

## IV.

THE MOTES, FORTS, AND DOONS IN THE EAST AND WEST DIVISIONS  
OF THE STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT. BY FREDERICK R.  
COLES, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.I. THE EAST DIVISION OF THE STEWARTRY — COMPREHENDING THE  
COUNTRY BETWEEN THE NITH AND THE URR.

1. *Castle Hill, Barclay, Colvend.*—This is a large and conspicuous fort,<sup>1</sup> crowning a sea-cliff at the very *embouchure* of the river Urr on its eastern bank, almost 100 feet above high-water mark. On two sides, S. and E., it is completely rock-defended, the remaining landward sides being protected by a strong rampart and fosse which curves well round, and is broken at about 70 feet from the cliff-edge by an approach (fig. 1). This rampart and its opposite (inner) bank are of stones, mainly roundish shingle, embedded in earth; higher up, the rock betrays itself, but near the summit again the stonework reappears, and can be traced almost unbrokenly along the landward edge, near the middle of which, for some 108 feet, a very substantial piece of dry masonry 4 feet high is seen, its top being the level of the fort-summit, and its base the point whence the slightly sloping terrace springs off to be merged in the natural slopes of the hillock. Exactly at the middle of the N.W. end of the summit is one of those oddly-shaped rhomboidal enclosures which so frequently characterise our sea-cliff forts. It measures above 15 feet either way. The summit is fairly flat, with a slight natural fall to the N.W.; the cliff-edges are untouched; and, as one would expect, what stone-ridging there is here at all is less solid than that on the landward edge. Barclay is in direct view of the mote of Mark, which fills up the middle of the bay at Rockcliffe.

2. *Mote of Mark, Colvend.*—This *mote*<sup>2</sup> is well drawn and named on

<sup>1</sup> This fort is mentioned in *Lands and their Owners* merely as a site with a fosse that can be traced. Harper says, "All that now remains of this castle, which in Timothy Pont's *History of Castles and Gentlemen's Houses of chief note in Galloway* is placed second, are the foundations of a ruined wall and the fosse in front of the tower.

<sup>2</sup> In the possession of my friend James Barbour, Esq., of Dumfries, I have seen a charming Indian-ink drawing of the *Mote of Mark*. It was drawn by Reid, whose miniature of Burns has just been added to the National Portrait Gallery, and is dated 1790. "South of Mark Farm-house, on the banks of the Urr, is a Moat." Such is the brief record given by M'Kerlie of this singular and imposing fortified hill. The

the O.M. It is distant from Castle Hill just noticed  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile up the estuary of the Urr, almost due N. of Rough Island and W. of Grennan Hill. Its shingly base is washed by the tide on the S.W., and its summit—an irregular pentagon—reaches a height of 149 feet above the

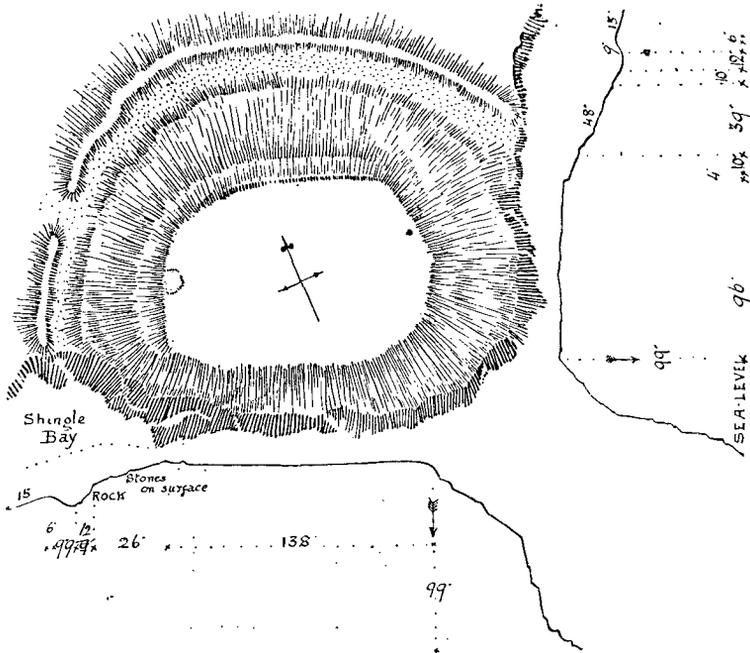


Fig. 1. Bareloy Fort, Colvend.

sea. The rocky Mark Hill to the N. and Grennan to the N.E., each over 300 feet, close it in, in those directions. The mote is, however, well open to the W., and commands a clear silhouette of Almorness Fort (M 55), rather over a mile distant, as well as of Airds Fort (M 51), nearly 4

only other reference in print which has come my way is the following, taken from "Observations on a vitrified Fort in Galloway," by Robert Riddell, Esq., F.S.A., in a letter to Mr Gough, dated October 23rd, 1790. "The Mote of Mark was full of rubbish . . . and it contained a heap of stones of the form and size of a goose-egg each, perhaps used for throwing at opponents." No facts regarding the amount of "vitrification" are to be gleaned from Mr Riddell's account, nor does any evidence now remain of his "heap of white stones of the size of a goose-egg each."

miles to the S.W. The contour of the summit, using the term broadly as inclusive of all the more or less flattened portions bounded by structure, is very peculiar, as may be seen by my drawing (fig. 2). The

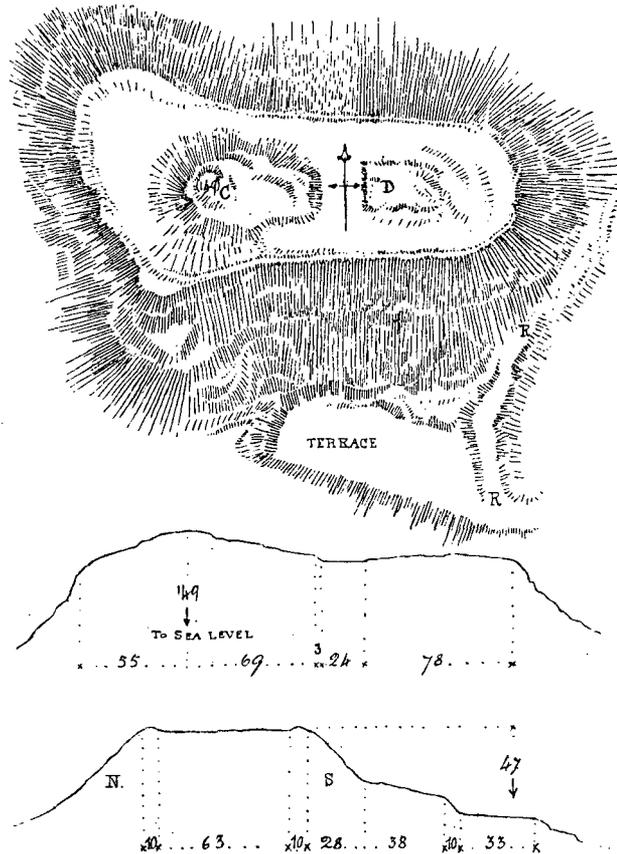


Fig. 2. The Mote of Mark, Colvend.

two main axes lie in different planes, the one trending N.W. and S.E., while the other, taken from the rocky crown (C), trends just a point off due E. to the S. The irregularities and sinuosities of the cliff-edges also add to the difficulty of investigating this hill.

As before stated, the highest point is the crown of rock, 149 feet high (O.M. measurement). From this N.W. is an irregular fall of 24 feet to a level which is the continuation of the general contour I have called roughly pentagonal. Between these two points on the W. it is almost all sheer cliff and precipice: the long in-curved S. side is partly cliff, partly very steep bank: the short E. side is of a like nature, but much more gradual in inclines: while nearly the whole of the long N.E. side is an almost uniform slope of stones, extending from the summit ridge, where they appear compact and grass-covered, downwards fairly unbrokenly for some 60 feet, and to a large extent laid bare and exposed.

At some 75 feet above the beach (see sketch, fig. 3) there occurs a broad terrace, certainly natural in its main features, but probably



Fig. 3. Mote of Mark from the N.W.

strengthened and improved upon by the addition of a rude facing of boulders. This is especially evident at the two ends and along its outward edge. This terrace runs up into the other natural rock-shelves on the extreme E. curves, and becomes lost, after passing the lowest portion of a tumbled mass of stones, which, we were of opinion, are regular enough to suggest the former existence of a substantial wall. It may be traced for some 150 feet irregularly along this E. end of the mote. Other than this, there are no structural remains below the summit, from which vast quantities of stones have been thrown down, still more perhaps utilised for the dikes surrounding the mote hill.

As shown by my sections (fig. 2), the E. and W. line is extremely uneven, the only portion approaching the level being the narrow space between the rock-hillocks C and D, that touching the base of C being

entirely natural, but the opposite edge at base of D being built of very large stones; this edging (or wall-foundation?) being partly carried round both N. and S. of D. During three separate and careful examinations of this mote, I have never been fortunate enough to find any stonework exhibiting fusion. As, however, many small excavations have been made, pieces of vitrified material may have been carried away as relics.

3. *Portowarren, Colvend.*—Few words suffice to describe this small fort. It consists of an irregular double line of ramparts, cutting off, in a not very deep curve, a triangular space of millstone-grit cliff—the whole far from clear, very low in the slopes, and ancient and worn in appearance. The ramparts seem to be of earth only. The western side is a sheer precipice, but the rocks, from the point eastwards, shelving down in a succession of steps, present no inaccessible obstacle. The one remarkable feature seems to be the great width and irregularity of the hollow space between the two ramparts.

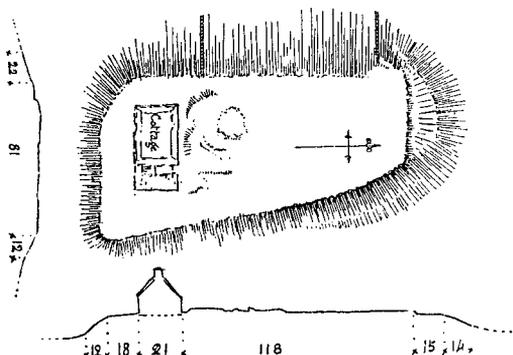


Fig. 4. The Mote, Boreland, Colvend.

4. *Boreland Mote, Colvend.*—This rather oddly-shaped structure occupies a sequestered spot, once evidently marsh-and-water encircled, not conspicuous from any quarter, and totally disconnected from the sea-coast forts. On it are rude remains, too vague to be drawn, behind a cottage fast becoming ruined (fig. 4). This, possibly, was part of the old farm of Moat. I am inclined to think, also, that the original contours of the mote have been considerably altered. The O.M. gives the north end as broader and slightly more curved than the south: further,

the sharp lines of embedded stonework on the N. and N.E. seem comparatively recent, that on the E. especially being more like an ordinary "dike" than a fort-rampart. Besides which, the small curved portion, 18 feet wide, on the N., runs into the long side-lines of the mote in a manner suggestive of the intervention of the plough; and the whole curve of the base of the mote-slope has been once much wider. Indeed, so much recent disturbance of its features has evidently taken place that it is hard to say, *e.g.*, whether the short straight line of stonework at the N. end may not be merely a modern fence, as the two sloping ones running west certainly are. Three magnificent ash-trees stand along the edge of the remote north curve. No other mote is visible hence.

5. *Doon Hill, near Kipp, Colvend.*—There are no artificial remains on this rock-crowned summit, which commands one of the loveliest panoramas imaginable.

6. *Fairgirth Doon.*—Much the same description applies to this fine hill, which forms a striking object for miles along the Dalbeattie road, which skirts Cloak Moss.

7. *The Moyle, Barnbarroch.*—This is a dry-stone circumvallation of vast extent, being carried round an extremely rocky hill in an uneven zigzag fashion, manifestly with intent to enclose at a fairly uniform level as much as possible of the flatter portions of its summit. The rough building-up of the huge blocks of whinstone is naturally strongest and most compact at such spaces as are more open to attack from below; while at sundry rocky precipices the construction ceases, or is confined to a few heaps of less compact work. In addition to this gigantic structure, there are clear remains of an oval *fortlet* touching the south limit of the circumvallation, and apparently connected with it in other directions as well. The natural advantages of The Moyle are readily perceived from its summit. It forms a hill promontory, pointing southwards, rising to a height of 492 feet above sea-level; steep at many points, but most so on the west; and on the east a fair-sized loch (the Cloak Loch), with its encircling marshes, forms a by no means slight obstacle, while still not beyond reach, for daily use, of the dwellers within the encampment,—if, indeed, there may not have been within the walls sundry springs or surface-wells. *The Moyle* (fig. 5) measures, over all, 930 feet in a line N.E. and S.W., and 500 feet in the opposite direction, the circumference of its wall being 2817 feet. Much of this stonework is very irregular, both laterally and in respect of height and fall; the greatest deviation being the very zigzag lines on the east, which

also rise and fall with the hill slopes to a degree very puzzling to the amateur surveyor. In order to keep within bounds, I have therefore, in the accompanying plan, reduced irregularities to a few broad leading-lines giving the correct distances from extreme point to point, and

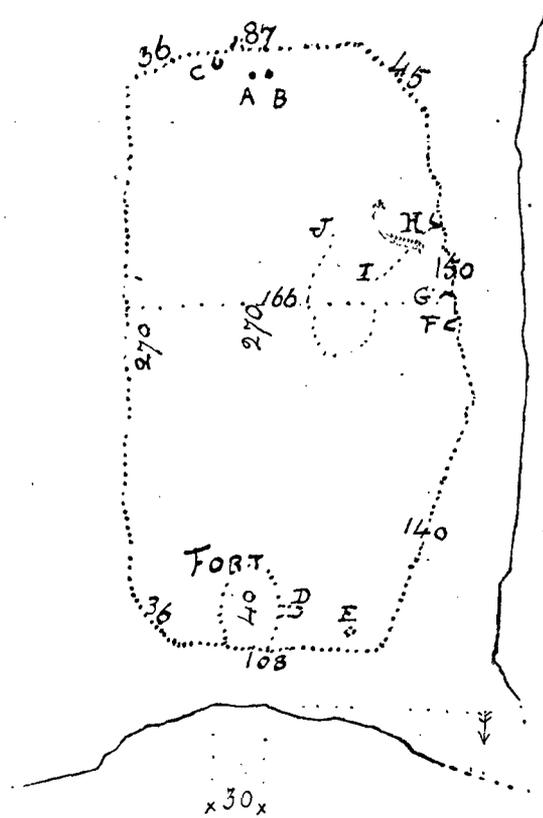


Fig. 5. General plan of The Moyle, Barnbarroch. (Scale, 100 yards to 1 inch.)

enlarged diagrams of the more interesting features of this peculiar work. The general nature of the interior within a few feet of the walls is rough and rocky in the extreme, the dominant trend of the granite being N.E. Some of the sides of these ridges are fully 12 to perhaps 20 feet high,

so that it is evident how sheltered and isolated small portions of the encampment may have been. Towards the middle, along the dotted line H J (fig. 5), there is a wide, naturally level, and oval space, which, from being led up to by a wall (H I) springing from the main wall east, appears to have been used as a distinct portion of the enclosure: it is rock-surrounded, and beyond it, westwards, no trace of a continuation of the wall is found. Other than this—which may, after all, be purely a coincidence—there are no large demarcations. It is, however, close to the line of the wall itself, and of the fort, that the most special pieces of work occur. At the north end, first, almost touching the wall, there is a regularly built small enclosure, measuring 8 × 7 feet, two sides forming a right angle which points north, the rest depending partly on the position of a rock which forms the back of the structure, and curvilinear. An enlarged drawing of this enclosure (C) will be found in fig. 6.

Thirty-six feet E. along the wall comes a break in it, the stones here being very numerous and forming considerable masses of debris on either side. A space of 18 feet divides the summit of this "bastion" on one side from that on the other. Directly opposite, and standing 15 feet apart from each other, and the same distance from the wall, are two large granite boulders, A and B. A measures 6 × 3 by 3 feet high, is quite flat and nearly oblong; its longest diameter pointing N.E. B measures 6 feet

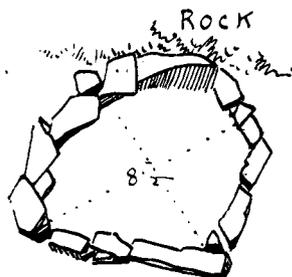


Fig. 6. The Moyle.

N. and S., and the same E. and W., is a long irregular rhomboid, and stands 4 feet high. The longer diameter of the whole *Moyle* touches this boulder B (see fig. 7). On the east line of wall also there are similar small enclosures, though not so perfect as C (fig. 8), and that at H is two-thirds rock, and the stonework forming its S. side is carried on in the direction indicated by the arrow for a great distance over the hill, most of it being only one stone high. Between H and G is a steep hollow, while F and G are nearly on a level, the ground here falling sharply off towards the *Cloak Loch*. Of the fort, or rather fort site, there is little specially distinctive (fig. 9). It measures 120 × 90 feet, is fairly level, and rises above the general level only some 2½ or 3 feet, its scarp varying in width between 6 and 9 feet at a low angle. No remains of a rampart, either on the summit or round the base, anywhere exist. Its south end is formed by the big stones constituting the base of the main

outer wall. At 60 feet along its east curve a wall branches off S.E. down the hill slope to D, which is another of these small irregular enclosures. It is bounded on the further side by a second wall nearly parallel with the first, joining the fort scarp at about 15 feet from that. Below D, very vague traces of a continued wall may be seen, as if there

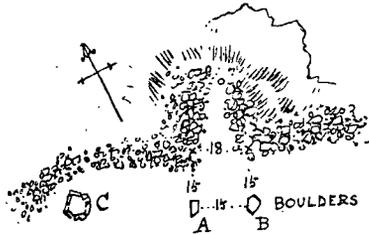


Fig. 7. The Moyle.

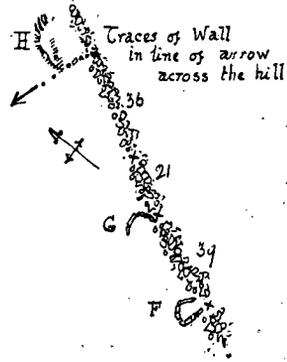


Fig. 8. The Moyle.

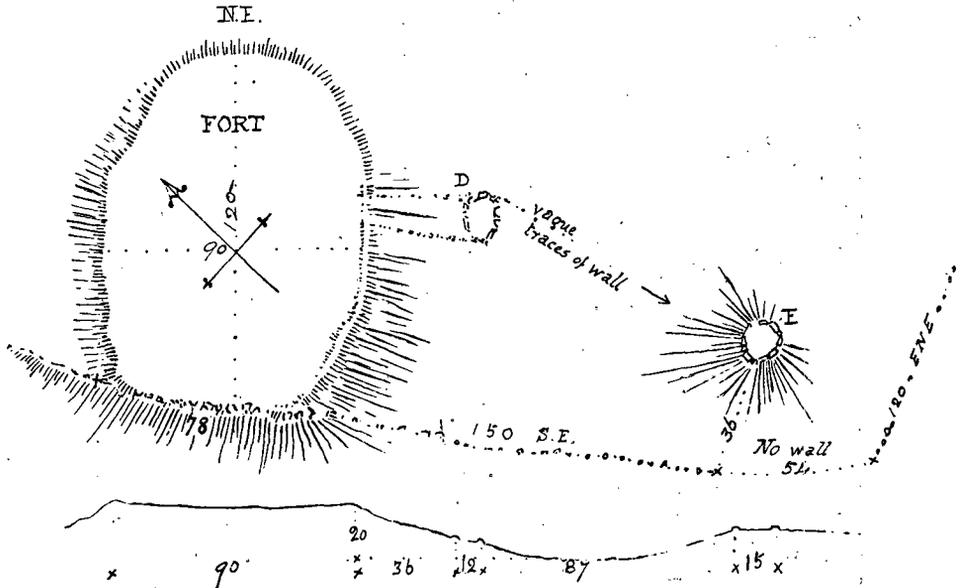


Fig. 9. The Moyle, Barnbarroch.

had once been a connecting line between D and E. This last enclosure is very well marked, more circular than the others, and measures over 30 feet in circumference. It is 36 feet from the main wall. Throughout this extensive circumvallation, no part stands higher than 3 feet, and the only part that reaches even that moderate height is on the N.E. edge—the rest being in confused patches, ridges, and spreadings-out of littered stones.<sup>1</sup> The most precipitous portion lies about 122 yards from boulder A on the west side, where a fall of about 15 feet in 60 follows after the abrupt interruption to the wall caused by a perpen-

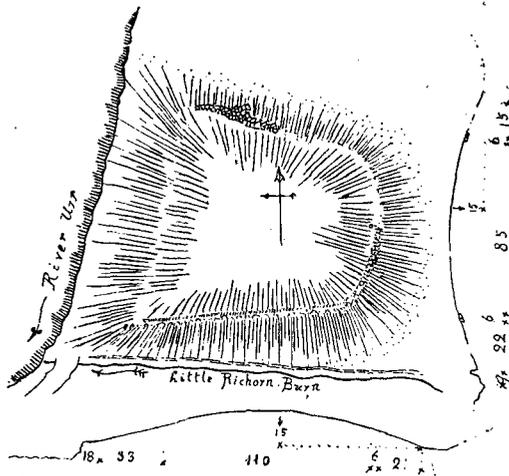


Fig. 10. Little Richorn Mote.

dicular face of rock. The command of country containing numerous forts and motes is very remarkable, as one stands on either of the highest points, *i.e.*, the fort at its south end, or the culmination of the granite ridge some 40 yards within the north wall.

8. *Little Richorn Mote.*—This mound, situated on the brink of the river Urr about one mile south of Dalbeattie, has been in part excavated.<sup>2</sup> Here it will be enough to summarise the results. The mound (fig. 10),

<sup>1</sup> The O.M. has an imperfect dotted line partly on the contour of this old fortification, and names it *Old Fence*.

<sup>2</sup> For an account of such examination as was carried on for a few days in the spring of 1891, see *Trans. Dumfries and Galloway Nat. Hist. and Antiq. Soc.*, 1892.

which N. and S. measures 150 feet over its quite unbrokenly curved exterior, a part of which is flat, and E. and W. 175 feet, abuts on the water's edge at its west side, and is surrounded on the other three sides by a trench, approximately 15 feet wide, the south side running nearly parallel with a rivulet falling into the Urr, the substance throughout being of the common blue and yellow clays abundant in the immediate neighbourhood. The only constructive feature exposed by the excavation was an outward and downward sloping strip of roughly hewn granite blocks. This extended for an unbroken distance of 158 feet from a point near the S.W. corner to the middle of the E. curve; from this point northwards no stones whatever were found, but the same sloping strip of stonework, having an average width of 6 feet, reappeared for 44 feet at the N.W. corner. The whole length of the river-edge was quite free from stonework. Nor was any found in any other part either of the trench itself or of the outside "rampart." The general opinion was that this stonework was the retaining-wall and basal structure of an upright wall, and that this Little Richorn mound had been merely a fort. With some diffidence, I inclined to a different view, which is fully stated in the account referred to. It is safest, perhaps, in the absence of a complete investigation, to waive all theories, and wait for a thorough examination of this interesting mound.

9. *Edingham Mote*.—When the O.M. was made, this must have been very much more distinct than now, since it is given even on the one-inch scale. All that now remains are some four small low hillocks of stones, apparently in an irregularly-oblong position, the whole circumference of which measures about 147 feet, the two diameters 45 feet and 42 feet, the shorter being N. and S. The height of this mote is 150 feet above sea-level. It is not within sight of any others.

10. *Bargrug Mote, Kirkgunzeon*.—Of this, so very little remains as to leave much doubt of its original intention. It has a second name of Doon, and in some points may be said to resemble other doons in this division of the Stewartry. I examined it in company with Mr Maxwell of Kirkennan, F.S.A. Scot., and found it to consist of a strong stone-and-earth rampart, very uneven however, and worn away in parts; the enclosed space, nearly circular, measuring from crest to crest, N. and S., 132 feet, and E. and W. 117 feet. There is a small heap of stones (about 10 or 12 feet over the curve), not quite in the centre. We were at first inclined to think that this rampart, &c., were possibly the remains of that huge cairn which the O.S.A. tells us furnished materials for a dyke one mile long. But I believe the site of that cairn to be further

west, near Breckonside, where there are remains of no less than three cairns conjoined. Besides, the cairn must indeed have been on a stupendous scale if the stones composing it filled up the whole of this large circle up to the rampart! And if not, then the construction of a cairn far within a stone-and-earth rampart would be quite anomalous in the district. On the whole, *Bargrug Mote* must, I think, be grouped with Chipperkyle Doon and others presently to be noticed. The O.M. gives the height as 350 feet above sea-level; and names the wood, then, but not now, crowded within the rampart, Crow's Nest Plantation.

