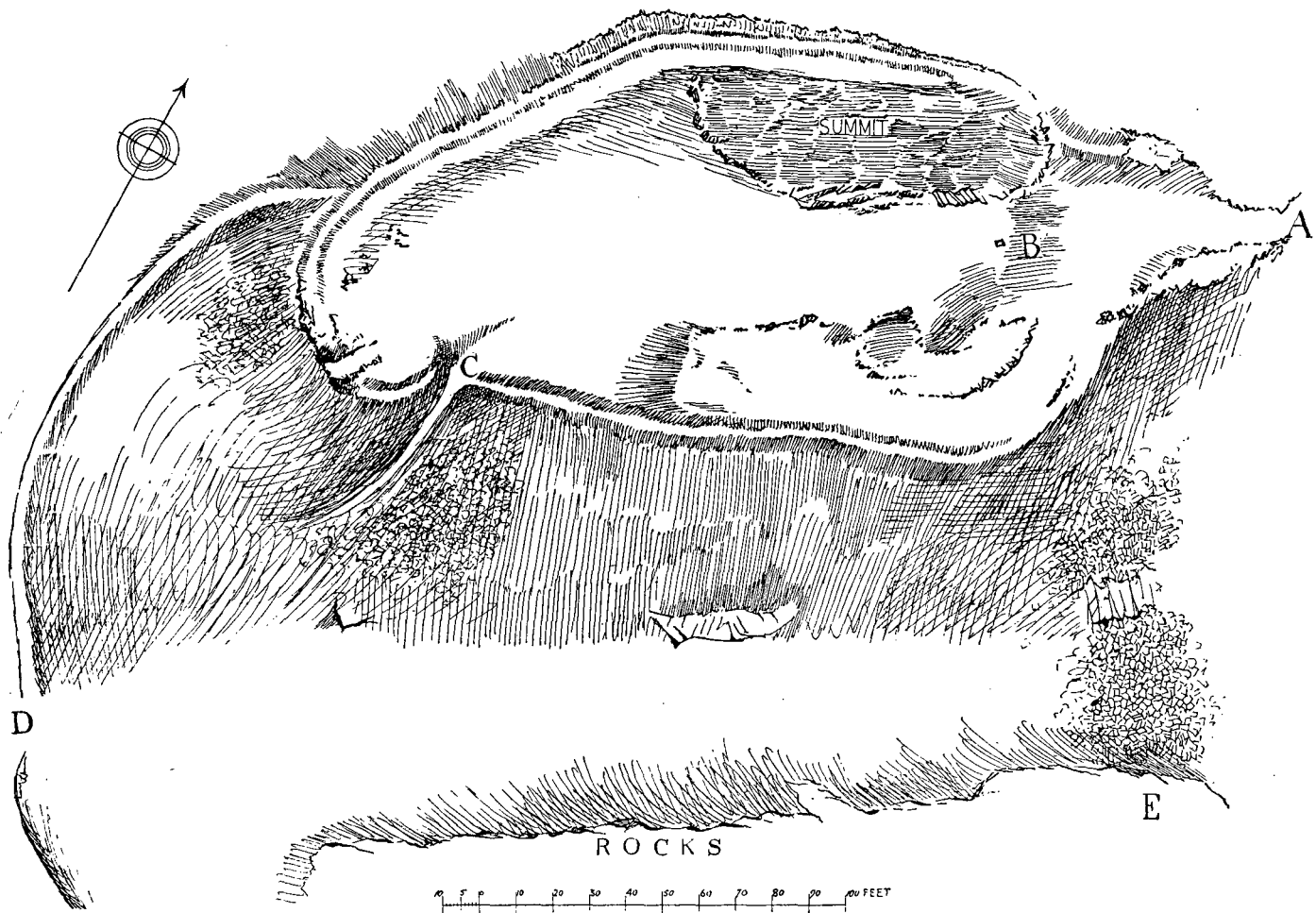


## IV.

NOTE OF EXCAVATIONS ON RUBERSLAW, ROXBURGHSHIRE, SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE DESCRIPTION OF THE FORTIFICATIONS THEREON. BY ALEX. O. CURLE, SECRETARY.

By the kind permission of Mrs Palmer Douglas, the proprietress, I was enabled on 10th March 1906 to examine by excavation the summit of Ruberslaw (previously described by me in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxix. p. 219), for evidence of Roman occupation. A trench was first dug from the direction of the entrance to the summit into the mound, near the point B on the plan, which is here repeated from vol. xxxix. This I discovered to be formed of loose stones heaped up to form a rampart, without any sign of binding material. Several large blocks lay in a horizontal position, but there was no appearance of building. Many of the stones were freestone—dark red, and yellow in colour—of varying quality, and differing entirely from the Roman dressed stones lying around the summit. The mound itself was covered with a thick layer of dark soil, and 18 inches from the surface a few small fragments of calcined bone were obtained. At the bottom of the trench were found some small fragments of unburned bone. None of the stones showed signs of having in any way been dressed. The next trench dug was on the north side of the mass of rock flanking the summit on the south-east, in a well-sheltered position. An excavation to a depth of 2 feet through good soil showed no trace of occupation. I next directed attention to the well-defined hut circle at the south end, whence the path descends to the plateau beneath, and here, at a depth of about 18 inches, I found a stratum of burnt earth, containing fragments of charcoal and burned bone. The stratum was very thin and difficult to follow, showing that there can have been no lengthy occupation of the site. The last excavation was made on the inner or south-west side of the mass of debris on the plateau beneath the summit which connects the latter with the rocks to the south. Here, at a depth of a foot or



Plan of Fort on Ruberslaw. (By Thomas Ross, Architect.)

more, was unearthed a small neatly-dressed stone, similar in character to the other dressed stones on this part of the hill, but no signs of occupation were observed.

The exploration shows that the mound at B is a rampart of the character usual in native forts, that such signs of occupancy as occur are very slight, and that, so far as the excavation went, no trace of Roman occupation was discovered.