

A Polished Flint Axe from Mendip

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

On Whit Sunday, 1953, Master Trevor Dyer, of 163 Ridgeway Road, Fishponds, Bristol, discovered a polished flint axe (*Fig. 4*) in a badger's hole on the south-eastern slope of Crook Peak in the parish of Compton

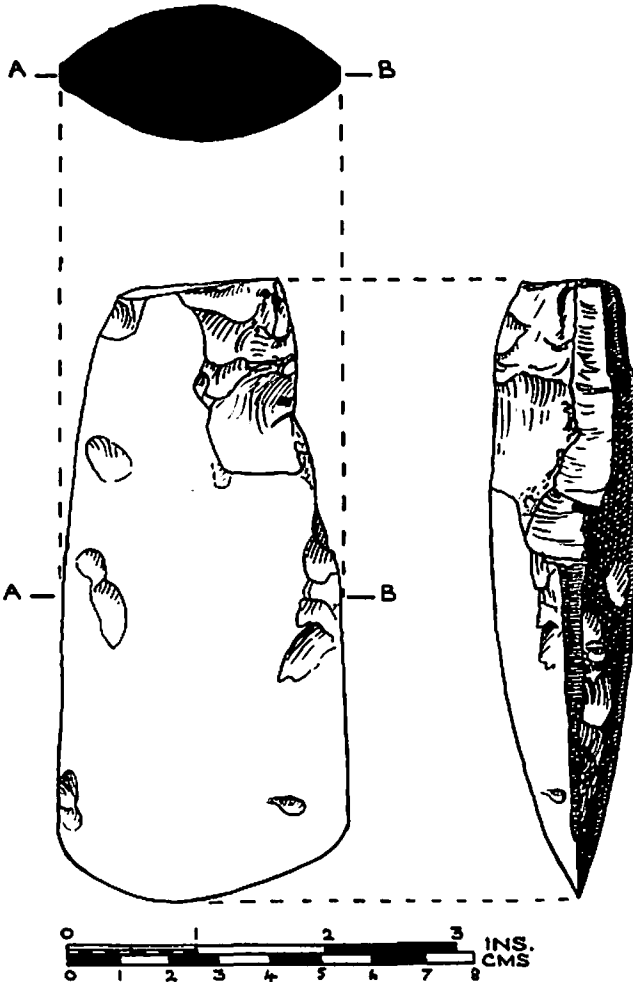


Fig. 4.—Polished flint axe from Crook Peak, Compton Bishop. Two-thirds natural size.

Bishop (N.G.R. ST388557). A few days later he brought it to the City Museum, Bristol, for identification, and it has now been added to the Museum's collection, the reference number being F 3591.

It is a fine implement $4\frac{7}{8}$ in. long, polished all over except for a very few negative flaking facets. It belongs to the second of the subdivisions under which Sir John Evans classified polished axes: those with flat side-edges (*Ancient Stone Implements*, 2nd Ed., 1897, 98, 110-122). The cutting edge is slightly oblique or asymmetrical. It is most probably of Wiltshire flint, and has a greyish-white patina. It resembles several other polished axes found on Mendip in that flakes have been removed in antiquity, across the butt end and from the butt end downwards, presumably for making into flake implements, in this region where good flint—indeed almost any flint—is rare.

I am indebted to Dr. F. S. Wallis, Director of the City Museum, Bristol, for permission to publish this implement.