

ROMAN SILVER PIN FROM HALTON CHESTERS.

Photo. King's College.



BURIAL AT SHIPLEY, NORTHUMBERLAND.

## NOTES.

### I.—A ROMAN SILVER PIN FROM HALTON CHESTERS.

In July 1959 our member Mr. Norman Forster visited the site of the Durham University Excavation Committee's excavations at Halton Chesters (*Onnum*). Work was not in progress at that time, and Mr. Forster was able to examine the trenches at his leisure. While so doing, he found a silver pin protruding from the side of one of the trenches, a foot below the present ground level. He has now kindly deposited the pin on indefinite loan in the Museum of Antiquities of the University of Durham and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne.<sup>1</sup>

The pin is of silver.<sup>2</sup> Part of it is missing, and the part recovered by Mr. Forster is in two pieces (plate XI, 1). Together these measure  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ins. in length. The head of the pin is of particular interest on account of its decoration, which takes the form of a stylized animal head, above thin bands of incised lines. Our Vice-President Mr. J. D. Cowen has observed, in a letter to the present writer, that this head shows close similarities to the zoomorphic terminals which are a common feature of Romano-British penannular brooches, but which appear, too, on pins, especially on examples from Traprain Law. He remarks, however, that the Halton pin is unusual in being of silver and that the head is exceptionally developed. Mr. Cowen suggests that the pin dates probably from the third or fourth century.

D. J. SMITH.

<sup>1</sup> Accession no. 1959.5.

<sup>2</sup> Silver with probably less than 10% copper. I am indebted for this information to our member Dr. R. F. Tylecote, Department of Metallurgy, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne.

2.—THE BRASS OF RALPH DALTON IN  
ST. HELEN'S AUCKLAND.

This interesting brass (plate XII) was originally fixed to a marble slab, in the chancel of the church, which was probably destroyed in the late nineteenth century when the levels of the Chancel and Sanctuary were raised. The brass then came into the possession of the Eden family. In 1954 Sir Timothy Eden offered to return it to the Church; this offer was gladly accepted by the Vicar and it is now in its original home, fixed to the wall just west of the north door.

Ralph Dalton was the owner of the Manor House of West Auckland which afterwards passed, by marriage, with the estate, to the well-known family of Eden. The translation of the brass which follows tells of the high administrative offices Ralph held in the bishopric of Durham under Bishop Tunstall (1530-59).

TRANSLATION OF DALTON BRASS.

Under this marble lies Master Ralph Dalton, Esquire, who held three offices under that most learned man of devout memory, Tunstall, Bishop of Durham, namely as Excheator, Receiver of Howden and Clerk of Works; He was, moreover, Receiver General at the Cathedral Church and died on 20th August, in the Year of our Lord 1558—upon whose soul, O God, have mercy. Also upon the soul of Robert his heir and son, who died in London and was buried in the Church of St. Martin, near Ludgate on the 10th day of February in the year 1560.

REV. CANON J. S. G. TURNBULL,  
VICAR.



DALTON BRASS, ST. HELEN'S AUCKLAND.



## 3.—A ROMAN WELL AT BENWELL.

In 1941 Professor Richmond<sup>1</sup> claimed that archæologically the last possible effort has now been made in the exploration of *Condercum*, and his claim was substantially true. The erection of the office of Messrs. Hood Haggie & Son, which now stands on the central range of buildings of the Roman fort, brought to light no further details of the main buildings, but at quite a late stage in the laying of the foundations the mechanical excavator cut into the top of a stone-lined well in the courtyard of the Commandant's House.

By courtesy of Messrs. Hood Haggie & Son, their architects, Messrs. Cackett, Burns, Dick & Mackellar, and the contractors, Stanley Miller Ltd., local archæologists had every opportunity to watch the work in progress, and when the well was discovered it was promptly reported and work held up so that it could be excavated. I supervised<sup>2</sup> the work on behalf of the Ministry of Works, until a fall of stones made me abandon it as unsafe. Then, Mr. V. L. Benson, director of Hood Haggie, decided to continue at his own expense, and it was in his excavation at a depth of c. 15 feet that the material listed below was found.

