

Antiquities

DISCOVERED

AT LITTLE CRESSINGHAM, NORFOLK.

A Letter

FROM THOS. BARTON, ESQ. TO HENRY HARROD, ESQ., HON. SEC.

Threxton, July 3rd, 1849.

MY DEAR SIR,

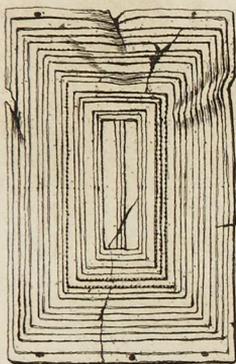
I beg leave to report to the Committee the particulars of an interesting discovery which has recently taken place at Little Cressingham.

A labourer, digging in a field in that parish adjoining the road leading from Watton to Hilborough and Ickburgh, came upon a human skeleton at the depth of about fourteen inches from the surface. The field is called "The Triangle" from its form; the above road running north; the Walsingham Way east; and on the south-west a road leading from Stanford falls into the Watton road. The field is now perfectly level; but, on examination of the title-deeds, I find it was formerly called the "Hill Field;" and, on a careful survey of the spot where the skeleton was found, I discovered clear indications of a tumulus having formerly been there. An outer circle of chalk is very distinct.

The skeleton did not lie in the centre, but about midway between the centre and the outer circle, towards the west. It is a male of about the average height, and lay with the head to the south and legs drawn up. By its side was a dagger, evidently Celtic: the rivets remain which fastened a wooden handle, of which nothing but a black dust remained. Near it lay another and smaller weapon, apparently a javelin-head:

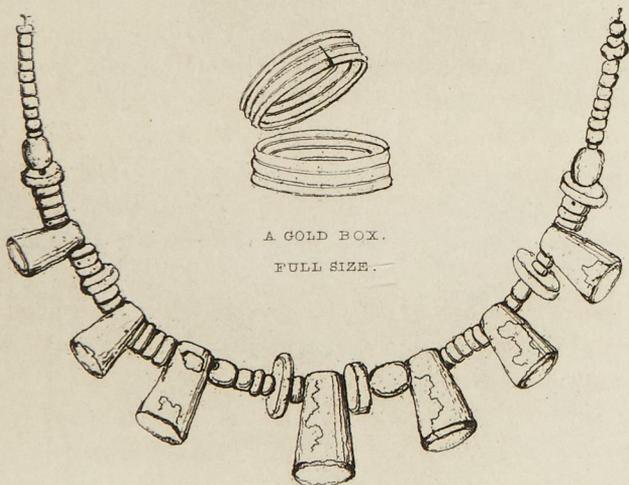
[VOL. III.]

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ORNAMENT OF GOLD WGT 7 DWT 4

SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$



A GOLD BOX.

FULL SIZE.

NECKLACE OF AMBER BEADS.

SIZE $\frac{1}{4}$

Etched by H. Nimham.

ANTIQUITIES FOUND AT LITTLE CRESSINGHAM.

NORFOLK.

upon its breast was the gold breast-plate, figured in the annexed engraving: round it will be observed the holes by which it was attached to the dress. A very large quantity of amber beads, many broken, were scattered about the neck: of those found perfect a few are figured in the plate. A portion of a gold armilla was also lying on one side. But by far the most curious objects were a small box and the remains of two others, all of fine gold:* these I believe are unique. Douglas, in his *Nenia Britannica*, figures a small, round, brass box, found in a tumulus on Chatham Lines in 1780, near the left side of a skeleton, with an ornamental piece of brass, amber beads, a buckle, and a knife: the bones of the skeleton being small and tender, he inferred that it was that of a female, and that the box was used as an amulet.

As it is the intention of the Committee to publish a notice of this discovery in their next part, with an engraving of these curious relics, I have no doubt we shall be able to learn more upon this subject.

I have only further to add that the skull was remarkably thick, and, speaking phrenologically, displayed a large development of the animal passions, as also "caution" and "love of approbation." The man had passed the meridian of life; and his teeth were much worn, but good.

I must not omit to acknowledge with thanks the kindness of Sir Francis Goodricke, Bart., on whose property the discovery was made, in permitting me to exhibit these relics at the General Meeting of this Society.

I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

THOMAS BARTON.

* Since the above letter was written, my attention has been directed to Sir R. C. Hoare's *Ancient Wiltshire*, where boxes somewhat similar, found at Upton Lovel, are figured, together with a square gold breast-plate and other Celtic remains. They will be found at p. 99, Vol. I.