

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM READING MUSEUM

R. A. RUTLAND AND JILL THOMAS

During the period December 1965–December 1967 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

Reading A flint chopper, probably Acheulian, was found by M. Sami in his garden at 67 Albert Road, Caversham (SU 707756) and reported in the *Reading Chronicle*, 24th November, 1967. (266:67)

Reading A Levallois flake was found by C. Downes in the garden of 21 Tredegar Road, Caversham. (171:67)

Woodley A hand-axe was found on East Park Farm (SU 780755) and retained by the finder.

MESOLITHIC

Arborfield Two flakes were found together on a building site at the rear of 5 Link Way by G. Fielder, who retains them.

Bray The following notice has been contributed by Mr H. W. Copsey, Honorary Secretary of the Berkshire Field Research Group.

In the spring of 1966 a rectangle 30 ft by 12 ft was excavated to a depth of about 3 ft in the garden of Willow Bend, Down Place, Bray (SU 921779) to form a swimming pool. From the spoil the owners Mr and Mrs Thurlow recovered a number of flint artifacts the majority being of Mesolithic type.

A small excavation directed by Mr J. Wymer was carried out on Sunday, September 25th to record the stratification and find the source of the flints. The 4 ft by 4 ft box was sited 2 ft from the previous excavation and a depth of 3 ft 6 in. was reached. The ground was found to be deeply disturbed and brick was found at all depths. The few finds ranged from the mesolithic to nineteenth century. The 466 flints

listed below remain in the possession of Mr D. L. Thurlow.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Primary flakes and spalls . . . | 415 |
| (b) Blade-like flakes: | |
| More than 3 in. long . . . | 2 |
| More than 2 in. long . . . | 9 |
| More than 1 in. long . . . | 18 |
| (c) Two-platform core . . . | 1 |
| (d) Core rejuvenation flakes: | |
| Struck across existing platform . . . | 5 |
| Struck along edge of a striking platform . . . | 5 |
| Struck from base to remove apex . . . | 1 |
| (e) Microliths: | |
| Obliquely-blunted point . . . | 1 |
| Fragments . . . | 2 |
| (f) Notched blade . . . | 1 |
| (g) Axe-adze . . . | 1 |
| (h) Convex scrapers . . . | 2 |
| (j) Serrated blade . . . | 1 |
| (k) Graver spall . . . | 1 |
| (l) Flakes variously backed and trimmed . . . | 1 |
| The colour and texture of a number of pieces (a–e) suggests that they are from the same nodule. | |
| (m) A further 24 flint flakes which are possibly Neolithic–Bronze Age | |

Earley A blade was found in the garden of 42 Silverdale Road by Mr J. Pettitt who retains it.

NEOLITHIC

Bracknell A waste flake with a point and bearing signs of use was found at Fir Hill (SU 873678) by N. Grindley, 50 Nightingale Crescent, who retains it.

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West Hanney A polished stone axe was found in a field at SU 401927. There were supposed to have been similar objects nearby. (196:66)

Streatley A flint axe roughout (?) was picked up on Lough Down at SU 588813. (116:67)

Tilehurst A flint axe with ground edge was found in a garden at Little Heath (SU 656705) about 30 years ago and retained by the finder, R. W. Coates, 96 Connaught Road.

Wantage A trimmed flake, probably used as a knife, was found in the garden of 9 Foliat Drive. (103:66)

BRONZE AGE

Burghfield A Late Bronze Age socketed axe was found near Sheffield Bottom (SU 650698) by H. Lucking, Fair View, Beckfords, Upper Basildon, who retains it.

Crowthorne A flint barbed and tanged arrowhead was found at Edgebarrow School (SU 838632). (183:67)

IRON AGE

Ashbury, Alfred's Castle Sherds were picked up on the surface. See also Roman. (135:67)

Ashbury, Fognam Down Three sherds were picked up on the surface. See also Roman. (136:67)

Aston Upthorpe The flask-shaped enclosure on Langdon Hill (SU 546834), discovered in 1961 by the late P. H. Crampton, was excavated by him, with members of a W.E.A. class, in 1967. Iron Age pottery was recovered from the primary ditch silting.

