

NOTES

1. *Fieldwalking near Mayburgh Henge* By J. and P.J. CHERRY

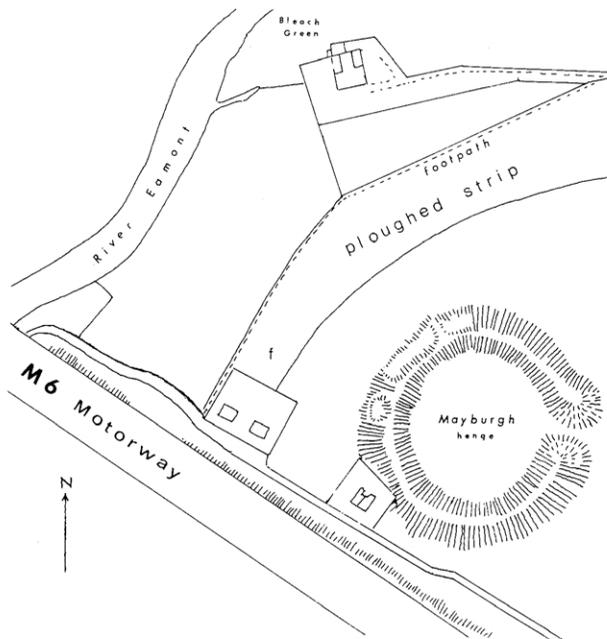
In the Spring of 1994 a strip of land was ploughed to the north-west of the Mayburgh henge and we obtained permission from the farmer, Mr J.A. Heath, to walk over the ploughed area. Unfortunately, when we arrived at the field it was being harrowed, so that the conditions were not ideal for fieldwalking.

Although we carried out a thorough search we only found two flint artefacts. One of these was a small nondescript chip and the other was a trimming flake of translucent pale grey flint, 2½ centimetres in length, which had been struck from a bladed core.

The amount of small stones, small sherds of comparatively modern pot and clay pipe fragments scattered over the surface of the soil encourage us to believe that if there had been any significant prehistoric habitation of the area we searched, we would have found a greater profusion of artefacts.

The sketch map shows the area searched and its proximity to the henge. The findspot of the core trimming flake is shown as 'f'.

The search was carried out by three generations of the Cherry family and we acknowledge the application and patience of Alexander, the youngest member of the team.



Sketch map showing the proximity of the ploughed area to the henge.

2. *Two Bronze implements from South Lakeland District*
By C.I. FELL

In the spring and summer of 1993 a bronze dagger, or dirk, was found by Mrs J. Wilson and Mr W. Huddleston. During the same period Mr P. Wearing found a flat bronze axe near Newbiggin Craggs, south-east of the summit of Farleton Knott. Both the finds were made by metal detector, operating with the permission of the land owners.

The dagger or dirk (Plate 1)

This was found in May in disturbed ground on the north side of Hangbridge Lane, Beetham, where a small tributary of the River Beela, known as Pool Darkin, had been cleaned out. It was shown by the finders to John Anstee on whose advice they kindly brought it to me. The map reference of the site is SD 35035801. The weapon is 99 mm long and 47 mm wide at the rounded butt. It had been secured to the hilt by two rivets – both missing. There is no defined mid-rib but the thickening in the centre of the blade gives a thin lozenge cross-section. The edges are faceted and sharp and the blade tapers to a point. It weighs 32 grammes.

Though considerably larger in size, this implement somewhat resembles the knife/dagger found with burial 2 at the funerary cairn at Manor Farm, Borwick.¹ However, on referring the find to Dr Stuart Needham of the Dept. of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, British Museum, he concluded that the implement should rather be placed early in the series of Middle Bronze Age dirks, currently dated *c.* 1500–1350 B.C.²

A tanged and engraved bronze dagger in the Kendal Borough Museum was found in Helsington Moss in about 1855, six feet below the surface during peat digging, and is illustrated by T. Clough.³ Its position in the peat has been discussed by Prof. A.G. Smith.⁴

Mrs Wilson has presented this implement to the Museum of Archaeology and Natural History, Kendal (formerly the Kendal Borough Museum) (See *Westmorland Gazette*, 23 July 1993, 8).

The flat bronze axe (Plate 2)

This was found by Mr Wearing in July at approximately SD 35485799 above the north end of Newbiggin Craggs and almost due west of Newbiggin Old Hall in the Civil Parish of Lupton. It remains in his possession. The site of this find is very near where the Revd William Hutton, writing in the eighteenth century, mentions a remarkable standing stone in Less Fairslack on Farleton Knott.⁵ This stone is no longer there. A somewhat later bronze axe was found before the second World War at Holme Park quarry nearby.⁶

The axe is a fine example of the Scrabo Hill type of developed flat axe and can be compared with a splendid larger example from Mosedale House Farm, near Carrock Fell.⁷ A similar plainer axe from Greystoke is illustrated by T. Clough⁸ and a larger one, from Gleaston Castle in Furness, was published by Harper Gaythorpe last century⁹ and remains at Holker Hall. This type of axe is considered to have a date range from the nineteenth to the seventeenth centuries B.C. and an Irish origin.

