

pose that for retaining and defending with fewer troops the country which had been long before conquered by large armies, many detached posts might be occupied by small bodies of men, and that these forts might be often chosen so as to be guarded as much by difficult ground as by artificial works. And this agrees with what is said by Vegetius (*De Re Militari*, i. 23) writing in the days of Valentinian (A.D. 385), that Roman camps were made square, round, or triangular, to suit the nature of the ground, the most approved form being the oblong, with the length one-third greater than the breadth*.

It may be doubted, therefore, whether even such posts as those at Langton and Hutton Ambo can be proved to be of British work, by the irregularity of their figure. In the latter case, however, the inequality of the height of the bank, and its rising into tumular mounds as at Arbelow, increase the probability, and in the former we may appeal with some confidence to the proximity of the 'double dikes.'

The essential parts of the defence are always the external ditch and the internal rampart or wall. The Greek wall (*τειχος*) which stood 'while Hector and Achilles raged,' was flanked by lofty towers (*πυργοι*) furnished with a pair of gates (*πυλαι*), and surrounded by a deep, broad and great palisaded ditch (*ταφρον*), *Il.* vii. 436. It was constructed near the great tumulus raised over the slain (*ib.* 435). The gates being burst open, the entrance was unimpeded.

The Roman temporary camp has only one such ditch (*fossa*) and one bank (*vallum, agger*); but the permanent station at Cawthorne has two fossæ and two aggera, across which the road entrance is level. For camps, whether intended to hold a cohort or a legion, four gates are usually assigned: greater camps of the age of Agricola have six gates; there are camps with a still greater number of gates, but their age is not certain (Rey Cross, p. 18, and Kirby Thure). Small posts have sometimes only one opening (Roy, pl. 31).

* *Dict. of Gr. and Rom. Antiq.* p. 205.