

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM READING MUSEUM

During the period March 1964—November 1965 the following objects and sites were brought to the attention of Reading Museum. The objects, unless otherwise stated, have been added to the Museum Collections and accession numbers are given in brackets.

PALAEOLITHIC

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Mr J. W. Rickards found a hand-axe of black chert on the surface of a field near the Kibble Ditch, at SU 569897. (319:65)

Calcot Row Mrs M. P. Redgewell of Langley Lodge found a rolled Palaeolithic primary flake in her garden. It remains in her possession.

Caversham Mr J. J. Wymer of Reading Museum and members of the Berkshire Field Research Group cut a witness section in the garden of 28 St Peter's Hill, on the south edge of the old Toots Farm Pit. Primary flakes, finishing flakes and some pieces of burnt flint were found. (1235:64, 1-28).

Hamstead Marshall Mr P. Hassell of 11 Donnington Square, Newbury reported a point of a hand-axe from Hamstead Marshall Pit, at SU 416663. It was found 4 ft down, and has been kept by Mr Hassell.

Maidenhead The collection obtained from Mr Dormer (see below) by Reading Museum included a cordate hand-axe from Pinkneys Green. (1247:64)

Reading Reading Museum has acquired a collection of Palaeoliths from Mr E. W. Dormer of 29 Church Road, Earley. This includes a primary flake (1247:64) and hand-axe (167:65) from the Earley Station Pit (details of this hand-axe have previously been published in *Berks. Archaeol. J.*, 1930, 24, 65); a sub-cordate hand-axe from Prior's Pit, Twyford (1249:64); a small pointed hand-axe from opposite Green

Lane, Reading (1250:64); and three side scrapers and three hand-axes from Kidmore Road, Caversham (1247:64, 1-6).

Sonning Common A crude hand-axe was reported by Miss E. Dolphin of Ridgeway, Bird-in-Hand Lane, from the garden of Mrs Gibbs of Bird-in-Hand Lane, SU 715791. It remains in the finder's possession.

Twyford Mrs B. Stoney of Killybegs, London Road, Ruscombe, found a Clactonian flake tool in her garden. It remains in her possession.

Upper Basildon A Late Middle/Late Acheulean hand-axe was found in the clay banks of a disused brick kiln, in the wood at the back of the Terapas Plastics factory, by Master P. Cook. (1723:64)

A hand-axe was found by Master Pocock on the surface beside the Pond at Wakeman's, SU 592763. Now at Little Heath Secondary Modern School.

MESOLITHIC

Bray Mr L. H. G. Sterne of 5, Hastings Close, reports a medium tranchet adze found in his garden at SU 900789. It remains in his possession.

Mr D. Thurlow of Willow Bend, Down Place, reported two flint flakes from his garden at SU 922779, from the same site as previously recorded flakes and a chipped axe-adze.

Henley, Oxon Mr D. Wild of 7, The Close, Henley, reported a tranchet adze from the Thames at Henley. (1531:64)

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Kintbury Mr F. R. Froom has continued his investigation of Mesolithic sites in the Kintbury area, and a report will be included in the Bulletin of the Berkshire Field Research Group. A site at the west end of Kintbury produced large quantities of material, including flint punches, blades and a microlith. Five sites were examined between Wawcott and Halfway, including one producing long blades. Other sites were investigated nearer to Marsh Benham. All this material is being examined by Mr Froom.

Maidenhead The material acquired by Reading Museum from Mr E. W. Dormer (see page 70) included a broken or unfinished tranche axe from Pinkney's Green. (1245:64)

Wawcott Messrs F. R. Froom and B. C. Tafield examined a badly damaged long blade site. Finds included a long blade core, an elongated trapezoidal microlith, a microburin, and a blade c. $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. long. The finds are still under examination.

NEOLITHIC

Cholsey Mr R. Moreland found a ground stone axe while spreading river ballast in road works near Goring. The ballast had been brought from Cholsey. The implement has been petrologically examined and shown to be of Group VII rock from Craig Lwyd. (1749:64)

A broken Neolithic ground axe-head was recovered from the Thames Conservancy dump opposite North Stoke at SU 605868, by Mr R. Sheridan. Petrological examination has shown it to be of Group VI (Great Langdale) rock. (180:65)

Cookham Numbers of flint flakes and 'pot boilers' were found by Mr H. E. Stork of the Fir Trees, Maidenhead Road, Cookham at Cock Marsh, SU 889867, 18 in. down. They remain in his possession.

Mapledurham What appears to be an unfinished flint flake knife was found by Mr G.

Watson in his garden at Crossways, Nuney Green. It remains in his possession.

