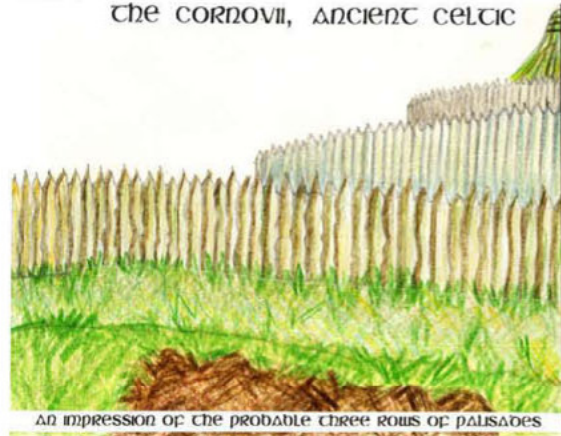


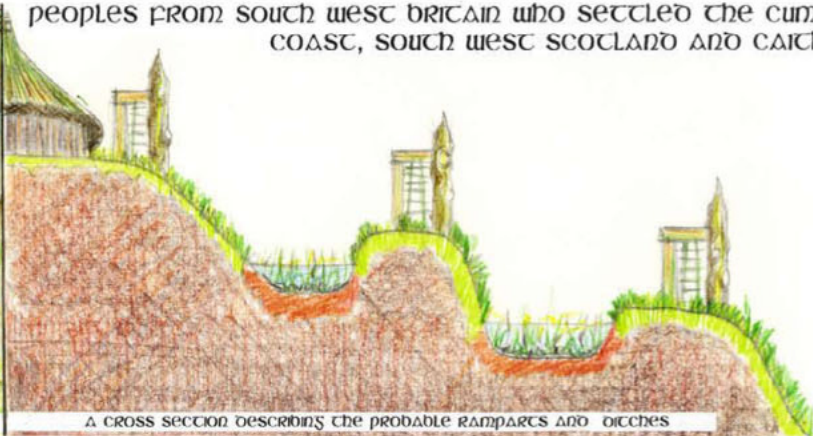
# VIRGIN INN PICNIC AREA

DEMOLISHED IN 1940, THE VIRGIN INN STOOD CLOSE TO THIS SPOT AND WAS A WELL KNOWN LOCAL LANDMARK. IT WAS NEVER AN INN. IT'S NAME CORRUPTED FROM ANCIENT BRITHONIC GAELIC, "DHEUR SHANN ION", MEANS "THE HILL PINNACLE OF THE CIRCULAR FORTRESS", ( DINVIN MOTTE, THE "COCTAGE LOAF" SHAPED HILL IN FRONT OF YOU ).

**DINVIN MOTTE** IS AT LEAST 2,500 YEARS OLD AND IS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN BUILT BY THE CORNOVII, ANCIENT CELTIC PEOPLES FROM SOUTH WEST BRITAIN WHO SETTLED THE CUMBRIAN COAST, SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND AND CAITHNESS.



AN IMPRESSION OF THE PROBABLE THREE ROWS OF PALISADES



A CROSS SECTION DESCRIBING THE PROBABLE RAMPARTS AND DITCHES

IT IS THE MOST PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A PREHISTORIC HILL-FORT IN THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND. BEING A SMALL VERSION OF AN EARLY CELTIC WALLED TOWN, THE DOMINATING RIDGE FALLING AWAY ON ALL SIDES HAS BEEN SCULPTED INTO TWO RAMPARTS WITH 4 METRE DEEP DITCHES IN BETWEEN.

THE ENTRANCE, FACING EAST,



VIEW LOOKING EAST SHOWING THE INNER DITCH TODAY



LEFT: A BIRD'S EYE IMPRESSION OF THE MOTTE AND PROBABLE BAILEY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A SHALLOW LOCHAN, (A SORT OF FLOODED WATER OF ASSEL), ABOUT 2,500 YEARS AGO. THE MODERN ROADS ARE SHOWN AS BROKEN LINES.



HAS A BREAKWATER AGAINST THE INCOMING TIDE OF AN ATTACK. IT STOOD GUARD OVER THE ASSEL VALLEY, TO THE EAST, WHICH, AT THE TIME, WOULD HAVE BEEN A WIDE RIVER WITH LOCHANS AT DALDOWIE AND DALPASK. WITH THE LAND, AT THE TIME, BEING MUCH LOWER THAN IT IS TODAY, THE RIVERS OF SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND WERE THE MAIN HIGHWAYS FOR ANCIENT NOMADIC TRIBES AND THE EARLY CELTS WERE CONTINUALLY ON THE MOVE.

DINVIN ( FIRST SPELT IN 1828 ) IS A CORRUPTION OF DUN BHEINN, ( ANCIENT BRITHONIC ) MEANING HILL ( OR MOUNTAIN ) FORTRESS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE FORTRESS WATCHED OVER A HUGE " BAILEY " ON THE PLATEAU WHERE YOU ARE STANDING, AS FAR WEST AS THE RUINS OF FARDENDREW, JUST VISIBLE AMONGST THE TREES AND A HALF MILE FROM THE MOTTE.



AN IMPRESSION OF DUN BHEINN SEEN FROM AN ANCIENT LOCHAN NEAR DALDOWIE, (DAIL DUARONE - THE VALE OF THE BATTLE).

THE VERY EARLY CELTS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TRAVELLED BY CORACLE FROM DALLANCRAE UP THE SCINCHAR AND THE ASSEL TO DUN BHEINN. THE LAND WAS HEAVILY WOODED WITH OAK, ASH AND ELM, VALUABLE BUILDING MATERIALS.

THE RAILWAY IS IMMEDIATELY UNDER YOUR FEET, RUNNING THROUGH AN IMPRESSIVE 496 METRE LONG TUNNEL, BUILT AROUND 1877, TO CONNECT GIRVAN AND STRANRAER.

YOU ARE STANDING IN A REMARKABLE PLACE !