

ART. II.—*A Prehistoric Settlement on Walney Island.*  
*Part IV.*<sup>1</sup> By MARJORIE CROSS.

LATE in the summer of 1945, our President, Lt.-Colonel O. H. North, resumed the interrupted study of the sandhill sites at the north end of Walney Island. On a floor a little west of the original site, he picked up 26 artifacts of flint, 3 utilized fragments of flint, and a very interesting flake of stone.

All the flint artifacts belong to the Bronze Age. No. 406 (Fig. I) is another good tanged and barbed arrowhead of Beaker type, of opaque white flint or chert, beautifully pressure-flaked and perfect except for the tip. No. 409, of opaque white flint, appears to me to be a broken specimen of lop-sided arrowhead (Dr. Grahame Clark's petit tranchet derivative Class H), similar to No. 73, which was figured in these *Trans.* N.S. xxxix, 268.

No. 408 is a fabricator, No. 411 a blade, of opaque white flint, pressure-flaked along one edge, the tip broken off. No. 423 (Fig. II) is a core, with a prepared striking platform, from which narrow blades have been struck.

All the remainder are scrapers, and of these No. 424, mottled blue and grey, is the most beautiful specimen. Mr. Lacaille writes that it is "from a piece well flaked out of a pebble, and most delicately treated. The retouch is characteristically Bronze Age, and could have been fashioned at any site."

The Stone Flake (S 19, Fig. III), was identified by Dr. Jas. Phemister of the Geological Survey and Museum as porcellanite, "comparable with the porcellanite of Tievebulliagh," a mountain near Cushendall, not far from the

<sup>1</sup> For earlier reports see these *Trans.* N.S. xxxviii, xxxix and xlii.

coast of Antrim. This particular porcellanite is found on the screes of that mountain and apparently nowhere else. It was much used by the Neolithic stone axe workers, a large number of prehistoric implements made of this rock having been found in Ireland and elsewhere.<sup>2</sup>

The flake is greenish-grey in colour. It has a concave notch on the upper surface and a large positive bulb of percussion on the under surface. The tip is broken off. The present measurements are  $1\frac{3}{4}$ "  $\times$   $1\frac{1}{4}$ "  $\times$   $\frac{1}{4}$ ". The flake was submitted to Mr. Lacaille, who remarks that it has been struck from a well-flaked core, and that it is quite old in type, but that one cannot say anything positive about one flake. We must hope in course of time to find a whole series in this material. There is already one other broken flake of it in Mr. Barnes' collection (No. S 11) and he has also two flakes of another "foreign" green, banded metamorphosed shale or porcellanite, which Dr. K. C. Dunham<sup>3</sup> thinks may be Irish (Nos. S 15 and S 16). If we find cores or whole pebbles of these rocks, the case for Antrim as the source of our raw material will be strengthened. Otherwise, these flakes may have been struck at Tievebulliagh and exported to Walney to be worked up there.

Meanwhile, upon Sandscale Haws, on the mainland just across Walney channel, the late Mr. T. W. Ogilvie, of the Barrow Field Naturalists' Society, had been diligently searching the beach. Flints there are not plentiful, but he found a number of scattered flakes without any secondary working and two very interesting cores, Nos. 435 and 437, Fig. III. Both these pebbles had been split in two on the site; from 435 one, and from 437 two small blades had been struck, and removed, and the four rejected half-pebbles left lying, to be found a few thousand years later by Mr. Ogilvie.

<sup>2</sup> "The Dolerite Plugs of Tieveragh and Tievebulliagh," by S. I. Tomkeieff, *Geol. Mag.* Vol. LXXVII, No. 1, p. 61.

<sup>3</sup> Of the Geological Survey and Museum.

