

II.

NOTICE OF AN URN AND BRONZE BLADE, FOUND AT SHUTTLEFIELD,  
LOCKERBIE. BY WILLIAM RAE, Esq., ROSEHILL, LOCKERBIE.

Mr Rae says in his note to Mr Anderson, dated 15th April 1880 :—

“With regard to the ancient relics found here, I send you a paragraph from our local paper which gives as good an account of the circumstances as I can possibly give, the editor having stated the case exactly as it happened :”—

“On Saturday an urn, doubtless containing the cinerary remains of some ancient inhabitant of the district, was discovered at Shuttlefield, near Lockerbie. The field was being put under crop by two men, one of whom, on noticing a hole in a bare, sandy, and elevated portion of the

ground, put in his hand to find out what it contained. He brought up several pieces of half-burned bones, some of them about an inch in length. On further search a large quantity of bones and a bronze implement were discovered. Mr Rae of Rosehill happened to be passing at the time, and at his instance the men dug round the cavity, which he was satisfied contained an urn. In doing this, or in endeavouring to lift it out before the earth was thoroughly loosened, part of the urn was broken off. When the whole was got, it was found to have been a roughly-shaped urn of about a foot in depth. The urn was placed mouth downwards, and the top part being furthest into the ground, is in the best preservation.’”

Mr Rae further says in the same note :—

“The articles will be placed at your disposal if you think from the accompanying sketch that they will be of any service to the Society.”

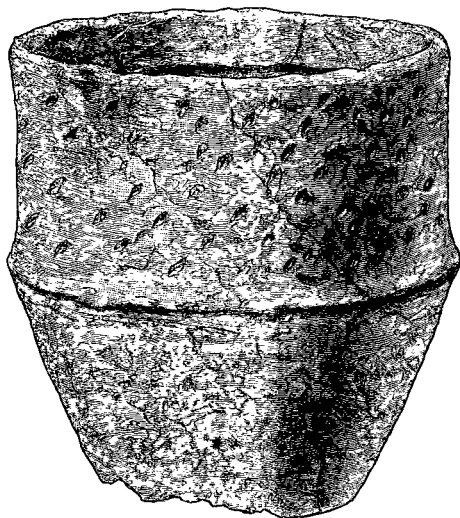


Fig. 1. Urn found at Shuttlefield (9 inches high).

The urn (fig. 1), which is of a form not unusual in connection with burials of the Bronze Age, has been reconstructed so far as the fragments admit

of reconstruction. It wants a portion of the bottom part, which had been taken off by the plough at some time previous to its recent discovery. The part of the urn that remains is 9 inches high and 9 inches in diameter. From the brim of the urn, for about 4 inches, the sides are perpendicular and ornamented with irregularly-placed oval impressed markings or indentations, as shown in the accompanying woodcut.

At the depth of 4 inches there is a raised external ridge or rough moulding at the junction of the straight and sloping parts of the sides of the urn.

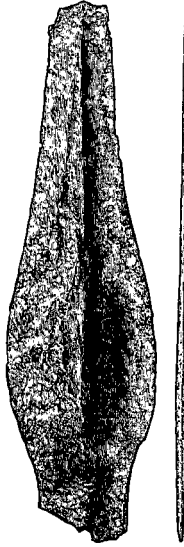


Fig. 2.  
Bronze Blade.  
(Actual size.)

The bronze blade (fig 2) is unique in Scotland. It is one of the small thin knife-dagger blades which on account of their extreme fragility are seldom recovered entire, and it differs from all the specimens hitherto recorded in Scotland in having a square tang or prolongation of the blade for insertion into the handle. Part of this prolonged handle-plate is unfortunately broken and lost, but what remains exhibits the half of one small rivet-hole in the centre of the plate. The blade also differs from all known Scottish specimens in being hammer-marked on the surface instead of smooth; in having a midrib instead of being flat; and in being leaf-shaped instead of triangular like the thin, flat riveted knife-dagger blades, or simply oval like the smaller tanged blades. The point is, unfortunately, broken, and in its present mutilated condition the blade measures 3 inches in length,  $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch wide at the widest part, and  $\frac{2}{3}$ ths of an inch at the point.