

ART. XXIII.—*Pre-historic Implements in Furness.* By
HARPER GAYTHORPE, of Barrow-in-Furness.

Read at Coniston, September 16th, 1896.

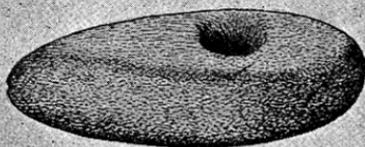
BEFORE proceeding with the description of the implements I exhibit to-night, I may say that the earliest notice I have found relating to an implement of the Bronze Age in Furness is that of the "brass instrument or celt found in the ruins of Gleaston Castle," which was exhibited before the Society of Antiquaries on May 23rd, 1776.* This celt was 9 inches long, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick in the middle, one end like a common hatchet with a sharp edge 5 inches broad, tapering to the other end, which was not above $1\frac{1}{2}$ broad, also formed with a sharp edge. It was finely polished, covered with a beautiful patina, and weighed 2lb. 5oz.† It belongs to the class called by Sir John Evans flat celts. I briefly enumerate four implements of the Neolithic Age, and two implements of the Bronze Age, as follows:—No. 1, perforated stone axe-hammer, found near Barrow Central Station, 1886. No. 2, perforated stone axe-hammer, found near Stainton, 1882. No. 3, perforated stone hammer, brought from Rampside about 1876. No. 4, stone celt, found at Haltcliff, Cumberland, about 1834-5. No. 5, bronze celt, found at Castle Sowerby, Caldbeck, Cumberland, about 1780. No. 6, bronze celt, found at Mossfield, Roose, near Barrow, 1872. No. 1.—This perforated stone axe-hammer of porphyritic lava was discovered in October, 1886, five feet below the surface, at a point 80 yards

* Engraved in *Archæologia*, Vol. v., p. 106, Pl. VII. It is now the property of Victor C. W. Cavendish, Esq., M.P., Holker Hall, Cark-in-Cartmel.

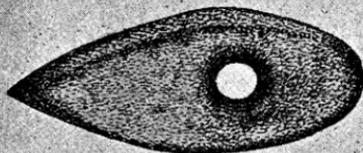
† These are the figures as given in *Archæologia*: the length is only $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches, while the weight is 2lb. 5½oz.

north

PERFORATED STONE HAMMERS.



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$\frac{1}{6}$

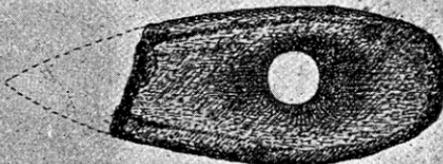
SECTION.

N^o 1.- CENTRAL STATION, BARROW.

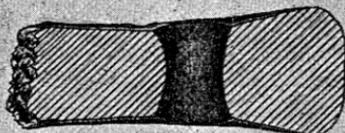


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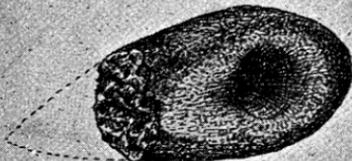


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SECTION.



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N^o 2.- STANTON.



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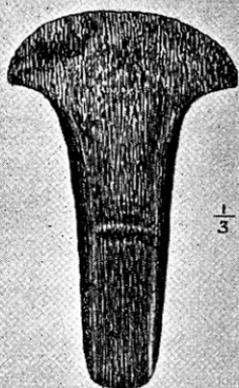
N^o 3.- RAMPSIDE.

