

# EARLY OPEN SETTLEMENT IN RENFREWSHIRE<sup>1</sup>

by FRANK NEWALL, M.A.

RENFREWSHIRE rises from a glacio-alluvial plain in the NE. to heather-clad moor, climbing to over 1000 ft. along the march with Ayrshire, a barrier broken by the vales of Lochwinnoch and Levern, between which an expanse of hill pasture and moss falls away S. without a sheltering range of hills behind which settlement might be

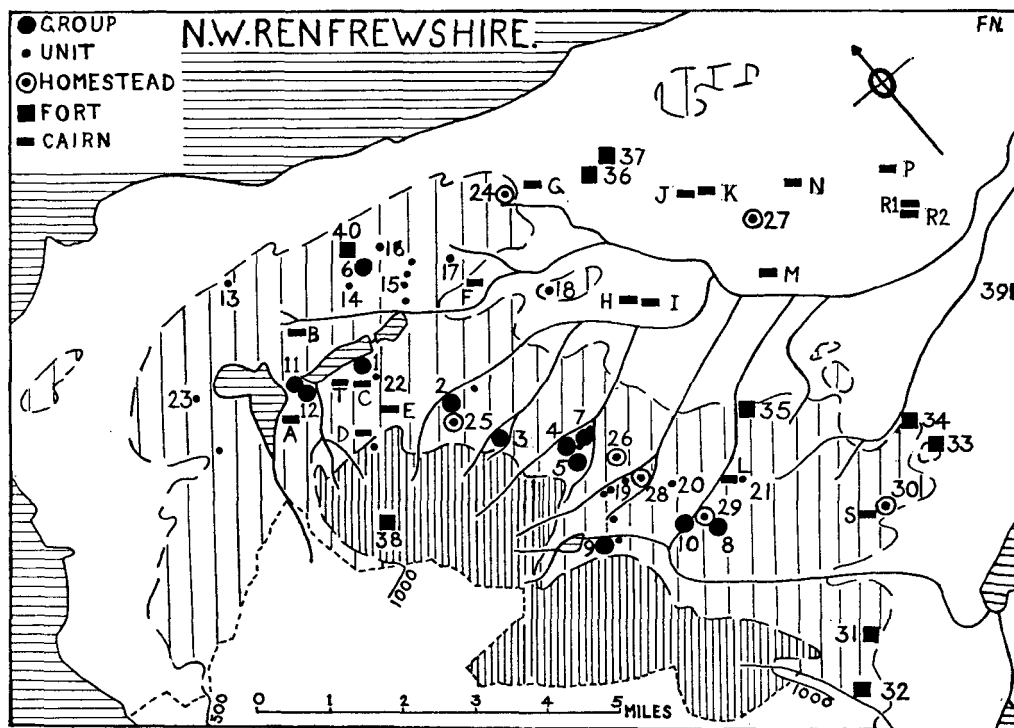


FIG. 1. Map of sites in north west Renfrewshire

induced. But SE. of this central plateau the landscape is identical with that to the NW. In both areas a peat-covered plateau in the rain shadow of a hill mass to the S. is drained northwards by numerous streams, and yields along its forward edge to a thin humus resting on glacial brash. Within the deeper hags the remains of birch, rowan and stunted oak prevail.

Any expectation, however, that similar environment might have encouraged like

<sup>1</sup> This report presents one aspect of a survey in which the writer and Mrs Anne Hallifax Crawford were assisted by Messrs Harry M. Sinclair, William O. Black, William Deans, Duncan MacKinnon, Robert C. Scott, and Miss Elizabeth B. Rennie.

Mr Sinclair has, further, helped to prepare the plane-table plans which illustrate the text, while at Gryfe Reservoir Site A, Mr Robin G. Livens, and at Knapps homestead Mrs Anne Hallifax Crawford lent assistance.

settlement is disappointed. An extensive survey of the SE. area revealed but a few sites and nowhere the type of settlement located in the NW. The early open settlement of Renfrewshire is, then, in general restricted to the NW. uplands.

#### CLASSIFICATION

In this area five classes of settlement have been recognised.

- (a) Huts – circles less than 20 ft. in diameter internally.<sup>1</sup>
- (b) Houses – circles from 20 ft. to 30 ft. in diameter.
- (c) Crofts – huts or houses associated with an enclosure or field system.
- (d) Large houses – circles greater than 30 ft. in diameter.
- (e) Homesteads – houses enclosed within a yard wall.

Of these, classes (a) and (b) may occur in groups, i.e. 'Group Settlement', or singly, i.e. 'Unit Settlement', and units with common structural features have been recognised and designated from the type site as follows:

Type 'Gryfe A' – circles without internal structure. While several are contiguous, each appears to be a unit. 'Store-houses' of slighter build may be attached.

Type 'Green Water A' – large houses with attached or contiguous circular enclosures of a build with the main units.

Type 'Green Water D' – huts, houses, or large houses, with heavily built walls and wide entrances.<sup>2</sup>

Type 'Burnbank A' – huts or houses with attached D-shaped chambers of a build with the main units.

