

## XI.

## FARMS AND FORTIFICATIONS IN THE KING'S PARK, EDINBURGH. BY ROBERT B. K. STEVENSON, M.A., F.S.A.Scot.

*Read April 14, 1947.*

"The situation he chose for his new settlement was at a place called St Leonard's Crag, lying betwixt Edinburgh and the mountain called Arthur's Seat, and adjoining to the extensive sheep pasture still named the King's Park, from its being formerly dedicated to the preservation of the royal game. Here he rented a small lonely house. An extensive pasture ground adjoining, which Deans rented from the keeper of the King's Park, enabled him to feed his milk cows; and the unceasing industry and activity of Jeanie, his eldest daughter, were exerted in making the most of their produce."

*The Heart of Midlothian*, chap. ix (1818).

Although most people who in a few minutes from the city streets find recreation among the bare slopes and crags of the King's Park are familiar with "Jeanie Deans' cottage," the grassy outlines of still lonelier dwellings are usually passed unnoticed. The following pages take the form of an imaginary tour, starting from the most recent traces of familiar type, past fields and buildings about whose age and original appearance scarcely anything is known, to end at a simple settlement of remote date. On the way attention will be drawn to traces of some less peaceful periods. It is hoped that the reader will then make the tour on the ground.

## COTTAGES AND RIGS.

On the third highest of the escarpments known as the Dasses, which overlook Hunter's Bog, there is a rectangular enclosure whose stony outline, originally 3 feet thick, is about 70 feet wide and 80 feet long (Pl. XVIII, 1). The long side runs down the gentle slope, and at the upper end a cross-bank cuts off a space 12 feet from crest to crest, which appears to have been levelled artificially. This suggests a long cottage, and byre, at the head of its yard; although indeed the secluded position and northerly aspect are somewhat uninviting.

Not far away to the south-west, at the foot of the crag and in fact having its lower edge only 3 feet above the level of the top of the dam which closed the mouth of the bog, is a larger (120 feet by 140 feet) enclosure of similar construction. There is no suggestion here of a dwelling.

The foundations of another rectangular building can be seen 50 yards towards Duddingston from the south end of Dunsapie Loch on the slope of the crag of that name, at about 375 feet above sea-level (Pl. XVIII, 2).

They have an over-all width of 20 feet, and, sloping down from one end, a length of certainly 55 feet, to which 40 feet should probably be added. This building looks across the Queen's Drive (constructed in 1846) to the rigs that run up the main hill-slopes.

The outline of a less remote structure can be clearly seen just below the north-west end of the line of low crags which include the Echoing Rock (Pl. XVIII, 3). The external dimensions are roughly 15 feet by 30 feet. It had looked across the sweeping plough rigs, some bowed, which can be traced past St Leonard's Lodge at the Park gate. The "headland" that runs parallel to the foot of the crags along the ends of the curving rigs swings out as it approaches the building. Moreover, just short of the southern corner, the conformation of the ground suggests that the plough-team turned there sharply from one rig back on to the next. In short, rig-ploughing went on while the building was in existence.

Above the south-east end of the same line of crags there was another rectangular cottage, close to the steps up to the Queen's Drive (Pl. XVIII, 4). The green mounds suggest that it had been nearly 20 feet by 60 feet. It rested on an artificially levelled platform, perhaps cut into a low knoll, 10 feet in front of which the hill slopes down steeply. The south-east half of the building itself slopes down from the other half. We may compare the plan with the excavated remains of John Brown's cottage at Priesthill, Muirkirk,<sup>1</sup> a very slightly larger building—20 feet by 65 feet—whose sloping half is shown by a drain to have undoubtedly been the byre, and which was certainly inhabited in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The plough-rigs of the series which clearly continues as far down the valley as "Jeanie Deans' cottage," fade at a boggy piece of ground behind the cottage just described. The ends curve northwards, those of the north-east ones to the "headland," which also seems to mark the continuation of the old grassy road that comes up the northern edge of the valley. This road zigzags up to the Hawse gap, is cut through by the Queen's Drive, and finally gets lost in the banking of the Drive. There are the remains of a wall at right angles to the rigs nearer the cottage, past whose north-west end it runs downhill. Though no other sides of an enclosure can be seen, it might have been built to separate the ground behind the cottage from the rig-ploughed fields. For there are only faint suggestions of ploughing, and the bumps in the ground over which the wall runs do not fit in well with the existing rigs.

#### TERRACES AND SCOOPED ENCLOSURES.

Another stretch of dyke downhill is plainly contemporary with the rigs bounded by its zigzag course. The upper end of this zigzag boundary, however, crosses the north-west end of a horizontal terrace which has been

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, 1926-27, p. 287.

eaten into by the "vertical" rigs (Pl. XVIII, 4). Two more of these terraces can be recognised, the uppermost continuing along the front of the cottage. Their breadth varies from 10 to 25 feet. These three may well be the remains of a series largely destroyed by rig-ploughing. The rigs themselves might be assumed from our opening quotation to have fallen out of use before Sir Walter Scott's day; they are certainly earlier than the now green road which cuts across them 30 or 40 yards above the present lower road, which it joins just before Samson's Ribs. This old road was in use in the early nineteenth century. In general rig-ploughing ceased as a result of the Agricultural Revolution in the later eighteenth century.

