

- 2 retouched flakes
- 1 small core whittled down to 4cm and burnt.
- 1 small, flaked adze or pick with gouge-like cutting edge (Fig 2,9).
- 1 broken microlith of rod form.

*Stone*

- 3 beach pebbles of quartzite with no evident signs of use.
- 1 segment of a square-sectioned 'hone' of sandstone.

*Other*

- 10 fragments of burnt clay.
- 1 very small fragment of much corroded iron, charcoal fragments.

*Conclusion*

It is clear that some of this material is intrusive, but the flints and plain bowl Neolithic pottery can be regarded as contemporary and presumably relate to the time when the pit was dug and back-filled. The one definite Beaker sherd could be intrusive, but similar plain bowl sherds occurred with Beaker pottery in Pit II and possible Beaker sherds in Pit I so, although such pottery and flintwork could be considerably earlier, a Late Neolithic date seems most likely.

The finds have been placed in Norwich Castle Museum.

*Bibliography*

Healy, F., 1984, 'Recent finds of bowl pottery in Norfolk,' *Norfolk Archaeol.*, XXXIX, 65-82.

Lawson, A.J., 1983, 'The Archaeology of Witton, near North Walsham,' *E. Anglian Archaeol.*, 18, 13-23.

### **A tanged copper dagger from the River Waveney (Fig. 3)**

*by Barbara Green*

In 1985 a tanged dagger was found by Mr. R. Parry in dredgings from the river Waveney dumped on the Suffolk bank of the river near Stuston bridge NGR TM 1310 7898; (Norfolk county number 21607; objects from the rivers which form the boundaries between Norfolk and Suffolk are given county numbers in both County Sites and Monuments Records). The dagger was subsequently acquired by Norwich Castle Museum: accession number 398.985.

Description: Length 9.8cm., width 3 cm. It has a flat blade with drooping shoulders and a faint rim-bevel along the cutting edges; the tang is also flat and narrows towards the top; there is no hilt mark. Although it is rather small, these features place it within Gerloff's Mere group (Gerloff 1975). Analysis at the British Museum showed it to be almost pure copper (97.8%) with traces of elements including arsenic (<0.06). The metal was a shiny red copper colour when found, a result of the anaerobic conditions in the mud at the bottom of the river Waveney.

These tanged copper daggers are the earliest metal daggers to be found in Britain. Two other tanged daggers of this type without rivet-holes are recorded from East Anglia, from Lakenheath and Hundon in Suffolk. The Hundon example was from a burial (Moore 1972) as were many of the Wessex examples. Where these daggers are associated with pots the majority are beakers of Clarke's Wessex/Middle Rhine type. These vessels and tanged copper daggers occur during the period c. 1950-1800 b.c. (Lanting and van der Waals, 1972, steps 2-5). Only a few sherds of Wessex/Middle Rhine pottery have been recorded from Norfolk and Suffolk, where other contemporary vessels were current at the time.

This new dagger, with a length of nearly 10 cm., belongs to the group known as knife-daggers. They were probably used for cutting as well as weapons.

I am grateful to W.F. Milligan for permission to use his drawing and to M.J. Hughes and D.R. Hook of the British Museum Research Laboratory for the analysis.

#### *Bibliography*

Gerloff, S., 1975, *The Early Bronze Age daggers in Great Britain and a Reconsideration of the Wessex Culture*. P.F.P. VI, 2.

Lanting, J.N. and van der Waals, J.D., 1972, 'British Beakers as seen from the Continent', *Helinium*, 12, 20-46

Moore, N., 1972, 'A copper tanged dagger from Hundon', *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, 32(3), 274-276

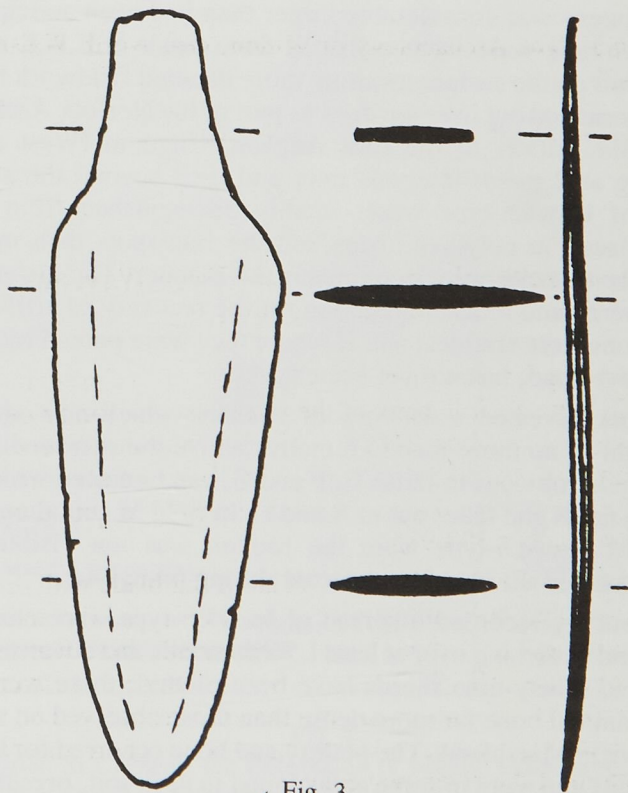


Fig. 3

Tanged copper dagger from the river Waveney. Length 9.8cm