

NOTES.

1. REPORT ON A SHORT CIST AT COLDINGHAM, BERWICKSHIRE.

On 22nd February 1939 a short cist was revealed during the operations of a gyro-tiller in Applin Cross Field, Burnhall Farm, near the village of Coldingham, Berwickshire. The grave is located about 200 feet above sea-level on the north side of the valley between Coldingham and the sea. Measured from the top of Applin Cross Brae, it is 114 yards south-east from the public road to St Abb's. A few feet beyond the cist the field dips somewhat steeply. Two-thirds of a mile to the east lie Coldingham Sands.

The cover-slab, which lay about 14 inches below the surface, was smashed into small fragments by the revolving blades of the tiller, but, when the cist was examined on 25th February, the walls were found to be undamaged and in position. The contents, unfortunately, were disturbed before the find was reported. Careful riddling of the soil in and above the cist resulted in a considerable portion of a human skeleton being recovered. There were no traces of an urn, charcoal, or other relics.

The cist, which lies with its long axis N.N.E. and S.S.W., measures, internally, 3 feet 6 inches long, 1 foot 6 inches wide, and 2 feet 2 inches deep. The ends are composed of single thin slabs, the north-east end having behind it a second flat stone as a support. Each *side*, however, is constructed of *two* slabs, placed in line and neatly fitted. No clay luting was noted. The stones composing the south-east wall are 4 inches taller than those in the opposite wall, and the latter has been levelled up by means of two flat slabs, each 2 inches thick, laid horizontally one above the other, on the upper edge of the shorter stones. Among the soil, distinct from the broken cist-cover, several recently fractured pieces of another flat stone about 1 inch thick were observed. This stone may have formed part of the bottom of the cist. The cover-stone fragments vary in thickness from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches. The stone of which the cist is constructed is a compacted fine shale, and resembles rocks at Linkum Beach, about a mile distant, in the vicinity of the "Deil's Dander."

Thanks are due to Mr James Bolton, Coldingham, who reported the find, and to Mr Thorburn, farmer, Burnhall, for permitting an examination of the site to be made. I am also indebted to Professor Alex. Low for his report on the skeletal remains.

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