

VI.

MEDIEVAL DWELLING SITES AND A PRIMITIVE VILLAGE IN
THE PARISH OF MANOR, PEEBLESSHIRE. EXCAVATIONS IN
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1. CHRISTISON No. 10.

Scooped Enclosures with several "Floors."

Attention was drawn by Christison in *Proceedings*, vol. xxii., 1887-88, to the numerous ancient sites in the upper portion of the Manor Valley, Peeblesshire, the important forts nearer the Tweed being subsequently described in his *Early Fortifications in Scotland*. Of the sites described in the *Proceedings*, however, he apparently did not visit Nos. 8-10, regarding which he stated on the authority of Mr Linton of Glenrath that they were like No. 7, which he himself visited, but that they were almost ploughed out. In one of them Mr Linton had found a portion of a quern. Actually they are quite unlike No. 7, but do resemble one another closely. Further monuments of the same class exist in the valley: two on the northern slope of Cademuir opposite Kirkton Manor, close together on opposite sides of a burn, at about the point where the hill slope becomes gentler towards the flood plain of the Manor Water (what is possibly a

variant of the type may be found at about the same level, but farther east opposite Bellanridge Farm); one close to the Well Bush spring, Canada Hill; one close to the ruins of Posso; another between Langhaugh Farm and Youth Hostel; possibly yet another 100 yards downhill from Christison No. 8; also one found by Mr Angus Graham half-way up the northern slope of Woodhill, Posso.

The characteristics which these monuments have in common, and which differentiate them from others, can be described briefly. Situated on a sloping hillside, the area marked off by an enclosing rampart or wall is mostly lower than the ground outside. This is markedly so on the uphill side, where the enclosing wall stands on the level of the ground outside and is clearly not meant to be defensible against attack from above. The interior is not uniformly level, but consists of a number of separate level "floors," quasi-circular, arranged in the main in two horizontal rows. The downhill side of the lower row is probably levelled up by terracing. The general shape of the enclosure is oval, usually with the long axis horizontal. Figs. 1 and 2 show some of the variations possible on the common theme.

Such "scooped enclosures," as they may provisionally be called, were noted by the Royal Commission in their Dumfriesshire *Inventory*, under the heading of enclosures to which they attributed the name "birren."¹ The type was more clearly defined in their volume on Midlothian as an "excavated and walled enclosure." "Situated on sloping hillsides, they are generally hollowed out on the higher side and walled round the ends and lower margins." Unfortunately no plans were given, the system of "floors" was still unremarked, and (see footnote 4 below) recognition was incomplete. Regarding the purpose of these enclosures it was suggested that "they may have been homesteads or possibly medieval 'birrens' used for the concealment of stock."

The limits of the distribution of monuments of this class have not been ascertained. They occur, however, in some numbers at the head of the Bowmont Water² and elsewhere in Roxburghshire;³ round the Gala Water;⁴ near Edinburgh;⁵ in Peeblesshire; and apparently in Berwickshire, and

¹ See *Early Fortifications in Scotland*, pp. 47-9, for a discussion of this word.

² *Early Fortifications in Scotland*, p. 355.

³ Information from Dr Steer.

⁴ In the Royal Commission's Midlothian *Inventory* besides those listed as such, the "fort" above Heriot Station (No. 107) is probably of this class, as are the "fort" at Nether Brotherstone (No. 89), the walled enclosure in Brotherstone Wood (No. 93), and an unnoted, almost obliterated site on the opposite side of the Brothershiels Burn from the "fort" No. 91. No. 91 itself, although seriously damaged by quarrying, like so many of these sites, consists of a very large group of "floors" with remains of a ditch and bank, and may be akin to the scooped enclosures.

⁵ At least two are recognisable in the King's Park, Arthur's Seat: one, rather irregular, at the south-east corner of the Dunsapie Terraces, close to the Queen's Drive, and one at the edge of Duddingston Loch west of the Windy Gowl, a most unusual situation. The "floors" of the latter example seem to have been obliterated by a later road running across the enclosure.

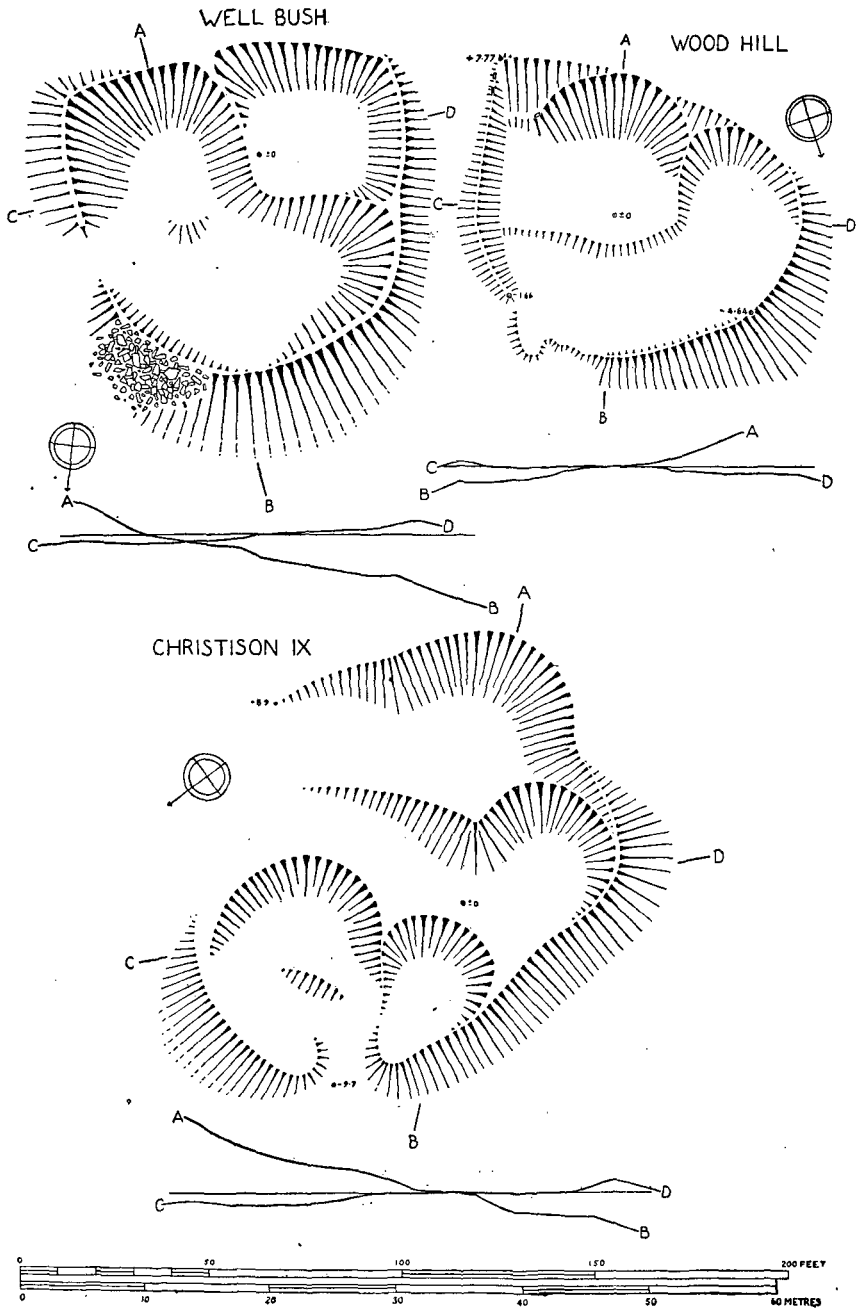


Fig. 1. Scooped enclosures in Manor Parish.

