

## Marginal Land Survey Typescripts: Ayrshire Index

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Ayrshire.

EARTHWORK, HARPERCROFT (See the plan made by the Commission in 1953, and Proceedings, vol. xxviii, 390).

Inner Enclosure This is approximately circular and is defended by a single rampart. Except on the N. side, where it is drawn across flat ground, the rampart runs along a well-marked shoulder which takes the form of a scarp about 6 ft. in height. One or two outer facing stones are still in situ, and a great deal of tumbled stone on the face of the scarp shows that the rampart has, in fact, been a substantial stone wall, but its thickness is uncertain in the absence of any sign of inner facings. What Christison took to be inner facings are actually the ruins of a later dyke, built of materials from the older wall and no doubt contemporary with the croft shown on the plan. There are no definite indications of the original entrance but it probably lay in the wide gap on the N. The stone-revetted track on the SE. is unquestionably modern, while the gap on the E. seems to be due to ploughing. The croft and field walls clearly belong to a later occupation, and the mounds noted by Christison are presumably field-clearance heaps. The L-shaped wall on the SE. probably belongs to an outbuilding connected with the croft. The whole of the top of the hill is enclosed within the rampart, and consists of a more or less level area which has been ploughed at some time in the past. Any original structures have been obliterated.

Outer Enclosure On the W. side, N. of the point where a later dyke diverges from it, the outer rampart is indicated only by a crest-line running along the lower shoulder of the hill and overlooking a marshy hollow to the NW. The scarp is only 6 ft. in height at the point of junction with the later dyke, but increases to 20 ft. in height at the gully, and then diminishes again. The bottom of the scarp is about 15 ft. in from the dyke at the N. end of the gully and continues at this distance from it as long as they remain parallel. All the stones have been robbed from the rampart in this sector to build field walls. There is a break in the scarp, 33 ft. in width, situated opposite the hedge running down from Wardlaw Hill, and on a saddle which offers easy access to the fort. Another track, 20 ft. in width, occurs just before a modern wall across the line of the rampart and where a transverse gully cuts it at right angles. On the NE. side the modern wall lies 12 ft. in from the edge/

edge of the scarp (the hachures can be made of arbitrary length here on the final plan, for the slope is long and unbroken). The first signs of tumbled stone appear where the scarp has broken away back to the line of the modern wall at the first tree. The break is 60 ft. in width, and beyond it the scarp is again 12 ft. in from the dyke with, however, a distance of 8 ft. between the top and bottom and a height of 6 ft. The scarp becomes increasingly stony, and where the first kink appears in the wall, the outer face of the rampart is visible for the first time, 5 ft. beyond the wall; it is 7 ft. in length and consists of a core of small stones faced with large boulders. The crest here is only 6 ft. from the dyke but the bottom of the scarp is still 8 ft. out and 6 ft. in height. The rampart continues in this state to the E. apex, where the ruined wall branches off to the ESE: beyond this point the scarp is very slight and the wall is superimposed on the crest. The scarp next becomes a mound with a very slight inner slope some 10 ft. inside the dyke, and an outer slope 6 ft. beyond the dyke as shown on the air photographs. Here loose stone is visible on both sides but there are no facings. The inner slope of the mound gradually decreases in width to the point where the modern wall diverges from its line, and a ruined wall takes its place. The latter starts on the line of the rampart then, after a short distance, cuts 15 ft. inside it before resuming again on the same course. In this sector the scarp is about 8 - 12 ft. out, but on this side the rampart does not follow a contour but is drawn arbitrarily across a slight slope. Some 60 yds N. of the starting point in this description, a track 8 ft. wide, and probably secondary, cuts obliquely through the crest-line from WSW.

The conclusion is that the outer rampart has been substantially stone wall, like the inner one, but its width is uncertain. Its line is in some measure dictated by the contours but on the SW. it deliberately chooses a curvilinear path. Air photographs and the O.S. map should be employed to complete the plan.

360325

xxii S. E.

16 March 1953

41986

MSS	.....	KS
PLAN	.....	
MAP	.....	
M.R.	.....	
REFS.	.....	

AYRSHIRE

CRAIGIE

DUN, "CAMP CASTLE", CRAIGIE. The ruined structure known as "Camp Castle", a quarter of a mile due N. of Craigie, stands on the level top of a small ridge of rock lying E. and W. The N. and S. sides of the ridge are moderately steep and rise 60 ft. and 15 ft. respectively above their immediate surroundings, but the E. and W. ends are gently inclined and possess no defensive value. Although the structure has been largely wrecked by stone-robbers, and is classified simply as a "site" on the O.S. map, sufficient remains to show that it has consisted of a stone wall, from 13 ft. to 15 ft. in thickness, which encloses a circular area 35 ft. in diameter (Fig. ). Except on the W. arc, where it has been completely destroyed by surface quarrying, the foundation course of the outer face of the wall, comprising large boulders measuring 2 ft. in height and up to 3 ft. 6 ins. in length, is traceable for the greater part of the circuit: the slight bulge in these facings on the SW. is probably not an original feature but has been caused by local displacement of the foundations when the superstructure collapsed. Only two, or possibly three, stones of the inner face are now visible, but the approximate position of this <sup>face</sup> ~~place~~ is marked by a slight crest-line on the NW. half of the circuit. The structure is certainly not mediaeval, as might be inferred from the name "Camp Castle", and although no signs of an entrance, or of chambers or galleries, <sup>ri</sup> ~~in the walls~~, can be seen <sup>in the wall</sup> at the present time, it might prove on excavation to be a broch.

NS 427327

xxiii S.W. ("Camp Castle", site of).

21 August 1952.

42857

MSS	KS
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	

AYRSHIRE.

Ballantrae

ENCLOSURES, FINNARTS HILL. On open moorland 70 yds. SW. of the summit of Finnarts Hill and at a height of 650 ft. O.D. there is a roughly circular enclosure measuring 57 ft. in diameter within a ditch and external bank (Fig. ). From it there is a magnificent view northwards along the Ayrshire coast as far as Downan Point, and westwards across the entrance to Loch Ryan and the N. end of the Rhinns of Galloway, Ireland being visible on a clear day. The bank and ditch are clearly non-defensive in character, each having a mean width of only 8 ft.; at the present time the ditch is not more than 18 ins. deep, and the bank, which appears to be formed simply of upcast from the ditch, is less than 12 ins. in height. The interruption in the bank and ditch on the NNW. arc may represent an original entrance, but needs to be tested by excavation, since the apparent causeway across the ditch could be due to the deposit of material from the two modern holes which have removed part of the bank at this point. The interior is flat and covered with peat, and the only feature is a shallow hole which has been dug near the centre in recent times. The work is obviously of considerable antiquity, and in view of the fact that it is situated above the present limit of the peat, and in close proximity to a cairn which has yielded a Food Vessel,<sup>1</sup> it is presumably a Bronze Age burial of ring-barrow type.

1. P.S.A.S., lxxviii (1943-4), 136-7.

On the summit of the same hill there are some faint traces, too indefinite to plan, of another quasi-circular enclosure, in this case formed by a stony bank and an external ditch, each about 6 ft. in width, and measuring some 55 ft. in diameter internally.

Ballantrae, 1954

This must be a  
burial site.  
K.S.

