

A HANDAXE FROM STANTONBURY, AND FURTHER NOTES ON HANDAXES FROM THE VALLEYS OF THE OUSE AND OUZEL IN NORTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

THE handaxe (fig. 1) was found in 1970 by Miss Carolyn Johnson of Wolverton in Stantonbury Gravel Pit, not *in situ* but in a heap of newly extracted gravel. Its approximate find-spot is SP 850 435.

It is unrolled and has clearly not been transported far by natural agencies. It bears a mottled bluish-white patina. Its cortex is orange-brown in colour.

It would seem to be unfinished. A few flakes have been removed from the butt, possibly for the purpose of preparing striking platforms for the removal of more flakes. Typologically, it forms part of the Acheulian handaxe series and would fit most happily into a Middle Acheulian context.

Palaeoliths from the Ouzel valley in the Bletchley area were discussed by Louise Millard in 'Some Palaeoliths from the Bletchley District', *Records of Bucks XVII*, part 5 (1965) 336-342, and were listed by Derek Roe in *A Gazetteer of British Middle and Lower Palaeolithic Sites* (C.B.A. Research Report 8), under Bletchley and Fenny Stratford. I append a list of grid references for these finds based on Miss Millard's research and on further work by myself.

	GRID REFERENCE	LOCALITY	HANDAXES
a.	SP 875 341	Yard's End Pit	1
b.	SP 870 346	Denbigh Road	1
	(Within 100 metres)	Allotments	
c.	SP 883 340	Canal Side	3
	(approx.)	Fenny Stratford	
d.	SP 885 333	Bed of River Ouzel	2
		Saffron Gardens	
e.	SP 895 340	Brickhill Road	1
	(within 500 metres north or south)		
f.	?	Near Bletchley	4
g.	?	Sandpit near Bletchley	1
h.	?	Heap of stones from roadside, Bletchley	1

A few corrections to Derek Roe's Gazetteer should be noted. He lists finds *f*, *g*, *h* as all deriving from Yard's End Pit in addition to *a*; find *d* is also listed (one find each) as deriving from Bletchley (Saffron Gardens) and from Fenny Stratford (River Ouse Bed). Louise Millard also suggests (p. 338) that finds *f* and *g* derive from Yard's End Pit but there is no evidence to support this.

Apart from the Stantonbury handaxe published here, the only known handaxe find from the Buckinghamshire River Ouse comes from Newport Pagnell (fig. 2). The find was made about 1900 by A. Bullard and almost certainly derives from a gravel pit owned by Bullard at SP 888 432. It is now in the County Museum

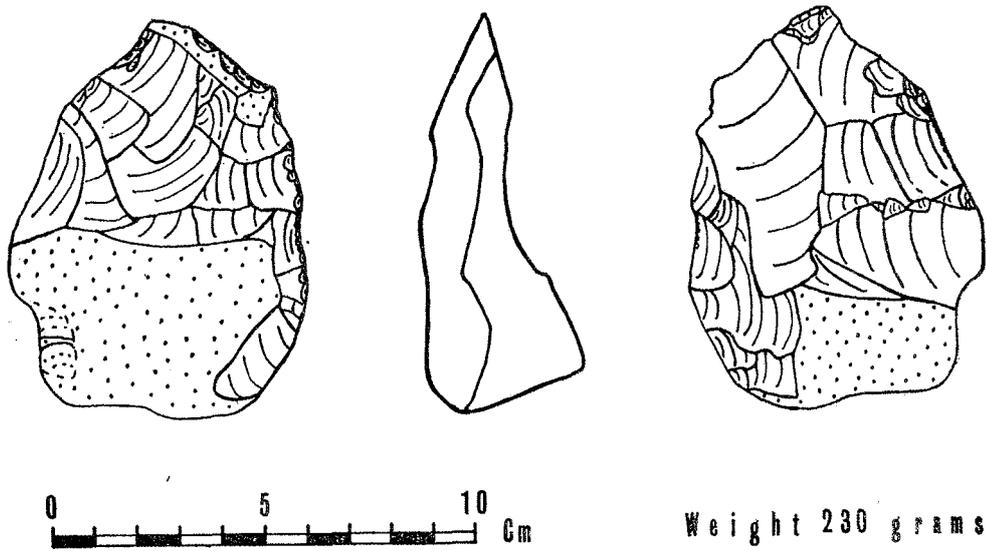


Fig. 1. Handaxe from Stantonbury.

