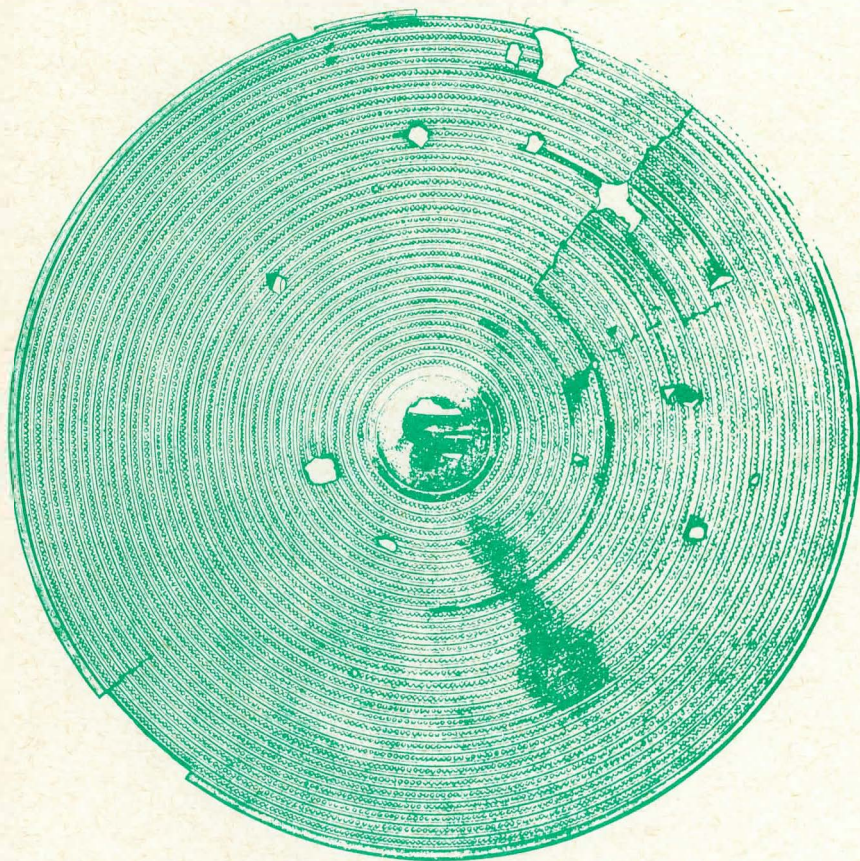


The Bronze Age in Ayrshire



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The choice of the former county as a unit within which to discuss Bronze Age sites and artifacts is a deliberate one, since most earlier records, particularly before the introduction of Grid References, made use of site-parish-county locations. In any case, the use of a modern or recent historico-Political division as a framework for pre-historic movements or activities can only be arbitrary. Evidence for these early periods of man's existence is scarce and cultural regions are extremely tentatively defined, the Bronze Age in particular being imperfectly known. While looking at Ayrshire, therefore, it is necessary to see the pattern, however lacking in detail, as part of the greater Scottish or even British Bronze Age and to remember that distribution maps show, more than anything else, areas of archaeological activity or of chance discoveries. In particular, lack of evidence for dwellings and settlements in general means that archaeological interpretation will have an undue bias towards burial ritual, pottery and bronze typology; find-sites of these elements of Bronze Age culture are nowhere necessarily coincident with distribution of settlement.

The physical map of Ayrshire (Map 1) shows a crescent-shaped area of lowland or rolling terrain, broadest in the central region west of Irvine and Ayr, backed by hills to north, east and south. Routes are provided by the main river valleys of Garnock, Irvine, Ayr, Doon, Girvan, Stinchar and the south-flowing Nith. Through-routes from the middle and upper Clyde are by the Lochwinnoch and Barrhead Gaps, the Avon/Irvine and Douglas Water/Ayr watersheds, from the Solway Firth by the Nith, Cree and Bladnoch/Duisk valleys. The sea-borne route by the Firth of Clyde was important in the early penetration of the region and close cultural contact with Ireland in the Bronze Age can be seen in pottery (particularly Food Vessel) and metalwork styles.

Archaeology has been defined as the recovery and interpretation of the material remains of man's past, and for most regions we have little more than these remains: stone tools, pottery sherds and, in favourable circumstances, a few objects of more perishable material such as metal and bone. Before the development of scientific forms of absolute dating, attempts were made to arrange these objects in some sort of sequence or typology. From 1816, Christian Thomsen, first curator of the National Museum of Denmark, arranged the prehistoric artifacts in the Danish

collections according to the material from which they had been manufactured — stone, bronze and iron. From these technological stages developed the Three Age system, Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, which, with further modifications and sub-divisions, is still with us. This allowed a form of relative dating of artifacts, first of all on the basis of their raw material, and later in terms of shape and decoration.

The ages have nowhere followed in regular succession. The Bronze Age civilisations of the Near East were well advanced when Britain was still in the Stone Age and there were varying degrees of overlap with other periods in other areas. The knowledge of metal working needed almost 2000 years to spread from the Near East and Eastern Europe to North-western Europe and the British Isles, so that the term 'Bronze Age' implies quite different calendar dates in different regions. In terms of our own area, the period may be taken to date from about 2000 to about 500 bc.

There are now several methods of dating prehistoric sites and materials, but the only technique mentioned in this paper is that of radiocarbon or Carbon-14 dating. By this method the amount of residual radio-activity in organic material (charcoal, wood, bone, peat, etc.) can be measured and, knowing the rate of natural decay of radio-active carbon (Carbon-14 or C 14), the time that has elapsed since the death of the organism can be calculated. In recent years it has been found necessary to re-calculate some of the dates obtained by this method, and in the following text dates in radiocarbon years are shown as bc, while dates in calendar years or radiocarbon years corrected to calendar years are shown as B.C.

The appearance of Beaker pottery in Late Neolithic contexts marks a period of change around the beginning of the second millenium bc. This occurrence has long been regarded as one of the most important folk movements identifiable in European and British prehistory, heralding changes in burial and ritual and introducing a knowledge of metal. A recent criticism of the idea of an invasion of 'Beaker Folk' (Burgess, 1976b) would substitute a diffusion of ideas of ritual or ceremonial, by way of inter-tribal contact or trade, accompanied by a 'package' which would include the pottery and associated artifacts. The suggestion has much in its favour, since several aspects of burial and ritual attributed to a Beaker 'invasion' are now known to have been developing since Middle Neolithic times. Among the most typical artifacts occurring with Beakers are tanged

copper knives and daggers, archers' wristguards of stone and barbed and tanged flint arrowheads. Only the arrowheads have been found in Ayrshire, at Ardeer and Shewalton Sands, at Kilmarnock (Smith, 1895) and on Lanfine Estate, Galston (Brown, 1878), but nowhere in a Beaker context. This is typical of the lack of datable associations with Bronze Age pottery in the county. Two recent studies of Beaker pottery in the area (Ritchie, 1970; Ritchie and Shepherd, 1973) show a variety of sites, of which four broad categories are recognised: sand dune areas, chambered tombs, individual cists and cairns, ring-cairns. The sand-dune sites, represented solely by Shewalton (No. 3 on Map 1. Numbers in parentheses after a place name show its position on the maps and its reference in the Catalogue on pages 143 et seq.), are the most likely contenders for Beaker settlements and this interpretation is borne out by recent work at Rosinish on the island of Benbecula (Shepherd, 1976), where traces of agricultural activity have been discovered in the subsoil beneath a Beaker midden in a sand-dune area. Similar sites are known at Luce Sands, Wigtownshire (Davidson, 1952; McInnes, 1964), Kilellan, Islay (Burgess, 1976a), Ardnarmurchan (Lethbridge, 1927), Udal, North Uist (Crawford and Switsur, 1977) and Northton, Isle of Harris, (Simpson, 1976) where two Beaker levels were dated to 1654 ± 70 bc and 1531 ± 54 bc. The Beaker sherds from Shewalton are of the All-Over-Cord ornamented style, an early step in the evolution of the pottery form (Lanting and Van der Waals, 1972), possibly earlier than the Northton Beakers.

