APPENDIX III

ON TWO STONE IMPLEMENTS

A FLINT IMPLEMENT OF PALAEOLITHIC TYPE FROM DARTMOOR

IN May 1931, during a walk on the Moor, I obtained a flint implement which presents features of interest and a problem. It belongs to the type which Evans has called "*tongue shaped*", and which more recently has mainly been described as *Coup de poing* or *Hand-Axe*. The implement is 108 millimetres in length, its greatest width is 60 millimetres, and its greatest thickness (at the bulbous end) is 37 millimetres, the weight being 6·44 ounces. The material is grey flint, more fully whitened by soil agencies and with a more completely matt surface than I can match among the items of my Dartmoor collection. Only where a slight tint of grey yet remains is there any trace of the natural lustre of flint. It is true that flints from Dartmoor vary much in externals, some are as fresh as when struck from the core, and others are much patinated. But, for the more part, those most bleached show signs of having been fired, and have probably been at or very near the surface when heather fires have raged. Fire does not appear to have touched this implement. Its appearance is consistent with, but does not fully imply, a great age.

Had I seen it in a general collection, without indication of locality, I would have unhesitatingly identified it as a palaeolith of comparatively early type, both from the form and workmanship. Among other resemblances to the early type, this implement has a considerable patch of the original outer skin of the flint nodule left, at the bulbous end. Form and condition are thus consistent with palaeolithic origin.

On the other hand, it is not fully agreed that these tongue-shaped forms are wholly confined to times earlier than the neolithic. Evans himself writes that he has found them associated with polished tools on the shores of Lough Neagh, but he claims that these later examples, though analogous in form, differ in character of workmanship; and, while a single specimen may be doubtful, groups can be discriminated. Since this example is, as far as I know, unique in being of Dartmoor origin, group comparison is impossible. It lies before me, beside a palaeolith from Kent. I can only say that it is more typical than the type.

The one certainty is that it adds to the published record of Dartmoor a new form of implement; which *may* be a relic of palaeolithic man; or *may* be evidence that this form of tool was not unknown to the builders of the hut-circles.

The locality of the find was on the water-parting between the Avon and the Erme, near Western Whitaburrow, at an elevation of approximately 1,450 feet O.D.

Plate 90, figs. 1, 2 and 3 supply photographs of this implement. If any similar finds on Dartmoor are known, it would be of great interest to have details.

A STONE IMPLEMENT FOUND NEAR WHEAL JEWELL, MARYTAVY

At one of the winter meetings of the Plymouth Branch of the Devonshire Association Mrs. Terrell showed a stone implement which had been found at Wheal Jewell, near Willsworthy, in the parish of Marytavy. This has some unusual features, and by the kindness of Mrs. Terrell I have been permitted to photograph and describe it.

The implement is made from the local 'epidiorite', it is in part rough-hewn; in part has been ground and polished. The stone where polished is nearly black.

