

TWO UNRECORDED ACHEULIAN HANDAXES FROM BLASHFORD

By MARTIN T. GREEN

THESE two flint handaxes were brought to my notice by Dr. H. W. Dupré of Park Road, Tisbury, in whose possession they remain. They were given to him by his nephew who had found them in a box with some fossils in the attic of the house he had bought at Burford in the Cotswolds. The handaxes are marked with latitude and longitude: N. $50^{\circ} 52' 13''$, W. $1^{\circ} 47' 22''$, (altitude) 70 ft. O.D. This location corresponds to Grid Reference SU 148081 and the site thus indicated would be about 100 m. south-east of Ellingham Cross, which is the junction between the Ringwood-Fordingbridge road (A 338) and the road from Ellingham to Moyles Court.

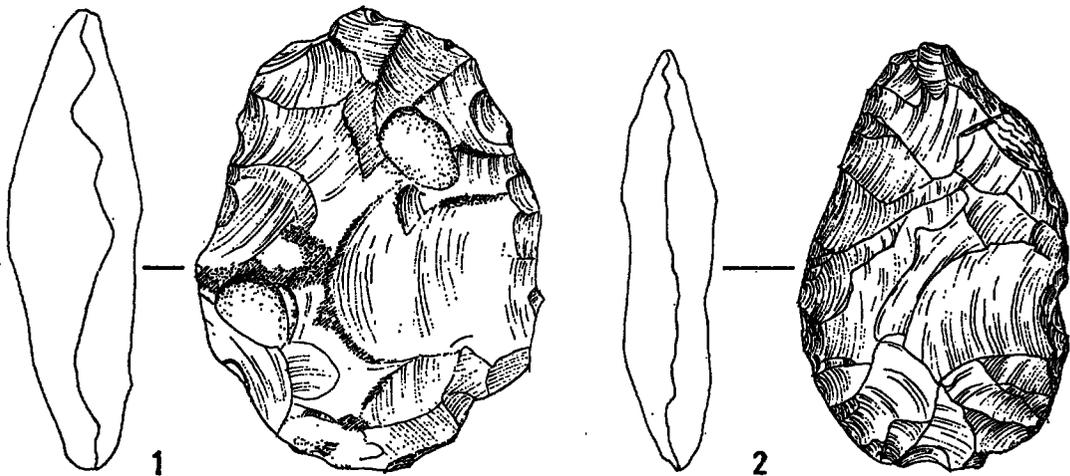


Fig. 31. Ovate flint handaxes from Blashford, Hants. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.)

Handaxe No. 1 has a mid-brown surface colour typical of many flint handaxes and has been slightly rolled and slightly damaged on its underside. No. 2 has a dirty cream coloured patination and has a protruding knot due to much hammering to remove another flake which proved unsuccessful. No. 1 is 100 mm. long, No. 2 is 95 mm. long. There are two known pits at Blashford (Ellingham parish) at approximately SU 144084 and 148075, from which two other handaxes have been recorded (Roe 1968, 75). Both handaxes can be regarded as typologically fairly late Middle Acheulian, comparable to those from the Upper Middle Gravel at Swanscombe, of early Wolstonian age (Kerney 1971), or perhaps even a little later, i.e. early in the inter-Riss (= Wolstonian) 'Interglacial', with an age of perhaps 135,000 years or so. The site of the handaxe find is on Terrace I (Sealey 1955) of the Salisbury Avon, here at about 12 to 18 ft. (4-6 m.)

above the flood plain (the O.S. 1-25000 map shows that the site is just above the 75 ft. contour). The relatively unworn condition of these handaxes suggests that they are contemporary with the terrace. Whatever its precise age, this terrace is clearly very much younger than Sealey's Terrace V, Reid's Palaeolithic Terrace (Reid 1902), which is here at about 90 ft. (27 m.) above the flood plain, and from which at Wood Green Common, Breamore, a few miles upstream, has come a very large number of unevolved Acheulian handaxes (Roe 1968).

Acknowledgements

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Dr. Dupré died while this paper was in the press, the handaxes remain in his widow's possession.