

III.

NOTICES OF THE DISCOVERY OF A CIST AND URNS AT JUNIPER GREEN, AND OF A CIST AT THE CUNNINGHAR, TILlicOUNTRY, AND OF SOME UNDESCRIBED CUP-MARKED STONES. By F. R. COLES, ASSISTANT-KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM.

Discovery of Cist and Urns at Juniper Green.—On Wednesday, 13th July 1898, Dr Anderson drew my attention to a short paragraph, with an illustration, in the *Evening Dispatch* of the previous day, describing a find of urns and a cist at Juniper Green. I left by the first

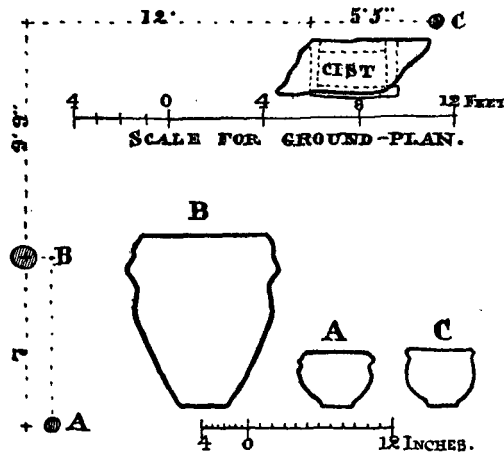


Fig. 1. Ground Plan—Juniper Green.

afternoon train; and, on reaching the spot, where extensive building is being carried out by Messrs Cowie & Son, Contractors, introduced myself to the mason who had first noted the 'find,' and proceeded to examine the site. His account was, that, on the 9th, workmen engaged

in preparing the ground for foundations struck on a small urn (see A in the adjoining ground plan (fig. 1), which was placed mouth downwards, at about 6 inches below the surface, and in removing it, it broke into many pieces. Some 7 feet further on, rather northwards, at about the same shallow depth below ground, a much larger urn inverted was found. It also was broken (see B on plan). Carrying their trench eastwards, the workmen next discovered a large quite flat block of 'bastard sandstone' about 8 inches below the surface, and at a point 12 feet 6 inches N.E. of the large urn. Again, in very nearly the same line with the side of this stone (which was the cover of a cist), a third inverted



Fig. 2. Urn of Food-Vessel Type found at A on Plan.

urn was revealed (see C on plan) of the same type and nearly the same size as the first small one. It was got out in somewhat better condition than the others. At the hour of my inspection of this interesting site, nothing was left *in situ*. The stones composing the cist lay about in disorder, and the urns, I was told, were in Edinburgh. From the remains, such as they were, supplemented by the mason's clear and careful account and his help in measurements, I ascertained that the cist was covered by the one large stone, an irregular rhomboid oblong 5 feet 3 inches and 4 feet on the sides, and 2 feet 8 inches and 2 feet 2 inches on the ends. It was 6 inches thick, and of a very even thickness throughout. It

rested on two end-stones, overlapping them some 4 or 5 inches, and on four side-stones, inclosing thus an oblong cist 3 feet 8 inches long, 2 feet 1 inch wide, and 1 foot 8 inches deep. It was filled to the top with silt, and a good deal of bone-dust, and there was no flooring stone. Its longer axis I found by compass to be W.S.W. and E.N.E.¹



Fig. 3. Cinerary Urn found at B on Plan.

Nothing more having to be noted on the spot, I left instructions with the mason to apprise us at once in the event of further discoveries, and, returning to Edinburgh, found the three urns in the office of Messrs Cowie & Son, in Angle Park Terrace, who eventually presented the urns to the Museum. The urn first discovered at A (fig. 2) is one of food-vessel type, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height, $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches across the mouth, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches

¹ See *Proceedings*, vol. xx. p. 245, for a ground plan of a cist and several urns found at Calais Muir and described by Mr Beveridge.

at the bulge, and $2\frac{5}{14}$ inches at the base. It is a thick, heavy vessel, coarsely made. The broad, scarcely everted lip is irregularly sloped inwards, and on this rim there are a few short oblique lines of decoration done by means of a pointed stick, the same sort of ornament being carried round the urn in irregular lines, six in number, the lowest with triangular spaces attached.

