

Marginal Land

RENFREW

Lurg Moor

Ballagioch Hill

Dunwan

Pollok Grounds

White Moss

Law Hill

East Rowantreehill

Marshall Moor

Corlick Hill

Blacksholm

South Gibblaston

Craigmarnoch Wood

High Castlehill

Dunconnel Hill

Knockmade Hill

East Barnaigh

Walls Hill

Duncarnock

Dykebar Hill

Byres Hill

Ross Hall Mains

Cockles Hill

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF GREENOCK.

ROMAN FORTLET, LURG MOOR. Immediately S. of Greenock on the S. shore of the Firth of Clyde the land rises steeply to an elevation of 800 feet O. D. and then develops into a stretch of rough moorland about three quarters of a mile wide, two isolated areas of which rise over the 900 feet contour to the peaks of Crawberry and Corlick Hills. The section of this moorland that lies between the roads from Greenock to Kilmacolm on the E. and to Loch Thom on the W., and is distant about one mile S. of Greenock, measures two and three quarter miles in length and is divided from E. to W. into five parts by a system of stone walls. The second enclosure from the E., Lurg Moor, which is almost rectangular in shape, measures about 800 yards from N. to S. by about 950 yards transversely, and the fortlet is situated 250 yards SE. of the NW. corner. It lies just within the 800 feet contour on a small promontory and commands an uninterrupted view northwards over the narrow coastal plain now occupied by Greenock and Port Glasgow and over the Firth beyond. To W. and WNW., too, the prospect is extensive, and includes Tower Hill, Gourrock; but the hills N. of Loch Thom and the low rocky ridges of the adjacent moors limit vision to SW., S., SE. and NE. To the E., however, there is a gap through which can be seen the high ground of Devol Moor, two miles away, and of Barscube, four miles further on. This fortlet and the fort at Whitemoss (No.) are not intervisible.

The fortlet (Fig.), which is in a good state of preservation and appears to have remained almost unmolested since originally falling into disuse, is rectangular on plan with rounded angles. Although the shorter axis lies on a line diverging about 15 degrees E. of N. the structure is described below, for convenience, as if it had been set N. and S. The interior measures about 67 feet from N. to S. by about 87 feet transversely/

transversely within a turf rampart about 30 feet thick which now stands to a maximum height of 2 feet 6 inches. A single ditch, 6 feet in width and 3 feet 6 inches in depth where best preserved, lies immediately outside it, and the entrance, 14 feet in width, is in the centre of the S. side. The fortlet is covered with heather and coarse grass, and the slope of the site is such that the N. side of the interior lies 8 feet lower than the S. A mound of uneven ground occupies the SW. quarter of the fortlet, and there is a boggy patch, which held water at the date of visit, in the NW. part. The E. half is flat.

The size and plan of the fortlet place it among the numerous similar structures of Antonine date which occur in North Britain.^I

- I. E.g. Aspects of Archaeology in Britain and Beyond (1951), 293 - 302.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF EAGLESHAM.

MOUND, BALLAGIOCH HILL. This mound is situated a quarter of a mile WNW. of Greenfield farmhouse on the Eastern extremity of the level summit-plateau of Ballagioch Hill at a height of a little over 1,000 feet O. D. It measures about 70 feet in diameter and stands to a maximum height of 4 feet above ground level. A few boulders which may represent the remains of a kerb or revetment protrude through the turf at widely-spaced intervals on the perimeter, and what appears to be a small quarry lies in the SE. quadrant. The surface of the mound is uneven and has been used in modern times as a site for bonfires.

The structure is probably a denuded cairn, but the possibility that it might be the ruin of a circular stone fort cannot be ruled out.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF EAGLESHAM.

