

section of the vallum alone was usually extended to the edge of the fosse, and may be described as a narrow trench upwards of 12 yards long, while a full section from the south side of the vallum to the north extremity of the outer mound was a trench over 40 yards in length.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE INTERIOR OF THE VALLUM.

The descriptions of Gordon, Roy, and Stuart had induced a preconception that the vallum made, according to their statement, of promiscuous earth thrown out of the ditch, would show a mingled mass of stony *débris*, such as is found in all the aggers of the North English vallum. The preconception has not been realised. Our vallum, wherever it has been cut, is singularly void of large stones. Essentially, its interior consists of fine earths varying in colour and character with the locality, but invariably distinguished by a relative stonelessness. Stones there are, but they are very few, and they are very seldom as big as one's hand, while, in marked contrast on the other side of the fosse, the outer mound is full of stones of all sorts and sizes.

A second persistent feature in the soil of the vallum, at once differentiating it from the ordinary soil to either side of the vallum, was visible in the first cutting, and has repeated itself with the greatest regularity in the subsequent sections. This is a systematic layering in the soils of which the vallum is composed. The sections are all transverse, and the face of each has a tracery of thin lines, sometimes dense black, sometimes merely dark, sometimes a deep red or purple. The thickness of these lines varies; frequently they are only a quarter of an inch, oftener half an inch, sometimes one inch, and occasionally two inches, running across the vallum in a general parallel with the stone base. In the sections at one place only (Seabeg), these are faint and only traceable by the eye in close search for them; but generally, they are too plain to escape notice by any observer. At times, they meet and make forks at the junctions, usually with the open end of the fork pointing outward towards the nearest face of the vallum. These lines seem to mark the