

### III.—TWO “SCOTTISH” STONE CIRCLES IN NORTHUMBERLAND

*H. A. W. Burl*

In the south of Northumberland in the neighbourhood of Hexham (Fig. 1) are two small stone circles unlike any others recorded in the county. The more southerly, the Goatstones, NY 829748,<sup>1</sup> is  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles NW of Simonburn at the western end of Ravensheugh Crag. The other, the Three Kings, NT 774009,<sup>2</sup> is 9 miles NW of Otterburn on the north-east side of Tod Law spur. Both stand on the pass that leads northwards along the R. North Tyne and up Redesdale towards Carter Bar, and it is probable that their builders travelled in this direction from the Cumbrian coast. It also seems certain that these sites belong to the class of stone circle known as 4-Posters most commonly found in Perthshire but which may well have originated in Aberdeen.

4-Posters were first defined as a class by Coles and Simpson<sup>3</sup> when reviewing the sites near Pitnacree in Strath-tay, Perthshire. Their predominance in that county has been commented on by Stewart after excavations at Lundin Farm<sup>4</sup> and Carse Farm.<sup>5</sup> But there has never been a general discussion of their features, distribution or dating and it seems appropriate that the recognition of two distant outliers in Northumberland should be accompanied by a summary of present knowledge of these diminutive and late stone circles (Fig. 2).

They are composed of four stones set in a rectangle

<sup>1</sup> Honeyman. *P.S.A.N. V*, (1931-2), 304-6.

<sup>2</sup> *P.S.A.N. V*, 3rd series, (1911-2), 234-7.

<sup>3</sup> *P.P.S. XXXI*, (1965), 34-57.

<sup>4</sup> Stewart. *P.S.A.S. XCVIII*, (1964-6), 126-49.

<sup>5</sup> Stewart. *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland*, (1964), 39-40.

whose sides average about 16 ft. east-west by 14 ft. north-south. The stones themselves are usually graded in height. In over 80% of the sites where this trait can be established the tallest stone is either at the SW or NE corner, such an interest in the SW/NE axis being another characteristic of the group. A quarter of the sites have cupmarks but these, unlike the tallest stone, are invariably on the eastern side, nearly always upon the SE stone. The "circles"—if a rectangle can be so called—were erected on terraces on hillsides or on spurs commanding wide views even though this sometimes entailed their builders in considerable effort when it came to moving the stones from their quarry to the site of the circle. And all these architectural features were combined in a monument whose function was primarily sepulchral. Burials are customary in 4-Posters. They are cremations rather than inhumations, and what grave-goods have survived demonstrate that the floruit of these stone circles was around the mid-2nd millennium B.C. (c. 1800 B.C.).<sup>6</sup>

The existence of eight such diagnostic features isolates these sites from the well-known stone circles of southern Britain and links them firmly with the Clava-Recumbent Stone Circle tradition of Inverness and Aberdeen.<sup>7</sup> The cupmarks at the Goatstones, for example, belong to a belief whose adherents can be traced back as far in space and time as the people who designed and built the great passage-graves at Balnuaran of Clava at the head of the Great Glen in Scotland almost two hundred miles to the north and separated in time from the Northumbrian circle by a thousand years.

That both the Goatstones and the Three Kings are 4-Posters cannot be doubted. Both are of four stones at the corners of a square, that at the Goatstones being about 16 ft. long (Plate VII, 1). The tallest stone here, placed

<sup>6</sup> Dates are given in radio-carbon years followed in brackets by an approximate bristlecone pine adjustment.

<sup>7</sup> Henshall. *Chambered Tombs of Scotland, I*, Edinburgh, 1963, 12-39.