The occurrence of Beakers as secondary insertions in the earlier Neolithic chambered tombs illustrates the continuity of native burial tradition and perhaps the ready absorption of whatever intrusive elements are represented in the Beaker assemblage. There are no examples of this in Ayrshire, the nearest being the Beaker sherds in the latest levels of the chambered tombs at Cairnholy I and II in Kirkcudbrightshire (Piggott and Powell, 1949). Most of the few Ayrshire Beakers are from cist or cairn burial sites, the only complete one being that from Courthill, Dalry (Fig. 1/2) which was buried in a pit under a small cairn (Cochran-Patrick, 1878).

By this time, the earliest copper and bronze metal-working had begun in Scotland, represented by the hoards of bronze artifacts discovered at Migdale, in Sutherland, and Colleopard, in Banffshire (Coles, 1969b), but there are no artifacts of these stages associated with the Ayrshire

Beakers. The sheet-bronze band armlet from a cairn at Cairn Table (Map 2, 74) is similar to one accompanied by a Beaker from Knipton, Leicestershire (Fairbairn, 1934; Henshall, 1964); the somewhat debased herring-bone design on the Cairn Table armlet resembles the decoration on some Irish Early Bronze Age flat axes, and to some extent the pattern on the flat bronze axe from Bog Farm, Stevenston (Fig. 3/59). Representative also of this phase is the hoard from The Maidens, Kirkoswald (Munro, 1884), containing five flat bronze axes and a bronze bar armlet (63, 76). Solitary examples of Early Bronze Age metalwork are the midrib dagger from Aird's Moss (75), the halberd from Moss-side, near Crossraguel Abbey (Fig. 4/78) and the tanged spearhead of Arreton Down type from Whitehaugh Moss, Muirkirk (Fig. 4/70).

Much more numerous are the sites of burials with Food Vessel and Cinerary Urn pottery. From twenty-two Ayrshire Food Vessels, the circumstances of burial are known, wholly or partially, for only sixteen. Of these, ten were in cists — seven with inhumations and two with cremations — five were under cairns or mounds apparently without cist or other protection, and one, at Doonfoot (17), was on a laid stone pavement below a later cist (Davidson and Scott, 1967). Bowl and Vase traditions are almost equally represented. A good example of the Irish (Tripartite) Bowl is the vessel from Maybole (19) now in the Hunterian Museum, and the Yorkshire Vase influence can be seen in one of the vessels from Skeldon (Fig. 1/18). Hybrids are suggested by the Beaker/Food Vessel from Skeldon (Fig. 2/18), the Cinerary Urn/Food Vessel from Pun Brae, Stevenston (Morrison, 1971) and the Vase from Doonfoot of Machrie design — seen as an essentially Irish bowl form influenced by the taller Cordoned Urn (Davidson and Scott, 1967). Grave goods are almost completely absent; a flint knife lay beside the Machrie Vase under the later cist at Doonfoot, and a plectrum-shaped jet object accompanied the Yorkshire Vase in a cist at Auchenharvie, Stevenston (9). The New Statistical Account (vol. 5, 1845, pp. 454-5) reported the discovery, in 1832, at Little Dubbs (now Ardeer Mains), Stevenston, of a causeway built of stones, six yards long and two feet broad, at a depth of five feet below ground level. At one end lay a boulder weighing about a ton and at the other a stone coffin three feet in length and two feet in breadth. The coffin contained two urns and five jet buttons. The largest button was more than an inch in diameter, they were concave on one side and convex on the other with knobs for attaching them. This was certainly

a cist burial, and the urns may well have been Food Vessels, since the buttons are unlike the more widely-known flat-based jet buttons with V-perforations normally associated with Beaker burials. There are no traces in Ayrshire of the jet spacer-plate necklaces which often accompanied Food Vessels in cist burials; the nearest example is from the site at Houston, Renfrewshire (Morrison, 1976).

Cinerary Urns outnumber Beakers and Food Vessels in the region; the main types are Bucket-shaped, Collared and Cordoned. Collared Urns have usually been found inverted and this, together with their very small base diameter in proportion to overall size, suggests them as a cover rather than a container for cremated bones. Two of the largest in South-west Scotland are those from Girvan (35) and Moat Hill, Ochiltree (Fig. 2/29). A cover of some sort may have been tied over the mouths of these urns, facilitated by the large collar and, in many cases, deep neck. Cordoned Urns have also been found in mainly inverted positions. Bucket-shaped Urns are in the majority in Ayrshire, but this is something of an over-emphasis since the type is represented entirely by the cemeteries at Largs (20) and Stevenston (23), whereas the other forms are more evenly distributed over the region (Map 1). The Stevenston urns have been described as Bucket-shaped, but this refers really to about half of the total number, which resemble the true bucket urns from Nelson Street, Largs, described by Childe (1946, 127) as Old Keig urns; the others, although having the bucket form, are decorated with Cordoned Urn motifs or have incipient cordons or mouldings near the rim (Morrison, 1968; Ap Simon, 1972). Bucket-shaped Urns were usually deposited in an upright position and four of those from the cairn at Misk Knowes, Ardeer, Stevenston, had their contents sealed by a plug of half-baked or unbaked clay, one having six small white quartz pebbles and a reddish quartz pebble embedded in the clay (Mann, 1906). The occurrence of urns in groups or cemeteries greatly outnumbers instances of single finds, and many existing single urns are, in fact, survivors of groups which were dispersed and lost after, or destroyed at the time of, discovery. There are many reports in Smith (1895) and other 19th century chronicles of pottery "crumbling to dust on exposure to the air." Cemeteries consist of cairns, ring-cairns or mounds of earth and stones as at Ardeer, Stevenston (23), Eglinton, Kilwinning (24), Monkton (26), Coylton (27), Ochiltree (30), Muirkirk (32), Straiton (38), Beoch and Rig Hill, New Cumnock (33); flat cemeteries, apparently without boundary, as at Largs (20), Monkton (26) and Girvan (35).

