

2. *Discovery of ancient Graves near the river Teith.*—Communicated by HENRY HOME DRUMMOND, Esq. of Blair-Drummond.

In making an approach to the house of Blair-Drummond, in autumn 1824, a number of graves were discovered on the edge of an extensive flat, overhanging a lower flat field, near the river Teith. Both of these fields are formed of water-worn gravel; and it was in this gravel that the graves were made. They were very near the surface of the earth, and formed of rude flag stones, such as are usually found in what is called the *crop* of a quarry. Some of the graves were nearly square, some oblong, and lying in various directions, and none of them were large enough to hold a full-grown human body laid at length. In some, rude urns were found of half-baked clay; a drawing of one of the most perfect of which (*See* plate 5, fig. 2) accompanies this notice. This urn, when found, was lying on its side with the defective part uppermost, and contained nothing but gravel. The dimensions of the urn, as figured in the plate, are as follows:—Circumference of the urn at top, $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches; do. at middle, 19 inches; do. half an inch from the bottom, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height, measured outside, 6 inches. In other graves, fragments of urns of a larger size were found, and near them the remains of burnt bones in small portions, with a little blackish earth, apparently what may have been produced by the decay of some part of a human body. A good many bones were found, which had no appearance of ever having been exposed to the action of fire, as well in the graves in which there were burnt remains as in those in which there were none; and in one place some of these unburnt bones appeared lying together, as if the loose fragments of a skeleton had been collected, the bones of the legs and arms lying all together. From the dryness of the gravel, some of them were very perfect, and one under-jaw in particular retained all the teeth undecayed in their natural position. The longest of the oblong graves was about 3 feet 6 inches in length, and 1 foot 6 inches in breadth, while the dimensions of the smallest of the square graves did not exceed 18 inches every way within the flag stones. It may be observed that there is no quarry near the place where the graves were found; and from the appearance of the stones it is likely that they were brought from the opposite side of the river, a work of some labour and difficulty when wheel carriages were unknown, as the quarry is a quarter of a mile distant, and the river only passable in very dry weather in summer.