

A hoard of Late Bronze Age metalwork from the Hog's Back, near Guildford

In 1997 a metal detector user known to the author located a number of pieces of Late Bronze Age metalwork on the south-facing slope of the Hog's Back. The circumstances of the discovery are uncertain but the find spot was indicated as lying beside the footpath from Conduit Farm to the Hog's Back trackway (SU 9725 4835). The pieces, all allegedly from the same location, were deposited at Guildford Museum on three separate occasions, no 1 being accessioned as TRB 4054, nos 2–7 as TRB 4057 and no 8 as TRB 4076.

Catalogue (fig 1)

Classification according to Needham (1990). Abbreviations: L = length; W = width; B = breadth; T = thickness; E = extant; wt = weight; min = minimum; max = maximum.

- 1 Socketed copper-alloy axe fragment: unclassified. EL 48mm; W max 38mm; W min 28mm, wt 97.6g. Cutting edge damaged especially at one corner.
- 2 Socketed copper-alloy axe fragment: unclassified. EL 63mm; W max 41mm; W min 29mm; wt 105.3g. Distorted by crushing. Straight, neat side casting flashes, heavily corroded on one side.
- 3 End-winged copper-alloy axe fragment. EL 63mm; W max 28mm; T wings 5mm; T shank 10mm; wt 114.5g. This tool type is Continental in concept though not necessarily in manufacture and is more usually found in eastern Surrey (Stuart Needham, pers comm).
- 4 Socketed copper-alloy axe fragment: class A2. EL 57mm; W mouth 30mm, B mouth 31mm; min B loop 8mm; wt 107.8g. A single pellet in relief is placed in the centre of each face just below the mouth moulding, which consists of a bulbous upper moulding over an underlying, thin, rib-like one. Similar to Needham 1990, no 51.
- 5 Piece of copper-alloy with one flat facet. L max 31mm; W max 28mm; T max 16mm; wt 84.3g. Piece of cast bronze with no recognizable form. Not illustrated.
- 6–7 Formless pieces of copper (or alloy). No 6: L max 42mm; W max 39mm; T max 20mm; wt 78.3g. No 7: L max 36mm; W max 30mm; T max 17mm; wt 49.4g. Not illustrated.
- 8 Copper-alloy tool fragment. L max 41mm; W max 33mm; T 2mm; wt 21.7g. Oblong piece of copper alloy with casting flash parallel to long axis. This piece may be a portion of a socketed tool but the identification is uncertain. Not illustrated.

Discussion

The presence of an end-winged axe fragment suggests that this assemblage should be placed within the Carp's Tongue Complex (Burgess 1968). The uncertainty surrounding the context in which these pieces were found limits discussion but the fragmentary condition of the tools and the inclusion of other waste appear to suggest a small founder's hoard. Several other hoards have been found in this area of south-west Surrey but the objects are more usually complete and these hoards may represent the deposition of personal toolkits (Needham 1987) rather than the probable founder's hoard reported here.

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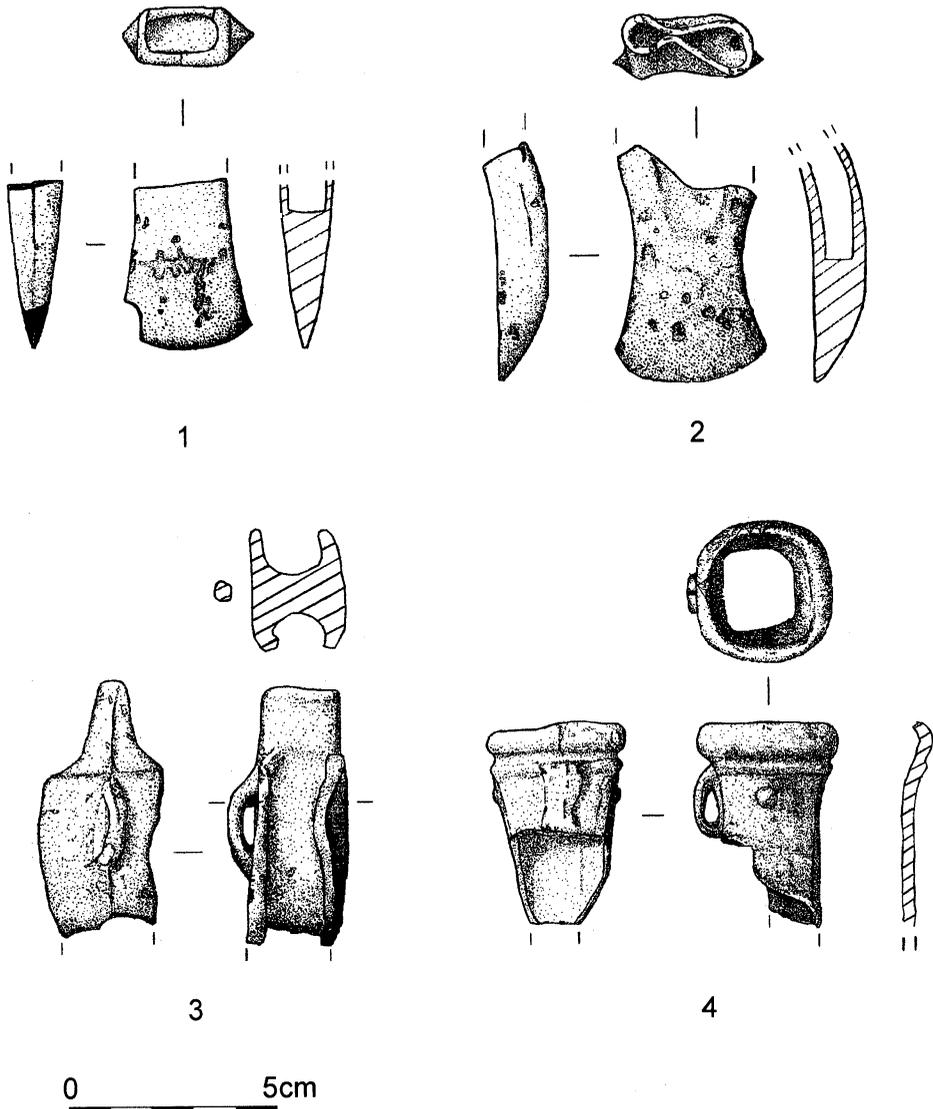


Fig 1 Hog's Back, near Guildford: copper-alloy axe fragments

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