

## VII.—THE NATIVE SETTLEMENT AT GUNNAR PEAK.

By A. H. A. HOGG.

[Read on 29th April 1942.]

### POSITION.

Gunnar Peak lies at the western end of a line of crags which starts at a point about one mile north of Barrasford and half a mile east of Gunnerton, and extends to the north-east for about three-quarters of a mile. The Peak, which is the highest point of the crags, rises 571 feet above Ordnance Datum. The crags themselves face north, the ground to the south falling away gently. Geologically, they form part of the Whin Sill, and the southern slope is generally covered with a thin layer of limestone, occasionally penetrated by basalt outcrops and with a few sandstone hillocks resting on it. Springs break out both north and south of the crags, and the surface of the southward slope is much cut up by small dry ravines or heughs.

Village sites exist at three points on the crags. At the eastern end is a very large settlement, much robbed, and at the west end are two small sub-rectangular enclosures separated by the dry ravine of Gunnar Heugh. The more westerly of these is the subject of this paper. It is shown on 6-inch sheet Northumberland NLXXXII NW and its position is given by Lat.  $55^{\circ} 04' 07''$  N, Long.  $2^{\circ} 08' 05''$  W.

### PREVIOUS WORK ON THE SITE.

About 1880, the site was partly excavated by the late Rev. G. Rome Hall, of Birtley. The work was not only carried out with admirable care, but the standard of the report was also far in advance of its date.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A.A.<sup>2</sup> x, pp. 12-37.

Rome Hall excavated the interiors of all the visible huts, and cut some sections across the enclosing wall. Although there are some minor mistakes in the general plan, he left a detailed account of what was found in each part of the excavation, even when he did not himself fully understand it. He also gave larger scale plans of each hut, showing the positions of the finds.

Owing to the care with which these excavations were reported, it seemed that it would be worth while to continue them, as in fact was urged by Rome Hall himself in his report. During part of the summer of 1941 the writer was able to devote a day or two each week to examining the remains. It was felt that a site already partly examined was suitable for such intermittent digging; no serious harm would be done if it proved necessary to stop work, and each area cleared would probably add a little to our knowledge of the settlement. It was also mistakenly believed that only a few details remained to be investigated.

Thanks are due to Mr. G. K. Papillon, acting on behalf of the Duke of Northumberland, and to Mr. J. Harle, the tenant of the land, for permitting the excavation; to Mr. J. R. Beattie, for providing a site for the erection of a tent; to Mr. R. B. K. Stevenson, for several days digging and some valuable suggestions; to Mr. I. A. Richmond, for assistance with the description of the "finds," especially the pottery; to Dr. J. A. Smythe, for his report on the supposed slag; to Dr. K. B. Blackburn, for her report on the mollusca; to Dr. W. Fisher Cassie, for help with the digging and photography; to Mr. A. Steel, for the laborious task of describing the bones found; and to Miss N. Henderson for valuable help, especially with the surveying.

#### THE SITE.

The general character of the site is clear from the plans (fig. 1). It is protected on the east by Gunnar Heugh, a narrow dry ravine. The quadrangular enclosure and the huts within are now the most conspicuous features. An

earlier wall forms a low scarp running westward from the south-west corner of the enclosure. The ground south of this has at some time been ploughed and the cultivated area is bounded on the north by the line of the earlier wall and the field bank shown on the plan. Rome Hall shows "Ancient Enclosures" within the outer area<sup>2</sup> (at about 300N 250W), but no sign of these could be found. An ancient made road of uncertain date crosses the Heugh to the south of the settlement, and a perpetual spring of excellent water exists about a quarter of a mile away at the south end of the ravine.

There are some faint traces of what may have been a still earlier settlement on a rocky knoll about 150 yards south-west of the enclosure, but the area is so much robbed, and cut up by ruins of later field walls, that certainty is impossible without excavation.

#### THE 1941 EXCAVATIONS.

As a preliminary, the site was divided up into a grid of 50 ft. squares, for reference and survey purposes. The position of a point is recorded as, e.g., "250N 130W," although the grid lines are in fact perpendicular and parallel to the line of the south rampart, which does not run due east and west.

The actual excavations fall into three main groups :

- (i) Some small trenches within the enclosure.
- (ii) An examination of the entrance to the enclosure.
- (iii) A partial examination of the earlier rampart and its junction with the enclosure wall.

These will be described in this order.

