

## NOTES

### 1.—LEWISBURN MUSEUM: FLINT DAGGER

The attention of members of the Society is drawn to the newly established Border Forest Park Museum at Lewisburn, North Tynedale (NT: 6590). Although the main purpose of the museum is to illustrate the natural history of the Kielder Forest and its environs, almost inevitably it will also attract a quota of archaeological exhibits. For many years now the forest blanket has created difficulties for archaeological field survey, only alleviated at times by the keen eyes of the interested forestry worker. Two implements recently acquired by the museum, and worthy of record, illustrate the point.

The first (plate XVIII no. 1) is a bifacially flaked flint dagger of a type found in Beaker contexts, the main though not exclusive association, where it exists, being with Long Necked Beakers. Such daggers could be copies of tanged or rivetted metal types, although other antecedents have been suggested.<sup>1</sup> They are rare at the moment in the county.<sup>2</sup> The present example has been notched for binding and hafting, is 12.5 cms. in length and 5.7 cms. in maximum breadth. It was found by Mr. R. Robson near a spring close to Highfield Hope, Tarsset (NY: 739912).

The second (plate XVIII no. 2) is, seemingly, an incomplete specimen of similar form, having been broken across the top of the blade between the notches. It is unusual in that it has probably been made from a grey/green volcanic stone. This apart, there is no reason to suspect its general

<sup>1</sup> For discussion and typology of flint daggers in England and Wales v. Grimes, W. F., *Prehistoric Soc. E. Anglia*, VI (1931), 340 ff. Also Piggott, S., in *Culture and Environment* (ed. Forester and Alcock), 81 ff.

<sup>2</sup> Amble, *P.S.A.N.*, 4, I, 8. Lilburn Steads, *P.S.A.* (Lond.), XXXII, 15 (with Short Necked Beaker).

context, though it would be of interest to have a petrological examination. It was found by Mr. M. Sanderson in the River North Tyne, near to Kielder Viaduct (NY:632924).

G. JOBEY

## 2.—PRELIMINARY WORK ON THE PORTGATE

In March 1966 an attempt was made by the Ministry of Public Building and Works to locate the Portgate, recorded by Horsley<sup>1</sup> and buried under the Military Road (B 6318) and successive repairs to Dere Street (A 68).

In the north-west angle of the Stagshaw cross roads, only just clear of the north kerb of the Military Road at a depth of between 2 and 3 ft. below the existing carriageway, the four blocks of massive masonry which form the north face of the west side of the gateway were partly uncovered (pl. XIX). The cornerstone, to carry the arch, is 3 ft. 2 ins. in length and 1 ft. 10 ins. in depth. The total length of the north face is 9 ft. 5 ins. and there is an unexpected and unexplained projection of 2 stones 5 ft. 1 in. from the east end. This face lies about 10-12 ft. north of the north face of Hadrian's Wall, which is under the south carriageway of the present road and, if one can reasonably guess at the whole structure from 4 stones, is a projecting gateway not a *castellum* as Horsley termed it.

D. CHARLESWORTH.

## 3.—THE MOOT HALL GARDEN, HEXHAM

The excavation of the front garden of the Moot Hall (77/NT/937641) at Hexham was undertaken at the request of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works as the site was to be filled in and paved by the Urban District Council.

<sup>1</sup> J. Horsley, *Britannia Romana*, p. 121. E. Birley, *Research on Hadrian's Wall*, p. 111.



North-west face of the Portgate

*Photo C. M. Daniels*



A watch was to be kept for any evidence of a ditch which might form a boundary between the West wall of the Moot Hall and the East wall of the Priory.

The work was carried out by volunteers drawn from three sources: the Hexham W.E.A. branch, members of Walbottle Campus Archaeological Society and students from the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School at Hexham. Help was also received from the Hexham Surveyor and other local people.

The site had previously been occupied by a building dating from at least the 1750's. A search was made for documentary evidence which might help to date the building firmly, but without success. An appeal for photographs produced only the well-known view. Consequently, no firm date can be advanced for this structure, and unstratified finds of clay pipes suggest a date within the last 200 years.

