

DISCOVERY
AND
EXCAVATION

SCOTLAND
1957

SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP
COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

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FOREWORD

It gives me very great pleasure to write this foreword to *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland, 1957*, and to wish it the success of its predecessors. This publication of the Scottish Regional Group of the Council for British Archaeology is rapidly establishing itself as an indispensable adjunct to archaeological studies in Scotland.

By collating summaries of individual and group efforts and presenting these efforts currently in a simple form it helps to bridge the time lag between discovery and publication. In some cases it acts as the only source of information, more especially about surface indications found during field work.

In its pages the expert and the amateur come together on equal terms, each contributing to an impressive sum of information.

To all those who have contributed and upon whose goodwill the success and usefulness of the booklet so much depends the thanks of the Scottish Regional Group are due.

I would like to mention more especially Mr J. G. Scott, who has not only prised out the information and edited it but also has been responsible for all stages of publication. Our indebtedness to him is great indeed.

To all who are actively engaged in Scottish archaeological studies I commend this booklet, and to those for whom archaeology is no more than a hobby it is a stimulating mine of information.

I wish it every success.

MARGARET E. C. STEWART,
President.

Discovery and Excavation, Scotland, 1957, may be obtained, price 2s. 9d. per copy post free, from the Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, C.3, on application to

J. G. SCOTT,
Hon. Secretary.

December, 1957.

ABERDEENSHIRE

From Mr W. Kirk

HOPEWELL LODGE, TARLAND

NJ/453055. Admiral Sir Rhoderick R. McGrigor reports the discovery of a small promontory fort on his estate at Hopewell Lodge, Tarland. Preliminary excavation in June 1957 revealed twin ramparts and ditches protecting the NW. approaches of the top of a spur of glacial gravels. No datable material was recovered during the brief excavation, nor traces of structures observed within the small defended locality.

SANDS OF FORVIE

NK/022265. Excavations at the Sands of Forvie continued with the commencement of work on the site of the reputed, sand-buried, mediaeval church. The church was revealed to be of simple, oblong plan, 45 ft. by 15 ft. internally, dating probably to the late 12th century, with 2 ft. 9 ins. walls of rough masonry plastered inside and out with white, shelly mortar. Doorways in the N. and S. walls oppose each other across the W. end of the church with a small platform for a font between them. At the E. end an altar kerb or step runs across the church and a simple square ambry is let into the N. wall. Finds from intrusive burials suggest that the church was in ruins and rootless by the late 15th century.

ANGUS

From Mr R. McLoughlin

TARFSIDE, GLENESK

NO/485795. One of the numerous cairns on the hill called the Rowan, above Tarfside in Glenesk, was taken down to the original land surface and rebuilt by members of the Archaeological Section of the Abertay Historical Society. No relics were found, nor was any structure apparent in the stones. It has been learnt from an inhabitant of the glen that another cairn was dismantled some years ago with similar negative results.

BLACK JACK, CRAIG

NO/710535. Excavation by members of the Archaeological Section of the Abertay Historical Society on the promontory site known as Black Jack has confirmed the literary evidence of its occupation in the 15th century. This excavation continues and will be reported fully in due course.

CRAIGHILL

See below, Report of Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Scotland).

ARGYLLSHIRE

From Mr E. R. Cregeen

AUCHINDRAIN, MID ARGYLL

NM/035039. A large cairn, of Clyde-Carlingford type, previously unrecorded and apparently locally forgotten, is to be seen $\frac{1}{2}$ mile NE. of Auchindrain, on the high natural terrace which runs parallel to the main Inveraray-Lochgilphead road and is at this point about 400 ft. above it. The cairn lies on the terrace, in the narrow space between the low bluff behind (Craig Mhor) and the steep escarpment in front (Craig Bhan). A disused, sunken peat-track climbs from Auchindrain up the slope of the terrace and passes near the cairn. No Clyde-Carlingford tomb in Argyll commands so dominating a position. The cairn is similar in type to others in the Inveraray-Minard neighbourhood. It has been practically dismembered along its whole length. The present dimensions are:—length along its main NE.-SW. axis, 127 ft.; width at W. end, 25 ft.; width at E. end, 34 ft. At the E. end is a well preserved, slab-built gallery-grave, partly filled with boulders from the cairn. Dimensions, as well as they could be obtained, were length from inside portals to the concealed W. end, at least 15 ft., width, 4 ft. on the average. The S. portal stands about 6 ft. high. The entrance to the tomb is encumbered with fallen cairn material and what are probably the collapsed N. portal and a heavy lintel. Within the tomb, interesting features are well preserved corbelling connecting wall slabs with roofing-slabs on the N. side, and what looks like an upright jamb-stone halfway along the tomb. The cairn has no crescentic forecourt, but a vertical stone protruding at the E. end of the cairn and in line with the portals suggests the remains of a straight façade. The ransacking of the cairn in the past failed to reveal any other chambers, but a number of slabs at the W. end may indicate another burial. Plan and cross-sections are in preparation, and photographs have been taken.

NM/037033. Directly across the valley from this cairn, at the S. edge of a small plantation on Auchindrain, is another cairn, longer and narrower. A hurried visit made close examination impossible and revealed no large slabs, but field-clearance is unlikely here.

PORT DONAIN, MULL

NM/738292. Attention was drawn by Mr Leslie to a cairn immediately above the shore at Port Donain. The cairn proved to measure 97 ft. long from E. to W., 48 ft. wide at the broader E. end, and 5 ft. in height. At the E. end are the remains of a façade of large stones up to 4 ft. 6 ins. high, with a gallery-grave about 14 ft. long behind the central orthostats. The gallery-grave lacks one side, but its position in the cairn, its relation to the portals and its dimensions strongly suggest that this tomb is of the

Clyde-Carlingford type, previously not recognised in Mull. Large slabs in the cairn at the W. end indicate other chambers.

NM/737292. About 150 yds. N. of the long cairn above-mentioned, and on the same fertile strip of land, is a round cairn 20 ft. in diameter, with a well defined kerb of stones measuring up to 2 ft. high and 2 ft. 6 ins. long.

From Mr and Mrs J. G. Scott

CRARAE, MID ARGYLL

NR/987974. By kind permission of Sir George Campbell, Bart., excavation of the Neolithic chambered cairn of Clyde-Carlingford type in the grounds of Crarae Lodge, Loch Fyneside, was continued for a third and final season between 19th August and 7th September.

The excavation of the forecourt area revealed apparently undisturbed Neolithic blocking beneath the modern rubble, the greater part of which had been removed in 1956. The blocking had consisted chiefly of boulders, some of those immediately in front of the entrance to the burial chamber being very large. Beneath the stones of the blocking were numerous flat slabs overlying gravel, which was akin to the subsoil but contained a good deal of comminuted charcoal and fragments of burnt bone. The flat slabs, though small in size and disarranged by the superincumbent blocking, gave the impression of a deliberate attempt to pave at least part of the forecourt area. Loss of time owing to bad weather caused the abandonment of the original plan to examine all the forecourt area beneath the paving; no finds were made in those areas which were excavated.

The façade bounding the forecourt at the front of the cairn proved to be very impressive. Drystone walling survived to a height of over 3 ft. between the S. outer portal stone of the burial chamber and the standing stone next to it. Owing to the loose gravel subsoil the cairn builders had evidently found it impossible to make the portals and façade stones freestanding by setting them into the ground; instead they were erected so as to lean against the body of the cairn and be supported by it. The cairn, in fact, bears comparison with some of the larger Clyde-Carlingford cairns in Arran, and Sir George Campbell has expressed the hope that it might be preserved as an ancient monument.

DRIMFERN, GLEN ARAY, MID ARGYLL

NN/086147. In the haugh land on the right bank of the River Aray, about 4 miles N. of Inveraray, is a low, grass-covered mound of stones, about 150 ft. long and 30 ft. wide, its long axis lying roughly N.-S. Stone slabs, which might represent a burial chamber, are to be seen at the S. end, whilst a large upright slab

protrudes from the cairn about 40 ft. from that end. There is no sign of a forecourt, but it is possible that the cairn is of Clyde-Carlingford type.

ARDNO, LOCH FYNESIDE

NN/156082. On a morainic mound overlooking and about 50 yds. E. of the main Arrochar-Strachur road, near Ardno, is a ruined oval cairn of large stones, 57 ft. long and 35 ft. wide, with its long axis lying ESE.-WNW. On the line of the main axis, but to the W. of the cairn's centre, is a closed cist of massive construction, measuring about 7 ft. by 3 ft. internally. Cover slabs and part of one side of the cist have disappeared.

KILLAROW, KINTYRE

NR/663282. Mr Duncan Colville, President of the Kintyre Antiquarian Society, reported a stone-built cist, of Bronze Age type, on top of a rounded hill, about 200 yds. N. of Killarow Farm. The cist, 3 ft. 8 ins. long by 1 ft. 11 ins. wide at maximum, and about 2 ft. deep, had a stone-lined bottom and was covered by a slab originally 5 ft. 6 ins. by 3 ft. in size but now split into two. The cover slab lay not far below the surface, and there was no sign of a cairn. The cist had obviously been rifled, for a layer of clay at the bottom contained fragments of coal and modern glass; on the other hand, a few pieces of cremated bone may have been part of the original burial.

From Miss M. Campbell of Kilberry

KILBRIDE, BARBRECK

NM/838078. From time to time "graves" have been found in a bank of river sand close to the Barbreck river; finds of bones and broken pottery are known to have been made by workmen at intervals since 1910, but none of these has been traced. In May 1956 several slabs which might have formed part of cists were found, one apparently a side-slab *in situ* and measuring 3 ft. 6 ins. long by 1 ft. 10 ins. high, lying roughly E.-W. Three other slabs lay below it on the edge of the working. Close to the W. of this slab was a large cover stone, 5 ft. 6 ins. by 3 ft. 7 ins. by 5 ins., lying N.-S. with a short upright slab just visible under its N. end. In August 1957 on a further visit, it was found that this cover had been displaced from another cist to which it now lay at right angles. The W. end slab had fallen away and the cist was full of bracken roots. The roots and fine sand were removed and the cist cleared out to the bottom at a depth of 1 ft. 11 ins. The bottom was formed of a layer of fine grey clay which runs through the sandpit and which probably also formed the bottom of the other cist. At about 2 ins. above this clay there were a few fragments of uncremated bone, a small portion of cranium at the W. end, a possible small fragment of lower jaw, and two frag-

ments, probably femur and the larger 3.4 ins. long, on the S. side about halfway along the cist; at the same place on the N. side was a fragment of pelvis. The cist was formed of a slab 3 ft. 6 ins. long on the S. side, another 1 ft. 9 ins. on the E. side, which did not meet the N. slab, so that there may have been small stones filling the gap originally. The main axis bore 115°, or E. 25° S. The W. slab was not found. The probability is that the cist had been rifled by workmen when the cover was displaced.

