

Danes' Graves.

By THE LATE J. R. MORTIMER.

IN two preceding papers I gave particulars of all that was known of the so-called "Danes' Graves" up to 1897¹; and of the explorations which I conducted (the permission having been obtained by the E.R. Antiquarian Society), in 1897.² The relics obtained were handed to Mr. Broadley, and some of these are now in the museum at York.

I was subsequently asked to read a paper on the subject to the Society of Antiquaries of London³; after which they formed a committee to make further researches. Permission to dig having been granted by Mr. Broadley; Canon Greenwell, Mr. Thos. Boynton and myself were appointed to conduct the excavations.

We commenced operations in July, 1898; the Canon taking notes; while Mr. Boynton and I assisted in excavating. As soon as each interment was discovered, we carefully exposed the remains (see fig. 1).

I also took notes, numbered each mound, made small sketches of the position of each body in the graves, and of the occurrence of any accompanying relic. Thirty-seven mounds were examined, and thirty-six bodies exhumed. Canon Greenwell has included the researches of 1898, with my notes of the excavations of 1897 and 1899, and other kindred discoveries, in his very able essay on the "Early Iron-Age Burials in Yorkshire"⁴.

In this, he did not consider it necessary to make

¹ Vol. XIII, "Proc. Yorkshire Geol. and Polytec. Soc."

² "Annual Report Yorkshire Phil. Soc. for 1897."

³ See their "Proceedings," II. Series, Vol. XVII., 1906, p. 119.

⁴ "Archæologia," Vol. LX., 1905.

"a circumstantial record of the contents of the graves examined in 1864, 1897, 1898, 1899; but only of those which, on account of the nature of the buried grave goods, and other things connected with them, seem to require a more particular and special description."

Under these circumstances, I feel it is desirable to give briefly, from my note-book, the position and a

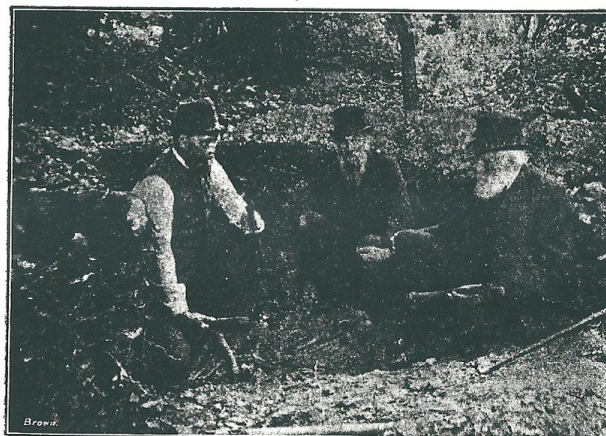


FIG. 1.—DANES' GRAVES, 1898.

description of each interment discovered in 1898, in the order in which it was found.

Like those which I excavated in 1897, all the mounds were circular, varying from 10 feet to 30 feet in diameter, and from 10 inches to 30 inches in elevation. There was a grave under each mound, which, as in previous cases, was oval, or a rough square with rounded corners, varying in depth from 10 inches to 36 inches below the base of the mound.

Mound No. I. contained the remains of an adult,

on the left side, with the knees up, hands to the face, and the head pointing to the N.N.E.

No. II. contained the bones of a small person, on the right side, head to S.W., the knees pulled up to the chest, one arm doubled, with hand near the chin; the other hand near the knees. A fibula of bronze (see Greenwell, "Archæologia," 1905, fig. 14), was close to the back of the skull.

No. III.—An adult on its back, head to S.S.W., knees pulled up, and both arms bent with the hands at the side of the head.

No. IV.—The remains of a full-grown person, hands to the face, head to N.N.E., on the left side, and knees towards the chest.

No. V.—A skeleton, on the left side, knees approaching the chin, head to S.S.W., and hands near the face.

No. VI.—There was a distinct circular trench round this mound; and under the centre, near a former excavation, were the remains of an adult person, on the left side, with the legs flexed, and the arms doubled, with hands near the face. The head pointed S.S.W.

No. VII.—Here had been placed a small person, on the left side, with the knees approaching the chest, the arms bent, with the hands to face. The head was to the W.S.W. Behind the shoulders were a food vase and the humerus of a small pig ("Archæologia," *loc. cit.*, fig. 8).

No. VIII.—The body had been buried in the same posture as the last, except that the head pointed to the N.E. The humerus of a pig and a food vase were found behind the shoulders; the vase was in two portions, 6 to 8 inches apart.

No. IX.—The bones of an adult, on the left side, with the knees pulled up, both hands near the face, the head pointing to the N.N.E. An iron buckle, or buckle-shaped brooch (*loc. cit.*, fig. 16) was in contact with the right shoulder blade.

