

## NEOLITHIC SUFFOLK.

BY EDWARD R. H. HANCOX.

There are undoubtedly many implements of Neolithic man's workmanship still lying unheeded upon the surface of those localities where such evidences of man's early occupation have already been noticed.

The polished celt, the perforated axe, the carefully-finished arrow-head, if undamaged, are easily recognised and secured, even by those to whom such antiquities are nothing more than "stones" of curious, but accidental shape. This, however, cannot be said of what was probably a large proportion of the implements and weapons of the Neolithic stage of civilization, viz., the less carefully wrought instruments that require an experienced eye to detect the true nature of the work upon them. To this class may be said to belong implements of the "scraper" type.

The idea of producing a serviceable weapon with as small an expenditure of labour as possible, no doubt, at times, occurred to Neolithic man; and implements, bearing a close resemblance to some Paleolithic types, were shaped from stones of such formation as suggested their easy adaptability to certain purposes.

The scraper (Fig. 1), found upon the surface of a field at Nacton, is a good example of this rough type of Neolithic weapon. The illustration does not, perhaps, clearly convey the impression that the flaking was intentional, but the work is identical on both sides, forming a cutting edge that had evidently done good service.

The natural form of the stone admitted of its being conveniently hafted, and to strengthen the idea that such was the method of use, there appears a small groove

round the butt end, which was probably chipped for the purpose of giving the weapon greater security in its haft. A diligent search in the same neighbourhood, resulted in another, almost exactly similar find.

Undoubtedly of intentional shaping is the original of Fig. II. The object, which is also from Nacton, may be described as a borer or awl, and is formed from a flat splinter of flint, the broad end of which shows the natural crust of the stone from which it was struck. The sides of the flake are carefully bevelled from the same surface, so that when in use, a sharp cutting edge would be brought into play both by a forward and a backward turn of the hand.

Several similar implements were found in the pits at Grime's Graves, where they had probably done duty in drilling the holes in wooden and bone handles for other implements that were fabricated there.

The stone next figured, with a hole of natural formation, provided the pre-historic workman with a ready-made hammer. The casual observer might say that some effort of the imagination was needed to convince one that such was the case. A careful examination, however, will show that, for the better insertion of the haft, certain irregularities within the hole have been removed; and it will be admitted that in such a position it is barely possible for flaking to be produced by accident. The stone, which is of quartzite, was found on the beach, near Bawdsey. The more pointed end is much abraded, evidently from repeated and well-directed blows.

As a contrast to the foregoing rough types of man's early handiwork, is figured the beautiful knife from Ipswich, mentioned, but not illustrated in the Proceedings, Vol. xi, pt. 2, page 203.

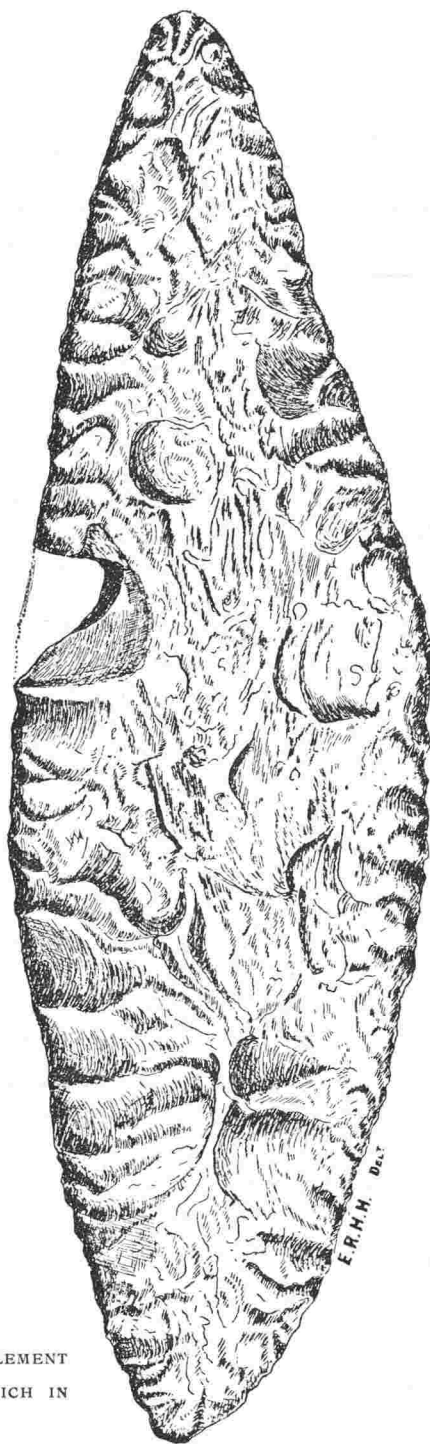


FIG. 4.

NEOLITHIC IMPLEMENT  
FOUND AT IPSWICH IN  
1902.

See Vol. xi. 203.

Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$