There is a standing stone and a large cairn, with the remains of some smaller ones, on the opposite bank of the river close by, while about 4 miles away, at NM/777016, the three Food Vessel cists with stone axe and human hair were found (*PSAS*, lxx. 396).

CORRANMORE FARM, CRAIGNISH

NM/788039 and 787040. On information from a letter of 1922 from a former resident there was located a cup-marked boulder on the farm road from Corranmore to Barracken Farm in Craignish. The boulder lies about 15 yds. above the road to W. of it and may be a fallen standing-stone. It is triangular in section, very like a "hog-back" stone, and measures 4 ft. 6 ins. long, by 1 ft. 9 ins. by 1 ft. 1 in. by 7 ins. at its lower end. It now points N., and on its E. side has at least 33 cups, one with a faint incomplete ring, and some other faint marks. The largest cup is 3½ ins. in diameter by 1½ in. deep. The cups extend all over this face; none was found on the other exposed side.

At the top of the grassy slope is a crag of smooth rock. On the extreme S. point of this were found a cup 4½ ins. by ½ in. deep, with two smaller ones close by; 1 ft. away is another group, one with an irregular gutter running to a natural ice-scoring; several others are scattered over the face and side of the crag. None of these had rings.

Apart from one possible cup-mark found in 1956 on the island Eilean Rìgh in Loch Craignish, these are the first cup-markings to be found in Craignish Parish. The adjacent Kilmartin Parish immediately to the S. has, of course, a great number on rocks, on cists and on standing stones.

From Mr E. R. Creggan

GIGHA

NR/650489. A short cist was discovered on a small rock outcrop about 20 yds. N. of the school at Ardminish. The capstone measures 39 ins. long by 24 ins. wide. The side- and end-slabs are *in situ* except the W. side slab, which had fallen to the ground some feet below. The E. side-slab is buried in the hillock.

CARRADALE

Two Bronze Age flints discovered by Mr George Fraser in the Forestry Commission nursery may, as suggested by Mr J. G. Scott, indicate a habitation-site. One is an unusually large end-scraper, the other a knife suitable for gripping in the hand, its working edge made by striking off a flake in tranchet fashion.

GLEN FYNE

Early in 1957 Mr Colin MacCallum discovered a very finely worked chert arrowhead on the ground (near a molehill) "about half-way up Newton Hill in Glen Fyne." It measures 37 mm. long but the point is slightly broken, suggesting an original 38 or 39 mm. It is barbed and tanged, with remarkably delicate serration on each edge. Mr J. G. Scott suggests it is of Beaker period, and compares the arrowhead with a number excavated at Llanbleddian, Glam., published in *PPS*, iv (1938), 107-21.

ARDNACROSS, MULL

NM/550502. A large cairn some 50 ft. in diameter and 9 ft. high lies 50 yds. N. of the ruins of the broch above the raised beach at Ardnacross. There are signs of disturbance in the centre at the top of the cairn, and kerb-stones traceable on the S. edge.

From Mrs U. V. Betts and Mr E. R. Cregeen

SCALLASTLE, MULL

NM/698383. In the large field between the farm and the main coastal road is a much denuded cairn, with large slabs which may have formed a chamber.

DERVAIG, MULL

NM/442519. Discovered by the Glasgow University Extra-Mural Class during an excursion were three standing stones, now forming part of a dyke midway between the five well known standing stones and the Dervaig road. One is broken to a mere stump, and they are much overgrown, but they appear to have formed a row in line with the five already mentioned.

A quarter of a mile E., by the roadside, is an insignificant burn, with the Priest's Well nearby, surrounded by a heap of stones like a small cairn. On the far side of the burn are low banks defining a roughly circular area. This is called Tur nam Papanaiach ("Tower of the Papists").

GLENGORM, MULL

NM/436554. In the Quinish Forest and within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Glengorm Burn, Mr Donald Brown, a forestry worker, noticed a circular drystone structure with massively thick walls. It was

investigated and as a result the young trees planted in and around the building have been removed by the Forestry Commission. The building has an internal diameter of 12 ft. 6 ins., the wall is circular, composed of huge lumps of stone, and between 6 and 7 ft. thick, with one entrance. It stands about 3 ft. high, but is endangered by old trees growing in the walls. The site is a narrow glen, sheltered by parallel ridges of rock. Bronze Age flints and copper slag have been found within about 100 yds. of the building.

From Mr A. C. Thomas

IONA

Excavations took place on Iona, under the direction of Mr A. C. Thomas in the summers of 1956 and 1957, the work being sponsored by the Russell Trust, Edinburgh. The main aim was to recover as much as possible of the material remains of the monastic house founded in 563 A.D. by Columba.

The vallum has now been located for almost all its length, and can be shown to be a huge irregular rectangle lying N.-S. The site of the first monastery within it is presumed to be below the present reconstructed Abbey block, but a small cell on the summit of Tor Abb—an outcrop just W. of the Abbey—has been dug, and stands as a strong candidate for Columba's cell. Parts of a stone shrine, of the sort now known from Jedburgh and St. Andrews, were recovered, and it is thought that Releig Orain (St. Oran's Chapel) marks the site of the original monastic cemetery and the Founder's shrine.

Other work has shown part of a stone building, possibly of the supposed 9th century reconstruction, associated with a mass burial: the outline of a cruciform building underlying the present Abbey which may be the church of c.1200 A.D., and a precinct wall defining the Benedictine house of the early 13th century onwards. Attention has also been paid to material culture of the immediate past, to field work on the rest of Iona, and to the compilation of a full photographic record.

A fully illustrated interim report on the two seasons' work will appear in the near future in *PSAS*.

From Messrs A. C. Thomas and J. V. S. McGaw

DUN CUL BHUIRG, IONA

NM/265246. In August 1957 members of the University of Edinburgh Russell Trust's expedition to Iona, led by Mr A. C. Thomas, examined the above site during the course of the com-

pletion of a general field survey of the island's antiquities. Dun Bhuirg, a small eminence of Lewisian gneiss, stands close to the W. shore, commanding the head of the sheltered inlet of Port Ban and overlooking the fertile machair to the S. The rock falls sheer on the seaward side but its lesser inland slopes proved to be rather loosely fortified by a single rampart, making use of natural outcrops and revetted on the outside, which enclosed an area some 50 by 75 ft. In cleaning a stretch of the S. side of the rampart for photography a few sherds of fine hand-made pottery were unearthed. Finds in the Ludovic M. Mann Collection, now preserved in Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum and marked as coming from Dun Bhuirg, have proved to be of a similar general character. One sherd from the Mann Collection and one of those found on the site in 1957 have vestiges of an applied wavy cordon which may be compared with examples from Tigh Talamhanta, Barra (q.v. *PSAS*, lxxxvii, 91, fig. 6), and the wheelhouse at Sollas, North Uist, described below in the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report. Also in the group from the Mann Collection is a flat-rimmed sherd of the type best known from the Sculptor's Cave, Covesea (q.v. *PSAS*, lxxv).

Mr Thomas believes that Dun Bhuirg or Bhurg—a name of curious etymology, being composed of the Gaelic "dun" and the synonymous loan-word "burg"—may be equated with Adamnan's "munitio magna" (q.v. *Vita Columbae*, ii, 4), a suggestion first made by Reeves in his edition of the *Life*. As such, the site would be the only strong candidate for a pre-Columban monument so far noted on Iona, although Mr B. R. S. Megaw informs the present writers that field work in the summer of 1954 revealed a possible Bronze Age ring cairn on the E. side of the island near the village.

It must be admitted that a Dark Age occupation of Dun Bhuirg is by no means untenable and in this context should be noted an object recorded in examination of the finds housed in the Iona nunnery Chapel of St. Ronan. This is a large beach pebble with three sub-rectangular depressions carved on one surface which may be the "stone mould for celts" reported in an account of 1907 as having been found on Dun Bhuirg in association with "some (?) Bronze Age sherds." The nunnery stone is clearly an ingot mould of the type found in some quantity in the Dark Age levels of Dunadd (q.v. *PSAS*, xxxix, 311-3).

It is clear that further work will be required in order to settle the general question of the length of the period of occupation demonstrated at Dun Bhuirg. A fuller account of the results to date will appear as part of the Interim Report of the Russell Trust's Excavations on Iona, 1956-7, which will be published in a forthcoming volume of *PSAS*.

UPPER CORMONACHAN, COWAL

NR/191967. On the N. bank of the Cormonachan Burn and just below the terraced road which served the deserted Clachan of Upper Cormonachan, are two U-shaped structures, 18 by 12 ft., within tumbled earth and stone walls. These may be stores or kilns of the nearby Clachan.

NR/182971. Half a mile up the stream, near its junction with a tributary from the S., is a hut circle, 9 ft. in diameter within 3 ft. wide walls and with a small chamber attached on the W. Protruding from the ground within the latter was the base of a crock which contained two considerably worn "cartwheel" coins of George III., embedded in bitumen. Their condition accords with local opinion that Upper Cormonachan was settled until the late 19th century. It appears as a three merkland of valuation £7 12s. 1d. in the topographical evaluation subsequent to George II.'s Act for the valuation of lands in Argyllshire in 1751.

NR/181975. About 400 yds. upstream, at a site known locally as "the monastery" is a large circle, 36 ft. in diameter. Beside it are three huts of diameters 19 ft., 14 ft., and 13 ft., all entered from the E.; three U-shaped structures, one 18 ft. by 8 ft., the others 14 ft. by 8 ft., and entered from the NE. or NW.; a small stone pen; a croft which has constructional features common to the later buildings of Upper Cormonachan, and overlying the ruins of an earlier croft.

LOCHAN NAN CNAIMH, COWAL

NR/171974. This site contains two crofts of the Upper Cormonachan type, 18 by 15 ft., one partly overlying a hut circle 15 ft. in diameter. Three other hut circles are 15 ft., 12 ft. with traces of a chamber on the NE., and 11 ft. in diameter. All dwellings are entered from the NW. There is also a turf circle with no trace of entrance or stonework. Closely associated with the huts is a round cairn 15 ft. in diameter, reared against a massive erratic.

