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A LATE-GLACIAL SHOULDERED POINT FROM CRANWICH, NORFOLK by R. M. Jacobi and H. E. Martingell

The subject of the present note is a shouldered and truncated 'point' (fig. 1) recovered by H. H. Halls from the surface somewhere within the parish of Cranwich, above five miles north of Brandon (Halls 1914). The point is in the Castle Muesum at Norwich (Accession No. 83.24) and is perhaps the only certainly Upper Palaeolithic artifact from Norfolk. Patinated a very pale blue, the artifact is in absolutely fresh condition and is undamaged except for very slight crushing along 13mm of its left-hand margin between the two lengths of retouch, and the removal of a single small flake from its ventral (i.e. bulbar) face, the latter exposing the dull black flint of which the 'point' is made. It is 73mm long and has a (present) maximum width of just over 21mm. At the left-hand side of the tip is a short strip of steep oblique retouch while on the lower part of the 'point' are 26mm of similarly steep retouch which goes to form the very distinct shoulder. At the butt end of the piece is preserved the original thin striking platform of the parent blade and, as is usual with such artifacts, the rather flat bulb has been left intact and totally unmodified. The directions of the flake scars on the upper face of the 'point' indicate clearly that the blank was removed from a core with at least a pair of opposed platforms.

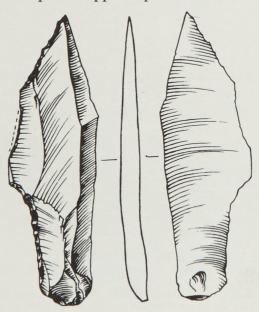


Fig. 1 Scale 1:1

This shouldered and truncated artifact is almost certainly the 'tanged flint flake' referred to by the late Rainbird Clarke (1960 p. 42) as being Upper Palaeolithic and compared to finds from Hamburgian contexts. Locally its closest match would be a rather longer shouldered and truncated artifact picked up at Shoeburyness in Essex and now in the Colchester and Essex Museum (Jacobi 1980), the better known piece from Mildenhall (British Museum: Sturge Collection: Garrod (1926) fig. 43 no. 1) differing in that it has vertical blunting extending from the shoulder round onto and across its butt end.

It is not easy to suggest a date for this artifact. It is unlikely to be earlier than about 11,000 radiocarbon years bc, when during the Meiendorf interval of the Oldest Dryas 'Hamburgian' type assemblages appear on the European mainland as far west as central northern Holland. The isolated finds in East Anglia of shouldered and truncated 'points' of types morphologically identical to those used by these Hamburgian groups may suggest that the area of this Hamburgian technoterritory extended further west than so far generally recognized. Alternatively, all, or any, of these 'points' could have been carried by wounded reindeer moving west to graze the summer pastures available in the area of present-day Britain. A similar explanation has been suggested for the isolated shouldered and truncated 'point' from Bjerlev (Jutland: Becker (1971) p. 138) found some 150kms north of the nearest 'Hamburgian' occupation site.

A third possibility must be that this artifact and all or any of the other finds shouldered and truncated 'points' from eastern Britain could derive from assemblages of 'Federmesser' type. Within such assemblages — which can be dated to the second part of the Allerd (Pollen zone II) and at least the earliest part of the Younger Dryas (Pollen zone III) — rare shouldered and truncated 'points' can be combined with convex-based pieces (such as have been recovered from Walton on Naze, Essex), angle-backed pieces and trapeziform-backed pieces. These last two classes of backed artifact are known also as Creswell and Cheddar Points respectively.

While there is considerable uncertainty as to both the dating and the 'cultural' attribution of this artifact, which is at present unique for Norfolk, there is no evidence that such spear or dart tips continued to be used into the Post-glacial. There is thus no question of its association with societies who concentrated upon the hunting of red deer, roe deer, wild cattle and pig. Instead its makers will have exploited horse and reindeer together with elk and wild cattle if the point was manufactured in the wooded environment created by the relative warmth of Pollen zone II.

Other possible late-glacial artifacts have been published from Cranwich (Wymer (1971) figs. 2-9), but these are, to our minds at least, less immediately convincing than the present piece.

We would particularly like to thank Tony Gregory for drawing our attention to this object, the Director of the Norfolk Museums Service for permission to publish it, and Miss Barbara Green for her unfailing help.

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A BRASS FIXED IN THE WRONG NORFOLK CHURCH

by J. Roger Greenwood, F.S.A.

On the South wall of the Nave of Wickhampton church, Norfolk, are two inscriptions. One of them reads:-

Hic Jacet d\(\bar{n}\)s Willi\(\bar{u}\)s Jullys qu\(\bar{o}\)d\(\bar{m}\) Rector de Wykh\(\bar{m}\)to\(\bar{n}\) qui obijt iij\(^O\) die aprilis A\(^O\) d\(\bar{n}\)i M\(^O\) CCCC lxxxyj\(^O\) cui' ai\(\bar{e}\) p'piciet' de' amen

The style of the inscription is Norwich-2¹ and this agrees well with the date of death, 3rd April 1486.

The will of William Jullys survives.² It was dated 2nd April 1486, the day before his death, and proved a few days later on April 16th. Although he is described both on his brass and in his will as the rector of Wickhampton, he requested burial in the Chancel or the Church of Reedham, which is the neighbouring parish to Wickhampton. He makes bequests to both churches.

It is not unknown for details of wills to be disregarded by executors, and the burial site of William Jullys would have been dismissed as such a case had it not been for the note by the Rev. Edmund Farrer, which describes the circumstances surrounding the fixing of the inscription in Wickhampton church.³

'In 1891 both these inscriptions were in the possession of an inhabitant of Wickhampton. They were recovered by the Rev. J. Kaye, who was then Rector of the parish, and it is understood they were then to be restored to the Church. However, the Rev. G. R. Panter, the present Rector, writes on April 27th, 1897, "In respect to the brasses which you kindly interested yourself about, they were left by Mr. Kaye with a cowkeeper, who told me last week that they were to be thrown out as rubbish. The cowkeeper has handed them to Mr. Kerry, churchwarden, in whose possession I saw them Friday last".

The two brasses were evidently eventually fixed in the church at Wickhampton, for Mill Stephenson⁴ records them there, and they were rubbed there by the present author on 7th May 1979. They are mounted on wood blocks and fixed side-by-side to the South wall of the Nave.

Under these circumstances it seems likely that the burial instructions were not disregarded but that an error was made in assuming that because the brasses were in the possession of an inhabitant of Wickhampton they originally came out of the church there. This is supported by the absence of any indents in Wickhampton church, and led the author to seek an appropriate indent in Reedham church. He took the rubbing of William Jullys's inscription straight away to Reedham church where it was found to fit the indent for an inscription beneath a Norwich-Style-2 chalice in a Non-Purbeck slab that forms the threshold of the North door. The exactness of the fit is not confined to the overall dimensions but also accommodates the two rivet holes exactly.