AYRSHIRE

BALLANTRAE

ENCLOSURES, FINNARTS HILL. On open moorland 70 yds. SW. of the summit of Finnarts Hill and at a height of 650 ft. O.D. there is a roughly circular enclosure measuring 57 ft. in diameter within a ditch and external bank (Fig. ). From it there is a magnificent view northwards along the Ayrshire coast as far as Downan Point, and westwards across the entrance to Loch Ryan and the N. end of the <sup>Ruins</sup> ~~Ruins~~ of Galloway, Ireland being visible on a clear day. The bank and ditch are clearly non-defensive in character, each having a mean width of only 8 ft.; at the present time the ditch is not more than 18 ins. deep, and the bank, which appears to be formed simply of upcast from the ditch, is less than 12 ins. in height. The interruption in the bank and ditch on the NNW, are <sup>may</sup> ~~probably~~ represent an original entrance, but needs to be tested by excavation, since the apparent causeway across the ditch <sup>could</sup> ~~may~~ be due to the deposit of material from the two modern holes which have removed part of the bank at this point. The interior ~~was~~ is flat and covered with peat, and the only feature is a shallow hole which has been dug near the centre in recent times. The work is obviously of considerable antiquity, and in view of the fact that it is situated above the present limit of the peat, and in close proximity to a cairn which has yielded a Food Vessel<sup>(1)</sup>, <sup>it is presumably a Bronze Age burial of</sup> ~~a Bronze Age date seems likely. But whether it represents~~ <sup>black ring-barrow type. burial site</sup> ~~a homestead site or a ritual enclosure can only be determined by~~ excavation.

On the summit of the same hill there are some faint traces, too indefinite to plan, of another quasi-circular enclosure, in this case formed by a stony bank and an external ditch, each about 6 ft. in width, and measuring some 55 ft. in diameter internally. ~~The dilapidated condition of the work makes it impossible to decide whether or not there was an entrance, and the interior shows no sign of structures.~~

MSS.	K.S.
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	

(1) P.S.A.S., lxxviii (1943-4), 136-7.

052742

62643

Ayrshire.

MOTTE, DINVIN. The earthwork known as "Dinvin" is obviously a motte, and one of the best preserved monuments of its kind in Scotland.

200933

lvi S.W.

12 May 1953

MSS	KS	.....
PLAN		.....
MAP		.....
M.R.		.....
REFS.		.....

4112

AYRSHIRE

WEST KILBRIDE

DUN, BOYDSTON. This structure (Fig. ), 300 yds. W. of Boydston, occupies a small triangular point of land which projects from the escarpment overlooking the 25 ft. raised beach. The site is bounded on all three sides by gullies, those on the NW. and SE. having been cut by former watercourses, while the other, on the NE., or landward side, may represent an original ditch, dug by the builders of the dun, which has subsequently been enlarged by natural agencies. The remains comprise two walls, the innermost of which (A on the plan) was no doubt once continuous and enclosed the whole of the level ground at the SW. end of the plateau, while the outer line (B), situated on the NE. side, provided a covering defence for the entrance. More than half the inner wall has been destroyed by erosion so that the original size and shape of the work are unknown. The surviving portion is 17 ft. in thickness, and consists of a solid core of small stones faced on either side with dry walling composed of large undressed boulders up to 2 ft. 9 ins. in length; a single course of these facings can be traced intermittently round the outside of the wall, but the inner face is only exposed at one point where a small pit has been dug against the back of the wall in recent times. The outer wall, of which only the core and an occasional outer facing stone are now visible, appears to have been similar in construction to the main wall but not more than 10 ft. in thickness. The original entrance to the structure is probably represented by the modern track which runs obliquely through the outer wall and then directly through the inner wall.

219448

xi S.W. ("Fort").

26 May 1953.

MSS	KS
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	



40853

Ayrshire.

FORT, HOLLOWSHEAN. The plan and description given in Proceedings (vol. xxvii, 396) are adequate. The work may be accepted as an Early Iron Age fort, with either heaped ramparts of earth and stone, or stone walls which have been heavily robbed. The inner rampart has clearly been continuous, while the others appear to have defended only a part of the circuit.

244063

xliv S.W. ("Camp"). 29 May 1953.

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
M.A.P.	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

62566

Ayrshire.

FORT, MAXWELLSTON HILL. An oval fort with two earthen ramparts which are presumably contemporary although they are not parallel. The plan given by Smith (fig. 273) is better than the one in Proceedings (vol. xxvii, 395) since the latter omits the two entrances. The ramparts are formed of up-cast from external ditches, and still appear as mounds across the flat eastern approach, but elsewhere they have been reduced to crest-lines. The work appears to be unfinished for the following reasons:

- 1) The outer rampart has not been continued to the N. of the W. gate.
- 2) Both ramparts and ditches have an unfinished look, the ditch being perfunctory in some places as though it was simply a marking-out trench.

The gap in the defences on the NW. seems original to judge from the abrupt and well-defined terminals of the ditches on either side of it. There is no trace of huts.

260990

1 S. E

12 May 1953.

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

Ayrshire.

? DUN, HOWMUIR QUARRY. The site is an oval rocky knoll standing about 12 ft. in height on the N. and W. sides, the S. and SE sides merging with the general slope of the hill. Around the base on the N. and W. there is a ditch which is best preserved at the W. apex where it is 4 ft. deep and has an effective width of 15 ft. On the N. it is traceable by a very slight depression now filled with rushes, and on the S. it appears as a terrace, but it is no longer visible on the E. or SE. The gap on the W. side may represent an original entrance, but if so the quarry must have destroyed the road linking this entrance with the summit. Alternatively, the causeway may have been laid across the ditch to serve the quarry, the original entrance to the site being at the E. end. A slight remnant of a marginal mound, no doubt once continuous, survives on the N. side of the ditch. It is not more than 1 ft. high and shows no stonework.

The remains on the flat summit of the hill comprise the following elements:-

- (1) A slightly scooped, horse-shoe shaped depression measuring 20 ft. x 25 ft.
- (2) ~~The~~ ditch or robber-trench round the S. margin.
- (3) A ragged bank (probably the upcast mound from a robber-trench) on the E. side.

It seems probable that these remains represent a wrecked dun of Craigie Castle type, but the point could only be determined by excavation. There is now no stonework to be seen anywhere. A plan of the site has been made but is scarcely worth reproducing in view of the ambiguous nature of the structure.

MSS	NS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

40829

Ayrshire.

FORT, KILDOON. As Smith says (p.178), this is a vitrified fort. The plan closely resembles that of Trusty's Hill fort, an inner vitrified rampart, oval in plan, being supplemented by another rampart which has been carried round the side of the hill and also by an outer hornwork on the W. side. Vitrification was observed at the NE. corner of the base of the monument and at the SE. corner of the rampart. A recent detailed description of the work is given in Proceedings (vol. ~~lxxii~~<sup>lxxiii</sup>, 39).

298074

xliv S.E.

29 April 1953 .

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

41667

Ayrshire

FORT, DOWANS HILL. A fort with triple defences, now in the last stages of decay. The inner defence, which was probably a stone wall, is now represented by a low bank, while the other two defences appear simply as intermittent crest-lines. A plan of the site is desirable, but there does not appear to be any immediate urgency.

347125

xxxix SW. ("Earthwork").

29 April 1953.

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

40852

Ayrshire.

MOTTE, SHANTER KNOWE. The feature known as "Shanter Knowe" is a motte composed of sand and pebbles. The finds recorded by Smith (p.203) no doubt represent an earlier occupation of the site.

218075

xliv S.W.

29 May 1953.

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

62075

Ayrshire.

FORT, DOW HILL. The plan and description of this fort given in Proceedings (vol. xxvii, 392) are satisfactory, except that the "citadel" is ~~over-emphasized~~ in the drawing. It was no doubt bounded by a wall, but all the stones have been removed leaving only a low, intermittent mound: the thickness of the wall can only be determined by excavation. The work has been classified as a fort in view of its situation, and the fact that it is larger and more heavily defended than the local duns.

192962

lv N.E.

29 May 1953

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

41053

Ayrshire.

DUN, GLENFOOT. This is a small dun, circular in shape and measuring only 40 ft. in diameter within an earthen or rubble bank. There may be another next to it, as Smith says, but the evidence does not amount to proof. A plan should be made in due course.

214454

x S.E. ("Fort")

31 May 1952

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....



41640

Ayrshire.