Sulhampstead Abbots Master R. Massey found a small, rather squat ground stone axe just west of the footpath skirting the west side of Bristow's Copse, at SU 647680. It has been examined, and shown to be of a metamorphic shale, without precise origin. (269:65)

Swallowfield Lady Russell of Swallowfield Park reported two flint implements found on ploughed ground in Swallowfield Park. These are a fine ground flint axe and a crude strike-a-light. (1942:64, 1-2)

Twyford The material acquired by Reading Museum from Mr E. W. Dormer (see page 70) included a ground stone axe found in the River Loddon at Twyford, c. 1920. (1251:64)

Mr B. Baldwin, 12 Malvern Way, found a number of flint flakes, some with secondary working, in his garden. They remain in his possession.

Wargrave A small ground stone axe (length $2\frac{1}{2}$ in) was found on Frogmill Farm at SU 715791, by Mr Marcham, and has been presented to Reading Museum by Mr B. S. Samuels of Little Heath School, Tilehurst. Petrological examination has shown it to be made of a very fine-grained, unusually hard serpentine (antigarite) which does not occur in this country, but may be Alpine. The form strongly resembles that of copper thick butt flat axes having straight sides, a comparatively flat, thin section, an unusually broad, square butt, and a flattened end and sides. It is interesting to note that petrological examination suggests the implement may have been heated after shaping to harden it. (186:65)

Upper Basildon A flint flake, used as a knife, and with a slightly blue patina, was found in the grounds of St Andrew's School by Mr David Percival of River Mead, Manor Road, Goring-on-Thames. It remains in his possession.

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BRONZE AGE

Lambourn A well formed barbed and tanged flint arrowhead with straight sides and transverse, outward-facing barbs was found by Mr A. Watson at Kingstonwarren Stables about 1962. It is now in the possession of Mr R. Sheridan of 75 Dene Way, Donnington, Newbury.

Marlow A stone boat-shaped battle-axe, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, with central hour glass perforation, was found on the site of the new school at Cressex Road, High Wycombe, by Mr H. Haynes. It appears to have been in a load of gravel brought in from the Folley Bros gravel pit at Marlow, SU 865867. The implement has been sent for petrological examination. (187:65)

Reading Reading Museum has acquired from Miss Doris Geary of Kenwith, Hendra Vean, Carbis Bay, Cornwall, a Middle Bronze Age dagger blade reputedly from the Thames in the Reading area. It seems to have been made from a Middle Bronze Age dirk, which has been cut down and notched for rehafting. (248:65)

Streatley Mr T. Grant Shaw of Streatley found sherds of Bronze Age-Iron Age pottery on Thurle Down at SU 580819 and SU 578817. (1734:64, 1-7 and 1735:64, 1-3)

Wasing A Bronze Age bucket urn was found by Mr Nash at Blake's Gravel Pit, Aldermaston at SU 579635, during the removal of gravel with a mechanical shovel. The site was visited by Reading Museum staff who found charcoal still visible in the side of the pit. The urn, some daub and a struck flint were recovered for the Museum. (1803:64/1-103)

Windsor A Late Bronze Age sword was found wedged between some large stones on the bed of the Thames under the central arch of the main Windsor Bridge. The point of the blade is missing but it is otherwise complete. It is a fine example of the Ewart Park type,

with a finial at the end of the hilt suggesting Hallstatt influence. It was submitted to the British Museum for an opinion, and subsequently acquired for a private collection, despite the efforts of Berkshire interests to keep it in the county.

IRON AGE

Bray Mr C. C. Stanley supervised excavations in advance of gravel digging near the bank of the Thames in the Hoveringham Company's gravel pit, SU 916785. Large quantities of Iron Age pottery and bones were found. (279-307:65)

Uffington Mr P. H. Crampton found two small sherds of Iron Age pottery on Dragon Hill, SU 301871 (308:65)

ROMAN

Appleford A coin of Constantine I (\mathcal{A}) was found by Mr M. J. L. James on ground being prepared for bungalows, on the west side of the north-south road through Appleford. The site is 30-50 yards south of the point where the road turns west over the railway at SU 526935, and the coin was found 3 ft down. Presented to Reading Museum. (1548:64)

Ardington A Roman \mathcal{A} coin, probably of Constantine II, was found about 2 ft down in clay during the laying of some paving in Ardington at SU 430885. It was retained by Lord Herschell of Ardington.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Roman material continues to come to light on the farm and in the garden of Mr J. W. Rickards of Mackney Court Farm. Finds include pottery, daub, glass, iron objects, lead, a sesterius of Antoninus Pius, a complete rotary quern stone and a fragment of another. Mrs G. Pike of 77, Christchurch Road, Reading, is working on most of this material, but the quern and fragment have been presented to Reading Museum. (275:65/1-2)

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Caversham Mr J. Pacey found a worn illegible sestertius of the 1st–2nd centuries on a building site near Gurney Road, at SU 69937645. (162:65)

Charney Bassett Mr D. A. Maclean of Appleby Fruit Farm, Kingston Bagpuize, near Abingdon, found Roman pottery (2nd–4th centuries), iron nails and bones in an excavation c. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of the village, just south east of Cherbury Camp, at SU 381958. The material remains in his possession.