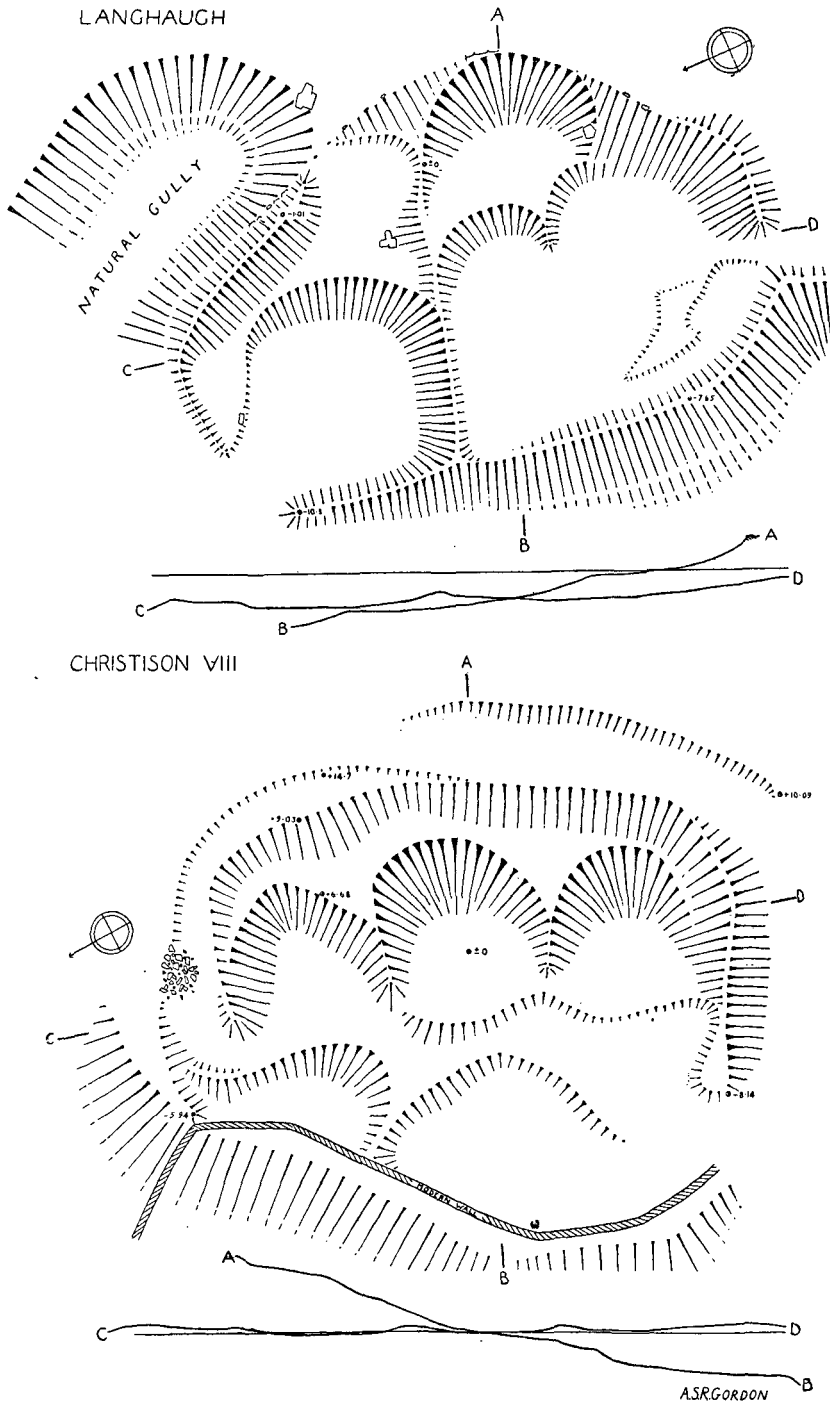


Fig. 2. Scooped enclosures in Manor Parish.

frequently in parts of Dumfriesshire; but are not recognisable in the archæological literature of Cumberland and Westmorland.¹ Our sites may have a genetic connection with the clusters of egg-shaped scooped enclosures in the Northumberland Cheviots, some of which are said to be Romano-British.²

The size of our scooped enclosures varies considerably, but 100-150 feet may be standard. (In this connection an interesting statement is quoted by Christison, *Early Fortifications*, p. 48, from the *Old Statistical Account* that in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, there were many burians of a circular form from 108 to 150 feet in diameter. There was stated to be one near almost every farmstead, generally on the first piece of dry or rising ground.) They are situated on moderate or steep slopes well up from the valley bottom. Concealment is not attempted, and they may command a good view; but they are not defensible from above, and in fact it frequently happens that the hillside just above them begins to rise more steeply. Thus Christison No. 10 is 200 feet above the Manor Water on an exposed spur. A number of examples, e.g. Cademuir and Christison Nos. 8 and 9, lie close to the limit between the improved and unimproved land, arable and hill pasture of the nineteenth century, which may be reminiscent of an earlier limit. They may also be at the same level as, and close to, springs, e.g. Christison Nos. 8 and 10, Well Bush, and near Tinnis Castle.

In some cases there are adjacent to the enclosures traces of former agriculture. Thus immediately at the back of Christison No. 8 there are a number of horizontal cultivation terraces, while an enclosed plot of rectangular shape, 40 by 50 yards, containing "vertical" rigs is joined to the westernmost enclosure on Cademuir by a dyke. Just below Christison No. 10 on a small level piece of ground are the remains of what may have been a pen. It is to be expected that other similar traces will be noticed in connection with other sites.

The situation of the enclosures and their number allow us to dismiss, at any rate as a primary function, the "concealment of cattle," and to suggest at the same time that they played an important part in the country's economy.

As the sites are only 200 feet or less above the valley bottom, it seems unlikely that they were used only seasonally in connection with a system of transhumance by people who lived elsewhere in winter. Thus there is an enclosure in the main Tweed valley, and close to the present main road, about half a mile N.E. of Tinnis Castle, near Drumelzier. That they might even so have a seasonal importance is shown by the mention in

¹ It is just possible that two of the enclosures in Glencoin Park, Ullswater, listed by Mr Hay, may be of this type (*Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society's Transactions*, vol. xxxvi., 1936).

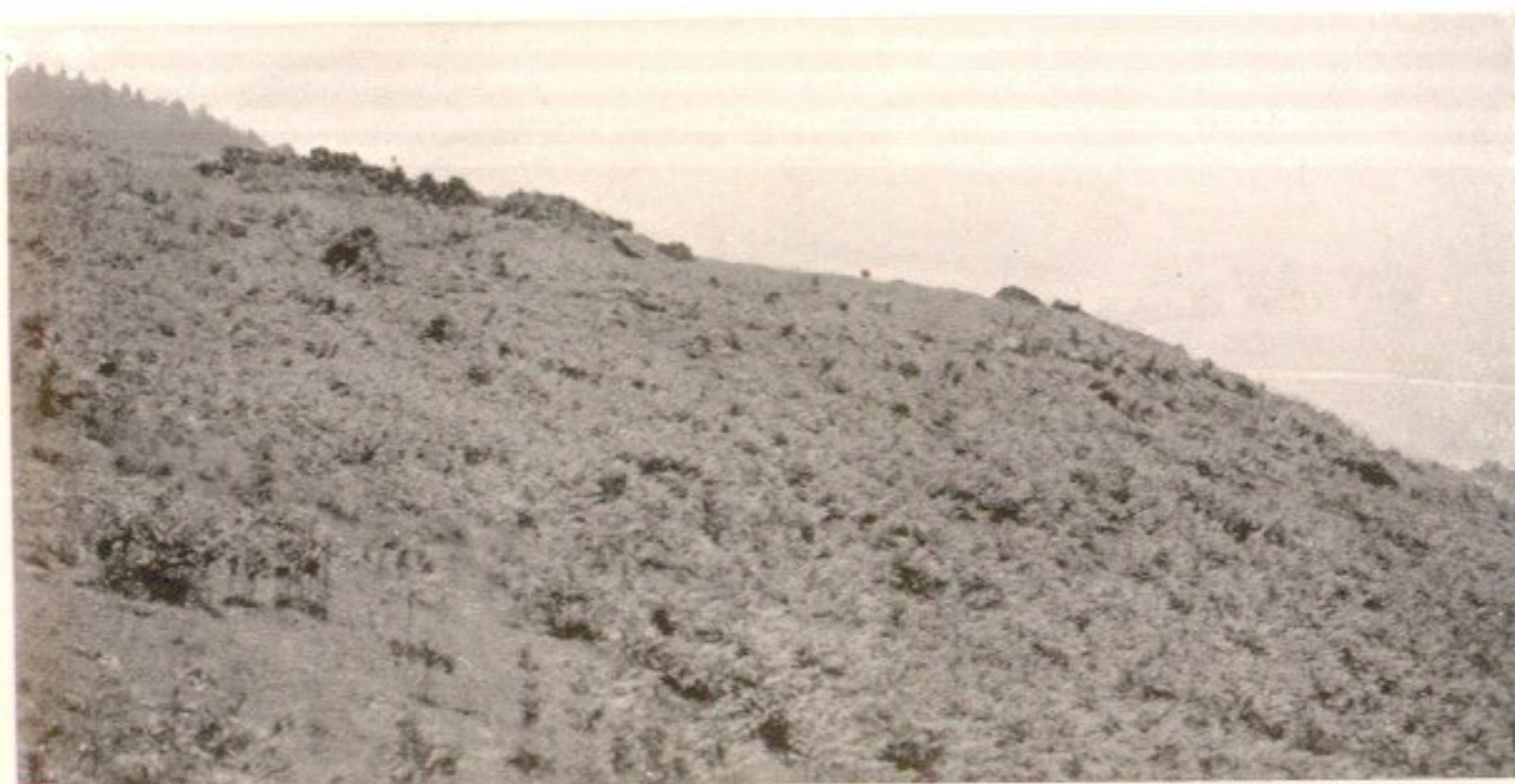
² This type, whose forward part is a hollow rather than a level terrace, is cited by Mr Ian A. Richmond as a possible analogy to St Cuthbert's dwelling on Farne (*Antiquity*, vol. xv. p. 88, 1941).



1. Scooped enclosure, Christison No. 10, from north-east.



2. Christison No. 10: north side of entrance and outer revetment.



3. Christison No. 10, from north.

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1. Christison No. 10: view and section of outer bank with exterior paving.



