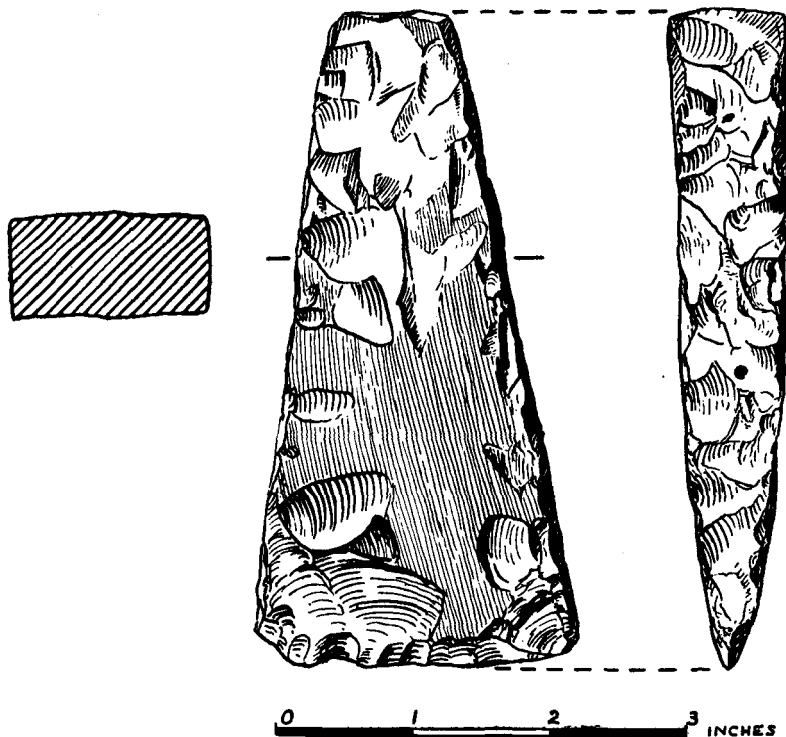


A STONE AXE OF SCANDINAVIAN TYPE FROM ENFIELD

By L. V. GRINSELL, F.S.A.

WHILE digging in 1939 or 1940 in the garden of her house at 90, Merryhills Drive, a fairly new housing estate in the parish of Enfield, Middlesex, Miss Janet E. Bremner discovered the flint axe shown in the accompanying illustration. The National Grid reference is: 51/3021 9616.

As Miss Bremner was the first occupant since the house in question was built, the possibility of the specimen being a collector's throwout is greatly reduced, though perhaps not



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entirely removed. The soil is clay-with-flints, and the rather ochreous patina of the implement is consistent with its having rested in such an environment for a very long time. It is

believed to have been found at a depth of between 15 and 18 inches. Both these circumstances increase the probability that the implement is a prehistoric import.

The implement is of the square-butted type, expanding towards the cutting edge, one side of which shows a slight tendency to gouge form. It has been partly ground on both faces. In Scandinavia this type belongs normally to the passage grave period but extends into that of the cists.

There are already several instances on record of axes of this type having been imported into Britain from Scandinavia during the British Early Bronze Age. Although occasional specimens have been found in various localities including Yorkshire, East Anglia, and South Wales, the majority have been found in the Thames estuary, the Medway valley, and North-East Kent. There can be little doubt that they were imported into England in small numbers by those concerned in the amber trade.

The presence of axes of this type in Britain has been discussed by Prof. S. Piggott in *Proc. Prehistoric Society*, IV, 1938, 80-81, with map, and list on pp. 101-2; by the same author in *Antiquaries' Journal*, XIX, 1939, 267-269, with special reference to that from Julliberrie's Grave long barrow near Chilham, Kent; and by Mrs. C. M. Piggott in *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. and Arch. Soc.*, LXVII, 1945, 28. Dr. Grahame Clark has recently discussed the spread of this and associated types of axe, of South Scandinavian flint, to the extreme north of Norway, Sweden, and Finland (*Proc. Prehistoric Society*, XIV, 1948, 219-232).

I am much indebted to Miss Bremner for precise details of this discovery, and to Mr. Philip Jenkins for first drawing my attention to it. Miss Bremner has recently very kindly presented the implement to the London Museum.