

country and I have no
doubt many more could
be found. Please do not
trouble to return me the
paper on Moruborough.

Believe me

Yours truly

Reginald V. Galt.

PR Box 2/71

Bradfield Rectory,
Sheffield.

11. Oct: 1884.

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I enclose a paper
on the Camps near Tanfield
and I wish it contained
more information. You
will gather from it, I hope,
some idea of these wonderful
places, and I hope if
you are in this part of
York's next summer you
will go there. I could arrange
for your reception by Mr
G. Clarke of Tanfield House

and I would meet you
there myself. If these so
called camps were now
and then called temples
I think it would be a
more probable explanation
of their construction. Miss
Jordan Cumming in her
book of the Hebrides compares
the old earthworks and
serpent mounds there
with the exactly similar
sun temples in the Himalaya
Mountains, and she

compares the customs
of the highlanders with
the Indians who do
everything "sunwise" down
to passing the bottle
and dealing cards!
It would be interesting
to know some day from
statistics taken by you
how many mounds like
Bradfield Jr found in
close juxtaposition to a
church. There are 3
in this part of the

You want, I understand, to see
a mound fortification near
Sheffield. There is one of the
very finest of that type at
Elston in Northumberland,
which ought to be put in
the schedule. There is another
not so fine but a large and
remarkable one at Bishopston,
in this County.
I am going to finish up some
business in the East during
this autumn, I start work about
the 20th. If you are coming
North could you not pay me a
visit here, you have never,
I think, seen Durham
Yours sincerely
W Greenwell

Ancient
Monuments
Durham

PR Box 2/71
5 Sep
1887

~~Answer.~~

My dear Pitt-Rivers

I have just
returned home to find
your very handsome &
valuable book, which I
will read carefully. Many
thanks for it. The subject
is a very interesting and
curious one and it is odd
it has fallen into the hands

of one so able to illustrate
in more ways than one.
It is a remarkable fact the
very small stature of these people,
and one not easy to account
for, but there cannot be a
doubt that this extraordinary
almost dwarfishness was
normal in the district. We may
look forward to your account
of the Examination of the
barrows, & hope before long. The
stature of the people buried
in them I understand does
not vary from the ordinary
one of the local barrow people.

Chertea, who came this
Evening tells me he has seen you
& that you are on a tour of
inspection. You did not appear
to know of the three circular
structures, similar to the three
Round Table, near Sandfield,
there is one or more on a
moor, Hutton. I think is the
name, near Ripon. A letter
to the Rev. W. C. Lusk, Rector
Ripon, Ripon would give
you all the requisite information.
Have you seen Arbor Low in
Derbyshire, it is a structure of
the same nature.

11. Oct 2/71

Memoranda on
Thornborough Camps
near
Tanfield

with W. Gatty's letter
(of Bradfield Rectory)
and Canon Fremwell's

owner: -

G. Clarke Esq
Tanfield House
Repton

PK Box 2/71

Memoranda on
Shornborough Camps
near Tanfield

Memorandum on the Thorough "camps"
Near Tanfield.

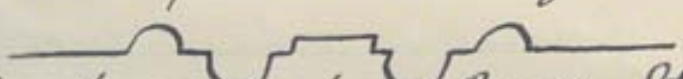
There are three circular entrenchments lying very nearly in a line with ^{two} another from NW to SE. A line drawn through the centres of the two most distant does not pass quite through the centre of the middle entrenchment, but as the country was probably wooded when they were constructed this slight deviation from the straight line is probably unintentional. The two to S are much injured by ploughing but evidently were all built on the same plan. In the centre is a circular plateau on the level of the ground outside; this is surrounded by a ditch, except at the NW and SE where the ditch is discontinued so as to serve as entrance to the central plateau from NW & SE. Then comes a berm; and then the earth from the ditch is formed into a vallum concentric ^{with} the berm and ditch, except at the NW and SE where the vallum is broken off, leaving passages in continuation of the passages across the ditch.

