ART. VII.—*A Prehistoric Settlement on Walney Island. Part III.* By MARJORIE CROSS.

THE first two years of the war have not been entirely unproductive for Walney. First, Mr. T. Pape, of Hest Bank, visited the site and found many points of resemblance with one which he has studied at Newborough Warren, on Anglesey.* Subsequently, Mr. F. Barnes, Curator of Barrow Museum, became keenly interested in the settlement, and until the R.A.F. claimed him he proved himself one of the most diligent seekers we have yet had. I have drawn no fewer than 255 of his specimens, as showing some trace of human handiwork, but our Editor (prompted I hope by the paper famine) has said "As few pictures as possible please."

This year, 1941, we have been given invaluable help and encouragement by Mr. A. D. Lacaille, whose work on Scottish sand-hill sites is well known. He agrees that our material is similar to the flint found in Antrim and considers (with Dr. Dunham)† that it was imported thence by human agency, as it was to Glenluce, Shewalton and Campbeltown.

In this connection I would like to call attention to Dr. E. Cecil Curwen's Note on "The White Patination of Black Flint" in "Antiquity" of December, 1940, pp. 435-7. He writes: "Surface flints that are found in mould overlying non-calcareous sub-soils, such as sand, are as a rule virtually unpatinated . . . . The presence of *both* surface-mould (or at least decaying organic matter)

* See his interesting papers in the Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society for 1927 and 1928.

† *Trans.* N.S. XXXIX, p. 262.

and chalk (or other calcareous matter) is necessary for patination to occur." Applying this theory to Walney, how does it come about that many of our specimens are so heavily patinated white *after* being worked on the site, if there were no vestige of chalk there at the time to cause the patination? Would carboniferous limestone (since eroded) count as "other calcareous matter?" Otherwise, the inference might be that those with heavily patinated scars were imported ready made and had already acquired their patina before leaving the chalk country. Broken flakes, discarded cores and other fragments may have been sent over from Antrim for re-working. The pieces which suggest (to us) the broken tangs of Bann River flakes, Nos. 68 and 82* and No. 217 (not published) all have a thick white patina, and fragments and cores Nos. 176, 188, 203, 221, 268, 317, 319, 386, 398 and 401 (none published) show patination in two degrees of density, as though they had lain on chalk for a long time between two periods of working.

Materials other than Flint.

Mr. Barnes found a perplexing group of small objects of slatey stone, Fig. 1, S 8 and S 9, dark greenish grey, and S 10, red. S 8 measures 1 9/10″ × 1/2″ × 1/10″, S 9 1 9/10″ × 1/2″ × 1/8″, and S 10 1 5/8″ × 7/16″ × 1/6″. They may be only freaks of nature, but on the other hand they may be accommodation tools used by the potters. S 10 could have served as the head of a harpoon, but an attempt to arrange the other two as its barbs was discouraging. Mr. Lacaille writes of them: "S 8-10 are problematic to me, but they may well be associated with the potter's craft. Obviously the slatey stone of which the greenish dark specimens are composed could not have served in any very strenuous work. They seem to me to be split along a cleavage plane,

* *Trans.* N.S. xxxix, p. 268.

perhaps naturally, and taken advantage of and the edges ground for use."

He thinks that S 6 (a would-be petit tranchet derivative C^2 in stone) is probably a natural product battered and finally split by wave-action, but, as he is "prepared to be contradicted and converted," I venture to include it in Fig. 1.

Sh. 1, Fig. 1, is a piece of cream-coloured shell 1 1/8″ × 1/2″ × 1/12″, worked round the edges. From parallels, Mr. Lacaille thinks it is prepared, and suggests that it may have been a potter's tool.

A four-cornered broken flake of greenstone, S 11 (not published), 1 5/16″ × 1 1/6″ × 5/16″, which might have done duty as a fish-hook, and another, S 16 (not published, from our own discards), 1 1/16″ × 1 1/2″ × 7/16″, with a notched striking platform and "virtually all the characteristics of conchoidal fracture (as in flint),"* testify to the use of rock other than flint by the Walney people. This is a fact we have been seeking to establish in connection with the heavy tanged flake of siltstone,† S 3, found in 1937.

Microlithic Tradition.

Although ringed round with microlithic sites, in Anglesey, the Isle of Man, Scotland and the Pennines, we still have found no microliths on Walney, but Mr. Lacaille urges us to go on searching for them. He has no doubt that they are to be found there and expects that, when the right site becomes exposed, we shall find a large number of them. He singles out as particularly encouraging one small blade of Mr. Pape's, No. 162, and two of Mr. Barnes', Nos. 172 and 175. All three are heavily patinated white. No. 162, Fig. 1, measures 1 1/8″ × 7/16″ × 1/8″. On the upper surface,

* A.D.L.