#### *Inside the Enclosure.*

Three small areas were cleared besides those connected with the examination of the entrance. Two of them were intended to investigate the possibility that the "partitions"

<sup>2</sup> A.A.<sup>2</sup> VII, facing p. 7.

recorded by Rome Hall were in fact the remains of earlier timber structures. The first area cleared, south of hut IV, (245-250N 125-135W) proved inconclusive. The eastern half of the trench showed a few inches of soil over solid rock. At 130W there occurred a step down of about 9 inches, and the area was brought up to the same level as the eastern part by a mass of rubble, showing no sign of arrangement, and no indication of a face. The outer face of the hut wall was formed of a single course of small stones. The other area, at 280N 42W, inside hut I, gave a more definite result. The hut itself proved to have been partly excavated from the solid rock, and this showed no break where the row of stones forming the "partition" met the hut wall. It is therefore certain that the partition in hut I is not earlier than the hut itself, and most probably they are of one date. It seems likely that this applies also to huts IV and V. ◻

The remaining excavation was in the north-west corner of the "courtyard" outside hut I (265N 65W). It was originally intended to follow the courtyard wall to its junction with the hut, in order to determine their relationship. But it was found that the wall was represented merely by a shapeless bank of stones, and no facing could be located. To trace its relationship to the hut would have required more careful and detailed work than was possible in the time available. A narrow section was cut across the ruined wall, and fragments of Roman pot were found under its highest part; other fragments of the same pot were found just outside the line of the wall, within the courtyard.

#### *The Entrance Area.* (Fig. 2, top.)

The examination of the entrance area, as in fact of the whole south wall, was complicated by extensive stone robbing. The outer face of the south wall of the enclosure had been removed almost everywhere, and on the west side of the entrance the earlier wall had also been much robbed.

Excavation was started on the west side of the entrance about 20 feet from its centre. It was intended to locate the

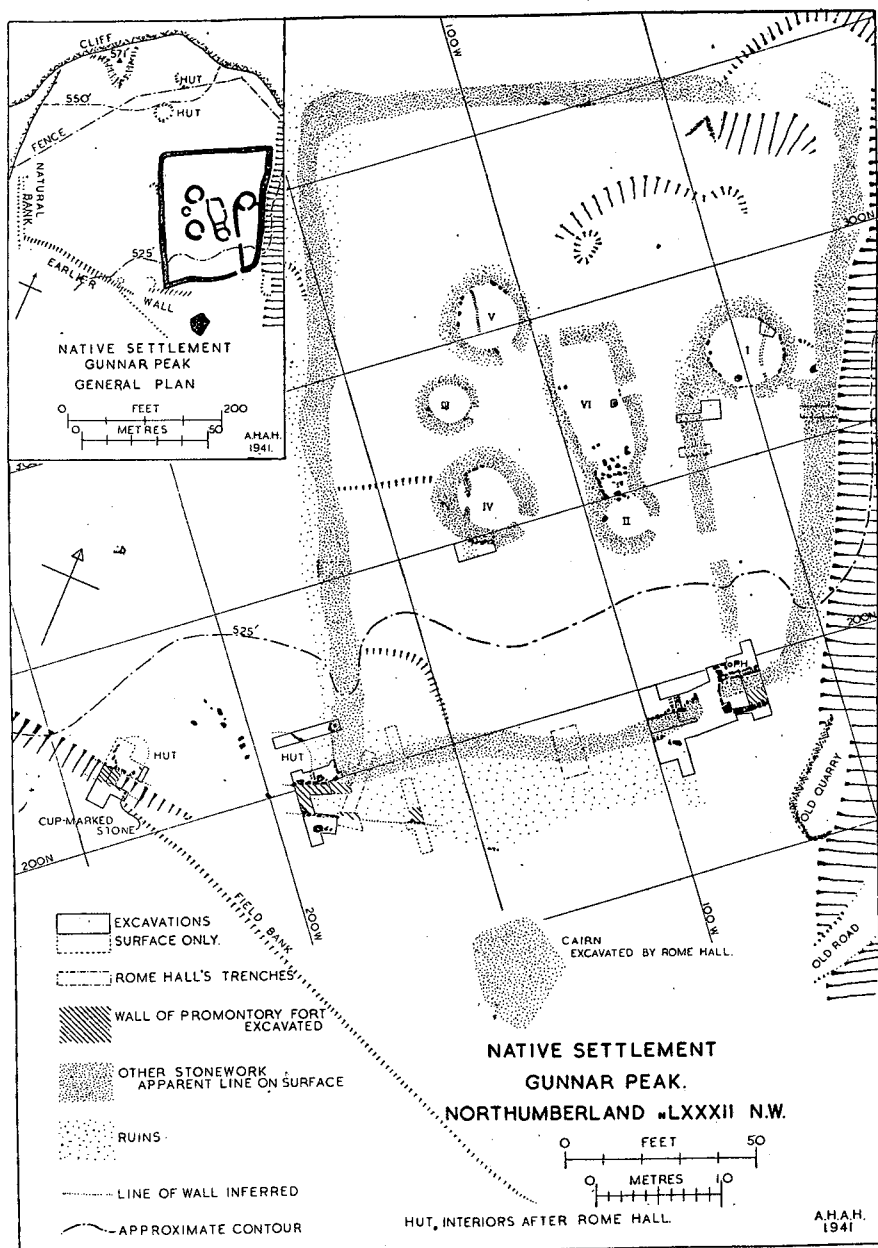


FIG. I.