The well was probably in use throughout the life of the commandant's house. The four pieces of coarse pottery show that it was still open in the second half of the fourth century when two handled jars were lost in it. The other vessels were very fragmentary, but so much of these two remained that it seems probable that they were being used, instead of a bucket, to draw water, and that the cord, which was threaded through their handles, broke, leaving them in the silt at the bottom. The same fate must have befallen three similar handled jars at Langton Villa.<sup>3</sup>

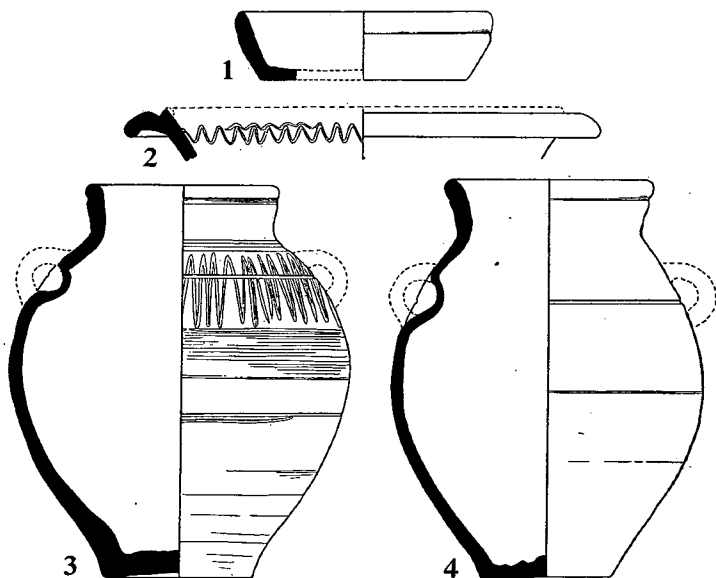
<sup>1</sup> *AA* 4, xix (1941), p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> The actual work was done by Messrs. T. Batey, D. Marshall and G. Younger.

<sup>3</sup> P. Corder and K. L. Kirk, *A Roman villa at Langton* (Roman Malton and District Report No. 4), p. 54, fig. 15.

## THE POTTERY.

1. Two sherds of thick samian ware from the same dish, Dr. 31. Antonine.
2. Fragment giving a complete section of a shallow dish with a grooved rim in hard grey fumed ware (Gillam's type 320).<sup>4</sup> Height 1½ ins. Diameter 6 ins. A.D. 350-400 (fig. 1).
3. Fragment of a straight-sided flanged bowl with an internal wavy line in hard grey fabric (Crambeck type 1b,<sup>5</sup> Gillam's type 231). A.D. 370-400 (fig. 2).
4. Incomplete jar with countersunk handles in a buff fabric, with an upright grooved rim. The body of the vessel is decorated with burnished lines and a groove round the shoulder (Crambeck type 3a, Gillam's type 41). Height 7½ ins. A.D. 335-400 (fig. 3).
5. Incomplete jar with countersunk handles in a red fabric with a grey surface, with an upright grooved rim. A groove runs round



<sup>4</sup> AA 4, xxxv (1957), J. P. Gillam, *Types of Roman coarse pottery vessels in Northern Britain*.

<sup>5</sup> *Antiquaries Journal*, xvii (1937), P. Corder, *A pair of 4th century R.-B. pottery Kilns near Crambeck*, p. 399, fig. 2.

the shoulder as on 4 and there has been a band of decoration below the handle but surface is now too badly damaged for the details to be seen (type as 4). Height  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ins. (fig. 4).

