

ART. I.—*Flint implements from Plain Furness.* By
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Read at Barrow-in-Furness, July 10th, 1951.

AS an appendix to our previous article,¹ which included discoveries made up to October 1950, we now record further developments, to July 1951, in the search for flint implements in Plain Furness.

(1) *Trough Head.* A few feet from the spot where the microlithic point was discovered (CW2 1 22), another (in all important respects similar to the first) has been found, on the loose surface of the cliff face.

(2) *Cross Dyke Scar.* The site is larger than at first thought, extending into the adjoining field to the north, where Mr J. T. Robinson has turned up flakes, two scrapers and an interesting fabricator (fig. 1, A) which bears signs of considerable use.

(3) *Thorny Nook.* Mr Robinson reports that, while ploughing old grassland in a field near Thorny Nook (map reference 34/185664), he found and collected a number of flint flakes and nodules, over a fairly wide area. They include no artefacts, but the indications are that systematic search would produce evidence for another flint-working site there.

(4) *Biggar Village.* In two gardens attached to Town End farm, in the hamlet (map ref. 34/192663), Mr Robinson has found flakes of flint in some quantity, similar to the chipping-floor waste from North End, and two typical scrapers; these raise the interesting possibility that Biggar occupies yet another "subsidiary" site.

The accumulating evidence emphasizes that there was

¹ CW2 1 20-29.

considerable activity in flint-knapping over an extensive part of Walney Island and its vicinity, and the picture which emerges is of a numerically substantial population engaged in that industry, where flint occurred on the coast of Furness. The apparent size of that population, and the remoteness of the district, together suggest that the period in question was later in time than that usually associated with the types of culture which the Walney implements and worked flints represent.

(5) *Breast Mill Beck*. In a field belonging to Breast Mill Beck farm, adjoining Dane Gill wood (map ref. 34/214723), an almost perfect scraper was found by Mr H. West, in April 1951. The scraper (fig. 1, B) is round-ended, measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by 1 in., of honey-coloured flint, which has been sand-blasted and slightly rolled.

(6) *Hawcoat*. In a field formerly part of the Gap Yeat land at Hawcoat (map ref. 34/206719), about half a mile from the site just mentioned, the following were found during June 1951: (i) a small scraper, slightly imperfect, of white flint, of a type common in the Walney industry; (ii) a flake of dark grey flint, bearing traces of cortex, without secondary working—but our members, the Hon. Marjorie Cross and Lt-Col. O. H. North, agree that it is an artefact; (iii) a piece of mottled grey flint, bearing some working and evidently intended for a scraper but discarded, either before completion or more probably (as Lt-Col. North suggests) because a breakage had destroyed part of the working. A few small broken pieces of flint were found scattered over a large area, in the course of a considerable further search, but the indications are quite inconsistent with any suggestion that knapping has occurred here.

The numerous chance finds of flint artefacts now being recorded in the Barrow district, often from points which do not suggest chipping-floor sites, but always on land which has been cultivated for centuries, indicate the

possibility that they were introduced in loads of sea-sand and seaweed from Walney or Sandscale (formerly used very extensively as a fertiliser, in this district), rather than that they represent either habitation sites or chance losses by early inhabitants.

All the artefacts mentioned in the foregoing note have been presented to the Barrow-in-Furness Museum.

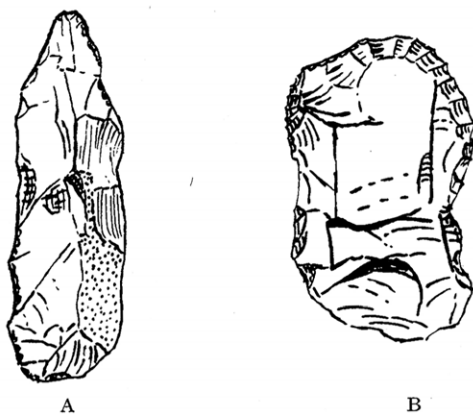


FIG. 1 (1)