The axe measures 153 mm long, 21 mm wide at the butt end, 85 mm at the cutting edge: maximum thickness 9 mm; 1 mm thick at the butt. Weight 370 grammes. The sides have been hammered and the flat surfaces decorated with short punched lines parallel with the long axis of the implement. There is a suggestion of the position of the haft towards the butt end, but Mr Wearing had made attempts to clean the axe, removing some of the patina. The Greystoke axe mentioned above also weighs 370 grammes – perhaps a standard weight.

Both these bronzes come from a limestone area of southern Cumbria near which the presence



PLATE 1. Bronze dagger or dirk from Beetham.

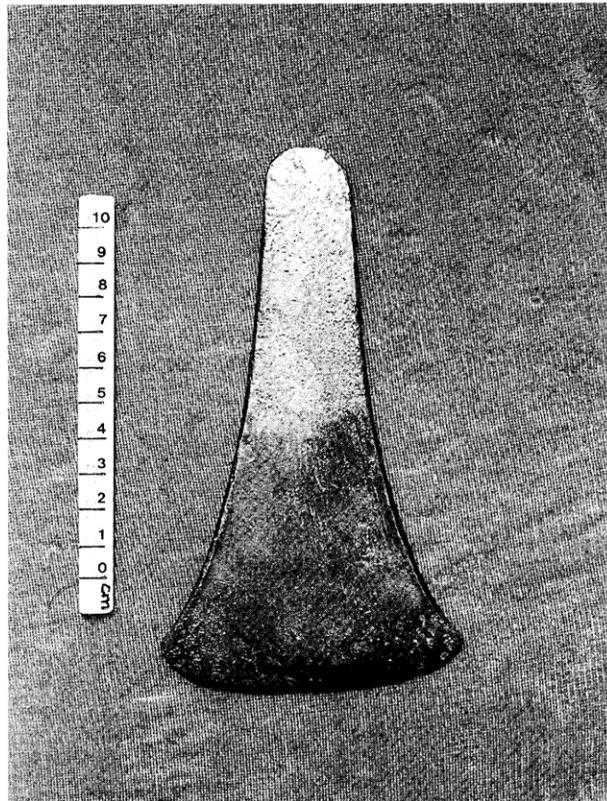


PLATE 2. Flat bronze axe from near Farleton Knott.

of man has recently been shown to date back to the Late Upper Palaeolithic.¹⁰ More than six thousand years later the makers of the bronze implements here recorded will have enjoyed the benefits of a settled agricultural life and an advance from stone to metal technology.

Thanks are due to Jim Cherry for visiting the site on Farleton Knott with Mr Wearing and for the photographs of the implements.

References

- ¹ *Proc. Prehistoric Soc.* (1987), 129–186.
- ² Letter to C.I. Fell ref PRB/SPN/JDC of 6 Sept. 1994.
- ³ *CW2*, lxix, 16, Fig 5, 74.
- ⁴ *New Phytologist* 58 (1959), 125.
- ⁵ J. Rawlinson Ford (ed.), *Hutton's Beetham Repository*. CW Tract Series VII (1906), 131.
- ⁶ *CW2*, xxxvi, 142, Fig. 1.
- ⁷ *CW2*, lxxxv, 46, Fig. 5.
- ⁸ *CW2*, lxix, 2, Fig. 1, 4.
- ⁹ *CW1*, xv, 161–164, Plate 1.
- ¹⁰ *CW2*, xcii, 1–6.

3. *Roman Coin-finds from Cumbria* By DAVID SHOTTER

By the time that this note appears in *Transactions*, the first quinquennial supplement to my *Roman Coins from North-West England* (Centre for North-West Regional Studies, Lancaster University) will have appeared. This will contain details of the coin-finds which are the subject of the present note, as well as those which have appeared in *Transactions* since 1991 (Vol. xci). The supplement will also contain some new and/or corrected information about earlier finds. As usual, I am very grateful to those who keep me informed about coin-finds; in the case of the present note, I would like to mention John Anstee, Anthony Ellwood, Lynn Fade, Rachel Newman, Tim Padley, Colin Richardson, and Ron Shakeshaft.

Hoard and 'Other Collections'

1. Burneside: The records of Kendal Museum contain a reference to what was said to have been a hoard of 214 Egyptian and Romano-Egyptian coins; the earliest recorded issuer was Ptolemy V Epiphanes (204–181 B.C.), and the latest a Byzantine emperor. Clearly, the status and contents of this find will require further investigation. The coins are said to have been found in c. 1900 in swampy ground during the laying of a water-pipe.

