

Miscellanea

FLINT KNIFE FROM RUABON MOUNTAIN.

1. In March 1960, Mr. J. N. S. Schofield found a broken discoidal flint knife (fig. 1)¹ on the moors on Ruabon Mountain in the area south-east of the Cerrig Mawr cairn (Nat. Grid Ref. 2548 on sheet 108) and subsequently presented it to the Grosvenor Museum (151P60). It belongs to the type now attributed to the secondary Neolithic cultures of the British Isles; "discoidal" is in this case a misnomer since originally the implement must have been sub-rectangular in shape.

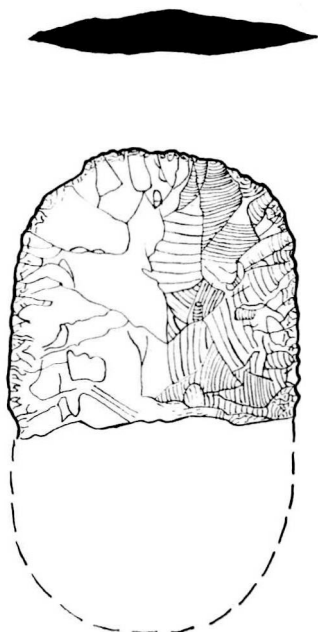


Fig. 1 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$)

FLINT ARROW-HEAD FROM BICKERTON HILL.

2. A barbed and tanged flint arrow-head, of the usual Bronze Age type, was found by Miss Rosemary Waterhouse while she was walking on the top of Bickerton Hill in April 1960 and subsequently presented to the Grosvenor Museum (110P60). The approximate find-spot was about half a mile north-east of the Iron Age hill-fort known as Maiden Castle (Nat. Grid Ref. 503534 on sheet 109).

BRONZE AGE BURIAL FROM BEECH HALL, MACCLESFIELD.

3. In June 1960, during the construction of a new swimming pool at Beech Hall School, Macclesfield, the contractors exposed a Bronze Age cinerary urn

¹Drawing prepared by Miss S. M. McNamee.

containing a cremation burial. Beech Hall itself lies approximately one mile north of Macclesfield on the Stockport road and stands on high ground bounded on the south and west by the river Bollin (National Grid Reference for the burial: 914747 on sheet 110). The discovery was reported to the headmaster, Mr. J. D. M. Hunt, M.A., who with the help of members of his staff took immediate steps to salvage the urn, which was recovered practically complete. He informed the writer, who visited the site in company with Dr. R. W. Billington of Leek and was able to inspect the find-spot itself.

This was actually in the western edge of the excavation made for the new pool and only a few yards from the south front of Beech Hall. The urn was about 2ft. below the present surface in the natural sand, resting in an inverted position on a gravel layer. There may originally have been a barrow covering it but all trace of this has been lost with previous levelling of the ground for tennis courts. A barrow

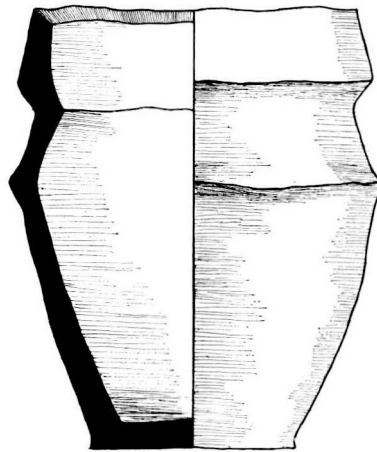


Fig. 2 (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

is recorded to have stood half a mile to the west on the other side of the valley (Nat. Grid Ref. 906745) and to have yielded two cremation urns.²

The urn itself (fig. 2)³ is quite plain and of a reddish-brown fabric with occasional large grits appearing in the smooth surface, which has an almost burnished appearance. Chronologically, the urn belongs to the Middle Bronze Age (roughly 1500-1000 B.C.) and perhaps quite early in that period; neck and rim are of equal proportions and the latter displays no tendency to overhang, while the shoulder is so pronounced as almost to form a cordon.⁴ These are, however, purely typological

²Shone, *Prehistoric Cheshire*, p.70.

³Drawing prepared by Mr. J. B. Whitwell.

⁴cf. Varley & Jackson, *Prehistoric Cheshire*, p.96 and fig 17.

considerations and it would be unwise to be dogmatic about the dating of Bronze Age burials in these western foothills of the Pennines.

The cremated bones were submitted by Dr. Billington to Professor A.J. E. Cave of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College (Dept. of Anatomy) who kindly made an osteological examination. His conclusion is that they represent the remains of "one adult, of small stature and probably female." The urn and its contents have been presented by Mr. Hunt to the Grosvenor Museum (Accession No. 150P60), but a replica, prepared by Mrs. Janet Goose, has been made available for exhibition at Beech Hall with a proportion of the cremated bones.⁵

SUPPOSED BARROW IN DUNHAM NEW PARK.

4. In November 1960, a visit was paid on behalf of the Ministry of Works to the site of a supposed burial-mound in Dunham New Park (marked as "Tumulus" on sheet 101—Nat. Grid Ref. 750878), threatened by an extension of the golf-course. The mound is a prominent feature of the landscape and is oval in plan, measuring approximately 270 ft. along its long axis, 120 ft. along the short axis and 18-20 ft. in height. These features—the oval plan and large size—suggest that it is of natural rather than human origin and possibly a hummock of glacial sand.

COINS—VARIOUS.

5. The following Roman coins were noted during 1960:—

- (i) an *aureus* of Tiberius (A.D. 14-37), found at Bank Farm, Sealand, during the lifting of cauliflowers in September 1952 and now in the possession of Mr. S. G. Simmons.

Obverse TI CAESAR DIVI AVG F AVGVSTVS
Laureate head of Tiberius right.

Reverse PONTIF MAXIM
Livia or Pax (?) seated r., holding branch.

- (ii) bronze coin of Vespasian (A.D. 69-79) found at No. 6, Curzon Park North, Chester.
- (iii) an Alexandrian tetradrachm, probably of Numerian (A.D. 283-4), found in the excavation of a pit at Red Noses, Wallasey, in 1958—information from Mr. L. White, F.L.A., Chief Librarian, Wallasey.
- (iv) a bronze coin of Constans with FEL TEMP REPARATIO reverse (A.D.348), found on the race-course at Bangor-on-Dee—submitted by Mr. Peter Hayes.

F.H.T.

⁵The writer expresses his sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hunt and Mr. and Mrs. Worthington for their enthusiasm and co-operation in the recording of this discovery.