FORT, DUNWAN. Dunwan Hill, which rises to a height of 980 feet O. D. two and a half miles SW. of Eaglesham, stands near the northern limit of the tract of hilly marshland which occupies the southern part of Eaglesham parish. From the summit plateau the SE., NE. and NW. flanks fall steeply to the immediate base of the hill, while to the SW., after a similarly steep drop of 15 feet, a longer and easier slope descends to marshy ground through which runs a nameless tributary of the Blackwood Burn. The fort, which occupies the summit plateau, is triangular on plan (Fig.) and measures 260 feet from NE. to SW. by 160 feet transversely within a wall or a terrace-rampart. The latter is now represented only by outer facing stones which appear sporadically on a line about 12 feet outside and as much below the NE., E. and SE. arcs of the present rim of the plateau. The entrance, 10 feet wide, is situated at the SE., at the apex of the triangle. The interior is covered with coarse pasture and patches of rushes and contains what may be the remains of two hut circles. One of these, situated 50 feet NE. of the entrance, consists of a shallow trench about 2 feet in width enclosing an area which measures about 26 feet in diameter. A causeway about 4 feet in width in the N. arc probably represents the entrance. The other feature is an arc of a similar trench measuring 33 feet in length and forming part of a circle about 22 feet in diameter.

Immediately outside the entrance to the fort a slightly hollowed track runs down the steep slope for a distance of 50 feet to die out where the more gently sloping SE. flank of the hill starts. At this point the line of the track is flanked by the ends of two ditches, 10 feet in width and 20 feet apart, /

apart, and immediately outside those are the ends of a low stony mound, spread to a width of about 13 feet, which must represent a very decayed outer rampart. The gap in the rampart is crossed by a modern but ruinous dyke which runs along the top of the rampart and, in the centre of the gap, is joined at right angles by another dyke that runs up the slope from the SW. To the SE. of the entrance gap the mound soon becomes nothing more than a scarp and the ditch a terrace, and together these features run in an arc SE. and E. on to the S. flank of the hill. For the first 90 feet they are accompanied by the dyke, which afterwards turns off SSE. down the hill. The terrace having lapsed after a distance of 150 feet, a crest line representing the rampart can be followed for a further 70 feet before it fades on the steep rocky SSE. flank of the hill. To the NW. of the entrance gap the scarp of the rampart is accompanied NNW. for 50 feet by that terrace and for 70 feet by the dyke. Thereafter the crest line traverses the NW. flank of the hill for 200 feet before fading out on the steep rocky slope. After a gap of 250 feet, during which it is possible to see only the faintest traces of the crest line, this can be distinguished again on the NE. flank of the hill and followed thence E. and SE. for 100 feet, at which point there is a gap about 25 feet in width. Beyond this the crest line runs on for 150 feet before becoming lost on the E. flank of the hill. Examination of the air-photographs on which the fort was first observed^I

I. 541/A/527/4016-7.

suggests that this crest line did originally encircle the hill completely.

The siting of a rampart so far down the slope is a striking feature; at the points 200 feet on either side of the entrance in the SE. arc the vertical distance from the rim of/
of/

of the summit plateau to the crest-line is 50 feet, while at the opposite end of the site the horizontal separation is 160 feet.

The surface of the ground at the immediate base of the hill is confused with tumbled boulders, drainage trenches, field boundaries and, on the N., by the ruins of buildings. Among these are the fragmentary remains of what might possibly have been a third rampart, distant about 70 feet outside the second and running round at least the NW., NE. and SE. of the bottom of the hill. But the possibility that this belonged to the ruined buildings which are set just within it cannot be ruled out.

547489.

xix. N.W. (Unnoted)

5 July 1954.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF EASTWOOD.

EARTHWORK, POLLOK GROUNDS. This structure is situated close to the north side of the road through North Wood at a distance of three quarters of a mile NE. of Pollok House. The site lies just within the 100 feet contour and occupies the E. end of an almost imperceptible ridge from which the ground slopes down gently to the N. The earthwork is oval on plan (Fig.) and measures 100 feet from WNW. to ESE. by 85 feet transversely within a ditch with an earthen bank on either side. The main feature of the defences appears to be the ditch, the bottom of the WSW. arc of which is 17 feet in width and lies at a depth of 5 feet 6 inches below the crests of the banks on either side. A modern drainage trench 2 feet in width runs round the whole length of the bottom of the ditch and an outlet for the water thus collected has been cut through the N. arc of the outer bank. Until this breach was made the ditch must have been a wet moat. The banks are now slight and intermittent, the remaining ~~stretches~~ rising to a height of only a few inches above ground level and being spread to a width of up to 27 feet. The entrance, in the ESE. arc, is formed by a broad causeway through the ditch. The inner and outer banks united round the heads of the ditch on either side of the causeway to leave a gap between them which must originally have measured about 10 feet in width. The whole structure is planted with trees and bushes, and the interior is featureless. ~~It is not a pre-historic work, and probably dates from mediaeval times.~~^I

~~I. Cf. P.S.A.S. lxxxv (1950-51), 146-157.~~

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF HOUSTON.