2. Kendal (Helsfell): A hoard of approximately thirty radiate copies, mostly of poor quality, was found in this area in 1993. Efforts will be made to trace these coins for examination, but they appear to have been dispersed to various parties.

3. Levens: Two *denarii* of the reign of Septimius Severus have been found recently (1993) in the Levens-area; there is much that is so far unclear about this find, though the possibility remains that the coins were the whole or part of a hoard.

Casual Finds

i) *Known Roman sites*

1. Brough under Stainmore (Craco Farm): A very-worn *as* of Hadrian (*RIC* 864) was found during work on the A66 – assessment, carried out by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.

2. Burgh-by-Sands (Amberfield): Two *aes* coins have been reported from a spot which is located between Burgh I (the ‘Stanegate-fort’) and Burgh II (the fort on Hadrian’s Wall). It is assumed that the coins emanated from the *vicus* (civilian settlement) of Burgh II. However, in view of the fact that the findspot was almost equidistant between the two forts, it might be speculated that a *vicus* which developed to the north of Burgh I continued to thrive and to service the new fort on Hadrian’s Wall after the abandonment of the Stanegate-fort, apparently in the 120s. It appears that Nether Denton (on the Stanegate) and Birdoswald (on Hadrian’s Wall) had a similar arrangement. For the forts, see Jones, 1990. The coins, which are in a moderate condition, comprise a *dupondius* of Hadrian (*RIC* 570 of A.D. 119–122) and a *dupondius* of Marcus Aurelius (A.D. 161–180).

3. Carlisle: An *aes*-issue of Constantine I has been reported as having been found ‘possibly’ in London Road. The coin (*RIC VI* (Trier) 876 of A.D. 310–3) is little-worn.

4. Drawdikes: A *denarius* of Trajan (*RIC* 243 of A.D. 112–114) was found in 1993 in the vicinity of Milecastle 64 of Hadrian’s Wall.

5. Watercrock: Five *aes*-coins have been reported from the vicinity of the Roman fort, although the precise find-spot(s) is/are unknown. The coins, which are very worn (consistent with water-action), are –

Dupondius of Hadrian (A.D. 117–138)

Radiate of Claudius II (A.D. 268–270)

Radiate of Postumus (A.D. 259–268)

Two unassignable *radiate* copies (c.A.D. 270/280)

ii) *From Other Locations*

1. Arnside: A little-worn *sestertius* of Vespasian (*RIC* 422 of A.D. 71) was found in 1994 between Arnside and Silverdale (NGR supplied). Such a coin in a fresh condition, and found in a coastal location, *may* relate to amphibious operations which were connected with the advance northwards during the governorship of Petillius Cerialis (Birley, 1973; Shotter, 1994).

2. Barrow-in-Furness. It is reported that some years ago an *aureus* of Marcus Aurelius (A.D. 161–180) was found at Rampside. Efforts are being made to verify this find.

3. Beetham:

a) Two further coins have been recorded from the vicinity of Beetham Hall Farm – a *sestertius* of Hadrian (A.D. 117–138) and a very small radiate copy (‘minim’) of c. A.D. 270/280.

b) A *sestertius* of Hadrian has been recovered from the vicinity of Fell End Farm. It is a little-worn issue of A.D. 134–138 (*RIC* 969).

4. Burton-in-Kendal:

- a) A very-worn *as* of Trajan (A.D. 98–117) has been reported from Cinderbarrow.
- b) A *denarius* of Tiberius (A.D. 14–37) and an unidentified *as* have been recorded from locations to the east of the village.

5. Cockermouth: A *dupondius* of Hadrian (*RIC* 597 of A.D. 119–121) has been recovered from a private garden in the town.

6. Kendal (Helsfell): In addition to the hoard of radiate copies (I.2 above), a number of other Roman coins and objects have been recovered from this area since 1992. So far, six coins have been specifically reported, and it is hoped to obtain more information about them and about other finds -

Denarius (Republican)

Sestertius of Hadrian (A.D. 117–138)

Dupondius of Hadrian (*RIC* 600 of A.D. 119–121)

Denarius of Caracalla (*RIC* 6 of A.D. 196–198)

Denarius of Julia Maesa (A.D. 218–222)

Aes-issue of Constantine I (A.D. 306–337)

7. Kirkby Lonsdale: A little-worn *denarius* of Trajan (*RIC* 96 of A.D. 103–111) was found in 1993; the precise find-spot has not been disclosed.

8. Old Hutton: A very-worn *as* of Domitian (A.D. 81–96) was found in 1994 (NGR supplied).

References

RIC: Roman Imperial Coinage

Birley, 1973: Birley A.R., 'Petillius Cerialis and the Conquest of Brigantia', *Britannia* IV, 179–190.

