

II.

THE EXCAVATION OF THE CHAMBERED CAIRN AT
BRACKLEY, KINTYRE, ARGYLL.

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INTRODUCTION.

The earliest, and hence perhaps the most impressive, of the prehistoric stone monuments of SW. Scotland are the chambered cairns built by communities of immigrant Neolithic farmers, who began to arrive towards the end of the third millennium B.C. The term *Clyde-Carlingford culture*, used by Professors V. Gordon Childe and Stuart Piggott to define the cairns and their associated remains, emphasises the close connection between the Scottish cairns and related monuments of Northern Ireland. The distribution of the cairns in Scotland shows that the main area of settlement was in Arran, Bute, Kintyre, Mid Argyll and Galloway.¹

Recent excavations of Clyde-Carlingford cairns in Scotland are those of Piggott and Powell in Galloway,² and of Childe,³ Mrs M. E. C. Stewart and Miss A. S. Henshall⁴ in Perthshire. But the bulk of our information about the Scottish tombs still derives from the pioneer excavations of Professor T. H. Bryce in Arran, Bute and Islay in the early years of the century;⁵ to these may be added, for Mid Argyll, the 19th century excavations of Canon W. Greenwell⁶ and Dean R. J. Mapleton,⁷ and the somewhat cursory explorations of J. H. Crow in 1929 and 1931.⁸

In Kintyre the only cairn of certainly Clyde-Carlingford type recorded as excavated is Beacharra, which produced the six *Beacharra* pottery vessels now in Campbeltown Museum.⁹ In 1951, when my wife and I undertook the reorganisation of that museum, we began to collect material for inclusion

¹ For the most recent analysis of the Clyde-Carlingford culture as a whole, and for a bibliography of the sites, see S. Piggott, *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles* (1954), hereinafter cited as *Neolithic Cultures*.

² *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXIII (1948-9), 103-61.

³ *Ibid.*, LXIV (1929-30), 264-72; LXV (1930-1), 281-93.

⁴ *Ibid.*, LXXXVIII (1954-6), 112-21.

⁵ *Ibid.*, XXXVI (1901-2), 74-181; XXXVII (1902-3), 36-67; XXXVIII (1903-4), 17-81; XLIII (1908-9), 337-70. See also *The Book of Arran (Archæology)* (1910), pp 36-99, 136-47.

⁶ *Ibid.*, VI (1864-6), 336-51.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 351-5.

⁸ *Ibid.*, LXIV (1929-30), 139-41; LXVI (1931-2), 445-8.

⁹ Excavated in June 1892 by the Kintyre Scientific Association; cf. *P.S.A.S.*, XXXVI (1901-2), 102-9.

on archæological maps of Kintyre.¹ Field-work carried out for this purpose showed that, in addition to the four sites already recorded, one possible and three certain sites were to be classed as Clyde-Carlingford cairns, proving that Kintyre had played a full part in the settlement of the Neolithic colonists.² It seemed that the excavation of one of the Kintyre cairns might not only provide fresh information from the heartland of the Clyde-Carlingford culture in Scotland but might also serve to test the link between the well-known Arran tombs and the relatively unknown group in Kintyre. The cairn at Brackley Farm, some 3 miles N. of Carradale, was selected as most likely to produce such evidence, since it was within easy reach of Arran yet on the opposite side of Kintyre to Beacharra.

The cairn at Brackley has been scheduled as an ancient monument under the name *Carragh an Talaidh*, but it is now known locally as *The Druid Stones*. Permission to excavate was courteously given by the Forestry Commission (Scotland) as owner of the site, and by the Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Scotland) on behalf of the Ministry of Works, and it is a pleasure to be able to record our indebtedness to Mr Malcolm McLean, tenant of Brackley Farm, and to his son, Mr John McLean, for their interest and much practical help, especially with equipment, throughout. The excavation was carried out by my wife and myself between 23rd June and 12th July 1952, and between 31st May and 20th June 1953.

DESCRIPTION.

The Site and its Setting (figs. 1, 12).

Kintyre, the most southern part of Argyllshire, is almost an island, joined at its northern end to the rest of the county by a narrow isthmus hardly more than a mile wide. Briefly, it may be described as a mountain ridge—an extension of the Cowal anticline—which rises from the sea to a maximum height of just under 1500 ft. and trends steadily southwards. The spine of the ridge is broken only at the fertile plain between Campbeltown and Machrihanish, but in the extreme S. the land rises again to form the forbidding cliffs of the Mull.

The rocks composing this ridge are for the most part schists and grits, which of themselves produce a soil unfavourable to agriculture. But along considerable stretches of the coast and in the lower reaches of the glens, as well as in the plain between Campbeltown and Machrihanish, raised beach deposits and alluvial gravels make fertile soil. Just as they determine

¹ I should like to express our deep feeling of gratitude to Mr Duncan Colville, President of the Kintyre Antiquarian Society, who many times searched the records of the Society on our behalf and allowed us to draw to the full upon his extensive knowledge of the archæological sites of the peninsula. The newly recognised Clyde-Carlingford cairns were indeed confirmed from information supplied by him.

² For details of sites see map (fig. 12) and Appx. A (p. 50).

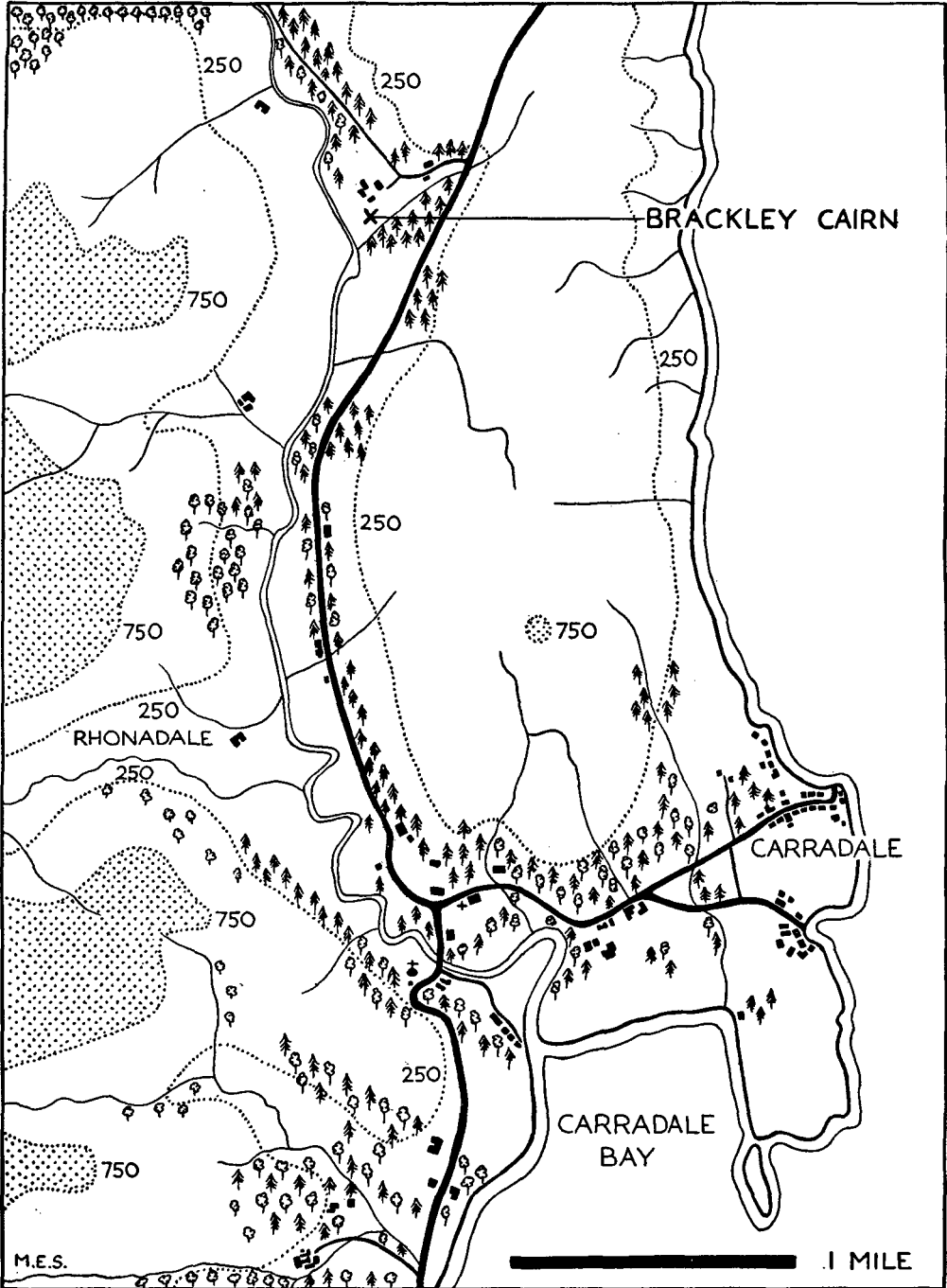


Fig. 1. The site and its setting.

the pattern of farming to-day, so these fertile areas provide the key to ancient settlement in Kintyre.

Except at the Mull, where currents are difficult and landing places few, Kintyre was readily accessible to ancient seafarers; moreover, it lay in the

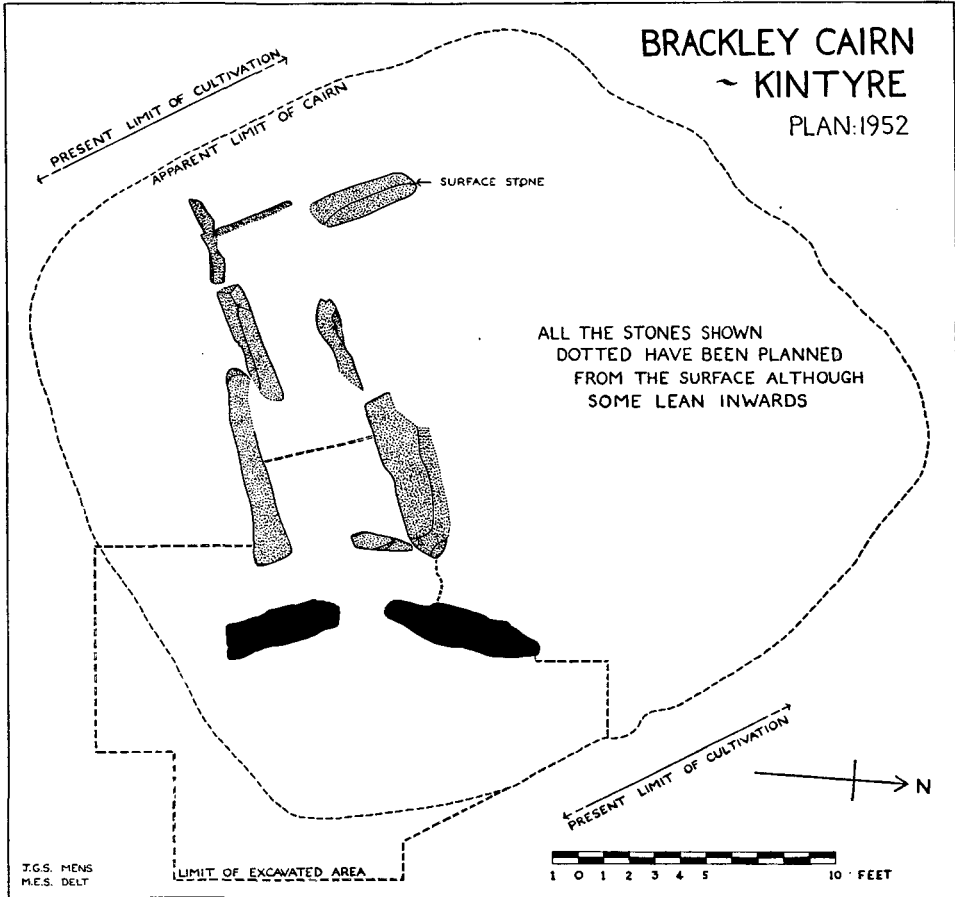


Fig. 2. General plan of site.

main stream of Neolithic colonisation which began to flow northwards up the W. coast of Britain towards the close of the 3rd millennium B.C. Though not so intensively settled as Arran, Kintyre was by no means neglected by the new colonists.

The chambered cairn at Brackley stands on the E. side of Carradale Glen, some 3 miles from its mouth, in the United Parish of Saddell and Skipness.¹ It is sited on a platform of water-laid sands, clays and gravels

¹ Nat. Grid. Ref. NR/794418; O.S. 6-inch map, Argyllshire, CCXLII.

at a height of just over 90 ft. above sea level. This platform has been eroded on the W. by the Carradale Water and on the S. by a small nameless burn. To the SW. of the platform, and some 20 ft. lower, are stretches of alluvial gravel, only a little above the level of Carradale Water, which to-day form the most fertile ground on Brackley Farm. To E. and W. the view is restricted by the walls of the glen, which in a length of about 5 miles only once exceeds $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile in width. To the NNW. it would be possible to see almost to the head of the glen, a mile and a half away, but for the trees round the farm. To the S., though again trees somewhat impede the view, it is possible for the eye to follow the glen for just over 2 miles to its junction with Rhonadale Glen, at which point it swings sharply to the SE. to debouch into the sea opposite Arran at Carradale Bay; the broad sandy beach of this bay must have offered a safe and inviting landfall for prehistoric mariners. The whole situation of Brackley is enclosed and sheltered; yet this must not be taken to mean that there was any attempt to hide the cairn, which on the contrary occupies a prominent, not to say dominating, position in relation to the most fertile ground in the glen.

There is no mention of the cairn in the old *Statistical Account*; in the *New Statistical Account*¹ it appears as a tumulus, "the largest in the district." Thereafter it received only passing mention—repetition of the same information—until Mr Duncan Colville examined the site and published details of it in his *Notes on the Standing Stones of Kintyre*.²

Summary of Results of Excavation.