This leads us to a well-known problem. Despite Mr O. G. S. Crawford's pronouncement,<sup>1</sup> the weight of the evidence indicates that the famous terraces overlooking Dunsapie Loch have also been encroached upon by, and are earlier than, the rigs which run some way uphill from the Queen's Drive. The following signs of the succession may be noted. The upper ends of the rigs do not form a line parallel to the terraces. In the north-east corner of the group the terraces come right down to the Drive<sup>2</sup> on ground no steeper than that up which some rigs run close by. Moreover, a stretch of ground just uphill from the ends of the rigs is less steep than that up which they run. Stones suggesting terrace fronts remain in the rigs,<sup>3</sup> more especially towards the south, where the slight rise indicating a terrace may be seen crossed by rigs (fig. 1). Unfortunately where the centre rigs impinge on the undoubted terraces a modern military trench (World War I) has disturbed the ground. It should be noted that at the northern end there are some thirty terraces above the Drive, not merely ten as in *Ancient Mon. Com. Report*, Midlothian, No. 11.

In the south-east corner of this field system, above the bend of the Queen's Drive, the numerous stones and boulders mark not only the lines of cultivation but the outlines of what may be called farm buildings<sup>4</sup> (Pl. XVIII, 5, and fig. 1). The extent to which the ground has been artificially levelled to prepare the sites of the buildings is of greatest assistance in disentangling the maze. The main structures, round which the rest cluster, are of the type described in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, 1940-41, under the name of "scooped enclosures with several floors." If we walk up the eastward-facing slope for a hundred yards from the Drive, keeping near to the steep slope to the Drive on the south-east, the terraced front of the more isolated of the two enclosures is easy to see. The line of a stone revetment runs along the foot and continues past the rounded corners up the sides at right angles to

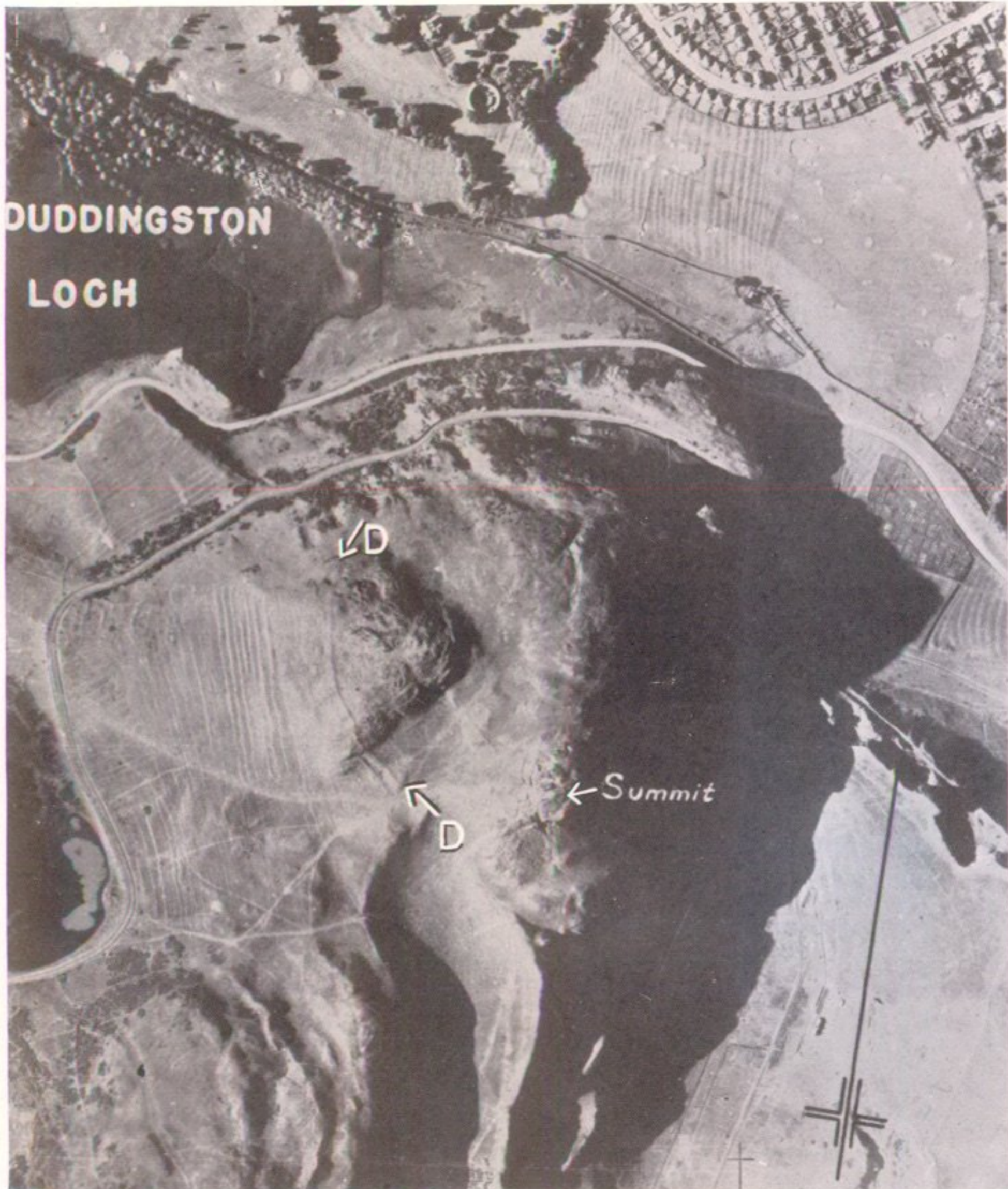
<sup>1</sup> *Antiquity*, 1939, p. 290.