Cholsey A dupondius of Philip I was found in Moulsoford Nurseries. It remains in the possession of Mr S. V. Nash, Great Knollys Street, Reading.

Earley Quantities of Roman pottery of the 1st–2nd centuries have been turning up on a building site off Meadow Road, at SU 757713. The builder, Mr F. H. Crook, has presented the material to Reading Museum (71:65, 72:65, 268:65). The site has subsequently been named Roman Way.

Emmer Green Quantities of Romano-British pottery and coins, mostly 3rd–4th century, have been coming to light in the garden of Mr G. S. Davey, 7 Highdown Hill Road, who retains most of it for study. (223:65, 1–13)

Farley Hill An antoninianus of Gallienus was reported to have been found at Farley Hill, at SU 750650.

Goring Mr H. P. Charles of 9, Summerfield Rise found a coin of Constantine I (\mathcal{A}) in his back garden. It remains in his possession.

Mr R. Walters of Verona, Gatehampton Road, found an \mathcal{A} coin of Constantine I in his garden. Presented to Reading Museum. (1729:64)

Henley, Oxon Members of the staff of Reading Museum recovered Romano-British sherds, a piece of daub and a piece of burnt flint from a pair of V-shaped cuttings exposed in

excavations for a road at the new Westfield Estate. (1234:64, 1–16)

Littlewick Green Miss J. Dillaway, assisted by members of the Maidenhead District Archaeological and Historical Society, has been investigating a Romano-British site at Boundary Elm, Littlewick Green. Several pits and post-holes, a quantity of 2nd–4th century pottery, and pieces of ironwork, including a nave-band, have been discovered.

Lowbury Hill A small coin of Constantine I was found close to the south side of Lowbury Hill at SU 539822 by Mr A. E. Marshall. Presented to Reading Museum. (1757:64)

Mapledurham A Roman \mathcal{A} coin of the period A.D. 330–35, probably of Constantine I, was dug up by Mr K. Hutchins of 4 Chase Close, in his garden. It remains in his possession.

Moneyrow Green Quantities of 1st century Romano-British pottery, and some sherds in an Iron Age tradition, were found by Mr K. Varney in a drainage ditch in the field adjoining the north east side of Mount Scipett Copse, near the copse fence, at SU 893762.

Reading Mr Malcolm Dalton reports an as of Vespasian which was found by his grandfather 20 years ago in the garden of 6 Cedar Road. Retained by Mr Dalton.

Sonning Common What appears to have been a hoard of 'about a hundred' Roman coins was found at Sonning Common sometime during or before July, 1965, but was immediately dispersed. Museum staff have managed to trace only three silver coins, a quinarius of Vespasian, and denarii of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna.

Sulhampstead An as, probably of Trajan, was found in the garden of Miss V. Furze of The Old Kennels. It had been pierced for suspension. It remains in her possession.

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Thatcham Mr Hall of 1 The Hollands, Thatcham, found a sestertius of Hadrian 18 in down in digging foundations for a house in the Glebe Field, Thatcham, at SU 552709. It was retained by the owner, Mr R. J. Sainsbury of Bucklebury Old Vicarage.

Uffington Various Roman finds have been reported from Dragon Hill. Mr P. H. Crampton has presented to Reading Museum a sherd of colour coated ware and a rim sherd of a ring-neck flagon (94:65, 313:65). A coin of Constantine II (AE) was found by Master R. Dunkley and has been purchased by the Museum. (262:65)

SAXON

Cholsey A late Saxon coloured glass bead was found by Mr A. S. Fereday of The Chase, West End, in his garden at SU 584864. It remains in his possession.

Mr D. Sheridan reported a late Saxon-Viking spearhead with pattern-welded blade, recovered from the Thames Conservancy dump at Cholsey, SU 605868. (179:65)

MEDIEVAL AND LATER

Caversham Mr D. Hamblin of 45 Spencer Road, Reading reports a fine silver 1d. of Edward III, found on a Caversham building site. It remains in his possession.

Chaddleworth Mr N. Quinnell found five Medieval sherds on the surface within the circular earthwork at SU 407795. (1244:65, 1-5)

Henley Mr Cullum of 1a St Marks Road reports a silver 1d. of Edward III which was found in his garden. It remains in his possession.

Purley Sir Robert Taylor of 1 Jasmine Cottage, Purley Village, reports the discovery of a sword, musket and skeleton of a horse during digging for a cess pit in his garden. The skeleton has not survived, but he has retained the other finds.

