

LOCAL FINDS OF STONE IMPLEMENTS.

Figs. 1 and 2.

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ART. XIV.—*Some Recent Local Finds of Stone Implements.*

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Read at Ambleside, July 6th, 1933.

SOME of the objects here shown belong to the class of so-called axe-hammers. These, as Mr. Reginald Smith has pointed out (*Archaeologia*, vol. 75), are probably of Bronze Age rather than Neolithic date, to judge by the finds associated with them, and are later than the flint daggers and beakers which were in use at the beginning of the Bronze Age. Mr. Smith thinks that our specimens, though copied from the so-called battle-axes of the continent, were sometimes used as domestic tools, though it is not easy to see what they were used for, as most of them do not show much battering on the butt, and the edge could not have been of much use for cutting.

1. (Fig. 1, no. 1; Fig. 2). This was found by the late Mr. T. H. Dawson, under keeper at Sizergh Castle, when digging out a rabbit in Low Park Wood. It is 9 ins. long, 4 ins. broad, and 3 ins. deep, and weighs 5 lbs. 10 ozs. The hole is hour-glass shaped, and there is a rib on each side as in Evans (*Stone Implements*) nos. 134, 139.

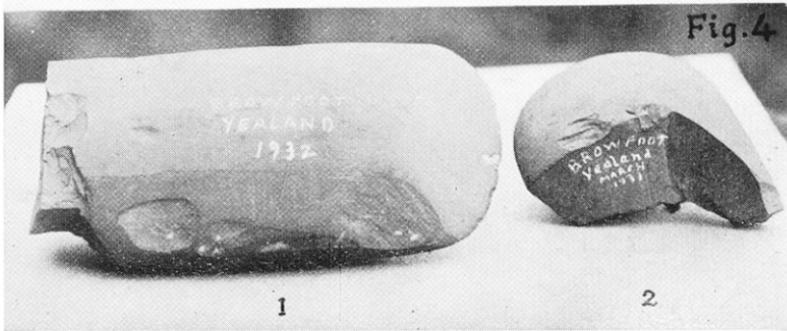
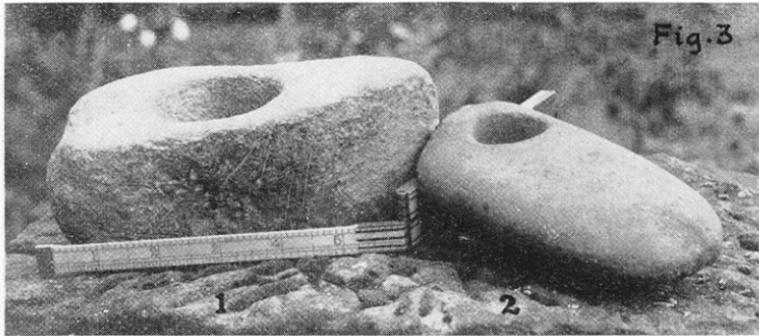
2. (Fig. 1, no. 2; Fig. 3, no. 1). This was found at Docker, near Whittington. It is $6\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long, 3 ins. broad and $2\frac{3}{4}$ —2 ins. deep, being deepest at the cutting edge.

3. (Fig. 1, no. 3; Fig. 3, no. 2). This broken specimen was not an axe but an adze (Evans, p. 168 *seqq.*); it was a thin and narrow tool, made of poor stone. It was found near Grange.

4. (Fig. 1, no. 4). The Axe head with groove round it was found at Biglands by Samuel Redman of Hampsfield and given to Mr. P. G. Hibbert in February, 1917. It is

4 ins. broad and 6 ins. long and weighs 2 lbs. 15 ozs. It was found in a ploughed field and showed plough marks on it. It is undoubtedly of South American origin. I have since been told by Sir Thomas Tomlinson that a former resident at the place at which it was found had lived in South America, and had collected various native implements, so it had evidently come from his collection and had been lost or thrown away. I was surprised to see another of similar form in the Tullie House Collection at Carlisle. Mr. Gray kindly gave me the following information about it—"The hand axe 4 ins. broad ploughed up at Eden Hall, obtained by us from the Robert Ferguson Collection, is marked by the late Professor Boyd Dawkins as being Mexican." These two instances of undoubtedly genuine finds show how careful one has to be. In my collection, I have four arrow heads found in building a house on the Folkestone Road, Dover, which are N. American, probably from Ohio.

5. (Fig. 4, no. 1). The cutting edge of a polished stone axe, was found at Yealand this year by Mr. J. Seed, the same man who found a polished axe there last year (Fig. 4, 2), and another, unfortunately lost, at the same place, some years ago. This one shows a perfect cutting edge—very sharp—nicely polished, but with a small piece rising slightly from the general level, from which I think it is evident that the axe was roughed out and then polished, and, before the work was quite finished, must have been accidently broken and thrown away unused, which accounts for the perfect edge: to my mind this, associated with the other two axes and some fragments of the same kind of stone, shows that there was a working site there. It would be a most suitable place for such a site at the head of a bay (now the Leighton Mosses) where the tribe could have camped and fished, while some of them employed themselves in axe head manufacture. There is a small spring of fresh water quite close.



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6. (Fig. 1, no. 5). The last implement which I am showing was kindly brought to me by our Hon. Secretary, Miss G. Ainsley, just before I read this paper. It was found some years ago by the late Mr. Titus Wilson in the Whinfell district near Kendal. It is now in the possession of his grandson, Mr. Geoffrey Wilson. It is 6 ins. long and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. at its greatest breadth, 2 ins. thick and weighs 2 lbs. 3 ozs. I find it a most interesting specimen. It has evidently been made as an axe and it shows considerable signs of battering at the base, which is not pointed but rather flattened. Subsequently the egg-cup shaped perforation has been made at right angles to the cutting edge, and one side has been slightly hollowed out to make it an adze. It shows signs of plough marks. Mr. R. G. Collingwood thinks that this implement was made originally as an adze and resembles Evans' No. 122.