The next urn, B (fig. 3), is a tall, elegantly shaped vessel of the large cinerary type. It measures $14\frac{3}{8}$ inches in height, $10\frac{3}{8}$ inches across the mouth, $12\frac{5}{16}$ inches at the edge of the overhanging rim, and $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the shoulder, from which it tapers rapidly down to a base only $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. What may be called 'chevron' ornament in three varieties

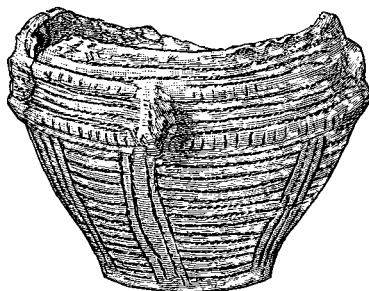


Fig. 4. Urn of Food-Vessel Type found at C on Plan.

is used in the decoration: first, on the inner side of the rim, where it is placed in groups of threes widely spread out; next, on the lip itself, where the commoner variety of a single row twice-crooked covers this space closely; and, on the concave face of the shoulder, which is treated with a double-lined figure of deep and decisive character.

The third urn, C (fig. 4), found close to the cist,¹ is of food-vessel type, but is much more richly decorated than A. Its dimensions are:—height $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches, width across mouth $4\frac{9}{16}$ inches, at bulge $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and

¹ In April I was informed by Mr Cowie, jun., that some six weeks after the discovery here recorded another urn was found; the finder, however, not having put it in a place of safety, it was carried away overnight. No trace of it has been as yet found.

at base $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The rim is too damaged to allow of any vestiges of decoration to be seen; a triple line of scores runs round its outer surface, and there are four similar lines on the very slightly concave surface of the shoulder, which is well defined by an upper and lower rounded ridge having perpendicular scorings, and divided into four segments by projecting 'ears,' as if for loops, but unpierced. The lower portion of the vessel is also divided into six sections containing fourteen horizontal lines of decoration, separated by four vertical. This variety of the type, with strongly-marked ridges, between which are projecting ears, either pierced or unpierced, is now pretty well exemplified in the collection of Bronze Age urns in the National Museum. This specimen from Juniper Green is the twentieth. Of examples having unpierced ears only, like this one, there are thirteen; they were found at Corstorphine, Crail, Sheriff-flats, Alyth, Moulin, Inverarity, Wallace Town, Juniper Green, Doune, and Ratho, two others having no localities attached to them, while the specially small and neatly-shaped urn found last year at West Skichen has the ears scarcely more defined than mere roundish excrescences. Of urns with the ears both distinct and pierced, we possess seven, which have come from such widely-distant localities as Borthwick, Glamis, Netherdale (Banffshire), Shiskin (Arran), Calais Muir, the Cunninghar at Tillicoultry, and Corbie Hillock, near Kinnaird Castle.

Discovery of an Additional Cist at the Cunninghar, Tillicoultry.—On the 10th October 1898, information of a newly discovered cist came to us from Mr R. Robertson, F.S.A. Scot.; and a few days after, I went to the site, and left instructions with Mr Niven, land-steward (the weather that day not favouring any excavation), to remove the superincumbent soil from the cover-stone and acquaint me with this fact, so that I might visit the place on the following day. Accordingly, on Friday, 21st October, I reached the Cunninghar at about 10.30, and was met there by Mr Robertson, Rev. R. Paul, and others interested in the examination of the cist.

By the removal of slightly over 4 feet depth of sand and gravel there were exposed to view a couple of stones placed as shown in the accom-

panying illustration, which is reproduced from a photograph kindly taken for us by Mr Hetherington (fig. 5). The smaller upper stone is a squarish slab of red-sandstone, measuring 1 foot $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 1 foot $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It rested on the subsoil, and slightly overlapped the inner end of the



Fig. 5. Tillicoultry Cist.

diorite boulder which covered the cist (see fig. 6). This boulder, of the same composition as those hitherto discovered on this site, measures 3 feet 6 inches \times 2 feet 11 inches \times 1 foot 2 inches. It rested upon four thin sandstone slabs forming the sides of the cist. Near the corner of the nearest slab were three small boulders, packed in as if to support that side. After two views had been taken by Mr Hetherington, the thin, flat, upper

slab was removed, and the soil below carefully scraped away by hand. This, to our surprise, brought to light nothing whatever. The soil all round the four-side slabs was then shovelled aside, and the diorite boulder lifted and canted over against the sand bank, this being done without injury to the sides of the cist. Much to the disappointment of all present, however, the cist, though well fitted together and laid quite square, contained no urn or implement, not even any minute relics, such as fragments of the crowns of teeth, to indicate the nature of the

