

## X.

### EXCAVATIONS IN TWO HOMESTEADS AT CROCK CLEUCH, ROXBURGHSHIRE. BY K. A. STEER, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A., F.S.A.SCOT., AND G. S. KEENEY, M.A., B.LITT.

*Read March 10, 1947.*

#### INTRODUCTION.

The numerous remains of ancient domestic sites on the lower slopes of Cheviot, in East Roxburghshire, constitute one of the most important and yet neglected features of the archæology of that county. Owing to their small size and unimpressive character, more than half of these sites are omitted from the Ordnance Survey maps, while the true nature of the recorded examples is invariably disguised by the inappropriate label "Fort". The task of discriminating between the forts proper on the one hand, and the homesteads and village settlements on the other, was initiated in Roxburghshire at the end of last century by Mr Francis Lynn, who showed that out of twenty-three so-called forts, concentrated in an area of eight square miles at the head of the Bowmont Water, only six are primarily defensive works: the remainder being "enclosures which have more the character of homesteads or clusters of houses".<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club*, 1897, pp. 185-200.

Investigations made by the officers of the Royal Commission, in preparation for the forthcoming Roxburghshire Inventory, have not only confirmed Lynn's observations, but have further emphasised the preponderance of domestic habitations. While only a single new fort has come to light in the limited area surveyed by Lynn, fifteen additional homesteads have been identified, all of which, on typological grounds, would appear to date not later than the seventeenth century.

Although these domestic sites are superficially alike in choice of situation, being strung out along the sides of the valleys of the Bowmont and Kale Waters and their tributaries, rarely above the 1000-foot contour-line, they differ widely in plan and construction, and, it may be inferred, in date. In size, they range from simple enclosures, only large enough to accommodate a single family (these are by far the most common), to one instance of a village-settlement over an acre in extent. Several sites show a striking resemblance on plan to the Romano-British settlement at Milking-Gap, Northumberland,<sup>1</sup> while others, situated nearer the valley-floors, and associated with extensive land-boundaries, are presumably medieval. "Scooped enclosures", of the type dated in Peeblesshire to the fifteenth or sixteenth century,<sup>2</sup> are well represented, and secondary occupation of a number of sites is suggested by the intrusion of rectangular buildings amongst the circular hut-foundations of the first period.

Despite the abundance of the remains, their outstanding importance for research into the political, social, and economic life of the Borders from prehistoric to modern times, and their suitability for small-scale excavation under normal conditions, not a single domestic site in Roxburghshire had been excavated prior to 1939, and it was largely for this reason that the excavations at Crock Cleuch were undertaken in that year. It was originally intended to resume the excavations in 1940, but, owing to the war, and the present difficulty of organising working-parties in remote areas, it seems probable that further investigation will have to be postponed for some years, and it has therefore been decided to publish an account of the work carried out so far.

#### TOPOGRAPHY (fig. 1).

The sites chosen for excavation are two adjacent homesteads, situated two and a quarter miles south-east of Belford and some 200 yards up the Crock Cleuch, a narrow valley whose upper limits are sharply defined by the rock outcrops of Crock Law (1338 O.D.) to the north, and Pudding Law (1403 O.D.) to the south.<sup>3</sup> The floor of the valley, drained by a name-

<sup>1</sup> *Archæologia Æliana*, Ser. 4, vol. xv. pp. 303-350.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxv. pp. 92-115.

<sup>3</sup> O.S. 1-inch map, Sheet 81. National Grid Refs. 36/833176 and 834176.

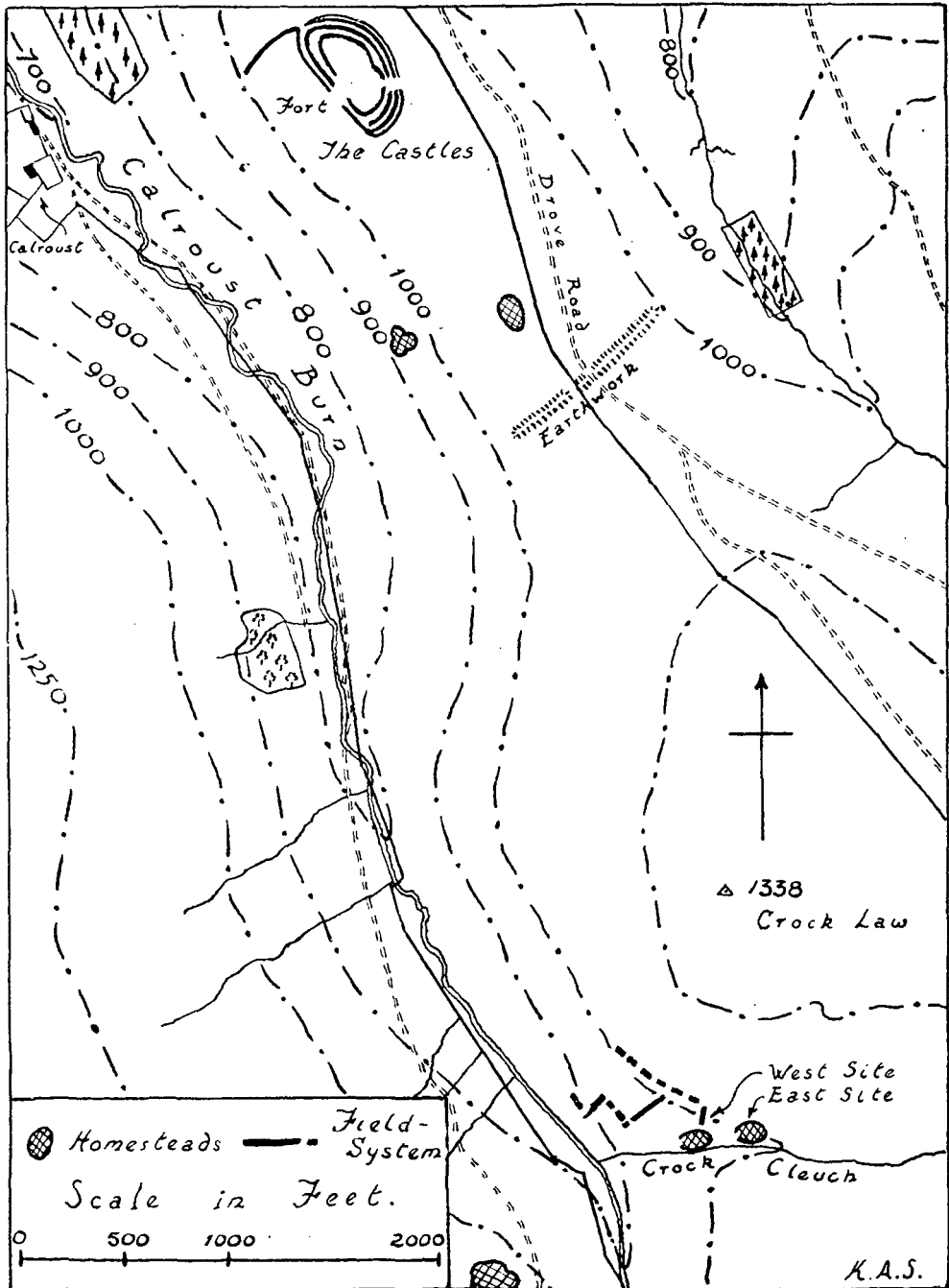


Fig. 1. The site of the Crock Cleuch Homesteads.

less tributary of the Calroust Burn, is covered with boulder clay, which, in its turn, is masked partly by a thin and variable deposit of glacial gravel, and partly by a wash of scree gravel from the exposed rock. These gravels combine to form narrow platforms on either side of the stream which fan out at the junction with the Calroust Burn. It is on the wider of these two platforms, on the north side of the Cleuch, that the homesteads have been erected.

