

Scrubby.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

OCTOBER 1930—OCTOBER 1931

WITH
Communications
MADE TO THE SOCIETY



VOLUME XXXII

Edited by E. A. B. BARNARD, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

Cambridge :

Published for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

By BOWES & BOWES.

1932



Price Twelve Shillings and Sixpence net

N O T E

The Volumes are now marked with the **earlier serial number** only. The "New Series" number and the "Communications" number are discontinued.

**CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
PROCEEDINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Cambridge Antiquarian Society
OCTOBER 1930—OCTOBER 1931
WITH
COMMUNICATIONS
MADE TO THE SOCIETY



VOL. XXXII

Edited by E. A. B. BARNARD, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

CAMBRIDGE
PUBLISHED FOR THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
BY BOWES & BOWES

1932

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Report of the Council and Summary of Accounts for 1930 . . .	ix
List of Presidents	xviii
List of Members of the Society	xxi
A Fourteenth century House in Linton. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A.	1
Notes on Thriplow Place. H. C. HUGHES, M.A., F.R.I.B.A. . . .	12
A Stone Age Site on Swaffham Prior Farm. J. G. D. CLARK, B.A.	17
Notes upon a Cambridge Collection of Bell Metal Mortars. E. SAVILLE PECK, M.A., Ph.C.	24
The Roof Bosses in Ely Cathedral. C. J. P. CAVE, M.A., F.S.A. . .	33
Whittlesford Rectory and the Ascham Family. B. F. C. ATKINSON, Ph.D.	47
Saxon Grave-Slab: Balsham, Cambridgeshire. CYRIL FOX, Ph.D., F.S.A.	51
Note on a Supposed Roman Road in the Fens. GORDON FOWLER .	52
Further Excavations at the Bran Ditch. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A., C. S. LEAF, B.A., and T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A.	54
A May Day Garland from St Neots. R. U. SAYCE, M.A.	57
Archaeological Notes. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A., and M. M. O'REILLY, B.A.	59
Cambridgeshire Wills. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A.	67
The Photographic Record Report for 1931	68
Index	71



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Fourteenth Century House in Linton:</i>	PAGE
Linton Street about the year 1880	facing 1
Chaundlers in 1930	,, 1
Section of Map, Linton, 1600	2
Chaundlers: Elevation and Ground Plan	5
Pelican in her Piety	facing 7
Linton Fire Hooks	,, 8
East Gable of Chaundlers	,, 8
<i>Notes on Thriplow Place:</i>	
Side View	facing 14
Ground Plan	,, 14
<i>Stone Age Site on Swaffham Prior Farm:</i>	
Plan	17
Finished Implements	19
Plate I	facing 23
<i>Cambridge Collection of Bell Metal Mortars:</i>	
Plate I	facing 28
Plate II	,, 29
Plates III and IV	,, 30
Plate V	,, 31
<i>Roof Bosses in Ely Cathedral:</i>	
Plate I	facing 33
Plate II	,, 35
Plate III	,, 36
Diagram	38
Plate IV	facing 39

<i>Roof Bosses in Ely Cathedral (continued):</i>		PAGE
Plate V	facing	40
Plate VI	„	41
Plate VII	„	42
Plate VIII	„	43
Plate IX	„	45
 <i>Saxon Grave-Slab, Balsham:</i>		
Plate I	facing	51
 <i>Supposed Roman Road in the Fens:</i>		
Plate I	facing	53
Plate II	„	53
 <i>Further Excavations at Bran Ditch:</i>		
Plate I	facing	54
Plate II	„	55
 <i>May Day Garland, St Neots:</i>		
Plate I	facing	57
 <i>Archaeological Notes:</i>		
Late Bronze Age Hoard	facing	59
„ „ „ „	„	60
Samian Bowl	„	61
Rectangular Bronze Plate		62
Group of Weapons.	facing	62
Scramasaxes	„	63
Swords	„	64
Sword-hilt: Section	„	65

A STONE AGE SITE ON SWAFFHAM PRIOR FARM.

By J. G. D. CLARK, B.A.

(Read 17 November, 1930.)

