

### 3. A HOARD OF BRONZE AGE HALBERDS FROM AUCHINGOUL, INVERKEITHNY, BANFFSHIRE.

In the autumn of 1939 a number of Bronze Age halberds were accidentally turned up by the plough at the Mains of Auchingoul, in the parish of Inverkeithny, Banffshire. The site of the find was in a field, about a quarter of a mile south-east of the steading, and on the low terrace of the Deveron, about 15 feet above the stream. As far as the farmer can remember the number of halberds found was seven or eight. They were picked up and placed on the wall of a fowl-house, from which they gradually disappeared until only two were left.

This important find was made known to us in December 1940, when a visitor to the farm brought the two remaining halberds to the Museum for inspection. In August 1941, while Professor Childe was on a visit farther north, he very kindly volunteered to visit the farm on his way back and to make enquiries concerning the details of the find. It was indeed fortunate that he did so, for, with the assistance of the farmer, Mr J. A. Smith, other two of the weapons were found, one buried in the muck of the fowl-house and the other being used as an earth for a wireless set.

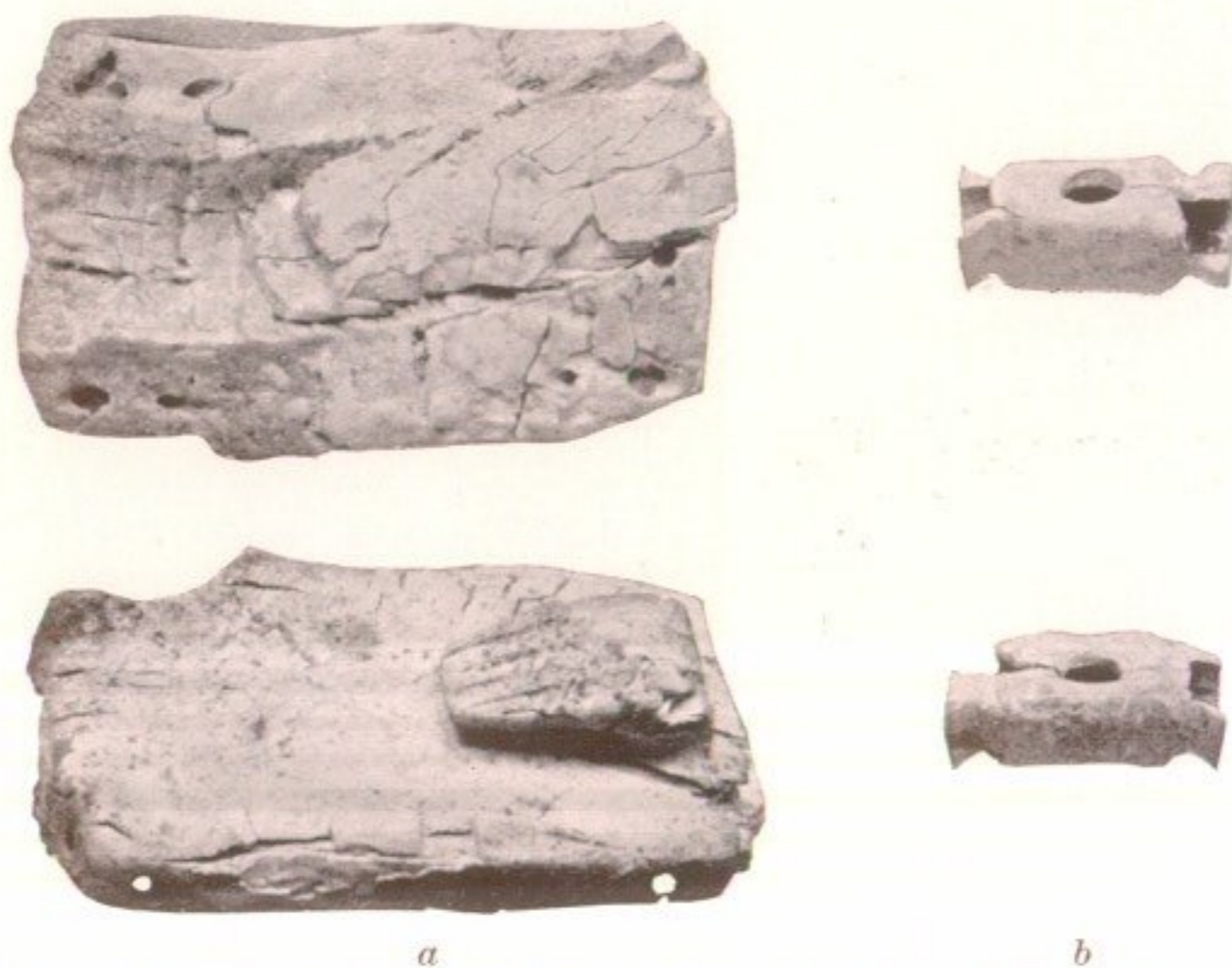
A detailed description of each of the halberds (Pl. XLIX) is as follows:—