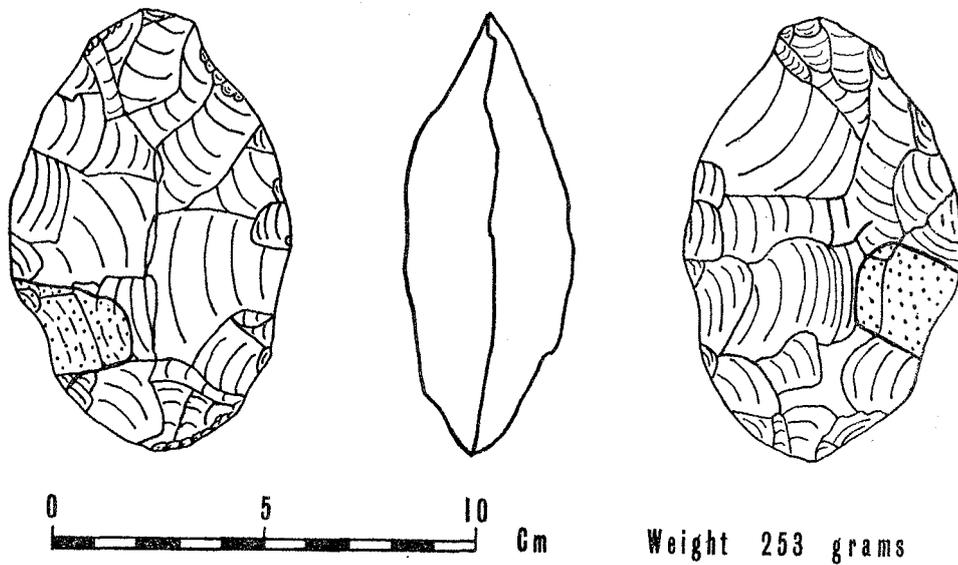


Fig. 2. Handaxe from Newport Pagnell.

(accession number 558.05). The axe is ovate in form and is stained yellow-brown. It is slightly rolled. The axe best fits a Middle Acheulian context.

I am indebted to Dr. Derek Roe for discussing the Stantonbury handaxe find with me and to M. Farley for information on material in the County Museum. Thanks are due to C. N. Gowing, Curator, Buckinghamshire County Museum, for permission to publish the Newport Pagnell handaxe, and to Dennis Mynard for information concerning the gravel pit owned by Mr. Bullard.

The Stantonbury handaxe is, at present, in the possession of Milton Keynes Development Corporation. Carolyn Johnson has generously suggested that it should form part of the collections of the projected new North Buckinghamshire Museum.

H. S. GREEN

A REWORKED POLISHED AXE FRAGMENT FROM WARREN FARM, WOLVERTON

The object (fig. 1) was found south-west of Warren Farm at SP 799 402 by D. C. Mynard in the course of field work during October 1971. The find was made in earth disturbed by vehicles engaged in construction work.

The polished axe fragment is made of mottled honey coloured flint. There is a thin white patina on the polished area only. There are traces of utilisation on one side and it bears a notch which has been deliberately worked. It has been converted for use as an end scraper (scraping angle 63°).

The find is at present in the possession of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

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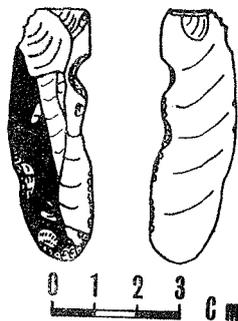


Fig. 1. Reworked Polished Axe Fragment from Warren Farm, Wolverton.