"CAMP", VINCENT COTTAGE (SITE). The site is a damp gully leading into a bog. There is nothing to see and the so-called "camp" is probably bogus.

363135

xxxix S.E.

29 March 1953.

MSS	Ky
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

42730

A yrshire.

MOTTE, TARBOLTON. (See Commission plan made in 1953). This motte occupies <sup>the tip of a</sup> ~~a deep~~ and triangular promontory. It is 11 ft. in height, and has been surrounded by a ditch which is still visible as a shallow depression on the SE. The motte is in a mutilated condition owing to later disturbance and would not be likely to repay excavation. There are no certain traces of a bailey, but it is reasonable to suppose that the motte would be enclosed by a rampart following the crest of the promontory as shown on the plan, while the later field bank running across the bank of the promontory is probably based on the remains of such a rampart.

On the S. side of the motte, and overlying the ditch, is an enigmatic round structure consisting of a circular bank, some 18 ins. high and apparently of earth, surrounding a slightly hollowed area. Fires have obviously been lit within it in recent times but its original purpose is obscure.

432273

xxviii N.W. ("Moat"). 27 May 1953 .

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REPS.	.....

Ayrshire.

FAISA. The following "Forts" referred to in Smith's Prehistoric Man of Ayrshire do not exist or are other types of structures.

1. Goldenberry Hill (p.7). There is nothing to see of this feature, and the "Fort" mentioned by Mr. Adams above Bankend Wood is simply a natural spur.

2. Knockewart Hill (p.23). No visible remains.

3. So-called Roman Trenches near Tarbolton (p.151) are simply hollow-tracks made by cattle.

4. Castle Hill, Greenock Way<sup>ter</sup> (p.135). No visible remains.

5. Pencote Hill (p.71). This hill is not marked on the O.S. map, but no signs of the supposed double ditches can be seen either from the road, or on the air photographs, on either Pondery Hill or Whin Hill.

6. Castle Hill (p.72). No visible remains, although the site is eminently suitable for a prehistoric or medieval stronghold.

7. Glengemet (p.211). The so-called "ramparts" are merely a series of hollow-tracks leading to a river crossing.

8. Bower Hill (p.180). The so-called "ditch" is a natural gully, 35-40 ft. wide, which cuts off the little headland. Its width, and the fact that it is straight, not curved, mark it as a purely natural feature.

9. Sighthill (p.135). This is a late medieval site similar to the one at Netherwood Plantation (Notebook S 7 p. 26).

MSS.	K.S.	.....
PLAN		.....
MAP		.....
M.R.		.....
REPS.		.....

SHELL KNOWE, ALMONT (Smith's Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire, 216). This must be the Almont "Fort" referred to by Smith, so that the Ordnance Survey would appear to have transplanted the name Shell Knowe from the <sup>m</sup>foraine, which is visible from the road, to the "Fort". It is a natural knoll which ~~has~~ probably been adapted to serve as a motte; the so-called ditch is not convincing.

1887

lxi S.E.

16 September 1953

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REPS.	.....

41985

Ayrshire.

FORT, WARDLAW HILL. Although not marked as an antiquity on the O.S. map, this is a perfectly good fort. Note that a plan and description are given in Proceedings (vol. xxvii, 393).

359 327

360325 = Harpurcott - *ibid.* 390

xxii S.E. (Hachures only) 25 May 1952.

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REPS	.....

Ayrshire.

? DUN, DOUNNAN (SITE). There is now nothing to see on the feature known as "Dounnan" although it may be taken for granted that the name implies it was once fortified.

230054.

1 N.W.

29 May 1953.

94-105

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

Ayrshire.

MOTTE, CASTLE HILL, ALSTON. A description of this motte is given in Proceedings (vol. lxxvii, 44-5) but the so-called enclosure on the E. side is simply the depression of a ditch. This feature is visible at the base of the motte on both the E. and W. sides, although it is largely filled up. Its original width was about 20 - 25 ft.

503388

xviii S. E.

19 August 1952.

45712

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

Ayrshire.

FORT, AULD HILL, PORTINCROSS. This vitrified fort is now in a poor condition. It seems to have consisted of a single oval rampart with hornworks at either end, but subsequently the E. end appears to have been cut off by a ditch and crowned by a rectangular (?) wall<sup>ed</sup> enclosure. PSAS, xxvii, 393.

8/  
171491

x N.E.

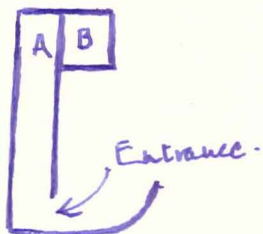
31 May 1952.

40587

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....



TURF ENCLOSURES, KNOCKINCULLOCH. Christison's plan in P.S.A.S., xxvi, 177, is substantially correct, but a few minor alterations have been noted in the Commission's copy of this Volume. The most important error is that Christison failed to notice that each of the nine long and narrow compartments has an opening at the junction with the wing wall varying from 3 - 6 ft. in width.



The wing wall must have been intended to help in driving stock into the long compartment, and the whole thing is thus a series of stock-pens. But there is no entrance between compartments A and B, and no obvious explanation of the curious lay-out of the site.

343005

li SW. (unsted).

7 July 1955.

41573

MOTTE, ALLOWAY. I agree with Smith (Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire, p. 159) that the hollow on the top of this motte, which measures 6 ft. in depth, is probably due to later interference, and it is reasonable to assume that the ground was originally level.

338180

xxxiii SW.

29 April 1953.

41610

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS	.....

Ayrshire

"EARTHWORKS", TARBOULTON. The so called "earthworks" recorded by Smith  
(Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire, p. 151) are simply hollow-tracks made by cattle.

442268

xxviii SW. (unnoted)

18 August 1952.

42710

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

DUN, KEMP LAW. Shortly before the date of visit, a man called MacLeod, probably a native of Kilmarnock or Darvel, had ~~branched~~<sup>trenched</sup> across the inner wall of this structure on the W. side. It appeared from his section that the wall was about 14 ft. in thickness and standing to a height of 2 ft. The inner half of the wall was vitrified throughout, whereas the outer half was unburned. The structure should probably be described as a dun rather than a fort, but it was so overgrown at the time of visit that detailed inspection was impossible.

P.S.A.S. xxvii, 390, 391.

355336

xxi SE. ("Fort"),

4 June 1952.

47981

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

Ayrshire

ENCLOSURE, CASTLE HILL, GLENSIDE. This is a small circular earthwork bounded by a single low bank and measuring about 80 ft. in diameter internally. There is no trace of any stone in the bank, nor sign of a ditch. The position is a strong one, on the edge of a ravine, but the work is not a motte nor a dun and its age and purpose are uncertain.

<sup>7</sup>  
209525

vi SE. ("Castle Hill").

3 June 1952.

41232

MSS.	RS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

Ayrshire

MOTTE, MONTFODE BURN. This structure is not a fort but a well-  
preserved motte.

225437

NW.  
xvi ("Fort").

2 June 1952.

51140

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

Ayrshire

MOTTE, KNOCKRIDOCH MOUNT. This structure is a motte, measuring 36 ft. by 24 ft. on the top, and having a ditch round the base. It was probably round in its original form but the sides have been trimmed <sup>by cultivation</sup> to a rectangular shape.

253452

xi SW.

2 June 1952.

40771

MSS.....	RS
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R.....	
REFS.....	

Ayrshire

FORT, KNOCK JARGON. A double-walled oval fort in a comparatively good state of preservation. The walls have both been about 10 ft. in thickness, and there is an outer ditch with an external upcast mound on the S. side. In the centre of the fort is a round ~~circular~~ cairn about 50 ft. in diameter. A plan of the fort should be made but there is no immediate urgency.

PSAS xvii, 397.

235473

xi NW.

2 June 1952.

4009

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....



