

ART. I.—*A Prehistoric Settlement on Walney Island,*  
*Part VI.*<sup>1</sup> By the Hon. MARJORIE CROSS.

*Communicated at Penrith, April 2nd, 1949.*

MR BARNES has found a valuable new recruit in the person of Mr R. Walkden, and together they have kept tireless watch on the movements of the sandhills through 1947 and 1948. No scrap of flint escapes their eagle eye. In these difficult days, it is impossible to publish all their numerous finds, but I have shown the most beautiful or unusual of the flints in figs. 1 and 2.

It will be seen that they are all what Mr Barnes aptly describes as "The Mixture as Before," i.e. Neolithic-Bronze Age, without so far any definite examples of the Mesolithic. They have, however, one small, broken blade, minutely blunted down one edge (fig. 1, no. 587): Mr Lacaille does not pass this as microlithic work, though "the piece might belong to such an industry as well as to any other"—if it had been found in a correct association.

The scrapers on fig. 1 (nos. 617, 618, 619 and 627) are also all finely and steeply worked; all have a heavy white or cream patina, and 617 and 619 are also rolled: the same applies to no. 542, which is not figured.

One of the latest exposures has evidently been the stance of a maker of hollow-based arrowheads, as three more have been added to those found in 1946, all of mottled blue and white flint: fig. 1, no. 622 and fig. 2, nos. 580 and 581, the last a particularly beautiful specimen. There are also two small tanged and barbed

<sup>1</sup> For previous reports see CW2 xxxviii, xxxix, xlii, xlvi and xlvii.

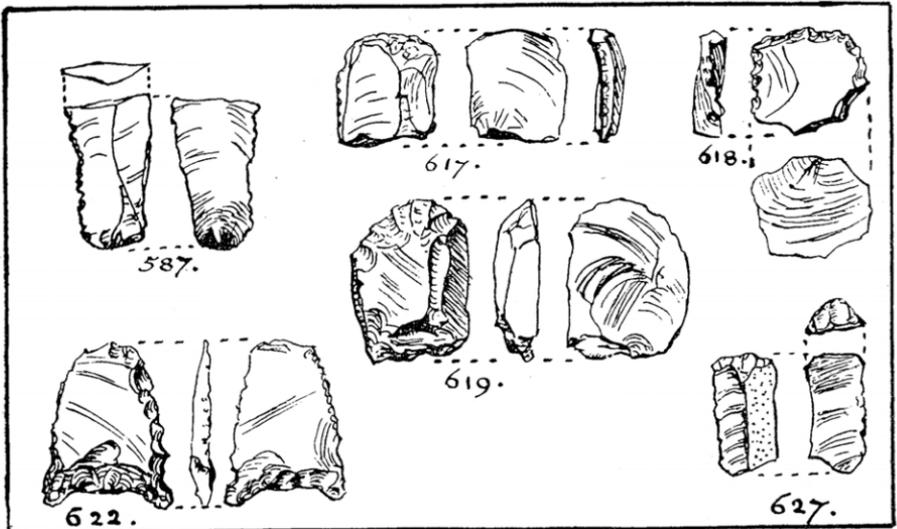


FIG. 1. (1.)

