

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM READING MUSEUM

Since September, 1958, the following objects or sites have been brought to the notice of Reading Museum. The objects, unless otherwise stated, have been added to the museum Collections and the accession number is given in brackets after each entry.

PALAEOLITHIC

Reading. A slightly rolled, ochrous, cordate hand axe was found in gravel thrown up from a trench behind Alfred Sutton School, Wokingham Road, by Master R. C. Heath (61:59).

Cookham. An old pit in gravel of the Lynch Hill Terrace at Lower Mount Farm, Cookham (National grid 881842) has been reopened. Several flakes have been found in the fallen or screened material in the pit and Mrs. Crookshank discovered in situ a sharp, small (length 3 in.) pointed hand axe. This was in sandy gravel at about 7 ft. from the surface (49:60).

Henley. Observations and the collection of Palaeolithic flint implements have continued at the prolific site of Highlands Farm in the ancient channel of the River Thames between Caversham and Henley, by kind permission of Sydney Green and Sons, Ltd. resulting in the addition of many Clactonian and Acheulian artifacts to the museum collections. Further test sections have been cut by members of the Field Research Group. The majority of the hand axes are of Late Middle Acheulian type, ovates and cordates often with tranchet tips. A rare find was a chopper core made from a quartzite pebble. Several implements remain in private possession but line drawings and details of them have been deposited by the owners in Reading Museum. Hand axes of particular interest have been given to the museum by the following persons:—Mr. A. Collins, nine hand axes (184:59/1-9); Mr. R. Sheridan, five hand axes (185:59/1-5); Mr. D. Sheridan (186:59); Mr. P. Tosdevine (265:59) and Mr. G. H. Mortimer, six hand axes (46:60/1-6).

The pit has now (October 1960) ceased working but it may be reopened in the future if commercial demands warrant it. A large housing site a quarter of a mile to the North of the gravel workings at Highlands Farm (National grid 744818) produced several gravel exposures and a few flakes. The gravel deposit here was different from that at Highlands Farm, although at the same level, and showed the effects of very cold conditions, being contorted with pinnacles of decayed chalk and loam.

Tokers Green. A cordate flint hand axe ($4\frac{3}{4}$ in. long) was found in gravel thrown up on a building site at "Lavantie", Toker's Green, by Miss P. S. Walder. The implement is frost-cracked and has a white, porcellaneous patina. The gravel at Tokers Green is in the ancient channel of the Thames between Caversham and Henley (264:59).

Cane End. Also in gravel from the ancient channel of the Thames was an ovate hand axe found by Mr. G. Watson. The implement is $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. long and of particular interest in being made from a large, thermal fracture of fortuitous shape (104:60).

Maidenhead and Reading Districts. A large collection of Palaeoliths from Berkshire has been transferred from the Ipswich Museum by arrangement with the Institute of Archaeology. *Furze Platt:* 17 flakes (249:59/1-17); 73 pointed hand axes, 10 points of hand axes and 15 butts (250:59/1-98); a cleaver, small twisted ovate, chopper and sub-cordate hand axe (251:59/1-4). *Grovelands, Reading:* quartzite pebble tool and 15 implements (252:59/1-16). *Caversham:* 12 hand axes (253:59/1-12). *Cookham:* 9 hand axes from the Cookham area (257:59/1-9). *Maidenhead:* rough bi-conical core from Kings Pit (254:59).

Correction: The hand axe reported in the last issue of the *Berkshire Archaeological Journal* from 200 yards S.W. of Loddonbridge Farm (Vol. 57, p. 121) was incorrectly stated as coming from the parish of Winnersh. The correct parish is Woodley. (National grid 759714).

MESOLITHIC

Ascot. A two-platformed blade core of brown-coloured flint was found in the garden of Mr. A. Turnbull at Millstone, Wood End Close, Fernbank Road, Ascot (336:59).

Tutt's Clump. A long ($3\frac{3}{4}$ in.) double-ridged blade was found in the garden of Mr. G. L. Butcher at the Willows, Rotten Row, Tutt's Clump. The blade remains in the possession of the finder.

Mapledurham. Mr. Slater has found a small tranchet axe and long blade on the material dumped beside the river at Mapledurham, from nearby dredgings by the Thames Conservancy Board. They remain in his possession.

Thatcham. Since the publication of the interim report on the excavations at this important site in the last issue of the *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, two further seasons' work have been conducted. Still further work is envisaged and a final report on the site will not therefore be published until this is completed.