What is the object of these entrenchments? clearly they were not built for defence, the fact of the ditch being inside of the vallum is conclusive on this point.

Had there been only one it might be considered as a place for judicial duels, the central plateau being the "ring" in which the combatants would engage, the ditch, with a palisade round serving to separate the

inside slope of the vallum serving for the spectators. But there are three in number.

Now "Arthur's Proued Table" near Peirith is similarly constructed; this is a rough section not to scale.



It is described in Ferguson's *Prude Stone Monuments*, but not having the book at hand I am obliged to rely on memory. Here we see central plateaus (only slightly raised in the centre, which is not the case at Thornborough.) ditch berm, and vallum outside of ditch. So too the vallum and ditch are broken off to NW, thus leaving access to the central plateau, and may or may not have been also to SE, but it is injured by the construction of a road. To the north west, some 200 yards off, i.e. in a line through the break in the vallum, is Mayborough camp. This is a circle formed by a simple vallum without a ditch, the materials being stones from the neighbouring river Eden, with an entrance to SE. though a break in the vallum i.e. looking straight to north west entrance of the Proued Table, a dolmen and menhir stood in the centre of the circle, two large stones on either side of the entrance, and apparently an avenue of stones led from the one to the other entrenchment.

At the great Temple at Avebury, near Marlborough the vallum is outside, and the ditch inside, with a narrow berm between.

It seems to me tolerably certain that these circles at Thornborough and Marlborough were meant for some religious ceremony, part of which

We may conceive the priests entering by the
 north west entrance of the most northern
 circle at Thonborough at daybreak on
 some day when the sun rises in the SE. &
 sacrificing in the central ring. The ditch keeping
 the profane laity at a respectful distance,
 or the benches may have been seats for the
 chiefs, while the under-scrubbery, or perhaps
 the women, stood around or sat on the slopes
 of the ballmow. The sacrifice ended, the
 procession would move to the second, and
 thence to the third of the circles. The dolmen
 in the centre of Mayborough camp points
 to a burial, and so to burial rites. The circle
 at Abury, with its row of Sarsen stones inside
 the ditch, and its system of double stone
 circles in the centre of the great circle, the
 flat plain to the ~~west~~ south with Silbury Hill
 and its ditch to the south cut in this form



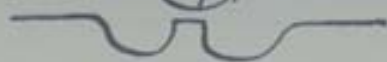
all point to some religious motive, and the
 flat plain between Silbury Hill and the
 circle, with downs rising on either side
 suggest solemn processions from one to the
 other.

It may be observed that according to the
 Ordnance Map, 6. scale sheet 102 the most
 southern of the Thonborough circles is shown
 as being entered only from the NW. Its plan
 is accordingly somewhat in this form. a very
 common form of



these circles or incised
 so many districts is very
 as this. Can this throw any

circles at Thornborough at daybreak on
 some day when the sun rises in the SE. 2
 sacrificing in the central ring. The ditch keeping
 the profane laity at a respectful distance,
 as the benches may have been seats for the
 chiefs, while the under-scrubbery, or perhaps
 the women, stood around or sat on the slopes
 of the hollow. The sacrifice ended, the
 procession would move to the second, and
 thence to the third of the circles. The dolmen
 in the centre of Mayborough camp points
 to a burial, and so to burial rites. The circle
 at Aboy, with its row of Screen stones inside
 the ditch, and its system of double stone
 circles in the centre of the great circle, the
 flat plain to the ~~foot~~ South with Sibbury Hill
 and its ditch to the South cut in this form
 Sibbury Hill



All point to some religious motive, and the
 flat plain between Sibbury Hill and the
 circle, with downs rising on either side
 suggest solemn processions from one to the
 other.

It may be observed that according to the
 Ordnance Map, 6. scale sheet 102 the most
 Southern of the Thornborough circles is shown
 as being entered only from the NW. Its plan
 is accordingly somewhat in this form, a very
 common form of stones found in
 similar to this, with light on the meaning of the encircled stones.



Walter Morris
 Jan. 31. 1878.