

A Stone Object from Buckland

While conducting fieldwork in 1982 during the construction of the Longford-Walton-Gatwick Airport aviation fuel pipeline, a fragment of worked stone (fig 1) was found by the writer on the spoil-heap close to the north edge of a large field at Buckland. A fragment of a flint axe from a distant part of this field has already formed the subject of a note in the *Collections* (Williams 1983). The find spot lies on or close to the extreme northern edge of the Lower Greensand formation at TQ 218 508. The field, which has been down to pasture for some years is now again ploughed.

The fragment, which is grey in colour, was submitted to R W Sanderson of the Petrology Unit, Institute of Geological Sciences to whom I am grateful for the following identification. He describes the stone as 'a medium-grained, impure sandstone with small, reddish-brown ferruginous flecks. It is certainly foreign to Surrey and most closely resembles examples of the Old Red Sandstone, 'Brownstone' from the Welsh Borders'.

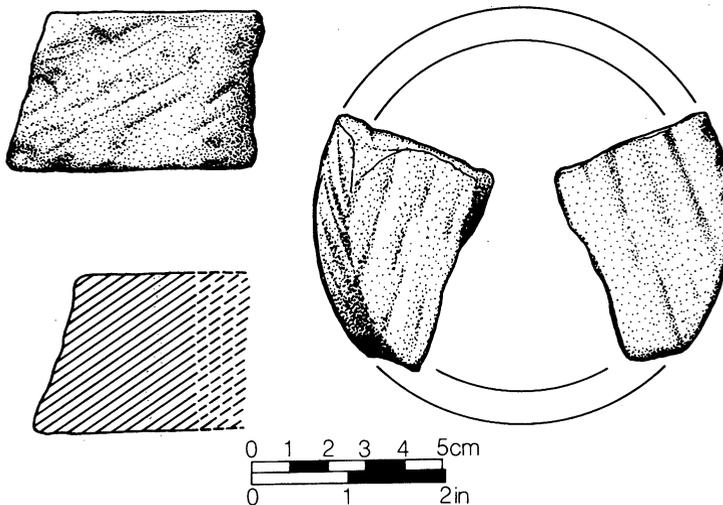


Fig 1. A stone object from Buckland

This stone appears to have formed part of a circular object, 41mm thick and approximately 110mm in diameter. The three extant sides bear clear evidence for shaping, or perhaps rubbing, in the form of parallel scoring and this suggests that the object may have been part of a whetstone. From this area of the field were also recovered a handful of small medieval pottery sherds dating to *c* 1300, as well as fragments of waste flintwork, and from elsewhere in the field a rim sherd of late Roman grey ware was picked up by the writer. This is about all the evidence which may be offered to date this object which remains, along with the other material recovered during the survey, in the museum of the Holmesdale Natural History Club.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Williams, D W, 1983 Neolithic axe from Buckland, *SyAC* 74, 209

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