DUN, CASTLE HILL (SITE). This structure has been completely quarried  
away.

285536

vii NE. (unnoted).

1 June 1952.

4177

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

Ayrshire

FORT, CARWINNING HILL. This has been a stone-walled fort, but it is now in the last stages of decay. A plan could be obtained, and should be undertaken as soon as possible.

P.S.A.S. xxvii 1 389-90.

286528

vii SE.

1 June 1952.

41203

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

Ayrshire

DUN, AITNACH CRAIG (SITE). No trace of this work can now be seen on the surface, but it was clearly a dun and not a fort. The site is a flat-topped roughly circular mound, measuring about 45 ft. in diameter.

278509

vii SE. ("Fort, site of")

2 June 1952.

MSS.....	K.S.
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R. ....	
REFS.....	

Ayrshire

INDETERMINATE REMAINS, DOWHILL MOUNT. This structure consists of a knoll round the base of which a wide ditch has been drawn on all sides except that facing the sea. The ditch carries an upcast bank on its outer margin, and its good state of preservation suggests a medieval or later date. The knoll is a natural formation but may have been artificially trimmed round the sides. On its summit there is a circular enclosure about 45 ft. in diameter bounded by a drystone wall which is set back a few yards from the margin of the summit area. From the notes it seems possible that this work is analogous to the supposed dun at Howmuir Quarry, but both sites should be revisited to determine the point.

A plan of the ~~present~~ structure would be worth making in due course but at present it appears to be in no danger.

203038

1 NW.

26 May 1952.

MSS.....	KS
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R. ....	
REFS.....	

Ayrshire.

EARTHWORK (SITE, TROWLER MOTE). All the <sup>traces</sup>~~remains~~ of this structure  
have been levelled by cultivation.

198977

lv NE.

26 May 1952.

62074

MSS.	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

Ayrshire.

EARTHWORK, TOWNHEAD. This rectangular earthwork is clearly of medieval date, and may be a homestead moat. A plan will eventually be needed but the site does not appear to be in any immediate danger.

406302

xxviii NW.

27 May 1952.

42873

MSS	K9
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

Ayrshire.

FORT, THE KNOCK. A double-ramparted Iron Age fort on a commanding hilltop. It is oval on plan, and measures about 160 ft. along the major axis. There is no sign of any huts. A plan should eventually be made, but there is no immediate urgency.

202628

iii NE.

31 May 1952.

PSM LXXVII (1942-3) 38. 41289  
VIT.

MSS.....	KS
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R.....	
REFS.....	

Ayrshire.

FORT, SEAMILL. This fort has been largely destroyed by the erection of a house within it, but the rampart is still well-preserved at the E. end. For the excavation of the site, see Ayrshire & Galloway Collections Vol. III.

203472

x SE.

31 May 1952.

40997

MSS.	<i>KS</i>	.....
PLAN		.....
MAP		.....
M.R.		.....
REFS.		.....




Ayrshire.

FORT CASTLE HILL. This fort consists of a single wall which encompasses the top of a knoll, together with a ditch round the base of the knoll on the S. side. The wall is about 9 ft. in thickness, and has been composed of a ~~rubble~~<sup>rubble</sup> core faced on each side with dry-walling. The outer wall referred to by Smith is doubtful, but the hut in the ditch looks genuine. The condition of the site is poor but there is no urgency for a plan.

215587

iii SE.

1 June 1952.

41166

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

AYRSHIRE

DUNDONALD

EARTHWORK, LOANS. This earthwork is situated on the flattish crest of a spur close to the S. side of the road from Loans to Dundonald and 1100 yds. N.E. of Loans cross-roads. It has been almost entirely obliterated by cultivation, the only surviving element consisting of a ditch, some 40 ft. in width and still 3 ft. to 4 ft. in depth, which ~~marks~~<sup>defines</sup> the N.E. side of the work, 120 ft. in length, and parts of the adjacent sides (fig. ). In view of the substantial nature of this ditch it seems probable that the earthwork is of medieval rather than prehistoric date; and if it was rectangular on plan, ~~with rounded corners~~, as the existing remains suggest, it may have been a homestead moat.

352323

xxi S.E. (unnoted).

17 March 1953.

41989

MSS	KAS	.....
M		.....
M.S.		.....
REFS.		.....

AYRSHIRE

DALRY

INDETERMINATE REMAINS, SOUTH HOURAT.

[Note: The mouth of a stone passage, consisting of a heavy cap-stone supported on vertical slabs, has been exposed by erosion in the top of the right bank of the glen of South Hourat, just outside the NW corner of the garth. The passage is at present choked with earth almost to roof level, but it evidently extends some distance into the bank as a second capstone can be seen beyond the first. Whether it is a chambered tomb, the flue of a kiln, or merely a medieval sewer can only be determined by excavation, and there is little point in recording the structure until this has been done. vii NE. 5, Note Book S 7, 10.]

MSS.	KS
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	

AYRSHIRE

COLMONELL

FORT, DUNIEWICK. Close to the northern foot of Knockdolian there is a detached rocky eminence known as Duniewick whose craggy sides rise steeply, and in places precipitously, for a height of 50 ft. This natural stronghold has been fortified by the construction of a stone wall round the margin of the summit area, excluding only a small area of shelving ground, broken by rock outcrops, at the E. end. The enclosure thus formed is roughly D-shaped on plan, measuring 100 ft. along its straight S. side by 85 ft. transversely, and was presumably entered from the W. side where a rocky cleft, running obliquely up the face of the hill, provides the only relatively easy access. The wall is in a heavily ruined condition at the present time, no facing stones being visible while the stone core is reduced to a mere rickle: its width cannot be accurately estimated but has probably exceeded 7 ft. The interior, which is more or less level and covered with turf, exhibits three roughly circular scoops, each about 15 ft. in diameter, which may be hut-floors. The only other feature, a length of turf dyke extending from the centre of the enclosure to the W. wall is more likely to be of recent origin.

116851

Lxvi N.W. (unnoted).

1 September 1954.

61960

MSS.....	KS
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R. ....	
REFS.....	

AYRSHIRE

COLMONELL

FORT, BALSALLOCH HILL. On Balsalloch Hill there are some slight traces of a native fort, oval on plan and measuring along the axes 300 ft. from NE. to SW. by 200 ft. transversely (Fig. ). The hill, which is linked by a broad saddle to Carleton Hill on the NE., presents a very steep face, 600 ft. in height, to the NW., and somewhat shorter and more gently inclined slopes to SE. and SW. The summit is rugged and uneven, being broken by rock outcrops, but in between the outcrops there are a number of fairly level grassy areas, some of which bear the marks of former rig-cultivations. Strips of old rig-cultivation running parallel with the contours can also be seen on the SE. flank of the hill and on the saddle to the NE. At the present time the only certain indication of the fort consists of the crest-line lettered A on the plan which represents the last vestige of a denuded wall or rampart. At the NE. end, an insignificant bank linking two rock outcrops may be the last surviving portion of this rampart, while a line of boulders exposed in a sheep-rub at the point marked X may have formed part of an external stone <sup>r</sup>revetment or kerb. Elsewhere, however, the rampart has been completely denuded, disclosing on the SW. and S. sides the artificially levelled platform, or terrace, on which it was based. Other ramparts <sup>are no doubt</sup> ~~may be~~ represented by the crest-line B on the plan, and by the fragmentary terraces C-H, ~~but it seems more likely that the latter are the remains of cultivation terraces.~~ Two entrances to the fort, one on the S. side and the other at the NE. end, may be original, but no sign of structures can be seen in the interior.

125891

1x S. E. (unnoted).