north of the Barrow Central Station, in a gravel bed resting on upper boulder clay, and therefore dating from the post glacial period. It is beautifully smooth all over the surface, and is now perfect, excepting a small flake at the axe end, and three marks apparently made by a pick, one at the axe end, and one on either side of the perforation. Inside the latter there is a hollow, suggestive of the stone having been perforated from both sides, as the hole is slightly askew, but perfectly smooth. This specimen is of a greenish grey colour, with minute specks of white quartz all over the surface. The axe end is sharpened to an angle of 60 degrees at the point, tapering to an angle of 45 degrees towards the widest part of the stone, the hammer end forming a segment of a circle about 2 inches in diameter, and the axe end a circle of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Its length over all is $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches, width $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, thickness 3 inches. The hole is $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch in diameter on the surface on one side, and 2 inches on the other—the top side, and tapers towards the centre, where it is $1\frac{3}{16}$ ths of an inch in diameter the broad way of the stone, and $1\frac{1}{6}$ th of an inch the long way. It weighs 7lbs., and is now in the possession of the Barrow Naturalists' Field Club. No. 2.—This perforated stone axe-hammer was found about 1882, whilst repairing an old occupation road called Slop Lane, about one mile from Stainton. It is a very hard, dark, greenish-grey stone of porphyritic lava, (Andesyte), and where broken shows patches of light grey, black, and reddish-brown or bronze-coloured spots, and a few dark-coloured shining specks, possibly of magnetic iron. The stone has in the course of time acquired a scale $1\frac{1}{24}$ th of an inch thick of a drab or stone colour, worn and pitted. A specimen of rock exactly identical with that of which this axe-hammer is composed, now in the Geological Museum, Jermyn Street, London, came from near Bootle, Cumberland. The top and bottom surfaces have been hollowed gradually from the sides and
hammer

hammer ends to a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep in the centre. The hole is almost cylindrical, smooth inside and partly polished, $1\ 11\text{-}16$ ths of an inch in diameter the long way of the stone, and $1\ 9\text{-}16$ ths of an inch in diameter the broad way, and appears to have been perforated from top and bottom. It is now 9 inches long, and when entire has been about 12 inches. It is $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches thick at the broken end, and $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches at the hammer end. Its weight is 9lb. 11oz. The present owner is Mr. Thomas Lawrence, of Flookburgh, Cark-in-Cartmel. Porphyritic lava very similar to that just referred to is now worked at Greenscoe Quarries, near High Haume, Ireleth. Mr. C. Jopling, in his "Sketch of Furness and Cartmel," refers to 20 celts or stone hammers being found upon what appeared to be the foundations of an old building near High Haume, in various stages of completion, some only in form, and others finely polished, showing that here was probably a factory for making these implements. The celt found at Roosebeck, and figured in Richardson's "Furness, Past and Present," has also been made from a similar kind of stone. No. 3.—This perforated stone hammer of sandstone was brought from the Clarke's Arms, Rampside, about 1876. It is of a brown colour, with dark chocolate-coloured stains, and light grey patches where recently chipped. All over the surface are small specks of mica, and to all appearance the sandstone geologically belongs to the carboniferous series. The perforation has been made from both top and bottom, and in the inside near the top, the circular ring marks, showing the method of grinding out the hole, are plainly visible. The hole having recently been used as a receptacle for putty, the oil therefrom has soaked through the stone, causing it to be darker coloured. The stone is $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches wide, 3 inches thick at the hammer end, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the pointed end, and weighs 4lbs. 10oz. The hole tapers from the surface, being 2 inches in diameter on one side—
the

the lower—and $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches on the other side, the diameter inside being $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches the broad way, and $1\ 9\text{-}16$ ths of an inch the long way of the stone. It is now in the possession of Mr. W. R. Ormandy, of Barrow. In these hammers, none of the perforations are exactly round, two of them being slightly less in diameter the broad way of the stone, and in the sandstone hammer additional strength is gained by its being made much wider in proportion to the length. These implements are all of the same type, and differ very much from the stone celts commonly found in Cumberland and Westmorland. They were hafted like modern hammers, while the celt required a socketed handle, into which it was set axe-wise, and not like an adze. No. 4.—The next specimen is a stone celt dug up at Haltcliff, in the Parish of Caldbeck, Cumberland, in the year 1834-5, in cutting through a meadow, the site of ancient dwellings. The stone is buff or cream-coloured, with brownish patches, and is evidently of volcanic origin, “the most unusual feature being the peculiar finish along the edges of the stone,” these having being apparently either worn or ground away from a sharp edge to a width a little over $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch. It has been described as “Soap Stone,” and the softness of the surface may be due to weathering. It is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $2\ 7\text{-}16$ ths of an inch wide at one end where it is sharpened, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch at the narrower end, and $1\ 5\text{-}16$ ths of an inch thick. The present owner is Mr. J. Alston, of Barrow. Both classes of stone implements were used as axes. The difference in type may probably be accounted for by supposing that stone of a character suitable for the manufacture of celts could not readily be obtained by the men of Low Furness, and they, therefore, adopted the clumsier axe-hammer type. It is unlikely that these implements were habitually used as hammers, for in the absence of metals there could be few uses to which they were adapted that would not be better performed by a wooden mallet or a
heavy

