

DISCOVERY  
AND  
EXCAVATION

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SCOTLAND  
1955

SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP  
COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

*Price 2/6*

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AND  
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# FOREWORD

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At the Annual Meeting of the Group in January, 1955, discussion took place regarding the future publication of the Annual Report. It was considered that Part 1, dealing with the activities of the Group should continue as before, being distributed to members as part of the service to which their annual subscription entitles them. The information formerly given in Part 2, comprising a record of discoveries and excavations made during the year and a Scottish archaeological bibliography, was regarded as having a wider sphere of usefulness. It was considered that this should be given a more prominent and durable form, preferably printed, and that a wider circulation for it should be sought.

A small Editorial Board consisting of Mr R. W. Peachem, Dr Kenneth Steer and the Hon. Secretary was appointed to arrange for its publication under the title, "Discovery and Excavation, Scotland 1955." Here we have the fruit of their labours, and those of the contributors who have made its publication possible. May I express to them the thanks of the Group and commend to individual members, Societies, Libraries and all others who are interested, a work of reference which over the years will undoubtedly prove to be of great value to research workers.

CHARLES CARTER,  
President,  
S.R.G., C.B.A.

## ABERDEENSHIRE

*From Dr W. Kirk.*

### SANDS OF FORVIE

Work was continued under ideal climatic conditions during the summer of 1955 in this extensive area of windblown sand twelve miles north of Aberdeen. This season the task of revealing the sequence and pattern of physical and cultural changes in the area since glacial times resolved itself into three main lines of investigation, viz. (1) The relationship of the varied flint industries of the southern zone of the Sands to the raised beaches of the Ythan estuary. (2) The gaining of additional information on the form and structure of the Early Iron Age village partly uncovered by earlier excavation and further sand movements on the deflation surfaces of the Central zone. (3) The discovery of some site which would afford the possibility of linking the Iron Age landscape with the subsequent medieval occupation of the northern zone of the region. The first problem was investigated with the help of volunteers from the Geography Department of Aberdeen University, the second and third with the assistance of students aided by the Scottish Field School of Archaeology. Substantial advances were made in all three aspects.

In the south, sections cut into the 20 ft. raised beaches yielded traces of hearths and kitchen midden material, including carbonized wood for which it is hoped to obtain radio-carbon datings. Flint cores, blades and flakes of early form were recovered from one section on the south bank of the Ythan estuary interstratified with raised beach material at 17 ft. O.D. Further collections of flints were made from the surfaces of the various raised beaches (60 ft.: 30 ft.: 20 ft.) characteristic of the area, and show a predominance of Bronze Age types. Inspection and recording of private collections of flints from this area is also in progress.

In the central zone the Early Iron Age village as revealed so far was mapped in detail, showing the sites of at least seventeen round huts strung out for some 300 yards along the rounded crest of a N-S trending ridge. One of the larger huts in the northern part of the village was excavated completely, showing the details of its stone, clay, and timber construction and yielding considerable quantities of pottery. Most of the latter comprised further examples of the coarse, gritty, undecorated ware characteristic of the site but in addition several sherds of a finer ceramic were recovered, and one large potsherd which would appear to indicate the carry through of Cinerary Urn traditions.

In the northern zone exploratory excavations were made in the vicinity of the reputed medieval church of Forvie. On the cliff tops to the north of the church, a long narrow rect-

angular building consisting of stone foundations to red clay walls was examined but produced no dateable material. Immediately to the south of the church, however, on the sanded, southward facing slopes of a small valley near the sea an excellent section was obtained in kitchen midden material overlying a stone pavement. From the base of the section a few sherds of pottery very similar to the Iron Age forms were recovered, while higher strata produced a wealth of brown and green glazed, medieval ware. The latter area shows great promise and from its situation may well be part of the lost medieval hamlet of Forvie.

From such investigations the possibility of eventually developing a long term chronology for this key region of the Aberdeenshire coast will be apparent.

In addition, the task of photographing sites in N.E. Scotland from the air has been continued. These are to be kept eventually in a reference file in the Library of King's College, Aberdeen.

*From Dr G. Hamilton.*

#### **CROOK HILL, NEW DEER**

NJ 902467. Small cist. The fragmented cinerary urn and ashes are in the Anthropological Museum, Aberdeen University.

*From Mr M. Apled.*

#### **KILDRUMMY CASTLE**

Consolidation and a limited programme of excavation have been undertaken. Sections across the ditch on the east and south sides confirm its medieval origin. In both cuts the profile is the same, the inner face vertical, the bottom flat, the outer face somewhat less sheer. The inner face was surmounted by a bank but not a wall.

Clearance before the barbican revealed an area of cobbling contemporary with that within the enceinte, i.e. not earlier than early 16th century. Close scrutiny of the foundations of the chapel, whose projection through the east curtain is one of the most puzzling features in Scots medieval architecture, has failed to produce a satisfactory explanation for it. Excavations in this area, outside the curtain wall, have revealed a semi-circular apse, with walls 9 feet thick, abutting the foundations of the chapel, where it ought not. There is no evidence to prove that this apse, or tower, was ever completed. Further investigations of the structure and foundations of the chapel and the adjacent curtain walls are to be made.

The base of the Warden's tower and the cobbling in the courtyard have been exposed. Consolidation of the Warden's tower and the kitchen has been completed, and this work continues elsewhere.

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## ANGUS

*From Dr F. T. Wainwright.*

### HOWMUIR, ABERLEMNO

Short Cist. Reported 19th April, 1955, to Dr Wainwright by the Forfar Constabulary. An excavation was carried out by Dr J. D. B. Macdougall, who has prepared a report for Professor D. R. Dow of the Department of Anatomy, Queen's College, Dundee.

*From Mr D. B. Taylor.*

### BARNYARDS FARM, TANNADICE

NO 478578, O.S. 6 in. Sheet. xxxii NE. Short Cist. Crouch Burial with food vessel.

### MYRESIDE FARM, FORFAR

NO 479523, O.S. 6 in. Sheet. xxxviii NE. Short Cist. Crouch Burial, no other relics.

*From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph.*

### CARDEAN

NO 300463. Much of the street plan of this fort, visible as crop marks, was recorded from the air. (Roman).

### BATTLEDYKES, KEITHOCK

NO 613637. Crop marks revealed the position of the east angle and part of the north-east side, where their course was uncertain. (Roman).

### STRACATHRO

NO 614655. A temporary camp approximately 800 feet square was identified from the air in 1955. There are four gates, each with distinctive external features (clavícula and straight ditch) similar in plan to those at Dalginross, which this camp closely resembles.

## ARGYLLSHIRE

*From Mr J. G. Scott.*

### CRARAE, MID ARGYLL

16/987974. By kind permission of Sir George Campbell, Bart., of Succoth, a cairn of Clyde-Carlingford type was excavated. Its shape and form had been much modified by its inclusion in the grounds of Crarac Lodge, but it was proved to have been at least 115 feet long and 60 feet wide. A transverse section cut through the cairn material showed it to consist of boulders, some large size, with a well marked kerb.

The cairn faced approximately east; at the eastern end stood two massive slabs, one apparently part of a frontal façade, the other the outer portal stone at the entrance to a burial chamber 16 feet long and between 3 and 4 feet wide. There were two inner portal stones, set immediately behind the outer portal and narrowing the entrance to little more than a foot. The burial chamber was built of massive slabs. The upper sides may originally have consisted of drystone walling, but with the exception of one stone, this, with the roof, had disappeared.

The burial chamber was excavated, but the only finds likely to have been associated with the original use of the tomb were some pieces of cremated bone, a few indeterminate potsherds and part of a finely flaked flint arrowhead. Later, but perhaps not in recent times, the burial chamber seemed to have been used as a refuse dump, many animal bones and large quantities of winkles and other sea shells being found.

In the transverse section, when the cairn material had been removed, it was found that the original ground surface had been much disturbed for as much as a foot below the point at which construction of the cairn had commenced. In the disturbed ground at least two dark layers containing charcoal and fragments of burnt bone could be distinguished. These well marked layers seem to indicate occupation of the site, rather than mere burning of vegetation, prior to the raising of the cairn.

The forecourt area was not excavated, but it is hoped to examine it in 1956. There has been a good deal of recent dumping in this area, so that it is as yet impossible to estimate to what extent original blocking, if any, may survive.

### KILMORE FARM, LOCH NA KEAL, ISLE OF MULL

A stone axehead,  $4\frac{5}{16}$  ins. x  $2\frac{7}{8}$  ins. found in 1953 during drain digging near Kilmore Farm, was presented in 1955 to Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum (Reg. No. '55-80).

#### **BLARBUIE SECTION, KILMORY FOREST**

16/883892. A cup-and-ring marked stone was ploughed up here in Spring, approximately a quarter of a mile from the farm buildings. The markings are clear and include cups, cup-and-rings and gutters, distributed over half of one face of a large lump of whinstone suggestive of the capstone of a cist.