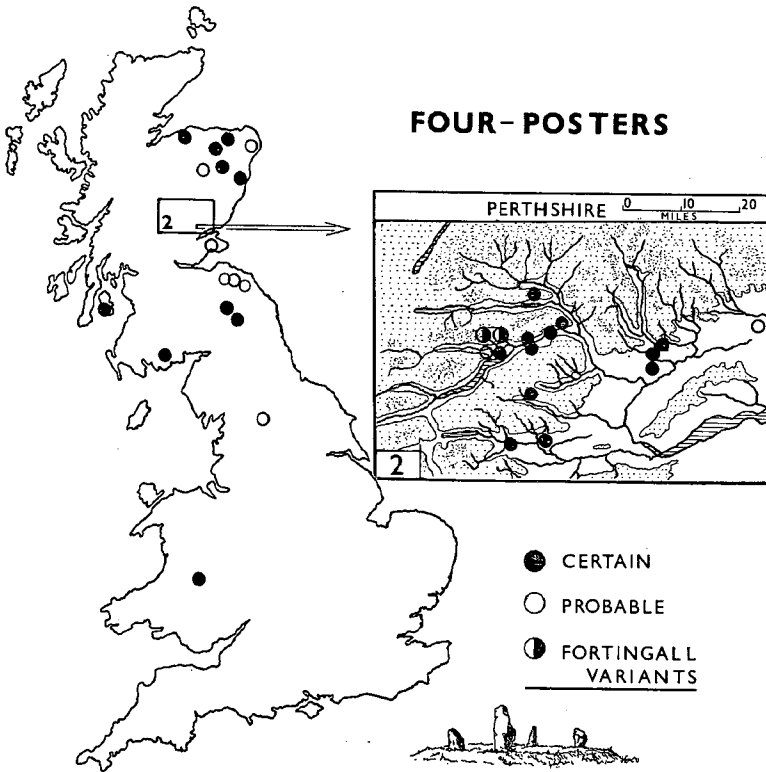


FIG. 2 FOUR-POSTERS IN GREAT BRITAIN

slightly west of south, leans outwards and is barely 2 ft. high. The lowest stones are at the WNW and ESE and the latter has thirteen cupmarks on its flat top, itself an analytical pointer to the circle's ancestry. Of the eight hundred and fifty stone circles in Britain and Ireland only thirty-six are indisputably cupmarked and twenty-nine of these belong incontrovertibly to the Clava-Recumbent Stone Circle tradition. Like its Scottish predecessors the Goatstones looks out from a high position on to the surrounding low ground, particularly to the north-east and the valley of the R.

North Tyne. When Honeyman<sup>8</sup> visited the site in 1931 he detected what he thought was a gentle rise in the centre of the circle suggesting the site had not been despoiled. "There are no signs that any sacrilegious hand has ever disturbed the bones of the dead man who was honoured with this simple monument. . . .", but when the present writer inspected the Goatstones in March, 1970, there were clear traces of digging with an untidy mound lying between the two northern stones, and it is improbable that any worthwhile archaeological material survives in situ.

The Three Kings, eighteen miles to the north, is very similar (Plate VII, 2) though here the south-east stone is prostrate and three-quarters buried beneath the turf. The site is difficult to approach because of the felling activities of the Forestry Commission whose tumbled branches and overgrown ditches make walking a matter of concentration and also conceal the circle until the top of the spur is reached. The position, however, is a splendid one. Standing on a flat tableland one can see for a long way either to the south down Redesdale or to the north-east and the heavy, slumping hills round Hungry Low and Ravens Knowe.

The stones here are taller than those at the Goatstones, all over 3 ft. high at the corners of a 12 ft. square with the biggest, about 4 ft. 6 ins. in height at the NE. There are no signs of cupmarks but this is a feature of only one in four of the 4-Posters and, in any case, customarily one that occurs on the SE stone, the very one that is now displaced and earth-covered. Once again, there are signs of interference within the circle, this time in the form of a crude pit about 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. deep at the centre of the site.

Thus from the number of stones; shape; size; grading of heights; SW/NE axis; and cupmarks the two Northumbrian circles appear to be related unquestionably to the earlier Scottish group of 4-Posters whose own major architectural features derive from the Clava cairns.<sup>9</sup> Of these Inverness

<sup>8</sup> *P.S.A.N. V*, (1931-2), 304-6.

