New Dis-Eur-England-Kent-Northfleet near Swanscombe-Clactonian Hand Axe



Fig. 1. England-Kent-Northfleet near Swanscombe-Clactonian Hand Axe

**Formal Label:** England-near Swanscombe, Kent-Clactonian Biface-424,000 BP-374,000 BP

**Display description:**

This Clactonian flint tool was made by *Homo erectus* in the early Hoxnian Interglacial, (Marine Isotope Stage 11, 424,000 BP-374,000 BP (Lisiecki and Raymo 2005; Stringer 2006) and may have been used for hunting Pleistocene animals including the straight-tusked elephant *(Palaeoloxodon antiquus*) (Glass 2016) and the giant hippopotamus, (Hippopotamus amphibius) (Schreve 2009**;** Tester 1984). Clactonian refers to the flint tools found in a paleo-channel at Clacton-on-Sea in Essex, England, in 1911 (Warren 1922). The present tool was found in Northfleet, near the destroyed flint quarries of Barnfield Pit and Rickson's Pit, Swanscombe, Kent County, England, previously noted for their Clactonian artifacts (Darvill, 30 Jan 2017; Tester 1984).

**Accession Number:**

**LC Classification:** GN772.22.G7

**Date or Time Horizon:** 424,000 BP-374,000 BP

**Geographical Area:** Northfleet near Swanscombe, Kent

**Map, GPS Coordinates:** 51° 26' 49.67" North, 0° 18' 37.01" East



Fig.2. Swanscombe and neighboring palaeolithic sites on the south side of the valley of the Thames, below London. After Keith 1916, Fig 56.



Fig. 3. Map of Swanscombe and Northfleet on the south side of the valley of the Thames, below London, up to 1996, where Paleolithic peoples sought flint in the chalk outcrops and areas of quarries. After [**LinguisticDemographer**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:LinguisticDemographer) **at** [**English Wikipedia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/).

**Cultural Affiliation:** Lower Paleolithic, Clactonian

**Medium:** Flint

**Dimensions: H 18 cm; W 11 cm.  
Weight:**

**Provenance: Old English collection from 1920’s**

**Condition:** original with ancient patination.

**Discussion:** This Clactonian biface, 424,000 BP-374,000 BP found near Swanscombe, Kent, has been made on a cordiform or heart shaped flint nodule. It has a simple bilateral symmetry to form a robust distal point. The proximal end has also had bifacial working to one edge. The tool has the remnants of the ancient cortex.

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