ART. III.—*A Prehistoric Settlement on Walney Island. Part. V.*[1] By the Hon. Marjorie Cross.

OF the finds made on Walney by Mr. Barnes in 1946, probably the widest interest attaches to two axes of Stake Pass Rock, i.e. the rock used in the axe-factory discovered on Stake Pass by Professor D. M. S. Watson and Dr. J. W. Jackson.[2] Miss Fell was able to arrange for their microscopical examination by Dr. F. S. Wallis, of the Stone Axe Sub-Committee of the South-Western Group of Museums and Art Galleries, which very kindly undertook this investigation because our own North-Western Group has not yet been able to start work. The method employed is extraordinarily neat and skilful.[3] A small slab is cut out of the body of the axe and ground down to the required thinness. The space left is then filled up with plaster and coloured to match the rest of the implement, which for exhibition purposes is absolutely unimpaired. In the course of their examination of the South-Western axes, the Sub-Committee were surprised to find no less than thirty-two which came from our small factory on Stake Pass. They were at a loss to account for their presence in Wiltshire, Dorset and the Upper Thames district. They hope that these finds on Walney may be the first signpost on the trade-route between Stake Pass and the South. Actually, however, we think these particular axes must have been made on the Island, because numbers of chips of the same

[1] For previous reports see these *Transactions*, N.S. xxxviii, xxxix, xlii and xlvi.

[2] S. Hazzledine Warren, 1921, J.R.A.I., Vol. LI, 165-198 and these *Trans.*, N.S. xl, 114.

[3] Proc. Prehist. Soc., 1941, N.S. vii, pp. 58, 68.

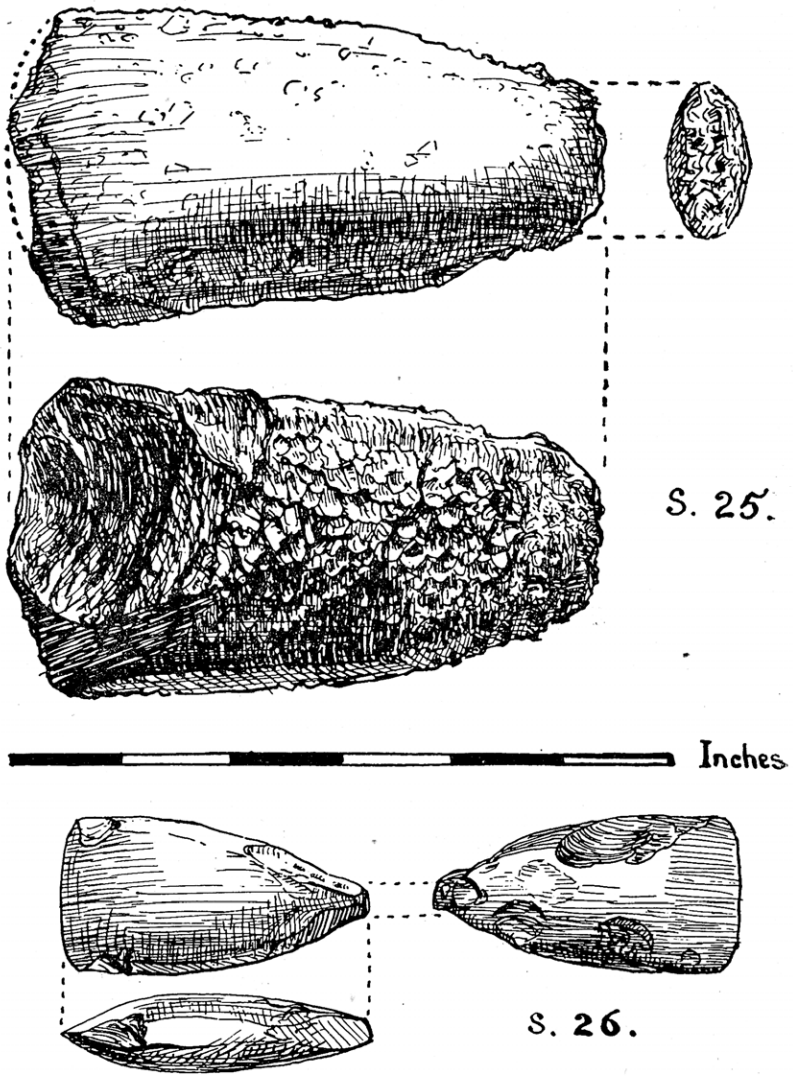
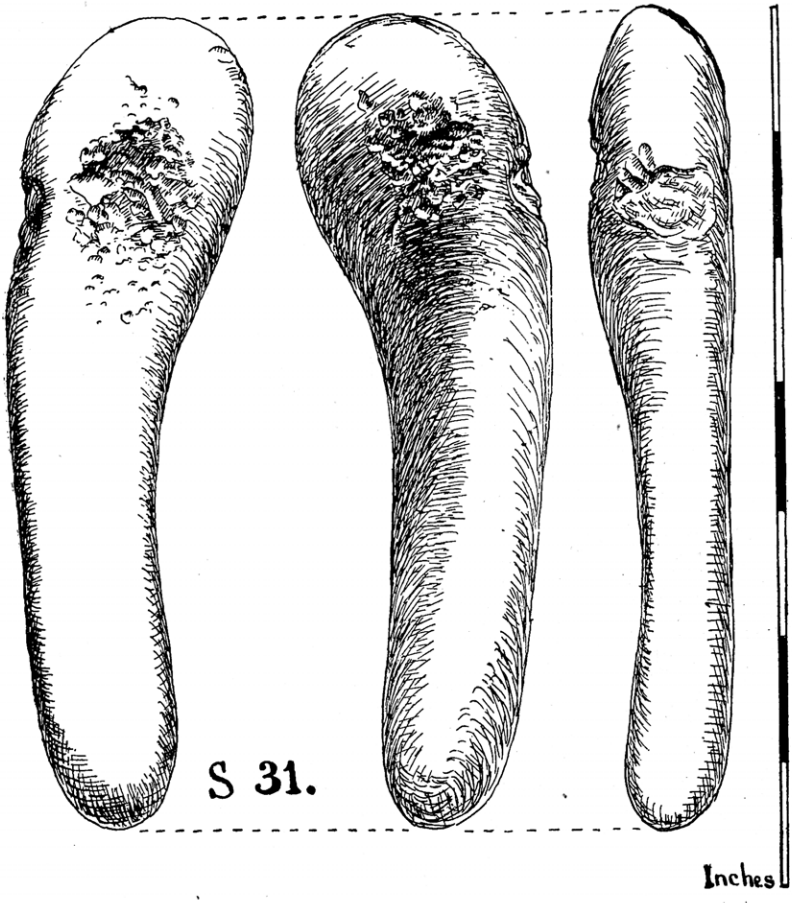