2. Christison No. 10: hearth and quarried rock surface on upper floor.

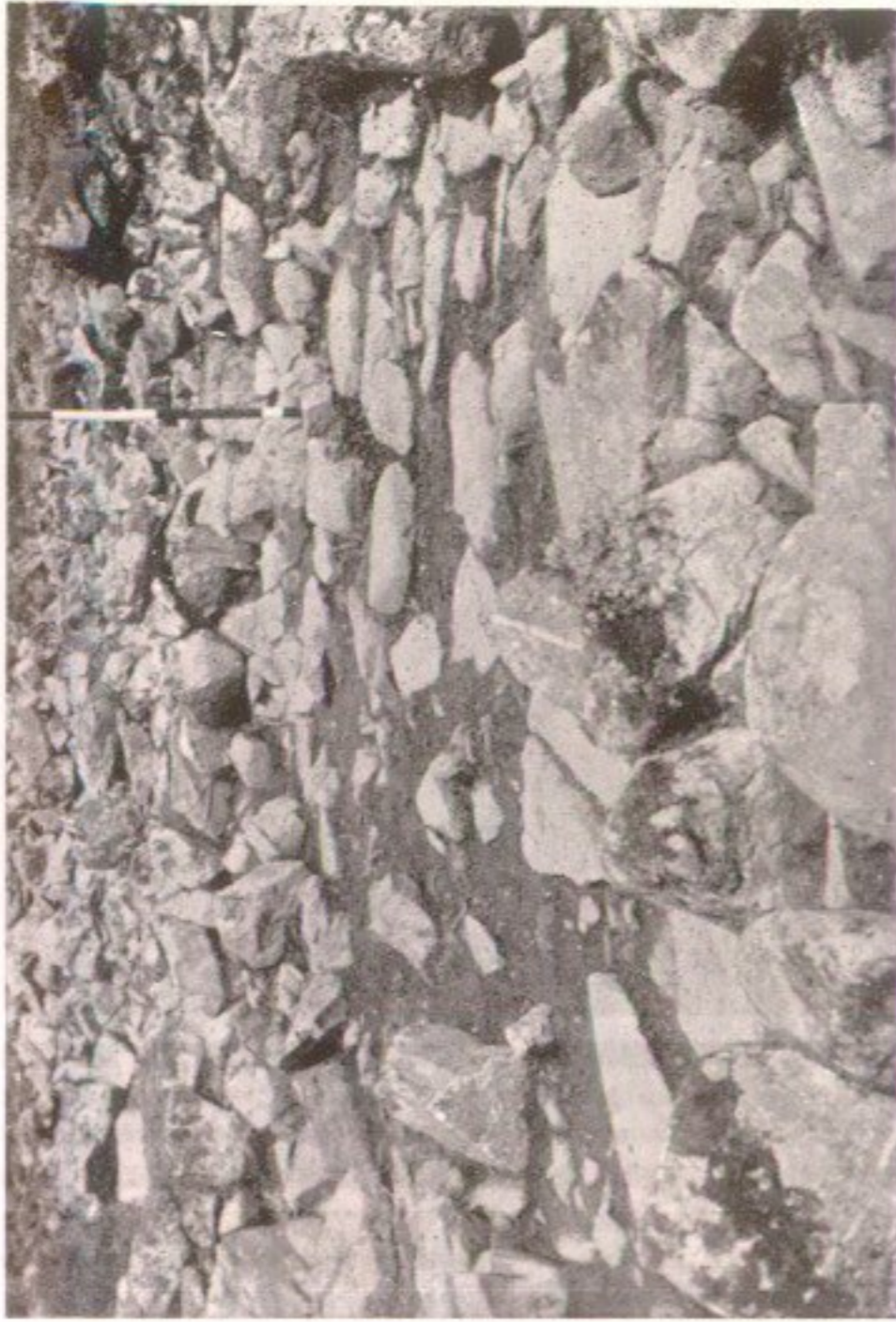


1. Christison No. 10: Quarried surface of lower floor with some of the levelling-stones (+) and site of possible post socket.



2. Christison No. 10: Terrace make-up, with dark layer, and retaining walling of lower floor.

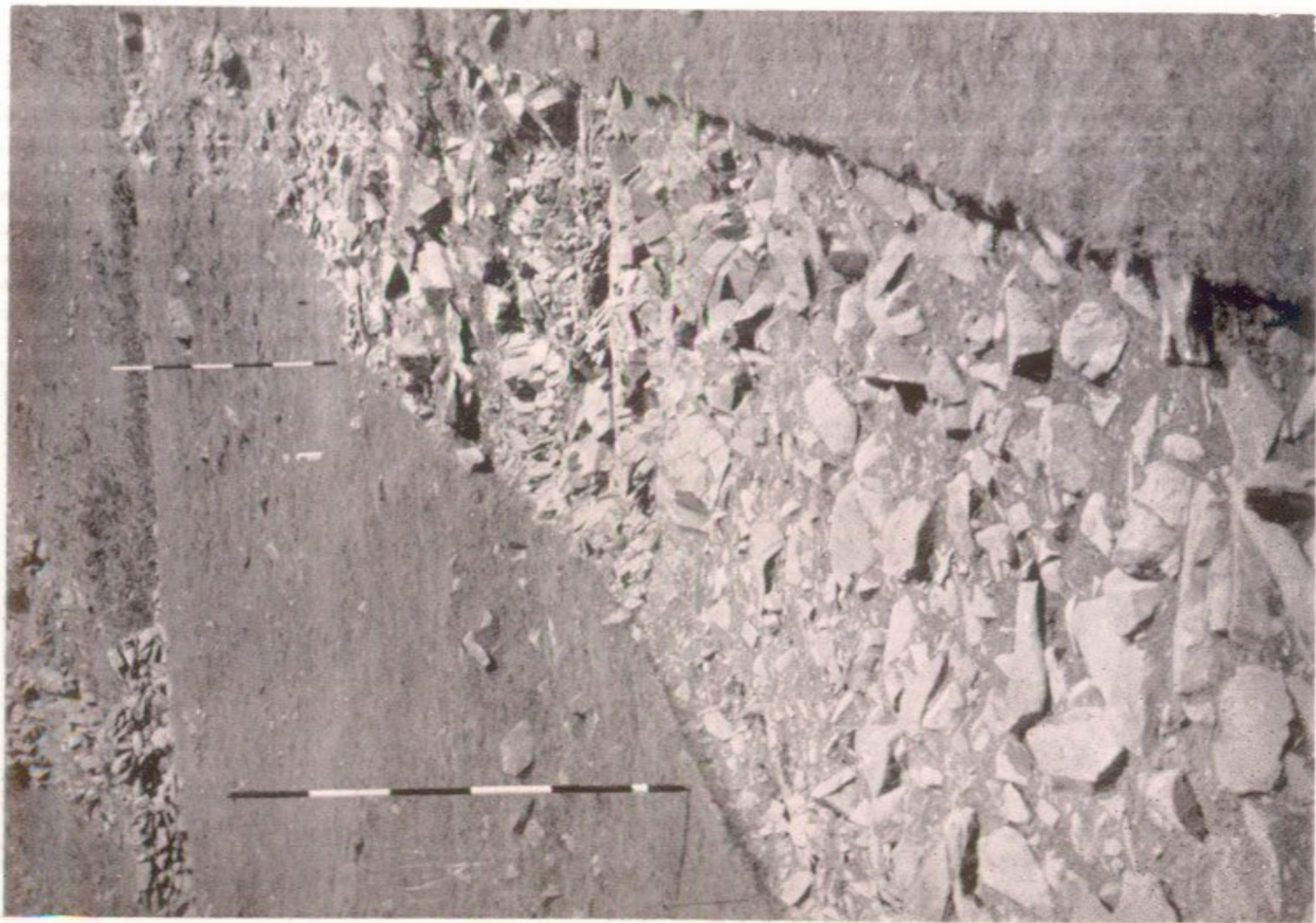
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2. Glenrath hut-circle: interior from south.



3. Glenrath hut-circle: south quadrant, showing paving and pot-boilers embedded in the flooring, and part of courtyard.



1. Christison No. 10: main cut in course of excavation.

sixteenth-century documents of a shiel or summer house on Cademuir. (See Appendix.)

The close and even spacing of these enclosures, in particular the series Well Bush to Posso where there are six within a mile and three-quarters, suggests a division of land, perhaps ground owned by larger holders divided up among tenants or cottars. (See I. F. Grant, *Social and Economic Development of Scotland before 1603*, pp. 293 ff.)

The internal divisions of the scooped enclosures are fairly regular in size, about 30–40 feet in diameter and not clearly differentiated in function. This, the absence of obvious communication between the floors, the scarcity of well-marked entrances to the enclosures themselves, as well as the large amount of labour obviously expended on the construction, argue for the almost exclusive use of the enclosures for human habitation, at most shared with a few sheep.

Excavation of Christison No. 10.

As the class of monument we have been considering did not seem to have been sharply differentiated from other types of enclosure, as there were so many examples in the Manor Valley, and as there seemed to be an increasing interest in the various monuments of uncertain but probably varying date termed, apparently rather loosely, "homesteads" in the North of England, it seemed very desirable that one should be investigated by partial excavation. Accordingly, with the help of a grant from the Society, work was commenced in July 1939 on the example listed as No. 10 by Christison in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xxii. This is a very typical "scooped enclosure" (Pl. XXV, 1 and 3), situated on an exposed spur on the north side of the Hopeterrick Burn opposite Hallmanor, at about 1000 feet O.D. It was chosen because the plough had never come near it, unlike most of the others. In consequence no accumulation of transported and disturbed soil would have to be removed, and, further, projecting stones hinted at the character of the enclosing wall and of some of the subdivisions of the interior. In addition there was a well-marked entrance. The plan in fig. 3 is clearer than any description.

