

## A BRONZE SPEARHEAD FROM PRINCES RISBOROUGH

A bronze socketed spearhead has recently been presented to the County Museum by Mr. T. R. Smith of High Wycombe (Fig. 1). It was located near Whiteleaf in Princes Risborough parish<sup>1</sup> and is accessioned as 190.72. There were no associated finds.

The spearhead, which has a leaf-shaped blade, is 121mm. long, and weighs

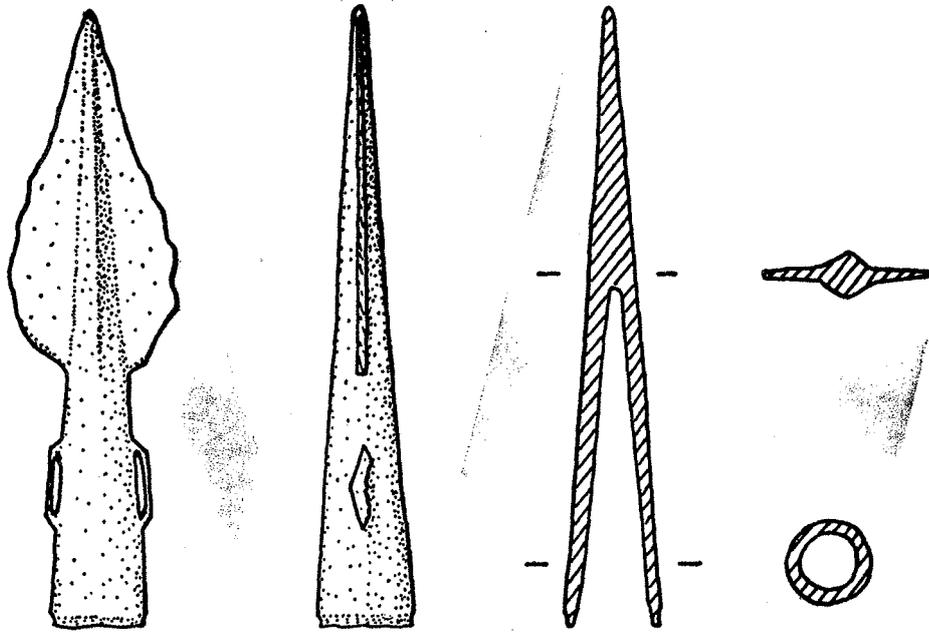


Fig. 1. Bronze Spearhead from Princes Risborough (2/3).

75.9gms. It is of Smith's 'side-looped' variety<sup>2</sup>, having two loops half way down the socket. The socket extends half way into the head of the spear, but the rib continues to the tip of the blade, giving a characteristic cruciform section. The loops, shape. The socket margin has additionally been hammered, presumably after the which are now both damaged, had been hammered after casting into a flat lozenge spear shaft had been driven in, to provide extra grip.

The broad date of side-looped spearheads has been discussed by Smith (op. cit.), who notes their presence in the Middle Bronze Age "Ornament Horizon" hoards of Monkwood, Burgess Meadow and Stump Bottom, as well as from the Deverel-Rimbury settlement sites of Thorney Down and South Lodge. Two examples are "Pigmy cup" had also been excavated<sup>3</sup>, and the probable tip of another from an urn field at Launceston Down, Dorset<sup>4</sup>.

Several side-looped spearheads have been found in Bucks, three further examples being from the Chilterns. Of these one is from Amersham (Accession No. 15.57), a second example comes from Princes Risborough (145.12), and the third is from Saunderton (85.56). Three come from the county north of the Chilterns. One of these was found among personal belongings in a house in Aylesbury and has no other provenance (246.08), and two others, now in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, are from Akeley. The latter were bought at the Stowe Sale of 1849 and may represent a collector's group rather than an original hoard, as they were associated with a Late Bronze Age socketed axe, and one of the spearheads is of a type commonly found in Ireland.

The remainder of the spearheads come from the Thames or its vicinity, the best known being that from Dane's Dyke, Medmenham<sup>5</sup>. This example is very similar to the new find from Princes Risborough, also has lozenge-shaped loops, but is slightly more slender.

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#### REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> Exact location and circumstances of find recorded at County Museum.
- <sup>2</sup> Smith, M. A. 'Some Somerset hoards and their place in the Bronze Age of Southern Britain.' *P.P.S.* 25 (1959), 179-80.
- <sup>3</sup> Grimes, W. F. *Guide to the Collection illustrating the Prehistory of Wales*, (1939), fig. 62.
- <sup>4</sup> Stone, J. F. S. 'The Deverel-Rimbury Settlement on Thorney Down, Winterbourne Gunner, S. Wilts.' *P.P.S.* 7 (1941), 128.
- <sup>5</sup> Cocks, A. Heneage. 'On a hoard of bronze implements from New Bradwell.' *Records of Bucks*, 9 (1909), 437-8.