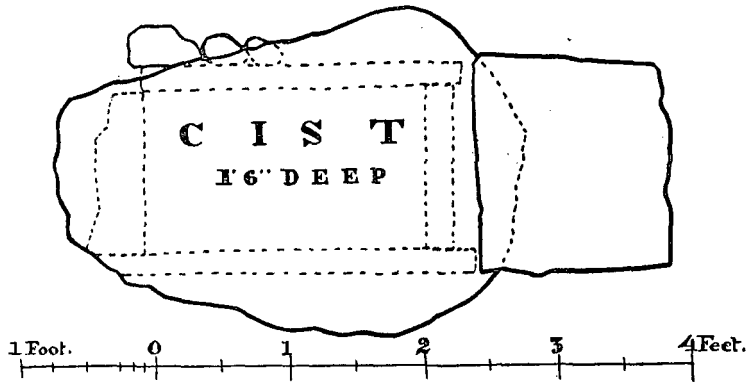


Fig. 6. Plan of Cist at Tillicoultry.

deposit—if any had been here made.¹ What was visible on the sandy bottom of the cist some 13 inches deep was a broad layer of dark-brown, very brittle and very thin, slender, and flat, branch-like remains, vegetable matter certainly, yet not roots, for it did not touch either the ends or the sides of the cist. It had the appearance that the mid-rib and diverging branchlets of some very large-leaved plant would have, if every particle of its connecting-tissues had disappeared.² I lifted as

¹ See *Proceedings*, vol. iv. p. 510, where Dr Bryce records a similar negative result in his account of excavations made within stone circles on Mauchrie Moor, Arran; and vol. viii. pp. 56-58, where several cists opened on Pitmilly Law were found quite empty.

² These branchlets, however, did not converge towards either end of their hori-

much of this as possible with the edge of a large stiff envelope and brought it away. Next, with a trowel, I scooped up a great quantity of the remainder of the darkish ochre-red sand immediately below this, and a good deal of the fine gravel and sand still lower down, seeing it all well riddled; but we found nothing artificial in any portion of it. The three small packing stones were then removed, and sand to about 18 inches depth removed all round the cist, with the same negative result. As nothing more could be done, the cover-stone was replaced. The subjoined plan to scale shows the exact position of the stones used in forming the cist (fig. 6).

Independently, however, of this somewhat disappointing conclusion to our examination, there are features of special interest attaching to this site on the Cunninghar of Tillicoultry. Previous notices of the discoveries of urns and cists are in the twenty-ninth volume of the *Proceedings*, and as I am now in a position to make a definite statement regarding some points there referred to with doubt, it will be as well to recapitulate what we know as regards the former as well as the present condition of things there. The Cunninghar is an extensive sand hillock lying between Kirk Hill on the north, and the low banks of the river Devon. It varies from 150 feet to 130 feet above sea-level, and the space comprised between the present Alloa and Dollar road and the highest point of the hillock measures some 1000 feet by 450 (fig. 7). At various times, this great bank having been worked for the fine sand it contains, discoveries of considerable archæological interest have been made. Urns were found at the extreme northern end (marked sand-pit on plan) many years ago; while on the south end, at the very portion so recently under examination, there formerly stood a stone circle. This we have on threefold testimony: first, that of the *Old Statistical Account*,¹ which

zonal length, nor was there any petiole. On a specimen of this substance being given to Prof. Bailey Balfour for examination, it was certified as vegetable matter.

¹ The *Account* refers to Stobie's Maps of Perthshire and Clackmannan. On consulting it in the Collection of the Roy. Scot. Geogr. Soc., I find the Circle drawn as one of five large stones about midway between the Old Kirk Road and the river Devon. This Map was corrected up to 1805.

speaks of a Circle "some 60 feet in diameter"; secondly, that of the Ordnance map which on the 6-inch scale marks with a + the Site of a Stone Circle; and lastly, but of most importance, the description given

