

THREE POLISHED STONE IMPLEMENTS FROM DERBYSHIRE

By JOHN COLLIS

(Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, Sheffield University)

Subsequent to my last note (Collis, 1974) three further implements have been reported to me, which are published here. As an addendum to my previous note, in which the illustrations were only reduced approximately, and no dimensions were mentioned in the text, maximum length of the Edensor mace-head was 107.5 mm and that of the Hognaston axe-hammer 210 mm.

1. **STONE ADZE FROM HARTINGTON** (Fig. 2:1) CBA Serial no. DE251.
This was picked up by the late Mrs. P. Flower in the Gratton Dale, on a wall adjacent to a lead mine just north of Pike Hall Farm in the parish of Hartington (SK 1933, 5946, Fig. 1a). It has been donated to Sheffield City Museum. Its maximum measurements are: length 70 mm, width 39 mm and thickness 21 mm, and its weight (after sectioning and filling) 56.19 gms. The asymmetrical longitudinal section and its small size suggest it was an adze rather than an axe. One side bears short longitudinal striations from a secondary, recent use as a whetstone, but the blade has been sharpened on one side only (hence the asymmetry) and this has been done parallel with the blade. The cutting edge bears three scars from two short and one long flake, and the butt has two deep flake scars on each side, all ancient damage. The implement has been sectioned (Derbyshire, Flower 1) and assigned to Group VI, the Langdale axe factory in Cumbria, by Dr. Cummins.

2. **STONE AXE-HAMMER FROM BRAILSFORD** (Fig. 2:2) CBA Serial no. DE252.
This implement was reported to me by Mr. L. M. Waud of Duffield as a close parallel to the Hognaston implement. It was found by, and is still in the possession of, Mr. A. Morley of Ednaston Hall Farm, Brailsford, who kindly allowed us to draw it. It was found on January 16th, 1961 during drainage operations in heavy clay at a depth of about 5-6 feet, at SK 2375, 4046 (Fig. 1b) on an east facing slope which runs gently down to a stream, the Brailsford Brook. Mr. Martin Wildgoose who visited the site reports that there was a rectangular banked earthwork in the field immediately to the west, now destroyed by ploughing, which revealed patches of charcoal and ash, presumably a medieval feature. The maximum dimensions of the axe are: 209 mm long, width 102 mm, and thickness 68 mm, with a weight of c. 2370 gms. The axe hammer was submitted by Mr. Waud to the Department of Mineralogy at the British Museum, who gave the following identification based on surface examination: 'a lava of the andesite series (probably a rhyodacite) and of ancient type, resembling most closely those of the Old Red Sandstone in the Glencoe and Cheviot areas'. Parallels for this axe were quoted in the publication of the Hognaston axe-hammer.

3. **FLINT AXE FROM ELTON** (Fig. 2:3)
This was picked up by Miss S. Copley and Mr. S. Bond of the Department of Botany, University of Sheffield, in February 1978. It was found adjacent to the footpath over Elton Common (SK 2144, 6005) (Fig. 2c). Its dimensions are: length 111 mm, width 61 mm, thickness 32.5 mm, and weight 221.3 gms. It is a dull white chert with more opaque creamier patches and some darker inclusions which Dr.



Fig. 1 Location of the three implements, each marked by a cross: (a) Pike Hall, Hartington; (b) Brailsford; (c) Elton. Each map is one kilometre square, with north at the top.

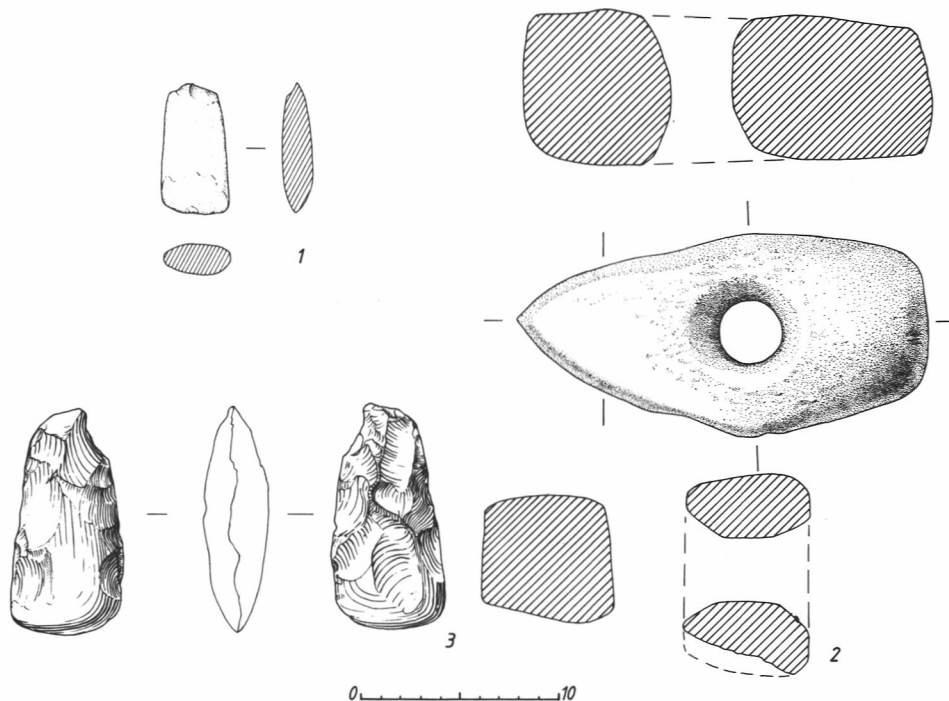


Fig. 2 The three stone implements: (a) stone adze from Pike Hall, Hartington; (b) axe-hammer from Brailsford; (c) flint axe from Elton. Scale in centimetres.

Patricia Phillips suggests may indicate that the chert came from the Lincolnshire Wolds. Some of the chipping appears to predate polishing, but some minor chips on the corners may have been caused by use, though the axe is not extensively worn.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the various people who have reported these implements, and to Dr. Cummins and Dr. Phillips for arranging the thin-sectioning. Martin Wildgoose has dealt with both the Hartington and Brailsford finds, and they have all been drawn by Miss Patricia Roberts.

REFERENCE

Collis, J. R. (1974) Two perforated stone implements from Derbyshire. *D.A.J.* 94: 5-7.