<sup>2</sup> Eckford in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, 1927-28, p. 115.

<sup>3</sup> Graham in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, 1938-39, p. 298.

<sup>4</sup> The Jacobite encampment on the eve of Prestonpans is marked here and to the north on some maps. On a contemporary Hanoverian sketch exhibited at the Jacobite Exhibition in Edinburgh in 1946 the camp was shown nearer Duddingston.





Air photograph of Arthur's Seat, showing defensive dyke (Site 9, D-D),  
terraces, and enclosures (Sites 5 and 7).

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ROBERT B. K. STEVENSON.

the front. Along the top of the terrace, which is 4 feet high, are traces of an inner enclosing wall. At the sides the distance between the inner and outer faces appears to be about 5 feet. The greatest over-all width of the enclosure is 85 feet and the distance from front to back 65 feet. The curvilinear back of the enclosure is marked by a few blocks, some at the foot and others at the top of the short slope, only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, formed by the scooping process. The entrance may have been at the south-west corner. In the north-west corner there is a curvilinear level area, or "floor," rather over 25 feet in diameter, with a slight drop to a smaller floor in front. The south-west is more oblong in shape and has a fairly straight front. The fourth quarter of the enclosure, in its final form at least, cannot have been covered by a single hut—as might be suggested in the case of the other floors—since the footings of a wall stretch obliquely across it. Against the north-west of the enclosure there impinges an irregularly shaped annexe about 40 feet across.

The second scooped enclosure is less clearly marked by remains of walling, but has been more deeply dug into the hillside and massively terraced in front. It lies 35 yards further downhill. A number of large boulders, probably exposed while the work was going on, with consequent influence on the plan, take one's eye off the outline of the whole. The greatest over-all dimensions are 85 feet from front to back and 80 feet from side to side. The shape approximates to a circle with rather flattened sides. The front pair of quasi-circular floors are some 25 feet in diameter. That to the north-west is crossed by what appears to be the wall of a rectangular building (? 14 feet by 25 feet) whose general appearance is intrusive. In front of these floors the terrace drops 4 feet, while behind there is a rise of 3 feet to the upper pair. The north-west floor is rather narrow and oblique to the axis of the enclosure, while the other is sub-divided by a slight change in ground-level. The slope behind rises at most 8 feet to the outer line of the enclosure wall, which continues round the upper ends as a bank, most marked on the south-west.

The outline of this main enclosure is obscured by structures clustering against it. Thus on the north side there is a sub-rectangular enclosure (40 feet by 45 feet) less pronouncedly scooped and terraced and having a wall of rather small stones. In the south-east corner of this there is a circular floor 20 feet across. A line of small boulders and stones forms a terrace 20 feet downhill from here. It is roughly in a line with the front of the main enclosure but appears isolated. Against the northern part of the main terrace front there is also a terraced floor. Another floor, deeply scooped, adjoins the south-west corner of the enclosure; and there was yet another downhill from it near the south-east corner.

A segment of a third large deeply scooped enclosure appears further downhill once more, at the edge of the Queen's Drive, which has cut away the remainder of it. Flanking the main series are two irregular-shaped structures over 30 feet across, 60 feet and 80 feet respectively north-east

and north-west of the central enclosure. Lastly the site of a small building very roughly circular, about 20 feet in diameter, lies 40 feet further uphill than the upper enclosure.

Some discussion is necessary of the relation of the parts of this complex group of buildings to one another and, more important, to the cultivation rigs and terraces. First of all we may note a difference in surface appearance between the upper and the middle scooped enclosures, apart from the extent of the scooping. The former is less obscured by accretions, and has more medium-sized blocks but fewer smaller stones of its structure visible. This suggests that it was constructed first, but neglected and demolished in favour of the growing cluster downhill. Contemporary with the use of the upper enclosure, from whose south-east corner it begins, would appear to be the wall along the steep drop of the hill to the south-east. It runs past the central enclosure, and may have turned into its south-east corner. Above the group of buildings the edge of this drop is well marked—but stoneless. Probably it was formed by the plough turning at the ends of the terraces; if so, it proves that these existed in some form before the enclosures. On the other hand, the front of one of the cultivation terraces is continued by a terrace that swings downhill as if to round the north-east corner of the upper enclosure—after whose construction horizontal ploughing may therefore still have been carried on.

The lowest clearly visible horizontal terrace front ends at the north-west corner of the middle enclosure. It forms an angle with the back wall. This most probably means that the enclosure was cut back into a pre-existing terrace, but not certainly, for terrace fronts are not in detail straight and there is a line higher up in a somewhat intermediate direction. Further, the sharpness of the surface indications of this lowest terrace has been blurred, due it would appear to vertical ploughing which came up to and crossed the terrace front, swinging round the enclosure's annexe, and so (horizontally) along the back of the enclosure.

Finally it may be noted that of the small rather isolated structures, the central one lies athwart a terrace, with its back conforming to the line of the front of the terrace above, and that the uppermost structure of all, the small circle, also lies on a terrace.

