

Notes on Recent Antiquarian Discoveries in Berkshire (II).

By F. M. UNDERHILL.

IN presenting some further notes on small finds made in the County recently, I have to acknowledge the valued information and help I have received from the following institutions: The British Museum; The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Mr. E. Thurlow Leeds and Mr. D. B. Harden; The Newbury Museum, Mr. W. E. Harris, curator; The Reading Museum, Mr. W. A. Smallcombe, curator; The York Castle Museum, Mr. L. R. A. Grove, curator. I have also to thank the following correspondents for their help: Miss L. Chitty, Miss M. Swadling, Major G. W. Allen, Mr. H. Baylis, Comdr. Bower, Mr. G. B. Bull, Mr. L. G. Cole, Mr. P. Williams Hunt, Mr. E. Newberry, Mr. R. Patterson, Dr. R. Rice, Mr. C. J. Scott, Mr. Peter Seaby, Mr. F. A. Snow, Mr. D. L. Stevenson, Dr. H. Watts, Mr. A. Wilson and Mr. A. Wright.

Where the specimens from the discoveries have been placed in a museum, the accession number has been given when possible, and the reference numbers of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey Maps are quoted from the collection of maps in Reading Museum, on which the site of the find has been marked.

A number of sites observed from the air are included, by kind permission of Major G. W. Allen, who discovered them by aerial photography. It has not yet been possible to inspect all these sites on the ground, neither is it at all probable that every one of them is a site of prehistoric importance (see Little Wittenham below). I have included them by way of a preliminary record, and I hope that their further exploration and elucidation will be undertaken in due course.

ABINGDON. Bronze Age Beaker from Northcourt, presented to the Ashmolean Museum; the vessel is decorated with rouletted horizontal and sloping lines. (See *Ashmolean Museum Report*, 1937, p. 22).

Two circles visible from air in growing crops west of track leading south from Sewage farm. (Major G. W. Allen).

Saxon cinerary urn containing the bones of a very young infant, dug up in Sexton Road, July, 1935. Now in the possession of Dr. R. Rice.

ALDERMASTON. Two large loom weights, probably of Bronze Age date, and several fragments of unidentified pottery found in gravel pit on the Aldermaston road, 26.3.37. Now in Reading Museum. 6" O.S. Berks. 44.N.W. (see also *Berks. Arch. Journ.* Vol. 41, p. 34).

APPLEFORD. Three circles observed from the air in a field between Appleford Church and Moor Ditch. There is another just east of Moor Ditch to the south of the footpath from Long Wittenham to Appleford. (Major G. W. Allen).

ARDINGTON. Circle observed from air in the eastern angle of the field bordered by the main road and track leading down to Lains farm. (Major G. W. Allen).

ASHBURY. In Alfred's Castle. 9 fragments of probable Early Iron Age pottery, now in Newbury Museum. 1937/3/92.

From Lambourn End, 42 fragments of Romano-British pottery. 1937/2/52. 1 fragment of glass. 1937/2/53. Newbury Museum.

ASTON TIRROLD. From old gravel pit (See *Berks. Arch. Journ.* Vol. 41, p. 34). Mr. A. Wright of Didcot has shown me the following antiquities from this pit: one Roman pot, 4th century type, string of glass beads, one bronze bracelet, one bracelet of twisted bronze wire, a black melon-shaped bead, bronze finger-ring with remains of seal, bronze clip in two parts, five Roman coins, 3rd brass, Constantine period. Mr. Wright also reports that during 14 years working of the pit, shallow trenches were observed filled with burnt earth, remains of baked clay probably belonging to a kiln or oven were found, also about 7 human skeletons.

BAULKING. Oldfield farm: Mr. D. L. Stevenson has observed the remains of a square enclosure impinging into the orchard. A large sarsen stone used formerly to stand in the middle. 6" O.S. Berks 13 N.E.

BESSELSLEIGH. Fragments of coarse medieval pottery have been found at Row Leigh Farm, and have been presented to the Ashmolean Museum. (See *Ashmolean Museum Report*, 1937, p. 25).

BLEWBURY. Barrow or ring observed from air on a line from Churn Clump to Upper Chance Farm, almost due West of B.Mk. 493. 6" O.S. Berks. 21. N.E. Ed. 1913. (Major G. W. Allen).