Blewbury, Blewburton Hill Fort From 24th June to 11th August excavations were conducted by Mr D. W. Harding of Durham University under the auspices of Reading Museum. Report forthcoming.

Uffington, Dragon Hill Two sherds were picked up at a spot where Roman sherds have been found. See also Roman. (184:67)

ROMAN

Abingdon A series of ditches at Curtis's Gravel Pit, Wick Hill (SU 50659763) was investigated by Mrs G. Pike and members of the Berkshire Field Research Group. No clear pattern emerged. The pottery was mainly Roman with some later Iron Age.

Aldermaston A bronze coin of Urbs Roma type (A.D. 330-337) was found at SU 590629 by Stuart Patton, who retains it.

Ashbury, Alfred's Castle Sherds have been picked up on the surface. See also Iron Age. (135:67)

Ashbury, Botley Copse A collection of pottery, including one sherd of decorated Samian, was found on the surface of a field to the west of Botley Copse (SU 278802) in an area of extensive Celtic fields (Oxoniensia XV (1950), 10-11). (152:67)

Ashbury, Fognam Down Sherds have been picked up on the surface in an area of extensive Celtic fields (Oxoniensia XV (1950), 10-11). See also Iron Age. (136:67)

Basildon Road straightening on the A319 revealed a building on the north east side of the road, 25 ft north of the junction with Westfield Row (SU 605792). Two walls, at right-angles, were observed in the embankment. They were built of flint and mortar and were approximately 2 ft thick. There was a cement floor on flint and chalk footings on the side nearest the road i.e. outside the angle of the walls. Finds, collected by museum staff, included pottery, imbrex and tegula fragments and bones. (318:65). Further building remains were observed on the opposite side of the road, with associated pottery, by Mr H. Lucking who had found Romano-British material over a wide area. (71:66 and 72:66)

Bray More pottery has been found on the surface at Mount Scipett Copse (SU 892761) by Mr Varney. It is mainly Roman, with some possibly Iron Age and one medieval. (See *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 62, under Moneyrow Green).

Cholsey Mr C. F. Stewart, Duxford Cottage, Cholsey, reported a mixture of material including Roman coarse pottery, one sherd of plain samian and a fragment of medieval encaustic tile, found during building work at Watery Lane, Wallingford. They remain in Mr Stewart's possession.

Cholsey A bronze commemorative coin of Claudius II was found in a garden at SU 589861 and was retained by the finder, Mr R. G. Bendall.

Cookham A sherd, probably Roman, was found at Hawthorn Hill in a roadside bank (SU 875743) and was retained by the finder.

Crowmarsh A quantity of 1st century pottery was found in a sewage trench at two different points SU 614892 and SU 614891. Tile fragments, which could be Roman, were found with it and there were reported to be traces of ditches visible. (35:67/1-2 and 36:67/1-29)

Drayton St. Leonard (Oxon) Two sherds, 3rd to 4th century type, were found during construction work on Mr Emmett's Farm (SU 596962) in about 1963. (24:66)

East Hanney The discovery of a large collection of Roman material in a field on Pound Croft (SU 436934), including tile and various forms of foreign stone, suggested that this might be the site of a Roman villa. A resistivity survey carried out by Miss J. Thomas with members of the Wantage and District Field Club revealed a 'platform' in the area where finds were concentrated on the surface, containing several significant anomo-

lies. A trial excavation, therefore, took place on the weekend of 30th September to 1st October, 1967, under the direction of R. A. Rutland to determine if sufficient remained undisturbed to warrant a full-scale excavation.

Two floors were revealed immediately beneath the ploughsoil, respectively of rough limestone slabs and gravel. Neither of these floors was removed but sections revealed in two other trenches, which proved completely sterile, suggested that these floors lay immediately over the natural loam. In none of the trenches were there any traces of walls.