Reading Five nearly complete pots of the 17th-18th centuries and fragments of two more were found in a pit under the Market Arcade, about 70 yards from the Friar Street end. Presented to Reading Museum by Bernard Sunleys of Hemel Hempstead, Herts. (1731-33:64)

Excavations were carried out on the site of the Abbey Mill by Dr C. F. Slade on behalf of Reading Museum. The ground plan of the mill was recovered, together with the line of the outer wall of the Abbey. The finds consisted mostly of pottery. (1262:64, 1-90; 1273:64, 1-13; 1274:64)

Mr W. J. R. Cullingham recovered a 14th-15th century pilgrim's bottle from a depth of about 8 ft on a building site on the site of the Old Corn Exchange. (1550:64)

Quantities of 14th century sherds, a broken pipkin and a bone-handled knife were found, apparently associated, at 60 Broad Street, during rebuilding in November 1964. (1804:64, 1-61)

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THAMES CONSERVANCY LOAN COLLECTION

The following objects have been dredged from the River Thames since March 1964 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's accession number, respectively.

BRONZE AGE

Bronze palstave An example of the earliest type, decorated with an embellished shield pattern, unlooped, and belonging to the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age, c. 14th–13th centuries B.C. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr R. Lock. (TCB 284, 1271:64)

Bronze socketed axe An example of the Late Bronze Age type with embellished facets, belonging to the period 8th–6th centuries B.C. Found by Mr R. Lock below Wallingford Bridge. (TCB 285, 1272:64)

Bronze rapier of the Middle Bronze Age, a fine example with two rivets surviving in a trapezoid butt. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr P. J. Cox. (TCB 281, 1268:64)

Bronze spearhead An example of the basal-looped type with elongated triangular blade, characteristic of the later Middle Bronze Age, c. 11th–10th centuries B.C. Found by Mr J. Hutton below Wallingford Bridge. (TCB 283, 1270:64)

Bronze dirk Middle Bronze Age type, with notched butt. Found by Mr R. Lock below Wallingford Bridge. (TCB 297, 172:65)

Bronze socketed knife A fine, rather unusual specimen, with mouldings below the socket and ricasso notches, of the Late Bronze Age, c. 8th–6th centuries B.C. Found by Mr T. Grismanauskas below Wallingford Bridge. (TCB 298, 173:65)

SAXON-VIKING

Iron spearhead A late Saxon-Viking specimen, found below Benson Lock by Mr J. Hutton. (TCB 279, 1266:64)

Iron spearhead A late Saxon example, found below Benson Lock by Mr R. Lock. (TCB 280, 1267:64)

Iron spearhead A winged Carolingian specimen of the 9th–10th centuries, found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr T. Butcher. (TCB 282, 1269:64)

Iron sword A fine Viking inlaid sword was found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr R. Lock. (TCB 295, 170:65)

Iron spearhead An elongated late Saxon example was found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr T. Wiltshire. (TCB 299, 174:65)

Scramasax A small example, found above Chalmore Ferry by Mr R. Lock. (TCB 289, 1809:64)

Iron spearhead A Saxon-Viking example with copper inlay on the blade. Found above Little Stoke Ferry, by Mr J. Hutton. (TCB 290, 1810:64)

Iron spearhead A small specimen, bent and corroded, Saxon-Viking. Found above Moulsoford Railway Bridge by Mr R. Phelan. (TCB 292, 1812:64)

Iron spearhead A Late Saxon-Viking type. Found by Mr T. Butcher above Moulsoford Railway Bridge. (TCB 293, 1813:64)

Iron axe head A Viking example of the latest type (Wheeler's Type VI), 11th century. Found above Chalmore Ferry by Mr T. Grismanauskas. (TCB 286, 1806:64)

Iron spearhead A winged Carolingian example, found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr R. Lock. (TCB 287, 1807:64)

Iron blade A fragment of the blade of a long iron sword, much corroded, either Saxon-Viking or Medieval. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr R. Lock. (TCB 288, 1808:64)

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MEDIEVAL AND LATER

Iron bill Medieval or later, found above Moultsford Railway Bridge by Mr R. Grant. (TCB 291, 1811:64)

Iron sheath knife Recent. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr R. Lock. (TCB 294, 169:65)

Earthenware vessel A broken, two-handled, rather globular jug. Found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr R. Lock. (TCB 296, 171:65)

Iron spearhead A small Medieval example was found below Wallingford Bridge by Mr L. Blackwell. (TCB 3000, 175:65)

Pottery vessel Broken, possibly some sort of warmer, was found above Moultsford Railway Bridge by Mr R. Lock. (TCB 302, 177:65)

MISCELLANEOUS

Perforated limestone weight Found above Moultsford Railway Bridge by Mr T. Grismauskas. (TCB 303, 178:65)