# **AXEHEAD**

**Unique ID:** NMS-3EA590

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A Neolithic fully polished stone axe of pale olive colour with a few minor ancient chips to both ends. There is a larger sub-conchoidal recent damage flake removed towards the middle of one face, the stone in this facet is of a grey/green nature and is unpatinated showing the original colour of the rock. The lateral edges are sharply faceted and the cutting edge shows signs of being re-flaked and reground, thus the axe may have been much larger originally. Surviving dimensions:  $114.5 \times 65 \times 32$ mm.

This stone has its origins in Cumbria and is a product of the Great Langdale axe "factory" where Epidotized Intermediate Volcanic Tuff (Petrological Group VI) was sourced in the uplands and roughed-out (knapped) on the outcrop itself, then transported elsewhere and painstakingly ground into shape using varying grades of sand and sandstone to form the polished surface. Experiments of this process "suggests seven to nine hours of labour for an all-over ground Group VI axe head and up to three times as long for a flint one." (Bradley and Edmonds 1993; P. Harding 1987; Whittle, Healey and Bayliss 2011.)

Stone axes of Group VI have a wide distribution throughout the UK (Clough and Cummins 1988, map 6, P. 270) and have been found as far away as Poland. In Norfolk however there are several casual finds across the county, but with a marked concentration towards the West and the South-West along the Fens and the Fen edge (Clough and Green 1972). This new axe fits in well with previous discoveries.

The Fenland Project (EAA 78, Healy 1996) surveyed the parishes of Hilgay, Feltwell, Hockwold cum Wilton, Methwold, Northwold, Southery and Weeting with Broomhill and unearthed many exotic stone implements of Neolithic date. From 60 identifiable finds of non-local stone, 11 of them where of Group VI, mostly axes and adzes.

#### Find of note status

This is a find of note and has been designated: County / local importance

#### **Subsequent actions**

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

## Chronology

Broad period: NEOLITHIC Period from: NEOLITHIC Period to: NEOLITHIC Date from: Circa 4000 BC Date to: Circa 2351 BC

## **Dimensions and weight**

Quantity: 1

Length: 114.5 mm Width: 65 mm Thickness: 32 mm

#### **Discovery dates**

Date(s) of discovery: Wednesday 20th November 2013 - Wednesday 20th November 2013

#### **Personal details**

This information is restricted for your access level.

#### Other reference numbers

SMR reference number: 58999 Other reference: IND20112013ED

#### **Materials and construction**

Primary material: Stone

Manufacture method: Ground/polished

Completeness: Complete

## **Spatial metadata**

Region: Eastern (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: Norfolk (County)
District: King's Lynn and West Norfolk (District)

Parish or ward: Hilgay (Civil Parish)

## **Spatial coordinates**

4 Figure: TL6198

Four figure Latitude: 52.55602594 Four figure longitude: 0.37342003

1:25K map: TL6198 1:10K map: TL69NW

Grid reference source: Generated from computer mapping software

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

# **Discovery metadata**

Method of discovery: Agricultural or drainage work

Discovery circumstances: Found in potato riddler / grader.