

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 64/93

THE PREHISTORIC WORKED STONE,
INCLUDING GRAVE GOODS, FROM THE
RAUNDS AREA PROJECT, NORTHANTS

D F Williams PhD FSA

AML reports are interim reports which make available the results of specialist investigations in advance of full publication. They are not subject to external refereeing and their conclusions may sometimes have to be modified in the light of archaeological information that was not available at the time of the investigation. Readers are therefore asked to consult the author before citing the report in any publication and to consult the final excavation report when available.

Opinions expressed in AML reports are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England.

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 64/93

THE PREHISTORIC WORKED STONE,
INCLUDING GRAVE GOODS, FROM THE
RAUNDS AREA PROJECT, NORTHANTS

D F Williams PhD FSA

Summary

Twelve stone objects were examined and thin sections used to confirm geological identifications. A variety of origins including Cornwall and the Lake District are suggested.

Author's address :-

D F Williams PhD FSA

Department of Archaeology
University of Southampton
Highfield
Southampton
SO9 5NH

RAUNDS AREA PROJECT: THE PREHISTORIC WORKED STONE AND
GRAVE GOODS

D.F. Williams, Ph.D., FSA

[HBMC Ceramic and Lithic Petrology Project]

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

AXES

[1]. Stanwick Villa

AOR 40729. Context 45515. Sc 291.

Virtually complete dark grey polished axe. A thin section shows that the rock is an uralitized gabbro, and as such it can be classified as belonging to the Implement Petrology Committee Petrological Group 1, with a Cornish origin. Length 101cm; Width 55mm; Thickness 33mm; Weight 276gms.

[2]. Stanwick Villa

AOR 40583. Context 45026. Sc 291.

Roughly half of a large dark grey polished axe. A thin section shows that the rock is a fairly coarse-grained greywacke sandstone. It does not appear to be micaceous enough to belong to the Implement Petrology Committee Petrological Group XV, which is thought to have an origin in the southern Lake

District. An alternative source may be Group XIX, with a suggested origin in Cornwall. However, the distribution of this group is apparently rare outside of the south west of the country [Mck Clough and Cummins, 1979], and it is possible that this rock came from another source. Length 106mm; Width 73mm; Thickness 43mm; Weight 556gms.

[3]. Stanwick Villa

AOR 90256. Context 89006. Sc 291.

The majority of a dark grey polished axe. A thin section shows that the rock is a uralitized gabbro, very similar in composition to No. [1]. Implement Petrology Committee Petrological Group 1, with a Cornish origin. Length 82mm; Width 51mm; Thickness 29mm; Weight 197mm.

[4]. West Cotton

Sf no. 9187. Context 6712.

Complete lightish grey polished axe of micaceous sandstone. It is difficult to predict a likely origin for this piece at the present time. Length 106mm; Width 40mm; Thickness 26mm; Weight 149gms.

[5]. West Cotton

Sf no. 5136. Context 1200.

Small greyish-green polished flake of an altered basic tuff. This piece, together with items [6] and [7] below, appears identical in the hand-specimen to

examples of Neolithic stone axes made at Great Langdale in the Lake district, and which were widely distributed south of the production site. Implement Petrology Committee Petrological Group VI. [see McK Clough and Cummins, 1979]. Length 31mm; Width 16mm; Thickness 3mm; Weigth 2gms.

[6]. RAP Survey

Field 0271009. Tran/St 20/20.

Large part of a broad polished axe of greenish-grey altered basic tuff. From Great Langdale. Length 67mm; Width 67mm; Thickness 20mm; Weight 164gms.

[7]. RAP Survey

Field 9876008. Tran/St 6/9.

Part of a small rectangular polished axe of greenish-grey altered basic tuff. From Great Langdale. Length 51mm; Width 36mm; Thickness 23mm; Weight 77gms.

SHAFT-HOLE IMPLEMENTS

[8]. Stanwick Villa

AOR 75592. Context 85207. Sc 291.

Part of a dark grey and white banded polished shaft-hole mace head of a metamorphosed rock. A thin section shows that it can be described as an

amphibolite. Quite likely it comes from Cornwall, and perhaps it is related to some of the Implement Petrology Committee greenstone groups thought to come from there. Length 34mm; Width 47mm; Thickness 35mm; Weight 89gms.

GRAVE GOODS

[9]. West Cotton, Barrow 1

Sf 4572. Context F3259.

Somewhat irregular-shaped piece of white fine-grained chalk, with shallow, roughly horizontal grooves, most probably naturally formed. Length 59mm; Width 37mm; Thickness 16mm.

[10]. Irthlingborough, Barrow 1

AOR 35125. Context 30476. AML 8611122.

Archer's wristguard or bracer of a highly polished greenish-grey altered basic tuff. Probably from Great Langdale. Length 57mm; Width 38mm; Thickness 3mm.

[11]. Irthlingborough, Barrow 1

AOR 35127. Context 30476. AML no. 8611121.

"Sponge-finger" of what appears to be a greenish-grey altered basic tuff. From Great Langdale? Length 79mm; Width 18mm; Thickness 6mm.

[12]. Irthlingborough. Barrow 1

AOR 34869. Context 30476. AML 8611111.

Narrow, elongated, fine-textured white chalk

"sponge-finger", flat on one side. Length 103mm;

Width 15mm; Thickness 9mm.

Bibliography

McK Clough, T.H. and Cummins, W.A. [1979] *Stone Axe Studies*, CBA Research Report no. 23.