In short the farm buildings seem to have grown and undergone changes which affected the most rock-strewn corner of an area already under horizontal cultivation. And this cultivation may have been continued by the inhabitants.

Some further evidence is provided by a scooped enclosure marked by grassy dimples, and two short stretches of stony bank, on the far (east) side of Dunsapie Crag (Pl. XVIII, 6, and fig. 2). Two small structures adjacent on the south are suggested on the plan on either side of a relatively modern turf dyke, and there are others a short way further uphill. Yet another may

nestle against the north-west corner, and from it stretches what is conceivably a terrace, with a much fainter one a little downhill—not planned. The enclosure itself measures 95 feet by 80 feet, with a maximum total

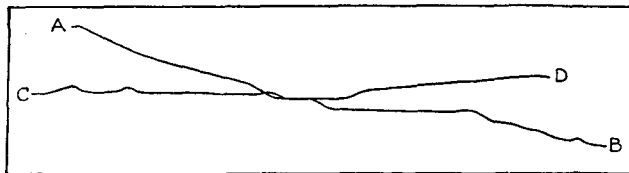
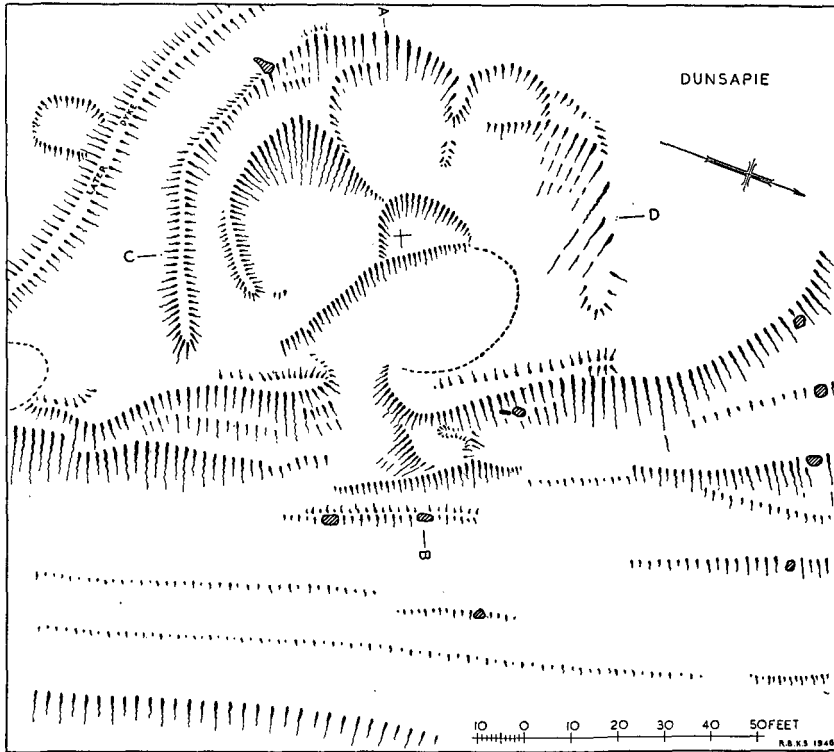


Fig. 2. Scooped enclosure and terraces, Dunsapie (Site 6).

drop internally of 18 feet. It had at least five internal “floors” of varying size, in some of which the grass is now a brighter green. It lies 40 yards uphill from the highest point on the Park’s boundary wall. This is the gentlest sloping side of the crag, forming a broad ridge which slopes towards the east and which is crossed by a number of horizontal terraces, some for the most part faint and rig-like. (This series continues below, outside the



Park boundary.)<sup>1</sup> The clearest of them is anomalous in that it swings uphill at the sides of the ridge, being transformed into a sort of boundary dyke. It is in fact not really a terrace, and is probably much older than the terrace system (see p. 168 below). Its front, however, has been in part steepened by the formation of a negative lynchet which nibbled back into it. The front of the enclosure coincides with this "terrace," and the lower enclosing bank runs along the top of it. The entrance has been cut through the "terrace," and the lynchet below is blocked to the north of the entrance by the resulting heap of spoil. The approach hollow stretches southwards. Apparently, then, the enclosure was made after the terraces were first formed. However, some indistinct marks where a positive lynchet is obliterated north of the spoil heap suggest that the ploughing may have continued and swung obliquely past the entrance obstruction. Gaps at the lower ends of the enclosure's surrounding bank, and still more the virtual obliteration of its northern side, suggest the possibility of ploughing after its abandonment.

There are no vertical rigs just here, but on the gentler slope to the north the terraces merge into a series of vertical rigs; this may be a mere coincidence, for there is a slight indication that the upper true terraces swung along the side of the hill where the vertical rigs seem to abut on them obliquely. In general the contrast must be formulated as being less between rigs and terraces than between working the plough-team along and across the contours. Ideas on drainage must have differed in the two cases. It may not be unreasonable to connect the custom of scooping and terracing habitation sites with the deliberate formation of cultivation terraces. However that may be, there is nothing to suggest that both the curvilinear buildings and the terraces are not of earlier date than the vertical rig cultivation, and we have already indicated that elsewhere in the Park it is rectangular cottages that may be connected with the later mode of ploughing. The earlier remains may be vaguely dubbed mediæval.<sup>2</sup>

At two other places in the Park there are remains of single scooped enclosures. The first is 200 yards south-west of the Windy Gowl (Pl. XVIII, 7). A grassy circle has been formed by terracing the front to a height of 6 feet, while the back has been cut over 10 feet deep into the hillside. The enclosing wall, 95 feet in diameter, is recognisable at the sides, where one of the stones sticks up in the middle of a later road crossing the middle of the enclosure. The road may be the chief reason why no floors are distinguishable. The scarp of the modern road has obscured the back. Various adjacent bumps defy interpretation. The situation, low down at the edge of Duddingston Loch, is so far unparalleled for this type of structure; but it may not be irrelevant to note that the Duddingston terraces and those

<sup>1</sup> Graham, *op. cit.*

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, 1940-41, pp. 106-108.