<sup>9</sup> Henshall. *ibid.*

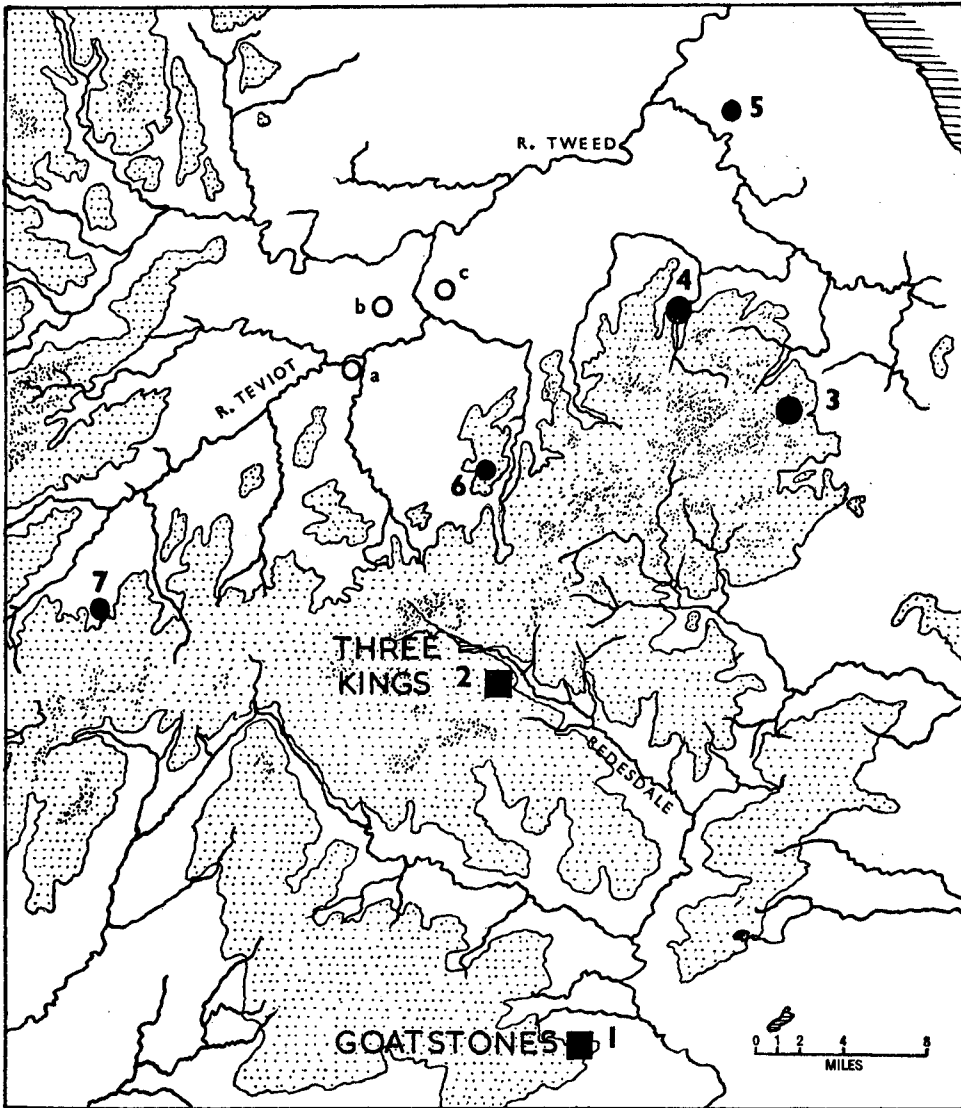


FIG. 1 STONE CIRCLES IN THE CHEVIOT HILLS

- (1) Goatstones; (2) Three Kings; (3) Threestone Burn, Ilderton;  
 (4) Hethpool; (5) Duddo Four Stones; (6) Five Stanes; (7) Burgh Hill.  
 (a) Harestanes; (b) Fairnington; (c) Frogden; are ruined or destroyed.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial reporting and auditing. The text notes that incomplete or inconsistent records can lead to significant errors and potential legal consequences.

2. The second section addresses the challenges associated with data collection and analysis. It highlights the need for standardized procedures and protocols to ensure the reliability and validity of the data. The author suggests that investing in robust data management systems and training personnel can significantly mitigate these challenges.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in modern data management. It explores various tools and software solutions that can streamline data collection, storage, and analysis. The text argues that leveraging technology is not only more efficient but also allows for more sophisticated data analysis and insights.

4. The final section discusses the importance of data security and privacy. It outlines best practices for protecting sensitive information, including the use of encryption, access controls, and regular security audits. The author stresses that organizations must be proactive in identifying and addressing potential vulnerabilities to prevent data breaches and maintain trust with their stakeholders.

passage-graves and ring-cairns both the kerbstones and the stones of the surrounding circle are graded in height. Such a gradation is uncommon in chambered tombs. Equally atypical is the position of the entrance in the south-west quadrant instead of the more normal eastern sector. The tallest pillars of the stone circle were placed outside the entrance presumably with the intention of enhancing its appearance. The combination of two such peculiar traits shows that it is with the Clava cairns that the 4-Poster tradition begins, a hypothesis corroborated by the presence of cupmarks in some of the cairns.