FIGURE 1.



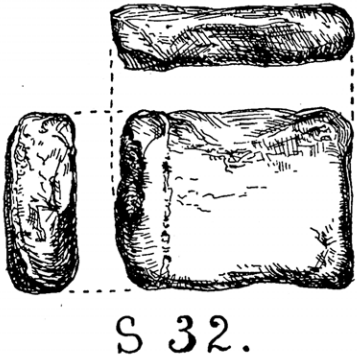


FIGURE 2. $\frac{2}{3}$

rock were lying about on the chipping-floor. There were two ways in which the workers could have obtained their material. The rock (which is a green epidotized tuff of intermediate or basic composition), outcrops in a band stretching from south of the summit of Bow Fell to the east of the Langdale Pikes; so they may possibly have made expeditions up the Duddon Valley, the lure of the mountains being always before their eyes on the sandhills, and brought down pieces of the rock to work up themselves; but a second and easier way would be to pick it up off the beach. The Eskdale ice-stream contributed much of the material of the Walney beaches and (though I have not been up to look) I think its source would cover Longstrath and Stake Pass. Mr. Barnes reports cobbles of the same rock among the beach material a quarter of a mile south of the chipping-floor, all in the immediate vicinity having presumably been used up. Walney may also have been the port from which the axes made on Stake Pass were shipped down the coast and up the Bristol Channel, in which case they would be the first known exports from Barrow Port. Alternatively they could have been shipped at Eskmeals, where there is another sand-hill settlement, or at Ravenglass.

One of these axes, S 26 (Fig. 1) is the smallest we have yet found, measuring only $2^{3}/_{4}'' \times 1^{7}/_{16}'' \times {}^{11}/_{16}''$. It is light grey green, with a lighter banding. The slightly curved cutting edge is perfect and very sharp. There is a trace of a lateral facet on one edge only. The butt is too much damaged with rolled scars to tell its original character.

The second specimen, S 27 (Fig. 2), which is of a darker green, is the oval butt-end of a small roughed out axe which was evidently broken before the polishing stage was reached. Its present measurements are $1^{9}/_{16}'' \times {}^{15}/_{16}'' \times {}^{1}/_{2}''$.

