

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

## TWO NEOLITHIC SITES AT TADDINGTON

By J. RADLEY and M. PLANT

THE limestone uplands of the High Peak have long been noted for their burial mounds and abundant isolated artifacts, represented by such collections as that of the British Museum and the Bateman collection in Sheffield Museum, but there has always been a lack of assemblages which would help to explain how the occupants of the barrows lived. Recently two sites have been located, which contribute a little to the nature of neolithic occupation sites in the Peak District.

West of Taddington there is one of the highest limestone ridges in the Peak, rising to over 1400 ft. On its summit is the Five Wells neolithic round barrow, 90 ft. in diameter, with two cists which held at least 12 bodies, a leaf-shaped arrowhead, and fragments of Peterborough pottery and flints. The hills around Taddington, Chelmorton and Monyash have yielded several polished axes and many isolated flint finds but no restricted, homogeneous site, until one was found on Calton Hill.

Calton Hill is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile N.W. of the Five Wells barrow and stands away from the limestone ridge. It is a volcanic plug, 1300 ft. high, and commands fine views of the Wye valley. The hill is being eaten away by quarrying, and, on the areas partially stripped of overburden, numerous artifacts have been found on an area 900 by 200 yds., but with a denser area limited to 100 yds. square (SK 118714). The site was first found by C. E. Exley, and since then several people have made collections from it. This report has been made possible by combining Exley's collection, which he generously loaned to the writers, and a collection made over several years by R. Carr.

On one visit to the site, Carr noted a pit approximately 6 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep, full of dark material with the thickest spread of surface artifacts nearby. Unfortunately this feature was buried before it could be excavated.

The two collections can be summarized as follows:

		<i>Calton Hill, Taddington</i>	
		<i>Carr</i>	<i>Exley</i>
<i>Stone</i>	— polished axe fragments, light green	17	11
	— " " " " , dark green	1	—
<i>Flint</i>	— " " " "	1	—
	— scrapers	33	10

	— knives	4	3
	— arrowheads, leaf	2	—
	— „ „ p.t.d.	1	—
	— saws	2	1
	— worked pieces	15	9
	— pieces with lustre	4	—
	— cores	1	2
	— debris	300	60
	— burnt pieces	48	13
<i>Chert</i>	— scraper	—	1
	— core	1	—
	— debris	30	—
<i>Other</i>	— hammerstone	1	—
<i>Pottery</i>	— pieces	2	11

29 axe fragments are an unusually high total for a site in northern England. One light green butt end of an axe (fig. 1, 10) was sectioned and proved to be group VI (Langdale), and 27 other fragments probably have a similar source, representing at least 3 axes. The dark green piece (fig. 2, 9), 8.5 cm. long and 6 cm. wide, is the butt end of a broad-butted axe and may be made from a rock close to group VI. One large flake, 7.2 cm. long and 4.5 wide, has been repolished to make a small chisel, which is virtually complete (fig. 2, 6). Only one fragment of a polished flint axe was found. To these axes another can be added, found by C. Gregory of Pilsley in 1966; it is a large adze-like tool, and probably a dolerite, 16.7 cm. long.

The flint industry comprises over 500 artifacts of good grey-brown unpatinated flint, mostly miscellaneous chips and flakes, with a few blades. There are over 40 scrapers, mainly short, rounded forms often exhibiting considerable wear. Several tools can be called knives and saws, and three arrowheads are all neolithic types. Over 60 pieces are fire-crackled.

Amongst the worn tools, 4 exhibit a distinct polish or lustre. A saw, 6 cm. long, has polish along its 3.5 cm. long denticulated edge. The other three may be knives or parts of sickles. One has a curved worn end and lustre on its ventral face (fig. 1, 7); one has a glassy sheen on part of its cutting edge and part of its dorsal surface (fig. 1, 8); and the third has lustre all along its concave cutting edge (fig. 1, 9). Little definite evidence for small or composite flint sickles has been published,<sup>1</sup> and it must remain only a strong probability that these three flints are evidence for sickles, rather than being simply knives.

The sherds of pottery fall into five fabrics :

<sup>1</sup> See Curwen, E., "Non-crescentic sickle-flints from Sussex", *Ant. J.*, XVI, no. 1, January 1936, 85-90; Witthoft, J., "Glazed polish on flint tools", *American Antiquity*, 32, no. 3, July 1967, 383-8.