FORT AND MOUND, LAW HILL. Law Hill is a rocky knoll which is the central feature of the high ground on the left bank of the River Gryfe immediately N. of Bridge of Weir. It attains a height of 300 feet O. D., and when clear of trees would command extensive views in all directions. The flanks of the hill slope steeply down to N. and W. and less steeply to the S., while on the E. the summit area merges with a gentle decline which falls without interruption to the plain below. The fort (Fig.) is pear-shaped on plan, measuring internally about 165 feet in length by up to 50 feet in width within the ruin of a stone wall. This is now represented by stretches of rubble, up to 5 feet in width, lying along the edge of the summit area and by a few outer facing stones embedded in the flanks of the hill about 5 feet lower down.

A large part of the E. half of the fort is occupied by an oval mound 8 feet in height, the flat summit of which measures 30 feet in length by a maximum width of 25 feet. To E. and W. the flanks slope steeply down to the level of the interior of the fort, and the base of the mound is 53 feet in width; to N. and S. they descend over the line of the wall of the fort to merge with the slopes of the hill. The top of the mound is featureless except for a decayed flagstaff.

The mound is constructed of earth and rubble, and is certainly more modern than the fort, but it is not possible to say whether it is a mediaeval structure or a more recent prospect mount.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMALCOLM.

FORT, CRAIGMARLOCH WOOD. This fort is situated on an eminence which stands in the gap between Knockmountain on the E. and Devol Moor on the W. and commands the route southwards from Port Glasgow. It is distant one mile and a half S. of the S. shore of the mouth of the River Clyde where this meets the Firth of Clyde, and a quarter of a mile WNW. of the house marked on the Ordnance Survey maps as East Kilbride but to which the name Craigmarloch has been transferred from the abandoned house 330 yards to the SW. The knoll upon which the fort stands is one of a group of four each of which attains an elevation of a little over 500 feet O. D. No natural obstacles bar approach to the summit area from the E., but broad shallow gullies adjoin it to NNE. and SSE. and the steep rocky flanks of the knoll hinder access from the SW., W. and NW.

The fort (Fig.) is subrectangular on plan with rounded corners, and measures 160 feet in length by 85 feet in breadth within the substantial ruin of a stone wall. This now consists of a mound of large stones and boulders which stands to a maximum height of about 3 feet 6 inches. and is spread to a width of about 12 feet. No facing stones can be seen in situ, but it is estimated that the wall was originally about 8 feet or 10 feet in thickness. An entrance 6 feet wide pierces the WNW. arc and a ragged breach of uncertain character, 15 feet in extent, interrupts the ESE. arc.

A stretch of the N. section of the wall 130 feet in length forms the chord of a D-shaped annexe 60 feet in breadth. The arc consists of a ruined wall, similar in appearance to the wall of the fort but only about 6 feet in thickness, /

thickness, which lies on the SSW. slope of the gully NNE. of the site. A gap 50 feet in length in the NW. arc of this wall may have included an original entrance to the annexe but there is no indication that direct communication with the fort was ever provided. The floor of the annexe rises 16 feet from NNE. to SSW.

A stretch of ruinous wall 125 feet in length and about 6 feet thick runs from ESE. to WNW. 70 feet beyond and 30 feet below the S. section of the wall of the fort. Its E. end rests on an outcrop which marks the W. termination of the gully SSE. of the fort while its W. end fades away on the steepening SW. flank of the knoll. In addition, faint traces of what may have been walling (A. and B on plan), formed by a few boulders which appear to be in situ, occur at short distances beyond either end of the stretch of wall. They suggest that another annexe might have adjoined the fort to the S., but this is uncertain. Masses of vitrified matter appear in the WNW. stretch of the wall of the fort in the vicinity of the entrance. No other patches were observed elsewhere on the perimeter, and it is possible that these represent the result of the turning of a wooden gateway..

The interior of the fort is planted with trees and the only feature is a modern stone-built sunken fox-trap which lies in the S. quarter.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMALCOLM.

