

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM READING MUSEUM

During the period November 1962—March 1964 the following objects or sites were 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

**Bray.** A rhinoceros tooth was found in the Hoveringham Pit at Bray, among the reject material beneath the gravel screening plant. Given by Mr. P. Bailey who has also found and retained the end of a mammoth tusk. (230:61/1).

**Mapledurham, Oxon.** Mr. H. J. Rich of 81 Woodcote Way, found in his garden a large flint flake (4½ in. long). It has a well-faceted striking platform and is of Levalloisian type. The condition of the flake suggests long surface exposure for it is frost-cracked and has a worn white patina. (1066:64).

**Rotherfield Peppard, Oxon.** The gravel pit at Highlands Farm is no longer being worked, but a few further discoveries have been reported. Mr. Peter Hassell found a quartzite chopper *in situ*, a few inches above the chalk in sandy gravel (267:63) and Mr. R. Sheridan a damaged horse tooth also *in situ*, one inch above the chalk. The latter is the only faunal evidence from the gravel of the ancient channel between Caversham and Henley, apart from a small piece of an elephant's tooth found in the same pit but not *in situ*. (65:63).

**Shiplake, Oxon.** Members of the Berkshire Field Research Group cut a witness section in gravel of the Boyn Hill Terrace in the pit behind Shiplake House Farm, at SU 770788. 11 feet of well-bedded but poorly-sorted gravel was exposed above an irregular pot-holed surface of chalk. Some lumps of Coombe Rock, up to 3 ft. long, were disclosed in another smaller witness section. Seven rolled flakes were found *in situ* in the first cutting, and nine others in the scree of the pit. (146:63/1—16).

**Sulhamstead Abbots.** Master R. Massey found an ovate hand-axe in bulldozed topsoil in the gravel pit being worked immediately east of the church, at SU 647681. The gravel is that of the Winter Hill Terrace at 150 ft. above the River Kennet and a rare provenance for hand-axes. One other was found in 1893 in this parish at the same level (*Victoria County History, Berks., I*, p. 176). (1042:64).

**Tilehurst.** Mr. R. Trussler of 256 Rodway Road, Tilehurst, found a sub-cordate hand-axe ( $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. long) in his garden (SU 677742) at a depth of 4 ft. in a mixture of chalk, clay and gravel. It is in sharp condition with frost cracks. (221:62).

A flat, triangular hand-axe made on a flake ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins. long with about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. of the tip missing) was found in the garden of Mr. E. J. Leeke at Heathway, Chapel Hill, Tilehurst, (SU 663736). It is unrolled but heavily stained and is presumably derived from the gravel deposit which is cut through at this point by the valley known as The Gutter. (109:63/1).

**Woodley.** The gravel pit at Butts Hill (SU 767742) where palaeoliths have been found (*Berks Arch. J.* 59, (1961) pp. 56, 60, 114) ceased working at the end of 1962. Mr. R. Clarke found two rough, rolled pointed hand-axes (212:62/1-2); Mr. R. Sheridan a large flint core ( $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. long) in sharp condition, apparently a Levalloisian two-platformed blade core not developed beyond the initial preparation (219:62).

**Eye and Dunsden, Oxon.** The fragment of a molar tooth of a mammoth was found at Inne's Gravel Pit (SU 73-74-) by Mr. R. Chimes, 19 Coppice Road, Woodley. It was thought to have come from the base of the gravel immediately overlying the chalk. (157:63).

## MESOLITHIC

**Bray.** Mr. P. Bailey reported half of a quartzite hour-glass perforated macehead (230:62/2) found in reject material from the screening plant in the Hoveringham Pit. A complete perforated macehead was found in the same pit in 1962 (*Berks Arch. J.* (1962) 60, p. 115). Other objects found under the same conditions and which may be of the mesolithic period are: two flint flakes (205:63/54-5), a point of antler or bone (230:62/3) and a worked antler of red deer with the beam cut beneath the burr and above the bez tine. The brow tine has been removed but the bez remains. (230:62/4).

**Caversham.** A flint oblique, backed angle graver was found by Mr. T. H. Dixon in his garden at 283 Gosbrook Road, Caversham, and is probably of mesolithic date. (155:63).

**Kintbury and Welford.** Mr. F. R. Froom has continued his investigation of mesolithic sites in these parishes (*Trans. Newbury Dist. Field Club* (1963) 11, pp. 62-87) and a report appears in this journal of a heavy tranche axe of chert which he discovered and is now in Newbury Museum.

**Reading.** A core-graver and a two-platformed blade core were found in the garden of Mrs. D. Petre at 32 Morgan Road, Reading, and remain in her possession.

