

NOTES

1.—ADDITIONAL RECTILINEAR SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHUMBERLAND

A further two settlements of the type ascribed generally to the Romano-British period have been discovered since the survey recorded in *A.A.*⁴, XXXVIII (1960), pp. 1-38 and 247.

The first, at Hetchester in the parish of Thockrington (fig. 1; NY:944796), lies just over three hundred yards east-north-east of an unclassified rectangular earthwork, probably of later date, already recorded¹ and marked on the O.S. maps. The new site was noted by Mr. J. L. Davidson of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey in the course of a re-survey of the area.

It is situated just above the seven hundred foot contour line on the slight forward slope of a low ridge, overlooking what is now a damp bottom to the east. The position is very similar to that of other sites in this category. Though the land is now rough hill-pasture the whole area has been ploughed at some time; consequently the settlement is poorly preserved and no stone walls remain. Even so it is of substantial interest in that it clearly conforms to the basic plan of the type. The outline formed by the ditch is less rectangular than that of some examples in the series, but the main lead in from the east, flanked on either side by a slightly hollowed "yard", and the circular, dished floor marking the location of at least one hut, give a clear indication of the general context in which the settlement is to be seen. There are faint traces of the former presence of an internal mound or wall on the west side and in the north-east corner.

¹ *A.A.*⁴, XXXVIII (1960) p. 36 No. 73, and p. 34.

HETCHESTER ~ THOCKRINGTON

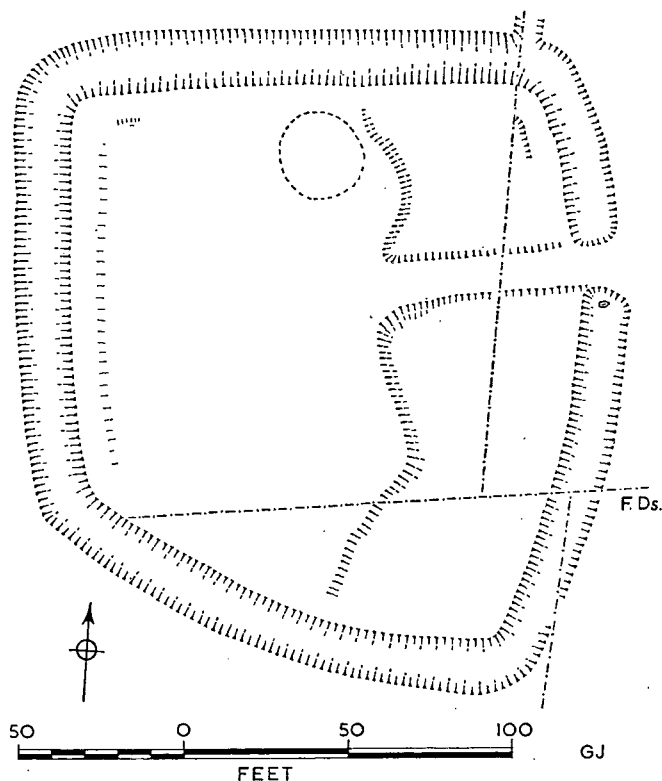


FIG. 1.

The second settlement (fig. 2) was discovered in 1960 by Mr. W. Batey of the Heugh, Birtley, and reported to our member Mr. A. M. Bankier. It is situated on a spur above the left bank of the River North Tyne at High Countess Park (fig. 3 no. 1 and NY:867808). The site has been planted over for many years and robbed of most of its stone. No external ditch is evident but the line of the stone enclosure wall, from six to seven feet wide, can be traced with difficulty amongst the closely planted trees. The western half of

