

May & June 1950.

Description of the Course of the Vallum.

the trace of the Wall or Vallum in vicinity of Central station, Newcastle. Wall is on line of Westgate Rd. roughly, but no trace of it.

I ~~have~~ walked up all side streets: Blenheim St, Blandford St, West Blandford St, Westgate Hill Terrace, Sunnyside Terrace, Recreation Ground, Greenfield Place, Ravensworth Terrace, Winchester Terrace, Sunnyside St, Lancaster St, Elswick Road: no signs of cracks or subsidences, yet the houses are very old mainly. As Handbook says - "farthest eastward point at wh. the Vallum is credibly recorded is close to the site of m.c. 5, about Elswick Row. Excavations undertaken in 1929 to discover whether it continued eastward in same line as Bruce & Allen had supposed, yielded clear evidence that it did not."

Walking up Elswick Street with backs of miserable houses of Elswick Row — no apparent sign of subsidence.

Elswick Row: — not at all certain.

X C IV. 16. no. 56 — door dips downwards

no. 50 — dip is other way.

But still lower down at no. 42 — bump in garden wall, then a depression — no. 32 shows a distinct dip.

Perhaps then here we have both ditches represented?

In backstreet behind Elmside Row

- no. 59 is pulling away from house to north
- as if house is on ground wh. has subsided.

Campbell St.:- looking southwards (always)


XCIV. 11. no. 86 on left - garden wall has sunk down, then shows hump

no. 34 is on slight hump - then depression down to no. 30
- slope then up to no. 26. Garden walls show this undulation.

Corresponding hump on right side - no. 21 is on hump. Vallum then comes diagonally across.

no cracks to give us any clue. I find that the contour of the garden walls is the most useful clue.

Granwell St.:- Wall ditch is as clear as day.

dip in the path & in cobbled street - at no. 120 on left. no. 120 has slipped downwards - can see dip in the building -  - house obviously slipping away from house to north - gap there wh. has been mortared up.

no. 131 opposite - can see wavy roof distinctly
- dip in path just below it.

Vallum - quite distinct.

- hump starts at no. 104 - gradual depression downwards. no. 88 is in middle of depression.

At other side - not so clear no. 95/97.

Lower down street - definite hump in path & road

where South mound (I think.) cuts across diagonally. no. 74 begins to rise up the mound - quite distinct curve in the house.

Then no. 72 begins to slope down again.

Beyond 62 - sudden dip - S. edge of S. mound.

62, 60, 58, 56 all in terrific dips.

(This is definitely not the Vallum ditch.)

Gloucester Rd.:- nothing really visible - no definite cracks or subsidence that I can see, but Vallum must cut across diagonally.

Chorlton Terrace:- much nicer houses - not so old

- no sign whatsoever.

Line ought to be thro' Methodist Chapel.

Kingsley Tce.:- no sign.

- in backs of houses - chimney pot give tale away for Wall d. - lean to north. But no Vallum.

Hastings St.:- no. 33 is beginning to rear away from no. 31.

no real sign. no. at other side of road no. in backstreet.

Mill Lane:- But no. 4. Shows signs of breaking away ie just about where O.S. gives line across it.

no cracks to give show away.

Passes beneath 2 schools - 1 being Bentinck Junior S.

Lynwood Tce.:- O.S. marks it at no. 18/20.

no cracks - no nothing.

Bentinck Rd.:- houses too new to show signs.

Dunholme Rd.:- just where Lynwood Avenue joins it is sudden fall away to South. This is then the S.

edge of Vallum.

N.B. where X on 25 OS. - there is a tiny dip in garden wall of big house of Lynwood Ave.

- may well be V.D.

- but we seem very near Westgate Road here.

Granger Park Rd. - deep slope almost in line with that of Dunholme Rd - must be where V. finishes to S. of there & Westgate Rd - flattish area presumably where Vall. & Wall are.

N.B. ~~the~~ small green gate in garden wall of Highfield House - distinct but slight depression in high stone wall.

Just opposite this in red-brick high wall to south of Vicarage - distinct dip in coving which has had to been mended - extra course seems to have been put in.

Keldane Gardens - new modern estate - O.S. marks it passing under no 7. on left, then no. 14 on right.