**Thatcham.** A series of long blades, double-platformed flint cores and a small, pointed, backed blade have been found on the surface at Crown Acres, SU 509666, by members of the Newbury Archaeological Group. The flints are patinated. The site is close to reed beds of the River Kennet but it has not been found possible to locate a concentration. The material has been placed in Newbury Museum.

**Tilehurst.** Further to the blade-like flake found in the garden of Mr. Cyril Leeke, Heathway, Chapel Hill, Tilehurst, reported in *Berks. Arch. J.* 60 (1962), p. 115 (at SU 663736), Mr. E. J. Leeke has found at the same place two more flakes and a finely-made obliquely pointed microlith. This is the first microlith known to have been found in the Reading area. (109:63/2-4).

Nearby, in the garden of 2 Hazelwood Close (at SU 663739), Mrs. W. Forbes found in April 1964 a finely-made flint punch and a small adze, both probably of the Mesolithic period. They remain in her possession.

## NEOLITHIC

**Ashbury, Wayland's Smithy.** (SU 281854). Two seasons of excavations of this monument, in 1962 and 1963, have been undertaken by Professors R. J. C. Atkinson and Stuart Piggott on behalf of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. The main, chambered tomb has been restored and now makes an imposing appearance: four facade stones have been re-erected, the cap-stones replaced on the western and end chambers and the kerb stones flanking each side of the mound have also been re-erected where found. The quarry ditches on each side of the mound were sectioned in several places. The burial chambers were cleaned out by Mr. Reginald Smith and Mr. C. R. Peers in their partial excavation of Wayland's Smithy in 1919 and 1920 (*Ant. J.* 1 (1921), 183-198) when they discovered the remains of eight people. A few further human bones, including part of the skull of a baby, were found, however, in 1962 at the bottom of the filling in the passage.

The centre of the mound was found to be covering another much smaller tomb. This tomb, called Wayland's Smithy I to differentiate it from the later mound and chambering, Wayland's Smithy II, consisted of a pavement of flat sarsen stones about 16 ft. long set between two low walls made from sarsen boulders. A large, D-shaped pit existed at each end and on the pavement were found the disarticulated bones of some dozen skeletons and one complete crouched burial. There were no grave goods except for three leaf-shaped flint arrowheads, all with their extreme tips missing. A few sherds found on the old land surface are of Windmill Hill type and charcoal samples may give a radiocarbon date. Wayland's Smithy I was presumably roofed with logs placed on to a ridge pole supported by large, upright timbers set in the pits at the end. These uprights probably stood high and may have been elaborately carved like Indian totem poles. The whole structure was eventually covered by chalk dug from two side ditches and some small sarsen stones set upright along the edges of the mound. How long this small tomb remained in this condition before it was covered by the construction of Wayland's Smithy II is unknown, but it is thought to have been no more than a few decades.

**Basildon.** Mr. H. Lucking reported a Late Neolithic type jet belt slider that he had found in June 1962 on the dump beside the towpath of Thames Conservancy dredgings. (132:62)

**Beenham.** A greenstone axe in fine condition was found during the removal of gravel with a mechanical grab at the Marley Tile Pit, north of the Bath Road and close to the Tower Café (SU 604678). This was reported to the museum by Mr. C. Meredith of the Marley Tile Co. The axe has the pointed butt and faceted sides typical of the products of the Great Langdale axe factory. (145:63).

A visit to the site disclosed that an average of 5 ft. of alluvial loam had been bulldozed away, revealing more than three-quarters of the ditch-filling of a large ring ditch, about 180 ft. in diameter. Gravel-digging had removed the remainder and it was in this area that the greenstone axe had been found. It thus seems most likely that the axe came from the ditch filling of the ring ditch.

Permission was given by the Marley Tile Co. to conduct rescue excavations and seven sections were cut across the ditch. A proton gradiometer survey and other investigations failed to locate any features within the ring ditch. All of the ditch sections produced sherds and flint artifacts at all levels in the uniform loamy filling. The sherds included one rolled beaker fragment and part of the base of a flat-based pot, possibly Rinyo-Clacton ware. Among the flints were two pieces of a ground flint axe, a scraper, two knives (one with a slightly ground edge) and a micro-burin. This ring ditch has now been quarried away. (177:63/1-34).

**Bray.** Among the various discoveries made in the Hoveringham Gravel Pit by Mr. P. Bailey (see above and below under headings of all periods) was one sherd of Rinyo-Clacton ware. (230:62/5).