Type 'Burnbank D' – houses subdivided internally. Such houses at Blacketty Water with the small chamber annexed have been classified 'Burnbank AD'.

#### SITUATION

Settlement is governed by the peat terrace and its effluent streams. No site lies south of a line where peat today exceeds 1 ft. in depth, and most lie in the shelter of the forward edge of the plateau near the point where streams begin to flow in recognisable beds. Thus they are confined to the 700-ft. and 900-ft. contours. But a number of houses ('Green Water D') and homesteads occupy local rises overlooking once-cultivated land. In the cases of classes (a), (b) and (c) it seems probable that the district was exploited by pastoralists grazing stock on the slopes before them, and perhaps drawing fuel from the moor behind, for small peat cuttings occasionally lie in the vicinity.

#### DESCRIPTION

The sites are numbered as in fig. 1. The National Grid Reference, and fig. number where illustrated follow in brackets. Minor units are unnumbered.

<sup>1</sup> All dimensions are internal unless otherwise stated.

<sup>2</sup> Where described as boulder walled they incorporate stones too heavy to be lifted by one man.

## GROUP SETTLEMENT AND RELATED UNITS

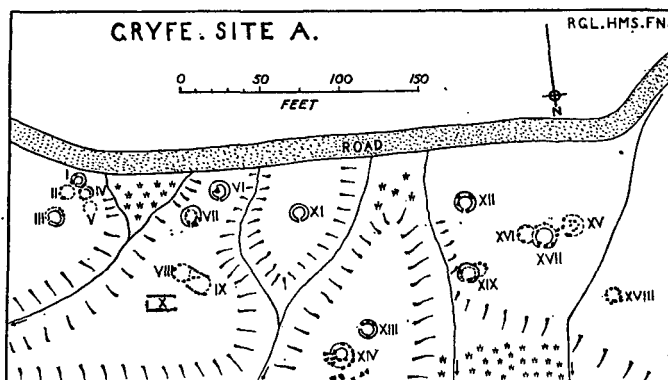


FIG. 2. Gryfe Reservoir Settlement, Group A (NS 28237147)

### 1. GRYFE RESERVOIR A (NS 28237147; fig. 2)

This settlement on islands of hard ground between minor S. tributaries to the Gryfe consists of hut circles ('Gryfe A'), 10–15 ft. in diameter, outlined by turf-enveloped stone foundation walls, 3–4 ft. wide and entered by a 2 ft. wide gap on N. or E. Associated are circles of slighter build without entrance (II, XVIII), which are possibly storehouses or 'cleits', some being attached to huts (XVI, XVII, XIX). A rectangular build (X) is probably of later date as similar linear walls cross the site of at least one and possibly two circles (VII, IX). Two units of characteristic build lie S. of the main group:

(a) (NS 28327126) – a raised circle 15–17 ft. over-all.

(b) (NS 27797084) – in the crook of the W. Garshangan headstream – a 15 ft. hut with a 3 ft. wide wall entered from the E. Small peat cuttings lie nearby.

Other 'Gryfe A' units have been located at:

(c) COPLIE BURN (NS 309655) – on the S. bank is a 13 ft. hut with 4–5 ft. wide wall and 19 in. entrance in the E.

The rear wall is recessed by 2 ft. for a distance of 10 ft. (cf. Burnbank B, *infra*).

(d) BURNHEAD MOOR (NS 30007258) – South of a small N. tributary to the Gryfe, a low knoll supports a hut 16 ft. over-all, with a 2 ft. entrance in the E.

### 2. GREEN WATER GROUP (NS 29296967)<sup>1</sup>

'Green Water A.' In the 'Peat Field', Hillside farm, a large house, 31 ft. across within a 5 ft. wide wall broken by 4–5 ft. gaps in E. and W. has attached on the SW. an enclosure, 18 ft. over-all. To the S., following a lateral of the Green Water are:

B. (NS 29246952), a 10 ft. hut circle with 4–5 ft. wall spread, with, in the S., slab-like boulders apparently fallen outwards from an erect position. A ruinous wall runs W. towards the stream near which it expands into what is possibly the N. side of a hut about 18 ft. across (C).

'Green Water D' (NS 29266955). Overgrown in a fir plantation is a boulder-walled house, 29 ft. 6 in. within a 5 ft. wide wall with 4 ft. entrance in the NE.

<sup>1</sup> This group and No. 25 were indicated by Mr John Cameron of Hillside farm.

## 3. BURNBANK WATER GROUP (NS 295684; figs. 3, 4)

'Burnbank A.' At the confluence of the Burnbank head-streams, a sub-rectangular hut, 18 ft. across within a 4-5 ft. thick wall, has, beside the 2 ft. SE. entrance, a D-shaped chamber 12 ft. by 9 ft. 6 in.