2 September 1954.

61991

MSS.	K.S.
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	

AYRSHIRE

COLMONELL

FORT, CARLETON HILL. Cultivation has destroyed almost all traces of the fort that once occupied the NE. end of the broad summit of Carleton Hill. The site is well suited for defence, being protected by a very steep slope, 500 ft. in height, on the NW., and by natural gullies lying at right-angles to the main axis of the hill, on the NE. and SW. No sign of fortifications can now be seen on any of these sides, but running horizontally along the SE. flank of the hill, a short distance below the crest, there are two parallel terraces, 15 ft. apart, which clearly represent the seatings for twin walls or ramparts. The upper terrace is only 40 yds. in length, but the lower terrace is twice as long and is doubtless complete since its ends rest on the two gullies mentioned above. There is now no trace of any entrance to the fort, nor of internal structures.

127894

lx S.E. and xi S.W. (unnoted).

2 September 1954.

Note A plan of this site has been made, but it is doubtful whether it is worth reproducing.

61992

MSS.	RS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

AYRSHIRE

COLMONELL

MOTTE, LITTLE CARLETON. The earthwork that stands on the E. side of the public road at Little Carleton is a motte, the precursor in earth and timber, of the stone tower known as Carleton Castle which is situated about 50 yds. to the W. It consists of a nearly circular mound (Fig. ), ranging in height from 6 ft. on the NE. to 22 ft. on the SW., with a ditch, some 20 ft. in width, round the base. Except on the N. quadrant, the ditch has been completely obliterated by road making or cultivation and the surviving portion, which is nowhere more than 1 ft. in depth, is rapidly being erased by the plough. Some slight indications of an upcast bank can be seen on the outer lip of the ditch on the NE. side, but as it swings northwards the bank merges with the general slope of the hill and is lost. The top of the motte is level and ovoid on plan, measuring 76 ft. in maximum length by 56 ft. in breadth; it is covered with turf and exhibits no features of interest.

NX/133895

lx S.E. ("Earthwork" in ordinary type).

8 September 1955.

61979

MSS.....	Ks.....
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R.....	
REFS.....	

AYRSHIRE

COLMONELL

FORT, BARGAIN HILL. On the summit of Bargain Hill, at a height of 700 ft. O.D., there are the vestigial remains of a pear-shaped fort which has been defended by double ramparts and a medial ditch, and has measured 300 ft. in length from ENE. to WSW. by 270 ft. in greatest width (Fig. ). The inner rampart is still traceable on the WSW. side in the form of a grassy bank from 10 ft. to 15 ft. in thickness and up to 2 ft. in height, but on the N. & SE. sides it is merely represented by a low scarp, while the ENE. end has been completely obliterated. Three boulders embedded in the base of the scarp on the SE. side suggest that the rampart may have had an external kerb or revetting wall of stone, but no stonework is visible at any other point on the circuit. Faint indications of the ditch and outer rampart, too indefinite for accurate measurement, can be seen on the WSW. side, and National Survey air photographs <sup>(1)</sup> show both elements on the SE. side also, so that it can be assumed that they were originally continuous. A gap in the S. arc of the inner rampart, 15 ft. in width, presumably represents an original entrance, and it is possible that there was a second entrance at the ENE. end. Apart from a water-holding hollow, which may be artificial, the interior is featureless.

(1) 106G/SCOT/UK/ 172, 3155-6.

Nx/191885

lxi S.E. (unnoted).

1 September 1954.

61951

MSS.....K.S.....
PLAN.....
MAP.....
M.R. ....
REFS.....



AYRSHIRE

GIRVAN

EARTHWORK, CHAPELCROFT. On the crest of a ridge, 700 yds. due N. of Chapelcroft and at a height of 600 ft. O.D., there are some slight remains of a sub-oval earthwork which has consisted of a rampart and an external ditch and has measured internally along the axes about 200 ft. from E. to W. by 165 ft. from N. to S. (Fig. ). The position is protected by a fairly steep scarp, 25 ft. high, on the S. side, but the E. and W. approaches are level, while to the N. the ground falls away very gently to a belt of marshland at the base of the ridge. The rampart has been totally destroyed in some places by former cultivation and in others by natural erosion, and the surviving fragments on the E. and W. sides are merely grassy banks, not more than 2 ft. high, which exhibit no sign of stone <sup>Y</sup>vetting. The artificial terrace on which the S. side of the rampart was carried along the face of the scarp is still visible in part, although no trace of the rampart itself remains in this sector. The ditch, some 20 ft. in width, is best preserved at the SW. corner of the earthwork where the bottom is 6 ft. below the crest of the rampart and 2 ft. below the surface of the ground outside. There is a well-defined entrance, 7 ft. wide, on the W., and some faint indications of another on the E. The interior is featureless. The work has clearly been designed for habitation, and is not simply a stock enclosure, but its date can only be determined by excavation.

MX/194921

lxi N.E. (unnoted).

30 August 1954.

62089

MSS.	KS
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	

AYRSHIRE

LARGS

EARTHWORK, KELBURN. In Kelburn Park, 800 yds. SW. of Kelburn Castle, there is a flat-topped conical mound which has been fashioned out of the low cliff overlooking the old raised beach (Fig. ). The trees which formerly covered it have recently been cut down and replaced by young conifers. The mound is 25 ft. high on the W., or seaward, side, but rises only 3 ft. above the immediate surroundings on the E; it is possible, however, that the latter side was originally strengthened by a ditch which has subsequently been levelled by cultivation. The top, which is roughly circular on plan and measures about 60 ft. in diameter, exhibits no signs of structures at the present time, although it seems likely that it was once enclosed by a dry wall, since traces of a stony core can be seen in one or two places, immediately below the crest of the mound, and there are a number of tumbled boulders lower down the flanks. The work was thus probably a dun, similar to the one at Balchriston, rather than a motte, these being the most likely alternatives.

212562

vi N.E. (unnoted).

26 May 1953.

4192

MSS	.....K&.....
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

AYRSHIRE

BARR

CAIRN, BALLIGMORRIE BRIDGE . The cairn that stands on the crest of a knoll close to the S. side of the River <sup>in</sup>Strachan, and 200 yds. N. of Balligmorrie Bridge, is roughly circular on plan and measures 70 ft. in diameter by 4 ft. in maximum height. It has been dug into all round the flanks by stone robbers, but the centre appears to be intact.

221909

lxii N.W.

15 September 1953.

62652

MSS.....	KS
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R.....	
REFS.....	

AYRSHIRE

DAILY

DUN, CRAIGHEAD. About 350 yds. WNW. of the Trigonometrical Station on Craighead Law, a small crag-and-tail rock ridge, whose main axis is aligned E. and W., rises abruptly out of a cultivated field. Its N. and S. sides are steep and measure respectively 65 ft. and 25 ft. in maximum height, while the summit is situated towards the eastern end; the rock is exposed in places on the S. flank but elsewhere it is clothed with rough grass and nettles. The summit of the ridge has been enclosed by a stout boulder faced wall to form a small dun<sup>(1)</sup>, roughly rectangular in plan and measuring externally 67 ft. from E. to W. by 49 ft. transversely (Fig. ). The wall is heavily ruined and all that can be seen at the present time are a number of large, set boulders, some of them as much as 4 ft. 6 ins. in length, belonging to the outer face: probing of the stony core suggests however that the wall was not less than 8 ft. in thickness. There are some slight indications of what may have been a narrow entrance on the E. side, but the interior is featureless.

- (1) This is probably the structure referred to by Smith as "Craighead Fort" (Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire, 206).

222015

31.S.W. (unnoted).

6 September 1955.

MSS.....	K.S.
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R. ....	
REFS.....	