Main Cut.—An eight-foot wide cut was made across two of the floors and continued to cross the enclosing wall at about its highest and lowest points (fig. 4). The detailed description of the cut follows it downhill from the outer edge of the enclosure. It was found that at the top end a stratum of moderately loose light-brown earth with small stones, apparently natural, had been cut into by a shallow trench which sloped down gently for 3 feet, with a steep scarp on the downhill side originally 9 inches deep but increased by the upcast which, however, was not, strictly speaking, stratigraphically distinguishable. Underlying the brown stony stratum was the hard yellow "till." Against the steep side of the trench large

revetment stones had been built. These were first thought to have been held in place by an outer bank of rubble (Pl. XXVI, 1), but the last minute

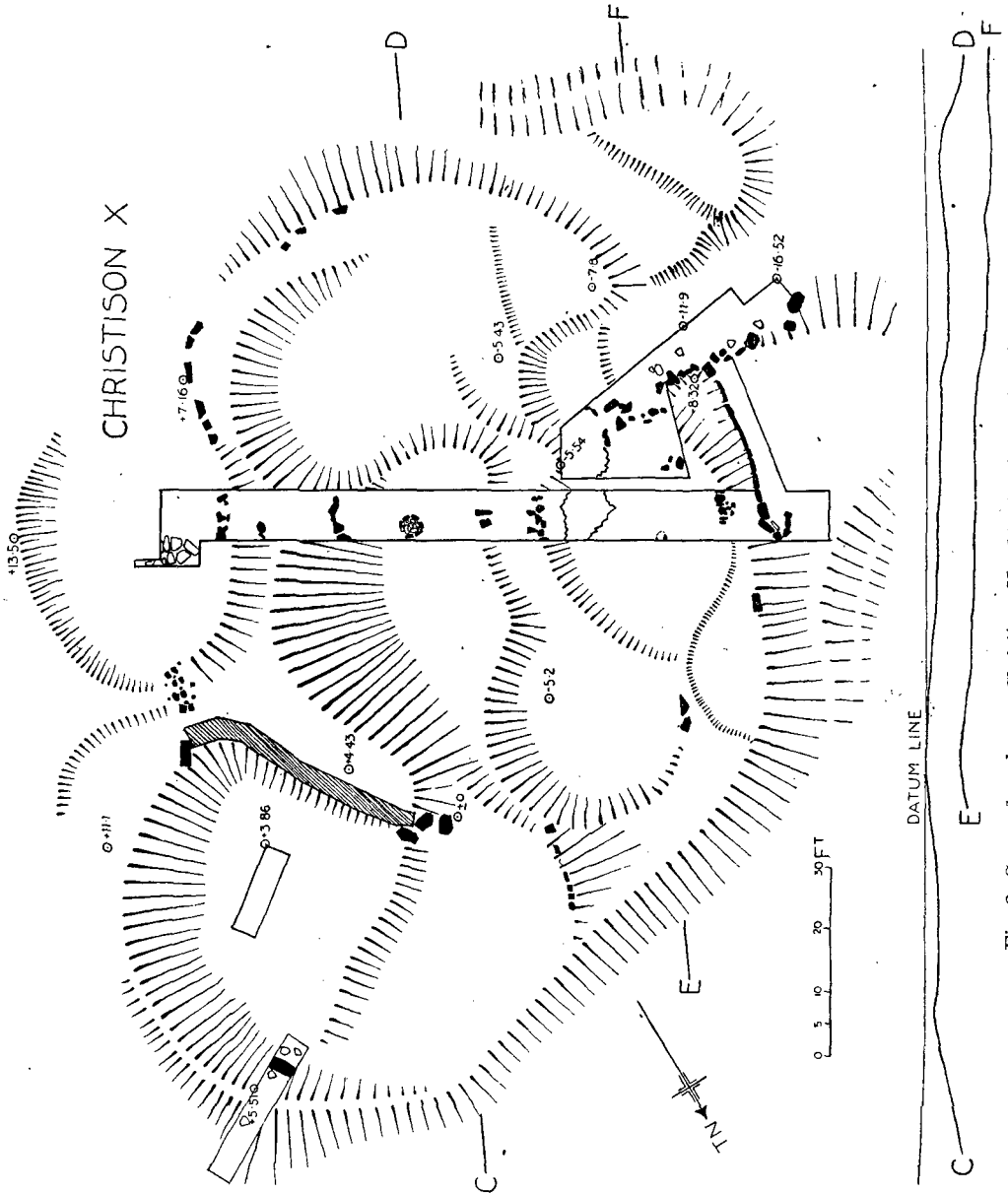


Fig. 3. Scooped enclosure, Christison No. 10, showing limits of excavations.

recognition of a very shallow scooped "floor" at this point, outside the enclosure and presumably secondary with a fine paving close to the outer

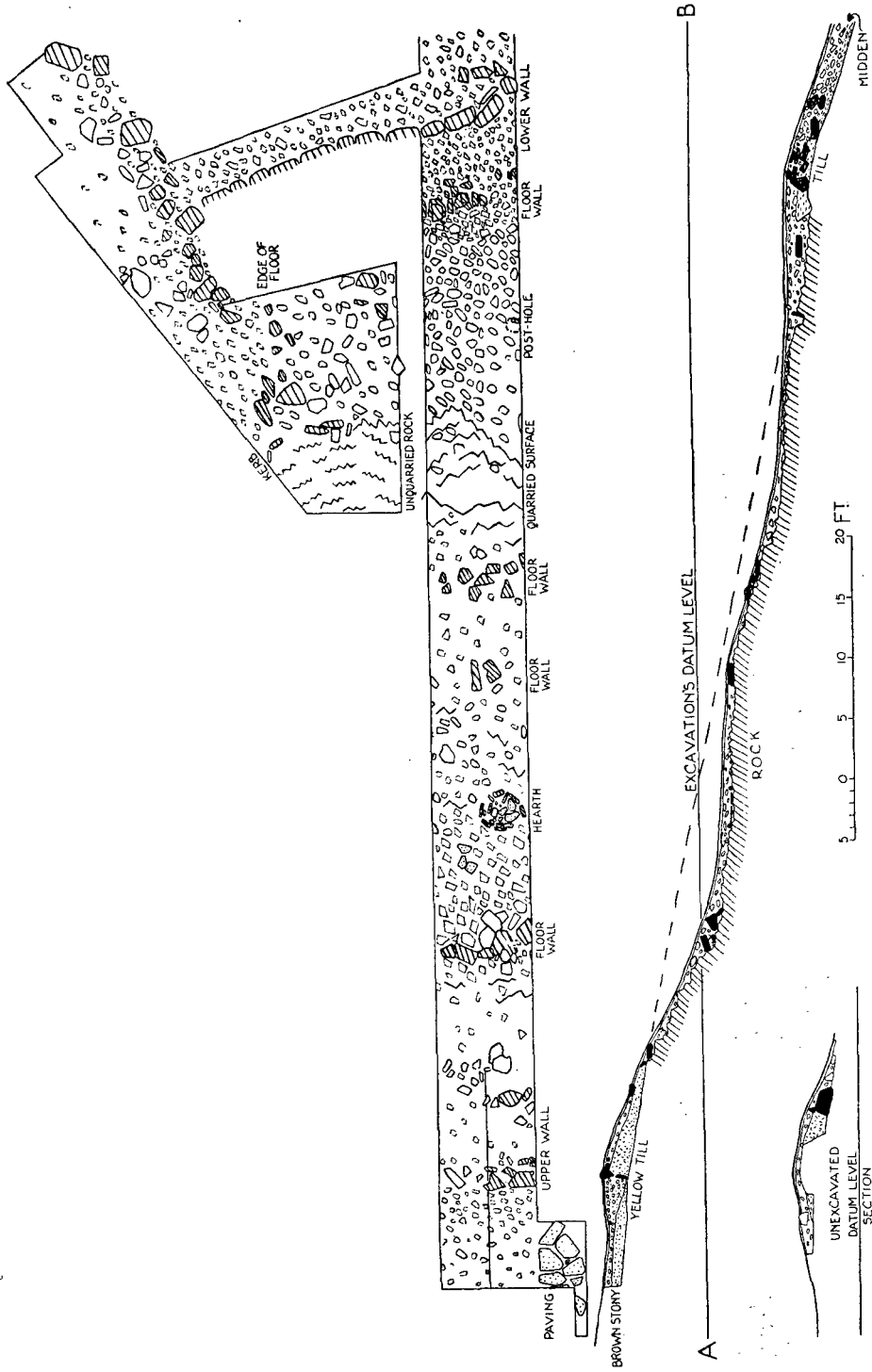


Fig. 4. Plan of excavations at Christison No. 10, and sections of main and north-east cuts.

wall on the north side of the cut (p. 106 *infra*), makes this a point requiring future investigation. The bank of rubble is more likely to have been make-up for the secondary "floor." The brown stony bank was 6 feet thick behind the revetting, and to a depth of 6 inches below the turf was capped by a layer of more humic material containing stones. This capping is uneven and the scarcity of its stones puzzling. Nevertheless it might be the remains of a rubble core; for on the inside of the bank some larger blocks, among which those that may have slipped slightly could not be distinguished from those *in situ*, were clearly vestiges of an inner revetting some of which, along with the rubble that it had retained, had slipped down the slope. The inner edge of this enclosing wall, which is unlikely ever to have been very formidable (see below), practically coincided with the point where the scooping process had begun.