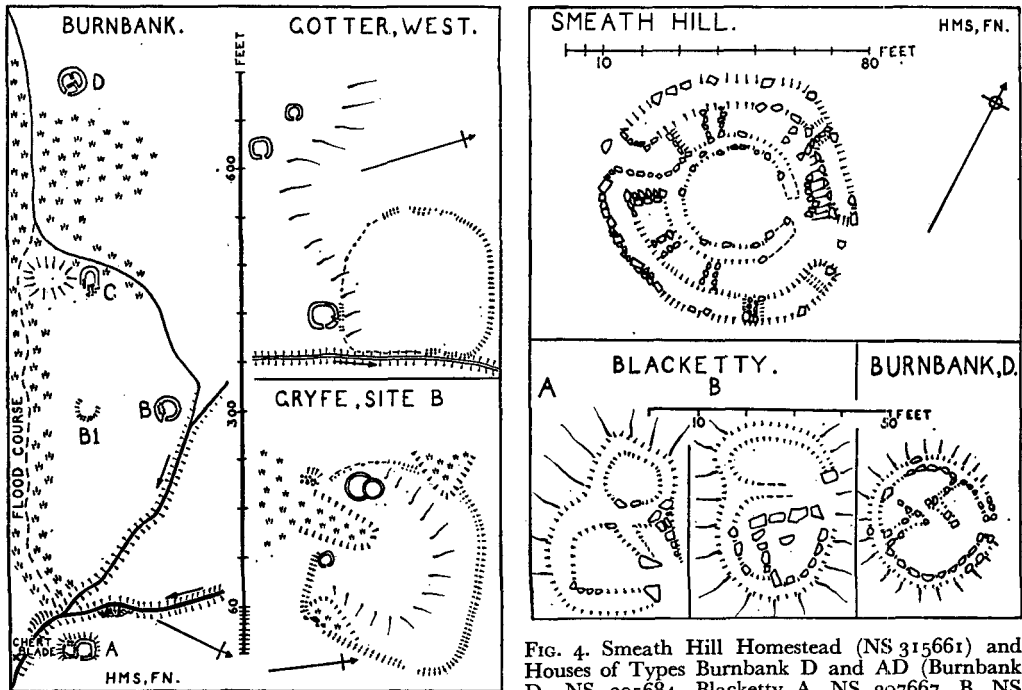


FIG. 3. Burnbank Settlement (NS 295684): Gryfe Reservoir, Croft Site B (NS 26787178): Gotter Burn West Group (NS 321643)

FIG. 4. Smeath Hill Homestead (NS 315661) and Houses of Types Burnbank D and AD (Burnbank D, NS 295684, Blacketty A, NS 307667, B, NS 307668)

B. Some 300 ft. W. is a 15 ft. hut ('Gryfe A') with a 2 ft. recess in the S. wall, 10 ft. long and fronted by a line of large stones 3 ft. from it.

B1. To the S. a low mound bears traces of walling.

C. An elongated hut recessed into the lower slope of a hillock SW. of B measures 15 ft. by 11 ft.

'Burnbank D.' Farther S. lies a sub-rectangular house (fig. 4), 20 ft. across. The 2 ft. entrance opens to the right into an apartment 12 ft. by 6 ft., and to the left into a large room 12 ft. 4 in. by 11 ft. 3 in. The common rear wall admits access to a rear segment 6-7 ft. at widest.

## 4. BLACKETTY WATER WEST GROUP (NS 306674)

Two adjacent houses ('Green Water D') lie S. of the Blacketty. The smaller is 20 ft. across with 3-4 ft. walls and 4 ft. entrance in the E. The larger measures 32 ft. 6 in. within a 5 ft. wall recessed or disturbed along the inner margin, on the W. An annexe open to the E. is 15 ft. by 9 ft. N.-S. No entrance communicates with the circle.

## 5. BLACKETTY WATER EAST GROUP A

A. (NS 307667; fig. 4).<sup>1</sup> On a rise 50 yds. S. of the most S. tributary is a sub-rectangular hut

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *P.S.A.S.*, XLV (1910-11), 18-26, fig. 1, for a similar plan referred to the 'Early Iron Age'.

with E. entrance and 13 ft. N.-S., with a 4-6 ft. wall spread. A small inner chamber N. of the entrance is 8 ft. 6 in. by 4 ft. On the N. side is a roughly D-shaped build 10 ft. across ('Burnbank AD').

B. (NS 307668). A like rise 100 yds. N. of the stream bears a 17 ft. hut with 4 ft. walls and subdivided by lines of single boulders into a 12 ft. room with a 5 ft. wide corridor round the N. and W. quarters. Room and corridor have a common E. entrance. Onto the N. side is built an oval chamber, 18 ft. by 9 ft. ('Burnbank AD').

C. A 20 ft. house, 100 yds. N. of B, enclosed by a 4-6 ft. wall with 2 ft. E. entrance, adjoins a similar structure 13 ft. across. With the above group may be compared an apparently similar group on the detached plateau of Lurg Moor, and a unit by the Calder river.

#### 6. LURG MOOR (NS 29557338)

A. A 12 ft. hut circle with 2 ft. 6 in. wall broken by a 5 ft. gap in the S. has a penannular N. annexe, 10 ft. by 6 ft. 6 in. apparently entered independently from the SE. The association of plan lies rather with 'Blacketty B' than with 'Burnbank A', but the size and build is that of 'Gryfe A'.

