

VI.

NOTICE OF A COLLECTION OF FLINT ARROWHEADS AND IMPLEMENTS FOUND ON THE FARM OF OVERHOWDEN, IN THE PARISH OF CHANNELKIRK, BERWICKSHIRE, EXHIBITED TO THE SOCIETY. BY JAMES SHARP, CARCANT, HERIOT, MIDLOTHIAN.

The collection of prehistoric implements on loan to the National Museum of Antiquities consists of 17 lop-sided arrowheads of black flint ; 16 worked triangular flakes which may be intended for arrowheads ; a large triangular spear-head ; 4 arrowheads with barbs and stem ; 3 leaf-shaped arrowheads ; 14 scrapers ; 2 large side-scrapers ; 3 whorls ; 1 polished hammer, broken across at the middle ; 1 globular hammer-stone, and a number of flakes of flint of no definite character. They were entirely found on the farm of Overhowden, with the exception of one small leaf-shaped arrowhead, which was found near Heriot, and an arrowhead of American origin. Overhowden is situated in the parish of Channelkirk, county of Berwickshire. It lies about two miles to the west of the Leader, towards which the ground slopes in an easterly direction ; it varies in altitude from 800 to 1200 feet above sea-level, and the old Roman road passes through the lower part of the farm.

Two-thirds of the arrowheads and all the lop-sided specimens (fig. 1) were found in one field. In this particular field there is a prehistoric fort composed of a single rampart of a slightly oval shape, and about eighty yards in diameter.

The most of the specimens were secured between two and three hundred yards to the north of the fort, although five were gathered within less than one hundred yards, and one was found immediately inside the ridge in the north part of the enclosure. There has only been one specimen found on the south side of the fort. It is very seldom that a piece of flint is found in this field unworked, or in any

other shape but an arrowhead, which is unusual, as in the tedious search for prehistoric relics there are usually a great many pieces of flint picked up before you chance on a wrought specimen.

There are many ancient forts in this district, but differing from the

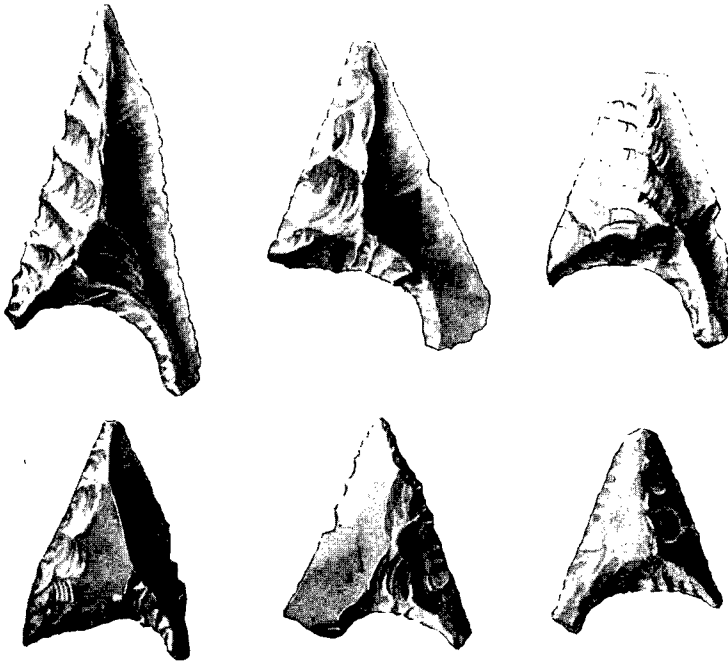


Fig. 1. Six of the Lop-sided Arrowheads found in the field on Overhowden Farm.

one described in that they have been constructed by a number of circular trenches, one within the other ; they also occupy very prominent positions, while the single ramparted fort is situated on practically level ground. No prehistoric remains have been found near these forts.

The remainder of the collection, including stone implements, etc., were gathered from other parts of the farm, the thin soil lying on rock being the most successful searching ground. Probably the absence of subsoil prevents any object dropped on the surface from sinking where the plough cannot turn it up. Perhaps prehistoric man preferred the dry open uplands where he would find the animals of the chase to the marshy lower ground overgrown with brushwood and inhabited by beasts of prey.

From whatever cause, it may be observed that the high district which lies between the Leader and Gala is very prolific of prehistoric implements and rich in the evidence of prehistoric man.