AYRSHIRE

COLMONELL

DEFENSIVE ENCLOSURE, KNOCKMALLOCH. In a pasture field close to the S. side of a small burn, a quarter of a mile ENE. of Knockmalloch farm, there is a circular enclosure measuring about 70 ft. in diameter within a single drystone wall (Fig. ). The wall has been heavily robbed and is nowhere definitely measurable, but its stony <sup>r</sup>core still forms a mound as much as 20 ft. thick in places and up to 2 ft. 6 ins. in height. An original entrance, 5 ft. in width and with a <sup>joint</sup>joint-stone on either side, is situated on the SSW. arc, but the only other gap in the wall, on the ENE., is probably secondary. In spite of the substantial character of the wall the work cannot properly be described as a fort or dun since it is not sited with a view to defence. The closest analogies on plan appear to be the group of small defensive enclosures in Mochrum <sup>r</sup>Parish, Wigtownshire. (1)

(1) Inventory of Wigtown, pp. xxxi-ii.

235842

lxvii N.W. ("Earthwork" in ordinary type).

31 August 1954.

62549

MSS.....	RS
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R.....	
REFS.....	

AYRSHIRE

RK  
KITEOSWALD

DUN, BALCHRISTON. This Dun (Fig. ) is not marked on the Ordnance Survey map but has <sup>been</sup> briefly described by Smith (1). It lies <sup>half a mile</sup> ~~half a mile~~ due E. of Balchriston on an elevated point of land formed by the junction of the Rancleugh Burn and a nameless tributary. The position is cut off from level ground to the E. by a broad gully, 12 ft. deep, which may represent an original ditch, dug by the builders of the dun and subsequently enlarged by drainage from the adjacent field. The dun is in a ruinous condition but appears to have been circular on plan and to have measured about 30 ft. in diameter within a stone wall 12 ft. thick. The core of the wall is composed of small stones and the few facings that are still visible in situ consist of massive blocks up to 4 ft. in length. The entrance was probably situated on the SSE. arc.

(1) Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire, p. 198.

255114

xliv N.E. (unnoted).

28 May 1953.

62549

MSS	K&
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
Refs.	

AYRSHIRE

DALRY

KIRK HILL.

CAIRN, ~~KIRK HILL~~. The cairn that stands on the summit of Kirk Hill has been reduced practically to ground level, and exhibits no features of interest, while the earthwork surrounding it is nothing more than a plantation bank. Although the plantation itself no longer exists, numerous tree holes are visible in the space between the bank and the cairn.

266044  
N. E. ("Tumulus"; "Earthwork", in ordinary type).

26 May 1952.

40881

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

AYRSHIRE

KILWINNING

EARTHWORK, STEVENSTON LOCH. This earthwork is situated in flat ground at the junction of three fields, a quarter of a mile due W. of Ashgrove House and 200 yds. from the present E. edge of Stevenston Loch. The major portion of the work, amounting to about two-thirds of the whole, is still traceable, albeit in a heavily denuded condition, in the field that borders the loch; and although the rest has been completely levelled by cultivation its outline is preserved by a crop-mark on National Survey air photographs.<sup>(1)</sup> The work is circular on plan and consists of two concentric ditches with a bank between them. The interior, which appears to have been slightly raised above the general level of the ground outside, measures about 60 ft. in diameter, while the ditches and the intervening bank are each some 20 ft. in width. No indications of an entrance or of internal structures can be discerned either on the ground or on the air-photographs. Superficially, the work bears a general resemblance to Trowdale Mote, Kirkcudbrightshire.<sup>(2)</sup>

(1) 106G/SCOT/UK 81 4014-5.

(2) Inventory of Kirkcudbrightshire, No. 140.

277446

xi S.E. (unnoted).

3 June 1952.

41065

MSB	KAS	.....
BLP		.....
M.S.		.....
BLPS		.....



AYRSHIRE

MAYBOLE

EARTHWORK, DUNDUFF CASTLE. The bulky rocky knoll that stands within a cultivated field, 150 yds. due W. of Dunduff Castle, has been fortified by the construction of <sup>double</sup> ~~concrete~~ ramparts with an intervening ditch round the SW. end (Fig. ). Both ramparts appear to be formed simply of heaped earth and rock rubble derived from the ditch, their smooth, grassy slopes showing no sign of stone revetting; where best preserved, the inner rampart measures 8 ft. in height externally and 18 ins. in height internally, while the outer rampart measures up to 6 ft. in height on either side. At the present time the ditch is not a serious obstacle, having a flat bottom 20 ft. in width, but it is unlikely that this represents the original profile since the whole of the space between the ramparts, together with much of the top of the knoll, has formerly been under cultivation. How far, if at all, the ramparts extended round the other three sides of the knoll is uncertain owing to the destruction wrought by erosion and quarrying on these sides. It is reasonable to assume however that the inner rampart was once continuous round the margin of the summit area, and a narrow terrace on the present N. margin may, in fact, be the last remnant of an artificial seating on which the rampart was erected along this side. The entrance was probably situated at the W. corner of the earthwork, where there is easy access from the adjoining ground, but all details have been obliterated by cultivation. The interior is covered with coarse, tussocky grass, and shows no trace of structures. In the absence of excavation it is impossible to tell whether this earthwork is of prehistoric or early mediaeval date.

271165

xxxviii N.E. (unnoted).

8 September 1955.

MSS	..... K.A.J. ....
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

AYRSHIRE

MAYBOLE

POSSIBLE DUN, BOWERHILL (SITE). On the tip of the small promontory that lies 150 yds. S. of Bowerhill there is a circular enclosure, about 30 ft. in diameter, bounded by a ragged trench some 9 ft. in width which is interrupted by an entrance causeway, 8 ft. wide, in the E. arc. The trench does not have the appearance of a ditch, and has almost certainly been caused by digging out the foundations of a stone wall. If this is so, the situation and plan of the work suggest that it may have been a dun similar to the one at Balchriston. Although no certain traces can now be seen of the ditch which, according to Smith,<sup>(1)</sup> cut off the approach to the site from the W., the opposite sides of the promontory immediately to the W. of the enclosure are nicked by gullies which might well have been produced by the outfalls from such a ditch.

(1) Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire, p. 175 and fig. 252.

295185

xxxii S. E. (unnoted).

1 May 1953.

40932

MSS	KS
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	

AYRSHIRE

MAYBOLE

DUN, MOTE KNOWE, MONKWOOD. On the summit of an isolated knoll which stands on the left bank of the Doon Water, 600 yds. SE. of Monkwood Mains, there are some slight remains of a circular stone-walled structure measuring 72 ft. in diameter externally (Fig. ). The position possesses considerable natural strength, since the flanks of the knoll are everywhere steep and range in height from 12 ft. on the W. to 60 ft. on the S., where, after a sharp initial slope, the ground falls precipitously to the river. The wall has consisted of a core of small stones faced on the outside, and probably on the inside also, with large boulders. At least one course of the external facings is still preserved round the greater part of the NW. half of the circuit, but in the absence of any sign of the internal facings the thickness of the wall is uncertain; to judge by the core it is not likely to have been less than 10 ft. and may have been as much as 15 ft. A gap in the core on the ESE. arc may represent an original entrance. Although Christison included the structure in his list of mottes, on the strength of the name "Mote Knowe", (1) it is clearly a dun.

(1) P.S.A.S., xxvii (1892-3), 386-7.

337140

xxxix S.W. ("Mote Knowe" in ordinary type).

28 May 1953.

41665

MSS	..... K.S. ....
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

AYRSHIRE

KIRKMICHAEL

EARTHWORK, GUILTREE HILL. The Ordnance Survey map marks an earthwork on the crest of the broad spur that runs W. from Guiltree Hill, 600 yds. due W. of Trigonometrical Station 642. Although the site has long been under cultivation, traces of a circular ditch measuring 150 ft. in internal diameter and from 30 ft. to 40 ft. in width can still be seen on the surface (Fig. ), and the original entrance is probably represented by a gap in the ditch, some 25 ft. in width, on the ESE. arc. The ditch is clearly revealed as a crop mark on a National Survey air-photograph<sup>(1)</sup>, and there are slight indications on the same photograph that it may have been flanked on both sides by ramparts, although no sign of these can now be seen on the ground. The work commands a wide outlook in all directions except towards the E., and on the N. and E. sides derives some slight protection from the gully of a former watercourse.