Mesolithic material has been found, concentrated along the present bluff of the Moor Brook, between sites I and II, for a distance of at least 500 feet, sealed beneath what is probably a dried fen peat and flood deposits of derived shell marl or silts. All the occupation appears to belong to one surface but it is not yet known for how long that surface was occupied. A British Museum radiocarbon date for some charcoal from a hearth on site II, however, is 6140 B.C. (+ or - 180 years), and this is consistent with the pollen dating of Site I (Boreal) and the expected date for the Maglemosian culture represented.

A trial excavation in the present swamp with a mechanical excavator has proved the existence of about 7 feet of lake and river deposits and the presence of organic material of the Mesolithic period near the base of shell marl, some six feet below the present reed bed. Below the shell marl is a peat which pre-dates the lake and probably any Mesolithic occupation of the area. Dr. Dimbleby has kindly examined this peat and reports that 85% of the total tree pollen is of pine. It was also accompanied

by macroscopical remains including numerous cones. It is felt that a dry excavation of this swamp in the vicinity of the bluff would answer most of the problems connected with the long history of the site, apart from yielding precious organic material of the period. A dry excavation in such a swamp requires a steel coffer dam and pumps and is thus expensive. It is hoped, however, that funds will be forthcoming for this work in 1961.

Area excavation of the site has produced further valuable collections of flint artifacts, faunal remains and other information which makes it possible to reconstruct the life of the hunting-fishing communities in the Thatcham-Newbury area at this remote time.

A broken human humerus was found in 1959 immediately above the probable fen peat. Until further work has been done on the deposits of the ancient lake it is not possible to be certain that this human fragment is of the Mesolithic period, although it is certainly of great antiquity.

Thanks are again due to Messrs. A. W. Barber, R. and D. Sheridan for their intensive work on this site, and to the many volunteer helpers who have assisted. All the finds are at present stored at Newbury Museum except the faunal remains which are at the British Museum of Natural History.

NEOLITHIC

Caversham. Mr. C. McCombe of 50 Chazey Road, Caversham, has reported several rough flakes and a flint hammerstone from his garden and two unfinished knife or sickle blades. They remain in his possession.

Earley. A single barbed "petit tranchet" derivative arrowhead of brown coloured flint was found in Dr. G. W. Smallcombe's garden at 35 Wychwood Crescent, Earley, Reading (65:60).

Woodcote. A ground flint axe ($5\frac{1}{2}$ in. long) was found by Mr. N. R. Fagg in his garden, about 1 ft. below the surface, at Mulberry Cottage, Exlade Street, Woodcote, Oxon. The butt end bears the flake scars of ancient damage (202:59).

Mortimer West End. Mr. R. A. Jarvis found a flaked flint axe ($7\frac{1}{4}$ in. long) on a ploughed field at West End Farm, Mortimer West End. (National grid 641637). The implement is slightly iron-stained but a recent fracture on the butt end shows it was made of grey flint (96:60).

Caversham. Mr. G. W. Phillips of 22 Grosvenor Road, Caversham, reported a bifacially-flaked knife of lustrous grey-brown flint and several flakes from his garden. They remain in his possession.

Wallingford, Mapledurham, Checkendon and Districts. Mr. E. Farey has given to the museum several flint artifacts which he has found on the surface at different localities during the last few years. *Overy* (National grid 586942): half of a finely-flaked small flint axe (244:59/1); *Checkendon, nr. Wheelers Farm* (661839): butt end of a small ground flint axe and a double-ridged flake (244:59/2-3); *Seymour Green* (701912): crude, thick, pick-like implement (6 in. long) (244:59/4). Other worked flakes found locally,

several in a shallow pit of finer soil, some of which appeared burnt; *Basildon, West of Park Wood* (601773): half of a thick, broken pick (244:59/7); *Huntercombe End* (685880): flint hammerstone, on a patch of soil, according to Mr. Farey, that was "almost free from other stones . . . other worked flints found locally." (244:59/6); *Purley, nr. Westbury Farm* (655767): flint 'strike-a-light' (?) (244:59/5). Other flakes found near by; *Nr. Mapledurham Lock* (668771): a broken flint pick which may be Mesolithic (244:59/8); *Crowmarsh allotments* (614892): broken ground flint axe, scraper, polisher and three worked flakes (244:59/9-15).

BRONZE AGE

Burghfield. A large (9½ in. long) socketed bronze spearhead was found beside the River Kennet at Arrowhead (National grid 654708) in material which had apparently been spread from dredgings of the river. The spearhead had been bent and damaged in antiquity (43:60).