In bringing forward evidence for a Stone Age site on Swaffham Prior Farm it must first of all be stated that all the specimens to be described have been gathered from the surface during one season's ploughing. Thus only the superficial and not the stratigraphical position of each flint is

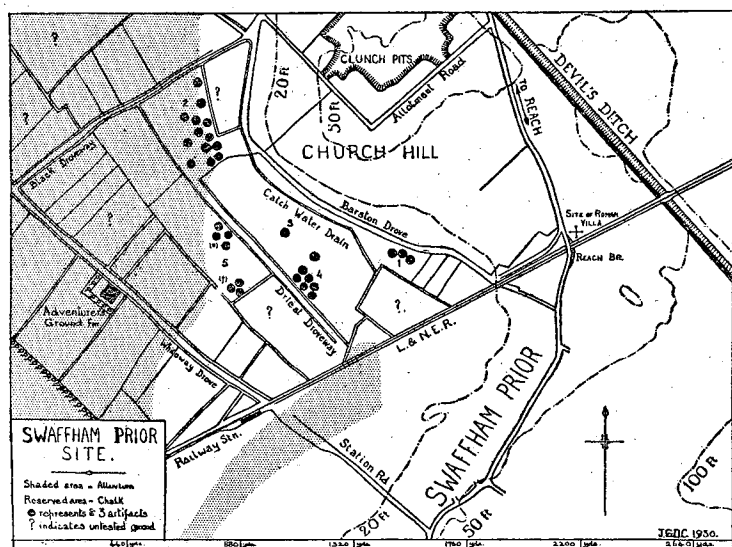


Fig. 1.

known, and moreover even this superficial search has extended only over a very short time.

The site, which is best reached by road, lies to the north of Swaffham Prior. (See Fig. 1.) It can be approached from the village by Station Lane and Whiteway Drive, or from the Reach road by Barston Drive. Intending visitors should study the lay-out of the dykes on a map or they may find

themselves involved in much unnecessary walking. The general lie of the land is fairly clear from the map. In general it would be true to say that the site lies on the edge of the fens, which stretch away to the west and north-west. About half the area included in the map lies below the 20 ft. contour, which sweeps the foot of Church Hill, indents eastwards, and then again sweeps out around the village. The 50-ft. line describes a very similar course though the indent is more exaggerated. Finally in the south-east corner the 100-ft. line makes a brief appearance. To an observer on the spot the situation is easily appreciated by the very noticeable soil changes, the whitish chalky soil of the higher ground grading into the darker soil of the flat fen. The shaded area on the map represents alluvium as indicated on the drift geology map. Running in a north-westerly direction above the 50-ft. contour the Devil's Ditch is just visible. As a method of indicating the exact superficial extent of the site black dots have been put on the map, each of which represents three finished implements, in their approximate position of finding. Owing to the short duration over which search has been made the distribution of finds is by no means a final one and may even prove misleading. At the moment, however, two interesting facts are apparent; first all the dots occur below the 20-ft. contour, and second only very few occur on the shaded area of alluvium. Thus the flints occur along the chalk-alluvium divide. As from the abundance of cores and waste flakes we know that the implements were made on the spot, it can be said that their makers lived on dry land but as close as possible to water; one might almost say that they lived on the shore of the chalk. The neglect of Church Hill seems very significant.

Besides numbers of waste flakes and exhausted cores a large number of finished implements were found. (See Figs. 2 and 3.) A few flakes of which one edge bears minute serrations were found; incomplete examples are nos. 2 and 3, while no. 1 from Reach serves to indicate the intact form. Other flakes have been trimmed, e.g. 4-7; one of them, no. 7, on which the secondary trimming has been executed for half its length from the upper surface of the flake, and for the other

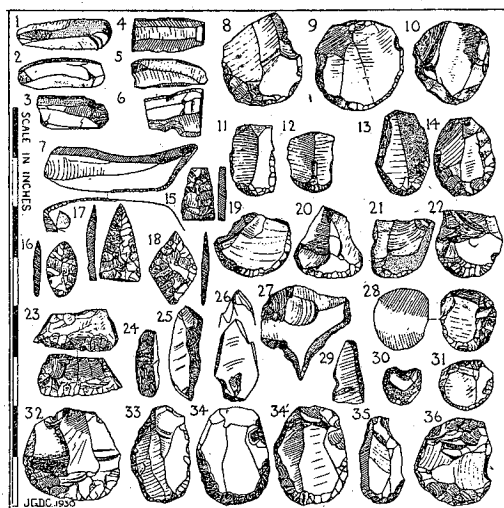


Fig. 2.

