

## II.

## NOTICE OF TWO CEMETERIES, CONTAINING CISTS AND URNS, ON THE ESTATE OF PITREAVIE, NEAR DUNFERMLINE. BY HENRY BEVERIDGE OF PITREAVIE, F.S.A. SCOT.

The first of these cemeteries was discovered about the beginning of August 1885, and is situated  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Dunfermline, close to the intersection of the road to Inverkeithing by the Dunfermline and Queensferry Railway. It lies near the summit of a gentle rising ground about 100 yards south of the railway line, and close to the east side of the roadway. There are no traces of any artificial tumulus, and it seems probable that no such tumulus ever existed upon the spot.

The cemetery was discovered through the opening of a sand pit in connection with building operations upon the estate. The stones composing the end of one of the cists had become exposed during the course of the excavations, and the work was then almost immediately abandoned. The aspect of these stones attracted the attention of Mr Evan Cameron, a foreman platelayer upon the adjoining railway, and he, guided by previous experience in the excavation of prehistoric remains, at once concluded that here was the site of an ancient burying-place. At the earliest opportunity, Mr Cameron returned to the spot with the necessary implements, and commenced a search, which was soon successful in laying bare four cists, each containing an urn of the food-vessel type. These cists lay side by side almost in a line east and west, and about 2 or 3 feet apart, as shown in the accompanying ground plan (fig. 1), for which I am indebted to Mr William Bruce. The direction of their longer axes varied from about north to north-west. The cists were of the ordinary type; their sides and ends were composed of rough freestone slabs, three of them having covers consisting of similar slabs. None of these cists lay deeper than about 12 inches from the surface of the soil, which circumstance easily accounts for the absence of the covering slabs in the instances where they were

