

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE METALWORK FROM ANDERWOOD INCLOSURE, NEW FOREST

Two groups of Bronze Age metalwork have recently been brought into Winchester City Museums by Mr D Chadwick of Lyndhurst for identification. The two groups were found by different individuals at different times but Mr Chadwick has spoken to the finders and assures us that both groups were found at Anderwood Inclosure (SU 243063) within an area of 15–20 ft (4.6–6.1m) diameter. The first group (WCM ref 81'1984) was unearthed by a bulldozer during the construction of a new track in 1961 and recovered by the owner whilst following the machine. The group is illustrated in Fig 7 and in microfiche. The second group (WCM ref 69'1984) was found in 1984 by the driver of the bulldozer in 1961. He could recall the original find being made and,

after buying a metal detector, returned to search the spot. This group is illustrated in Fig 8 and in microfiche. The material has been retained by the finders.

Although it has not been possible for one of the writers (SN) to study the bronzes at first-hand, the character of the material is clear. The three complete axes are palstaves of a form which illustrates the introduction of the narrow-bladed variety to Britain from France. With their gently flared blades, curved stops and loops they conform well to the *Norman* type (O'Connor 1980, 47–9; Needham 1980). This type appears in a number of south British hoards datable to the Taunton-Barton Bendish phase (MBA 2), c 1300–1100 BC. Norman axes frequently have miscast loops, as seen in 2 and

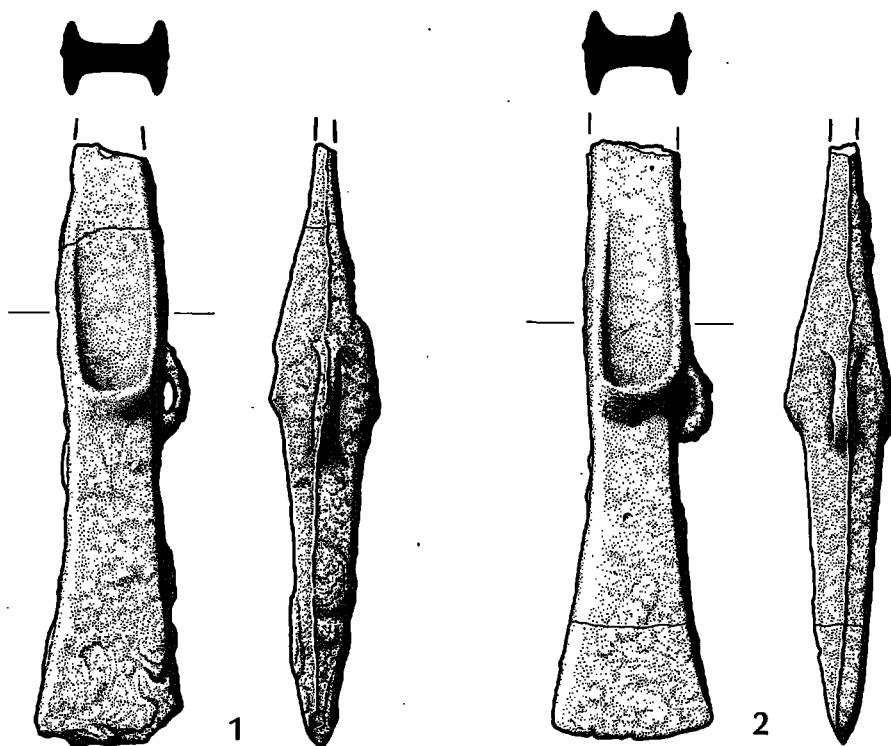


Fig 7. Bronze Age metalwork found in 1961.

3 (Figs 7 and 8) and are often decorated with a trident design, as 1 (Fig 7) appears to be. The Anderwood examples add to the concentration of Norman palstaves known in coastal districts from Sussex to Dorset.

At least three fragments from the find would appear to belong to palstaves, while nine other pieces are unidentifiable. A tenth could belong to a pin shank or a wire ornament. These are illustrated in microfiche.

The remaining two bronzes are unambiguous ornaments; both pieces come from bracelets with narrow bands of 'D' shaped cross-section, indeed they could be from one object (illustrated in microfiche). A variety of bracelet forms are known in the British Middle Bronze Age as, for example in the new Hampshire find from South Wonston (Hughes and Champion 1982) and elsewhere (Rowlands 1976, plates 11-21).

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The group of bronzes from Anderwood Inclosure, if representing a dispersed hoard, would be the first ornament hoard from the New Forest, but it joins MBA palstave hoards from nearby at Burley (Rowlands 1976, 238) and at Minstead (National Bronze Implements Index).

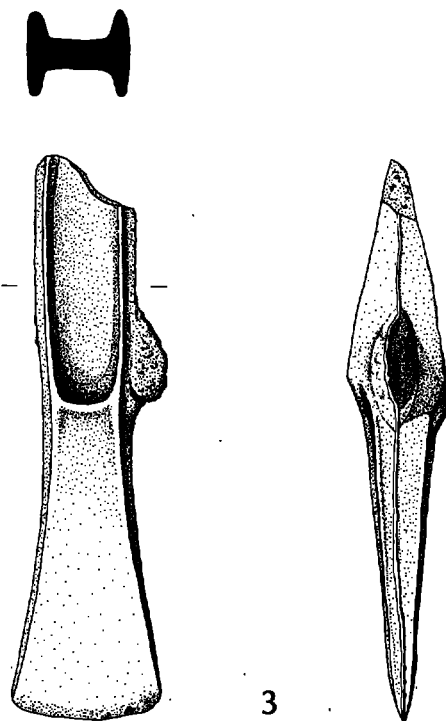


Fig 8. Bronze Age metalwork found in 1984.

REFERENCES

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