Another 1946 axe, S 25 (Fig. 1) exhibits the same pitting and appears to be of exactly the same rock as

S 24 in the last report, viz. a porphyritic basalt of the Borrowdale Volcanic Series, probably also from Eskdale. The cutting edge is considerably damaged. The butt is oval in section. There are traces of lateral grinding, again on one edge only, and of polishing near one corner of the cutting edge. Present measurements: $5\,^{5}/_{16}''$ × $2\,^{15}/_{16}''$ tapering to $1\,^{1}/_{2}''$ × $1\,^{9}/_{16}''$.

S 31 (Fig 2) is a utilized pebble of dark grey gritstone, $6\,^{7}/_{16}''$ × $1\,^{5}/_{6}''$ × $1\,^{1}/_{8}''$, which at first sight looks like a hammer, but Mr. Lacaille points out that "it is likelier that it served as a portable anvil, since the marks of wear are concentrated in the form of a deep pocking accompanied by short scars, rather than a widespread bruising."

S 32 (Fig. 2) is a flat rectangular pebble of dark grey volcanic rock with an intrusive white band, $1\,^{15}/_{16}''$ × $1\,^{7}/_{16}''$ × $^{1}/_{2}''$. It is battered on one long and one short edge, and Mr. Lacaille suggests that one purpose of such objects may have been for striking off limpets from rocks. He recalls the Abbé Breuil's idea[4] that the bruised narrow pebbles at longshore sites had once been used as flakers in the preparation of flint (e.g. removal of flakes and blades from cores).

FLINTS.

In deference to our Editor, of the ninety specimens of flint showing workmanship I figure only those which exhibit fresh characteristics.

No. 439 (Fig. 3) is a hollow-based arrowhead of bluish flint patinated white, the tip missing, $^{15}/_{16}''$ × $^{13}/_{16}''$ × $^{1}/_{10}''$, pressure-flaked on three edges of the upper surface and on one long edge of the flake surface. This is the first of this type to be found on Walney, though four were found by Mr. Pape in the sandhills at Newborough Warren on Anglesey.[5]

[4] *Proc. Soc. A nt. Scot.*, lvi (1921–22), 267-9.

[5] *Trans. of the Ant. Soc. and Field Club*, 1928, pp. 24, ff. and Fig. 1.