11. *Mote Knowe, Bargrug*.—Such is the name on O.M.; but though I have searched the spot with map and compass carefully, the only vestige traceable here is an irregular lumpy space, confusedly piled with the usual granite boulders; whether a partially destroyed ancient relic or a modern heap of "cloddings" it would be difficult to decide.

12. *Tarkirra Fort*.—In this district of innumerable granite boulders, one is constantly coming across masses of these stones, some of them evidently naturally heaped together, others less evidently artificial, while others again occur in rough circles and oblongs, highly suggestive of the rifled sites of ancient cairns. In the absence of even tolerably reliable evidence as to their nature, these must be passed over; but they deserve mention at least, as, from their widely-scattered positions on these bleak uplands, they form a sort of *entourage* to the two Forts of Tarkirra.<sup>1</sup> These stand to each in much the same relation as do other couples already noticed (M 9 and 10, 13 and 14, 18 and 19, 52 and 53, &c.), and others yet to be described in the West Stewartry district, the fort in this group being a quarter of a mile S.E. of its fortlet, and much higher up on a swelling ground. Tarkirra is one of our largest forts (fig. 11), measuring 270 feet by E. and W., by 159 feet N. and S., with a perpendicular height of fully 35 feet, and a solidity of build and compactness that suggest its former importance and strength. Unlike most forts, the stone edging of its flat summit is quite distinct, especially so for a distance of 99 feet on the S.E. curve, just before the entrance through the rampart at the E. end, which is 9 feet wide. All along the N.E. and N. curves abundance of boulders are visible, both on the edge and on the slope of the scarp, where faint traces of the trench-level also can be seen. Near the N.W. corner is a large and wide opening, double the width of the one first noticed. The rest of the scarp has been much dug into, and on the S.W. a large hole made for quarrying the boulders—the material of which the fort seems in the main to be

<sup>1</sup> M'Kerlie repeatedly spells it *Tor-Kirra*, quoting from old papers and MSS.

constructed. Fosse and rampart are perfect for nearly the whole length of the S. and S.E. sides—there, at the base of the mound; but when continued round the whole structure, it will be seen that the level of the fosse is several feet higher than the actual original base on the north. The summit-rampart remains strong only at E. entrance, where perhaps it had originally been much stronger (*cf.* Mote of Urr, M 66, on S.E.

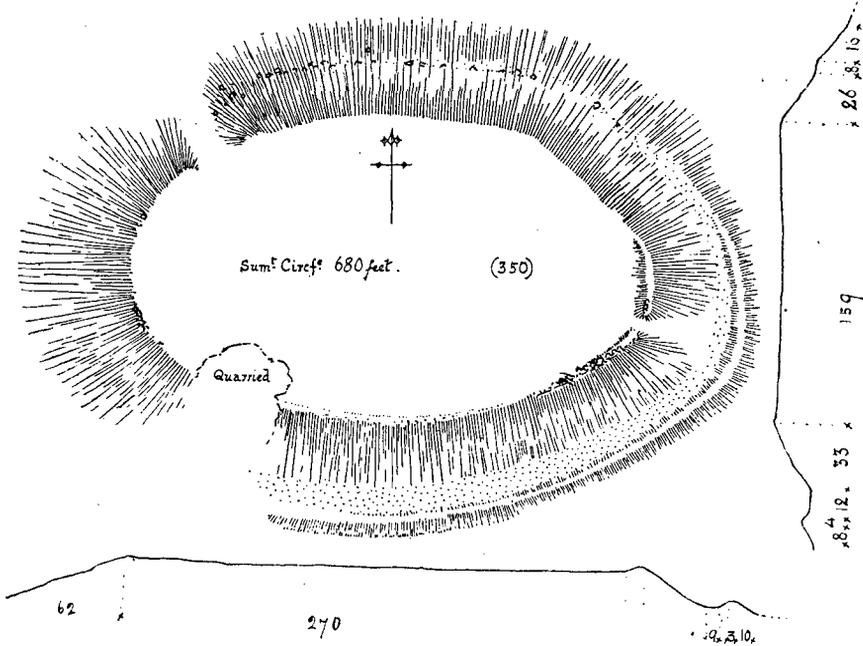


Fig. 11. Tarkirra, South Fort.

are). From its occupying a conspicuous space of rising ground, the fort at its height of 350 feet above sea-level commands a great extent of country to the north, but is much closed in on the south.

13. *Tarkirra Fortlet* has been so much ploughed down as to leave but a dimpled depression of its circumference, which I make to be roughly circular, composed of three longish facets of 66, 240, and 420 feet respectively, taking it as nearly as possible along the crest of what was the rampart. The diameter of the central mound, also partly con-

jectural, is about 165 feet. It is 100 feet lower than the fort just described; its construction also of granite boulders.

13a. *Drumcoltran Camp*, "supposed."—Such is the title affixed on the O.M. to a structure palpably a distinct entrenchment, possibly forty years ago so much overgrown with young firs and larches as to justify the doubt so expressed. This wood is now one of the conspicuous landmarks of Kirkgunzeon; and the strongest cause of its evergreen continuance is to be found in the fact of the overturning and casting up such a vast quantity of earth as was evidently here done when breastworks so formidable were constructed (see fig. 12). The contour of Drumcoltran

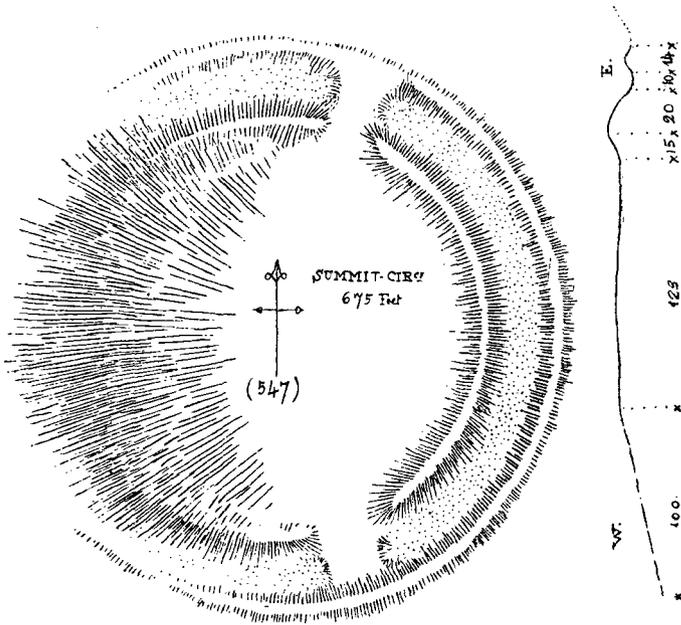


Fig. 12. Drumcoltran Camp.

Note—as it is sometimes called—is nearly circular, the diameter being 225 N. and S., and presumably the same on the contrary axis, though the rapid fall of the ground westwards renders accuracy in this particular impossible. This fall is parallel, throughout nearly the whole summit, with the natural fall of the hill, and this all the more accentuates the

steep and bold summit-rampart and its long slope outwards to the trench—points which are most obvious on the east, *i.e.*, the higher portion of the hill. (The section shown is this E. and W. one.) There are two broad and distinct approaches N. and S., which cut off a segment of about 250 feet long. The lower westerly curves are all nearly obliterated. The construction seems to be entirely of earth. In the trench where deepest there was found in 1837 a hoard of bronze weapons,<sup>1</sup> and in 1867 the present tenant, Mr Copland, found in the same trench an 18-inch blade. Close to the *mote*, on the higher shoulder of Drumcoltran, is a *cairn*. The Tarkirra Forts are quite visible from this, three miles and a quarter to the south.<sup>2</sup>

14. *Waterside Fort*.—Not marked on the O.M. The site is on the farm of Waterside, at a bend in the Urr a mile up from the *Mote of Urr*; and though not in sight of it, commands the camp (67 M), which is in sight of the *mote*. What this fort may have once been it is now difficult to say, as agriculture has nearly obliterated it. Enough remains to show that advantage was taken of a sharp-pointed and high ridge, very steep on two sides (at the foot of one of which a small stream flows); and that on this high bank, one, if not two, trenches and ramparts were carried round in the shape of a horseshoe, the line subtending the arc being N. and S., and identical with the course of the small stream. It measures about 210 feet, and the curve circumference about 510 feet. Any other dimensions must be mainly conjectural.

15. *Mote of Doon, or Doon of Urr, Chipperkyle Hill*.—Exactly three miles distant from the last, and straight up the course of Urr Water. It is an important but simply constructed doon, situated on a finely rounded ascent, of the type so frequent in this district, and 373 feet above sea-level. Like other works, whether circular or rectangular, it has been dubbed "Roman," probably for no better reason than that it was so-called for a few generations. It is now surrounded with trees, while a good dike and hedge serve to keep out cattle, and are at the same time a landmark for miles around. Within its compact but low

<sup>1</sup> Described in *Trans. Dfs. and Gall. Antiq. Soc.*, Jan. 1863, as "twelve very fine bronze spears."

<sup>2</sup> "Uchtred granted the lands of Kirkgunzeon to the Abbey of Holm Colteram in Cumberland."—Nicholson's *Hist. and Trad. Tales of the South of Scotland*, p. 38. This took place *circa* 1150. Not far from the camp is Drumcoltran Tower. M'Kerlie, in *Galloway Ancient and Modern*, p. 162, refers to the same grant, and spells the names "Cultran" and "Kirkwinning." It is perhaps worth notice, however, that M'Kerlie in *L. O.*, iv. 234, gives Drui coltra = dark or gloomy hill: adding, "a Roman camp is believed to have been on Camp Hill."

ridge of stones and earth, the measurement of its two diameters is 162 feet nearly due N. and S., and 177 E. and W. (fig. 13), a departure from the usual arrangement. The rampart—or rather “ridge,” there being no trench on either side of it—is much worn and rounded; over its curve its average measurement is 24 feet. It is of earth and stone. It is not sharply defined, or high and massive at any point. The enclosed space, quite unlevelled by art, rises slightly towards the centre. The ridge is broken by two entrances: a line drawn between them measures 170 feet. The entrance on the west I believe to be genuine and original. It is exactly in the centre of the arc. The other entrance is open to doubt, a conclusion more easily credited when one compares the two on the spot. Opposite this eastern opening a gate stands in the hedge-line, tending to confirm the impression of its modernness.

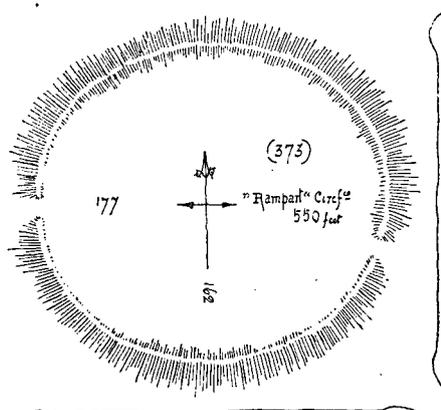


Fig. 13. The Mote of Doon.

However, through Mr Thomson, the present tenant of Doon of Urr, I learn that, from inquiries he has made of old persons “most likely to know, none think that the cuts in the bank were made for agricultural interests;” therefore, as in *Drumcoltran Camp*, just described, and several others, the division into two unequal segments may be an integral part of the design. In its general features, this Doon of Urr strongly resembles Dunjarg (M 68), though very much larger. They are identical in having no vestige of a trench, or even a terrace outside the raised ridge on the circumference; and each crowns a beautifully evenly rounded pyramidal hill isolated from any other (see fig. 14).

Chipperkyle Hill, however, close on the N.E., is higher. The prospect from this doon is magnificent, Mote of Urr being visible four miles away, sharply defined in all its details against the shade of Dalmoney Hill, beyond which the lines of the Moyle and other hills in Colvend serve to connect the nearer scenes with the far-off blue mountains of Cumberland. The camp on Milton Park (M 67) is visible also, and others no doubt would be clearly seen before the existing plantations grew.



Fig. 14. View of Mote of Doon, or Doon of Urr.

16. *Mote Hill, Wood Park, Kirkpatrick-Durham.*—On no ground in this vicinity are there traces now of any mote or other structure; and the present tenant, during a twelve years' lease, cannot recall any use of the name as given on the O.M. It may be of some interest to record that the name Wood Park is modern, a former proprietor having named the farm so in honour of his bride, a Miss Wood. The original name was Marl Mount, which may be a further indirect proof of the existence of the mote.

17. *Minydow Mote.*—An interesting but extremely faint relic of what was once a large and nearly regularly circular structure. It is

marked even on the small O.M., and correctly placed, almost touching the farm-road into Low Minnydow from the mill; it is drawn quite circular. So much has agriculture spoilt this mote that to approximate the height of its central mound is now quite impossible; and its curves have been squared off into straight lines. Enough remains to show that it has been doubly ramparted, and that the outer trench was wider than the inner; while the fall to the S.E. must have been considerable enough to give an imposing appearance to the whole. Of its structure it is impossible to say anything with confidence; but I am led to think earth must have predominated, since the entire trench was many years ago dug through and converted into a drain, and no great difficulty experienced while the work was in progress. The Meikle Cairn remains

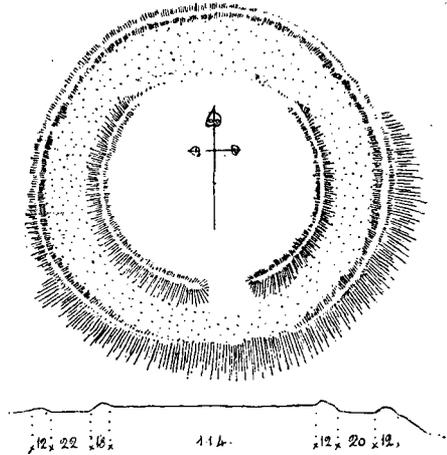


Fig. 15. Margley Fort.

—probably untouched—now walled in and planted with spruce, about 300 yards to the N.E.

18. *Margley Fort* (fig. 15).—Drawn on the O.M., and thus mentioned by M'Kerlie :—" At Moathill, Margley, there is an ancient fort." On visiting this site, the tenant informed me that for a long period Mr Murray Dunlop, M.P., proprietor of Corsock, threatened a fine of £5 on the lease if the fort were in any way touched by agricultural implements. Archæology in Galloway would be richer in specimens of interest were there more proprietors of this excellent spirit. After all, the fort is not

a conspicuously fine one; and previously to the putting in practice of the above-mentioned enaction, must have suffered at the hands of others. For, as in some other cases, the great width and dead level of the trench can, I think, only be accounted for by assuming that the plough has been frequently carried round it. (*cf.* M 2, Glenap Fort). The structure is largely of earth, with, however, a pretty regular admixture of stones. From its summit, only the Mote of Glenroan is visible, though a fairly wide spread of country lies to the S. and W.

18a. *Fort Arkland*.—Of this, which is given on the O.M. as a “supposed fort,” Mr M<sup>c</sup>Kerlie says:—“It is related that on the farm of Arkland, a very perfect camp existed, but now only the supposed site of a fort. It is to the W. of Arkland Hill. This hill is 575 feet high” (*L. O.*, iv. 296). The present tenant, Mr Henderson, showed me here, low down in the moss, considerably below Arkland Hill, the distinct remains of a quite circular singly ramparted work, with central mound, so much sunk in the moss as to recall vividly the form and environment of Trowdale Moat (M 74). The measurement from crest to crest is 90 feet; but though distinct enough to the eye, the contour would hardly bear reproduction in a drawing. Close to it are some suspicions of a second work, extremely vague however, and much more difficult to identify, because of the road having been cut through what Mr Henderson believes, perhaps rightly, to have been the remains of another mote.

19. *Fort, Milton Loch*.—Drawn on the O.M. as a long narrow oval on Green Island,—now a long tongue of land jutting out into the loch from its W. shore. This well-known earthwork, by reason of its length, loneliness, and situation, is one of the most striking of all the forts in the Stewartry. As my plan and sections (fig. 16) show, this fort has a distinctive appearance, remarkably long and narrow, and at the same time curiously irregular in its attempted oval form. The solid ground on which it has been constructed is rocky on the S., but peaty, I think, more than rocky on the N., where some 20 to 30 yards of ground have been left, that on the E. running out into a long and very narrow tongue of 50 yards, while the ground on the S. is nearly the same breadth as the N. edge. The ramparts throughout are conspicuous from having two slopes at very different angles, the upper at 45° or steeper, the lower half at 15° to 20°. They are very bold and strong at the entrance (west end), but dwindle into very narrow and much lower ridges as they curve round, being, on the N. side, abruptly and sharply broken at a point 142 feet from the E. This cutting is so narrow and peculiar that it appears more like a water-conduit than anything else. Indeed, were it not so sharp

and regular, I should be more inclined to regard it as modern. Within the flat interior are three small slightly-raised mounds, and an oblong, apparently once cut, hole, almost exactly opposite the entrance. The mounds seem stony, and the hole is wet, and may have been a spring or well. It is noticeable that the trench on either side of the entrance widens to a rectangle. At the extreme N.W. corner of the trench is a deepish water-hole or pool (marked on diagram by thickened dots).

20. *Braco Mote*.—This name, with the *a* pronounced as in "grave," is all that remains to suggest the existence here, on a likely enough site, somewhat similar to that at Lochfoot, of an artificial mound. The name

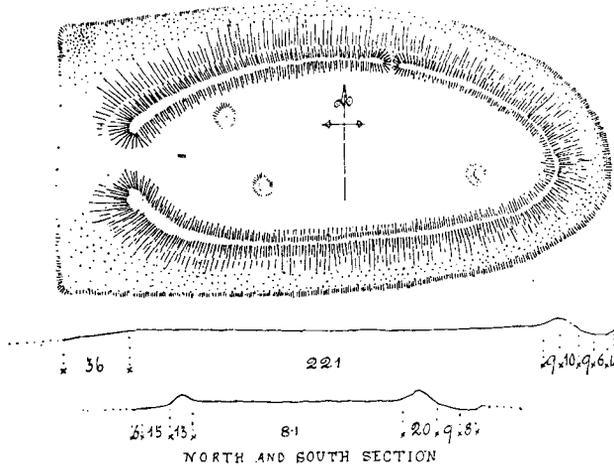


Fig. 16. Fort, Milton Loch.

applies to a rounded hill marked on the O.M. as on the 300-foot contour-line.

21. *The Doons, Barnsoul*.—This structure, crowning a 500-foot hill, very conspicuous amid the fine, bold, sweeping contours and lofty ridges of Irongray, is drawn but unnamed in the O.M. It is situated nearly midway between Old Cluden Mill and the Scar Gaol close to Holm Moor, where there are numerous evidences of former habitation. Cairn-close is the name given to this spot. The name of "the Doons" I give as quoted by some farm-labourers on the spot. Why the plural should be used to describe this oval work I am at a loss to say. It consists of an earth-and-stone rampart (like that at Chipperkyle), very much spoilt, how-

ever, by the high dike, built, it is to be supposed, as a protection to the plantation of firs within. This rampart has been, when at its best, probably quite 15 feet on its upward slope, with a 3 or 4 feet top, and a ridge of about the same within. Outside of it, a terrace touches its base, and appears to have been carried right round the oval, averaging 12 feet in width. It is extremely doubtful whether much of this seeming "terrace" may not, after all, be due to the removal of some of the looser basal stones of the rampart, and subsequently to the trampling of cattle. The interior space, left rough and natural, measures 216 feet E. and W. and 183 feet N. and S. Circumference 600 feet. The ascent to the Doons is easy; and, so far, the whole site<sup>1</sup> agrees with the characters of doons elsewhere.

22. *Macnaughton Fort*.—This work, which is given on the maps and mentioned by Harper, is divided from the last dubious site by the afore-mentioned hollow with its well, each crowning the adjoining height. Though small, its *enceinte* has been strongly ramparted, the depth of its fosse being even now, when much filled up and curved, fully 6 feet in perpendicular height (see fig. 17). Mr Welsh, who kindly assisted in the planning of my drawing here, informed me that some fifty years ago arrow-heads of flint and chipped flints were found in the fort, and spear-heads, probably of bronze, which it is said were ornamented on the sockets with gold. The fort has an approach on the E., and its fosse must originally have extended much beyond the dike on the N. Water-worn stones, some of considerable size, form the bulk of its ramparts.

23. *Hall Hill Mote*.—The fine hill upon which this mote is placed forms the culmination of the towering banks of the Cairn Water—the county-dividing stream—at a deep angular bend in its course, close to Hall Hill Farm, and must be very conspicuous for a great distance up and down stream on the Dumfriesshire side. (see sketch, fig. 18). On

<sup>1</sup> Half a mile N.E., and much lower down, on Barnsoul, there is marked on the O.M. the site of a *chapel*. From Mr Welsh, proprietor of Macnaughton, I learned that there were records extant in his family bearing on this point. So far as may be judged by actual survey of the remains as they now are, the notion of an ecclesiastical or of any other rectangular walled building, indeed, would be the very last to be suggested. The site is a horseshoe-shaped flattish space, within what certainly seems to be nothing more or less than a rather unusually broad rampart of earth and stone—in parts quite 20 feet wide—and having interior diameters of 75 × 57 feet. Owing, however, to ravages made by ploughing and sundry unequal parts which incline to the angular, and help to render this curious site incompletely curvilinear, I do not feel justified in assigning it a place in my survey. Mr Welsh avers that it was known as *The Angel Chapel*, and a spring of water in the hollow to the N. goes by the name of *The Angel Well* to this day.

first visiting it, I came on five or six farm-lads clipping sheep under the very shadow of its mass; yet, on asking for *the mote*, none of them knew anything of it whatever, and I suppose were highly amused at the trouble and time given to its measurement during the next hour or so. The summit—a broadish oval—lies N.W. and S.E., which is the natural trend of the rock on which it is founded (fig. 19). It measures 156 × 123 feet; but at the S.E. edge the hillock dips steadily for over 60 feet, ending abruptly in a rock-cut terrace (now a cart-road), and which has, I think, originally been carried right round the mote at varying levels, being as much as 34 feet below the summit on the E. curve, and keeping at a more regular level on the W. and N. There is enough of rampart on the S.E. end extant

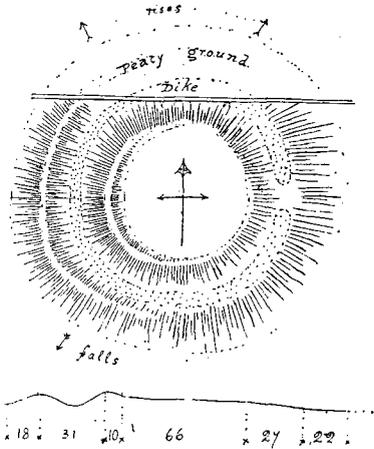


Fig. 17. Macnaughton Fort.

to indicate that this was probably the real nature of the construction; but at the base below the E. side,



Fig. 18. Hall Hill Mote.

all vestige of rampart has long disappeared. Wooden sheds occupy the greater portion of the S.W. curve, therefore it is not strictly accurate

to state that the terrace (extremes of which can be traced) actually exists complete. There can hardly be a doubt that it did once. The construction has been confined mainly to one side, the west; there, with less rock to work on, and a much slighter fall, more building was needed,

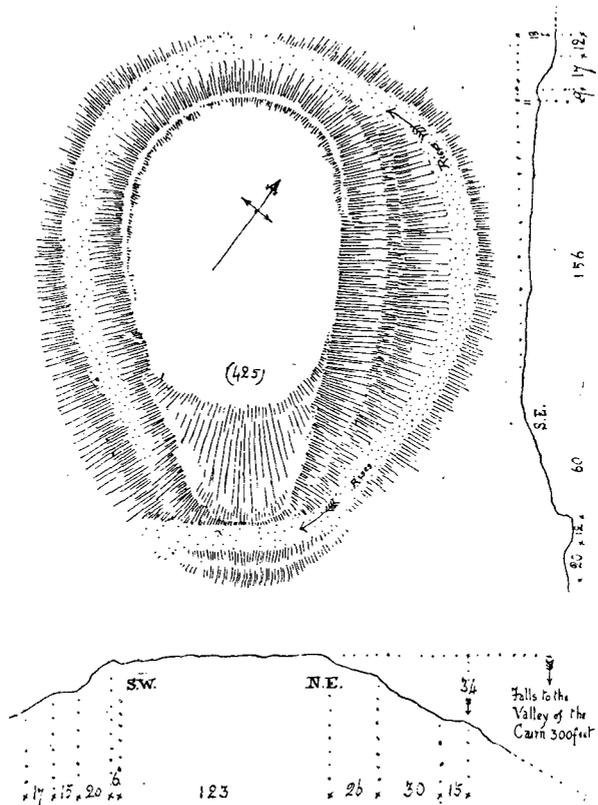


Fig. 19. Hall Hill Mote.

much of which is yet traceable; while, on the opposite side (see sections, fig. 19), the very unusually long and steep natural slope—300 feet to the roadway nearly level with the Cairn—formed protection enough. The actual summit is towards the centre of the hillock: its slight rampart

may be traced for nearly half the edge round, most visible on the north. There is no stream or spring near by. Slightly higher ground comes in on the west. Hall Hill Mote is drawn on the O.M., but I can find no other notice of it; remarks applicable also to the next work.

