

## VI.

A GENERAL VIEW OF THE FORTS, CAMPS, AND MOTES OF DUMFRIES-SHIRE, WITH A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THOSE IN UPPER ANNANDALE, AND AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF SCOTTISH MOTES. BY DAVID CHRISTISON, M.D., SECRETARY.

The county of Dumfries offers peculiar attractions for the study of the mysterious works in earth and stone, of which it has not yet been determined whether they belong, in whole or in part, to truly prehistoric ages, or to that obscure period which is illuminated by no better historic light than the feeble rays shed by Roman writings, Norse sagas, Pictish chronicles, and Irish annals, so skilfully gathered together and sifted in Mr Skene's *History of Celtic Scotland*.

It was through Dumfriesshire that the Romans kept up their communications with the north on the West of Scotland; for four centuries the county formed part of a Kymric, though not always independent, kingdom; by means of the Solway, as well as from their neighbouring settlements to the south, the Scandinavians had a ready access to it; and lastly, it became the borderland between Galloway, which is believed to have long retained a Pictish character, on the west, and Saxon Scotland on the east. Thus Roman, Welshman, Pict, Scandinavian, and Saxon, besides the Scot or Gael, may each in turn have left his impress on the county. Apart from historical record, this impress must be sought in the traces of their handiwork, and in the topography, whether in connection with their existing works or in the county generally.

To determine, then, the nature of these works, and whether, with the aid of topography, they throw any light on early history, field observations must be combined with a study of the 6-inch Ordnance Map, the only available general authority at present for the topography.

A complete investigation of the Dumfriesshire forts in the field could hardly be accomplished in less than several seasons of hard work, and unfortunately a severe accident, sustained early in the season, obliged me to confine my observations mainly to the northern part of Annandale.

### I.—GENERAL VIEW OF DUMFRIESSHIRE FORTS, &c.

The total number of forts, or fort sites, of all kinds, marked on the 6-inch Map of Dumfriesshire, I make out to be 247, but it is quite possible that I may have missed a few on the Map, and that others may have escaped the notice of the Survey. In many instances the remains, judging from the Ordnance Plans, are very scanty, but in the vast majority the general size and figure can be made out, and only in eleven is a "site" alone recorded. Taking the river systems from the east westward, the distribution of the works, divided, as far as I am able without having investigated them in the field, into Rectilinear Forts, Curvilinear Forts, and Motes, is as follows. (The motes of Annan and Dumfries, which no longer exist and are not in the O.M., have been included.)

	Rectilinear Forts.	Probably Rectilinear.	Curvilinear Forts.	Motes.	Total.
Eskdale, . . .	2	4	48	0	54
Kirtle Water, . . .	0	0	6	0	6
Annandale, . . .	6	4	119	11	140
Lochar Water, . . .	5	0	7	3	15
Nithsdale, . . .	1	0	26	7	34
	14	8	206	21	249

*A. Rectilinear Forts.*

It has been necessary to relegate eight of the twenty-two apparently rectilinear works to a doubtful position, one or two because their remains are quite fragmentary ; the others, because it is impossible to tell, without examination on the spot, whether they are designedly rectilinear, or have been forced into that form by the nature of their sites, and are therefore truly allied to the curvilinear class. They are all small and insignificant.

Of the fourteen which appear to be undoubtedly rectilinear, the most remarkable, as well as the most central in position, is the well-known (1) *Birrenswark*, in the parish of Hoddam. According to the O.M., it consists of two separate nearly rectangular intrenchments, measuring internally respectively 850 by 600 feet, and 950 by 350 feet, in round numbers, situated one on the north, the other on the south of a conspicuous flat-topped hill, on the summit of which are remains of several curvilinear works. Roy's map shows also two small curvilinear redoubts at the foot of the hill, one on the east, the other on the west side, with traces of a line of intrenchment connecting the four works which surround the hill. This disposition suggests that the works at the foot of the hill were thrown up by a force besieging the fortifications on the top of it.

Three and a half miles north-east of *Birrenswark* is (2) *Birrenshill* Fort. The remaining complete work is only 230 by 200 feet on the O.M., but this seems to have been merely the citadel of a much larger intrenchment, 400 feet of one line of which branches off from its north-east angle.

Nearly three miles south-east of *Birrenswark*, and forming one of the points of a triangle with it and *Birrenshill* Fort, is (3) *Birrens*, indubitably a Roman work, as proved by the finding of altars with inscriptions, now in the National Museum, and the only fort or camp in the county proved to be Roman. It differs from the other rectilinear works, which are mostly defended by a single vallum, in having been, as depicted by Roy, strongly fortified by from four to seven ramparts on the three sides which were then preserved; it had also a smaller annex to the west, defended by a triple vallum. The over-all dimensions were 1050 by 700 feet, the interior of the main work being about 500 by 350 feet. At the

time of the Ordnance Survey all that remained appeared to be a quadruple rampart on the north side.

(4) Eastward of the Birrens group, near Gilnockie tower, in Eskdale, is the largest of the *existing* rectilinear class in the county. It measures on the O.M. 1400 by 700 feet. (5) High up Eskdale, at *Raeburn foot*, is one side of a rectangle 500 feet long, with about as much of the two sides connected with it; (6) lower down, at the junction of the White and Black Esks, are more doubtfully rectilinear remains of a considerable work.

(7) Westward of the Birrens group the O.M. gives a complete rectangle of 650 by 500 feet near Carlaverock Castle, and a mile and a half east of it (8) fragmentary remains, about 650 feet long, of an apparently very strong double line of intrenchment, which may be the relics of a rectangular work. I have described all the foregoing as given in the O.M., but cannot vouch for their present state. (9) In addition to these, Roy gives the plan of a large rectangle measuring 1800 by 1250 feet, 4 miles west-north-west of Birrenswark, west of Lockerbie, and faint traces of another (10) of the same size at Milton Farm,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Moffat, both of which have probably disappeared, as they are not marked on the O.M.

Thus we have a record of ten large rectilinear works in Dumfriesshire, two of which have disappeared; all save two in the southern part of the county, and none of them in Nithsdale. As far as can be judged from the Ordnance Plans, the ramparts seem to have been of trifling strength in most of these, with the exception of Nos. 3 and 8.

Another rectilinear work of smaller dimensions, but exceeding in size the ordinary curvilinear forts, is situated on the Garpol Water, in Upper Annandale. It is fully described in the detailed account (No. 11). The remaining eleven rectilinear or quasi-rectilinear works are small, and are scattered irregularly through the county.

TOPOGRAPHY.—The Romans seem to have left no trace of their presence in the place-names of the county. *Chester* does not occur at all, although it is met with not unfrequently in the neighbouring counties of Lanark and Peebles. As to the significance of this word in Scotland, I have shown (*Proc.*, 1886, p. 80) that its application to certain forts may have arisen from a *generic* use, in comparatively recent times, by learned

antiquaries. At the same time there is no doubt of its antiquity as a place-name in other instances, as the following references in the *Registrum Magni Sigilli* prove:—"1317, terras de Susterpeth, Hill et Chesteris (Berwickshire)." "1593, acram apud lie Lekkerstane  $\frac{1}{2}$  ac. jacen. per lie ryn-buttis apud lie Chesterhill (Fifeshire)." "1596, terrarum de Chesteris et Grange cum manerie de Chesteris (Ancrum, Roxburghshire)." "1602, terrarum de Over Quhittonne lie Chesteris nuncup. (Lilliesleife, Roxburghshire)." I have also pointed out that the forts bearing the name of *Chester* in Lanark and Peebles are all curvilinear, and do not apparently differ in any way from the ordinary "British" forts. *Car*, which has been supposed in some cases to be directly derived from *Castrum*, occurs but seldom in Dumfriesshire, and never in connection with rectilinear works.

#### B. *Curvilinear Works.*

It would be vain to attempt a description of this numerous class from the few field observations I was able to make, but I give the following general remarks, founded mainly on a study of the Ordnance Maps.

The *number* in Annandale (119) is considerably greater than in the other districts of the county combined (87), and the total in the county (206) seems very large, although it is not greater than in some other parts of Scotland, and in districts of Wales and Ireland. The surprising number in certain regions has suggested the idea that they were mere cattle-kraals, and so some of the simpler forms may have been, although the massiveness of the remains, or the natural strength of the site, or the position of the entrance at the least accessible part of the enceinte, generally suggest a defensive purpose. But there surely can be little doubt that complex structures, with more than one enceinte, were really forts. As far as I can make out from the Ordnance Plans, a little above one-half of the Dumfriesshire curvilinear works still show that they have been complex; and from the probability that some forts of which only faint traces remain, and which now seem to be simple, were originally complex, it can hardly be doubted that the great majority of these structures in the county were intended for defence. The number in actual use, moreover, at any one time, may not have been so great. Our

knowledge of their structure, from the almost total deficiency of excavations, is so slight that we do not know whether they may not be divisible into classes belonging to different periods. But granting that they were all contemporaneous, the number is perhaps not much greater than that of the fortified dwellings in historic times. The number of villages, castles, towers, peels, &c., destroyed in the savage English raids about the middle of the sixteenth century, in the Border counties, seems scarcely less surprising than the number of the forts.

There is a tendency to the arrangement of the forts in groups, which is not always dependent apparently on local causes. Thus on looking at a Map on which the forts are clearly marked, two broad lines of them appear to cross Annandale from east to west, and nearly one-half of the Eskdale forts occur in a band running from north-west to south-east, only five miles long, and from one to two wide. Again, smaller forts seem sometimes to be grouped round a large one, as at Beattock, Annandale, where a large fort on the top of the hill has three smaller ones on the slopes below; and at Castle O'er, Eskdale, a large complex work, which has five smaller forts round it within a radius of 1 mile, and ten within a radius of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mile.

TOPOGRAPHY.—*Dun* occurs in only one of the Dumfries forts, the Doon of Tynron, or Dunron. How strong is the contrast with the county of Argyle, where of upwards of 200 known forts all but about a dozen retain the generic name of *Dun*, generally with a specific name attached! Of place-names containing *Dun*, or probable derivatives from it, the following occur—(1) in Eskdale, Dun Moss (1782); Dinnings Heights; Glendinning; (2) in Annandale, Dunknowe; Dun Hass (1250); Dunscore (900); Dundoran; Dunnabie Farm; Dunskellyrig; Dinwoodie; (3) in Nithsdale, Duntercleuch Rig (1232); Dun Rig (1647); Dun Rig (1000); Dunduff (1403); Duncleuch; Dunscore parish; Duncow village; Dundrum wood; Dunesslin Moor; Dunin Hill (900); Dunin Craig; Shancastle Doon (813); Dinan Rig; Dinning, a house. The increase in numbers westward is noticeable enough. It is possible, however, that a considerable proportion of these *Duns* do not descend from the Gaelic, but are simply the Saxon colour-name, for reasons which I have given in a paper on the Lanarkshire Forts.

*Barr.*—A common prefix in certain Highland and Lowland districts, in the sense of a hill, generally a pointed one. In Lorne it seemed to me that it might occasionally imply a fort, so it may be well to record that on the O.M. there is a Barrhill, and near it a Barrshell hill, with a fort on it, in Tinwald parish. Of other “Barrs” in the county, unconnected with forts, I have only observed Barr Burn, Barr Brae, and Barr Moor.

The *Dinas* of the Welsh possibly survives in Tinnis Hill, Dalton, and Tinnis Hall, Canobie.

*Pen*, possibly a Kymric root, occurs in Penlaw, Hutton; Penbreck (1998), Kirkpatrick Juxta, in Annandale; in Etrick Pen (2269), and Pengrain, a stream and farm below it, in Eskdale; and in Linpen Rig and Burn, Wanlockhead.

*Car.*—As this root, in the signification of a fort, occurs in Ireland in the form of *Cathair* or *Cahir*, and in Wales in that of *Caer*, it may have been introduced to Scotland from either or both of these countries. Were we to judge from its total absence in the names of the 200 stone forts of Argyle, the avenue through which the Irish Scots effected their settlement in our country, we should decide in favour of Wales; but it is difficult to account for a Welsh origin in the Forfarshire *Cathertuns* and the Inverness-shire *Cathair nan Fion*. In Dumfriesshire, on the other hand, which for four centuries was part of a Kymric kingdom, we might expect to find *Car* well represented; yet in connection with forts, it is only found in the doubtful cases of Carthur Hill in Dryfesdale, on which there is a fort; the neighbouring farm of Carterton, on Corrie Water, close to which is a fort; and Cars Moss, Kirkmichael, on which there is a fort.

In place-names unconnected with forts it is also rare. In Eskdale I did not observe on the 6-inch O.M. a single instance. In Annandale, besides the three mentioned above, there are Carthat Hill, Torthorwald; Carrifran Farm, and Carrifran Gans (2452), a shoulder of White Coomb, Moffat; Caerabank, a house, Wamphray; Carruthers, Middlebie; Carhead and Carrick Hill (546), Kirkmichael. Between Annandale and Nithsdale is Carlaverock; and in Nithsdale are Carlae Hill (1500), Carco, Carcarse, Carron, Carzield, Keir, Carnine Hill (1610), Carlinn Knowe, and Carlinslane. In these instances the derivation is much

more probably from the root "Car," signifying a rock (Joyce, *Irish Names of Places*, p. 406), than from Cathair; and perhaps even the Lincolnshire signification of "a swamp bordering a stream" (Miss M. C. Balfour) should not be altogether left out of account.

*Gar.*—As in the O.M. of Pembrokeshire seven forts are marked *Gaer*, it seems well to record here that a fort in Torthorwald is called *Gaers*, although in this, as well as the following instances, the Gaelic *Garbh*, "rough," is more likely to be the true root; Garpol Water, on the banks of which are two remarkable forts—one rectilinear, the other probably a terraced moat; Garvald Church and Garrel Hill (324), Kirkmichael; Garwald Water and farm, Eskdalemuir, on which there is a fort; Glengar House, Nithsdale.

*Birren, &c.*—This word, in the various forms given in the list below, occurs in connection with a considerable number of forts in Dumfriesshire, and, as far as I know, in that county alone on the Scottish mainland. Within the county itself the word is confined to Eskdale and the southern part of Annandale.

(1) Annandale—*Birrenswark*, Hoddam (rectilinear and curvilinear forts); *Birrens*, Middlebie (rectilinear fort); *Birrenshill* (rectilinear fort); *Burronhill*, Mousewald—a mere fragment of a fort on it now, but described in the N.S.A. as having a strong double fosse; *Roseburian*, Applegarth, a circular fort; *Birrengaul Moor*, Lockerbie, a rectilinear fort on it in Roy's map; *Burran* and *Burrancknowe*, Lochmaben, a rectilinear fort near them; *Burran Hill* and *Burran Craig*, Kirkmichael.

(2) Eskdale—*Haw Birn*, a circular fort; *White Birren*, Lynholm Hill, a curvilinear fort; *Birren*, a circular fort on Burnfoot (Birrenfoot?) Burn; *Birren*, a circular fort opposite the last; *Hizzie Birren*, a circular fort on the Esk; *Birren Rig*, a hill with a circular fort on it; *Burian Hill* (680), a mile and a half south of Langholm.

The authors of the Accounts of Westerkirk and Tundergarth parishes in the N.S.A. use the word in a generic sense. Thus the former says: "There are many *burrians* in the parish, of a circular form, 108 to 150 feet in diameter;" and the latter speaks of "many small intrenched camps or *birrens*," all in elevated situations, generally round, very



prominent and well preserved, with a strong vallum or fosse, but no out-works, seldom containing an acre. Besides the numerous forms of the word already given, it is possible that it appears again in a *Baronfield* (with a fort) in Annandale and a *Baronhill* in Nithsdale. A *Borron* in Kirkbean parish is the sole possible representative of the word to be found in Sir Herbert Maxwell's *Topography of Galloway*.

As to the derivation of Birren in its various forms, the resemblance of the first syllable to *burh* may suggest a Saxon descent. But the connection with Scandinavia, through the *burians* of Orkney and Shetland, is much closer, this precise form indeed being met with in two cases, Roseburian Hill and Burian Hill, in Dumfriesshire. It is also significant that the *Birrens*, &c., in that county occur only in or near the districts with Scandinavian place-names. The association of the word with one ascertained and two probable Roman works militates against a Scandinavian origin, but once introduced, the term may have been applied to fortresses of any kind, just as we find it used generically by the modern writers instanced above. Another possible derivation is from *Borrans*, a word which, we are informed by Mr J. G. Goodchild (*Trans. Cumb. and Westm. Arch. Society*, viii. 41), is widely used in the north-west of England in the sense of *stone-clearings*, whether of old buildings or of stones naturally exposed. Some notice should also be taken of the resemblance to *Birrens* of *Birn*, which, according to Jameson (*Scot. Dict.*), signifies a dry heathy pasture, or the high part of a farm where young sheep are *summered*, in Roxburghshire and the Lothians.

Lastly, mention must be made of the statement in M'Taggart's *Galloway Dictionary* that *Birren* signifies the female organs of generation in Galloway, a statement which has been confirmed by local information as being true not only of Galloway, but of Dumfries. No better example of the difficulty of ascertaining the root in an important place-name could be given than in the case of *Birren*.

Probably allied to Birren is the affix *berry*, which occurs in Gallaberry, a hill with a strong fort on it. Two analogous examples occur in Lanarkshire, Bodsberry and Bizzyberry, hills strongly fortified on the summits. This root is met with also in Dumfriesshire, where there is no probable connection with forts, as in Queensberry Hill (2285), Berry Rig (1750),

Turnberry (1789), and perhaps in a slightly altered form in Barry Grain Rig (2012).

