

A type of ornament very rare in Scotland, and occasionally found in England, is a cylindrical piece of jet thickening slightly towards the middle and pierced with a lenticular slot extending the greater part of its length, which, it has been suggested, may have been used as a belt mounting, or fastener. The only Scottish examples recorded were found in the island of Skye and in a segmented cairn at Beacharra, Kintyre, Argyllshire.¹ The first, preserved in the National Museum, measures 3 inches in length, and the second (fig. 7), now in Campbeltown Museum, $3\frac{5}{16}$ inches. As the Beacharra example was found in a segmented cairn, it might be considered to belong to the late Stone Age, but it was found not at the bottom of the chamber, where the round-based urns were placed, but near the surface of the debris in the grave, showing that it must have come there at a time subsequent to the deposition of the pottery. Clearer evidence regarding the period of this class of object has been forthcoming in England, as several have been found in Bronze Age graves in Yorkshire. Canon Greenwell has figured an example almost identical with those found in Scotland,² and Mr J. R. Mortimer records three,³ all from Yorkshire. Two of the last-mentioned examples are slightly thicker than the Scottish specimens, and the ends of the slot are not so sharp; the third is shorter, and the hole is wider in proportion to the length. An object of somewhat similar type, which was found on Hambleton Moor, also in Yorkshire,⁴ is shorter than any of these objects, and has a large circular hole. In the collection of Mr A. Henderson Bishop, F.S.A. Scot., is a hammer-shaped object much resembling the last article, and measuring $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches in length, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in thickness, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in height, with a circular perforation $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in diameter, which was found at Hallmyre, Newmains, Peeblesshire.



Fig. 7. Belt Fastener (?). Beacharra.