Hornmount Gardens - new houses - \therefore no sign.

But south is drop to S.

Bennell Grove - older houses - but quite nice terrace houses

Perhaps faintest dip discernible in front of no. 27

- nearly opposite Hornmount Gardens

no sign in back st. no cracks apparent.

Ladykill Rd. - slight depression in path - near no. 210 on left: 211/213 on other.

garden wall of 210 dips distinctly then rises again to S. quite clearly.

Hampstead Rd. - no. 210 on left: 207 on right -

Both 210 & 207 bend over mound

V.D. is to north of this - quite clear dip in front of 209/211 on right side.

Garden wall of no. 216 on ^{left} side dips.

Ellesmere Rd. - no obvious sign at 1st glance.

But on right side - very slight dip in garden wall of no. 209/207. - opposite no. 208 on left.

Slightly on slope here.

Slight bump for North mound.

Fairdale Rd. - no sign in walls.

Must be at no. 212/210 on left side - very slight dip in pathway.

Opposite is no. 209.

Stathmore Crescent - not at all clear.

Road falls away quickly to south very soon after curve in road.

Must come across at roughly no. 128/126 on left side & 125/123 on right.

no cracks, no nothing.

Canning St. - no garden walls even here.

Bump in road - must be S. in. I'm sure.

no. 154 on left: no. 213 on right.

There is slight dep. north of this but no real sign of V.D.

Keep deep to South after the hump.

Colston St.:- hump in exactly same place
Southern limit is ho. 212 on left, ho. 211 on right
ho sign of V.D.; no cracks.

Clear hump in back street, but that is all.

Condercum Rd.:- hump in exactly same place

Southern limit is ho. 278.

Garden wall to North of this shows depression with
euphrat in nature of things to the V.D. - 7. No. 282/280
ho cracks nor anything like that in houses.

Springhill Gardens:- houses on slope of North mound & north
side of V.D. I think.

Slope from N. to South.

V.D. cuts southward now - beginning of diversion
- recrosses this crescent - very clear depression
in road for V.D. & N. m. are very good.

ho. 11 on N. side - No. 12 on S.

Cuts diagonally across.

Reidner Rd. Cannot see it, tho, must cross it.

Broomridge Ave.:- presumably hump just south of temple is
N. m. of Vallum. ho. 44 at left side ^{marks} ~~start~~ where
to N. m. begins - ho 43 on right.

Garden walls of ho. 40 on left, ho. 35 on right
have distinct dip in them. Obviously the Vall ditch.

Already a subsidence - new houses too!

Curve up again after South m. - quite distinct.
Vallum on terrific slope from N. to S.

leaving the Vallum causeway at BENWELL, we descend the
hill slowly, but there is no sign of Vallum re. in Adair
Avenue, Pease Avenue, Fox & Hound Lane, Westcote Crescent.

XCIV. 10 Houses too new to show any subsidence. Those in road either
of O.S. in right - ho. 76 Adair Av.; ho. 17 Pease Avenue.

St. Cuthbert's School: before quite reaching it in grounds near
cycle shed - depression & vague mounds (very vague!)

Gretna Rd: dip in fence nearly opposite the bungalows. (fence belongs
to Benwell Lodge grounds)

ho 30 "Hill House" - just on crest of slope where
we should expect Vall. to run.

Coldstream Road:- if O.S. is right - Vallum passes beneath
last semi-bungalow ho. 27.

There are more houses than O.S. marks.

Benwell Hill Cricket ground - I could not get into this to see if
there was any trace. Not in gardens of houses of Countess Drive.

Brighall Gardens:- hump in road which may well mark the
Southern limit of S. m. (N. m? see below)

Thorn Tree Drive:- in very similar position, another hump opposite
ho. 1 & crosses to ho. 6.

North mound it seems to be here - then flat bit
where V. d. would have been - then road descends
slope over S. m.

Baroness Drive:- similar hump opposite ho. 25 - then fades away
to the South.

Deaton Road:- O.S. quite right - can see Vallum clearly cross
disused rip at Deaton Burn where no burn now exists.

goes up far side quite distinctly - filled in with nettles - goes under modern houses built south of Stone Row I should think. But it disappears again.