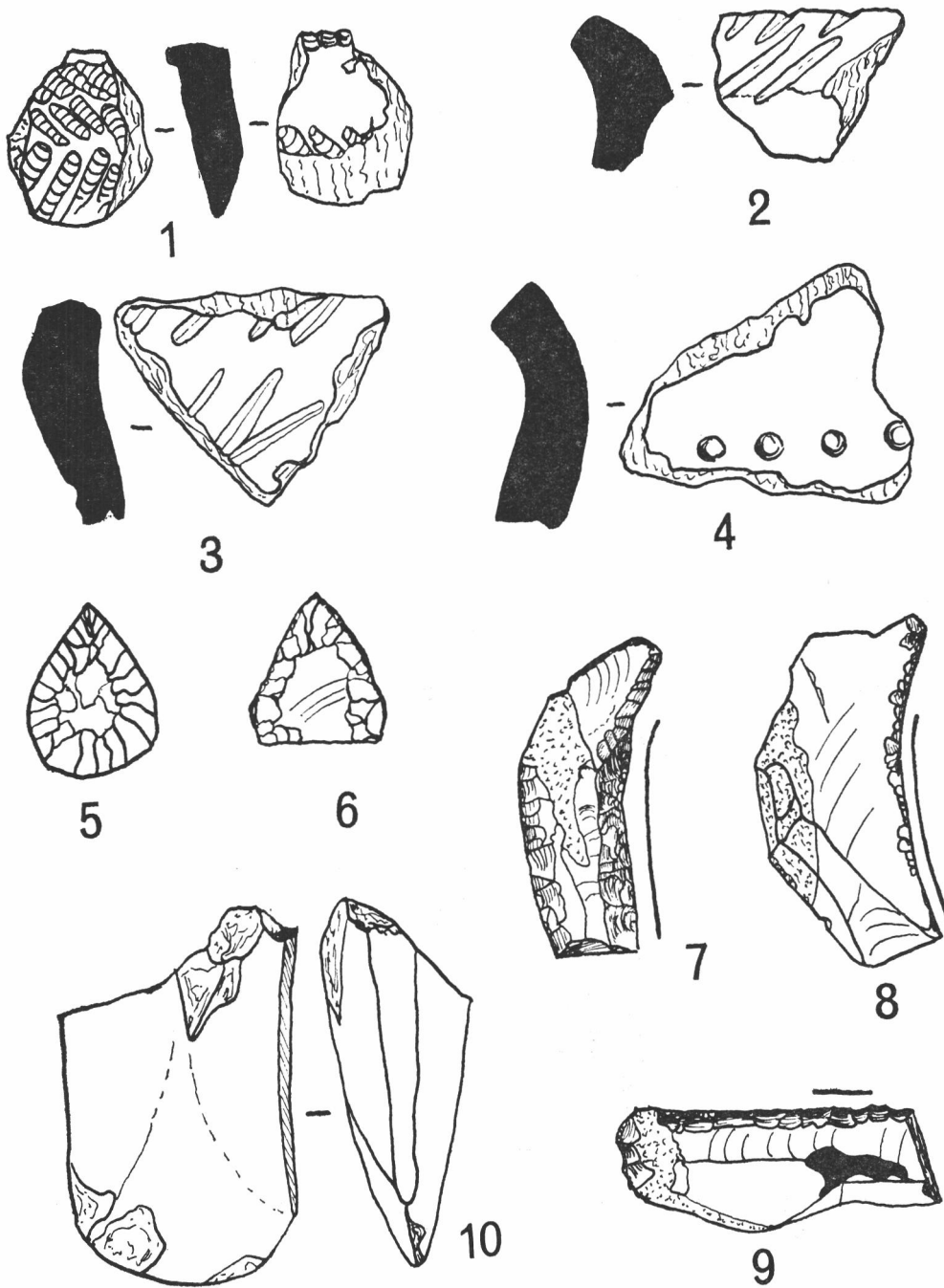


FIG. 1. Remains from Calton Hill. The lines alongside nos. 7-9 and the black shading on no. 9 indicate the position of lustre (I/I).