The first three items require no further comment, as all are quite straightforward and well-known types. The two coarse ware dishes (2 and 3) are found in the late fourth-century contexts on Hadrian's Wall, in the Yorkshire signal stations and on other northern sites. The jars, on the other hand, are comparatively rare and although these two can be matched for shape at Langton, two out of three in the well, associated with a coin of Constantine I (335-7), at South Shields, also in a well,<sup>6</sup> at Crambeck, Scarborough, Huntcliff, Binchester<sup>7</sup> and Rudchester,<sup>8</sup> the fabric and decoration are different. The fabric of one jar from Huntcliff<sup>9</sup> resembles that of No. 5, but other examples are in hard grey or white fabric. The use of horizontal instead of vertical lines on the body below the handles is also without parallel. There are other cases in which the type of vessel is the same as on that from a known East Yorkshire kiln but the fabric is different and it is fairly certain that there are other kilns yet to be discovered,<sup>10</sup> which were producing similar types in the fourth century, and these two jars must come from one of those unknown kilns.

#### OTHER FINDS.

1. A plated denarius of Septimius Severus of the 194-198 issue (kindly identified by Dr. J. P. C. Kent).
2. A piece of daub with wattle marks from a partition wall, presumably in the Commandant's House.

DOROTHY CHARLESWORTH.

<sup>6</sup> Unpublished, information from Mr. J. P. Gillam.

<sup>7</sup> P. Corder, *The Roman pottery at Crambeck, Castle Howard* (Roman Malton and District Report No. 1), p. 32.

<sup>8</sup> *AA* 4, i, p. 116, No. 91, 92. *JRS* ii (1912), p. 227, No. 12.

<sup>9</sup> *Archaeological Journal* 89 (193), M. R. Hull, *Pottery from the R. signal stations on the Yorkshire coast*, p. 227, type 2.

<sup>10</sup> R. Gilyard Beer, *The R.-B. baths at Well* (Yorkshire Roman Antiquities Committee research report No. 1), p. 51, No. 50.



## 4.—YARBOROUGH—CONSTANTINE-VALENS COIN HOARD.

In 1955 this Society purchased a small collection of coins, and in this collection there were several packets which had been confined specially to a small bag. All these packets were marked "Roman copper coins found at Kirmington Field about 1780". The total number is 11 coins, 7 of which are Constantinian issues and the remainder are composed of 1 of Valentinian I and 3 of Valens.

The evidence for stating that they constitute part of a hoard is to be taken from a note inscribed on one of the packets, as follows:

"These Roman coins were found among others . . . in Kirmington field on the right of the road leading to Brigg near to Yarborough Camp about the year 1780."

Kirmington is about 12 miles W.N.W. of Grimsby, Lincolnshire, and Mr. F. T. Baker of the Lincoln Museum and Art Gallery advises me that "the coin hoard was evidently found in the open field of Kirmington before enclosure. There is a road from Kirmington to Brigg, a distance of about 9 miles. The hoard is thus in the north-east of the county near to Grimsby. This is the first recorded coin find from the area of Kirmington."

The coins themselves do not call for particular comment, being of known Constantinian and Valentinian types. The latest coins are the four of the period of Valentinian, two dated to the second period of the mints, 24th August 367 to 17th November 375. The Valentinian I is of the mint of Lugdunum, and one of those of Valens is of the mint of Arelate. The other two of Valens have unidentifiable mint marks. A list of the coins is given below.

Yarborough Camp has not been excavated. Again I am indebted to Mr. Baker for the following remarks: "It looks like a pre-Roman work and is sited in a strategic position on

the Kirmington Gap, a glacial fiord through the North Wolds, along which there was contact between the heavily populated N.W. of Lincolnshire in prehistoric times and the coastal belt in the region of Grimsby and Cleethorpes, which has produced Early Iron Age coin hoards and earlier material."

The burial of the hoard could, therefore, be assigned to the period shortly after 367-375, although it is a pity that the other coins, which must have been found, are not available for recording. These later years are troublesome ones for the Roman Empire, especially culminating in the usurpation of Magnus Maximus in 383, and give enough reason for the burial of the hoard.