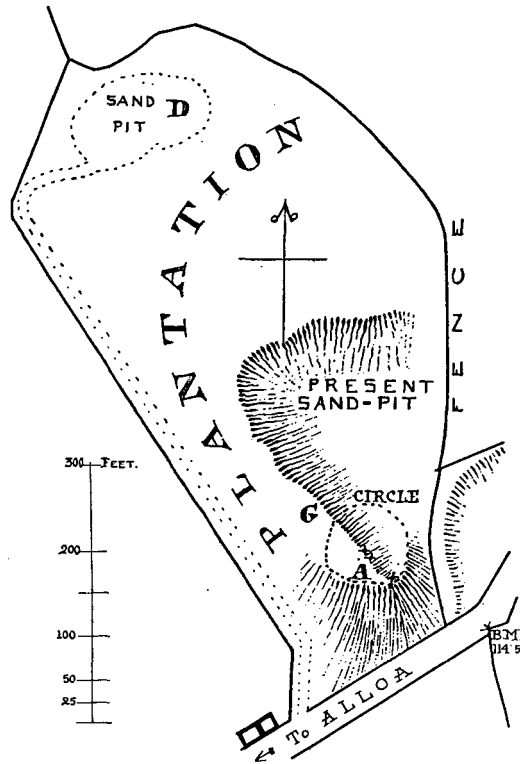


Fig. 7. The Cunninghar.

me on the spot by a man who for over forty years was forester on the estate. To this I shall presently recur.

At the date of the Ordnance Survey, apparently no breach had been made into at any rate the middle and lower portions of the Cunninghar

sand bank. Beyond D, now a small hollow, certain urns were found. A large space has been worked down to a depth of 50 or 60 feet, leaving a roughly-straight and precipitous edge line AG, and it is upon this line that the special interest centres. It measures 106 feet, and subtends an arc along which a low ridge is yet traceable, and it very nearly bisects the old stone circle. About this ridge my informant, James M'Laren, made the following statement:—that on it, or close to it, there were numerous standing stones, mostly boulders, of the same hard granitic stone as the one yet remaining at A; that these stones were none of them over 3 feet above ground, mostly under that height, that they were about 4 or 5 feet apart from each other; and that he remembers, when the circle was destroyed, those stones on the eastern half were taken by him and others, and broken up for building stones, while the rest were removed bodily and used for covering a water-pen near Tillicoultry House. Judging by the present remains, we may estimate the circle to have been a roughly-formed broad oval, the two diameters of which were 106 feet N.W. by S.E., and 96 feet N.E. and S.W.

Regarding the positions occupied by the cists, Mr Robertson's remark that the one he found (in 1894) seemed to be almost in the centre of the circle is, practically, correct; for on measurement we found it was distant from A 56 feet, only 3 feet beyond the centre. On my plan I have marked the three points with a + each.

I. Where stood the large cinerary urn found by Mr Christie, April 1894, only 5 feet from the one extant stone of the circle.

II. The site of the empty cist of this year 1898, 28 feet from the last.

III. The site of the cist with small urn found by Mr Robertson in 1894, and now exhibited by Col. Wardlaw Ramsay in the Museum.

The huge irregularly-shaped diorite boulder which covered that cist has several cup- and ring-marks on one face and one side. It is figured in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxix. p. 193. These marks are now, so I was informed when inspecting them, very much less distinct than they were when the photograph was taken in 1894. It would be difficult

now to describe the incised markings with accuracy; it is difficult even to see them when wet. But, taking the photograph as a perfectly correct substitute, I must take exception to the term 'spirals' as applied to any of these 'rings.' There are three groups of rings so placed as to make the outermost ring in each group touch that of the others (not an uncommon form), but there is no one true volute.

The spiral, as pointed out by Simpson long ago, was, and still is, of extremely rare occurrence in Scotland as a cup- and ring-mark design.¹ What is more noteworthy is the group of four long parallel, nearly perpendicular grooves issuing (probably) from the outermost ring of the group of five rings, and ending at the edge of the boulder. There is only one other instance quite similar anywhere else, and that occurs on the boulder discovered a few years ago on the Braes of Balloch, near Taymouth Castle. This stone is figured in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxix. p. 95. But the conjoined group of three rings has something very like its counterpart on a rock at Torrs, Kirkeudbrightshire, a drawing of which I have given in the same volume, p. 73.