inner and outer wall faces, and to follow them to the entrance itself. The inner face was found without difficulty. All that remained was a single line of large stones very irregularly placed and apparently rather disturbed. Inside the enclosure the trench was filled with loose stones showing no arrangement and presumably fallen from the wall. Among them was a single line of stones perhaps deliberately placed but more probably accidental. The outer face could not be located with certainty. It had apparently been robbed and disturbed. The west face of the entrance passage had also gone. It is difficult to account for the robbing as no modern walls or buildings are near, but it may possibly have been to obtain limestone for use when the land to the south was cultivated. Limestone was rare in the robbed parts of the walling and frequent where no robbing has taken place, but on the other hand no kilns can now be seen in the neighbourhood.

The east side of the entrance was far better preserved. It seems very probable that the remains found belong principally to the earlier period, only the inner face of the enclosure wall remaining, and the description which follows is based on this assumption. But further digging is necessary to confirm this absolutely.

The earlier period wall (p. 162) was well preserved (plate IX, 1). Two courses of the outer face remained, built of limestone slabs, perhaps from the small quarry near by. Only the lowest course of the inner face survived, built of large rounded sandstone boulders. The side of the entrance passage was also well built, of rather smaller mixed stones. Two courses remained.

Apparently belonging also to the earlier period were the two walls running roughly at right angles to the rampart, on either side of the entrance. They formed revetments to the sides of the hollow through which the track entering the enclosure runs. They require further examination.

Only the inner face of the later enclosure rampart remained. It was placed on the foundation of the earlier wall,

but lay about six inches to a foot further south. It stood two or three courses high in places, and the stones used were generally smaller than those in the earlier wall.

The south face had been entirely removed, and the entrance wall seemed to have been on the same line as the earlier one. No division between the earlier and later rampart could be observed in section, but as described below the whole bank was built up from material containing a good deal of organic matter.

The interior of the ramparts in all sections was composed of stones and earth. It was evident that the earth had been obtained from an occupied site, as it contained quantities of animal bones, including some burnt fragments. It will be seen below that there is evidence for some occupation of the site before the construction of the earlier wall.

Apart from animal bones, few relics were found. Several fragments of thick red Roman pottery were scattered over the area and a bone ring and bone "dress fastener" were among the ruins of the wall. They are described in the list of "finds." A scrap of flint was found lying on the old surface behind the rampart.

#### *The Earlier Rampart.*

This was examined in two places. A section was cut some distance west of the enclosure, and the junction with the enclosure wall was also partly examined.

In the more westerly section (near 220N 230W), cut by Mr. Stevenson, the wall remained only as a mass of rubble, bounded on the south by a straight edge, but showing no built face. The appearance suggested that the large facing stones had been removed, leaving the backing but little disturbed. In the body of the rampart were found a flint scraper and a cup-marked stone, and lying on the top of the ruins was a small fragment of Roman pot. Included among the stones was one which seemed to have been partly fused by the application of heat, but this proved to be natural, being derived from the Whin Sill.

North of the rampart the hill wash had formed a low terrace, and after the rampart had begun to fall into ruin a small hut about eight or nine feet in diameter had been built against the back of the wall. This hut was not entirely cleared as time would not permit a complete examination, and it was thought better to leave the site as little disturbed as possible in the hope that more work would be done on it in the future. About half the area was uncovered. A few scraps of native pottery were found and a bone knife handle, and there was some indication of rough pavement. A small area outside the hut was cleared down to natural rock and there was some indication of soil containing ashes and small scraps of bone from an earlier occupation, extending under the rampart.

The junction of the earlier rampart with the corner of the quadrangular enclosure was also examined (fig. 2, bottom). The earlier rampart here was better preserved, and the facing of large blocks stood one course high. The interior was composed of large rubble. The south face was buried in an accumulation of fallen stones and was uncovered for a length of about 10 feet. At this point it crossed the line of Rome Hall's trench and was destroyed, but it was located again about 20 feet further east in a narrow trench in which the top soil only was removed. The north face was better preserved, and in this case again a hut had been built after some hill wash had accumulated behind the rampart. Only a very small part of this hut was cleared, but the line of stones forming its wall was located where it met the north face of the rampart and where it crossed another trench 10 feet further north. At this point again, indications of earlier occupation extended under the rampart.