The advantages of this situation for primitive settlement are obvious. The gravel subsoil is well drained, and the inference that it was free from forest at the time of the settlement is supported by the discovery of a field-system extending north-westwards from the west homestead, with which it is undoubtedly associated, for roughly 200 yards (*infra*, p. 148). Rising ground provides shelter on all sides except the west, and the stream furnishes an abundant supply of fresh water throughout the year. The easily quarried rock scarps on the face of Crock Law afford ample building material, while querns can be fashioned from the local andesitic lava and crude pottery from the boulder clay. Moreover, an important north to south communication route is near at hand. The watershed between the Calroust and Kelsocleuch Burns, whose summit is only half a mile to the east of the homesteads, carries an ancient track from Belford to the Border at Windy Gyle, and thence to Alwinton. Short linear earthworks drawn across this track at several points attest its antiquity, though whether the earthworks are prehistoric or medieval is uncertain. The track was certainly in use as a drove road in medieval times, and its existence at a much earlier date is suggested by the fact that, between the Border and Belford, it passes in close proximity to two Bronze Age cairns, the Iron Age fort known as the Castles, a homestead of early type recently discovered by the first-named writer from air photographs, and two other sites marked on the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map<sup>1</sup> whose remains have now been practically obliterated by cultivation.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The only previous description of the sites at first hand is given by Lynn, who notes the salient features but confuses the compass-points: his west site is actually the east and *vice versa*.<sup>2</sup> The homesteads, which are 95 feet apart, are strikingly similar in plan and construction. Each consists of a dry-stone wall, 7-8 feet thick, enclosing an ovoid area, about one-eighth of an acre in extent, with the main axis running east-west. In each case the enclosure wall is pierced only by a single entrance on the west side which leads into an excavated forecourt, while the rear half of the enclosure is occupied by a terrace on which is set a large circular hut.

<sup>1</sup> Roxburghshire, 1923 edition, Sheet NXXI.

<sup>2</sup> *Loc. cit.*, pp. 190-191.

Though its walls have collapsed in many places, the east site is in a fair state of preservation, and all the features noted above were recognisable without excavation. From the fact that handy-sized walling-stones abound on the surface it can be inferred that no extensive stone-robbing has taken place within recent times. The west site, on the other hand, is in a much more fragmentary state, and was no doubt used comparatively recently as a quarry for the adjacent sheep-shelter.

### THE EXCAVATIONS.

As sufficient voluntary labour was available, work was begun simultaneously on the two sites in the hope of confirming the superficial indications of a contemporary date. When this had been achieved, by the discovery of the same type of pottery on each of the principal hut-floors, all resources were concentrated on the more productive east site. It will be convenient to describe the excavations on each site separately.

#### I. EAST SITE.

##### (i) *The Enclosure* (fig. 2).

The east homestead stands precisely on the 1000-foot contour with its south side resting on the edge of the gully through which the stream meanders; the bed of the stream is now 10 feet 6 inches below the base of the enclosure wall.

Ovoid in shape, the enclosure measures internally 105 feet from east to west by 65 feet from north to south. The enclosure wall is well preserved on the east side, and, apart from a short sector on the south side where erosion by the stream has brought about a total collapse for 15 feet, and caused the wall to settle out of line for a further 23 feet east of the gap, its site is clearly marked by a stony mound through which facing stones can be seen *in situ* at several points. The wall is 7-8 feet thick at the base and consists of two parallel lines of Old Red Sandstone lava blocks, and occasional erratics, bound by an earth and rubble core. On the east side, the outer face is still standing to a height of 5 feet 3 inches and comprises stones of varying sizes, with those of the lowest course laid horizontally and the remainder piled on in irregular fashion (Pl. XV, 1). The northern end of the main section, however, revealed a different construction, for here the outer face is represented by two massive blocks set on end, the largest measuring 3 feet 9 inches high and 2 feet 6 inches wide. In preparation for these blocks the ground had been levelled by cutting back into the scree, and it had been necessary to insert a packing-stone under each to give stability (Pl. XV, 2, and fig. 6, A-B). Similar orthostatic boulders are visible at other points around the wall.

The inner face of the wall was only examined at the northern end of the main section. Owing to the fact that the ground falls 16 feet from the north to the south side of the homestead, the inner foundations are 3 feet below those of the outer face at this point; like the latter, they are bedded