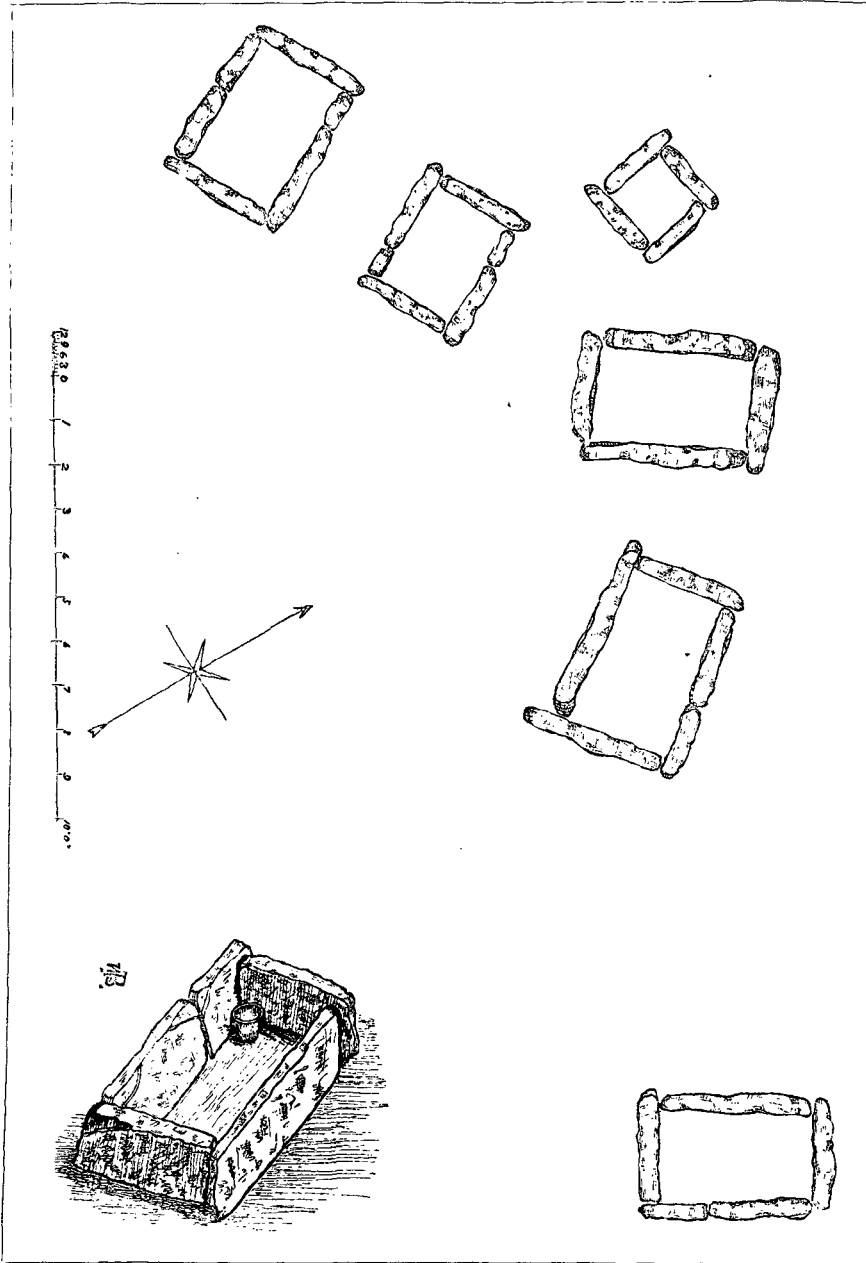


Fig. 1. Ground Plan of Cemetery of Cists at Pitreavie.

wanting; these having in all probability been removed through contact with the plough. The bottom of the cists consisted simply of the natural sandy subsoil, over which there lay a thin stratum of greenish-black mould, probably representing the sole remains of the bodies originally inhumed within the cists. The remaining space within the cists was filled with fine, dark-coloured worm-mould. These cists were nearly alike in size, their measurements being about 40 inches  $\times$  18 inches  $\times$  16 inches deep.

As the result of subsequent search, two other cists were discovered; one of these lay about 3 yards eastward of the former cists, and was in all respects similar to them. This cist, however, had no cover, and contained no urn, having no doubt been previously disturbed.

The remaining cist differed from those already described; it lay close to the north of the group of cists first discovered, and measured about 18 inches  $\times$  18 inches  $\times$  16 inches deep; it had no cover, and was found to contain several handfuls of incinerated bones, which had apparently been deposited without any accompanying urn.

Of the urns discovered, one (No. 3) was found in the corner of the cist, while the other three were found near the centre. Beside No. 1 Urn was found a small flint flake, measuring about 2 inches  $\times$   $\frac{3}{8}$  inch, its edge being somewhat worn. Beside Urn No. 2 was found a scraper-shaped disc of flint, its measurements being about 2 inches  $\times$   $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The only other object found worthy of note was a curiously-shaped piece of limestone about 18 inches long, and roughly resembling in form the head and trunk of a man. This object was found close to one of the cists.

Dr Anderson has kindly furnished the following description of the urns:—

“No. 1 is a thick-lipped vessel (fig. 2),  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height by  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter at the mouth, expanding to 7 inches at the shoulder about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches under the brim, and tapering thence to a base of 3 inches in diameter. The lip, which is slightly everted on the exterior, is ornamented with short lines of impressed markings placed at a slight angle on opposite sides of the central portion of the rim, which is

slightly raised. The whole exterior surface of the vessel is covered with ornamentation of the same character, consisting of impressions as if made by the teeth of a comb-like instrument about an inch in length. Round the shoulder, and round a slightly raised moulding between it and the brim, there is a single row of punctulations mostly of an oval form.

“No. 2 is a thick-lipped vessel (fig. 3), measuring  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches high by  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter at the mouth, widening to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the shoulder, and tapering thence to a base of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter. The lip, which is  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch in thickness is slightly bevelled to the inner side, and ornamented



Fig. 2. Urn from Cist at Pitreavie  
( $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height).



Fig. 3. Urn from Cist at Pitreavie  
( $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches in height).

with impressed markings similar to those of No. 2. The whole exterior surface of the vessel is ornamented in a similar manner.

“No. 3 is a plain, roughly made flower-pot-shaped vessel (fig. 4), measuring  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height, by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter at the mouth, tapering to a base of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter. The lip is rounded, and the only ornamentation on the exterior of the vessel consists of a few slightly impressed or scratched uneven lines round the middle, and

partly round the bottom, and lines crossing each other obliquely underneath the rim.

“No. 4 is a thick-lipped and somewhat bowl-shaped vessel (fig. 5), measuring  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height by  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter at the mouth, tapering to a base of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter. The lip, which is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in thickness, is bevelled to the interior, and ornamented with transverse rows of impressed markings. The whole exterior of the vessel is covered with parallel rows of impressed markings, perpendicular on the upper part and horizontal on the lower part.”

