

"Dew li faite vrai pardun, aveit a nun."

"God grant him a pardon true for name he knew."

Outside there is a grand old spreading yew tree which stands opposite the old chancel door—a door through which Gray and his mother must often in days now long gone by have entered the church. Outside the chancel wall is the little stone notice to the memory of the Poet, who was buried beside his mother near that spot.

But the real memorial which keeps the thought of him ever present to the minds of those who make a pilgrimage to that quiet, remote God's acre, is the one that Gray himself wrote in the early days of his life, before the shadows began to rise darkly, which were later to become his "true and faithful companions" to the close of his days.

Prehistoric Remains in the Thames Valley.

To the Editor of the "Berks Archaeological Journal."

DEAR SIR,

Some long time since, I promised you an account of some remains discovered in the valley of the Thames.

The exigencies of a busy life, and the misplacing of the memoranda I made at the time, is the explanation (but not an excuse) for the delay. I have now found my notes, and the following is the substance of them. In the year 1896 a cutting was made, for the purpose of forming a new Lock by the Thames Conservancy Board at Grafton, north of Faringdon, on the Oxfordshire side of the river, about 27 miles by water above Oxford.

This cutting is made across a meadow, which is surrounded by the river on the east, south and west sides, and runs nearly due east and west. On May 4th, 1896, the workmen in excavating came across a human skull, which was brought to me, and on the earliest opportunity, which was July 8th following, I visited the spot.

I found the following section in the parts then open :—

Alluvium	...	...	...	...	4ft.
Clay, mostly blue, and containing leaves of aquatic plants, wood, and shells	...	...	...	...	3ft.
Peat of dark colour, and grey sand, containing an immense number of shells	...	...	...	...	4ft.
Gravel, grey and loamy...	...	...	...	...	1ft. 3in.
Oxford clay.					

I also found a number of animal remains, of which I will further speak. There were also many pieces of wood apparently in the form of stakes, lying about which with the ancient lagoon like appearance of the site, led me to think that probably they were the remains of what are known as "Lake Dwellings," but the evidence did not appear to me to be sufficient to state this as a fact.

The skull and other animal remains were found at the base of peat and sand, viz., 11 feet below the surface, and resting on the gravel bed, the accumulations above these would seem to show that they are of an early date, probably of the bronze, or of the early iron age.

There was also a small piece of pottery in the form of a broken cup, probably a small drinking cup, about 2in. in diameter and 2½ inches high, apparently moulded by hand (this is shewn in the photograph).

The human skull shewn in the photograph is more of the round headed than of the long headed kind, and is probably that of a young person, the best evidence of age, the teeth, are missing, the length of skull is only 7 inches, and the breadth 5·3 inches, which is small.

The measurements are :—

Extreme length	...	...	...	...	7 in.
„ breadth	...	...	...	...	5·3 in.
Vertical height	...	...	...	...	5·8 in.
Circumference	...	...	...	...	20 in.
Minimum frontal width	...	...	...	...	3·8 in.
Maximum width	...	...	...	...	4·7 in.

The other Mammalian remains are as follows :—

Skull of Red Deer (*Cervus Elephus*) with part of an antler attached.

Skull of Red Deer (*Cervus Elephus*) antlers shed.

Right tibia of Red Deer?

Frontlet and horn cores of *Bos longifrons* (young animal).

Left radius of *Bos primigenius*.

Part of lower jaw of a small horse (*Equus* sp.).

These are all of extant species, with the exception of *Urus* (*Bos primigenius*).

These lived in our forests until Roman times, possibly later, but are now extinct, unless, as some suppose, we have degenerate descendants in our domestic breeds.

Cervus Elephus is the Red Deer that is still found in Scotland and some parts of England.

Bos Longifrons, the little Celtic Ox, is the ancestor of the small breeds of cattle of Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, the places where traces are found, of the descendants of the aboriginal people of Britain.

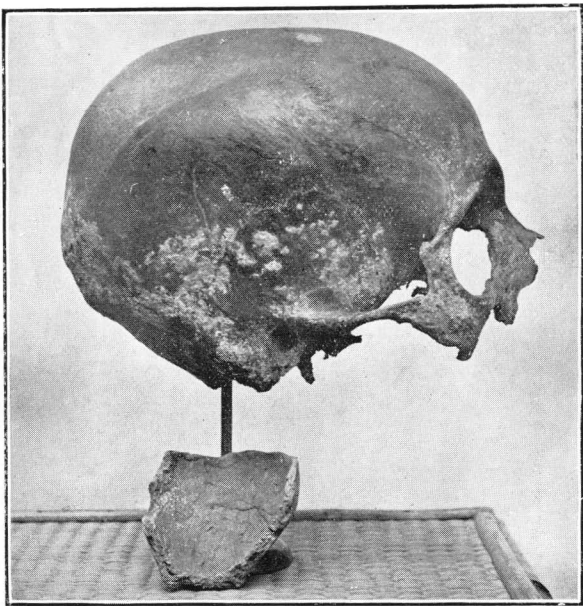
The jaw is that of a small horse, probably a forest horse or pony, they are often found associated with other early remains.

The Mollusca, which are very abundant, are :—*Limmaea stagnalis*, *limmaea peregra*, *bythinia tentaculata*, *ancylus fluviaplis*, *zonites cellarius*, *planorbis complanatus*, *cyclas* sp. These are all of living species, and are found in our rivers to-day.

I am indebted to Mr. Thomas W. Colyer, of the Reading Museum, for assistance in identifying some of the species, and to whom I have handed the whole of the specimens, in view of their preservation in the Museum.

EDWARD MARGRETT, F.G.S.





SKULL FOUND AT GRAFTON ON THE THAMES.