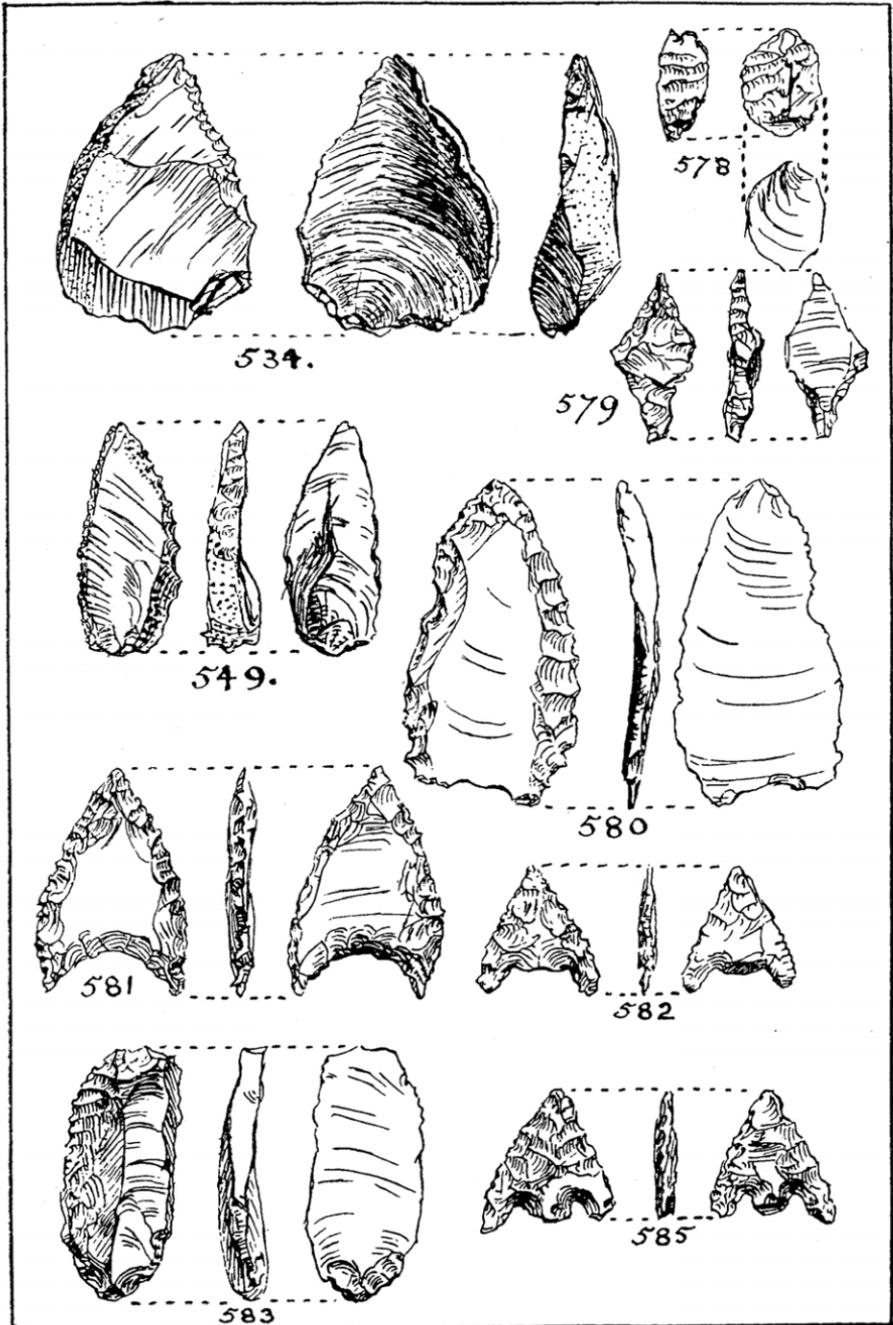
arrowheads of Beaker type (fig. 2, nos. 582 and 585), heavily patinated white, each with the tang broken and one barb longer than the other.

No. 583 is a small blade, heavily patinated white, finely trimmed all down one margin, for a quarter the length of the opposite one and at both ends. On the flake surface, the bulb has been trimmed but not entirely removed.

No. 534 is a twisted flake of banded grey flint or chert with white crust. It has unusually small, neat trimming along three-quarters of one edge, which was probably used as a scraper but is sharp enough for cutting.

No. 549 is a crescent-shaped point, a shape reminiscent of some microliths, but the technique of the trimming and the presence of the bulb of percussion date it probably to the Bronze Age.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> This is Dr Grahame Clark's opinion, reported by Miss Clare Fell.



No. 578 is a tiny button scraper on a split pebble, and no. 579 is a small awl trimmed at both ends.

Amongst stone objects, S 38 and S 37 (fig. 3) borrow an added interest from the recent discoveries in Langdale. They appear to be two more small blocks,  $2\frac{3}{8}$ " and 3" long respectively, of Stake Pass rock, though a breakdown in the slicing machine has prevented their microscopical examination in time for this report. Dr J. F. S. Stone has very kindly given us an interim report on them, as follows:—

“ S 38 is a polished axe which has been broken and apparently re-chipped. All flake edges are smooth, as if subsequently waterworn or rolled in sand. S 37 bears no signs of having formed part of a polished axe. All flake edges are worn smooth as on S 38. The interesting point is the battering on the end. On analogy with the similar flint objects found in the South of England, in flint-mine refuse, I feel certain that this has been used as a hammer-stone or possibly a small anvil. This would indicate that, if derived from Stake Pass, lumps of the rock were brought down to Walney for working up. On the other hand, if pebbles of the same rock are available near the site, there is no reason why these should not have been used for the purpose.”