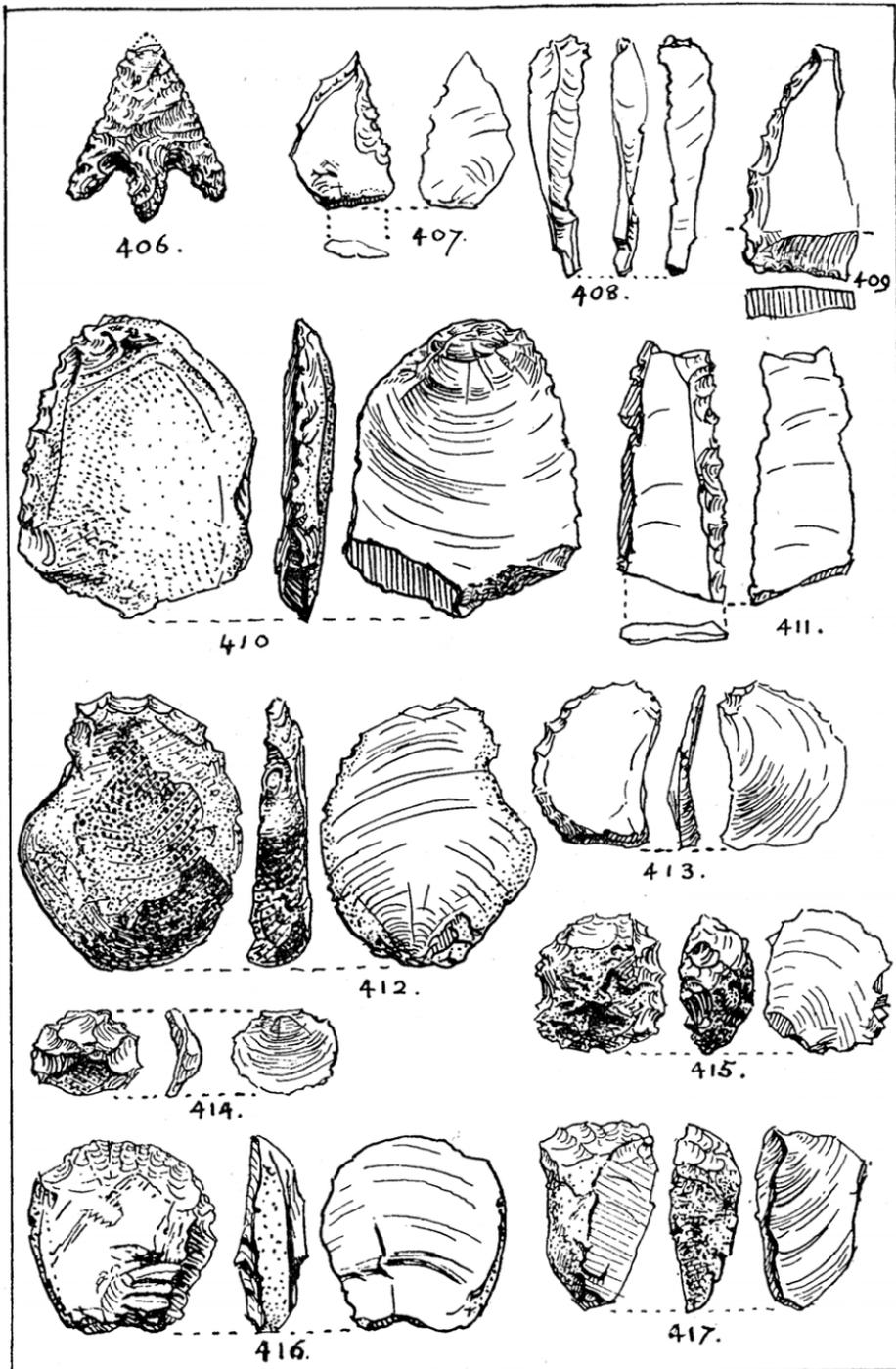


FIGURE I.  $\frac{1}{2}$

Their presence together proves that flint-working was carried on on the mainland as well as on the island. Mr. Lacaille says of No. 435: "This core shows the same treatment as appears on the coasts in the Mesolithic and Neolithic industries, e.g. Campbelltown."

In the centre of No. 435 is a fossil, identified by Mr. Chatwin of the Geological Museum as the mould of a stem-ossicle of a crinoid (Sea-lily) called Bourgueticrinus. On the upper surface of one of Col. North's scrapers, No. 416, is also an imperfect fossil, pronounced by Mr. Chatwin to be most probably a polyzoon. Both these fossils might be found in the flint of Antrim, or indeed in chalk-flint anywhere, so the evidence of the fossils for an Antrim derivation is inconclusive.