The immediate successors of these tombs, the recumbent stone circles of Aberdeen,<sup>10</sup> possess the same features with the stone circle becoming more important at the expense of a diminishing internal ring-cairn. Stones are graded in height, the recumbent stone and its flanking pillars are set in the south-west quadrant, cupmarks are hollowed on some of the stones, there is constant evidence of cremation, and the circles are customarily built on the sides of hills in positions from which they could be seen from a considerable distance.

Although it is difficult to date the Clava cairns from which the only artifact to survive is a burnt bone pin<sup>11</sup> the recumbent stone circles are a little easier with sherds of AOC beakers<sup>12</sup> and a B/3 stone bracer<sup>13</sup> suggesting an earliest phase for them in the first quarter of the 2nd millennium B.C. (c. 2500-2150 B.C.), and extending into the middle of that millennium (c. 1800 B.C.) in the later sites. In these the recumbent stone disappears and the number of stones becomes formalised into either eight, six or four although the tallest stone remains at the SW. Such late stone circles in general occupy areas in Aberdeen and neighbouring countries peripheral to the central districts of recumbent stone circles and it is possible to assign an horizon to them

<sup>10</sup> Burl. *P.S.A.S. forthcoming.*

<sup>11</sup> Piggott. *P.S.A.S. LXXXVIII*, (1954-6), 173-207.

<sup>12</sup> Kilbride-Jones. *P.S.A.S. LXLX*, (1934-5), 168-222.

<sup>13</sup> Stuart. *Sculptured Stones of Scotland, I*, Aberdeen, 1856, xxi.

around the second quarter of the 2nd millennium B.C. (c. 2150-1800 B.C.) from the presence of encrusted urns at Newton of Montblairy,<sup>14</sup> Broomend of Crichtie<sup>15</sup> and Tuack.<sup>16</sup> Of most importance to this study is the emergence of large 4-Posters in Aberdeen like Howemill and the Hill of Bucharn; North Burreldales, Banff, and Craighead, Kincardine with an average size of about 24 ft. by 25 ft., much larger than the usual 4-Poster but commensurate with the diameters of nearby six- and eight-stone circles like Tuack<sup>17</sup> and Cullerlie.<sup>18</sup> From this it can be deduced that a 4-Poster is essentially no different from these others inasmuch as the main characteristics of Clava cairns and recumbent stone circles were retained albeit with the most extreme economy.

It would seem that it was within the second quarter of the 2nd millennium B.C. (c. 2150-1800 B.C.) that the tradition reached Perthshire and as it was here that this form of circle proliferated it will be worth examining these in some detail. 4-Posters have sometimes been considered to begin in Perthshire. But the graded height of the stones and the SW emphasis reveal recumbent stone circle traits which are not apparent in any of the earlier and different Perthshire megalithic sites like Pitnacree,<sup>19</sup> Clach na Tiompan<sup>20</sup> or Kindrochat<sup>21</sup> so that no good prototypes can be found for them there whereas in Aberdeen they do exist (Fig. 2). In that county there are not only proper 4-Posters but also circles transitional in form between recumbent stone circles and 4-Posters in the strange six-stone sites with two stones much smaller than the others at Backhill of Drachlaw East<sup>22</sup> and South Ythsie.<sup>23</sup>

The 4-Posters of Perthshire share most of the features

<sup>14</sup> Coles. *P.S.A.S.* XL, (1905), no. 1.

<sup>15</sup> Ritchie. *P.S.A.S.* LIV, (1920), 154.

<sup>16</sup> Ritchie. *ibid.* Stuart. *ibid.*, xxii.

<sup>17</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> Kilbride-Jones. *P.S.A.S.* LXIX, (1934-5), 215.

<sup>19</sup> Coles and Simpson. *P.P.S.* XXXI, (1965), 34-57.

<sup>20</sup> *P.S.A.S.* LXXXVIII, (1954-6), 112.

<sup>21</sup> *P.S.A.S.* LXV, (1930-1), 281; *ibid.* XCII, (1958-9), 74.

<sup>22</sup> Coles. *P.S.A.S.* XXXVII, (1902), no. 29.

<sup>23</sup> Coles. *P.S.A.S.* XXXVI, (1901), no. 31.



of the 4-Posters of Aberdeen. Of the fifteen sites belonging to this type of circle in Perth at least eight had stones graded in height, and four more might have had this trait before they were ruined. In twelve of the sites the orientation of the tallest stone can be established. The tendency to retain this at the SW is rather less strong than in Aberdeen. It is quite true that the SW/NE axis is by far the most favoured but it is not exclusive. In nine sites where a line can be determined three had the tallest stone at the SW; five at the NE and one at the WSW. Although it is noteworthy that the conspicuous stone is never placed past the N/S axis towards the NW or SE nevertheless it cannot be claimed that the SW/NE line is any more than a general alignment in these 4-Posters, a phenomenon typical of other stone circles in the final stages of this tradition for a similar, rather haphazard positioning of the recumbent stone can be seen in the later circles of Aberdeen and Kincardineshire.