16/890907. A second group of cup-and-ring marks in the same area occurs on a surface of living rock about a mile and a quarter N.E. of Blarbuie Farm. Some ten cup-marks are combined with from two to five rings, sometimes with gutters. The largest of the group has a diameter of twenty inches. A close similarity exists between this Blarbuie group and the Achabreck group two miles away. Mr G. S. Wilkie, who is employed by the Forestry Commission reported the Blarbuie markings, and they have since been visited.

#### **ISLAND OF SCARBA**

17/715057. An "old grave" reported 200 yards N.E. of Kilmory Lodge, proved to be a short stone cist, flanked by a much-denuded cairn. The capstone was lying alongside. Another grave of the same type, situated by the side of the burn half a mile to the north of the farm, was mentioned by Mr Carmichael, the land-owner, but it has not been visited.

#### **DUN CHONNALAICH**

17/856035. Members of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid-Argyll, on a visit to Dun Chonnalaich, a stone fort on a high summit near Ford, discovered rock-cut footholds on a sloping surface of living rock roughly fifty feet below the east entrance of the fort. Some of them are cut to the shape of a foot and sunk three inches in the rock.

#### **BRUNERICAN, SOUTHEND, KINTYRE**

16/699081. An unusual type of quern-stone was ploughed up on Mr McKerral's farm at Brunerican. In addition to its trough-like rubbing surface it has at one end a circular cup five to six inches in diameter and two inches deep.

*Lectures on history and archaeology arranged by the Extra-Mural Department of the University of Glasgow in Argyll have increased local interest in these subjects, and, together with the formation of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid-Argyll, have increased the likelihood of sites and objects of archaeological interest being recognised and reported.*

**PORT SONACHAN, LOCH AWE**

27/050206. This unrecorded chambered cairn, known locally as Carn Ban, was opened about thirty years ago, but apparently nothing was found. It stands on the edge of a shelf at about 350 ft. above the loch. The cairn is now a low mound, partly natural, measuring about 108 ft. E.-W. and 76 ft. or more N.-S. The ruined rectangular chamber, formed of large slabs, measures 12 ft. 3 ins. E.-W. by 3 ft. 11 ins. maximum width. About 40 ft. S. of the mound is another measuring 100 ft. by 70 ft. It may be natural but there are indications of stones on edge at the top.

**CLACH AN t-SAGAIRT (The Priests' Stone), SOROBA, ARDFERN**

17/805046. Apparently this is the cist referred to in P.S.A.S. lxxxii, 59 as having been opened about 1922 when "pieces of broken pottery and one or two plaid-pins of later date" were found. The roughly circular cairn of about 50 ft. diameter has been plundered. The kerb is traceable for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the circumference. In the centre with its axis N.-S. is a megalithic cist about 4 ft. 6 ins. x 2 ft. 8 ins. consisting of a capstone resting on an endslab and a slab on each side, while 2 ft. north of the capstone is a low slab perhaps intended for another endslab. To the south of the structure is probably a short cist measuring 4 ft. by 3 ft.

**INVERNEILL, LOCH GYNE**

16/833810. The resemblance of this site to that described above suggests this may be an ancient monument. A large erratic block 4 ft. 6 ins. by 3 ft. by 1 ft. 6 ins. projects from the hill side, resting on slabs of local schist. The underside of the block is 2 ft. 3 ins. from the present ground level, and there are two supporting slabs on the E. side and three on the W.

**DRUIM a'CHLADHA, CASTLE SWEEN**

16/715788. This site, marked as "burial ground" on the 6 in. O.S. map, appears to be a denuded cairn. It lies in a field on the raised beach, and consists of a circular enclosure 70 ft. across bounded by large stones at close intervals, with a big stone near the centre.

**LOCH SWEEN**

16/723799. On the west of the road is a standing stone 3 ft. 6 ins. high and 1 ft. 1 in. wide at the base. On its east face is a cross incised with grooves  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. wide and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep. The

arms of the cross extend from edge to edge of the stone, the head is 6 ins. from the top; from it to the arms is 4 ins., the total length is 1 ft. 2 ins.

*From Miss M. Campbell and Miss A. S. Henshall.*

#### **CRINAN CROSS ROADS, POLTALLOCH**

17/815948. The site is an artificial hollow which is normally filled with water above which the ends of one or two large stones project. Due to the summer drought the hollow dried out and it was possible to examine the remains. The hollow appeared to be of fairly recent date, possibly connected with a former tile industry on the estate. At the centre was a sandy mound, about 15 ft. diameter, on which were laid a row of 4 large slabs side by side, while a number of smaller slabs lay about at various angles. One large slab had been carved, a crack in the stone running along the main axis had 2 pecked grooves running at right angles to one side. The upper 2-3 inches of sand, which sometimes overlay parts of the stones, was discoloured and contained a considerable quantity of burnt bones.

It seems probable that an ancient monument was destroyed at the time of the digging of the hollow, into which, when abandoned, the main stones of the structure were dragged back. Three enigmatic upright stones remain at the edge of the hollow. The site was likely to have been a stone circle or chambered cairn. The bone deposit, which is probably the result of the water in the hollow washing out a cremation deposit at its edge, is too small to identify.

#### **KILMELFORT**

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

#### **ARDMADDY CASTLE**

A hoard of 46 coins was found near "Caistell Ualach." 18 of the coins are Scottish—James VI., before and after 1603; 22 are English—Elizabeth; 4 are Irish and 2 Spanish. Two 30/- pieces, a  $\frac{1}{4}$  thistle merk and an Irish shilling were presented to the National Museum of Antiquities by the finder, per the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. There were traces of what may have been a leather container, but these disintegrated when exposed.

## AYRSHIRE

### OCHILTREE

Whilst digging a drain in October through a mound known as the Wee Poole Knowes a cinerary urn was discovered at a depth of 4 ft. It was inverted over a cremation, and measured 11 ins. in height and 8½ ins. across the rim. The site was investigated by the Ayrshire Archaeological Society, and the urn is to be exhibited in the Ayr Carnegie Library Museum.

### BALLIGMORRIE FARM, NEAR GIRVAN

A green glazed earthenware "pirlic-pig" bank containing 578 copper coins was found while ploughing at Balligmorrie Farm. The hoard consisted of a Half Plack and 3 pennies of James III.; 49 Placks, 488 Pennies and a Half Plack of James IV.; and 36 Placks of James V. An unusual feature of the find is that all the coins are Scottish, although it must have been buried at a time (circa 1520) when English coins circulated here in large numbers.

### BALLANTRAE

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

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## CAITHNESS

*From Miss A. S. Henshall.*

### BUOLDHU, LATHERON

39/152334. The cairn has been greatly ruined and later obscured by the building of a sheep shelter across it. The diameter has been about 50 ft. Various large slabs protruding through the rubble, apparently in situ, strongly suggest that the cairn has covered a chamber, but its plan is quite uncertain.

### LEODEBEST, LATHERON

39/135323. The ruins of a small unrecorded chambered cairn lie immediately N. of the road up the Dunbeath Water. The cairn, which has been almost entirely removed, had a diameter of about 40 ft. Five rather small upright stones remain near the centre indicating a chamber with either a bi- or tri-partite plan, probably with the entrance to the ENE.

*From Mr A. MacLaren.*

### LOCH SHURRERY

39/044568. Excavations during October, 1955, on this site which lies at the north end of Loch Shurrery, revealed a circular hut some 26 feet internal diameter, surrounded by a wall 8 to 10

feet thick, with a single entrance from the south west. The wall was set on a rubble foundation and consisted of an inner and outer facing of heavy stones and a core of earth and stone. The entrance was 4 feet wide and the side walls narrowing to form projecting door jambs on either side, which had between them a long thin slab set on edge lying right across the entrance to form a threshold slab. The entrance and the interior of the hut showed the remains of a paved floor. A rectangular hearth 3 feet by 2 feet was situated slightly off centre and near it was a post socket some 15 inches square and 10 inches deep, lined with stones and with a flat stone on the bottom. From the hearth came a sherd of coarse ware and from near it a saddle quern. From the tumble of the wall came a cup marked stone and the entrance yielded two further sherds lying on the paved flooring.

#### LAMBSDALE LEANS

39/052548. Excavation in October, 1955, proved that this site is not a Chambered Cairn as is suggested in the R.C.A.M. Inventory for Caithness No. 360. Trial cuttings showed it to be a pear-shaped mound 80 feet by 50 feet composed mainly of sand, with a circular and a rectangular stone structure in the south eastern half, which enclosed several deep burnt layers. About a dozen sherds were found, some apparently Viking, and the partial remains of two human skeletons.

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### DUMFRIESSHIRE

*From Mr A. E. Truckell.*

#### CARZIELD ROMAN FORT

The rubbish tip of Carzield Antonine Fort has been revealed accidentally by potato clamps put over it by Mr Rodgerston the farmer there. A trench 15 ft. by 3 ft. down to the glacial sand at 5 ft. yielded pottery and other material from the grass roots downwards, the richest zone being at the foot. The soil was largely ash in which pottery, iron and burnt daub was freely mixed. On the rubbish tip as it grew had been laid several small hearths of clay and flat stones, and these were surrounded with pure ash and a concentration of broken pottery. Only one heavy structure was found, a wall nearly 5 ft. high built of undressed stones and earth; it had, built against one face, a solid platform of rammed white clay 18 ins. thick. From the amount of ash, cinder and slag found around it, it seems to have formed part of a furnace. The general scatter of rubbish, however, continued under it, the few inches immediately adjoining the subsoil being

almost wholly composed of ash, pottery and iron. Many pieces of a quern of Niedermendig lava were found scattered throughout the trench.

