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Two Stone Axes in Gloucester Museum

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TWO STONE AXES IN GLOUCESTER MUSEUM

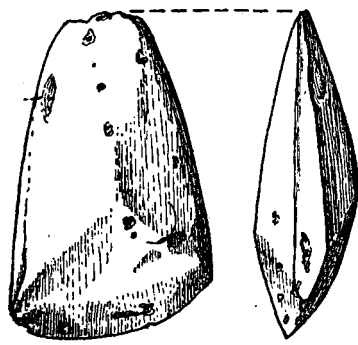
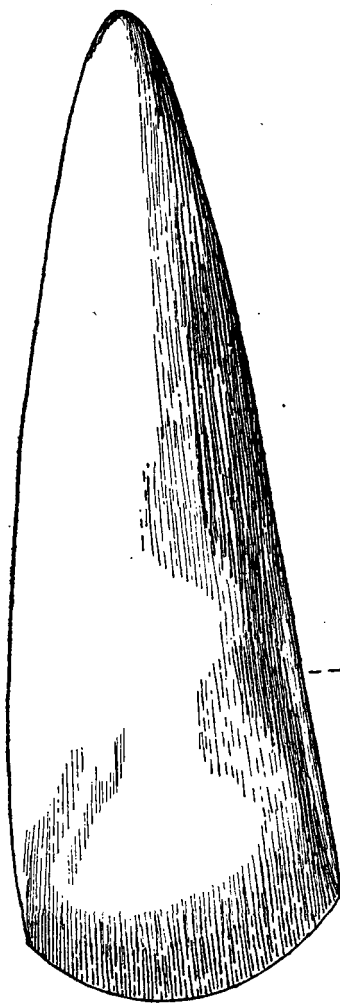
Two ground stone axe-heads of Neolithic type have been brought in to Gloucester Museum in recent years.

The first (*Glos. Mus.* A.2721), was found on Robinswood Hill, Gloucester, in December 1951, by L. Tapscott of the Crypt School. This is a small axe, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches (8.5 cm.) in length and somewhat irregular in shape. It was submitted to the Stone Axe Sub-Committee of the South-Western Museums Group for slicing (No. 746), and was found to belong to the petrological group VI (the Great Langdale Group). This specimen shows the squared edges said to be characteristic of products of the Great Langdale factories, two other examples of which have been identified from Gloucestershire.¹

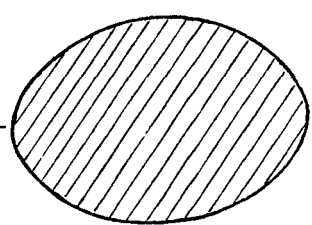
In October 1952, Mr Hoare found a stone axe (*Glos. Mus.* A.2994), at Clement's End, near Coleford. This is of especial interest when the rarity of Neolithic implements found in the Forest of Dean is considered. While digging foundations for a shed in the orchard of his house, the Firs, Mr Hoare turned out the axe from a depth of two feet below the surface; it is a fine specimen, well and evenly ground, with a rounded section and pointed butt, and is nearly 10 inches (24.3 cm.) long. Its shape and size are suggestive of the Cornish Group I, or influence from Brittany; but when the axe was examined by the Stone Axe Sub-Committee (No. 844), it was reported to be a greenish, coarse-grained greenstone, of a type whose parent-rock is as yet unknown.

Both these axes have been presented by their finders to the Gloucester City Museum. MARY D. CRASTER.

¹ See *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* VII (1941), 50; XIII (1947), 47; XV (1949), I and XVI. (1951), 99.



A. 2721



A. 2994

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