

II.

NOTE ON A SUPPOSED FLINT-WORKER'S SITE NEAR FINDHORN,  
MORAYSHIRE. BY MRS DUFF DUNBAR, F.S.A.Scot.

Between Findhorn and Halton, protected by sandhills, except on part of the west side, there is a wide, flat, circular area of sand thickly strewn with sea-gravel and pebbles—quartzite, gneiss, porphyritic rock, etc.—the sort of pebbles that form the raised beach on which the site is located.

On the surface of this area are strewn a great number of pieces of flint—flakes, fragments, and small chips, many of the latter very small indeed. The flints are for the most part grey, but some of the smaller bits are of a beautiful yellow, and some are red or pearly-grey and semi-translucent. There are also flint nodules, whole and broken, of a rather poor quality, showing cavities and crystalline formation inside. The broken nodules might have been rejected material.

The closest search of the surface failed to discover any manufactured flints except a few disc-shaped scrapers of poor workmanship, a few parallel long-shaped flakes, a rather good core, and small triangular pieces of flint from 1 to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length, without side chipping, which might possibly have been teeth of some instrument, or more probably waste fragments thrown away by the worker. In 1925 a passer-by found a fine pearl-grey, barbed and stemmed arrow-head, measuring  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch approximately. The possessor wished to sell it, but as the price asked was "not less than five pounds" it did not change hands.

Other arrow-heads are said to have been found on these links. I picked up a small one, also barbed and stemmed, just under the ridge of the raised beach on the way to the site; but, considering the quantity of flint fragments, the site was very unproductive.

Towards the south-east end of the area the surface rises into a low mound, the circumference of which is about 130 feet. Its whole area is strewn with small stones mostly showing the action of fire, and some almost vitrified by heat. One part of the mound is darker than the other. The circumference of this darker portion is about 20 feet. At one end of the mound is a harder and darker boss, measuring 29 inches by 25 inches, showing unmistakable signs of fire. There are neither hearthstones, nor any large stones at this spot, only pebbles; nor are there any such on the other parts of the area.

In the boss of darker earth—a mixture of wood ashes and sand—there

are small fragments of burnt wood, and in and around it are many small bits of burnt bone. The longest fragment of bone—apparently part of a limb bone—measures  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches by  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch. One piece of bone was stained a greenish blue, and near it was a globule of copper or bronze about the size of a sweet-pea.

There were also many small pieces of rough pottery made of clay mixed with fine gravel or broken stone, red outside and bluish under the red, when of any size. One larger fragment, about 2 inches by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches, shows what appears to be part of the side and base of a vessel.

A rather interesting find at two corners of this boss was two small heaps of good-sized grey flint flakes, as if a nodule had been broken and left *in situ*.

About 9 feet 7 inches from the dark sand site were a number of periwinkle shells, but no kitchen-midden was visible in any part of the area. Periwinkles are found on the east side of Burghead, about seven miles off.