C. *General Conclusions from the Topography.*

(1) Some of the Rectilinear and Curvilinear Forts are known locally as "Camps" or "Roman Camps," but the majority appear to have no local designation, and have been marked as "Forts" by the Ordnance Survey.

(2) The only *forts* which may have retained traces of their primitive names are—the Doon of Tynron, Birrenswark, Birrens in three cases, Hizzie Birren, and perhaps Garrs.

(3) A very few *sites* may have derived their name from the primitive name of forts which stood on them, as Birrenshill, Roseburian Hill, Gallaberryhill.

(4) A few Camphills and Castlehills evidently take their name from old fortifications upon them, now removed, but possibly the latter were mediæval; and there are two "forts" called Range Castle, a Moll's Castle, Rough Castle, Kemps Castle, Castle O'er, and Wood or Woody Castle, which have also a modern sound, though their derivation is obscure.

(5) The Romans appear to have left no impression on the topography of the county.

(6) The only trace of Gaelic occupation in the fort-names is the *Doon* of Tynron. Of place-names in general with the prefix *Dun*, or its probable derivatives, I observed but twenty-five on the O.M., only three of which are in Eskdale, while Nithsdale has fourteen. But a number of the Duns, such as Dun Rig, Dun Moss, Dun Hass, &c., are probably Teutonic.

(7) Possible Kymric roots are also but poorly represented. *Car* occurs in three fort-sites, in only about thirteen other place-names, and is altogether absent in Nithsdale; *Pen* is met with in five instances; *Gar* (Gaer in Pembrokeshire), perhaps in the fort *Gaers*, and in five place-names.

(8) *Birrens*, perhaps a Teutonic word, is a more common designation in connection with forts than any of those yet mentioned, being met with in twelve instances. It is confined to Eskdale and Annandale, is the name

of the only authenticated Roman fort, is attached to other rectilinear works, but also to a number of circular forts. As it seems to have been used generically in recent times, its application to certain forts may be modern.

*Berry*, another possibly Teutonic root, occurs in but one fort-site.

On the whole, it appears that we have little to go upon in attempting to ascertain the date of the rectilinear and curvilinear works, from topographical inquiry.

It would not be safe, however, to relegate them to a very remote age on account of this almost total loss of even generic names. They may be of comparatively recent origin, and yet have lost their names by the intrusion of a new race that neither used them as fortresses nor spoke the language of the builders. This seems to be probable, because the root *Doon* is largely preserved in the forts of the neighbouring county, where it is believed that the Celtic language was spoken down to the sixteenth century, and because, if the curvilinear forts did not immediately precede the Motes, there is no trace of any other kind of fortification that could have done so.

As to the *Motes*, their comparatively modern character is attested by history, by their frequent propinquity to churches and villages, and by the application of the name to individual fortresses by the peasantry.

## II.—INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF SCOTTISH MOTES.

The nature and history of Motes have attracted so little attention that the word is altogether ignored in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*; appears only in the form of "Moat," as the ditch of mediæval fortresses in *Chambers' Encyclopædia*; and occurs but twice in the Indices of our own *Proceedings*, the references being merely incidental regarding two Scottish examples. Systematic descriptions are rare, the best I have met with for England being in Mr Clark's *Mediæval English Military Architecture*, and for France in Du Caumont's *Abécédaire d'Archéologie*. Of Scottish Motes no description exists, as far as I can learn. A general view of the subject, therefore, seems almost necessary as an introduction to the study of the Dumfriesshire examples.

The root of the word, according to Skeat's *Etymological Dictionary*, is unknown, but in Chambers's similar work it is supposed to be the Anglo-Saxon and Dutch *mot*, and Icelandic *moda*, "dust," whence the English *mote*, "a speck of dust." In the French *motte* and Italian *motta* it develops into "a clod of earth," "a detached eminence, natural or artificial," and thence it is but a step to the signification, in the same forms, or Latinised as *mota*, of "collis seu tumulus cui inedicatum castellum," as defined by Du Cange. The signification of "a trench" arises from the confusion of the substance dug out with the place from which it came, which occurs also in *dyke* and *ditch*, and, according to Du Cange, even in *vallum*.

Motes constituted *the* fortresses of Saxon England for some centuries before the Norman conquest, and of France about the same period; and they do not seem to have passed entirely out of use, in France and Italy at least, with the introduction of the powerful baronial castles of stone and lime. Several quotations in Du Cange are to this effect, of which we give a single example: "Ann. 1320. Iverunt die prædicta summo mane per viam Pontis-corvi versus quamdam motam magnam quam faciebat facere dominus Canis cum mulfossis et tajatis ad claudendum Paduanos" (Muratori, t. viii. col. 433). Possibly, however, although the name was retained so late, the nature of the structure may have changed.

The Saxon Mote, as described by Mr Clark, consisted essentially of a truncated cone of earth, surrounded at the foot by a trench, with a mound outside the trench; and commonly with a base-court, at a lower level, similarly fortified. Palisades served the purpose of ramparts.

That the Motes of France and the neighbourhood were of the same nature is proved by the aspect of a vast number which still exist, and from a very precise description by Archdeacon Colmien of Terouane in Belgium of the fortresses of his time, towards the end of the eleventh century (*Vita B. Joannis Episc. Morinorum*, cap. 6. n. 25), thus quoted by Du Cange: "Mos namque est ditioribus quibusque regionis hujus hominibus et nobilioribus, ex quod maxime inimicitis vacare soleant exercendis, et cœdibus, ut eo modo ab hostibus maneant tutiores, et potentia majore, vel vincant pares, vel premant inferiores, terræ aggerem quantæ prævalent celsitudinis congerere, eique fossam quam late patentem

multamque profunditatis altitudinem habentem circumfodere, et supremam ejusdem aggeris crepidinem, vallo ex lignis tabulatis firmissime compacto, undique vice muris circummunire, turribusque secundum quod possibile fuerit per gyrum dispositis, intra vallum, domum, vel quæ omnia despiciat, arcem in medio ædificari, ita videlicet ut porta introitus ipsius villæ non nisi per pontem valeat adiri."

*Scottish Motes.*—The study of Scottish Motes has yet to be made from the foundation. History is silent concerning their use, and no general account of their nature, number, and distribution exists. Information about them, however, may be gathered from the *Registrum Magni Sigilli*, the *Exchequer Rolls*, the Statistical Accounts, Old and New, of Scotland, Chalmers' *Caledonia*, Muir's *Ecclesiological Notes*, and other sources; while not a few of the structures still remain to speak for themselves.

An unfortunate complication is the difficulty of distinguishing between *Motes*, or fortresses, and *Moot-hills*, or meeting-places. Not only is the resemblance between the words Mote and Moot very close, although they are derived from very different roots—the one signifying "dust" and the other "an assembly"—but it extends to the objects themselves, both consisting essentially in little eminences, natural or artificial.

The most reliable documentary evidence of the existence of Motes in Scotland is contained in the *Registrum Magni Sigilli*. This Register dates from 1306, but references to motes do not begin till 1430; this is explained however by the fact that the practice of describing the subdivisions of lands by local names in charters only began about that date.

The following list gives the references in the *Registrum*, arranged chronologically in two divisions, the first including those in which the word is spelled with an *o*, and the second the more doubtful class in which the spelling is with a *u* or otherwise.

A.D. 1430, *Midlothian*.—License to build a castle "in illo loco qui vulgariter dicitur le Mote de Lochorwort." In subsequent Charters—1538, "*lie Moit de Lochquhorat*;" 1543, "*lie Moit de Lochorworth*."

A.D. 1451, *Stewartowne, Ayrshire*.—"Le Mote de Casteltoune."

A.D. 1465, *Busby, Ayrshire*.—"Terras de le Moite," &c. 1539, "9 marcat. de Busby, viz., *lie Mote, Knokintibber, et Hallethornis*," &c. 1541, "Terras de Moite, Knokintebir," &c. 1571, "Terras de Moit," &c. 1583, "20 solidatas

terrarum antiqui extensus de Moit-Mowat cum earum mansione," &c. 1599, "9 marcat. terrarum de Busbeyis (viz., lie Mote, Knockintibber et Halythornis").

A.D. 1489, *Dumfriesshire*.—To Robert Mateland de Auchencassill, "locum castrī et montem nuncupat. le Mote de Tibbris." 1541, "Lie Mote de Tibberis." 1592, To James Douglas de Drumlangrig, "terras et baroniam Tibberis cum castro et lie castell-mote."

A.D. 1490, *Yethame, Roxburghshire*.—"Le knoll sive le Mote vulgariter nuncup. Lowsilaw."

A.D. 1511, *Sundrum, Ayrshire*.—"Le Mote," &c. 1541, "lie Moite," &c.

A.D. 1535, *Kirkcudbrightshire*.—"Moite de Wr." 1541, "Moit de Ur."

A.D. 1542, *Dumfriesshire*.—"8 marcaças de Altoun et Ersbank, et binam partem marcate ant. ext. de Moffet, et lie Mote," &c.

A.D. 1542, *Stirlingshire*.—"Ita quod una sasina apud lie Mot de Seybeggis vocat, lie Turchill."

A.D. 1546, *Perthshire*.—"Terras . . . cum maneriis et fortalicio lie Moit de Errole."

A.D. 1582, *Town of Annan, Dumfriesshire*.—"Terras de Mott et Bailiyis (intra lie Northgate," &c.).

A.D. 1583, *Fifeshire*.—"Lie Moitt de Craile, olim castrum de Craile vocat. cum ejus virridario."

A.D. 1590, *Anstruther, Fifeshire*.—"Moth law" (?).

A.D. 1595, *Lanarkshire*.—"40 solidat. terrarum de Moitt cum lie coithouse et pecium terre vocat. Guislandis, 2 marcat. de Mosmyning, 40 solidatis de Lillaw Struther et Motyet," &c.

A.D. 1599, *Lanarkshire*.—"Lie Moit de Carnewath."

A.D. 1442, *Dunkeld, Perthshire*.—"Terras de Muthill." 1576, "Terras de Muthill." 1596, "Lie Chancelleris-croft de Dunkeld . . . in occidentali parte civitatis Dunkelden. (inter terras prebende de Ferdshaw ex occidentali et boreali, hortum episcopi et lie Muthill ex australi partibus)."

A.D. 1485, *Kincardineshire*.—To John Lundy "de Benholme," "terras de Mutehill."

A.D. 1507, 1512, and 1542, *Kincardineshire*.—To James Arbuthnot, "de eodem," "Mutelaw," "Mutelawhill." 1582, "Muitlaw," "Muitlawhill."

A.D. 1549, 1550, 1556, *Ayrshire*.—To John Fullartoun "de eodem," "Muthill de Prestwik," "Mutehill."

A.D. 1573, 1588, *Federat, Aberdeenshire*.—"Muttounbray" (?).

A.D. 1582, *Perthshire*.—Muthill, parish and ward of.

A.D. 1584, *Monycabok, Aberdeenshire*.—"The black hillock of the Muttounbray" (?).

A.D. 1588, *Drumblair, Aberdeenshire*.—To John Gordon of Petlurg, "Mut-hillock." 1607, to Alexander Gordon tunc de Cluny, "Muithillock."

A.D. 1593, *Fifeshire*.—"Methill" (Mythill) (?).

A.D. 1601, *Cowper, Perthshire*.—"Et specialiter the Muttonhoill" (?).

A.D. 1607, *Perthshire*.—"Muthill."

It is evident that the Motes in these references were no longer fortresses, but are only mentioned as place-names, or to assist in the accurate definition of lands. It is worthy of remark, as so far confirming an actual difference between *Motes* and *Moothills*, that in the fifteen spelt with *o*,—in the forms of Mot, Mott, Mote, Moit, Moite, Moitt, and Moth (?)—the syllable stands alone, except in the doubtful *Motyet* and *Mothlaw*; whereas the seven spelt with *u*—Mut, Mute, Muit—are invariably combined with hill, hillock, or law. It is also noticeable that although the use of *Moothills* probably continued long after that of *Motes* had ceased, the number of Motes mentioned in the *Registrum* greatly exceeds that of Moothills.

Of the fifteen Motes mentioned in the Register, at least those at Moffat, Urr, and Carnwath can still be identified.

The only Motes mentioned in the *Exchequer Rolls* are Urr and Erlston. The numerous references, between 1456 and 1503, are to annual rents drawn from them as farms.

The information to be derived from less authentic writings, together with a scrutiny of the Ordnance Maps, I shall combine under several heads.

*Number*.—Much remains to be done before an accurate estimate can be formed on this point. A full examination of the Ordnance Maps would yield an approximate result, although I know of several omissions in the counties of Lanark and Dumfries alone. The number mentioned in the *Registrum* and the Statistical Accounts, reckoning both Moats and Moothills, is ninety, but the total existing in Scotland, or of which we have some record, is probably considerably greater, as I find twenty-nine in Dumfries, the Rev. Mr Wilson of Glenluce gives me a list of nineteen in Wigtonshire, and Mr F. R. Coles has identified thirty-one in Kirkcudbright.

*Distribution*.—The distribution is very unequal, the number being very scanty north of the Forth and in the eastern counties south of it, but increasing in a rapid proportion towards Galloway, where they are

most abundant. In the *Registrum* and the Statistical and other Accounts which I have consulted, there is no mention of Motes or Moothills in Orkney and Shetland, Caithness, Nairn, Banff, Kinross, Clackmannan, Bute, West Lothian, East Lothian, Selkirk, and Berwick. Only four are mentioned in the Highland counties,—Sutherland, Ross, Inverness, and Argyle; and all as Court hills or Moothills, except “a green mote on the banks of the Loth (Sutherlandshire).” The great number of these fortresses, supposed to be peculiarly Saxon, in Celtic Galloway, and their seeming almost total absence in the peculiarly Saxon eastern counties, is remarkable, and suggests the theory that they may have been thrown up in Galloway by the Saxons to keep the Picts in subjection during the Saxon conquest mentioned in Skene’s *Celtic Scotland*.

*Comparative Number and Importance of Motes and Moothills.*—Were we to judge solely from the writings of Chalmers and the authors of the Statistical Accounts, who were no doubt largely influenced by his opinion. Moothills greatly transcended Motes in importance. Chalmers (*Caled. Rom.*, i. 737) asserts that “there was a Moothill in every district of North Britain during an age when justice was administered to a coarse people in the open air;” and both he and the writers of the Statistical Accounts take little notice of the Motes. When, however, we look for proof of the existence of Moothills and of their use, it is not so abundant as might be expected. On the O.M. of Peebles, Lanark, and Dumfries I have not noticed *Moothill* at all, although *Moat-hills* or *knowes* occur ten times. There are two *Court hills* in Dumfriesshire, however.

Turning to historical evidence, Chalmers supports his assertion quoted above by stating that “the Chartularies are full of intimations of this kind.” But, strange to say, in the quotations which he gives, Moothills are not mentioned at all! These are as follows:—A regality Court held by Alexander Stuart, Lord of Badenoch, an. 1380, “apud le Standard Stanes de le Rath de Kingusy.” A court held before the Bishop of Moray an. 1358, “apud poutem episcopi.” A court held by Ade, Bishop of Aberdeen, an. 1382, “super monte St Thomæ martiris juxta canoniam de Aberdon.” A court held by the Abbot of Kelso “at the bridge of Etterick.” A court held by the justiciary John Cumyn “at a place called Castleside.” The few evidences in the Statistical Accounts of the



use of mounds as Courts of Justice, although they are not called Moothills, are more direct. They are as follows, in an abbreviated form :—

“*Forfarshire*.—Two artificial conical mounds called Laws—the Law of Barony of Idvie, and that of Gardyne. An old man told Thomas Lyel, Esq., that he saw two Highlanders, taken with stolen cattle, judged, condemned, and hanged on the Law of Gardyne. *Ayrshire*—Moat of Alloway. Evidently artificial. The Magistrates of Ayr appear from the records of the town to have frequently held Courts of Justice for the trial of petty cases, according to their charter, on its summit. *Ayrshire*—Tarbolton. ‘The Hill’ or ‘Torbol,’ a beautiful green knoll surmounted by an artificial summit, termed the Moat. Retains marks of trenches. Formerly the Court hill (probably mentioned in the *Reg. Magni Sig.*, 1512, as *le Courthill*) of the barony of Tarbolton, and the hall built on this mount was the chief messuage of the Barons, where seisin was given of the same.” In the latter instance the remains of trenches indicate that a *Mote* had probably preceded the *Moothill*.

The most interesting Moothill of Scotland is that at Scone. It appears from Mr Skene’s researches (“The Coronation Stone,” *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, 1869–70, p. 68) that it was used occasionally for great councils, parliaments, and coronations, from the eighth century till Scone ceased to have an intimate connection with the Scottish Crown. The name of *Moothill*, however, does not appear in connection with it till comparatively recent times. In the older references it is the “*Collis Credulitatis*,” “*Caislen Credhi*,” “*Castellum Credi*,” “*mons de Scone*,” “*monticulum Sconæ*;” in the spurious laws of Malcolm Mackenneth it is called the “*Mons placiti*;” and it is only in Sir John Skene’s explanation of this term (an. 1609) that it appears as “the Moothill of Scone.” The writer in the Statistical Account gives the local name as *Boothill* and in Gaelic “*Tom a Mhoid*,” and says it no longer existed when he wrote; but Mr Skene describes it as an oval-shaped rising ground or hillock, having on the top a flat area of about 100 yards by 60. The only “*Mons Placiti*” mentioned in the *Reg. Mag. Sig.* is at Cupar in a charter of 1497.