24. *Ingleston Mote, Irongray*.—Half a mile S.E. of the last, and, like it, on a conspicuous ridge. The site is close to the farm, north and west, on a high field flanked on the east by a steep and wooded bank. It is 475 feet above sea-level, and is really a *fort*. All that is now visible are faint double ramparts and a fosse, circular, of much the same type probably as *Wraiths Mote* (M 54), except that in this instance the summit is not central, but close on the N. arc. Under favourable conditions of light and shade, I have no doubt the details would show well from a distance. On attempting to reduce it to measurement by tape, however, all crests and ridges disappear. The following measurements are merely approximate:—south curve, outer slope of outer rampart 15 feet (including trench), inner 21 feet; slope of inner rampart 18 feet. It has no crest, thence tolerably smooth, but gradually ascending for 168 feet across summit. North rampart slope 9 feet, trench 21 feet; inner slope of outer rampart 9 feet; no true crest or outer fall obtainable. The E. and W. diameter is also 168 feet. Along the summit rampart the circumference is 528 feet; along the outer rampart, as near as possible, 720 feet. The steep wooded bank skirts the east arc at about 36 feet from the inner rampart, and falls sharply for 60 or 80 feet. The site of this fort is commanding on all sides, sloping steeply off, most so on the east; but across the valley on the north is a much higher hill, rising to 700 feet.

25. *Lady Chapel Knowe*.—The site of this seems to be little known: it does not appear on any map; nor is it noticed, so far as I know, in any book. Its position is close to Bowhouse, near Terregles, between the cottages and a small loch, lying low in fair green meadow-lands, belonging originally, no doubt, to the Kirkland of Terregles. Though considerably worn away, this mote bears traces of a markedly individual character (see fig. 20). It has once been a beautifully symmetric oval mound, surrounded completely by at least one well-defined trench and low rampart, above which on the east are traces of two, perhaps even three, terraces. Near its centre a noble oak spreads forth its limbs and shade, and from close to it, trending northwards for 48 feet, is a low ridge, apparently an ancient wall, which then turns abruptly off at right angles to the west edge of the *mote*. Within the S.E. curve is an enclosure, in height similar to the last. From the north corner a long

and high rampart extends eastwards for over 150 feet, merging into the natural bank.<sup>1</sup>

26. *Cullochan Castle*.—This romantically-situated *fort* is usually quite invisible, being buried in dense copsewood. In days of old, when the banks of the two converging streams that wash its base were

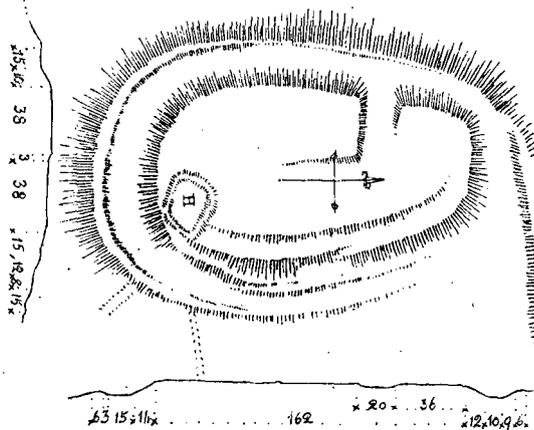


Fig. 20. Lady Chapel Knowe.

woodless, this solitary strength, frowning down from its cliff 150 feet above the waters, must have been impressive enough. Possibly, hence arose its other name of *Purgatory*.<sup>2</sup>

The construction of *Cullochan Fort* (fig. 21) is of the simplest, the

<sup>1</sup> There is here a very prominent and sharply-defined hill, nearly 650 feet high, which stands west of *The Knowe*, and north of the next *fort* to be described. About the base of its summit are vague remains of turf walls, which, however, I am inclined to think entirely recent. But the hill itself is called the Beacon Hill; and its actual summit, commanding, as it does, a wide prospect, may no doubt have been used as a signalling station.

<sup>2</sup> Another origin for the name is given in the following tradition. A certain Maxwell was accused of committing murder, and was doomed, in lieu of capital punishment, never to walk with his head above ground. Whereupon he caused a deep trench to be cut between the Lady Chapel Knowe and his Castle of Cullochan, a distance of a mile and a half, within which he daily walked to and fro, doing penance. This trench I myself traced for the greater part of the distance. It would be difficult to assign a better reason than the above for its existence. It is commonly known as "Maxwell's Walk" to this day. Close to the *Lady Chapel Knowe* are the remains of the old *Chapelry* of *Terregles* or *Quhair*, as it is usually styled—lately converted into a mausoleum and chapel by A. C. Maxwell of *Terregles*.

natural neck of rocky land forming the point between the Cargen and the Glen Mills Burn having been severed from the mainland by a trench 22 feet deep. Part of this trench at B runs into what is the last 54 yards of "Maxwell's Walk." On both sides, towards the apex of the hillock, the sides steepen rapidly, and become nearly precipitous here and there. Within the summit, which is fairly flat, and has once been edged with large boulders, as proved by masses fallen with uprooted trees, there is an oblong hollow-walled enclosure 36 × 21 feet. Few stones of this wall, if wall it were, now remain. They are thin whinstone slabs set on edge, like those used in forming the guarding-circle of a prehistoric grave. The whole enclosure bears marks of recent disturbance, and it is difficult to know under what group to place it.

26a. "*Clouden Moat.*"—Fragment only remaining. This is not marked on the O.M. Nor have I seen the spot myself, Mr Lennox having measured the remnant of the structure for me. The upper portion has vanished under the plough.

27. *Lincluden Mote.*—This almost comes within the precincts of *Lincluden College*. It appears on the map as a *moat*. As such by name, it is in actual form, dimensions, and characteristics absolutely unique in Galloway. History tells of certain courts held on it by the Black Douglas; beyond this all is silence. The site is adjacent to the ruins, beautiful even now, of the *Abbey of Lincluden*, and one side of a large squarish entrenchment is interrupted by a part of the northern scarp of the mote. As may be seen from my drawing (fig. 22), done to scale from measurements by Mr Lennox, the general form resolves itself into "Citadel" and "Base-Court," with a broad outer trench on the east of the latter. The ground-plan, however, shows that the "Base-Court" is but a narrow ridge, curved on the north in a deep crook, which is partially artificial. Further, the wide east trench is not

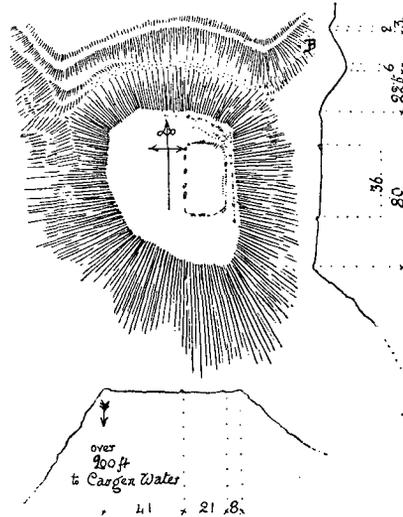


Fig. 21. Cullochan Castle.

carried round the *mote* proper at all, most of which, though girt by a narrow, shallow trench, subsides into the natural levels by easy gradients. Then, the Citadel itself is remarkable, both for the number and narrowness of its terraces and the slight incline of their intervening scarps, as well as for its very unusually small summit, which measures but 23 feet by 14, probably the very smallest summit of all in Galloway. Adjoining the base of this peculiar mote on its north is one side of a large squarish earthen rampart-work, flanked on the west by the Abbey

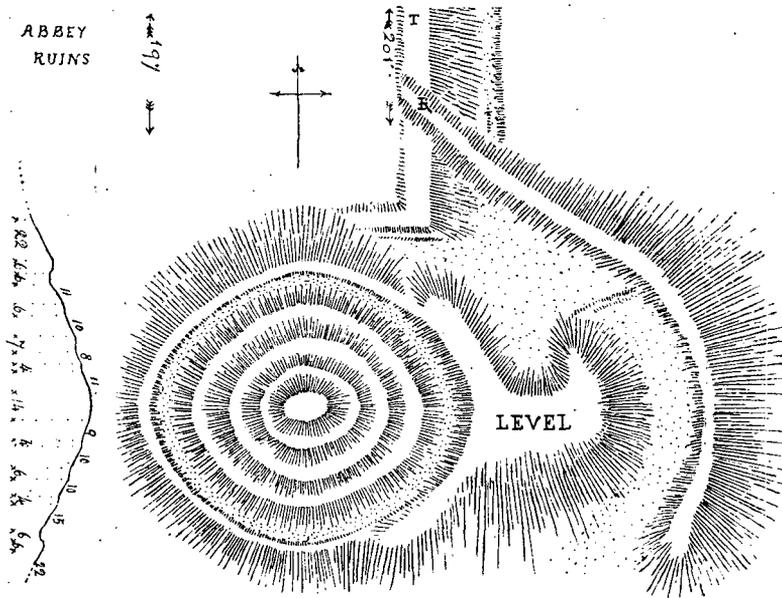


Fig. 22. Lincluden Mote.

ruins, and on the east by meadows bordering the Clouden. Mr Lennox states that this square work must have preceded the circular *mote*, because, at one point, the end of the long serpentine rampart (R in diagram) overlaps the rectangular one. The N. side of this square enclosure has a break or gateway at a point 73 feet from the E. corner.

28. *Troqueer Mote*.—Of this, which is situated on the bank of the Nith near Troqueer Church, not much can be said. In *Lands and their Owners*, v. 258, it is described as “opposite a rocky eminence

called Castle Dikes, so named from a belief that a castle was thereon," the "rocky eminence" being on the Dumfriesshire bank. It is named and drawn on the O.M. It is now cultivated as a garden; and, by the kindness of Mrs Col. Bell, I was permitted to intrude on the premises at an early hour to examine the site. Two paths bisect the summit at right angles, and nearly N. and S. On the river side it has a very considerable and steep slope, unbroken for fully 51 feet; the opposite side measures 42 feet, but between W. and N. its edge has been smoothed and levelled so as to form an easy sloping ascent from the house. The two diameters are the same, 135 feet. Neither from Mrs Bell nor any one else could I hear any report of a rampart either at base or summit; and nothing now remains but the misshapen mound, which appears to be entirely composed of earth.

29. *Mote, Castle Hill, Troqueer.*—This structure, which is given on the maps as between Castle Hill and Back Castle Hill, occupies a very prominent height on the lofty ground almost exactly S.E. of Culloch Castle (26), from which it is separated by the deep valley through which Cargen Water runs. A small pond or pool lies below, and on either side east and west there is a higher knoll. Probably, the great breadth of flat upland here, with several steep natural terraces shelving down to the Cargen, suggested the site for this great *mote*, with its quadruple rampart and treble trenches. Most of these entrenchments have, as usual, vanished under cultivation; but on the S.W. side enough remains to show the general plan, and to indicate the structure, which has, I think, been of earth, unmixed with stones. A glance at the plan and sections (fig. 23) will also show a peculiarly broad and deep cutting (partly natural perhaps?) on the N.E. angle. The *mote* will thus be seen to be nearly oblong, and very broad in proportion to its length, though the basal ramparts naturally become rounded the further they extend from the summit. As far as it is possible to surmise without digging, the construction appears to be of earth entirely; at least, on no other supposition can, I think, the extreme softness and roundedness of the rampart and trench work be accounted for. The position, with regard to the country on the north-east and east, is very commanding, the actual slopes on that side falling remarkably steeply, fully 300 feet to the bed of Cargen Water. The summit, fairly flat, has a fall south-westwards of three or four feet, and along the S.W. curve shows vestiges of a distinct ridge or rampart. Below the scarp here, there is at H a vaguely defined approach, which looks more as if the natural bank had been left, and hollows very slightly scooped out on either side,

but the "approach," if such at all, is not carried right through all the other trenches and ramparts. The diagonal orientation of this *mote* is, I think, a point of additional interest and value, since there is nothing in the configuration of the ground to have prevented the *mote* being made with two sides trending north, and the other two east.

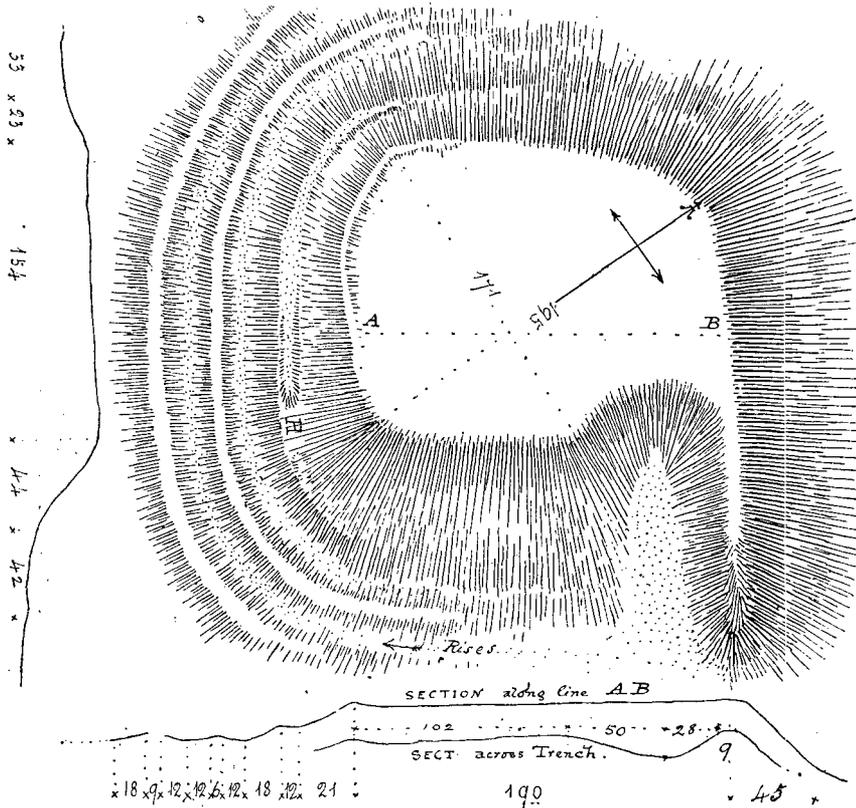


Fig. 23. Castle Hill Mote, Troqueer.

30. *Camp on Tregallan*.—Less than a mile south of the last, and also on a goodly height, now densely covered with copsewood. This "camp" must have commanded the whole valley of Mabie Moss and Dalscairth.

It is half a mile east of a stone circle, which has this one point of unusual interest: some of the stones composing it are pitted with very small cups, I believe genuine cup-marks—but of a type and a diminutive size quite uncommon in the Stewartry. It is also significant that any cup-marks should be found so far inland as this circle on Hills Farm. The “camp” seems to be well known in the district, and was some fifteen years ago very much more easily examined—so I am told by Mr Robert Service—than now, owing to the copsewood and vigorous bracken covering it all over. It appears to be of a vague oblong form with rounded ends, each end W. and E. being raised into a sort of semilunar or prow-like ridge, which is lost on either side. The space between, on the summit, is not much levelled, but appears to consist, nevertheless, of a great preponderance of forced soil, the growth of the copse really spoiling the surface for antiquarian researches. Mr Service remembers the trench going fairly smoothly all round the base of the summit, and the outer rampart here and there still shows considerable steepness and markedness of structure. At the E. end, where, more than anywhere, an angularity of form becomes distinct, the outer rampart, sloping down to lower levels, is high and substantial. At the W. end, however, the best section may be obtained, from which I am disposed to rank this somewhat doubtful-looking structure as a mote. The slope upwards from interior summit to rampart is 21 feet, rampart-top 3 feet, outer slope of 24 feet, down to a 9-foot terrace and scarcely raised “rampart” of 12 feet, and thence downwards in a steepish slope of 24 feet to the level.

30a. *The Mote Hill, Lochfoot, Loch Rutton.*—This large and important mote is barely mentioned in plain lettering on maps, but in books not in the slightest manner. This is not, perhaps, matter for surprise, since its lines have been so reduced by decades of agriculture as to be nearly invisible. Even an experienced eye might, in passing, not be arrested by it; and I am indebted first to Mr Service, and through him to the tenant of the farm, Mr Grierson, for an examination of what I am not amiss in calling the remains of one of our most interesting and important mote hills.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is a cluster of highly interesting relics in this, the eastern, half of the parish of Loch Rutton. The loch itself boasts not only of a fine *crannog* (named on the maps *Dutton's Cairn*), but of an *islet* with peculiar entrenchments, and, so says tradition, also of a passage leading from the islet to the crannog. At the foot of the loch, on gently rising ground just over half a mile from the crannog, is our mote hill. Two mediæval castles, Hills Tower and Auchenfranco (the latter, site only) are within view, while higher up and not distant, among the wilder hills, are

The mote, crowning a water-surrounded hill, must have held a magnificent position, alike by its site and its dimensions. Its circular summit measures 204 feet in diameter; and the terracing on the W.N.W. can still be traced for 208 feet, while the opposite side slopes off for a distance of 240 feet. It may be a question whether these "terraces" were not once trenches in reality. I was told by an old man, dike-building at the farm, that along them the soil is even yet 4 feet deep before the ordinary hard till is reached, and that no stones of any mass or in quantities suggestive of masonry were found about them. This almost compels us to the conclusion that the mote was a vast earthwork all over its extent. The only really stony, hard portion Mr Grierson knew of, in the course of many seasons' ploughing, was a longish strip extending nearly due east and west from the outermost "terrace" on the east towards the summit. He himself considered this to be a roadway. His remark as to the better growth of crops on the lines of the terraces confirms the old diker's statement as to depth of soil. The *Mote Hill* is crossed N.E. and S.W. by two hedges. To the east of the lower one there is a remarkable piece of small entrenched work, which the old diker (John Nichol) declared was always considered as a part of the *mote* before the hedges were planted. I can only add that this "site" is beyond the east boundary of the *mote* some 50 yards, and that, in the course of ditch-cutting through parts of it, the workmen came on dry-stone work beneath the earth "ramparts." Its four sides measure, along the middle of trenches, respectively 45, 63, 60, and 75 feet. There is, between this space and the actual brink of the Mill Burn, a suspicion of a very ancient road or track running parallel with the 75-foot side of the enclosure.

31. *Picts' Knowe*.—This is the name given on the maps to a spot less than a mile west of Cargen, near which also is *St Jordan's Well*, in the midst of an interesting part of the parish of Troqueer. The spelling of the saint's name varies: it appears *Jordan*, *Jerden*, *Querdon*, and *Quergen*—in which last form we perhaps have the real connection with the estate named *Cargen*. The *well*, long revered, and still visited by certain classes who deposit coins on its brink, is on the eastern edge of what till recently was *Mabie Moss*, a very extensive area of peat-bog,

several other motes and forts and a stone circle. In the bogs to the north, oak beams and an oak boat have been found; while, on the mote itself, Mr Grierson has picked up several stone discs, evidently shaped circular, about 5 inches to 8 inches in diameter and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick, probably used as pot-lids (See Mitchell's *The Past in the Present*).

liable to be flooded by the tide. Towards the middle of the moss is *The Picts' Knowe*, near which have been found an oak boat and other lacustrine relics. This earthwork consists of a small, low mound, originally perhaps circular, now measuring 69 × 65 feet, having a broad entrance 21 feet wide, due east, which slopes very slightly upwards and inwards to the level of the mound. A broadish trench surrounds it, varying now from 9 to 17 feet, and the rampart outside of this also shows considerable difference in height and width, as may be seen from the annexed plan and section (fig. 24), drawn to scale from tape-

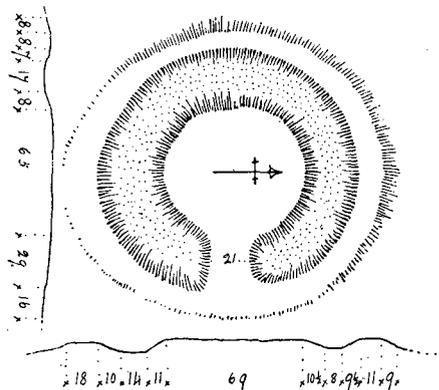


Fig. 24. The Picts' Knowe, Troqueer.

measurements. by Mr James Lennox, F.S.A.Scot. Mr Service, who visited this spot with me, remembers its lines and general contours as much more regular and well-defined, and nearly perfectly circular. Much havoc has been wrought by the inroads of cattle and the unseemly carting of heaps of weeds over the surface since Mabie Moss was drained. There are no stones whatever in *The Picts' Knowe*. A very aged crab-apple tree stands exactly on the north point of the summit. This interesting site is now strongly fenced around, and preserved, so far as may be, from further destruction.

32. *Ingleston Mote, New Abbey*.—This, as described to me by Mr Henderson, the tenant of the farm, is an oval mound, entirely of forced soil, situate on the summit of a gradual slope, forming the highest site on the farm. Its sides spring directly up from the surrounding field, without trench of any sort; their slope averages about 50 feet; the

basal circumference being 520 feet, and that of the summit, which is level, 270 feet. The longer axis measures 90 feet N. and S., the shorter 60 feet E. and W. Apparently there are no indications of stonework either on summit or slopes. In general features it resembles very closely the *mote* on *Ingleston, Kelton* (see M 38, in *Proceedings*, 1890-91, p. 387).

33. *M'Culloch's Castle, Arbigland*.—Such is the name given to a correctly drawn rudely semicircular entrenchment, on the O.M., on the 75-foot contour-line. It is about a quarter of a mile W. of Borron Point,<sup>1</sup> and occupies the sea-frontage of a very steep sandbank. As this *fort* is a mere semicircle, entirely earthwork, and presents no new features whatever, I have thought it needless to make a regular plan of it; but the three sections shown in fig. 25 will be enough to show

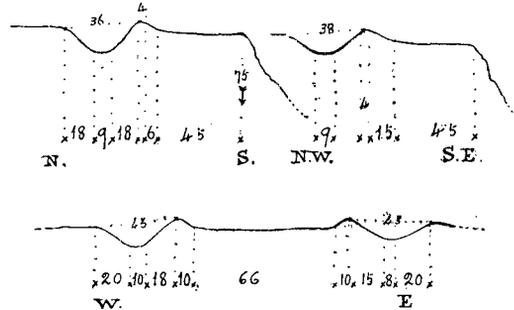


Fig. 25. M'Culloch's Castle, Arbigland.

that it has been a place of some considerable strength. The section of N. rampart is particularly strong and well-defined. The sea-frontage runs nearly due E. and W., and measures 66 feet within base of parapets; while the contrary axis at its widest is 45 feet. On the N.E. arc of the trench the ground is wet enough to suggest the existence of a spring; but the greater part of the trench being overgrown with thorn and bramble, I could not follow up the clue.

34. *Fort, Kells Burn*.—Here at the time of the Survey there must have been a distinct work, for the O.M. draws three sides of an oblong on the summit of a field about 375 feet high, and S. of the stream above named. Owing to the progress of agriculture, however, not a vestige of this *fort* remains, nor is its site even traceable.

<sup>1</sup> See Dr Christison's remarks on cognate names in *Proceedings*, 1890-91, p. 206.

35. *Fort at Brough*.—I was led to hope, by the local pronunciation “broch” of this spot, that there might be some traces or indications of an ancient broch here. The place is disappointing; not only offering no grounds for suspecting such possible traces, but being far from striking even as a *mote* or *fort*, and in bad condition, to boot. Examination and cross-sections point to the conclusion that this was a *mote* rather than a strong place of defence, the remains of the summit-rampart are so slight and imperfect, and the absence of any other so obvious. Of structure there appears but little; only, perhaps, the sharper slope approaching the summit (which is levelled) round the S.W. and N. curves being truly worked. A small stream washes the base on the E., the only steep side. A remarkably fine specimen of Scots fir grows on the summit near the N.E. corner, and many of the slopes in all directions are crowded with thorns and trees. Though distant from the actual shore one mile and a half, this *brough mote* is only 50 feet above sea-level.

36. *Doonend*.—N.E. of Southwick House, and visible from the last. I can hear of no fortification of any kind whatsoever upon this hill.