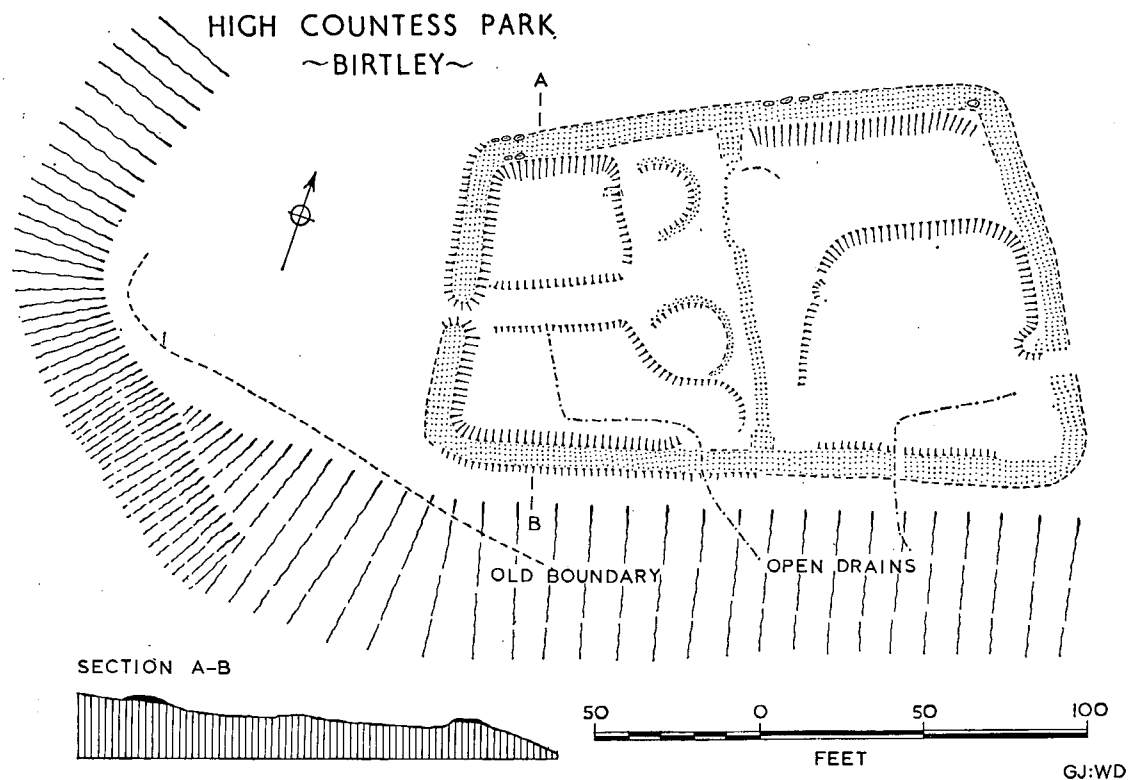


FIG. 2.

the settlement conforms to the normal plan but is unusual in that the entrance lies in the west rather than the east. Immediately to the rear of two stone founded circular huts are traces of a stone wall, running from north to south, which could have formed an eastern boundary wall to a much smaller site, though this is by no means certain. The eastern half of the present enclosure is occupied by a prominent scooped "yard", the entrance to which is on the east. The platform remaining on the north side of the yard is large enough to accommodate additional huts, but the site of only one possibility can be discerned, this impinging upon and most probably later in context than the transverse wall already mentioned. Only one example of such a settlement with an attached annexe is known, this at East Errington, Cocklaw,² which ought to have been designated as a settlement of this type in the original survey but was inadvertently left as unclassified. At High Countess Park it seems possible that there has been an extension to the size of the original settlement, the eastern half of the enclosure being secondary.

There can be few, if any settlements of this order remaining to be found on this particular stretch of the left bank of the North Tyne and fig. 3³ illustrates the frequency with which they occur. Assuming at least the possibility of contemporary occupation at some stage on settlements of similar form, then the observed spacing of between one quarter to one half mile apart and the natural boundaries provided by some of the small burns flowing into the North Tyne could give a tenuous indication of the possible extent of what might be termed, without prejudice, in-by-land holding. Evidence of any developed field systems unequivocally associated with these settlements is still lacking.