The site at Brackley was proved to be that of a chambered cairn of Clyde-Carlingford type. There were unusual architectural features in the burial chamber, which was of megalithic construction with a complex entrance consisting of two sets of portal stones, an outer and an inner, joined by drystone walling to form a narrow adit.³ Inhumed burials had been made in the primary phase of the tomb's use, probably with Beacharra ware associated, but there was no evidence to show that the portals were then blocked.

In the Early or Middle Bronze Age the chamber was paved with stone slabs in readiness to receive a cremated burial, which was accompanied by portions of a food vessel and a number of jet or lignite beads from at least two crescentic necklaces, as well as implements and flakes of flint and pitchstone. After this burial the tomb was effectively sealed by a blocking of clay containing many stone slabs. This blocking stretched from the burial chamber, through the adit, to the front of the tomb, where it spread

¹ *New Stat. Acc.*, VII (1845), Argyllshire, Parish of Saddell and Skipness, p. 449.

² *P.S.A.S.*, LXIV (1929-30), 301-21.

³ The description given is, in fact, that of a passage, but since the word *passage* already has a special connotation as used in *passage grave*, it has been considered advisable to use the word *adit* instead.

fan-wise to either side of the entrance. Subsequent interference and, presumably, stone-robbing do not seem to have affected the burial seriously, if at all.

Visible Remains before Excavation (fig. 2, Pl. I, 1).

The most prominent features of the tomb before excavation were a massive portal stone and a huge side slab forming part of a burial chamber which faced almost due E. The other portal stone was visible but by no means so large, and appears to have been broken off short. The portals formed an entrance which was clearly asymmetrical to the axis of the burial chamber. Terminal slab and side slabs, though partly turf-covered, showed that the length of the burial chamber was 15 ft.; in the construction of the sides could be seen that overlapping or imbrication which is a feature of many Scottish cairns of the Clyde-Carlingford group. No cover slabs were visible. The V-shaped setting of the portal stones, together with their unusual width, suggested a façade of orthostats, though no such orthostats could in fact be seen.

The cairn was represented by a low, grass-covered mound, scarcely noticeable to S. and W. of the burial chamber, though extending for some 19 ft. to the N.; in front of the entrance a mound extended about 7 ft. It was obvious that the somewhat square shape of the cairn, and its apparent lack of relation to the burial chamber, were due at least in part to the fact that the tomb stands in a field ploughed as closely to the cairn as possible, and planted with potatoes at the time of excavation.

Method of Excavation.

It was decided to examine first the blocking in front of the portal stones, to test its relationship to the tomb itself and to see what part it might have had in the ritual associated with interments in the tomb; an incidental result of this examination would be to determine whether in fact the tomb had had an orthostatic façade. The blocking was removed in two halves down to undisturbed ground; a median baulk was left until last to enable a section to be drawn.

The second objective was the excavation of the burial chamber itself. In practice, this proceeded in phases, the first of which was the examination of the adit. The excavation of the main chamber presented some difficulty, for it was obvious that the side slabs were insecure and might collapse if the filling were entirely removed, or even if one side were exposed along its entire length at one time. The method adopted was to excavate first the greater part of the front compartment of the burial chamber, drawing transverse sections of the filling on a level with the inner portal stone and at the inner limit of the excavation. The first portion was then filled in;

after this the previously untouched filling of the front compartment, together with part of that of the rear compartment, was excavated, and a further transverse section drawn at the new limit of excavation. At this limit a baulk was left between the two main side slabs of the rear compartment, and was not removed. Finally, on the opposite side of the baulk, the rear compartment was excavated up to the terminal slab of the burial chamber. This method, besides being tedious, was archæologically undesirable, since no longitudinal section of the burial chamber filling could be obtained; nevertheless, it was amply justified when the construction of the side slabs at the front of the chamber was revealed.

The Excavation.

The description which follows is an attempt to show the various phases in the history of the tomb in chronological order. It is felt that, because of the complicated nature of the evidence, that history will be more readily understood, if so put, than if the excavation were described stage by stage as it actually took place.

The body of the cairn was not examined, but it seems to consist chiefly of boulders, now largely grass covered. The cairn appears denuded, and rarely attains a height of more than 3 ft. above the level of the field. A study of the cultivated ground to the rear of the burial chamber gave no indication that the cairn had ever extended in that direction; it is therefore impossible to decide whether the cairn was originally either long or round in shape. Although there are no stone dykes nearby, except the apparently recent wall surrounding the modern burial ground a few yards away to the S., yet it seems reasonable to assume that stone-robbing has taken place, perhaps to provide bottoming for roads.

The burial chamber (fig. 3) was constructed of massive stone slabs set on edge, some of which were earthfast, supporting others which overlapped or were imbricated with them. No roofing slabs survived. There was a single transverse or septal slab which divided the chamber into two compartments, but which was too small to have served any structural purpose.

The entrance, 1 ft. 9 ins. wide, was flanked by two portal stones, of which the southerly, now hardly more than a stump, must always have been smaller than its northerly neighbour, an exceptionally massive slab 6 ft. 3 ins. wide and standing 9 ft. 4 ins. above original ground level (Pl. II, 1). These two stones, set at a slight angle, gave a funnel-shaped approach to the entrance; their total spread, including the entrance, of 12 ft. strongly suggested an orthostatic façade bordering a forecourt, yet to neither side was there trace of orthostat or drystone walling to sustain the suggestion. However, on the S. side a line of boulders, including some distinctive glacial erratics of Arran granite, lay on or just above the original ground surface. Extending

from the S. side of the burial chamber and beyond the S. portal stone, they seemed almost to set a limit to the area immediately before the entrance, which must always have been important from a ceremonial point of view

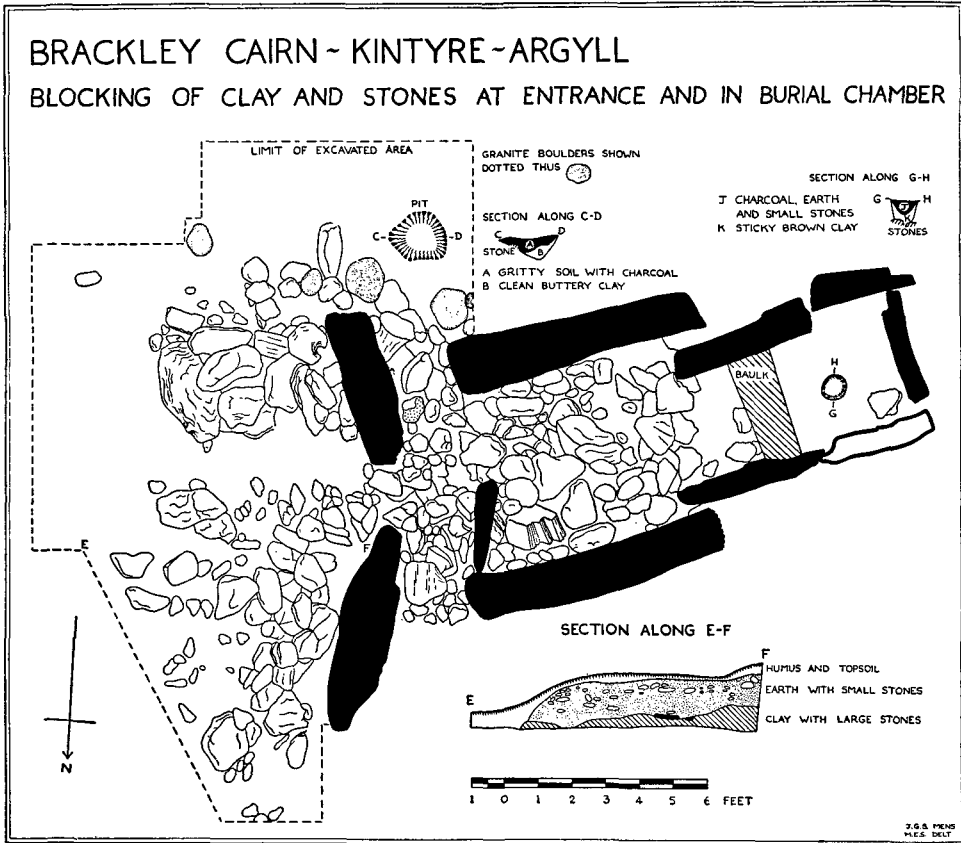


Fig. 3.

(Pl. I, 4). This area was stripped to original ground level and carefully examined for pits and other signs of use, but no evidence for disturbance was discovered. To the S. of the southern portal stone there was a small pit, some 18 ins. wide and 9 ins. deep. It was filled with buttery clay covered by gritty soil containing a little oak charcoal,¹ and was sealed with clean yellow clay akin to the subsoil, so that its purpose, though unexplained, must have been served before the cairn was built.

The entrance to the burial chamber was complex.² Beyond the outer portal stones there had been an inner pair, of which only the northerly one remains (Pl. II, 2). Between the two pairs of portal stones there had been

¹ See Appx. E (p. 54).

² For discussion of the implications of this feature see p. 45 ff.

an adit, 3 ft. long and perhaps originally 2 ft. wide. On the N. side two slabs of stone, horizontally laid, showed how the adit had been walled; on the S. side the stones had disappeared (Pl. II, 3). The socket of the missing inner portal stone was clearly visible with what must have been a chocking stone still in position. At the threshold of the burial chamber was a sill stone (Pl. II, 4). No relics were found in the adit, but the socket of the inner portal stone contained pieces of oak charcoal.¹

The rear compartment of the burial chamber, some 5 ft. 6 ins. long by 3 ft. wide, was separated from the front compartment by a low transverse slab which did not touch either of the sides. The terminal slab and one slab at each side were earthfast. The northern side slab, now split and partially broken, must originally have been entire;² its southern counterpart was not so long, the space between it and the terminal slab being filled by a slab which was not earthfast but rested, on its inner side, against an upright flagstone chocked by two large boulders. The slight gap caused by the overlap of the side slabs was carefully packed with small stones (Pl. IV, 2).

The front compartment of the burial chamber, some 6 ft. 6 ins. long by 5 ft. wide, was walled by two massive side slabs. These were not earthfast but were raised from 18 ins. to 2 ft. above original ground level and supported, so far as could be observed, on a foundation of packed boulders (Pl. III, 3). An upright flagstone, set into the ground, caught the inner bottom edge of each slab and prevented it from slipping inwards (Pl. III, 1). The northerly slab was supported at one end by the side slab of the rear compartment, which it overlapped, and at the other by the inner portal stone (fig. 4). The great weight of this slab had borne against the portal stone, forced it out of the perpendicular and caused it to press in its turn against the sill stone and partly raise it out of the ground (Pl. III, 2). The southerly side slab, lacking the support of a portal stone, would almost certainly collapse were it not held upright by the present infilling of the burial chamber.

Despite the strain placed by this mode of construction upon the earthfast slabs, and upon the inner portal stones especially, it will be obvious that the walls of the front compartment of the burial chamber would be unlikely to fall inwards. But there seems nothing to prevent their falling outwards except the resistance of a substantial cairn pressing against them; this seems to be evidence in itself that such a cairn once surrounded the burial chamber at Brackley. Moreover, since it would be impracticable to manœuvre heavy capstones into position to roof the chamber without first securing the sides, it seems reasonable to suggest that much of the body of the cairn must have been in position before the burial chamber was roofed, and so completed.

¹ See Appx. E (p. 54).

² Dr S. M. K. Henderson, who has kindly examined fragments from each part of the split stone, states that there is no geological reason why the stone should not originally have been one and unbroken.

It seems manifest that the object of the construction adopted at Brackley was to level off the top of the burial chamber so that the capstones would lie evenly. The side slabs as they now exist would presuppose an internal height of between 4 ft. 6 ins. and 5 ft. for the burial chamber, a margin

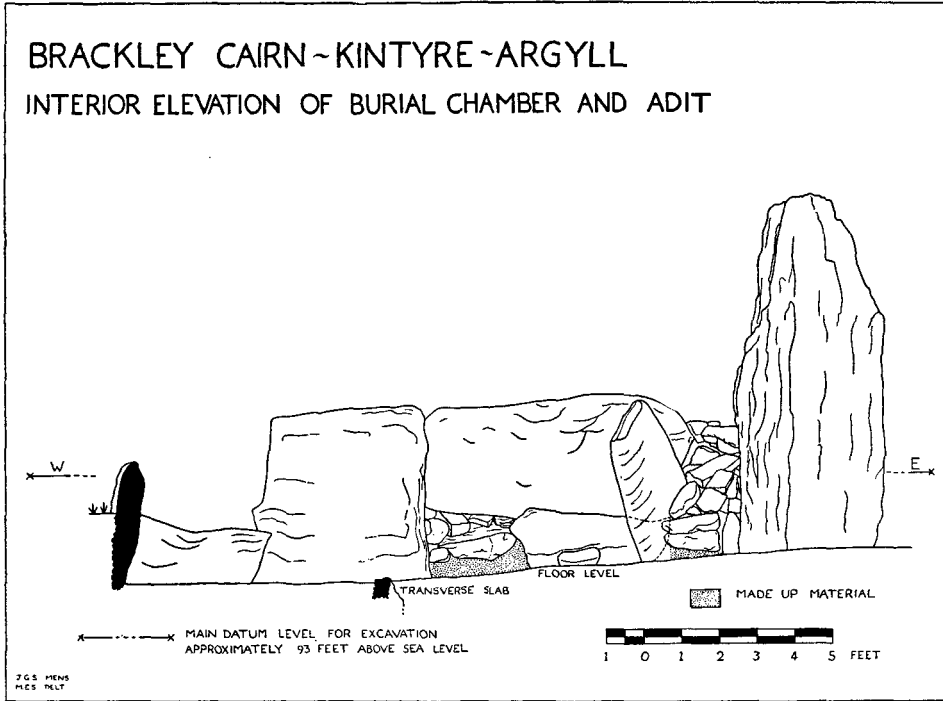


Fig. 4.

adequate though not generous. This solution to the problem of roofing the burial chamber is the converse of that discovered by Bryce at Carn Ban, in Arran, and by Greenwell at Nether Largie, Kilmartin, where drystone walling is used to fill gaps below the capstones.¹

Neolithic Burials.

