

## Notes.

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### ROMAN AND OTHER REMAINS FOUND AT DUFFIELD.

During the autumn of 1931 a large number of fragments of pottery have been turned up in the garden of Mr. C. P. Stevenson at The Knoll, Duffield, by his gardener, Mr. A. Westnidge. Along with the potsherds were several broken tiles which struck Mr. Westnidge as being similar to Roman tiles from Little Chester, which he had seen in the Derby Museum. He brought a good selection to the Museum for the inspection of the present writer, who sent them to the British Museum for further expert examination. The tiles proved to be Roman, but the great bulk of the crocks are medieval, 12th or 13th century, only a few of the pottery being of Roman date. The latter consisting of small pieces of several kinds of ware, the most conspicuous being of a soft dark grey colour, and another almost white, similar to the fabric used for mortaria, or mortars. All the pottery found, of whatever date is broken up into small pieces, none more than a few inches long.

It will be recollected that similar finds were made at Duffield in 1886, by members of our Society and a full account appeared in *D.A.J.*, Vol. ix, 1887, p. 118, with illustrations and plans, from the pen of the late Dr. J. Charles Cox, who with the late Mr. William Bland was responsible for the excavations then undertaken.

The recent finds confirm the 1886 records as regards Roman occupation, but considerably extend the area covered. Apparently in 1886 Roman pottery was found all over the site of Castle Hill but this statement should

be discounted as the identification was not thorough, and it is only possible now to accept pieces which came out of a trench, 230 feet due west of the Castle keep. The finds of this year were made at a point about 200 yards south of those of 1886. It is clear from the discoveries of fifty years ago and of the present that no actual site has been discovered. The fragmentary condition and the mixture of Roman and Medieval shows that the ground must have been turned over and over. First, when the Normans raised their mound on Castle Hill, and again in the second half of the 13th century when the great stone keep was destroyed.

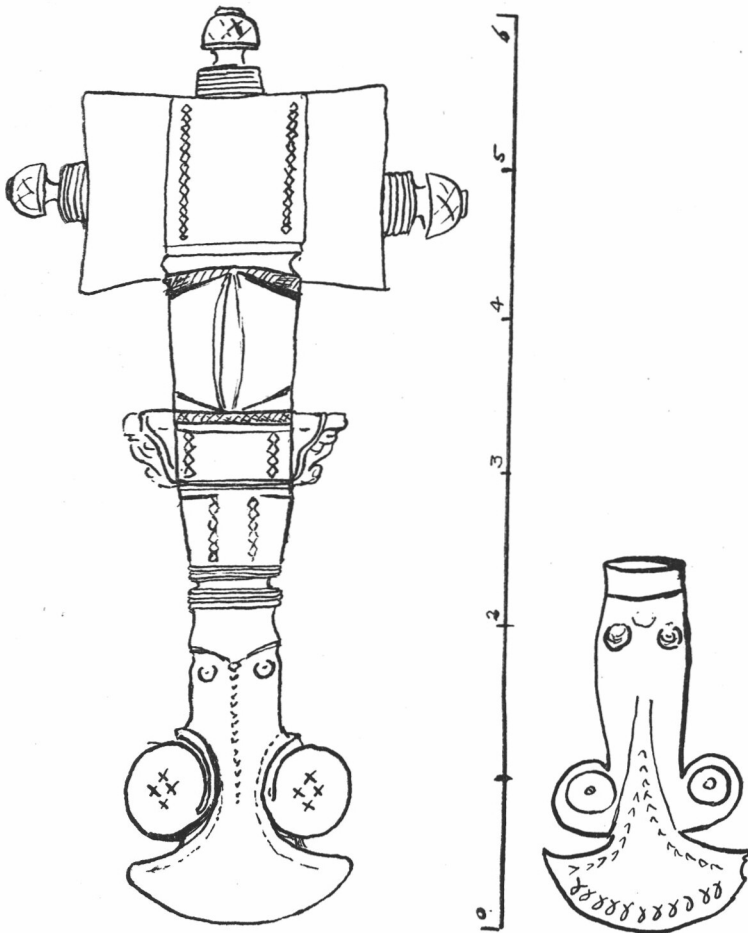
The present is a favourable opportunity of reviewing Dr. Cox's conclusions in the light of archaeological knowledge that has accrued in the past forty-five years.

In the first place he based his ideas on the false assumption of Mr. George T. Clark that the Anglo-Saxons raised motte and bailey castles, it has since been shown that these owe their origin and introduction into England entirely to the Normans, a very few being raised by Normans, during the reign of Edward the Confessor. The upper part of the mound at Duffield, like all similar constructions, is artificially raised by means of earth taken out of the trenches or moats which surround both mound and bailey. It follows that any relics of a previous age might easily be thrown to the top of the mound.

Dr. Cox divided the finds into periods, and it will be convenient to discuss them in the same order.

*Celtic Finds.* By these Dr. Cox meant pre-Roman, consisting of a piece of pot about an inch and a half long and some stone celts.

