

Bronze Age Urns found near Willington.

LAST October a cinerary urn of late Bronze Age, date 1000-900 B.C., was unearthed in the Willington gravel pit on the Derby-Burton road (Rykneld Street), near the L.M.S. railway level-crossing.

Thanks to the manager, Mr. Hesketh, the urn was carefully preserved, and was later presented to the Derby Museum by the owners of the pit, Messrs. Willington Gravels, Ltd.

The urn is six inches high, five inches in diameter at the top and three inches in diameter at the base.

It is tripartite, i.e. it has three tiers, the upper two vertical, each $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and ornamented with a chevron pattern of fine punctures. The second tier is slightly recessed beneath the upper. The bottom tier is plain and slopes to the base.

The urn was found about 18 inches below the surface, resting on its side, and contained calcined bones and fragments of charcoal. As the vessel had been only lightly fired it was after deposition distorted by the pressure of the earth above it.

In November fragments of another urn, associated with a large quantity of calcined bones and ashes was exposed in the same pit. This was larger and much coarser in texture than that described above. When complete it would have the shape of a truncated cone. It was 10 inches in diameter at the top, and eight inches at the base. It is not possible to determine the height. The only ornament consists of irregularly spaced imprints of finger tips and nails, the small size of which suggests that the potter was a woman.

These finds, which suggest the existence of an urn-field, make an interesting addition to our knowledge of the distribution of the Bronze Age population of Derbyshire.

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