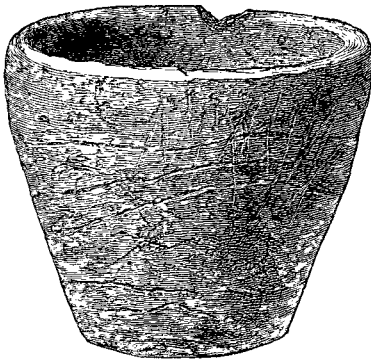


Fig. 4. Urn from a Cist at Pitreavie  
( $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height).



Fig. 5. Urn from a Cist at Pitreavie  
( $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height).

The second cemetery, which forms the subject of this notice, was discovered quite accidentally within three weeks of that already described. The foresters working on the estate, having need of material to make up an embankment, resorted to a sand hole recently opened. In the course of their work they turned up several fragments of earthenware strongly resembling in character the urns already noticed. This led to further search, and in a short time it became evident that the site of another cemetery of considerable importance had been discovered.

This cemetery lies about 2 miles north-east of the cemetery already

described, close to the north margin of Calais Muir, a tract of rough moorland partially covered by a plantation of some sixty years' standing. The cemetery is situated on the summit of a natural rising ground surmounted by an artificial tumulus. This tumulus, whose diameter

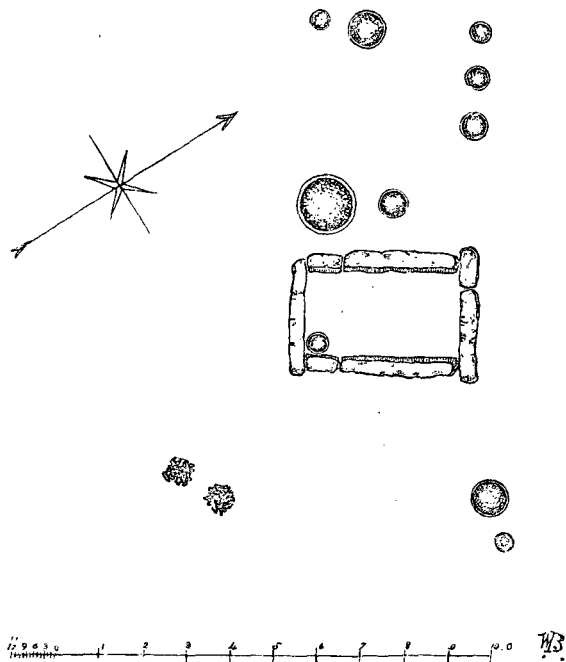


Fig. 6. Ground Plan of Cemetery of Cist and Urns at Calais Muir.

measured about 40 feet, and which was raised about 4 feet above the natural surface of the ground, consisted, like the subsoil, of the loose sandy soil so commonly associated with these burials. Several fir trees of considerable size grew upon the tumulus, and their roots penetrated the mound in every direction, rendering the work of excavation often difficult. Besides this, the tumulus was honeycombed with rabbit

burrows which, along with the destructive effect of the tree roots, no doubt accounts largely for the imperfect state in which most of the urns were found. I am indebted to Mr William Bruce for the ground plan of the cemetery shown in fig. 6.

Near the centre of the tumulus was first discovered a cist measuring inside about 42 inches  $\times$  16 inches  $\times$  23 inches deep; it was covered by a large stone about 4 feet long by 3 feet wide, and with a thickness of 7 to 10 inches. The cist had apparently been cemented at the joints with a yellow ochreous substance, which still adhered. The upper stone lay about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the surface of the mound. The direction of the longer axis of the cist was nearly north-east.

In the south-east corner of the cist was found an urn of the food-vessel type (No. 1), which appears, like the urns found in the Pitreavie Cemetery, to have accompanied an unburnt burial.

Pursuing the excavation around the central cist, ten other urns were recovered in a more or less imperfect condition; besides which were found numerous fragments of urns, and also several deposits of burned bones, as well as vegetable charcoal in considerable quantities. The urns lay at different points, but chiefly upon the west side of the cist, and at distances from the cist varying from 3 feet to 6 feet. These urns were all of the cinerary type; they stood for the most part upon their bottoms, and were deposited at a level somewhat higher than that of the cist, thus suggesting a later date of interment. These urns were all more or less filled with incinerated bones and other remains of cremation. In one or two of the urns were observed pieces of calcined bone bearing traces of the peculiar green stain which always accompanies the presence of bronze; but although careful search was made, not the smallest fragment of bronze could be detected.