Another point is raised by the consideration of the position of the

¹ True volutes occur in Scotland at the following localities:—On a tall stone in a tumulus at Pickaquo, Orkney; in a Pict's house at Eday, Orkney (on a slab now in the Museum); at Broch of Redland, Firth, Orkney (also in the Museum); at Lamancha, Peeblesshire (in the Museum); at Blackshaw, West Kilbride, Ayrshire; on a stone at Coilsfield, Ayrshire, there are two small volutes connected by a long wavy line, and it is found at Achnabreach, and on a rock noticed by Rev. G. Wilson of Glenluce, in Whithorn, only eight localities in all. In Northumberland, there is the nucleus of a volute on a rock at Doddington; in Cumberland, a volute occurs on one of the stones of the Maughanby Stone Circle; they are found also on three stones of the Calder Circle in Lancashire; and in Wales, in Merioneth, and near Harlech, the latter a notably fine example. In most of these cases, the volutes are picked out so as to occupy a conspicuous and separate portion of the surface of the rock or stone; and, in many, the volute is the only and solitary design on the stone. This characteristic is also observable in all the specimens occurring in the Cairns at Lough Crew, where whole surfaces are decorated with the spiral, carried out with wonderful precision and symmetry.

The true volute, as a rock sculpturing, seems equally rare on the Continent of Europe. I know of one example on a rock-temple at Malta. But, in a notice by Prof. Duns of Indian rock-inscriptions in Brazil (*Proc.*, xix. p. 388) many instances of spirals, and in a variety of forms, are described and figured.

cup- and ring-marks on the stone. In three out of the four instances quoted by Mr G. F. Black, of cist-cover stones with cup- and ring-marks, the sculptured side of the stone was found to be the under side as it lay facing into the cist. In this Cunninghar boulder, it is the upper surface that is decorated, and the same is true of the cover-stone of the cist at Letham Quarry near Perth, which is figured in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxi. p. 182.

CUP- AND RING-MARKED STONES.

Soonhope, the valley formed by the Burn of Soonhope, is one of the wider channels among the hills on the E. of Peebles. The stream runs in a S.S.W. course, falling into the Tweed below Kerfield, exactly opposite King's Meadows. A very little over one mile and a quarter up the valley, measuring from the road at Kerfield Cottage, a tiny rivulet called Kittlegairy Burn trickles down from the S.E. into the main stream. On the hill to its east, and about 450 feet higher, are the remains of a fort, one of a series of three crowning prominent heights along this side of the valley. Down the main stream from Kittlegairy Burn is a large ruined sheep-shelter called Soonhope. Nearly midway between these two points a deep curve has been hollowed out of the E. bank; and, at the foot of this rather high gravel bank, half immersed in the stream, lies the block of stone with the cup- and ring- marks. They were discovered, 14th September 1896, by my daughter, Helen, on crossing the stream; and we at once proceeded to make a measured drawing, a reproduction of which is given here, to scale (fig. 8). The depth of the rings in proportion to their width is the one most noticeable feature; next, the extreme thinness of the intervening 'neck'; but, on a minute and careful examination of the nature of the stone itself, taking into consideration that its angularity and sharpness of edge and the absence of moss or even of confervoid growths on its surfaces went against the possibility of its being truly water-worn, comparing the cups and rings, also, with several possessing the

same characteristics in Galloway, I have now no hesitation in accepting these as quite genuine examples of the type of cutting here treated of. Its proximity to the base of a fort-crowned hill should also be taken into