B. To the NW. a low mound 24 ft. across may prove to be a cairn rather than a house.

C. A 14 ft. house is discernible 18 ft. S. of A.

#### CALDER-QUEENSIDE BURN JUNCTION (NS 30526483)<sup>1</sup>

Here a rectangular hut 16 ft. E.-W. by 11 ft. has on the S. a circle 11-12 ft. in diameter over-all. Although similar to Blacketty B, the build reflects that of a mediaeval farm house unearthed on Walls Hill.<sup>2</sup>

#### 7. BLACKETTY WATER EAST GROUP B (NS 31456690)

A unique group of 5 huts entered on the N. through 4 ft. wide walls, and 13-16 ft. square, lies in the immediate vicinity of the large house No. 7a. In view of the lack of analogy for association between such structures, the round house and a similar one, No. 7b, to the N. are treated as units. (*vide* 'Unit Settlement' *infra*).

#### 8. GOTTER BURN EAST GROUP (NS 323644)

A. Seventy-eight ft. SE. of Cat Craig homestead, No. 29, a house ('Green Water D'), 23 ft. within a 4 ft. wide wall and E. entrance, lies W. of the main Gotter headstream.

B. Forty ft. downstream a large hut, 18 ft. 6 in. across has on the NW. a 6 ft. wide D-shaped annexe ('Burnbank A', modified).

C. Downstream at the tail of the Cat, an abrupt outcrop scarped S., is a 15 ft. hut circle.

D. A circle 50 ft. to the N. of C and 17 ft. across with 4 ft. boulder walls ('Green Water D'), lies E. of a vestigial hut of similar build (E).

#### 9. CALDER RIVER GROUP (NS 30186505)

On a steep bank of the Calder is the only double walled house reported to date in Renfrewshire. The complex comprises a 20 ft. house with a 3 ft. wall enclosed by a 5 ft. wall of over all diameter 37 ft., leaving an intermural corridor which narrows from 5 ft. at the disaligned E. entrances to 2 ft. on the W. To E. and W. are simple huts 16-19 ft. ('Green Water D'), and 17 ft. (vestigial), in diameter. In effect we have a compacted homestead, perhaps with offices outside the yard wall.

#### MONIABROCK MOOR

A possible early hut group as yet unlocated on Moniabrock Moor, may be that referred to in passing by Robert Love in *P.S.A.S.*, XI (1874-5), 290, as 'vestiges of, to appearance, several upland summer huts of the herdsmen'.

<sup>1</sup> This house and Calder Group, No. 9, were located by Mr McKellar and reported by him through Mr Fenton of the Selkirk Archaeological Society.

<sup>2</sup> Newall, F., *Excavations at Walls Hill, Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire* (1960), 14-17, fig. 5.

## CROFTS

## 10. GOTTER BURN WEST GROUP (NS 321643; fig. 3)

West of the Cat Craig homestead, No. 29, are 3 sub-rectangular huts 27 ft. by 31 ft.; 21 ft. 6 in. by 20 ft. and 14 ft. square, all with 4-6 ft. wide walls and all entered on the E. except that the largest has also a gap in the N. wall facing a field 184 ft. by 178 ft. enclosed by a sinuous, largely robbed, much spread wall, and by an unmapped headstream of the Gotter.

## 11. GRYFE RESERVOIR SITE B (NS 26787178; fig. 3)

Crowning a low hill, a 10 ft. hut ('Gryfe A'), with 2 ft. wide walls and E. entrance, lies 93 ft. E. of a complex in which a 26 ft. circle intersects a presumably earlier 36 ft. circle. A turf and boulder wall encircles the hill to enclose the group.

## 12 GRYFE RESERVOIR SITE C (NS 26687199)

A 16-18 ft. hut with 4 ft. walls is recessed into the face of a steep rise. On higher ground to the E. and 106 ft. from the hut, a circle 27-31 ft. within a 4 ft. wall has a 5 ft. entrance in the W. facing the hut which is entered on the NE. Three adjacent boulder-walled enclosures lie S. of the hut by 67 ft. and 10-12 ft. higher. The central area covers 58 by 54 ft., those on either side 20-23 by 54 ft.<sup>1</sup>

## UNIT SETTLEMENT

There remain a number of houses of type 'Green Water D' which stand apart and may mark a movement towards the self-contained homestead. As individual description would be tedious these are listed below. All entrances lie in the east.

<i>Site and Reference</i>	<i>Diameter</i>	<i>Wall Width</i>	<i>Entrance</i>
13. ALUM DAM (NS 266747)	30 ft.	4-7 ft.	5 ft.
14. CORLICK (NS 292729)	25 ft.	4 ft.	disturbed
15. BURNHEAD MOOR (NS 299725) <sup>2</sup>	20-25 ft.	5 ft.	8 ft.
16. LURG MOOR (NS 297737) <sup>3</sup>	30 ft.	6 ft.	6 ft.
17. BURNHEAD MOOR (NS 304727) <sup>4</sup>	29 ft.	?	?
	over-all		
18. SIDE HILLS (NS 326702) <sup>5</sup>	23 ft.	4 ft.	9 ft. 6 in.
19. MILL BURN (NS 315658)	33 ft.	6 ft.	disturbed
20. COPLIE BURN (NS 316654)	25 ft. 6 in.	4 ft.	disturbed
21. LADYMUIR (NS 333644)	22 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.
7a. BLACKETTY (NS 31456690)	32 ft.	4 ft.	6 ft.
7b. BLACKETTY (NS 31356705)	34-37 ft.	4 ft.	6 ft.

