

Short articles



Palaeolithic hand axe found near Barcombe, East Sussex

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While Brighton author David Bangs was conducting research for his book about the freedom to roam guide in East Sussex, his girlfriend, Jane Erin, noted an object in a ploughed field they were passing (TQ40901540). The ploughed field is on land to the east of Blunt's Wood near Barcombe, with the axe being found north of the stream that runs across this field. The object proved on examination to be a Palaeolithic bi-face. The bi-face has a mainly black/brown patination with a number of yellow/white striations (Fig. 1). The artefact measures 130mm in length, 95mm in width and about 25mm maximum in thickness. The dimensions are of the broken remains of the axe; the other section was not found, so an overall length cannot be determined.

The axe is one of several recently found in this region. A very fine example with a brown patination was excavated at the Barcombe Roman villa site a few years ago. A similar object, with a blue/grey patination, was found at Ringmer in 2007 in a Roman context (Chuter forthcoming). A bi-

facially worked core was recovered from a ploughed field at Culvers Mead, Barcombe Mills. The artefacts recovered from the Barcombe area appear to derive from locally outcropping gravel deposits of the river Ouse (Pope 2003).

Dr Matthew Pope has examined the bi-face and confirms that it could be anywhere between 60,000 and 600,000 years old. The lack of sealed provenance does not allow a more accurate date.

Acknowledgements

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society would like to thank Mr Bangs for bringing the object to their attention, and Jane Russell for illustrating the find. The bi-face has now been returned to Jane Erin.

REFERENCES

- Chuter, G.** Forthcoming. Excavations of a Romano-British site at the Ringmer Gliding Club.
Pope, M. 2003. The earliest occupation of Sussex: recent research and future objectives, in D. Rudling (ed.), *The archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, 17-28. Norfolk: Heritage Marketing and Publications Ltd on behalf of CCE, University of Sussex.

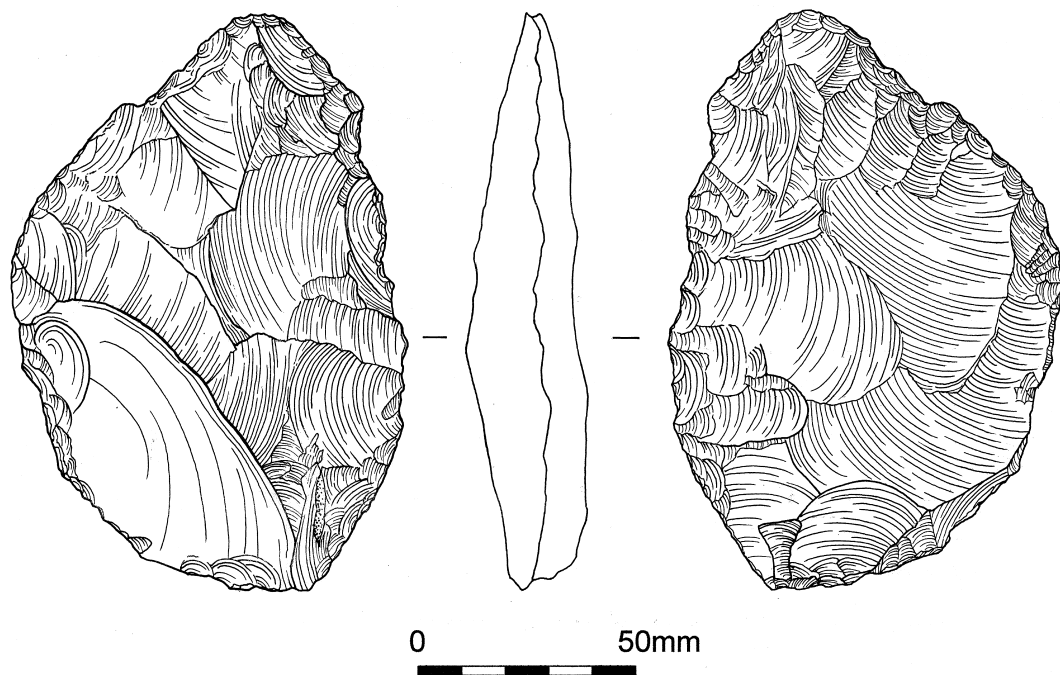


Fig.1. The bi-face.