

Notes

Some Lower Palaeolithic Handaxes from Kempston

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Seven flint artefacts dating from the lower palaeolithic period were brought to light in 1984 when their presence was discovered in a private collection, together with an assemblage of Roman and Saxon pots and cremations, in Bedford. The owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, was kind enough to allow archaeologists working for Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Archaeological Field Team to record them.

The finds were made at the turn of the century at Jarvis's Pit in Kempston (TL 030 480). The flint collection consists of four, probably middle Acheulian, handaxes (Fig 1, Fig 2a), a large flake,

and two roughly shaped cores (Fig 2b, c, d). Most pieces are of flint with a reddish brown patina, but the flake is of a pale grey colour. Unfortunately the time which has elapsed since the discovery has meant that the circumstances of exactly how the finds were made is not known, although they seem to have been discovered in a group. It may be significant that a further handaxe from Jarvis's Pit is listed by Roe as being in the Bradford City Museum and Art Gallery.¹ This may have been donated by a Mr Cudworth when he gave a collared urn from the same site.²

NOTES

- 1 D. Roe, *Gazetteer of British Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Sites*, *CBA Research Report 8*, 1968, 4-5.
- 2 D.H. Kennett, "A Lost Collared Urn from Kempston" *Beds Arch J* Vol. 5, 1970, 6.

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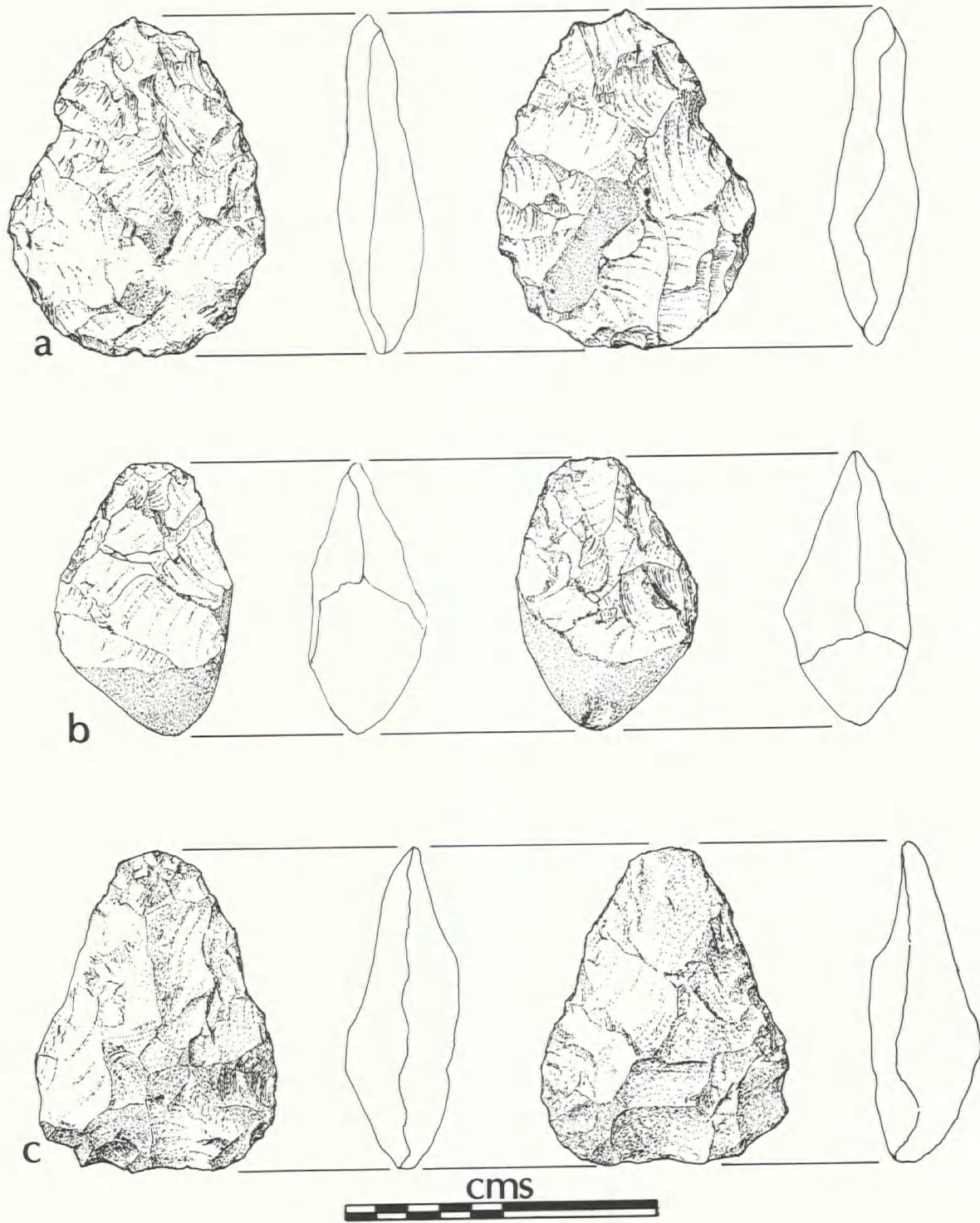