Finally there is a problematical structure of drystone construction. Two narrow cells, 9 ft. long, are separated by a 2 ft. wide drystone wall. The cell to the W. is 2 ft. wide at the N. end, 2 ft. deep and partly roofed with flags, and narrows to 1 ft. wide at the S. end. There is no entrance. The other is 3 ft. wide and entered near the S. end by a gap little more than 1 ft. wide and fitted with one step leading down into the chamber. The whole would appear to be a burial cairn of unusual type and may be the source of the place name, Lochan of the Bones.

NR/185967. On the S. terrace overlooking the hanging valley of the Cormonachan Glen, and spread between two lateral streams, is another site. A subrectangular hut, 15 ft. by a remaining 10 ft., has partly fallen into the E. stream. Near it is a croft, 18 by 15 ft., overlying an earlier croft foundation. Beside the W. stream is another croft, 16 ft. 6 ins. by 10 ft. 6 ins. Spread between them are five hut circles with diameters 19 ft., 15 ft., 12 ft., 11 ft. (two). All are entered from the NE. A further hut circle lies 200 ft. to the NNW, and is 14 ft. 6 ins. in diameter within 4 ft. 6 ins. wide walls.

AYRSHIRE

*From Mrs A. Hallifax Crawford
and Mr F. Newall*

BLACK LAW, STEWARTON

NS/464502. At Black Law, Stewarton, there is a round cairn crowning the Law. This cairn is of overall diameter 62 ft., rises to a flattish top 32 ft. in diameter and some 6-7 ft. above the outer edge, and is slightly disturbed at the centre.

CORWAR, BARRHILL

From Mr and Mrs J. G. Scott

NX/273807. Less than 50 yds. to the N. of the main road from Girvan to Newton Stewart, opposite the grounds of Corwar House, lies a group of large boulders, partly grass-covered, of which at least seven bear cup marks. The boulders lie in no apparent order at the end of a rocky ridge, and it seems possible that the site is that of a cairn.

BANFFSHIRE

CULBEUCHLY FARM

From Mr W. Kirk

NJ/662613. Mr George Cook possesses a considerable flint collection, mainly of the Beaker period, gathered over a number of years from his farm at Culbeuchly, Banff. He also has a Byzantine coin, discovered during recent ploughing. It is of Constans II (A.D. 641-668).

BERWICKSHIRE

CHANNELKIRK

From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph

NT/474547. A line of crop marks indicating the corner of the ditch of the Roman temporary camp here was tested by digging at two points. The camp ditch was located: it proved to be V-shaped, and nearly 4 ft. deep, cut in rock.

BUTESHIRE

From Miss D. N. Marshall

DUNALLUNT FORT

NS/051640. Under the auspices of the Buteshire Natural History Society an investigation was made of saucer-like depressions which J. King Hewison (*Butc in Olden Times*, p.45) thought were possible "sites of primitive houses." Trenches were dug across the three most clearly defined of these depressions and no trace of walling or habitation was found; two of these abutted on the inside of the outer rampart wall. The slightly raised edges of two were found to be live rock, the centre of one was filled with stones, probably from the rampart, flakings of rock and earth. In all cases it seemed as if the depression was the result of the settling of disturbed soil between outcrop.

*From Mrs A. Halifax Crawford
and Mr F. Newall*

KILCHATTAN

On the 25 ft. beach half way between Kilchattan Pier and Garroch Head are three circular mounds of stones, hollow at centre, and about 15 ft. in diameter. No clear entrances were located and these may be disturbed cairns or hut circles.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

From Mr A. E. Truckell

BLACKETLEES, ANNAN

NY/188688. On the last week-end in July and again in early November sections were taken of the ditch of a site on Blacketlees Farm just N. of Annan, lying partly under the modern road from Annan to Brydekirk and in the two fields flanking the road, one of these fields lying between the main road and the short farm road to Blacketlees farmhouse. These sections have revealed a ditch ranging from 8 to 11 ft. in depth and 12 to 16 ft. in width. The dimensions of the site are roughly 280 ft. by just over 200 ft. The evidence suggests that the E. side is bow-shaped, with a roadway coming in at its centre on a causeway of undisturbed soil, and that the other sides are more or less straight. At most points the ditch contained several feet of perfectly preserved organic matter, mostly wood, leaves, sedge-roots and so on, and a considerable amount of animal bone—small ox, sheep and pig being represented—all the bone being very heavily "blued" by vivianite.

With the bones was found a sawn-off tablet of red deer antler cortex, both ends sawn, as if it had been intended for half of the handle of a knife: the tablet was 3 by 3½ ins. in size: the antler had been a very large one.

If a date can be hazarded for the site it might be between 300 and 400 A.D., on the analogy of the considerable number of similar sites which have come to light across the border in Cumberland in recent years.

It is hoped that a systematic investigation of part of the interior will be begun next summer by a team of specialists.

Thanks must be given to Mr Murray Brown of Kinnelhook for survey work and general supervision, to Mr Robert Little of East Hayriggs for general assistance, to Mr Brian Blake of Carlisle for specialist advice on this type of site, to Dr Cameron of Lockerbie for obtaining provisional identification of the bone material, and above all to Mr Aitken of Blacketlees and his two stalwart sons for their great interest, unflinching helpfulness and unremitting hard work.

Mr Aitken also pointed out a point on the Annan on his farm just below the tip of a large island in the river where large worked stones, some showing dovetailing, are visible in the river bed, just above the site of the "Pillar of Warmanbie" and in line with it and a road terrace climbing the E. bank of the river towards Warmanbie House. The "Pillar" is recorded as a fishing boundary apparently as far back as 1485 and was a mass of masonry standing on a sandstone ledge in the middle of the river: it was finally washed away in a flood about 1832. On the W. bank of the river, running N. from the large stones mentioned above, is a wall of heavy dressed stones in which a large oak tree is growing: this wall is at a point where a retaining wall is unnecessary as a sandstone cliff rises above it: at its N. end it forms a rounded buttress and then curves back under the soil of the field at the N. end of the cliff. The whole wall was until thirty years ago over 100 ft. from the river in old permanent pasture, and was not revealed until the river cut back to it. The Aitkens have been in the farm most of the time since the 1790's, and the wall had never been exposed in that time. All this strongly suggests a river-crossing of considerable age.

TWIGLEES, ESKDALEMUIR

Mr John Forsyth of Twiglees, Eskdalemuir, on leaving the district, presented Dumfries Museum with over 200 flint and chert tools and chips, mostly of very small size, collected by him on chipping-floors N. of Twiglees in the past two years.

GLENHOWAN

NY/305665. In mid-April, at the desire of Brig.-Gen. Scott-Elliott of Kirkconnel Lea and Dr Werner Kissling, a trial section was made across a low circular mound of artificial appearance in wet ground at the inward edge of the coastal salt-flats, at a point between the coast road and the Glenhowan road

where the latter ascends from the former at a sharp angle. The cut was taken from just outside the perimeter of the apparent mound to its centre, and revealed at a depth of 3 ft. 3 ins. much eroded hearths of clay and stones with 14 ins. of clean sand above them. Above this sand was a layer of dark ash-filled occupation soil in which the sand-filled outlines of square post-holes, near the outer perimeter, could clearly be seen. No definite artifacts were found. The site was reported to the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (Scotland) and to Professor S. Piggott.

DUNBARTONSHIRE

From Miss A. S. Robertson

PEEL PARK, KIRKINTILLOCH

In preparation for visits paid to the Antonine Wall during the Glasgow Archaeological Society's Centenary Week in August 1957, the Hunterian Museum arranged for the Rev. C. H. H. Scobie (an ex-student of the Scottish Field School of Archaeology) to open up a stretch of the stone foundation found in the Peel Park, Kirkintilloch, in 1953. The foundation was at least 12 ft. wide at the site exposed (just within the NW. corner of the Park), and had a well-preserved culvert, at least 1 ft. wide, running across it. The stone base may belong either to the Antonine Wall or to the rampart of an Antonine Wall fort here.

BEECHES ROAD, DUNTOCHER, AND BAR HILL, TWECHAR

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

LENZIE

In July 1957 Miss A. S. Robertson and Mr R. G. Livens visited the site of the discovery of an old well at Lenzie, at the request of Mr A. Strachan, of Fauldhead, Lenzie. The well had been uncovered by a firm of contractors laying a new water main from Bridgend, Waterside, Kirkintilloch, up to Woodilee Mental Hospital, and lay just inside the grounds of the Hospital, about 60 ft. N. of the corner of the grounds opposite Calmuir Cottages. The diameter of the well at the top was 3 ft. 6 ins., and its depth was 23 ft. It was steined with interlocking sandstone slabs, and it was covered by a sandstone slab with a hole in it, into which had possibly fitted a malleable iron (air) pipe which came to within 3 ins. of the surface. The pipe was 3½ ins. in diameter; it appeared to go right down to the bottom of the well, and may have been fixed to the bottom. The sandstone slab is now concealed by a square concrete slab, which Mr Strachan suggests was placed there at some time by the Hospital authorities.

The date of this well has not yet been established. It is, of course, post-Roman.

EAST LOTHIAN

TYNINGHAM

From Mr R. B. K. Stevenson

A trough of red sandstone in a field within a mile of the ancient site of Tynningham has been recognised by Dr J. S. Richardson as the remains of a late Anglian hog-back tombstone. Unlike most such stones in Scotland it has only a small portion of scale pattern; instead there are animal figures along both sides, now rather defaced. The stone has been presented to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

FIFE

CULROSS

A number of plain wooden (? pine) coffins was uncovered between low and high water marks in the spring; they were lying roughly E.-W. There was no dating evidence, but it is possible that they were 16th or 17th century plague burials.

BURNTISLAND

There have been two discoveries of painted ceilings in the Burgh. One was found during the restoration of houses at 14-28 Somerville Street. It consists of parts of two ceilings, probably barrel-shaped, and now much mutilated; the subjects are an interesting combination of Christian symbols, signs of the Zodiac and representations of the Sibyls; it may be dated to about 1625. It is hoped that parts will be preserved.

The other is at Rossend Castle, now falling into disrepair. In excellent preservation, ceiling and beams are closely covered with a variety of subjects from musical instruments to tools. The letters "SRM" connect it with Sir Robert Melville, first Lord Melville, and it dates to the late 16th century. It is hoped that it will be preserved in its entirety.