† *Trans.* N.S. xxxix, p. 263.

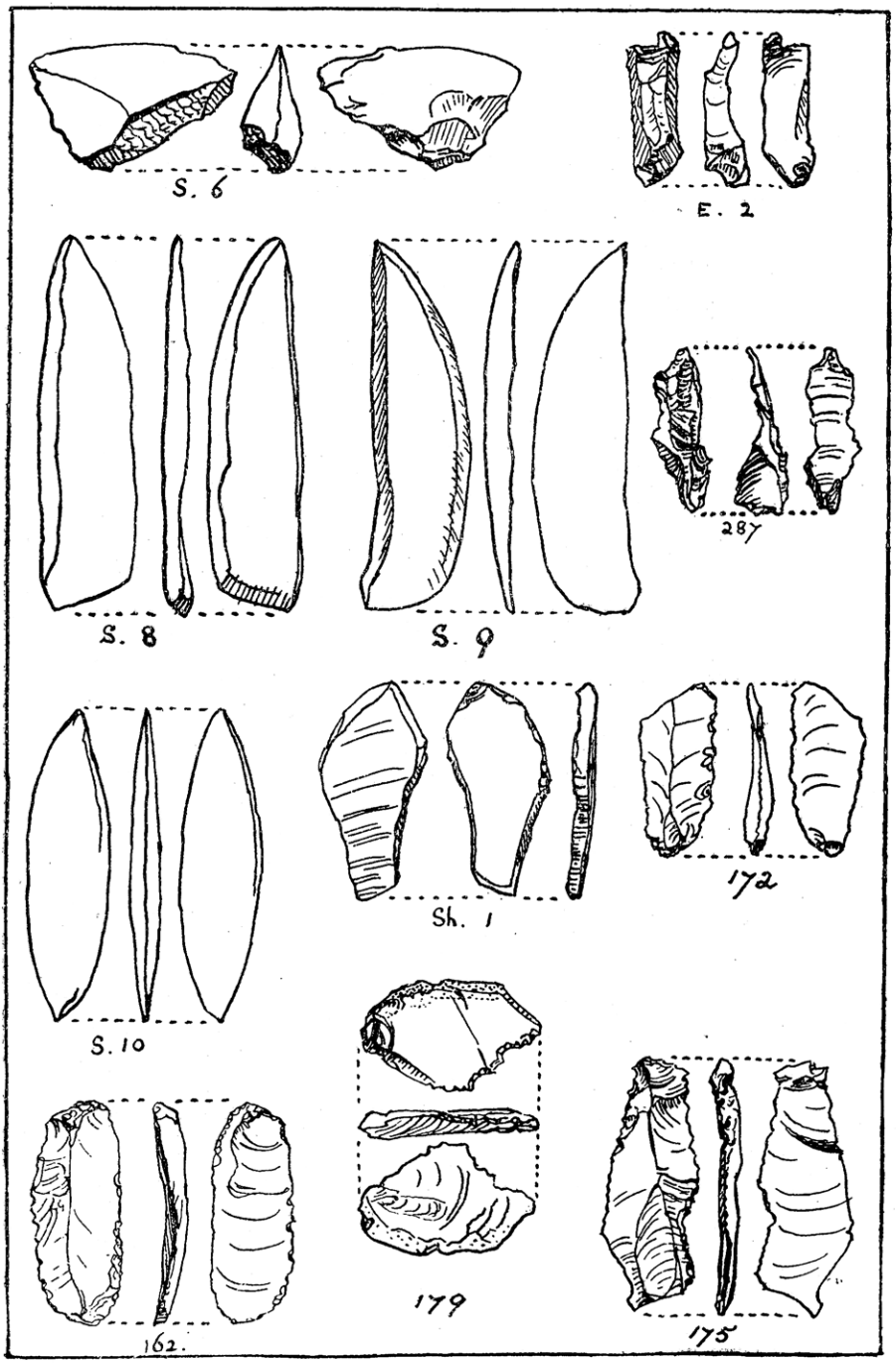

FIG. 1 (1/1).