At Doonfoot (28) the Cordoned urn was inverted in its own small cist, the fourth side of which was formed by the end slab of the larger cist containing the later of the two Food Vessel burials (17). As with Beakers and Food Vessels, associated material with Cinerary Urns is scarce. One of the Largs (20) Collared Urns which was smashed had a stone mace-head (40) near it and the Cordoned Urn from Chapelton Farm, West Kilbride (22) contained a stone battle-axe of Roe's (1967) Scotsburn Group. Another Cordoned Urn from West Kilbride, at Fences Farm (21), contained a single discoidal bead of jet or lignite. The Collared Urn from High Glencairn Street, Kilmarnock (25) contained three barbed and tanged flint arrowheads and a Collared Urn from Muirkirk (32) was inverted over a Pygmy Vessel (37). In the cairn on Misk Knowes, Ardeer, Stevenston, the smallest of the urns contained the cremation of what was said to be a 'young slender person, possibly a girl.' Apart from the cremation, the urn contained two small white quartz pebbles (such as have been found in or in association with other urns in the cairn and in many other sites of Bronze Age burials), traces of thin gold leaf and three beads, two cylindrical and segmented, the third star-shaped with nine points, of a "grey vitreous paste" — a version of faience. Beads of this material, of a variety of shapes, have been found in Ardeer Sands and Luce Sands; they have been seen by some authorities as of probable local manufacture, those from the west of Scotland deriving perhaps from a centre in the Luce Sands area (Mann, 1906; Newton and Renfrew, 1970). The most recent analysis, however, would see the beads rather as Near Eastern in origin, ultimately from Eighteenth Dynasty Egypt, arriving in Britain perhaps around 1450 \pm 50 BC (McKerrell, 1972).

Something of the hardships of life at this period is suggested by the remains from the cremation cemetery at Coalpots Road, Girvan (35). The larger Cordoned Urn contained the cremated remains of a female of about 20-22 years, accompanied by the remains of an infant in about the seventh month of intrauterine life (MacKie, 1966). In a study of female mortality in ancient times Wells (1975) has recently suggested that evidence for a high incidence of malnutritional defects among females could indicate that in some ancient societies males were allowed the best food and were thus more resistant to disease and stress than the females.

Five Pygmy Vessels are known from Ayrshire. This pottery style, formerly known as Incense Cups, Accessory

Vessels or Pygmy Cups, is most often found in association with Cinerary Urns — those from Beith (36), Muirkirk (37) and Straiton (38) were either in or under Cinerary Urns, probably Collared. Pygmy Vessels in general range in size from 5 cm diameter and 2 cm in height to about 12 cm diameter and 8 cm in height. Some few actually contained cremations or parts of cremations. The Pygmy Vessel found mouth upwards under an inverted Collared Urn at Marchhouse, Muirkirk, contained a fine ash in which were a bronze awl, a fragment of unworked green chert and a bone pin 18.7 cm in length, stuck vertically into the ash. The rather large Pygmy Vessel from Gennoch, Straiton (Fig. 2/38) has a baked clay cover or lid with a perforation near the centre. It was probably inside a cinerary urn in a mound with possibly a dozen other urns and several Pygmy Vessels (Macdonald, 1878), and contained cremated bones and ashes — suggested as those of a 5-6 year old child — among which were two fragments of a bronze pin. Pygmy Vessels at Rig Hill, New Cumnock (39) accompanied unurned cremations in an enclosed cremation cemetery (McLeod, 1938). At an enclosed cremation cemetery on Whitestanes Moor, Dumfriesshire, a Pygmy Vessel accompanied an unurned cremation in a pit containing charcoal dated to 1360 \pm 90 bc (Scott-Elliot and Rae, 1965).

A recent addition to our evidence for Bronze Age burials in Ayrshire has been provided by the partial excavation at Knockjargon, near Ardrossan, of a cairn which covered a small cist containing a broken vessel and cremated bones. A second cremation had been placed just inside the main kerb and near to this a small bronze razor was found. (P. Crew, personal communication).

Apart from those already mentioned in association with Cinerary Urns, the stone battle-axes and axe-hammers of Ayrshire are mainly single finds without associations. The battle-axe from Fardenreech, Colmonell (Fig. 3/56) was discovered under a cairn with human bones (Smith, 1895, 218). It is of Roe's Calais Wold Group (Roe, 1967); a battle-axe of this type was associated with a Cordoned Urn at Oban, Argyllshire, and another was recovered from an otherwise empty cist at Ormsary, Knapdale, Argyllshire (Morris, 1972).

Cup and ring markings are associated with the Bronze Age, although their symbolic function cannot be adequately explained. They are found on standing stones, cist slabs and rock surfaces, mainly in the Highland Zone of Britain, but they are not well represented in Ayrshire (Morris, 1967;

Morris and Bailey, 1966); the best example is the rock face at Blackshaw Hill, West Kilbride (Fig. 6) (Smith, 1895, 12-20; Smith and Boyd, 1889), consisting of a wide range of single cups and groups, concentric rings, channels, etc. Two "moveable" examples are the carvings on the cover of a cist from Coilsfield, Tarbolton (13) which contained an urn (probably Food Vessel) and cremation (Wilson, 1851, 332-333; Simpson, 1866, 27-8 and Plate XIII), and the ring-marked cist slab from the cairn at Beoch, New Cumnock (McLeod, 1938).

The so-called 'Middle Bronze Age' has little to define it beyond metalwork typology. Burgess (1974) recognises this as a hiatus, with the disappearance of Early Bronze Age pottery forms, burial rites and ritual connected with standing stones, alignments and circles, due probably to a climatic change of sufficient magnitude to cause religious re-orientation, economic difficulty and a possible uphill movement of settlement in many areas. Developments, therefore, must be traced in the evolution of bronze artifacts. The axe is represented in its flanged and palstave forms, the dirk and rapier (Fig. 4/77 and cover) owe something to the Early Bronze dagger, and the spearhead develops through looped and socketed forms. The phase is represented in Ayrshire mainly by Class II and III flanged axes (Coles, 1964). The site at Auchendrane, Maybole (65) has given its name to a particular type of flanged axe. The only other representative find from the Middle Bronze Age is the rapier, 38 cm in length, from Kirkoswald (Fig. 4/77). A hoard from Glentworth, Kirkcudbrightshire, has given its name to the latest industrial phase of the Middle Bronze Age in Scotland. The only object it contains in common with Ayrshire finds is a Class III flanged axe; the phase represented by the hoard dates to about the eleventh century BC.

Evidence for the Late Bronze Age is also restricted mainly to finds of individual bronze artifacts or hoards. Burial practices and ritual in general are practically unknown, although it is possible that the rite of cremation continued but without identifiable pottery. Much that was formerly thought to be Early Iron Age in date is now known to have been developing in the Late Bronze Age, particularly hillforts and some types of settlement (MacKie, 1971). The possibility that climatic change and increasing wetness in the Middle Bronze Age caused a movement in some affected areas to hilltop sites has already been suggested. At Kaimes Hill hillfort in Midlothian, charcoal from a hut gave