TERRACES AND ENCLOSURES, ARTHUR'S SEAT.

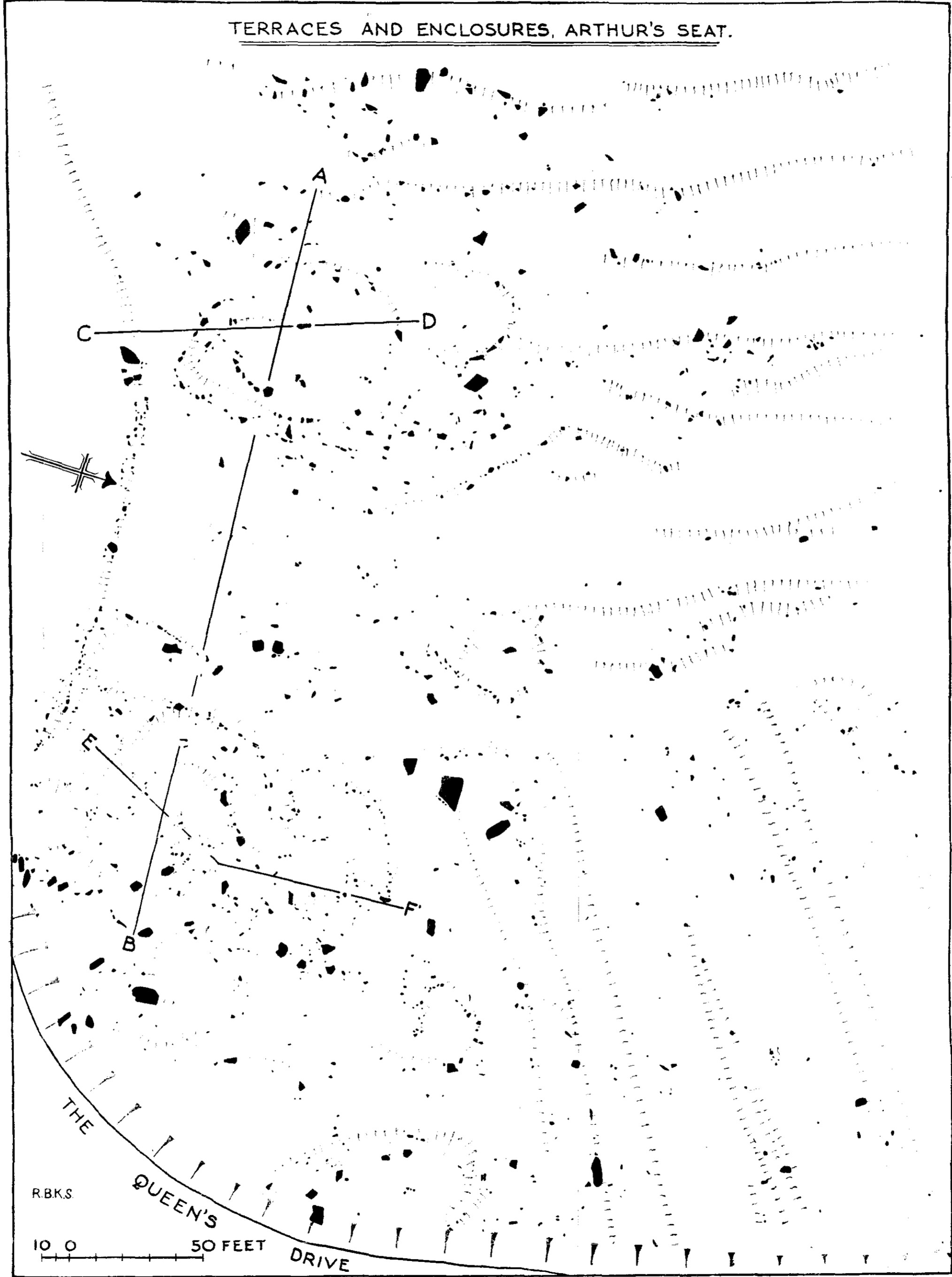
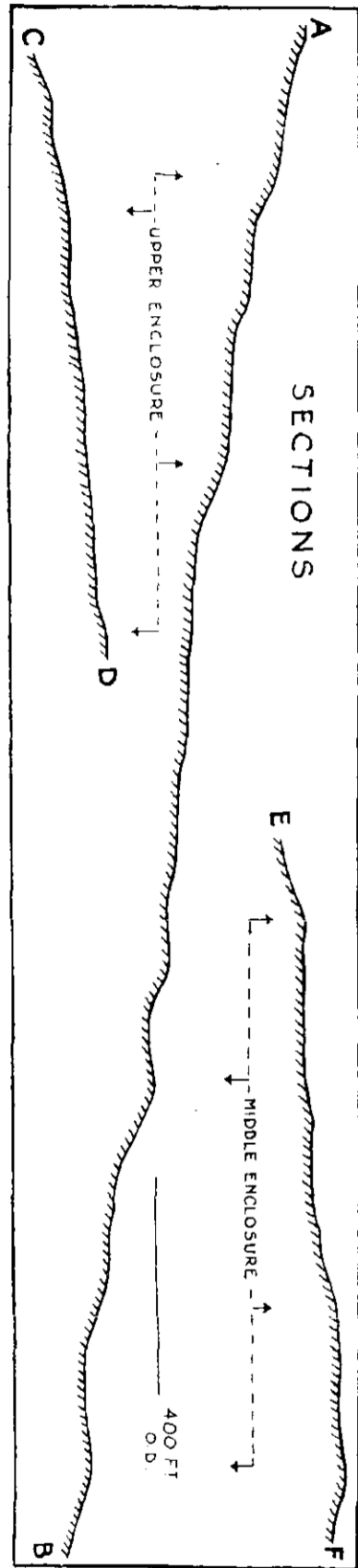