Mr. Ogilvie also found a very curious implement made of a whole cobble  $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{13}{16}''$  with a roughly worked groove or constriction at the narrower end. Plate I. This stone has been examined by Mr. Alexander at the British Museum and by Mr. Dunton of the Petrographical Department of the Geological Museum. The latter says that the rock is a porphyritic basalt, probably ice-borne from Eskdale. The pitting of the surface is possibly due to erosion. "It seems unlikely, however that any plane of weakness in the rock contributed to the constriction which crosses the specimen. It will be noted that a visible joint-plane runs the length of the specimen, but this has not been accentuated by weathering. No such plane is visible in the constriction." Mr. Alexander writes: "From these reports it appears likely that the stone has been humanly worked to some extent but the shape is unusual. The object may be described as a rude, prehistoric stone implement with poorly made groove, perhaps for hafting."

In 1942, when reporting Mr. Barnes' large and varied collection of finds, War conditions prevented me from dealing with any material except flint. I have now been



PLATE I.

*Photo. by Mr. Hogg, Tullie House*

*To face p. 70*

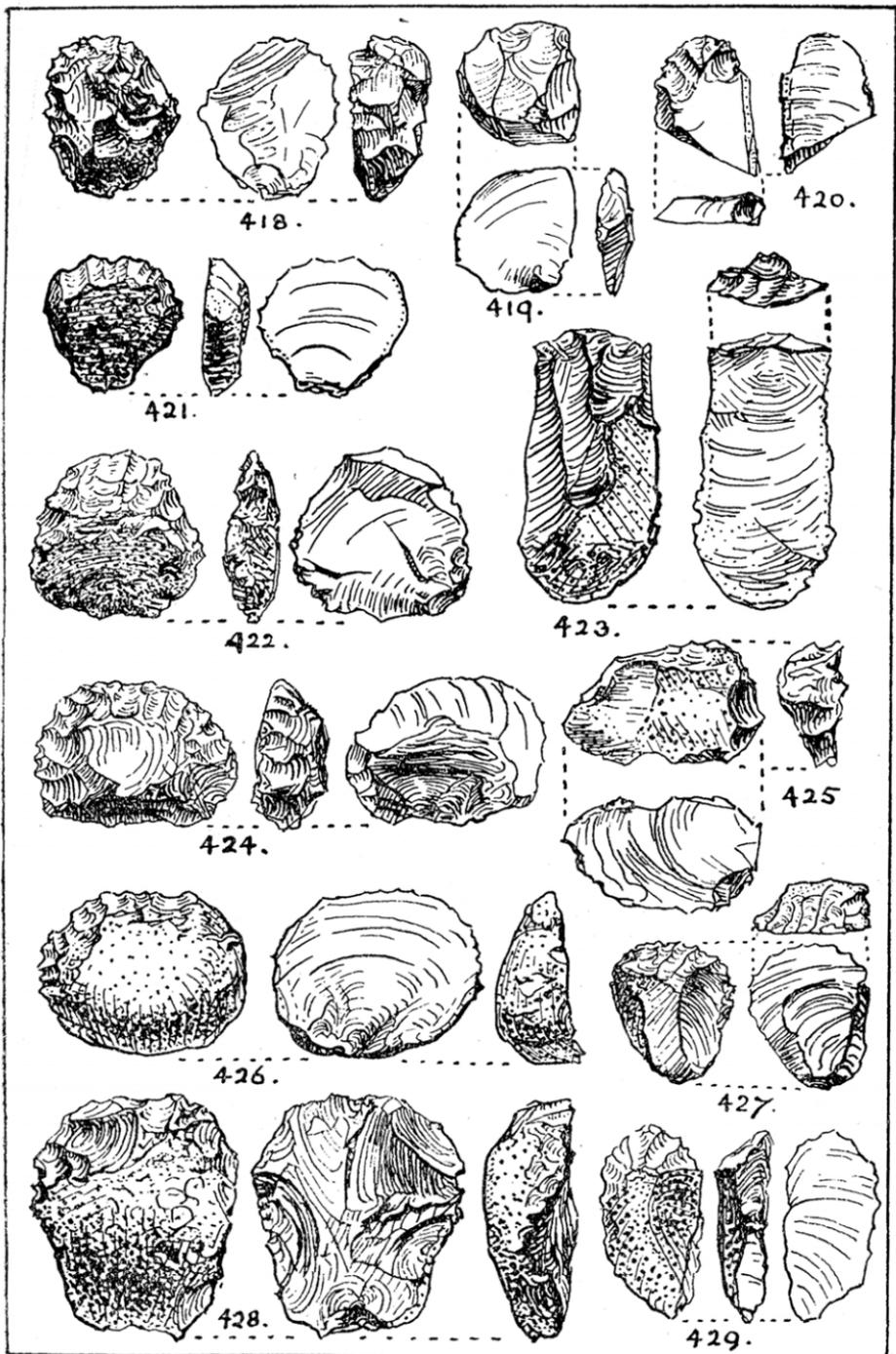


FIGURE II. †

able to obtain expert opinion on his objects of stone other than flint, pottery, fossilized bones and slag.

