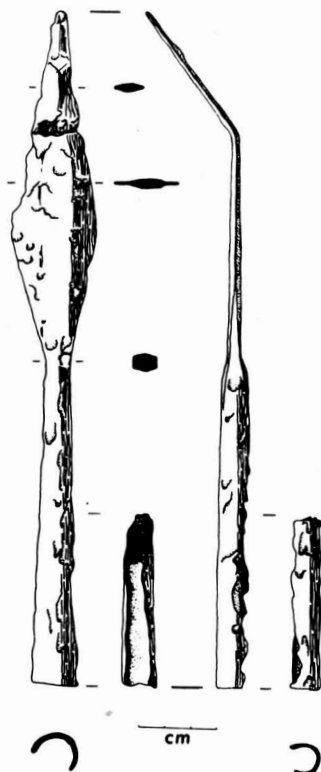


with the other items but had passed into private hands. It was in an advanced stage of deterioration and was quickly dispatched to the conservation laboratory at St. Albans. The objects have now been returned to the Royston Museum.



SAXON SPEARHEAD FROM THERFIELD HEATH

On April 26th, 1855, the Neolithic long barrow upon Therfield Heath was excavated by Edmund Nunn of Royston. He discovered 'a human skeleton lying with its legs crossed,'¹ it was orientated with its head in a NE direction.

A re-examination of the long barrow occurred in the May and June of 1935, conducted by C.W. Phillips.² In his trench (A-B), he came across the area of the secondary interment, where he found an Anglo-Saxon iron spearhead and a ferrule located in the corner of the grave. An illustration of these objects was reproduced in his paper. The objects from the excavation were deposited at the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

In 1977 a box deposited with the Royston Museum, proved to contain, among many interesting items, the spearhead from the 1935 excavation. Somehow the spearhead had not been deposited at Cambridge

The spearhead from the Heath would best fit Swanton's type F³ with a possible date of early sixth century.

REFERENCES

1. Nunn MSS p. 13 Haddon Library, M.A.E.C.
2. C.W. Phillips, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 1935 paper 8 p.101.
3. M.J. Swanton, *The Spearheads of the A/S Settlements*, Roy. Archaeol. Inst. 1973 p.90.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank Miss M. Goudge who assisted with the typing.

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