

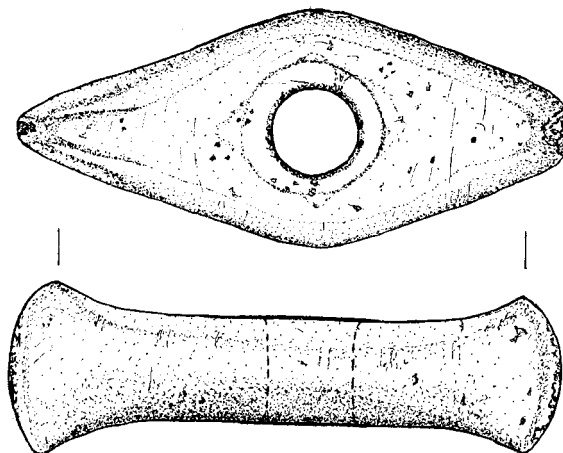
AN EARLY BRONZE AGE BATTLE-AXE FROM WANDSWORTH

PATRICK LOOBEY

During its continuing watch along the Thames foreshore at low tide Wandsworth Historical Society has made a further number of discoveries,¹ including an Early Bronze Age battle-axe which was found in the Wandsworth reach.²

The axe is 144 mm long and 64 mm wide with a shafthole diameter of 22 mm. Its surface has been smoothed almost to a polish, but both the blade and the butt have been slightly damaged with use. Thin sectioning has revealed that the axe is of camptonite (Group XIV; sources West Midlands).³

The axe does not fit easily into any of Roe's nine groups:⁴ the butt shape is intermediate between A and D suggesting the Calais Wold/Snowhill Groups; leaving this basic characteristic aside, the softly carinated sides, the long thin elevation and the longitudinal proportions would place the axe in the Loose Howe Group,⁵ of which two other examples have been discovered in the London region.⁶



Scale 1/2

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NOTES

¹ For two earlier finds see N. Farrant, "Two Weapons from the Thames", *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 24 (1973) 157-58.

² Full details of the find spot have been placed with the Museum of London.

³ F. W. Shotton, "New Petrological Groups based on Axes from the West Midlands", *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 25 (1959) 135-143. Also for Group XIV see *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 28

(1962) 220. For preliminary details of the petrological survey of the London region, see F. Celoria, "Preliminary list of neolithic axes from London region. . .", *London Studies I* (1974) 87-92.

⁴ F. E. S. Roe, "The Battle-Axe Series in Britain", *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 32 (1966) 199-245.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 209, fig. 6b, no. 251.

⁶ *Ibid.*, from the river at Kingston-upon-Thames, p. 237.