

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
**Cambridge Antiquarian Society,**

17 OCTOBER—5 DECEMBER 1910.

WITH  
**Communications**  
MADE TO THE SOCIETY  
MICHAELMAS TERM 1910.

No. LVIII.  
BEING No. 1 OF THE FIFTEENTH VOLUME.  
(NINTH VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.)

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**Cambridge:**  
DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; BOWES & BOWES.  
LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS, LTD.  
1911

*Price 5s. net.*

Monday, 5 December, 1910.

The Rev. Dr STOKES, President, in the Chair.

Two communications, illustrated with lantern slides, were made.

The Rev. F. G. WALKER on

A RECENTLY DISCOVERED NEOLITHIC SITE AT  
GAMLINGAY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

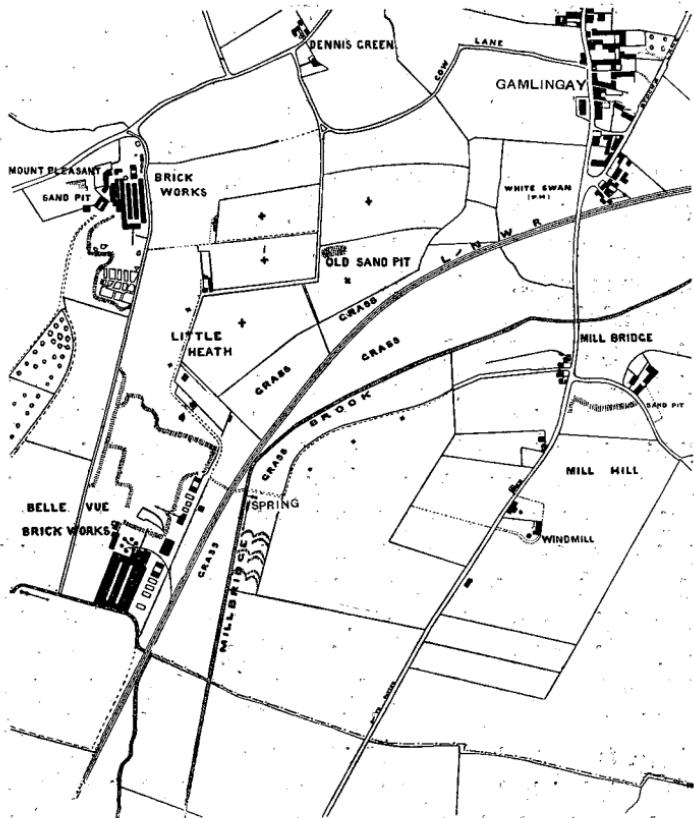
Four years ago Professor Hughes was kind enough to let me join one of his Geological Field Lectures, the scene of which was the disused Brick Pit known as the Belle Vue Brick Works at Gamlingay.

While scrambling along the slope of a small sandy cliff formed by the operations in digging for clay, and while studying the formation of the ground and looking for fossils, I picked up a pigmy flint implement together with several flint flakes. I showed them to the Professor, remarking that the lie of the land near by looked as if it might be the site of a neolithic settlement, and determined when opportunity came to examine the spot carefully.

Until last month other matters have fully occupied my spare time, but during November, when returning from clerical duty in a neighbouring parish, I was able to spend a couple of hours or so each Monday morning in investigating the fields within a radius of half to three quarters of a mile from the Belle Vue Brick Works.

By this means one was able to fix more or less definitely the site of this neolithic settlement. Each field where implements occurred is marked on the plan by a black cross.

These fields, which are of a sandy nature, make up a tongue of land having its broad end lying towards the village of Gamlingay, while two small valleys, which bound this tongue, meet just to the north-east of the brick works. Near this point is a spring of good water running into the Millbridge Brook which flows down the south-eastern valley.



Neolithic site at Gamlingay.

The spot chosen by these early people for their habitation is very like other small sites of the neolithic age that one knows well in Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire. A site with a warm sandy soil, facing south and so getting all the sunshine.

our climate affords, well out of reach of floods, but yet with a good water supply close at hand, protected, as it once was, on the north by abundant trees, seems an ideal spot for the needs of those early folk. It will be noticed that the boundary of the counties of Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire runs just to the south of the place we are discussing, while Huntingdonshire, noted in bygone times for its forest-land, is but a mile or so to the north.

After spending some time in wandering about in order to locate the site, there was not too much time for finding flint implements. Still, in addition to the four or five pigmy flints, one was fortunate enough to find the following:

A barbed arrowhead—one barb broken.

One arrowhead or small spear-tip.

Three flint knives—one broken.

Seven scrapers.

Two fabricators.

A finely shaped borer.