EARTHWORK, BLACKSHOLM. This earthwork (Fig.) is situated on level ground 170 yards E. of Blacksholm farmhouse and a similar distance W. of the right bank of the Gryfe Water, at a height of a little under 300 feet O. S. The remains, which are very slight, consist of a low circular platform 78 feet in diameter within a shallow ditch 27 feet in width and an outer bank 17 feet in width. Faint traces of what might have been a second ditch and bank can be seen outside the latter. The N. and NE. arcs have been damaged by cultivation. The entrance is in the NW. arc. The situation and character of the work suggest that it is more likely to have been continued in mediaeval than prehistoric times. It is locally known as the Covenanters' Camp.

RENFREWSHIRE.

DEFENSIVE
ENCLOSURE

PARISH OF HOUSTON.

ENCLOSURE, EAST ROWANTREEHILL. This structure is situated on low-lying land a quarter of a mile SE. of East Rowantreehill farmhouse at a height of 300 feet O. D. To E., S. and W. the approaches are level, but immediately N. of the site the ground rises 100 feet in a distance of 350 feet. The structure (Fig.) is almost circular on plan, measuring about 85 feet in diameter within a rubble-cored stone wall 7 feet 6 inches thick. Numerous facing stones remain in situ on either side of the E., N. and W. arcs, some of them measuring as much as 4 feet in length and standing up to 3 feet 6 inches above ground. The entrance, 7 feet in width, lies in the NE. arc, and immediately inside it is a level area 60 feet in length alined from NNE. to SSW. and bounded on the E. by the enclosure wall and on the W. by a low rocky scarp. A few feet W. of this there is a crescentic scarp 17 feet in length. The rest of the interior is rocky, uneven and featureless.

The situation suggests that the structure cannot be a fort, as indicated on one Ordnance Survey Map^I, while its

I. 1 - inch Sheet 72.

character^I is not that of an earthwork, as it is defined on another. It is comparable in appearance to the structures on

I. 6 - inch Sheet vii. N. W.

Hownam Law and at Buchtrig, in Roxburghshire^I, and may have

I. Inventory, 326, 328.

served an agricultural purpose in mediaeval times.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILBARCHAN.

FORT, MARSHALL MOOR. This fort stands at a height of 500 feet O. D. on a conspicuous rocky ridge 1,000 yards WNW. of Meikle Burntshields farmhouse. It is oval on plan (Fig.) and measures 320 feet in length by about 150 feet transversely within a ruinous stone wall. The NW. flank of the ridge is a steep and rocky slope along the crest of which no traces of defences can be seen, but the SW. arc of the wall springs from it to run SE. and E. for a distance of 200 feet across the level spine of the ridge to the crest of the gentler SE. flank. This stretch of the wall consists of a mound of rubble about 7 feet in width along the outer margin of which a dozen facing stones protrude through the turf. The SE. section of the wall runs thence for 300 feet along the SE. flank of the ridge in the form of a line of rubble which becomes very thin at the NNE. where the slope of the hill increases. For two-thirds of its length this section lies beneath an increasingly prominent rocky crest which develops above it as the width of the level spine of the ridge decreases. The NE. section of the wall crosses the ridge in a direct line in the form of a scattered band of rubble 160 feet in length and ends on the crest of the steep NW. face. The entrance, 9 feet in width, lies in the SW. arc of the wall. The interior is covered with coarse pasture and is featureless.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMALCOLM.

EARTHWORK, CASTLE HILL, SOUTH GIBBLASTON. This structure is situated at a height of 400 feet O. D. on a rocky eminence close to the right bank of the Gotter Water, a quarter of a mile W. of South Gibblaston farmhouse. It is oval on plan (Fig.) measuring about 220 feet by 150 feet within a very denuded rampart. A length of about 250 feet of this, comprising the SW., W., NW. and N. arcs, takes the form of a low grass-grown mound spread to a width of about 14 feet, but the remainder appears only as a scarp. A gap in the SE. arc probably represents the entrance. The interior is uneven and featureless.

344661.

vi. S.E. (Unnoted).