Attention was then turned to a rectangular building some 200 ft to the south which could be traced from debris turned up by the plough. The footings of the long walls were located. Only the lowest layer survived at a depth of 9 in. from the present surface and there was no trace of internal features. The building was exactly 30 ft wide externally and approximately 75 ft long. A pit containing 1st century material was sealed beneath one of the walls. The finds from this area were noticeably less frequent than those from the other area.

It was concluded from this excavation that the site had been very badly damaged by ploughing. The floor of the rectangular building must have been at the present ground level if not higher and would have been completely destroyed at the first ploughing. A thorough search of the field's surface after ploughing confirmed that the Roman material was concentrated in the area that was investigated.

The pottery extended from the 1st to the 3rd or 4th centuries and there was also one Saxon sherd (see also Saxon). No coins were found. (69:66; 70:66; 78:66; 1:68).

Frilford, Noah's Ark Six bronze coins were reported by Mr Hockley, whose son retains them. They were of Tetricus, Constantine I commemorative of Constantine I, Constantine II, Constantius II and one of Constantinian type. This is the site of the Romano-Celtic temple excavated 1937-38 (Oxoniensia IV 1939).

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Greenham A small bronze coin of the fourth century type, probably Julian, was found in a molehill on Newbury Racecourse and retained by the finder.

Lambourn In September 1966, three skeletons were found on the Milk Marketing Board Cattle station at Warren Farm near Stancombe Down (SU 35838175). Two of these skeletons were buried with their heads at their feet, but no nails were present to indicate that these might be examples of a type of booted and coffined burial, common in the late Roman period. However, one skeleton is particularly interesting because two of its neck vertebrae had been cut and the left scapula damaged by blows which came from different directions. This skeleton was accompanied by two Ae coins—a commemorative antoninianus of Claudius Gothicus (post 270) and a coin of Constans as Caesar (333–334). Fuller report forthcoming.

Mapledurham (Oxon) A bronze sestertius of Vespasian was found in the garden of New Frogmore, Blagrove Lane, Caversham. (101:67)

Reading A bronze coin of Licinius II was found at Hemdean House, Caversham by a pupil who retains it.

Reading Occupation site Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green (SU 713768). (See *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 62, under Emmer Green). The following note is supplied by Mr John S. Davey.

The site lies on the edge of the Chiltern Hills just north of Reading and just inside the Berkshire boundary with Oxfordshire.

The surrounding area forms a small plateau bounded on the north, west and south by the steep sided valleys of Hemdean Bottom and Highdown Bottom. The subsoil is gravel overlying chalk with pockets of clay.

The first indications of early occupation were sherds of a large urn found 12 in. below the surface by the writer's son in 1965. This urn was thought to be of possible Belgic origin by Mr Gwatkin and the sherds were presented to

Reading Museum. (223:65).

More sherds of Roman coarse pottery were found in the disturbed top soil of the back garden and then, under an area sealed by a farm track of brick and flint about 9 in. thick, an irregular pit was discovered, filled with dark soil. This proved to be about 5 ft in diameter and yielded many sherds of Roman coarse pottery, fourteen bronze coins of the fourth century and metal objects including hob nails, sandal cleats, an iron knife blade, nails and part of a bronze bracelet. Most of the pottery appeared to be of the third or fourth century, although some of the sherds at the bottom of the pit were probably earlier. All the coins were found between 18 in. and 24 in. below the modern surface and the pit was about 5 ft deep.

With the guidance of Mr Colin Burgess from Reading Museum, a limited excavation in the vicinity of the pit was undertaken to try to find signs of a structure. This uncovered a deep post-hole and a short length of discoloured soil, 2 in. wide by 4 in. deep, possibly indicating a weatherboard or sleeper trench. The post-hole fill yielded two pieces of an iron brooch of the safety pin type dated by Mr M. R. Hull of Colchester to between 1–40 A.D., together with a sherd of a Belgic butt beaker and other early pottery. The post socket was about 11 in. diameter and 5 ft deep and yielded sherds of Roman coarse pottery some certainly fourth century. There were indications of a second, rather smaller post, about 15 ft from the first, following the line of the 'weatherboard'. Fragments of burnt wattle marked daub were found in the post socket fill.