In field south-west of Rose Cottage, a bank or track and a ring observed from the air. Site visited on ground 3.10.37, field under roots, position of line of track or bank hard to determine, but visible, no traces of circle. This may be an old track which formerly led to Churn Barrow. 6" O.S. Berks. 21. N.E.

Fragments of early medieval pottery dug from a depth of about 5 feet in clay from the side of the brook, west of Chapman's, by Comdr. Bower. Mr. L. R. A. Grove has promised a report on this pottery in due course.

BRIMPTON. Fragment of Early Iron Age pottery found in Lane End Gravel Pit, 26.3.37. Now in Newbury Museum. Acc. 1937/2/47.

CHARLTON DOWN. Fragment of pottery from barrow now in Newbury Museum. Acc. 1937/4/206. (See *Trans. Newbury Dist. Field Club*, Vol. VIII, p. 73).

CHARNEY. Two flint arrow-heads found in Cherbury Camp, August, 1923. Now in possession of Mr. L. G. Cole.

CHOLSEY. Circle in crop observed from air in field west of main Moulsoford-Wallingford road, north of footpath from B.Mk. 163 to cottages. Site visited on ground 3.10.37, field then under charlock, nothing visible. 6" O.S. Berks. 22 N.W.

Circle in crop observed from air in field west of Moulsoford-Wallingford road (as above) opposite to B.Mk. 153. 4. Site visited 3.10.37, and distinct rise in ground noticed at this spot, but exact diameter of circle not obtainable. 6" O.S. Berks. 16 S.W.

Circle observed from air near River Thames in field south of Papist's Way, very clearly shown in air-photo. Site visited 3.10.37, position of circle partially covered by a hay-rick, ground very much disturbed at this spot. (See observations on Little Wittenham). 6" O.S. Berks. 22 N.W.

Large hillock, marked on old maps as "Silsbury Hill," found during field observation. It is possible, from the name, that this hill may have had some type of fortification on it, although there is nothing at present to be seen to confirm this theory. The surrounding fields yield large quantities of medieval pottery on the surface, and this area might repay closer inspection. Information from Dr. H. Watts. 6" O.S. Berks. 22 N.W.

COMPTON & WEST ILSLEY. Extensive ditch system observed from the air in and around the wood on the edge of Bury Down and Cow Down, close to Perborough Camp. Site visited during August 1937, and found to be remains of a lynchet and field system covering a large area.

COMPTON, COWDOWN. Hoard of about 500 silvered coins discovered in 1852 in a pot. Coins and pot now in Ashmolean Museum. The pot is a globular vessel, some 5in. in diameter, and perhaps 4in. high, no portion of the rim survives. The hoard was buried about A.D. 270, and is composed chiefly of coins of Postumus and Victorinus. (See note on this hoard by C. H. V. Sutherland in *The Numismatic Chronicle*, 1936, Part iv, 5th series, No. 64, pp. 316-320).

DIDCOT. Dr. H. Rice has a quantity of decorated fragments of Saxon pottery recently discovered at this place (1937).

DRAYTON. Two circles and possibly a ditch system observed from the air, north of Mill Brook and west of Drayton Mill.

ENBORNE. Paleolithic hand-axe of flint found in the Enborne Gravel pit, now in Newbury Museum. 1936/4/158.

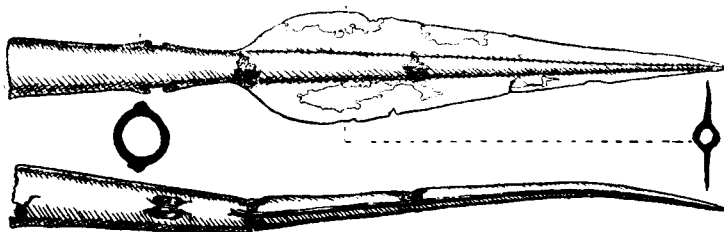
FARINGDON. Earthworks at Step Farm, known as "The Bull Rings." They consist of two adjacent circles, the larger about 55 yards in diameter, with the smaller joining on, diameter about 34 yards. A bank 16 feet wide surrounds the larger circle, inside of which is a ditch. Similar earthworks have been observed and photographed by Major Allen at North Leaze Farm, Highworth. See "Earthen Circles near Highworth," Allen & Passmore, *Wilts. Arch. Mag.* Vol. xlvii, 1935, p. 114.