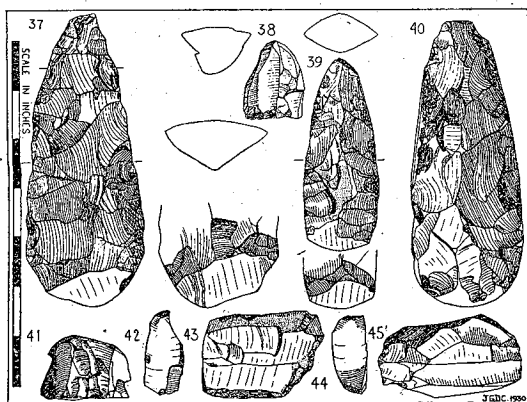


Fig. 3.

half from its bulbar surface, being of rather original design. Over fifty scrapers were found, including the horseshoe form, e.g. nos. 8, 9, 10, 32, 36; a few end-scrapers, e.g. nos. 11, 12, 35; intermediate forms, e.g. nos. 13, 14, 33, 34; and a single thumb-scraper no. 30. Of arrowheads a complete leaf of degenerate form, two fragments, and a complete lozenge form were found, nos. 15, 16, 17, 18. No. 23 is a knife showing two periods of work, an earlier chalky white and a later bluish white patina being noted; the latter shows pressure flaking with close rings reminiscent of that on Bronze Age "slugs." Three burins were found; a single polyhedric gouge burin no. 26, and two single-facetted chisel burins nos. 42 and 44. A single awl, according to Mr R. A. Smith's criterion a "pseudo-awl," is shown in no. 27. Notched flakes were not common, no. 29. Large numbers of cores, from which flakes have been struck from one, two or three platforms, have been picked up; their forms include conical, long bolster-like forms, and roughly cuboid forms, nos. 38, 41, 45. Several triangular sectioned core-trimmings were also found, nos. 24, 25. Only one celt, a rough-hewn axe with its cutting edge formed by a transverse blow, was found by the writer in the field; in looking through the collections in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, however, a number of flint and stone celts were found labelled as from the same parish. Of the former one can say from their state of preservation that some almost certainly came from the site under examination. Of these nos. 37 and 39 are similar in type to that found by the writer. It will be noted that they both have their cutting edges formed by tranchet blows and that neither show any traces of polishing. Of the two, no. 37 is the more primitive from a typological point of view as the butt is irregular and the section almost triangular, whereas no. 39 has a pointed butt and a symmetrical section. In the case of the polished celt no. 40 with pointed oval section, it will be noted that previous to the polishing process the cutting edge had been prepared by radial fan-wise flaking.

As to the state of preservation of the implements described above it can be said that the only mechanical change noted is a very slight abrasion of flake arrêtes on deeply patinated

specimens. There is nothing to suggest that the flints were ever since their working in any other situation than their present one. Chemical change has, however, been more active. The range of patination extends from a dead chalky white to a mottled blue and white by almost imperceptible gradations. The flints falling under this category constitute the vast bulk of those found. Since, as we have seen in the case of the knife no. 23, two periods of flaking are embraced within this range of patina, it may well have extended over a considerable period in time. There is, however, also a small series, consisting of a core and four flakes, totally unaffected by patination. That this series is more recent than the main series is shown by the fact that a scraper, deeply patinated white mottled with grey, has been retrimmed, and this retrimming has not been affected by patination. This is illustrated by nos. 34 and 34', in which the reserved area represents patina, while the shaded zone indicates secondary working unaffected by chemical change. A further chemical change, consisting of a pale chesnut-brown staining, seems to be localised to the group of dots marked 4 on the map; this may possibly have been caused by a thin peaty stratum of local extent, since destroyed by cultivation. It seems that a combination of this staining with a blue and white mottled patina has produced a greenish effect on some specimens. This is especially marked in the case of a side-scraper no. 43, with bold primary flaking, resolved secondary work, and narrow fluted flakes at one corner, which combine to suggest its separation from the main industry.

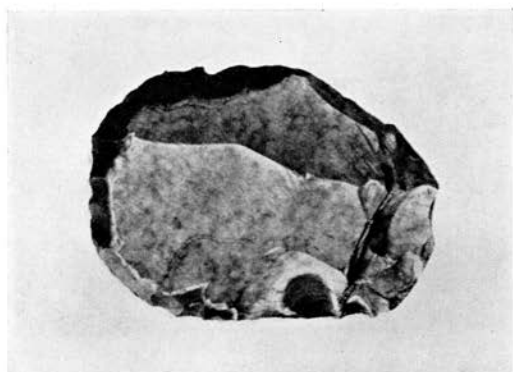
We are now in a position to appreciate the problem presented by the flint finds derived from the surface of the site. Typologically the flints include forms usually assigned to cultures differing widely in date. On the one hand we have burins of Upper Palaeolithic types, including one very specialised form, and on the other we have the usual late Neolithic forms usually associated at camps with interrupted ditches, e.g. Windmill Hill, Whitehawke, and Abingdon, viz. the leaf-arrowhead, polished celt, chipped celt with transversely flaked cutting edge, serrated flake and horseshoe scraper. Specifically Bronze Age types are lacking if we except the lozenge