George Jobey

² *Ibid.* p. 35 No. 9 and fig. 9.

³ The other settlements shown on the plan are as follows: 1, High Countess Park; 2, Countess Park; 3, The Heugh; 4, Devil's Leap; 5, Birtley Shields Dene; 6, Mill Knock (almost quarried away but has had round stone houses); 7, Carry House; 8, Birtley West Farm.

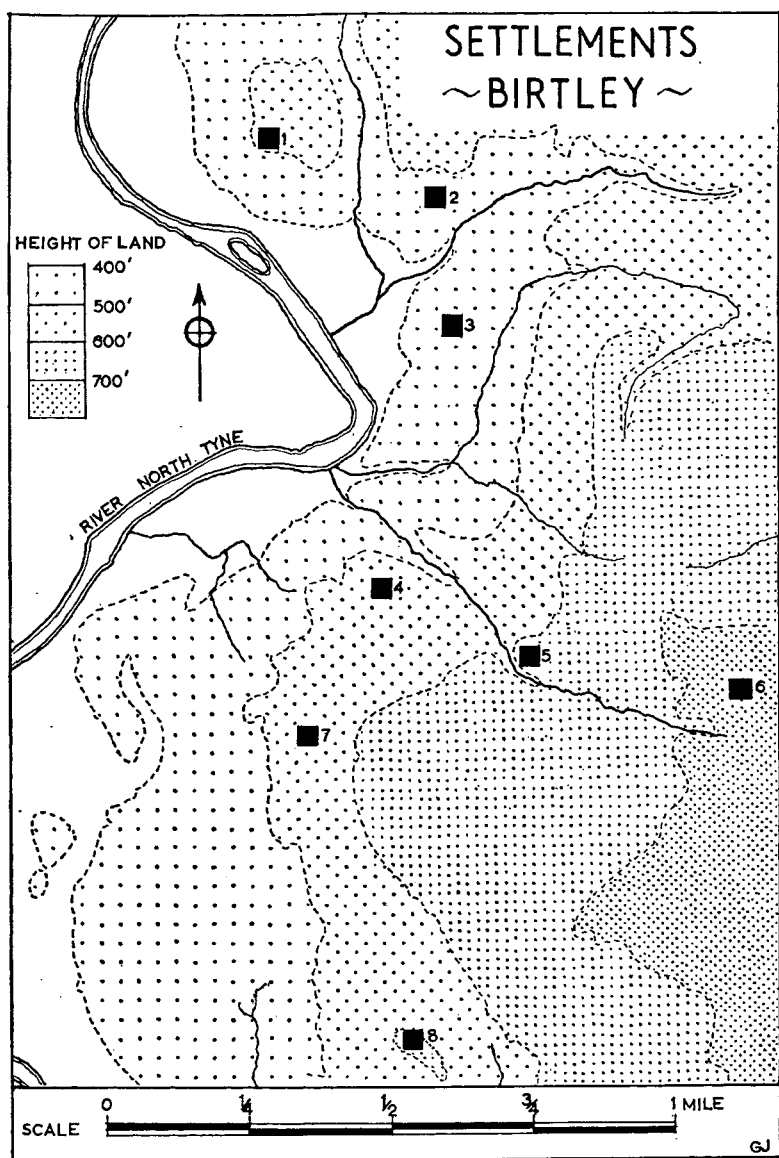


FIG. 3.

2. THE TRANSFER OF A ROMAN INSCRIPTION FROM HADRIAN'S WALL

In 1960 Mr. W. Barnard, when acting as relief custodian at Housesteads, noticed and later photographed a Roman inscription built into the west face of the field-wall which runs south from Hadrian's Wall at Cat Stairs. It was in the third course from the top at a point¹ 15 feet south of Hadrian's Wall. Mr. C. Anderson, of H.M. Ministry of Works, kindly passed on this information to me and supplied an excerpt from a 25-inch O.S. map to mark the site. On 31 August 1961 I visited the spot and made a contact-drawing of the stone. It is 17 in. wide by 6 in. high. The letters are set out along a curving line, and there is a flaw, 3 in. wide by 3 in. high by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep, at the end of them.