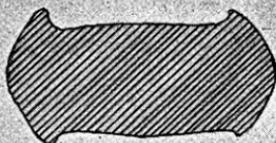
heavy maul. No. 5.—This bronze celt was found in a cave on the edge of the river Gilcoman, in the parish of Castle Sowerby, Caldbeck, Cumberland, about 1780, and others were reported to have been found there. It is of a later type than another specimen which I shall exhibit. The flanges are continuous throughout the stem, and the “cable” or hammer marks on the flanges are plainly shown. The celt is $5\frac{9}{16}$ ths of an inch long, $3\frac{5}{16}$ ths of an inch across at the widest part, and $1\frac{5}{16}$ ths of an inch at the bottom of the stem; and $9\frac{1}{16}$ ths of an inch thick across the centre of a section, the cutting edges being quite sharp. Its weight is 15ozs. The patina has been partly removed, but where it remains it is polished, and of a chocolate colour. Across the centre of the stem, on both sides, the metal is raised, and there is a slight hollow about $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch wide on either side of the raised part; evidently made in the same way as the cable marks after the celt was cast, thus forming a stop ridge when fixed in a handle. The present owner is Mr. J. Alston, of Barrow. No. 6.—This bronze celt was found at a depth of 12 or 13 inches below the grass surface of a meadow, when digging the foundations for houses at Mossfield, Roose, in 1872. The ground in the neighbourhood is boggy, as its place-name denotes. The celt is $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches long, $2\frac{5}{16}$ ths of an inch wide across the widest part, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ths of an inch wide at the bottom of the stem, and at the central portion of the stem it is half-an-inch thick, as shown in the cross-section. This is the thickest portion of the celt, and from there it tapers gradually to the edges. It weighs $5\frac{3}{4}$ ozs., and is quite smooth all over the surface. No hammer marks are visible, nor has the patina been removed. The latter is of a brown colour, and shades to an orange tint inside the flanges. The rudimentary flanges of this celt project much further outwards in the lower half of the stem, but it is of an earlier type, and similar to the description
in



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SECTION,



FULL SIZE.

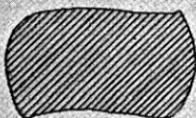
Nº 5.- BRONZE CELT, CASTLE SOWERBY, CALDBECK, CUMBERLAND.



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SECTION,



FULL SIZE.

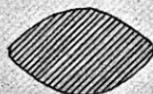
Nº 6.- BRONZE CELT, MOSSFIELD, ROOSE, BARROW.



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SECTION,



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Nº 4.- STONE CELT, HALTCLIFF, CALDBECK, CUMBERLAND.

S. B. GAYTHORPE, PHOTO.

H. GAYTHORPE, DEL.

in Sir John Evans' "Ancient Bronze Implements," page 43, lines 3 to 8, and page 46, figure 5. At a point 1 inch from the bottom of the stem, the flanges project 5-48ths of an inch. The cutting edge is quite sharp, and so also is the edge at the narrower end, where it is now bent over about 1-16th of an inch, possibly through a fall. The present owner is Mr. Joseph Waddington, Mossfield, Roose, Barrow. In conclusion, I may say that there is, indeed, a very wide field still open for investigation and exploration in Furness. At the present time I have a list of other implements which have not yet been noticed, and I hope in due course to bring it forward. In the meantime, I have the honour to lay before you for inspection some other implements not referred to in this paper, which have been kindly lent to me, and also a number of photographs taken by my son, Sidney B. Gaythorpe. I hope that this effort may prove of interest, and stimulate others in the same field of archæological research.