arrowhead and the reworked knife. It seems probable therefore that the main assemblage can be referred to the late Neolithic culture in the region, though possibly contemporary in time with the period of transition to metal. Yet while typologically the flints fall into two main groups both fall into the same preservation group. Indeed the burins straddle from both extremes of the main patinated group, no. 26 being of china white colour in no way indistinguishable from that of the lozenge-shaped arrowhead no. 18, and no. 42 being of a pale bluish colour indicative of but slight patination. In distribution also no difference could be noted as between the two typological series. From the local evidence therefore no reason can be found for not considering the burins to be homogeneous with the other types in the industry. Here it must be said that as the burin types are becoming popularised specimens are being picked up on the surface quite frequently. Thus Mr C. M. Coote, of Houghton, near St Ives, has recently found excellent angle gravers between the 50 and 100-ft. contours to the north of the river Ouse in his immediate neighbourhood. Again in a small collection of flints bought at the Nunn sale and originally found at Royston, now in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, a large burin has been noted. The writer personally has picked up burins on the downs between Seaford and Eastbourne. In none of these cases has any good reason presented itself for separating the burins from the late Neolithic types found on the same surface. It is true that the association of objects found on the surface may be, and often is, accidental; at the same time it is legitimate to assume that some difference in preservation should be looked for in flints differing in age by some thousands of years. Owing to the researches of Mr Reid Moir and others it is becoming increasingly clear that East Anglia supported bearers of Upper Palaeolithic culture; that this race of men must have lived in open stations is dictated by elementary geological considerations; that objects of Upper Palaeolithic origin should occasionally be found on the surface is not remarkable. But here again it must be said that when such objects are found in accidental surface association with flints of late Neolithic origin, in such cases one

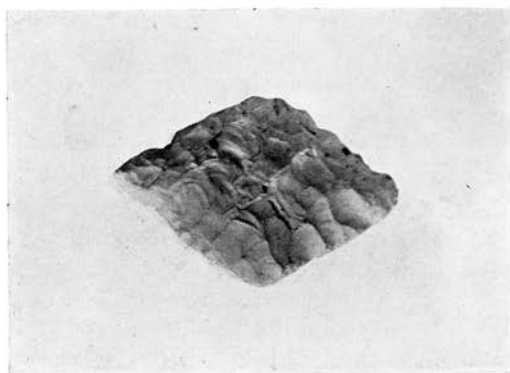
PLATE I



C



B



A

has the right to expect some difference in the preservation of the two groups: conversely where such difference is not to be detected it seems justifiable to infer homogeneity of culture. In such a case one can only put forward the hypothesis of survival to explain the apparent typological anomaly.

Since this paper was compiled an interesting addition has been made to the small series of flints showing no trace of patination. It consists of a triangular arrowhead with hollow base, of which the shorter side is trimmed, the longer retaining the original flake edge, and was found in the flint collections in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. The label "Swaffham Prior Fen" indicates its derivation from the immediate area of the site. The object is illustrated by No. C of Pl. I. No. B on the same Plate illustrates the scraper (Fig. 34) with two periods of work, of which the chocolate-brown colour of the latter resembles closely the colour of the arrowhead C. No. A. the lozenge arrowhead (Fig. 18), illustrates the chalky white colour of the main industry. It is probable that the scraper B was once this colour, the mottled effect representing a later change. The photographs are the work of the Honorary Photographer to the Museum, Mr Strickland.

CONTENTS

OF PROCEEDINGS,

VOL. XXXII, 1930-31.

	PAGE
Report of the Council and Summary of Accounts for 1930	ix
List of Presidents	xviii
List of Members of the Society	xxi
A Fourteenth Century House in Linton. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A.	1
Notes on Thriplow Place. H. C. HUGHES, M.A., F.R.I.B.A.	12
A Stone Age Site on Swaffham Prior Farm. J. G. D. CLARK, B.A.	17
Notes upon a Cambridge Collection of Bell Metal Mortars. E. SAVILLE PECK, M.A., Ph.C.	24
The Roof Bosses in Ely Cathedral. C. J. P. CAVE, M.A., F.S.A.	33
Whittlesford Rectory and the Ascham Family. B. F. C. ATKINSON, Ph.D.	47
Saxon Grave-Slab: Balsham, Cambridgeshire. CYRIL FOX, Ph.D., F.S.A.	51
Note on a Supposed Roman Road in the Fens. GORDON FOWLER	52
Further Excavations at the Bran Ditch. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A., C. S. LEAF, B.A., and T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A.	54
A May Day Garland from St Neots. R. U. SAYCE, M.A.	57
Archaeological Notes. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A., and M. M. O'REILLY, B.A.	59
Cambridgeshire Wills. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A.	67
The Photographic Record Report for 1931	68
Index	71