Several hundred pieces of pottery were found, including rims of 20 or 30 cooking pots and platters, 5 or 6 mortaria, 3 large decorated Samian bowls, and at least 7 different wine-cups and platters in plain Samian: these yielded a fine graffito and one complete and two incomplete potters stamps. Several small jugs in fine thin pink ware, one rouletted, were found.

Iron included many nails, a hook, and several flat plates which had had bolts attached. A fine conical bronze plumb-bob, presumably from a steelyard, and a lead weight in the form of a cube, came from the general rubbish and the large stone structure respectively. Two fragments of bottle glass and part of a blue glass finger-ring were found.

The finds justify my continuance of the work until the tip—and the others which parallel it some 200 yards outside the Fort—has been cleared, the purpose being to obtain a large statistical assemblage of pottery from this purely Antonine site.

#### **CRAWTHAT COTTAGE, ESKDALEMUIR**

Fragments of green-glazed whitish ware and glazed pebbles were found just outside the entrance of a hut-circle in the 'fort' at Crawthat Cottage on Eskdalemuir by Mr Cormack of Lockerbie, and are probably medieval.

(T.D.G.S.)

#### **CAERLAVEROCK CASTLE**

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

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## **DUNBARTONSHIRE**

*From Miss A. S. Robertson.*

#### **THE PEEL PARK, KIRKINTILLOCH**

In 1953, remains of the Antonine Wall and Ditch were found in the Peel Park, Kirkintilloch, and in the garden of a private house to west of it, as a result of excavations conducted under the auspices of the Hunterian Museum. These excavations also brought to light the remains of streets and foundations, and Roman tiles, pottery etc., to the south of the stretch of Antonine Wall in the Park, and so established the existence of the Antonine Wall fort which, according to tradition, stood in the Park.

In April, 1955, a further period of excavation, of ten days' duration, was carried out in the southern part of the Park by adult students of the Glasgow University Extra-mural class in Roman Archaeology. This "adult" or "Extra-mural" excavation proved to be a most stimulating experience, certainly for the director of excavations, and, it is hoped, for the students. The archaeological results too were of importance, for the area opened up gave evidence of the orientation and extent of the fort. This evidence was confirmed and amplified in August, 1955, when an adjoining area was opened up during a further fortnight's excavation carried out (under the supervision of Miss Robertson and Mr R. G. Livens) by eight University students who attended by arrangement with the Scottish Field School of Archaeology which provided funds to cover their maintenance. Several Extra-mural students who had worked on the site in April returned in August to render further assistance.

In these two area excavations, there came to light a number of postholes in three parallel rows, running east and west, with, to south of them, cobbling and a deep gutter on the same alignment as the postholes. It seemed likely that the postholes belonged to barrack blocks in the south part of the fort, while the cobbling and gutter possibly lay in the intervalium area. The southern defences of the fort could not, however, be found, for a trench cut southwards from the line of the gutter ran almost immediately into a deep, vertical, modern disturbance which was probably connected with the construction of air-raid shelters along the southern edge of the Park. The southern defences of the fort must, however, have lain well over 300 feet (and probably much more) from the Antonine Wall which formed its northern limit. A trench cut westwards from the area excavations to the hedge bounding the west side of the Park was still within the Roman fort, for it did not reveal any remains of a Roman rampart or ditches, nor yet any modern disturbances serious enough to have destroyed them. The fort must therefore have extended at least as far west as the western Park hedge. Its eastern defences were not sought but probably have been destroyed by the construction of the mediaeval Peel, by the building of a chapel to south of it, and by the laying out of the Park. The fort must, however, have measured at least 280 feet across. At least two Antonine levels were revealed by the 1955 excavations. All the pottery was of Antonine date, and there is no evidence so far of a Flavian occupation of the site.

#### **BEECHES ROAD, DUNTOCHER**

In May-June, 1955, excavations were conducted, under the auspices of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments of the Ministry of Works, on the presumed line of the Antonine Wall

in a field north of Beeches Road, Duntocher, which was a proposed housing site, in order to confirm this line before housing operations began. The presumed line of the Wall and Ditch through the field had been marked on the O.S. maps (e.g. on Dunbartonshire, 6 in. sheet, xxxiii N.W.), on the authority of Sir George Macdonald, whose evidence for it was obtained from trenches cut on the east and west sides of the field in question (P.S.A.S., xlix (1914-1915), pp. 100-101). These trenches appeared to reveal the existence of a ditch, but did not discover any traces of the stone foundation of the Wall.

In spite of the three weeks' persistent trenching of this field in 1955, however, there had to be reported a complete failure to confirm the line of the Antonine Wall and Ditch as marked on the O.S. maps. Trenching was in fact so extensive as virtually to preclude the possibility that the Wall and Ditch had ever been present at all in the field. Neither the stone base of the Wall nor the Ditch were anywhere found, but there were, on the other hand, disturbances of the ground through the laying of rumbling and tile drains in recent times. It now seems possible that the discovery of such disturbances on the east and west sides of the field had led Sir George Macdonald to the belief that the Ditch was present (even although such a situation for it was rendered unlikely by the pronounced upward slope of the land to the north from which the Wall and Ditch would have been closely overlooked).

It has, however, been recommended to the Ministry of Works that the contractors engaged in house-building on the site be requested to report any signs of solid stone foundations. Also, the matter will not be regarded as entirely closed by the Hunterian Museum until an opportunity has been found to search further for remains of the Wall and Ditch in this neighbourhood. Meanwhile, it may be suggested that the hollow south of Beeches Road in which stands a row of beech trees may well represent the line of the Ditch, a possibility which Sir George Macdonald felt himself bound to reject only on the evidence of the excavations north of Beeches Road.

## EAST LOTHIAN

*From Miss E. Burley, Edinburgh  
University Archaeological Soc.*

### CRAIG'S QUARRY, DIRLETON

508836. Excavations (under Prof. Stuart Piggott) were conducted during the autumn of 1954 on the Iron Age fort. An area in the centre of the fort to the west of the graves reported by Miss A. S. Henshall in the 1954 Report was stripped to floor level. This cutting revealed the drainage and bedding trench of a circular hut and also a tumble of clay daub from the (probable) wattle-and-daub wall. A further cutting was then made on the west side of this hut, the approximate circumference of which is 28 feet. This showed that where the natural rock rose steeply the foundations of the hut were not laid in a narrow trench but built of stone laid onto the rock face, a certain amount of stone tumble extending about 3 feet from this wall lay inside the hut. A number of pits and post holes were also found inside but it is not yet clear what purpose they served.

This autumn excavations have been continued by stripping the intervening area of the centre of the hut between the two 1954 cuttings. So far a considerable amount of crude native pottery has been found as well as a La Tène 1st C brooch (q.v. V. G. Childe *Prehistoric Communities of the British Isles* 2nd ed., 216 n.8). The excavations will continue until quarry blasting recommences.

Also in 1954 a cutting was taken across the wall of the fort, about 20 yards north-east of the hut. The inner and outer facings of the wall stand about 2 feet high and the central core is formed of boulders. A small sherd of Samian ware was discovered during cleaning of the top of this core. Work is also being continued on this part of the site.

### TRAPRAIN LAW

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

### BROWNRIGG FARM, NEAR NORTH BERWICK

A late Bronze Age spearhead found in a rabbit hole has been presented to the National Museum.

*From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph.*

### BROXBURN, SE. OF DUNBAR

Ditched enclosure of native settlement seen from the air at the point NT 701774.

## F I F E

*From Mr R. D. M. Candow.*

### TENTSMUIR

481208. The writer and members of the Archaeological Section of the Abertay Historical Society partly excavated a group of 12 shell mounds in the southern part of Tentsmuir. The mounds, which are in two parallel lines, lie on an axis, and are comprised of light yellow sand covered by a layer of shells about 12 inches thick. The highest mound is 9 ft., and the lowest 3 ft., and the average circumference of the mounds is 66 ft. Amongst the layers of shells, which consist of three types viz., cockle, periwinkle and common whelk, there were discovered specimens of 13th and 14th century pottery. The pottery was composed of yellow-greyish clay about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick and was moulded on the potter's wheel. Some of the potsherds had been glazed a greenish yellow colour.

A profusion of different rim pieces belonging to a frill-edged type of vessel were unearthed in one of the most westerly mounds. The frill edges of the vessels had been produced by the potter impressing his thumb into the clay. The diameters of these vessels are 6 ins.,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ins., 10 ins. and 11 ins., but their height is as yet unknown. Also unknown is the origin of this frill-edged type of pottery which so far has only been discovered on Tentsmuir. Whether it was made locally or imported from abroad has yet to be discovered.