(1) 106G/SCOT/UK 90, 3069.

353110

xlv N.E. ("Earthwork" in ordinary type).

28 May 1953.

41626

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

AYRSHIRE

DAIRYMPLE

EARTHWORK, LINDSTON. On the flat summit of a broad ridge 200 yds. N. of Lindston and at a height of 400 ft. O.D. there is a curious earthwork consisting of a wet, ~~reed~~<sup>reed</sup>-filled ditch from 15 ft. to 33 ft. in width which encloses a level circular area 125 ft. in diameter (Fig. ). Some slight traces of an external bank, only a few inches in height and spread to a maximum thickness of 24 ft., can be seen on the NW. arc. In the absence of a causeway it must be assumed that the ditch was bridged, probably at the narrowest point on the ENE. The interior, now covered with rough pasture, has formerly been cultivated and shows no signs of structures. No close parallels can be cited for this work but, as Christison remarked<sup>(1)</sup>, it seems likely that it is mediaeval rather than prehistoric.

(1) P.S.A.S., xxvii (1892-3), 398.

372168

xxxix N.E. ("Moat" in ordinary type).

27 May 1953.

41584

MSS	KS
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	

MOUNDS, BONSHAW. In an undulating pasture field, 250 yds. W. of Bonshaw and close to the E. side of the Glazert Burn, there is a prominent artificial mound known as <sup>Hutt</sup>~~Halt~~ Knowe: it is conical in shape with a flat top, and measures about 50 ft. in diameter at the base, 30 ft. in diameter at the top, and 8 ft. in height. At the present time the mound is covered turf, and shows no structural features, but according to a late 19th century description a <sup>r</sup>evetment of boulders was then visible at the base on the E. arc, together with the apertures of two adjacent drystone-built passages which led into the mound at ground level. <sup>(1)</sup> The sketch which accompanies this description also shows a bowl-shaped hollow on <sup>e</sup>the top of the mound, but this feature is not mentioned in the text. On the E. side of the farm-road, immediately in front of Bonshaw farmhouse, there are however the mutilated remains of another mound which appear to have been similar in shape and size to <sup>Hutt</sup>~~Halt~~ Knowe, and which still exhibits the mouth of a stone-built passage at ground level on the SSE. arc. The passage is 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. 8 ins. high, ~~and~~ the side walls being coursed in dry masonry while the roof is lintelled with a single slab; it can be seen going in a straight line towards the centre of the mound for a distance of 8 ft., beyond which point it is obscured by fallen masonry. In the absence of excavation the purpose of these mounds can only be conjectured, but it seems probably that they are kilns (the stone passages being the flues), while their size <sup>would</sup> suggest lime-kilns rather than corn-drying kilns.

(1) Smith, Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire, 85-6.

375441 <sup>Hutt</sup>  
 xii S.E, ("~~Halt~~ Knowe" in ordinary type; unnoted).

4 June 1952.

42054

MSS.....
PLAN.....
MAP.....
M.R. ....
REFS.....

AYRSHIRE

STRAITON

FORT, DOONANS HILL. On the summit of the Doonans Hill (900 ft. O.D.) there are the last vestiges of a contour fort which has consisted of a small enclosure, not more than 80 ft. in length by about 60 ft. in breadth, defended by the multiple ramparts lettered A to D on the plan (Fig. ). Three of the ramparts (A, B & D) have probably completely encompassed the fort, but the other (C) appears to have been simply a ~~horn-~~<sup>horn-</sup>work designed to afford extra protection at the E. end only. Erosion has reduced all the ramparts to broken and irregular scarps, or to ~~mere~~<sup>were</sup> crest-lines; but small groups of tumbled boulders exposed in sheep-rubs at the points marked E and F on the plan, and in the face of the scarp at G, suggest that the outer rampart (D) at least may have been kerbed or revetted with stone. A track which passes more or less directly through all four ramparts at the E. end of the fort probably represents the original entrance-passage, but no signs of huts can be seen either within the innermost enclosure, or on the level grassy shelves enclosed by the outer rampart alone at both the E. and W. ends.

396027

ii N.E. (unnoted).

6 September 1955.

41560

MSS	.....RS.....
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

AYRSHIRE

STRAITON

INDETERMINATE REMAINS, MOTE OF THE DOONANS. A stone's throw NE. of the foot of Doonans Hill there is a smaller, isolated, and steep-sided hill, some 50 ft. in height, known as the Mote of the Doonans. The hill itself is a purely natural feature with a roughly oval, heather-clad top measuring 65 ft. from E. to W. by 25 ft. transversely; but running horizontally along the S. face at an even distance of 3 ft. below the crest, there is an artificial terrace from 6 ft. to 7 ft. in width. Some slight indications of the same terrace can be seen round the E. end of the hill, but there is no sign of any continuation round the W. end or along the N. face. The terrace is clearly not agricultural in origin, but its purpose is not clear. The most likely explanation is that it is the quarried bed for the rampart of a small earthwork, in which case an interruption which is visible in the centre of the terrace on the E. may mark the position of an entrance. But whether the work was left unfinished, or has been largely destroyed by erosion, is quite uncertain.

394024  
397207  
N.W.  
lii (unnoted).  
A

6 September 1955.

41548

MSS	KAS
PLAN	✓
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	



AYRSHIRE

COYLTON

EARTHWORK, LAIGHPARK. This earthwork (Fig. ), 250 yds. SSW. of the farm of Laighpark, is situated at a height of 300 ft. O.D. on a point of land which slopes gently to the NE. and is flanked on the NW. and SE. sides by natural gullies. The plantation which formerly enclosed the site has been cut down, and the work has been further mutilated by surface drainage operations, but it seems to have consisted of two ramparts and a medial ditch enclosing a circular area about 110 ft. in diameter. The inner rampart is now only traceable on the SW. half of the circuit where it ~~is~~ appears as a faint swelling in the ground some 20 ft. in thickness, but the ditch is still boldly defined, measuring from 30 ft. to 60 ft. in width and from 5 ft. to 6 ft. in depth. A gap in the E. arc of the ditch, 33 ft. in width, no doubt marks the site of the original entrance. On the NE., NW., and SE. sides a narrow strip of ground has been left unexcavated between the ditch and the natural scarps which flank the position on these sides; this strip presumably served as the base for an outer rampart which has been completely eroded away. It seems likely that the work is mediaeval rather than prehistoric.

400193

xxxiii S.E. ("Earthwork" in ordinary type).

28 May 1953.

42658

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

AYRSHIRE

STEWARTON

MOTTE AND BAILEY, HIGH CASTLETON. The motte known as the "Law Mount" which stands on the crest of a ridge, close to the S. side of the Annick Water and 200 yds. SSW. of High Castleton, is a grass-covered truncated cone 11 ft. in height (Fig. ). The flat top measures 45 ft. in diameter, and round the base there are slight indications of a ditch from 15 ft. to 20 ft. in width. A curved segment of an almost obliterated ditch, about 40 ft. in width, which runs transversely across the top of the ridge, 200 ft. to the W., is presumably the remnant of an elliptical bailey which originally enclosed the motte.

411447

xii S.E. ("Law Mount").

26 May 1953.

42959.

MSS	RS	.....
PLAN		.....
MAP		.....
M.R.		.....
REFS.		.....