With these large houses may be compared two turf circles:

## 22 (a). GRYFE RESERVOIR (NS 28407123)

A circle SE. of site A, 31 ft. within a 6 ft. wide turf bank with E. entrance is ditched on S. and E. A ruined stone wall between once cultivated land and heath may relate to it, to form a croft for which there is no local analogy.

<sup>1</sup> The situation of the larger circle at site No. 12 and the position of its entrance suggest that it was a pound for animals. Possibly the larger circles on site 11 served the same purpose. If so, the largest hut on site 10 may be analogous. It may well be that all three croft sites contain hut, pound and enclosure.

<sup>2</sup> This house has a 28 ft. length of walling running E. from the north side of the entrance. A stone and turf dyke curves uphill towards it but no connection was established.

<sup>3</sup> A wall runs diagonally across the entrance for 18 ft. to NE. To the W. a turf dyke partly encloses about 1 acre. The house is buttress-built on the west.

<sup>4</sup> This structure is too heavily overgrown for definition.

<sup>5</sup> Nearby is a U-shaped structure open to the S.

## 23 (b). SHIELHILL (NS 247732)

Here a 63 ft. circle outlined by a spread turf mound 9 ft. 6 in. wide may be the wall round a now obliterated timber house.

If, as suggested above, a large house is the main unit of a complex of which the characteristic feature is a surrounding yard wall, we have a self-contained homestead. Several such steadings have been located.

## HOMESTEADS

## 24. DEVOL MOOR (NS 327726)

At the NE. edge of the moor concentric 10 ft. wide turf mounds limit areas 30 ft. and 72 ft. over-all. The house is small and the turf walling uncharacteristic, but nearby are long narrow fields separated by alignments of sporadic boulders.

## 25. GREEN WATER (NS 29256945)

Upstream from 'Green Water D' a large house, 41 ft. over 6 ft. walls, boulder retained, contains the ruins of a sub-rectangular build. To N. and NW. the vestiges of an outer dyke lie 24 ft. from the house.

## 26. SMEATH HILL (NS 315661; fig. 4)

On the S. slope of the hill a 27 ft. house has an E. entrance aligned with one through a yard wall of massive build especially round the N. and W. Between house and wall a corridor is subdivided by cross walling. At the NW. an entrance communicates with the N. half of the corridor but not with the house. The S. corridor is entered by the E. gateway. To the S. the ground is distinctive over about half an acre and marked by occasional boulders round the W. edge.

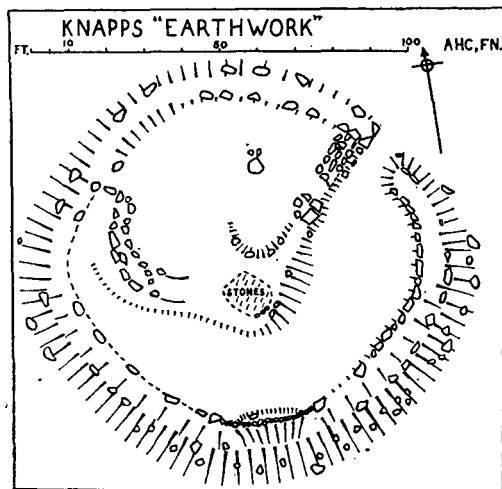


FIG. 5. Knapps Homestead (NS 36936885), surface indications

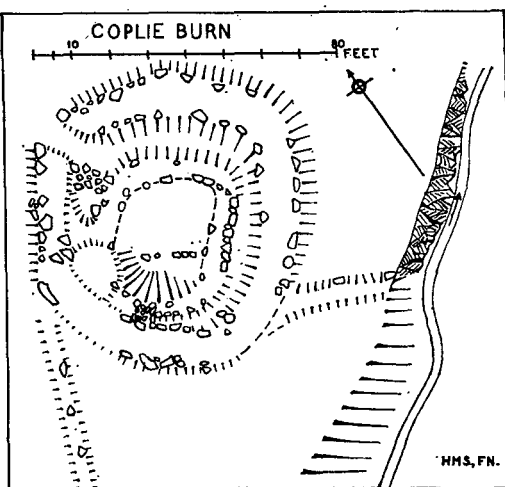


FIG. 6. Cople Burn Homestead (NS 315656)

## 27. KNAPPS 'EARTHWORK' (NS 36936885; fig. 5; O.S. 1-in., sheet 60)

At this site, on an incline, two levels have been made up rather than scooped, within a 94 ft. yard, walled by boulder faced rubble, 8 ft. wide. A raised terrace on the W. overlooks a lower yard entered at the NE. To the W. of the entrance heavy walling is broken by a gap leading up to the terrace on which is a vestigial house 25 ft. across with, beside it, a semicircular hollow perhaps outlining a hut. Since the first draft of this report the Knapps site was selected as the first in the series of excavations suggested in the conclusion.<sup>1</sup> The site has been dated to the fourteenth-fifteenth centuries A.D., and is a typical farmstead with barn, granary, flour store, and house-cum-byre on the raised terrace and accommodation for animals in the yard. With it are dated the analogous No. 28 below and No. 25 above which share distinctive features.