### CLATCHARD CRAIG

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

### BUCKHAVEN

In preparing a housing scheme east of Methilmill Cemetery, the upper stone of a flat quern of micaceous schist, probably of medieval date, was found. It is to be exhibited in the Buckhaven Public Library.

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## I N V E R N E S S - S H I R E

*From Mrs A. Young.*

### DUN CUIER, ISLAND OF BARRA, OUTER HEBRIDES

Excavation of Dun Cuier was completed in the summer of 1955, when the intrusive walling of 18th century date was cleared from the eastern half.

The overall width of the dun walling is 14 ft.-16 ft. and the interior measures approximately 25 ft. in diameter. A 4 ft. extension of the entrance passage within the main wall gives an

overall length of 20 ft., and a free standing inner wall, for the most part following the line of the main wall, forms two recesses, one to the south, leading from the extension of the entrance and on the north a shallow chamber with a 3 ft. doorway. The central hearth was apparently used mainly for metal working and, from the area of a secondary hearth on the southern arc of the building, domestic pottery and other finds were recovered.

The objects found include combs, pins, spindle whorls, querns, stone discs and tools as well as the waste product of bronze and iron working and the remains of two iron knives. Artefacts of antler and whalebone were among the finds. Animal remains include ox, sheep and pig and grey seal. Grain impressions have been identified as of hulled barley.

A 5th-7th century A.D. dating is suggested.

*From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph,*

#### **NEAR BEAULY**

NH 534486. Crop marks, circle and linear marks, seen and recorded (from the air) a short distance NE of Beauly Priory.

#### **SOUTH UIST**

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

#### **LOCH LAGGAN**

27/462849. Due to the summer drought the low level of the loch exposed 2 partly buried dugout oak canoes on the N. shore. One of these was brought ashore by Mr Hughes of Stanley, Perthshire. It was 17 ft. 6 ins. long, 1 ft. 8 ins. broad, narrowing to 1 ft. across the stern. Along the bottom were 2 rows of holes fitted with pegs flush with the wood. The stern had a square slot for a steering oar or tiller.

#### **ISLE OF MUCK**

The hilt and upper part of the blade of a late Bronze Age sword found during drainage operations, has been presented to the National Museum. It would appear as if the original casting was imperfect and that the smith had cast on a new end to the hilt.

## KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

*From Mr A. E. Truckell.*

### CORRA CASTLE, NR. KIRKGUNZEON

An Edward I. silver Irish penny in good condition was found by two schoolboys in their garden at the foot of the walls of Corra Castle, near Kirkgunzeon, suggesting an earlier structure than the existing 16th century tower.

### CASTLE POINT FORT, NR. ROCKCLIFFE

Two fragments of white wheel-turned unglazed pottery found, with whelk-shells, in molehills, are probably medieval.

*From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph.*

### GLENLOCHAR

NX.735645. Much new information has been gained about the ditch plan of the fort and its annexe on the north.

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## LANARKSHIRE

*From Miss A. S. Robertson.*

### CASTLEDYKES

In 1954, evidence was obtained that the natural ridge to the east of the Roman fort at Castledykes had been occupied by an enclosure delimited by a ditch about 8 feet wide and 5 feet deep. The extent and purpose of this enclosure were not, however, determined.

A week's work in June, 1955, proved that the enclosure had measured internally about 500 feet across from north to south and about 540 feet from east to west, and was of Antonine date. Three entrances were found, in the north, east and west sides, and there was doubtless another in the south side, but this part of the enclosure was not accessible for excavation. The road from the east gate of the Antonine fort inclined slightly north of east to pass through the west and east gates of the enclosure. The line of the road as it ran eastwards from the enclosure in the direction of the fort at Lyne, near Peebles, is now preserved for a considerable distance by the modern tree-lined avenue leading to Carstairs House.

At the end of the excavation of 1954, it remained doubtful whether the enclosure had been an encampment for men building the Antonine fort or else a civil settlement. That it had in fact been both was proved in 1955 by the discovery that after the enclosure had first come into use it had been linked to the Antonine fort by an extension westwards of its north ditch (and probably also of its south ditch). The enclosure must have been first of all a construction camp for the builders of the Antonine fort, and then after the fort came into occupation the combined area of the original enclosure and the ground between it and the fort served as a civil settlement attached to the fort.

The owners of the Roman site at Castledykes, Mr Daniel and Mr Andrew Stewart of Corbiehall Farm, have by now graciously acquiesced in seven seasons (long or short) of excavation there, the first two under the auspices of the Glasgow Archaeological Society, the last five under the auspices of the Hunterian Museum. As a result, evidence has been forthcoming for the following structural sequence: (1) a large Flavian enclosure, about 7 acres in area, possibly a temporary structure laid out in Agricola's campaigns, (2) a permanent Flavian fort about 6½ acres in internal area with a massive rampart and elaborate ditch system, this fort lying within the earlier enclosure, (3) an Antonine enclosure almost 6 acres in internal area set on a natural ridge east of the former fort site to serve as a construction camp for Antonine fort builders, (4) an Antonine fort on the same site as the Flavian fort but with an internal area very slightly greater than that of the Flavian fort, the Flavian rampart being refurbished and the Flavian ditch system re-used and re-modelled by the Antonine builders, (5) a civil settlement attached to the Antonine fort on its east side, and occupying the area of the Antonine construction camp and the ground between it and the fort, (6) the repair and reconstruction of the Antonine fort at a later date in the Antonine period.

*From Mr I. MacIver.*

#### CARSTAIRS

In June, 1955, Mr J. J. Beck, Session Clerk of Carstairs, brought two grave-slabs at the church to the notice of the Ministry of Works.

1. The first is broken in four fragments (one fracture very recent) which have been preserved in the church. The stone measures 6 ft. 2 ins. x 1 ft. 7 ins. and is badly weathered. Lettering and sculpture are in low relief. A small figure of the crucified Christ, head inclined, occupies the upper part of the slab. The cross-shaft, very large in proportion to the stumpy arms, extends almost to the base of the slab. The remains of an inscription, which I was unable to read, appear on the two long sides and the bottom of the slab.

2. The second lies, perhaps *in situ*, in the kirkyard south of the church. It was only recently exposed by the removal of turf; the stone and its incised decoration are in good condition and very little weathered. The main elements of the composition are: a cross standing on a notched semicircular base; a sword with broad blade, knob pommel and short straight guard on the left of the cross shaft; and a dagger on the right. These subjects, though crudely wrought, are clear. But the upper part of the slab contains a profusion of linear carving ill executed and in part obscure. A distorted figure of the crucified Christ may be distinguished; near the figure are three small crosses, each formed merely by two intersecting lines at right angles; a bun-shaped object (a host?) lies behind the left arm of the cross; and puzzling lines possibly representing two heads appear above the right arm.

The interest of the slabs lies rather in their rarity than in their art. Both are medieval.

*From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph.*

#### GLASGOW BRIDGE, NR. KIRKINTILLOCH

NS 636732. Crop marks of a small ditched enclosure about 100 ft. square observed and recorded.

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#### MIDLOTHIAN

*From Mr and Mrs A. Rae.*

#### CRAMOND

The Roman fort at Cramond has been found. Three sides have been traced, and part of a barrack block excavated. The fort was Antonine. Ramparts consisted of an earthwork (turf and clay) revetted with masonry: the barracks of stone footings to timber walls. One piece of hammerhead mortarium suggests later occupation. Although the north rampart has not yet been plotted (work continues) the fort probably enclosed about 4½ acres and was for an infantry cohort. Cramond Church, Manse and Old Schoolhouse lie within the fort. Thanks are due to all the landowners, including the City of Edinburgh; to Moray House Training College and other voluntary workers; in particular to Dr K. A. Steer of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments.

*From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph.*

#### NR. INVERESK

NT 353718. An extensive system of crop marks, perhaps of a native settlement and its related agriculture, was noticed to the E. of Inveresk.

## ORKNEY

### MAES HOWE

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

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## PEEBLESHIRE

*From Mr R. W. Feachem.*

### EAST HAPREW, STOBO

XII. NE. 194401. During the examination of aerial photographs carried out in 1955 by the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (Scotland) in connection with the forthcoming Inventory of Peeblesshire, a Roman fort measuring about 400 ft. by 370 ft. within the rampart was observed in the form of grass-markings in a field on East Haprew Farm. Parts of the foundations of external buildings could be seen near the east side of the fort. The site is on the right bank of the Lyne Water at a distance of half a mile SE. of the Roman forts at Lyne.

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## PERTHSHIRE

*From Prof. I. A. Richmond.*

### INCHTUTHILL

The fourth season's work at the Roman legionary fortress of Inchtuthill, conducted by Professor I. A. Richmond and Dr J. K. St. Joseph, produced the following results. Tribune's House II was completely defined, as a highly Italianate building with two court-yards, the front surrounded by dining-room, kitchen and office suites, the rear by bedrooms. Barracks 25-30 inclusive were outlined. Two large granaries, parallel with the *via decumana* and separated by it and its flanking colonnaded offices, were also recovered. The outlines of a very large military hospital, comparable with that of Novaesium, were defined in preparation for more detailed examination. From the hospital, a very large stone-built sewer led to the north defences, and was joined by the *intervallum* drains: the point of junction with the defences had been carried away by cliff erosion.

