

IV.

NOTES ON THE LAKE-DWELLINGS OF WIGTOWNSHIRE. By THE REV. GEORGE WILSON, GLENLUCE, CORRESPONDING MEMBER. No. II.

1. *Barlockhart Loch*, in the parish of Old Luce. This small lake lies three-quarters of a mile south-east of Glenluce village, to the west of the old road to Wigtown, five furlongs from the sea, and about 160 feet above its level. It was formerly about 800 feet long and 580 feet wide; but about thirty years ago it was reduced by drainage to 580 by 400 feet. The part laid dry is peat moss. Except on the east the water is fringed with reeds and water-lilies, both white and golden. There are perch, trout, and sea-trout. Near the west end is a crannog 60 by 50 feet, the greater axis lying north-east and south-west. At its south-eastern part, next the deep water, near the end of the shorter axis, is a curved row of oak stakes. I have noticed seven in a space of 22 feet, and outside of the fifth is another 7 inches in diameter. Among the willow bushes on the crannog lie a number of large stones, and others have been removed by anglers and laid as stepping-stones among the water-lily roots outside of the stakes. On the south shore I found among the peat a piece of oak 10 feet long, 9 inches broad, and 4 inches thick, with one side dressed flat with an axe, the marks being quite distinct and not those of a stone axe. West of the crannog a ditch is cut to the end of a hedge-row, in which an ash tree marks the former end of the hedge at the old shore line. About 18 feet south of this tree a causeway or platform of large stones on the surface of the peat ran eastward from the shore for about 240 feet, stopping 83 feet from the crannog, the gap being still a shaking bog even in dry weather. When the loch was partially drained, the present farmer's father cleared away about 80 feet of the causeway to make way for the plough, laying the stones beside the hedge. One granite boulder remains *in situ*. Early in 1873 the farmer cleared away the stones for about 80 feet more. Next the shore I found the causeway 9 feet broad; next the crannog it is $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the stones are fewer there. About 140 feet from the old margin, where the causeway bent a little eastward, I found a very distinct circle, 11 feet in diameter, of large stones. 20

feet farther along was another circle with a large flagstone about 4 by 3 feet, and a large granite boulder split and laid with the flat sides upward, forming a floor. I think these circles mark where two dwellings have stood. Just beyond the second circle, in 1872, a labourer cut a drain 40 inches deep across the causeway, and raised three oak stakes pointed with an axe and hardened by fire, and in the bottom an oak beam about 40 inches long, 8 inches broad, and 4 inches thick, dressed flat by an axe, laid with the round side undermost on stones, packed at the sides with small stones, and having a hole sunk in the round side which the point of one of the stakes fitted. The labourer thought the stakes had been driven to keep the kerb stones of the causeway in position. The farmer buried some of the large stones at this place, but observed no timber. Lord Rosehill, who visited the place with me, thought it like the platform work of the Swiss lake-dwellings. He found a ridge-shaped greywacke stone which bears marks of having been used for polishing. A part has been broken off and lost. The remainder, in two pieces, is 7 inches long; one of the sloped surfaces is quite smooth, the other has a slight hollow $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, apparently worn by rubbing some small tool. In a former paper I described a gravel causeway leading under water to a crannog, and I have observed several other examples of the same thing; but a structure such as I have described in this paper, with the foundation or floor of circular dwellings on it, is a thing hitherto not observed in this county. Two granite querns have been found about the causeway, apparently one for each of the two dwellings, for both are *upper* stones. Two roughly-made spindle whorls were also got on the Crannog.

2. *Sunonness Loch*, in the parish of Old Luce. This loch was drained about the close of last century by a deep cut. It lies in a hollow between Low Sunonness and the Mull of Sunonness. It is about four miles south-east of Glenluce, about 1500 feet from the sea-shore, and at a low level. It was probably about the same size as Barlockhart Loch. At the north-west part, lying on the peat, there is a circular bed of stones; the diameter from north to south is 110 feet, and that from east to west 104 feet. A gravel road runs westward to the shore line. It is 80 feet long and 16 feet broad. Where it touches the shore line there is a low rocky knoll on which may still be seen the foundation of a large cairn. The stones

are water-worn, and have been carried from the small patch of beach at the mouth of the Airriewiggle Burn, which drains the bed of the loch. It is difficult to find a stone larger than a man's fist which is not broken in two. I have observed no traces of piles or wood-work among the stones, but have not digged for them. This also appears to be a distinct type of lake-dwelling.