

**Pages showing billhooks from the 1899 Catalogue of Isaac Nash,  
Wollaston Mills, nr Stourbridge.**

Edge tool making had been established in the village of Belbroughton in the 15<sup>th</sup> century when John Waldern established a scythe manufacturers there. Isaac Nash started an edge tool business in 1842, with two helpers and in 1873 bought out the Waldron works. Nash died in 1877 (or 1888??) and the business continued to flourish with the acquisition of Fussells of Mells in 1894 and a lease on the forges at Wollaston Mills in Stourbridge 1896. The Fussell's works were closed about 1895 and manufacture, and some staff from Somerset, transferred to the Stourbridge site. Nash continued to manufacture tools bearing both the NASH and FUSSELL IMPRROVED trademarks, inventing a new JF stamp to match the existing N one. Billhooks were usually marked NASH in an incised stamp with a serrated (zigzag) border. The N stamp, or ISAAC NASH was rarely used on billhooks, but common on reap-hooks, sickles and hay knives. Separate catalogues were still being issued for Nash and Fussell tools (although only the 1895 catalogue of Fussell is known to exist), but post WW1 Nash catalogues show both ranges.



The original catalogues are from the collection of Jane Rees, Vice President of TATHS, and are reproduced here with her kind permission





*Isaac Nash & Sons,*

*Wollaston Mills,*

*Stourbridge.*





Cancels all Previous Lists.

1899.

THE MANUFACTURES OF  
**Isaac Nash & Sons,**  
WOLLASTON MILLS,  
**STOURBRIDGE,**  
ENGLAND.

*Subject to alteration without notice.*

## SECTION V.

### EDGE TOOLS.

#### SUB-SECTION B.

BILL-HOOKS, SLASHERS, AXES, HATCHETS, ADZES,  
DRAWING KNIVES, CLEAVERS, CHOPPERS, &c.



370



367



396



408

BILL HOOKS, BROOM HOOKS, SOCKET BILL HOOKS and SLASHERS are measured from top of ferrule or socket to extreme end as shown by dotted lines in above engravings.



# INDEX.

## BILL HOOKS, BROOM HOOKS, and SOCKET BILL HOOKS.

		PAGE				PAGE			
<b>A</b>						<b>O</b>			
Abingdon Bill	...	43	Hedging Bill	...	42	Oxford Bill	...	41	
<b>B</b>						Oxford, Duckett's, Bill	...	41	
Banbury Broom	...	45	Hedging Broom	...	45	Offley Socket Bills	...	46	
Bath Bill	...	43	Hereford Bill	...	42	<b>P</b>			
Bedford Socket Bill	...	46	Hereford Broom	...	45	Pontypool Bill	...	42	
Berkshire Bill	...	41	Hertfordshire Socket Bills	...	46	<b>R</b>			
Block Bill	...	44	Hurdling Bill	...	41	Roach Back Bill	...	43	
Block Socket Bill	...	46	<b>I</b>				Rutland Bill	...	43
Bristol Bill	...	43	Isle of Wight Bill	...	41	<b>S</b>			
<b>C</b>						Salisbury Bill	...	43	
Caongwrie Bill	...	42	<b>K</b>				Sevenoaks Bill	...	44
Canterbury Bill	...	41	Kent Bill	...	41	Shropshire Bill	...	42	
Charts' Bills	...	41	Kent Broom	...	45	Shropshire Broom	...	45	
Charts' Socket Bill	...	46	Kent Rips	...	45	Spar Bill	...	43	
Cheltenham Socket Bill	...	45	Kent Socket Bill	...	46	Stafford Bill	...	43	
Chichester Bill	...	41	Kington Bill	...	42	Stafford Broom	...	45	
Chippenham Bill	...	44	Knapman Bill	...	44	Stratford Broom	...	45	
Cutting Down Bill	...	41	Knighton Bill	...	42	Suffolk (Light) Socket Bill	...	46	
<b>D</b>						Suffolk (Strong) Socket Bill	...	46	
Dorset Bill	...	44	<b>L</b>				Surrey Bill	...	41
Downton Bill	...	44	Ledbury Bill	...	42	Sussex Bill	...	41	
Duckett's Oxford Bill	...	41	Leek Bill	...	42	Swindon Bill	...	43	
<b>E</b>						<b>T</b>			
Epsom Bill	...	41	Leicestershire Broom	...	45	Tetbury Bill	...	43	
<b>F</b>						Tetbury Socket Bill	...	46	
Fagoting Bill	...	41	Lincoln Broom	...	45	Trowbridge Bill	...	44	
Farrington Bill	...	44	Llandilo Bill	...	43	Trowbridge Projection Bill	...	44	
Folkestone Bill	...	41	Llanelly Bill	...	42	<b>U</b>			
Fordingbridge Bill	...	44	<b>M</b>				Uttoxeter Bill	...	45
<b>G</b>						Uxbridge Socket Bill	...	46	
Gentlemen's Broom	...	45	Moss's No. 1 Bill	...	41	<b>W</b>			
Gravesend Bill	...	41	Moss's No. 2 Bill	...	41	Warminster Bill	...	43	
<b>H</b>						Watford Socket Bill	...	46	
Half Turn Bill	...	44	Maidstone Bill	...	44	Wells Bill	...	43	
Hampshire Bills	...	41	Martock Bill	...	44	Wiveliscombe Bill	...	43	
Hay Bill	...	42	Monmouth Bill	...	42	Woodman's Bill	...	42	
						Woodrow Bill	...	44	
						Woodstock Socket Bill	...	46	