*From Dr F. T. Wainwright.*

#### LONGFORGAN

NO 307299. lxxxviii NW. An earth-house, or souterrain, was discovered during the building of a new house (now called "Wenyss") in Castle Road, Longforgan. A one-day excavation was carried out and a full report will be published in P.S.A.S.

*From Dr E. A. Cormack.*

#### GLENLOCHAY, KILLIN

27/456358. On the 6 in. O.S. map sheet lxvii SW. is a circle marked "Old Burial Ground" 1 mile SW. of Kenknock farmhouse. The site is a low circular bank of 45 ft. diameter, lying between the road and the river.

To test the nature of the enclosure, a trial trench 22 ft. by 3 ft. was dug from within the southern perimeter, across the bank and extending towards the river. This section exposed a ruined low wall of large boulders about 4 ft. wide, spreading to 8 ft., with an external cobbled platform 10 ft. wide. The wall overlies a 4 ins. layer of grey sand containing fragments of charcoal and calcined bone, spreading out thinly under the cobb'ing almost to its edge. The ash appears to come from a large stone built hearth of an earlier phase (not fully excavated). Within the structure of the wall, towards its inner side, is a deeply dug post hole, set with large packing stones to a depth of 2 ins. No post remains, but vertical section indicates a conical ended 6 ins. post set to a depth of 15 ins. below the upper packing stones. No pottery or other dating evidence has yet been found.

The evidence suggests not a "burial ground" but a large circular timbered structure with external cobbled platform overlying the hearth of a previous phase. Excavation was undertaken by kind permission of Mr Duncan M. Stewart, chairman of directors of the Ben Challum Company Limited.

*From Mrs M. E. C. Stewart.*

#### PERTH CITY

"General Accident" extension. During excavation for the foundations of a new building on the corner of Watergate and High Street an interesting section was exposed. Below 3 ft.-4 ft. of building rubble and debris was a compact layer of occupation earth containing food refuse of animal bones and fresh water shells. At the base of the layer at one point were the vestiges of a criss-cross arrangement of timbers—fragments of wattle work and an upright wooden post giving semblance of a primitive hut. The ground between this point and the present river bank is of

recent and artificial formation and the hut—if such it was—must have stood on the natural river edge. Beneath the occupation level was a *flood deposit of sterile grey clay*. Fragments of medieval pottery were found in the upper levels of the occupation earth.

#### **WELLBANK, KINNOULL**

In the garden of this house which is situated on the east bank of the Tay almost directly opposite to the east end of Canal Street are the remains of a medieval kiln. Great quantities of pottery fragments are constantly being turned up during digging operations in the garden and pieces of wattle and daub are found in a limited area. Characteristic strap handles and thumb marked splayed bases occur. Green and purple glaze as well as fragments of finer ware and pieces of glass are found.

#### **DULL, STRATHTAY**

The traditional site of the Culdee College at Dull in a sloping field below the east end of the village has transpired to be the very last vestiges of a ruined chambered cairn. The site has been used subsequently and only the base slabs of a portal entry remain.

Fragments of a 9th-10th century cross slab have been found in the garden of a cottage at Dull. The finder, Mr Fogo, has erected the pieces at the south western corner of the Village Square which contains the well known Sanctuary Cross.

#### **BAREYRA FORT ABOVE KILLIN**

On a rocky spur overlooking the Allt Breacraich, a mile east of Auchmore House and a quarter of a mile south of the road on the southern shore of Loch Tay is a stone built fort encircling the crest of an isolated hill. The oblong enclosure has been entered from the eastern end and the walls have incorporated the rock outcrops at several points. The fort overlooks the entrances to Glen Lochay and Glen Dochart and is the first to be discovered in the area immediately to the south of Loch Tay. (See W. A. Gillies, "In Famed Breadalbane," p. 33).

#### **EASTER TEMPAR, KINLOCH RANNOCH**

On a rock outcrop in the steading of Easter Tempar are a number of well made cup marks.

The above has been collected in the course of checking and augmenting sites of archaeological interest in Perthshire for the 6 in. sheets of the Ordnance Survey.

*From Prof. and Mrs H. Dryerre.*

#### **KELTNEYBURN, KENMORE**

27/791479. A short cist was discovered in June during road-making operations, but the burial was unfortunately disturbed before it could be examined. The cist was in natural gravel and was formed of 4 side slabs and a coverstone, and measured 4 ft. long by 2 ft. wide at one end, 2 ft. 6 ins. wide at the other, and 2 ft. deep. The skeleton had been lightly burnt, and seemed to have been laid with the head to the smaller NNE. end of the cist, with a quantity of black ash. A perforated stone implement, possibly a battle axe, was seen with the burial but was stolen before it could be examined.

Dr L. H. Wells has reported on the bones: "These remains seem to be parts of of a single incinerated skeleton. The bones are not as completely broken up as is often the case, and some fragments, notably part of a humerus, are merely charred. The remains are almost certainly those of an adult; a fragment of the brow region of the skull shows it to be a male, and the robust and muscular build of the charred humerus agrees with this."

#### **CREAG NA CAILLICH, KILLIN**

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

*From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph.*

#### **STRAGEATH**

NN 908183. Additional details of the Roman camp, discovered here by previous air reconnaissance, observed in 1955.

#### **KINCLAVEN PARISH**

NO 142383. Crop marks of native settlement observed at this point.

## RENFREWSHIRE

*From Mr F. Newall.*

### AUCHENFOYLE FARM

26/311713. Mr W. O. Black of Auchenfoyl farm reported a crop mark, due to a failure of turnips, encircling the narrow end of a clearance cairn. This was trenched on the west where it was proved to indicate a ditch 7 ft. wide by 1½ ft. deep; and on the south where a slot 1¼ ft. wide by 8 ins. deep occupies the centre of a depression 9 ft. wide by only 4 ins. deep. The cairn is heel-shaped with a broad slightly concave end facing east. It is possible that we have a ruined horned cairn used as a dump.

A polished stone axe from Auchenfoyle was identified by the Geological Department of the Hunterian Museum as "certainly greywacke—probably from the Southern Uplands of Scotland."

### HIGH MATHERNOCK

26/317714. On the neighbouring farm of High Mathernock, a rough sandstone block having on one face three and on the opposite four well pecked cups later reduced by hammering, was found. Mr John Duff of High Mathernock has shown me a barbed and tanged arrowhead of non-local white flint found on the same farm, and mentioned at least one shale ring now lost.

### BURNBANK WATER

26/295684. At the confluence of the headstreams of the Burnbank Water 5 certain hut circles have been located, serviced by hollow ways and associated with small rectangular peat cuttings. One has a semicircular chamber attached on one side of the entrance. Another is subdivided into three compartments (cf. PSAS, lxxv, 1940-41, p. 111 and page 112, fig. 7). The huts range from 15 to 20 ft. in diameter.

Mr W. O. Black has discovered a low mound 2 ft. high and 30 ft. in diameter at 26/304727. A loop from the hollow way (Ninth Report, ref. 26/305730-26/307723) passes closely round this to return to the main track.

### LURG MOOR

26/296733. Mr Black has located a hut 12 ft. in diameter with slightly smaller circular attachment at rear and a rough platform of stones before the entrance. This lies close beside a hollow track, a modification of the Roman road from the fortlet (Seventh Report). The road has now been traced running south for over ¼ mile. The relation of track to hut suggests a post-Roman dating for the latter and for the Burnbank group with

which it has affinities and which is overgrown to the same extent. The Gryfe Reservoir huts (Ninth Report) of which 7 have now been found are much more overgrown and have no divisions or attachments.

South of the latter settlement a solitary example 15 ft. in diameter lies in the crook of the Garshangan Burn at 26/277709. Lower downstream (26/283713) a turf-banked circle 31 ft. across, is apparently ditched on south and east.

At 26/280705 a small hemispherical mound some 30 ft. in diameter has been disturbed at centre.

It can now be seen that the huts have much in common. The entrance, always 3 ft. wide, lies on the east away from the prevailing wind. The huts lie in the rain shadow of hills or on the more sheltered south sides of valleys avoiding the wetter soil favoured by the modern farms. No obvious traces of agriculture accompany them, though small peat cuttings are common. It seems most probable that they housed pastoralists tending a few sheep on the hill slopes.

#### BRAESIDE, GREENOCK

In digging a sewer track between Burns Road and Minerva Lane, workmen found a horn containing some 60 silver coins. The horn disintegrated, but 50 coins were recovered. The hoard consisted of a bawbee of James V.; 33 bawbees and 5 testoons of Mary; 3 testoons and 5 nonsunts of Mary and Francis; and 3 quarter merks of James VI. A date in the 1570's is suggested for the hoard.

