

HUMAN SKELETON FOUND ON STOCKBRIDGE DOWN.

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ON Stockbridge Down running up from the Winchester—Stockbridge Road towards Woolbury Ring there is a small valley which is crossed by a number of low banks. These banks are well shown in a photograph of the site reproduced in *Wessex from the Air*.^{*} They have been regarded as being boundaries of Early Iron Age or Celtic fields. Towards the eastern end and just below the third of these banks (Plate No. 1), counting from the one nearest the ditch of Woolbury Ring, a human skeleton was found. It was discovered by Miss Margaret Jaques who picked up two of the bones of the leg in the earth thrown out by rabbits.

Excavation revealed the skeleton of a child (Plate No. 2), perhaps 13 or 14 years of age, buried in a shallow but well-made grave, dug in the steep chalk face which lies just within the eastern boundary of Stockbridge Down. The grave was about 2 feet deep in the deepest part and 4 feet long, the body lay north and south with the head to the south. It was buried in the position shown in the photograph (Plate No. 2), lying on its back with the forearms across the trunk and the lower limbs semiflexed at the hip and knee joints. No objects of any description were found with the body. Fairly extensive excavations were carried out around this grave, but no trace of further burials could be located and nothing was discovered that threw any light on the date of the interment.

It would be interesting to know if any similar burials on the edge of Celtic fields have been recorded. There is a tendency not to report the discovery of human bones which cannot be dated and to regard them as of little archaeological importance, but I feel that it is only by the recording of all such finds that they can be correlated and their full significance realized.

^{*} *Wessex from the Air*. Woolbury Fields, p. 154.



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PLATE NO. I.
Celtic Fields, Stockbridge Down.

[Photo, Pritchard



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PLATE NO. II.

[Photo. Pritchard

Skeleton of a child, Stockbridge Down.