37. *Slewcairn Hill*.—Well up on the Slewcairn moor, beyond Upper Boreland, somewhere near the 750 contour-line, there is a very strange little earth-and-stone work. Almost precisely circular, and situated on a slightly shelving bank jutting on a tiny rivulet, which falls, near this, into the Brownrigg Burn, at first sight one might easily set this down as a fort in miniature. It is a mere rim or edging, carried round on the level, and on the E. necessarily built and banked up to a considerable mass. It is too small for a sheep-ree; and it could not have been a *cairn*, since there are no dikes within many hundred yards, into which we might suppose the stones from its centre were taken. It is well to bear in mind that the Slewcairn moor, which partly surrounds it, has several remains of cairns, great and small, and that across the Brownrigg (or mid) Burn, some 300 or 400 feet higher, on the Abbey Fell, there are traces of ancient occupation in the shape of small enclosures of dry-stone masonry. It may be also worth recording that the Norse suffix “fell” occurs plentifully in the immediate vicinity, as in Criffell, Thorter Fell, Round Fell, Abbey Fell, Bail Fell.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF MOTES, FORTS, &C., IN EAST STEWARTRY  
OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

MOTES.

Number and Name of Survey.	Number and Name of Survey.
2. Mote of Mark.	4. Boreland, Colvend.
17. Minnydow.	23. Hall Hill.
25. Lady Chapel Knowe.	28. Troqueer.
30a. Lochfoot.	32. Ingleston, New Abbey.
35. The Brough.	

FORTS.

1. Barclay.	3. Portowarren.
7. The Moyle.	10. Bargrug.
12. Torkirra (south).	13. Torkirra (north).
13a. Drumcoltran.	14. Waterside.
18. Margley.	19. Milton Loch.
22. MacNaughton.	24. Ingleston, Irongray.
26. Culloch Castle.	29. Castle Hill.
30. Tregallan.	31. Picts' Knowe.
33. M'Culloch's Castle.	37. Slewcairn Hill.

DOONS.

15. Doon of Urr.	21a. Barnsoul.
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DOUBTFUL WORKS.

8. Little Richorn "Moat."	27. Lincluden "Moat."
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FRAGMENTARY.

9. Edingham Mote.	16. Marl Mount.
20. Braco Mote.	26a. Clouden Mote.
34. Kells Burn "Fort."	

II. THE WEST DIVISION OF THE STEWARTRY—COMPRISING THE COUNTRY WEST OF THE RIVERS DEE AND DEUGH.

The coast-line of the parish of Brogue contains a number of forts, the structural features of which are somewhat markedly peculiar.

1. *Meikle Ross*.—The first fort, though fragmentary, is, from its position, interesting. It occupies a site almost at the point of the promontory called Meikle Ross; and its exact locality is on the eastern edge of the Slack Heugh, about 150 feet sheer above the sea, on sharply-angular rocks, which overhang the shingle below in some points, and slope wall-like, like piles of gigantic slates, at others. So friable is the rock here that some doubt may be expressed as to whether, if one of the faintly-curved lines of "rampart" be pronounced natural, why not the other? (see fig. 26). I confess to considerable doubt on this point

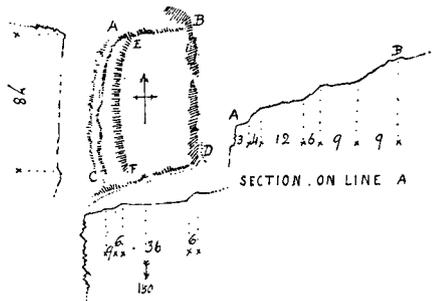


Fig. 26. Slack Heugh, Brogue.

myself when on the rampart itself. When seen from the opposite side of the cove, however, there is a marked difference between the upper (E F, the artificial) and the lower (A C, the natural) of these two ridge-ramparts. The slight stonework also, at right angles (C F), then shows much more decidedly. The line, A C, immediately on the precipice as it is, at several points, is a purely natural fraction; but the levelled and smooth terrace between it and E F has assuredly been made. The curious point is that the bank (E F) has no true rampart-ridge whatever, and could not, therefore, have been, in its present condition, of any use as a protection. The east side is naturally protected by a rock-ridge, which at B runs into the main bulk of the heugh. Here, I think, a

landslip has somewhat lately occurred, by which the highest part of the rampart-line has been obliterated; possibly it was once continued landwards to the left, and so round the summit of the cliff. The site, though open to the full breadth of Solway and Isle of Man, is quite shut off from any inland communication, Meikle Ross surmounting it considerably. Few persons besides the occupants of Meikle Ross farm know anything of this curiously situated fort, and no book notices it.

2. *Manor Castle*, "site of," is the O.M. name for this piece of old-world building, which occupies the S.E. point of Ross or Balmangan Bay—distant from the last about three-quarters of a mile round the shore. It is a puzzling relic; and the details given on my plan (fig. 27) and sec-

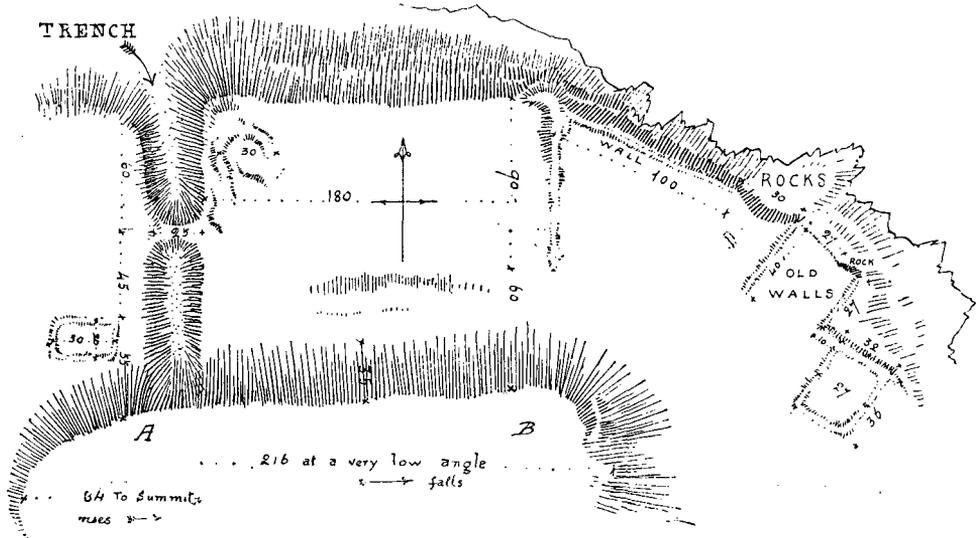


Fig. 27. Manor Castle, Borgue.

tions (fig. 28) must stand for themselves, as a verbal description, where so much confusion exists, would occupy too much space. I may merely indicate that the deep trench running north from the slope of the long mound A B (with its distinct gangway across it) and the 100-foot strip of wall running E.S.E. are, perhaps certainly, remains of a very ancient work; the wall being built without cement, and presenting no special difference from many an ordinary fort wall of earth and stone. Whether

the rest of the small, low ridges do not belong to some less ancient work, possibly to a mediæval castle, properly so-called, is a matter for investigation. It is to be remembered, however, that Symson, even in his time, knew of no traditions or history connected with this site. Mr Finlay of Meikle Ross tells me that some fifteen years ago he dug into a

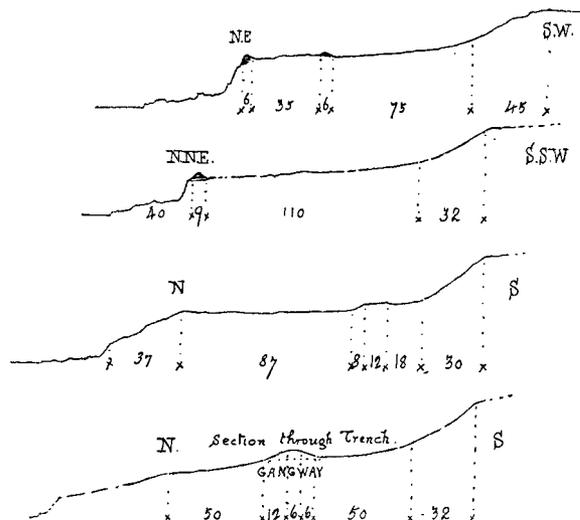


Fig. 28. Manor Castle, Borgue. (Sections.)

portion of the old walls, and found apparently a huge fireplace, partly made of beams of oak, below which were still fragments of embers.

3. *Borness Batteries*.—Such is the O.M. name for a nearly semi-circular treble-ramparted *fort* (fig. 29), peculiarly strong in position as regards the sea, and specially interesting on account of its close proximity to the famous Bone Cave explored by Messrs A. J. Corrie and Bruce-Clarke in 1872. Like several others on our coast, this *fort* encloses a long strip of cliff-land narrowing out to sea, in this instance almost due west, and comprises, on this line, an over-all length (including ramparts) of 255 feet. The N. and S. diameter is only 162 feet. The ramparts, which are remarkably firm, strong, and steep, are in the main composed of large shingle and earth, and divided by a 12-foot gangway, at a distance of 78 feet from the cliff, along their crests; while at the western narrowing of the promontory there is a confusedly

irregular line of lumps and low ridges, which may be the remains of an outer arc of rampart. Its position obviously suggests the consideration whether, originally, the summit of this fort may not have been circular,<sup>1</sup> the two gaps N. and S. having been worn away by the elements. The rock-segment, thus destroyed on either side, is but small in comparison; huge masses of it have fallen within quite recent date, as the fresh colour of the stone betrays. Along the crest of the outermost rampart

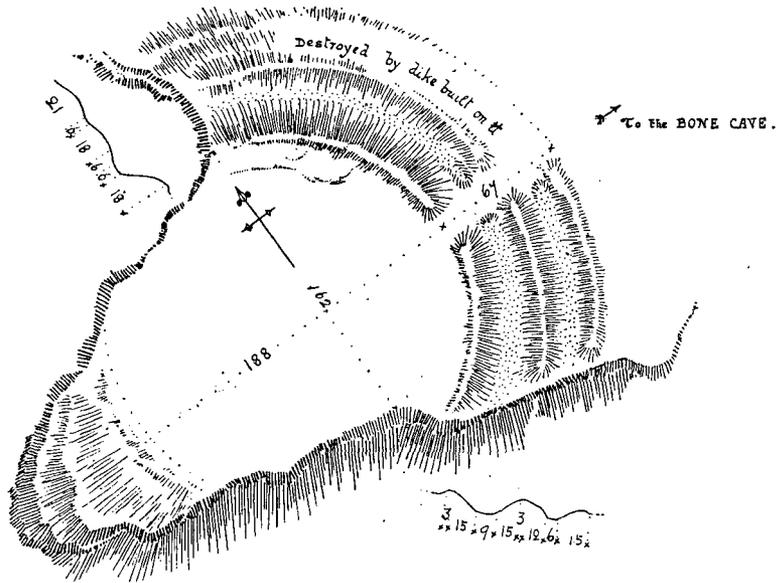


Fig. 29. Borness, Borgue.

S.E. are three squarish points of rock, or else long slabs set in very firmly at about 9 feet apart, and towards the middle of the rampart. M'Kerlie (in *L. O.*, iii. 227) has a remark to the effect that "the foundations were traced in 1844, no lime or cement being found."

4. *South Park Fort*.—About a mile inland, and nearly north of the last, there is a disappointingly small remnant of an oval fort which, from

<sup>1</sup> In Messrs Corrie and Bruce-Clarke's account (*Proceedings*, vol. x., 1873-74) this possibly original circular form is suggested, and a quotation also made to the effect that "human bones of large dimensions were dug up about the year 1780 on the cliff in or near the camp."

certain points at a distance, seems to promise much. It is correctly drawn on the O.M. as a mere segment of a circle. This is on the north, and measures 155 feet along the crest of a substantial earth-and-stone rampart, having an outside slope of 12 feet, and an inner one of 10 feet. The N. and S. diameter measures 222 feet; the contrary axis is indeterminable, all other vestige of a rampart having vanished under the plough, except the two small grassy tussocks at the S. point. The height above sea-level would be about 150 feet, and the land in view is pretty extensive.

5. *Cairney Hill Loch*.—No remains are mentioned here on O.M.; but M'Kerlie, in *Lands and their Owners*, says:—"Distinct tracings of a quadrangular camp were to be seen some sixty years ago, nearly due N. of a hill-fort on the N.E. side of the loch, on a jutting promontory surrounded by a ditch. It was believed to be Roman." Site of a crannog (?) then visible also. So busy has agriculture been in these Borgue farms that, though I visited the spot twice (the second time accompanied by other observers), not a trace of fort, camp, or crannog could be seen. The very loch has been drained. The fact, however, of the possible existence here, west of the Dee, and so far south, of a "quadrangular camp," is of some importance, and should be borne in mind when generalising on the results of my survey.

6. *Doo Cave Fort*.—W.S.W. of the last a mile and a quarter is this interesting and peculiar structure, in the *N.S.A.* ascribed to the Danes. Its site is on the sea-cliff at a very wild and rugged point, and its contour is markedly different from any inland fort, and from most coast defences as well. This will at once be seen from the accompanying diagram (fig. 30). A sea-frontage of overhanging crag, 120 feet high, forms a base of 180 feet nearly E. and W. From the ends of this cliff-verge a deeply-arched, semicircular, and strong earthwork has been carried round in a bold sweep of 240 feet, being at its centre 73 feet from the cliffs in bisection. At about 42 feet on either side of this central line on the cliff, the edge of an earthwork plateau is reached, forming the inner sides of two trenches, each 75 feet long, and following the same line as the outer rampart, but leaving a flat space, 21 feet wide, level with and adjoining the rampart. The clear and compact slopes of the rampart measure on the average 18 feet. At the western extremity of the plateau, a jutting-out crag forms a fine natural outpost or coign of vantage, from which it would have been easy to hurl destruction on boats or cliff-scalers below.

7. *Fort near Meikle Pinnacle*.—This, about midway between Muncraig

and the rock known as Meikle Pinnacle, is given on the O.M. as a large oval, double-ramparted on the west, and rather peculiarly sharp at each apex. It is 175 feet above sea-level; distant from the Doo Cave Fort only a quarter of a mile, and from the sea rather over a furlong. From my notes, taken on a boisterously windy day, accompanied by Messrs Kaltofen and Corson, I find that there is now scarcely any trace left of structure; on a long and rather oblong hillock, very uneven, and lumpy, and indeed shapeless, we came on one short piece of rampart;

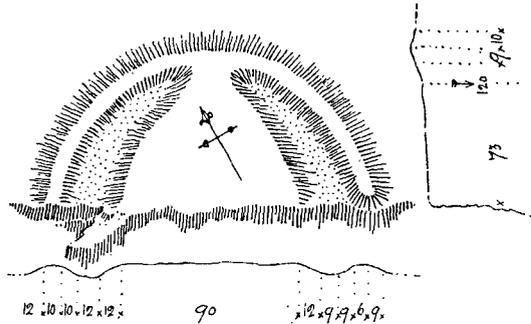


Fig. 30. Doo Cave Fort.

and some portions of the slope looked as if they had been artificially smoothed and hardened.

8. *Barnheugh Fort*.—At a height of 196 feet, and some half mile west of the last site, has been a large and curiously-constructed fort. It is drawn with fair accuracy on the O.M., and is mentioned by Harper as “the remains of an ancient fortress on the summit of Barnhue hill.” The fort (fig. 31) is an irregular oblong, with rounded ends; and in addition to its three terrace-trenches on the south, and its rampart-enclosed outwork on the north, it possesses two somewhat circular or irregularly rhomboidal enclosures, one within the main fort, the other and smaller on the middle south terrace. In all these features there is a striking resemblance to the Almorness Fort (M 55). The ramparts are peculiarly shallow but sharp-edged, very unlike the generality of ancient earth ramparts; and the placing of the stones, everywhere along the edges of the summit, is more flat than usual. The summit space, here and there manifestly flattened by handiwork, measures 126 feet N. and S. by 78 E. and W., and is carried along a natural rock-ridge on the east, quite precipitous in miniature. On the other sides there

is less abrupt rock-shelving; but the site, as a whole, is strong and conspicuous. The construction—as in M 1 and 55—is mainly of stones with a very little earth, or rock.

9. *Roberton Mote*.—Spite of its striking abruptness, completeness, and prominence, this little mote has been passed over by former writers. It is drawn on the O.M., however. Being by nature well protected on all sides, it is conspicuous for its steepness and the good preservation of its mound and trench. It has evidently been suggested, as may be seen from the plan (fig. 32), by the deep cutting made by a small

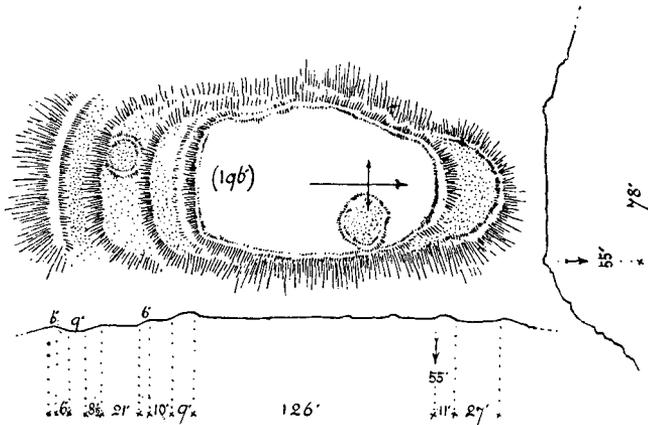


Fig. 31. Barnheugh Fort, Borgue.

stream—the Pulwhirrin Burn—on either side of which the banks must originally have been clear and well-defined, and from 50 to 60 feet in height. Granted a natural bank running parallel with the stream, it is not hard to see how this might be turned to advantage, by merely cutting out one long deep trench parallel with the stream, and about 70 feet from it eastwards, and then meeting this trench with a short one at each end. The nature of the ground on the east clearly has suggested this:—a long, gentle gradient running up northwards in the direction of the burn, becoming level near the south end of the mote, and, of course, necessitating a deep cutting at the north limit. The earth and rock so removed has been heaped up without admixture of stones, I think, to a perpendicular height of fully 20 feet, the mote-slopes measuring on nearly all sides from 33 to 35 feet, down to a trench ranging from 9 to 13 feet wide, and the outer slope being about

22 feet. The summit,  $74 \times 44$  feet, is an irregular oblong made up of five facets. It is tolerably level, with a few rocky crests bare to the weather. The solid rock foundation is most discernible on the south side, where it helps to make the mote-slope take so steep an angle as  $56^\circ$ . The basal circumference should be about 490 feet; but this is partly conjectural, as, owing to densely-growing bushes, the stream side cannot be examined. On the west of the stream, the natural bank rises some 30 or 40 feet. No great outlook is to be obtained from this

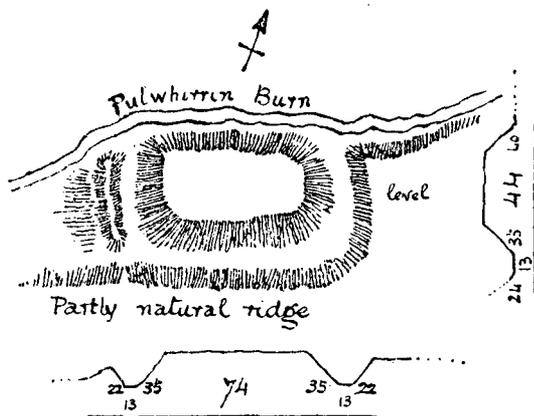


Fig. 32. Roberton Mote, Borgue.

mote, owing to its lowly position and the hilly region surrounding it. As to its name, there appears to be some doubt whether it is not really *Rattra* (or *Rattura*), the name of the adjoining property to Roberton. If so, there may be a shrewd guess at the truth in Sir H. Maxwell's suggestion that that name is *Rath toruidhe* (tory) = Fort of the Hunter or Outlaw. I am under the impression, however, that *Rath* was a special term, applied to round or oval forts alone.<sup>1</sup>

10. *Barmagachan Mote*.—Less than a mile N.E. of the last, and so thickly overgrown and entangled with bushes and briars as to be extremely difficult to measure. It has also been much destroyed, partly by roads,

<sup>1</sup> In this connection the following passage from Symson's *Description of Galloway* may be worth recording:—"A little above Roberton, within half a mile of the Kirk of Kirkanders, is to be seen the ruins of an old town call'd *Rattra*, wherein, as the present inhabitants thereabouts say, was of old kept a weekly market; but the town is long since demolished, and near the ruins thereof is now a little village, which yet retains the name of the old town."

which cut off its base on the north, and probably by agriculture and dike building on the south, where, alone, remains of a rampart can be seen, and that but for 30 feet. This mote (fig. 33) must have been very conspicuous, as its sides, springing from a circular (?) base of about 438 feet, to a summit of  $72 \times 54$  feet, are unusually steep and lofty, attaining a perpendicular height of fully 30 feet. Round the irregularly circular summit, at 3 feet from the edge, can be traced vestiges of a low rampart,

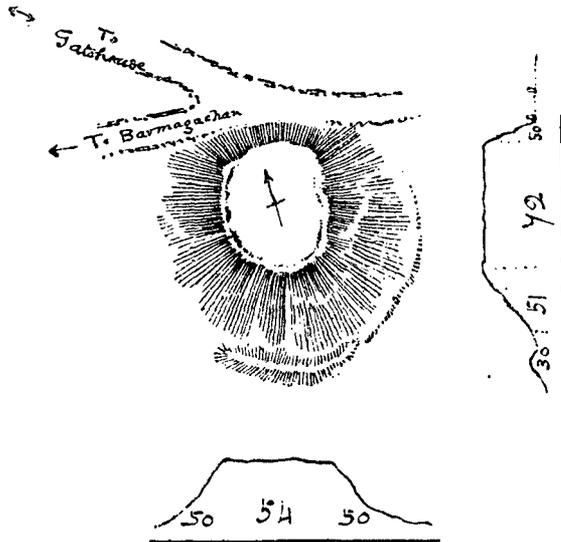


Fig. 33. Barmagachan Mote.

probably of earth, which also appears to constitute the main bulk of the mote.

11. *Earlston Doon*.—This is the name of a hill which, so far as I can ascertain from Sir Wm. Gordon of Earlston, and others, contains no remains of earthworks or other building.