1. Dark hard fabric with no inclusions is represented by an undecorated body sherd and a rim sherd, 5-8 mm. thick, decorated inside, outside, and on the rim with small "maggot" stamps (fig. 1, 1).
2. Dark with bluish cast, hard and smooth, but a flaky fabric. A rim (fig. 1, 2), thick and bevelled on a thin wall is decorated with grooves on the bevel. A body sherd from the same vessel (fig. 1, 3) may be drawn upside down. Similar to sherds from Green Low (*D.A.J.*, LXXXV (1965), fig. 6, 7).
3. Dark smooth fabric, well made, with a vesicular surface. One body sherd.
4. 3 sherds of nondescript, hard but crumbly, grey-buff fabric with a dark core and no apparent inclusions. One sherd is the inner part of an undecorated bevelled rim.
5. 3 crude and ugly sherds of hard, drab grey-black, flaky fabric with an orange exterior and fire-blackened interior. The sherds have large quartz inclusions, suggesting crushed pebble. One has finger-nail jabs on its exterior. Up to 17 mm. thick. Another sherd of similar fabric (fig. 1, 4) is from near the neck of a vessel and is decorated with a row of round holes, which may be similar to Ebbsfleet ware.

These sherds are generally hard and flake in a laminar fashion. Where decorated, they find ready parallels with late neolithic assemblages in southern England. The crudest fabric, with very large quartz inclusions, has been found by M. Plant at Wormhill.

The second site, at Moor Grange Farm (SK 132706), occupies a gently sloping, south-facing position at 1400 ft. O.D., just over half a mile from the Five Wells barrow. At the turn of the century, the farmer Mr. H. Bagshaw, now of Priestcliffe, found a complete axe, first published in 1908 (*D.A.J.*, XXX (1908), 142), and other pieces of broken axes in and near a field called Cote Close, west of the farm, and near a small mound.<sup>2</sup> The present farmer also claims to have one axe from the farm, but this was not available for inspection. It is through Mr. Bagshaw's goodwill that we have been able to publish the rest of his material, which can be summarized as follows:

<i>Moor Grange Farm, Taddington</i>		
<i>Stone</i>	— polished axe and fragments	8
	— polished perforated tools	2
<i>Flint</i>	— fragment of chipped flint axe	1
	— scrapers	14
	— knives	4
	— fabricator	2
	— worked pieces	4
	— debris	20
	— burnt	1
<i>Chert</i>	— large worked flake	1

The axe fragments are again the most interesting feature. Fig. 2, 2 is a small axe of pale greenstone, with an asymmetrically resharpened blade.

<sup>2</sup> The axe has been donated to Sheffield City Museum, and the fragments will shortly follow.

Figs. 2, 1 and 3 are the blade ends of heavy axes of dull heavy greenstone, and figs. 2, 5 and 8 are from similar axes. Fig. 2, 4 is a re-worked pale greenstone flake, and fig. 2, 7 is a totally re-chipped greenstone axe. Both figs. 2, 10 and 11 have central drilled holes on what may have been hammers; the former is well polished pale greenstone, while the latter appears to be a more crystalline greenstone. One flint fragment may be part of the butt of a chipped flint axe.