## 28. COPLIE BURN (NS 315656; fig. 6)

A sub-rectangular plan, 80 ft. across, N. of the burn reflects features of the Knapps site. Here the yard is reduced to a corridor passing from the N. entrance clockwise round a central raised area and barred by a cross wall on the SW. There is no entrance through the terrace wall, but behind it to the W. of the yard entrance, a hollow rises to a stony circular area in the extreme W. corner. From the S. corner a turf dyke runs SE. to the bank of the Coplie Burn, while from the NW. corner a similar dyke runs upstream for about 100 yds. Several hundred feet to the N. alignments of sporadic boulders suggest a further field wall.

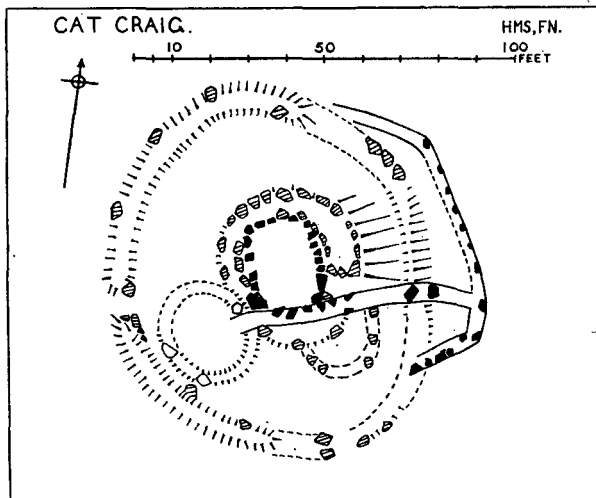


FIG. 7. Cat Craig Homestead Complex (NS 323644)

29. CAT CRAIG (NS 323644; fig. 7)<sup>2</sup>

Here a house 22 ft. 6 in. within a 6-10 ft. wide boulder faced earth wall with a small chamber S. of the entrance is surrounded by a 93 ft. diameter yard similarly walled.

A smaller house SW. of the larger is secondary.

A final rectangular structure within the original house backs on the S. one of a complex of rectilinear walls which form enclosures NE. and SE. of the house.

To the S., Knockminnan, an abrupt readily defensible volcanic plug, is too far off to threaten the site but would provide an excellent refuge stronghold, though too precipitous for permanent occupation.

<sup>1</sup> The report, now in preparation, will be published by Paisley Museum.

<sup>2</sup> Possibly the 'Big Ring', traditional conventicle site. *vide* Murray, J., *Kilmacolm* (1907), p. 89, and Crawford, A., *mss.* XIV, p. 111.



30. KNOCKMADE HILL (NS 35236184)<sup>1</sup>

This homestead comprises a 29 ft. house with E. entrance aligned with that of the 124 ft. N.-S. by 66-82 ft. yard. In the S. arc of the 8 ft. wide wall is a 25 ft. house. These occupy a ridge sheer to the west, steep to the E., but accessible from the N. and less readily from the S.

31. DUNCONNELL HILL FORT (NS 331595)<sup>2</sup>

This small fort compares with Knockmade in being a steep sided eminence (600 ft.), approachable from one side. An inner enclosure, 44 ft. within a spread mound of earth and stones is contained by a similar wall of total diameter 130 ft. The site has much of the character of a fortified homestead. A number of small finds from landslip indicate a late Iron Age dating.<sup>3</sup> Of the above three sites, two are defended naturally, and the third lies near an even more impregnable hill. These are possibly late Iron Age foundations, Dunconnell being probably the earliest.

## DISCUSSION

Apart from the addition of 'storehouses' the Gryfe Reservoir Site A stands apart with its concentration of simple huts.

All other groups are interrelated by analogous constructional features as tabulated below.

<i>Construction</i>	<i>Sites</i>
Type 'Green Water A'	Green Water, Blacketty Water E.
Type 'Green Water D'	Green Water, Blacketty Water W. Gotter Burn E.
Type 'Burnbank A, AD, A modified'	{ Burnbank, Blacketty Water E.
Type 'Burnbank D'	{ Lurg Moor? Gotter Burn E. Calder? Burnbank, Blacketty Water E.

Two associated features may now be discussed:

*(a) Hollow Ways*

All hill streams in the area are followed by hollow ways much used in the seven-teenth and eighteenth centuries, several having peculiar significance. A track beside the Blacketty continues far beyond settlement but sends off branches to serve both Blacketty E and Burnbank groups before passing as peat tracks down the nearest streams. Other tracks which appear to converge on settlements lie along the Gotter and at Gryfe Reservoir Sites A and C.

