

Shorter Notes

Flint Mace-head from the River Tay

by *Fiona E. S. Roe*

A flint mace-head found on a sand and gravel bank in the river Tay, near Newburgh, Fife (NO 215184) has been purchased by the National Museum (Museum no. AH 158). The mace-head is made from a naturally perforated nodule of very dark brown flint (fig 1). It has been roughly flaked into shape, and areas of the original pebble surface remain on either face. It approximates to the Ovoid B group (Roe 1968, 149). It would appear to be the only flint mace-head of this variety from Scotland, though two mace-heads belonging to the Maesmore group, those respectively from Urquhart, Moray and Airdens, Sutherland (Roe 1968, 149 and fig 35), have been examined by the Geological Survey, Edinburgh, and have been attested as being made of light coloured flint. (A third similar flint specimen is the find from Maesmore itself.) These, however, have mechanically made shaftholes. The majority of flint mace-heads comparable to this find from the river Tay have been recorded either in or near the river Thames (Evans 1918, 7, pl I, 9). Eight such examples are known, while two more have been found in Wessex, and one further example is unprovenanced.

REFERENCES

- Evans, J A 1918 'Specimens from the Layton Collection in Brentford Public Library', *Archaeologia*, 69 (1917-18), 1-30.
- Roe, F E S 1968 'Stone mace-heads and the latest neolithic cultures of the British Isles', in Coles, J M and Simpson, D D A (ed), *Studies in Ancient Europe*, Leicester, 145-72.