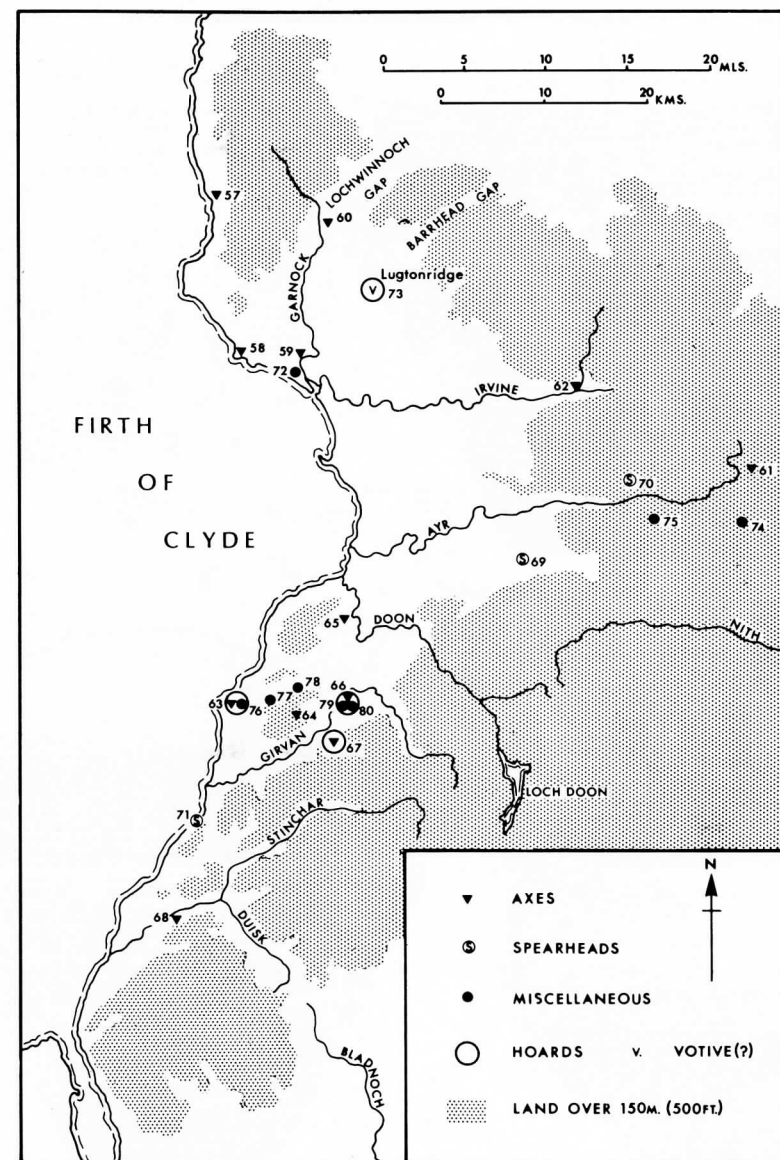
a date of 1191 ± 90 bc, several hundred years before the hilltop was fortified, an indication of *Hohensiedlung* ("high settlement") as early as the Middle Bronze Age. At Craigmarloch Wood, Renfrewshire, a palisaded enclosure was dated to 590 ± 40 bc, perhaps an example of Late Bronze Age population pressure and the necessity to defend land and stock. There are no examples of Late Bronze Age settlements or defended sites in Ayrshire, but controlled scientific excavation may yet uncover some evidence of these features.

The socketed axe, developing in the later Middle Bronze Age, is predominant among finds of the Late Bronze Age. An example of the ribbed type is that from Maybole (Fig. 4/65) and the other forms are well represented, particularly in the hoards from Dalduff and Kilkerran (66, 67). A mould for casting socketed axes, made of mica schist, was found at Ardrossan and is now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (58). A major development of the Late Bronze Age was the increase in the use of sheet bronze, the technology of which is seen at its best in the riveted sheets of buckets and cauldrons with wire-strengthened rims, ring handles and cast staples (Coles, 1960). The hoard from Dalduff, Maybole (79) may have included two cauldrons, but only the ring handles and staples have survived. This type of vessel dates to between 750 and 650 BC. To the same period belong the beaten bronze shields of the type from Lugtonridge, Beith (Fig. 5 and cover). These were probably beaten out from an ingot of bronze and the rim strengthened, as in the manufacture of buckets and cauldrons, by being turned over a bronze wire (Coles, 1962). That these rather thin (.025-.050 cm in thickness) metal shields were meant perhaps for ceremonial or ritual use rather than protection in battle is demonstrated in an experiment in which a modern copy of a bronze shield was attacked with a leaf-shaped bronze sword of a type common in the Late Bronze Age. One slashing blow cut completely through the shield, leaving only the bronze rim wire holding the two parts together (Coles, 1962, 185). The Beith shield is 68 cm in diameter with a large central boss behind which is a sheet bronze handle attached by rivets. It has a decoration of 29 concentric circles of small punched bosses separated by 29 concentric embossed ribs. The shield is reported to have been found on the farm of "Lugtonrigge" near Giffen Castle, during the casting of peats in the late 1770's, six or seven feet below the surface of a peat moss (Evans, 1878). Four or five more were dug out at the same time

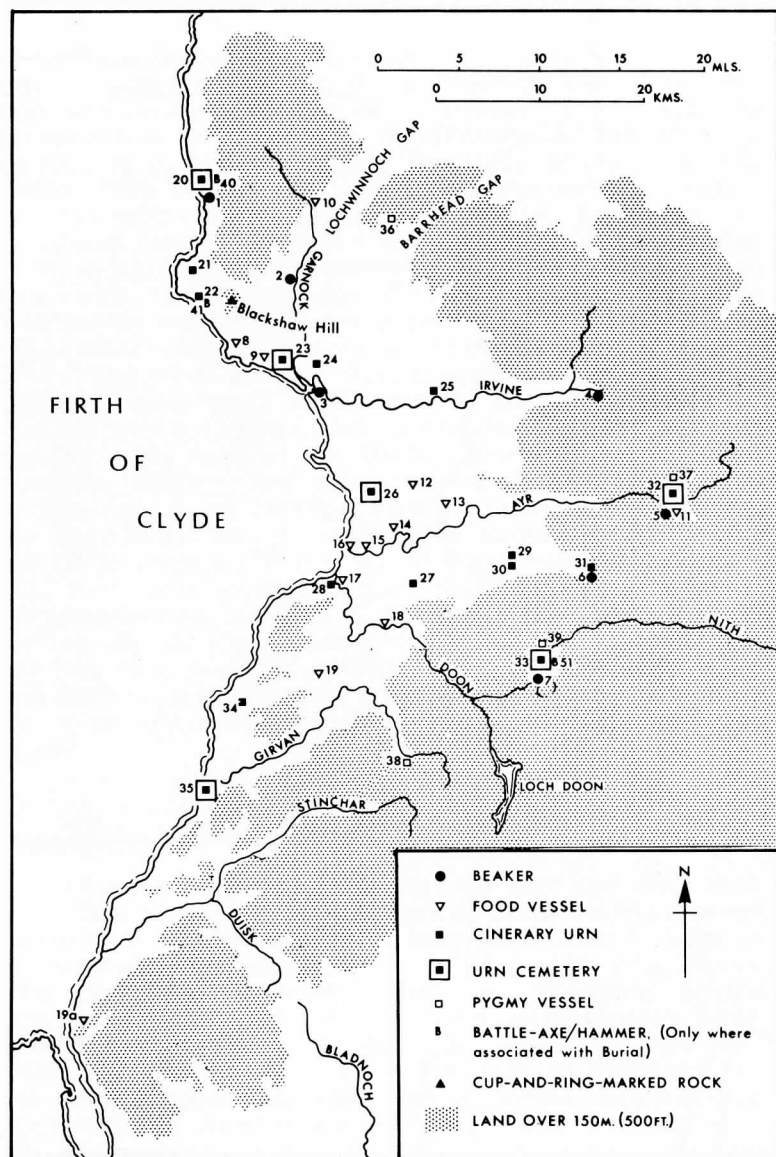
and they were observed to have been regularly placed in a ring. Labourers disposed of the others before the information was received by the estate owner. The shield was presented to the Society of Antiquaries, London, in 1791. In support of his suggestion of climatic change, Burgess (1974, 196) proposes a mainly 'water-oriented' religion for the later Bronze Age, with a high percentage of metalwork deposits in 'wet sites'. Coles (1962) notes that of three dozen British Bronze Age shields, thirty had been recovered from peat bogs or rivers. From what little information survives, it would seem that the Beith shield might have been part of a votive deposit in a bog or shallow lake. The other bronzes from this period are the looped socketed spearheads from Ochiltree and Girvan (69, 71), and the sword fragments which covered the pot containing the socketed axes of the Dalduff hoard (80). It is not possible to follow any pottery styles through to the Late Bronze Age, apart, perhaps, from the least distinguished — the flat-rimmed and bucket-shaped forms represented by the Largs cemetery and a few of those from Misk Knowes (20, 23), which resemble some Late Bronze Age forms, particularly from the east of Scotland. The breakdown of old sub-divisions and terminology is even more obvious in the first millennium BC, where growing evidence for early construction of hillforts and protected settlements is blurring the once-conventional division between Bronze and Iron Ages.