All the levels below the farm track layer were completely free of post-Roman material, except where the trackway has been penetrated in modern times, so the structure—whatever purpose it served—can be tentatively dated to the early first century, lasting probably until the late fourth century. Two other interesting finds were a group of fifteen pot-boilers piled together about 12 in. deep and a large fragment of hand-thrown pottery which Mr Burgess thought to be pre-Roman.

To the south of the site, quite close by, lies the Old Grove House and the barn, parts of which are believed to date back to the fifteenth century. Further evidence of Romano-British occupation came to light just behind the tythe barn when building of new houses started in the summer of 1966. At a point about 100 ft from the original pit, a shallow pit or part of a ditch was found which produced a large quantity of Roman coarse pottery and a further sixteen bronze coins. Also found was the larger part of an iron three-link horse's bit, a small area of collapsed clay wall, part of a clay floor, pieces of millstone grit and much iron clinker. There certainly seemed good evidence of another structure with two post-holes and more fragments of burnt daub. Among animal remains were bones of cow and sheep, and teeth of horses and pigs.

Most of this area is now badly disturbed by recent building, but there is at least one further area yielding pottery and coins and some 60 ft to the east, a large pit about 6 ft deep containing a black stone-free organic fill.

For all the hundreds of sherds of Roman coarse pottery in the area, there is only one sherd of samian ware. The only evidence of a substantial dwelling are two pieces of tile which could be Roman and part of a brick in the Roman level which is unlike the débris associated with the later medieval building.

This points to the possibility of a building somewhere locally, but the only firm conclusion one can draw about this site is that it was occupied by native Britons from at least A.D. 40 and occupation continued well into the 4th century. The soil is poor and would probably only support the grazing of a few animals. Timber was no doubt abundant and as the local gravels contain small quantities of ironstone (? iron oxides), the evidence of the clinker points to iron working on the site.

Silchester As usual, a number of objects have been picked up at Silchester and brought into Reading Museum for identification. Amongst the most interesting are:

- (1) A bronze brooch of Aucissa type, with the pin missing—in the possession of R. Lillingstone, 31 Woodmans Lane, Burghfield.
- (2) Base sherd of samian with the stamp ARENTINUS, previously unknown at Silchester. In the possession of Mark Corney, 1 Oareborough, Harmondswater.
- (3) A sherd of coarse pottery broken into three pieces to reveal two layers in the fabric, keyed for better adherence. (154:67)
- (4) In 1966, the Museum purchased an almost complete bronze mirror found at Silchester during the excavations at the turn of the century. (21:66)

Stanford in the Vale Three sherds were found in the garden next door to the Manor House. See also *Medieval and Later*. (61:67/1-3)

Swallowfield A clay lamp of 5th to 6th century, North African type was found in trenching an area which had been used as a tip for the household rubbish of Swallowfield Park. It is, therefore, probably a modern loss. (186:67)

Tilehurst Three rim sherds of grey cooking pots were found by Mr N. S. Barron while digging on the site of the known Roman building at Pincet's Farm (SU 652723). (250:67/1-3)

Tilehurst About six abraded sherds, including one of samian, were found in the garden of 15 Grassmere Avenue and were retained by the finder.

Uffington, Dragon Hill A colour-coated sherd was picked up at a break in the chalk on the south east edge of Dragon Hill at SU 301868. See also *Iron Age and Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 62. (134:67)

White Waltham Pottery, tile and other building material have been picked up near Littlewick Green (SU 843793) and retained by Miss Dillaway. This has long been known as a

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Roman site (*Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal*, 30 (1926) 155).

