

## 6. Forum Field Trips

For many years the RLHF has carried out regular monthly Saturday morning field trips. These have looked at a variety of sites, including some which were under threat, related to recent talks, or the subject of discoveries, research, etc.

Over the past two years these outings have become more organised, and have usually been guided. They often lead to new discoveries, or generate further research, and for this reason have been summarised below.

**Renfrewshire Hill Forts (June 2002):** Visits to major Renfrewshire Hill Forts at Craigmarloch, Walls Hill, and Duncarnock.

**Myres Farm, Eaglesham (October 2002):** Two routes under threat by proposed wind farm: 18<sup>th</sup> century "coach road" shown on Ainslie's Farm and County Plans (1789/1796), and a possible Roman Road recorded by Frank Newall.

**Castles of Renfrewshire Conference, Mearns Castle (Nov 02):** Prominent speakers on various Renfrewshire Castles. Forum Publication forthcoming.

**Crosslee and Howwood (February 2003):** Remains of 18<sup>th</sup> century lime and coal workings at Crosslee and Midtown (Renfrewshire's last draw kiln), also water powered lime & coal working sites at Craigends and Corseford. See Figures 7 to 9 for sketches of oval shaft which had recently opened up at NS 412610, drawn by Brian Skillen.

**Castle Semple (March 2003):** Walk from Lochwinnoch station to Howwood, following canal and tunnel along south side of Castle Semple Loch, built 1814 to drain Barr Loch bypassing Castle Semple.

**Loch Thom (April 2003):** Various archaeological sites and deserted farmsteads in the Loch Thom area.

**Dargavel (May 2003):** Tour of grounds of Royal Ordnance Factory at Bishopton including visit to Dargavel House.

**Renfrewshire Castles (June 2003):** Visits to Stanely, Auchenbathie and Barr Castles.

**Eaglesham (Oct 2003):** Foundations of the old Kirkton in the Orry, Eaglesham motte, sites of the two cotton mills, and their power source at Mid Dam and the Revoch Cut.

**Elderslie (Nov 2003):** Water powered sites on the Old Patrick Water, including a cotton mill, paper mill, meal mills, a printworks and a distillery. The site of Elderslie meal mill (pre-16<sup>th</sup> century) is threatened by re-development.

**Waulkmill Glen (Jan 2004):** Industrial features in proposed Country Park along Brock Burn, including lime and coal workings and early building.

**Dreghorn (Feb 2004):** Visit to excavations of an early settlement.

**Renfrewshire's Lost Railways and Waggonways (Mar 2004):** Visit to White Cart Bridge, below Gilmour Street Station; Abercorn Station on Renfrew Railway (earliest in Scotland); Hurllet Waggonway and railway constructed on Duchal Moor to carry grouse shooters.