Is another depression up far side of burn - that could be Vallum too.

OS. Vallum is opposite house no. 319 "Jocelyn".

Other - is opposite no. 315. "Brian Lane".

Stone Row - apparently on N. m. of Vall.

V.d. is roughly where new street of houses are i.e. north of Rockcliffe Gardens.

West Vallum Street.

We follow its line presumably.

We pass Wharfedale Road where Centurial stones were found in A.D. 1936.

Copper Lane:- we cross - then there is rough patch of land where there are faint traces of V.d. & mounds, particularly the north mound. Nos. 24 & 22 of Centurion Road are on the line of the Vall.

Hill Side Avenue - it crosses this too.

Now - terrific slope down into Tyne Valley - clear view. Here we come to very rough field where it seems that a new housing estate is to be built.

Vallum is lovely now - terrific slope from N. to S. Very good mounds, & deep ditch - but beams have apparently gone.

Line of Hawthorn trees up the Vall. d. & nettles.

The 2 mounds are really splendid.

lovely clearing apparent - good d.f. & 2 nice depressions in mounds.

Ind. Crossing:- lovely - on line almost of Electricity pylon. - good depressions & d.f.

3rd C:- on line with fence - and then we drop into what looks like a den - course of V. crossed by path leading up to where mc. 8 has been.

Ditch & mounds of V. visibly descend into hollow - lovely & peaceful. May blossom everywhere.

mc. 8:- just where modern gateway is - easily accessible.

XCIV. 6. V.d. is clear enough running up the field - but the mounds are not so good. Just on crest of slope there seems to be a depressed part just south of mc. 8. We soon reach burn - can see line of Vallum ditch descending - goes very deep - far side is very steep too. V.d. is cut through layers of rock.

S.m. goes right down, but N. one seems to have been obliterated. At other side - would ascend horribly steeply if went in direct line across.

On reaching other side - can see that V. comes across diagonally & emerges on top after ascending the most gradual slope possible, just south of Denton Hall.

Good V.d. & mounds in this meadow - a crossing as plain as day as we ascend hill - d.f. & gaps clear.

Ind. C:- on top of crest - good S.m. gap. South mound

is lovely too — big depression because beams have gone
h.m. has by now disappeared under the gardens
to the north. Glorious command to South.

3rd c. — d.f. there — but only very slight S.m. depression.

4th c. — good S.m. gap.

5th c. — just before reaching road.

Vallum reappears at other side of road in the next pasture
— lovely again — slope from S. to W. — ditch is a
depression — mounds quite good. We must be quite
near to Wall now.

Good crossing at beginning of field — depression
all round — good d.f.

Buttercups & daisies most profuse.

2nd c. near fence.

Next field — part ploughed — $\frac{1}{2}$ way across — big rift.

— from east side — Vallum not undisturbed.

— but when actually walking through field — can see it
quite distinctly. S.m. is very good — ditch good too.

3 vague dips in S.m. for crossings (1 at either end & 1
in middle)

h.m. becomes fine near fence.

Ploughing shows the Vallum up beautifully — furrows
cut across it.

Next pasture — Vallum glorious! — deep broad d.

running straight — huge mounds in N.m.

— 1 big depression in N.m. — no corresponding

one to the S.

Cross over main road. — Wall continues roughly on

XCIV. 5. line of road to north.

In next field — Vallum virtually invisible — but on
horizon can see definite dip in fence — is converging
on Wall as Handbook says.

Over crest of hill, South of Chapel House, this slight depression
obviously the V. continues, descending hill, thro' ploughed field set
with potatoes, then even fainter through next field.
Big building of Smiles Transport contractors must lie
almost in line of V. I think.

Inc. 9. — quite clear on S. of road just before houses
recommence — definite hump in the field
marking its position.

But no inc. causeway traceable since V. is so poor in
this area.

I thought it must cross beneath row of houses just back to
S. but O.S. marks it crossing thro' next to last row.
Across railway — V. virtually gone — no real sign in
little field beyond railway track — perhaps a slight
depression.

Walbottle: — in next field — pasture — V. quite nice — quite
distinct — good depression & mounds.