12. *The Doon, Nunmill, Twynholm*.—Correctly drawn on the O.M., and by Harper mentioned as “the well-preserved traces of an ancient British encampment, with triple mounds and double fosse.” This large fortification is an exception to the majority of doons, being neither on a lofty hill nor in a central position. Indeed, it is unusually far-removed from any others: on its own, the west, side of the Dee, with the

exception of the fort once on Kirkeoch Hill, no mote or fort comes within two miles of it. Its structure is remarkably simple, but on a more than ordinarily large scale. At its base, ages ago, the tide must have washed, as the sandbank on which it is built bears evidence of sea-denudation all along the face of it. It is now within 100 feet of H. W. mark (fig. 34). Rising in an almost unbroken slope of over 200

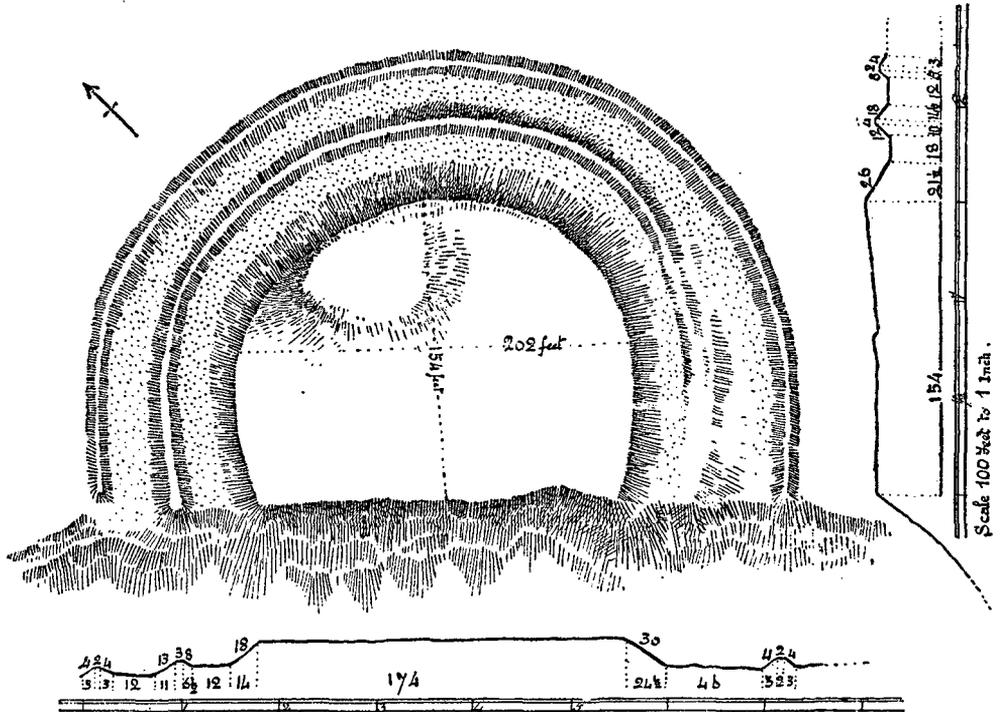


Fig. 34. The Doon, Nunmill, Twynholm.

feet, at an average angle of  $42^\circ$ , this bank affords an excellent natural mound, the extensive central level frontage of which has evidently not escaped the notice of our mote-builders, who have converted it into a double-trenched place of refuge in the most complete manner: first by cutting an inner ditch, varying from 18 to 21 feet in breadth, in the form of a horseshoe, the depth inwards over level of summit being nearly 195

feet. A second trench, with its outer rampart (20 feet wide together), was then carried round this, and its circumference is 739 feet. These ramparts remain, with the exception of a few yards on the east wing, in wonderful preservation—clear, compact, and steep (fig. 35). This is no

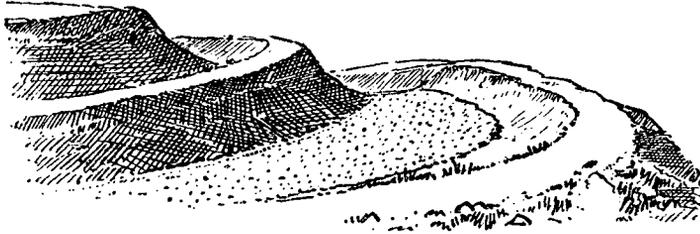


Fig. 35. North Ramparts of The Doon, Nunmill, Twynholm.

doubt owing to the care with which a stout modern ditch-hedge has been carried round the whole curve of the doon. The construction is of stones mixed with earth, clearly shown by the slight weathering on the middle rampart near its centre, where rounded stones (sea-washed pebbles in all



Fig. 36. The Doon, Nunmill, Twynholm, from the West Rampart.

likelihood) protrude in abundance. The surface of the main doon is fairly flat, rising slightly, but naturally, in a roundish-irregular form towards the N.W. arc, whence the slope to the fosse is over 28 feet (fig. 36). There are no breaks in the ramparts whatever, no extra strengthenings at any point, and no dry-stone masonry anywhere visible.

Nor is there any spring or other water-supply, or a hollow of any sort suggestive of a well. The perpendicular height of the doon from the present road skirting its base is 90 feet. An idea of this height and steepness of slope may be formed when I mention that, to the traveller on the road, no sign of rampart or other unnatural object is visible. The general bearings of this doon are:—sea frontage N.W. and S.E.; diameter inland N.E. and S.W.

13. *Kirkeoch Hill*—(Pont's spelling is *Kirkcock*)—is distant from the last half a mile, whether in view of each other it is now impossible to say for intervening woods. It is 292 feet above sea-level; and, from a good distance away, on the Bishopton side, shows the faintest possible depressions on each side of its summit—enough to lend colour to the belief in there having been here “faint traces of an earthwork,” as M'Kerlie remarks in *L. O.*, v. 272. The date at which these traces were yet visible he does not distinctly denote. The situation is an extremely probable one for a beacon-hill or fort—commanding, as it does, the whole course of the Dee as it widens down to Solway, and necessarily, also, a great number of the forts, &c. on the east bank of the river, besides no inconsiderable number in its own immediate vicinity. It is not marked on the O.M., any more than is the next.

14. *Kirkchrist Mote*.—a fine structure, for which I am indebted to the intelligent glance of John Milligan, cotman in days of yore on the farm of Kirkchrist. Years ago, this must have been a really fine mote: now, so little remains that, to one passing the spot in several directions, nothing might be revealed. It is only on the S.E. that even a practised eye would be satisfied of the non-naturalness of this mound. Fortunately, what small remnant exists is so good of its kind that it is possible to almost reconstruct the mote from it. Hence the following account and dimensions. The site is a shaly hillock half way between Kirkchrist and High Newton, half a mile S.E. of Compstone End Fort (15), and about equidistant (*i.e.*  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile) from Boreland Mote (16) and Kirkeoch Hill (13). Structure entirely of earth upon rock, I think; the soil on the summit being particularly rich and deep, full of flourishing turnips on the occasion of my visit. Summit, probably flattened, but now showing very gentle slopes off from middle ridge, through constant ploughing (?). Its main axis, N.E. and S.W., measures 246 feet, the contrary axis 150 feet; the sides for the most part not deeply curved, but the north end finely rounded. The slopes of the escarpment down to the surrounding nearest level vary from 24 to 36 feet on the west, and from 15 to 30 feet on the east, but are just 15

feet round the north curve. The terrace is, where actually measurable, 12 feet wide, and apparently existed at a uniform level all round, its outer rampart extant only on the north in a fragment. A long rocky ridge runs out N.E. like a boat's prow, and forms a sort of irregular and quite natural base-court. On the north end of the summit is what I take to be the remnant of its rampart; or else, possibly, it is the last remnant of the actual summit itself, which, when *in situ*, would have constituted this *mote* a double-terraced one, like Crofts Mote (M 71).

15. *Compstone End Fort*.—Three sides of this fort are fairly clear. It belongs to the simple rock-cut type, and in some respects resembles Kirkland Fort (M 24). It is a long rocky hillock, helped here and there by cutting, and heaping up of debris and earth so as to form a temporary place of defence. Its north end still shows not only a strong scarp, trench, and rampart, but clear remains of the strong protecting ridge on the summit, which seems to be one of the points of distinction between motes and forts, the motes being usually quite level on the top, the forts strongly ridged. The two axes are 159 × 84 feet. There has been a basal trench or terrace probably all round, certainly on the east, where it is yet plainly traceable. On the north, the rough and rocky natural ground comes up nearly level with the fort; but on the S. and W. there must once have been a marsh, the land there being still wet and spongy. From the summit, Boreland Mote is, of course, visible; also Twynholm Doon Hill; probably also Trostrie Mote. This fort is given on the O.M., but elsewhere, so far as I am aware, not known.

16. *Boreland Mote*.—This mote the most unnoticing of Galloway travellers has seen or heard of; for so happily situated is it, that it is not only visible from vast distances on all sides, but being close to the road on which coaches ply daily between Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse-on-Fleet, it is thrust, as it were, upon the observation of visitors. In itself, except for its good preservation, Boreland Mote has no special points. It is one of the usual flattened oval truncated-cone type, with bevelled and slightly-ridged summit, and having one clear and deep trench all round. Its slopes are somewhat steeper than usual, touching an angle of quite 50°; and its trench on the north is rather unusually deep (fig. 37). But by virtue of its site Boreland Mote is the centre of a cluster of no fewer than twelve motes, forts, and doons, within a two-mile radius, four of these being within the one-mile radius, and one of these last close to the mote itself. The formation has been largely dependent upon the exigencies of the ground; though, from any sign apparent on the sur-

face, there is no satisfactory cause for the very distinct diagonal orientation. This will be understood from my diagram, likewise the difference in the level of the trench, especially between the north and south arcs. On the contrary axis, at either end E. and W., the rampart, elsewhere so solid and high, disappears—being level with the trench on the W. for a space of 45 feet, the ends of either rampart N. and S. sloping very gently into it, not at all in the manner of a regularly made approach, but rather as if this more level portion were simply the natural level of the hillock.

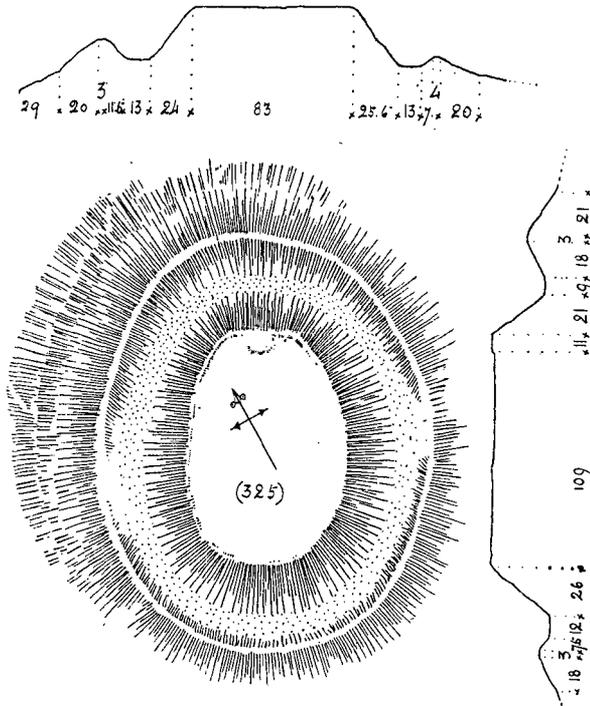


Fig. 37. Boreland Mote, Borgue.

In the same way, the rather straight portion of the rampart at the S. end is also nearly on a level with the trench, and runs level itself. It is on the east that the rampart, again very low here, has been broken to admit of the plough being taken round the trench. Here, too, the out-

side land comes up to a higher point, and the steep pathway up the mote-side, trodden by devotees of "views," being just opposite this opening, clinches the facts (fig. 38). On the summit, jutting inwards

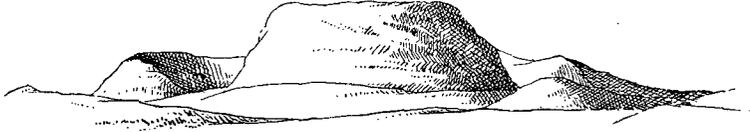


Fig. 38. Boreland Mote, Borgue.

from the middle of the N.E. end, is a small low building of big boulders or slabs, or else a hewn rock, and the land falls somewhat rapidly on the north and east to an extensive marsh, within which, in times past, though now outside of it, was

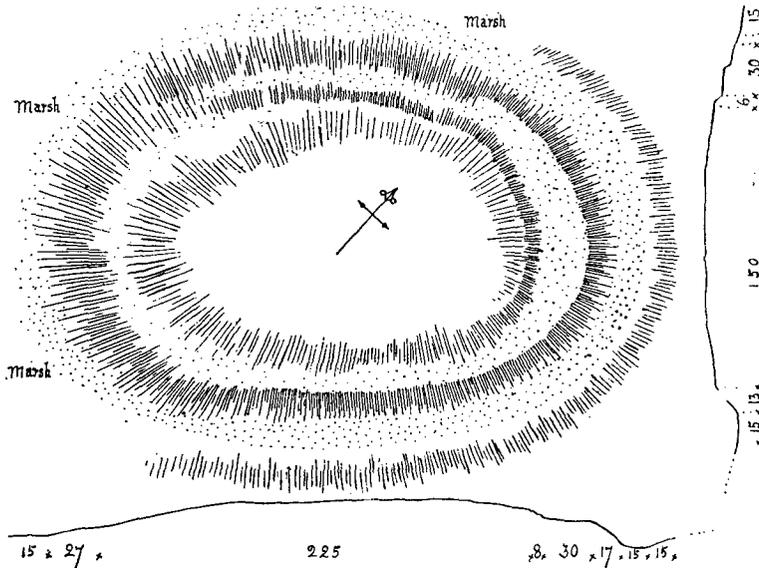


Fig. 39. Boreland Fort, Borgue.

17. *The Fort, Boreland* (fig. 39), a furlong distant, a structure more than twice as large as the mote, but comparatively low and inconspicuous. It has been greatly spoilt by agriculture and draining, which have left

it high and dry, whereas it is certain that even at a comparatively recent date its broad terrace-like trench must have been easily flooded from the waters of the marsh. The construction, so far as it can be at all gauged, is mainly of earth; there are, however, thousands of small roundish water-worn stones scattered about all over summit and trench. By the only preserved remnant on the N.E. is it possible to say that this was originally a doubly-trenched or terraced fort. Fig. 40 repre-



Fig. 40. Mote and Fort, Boreland of Borgue.

sents the fort and mote as seen simultaneously from the N. of the fort. In addition to the O.M. drawing of it, the only printed evidence of the existence of this fort that I have seen occurs in the *N.S.A.*, p. 54, where it is asserted that "in the lake, whose waters had once surrounded this fort, fragments of spears and an old silver coin have been found."

18. *Auchenhay Doon Hill* occupies the highest ground on the farm on the N. of it, and has a long oblong summit measuring  $270 \times 102$  feet. On the N.E. it presents a steep and regular slope of 36 feet, which I cannot think is wholly natural. On the E. side, near the N.E., there is also a strip of flat ground extremely reminiscent of a terrace. I am inclined to think that this has really been a worked hill-top; but the general surface is now too much ploughed down to render drawings of any use.

19. *Conchieton Doon*—situated one mile N.W. of the Boreland mote and fort—is a typical example as regards situation, size, and structure<sup>1</sup> (fig. 41), being a longish oval  $186 \times 104$  feet, and has once

<sup>1</sup> If there be anything in my theory that *Doon* in Galloway is the name given strictly to large oval or roundish heights, whether rampart-trenched or merely terraced, conspicuous for the wide prospect they command, then Conchieton Doon ranks among the very first. The site is a prominent hill about 400 feet above sea-level, and commands in a rude semicircle, of two miles radius, several motes, forts,

had, in addition to its summit-rampart, a trench and outer rampart some 30 feet wide, of which rampart a piece but 40 feet long now remains at all substantial. The trench, however, can be traced two-thirds round the *enceinte*. The side of the hill on the east shelves down in a

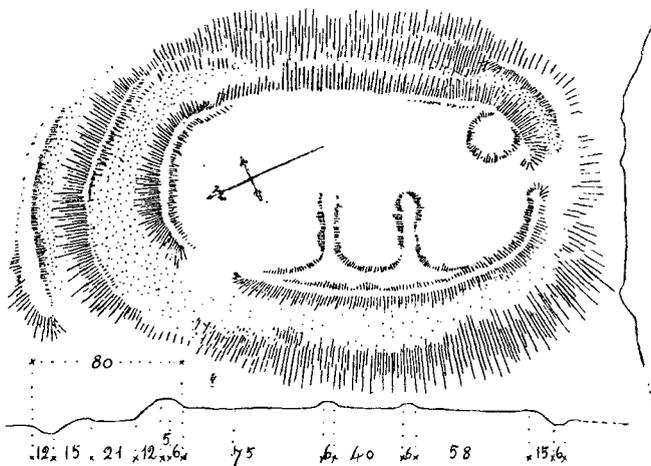


Fig. 41. Conchieton Doon.

succession of natural terraces of considerable depth, so doing away with need of a rampart there. Weathering and agriculture have so reduced the original lines of this doon, that the slopes lie now at an angle of only about 22° to 24°. Towards the centre, jutting inwards from the W. side, are two small and low walls, which may be modern, but they appear to be as much weathered and as ancient as the rest of the doon. A rudely circular hollow at the S. corner, and close to what appears to have been an entrance, is very marked. There seem also to be traces of a rampart 40 yards outside, following the contour of the hill.

20. *Mote below Conchieton* (fig. 42).—The remains so named I discovered quite recently (October 1891), when passing through the fields surrounding a long-opened but carefully preserved prehistoric

and other doons, besides a good strip of the Wigtownshire coast, the intervening Auchenlarie district in Anwoth (so rich in cairns and sculptured stones), the Twynholm Hills range, Culgruff in the N.E., Criffel in the E., the cairn-crowned Ben Gairn, part of the Cumberland coast, and lastly, the Isle of Man. The large doon at Nunmill (12) is visible, and probably many others at a greater distance.

grave<sup>1</sup> in this romantic region. This *mote* is N.E. of the grave about 200 yards, and trends N.E. and S.W., itself measuring 150 feet long. Its breadth is vague and indeterminable, owing to decades of ploughing, the plough being carried transversely nearly due north, *i.e.*, up the east side, so levelling all original sharpness of contour and edge. Indeed, the whole mote is vague, and but traceable. On the west there has been a marsh: along this side the trench is perfectly visible. At the north corner is a mound of stones, possibly a remnant of the rampart,

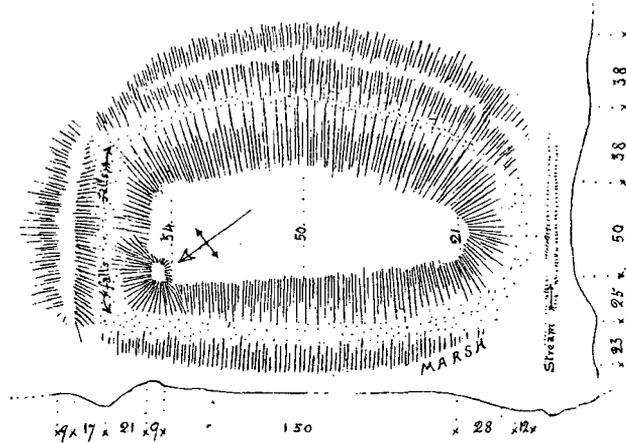


Fig. 42. Mote below Conchieton.

many of them large; some have fallen down the slope to the west. This may be nothing more than a heap of stones displaced while the summit was being ploughed; yet it appears somewhat too regular, and the stones too massive to have been so turned up.

21. *Campbellton Mote*.—This small, rather neat, and double-trenched structure is shaped out of a rock-hillock exactly a quarter of a mile S.W. of Twynholm Doon (22):—now planted with trees, which rather obscure its form, and, together with the uneven ground and much obliteration, render it difficult to examine. The whole site is enclosed within a dike, and measures over all about 178 feet N.E. and S.W., and 135 feet N.W. and S.E. (fig. 43); the summit measures 94 × 53 feet; it has, I think, been freely used as a quarry to build the dike on the E., since a some-

<sup>1</sup> An account of this grave from my pen will be found in *Trans. Dumfriesshire and Galloway Nat. Hist. and Antiq. Soc.*, vol. for 1889.



yard walls here at Twynholm, there must at one time have been myriads of small and large granite boulders and blocks scattered about on the fields. The mound slope is at  $33^\circ$ ; that of the ramparts from  $45^\circ$  to  $48^\circ$ . There is no spring or other water-supply near, nor is there now any tangible proof of artificial levelling of the summit. A lofty clump of trees on a hill within half a mile of this moat goes by the name of the "Monument Wood."<sup>1</sup>

22. *Twynholm Doon*.—Another characteristic example of a well-chosen, easily ascending eminence, crowned by works which seem to have been erected not so much for purposes of defence as an amphitheatre, where thousands might assemble. This *doon*, situated a quarter of a mile west of Twynholm (old spelling, Twyn-ham) village, on a noble hill springing from a very wide base, is correctly drawn on the O.M., with the important words "old fence" printed along a rude, old-enough-looking low wall or rampart which bisects the summit N.E. and S.W. Before consulting the O.M., this "rampart" was a sore puzzle to me. Discarding it, we find a tolerably smooth summit (see fig. 45), not much levelled, if one may say so in the face of the almost impenetrable whin bushes which cover great spaces, and measuring  $99 \times 90$  feet along the natural lines, the orientation again diagonal. The summit is much out of the centre, being only 62 feet from the outermost edge on the S.W., but 119 feet from the corresponding point on the N.E. Nowhere but at this last point on the north curve is there sign or trace of trench and rampart; and here only a fragment remains. It is more like an independent oblong mound on either side the "old fence" remnant which terminates here; that part of it on the east only 15 or 18 feet long, while the western branch of it extends to about 41 feet, flattening and merging into the outer ridge of the Doon Hill, which is part of the modern fence. The circumference of the base (along dotted line in diagram) is 903 feet. In common with Conchieton Doon and others, Twynholm Doon commands a vast extent of country, especially on the E. and S.E.; while several of the sites lately described are of course quite clearly visible.<sup>2</sup> Pont's spelling is *Tuynam*; Sir W.

<sup>1</sup> It has been suggested, and with much cogency, since the clump of trees contains no handiwork, that, as the name dates from the period before enclosure by dikes became usual, it was this *mote* that was meant by "the Monument." If so, it is just possible this structure is not a mote, but really a grave-mound.

<sup>2</sup> In *Lands and their Owners*, v. p. 262, we read:—"Doon Hill, west of Twynholm village, is 300 feet high, on which traces of a British fort were seen some years ago." Further on, "there is a moat south of the Doon, and another south of Twynholm village." The former is Campbellton, and the latter the moat on Moat Croft.

Maxwell suggests A.S. *tweon ham* or *holm*, *i.e.*, "the dwelling, or the holm-land between," "the streams" being understood. This well befits the place; for N. and E. comes the Redfield Burn, and W. the Mill Burn. M'Kerlie suggests that the name may be a corruption of the Norse *Thing* (*cf.* Tinwald, Tynewald, &c.) and *holmr*.

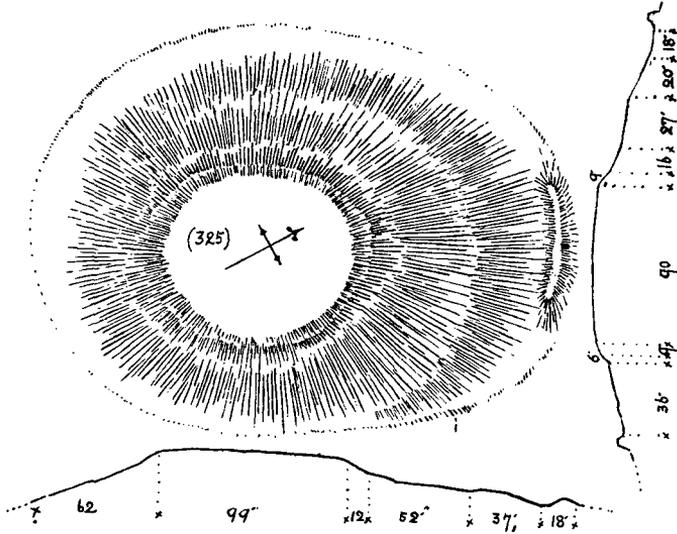


Fig. 45. Twynholm Doon.

23. *Mote on Moat Croft.*—On the steep bank of the last-named stream—a part of the Compstone property. It is situated close to the head of the village, and is almost lost to view among the houses. It is now a mound of the circular, truncated-cone type, level on the summit, which is only 33 feet wide, and about 20 feet high above the ground which forms its western base. Its other side slopes at an angle of not less than  $60^\circ$  to the Mill Burn, some 70 feet below. From inquiries made, I could ascertain no further particulars—"It was aye jist as ye see it." But with the surrounding ground thickly occupied with cottages, sheds, and gardens, it would be futile to attempt an exploration into the possible former contours of this strange little mote.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Heron, in his *Journey through Part of Scotland*, says:—"The Bar of Barwhinnock bears sufficient marks of the rude fortifications of the Danes or Anglo-

25. *Auchengashel*.—The remains of a circular work here, on the same farm on which a number of iron implements have been found, may still be traced. In *Lands and their Owners* the account, presumably written many years ago, is couched in the following brief line:—"The remains of a small Roman camp, 400 yards from the margin of a tumulus." Reasons for such statements do not appear. Peter Phillips, an observant man, long acquainted with the farm, conducted me to the site, some quarter of a mile N.W. of the steadings. The situation, though fairly high, is by no means conspicuous, the camp ground rising but gently above its surroundings. The actual remains are only measurable by diameters, which I made out to be 72 feet; but my informant ten years ago saw a rampart partly round the spot, the stones of which were removed to "build the top of the march-dike" on the west of the hollow. He added that the remnants, now nearly flat, were not ploughed through, simply because they were too hard. The site of the tumulus above mentioned was also noticed on the same occasion. Neither tumulus nor fort appear in the O.M.

25a. *Old Camp, Compstone*.—Under this title, which I found on an estate map of the time of Lord Dundrennan, there is a somewhat peculiar, rather oval earthwork. On the O.M. the site, which is on the N. of the beautifully picturesque ravine in front of Compstone House, is named as "supposed site of Castle." There is, however, another ruin, more likely to have been "the Castle," in the shape of a square Norman tower standing ivy-clad on a rising ground to the west of the house.