*(b) Cairns (fig. 1)*

While cairns accompany the Gryfe from its source to the laigh lands there is a significant group near Gryfe Sites A, B, and C. Just S. of Site A a regular domed mound (C) in part artificial, with basal diameter 40 ft., appears to be a burial cairn. Farther S. (NS 280705; E), is a hemispherical mound 27-30 ft. in diameter; and farther S. still (NS 268702; D), an oval mound 25 ft. by 30 ft. Very like E is a domed

<sup>1</sup> *Paisley Magazine*, Oct. 1828, 524; Crawford, A., mss. x, 2; xi, 115; *Arch. Hist. Coll. Renfrew*, II, 210-11, with plan.

<sup>2</sup> Crawford, A., mss. x, 2; xi, 115; xiii, 52.

<sup>3</sup> Newall, F., *Walls Hill* (1960), 23-24. Since 1956 several sherds of pottery some with yellowish slip and one with slight finger tip decoration, and part of a fusiform shale bead, have been washed out.

cairn (NS 263714; A), 27 ft. across and, like E disturbed at centre. North of the Gryfe (NS 256727; B; O.S. 2½ in., sheet NS 527), is a round 30 ft. cairn while in the east of the surveyed area (NS 330646; L), is an equally obvious Bronze Age cairn also 30 ft. across with peristalith stones protruding. A possible cairn on Lurg Moor has already been mentioned (6B). Recently a robbed round cairn, 26 ft. to 32 ft. in diameter (NS 27737145; T) has been located, S. of the Gryfe. This with 6 ft. wide kerbed peristalith is not unlike a boulder kerbed round cairn (NS 340687; I) sectioned at East Green Farm, and 31 ft. in diameter. A Bronze Age dating for the entire group is not improbable.

Of the others figured only F (Auchenfoil) is possibly Neolithic, N (Lawfield),<sup>1</sup> now erased, P (The N. Mound, Houston; NS 40336740),<sup>2</sup> R<sub>1</sub> (the extant S. Mound; NS 40106649),<sup>3</sup> and R<sub>2</sub> (S. Mound b, now erased; NS 40066639),<sup>4</sup> all evidence a penetration along the Gryfe of Bronze Age elements. It is possible that at Gryfe Reservoir we have contemporary settlements. The attribution is strengthened by small finds in the area. (Appendix B. The list is comprehensive.)

Settlement sites comparable with groups in north west Renfrewshire have been tested by excavation on Muirkirk Estate, Ayrshire,<sup>5</sup> and along the Angus-Perth border.<sup>6</sup>

(a) The Muirkirk and 'Gryfe A' huts lie in a comparable position at an elevation of 700-900 ft. near headstreams. In both areas cairns lie in the vicinity. Several in Ayrshire were proved to be Bronze Age<sup>7</sup> while the primary levels of huts produced beakers.

(b) The Perth-Angus distribution though near the 1000 ft. contour is that of the larger hut and house groups in Renfrewshire at headwaters, and serviced by ancient trackways. Large contiguous circles are not uncommon. In such a pair at Dalrunzion (Q, Q<sub>1</sub>), only the heavier-walled unit was a house, the other being, perhaps, a cattle pound. The site was roughly bracketed 200 B.C. - A.D. 200.

With 'Burnbank D', however, may be compared a hut in Manor parish, Peeblesshire.<sup>8</sup> Though not dated, the settlement of which it was a unit was compared with Romano-British groups in west Yorkshire.

(c) Finally, with the Homesteads may be compared a group recently explored in Cumberland,<sup>9</sup> especially those at Old Brompton, Jacob's Gill and Wolsty Hall, dating from the pre-Roman Iron Age to the fourth century A.D. Some at least are as late as the fifteenth century in our area.

In Renfrewshire, then, there may be a sequence of occupation from the Bronze Age to post-Roman times. With the homesteads and perhaps the large house units we probably enter the post-Roman Iron Age. Dunconnell, whether fort or home-stead, is so dated on the strength of surface finds. Knockmade shares with it and

<sup>1</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, LVII (1922-3), 104-5; Stevenson, *Houstoniana* (1864), 17.

<sup>2</sup> *Stat. Acc.* I, 1-3, 330; Stevenson, *Houstoniana* (1864), 13-14.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, LXI (1926-7), 270-5; LIV (1919-20), 210-12.

<sup>6</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, LXVII (1932-3), 188, fig. 1; LXXX (1945-6), 131-5.

<sup>7</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, LXI (1926-7), 275-9; LVI (1921-2), 126-32; LI (1916-17), 24-25.

<sup>8</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, LXXV (1940-1), 111-14, fig. 7.

<sup>9</sup> *T. Cumb. & West. A.S.*, N.S. LIX (1960), 1-14.

with other Iron Age type hill forts an attraction towards the 500 ft. – 600 ft. contours. Excavation alone may establish the significance of this and determine a proper temporal and structural relationship. The logical sequel to the survey is the series of planned excavations at each of the type sites, now begun at Knapps.

## APPENDIX A

## THE HILL FORTS OF NORTH WEST RENFREWSHIRE

## 32. CASTLEHILL, GLENLORA (NS 32355875).

The higher end of a precipitous spur is detached by a spread earth rampart, 18–21 ft. across, and contains the ruins of a stone build about 48 ft. wide. Height 630 ft. Possibly a homestead.