Jones, 1990: Jones, G.D.B., 'The Emergence of the Tyne-Solway Frontier', in Maxfield V.A. and

Dobson M.J., (Eds.), *Roman Frontier Studies, 1989* (Exeter), 98–107.

Shotter, 1994: Shotter D.C.A., 'Rome and the Brigantes: Early Hostilities', *CWZ*, xciv, 21–34.

4. *A Roman Coin from a Buried Soil near Mawbray*

By IAN CARUANA

Richard Bellhouse's recent book about the Roman defences on the Solway coast mentions in terms of some uncertainty the discovery in 1979 of a Roman coin in a buried soil near Mawbray by Dr Barry Matthews, then of the Soil Survey (1989, 38). Although a full report on the soils has been prepared by Dr Matthews, circumstances since 1979 (*The Guardian* 28 May 1992), leave it increasingly uncertain whether the report will be presented for publication. The coin itself has been in the author's possession since about 1980 awaiting completion of the report. It now seems appropriate to put on record the correct data on the coin. The coin has been deposited in Tullie House Museum, Carlisle (Accession No. 1994.22).

The Coin

The bronze coin is somewhat battered but Dr David Shotter reports that it is probably an issue of Tetricus II (A.D. 271–3).

Obverse: . . .]CV[. . . with youthful portrait

Reverse: . . .]G[. . . figure holding unidentified object

The Site

The coin was extracted from a burial soil below a sand dune exposed in a sandpit just north of Bankmill and the road to Newtown at NY089481. A radiocarbon date from the soil gave a date of 1540 ± 100 bp (A.D. 339–539). A second radiocarbon determination from a similar buried soil at Cunninghill (NY095509), less than 3 km to the north, gave a figure of 1690 ± 80 bp (A.D. 209–369; Har–2914) (detailed description in Matthews 1982, 9–11).¹

Comment

This area of the Solway coast contains many sites both military and civilian. The Roman fort at Beckfoot, about 500 metres to the north, was occupied from Hadrianic times into the fourth century, though not necessarily continuously (Birley 1961, 214–6). The system of coastal defences lies on the seaward side of the modern road. The findspot is roughly opposite Milefortlet 15 which has been lost to coastal erosion (Bellhouse 1957, 21–2). Trenching at Tower 15a, a little to the south, showed at least two phases of building, with Hadrianic sherds in the debris on the first floor (Bellhouse 1954, 36; 1957, 18) and we may take this as a rough guide to the date of the coastal defences at this point. There is evidence for Antonine occupation of some towers and milefortlets but none are known to continue in use into the third century (Potter 1977, 182). The area around Milefortlet 15 was subsequently used as a cemetery for Beckfoot fort and cremations dating from the 2nd to 4th centuries are known.

Several farm sites of possible Roman date in the immediate vicinity are known from aerial photographs at a similar distance from Beckfoot fort as the cemetery. Field systems and enclosures have been recorded at The Nook (NY092481: Cumbria Sites & Monuments Record No. 3184 and NY092483: SMR No. 3185), Cowgate (NY090476: SMR No. 3183 and NY093477: SMR No. 3186, possibly the same site) and by Bank House (NY089478: SMR No. 592) (Higham & Jones 1975, 30). The soils recorded by Barry Matthews could relate to one of these settlements or to another yet to be discovered.

Clustering of Romano-British farms around Roman forts and *vici* is a phenomenon already noted at Beckfoot and Old Carlisle (*ibid.* 24–5, 28). None of the sites near Beckfoot has yet been excavated but other farm sites along the coast have produced Romano-British material of the second and late third/early fourth centuries at Wolsty Hall (Blake 1959, 2), the third century at Silloth (Higham & Jones 1983, 63) and fourth century and perhaps earlier at Ewanrigg (Blake 1959, 11–12; Evans in Bewley 1992, 34). All these provide a general context for the third or fourth century exploitation of the land at Mawbray.

Acknowledgements

I am extremely grateful to Richard Bellhouse for his help in preparing this note as well as to Barry Matthews for making known the original discovery. I would also like to acknowledge

the assistance of J.E. Fairchild of the Environment & Geochemistry Laboratory, AEA Harwell, and Dr P.J. Loveland and Professor P. Bullock of the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre, Silsoe.

Bibliography

- R.L. Bellhouse 1954: 'Roman Sites on the Cumberland Coast 1954', *CW2*, liv, 28–55.
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 B. Matthews 1982: 'The Soils of the Abbey Town Area, Cumbria', *Proceedings of the North of England Soils Discussion Group* No. 17, 1–20.
 T.W. Potter 1977: 'The Biglands Milefortlet, Cumberland', *Britannia* viii, 149–83.

Note

- ¹ The details of the radiocarbon dates come from Matthews 1982, 2. The Harwell Laboratory has confirmed details of Har-2914. No reference is given for the second determination and Harwell has not been able to confirm details. It is, nonetheless, possible that it was Harwell who processed the sample. Information and a copy of Matthews' paper were supplied by Richard Bellhouse.

