

My suggestion is that this newly found stone head was the capital of one of the door pillars of the Norman doorway then destroyed. And this is further strengthened by the rough dowel hole in the top of the head from which the first stone of the arch of the door would spring.

I have learned from some of the older people in the parish that a former sexton dug up the head somewhere near the church many years ago, and that he put it in his garden.

The carving has been carefully cleaned and put on to the south wall of the chancel near the double sedilia, which is of transitional Norman style, and which Dr. Charles Cox dates as between 1150 and 1175.

### A PALEOLITH FROM HOPTON.

By R. W. P. COCKERTON, LL.B.

**I**N the Spring of 1953 at the invitation of Col. Gell of Hopton Hall I walked over some of his ploughed fields with him in the hope that some scattered stones turned up in ploughing might provide clues to the ancient road system near Hopton.

On a field near Ibet Low I picked up a fragment of flint, which on subsequent examination disclosed no traces of secondary working, but on a ploughed field, just south of Sycamore Farm at national grid reference 267533, I picked up an ovate implement, which was lying loose on the surface of the field hitherto entirely unnoticed.

Col. Gell told me that some time previously field drains had been laid at that point to a depth of some two or three feet below the surface. It is reasonable to infer that it was during these operations, rather than in the ploughing, that the implement had been brought to the surface.

On reaching home and on further examination of the implement I realised that it was of the paleolithic period belonging to the type known as Acheulian.

Dr. Kenneth P. Oakley of the Department of Geology of the British Museum (Natural History) to whom the



*Photo: C. E. Brown.*

Carved stone, Radburne.

implement was sent for examination reported as follows:

"The Acheulian ovate in flint is an important discovery, and I am glad to know of it. I am studying the distribution of Acheulian hand-axes in Britain, and, as you know, very few have been reported in the Midlands.

"The specimen you have found is a thin ovate, with slight reversed S-twist, probably made from a flake. It is in cherty grey flint, with pale to medium ochreous patina. It is unabraded, but has been cracked by frost. One surface is more lustrous than the other. Ovates of this type were made during a late stage of Acheulian culture with Levalloisian traits. I hope you will publish a note on the discovery of the ovate, if possible with a drawing."

Mr. C. A. V. Craven of the Geological Survey and Museum, South Kensington, tells me that the find was made in an area shown, in the geological map of 1903, as containing boulder clay, probably of glacial origin, but Dr. Oakley's comment is that the condition of the implement does not suggest to him that it actually came out of a boulder clay as in that case he would have expected the implement to show considerable damage, which it does not. On the other hand it might have come out of a glacial gravel rather than the actual clay.

Mr. Leslie Armstrong, F.S.A., who has produced a most careful drawing of the implement has sent me the following note upon it:

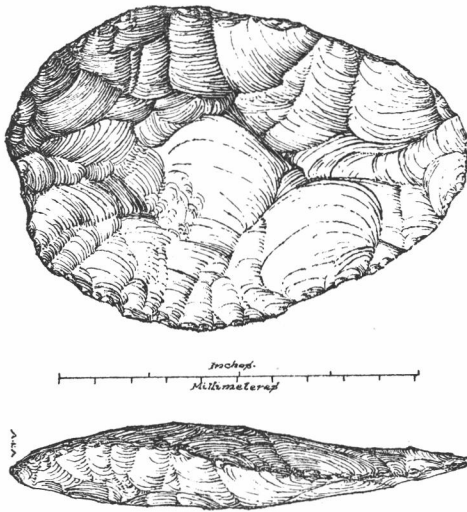
"It is a 'twisted' ovate of Middle Acheulian type and an unusually fine and symmetrical specimen, flaked in thin, flat, flaking characteristic of the wood, or bone, technique and is obviously the product of a skilled craftsman. There is evidence which suggests to me that it was fabricated from a large flake and that it was not a core tool. It measures 131 mm. in length, 90 mm. in width, and is unusually thin in relation to its size, having a maximum thickness of 23 mm. It is patinated a yellowish brown. The edges are only slightly abraded and in one or two places small flakes have been detached by glacial pressure, the surfaces of which are patinated cream white; it is also 'cobwebbed' by incipient cracks over the surfaces, resulting from excessive pressure in the gravel. This is the only occurrence of a 'twisted' ovate in the Midland gravels known to me during more than twenty years intensive research in the glacial and river gravels of the Trent Basin,<sup>1</sup> and it is gratifying that Derbyshire should produce this fine specimen of a type so rare in the northern region."

<sup>1</sup> A. L. Armstrong, "Paleolithic Man in the North Midlands", *D.A.J.*, Vol. LXIII, 1942.



*Photo: C. E. Brown.*

Paleolithic Hand Axe found near Hopton, Derbyshire.



Drawing of the Hopton paleolith: A. Leslie Armstrong.

Mr. C. E. Brown's photograph is shewn herewith.

Mr. W. H. Hanbury who recognised the type of the implement as Acheulian as soon as he handled it has sent me some interesting notes on the glacial period in Europe. He notes that the approximate dating of the creation of such an implement presents formidable difficulties. The transition from the Acheulian to the Levalloisian period was apparently occurring about 150,000 years ago during the Mindel — Riss Interglacial period, which is assigned by Milankovitch to 440,000 to 240,000 years, by Penck & Bruckner to 370,000 to 130,000 years and by Zeuner to 435,000 to 230,000 years.

Though there is a measure of disagreement as to age, we can be certain of one thing and that is that the chance discovery which I made near Hopton is illustrative of an exceedingly remote period in the evolution of man-made implements.

The implement is on view in the Derby Museum.