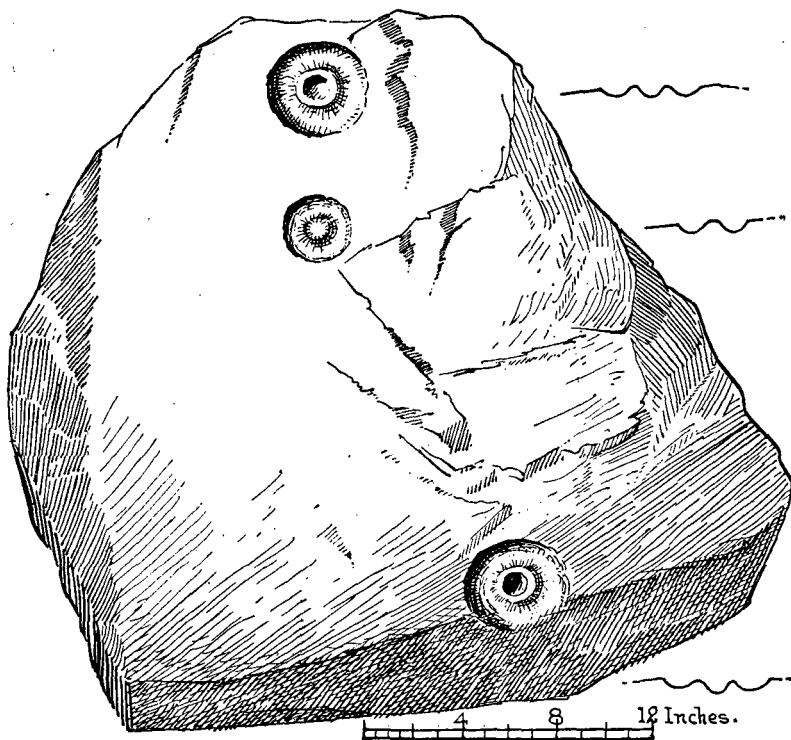


Fig. 8. Cup- and Ring-marked Boulder, Soonhope Valley.

account. That the block is part of a boulder of indurated sandstone seems also pretty certain. In order clearly to show the difference between the middle figure and the two others, I have placed a section beside each.

Recently Discovered Cup- and Ring-marked Sites in the Stewartry.—

(a) Newlaw Hill, near Dundrennan. This site was discovered on the 6th November 1895 by Thomas Copland when ploughing on Newlaw Hill near Noggie. Through the kindness of Rev. G. MacConnachie, Manse of Kerwick, I am enabled to reproduce a drawing to scale (from a sepia drawing by Mr John Copland), which shows this surface of whinstone with its ten groups of rings and one group of simple cups. This design is here shown on a scale of three feet to one inch (fig. 9). Accompanying his drawing, Mr Copland sends the following notes on the site:—"The flat rocks upon which the sculpturings are found occupy a

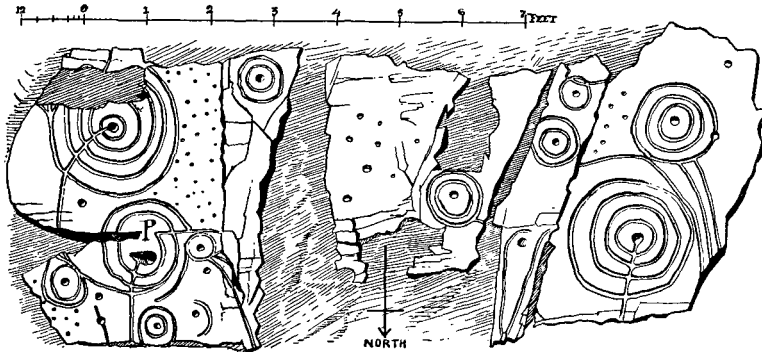


Fig. 9. Rock-surface on Newlaw Hill.

position about mid-way between the public road to Kirkcudbright (by the Bombie route) and the highest ridge of the Hill of Newlaw, which adjoins the farm of Castle Creavie; taking from N. to S., about equidistant from Thorn plantation and the March dike between Newlaw and Castle Creavie; taking from E. to W., as near as possible forming a centre to the northern side of Newlaw Hill, N.W. of the farm; about one mile from Castle Creavie, $1\frac{1}{2}$ from Dundrennan village, and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the public road afore-named at a point opposite Auchengool road end."

By this very careful description of the site, anyone in search of it could easily find it. Mr Copland continues:—"On a gentle slope and

comparatively deep soil, with no other rocks visible above the surface, the rocks marked separate into three principal parts. A fourth section,¹ to the W., is much broken up, but shows no trace of cups and rings; very doubtful marks are, however, discernible. The group, as a whole, forms a comparatively flat surface of whinstone, with a slight inclination to the N., and, from its weather-worn condition, has evidently been exposed before the land was brought under the plough fifty or sixty years ago, which would naturally drag the soil down over it in process of harrowing."

The one specifically distinct feature in this sculpturing is that on the middle portion of the large surface of rock to the E., marked P, where the inner ring turns at a sharp angle, running quite straight for 14 inches, but forms the beginning of a large volute, which ultimately blends with the wide-curved groove issuing from the central cup of the five-ringed group above it. True volutes are of the greatest rarity in sculpturing of this class in Scotland; and this is the first distinct and large one observed in the Stewartry, though two surfaces shown in my former record bear cuttings which are the merest nuclei of spirals.