The first of these cinerary urns to be discovered was a group of three on the west side of the cist, two of which (Nos. 2 and 3) stood side by side, while the third (No. 4) urn was inverted over one of the others (No. 2). Each of these urns contained a quantity of calcined bones mingled with earthy matter and small fragments of charcoal. Another urn (No 7) was found, nearly full of clean white calcined bones, which had been preserved in this condition by means of a flat stone placed

over the mouth of the urn. Yet another urn (No. 11), the smallest of the cinerary type, was found firmly attached to the root of a fir tree overturned in the course of the excavations; in this urn fragments of charcoal were discovered, but it contained no traces of bone, which might possibly, however, have been absorbed by the tree roots.

Dr Anderson has supplied me with the following description of the urns:—

“No. 1 is a thick-lipped vessel (fig. 7), 5 inches in height and 6 inches diameter at the mouth, expanding slightly to the shoulder, where it reaches an exterior diameter of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches under the



Fig. 7. Urn from a Cist at Calais Muir (5 inches in height).

brim, and tapering thence to a base of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. It is surrounded by a row of projecting knobs placed immediately above the shoulder, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches apart. They project about half an inch, and are perforated horizontally by round holes of about the thickness of a crow-quill. The whole of the exterior surface of the vessel is decorated with parallel lines of impressed markings, as of a twisted cord encompassing the vessel. There is also a band of chevrony ornament under the rim, and another round the widest part of the shoulder.

“No. 2 is a cinerary urn (fig. 8), 10 inches high by  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter at the mouth, widening to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the base of the



overhanging brim. The lip is bevelled inwardly, and ornamented with a double line of impressed markings, as of a twisted cord. A chevrony pattern of the same covers the exterior of the overhanging brim, and the flower-pot-shaped part of the urn underneath the brim is plain, except for a slight moulding round the upper part.

“No. 3 is a cinerary urn (fig. 9), measuring in height  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 6 inches diameter at the mouth, widening to 8 inches at the base of the overhanging brim. The lip, which is bevelled inwardly, is ornamented

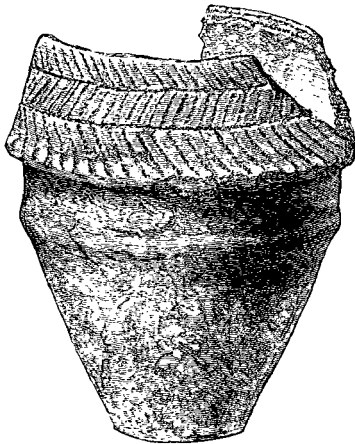


Fig. 8. Cinerary Urn from a Cemetery at Calais Muir (10 inches in height).

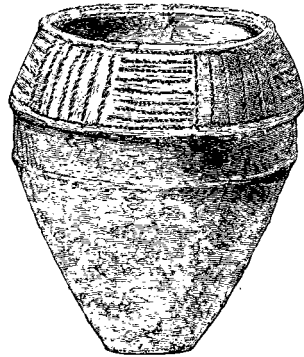


Fig. 9. Cinerary Urn from a Cemetery at Calais Muir ( $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height).

with a double line of impressed markings, as of a twisted cord. The exterior of the overhanging rim is decorated with groups of parallel lines of the same character, arranged in alternate spaces of vertical and horizontal lines. The flower-pot-shaped part of the urn below the rim is plain except for a slightly raised moulding round the upper part.

“No. 4 is a portion of one side of a cinerary urn,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter at the mouth, with an overhanging rim 2 inches in depth, ornamented with a band of zigzag lines, bordered by a double line of impressed markings, as of a twisted cord.

“No. 5 is a cinerary urn,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches high by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter at

the mouth. There is no overhanging brim, and the general form of the vessel is flower-pot-shaped, tapering from the mouth to a base of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter. The rim is ornamented with a chevrony band of impressed markings about 2 inches wide, and the rest of the exterior of the vessel is plain, except for a slightly rounded moulding near the middle of its height.

"No. 6 is a cinerary urn, of which only one side has been recovered. It measures  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height, and has been flower-pot-shaped, with a double moulding underneath the ornamented rim. The ornament of the rim is a band  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide of oblique lines of impressed markings as of twisted cord, bordered by encompassing double lines of the same character.

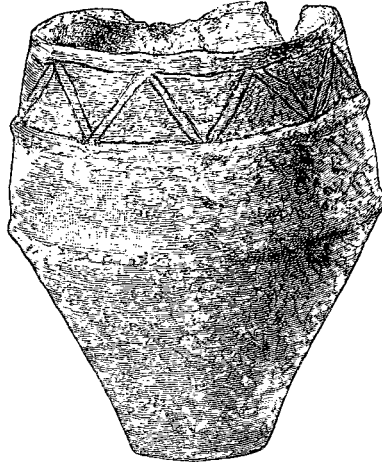


Fig. 10. Cinerary Urn from Cemetery at Calais Muir ( $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches in height).