No. X.—Here two skeletons, one above the other,

occupied the grave under the mound; both were on the left side, and both contracted into a similar position, with their heads in a N.N.E. direction. A much corroded iron armlet remained on the left wrist of the lower skeleton, and a straight piece of iron, 2½ inches long, adhered to the under jaw.

No. XI.—This mound had been opened previously, and the contents broken up. Most of the bones remained in the grave.

No. XII.—Nothing was found in this mound.

No. XIII.—The remains of an old person, minus back molars, on the left side, with the knees well up to chest, both hands in front of the face, with the skull pointing to the N.E. A beautiful bronze fibula (*loc. cit.*, fig. 13) was found on the right shoulder.

No. XIV.—The skeleton of an elderly person, partly on the back and the left side, head to N.E., the knees drawn up, and both hands crossed, with the hands on the chest.

No. XV.—An adult skeleton on the right side, hands resting on drawn-up knees, and head to S.W. A large iron fibula (*loc. cit.*, fig. 15) was at the left shoulder.

No. XVI.—Here rested the bones of a small person, on the left side, head to the N.E., knees up to body, and both hands to the face.

No. XVII.—The skeleton was in identically the same posture as the last. A much corroded iron article was in front of the face.

No. XVIII.—Skeleton on the left side, with both hands near the drawn-up knees, and head to the N.E. A chalk spindle whorl (*loc. cit.*, fig. 20) was at the back of the head.

No. XIX.—Skeleton in the same posture as the last.

No. XX.—Skeleton in the same attitude as the two preceding.

No. XXI.—A skeleton on the right side, head to the north, knees approaching the face, and the hands

near the chin. A much corroded article of iron was near the back part of the head, and at the knees were a portion of a vase and the humerus of a pig; the other part of the vase being found near the feet; the two parts apparently having been so dispersed at the time of burial.

No. XXII.—A skeleton in the same position as the last, except that it was on the left side.

No. XXIII.—Here were two skeletons. One (marked "A") on the east side of the bottom of the grave, was in the same posture as the two last: whilst the other (marked "B") was on the west side of the grave, had been placed on its chest, with the hands under the pelvis, and the knees pulled up. The heads of both were approximately to the N. Near the right shoulder of "B" was the humerus of a pig.

No. XXIV.—A skeleton on the left side, the hands placed on drawn-up knees, and head to S.W. An iron fibula was 3 inches from the front of the face.

No. XXV.—Skeleton again on the left side, much doubled up, with the arms across the chest, and head to the N.E.

No. XXVI.—The remains of a youth, with the second set of front teeth just appearing; in the same attitude as the previous body, except that the head pointed to the south. Nearly the whole of a food-vase stood behind the head; inside of the vase was the humerus of a pig (*loc. cit.*, fig. 9).

No. XXVII.—A small adult, on the right side, with elbows on the body, hands to face, and head to the N.E.

No. XXVIII.—A rather large adult, in a flexed position, on the left side, the right hand to the face, and head to the S.W.

No. XXIX.—A skeleton on the right side, with the legs pulled up, both arms over the chest, and an iron brooch placed quite near. The head was towards the east, and at each side of it was the skeleton of a goat;

while at the feet were the bones of two pigs, in the position shown in fig. 2.

No. XXX.—Skeleton on the left side, with knees brought up, both arms bent over the body, and the head to the south.



FIG. 2.

No. XXXI.—The broken bones of a body in a grave that had been previously opened.

No. XXXII.—A skeleton was chest downwards, with the legs bent upwards, head to the N.E., and the face twisted to the S.E., the right arm doubled, with fingers near the chin. An iron brooch was near the chest, and the humerus of a pig at the hips.

No. XXXIII.—Here the head, which was missing, had pointed to the N.N.E. The legs were at a right-angle with the spinal column, the right arm over the chest, and the left doubled, with the hand to the head. A humerus of a pig was found near the chest.

No. XXXIV.—The skeleton found here was on the left side, head to the south, the knees up, and both hands to the face.

No. XXXV.—The remains were much doubled up, on the left side, with both hands near the face, and the head pointing N.E.

No. XXXVI.—The skeleton in the same posture as in the preceding interment. The bottom part of a vase, of the usual kind, was found over the hips of the undisturbed skeleton, 6 inches deep in the grave. It must have been placed there after the body had been covered with a thickness of 12 inches of soil.

No. XXXVII.—The skeleton in this interment was found in the same attitude as the three previous ones.

From the notes just given, it will be observed that this series consisted of thirty-seven mounds, three of which had been previously excavated, leaving thirty-four intact. Of these, thirty-two contained one interment each, and two held two burials each. In mound XXVI. were the remains of a youth, while all the others were adults. This is a remarkable instance of a large number of adults, and the entire absence of the remains of children. Were the children disposed of in some other way?