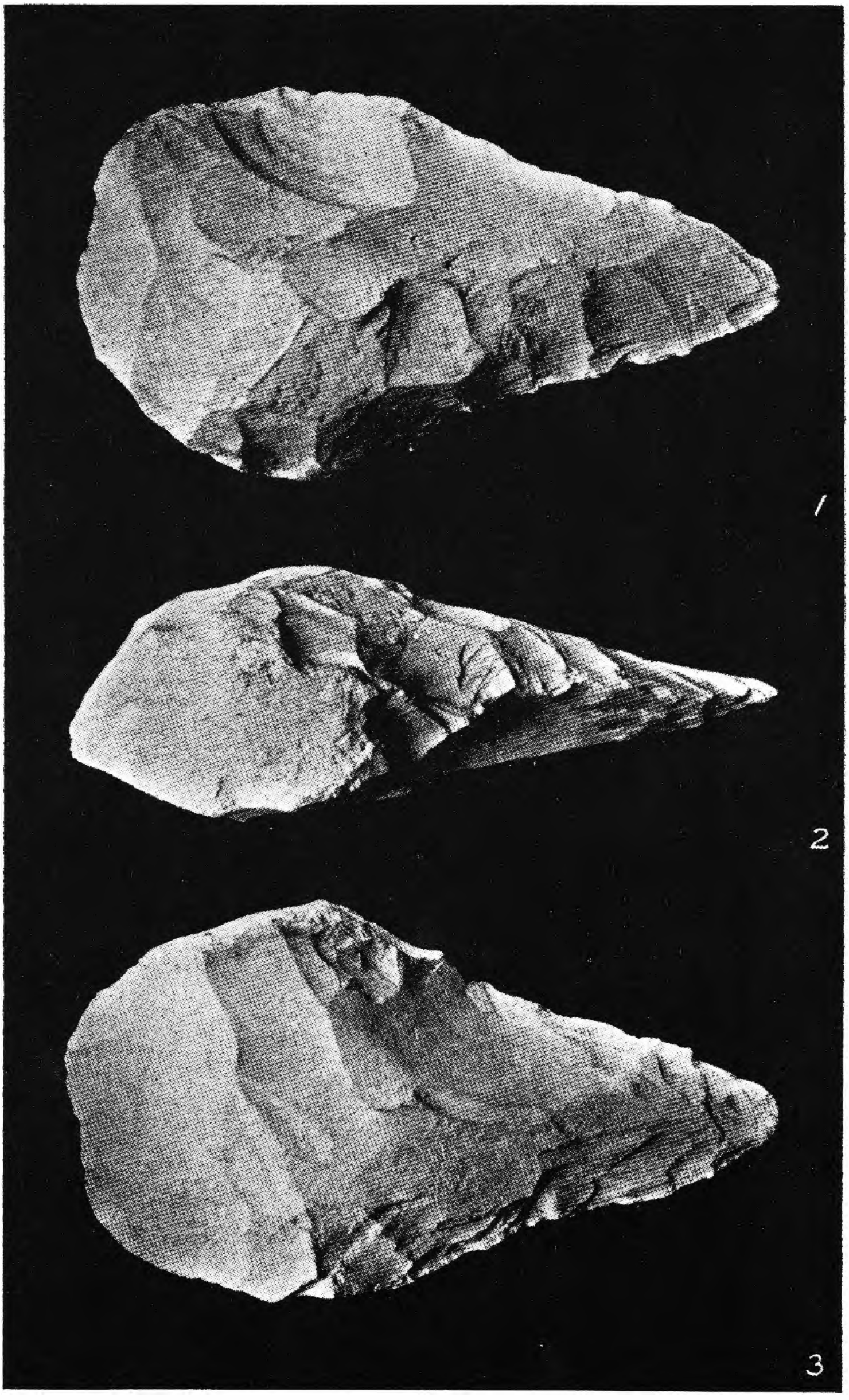
The length of the implement is $7\frac{3}{8}$ in., its greatest width at the cutting edge is $3\frac{1}{16}$ in., and its greatest thickness is $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. The three photographs on Plate 91 show either face and a side view. It will be seen that the tool has a general resemblance to a celt, but is very unusual in that the grinding is asymmetrical, the upper face in the photograph being strongly curved, and the under face nearly straight. At about two-thirds of the length from the cutting edge the stone has been reduced by two large flakes having been struck off, as shewn in the upper figure. Between these the surface is that of a natural joint in the rock, and will be seen to have weathered a much lighter colour. The end farthest from the cutting edge is partly shaped by nature and gives no evidence of any intent to create a pointed tool.

The reduction of the section to which I have referred has the effect of giving a very comfortable grip when held in the hand with the curved face of the edge downward, and I attribute some importance to this fact, since that is precisely the position in which the implement would be held were it a flenching tool used for removing hides from carcases.

