

Ancient Monuments in this township

1923 List

CASTLERIGG AND WYTHBURN

Great stone circle : The (Keswick) Carles, " Castlerigg. Exploration of the " chapel " in 1882 showed only charcoal (?) in small quantity (W. K. Dover, O.S. vi, 505 ; plan, C. W. Dymond, O.S. v, 39; W. D. Anderson, N.S. xv, 99). Scored stone at the site (*ibid.* xxiii, 109) . Rocking stone at Hollin Root recently displaced.

Hill forts:

- (a) head of Shoulthwaite gill; triple rampart (J. C. Ward, O.S. iii, 247).
- (b) Castle Rock of St. John's "; stone foundations (W. G. Collingwood, N.S. xvi, 224).

Tumulus? "Dunmail Raise " ; partly rebuilt 1891 (O.S. xii, 67).

Ancient huts: E. of Falcon crag (J. C. Ward, O.S. iii, 247) ; also on moor above Armboth; ? mediæval shielings.

Churches:

- (a) St. John's in the Vale; ? site of Hospitaliers in 13th cent. (*Fountains Chartulary*) ; rebuilt 1846, restored 1893, oak chair 1685; old oak pulpit and sounding board.
- (b) Wythburn church, 16th cent. foundation, rebuilt 1740, restored and enlarged 1872.

Defensive: "Derwentwater castle," seat of 12th cent. De Derwentwater; site unknown, possibly a motte on Castlehead.

Domestic:

- (a) house of the Radcliffes on Lord's Island, c. 1460 to 18th cent.; foundations cleared 1903 (W. G. Collingwood, N.S. iv, 257).
- (b) Causeway head 16th or 17th cent., site explored 1903 (*ibid.* 279).
- (c) Castlerigg Hall, Jacobean staircases, etc. (*ibid.* 281).
- (d) Lowthwaite Hall, of the Warnes 1571 (*Eliz. Keswick*, 109) and Williamsons (O.S. xii, 152).

Old roads :

- (a) Ashness beck to Castlerigg, Shoulthwaite, Wythburn, etc. mentioned c. 1280 (*Furness Coucher*, ii, 575) ;
- (b) later the packhorse road W. of Thirlmere, destroyed by the Manchester road; hollow way visible from Causeway foot to near St. John's vicarage.
- (c) Borrowdale and Watendlath to Wythburn c. 1280 (*ibid.*) past ancient stone man S.E. of Blea tarn, and Binka stone N. of Harrop tarn, to Steel end.
- (d) Old bridges at Armboth, submerged.
- (e) "Plague Stone " said to be on Armboth fell.
- (f) "Written Stone " removed to Swirrel wood.

Old mines :

- (a) copper, at 1200 ft. above Thirlspot; ? 16th cent. German (*Eliz. Keswick*, 147).
- (b) Rough Crag, W. of Thirlmere, on crag-face (G. D. Abraham).
- (c) Helvellyn lead-mine, ½ m. N.E. of Cherry Tree, N. of the gill.

Finds :

- (a) Stone hammer, Burns common; in British Museum (J. C. Ward, O.S. i, 217).
- (b) Stone hammer, Falcon Crag; and stone " club," ? from Castlerigg Circle, in Keswick Museum.
- (c) Stone Celt, Wanthwaite crags, c. 1858 (*ibid.*)
- (d) Two bronze armlets, Late Celtic; found 1902 at foot of Rough crag (W. G. Collingwood, N.S. iv, 80).
- (e) Tripod kettle near Rakefoot (N.S. iv, 278) mediæval.
- (f) Thirty-four silver pennies, Edward I and II found 1856-62, N. of Cat gill between Walla and Falcon crags (*ibid.* 274.)

See [Pastscape](#) for much more detail on these and more entries (35 in total – though there may be some overlap with other townships).