An example of the use of a Moothill on the English side of the border is given in Tytler’s *History of Scotland*, iv. 413, when Lord Wharton after his repulse in a raid up Nithsdale in 1547 held a Court at the

Moothill beside Carlisle, and condemned ten of the Scottish "pledges" to be hanged.

Although Chalmers and other authors have laid most stress on the civil purpose of these structures, they did not altogether ignore their military use. Thus Chalmers says of "the great conic mounts," in Galloway, that "some of them are the tombs of the worthy dead; some are supposed to have been used as Moothills where justice was administered; and some of them have been converted into mounts of defence, as we learn from the intrenchments which surround them and the encampments on their summit." This order of succession from a civil to a military purpose, however, is surely the reverse of the true one; and there can be little doubt that the reason why the Moothills so overshadow the Moats in our written accounts is that the civil use of artificial mounds came down to historic times, and survived by several centuries their military purpose.

*Structure of the Scottish Motes.*—The English Motes, as we are informed by Mr Clark, were very uniform in character, and were but little governed by the nature of the ground; but the same uniformity of character does not appear to have been maintained, when they were transplanted to Scottish soil. As far as our present knowledge goes, the Scottish motes, which closely resemble the English type, might perhaps be reckoned on the fingers of one or two hands. Next to these may be classed a certain number of simple earthen mounds, without trench or rampart, which may either have lost these adjuncts, or may never have had them, and in that case were either true Moothills, or may have been simple Motes or Mounts defended by palisades alone. Another type appears to be the terraced mound, which, according to Muir (*Eccles. Notes*), is the ordinary kind in Galloway, although this is not confirmed by the Ordnance Survey Plans, nor by such information as I have been able to get. There is probably a fourth type, pretty numerous especially in Kirkcudbrightshire, which consists of mounds mainly or entirely natural, and frequently terraced. It was to be expected that this kind should arise, in a country where natural mounds are more easily found than a depth of soil convenient for throwing up into artificial ones. Difficulties, however, in identifying these may arise from

their resemblance to the ordinary "British forts," and it may well be that, as far as structure goes, the Motes and Forts pass into each other by insensible gradations.

*Period of the Motes.*—The preservation of the generic term "Mote" in the mouths of the peasantry, its frequent combination with a specific local name, and the general position of the structures—in low ground and often near the parish churches—are strong evidences of a modern origin, compared with the other curvilinear works, which are generally nameless, and situated on high ground, apart from modern centres of population; but the precise period of the Scottish Motes has not been fixed, although in all probability they were more or less contemporary with the English Motes, which, as we have seen, flourished for some centuries before the Norman conquest.

LIST OF DUMFRIESSHIRE MOTES, PROBABLE MOTES, AND MOTE-SITES, WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS, CHIEFLY CONJECTURAL, FROM THE ORDNANCE PLANS.

*Moats (Motes) in the O.M.*

1. "Moat" at Auldton near Moffat. Circular mound with trenches, ramparts, and base court (O.M. and personal observation).
2. "Moat," south end of ridge between Annandale and Evandale. Oval mound with trench at the two ends (O.M. and personal observation).
3. "Moat" at Granton, Moffat. Simple oval mound (O.M. and personal observation).
4. "Moat" on Kinnel Water, at Moat Farm, Kirkmichael. Simple oval mound (O.M.).
5. "Applegarth Moat," near the parish church. Simple circular mound (O.M.).
6. "Hutton Moat," on elevated moorland a mile south of the parish church. Circular mound with trench and outer rampart (?) (O.M.).
7. "Rockhall Moat" (or Mount, N.S.A.) near site of Rockhall Chapel, Torthorwald. Circular double-terraced mound (?) (O.M.).
8. "Craig Moat," near Bankend village, Carlaverock. Ill preserved (O.M.).
9. "Baillie-knowe Moat," North Kirkblain Farm, Carlaverock. Circular mound with a half-terrace (?) (O.M.).
10. "Lochwood Mount," Johnstone. Circular double-terraced mound with ramparts (O.M. and personal observation).
11. "Wamphray Mount," near the parish church. Oval mound and terrace (O.M. and personal observation).

12. "Tinwald Moat," near the parish church. Simple oval mound (O.M.).
13. "Kirkland Moat," on Cairnwater,  $\frac{3}{8}$  mile west of Kirkland church. Simple circular mound (O.M.).
14. "Moat" on the Nith, near the site of Ryehill Castle. Very little remains (O.M.).
15. "Moat" at the junction of Cairnburn with Driedhill Burn. Large oval (?) (O.M.).
16. "Moat" at Ballaggan, Drumlanrig. Circular, single-terraced (?) (O.M.).
17. "Moat" at Maxwellton House,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from Kirkland church. Circular, terraced (?) (O.M.).
18. "Moat" at Dinning, Closeburn. Mound with base court (?) (O.M.).

*Other Motes, not in the O.M.*

19. Dumfries Mote (N.S.A. and historical evidence). No remains.
20. Annan Mote (N.S.A. and *Reg. Mag. Sig.*). No remains.
21. Mote at Glencairn, Nithsdale. A tumulus commonly called "the Mote" (N.S.A.).

*Mote-Sites.*

22. "Moat knowe," on Glenkill Burn, Kirkmichael (O.M.).
23. Do. near No. 3 (O.M.).
24. Do. on Milton Farm, near Beattock (Mr Richardson, the farmer). Roy's Roman Fort on it.
25. Do. on New Farm, near the last. Remains of a fort on it (Mr Rutherford the farmer, and personal observation).
26. "Meg Tod's Moat," near No. 1 (a name only, on O.M.). Circular natural (?) mound with rampart (personal observation).
27. "Moat hill, M. Knowe, M. Lone," on Craikmuir, Eskdale (O.M.).
28. "The Moat," on site of Gilnockie Tower, Canonbie (O.M.).
29. "Straw Moat," a name near junction of Glenaners Burn with Chawick Water.

To these should possibly be added the "Fort" on Garpol Water and the three following, the plans of which on the O.M. are strongly suggestive of Motes.

- (a.) Tynron Doon. Pyramidal hill, with a small flat on the top (O.S.A.).
- (b.) Oval mound at Sanquhar (Sean Caer on the O.M.).
- (c.) Fort on the Nith near "Isle of Wight." Like a circular double-terraced mote.

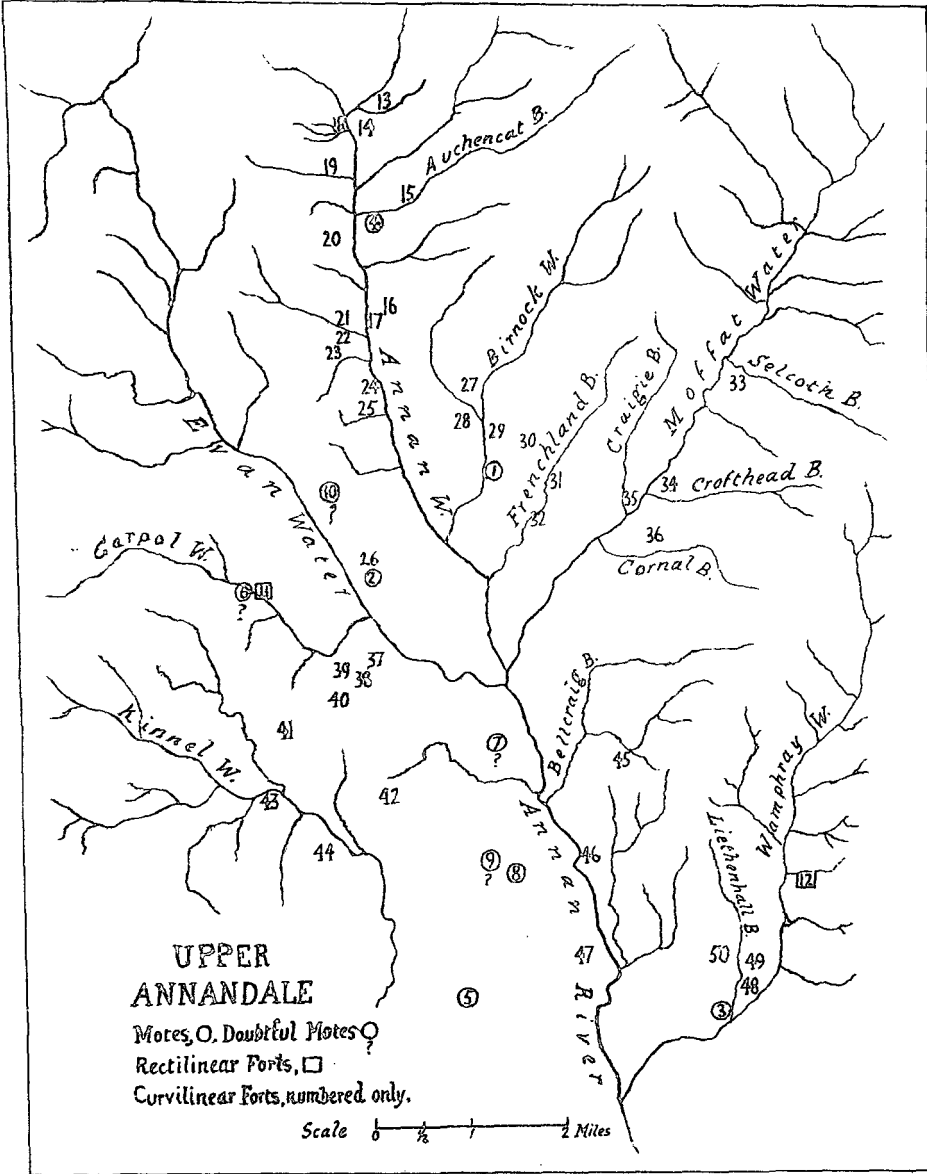
### III. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF MOTES, CAMPS, AND FORTS OF UPPER ANNANDALE.

#### *Explanation of the Plans, &c.*

1. The forts are placed as if the north were at the top of the page.
2. The scale is uniformly 120 feet to the inch.
3. The measurements are in feet.
4. The height of ramparts given is the greatest near where the section passes.
5. The steepness of slopes is indicated by arrows, the degree being represented by feathering from 0 to 4, the former representing a very gentle slope, the latter one so steep as to be climbed with difficulty.
6. The approximate height above the nearest tolerably level ground is in figures beside an arrow pointing perpendicularly downwards.
7. In the map (Plate) the figures correspond with those attached to the forts in the text, and are placed as nearly as possible over the sites.
8. Rectilinear Forts are distinguished by a square, Motes by a circle, drawn round the number ; Curvilinear Forts by the number only.
9. The plans profess merely to give a general idea of the objects, being taken by the rough process of pacing for the larger measurements, and by using a 3-foot stick for the details. Usually in simple cases it was deemed sufficient to take two opposite diameters and to fill in the plan by walking round the work and noting peculiarities. But additional measurements were taken in complex forts. The Ordnance Maps were of essential service in guiding me to the forts, and the plans of the 25-inch map were often of value, but they are not to be implicitly trusted, being not unfrequently inaccurate, and sometimes defective by the omission of very evident details.
10. Abbreviations :—O.M. Ordnance Map ; O.S.A. Old Statistical Account of Scotland ; N.S.A. New Statistical Account of Scotland.

#### A. MOTES AND PROBABLE MOTES.

1. *Moffat Mote* (fig. 1).—In a gently sloping field at the foot of Auldtou Hill, 200 yards east of Birnock Water and 400 feet above the sea. The ground slopes gently from it, except eastwards, where it is level. The works consist of an artificial mound, or mote proper, and a base-court. The mound, about



UPPER ANNANDALE

Motes, O. Doubtful Motes  
 Rectilinear Forts, □  
 Curvilinear Forts, numbered only.

Scale 0 1/2 1 2 Miles

20 feet high, is conical and steep. Unfortunately a deep gash has been cut into it from the south, so that the interior resembles a crater with a break in one side. If the remaining rim represents the edge of the original top, its diameter could not have exceeded 40 feet. A trench, varying in breadth (reckoning from the top outside) from 9 to 20 feet, and in depth from 2 or 3 to 7 feet, encircles the foot of the cone. On the west and north the trench has a slight parapet, which, passing round to the east, becomes a massive rampart 30 feet thick. On the south towards the base-court the trench has no parapet.

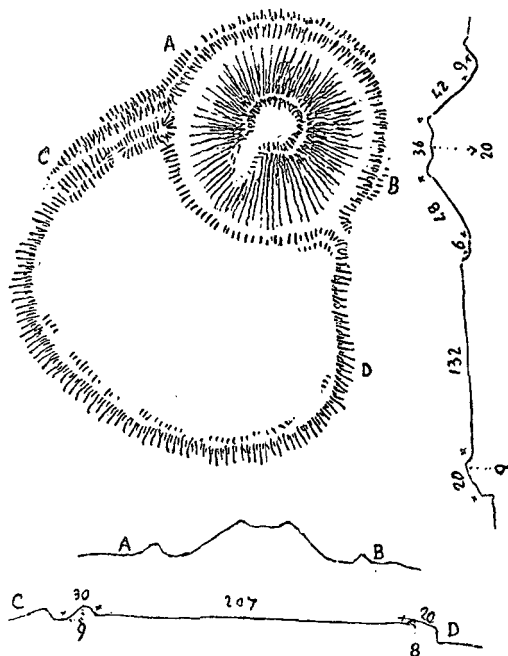


Fig. 1. Moffat Mote.

The mound or mote proper forms part of the general enceinte. The base-court, which measures 207 by 132 feet inside, is of a horse-shoe form, and most part of the way round ends in a scarp 15 feet long, supported by a retaining wall 4 feet high, but without trench or counterscarp. On the east, however, the parapet, which is barely traceable on the top of the scarp elsewhere, becomes a solid rampart with a trench in front, which is continuous with the trench of the mound. The reason of these differences in the defences of the base-court is apparently due to the nature of the site, which is at the west end of a long plateau, the terminal slope of which forms a natural defence to the

south and west, but which required to be cut off from the fort by additional works on the east, where the approach was level. To the north the defence was strong, as the mound is placed there. The resemblance of Moffat Mote to the Saxon type is very strong. Next follow three in which the resemblance is confined very much to the artificial character of the mounds.

2. (fig. 2).—*Mote*, a mile south-west of Moffat, on the top of the ridge between Annandale and Evandale, at its south end, 550 feet above the sea, and 150 above the Evan. The mound is evidently, mainly at least, artificial. It is about 15 feet high, of an elongated somewhat irregular shape, flat on the top, which measures about 60 by 30 ft. A single large stone lies on the top, and there are indications of a rampart at the edge. The position, on the level top

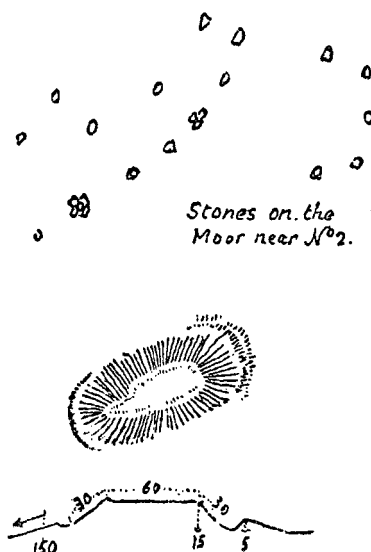


Fig. 2. Mote, a mile S.W. of Moffat.

of the ridge, has little command. A semicircular trench, 5 feet deep in the middle and dying away at the two ends, protects the north-east end, and there are slight remains of another at the opposite end. This trench may originally have also covered the sides which have been reached by the plough. About a quarter of a mile from No. 2, and also near No. 26, is the arrangement of stones shown at the top of fig. 2. They are small, but are apparently the remains of some design not now recognisable.

3. *Wamphray Mount* (fig. 3).—In the angle of the junction of Leithenhall Burn with Wamphray Water, a quasi-peninsula with high precipitous banks towards the stream, but forming an extensive, high, level field towards the west. At the end of this peninsula are a mound and some wall-foundations, recog-



nised by the people as remains of the mediæval castle of the Johnstons of Wamphray, although there is little to suggest such an origin. The mount is some distance from the end of the peninsula, on the edge of the steep descent to Leithenhall Burn. It is about 15 feet high, somewhat rectangular at the base, but pear-shaped on the flat top. The base is 60 feet long, and the summit only 27, with a greatest width of 21. A terrace 8 or 10 feet wide separates its

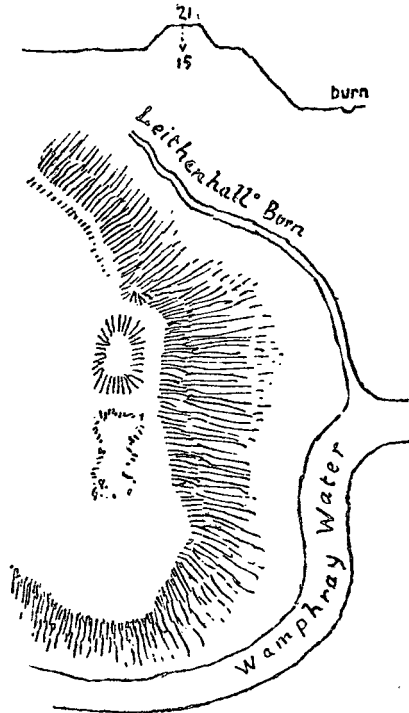


Fig. 3. Wamphray Mount.

base from the edge of the ravine, and turns round the north and south ends, cutting it off on the south from the lower mound already referred to, and on the north from a pillar-like mass of earth at the edge of the ravine. There is no terrace to the west, as the field comes close up to the mount there.