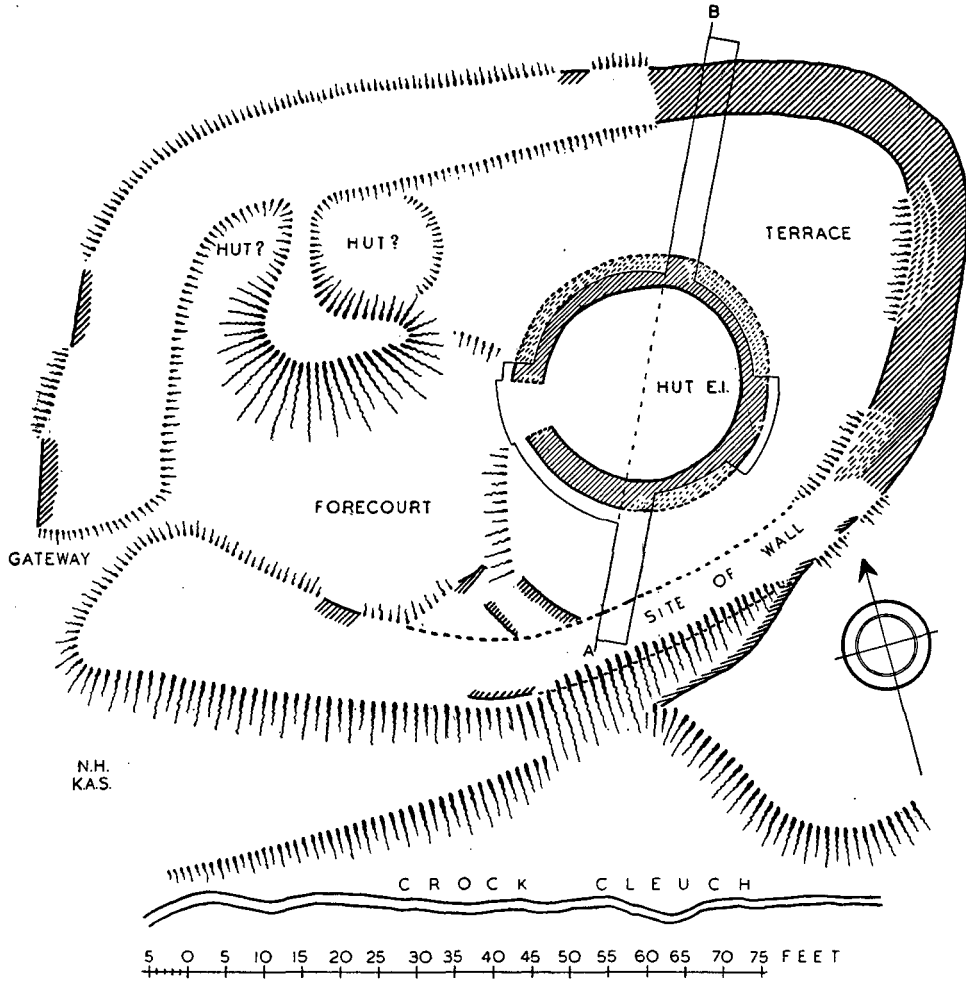


Fig. 2. East Homestead, Crock Cleuch.

in the scree and provided with a levelling course of small stones. The wall only survives to a height of 2 feet and consists of three courses of small blocks horizontally laid. The original height, however, can hardly have been less than 6 feet 6 inches, the minimum required to bring it level with the top of the outer face. The site of the entrance is clearly shown by a

gap in the west side of the enclosure wall. It was not excavated, but a trial pit in the centre suggested that it is paved. It leads directly into a court which has been hollowed out of the hill-slope and which occupies roughly a quarter of the interior. This court probably served as a stock-pen, and would incidentally improve the drainage of the rest of the site. Flanking the court, on the north, is a large stony mound, and on the narrow terrace between this mound and the enclosure wall are indications of one, or possibly two circular huts. The east side of the court is defined by a scarp which rises abruptly to a vertical height of 7 feet above the floor of the court to form the western edge of the terrace supporting the principal hut. The fragment of wall visible at the junction of the south end of the terrace and the enclosure wall may be the remains of a dividing wall which ran along the edge of the terrace; this point, however, requires further investigation.

The main section (fig. 6, A-B) shows that the homestead is erected at a point where the boulder clay obtrudes between the lower limit of the scree and the upper limit of the river gravel, though it is probable that the exposure of the boulder clay is partly due to preliminary levelling of the slope in preparation for the hut foundations.

(ii) *Hut E. 1* (figs. 3 and 6, A-B).

The main hut is circular, and measures 26 feet in diameter within a dry-stone wall which averages 4 feet thick and is built of small facing stones with a rubble core. No more than two courses survive, and the original height of the wall is problematical: the amount of tumbled walling stones in the vicinity is only sufficient to establish a minimum height of 3 feet. A broken quernstone was found incorporated in the inner face of the wall on the north side.

The entrance is situated on the <sup>west</sup>east where a heavy and well-laid paved approach is carried through a gap in the wall (Pl. XVI, 1). The southern limit of the entrance is defined by the butt-end of the hut wall (the block facing the gap had tumbled out of position and is not shown on the plan), and a width of 5 feet is given by three threshold-stones, set into the ground a few inches back from the circumference of the inside face of the wall, and projecting 3-5 inches above the paving-stones on either side. The two southernmost stones show no signs of use, but the upper surface of the northernmost stone, 2 feet 5 inches long, is heavily worn, as are the two large paving stones approaching it from the west. A fourth stone, adjacent to the worn threshold-stone on the north side, is similarly set on edge into the ground, unlike the walling stones which are laid on bed. Its position in relation to the outer corner-stone of the north jamb, its unworn condition, and the fact that it was backed by rubble, show, however, that it served



1. East Homestead. Outer face of enclosure wall on the east.



2. East Homestead. Outer face of enclosure wall at the north end of the section.

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1. Hut E. 1. Entrance from the west.