The greywacke had been quarried, giving a jagged face some 18° steeper than the slope of the till, which higher up had overlain it. After a drop of 6 feet in 10 feet the constructors of the site had quarried fairly horizontally for 22 feet to form a "floor." Large blocks set against the quarried slope, which at the bottom was nearly vertical for 18 inches, show that the floor had a back wall, from which rather than from the enclosing wall the really rather small quantity of tumbled blocks on the floor may for the most part have come. On the forward edge of the floor two blocks, headers, lying in the middle of the cut, were the only signs of building. The rubbed side of one showed that it had previously been used for some other purpose. At the side of the floor a slight but sharp drop to the adjacent floor to the south was very stony on the surface, but was not sectioned. Half-way between front and back of the floor an open hearth had been carefully constructed on a very slightly depressed portion of the rock surface (Pl. XXVI, 2). It consisted of some flat paving-stones and some smaller stones surrounded by a low circular kerb with an overall diameter of 3½ feet. The whole was reddened by fire, but there were no traces of peat, charcoal, or occupation, on or beside it. The thinness of the covering of earth, only 6-9 inches including turf, over the old level of the floor, allowing of leaching of the soil by rain action, may, as suggested by Miss Keef, explain the lack of occupation soil both here and at other points. Elsewhere on the floor practically nothing in the way of paving covered the jagged projections of the quarried rock, which had merely been evened up roughly by spreading brown earth with quarry chips and some subangular scree stones 9-18 inches across. The freshly quarried material no doubt had for the most part split into pieces too small to be used as "levellers" or as building material. The subangular "levellers" were probably to give firmness to the loose stony spread which was the flooring proper, and the workmen suggested that they might also have assisted in the drainage. Only two small finds were made on the floor

just described: an iron nail from the region of the hearth, which is like the larger nails from the lower floor; and a small subrectangular sliver of burnt greywacke, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across with a hole $4\frac{5}{32}$ inch in diameter bored not quite in the centre and countersunk on one side.

From the forward edge of the floor the quarried rock sloped down once more, dropping $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in 9 feet, the last foot being almost vertical. A number of blocks scattered on the lower third of the gentler part of this slope must represent a piece of walling, but it was not determined which, if any, were footings actually *in situ*. The general plan suggests that the narrow area between this walling and that bounding the upper floor was used as a passage to the floor north of them.

The lower floor was backed simply by the sharp rise of the quarried face surmounted by the walling, both referred to in the last paragraph. In front of this the rock bottom of the floor was quarried level for about 5 feet, half of which was remarkably smooth (Pl. XXVIII, 1). Beyond this the jagged surface was like that of the floor above for some 10 feet, after which it commenced to slope down gently. A sloping triangular hole in the rock may just possibly have been a post-hole of rudimentary character, as some vertical stones of small size were jammed into the corner, unlike the usual horizontal levelling stones (Pl. XXVII, 1). These levellers were more numerous than on the floor above, particularly on the part of the floor beyond the point at which the rock sloped downwards for the last time. For there the surface had been kept level for a further 15 feet by a bank or terrace of earth and stones, including quarried material, laid on top of the sloping surface of the rock, which was still quarried. The made earth of the terrace was capped with numerous levelling stones, which were, however, too uneven to do away with the necessity of a "loose stony" spread (Pl. XXVIII, 1). The outer edge of the floor, which was thus about 30 feet across, was bounded by a close-set row of header blocks with rubble beyond.

This piece of walling continued round to form part of the edge of the south side of the floor. Here an area was excavated, leaving a 2-foot balk between it and the main cut. It was found that the rock at the back of the scooped floor curved round, and was left as an unquarried boss, on which, however, there was no till: the surface was slightly yellow and friable and consisted of tiny jagged pieces, contrasting with the more irregular and less finely fractured quarried surfaces. Where the boss met the layer of levellers on the floor, several stretchers may mark a line of construction. A number of the levellers were larger than the rest and might rather be interpreted as disturbed walling, for the walling on the edge of the floor did not reappear definitely in the area, although a number of fair-sized blocks nearer the outer edge were probably the remains of walling. No sign of any door or other entrance, no space free of large stones, was

found. A more definite row of blocks occurred as a concave edging to the floor at the point where the ground started to drop quite sharply to the entrance.

The main cut was carried down for half its width through the made-up terracing to the rock. The quarried rock face sloped down, falling 2 feet in 10 feet. Into this face a post-hole had been cut, 1 foot broad at the top and 7 inches at the bottom, to a depth of about 10 inches, its bottom being about 1 foot 4 inches below the level of the flooring. Unfortunately it is not known whether the levellers were interrupted above the hole. The small size of the hole shows that it had been made, and the post erected in it, before the made earth was laid. Into the post-hole, against its downhill side, a flat screestone 1 foot 1 inch high had been packed vertically. There were also several smaller quarried and non-quarried packers, but stones and earth had loosely fallen in so that looseness was the only difference between the filling and the surrounding made earth. This post-hole had been rather to one side of the floor.

Then the rock gave place to till as the natural, and this ran with a fall of only 6 inches in 8 feet before sloping down steeply. The walling at the edge of the floor was found to overlie blocks buried below the surface. One was very massive and rested directly on the till. Beyond it were blocks of more normal size, those nearer the surface forming a regular coursed wall of headers, about 4 feet thick all told. The rather dirty coloured earth among the lower of these blocks was continued on the inner side of the massive block for some 2 feet, where there was a marked line of cleavage between it and the normal light-brown made earth of the terracing (Pl. XXVII, 2). It would thus seem that a trench had been cut parallel with the walling, and indeed it had penetrated 6 inches into the till. Time did not allow of sufficient examination, and some further excavation is needed at this point also. Buried in the dump or terracing of stony light-brown made earth a foot short of the supposed trench were some large blocks. These, taken in conjunction with the trench, suggest that we have to allow for more than one constructional period; for the levellers of the flooring covered both uninterruptedly.

Further indications pointing in the same direction were given by the outer revetting of the enclosure wall. The buried walling at the edge of the floor, besides retaining the terracing, marked the inner edge of the enclosure wall, the core of which was formed of small rubble. This rubble was revetted on the outside by a row of massive blocks, up to 3 feet by 2 feet in the face and over 1 foot thick. But these blocks rested on a stratum of unmistakable midden earth that commenced just outside the inner line of walling, but may be associated with the dirty earth previously mentioned. This midden deposit was up to 9 inches thick and stretched several feet outside the revetting. It was continuous right round to the

entrance of the enclosure. In the main cut, and there only, several large blocks lay in front of the revetting, on and bedded into the midden. As the revetting was irregular at this point, they may be supposed to be subsequent buttressing. The midden appeared to rest directly on the till.

Finds.—The only finds made in the midden, although we cleared a trench three feet wide along as far as the entrance, were a broken pounder of quartzite of the kind formed of a fairly large waterworn pebble with one end flattened into two or three smooth facets, a pot-boiler, and some tiny fragments of ruddle. There were also a few bones, representing pig, ox, young sheep, a fragment of bird's wing, and the ulna of a young rabbit, besides some charred fragments.

The finds from the level of the lower floor were fairly numerous; but the fact that almost all came from the loose stony layer some 4 inches thick, which besides being the floor level was also immediately below the humus, indicates a risk of contamination. The number may be held, however, to show that most were hardly fortuitous, so that an exhaustive list is given.

Chiefly on the lower floor, but some also inside the entrance, over a score of potsherds were found. Many, however, were very small, and there were no rims and bits of only two bases. Mr G. C. Dunning thinks they are very late medieval, fourteenth or fifteenth century, if not later. "The extremely hard thoroughly fired ware, flat base, and pale green glaze present on the *inner* surface of some sherds, all suggest a late date." Most are pink or grey in colour, varying slightly in smoothness of texture, with a buff slip and traces of lead glaze chiefly grey-green or dull red in colour. The only sizeable base was flat with sharply expanding sides (fig. 5, 3), and had an estimated diameter of 6 inches; the other may have been similar. The only sherd found deeply stratified, in the make up of the terracing but only an inch or so above the edge of the post-hole, is of precisely the same quality as the larger piece of base, which was found 5 inches above it. One sherd was of a completely different ware, being light brown in colour, slightly sticky to the feel, and with a faint smell like that of a new clay tobacco pipe. Part of the curve of the neck

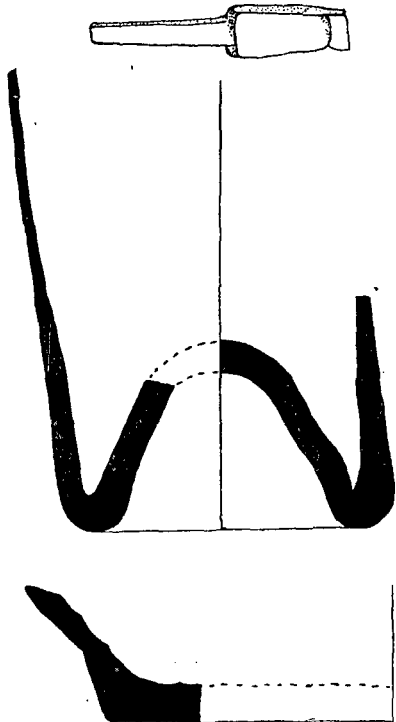


Fig. 5. Fragments from Christison No. 10: iron knife; glass bottle; jug. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

was recognisable, bearing a horizontal fluting. There were no traces of glaze.

A dozen iron tackets of various sizes were scattered all over the lower floor in the "loose stony." One has a round domical head $\frac{3}{8}$ inch across with a straight stalk $\frac{7}{16}$ inch long. Five have roundish heads, only slightly domed, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and less across, with a square stalk which begins to bend after about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch: in one case it is bent sharply in and continues for $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to end square just short of the edge, while in another it curves down gently after the bend till it ends $\frac{1}{4}$ inch below the edge. Three are squarish-headed, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch across, with stalks broken off too short to see if they bent. Two are irregular headed, about the same size, with thick squarish stalks ($\frac{3}{16}$ inch), running fairly straight, one for half an inch.