5. *A watching brief at 46–52 Lowther Street, Carlisle** By PAUL FLYNN

A watching brief was carried out by Carlisle Archaeological Unit in July and August 1990 during construction work following the demolition of the properties 46–52 Lowther Street. The area involved covered 17.0 m of the street frontage, and extended for 21.0 m to the east (Fig. 1). Extensive cellarage had removed much of the archaeological deposits on the western half of the site.

It was hoped that the continuation of a known Roman road and the position of the medieval town ditch would be identified, as well as any other archaeological features to the east of Lowther Street.

Archaeological work was limited to the cleaning and recording of as many sections as possible, a task hampered by the instability of some sections and the rapidity with which concrete was poured into the foundation trenches, as well as the danger afforded by working machinery. Consequently the various deposits recorded cannot all be adequately identified, and those that can be identified cannot be interpreted in detail.

*Editor's Note

As a result of an oversight this note was printed in the 1994 volume of Transactions without the appropriate Figures.

The archaeological features

To the east of the cellar approximately 1.0 m of archaeological deposits survived. Overlying the sandy clay natural subsoil was a light grey silt (22), varying in texture from very sandy to very silty with some charcoal flecks in places, though generally clean. The deposit was widespread and some 0.10 m deep. Overlying this silt was a dark grey humic old ground surface (21). Several shallow V-shaped cuts into the subsoil probably indicate ploughing. These plough marks were some 0.04 m deep and 0.4 m apart, with a fill the same as the old ground surface, which varied in depth from 0.02 m to 0.12 m. It was best preserved where it was sealed by the metalling of an east-west orientated road, 20 (Fig. 2).

A section through the road metalling (Fig. 3) showed the primary road, 20.1, to lie directly on the old ground surface, and to have a width of 5.5 m and a depth of 0.2 m. Three resurfacings (20.2–20.4) increased the width of the road to 6.0 m and the depth of metalling to 1.0 m. The road was traced for a distance of 9.0 m, and was also visible at the western edge of the site.

A spread of cobbles and pebbles in grey silt (56), between 0.1 m and 0.2 m thick, was traced for a distance of 5.5 m south of the road (Fig. 2), at which point it was cut away by a recent intrusion. These cobbles overlay the old ground surface and may represent a cobbled yard associated with the primary phase of the road. The surface was traced for a distance of 5.5 m from the eastern edge of the site, but was not visible in section some 3.0 m further to the west. It is possible that this feature respected the position of ditch 42, which together with ditch 28 appeared to form the north-eastern corner of an enclosure parallel to, and some 3.0 m south of, the southern edge of the road. The ditches cut the old ground surface and appeared, stratigraphically, to be early. Ditch 28 survived to a depth of 0.8 m and a width of 1.0 m. Ditch 42 was of similar depth and width, but with a somewhat sharper V-shaped profile. The silt fills of both ditches contained much animal bone and several sherds of second-century pottery.

In the metre or so of stratigraphy surviving above these features, several possible pits and other features were observed which attest to activity along the line of the road throughout its history, although the nature of this activity could not be determined.

The deposits on the western half of the site had been destroyed by the excavation of a substantial ditch (19; Fig. 2). Only the base of the ditch survived below the cellar floor. The ditch, where seen in section, had a depth of 1.2 m, and below the cellar floor it had a width of over 6.0 m. A detailed section was not drawn but clear silt lines were observed. The fill was generally a dark grey sticky silt. The estimated minimum dimensions of the ditch, based on the relative depths of the natural subsoil, are 12.0 m wide at the lip and 3.4 m deep below the present ground surface. The western edge probably lies below the pavement on the eastern side of Lowther Street.

Discussion

The earliest activity on the site, represented by plough marks and the old ground surface, is undated but precedes the construction of an early road surface. Similar indications of ploughing have been noted elsewhere in Carlisle.¹ The metalled road, which was located in several places during excavations in The Lanes,² was probably the principal east–west route into Roman Carlisle. The cobbles to the south of the road may represent a yard, with the adjacent ditches representing a property boundary of a type noted along the line of the road further to the west.³ All the surviving deposits to the east of the cellar are believed to be Roman in date, and demonstrate continued activity along the road line east of Lowther Street. Twenty-seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the site, nine of which were from ditches 28 and 42. The pottery ranges in date from the late first/early second centuries probably to the Antonine period.