It will be noticed that ten interments were accompanied by iron articles; one by a chalk spindle whorl; two by bronze brooches; seven by the humerus of a pig; one by the skeletons of two pigs and two goats; whilst six had pottery.

In summarising the positions of these interments, it is observed that, of heads pointing to the N.E., there were thirteen; to the N.N.E., seven; to the N., four; to the S., three; to the S.W., four; to the S.S.W.,

three; to the W.S.W., one; and to the E., one. While twenty-seven were on the left side, five were on the right, one on the back, and two on the chest.

At the close of each day's work, Canon Greenwell and Mr. Boynton removed all the finds to Bridlington; the bones being afterwards given by the Canon to the Royal College of Surgeons. The vases and the other articles he retained for a time to enable him to illustrate his able paper, in which he minutely describes the bronze brooches.

As an appendix to Canon Greenwell's paper already referred to, Dr. Wm. Wright gives a table of measurements, with a description of twelve of the skulls. This number, however, is but a small proportion of the thirty-four then obtained, mostly in good condition, though several were in pieces, and should be restored.

At the close of a fortnight the committee's research was brought to an end; the cost of which was defrayed by the equal subscription of the three conductors of the excavations. I thought it was very desirable, however, that the few remaining unexplored mounds should, as far as possible, be examined while they could yet be distinguished from those that had been previously opened. I therefore obtained Mr. Broadley's further kind permission for this purpose. On July 31st, 1899, and the following six fine days, I opened twenty more of these mounds, seven of which (Nos. 1, 3, 8, 11, 14, 16, and 17) had been previously examined, and nothing was found in them but scattered portions of the broken bones.

No. 2.—Under the centre of this mound were the remains of what had apparently been a female, on its left side, with hands to the face, the knees much pulled up, head to N.N.W. A femoral bone measured 16½ inches. At the chest was a little dark matter, from which we took two small pieces of bronze, resembling short tubes, and a bead of blue glass, ⅜ of an inch in diameter, whilst on the right wrist was a bronze

amulet (Greenwell, *loc. cit.*, fig. 52) $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

No. 4.—The skeleton beneath this mound was on its right side, with the head to the N.N.E., the knees drawn up, the arms bent, with both hands to the head.

No. 5.—In this instance the grave was only 8 inches in depth; and, as in the last mound, the skeleton was with its head to the N.N.E., but on its left side, the knees drawn up, the arms bent, with hands to the head. A femoral bone measured $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches, right humerus $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and the left humerus $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches only.

No. 6.—Here the skeleton was that of a young person, partly on the back and partly on the right side, the knees much drawn up, both arms bent, with hands brought to the face; the head pointed to the N.N.E.

No. 7.—The grave under this mound was only 12 inches deep, and on the bottom were the remains of an adult person, with the head to the S.W., on the left side, the knees drawn up nearly to the chin, and both arms flexed, with the hands brought to the face. The two femora measured $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches each, and the right and left humeri $13\frac{3}{4}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches respectively. Behind the hips were the remains of a very small child, on its right side, with its head in the opposite direction to that of the adult.

No. 9.—In this instance the grave reached only 6 inches below the base of the mound. The burial was that of an adult male, placed on the chest, with the head to the S.W., and the face was twisted to the S.E. The legs were drawn up with the knees pressed to the S.E. The left arm was doubled, with the fingers under the chin; whilst the right arm was bent at a right-angle, with the hand near the right knee. A femur measured $17\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and the right and left humeri 13 inches and $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches respectively. The bones of this skeleton were unusually strong for these "Dane's Graves" people.

No. 10.—Under this mound was the skeleton of an adult, on the left side, head to the north, the knees drawn up, and both arms bent, with the hands near the face. The bones were much decayed, and no reliable measurement could be obtained.

No. 12.—An old excavation had nearly reached the bottom of the grave under this mound. Probably the unusually great depth of this grave— $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet—had saved the interment, as at the bottom were the undisturbed remains of an adult, on the left side, with the knees much pulled up, both arms flexed, with the hands near the face. The head pointed to the S.S.W. A femur measured 16 inches, and a humerus 12 inches. What seemed to be the remains of a harp-shaped fibula of iron was close to and under the chin.

No. 13.—Here the body had been placed with its head to the N.E., on the left side, the legs much bent, with the knees approaching the chin; both arms were bent, with the hands at the front of the face. The two femora and the two tibiae measured respectively $18\frac{1}{4}$ inches and $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches each, the right and left humeri 13 inches and $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches respectively; while the right ulna measured $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches and the left ulna only 11 inches. At the chest was a much oxidised iron fibula, while the decomposition of some small article of bronze had stained the under side of the lower jaw green.