## LIST OF THE COINS.

*Constantine II.*

1. Cohen 38. mm. STR.

*Constans.*

2-3. Cohen 176. mm. TR and one illegible.

*Constantius II.*

4. Cohen 92. mm. TRS.

*Constantinopolis.*

5-6. Cohen 21. mm. TRS\* and one illegible.

*Constantinian period.*

7. Illegible. GLORIA EXERCITVS type.

*Valentinian I.*

8. RIC Lugdunum. 20a. mm. 28b. 367-375.

*Valens.*

9. RIC Arelate. 17b. mm. 14a. 367-375.

10-11. Illegible. SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE types.

*Byzantine.*

24. Justin. II. Ae. 65mm. cf. BMC. 241-44. Alexandria.

25. Heraclius. Illegible Ae.

*Others.*

26-29. Four illegible coins, possibly of the Mamluk period.

DAVID SMITH.

### 5.—MAKERS OF CLAY PIPES RECORDED IN NORTH-EASTERN ENGLAND.

During the last few months several fragments of clay pipes with the name of the maker stamped on them have been brought to my attention. I publish them here in the hope that further information on the individual makers and records of other stamps may be forthcoming. The stamps are, with one exception, on the stem of the pipe, and are normally arranged to fit into a circle or ellipse. Those from Chester-le-Street are associated with bowls of the late seventeenth or early eighteenth centuries; the one from Durham comes from an excavation in the moat of the castle, and is associated with pottery of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. West Whelpington is a village site in Northumberland two miles west of the village at Kirkwhelpington; it was depopulated soon after 1715, so that stamps recorded at this site are of men making pipes before that date.

#### *Chester-le-Street.*

1.        W<sup>M</sup> TENNANT  
          NEWCASTLE

Two blocks of large clear lettering running along the stem.

2.        [            ]  
          S<sup>t</sup> Omer  
          Dépose

At least one line has been lost, presumably recording the name of the maker.

#### *Durham.*

3.        IOH[N]  
          THO[M]  
          PSO[N]

#### *West Whelpington.*

4.        IOH[N]  
          THO[M]  
          PSON

5. Identical with number three in every respect. Numbers three to five are all from the same stamp, and all are badly impressed on the right hand side.

6. L[EO]  
N[A]RD  
HOL\*  
NES

7. EDWA  
RD:CR  
A[CE]

8. EDWA  
RD:C[R]  
[A]CE

Numbers seven and eight are from the same stamp.

9. [ ]  
PARK

There may be more than one line missing from the beginning of this stamp.

10. ESH  
Enclosed in a heart on the flattened spur.

It will be noted that only two of these makers indicate the town where they were working. The stamp of the unknown man from St Omer in Artois reveals that clay pipes might travel for a considerable distance in the course of trade. But William Tennant worked in Newcastle, and John Thompson was probably resident somewhere in the north-east; it is possible that those with a greater knowledge of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries than the present writer will be able to trace these men and other pipe-makers in our own area.

MICHAEL G. JARRETT.

## 6.—GOSFORTH PARISH CHURCH.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth century it was customary for the church wardens to attend on the Archdeacon and give a report upon their church and its fabric, but on other occasions the Archdeacon attended at the church himself and gave certain instructions about work that he considered it necessary to carry out.

These instructions were very rarely recorded in the registers of the Parish Church but the visitation by John Sharp, the Archdeacon in 1764, is set out in one of the registers and does not seem ever to have been published in the historical records such as Bourne, Brand, Welford, etc.