No. 1 is  $10\frac{1}{8}$  inches long and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad at the base, which is rounded. The greatest width is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It has a well-developed midrib,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch in breadth at the top, which gradually tapers to a rounded point. One side of the weapon is straight, the other having only a slight curvature.

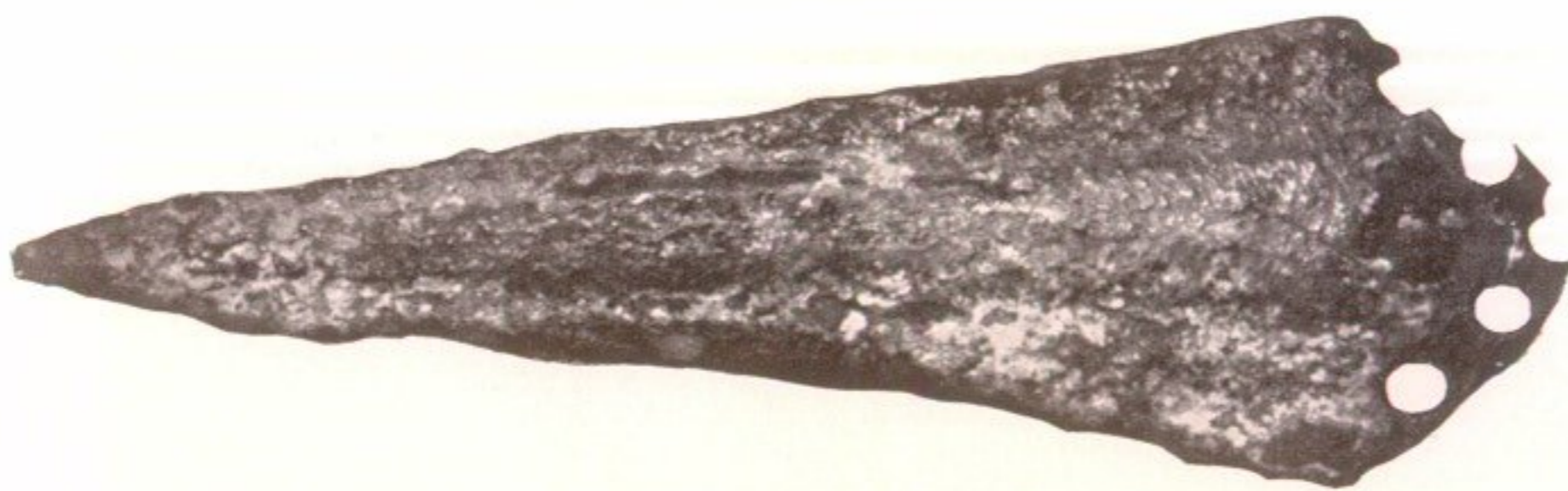
No. 2 measures  $10\frac{1}{8}$  inches in length and is  $4\frac{1}{8}$  inches wide at the base. The midrib is well developed and measures  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inch in breadth at the top. There are five rivet holes, each being about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter. One side of the weapon is straight and the other is slightly curved.

No. 3 is 11 inches long and  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches broad at the base, the greatest width being  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The midrib is  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch in breadth at the top and gradually tapers to a point. One edge of the blade is straight, the other slightly curved.

