

## Archaeological Reports and Notes

### TWO BRONZE DAGGERS FROM THE PEAK DISTRICT.

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By T. G. MANBY.

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**T**WENTY burials of Early Bronze Age date accompanied by bronze daggers are known from the Peak District.<sup>1</sup> These daggers are usually of the simple flat round-heeled type with three large rivets or more rarely with two; but two daggers stand apart from the rest.

The first of these is a dagger of "Wessex" type, found by Bateman in a barrow at Dow Low, Hartington Upper Quarter. This, with a flint "strike-a-light" and a piece of iron ore, accompanied one of two inhumation burials.<sup>2</sup> The dagger is in good condition but lacks its point. It is 4.9 ins. long and  $2\frac{1}{8}$  ins. across the heel, and now has a smooth pale green-to-brown patina. The heel is rounded with a notch at the top and at each corner there is a rivet hole still containing a rivet. On each face of the blade are two sets of three grooves beginning just below the rivet holes and converging above the point. This dagger is unusual in the decoration of a line of dots produced by a tracer outlining the position of the hilt, and in each series of grooves are alternately spaced sets of five dots. This decoration occurs on both sides of the blade.<sup>3</sup>

The Dow Low dagger is regarded by ApSimon as being derived from the Wessex six-riveted type of dagger dated to the 16th century B.C.<sup>4</sup> The only other Wessex type dagger found in Derbyshire is a casual find from Hungry Bentley.<sup>5</sup> This belongs to the ogival class dated to the 15th century B.C. and like other daggers of this type has

<sup>1</sup> Fowler, *D.A.J.*, LXXV (1955), 80-90, 110-15.

<sup>2</sup> Bateman, *Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire*, 96.

<sup>3</sup> Sheffield Museum, J.93.444.

<sup>4</sup> ApSimon, *10th Ann. Rep. Inst. of Arch.* (1954), 56.

<sup>5</sup> Childe, *D.A.J.*, LXII (1941), 29-30, Pl. VI.

tracer decoration on the mid-rib.<sup>6</sup> Both these daggers can be regarded as imports from the area of Wessex domination in southern England and in no sense as evidence for an invasion of Derbyshire by Wessex chieftains.

The second dagger to be considered was found at Musden Low Hill, Staffs., by Bateman; it accompanied an inhumation burial with a flint knife.<sup>7</sup> This dagger, 5 ins.

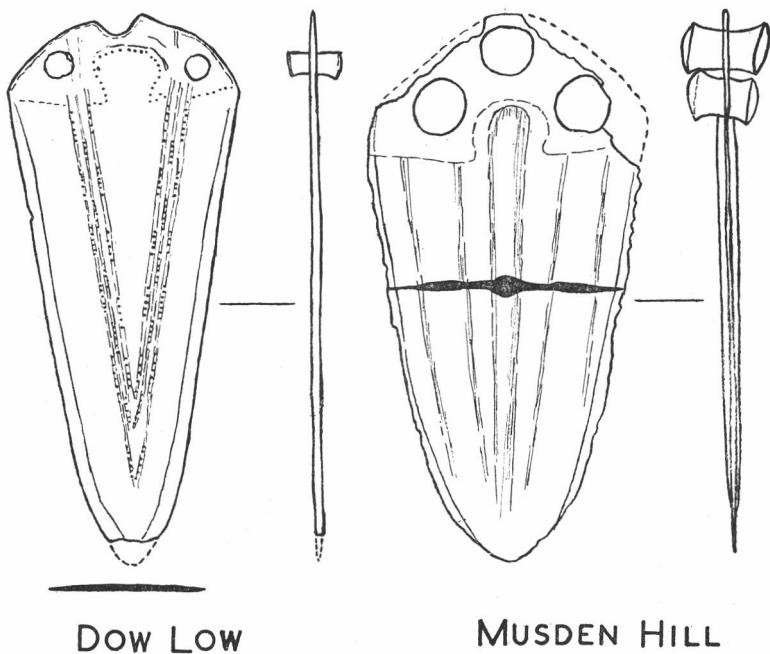


FIG. 9. Bronze Daggers of Wessex Type.

long, has a damaged heel and a smooth pale green patina. In the heel are three rivet holes still containing large rivets. The outline of the handle is plainly marked on the dagger blade, which is reinforced by a stout central mid-rib and two flatter ribs at each side.<sup>8</sup> It is difficult to find a parallel for this form of dagger, particularly as

<sup>6</sup> ApSimon, 57-61.

<sup>7</sup> Bateman, *Ten Years' Diggings*, 148.

<sup>8</sup> Sheffield Museum, J.93.442.

the shape of the blade is more appropriate to a flat dagger than to any of the Wessex type or Middle Bronze Age daggers which possess ribs. It may well be the work of a smith accustomed to the production of the older type of dagger adopting some of the features of the more advanced Wessex craftsmen.

The writer wishes to record his indebtedness to Mr. H. R. Singleton, Director of the Sheffield City Museum, for facilities to study and permission to publish these two daggers.

### AN UNRECORDED DERBYSHIRE POTTERY.

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By A. L. THORPE.

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TO discover an apparently unrecorded 18th century pottery site in the county is unusual; to find that this factory, small though it was, made fine quality cream-coloured earthenware is indeed remarkable. In December 1957, Mr. W. H. Bailey of Sheffield, who was working on the site of some early blast furnaces at Furnace Farm about one mile south-west of Melbourne (SK 379240), sent to the Derby Museum through Mr. Francis Fisher a miscellaneous selection of pieces of earthenware which he had found adjacent to one of the blast furnaces. In addition to very coarse earthenware, some of which were parts of saggers, etc., and fragments of brown glazed "cottage" earthenware very common in the Midlands in the 18th century, there were some pieces of fine quality white unglazed pottery. With the kind approval of Mr. Bailey, my colleague Mr. R. G. Hughes, Mr. F. A. Barratt and myself between Easter and August 1958 investigated the site, which is approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of the generally assumed location of the Ticknall pottery.

The ground adjoining the blast furnace, which had presumably later been used as a kiln, had been artificially built up largely with wasters, ashes, etc. to a height of 6 or 7 ft. above the river now called New Brook to which