Postscript

At a meeting held in Ayr on the 19th October, 1877, under the presidency of the Earl of Stair, Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Wigtonshire, it was determined to form an *Archaeological Association for Ayrshire and Wigtonshire*. The Earl of Stair was elected first President of the Association and R. W. Cochran-Patrick of Woodside, Beith, was elected Secretary for Ayrshire. From the 29th July, 1885, with the inclusion of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, the title of the society was changed to the *Archaeological Association of Ayrshire and Galloway*. The first volume of the *Archaeological and Historical Collections relating to the Counties of Ayr and Wigton* was published in 1878, the title changing to "*Ayr and Galloway*" with Volume V (1885). Much of the basic material for a knowledge of the Bronze Age in Ayrshire was contained in the first half-dozen volumes of the *Collections* and some of the original engravings have been used to illustrate this paper.



Map 1 — Distribution of Early Bronze Age pottery and burial sites in Ayrshire. Numbers as in Catalogue.



Map 2 — Distribution of Bronze Age metalwork (hoards and individual finds) in Ayrshire. Numbers as in Catalogue.

Fig. 1 — Beaker from Courthill, Dalry (2); Food Vessels from Law Farm, Tarbolton (12), Skeldon, Dalrymple (18), Content, St. Quivox (14). Scale 1:2.

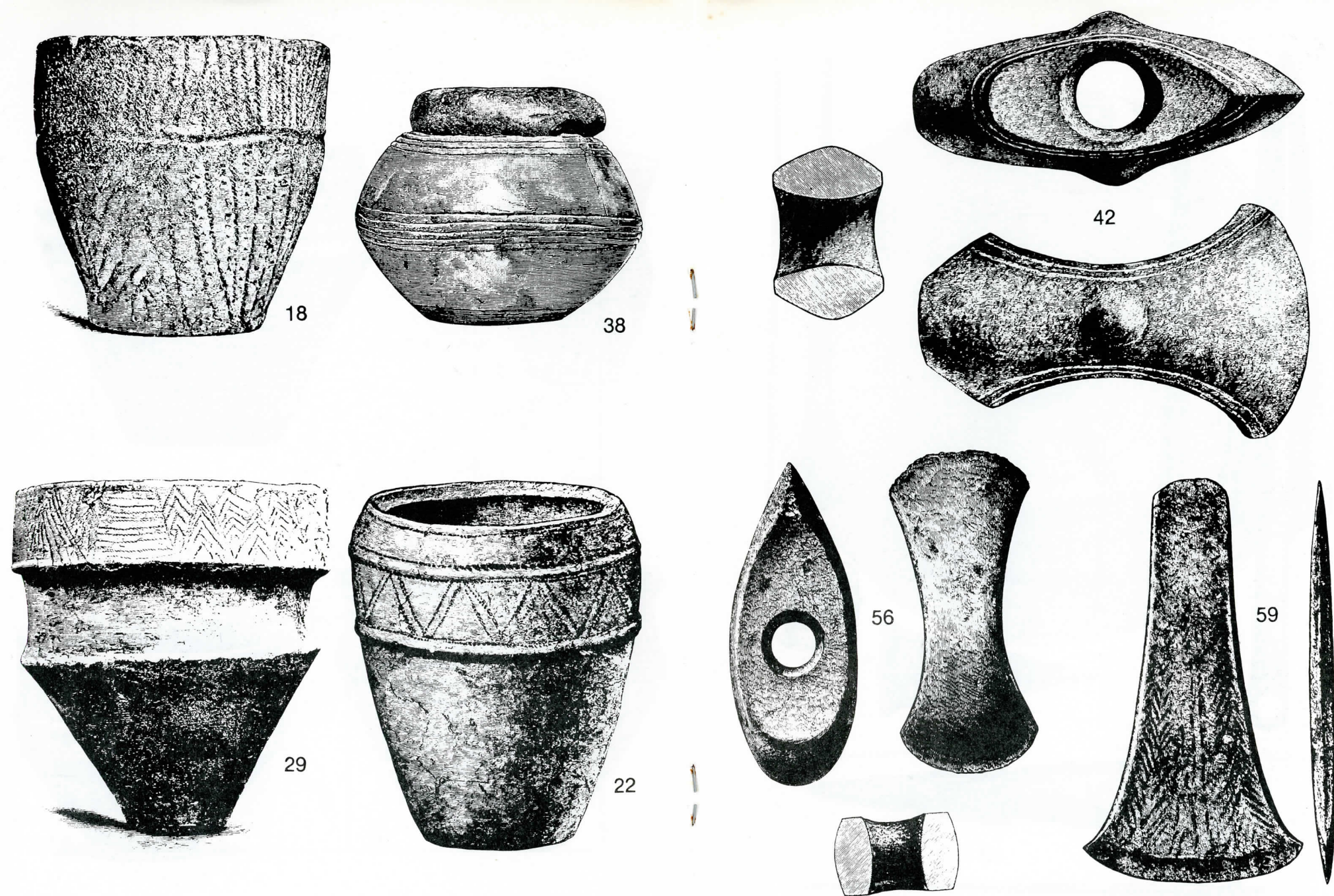


Fig. 2 — Food Vessel from Skeldon, Dalrymple (18); Pygmy Vessel from Gennoch, Straiton (38); Collared Urn from Moathill, Ochiltree (29); Cordoned Urn from Seamill, West Kilbride (22). Scale (18, 38) 1:2, (29) 1:6, (22) 1:4. Numbers as in Catalogue.

Fig. 3 — Battle-axes from Montfode Braes, Ardrossan (42), Fardenreoch, Colmonell (56); flat decorated bronze axe from Bog Farm, Stevenston (59). Scale (42) 2:3, (56, 59) 1:2. Numbers as in Catalogue.