No. 15.—Again the skeleton occurred with its head to the N.E., on its left side, with knees drawn up to the chest, and the hands raised up to near the face. Pieces of bronze and a much corroded article of iron, probably a locket, since it seemed as if it might have been hollow, were under the chin. The right femur measured $17\frac{1}{4}$ inches, whilst the left femur measured $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The right and left tibiae measured $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches each, the right and left fibula $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches each, and the right and left humeri $12\frac{1}{4}$ and 12 inches respectively.

No. 18.—Under this mound the skeleton was in a

position similar to that of the last. At the feet was the bottom portion of a small dark-coloured vase, accompanied by the humerus of a small pig. The right and left femora measured only $15\frac{1}{4}$ inches each; the left tibia, which had been broken and clumsily united during life, measured $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The right tibia was too much decayed to be measured.

No. 19.—Here, the skeleton had its head to the N.N.E., and was on its right side, with the knees almost reaching the chin. The left arm was bent at a right-angle, with the fingers at the knees; while the right arm was doubled, with the hand bent under the face. The right and left femora measured $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches each; the right and left tibiae $12\frac{1}{2}$ and $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches respectively; while the right humerus, ulna, and radius measured $11\frac{3}{8}$, $9\frac{3}{8}$, and $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches respectively.

No. 20.—The grave under this mound was larger than usual, and contained the remains of two bodies, one behind the other, on their left sides, with their heads to the N.E. Their knees were drawn up, and their arms bent with the hands near the face. At the knees of No. 1, which was at the east side of the grave, were some portions of a food-vase, accompanied by the humerus of a small pig. Near these was a much-corroded iron fibula, somewhat bow-shaped; while at the chest of No. 2 was a small vase which was in pieces, but is now rebuilt (fig. 3). The humerus of a small pig was found among the fragments of the vase, showing that, as in other cases, this vessel had contained animal food. It seems equally probable, from the proximity and positions of the two bodies, that both had been placed in the grave at the same time.⁵

In September 1900, by means of probing with a crowbar, I examined a strip of ground 9 yards wide,

⁵ Except the vase and the bones, I forwarded all the relics, through Mr. Travis Cook, to Mr. Broadley, the owner of "Danes' Graves."

situated in the field adjoining the west side of "Danes' Graves" wood. Where the rock was not reached at a depth of 12 inches, I made use of the pick and shovel, until the undisturbed chalk rock was laid bare.



FIG. 3.—VASE, WITH HUMERUS OF SMALL PIG, DANES' GRAVES.

Commencing near the southern corner of the wood, we excavated many places which proved to be natural dips in the rock, filled with soil, and not until we had reached half the length of the field did we find a grave.



FIG. 4.

There was no mound remaining. The grave had been entered, and the bones of an adult person broken up by some previous explorer. Most of the bones, however, had been put back, and a link-like fibula of iron (fig. 4) 5 inches in length, had escaped notice; but

whether any other article of a more attractive kind had been found and removed, I cannot say.

About 30 yards northward from the last grave we discovered a second one, which fortunately had not previously been opened. The remains were about 18 inches below the surface of the ground, and from the greatly decayed condition of the bones, we could only make out that the body had been interred doubled up with the head to the S.W. At the chest was a bronze fibula (fig. 5) 4½ inches long. Like the two previously

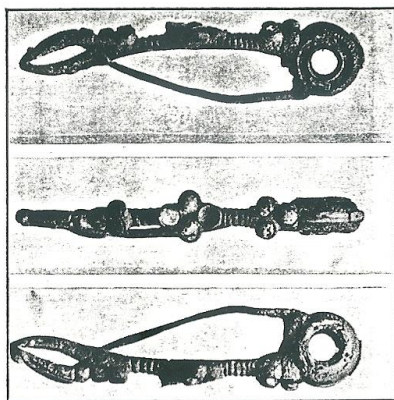


FIG. 5.

found in 1898, it is of the "safety-pin" type. It appears to be set with white paste, three small garnets, and a narrow piece of what looks like malachite. The whole length of this side of the wood was probed, but nothing more was found.

July 14th, 1902, in company with Dr. W. Wright, I was able to find and excavate three mounds, previously unopened, and situated inside the wood, along the west side of this group of mounds.

No. 1.—This mound covered an oval grave of medium size; at the bottom of which were the remains of a body on its right side, with the head to the north, the knees much pulled up, and both arms bent over the abdomen. A femur and a tibia measured 18 inches and 14 inches respectively, and the left humerus 12½ inches.

No. 2.—Under this mound were the remains of an adult person in the same flexed position as the one in the previous mound, with the exception of the head being to the N.W.⁶ Close in front of the knees were the doubled-up remains of a young goat, with its head pointing in the same direction as the head of its human companion.