The absence of defence on this, the weakest side, and the trifling size of the mount itself, throw some doubt on its defensive character, but extensive changes may have taken place from subsequent occupation close to it, and from modern cultivation which comes up to its foot. The mound to the south has

a rectangular wall-foundation, but is 10 or 12 feet below *the mount*, and may possibly have been its base-court originally. A covered way to the mount seems to have been formed for more than a hundred yards along the edge of the ravine.

4. *Mote, at Granton*, three miles north of Moffat, and 300 yards north of Granton House, in a plantation on the east side of, and close to, the public road, 550 feet above the sea. The site is perfectly level, and the mote is a simple artificial mound of earth, with no trace of rampart or trench, highest and broadest at the north end, where it is about 13 feet high. It is 160 feet long and 90 feet wide at the widest part. Curiously enough, the O.M. marks a mote-knowe close by.

5. *Lochwood Mount* (fig. 4).—The claim of this to be regarded as a mote rests firstly on the mound being apparently in part artificial, and secondly

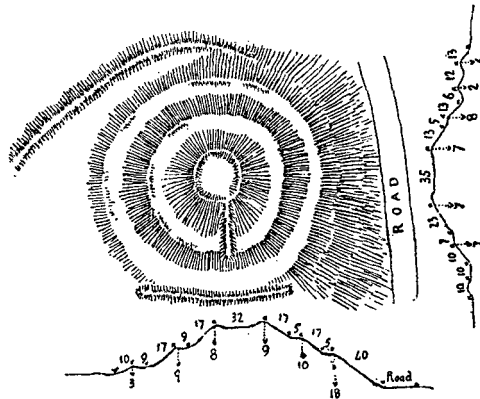


Fig. 4. Lochwood Mount.

on its being terraced, for, according to Mr Muir (*Ecclesiological Notes*), many motes, in Galloway at least, are terraced mounds. It lies immediately to the north of the ruined Lochwood Castle, 600 feet above the sea, on the highest part of the pretty extensive broken ground, covered with ancient, decaying, strangely contorted oaks, which rises above the surrounding level and formerly marshy tract of country. The mount is nearly circular, steep, and, from the nature of the site, varies in height from 14 to 35 or 40 feet. The level top measures about 35 by 32 feet, but the actual interior is contracted to a diameter of about 20 feet by the remains of an encircling mound or parapet from 6 to 9 feet wide and 1 foot high. Two terraces or platforms run all round the slopes, the upper one from 7 to 9 feet below the top, the lower one from 7 to 10 feet below the upper one. The terraces, therefore, are not strictly level or parallel. The lower one is level with the ground in the middle of the south side, and on that side it is protected by a nearly straight mound, 10 feet wide, and 2 or 3 feet high. The north side is also covered by a mound which diverges from the mount to the south-west, and may have been designed to form a dam for a

wet moat on the west side, where the mount is not nearly so high as on the east. The terraces are a good deal broken down, and vary in width from 5 to 9 feet. Where most perfect, they are slightly hollowed, perhaps from the remains of a parapet. A good deal of stone has been used, particularly on the south side, but whether as built walls, or merely to shore up and steepen the slope, can only be determined by excavation. A stony mound running from top to bottom on the south side has probably formed one side of the entrance.

6. *Garpol "Fort"* (fig. 5, and Plate V.).—This is another terraced work, boldly carved, apparently, out of a natural eminence. Although only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile above the junction of the Garpol Burn with the Evan Water, it is quite sequestered in a wide, open, desolate valley, bounded by low hills, and is only

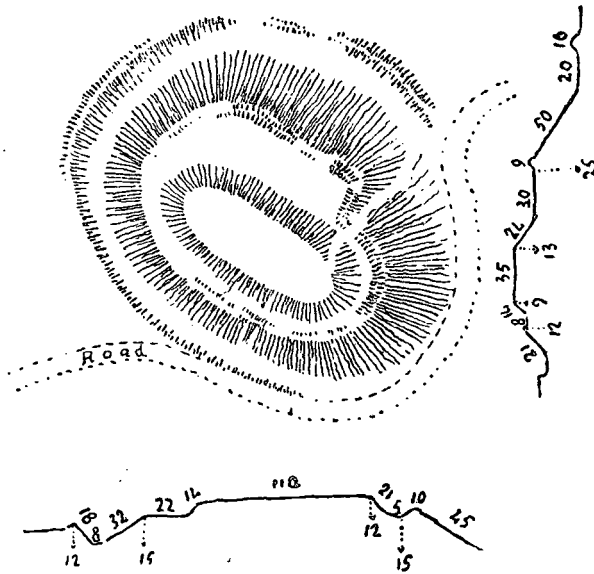


Fig. 5. Garpol Fort or Mote.

a few yards from the burn, on its south side, and about 650 feet above the sea. Viewed from the east, it has the singularly massive look shown in the Plate. On the north or highest side it is about 40 feet in height. The level top is an oval of 110 by 35 feet and has no parapet. The single terrace, 10 or 12 feet below the top, is from 8 to 10 feet wide, except on the north-west, where it expands into a somewhat rectangular platform, 40 feet wide, fully equal in area to the flat summit. About half the width of the narrow terrace, and a fourth of the width of the expanded part, is taken up with a low mound, the remains of a parapet of some kind. A trench, varying in width at the bottom from 8 to 20 feet, and in depth from 4 to 12 feet, girdles the foot of the

fort, except on the east, where it has been destroyed by the formation of a road. On the west and north the trench has a low rampart on the counterscarp. There is some appearance of an entrance on the north-east, where it is flanked by the projecting expansion of the terrace. This fort is only 200 yards from a rectilinear "Roman Camp" (No. 11) which lies lower down and on the opposite side of the burn.

We pass now to a class of works, too decayed for identification, but known locally as mote-knowes.

7. *Mote-knowe* on Milton farm (fig. 6). This was considered to be a Roman work by Roy, who represents it as a small rectangular redoubt with the angles much rounded off, and as being close to the remaining angle of a large rectangular "camp," represented by a mere dotted line on his plan; but I am informed by Mr Richardson, the tenant of the farm, that the smaller work is known locally as "the mote-knowe." No vestige of the "camp" remains, if it ever existed; the site is a broad low ridge in the dale of the Annan, with a steep bank down to the haugh of the river. One side of the "camp" rests on this bank in Roy's Plan, but the detached redoubt is removed

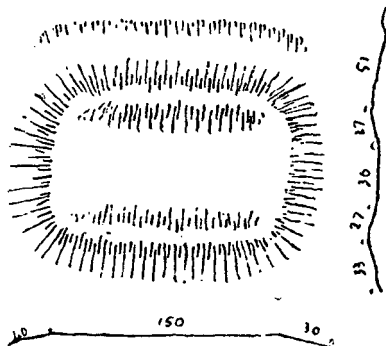


Fig. 6. Mote-knowe, Milton.

from the bank, on the top of the ridge. Frequent ploughing has obliterated all sharpness of feature and flattened out the work, but it is still conspicuous even from the other side of the river, half a mile off. The mass still retains the form represented by Roy, but rises only a foot or two above the field, the height being increased a foot or two more at the north and south sides by what appears to be the much-flattened-out remains of a rampart. A broad shallow trench covers the north face, but is not traceable on the other sides. A "Roman Road" is marked close to the east of it on the O.M., but I could see no trace of it. Roy marks his Roman road on the edge of the bank where there is now a farm road.

8. *Mote-knowe* on New Farm, in the Dale of the Annan, about 4 miles south of Moffat, 400 feet above the sea and 150 above the river, which flows 1100 yards to the west. The site is a circular mound, probably mostly natural, which dominates a sloping field by from 15 to 20 feet on three sides, but cut off by either a natural or artificial wide trench from ground, which rises gently

to it from the west. The hard, rough, stony interior rises gently to the middle, and is encircled 6 to 10 feet below the level of the top by a single mound, now barely traceable, 160 feet in diameter, according to the O.M. Mr Rutherford, the farmer, told me it was known as the Mote-knowe or Mote-hill by the old inhabitants. His father told him that in a field to the south there were four or five circular mounds close together. No trace of them remains. The name *Moat-knowe* is marked on the O.M. at an old quarry 130 yards south-west of the fort, but Mr Rutherford says this is a mistake.

We conclude with two forts, which are not known as motes, but which seem to me to be analogous to them in some respects.

9. *Mote (?) on New Farm, Mid Murthat* (fig. 7).—450 yards north-west of No. 8, and 30 or 40 feet higher, on one of several little mounds in a marshy field. Frequent ploughing has nearly destroyed the fort. The mound, which is quite isolated, has steep sides, from 15 to 20 feet high. The top of the eastern

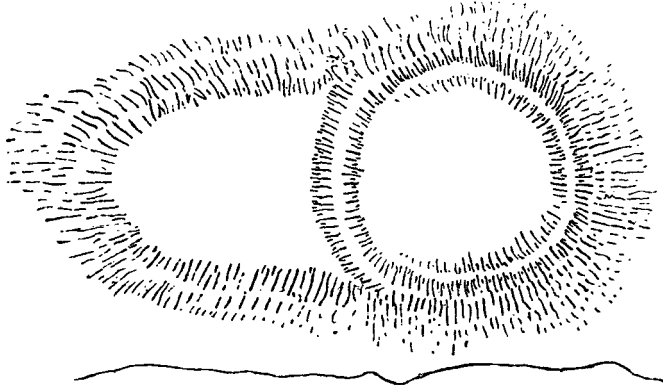


Fig. 7. Mote (?) on New Farm, Mid Murthat.

and larger but somewhat lower part is occupied by a low, almost flat-domed interior, surrounded in the three free directions, at the edge of the slopes, by a mound much broadened and flattened by the plough. A slight hollow or trench intervenes between this rampart and the domed interior, and on the west side cuts off the circular fortification from the western and narrower part of the mound, which is several feet higher than the eastern part, and therefore completely commands it. There is no trace of fortification on the western part, but it seems probable that it has been the mote or mound, of which the lower eastern fortification was the base-court. A little burn flows under the northern slope of the mound. Mr Rutherford told me the field in which the fort stands is known as the baron (?) castle field.

10. *Mote (?) on Camp Knowe, Chapel, near Moffat* (fig. 8).—On a natural mound on the top of the ridge between the Annan and Evan, 800 feet above the sea,

450 above the Annan, and 350 above the Evan, upon which it looks down. The mound is about 20 to 25 feet high, with steep rocky sides, except on the east, where it falls gradually to the level. The top is rough and irregular, and shows little trace of a rampart, but the foot is surrounded four-fifths of the way round by a trench and outer rampart 3 or 4 feet high. The rampart is apparently of earth and stones, but a break on the side towards the Evan shows carefully-built masonry of small stones without mortar. There is a passage through the outer rampart on the west, but the true entrance has probably been 50 feet

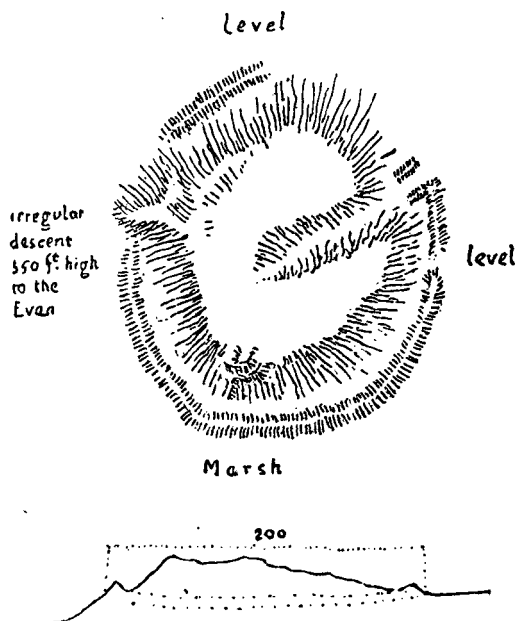


Fig. 8. Mote (?) on Camp Knowe, Chapel, near Moffat.

north of this, where remains of side-walls prolonged inwards to, and continuous with, a natural narrow hollow, which bisects the interior, can be seen. The fortifications on the most accessible side, to the north-west, are gone, but there are some signs that a portion of the low level ground had been included in them. The dimensions of the mound over all are about 230 by 200 feet. I include this, though with much doubt, among the possible motes, because, although the mound is natural, the surrounding trench and rampart at the foot assimilate it to the motes.

Finally, it must be owned that this assortment of motes is a provisional one, and may be much modified when the subject is better worked out.

1.



ROMAN CAMP (?) GARPOL

2.



GARPOL FORT OR MOTE (?)

B. *Rectilinear Fortifications.*

Although rectilinear "Camps," attributed, perhaps on insufficient evidence, to the Romans, are more common in Dumfriesshire than in any other county of Scotland, there are but two, and these comparatively small ones, in Upper Annandale, not including Roy's small camp (7), which I believe was more probably a mote. The two are situated not in the dale proper, but in remote side glens, and were unknown to Roy.

11. *Garpol "Camp"* (fig. 9 [section on double scale of ground-plan], and Plate V.)—On the north bank of the Garpol Burn, 200 yards east of the strong terraced fort, or mote (No. 6), and at a slightly lower level than it. The site is a level haugh, 600 feet above the sea, and only a few feet above

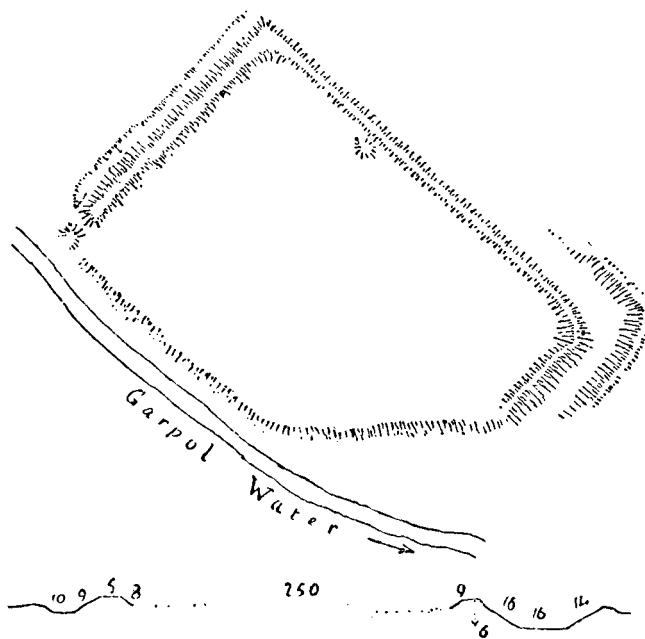


Fig. 9. Garpol "Camp."

the burn, which skirts the "camp" on the south; and it is only partially occupied by the fortification. The enceinte is pentagonal, with three right angles. The south and south-west sides towards the burn have no rampart, but merely a scarp 2 to 5 feet high, but defences here may have been carried away by floods. The north-west face, about 200 feet long, runs at right angles from the burn to a narrow marsh which covers the whole north-east face, about 280 feet in length. The gentle northern slope of the valley rises directly beyond



this narrow marsh. The south-east face is only 70 feet long. These three sides are protected by a rampart, which on the north-west is 24 feet wide, and at most 5 feet high above a shallow trench in its front. On the north-east the rampart is only 11 feet wide and 2 high, but this side is protected by the narrow marsh already mentioned, which fills the space 60 or 70 yards wide between the rampart and the gentle rise of the hill. On the south-east the rampart becomes again 24 feet wide and rises about 6 feet above a trench, 16 feet wide at the bottom, with a counterscarp 5 feet high, provided with a slight parapet on the top. This outer defence turns the south angle, and is

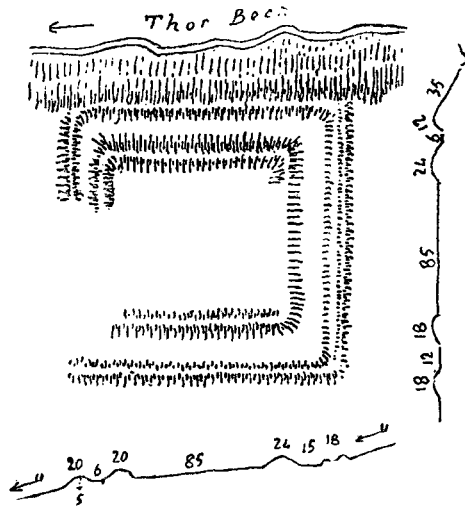


Fig. 10. Square Fort, Laverhay, Wamphray Glen.

prolonged for some distance on the north-east face, but is gradually lost in the marsh. The top of the inner rampart is flat, and is from 3 to 5 feet wide. Many good-sized stones lie half buried on the top, and others can be detected by the point of a stick immediately below the turf. Either a wall has been built on the top, or more probably the mound conceals the base of a wall. The only entrance is on the north-west face close to the burn. In the interior there is a small tumulus 5 feet from the north-east rampart near its north end. It is not easy to see why the Romans should have constructed a stone fort in this unimportant side valley, not connected with any line of communication. The measurements were taken for me with the tape by Dr Grange. My view (Plate V.) is taken from opposite the north-west face, looking down the valley to the hills above Beattock, on which are five forts. A plan and description of this "Camp" are given by Mr R. H. Blyth, F.S.A. Scot. (*Proc.* 1885-86, p. 331).