Mr. C. C. Stanley found *in situ* at the north end of the pit (SU 916785) at the top of a black layer, just above the water table and beneath 4-5 ft. of alluvium a finely preserved Neolithic antler comb close to a human skull cap and a broken femur. In material beneath the mechanical screening plant and brought from this area he found part of a human occipital bone and ten gritty sherds some of which are of Windmill Hill ware. (227:63/1-4 and 262:63/7-17).

In the same pit Mr. R. Miles found a saddle quern, the underneath of which had been used as a sharpening stone. (235:63).

Mr. D. L. Thurlow found a small adze of flint 60 yds. from the river bank in a potato patch, 100 yds. downstream from Bray Studios (SU 921778). (207:63).

Members of the Maidenhead District Archaeological and Historical Society watched the cutting in September 1963 of a trench for a gas pipe from Bray to Waltham St. Lawrence. Two unusual groups of large stones in the sides of the trench were reported in the parish of Bray, one group of about six near Cresswells Farm (SU 885784) and three others near Great Thrift Wood (SU 872777).

A pit was seen near the latter group and it produced three pot-boilers, two small flint flakes and a sherd of soft, gritty pottery. The stones are of a calcareous sandstone foreign to the district and were roughly semi-circular with a diameter of about 18 ins., and the same height. A photograph of one of them, broken by the trench-

digging machine, suggests they could have been the bases of upright stones set in the ground. See under Shottesbrooke for further discoveries made during the watching of this pipe-laying.

**Caversham.** A perforated axe-hammer (Woodhenge type) of coarse-grained rock was found in February 1963 on a building site in Blenheim Road, on ground backing on to 1 Kidmore Road, by Miss Joyce Shears (SU 711752). The site was visited but nothing could be seen of significance in or near the shallow trenches. (73:63).

**Combe.** Master C. Anstey found a chipped flint axe/adze on ploughed ground at SU 387612. It remains in his possession.

**Englefield.** One of the four conjoining ring ditches at SU 624702, discovered from the air in July, 1962 (Plate IIa) was totally excavated from 8th April–6th May 1963 by Mr. Paul Ashbee and Mr. J. J. Wymer on behalf of Reading Museum, in conjunction with Berkshire Field Research Group. The ring ditch selected was the smallest, most easterly one, 50 ft. in diameter.

The ditch filling contained about 150 small sherds, all of soft texture and mainly very gritty. There are almost two dozen decorated or rim fragments and these include Windmill Hill, Rinyo-Clacton, Mortlake and Beaker wares. Also in the ditch filling were numerous flint flakes, two transverse arrowheads, some scrapers, a 'strike-a-light', a serrated blade and other minor products of a Late Neolithic flint industry. Sherds and flints occurred at all levels in the ditch. The area enclosed by the ditch produced a minute fragment of bronze, but the only structure was a shallow pit, 1–2 ft. deep, which contained in the upper part of its filling eight sherds of Rinyo-Clacton ware, two well-made flint scrapers, some flint flakes, a few calcined flint pebbles and several scraps of charcoal. The filling of this pit was a soft buff loam with darker patches in the centre near the bottom, probably the staining of decomposed organic matter, but no distinct shape could be seen apart from one small horizontal rectangle 17 in. × 5 in. and 1 in. thick.

The ditch of the larger conjoining ring ditch was sectioned at its points of intersection with the one under excavation. It was cut 4 ft. deep into the gravel and truncated the smaller ring ditch. A full report will be forthcoming. (175:63).

**Farnborough.** Mr. N. V. Quinnell of the Archaeological Division of the Ordnance Survey found a sarsen stone saddle quern among material used to infill ruts in the track beside Combe Plantation, Farnborough Down (SU 417822). (281:63).

**Goring, Oxon.** Mr. J. S. Lillington reported a small sherd of gritty pottery with grooved decoration that was found with burnt stones and charcoal at the bottom of a pit exposed in the digging of a cess pit at The Firs, Hill Bottom, Goring Heath (SU 643793). The site was visited on 4th July 1963 and the pit was seen to be 7 ft. wide, flat-bottomed and one foot deep, visible in section only on the south face of the excavation for the cess pit. It was buried beneath 1 ft. 6 in. of soil, recently made-up ground and the remains of an earlier soil level. No other sherds or evidence could be found. (169:63).

**Maidenhead.** A ground axe was found by Mr. John Kendrick of the Slough Sub-Aqua Club on 21st October 1963 while diving south of the island opposite Skindle's Hotel by Maidenhead Bridge. It remains in his possession.

**Peasemore.** A ground flint axe, rechipped to make a crude adze or hoe, was found by Mrs. S. Brown of Princes Farm (SU 457771) in her orchard. The exact provenance is suspect as soil from the farm had been dumped here. The axe remains in her possession.