8 July 1954.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMALCOLM.

FORT, HIGH CASTLEHILL. This fort is situated at a height of 456 feet O. D. immediately SW. of High Castlehill farmhouse, occupying the summit area of a little rocky promontory which forms the NW. extremity of a broad low ridge. Thus, to SW., W. and NW. the site is flanked by steep rocky slopes which rise to a height of about 15 feet above the level of the surrounding land, while to SE. it merges directly with the level surface of the ridge. The extremely wasted condition of the remains is probably the result of very thorough stone-robbing. The fort is triangular on plan with rounded corners (Fig.), measuring 100 feet in length by 75 feet in breadth within a stone wall now represented by a low and scattered band of rubble about 8 feet in width. The SW. and NW. arcs of the wall lie along the crest of the flanks of the promontory while the NE. section lies back from the crest of the NE. slope and the SE. section runs athwart the broad spine of the ridge. A row of four set stones which probably formed part of the outer face of the wall remains in situ at a point 5 feet outside the crest of the NW. flank of the promontory. The entrance is represented by a gap 7 feet wide in the SE. arc. A fragmentary outer line of defence runs from a point 55 feet ESE. of the entrance to SW., W. and NW. for 170 feet to merge into the SW. flank of the promontory. This consists first of two stretches of stoney bank, 50 feet and 60 feet in length respectively and each spread to a thickness of 10 feet, separated by a gap 20 feet wide in the middle of which stands a boulder 5 feet in length, 3 feet in breadth and 3 feet 6 inches in height. Beyond the NW. end of the longer stretch of bank the line is taken up by a row of outer facing-stones which runs for 16 feet and is followed by a gap/—

gap of 14 feet the NW. end of which is marked by a single stone. It is probable that the whole of the outer line of defence was originally faced, or kerbed, with set stones and that all the rest have been removed, while a stretch 40 feet in length has been entirely obliterated between the existing NW. termination of the remains and the NE. flank of the ridge.

The interior of the fort is uneven, the S. third containing a low rocky shelf on the N. margin of which two set stones may represent the remains of an enclosing wall. The ruin of a modern stone dyke starts at the S. corner of the fort and runs on a sinuous course generally northwards to the NW. arc of the wall of the fort, turning thence NW. to run down the flank of the promontory.

350722.

iii. S.W. (Unnoted).

6 May 1954.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF LOCHWINNOCH.

FORT, WALLS HILL. The face of the country in the area E. of Lochwinnoch and S. of Kilbarchan is characterised by numerous isolated outcrops and by irregular hills and knolls the flanks of many of which are rocky and precipitous. One of the most conspicuous of these is Walls Hill, a flattish, oval feature which lies between North Castlewalls farmhouse and the ruined steading of South Castlewalls. The summit area, which attains a height of 750 feet O. D., measures about 1,600 feet from N. to S. by about 700 feet transversely. It is bordered for the most part by steep rocky slopes and cliffs between 20 feet and 30 feet in height, except in the SW. where it is connected to the adjacent land by a slight grass-covered slope. The remains of a rampart border most of the N. end of the plateau and can be traced in places along the N. parts of the E. and W. sides (Fig.). They probably represent the remains of a continuous rampart which originally bordered the whole of the plateau. The S. half of the latter is comparatively level and has been under intensive cultivation, while parts of the N. half, which is more uneven, have been ploughed and drained. It is difficult, however, to see how these processes could have destroyed much of a rampart which, for most of its length, ran along the brink of steep slopes and cliffs and would, indeed, have served as a field boundary. Its absence for so much of the presumed course must rather be due to the natural effects of erosion and collapse and to robbing.

Along the N. end of the summit plateau the rampart consists of a grass-covered, stony mound spread to as much as 17 feet in width. The height from the inner bottom to the crest is only a few inches, but that from the outer bottom is up to 2 feet. At half a dozen places rocky ridges which lay on the course of the rampart have been quarried away both to admit the rampart/

rampart and to provide material for it. This work is on a considerable scale. An entrance through the W. part of the N. sector consists of a gap in the rampart 20 feet in width through which a deep and steep hollow way runs up from the slope outside to enter for a distance of 30 feet into the enclosure. The rampart is breached again at a point 200 feet to the E. by a modern agricultural track which rises slowly upwards across the N. face of the hill, crosses the rampart obliquely and carries on for some distance between the latter and the quarried rock which here lies parallel to it for a distance of 200 feet.