Fig. 1. Terraces and enclosures, Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh (Site 5); with relative Sections.

in the Windy Gowl, along with those at Haggis Knowe on the other side of the Park, are the lowest on record.<sup>1</sup>

The other enclosure is even less clearly recognisable, being located beside the remains of debris tips worked in connection with the quarries in the Salisbury Crags above it.<sup>2</sup> It lies 130 yards west of the Hawse gap and just above the grassy road mentioned on p. 159 (Pl. XVIII, 8). The banked-up front is retained by good-sized blocks. A block that may have fallen forward bears a bench-mark. About 120 feet across and 55 feet from front to back, the oval enclosure contains what appear to be traces of several "floors." The back has been obscured by a quarryer's track running along the top of the scooping. There are some indications of subsidiary structures outside.

#### DEFENSIVE DYKE.

Let us return to Dunsapie and follow the terraces which continue up the most accessible part of Arthur's Seat to over 600 feet above sea-level. Just above the last terrace a large rectangular enclosure spans the mouth of the small valley that runs below the main peak (Pl. XVIII, 9, and fig. 3, C). The upper side, nearly 50 yards long, of this enclosure forms the lower side of a much larger roughly rectangular enclosure, which stretches up the valley for over 100 yards, enclosing an area which, to judge from the cut-away appearance of the north-west edge and other indications, has at one time mostly been ploughed parallel to the long edges (*i.e.* vertically). There may possibly have been a small circular structure 25 yards down from the southern corner, while in the eastern corner there are clearer remains of a curvilinear structure.<sup>3</sup> The walls of these enclosures are about 3 feet thick and similar to those of the cottage site on the Dasses. The common wall runs, however, along the top of a massive bank. Some large revetting stones of the bank, at one point in a double row, can be seen 8 feet to 15 feet out from the line of the wall, which is obviously secondary. It may be added that the curvilinear structure just mentioned appears to have been built partly on the bank and prior to the wall. The lowest enclosure wall, 40 feet to 45 feet away, also runs along the top of a bank, although one of slighter construction; some possible revetting blocks are 4 feet out from the wall face. Both banks continue south-east beyond the enclosures, and immediately pile up against the line of low crags bounding the valley. For what follows see fig. 3, B. On the top of the crags the line of the upper bank is continued south-east

<sup>1</sup> Graham, *op. cit.*

<sup>2</sup> For these, and also the mid-sixteenth-century enclosure of the Park, see W. Forbes Gray in *Book of The Old Edinburgh Club*, vol. xviii. pp. 184 and 195.

<sup>3</sup> None of the visible remains are likely to result from the encampment of the mutinous Seaforths, who are shown on old maps as having camped hereabouts in 1778. Traces of a small rectangular building within the smaller enclosure must be quite modern, as a recent Home Guard trench exposed concrete fragments.

across a rocky knoll by lines of stones; that the features above and below the crags are one work can best be seen from near the top of the Lion's Head. From about 40 yards south-east of the crag the line is continued along the north-east face of the Lion's Haunch by what at first sight appears to be a grassy terraced road, some of its material coming obviously from adjacent surface quarrying. As a road it is impracticable and leads nowhere; moreover, from its line it is seen to be a further extension of the bank we started by considering. The next hypothesis—that we are dealing with a boundary dyke, probably separating the cultivated land of the terraces from the rough pasture above—must in turn be abandoned because of two difficulties. Firstly, the lower bank is also continued by a line of walling whose scanty remains are recognisable along the steep hillside some 20 feet in front of the main line of the grassy terrace. Secondly, there is the character of both ends of these parallel dykes. Before dealing with these points in turn it may be interjected that an air photograph (Pl. XIX, D-D), taken since this discussion was written, demonstrates clearly the unity of the whole upper line and parts of the lower one, besides bearing out the conclusions reached from the general appearance of the work.

