

## **A Neolithic Polished Flint Axe Fragment from Hollingbury**

In 1949 a flint axe was found by Mr Fred Smith of Brighton lying on a green to the east of the Hollingbury hill-fort. Its original provenance is unknown. For forty years the axe lay displayed upon the mantelpiece of Mr Smith until he brought it to the attention of Downland Ranger Mr David Larkin.

The axe (Fig.1) has been examined by Mr Chris Butler. He reports that the find is a thick-butted polished axe now 106mm long, 60mm wide and 38mm thick, and weighing 288 grams. The axe is a product of the South Downs flint mines, and has patinated to a grey-white colour.

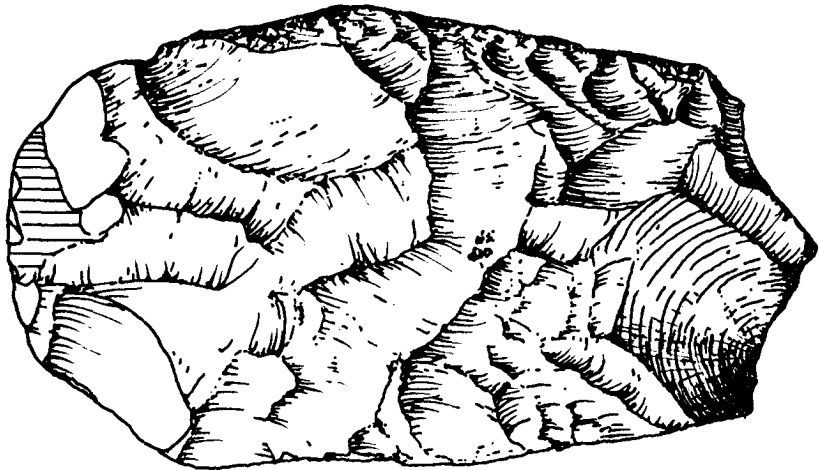
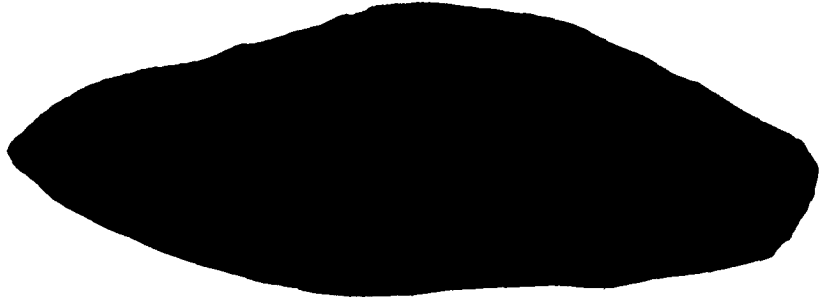
Although originally polished, it had been broken in antiquity, after which it was reflaked on both edges and from the platform created by the break. The abrasion on this platform and along the upper sides of the axe suggests that it was hafted for use. Some abrasion at the cutting edge and two adjacent flakes, all of which are unpatinated, may be recent. The axe can confidently be dated to the Neolithic period.

The axe has been handed to Mr David Larkin at the request of Mr Smith.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Mr Fred Smith and Mr David Larkin for allowing examination of the axe, Mr Chris Butler for his report and Mr Gary Bishop for drawing the item.

John Funnel 31st January 1999



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