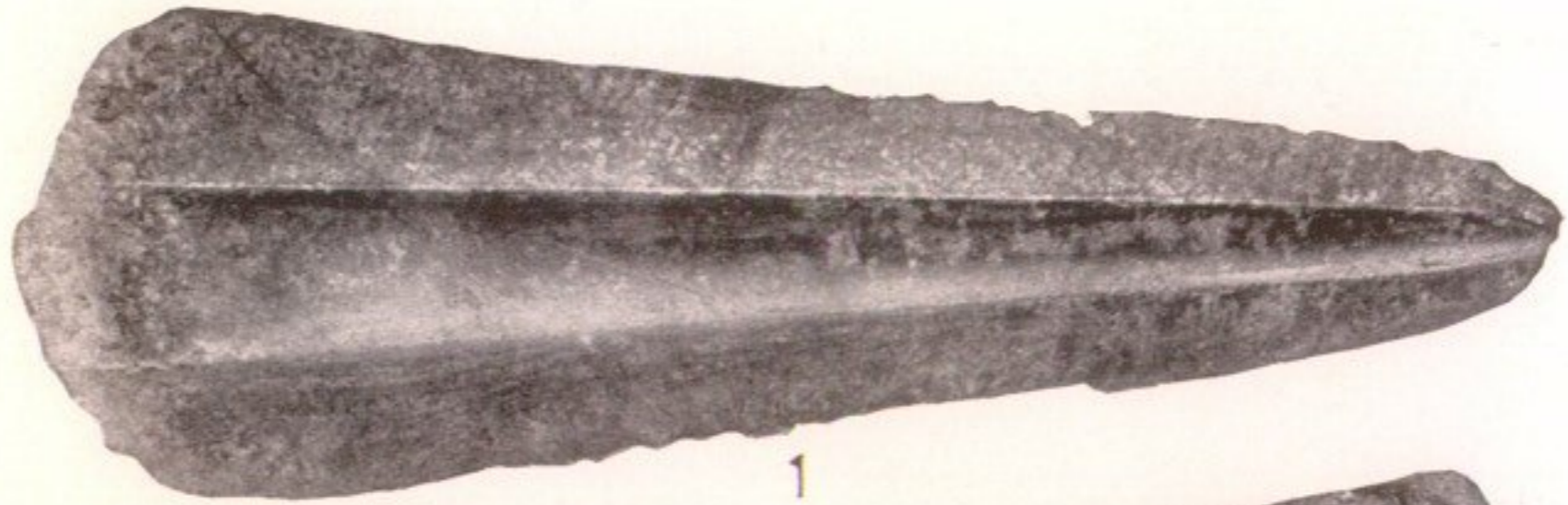
No. 4 measures  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, one side of the base is a little broken, but it was probably  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches in breadth when complete. The midrib, which is strongly developed, is ornamented by three ribs, which gradually converge as they approach the point. There are two grooves on either side of the blade,



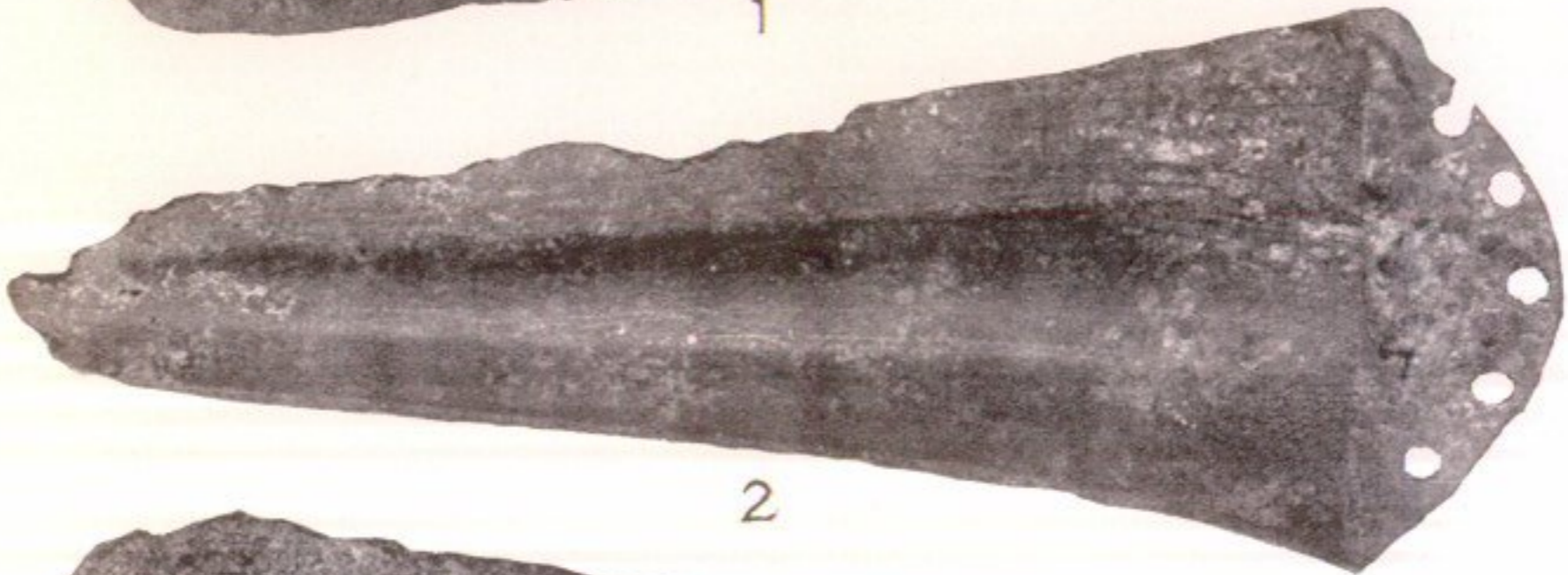
1. (a) Ivory Buckle and (b) Bone Toggle from Brackmont Mill (natural size).