A fairly close examination shows that from the cliff edge beside the lower bank scattered blocks, some representing footing still *in situ*, run southwards for 35 yards along the side of the rocky knoll, approaching steadily closer to the upper dyke as the slope becomes steeper. Then for about 120 yards, and more convincingly in the first 45 yards than elsewhere, the traces of walling, continuing equidistant from the upper line, are chiefly confined to points where the purchase afforded by natural projections has prevented the stones slipping with the hillwash down the steep slopes. Thereafter there is a stretch of 35 yards during which the lower line appears as an unmistakable green terrace. (It is arguable that this terrace sprouts at a low angle from the upper line, and that the indications of a lower line, which we have been following for the last 120 yards, are illusory, due, if anything, to tumble from the upper-line—here the only one. But if, as the writer is persuaded, there are real traces of walling in the first 45 yards, it must have continued for the rest of the way, because the only place where the north-east stretch of the lower line could have merged is before that, round the rocky knoll; and there are no signs of an actual merger.) The upper line from about this point crosses a rocky outcrop where it is marked only by scattered blocks, few clearly footings of a wall face. From here the two diverge, but both run downhill (fig. 3, A), the lower one very obliquely for about 20 yards, to negotiate the crossing of a ridge of rock which leads them down over a sloping shelf and, converging again, to the edge of a further rocky escarpment. Below runs another shelf along the top of the high precipice above the Queen's Drive. This lower shelf may have been barred by a single dyke, but the traces are uncertain except for an otherwise inexplicable series of

blocks near the edge, which continue the direction of the upper line below a natural gully.

The northern end of the double dyke (fig. 3, D) can be traced beyond the banks with which our consideration of the problem began. The upper bank, after crossing a low natural hillock, turns slightly uphill. After 35 yards (some 15 yards *beyond* the corner of the large enclosure) it turns rather sharply uphill alongside the modern path to the Summit. After another 20 yards, scattered sandstone blocks beside and lying in the path-way show that this crosses its line. Thereafter the surface of the hillside may have slipped away down the steep slope to the Dry Dam valley, and traces of the dyke do not reappear beyond—unless the path marks its back for a stretch. The lower bank continues for 8 yards beyond the lower enclosure, but then, as indicated by stray mounds, diverges from the upper line towards another hillock, tapering off, however, before reaching it, thus leaving a gap 12 feet wide. A green hollow like a quarry-ditch runs along the back of this rather faint tapering portion. The upper slope of the hollow, which is more distinct, seems to be continuous with a stony bank which forms the north-west side of the entrance to the large enclosure. On the other side of the present path is a corresponding stony bank which does not continue as far as the lower dyke. The banks look too regular to be simply due to the clearing of fallen dyke stones from the path, and the gap in the lower line with the hollow and bank behind suggest an oblique walled-in entrance. At any rate there is no suggestion of a gap anywhere else in the whole work. There are no remains of any structure running up the steep side of the lower hillock unless an isolated group of stones may be such, and for a few yards the top too is bare. But just inside the crest round the north-east quadrant of the knoll there is a green hollow, again suggesting a quarry-ditch. The bank dug from it, which we may assume once crowned the crest, has, however, gone. The north-west side of the hillock, which runs back towards the upper dyke, drops sharply to the Dry Dam valley. Perhaps it was under surveillance, for there is a rather faint indication of what could be a small hut floor (20 feet across) just above the end of the quarry-ditch.

The very existence of a double line, of which the inner is stronger than the outer, most massive and widely spaced where the ground is least steep, the rising up against the crag, and the behaviour of the southern end, all suggest a defensive position. This alone explains the divergence and turns at the northern end, where two natural hillocks are incorporated in the lines and where the upper line turns away uphill not only as if to hold the head of the steep slope to the Dry Dam, but also to avoid being overlooked if the outer knoll were lost. Only a few men could infiltrate into the position from the rear, up the gullies and narrow places all in turn commanded by the devious crags of the Lion's Haunch and the Summit.

Only excavation could, if lucky, give an idea of the period of the work, but the extent to which the lower line has disappeared entirely suggests a considerable age. Moreover, the main bank was no doubt much in its present condition when the enclosure wall was built. Traces of a small turf enclosure behind the lower hillock also seem secondary to the lower bank.

The work, it must however be confessed, falls into no recognised class, though parts of the, so far unrecorded, outer works of Dalmahoy Hill fort (*Ancient Mon. Com. Report*, Midlothian, No. 217) indicate similar structural principles. This may suggest a "dark age" date, as the fort is analogous to several known to be of that period. The problem is perhaps further complicated by a somewhat similar—but single and simple—terraced line (Pl. XVIII, 10) with some massive revetment blocks, which cuts off a large corner of the Salisbury Crags. There the remains have been surmounted by a stone-faced turf dyke demonstrably contemporary with the largest extent of the Camstone Quarry, which has taken a huge bite out of the older work.

#### DUNSAPIE FORT.

The traces of the presumably early iron age fort which surmounted the top of Dunsapie Crag are indistinct. As already recorded (*Ancient Mon. Com. Report*, Midlothian, No. 10), a single rampart ran near the edge of the more precipitous parts, marked chiefly by footings and small stones, and along the top of the eastern slope, where it forms in places quite a massive bank. A pear-shaped area some 150 by 75 yards is enclosed (Pl. XVIII, 11). The rampart bank is 55 yards uphill from the back of the scooped enclosure described above on p. 163, while the "later dyke" shown in fig. 2 continues uphill to cross the rampart just north of the entrance, 20 yards from the fort's northern end. From the corner there a horn-work seems to have run downhill to crown a shoulder of rock—footings indicate a wall 9 feet thick; the shoulder overlooks a path, which may therefore mark the original approach. Further, from the top of the path the boundary dyke mentioned on p. 164 runs eastwards to form a large loop, ultimately almost rejoining the fort's rampart at the southern end. The area so enclosed may in all probability have been an annexe to the fort, and some of the small levelled hollows scattered about may therefore represent huts of the fort period. The sole inner and outer entrances to the structure were close together, for other than at the path there is no gap in the outer dyke, except for the demonstrably secondary entrance to the scooped site. Along the western flank of the crag, almost a third of the way down, there is what is more likely to be an outer defence on that side than a cultivation terrace.

