



Figs. 1, 2 and 3. THREE VIEWS OF FLINT IMPLEMENT $\times \frac{3}{4}$
from Brent Moor.

A Flint Implement of Palæolithic Type from Dartmoor.—To face page 359.

A FLINT IMPLEMENT OF PALAEO-LITHIC TYPE FROM DARTMOOR.

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IN May of the present year, 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 module, 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 XIX, 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.