## BILL HOOKS.

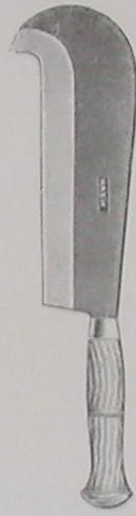
No.	PATTERN.	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12 in.
253	Epsom	...	...	...	...	...	...	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/- per doz
254	Kent	...	...	21/-	21/3	21/6	22/-	22/3	24/9	27/-	29/6	31/- "
256	Chart's or Gravesend	...	...	24/9	26/-	27/-	28/6	29/6	31/-	32/-	33/-	34/- "
257	" Canterbury	...	...	24/9	26/-	27/-	28/6	29/6	31/-	32/-	33/-	34/- "
258	" Folkestone	...	...	24/9	26/-	27/-	28/6	29/6	31/-	32/-	33/-	34/- "
259	Hampshire or Isle of Wight	...	...	23/6	24/-	24/6	25/-	26/-	27/-	28/-	29/-	30/- 31/- 32/- "
260	Hampshire or Isle of Wight Cutting Down	...	...	24/6	25/-	26/-	27/-	28/-	29/-	30/-	31/-	32/- "
261	Hampshire Faggoting	...	...	24/6	25/-	26/-	27/-	28/-	...	...	...	...
262	" Hurdling	...	...	24/6	25/-	26/-	27/-	28/-	...	...	...	...
263	Chichester or Moss's No. 2	...	...	20/6	20/6	20/6	20/6	21/-	22/-	24/-	25/-	27/- "
264	Sussex	...	...	23/6	24/-	24/6	25/-	26/-	27/-	28/-	...	...
268	Berkshire or Moss's No. 1	...	...	23/-	23/6	24/-	24/6	25/-	25/6	26/-	26/6	27/- 28/- 29/- "
269	Oxford	...	...	...	...	23/-	23/6	24/-	24/6	25/-	25/6	26/6 "
270	Surrey	...	...	21/-	21/6	22/3	23/-	23/6	...	...	...	...
368	Duckett's Oxford	...	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3	27/6 "



