

NOTES

Neolithic flint implements from Wymington.

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The two flint implements forming the subject of this note were discovered by Mr G. Wheeler of Rushden, Northants, near Wymington, north Beds (SP 944648). The flints, found within a few inches of each other, lay on the surface of scrapings from deep rabbit burrows. The burrows, on the northern aspect of a fairly steep grass slope, were dug into an extremely fine, dark black-brown soil which was devoid of stone. The slope is marked at the top by a low rounded ridge at the two hundred feet contour line and the burrows were immediately below this ridge. Medieval plough strips are visible on the plateau above the slope and the low ridge probably marks the plough boundary. At the lower end of the slope there is a small stream.

The flints (Fig 2 Nos. 1 and 2) are finely preserved examples of Neolithic implements (3000-1800 BC) showing no secondary abrasive damage. One, (1) a double sided scraper 5in (127mm) long, 1½in (38mm) wide and ½ in (13mm) thick (max) is largely a dirty pale yellow brown in colour with a blue-black portion at one end (lower end in figure). The implement retains a small amount of chalky-white cortex (stippled in figure). The second implement (2) is a combined side-knife edge and end-

scraper 4in (102mm) long, 2in (51mm) wide and 0.5in (13mm) thick (max), grey-blue in colour with some patches of white. A fairly large area of chalky-white cortex (0.5mm thick) is retained. Some retouching has been made along both long edges of (1) to produce the scraping edges. The retained cortex of (1) suggests that further work was intended. The long knife edge of (2) was formed by flake detachment using a single blow. This edge has required the minimum of very minute retouchings to produce a keen edge. A series of secondary flakings at the broad end on both sides of the flake has destroyed both the striking platform and bulb of percussion but on the slightly convex face transverse ripple marks are visible whilst in profile the flake exhibits the typical chonchooidal fracture.

Apart from examination on the ground no excavation of the site of discovery has been made and the original context of the flint remains unknown. The unusual circumstances of their discovery may indicate that a hoard of implements similar to those discovered at Temple Springs, Wilbraham, Cambs., has been disturbed.

I thank Mr Wheeler for allowing me to examine these interesting implements.

