

A LATE NEOLITHIC AXE FROM THORNHILL, SOUTHAMPTON

By R. W. FEACHEM

THE axe illustrated in Fig. 1,1, was unearthed by Mr. Peter Sibley in his garden at 5 Douglas Crescent, Thornhill (Nat. Grid. Ref. SU 457128) in May 1974. It appears to have been made on a flake of what is probably grey flint in which there are cherty patches. The butt end was snapped off in antiquity, reducing the length of the implement by about one third. The edge is polished, and there is some polishing on the ridges. The

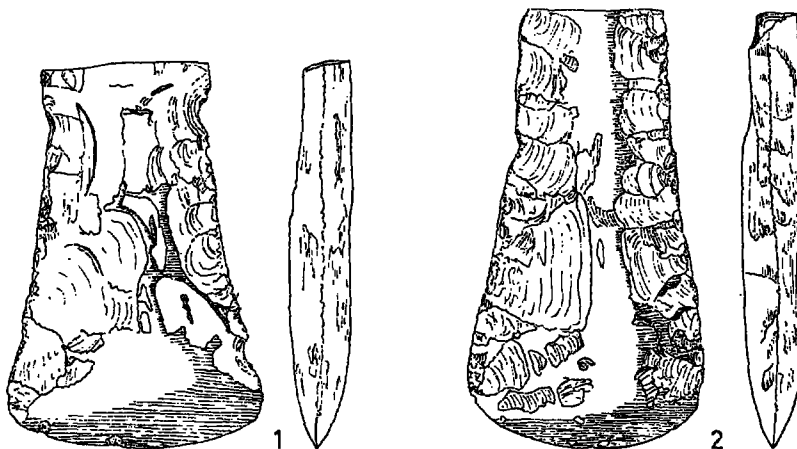


Fig. 1. Flint Axes from Thornhill, Southampton (1) and unprovenanced (2). (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

axe belongs to the class of late Neolithic (early 2nd millennium BC) tools with splayed blades the design of which was probably influenced by metal forms. It compares closely for example, with axes respectively from Bottisham Fen, Cambridgeshire and the river Thames at Teddington, Greater London, illustrated by Sieveking (1968, Pl. IX, Figs. 7, 8). An unprovenanced specimen of the same class (Fig. 1,2), also broken in antiquity and of grey flint, is in God's House Tower museum, Southampton (A.719.63).

Acknowledgement

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REFERENCE

Sieveking, G. de G., 1968. *Flint Implements*. London: The Trustees of the British Museum.

Author: R. W. Feachem, Ordnance Survey, Romsey Road, Maybush, Southampton.

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