A few of the Perthshire 4-Posters were erected on mounds, in some instances on man-made cairns that had been built by earlier people. This may have been so with the Lundin Farm site which also had a ditch around the cairn. Na Carraigan, too, was on a mound which was surrounded by small kerbstones. Clach na Tiompan 4-Poster by a Clyde chambered tomb was similar. Dunmoid appeared to be on a type of platform. Such encircling ditches and their counterparts may reveal the influence of henge architecture from Yorkshire and NE England intermingling with local, Perthshire traditions.

The sepulchral nature of these 4-Posters need not be doubted. Five of them have been excavated: Lundin Farm; Carse Farm I; Glenballoch; Dunmoid; and Clach na Tiompan; and in four of them clear traces of cremation were found. The fifth, Clach na Tiompan, appears to be extremely late in the tradition and may well be not typical of the group. It is very small, 10 ft. by 9 ft. 6 ins., its grading is uncertain, and it stands in a most remote position on the middle reaches of the R. Almond far from any of the

main centres of Perth circles. Yet even in this outlying 4-Poster quartz pebbles were discovered in the central mound with fragments of carbonised wood, the not unusual concomitants of Bronze Age burial in this district.

Burial relics were varied in the other sites. At Glenballoch a cordoned urn filled with cremated bone was found near the centre of the circle, "and was protected by stones built round it in a beehive form". At Dunmoid a stone cist was found by one of the stones. It contained a human thigh bone reminiscent of the isolated bones found in the Aberdeen circle henges of Fullerton<sup>24</sup> and Broomend of Crichtie.<sup>25</sup> From within the mound upon which the 4-Poster stood an urn filled with ashes had been recovered many years before 1876. At Carse Farm I a tapering pit had been dug by the NE stone and was filled with cremated bone with largish pieces of charcoal towards the bottom. A collared urn lay on its side in the pit. It also contained a small amount of burnt bone but the excavator noted that the total of cremated bone in the pit was far more than the urn could have held.

At Lundin Farm, another 4-Poster built on a mound, it was possible to reconstruct the sequence of activities starting with the deturfing of the site, the top of the mound being hollowed and a demarcation ditch being dug around it. A pit was then dug in the centre in which cremated bone was deposited and the pit refilled. Finally the four stones were erected around the edge of the hollowed area and the hollow filled with cairn material. A second cremation was found at the foot of the NW stone. Cremated bone was also scattered over the whole of the central area. Eighty yards north of this circle are two standing stones between which is a natural rock with six cupmarks.

In the cairn material within and just outside the stone setting at Lundin were found several sherds of a collared urn and an incomplete cord-ornamented beaker.

<sup>24</sup> Coles. *P.S.A.S.* XXXV, (1900), no. 13.

<sup>25</sup> Ritchie. *P.S.A.S.* LIV, (1919-20), 154.

Thus it can be seen that burials at these four sites do not vary much from those of the later recumbent stone circles of Aberdeen where cremated bones were deposited in pits, sometimes stone-lined, often accompanied by urns of the mid-2nd millennium B.C. (c. 2200-1700 B.C.).

The discovery of a cordoned urn at Glenballoch; an "urn" from Dunmoid which was almost certainly of the Bronze Age and not an early beaker as it contained ashes; a collared urn significantly with incised decoration at Carse Farm I; and at Lundin a presumed collared urn, a late variant of Longworth's primary series<sup>26</sup> with traits 3 and 4 and Style H decoration of filled triangles, belonging around the Wessex II horizon; all these would be sufficient to assign an overall date within the sixteenth and fifteenth centuries B.C. and later to these sites (c. 2000-1700 B.C.) were it not for the AOC beaker at Lundin.<sup>27</sup> This is so anomalous that its presence might be best explained as having been placed in the earlier cairn long before the erection of the 4-Poster. Alternatively, its discovery could be paralleled by the AOC beaker<sup>28</sup> at Sundayswell ring-cairn, Aberdeen<sup>29</sup> which was found in the central space with Bronze Age sherds inside it. This was interpreted as being a redeposition of a treasured and attractive pot. This might have happened at Lundin also. Whatever hypothesis is put forward for Lundin a general date much earlier than about 1600 B.C. (c. 2000 B.C.) would be surprising for the 4-Posters of Perthshire.

