

4. ROMAN FRAGMENTS FROM CASTLE DYKES NEAR COCKBURNSPATH AND FROM ST ABB'S HEAD.

The two scraps of Roman material described below, although insignificant in themselves, deserve a brief notice in view of the rarity of dated material from early non-Roman sites in the Border districts. The writer is indebted to Mr I. A. Richmond and Mr Philip Corder for dating the fragments as far as possible.

The first item is a small piece of Roman glass from Castle Dykes,¹ a promontory fort on the coast about a mile north-north-west of Cockburnspath. The fort is enclosed by a massive earthen rampart, topped with a very dilapidated dry stone wall. The last feature is not recorded in the East Lothian inventory. It appears to be original, but this method of combining stone and earth construction seems rather unusual. The fragment of glass was found at a depth of about a foot in the side of a modern excavation within the enclosure, a short distance north of the north end of the southern of the two surviving sections of the rampart, the central part of which is obliterated. It is 0.07 inch thick, transparent and

¹ R.C.H.M., E. Lothian, No. 126.

colourless, and formed part of the straight side of a vessel of about 1.9 inch external diameter. It has a rim of the same thickness, slightly rounded, extending 0.1 inch perpendicular to the side. It is Roman, but cannot be dated more exactly.

The second fragment was picked up on the surface at the east end of Kirk Hill, St Abb's Head,¹ the more easterly of the two ecclesiastical sites on the headland. It is a small piece of rim of hard grey ware, dating between A.D. 150 and 250. It is of interest as suggesting early occupation of this hill, which appears to the writer a more probable site for "Cair Golud" than the western church site with the mortared wall. Some slight rectangular hollows, perhaps hut sites, are visible near where the sherd was found, and the top of the hill, which has at some time been partly cultivated, is surrounded by the remains of a much ruined wall of earth and stone, not apparently related to the cultivation. The wall does not appear defensive, but the hill is almost precipitous on most sides.

Neither of these fragments is necessarily associated with any visible remains near. But no Roman site is recorded in either district, and relics are generally so scarce that it seems more probable that there is some connection in date than that their occurrence on these sites is fortuitous.

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