

## II.

## NOTE OF ANCIENT REMAINS RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN THE PARISH OF CARLUKE. BY D. R. RANKIN, ESQ., CARLUKE.

On 12th April 1864, a structure was come upon by a drainer on the farm of Hyndshaw, Carluke, which appeared to be part of a culvert, built of and covered by large roughly dressed stones. From the fact that each end was closed by a large loose stone, and from the nature of the ground, evincing that no culvert ever could have been of any use in such a form and in such a situation, curiosity was excited, and the structure carefully examined.

	Feet.	Inches.
Length of stone work (not including end stones),	7	1
Width at top, . . . . .	1	8
Depth, . . . . .	2	9

The size of the stones, and the manner of building, indicated a permanent use, but what that may have been was not at all evident.

On close inspection, it was found that there had been no constructed bottom; that the clay floor was covered with wood and bone ashes; and that the clay itself, to some extent, was burnt and converted into a substance of black colour. The clay thus acted on extended to a few inches in depth. The structure was wider towards the middle than at the ends, and this seemed to have been the result of fire acting on the stones of the sides. The only purpose suggested by this erection, under all the circumstances, is, that it may have been used for incineration of the dead.

Hyndshaw is situated on the north branch of the great Roman way, nearly a mile north-west of the fork at Belstone.

A bottleful of the burnt substances found is transmitted.

On 13th July 1866, on the highest part of Law of Mauldslie, a stone cist was discovered, the lid of which was two feet under the surface: it contained a skeleton and bronze dagger-blade. The position of the skeleton when first seen was not unusual—the knees being folded up on the body; but the bones rapidly passed into dust.

	Feet. Inches.
Length of cist, . . . . .	3 4
Breadth, . . . . .	1 8
Depth, . . . . .	2 3

The body lay south-west and north-east, the head being south-west.

The dagger-blade, which lay to the left of the skeleton, was broken and corroded towards the point, a mid-rib running along it, and at the heel of the blade two rivets were in position, and part of a hole for a third and larger rivet was seen at the end of the mid-rib, which rivet was found separated from the blade.

	Inches.
Length of blade (an inch apparently wanting), . . . . .	$5\frac{3}{4}$
Widest part at heel, . . . . .	$2\frac{1}{4}$

Sixty or seventy years ago a similar cist was found at the same place, but no record has been preserved of the facts.

On the 26th December 1867, at Law of Mauldslic, a sort of trough or large basin was discovered during operations towards the formation of a cottage garden. This structure is much like a saucer in form, cut in the solid rock, the rim of which was covered with a foot or so of earth. It is nine feet diameter, one foot deep at the centre, and of good workmanship. When found it contained a quantity of oat grains mingled with wood fibre and fine black dust, all in a state of complete decomposition, the carbon alone being left. A layer of the decomposed grain, &c., covered the whole of the curved bottom, and was fully 2 inches thick at the centre, gradually lessening as it passed up the sides to the edge, where the layer thinned off, the grain, &c., being covered with very fine earth and some stones.

That this structure has been a granary admits of easy inference; and that it was full, or contained a considerable quantity of grain when abandoned, may also be readily inferred from the arrangement of the decomposed particles, apparently hitherto undisturbed.

The Law of Mauldslic, nearly 700 feet above the level of the sea, commands a wide prospect, and lies to the southward, and within a mile of one of the branches of the great Roman way, which, dividing near Belstone, the one passes northward, and the other, that now referred to, westward through Carluke, Cambusnethan, Dalziel, &c.

Previous to 1790 this hill was bare as it is now, but near its highest point there were then small mounds—according to information derived from an old person still living—which, about that time, were partially levelled, and the ground planted with trees, by Thomas Earl of Hyndford. The plantation has been cleared away for many years, and the ground is now being cultivated.

Tradition is silent, and no indications of outworks exist; but the finding of these relics, and the commanding position of the place, leads to the conclusion that the spot may have been a station for early military purposes of the period, suited to the spear-head manner of burial, and, it may be, this style of grain keeping.

It may be interesting to the antiquarian, of a geological turn, to learn that the highest point of the hill where some of these relics have been found—on the north side—consists of gravel of different epochs, and on the south side it is massive sandstone. The stones forming the cist discovered in 1866 are set in the gravel, and the grain-holder now discovered, at 52 feet to the south, is in solid rock.

A bottle containing a specimen of the decomposed grain, &c., is transmitted. Lately, at Hyndshaw, a stone ring, not a whorl for a spindle,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch diameter, and 1 inch aperture, was found.