AYRSHIRE

CRAIGIE

FORT, CRAIGIE HILL. On the summit of Craigie Hill (507 ft. O.D.) there are the last vestiges of an oval native fort defended by a single rampart and measuring along the axes some 265 ft. from NE. to SW. by 235 ft. transversely (Fig. ). On the W. half of the circuit the rampart is represented by an artificial scarp, up to 6 ft. in height, and a number of boulders embedded in the face of the scarp may be the remains of a stone kerb or <sup>r</sup>revetment. No traces of the rampart survive, however, on the SE. side, where it presumably followed the crest of the ridge, or on the flat top of the hill, which is at present being quarried away, to the NE. <sup>It is uncertain whether any</sup> There is no evidence to show <sup>represent original entrances,</sup> which, if any, of the three gaps in the scarp <sup>is an original feature,</sup> and the interior, consisting partly of turf and partly of bare rock, shows no signs of dwellings.

422328  
xxiii S.W. (unnoted).

17 March 1953.

42869

MSS.....
PLAN.....
MAP.....
M.R. ....
REFS.....

AYRSHIRE

The following site is visible as a crop-mark on a National Survey air photograph:

1. ENCLOSURE, HALLRIG (Tarbolton). Part of the ditch of a circular or oval enclosure, measuring 140 ft. from E. to W. by at least 100 ft. from N. to S., 150 yds. S. of Hallrig steading. The rest of the enclosure lies outside the margin of the photograph<sup>1</sup>.

1. 106G/SCOT/UK 157, 4318.

423273  
xxviii N.W. (unnoted).

21 August 1952.

42322

MSS	KS
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

MOUND AND TERRACES, CRAIGHEAD LAW. On the highest point of Craighead Law there is a roughly circular stony mound measuring about 16 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. in height which may be the remains of a prehistoric cairn. Practically the whole of the top of the hill has formerly been under cultivation and is now featureless, but on the SE. flank there are two terraces, each about 6 ft. in width, one of which, 150 ft. in length, starts at the E. corner of the hill, and runs thence in a slight curve along the SE. shoulder, while the other, situated a short distance further down the slope, overlaps the W. end of the first and continues westwards on the same curve for an additional 100 ft. Both these terraces may have originated in the course of the cultivation referred to above, but on the other hand it is conceivable that they represent the quarried seatings of the twin ramparts of a native fort whose defences have been completely obliterated elsewhere by the plough.

426521  
ix ~~ix~~ S.W. (unnoted).

4th June 1952.

43058

MSS.....	KS.....
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R. ....	
REFS.....	

AYRSHIRE

A  
RICCARTON

EARTHWORK, TREES. In a flat, cultivated field 300 yds. S. of the farm of Trees there are the faint remains of a circular earthwork consisting of a slightly raised platform bounded by a single ditch (Fig. (1)). The platform measures 70 ft. in diameter across the top, while the ditch, which was formerly boggy in wet weather but has recently been filled almost to the present ground level with cinders, has an effective width of 30 ft. The only entrance is situated on the E. arc and is 13 ft. wide. The date and purpose of the work are unknown.

(1) Cf. National Survey air photographs 106G/SCOT/UK 87, 418<sup>2</sup>~~7~~-3; and 540/827, 3157-8.

447332  
xxiii S.W. (unnoted).

17 March 1953.

42870

MSS.	K.A.S.
PLAN	.....
MAP	.....
M.R.	.....
REFS.	.....

AYRSHIRE

TARBOLTON

ENCLOSURE, PARK WOOD. The O.S. map marks the site of a "Camp" on the crest of a slight rise in Park Wood, two miles ENE. of Tarbolton. When the site was visited by the Commissions officers in 1952 it was found that the part of the wood in which the "Camp" is situated had recently been cleared of trees to enable it to be brought under cultivation, and in the process the wall of the structure had been intermittently exposed, where it was not overlaid by a dump of field-gathered stones, revealing the major portion of a roughly circular enclosure 70 ft. in diameter (Fig. ). With the consent of the owner of the site, Mr. R. A. Stevenson of Parkhill, the wall was sectioned in a number of places and proved to be uniformly 4 ft. 3 in. thick. It consisted of a core of small stones faced on both sides with large boulders measuring up to 2 ft. 6 in. in length, but had been reduced to the lowest course, the bottom of the wall being only 10-12 in. below the present surface. A trench cut in the interior (Fig. ) disclosed a well-paved floor extending for a distance of 14 ft. inwards from the enclosure wall on the E. arc, together with a few paving-stones at the centre, but no remains of buildings or relics were found. It seems evident however that, whatever its date, the work is of a domestic, and not a defensive, nature, and is to be associated with the small artificial pond that lies 80 ft. to the NW.

461282  
xxviii N.E. ("Camp, site of").

20 August 1952.

42686

MSS.....	KAS.....
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R. ....	
REFS.....	

AYRSHIRE

FENWICK

DUN, LANGDYKE. Some fragmentary remains of a small dun can be seen on a rocky knoll which stands on the S. bank of the Hareshawmuir Water, 300 yds. NE. of the farm of Langdyke. The E. side of the knoll is only slightly raised above the immediate surroundings, but the S. flank is 10 ft. in height and the N. and W. flanks each 50 ft. in height. The remains comprise two walls, the innermost of which has enclosed a roughly circular area about 25 ft. in diameter on the summit of the knoll, while the outer wall, at an interval of 12 ft. to 15 ft. from the first, has constituted an additional defence on the S. and E. sides. Both walls are in an extremely ruinous condition and no facings are now visible, but the substantial nature of the inner wall is indicated by the fact that its stone core measures 17 ft. in thickness. The position of the entrance is uncertain.

493429

xviii N.E. (unnoted).

27 May 1953.

41931

MSS.	KS
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	



AYRSHIRE

OCHILTREE

MOTTE, HILLBANK WOOD, OCHILTREE. This motte (Fig. <sup>is</sup>) situated half  
a mile NW. of Ochiltree on the edge of the <sup>haugh</sup> ~~length~~ that overlooks the S.  
side of the Lugar Water and partly within the W. corner of Hillbank Wood,  
**I**t has been formed by excavating a broad semi-circular ditch from a  
point on the ravine of an old watercourse across the level top of the  
<sup>e</sup>haugh and thence, on the same curve, obliquely down the face of the  
<sup>e</sup>haugh to meet the ravine lower down its course. The top of the motte,  
which does not appear to have been artificially heightened, is roughly  
oval on plan and measures 70 ft. in length by 52 ft. in maximum breadth;  
it stands 7 ft. above the present bottom of the ditch on the W. side, and  
30 ft. above the junction of the ditch and the ravine on the E. The  
position of the entrance is uncertain.

502218

xxxv N.W. (unnoted).

27 May 1953.

43634

MSS.	KS
PLAN	
MAP	
M.R.	
REFS.	

Pending

AYRSHIRE

LONDON

MOTTE, ALTON. The mound known as Castle Hill which stands on the NE. outskirts of the village of Alton, between the Alton Burn and the public road to Nether Newton, is a motte.<sup>(1)</sup> The steep sides vary from 10ft. in height on the W. side to 45 ft. in height on the No. side where the burn at present washes the base of the mound, and the flat top, which is D-shaped on plan, measures 42 ft. in length by 28 ft. in greatest breadth. Some slight indications of an enclosing ditch, from 20 ft. to 25 ft. in width, can be seen at the foot of the mound on both the E. and W. sides, but there are no signs of a bailey.

(1) P.S.A.S. lxxvii, 44-5.

503388

xviii S.E. ("Castle Hill" in ordinary type).

19 August 1952.

43712

MSS.....
PLAN.....
MAP.....
M.R.....
REFS.....

AYRSHIRE

LOUDON

CAIRNS, BROOMHILL. The two cairns which are situated a quarter of a mile N. of Broomhill have been almost completely destroyed by stone-robbers, but both appear to have been circular on plan and about 60 ft. in diameter. The easternmost cairn still exhibits traces of a peristalith<sup>formed</sup> of large boulders.

588387; 590388  
xix S. E. ("Cairn, site of"; "Cairn, site of").

19 August 1952.

43677  
43649

MSS.....	R.S.
PLAN.....	
MAP.....	
M.R.....	
REFS.....	