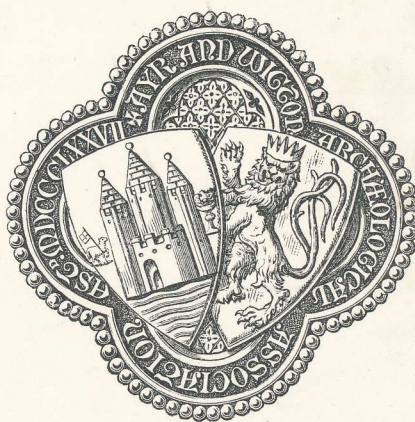


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RELATING TO THE COUNTIES OF

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## VII.

### AYRSHIRE DUNS.

#### No. I.—DUNVIN.

THE prehistoric earthworks of Ayrshire are both numerous and important, presenting many varieties of the structures known commonly as hill-forts or camps. Some have suffered more or less from the progress of agricultural improvements, but many still remain, more especially in the pastoral districts, in comparatively good condition.

One of the most perfect specimens is situated in the parish of Girvan, about three miles from the town of Girvan, on the road to Colmonell.<sup>1</sup> It stands on the north ridge of the water of Assel, looking over the upper valley of the Stinchar, and commands an extensive view. It consists of an inner mound, surrounded by two ditches and two ramparts of earth. The whole is now covered with green turf. On the east side an inclined way leads from the summit over the ditches and ramparts to the outside. The area of the structure is about one acre three roods.

The accompanying plan and sections, which have been carefully prepared under the superintendence of Mr. R. Inglis, factor to the Earl of Stair, will give the best idea of this remarkable earthwork.

It is of oval form, measuring about 315 feet in its greatest length, by 240 feet in breadth. The inner mound is pear-shaped, measuring about 104 feet by 68. The highest point is about 35 feet above the level of the top of the outer rampart, at the point where the line C D cuts it. Northward, from the point B, there are two entrances through the ramparts, but these seem of modern construction. The inclined way shown in the first section leading from the eastern side of the inner mound to the outside, is apparently part of the original design.

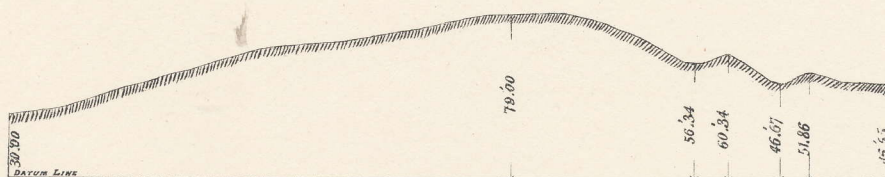
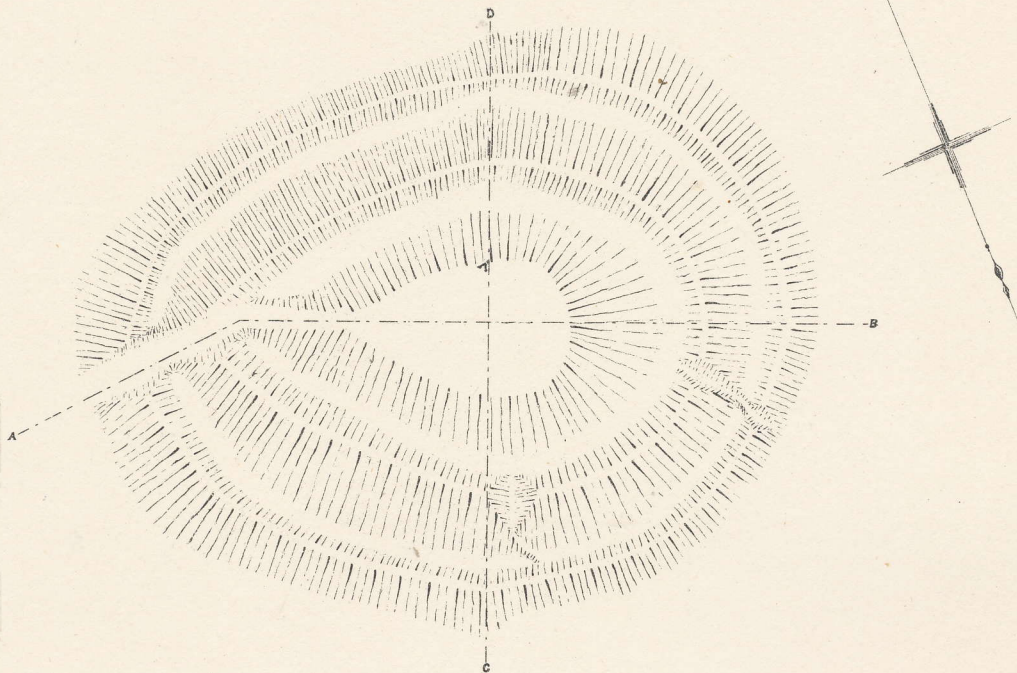
It is impossible from the nature of the structure to give minutely exact

<sup>1</sup> See *Ordnance Survey* (1-inch scale, Ayrshire, sheet 7).

measurements of every part of the ramparts and ditches, as these vary at different points, but the following data, taken on the lines of the section, will give a general idea of the size of the Dun. On the line A B, the slope from the western edge of the inner mound to the bottom of the inner ditch is about 48 feet. The breadth of the inner ditch at this point is about 7 feet, but it varies from 15 feet to 5 feet at various points. From the outer edge of the inner ditch to the top of the inner rampart on the slope, is 15 feet on the line A B, but it varies slightly all round. The average breadth of the top of the inner rampart is about 2 feet. From the top of the inner rampart to the bottom of the outer ditch is 28 feet, but it varies from 30 to 40 feet at other points. The breadth of the outer ditch varies from 3 feet to 7 feet. On the slope from the bottom of the outer ditch to the top of the outer rampart it measures 13 feet on the line A B, and about 10 feet on the line C D. The breadth of the top of the outer rampart is about 2 feet, the outer slope varies from 12 to 25 feet. Some slight excavations were made this autumn on the top, and at various points in both ditches. Nothing was discovered, except that the soil on the summit was evidently forced, and that a considerable body of water was collected in parts of the ditches, but neither its source nor its outfall was discovered. The exceedingly wet season prevented a more extended investigation at the time.

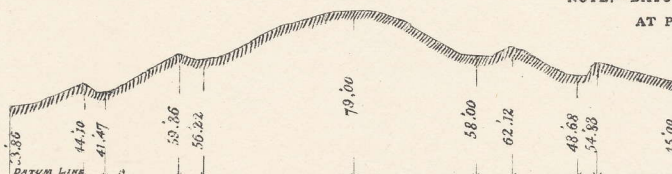
R. W. COCHRAN-PATRICK.





SECTION A.B.

NOTE:—DATUM LINE 73.86 BELOW TOP OF ROCK  
AT POINT MARKED A ON PLAN.



SECTION C.D.



DUNVIN.