Of the numerous chips found with these two pieces, Dr Stone writes:—

“ The flakes you send are small. Any of them could have been struck off tools S 37 or S 38, and could have resulted from the break-up of axes rather than from the manufacture of axes from boulders . . . Evidence for a Walney Island factory site must rest, of course, finally on the quantity of refuse recovered, including roughouts and discards.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Other flakes and chips of the same material have been collected from the site by Lt.-Col. O. H. North, F.S.A.

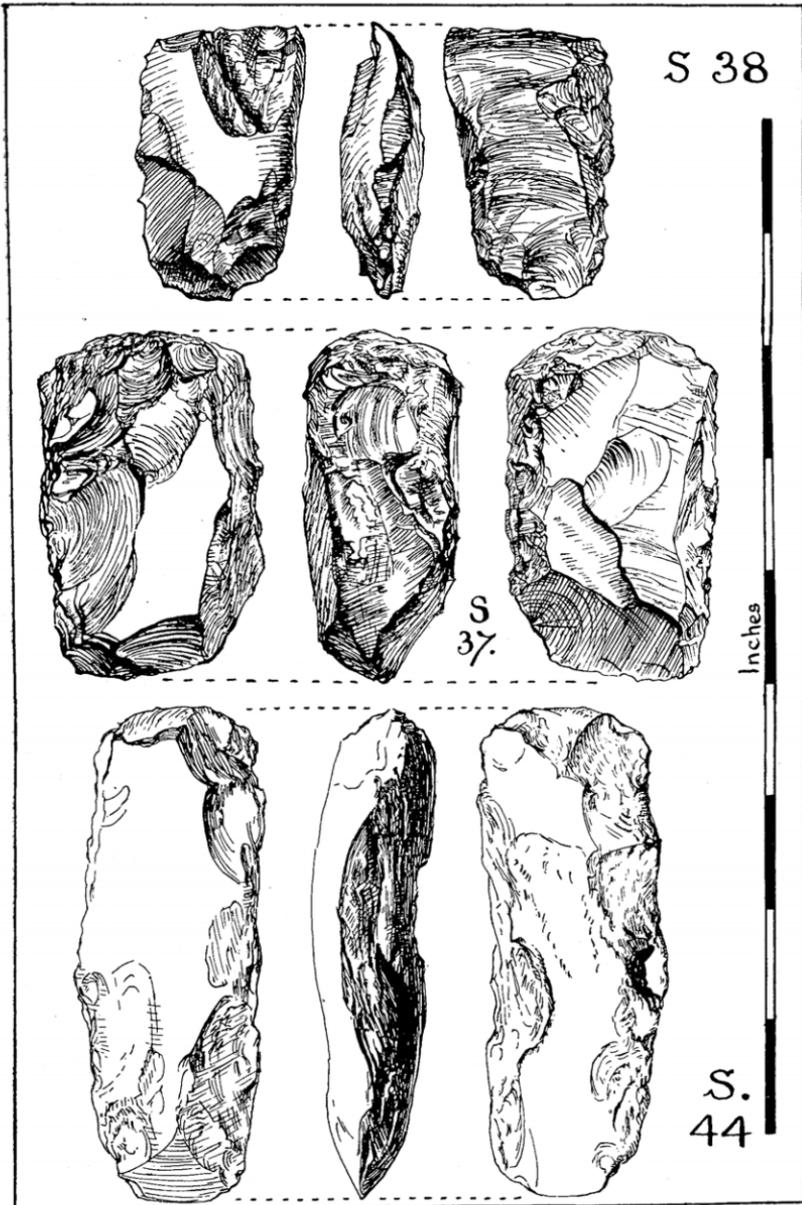


FIG. 3.

S 44 (fig. 3) is yet another small celt or chisel, of a dark grey gritty stone, unusual for celts on this site; it is very battered, worn and rolled, but with the ground butt-end still remaining.