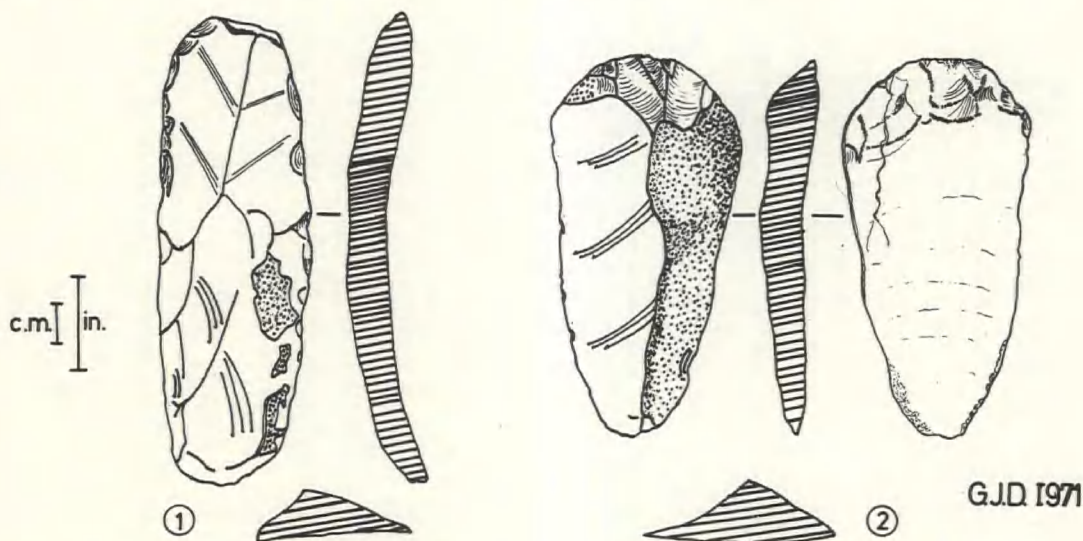


Fig 1 Flints from Wymington

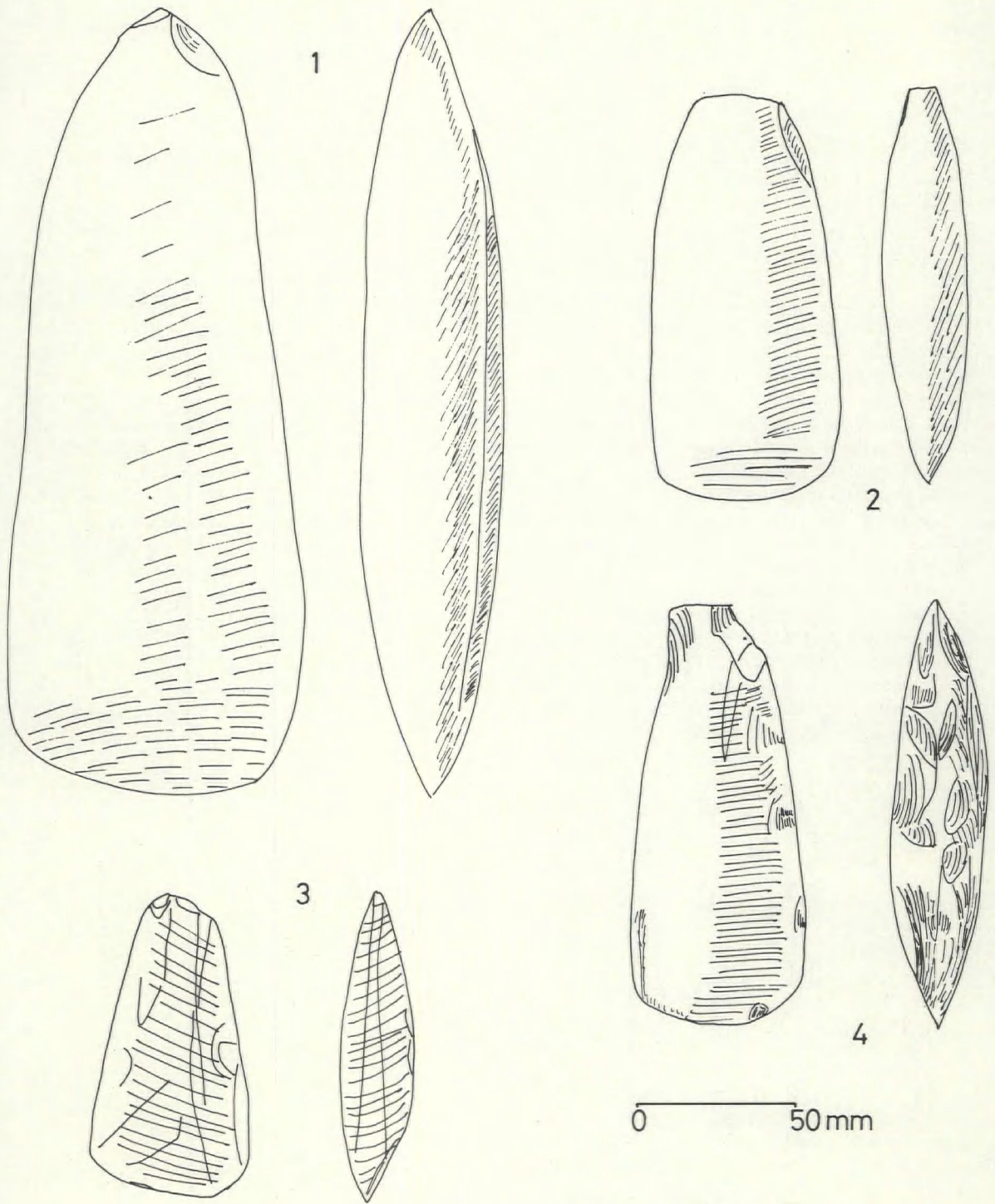


Fig 2 Neolithic axes in Bedford Museum