

Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 118 (1988)

FICHE 2: CONTENTS

G D THOMAS	Excavations at the Roman civil settlement at Inveresk, 1976-77 <i>continued</i>	A3-D6
A SMALL, M F BRUCE & I A G SHEPHERD	A beaker child burial from Catterline, Kincardine & Deeside	E1-7
J N G RITCHIE & I THORNER	Cairn 3, Acharn, Morvern, Argyll	F1-11

Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 113 (1988), fiche 2: E1-7

A BEAKER CHILD BURIAL FROM CATTERLINE, KINCARDINE AND
DEESIDE

ALAN SMALL, MARGARET F BRUCE AND IAN A G SHEPHERD

CATTERLINE

A SMALL, M F BRUCE & I A G SHEPHERD

CONTENTS

Skeletal remains

2: E3-4

Beaker

2: E5-7

SKELETAL REMAINS FROM A SHORT CIST AT CATTERLINE

Margaret F Bruce

The remains, which are moderately well preserved, are those of a single child, aged about six or seven years at death.

The skull was badly fragmented with the left orbital and malar regions, the body and left wing of the sphenoid and most of the walls of the nasal cavities missing. The posterior half of the left side of the mandible was present. The first permanent molars and the deciduous first and second molars were in situ on both sides in the upper jaw and in the surviving portion of the lower jaw. Radiographs revealed the presence of the crowns of the second permanent molars and permanent premolars in both upper and lower jaws and of the permanent canines and central and lateral incisors in the maxilla, the latter teeth being clearly visible at the margins of the alveolar process. The deciduous incisors had probably been recently shed.

The metopic suture had fused, the foramen of Huschke had closed but the basi-occiput had not fused at the occipital condyles.

The vertebral column was poorly represented: only fragments of the atlas and axis (in which the odontoid process had just fused laterally to the junction of arch and centra but had not yet fused to the centra of the axis inferiorly) and of centra and arches of three or four cervical and thoracic vertebrae survived. The centra and arches of two cervical vertebrae had almost completed fusion.

The first ribs of both sides and the left second rib had survived intact but only eight fragments of the remaining ribs were recovered.

Fragments of the left clavicle and scapula, a virtually complete right radius and fragmentary left and right ulnae and left radius were all that remained of the upper limbs.

The lower limbs were better preserved, with the left and right iliac blades, the right pubis (inferior ramus not fused to the ischium) and almost intact diaphyses of the femur and tibia of both sides with fragmentary fibulae being present.

Two epiphyseal fragments, of which one was probably the distal radial epiphyses, were also identified.

AGE DETERMINATION

The stage of dental maturation and of skeletal maturation suggest an age of about six to seven years.

SEX DETERMINATION

It was not possible to determine the sex of the child from the skeletal evidence.

METRIC DATA

Right radius diaphyseal length	140 mm
Right tibial diaphyseal length	198 mm
Left tibial diaphyseal length	197 mm
Right femoral diaphyseal length	230 mm

THE CATTERLINE BEAKER

Ian A G Shepherd

The beaker, which is intact but for damage to approximately two thirds of the surface of the rim, belongs to Clarke's Late Northern (N3) group (1970, 176-90), to Step 5 in the scheme of Lanting and Van der Waals (1972) and to Case's Late phase (1977).

The pot has been evenly fired to a foxy red colour on both the inner and outer surfaces, while the core is dark grey with medium-sized grits of quartz and some mica. The vessel is well made, 168 mm in height, 145 mm in diameter at the square rim, 141 mm in diameter at the almost angular belly, and 82 mm in diameter at the slightly footed, flat, base. The wall is from 6 to 7 mm thick in the upper portions of the pot. The surface has been carefully burnished to an even, smooth and lustrous finish.

The principal shape characteristics are a short, everted neck well separated from the high belly which is itself curved almost to a carination. The belly is so high and the neck so sharply everted that in profile the pot resembles the head of a thistle.

The decoration, which has been executed chiefly in toothcomb (of approximately 52 mm in length), occupies three broad zones on the neck, belly and foot. The neck zone, contains, in descending order: a band of three horizontal lines of comb impressions (Clarke's Basic European Motif no 1: Clarke 1970, 18, 424), a band of horizontal chevrons in partly smudged comb (Basic European Motif no 3), another three horizontal lines of comb, a band of short, vertical impressions (Basic European Motif no 5) and three more horizontal lines. The belly is completely covered by a zone of negative lozenges (Southern British Motif no 31), defined by horizontal comb impressions; the lozenges are themselves also outlined by double lines of comb). The foot zone repeats Motif no 5 from the lower neck, while just above the foot is a band of shallow chevrons above a pair of horizontal

lines, both motifs being roughly scratched, perhaps subsequent to the main decoration.

The comb used for most of the decoration appears to have been approximately 52 mm long and to have had well-formed, short rectangular teeth. Traces of possible white infilling matter remain in the bases of some of the comb impressions.

It is difficult to parallel all the elements of the Catterline beaker on a single pot. The sharp division between neck and belly and the generally archaic (with one exception) decorative motifs fused into three broad zones place this pot in the Late Northern group of D L Clarke's typology (1970) and into Step 5 of Lanting and Van der Waals (1972). In shape the N2/step 4 pot from Parkhill, Newmachar, Aberdeenshire (*ibid*, fig 471, no 1484) has a similar high angular belly and sharp neck bend, as does the N3/step 5 pot from Bruckleseat, Fyvie, Aberdeenshire (*ibid*, fig 598, no 1439). Such piriform bellies were seen by Clarke as the 'most striking new shape element of the Late Northern group' (1970, 187).

The use of the vivid negative lozenge motif on the central zone of the Catterline beaker, however, finds parallels over a wider area. One of the beakers from Easter Gollachy, Buckie, which, on the basis of a 19th-century sketch (Shepherd 1986, illus 20) might belong in step 4 (Shepherd 1986, illus 20) bore a similar design as do certain beakers in Clarke's Southern British series, eg the S3(E)/step 6 pot from Kilmarie, Skye (Clarke 1970, fig 968, no 1672) or those from Lilburn Steads, Northumberland (*ibid*, fig 816: S2(W)/step 5) and Garrowby Wold, Yorks (*ibid*, fig 817: S2(W)/step 6). Both of the last-named beakers have their lozenges outlined internally in the manner of Catterline.

Rather than suggesting any direct derivation from the Southern British series, such parallels in contrast motifs indicate the sharing of traits between groups, either within Britain (*ibid*, 177, 181), or 'with their continental relatives also at more advanced stages of development' (Lanting & Van der Waals 1972, 26). A good example of this latter process can be seen in the Netherlands in the fine early Veluwe-type beaker from

Voorthuizen, Gelderland which has a zone of comb-defined lozenges on the upper belly very similar to Catterline's (Van der Waals & Glasbergen 1955, 25, 40, pl XIV).