At the edge of the floor, close to the unquarried boss of rock, in a crevice down into the rock and partly under a levelling stone, there was found part of a broken iron knife (fig. 5, 1). The tang, which was uppermost, and the solid stop almost 1 inch long, with a small fragment of the base of the blade, were all that remained, but showed it to be part of a table-knife of the type current in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, to judge from the complete specimens in the Guildhall Museum, London, most kindly explained to me by Mr Waddington. Nine hand-made iron nails had squarish stalks and the head hammered down to an irregular square about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch across. The longest stalk is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch thick. Two may have had broader wedge-shaped stems $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, while two others are smaller nails with thinner stalks. In addition there was a piece of knife-blade and a shapeless piece of iron.

A number of small blocks of stone, including greywacke grit, from the lower floor had been rubbed smooth on one face, probably as whetstones. Also of greywacke grit was the butt-end of a hone about $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch broad and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick, with a rounded tapering unrubbed grip $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch long; what might possibly have been the other end of the same hone was a triangular fragment $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. A very peculiar piece of stone $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, probably a fine-grained greywacke, but now of a rich brown colour and shiny all over as if much worn by handling, has one long narrow side highly polished. In the make up of the terracing was a flattish oval pebble about $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 2 inches by $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch battered at one end, and also ground flat and very smooth along one of the narrow long sides giving a surface $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $\frac{3}{8}$ inch covered with fine scratches oblique to the long axis. It had been held in the hand and used for rubbing in much the same way as the shiny brown stone.

A considerable number of tiny fragments of ruddle or "keil" were scattered about. A couple of small lumps of "keil" show signs of use: one, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch long and 1 inch broad, had been rubbed flat on one broad

face, while the other piece, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, had been rubbed to an irregular six-sided figure, each side showing distinct striae.

Finally, a considerable quantity of bottle glass was found, chiefly in the southward extension of the main cut, and quite an amount of it on the unquarried boss of rock. This suggests a difference in date from the other finds, although some pieces occurred at 4 inches below the turf. At least three bottles are represented, one olive-green with numerous bubbles, the others browner and a little thicker. The two qualities were found mixed up together. One of the bottles had been comparatively straight-sided, though off the plumb, with a high kick in the base (fig. 5, 2). Another may have been onion-shaped. No bits of neck were found. Mr W. A. Thorpe dates the fragments to about the early eighteenth century.

Entrance.—Half the entrance of the enclosure was also examined. The line of revetting blocks turned inwards at the hollow that marked the entrance superficially (Pl. XXV, 2). A number of tumbled blocks in front of them indicated that here there had been more than one course of revetting stones. No roadway was recognised, and the steep passage-way—rising in the entrance $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot in 7 feet—must have been pretty stony. A knob of unworn rock in the centre is only 4 inches below the top of the turf, and gives the best indication of where the original surface ran. Down from the line of stones which edged a passage-like extension of the lower floor, there was a level represented by specks of charcoal among the earth between the stones that formed a steep drop to the entrance, from which we may assume that the steepness is original, although the excavation was not continued there down to the natural.

Outside the entrance, on its north side, a ragged semicircle of blocks (Pl. XXV, 2), ending in a particularly massive stone 18 feet away, bounded the approach, which runs up a hollow between two small natural spurs. On the other side of the approach there was no such boundary walling, but rather what was at first taken for a ditch debouching from alongside the enclosure wall. One of the workmen, however, pointed out that it was the end of a path that had run round the south side of the enclosure and continued along the contour of the hillside eastwards towards the Hope-terrick Burn, and which perhaps ultimately led to Christison No. 9.

North End.—Two further points inside the enclosure were examined, both at the north end. The general plan suggests that this north part, consisting of two big floors, is an annexe tacked on to the original enclosure, which would, in that case, have been more nearly circular: for not only are there kinks in the east and west sides of the oval as it is now, but the whole northern part stands up clearly and its upper floor is divided off from the main part of the enclosure by a very massive bank (now crowned by a ruinous wind-break dyke) which might well have been the line of an original outer wall. This suggestion also provides an explanation for a

triangular space between the lower floors, that has no apparent function, but which might be a piece left unused when the curvilinear annexe was added to the more circular enclosure. A small area 14 feet by 4 feet was cleared in the upper floor of this northern annexe, where the grass was much greener than in the main part of the enclosure and where there was some bracken. A humic layer extended to 6 inches below the top of the turf, and then there was a layer 2 inches thick containing a few stones, followed by the till. There were no levelling stones to suggest that there had been a flooring as on the other floors examined.

At the north-east end of the annexe a cut was made across the enclosing wall at its most prominent point. This showed a very massive revetting block on the inside with some smaller stones on edge in front of it, and yellow earth banked up behind it. On the yellow earth was a stony capping which became somewhat thicker as it sloped down on the outside, where despite some scattered blocks no revetting was found. The wall was thus analogous at this point to that at the top of the main cut, the revetment having been possibly robbed. There were no finds in this part of the enclosure.

Outside Floors.—A final development in the excavation was the discovery that just north of the edge of the top of the main cut there was a fine close-set massive paving, quite unlike anything that had so far been found (Pl. XXVI, 1). This was then seen to explain the strange flatness of the ground immediately above the enclosure, for it belonged to one of two very shallowly scooped and inconspicuous floors that lay beyond the enclosing wall. The plan suggests that they were a later addition.

Conclusions.

The excavations so far, although one or two vital points which bear on the appearance of the structure in the period of its occupation still require examination, confirm the deductions reached at the beginning of this paper. The enclosure had been elaborately constructed by quarrying the rock and heaping up a terrace. The several floors had been surrounded by walls. Although neither Christison No. 10 nor any other site in the valley seems likely to furnish proof of the original character of these walls, it must be supposed that they rose to some height, sufficient, at least in the case of the upper floor with the carefully constructed hearth, to have carried a roof. The midden, with the remains of three kinds of edible domestic animals, and the potsherds from the lower floor, also confirm the supposition that we are dealing with a dwelling site. The hones, fragments of ruddle, and the utilised stones are the only evidence of the inhabitants' activities. The quern found by Mr Linton, though its type and the site from which it came are unknown, must not be forgotten. The picture that presents itself at present is thus one of a cluster of quasi-circular

huts, with their roofs borne on more than one post, surrounded by an enclosing wall to keep livestock from intruding; along the upper edge of the enclosure the wall and ditch served also to divert rainwash, as has been suggested in a similar instance by Lady Fox (see below).

Although the midden of the first period contained no dateable relics and although sherds were not recovered from the upper floor, the sherds and knife may be taken to indicate that the enclosure was in full working order in the fifteenth or sixteenth century. The bottle glass may be rejected as intrusive.

The records of travellers, collected in Hume Brown's *Early Travellers in Scotland before 1700*, agree in describing the dwellings of the people of southern Scotland as very rude, with roofs frequently of turf or heather coming down so low that sheep could graze on top of them. Although the shape of these dwellings is not apparent, our site does not by comparison with these descriptions seem to have been so primitive as to render doubtful the date indicated by the finds.

An earlier date might, however, be suggested for the fine scooped enclosure at Langhaugh constructed to take advantage of a deep natural gully; for it is of a nature strongly contrasting with the complex of square and rectangular foundations a few yards on the other side of the gully which seem to focus on the foundations of a small square tower, presumably one of the series of medieval watch-towers mentioned in the *New Statistical Account*. The tower and houses at Langhaugh were in existence in 1560, when they are mentioned as being the subject of a dispute.¹ A similar juxtaposition at Posso strengthens the argument. The settlement with the tower might in each case be as it were the successor of the enclosure. It is of interest in this connection that on the Bowmont Water a scooped enclosure entirely typical as regards position, size, and constructional method is called the *Peel of Mow*.² In any case it seems probable that this class of structure had a long history.

Certain features of other recently excavated structures which were occupied during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are of importance for comparison, since one case gives some support to the interpretation of our "floors" as the remains of circular dwellings, and the other extends the field of inquiry.

A cluster, on level ground, of four irregular curvilinear buildings impinging on one another and each from 30 to 50 feet across, of which one was apparently a dwelling, was investigated at Askerton Park in north Cumberland by Miss K. S. Hodgson.³

The quarrying and terracing technique was employed in preparing the

¹ *History of Peeblesshire* (ed. Walter Buchan), 1927, vol. iii. p. 562.

² Information from Dr Steer.

³ *Tr. Cumb. and West. A. & A. Soc.*, vol. xxxix., 1939.

sites for long rectangular houses forming a "homestead" on Gelligaer Common, Glamorgan. This feature is discussed by the excavator, Lady Fox, in *Archæologia Cambrensis*, vol. xciv., 1939. She concludes that "it is conceivable that these 'platform' buildings will be found to represent a technique characteristic of the Dark Ages and medieval periods in Wales."

Other variations in Peeblesshire of the same technique should perhaps be mentioned here. Two groups, each of half a dozen single "floors," one on the east side of the Green Knowe and the other on the northern lower slope of the White Meldon on the opposite side of the Meldon Burn, seem similar to the "hut platforms" found as far afield as Glendalough, Co. Wicklow, as described in *Journ. Roy. Soc. Ant. Ireland*, vol. lxxviii., 1938 (W. J. Hemp and C. Gresham). A single scooped hollow lies only 50 yards from the enclosure opposite Bellanridge Farm (mentioned on p. 93 above). This enclosure itself is unlike the "normal" scooped enclosure as defined on p. 93, in that a single floor stands up from the rest of the enclosure, thus being similar to the two sites excavated in 1939 near Calroust Farm, off the Bowmont Water, by Dr K. A. Steer. Simple scooping, of course, occurs in Early Iron Age huts such as those in the larger fort on Cademuir.