2. Hut E. 1. Detail of entrance showing threshold-stones and quern re-used as paving.



1. Hut E. 1. General view of hut paving from the east.



2. Hut E. 1. The hearth.

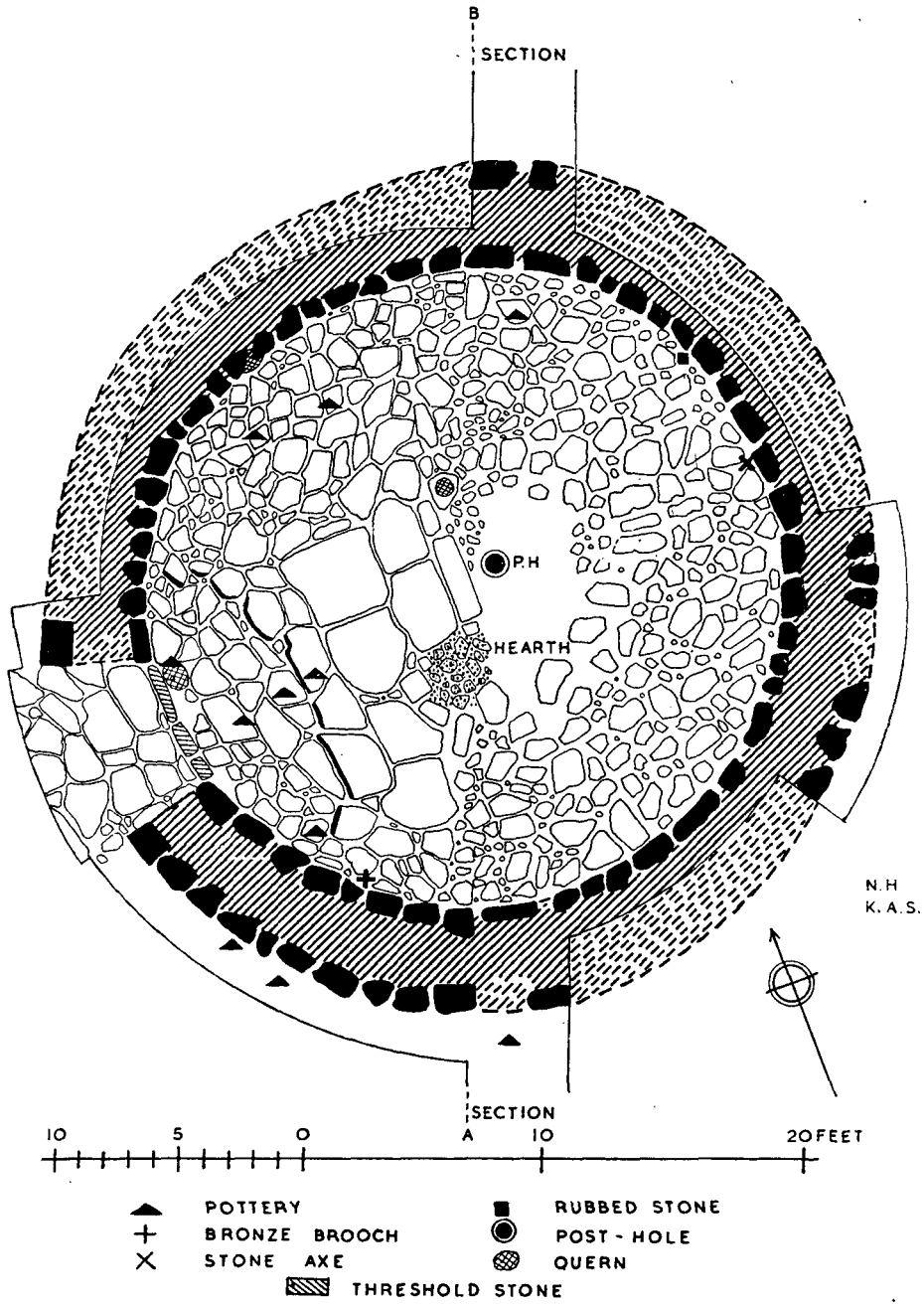


Fig. 3. Hut E. 1, East Homestead.

as the base of the inner jamb and not as a sill. No pivot-stone was found,<sup>1</sup> but against the jamb of the inner wall, on the south side, was a hole in the hut paving, 9 inches wide and 5 inches deep, with a stone bottom. If the door was pivoted at this point, and opened inwards in a clockwise direction, the wearing on the northern threshold-stone, and the absence of wear on the threshold-stones nearer the hinge, becomes understandable, but the evidence was not entirely conclusive. The interior of the hut is paved at the same level as the paved approach for a radius of 5 feet from the centre of the entrance. Elsewhere it is 7 inches higher, possibly to minimise the draught from the door.<sup>2</sup> Except for a patch near the centre, the paving is continuous, but is much better laid in the western half of the hut where there are several large flags measuring 3 feet in length by 2-3 feet in width (Pl. XVII, 1). Near the centre of the hut is a hearth, defined on three sides by flags, and floored with small stones which have been heavily burnt (Pl. XVII, 2). North of the hearth, and just off the true centre of the hut, is a post-hole, 1 foot in diameter and pointed to a depth of 16 inches below the boulder clay. It was packed with small stones and evidently held the main timber supporting the roof.

In addition to the querns already described, the upper stone of a beehive-quern was found buried in the floor beneath a paving-stone near the post-hole, while fragments of coarse hand-made pottery, a stone axe, a hone, a rubbed stone, and a bronze annular brooch were discovered at various points on the pavement and in cracks in the floor (fig. 3). While the hut paving had been patched up in a few places there were no signs of wholesale reconstruction, and the relics from the floor must therefore be regarded as belonging to a single occupational period. The hut was not burnt down, but seems to have gradually disintegrated, fallen stones being found both sides of the wall.

Excavation below pavement level in the main section showed that the flags, and the foundations of the hut wall, are not laid directly on the subsoil but on a strip of made soil, 4-16 inches deep, and suggesting, at first sight, an earlier occupation floor. On the other hand it may simply represent preliminary levelling of the hut site, as it fits the hut limits exactly and the pottery fragments it produced are indistinguishable from those found on the hut floor. A similar patch of made soil was observed to the south of the hut (fig. 6, A-B).

<sup>1</sup> The broken quern, re-used as a paving-stone immediately inside the hut entrance (Pl. XVI, 2), cannot have served as a pivot, since the socket shows no sign of wear and a door hung in this position would block the worn threshold-stone.

<sup>2</sup> The position of this step is shown in fig. 3 by a thickening of the edges of the paving-stones.

II. WEST SITE.

(i) *The Enclosure* (fig. 4).

The west homestead is situated on the edge of the same stream, 95 feet west of the east homestead and 30 feet below it. Except on the west side, where stone-robbing for the adjacent sheep-shelter has obliterated the remains, the line of the enclosure wall is well defined by a stony mound

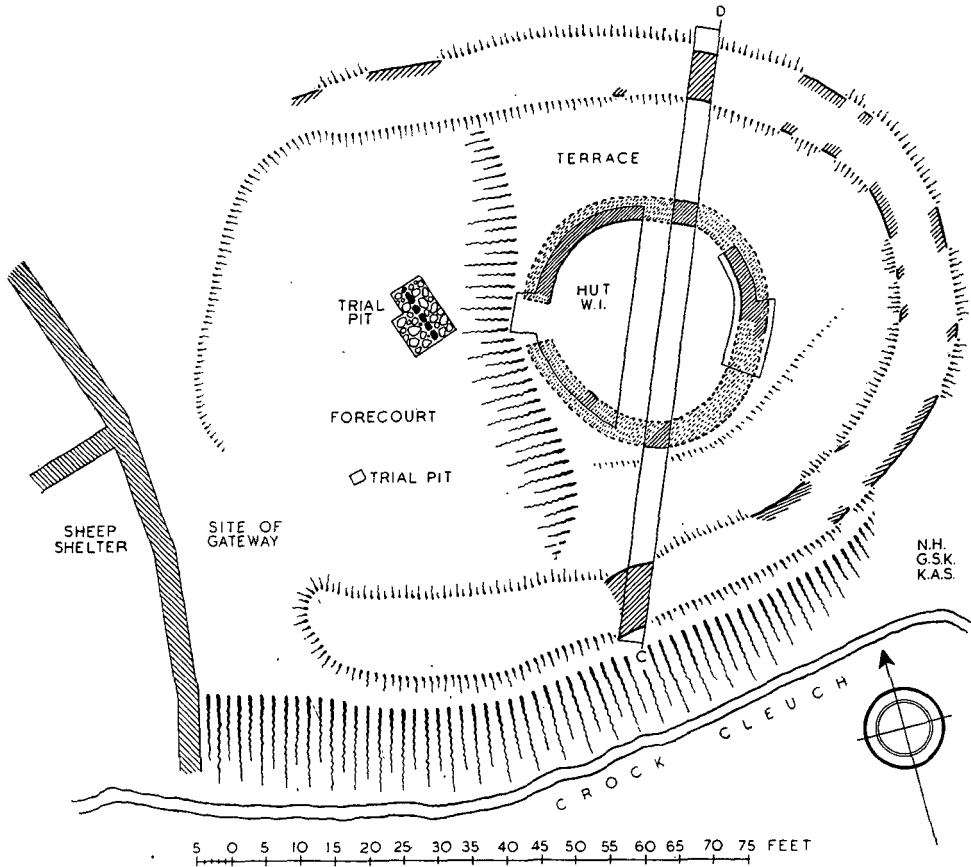


Fig. 4. West Homestead, Crock Cleuch.

in which facing stones are visible *in situ* at various points. The interior measures 70 feet from north to south by approximately 105 feet from east to west.