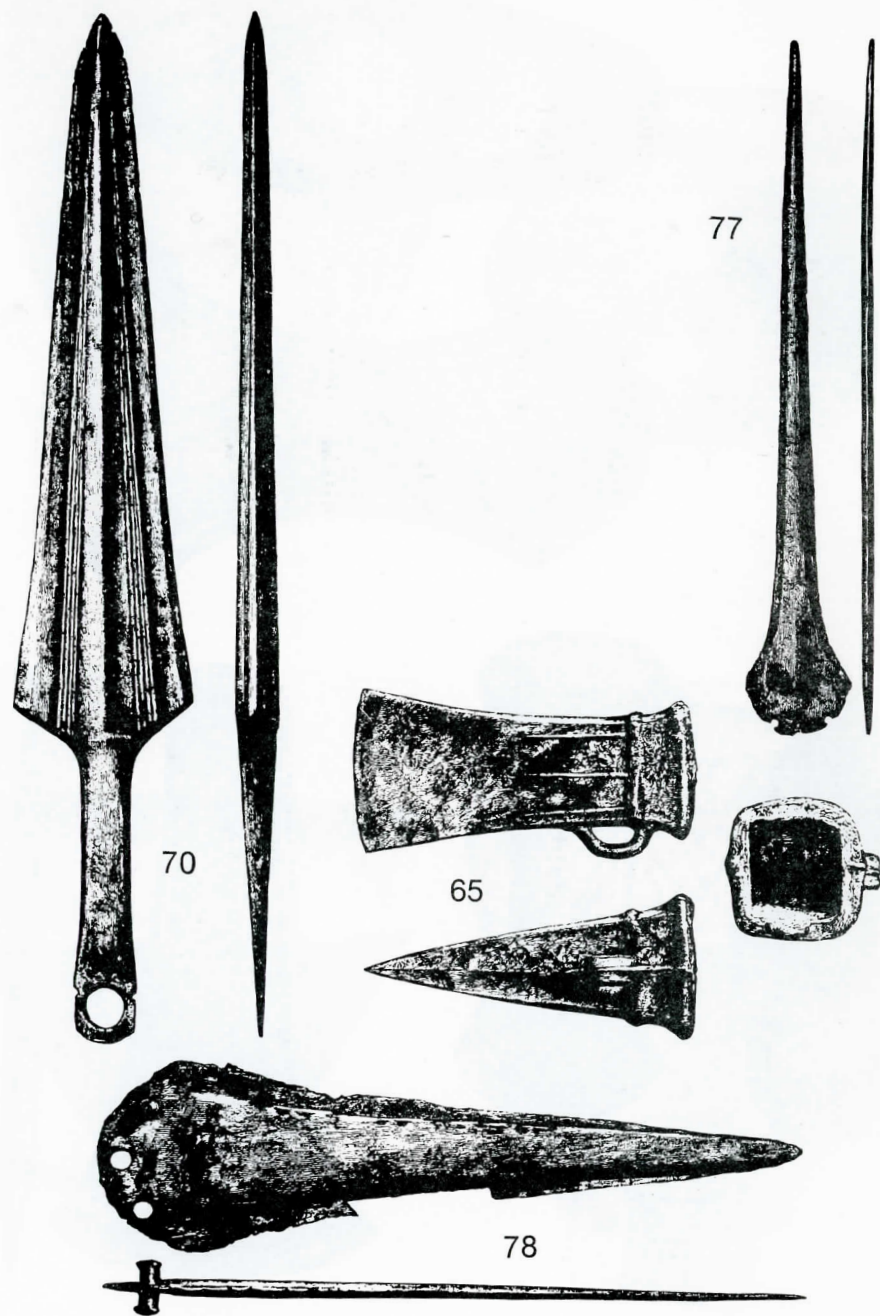


Fig. 4 — Tanged spearhead from Whitehaugh Moss, Muirkirk (70); rapier from Kirkoswald (77); socketed bronze axe from Maybole (65); halberd from Moss-side, near Crossraguel (78). Scale (70, 65) 1:2, (77, 78) 1:4. Numbers as in Catalogue.

