

City Museum, Bristol, has examined the axe and the report, number 927 of the Stone Axe Sub-Committee of the South-western Group of Museums and Art Galleries states:—"Petrology. Macroscopic. Medium grained igneous rock of bluish grey colour, weathered brown. Microscopic. Greenstone with a fair amount of augite, feldspar and usual magnetite. Greenstone." The source cannot be accurately determined but is likely to be Cornwall. A few flints, mainly cores, have been found scattered over the field but the evidence is not sufficient to indicate an occupation site or date. The splayed form of the cutting edge suggests a late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. The axe is now in the possession of Dr. Luckwill of the Research Station who kindly allowed me to have it for examination and report. I am indebted to Mr. Bryan Collingridge for the drawing from which Fig. 7, No. 1 is made.

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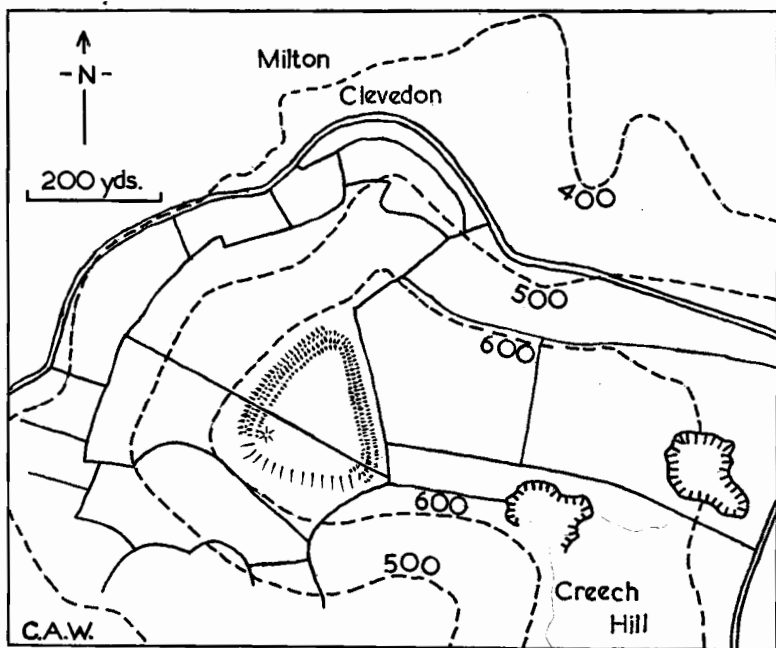


Fig. 8.

Creech Hill Camp, Milton Clevedon. (O.S. 6 in. to 1 mile, Som. 54, S.W., N.G.R., ST 666367).—To the south-east of Milton Clevedon is the irregularly shaped Creech Hill. It is formed of oolite and has a number of spurs commanding extensive views. At the west end of one of the spurs of the hill is this camp, which was found in July, 1955. The camp is a minor work of approximately triangular form and about 150 yards from east to west. The defences are rather feeble. To the south where the slope is steep there is no bank on the plateau edge nor a ditch below, though the likely position of the ditch is occupied by a narrow platform suggesting that the slope may have been artificially steepened and the earth thrown downhill. Shallow quarrying at both southern angles has obscured the relationship of the platform to the ditch along the other two sides (Fig. 8).

On the west side of the camp, where there is a tumulus, T 370, there is a ditch 8 ft. wide and 1 ft. deep with traces of a bank outside. Inside the ditch the natural slope is very steep, rising about 7 ft. to the edge of the plateau where there is a very slight bank. The east side of the work crossing the almost level ground of the spur is the best defended as it is the easiest approach to the camp. The ditch is 2.5 ft. deep and about 9 ft. wide. The bank is inside and rises about 2 ft. above the interior

level of the camp, and is about 15 ft. wide. There is no outer bank. No prehistoric entrance could be found. The gaps in the bank, especially on the east, all appear to be of recent origin. The feeble defences and the small area enclosed suggest an early date for its construction, possibly Iron Age A though it could also be very late. An O.S. triangulation stone has recently been set up inside the work.

No previous reference to this work has been found. The nearest other known earthwork is Small Down Camp about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the north. It contains eleven tumuli of Bronze Age date. The ditch in-filling is said to have yielded pottery of the same period (Gray, 1904). The new work described also contains a tumulus. It is about 35 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. high. It has a tail to the south suggesting that it is built upon a natural prominence, which increases its apparent height when viewed from outside the camp. The tumulus has a flat top and shows signs of having been disturbed in the centre.

Since this camp was found information has been received that a Roman building, perhaps a temple, has been found on Lamyatt Beacon to the south-west.

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PALÆOLITHIC AND OTHER IMPLEMENTS FROM THE SHIREHAMPTON DISTRICT

These short notes are intended primarily to record the places from which stone implements were recovered during routine investigation of new housing sites, for archaeological material in north-west Bristol. The implements collected by G. C. Boon, B.A., F.S.A., and the author have now been placed in the Society's Museum.

Palæoliths.—U.B.S.S. Catalogue, Pal. 90. This specimen is a small, 75×43 mm., pointed hand-axe, which if flaked over its entire surface would have produced a pointed ovate. A large area of the butt end remains unflaked showing the piece to have been manufactured from a small pebble of chert. It shows considerable artistry in its flaking and is of mid-Acheulian type with a pronounced S-twist to the edges. One face is finely and evenly flaked. The other is rougher and appears unfinished. Close examination of the piece shows a flaw in the substance of the chert, which possibly appeared during its manufacture. The implement has a beautifully fresh appearance, with the flake ridges quite undulled. It cannot have moved far from where it was dropped. It was recovered by the author, only a few feet away from the limits of the Roman villa site in Kings Weston Park (Grid ref. ST 533775) and was exposed on the surface by disturbance during building operations. The height here is about 35 ft. O.D. and the surface deposit from which it came is a sandy-marl subsoil, hillwash, common to the area. This hillwash also covers the Roman remains and must represent a very recent erosion of the upper slopes; it therefore seems reasonable to assume that this unweathered and unrolled hand-axe must have been quite recently washed from a resting place on the upper slopes of Penpole Point, immediately south of the villa site.

No. 91 is a surface find from a garden in Station Road, Shirehampton (Grid ref. ST 533768), at 100 ft. O.D., collected by the author. It is an Acheulian cleaver in honey-coloured chert without patina and with very slight surface staining. The butt end shows some of the original cortex. Greatest length 66 mm.; breadth 45 mm. This implement resembles the majority from Shirehampton in its fresh appearance, the flake ridges being almost undulled.

No. 92 was collected by G. C. Boon from the disturbed surface of the "Meadow Grove" housing site at approximately 25 ft. O.D. (Grid ref. ST 525773). It is a triangular hand-axe of mid-Acheulian type, 85×52 mm., with a slight S-twist to the edge. This piece is very much rolled and abraded. It is unusual amongst the Shirehampton palæoliths in its heavy staining which has imparted to the chert a warm red coloration. Most palæoliths from the Shirehampton side of the Avon have a remarkably fresh appearance while those from the Somerset side of the river are heavily patinated. The condition of the implement and its discovery at that low level suggest that it is derived from the 100 ft. Level, in the neighbourhood of Old Barrow Hill, where thin, much eroded, gravels occur and from where the late R. Hughes collected artifacts (Grid ref. ST 528772).

The two hand-axes, Nos. 90 and 92, were examined and discussed by A. D. Lacaille, F.S.A. Also of lower palæolithic date are six worked flakes, all of chert. Three were collected at the Meadow Grove site, centred on Grid reference ST 525774. Two of these, like the biface from here, are very much rolled and abraded. The