The enclosure wall varies in width from 7 feet on the north side to 8 feet 6 inches on the south, and is of the same construction as that on the east site. Orthostatic blocks are again employed in the outer face (one measuring 5 feet 10 inches long projects 2 feet above the present turf-line), while

smaller stones are used for the inner face; the core is formed of earth and rubble.

In the main section (fig. 6, C-D) scree gravel is absent, the enclosure wall on the north side standing directly on the boulder clay, while on the south it is laid on the river gravel, which has been scarped to provide a firm base for the outer face. The entrance is on the west side where there is a gap, 25 feet wide, in the enclosure wall: its exact position can only be fixed by excavation. As in the east homestead, the entrance leads into a hollowed forecourt, in this case occupying the entire western half of the interior and containing no visible remains of huts. A trial pit near the entrance produced boulder clay immediately below the turf, showing that the river gravel has been removed hereabouts in the course of excavating the court, but a larger pit further north revealed paving throughout. Lying on this pavement was a single row of boulders laid edge to edge whose purpose is at present obscure.

The eastern half of the interior consists of a terrace, at a vertical height of 7 feet 6 inches above the court, and separated from it by a well-defined scarp in which traces of a stone revetment can be observed.

(ii) *Hut W. 1* (figs. 5 and 6, C-D).

This hut is structurally similar to the corresponding hut on the east site though less regular in shape. It measures 30 feet from north to south by 28 feet from east to west, within a dry wall averaging 4 feet thick and, at the most, two courses high. The inner side of the north jamb of the entrance is preserved, together with three flags of the paved approach, but the south jamb has been rooted out. Although the interior of the hut was not completely excavated, the floor was again found to be less well paved in the eastern than in the western half, though the two levels noted in hut E. 1 are not present here. A fragment of Roman glass and a hone were found on the hut paving, while cracks in the floor produced a few scraps of coarse pottery of the same type as that found on the east site. The only other relic, a dressed stone, was found buried in the floor immediately beneath a flagstone.

THE FIELD-SYSTEM (fig. 1).

As already mentioned, an ancient field-system extends north-westwards from the west homestead. The remains comprise three lynchets (indicated on the plan by broken lines), all running parallel to the contours but at different elevations and of different lengths. The upper lynchet, which marks the highest limit of cultivation, is 500 feet long, the second 150 feet long, and the lowest only 70 feet long. The upper and centre lynchets are 280 feet apart and the centre and lower lynchets 120 feet apart. The

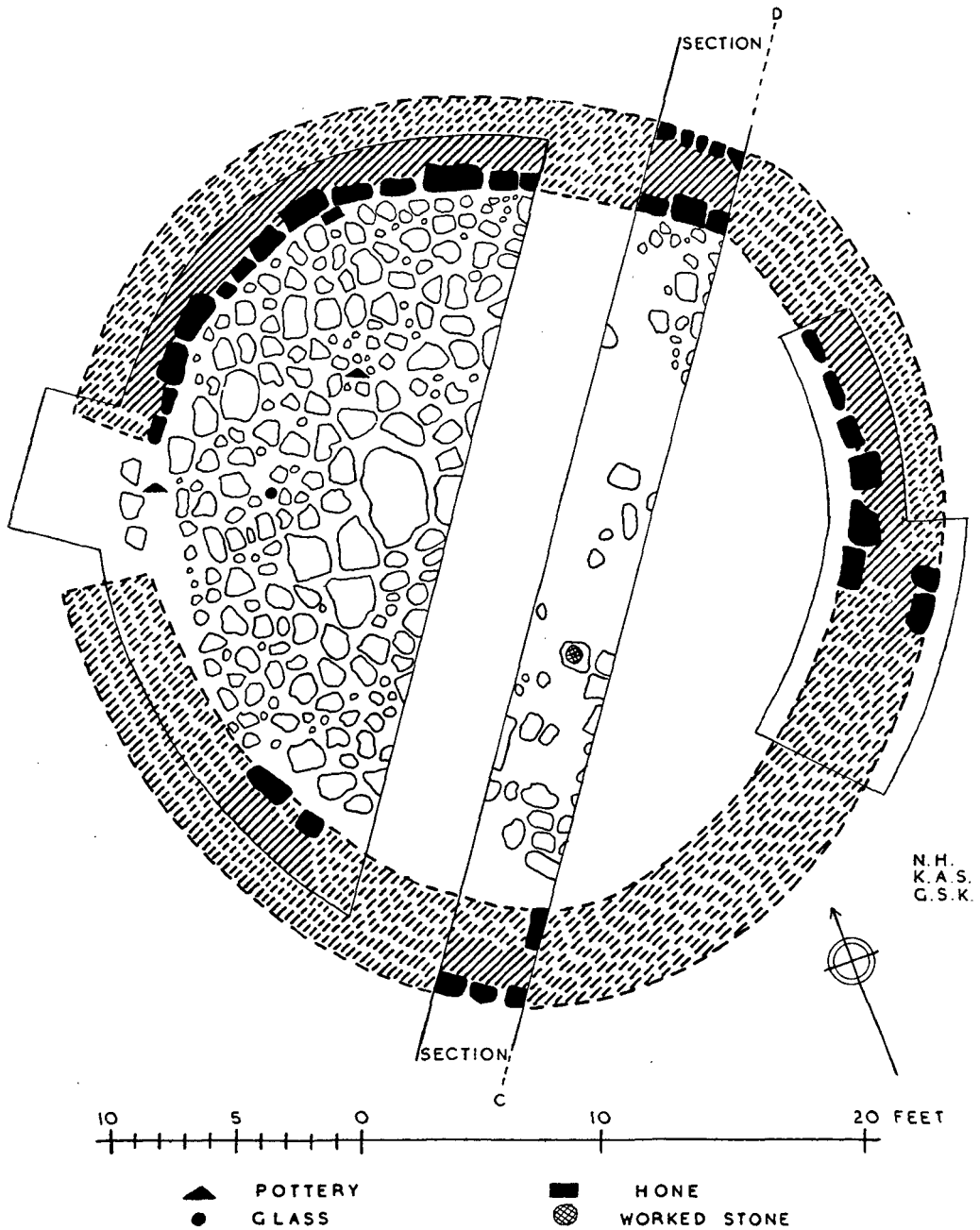


Fig. 5. Hut W. 1. West Homestead.