S 40 (fig. 4), found by Mr Walkden, is an oval cobble of grey, banded gritstone,  $3\frac{5}{16}$ " by  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ", with a shallow depression picked out in the centre of both surfaces. As there are slight abrasions on the sides, it appears likely that the depressions were intended to help the grip, for use as a hammer, and are not an unfinished perforation; or its rightful place may be in the next group, among the anvils.

Mr Barnes found three more portable anvils, two of which, S 41 and S 42, are shown in fig. 5. S 41 is a pear-shaped cobble of greenish-grey volcanic stone, pitted on two of its three faces, 5" by  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $2\frac{3}{8}$ ". S 42 is a pebble of olive-grey limestone with deep red haematite veining. The weathering of the limestone has left the veins standing up in ridges, and the pseudo-battering on the sides of the implement is due to the same cause. On the upper and lower faces are pock-marked depressions. Miss Fell writes:—

“ Stones with these hollows occur in stone industries from Mesolithic times onward and cannot be dated on typology alone. Their purpose is obscure also. They may be incomplete mace-heads or, Dr Grahame Clarke suggests, may have been used as small anvils.”

Pottery is represented by small sherds only, of heavily gritted hand-made ware, resembling the transitional Neolithic-Beaker and Domestic Beaker wares which we have found before. There are no rims or bases.

The bones and shells from the kitchen middens are also similar to those found before. Dr Wilfrid Jackson has again very kindly examined them for us; with the exception of one canine tooth of a dog and one complete

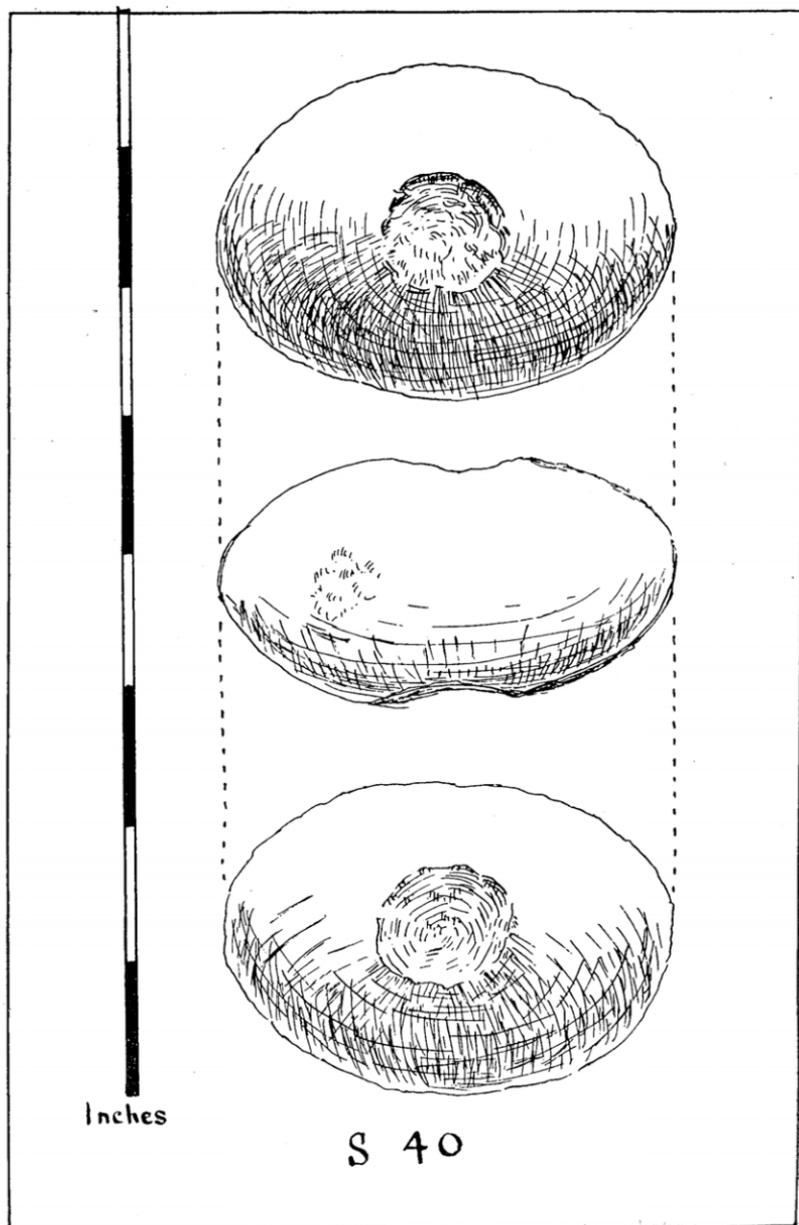


FIG. 4.