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## ROSS AND CROMARTY

*From Dr A. A. Woodham.*

#### CARN GLAS, KILCOY

Although this round cairn was in a mutilated state before excavation, enough was visible of the chamber to indicate that it was rectangular and bipartite, the division between chamber and ante-chamber consisting of two slabs on edge protruding from the sides. Consequently it could be assigned to Piggott's Camster type (c.f. *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles*, p. 235). Although there is no record of the previous opening in 1906, Lord Abercromby is known to have been present and a small flint arrow-head of the tanged and barbed variety found in the cairn by him is preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities.

In consequence, few relics were expected from the 1955 excavations and the primary aim of the work was to study and record the structure and plan of what was obviously a good example of this rectangular Camster-type chamber. When cleared it was found to be composed of flat slabs on edge with small stones packed into the interstices. Aligned E-W it was entered by a passage at the E end and the W end of the chamber was represented by a large pointed-topped head-stone. Chamber, ante-chamber and passage were separated by pairs of transverse slabs with flat sills between them embedded in the sand floor. Pits were found along the northern side of chamber and ante-chamber, both containing animal bones.

Finds in the chamber included numerous small sherds of a very coarse neolithic pot decorated with finger-nail impressions, short incised lines, and a toothed stamp, four sherds of a beaker including a portion of its base, a thin rhomboidal flint arrowhead and a triangular flint flake. Associated with the arrowhead what seemed to be a carbonised wooden shaft was traced in the sand. The ante-chamber yielded a single fragment of burnt bone.

#### ISLAND OF LEWIS

Two finds of "flat rimmed" late Bronze Age pottery are of particular interest as being the first of this type from the Outer Hebrides. An almost intact vessel, 13 ins. high and 12 ins. across its rim, was found during peat cutting on the bank of Allt Cleascro, Achmore, and a few rim sherds were found at Balallan, also during peat cutting. Both finds have been given to the National Museum of Antiquities.

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## ROXBURGHSHIRE

### ROOND KNOWE, WOODEN FARM, KELSO

A stone axe or adze found at Roond Knowe has been presented to the National Museum.

*From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph.*

### ULSTON MOOR

NT 687217. Part of two sides of a large temporary Roman camp was seen as a crop mark. The visible portion of the SW side is about 500 ft. long.

## SHETLAND

*From Mr L. G. Scott.*

### CLIFFS OF CUNNINGSBURGH

Two Neolithic house sites have been discovered. One is about 100 yards N.W. of the old steatite quarries at the head of the burn of Catpunds. The site measures 45 ft. x 31½ ft. and is very well defined. Both the inner and outer faces of the walls show up well, some of the stones projecting above ground level as much as 3 feet. The walls are from 6½ ft. to 12 ft. in thickness. The entrance is well defined. The house faces S.W. The remains of the original circular wall surrounding this old farmstead can be easily traced.

The other site is lower down on the hillside, about 350 yards south of the steatite quarries. It measures 37 ft. x 31 ft. and the walls measure an average of 7 ft. in thickness. The inner face of the wall is very good, stones from 18 ins. to 28 ins. high can be seen. The stones shewing in the outer face are low, but the alignment is good. The entrance and passage through the wall are very distinct. The house faces S.W.

A circular Cairn was also discovered in this vicinity. It is situated on a hillock called "Wulga" (Locally reputed to be the place where witches were burned and sheep thieves hanged). This place is high up on the hillside, about the 700 foot contour line and is S.W. of the Catpunds burn, between the White Stane and the Ward of Veester. The outer ring of the Cairn measures 31 ft. in diameter, and the large circular chamber is 10 ft. 9 ins. in diameter.

### BODDAM, DUNROSSNESS

Three house sites were discovered in a field on the E. side of the road leading from Dalsetter to Boddam, about 400 yards south east of the Dalsetter farm, and 75 yards east of the roadway. They are in a rather dilapidated condition. It is difficult to give their exact dimensions, but the first one is roughly 31 ft. x 26 ft. The walls are 6 ft. in thickness. The house faces the S.E.

The second one which is 10 yards south of the former, measures approximately 38 ft. x 35 ft. There is a recess in the north west side of the wall. This house also faces the S.E.

The third site is 50 yards east of the other two, and measures roughly 33 ft. x 32 ft. It faces the south.

Between these sites there are several grassgrown heaps of stones which apparently have been gathered off the arable ground. What makes these sites particularly interesting is the light they throw on the old neolithic field systems. The three sites are surrounded by a circular dyke, inside which are some sub-divisions. Outside the enclosing dyke there are several enclosures.

#### **YUXIE, WHALSAY**

HU 588653. The temple site is situated on the lower slopes of Pettigarth's Field a short distance from the cliffs at Yuxie Geo. The structure, of drystone masonry, measures overall 55 by 37 feet. It comprises a paved circular forecourt, a long flagged passage, leading to a circular chamber beyond which is an inner chamber with two large portal stones flanking the entrance which faces the passage. The inner chamber is shaped on plan like a clover leaf, and the middle lobe presumably contained an altar as in some Maltese temples.

In construction the body of the temple is built with a concave facade and a rounded back, reminiscent of the "heel-shaped" cairns of Shetland, and the walls average 10 feet in thickness. From each end of the facade has sprung a horn of masonry curving pincer-wise to enclose the forecourt, but one horn is now destroyed.

Relics were few and consisted mainly of the common rude stone implements, and sherds mainly from a later occupation in the Iron Age. The building is assignable to the Late Stone Age, the only closely comparable site known in the British Isles at Stoneydale, Shetland having been excavated by the author in 1948.

#### **BUNYIE HOOSE, WHALSAY**

585652. This house site lies only 100 yards from the temple. Following the excavations reported last year the house has now been fully exposed. The external plan follows the outline of the temple with concave facade, horns and paved open court, but the internal arrangement differs in consisting of a single large chamber, in size and shape similar to the other Shetland houses of the period discovered and excavated by the author. The unique plan of this house suggests a very close association with the nearby temple-site.

The house measures 80 by 43 feet overall, and the walling, made up of three distinct rings of masonry, varies from 11½ to 15 feet in thickness. The chamber is sub-rectangular with a large rectangular recess on each of the longer sides. Under the earth floor two branches of a stone-lined drain overlaid with coverstones issue from sumps in the inner corners of the room and make connection with the main drain whence it flows below the flags of the passage and forecourt. The passage, 15 feet long, is provided with doorchecks, behind one of which is a socket-hole for a door-post. Fires had been kindled direct on the floor.

The site was littered with rude stone implements and the astounding number of over 1,800 were recovered from the ruins, including over 500 hammer-stones, a fair percentage of pick-like tools suitable for agricultural purposes, rubbing stones and thirty-four trough querns.

*From Mr John Stewart.*

**THE REEVINS, BIXTER VOE, OPPOSITE SEMBLISTER**

341503. A circular formation, hollow in centre, of large stones, seen only at ebb tide. Possible broch site. Compare Inventory 1385 and 1582.

**SEMBLISTER**

336505. Indeterminate site in cultivation; perhaps prehistoric house.

**CROSGELS (HILL) ABOVE SEMBLISTER LOCH**

339497. Oval house, 13 paces by 11 over walls. Situated in oval enclosure, 350 paces round and 70 across short axis.

**CAIRN, SMIR HEOG (Locally called Cloven Stens) SE. EXTREMITY OF BREIWK, NORTHMAVEN**

255775. Heel cairn with facade to S.E. Small chamber, apparently disturbed.

**NEAR VEVOE, WHALSAY**

583666. Oval house, 36 paces in circumference. 50 paces north is another buried dwelling. Both are in a fairly big enclosure whose walls can be traced. Just above, on an eminence called the Wart of Hoorin was a large Bronze Age cist, now destroyed. The first structure (1335 in Inventory) is listed as a "skillefold."

**NEAR WART OF CLATE, WHALSAY**

555616, 557617. Below high rock face known as Water Hamars. Two partly exposed sites, probably houses.

**WESTER QUARFF**

408351. Burnt mounds.

**CHANNERWICK**

404231. Large burnt mound. A local resident told me that the tradition had been handed down that this was a cooking place.

**CHANNERWICK**

405233. Extensive indeterminate ruins now overlaid by houses and cabbage yards.

## HUXTER, WHALSAY

561623. Oval house, 42 feet by 33. Rough stone implements and medium and thin gritty pottery found. 35 paces W. is a second oval mound 30 feet long, and 40 paces S.E. is a third 48 feet long by 27 wide. All are stony and artificial.

## KIRKHOLM

1460 in Inventory. 337461. The ruins here are traditionally held to be huts built by the crew of an Armada ship, which sank near the holm. Her position is accurately known.

## KIRKANESS

336463. The adjacent promontory of Kirkaness is crossed by two earthen walls, the seaward wall being 32 paces long and 108 paces from the extreme point, and the landward 51 paces long and 28 paces from the seaward one. There are four small squarish earthen hut foundations of about 5 to 7 paces across, one at the west end of the outer wall, one at the eastern end of the inner wall, and two, externally and internally, at its centre. The foundations, not recorded before, appear to be hastily thrown-up earthworks, and not animal enclosures.