Burghfield. A small (4½ in. long) socketed bronze spearhead with side loops was found by Mr. N. Withers while working the mechanical excavator in Messrs. Hyde Crete's gravel pit at Burghfield. It is in good condition with a mottled, dark-brown patina. Some wood remains in the socket (18:60).

Wallingford. Six sherds of a large hand-made, poorly-fired, gritty vessel or vessels found by Mr. E. Abery on his allotment at Station Road, Wallingford, may belong to a Late Bronze Age urn (243:59/1-6).

IRON AGE

Wallingford. In 1948, Mr. E. Abery of Wallingford reported pottery, bones and some broken bronze implements from the river bank, just south of Wallingford, almost opposite the end of Grim's Ditch (National grid 607882). The pottery was identified as Iron Age A and Mr. A. E. P. Collins investigated the site on two occasions for Reading Museum (see *Berks. A. J.* Vol. 51, 65-6 and Vol. 53, 125). An occupational level was found but no trace of any huts or structures. In 1959 Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Weedon drew attention to more pottery and bones in the same river bank so it was decided to make a further search for any possible structures connected with the evident occupation. This was done by kind permission of Mrs. L. T. Hawkins, the owner of the land, with the assistance of local people, mainly members of a Wallingford Workers' Educational Association class on archaeology or members of the Berkshire Field Research Group.

Three 12 ft. square boxes were excavated with 3 ft. balks between them, parallel to and 30 ft. from the river bank. 2 ft. 3 inches below the surface was the same occupational layer as exposed in the nearby river bank, a brown silt mixed with grey earth, grit, shells and stones, in which the pottery, bones, burnt stones and other finds were made. The layer was about 9 inches thick with a level upper surface and very irregular under surface, but no trace of pits, post-holes or other structures could be found. Beneath was more river silt, similar to the silt which overlay the occupational layer.

The following interpretation of the four different layers exposed is suggested:

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---|----------|--|
| Layer 1 | 6-9 in. | Humus | Ploughed | |
| Layer 2 | 1 ft. 6 in. | Brown silt with river shells. | | Accumulations of flood deposits. |
| Layer 3 | 9-15 in. | As above with grey earth and occupational material. | | This level represents the beach at the time of occupation and was subject to flooding. |
| Layer 4 | 2-3 ft. | Brown silt with river shells. | | Accumulations of flood deposits. |

All the pottery from layer 3 is of Iron Age A type. Haemetite-coated ware is absent. Professor Hawkes has suggested that the broken bronzes from this site (*B.A.J.* 51, 66) represent Bronze Age scrap material utilised by the Iron Age people as a source of bronze. Two objects, a Medieval 13th-14th rim sherd and a modern hinge plate 5 in. long were the only objects found of a later period. Their presence was explained by the deep cracks in the overlying layers caused by a spell of hot, dry weather. These cracks show plainly in the section (Plate IIb). The lower label is pinned to layer 3. The Medieval sherd and hinge may therefore be regarded as intrusive and, in the absence of other material, it would appear that accumulation of alluvium proceeded throughout and after this period of occupation and that, by the Roman period, this was already a sealed site.

Pottery: over 200 sherds were found, mainly of buff, through red to black ware, well-fired and hard, containing a great amount of calcined flint grit.

Mr. W. Manning supplies the following note on the illustrated sherds (Fig. 1, Nos. 1-8):—

The sherds illustrated are typical of the pottery from this site. All, save no. 4, contain flint grit in the paste.

1. Top of wide-mouthed vessel with an everted rim in a black fabric with a smooth but not burnished surface. The profile is strongly S-shaped. Although this vessel was unique among the material from Wallingford the type, often with a burnished surface, is common in the Upper Thames area and is typical of Second A in the region. (cf. Mount Farm, Dorchester, *Oxoniensia*, II, 36; and Southcote, Reading, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* III, 43).

2. Top of a vessel with a slightly everted rim, which bears a regular series of finger-tip impressions, in a buff fabric.

3. Rim in a light grey fabric.

4. Rim in a fine fabric, grey brown in colour. The ware contains fine quartzite sand grains instead of flint. It is unusually slight and delicate in comparison with the other pottery from this site.

