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ART. IV.—*Pre-historic Implements in Furness.* By HARPER
GAYTHORPE, F.S.A.Scot.

Read at Carlisle, April 27th, 1905.

THE two stone celts which I now bring forward are most interesting specimens of the Neolithic period. Fig. 1, the smaller of the two, was found in March, 1904, at the Walney Road brickworks, Barrow, at a point about a hundred yards from the junction of Chatsworth Street and Hartington Street, north-west of St. James' Church, and about 150 yards due east from Bell's houses, No. 25 and 27 Walney Road, a few yards beyond the Bessemer department of the Barrow Hematite Steel Works.

A brickmaker named Mr. Daniel Evans, who found the celt, informed me that it was picked up whilst excavating an extensive bed of upper boulder clay, at a depth of two to three feet below the surface. I have examined this boulder clay, and found the bank or breast of the clay about twenty feet thick. It contained boulders of all sizes, from a few inches to eighteen inches in diameter—granites, porphyry, limestone, red sandstone, &c.

In excavating the clay about one hundred yards to the north east of where the celt was found, and nearer to Holker Street, was a bed of sand about thirty yards long and from four to five feet thick.

The smaller celt is of peculiar form, and tapers rapidly to the butt end. It has the sides flat, similar to other celts found at Kirkby Ireleth, Walney Island, Greengate Bridge, Barrow, and at Ulverston, and is made of slate of local Silurian formation, originally bluish grey in colour; but owing to being buried in the clay for so long a period, it has become changed on the surface to a drab or "stone"

colour, whilst underneath the surface it gradually assumes a brown tint, until the original colour of the stone appears at a depth of $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch.

The celt is symmetrical in form, $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches long, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide at the cutting edge, and $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch wide at the butt end. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the cutting edge, the celt is $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch thick—the thickest part of the implement. It weighs $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. The cutting edge, which has been very sharp but is now flaked, forms an angle of 64 degrees with the faces of the celt. The butt end has also been broken and flaked. Both faces have been ground and polished, and the marks of grinding are mainly longitudinal, while the flat sides have been ground and polished in a transverse direction. The sides are $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch wide, and taper gradually from the cutting edge to the butt end of the celt, and are slightly rounded similar to No. 58 from Burradon, Northumberland, figured in *Ancient Stone Implements*, p. 116, which this celt nearly resembles in form.

There is a ridge on the face of the celt similar to that shown on the Walney celt (these *Transactions*, N.S., iv., p. 325, fig 1., and on fig. 59, p. III, *Ancient Stone Implements*). One of the faces has been scratched at some distant period, probably glacial. The celt is now in my own possession.

Fig. 2, the larger of the two celts, was found by Mr. Joseph Hine of Greenscoe Farm, near Askam in Furness, about ten years ago, when ploughing a field called Brockholes. Noticing the stone was curiously shaped, he threw it on the hedge bank near the footpath which leads from Greenscoe Farm to Ireleth Church, where it was refound in February, 1905, by his son, Mr. Walter Hine.

The field called Brockholes lies about three-quarters of a mile from High Haume, in a direct line towards Askam. Mr. C. M. Jopling, in his *Sketch of Furness and Cartmel*, 1843, p. 95, states:—

We have been informed, that, upon removing what appeared to be the foundation of an old building near High-haum, about twenty Celts or stone hammers were found, in various states of preparation, some only in form, and others finely polished.

It is not unlikely that this celt may have been one of the unfinished specimens referred to by Mr. Jopling, but it is impossible to say with certainty whether there ever was a regular manufactory of celts near the hut circle at High Haume, similar to those at Cissbury, near Worthing in Sussex, and elsewhere as referred to on pp. 33-35 *Ancient Stone Implements*, or whether the twenty or more celts referred to by Mr. Jopling were only a hoard.

In *Ancient Stone Implements*, nineteen specimens of celts found at various places, merely chipped into form and unground, are figured. They are referred to as being found, with one exception from Yorkshire, in the southern and eastern counties, and the one now being described is, so far as I am aware, the first specimen of its kind figured in Furness. Unfinished celts made of other kinds of stone are much rarer than those made of flint.