The outer face of the west wall of the enclosure was found both in the small trench to the north and at its junction with the earlier rampart. It remained to a height of one course, and at the junction the facing had been built up on top of the ruins of the earlier wall (plate IX, 2). At this point the facing of the enclosure wall ended, and from



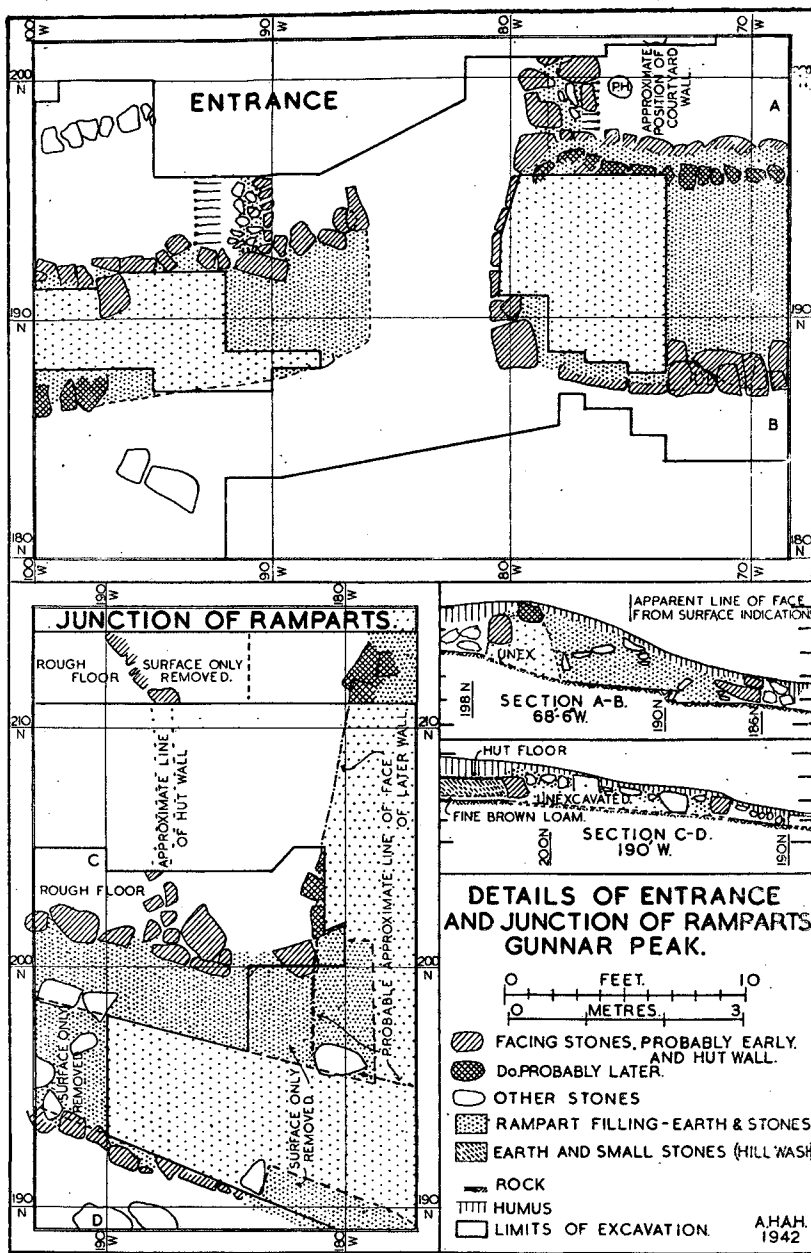


FIG. 2.

here onwards, the south face of the rampart seemed to have been removed. The area was not examined in sufficient detail to find out whether the north face survived, but it is clear from the relation between the two walls both in plan and section that the rectangular enclosure was not built until the earlier rampart had fallen completely into ruin.

Inside the body of the earlier rampart was found a fragment of fused material which appeared to be iron slag, but analysis (Appendix I) shows that it is in fact a natural product from the Whin Sill.

#### *Date.*

The evidence for the history of the site requires to be amplified and confirmed by further excavation, but it seems possible to establish some conclusions with fair certainty. The relics found during these excavations and those carried out by Rome Hall include several fragments of Roman pottery and a brooch which can be dated to the second century A.D. All these fragments come from the quadrangular enclosure, and during the recent excavations only one scrap of Roman ware was found in other parts of the site, although native pottery was not infrequent. It seems highly probable therefore that the quadrangular enclosure and its associated huts may be dated to the second century, although there may have been some additional building after its original foundation. Rome Hall also found a disc of Roman pot and two other scraps in his sections through the south rampart. Although the depth at which these were found is not stated, they suggest that some few Roman objects may also have reached the site before the enclosure was built. In any case, the earlier remains must be accepted as almost certainly pre-Roman, as an allowance of 150 years at least does not seem too great to cover the whole previous history of the site.