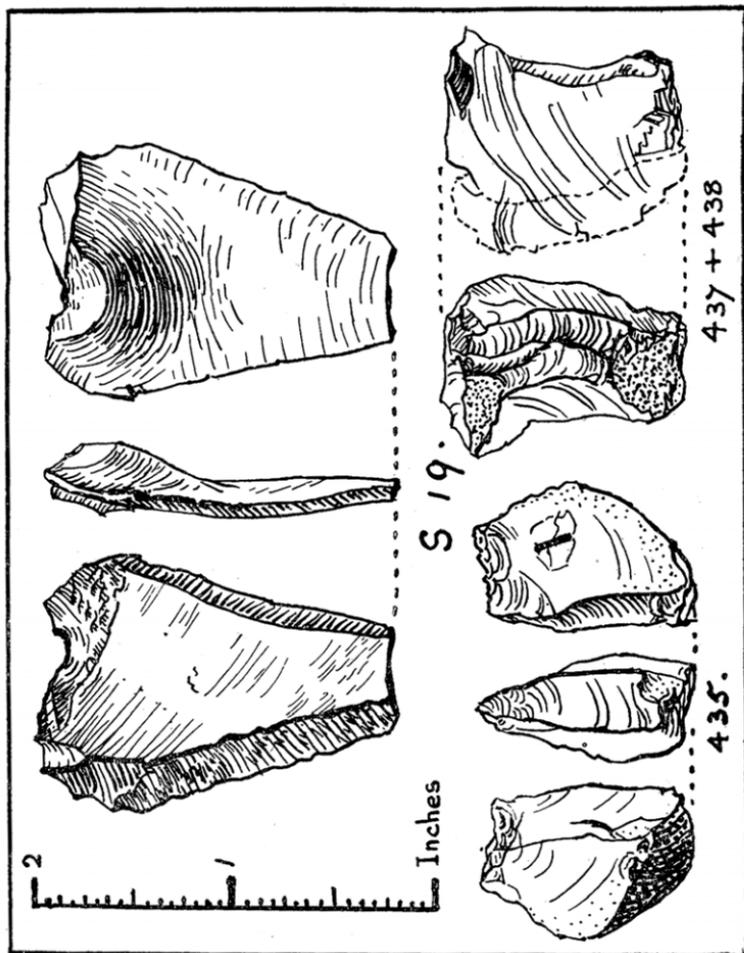


FIGURE III.

### STONE OBJECTS.

S 20, Fig. IV, is a large flake of Coniston grit,<sup>4</sup>  $4\frac{1}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ , which fits the hand and fingers if used as a side-scraper. Mr. Lacaille considers that "both

<sup>4</sup> Dr. K. C. Dunham of the Geol. Survey and Mus.

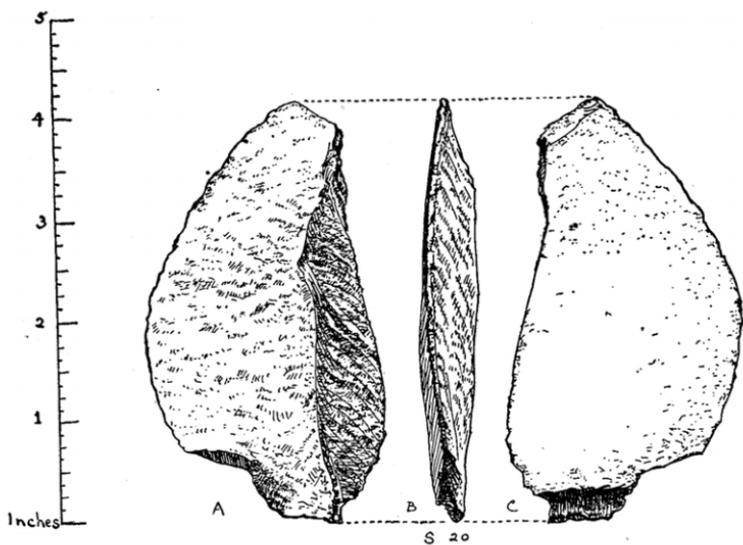


FIGURE IV.