12. *Square Fort, Laverhay, Wamphray Glen* (fig. 10).—The only other rectangular work in Upper Annandale is in the slight hollow of the Thor Beck, a trifling rill which descends from Laverhay Height (1587), in Wamphray Glen, 3 miles above the junction of Wamphray Water with the Annan, half a mile north of Laverhay Farm, and upwards of 700 feet above the sea. The fort is within a few yards of the rill, on the downward slope to the Wamphray Water, and the ground immediately above descends upon it still more steeply, so that the position is singularly weak. It is a square redoubt of 180 feet over all, and 85 internally. Three sides are complete, and are defended by a flat-bottomed trench, 12 feet wide at the bottom on the east, 15 feet wide on the south, and

only 6 on the north, where the defence is strengthened by the rill. A rampart on the outer side of the trench, 18 to 20 feet wide and only 2 or 3 in height, is furnished with a banquette, on the east face only, towards the rise; the inner rampart, from 20 to 24 feet wide, is nowhere higher than 3 feet above the trench. The fourth side, to the west, is only complete at the north angle. Elsewhere the sloping interior is directly continuous with the descent to Wamphray Water, and looks as if the ground had never been broken there. The situation is very wild and striking, with the lofty heath-covered hills of upper Wamphray Glen encircling it on the north, but it is difficult to account for a "Roman Camp" in so sequestered a spot, on no important line of com-

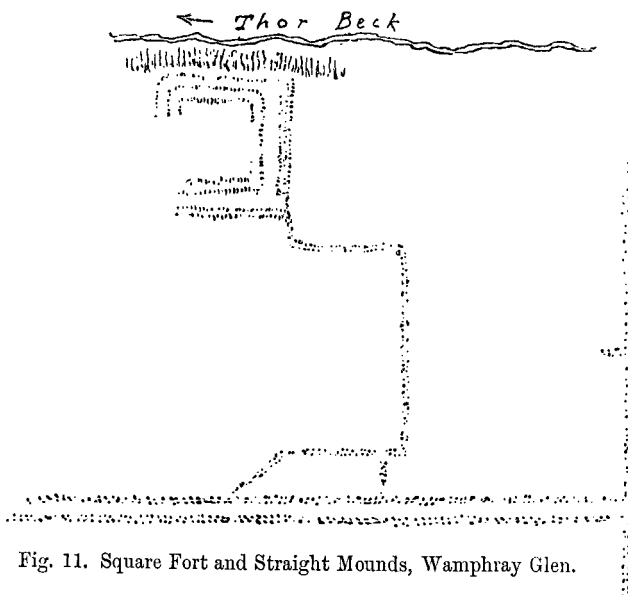


Fig. 11. Square Fort and Straight Mounds, Wamphray Glen.

munication. It is important to notice that it is directly connected with an extensive system of low rectilinear mounds, which ascend the hollow to the south, crown the higher ground, and descend the steep slope to Wamphray Water on the west. I give a rough plan of this system on a smaller scale (fig. 11). In connection with it the weak position of the fort may be explained by supposing that it was placed there to secure the water supply for some settlement, represented by the remaining mound-enclosures. Desolate as the spot is, it appears from MS. notes furnished in 1855 by Mr Charles Stewart, factor on the Annandale estates, to the Rev. P. Hope, F.C. minister of Johnston, and lent to me by Mr J. D. Hope, that "a chapel stood formerly higher up the glen (the site according to the O.M. is a quarter of a mile higher), and that the

existence of a considerable population still higher up the stream, three or four centuries ago, is testified by writings and the foundations of dwellings."

The little work (No. 7) on Milton Farm has certainly a rectilinear tendency, but both in its present state and as represented by Roy its angles are much rounded. As it is called the Mote-knowe, I have preferred to class it with the motes.

A "Roman Road," perfectly straight, with the exception of a few slight changes in direction, is marked on the O.M. as extending without a break from Nether Murflat farm, close to the Annan,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Moffat, northwards to opposite Erickstane, a distance of 8 miles. From the dale it ascends the ridge between the Annan and the Evan, and attains a height of 1100 feet above the sea. As there is scarcely any descriptive account of alleged Roman roads in Scotland, I give the following notices by eye-witnesses of the "Roman Road" in Dumfriesshire. "At a point about 100 yards east of 'the Rock,' on the ridge of Cotes Hill, a mile west of Moffat, a footpath crosses the 'Roman Road'; by the passage of people and sheep a part of it, about 12 feet in length, has been prevented from becoming covered with peat moss; this is paved. Northward one can see a level strip indicating the road, but it is completely grown over. On tearing up about 3 inches of peat moss the road is laid bare, paved with rough unhewn stones of all sizes well fitted together. If I remember rightly, it is about 8 or 9 feet wide" (Mr A. W. Munro, Moffat). "The Roman Road formed half a mile of the turnpike road through the village of Newton or Gilgal, without any change or repair of surface." "Near Millhouse Bridge, Applegarth, the Roman Road was discovered, crossing the present public road, by the regularly laid under bottoming of flat stones" (MS. notes by Mr Charles Stewart).

#### C. Curvilinear Forts.

(A.) *In Upper Annandale as far south as the Mouth of Wamphray Water.*—This class includes all curvilinear works, with the exception of those which have been already dealt with as *Motes* in Class I. I shall, in the first place, describe them in detail in their order as they occur in groups from north to south, and then endeavour as far as possible to classify them according to their plan and structure. They are almost all nameless, but to identify them I have designated them from the nearest farms, streams, hills, &c., marked on the 6-inch O.M. In the very uppermost part of Annandale, from the sources of the Annan in the spurs of Hartfell and "the Beef-Tub" to Moffat, a distance of 5 miles, besides three structures already described as motes, there are traces of no less than thirteen forts, eight on the west and five on the east side of the valley. Of the former, one of a rather doubtful character is on the river-side, and the other seven are on the slope of the valley. The five forts on the east side are retired some distance from the river and are somewhat elevated above it, at the foot of the steep and lofty slopes which rise to Hartfell (2651 feet), and Swatte Fell (2388 feet).

13. *Corehead Fort* (1).—The most northerly in Annandale, 800 feet above the sea, in the north-east corner of the gently rising and undulating ground forming the very head of Annandale, and abruptly closed by the remarkable smooth, green, but wall-like mass of hills from which the sources of the Annan spring. The site is on a gentle slope in the angle of junction between Tweed-

hope burn and Stotfield Gill, which rise in Spout Craig, about a mile to the north. The remains consist of a mound 24 feet wide and 1 to 3 feet high, enclosing an oval space of about 138 by 120 feet. On the north the interior is several feet below the descent of the hill upon it. There is some appearance of an outer mound, close to the inner one, on the south. The entrance is from the west. Breaks in the mound show masses of small stones (Dr Grange and Mr J. Christison).

14. *Corehead Fort (2)* (fig. 12).—500 yards S.S.W. of the last, on White Hill, a gentle eminence, 700 feet above the sea, half a mile S.S.E. of Corehead farm-

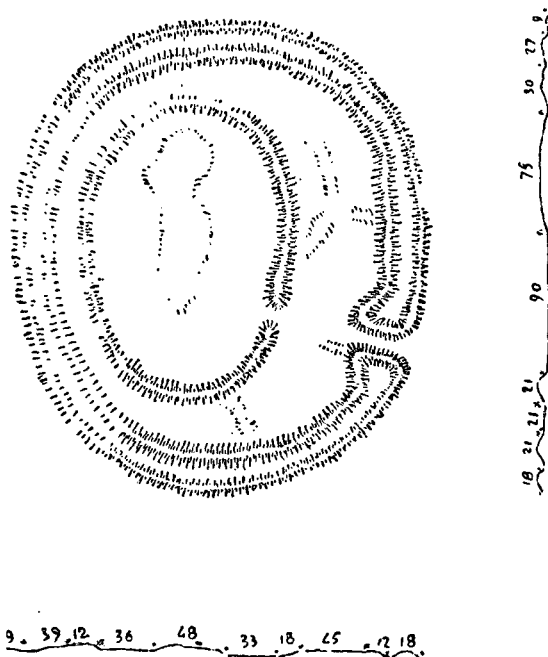


Fig. 12. Corehead Fort (2).

house, which nestles at the foot of the wall of green hills, 1000 feet high, that close Annandale to the north. The ground rises gently about 100 feet above the river, which flows 300 yards to the west, and falls from 10 to 30 feet to a little ravine or hollow on the north-east. But at the south end the rough ground rises a few feet higher than the site, and there is a very gentle descent from the north end. The work measures about 310 by 270 feet over all, and consists of three oval mounds, the outer two being concentric and close together, and the inner one excentric, as it is close to the others on the west side, but

gradually retires from them eastward, so as to leave on that side a kind of crescentic space or fore-court, 60 feet wide in the middle. A narrow trench, a foot or two in depth, separates the two outer mounds, which are nowhere above 5 feet high, and are almost levelled on the west side. In breaks, small stones mixed with earth, or closely packed, are disclosed. The only entrance, on the south-east, goes straight through the two outer ramparts, and is cut off from the trench on either side by a mound which unites the ramparts. The side mounds of the passage thus formed are parallel at the inner end, but diverge at the outer end, so as to give a better flanking defence; and greater space in the trench for defence of the passage is obtained by a retirement inwards of the ends of the inmost of the two outer ramparts on either side. Some traces of side walls to the passage through the fore-court remain, and the opening through the third or innermost rampart is in direct line with the passage through the outer ramparts. There are indistinct remains of several traverses across the fore-court.

15. *Auchencat Fort* (fig. 13).—On the north side of Auchencat Burn, a mile from its junction with the Annan, 150 feet above it and 700 above the sea, on the edge of the steep bank, about 70 feet high, of the burn, and nearly circular, with a diameter of about 300 feet internally. The southern half, projecting into the ravine and protected by steep slopes, has no artificial defence. But the other half is cut off from a gently sloping plateau to the north by an unusually massive semicircular earthen mound 30 to 40 feet wide, and from 5 to 8 feet high above an artificial trench which covers its western half, and a little hollow which forms a natural trench to the eastern half. The entrance is close to the west end of the rampart near the edge of the ravine, and is flanked on the side of the ravine by a mound at right angles to the rampart (Mr J. Christison).

16. *Howslack Fort*.—The site is 700 feet above the sea, at the top of a steep bank which rises 250 feet above the haugh of the Annan opposite Howslack farm. It is marked on the O.M. as a circle 170 feet in diameter, the southern half being a mere dotted line, but the northern half representing a rampart. I was unable to visit the spot, but could see no sign of the fort from a good point of view.

17. *Bridgend Fort*.—Close to the east side of the road near Bridgend, about 350 yards south-west of the last, at the foot of the high bank on which it stands, but on a slight eminence; marked on the O.M. merely as a dotted oval of about 145 by 130 feet, but with a sign indicating that the mound could still be made out. There appears to be no trace of it now.

18. *Corehead Fort* (3).—Returning to the west side of the valley, the most northerly fort on the O.M. is this mere "site," marked by a dotted oval of 290 by 180 feet, about 600 feet above the sea, at the foot of the hills, close to Roger Gill, 200 yards west of its junction with the Annan, and 600 west of No. 14.

19. *Erickstane Fort* (fig. 14).—On the Braefoot Burn, 400 yards from its junction with the Annan, 100 feet above it, and 700 above the sea. The fort is a semicircular work, with its base resting on the straight, precipitous north side of a narrow ravine 30 feet deep, through which flows the burn. The site slopes pretty steeply from east to west towards the Haugh of the Annan. At first sight the fort seems to be defended by three semicircular concentric mounds, with trenches in front of them, but on closer inspection it turns out

that only the inner mound is artificial. The three apparent trenches are merely slight natural parallel hollows, a few feet in depth, which, beginning

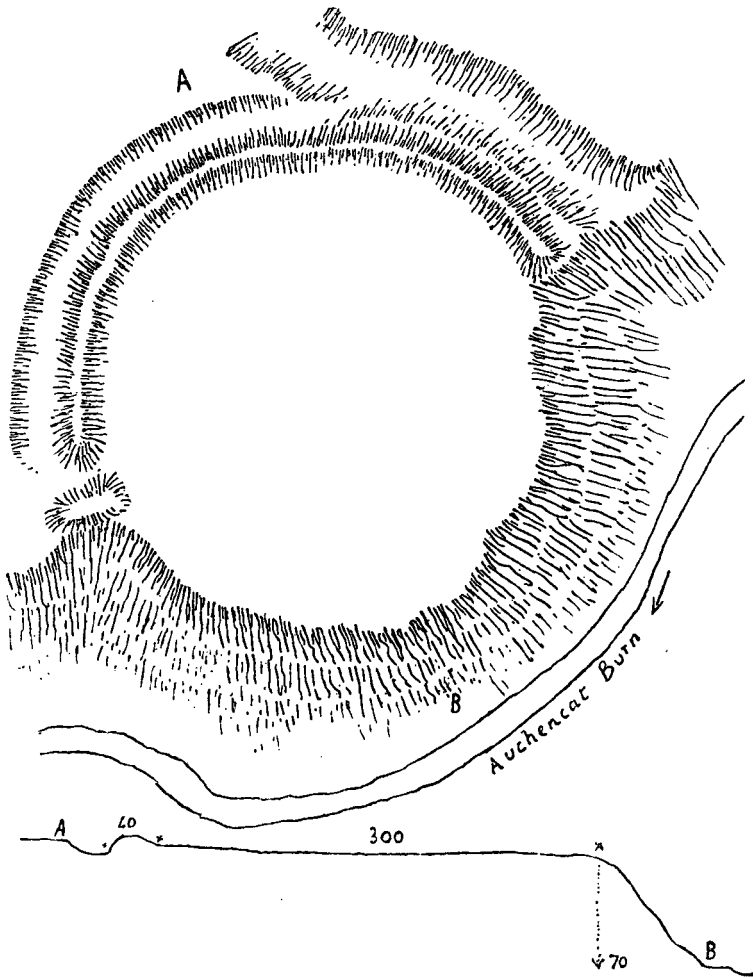


Fig. 13. Anchenat Fort.

some distance up the hillside, course round the site, uniting at the lower or east end in a single wide and deep outlet over the precipice into the burn—a

very singular conformation of the ground. The two narrow ridges between the trenches are natural, partly strengthened by art; and there are remains of a parapet at the edge of a little plateau, which projects from the inner enceinte, at a lower level than the interior, into the common outlet of the "trenches." In heavy rain these trenches may become water-courses, but ordinarily they are only marshy. The inner artificial mound is massive, and has a wall-foundation, which may be modern, on its flat top. The entrance has been

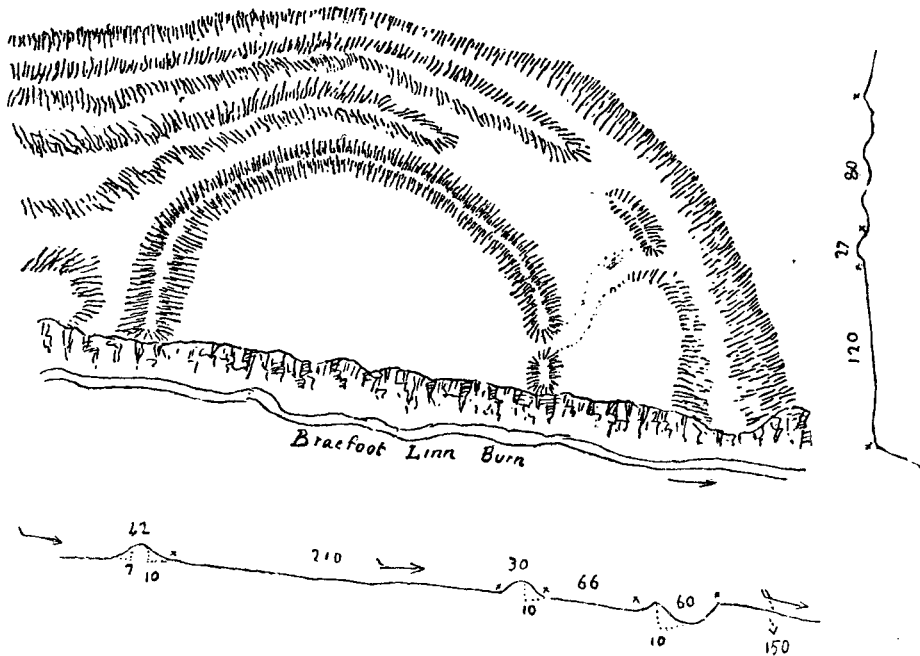


Fig. 14. Erickstane Fort.

apparently by a winding passage near the lower end of the fort. It can be traced through the inner defences, and perhaps entered the outer lines higher up. The weakest part of the fort is the higher west end, which is not covered by the natural trenches, and is almost commanded by a little elevation close in front.

20. *March Burn Fort.*—About three-quarters of a mile south of the last, 800 feet above the sea, 300 above the Annan. It occupies a little slightly-inclined plateau, upon which the hill falls steeply from above, and from which it falls steeply below. Thus it is quite commanded from the west, and the only natural strength is to the east. The enceinte is faintly marked by a nearly circular low grassy mound about 160 feet in diameter from crest to crest of the mound, which is 18 feet wide.