ISAAC NASH & SONS · Wollaston Mills · STOURBRIDGE



253



254



256



257



258



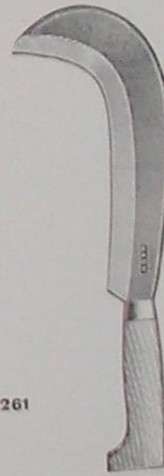
259



260



261



262



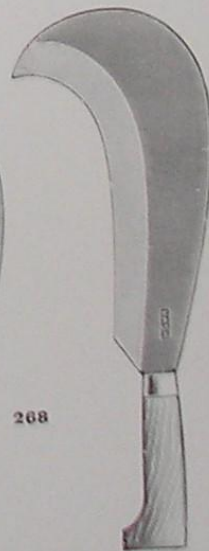
263



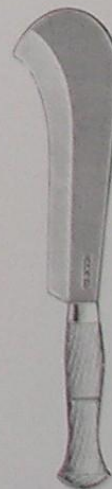
264



268



269



270



358



## BILL HOOKS.

No.	PATTERN	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12 inch.		
2770	Knighton	...	...	21/-	21/6	22/3	24/9	27/-	29/6	31/- per doz.
278	Shropshire	...	...	21/6	22/-	22/3	24/9	27/-	29/6	31/- "
279	Woodman's	...	...	23/6	24/-	24/9	27/-	29/6	32/-	34/- "
280	Kington	...	...	21/6	22/-	22/3	24/9	27/-	29/6	31/- "
281	Hedging ...	...	...	21/6	22/-	22/3	24/9	27/-	29/6	31/- "
282	Hay	...	...	21/6	22/-	22/3	24/9	27/-	29/6	31/- "
283	Pontypool	...	...	23/6	24/-	24/9	27/-	29/6	32/-	34/- "
283A	Monmouth, Solid Steeled	—	—	30/-	32/-	—	—	—	—	— "
284	Newtown	...	...	21/-	21/6	22/3	24/9	26/-	27/-	28/- "
286	Hereford	...	...	21/6	22/-	22/9	24/-	26/9	29/6	31/- "
287	Ledbury ...	...	...	21/6	22/-	22/9	24/-	26/9	29/6	31/- "
288	Llanelly ...	...	...	21/6	22/-	22/3	24/9	27/-	29/6	31/- "
362	Caergwrle	...	...	20/6	20/6	20/6	22/-	23/6	25/-	27/- "
363	Leek	...	...	21/6	22/-	23/-	24/-	24/6	25/6	26/6 "
364	Newport...	...	...	21/6	22/-	22/3	24/9	27/-	29/6	31/- "



ISAAC NASH & SONS · Wollaston Mills · STOURBRIDGE





## BILL HOOKS.

No.	PATTERN.	6	6½	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12 inch.
285	Stafford ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	21/-	21/-	21/-	23/6	25/9	28/3	30/- per doz.
365	Abingdon ...	—	—	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/- "
366	Bath ...	—	—	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/- "
367	Bristol ...	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3	27/6 "
369	Imber ...	—	—	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3	27/6 "
370	Llandilo ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22/6	23/-	24/-	26/-	28/-	31/- "
371	Roach Back ...	—	—	—	—	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3	— "
372	Rutland ...	—	—	—	—	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9	— "
373	Salisbury ...	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3	27/6 "
374	Spar ...	16/-	16/-	16/6	16/6	17/-	17/-	18/-	18/-	18/6	—	—	—	— "
375	Swindon ...	—	—	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/- "
376	Tetbury ...	—	—	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3	27/6 "
377	Warminster ...	—	—	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3	27/6 "
378	Wells ...	—	—	—	—	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3	27/6 "
379	Wiveliscombe—	—	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/- "



ISAAC NASH & SONS · Wollaston Mills · STOURBRIDGE





## BILL HOOKS.

No.	PATTERN.	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12 inch.	
255	Block	...	...	—	—	22/6	23/-	23/6	25/-	26/-	27/-	28/6	— per doz.
265	Norfolk	...	...	—	—	—	23/-	23/6	24/-	24/9	26/-	27/-	28/- 30/-
380	Trowbridge Projection	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3	27/6	"
381	Trowbridge...	...	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/-
382	Chippenham	...	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/-
383	Dorset	...	...	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3 27/6
384	Downton	...	...	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3 27/6
385	Farringdon	...	...	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9 26/-
386	Fordingbridge	...	...	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3 27/6
387	Half Turn	...	...	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9 26/-
388	Maidstone	...	...	21/-	21/-	21/6	22/6	23/-	24/-	24/6	25/-	26/-	27/- 28/-
389	Martock	...	...	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3 27/6
390	Sevenoaks	...	...	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9 26/-
391	Woodrow	...	...	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/-	20/6	21/-	22/3	23/6	24/9 26/-
392	Knapman	...	...	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/9	25/-	26/3 27/6