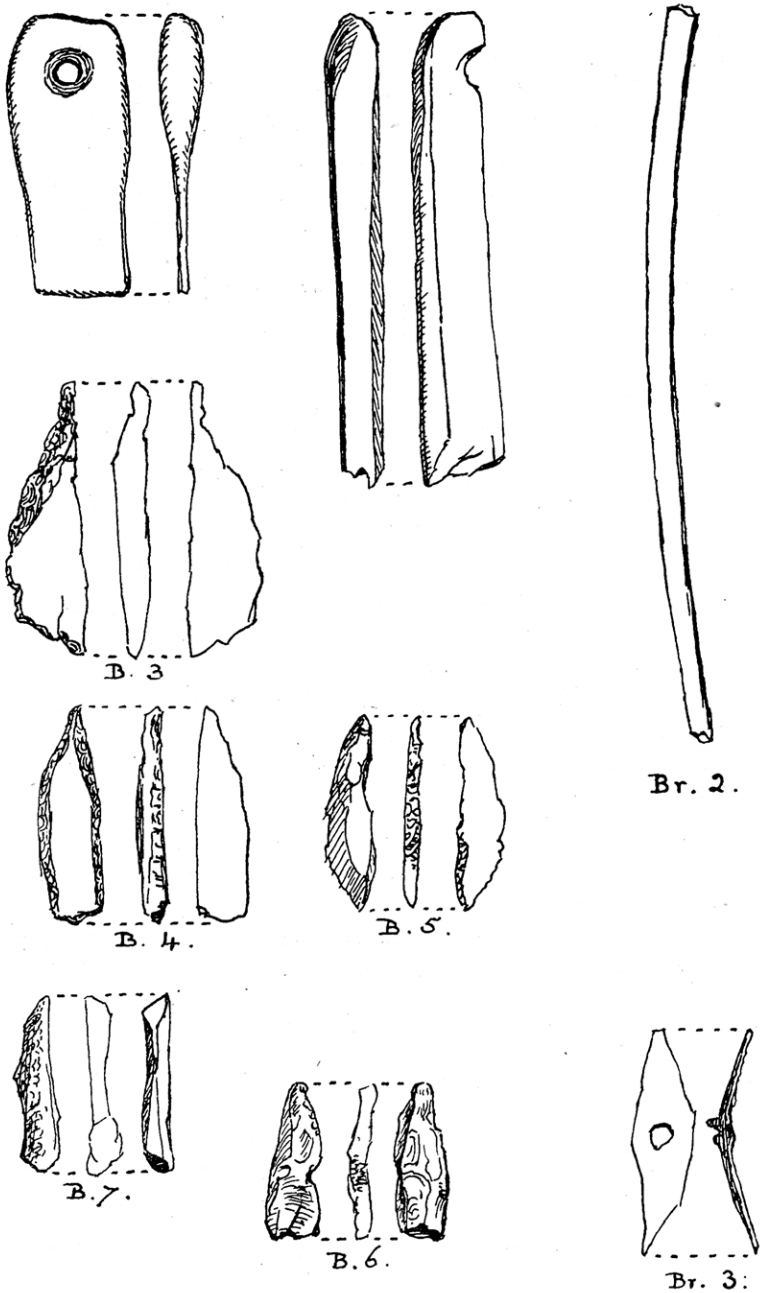


FIGURE 3. ½

No. 440 is larger and coarser, presumably a spearhead of blue and white flint, $1^{5}/_{8}'' \times {}^{7}/_{8}'' \times {}^{1}/_{4}''$, broken at the base which may also have been hollow. It is worked on both edges of the upper surface only, the flaking being partly by pressure, partly resolved. It also has parallels on Anglesey.

No. 441 is a small point, ${}^{3}/_{4}'' \times {}^{5}/_{16}'' \times {}^{1}/_{4}''$, of bluish flint patinating white. It is trimmed to the point on both edges, also a little halfway down one edge and at the base of the other.

No. 450 is one of our few gravers, on the bulbar end of a split pebble of fawn flint with yellow crust, $1^{3}/_{16}'' \times {}^{11}/_{16}'' \times {}^{1}/_{4}''$. The graver is formed by the intersection of three facets with the flake surface.

No. 495 is another graver on a flake of fawn flint with yellow crust. Miss Fell draws attention to its rolled condition and to its resemblance to our No. 9, figured in these *Transactions*, N.S. xxxviii, 160, Plate II.

No. 487 is a chip of grey flint with heavy cream patina and a patch of yellow crust, "with an undoubtedly artificial but unretouched notch, not connected with micro-burin technique" (Mr. A. D. Lacaille).

No. 484 is the end of a large scraper made on a blade which has snapped off. It is of mottled grey flint, present measurements ${}^{13}/_{16}'' \times 1^{7}/_{16}'' \times {}^{3}/_{16}''$, worked all round the curved edge. This was found in a shell-midden.

The year's collection also includes another tanged and barbed arrowhead, No. 442, and fragments of four more arrowheads of various types; six other gravers; five blades; five cores; two possible gorges; and forty-eight scrapers, some of them minute buttons only half-an-inch in diameter, Nos. 511 and 508. Five specimens (two blades and three fragments) show the traditional minute steep trimming of microlithic technique, but we have still no microliths.