Later disturbance had removed almost all trace of primary use of the burial chamber, but the sill stone may be taken to indicate the original floor level; if so, it would seem that the actual floor consisted simply of the natural rather sandy subsoil. In this subsoil were observed several stains of a distinct bluish-grey colour when first exposed. Amorphous though

¹ Carn Ban—*P.S.A.S.*, xxxvii (1902-3), 41, fig. 3; Nether Largie—*ibid.*, lxiv (1929-30), 237, figs. 2, 3.

these stains were in general, one at least, towards the front of the burial chamber, certainly suggested the "shadow" of a crouched burial (Pl. III, 4 and fig. 5). Samples of soil taken from these stains proved in all cases to be sufficiently rich in phosphates for the stains to be considered remains of inhumations.¹

In front of the "chest" of the most convincing of the "shadow" burials was a small hole, 4 ins. deep and $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in diameter, the filling of which was even richer in phosphates. That the nearby stain postdated the construction of the tomb seemed to be proved by the fact that it overran the filling of a slight trench in the subsoil on the S. side of the burial chamber, for this trench had obviously been dug for the foundation of the chamber wall.

It will be noted that "shadow" burials occurred both in front of and behind the transverse or septal slab which divided the burial chamber into two compartments. This slab is of slight dimensions and, though perhaps originally larger, seems unlikely ever to have impeded access from one compartment to the other.

The only certain Neolithic relic recovered was a small potsherd with traces of a carination sufficient to allow it to be classed as *Beacharra B* ware.² This evidence, slight though it is, serves to date the cairn and the primary inhumations to the Neolithic period.

Early or Middle Bronze Age Burial.

In the Early or Middle Bronze Age the burial chamber was again used for an interment. For this elaborate preparations were made. Throughout the chamber a layer of dirty sand, clay, earth and stones, with some charcoal, altogether some 6-9 ins. deep, was found overlying the original subsoil. Above this layer was a spread of clean sand, in which a paving of stone slabs had been laid. A sample of charcoal from under the paving at the rear of the chamber was found to be birch.³ The only artefact found beneath the paving was a pitchstone scraper from the rear of the chamber.⁴ However, the *Beacharra B* sherd already mentioned was found at approximately paving level; if it be assumed, as seems likely, that the sherd is to be associated with one of the Neolithic "shadow" burials, then it would follow that the layer between subsoil and paving slabs must have been deliberately put down, after the removal of as many traces as possible of Neolithic relics. Such an explanation appears to be required to account for the dearth of other Neolithic relics and for the position in which the potsherd was found.

The largest paving slabs were at the very back of the chamber, where they were beautifully fitted (Pl. IV, 3 and fig. 5). The paving overlay all but the southern tip of the transverse or septal slab, part of which may even have

¹ See Appx. D (p. 53).

² *Infra*, p. 38 and fig. 10, no. 10.

³ See Appx. E (p. 54).

⁴ *Infra*, p. 38.

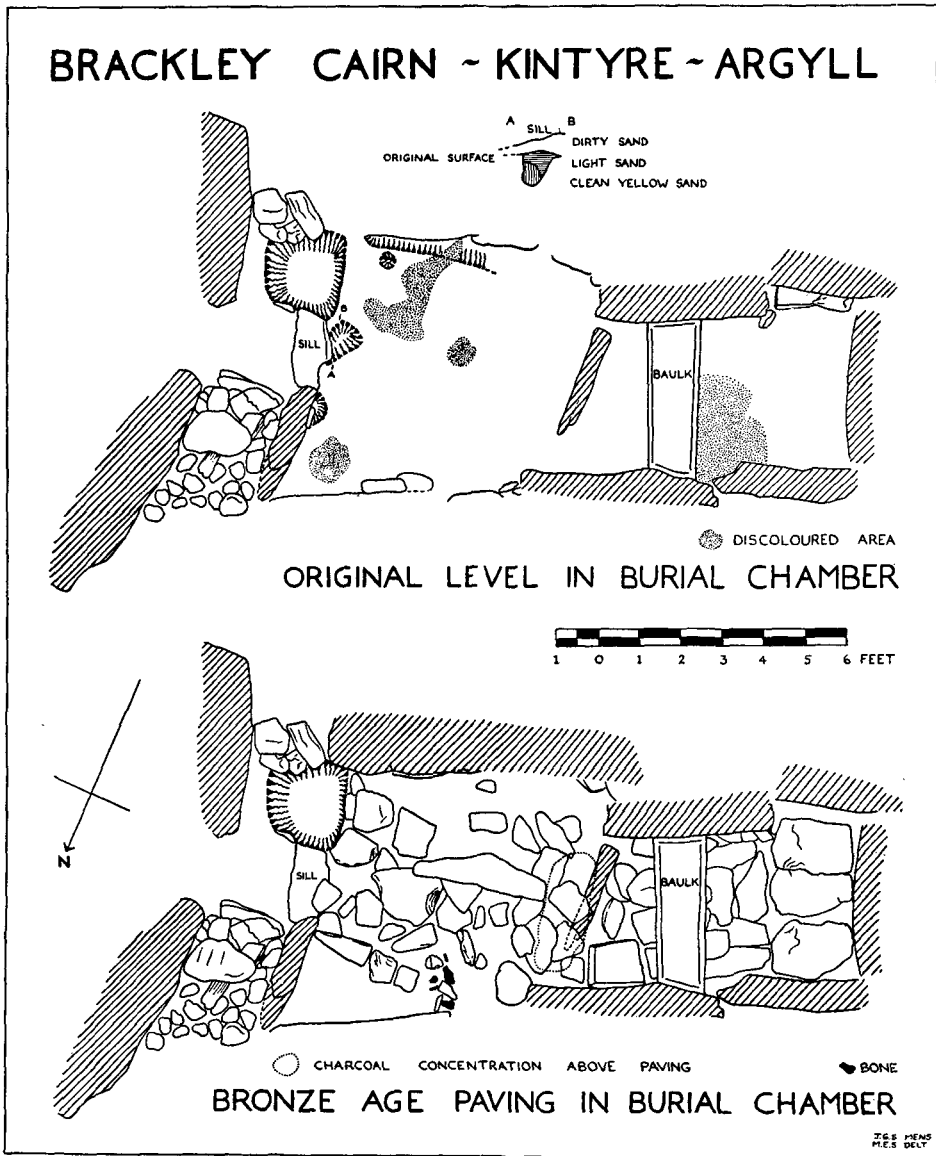


Fig. 5.

been broken away to enable the paving to continue without interruption. Towards the front of the chamber the paving, though less well laid, was unmistakable, continuing right up to the entrance but stopping short of the hole where the missing inner portal stone had been, thereby showing that the portal stone must still have been in position when the paving was laid. Furthermore, the sill stone was as it still is to-day when the paving was levelled over it, so proving that the surviving inner portal stone must have

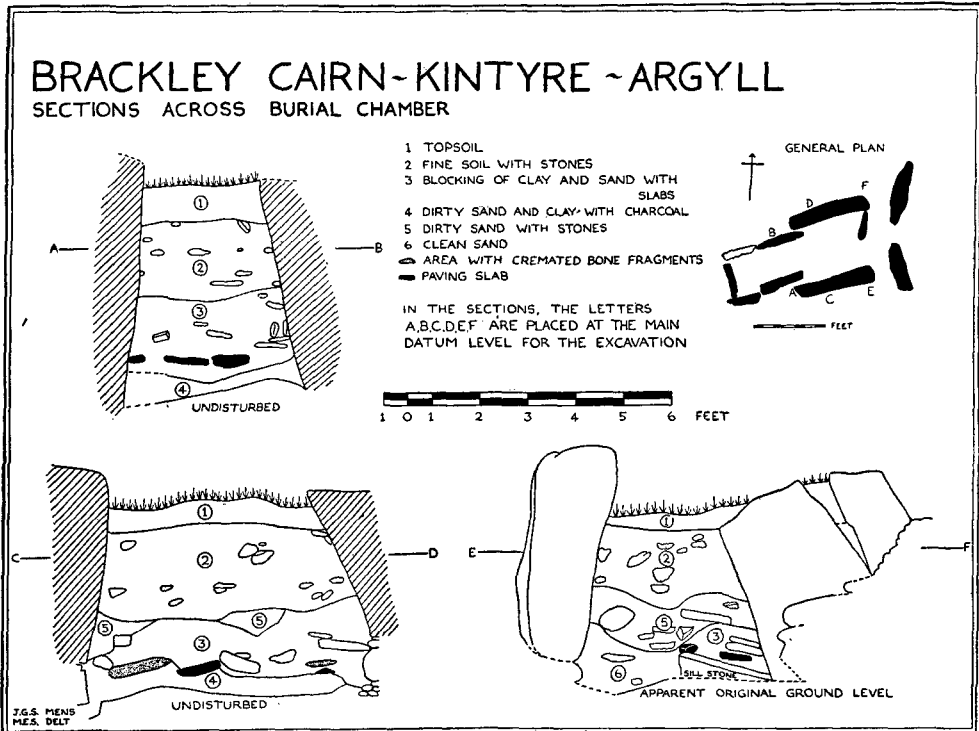


Fig. 6.

been forced inwards to its present angle before the reuse of the burial chamber in the Early or Mid Bronze Age (Pl. III, 1).

The burial was a cremation, apparently of a young adult and, to judge from the burial offerings, of a woman. Pieces of cremated bone were most numerous about the middle of the front compartment of the burial chamber, with a small group of bones, less distorted by fire than the rest, lying close to the N. side.¹

Obviously associated with the burial, though found in great confusion, were forty-four jet or lignite beads (forming parts of at least two necklaces but insufficient for a single entire necklace), an incomplete food vessel of

¹ For reports upon bones and teeth see Appxs. B and C (pp. 52-3).

tripartite bowl type, a plano-convex knife and eleven other implements or flakes of flint and a core and five other pieces of pitchstone. These finds are described in detail below (p. 38).

The final stage of the burial was the insertion into the chamber of a well-packed blocking of clay containing a high proportion of boulders and

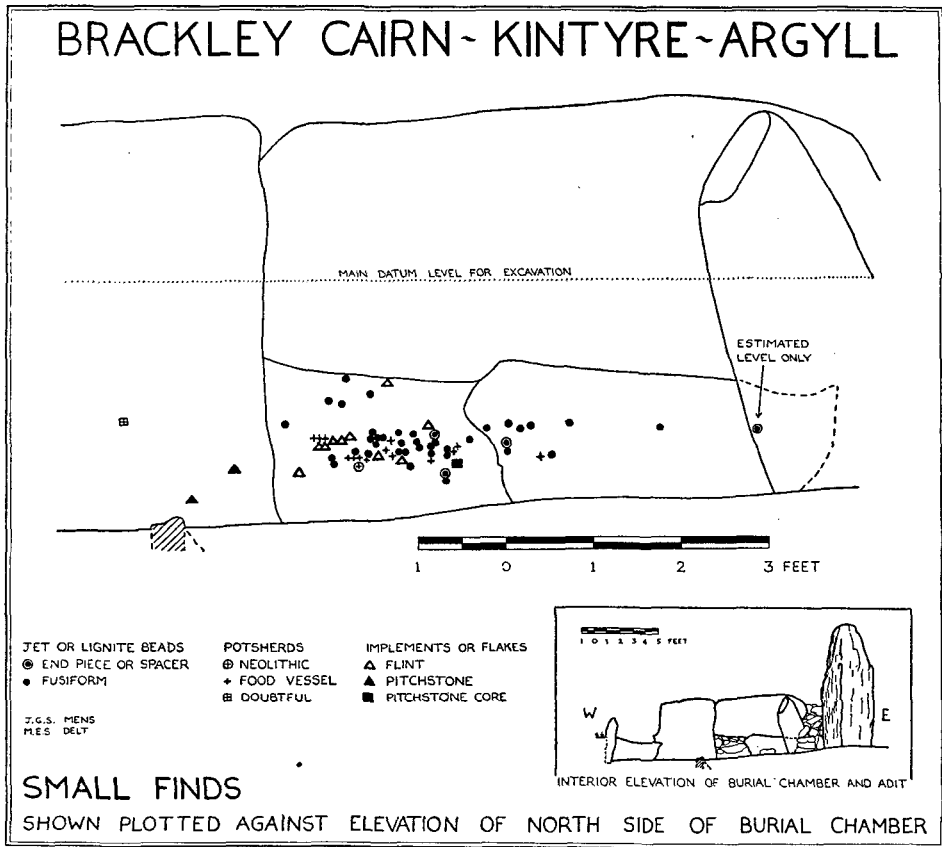


Fig. 7.

fairly large stone slabs (fig. 6). This blocking extended into and filled the adit, then spread out fan-wise in front of the main portal stones, no doubt effectively sealing the entrance.

Inside the burial chamber the blocking immediately overlay the paving; it contained a good deal of charcoal, some of which was obviously burnt and may have come from the funeral pyre. Of eight samples of charcoal taken from the blocking, one was found to be willow, two were unidentifiable owing to burning and five were oak. Tests of other samples showed that a thick layer of charcoal overlying the clay of the blocking at the rear of the

chamber had consisted of birch and hazel, that a rather dense mass overlying a paving slab in the front compartment was birch, and that a dense layer overlying paving slabs in an area shown demarcated by a dotted line on fig. 5 had contained alder, oak and ash.

Scattered through the blocking, but tending to concentrate in the middle of the front compartment, were the beads, potsherds and implements and flakes of flint and pitchstone associated with the burial. In the absence of evidence for subsequent disturbance of the blocking, it seems that these offerings must have been strewn about the chamber as the blocking was placed in position (fig. 7). The inferences to be drawn from these discoveries are discussed later (p. 46).

