

ART. VI.—*Stone Implements from the Kirkby Lonsdale District.* By ANTHONY MOORHOUSE.

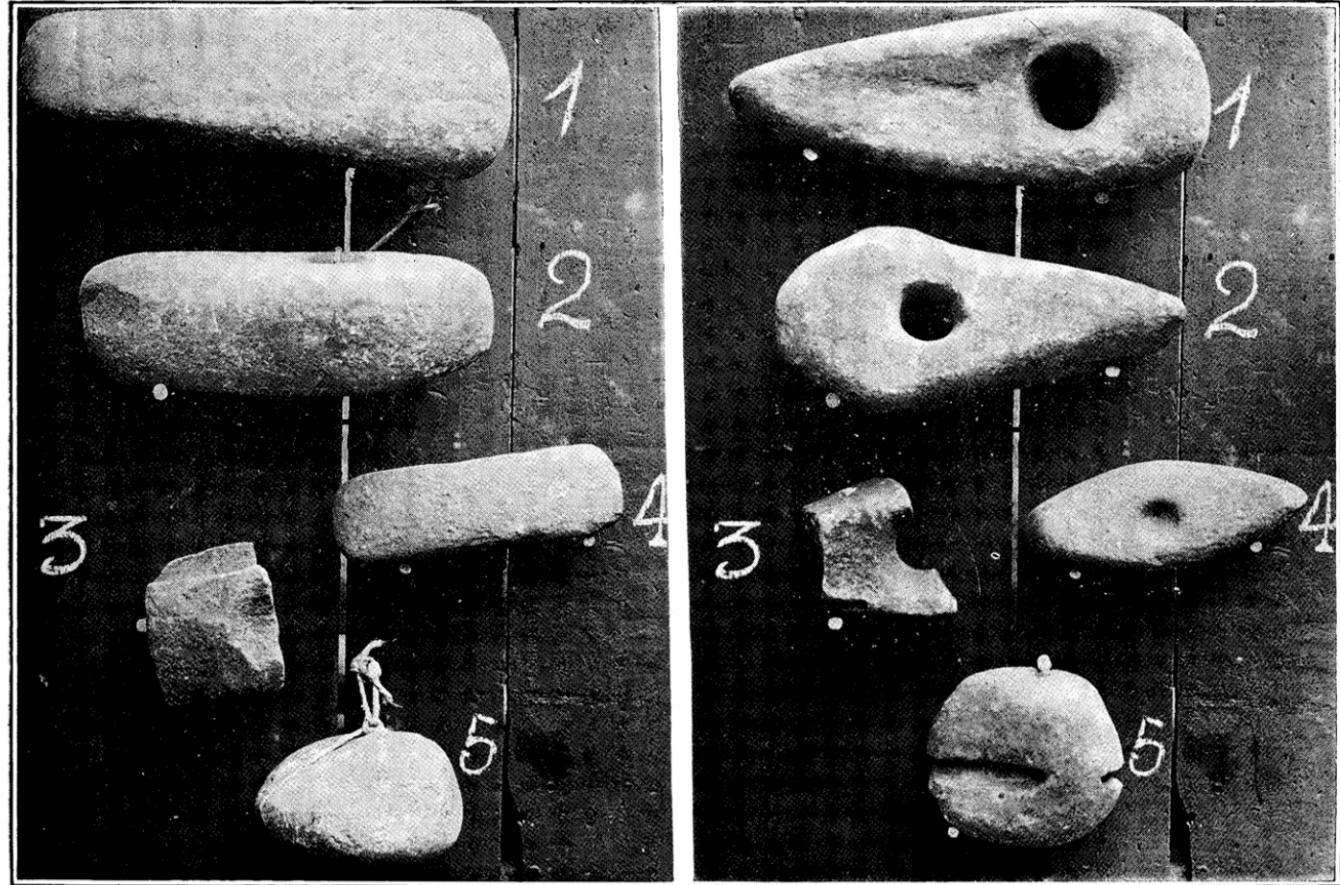
Read at Penrith, September 13th, 1906.

OF the accompanying photographs, the views marked "1" represent two sides of a stone axe, 10½ in. long; width at the widest part, 4 in.; thickness at the widest part, 3½ in.; and weight, 7½ lb. It was found at Old Hutton some years ago, and is now in the possession of Mr. Punchard of Kirkby Lonsdale.

No. 2 (two views) is a similar axe, but of much ruder workmanship. It is 9 in. long; width at the widest part, 4 in.; thickness at the widest part, 3 in.; and weight, 5 lb. It was found recently on some ploughed land at Mansergh.

No. 3 (two views) is a portion only of an axe, but the whole was evidently made on the same lines as No. 2. The weight of the fragment is 1 lb. 6 oz.; the width at widest part when perfect would be 3¾ in.; thickness at the thickest part, 2¾ in. This was found last year when cleaning out a beck course near Cowdber Hill, Burrow, and from its stained appearance must have been long under water. The remains on Cowdber Hill and in the vicinity seem to suggest a very early occupation; at the foot of the hill, and standing a couple of feet above the surrounding ground, is the Roman road from Ribchester to Burrow. Some parts of this road seem little the worse for the centuries which have elapsed since the Roman occupation. The road, however, is not now in use, but once was without doubt a great military highway.

