"COAST FINDS" BY MAJOR MOORE AT FELIXSTOWE FERRY.

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The series of implements which the writer is describing is the result of seven years' research by Major Moore, of Walton, at the mouth of the river Deben on the Felixstowe side of Bawdsey Ferry.

Major Moore was the first to discover that in the heaped-up shingles which are continually shifting at this spot, many rolled and abraded flints showing human workmanship are included. As in the case of the Larne coast finds in Ireland, most of the flints have a white or creamy-white lustrous surface, though in some examples they are ochreous or even black.

The large majority consist of flakes and spalls, and are the refuse of a prehistoric flint factory, but among them are undoubted tools. To what culture they belong is the riddle, which we can only hope to solve by a better acquaintance with them.

Perhaps the most interesting tool yet found is a small axe or adze which has certain well-marked peculiarities (Plate XXXIII., Fig. 1). Its edge is formed by the junction of a sloping facet with the flat underside, while the butt is nicely squared as for hafting. It measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in length, and is $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide at the blade end, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch at the butt. Its greatest peculiarity is the expansion at the cutting edge. Sir John Evans figures a somewhat similar form from Thetford, on page 74 of "Ancient Stone Implements." The peculiar interest attaching to this form is its similarity to the primitive type of bronze celt, which immediately succeeded the Neolithic age. One of these metal weapons from El Argar, is described in the British Museum "Guide to the Antiquities of the Bronze Age" (p. 133) as "well illustrating the advance from the stone pattern to the more slender forms possible in metal."

The Felixstowe example differs from the kitchen-midden type of axe both in shape and length of blade, which in this case takes up two-thirds of the whole implement. Comparing this tool with the many axes found at Larne and Island Magee, an account of which has lately been published and illustrated by Mr. Knowles in the "Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute," we find nothing exactly like it in general outline, although some of these also have the blade formed by one facet only, which meets the flat underside, as in the Bawdsey specimen. In most, however—and this is the true kitchen-midden type (for exception, see p. 84, British Museum "Guide to the Antiquities of the Stone Age")—the edge is formed by the junction of a sloping facet on either side of the tool.

I obtained an example of this type at Santon last year. Comparing it with the Felixstowe specimen, the difference between the two types is clearly seen. It is necessary to realise when examining these axes that the edge has not been produced by blows given

Implements from Felixstowe Ferry. 1 : Small axe or adze. 2 : Adze-shaped tool. 3 : Oval tool.
4 : Triangular implement. 5 : Broad-based borer. 6 : Small axe.

after the implement had been otherwise fashioned. On the contrary, as Mr. Knowles has pointed out, the cutting edge was first formed before the general shaping out of the tool took place. This can easily be proved by the infringement of the later flakes on the facet which forms the blade.

Plate XXXIII., Fig. 2, shows another tool which appears to be an adze, and which has been formed in a somewhat similar way.

Two rounded scrapers, much rolled and abraded, do not differ materially from the scrapers so abundant in the North of Suffolk. They are of the type which has a flat upper surface.

A small oval tool, and two others which may have been spear points, show some amount of careful working, though much injured by abrasion (Plate XXXIII., Fig. 3).

Five tools of varying shapes have been described by their finder as harpoon heads. One of them has a certain resemblance to the three-limbed or trinacrial tools familiar to Suffolk collectors, though in this case one of the limbs is unusually short. Another curious tool may be a broad-based borer. (Plate XXXIII., Fig. 5).

At the kind invitation of Major Moore I visited the beach and spent some hours searching the shingle. As a result I found a core with the crust left on at the back, a treatment rarely met with in Suffolk, but which is practically universal among the Larne coast finds. From Lough Larne I obtained over thirty of these cores always treated in the same way. They may be seen in a case at Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich.

Another core, however, in the Bawdsey collection shows flaking all round, but the condition of the flint, as also its colour, would seem to suggest its belonging to a culture not identical with that of the majority of tools in this collection. As is usually the case with coast finds, in all probability a few foreigners have got mixed up with the implements really typical of the spot.

Mullers or pounding stones are a common feature in the pre-historic workshops of Ireland. They are known by the flat base and somewhat pyramidal sculpture. One of these I also found at the Ferry; it closely resembles similar tools from Larne. It was also my good fortune to find at Bawdsey a triangular spearhead $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. in length; it is well but boldly worked on either side and is of a practically uniform thickness throughout (Plate XXXIII., Fig. 4).

There is one other implement from Felixstowe beach, though not from the Ferry, which is of a type rarely found. It differs from the rest in its grey and black colouring. It is spoon shaped with a longish handle, and again resembles a type found by me at Larne, and also mentioned by Sir John Evans as belonging to the Yorkshire Wolds. It has, however, a straighter handle than either of the two last-mentioned. These implements, though of different sizes, are probably all scrapers with handles. Although the edge-working is missing from the coast finds, it is quite evident on the Yorkshire specimen.

As far as the flakes and spalls are concerned, there is nothing very characteristic about them, except that they are, generally speaking, flat rather than lumpy. It is easier, perhaps, to mention their negative rather than their positive qualities. For instance, none of the flakes with large heavy butts, so characteristic of Larné, has been noticed, and many other well-defined types are so far missing.

Much of the flint used in making these tools has blotched grey markings which show up conspicuously in the white surface. This is, of course, the result of a condition of the flint which resisted the chemical action producing the white patination.

I had hoped before giving this account of Major Moore's interesting discovery to have obtained more information as to the changed configuration of the beach at the mouth of the Deben, subsequent to the erection of the Ferry, which, I understand, was the work of the late Sir Cuthbert Quilter, but, unfortunately, this part of the coast is now closed to the public.

The small islands of shingle which are perpetually forming, then again disappearing, at the confluence of the river and the sea, suggest that the contour of the shore has undergone many changes. Perhaps it is natural to suppose that dwellers on the coast made their implements from the flint pebbles found on the beach; that later the sea overwhelmed their settlement and spread their handiwork over the sea-floor at the mouth of the river; that once again, after many centuries, the heavier shingles which contained the tools were thrown up, and now lie in a broad band which is quite distinguishable from the finer material over which this stratum has been deposited.

It is to be hoped that one day in the near future, when Felixstowe Ferry resumes its wonted quietude, some of our local geologists will feel it worth their while to pay this interesting site a visit, and to determine for us, if possible, the true history of this implement-bearing bed.