

## Two Flint Daggers from Kingston

An extremely fine and hitherto unrecorded flint dagger is illustrated (fig 1:1). It forms part of the Roots Collection purchased by Kingston Museum in 1907 (acc no 716) and is noted as having been recovered from the Thames at Kingston. It is of honey/olive-coloured flint and is well knapped and proportioned. Soft hammer technique has been used to thin the blank and pressure flaking to trim the edges. It is 161mm long, 9mm thick and 63mm maximum width, the widest point occurring towards the point, just above the middle. The sides are convex and symmetrical, and straighten towards the pointed butt. A second flint dagger from Kingston is of contrasting form (fig 1:2). It was first noted by Smith (1919–20, 17) in his assessment of flint daggers, and is housed at the British Museum (acc no WG 602) where it forms part of the Greenwell Collection. It is of grey flint and of more slender proportions than the first mentioned. The butt is markedly thickened and is wide and squared. Its length is 156mm and

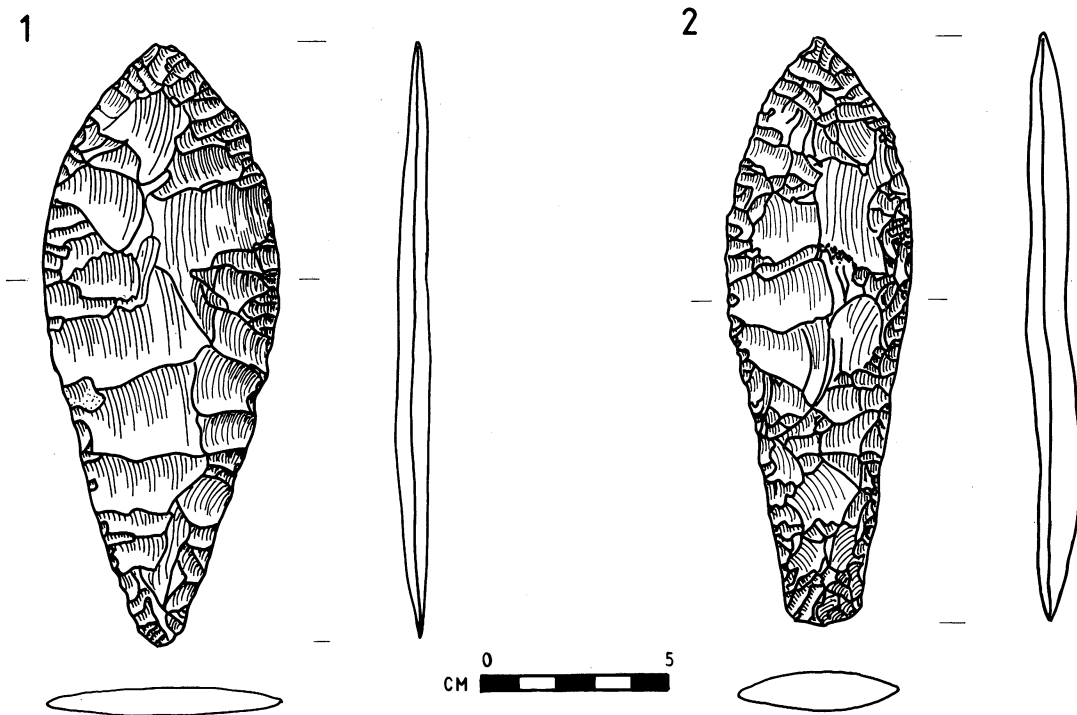


Fig 1 Two flint daggers from Kingston (½)

it is 11mm thick and 50mm at the widest point. A note on the blade says 'Kingston on Thames, 1868 Re J Black'.

Flint daggers are usually dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, occurring most often in connection with Beakers or Beaker associated artifacts. Most are chance finds and distribution is centred on East Anglia and the Lower Thames, with lesser groups occurring in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and on the South Downs. In addition to those from Kingston, sixteen examples come from the west London stretch of the Thames (Grimes 1931, 353). Others have been found close to the river, one from a garden near Walton-on-Thames (Dillon 1873-6). Another was dredged from the river Wey just below Weybridge (Weybridge Museum acc no 1/1946, unpublished), and a fragment of a second example was found in the same locality (Frere 1944-5, 101). Elsewhere in Surrey flint daggers, as indeed Beakers, are scarce. The only other recorded examples come from Warlingham (Ketteringham 1980), Peasmarsh (Ashmolean Museum, unpublished), Wandsworth, and a notched example from Carshalton (OS Records).

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