

NOTES

Mesolithic Flints from Beadlow Manor Farm, Clophill

KEVAN FADDEN

In the course of road widening operations at Beadlow Manor Farm, Clophill (TL 111383) a number of worked flints were discovered by the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society. The site was first walked in July 1972 when a fence was erected by the contractors: three flints (1, 2, 8) were discovered in spoil from the fence postholes. A second visit when the area had been scraped to a depth of 0.6m revealed natural sand had been reached and further flints and some working debris (not illustrated) were found. In the section formed where the mechanical excavator stopped, about 3m from the fence line, neither a concentration of flints nor irregularity in soil levels was apparent.

- 1 Mesolithic core, black translucent, no patina, unworn.
- 2 Corinated scraper, retouched at end, grey translucent, no patina, unworn.
- 3 End scraper, retouched at end, buff translucent, no patina, unworn.
- 4 Unfinished microlith, black translucent, no patina, unworn.
- 5 Microburin, retouched, grey translucent, no patina, unworn.
- 6 Rejuvenating flake, black translucent, no patina, unworn.
- 7 Point, no retouching, no patina, unworn.
- 8 Microlith, black translucent, no patina, unworn.

The flints are all unpatinated and in a sharp unworn condition, belonging to the Mesolithic tradition. They are similar to those from Ruxox Farm,

A Middle Bronze Age Palstave from Dunton

JANE HASSALL

A bronze palstave, discovered during ploughing at Church Farm, Dunton, (TL 239442) has recently been acquired by Bedford Museum (accession no. 1973/4/1). It is in particularly fine condition with cutting edge (7.5 cm in length) and flange edges only slightly worn. It is 16.7 cm long

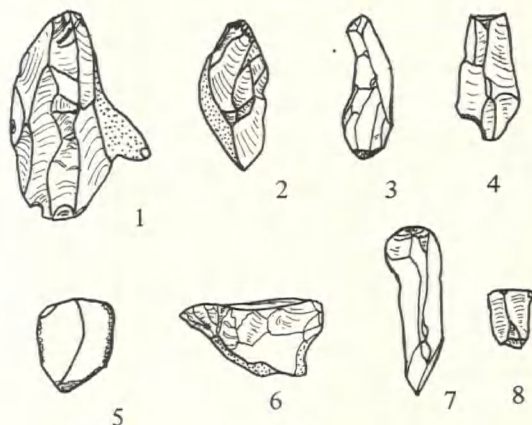


Fig. 1 Mesolithic Flints from Beadlow Manor, Clophill (scale ½)

Maulden, some 6 km (3.75 miles) west. Indeed, the Beadlow Manor site on the Lower Greensand ridge bordering the River Flit is very similar in its location to the position of the Ruxox site. It seems probable that, as at Ruxox, the discovery of a number of flints within a small area indicates wider settlement. In such circumstances, it is probable that the site of a Mesolithic working floor has been partially disturbed and it is unlikely that the paucity of flint finds brought to light by the road widening operations is the main concentration. It will therefore be necessary to conduct further work on the site to verify the existence of this Mesolithic site.

with a flanged haft end, and partly developed stop-ridge.¹ The blade is elaborately curved or splayed, which is one of the features indicating a Middle Bronze Age date for this example, (1400-1000 B.C.)² Early Bronze Age axes or palstaves generally have a 'crinoline' shaped blade which be-