Mrs. S. Brown also reported that sarsens had been ploughed up east and west of the track between Mud Lane and Prior's Wood (between about SU 455762 and 464761). An alignment of large stones is said to have existed in this area before being destroyed in 1870 (*Trans. Newbury Dist. Field Club* II (1878), 16 and *Berks., Bucks. and Oxon. Arch. J.* VII (1901), 58) and these sarsens may have been connected with it. Sarsens also exist in a pit in front of Hillgreen House, where they were dumped about 1870. Several others are in the locality.

**Reading.** Mrs. A. E. Mace found a small pointed nodule of flint that appears to have been roughly flaked and used as a punch in her garden at 94 Bath Road. (266:63).

Mr. Gordon Gale found a slightly-worked flint flake in his garden at 80a, Crescent Road. It remains in his possession.

**Shottesbrooke.** A small, shallow pit, 3 ft. 8 in. wide and 2 ft. 3 in. deep was seen and examined by members of the Maidenhead District Archaeological and Historical Society in the gas pipe trench cut in September 1963 near Littlefield Green (at SU 852767). The pit was cut into clay and a thin layer (1-2 in.) of charcoal and ash occurred 6 in. from the bottom, also containing a few minute scraps of calcined bone including a piece of skull that could be human. The pit filling contained four flint flakes, two small, crude cores and four sherds. One of the flakes has been struck by bar-hammer technique and is probably the waste from axe manufacture. The sherds are body sherds from at least three different vessels, all containing flint grit. The largest sherd is of finer ware than the others with a smooth buff exterior and very fine grit. A Neolithic date for this feature seems likely. (273:63/1-12).

Two other smaller pits with traces of burning were seen in the trench at intervals of 12 and 29 ft. to the west. For other discoveries in this gas pipe trench see under Bray.

**Wargrave.** Dr. A. E. Mourant has made a new survey of the stones of the Mont de La Ville Passage Grave from Jersey which has been at Park Place, Wargrave, since 1788 (see *Berks. Arch. J.* 49 (1946) 42-8) and his report has been published in the *bulletin of the Société Jersiaise*, 18, (1963), part 3, pp. 317-328. He draws attention to five small stones incorporated in the walling, with smooth hollows that have been made artificially.

Members of the Berkshire Field Research Group helped, on the 16th December 1962, to re-erect two of the large fallen stones. A short account of this work is appended to Dr. Mourant's report.

**Woodley and Sandford.** Mr. A. Kille found a thick flint flake, 4 in. long, with coarse secondary working, probably an unfinished pick or punch, in his garden at Cherry Cottage, 71 Colemans Moor Road. (SU 768722). (144:63).

#### BRONZE AGE

**Bray.** Ten bronze implements or weapons have been found at the Hoveringham Gravel Pit, and also a fragmentary cake of copper. The material probably represents a hoard but was mainly recovered by Mr. P. Bailey and Mr. C. C. Stanley from the reject material off the screening plant so this cannot be proved. The following have been added to the museum collections: socketed axe, small socketed spearhead and fragmentary cake of copper (150-2:63); blade end of a socketed axe, small socketed spearhead, tanged knife and an unusual cylindrical terminal (1043-6:64). A sword, basal-looped socketed spearhead, socketed axe and socketed knife remain in the possession of Mr. P. Bailey.

A bronze, single-looped socketed axe in fine condition was found during 1960-1 in a load of gravel traced to some gravel pit at Bray. Purchased for the museum. (210:63).

**Bucklebury.** A Late Bronze Age sword with a lustrous dark green patina was reported as having been found under Bucklebury Church (SU 553709) in 1960 during building work. The edges of the blade are corroded and the end of the hilt broken away, but the sword is otherwise complete. Nothing else is known of the circumstances of its discovery and it is said to have been hung on a string in the workmen's hut for some months after being found. Given by the Rev. D. B. Ashburner. (274:63).

**Sonning Town.** Two bronze bangles in fine condition of Middle Bronze Age type were purchased for the museum. They had been found in 1953 apparently in a work trench at Charvil Farm (SU 773762) but nothing else is known to have been found with them. (275:63)

**Winnersh.** A small urn (5½ in. high) with two perforated lugs and dotted decoration in horizontal bands was found by Mr. W. Adams when using a mechanical shovel in 1962 on a building site near Merryhill Green (SU 788711). Another urn was found with it, "slightly larger and fell to pieces" according to Mr. Adams, but nothing was retained. (159:63).