Although the blocking continued without interruption through the adit, there was no sign of it over the socket of the missing inner portal stone. Because of later disturbance in this area it is impossible to prove that the portal stone was still in position when the blocking was laid down, but it seems likely that this was so.

In front of the entrance the largest slabs in the blocking were found to the S. Among them was one, about 20 by 13 ins. in size, from which a semi-circular piece, some 4 ins. in diameter, appeared to have been taken from one edge by deliberate working at the stone from each side (Pl. I, 3). Immediately opposite the entrance there was a curious absence of slabs, but since the space was filled with clay in all respects similar to that found elsewhere the blocking may be considered continuous. To the N. the slabs were somewhat sparse; among them were a few pieces of quartzite.

Finally, a covering of earth and small stones, to a depth of about 3 ins., completely hid the large slabs and clay beyond the entrance, extending in a semicircle in front of the outer portal stones (Pl. I, 2). It must be stressed that there was no discontinuity in the blocking, which may be unhesitatingly assigned to the ceremonies immediately following the cremated burial of the Early or Mid Bronze Age.

Evidence for the State of the Burial Chamber in the Early or Middle Bronze Age and for Subsequent Disturbance.

In the rear compartment of the burial chamber the Early or Mid Bronze Age blocking of clay and stones was succeeded by a well-marked layer of birch and hazel charcoal covered by fine loam containing a few large boulders. In the loam, and penetrating as far as but not into the blocking, was a small pit, about 9 ins. in diameter and 5 ins. deep (fig. 3). Superficially this pit looked like a post-hole, and indeed charcoal taken from it was found to be of oak and birch, of which the birch no doubt derived from the charcoal layer already mentioned.¹ On the lip of the pit lay a small stone disc.²

¹ See Appx. E (p. 54).

² Described *infra*, p. 38.

The pit was certainly not a post-hole, for it was too shallow and had no chocking stones. The most likely explanation seems to be that it was the socket of an oak prop placed to shore up the roof, and that before the prop decayed or was removed there was time for a layer of fine soil, perhaps rain-washed, to form around it.

The layer of loam extended over and completely concealed the broken stump of the N. side slab, implying that the slab was already damaged when the loam was collecting around the prop. This in turn suggests that the damage to the slab and the placing of the prop may well have been connected—perhaps even that the slab was removed to gain entrance to the burial chamber, and that the prop was fixed to secure the roof while the chamber was being examined. The obvious explanation for such a series of actions appears to be intent to rob the tomb; there was no evidence for use of the chamber as a shelter or dwelling. In any case, the presence of the pit goes some way to prove that the burial chamber roof was still intact after the Early or Mid Bronze Age interment had taken place.

Moreover, if the existence of the roofing slabs be presupposed, the disappearance of the southern inner portal stone may be connected with an attempt to force a way into the burial chamber. The capstones required to cover a burial chamber 5 ft. wide must have been unusually massive, and it might well have seemed easier to force an entrance by digging out the portal stone rather than by removing the capstones. The oak charcoal found in the socket of the missing stone might also represent a prop or props placed to shore up the roof during exploration of the burial chamber. The apparently obvious solution of entering by digging out the original entrance would be ruled out by the small size of that entrance, the two inner portal stones probably almost meeting across it, and by the exceedingly tough nature of the blocking material itself, which would have been difficult to remove even with pick and shovel indiscriminately used. In any event, whether there was a systematic attempt at robbery or not, the blocking protected the Bronze Age burial from disturbance. Along the southern wall of the front compartment of the burial chamber, directly behind the missing portal stone, the blocking was indeed less compact and had perhaps been disturbed; possibly some of it may have been removed, together with any relics which it may have contained. If so, it may be presumed that the poor yield of finds would have caused any attempt at robbery to be quickly discontinued.

It may be questioned whether it would have been physically possible for the Early or Mid Bronze Age folk to lay their paving and make their interment in a burial chamber with a roof assumed to be not more than 5 ft. high at the start of their operations. The task would not be easy, but surely not impossible; its difficulty might be adduced as a reason for the absence of a cist built inside the burial chamber to take the interment.

The Cairn in Recent Times.

It is impossible to state when the cairn assumed its present appearance. In soft soil near the top of the front compartment of the burial chamber was found a sherd of medieval pottery, which may indicate removal of the capstones before the close of the Middle Ages.

In recent times a curious and amusing superstition attached itself to the large outer portal stone. This stone is still remembered as the *Toothie Stane*. Into it have been driven at least two dozen nails or screws. Local legend explains these by saying that it used to be the custom for anyone suffering from toothache to seek a cure by driving a nail into the stone at midnight!¹

DETAILS OF FINDS.

1. *Neolithic.*

Sherd of Beacharra B ware, of hard, well-baked fabric, with little or no grit, dark grey on the inside, brown on the outside; both inner and outer surfaces have been well smoothed. The carination is just visible, and the sherd is probably from a decorated carinated bowl like that from Beacharra itself, the fabrics being very similar.² From the front compartment of the burial chamber, at the level of the Bronze Age paving (fig. 10, no. 10).

2. *Uncertain, perhaps Neolithic.*(a) *Pottery.*

Sherd of rather friable fabric, containing some grit, black on the inner surface, changing to greyish-brown on the outer; thickness $\frac{3}{8}$ in. Indeterminate, but probably Neolithic rather than Bronze Age in character. From rear compartment of burial chamber, in blocking covering Bronze Age burial.

(b) *Stone.*

Disc of light green mica schist, roughly chipped to a diameter of approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins.³ From lip of prop hole in blocking covering Bronze Age burial in rear compartment of burial chamber (fig. 10, no. 14).

3. *Uncertain, perhaps Early or Middle Bronze Age.*

Scraper of pitchstone, made from a short flake of triangular section, $\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{9}{16}$ in. in size, the bulb of percussion being partially worked down. From layer of sand, clay, earth and stones found sealed beneath paving in rear compartment of burial chamber (fig. 10, no. 12).

4. *From the Early or Middle Bronze Age Burial.*

These finds were found scattered in the blocking which covered the burial in the front compartment of the burial chamber (figs. 7, 8).

¹ I am indebted to Mr S. R. Skilling, Hon. Secretary of Glasgow Archæological Society, for drawing my attention to a newspaper account of a rather similar superstition from SW. England, to the effect that an aching tooth could be cured by hammering a nail into the trunk of an oak tree.

² See *Neolithic Cultures*, pp. 171-2 and fig. 27.

³ For discussion of similar discs see *Neolithic Cultures*, p. 176.

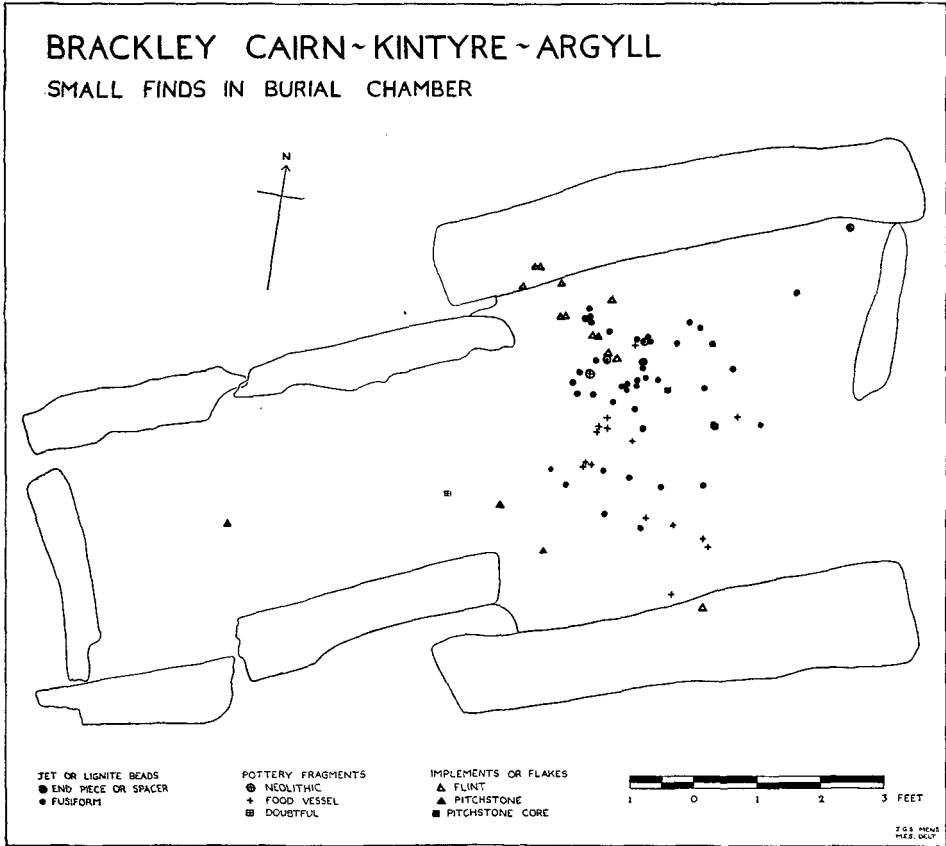
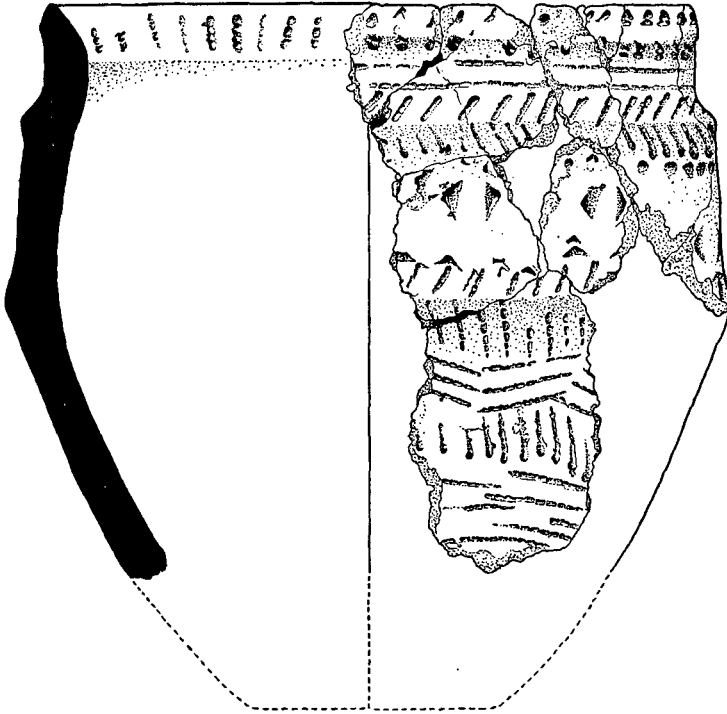


Fig. 8.

(a) Pottery.

Food Vessel sherds, fourteen in number and all apparently from the same vessel; of hard, rather coarse fabric, containing large grits, buff to light grey outside and dark grey inside; nine of the sherds were found to fit together to form a vessel of Tripartite Bowl type (fig. 9). The decoration is elaborate but slipshod. A toothed stamp, probably of wood or bone, has been used to decorate both raised mouldings with a chevron design, as well as to make a row of impressions round the inner lip of the bevelled rim. A double row of small punctulations on the outer lip of the rim, and a single row below the chevron design on the upper moulding, seem to have been made by a small stamp, possibly of bone. The space between the two mouldings is filled rather haphazardly with impressions from a large triangular stamp, presumably of wood; the same stamp seems to have made the row of impressions, reminiscent of the technique of false relief, immediately above the chevron design of the lower moulding. A second and longer toothed stamp, probably of wood or bone, has been used to impress two bands of ornament below the lip and a treble zigzag band below the chevron

design of the lower moulding. Below the zigzag band is a row of vertical impressions from the shorter toothed stamp, succeeded by impressions from the longer toothed stamp applied carelessly and independently, but more or less horizontally, to the remainder of the wall of the vessel so far as it survives.



M.E.S.

Fig. 9. Food vessel from Bronze Age burial. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

The design accords well with the characteristics of the Tripartite Bowl as recently studied by Mrs Alison Young.¹ The vessel must have been unusually large, hardly less than 7 ins. high; in this connection it is interesting to note that the two largest examples described by Mrs Young both also come from the same area, from Tormore, Machrie Moor, Arran² and from Mount Stuart, Bute.³

(b) *Stone.*

1. *Jet or lignite beads*, forty-four in number, comprising thirty-nine fusiform beads, an end plate and four spacer plates (Pl. IV, 1). The fusiform beads range in length from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins., and in diameter from $\frac{3}{16}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ in.; one, recovered split, has been drawn in section (fig. 10, no. 15).

The end plate is $1\frac{1}{8}$ ins. long by $1\frac{3}{8}$ ins. wide. It has a single terminal hole, which is greatly worn, though still serviceable; at the base it has been pierced four times for thread holes. Of these holes the outermost and the third from the outside have been damaged, the outermost being no longer usable. The top sur-

¹ "A Tripartite Bowl from Kintyre," in *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXV (1950-1), 38-51.

² *Ibid.*, 46, with references.

³ *Ibid.*

face is decorated with four triangles of punctulated ornament arranged so that their apices face a common centre.

The first larger spacer plate, $1\frac{1}{8}$ by $\frac{1}{8}$ ins. in size, is of lighter and less lustrous material than all the other beads, and is probably of lignite.¹ From its narrower end start three thread holes, of which the centre one bifurcates, so that four holes appear at the broader end. The only decoration consists of a rather uncertain cross formed by lightly incised intersecting lines on one face and of a similar but inconclusive design on the opposite face.

The second larger spacer plate, $1\frac{1}{8}$ by 1 ins. in size, is pierced with four holes at its narrower end, of which the outermost and the third from the outside bifurcate to give six holes at the broader end. The plate was recovered split, so that it has been possible to plan the holes (fig. 10, no. 13). The upper surface has punctulated decoration consisting of a central row of lozenges separated on each side by a double row of dots from a row of triangles bordering an end of the plate.