Slope from N. to S. — quite near Wall now.

Type is well to S. — Vallum skirts edge of slope.

Next field — meadow — very faint from road — lovely

castellated house to S.

Yes, 'tis very indistinct - mounds not bad.

Crossing road to S. opposite Walbottle stores

- next little field - garden really - quite clear on 2nd glance
kind of thing.

- disappears under farmbuildings - can see N.m. & V.d. before they disappear - quite nice too.

Wall of farmbuildings in V.d. ch.m. clear in pasture

And so it descends hill - lovely crossing in N.m. tiny down farmbuildings.

Crossing road to S. - Vall. runs in between row of houses well to S. & building looking like R.C. church & school.

In ploughed field beyond here - V. is extraordinarily good. - deep d. & fine mounds - but beams obliterated.

Gap in N.m. near fence - 2 d.f.'s visible -
3rd. c. just as we go into hollow at bottom of field - boggy - very quick flow.
next meadow - V.d. quite distinct - converging slightly on road & therefore on ~~the~~ wall as it approaches Dene.

1st. c. - good depressions in mounds - impossible to say whether there is a Vallum filling though.

inc. 10. As plain as day on crest of hill - N. gateway in garden just on north of road.

- good depressions in V. here for causeway - N.m. is very close to inc. lovely slope to S.

Then Vallum does twist very slightly to S. just before Walbottle Dene - & d. & mounds become impressive as it approaches Dene.

XCIII. 8.

Walbottle

Dene:

Entering wood - d. becomes wild confusion of blackthorn & shrubs, nettles.

mounds good - is there a m. m. too?

Beams better than I have seen at any other crossing - descends gradually at first - then there is a sudden precipitous drop.

The road here surely - much too steep.

Then huge mound - then another precipitous drop - looks as if slope has been much more gradual than it is now. Seems to cut diagonally across.

Yes, I'm sure the 1st. hollow was never here then.

Looks remarkably like V.d. just to W. of big mound going down into bottom covered in garlic & fern.

Seems to stop where ^{drop into hollow where} stream has been becomes precipitous.

Ascent up other side is quite nice - quite steep but not too bad - lots of stones in line of ditch.

Beams & mounds seem to be here.

Ditch ascends beautifully - deep too. Traffic could get up this side I think.

At top we come immediately on to housing estate. - 1st. block cutting across V. - to

Woodside Avenue: - V. goes under no. 70.

- then No. 57 at other side.

Crosses Callerton road near No. 30/28.

Crosses housing estate & passes under Newburn road to S. of church.

Seems to reappear in garden of 2 rows of houses, old type running from N. to S. i.e. in garden of Orchard Terrace. Then no sign - houses everywhere to block view.

Halfway up hill to Thockley Bank top - road to south -

V. virtually invisible

- but looking back to Hilda Terrace way - dip in fence where V. may be. On Ind. thoughts - it may run just by S. edge of garden as O.S. suggests.

Going up field on West - no sign at all.

Reaching Thockley Bank Top - Vallum becomes quite clear again. - is in line with edge of garden of houses lower down.

- d. is just below Ind. row of cottages on top of hill.

mc. II. - quite distinct is square mound near to edge of this field. - is ploughed. - V. d. & mounds there.

but no real gaps or crossings.

Perhaps vague depressed area to south of mc.

Park Lodge - in next parkway - V. d. & mounds distinct.

Slope from N. to S.

West parkway: quite clear but not good - but is marvellous compared with further eastern sector.

1st C. - very obvious depressions across mounds but d. may or may not be filled in.

Then V. disturbed by modern hp with hawthorn trees growing on it.

S. m. becomes quite prominent. Apparently no more crossings for length of field.

Great Hill: - see Handbook.

S. m. practically non-existent.

N. m. very high - gone covered.

23' feet
wide.

V. would be at least as high as the wall I should think

- W. m. is terrifically high.

On top of hill - S. b. looks good - flattish - but N. d. does not exist.

Looking upwards from the bottom i.e. W. side of hill - there is a S. m. - section extraordinarily good.

