Durham
Dec 1 1868

W. Greenwell
Author of
British Barrows

My dear Sir.

You need make no apology for writing to me about the bone implement as I am only too glad if I can be of the least use to you in illustrating the valuable remains from the Derbyshire caves.

The bone, which is part of the horn of a red deer, is merely a fragment of a knife, but of an unique & critical article, of which I can only conjecture that it was used in hafting a weapon. The implement was quite perfect when I lighted upon it in the gravel in which it was placed, but it broke to pieces that is shortly after I found it. I have made

Swift most gladly have it made, and do not hesitate to let me any question or give me any trouble if I can be of the least service to you in your enquiries.

I have made some corrections upon the sheet sent.

Do you want this sheet returned. You mention Page VII as being missed, is that so, I have only got 5 pages & did not know that any one was out.

You will see from this letter I have added to your account of the knife, that it is not in my possession, so I can not be got at, I had asked to have it come into possession of the B.A. Exhibition, but they have fallen into the hands of a man who will not show them. Yours very truly W Greenwell

I could only preserve two fragments. Hendrie's Ice the Hartlings [illegible] while cutting it [illegible] home + boiling it in [illegible] were able to clean the surface.

It forms one of a series of bone implements of which I brought several from the cave, where many others have been found. The most common form is a bone the size + shape, but rather thicker, of the middle finger, + is pierced with single hole through the middle of the side, the hole being about 3/4 inch long, + is cut square from the two round sides presenting the bone as at each end, which is larger + oval hole pierces the bone midway + transversely to the others. I have a third which is curved, in fact the bone [illegible] of a deers antler, smoothed down, + having a hole at the smaller end + a larger one at the middle + transverse to the first, which at the broad end, a large hole exists in the same direction as the first, but which does not go through the bone. Similar articles to the first + common form have been found in Dowkabottom Cave, at Houseldon, a station of the Roman wall, + at Barnsdale, this is in the Camber. Cat. Soc. Museum. Others like the third, more or less, have been found in Thor's Cave Staffs, which implements evidently for the same purpose are figured in Lake Dwellings Keller + Lee Pls xxxvii. 11. 13 xli. 9 + lxii. 27.

If you would like to have a careful drawing of this bone in question

BLACKER