It may be suggested in passing that certain circular hill-top enclosures, with traces of circular structures, sometimes scooped, and other foundations inside, of the type represented by Christison No. 13 and the site above Easter Dawyck just over the col from Glack Burn (and the analogous valley-bottom site, Christison No. 16), were contemporary with and somehow complementary to our scooped enclosures. A link between the two may be provided by the strong and unusually situated site above the Meldon Burn, close to the small Peebles reservoir, the central area of which has been dug out. This has been done in such a way as to leave along the N.E. quadrant a row of hollows similar to the back of the upper row of floors of a scooped enclosure, and serving the same purpose.

Our inquiry has led so far to conclusions that are inevitably tentative, but which may serve to awaken interest by suggesting that the "scooped enclosures" played an important part in the ordinary life of the Borders during a period the warlike side of which is better known. Perhaps the historians will take up the problems which cannot be solved by field archæology alone.

2. CHRISTISON No. 2.

Glenrath Village.

Besides the "scooped enclosure," trial excavation was undertaken at a further site with the aid of the Society's grant. The object was to widen the scope of the inquiry to a historico-geographical survey of the Manor Valley, which after a couple of years' work should give a picture of how

the valley was inhabited at different periods. It seems, however, desirable to present now the incomplete results it has so far been possible to obtain. For the second site, for the first season, a group of the hut-circles was selected which, as Christison showed, are such a feature of Glenrath. It is quite possible that the whole series of remains lying between the figures 1 and 2 in his map in the *Proceedings*, a distance of almost half a mile, should be treated as a unit. The central third, however, of the "village" which they form attracted attention because there were clearly marked field boundaries running down from the hut-circles to the modern road.

This section (fig. 6) commences at the delta formed by a burn issuing from a gorge in the hillside, it being the first burn on the north side of the glen below the cottage at Glenrath Hope. In the corner between the delta and the steep scree-covered slope there are a series of enclosures, some modified, at least, at a later date, and from their lower edge the first field boundary starts downhill, ending with an unusually crooked course and stopping unexpectedly short. Then a path runs westward fairly close to the edge of the scree, passing a small circle. Some 350 feet west of the burn a ramp slopes down from the path to a subrectangular enclosure in which there appeared to be two hut-circles, and from the S.E. corner of which the next field boundary runs a practically straight course downhill for 250 feet. This enclosure was chosen for excavation. Adjacent, but nearer the scree, is another enclosure, half-moon shaped with a hut-circle raised in one corner. The bottom edge of the lower enclosure forms part of an irregular terrace from which field boundaries start. Of these there are six parallel to one another, marking fields that are on average rather over 100 feet across. In addition there is part of a fainter boundary in the middle of the second last field. Below the terrace at the top of the second of these fields there is a partly terraced enclosure, while at the head of the next field, also below the terrace, there is an oval enclosure with a single hut-circle at one end and an oval appendix at the other. Indications of irregular enclosures and scattered huts continue above the terrace to the last field, above which there begins an upper terrace closer to the scree. In several of the fields there are clearance cairns, some robbed by later stone gatherers and thus hollowed as described by Christison.¹

It would seem that the westernmost third of the village had been very similar to the section just described, to which it is joined by the higher terrace. It has, however, been much disturbed. In particular most traces of the "vertical" field boundaries have been obliterated, presumably by ploughing as indicated by some "horizontal" lynchets of more recent

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, 1887-8, p. 196. "Vertical" fields are also to be found opposite Langhaugh, but these have a much fresher appearance and are presumably more recent. They are straighter and obviously terraced, and have, as Mr Graham has pointed out to me, traces of several rigs each. There are apparently no associated clearance cairns.

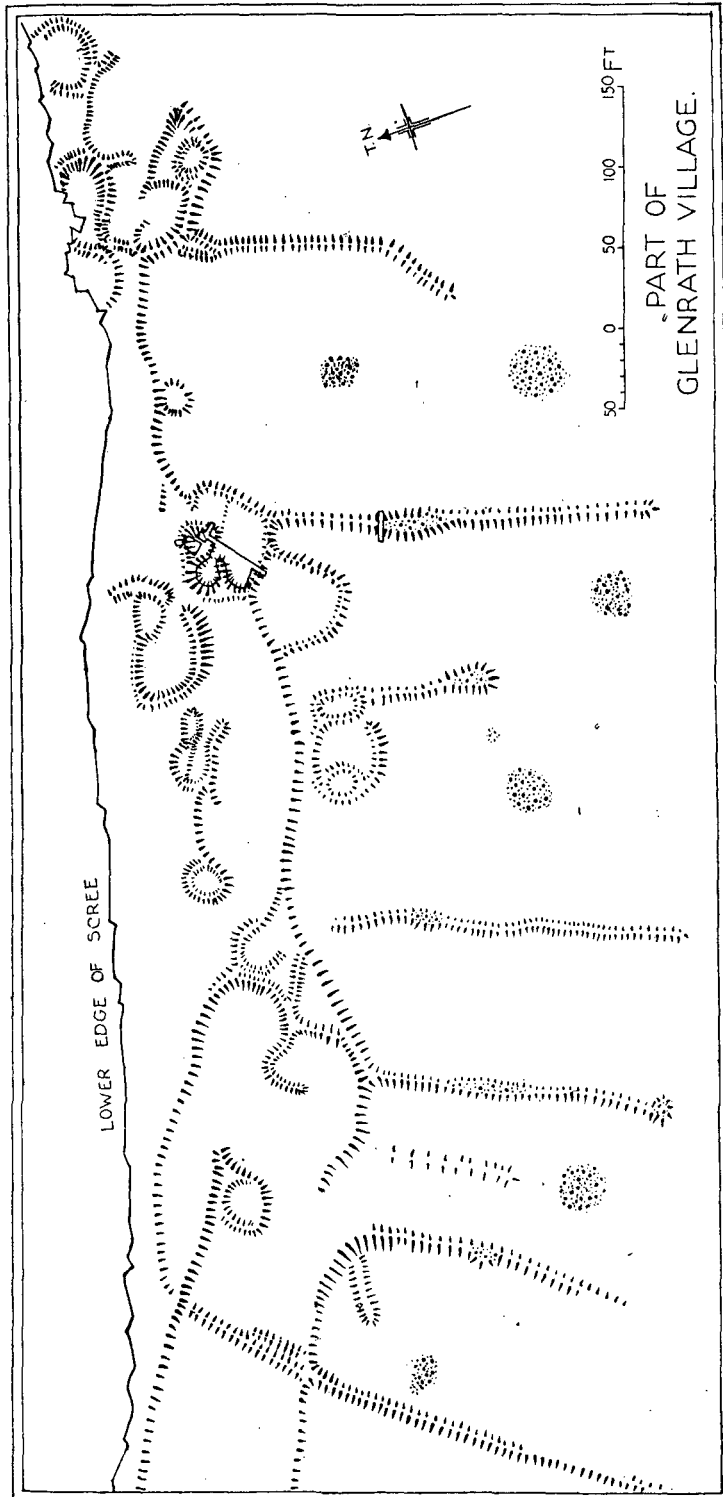


Fig. 6. Part of Glenrath village, showing field boundaries and cairns.

appearance, but quite a considerable number of clearance cairns remain, some clearly deformed by the horizontal ploughing.

The Excavation.

The excavation of the enclosure chosen showed that it, like the two others close by, consisted of a courtyard and a single hut, the second hut-circle proving, as will be explained, illusory. The whole interior of the hut was cleared as well as the top of the surrounding walling (fig. 7). The entrance, which opened to the S.E., was 2 feet wide and paved with two large slabs: one side was unfortunately mutilated by rash excavation. The hut had an internal diameter of 14 feet. The floor first of all ran horizontal inwards for 6 feet, forming a well-paved segment which dropped a foot, however, from right to left. The paving-slabs, like those in the entrance, regularly ran under the inner facing stones. Bounding this segment were several stones sticking up about 9 inches to form, along with some less obviously placed stones, a cross division, rather uncertain at its N.E. end. Behind this line were some small possible paving-stones at a higher level. Another parallel cross division occurred 3 feet away, and bounded a final stony segment that rose to the bottom of the inner wall face. This lay $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot above the level of the entrance. The wall at one point here stood three stones high.

The inner face of the hut wall was formed of a fairly even circle of large stones, in most places only one row high. Next to the lowest point of the paving, beside one end of the main cross division, there was also farther back a poorer course of smaller stones, almost suggesting an ambry, and the large stone of the wall foundation was there hidden by a flooring of earth mixed with a large quantity of burnt water-rolled pebbles, some about the size of one's fist. This flooring had been laid above a couple of unburnt paving-slabs, apparently merely to raise the level of the floor which was here at its lowest. More re-used pot-boilers were also scattered over and among adjacent slabs (Pl. XXVIII, 3).

In this earth flooring was found a spindle whorl, the only find in the hut except some minute specks of charcoal in the same earth. The whorl is made of a piece of whitish sandstone, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches across, the upper and lower surfaces ground smooth and parallel. The edge is roughly chipped and partly ground, sloping in slightly to the upper surface. The perforation (min. diam. $\frac{3}{16}$ inch) is not quite vertical nor central, and is splayed slightly at each end. The sandstone is not local, and the whorl may therefore have been an import, although it might perhaps have been made from a glacial erratic.