The instructions given in this 1764 visitation were as follows:

1. The roof to be repaired where necessary and made water-tight in every part.
2. The walls to be whitewashed where stained.
3. The flagging completed at the West End of the Chapel.
4. The kneeling boards throughout the Chapel to be made moveable, low, flat and broad, so that the Congregation may be able to kneel without sitting at the same time.
5. The wall tops beamfilled perpendicular up to the slates.
6. The cracked bell new cast, or a new one of the same weight provided, unless the Parishioners rather choose that the two bells should be cast into one.
7. Casements to be made in the South Windows and frequently set open in fine weather.
8. The two old pews at the West End of the Chapel either to be well repaired or taken away.
9. A table of marriages framed and hung up.
10. The cover of the font repaired.
11. A new Church ladder.
12. A pinnacle to be built on the South West corner of the steeple uniform with the rest.

13. All the stones that are not properly headstones to be thrown out of the Chapel yard, and no headstones set up for the future without leave from the Minister.
14. The hedge of the Chapel yard put into decent repair.
15. The heaps of earth and rubbish lying against the South-side of the Chapel to be removed as far as it can be properly done without interfering with the graves.
16. A separate register to be provided for Banns and Marriages.

All these things to be done before Michaelmas next and a Certificate thereof signed by the Minister and Chapelwardens to be delivered into the Archdeacon's Court at the next visitation.

JOHN SHARP.

What is particularly interesting about this visitation is item No. 12 that a pinnacle is to be built on the south west corner of the steeple uniform with the rest.

Apart from the fact that the old church had a tower there has been no reference in any of the histories to indicate what type it was. Clearly it was a square tower with four pinnacles at the corners, surmounted by a spire. This is clearly indicated as the Archdeacon uses the word "steeple" and not "tower".

G. HARBOTTLE.

#### 7.—FOOD VESSELS FROM CALLALY AND ASHINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND.

The food vessel illustrated in fig. 1 was unearthed from a junk shop in Newcastle. On the accompanying label was given the provenance *Castle Hill* and the collector's catalogue number 4034. There have been few large private collections in the county, and the vessel was soon established as having come from the museum at Callaly Castle, the objects from which were disposed of many years ago. Item 4034 in the

catalogue reads *British Earthenware Urn, Castle Hill Quarry, (Callaly) November 1891*.<sup>1</sup> An account of its discovery in a cist is recorded in the *Transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club*, vols. XIII, p. 43, and XIV, p. 24, where the description of the vessel is somewhat misleading. The whole of the decoration has been executed by cord impressions, and in one instance on the outside surface a cord with a reverse twist has been used. The "raised bosses" on the neck, mentioned in the original description, are no more than a slight raising of the plain surface resulting from the pressure exerted in applying the topmost wavy line. The vessel is now lodged in the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne (no. 1960. 3).

The vessel illustrated in fig. 2, found during cable laying operations in Woodhorn Road, Ashington (O.S. 6", LXX N.W., 55° 11' 7"N.: 1° 33' 20"W.), has been given to the Museum of Antiquities by Mr. J. G. Swales (no. 1959. 1). It is Childe's type B, stands 11 cms. high and has buff surfaces and dark grey core. The body decoration consists of panels of vertical and horizontal lines, executed on one half of the circumference by a notched stamp and on the other half by scoring. A rough chevron design is scored on the neck and a faint zigzag on the flat top of the rim. There was no record of a cist or other associated finds.

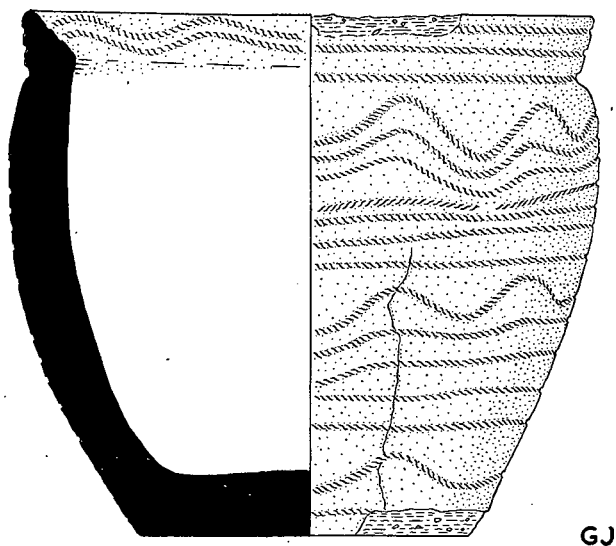
The place where the vessel was found is on a low spur about a furlong north-east of the site of Hirst Castle. At this point the land rises to about 110' O.D., which is sufficient to give a general outlook towards the coast and the mouth of the river Wansbeck some two miles to the south-east. The attraction of the area for early settlement is already attested by the discovery of three additional food vessels in the immediate vicinity<sup>2</sup> and the record of a beaker from Woodhorn, a mile to the east.<sup>3</sup>