TENTSMUIR

From Mr R. McLoughlin

The collection and plotting, by members of the Archaeological Section of Abertay Historical Society, of surface finds on Tentsmuir have continued. This area yields flint artifacts and pottery, including sherds of prehistoric and mediaeval ware. Of the former some sherds identified as Clactonian ware were found. Of the latter a fine neck and handle of a pitcher, 13th or 14th century, was found.

COUNTY OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW

From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph

SHIELS FARM, GOVAN

NS/523667. An oval enclosure was revealed as a crop mark at Shiels Farm, Govan, during air reconnaissance this year; the long axis of the enclosure measures perhaps 100 to 150 ft. An entrance is visible at one end, and there may be one at the opposite end. There is a general resemblance in outline to known plans of small "henge" monuments, but the site should be tested before any definite opinion is expressed.

INVERNESSSHIRE

*From Messrs D. D. A. Simpson
and J. V. S. McGarv*

NEWTON, NORTH UIST

NF/887773. Members of the Edinburgh University Archaeological Society engaged on the Ministry of Works' excavations at Sollas, North Uist (see below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report), during the course of their leisure hours took the opportunity to examine a short cist situated below Newton House. The cist, as indicated by the records of the Ordnance Survey, is apparently one of a small group and was accidentally discovered during ploughing operations in 1955, following which the capstone was removed for building material. The grave, formed of five slabs of gneiss, one of which had been removed prior to the excavation, measured 4 by 2½ ft., and was dug in blown sand above which there was about 1 ft. of plough soil and recent turf. It contained the complete but unaccompanied skeleton of a young adult female whose skull was facing NW. towards the shore. Although the area in the immediate vicinity of the skeleton appeared to be undisturbed, careful sifting of the sand both above and below it revealed only a large pebble of marine origin.

It is unfortunate that this cist has proved to be so barren of material finds as the only other short cists recorded in the Outer Isles are three on Skye (q.v. Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (Scotland), *The Outer Hebrides* . . . , 1928, p.xxxi). It is hoped to publish a fuller account together with a report on the skeletal remains in a forthcoming volume of *PSAS*. The Society's thanks are due to Mr John Macaskill of Newton, upon whose croft the cist is situated, for ready permission to excavate.

SOLLAS, NORTH UIST

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT

MAINSRIDDLLE

From Mr A. E. Truckell

NX/947565. On 9th January 1957 investigation was made of a Bronze Age stone slab cist found the previous evening by a ploughman deep-ploughing for the first time a field just S. of Mainsriddle village and just inside Colvend and Southwick Parish. With the aid of Dr Milne Redhead and the local policeman the exact position of each bone in the cist was plotted, and bones, beaker, etc., removed first to the village police station and then to Dumfries Museum, where the complete burial is being assembled for display. The dimensions of the cist were 4 ft. long by 22 ins. wide by 20 ins. deep. The subsoil forming the floor of the cist was of very coarse granitic grit, stained a deep red: the bones when found were the same colour as the red grit in which they lay. The slabs were of sandstone and Carboniferous shale, both available locally, the sandstone in the drift and the shale on the shore.

The site was just on the seaward face of the summit of a hillock at the inland edge of the raised beach, just above the 50 ft. contour and overlooking the present shore half a mile away. The skeleton in the cist was that of a man of about thirty, about 5 ft. 9 ins. in height, and heavily built. He was lying with his head to the E. and his face looking S. across the Solway to the Cumberland mountains. The position was the usual crouched one, and between the pelvis and the heels was a beaker which, however, was of the consistency of liquid mud and collapsed when the coarse grit was pulled away from round it. Several pieces were, however, salvaged and dried and proved to be of fine red-brown ware with a design of close-dotted lines and high steep chevrons. Among the finger bones of the left hand was a bone ring, possibly a vertebra, with one of the nerve-holes enlarged to take a cord for suspension. Between the beaker and the heels was a small patch of charcoal and wood ash. On the capstone, occupying about a third of its area and overlapping on to the natural soil next to the cist was a 6 in. thick layer of consolidated wood ash: this may of course bear no relation to the burial. Another cist burial was found some forty years ago at Kirkbean, some 3 miles away.

Thanks for assistance must be given to Mr Thomas, the laird of Southwick, Dr Milne Redhead, Dr Cameron of Lockerbie and the pathological and X-ray departments of Dumfries and Gallo-way Royal Infirmary.

HESTAN ISLAND

From Mr C. A. R. Radford

Remains of buildings reported on Hestan Island, off Auchencairn Bay, have been examined. A small late mediaeval

structure was identified on an artificial shelf just above the landing. This is the base of a two-storied building with a hall on the first floor. The building can be identified as the hall of Edward Balliol. It stood within a palisaded enclosure, which is referred to as a *pele* in a contemporary document. There are also remains of an extensive enclosure, probably a meadow for the pasturing of horses, on the summit of the island. An account will be published in the *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*.

LANARKSHIRE

HIGH BURNSIDE, GLASGOW

From Mr A. G. Lochhead

NS/626596. A stone axehead, $6\frac{1}{4}$ by $1\frac{3}{8}$ ins. in size, with rounded bulbous body and surface pitted by weathering, has been found in his garden at High Burnside by Dr W. H. McGillivray. The axehead was lying in clay, at a depth of about 16 ins.

DRYFIELD FARM

From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph

NS/643734. From air reconnaissance this year a Roman camp was identified from crop marks on Dryfield Farm, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile SW. of Kirkintilloch and just S. of the Antonine Wall.

From Mr R. B. K. Stevenson

GREENS, NEWBIGGING, CARNWATH

NY/014469 and 012466. A tombstone of 10-11th century date has been ploughed up close to the North Medwin at Greens Farm. It is $27\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high. Carving on the front in low relief includes a central cross and meander patterns, and there are very short projecting cross arms. Another fragment of stone carved with an interlace pattern was found 200 yds. away. The site does not appear to be known as that of an old chapel or burying ground. The fragments have been presented to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

MIDLOTHIAN

CRAMOND

From Mr and Mrs A. Rae

Work has continued with the help of Moray House students on the Roman Fort. Delineation of the N. rampart gives the internal area as 4.9 acres. A stone building in the NE. corner has been proved at 180 ft. long, and the road leading to the N. gate has been found. Pottery found in the footings of the N. rampart confirms the date of first construction of the fort as 2nd century A.D. Work is proceeding.

EAST FIELD, INVERESK

NT/345704. The current excavation of the Edinburgh University Archaeological Society, under the direction of Prof. Stuart Piggott and Mr R. J. C. Atkinson, with site supervision shared by various senior members of the Society, is taking place at a site revealed by study of the 1:10,000 Air Survey of Britain and first noticed by Dr K. A. Steer, Secretary of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (Scotland). The site appears to cover a considerable area and its most prominent feature is the sinuous line of "pits" which meanders N.-S. over the entire field. Between it and the River Esk can be discerned a possible farmstead, a square building within a sub-circular enclosure; to the W. of the "pits" the crop marks of two concentric circles are also visible, the outermost being some 125 ft. in diameter. It is at present assumed that the whole complex is to be ascribed to the Iron Age but the excavations have not so far furnished any dating evidence, although a partial earth resistivity survey of the area has indicated the position of two of the "pits" which are at present (16th November 1957) being excavated. Dr Steer notes that similar lines of pits in England are believed to be Romano-British or Dark Age in date.

It is intended—as an innovation on previous practice—to continue work on the site at weekends throughout the session, weather permitting, and it is hoped that future reports will furnish information of exceptional interest and importance for the better understanding of the last phases of Scottish prehistory.

From Miss A. S. Henshall

NORTHLAND FARM, COUSLAND

NT/377681. Evidence of a number of burials was discovered when digging holes for a fence. One burial was fully excavated and found to be laid in a long cist. There were capstones about 1 ft. below the surface, and paving; the sides were of irregular stones, four on each side. The cist was 6 ft. long by a maximum of 1 ft. 9 ins. wide internally, and was orientated ENE.-WSW. There were certainly three more cists at the site, and probably a good many more.

From Dr E. A. Cormack

CORSTORPHINE, EDINBURGH

Eighteenth century maps show the Drumbrae road as a direct route between Cramond and Corstorphine. A deep trench across the road for a sewer at NT/192738, and another longitudinal trench for a gas main, have shown the old road underlying three layers of modern metalling. It is constructed of cobbles (and in

parts of large boulders) firmly bedded in clay. It is cambered, with 7-9 ins. depth of cobbles in the centre. The edges have been disturbed, but the section indicates a width of about 15 ft.

A similar trench across Broomhouse Road at NT/197717 shows an old road of the same type of construction, in alignment with Drumbrae Road, and presumably contemporary. Continuing the same line further S. there is a cambered ridge running across Kingsknowe Golfcourse and continuing as a line of scattered cobbles in a ploughed field E. of Wester Hailes Farm. These and other indications suggest a straight road from Colinton to Cramond passing between the former lochs of Gogar and Corstorphine.

ORKNEY

From Mr R. B. K. Stevenson

GROTSETTER, ST. ANDREWS

HY/493063. An almost perfectly preserved copy in wood of a bronze sword datable to about 700 B.C. was discovered in June by a crofter while peat-cutting. It had lain horizontally at a depth estimated to have been 7 or 8 ft. below the surface of the bog. The pronouncedly leaf-shaped blade, 28½ ins. long, has the sharp central ridge of the U-shouldered type of bronze swords. The grip is carved in the round, but had been broken in antiquity and the pommel lost. The size and thickness of the blade, and the complete hilt polished by handling, rule out the idea of a model for making clay moulds. The wood has been identified as yew, so that it would originally have been hard and heavy enough for use as a weapon. The sword has been acquired by the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

BROUGH OF BIRSAY

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

PERTHSHIRE

From Mrs M. E. C. Stewart

CONNACHAN FARM

O.S. 6-inch Sheet XCV N.E. On the farm of Connachan on the N. border of Monzie Wood (now cut down) two boulders lie either side of the pathway just under ¼ mile from the main Amulree-Crieff road. The southernmost stone has a set of five or six cups very much flattened by weathering; the other stone has two distinct cups, one of which is surrounded by a ring.

TULLOCHROISK FARM

O.S. 6-inch Sheet XXXVII N.E. On the N. edge of the farm steading are a number of large rock outcrops, one of which carries several well defined cup and ring markings.

HOOLE FARM

O.S. 6-inch Sheet XXXVII N.W. Perth Museum has recently acquired a collection of flints from Hoole Farm. The collection was made by Mr J. M. D. Mackenzie and comprises a variety of tools mostly in yellow flint including scrapers, graters and barbed and tanged arrowheads. The flints come from a restricted area covering two fields on Hoole Farm. The site lies across a natural route through the S. end of the Sidlaw Hills.