Wantage In the early 1950's a quantity of 2nd to 4th century Roman pottery was found during building work by J. West (Builders) Ltd., on the Barwell Road housing estate. Since then odd pieces of pottery, etc. have been found on the estate, culminating, in November 1965, in the discovery of a layer of flints 3 ft 6 in. below the surface, and a quantity of pottery and eight coins in the garden of 1 Barwell Road at SU 395885. The pottery was 2nd to 4th century in date and the coins 4th century, ranging from a follis of Licinius I to a bronze of Gratian (in the possession of G. W. Brinsden, 1 Barwell Road, Wantage). The presence of a Roman road was suspected, but a resistivity survey by Messrs. Canham and Burgess of Reading Museum, proved negative and further work was not undertaken.

In 1966 more building work took place further north and a large quantity of Roman pottery was found. This was chiefly Roman coarse pottery of the 2nd to 4th centuries A.D.; the most interesting pieces were a mica-gilt bowl of late 1st to 2nd century date, probably imported from the Continent, and part of an angular straight sided pot with girth grooves which is probably also 1st to 2nd century. Samian finds included the following Hadrian—Antonine Lezoux ware; part of form 33 stamped P] RIMULI; almost complete form 33 stamped GENIALIS FECI; almost complete 18/31 stamped TITIM. Also a number of pits were noticed and three areas of flint, that furthest north, at SU 396886, showing road cambering very clearly. The flint areas were surveyed by J. H. Crickmay of the Archaeology Division, Ordnance Survey, in November 1966.

Members of the Wantage and District Field Club, directed by Miss J. Thomas of Reading Museum and with the aid of a grant from the Ministry of Public Building and Works excavated here in May 1967 in order to confirm the alignment of the road, to try and discover more information about it, and if possible, to find associated structures. Two

sections over 100 ft apart were cut in the area of SU 397887 and in each trench a layer of typical road flints 1 ft to 1 ft 6 in. below the surface was found. The southern trench revealed what was probably the eastern edge of the road, but its western side was much disturbed. The main mass of flints was c. 9 ft wide but flints occurred irregularly for another 3 ft further west. In the second trench, the flints were even more disturbed, a patch varying in width from 5 ft to 8 ft being uncovered and neither road edge visible. In both trenches a thorough search was made for several feet west and east of the flints, but no trace of side ditches, nor of any associated structures were found. Some Roman coarse pottery was found, mainly above the flints, but four small sherds were mixed in with them.

It is disappointing that neither trench exposed two undisturbed edges of the road, and that no accurate measurement of its overall width could be made. However, the north north east-south south west alignment of the road is confirmed, it being a continuation of the road running from the direction of Alchester through Frilford and East Hanney. (10:66; 53:66; 149-151:67, other material is in private hands in Wantage and will be deposited in Wantage Museum).

In January 1968 indications of a number of graves and skeletons were revealed during building work by J. West (Buildings) Ltd. on the Barwell Road estate, Wantage at SU 39758855. Immediately south east of no. 33 Witan Way, two trenches, 18 ft apart exposed fourteen grave-cuts in section. Nearly all the bones from the nine graves in the southern trench had been removed by building machinery, but some bones remained in situ in the northern trench. No grave goods were present and no traces of coffins were seen. Due to removal and dumping of soil during building work, it was difficult to assess the depths of the graves beneath the surface, but they appear to have been buried 2-3 ft beneath the old land surface. The graves themselves were 9-18 in. deep, very narrow, and irregularly spaced, being anything from 2-5 ft apart. On the whole

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the skeletons lay north north east-south south west with heads to the south south west and are probably part of a laid out cemetery in spite of some irregularities of alignment. In view of the quantity of Roman material in the area it is tempting to assume a Roman date for the burials.

In 1950, during earlier work on the Barwell Estates, bones of six or seven individuals were brought from the site to Reading Museum for identification and in 1951 the skeleton of a female was uncovered 2 ft 6 in. deep and aligned north north east-south south west, with her head to south south west; the skeleton of a very young baby was at her feet. No grave goods or pottery were found with any of these skeletons.

Woodley A bronze coin of Constantine I was found near a stream (SU 764735) and retained by the finder.