one edge is slightly serrated, the opposite edge is steeply and minutely trimmed. On the under surface there is minute trimming at the butt-end. No. 172, Fig. 1, measures 7/8″ × 2/5″ × 1/8″. It is trimmed on one edge of the upper surface. No. 175, Fig. 1, measuring 1 5/16″ × 1/2″ × 1/8″, has a striking platform at a very obtuse angle. One edge of the blade "bears true abrupt and delicate retouch, quite in microlithic style" (A.D.L.). He says that these three blades point to microlithic technique having been practised at the site, but he also observes that microlithic technique began as far back as the battered-back Aurignacian knives and survived possibly into the Iron Age, so that the very fine trimming may be coeval with the Bronze Age work on our site, as on other sandy areas, such as Glenluce, Shewalton, Culbin, Tentsmuir, etc. The microlithic industry is further suggested by the presence of No. 287, Fig. 1, 13/16″ × 1/4″ × 1/4″, and E 2, Fig. 1, 3/4″ × 5/16″ × 3/16″ (from the sister site at Eskmeals), which are core-trimmings from very small cores with very narrow scars. Flake No. 179, Fig. 1, also is minutely and steeply retouched from the upper surface along part of the right edge. It measures 11/12″ × 9/16″ × 1/8″, and is of honey-coloured flint, patinating white, with yellow crust.

Neolithic.

Mr. Barnes found a beautiful little polished stone axe, S 5, Fig. 2, of black volcanic rock, 4 1/8″ × 2 3/ 16″ × 1 1/4″. The butt is very slightly flattened, the sides not ground. Sand-blasting has granulated the whole of the originally polished surface except the cutting edge on one face. This is the third very small axe found in this coastal area, the other two coming from Walney* and Silecroft.†

* *Trans.* N.S. xxxviii, p. 161, pl. VIII.
† *Trans.* N.S. xxxvii, pp. 98, 102.