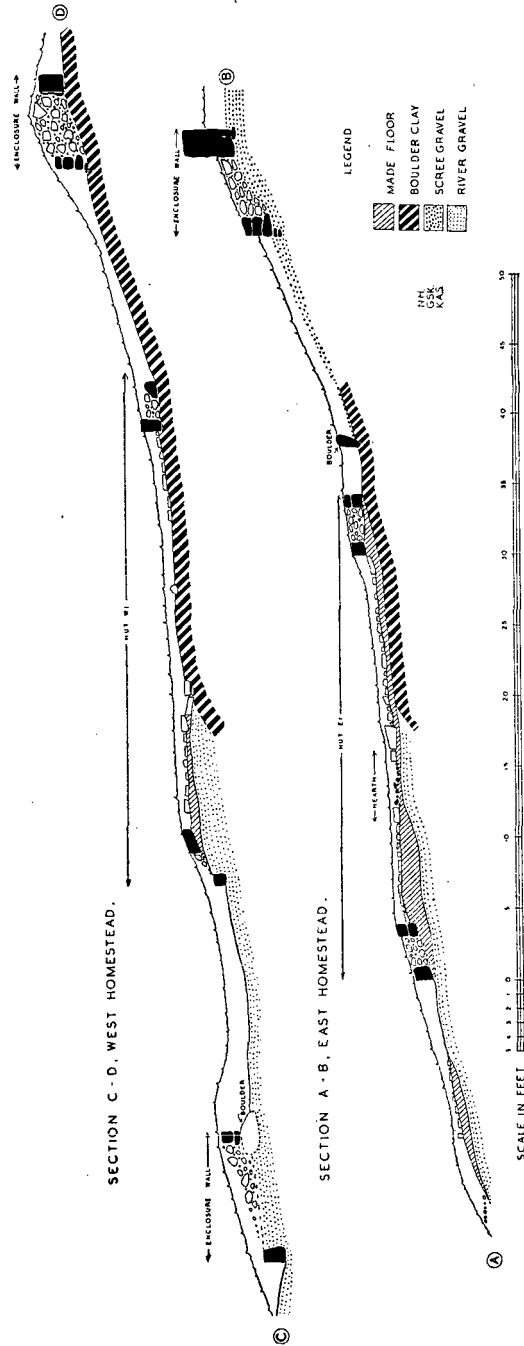


Fig. 6. Crock Cleuch Homesteads: Sections.



strips of ground between the lynchets have been divided into plots by transverse dry walls built of large boulders set a few feet apart, the space between being packed with small stones. This packing has now disintegrated leaving only the grounders in position. Three of these walls (indicated on the plan by solid lines) can still be traced. The westernmost links the centre and lower lynchets and continues for a further 20 feet downhill; the second starts 66 feet from the upper lynchet and runs to within 22 feet of the east end of the centre lynchet; while the third extends from the east end of the upper lynchet to within 10 feet of the homestead wall. A footpath which runs through this gap directly to the entrance of the east homestead presumably occupies the site of the original track between the two settlements.

That the fields and homesteads are contemporary can hardly be doubted from their relationship on the plan, the similar method of construction of their boundary walls, and the absence of alternative settlement sites in the immediate vicinity. In spite of its fragmentary pattern the field-system is clearly of the Celtic type,<sup>1</sup> which, except for the disputed instance at Torwoodlee,<sup>2</sup> has not previously been recognised in Scotland.

## THE FINDS.

### A. Pottery.

Ninety fragments of pottery were found including parts of five rims and a base (fig. 7, Nos. 1-6). All the fragments come from vessels of the same type—a bucket- or barrel-shaped pot, with a plain roll rim, made by hand of coarsely levigated clay. The external surface is unburnished, and both it and the body of the vessel contain large pieces of grit, while the inside has generally been smoothed by hand. Two of the fragments show evidence of building in strip-technique.<sup>3</sup> Coarse ware of this kind is obviously a local native production, and microscopic examination of the grit content shows that weathered andesitic lava, such as is exposed on the face of Crock Law, predominates. This rock contains large feldspars, the decomposition of which would produce a proportion of Kaolin or China-clay suitable for coarse pottery-making.<sup>4</sup>

#### *Hut E. 1.*

1. (Fig. 7, No. 2.) From the hut floor. A plain roll rim from a straight-sided vessel at least 9 inches in diameter at the mouth. The texture is very hard and both surfaces are covered with fine grit: larger pieces of

<sup>1</sup> *Antiquity*, vol. i. pp. 8 and 275-8.

<sup>2</sup> Childe, *Scotland Before the Scots*, pp. 81-2.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxv. p. 210.

<sup>4</sup> I am indebted for this analysis to Mr F. W. Anderson.

grit occur in the core. Core and interior are black while the exterior is ash-grey.

2. (Fig. 7, No. 3.) From the hut floor. A large fragment from the rim of a straight-sided pot, about 9 inches in diameter at the rim, made of coarse clay smoothed on the inside surface but otherwise gritty. Black throughout.

3. (Fig. 7, No. 6.) From the entrance. Part of the base and wall of a bellied pot. The body is fired to a buff colour on the surface and is rough and gritty, while the interior is black and smoothed.

4. (Fig. 7, No. 4.) From the made earth below the hut paving. Roll rim and side of a straight-sided vessel, roughly smoothed both inside and out, but with a heavily gritted core. The external surface is black and sooted, while the interior is a dull buff colour.

5. (Fig. 7, No. 5.) From the made earth below the hut paving. Roll rim from a vessel similar to No. 1. The exterior is heavily coated with soot, while the interior bears grass-stalk impressions.

6. (Fig. 7, No. 1.) From the main section south of the hut. A large fragment of the rim and side of a bellied pot over 12 inches in diameter. Small chips of stone are visible in the core and outer surface, while the inside is smoothed.

The manufacture, use, and distribution of this type of ware has recently been the subject of a special study by Dr Richmond,<sup>1</sup> who shows that it is "everywhere associated with the Iron Age hill-forts and homesteads of the Votadinian tribe" whose territory extended from the Tyne to the Forth. The ware, however, is not closely datable. A product of the overlap between the Bronze Age and Iron Age cultures, it is found in levels underlying Romano-British sites at Gunnar Peak and Gunnerton in Northumberland, and, in a Romano-British context, on several native sites in Northumberland, at Traprain Law, and in the hill-fort at Edgerston, Roxburghshire; while elements of the same ceramic tradition appear to be reflected in a Saxon pipkin from Heworth dated to the seventh century.<sup>2</sup>

### B. Glass.

1. *Hut W. 1.*—Between the floor-stones. Amber-coloured fragment of Roman glass identified by Mr W. A. Thorpe as part of the handle-join of a jug, similar in form to that found at Turriff and fully described in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxviii. pp. 439-44. Mr Thorpe dates this type of jug in Britain to the late second or early third century.