If it is assumed that the whole of the summit area was originally enclosed by the rampart, the structure thus formed would be the largest hill-fort in the district. It might have been expected that, in spite of cultivation and the presence of coarse grass and heather some traces of internal structures would be visible, especially as considerable parts of the surface of the N. part of the plateau are sufficiently irregular not to have been ploughed but are none the less perfectly suitable for hut-sites. Although no such structures were visible on the date of visit or on the air photographs^I, huts have since been discovered

I. 541 A/471, 4009-10.
2
by excavation .

2. TGAS.....

The probability that the rampart was once more substantial and more extensive may be supported by the names of the hill and of the adjacent farms, North and South Castlewalls, names which would certainly not be warranted by the present remains. The situation and the extent of the existing structure^I justify its

I. Cf. Hownam Law, Inventory of Roxburghshire, No.299. being described as a fort, but the possibility that it represents a town or oppidum cannot be ruled out.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF LOCHWINNOCH.

HOMESTEAD, KNOCKMADE HILL. This structure is situated on a rocky ridge that stands out from the gently-sloping ground on the left bank of the Kaim Burn, at a distance of a quarter of a mile NNE. of Kaim farmhouse. From its NE. extremity the ridge rises gradually over a distance of 800 feet to its highest point (623 feet O. D.), beyond which it slopes gently down for a distance of 200 feet and then terminates with a steep, rocky scarp. The homestead is situated on the slope SW. of the summit and thus enjoys protection from the NE. and exposure to S. and SW. It is pear-shaped on plan (Fig.), measuring 128 feet by 86 feet within the ruins of a stone wall some 8 feet or 9 feet thick. The latter is now represented by several stones of both inner and outer faces which remain in situ and by a scattered rubble core. A mutilated gap in the S. arc doubtless represents the entrance.

An almost circular hut is situated at a point 55 feet NNW. of the entrance to the enclosure. It is represented by a low, grass-grown stony mound spread to a width of 5 feet and enclosing an area a little over 30 feet in diameter. It is broken by an entrance gap 6 feet in width at the point nearest to the entrance of the enclosure. Five earthfast boulders forming an arc 12 feet in length lie in the NW. quarter of the hut.

While the ground in the W. two thirds of the interior of the homestead is reasonably flat, that in the remaining part rises steeply, so that the E. arc of the enclosure wall passes over the summit of the ridge, the point being marked by a modern cairn.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF LOCHWINNOCH.

INDETERMINATE REMAINS, CASTLE HILL, EAST BARNAIGH. The summit of Castle Hill, which attains a height of 566 feet above sea level and is distant 200 yards S. of East Barnaigh farmhouse, consists of a raised flat-topped platform measuring 96 feet in length from ENE. to WSW. by 40 feet transversely. The flanks of this area rise from 1 foot to 5 feet above the general level of the hill-top on all sides except the NNE., where there is a continuous steep descent from the platform to the base of the hill some 40 feet below. Three stones set close to the crest at the WSW. end of the platform appear to be the remains of the outer face of a wall which once enclosed the platform. A raised area, from 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet in height and measuring 27 feet in length from ENE. to WSW. by 12 feet transversely occupies the ENE. part of the summit platform, and a depression running ENE. from the ENE. end of this onto the open hillside may represent the position of an original entrance. The remains are scanty and of uncertain age and purpose.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF RENFREW.

EARTHWORK, COCKLES HILL. The remains of this structure are situated at a height of about 40 feet O. D. on a low ridge which forms the W. extremity of Cockles Hill. The site is now included in Renfrew Airport and lies a quarter of a mile SE. of the administrative buildings which occupy the site marked as New Mains farmhouse on the O. S. map. On the surface the earthwork is represented only by a low swelling in the ground that forms an arc 50 feet in length, but National Survey air photographs^I show that this is part of the

I. 541A/471/3166-7.

N. arc of an oval bank with an external ditch which enclosed an area measuring about 350 feet from NW. to SE. by about 300 feet transversely.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILBARCHAN.

FORT, BARR HILL (SITE). This structure was situated at a height of 312 feet O. D. on the summit of Barr Hill, half a mile NE. of Kilbarchan. The whole summit of the hill, including the area once occupied by the fort, has been removed by quarrying, but some particulars of the dimensions and structure of the fort can be obtained from the O. S. map and from the Statistical Account^I. The fort was D-shaped on plan,

I. xv (1795), 489 footnote.

and measured about 250 feet in length along the chord, which was formed by the edge of the cliff, by about 160 feet in breadth. The arc consisted of a stone wall outside which was a ditch.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF PAISLEY.