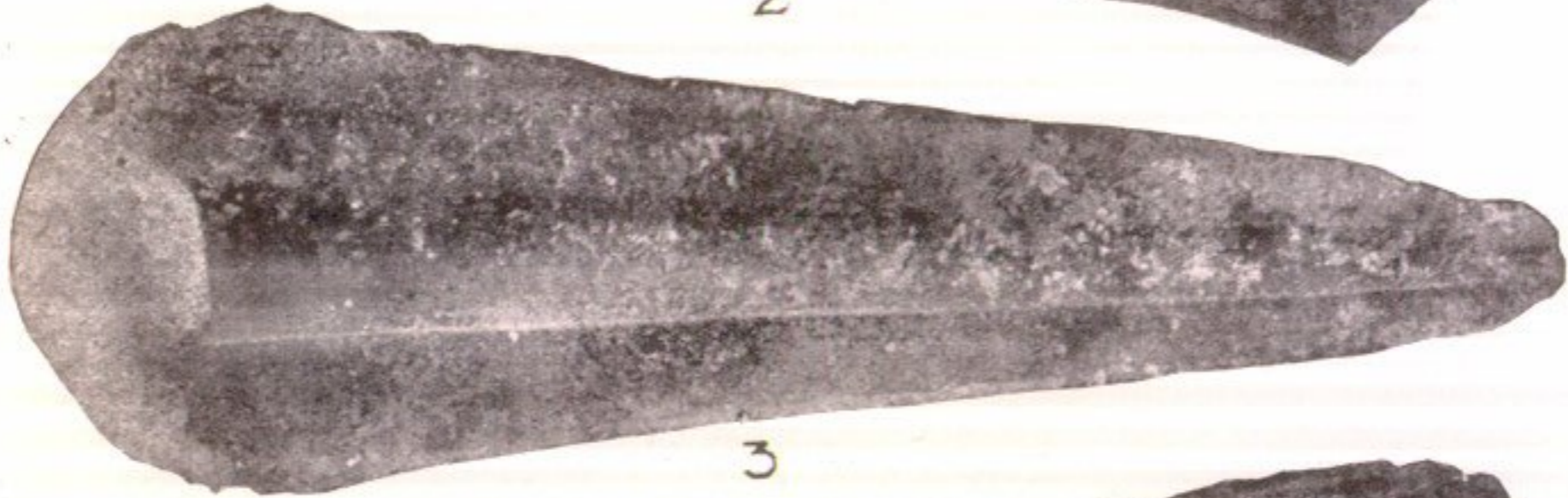
2. Halberd from Strathmiglo (nearly  $\frac{2}{3}$ ).