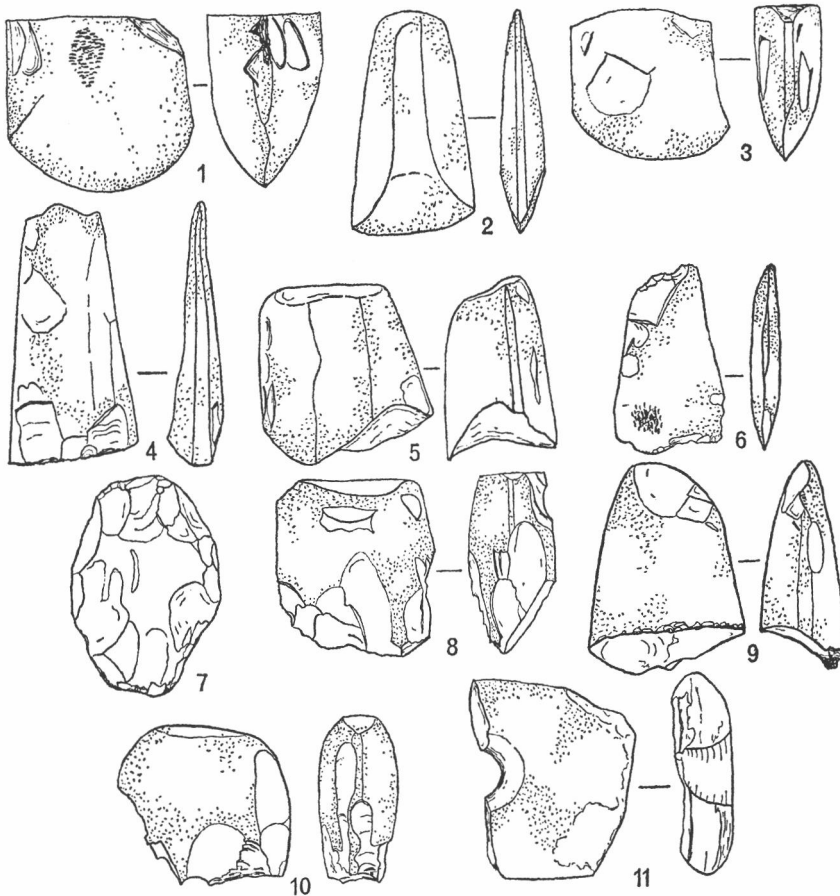


FIG. 2. Stone implements from Moor Grange Farm (nos. 1-5, 7-8, 10-11) and Calton Hill (nos. 6, 9) (½).

The remaining artifacts include a worn fabricator, 2½ cm. long, and a piece of another; 14 scrapers which include 4 round, 6 short end, a large end and a side scraper, some of which are very worn. Some of the debris may be modern, introduced perhaps from Brandon.

These two sites are similar, but have some obvious differences. Calton Hill has been more carefully searched, and has yielded a useful group of axe fragments, arrowheads, scrapers, and pottery of a late neolithic type. The Moor Grange site has similar components, but the perforated tools and the fabricators may suggest a slightly later date. Neither site has yielded the long lozenge-shaped arrowhead which is typical of Five Wells and other Peak District neolithic barrows.

One or two smaller but similar sites have been found recently by Mr. L. Cooper of Chesterfield. One in the vicinity of Minninglow (SK 208581) has yielded 10 of the same kind of scrapers, a petit-tranchet derivative arrowhead, over 60 pieces of debris and worked flints and an axe fragment which repeat the pattern of the two sites described above. Manby has found a similar group of artifacts in the forecourt and mound of Green Low,<sup>3</sup> including pottery, a rechipped polished greenstone axe fragment, a leaf-shaped arrowhead, and other flints.

The two sites have yielded 31 and 10 axes and axe fragments, some of considerable size. There is no reason why these should not be typical of occupation remains in the High Peak. They indicate firstly a very large trade in axes, mostly from Langdale but probably also from Craig Llwyd and elsewhere, and secondly the great value of the stone, since several have been rechipped, re-sharpened, or used as hammerstones. Several of the axe fragments from Calton Hill were scattered over a wide area, suggesting breakage while clearing and cultivating the land. There is some evidence in these assemblages of the way of life of the late neolithic occupants of the High Peak. Arrowheads and scrapers imply hunting as a part of the economy, and the axes suggest agricultural pursuits. Since no bones have been recovered, it is not possible to say whether stock-rearing played a part in the late neolithic economy.

It is interesting to see the beginnings of a small corpus of Derbyshire neolithic pottery from Green Low, Whaley 2, and Calton Hill. In each case maggot, finger-nail, and groove decorated wares have been represented, in conjunction with beaker at the first two.

<sup>3</sup> Manby, T. G., "The excavation of Green Low chambered tomb", *D.A.J.*, LXXXV (1965), 1-24.

## MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY EXCAVATIONS 1967

### I. BROUGH-ON-NOE (NAVIO) By G. D. B. JONES

**T**HE third season of excavation at the small two-acre fort, on which Roman control of the Peak District was based,<sup>1</sup> was again devoted to work in the north-western quarter of the site. The three-period

<sup>1</sup> J. Garstang, *D.A.J.*, XXVI (1904), 177-204; cf. F. Haverfield, *V.C.H. Derbyshire*, I, 207 with a bibliography of earlier accounts of the site. I. A. Richmond, *D.A.J.*, LIX (1938), 53-65; cf. *J.R.S.*, XXIX (1939), 206 and XXX (1940), 168; a full account of the 1939 excavations by I. A. Richmond and J. P. Gillam exists in typescript but has not been published. For the 1958-9 excavations by J. E. Bartlett see *J.R.S.*, XLIV (1959), 108 and L (1960), 216. For the Manchester University programme see G. D. B. Jones and F. H. Thompson, *D.A.J.*, LXXXV (1965), 123-6, cf. *J.R.S.*, LVI (1966), 201; G. D. B. Jones, F. H. Thompson and J. P. Wild, *D.A.J.*, LXXXVI (1966), 99-101, cf. *J.R.S.*, LVII (1967), 181.