No. 3 contained the remains of an adult, on the left side, the head to N.E., the knees up towards the chin, the right arm bent over the chest, and the left arm doubled with the fingers near the face.

No relic accompanied any of the three remains.

Some trees previously growing on the mounds, having been taken down, on July 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 1909, with Mr. Broadley's further kind permission, I was able to open eight more of these graves, each of which contained one interment only.

These mounds are in every way similar to those already described; so were the graves, except No. 6, which had an unusual depth of 4½ feet below the base of the mound, and, as in preceding instances, the bodies had been placed in various positions.

Mound No. 1 contained a much doubled-up skeleton on the left side, head to the north, the right hand on the pelvis, and the left arm doubled, with the hand in front of the face. The left femur measured 16 inches.

At the crown of the head was a much crushed food-

⁶ The rootlet of a larch tree had entered an aperture of the human skull, and not finding an outlet had grown round and round the interior, making fifteen or more coils.

vase of the usual plain type, resembling fig. 3, in which as in previous instances, was the humerus of a pig. The skull, apparently that of a female, had only two molar teeth on each side of each jaw; and there was no trace of ever having been more.

I had previously noticed two other similar instances from "Danes' Graves."

No. 2.—Here the body had been interred in a very similar position to the last, except that the right arm was bent over the body with the hand on the left elbow. The right femur measured $17\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The left side under jaw of this skull had the very unusual number of four molar teeth, three of which were somewhat abnormal in shape. The back part of the right side of the jaw was wanting, and only the front molar remained in position, therefore the original number of grinders in this side of the jaw is uncertain.

I have only observed one other similar occurrence, and that was also from "Danes' Graves." The right side of the upper jaw of one of the skulls accompanying the chariot burial I discovered in 1897 contained four molars. In both instances the under jaws had their normal number of three grinders on each side.

No. 3.—Under this mound, the skeleton was on the left side in a flexed position, with the head to the N.N.E. both arms doubled, and the hands near the face. A femur measured $17\frac{1}{10}$ inches in length.

No. 4.—The skeleton was on the same side as the last, but had both arms stretched at full length, with both hands at the pelvis; while the head was directed to the S.E. Owing to the advanced state of decay, it was not possible to measure any of the bones, but judging from two or three teeth which remained, this person would seem to have been twenty to twenty-five years of age.

No. 5 was in almost the same position as No. 1. Its femoral bones measured 17 inches each.

No. 6 was a well preserved skeleton, placed on the

bottom of a grave $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in depth, from the base of an unusually small mound. Except for the head, which pointed to the east, it was in the same flexed position as No. 3.

The thigh-bones measured 17 inches each, and are in sound condition, so is the skull, which is exceptionally interesting through having a distinct cut on the left parietal bone, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $\frac{1}{10}$ of an inch deep. This cut seems to have been produced a short time before death by a sharp-edged weapon, such as a sword or an axe wielded by the right hand of an assailant standing in front.

During all my excavations this is the only skull which I have found showing such an injury.

No. 7 contained the remains of a child, about four years old, in a doubled-up posture, on the right side, the head to the south, the right arm bent across the body, with hand near the knees, the left arm being placed over the body.

No. 8 was an adult, of middle age, doubled up, on the left side, the skull, which was greatly decayed, being to the N.E.; and the arms sharply bent with hands to the face. A femur measured 17 inches.

The index and computed stature of each body, procured in 1899, and up to the present time, are as far as could be obtained, given in the table on the next page.

The paucity of relics accompanying these eight interments is noticeable, for, with the exception of the fragments of the vase accompanying No. 1, nothing was found with the skeletons. These mounds are situated in the northern portion of "Danes' Graves," and, as far as I remember, the interments in this portion were rarely accompanied by relics of any kind. May not this be accounted for by supposing this northern part of "Danes' Graves" to have been the burial place of the poorer classes of the community; whilst the southern part (where were found the chariot