G. JOBEY.

<sup>1</sup> *Catalogue of Works of Antiquity and Art at Callaly Castle* (1892, private circulation), p. 201.

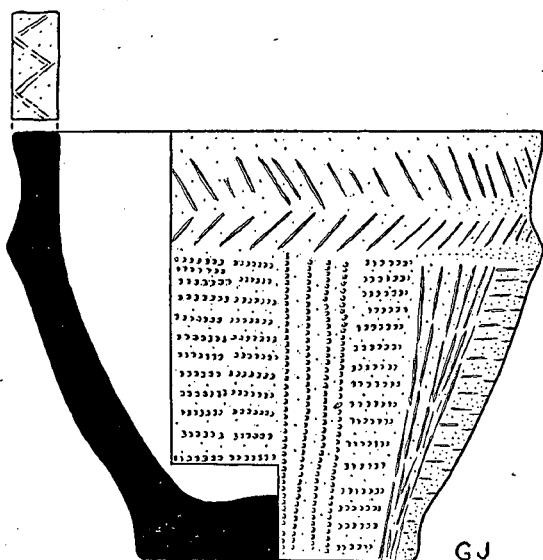
<sup>2</sup> *Proc.*<sup>2</sup>, VI, 153, 202, 221.

<sup>3</sup> Abercromby, *Brönze Age Pottery*, no. 160.



GJ

FIG. 1. FOOD VESSEL, CALLALY CASTLE HILL.



GJ

FIG. 2. FOOD VESSEL, WOODHORN ROAD, ASHINGTON.



8.—A BEAKER BURIAL AT SHIPLEY, ALNWICK,  
NORTHUMBERLAND.

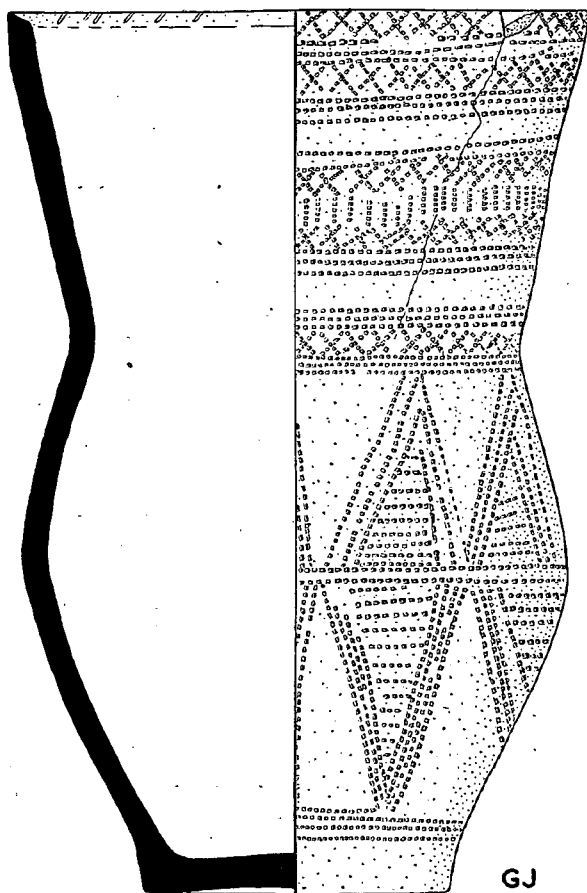
The burial was discovered on 6th May 1958 during ploughing on Shipley Farm and the stone cist was cleared and emptied by Messrs. W. Dodds, J. P. Gillam and the writer on the following day. The cover slab had been removed on discovery, and the top of the beaker, showing above the earth accumulation in the bottom of the cist, was freshly broken.