V. d. distinguishes at bottom to provide for modern cast-iron, but in next paddock it can be easily picked up i.e.

XCIII. 7. behind "Anderson's Wall."

Here V. rather wide - d. has been flattened & broadened out & is now a sunken bog. But 2 mounds seen slenderly along.

1/3 way up the field the bog stops & V. d. resumes its apparently normal dimensions & proceeds directly up to village in a straight line.

Here 2 beams are accentuated & the mounds reduced presumably by modern drainage & irrigation.

Near top of field, d. gradually diminishes.

Heddon. Passing beneath a few houses, it can be picked up again East of the garage on the corner of the village as a small lane running with the main road following roughly the wall just to the north, and with a little row of cottages known as Mushroom Row running on the left.

almost in the position of the S.m.

The garden wall stands roughly on the site of S. up of V.d.
N.m. in this area seems to have meeper with little hillock
which lies % Wall & V.

V. disappears with the War Memorial ground behind the garage.

After leaving the village, the V. becomes immediately visible.

2 large semi-detached houses stand on the S.m. which here
is quite large & meeper with gentle slope of hill which
rises behind & is here covered.

Where is
mc. 12?

Heddon.

One may wonder why Wall did not ascend this slope
but rather lie hidden to the north.

n.b. Vallum down in bottom \therefore not defence V South.

V.D. now is broad, flat & marshy. N.m. very indistinct
but flat n.b. S.b. not so good here.

Seems to be a crossing near west end of field - gap
definite in S.m. - no marginal mound.

Little adjoining field - V.g. most indistinct but is traceable.

- Slope in this bit is from N. to S. 

Wire netting fence runs along edge of S.m. - 1 line of
hies in next field - below gardens of 5 modern
houses. - garden fence on W. edge of V.D. in

hollow. N.m. quite steep.

In little paddock just in between last of 5 houses &
bungalow with flowers for sale - V.D. & mounds are well
preserved. The fence of hies on the East & garden wall
on West follow its contours.

Bungalow ~~(Heddon)~~ lies over Vallum & even in little
meadow beyond little grass pathway, the ditch is
practically obliterated. V.d. can be seen passing south
of bungalow & wooden huts are erected in its ditch.
Field to South containing S.m. rises abruptly from this ditch.
Noran Lodge: In copse of hies next to North Lodge - opposite road leading
northwards to Heddon House - V.D. becomes clear for 20
yds. or so, but disappears again with crossing of cart-track.
Next field is ploughed, but impression of the V.D. is quite
clear.

Present bank running down field coincides with S.m.
Ploughing has sadly reduced the mounds.

We gradually descend to Rudchester Burn. Slope from N to S.
Vall. peeks out heading the burn, & in next pasture seems
to be most indistinct, tho' there is faint impression of
ditch right up the field.

About $\frac{1}{3}$ way up the field, the mounds recommence & S.m.
is particularly fine up to west fence of field.

N.m. also good. Burns weathered, but S.b. particularly
would have been nice & flat.

mc. 13

I didn't see it as I thought I did, if O.S. is correct.

Opposite gateway from main road into field is causeway
& corresponding gap in S.m., tho' not as big as one as
usual. Not one noticeable in ch.m. This is near
top of field.

No sign of mc. Causeway unless mc. 13 is just about
where modern gate is. (But it isn't!)

Field south of road - just west of electricity pylons - V.D. clear enough: N.M. covered by field wall, is quite distinct - even the gaps.
Next field - traces of deep in S.M. - ploughed field of HARLOW HILL. Then we come to pasture south of HARLOW HILL.
Next meadow - very indistinct.

field & towards west, mounds fade away. Then reappears as if here were crossings. D. shows no filling.
Next field - d. & mounds can clearly be followed in a little wooded paddock adjoining. Trees & bushes grow on mounds & beams & ditch in bottom forms a bushy marsh. Here beams become quite distinct from mounds.

Just beyond here, in same field - we have very distinct crossing & ditch is still filled.

Slope for S. to W.

Next field - vague & indistinct - beams slightly southwards & towards field-wall, a little down near Vallum as its course.
XCIII. (1).

Field-wall on west shows only very slight depression as it crosses over the ditch.

Next field ploughed - line discernible but indistinct. Similarly in field beyond - then one with electricity pylons on right. - in this field - hedge of this seems to run on line of V.D. (see O.S.)

