

A Copper Tanged Dagger from Hundon.—In view of the great rarity of daggers of the Beaker Period and Early Bronze Age from East Anglia, it comes as a surprise that the copper tanged dagger (Fig. 51) from Hundon, Suffolk, has never been published. It was found in 1928 'with a skull in a sandpit $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Hundon village on the road to Clare and 600 yards from Chilton' (i.e. at TL 749476). It came into the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dennis of Chilton Hall, who presented it to the British Museum in 1938.¹³

The Hundon dagger is a typical example of a 'flat tanged' dagger of the type which is now generally acknowledged to be the earliest form of metal dagger to appear in Britain. It is missing its tip and now measures 18.2 cm. but originally it would have measured slightly over 24 cms. in length. The blade is 2.40 mm. thick at the centre, but thickens slightly towards the tang where it reaches the thickness of 2.85 mm. The blade has a rich green patina, but the tang and the shoulders of the blade, which are likely to have been protected by the bone or wooden hilt, are almost unpatinated. A crescentic mark left by the hilt is clearly visible. In common with most daggers of this type the edge of the blade was initially hollow ground, and later re-sharpening of the blade has resulted in a groove effect close to the edge of the blade.¹⁴

The description of the discovery of the Hundon dagger would suggest that it had accompanied a burial, and that apart from the skull, the remainder of the skeleton was not recovered. In the Wessex area there are four well known examples of tanged daggers accompanying Beaker burials. These are at Winterslow, Mere and Roundway Down in Wiltshire, and Dorchester in Oxfordshire.¹⁵ There is also a less well documented burial from Sutton Courtenay in Berkshire which appears to have had similar grave goods.¹⁶ In all these cases the Beakers were of Dr. Clarke's Wessex/Middle Rhine type, a distinctive form of Beaker which makes its appearance in England c. 1750 B.C. or slightly earlier.¹⁷ In view of this it seems worth speculating that the Hundon burial could also have been accompanied by a Beaker of this type which was not recognized or was destroyed at the time of discovery. Wessex/Middle Rhine Beakers, it must however be admitted, are not common in East Anglia, but there are two fragmentary examples from West Suffolk

¹³ Accession No. 1938 3-4 1. I must thank the Trustees of the British Museum for permission to publish this dagger, and Dr. I. Longworth and Miss C. Johns for their assistance.

¹⁴ The technique of hollow grinding has been discussed by H. Case in the *Wilts. Arch. & Nat. Hist. Mag.* LV, 1953, p. 135.

¹⁵ These grave groups are published in D. Clarke, *Beaker Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland*, 1970, Vol. 2, pp. 296-297.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 297.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, p. 106.