Saxons to show that it must have been a military station of one or other of these people. . . . Beneath, is one of those motes (*sic*) which are supposed to have been the Saxon tribunals." My acquaintance with the various hills and sites here leads me to believe that the mote referred to by Heron is Twynholm Doon, and that the other remains (which he calls Danish or Anglo-Saxon) crowned the much higher hill to the north, now called Bar Luka. This last (24) I have examined, but can find not the slightest trace of structural remains of any sort on it. I hear on good authority, however, that the late Mr MacMillan of Barwhinnock was an extremely ardent "improver of land" (as the phrase goes), and would let nothing but timber stand in the way of agriculture. It is also to be noted that this Barluka Hill is only separated by its own gentle westerly slopes from the field called "the Boddoms" on Auchengashel, in which, at various times, metal implements have been found, some of which, being of peculiar make, may have given rise to the notion of the occupation of the land by the Norsemen. A different interpretation is just possible: the mote may have been that called Moat on Campbellton, which is considerably below the Doon, and the Doon may have been the supposed Danish fort. But this seems quite discountenanced by a further remark of Heron, who speaks of there being on Barwhinnock "two oval hills, the Bar and the Doon." The mystery might be solved could we find a hill (with remains) known as "the Bar" from time immemorial.

The O.M. also gives a "Castle Hill" directly behind the site of this "Old Camp." Winding paths have of recent years been carried round the summit and base of this "Camp," thus tending to obliterate its true contours; but there is sufficient original material to show that the site was chosen for its fine natural slope of 40 to 50 feet on the S., and that from the S.W. corner a deep trench was cut and carried right round up to the N.E. corner, where the summit-level is that of the natural ground. The trench can yet be traced for the entire curve. The peculiar

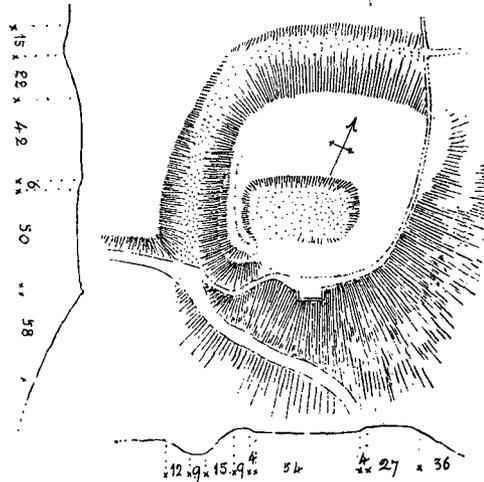


Fig. 46. Old Camp, Compstone.

feature of the camp, however, is the oblong hollow on the summit, as will be seen by the section (fig. 46a). This is now nearly 4 feet deep,<sup>1</sup> its sides rising scarp-like everywhere but on the S.

26. *Castle Hill, Bar Hill, Tongland.*—There is here marked on the O.M. "Fort, supposed site of," the base of its hillock being drawn on the

<sup>1</sup> I am informed by Mr Maitland that this hollow is almost, if not wholly, due to quite recent sinking of the soil, which sinking has continued for some seven years steadily. It would be extremely interesting to ascertain the cause of this singular depression. The little oblong space in the diagram on the S. edge of the slope is a modern stone-edging built on the spot tradition has preserved as the Poet's Seat,—Montgomery, the author of *The Cherry and the Slae*, having lived at Compstone Castle, and found, in the superbly wild scenery of the river Dee a mile away, many an inspiration for the finest touches in his verse.

275-foot contour-line, and the rudely oval summit also clearly made out. Owing, however, to the well-sheltered site—the bulk of the Bar Hill rising some 100 feet higher on the east—a perfect jungle of thorns, brambles, &c., has grown all over the stony remains of what must have been a considerable strength. Being within a quarter of a mile of my residence, in almost daily view, and under frequent examination, I may be pardoned for taking a special interest in this fort, upon the configuration of which, disappointing as it is, I have bestowed unusual care in the annexed drawing (plan and sections, fig. 47). The summit, probably

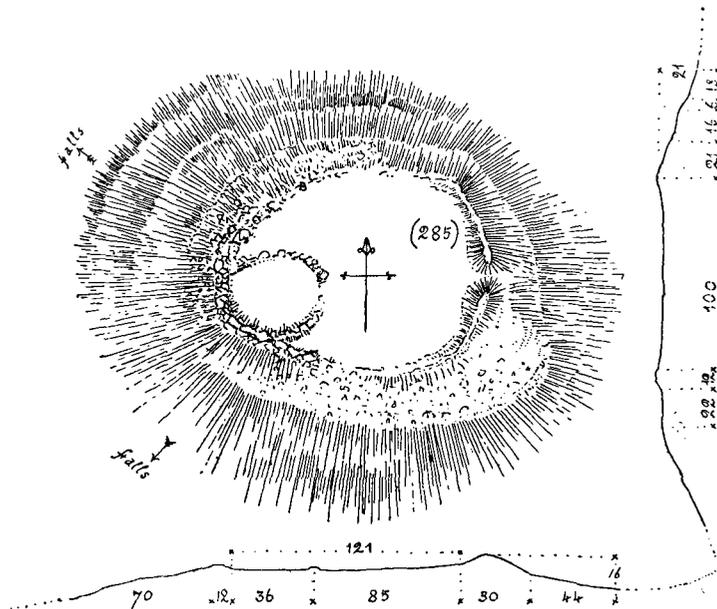


Fig. 47. Castle Hill Fort.

originally slightly flattened, but with the gentle westward declination shown, is a rudely oval area, 121 feet by 100, its W. end occupied by a small strongly built enclosure 36 feet by 34, some of the stones employed in this smaller portion as well as on the outer circumsallation near it being very large. On the W., the natural fall of the ground is about 200 feet to the railway cutting. On the E., the hollow suggested by my section rises rapidly at an increasing gradient, till at 170 feet distant

from the rampart a sheer wall of rock, in many parts beetling over, closes in this side, trending nearly N. and S. for several hundred yards. This rock-wall itself dominates as well as shelters the *fort*, its summit being 30 to 40 feet higher than the rampart. The relative positions will be better understood by reference to fig. 48. On the N. a similar but



Fig. 48. Castle Hill Fort, Tongland.

shallower hollow occurs; while on the S., the main fall, so conspicuous on the W., continues, gradually merging into the much higher level at the E. There is one distinct approach—due east—22 feet wide between crests of ramparts. The débris of stones is very great all round the summit, but most extensive, and almost indicative of a lower wall, on the S.E. curve. From its position, Castle Hill Fort must have dominated a vast extent of the west country. It has some points of resemblance to the fort at March Cleugh (M 32); but in position, size, and height is superior. There is no indication whatever of any water-supply, either within the precincts or near by.

27. *Kennan's Isle*.—About a mile and a quarter N. and E. of the last is a very striking and bold rock hillock, the summit of which presents difficulties of interpretation in much the same degree as the Castle Hill just described. As the name indicates, and examination of the site proves, this was once a rock-islet in the river Dee, traces of the former western channel being still evident. At present, its eastern bank alone is washed by the river, where it is very steep, and consists principally of shallow precipices of shaly whinstone. The western side is more rounded, less steep, and grassy (fig. 49). The summit, a long narrow rugged strip measuring 151 × 60 feet, would seem to have been scooped out into three ridge-divided, roughly-circular hollows, that on the north measuring 26 feet across, the middle one about 30 feet, and the south one about 25—these measurements being very much eye-estimates, owing to the impossibility of taking the tape over the thick whin bushes. These three hollows are open (*i.e.*, unridged) to the riverside,

but distinctly ridged on the west side. Quantities of broken rock, and, I think, stones foreign to the hillock, can be observed half protruding about these hollows and their dividing ridges. Round the N. apex of Kennan's Isle, near its base, runs a distinct terrace, whether of packed stones or not it were hard to affirm. It is 14 feet at its widest, and slopes for another 14 feet at an angle of  $45^\circ$  to the field below—once the old river channel. This terrace becomes lost about half way along the base of the hillock. I should be inclined to call this a mote, greatly natural, worked on the summit, with terrace at base. The

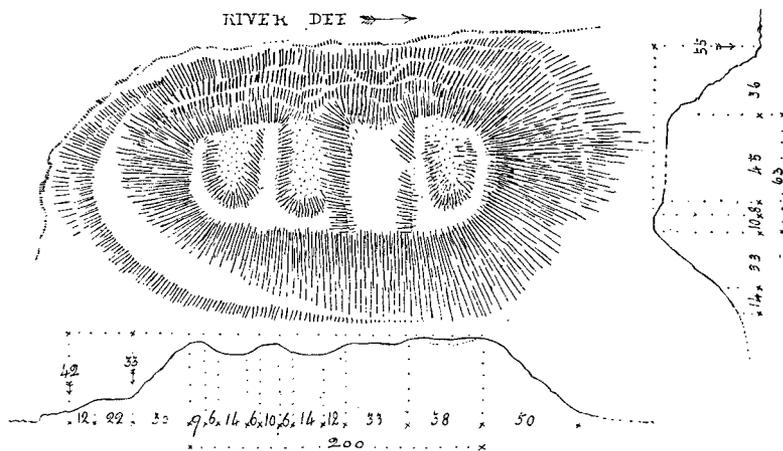


Fig. 49. Kennan's Isle.

situation is, of course, low and sequestered, the opposite bank of the Dee being somewhat lofty and richly wooded, and the land to the west rising in a towering bank very much higher than the isle. Beyond it, Doon of Park is finely prominent against the sky-line; while, at the close of the long straight vista of the Dee, a wooded island a mile away shuts in the view.

28. *The Doon of Park.*—This, as seen from the mote of Kennan's Isle, is a smooth conical hill. From the west, on higher ground, its summit is seen to extend N. and S., with sharply-defined slopes, and various features not incompatible with much-worn structural parts. Yet, after close examination, I have been unable to detect any valid remains of stone or turf wall, ridge, rampart, terrace, or fosse. From

personal inquiry I ascertained that neither the present occupier nor his father or grandfather ever spoke of any artificial work on this Doon.<sup>1</sup>

29. *Doon Hill, Meiklewood.*—In a direct line with the last two, a mile west, is this remarkable hill, whose summit exactly mimics the very lines of a fortification. On the many occasions on which I have roamed over this hill, searching for even the slightest fragment of building on it, my enthusiasm has never met with its reward. In a slight hollow I am quite aware of the remains—very old too—of a cottage or other small house; but of the class of stonework one naturally expects in connection with prehistoric doons, no shred is to be seen.

30, 31. *Trostrie and Culcaigrie.*—Of these we must speak together, as a strip of ground, rising from the base of Culcaigrie Mote to the base

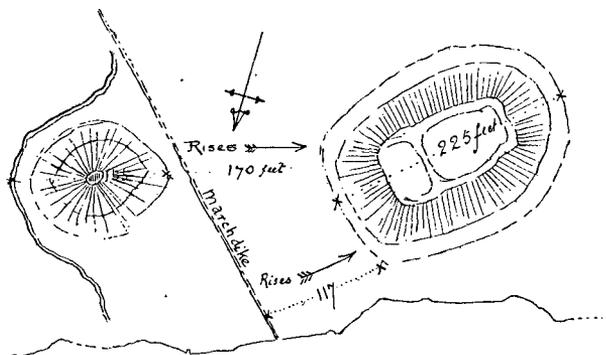


Fig. 50. Culcaigrie and Trostrie Motes.

of the other, and measuring only 170 feet, is all that separates these two remarkable structures (see plan, fig. 50). Probably in no other district, certainly in no other part of this district, is there a second example of such close juxtaposition. Nor is it on this account alone that these two mottes have an interest: in some points of structural detail each has its special claim to notice.<sup>2</sup> As may at once be seen (fig. 51), the difference in point

<sup>1</sup> Almost due W.N.W. of the Doon, half a mile away, is a curiously small stone-circle, or rather, four stones of such a circle.

<sup>2</sup> In *Lands and their Owners* (vol. v. p. 274) Mr M'Kerlie says:—"There are two moats or forts on Culcaigrie; one is small." That at present under notice must be the small one, its summit measuring but 43 × 28 feet. At p. 282 we read, under Trostrie:—"There is a fine moat, almost square, with the usual entrenchments, on this farm. Also an ancient British fort." Which last phrase might apply to the

of size and height is very marked ; Trostrie towering up to a clear height of 46 or 48 feet above its trench, while Culcaigrie, lower down to begin with, is merely a terraced oval hillock, its base girt by a small stream from the hills running southwards. Trostrie is an almost perfect oblong on its summit ; its base curving considerably, however, on the longer sides and round the south end. What most strikes the observer in

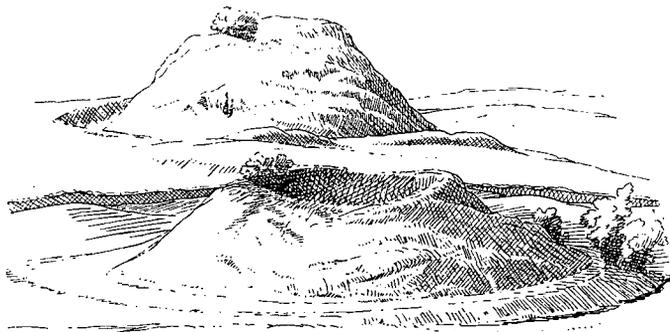


Fig. 51. Trostrie and Culcaigrie Motes from E. (?) N.E.

*Culcaigrie* (fig. 52) is the neat oval hollow,  $27 \times 22$  feet across, and about 6 feet deep, ridged all round, but higher towards the inner side, which characterises its summit. This appears to be a built hollow, partly rock-sided near the south end. Its rampart is quite evident for the greater portion of the circumference, but most distinct on the E.N.E., the line of the section running direct for the N.E. corner of the rampart of Trostrie. A basal terrace clearly traceable—possibly even once a trench—all round the east curve, broadens and rises gradually round the E.N.E. to the N. side, where it merges into the natural slopes. There is no very clear trace of stonework except in the summit-hollow, and perhaps in the more smooth portions of the east slope. Many other hillocks, much more advantageously situated, are close at hand ; and the reason for the selection of such a low-lying one as this, within a literal stone's-throw of the other mote, seems very hard to understand. It is the summit of Trostrie Mote (fig. 53), also, which claims the greatest share of interest. Here we have an oblong ridged space, unequally

little mote on Culcaigrie, seeing the two are so close together. On any other reading of the passage, one is forced to the conclusion that on each farm there are, or were, two motes or forts. I have, however, been unable to find any structures besides these two.

divided by a transverse ridge about 60 feet long, on either side of which is a hollow, now irregular and roughly outlined in the extreme, but no doubt once firmly and clearly defined. A few stones appear in this part, but the general mass seems to be composed of earth upon a rock-

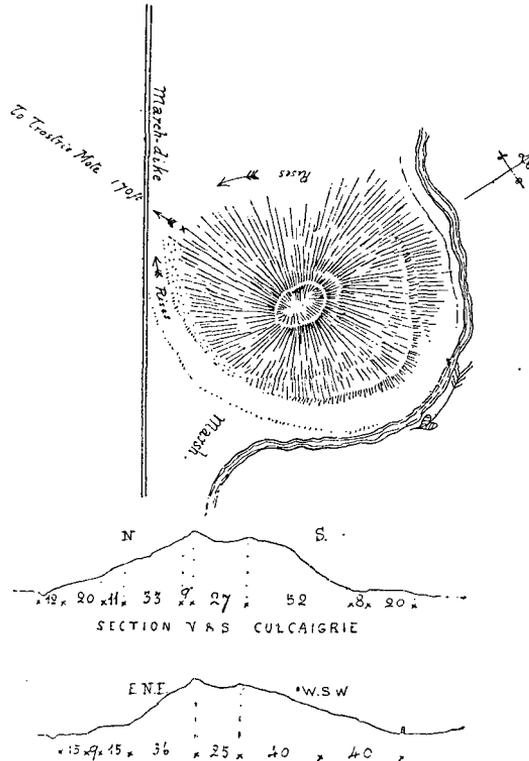


Fig. 52. Culcaigrie Mote and Sections.

hillock ; the rock crops out at either end, visibly enough, near the base. The rampart on the N.E. is the highest, having a 15-foot slope to a 10-foot trench, which here is at its widest also ; and a few feet S. of the N. corner the longest slope of the mote itself occurs, being fully 66 feet from trench to summit. There is a decided rise in the trench hence round the south curve, and a pretty nearly equal fall on the east

side, which is the natural fall of the ground. At the E.N.E. corner as well as the N. the ground is level, unramparted, to the base of the mote; but whereas the former appears to be the natural ground-level, the latter has been made up into one of those smoothed approaches or gangways so frequent in our motes. Vestiges of what I take to be an old rampart are to be traced from the N. corner down an easy incline for

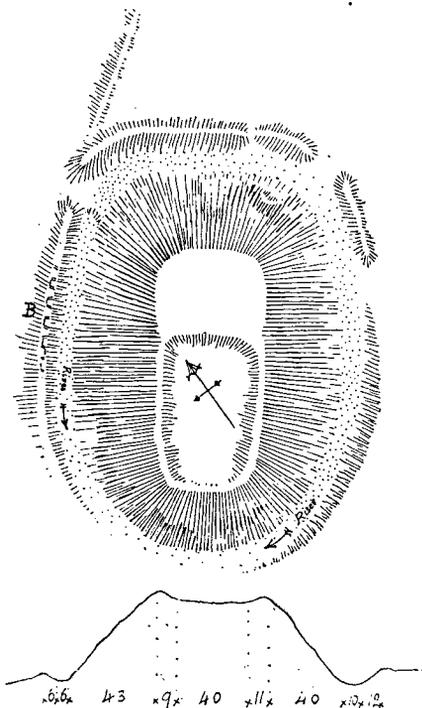


Fig. 53. Trostrie Mote.

117 feet, where the march-dike stops it. The top of the N.W. rampart (B on plan) is for a few feet curiously built with, apparently, squarish stones, set in the form of rectangular loop-holes. What they may have been intended for I do not understand, but they certainly suggest embrasures for firearms.

32. *Queenshill Mote*. — This—(not named on O.M. or otherwise mentioned)—is situated south of the mansion-house of Queenshill, over

a quarter of a mile, close to the stream which divides the Culquha fields from the policies of Queenshill. It is a curious abnormal structure, and consists of a conical grassy mound, round about which a vague sort of terrace (with slight ridge on the outside) winds spirally in an oval. The centre is occupied by a small stone tower, 3 feet in diameter, bearing a cupola on pillars, when erected I do not know. The length of this spiral terrace is 348 feet. By common tradition, this green mound is called Queen Mary's Hill, and is supposed to be the spot on which the unfortunate Queen rested on her flight from Langside.

33. *Fort, Dunjop Hill.*—With diffidence, I submit this as the possible site of a fort. It crowns a very conspicuous hill-summit, 409 feet above sea-level, S.W. of Dunjop farm, and commands an extensive view of surrounding heights and hollows. Below this hill, on the way going to Dunjop farm, are evident remains of the site of a cairn—some of the base-stones of which lie about, near a dike, which, of course, has swallowed up the whole structure.

34. *Mote, Dunjop.*—Not marked on O.M. or referred to elsewhere. West of the stackyard, on the premises of the farm, is a somewhat conical hillock, measuring round the base about 480 feet, its main axis trending N.W. and S.E. At its base, on the N.W., near the mill-dam, is a rampart, vague in its lines, but distinct as a whole, which goes N.E. and then N. for 90 feet, is there broken by the mill-lade, and continued beyond for 70 or 80 feet further, till finally stopped by the road. Possibly, part of this latter strip may have had nothing to do with the mote, but what else it can be is hard to say. On the south of the mote-hillock, a worn piece of rampart begins to grow clearer as it follows the slope up into the hill, curving round northwards so as to reach a broadish, level, terrace-like space, which continues more or less traceable all round the summit. It is suggestive of a spirally-terraced mote; and externally this mote is very like Campbellton (21). But the remains of structure are too vague and fragmentary to admit of any useful plan being made. The crest is very irregular, in places rocky, and measures over its curve 165 feet E. and W., and a few feet more by the other axis, which two bisect the mound diagonally, the narrowest over-curve diameter being about 125 feet. To the N.E. of Dunjop House, and close to the cotman's, is another long strip of made ridge, which may perhaps be the (severed) continuation of the rampart-like ridge on the N.W. of the mote; but so great is the confusion of fallen trunks and growing briars that nothing coherent can be made out of it in its present condition.

35. *Culcrae* is due west from Dunjop three-quarters of a mile; and here, there goes a dim report of a *mote-hill*, about which, however, I can obtain no information from the present tenant, who has occupied the farm for upwards of forty years; nor could Mr Corson and I see any relic artificial enough to justify the suspicion of the existence of the mote-hill.

36. *The Giants' Dike, Barstobric*, is due west again, another three-quarters of a mile. This now much broken-down circumvallation is of the same class as the Moyle, Barnbarroch (E 7) and Suie Mote (M 45). It is an irregular and strong piece of loose-stone wall-masonry extending along the less precipitous north and western faces of Barstobric—a hill some 500 feet above sea-level, that rises abruptly over the moors of Beoch and Bargatton—its east side being so precipitous as to need no artificial protection. Unlike the Moyle, however, Giants' Dike has no fort on its lines, or anywhere on the hill. Tradition tells of a cave on the rugged N.E. shoulder: this I have been quite unable to find, though persons now living remember being in some such place. The Giants' Dike is drawn, and is named even, on the small scale O.M.; elsewhere in print, so far as I know, unnoticed. It possesses no features whatever in common with the Deil's Dike, fragments of which may yet be traced at long intervals throughout the Stewartry; but is a purely dry-stone circumvallation, zigzagging half round the hill-contour for a total distance of 1710 feet. It is built from a broad base of huge undressed squarish blocks of the hard grey-blue whinstone forming Barstobric; into its upper part smaller slabs and rounded boulders have been built. Its line is, of course, often interrupted by, and often helped by, masses of rock. It begins at the highest rock, near the N.E. point of the hill; and at about 120 feet N.N.W. of that starting-point there has evidently been a strong outpost or flanking-tower, which can yet be traced for 15 feet on either side the main wall. Probably at one other point, and possibly at others, similar strengthenings existed; but the greater portion of the dike being in hopeless confusion, it is hardly reasonable to claim these as proved. At some parts the dike has been quite 20 feet wide at the base; fragments of it remain fairly compact, and its height may be set down, approximately, as perhaps 8 feet. In its general contour, it forms an irregular semi-oval; in its relation to the summit of Barstobric, it is lower down than are the walls on Barnbarroch Moyle; and the summit is itself very rugged and rocky.

37. *Fort, Bargatton Loch*.—The position of this has a special interest. The fort is not marked on the O.M., but its site is given on an island

near the east side of the loch. This "island" you can now step on from the mainland.<sup>1</sup> The district of bleak moorland here to the north of Barstobric recalls mediæval days very strongly, for here are Kirk Connel, Laird-Mannoch, and Bishoprigg; at the far end of which last are two noteworthy relics of even a still more remote epoch. These are, first, an undoubted cairn—though not given on the maps—close to a small and lonely cottage called Pluckhim Inn; and secondly, the remains of a structure, which becomes more puzzling the more it is considered, which lies one hundred and fifty or two hundred yards N.W. of the cairn. The good farmer of Culcræ calls this a cairn also; if so, it is of a most peculiar type. Were it larger, I should at once call it a rath or circular fort, but the stony mound in the centre is so small—but 30 feet over curve—as to seem uselessly out of proportion to the "ditch," which is 10 to 12 feet wide, and the "rampart," which is 15 feet over the curve. Its construction is of earth and stone, so plainly shown on the north curve of "rampart," where rabbits have burrowed; the "rampart" is not of large separate slabs, such as one would expect to find forming, as they frequently do, the *revêtement* of a *cairn*; but such may exist at various points in the "rampart," mingled with the smaller stones. A hill hard by is called Torwald's Hill—locally pronounced Tórold.

38. *Edgarton Mote*.—A highly characteristic and interesting work is this boldly-placed mote (fig. 54), on the summit of a lofty isolated



Fig. 54. Edgarton Mote, Balmaghie.

crag, with its base curves finely rounding off into the hollows. In its main contours it is greatly natural, *e.g.*, in the long inclination W. to E. of its imposing rampart, and the abrupt shoulder at the inner curve of this rampart, where its western arm joins the main mass of the mote;

<sup>1</sup> From various causes, I was prevented making so careful a survey of this suggestive site as seemed desirable on my first and only visit. It must therefore be left for a future opportunity.



of stones litter them, below a very narrow sheep-track which skirts the mote. This terrace widens again as it approaches the N.E. arc, and there expands into a deep rock-hewn auricle like the first mentioned, but much smaller. Round the west side—also very steep, but not jagged, except at the summit—there is no trace of a corresponding terrace. Another marked feature of *Edgarton Mote* is the level 9-feet terrace, 70 feet long, near the summit on the south arc; it is well built of stones and earth, and adjoins the space of slope on the west, which has been smoothed to allow ingress from the rampart. The short, narrow, flat ledge on the east near the summit is a purely natural rock-shelf. But at various other places, mingling with the natural fractures and abutments of rock, there are stone-built spaces, all of which, no doubt, contribute towards the smooth general contour of the mote when viewed from a short distance. The summit, by no means either flat or level, having a decided fall to the east, is made up of six facets, measuring on the W. 50 feet, S. 33 feet, S.E. 36, E. curve 45, N.E. curve 30, and top of precipice 24—in all 218 feet. The circumference of the base is 800 feet. There is a fall of 30 feet E. and W. from the trench-levels at N. and S. points. Both inner and outer ramparts are partly built and partly cut out of the rock.