#### IRON AGE

**Beenham.** Mr. J. Fidler and C. Meredith reported the discovery of a Belgic cremation in the Marley Tile Pit near the Tower Café (SU 605678). The cremation was contained within an urn of coarse ware and this was partially sliced and left in section by the bulldozer which was taking off the loam above the gravel. The top of the urn was only 9 in. below the surface and nothing remained of its upper part and rim, presumably having been removed by the plough. A large quantity of calcined bone was within the remains of the urn but all too fragmentary to indicate

anything other than it was a human cremation. Also in the urn were some other coarse ware sherds, possibly of the same vessel, and one of a thicker, harder pot, a sherd from a wheel-turned cordoned urn and a piece of thin, fine ware. A small fragment of corroded iron was also present.

The urn was only a few feet outside the large ring ditch dated to the Late Neolithic period (see pages 99, 109). (160:63/1-15 and 161:63).

**Bray.** A large quantity of coarse Iron Age pottery sherds was found beneath the screening plant of the Hoveringham Gravel Pit. Similar material was found in situ in the north east corner of the pit, at SU 916786, within one hundred yards of the River Thames. A silted-up channel of the river was visible in the face of the pit to the south, suggesting that the area in question had been a peninsula or island at some time. Most of the sherds were about two feet below the surface, above and in flood silt, associated with two layers of burnt flint cobbling. G. Cpt. T. P. F. Trudgian and Mr. C. C. Stanley were conducting rescue excavations and a full report will be forthcoming. Pottery from the site has been reported in this Journal before (vol. 58 (1960) p. 58). With the sherds were numerous struck flints, animal bones, a human parietal bone, a spindle whorl and some grain. (230:62/6-20, 108:63/1-2, 205:63/1-53/56-89, 262:63/1-206).

**Caversham.** The base of an Iron Age colander pot was found by Mr. P. Hassell on a building site to the east of Bar Close Avenue, off the Henley Road. (1068:64).

**Goring.** A silver coin of Epatticus was found in the garden of Mr. C. F. Wells, Glen Sourri, Gatehampton Road, in February 1964. (SU 603805). Obverse: a seated, half-draped winged figure holding a wreath TAS CIO V. Reverse: a boar running right beneath a tree EPAT.

One other similar coin is known in Britain, from Bagendon, Glos. (*Bagendon, A Belgic Oppidum* (1961) p. 142 and pl. XXXVIII, 17). The coin has been purchased for the museum. (1188:64).

**Highclere, Hants.** A bridle cheek-piece of bronze with inlaid enamel decoration was reported by Mr. F. Smith as having been found at Pen Wood (SU 44-62-). The exact details of its discovery and provenance are unknown. One end is missing, the break being an ancient one. (216:62).

#### ROMAN

**Basildon.** A complete bronze spoon was found by Mr. R. Taplin in the Thames Conservancy dredgings dumped beside the towpath at Basildon (SU 610795). (265:63).

**Bray.** A rim-sherd of yellow-grey ware was found beneath the screening plant of the Hoveringham Gravel Pit by Mr. P. Bailey, and Mr. C. C. Stanley found three coins: AE Constantius II, AR Otacilia Severa and AE Magnentius. (153:63 and 1052:64/1-3).

Mr. T. Walls reported a pit (?) exposed in the working face of a gravel pit immediately south of the M<sub>4</sub> at SU 898785. This was examined by Mrs. C. Graham and found to be 6 ft. deep, flat-bottomed and with vertical sides. Roman sherds were found at all levels within the filling, the bottom of which contained layers of ash and charcoal. (1285:64/1-136).

**Cookham.** Mr. C. Woodburn reported an AE coin of Constantine II from the garden of Heron's Creek, Cookham Dean, on the river bank. It remains in his possession.

**Henley, Oxon.** A denarius of Tiberius was found in the garden of Mr. D. R. Chaplin, 10 Crisp Road, Henley and purchased for the museum. (119:63).

**Moulsford.** Mr. P. H. Crampton and Mr. J. H. Percival continued their investigations at Moulsford and excavated an area where a proton gradiometer survey had detected an anomaly. Four coffined burials were found and the skeletons of a human baby and a cat, all dated to the Roman period by the presence of sherds. The bones have been re-interred.

**Pangbourne.** Attention was drawn by Mr. J. Harper and Mr. W. L. Kitson to the drainage trench cut across the Pangbourne-Streatley Road opposite their property at the foot of Shooters Hill. The modern road surface was seen to be two feet above the solid chalk, and buried two earlier metallings of limestone chippings and gravel. Margary (*Roman Roads in Britain*, Vol. 1 (1955) p. 151) thinks it most likely that the road from Dorchester to Silchester passed through Pangbourne along the line of the modern road. The recent section does not help in determining whether the lowest gravel metalling is Roman or 18th century Turnpike improvement, but the length of road confirmed at Ufton Nervet in 1961 (*Berks. Arch. J.* 59 (1961) p. 58) makes it appear very likely that there was a direct route from Streatley through Bradfield.