From Mr J. G. Scott

CRANLEY FARM, MEIKLEOUR

NO/134414. Mr D. C. Turner has lent to Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum a decorated flat bronze axehead found during potato harvesting on Cranley Farm. The axehead, of Megaw and Hardy Type 1 (cf. *PPS*, iv, 1938, 272-307), is undecorated on each face, but has lozenge designs on the sides; somewhat damaged at the butt, it is now 6½ ins. long and 4 ins. in maximum width.

ALYTH

Mr D. C. Turner has also lent to Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum an early type of bronze flanged axehead found near Alyth. The axehead is 4½ ins. long and 1¾ ins. in maximum width.

From Professor I. A. Richmond

INCHTUTHILL

Prof. I. A. Richmond and Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph continued their examination of the legionary fortress, the sphere of operations being the area between the headquarters building and the W. rampart. The *via principalis* was found to have been bordered for the entire length of its N. side by colonnaded office-like buildings whose function may now be defined as stores. At the time of dismantling some of the stocks within them were thrown out and trampled into the gutter lining the road, and this included stocks of pottery and glass. Behind these roadside buildings lay the barrack-blocks of the first cohort, ten of which were identified, with three more apparently for cavalry. The centurions' quarters were of differing size and included three which were planned as two small and one larger courtyard house. The biggest example, intended for the senior centurion or *primuspilus*, contained a stone-built hypocaust, a feature hitherto unknown in a wooden building. These arrangements are unique both in them-

selves and in their planning, and will be of the biggest interest to military historians. Small finds included an *as* of A.D.86, in virtually mint condition when lost, found in the demolition layer, much pottery and glass, and a remarkable lead steelyard weight of great size. It is hoped next year to commence examination of the corresponding area S. of the *via principalis*.

KNOCK DURROCH, MONZIE

From Mrs M. E. C. Stewart

O.S. 6-inch Sheet XCV N.E. A wooded hill, behind the village of Monzie, called Knock Durroch, is said to be the site of a "Roman Outpost." This is in fact a promontory fortification with long lines of ditches running parallel to the main axis of the hill and approached from the N. across a narrow easily defended neck of land.

GLENLOCHAY, KILLIN

From Dr E. A. Cormack

NN/456358. (Reference *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland, 1955*, p.22). Further excavation within the circular bank has exposed an oval central hearth of flat stones, 4 ft. by 3 ft., and an inner ring of timber posts is indicated by three post-holes of 3-4 ins. diameter found at widely separated points on a circumference of 9 ft. radius from the centre. This confirms that the "Old Burial Ground" marked on the O.S. 6-inch Sheet LXVII S.W. is in fact a large hut circle of 45 ft. diameter (so far undated).

(**Note:** There is a misprint in the previous report: in the third last line of para 2, "2 in." should be "2 ft.").

TOMBRECK FARM

From Mrs M. E. C. Stewart

O.S. 6-inch Sheet XXXVIII N.W. On the farm of Tombreck and about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N.E. of the farm buildings is a single standing stone. On one face is deeply incised a cross with expanded triangular ends and an elongated shaft. Traditionally the field in which it stands was the site of a chapel.

BRAES OF FOSSE

O.S. 6-inch Sheet XXXVIII N.W. This sheep farm high on the moor road between Aberfeldy and Kinloch Rannoch and lying at the foot of Schichallion still retains about it the remains of the early 18th century former "township," which arose around the original tack of land held by direct lease from the Breadalbane estates. The local tack man would collect around him workers and helpers to cope with the newly established sheep runs, and the foundations of his shepherds' cottages, the enclosures and grazings for his stock and the herd's shielings can still be traced.

EAST TEMPAR

O.S. 6-inch Sheet XXXVII N.E. The ruins of a similar settlement complete with school can be seen on the hillside behind East Tempar. These communities should be recorded before all trace of them disappears from the ground, and some research should be undertaken on their primitive social structure before all memory is obliterated.

From Mr E. A. Urquhart

CASTLE HUNTLY, LONGFORGAN

NO/392290. A survey of the policies of Castle Huntly included the investigation of an Ice House situated in the face of a steep slope 100 yds. N.E. of the Castle. A forecourt, semicircular in shape, has been excavated on the down side of the slope to a depth of 8 ft., and entry to the Ice House is by a passage 9 ft. in length. The Ice House itself is egg-shaped and built entirely with hand-made bricks, being 15 ft. in depth and 12 ft. at the bulge, tapering down to 3 ft. at the bottom, where there is the usual drain. There is about 8 ft. of soil over the top. The whole conforms to a pattern introduced to Britain in the middle of the 17th century. A detailed report is being prepared.

RENFREWSHIRE

WHITEMOSS FARM, BISHOPTON

NS/418721. The site of the Roman fort at Bishopton, recognised from air reconnaissance photographs by Dr K. A. Steer in 1949, was excavated during the seasons 1950/51 to 1953/54 by Mr F. Newall, on behalf of Glasgow Archaeological Society. During the last season finds of Neolithic potsherds showed that there had been a pre-Roman occupation of the site.

During July and August 1957 excavations to determine the nature of the Neolithic occupation of the site were directed by Professor S. Piggott, whilst Mr F. Newall assumed responsibility for excavating the Roman levels. The excavations were sponsored by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Glasgow Archaeological Society, Edinburgh University and the Hunterian Museum of Glasgow University.

From Professor S. Piggott

Over 5000 sq. ft. of the area within the Roman fort were stripped to subsoil level, and (including finds made in the earlier trial trenches) revealed eight shallow oval or circular pits, seven of which contained Neolithic potsherds. The pits formed no pattern, nor were they associated with any other structures which

could be assigned to the same period. Other finds comprised a flint leaf-shaped arrowhead and a scraper, and two chips of Arran pitchstone. The filling of the pits was in several instances of black greasy soil which contained charcoal, but there was no evidence of fires *in situ*.

The pottery belongs broadly to the group including, in Scotland, the Bantaskine (Falkirk) and Easterton of Roseisle (Morayshire) finds, and in Northern Ireland that from Lyles Hill near Belfast.

In the absence of any indication of settlement on the site, the pits are perhaps best interpreted as "ritual," in the sense of those from the more formally planned sites such as Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

From Mr F. Newall

The W. ends of the barracks and stable in the E. half of the *retentura*, and the SE. corner of the forecourt of the *principia* with the associated stretch of E. wing corridor, were further investigated.

BARRACKS. Here at the shallowest part of the site where layers are most compacted was the apparent evidence of two constructional phases: (a) a building outlined by "sleeper" trenches; (b) a building outlined by post-holes with the freestone packing *in situ* and undisturbed, and closely following the earlier plan. Earlier excavations have shown, however, that as the topsoil deepens towards the E., the packing rises above the subsoil cut post-holes, is much disturbed and over the greater length of the building completely dislocated; that at the officers' block the post-holes give place to a heavy clay sill which overlies the "sleeper" trenches, and is in turn overlaid by a hearth containing Roman pottery; that towards the E. in some cases final occupation debris descends into unpacked sockets, in others sockets for posts appear to have been recut.

STABLE. On this site in rather deeper soil, post-holes packed with lumps of igneous rock, much disturbed, ignore the plan afforded by "sleeper" trenches, but outline a building shorter and wider than the "sleeper" plan. Where post-holes do follow the outer "sleeper" of a corridor along the S. side of the building, ignoring the inner "sleeper," they are not truly aligned, but cut through the "sleeper," breaking its outer edge; whilst others are cut in undisturbed ground between lengths of "sleeper" trench. Internal division "sleepers" and the inner "sleeper" of the corridor are cut through by pits, silted at bottom, which can be related to the post-holes but by no stretch of imagination to the "sleepers." Post-holes and "sleepers" alike are overlaid by a continuous stretch of cobbling associated with built stone platforms containing much freestone and comparable to the piers which fronted the cross hall of the *principia* in the final period.

PRINCIPIA. The *principia* faced N. The final period foundations of the E. wing walls were clay sills, the inner closely following the line of an underlying "sleeper" trench, the outer out of alignment with the corresponding "sleeper." Earlier excavations had shown that the outer ceased at its junction with the cross hall, being replaced by a line of post-holes to the S. It was proved that the inner had behaved in like manner, ending in a massive post-hole. An interesting feature was a minor clay sill which ran into the courtyard from the inner wing sill, parallel to the cross hall and some 11 ft. from it. This minor sill passed in turn over a small annular pit, and a lower clay sill or bench which had formed the W. limit of a little recess or room built in the SE. corner of the court to contain the pit. Its E. wall was represented by a line of post-holes beneath the later inner wing sill, and cutting through the earlier "sleeper." These did not continue N. beyond the limits of the recess. The most southerly post-hole lying only 2 ft. from the massive cross hall socket lay fully 8 ins. deeper. The secondary post-holes of the outer wing wall also ceased in line with the N. end of the recess. To the N. the "sleeper" had been packed solidly with clay over 1 in. of dark silted earth. In this clay a narrower shallower slot at higher level continued the line of post-holes. The inner "sleeper" was filled beyond the recess with mixed earth and sealed with yellow clay. There was no evidence of re-use or that it had ever contained posts.

The intermediate pit, cut to a depth of 1 ft. in dark clay make-up, was annular, 3 ft. in diameter and 10 ins. wide, leaving an uncut boss at centre. It was filled with pure river sand and could only have been used for ritual purposes. Over it, but relating to the same period, was a thin spread of clay which supported the burnt criss-cross flat timbers of a fire. On top were some rib bones of a small sheep or similar animal. A few feet to the S. within the recess were the remains of another fire containing fewer and indeterminate bone fragments.

From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph

PAISLEY

NS/505632. During air reconnaissance this year crop marks perhaps representing a native settlement were observed $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles SE. of Paisley.

From Messrs F. Newall and D. McKinnon

BLACKETTY WATER HEADSTREAMS

NS/307667. A hut circle 15 ft. in diameter within 4-5 ft. wide walls exists here, with a 10 ft. wide D-shaped chamber attached on the N.; it is entered from the SE.

NS/307668. A hut circle, 18 ft. in diameter within 4-5 ft. wide walls, with a subrectangular chamber 12 ft. wide attached on the N. and entered from the E. occupies a low knoll round which a hollow way bifurcates.

Both these huts have internal divisions and are closely analogous to units of the Burnbank Water group. (*Discovery and Excavation, Scotland, 1955, p.25*).