ENCLOSURE, ROSS HALL MAINS (SITE). A mark representing what seems to have been an almost circular enclosure appears on an air-photograph of the field that lies immediately W. of Ross

I. C.U.C.A.P. JI49.

Hall Mains farmhouse. The site is 200 yards N. of the right bank of the White Cart Water on almost level ground at an elevation of about 70 feet O. D. The mark probably indicates the line of a ditch which enclosed an area measuring about 250 feet in diameter. A gap in the E. arc may show the position of the original entrance. No trace now remains on the surface.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMALCOLM.

MOUND, CORLICK HILL. This mound is situated on the summit of Corlick Hill at a height of 995 feet O. D. It measures 40 feet in diameter, and over part of its surface the living rock protrudes through the turf. The presence of a few boulders set along the perimeter suggests that it may be a denuded cairn. A concrete post has been set up on the mound.

290729.
8

11. S.W. (Unnoted)

14 July 1954.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF LOCHWINNOCH.

INDETERMINATE REMAINS, DUNCONNEL HILL Dunconnel Hill, a small steep-sided rocky eminence that forms a conspicuous landmark in a stretch of broken and hilly country, is situated 730 yards NW. of Fairhills farmhouse on the SE. slope of The Ward. It stands to a height of about 50 feet above the general level of the adjoining land except to the S., where a spur meets the hill at an elevation of only 20 feet below that of the summit. Along the NW. and SE. arcs of the rim of the flat oval summit area, which measures 180 feet from NW. to SE. by 160 feet transversely, there are slight stony mounds which probably represent parts of a ruined wall. In view of the situation, this is more likely to have been an ancient defensive structure than a modern field-wall such as that which crosses the site from NW. to SE.

331595.

x. S.E. (Unnoted)

6 July 1954.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF PAISLEY.

EARTHWORK, FERGUSLIE HOUSE (SITE). Nothing now remains of any structure at the place marked "Supposed Site of Camp" on the 1865 Edition of the O. S. map.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF PAISLEY.

EARTHWORK, CASTLEHEAD (SITE). Nothing now remains of the structure marked "CAMP (Remains of)" on the 1865 Edition of the O. S. map.

475634. xii. N.W. (Unnoted).

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF PAISLEY.

EARTHWORK, DYKEBAR HILL (SITE). Nothing now remains of the structure which is shown on the O. S. map as lying on the NW. slopes of Dykebar Hill at a height of about 140 feet O. D.

496624.

xii. N.E.

7 July 1954.

RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF PAISLEY.

EARTHWORK, BYRES HILL (SITE). The O. S. map marks an earthwork on the summit of Byres Hill at a height of 178 feet O. D., but all traces of the structure have been obliterated by the construction of a golf course.

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RENFREWSHIRE.

PARISH OF MEARNS.

FORT, DUNCARNOCK. Duncarnock is a conspicuous rocky eminence which forms the NE. end of a broad ridge situated in undulating country two miles S. of Barrhead. The N. part of the hill is capped by a craggy and inhospitable knoll rising to a height of 668 feet O. D., while the S. part consists of an extensive rock-strewn plateau the general level of which is some 30 feet less than that attained by the knoll. These two features are connected by a saddle, the central part of which, measuring about 45 feet in both length and breadth, is level with the plateau. From this, narrow sloping valleys fall away to NW. and SE., accentuating the separation of the other two features. To W., NW., N. and NE. the rocky flanks of the hill rise very steeply to a height of about 100 feet above the land below, and to S. a steep grassy slope rises about 40 feet from the spine of the ridge to the summit plateau. For a short distance to the N. of the crest of this slope there is a minor descent to the general level of the summit plateau, the S. end of which is thus marked by a slight knoll. The SE. flank of the hill falls only gradually to merge with the slope which forms part of the W. side of the valley of the Brock Burn.