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No. of Mounds.	Head pointing to	On Side or Chest.	Knees pointing to.	Length of Femur.	Estimated Stature.	Length of Skull.	Breadth of Skull.	Index.	Age (about)	Accompanied by				REMARKS.
										Iron.	Arm bone of Hg.	Bronze.	Pot.	
II.	N.N.W.	L.	N.E.	16.5	60	7.2	5.1	.708	30 to 35	—	—	—	—	1899.
IV.	N.N.E.	R.	W.	17	61.9	7.2	5.2	.743	18 to 20	—	—	—	—	Dark decayed matter at the chest.
V.	N.N.E.	L.	E.	17.5	63.7	7	5.2	.743	16 to 18	—	—	—	—	All the bones much crushed.
VI.	N.N.E.	R.	E.	(R.—17.5)	63.7	unmeasurable	5.1	.73	—	—	—	—	—	Skull, etc., not measurable.
VII.	S.W.	R.	W.N.W.	(L.—17.5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Child.
VIII.	S.W.	Chest.	N.W.	17.75	64.4	7.8	5.9	.756	35 to 40	—	—	—	—	Face and under jaw wanting.
IX.	S.W.	L.	S.E.	—	—	7.6	5.1	.67	40 to 45	—	—	—	—	Calvarium only.
X.	S.S.W.	L.	W.	16	58.2	7	5.2	.74	—	—	—	—	—	—
XI.	N.E.	L.	S.E.	{ R.—18.25	66.3	7.75	5.5	.717	—	—	—	—	—	—
XII.	N.E.	L.	S.E.	{ R.—17.25	63.3	7.1	5.6	.788	—	—	—	—	—	L. femur longest.
XIII.	N.E.	L.	S.E.	{ R.—15.5	56.4	unmeasurable	—	—	40 to 45	—	—	—	—	L. tibia and fibula broken during life
XIV.	N.E.	L.	S.E.	{ R.—16.5	60	6.5	5.2	.806	—	—	—	—	—	—
XV.	N.N.E.	R.	E.	{ R.—15.5	68.3	—	—	—	45 to 50	—	—	—	—	Skull and bones not measurable.
XVI.	N.N.E.	L.	S.E.	{ R.—16.5	62.3	7.9	5.3	.67	—	—	—	—	—	Skull found in rifled grave.
No. 1.	N.N.W.	R.	E.	18	65.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Remains of a goat.
No. 2.	N.N.E.	R.	N.E.	—	64.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 3.	N.N.E.	R.	N.W.	—	60.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 4.	N.N.E.	L.	N.	16	58	6.7	4.9	.73	28 to 30	—	—	—	—	—
No. 5.	N.N.E.	L.	N.E.	17.25	63	7.2	5.2	.722	35 to 38	—	—	—	—	—
No. 6.	N.N.E.	L.	N.E.	17.1	62.2	6.9	4.9	.71	35 to 40	—	—	—	—	—
No. 7.	N.N.E.	L.	N.E.	—	—	unmeasurable	—	—	24 to 28	—	—	—	—	—
No. 8.	N.N.E.	L.	N.E.	17	62	7.4	5.5	.744	30 to 40	—	—	—	—	—
No. 9.	N.N.E.	L.	N.E.	17	62	7.3	5.5	.753	35 to 40	—	—	—	—	—
No. 10.	N.N.E.	L.	S.W.	—	—	unmeasurable	—	.70	—	—	—	—	—	—

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and most of the ornaments), contained the tombs of the upper classes (?).

From the preceding notes it will be seen that the bodies at "Danes' Graves" had been interred in every conceivable position; and that their heads were directed to every point of the compass.

Whilst, as recorded in my first paper, previous to 1849, many of these mounds were, from time to time, rifled by searchers for treasure or curios; I believe the first legitimate exploration was made by the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club in 1849, when six mounds were opened, and five skeletons exhumed, accompanied by one vase, and one piece of iron, probably a fibula.⁷

In 1864, Canon Greenwell opened fourteen mounds, in which were fourteen adult skeletons, one child's, three urns, and two pigs' humeri; besides one body accompanied by the skeletons of two goats.

In 1881, some trees uprooted by the wind, exposed two bodies, one vase, and one humerus of a pig.

In 1897, fifteen undisturbed mounds yielded the remains of eighteen adults and two children, nine articles of iron, five of bronze, one of pot, and two pigs' humeri, and some iron and bronze fragments of a chariot.

In 1898, thirty-four previously unopened mounds produced the remains of thirty-five adults and one youth, ten articles of iron, two of bronze, seven pigs' humeri, five vases, and one spindle whorl; while two goats and two pigs accompanied one burial.

In 1899, fourteen mounds yielded skeletons of fifteen adults and one child, four articles of iron, four of bronze, three pieces of pottery, one glass bead, and three pigs' humeri.

In 1900, two mounds yielded the remains of two skeletons, one iron and one bronze fibula.

⁷ See "The Proceedings of the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club, 1854."

In 1902, three mounds produced three skeletons, and with one body was the skeleton of a goat.

In 1909, eight mounds contained the remains of seven adults and one child, one vase, and one humerus of a pig.

From a final summary of these excavations, we find that between 1849 and 1909 there have been ninety-eight mounds carefully opened, in which were the skeletons of one hundred and one adults, one youth, and five children—the last being only 5 per cent. of the whole, a very small proportion; yet this anomaly is paralleled by the comparative absence of the remains of old persons.

THE RESULTS OF EACH YEAR'S EXCAVATIONS.