<sup>1</sup> *Archæologia Æliana*, Ser. 4, vol. xx. pp. 121-33.

<sup>2</sup> In Dr Richmond's study the pottery from the homesteads at Crock Cleuch (therein referred to as Sourhope) is said to be carried on by associated relics towards the twelfth century (*loc. cit.*, p. 129). This conclusion was based on an early opinion that the bronze brooch found in hut E. 1 is twelfth century—an illusion which has since been dispelled.

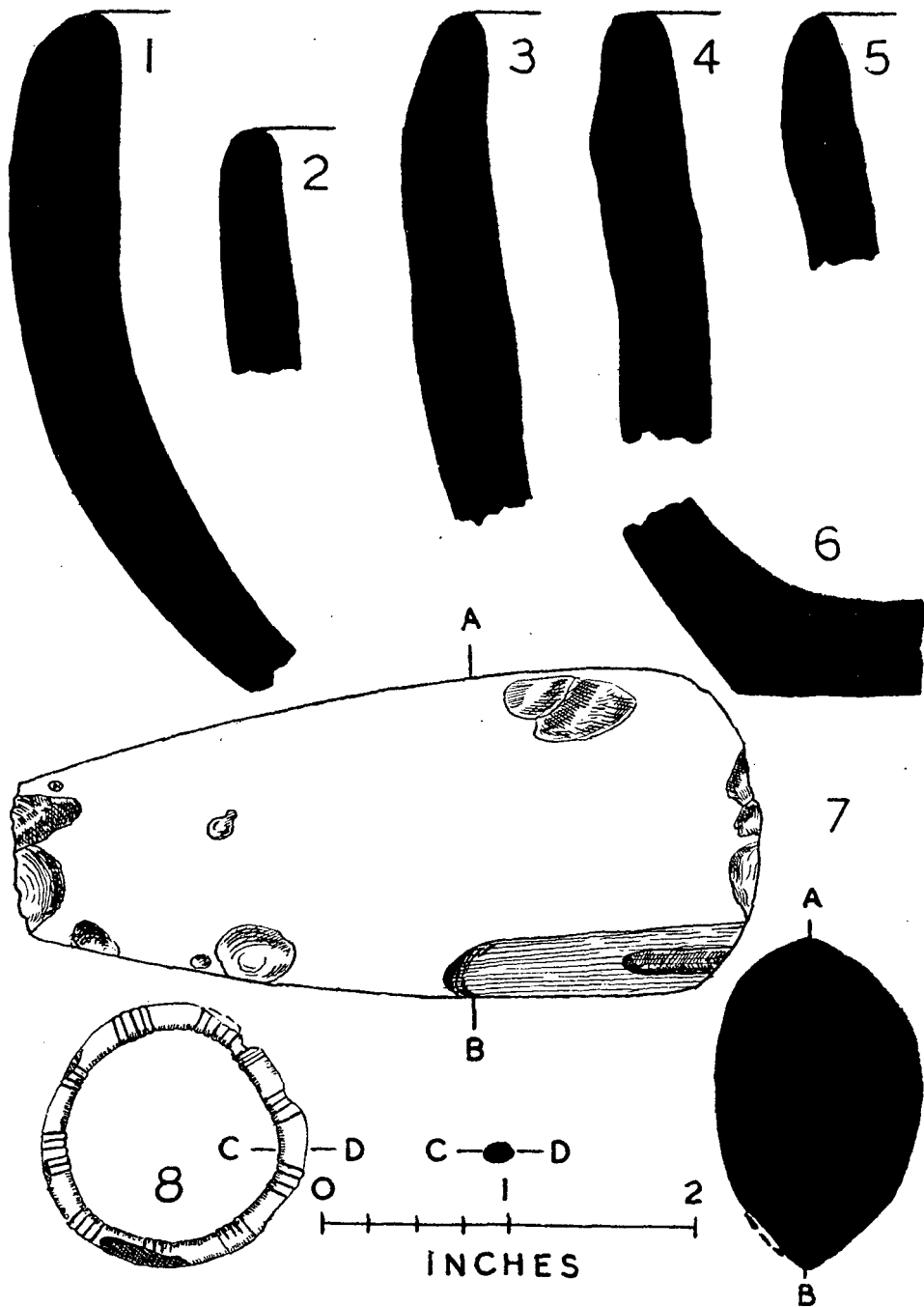


Fig. 7. Pottery, stone axe, and bronze annular brooch from Crock Cleuch.

C. *Stone Implements.*

1. (Fig. 7, No. 7.) *Hut E.* 1.—Between the floor-stones. Ground axe, 4 inches long by  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches broad at the widest part, and  $1\frac{1}{10}$  inches thick. In section it is rather a thick oval, narrowing in thickness at each end and broader at the chopping-end than at the butt. The sides are slightly rounded but there is no flattening. The material from which it is made is greywacke, greenish inside and with a heavy light brown patina on the outside. It has been well worn at both ends and has been battered and chipped all round, possibly after it was discarded. It is very scratched, but shows no sign of rolling by water action.

2. *Hut W.* 1.—Between the floor-stones. Hone,  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches long and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide.

3. *Hut E.* 1.—Between the floor-stones. Flat oval stone, 7 inches long and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide; rubbed on one edge.

4. *Hut E.* 1.—Built into the inner face of the hut wall. Slab of andesitic lava which has been used as a grain-rubber. The stone is fractured on three sides, but appears to have been originally circular in shape and is thus distinct from the true saddle-quern. The surface is deeply worn by grinding, and the sides have been decorated with both vertical and horizontal grooves deeply cut with a sharp instrument. Similar grooves were observed on the face of a saddle-quern (*sic*) found at Gunnar Peak.<sup>1</sup>

5. *Hut E.* 1.—Buried in the floor of the hut and covered by a flagstone. Upper stone of a beehive-quern of andesitic lava similar to a specimen from Newstead.<sup>2</sup> There are two socket-holes in the side, 120° apart, for horizontal handles. The base of the stone has broken off below one socket and there is a similar fracture on the opposite side. The grinding surface is worn.

6. *Hut E.* 1.—Segment of the lower stone of a revolving quern, re-used as paving immediately inside the hut entrance. The edges of the stone are roughly trimmed and there is a central socket for the spindle, but it has been fractured before use as neither the socket nor the surface show any sign of wear.

7. *Hut W.* 1.—Buried in the floor of the hut and covered by a flagstone. Block of andesitic lava dressed into the shape of a truncated cone and measuring  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter at the base,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, and 7 inches in diameter at the top. The purpose of this stone is unknown.

