

2. SHORT CIST AT DURIE, SCOONIE, FIFE.

A deep-working plough in January 1944 uncovered a stone cist about half a mile S.E. of Durie House, on the top of a slight rise in a field (No. 338) bounded on the north by Tullylaw Wood and on the east by Sillerhole Den (Nat. Grid Ref. 37/377021). It was not examined carefully till June, when only a few bones and a single jet bead were found in it.

The cist lay with its long axis east and west. Its slabs were of reddish sandstone, sunk in the sandy soil. The internal dimensions were: length 4 feet, breadth at the west end 2 feet 8½ inches, and at the east end 2 feet 4 inches, with a height of 2 feet 4 to 6 inches. The coverstone was 5 feet 8 inches by 3 feet. Corners and deficiencies were carefully patulated with clay. At one end there was a charcoal layer at the bottom of the grave.

The bead was barrel-shaped (length .5 inch, greatest diameter .25 inch), of the type used in the elaborate necklaces of the Early Bronze Age. The fragments are preserved in the National Museum.

Professor Alexander Low reports on the bones as follows: The skeletal remains from the cist are very fragmentary. It is possible to identify the lower end of an adult right tibia which shows a well-marked squatting facet on its anterior margin. There is also the base of the metatarsal of the second left toe and fragments of calcaneum of foot. The crown of the tooth is interesting, as it is a deciduous

lower right second molar tooth and must have belonged to a young individual—the permanent tooth must have just been erupting, which usually takes place about twelve years of age.

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