The two smaller spacer plates, $\frac{1}{8}$ by $\frac{1}{8}$ in. and $\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{5}{8}$ in. in size, have each two holes, every hole being drilled close to the edge of a plate. There is no applied decoration.

Besides the end plate, several of the fusiform beads show signs of wear, whilst the end plate and one or two of the fusiform beads bear marks of breaks with jagged edges partially worn smooth by subsequent use. The necklace, therefore, was possibly both old and incomplete when deposited. The lignite spacer plate, however, seems to be a replacement, for on the generally accepted plan for reconstructing crescentic jet necklaces with plates of this type, the three holes at its narrower end would agree with the three serviceable holes in the base of the end plate, but not with the original four holes.

The two-hole spacer plates, of course, must represent a different necklace altogether. They suggest a two-strand necklace of fusiform beads separated at intervals by two-hole spacer plates, and presumably with two-hole triangular end plates. There does not seem to be any record of the survival of such a necklace. Published descriptions of jet necklaces are not always explicit, but there seems to be only one account of a similar two-hole spacer plate in Scotland. This bead, $\frac{5}{8}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in size, is preserved in Elgin Museum;² it was found, apparently with parts of a crescentic necklace of normal type, at Newmills, Alves.³ Two-hole end plates, on the other hand, are not so rare in Scotland. One was found at Fordoun House, Kincardineshire,⁴ two were found at Old House of Assynt, Ross-shire,⁵ and two at Tayfield, Balgay, Newport, Fife;⁶ in all cases these end plates were associated with remains of crescentic necklaces. A similar end plate from near Den of Leuchland, Brechin, was also found with a necklace, but of what type is unknown.⁷ In England, a two-hole end plate was found with a crescentic necklace at Kyloe, Northumberland.⁸ There is presumptive evidence, therefore, for the existence of the two-strand necklace as a type. The three-strand necklace of which an end plate and three spacer plates were found in association with a crescentic necklace of normal type at Pitreuchie, Angus, seems to provide a link between the two-strand necklace and the fully developed crescentic type.⁹

¹ Mr R. J. C. Atkinson was kind enough to examine the beads under ultra-violet light and to demonstrate that the greater fluorescence from this spacer plate, as compared with that from all the other beads, indicated that it was of lignite and the others probably of jet.

² *P.S.A.S.*, XII (1876-8), 295, f. 1.

³ *Ibid.*, 299-300.

⁴ *Ibid.*, I (1915-6), 212-3.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 213.

⁶ *Ibid.*, VIII (1868-70), 411-2.

⁷ *Ibid.*, LXVIII (1933-4), 412-3.

⁸ *Arch. Ael.*, 4 ser. v (1928), 26-9.

⁹ *P.S.A.S.*, XLI (1906-7), 65-6.

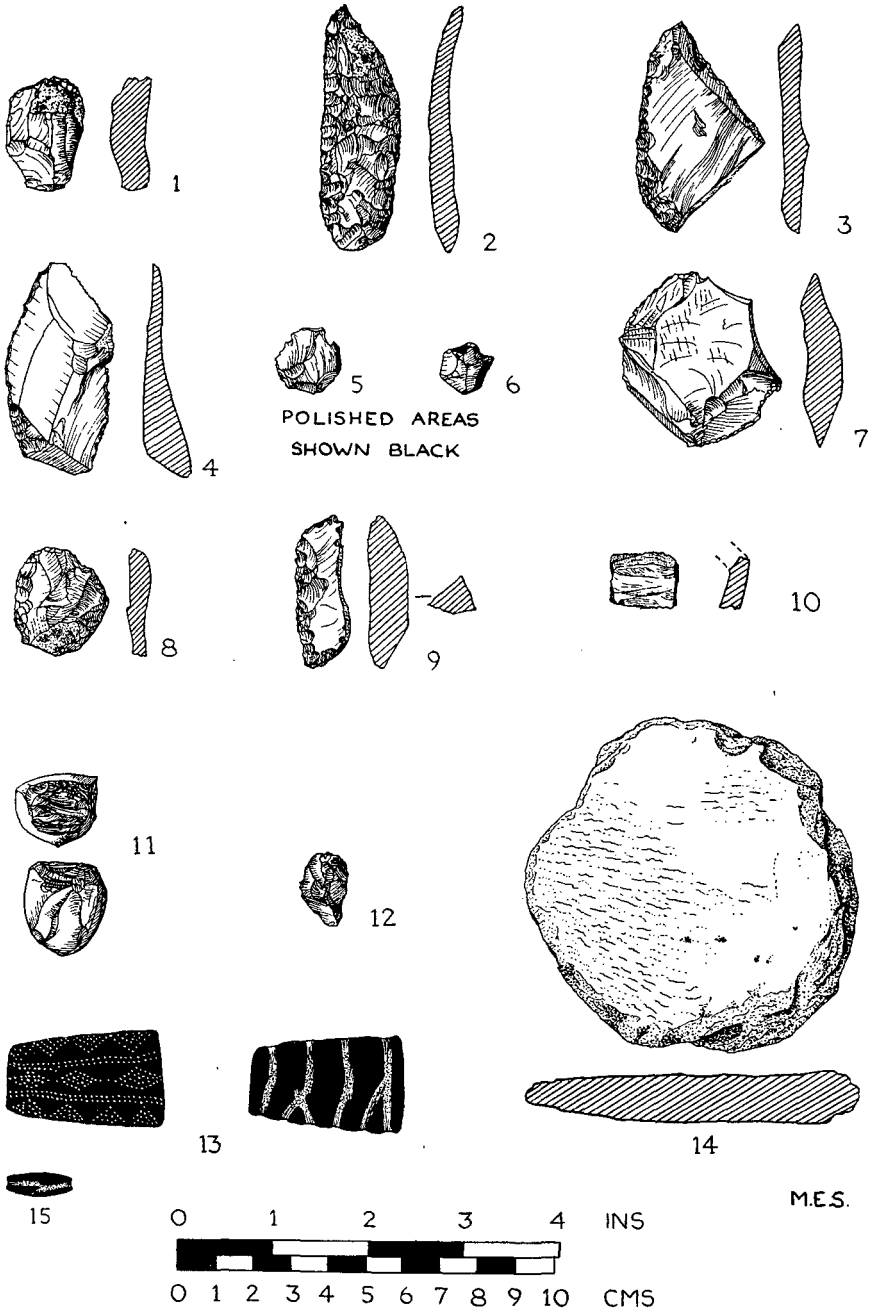


Fig. 10. Small finds in burial chamber.

No. 10, *Beacharra* potsherd, from level of Bronze Age paving in front of compartment; No. 14, stone disc, unstratified; No. 12, pitchstone scraper from beneath Bronze Age paving in rear compartment; Nos. 1-9, flint artifacts; No. 11, pitchstone core; Nos. 13, 15, jet beads: all associated with Bronze Age burial (±)

The association of a jet necklace of Early or Mid Bronze Age type with a cremation has only three times previously been recorded in Scotland. In fact, in his study of Scottish prehistoric jet ornaments published in 1916, J. G. Callander was able to state, on the evidence then available, that human remains found with necklaces were invariably unburnt.¹ The necklace from Poltalloch, Argyll, so brilliantly reconstructed by Craw, was recovered from a cist containing human bones on at least of which were cremated.² Childe records a cremation, with food vessel and crescentic necklace, found in a cairn at Cairn Curr, Alford, Aberdeenshire;³ some jet beads of unstated type, now in Dunrobin Museum, accompanied a cremation in a cist beneath a cairn at Learable, Sutherland.⁴ The cremation at Brackley is therefore the fourth from Scotland which can be proved to have had a crescentic jet necklace buried with it.

2. *Plano-convex knife* of brownish-grey flint spotted with white, $2\frac{9}{16}$ ins. long by $\frac{1}{8}$ in. wide. The underside or flake surface is unworked except that the bulb of percussion has been trimmed down. The upper surface has all been worked except near the tip, where part of the original cortex remains. The knife has a straight back, rather steeply dressed, and a sharp, somewhat hooked tip. Striations on the under-side near the tip indicate use (fig. 10, no. 2).

3. *Knife* of grey flint flecked with white, $2\frac{1}{16}$ ins. long by $1\frac{1}{8}$ ins. wide, made from a flake with under-side or flake surface unworked and retaining the bulb of percussion. The butt retains the original cortex; the back has been dressed along its entire length to the broken tip (fig. 10, no. 4).

4. *Scraper* of grey flint, $1\frac{5}{8}$ ins. long by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide, made from a flake, triangular in section, retaining white cortex on most of one side. One long edge has been dressed, and the tip appears to have been deliberately blunted by trimming. Though short, the implement has the feel perhaps of a fabricator rather than a scraper (fig. 10, no. 9).

5. *Scraper* of grey flint, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins. long by 1 in. wide, made from a flake; the under-side or flake surface is unworked except that the bulb of percussion has been trimmed down. The upper surface has all been worked except for a small patch of white cortex; in places the edges show very delicate retouch. The workmanship in general is akin to that of the plano-convex knife (fig. 10, no. 8).

6. *Scraper* of grey flint with white patches, $1\frac{1}{8}$ ins. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in size, made from a flake lightly trimmed along one edge. The working edge, opposite to it, bears striations indicating use (fig. 10, no. 7).

7. *Scraper* of grey flint, $1\frac{1}{8}$ ins. long by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide, made from a pebble still retaining part of its cortex on the upper surface. The working edge is rather roughly trimmed (fig. 10, no. 1).

8. *Scraper* of translucent grey flint with white patches, $2\frac{1}{8}$ ins. by $1\frac{5}{16}$ ins. in size, made from a roughly triangular flake. The back has been carefully and rather steeply dressed. The working edge has been formed by the intersection of two primary flake surfaces; it shows a good deal of wear (fig. 10, no. 3).

9. *Two flakes* of grey flint, $\frac{1}{16}$ in. by $\frac{1}{16}$ in. and $\frac{9}{16}$ in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in size, each retaining a small area of polished surface, indicating that they derive from some flint implement, most likely an axehead, which was at least partly polished (fig. 10, nos. 5, 6).

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, I (1915-6), 216.

² *Ibid.*, LXIII (1928-9), 160, 184-5.

³ Childe, V. G., *Scotland before the Scots* (1946), p. 107.

⁴ *R.C.A.M.* (Sutherland), p. 127 (no. 364). I am indebted to Mr R. B. K. Stevenson for this reference.

10. *Flake* of translucent honey-coloured flint, $1\frac{9}{16}$ ins. long by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide, unworked, but with edges showing signs of use.

11. *Two flakes*, the first, $1\frac{1}{8}$ ins. by $\frac{5}{8}$ in. in size, of grey flint struck perhaps from a pebble, the other, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in size, of yellow flint, both unworked.

12. *Core* of glossy black pitchstone, $\frac{15}{16}$ in. by $\frac{13}{16}$ in. by $\frac{1}{8}$ in. in size, with pointed base and roughened striking platform; scars where flakes have been detached can clearly be seen (fig. 10, no. 11). The roughening of the striking platform is probably deliberate, in order to prevent the punch from slipping.¹

13. *Flake* of glossy black pitchstone, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide, obviously detached from a core like no. 12, but otherwise unworked.

14. *Flake* of glossy grey pitchstone, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in size, apparently detached from the flake-scarred surface of a core, but unworked.

15. *Two flakes* of rather dull grey pitchstone, $\frac{5}{8}$ in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in., bearing flake scars but not otherwise worked.²

DISCUSSION.

Structure of Cairn and Burial Chamber.

As already noted (p. 28), the original shape of the cairn could not be determined, though the peculiar mode of construction employed in the front compartment of the burial chamber, where the side slabs were raised well above original ground level, demands the support of a cairn in order to prevent collapse of the sides.

A convincing parallel to the construction of the front compartment occurs in the Clyde-Carlingford cairn at Ballyalton, Co. Down, where E. E. Evans and O. Davies found that the E. wall of the front compartment of the burial chamber consisted of a slab, 10 ft. by 3 ft. 6 ins. by 1 ft. 6 ins., upheld by some 9 ins. of dry walling, roughly constructed of rather thick slabs, the lower ones embedded in the till. Similarly, the slab forming the W. wall of the rear compartment of the same burial chamber rested upon some 12 ins. of carefully laid dry masonry.³ Piggott has already drawn attention to the structural resemblance between Ballyalton and certain of the Scottish Clyde-Carlingford cairns;⁴ it is therefore most instructive to have his observation confirmed in such striking fashion.⁵

¹ See Barnes, A. S., "The Technique of Blade Production in Mesolithic and Neolithic Times," in *P.P.S.*, N.S. XIII (1947), 101.

² The most likely source for the pitchstone is Corriegills, in Arran.

³ *P. Belfast N.H.S.* (1933-4), 86, 87. In the double horned cairn at Audleystown, Co. Down, A.E.P. Collins found that a side slab in the NE. gallery was raised on chocking stones; *Ulster J.A.*, N.S. xvii (1954, 12 (fig. 4), 16.

⁴ *Neolithic Cultures*, p. 181.

⁵ In reply to a request for information about possible parallels in Wales, Dr H. N. Savory observed, "From my own experience, I think I can say that I have not come across raising of the orthostats, as in your megalith, in the Cotswold-Severn group, but that there was perhaps a partial analogy in a sort of 'portal dolmen' that I excavated in 1953 at Twlc-y-filiast, Llangynog (Carm.). Here the supports were irregular slabs or blocks which had to be shored up by means of piled stones underneath in order to get their upper edges level to receive the capstone (since dislodged). They had, it is true,

The Complex Entrance to the Burial Chamber (fig. 11).