(b) On a knoll 100 yards W. of this fine group, Mr Copland found on a small rock a single cup, with straight radial groove, and a single ring 6 inches in diameter encircling it.

(c) In the same district, but several hundred yards distant, higher up among the moors, there exists another group of rock scribings, a circumstantial account of the discovery of which was sent me in 1896 by Col. Francklyn of Cargen Holm, near Dumfries, who noted them one day while out shooting. Unluckily, as no careful note was taken of this site, they must at present remain undescribed.

(d) *Cambret Moor, Kirkmabreck.*—This fine and rather unusually large group (fig. 10) of seven concentric rings, with central cup and radial groove, was discovered by Adam Birrell, of the Burnfoot, near Carsluith. The largest ring measures 21 inches in diameter. This rudely five-sided block of whin-stone, weighing, says the discoverer, between twenty and

¹ This section I do not reproduce.

thirty hundredweight, is on the Cambret side of the dike between Cauldside and Cambret, about half a mile N.E. of Cambret, and about the same distance from the dike as the cairn on Cauldside is. This cairn and its adjacent stone circle I have elsewhere described. The stone with the rings lies in a line between the Cauldside cairn site and a cairn upon Cambret Moor. Mr Birrell thinks it still occupies its original position. The radial groove points N.E.

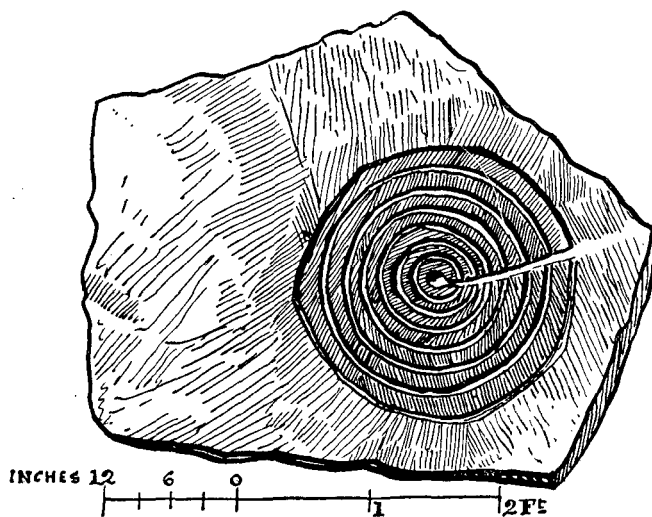


Fig. 10. At Cambret Moor.

(e) *Kirkclaugh*, or as it should preferably be spelt, *Caerclach*.—The stone now noticed and illustrated owes its place in this record to the keen antiquarian eyes of Mr W. J. Brown, a nephew of Canon Atkinson. Its present position, in one of the walls of the stables at Caerclach, certainly entitles it to some interest. As the stables bear the initials W. M.C. 1729, but were rebuilt in 1825-29, it would be of further interest to know if this stone formed part of the original building. From the rubbing kindly sent me by Mrs Cliffe-Macculloch I have

made the subjoined drawing (fig. 11), which shows not anything specially novel in type, but what is, I submit, of much greater importance—a very striking family likeness, so to speak, with the other sculpturings found in this same district of lower Kirkmabreck. In the small diameters of the rings, the largest only 5 inches, the long and straight central groove with branching grooves at right angles, and the curious coupling of smaller cups on either side the principal, we have an extremely close analogy to the Bardristan slab, the rock-sculpturing at

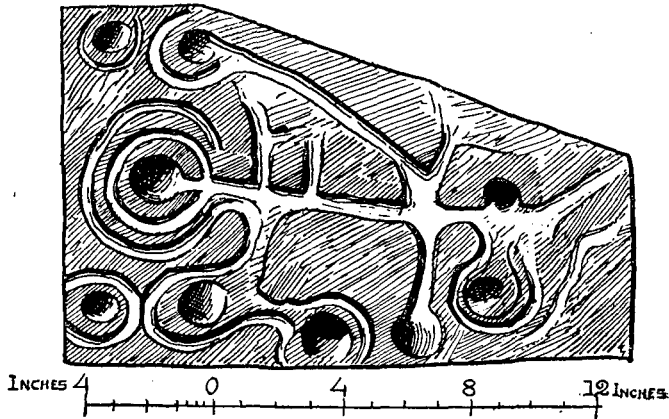


Fig. 11. At Caerclach Stables.