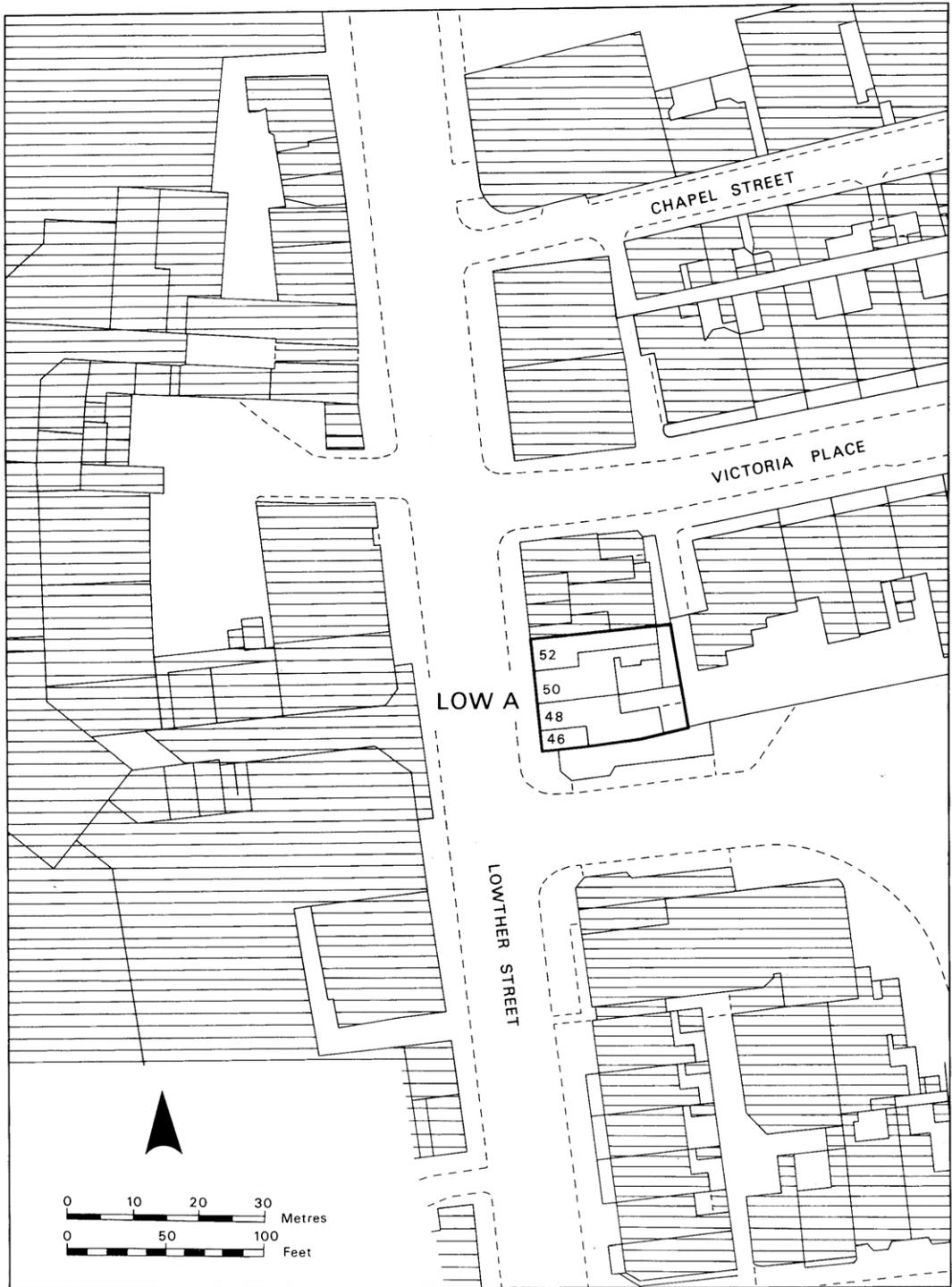


FIG. 1. Location map of site.

No dating evidence was recovered from the large ditch cutting across the western half of the site (19). It is best interpreted as the medieval town ditch.

A ditch was observed by Hogg in a sewer trench some 5.0 m north of the present excavation.⁴ It was V-shaped, 4.3 m wide and cut 2.4 m into the clay subsoil. It appeared to be on a similar alignment to Lowther Street, its centre-line being some 4.6 m west of the building frontage on the east side of the street. Its relationship to the present ditch must be regarded as uncertain, although Hogg thought it was Roman.

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks are extended to Derek Bell Associates and Raymond Walker, Architects Plus, for their help with the work, and to M.R. McCarthy for his comments on this note. Thanks also to D.A. Pearce and M.S. Bell for their help on site, and to P.M. Cracknell for the illustrations and M.L. Hird who identified the Roman pottery.



FIG. 2. Plan of features mentioned in text.