**Reading.** A dupondius of Domitian (?) was found about 1954 in the garden of Mr. C. W. E. Bridgman, 160 Southcote Lane, Reading, at a depth of about 2 ft. (107:63).

An AE coin of Honorius or Arcadius was found at 53 Hosier Street, Reading, and purchased for the museum. (1213:64).

An illegible AE 'radiate' coin was found in the garden of Mr. G. R. Crawford, 99 Brixham Road, Whitley Estate. (270:63).

**Tilehurst.** An AE coin of Constantine I ('Urbs Roma') was found by Mrs. H. Collett in the garden of 58 School Road, Tilehurst, about 1952. It remains in her possession.

## MEDIEVAL AND LATER

**Aldworth.** Dr. Peter Wood of the Dept. of Geography, Reading University contributes the following note on some medieval pottery found at Woodrows Farm in the course of some excavations he directed:

The remains come from the paddock to the north of the old farm cottages (? seventeenth century) at grid reference SU 545792. Woodrows Farm, at nearly 600 feet above sea level, faces westwards over the Churn Gap and the headsprings of the River Pang to the hillfort and "Celtic" fields of Perborough Castle. The farm has already yielded important remains in the form of a late Roman pottery kiln and tiler, in fields southwest of the farmhouse (W. E. Harris, *Berks. Arch. J.* 39 (1935) pp. 93-5). Over the last thirty years, the family of Mr. Chapman, the farmer, have found Roman sherds and coins in the immediate vicinity of the cottages also. The paddock itself has remained unploughed until recently, when a cultivator was taken over it which dragged up numerous large flints. These appeared to come from several low banks and scarps which are arranged around three platforms; and members of the Geography Department, Reading University, were invited to investigate the site in June 1963. Trenches were dug on the outermost (lying furthest north from the cottages) of the pattern of banks and on an internal division of one of the platforms.

The site lies on a small capping of Reading Beds clay, overlying Upper Chalk. The two banks are of earth with dry flint cores, originally about two feet wide but now extremely degraded. These are not the walls of buildings and they lack foundations. Presumably they were intended as enclosure banks, the flints being brought in from elsewhere. Charcoal, an occasional bone, and twenty-five pieces of pottery came from within and around the flint work and from a hollow outside the enclosures. Mr. J. G. Hurst has been kind enough to identify the pottery. He considers that the pieces from the interior bank, which include some with a little glaze, are earlier than those from the outer bank and from the hollow. The assemblage as a whole he assigns to the twelfth and early thirteenth century.

It is naturally of considerable interest to have this medieval accession to the Romano-British context already established for Woodrows Farm. In its own right, too, the medieval attribution is significant, dating as it does from the years of expanding cultivation, before the Black Death and those changes in rural economy which accompanied the desertion of many medieval sites. Documentation is lacking for antecedents to the present buildings at Woodrows. Even the name is obscure. However, this is a medieval site which was not deserted permanently but one where (on present indications) settlement returned within a few hundred years, if indeed it did not continue throughout. The sherds are in the collections of the Dept. of Geography, Reading University.

**Bray.** Some medieval material was found at the Hoveringham Gravel Pit. Mr. P. Bailey reported five sherds of coarse, sandy grey ware with finger-impressed ribs, thought to be Saxo-Norman. (154:63).

From the same site, Mr. C. C. Stanley found an iron adze. (1047:64).

*In situ*, beneath 5 ft. of flood silt and just above the water table, in the north part of the pit, a near-complete leather shoe was recovered. It is of pointed form with a

small bronze buckle and a V-shaped slit at the ankle, a style characteristic of the latter half of the 15th century. (290:63).

**Cumnor.** Mr. G. Geary of the Archaeological Division of the Ordnance Survey reported that sherds and eight patches of stones were visible on the ploughed ground at the deserted medieval village site at Whitley. (SU 442047).

**Kingsclere, Hants.** Mr. Cwling reported a much-corroded and broken long sword, c. 15th century, from Frobury Farm. (112:63).

**Maidenhead.** Members of the Maidenhead District Archaeological and Historical Society investigated an area under development near Norden's Farm, north of Altwood Road at SU 869804, and discovered traces of early buildings. Some pits produced several sherds of 12th–13th century earthenware cooking pots. (231:62/1–48).