Once established in central Scotland it seems that some movement of people westwards followed during the earlier part of the Bronze Age, the diffusion of 4-Posters being one aspect of this. These stone circles can be seen in Arran; in Kirkcudbright; as far south as central Wales; and, of course, in Northumberland where the geographical position of the Goatstones and the Three Kings suggests that a western,

<sup>26</sup> *P.P.S.* XXVII, (1961), 263-306.

<sup>27</sup> Clarke. *Beaker Pottery of Great Britain & Ireland*. Cambridge, 1970. no. 1737.1. Stewart. *P.S.A.S. XCVIII*, (1964-6), 126-49.

<sup>28</sup> Clarke. *ibid.*, no. 1499.

<sup>29</sup> Henshall. *Chambered Tombs of Scotland, I*. Edinburgh, 1963. 399.

riverine approach along the Tyne Gap and up the valley of the R. North Tyne to Redesdale is far more probable than one from the north-east towards the trackless heights of Carter Bar which would have had to be crossed before reaching the site of the Three Kings.

Indirect confirmation of a western route comes from two sources: the types of stone circle in north-east Northumberland; and place-names in the Tyne Gap. The two 4-Posters are entirely different from those circles to the north-east in the Merse-Teviot lowlands. Here the stone circles can be subdivided into two main groups, the first of large, low-lying circles: Threestone Burn, Ilderton (NT 972205);<sup>30</sup> Hethpool (NT 892278);<sup>31</sup> and Borrowstoun Rigg (NT 560521),<sup>32</sup> all over 100 ft. in diameter and of many stones. Their origins will not be discussed here except to make the negative point that they cannot be considered to derive from sites north of the border. The second group is of much smaller stone circles mainly in Teviotdale on the northern slopes of the Cheviots. These must be presumed to have been built by people coming to the region from the east coast and, indeed, there is some resemblance between them and the small stone circles of central and east Perthshire both in the size of diameter and in the number of stones. The largest of them is Burgh Hill, Roxburgh (NT 470062),<sup>33</sup> 54 ft. by 44 ft. Others include Duddo Four Stones, Northumberland (NT 931437)<sup>34</sup> which, despite its name, is not a 4-Poster but a small, six-stone circle; Five Stones, Roxburgh (NT 752168);<sup>35</sup> perhaps Doddington Moor, Northumberland (NU 00.31.);<sup>36</sup> and the ruined or destroyed Roxburgh sites of Frogden (NT 774292);<sup>37</sup> Harestanes (NT

<sup>30</sup> *N.C.H. XIV*, 21-67.

<sup>31</sup> Honeyman. *P.S.A.N. VI*, 4th series, (1935), 116-17.

<sup>32</sup> *R.C.A.H.M. Berwick*, no. 226.

<sup>33</sup> *R.C.A.H.M. Roxburgh, II*, no. 1011.

<sup>34</sup> *Craw. T. Berwick F.C. XXVIII*, (1932), 8.

<sup>35</sup> *R.C.A.H.M. Roxburgh, I*, no. 349.

<sup>36</sup> *N.C.H. XIV*, 21-67.

<sup>37</sup> *R.C.A.H.M. Roxburgh, I*, no. 549.

64.24.);<sup>38</sup> and Fairnington (NT 667285).<sup>39</sup> The fact that all these circles of both groups are dissimilar from the Goatstones and the Three Kings supports the belief that the two 4-Posters were the work of people coming from the west having followed the same route as the makers of Aucheleffan, Arran, and the Four Stones, Radnorshire.

It is possible that a study of local place-names could confirm this movement from the west. A few miles to the south-west of the Goatstones is the hamlet of Fourstones (NY 888679),  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles NW of Hexham in the Tyne Gap. Mawer<sup>40</sup> proposed an origin for this name in hypothetical boundary-markers of the Anglo-Saxon settlement but there seems to be no documentary support for this and it is as feasible that the name, which appears as "Fourstans" in 1235,<sup>41</sup> came from a 4-Poster built at the point where the R. North Tyne flows from the north to join the South Tyne. Another possibly significant place-name some miles to the west is that of the vanished village of Forston<sup>42</sup> near Haltwhistle. Its best derivation is that of "Four Stones". It could well be an alternative linguistic version of the surviving village of Featherstone (NY 67.61.) in the same area. According to Ekwall<sup>43</sup> and to Smith<sup>44</sup> the name Featherstone is a corruption of feder-stan, O.E. for "four stones" which they interpret as "a cromlech with three upright stones and a headstone" but which could equally have been another 4-Poster, its geographical position being on the mooted western route from the Cumbrian coast. But it must be emphasised that neither at Fourstones near Hexham nor at Featherstone near Haltwhistle is there

<sup>38</sup> *ibid.*, no. 22.