#### *Summary.*

The excavations have shown that there is still much to be done before the history of the site can be regarded as

fully worked out, but the limited examination which has so far been made does enable us to obtain some picture of the life and culture of the inhabitants. Even in the latest period querns seem to have been little used; the pots used were few and coarse, and there is no evidence for the use of textiles, although no doubt these would be available during the Roman period. Animals, however, were plentiful. Very little is known about the earlier occupation except that the huts appear to have been round, but further excavation is necessary to give more details of their construction. In the later period the huts reached a fairly high standard of complexity. Three of them were divided by partitions into two rooms; two were fitted with pivot stones to carry a front door, and one of the buildings was rectangular. It seems justifiable to see, in the shapes of this hut and of the enclosure itself, some Roman influence.

The mound of stones south of the enclosure which was excavated by Rome Hall was not re-examined, but it seems probable, from his discovery of human remains in it, that it was a burial cairn and that it belonged to the latest period, as animal bones were plentiful and fragments of both Roman and native ware were found in it.

It is interesting to compare the general character of the relics found with those from Traprain Law.<sup>3</sup> There is a close resemblance in many ways. The crude native pottery, the stone discs, and the frequent bones, together with the scattered Roman relics, are characteristic of both sites. But there are also differences, the most striking of which is the complete absence at Gunnar Peak of any evidence for the use of textiles. Further, the Gunnar Peak site has produced no evidence of agriculture except for the fragments of two querns, whereas hoes and sickles were found at Traprain. Although there is no reason to doubt that both sites belong to the same culture, Gunnar Peak would seem to be a relatively poor representative of it. There is no evidence

<sup>3</sup> PSAScot. vol. XLIX, p. 139; L, p. 64; LIV, p. 54; LV, p. 153; LVI, p. 189; LVII, p. 180; LVIII, p. 241.

for iron-working on the site, as the "slag" found by Rome Hall is exactly similar to that described in Appendix I.

#### THE FINDS.

##### *General.*

In the descriptions which follow, the relics excavated by Rome Hall are not described in detail unless they seem to be of some particular interest or significance.

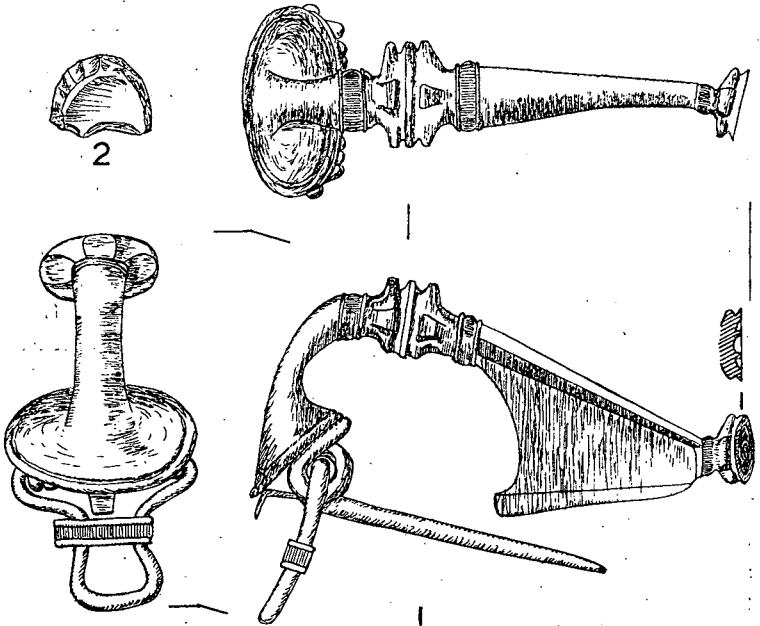


FIG. 3. I. BRONZE ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ). 2. FLINT ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

##### *Bronze.*

A well-preserved bronze brooch (fig. 3, 1) was found by Rome Hall in his "hut VII," the square space between huts II and VI, about 255N 85W. It is a good undecorated specimen of Collingwood's class R(ii),<sup>4</sup> a trumpet-brooch with an acanthus on either side of the central moulding, and a third at the foot. This class is dated to the

<sup>4</sup> R. G. Collingwood, *Romano-Celtic Art in Northumbria*, Arch. LXXX (1930), p. 45; Arch. R.B., p. 253.

first half of the second century. Two brooches of very similar character were found at Newstead<sup>5</sup> in positions which suggest that they belong nearer the middle than the beginning of the century. Brooches of similar type are also common at Traprain.<sup>6</sup> It is probable that Traprain was one of the centres of their manufacture, and they were also made at Brough-under-Stainmore and at Kirkby Thore in Westmorland.<sup>7</sup> But it is not at present possible to assign any given brooch to its source of origin.