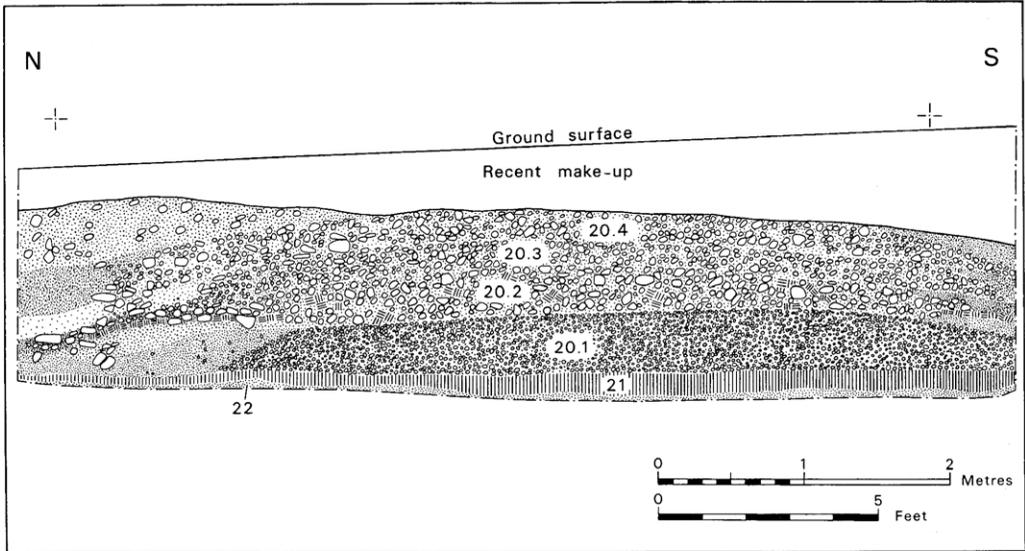


FIG. 3. Section through road 20.

Notes and References

- ¹ For example, M.R. McCarthy, *A Roman, Anglian and Medieval Site at Blackfriars Street, Carlisle: Excavations 1977*, CW Research Series 4 (1990), 13–14.
- ² M.R. McCarthy, *Roman and Medieval Carlisle, The Lanes Volume I: Excavations at Old Grapes, Crown and Anchor, and Lewthwaite's Lanes 1981–2* (forthcoming), CW Research Series 8.
- ³ *Ibid.*
- ⁴ R. Hogg, *CW2*, lv, 65, and unpublished site notes.

6. *Local folklore and the Battle of Arthuret* By TIM CLARKSON

In 1876 the Scottish antiquary W.F. Skene identified Arthuret as the site of the 6th century Battle of Arderydd, and further suggested that the stronghold of one of the chief protagonists lay nearby at Carwinley, a place-name which Skene believed to derive from an earlier *Caer Gwenddoleu*, 'Gwenddoleu's Fort'.¹ Both identifications are generally accepted today on etymological grounds.²

However, the place-name evidence was not the only source of support for Skene's theories. During his visit to the Longtown area in search of sites connected with the battle, he learned of a local folktale which, remarkably, spoke of an ancient battle having occurred in the area around Carwinley. This curious addition to Skene's report of his visit is often overlooked in modern accounts of the Battle of Arderydd and its period, but the possibility that genuine oral traditions relating to the conflict may have been preserved in the area where it took place perhaps deserves closer examination.

Unfortunately, Skene himself merely acknowledged the possibility and did not pursue it any further. We thus have no clue regarding the origin of the folktale, and can draw no conclusions regarding the geographical extent of its currency at the time when Skene encountered it.

There seem, however, to be three possible explanations for its origin:

i. It is an entirely fictional account, invented to provide a dramatic pseudo-historical background to local antiquities, such as the Netherby Roman fort or the medieval stronghold of Liddel Strength.

This same process is apparent elsewhere, an example being the folktale of a battle between Romans and Britons at Coombs Rocks in Derbyshire, a story perhaps invented in order to explain the origin of prehistoric burial mounds and other antiquities in the neighbourhood of the Roman fort at Melandra Castle.³

ii. The tradition reports a genuine historical battle, though not the 6th century Arderydd campaign.

This explanation has the support of a literal interpretation of the folktale which, as Skene reports, describes the opposing armies as Picts and Romans. Such a scenario is not entirely implausible on historical grounds, given the area's location within the conflict-zone of the Pictish Wars of *c.* 350–450. Nevertheless, the proximity of the Netherby fort may inevitably have led to the superimposition of a 'Roman' aspect on any local tales concerning ancient battle-sites. The earthworks at Liddel Strength, which Skene believed to lie atop the original Caer Gwenddoleu, were known locally as the 'Roman Camp', and were moreover the site of the 'Picts versus Romans' battle according to the folktale.

iii. The tradition preserves a genuine account of the 6th century Battle of Arderydd.

Skene believed that accurate details of the Arderydd campaign lay embedded in the distorted version offered by the folktale. References to the battle in fragments of ancient Welsh poetry speak of a siege and a subsequent massacre, a description which appears also in the folktale. In addition, Skene noted that the latter also gave a figure of 300 as the number of warriors who died in defence of the 'Roman Camp'; the same figure appears to have been the number of men in a chieftain's personal warband, according to the old Welsh texts.