NS/306668. A simple hut circle 20 ft. in diameter within 4-6 ft. wide walls, with a contiguous circle 13 ft. in diameter on the E., exists here.

NS/301675. On the S. bank of the main Blacketty stream, Mr W. O. Black located a curious subrectangular structure measuring roughly 19-20 ft. square, with internal chambers 10 ft. by 5 ft. and 8 ft. by 5 ft.

MILL BURN

NS/315658. A turf and stone circle, 33 ft. in diameter within a 6 ft. wide mound, exists here. Opposite, on the N. bank, a subrectangular chamber 17 ft. internally by a remaining 9-11 ft. has partly fallen into the stream.

MILL BURN—COPLIE BURN DIVIDE

NS/312658. Two subrectangular chambers, 24 ft. apart, are aligned N.-S. with entrances in the narrow N. ends. One to the E. is 13 ft. N.-S. by 7 ft. E.-W. within 4 ft. wide walls. That to the W. measures 14 ft. 8 ins. by 9 ft. internally. There lie 177 ft. due S. of these the foundations of a building 33 ft. E.-W. by 19 ft. N.-S., with an internal cross wall 10 ft. 6 ins. from the W. end; 92 ft. further S. is a much disturbed foundation, of which only one square corner can be probed with certainty.

COPLIE BURN

NS/309655. On the S. bank of the burn is a hut circle, 13 ft. in diameter within 5 ft. wide walls. The rear wall is recessed, opposite an entrance on the E. only 19 ins. wide. On the opposite bank, about 100 ft. from the burn, is a small cairn.

NS/315656. North of the burn is a square built "dun" with rounded corners. Gaps occur at the NE. and SE. corners and the outer N. and S. walls are much disturbed due to the building of field dykes and shooting butts. A possible bridge joins inner to outer wall on the W., but there are no clear traces of cells. There are traces of an attached enclosure on the S., between the "dun" and the Coplie Burn: 100 yds. to the N. is a long alignment of boulders running E.-W., while on the W. the line of the outer N. wall is continued upstream for about 100 yds. by a slighter earth and boulder dyke.

SMEATH HILL

NS/315661. On the S. shoulder of Smeath Hill is a comparable, but circular "dun," with an entrance on the SE. Opposite this entrance the inner and outer walls are bridged; N. of this axis are two and probably three cells between the walls. The outer wall is 8-11 ft. thick, the inner 4 ft. The cells are 7 ft. wide, and the inter-wall corridor on the S. 9 ft. The central area is 27 ft. in diameter. Some 40 yds. to the NW. is a curious L-shaped chamber, outlined by a setting of large boulders.

PENYTERSAL

NS/342712. Mr W. O. Black has located in a small wood three closely adjacent low stony mounds, the largest 30 ft. in diameter, the other two 24 ft. One has exposed along the E. side a well laid arc of boulders, similar to the peristalith of the East Green Cairn (*Discovery and Excavation, Scotland, 1956, p.22*). These lie about 500 yds. E. of the well known Penytersal Motte (NS/337712).

From Messrs F. Newall and R. C. Scott

GRYFE RESERVOIR

NS/269722. A small stone-walled enclosure, 35 ft. N.-S. by remaining 23 ft. 6 ins. E.-W., exists here. The N. arc of an inner construction, circular in part at least, is distinguishable.

ROTTEN BURN, MAIN TRIBUTARY

NS/253687. A small two-roomed hut, 21 ft. E.-W. by 13 ft. N.-S., exists here. A 3 ft. wide cross wall divides the structure into a 5 ft. E. chamber and an 8 ft. W. chamber. This lies several hundred yds. E. of the Rotten Burn Motte, with square top and approach spiralling upwards round the W. side, discovered by Mr W. O. Black in 1952 (NS/252686).

CREUCH HILL

NS/266683. On the S. spur, detached from the hill proper by a wide depression, is a massive tumble of basalt boulders, many roughly squared. The original is obscured by successive sheep fanks, but the outer edge of a circular structure, 60 ft. in diameter, may be traced. The tumble is more suggestive of a stone "fort" than of a cairn.

NS/269702. A turf circle, 14 ft. in diameter, without trace of stone, exists here.

GOTTER BURN

NS/323644. A circular house, 23 ft. in diameter within a stone wall 7 ft. wide and showing obvious marks of rebuilding, is contained within an encircling earth and boulder mound, 93 ft. E.-W. by 79 ft. N.-S. Sheep fanks obscure the N. arc, and if, as seems possible, their N. sides obscure an earlier feature, it is possible that the surrounding mound formed a perfect circle 93 ft. in diameter. This yard has been subsequently divided by a cross wall. This may be the "Big Ring," traditional site of conventicles held under Renwick, among others, on Duchal Moor.

NS/323644. A hut circle 23 ft. in diameter within a 4 ft. wide mound exists here; 41 ft. downstream is a similar hut, 18 ft. 6 ins. in diameter within 5 ft. wide walls, and with a semicircular chamber of 6 ft. maximum width attached on the NW.; 27 ft. downstream again are the remains of rectangular foundations, 30 ft. E.-W. by at least 14 ft. N.-S. A parallel internal division runs the length of the building 8 ft. from the S. wall.

NS/321643. An almost circular, but subrectangular house, 27 ft. by 31 ft. within 5 ft. wide walls, lies here, entered on the E. and apparently from the NE. where it faces on to a yard roughly 184 ft. N.-S. by 178 ft. E.-W., outlined by a rather sinuous scatter of boulders. About 200 ft. to the SW. is a similar hut, 29 ft. 6 ins. by 28 ft., while 30 ft. NW. of the latter is a third, 22 ft. square with rounded corners. All the Gotter Burn huts are entered from the E. or SE.

NS/330646. A cairn, 30 ft. in diameter, with large peristalith boulders protruding, exists here.

NS/316654. A boulder-walled circle, 33 ft. 6 ins. in diameter, with a setting of three large boulders at its centre and a wide disturbed entrance on the E., lies here.

NS/333644. Here Mr W. O. Black located a boulder-ringed circle, 32 ft. in diameter, with heavier boulders marking a 5 ft. wide entrance on the E. The W. half is devoid of boulders, but is traceable as a low mound from which the boulders have, perhaps, been removed.

NS/247732. A low spreading earth mound, 9 ft. 6 ins. wide, outlines a circle 63 ft. in diameter.

NS/266747. A turf and stone circle here, 42 ft. in diameter, has a 5 ft. wide entrance on the E.

LURG MOOR

NS/296733. Mr R. C. Scott has located a much disturbed hut, revealed by heather burning, close to that reported by Mr W. O. Black in 1955 (*Discovery and Excavation, Scotland, 1955*).

GREEN WATER, HILLSIDE FARM

NS/303697. A rough circle of boulders, which must weigh up to 2 tons, encloses a space 11 ft. in diameter, filled with smaller stones and made up earth.

NS/301696. The broad hill road from Dippany continues beyond the point shown on the maps to this point, where a heavy flagged ford 12-15 ft. wide carries it across a stream bed. At NS/295695, beneath the apparent 12 ft. wide hill track, an 18 ft. wide track is cut by a stream, which reveals an 8 ins. thick substratum of heavy cobbles, beneath a 4-5 ins. top dressing of small metal. In its course the road is partly dug out for the construction of, and partly overlaid by the early, possibly pre 18th century, land boundary of earth and stone. Mr Cameron of Hillside states that he pays yearly to the owner of Dippany, which now straddles the road, a wether to maintain the right of way. The road is perhaps mediaeval but may be Roman. Ditched on each side and with slight camber surviving in places, it corresponds with the heavily built track which runs E. from Dowries towards Hillside.

NS/293696. A circular house 31 ft. in diameter, within 5 ft. wide walls, exists here; 4-5 ft. gaps occur in both E. and W. sides. A smaller oval enclosure 18 by 12 ft. is attached on the SW. This was pointed out by Mr Cameron in what is called the Peat Field. He indicated that other ruins lay in the vicinity.

NS/292695. Two circles, one 10 ft. in diameter within 4 ft. wide walls, the other much disturbed and probably 18 ft. in diameter, are joined by a line of tumbled walling.

NS/292695. A heavy boulder-walled circle, now completely overgrown in a recent plantation of young firs, is 29 ft. 6 ins. in diameter within 5 ft. wide walls, with a 4 ft. wide entrance on the E.

NS/292694. Just S. of the plantation is a possible homestead. A 29 ft. diameter circle, within 6 ft. wide walls, contains a rough tumble which may be the remains of an inner circle, though from some aspects a squarish structure in one quadrant is possible. There are the vestiges of an outer wall 24 ft. out on the N. and NW. At the NE. a tumble suggests a rectangular structure 10 by 12 ft. attached to the outer side of the wall.

DEVOL MOOR

NS/327726. Mr W. O. Black has located a heather-covered double circle, the outer ring 72 ft. in diameter, the inner 30 ft. in diameter, the wall spread in each case being about 10 ft. wide. Later boundaries disturb the site and entrances could not be certainly located.

From Mrs A. Hallifax Crawford

MOYNE MOOR

NS/470528. An almost completely denuded cairn, 81 ft. N.-S. by 66 ft. E.-W. lies on Moyne Moor. The centre is so disturbed that the remains rather suggest an earthwork with flat internal divisions at different levels, surrounded by a heavy earth and stone bank.

NS/469532. A possible further cairn of heavy boulders lies here near Moyne Farm.

ROSS AND CROMARTY

From Dr and Mrs A. A. Woodham

KILCOY WEST

NH/569516. Work on the chamber of this cairn was completed this summer and revealed an innermost fourth compartment approximately 5½ ft. square, joined to the NNW. corner of the third compartment by a short passage 3 ft. long and 2½ ft. wide. Between the transverse slabs forming the entrance to this compartment was a curious double sill formed of two slabs placed on top of one another and obviously carefully chosen to fit the space exactly. The axis of this inner compartment and passage lay at an angle of 15° to the axis of the outer three compartments, described in *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland, 1956*.

The inner compartment seems never to have been used, for it yielded no bone, pottery or charcoal patches similar to those found in compartments two and three, and it was silted up nearly to the tops of the side slabs. The passage also was silted to a considerable depth, and sherds of a further beaker exhibiting unusual decoration were found high up in this silt just outside the entrance to the inner compartment.

Weather conditions prevented any work on the forecourt, and it is hoped to proceed with this in the early summer of 1958.