#### *Iron.*

Rome Hall found several fragments of iron, including some large nails, but only two objects require notice. In hut 1 were found what he describes as an "armlet" and a "finger ring." The "armlet" is a large heavy iron ring and is more probably either a hub of a wheel or the binding of a door-post, and the "finger ring" seems more likely to have been part of a penannular brooch.

In 1941 two large iron nails with roughly square heads and of square cross section were found about 200N 70W together with a slightly bent rectangular piece of iron 2.5" long by 1" wide by 0.14" thick, perforated with a hole 0.25" diameter in the middle. These were probably from some wooden structure associated with the adjacent post-hole. The only other iron fragment found was a slightly curved and twisted strip, 4.5" long, 0.8" wide and tapering from 0.1" to 0.05" thick in section. It is perforated by two small nail holes and may have been part of the binding of a wooden vessel.

#### *Pottery.*

*Samian Ware.* Rome Hall found six small fragments during his excavations. Two are shapeless, two are from foot rings, and one is part of a rim. None of these exceeds half a square inch in area, but the sixth piece is about two square inches of figured Samian. It is very worn, and owing to existing conditions cannot be placed in the hands of an expert. It cannot, therefore, be identified at present.

*Mortarium.* A small piece of heavily curved flange, broken from the rim of a mortarium of white ware with a pinkish tinge in the core, carries part of a much worn and almost illegible stamp. This again requires expert examination not at present possible. But so heavily curved a flange is not likely to be earlier than Hadrian-Antonine, and the fabric is certainly not later.

*Other Coarse Roman Ware.* Several fragments of coarse pottery were found both in 1941 and during the earlier excavations. They

<sup>5</sup> Newstead, plate LXXXVI, nos. 15 and 16 and p. 323.

<sup>6</sup> loc. cit.

<sup>7</sup> Arch. R.B., p. 253.

represent only a small number of vessels, certainly less than a dozen, probably only four or five. Few pieces require detailed description. The majority are fragments of large amphoræ or store jars of thick pink or pinkish-buff ware. No rims of these remain.

The only pot whose form can be restored is that shown in fig. 4, 1. Fragments were found in 1941 in the north-west corner of the courtyard, the rim being under the wall. Other pieces were found by Rome Hall, and are marked "courtyard." The pot is of sandy ware of a dirty brownish grey colour. There is a small cordon below the rim, and two grooves lower down the shoulder, but no other decoration. The upper part is rough, but the lower surface is

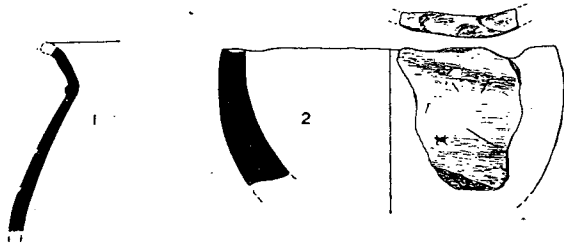


FIG. 4. POTTERY (1).

smoother and may once have been burnished. The rim diameter can only be determined roughly, but is about 6 or 8 inches.

The fabric of the pot belongs to the Hadrian-Antoine period. The form is similar to Collingwood's 68-70, but the angle of the rim is sharper than in the examples illustrated.<sup>8</sup> Poltross Burn, period 1, has produced some fairly close parallels, although these usually have a band of lattice decoration.<sup>9</sup>

#### *Native Ware.*

During 1941 all the native pottery found was in small scraps and lay outside the quadrangular enclosure. It was generally associated with the two huts behind the earlier rampart, but a few small pieces were found in the occupation layer which extended underneath the early wall. None of it requires detailed discussion.

The fabric is exactly similar to that described in Mr. Richmond's account of the pottery from Ingram Hill and other native sites.<sup>10</sup> Two fragments found by Rome Hall, however, deserve further dis-

<sup>8</sup> Arch. R.B., p. 231.

<sup>9</sup> C. & W. Trans., N.S., XI, plates III and IV, especially no. 39.

<sup>10</sup> *Ante*, pp. 121-133.

cussion. One is part of the neck of a large jar with everted rim. This form does not seem to have been found at other local sites, but there is too little preserved to give the form of the vessel. The other fragment (fig. 4, 2) is part of the rim of a bowl apparently hemispherical, and of about 8 or 10" diameter. The rim is flattened and carries finger impressions. The ware itself is black, very coarse with large grits. The inner face is grey and the outer face is a light buff with sooty patches and showing the impression of a few grass stems.