5. Finger-impressed shoulder with a red exterior and black interior.

6. Sharply everted rim in a buff fabric with an orange surface.

7. Rim in a similar colour and fabric to no. 6.

8. Shoulder with deep finger-nail impressions in a red-buff fabric.

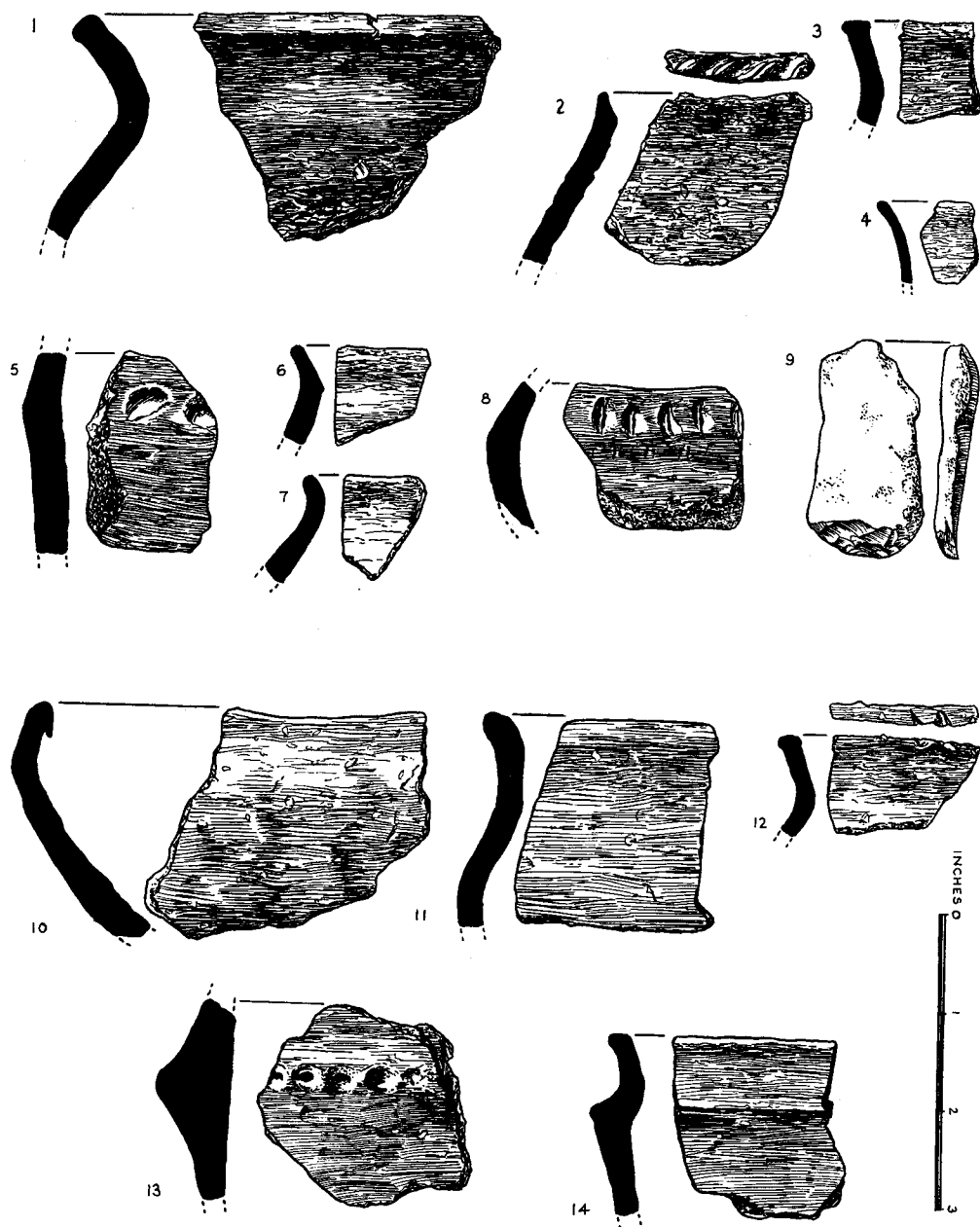


Fig. 1. Iron Age pottery from Wallingford (1-8) and Water Oakley, Bray (10-14); flint artifact (9) from Wallingford

The Wallingford pottery is Southern Second A type. There is a noticeable lack of fine wares and of forms of decoration other than finger-tip impressions. There would appear to be nothing in the group which is unusual in the Upper Thames region.

Spindle whorls. Two broken pottery spindle whorls were found, of the same ware as the pottery vessels. Both would have been circular with a diameter of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Bones. These were mainly very fragmentary, but pig, sheep, ox and roe deer have been identified.

Flint artifacts. 52 rough flakes of flint were found in layer 3 and, in view of the stratification, they must be contemporary with the Iron Age occupation. No cores were found but the style of flake shows that they have not been struck from systematic cores in the Neolithic tradition. Some show non-specialised secondary working, although there is a crude, three-pointed boring tool and one well-formed end-scraper on an outer flake (Fig. 1, no. 9).

