle is a cobbled area, most probably the remains of a cairn. Most of the stones are of granite, ranging from 4 ft. by 2 ft. 4 in. to 1 ft. 8 in. and 1 ft. 9 in. Generally the ground consists of a stratum of topsoil, 6 in. thick, followed by peaty soil 6 in. thick on a bottom of hard, yellowish clay, mixed with shale.

Results of Excavation.

Circle B.

The turf was removed for a distance of 12 in. around the perimeter of each stone at its maximum dimensions on the plan, and from the positions of sites of removed stones, but, except for the central area, no further investigations were made. The central area, containing stones nos. 25, 26, 27, 28 and 30, was stripped and excavated down to the cobbled surface, as shown on the drawing, but little was found beyond three areas of burnt earth and two holes containing carbonised wood. A worn down tooth was also found. At the end of stones 25 and 26 the socket holes were found.

Circle C.

The turf was removed from the stones for 12 in. all round, exposing the large stones and the sites of the missing stones. Part of the central area was excavated to the cobbled paving, and the circular trench was further excavated to the base of the stones and paving. Stones nos. 1, 2, 6, 9 and 11 were surrounded by a bed of smaller stones. Alongside stone 2 two small flint flakes were found and near the socket hole of the fallen stone were pieces of rounded haematite. In the cobbled area at the centre possible burnt bone fragments were found, some small carbon deposits and a small egg-sized granite ball.

Conclusion.

The site is evidently the remains of three circles, two of which contained central cairns. From analogy structures of this kind are usually of Bronze Age date. Detailed measurements of the stones encountered in Circles B and C will be preserved in the records of the South-West Cumberland group, together with plans and photographs.

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