The entrance to the burial chamber at Brackley, consisting of outer and inner portal stones connected by a narrow walled adit, seems to be without

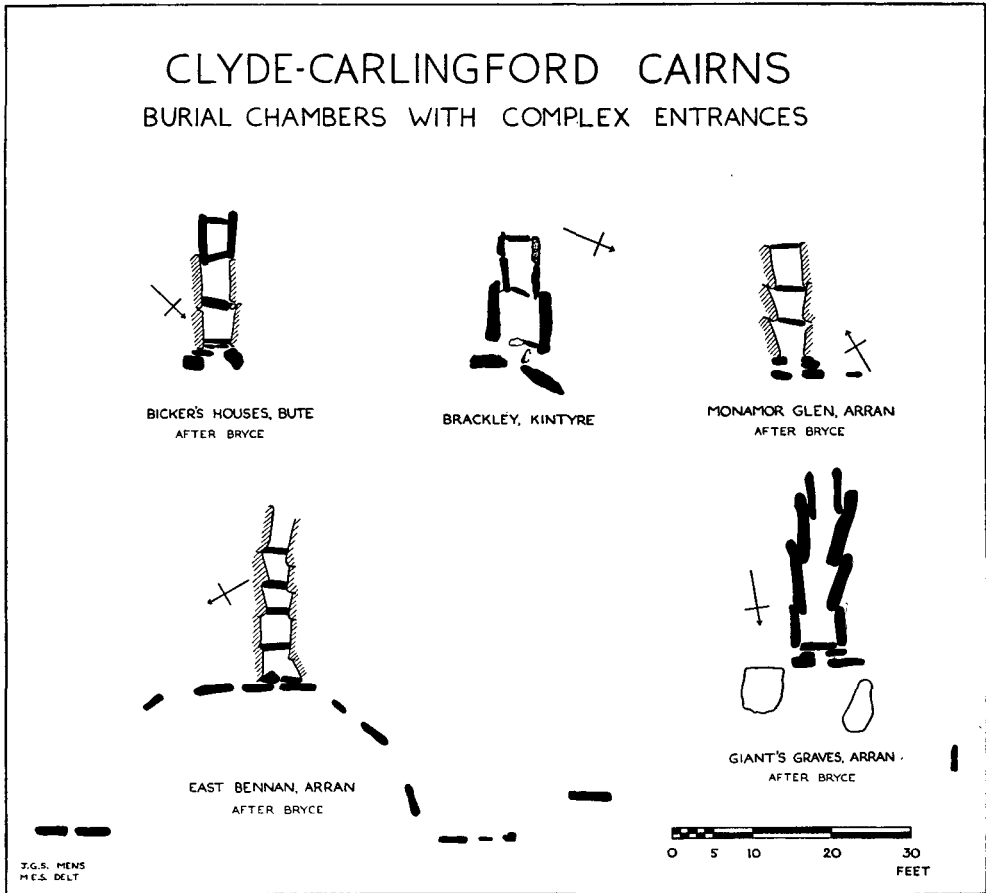


Fig. 11.

parallel. However, an examination of the plans of the Clyde-Carlingford cairns excavated by Bryce in Arran and Bute discloses that four of these cairns, three in Arran and one in Bute, have main portal stones behind

small sockets in the original surface, but much of their under-surfaces rested on small blocks. This tomb is outside the Cotswold-Severn group and may stand closer to the Clyde-Carlingford one, though as you know, most megaliths in West Wales are very ruinous and not closely classified, and very little digging has been done." Professor Piggott kindly informed me that he had not seen anything like the construction of the outer part of the chamber in England or Scotland. An enquiry to Eire produced no reply.

which stand upright slabs, which seem to serve no obvious purpose, structural or otherwise. It is tempting to regard these entrances as telescoped versions of the Brackley type, the adits having disappeared to leave only the portal stones at the inner and outer ends. It is suggested that this type of entrance should be termed complex.¹

Neolithic Burial Ritual.

Beyond the fact that burial was by inhumation, there is little definite which can be said about Neolithic ritual at Brackley. It does, however, seem certain that more than one burial took place, and if this may be assumed to mean that the tomb was used at intervals, then it is interesting to note the entire lack of ritual pits or other evidence for ceremonies before the entrance, as well as the complete absence of blocking of Neolithic date. It is, of course, quite possible that the burial chamber in Neolithic times could be effectively sealed merely by blocking the adit, but proof of this was not forthcoming.

Bronze Age Burial Ritual.

Apart from their abundance and variety, there was nothing unusual in the grave goods which accompanied the burial of the Early or Mid Bronze Age. The preference for cremation rather than inhumation, though perhaps unusual, is not without parallel. The effect of blocking the entrance was to turn a Neolithic burial vault into the single grave of the Bronze Age. But the manner in which the burial was made is quite alien to the Bronze Age tradition, and harks back to that of the Neolithic Period. The incomplete burial offerings, and the apparently deliberate breakage of jet necklaces, food vessel, and perhaps even polished flint axehead, are typical of the rites used by builders of collective tombs. The obvious parallel is at Cairnholy, where at cairn No. 1 the final phase was represented by a deposit on a rough paving in the antechamber, consisting of a plano-convex knife, Peterborough Neolithic and B beaker sherds and probably the fragment of a jadeite axehead; the whole deposit was sealed by a massive blocking in the forecourt. In the outer compartment of cairn no. 2 there was also a rough paving, probably secondary, on which were sherds of five different B beakers, none complete.² The interesting thing about the blocking of the entrance at Brackley is that it is to be associated entirely with the ceremonies which took place at the Bronze Age burial.

¹ The possible implications for the typology of Clyde-Carlingford cairns are discussed on page 47.

² *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXIII (1948-9), 134-5.

Bronze Age Trade Connections.

The grave goods from the Bronze Age burial demonstrate in convincing fashion the connections established by the Food Vessel folk of Brackley with other communities of SW. Scotland. The pitchstone artefacts may be presumed to have come from Corriegills, in Arran; the nearest source of jet or lignite is the Ayrshire coast. The raw material for the flint artefacts is probably ultimately from northern Ireland, though it may well have been obtained by the Brackley folk from some intermediate trading settlement such as Glenluce, in Wigtownshire, from near which trader's hoards of flint flakes, ready for the secondary working which would turn them into implements, have been discovered.¹

Siting and Typology of Clyde-Carlingford Cairns in the Clyde Area.

As Childe was the first to point out, by far the most suitable soils in SW. Scotland for exploitation by primitive agricultural methods consist of raised sea beaches and the alluvial gravels of the glens. He further demonstrated that the distribution of Clyde-Carlingford cairns coincided to a remarkable degree with that of such soils, and argued convincingly that this could be taken as evidence for the exploitation of the soils by the builders of the cairns.²

Childe further argued that the horned cairns, or cairns with façades, were primary in the area,³ and a similar view was expressed by Evans and Davies for the northern Irish cairns.⁴ Piggott in 1954,⁵ however, considered the evidence for Scotland insufficient to show the relationship between cairns with crescentic forecourts and those without façades at all.

If the evolution of the complex entrance to the burial chamber, as already explained (p. 45), be accepted, then it follows that a cairn such as East Bennan, in Arran, which has a modified complex entrance with a fully developed crescentic façade, cannot be primary but must be the result of local development, for evidence for complex entrances does not seem to occur outside Scotland. Since Brackley appears not to have had a forecourt or façade, but has a complete complex entrance, it seems possible to argue that the fully developed façade is a feature evolved at a time when the complex entrance had already undergone modification. Furthermore, the complex entrance itself could be considered a development from a simple entrance consisting merely of two portal stones. The typological succession would therefore seem to be simple entrance of two portal stones, succeeded by complex entrance, succeeded by modified complex entrance with crescentic

¹ *Palace of History* (Catalogue of the Scottish Exhibition of National History, Art and Industry, Glasgow, 1911), II, p. 813; two hoards, one of seventy-seven, the other of one hundred and fifty-six flakes, both found near Portpatrick.

² *Scot. Geo. Mag.*, I (1934), 18-25.

³ *Op. cit.*, 20.

⁴ *Ulster J.A.*, N.S. VI (1943), 7-23.

⁵ *Neolithic Cultures*, pp. 164, 181-2.

façade, succeeded finally by crescentic façade with no trace of complex entrance. It might be said that the last of these types could have developed directly from the first, but the construction of a cairn recently discovered at Auchnagoul, near Inveraray, Argyllshire, shows that such an argument is unlikely to be true.¹ The upper cairn at Auchnagoul has a crescentic façade with no trace of complex entrance, but its burial chamber employs jambs and a septal slab arranged on the jamb and sill principle which became the most favoured method of construction in the typologically later court cairns of northern Ireland.

Now if this typological succession be related to the geographical situation of the Clyde-Carlingford cairns in Arran, Bute, Kintyre, Cowal, Islay and Mid Argyll, the results are interesting (p. 49). The agricultural problems facing the immigrant Neolithic farmers throughout this region must have been very similar, inasmuch as the only soils adaptable to their methods of cultivation would have been raised sea beaches and the alluvial gravels of the glens, as already pointed out (p. 47). It seems therefore fair to assume that the choice and pattern of settlement would have been much the same throughout the area. It might be expected that an immigrant people, arriving by sea, would first of all exploit the coastal areas and only at a later stage begin to penetrate inland. It will be noted from the chart (p. 49) that rather more than a third of the cairns are in fact found at heights below 150 ft., which means in effect that they are associated with the raised beaches or alluvial gravels most likely to have been exploited first by the Neolithic farmers. These cairns are, therefore, *a priori* likely to be for the most part of the types originally introduced by the colonists, so that it is most instructive to note that only two cairns with façades² occur at heights below 150 ft. but no fewer than fifteen at heights over 150 ft. This seems to imply that penetration and exploration of the interior may have proceeded step by step with evolution of tomb plan, the climax being reached at a site like Carn Ban, with its fully developed crescentic façade, which lies at a height of 900 ft. at the head of Kilmorie Water in the S. of Arran. Although by no means all the cairns in the selected area fit neatly into this typological succession, nevertheless it would appear that there is a significant tendency for that succession to be followed.

¹ I am indebted to Miss M. Campbell of Kilberry for telling me about this site, and for providing me with a plan of the burial chamber and forecourt.

² One of these, the cairn at Crarae, near Minard, Mid Argyll, has a distinctly flat façade. Margaret Davies, in *Ant. J.*, xxvi (1946), 53, was the first to draw attention to the relatively high siting of cairns with façades in the Clyde area, though still considering such cairns, to be primary.

TYPOLOGY AND SITING OF CLYDE-CARLINGFORD CAIRNS IN THE CLYDE AREA.

Type of entrance to burial chamber.	Height above sea level.		
	0-150 ft.	150-350 ft.	Over 350 ft.
Simple, with portals	XXXXXXX	X	XX
Complex, with portals	X	X	
Complex, with portals and façade	X	XX	XX
Simple, with portals and façade	X	XXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Undifferentiated or uncertain	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XX
Total 45	17	16	12

Notes.

The forty-five sites upon which the above survey is based are made up as follows: in *Arran*, Carn Ban, East Bennan, Giants' Graves, Torlin, Clachaig, Slidderie, Tormore I, Tormore II, Moinechoill, Sannox, Dunan Beag, Dunan Mor, Tormore Farm, Dippen, Baile Meadhonach, Glenrickard; in *Bute*, Michael's Grave, Bicker's Houses, Lenihuline, Glecknabae; in *Islay*, Ballynaughton, Cragabus, Port Charlotte; in *Kintyre*, Blasthill, Balnabraid, Glecknahavill, Greenland, Glenlussa, Ardnacross, Brackley, Beacharra, Glenreadell; in *Mid Argyll*, Auchoish, Baroile, Nether Largie, Kileoan, Gartnagreanoch, Crarae, Bridge of Douglas, Auchnagoul I, Auchnagoul II; in *Cowal*, Ardnadam, Auchnaha, Ardmarnock.

Classification has been based largely upon excavation reports; it is possible that a re-examination of the sites themselves would necessitate some rearrangement. Where there has been doubt as to the group in which a site should be placed, the less complicated type of group has always been preferred.

CONCLUSION.

Structurally, the cairn at Brackley may be said to have connections, through its peculiar type of burial chamber entrance, with the Clyde-Carlingford cairns of the Clyde area and, through the unusual construction of the sides of its burial chamber, with the cairns of northern Ireland. It therefore provides the link which one might expect from a site in Kintyre.

The Food Vessel burial is indeed one of the most remarkable found in Scotland, not only for the amount and variety of the grave goods, but also for the quite unusual manner in which the interment was carried out. The reason why such a ritual should have been followed can only be a matter for speculation. What is really surprising is that in what, to judge from the grave goods alone, might be considered the full tide of the Bronze Age, the knowledge of an essentially Neolithic ritual should persist and that ritual be practised. It would seem that at Brackley the gap between Neolithic and Food Vessel cultures must have been short; this in turn would imply either that at Brackley the Neolithic culture persisted into the Mid Bronze Age, or that the Food Vessel culture immediately succeeded the Neolithic and, in this area at least, preceded the Beaker. Perhaps the second alternative is not unlikely.

APPENDIX A.

Clyde-Carlingford Cairns in Kintyre.

(fig. 12).

1. *Beacharra* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/692434).

Originally published by Bryce in *P.S.A.S.*, xxxvi (1901-2), 102-9; for further references see Piggott, *Neolithic Cultures*.

2. *Tangy Loch* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/691286).

A ruined megalithic cist set in a long grass-covered mound, at one end of which is a small upright slab; possibly the remains of a long cairn. Reported by Mr Duncan Colville.

3. *Glechnahavill* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/662152).

Burial chamber and forecourt with crescentic façade of orthostats. Reported by Mr Duncan Colville.

4. *Blasthill* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/722092).

Main burial chamber and forecourt with crescentic façade of orthostats; side chamber. Shown on map (fig. 1) in Childe, *Scotland before the Scots* (1946); cf. *P.P.S.*, N.S. xvii (1951), 67.

5. *Macharioch* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/737092).