"Adulterine Castle on Faringdon Clump" by E. Thurlow Leeds. *Ant. Journ.* Vol. xvii, pp. 294-8.

FRILFORD. Excavations during 1937 by the Oxford University Archaeological Society at the instigation of Sir Arthur Evans and with the cooperation of Mr. D. B. Harden, of the Ashmolean Museum. Mr. Harden reports: Evidence of three successive cultures found, Early Iron Age pits, containing pottery of the A.2 type. The largest pit has a big hearth on its clay floor, and contained, among other objects, a fine polished hammer stone. The site was built over during Roman times, when a small, but well-built villa with tessellated floors and a tiled roof was erected. Samian pottery of the time of Domitian (A.D. 81-96) found, also small hoard of late Roman coins of about A.D. 370-380, buried in a large Iron-Age storage pit, which also contains the well preserved skeleton of a Saxon warrior with a knife and scramasax at its side. Full report to be published in due course.

HAGBOURNE, WEST. La Tène brooch found on surface here, May 1930. Now in possession of Dr. R. Rice. 1937.

HAMPSTEAD MARSHALL. Silver penny, ? early Henry III, found in gravel pit during an excursion of the Newbury & Dist. Field Club. Now in Newbury Museum, Acc. 1937/4/208.



BRONZE SPEARHEAD FROM HATFORD. SCALE $\frac{1}{2}$.

HATFORD. Bronze Age spear-head, found buried 6 feet deep in the peat near Hatford Brook, in the grounds of Hatford Manor. It has now been recorded in the British Museum Catalogue, and Mr. T. D. Kendrick observes: "It is curious on account of the thinness of its metal and the loops, which were never completed; it looks as if it was made rather for votive than for business purposes." (14.5.38.) In possession of Mr. H. Baylis. Other Bronze implements have been found in this vicinity, at Gainsfield Farm, and at Pusey Furze. See Peake; *Archaeology of Berks.*, pages 52, 184, 217).

Lead token or badge found in the grounds of Hatford Manor. Mr. Derek Allen of the Dept. of Coins & Medals, British Museum, observes: "There are a number of these things found, and they are undateable, unless they are found in special conditions, for instance in the grounds of an abbey. This specimen appears to have a dog on one side and a swan on the other." 14.2.38. In possession of Mr. H. Baylis.

HURLEY. Three flint scrapers and one worked flake picked up on surface in a field at Frogmill Farm. In possession of Mr. G. B. Bull. 1937.

LAMBOURN. Two Roman coins found of Gratianus, Constantine (Arles) mint and Valentinianus. Coin of the period of Philip II of Spain (1556-98) as Duke of Oberyssel. (See *Reading Mercury* 27.11.37).

Coin of ? Constantius II, "Fel. Temp. Rep." found at Lambourn Woodlands about 1933, now in Newbury Museum.

Extensive running ditch or bank observed from the air by Major Allen; from Ewe Hill through Hyde Farm, crossing the Lambourn road at Bockhampton to Thornhill copse. Here it is lost for a little way, but Dr. Williams Freeman is of the opinion that it joins up with a bank which runs into the east side of Membury Camp. This appears to be the bank running eastwards from

Hackpen mentioned by Wise in 1738 ("Antiquities of Berks"), then called the "East Ditch." Its course is given in *Trans. Newbury Dist. Field Club*, Vol. 2, p. 189. Observed also by Dr. Joseph Stevens in August 1885 (Stevens MSS. Reading Museum). Dr. Stevens was of the opinion that it joined Letcombe Castle with Membury Camp.

UPPER LAMBOURN. Extensive field and lynchet system observed from air on Fognam Down, north-west of Fognam Farm. Site visited 24.9.37, the lynchets are clearly visible and can be seen very well from the opposite hill, by the Hangman-stone.

LITTLE COXWELL. Large entrenchment revealed by tree-cutting on Furze Hill. The bank continues about three-quarters of the way, w.-n.w. round the hill, definite fortified entrances observable at southern end and north-west corner. This appears to be the same earthwork observed by Mr. Peake (*Arch. Berks.* p. 67), and is called "Lysons Camp" by Mr. Huntingford. (*Berks. Arch. Journ.* Vol. 40, p. 162). 6" O.S. Berks. 8 S.W.