Bronze. 4 minute, shapeless fragments of bronze were found and one end of a rivet or nail, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long and $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick at its widest part.

Gold. An unusual find was a minute piece of plate gold, about $\frac{1}{32}$ in. thick, $\frac{3}{16}$ in. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. This could well have slipped in from the surface.

The finds from this site have been kindly given by Mrs. Hawkins to the museum (268:59).

Water Oakley, Bray. A site close to the River Thames has been discovered by Mr. Tom Walls which, like the Wallingford site reported above, is sealed beneath flood silt (National grid 918781). It is hoped to investigate this site in the future. Five of the sherds found by Mr. Walls in a trial examination are illustrated on fig. 1, nos. 10-14 and Mr. W. Manning adds the following note:

The five sherds illustrated are typical of the pottery from this site. All the sherds contain a considerable amount of flint grit in the paste.

10. Top of a bowl with an inturning rim, roughly made in buff-grey fabric. (cf. Long Wittenham, fig. 9, no. 20, *Oxoniensia*, XIII, though this lacks the inturning rim).

11. Top of a wide-mouthed vessel with an everted rim in a buff fabric. The profile is slack and rather S-shaped. (This sherd would appear to have parallels in the Upper Thames area, though many of these, unlike our specimen, are burnished—cf. Southcote, fig. 4, sherd 3, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, III, 49).

12. Rim of a situlate jar in a good buff-orange fabric with two fingernail (?) impressions on the rim.

13. Impressed shoulder in a buff-grey fabric.

14. Top of a finely-made situlate jar, with a sharp, almost exaggerated carination. The exterior is buff coloured, the interior grey (cf. Great Bromley, sherd 1, *Antiquaries Journal*, XVII, 194, though our example is in a better fabric than this).

The pottery from Bray would appear to be more closely related to that from the Lower Thames region than the Upper Thames. All the sherds illustrated can be paralleled from sites in the Lower Thames area, though sherd no. 11 is of a type more common in the West Berkshire-Oxfordshire region.

In type the sherds are Southern second A, and the slack S-shaped profile of no. 11 has been called typical of A2 in Oxfordshire and Berkshire by Myres, though this example would appear to be unusually far East (Mount Farm, Dorchester, *Oxoniensia*, II, 36).

These sherds and several others of the same ware have been kindly given to the museum by Mr. Walls (151:60).

Maidenhead Thicket, Robin Hood's Arbour. Mrs. M. A. Cotton has directed excavations during the summer of 1960 on this sub-rectangular earthwork, by permission of the National Trust and with the assistance of Reading Museum, the Berkshire Archaeological Society Field Research Group, The Middle Thames Archaeological Society and boys from the St. Bartholomew's School, Newbury, Archaeological Society. A full report will be published in a future issue of the *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, but Mrs. Cotton obtained sections across the bank, ditch and counter-scarp bank. Outside and inside the entrance was found a cobbled trackway but no definite evidence for any timber structures. A hut or farmstead probably had existed in the enclosure and burnt down, for several isolated pieces of burnt daub were found, some showing wattle marks. Finds were very scarce but sufficient pottery was found to show that the enclosure had been constructed by the Belgae, probably between A.D. 25-50.

Uffington Castle. In 1947 a silver coin of the Dobunni, type of Mack 384a, was found at the hill fort of Uffington Castle. The museum now possesses an electrotype of this coin through the kind efforts of Professor Piggott, Mr. L. V. Grinsell and Mr. J. Neufville Taylor (19:59).

ROMAN

Newbury. Mr. R. Sheridan of 75 Dene Way, Donnington, has found a small fragment of a late Roman bronze bracelet in his garden. It remains in his possession.

Ruscombe. Mr. Oxlade reported finding three coins in his garden at Boulter's, Southbury Lane, Ruscombe: 2 asses of Domitian and a billon tetradrachm of Aurelian. They remain in his possession.

Cholsey. Mr. Nolley of 67 Station Road reported three coins from his garden, one of Claudius Gothicus, a 3rd century radiate and one of the House of Constantine ('Gloria Exercitus'). They remain in his possession.

Reading. A posthumous commemorative coin of Constantine the Great was found in Mill Lane, Earley, by Mr. R. L. Odell. It remains in his possession.

Reading. A coin of Constantine II was found in the garden of Master Ian Wright, 270 Gainsborough Road, Southcote (129:59).