**Reading.** Extensions to the Marks and Spencer building in Friar Street gave little opportunity for archaeological investigation because of the engineering methods used. Sections which were observed only showed 5 ft. of confused, made-up ground above undisturbed gravel. A salt-glazed stoneware jar of 16th–17th century type was found in one trench by a workman and remains in the possession of the company. The foreman said that several old pits were met in driving piles. Chalk was at 26–29 ft. below the modern surface.

Two extended human skeletons were discovered when workmen cut through some graves while digging the footings for the new Greyfriars Vicarage, on the west side. This was reported by Mr. Spriggs and the burials are assumed to be connected with the old friary. The section showed that the fillings of the graves had already been disturbed by the digging of the footings for the previous vicarage built by Sir John Soane.

Mr. P. Clark reported numerous broken clay pipes found in made-up ground on the building site of the Society of Friends Meeting House in Church Street. The pipes are of 1630–50 types and with them were fragments of white fired clay containing broken pipes, similar to the kiln material found at Lambeth, London. These fragments, however, were not *in situ* but also in the made-up ground, so a pipemaker's kiln cannot be proved to have existed on the site. (220:63/1–6).

The demolition and initial construction work on the new Prudential Office Block south of the Forbury Gardens was watched but no medieval layers could be recognised in the confused heaps and sections produced by the contractors. The earliest material found was two 16th century 'greybeard' stoneware jars and some sherds of about the same date. A well was disclosed in the basement of 22 The Forbury when it was demolished. (106:63/1–11, 282:63/1–2).

**Stanford in the Vale.** Mr. and Mrs. H. Howse found more medieval material in the garden of the Manor House, mainly close to the site where the bronze skillet was discovered in 1961 (*Berks. Arch. J.* 60 (1962) pp. 89–100). It includes 15th century sherds, a broken bone spindle whorl and some pieces of sheet bronze. (156:63/1–23).

**Wallingford.** Mr. A. Lawson reported the discovery of human bones behind the Laundry in Goldsmith's Lane, 1-2 ft. below the surface. Five individuals were represented and some minute sherds of medieval coarse pottery were found inside one of the skulls. (1034:64/1-3).

**Winkfield.** Mr. F. M. Underhill contributes the following note on earthworks in this parish:

No earthworks in the parish of Winkfield are mentioned in the Victoria County History of Berkshire, and Peake, in his *Archaeology of Berkshire* (Methuen 1931) makes brief mention of Rapley's Farm (pp. 86 and 246). The 1899 edition of Kelly's Directory of Berkshire (p. 266) however, says: "Foliejon Park, the seat of Gilbert Gordon Blane, Esq., J.P., is situated on an eminence in an undulating park, extending over an area of 550 acres. Here is an ancient hill entrenchment, possibly Roman, and noted by Gough in his additions to Camden. The banks and ditches of the camp still remain in excellent preservation; and here also stood in medieval times, a tower, which from its elevated and isolated position, must have been a landmark for miles around in Windsor forest."

This statement, which is confusing Caesar's Camp Easthampstead, also Tower Hill in Winkfield, has led to the Society receiving many enquiries in recent years. In the early months of 1963, the Archaeology Branch of the Ordnance Survey were working in this area of the County. Mr. G. Geary of that Dept. was asked to take special note of any remains in Foliejon Park. He reports as follows: "The only earthworks in Foliejon Park were:

1. The moat which formerly surrounded the site of the old manor house and of which three sides can still be traced. It is typical of its kind and unlikely to have been mistaken for a prehistoric work.
2. Fragments of the medieval park pale survive and where these do not coincide with modern field boundaries could possibly have been mistaken for earlier works. The pale is shown on Norden's MAP OF WINDSOR AND BERKSHIRE 1607 (Copy in the Royal Library, Windsor Castle, reproduced in facsimile as the frontispiece to Vol. 2 of ANNALS OF WINDSOR, Tighe & Davis, London, Longman Brown, Green, Longmans and Roberts, 1858).

The earthwork at Tower Hill, although in Winkfield parish, is some five miles south of Foliejon Park. The work is small and of irregular shape and unlike a prehistoric work. On Norden's Map of 1607, a building called "New Towre" is shown, probably a royal hunting lodge. The earthwork may well have been a boundary feature associated with this building.

## THAMES CONSERVANCY LOAN COLLECTION

The following objects have been dredged from the River Thames since November 1962 by the Thames Conservancy and added to their loan collection in Reading Museum. The numbers in brackets after each entry are the Thames Conservancy catalogue number and museum accession number respectively.

*Scramasax*. Found below Benson Lock by L. Trendall. (TCB 253, 227:62).