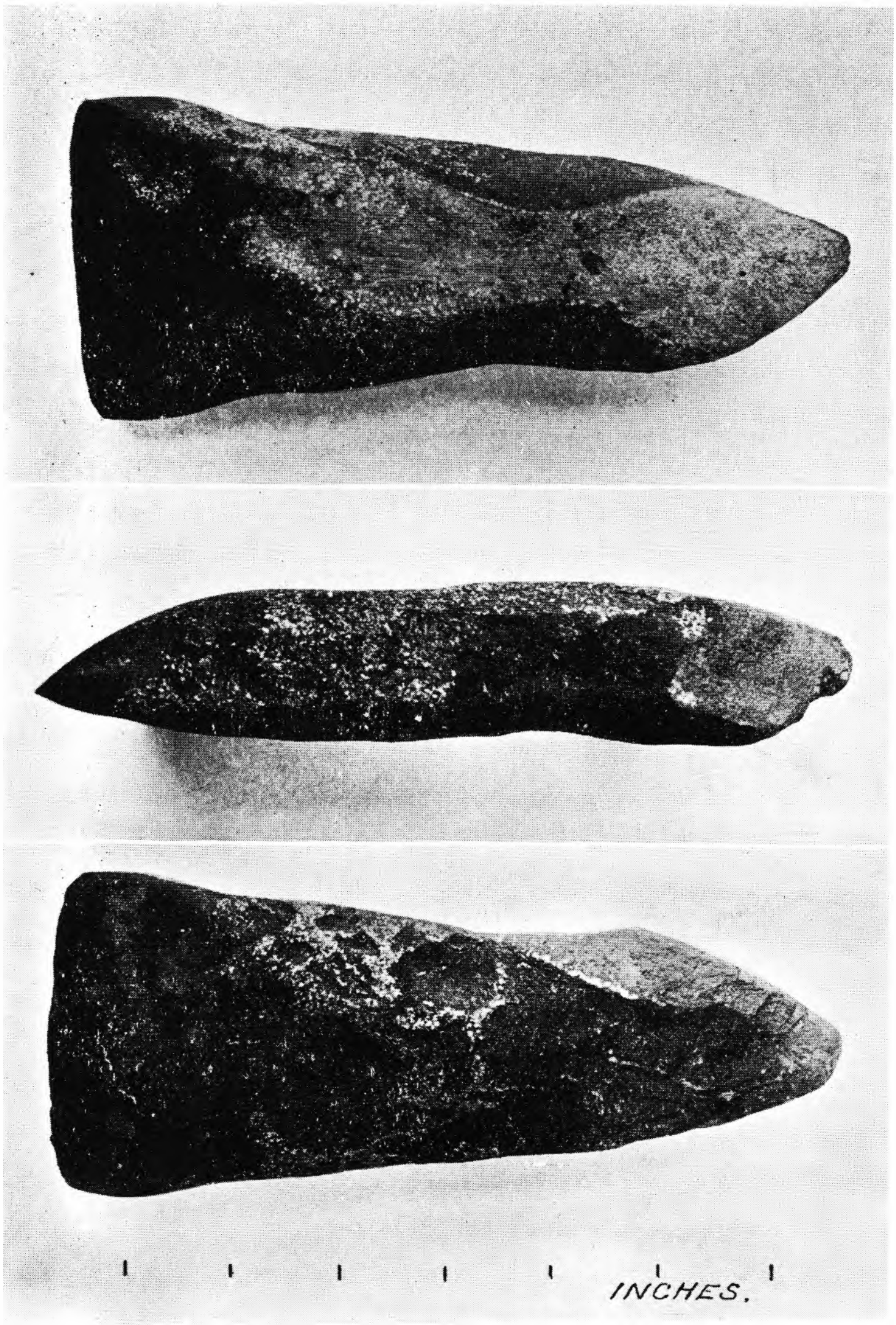
I have in my collection a flenching tool in stone, used within a generation by Canadian Indians; the curves at the edge are precisely similar to those of the implement under consideration, the curve on the one side being marked, with a practically plane face on the other side. The Indian tool is smaller, but the grip is identical.

I believe this implement from Marytavy to have been a flenching tool, and I am not prepared to assert that it belongs to the days of pre-history, nor am I prepared to deny.

Evans, 1890 (p. 139, fig. 85), figures a somewhat similar stone, but with the convexity of one face at the edge even more marked. This implement was found in the Shetlands, and is said to appear to be made of a hard clay slate. He figures yet another (p. 122, fig. 66) from Yorkshire, and that has been formed from hard shelly limestone. In each case which he quotes the choice of material makes it more likely that the stones had some such use as the removal of hides, rather than that they were axes, adzes or other cutting tools. The Indian tool to which I have referred is formed in schistose rock.



Flint implement from Brent Moor (x $\frac{3}{4}$).



Stone implement, Marytavy.