High Auchenlarie, and the supposed cist-cover figured nearly forty years ago by Sir James Y. Simpson.

New England, Balcroy, Whithorn.—Among several rolls of maps and plans and bundles of MSS. belonging to the late Rev. George Wilson, of Glenluce, which during March passed through my hands in course of arrangement, I found a sketch in pencil with the above title. The lines were barely more than suggested, but as the diameters of the ring-groups and one or two other spaces were given in inches, it was possible to construct the diagram which in fig. 12 shows this, so far as we know yet, the most southerly cup- and ring-marked site in Scotland. It is note-

worthy for the small nucleus of a volute in the upper part of the rock, and for four incomplete semicircles between the two large groups of rings. On another sheet Mr Wilson has a sketch of a "sculptured rock-surface at Gallows Outon, near the site of chapel, Whithorn." This shows a fine double-volute figure, the nucleus of a second at the other end of the rock, and, between these two designs, a single vague ring. As no dimensions are given, this must be left till further information is obtained.

Craigiehill Cist-Cover.—Lastly, I put on record here a very carefully measured drawing of the designs which decorate the surface of the sand-

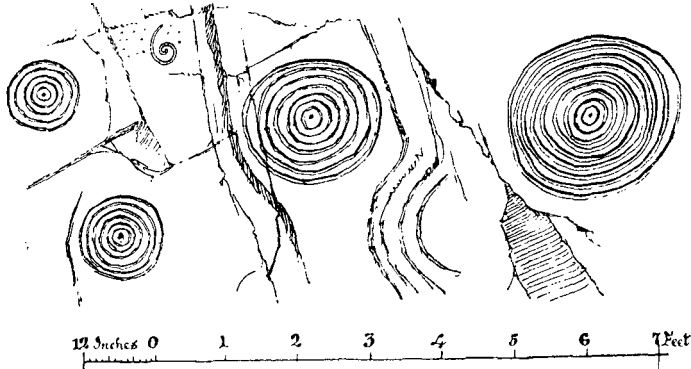


Fig. 12. At New England, Balerooy.

stone cist-cover found so long ago as about 1826 at Craigiehill, Dalmeny, and described and figured by Sir J. Y. Simpson. The four stones left unbroken which formed this cist have for many years been lying leaning up against the wall of the rotunda-like building above the Almond, called the Temple. The cover-stone, fortunately, rests with its sculptured side towards the wall; hence, the rings are as beautifully clear as on the day of discovery. By leaning the stone over against one of the others, so as to reverse its angle of inclination, it was possible to see and measure the rings (fig. 13). Two features are brought out by this examination, viz., the fact that only one group has a central cup,

and that a very shallow one, and that within the large and broad semi-circle on the left there is a most distinct right angle; if there has been more of it, the flaking-off of the stone there has carried it away. Then, the central single circle is very vague, much as if only begun to be picked out. The imperfect group on the right also is not square, as in Simpson's plate, but rudely semicircular. From the broken condition

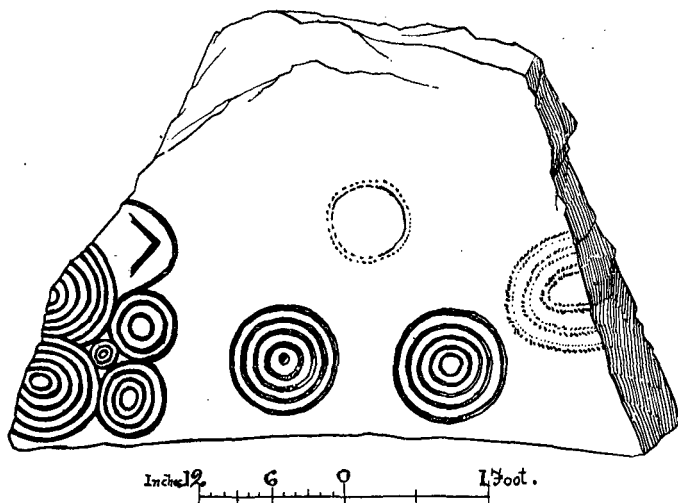


Fig. 13. Craigiehill Cist-Cover.

of this stone and very abrupt termination of the three semicircular groups, it is not safe to conclude that its sculpturings had any significance for those who used it as a cist-cover; and from Simpson's account we learn that "one or two more sets [of rings] existed in portions of the stone that were broken off."