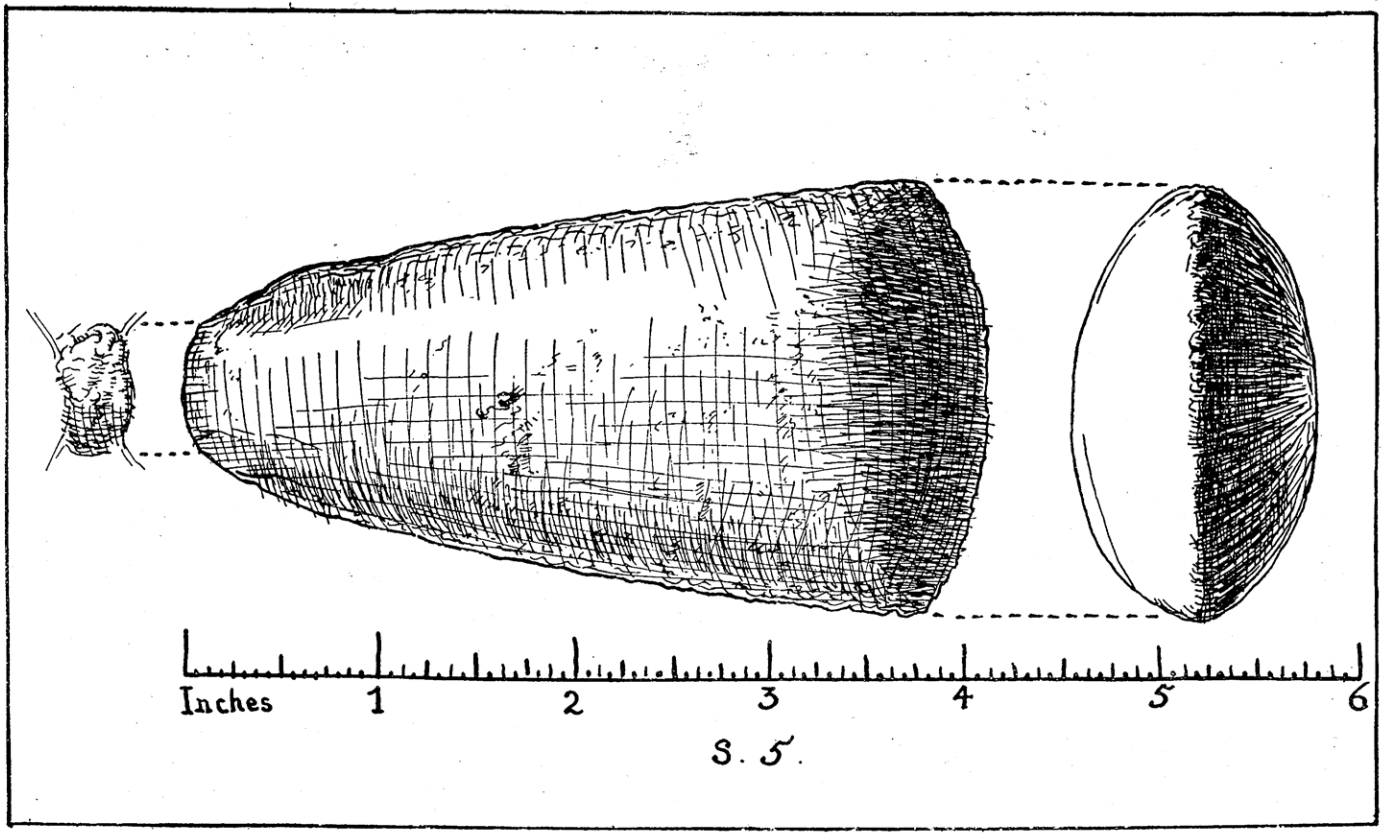

FIG. 2.

He also found a leaf arrowhead, No. 215, Fig. 3, 15/16″ × 9/16″ × 1/8″, the style of No. 13,* of honey-coloured flint or chert, heavily patinated white, pressure-flaked on the upper surface only, the under surface being marred by a large fossil-hole. No. 216, Fig. 3, also has the appearance of a rough and unfinished leaf-arrowhead, of pale grey heavily patinated flint with a patch of yellow crust. It measures 1 1/16″ × 7/8″ × 5/16″ and is trimmed round the edges only on the upper surface, and pressure-flaked all over the under surface.

There are four more lopsided arrowheads, all damaged. No. 214, Fig. 3, present measurements 1 1/4″ × 1 1/8″ × 1/6″, one of Dr. Grahame Clark's petit tranchet derivatives Class H, resembles No. 73.† It is of blue and white fossiliferous flint or chert, heavily patinated and slightly rolled. No. 292, 5/8″ × 1/2″ × 1/8″, is of white flint, heavily patinated and rolled, worked on both faces. No. 294, 1″ × 3/4″ × 1/8″, appears to be of limestone, much worn down, and altered by heat. It has the very narrow parallel flaking of two petit tranchet derivatives Classes H and G, Dr. Clark's Nos. 41 and 44, from Woodhenge in the Archæological Journal, Vol. xci, p. 37 and Figs. 11 and 12.

No. 352, Fig. 3, 3/4″ × 1/2″ × 1/8″, of white flint, would appear to be the fourth, but it is so much calcined that it is impossible to follow out the working.

Bronze Age, etc.

The thirty-odd scrapers mostly resemble those already published, but No. 219, Fig. 3, is an outstandingly beautiful specimen. It measures 1 1/4″ × 1″ × 1/4″ and is a flake of semi-opaque mottled grey flint, pressure-flaked from the upper surface on three edges. The under surface is unworked. As Mr. Lacaille remarks: "This

* *Trans.* N.S. xxxviii, p. 161, pl. II.
† *Trans.* N.S. xxxix, p. 267, Fig. 4.