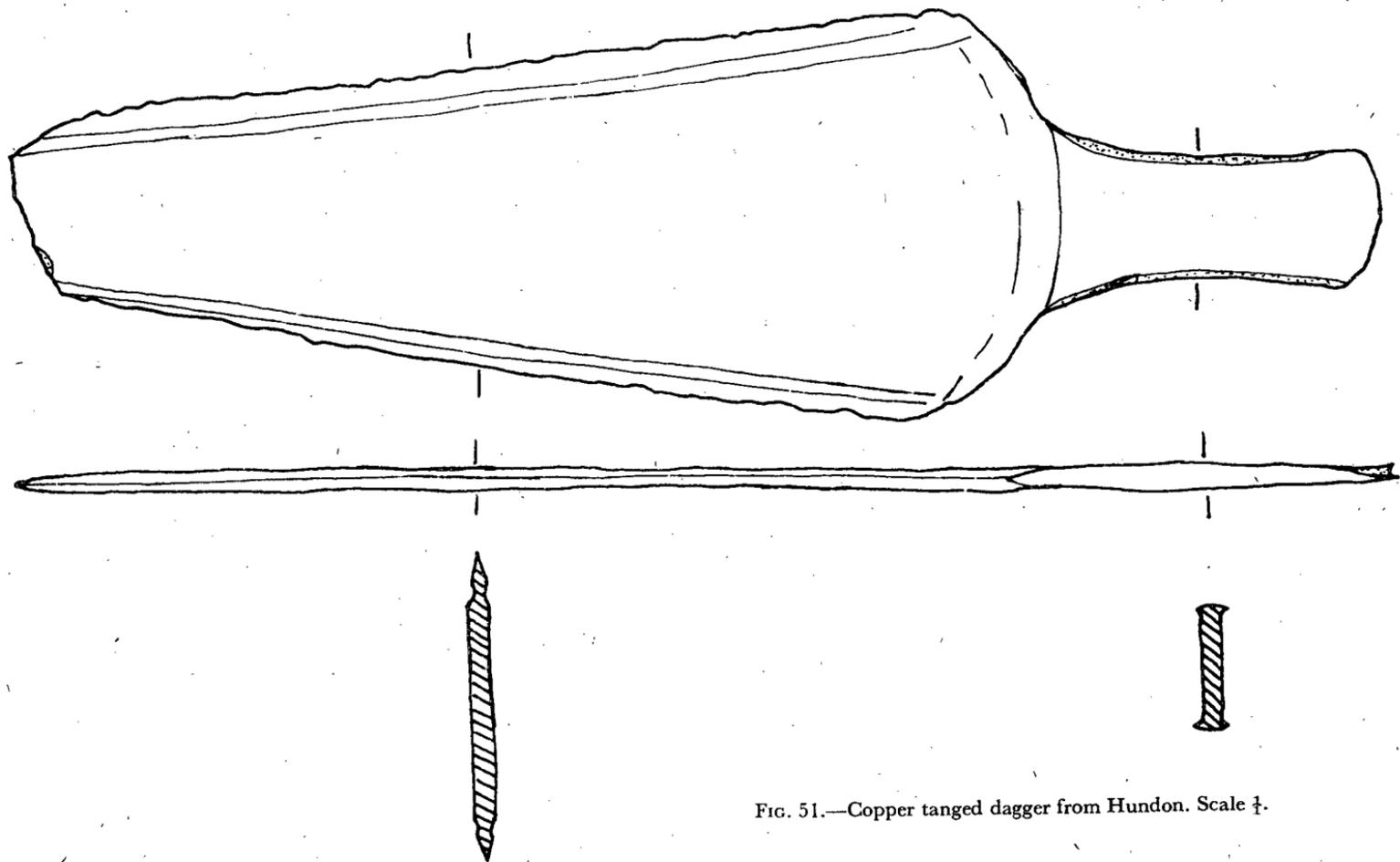


FIG. 51.—Copper tanged dagger from Hundon. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

found at Fakenham.¹⁸ Apart from these none of the other tanged daggers (without rivets) found in England occur certainly from graves.

Numerous parallels to the tanged copper daggers are known on the Continent, particularly from Bohemia and Low Countries. In this respect the fine tanged dagger from Odoorn in Holland, which was found with a copper awl and a Wessex/Middle Rhine beaker is perhaps relevant.¹⁹

At the moment the importance of the Hundon dagger is that it is the only example of a tanged copper dagger from East Anglia. There also exists the possibility that the possible Hundon burial could be an outlier of the well known Wessex group of Wessex/Middle Rhine Beaker burials.

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Medieval Floor-tiles from Blythburgh.—The tiles from Orford, described in the last issue of these *Proceedings* (above, p. 198, fig. 47), include some bearing the Ufford arms. In 1968 Miss Grubbe, the owner of the Priory site at Blythburgh (TL/452755), showed me fragments of medieval tiles she had found in a surface scatter on one of her fields on that site. These tiles all had the same armorial pattern which, by her courtesy, I now reproduce in Fig. 52, no. 1. The arms bear no cadency mark, and have no mullet in the first quarter.

The Blythburgh tiles seem to be of 14th century type, generally similar, but not identical to those illustrated from Orford: they are $4\frac{3}{4}$ ins. (120 mm.) square by $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. (28 mm.) thick. The body is a clear orange-red and well-fired, with a bevel of 10 degrees giving a rebate or 'draft' of about 5 mm. at the back. There are no 'keying-scoops' on the back. The pattern is in relief, about 2 mm. deep, with brownish-green glaze, lightly speckled with brown.

The arms are undoubtedly those borne by Ufford from the end of the 13th century,²⁰ and although Suckling says 'Peyton the same with Ufford', in fact the Peytons (to whom I at first ascribed these tiles in error) usually added in dexter chief a mullet argent.

The circumstances of the foundation of the Priory at Blythburgh are obscure: according to several authorities, including Leland, a cell of Black Canons to the Priory of St. Osyth was set up here c. 1125, *temp.* Hen. I,²¹ but others give the foundation *temp.* Hen. II, and the founder is unrecorded.²² It seems likely that an early 12th-century cell developed into a priory before 1180 and that it was built on land

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, p. 1, 497, nos 882 and 883.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, p. 84.

²⁰ Joan Corder, *A Dictionary of Suffolk Arms*, S.R.S., vii, 1965, col. 257.

²¹ John Kirby, *The Suffolk Traveller*, 2nd Edn., London 1764, p. 129.

²² C. J. W. Messent, *The Monastic Remains of Norfolk and Suffolk*, Norwich 1934, p. 108.