ROXBURGHSHIRE

From Mr L. Lawson

LINTON TOWER

NT/773262. On the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (Scotland), Kelso Antiquarian Society carried out excavations at the site of the Old Tower of Linton. This old stronghold, owned by the Somerville family from the 12th century till its destruction in 1523 by the Earl of Surrey, stood on a mound immediately below and to the S. of the parish church.

The object of the excavation, of which Mr J. McClory was in charge, was to determine the position of the Old Tower, as there is no visible indication of its exact whereabouts, though the outer perimeter wall can be clearly followed as a low grassy mound on the S. and part of the E. and W. sides.

On removing the turf on the E. side of the centre crater, a dressed corner stone was uncovered, and further excavation revealed two phases of the building. The earliest phase had walls 3 ft. 3 ins. thick composed of random rubble with dressed inband and outband corner stones, the whole built with lime mortar, and having a splayed recess. The recess appeared to be a fireplace, as there were signs of burning on the stone hearth. The recess had a lining of hand-made bricks which also showed traces of fire.

The walls in the second phase were only 25 ins. thick and butted on to the dressed stone corner, clearly indicating that it had been built at a later date. A doorway 3 ft. wide was uncovered in this wall, having dressed stone rybates, chamfered on the outside and rebated to take the door on the inside. On the right hand side of the doorway was an iron door crook in good preservation, firmly bedded in with lead.

The finds comprised a large quantity of very fine glass, pieces of lead glazing and green glazed pottery (all similar to that exhibited at Tantallon Castle). There were in addition wrought iron nails with large heads, indicating a studded door, and part of a band hinge.

The conclusion of the excavators is that the walls are too thin to be those of the original tower, though the workmanship and finds point to a building of some importance, possibly an ecclesiastical building attached to the Tower, as the foundations compare favourably with those of the Old Church near North Berwick Harbour.

SELKIRKSHIRE

From Mr P. Fenton

HOWDEN MOTE

NT/458268. The Selkirkshire Antiquarian Society appreciates the permission obtained from Mrs Rodgers of the Haining estate and from Mr Grieve of Howden Farm to make a few trial excavation sections at Howden Mote this year.

A number of post-holes was laid bare along the rim of the mound, proving that the mote at one time had a wooden palisade. During the excavation of these post-holes a sherd of mediaeval pottery was found and also a large square-sectioned wrought iron spike, "badly corroded," which is thought to have been used for fastening the large timbers together.

A section of stone floor was also found which had been made by laying a level of large stones over a rubble foundation.

From the size and alignment of the mote, it was considered that it very closely corresponds with the description recorded in Craig Brown's *History of Selkirkshire* of the Fortress of Selkirk ordered to be constructed by Edward I in 1302.

SHETLAND

From Mr J. Stewart

HJOKLA (O.S. "HOCKLAND"), SANDSTING

HU/302515. About 100 yds. below the house at Hjokla, and open to the N., is a crescentic grassy mound, like a burnt mound. The nearest water, now drained, is 30 yds. away. The site of a cairn lies 100 yds. to the W.; there is a "doorway" of two stones and a good deal of scatter to be seen.

STANDING STONES, SOTERSTA

HU/262445. Inventory No. 1406. Besides the stone mentioned in the Inventory there are two others, the three being roughly parallel to the shore. One is 60 yds. from the stone given in the Inventory, and, like it, about 80 yds. distant from a ruined croft. A third is 100 yds. from the Inventory stone, about 100 ft. from the "hill-dyke" separating these abandoned crofts from the common, and midway between the sea and the Loch of Sotersta.

VEVOE, WHALSAY

HU/583666. See Inventory No. 1335 and *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland, 1955*. Two sites here, 50 yds. from one another, were slightly examined with the spade. The Inventory site yielded some two dozen rude stone implements and the usual ash; 8 ft. of internal walling was exposed, but digging was not carried deep enough for pottery. The second site was not sufficiently exposed, but may have been outhouses. The whole is a typical early croft, surrounded by a semicircular wall terminating at the shore, and enclosing an acre or two, with its cist grave on the hill close by.

VATSVORD, TRAEWICK, WHALSAY

HU/571634. This site is a small oval house built in a hill hollow, with an almost square outhouse about 8 ft. across at a lower level. From the open nature of the stonework it seems safe to assume that turf had also been used in the construction. A central fire was found in the oval dwelling, and also three quartz

implements which are now in the National Museum of Antiquities. Some grass-tempered pottery sherds found near the lower building resemble late Iron Age pottery. The site is much dilapidated and no extensive investigation was made, but none of the usual rude stone implements, which are presumably agricultural, was in evidence, nor was there anything which could be interpreted as an enclosure.

CLICKHIMIN BROCH

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report.

From Professor A. C. O'Dell

ST. NINIAN'S ISLE

HU/367207. During three-week periods from mid-June to July in the years 1955, 1956 and 1957 excavations have been made at the site of a chapel which was deliberately destroyed ca. 1750. This season's work has now completed excavation of the mediaeval chancel and nave on the inside of the walls and along the N. wall and revealed massive lower walls with a doorway at the W. end. In this clearance was found an inscribed cross, (?) 11th century, (now re-erected in the local church). To the N. and outside of the doorway was found a massive keel-shaped grave slab.

A trial pit was sunk towards the E. of the nave and this has revealed cist burials (under peat) about 4 ft. below the foundation-level of the mediaeval chapel. The cists contained fragments of pots and calcined bone. The whole of the site above the thin peat layer has a most confused stratigraphy due to extensive damage done in the many post-Reformation burials on the site. Below the foundation-level, in the confusion of rubble and burials, was found a polished fragment of *porfido verde antico*, identified by the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), which is not a British rock and was used as a decorative material in ancient Rome from quarries in Greece and Egypt.

Immediately S. of the chancel were found, within a small drystone wall, sandstone posts with deep grooves on two and three faces. These posts were in secondary positions as they did not line up and there was no trace of connecting panel slabs. Some of the post faces have bas-relief Pictish symbols and ornaments including hippocamps and cup-mark spirals. On the tops of the posts are also much eroded carvings.

It is not proposed to publish a detailed report until the relationships between the cist zone and a stone structure, which may be remains of a pre-mediaeval chapel, have been closely examined by further excavation in 1958.

STIRLINGSHIRE

From Mr and Mrs J. G. Scott

CRAIGMORE COTTAGE, BLANEFIELD

NS/529799. In the front garden of Craigmere Cottage, Blaneield, is a standing stone of local lava, 3 ft. 2 ins. high, which was noted by the occupier, Mrs Ross, when clearing thick scrub. Nearby is a similar stone, now prostrate. The standing stone does not seem to be a garden feature, either in position or in appearance, and it seems possible that it may be prehistoric.

ROUGH CASTLE, DRUM AND GARGUNNOCK

See below, Report of Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Scotland).

WEST LOTHIAN

From Dr E. A. Cormack

MOUNTHOOLY

NT/062762. A trial trench across the overgrown track running through the plantation of Ladywood on the Hopeton estates 2 miles NW. of Winchburgh has exposed a well built causeway of small boulders and cobbles, with gravel impacted in the crevices. The causeway is 11 ft. wide, with distinct kerbs and deep wheel ruts, and on the N. edge overlies an earlier narrower causeway, pot-holed and patched, which extends the metallated surface for a further 3 ft. on the N. The road runs E.-W., and is unrelated to any existing road; but it is in a direct line with Craigs Road rising from Turnhouse towards Corstorphine hill, which was the old highway into Edinburgh from the W.

NT/066762. About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile further E. the road curves sharply S., crossing a small stream between the plantation and the pasture land rising towards Mounthooly. The causeway on the N. bank ends in a steep buttress of boulders, 14 ft. wide at the base, set in a yellow clay embankment. On the S. bank of the stream, which is not so high, a vertical section shows the road to be of different construction. An embankment of mixed clay and shale, 2 ft. deep in the centre and tapering laterally to a total width of 50 ft., has a distinct camber about 20 ft. wide, with a slight central causeway of cobbles 5 ft. wide. At the top of the sloping field there are indications that the road again turns to an E. alignment.

Certain features of the construction of these sections of road suggest a Roman origin.

From Miss A. S. Henshall

LINLITHGOW BRIDGE

NT/986775. Mr A. W. Brown reports that a long cist lying E.-W. was found in digging a drainage trench of the housing scheme. A number of burials has been found near here at various times (see *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland, 1956*).

WIGTOWNSHIRE

From Dr J. K. S. St. Joseph

CULGRANGE

NX/084567. From air reconnaissance this year a native settlement was identified from crop marks near Culgrange.

WHITHORN PRIORY

See below, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Report, under *Monuments in Guardianship*.

Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments

*From Mr S. Cruden, Inspector of
Ancient Monuments for Scotland*

BEECHES ROAD, DUNTOCHER, DUNBARTONSHIRE

In April 1957 the Ministry of Works sponsored an excavation by Miss A. S. Robertson. Trenches were cut across a plot of waste ground to the N. of Beeches Road, Duntocher, to determine the line of the Antonine Wall and Ditch. This had been sought in vain, in 1955, in a field further W. where house-building was shortly to begin.

This second attempt was successful in discovering the Antonine Ditch. The line of the Antonine Wall must lie under Beeches Road, or under the houses to the S. of it.

It is now clear that the line of the Antonine Wall and Ditch must have been substantially that given for it on the older O.S. maps (for example, the map reproduced in *PSAS*, xlix, 1914-5, 114), and not that given for it on the more recent maps (for example Dunbartonshire, O.S. 6-inch Sheet xxxiii N.W., 1914, with additions to 1938). The row of beech trees standing in a hollow to the S. of Beeches Road, and to the W. of the scene of the 1957 trenching, may well therefore represent the line of the Ditch. Its line to the E. of the trenching is, however, uncertain.

BAR HILL, TWECHAR, DUNBARTONSHIRE

Sponsored by the Ministry of Works, the Rev. C. H. H. Scobie verified the line of the Antonine Wall base, by probing and trenching, on the E. slope of Bar Hill, and marked the line out with two rows of pegs. This is in Forestry Commission property, and it is hoped that the Commission's planting programme will be arranged to avoid damaging the stone base of the Wall.

ROUGH CASTLE, STIRLINGSHIRE

As a prelude to the consolidation and display of this Ancient Monument, the first season's re-excavation of the W. rampart and adjacent interior buildings was undertaken by the Ministry in collaboration with the Royal Commission and with the assistance of the Scottish Field School of Archaeology. This combined operation was of profit to all concerned, in different ways. It is hoped to continue thus next year.