The cist lay on the flat cultivated land on the west bank of the Shipley Burn at a height of just over 200 feet O.D. (O.S. 6" (1926) XXVIII N.E., 55° 27' 7"N : 1° 45' 41"W.). Soil marks revealed the almost certain presence of two more burials close at hand, which in some measure compensates for the necessary speed with which this particular exploration had to be completed in driving wind and rain. In the past, further cist burials have been recorded from the area of the Shipley Burn, half a mile to the south-east in the Standing Stone Close, on White House ground, and also near White House Folly. These have produced beakers, food vessels and "urns".<sup>1</sup>

The cist was orientated east and west and measured internally two feet nine inches in length, two feet two inches in width, and two feet four inches in depth. Wall slabs fitted fairly closely into the excavated cavity, but as the cover slab was somewhat irregular in shape a little elementary "corbelling" had been used to support it and at the same time to give overall coverage to the top of the cist. A scatter of surface stones in the area may have been the remains of a small covering cairn.

The body had been laid on the right side in the usual contracted position with the head to the west and, as often

<sup>1</sup> G. Tate, *History of Alnwick*, vol. I, pp. 8, 11 and 13, and vol. II, p. 395. MacLauchlan, *Additional Notes on Roads in Northumberland*, pp. 15 and 16. Catalogue Alnwick Castle Museum.



BEAKER, SHIPLEY, NORTHUMBERLAND.

happens, facing south. A mixture of coarse silt and very fine gravel covered most of the remains. This appeared to be a natural inflow and accumulation rather than deliberate infilling.<sup>2</sup> The fragile nature of the bones and the shortage

<sup>2</sup> e.g. locally at West Lilburn, *Arch. Ael.*, ser. 4, XXIV, p. 218, and at Summerhill, *Ibid.*, XVI, p. 262.

of time available made cleaning difficult. None of the facial parts remained except the angle of the jaw on the right hand side, and no loose teeth were recovered. Mrs. G. Larwood, who examined the skeletal remains, states that they are those of a brachycephalic female (index 83), aged probably thirty to forty years. The cut on the left humerus, visible in the photograph, appears to be artificial and could have been a fatal wound. There are no other unusual features. (Pl. XI, facing p. 231.)

Immediately behind the head was an A type beaker, 23 cms. tall. It has a light brown surface and a dark grey core containing small grits. The inside bevel of the lip bears a number of finger-nail marks, but the remainder of the surface decoration has been applied by the use of a notched stamp, which may have been a small instrument since the individual impressions appear to occur in groups of five. There was a thick lime encrustation on the outside of the vessel, particularly on that side which lay close to the body. A white inlay now apparent in some of the impressions is no more than the residue of this, and is not an original decorative application.<sup>3</sup> The band of trellis patterns separated by vertical lines on the centre of the neck of the vessel is found on other north-eastern and Scottish beakers and, as Mr. W. E. Griffiths has suggested recently, may give rise to the chain of filled hexagons as used on some northern beakers.<sup>4</sup> Pendant filled and voided triangles on the bowl are poorly executed and the effect of filled lozenges which could have resulted has not been achieved because of irregular spacing. Bands of pendant filled and voided triangles are fairly common on northern and Scottish A and C beakers. (Fig.; p. 245).

The only other finds in the cist were two small pellets of red ochre, one from beneath the skull and the other from

<sup>3</sup> For possible use of white inlay see Abercromby, *Bronze Age Pottery*, vol. I, p. 54.

