

NOTES

MESOLITHIC AXES AND SHARPENING FLAKES FROM SOUTH EAST HAMPSHIRE

By J. C. DRAPER

THIS note is the result of a detailed study of implements from the Mesolithic Survey of the area (Draper 1969), with additions and material from new sites. The various 'pick' forms are excluded. It is possible to divide the 'axe' collection into axes and adzes, the adzes having offset cutting edges and, in many cases, one side curved and developed by

shallow transverse flaking, resulting in a triangular cross-section. A tranchet flake-scar appears on slightly more than half of the axes and adzes; the tranchet flakes have been struck from either the left or the right side of the cutting edge. The 'pseudo-tranchet' is another feature to be noted. What at first glance appears to be a tranchet sharpening-flake scar

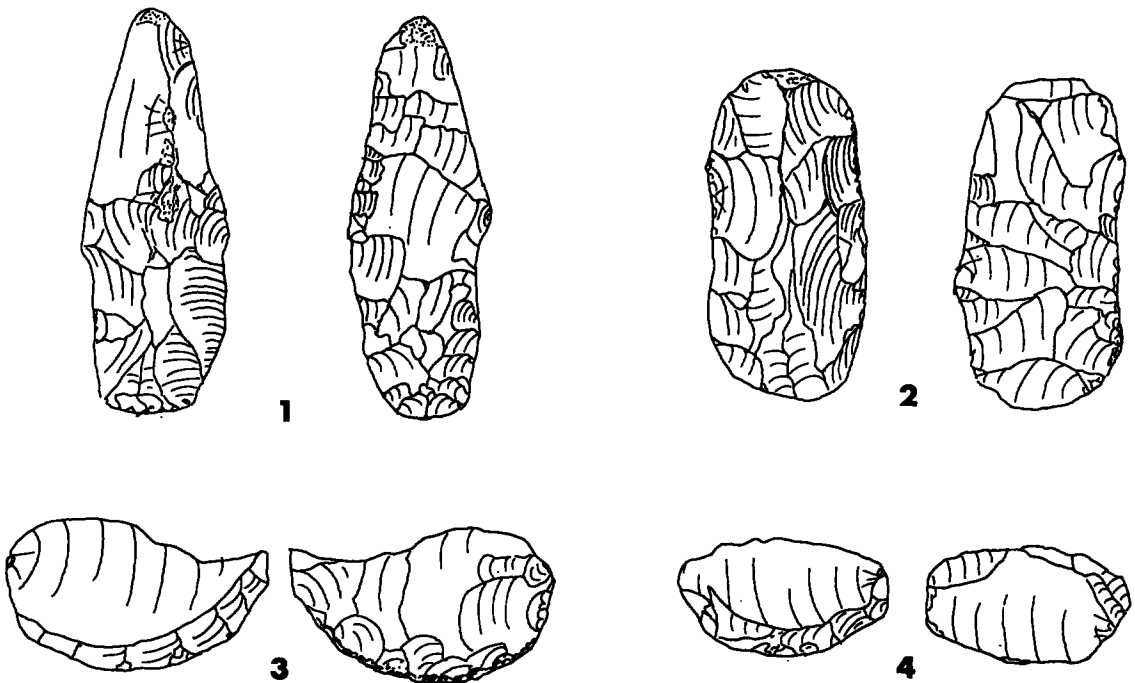


Fig. 1. Mesolithic axes and sharpening flakes from South-East Hants: 1. Axe without tranchet edge, Windmill Hill no. 2 site, Chalton, 2. Adze showing pseudo-tranchet edge, site on Walton Heath, Southwick, 3. Primary sharpening flake, Hipley, Southwick, 4. Secondary sharpening flake, Walton Heath, Southwick. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

is in fact only a transverse flaking scar. Rankine illustrated this clearly on an adze from Oakhanger (Rankine 1953, 32, Fig. 7). Other examples are shown from the Farnham excavations (Clarke and Rankine 1939, Fig. 14.3). Thermal fractures have been utilized as one side of four axes and one adze. Both Rankine and Clarke (1939; Rankine and Dimbleby 1960) have noted this feature. Excluding broken implements the average length of 37 adzes measured was 108 mm and that of 19 axes was 114 mm.

The bulbar scar of a sharpening flake struck from the *left*-hand edge of an adze, appears when the flake is viewed from underneath to be on the right hand side of the flake. Of 34 sharpening flakes examined the proportion of left and right handed bulbar scars is almost equal. The cutting edges of all these flakes had become well worn before their detachment. Only one example (Fig. 1.4) was not a primary sharpening flake.

Table: Mesolithic axes, adzes and sharpening flakes from South-East Hampshire.

		Totals
21 axes	40 adzes	61
10 tranchets	23 tranchets	33
4 left-handed	14 left-handed	18
6 right-handed	8 right-handed	14
7 pseudo-tranchet	7 pseudo-tranchet	14
sharpening flakes		34
16 flakes struck from left hand side		
18 flakes struck from right-hand side		
widest flake, 74mm	narrowest 35mm	

To summarize, it may be that of a collection of Mesolithic 'axes', examination might classify two-thirds as adzes. Some axes and adzes may show a 'Pseudo-tranchet', the result of transverse flaking during manufacture. The true tranchet sharpening technique is only used after the original cutting edge of the axe or adze has been blunted.

REFERENCES

- Clark, J G D and Rankine, W E 1939 Excavations at Farnham, Surrey (1937-38): the Horsham Culture and the question of Mesolithic dwellings, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* **5**, 61-118.
- Draper, J C 1969 Mesolithic distribution in South-East Hampshire, *Proc. Hants Field Club Archaeol. Soc.* **23**, 2 (1966), 110-19.
- Rankine, W F 1953 A Mesolithic chipping floor at Oakhanger, Selbourne, Hants, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* **18**, 1 (1952), 21-35.
- , and Dimbleby, W F 1960 Further investigations at a Mesolithic site at Oakhanger, Selbourne, Hants, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* **26**, 246-62.

Author: J. C. Draper, 3 East Street, Fareham, Hants.

A FIFTEENTH CENTURY TIMBER BUILDING AT SEGENSWORTH FARM, TITCHFIELD, HANTS

By J. C. DRAPER

A low thatched barn adjacent to the road is one of the surviving buildings of the former Segensworth Farm (SU 542071); the others were demolished in 1923. The roadside elevation shows eighteenth century brickwork to the lower part and wide tarred oak weather

boarding above. The half hipped ends are half-timbered with brick filled panels, but the timbers are second hand and wider than is usual. The farmyard side was weather boarded to ground level with two stable doors inserted.