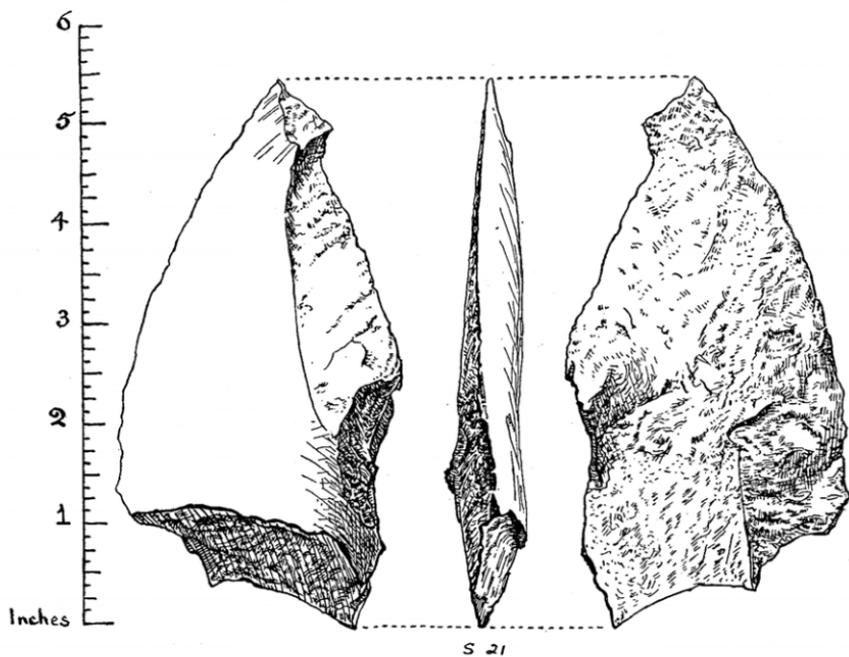


FIGURE V.

this and the following piece have certainly been intentionally struck, though not necessarily in the first place for use as implements. In a locality where only small flint occurs, it is probable that for large implements such material would be used with little or no treatment. Such coarse flakes are common enough at Sandhill sites where stone served so long for everyday tools.<sup>5</sup> In S 20, the long convex edge is roughened, but in its present weathered condition one cannot say if this is due to wear or retouch."

S 21, Fig. V, is a large triangular flake of a hard grey siltstone,<sup>6</sup>  $5\frac{3}{8}" \times 2\frac{3}{4}" \times 2\frac{5}{8}"$ . Mr. Lacaille says "It has certainly had some treatment across the base. Its edges show no signs of wear, but it is obvious that they could have served."

S 18, Fig. VI, is a cylindrical pebble of grey Coniston grit,<sup>7</sup>  $6\frac{3}{4}" \times 2" \times 2"$ , a large piece of which has been broken off in fairly recent times. Mr. Lacaille points out that the dents at the end show that "it was used as an implement to grind or knock substances on a stone surface, foodstuffs or possibly grits for pottery."

Mr. Barnes also found the fragments of half a sandstone disc 3" in diameter, and  $2/5"$  thick, "such as one so commonly finds at hearths" (A.D.L.).

## POTTERY.

Two sherds of blackened pale pink pottery are referred by Mr. Stuart Piggott to the Medieval Period. He says they are too hard, gritty and well-fired to be Bronze Age. Iron Age would be a possibility, but he inclines most towards medieval. Mr. Barnes found the two fragments

<sup>5</sup> Cf. S 3, these *Trans.* xxxix, 263, and see "A Stone Industry from Valtos, Uig, Lewis," by A. D. Lacaille, P.S.A.S. LXXI, pp. 279-296.

<sup>6</sup> Probably derived from a local outcrop of Stockdale Shales (Dr. K. C. Dunham).

<sup>7</sup> Dr. K. C. Dunham of the Geol. Survey and Mus.