Yateley (Hants) A bronze coin of Constantine I was found in the allotments at Frogmore Road (SU 83956023) and retained by the finder, Mr Geeves.

Yattendon A quantity of coarse pottery, tile and bone has been picked up on the site of the known Roman building at SU 532752.

SAXON

East Hanney A fragment of an early shoulder-boss urn, identified by J. N. L. Myres, was picked up on the surface of the Roman site. See also Roman. (70:66)

Reading A late Saxon spearhead, probably 10th century with split socket and two perforations at the base was found during building operations at Courage's Brewery (SU 714732). It was reported in the *Reading Chronicle* of 28th April, 1967. (119:67)

Shinfield A spearhead of unusual type was found in a garden in Claresgreen Road, Spencers Wood (SU 720669) several years ago.

It has a split socket and is later than the pagan period. (5:67)

Sulhampstead A spearhead of 9th to 10th century type with a slender blade, 15½ in. in length, was found beside Sulhampstead lock (SU 638699) in old river dredgings. (6:67)

MEDIEVAL AND LATER

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell A dagger, c.1500, was ploughed up in a river meadow at Mackney. (185:67)

Cookham Pottery of the 13th to 16th century was found in the garden at the Grove (SU 899854) and retained by the finder. Information from the Maidenhead and District Archaeological and Historical Society.

Dorchester (Oxon) A spearhead, c.1400, was found in the Dorchester area. (260:67)

Drayton A limestone mould dated 1716 for lead tokens was found in a field at Sutton Wick (SU 481946). (192:66)

Harwell Two iron arrowheads of 13th to 14th century type were found during ploughing at SU 495912 and SU 496907. (7:6/71-2)

Kingsclere (Hants) A lead harness fitting of the Civil War period was found in the garden at 20 Swan Street, which had been a harness maker's shop for centuries. (275:67)

Maidenhead An incomplete 16th century spoon was dredged from the Thames at the site of the old Maidenhead Bridge.

Oare In June 1967 during foundation digging for a garage in the garden of the bungalow south of the church (SU 50557388), a quantity of Roman and medieval pottery, one Roman coin, and a mass of flints were found. A rescue excavation was undertaken by the Archaeological Society of Kennet School, Thatcham,

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directed by Miss J. Thomas of Reading Museum, in the hope of finding stratified Roman and medieval remains.

Investigation proved, however, that the whole area was much disturbed. The flints were a formless mass, lying on, under and mixed with brown soil. That above the flints contained medieval pottery and a small amount of Roman material, including one illegible Ae coin, and a piece of decorated bronze. More medieval pottery was found amongst and beneath the flints.

Approximately 2 ft below the present land surface was a dirty yellow layer, consisting of typical Reading Beds material, flints, pebbles, humus and rootlets. A sample of this was examined by H. Carter of Reading Museum who is of the opinion that it is a plough soil. Medieval and Romano-British pottery and another Ae coin occurred at this level. The yellow layer sloped down into a shallow depression 1 ft deep (probably a flat bottomed ditch) which ran along the south east edge of the trench and continued beyond it. Wherever the yellow layer was removed it was found to lie on top of brown sand, mixed in places with odd patches of the yellow material, with the exception of a small area in the north corner of the trench. Here there was the edge of a grey clay filled depression (possibly a pit) which contained some 1st century pottery. Unfortunately, it could not be investigated because it continued beyond the trench, underneath the concrete front of the bungalow. Plan and section in Reading Museum.

Reading The base of a vessel similar to a chafing dish and dated to c.1450 was found in a trench near Greyfriars garden wall. It was retained by Mr L. North.

In 1966 and 1967 excavations were carried out at Reading Abbey under the direction of Dr C. F. Slade on behalf of Reading Museum and the Ministry of Works. Report forthcoming.