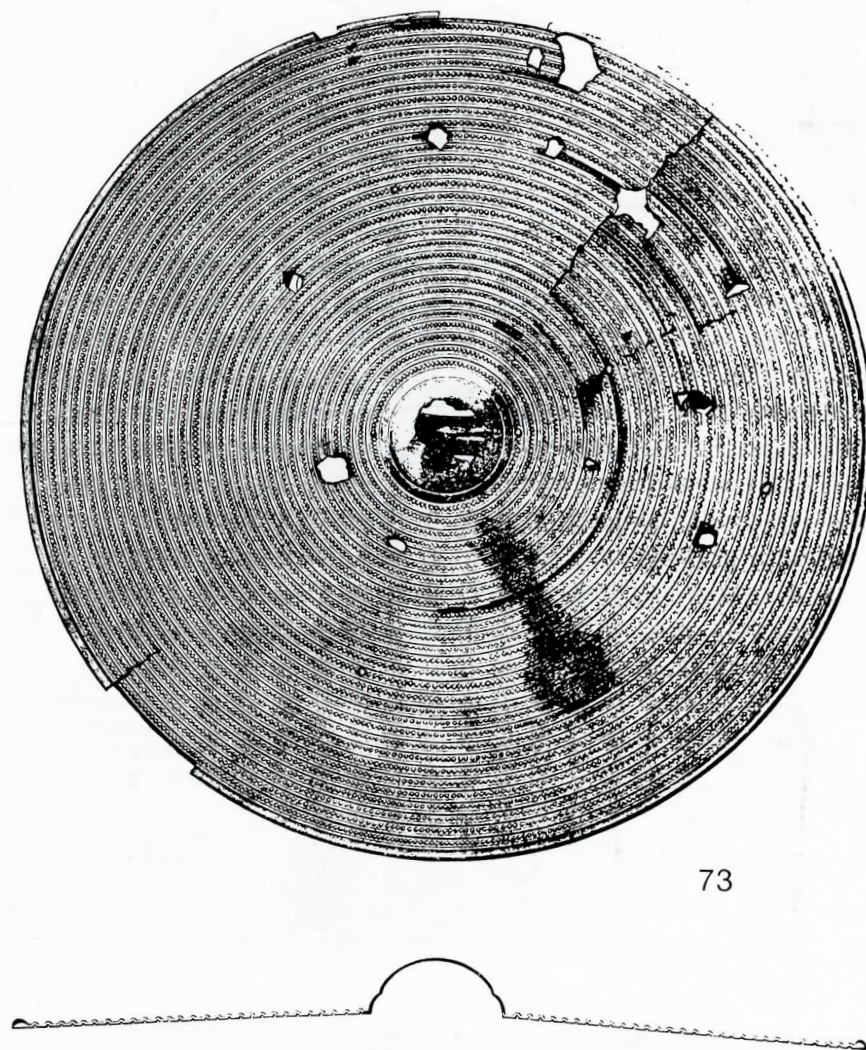
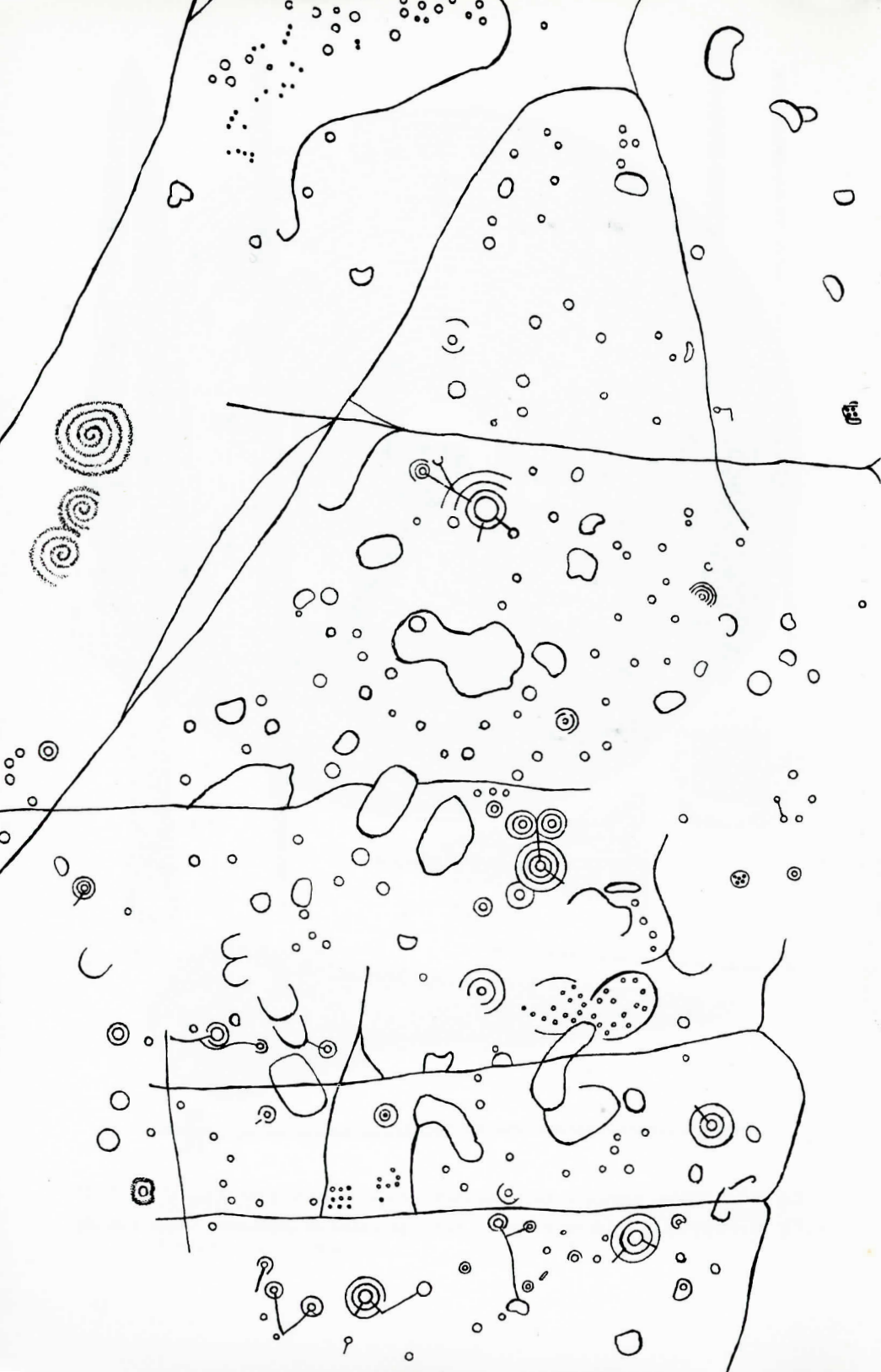


Fig. 5 — Beaten bronze shield from Lugtonridge, Beith (73). Scale 1:6.
Fig. 6 (overleaf) — Carvings from a sandstone rock at Blackshaw, West Kilbride.



CATALOGUE

No. on Map	Site	Type	Burial	Present Loc.
<i>Beakers</i>				
1	Haylee (Haylie), Largs	Fragmentary Beaker	Cist, inhumation	Lost
2*	Courthill, Dalry	Whole Beaker	Pit under cairn	NMA
3	Shewalton Moor, Dundonald	Sherds of several Beakers	Sand dune site	Green. Kilm. NMA
4	Loudoun Hill Roman Fort, Galston	Single sherd		NMA
5	Muirkirk (4 sites)	Several Beakers	Cairns and cremation cemeteries	NMA
6	Borland Castle Hill, Old Cumnock	Beaker rim sherd	Sand pit	Lost
7	Beoch, New Cumnock	Several sherds	Cist (?) in cairn	NMA
	"Merkland Knowe" (location unknown)	Single sherd		NMA
<i>Food Vessels</i>				
8	Waterworks, Ardrossan (2)	Irish Bowls	Cist, inhumation	BM
	Kirkhill, Ardrossan	Beaker/Food Vessel	Cist, cremation	NMA
9	Auchenharvie, Stevenston	Yorkshire Vase	Cist	Salt.
	Pun Brae, Stevenston	Cin. Urn/F. Vessel	Cist	Salt.
	Townhead, Stevenston (2)	Irish Bowls	Cist, inhumation	Glas.
10	Ladyland, Kilbirnie	?	Cairn, cremation	Lost
11	Wether Hill, Muirkirk	Fragments	Cremation cemetery	NMA
12*	Law Farm, Tarbolton	Vase tradition	Cairn	?
13	Coilsfield, Tarbolton	?	Cist, cremation	Lost
14*	Content, St. Quivox (2)	Vase tradition	Mound	NMA
15	Wallacetown, Ayr	Vase tradition		NMA
16	Ayr	Vase tradition		Hunt.
17	Doonfoot (2+)	Vase tradition, Machrie Vase	Cists, inhumation	Glas.

No. on Map	Site	Type	Burial	Present Loc.
18*	Skeldon, Dalrymple (2)	Yorkshire Vase, Beaker/Food Vessel		Ayr
19	Maybole (2)	Irish (Tripartite) Bowls		Ayr Hunt.
19a	Finnart Hill, Ballantrae	Irish (Tripartite) Bowl	Cairn, cist	NMA
<i>Cinerary Urns</i>				
20	Nelson Street, Largs (11+)	Collared and bucket-shaped	Cist and pits	Hunt. Glas.
21	Fences Farm, West Kilbride	Cordoned urn	Pit	NMA
22*	Seamill and West Kilbride (7)	Collared and Cordoned urns		Glas. NMA
23	Misk Knowes, Stevenston (16+)	Bucket-shaped, Cordoned, Biconical	Cairn cemetery	Glas. Salt. Kilm.
24	Eglinton, Kilwinning	Cordoned urn	Tumulus	NMA
25	High Glencairn Street, Kilmarnock	Collared urn		Kilm.
26	Whiteside, Monkton (2+)	Collared urn	Urnfield beside poss. ring-cairn	NMA
27	Carlin Hill, Coylton	Cordoned urn	Mound	Glas.
28	Doonfoot (1+)	Cordoned urn	Small cist	Lost
29*	Moathill, Ochiltree	Collared urn		Ayr
30	Ochiltree	Cordoned urn	Small mound	Ayr
31	Borland Castle Hill, Old Cumnock	Collared urn	Pit	Glas.
	Old Cumnock (2)	Collared urns	Cist	Glas.
32	Wetherhill, Muirkirk	Collared urn	Cairn	NMA
	Marchhouse, Muirkirk	Collared urn	Enclosed cremation cemetery	NMA
33	Rig Hill, New Cumnock	Collared urn	Cairn, cists	NMA
	Beoch, New Cumnock (3)	Several fragments	Cairn, cists	NMA
34	Kirklands Farm, Kirkoswald	Collared urn	Pit	NMA
35	Coalpots Road, Girvan (2)	Cordoned urns	Pit	Hunt.
	Girvan	Collared urn		Hunt.