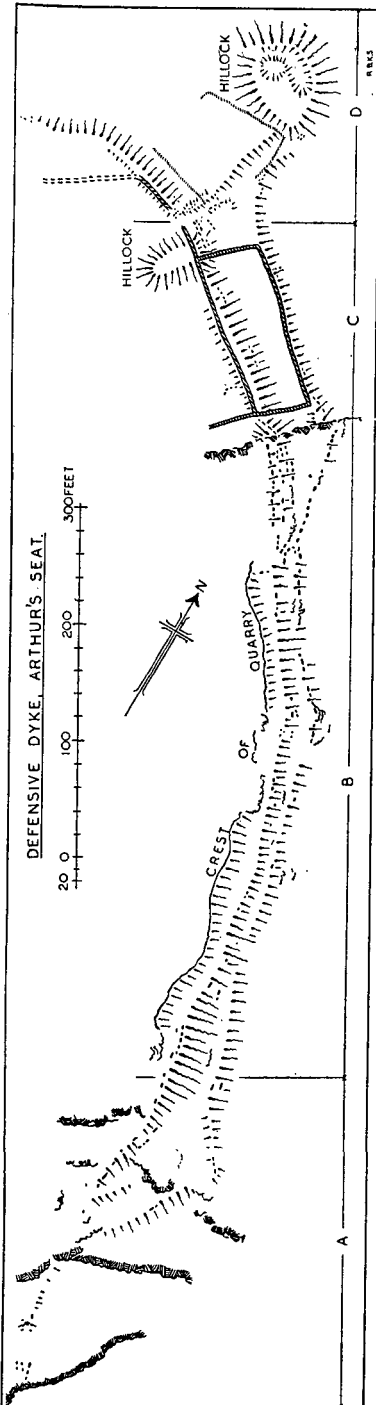


Fig. 3. Defensive Dyke, Arthur's Seat (Site 9).

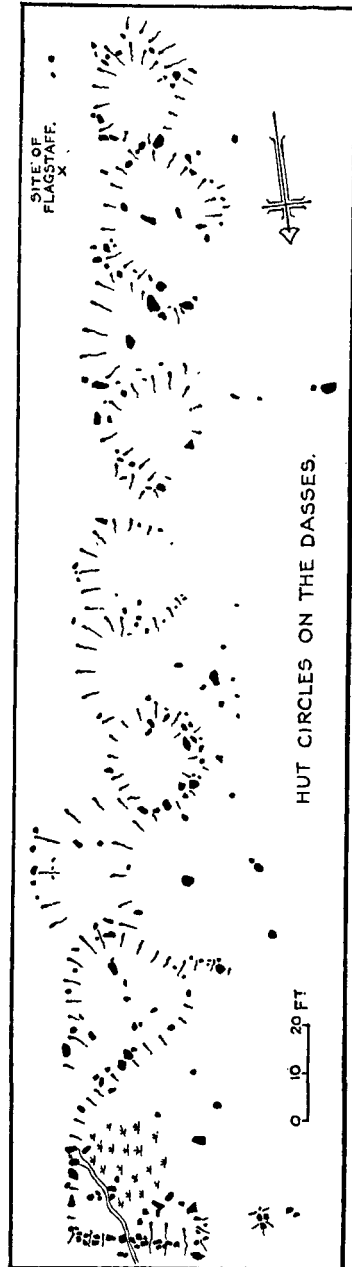


Fig. 4. Hut-circles on the Dasses, King's Park (Site 12).

## HUT-CIRCLES.

The last important feature in the Park to which attention is now drawn may be considered the oldest of all. Situated on the second highest of the Dasses which forms a tiny secluded valley over 170 feet above the Hunter's Bog, there is a row of hut-circles nestling into the edge of the debris that has come down from the Lang Raw (Pl. XVIII, 12, and fig. 4). The lower end of the valley has been closed by a stone-faced bank through which there runs away the water from a spring. This flows out under boulders that once, no doubt, were part of a protecting wall. The line of the wall merges after half a dozen yards into the lower edge of a circle marked by a level space 23 feet in diameter. Although there are then some rather indefinite artificial features, the next hut 25 feet away is very distinct, particularly the wall-footings of its western half. The internal diameter had been under 20 feet. The remaining four huts 10 to 15 feet apart except the last two, which touch, vary in size and distinctness. The end one, barely 16 feet across inside, is most clear, being not only cut more into the hillside than the others, but having had to be banked up outside. It will be noted on the plan that the upper edges of most of the huts appear to have been connected by a scarping of the slope. The total length of this little "village" is just under 50 yards.

For completeness we must note the existence of what may be another hut circle, 25 to 30 feet in diameter, at the head of the lowest of the Dasses.

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