21. *Holehouse Burn Fort* (1).—Three-quarters of a mile south of No. 20, on a little flat on the slope of the dale, and on the northern edge of the ravine of Holehouse Burn, about 600 feet above the sea, and 150 above the Annan, a nearly circular site, about 160 feet in diameter, is marked on the O.M., but I could find no unmistakable trace of it on the probably long cultivated and recently ploughed ground.

22. *Holehouse Burn Fort* (2) (fig. 15).—About 200 yards from the last, on the opposite side of the ravine, near a site marked *Muccraw Knowe* on the O.M. The ground occupied is level, and comes to the edge of the ravine, which is here very steep, and 70 or 80 feet deep. On the west, towards the rise of the valley, the fort is closely commanded by a steep rise of 50 feet, from which it is separated merely by a narrow marsh, perhaps originally a trench; but on

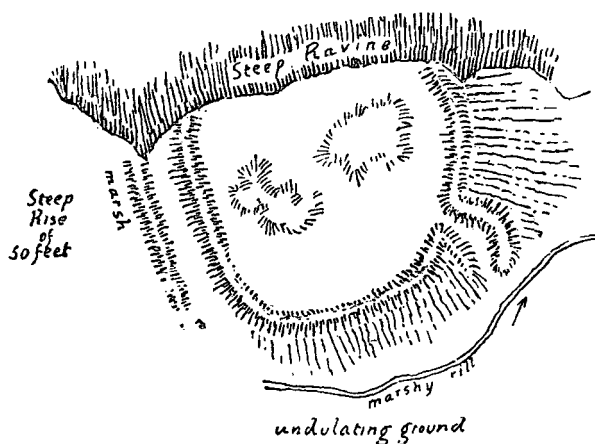


Fig. 15. Holehouse Burn Fort (2).

this weak side it is protected by a double rampart. Elsewhere the rampart is single, and the fortification forms an irregular semicircle, some parts being straight, others curved, the unfortified base about 150 feet in length, within the rampart, resting on the ravine. The northern part of the interior, or that nearest the ravine, is rough with irregular mounds. The entrance, which is on the south, is prolonged by a couple of mounds, one on each side, down a little slope for 60 feet to a marshy little rill crossed by a causeway. This was, no doubt, a covered way to the water-supply.

23. *Gardenholm Fort* (fig. 16).—300 yards south-west of the last, touching the east side of the Edinburgh road and occupying the whole of a flat-topped projection into the slope of the valley, called Camp Knowe, flanked by marshy hollows on both sides, with a steep descent to the river, and not much commanded in the opposite direction, as the upward slope of the hill eases off there. It is 250 feet above the river, and 700 above the sea. The single inconspicuous mound



is nearly circular, the diameter from crest to crest being about 150 by 140 feet. At the entrance, which is to the north, there are additional mounds, the precise nature of which is not easily made out, and the eastern half of the interior seems to be raised artificially 3 or 4 feet.

24. *Riddings Fort (?)*.—Half a mile south-east of No. 23, opposite Riddings farmhouse, on a little flat close to the Annan, and raised 15 feet above it. This seems to be a trifling work of irregular somewhat square form, 90 feet

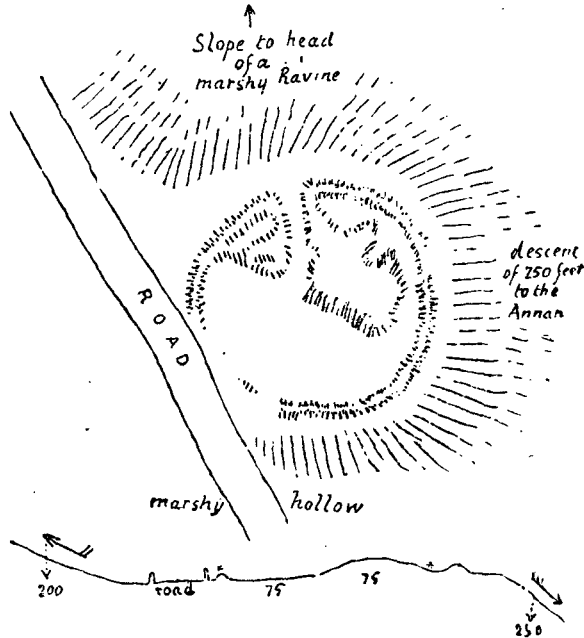


Fig. 16. Gardenholm Fort.

across. The slight mound seems to be of earth and small stones. It is marked as a fort on the 6 and 25 inch O.M., but it seems rather a questionable one.

25. *Gardenholm Plantation Fort*.—On the west or upper side of the Edinburgh road and close to it, in a plantation, 600 feet above the sea and 250 above the Annan, flanked by a little burn-hollow on the south, and on a considerable slope from west to east; the interior at the upper end, as often happens in similar sites, being 5 or 6 feet below the exterior. The circular, ill-preserved, but massive single mound, enclosing a space about 150 feet in diameter, shows in breaks nothing but earth and small stones, except on the weak upper side, where remains of coarse building are visible. There is one

entrance to the north-east, and another towards the burn, with a little roadway of 20 yards to it.

No. 25 concludes the group of thirteen forts in the valley of the Upper Annan, above Moffat. On the broad top of the ridge which divides the Annan from the Evan, and towards its south end, we have already noticed a mote (No. 2), and another mote-like structure (No. 10). These, although from the form of the ridge they are nearer the Evan than the Annan, belong as much to the one as to the other system, and the fort to which we now proceed is probably the only fortified structure which has a direct connection, although a distant one, with Evandale, before the stream issues into the broad haugh between Moffat and Beattock, which may be regarded as common to the three head waters of the Annan,—the Annan proper, the Evan, and Moffat Water.

26. *Coats Hill Fort*.—The fifth of a mile north of the mote No. 2, on the ridge which divides Annandale from Evandale, near its south end, 600 feet above the sea, 200 above the Evan, upon which it looks down. It is on the gentle slope of Coats Hill (692) which precedes the steep descent to the Evan. It is nearly circular, measuring about 130 by 120 feet, and all that remains is a zone of small stones, partly grass-grown, from a few inches to a foot high, and not above 18 feet in width.

The next group consists of six in the valleys of the Birnock Water and Frenchland Burn, to the north-east of Moffat, all within less than a mile of it, and all unfortunately scarcely recognizable owing to dilapidation, or long-established cultivation of their sites.

27. *Moffat Well Fort*.—A little north-west of the mineral well, an oval site on the O.M. of 140 by 125 feet in a field, where I could find no trace of it, 700 feet above the sea and about 100 above the Birnock Water. In uncultivated ground, on the east side of a wall, which the site touches on the west side, there are a number of obscure mounds which might possibly have belonged to a fort with two or even three concentric ramparts.

28. *Archbank Fort*.—An oval site on the O.M. of 220 by 150 feet, 600 feet above the sea, about 200 yards west of Archbank Farmhouse, on a level part of a field which slopes gently eastward from Gallowhill. The site must have been long under cultivation, but the much-flattened mound is still visible from a little distance in a favourable light.

29. *Auldton Fort (1)*.—About 550 yards east-south-east of the last, on the east side of the Birnock, on cultivated ground, 300 yards north-west of Auldton Farmhouse; on the top of a gentle mound about 500 feet above the sea, and 50 above the Birnock, which flows 200 yards to the west; marked on the O.M. by a dotted line as an oval site of 165 by 140 feet; hardly a trace to be seen (Mr J. Christison).

30. *Auldton Fort (2)*.—500 yards east-south-east of No. 29, 600 feet above the sea, on the slope of Auldton Hill (1063 feet), 300 yards east of Auldton Farmhouse, with no natural advantage except a slight elevation above a hollow which contains a burn, 20 or 30 yards to the east. The O.M. represents a complete oval rampart of about 165 by 150 feet from crest to crest, with a concentric outer rampart on the north extending about a third of the way round. The inner rampart cannot now be made out all round, and the best-preserved part of the outer one is on the west side. There it is about a foot high and 9 feet wide. It is separated by only 6 feet from the inner rampart, which is

6 feet wide, and the whole, though much grass-grown, is very stony (Mr J. Christison). It seems probable that this has been a strong, perhaps single-walled, nearly circular stone fort.

31. *Frenchland Fort (1)*.—Half a mile south-south-east of No. 30, and 300 yards north-east of the ruined Frenchland Tower, on the east side of the burn. The level site, 650 feet above the sea, is strengthened by the very steep declivity of 150 feet to the burn on the one side, and by marshy ground on the other. The marshy source of a little rill, flowing south-west, is within the enceinte, and another little rill flows round and touches its north side. A sheep-fank, occupying the site and standing partially on the enceinte, accounts

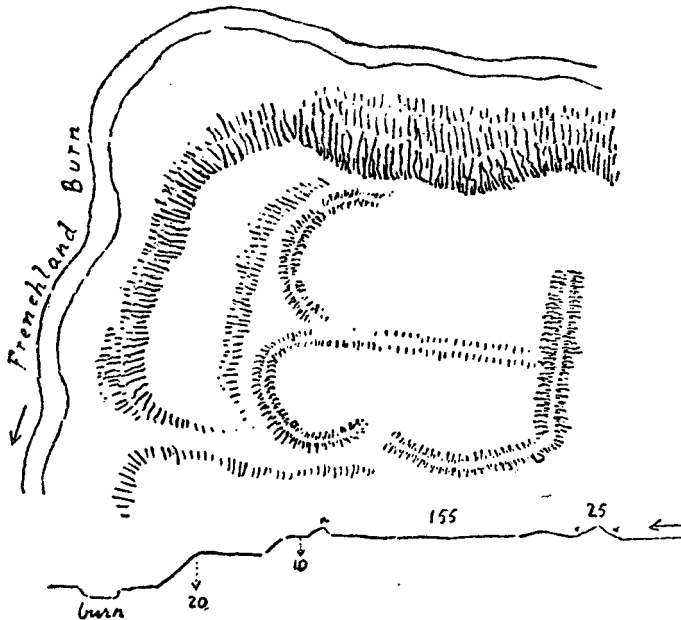


Fig. 17. Frenchland Fort (2).

for dilapidation and confusion of details, but the O.M. marks the fort as an oval of about 200 by 165 feet. I made it a circle of 165 feet.

32. *Frenchland Fort (2)* (fig. 17).—700 yards south-south-west of No. 31, further down the burn on the same side, about 430 feet above the sea. The site is in a right-angled bend of the burn, 30 feet above it, and with steep descents to it, so that the north and west sides are well guarded by nature, but to the east and south it is merely part of a tolerably level field. The O.M. marks the fort as an oval of 120 by 100 feet, of which only the southern ram-

part remains, but I think there can be no doubt that there are remains of a straight rampart to the east, of one with a double convexity outwards to the south, and of a similar one to the west. On the north, at the edge of the steep descent to the burn, an apparent rampart is, I believe, a natural mound. One entrance seems to have been in the re-entering angle of the south face, and there seems to have been a covered way from it to the burn. From the west front there is a descent of 10 feet to an apparently natural terrace 30 or 40 feet wide, and then a further descent of above 20 feet to the level bank of the burn. This terraced appearance is conspicuous from a great distance. There may have been another entrance at the north-east angle, where there is a great deficiency, in the wide, straight rampart. Altogether this is a work of a quite peculiar form.

In strong contrast with the valley of the Annan above Moffat, with its twelve forts in a length of 5 miles, the glen of Moffat Water has but four in a course of 10 miles.

33. *Selcoth Fort*.—The furthest up the valley, 4 miles from its mouth, where the slope of Crofthead Hill (2085 feet) ends at the haugh, 200 yards south-west of Selcoth Farmhouse, 250 east of the stream, above which it is but little elevated, and 500 feet above the sea. The fort is an oval of about 190 by 160 feet, and it is so placed on a slope that the upper end is 6 feet lower than the slope of the hill immediately above it. There is no rampart at that end now to prevent any one from jumping into the fort. Elsewhere there is a distinct enough mound, 2 or 3 feet high, and very stony. On the river-side there is a small crescentic annexed space, with a rampart at the edge of the final little descent to the haugh, and there are mounds in the interior of the fort, but a modern wall stands on part of the enceinte, and some of these remains may not be of original works. The only entrance is on the north-east.

34. *Crofthead Fort*.—A circular "site," 150 feet in diameter, on the O.M., 200 yards north of Crofthead Farm, and the same distance east of Moffat Water, in the cultivated haugh, about 450 feet above the sea. Apparently nothing remains of the fort.

35. *Craigieburn Fort*.—About 450 feet above the sea, and over a mile and a half south-west of the last, down the stream, and on the other side. The site is on a curious little tongue of land, which projects from the foot of the hill-slope into the haugh of the river, which flows 200 yards to the east, and is about 40 feet lower. The highway has to take a semicircular bend round the tongue. A short steep slope defends three sides, the southern of which is additionally strengthened by the Craigie Burn course, but from the west the approach is by a level neck. Two-thirds of a circular, single, low, but wide mound remain towards the east, and the neck towards the hill is closed by obscure mounds, forming a squarish enclosure. The diameter of the fort, according to the O.M., is 220 feet.

36. *Cornal Burn Fort* (fig. 18).—Half a mile south-east of the last, on the opposite side of the valley, north of the burn, 1000 yards above its junction with Moffat Water. The site is 700 feet above the sea and 300 above Moffat Water, occupying a little level shelf in the descent of Gateshaw Rig (1853). A well-defined zone of small stones, from 16 to 20 feet wide, but nowhere above a foot in height, encloses an oval space of 132 by 96 feet. On the east side the wall has been founded on a steep upward slope 5 feet high, and it is closely com-

manded by a further steep rise, 10 or 12 feet high. Thus there must have been a trench, as it were, of which this latter rise formed the counterscarp and the wall of the fort the scarp, and the wall must have been at least 20 feet high within and 15 outside, to give it a command over the ground beyond the trench. There are two entrances, on the north and south-west. Twenty-four feet north-east of the latter, in the interior, is a circular stony mound (hut circle?), 24 feet in diameter over all; and there is another less-well-marked one in a similar position with regard to the other entrance. There can be little doubt this has been a stone fort, with a wall probably 15 feet thick at the base, and, as we have seen, at least 20 feet high on the east side.

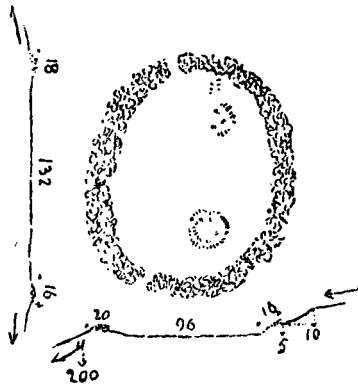


Fig. 18. Cornal Burn Fort.

We have now exhausted the forts, twenty-four in number, exclusive of four motes, which lie in the Annandale valleys eastward, and inclusive of the left bank of the Evan. Of these only one, No. 26, has any connection with the Evan. In the upper four miles of its glen, to the north of No. 26, there is no fort of any kind, and if, more than a mile to the west of it, we have the remarkable "Mote" (6) and the rectilinear camp (11), yet these belong to a different class of structures, and, moreover, are quite hidden away from the Evan, in the tributary glen of the Garpol. It is only half a mile below the junction of the Garpol that we once more encounter forts of the third class. These form a remarkable group of four, within a radius of a quarter of a mile, on Beattock Hill.

37. *Beattock Hill Fort (1)*.—500 feet above the sea, 100 above the Evan, on the east slope of the hill, 550 yards north-west of the railway station; upon a nearly level little platform, with no natural strength except where it comes to the edge of the descent. As this edge is nearly straight, the fort assumes a somewhat semicircular figure. A stony, grass-covered mound, nowhere more than a foot high and 18 feet wide, with cross diameters from crest to crest of 90 and 66 feet, alone indubitably remains, although there are slight indications of an outer ring. The entrance is from the north.

38. *Beattock Hill Fort (2)*.—Four hundred yards south-west of the last and 200 feet higher, on a slope which faces south-east into the little glen up which a steep winding road passes to the Kinnel and Garpol Farms. The site is a slightly inclined little plateau. The rampart is circular, with a diameter of 130 feet from crest to crest, and is less dilapidated than usual with these stone forts, being still from 3 to 4 feet high, and from 18 to 24 feet wide, and containing larger stones than usual. The entrance opening, 9 feet wide, is to the north-east.

39. *Beattock Hill Fort (3)*.—Four hundred yards west of No. 37, and, like it, 700 feet above the sea; on the opposite or north-western slope of the hill—looking down, therefore, on the Garpol glen. The site is simply a gentle slope

with no natural advantage, on which lies, very conspicuously, the remains of a single oval wall of stone, 1 foot in height and 18 to 24 feet wide, measuring 147 by 120 feet from crest to crest. (The last three forts were examined and measured for me by Mr Grange and Mr J. Christison.)