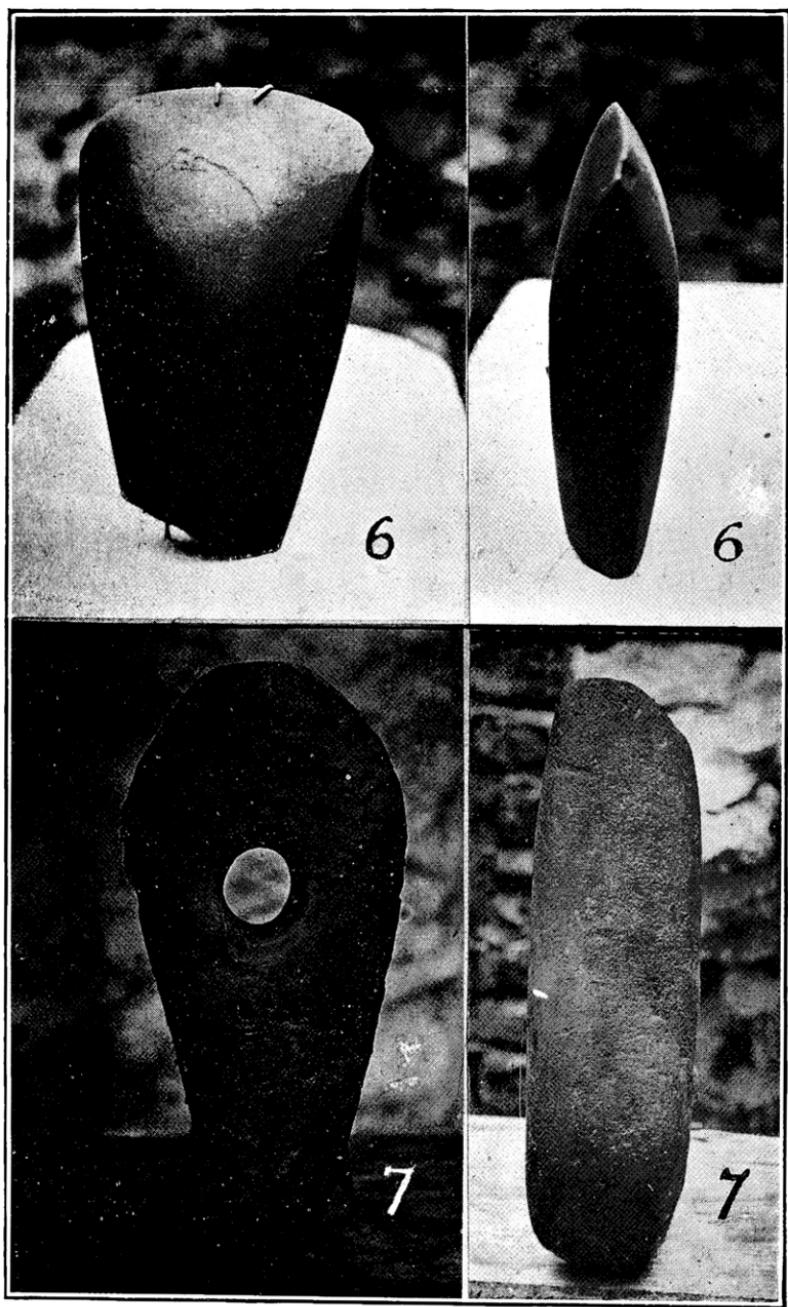
No. 4 (two views) is another smaller axe of somewhat different shape. The length is 6½ in.; width at the widest part, 2 in.; weight, 1 lb. 14 oz. It was recently found at



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Arkholme. This axe is remarkable from the fact that the hole for the shaft is not finished; indeed, only just started. It is made on each side to the depth of half an inch, and seems to have been hollowed by means of a sharp-pointed tool, perhaps of flint, with the intention of completing the hole by drilling.

No. 5 (two views) was recently unearthed from a sand-bed at Arkholme. The length is $4\frac{1}{4}$ in.; width, 4 in.; and thickness at the widest part, $2\frac{3}{4}$ in.; weight, $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. The groove has been worked in for some purpose, possibly to form a net-sinker; the river Lune at a remote period was of great width in this district, as the ancient banks, now some distance from the river, seem to indicate. A stone ball, swung in a thong or tied to a stick, might also be used as a weapon.*

No. 6 (two views) shows a polished celt of a dark green colour, 5 in. long, $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. wide at the widest part, $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide at the narrowest part, and $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. thick; the weight is 1 lb. This is the property of Mr. North of Newton Hall, late the owner of Thurland Castle, and it was found some years ago in the grounds of Thurland Castle when digging up the roots of a tree. It is, so far as I know, the only polished celt discovered in this neighbourhood. As the photograph shows, a piece is broken off the narrow end; this must have been done by the workmen in digging it up, as the fracture seems quite new, although some years have passed since the stone was found. I am glad to say that this celt has an honoured place in Mr. North's cabinet of curiosities. It is of beautiful finish, and ground to a keen cutting-edge.

No. 7 (two views) is a similar axe to No. 2. It is $9\frac{1}{4}$ in. long; width at the widest part, 4 in.; thickness at the thickest part, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.; weight, $5\frac{1}{4}$ lb. It was found on Kellet Seeds, an elevated and rocky tract in the village of

* See Dr. J. Anderson's *Scotland in Pagan Times; Iron Age*, p. 170; and Mr. H. S. Cowper's *The Art of Attack*.

Kellet, some eleven miles from Kirkby Lonsdale. It is the property of Mr. J. Bleasdale, Pump House Farm, Kellet, and was found by one of his family.

One more stone axe was discovered on the fells near Kirkby Lonsdale. This was sold by the finder to a visitor, and is now unfortunately lost sight of. I think that these and other relics should be carefully kept in the locality in which they are found ; they are silent witnesses of a far distant past, when man's struggle for existence was immeasurably greater than it is to-day.

No. 1 is the best finished of the perforated axes. All the axes clearly show the tool-marks of the makers. Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5 are in my possession. Nos. 1 and 6 were shown at the Society's meeting at Kirkby Lonsdale in the summer of 1904.