ISAAC NASH & SONS · Wollaston Mills · STOURBRIDGE



255



265



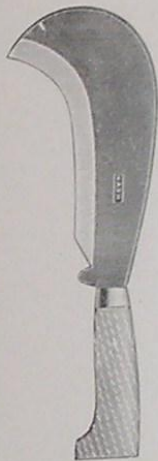
380



381



382



383



384



385



386



387



388



389



390



391



392



## BROOM HOOKS.

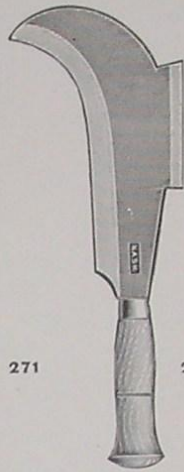
No.	PATTERN.	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12 inch.
271	Shropshire	...	—	—	—	21/6	22/6	23/6	24/6	26/-	29/-	32/- 34/- per doz.
272	Stafford	...	—	—	—	21/-	21/-	21/6	22/3	24/9	27/-	29/6 31/6 "
273	Nottingham	...	—	—	—	—	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/-	27/-	28/6 29/6 "
274	Lincoln	...	—	—	—	—	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/-	27/-	28/6 29/6 "
275	Banbury	...	—	—	—	—	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/-	27/-	28/6 29/6 "
276	Kent	...	—	—	—	21/6	22/-	22/6	23/-	23/6	26/-	28/6 30/6 32/6 "
289	Gentlemen's Bright											
	Cast-steel, Polished	22/-	22/-	22/3	23/-	24/-	—	—	—	—	—	"
	Handles	...	...									
393	Bright Kent Rips	...	—	—	—	—	23/-	23/6	24/9	27/-	—	— "
394	Hereford	...	—	—	—	22/6	23/-	24/-	24/6	25/6	27/-	29/6 31/6 "
395	Hedging	...	—	—	—	22/6	23/-	24/-	24/6	25/6	27/-	29/6 31/6 "
396	Natal	...	—	—	—	—	23/6	24/-	25/-	26/-	—	— "
397	Leicestershire	...	—	—	—	22/-	22/3	23/6	24/9	26/-	27/-	28/6 29/6 "
398	Irish	...	—	—	—	21/-	21/-	22/-	22/6	23/6	24/-	25/6 27/- "
399	Uttoxeter	...	—	—	—	22/-	22/6	23/-	24/-	24/6	25/-	26/- 28/- 30/- "
400	Best Warranted Cast-steel Bright Stratford,											41/- per doz.



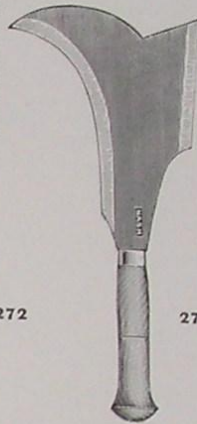
ISAAC NASH & SONS · Wollaston Mills · STOURBRIDGE