Two contiguous standing stones with smaller stones and recumbent slab nearby; possibly remains of Clyde-Carlingford cairn. *P.S.A.S.*, LXIV (1929-30), 319-20 and fig. 22.

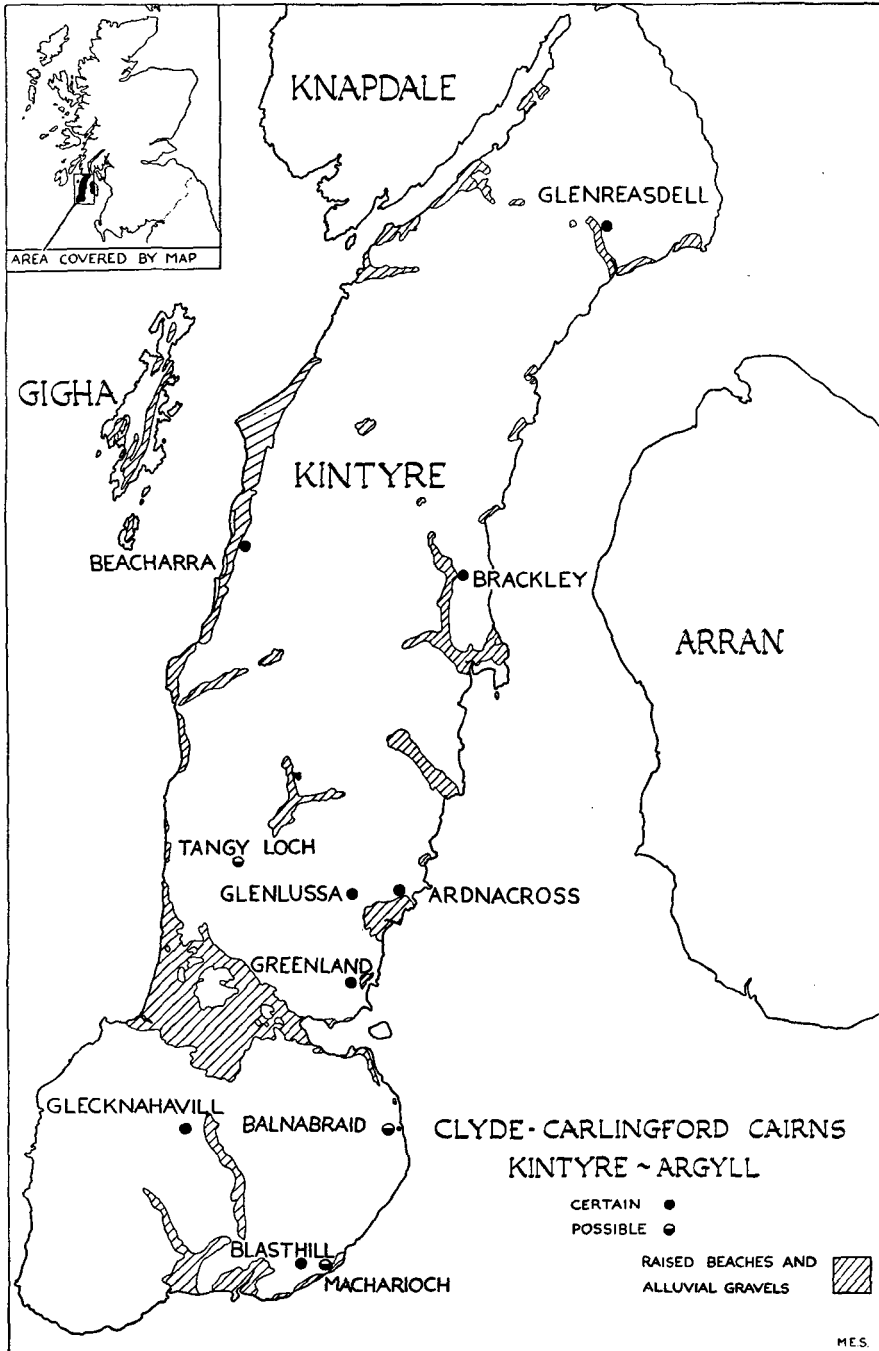


Fig. 12.

6. *Balnabraid* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/767155).
Originally published by Mrs T. Lindsay Galloway in *P.S.A.S.*, LIV (1919-20), 172-91. Although this cairn has always been assigned to the Clyde-Carlingford group it is of very aberrant type and seems in many respects to be influenced by the Passage Grave tradition.
7. *Greenland* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/743241).
Main burial chamber (possibly with forecourt) and side chamber. The modern name, Greenland, is gradually replacing the original and preferable name High Smerby. Reported by Mr Duncan Colville.
8. *Gort na h'ulaidhe (Glenlussa)* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/745268).
Main burial chamber and forecourt with crescentic façade of orthostats; side chambers. Shown on map (fig. 1) in Childe, *op. cit.*; cf. *P.P.S.*, N.S. xvii (1951), 67.
9. *Ardnacross* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/766272).
Main burial chamber, ruined, with side chamber; cairn entirely removed. Reported by Mr Duncan Colville.
10. *Brackley* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/794418).
Present paper and *P.S.A.S.*, LXIV (1929-30), 310-1 and fig. 9.
11. *Glenreasdell* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR/866583).
Though marked as a stone circle on the O.S. maps, it was recognised by Angus Graham as a burial mound with cists, cf. *P.S.A.S.*, LIII (1918-9), 99-100 and fig. 5. The site is certainly that of a Clyde-Carlingford cairn.

The ever-increasing dependence of the archaeologist upon specialist scientific knowledge for the full interpretation of the results of excavation is amply demonstrated by the Appendices which follow. For their kindness and assistance I owe most sincere thanks to Mr J. Anthony, Mr A. H. Johnson, Professor A. E. W. Miles, the late Mr M. Y. Orr and Dr A. Young. Their reports have been in part summarised by myself; for any errors arising thereby the responsibility must be entirely mine.

APPENDIX B.

Selection of Fragments of Cremated Bone from Early or Mid Bronze Age Burial.

By A. YOUNG, T.D., M.A., M.B., F.R.F.P.S.G., of the Department of Anatomy, Glasgow University.

The bone fragments are mostly small. It has not been possible to identify them all but portions of occipital bone, zygomatic bones, temporal bones and parietal bones can be identified with some certainty as human adult. Other portions with a little less certainty are from a right femur and from sacrum and ilium. There is also a middle phalanx of a finger, possibly the fourth, and parts of a thoracic vertebra and of either a fifth lumbar vertebra or a first lumbar vertebra. They all seem to be human in origin, but from a general examination I wonder if they are from more than one individual—some appear to be much more "chalky" than others.

1. Ilium (?).
2. Right (?) calcare femorale.
3. Torcula of occipital bone—of a small adult, female (?).

4. Middle phalanx of fourth (?) finger.
5. Sacrum (?).
- 6, 7. Body of mid-thoracic vertebra.
8. Right zygoma—heavy build.
9. Occipital bone (?).
10. Posterior surface of fifth lumbar or first sacral vertebra.
11. Inferior angle, left parietal.
12. Inferior angle, right (?) parietal.
13. Left external auditory meatus—temporal bone.
14. Right zygomatic process of frontal bone.
15. Left zygomatic process of frontal bone.
16. Portion of left frontal bone above and lateral to orbit.
17. Left (?) zygoma.
18. Right (?) parietal bone.
19. Parietal (?) bone.
20. Four pieces of a right acetabulum of a small (but adult) individual.
21. Left (?) side of mandible behind last tooth.
22. Zygoma (?).
- 23–31. Unidentified as to part, but probably all skull.

APPENDIX C.

Fragment of Tooth from Early or Middle Bronze Age Cremated Burial.

By A. E. W. MILES, F.D.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Assistant Curator of the Odontological Collection, Royal College of Surgeons of England.

There is no doubt that one of the fragments submitted for examination (curved triangular piece with matrix on one surface) is the root of a human permanent lower molar tooth, and is almost certainly that of a first or second molar from which, since the root is completely formed, it may be deduced that the subject was older than 10–14 years. The slenderness of the root suggests an absence of a thick covering layer of cementum, so that we can say that it is not from an elderly subject. That is, the age might be from 10 to 35 years.

APPENDIX D.

Analyses of Soil Samples from Original Floor of Burial Chamber.

By A. H. JOHNSON, B.Sc., A.R.I.C., of the West of Scotland Agricultural College.

- Sample A.* From suspected "shadow" burial in front compartment of chamber.
420 mg./100 g. P_2O_5 approximately.
- Sample B.* From small hole beside above suspected "shadow" burial. 700 mg./100 g. P_2O_5 approximately.
- Sample C.* From suspected "shadow" burial in rear compartment of chamber.
380 mg./100 g. P_2O_5 approximately.

The two samples, *A* and *C*, are high and are consistent with their representing burials. Sample *B* is so very high as to suggest that the hole was at some stage of its history a ritual pit containing bone or cremated bone.

APPENDIX E.

Charcoal Analyses.

1. By the late M. Y. ORR (1952 samples).

- (a) From approximate original surface, 3 ft. in front of entrance.
Oak (*Quercus* sp.).
- (b) From filling of shallow pit to S. of burial chamber.
Oak.
- (c) Found mixed with blocking of clay and slabs overlying Bronze Age burial in front compartment of burial chamber.
Willow (*Salix* sp.).
Oak—three samples.
Unidentifiable owing to burning—two samples.
- (d) From socket of missing inner portal stone.
Oak—two samples.

2. By J. ANTHONY, B.Sc., Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (1953 samples).

- (a) Found mixed with blocking of clay and slabs overlying Bronze Age burial in front compartment of burial chamber.
Oak—two samples.
- (b) From rather dense patch of charcoal found overlying paving slab in front compartment of burial chamber.
Birch.
- (c) From dense mass found overlying paving slabs and sealed by Bronze Age blocking in front compartment of burial chamber (area shown dotted on fig. 5).
Alder, ash, oak.
- (d) From thick layer found overlying Bronze Age blocking in rear compartment of burial chamber.
Birch, hazel.
- (e) From suspected prop socket above Bronze Age blocking in rear compartment of burial chamber.
Oak, birch.
- (f) From layer of dirty sand, clay, earth and stones, over which was a spread of clean sand with paving slabs, in rear compartment of burial chamber.
Birch.



1. Site from SE, before excavation.



2. Blocking to front of entrance; to S. with turf and humus removed; to N. with earth and small stones removed.



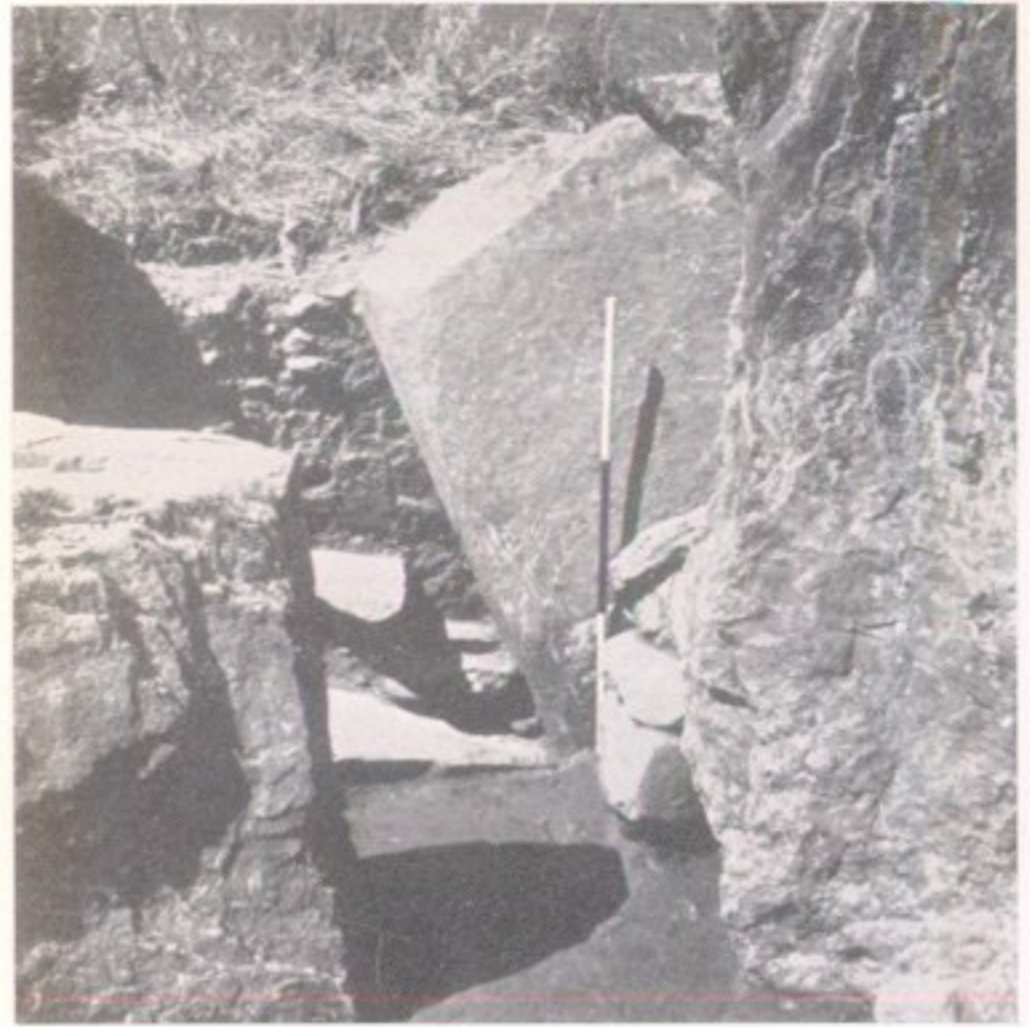
3. Large slabs of blocking in front of S. outer portal stone; the inch scale lies on apparently worked slab.