No. of Mounds.	Date of Opening.	No. of Adults.	No. of Children.	Iron.	Bronze.	Glass Beads.	Spindle Whorl.	Pot.	Bone.
6	1849	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
14	1864	14	1	1	0	0	0	3	2*
2	1881	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
15	1897	18	2	9	5	0	0	1	2
34	1898	35	1	10	2	0	1	5	7*
14	1899	15	1 youth	4	4	1	0	3	3
2	1900	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
3	1902	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*
8	1909	7	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
98	—	101	5	26	12	1	1	15	16

* There were also the skeletons of five goats and two pigs.

Mr. Stillingfleet does not record the finding of the remains of any child at Arras.

Accompanying these skeletons were twenty-six articles of iron, twelve of bronze, fifteen of pot, one glass bead, one spindle whorl, sixteen pigs' humeri, the skeletons of five goats and two pigs,⁸ and the remains of a chariot.

⁸ In 1818, Mr. Stillingfleet found the skeletons of two pigs with the remains of a man at Arras; while in 1874, I found the skeletons of two goats and one pig accompanying the body of a man in barrow No. C72 (see p. 163 of my "Forty Years' Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds"; also see p. 355 for an account of the finding of the skeleton of a pig, with that of a man, accompanied by two iron swords, near Luddith House, on 'North Grimston Brow'). Possibly, in these cases, the wish of the dead man's friends was simply to supply him with stock in the next world!

Unfortunately, the relics from "Danes' Graves" are widely scattered, and the whereabouts of many is now uncertain. I have, however, as far as possible, procured and preserved in my museum figures and drawings of most of the articles found since 1849.

The measurements of the long bones show these "Danes' Graves" people to have been of rather low stature, and not of strong make. In building up the broken skulls in the Driffield Museum, I have observed that the walls of the skulls from the "Danes' Graves" are very thin, being on an average little more than half the thickness of the walls of the skulls from the barrows of the Bronze period. I have also noticed that there is not that great difference in cranial features between male and female skulls from the "Danes' Graves" that there is between the skulls of the two sexes from the barrows of the Neolithic and the Bronze periods. Besides, the crania from the "Danes' Graves" are far more uniform than those from the barrows of earlier times, and belong to a less powerful race. It is also noteworthy that these "Danes' Graves" mounds, unlike those from the two previous ages, have yielded no cremated interment.

Another point to be noted is that there were no broken and splintered human or animal bones promiscuously scattered in the graves, or in the mounds. This is quite the reverse of what occurs in the barrows of the Bronze age.

This would seem to show that in the "Danes' Graves" there was less feasting and casting of the bones into the rising mound, than was the case during the building of the barrows of the earlier periods, and, unlike the barrows of the Neolithic period, "Danes' Graves" mounds show no trace of cannibalism. Neither have we observed any pot sherds, chips of flint, or bits of carbonized wood, scattered either in the graves, or in the mounds. Nor have they yielded a sword, spear, or anything of the nature of a weapon, or

instrument, or utensil, or article of domestic use,⁹ except a solitary spindle whorl, and the remains of a chariot. It is probable that in this instance both were for domestic use, though the fact that the chariot-
eer, together with another male person, was included in this interment, might point to the chariot having been used for military or hunting purposes.

All the pottery that is known to have been found at "Danes' Graves" is, without exception, of one type, and of a very inferior quality, quite devoid of ornamentation, and roughly hand-made from badly-tempered clay, freely mixed with pounded spar or selenite crystals. The latter probably occurred in the clay used for making the pottery.

These vessels when found had been, in every instance, more or less damaged, apparently at the time of interment. May not this be due to having been used at the funeral ceremony and then intentionally broken and placed with the dead? That they contained food for the dead person is shown by the fact of pig's humeri being found in, or close to them. The pig seems to have been a favourite animal in the diet of these people. But why the dead were *invariably* served with a portion of the *foreleg* may never be known.

It is equally puzzling not to find the bones of the goat, as part of the remains of food deposits; since from the number of entire skeletons of this animal found in the graves, it seems to have been more common than the pig. May the latter have been domesticated, as at present, for its flesh only; while the former was mainly kept for the milk it gave; its flesh being tabooed?

The rudeness of this "Danes' Graves" pottery, with its one type and texture—we find no trace of any other—is a very striking feature, when compared with the many shapes, and often well-made and elaborately

⁹ Neither, I believe, were any found in the mounds at Arras.

ornamented food-vases and drinking-cups of the earlier Bronze age. This crude type of the "Danes' Graves" pottery becomes even more perplexing, when we find that in these interments it is associated with articles of refinement and beauty. This people possessed chariots fitted with bronze and iron fastenings for the horses' trappings, as well as beautifully-made ornaments of bronze and iron, such as pins to secure the hair, and fibulæ for fastening the garments. This marvellous contrast between their crude pottery and some of their other belongings compels us to ask the question: Did the "Danes' Graves" people manufacture the highly finished articles of bronze and iron as well as make the rude pottery—of which last there is no doubt—or were the articles of metal imported? The writer is inclined to the latter theory.