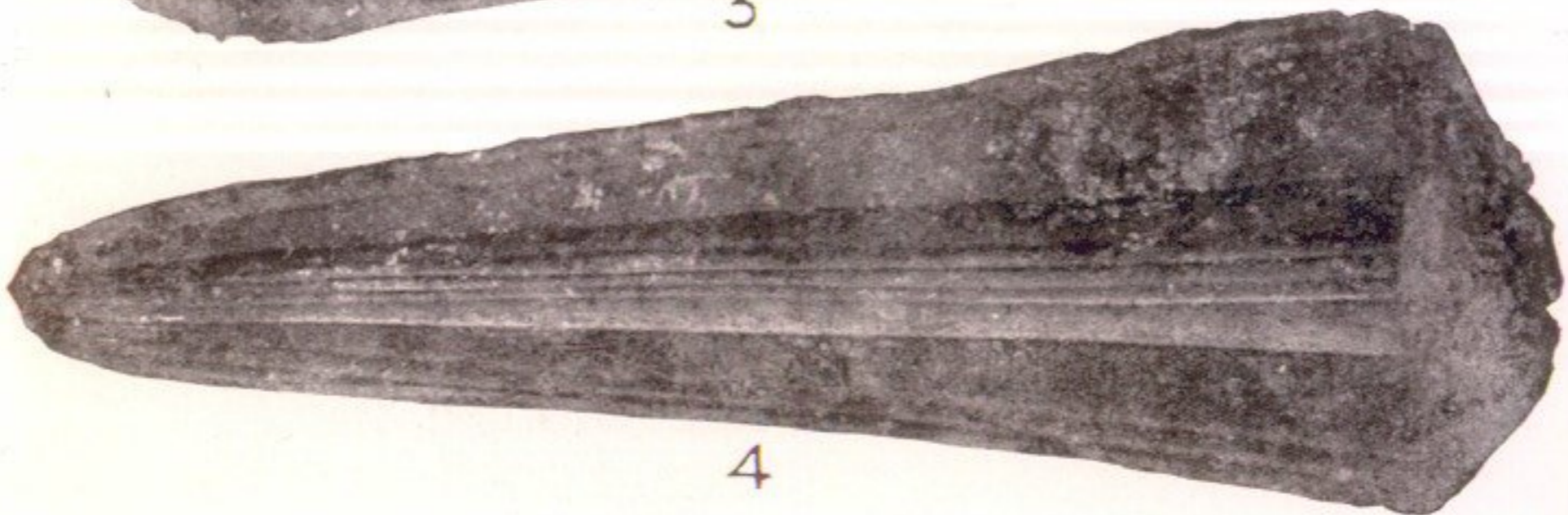
1



2



3

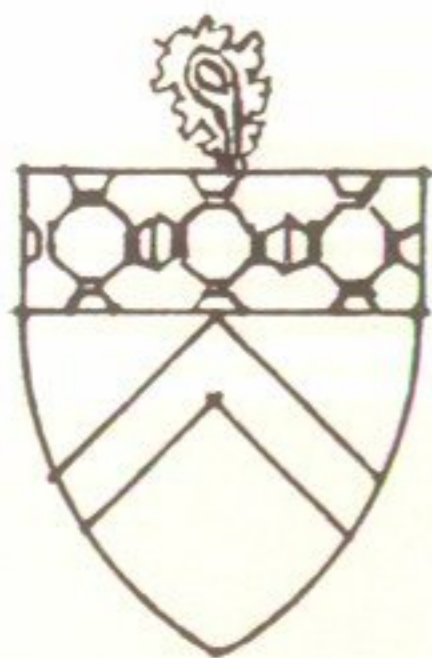


4

Halberds from Auchingoul. ( $\frac{2}{3}$ .)



1. Fragments of Urns from Balrownie.



2. Niche head from Sheriffhall.



1. Cairngryfe: Outer face of rampart.



2. Inner face of rampart showing post holes.



1



2



3



4

Relics from Cairngryfe.

running parallel with the edges, one of which is straight and the other slightly curved.

Halberd No. 2 was very kindly tested for tin by Dr C. C. Miller of the Chemistry Department, University of Edinburgh, with negative results. Hence it may be concluded that the halberds from Auchingoul, like that from Fife described in the previous note, are not made from an artificial tin bronze but from "unalloyed" copper.

All four halberds are of Oriordain's type 6,<sup>1</sup> and it is interesting to note that other two of this type have recently been recorded in the *Proceedings*, one from Fife,<sup>2</sup> which is in the museum at St Andrews University, and one from Inverness-shire,<sup>3</sup> now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

The four halberds are well patinated; only the one with the rivet holes may have been in use, the other three having still to be bored before they could be attached to the shafts.

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