33. MARSHALL MOOR (NS 372626)<sup>1</sup>

A fort 310 ft. by 160–170 ft. with outer ramparts on N. and S. Height 540 ft.

## 34. CASTLEHILL, EAST BARNEIGH (NS 37056305)

The E. end of a steep hill is isolated by a deep depression and a low mound which continues round the S. and E. sides as a rickle of stones. Height 560 ft. Possibly a homestead.

## 35. CASTLEHILL, GIBBLASTON (NS 34586605)

A crag fort 206 ft. by 160 ft. and 135 ft. N. and S. of a clavicate E. entrance. Within is a house 30 ft. by 40 ft. Height 400 ft.

## 36. CRAIGMARLOCH (NS 295736)

A univallate stone fort vitrified at the 6 ft. wide W. entrance and 163 ft. by 77–87 ft. Height 500 ft.

## 37. CASTLEHILL, LEPERSTON (NS 35057228)

A univallate, 102 ft. by 74 ft. and 54 ft. N. and S. of a clavicate E. entrance. Height 456 ft. Possibly a homestead.

## 38. CREUCH HILL (NS 266683)

On a spur detached by a wide depression is a massive tumble of stone blocks outlined by a circular foundation 60 ft. in diameter. Height 1400 ft.

39. BAR HILL, KILBARCHAN (NS 41006366)<sup>2</sup>

Now erased, this was 'a small semicircular fort' with 'a stone rampart'. Height 323 ft. The site is indicated on the O.S. 6" and 2½" sheets.

40. LURG MOOR ROMAN FORTLET<sup>3</sup> (NS 295736)

## APPENDIX B

## SMALL FINDS FROM ABOVE THE 500 FT. CONTOUR

(a) *Lurg Moor Site A*. The Roman fortlet occupies the N. end of an outcrop ridge along which for 400 × 150 yds. flint and quartz were knapped. The area has yielded at least 7 hammer stones, 3 being of quartz, 2 knapping anvils, a fragment of polished cementstone axe, 12 artifacts of flint, chert, jasper and obsidian including a barbed and tanged arrowhead of buff chert, and at least a dozen quartz artifacts several of which have been approved by Mr A. D. Lacaille. Three small cores and a

<sup>1</sup> Indicated by R. W. Feachem.

<sup>2</sup> *New Stat. Acc.*, 367: McKenzie, R. D., *Kilbarchan, A Parish History*. (1902), 249; Possibly the 'antique capelle' of *Reg. Pas.*, 48–49 (fo. xxvii).

<sup>3</sup> Located by R. W. Feachem. *J.R.S.*, XLIII (1953), 105, fig. 25.

number of tiny obsidian blades from the surface of glacial brash suggest microlithic technique and may be earlier than other finds from the peat. (NS 295736.)

(b) *Lurg Moor Site B.* To the NW. of Site A an outcrop ridge has produced a schist spindle whorl, a bone ring and a struck flake of white flint. (NS 293740.)

(c) *Lurg Moor Hut A.* Just outside the hut was a flint scraper notched to the right of the dressed bulbar tip and finely pressure flaked down both sides. (NS 29557338.)

(d) *Burnbank Hut A.* From a sheepscrape near the hut came a struck blade of white chert. (NS 295684.)

(e) *Coplie Burn.* Downstream from the homestead (No. 28), in a sheep-scraper was a steeply trimmed chert scraper, notched at the side. (NS 31576561.)

(f) *High Mathernock.* Near the farm Mr John Duff found a white flint barbed and tanged arrowhead. (NS 32557140.)

(g) *Loch Thom.* On the shore of the loch Mr L. Scanlan found a barbed and tanged arrowhead.

(h) *Duchal Moor.* On the moor S. of Newtonhead was found about 1896 a flaked flint axe.<sup>1</sup>

(i) *Beith's Dam.* Near the dam workmen unearthened a broken perforated greenstone axe.<sup>2</sup>

(j) *Auchincloich.* William McPherson ploughed up a polished green stone axe, 4.2 in. by 2.4 in. by 1 in. (NS 365638.)

#### ABBREVIATIONS USED

*Arch. Hist. Coll. Renfrew:* *Archaeological and Historical Collections of the County of Renfrew* (1890).

Crawfurd, A., mss.: *The Cairn of Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, and West Scotland.* Forty five Vols. in ms.

of historical, archaeological and genealogical matter compiled and indexed by Andro Crawfurd of Johnshill between 1827 and 1854. In Paisley Reference Library. Nos. P.C. 1407-52.

Murray, J., *Kilmacolm:* Murray, James, *Kilmacolm, A Parish History.* (Ed. 2, 1907.)

Reg. Pas.: *Registrum Monasterii de Passelet.* (Maitland Club, 1832; Paisley, 1877.)

<sup>1</sup> Information from Mr B. McMinn who saw the axe and described it as splayed towards the cutting edge and about 7 in. by 2½ in. by 2 in.

<sup>2</sup> Snoddy, T. G., *Round about Greenock* (1950), 150.