

4. A DAGGER GRAVE FROM THE LAW OF MAULDSLIE, CARLUKE, LANARKSHIRE

IN 1866 a cist was found by Thomas Hamilton on the highest point of the Law of Mauldslic, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles WNW. of Carluke (N.G.R. NS 82135146). A note and drawings were sent to the Society by D. R. Rankin, and an unillustrated abbreviated account of the burial was published in the *Proceedings*.¹ The following account and drawings are from the original report.

The capstone of the cist, 2 ft. below the surface, was a huge stone of irregular shape, 1 ft. thick. The cist consisted of one rough or unhewn stone, 9 in. thick, on each side, and of two stones at each end. The cist measured 3 ft. 4 in. long by 1 ft. 8 in. wide by 2 ft. 3 in. deep. The long axis lay NE. to SW. The bottom was natural rock. The crouched skeleton lay on its left side with its back along the SE. side slab. The bronze dagger was found 'on the left side of skeleton.' The cist was preserved *in situ*, and protected by an iron cage; the capstone may still be seen at ground level.²

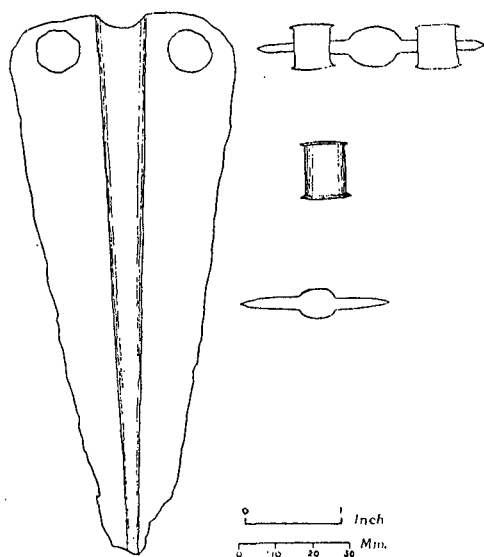


FIG. 1. Bronze dagger from the Law of Mauldslic, Carluke

The dagger (fig. 1) was $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. long, but had probably been $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. long originally as the tip was damaged. It was $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide across the heel. Down the centre of the blade was a narrow round-section mid-rib. Two rivets were found in position. A third larger rivet was loose, and its place had been in the notch at the top of the blade. The rivets were $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long with slightly expanded heads nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter.

A. S. HENSHALL

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, VII (1866-8), 440-1; also noted *ibid.*, XII (1876-8), 456, and Childe, V. G., *Scotland Before the Scots*, 122.

² Information from the Archaeology Division, Ordnance Survey.