Fig 1 a-c Lower Palaeolithic handaxes from Kempston

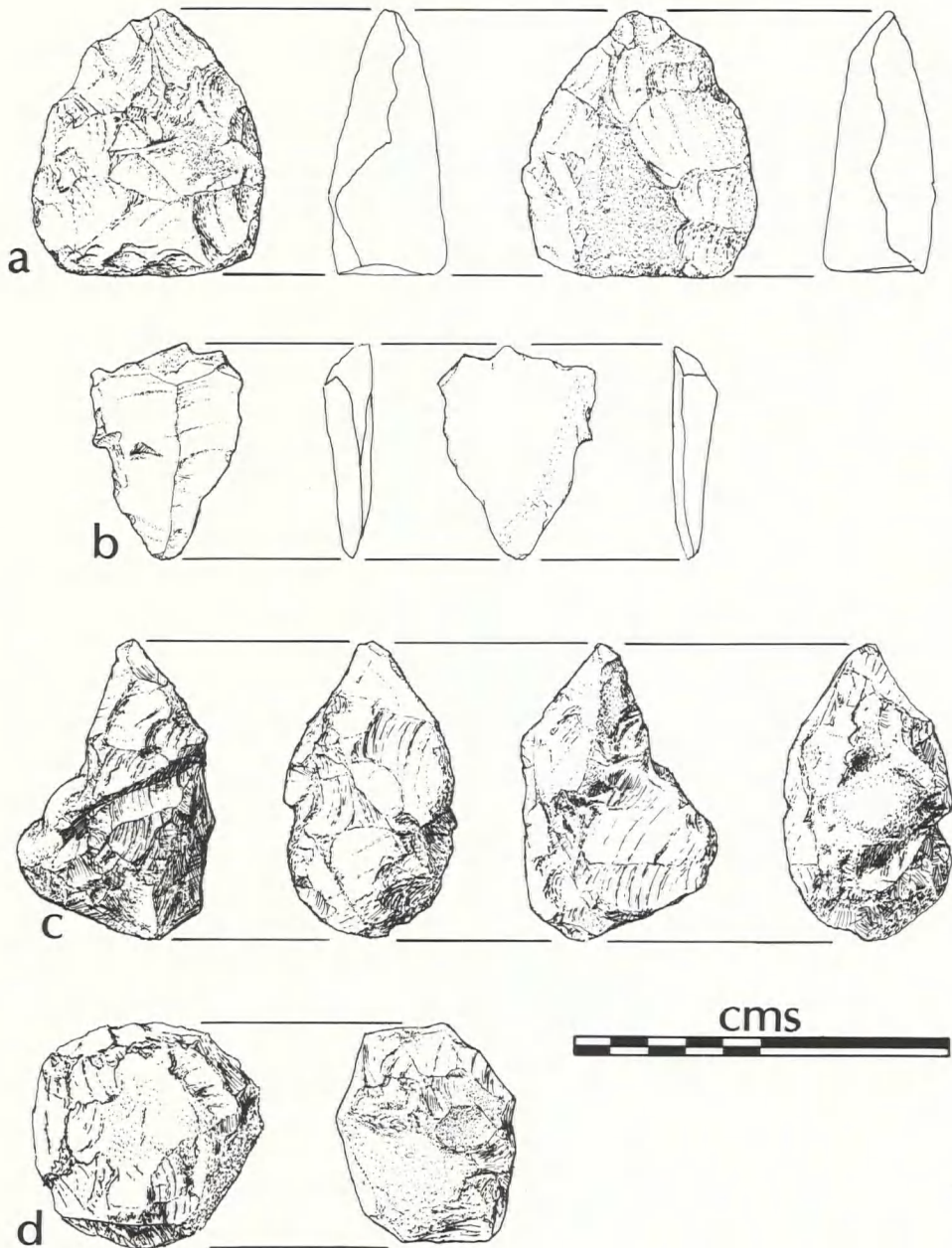


Fig 2 Lower Palaeolithic tools
(a) handaxe, (b) large flake, (c and d) roughly flaked cores, from Kempston