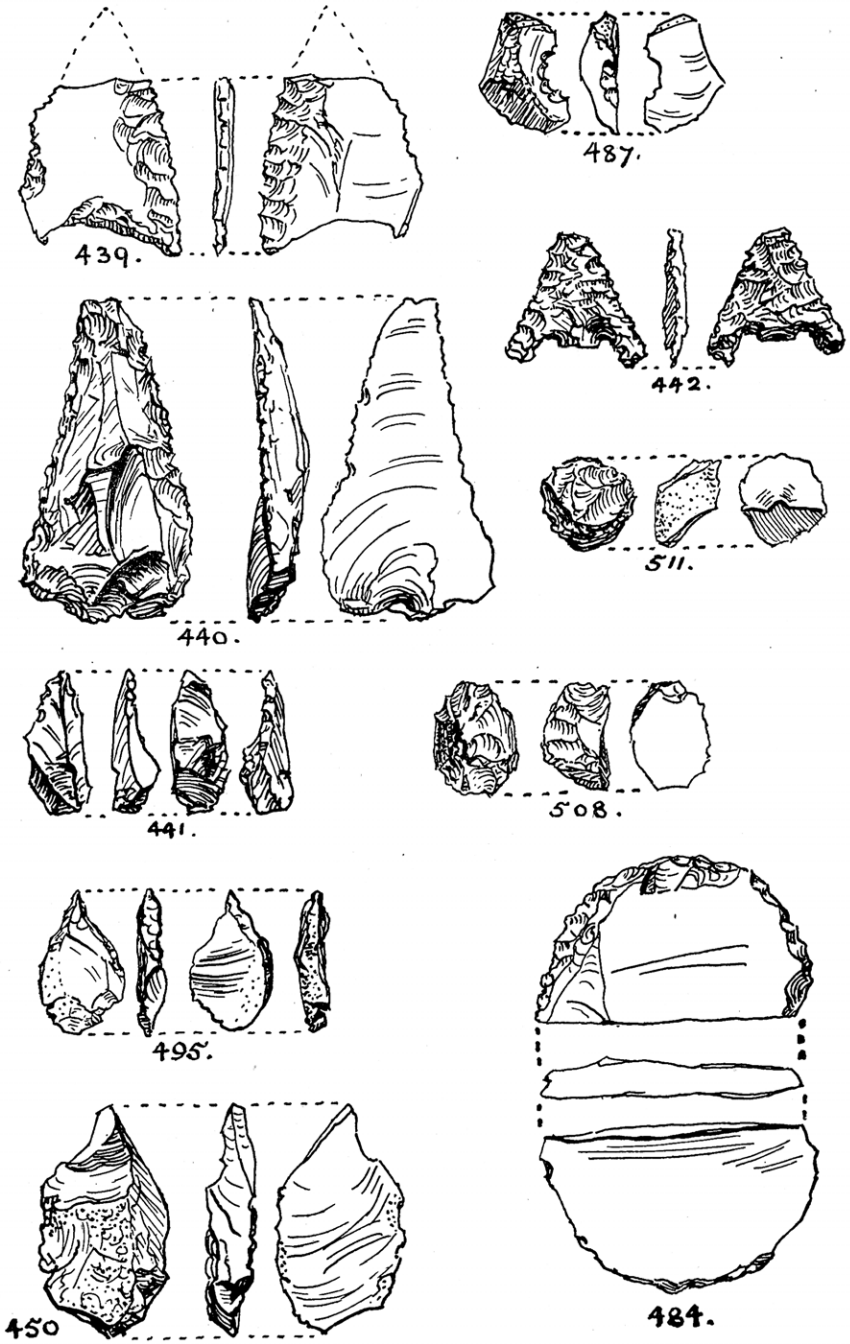


FIGURE 4. $\frac{1}{1}$

Scattered over an oblong mound which, when possible, may repay excavation, we found some miscellaneous objects shown in Fig. 4. B 3 to B 7 are five points of trimmed bone, from 1 3/8" to 3/4" in length. They are mineralized and very glossy from sand-blasting. They would probably be used as awls or arrowtips.

S 33 is a thin oblong slab of brownish grey stone with hour-glass perforation near the thicker end, 1 3/8" × 3/5" × 3/16" at the perforation tapering to 1/16" at the lower edge; and S 34 is half of a second longer one broken longitudinally. At first sight S 33 suggested a pendant, but Mr. Lacaille considers that it is " the upper part of a small much worn whetstone, probably intended to be carried attached to the belt of the owner. It may well go back to the Bronze Age."

S 34 was sliced and microscopically examined by Dr. K. C. Dunham of the Geological Survey and Museum, who reports that " the rock is a fine-grained slate or phyllite, composed of a micaceous mineral, probably illite, orientated parallel to the strongest cleavage, which also forms the flat side of the implement." Dr. Dunham also thinks these implements may have been whetstones, having recently found phyllites among the materials used for Roman honestones at Leicester.

Br. 2 appears to be part of the shank of a large bronze pin of Late Bronze Age date. It is 1/6" thick tapering slightly, and is broken off at 3 13/16". It has a heavy green patina.

Br. 3 is a thin, lozenge-shaped perforated plate of bronze, 1 3/16" × 5/16", with partial green patina. Both Miss Fell and Mr. Lacaille are inclined to think the patina is the only prehistoric feature of this object. Mr. Lacaille suggests that possibly the bronze sheet was prehistoric but that it was cut and pierced more recently, as the perforation seems to have been roughly hammered through with a nail.

A quantity of iron slag was also found on this mound, but this is scattered over most of the site.

[Our thanks are once more due to Mr. A. D. Lacaille, F.S.A.S., also to Dr. J. F. S. Stone and Dr. F. S. Wallis of the Stone Age Sub-Committee; and to Dr. K. C. Dunham of the Geological Survey and Museum.].