When these buildings were demolished, a great deal of rubble was used as infill. Remains of three basement walls were found. At the west end of trench B, a paved floor had existed, but in the corresponding end of trench A there had been a wooden floor. Both these floors had sandy gravel

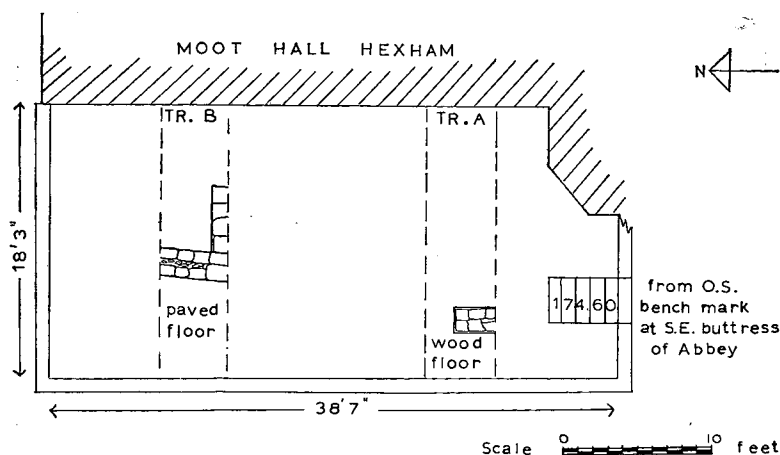


FIG. 1. FORECOURT, MOOT HALL, HEXHAM 1965

beneath them. This sandy gravel seems to have been the natural level of the area and must, therefore, be a lens or isolated patch since the natural level of the Hexham area is clay.

Apart from the pipes, all small finds were modern.

No evidence of a ditch was found in the area available for excavation. Perhaps the basement of the eighteenth-century building removed all trace, but a ditch in sandy gravel within 17 feet of a heavy wall, whose foundations

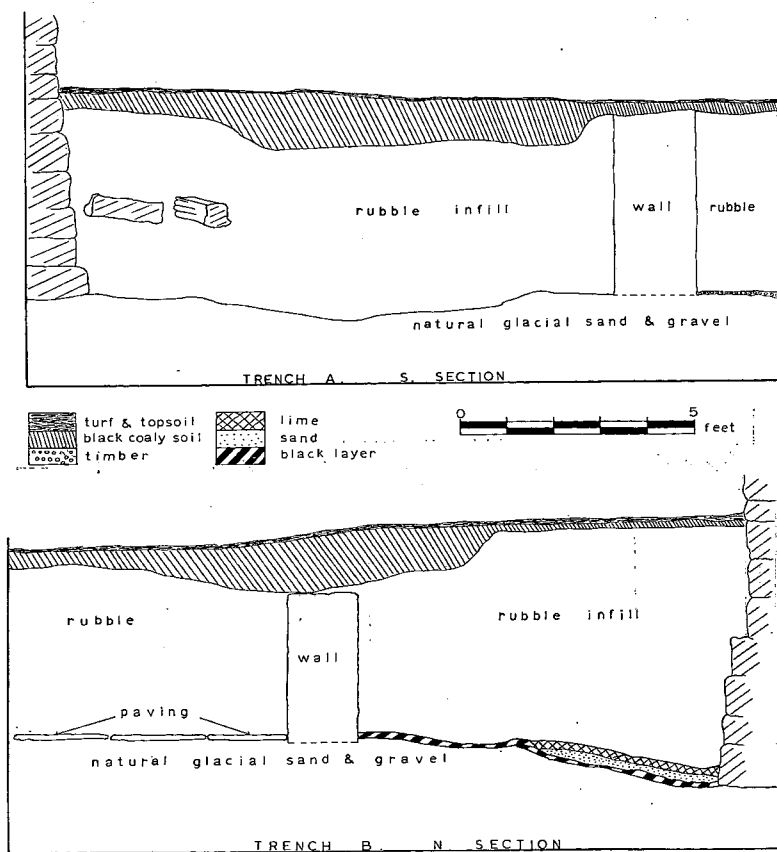


FIG. 2. SECTIONS, MOOT HALL, HEXHAM 1965

probably lie on the same sandy gravel, seems unlikely.

*The Pipe Bowls*

The following references are to "The Archaeology of the clay tobacco pipe in North East England", by J. E. Parsons, published in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 4th series, vol. xlii.

No. 1 is comparable with Parsons' type 3.

No. 2 is comparable with Parsons' type 39.

No. 3 is comparable with Parsons' type 9.

No. 4 is comparable with Parsons' type 5.

E. W. SOCKETT