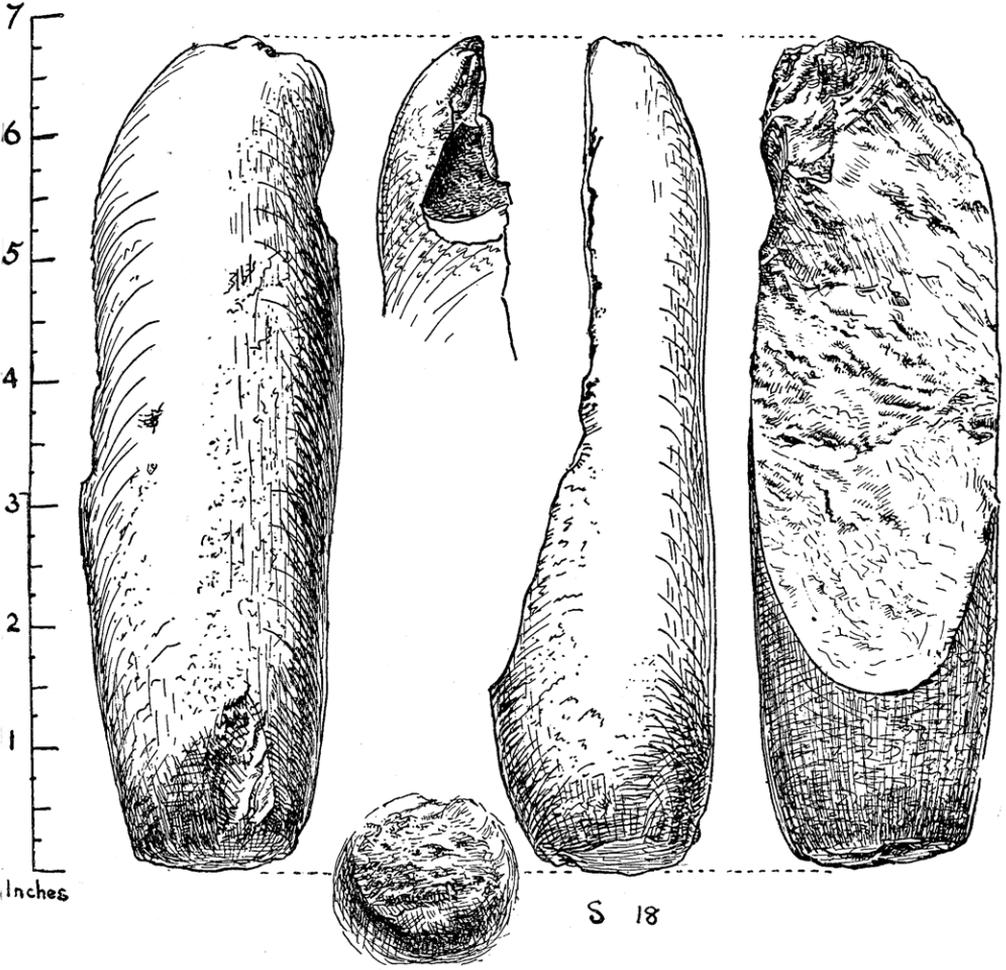


FIGURE VI.

on a small heap of stones and charcoal suggesting a camp-fire, lighted perhaps by the same sportsman who lost his iron-tipped arrow in the sandhills some time in the 14th century.<sup>8</sup>

#### BONES.

A number of very much weathered bones, collected from the beach and from a midden, were sent to Dr. Wilfrid Jackson, who reports ox, sheep, and what "looks like dog." As before, the ox-bones predominate. This is the first occurrence of the dog on this site. The specimen is a fragment of the upper jaw with teeth-sockets only. It was found with some of the meat bones within a slight circle of stones, which suggested a hut circle to Mr. Barnes, but we have not yet been able to explore this further.

#### SLAG.

Specimens from small heaps of slag were examined by Dr. A. F. Hallimond of the Geological Museum. He found no trace of bronze (though a small piece of this metal was found on the island in 1937).

He identified two pieces as ancient iron slags. "The material is finely dentritic iron oxide with a little interstitial clear material, probably siliceous. Such slags may be of very early date."

There were also some pieces of sandstone and chert stained with iron oxide. "These *may* have served as iron ores."

Some bright red sand "is stained with much iron oxide and has probably been at a high temperature. Query a used moulding sand?"

There is also a vesicular piece containing much greenish glass which "resembles a fritted hearth material but not, I should think, from an iron process." This may possibly have come from a potter's hearth.

<sup>8</sup> These *Trans.*, xlii, 153.