*Small iron socketed spearhead*. The blade is recessed on alternate, opposite sides and it is probably a Saxon weapon. Found below Benson Lock by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 254, 228:62).

*Stoneware Tankard with legend: 'T. Cherrell 1785'*. Found below Benson Lock by Mr. R. Blackall. (TCB 255, 229:62).

*Bronze spearhead with basal loops*. A weapon of Middle Bronze Age type, in fine condition, found in Old Windsor Backwater by Mr. H. Coombes. (TCB 256, 252:63).

*Skull of Bos primigenius with horn cores*. Found in Old Windsor Backwater by Mr. H. Coombes. (TCB 257, 253:63).

*Neck of 12th-13th century pitcher*. Found above Wallingford Bridge by Mr. J. Crimsmanauskas. (TCB 258, 254:63).

*Two perforated stone weights*, probably Medieval. Found in Benson Reach, Cleeve, by Mr. R. Grant. (TCB 259-260, 255-256:63).

*Iron axe-head*. Medieval. Found in Benson Reach, Cleeve, by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 261, 257:63).

*Broken Iron Sword*, of Danish type, 10th-11th century. Found in Benson Reach, Cleeve, by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 262, 258:63).

*Small iron hunting spearhead*. Medieval. Found in Benson Reach, Cleeve, by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 263, 259:63).

*Neck of pot*, Roman 3rd-4th century. Found in Benson Reach, Cleeve, by Mr. J. Hutton. (TCB 264, 260:63).

*Long iron, socketed spearhead* of Late Saxon/Viking type. Found in Benson Reach, Cleeve, by Mr. R. Phelan. (TCB 265, 261:63).

*Long iron, socketed spearhead* of Late Saxon/Viking type found above Wallingford Bridge by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 266, 1080:64).

*Iron dagger*, much bent. Late Medieval. Found above Wallingford Bridge by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 267, 1081:64).

*Iron socketed spearhead* of Late Saxon/Viking type. Found above Bow Bridge, Cholsey, by Mr. T. Wiltshire. (TCB 268, 1082:64).

*Scramasax*. Found above Bow Bridge, Cholsey, by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 269, 1083:64).

*Pottery water-bottle*. Medieval. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 270, 1085:64).

*Iron socketed spearhead*, much bent, of Late Saxon/Viking type. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 271, 1085:64).

*Iron sword blade*, of Iron Age type. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 272, 1086:64).

*Iron socketed spearhead* of Late Saxon/Viking type. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr. C. Clarke. (TCB 273, 1087:64).

*Bronze dirk*. Middle Bronze Age, in very fine condition. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr. J. Hutton. (TCB 274, 1088:64).

*Rim sherd of large jar*, Roman. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr. J. Hutton. (TCB 275, 1089:64).

*Rim sherd of large jar*, Roman, possibly the same vessel as above. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr. J. Hutton. (TCB 276, 1090:64).

*Socketed bronze spearhead*. Late Bronze Age. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr. R. Lock. (TCB 277, 1091:64).

### AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND CROP MARKS

The wet summer of 1963 prevented the formation of distinct crop marks and, although three flights were made, very little was detected. The first flight, on 27th May, was made in connection with Mrs. D. Woolner's paper to the Society of Antiquaries on the White Horse of Uffington. Colour transparencies were obtained of the White Horse and other known sites along the Ridgeway from Lockinge to Ashbury. Observation of the barrow on Woolstone Down, 200 yds. south of Idlebush barrow, showed it to be a degraded disc barrow as Grinsell thought was most likely, although on the ground it appears much more like a saucer barrow.

On 23rd June photographs were obtained of the ring ditch exposed at Beenham by bulldozing (Plate II*b*) as described above (page 99). In the adjacent field to the east, around SU 605679, a trackway and other marks were just visible. This area is threatened by extensions of the Marley Tile Pit. Flying over Straighthanger Field, Sonning, on the same date, over the site of the rectilinear enclosure excavated by Dr. C. F. Slade, the previously recorded crop marks were just visible. In the field immediately to the east at about SU 768761 there was a fairly clear mark of a small oval enclosure, the length of the major axis estimated at about 100 ft. but it was not possible to obtain a photograph. A further flight a week later was arranged to include this feature but it was discovered that the mark had completely disappeared. The marks in Straighthanger Field were still just visible. A photograph was obtained of the four ring ditches at Burghfield (SU 677698) as recorded in *A Matter of Time* (H.M.S.O. 1960, pl. 6a) and the rectilinear enclosure near Theale Green, in the parish of Englefield at SU 625706 reported as a possible feature in this journal (Vol. 59 (1961) p. 60).