#### *Bone.*

Although not as frequent as one would expect in view of the number of animal bones on the site, worked bone objects are not uncommon. The best specimen is a rod of round section about 0.2" diameter at its widest part and tapering to 0.15" at its broken end, which appears originally to have been pointed. The other end is flattened into a small blade-an inch long by 0.4" wide by 0.1" thick. The over-all length of the instrument at present is 3.9". It may perhaps have been a stylus. It was found by Rome Hall in his section across the south rampart. The other worked bone objects are two knife handles, one found by Rome Hall in hut 1, 2.9" long and formed of the end of a bone the shank of which is of oval section 0.5" by 0.35"; the other, found in 1941 on the floor of the hut at 220N 230W, is 2.9" long by 1" by 1.2" oval section. The other bone objects, all found in 1941, were a bone ring 0.45" long by 0.65" external diameter by 0.1" thick, found in the material of the rampart east of the entrance; a fragment of a bone point 1.6" long and tapering from 0.4 to 0.1" diameter, found within the material of the earlier rampart about 200N 185W; and a toggle or dress fastener formed from a roughly oval piece of bone 1.7" long by 0.7" wide by 0.05" thick, pierced with a hole 0.1" diameter, found inside the enclosure about 200N 75W.

#### *Flint.*

A small scrap of flint was found on the old surface at 146N 98W. There are four similar scraps among the material found by Rome Hall. A small thumb scraper (fig. 3, 2) was found within the material of the early rampart at 220N 250W.

#### *Stone.*

A small stone disc, 1.8" diameter by 0.5" thick, roughly chipped into shape, was found behind the earlier rampart about 205N 190W. Rome Hall found three similar discs, 3" diameter by 0.6" thick, 6" diameter by 1.5" thick, and 5.5" diameter by 1" thick. These were probably pot lids or stoppers. He also found a carefully smoothed

disc with slightly convex faces resembling one found at Traprain.<sup>11</sup> The edge was battered by hammering.

A fragment of a polishing stone was found about 215N 190W. Several whet stones were found by Rome Hall.

The most remarkable stone object (fig. 5) appears to be derived from some far earlier period. It was found in the make-up of the earlier rampart at 215N 235W. It is a portion of a slab of hard sandstone, roughly rectangular in shape, 9" by 8" by  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " thick. It has a cup-mark pecked out on one side and the other side shows

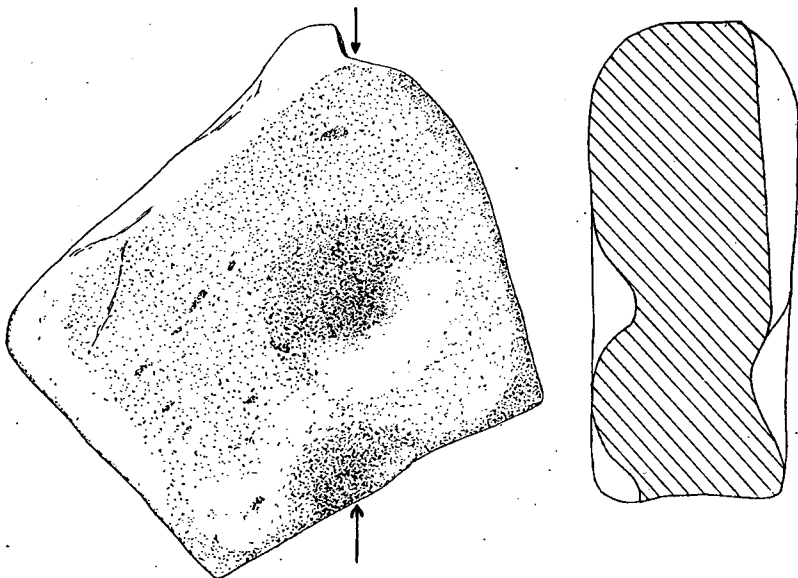


FIG. 5. CUP-MARKED STONE ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

one similar complete mark and half another which has been broken through when the slab has been fractured at some period. A stone with similar markings but of smaller size was found at Traprain,<sup>12</sup> but here a closer parallel would seem to be the cup-marked stones found in the barrow at the Pitland Hills, also excavated by Rome Hall.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup> PSAScot. XLIX, p. 190, fig. 38, no. 9.

<sup>12</sup> PSAScot. LVI, p. 237, fig. 31.

<sup>13</sup> A.A.<sup>2</sup> XII, p. 268; cf. no. 14, pl. XVII and p. 276.





FIG. 1. SECTION OF RAMPART, EAST OF ENTRANCE.



FIG. 2. JUNCTION OF EARLIER AND LATER RAMPARTS.



## APPENDIX I

*Sample of alleged slag from Gunnar Peak.* By J. A. Smythe.

At first sight this looks like an iron-smelting slag, though, on the other hand, it is from a district in which the Whin Sill is a great feature, and this formation is in places highly vesicular and slaggy-looking.

To decide the point, an analysis of the chief constituents was made, and the results, given below in column I, are compared with the average composition of the Whin Sill, given in column II.