39. *Dunnance Mote*.—Marked on the O.M., but elsewhere unnoticed, so far as I know. The name suggests identity with Spouty Denans (M 47) and others in the Stewartry, and in this instance correctly signifies “the little fort” (*Dunan*, dim. of *Dun*). It is in the main a very rocky hill, compactly earthed over its flat summit, but otherwise scarcely showing evidence of handiwork. Its main axis, 51 feet long, trends N.N.E. and S.S.W., the width being 27 feet: the summit flat to a rounded edge, which falls sharply all along the four-sided contour, but most steeply on the S.E., on which side, 36 feet below the summit, is a narrow, and, I think natural, terrace which skirts the slope for some 90 feet westwards, where it merges into a flat space forming one of those natural adjuncts so frequently noticed, and which at its westernmost extremity has a curiously artificial-looking trench, this being, with the exception of the summit, the only portion indicating human interference. The level of this little plateau is some 8 or 9 feet below the summit; and its diameters are N. and S. 45 feet, by E. and W. 24 feet. The slopes to the N. and N.E. are densely overgrown with a hazel copse, rendering measurements almost impracticable; but the natural rocky shelves and grassy “dasses” are evidently untouched, and left as nature carved them. The height above the nearest level is considerable, being about 200 feet.

There are, however, to the N. slightly greater heights, but not one having the pyramidal conspicuousness of the mote itself. Its height above sea-level is 400 feet. Its distance from *Edgarton Mote* is within a half mile N., and in view of it; and it is also in view of and nearly two miles S.W. of the next.

40. *The Doon, Craighill, Lochengower.*—This is drawn on the O.M. as if square, with rounded corners and fully complete. On my first visit, having much trouble to find it, I came away with the impression that it was roughly oval. Whatever it may have been at the time of the survey, it now largely consists of scattered heaps of stones lying about a sort of

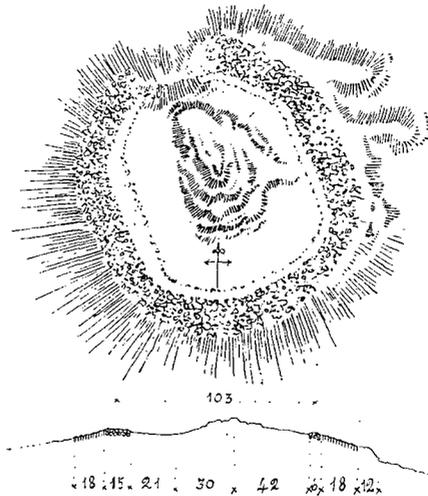


Fig. 56. The Doon, Craighill, Lochengower.

stony ridge; the foundation, no doubt, of what in old time was a veritable wall. The site is on the middle one of three very rocky hillocks about 500 feet high, and between the still higher Meikle Dornell and the woods of North Quintenespie. A small loch, Lochengower, lies to the S.E. of these rocky hillocks, and beyond a thick clump of firs part of Dornell Loch is seen. The remains of the wall are fairly in all parts traceable, most so towards the south and west. It runs round in a rough broadish hexagon of 331 feet in circumference (see fig. 56), enclosing a densely rocky and most uneven space, hummocks of rocks, in all lines and at all angles, solid, immovable, so thickly covering the ground as to

render not only measuring, but direct clear sight across most difficult. The two diameters measured from crest to crest and on the level are N. and S. 115 feet, and E. and W. 103. A hollow occurs at the N.W. point of rock, the stones from which have either all slipped down into the valley on the N., or been removed in a more wholesale fashion than at other points. No vestige of a spring or other water-supply exists within the walls, nor can I find that *this doon* is in visible communication with any other to the N.W., the N., or the N.E. The panorama from this well-chosen height embraces nearly every hill-range in the whole of the Stewartry: on the west Ben Gray, Cairnsmore o' Fleet, Airie and Orchars; Merrick, Millyea, and the rest of Kells range and Black Craig o' Dee leading round into Cairnsmore o' Carsphairn and various lower hills, and so eastwards to Culgruff and the whole way round, through Criffel, into the Dalbeattie Hills, Ben Gairn, and Screel. Some two miles and a half S.E. of this *doon*, and close on the right bank of the Dee, there is a farm of the name Camp-Douglas on a commanding height, off which tradition says that the big gun Mons Meg was fired at Threave Castle, two miles down the river.<sup>1</sup> This hill yet bears the name Knock-cannon; but beyond the name, there is no proof extant of any camp, fort, or mote having ever existed here.

41. *Duchra*.—"Roman Camp, supposed" is the reading of the O.M., upon whose authority so named is not apparent.<sup>2</sup> The position of this abnormal structure on *Little Duchra* is close to the bend of the road opposite *Holland* (or *Holly*) *Island*, on the east of the road. It is on the Hensol property; and Mr J. D. Barré Cunningham mentions that a distinct tradition has been handed down among his tenantry to the effect that this so-called "Roman Camp" was probably not much more than a hundred years old, having been made (as it certainly was used) during the riots of the Levellers, who protested against the taxation and enclosing of land.<sup>3</sup> Whatever weight may be attached to this tradition or to the theory of a Roman camp, it is only by actual examination, and, if possible, exploration of structure, that a clue to its real origin can be hoped for. It was carefully measured (by tape), with the ready

<sup>1</sup> Captain Dennistoun, in the notes to "The Battle of Craignelder," says:—"Camp-Douglas, a place in the parish of Balmaghie, still retaining its original name, where the Lords of Galloway mustered their forces before setting out on an expedition." As to Mons Meg and Threave Castle, see Dr Dickson's *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, p. cexxii.

<sup>2</sup> M'Kenzie, however, in his *History of Galloway*, speaks of a "small Roman Camp on the Dee, about a mile from its junction with the Ken."

<sup>3</sup> Sir Thomas Gordon of Earlston was the first to fence land with dikes. The insurrection began in April 1724.

assistance of Mr Cunningham's gardener; and on drawing the ground-plan out, the contour proves symmetrical beyond my expectation, and yet hardly precise enough to be the work of skilled engineers (see fig. 57). Along the low summit-ridge the circumference measures 345 feet, the deep curve D C B being 216 feet, B A 60, and A D 69. Rampart slope 13 to 15 feet to an ill-defined trench at its widest 9 feet, trench and outer slope disappearing towards the S.W. entirely. The fall to the public road west side may be greater than shown in my diagram. Parallel with the road runs the river, or rather the long-continued narrow

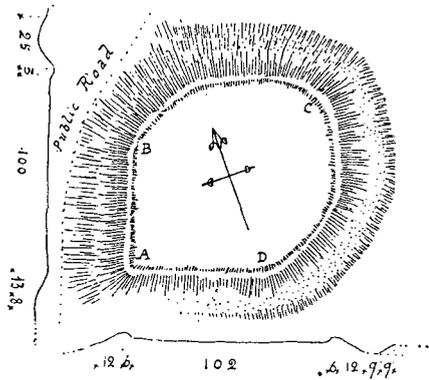


Fig. 57. "Roman Camp," Little Duchra.

arm of a loch, which in certain floods of the Dee becomes a stream, flowing southwards. The construction appears to be mainly of earth. The longest bisection measures only 130 feet. It will thus be seen that the so-called "Roman Camp" of Duchra is but a small and trivial structure.<sup>1</sup>

42. *Benmeal Moat*.—Such is the name given (in plain lettering) on the O.M. to a conical mound drawn on the 700-ft. contour-line amongst the hills which feed the Little Water of Fleet. The actual plateau at this level appears to possess a second name, viz., *Dun Harberry*; the moat-site is at the N. end of it. With two names so suggestive, it was in hope of interesting if not great discoveries that Mr Carson and I trudged over these lonely moors in the direction of the rocky Ben Meal.

<sup>1</sup> As to the name Duchra, M'Kerlie suggests *dubh chraigh* = gloomy rock. In 1687 it was spelt *Deucray*; cf. *Dockwray*, near Keswick. Pont has it *Dochray*; and Maxwell suggests *dubh reidh* = the black meadow.

Alas, however, for nomenclature once more! The mote proved to be only a very prominent moraine-mound. Leaving, then, this spurious mote at present out of account, and measuring across country W.S.W. from *Little Duchra "Camp,"* the next structure is on Mahers Hill, in Minnigaff, thirteen miles distant. Northwards of this imaginary line, the Highlands of the Stewartry predominate; and there is no vestige on record of mote or fort for a space of country which may be described as a triangle, whose sides measure about 20 miles each to a base of 13 miles.

43. *Mahers Hill Moat.*—The name given to an oval structure drawn on the O.M., with its main axis N.W. and S.E. on the Cairnsmore Burn, at a height of 372 feet above the sea-level, and N. of Cairnsmore House one mile. The site is lonely, far beyond the ordinary, vast stretches of rising moorland forming the northern background, swelling up into the distant heights of Craignelder and Cairnsmore; while, though not actually very distant from Bardrochwood, there is no visible communication. The abruptness with which this mote, one of the simplest type—a truncated cone *minus* trench or rampart—rises above the level forming its base, is very marked. It appears to be largely an earthwork, what little removal has been caused by sheep and cattle displaying extremely little stonework. No regular remains of structure can be traced either at base or summit: the latter measuring 48 by 27 feet, with a fairly even slope of 24 feet to the base, at an angle rather steeper than 45°. This mote, like several others, is situated between small streams, and must once have had a considerable loch to the N.E.

44. *Bardrochwood Mote.*—Named so, specifically, in antique lettering, and drawn on the O.M., and believed by local residents to be artificial in its entirety. Upon this point I am very doubtful indeed; but this statement must be qualified by the remark that on the occasion of my visit the grass covered the whole site so luxuriantly, and the foliage of innumerable trees planted on the mote itself threw such a shade, as to render examination very difficult. Traditionally, there may be some force lent to the belief in the artificiality of this mound. Close to it, near Bardrochwood gate, is a beautifully grown and ancient oak, known as *The Lady Oak*.<sup>1</sup>

45. *Parliament Knowe, Kírrouchtree.*—Within the home policies of this estate there are relics much more numerous than usual:—a doon hill, many cairns, and the little mound bearing the above name, which is given on the O.M. as being on the 200-foot contour, and 100 feet below the above-mentioned doon hill. But on the hill there is no vestige of

<sup>1</sup> Compare the oak on Lady Chapel Knowe,—see under E 25.

any structure whatsoever; while at the Knowe, what slight remains can be traced are quite insufficient for the purpose of classification. On its now flattish summit a huge ice-borne boulder of greywacke reposes, and a few smaller blocks lie in disorder near it.

46. *Wallace's Camp*.—This is the O.M. name, and apparently the common name also, given to an entrenched high bank of irregular contour abutting on the river Cree, at the point where a small stream from the stellige of Boreland falls into it, about three-quarters of a mile west of Minnigaff kirk. The Cree here takes a sudden sharp sweep from the N.E. to S.E., and washes the base of the "camp," which on the W. is bounded by a second small stream like the first. The site, therefore, is probably a rude natural delta. Little structure is now traceable (the site being densely wooded), but the trench on the N. is evident enough (see fig. 58). It is especially worthy of notice that this camp, or mote

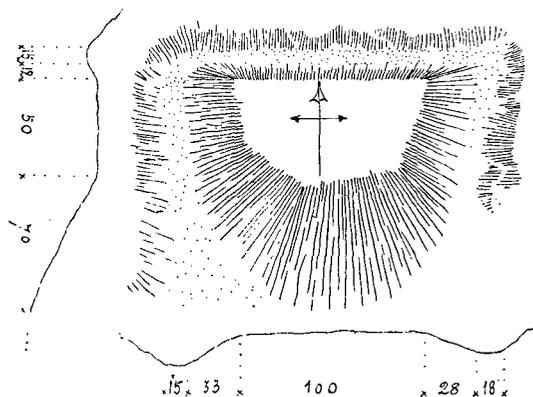


Fig. 58. Wallace's Camp, Minnigaff.

as I should prefer to call it, on the Boreland of Minnigaff, like that in Parton (see M 79A), in spite of its fairly lofty and water-encircled position, is easily dominated by a much higher bank, from which an onset could be swiftly and easily made.

47. *Kirkdale Bank Moat*.—Not marked on the O.M. A very steep, rocky crest or pinnacle at the foot of Kirkdale Burn, and on its west; usually known as The World's End. Despite the clean cutting between the sides of the pinnacle and the main cliff here, I cannot hold this to be anything but a natural ravine. Its position on the shore and its

conspicuous height may have caused it to be used as a beacon-hill possibly, or, at least, may have led to the tradition of its name.

48. *Kirkclaugh Mote*.—In a small district, remote from all modern intrusions, and where there are to be found more relics of interest than perhaps in any other district of the same area in the Stewarty, we have this *Mote of Kirkclaugh*. Little seems to be known about it, even by name.<sup>1</sup> In Harper's *Galloway* it is mentioned in a quotation from Stuart, who, in the *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, describes, with a drawing, the remarkable cross-sculptured monolith that stands on the rampart. It is with this stone in view also that the writer of the following paragraph, taken from an unsigned printed foolscap sheet entitled "Anwoth Parish, described April 1742" (lent to me by the late Mr Clement of The Glen), observes :—

"And a mile W. from the mouth of the river there is another (moat) called the Moat of Kirkclaugh, belonging to Mr M'Culloch of Kirkclaugh. It is raised upon a precipice on the sea-shore. Upon one side, where the earth was in danger of running over the rock, it is supported with stone artificially builded. It is surrounded on the land side with a large deep ditch ; and without the ditch on the north side stands a broad stone, erect, about 2 yards above ground, with a cross upon both sides of it, with some carving or inscription below, which I cannot read."

But no detailed description of the *mote* itself is vouchsafed us. To begin with, low down on the shingly bay, about 8 feet above H.W. mark, we touch on remains of a strong dry-stone wall, evidently once connecting the bases of the two cliffs. This small remnant 3 feet high can be traced for 3 or 4 yards across the ravine here at the foot of the cliffs ; then, turning sharply, it runs up it, much encumbered with thorns and bracken for 100 feet, when, at a point 16 feet above H.W. mark, it is met by two other short, thick walls of similar structure at right angles coming down the very steep slopes of the *mote* on the one side and the

<sup>1</sup> Regarding the name, M'Kerlie says well :—"In Pont's Survey the name is spelt *Kareclach*, and there is no doubt that it is more correct than *Kirkclaugh*. No church is known to have existed there, but in *Kare*, a corruption of *caer*, or in Gaelic *cathair*, for a *fort*, and *clach* a *stone*, we have more sense conveyed, which means the fort of, or at, the stone . . . there is an ancient *fort* or *moat* . . . Inside there is a sandstone on which a cross-like figure is roughly cut." From this, one gathers that it is the standing stone that gives the distinctive name to this *mote*. With this I do not agree. The sculptured stone is placed on the rampart itself, as I shall presently show ; hence, it is almost certain to be of later date than the *mote*. My friend Mr Barron of Gatehouse, an earnest philologist, also points out the appropriateness of the change of syllables ; but hints at nothing more than the structure of the mote being of stone, as sufficient warrant for the new spelling. And this, I think, my examination of the place carries out to the full. The *Strength of Fortress of Stones* admirably fits this *mote*.

natural bank on the other. Above this point, *i.e.*, both higher up the ravine (which becomes the fosse) and literally above on the *mote* slope, many large masses of packed stonework can be seen half projecting from the earth and grassy cover. Hence, the fosse proper becomes more and more developed, narrowing into 12 feet at a point, where, due N. of the mote-summit, a small gangway stops it (C), and from this round the full E curve, to the extremity of the rampart, the distance is 250 feet (see

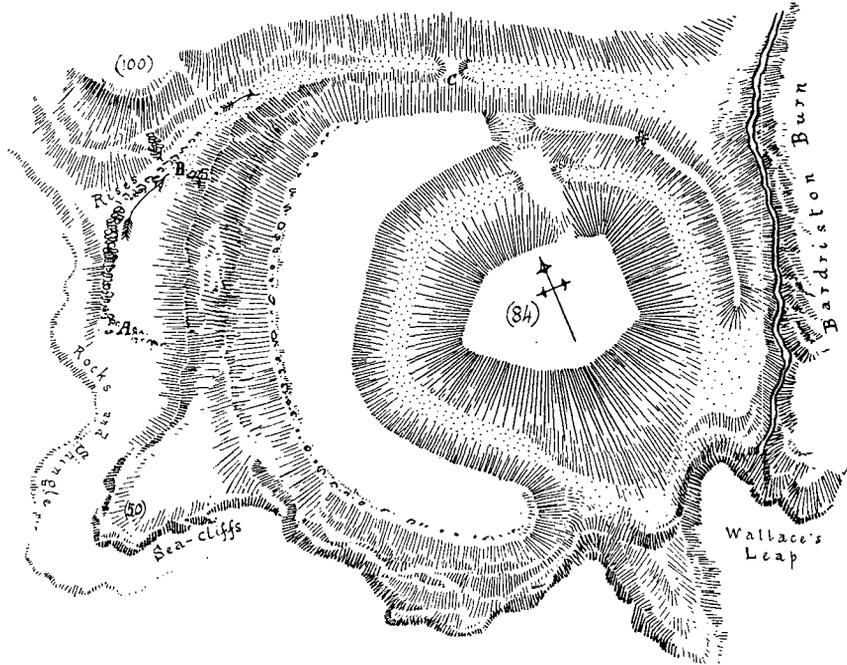


Fig. 59. Caerclach Mote.

fig. 59).<sup>1</sup> The first broad level that is reached, after quitting the fosse at C, is the wide horseshoe plateau, which borders the cliff-edge, and, as

<sup>1</sup> The whole area of the *mote* and its horseshoe-shaped frontier rampart (or base court?) are so choked with brambles of gigantic growth and forbidding density that a deliberate examination is impossible. My plan and measurements, therefore, must not be taken as so accurate as I have striven to make them in other instances. As the relative heights, however, proved on my plan to be identical with those of the O.M., there are not perhaps any very serious errors.

noticed by the old writer above quoted, great stones have been here used all along the edge where the earth was in risk of falling over. This *revêtement* of stone runs along the whole outer curve—a distance of 270 feet—of this plateau, which rounds off at all points, except at the little promontory, into abrupt cliff-precipices, which at the south become chasms of sheer rock, and form an impregnable defence to this seaward side of the mote. The earth-and-stone rampart, further protected by the Bardristan Burn on the east, runs round for 160 feet, and is separated from the mote-summit by a deep trench, varying from 10 to 14 feet in width. The summit itself is composed of five facets, forming a space almost exactly shield-shaped, flat throughout, and in no manner

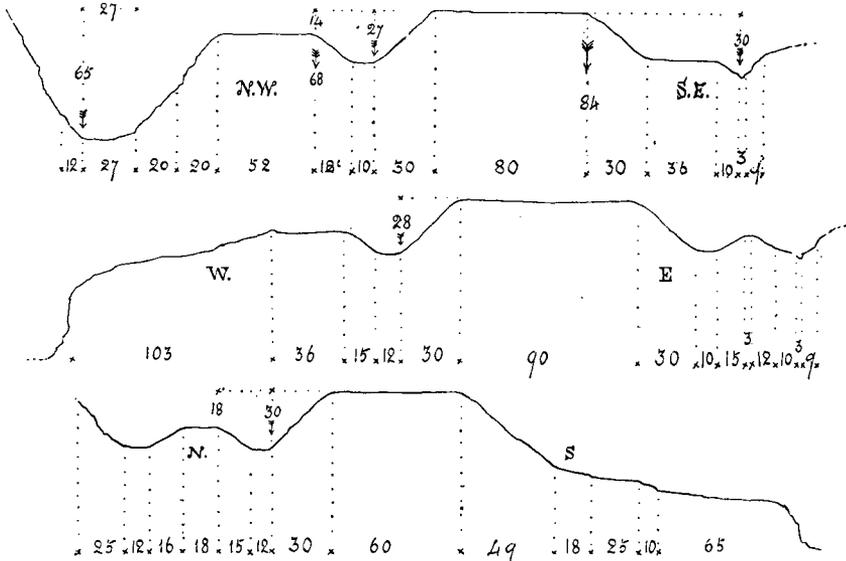


Fig. 60. Caerelach Mote. (Section.)

ridged along the edge anywhere. Its north side is broken at 18 feet from the east corner by the broad approach from the fosses (see sections, fig. 60). The *Standing Stone* bearing its two *Crosses* is fixed into the earth on the rampart at a point 50 feet from, and N.E. of, the N.E. corner of the mote-summit (Cross in plan). Its height above ground now is 5' 4"; breadth across the centre of boss and arms 20 inches, base 15 inches. The side facing north bears the elaborate designed cross

given in Stuart's *Sculptured Stones of Scotland* (vol. i. p. 38, pl. 123); but the design carried out below the shaft of the cross (which some have supposed to be *Runes*) is formed merely by the much worn-out broad diagonal pattern that covers the whole breadth of the stone. That this sculpturing was done with some sort of *driven tool* there can be little doubt; that it was, further, done with freedom and a cunning hand, regardless of mere symmetry, may be safely inferred, when, on measuring carefully, we find discrepancies of half an inch and more in the various parts of the design. The upper part is sadly worn away, and the lower now much less distinct than when the drawing was made for Stuart's book. The stone, 19 inches out of plumb as it is, and leaning towards the south, thus bares the full length and breadth of its best sculptured side to the elements. On its under side, so to speak, is a very primitive piece of work. The surface here is *not flat* from edge to edge, but in two planes sloping off on either side from a central ridge, which becomes less decided further down. Most of the space surrounding this archaic cross has been picked out in much the same manner as the cup and ring marks on slabs at Bardriston and Auchenlarie, the outline of the cross being more distinctly and deeply pitted with dots closely put together.

49. *Doon Hill, Lauchentjyre*.—There are no indications, from either traditional or physical sources, of the existence here of any structure.

50. *Green Tower Mote, Boreland, Anwoth*.—In the old pamphlet entitled "Anwoth Parish described, April 1742," are the words:—



Fig. 61. Green Tower Mote, Boreland, Anwoth.

"Between the Castle of Cardoness and Ardwel is another large artificial mount called The Green Tower Mote, because there was sometime a great building of the name beside it." What this building was, its extent, position, or use, I am unable to state. As regards the mote, however (fig. 61), some interesting points arise. First, is it a made

mote at all? Is it not merely a long, narrow tongue of sandbank, formed by the waters of the Fleet when wider, and the sea higher than now? And, at first, it seems so easy to agree with such a simple solution, that one may be pardoned for hesitating to claim it as wholly artificial. But wholly artificial it assuredly is not. For instance, the slope of its east side—a long bank quite 100 feet up its slope—has an angle of only  $21^{\circ}$  to  $24^{\circ}$ ; and at mid-way up this slope, breaks occur which expose the interior of natural sand. I believe we might excavate to within three feet of the summit, and yet find only natural sandbank. The explanation I would offer is, that the long tongue of sandbank—now the mote—was once of a piece with the main sandbank on its N.W., which bends away N. and E. towards Cardoness; that the regular shape and smoothness of this sand promontory afforded a fine site for the mote-builders, and all that they had to do was to cut a deep trench at its N.W. end, thereby severing communication with the land, heightening up to the new level with the earth thus obtained, and allowing the tides to flow in on all sides of their mote. There is only a very little rock, and that at the extreme south end, in ridges running mostly in line with the length of the mote, and therefore of no use as counterscarps. The length of the summit (see fig. 62) is 355 feet, and its greatest breadth 102 feet; at the landward end, 90 feet. At about 66 feet from the south end there are distinct traces of a division into two parts by a shallow “trench” 25 feet wide; the lower portion being about 73 feet square, and the upper  $239 \times 100$ . Outside the mote—except on the mainland—there is no vestige of a counterscarp, not even of a terrace; the sand formation has clearly been left to itself. The Green Tower Mote is a solitary one. Though so comparatively near, the famous “vitrified fort” on Trusty’s Hill is quite shut out by intervening bosky ground.