However, we should perhaps be wary of the historical value of such details as these, for hints of massacres and the use of any figure involving a multiple of three may owe more to the repertoire of dramatic storytelling than to an accurate preservation of historical information.

Nevertheless, the third explanation is at least strongly supported by the place-name evidence. The survival of the name Caer Gwenddoleu may even be due in part to some significance within the genre of local folk-saga. The name itself need not have survived continuously through the Anglian and Scandinavian periods but may, like other caer-names in Cumbria, have been re-instated after the resurgence of Brittonic speech in the 10th century. Whilst we cannot be certain why or how the place-name was preserved, it seems highly probable that popular saga directly relating to the 6th century battle remained in currency among the Britons, not only in the locality of the battle-site but throughout the Brittonic-speaking realm of Strathclyde as a whole.⁴

A Strathclyde connection is in any case not in any doubt, given that the same kingdom controlled the Arthuret district throughout the Scandinavian period, together with the probability that the Welsh texts which mention the battle seemingly drew much information on North British events from Strathclyde refugees who fled to Wales in the 9th century.⁵

At some point in the early medieval period, moreover, the Battle of Arderydd became associated with the enigmatic figure of Merlin, an association which will undoubtedly have played a major part in the survival of saga relating to the conflict.

The Scottish chronicler Walter Bower, writing in the Middle Ages, stated that the great battle from which Merlin fled in terror took place 'in the field between Liddel and Carwinley', a geographical clue which led to Skene's identification of the battle-site.⁶ From where did Bower glean this very precise information? Since no such statement appears in the Welsh

sources, nor in any other surviving text, Bower perhaps found the information from ‘some older authority’, as Skene surmised. It would be interesting to know if Bower’s source was in some way related to the same stratum of localised traditional saga which Skene himself encountered, in a much-debased version, several centuries later.

We nevertheless have the possibility that accounts of the Battle of Arthuret have indeed survived into modern times, not only in fragments of ancient Welsh poetry but also in the genre of North Cumbrian folktale.

References

- ¹ W.F. Skene, ‘Notice of the site of the Battle of Arderydd or Arderyth’, *PSAS* vi, 91–8.
- ² M. Miller, ‘The Commanders at Arthuret’, *CW2*, lxxv, 101; T. Clarkson, *The Solway region, A.D. 400–650, and the kingdom of Rheged*, unpublished M.Phil. dissertation, University of Manchester (1994), 157–9.
- ³ T. Middleton, *The Legends of Longdendale* (1907), 6.
- ⁴ K.H. Jackson, ‘The sources for the life of St Kentigern’, in N.K. Chadwick *et. al.*, *Studies in the early British Church* (1958), 335.
- ⁵ A.P. Smyth, *Warlords and holy men: Scotland AD80–1100* (1984), 217.
- ⁶ W. Bower, *Scotichronon*, iii, 31.

7. *Thomas Barneby, Prior of Carlisle* By DAVID M. SMITH

Our knowledge of the succession of priors for the cathedral priory of Carlisle during the fifteenth century is somewhat haphazard owing to the double archival losses of episcopal registers for the see in this period and any relevant contemporaneous records of the Augustinian cathedral chapter. The task of identification is made even more difficult by the fact that all of the known priors from 1404 to 1485 share the same forename of Thomas. The 1963 revision of *John Le Neve: Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1300–1541: VI Northern Province*¹ gives occurrences of Prior Thomas de Hoton between 1404 and 1423 and of his successor Thomas Barnaby (or Barneby) within the period 1429 to 1433. A recent discovery among the cause files of the Court of the Archbishop of York housed at the Borthwick Institute, University of York, suggests that these dates will have to be revised. The document in question (CP.F.51) is all that survives from an appeal case brought by master Robert Hormyshede, vicar of Crosthwaite in the Carlisle diocese, in December 1423. In it, master Robert appeals for the tuition of the Court of York against a citation requiring his appearance before master Thomas Udale, Official of Bishop William Strickland of Carlisle, to answer unspecified charges. The Bishop’s Vicar-General, Thomas Barneby, Prior of Carlisle Cathedral, is also mentioned in the appeal document. The definite mention of Thomas Barneby as Prior in December 1423 is his earliest known occurrence and would seem to suggest that the September 1423 reference to a Prior Thomas² may relate to Barneby rather than to Hoton as appears in the Le Neve revision. At the very least Thomas Hoton’s positive occurrences are now 1404 and 1415 and Thomas Barneby’s are extended from 1423 to 1433.

Notes

- ¹ Compiled by B. Jones, (London, Athlone Press, 1963), 100.
- ² British Library, Additional Charter 15770.