Ruscombe The museum has purchased eleven sovereigns from the hoard of 19th century gold sovereigns found at 'Boulters',

Southbury Lane, Ruscombe on 14th June, 1965 and declared Treasure Trove on 29th July of that year. (58:66/1-11)

Shinfield A sixpence of Elizabeth I, 1565, was found in a field at the Grange (SU 741688) by Mrs Howlett, who retains it.

Shinfield Medieval and later sherds and tile fragments were found in a ploughed field at Spencers Wood (SU 721663). (12:66)

Stanford in the Vale A flagon handle and a rim, probably Norman, were found in the garden next to the Manor House. (*Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, 61 (1963-4) 106). See also Roman. (62:67/1-2)

Sulhampstead A sherd of a globular cooking pot was found in recently bulldozed soil with bone fragments at SU 647678. It has finger-impressed decoration on the rim and belongs to a type of vessel current from the 12th century. (112:67)

Wallingford In June 1966, Mr Peter Hoddenot discovered three articulated skeletons during work at 4 St. Martin Street (SU 607895) Disturbed soil in the area produced medieval pottery and a clay pipe. A few yards away, in December 1966, at the corner of St. Martin Street and High Street, further evidence of human activity was revealed during digging for foundations. Sections more than 8 ft deep showed a number of floors, two possible wells and rubbish pits, the latest of which contained 18th century pottery. The two largest pits contained charcoal and a jumbled mass of human bones. Bones removed for examination included parts of six individuals, and are thought to be late medieval or earlier. Workmen reported that one articulated skeleton was found during the work. Excavations by Mr. Brooks in the castle area will be the subject of a forthcoming report.

Wantage Medieval pottery was found in the garden of 9 Foliat Drive. (73:66)

THAMES CONSERVANCY LOAN COLLECTION

The following objects have been dredged from the River Thames since December 1965 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.

MESOLITHIC

Bone point Showing groove and splinter technique. Found by H. H. Carter (museum staff) at the site of the new coffer dam at Cookham. (TCB 318, 189:67/1)

Flint flake Possibly Mesolithic, found at the same site as above. (TCB 319, 189:67/2)

NEOLITHIC

Flint knife Neolithic or possibly Mesolithic, found below Hurley Lock by R. Phelan. (TCB 305, 122:66)

IRON AGE

Iron spearhead Possibly Viking, found above the Beetle and Wedge, Moultsford, by A. Wiltshire. (TCB 311, 132:66)

Pottery Sherd of dark grey, wheel-turned vessel, probably a pedestal urn, found near Clifton Weir by J. Hutton. (TCB 313, 103:67)

ROMAN

Pottery Sherd of 3rd century cooking pot found below Clifton Weir stream by J. Hutton. (TCB 308, 129:66)

Pottery Rim of jar of late 2nd to early 3rd century, found below Clifton Weir stream by J. Hutton. (TCB 309, 130:66)

Pottery Base of pot 3rd to 4th century, found below the Beetle and Wedge, Moultsford. (TCB 312, 133:66)

SAXON

Spearhead Late Saxon—Viking socketed type, found upstream from Clifton Weir by J. Hutton. (TCB 314, 104:67)

MEDIEVAL AND LATER

Horseshoe Of Keyhole type (16th to 17th century), found below Clifton Weir stream by R. Lock. (TCB, 307 128:66)

Mortice chisel 19th century or earlier, found below Moultsford Railway Bridge by R. Lock. (310:66)

Spearhead Medieval type with point of triangular section found at Whitchurch Weir Pool by F. H. N. Maggs, lock-keeper. (TCB 315, 105:67)

Pottery Part of neck and slashed handle of partly green-glazed pitcher, 13th to 14th century type, found by E. R. May at Appleford. (TCB 316, 106:67)

Sword Officer's dress sword of 60th Rifles, 19th century, found at Datchet by H. G. Coombes. (TCB 317, 107:67)

Weed hook Modern example found at site of the new coffer dam at Cookham by H. H. Carter (museum staff). (TCB 320, 190:67)

OTHERS

Iron Mason's hammer Found below Clifton Weir stream by R. Lock. (TCB 306, 127:66)