

NOTES

IVER: *Larbourne Farm, Thorney*. Mr. M. Bawtree, Hon. Treasurer of the West Drayton and District Local History Society, reports that since last summer many mammalian bones and potsherds have been dredged by the mechanical plant in the course of winning gravel beside the Colnebrook near Larbourne Farm, Thorney, in Iver parish. Following the display of representative series before the annual general meeting of the Thames Basin Archæological Observers Group, steps were taken for the various remains to be identified.

Although it appears from examination that none of the bones really adds to our knowledge of the ancient fauna, much interest attaches to some of the specimens. Thus, there is an exceptionally fine and nobly horned skull of the extinct Great Ox, *Bos primigenius* Boj., and the antlers of Red Deer in the clutch are of a much larger beast than the degenerate modern descendant of the species. So far it has not been possible to date precisely these bones owing to the lack of stratigraphical details and other aids. However, the condition of the bovid bones suggests that they were drawn from the upper part of the drowned flood-plain gravel rather than from a higher bed. Hence they may reasonably be assigned to the end of the Pleistocene epoch. On the other hand, it is likely that the cervid antlers are from the overburden and therefore very much later.

The pottery certainly comes from the capping alluvium. It is meantime of greater significance than the bones. Some of the pieces are of Romano-British ware ranging from the first to the fourth century of our era. Amongst these is the top half of a narrow necked jar, and a small piece of samian with potter's stamp, so far unidentified. Other fragments have been reconstructed as part of a blackish earthenware twelfth/thirteenth-century cooking pot. It can be assumed, therefore, that the sherds came from beds of different ages. In this regard their discovery parallels several comparable finds in the valley of the Lea in south-east Herts and east London. With its distributary channels, late Pleistocene and Holocene (geological Recent) valley deposits, this region has its counterpart in the basin of the Colne between Rickmansworth and Staines. The archæological evidence in both areas, as is now well known, indicates that these late sediments span a great period of time, in fact from the Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic) almost to the present day.

It is hoped that an excavation may soon be carried out at the Larbourne Farm site near the workings to determine the exact order here of the superficial relic-bearing beds that rest upon the gravel.

CHESHAM: *Grove Farm, Ashley Green*. During the work of converting the mediæval dwelling, long used as a barn at this important double-moated site, into a modern house, extensive foundations of very thick walls and other features have been found. These the owner, Mr. Harman, is very kindly plotting on a large-scale plan. And it is hoped to make a full survey of the area incorporating many details not shown on the Royal Commission's sketch plan, which may go far to proving the exact nature of this complex of moats, walls, gate-towers, etc., thought to have been an early fortified manor of the Cheneys, or other early owners.

CHICHELEY: *Mr. John Coales* writes that the monumental brass to Anthony Cave in Chicheley church has recently been examined and found to be palimpsest. It is hoped that further details will be published in the future.