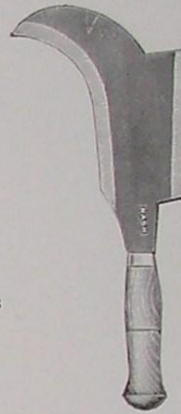
271



272



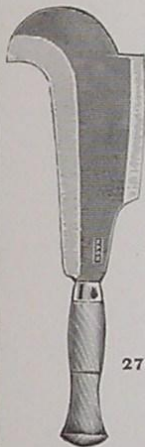
273



274



275



276



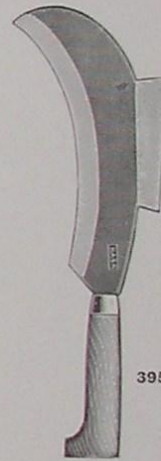
289



393



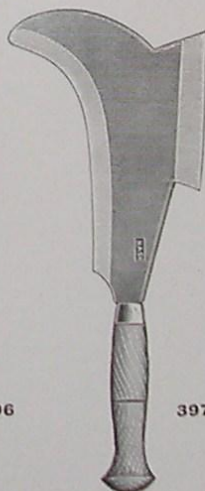
394



395



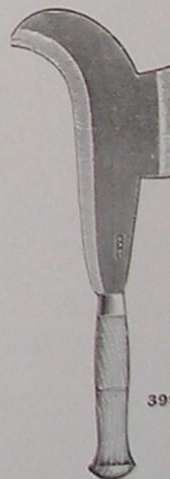
396



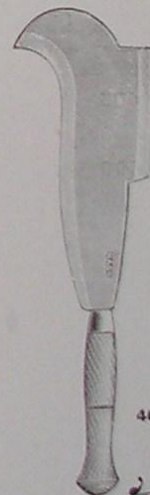
397



398



399



400



## SOCKET BILL HOOKS.

		7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12 inch.
No.	PATTERN.										
266	Suffolk, light, handled ...	-	-	23/-	23/6	24/-	24/6	26/-	27/-	28/-	30/- per doz.
267	Suffolk, strong, handled ...	-	-	25/-	26/-	27/-	28/-	29/6	31/-	32/-	34/- "
290	Kent ...	-	-	22/-	23/6	24/-	24/9	27/-	29/9	32/-	34/- "
291	Chart's ...	-	27/3	28/6	29/6	31/-	32/-	-	-	-	- "
292	Block ...	-	24/-	25/-	26/-	27/6	28/6	29/6	31/-	33/-	35/- "
293	Offley, small bill ...	-	-	-	23/6	24/-	25/-	27/-	-	-	- "
294	" large bill ...	-	-	-	23/6	24/-	25/-	27/-	-	-	- "
401	Cheltenham ...										
402	Uxbridge ...	-	21/6	22/-	23/6	24/-	24/9	27/-	29/9	32/-	34/- "
403	Watford ...										
404	Bedford, Solid Steeled (handled extra) ...	23/-	24/-	25/-	26/-	27/6	28/6	29/6	31/-	33/-	35/- "
405	Woodstock ...	-	-	-	-	27/6	28/6	29/6	31/-	33/-	35/- "
406	Hertfordshire, full edge ...	23/-	24/-	25/-	26/-	27/6	28/6	29/6	31/-	33/-	35/- "
407	Hertfordshire, straight edge ...										
408	Tetbury ...	21/-	21/6	22/-	23/6	24/-	24/9	27/-	29/9	32/-	34/- "

Handled, 5/- dozen extra.



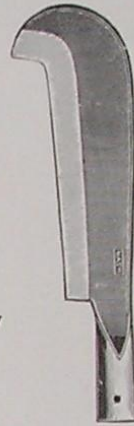
ISAAC NASH & SONS · Wollaston Mills · STOURBRIDGE



266



267



290



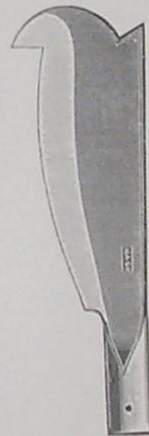
291



292



293



294



401



402



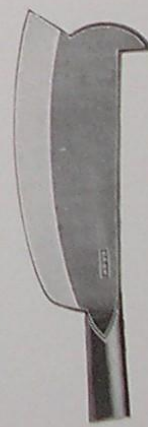
403



404



405



406

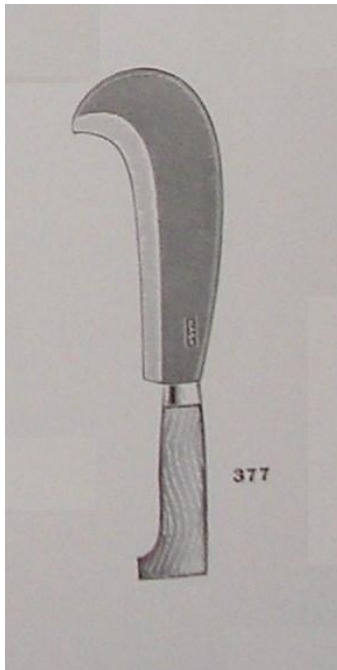


407



408

One of the interesting things about this catalogue is the range of regional patterns being made. Being a Wiltshire lad, my home county patterns are of special interest, notably the Warminster (377) and Imber (369) patterns:

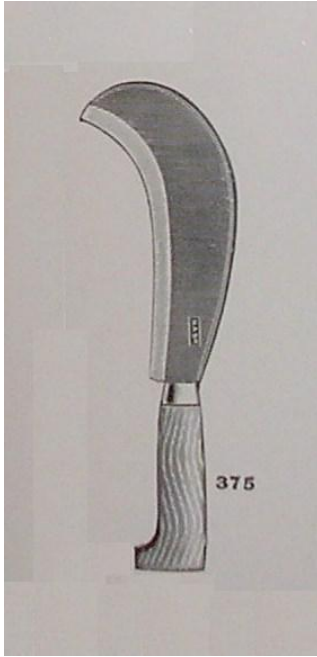


Imber village is situated about 5 miles from Warminster, in the middle of Salisbury Plain, and had a peak population of 440 in 1851, dwindling to only 150 when it was evacuated during WW2. How a village with a working male population of less than 150 persons warranted its own billhook remains a mystery. Warminster with a population of 5000 plus is understandable.

Trowbridge also had its own billhooks (2 versions (380) with a peak, and (381) without):

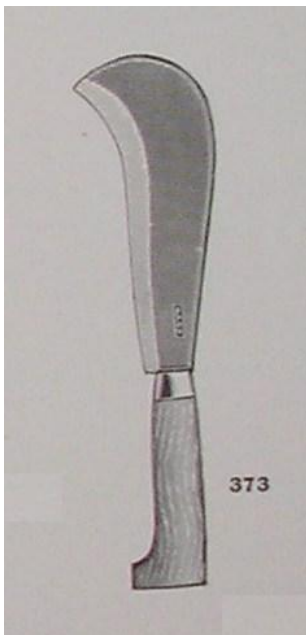






Swindon (375) and Chippenham (382) also had their own patterns. Curiously the Trowbridge (381) pattern is closer in shape to the 20<sup>th</sup> century Chippenham pattern, than the one Nash shows.

To the south of the county one finds the Salisbury (373) and the Downton (384) patterns.

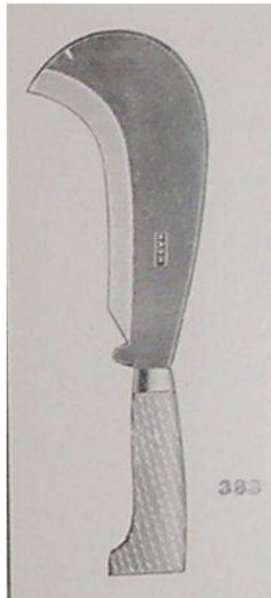


Salisbury was a centre of cutlery making in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and edge tool making continued at nearby Netheravon and Downton into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both shapes have similar blades with a gently curved beak and a slightly bellied blade. The Trowbridge (381) and Imber (377) patterns also have some similarities with the Woodrow (391) pattern.



Nothing is known of the origins of the Woodrow pattern, but Woodrows were an ironmongers in Salisbury in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, closing in the 20<sup>th</sup>, but surviving as a builders' merchants into the 21<sup>st</sup>. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century Woodrows had tools stamped with their name, as did Pinders of Salisbury (another rival ironmongers) who sold the above Downton pattern by W Gilpin.

Equally interesting are the Knapman (392) and Half Turn (387)



The Knapman is identical with the later Devon Half Turn, still being made and sold in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. More curious because Knapman and Son of Hill Mill at Harberton near Totnes were at this time also making billhooks for the Devon market, and continued to do so well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Half Turn is closer in pattern to the Dorset pattern (383) but without the vee notch. The name half turn is given billhooks



with a pronounced beak, common in the south west of England. Both Dorset and Devon hooks are curious in having a notch in the blade near the handle, although this is also a feature found further east in Hampshire/Isle of Wight (259); in Somerset, Wells (378) and Martock (389) and in Wiltshire, Imber (369). Its purpose is unknown, possibly for a strap, but more likely a vestige of the days when the wrought iron back was steeled by forge welding a high carbon cutting edge to it, that survived as a way of identifying the regional shape.

It would appear that Nash were making hooks to gain a share of the smaller, local market, and aggressively marketing their mass produced billhooks through their salesmen who called on the local ironmongers.

Elsewhere in the catalogue we see the Berkshire or Moss's No 2 (268) Chichester or Moss' No 2 (263); Duckett's Oxford (368) and Chart's (291) which I believe were also made to compete with existing makers.