<sup>4</sup> The Typology and Origin of Beakers in Wales, *P.P.S.*, XXIII (1957), p. 67. For local example see Dilston Park, *Arch. Ael.*, ser. 3, II, p. 138.

near the shoulder.<sup>5</sup> This would not be difficult to obtain, since reddle or ruddle occurs naturally in parts of the county. Ploughing prevented any further exploration in the surrounding area.

The participants are grateful to Mr. G. E. Robertson, the tenant farmer, for his prompt action and kindness in delaying his ploughing programme. The beaker is now in the Alnwick Castle Museum, and the drawings and full report on the skeleton are filed in the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne.

G. JOBEY.

#### 9.—NATIVE SITE, THE HEUGH, BIRTLEY.

Slight traces of a short length of ditch in the field immediately to the south of the farmhouse at The Heugh, Birtley, Northumberland (NY/873804) were noted some time ago. During a dry spell in the summer of 1959 the outline of a rectangular-shaped site with two internal depressions became apparent through differential colouring of the grass. Enough was visible to place the site tentatively within the group of rectilinear settlements, by Mr. George Jobey, described in the first paper in the present volume. MacLauchlan, in his *Additional Notes*, p. 77 and note 3, after referring to the sites at Carry House and Devil's Leap (Linn Burn) mentions additional possibilities not then traceable. It is probable that this is one of the sites in question. (Fig., p. 248.)

A. M. BANKIER.

<sup>5</sup> The presence of red or yellow ochre in a ritual context has a long history. For occurrence with Bronze Age burials see e.g. Mortimer, *Burial Mounds of North East Yorkshire*, pp. 218 and 229.

# THE HEUGH, BIRTLEY

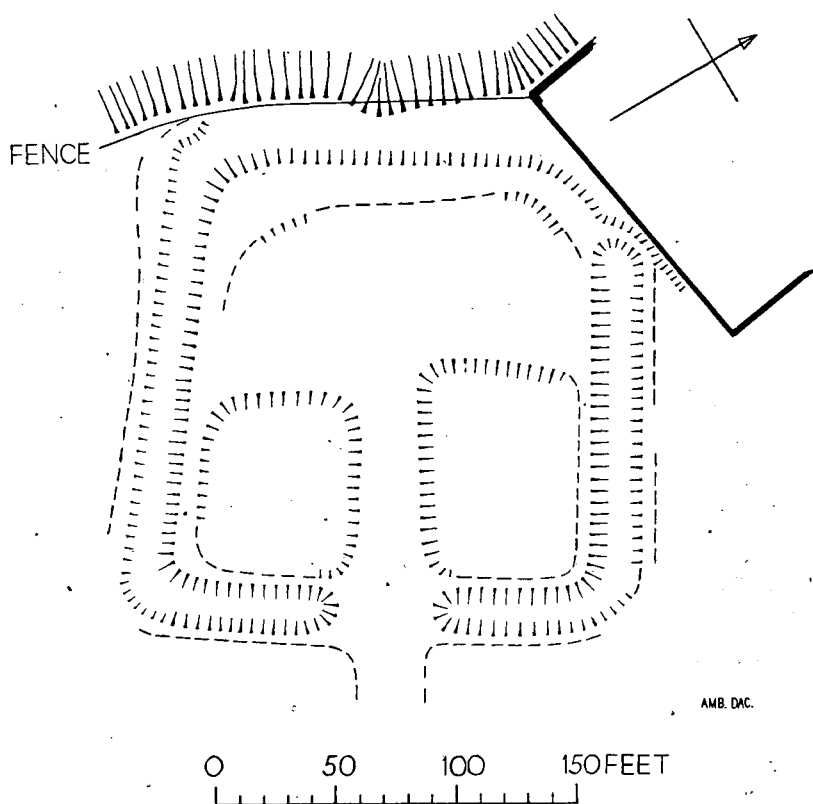


FIG. 1.