8 A PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT ON WALNEY ISLAND

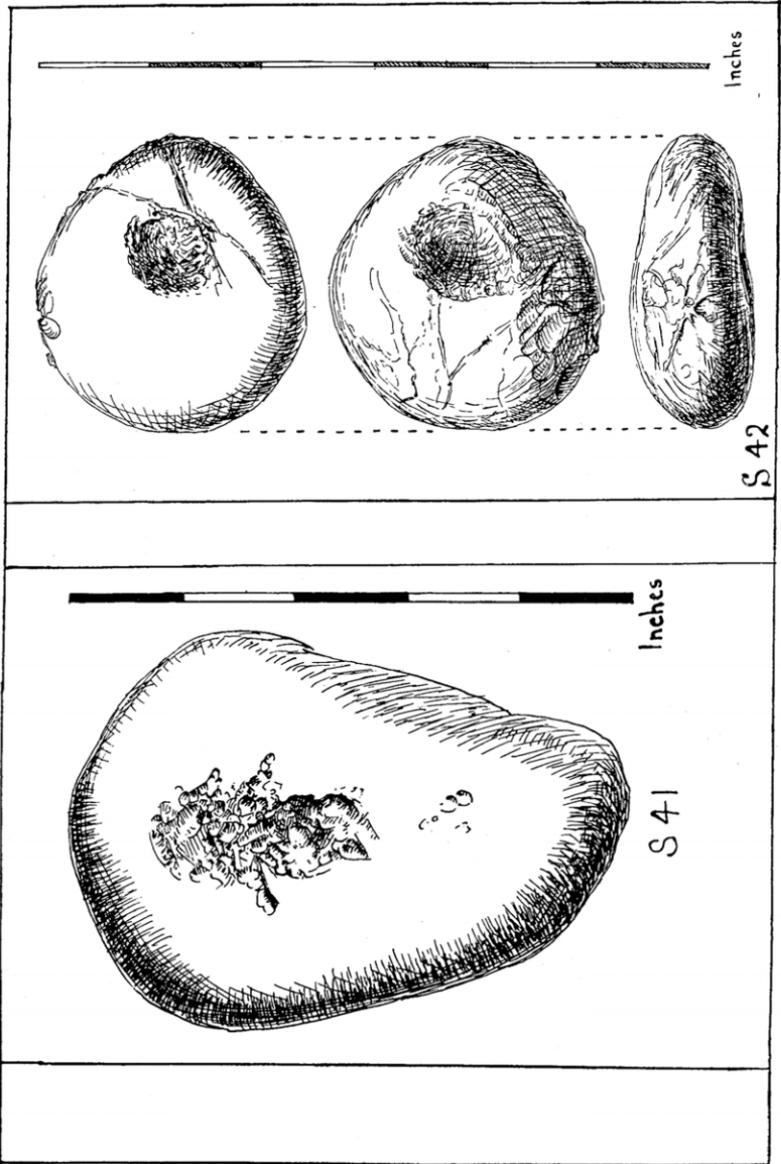


FIG. 5.

tusk and jawbone of a young pig, they all represent various ages of the Celtic ox. Dr Jackson raised high hopes by pointing out some curious lines on one piece of ox-bone, which he was certain were not root-marks. I tried to interpret these as a representation of a wading-bird, complete with portrait of the wild-fowler on the reverse, but it was of no avail. The verdict from Cambridge came back: "not an intentional engraving, the scratches too fresh"—so the mystery remains unsolved, and we have still no example of prehistoric art from Walney Island.

Our grateful thanks are due (in alphabetical order) to Dr G. E. Daniel, F.S.A., Miss Clare Fell, Dr J. G. D. Clark, F.S.A., Mrs E. M. Clifford, F.S.A., Dr J. Wilfrid Jackson, F.S.A., Mr A. D. Lacaille, F.S.A., and Dr J. F. S. Stone, F.S.A.