Harpsden. Master P. Lewington reported the finding of a coin of Constantine ('Urbs Roma') on the site of the Harpsden Roman villa kitchen. This coin is to be added to the collection of material from the Harpsden villa which is now, by the kindness of Mr. S. L. Day, exhibited in Henley Public Library.

Reading. A schoolboy reported the finding of a bronze coin of Tacitus in a builder's trench beside the River Kennet near Reading Gasworks. It remains in his possession.

Brimpton. Mr. J. Phillips reported two coins, of Victorinus and Allectus, from a gravel pit at Brimpton (National grid 563654) on the line of the Silchester—Thatcham road. They remain in his possession.

Shurlock Row. An As of Tiberius has been reported from the garden of a house called 'Goose Nest' at Shurlock Row. It remains with the finder.

Shiplake. An illegible As (2nd century?) was found in the garden of Mr. Kovas at 3 Plowden Way, Shiplake (260:59).

Reading. Mr. B. J. King found a coin of Constantine I ('Urbs Roma') in his garden at 15 Heron Way, Coley Park (45:60).

Tilehurst. Mr. E. A. Hilder reported a coin of Constantine I and Roman pottery sherds from 200 yards South of St. Michael's Church, Tilehurst. The coin remains with the finder.

Checkendon. Mr. Bewell reported a worn sestertius of Marcus Aurelius from Berinshill Wood, Checkendon (National grid 659850). It remains in his possession.

Reading. A very worn sestertius (Vespasian?) was found by Mr. Atkins on the 'Ideal Casements' Eastern extension building site (148:60).

Burghfield. A neck of a ring-necked jar (early 2nd century A.D.) was found by Mr. J. Sparks near Searl's Farm (National grid 690705) and a rim of a coarse ware pot from the gravel pit nearby by Mr. D. Holland (267:58 and 268:58 respectively).

Taplow. A collection of mainly Roman coarse-ware sherds from Taplow Court Gardens (National grid 906822) was given by Mr. Miles (8.60).

Cookham. Further work, by kind permission of Mr. R. S. Prior, in his gravel pit South of Cookham (National grid 885838) has revealed the remains of a T-shaped kiln and a clay-filled trough close to the well reported in the last volume of the *B.A.J.* (Vol. 57, 123). The final clearing of the well revealed an almost complete wooden writing tablet, a morticed piece of timber, a worn quern stone and a much-corroded iron agricultural implement. Work has now been completed at this site, much of which is quarried away.

Brightwell. Mr. J. Rickard of Mackney Court Farm reported large numbers of sherds and 6 3rd–4th century bronze coins in the top soil around his house (National grid 578901). Previous reports of Roman pottery from this vicinity by Mr. P. P. Rhodes and the interest of Mr. Rickard prompted a trial excavation 50 ft. N.W. of Mackney Court Farm House. An area 9 × 9 ft. was uncovered to the natural gravel and disclosed 2 ft. of unstratified humus and brown earth containing numerous 2nd–4th century sherds, a few Mediaeval sherds, Victorian glazed ware and fragments of clay pipes. On one side, however, was a small, shallow pit dug into the loose, sandy, natural gravel, 3 ft. 6 in. in diameter, 15 in. deep and with gently sloping sides. This was

filled with brown earth and gravel, small blocks of chalk marl, traces of mortar, two broken quern stones and the sherds from at least five coarse-ware vessels. No other archaeological feature was found. The pottery from this shallow pit and the quern stones have been kindly given to the museum by Mr. Rickard (126:60).

MEDIEVAL

Reading. A 13th-14th French jetton was found in St. Lawrence's Churchyard by Mr. J. H. Titcombe (146:59).

Reading. An Edward III 'treaty' $\frac{1}{2}$ groat was found by Master Barry Warren of 95 Ashampstead Road, Southcote and purchased for the Museum collections (147:60).

Sonning. Master C. Nixon found a groat of Henry VI, with the centre removed, 300 yards from the site of Sonning Palace, when excavations were being made for a new classroom site. It remains in his possession.

Reading. A long cross penny was found in the Forbury Gardens by Mr. Reed (149:60).

Maidenhead. The lower half of a 14th-15th century green-glazed double-barrelled pitcher with a hollow foot was found in a rubbish pit on the site of the extension to Westminster Bank, Ltd., Maidenhead High Street and given to the Museum by the Company (121:59).

Reading. Demolition and building work at 7 Greyfriars Road revealed some fragmentary remains of the flint and mortar footings of a substantial building, almost certainly connected with the Friary which was built nearby after Abbot Robert of Burgate had given the Friars of Reading a new site in 1285.