D. *Metal.*

1. (Fig. 7, No. 8.) *Hut E.* 1.—Between the floor-stones. Bronze annular brooch with iron pin. The brooch is oval in section and measures  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches in diameter internally. The back is plain, while the front and

<sup>1</sup> *Archæologia Æliana*, Ser. 2, vol. x. p. 24.

<sup>2</sup> *Antiquity*, vol. xi. p. 147, No. 30.

sides are decorated with ten groups of from three to five transverse ring-mouldings. Two of these groups are set close together on either side of a worn groove, which extends round the back of the brooch, and in which the pin was pivoted, while the remainder are evenly spaced around the circumference. The iron pin was reduced to a few corroded fragments and defied preservation.

This type of brooch, in which the ring is always bronze though the pin may be of bronze or iron, occurs fairly frequently in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in Yorkshire and the south of England,<sup>1</sup> but has not been recorded previously from Scotland. Its absence at Traprain Law is noteworthy. While, however, the majority of these brooches have been found in specifically Anglo-Saxon contexts, Mr Leeds informs us that the type is essentially of British and not Teutonic origin, so that a pre-Saxon date is not impossible.

#### GENERAL SUMMARY.

The discovery of the same type of pottery on each of the principal hut-floors confirms the structural indications that the homesteads possess a common cultural parentage. While they were not necessarily built simultaneously, it may be assumed that the occupations overlapped, for had one homestead been erected first, and subsequently abandoned, new settlers would presumably have reoccupied it rather than undertake the laborious task of constructing an almost exact replica in the immediate vicinity. As each site would only house a single family, the duplication can be attributed either to the requirements of two unrelated families or, more probably, to the expansion of an original household due, perhaps, to the marriage of a son.

Homesteads of this type form a distinct class, and their comparative uniformity in design and execution enables them to be easily isolated from other patterns of native settlements occurring in the same area. Their distribution is well defined. Five more examples have been identified by the Royal Commission's officers in the upper reaches of the Bowmont and Kale Waters, but, although the survey of the county is incomplete, none has, as yet, been found in Roxburghshire outside these areas. The type occurs fairly frequently in the Lammermuirs,<sup>2</sup> while Mr A. H. A. Hogg's researches have shown that it is the commonest form of primitive settlement encountered on the southern slopes of Cheviot.<sup>3</sup> The close affinity on plan between the typical Northumbrian specimen, Hartside Hill, and the Crock Cleuch sites is particularly noteworthy.<sup>4</sup> Further afield a

<sup>1</sup> *E.g.* Uncleby, Yorks (*Proc. Soc. Ant. London*, vol. xxiv., Plate facing p. 152, No. 3), and Alfriston, Sussex (*Sussex Arch. Collections*, vol. lvi., Plate iv., No. 2). Other examples from Londesborough and Sancton, Yorks, and Chatham, Kent, are in the Ashmolean Museum.

<sup>2</sup> R.C.H.M. *Berwickshire* (revised edition).

<sup>3</sup> *Antiquity*, vol. xix. p. 83.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. xvii. p. 139.

possible example has been cited from Peeblesshire,<sup>1</sup> but the small enclosures in Midlothian and Dumfriesshire<sup>2</sup> are not strictly comparable (though they have some features in common with our homesteads) and are thought to be largely mediæval. No unequivocal parallels have been found either in Westmorland<sup>3</sup> or in the West Yorkshire dales.<sup>4</sup>

Owing to the lack of excavation on sites of this class, evidence for their date principally depends on the relics from Crock Cleuch, which, though gratifying in number, are more remarkable for their wide cultural range: at one end of the scale is the stone axe and at the other the annular brooch of a type current in the early Saxon period. For precise dating, however, the axe and the quernstones are of little account. There is ample evidence for the continued employment of stone axes into the Iron Age in Scotland,<sup>5</sup> and there is no reason why they should not have persisted in use on primitive sites into the Roman period. The querns, on the other hand, were all incorporated in the fabric of the hut, and while they may well be contemporary with the settlement, and simply represent first-aid repairs with discarded material (all three had been rendered useless by fractures), the possibility that they belong to an earlier occupation whose structural remains are still to seek cannot be overlooked. The coarse pottery is a more reliable source of evidence since it was undoubtedly fashioned on the site, and, thanks to Dr Richmond's study of the comparative material, it is clear that, as their distribution suggests, the homesteads are linked with the Votadini, the tribe whose territory embraced Northumberland and the Merse in Roman times. Unfortunately this ware is not closely datable since it seems to have continued in use from pre-Roman to pagan Saxon times: hence the importance of the fragment of Roman glass, which points to occupation of the sites in the late second or early third century. How long before and after this the sites were occupied is unknown. Assuming that the inhabitants would be lightly shod, if not barefooted, the amount of wear on the threshold stone of hut E. 1 indicates an occupation of considerable duration, to be measured in centuries rather than in years. And while none of the relics necessarily implies a pre-Roman occupation, the bronze annular brooch suggests that the sites continued to be inhabited until late Roman or early Saxon times. This conclusion has, indeed, been already anticipated by Dr Richmond's demonstration that the Crock Cleuch type of homestead formed the model for St Cuthbert's hermitage on Farne Island and must therefore have been current on the Lammermuirs and Cheviot in the saint's lifetime.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxv. p. 108.

<sup>2</sup> R.C.H.M. *Midlothian*; R.C.H.M. *Dumfriesshire*.

<sup>3</sup> R.C.H.M. *Westmorland*.

<sup>4</sup> *Yorks. Arch. Journ.*, vol. xxxiv. pp. 115-50.

<sup>5</sup> Childe, *Prehistory of Scotland*, p. 226.

<sup>6</sup> *Antiquity*, vol. xv. pp. 88-9.

Owing, no doubt, to the destructive nature of the soil acids, no bones or iron implements were recovered from Crock Cleuch, and further research is needed to throw light on the economic organisation of these small communities. Similarly, until more excavation has been done, the relationship between these simple oval farmsteads and other types of Romano-British settlements found in the Votadinian area—notably the rectilinear sites such as Gunnar Peak<sup>1</sup> and Carry House,<sup>2</sup> and the more complex villages such as Greaves Ash<sup>3</sup>—remains conjectural. It has been suggested that, from their resemblance with the *viereckschanzen* of the Upper Rhine, the rectilinear sites in Northumberland may represent settlement of the district by Rhætian immigrants in the second century. But both at Gunnar Peak and Carry House (and also at Greaves Ash and the small ring-fort of Chesters, Northumberland<sup>4</sup>) the huts are of the distinctive type found at Crock Cleuch, with raised thresholds and central post-holes, so that a common cultural tradition is implied in spite of the different appearance of the various sites on plan.

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<sup>1</sup> *Archæologia Æliana*, Ser. 2, vol. x. pp. 12-37.

<sup>2</sup> *Archæologia*, vol. xlv. pp. 355-74.

<sup>3</sup> *Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club*, 1856-62, pp. 294-316.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 305-6.