The bit of pot has disappeared, but I have examined the so-called 'celts' which are all natural formations, one of them being covered with glacial scratches. All are calcareous in composition, and of stone quite unsuitable for the manufacture of implements. The late



The left hand figure illustrates a cruciform Anglian brooch found at Londesborough, Yorks, and now in the Hull Museum. On the right is the Duffield brooch which corresponds exactly as regards type and size. Date, middle of 6th century. (Slightly reduced).

Mr. John Ward in a paper on Duffield Castle printed in a volume entitled "Bygone Derbyshire" published in 1892 said the 'celtic' pottery had disappeared before that date.

*Roman Period.* Dr. Cox attributed a certain shallow trench to this period apparently on the sole ground that Roman pottery was found in it. Unfortunately this trench has now disappeared, but the evidence is too slight on which to build a theory that the Romans had a camp on this site. Some building no doubt they had, but what its nature was there is as yet no means of knowing, certainly we cannot say there was a camp, with fosse and vallum.

*Anglo-Saxon.* A few fragments of a female skeleton associated with half a bronze brooch were found in 1886. Cox says they were discovered on the north-west angle of the keep, while Mr. W. Bland, his co-worker, says they were found just *outside* the west wall. It does not signify much either way because in any event they were found in the artificial mound raised after 1066, and not in their original position. The brooch is illustrated in Dr. Cox's paper, and at the time of its discovery seems to have been of a unique design. However since that time the Duffield type has become well-known, and a complete example is illustrated on pl. xlv, of Baldwin Brown's *Arts in Early England*, vol. 3, from Londesborough, Yorks., and now in the Hull Museum. The Duffield specimen when whole would be almost the exact size of the Londesborough one (I have tested by measurement of illustrations), and the designs are almost identical, in fact they are as closely alike as any two Anglian brooches ever are. The style is what is known as the horse's head type, and a reference to the illustration on the previous page will render this clear. The lower end is the muzzle, two nostrils are just above, higher up being two eyes, and the bridge of the brooch representing the horse's forehead. Our brooch

like the Londesborough one, is a late development with the muzzle expanded sideways and according to Prof. Brown it dates from the middle of the 6th century. It seems perfectly clear that we have at Duffield evidence of a pagan Anglian burial of the 6th century, which at that period would be outside the settlement itself, either under a tumulus or on level ground, but which of these it is impossible to say, nor can we be certain that the bones and brooch were in their original position. The probability is all against this. In any case the burial would take place right away from the Anglian settlement, which would be on or near the site of the present village.

*The Norman Castle.* The excavations of 1886 disclosed the foundations of an enormous stone-built keep, which measured on the outer walls 99 feet by 93 feet showing it to be one of the biggest keeps ever built in this country. The only carved stones were found down the castle well, and these are all late Norman, probably belonging to the reign of Henry II. Duffield was part of the barony of de Ferrers from the conquest up to 1266, and they had their *caput* at Tutbury. The castle of the Normans consisted of an artificial mound (often on the top of a natural mound), with a moat round it, and connected with the mound was one or more courts or bailies also surrounded with a moat. The top of the mound, or "motte," was protected with a strong timber stockade, another stockade running round the bailey, on the inner side of the moat. During the reign of William I very few timbered castles were re-built in stone, and there is no reason to think Duffield was one of them. It is more than likely, judging from existing carved fragments, that the keep was built after 1138, the year when Robert de Ferrers was created Earl of Derby. He died in 1139 to be succeeded by his son Robert, the 2nd earl, who himself died in 1162, and there is little doubt that he was the one who built the stone keep during his twenty-three years as earl. The timbered

stockade of the bailey was never replaced by a stone wall, nor were there any other stone buildings other than the keep. The destruction of the keep probably took place, as suggested by Dr. Cox, shortly after the Ferrers lost their Derbyshire estates in 1266.

The actual extent of the bailey cannot be conjectured from the small portion of moat which still exists to the south-west of the keep.

The finds of 1886 and of 1931 are now exhibited in the Derby Museum. F. Williamson.

#### THE CONGRESS OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

The 39th Annual Congress of Archæological Societies was held at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, on November 17, 1931, at which the Rev. R. F. Borough and myself attended as delegates from the Derbyshire Archæological Society.

After the election of Officers and Council and other routine business, Mr. H. J. E. Peake, F.S.A. made a communication on behalf of the British National Committee on Folk Arts and Crafts. This Committee has been formed under the auspices of the League of Nations for the purpose of collecting and recording information on local customs, crafts, music, dances, &c., and the help of our members is invited towards the attainment of this object. Communications should be sent to the Secretary of the Committee, Miss Maud Karpeles, 4, Maresfield Gardens, London, N.W. 3. Mr. Peake suggested that in the case of traditional crafts or customs which are passing away efforts might well be made to save them and give them new life but that no attempt should be made to revive such as are entirely obsolete. With this advice I think we shall all agree, revivals are inevitably artificial.

Dr. Fowler invited the Congress to take steps to secure the making of a proper record of Parish Documents, such