40. *Beattock Hill Fort* (4) (fig. 19).—Much the largest of the group, and one of the most important forts in the district, on the top of Beattock Hill, 851 feet above the sea, and 450 above the Evan and Annan, which flow through the

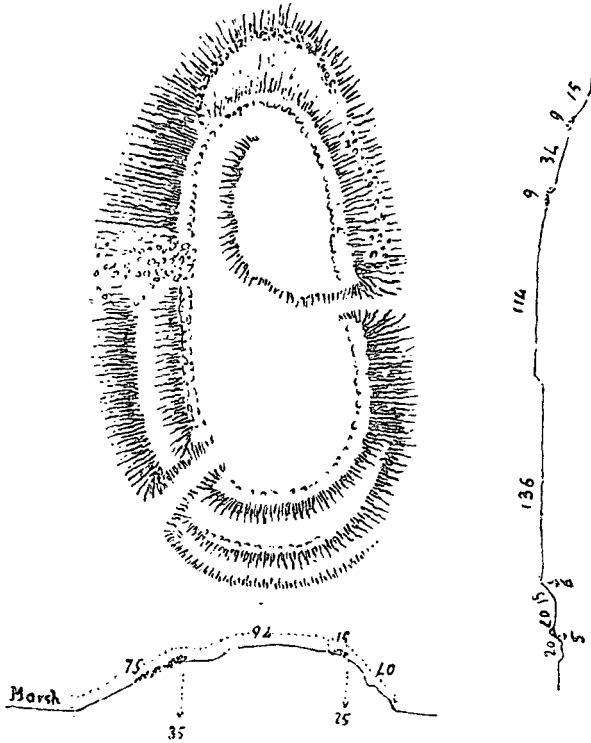


Fig. 19.—Beattock Hill Fort (4).

extensive haugh to the east. The summit of the hill is broad and level, so that there is no view from the fort of the slopes of the hill, or of the three neighbouring forts just described, which lie upon them; but the distant views are fine and extensive. From this flat summit rises a little rocky knoll, from 10 to 30 feet in height, with steep slopes on the sides, but descending gently at the narrow north and south ends. The whole of the top, measuring 250 by

90 feet, is included within the inner enceinte, which has been a wall of considerable thickness, the grass-grown base of which, showing stones of some size, partially remains. The southern half of the interior rises gradually to the northern half, which rises abruptly, by a little rocky face, 5 feet higher, leaving however on its western side a narrow border at the same level as the southern half. Thus the northern half forms a kind of natural citadel, but there is no trace of special fortification cutting it off from the southern end. The small debris of the plundered wall lies on the slope, and at a varying level down the slope the remains of an outer wall can be traced all round except at the southern end of the west side. In rear of this outer wall at the south end there is a terrace, 20 feet wide, which is continued in a narrower form along the west face, and is gradually lost towards its north end. A shallow trench covers the south end, and there are traces of another at the north end. A wide, straight entrance pierces the south-west angle, and at its outlet two little mounds may be remains of some strengthening work. By a natural hollow in the middle of the east face there may have been another entrance, but it is now choked with debris. (Assisted by Mr Grange and Mr J. Christison, I measured this fort with the tape.)

Next come a group of four, which are the highest up the Kinnel Water.

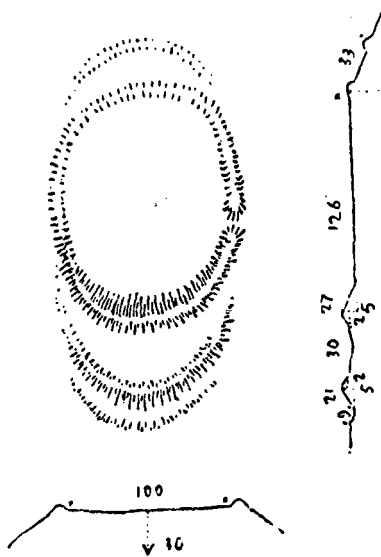


Fig. 20.—Knockhill Fort, Craigielsands.

is 780 feet above the sea and 450 above the Annan, and commands an extensive view. Steep slopes, 25 to 30 feet high, fall from it in all directions except the south, whence the approach along the ridge is nearly level. A

41. *Stanshielrig Fort*.—This may almost be grouped with the last four, because it is only 1100 yards S.W. of No. 40, at about the same elevation and with a gentle dip of but 50 feet in the ground between. Geographically, however, it belongs more strictly to the Kinnel Water, towards which there is a gentle descent of 250 feet from it. From this direction it has a marked aspect of artificial levelling on the top, with a terrace below, but on the spot there are no unequivocal signs of fortification. The O.M. gives a circular rampart enclosing a diameter of 140 feet on the summit.

42. *Knockhill Fort, Craigielsands* (fig. 20).—One mile and a quarter south-east of No. 40 on the continuation of the Beattock ridge which separates the Annan from the Kinnel. It is the last fort on this ridge, which comes to an end about a mile and a half further south, and is a mile and a quarter from the Annan on one side and three-quarters of a mile from the Kinnel on the other. It

trifling mound, 9 feet wide and 1 foot high, remains round the edge on the three difficult sides, with a similar one advanced 30 feet down the northern slope. But the weak south end is defended by a crescentic platform raised 3 feet above the level of the interior, and provided both in front and rear with a substantial rampart 20 to 27 feet wide. The one in front is covered by a 9-foot wide trench, the bottom of which is 5 feet below the top of the rampart. The one to the rear is about 5 feet above the interior of the fort. The entrance is through the single rampart at the south-east corner.

43. *Eyre Burn Fort, Kinnel Water* (fig. 21).—At the mouth of the Eyre burn, on the south side of the Kinnel, slightly elevated above it, in a bend



Fig. 21.—Eyre Burn Fort, Kinnel Water.

of the stream, and 600 feet above the sea. A zone of small stones, from 20 to 24 feet wide and 2 feet high in some places, encloses an oval space of 220 by 110 feet. Forty-two feet from the north end a straight line of stones, 20 feet wide, is drawn across the interior, on slightly higher ground. The entrance to the fort is at the east end of this traverse, close to the north of it, but there is no opening through the traverse. A similar traverse crosses 54 feet from the south end, but is not so entire. It is also favoured by a slight rise in the ground.



There are doubtful traces of a round enclosure in rear of the latter traverse at its west end and of another in rear of the east end of the north traverse, close to which is an oval ruin of stone, enclosing a space of 24 by 10 feet, probably modern. A tongue of land slightly raised above the surrounding ground appears to have been edged by small standing stones, set at intervals of 6 to 8 yards, of which about twelve remain.

44. *Stiddrig Fort, Kinnel Water* (fig. 22).—1500 yards south-east of No. 43, and 400 south-east of Stiddrig Farmhouse, on a height 800 feet above the sea, with a steep descent, 200 feet high, towards the Kinnel on the north. To the south-west, after a slight dip, the ground rises to another and higher eminence about 200 yards off. A substantial mound, very stony but mostly

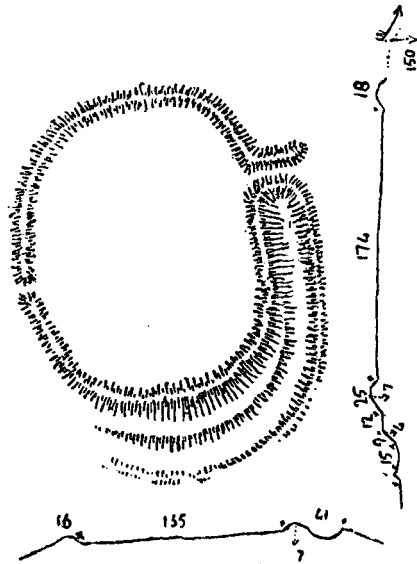


Fig. 22.—Stiddrig Fort, Kinnel Water.

grass-grown, from 16 to 30 feet wide, encloses an oval area of about 175 by 135 feet, on a slight incline from south to north. From the south a small height closely commands the fort, and here a trench, with a slight outer rampart, has been dug for about 100 yards, which, towards the east end, is 8 feet below the main rampart, and towards the west end is 10 or 11 feet below it, but is pushed further out on the level ground there, a kind of terrace or platform occupying the additional space between the rampart and trench. There is no trench on the northern half of the enceinte, where the natural position is strong, but a little outwork, of which the side facing the passage alone remains, had protected the east entrance on the north side.

Following the Annan from the junction of its three head-waters to the junction of the Wamphray Water, a distance of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles, five forts are met with on the west and two on the east side of the river. Four of the former have already been treated of as motes.

45. *The Dod Fort.*—On the top of “the Dod” (762), a height below Craig Fell (1516), with a very steep descent, 150 feet high, to the Bell Craig Burn, on the north and east, and gentle slopes elsewhere—that to the Annan, nearly a mile off, falling about 500 feet. Towards the easily approached southern end of the oval there remains a mound, apparently of earth, 27 feet across and 6 above a shallow trench. To the east these end abruptly on the steep slope. Westward they are gradually lost, and the only other distinct sign of fortification is something like a terrace 9 feet wide at the north end. The oval on the O.M. measures 290 by 250 feet.

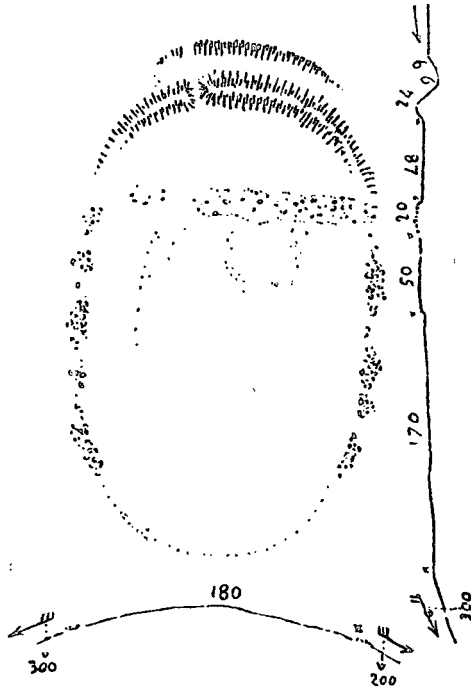


Fig. 23. Fort near Dundoran.

46. *Catharine Hill Fort.*—A semicircle on the edge of a precipitous descent of 70 feet to the Annan, a mile and an eighth south-west of No. 32. The plough has almost effaced it, but it can still be traced from the adjoining high-

road by a slight rise in the ground. The O.M. makes its base 220 and radius 160 feet.

47. *Cogrie Fort*.—230 yards north-west of Cogrie Farm,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile W. of the Annan, and only about 300 feet above the sea. Represented rather vaguely on the O.M. as a circle 120 feet in diameter, crossed by a straight traverse towards its north end. I could see no trace of it from a distant view.

Besides the square fort at Laverhay (No. 12), there are three sites of forts connected with Wamphray Glen, grouped together about a mile and a quarter lower down, where the Leithenhall Burn joins the Wamphray Water and near Wamphray Mount.

48. *Leithenhall Fort*.—300 yards N.N.E. of Leithenhall Farm, at the end of the ridge dividing Leithenhall Hope from Wamphray Glen, 550 feet above the sea. The site is a level field, but no vestige of the fort exists. On the O.M. it is a circle of 170 feet diameter marked "Remains."

49. *Leithenhall Hope Fort*.—Northwards 400 yards along the ridge, but some distance down the slope towards the Leithenhall Burn, about 650 feet above the sea. A mere fragment of the south end is preserved in a plantation, the rest having been destroyed by the plough. It was probably of stone. There is no trench. On the O.M. it is an oval of 150 by 120 feet.

50. *Fort near Dundoran* (fig. 23).—650 yards W. by N. of No. 49, 800 feet above the sea, at the end of the ridge of Dundoran (974), which forms the west side of Leithenhall Hope, at the edge of an abrupt descent of 400 feet to Annandale. The fort is overgrown by a plantation, which makes examination difficult. It has apparently been large and strong. The north end towards the gentle rise of Dundoran is tolerably preserved. Here a trench remains, 9 feet wide at the bottom, 3 feet below the exterior, and 6 below the crest of the rampart. The trench and rampart are soon lost on the flanks, which, like the south end, are strong by nature from the long and steep descents. A zone of small stones defines the flanks, but there are no remains at the south end. The O.M. makes the interior dimensions 270 by 175 feet, with which my pacing pretty closely agreed. It omits, however, the stony remains of a straight traverse, 20 feet wide, 45 feet in rear of the north end. There are also doubtful traces of an inner line branching off from the traverse, and running parallel with the outer enceinte on the west side, and more doubtful traces of a circular structure in rear of the traverse. The interior slopes to the south, and rather steeply from the middle line to east and west.

#### B. Group of Forts at Dinwoodie.

A group of nine within a mile radius, on the east side of the Annan,—two in the low ground near the river, four on the skirts of the rise of the valley, and three on the top of the watershed between the Annan and the Howthat Burn, a tributary of Dryfe Water.

51. *Dinwoodie Hill Fort*.—The most northerly of the whole, and one of the two in the low ground, is the only one which I did not manage to see. It is a mile and three-quarters below the mouth of Wamphray Water, upon Dinwoodie Hill, an isolated ridge rising 368 feet above the sea, and 170 above the Annan, which flows 200 yards to the west. In the O.M. it is represented as a perfect, and apparently wide, oval rampart, enclosing a space of about 170 by 120 feet, and measuring over all 210 by 150 feet.

52. *Kirkcum Hill Fort*.—One mile and an eighth below the last, on a flat-topped eminence, about 50 feet high, 200 yards from the Annan on the west, and with the Dalmakeddar Burn flowing close under it on the east. The flanks are steep, but the approach at the north and south ends is easy along the ridge. Faint traces of an encircling oval mound remain, with possibly two other mounds pushed out on the narrow southern approach. On the O.M. it is marked as an oval "site" by a dotted line, enclosing a space of 170 by 140 feet.

The four forts on the skirts of Longerhallis Hill, which constitutes the first rise from the dale, are arranged, whether by accident or design, in a slightly convex line a mile and half long, parallel with the Annan, all nearly at the same level, and nearly equidistant from each other.

53. *Dalmakeddar Burn Fort* (fig. 24).—On the south bank of the burn, nearly a mile east of the Annan, 170 feet above it and 370 above the sea; in the

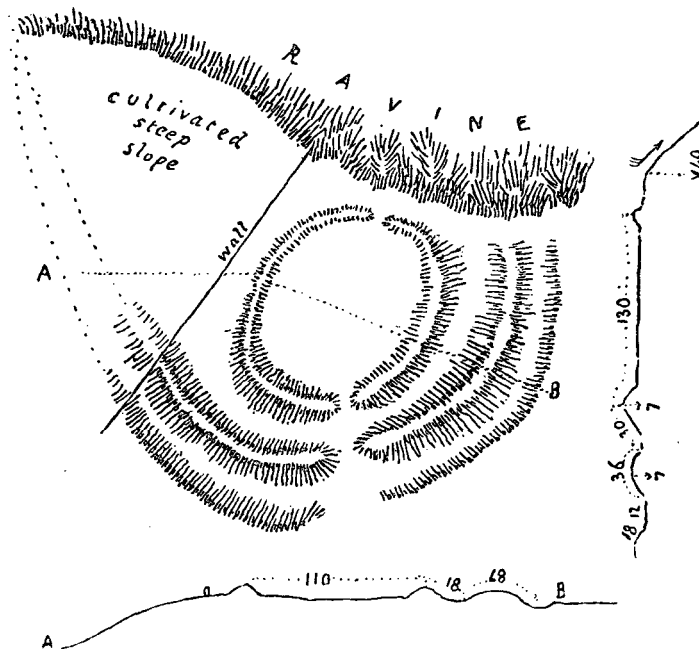


Fig. 24. Dalmakeddar Burn Fort.

north-west corner of a plateau on the hillside, a little above where it rises from the dale. Steep descents, 40 feet in height, to the burn northward and to the dale westward, protect two sides, but the other two look upon the level plateau.

The interior measures 130 by 110 feet from crest to crest of its oval rampart, which towards the strong sides is of moderate size, but is unusually massive towards the plateau. Towards the burn it constitutes the sole artificial defence, but on the plateau it is covered successively by a trench, a massive rampart, and an outer trench, which, springing from the edge of the ravine on the north, are drawn in a semicircle to the edge of the descent to the dale on the west. Here the inner trench ceases, but the outer rampart and trench, judging from the plan in the O.M. and from traces still remaining, seem to have been continued obliquely down the slope, gradually diverging from the inner enceinte to the burn, thus enclosing between the outer defences, the burn and the inner enceinte, a triangular portion of the steep western slope. The outer trench on the southern side, and down the slope to the burn, seems to have been a natural marshy hollow, but draining and cultivation have almost obliterated it on the slope. There is one straight entrance from the plateau on the south, and possibly another from the east by a narrow space along the edge of the ravine and flanked by the defences. The unusually massive ramparts towards the plateau vary from 25 to nearly 50 feet in breadth, and in some places rise 7 feet above the trenches, which have the unusual width at the bottom of from 10 to 12 feet.

54. *Dalmakeddar Farm Fort*.—One-third of a mile east of the farm, 400 feet above the sea and about 200 above the Annan, a mile to the west. The site is a little promontory, which projects from the hill slope into the gentler slope of the dale. The promontory is neither steep nor high, and there are no traces of fortification along its edge, but it is cut off from the hill by a massive rampart 200 feet long by the O.M., convex outwards, resting on a precipitous little burn-course on the north flank and a steep descent on the south flank. The rampart rises about 7 feet above the interior and 6 above an exterior trench; and about 40 feet in its rear are two trifling mounds concentric with it, occupying a width of about 35 feet.

55. *Dinwoodie Mains Fort*.—One-third of a mile east of the farm, and at the same elevation and distance from the Annan as the last, but in a gently sloping field. The ground falls more steeply on the west towards the dale, and on the south the fort rests on a little burn. It is an oval of 150 by 120 feet, and the single mound is only about a foot high and from 12 to 15 wide.

56. *Dinwoodiegreen Burn Fort*.—Nearly three-quarters of a mile south by east of the last, 368 feet above the sea, and about 200 above the Annan and a mile distant from it, in a field which slopes gently to a branch of the burn, 100 yards west of the fort. The single mound I noted to be nearly circular and about 130 feet in diameter, but the O.M. marks it as an oval "site" of about 180 by 160 feet.