4. Front of cairn after removal of blocking; line of boulders to S. is at original ground level.



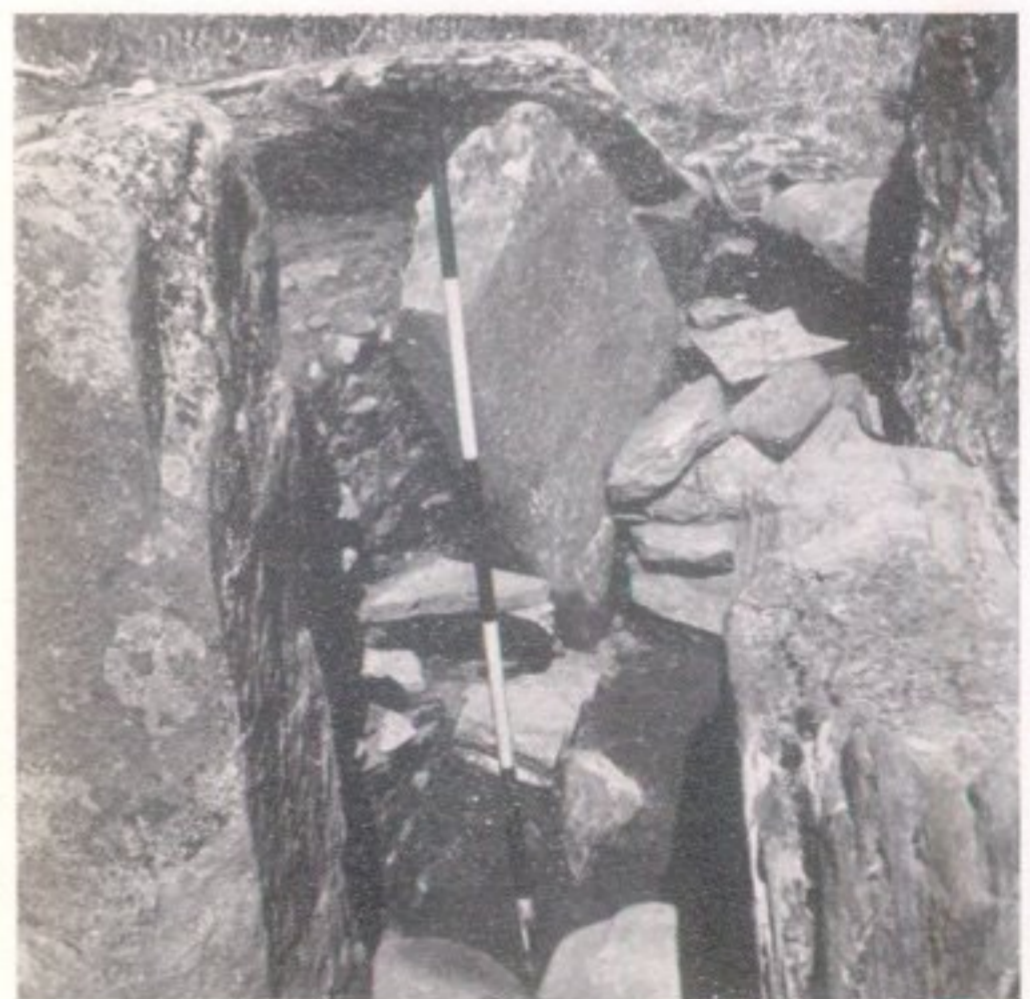
1. The entrance after removal of blocking.



2. The adit showing outer and inner portal stones.



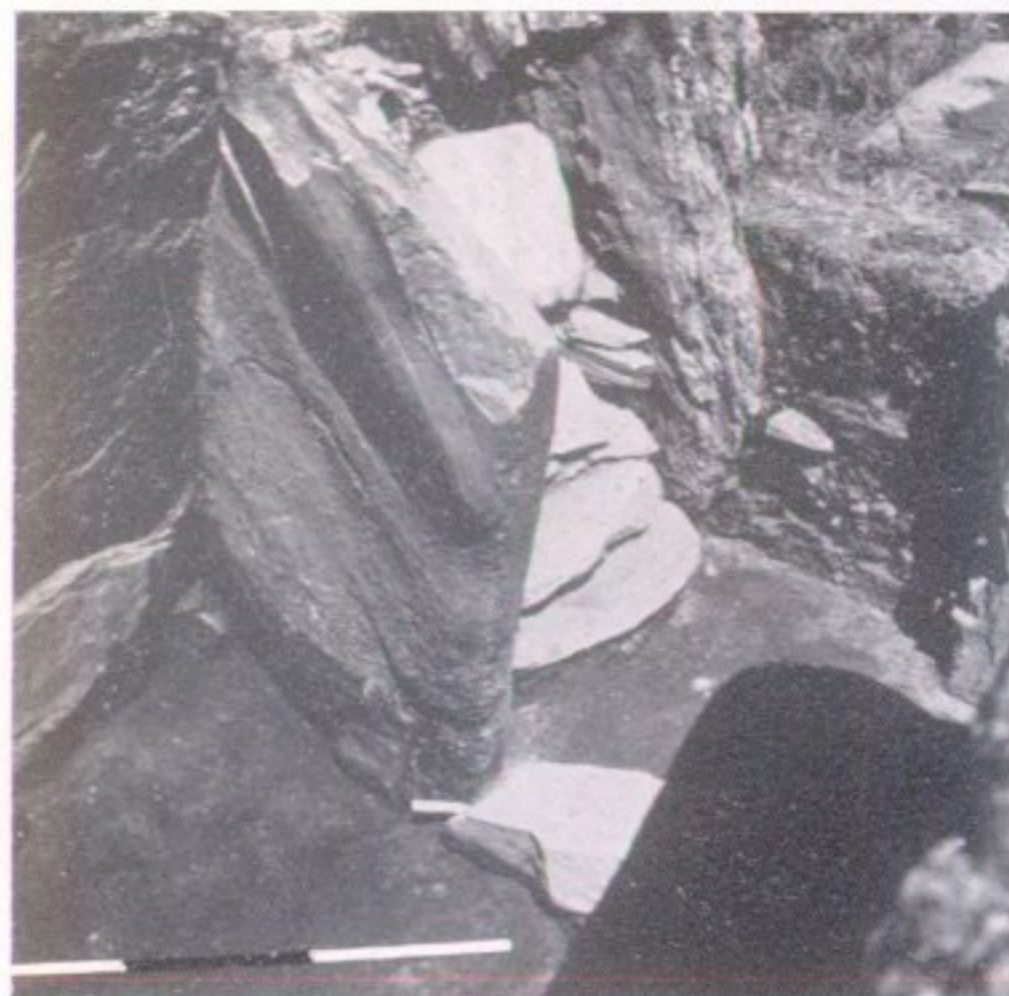
3. N. side of adit.



4. The inner portal showing sill stone; the ranging rod stands in the socket of missing portal stone.



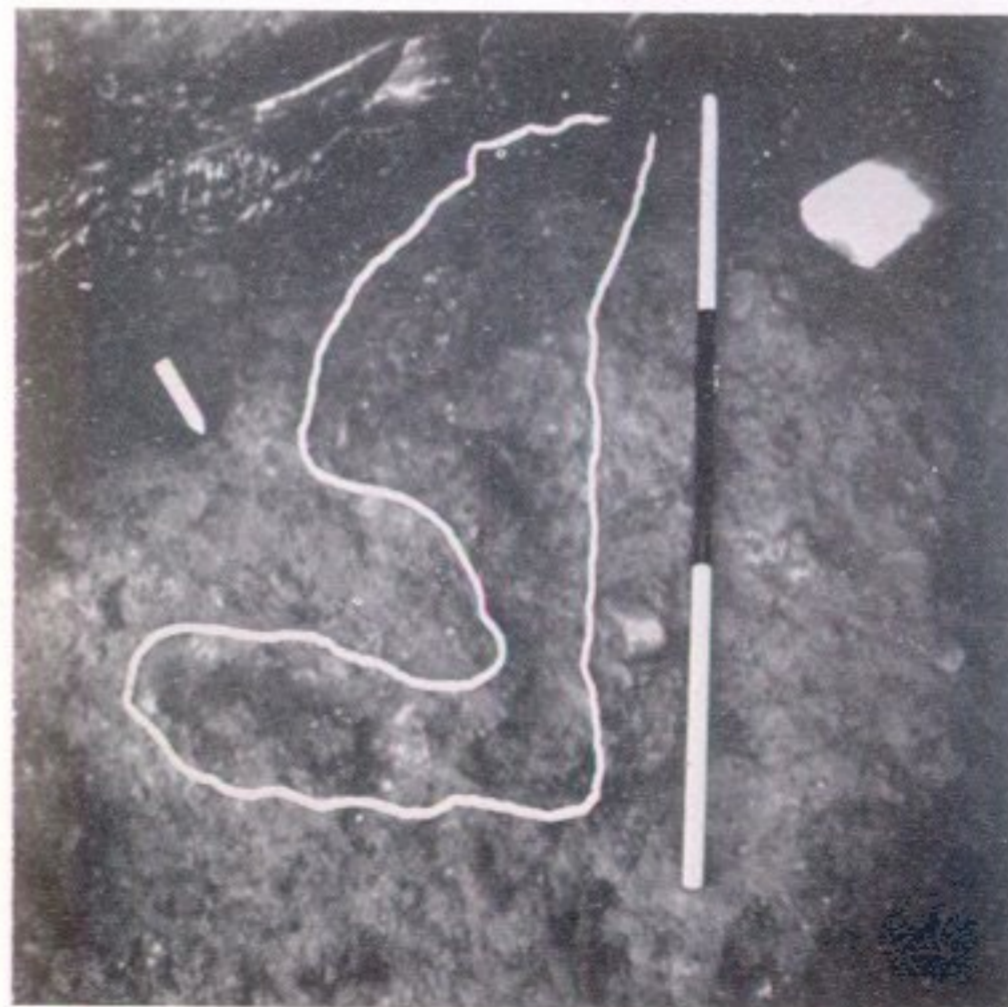
1. NE. corner of burial chamber, showing support of N. side slab and part of Bronze age paving.



2. NE. corner of burial chamber with Bronze Age paving removed; the arrow shows where the portal stone bears against the sill stone.



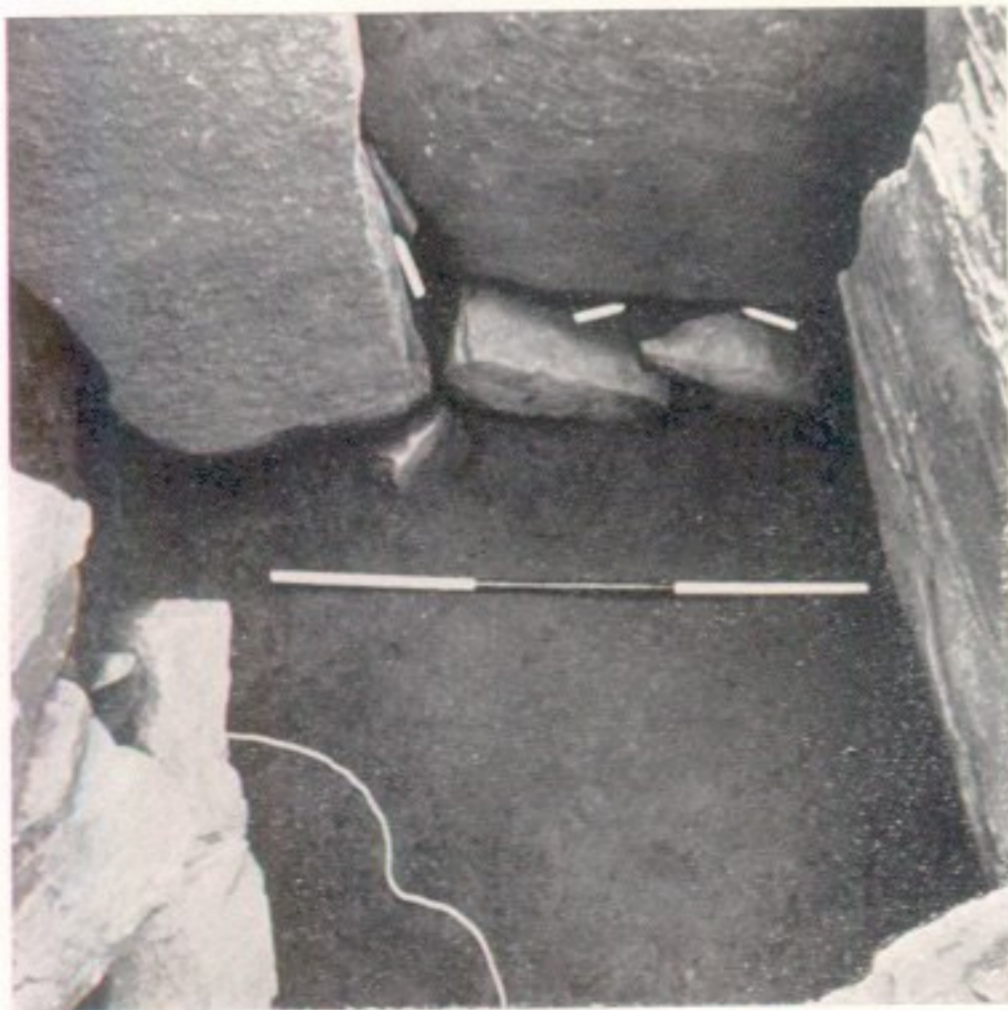
3. Packed boulders supporting N. side slabs at front of burial chamber.



4. "Shadow" burial in front compartment of burial chamber; arrow indicates hole in front of burial.



1. Jet and lignite beads from Bronze Age burial; the arrangement is arbitrary.



2. Construction of S. wall at rear of burial chamber; the arrows point to stone packing below and at side of slab. The white cord demarcates "shadow" burial.



3. Bronze Age paving at rear of burial chamber.

J. G. SCOTT.