The text reads CASSIVS. This use of the nominative marks it as a personal stone unlike the official building-records set up by legions, cohorts or centuries. A similar personal record² also comes from Cat Stairs and reads CIVILIS, to be interpreted from this analogy in the nominative and not the genitive.

A year later, on 30 August 1962, Mr. C. M. Daniels was shown a Roman inscription which Mr. J. H. M. Telford, the landlord of the Twice-Brewed Inn, had himself found in early August unstratified "in a heap of ashes" at the western end of the site on which he was building a westward extension of his Inn. The finder believed that the stone had been found in its original position, for this Inn lies on the south mound of the Vallum. Mr. Daniels took careful measurements and made a contact-drawing of the lettering, which he kindly sent to me with full details. This drawing with the accompanying details convinced me that this was the stone from Cat Stairs. At an early opportunity, on September 22,

¹ Grid-reference NY 759677. It is 210 yards west of Milecastle 39 (Castle Nick).

² *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* vii 677. The new stone has been published in *Journal of Roman Studies* lii (1962) 194, no. 18.

I revisited the field-wall at Cat Stairs and found that serious damage had taken place at the precise spot. Three courses of the walling-stones for a length of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet had been thrown to the ground on either side of the wall and the inscribed stone, which would have been identifiable by its precise measurements, had disappeared. I then called on Mr. Telford and discussed the provenance of his stone. It exactly matched my contact-drawing. It appears that one or more persons must have extracted the stone from the wall at Cat Stairs and "planted" it where it was certain to be discovered on the line of the Vallum. Alternatively, they may have grown tired of their inscribed stone and abandoned it before they left the Inn. By good fortune we had incontrovertible evidence to refute any falsification of origin, and show that it came from Hadrian's Wall.

It should be added that the stone is 8 in. deep and cut to serve in a wall. It does not resemble the flat slabs³ which have come from the Vallum and must have rested against the earthwork of either its north or south mound.

One further comment should be made. The perpetrators of this unauthorised transfer seriously damaged the field-wall and made it much less effective as a barrier for retaining the grazing stock. This is serious for the farmer concerned and might easily arouse ill-will against all who tour Hadrian's Wall if it were to lead the farming community to place on them the blame for this wanton damage.

R. P. Wright

3.—THE ROMAN WALL AT CAWFIELDS

In 1962 the Ministry of Public Building and Works cleared and consolidated a stretch of Wall on Cawfields Crag. Mr. C. Anderson, who is in charge of the work, drew

³ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Newc.*⁴ vi (1934) 337, pl. XVI, vii (1935-6) 11 with fig., 158 with figs., 245. *Journal of Roman Studies* xxv (1935) 224, nos. 4, 5; xxvii (1937) 247, nos. 8-10; xlv (1954) 105, no. 14. For a discussion see Richmond and Birley *Arch. Ael.*⁴ xiv (1937) 227.

my attention to an unusual piece of construction on the north face some distance east of milecastle 42, where the lower courses of the Wall have recently been uncovered.

In a stretch of Wall built in the normal manner, four large, almost square stones, roughly dressed like the other facing stones, which are some 9 inches or 1 foot square, have been put in at ground level. The three larger stones are approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet square, the smaller one on the east side of them 2 ft. 7 ins. x 1 ft. 6 ins. At the east end the stone is the height of two normal courses and at the west end of three. There is no corresponding irregularity on the south face and no obvious reason why four large stones should have been used at this place.

Dorothy Charlesworth



THE ROMAN WALL AT CAWFIELDS.

