

military precision. Were they perhaps some sort of temporary camp for the natives? Interpretation can either be hostile - did they form a 'concentration camp' where prisoners were kept while the Roman army was campaigning in the north; alternatively they could have been relatively benign - this is where the Romanised farmers living in the territory between Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall were brought back for their own safety when Septimius Severus was beating up the Picts prior to withdrawing from the Antonine Wall to Hadrian's Wall.

Carlisle



Pictorially, the best abstract art of the year was to be found at Carlisle where an area was being cleared under PPG 16 to the south of the town along Botchergate directed by Paul Flynn of the Carlisle Archaeological Unit. This should be outside the area of Roman Carlisle though the position of the defences of Roman Carlisle are completely unknown. In the backlands however a very odd structure indeed was found, a central clay core supported by a row of wattle posts on either side with different coloured clays piled up against it on both sides. Its purpose remains totally unknown. Earlier suggestions of an amphitheatre were soon ruled out, but could it have been some sort of flood defense against flooding from the River Eden which today underlies the mainline railway just to the east of it?

Then up into Scotland where the most impressive site I saw was at Kilmartin on the west coast of Scotland. Here was a timber circle said to be the largest yet found in Scotland, lying in a quarry just to the north of the great complex of barrows and henges for which Kilmartin is famous. By the time I arrived it was pouring with rain - which is why I have no photos of the site - but the excavator John Terry showed me around with great enthusiasm oblivious to the weather. I then called in on the new 'visitor centre' - but the less said about that, the better.

Easter Raitts

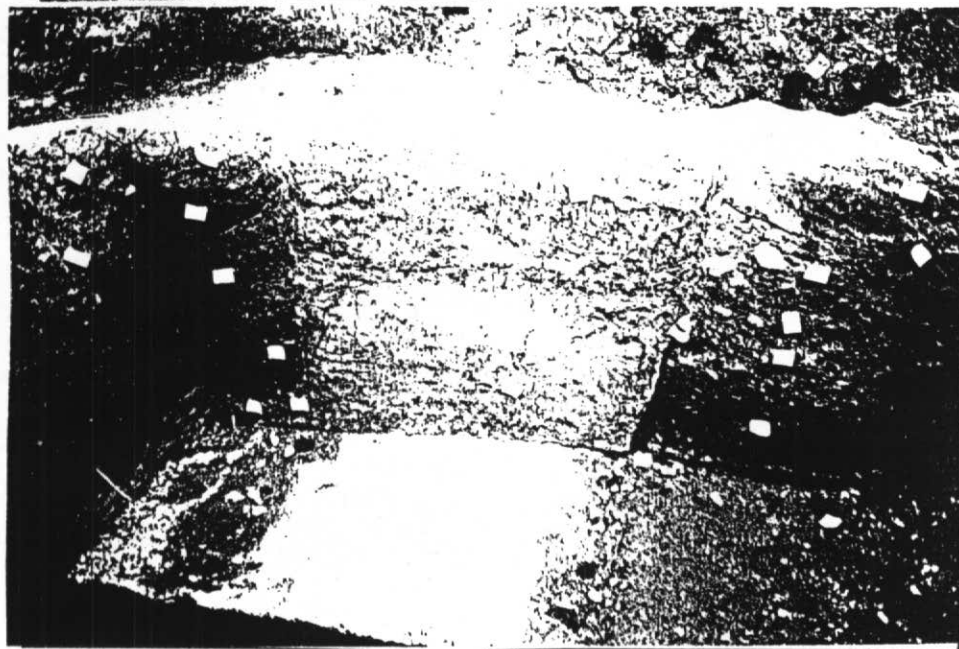
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I then went on to an equally scenic site, that of the deserted post-medieval village of Easter Raitts. This is a training dig led by John Wood, the energetic county archaeologist of the Highland Region, who has organised the excavation of a well-preserved village abandoned in the Highland clearances. The remains are very well preserved, but it is not as remote as it looks, for in the valley below is the main A9 road and just beyond the road are the Ruthven barracks built in the aftermath of the 1745 rebellion and which probably mark the next stage of occupation until it moved in the 1900s to Kingussie.

Glenochar

After the highlands we returned south to Lanarkshire to visit Glenochar. This is another excavation of what the English would term a Deserted Medieval Village but which in Scotch terms is a deserted fermtoun and bastle of the 17th - 18th century. This is a most impressive project that was the winner of the recent Pitt Rivers Award. We shall therefore be covering it in a forthcoming issue, so here I give just one photo as a foretaste of this very impressive project.



Captions



Wallsend

Then down into England and a splendid drive along the whole length of Hadrian's Wall to Wallsend or Segedunum, currently the site of a £7 million project to restore the fort

and make it into a visitor attraction. Wallsend was almost entirely excavated in the 1970s by Charles Daniels as we reported in CA 116. (Sadly Charles Daniels died earlier this year