NORTH UIST EXCAVATIONS

An emergency excavation by the Ministry of Works, of a wheel house site, continuing last year's programme in advance of the construction of the guided weapons range, was supervised by Mr R. J. C. Atkinson, who will address the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland on it this session.

CLICKHIMIN BROCH, SHETLAND

A fourth and smaller excavation of the secondary buildings outside the Broch has been completed and brings this work to a close. Layout and consolidation are well advanced. A full report by Mr J. R. C. Hamilton will be published.

BROUGH OF BIRSAY, ORKNEY

A further season of investigation was again supervised by Mr C. A. R. Radford, whose report is given below. This work will continue next year. Mr Radford writes: "The excavation of the Early Christian site on the tidal islet has been continued by the Ministry of Works. Further areas in the Palace of Earl Thorfinn (ob. 1065) have been explored, including a room with a wide stone-revetted bench on one side. One wall of the Palace was found to incorporate the end of an earlier building running N. and S. This has not yet been fully uncovered and part of it has been eroded by the sea; the scale and layout of the part explored suggest a great hall, perhaps the Palace of the earlier Earls of Orkney. Below this hall are the remains of an older farmhouse of the same type as those found on the slope above the church."

MONUMENTS IN GUARDIANSHIP

Major work, mostly consolidation, is in progress at the following monuments: Seton Collegiate Church; Craignillar, Aberdour, Rothesay, Kildrummy, Caerlaverock and Muness Castles, at Elgin Cathedral and Whithorn Priory. At the last named, at the time of writing, a mediæval burial has just been reported and is being examined. It lies in the E. end, and has yielded a chalice and patten, crosier, finger-ring, buckles and fragments of vestment. It will be published.

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Scotland)

From Dr K. A. Steer, Secretary

This year the Commission has practically completed field work in Stirlingshire and has made substantial progress with the inventory survey of forts and earthworks in Peebleshire. The emergency survey of marginal land has continued in Perthshire, Angus, Kincardineshire, Aberdeenshire, Ross and Cromarty, Moray, Nairn and Banffshire.

The Inventory of Selkirkshire was published in October 1957 (price £3 7s 6d).

Details of excavations carried out by the Commission's staff are given below.

CRAIGHILL, ANGUS

NO/432358. With the assistance of Mr David Taylor and a party of boys from the Harris Academy, the Commission exposed the foundations of a broch which had been discovered in 1956, in the course of the marginal land survey, at Craighill, 3 miles NE. of Dundee. The broch, which stands at the W. end of a large Early Iron Age fort (itself a new discovery) measures 65 ft. in external diameter and has a wall 15 ft. in thickness. The entrance is on the E. and on this side there is an outwork consisting of a wall and ditch. A few yards in front of the entrance there is a cup-marked stone.

ROUGH CASTLE, STIRLINGSHIRE

NS/838798. At the same time that Rough Castle Roman fort was being re-examined by the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate, the Commission excavated the "expansion," or platform, that projects from the S. face of the Rampart of the Antonine Wall half-way between Rough Castle and Bonny-side House (*Macdonald, Roman Wall in Scotland*, p.130 and pl. lix. 1).

This proved to be of turf with a base 17 ft. square and sloping back and sides: the front was bonded into the Antonine Wall Rampart, and the bottom rested on a stone foundation and completely sealed one of a group of quarry-pits which had been dug to provide gravel for the adjacent Military Way. Evidence of burning round the base supports Macdonald's conjecture that these "expansions" were permanent stances for beacons used in long-range signalling.

From Mr R. W. Feachem

DRUM, STIRLINGSHIRE

NS/636954. The promontory known as the Keir Knowe of Drum was excavated in June. It was found that the site had been adapted as a motte, the surface being surrounded by a double stockade and supporting a wooden tower 15 ft. square built on a foundation of nine main posts.

From Mr A. MacLaren

GARGUNNOCK, STIRLINGSHIRE

NS/706943. Excavation of the site known as the Keir Hill revealed an oval-shaped Iron Age dwelling, consisting of a central hearth surrounded by eleven post-holes and an outer stone wall measuring 40 ft. by 30 ft. overall and dating from the 1st century A.D.

The Scottish National Buildings Record Ministry of Works

From Mr A. G. Chamberlain, Officer in Charge

We begin this year's report with a renewal of the appeal made two years ago by the Record for material and information relative to Scottish Architecture. Official sources are helpful but limited in their scope, even in the field of demolitions, and we must rely to a great extent on the goodwill and interest of like-minded readers of this report. A word even at second hand may lead us to an important collection of drawings or enable us to make a survey of a building before it disappears.

One of our principal aims is to co-ordinate architectural knowledge and to build up as complete an overall picture of Scottish Architects and Architecture of all periods as is possible.

Material of all kinds: newspaper cuttings, photographs, architectural drawings, etc., will be most welcome and used to the greatest advantage. We can also have material photographically copied if it is not wished to deposit it with the Record and the sources of all our items are acknowledged in the general index.

GENERAL WORK

The general progress of the photographic record has been satisfactory during the year. Several towns in the north were visited and photographed, among them Inverness, Banff, Fochabers and Cromarty. The opportunity is taken to visit local architects and other persons interested in the architecture and towns of Scotland.

A certain amount of material was provided for the Historic Buildings Council. Urgent recording of actual and intended demolitions was done.

Many additions were made to the Library, which gives a comprehensive picture of Scottish Architecture and place histories. Books of all types are included from Edwardian souvenir picture albums to the standard works of reference.

RECORDING

The following are among the most important buildings in a ruinous state which were recorded during the year:—

CRAIGHALL: CERES, FIFE.

(Royal Commission Inventory no.99). To be demolished. Early 17th century Renaissance screen wall, c.1697, attributed to Sir William Bruce.

S.N.B.R. measured and photographic survey.

DUNBOG HOUSE: DUNBOG, FIFE.

Gutted shell.

Late 16th century. Three carved armorial panels in walls.

S.N.B.R. photographic survey.

AUCHTYFARDLE HOUSE: LANARKSHIRE.

Demolished 1957.

Additions by David Bryce, c.1864, to older house.

Demolished before survey could be made.

Photographs donated to S.N.B.R. by Miss Lauder, the previous owner.

ROSSIE CASTLE: ANGUS.

Being gradually demolished.

Castellated style, c.1805, by Robert Crichton.

S.N.B.R. photographic survey.

We are pleased to hear of the recent formation of the Inveresk Preservation Society to preserve the character of the village and its architecture.

A Scottish Bibliography for 1957

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

The following abbreviations are used :—

<i>AHR</i>	Agricultural History Review
<i>BNJ</i>	British Numismatic Journal
<i>JRAI</i>	Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute
<i>JRS</i>	Journal of Roman Studies
<i>JRSAI</i>	Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland
<i>PSAS</i>	Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
<i>TCWAAS</i>	Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society
<i>TDGAS</i>	Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History Antiquarian Society
<i>THAS</i>	Transactions of the Hawick Archaeological Society

GENERAL

Roy. Comm. Anc. Mon.	Selkirkshire Inventory (with list of newly discovered sites in other counties; also reprint of Introduction to Roxburghshire Inventory)	HMSO (1957), 57/6d
Council for Brit. Arch.	Archaeological Bibliography for Great Britain and Ireland: 1955	9/6d
John Stewart	The Archaeology of Shetland	<i>Shetland Times</i> (1957), 2/6d
J. D. Mackie	National Book League Readers' Guides: Scottish History	3/-
A. S. Henshall and others	Early Textiles in Scotland to A.D.1700 (reprint of 3 papers for <i>PSAS</i>)	NMAS, 6/-
C. A. R. Radford	Excavations at Whithorn, Fiscal Report (Also at St. Ninian's Cave, and Isle of Whithorn; and notes on the Early Christian inscriptions)	<i>TDGAS</i> (1955-6)
A. Cameron	St. Finians Isle	Author, Ardgour, 2/6d
A. S. Robertson	The Scottish Field School of Archaeology	<i>TDGAS</i> (1955-6)
S. F. Sanderson	The Work of the School of Scottish Studies	<i>Scottish Studies</i> , 1 (1957), O. & B., 20/-
H. M. Findlay	Oats. (Chapters on the early history—not up-to-date—drying, milling)	Abd. U.P. (1956), 21/-
F. G. Payne	The British Plough: Some Stages in its Development	<i>AHR</i> , V (1957)
J. W. Franks	Pollen-analysis: a technique for investigating early agricultural history, applied esp. to Lake District	<i>AHR</i> , V (1957)
S. E. Durno	Pollen Analysis of Peat Deposits in Scotland	<i>Scott. Geogr. Mag.</i> (Dec. 1956)
F. Rainsford Hannay	Dry Stone Walling	Faber & Faber (1957), 21/-
PRE-ROMAN		
G. Bibby	Testimony of the Spade	Collins (1957), 30/-
W. Kirk	The Primary Agricultural Colonisation of Scotland	<i>Scott. Geogr. Mag.</i> (1957)
V. G. Child	Maes Howe	<i>PSAS</i> (1954-6)

- S. Piggott Excavations in Passage Graves and Ring Cairns of the Clava Group, 1952-3 *PSAS* (1954-6)
- A. S. Henshall and M. E. C. Stewart Excavations at Clach na Tiompan, Wester Glen Almond, Perthshire *PSAS* (1954-6)
- A. A. Woodham Survey of Prehistoric Monuments in the Black Isle *PSAS* (1954-6)
- W. Kirk and J. McKenzie Three B.A. Cist Burials in NE. Scotland *PSAS* (1954-6)
- R. B. K. Stevenson Beaker from Knockando, Morayshire *PSAS* (1954-6)
- H. W. M. Hodges Palstave adzes *Oxoniensia*, XX (1955)
- J. G. Scott Gold Ornaments of the Bronze Age *Scottish Art Review*, VI, pt. 3

ROMAN AND POST-ROMAN

- A. S. Robertson An Antonine Fort: Golden Hill, Duntocher Oliver & Boyd (1957), 15/-
- I. A. Richmond Roman Britain and Roman Military Antiquities *Proc. British Academy*, XLI (1956); offprint O.U.P., 4/-
- I. A. Richmond and J. K. S. St. Joseph The Roman Fort at Dalswinton *TDGAS* (1955-6)
- Roman Britain in 1956 *JRS*, XLVII
- Glasgow Archaeological Society Centenary Week, 1957 Report G.A.S. (1956-7)
- J. P. Gillam Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain *Arch. Jcl.* (1957)
- E. Munksgaard Late-Antique Scrap Silver found in Denmark *Acta Archaeologica*, XXVI. (1955)
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