From what we have gathered, it does seem to me that these old settlers of the early Iron age, along the east coast ("Danes' Graves," Arras, and Scarborough)¹⁰ were squatters, that is waifs and strays from across the ocean. They appear to have held peaceable possession for a considerable time previous to the Roman invasion; though, apparently, keeping mainly to the coast line; as but few traces of similar interments have yet been found far inland.

It is almost certain that they are not the descendants of the long-headed people of the Neolithic and Bronze age, who previously occupied the district.

With regard to this point, I quote the following from Dr. Wm. Wright's description of twelve skulls. He says: "Perhaps, paying attention also to the measurements of the femora in the College of Surgeons, we may safely conclude that the people of the "Danes' Graves" were of a low to medium stature. As to their

¹⁰ Of the latter I opened six in 1895, an account of which is printed in the "East Riding Antiquarian Society's Transactions," Vol. III. All the bodies were in the last state of decay, and no accompanying relic was found; except what may have been a portion of the top stone of a saddle-mill.

general size, from the slender nature of their skeletons, I think we may regard them as of slight physique; although there is evidence of the presence of individuals of a more robust type. Having determined so much, and further that they were dolicho or mesaticephalic, with long oval faces, we have next to consider who they were and whence they came. The first question to which one naturally addresses oneself is: Are they descendants of the Neolithic and Bronze age populations, or are they later immigrants from the Continent? Although certainties are far beyond our grasp, and we are reduced to the balancing of probabilities, there is little doubt that the latter view is the correct one."¹¹

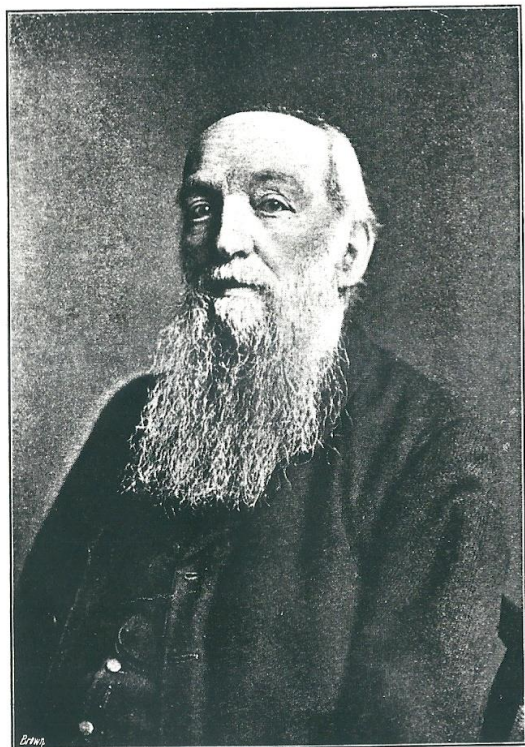
What further discovery may be made in the future is impossible to say; but I fully concur with Canon Greenwell's remarks that "It may be as a reason, it is hoped a good and sufficient one, why the skilled investigation of these sepulchral mounds should be continued. An examination of any one of them may disclose important, but hitherto unknown evidence, in relation to our predecessors in Britain, in the various phases of their life and habits."¹²

These remarks are the inspirations derived from long experience, and if carefully acted upon must lead to further interesting discoveries, which will increase our knowledge of the prehistoric occupants of East Yorkshire, of whom we as yet know so little, and must dig to know more.

¹¹ "Archæologia," Vol. LX., pp. 315-322.

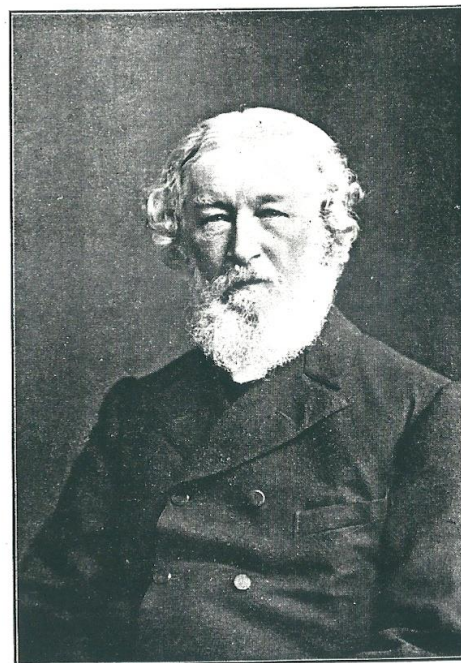
¹² "Archæologia, Vol. LX., pp. 251-322.

PLATE I.



*Yours truly
J. R. Mortimer*

PLATE II.



E. Maule