	I	II
Silica $\text{SiO}_2$ . . .	51.5	50.3
Alumina $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . . .	18.1	17.9
Ferric Oxide $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ . . .	3.2	3.1
Ferrous Oxide $\text{FeO}$ . . .	9.1	8.9
Magnesia $\text{MgO}$ . . .	4.7	4.9
Lime $\text{CaO}$ . . .	8.2	8.8
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	94.8	93.9

The differences between the two are not greater than one can find in different samples of the Whin Sill itself. Apart from this, the composition of the material does not correspond with any ordinary slags.

On these grounds, therefore, I have no hesitation in concluding that the specimen is derived from the Whin Sill and is not a smelting slag.

## APPENDIX II.

*Report on snails from the excavation of the rampart at Gunnar Peak.*

By K. B. Blackburn.

Two batches of snails were collected, one from the section of the rampart and one from between the stones in front. The two lots were of essentially similar constitution and were such as might be expected in such an exposed locality on a limestone wall in this area.

The list of specimens is as follows:

<i>Helices.</i>		<i>Smaller snails.</i>	
Arianta arbustorum . . .	17	Goniodiscus rotundatus . . .	16
Osphaea hortensis . . .	16	Oxyalulus cellarius . . .	7
Osphaea nemoralis . . .	1	Clausilia cravenensis . . .	6
		Clausilia rugosa . . .	3
		Vitrea crystallina . . .	1
		Punctum pygmaeum . . .	1

The snail of most general interest in this list is *Clausilia cravenensis*, which is a species endemic to Britain and characteristic of the northern Pennines and Northumberland and Durham. Living snails from the North Tyne area have been found at Birtley, Chollerton, Warden, etc.

## APPENDIX III.

*The Bones.* By A. Steel and A. H. A. Hogg.

Position:	Within early rampart.	Behind early rampart.	Behind early rampart.	Behind rampart east of gate.	East side of entrance.	Outside south rampart.
Approximate boundaries:	N198-200 W184-193	200-204 181-193	c. 220 c. 230	200-204 69-80	190-195 80-82	183-187 88-100
<i>Ox:</i> —						
Zygomatic arch.			X			
Lower jaw		X				
Teeth	Molars	Molars	Incisor & Molars	Incisor & Molars		X
Lumbar vertebrae			2			
Tail vertebrae				X		
Rib		X				
Scapula				R & 2L		
Humerus	X	R		R & L		
Radius		R		R		
Ulna	R					
Carpal			X			
Metacarpal			X		R	
Phalanges		1st & 2nd	3rd	1st & 2nd (2 of each)		1st
Pelvis			X			
Acetabulum		X				
Femur		L		X		
Tibia		R				
Fibulares (os calcis)	R	R		R & L		
Scapho-cuboid					X	
Astragalus		X			X	
<i>Sheep:</i> —						
Lower jaw					X	
Rib		X				
Scapula				X		
Tibia				L		
Fibulares (os calcis)		L		L		
<i>Boar:</i> —						
Lower canines					X	
<i>Deer:</i> —						
Tine (worked point)		X				
Antler (sawn)		X				
<i>Human:</i> —						
Femur		R				

Many other pieces of bone were found, but they are unidentifiable. Those listed are also generally in a fragmentary state, and cannot therefore be assigned to a particular species. Nor are their numbers sufficient to justify statistical treatment. But the list is of considerable interest as giving some idea of the animals available for use by the inhabitants of a native settlement in this area. Owing to the acid nature of the soil on most Northumbrian sites bones are not usually preserved, but the limestone at Gunnar Peak has produced more favourable conditions.

In general, the relative numbers of bones of ox and sheep resemble the proportions found at Corbridge,<sup>14</sup> but no estimate can be made of the actual numbers of animals represented at Gunnar Peak. It should perhaps be noted that the bones of sheep seem to occur in the later rather than in the earlier deposits, but this cannot be regarded as an established fact. It is, however, a point which should be considered and investigated during any future excavation, as although the sheep was known in Britain at a very early period it does not necessarily follow that it was therefore domesticated by some given date in some particular area.

The other animal remains found, call for little comment. The use of deer antlers for various purposes is common on early sites of all periods in all parts of the country.

The absence or infrequency of remains of horse, dog, and pig is rather remarkable, in view of their occurrence at Corbridge. But it may not be significant, as if the proportions at the two sites were similar only about four bones of the horse and dog and six of the pig could be expected. A horse's tooth was found by Rome Hall.

The human femur was found in the hill-wash beneath the hut floor behind the early rampart. It must be considered in conjunction with the finger bones found by Rome Hall in his section through the south rampart. These remains do not necessarily imply cannibalism, as the cup-marked stone found in the early rampart suggests that a cairn may have been demolished when the first wall was built, and the bones may well be derived from burials disturbed at that time. This again is a question which requires further consideration in any future excavation.

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<sup>14</sup> A.A.<sup>3</sup> VII, pp. 220-267.