We pass now to the three forts in the third line, situated on the watershed between Annandale and Dryfesdale.

57. *Broomhillbank Hill Fort* (1) (fig. 25).—On the top of Broomhillbank Hill, 870 feet above the sea, 500 above the chain of forts on the skirt of the valley about a mile westward, and 700 above the Annan, a mile further to the west. Steep slopes, about 200 feet high, protect the flanks, but the ends are easily accessible along the ridge. The double oval rampart and intervening trench are well preserved, the inner rampart rising still  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the trench. Over all the work measures 270 by 235 feet; and the interior from crest to

crest of the inner rampart is 175 by 140 feet. There is an entrance from the west and another by a ramp from the south-east. This fort seems to be a pure earthwork.

58. *Broomhillbank Hill Fort* (2) (fig. 26).—300 yards south-west of the last, 70 feet lower, on the same ridge, but a little way down its west slope. Here it comes to the edge of the very steep and lofty descent for a length of nearly 200 feet, and is undefended by art. The defences on the gentle slope are of a broad, semicircular form, resting on the undefended edge of the steep slope as a base, and consist of two concentric inner ramparts with a trench between,

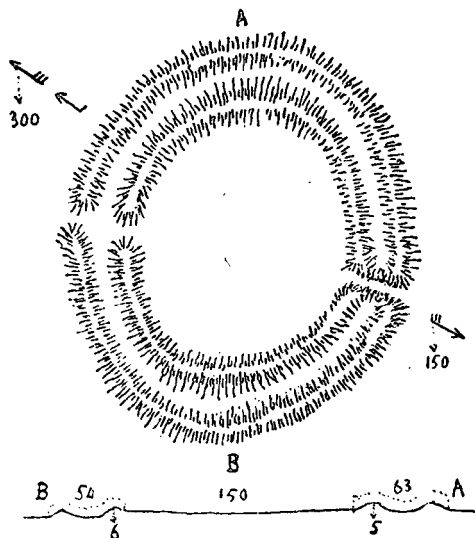


Fig. 25. Broomhillbank Hill Fort (1).

and another trench to the outside, the latter, however, not everywhere traceable; besides a third rampart and trench, which, beginning close to the inner lines at the steep edge on the south, diverge from them to an average distance of 60 to 85 feet, and are gradually lost near the north end of the inner lines. A part of this outer rampart is the only part of the defences that reaches the summit of the ridge so as to give a view eastwards, and the other fort on the hill, although so near, is not visible. The interior dimensions, according to the O.M., are about 250 by 210 feet, and over all the fort measures 380 by 300. The inner lines, where best preserved, are 4 to 5 feet high; the outer one is only 3.

59. *Whitecastle Knowe Fort*.—The watershed, bending eastward from Broomhillbank Hill and then to the south-west, falls 300 feet, to rise again 100 to Whitecastle Knowe, an oval, tolerably level summit, about 400 feet by 200,

and 734 above the sea. On the west there is a steep descent 60 feet high, on the north a gentle one of 40 feet; but to the east the ground falls very gently, and to the south there is merely a slight dip towards Newbigging Hill, the top of the ridge 200 yards off, which rises 35 feet higher than the interior of the fort. The defences are of a very slight character. On the edge of the steep slope to the west nothing exists. Elsewhere a slight rampart, generally

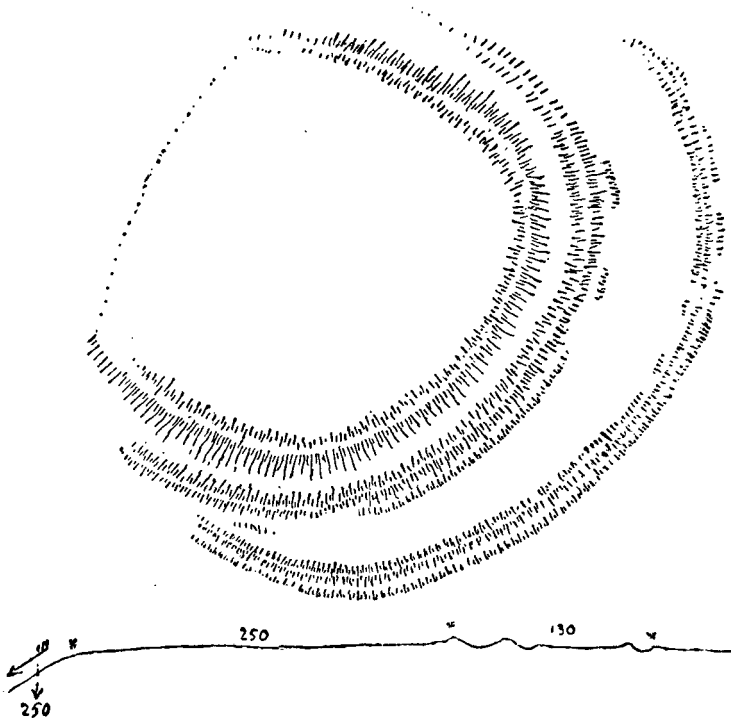


Fig. 26. Broomhillbank Hill Fort (2).

somewhat below the level of the interior, gives height and strength to the natural slope, which descends to a trench about 6 to 7 feet below the top of the rampart; and immediately outside this trench on the level ground another slight rampart can generally be traced. A number of shallow pits have been dug at the north end, partly in the rampart, partly outside, for what purpose does not appear; and at the same end, some 50 yards down the gentle slope, are traces of what may have been a double rampart concentric with the inner enceinte.

C. Forts near Lockerbie and Lochmaben.

60. *Muirhead Fort, Lockerbie.*—On a short ridge 250 feet above the sea, 350 yards south-west of Muirhead Farm, half a mile east of Lockerbie, from which it is separated by a considerable hollow, and with a fine view northward and westward over the wide, tolerably level basin of the Annan. The plough

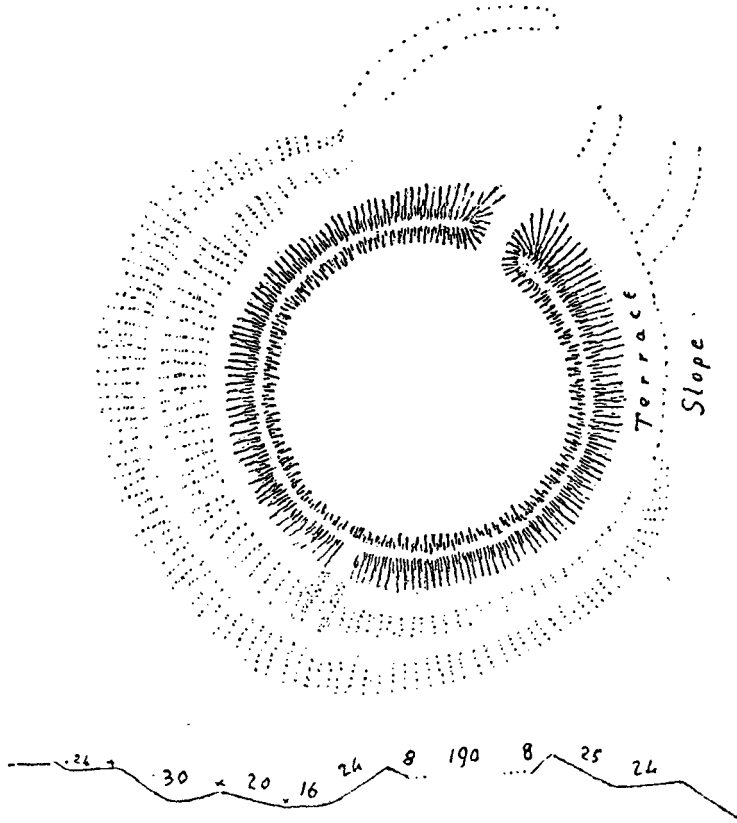


Fig. 27.—Wood "Castle," Lochmaben.

has left but slight traces of the defences marked on the O.M., consisting of three concentric ramparts with a trench in front, measuring 330 by 270 feet over all, and enclosing an oval interior of about 210 by 170 from east to west. The outer and inner ramparts are represented as not going so far round as the middle one, which goes three-fourths of the way, the side towards the steep western



slope being destitute of artificial defence, as so often happens in forts in similar situations.

61. *Dryfesdale Gate Fort*.—At the north end of a low ridge which runs into the haugh of the Annan and Dryfe, three-quarters of a mile north-east of their junction. The ground falls abruptly a height of from 20 to 40 feet to the west and north, and gently to the east, but is nearly flat, though about 6 feet below the level of the interior, along the ridge southwards. The plough has destroyed the defences on the three stronger sides, but there seems to have been a terrace from 6 to 8 feet below the broad, pear-shaped, level interior, which terrace becomes a trench on the south side, with a scarp 8 feet in height and a rampart 30 feet wide and 3 feet high outside the trench. There are some indications of another rampart still further out. The top or interior measures 210 by 170 feet on the O.M., and is about 200 feet above the sea.

62. *Wood Castle or Woody Castle* (fig. 27 [section on double scale of ground-plan]).—At the south-east end of a slightly elevated irregular plateau, 200 yards north-east of the Upper Loch, Lochmaben, 242 feet above the sea. The north-west approach is level, and the ground falls gently in other directions except to the south-east, where the plateau ends in a pretty steep slope of 20 to 25 feet in height. The interior is circular and quite level, about 220 feet in diameter from crest to crest of the rampart, which is 2 or 3 feet high inside. The scarp varies from 7 to 12 feet in height, is steep, and towards the steep eastern side of the work descends on a 24-foot wide terrace, which southward passes into a shallow trench, fenced by a somewhat stony mound 60 feet wide and 3 or 4 high. On the west or weakest side this mound widens to 75 feet, having a somewhat hollowed top, 30 feet in width, as if it had originally been a platform with a rampart on both sides. On the north-east the trench apparently passes again into a terrace, and there are the much-flattened remains of a mound in the field below curving in front of the entrance, with doubtful signs of one, if not two, other mounds, also running down to the field from the opposite or east side of the entrance. With the exception of the steep inner scarp, now thickly covered with whins, the whole has been much injured and flattened out by the plough, but, on the whole, the remains agree pretty well with Roy's plan and sketch, taken when the work was apparently uninjured, except that he represents the trench as running all round in place of being partially terraced, as it certainly is now, and that, instead of its undoubted position on the edge of a plateau, he represents it as placed on an isolated mound, which it never could have been. He calls it Roman, but although unusually massive, it does not seem to differ essentially from the ordinary forts of the country.

#### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE CURVILINEAR FORTS OF UPPER ANNANDALE.

*Form*.—The great majority are either oval or circular, the former preponderating, but some of them closely approximating to the circular form. No. 37 is forced, as it were, into a semicircular form by the nature of the site. It is the only one of this form in which the fortified enceinte is complete. But Nos. 19, 22, and 46 are semicircular fortifica-

tions resting on a straight, unfortified ravine edge ; and in No. 15 a semi-circular rampart and trench guard the landward half of a circular fort, the other half of which projects into a ravine and is unfortified. Nos. 24 and 32 are of an exceptional and doubtful construction.

*Plan.*—The great majority consist of a single, circular, oval, or semi-circular rampart, in several instances strengthened by other works at weak points. In a few cases additional works may have disappeared, but apparently of the twenty-five forts of which substantial remains exist, only two had more than one complete enceinte—No. 40 having had two, and No. 14 three. No. 19 may perhaps be classed with the latter, although its base is unfortified, and the two outer ramparts are more natural than artificial.

*Structure.*—At least sixteen of the twenty-five were probably stone forts, the evidence resting (1) on the stony character of the remains; (2) on the simplicity of their plans in contrast with the general complexity of earthworks; and (3) on the absence of trenches, which are almost necessary adjuncts of earthworks. In five of them trenches are indeed met with, but they are of trifling extent and size, and only used to cover weak points. It is not possible to answer with certainty the question whether these stone forts were originally constructed of loosely piled stones or of uncemented masonry. But as far as I am aware, the existence of the former class has not been proved in the south of Scotland ; and if direct evidence of building was noticed by me only in No. 25 in Annandale, and in but few cases in Lanark and Peebles, it must be remembered that, as the object of dilapidation was to carry off the best stones, the overthrow was generally complete, so that nothing usually remains but the worthless small debris : while, on the other hand, when the remains are substantial, evidence of construction, unless revealed in chance breaks of the surface, is only to be obtained by excavation, any building that may remain being either concealed by loose stones or buried under an accumulation of earth and turf.

No. 15 is the only one of the twenty-five that may be pronounced with tolerable confidence to be a simple earthwork. But Nos. 14 and 19 also partake largely of the nature of earthworks, although the former has but one trench to its three concentric ramparts, the inner of which

at least is probably of stone; and in the inner rampart of the latter stone may also have been used.

It is remarkable that simple stone forts with a single enceinte should preponderate so greatly in this district, whereas among upwards of a hundred forts in Peebles and Lanark I found not more than two or three of precisely the same kind.

*Size.*—The circular No. 15, with a diameter of 300 feet, has the largest interior space, but only one-half of its enceinte is fortified. No. 45, also only partially fortified, follows with 290 by 250 feet. The longest interior with a complete enceinte is that of No. 35, with 220 feet diameter (O.M.), but nine others are near or above 200 feet in one interior measurement.

The over-all dimensions of No. 14, the most elaborate work, are 310 by 270 feet. Twenty-four forts are smaller, but have an interior space of from 100 to 200 feet in one direction or another, the largest, No. 33, being 190 by 160 feet, and the smallest (No. 38) 110 in diameter. No. 37 is the only one below 100 feet in length. It is only 70 by 50 inside. All these interior dimensions, however, would be somewhat greater originally, as the ruined ramparts are wider than when perfect.

The recent discovery of the foundations of a Broch at Torwoodlee, Roxburghshire, makes it of some importance to notice that the dimensions of these Upper Annandale forts greatly exceed those of the brochs, and that, as far as surface indications go, there is no evidence that any of them contained brochs within their enceinte.

*Nature of the Sites.*—In natural strength of position the forts of this district are very inferior to those of Clydesdale and Tweeddale. A large proportion are merely on gentle slopes, advantage being taken, however, of any natural shelf or defensible accident in the ground. The reason apparently is the absence in Upper Annandale of the steep, round-topped eminences projecting from the hillsides, or quite detached from them, which offer so many admirable sites in the neighbouring counties to the north. The upper slopes in Annandale, on the other hand, are usually too steep and unbroken to afford such facilities, and hence the forts are placed either on the gentler slopes at the foot of the hills, or on the top of ridges which are not too lofty for the conveniences or necessities of

habitation. Exceptionally strong situations are those of Nos. 15, 19, 22, and 46, which rest on the edge of precipitous descents.

*Elevation above the Sea.*—For the reasons just given, none of the Upper Annandale forts attain a great elevation. Most of them lie between the 500 and 700 contours, and the highest, No. 40, is only 851 feet above the sea.

*Water-supply.*—A tolerably convenient access to water from the forts is more common than in Clydesdale and Tweeddale. A spring within the enceinte is, indeed, found only in No. 31, but in nine others the command of water is pretty close, and is at least convenient in time of peace, which can rarely be said of the forts in the neighbouring counties. In most other instances the situations must have been marshy before the days of drainage, so that a supply, if a poor one, may have been within their reach also.

*Entrance.*—In the few forts which are sufficiently preserved to allow an opinion to be formed, there is but one entrance—generally at the part most difficult of access, but rarely with the special defences which are so frequent in the forts of Wales and in some districts of Scotland.

*Interior.*—From the nature of the ground the interior is generally level, but in sloping sites the rampart on the uphill side is sometimes so much higher inside than out as to suggest artificial levelling. Except in Nos. 36, 43, and 50, I saw no traces of circular foundations within the enceintes, such as are so common in the Peebles forts, but there are irregular mounds within Nos. 22 and 23.

*Geographical distribution.*—Twenty-eight forts are contained within a radius of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and the mass, twenty in number, within a radius of little more than two miles round Moffat, indicating that in prehistoric times, as now, the population was mainly concentrated in that pleasant neighbourhood. The complete isolation of the group in three directions, although no doubt due mainly to the mountainous and sterile character of the surrounding country, is yet sufficiently remarkable. Thus northward the nearest fort in Tweeddale, and that a very solitary one, is Chester Lees, eight miles from the most northerly of the Annandale group; and in Clydesdale, excluding the rectangular “Roman Camp” at Clydesburn, the nearest is Bodsberry, also eight miles off. Westward, apart from the “Roman Camp” and Mote (?) in Garpol Glen, the nearest fort, in Durisdeer, is fully ten miles off, and eastward the nearest is no less than

twelve miles distant from Selcoth (No. 33), which itself lies widely apart from the Moffat group. It is only to the south that a direct connection with other forts is maintained.

*Names.*—In the case of the Motes, the generic name, in the forms of *Mote*, *Mote-knowe*, or *Motehill*, still lingers in the memory of the peasantry, and in a few instances the specific name of the locality is added, but the curvilinear forts seem to be quite undistinguished, save under the vague and usually evidently false designation of *Camps* or *Roman Camps*.

*Note.*—A Mote, half a mile north of Tundergarth Church (a circular mound on the O.M.), omitted from my lists, brings the acknowledged Motes to 22, and the total possible Motes in the county, of which there is any record, to 34. With Crofthead fort, another omission, the total motes and forts of all kinds in the county rises to 251, but doubtless others have been overlooked.