## CLICKHIMIN BROCH, LERWICK

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

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## STIRLINGSHIRE

*From Dr H. Fairhurst.*

### MEIKLE REIVE HILL FORT

The Glasgow Archaeological Society's excavations on the site of the Meikle Reive, the hill fort on the slope of the Campsies above Lennoxton, were continued for a period of three weeks during late June and early July, 1955.

The section across the crescent-shaped series of ramparts and ditches along the northern flank of the fort, was continued from the middle rampart across to the outermost ditch. The outer defences proved less elaborate than those examined last year and incorporated natural hillocks and hollows to an extent not previously suspected. The whole series appears to belong to one period: no occupational material whatever was obtained from the ditches. The rampart forming the main enclosure on the south flank of the fort consists of a mound with a stone kerb instead of the well-built walling exposed on the north side last year.

Much of the season's work was devoted to the interior, partly to investigate further the character of the buildings located previously, and particularly to discover some dateable object. The foundations uncovered were of rather indefinite form; reconstruction was detected, confirming the impression that the Meikle Keive was occupied for a not inconsiderable period. Part of a black shale "armlet," a stone ball, and some fragments of extremely coarse pottery were found, but relics generally were so few—there was a complete absence of quern stones—as to constitute a problem in interpretation, and the dating remains doubtful.

The site is peculiar in some respects, owing to its location on a landslip and seems to be one which, in view of the poverty in dateable material, might be better interpreted when comparative material has become available from less problematical sites. The eastern half of this more or less symmetrical fort has been left completely untouched.

*From Mr R. W. Feachem.*

#### **CASTLEHILL WOOD, POLMAISE**

N. xvii. SW 750909. During the examination of aerial photographs carried out in 1952 by the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (Scotland) in connection with the forthcoming Inventory of Stirlingshire, an oval structure of which no previous record has been found was observed on a rocky knoll on the eastern slopes of the Touch Hills. Excavations carried out in August and October, 1955, revealed that the dry-built enclosing wall was about 16 ft. in thickness, faced with large boulders and filled with rubble. The entrance passage, partly paved and fitted with door-checks, was faced with squared stones and still stood up to three courses in height. The interior, which measures about 70 ft. by about 40 ft., contained no traces of structural remains, the natural rock floor being only sparsely covered with coarse turf and rushes, but a few informal fire-places were found against the inner face of the wall. The finds included 1st or 2nd century A.D. Roman glass, rotary querns, a saddle quern, a spindle whorl, daub and burnt bones.

Within the thickness of the wall there were discovered three narrow passages which appeared to be flues. Two of these started from either side of a small mural chamber situated directly opposite the entrance, and ran for some 20 ft. along inside the wall before debouching through the inner face into the interior. The third lay in the S. arc of the wall. The flues contained ash and burnt clay, the latter possibly from linings.

It is hoped to publish a full report in PSAS.

*From Dr K. A. Steer.*

## WEST PLEAN

A short third season's work completed the investigation of the Early Iron Age homestead at West Plean. The second entrance through the encircling ditch, discovered last year, was uncovered, and a stretch of ditch filling was examined for relics but without result.

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## SUTHERLAND

### COLABOLL, LAIRG

About 29/561103. Work on a new road in June revealed a short cist about 3 ft. below ground surface. The cist measured 3 ft. long by 2 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep, the top slab 5 ft. by 3 ft. Only one bone of the skeleton remained.

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## WIGTOWNSHIRE

*From Mr A. E. Truckell.*

### TERALLY

In May a mechanical ditcher digging a pipeline at Terally on the east shore of the Mull of Galloway ran down the centre of a line of 13 oriented long cist burials. The coffins, neatly made of slate from Port Logan a mile away, lay in a straight line from opposite and within a few feet of the Standing Stone of Terally towards the Mote of Terally (which erosion has shown to be artificial). The skeletal remains gathered by Mr Wyllie, schoolmaster at Drummore, were forwarded by me via the police to the Department of Anatomy at Glasgow University. The graves, which are in the coarse gravel of the Raised Beach, were measured and plotted on the 6 ins. Ordnance map by the writer. Mr Livens of the Hunterian Museum has inspected the site and hopes to be able to carry out a trial excavation there in 1956.

### CHAPEL FINIAN

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

## ROYAL COMMISSION ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

*From Mr Angus Graham, Secretary.*

The Commission made the first complete survey of the whole of the summit area of Traprain Law, East Lothian, and also undertook two excavations in Stirlingshire (West Plean and Castlehill Wood—reported by the excavators).

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## INSPECTORATE OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS

*From Mr Stewart Cruden,  
Inspector for Scotland*

Liaison with departments and authorities which require, use, develop, and disturb land is an important part of the Inspectorate's duties, and by it the Ministry through its Inspectorate (which works directly with the bodies concerned) is able to prevent much inadvertent damage to archaeological sites whether or not they are scheduled, and where disturbance is unavoidable, to ensure investigation and record. Much of this duty of scrutiny and liaison is academically unproductive; indeed the object is to ensure that sites threatened shall be avoided and undisturbed. Such negative preservation, by making no contribution to knowledge, is not published, save when occasion offers such as in these annual reports, and few are aware of it, but the re-alignment of pylons here, the avoidance of a cairn there, are the frequent results of vigilance and co-operation maintained throughout the year. The most important projects in this sphere of the Inspectorate's activities which have occurred in the last twelve months are as follows:—

### **DOUNEREAY ATOMIC STATION, CAITHNESS**

The Ministry has established good relations with the atomic authorities and has sponsored and financed two rescue excavations, which, after five weeks' digging, are virtually complete. The excavations were under the immediate supervision of Mr Alistair MacLaren. They will be published. Mr MacLaren has submitted two brief reports for this journal.

### **SOUTH UIST GUIDED WEAPONS RANGE**

At an early stage the Inspectorate obtained information and undertook a comprehensive field survey of the area affected by the proposals. More than twenty hitherto unrecorded sites have

been identified by surface indications and some Iron Age pottery picked up. Of these, about eight sites may be threatened. They appear to be "wheelhouses," 2nd-3rd century domestic constructions such as have been excavated by the Ministry at Jarlshof, Shetland, and by others in the Hebrides.

The archaeological implications of the proposals are known, and the authorities concerned have been made aware of archaeology. The Ministry will be consulted.

#### **TRAPRAIN LAW, EAST LOTHIAN**

It is proposed to extend the quarry. The Ministry at an early stage approached all authorities concerned and readily obtained information about the proposal. The extent of quarrying, the phasing of its operation, and the archaeological implications are known. The Ancient Monuments Board, on which the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is well represented, is fully informed and is consulted by the Ministry on all matters arising from the proposals.

#### **CLATCHARD CRAIG, FIFE**

Excavations directly supervised by the Inspectorate at this Iron Age hill fort which is threatened by quarrying (as described in last year's report) have continued, and close touch has been maintained with the quarry company about future operations here. Supervised excavations will continue and the results will be published.

#### **KILMELFORT: MESOLITHIC CAVE**

An un-named and at present inaccessible cave was found near Kilmelfort, Argyll, during work by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board. A suspicion of archaeology was conveyed to the Inspectorate and an investigation in the cave was made. Mesolithic type flints and tools were discovered and identified, with bones of various species of deer.

#### **CREAG NA CAILLICH, KILLIN**

Scrutiny of another proposed Hydro-Electric scheme has led to the discovery of waste chippings of a stone axe factory in a peat deposit here. Rough-outs for axes were also found. The stone is a green hornfels with banded structures.

#### **BALLANTRAE**

The layout of an arterial road submitted to the Inspectorate for observations is thought to approach the sites of prehistoric levels near Ballantrae. The authorities have been asked to inform the Inspectorate when operations begin so that a watch might be kept.

## Work at Monuments in the Ministry's Charge

### MAES HOWE, ORKNEY

Professor Gordon Childe continued and completed his exploratory trench into the mound. The chamber is stepped externally. A final report will be published.

### CLICKHIMIN BROCH, LERWICK

More secondary dwellings between rampart and broch have been exposed and quantities of pottery recovered. The construction of the forework, the platform upon which it stands, and their relationship with the rampart and the broch has been investigated. The consolidation of the structures uncovered has been satisfactorily completed for this season. More will be done and the results published.

### CHAPEL FINIAN, WIGTOWNSHIRE

This site has been excavated and a report published by Mr C. A. Raleigh Radford (*Tr. Dumf. & Gall. Arch. Soc.* 1949-50). Subsequent work in laying out the site has revealed part of the stone altar base upon a raised platform at the east end of the chapel, and a mortar floor continuous with the mortar of the walls. A stone step rose from the floor to the altar platform, the floor of which was also of mortar.

### CAERLAVEROCK CASTLE, DUMFRIES

A scaffold has been erected against the Renaissance east range. The sculptured window pediments have been treated, are being drawn, and will be photographed.

