

SOUTHBOROUGH : POLISHED FLINT AXE

In February, 1954, Mr. Sidney H. Loweth, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., then Kent County Architect, deposited with Maidstone Museum an excellent example of a polished flint axe (see Fig.).

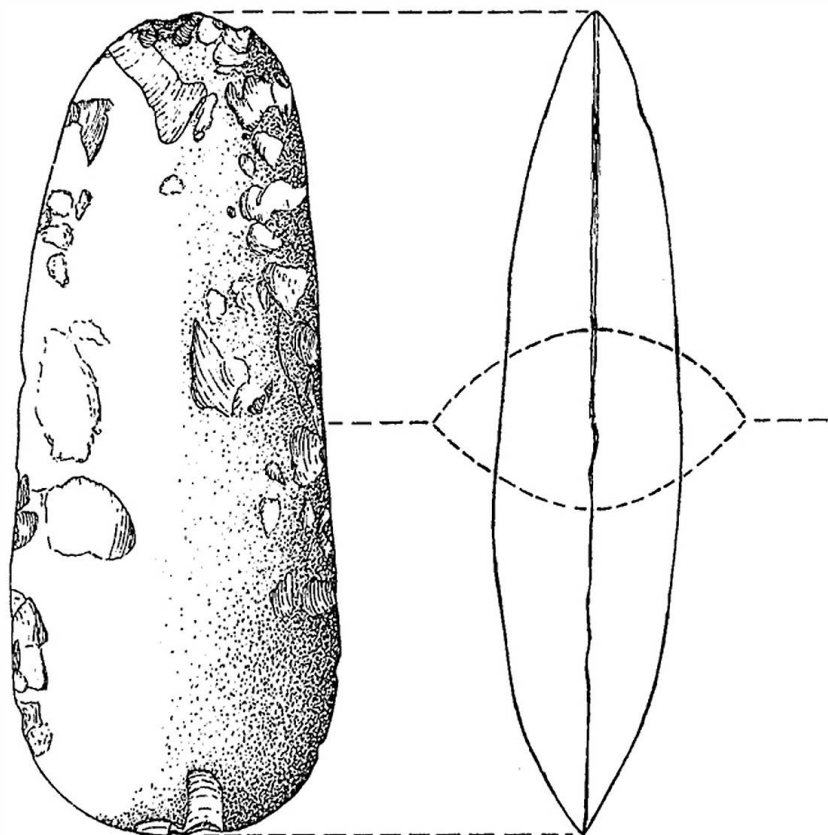
It was found during excavations necessary for laying the foundations of the new Secondary School at Southborough.⁵ The find-spot is approximately 500 feet due east of the swimming bath behind the U.D.C. Offices (O.S. 6 in. *Kent Sheet*, LX, N.E. ; National Grid reference 51/584421), at a depth of about 2 feet in Tunbridge Wells Sand and with the ground level some 390 feet above Newlyn Ordnance Datum. For these particulars we are indebted to the present County Architect, Mr. E. T. Ashley Smith, F.R.I.B.A.

The axe is made of grey flint with a grey-white patina. The flint is polished smooth on both its surfaces but in places it retains remains

⁵ Kent Education Committee Reference—R.6, Southborough U.D.C., The Ridgeway Site.

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of the original flaking where this was deeper than the intended profile. This fact is betrayed by the complete absence of bulbar cavity on those scars which are situated away from the edge of the axe. In one place



Inches

Southborough—Polished Flint Axe

there remains a shallow depression— $\frac{1}{8}$ in. deep and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter—of original cortex. The cutting edge has been defaced on one side by a $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. long flake struck, probably at a recent date, from the cutting edge up the centre of the axe (on opposite face to that shown in the

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figure). The polished surface still retains the original striations of the grinding process.

Dimensions : Length $7\frac{1}{4}$ in.
Greatest breadth $3\frac{1}{8}$ in.

L. R. A. GROVE.
ALAN WARHURST.