In field beyond electricity pylons - pasture - no trace of Vallum from road.

Then further west well to S. of road, down metalled cart-track, in field west of pylons, very vague line of ditch discernible.

Next field - ploughed & sown - most indistinct - can only see its line thro' field, because we can see where it ought to run, since in next pasture it is

Harlow Hill:

June 4 clear

South of Harlow hill - ditch is marshy & filled with rushes rather wide. $\frac{1}{3}$ way up field the mounds become very fine indeed & beams clear. - both could easily be a roadline. Seems to be slight m.m. here.

1st crossing - gaps clear - only small ones - d.f. I think too

Ind. c. - very fine - opposite almost crest of H.H.

- V.D. slightly filled in.

Then ditch poked out.

S.M. full of stones

3rd gap in S. m. but not in W. m. - most noticeable. hills - gap. Then fades out.

No m. m. present at all? (slight, I think.)

Then we cross road leading down to Honley.

In next pasture - apparently nothing ^{Certainly nothing to be seen here. Rough mounds caused by quarrying} visible just over crest of hill - no causeway traceable since Vall. has gone south of it.

Line of Vall. is considerably to south.

Proceeding towards Whittledale - Vallum may be picked up again - can see it quite distinctly, ditch & mounds in 3 fields east of Whittledale reservoir. Within 2 yards of W. field wall of 1st field - is a crossing - gaps & filling quite visible.

Next field (-just north of 1st. Southern Reservoir.)

- crossing cart-track from main road running south

- again quite clear.

Crossing with d. showing slight filling.

Long field - in distance, can see fence following contour

mc. 16

of Vallum. The marginal mound visible here of course
Whitledge Reservoir: - nearest to road - obliterates Vallum

XCI. 4 In meadow beyond - V.D. can be traced upwards over
approaching wall - little wheel windpump here too.

Inc. 17. - ought to be here, but I didn't decipher it. - no
Saw it clearly on
second visit. apparent Vallum causeway either: Vallum too poor here to distinguish

Fence on western edge of field follows contour -
next field - ploughed & sown - ditch & mounds again
clear still approaching wall - at field gate on
west adjoining next field - very close indeed,
next field - also ploughed & sown

Slight dips
for coverings
apparent. - remains at similar distance away from wall
- does not seem to converge any more now.

Slightly west of gate, about $\frac{1}{3}$ way down field - lovely gaps
in the 2 mounds - slight sign of d.f. too.

And of course no marginal mound.

Slope slightly from S to N.

V. is in low-lying ground - flattish both to S to N.
Wall is plough in middle - no particular advantage.

next field - pasture - still close to wall - low lying
- ditch traceable & N.m. S.m. not at all distinct.
level.

next field - poor again - most obvious thing is line
of fence dipping over Vallum d. & rising over its
mounds. - at fence - pond in centre of V.D.

next field - meadow - very nice impression but no
distinctive details - no m.m. no apparent coverings

mc. 18.

next field - line still clear. - west of Robin Hood Inn.
how we enter farmyard. - Vallum obliterated to
allow modern farmroad. Just near east side of fence
looks remarkably like mc. causeway - mc. here too I'm
certain. O.S. confirms this.

V. crosses thro' farmyard just north of house.
S.m. & been particularly good.

N.m. not so high but still good. S.m. gapped.

next field - beyond farm - very fine

3 mounds - ditch excellent - no causeways except
for one just by edge - apparently modern but leading
to no gateway.

N.m. not so good in S.

4 lovely gaps in south - those in N. not so good but are
there.

$\frac{1}{2}$ way up this field - N.m. begins to be very fine &
large too - but no gaps. (Is this where road is?)

Remains both good - but m.m. on south.

* S. seems very wide - ample room for a road.

TRAVERSE
EFFECT.

m.m. not continuous - gapped too - & strangely enough
where S.m. is gapped. I am sure there is a m.m.

- no ditch?
fillings here - but why is it gapped? modern? (NB 6.8.64)

next pasture - not so good as last.

2 heaps of stones in V.D.

1st c. - good - V.D. filled in as well as gaps being
present. - d. is wide & flat-bottomed.