LITTLE WITTENHAM. Circular crop-mark observed from air immediately west of footpath from New Farm to Little Wittenham wood, at a point almost due west of Brightwell barrow. The site of this circle was found and excavated by Drs. Watts and Girling early in 1938. They report that nothing was visible above ground at the time, neither was any sign of disturbance below ground level, on trenching across the circle. From subsequent enquiry Dr. Watts ascertained that before the time when the photograph was taken by Major Allen, a large rick of rye had been standing on this spot, and had just been removed. The ground under this rick had become drier than the surrounding soil, thus showing a different colour when viewed from above. This certainly offers an explanation of some of the circular crop and soil marks observed in this neighbourhood.

From Castle Hill camp, large sherd of decorated Saxon pottery, found by Mr. P. Williams Hunt, January 1937, now in Reading Museum.

LONG WITTENHAM. Circular mark observed from air by Major G. W. Allen, west of footpath leading south from Pearith's Farm. Another circle south-east of church, close to the village. Information from Major G. W. Allen.

Hoard of Roman coins in the Clutterbuck collection in the Ashmolean Museum, found at Long Wittenham "many years ago." The hoard is described in detail by Mr. C. H. V. Sutherland in *The Numismatic Chronicle*, 1936, Part iv. 5th ser. No. 64. Vol. xvi, p. 319 ff.

MAIDENHEAD. Roman coin found, 3rd Brass Claudius Gothicus, near G.W. railway line, Altwood Bailey. Information from Mr. P. Williams Hunt. 6" O.S. Berks. 31 N.W.

MOULSFORD. Roman coins found a few years since at Moultsford Rectory. Information from Mr. A. Wilson. 6" O.S. Berks. 22 N.W.

NEWBURY. Mesolithic habitation site observed during levelling in Victoria Park, 1934, by Mr. G. B. Bull. Mr. Bull has a collection of flints and animal remains, including teeth of domestic pig from this site.

A tanged and socketed iron arrow-head found in the peat during levelling in Victoria Park, 1934. In possession of Mr. G. B. Bull.

RADLEY. Excavations at Wick Farm by the Oxford University Archaeological Society. Burial group found, in Ashmolean Museum, 1937. Consists of a bronze riveted knife and tiny awl, a string of beads (10 shale, 3 amber, 1 blue glaze segmented fragmentary), from the central cremation-interment in a ring-ditch of Middle Bronze Age date. A food-vessel in the form of a diminutive overhanging-rim urn, and numerous other fragments of Bronze Age ware were found in eccentric pockets in the same ring-ditch. (See *Ashmolean Museum Annual Report, 1936*, p. 17; 1937, p. 22 and Pl. iv. A full report shortly to be published in *Oxoniensia III*).

3rd Brass of Claudius Gothicus found in a field south-west of Radley G.W.R. station. Information from Mr. D. B. Harden, 3.5.37.

READING. Flint borer, found March, 1936, in the Oxford Road, not far from Grovelands. In possession of Mr. L. G. Cole. 1937.

Half a broken Neolithic celt of flint, with secondary working, found at Southcote, 15.5.37. In possession of Mr. L. G. Cole. 6" O.S. Berks. 37 N.W. (B.2).

"An Early Iron Age Site at Southcote" by C. M. Piggott & W. A. Seaby. Paper No. 4 in *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 1937, Vol. 3, pp. 43-58.

Iron spear-head, 49 cm in length, found in garden of 23 Wolsey Road, Caversham. In Reading Museum, 14.6.37.

Iron spear-head, 21 cm. long, dug up near surface on site of new garage at 3, 5 & 7 Queens Road, Reading. In Reading Museum, 26.4.37.

Iron tanged arrow-head with shaft, 14.5 cm. long; found at 14 Shenstone Road, Whitley. 20.4.37.

Large iron tanged and socketed arrow- or bolt-head, dug up at Whitley, in Reading Museum. 19.5.37.

Calcot Place. Part of a foundation wall was revealed in October 1937, apparently running under the present house, which is the residence of Sir Felix J. Pole. The site was examined by Mr. W. A. Smallcombe, curator of Reading Museum and Dr. Watts, who report that there are remains of side walls running at right angles in a northerly direction from the main wall. They are of the opinion that the remains date probably from the 17th century. 8.10.37.