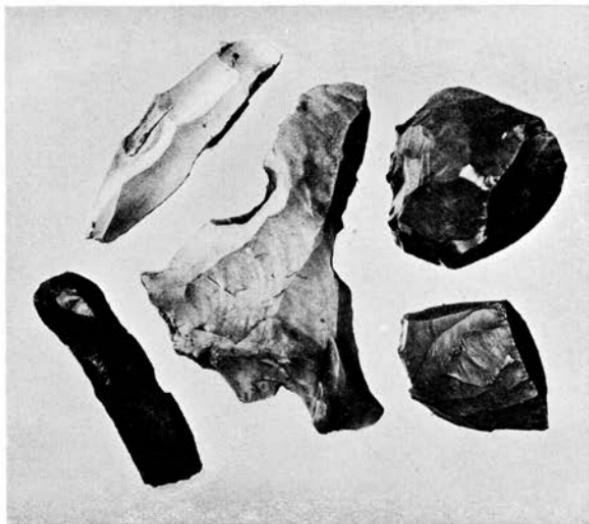
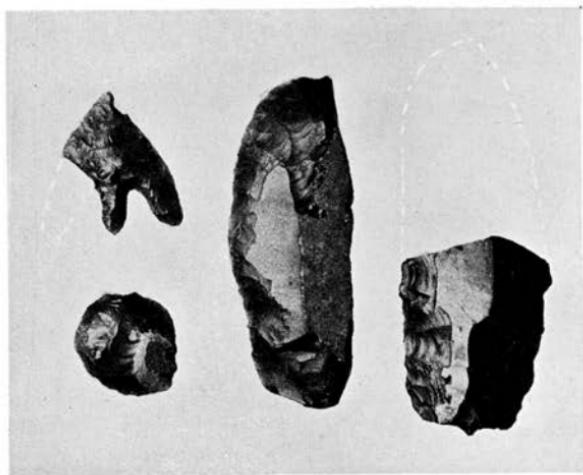
A two-grooved implement for smoothing arrowshafts.

I have found too many of this last-named tool in every neolithic site I know to have much doubt as to their former use. If any one will experiment with them and scrape a stick smooth enough for an arrowshaft, he will find, practically, how well these tools fit the fingers—sometimes those of the right hand, sometimes those of the left—and how perfectly they answer their supposed purpose. Cores, potboilers and slingstones, made from cores, were also found.

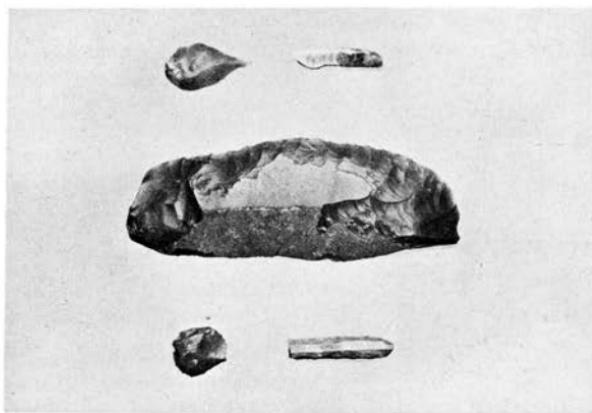
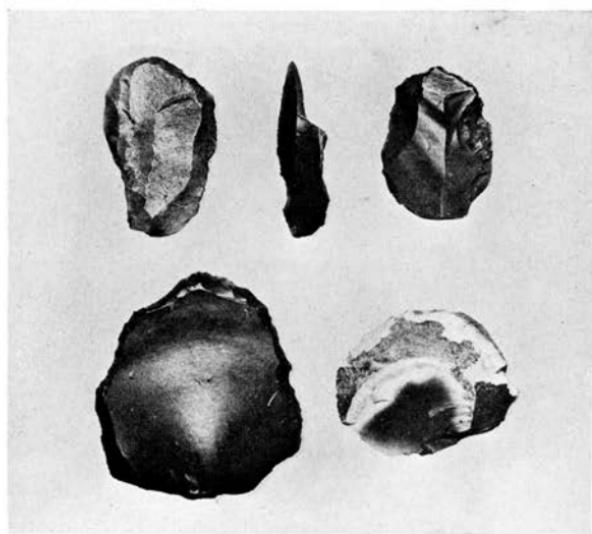
These latter one can match any day along the downlands from Kent to Dorset, especially near camps like those at Cissbury, Chanctonbury and Maiden Castle.

Finally, I picked up some two or three hundred flint flakes—more than a hundred of them are shown on the table. These were of all kinds, and prove that the implements found on this site were made on the spot.

By examining the edges of the sand pits in and round these fields, it would seem as if the natural layer (if one may use the term) of these implements and flakes is about one foot beneath the surface.



Flint Implements from Neolithic site, Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire



Flint Implements from Neolithic site, Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire

I must not forget to express my thanks to Mr Henry Dew,  
the farmer occupying the land, who kindly gave me leave to go  
where I pleased over his fields.

Mr F. W. GREEN, Assistant Director of the Fitzwilliam  
Museum, on

THE SOUDAN, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

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