Upton. Through the efforts of Mrs. M. Chitty a small hoard of 7 silver coins, found in Upton High Street, was brought to the notice of this museum. Six were purchased from the finder, 3 sixpences of Elizabeth, 2 shillings of Charles I and a shilling of James I (119:60/1-6). An Elizabethan sixpence remains in the possession of the finder.

Earley. A rim sherd of coarse, gritty ware, part of a large bowl with an everted rim, probably 11th-12th century, was found in the garden of Mr. M. C. Lockwood, 89 Beech Lane, Earley (262:59).

Reading. Demolition and construction work at 160-3 Friar Street, during 1958 and 1959 revealed a complexity of cess and rubbish pits. The rapidity of the mechanical clearance of the site made it impossible to observe all these features, but periodic visits and the cooperation of the workmen and engineers allowed a considerable quantity of Medieval material to be collected, including small collections of sherds found associated in the same pits. The most important items are a gold ring with a ruby and indecipherable inscription in Lombardic characters (14th century, probably Italian); an iron twist bit and axe head; a complete 13th century pitcher with a pinched, sagging base; and the top half of a 14th century jug with tubular spout and slashed handle. These have been kindly presented to the Museum by the Prudential Assurance Company and Freeholders (62:59).

SAXON

Drayton. An unexpected addition to the collections was a fine saucer brooch which had been found, in or before 1923, between Drayton and Sutton by an ancestor of the donor, Mrs. B. Harword.(99:60).

THAMES CONSERVANCY BOARD

The following objects have been dredged from the River Thames since September 1958 by the Thames Conservancy Board and added to the loan collection in Reading Museum.

Iron Spearhead. Late Saxon-Viking type found by Mr. A. Tame at the Roebuck Ferry, Tilehurst. It is 12½ in. long with slight moulding on the junction of the socket and blade and also near the base of the socket. It is in poor condition and one side of the socket is missing so it is not possible to be sure that it was closed, although this seems most likely. Part of the wooden shaft remains in the socket. (T.C.B. No. 195. Museum Accession no. 68:59).

Sword blade. Part of an iron sword blade was found by Mr. A. Lewendon above Day's Lock, Little Wittenham. It is in poor condition and cannot be dated precisely. (T.C.B. 196—141:60).

Three stone perforated weights. A triangular-shaped weight of chalk rock was found by Mr. K. West at Mapledurham (T.C.B. 194—67:59) and two oolitic limestone weights of similar shape were found by Mr. A. E. Jones above Day's Lock, Little Wittenham. (T.C.B. 197—8—142:60/1-2). These weights are 4 lb. and over and too heavy for loom weights. They may be net sinkers but their date is unknown.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND CROP MARKS

The dry summer of 1959 produced many crop marks of ancient features in the area of the Middle Thames and Kennet Valley. The observation of four rings in barley from the train at Gatehampton by Mr. Raynor and the reappearance of a ring in a field of Lucerne at Starveacre Field, University Farm, Sonning, noticed from the ground by Professor A. H. Bunting of Reading University, encouraged the chartering of aircraft in order to study these marks and possible others from a suitable angle.

Aerial photographs of the Sonning Area were commissioned by Mr. C. A. Jewell and Mr. John Anstee of the Museum of English Rural Life and the Berkshire Archaeological Society Field Research Group sponsored a flight from White Waltham to Wallingford in July 1959. Fairey Air Survey Ltd. also kindly cooperated and produced some valuable vertical air photographs of the Sonning—Wargrave area. Similarly, a dry spell at the end of June 1960, produced excellent crop marks visible from the ground of the streets at Silchester and Miss M. Tombs noticed four rings in barley at Burghfield, while travelling on the top deck of a Thames Valley bus. It was thus thought opportune to initiate a further flight and this was sponsored by the

Berkshire Archaeological Society. Local interest was aroused and the Berkshire Chronicle made another flight and took photographs of mutual use.

Many new features were discovered and it is evident that, if the many rings seen are of Bronze Age date, a new approach is necessary to the study of this period in the Thames and Kennet Valleys of Berkshire.

The following sites have been detected:

Sonning, Starveacre Field (National grid 767756). A ring 6–7 feet wide enclosing an area 47 ft. in diameter. Two 2 feet wide trenches were cut through opposite sides of this ring by Mr. John Anstee and revealed a flat-bottomed ditch. An imbedded layer of charcoal was exposed on one side above 12 inches of secondary silting. A sherd of gritty, crumbly pottery, possibly Middle to Late Bronze Age was found at the top of one of the ditch sections immediately beneath the plough soil.