<sup>39</sup> *R.C.A.H.M. Roxburgh, II*, no. 911.

<sup>40</sup> *Place-Names of Northumberland and Durham*, Cambridge, 1920, 88-9. Hodgson. *History of Northumberland II*, 1840, 412. Mackenzie. *Northumberland II*, 1825, 262.

<sup>41</sup> *Arch. Ael. XXV*, (1904), 163.

<sup>42</sup> Mawer. *Place-Names of Northumberland and Durham*, Cambridge, 1920, 88.

<sup>43</sup> *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, Oxford, 1960.

<sup>44</sup> *Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire, II*, Vol. XXXI, Cambridge, 1961, 86.

any remnant or record of a megalithic structure and at the most optimistic the matter must be left, "not proven".

What brought the builders of the Goatstones and the Three Kings into the southern hills of Northumberland must also remain an unanswered question. One could speculate in favour of prospectors searching for mineral deposits. Burgess,<sup>45</sup> Harbison,<sup>46</sup> and Case and ApSimon<sup>47</sup> in recent studies have all drawn attention to the strong Hiberno-Scottish influences in northern metal-working during the mid-2nd millennium B.C. so that the presence of "Scottish" stone circles in Northumberland could be associated with the developing trade in metal goods. Conversely, Clarke<sup>48</sup> has remarked on the distribution of N/3 beakers along the Tyne Gap towards Cumbria, also connected with the bronze industry, and, in their final phase, related in one of their two major groups to the Hiberno-Scottish West Coast group. Although 4-Posters cannot be directly attributed to the work of Beaker communities the movements of such people could have facilitated the diffusion of ideas and traditions into distant areas.

On the other hand, the people who built these stone circles could have been impelled to leave their homelands simply by the need for *lebensraum* in the developing pastoral and agricultural economy of the period. These rare and little sites of uncomplicated construction, very much in contrast to the more imposing stone circles of earlier centuries, may be an indication of small, kinship groups settling in unoccupied areas on routes likely to be travelled by traders. The two Northumbrian 4-Posters, however, are not so placed as to attract the notice of passers-by for, although high-placed, neither site is conspicuous and it is safest to regard them as the shrivelled survivors of the Neolithic tradition of megalithic burial.

This sepulchral interpretation receives some support in

<sup>45</sup> *Ant. J.* XLIX, (1969), 22-9.

<sup>46</sup> *J.R.S.A.I.* XCIX, (1969), 63-82; *Prähist. Bronzefunde*, VI, (1969).

<sup>47</sup> *U.J.A.* XXXII, (1969), 3-72.

<sup>48</sup> Clarke. *ibid*, 185-90.



1. The Goatstones, Northumberland, from the south west



2. The Three Kings, Northumberland, from the west





the interest of the circle-builders in the SW and SE positions, both important orientations for the sun at its midwinter setting and rising respectively. These alignments are rarely so precisely placed as to be capable of being used for refined astronomical predictions. The placing of the tallest stone at the SW and a cupmarked stone at the SE may echo an association of life and death with the sun, rather than point to the unproveable capacities of Bronze Age "priests" for the prediction of celestial events. Moreover, the distance between the stones is not great enough to allow an unequivocally accurate line to be observed. The humble nature and size of the 4-Posters suggest that they were monuments of limited, local importance, burial places and not observatories.

It is just possible that a last glimpse of the tradition may be seen in the rectangular setting of four erect stones beneath Cairn 1, Alnham, Northumberland,<sup>49</sup> less than fifteen miles ENE of the Three Kings. This has some affinities with the four-stone setting in the small ring-cairn at the Sands of Forvie, Aberdeen,<sup>50</sup> which the excavator tentatively placed within the Iron Age. It may be that such sites are microcosms of a cult which began far to the north in the great passage-graves of Inverness and whose most important Northumbrian representatives are the Goatstones and the Three Kings.

#### PROVISIONAL LIST OF 4-POSTERS IN BRITAIN

Sites prefixed by (?) cannot certainly be attributed to this group, usually because they have been badly damaged.