ROWSTOCK. Dr. R. Rice reports: Human remains found during road widening 1936. Human femur buried 6 feet in bank on north-west side of the road, smaller bones of at least two persons buried four feet deep in the middle of the road with two ancient horse-shoes.

SEACOURT. Excavations here by the Oxford University Archaeological Society during 1937. Mr. D. B. Harden reports a quantity of Samian and coarse pottery, together with a fragmentary bone pin have been presented to the Ashmolean Museum from this site. (*Ashmolean Museum Report*, 1937, pp. 24-5).

SPENCER'S WOOD. Portion of rim of large Roman amphora found in Beech Hill road, March 1921. Now in possession of Mr. L. G. Cole.

SUTTON COURTENAY. Polished celt of greenstone, found in this parish, but exact locality unknown. Now in possession of Dr. R. Rice. 1937.

Circular crop-mark observed from the air in field north-west of Purgatory Farm, close to B.Mk. 195. Information from Major G. W. Allen. 6" O.S. Berks., 15 N.W.

R.A.O.C. Depot, two bronze dishes or bowls, ? Roman period, 10½" and 9½" in diameter respectively; 2" deep, with concave bases, found buried at a depth of 5-6 feet, July 1933. Now in possession of Dr. R. Rice.

SWALLOWFIELD. Farley Hill. Constable Riley of Didcot has shown me a small hoard of 28 Roman bronze coins, mostly dating 2-3rd century, which were found a "few years ago" at Farley Hill. Information from Dr. H. Watts.

THATCHAM NEWTOWN. Mouth of large Romano-British Amphora, now in Newbury Museum, Acc. 1937/3/93.

Near Colthrop, ? medieval horn-cornet, a musical instrument of most unusual type. In Newbury Museum, Acc. 1937/2/54.

TILEHURST. Flint flake of ? Levallois type found in a garden at the corner of Cranbury Road, May 1933. In possession of Mr. L. G. Cole. 1937.

Prospect Park Brickworks. Members of the staff of Reading Museum and other helpers have been engaged from time to time in excavating Roman pottery from the western edge of the clay pit. Several vessels have been reconstructed, and it is hoped to publish a full report in due course.

"Notes on an earthwork in the Ph. of Tilehurst" by F. M. Underhill, *Trans. Newbury Dist. Field Club*, Vol. VIII, pp. 3-9, with plan and sections.

TWYFORD. Viking sword, found in the Thames near Twyford, February 1893. 2ft. 7in. in length, and weighing 1 lb. 11 oz., now in the possession of Mrs. Brakespear. This weapon has not yet received publication, it was noted by Dr. J. Stevens at the time of its discovery, and illustrated in his MSS. collections now in Reading Museum. Information from Reading Museum, 1937.

WALLINGFORD. Further discovery of Anglo-Saxon remains in Mr. F. A. Snow's Gravel-pit, St. John's Road. The skeleton of a woman, aged about 20, was found buried about 5 feet below the surface in May 1937. Above her left shoulder was a decorated carinated food-vessel. On the chest were two bronze-gilt brooches and round the neck, extending to the waist was a necklace of about 50 beads. The bead at the foot of the necklace was of rock crystal, on either side were large amber beads, and those above were of glass. Nearby was an iron pin, and three counters of a type probably used for playing some game. (Note in *Berks & Oxon Advertiser*, 14.5.37; also *Reading Mercury*; 8.5.37).

Anglo-Saxon pottery from this site mentioned in paper by Mr. J. L. Myres, see *Antiq. Journ.* xvii, p. 435.

WALTHAM ST. LAURENCE. Remains of a homestead moat, not previously recorded have been observed near Callin's Bridge in this parish. The moat lies in the precincts of what is now called Beenham's Heath Farm, formerly called Womb Bridge Farm, and so marked on old maps. Information from Mr. E. Newberry. Berks 6" O.S. 30 S.E.

WASH COMMON, near Falkland memorial, eolithic implement found, now in Newbury Museum. Acc. 1937/3/91.

WOOLSTONE. Chipped celt or pick of flint found on surface of a ploughed field in this parish. Information from Mr. D. L. Stevenson.

WOOTTON. Boar's Hill. Potter's Kilns found in the grounds of Sir P. Cadell's house, Holmwood, Foxcombe Hill. A quantity of potsherds and other debris from this site has been deposited in the Ashmolean Museum. (See *Ashmolean Museum Report*, 1937, p. 24).