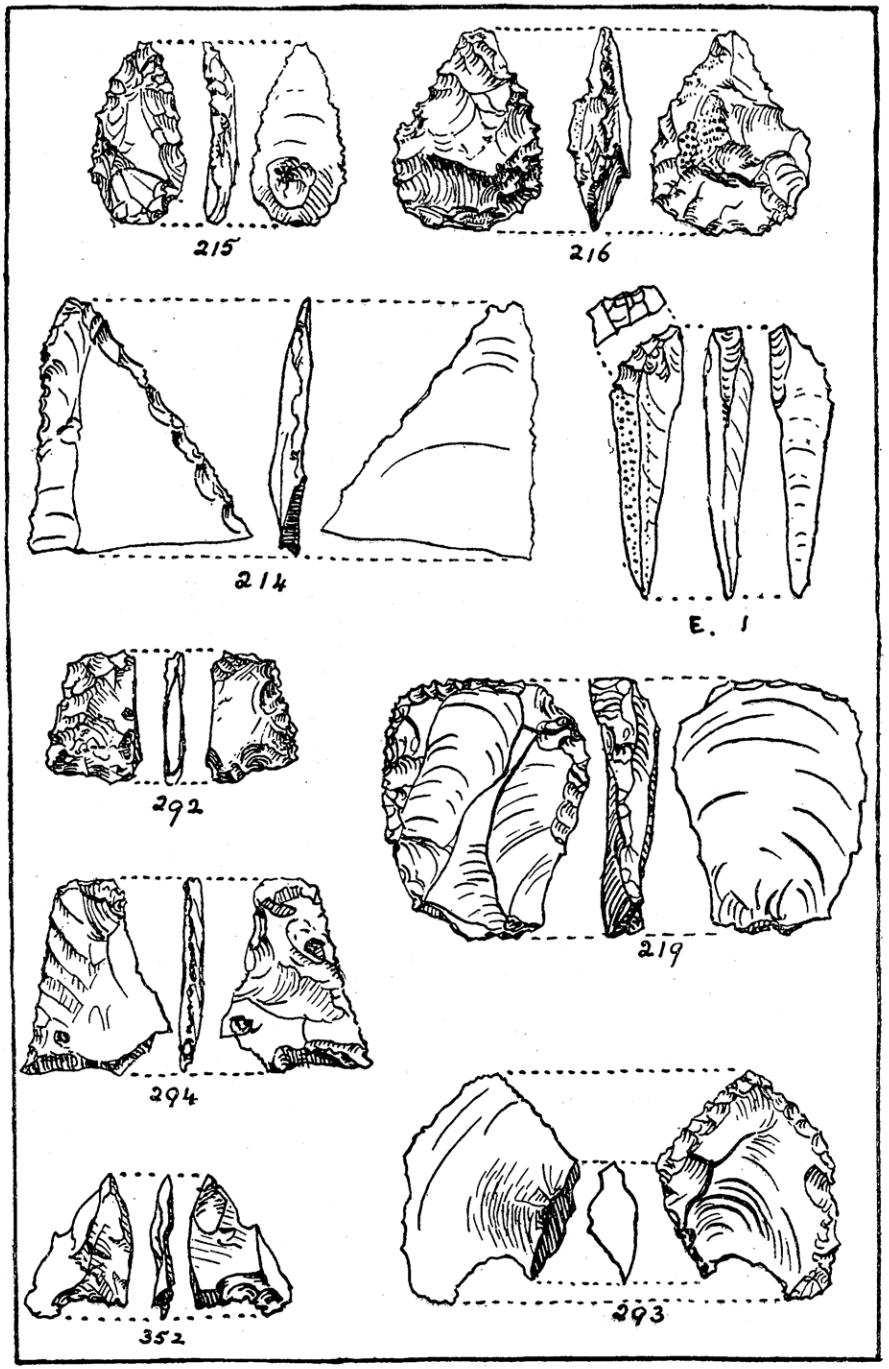

FIG. 3 ($\frac{1}{1}$).

beautiful example shows that when the Walney people could strike off sizeable flakes, they did produce fine tools matching the best from flint-endowed localities."

Another unusual form is No. 293, Fig. 3, measuring 1 3/16″ × 15/16″ × 3/16″, made of white and grey flint heavily patinated and slightly rolled. It is pressure-flaked on the end and one side of one face.

There are half-a-dozen pieces of flint which could have been tied and baited as fish-hooks, and eleven others suggestive of barbs for hafting in a composite harpoon, both narrow and wide types similar to the two published in 1939*; and the heads for these might presumably be supplied by the "lopsided arrowheads," by the red stone piece S 10 and by the points Nos. 87† and 143‡ published in 1939. When future searchers see a point lying on the sand, it would be interesting if, before picking it up, they would look for possible barbs in position beneath it, and vice versa. We have not yet found any bones grooved for mounting the barbs,§ but it is possible that wood was used and has disappeared.

The new finds of bones, animal or otherwise, await identification in happier and more leisured times.

Graver from Eskmeals.

At Miss Fair's request, I trespass on her preserves and include in this report a small graver which I collected at Eskmeals, E 1, Fig. 3. It is a flake of honey-coloured flint with brown crust, triangular in section, 1 5/16″ × 1/3″ × 1/4″. Mr. Lacaille writes of it: "The graver facet on the nether surface is backed against a trimmed edge. The piece is interesting because it obviously

* *Trans.* N.S. xxxix, p. 273, Figs. 6 and 9, Nos. 145 and 132.

† *Ibid.*, p. 271, Fig. 5.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 272, Fig. 6.

§ See Dr. E. Cecil Curwen's most interesting article on "Food-gathering Implements" in *Antiquity* for December, 1941, pp. 320-336.

belongs to a late industry and shows by its presence that this tool-form had a place in some local craft, bone-working or shell-working or even in the fashioning of small wooden objects. Such a piece ought certainly to be figured as so little has been made so far of these very elementary gravers."