This celt is much larger, but in form not unlike No. 25 in *Ancient Stone Implements*, p. 76, from the forest of Bere, near Horndean, Hampshire, and is made of slate of local Silurian formation. Where chipped it has the same characteristics as to colour as I have stated in respect to the smaller celt, and from its form it seems to have been intended to be ground and polished.

By exposure to the weather on the hedge bank since 1895, the upper convex surface has become darker in tint, and the "bate" of the stone can be seen in oblique lines towards the wider end.

According to Sir John Evans, the chipping out of celts such as this must have been effected by direct blows of a hammer. The stone employed is almost always of a more or less silicious nature, and such as breaks (like this) with

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a conchoidal fracture (*Ancient Stone Implements*, pp. 32, 35). Great skill must have been required to chip out the long flake in the centre of the celt.

This larger celt is $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide towards the middle, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches wide at the cutting edge, and 2 inches wide at the butt end. It is $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches thick near the middle, 1 inch thick near the cutting edge, and $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch thick near the butt end. The faces, although chipped only, are fairly smooth. It weighs 2 lbs. 13 ozs.

The flat part of the lower face appears to be the original surface of the celt, and at the lower portion nearer the butt end the drab and brown tints penetrate into the stone about $\frac{1}{32}$ of an inch, though the stone appears to be equally as hard there as the upper portion. When struck with a small hammer it has a metallic ring. "It seems almost demonstrable that some at least of these unpolished celts must be amongst the earliest of the neolithic implements of this country; for though in neolithic times some naturally-shaped stones have been sharpened for use by grinding only, yet the art of chipping stone into shape must in all probability have preceded that of grinding or polishing its edges. Though some may have been used without being ground, they bear, for the most part, the same relation to the finished forms as the blade of steel rough from the forge bears to the polished knife" (*Ancient Stone Implements*, pp. 85, 86).

The stone celts found at Portinscale (Keswick) in November, 1901, described by Canon Rawnsley in these *Transactions*, N.S., vol. ii., p. 418, and also others in the Keswick Museum and at Tullie House, Carlisle, are generally thought to be merely unfinished specimens. The circumstances of the "finds" at Greenscoe and Portinscale do not necessarily imply that these celts are of an early date.

My thanks are due to Mr. Joseph Kendall of Barrow for notes of the discovery of this implement. It now belongs to the Barrow Naturalists' Field Club.

Fig. 3.—The leaf-shaped bronze spear-head, referred to in these *Transactions*, N.S., iii., p. 410, is figured No. 3 on the accompanying plate. It was found at Piel Castle by Mr. Thomas Clayton of Barrow in the year 1871. He and his brother, Mr. Fred Clayton, in dislodging the spear-head with a large boulder stone broke a piece about one inch long off the socketed end, which was visible when the spear-head was found in the original mortar between stones in that portion of the inner boundary wall of the castle now lying on the shore at the south-west corner of the keep, near the Fouldrey Stones and Bass Pool.

On dislodging the stone the spear-head was found to be of a greenish black colour, and was placed at an angle of forty-five degrees or thereabouts with the face of the wall, and about four feet above the ground level of the stone work. There were no signs of new mortar, or of the spear-head having been put between the stones in modern times.

The spear-head was originally about $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, but is now $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches. It is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, and the socketed end $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter. The mid-rib is circular in section, and tapers gradually from the socketed end to the point of the spear. There is a hollow fluting about $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch wide, parallel to the edges of the spear-head. In form it is like that found in Heathery Burn Cave, figured in *Ancient Bronze Implements*, No. 381, p. 312; and on plate ii., vol. 15, these *Transactions*, pp. 164, 165.

It has been fixed with a brass rivet into a modern handle. The spear-head was probably built into the wall when the castle was founded, c. 1324.

The holes through which the spear-head has been rivetted to the handle were drilled by Mr. T. Clayton. The other hole under the rivet, shown on the side view, was there when the spear-head was found, but there was no hole opposite to it as is usually the case.

“As to the position in time which spear-heads occupy in the Bronze Age, it is probable that it is towards the close rather than the beginning of that period.” The spear-head is now in the possession of the Barrow Naturalists' Field Club, having been presented through a former curator (Mr. George Dixon) by Mr. T. Clayton.

Figs. 1 and 3 are half full size. Fig. 2 is one-third full size.