Some 5 feet of mud has now been removed from the ditch all round. It is hoped to re-introduce fresh water to the moat next year, but before this is done sections will be taken through the floor of the moat and the ramparts. Trial trenching suggests that the earthworks are not so simple as they seem. Stratification of relics recovered from the moat is quite impossible, owing to the depth of mud and water in which they are found, but so far four complete pots of medieval aspect and several large boxes of unexamined fragments have been recovered from the ditch.

### KILDUMMY CASTLE, ABERDEENSHIRE

See under Aberdeenshire.

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL BUILDINGS RECORD  
(MINISTRY OF WORKS)

*From Mr Colin McWilliam,  
Officer in Charge.*

This year's report must begin with an appeal; not for money, but for something rather more valuable. It will be remembered that the Record was founded at an early stage of the war, so that buildings destroyed would not necessarily be buildings lost. This far-sighted (though long overdue) precaution caught the imagination of many people who had made historic buildings their chief interest, and the first foundations of the Record were laid with photographs, books and drawings presented by the public. This nucleus has grown to be the largest collection of architectural records in Scotland—about 15,000 photographs and drawings, with a library.

The Gowers Report, and the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act of 1953, showed that Scotland's historic buildings are now facing an even worse crisis than that of the war. Worse, because we now know for certain that some of our great houses are inevitably doomed for economic reasons; yet in a way less severe because by giving help where it is most needed the nation can now, through the Historic Buildings Council, carry on a planned policy of preservation. When the fate of so many houses hangs in the balance, it is essential that records and information shall be available on any building, and on others of its type.

Of those houses whose destruction is unavoidable all, without exception, should be recorded with photographs, and some with measured surveys. This is not merely a counsel of perfection. Certain demolitions may possibly be "good riddance;" but who has the right to say so, and who (if no record survives) will be able to prove it? While the present crisis lasts, and until our old buildings are adjusted to the new economy, the Record has a large part to play in the preservation both of the fabric of what is best and the memory of what must be lost.

The appeal therefore is for material, and in several different forms. Most important of all are the virtually priceless records of buildings now demolished. Nearly fifty important Scottish houses have been destroyed since the war, and the great majority of these are represented in the Record's collection, though few of them adequately. In some cases one picture post-card in the desk of a reader of this report may be the only barrier between a great house and oblivion. Very different from this sort of record is the photograph or drawing of some much-photographed and well-endowed show-piece of Scottish architecture. This too is

welcome. With a small staff almost always engaged on emergency work, the Record still lacks much of the basic material required to make it the complete collection which it ought to be. A much rarer form of record is the measured survey or architect's working drawing. Though original drawings by Robert Adam, William Playfair and William Burn and others have now been acquired or copied for the Record, it is certain that there are many more, by less well-known but equally interesting architects, lying unused in offices throughout the country.

Those who give or loan their material, of whatever kind, may be certain that it will be used with the respect it deserves.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during 1955.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

During the exceptionally fine summer of 1955 nearly one hundred and fifty Scottish houses were photographed by the staff, in a proportion of one 17th century example to two from each of the succeeding centuries. Much work has been undertaken especially for the Historic Buildings Council, or for other urgent needs such as intended demolition. But the bulk of the Record's new photography has followed a regular programme. This aims at recording the work of important Scottish architects, who are the best and almost the only guides through the uncharted years of the 18th and 19th centuries. This year, Sir William Chambers has been represented by the house at Duddingston, which is his completest surviving work in the British Isles. Cultoquhey, a fine severe house by Sir Robert Smirke, Dundas Castle, by his pupil William Burn, and Archibald Simpson's Grecian villa at Boath are typical of the kind of house which has claimed most of the Record's time.

Photographs of about two hundred churches and public buildings have also been added to the Record.

### RESEARCH

The Record has now procured copies of the thousand-odd drawings by Robert Adam for Scottish buildings, which are preserved in the Soane collection. They include designs for one hundred and twenty different projects, from castles to carriage doors. It is doubtful whether more than half of the buildings concerned were ever carried out; this fact in itself, coupled with the sometimes inferior quality of their design or execution, sheds an interesting light on Robert Adam's change of fortune after his family's financial crash at the Adelphi. Of these buildings,

thirty-two have now been recorded in whole or in part. Eight, which are known to have been built, have now disappeared, some without trace.

#### DEMOLITIONS

The following are among the most important houses demolished during the year:—

DREGHORN CASTLE, EDINBURGH (Royal Commission Inventory No. 189). Demolished 1955.

Small 17th century block with 18th and 19th century castellated additions. Late Adam type interiors. S.N.B.R. Survey of exteriors and main rooms.

PANMURE HOUSE, CARNOUSTIE, ANGUS. Demolition in progress 1955.

Original house by John Mylne (1666). Pediment added to front by Robert Adam (c. 1762), but destroyed by David Bryce in his reconstruction of 1852. S.N.B.R. Full Survey.

BALBARDIE HOUSE, BATHGATE, WEST LOTHIAN. Demolition of main part projected 1955.

The front elevation was designed in the office of Robert Adam (1793). S.N.B.R. Survey of exterior and main rooms.

GARSCUBE HOUSE, GLASGOW. Demolition in progress 1955.

An example of extensive additions (1826) to a small 18th century house by William Burn. S.N.B.R. Full Survey.

In addition to these and other demolitions of country houses, many demolitions and alterations, more or less drastic, have been noted in Scottish towns. A good record made before the damage was done has been procured in most cases. It is emphasised that the Record's only interest in demolitions is to obtain material of this sort before it is too late, and that it is not directly concerned in any movement for the preservation of specific buildings.

## THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

*From Mr T. S. Sharp, Secretary.*

The main function of the Historic Buildings Council, which was established under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953, is to advise the Minister of Works on the making of grants for the repair or maintenance of buildings of outstanding historic or architectural interest.

The Council has received requests for aid under the Act in respect of a wide variety of buildings. Meritorious buildings are numerous, but to spread too widely the limited financial assistance available might well result in merely deferring decay of the many without, in the long term, preserving even the most important, and to qualify for grant a building must come within the "outstanding" category stipulated by the Act. The Council's task of making the selection is not an easy one; either the historic merits or the architectural features of the building may be the predominant consideration and in all cases the delicate question of the owner's ability to make a contribution towards the cost of preservation arises. The steady-flow of applications received by the Council during its second year of existence may be evidence not only of the magnitude of the problem facing it but also of an increasing public awareness of the careful and sympathetic consideration given to all the requests for assistance which come before it.

The grants made continue to be fairly well distributed throughout the country. During the first nine months of 1955 grants in respect of the following sixteen buildings in ten different counties were recommended by the Council and subsequently approved by the Minister of Works:—

Barcaldine Castle, Argyll.  
Provost Ross's House, Aberdeen.  
Arniston House, Midlothian.  
Pourie Castle, Angus.  
Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye.  
Toll Booth and Burgh Court House, Stirling.  
Delgatie Castle, Aberdeenshire.  
Muchalls Castle, Kincardineshire.  
Embo House, Dornoch, Sutherlandshire.  
Newbattle Abbey, Midlothian.  
Ardblair Castle, Perthshire.  
Pitfour Castle, Perthshire.  
Linhouse, Nr. Midcalder, Midlothian.  
Duntrune Castle, Argyll.  
Pitcaple Castle, Aberdeenshire.  
The Steeple, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire.

## THE SCHOOL OF SCOTTISH STUDIES, EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY

*From Mr S. F. Sanderson.*

*Secretary—Archivist.*

The School of Scottish Studies, a research department in the University of Edinburgh, is engaged primarily on the recording and study of Scottish folk culture. The present research programme includes the investigation of oral tradition (including the folktale, items of general folklore, folksong and music), the material traditions of largely pre-industrial communities, the social structure of rural communities, and place-names research. Field recordings of oral tradition include extensive collections of folktale in Gaelic, Shetlandic, and Scots dialects, while about 4,000 Gaelic songs and 2,000 Scots songs have been recorded. The photographic archive includes collections of house-types, roof constructions, domestic utensils and agricultural implements. In addition, the School is sponsoring a series of drawings illustrating the corpus of pre-historic material in Scotland.

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### **CRUCK-FRAMED BUILDINGS IN SCOTLAND**

An introductory survey is being made of cruck-framed buildings in Scotland, the terms of reference including all structures in which the principal rafters of the roof spring from a point below wall-plate level. Both "true crucks," which spring from ground-level to ridge in one piece, and "jointed crucks" which are pegged together at or about wall-head level, have been noted in such counties as Invernesshire, Argyllshire, Perthshire and Stirlingshire. Any information about further examples of this type of construction would be very welcome and should be sent to Mr J. G. Dunbar, Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (Scotland), 3 South Bridge, Edinburgh, 1.

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This section has been compiled by Mr R. B. K. Stevenson.

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ANL.	Archaeological News Letter.
ARCH.J.	Archaeological Journal.
HBNC.	History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club.
PSAS.	Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.
SFDC.	Society of Friends of Dunblane Cathedral.
SHR.	Scottish Historical Review.
TDGS.	Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.
TGAS.	Transactions of the Glasgow Archaeological Society.
THAS.	Transactions of the Hawick Archaeological Society.
UJA.	Ulster Journal of Archaeology.

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