##### SCOTLAND

##### *Aberdeen*

1. Hill of Bucharn. NJ 518360. O.S. Edinburgh, NJ 53 NW 13.
2. Howemill. NJ 580107. *P.S.A.S. XXXVI*, Coles, no. 2.

<sup>49</sup> Jobey and Tait. *Arch. Ael. XLIV*, (1966), 25-33.

<sup>50</sup> Kirk. *Aberdeen Univ. Review, XXXV*, (1953), 158-61.

3. (?) Logie Coldstone. NJ 459055. O.S. Edinburgh, NJ 40 NE 4.

*Angus*

4. (?) Carse Gray. NO 462538. O.S. Edinburgh, NO 45 SE 1.

*Arran*

5. Aucheleffan. NR 978251. *P.S.A.S. XXXVII*, 66-7.

*Banff*

6. North Burreldales. NJ 676549. *P.S.A.S. XL*, Coles, no. 1.

*East Lothian*

7. (?). Peshiel. NT 641631. *R.C.A.H.M. East Lothian*, no. 243.  
 8. (?). Peshiel Grange. NT 641632. *ibid*, no. 242.  
 9. (?). Peshiel Hill. NT 632642. *ibid*, no. 241.

*Fife*

10. (?). Lundin Links. NO 404026. *R.C.A.H.M. Fife*, no. 379.

*Kincardine*

11. Craighead. NO 912977. *P.S.A.S. XXXIV*, Coles, no. 4.

*Kirkcudbright*

12. (?) Park of Tongland. NX 699560. *R.C.A.H.M. Kirkcudbright*, no. 445.

*Moray*

13. Templestone. NJ 068568. *P.S.A.S. XLI*, Coles, no. 19.

*Perth*

14. Carse Farm I. NN 802488. *Discovery & Excavation, Scotland*, (1964), 39-40.  
 15. (?) Carse Farm II. NN 797484. *ibid*, 40.  
 16. Clach na Tiompan. NN 831329. *P.S.A.S. LXXXVIII*, 122-4.  
 17. Cramrar, North. NN 725455. Unpublished. 4 prostrate stones on hillside, the biggest at the SE having at least 5 cupmarks.  
 18. (?) Cramrar, South. NN 725452. Unpublished. 2 prostrate stones on small knoll with several boulders near. Largest prostrate stone has at least 7 cupmarks.  
 19. Dunmoid. NN 780212. Macpherson. *Chronicles of Strathearn*. (1876). 166.  
 20. Ferntower. NN 874226. *P.S.A.S. XLV*, Coles, no. 24.  
 21. Fonab Moor. NN 925553. *P.S.A.S. XLII*, Coles, no. 12.  
 22. (?) Fortingall East. NN 747470. *P.S.A.S. XLII*, Coles, near his no. 16. Excavated, 1970. 4 large stones in rectangular setting

with 4 smaller intermediate stones. ? cupmarks on SE stone. Unpubl.

23. (?) Fortingall West. NN 746470. *P.S.A.S. XLII*, Coles, no. 17. Excavated, 1970. Same type of setting as no. 22. No cupmarks.
24. Glenballoch. (Craighall Mill). NO 185481. *P.S.A.S. XLIII*, Coles, no. 10. *P.S.A.S. XV*, 89-92.
25. Lundin Farm. NN 882505. *P.S.A.S. XCVIII*, 126-49.
26. Na Carraigan Edintian. NN 839620. *P.S.A.S. XLII*, Coles, no. 10.
27. Parkneuk. NO 195515. *P.S.A.S. XLIII*, Coles, no. 3.
28. Woodside. NO 185501. *P.S.A.S. XLIII*, Coles, no. 6.

#### *Skye*

29. (?) Na Clachan Bhreige. NG 543176. *R.C.A.H.M. Outer Hebrides*, no. 667.

#### ENGLAND

##### *Northumberland*

30. (?) Doddington Moor. NU 00.31. *N.C.H. XIV*, 21-67. *Arch. Ael. XXXIV*, 142-9.
31. Goatstones. NY 829748. *P.S.A.N. V*, (1931-2), 304-6.
32. Three Kings. NT 774009. *P.S.A.N.* (1911-12), 234-7.

##### *Yorkshire*

33. (?) Druids Altar, Grassington, W.R. SD 949652. *Y.A.J. XXIX*, (1927-9), 356. O.S. Southampton, SD 96 NW 14.

#### WALES

##### *Radnorshire*

34. Four Stones, Walton. SO 245607. *Arch. Camb. VI*, (1911), 103-5.

