

Archæological Note.

SOCKETED IRON SPIKE FROM WARFIELD.

Recently, when foundations were being dug for an extension of Rosehill Cottage, Warfield, a wrought iron spike was unearthed about 3 ft. down in solid clay. Unfortunately, no interest was taken in it at the time and the condition of the earth surrounding it was not noted. The spike is four-sided with rather a blunt point, as shown in the accompanying photograph; its present weight after cleaning is $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., it is just over 1 ft. long, has a socket 4 inches deep and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter at the base. There are two opposing rivet holes in the base of the socket and when found there was a square nail in position through these holes, but the staff has entirely rotted away. From the nature of the metal it has been in the earth for many centuries. It is too heavy and too insecurely fastened to its shaft to be a weapon and it is believed to be a post-holing tool of about the 16th century. There is a similar but much larger spike in Luton Museum where it is described as a "Post-holing Tool". About 3-4 yards from where the spike was found a small brick pavement was uncovered at the same time, about 2 ft. down in the clay, but it was broken up and the bricks thrown into the foundations of the new building.

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Socketed iron spike from Warfield.