

FLANGED AXEHEAD

Unique ID: LVPL-C9CBCE

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

A copper alloy flanged axehead of Early Middle Bronze Age date of later short-flanged axe of Type Ulcrome. The axehead dates to c. Acton Park II / Taunton phase of early MBA which corresponds to Needham typology date is c. 1600-1300 BC.

The blade of the palstave is a splayed/crescent-shaped, with convex expanding sides, and a wide convex cutting edge. On each face of the axe a central rib runs from the stop ridge to the start of the cutting edge. The cutting edge is 1.05mm thick and remains sharp. In profile the blade is sub-triangular with the widest section being at the stop ridge. The blade (measured from the cutting edge to the stop ridge) is 93.41mm in length. The width of the cutting edge measures 77.34mm. The thickness of the blade is 18.70mm (measured at a point below the stop ridge; the width at this point is 30.00mm).

The rear part of the axe (from the stop ridge to the butt) is sub-rectangular in plan and lozenge shaped in section (profile). The flanges are complete and the septum (the area between the flange facets and the stop ridge) is 55.11mm long, and 19.06mm wide. The septum is 12.99mm deep where the flanges reach their highest point. With the septum is organic adhering material, possibly remains of the wooden haft or possibly organic material from the soil where the axe was deposited. It is however adhering firmly to the object and removal without conservation may damage the surface patina. Organic material also adheres to the blade on one face and is also very compacted.

The blade is decorated with a central mid-rib however there is no visible shield shape decoration and no side loop. Casting seems are visible along each edge of the object, but these are trimmed and filed and generally the axe is finished. The palstave has a mid-brown patina with patches of light green corrosion showing through in places - it is unabraded and has not moved within the ploughsoil.

Dimensions: 155.19mm in length, 76.96mm in width, 40.87mm thick, 570.5g.

Class: Short **Sub class:** Type Ulcrome

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: BRONZE AGE

Subperiod from: Middle

Period from: BRONZE AGE

Subperiod to: Middle

Period to: BRONZE AGE

Date from: Circa 1600 BC

Date to: Circa 1300 BC

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 155.19 mm
Width: 76.96 mm
Thickness: 40.87 mm
Weight: 570.5 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 26th April 2015 - Sunday 26th April 2015

Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.
Recorded by: Ms Vanessa Oakden
Identified by: Ms Vanessa Oakden
Secondary identifier: Mr Peter Reavill

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy
Manufacture method: Cast
Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: [North West](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Rochdale](#) (Metropolitan District)
District: [Rochdale](#) (Metropolitan District)
To be known as: Heywood

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: Recorded at a rally
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector
Discovery circumstances: Found while metal detecting
General landuse: Cultivated land
Specific landuse: Character undetermined