Sonning, Straightthanger Field (National grid 767759). A complex of marks including a ring 75 feet in diameter, four rectangles and two parallel lines. (Plate I). The small rectangle in the Eastern part of the field, close to the ring, is under examination by Dr. C. F. Slade of Reading University. To date (November 1960) a shallow V-shaped ditch has been exposed on three sides and some post holes and irregular pits within but there is no dating evidence.

Maidenhead Thicket (National grid 855815). Green patches in the wheat outlined the numerous pits known to have existed as visible features here up to 1930 (Bannard, 1931, *B.A.J.*, XXXV, 64).

Cookham (National grid 877838 and around). Aerial observation was particularly made in this area, over the fields to the West of Mr. R. S. Prior's gravel pit in the hope of finding a trace of the "Camlet Way". Although under wheat or barley, no marks could be seen.

Shiplake (National grid 777788). Immediately north of Shiplake Lock were two superimposed sub-rectangular marks.

Twyford (National grid 773767). A small rectangular enclosure with an entrance on one side and associated with two linear markings was noticed.

Wargrave (National grid 781778). A complicated series of markings between the railway and the River Loddon, including small sub-rectangular enclosures and a ring all connected by linear markings.

Sonning (National grid 765754). To the East of Starveacre a pair of irregular parallel lines and linear marks at right angles butting against them. Probably the Medieval track and field system.

Streatley (National grid 591825). A ring in a field West of the main Streatley—Wallingford road.

Gatehampton (National grid 605799). Four rings in a field immediately North of the railway.

Waltham St. Lawrence (National grid 823778). The octagonal temple at Weycock Hill showed plainly in 1959 and also its surrounding, rectangular temenos.

Burghfield (National grid 678697). Three rings and a small sub-rectangular enclosure without an entrance. An oblique photograph of this site is published in "A Matter of Time", H.M.S.O. 1960.

Upton Nervet (National grid 617691 and 616695). On a gravel terrace and sloping flood plain of the River Kennet. Attention was first drawn to this site by Dr. St. Joseph ("Recent Archaeological Excavations in Britain", 1956, p. 278). Observations were made in 1959 and 1960 and the following features have been recorded: three pairs of parallel lines, rectangular and sub-rectangular markings, pits, small circle and linear marks, South of the Reading—Newbury road. Professor Richmond has examined oblique photographs and suggested that these marks indicate a Roman villa and an earlier Iron Age farmstead with drove ways. North of the main road were six rings (two interlocking) and other linear marks. (Plate IIa).

Book Review

THE HOSPITAL AT WINDSOR. A brief history of Windsor Dispensary and Infirmary and King Edward VII Hospital, 1818–1939. By J. E. McAuley. 8½ × 5½. Pp. 55 + 6 pls. Windsor, Oxley & Son (Windsor) Ltd. 1960. 3/6d.

The incorporation of our hospitals into the National Health Service has produced many changes in their development and the attitude of the public towards them. The great work of many benefactors in the past has soon become but a memory. It is therefore very fitting that the story of the establishment of the Windsor Hospital should be written before the traditions of the past are entirely forgotten.

While great hospitals were being founded in the larger cities of Britain in the 18th century it was not until 1817 that Edward Hawke Lockyer, a retired Naval Pay Office Secretary, initiated the foundation of a General Dispensary in Windsor, by voluntary contributions "for the relief of the sick poor . . . in the vicinity". The Dispensary opened in a house in Church Street on 10 March, 1818. The small Staff had to deal with Small Pox and other epidemics, and in 1849 they treated over 1,000 cases of Cholera, of whom 25 died. It is not surprising that the old buildings—which still stand—became inadequate, and new buildings better designed for their purposes were erected on a site facing the Acre in 1834. This part of the town soon became associated with the Infirmary, and the paths round the open space were a well trodden constitutional for the convalescent.

Of the first medical staff mention is made of John O'Reilly (1818–1833)—there is a memorial to him in the Parish Church; John Chapman, Mayor of Windsor in 1822 and subsequently knighted; Henry Brown who attended Prince Albert in his last illness; W. B. Holderness—twice Mayor, and Geoffrey Pearl. Finance was an increasing burden as the institution grew, and the Committee were fortunate in having for over 30 years John Hibbert of Braywood Lodge, Maidenhead at the head of their affairs until his death in 1888. Another public spirited worker took his place