51. *Fort, Trusty’s Hill, Anwoth.*—One of the best known of our hill-forts, usually called also “vitrified.” Its structural features can be traced for a space N. and S. of 380 feet, and E. and W. of about 180 feet, the central portion being very clear. Its site is peculiarly strong: a natural rock-hillock of considerable extent, surrounded on the E. and W. by morasses, if, indeed, the ground on the E. be not really the bed of an old loch, from the edges of which the natural slopes spring quite abruptly for a distance of about 240 feet, while on the W. the sides are steeper, and in parts precipitous (fig. 63). The prominence of the site may be judged by bearing in mind that the hillock rises in all to a height of fully 150 feet from these two marshy levels.

At the N. and S. ends the ground is naturally ridgy and broken into gentler declivities, hence the need for the greater artificial defence which we find there in the triple escarpments. Strictly, these defences on the S. are mere terraces (fig. 37); the outermost being 9 feet wide, the next 21, the inner one 24; the "ramparts" between being largely solid rock, helped here and there by earthworks. None of these are now traceable for much over 70 feet in width, and they disappear totally on the west—the rockiest side—and on the east gradually

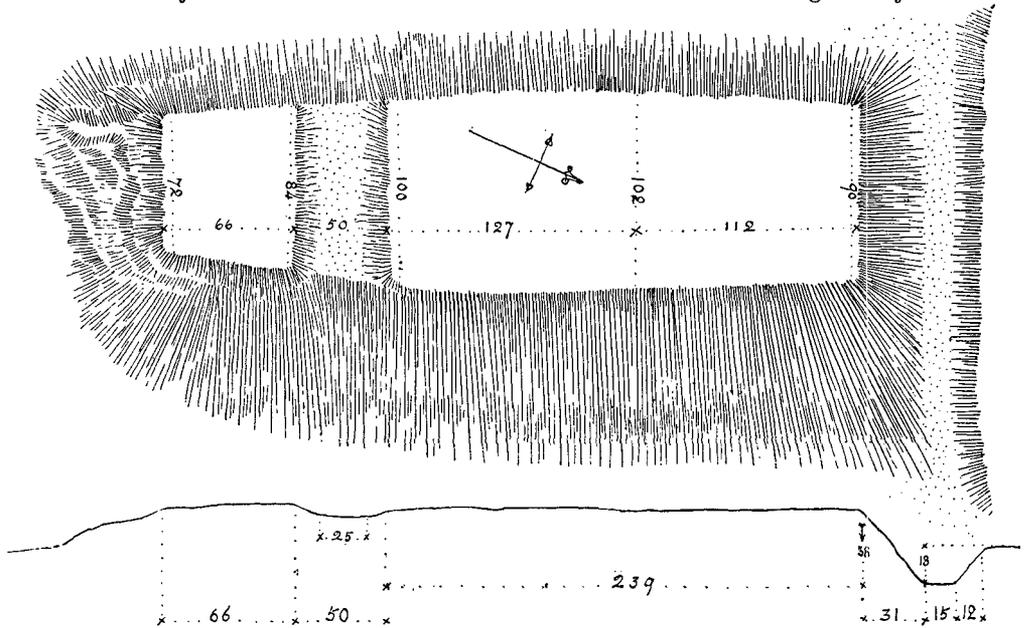


Fig. 62. The Green Tower Mote, Boreland, Anwoth.

run into the natural ledges of the hill. The fortification on the north has been much stronger. From the roughly level rocky ground there, we trace a deep inward cutting into the rock, which forms the rampart to a trench 9 feet wide, which is protected on the *fort* side by a true rampart of 18-foot slope. Almost in the midst of its line of curve, this trench is interrupted by an open way which leads on to the second trench, also 9 feet wide, and from that to the broad terrace, 12 feet, which in its turn is met by a 30 feet rampart, leading to a third

terrace (or trench) 12 feet wide, followed by another high slope of 27 feet; and this, in a very steep slope, brings us to the summit. There are here, however, suspicions of a ridge still outside the actual summit. From this point southwards the *fort* measures 111 feet, and E. and W. 51. In the same way as the south rampart and terraces, those at the north—with one exception—branch into natural ridges and precipices on both sides. The exception is the first narrow outer trench, which extends in a curve for 126 feet, *i.e.*, about a third of the semi-

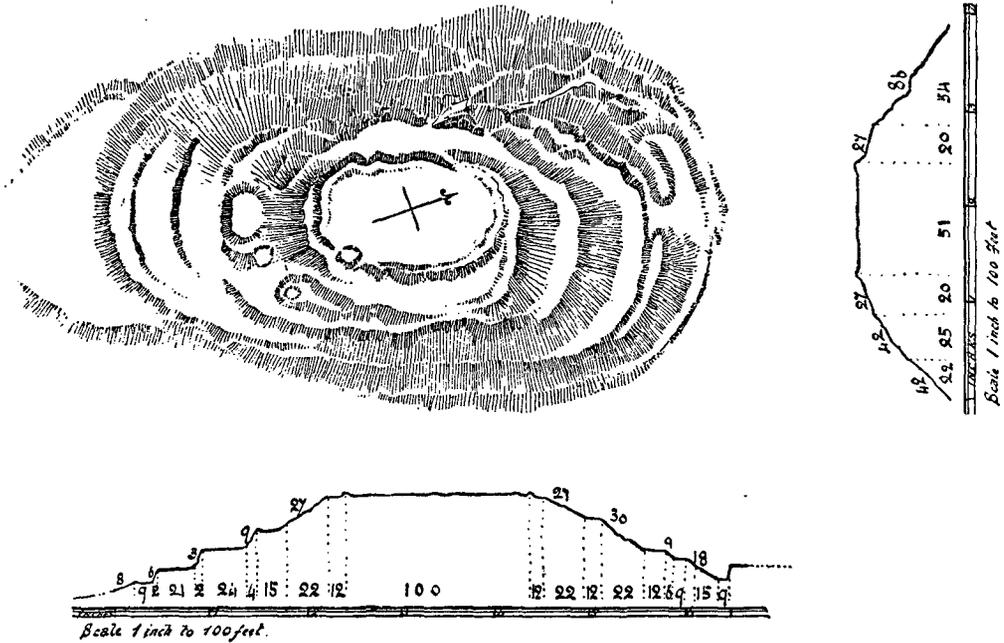


Fig. 63. Trusty's Hill, Anwoth.

circumference. The angle of the rampart slopes begins with  $45^\circ$  for the outer, and grows steeper at each inner one. Towards the edge of the summit are plain indications of stonework, probably rather higher than the ordinary summit-ridge frequently found, and apparently of dry masonry, unmixed with earth. I am told by accurate observers that only 40 or 50 years ago these stone walls were regular and compact, and

exhibited what is called "a good deal of vitrification." The bulk of this fused matter must have been removed, as it is now difficult to obtain specimens at all. Near the S.E. corner is a half-rounded hollow, and another of the same, but more basin-shaped, lower down on the next slope (W)—possibly wells? while, directly in front of the south end, below the top rampart, is a third hollow measuring about  $30 \times 15$  feet, rounded and smooth. Quite close to the east end of this, and near the lower (supposed) well, there is a squarish hollow, which it is not easy to account for. And near both these—a little higher up than the "well"—is the most interesting spot of all: a surface of the rock, some 6 feet square, having an incline to the east, containing the sculpturing of "Dolphin" and "Sceptre and Spectacle Ornament," which is drawn in Stuart's *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, pl. 97. The only other specimen found south of the Forth, mentioned by Stuart, is one at Edinburgh. The lowest figure given in the plate, below the Dolphin, is assuredly not of the same date as the rest of the sculpture, but, as the author surmised, a recent bit of work, in mimicry of a part of the original.<sup>1</sup>

52. *Mote of Polcree*.—At the time the Ordnance Survey was made, the ground hereabouts was such a complete jungle that nothing of definite form could be traced; hence, this remarkably distinct little mote appears on the O.M. merely as "supposed site of camp." The mote is nearly a precise square (see fig. 64), and for that reason has been, of course, claimed as a Roman camp. But a careful examination of its lines shows that it has not been laid down with the exactness of military engineering: two adjoining sides measure 69 feet each, and the other two 72 feet. Its N.E. angle is about 60 feet from a sharp bend in the Fleet, and at the base of this slope is a low earthwork, which may be a vestige of the rampart, which can be traced round the other three sides, complete, but for one small break. The sand and gravel beds of the

<sup>1</sup> On a rock surface close to this sculpturing, there are said to be cups and ring marks of the undoubted type so frequent in Galloway. I, however, have to confess my inability to find them. Regarding the name "Trusty's Hill," attempts have been made to connect it with the name of *Drust*, or *Drost*, who, according to Skene, reigned in Pictland between 523 and 528, and to this theory the broad local pronunciation *Trosty's Hill* may have lent some weight. Mr M'Kerlie, however, denies this theory *in toto*; and I am now in the position to state that the name is really quite a comparatively modern one, certainly not much over a century old, and it was bestowed during the lifetime of one Allan Kowen, who, fifty years ago, rented a small croft near the foot of the hill, and was the founder of a legend about "Trusty," or that personage himself. The name, as thence applied to the hill, was well known to old folk in the district, and is still remembered.

river have supplied the material for this mote, the general features of which are somewhat unusually strong and sharply defined.

53. *Castramont*.—This so-called “Roman camp” has been the fruitful source of much of that theorising on matters of archæology which a generation back passed for scientific research. Mr M’Kerlie in *Lands and their Owners* has lent the authority of his name to the perpetuation of the belief in this mythical “Roman camp.” As his words, when examined in the light of unprejudiced observation, are sufficiently remarkable, I here append them. He says (vol. iii. 475), “It is more

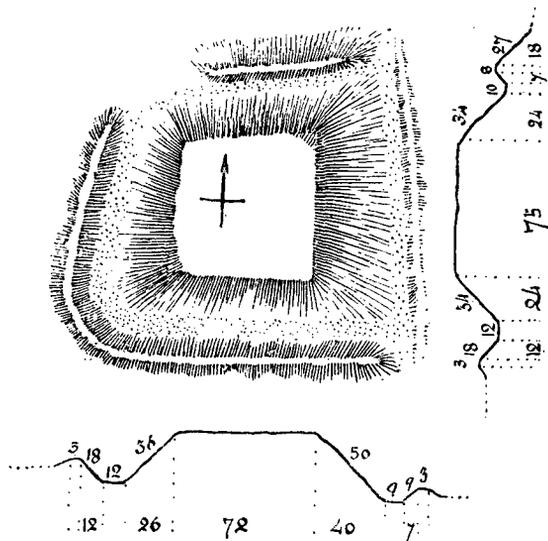


Fig. 64. Mote of Polree.

than probable that *Castramont* and *Enrig* formed part of an extensive camp, which is further supported by the small one at Rusco.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> By “the small one at Rusco” I understand Mr M’Kerlie to mean the *Mote of Polree*, which is indeed a very small square *mote* (like that at *East Kirk Carsel*, M 15). Now, *Enrig Camp* is not only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from *Castramont*, but intervening hills of considerable height completely isolate the one from the other, and on none of these higher hills, likely enough as *fort sites*, is there a trace to be found of any *fort, mote, or camp*. This I know from actual survey of all their summits, nor could I obtain any traditionary records of structures on or near them. *Harper’s Hill*, a ramparted natural hillock lying low in the valley, and *Cally Mote*, are, to be sure, in

Further on he remarks :—"That a Roman camp did exist at *Castramont* is certain, and a very fine and large one it is believed to have been. The position is at the present house : one fosse is now an approach to the house. One side of the *camp* is clear, high, and distinct for 261 feet, on the other it is 110 feet, both imperfect. There is also in the garden, within the boundaries of what may have been the camp, a circular mound, 135 feet in circumference at the base, and about 10 feet high. It may have been the *Prætorium*, but such havoc has been made that it is impossible to say whether this mound is ancient or modern."

So much for conjecture ; now for facts. From the above account it is impossible to infer more than a very vague notion of the form of this "very fine and large Roman camp," but apparently the impression meant to be left is that of an oblong structure. I secured the services of the gardener at *Castramont* House to measure the camp for me. His dimensions are N. and S. 180 feet, E. and W. 90 feet, the slope 60 feet, and the contour, so far as determinable, distinctly semicircular, or at least oval. In conversation with the gardener, I elicited the following facts, which should once for all put an end to the theory of the "Roman camp" at *Castramont*. Having occasion, perhaps also whetted by curiosity, to dig into the "Prætorium" (in his opinion, a disfigurement of the garden), he found the interior to be largely made up of stone and mortar. Wondering at this, he happened to mention it to a neighbour, Mr M'Micken, who at once informed him that he remembered his father telling him of a small cottage that he saw building there. This was probably years before *Castramont* House was erected ; and no doubt the ruins of the cottage, once left to nature, would speedily assume the form of a roughly-circular mound. Lastly, the very glibness of the Latin-sounding name *Castramont* should have warned antiquaries of the strong likelihood that the name was a recently-coined one. That the spelling is recent is proved by the following facts : in Pont's map it is *Karstromen*, and in Heron's *Journey through Scotland* (1793) it is spelt *Caerstramman*. Mr Wm. Barron, of Gatehouse-on-Fleet, residing within a few miles of the camp, in the course of a paper entitled "Local Lore in Language," gives the name as probably *Car* or *Kar stra, moin* meaning "the stronghold on the mount overlooking the strath." A more fitting appellation cannot be given. Of the "stronghold" itself so little is left, spite of its brief glamour of "Roman" antiquity, that the above measurements must suffice.

the middle of the line, whose extreme points are respectively *Castramont* and *Enrig* ; but as no mention is made of either of these in the above account, we must conclude that the "extensive camp" consisted of these two with *Polree Moat*  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile S. of *Castramont*.

54. *The Doon of Castramont.*—An idea seems to prevail in certain quarters (in *Lands and their Owners* as well) that if there were a *British fort* hereabouts at all, to carry out the usual plan of Roman *versus* Celt, its site must have been the summit of the now thickly-wooded pointed hill at Castramont, which is so conspicuous a landmark in the valley of the Fleet. This is an error. I have examined the whole summit of this narrow ridge, and found no traces of works; in fact, it would be an impossible site for a *fort*. The Doon Hill occupies an inconspicuous site in the hollow east of Castramont House, and about midway between it and Laghead farm. It is correctly drawn and named on the O.M. It is completely shut in by Castramont Wood and its high ridge from any possible view of, or communication with, the mote—for such we must call it, on the Fleet—the Caerstramman of the ancient inhabitants. On it there are no signs of handiwork. It is a long rocky hill, well adapted by nature as a place of defence and shelter; measuring nearly N. and S. on its actual summit 300 feet by 108, and founded on very steep, ledgy rocks on the east, perhaps 70 to 90 feet high.

55. *Doon of Culreoch.*—A lofty hill, 700 feet above sea-level; but, so far as I have been able to learn, bearing no traces of fortification.

56. *Cally Mote* is situated within the finely-wooded policies of the mansion-house of Cally, and is itself thickly planted with trees. It belongs to the truncated-cone type, with single fosse and rampart, and is very distinct in contour. The summit is a broad oval, measuring E.W. 89 feet, and N.S. 78 feet, perfectly flat. At its E. end there is a good-sized granite boulder a few feet from the edge, and nearly if not quite on the diameter line. At the E. end the fosse and rampart, which elsewhere are specially clear, are rather worn away, and the mote slopes down unbrokenly almost for 30 or 35 feet. At all other points, its slope to the trench is an average of 21 feet at 45°, the trench itself about 7 feet wide, and the rampart some 7 feet up its slope also. There is, on the W. end, level with the rampart-top, a broad space of ground 60 feet long, which edges off abruptly for some 40 feet at an angle of 42° to a lower level. I am not certain whether part at least of this may not have been cut into its present form. This 60-foot ledge or “base-court” merges off on either side into the general smooth slopes of the surrounding ground. The construction is mainly of earth; but rock is exposed at the W. end, and granite and whinstone pebbles appear in various parts of the trench and on the slopes. I do not find any reference whatever to this mote in any books; and in comparatively



slightly-raised and well-levelled mound—entirely of forced earth (?)—without ridge, and surrounded at a very low angle by a broad trench, which is clear enough nearly all round the circumference of 912 feet. The longer diameter is nearly E. and W., and measures 354 feet; the shorter 195 feet. Towards the centre, but nearer the east, are remains of an oblong-walled enclosure, the traces of which are very low, but regular, and at right angles. This mote is in the midst of a large, level, marshy ground—the lowest spot in the immediate neighbourhood—much of the surrounding trench being yet full of fine growths of iris, salix, carices, and other water-loving plants.

58. *Enrig*.—Commonly called “Camp,” and no doubt a very often observed one, as the coach-road between Gatehouse and Kirkcudbright passes full in view of it. Some thirty years ago it was in good preservation, as I am told by old residents.<sup>1</sup>

But all that now remains are very faint, nearly circular depressions marking its fosses, and a summit, which is still fairly measurable, 150 E.W. and 135 N.S. The two fosses are only measurable on the S., there only very approximately—my section giving them about 100 feet from summit crest to outermost crest. *Enrig* “Camp” crowns a gently rising hill, 350 feet high, of smooth soil, pretty nearly stoneless.

59. *Boreland Mote, G'irthon*.—Probably a myth, as I have been unable to localise it.

60. *Doon of Stroans*, and 61. *Doon of Carluith*.—Names applied to two almost contiguous rocky hills, separated by a very steep gully, but bearing no structural remains.

62. *Harper's Hill*.—A prominent natural hillock-simulacrum of a fort, about one mile S.E. of the Mote of Polcree, showing no artificial work till one reaches its summit, on which can be faintly traced about 48 feet of rampart on N.W.; another 48 feet along the N.E., and, less distinctly, about twice as much along the S.W. and S. sides, where also is a small squarish enclosure 33 feet across. The main axes are 120 × 96 feet; and a true N. and S. line bisects the fort diagonally, a peculiarity in this instance entirely owing to the nature of the site. On the N.E. limit is a 7-foot trench, with a much worn rampart, merging into the natural bank, which is very steep all along the S.E. side. On the opposite side the ground is level with the fort summit. This fort is

<sup>1</sup> “Some seventy years ago” (writes Mr M'Kerlie, in vol. iii. p. 503) “it was remarkably perfect.” He not only calls it Roman, but claims it as a part of his chain of camps extending from *Enrig* to *Castramont*; adding that “the site commands a clear view of Whithorne.”

apparently quite unknown, neither maps nor books taking note of it, nor have I spoken to anyone who knew it.

63. *Doon Hill*, near Bardrochwood Mote, and

64. *Doon Hill*, near Larg Tower, are names of mere hills, commanding by situation, but otherwise featureless.

65. *Mote, Minnigaff*.—This is the shaped and carved-out summit of the long tongue of land at the junction of the rivers Cree and Penkill, manifestly spoilt by the making of the road. Its sections (see fig. 66)

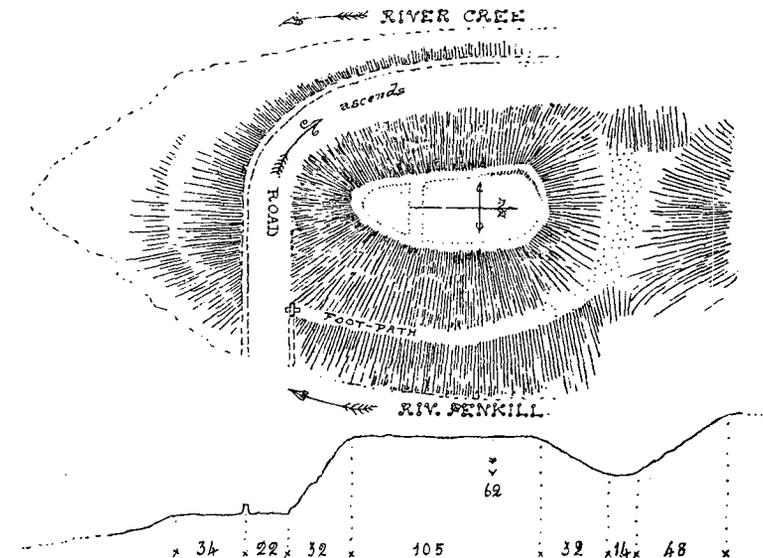


Fig. 66. Mote Hill, Minnigaff.

show that even now it has an imposing appearance, to which its height of nearly 70 feet above the rivers contributes not a little. It is now so overgrown with trees and shrubs that I find it difficult to discover any structure upon the summit or sides. What cutting is visible seems to be of quite recent date. A slight fragment of "rampart" on the N.W. corner may be old. To the N. of the landward cutting on the much higher bank, the *Old Kirk of Minnigaff* stands in picturesque ivy-clad ruin. It is now chiefly remarkable for containing within its precincts a monolith, beautifully sculptured on three sides, which for untold years

formed the lintel of a window in the old market-house, which was destroyed in or about the year 1880.<sup>1</sup>

66. *Castle Hayne, Borgue*.—This very confused remnant of stonework, uncemented, was passed over when the survey of the Borgue coast-sites was being made. It is known and named on the O.M. by the above appellation. Parts of a double wall, semicircularly enclosing a rocky hollow, which is naturally defended by a rock 20 feet high on the west, can still be traced; on the landward side, extant like an ordinary rampart, but elsewhere evidently hacked to pieces, and lying shapeless, through modern curiosity. Over all, dimensions are in round numbers, N.E. and S.W. 100 feet by N.W. and S.E. 80 feet.

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TABULAR SUMMARY OF MOTES, FORTS, &C., IN THE WEST STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Number and Name of Survey.	Number and Name of Survey.
MOTES.	
9. Roberton.	10. Barmagachan.
16. Boreland, Borgue.	23. Moatcroft, Twynholm.
30. Trostrie.	31. Culcaigrie.
32. Queenshill.	34. Dunjop Farm.
38. Edgarton.	39. Dunnance.
43. Mahers Hill, Minnigaff.	46. Wallace's Camp.
48. Caerclach.	50. Boreland, Anwoth.
52. Polchree.	56. Cally.
57. Palace Yard.	65. Kirk Mote, Minnigaff.

<sup>1</sup> The following are the only references to this *mote* in print: "Close to the church-yard is an ancient moat, which tradition says was in former times used as a place of justice" (*H.*, p. 134); and in the Macfarlane MSS., vol. i. p. 517, "The village of Minygaff being situated at the foot of Polkhill, in a low ground hard by the church, there being an artificial moat, which by tradition had been handed down to posterity as being at first contrived for sacrificing to Jupiter and the heathen gods; and when Christianity obtained, it was used as a mercat-place for the inhabitants to meet and do business, till such times as villages were erected, and places of entertainment prepared, and alehouses for converse, entertainment, and interviews" (*History of Galloway—Appendix*).

Number and Name of Survey.                      Number and Name of Survey.

## FORTS.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Slack Heugh.</li> <li>3. Borness Batteries.</li> <li>8. Barnheugh.</li> <li>15. Compstone End.</li> <li>21. Campbellton.</li> <li>27. Kennan's Isle, Tongland.</li> <li>51. Trusty's Hill, Anwoth.</li> <li>62. Harper's Hill.</li> <li>2. Manor Castle.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Doo Cave.</li> <li>12. The Doon, Nunmill, Twynholm.</li> <li>17. Boreland, Borgue.</li> <li>26. Castle Hill, Tongland.</li> <li>36. Giants' Dike.</li> <li>58. Enrig "Camp."</li> <li>66. Castle Hayne, Borgue.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

## DOONS.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19. Conchieton, Borgue.</li> <li>40. Craighill, Lochengower.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22. Twynholm, Doon.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## DOON-HILLS.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Earlston, Borgue.</li> <li>28. Doon of Park, Tongland.</li> <li>42. Benmeal "Mote."</li> <li>49. Lanchentyre.</li> <li>55. Culreoch.</li> <li>61. Doon of Carsluith.</li> <li>64. D.H. near Larg Tower.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24. Barwhinnoek.</li> <li>29. Meiklewood, Tongland.</li> <li>47. Kirkdalebank "Mote."</li> <li>54. Castramont.</li> <li>60. Doon of Stroans.</li> <li>63. Bardrochwood.</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## ROMAN CAMPS (supposed).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41. Little Duchra.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>53. Castramont.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## FRAGMENTARY, OR SITES ONLY.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. South Park Fort.</li> <li>7. Meikle Pinnacle Fort.</li> <li>14. Kirkchrist Mote.</li> <li>20. Mote below Conchieton.</li> <li>33. Dunjop "Fort."</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Cairney Hill Fort.</li> <li>13. Kirkeoch Hill.</li> <li>18. Doon, Auchenhay.</li> <li>25. Fort, Auchengaskel.</li> <li>37. Fort, Bargatton Loch.</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## DOUBTFUL WORKS.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35. Moat-hill, Culrae.</li> <li>45. Parliament Knowe.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>44. Bardrochwood "Mote."</li> <li>59. Boreland Mote, Girthon.</li> </ul> |
|---|---|