No. on Map	Site	Type	Burial	Present Loc.
<i>Pygmy Vessels</i>				
36	Townend of Threepwood, Beith	Biconical, two perforations	In cinerary urn	NMA
37	Marchhouse Muirkirk	Biconical, 18 perforations	Under Collared urn (32)	NMA
38*	Gennoch, Straiton	Biconical, two perforations	Mound, with cinerary urns	Ayr
39	Rig Hill, New Cumnock (2)	Globular, with omphalos	Cairn with cremations and urn (33)	NMA
		Biconical, two perforations	Cairn with cremations and urn (33)	NMA
<i>Battle-axe/hammers</i>				
40	Nelson Street, Largs	Mace-head	Poss. in urn (20)	Glas.
41	Chapelton Farm, West Kilbride	Battle-axe (Scotsburn Group)	In Cordoned urn (22)	NMA
42*	Montfode Braes, Ardrossan	Battle-axe (Codford St Peter Group)		Glas.
43	Eglinton, Kilwinning	Battle-axe?		Lost
44	Beith	Axe-hammer		NMA
45	Kilmarnock	Axe-hammer		Kilm.
46	Drybridge, Dundonald	Axe-hammer		Kilm.
47	Auchans Castle, Dundonald	Axe-hammer		Kilm.
48	Craigie	Axe-hammer		NMA
49	Blindburn, Sorn	Axe-hammer		NMA
50	Lugar, Auchinleck	Battle-axe (Wilsford Group)		NMA
51	Rig Hill, New Cumnock	Battle-axe (Scotsburn Group)	Cairn, as Collared urn (33)	NMA
52	Moat (?) Ochiltree	Axe-hammer		Lost
53	Lochlands, Maybole	Axe-hammer		Lost
54	Hallowsheen Farm, Kirkoswald	Battle-axe (Crichie Group)		Glas.
55	Kilkerran, Dailly	Axe-hammer		Glas.
56*	Fardenreoch, Colmonell	Battle-axe (Calais Wold Group)		Lost
	Prieston, Colmonell	Axe-hammer (fluted)		NMA
	Laggansarroch, Colmonell	Axe-hammer		NMA

No. on Map	Site	Type	Burial	Present Loc.
Bronze Axes				
57	Largs (2)	Flanged, Class II (Auchendrane) & III (Kirkless)		NMA NMA
58	Ardrossan	Socketed axe mould		Ashm.
59*	Bog Farm, Stevenston	Flat axe (Type Bb)		Salt.
60	Ladyland, Kilbirnie	Flanged, Class I		NMA
61	West Glenbuck, Muirkirk	Flanged, Class III (Auchterhouse)		NMA
62	Law, Darvel	Socketed axe, Bag type		Kilm.
63	Maidens, Kirkoswald (5)	Flat axes (2Bb, 3Ba)	Hoard	NMA
64	Craigdow Farm, Kirkoswald	Flanged, Class III		Priv.
65	Auchendrane, Maybole	Flanged, Class II (Auchendrane)		NMA
*	near Maybole	Socketed axe, Rib type		NMA
66	Dalduff, Maybole (4)	Socketed, 3 Rib, 1 Bag type	Hoard	NMA
67	Kilkerran, Dailly (5)	Socketed, 1 Rib, 1 Bag, 3 Rect-angular	Hoard	Kilk.
68	Bardochat, Colmonell	Flanged, Class III		McEw.
	Overmills	Flanged, Class II (Auchendrane)		Ayr
	Muirhead	Socketed, Bag Type		NMA
	Ayrshire	Palstave		NMA
	Ayrshire	Socketed, Rect-angular		Smith
	Ayrshire	Socketed, Rect-angular		Dumf.
Spearheads				
69	Ochiltree	Class IV		Hunt.
70*	Whitehaugh Moss, Muirkirk	Tanged, Class A		NMA
71	Ardmillan, Girvan	Class IVb		NMA

No. on Map	Site	Type	Burial	Present Loc.
Miscellaneous				
72	Ardeer Sands, Stevenston	Socketed gouge		NMA
73*	Lugtonridge, Beith	Bronze shield, Yetholm type	Hoard?	Ant.
74	Cairn Table, Muirkirk (2)	Bronze armlet and ring	Cairn	NMA
75	Aird's Moss, Auchinleck	Midrib dagger		Hunt.
76	Maidens, Kirkoswald	Bronze armlet	Hoard	NMA
77*	Kirkoswald	Rapier		?
78*	Moss-side, nr Crossraguel, Kirkoswald	Halberd		NMA
79	Dalduff, Maybole (2)	Remains of bronze cauldrons	Hoard	NMA Kilk.
80	Dalduff, Maybole	Sword fragments	Hoard	NMA

* Indicates object is illustrated.

Abbreviations used in Catalogue

Ant.	Museum of the Society of Antiquaries, London
Ashm.	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Ayr	Carnegie Library and Museum, Ayr
BM	British Museum, London
Dumf.	Dumfries Burgh Museum
Glas.	Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum
Green.	Greenock Museum
Hunt	Hunterian Museum of the University of Glasgow
Kilk.	Kilkerran House
Kilm.	Dick Institute, Kilmarnock
McEw.	MacEwen Collection
NMA	National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Edinburgh
Salt.	North Ayrshire Museum, Saltcoats
Smith	Smith Institute, Stirling

Years bc	Sub- divisions	Developments in Pottery and Metalwork	Sites in Ayrshire	Years bc
400				400
500				500
600		Hallstatt B and C elements appearing		600
700	Late Bronze Age	Sheet bronze Buckets and Cauldrons	Dalduff (79, 80) Kilkerran (67)	700
800		Bronze Shields	Lugtonridge, Beith (73)	800
900		Leaf-shaped Swords	Law, Darvel (62) Ardrossan (58)	900
1000		Socketed Axes		1000
1100	Middle Bronze Age	?		1100
1200		Bucket-shaped urns (?)		1200
1300		Dirks and rapiers	Kirkoswald (77)	1300
1400		Palstaves	Ochiltree (69)	1400
1500	Early Bronze Age	Cast-flanged Axes	Auchendrane (65) Doonfoot (17)	1500
1600		Riveted Daggers	Nelson St., Largs (20)	1600
1700		Food Vessels	Maidens (63, 76)	1700
1800		Cinerary Urns	Courthill, Dalry (2)	1800
1900	Late Copper Age	Halberds	Shewalton (3)	1900
2000		Tanged Knives and Daggers		2000
		Beakers		

Bronze Age Chronological Stages and Developments

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