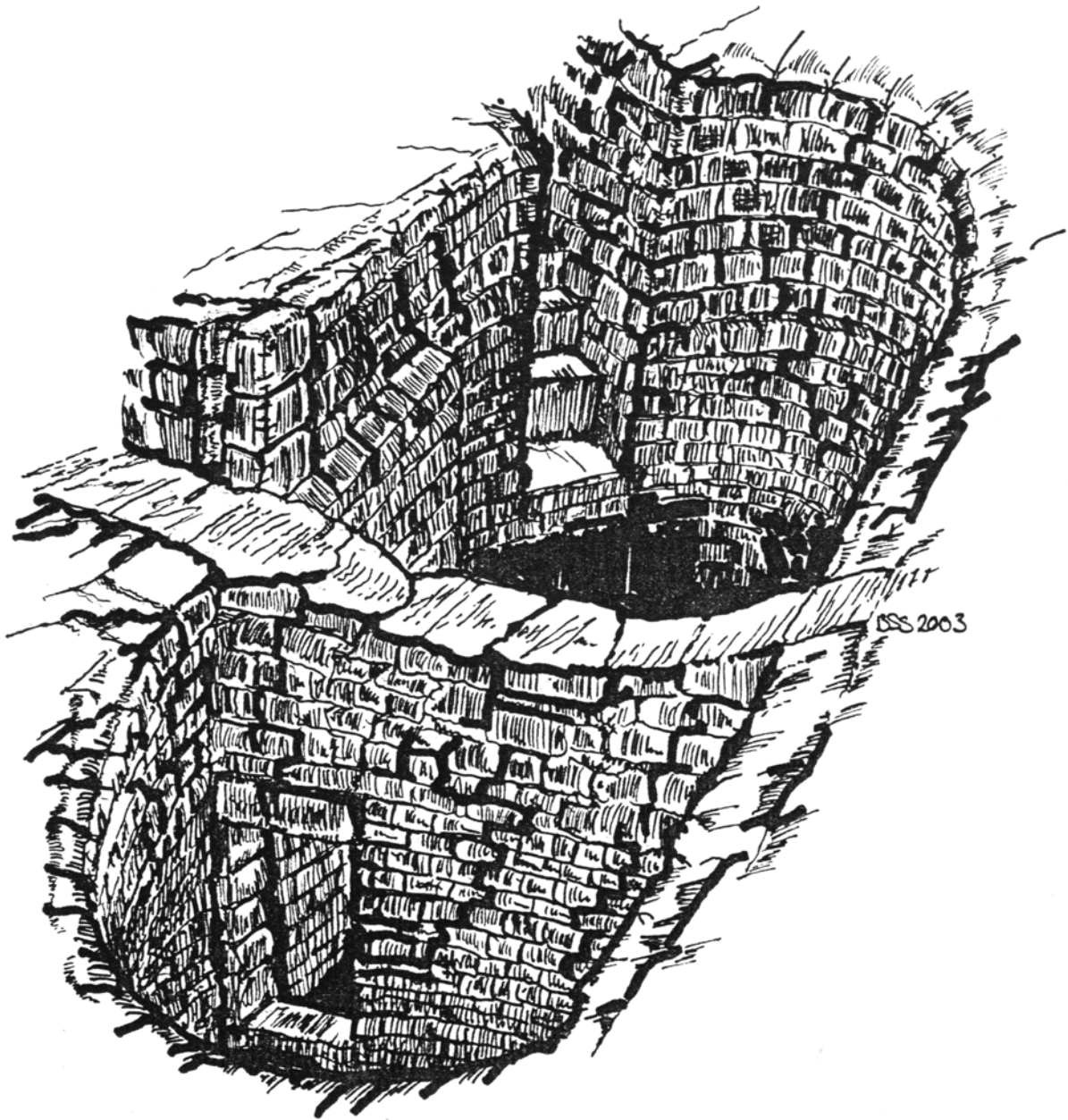


Figure 7: View of Corseford Shaft from South



Figure 8: Detail of Steps at North End of Shaft

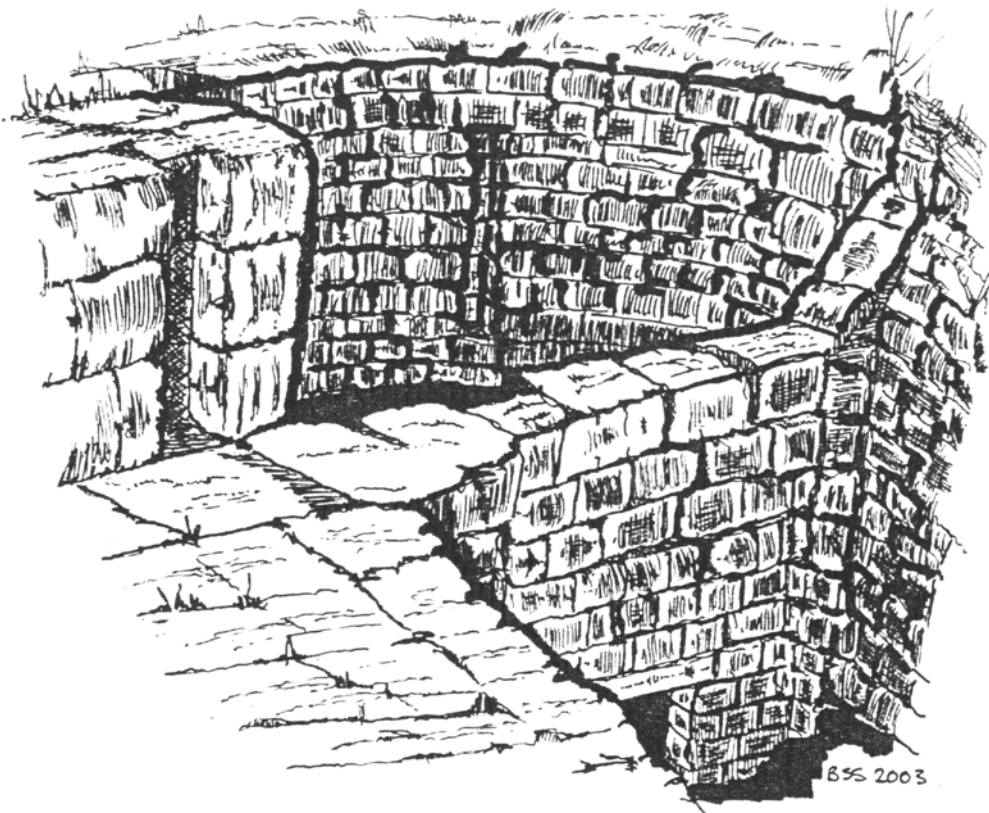


Figure 9: View of Corseford Shaft from West

### **Further Forum Field Trips**

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**Waulkmill Glen (Jan 2004):** Industrial features in proposed Country Park along Brock Burn, including lime and coal workings and a mysterious building.

**Dreghorn (Feb 2004):** Visit to excavations of an early settlement in Ayrshire.

**Renfrewshire's Lost Railways and Waggonways (Mar 2004):** Visit to White Cart Bridge, below Gilmour Street Station; Abercorn Station on Renfrew Railway (earliest in Scotland); Hurler Waggonway and Duchal Railway (see article in this Volume).

**The Romans in Renfrewshire (Apr 2004):** An energetic visit to hut circles and a Roman Fort on Lurg Moor, threatened by a windfarm.

**Galloway Trip (May 2004):** A visit to an excavation and early church sites in Galloway.

**Bleachfields in Mearns (Oct 2004):** A walk down the Capelrig Burn looking at remains of bleachfields at Greenfield, Tofts, Wellmeadow and Broom.

**Above Greenock (Nov 2004):** A packhorse bridge, Shiels Glen and the Greenock Cut.

**Eaglesham (Dec 2004):** A visit to archaeological sites in Eaglesham Parish which have been investigated by Susan Hunter.

**Mesolithic Renfrewshire (Feb 2005):** A talk on Mesolithic Renfrewshire by Gordon followed by fieldwalking at Sandiland, Inchinnan.

**Lost Renfrewshire (Mar 2005):** Visits to Blackston House, Ranfurly Castle, Kilallan Kirk and Denniston Motte.

**Milliken Estate (April 2004):** A look at the locations of the previous Milliken Houses, lost site of the original Johnstone Castle, and Milliken doocot.

**Galloway Trip (May 2005):** Longer distance trip to Newbarns and Cairnholy Chambered Cairns and Tunland Abbey.

**Hidden History of Rouken Glen (Oct 2005):** A look at early features preserved in the park including cup markings, an early mill and water management

#### **Crookston Castle (Dec 2005)**

A look at one of the most important but most neglected Renfrewshire Castles with its surviving tower and earlier ditch.