The outer wall of the hut to the left of the entrance was traced with some uncertainty, because much tumbled. Indeed after 7 feet or 8 feet it seemed to have gone, and only a rather doubtful line was picked up after

an interval of 10 feet. This line, against which there abutted blocks which seem to mark the inner face of the courtyard wall, was really a continuation of the direction of the first rather straight portion and was not a curve

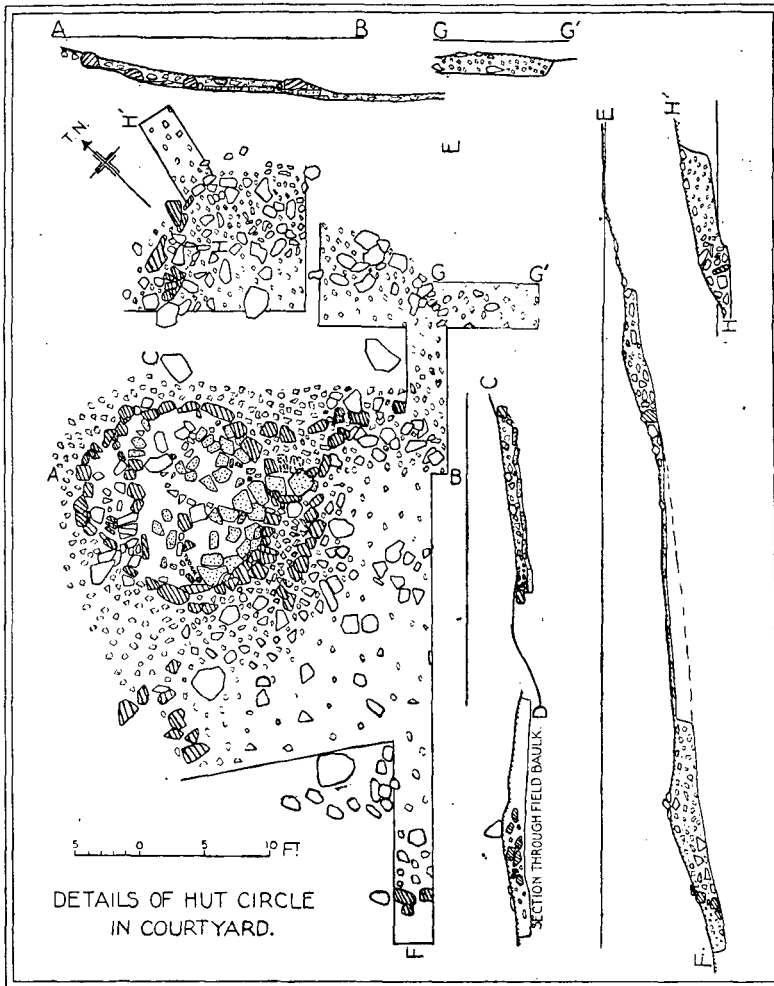


Fig. 7. Plan and sections of excavations in Glenrath.

concentric with the inner wall. The greater part of the outer face of the hut wall had coincided with that of the enclosure wall, which bulged out to correspond to the shape of the hut. This bulge mars the otherwise rectangular shape of the enclosure. We did not section it, however. On the other side of the entrance the outer face of the hut wall met, after 4 feet, the revetment of a stony bank that covered a rise to a higher level.

This revetment continued through the hut wall to the inner face, which then took up its function.

The bank showed that the area above it, a hollow surrounded by a curvilinear walling, was not after all a hut, as there was no way in. This was borne out by further excavation, which produced no satisfactory floor and showed that part of the walling above the bank was a mere heap of stones (fig. 7, section G), whose purpose may have been to head off animals entering the enclosure down the ramp from taking the direct line which, considering the levels, might have brought them on to the roof of the hut. A cut through the enclosure wall where it bounded the upper hollow north of the heap of stones showed that the hard till had been cut back to a depth of 6 inches at a point where it lay 2 feet below the present grass slope. A foot and a half from the cut in the till a revetment had been built and the space between filled up with largish stones, a spread of which at 6 inches below the turf may mark the level at the time of the operation. Inside the revetment was a bank of stones, probably the core of a wall whose inner face had gone at that point, although a few feet away a large block with a row of smaller blocks on top of it seemed to be the remains of such. If this is the case the outer wall would have had a thickness of about 3 feet.

Over part of the courtyard the upper 6 inches was cleared without anything more like a floor being found than a thin scatter of stones, among which at about 4 inches from the surface were some unidentifiable fragments of iron. This was, however, the occupational level, for it was at the foot of the hut's outer face. The lower side of the courtyard, as already mentioned, was a terrace. At the edge a few stones rose as if the poor remains of a wall. Then the banking dropped $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in 8 feet. A section cut through this showed $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot of earth and stones at the edge of the courtyard overlying the yellow natural till and retained by a revetment of massive blocks now rising $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot, the lowest resting on the natural soil. There were numerous specks of charcoal in the earth of the banking.

A cut at about 80 feet from the corner was also made through the field balk that ran down from the corner of the enclosure (fig. 7, section). On the surface it appeared as a line of scattered blocks and stones, on a slight rise that sloped more to the west than to the east side. It was shown that below the stones visible on the surface there were more numerous stones scattered in the earth to a depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot. They lay on the level that was agreed on by the two local workmen as the base of the tilth, and which had a slope corresponding to surface indications. At 4 feet on either side of the stone balk the depth of the fine stoneless tilth was 1 foot. The depth and lack of stones are surprising.

There is little that can be said in conclusion. The terracing, accompanied by a certain degree of scooping, is a remarkable feature of the whole site and one to which there are no obvious parallels. The village has not

been dated by the trial excavation. It would appear, however, to be comparable in certain respects with the Yorkshire Romano-British villages and fields described by Raistrick in "Iron Age Settlements in W. Yorkshire."¹ It may be significant that whorls of fine-grained sandstone with well-ground flat surfaces are found there.² The subdivision of the hut reminds one of the beehive house actually visited by Sir Arthur Mitchell in the Hebrides, and described by him in *The Past in the Present*, pp. 59-60, where the inhabitants slept in the inner raised portion.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The owners of the two sites, Mrs St Clair Cunningham of Hallmanor and Mr N. H. Cunningham, and Mr Jas. Stewart, Castlehill, not only most willingly gave permission for the excavations and presented the finds to the Museum, but also greatly facilitated those of us who camped.

The work would have been impossible but for the invaluable services of 23 volunteers, almost all of whom spent a week or more digging and surveying. They included members of the Edinburgh League of Pre-historians, students, and other friends. Particular mention, however, must be made of Miss A. S. R. Gordon, who assisted the supervision during the whole four weeks and took charge of most of the surveying, and of Mr R. Carnon who helped for three weeks. Our Fellow Mrs Alison Young must also be particularly thanked, along with Miss K. S. Hodgson.

Messrs Blacklaw and Sword were employed for two weeks, and much is due to their suggestions and energy.

As already mentioned, Mr G. C. Dunning and Mr W. A. Thorpe have most kindly examined some of the finds from Christison No. 10. I have further to thank Mr Eckford for advice on geological problems, and Miss M. I. Platt for identifying the animal bones. Miss Gordon and Mr Stewart H. Cruden have each prepared some of the plans for publication.

APPENDIX.

The *Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Peebles* (ed. W. Chambers, 1872) and Mr Walter Buchan in the *History of Peeblesshire*, vol. ii. (1925), tell the troubled story of the common lands of Cademuir, and give interesting details of the "tack" held by William Bell, a burgess and baillie of Peebles in the middle of the sixteenth century. In July 1557 one James Gledstanes of Hundleshope came with accomplices to Cademuir, "striking our servand Robert Cleuch and causing him thairthrow to haif greit effusioun of blude, and takkand to erd our scheillis and houssis, cuttand the samin with hewin axis and suirdis." What appears to be an account of the same incident later tells how Gledstanes came to the Burroleis, one of the lower quarters of Cademuir, William Bell "being in peceabill possessioun of the samin be lawboring manuring of the ground thairof, pasturing

¹ *Yorks. Arch. Journal*, vol. xxxiv. (1939), p. 119.

² *Ibid.*, p. 135.

his gudis thairupone, likeas he and his predecessoris hes bene in semlable possessioun thair of be the space of lx yeris immediatlie preceding." Then Gledstanes "maisterfullie and violentlie kest done and destroyit the said umquhile William scheill and somer hous biggit upon the saidis landis for keping of his gudis thairupone, and hurt and woindit (*blank*) his hird." At the end of January 1557-8 the eight oxen which formed William Bell's plough yoke were slain in another attack, along with the oxen of three ploughs belonging to other burgesses, one of whom was himself killed. Finally, in July or August 1561, William Bell too was murdered. In his children's claim for damages for these outrages we read of "the haill proffittis quhilkis he mycht haif had of the saidis landis of Burroleis—extending yerelie to lx bolles aittis sawin,¹ estimat to the thrid corne price of the boll with the fodder xxx s.; the proffittis of the pasturing of sax score milk yowes, proffit of ilk pece yerelie in woll lamb butter and cheis extending to sax s. viij d.; the proffit of the pasturing of sax score wedderis, extending ilk pece yerelie in woll and utheris proffittis to iij s. iiij d."

Besides the enclosures already referred to, I have noticed only two or three traces of probable dwelling sites along the northern lower slopes of Cademuir. They may mark the houses built for the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century herds.² It is thus not inconceivable that one of the "scooped enclosures" may have been William Bell's "summer house" and that Robert Cleuch lived there. I should add that Mr Buchan has kindly informed me that he cannot tell the exact situation of the Burroleis, but that his impression is that it was situated on that part of the hill that is opposite Hallyards.