The fort (Fig.) occupies the whole of the top of the hill, the area enclosed by a ruinous drystone wall measuring about 630 feet in length by about 330 feet in breadth. For parts of its length the wall is represented only by the natural line of the crest of the steep flank of the hill, with only an infrequent earthfast boulder to indicate the line. Such is the stretch at the N. extremity of the fort, but in the adjacent NE. sector, the wall appears as a low stony mound 8 feet to 10 feet in width. This runs for a distance of 50 feet southwards up to the crestline of the highest/

highest part of the knoll, an uneven sub-oval area measuring about 100 feet in length by 80 feet in breadth and flanked by a low rocky escarpment. Traces of the wall then disappear, but it must have run S. and SSE. as recognisable remains again appear at a point 200 feet further on. Here, near the SE. extremity of a tapering spine of rock which protrudes SE. from the knoll, a row of large earthfast boulders must represent the remains of the foundation course of the inner face of the wall. After about 25 feet this row is joined at a distance of 9 feet on its E. or outer side by a row of similar boulders representing the grounders of the outer face. The two rows run for 25 feet to the tip of the tapering spine, and where this joins the SE. valley of the saddle the inner row ceases. The outer row can however be followed across the 10 feet gap which lies between the tip of the spine and the beginning of a substantial mound which represents the next stretch of the wall. The gap is probably the entrance to the fort, and the fact that the foundation of the outer face of the wall runs across suggests that that might have been a doorway or portal in the wall at this point.

The mound, about 15 feet in width and up to 3 feet 6 inches in height, runs SW. from the entrance for a distance of 60 feet along which no trace of the inner face of the wall and only one stone of the outer face appear. From there outwards, however, for a distance of about 400 feet the lowest courses of the outer face are visible almost continuously. This seems likely to be the result of the clearance of the face of the wall to facilitate the removal of all but the grounders and firm foundation stones, probably in a search for material for building field boundaries. For a distance of about 300 feet the mound continues to appear behind the exposed outer face. It is irregular in size, and its appearance may be a further result of the quarrying/

quarrying. After reaching this point the mound dies away and the cleared face of the wall runs for a distance of about 100 feet round the S. face of the slight knoll which occupies the S. end of the summit plateau. The line of clearance then ceases, at a point where the slope is very steep. The wall probably ran thence up over the W. end of the knoll and on to the crest of the W. flank of the summit plateau where it reappears at a distance of 90 feet NW. of the end of the cleared face. Part of the gap is due to the presence of an earthen bank with traces of a slight ditch on its N. side which crosses the S. extremity of the fort from WNW. to SSE. The clearance of the outer face of the fort wall was carried out at a later date than that of the construction of the bank, as the cleared face runs right through this.

From its point of reappearance the wall runs NNE. N. and NE. round the natural crest of the flank of the hill, appearing as an intermittent stony mound with a few conspicuous earthfast boulders. It crosses the NW. end of the NW. valley of the saddle, and rejoins the summit knoll.

The summit knoll is thus defended by the fort wall on all sides except the SW. where it adjoins the saddle. There is evidence that this side was also defended, as a line of earthfast boulders runs up the NE. side of the NW. valley of the saddle at a distance of about 10 feet from the bottom of the steep rocky SW. face of the knoll. It starts a few yards from the fort wall and runs for 135 feet to end on the middle of the saddle. Another line, overlapping the former by 10 feet, stands right against the foot of the face of the knoll and runs ESE. along it for 65 feet where it ends at a gully which presumably represents a way up to the knoll. Beyond this point the line is taken up by the foot of the tapering rocky spine which/

which ends at the NE. side of the fort entrance. It is thus possible that the knoll was designed as a stronghold of defence; it might have had further walls along the margins of the higher terraces and the sub-oval summit area referred to above.

Among the numerous large boulders which are abundantly strewn over much of the site are some which appear to lie in some order. One such group, forming an L-shaped line, lies at the head of the SE. valley of the saddle. The area outside the SSE. stretch of the fort wall contains a great many boulders, some of which may have formed parts of walls or settings. The line of one such is shown on the plan above the slope which leads down to the external line of entrance to the fort. A distinct line of set stones does appear, however, protruding through the turf for a length of about 170 feet at a distance of about 15 feet outside the line of the cleared face of the SE. part of the fort wall. The function of this line is obscure; it might represent part of a reinforcement of the defences at this point where the line of approach to the fort is the least difficult.

The fort is one of the principal monuments of its kind in the district, and its character suggests that it may be of Dark Age date.