"No. 7 is a cinerary urn (fig. 10),  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches in height by 8 inches diameter at the mouth. It

has no overhanging rim, and is not quite flower-pot-shaped, as it widens slightly from the mouth to the shoulder at 6 inches from the bottom, and tapers thence to a base of 4 inches. The only ornamentation is a band about 2 inches wide, of double zigzag incised lines encompassing the rim.

No. 8 is a cinerary urn (fig. 11), measuring  $14\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height by  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter at the mouth, widening slightly to the shoulder, whence it tapers to a base of  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter. There is no overhanging rim, but the space between the rim and the shoulder is ornamented by a band of double line zigzags, sometimes intercrossing, and bordered by a single line above and below, the lines all formed of impressed markings as of a twisted cord. The shoulder is surrounded by a slightly rounded moulding, and there is another moulding of similar character at about one-third of the height between the shoulder and the base.

"No. 9 is a cinerary urn (fig. 12), measuring  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height by

8 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter at the mouth, nearly flower-pot-shaped, and ornamented only by a band one inch in width of slightly incised zigzag lines, bordered by a single line of the same character above and below.

“No. 10 is a cinerary urn, of which only one side of the upper part remains. It has been 9 inches in diameter at the mouth, the overhanging brim ornamented with intercrossing zigzags of double lines of impressed markings as of a twisted cord, and the space between the rim



Fig. 11. Cinerary Urn from a Cemetery at Calais Muir (14 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height).

and the shoulder with rows of shallow impressions, as of the end of a twig about a quarter of an inch in diameter.

“No. 11 is a small urn of bright red colour (fig. 13), measuring 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches in height, and about the same in diameter at the mouth (but the rim being wanting on one side, makes it impossible to measure accurately), widening slightly to a diameter of 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches at the shoulder, and

tapering thence to a base of 3 inches diameter. The part between the shoulder and the rim is ornamented with a series of intercrossing zigzags of impressed markings as of a twisted cord."

After these urns had been discovered, it was thought desirable to turn over and thoroughly examine the whole of the soil composing the tumulus, in order to make sure that no object of interest should remain undiscovered. This was accordingly done, but with little result of any importance. The existence was ascertained, however, of a continuous heap of rough stones surrounding the tumulus, and lying just within its

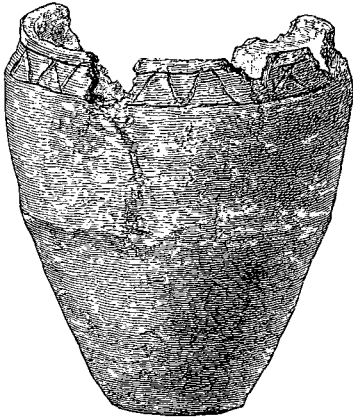


Fig. 12. Cinerary Urn from Cemetery at Calais Muir (9¾ inches in height).



Fig. 13. Small Urn from Cemetery at Calais Muir (4¼ inches in height).

margin. A few additional fragments of urns were also recovered; besides which a few small chips of flint, some fragments of cannel coal and iron pyrites, and also some pieces of limestone were found, all of which appear to have been brought to the spot by human agency.

The urns of both of these cemeteries, which strikingly resemble, both in form and ornament, a type of urn found frequently in direct connection with objects of bronze, and many examples of which are now in the Museum, may safely be set down as belonging to the Bronze Age. In the case of the first cemetery, the presence of the flint implements does not contradict this; as the overlapping, as it were, of implements

of an earlier type into a later age is by no means an uncommon occurrence. In the Calais Cemetery, on the other hand, as has been already noted, green stains indicating the presence of bronze were actually discovered.

The presence, side by side, in both of these cemeteries of burials of unburnt and cremated bodies is remarkable. While it seems probable that the two forms of burial in these cemeteries were nearly contemporary, the appearances in the Calais Cemetery seem distinctly to suggest that unburnt burial was the earlier form of the two.

I have only further to acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr J. Anderson, to Dr Munro of Kilmarnock, and to Mr George Robertson, F.S.A. Scot., for the use of their writings and notes, and to Mr William Bruce, Edinburgh, for the plans of the cemeteries exhibited.