

## 2. A DECORATED BRONZE AXEHEAD FROM PERTSHIRE.

In October 1940, during potato harvesting, a decorated flat bronze axehead was found at Cranley Farm, Lethendy, Perthshire, approximately 1 mile W. of the farmhouse, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles N. of the River Tay.<sup>1</sup> The axehead, the property of Mr D. C. Turner, of Goole, Yorks., is now on loan to Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum.<sup>2</sup>

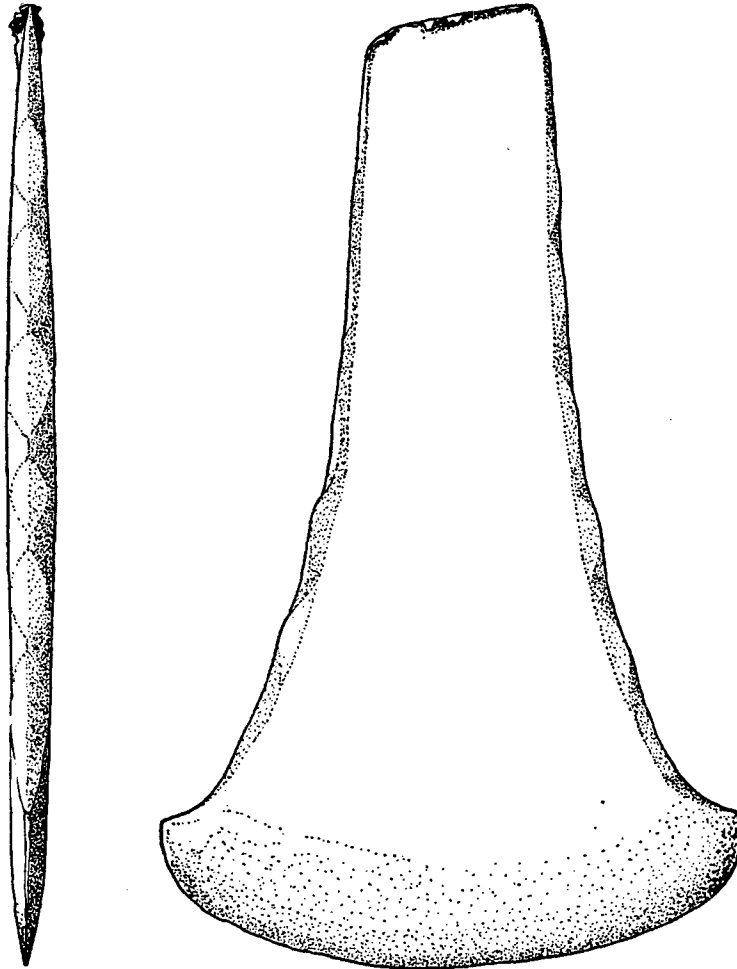


Fig. 1.

The axehead, lacking flanges and stop-ridge, is of Megaw and Hardy Type 1 (fig. 1).<sup>3</sup> The blade is widely expanded; the sides converge in an even concave

<sup>1</sup> Nat. Grid ref. NO/134414.

<sup>2</sup> Reg. no. LA5737a.

<sup>3</sup> *P.P.S.*, iv (1938), 272, "British Decorated Axes and their Diffusion during the Earlier Part of the Bronze Age," by B. R. S. Megaw and E. M. Hardy.

curve towards a butt which was originally rounded, but which, as Mr Turner was informed, has been damaged since the discovery of the axehead. Present dimensions are length,  $6\frac{5}{8}$  ins.; breadth across blade, 4 ins.; thickness,  $\frac{3}{8}$  in.; the weight is 1 lb.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

The faces of the axehead are not decorated, but the sides bear "lozenge" patterns. Megaw and Hardy<sup>1</sup> list four axeheads of Type 1 with this form of decoration from Britain, and show eleven from Ireland.<sup>2</sup> Of the four British examples, one is from N. Wales, one from E. Yorkshire, and the other two are from Scotland. One of the Scottish specimens was part of a hoard of seven axeheads, of which three were ornamented, from Colleonard, Banffshire; the second Scottish specimen was found at Jordanstone, Meigle, Perthshire, in the valley of the Isla, a tributary of the Tay. If decorated axeheads of Type 1, as seems likely, reflect Irish influence, and perhaps represent actual imports when they occur in Britain, then the Cranley and Jordanstone axeheads probably show the use of the Tay route, as defined by the late Sir Lindsay Scott,<sup>3</sup> from the Clyde estuary to E. Scotland.

J. G. SCOTT.