

NOTES

ST. ALBANS

On 28 September, 1932, a visit was paid by members of the Society to the remarkable discoveries during the excavations on the site of Verulamium made under the direction of Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler.

GRIMS DYKE

On 8th October, 1932, nearly a score of members followed Sir James Berry in an examination of Grims Dyke. The excursion started from Naphill, and by taking the cars from point to point, the line of the Dyke was picked up at Great Hampden, King's Ash, and so on till darkness finally ended it on Berkhamsted Common. The opinion favoured a post-Roman construction of the great ditch as a tribal boundary; the absence of anything which could definitely date the work makes certainty difficult.

A POLISHED CELT FROM DENHAM

A particularly good specimen of a polished flint celt is reported from Rush Green, Denham. The implement is now in my possession, and was found almost on the surface by a labourer on a farm at this place, which is near the point where the Alderbourne joins the large flat expanse of the Colne valley. Several other celts have been found in this area, particularly higher up the Colne valley just north of Denham during the War, on land that had not previously been ploughed; and these, coupled with finds of late implements associated with Red Deer remains (never, unhappily, properly recorded) on the site of Bell's Asbestos Works, Harefield, would seem to indicate an extensive late Neolithic population for this district.

The present specimen of $4\frac{3}{8}$ inch in length, the cutting edge being $2\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide, tapering to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch at the butt. The whole is evenly ground, some original flake marks being only faintly discernible on one face. At some time the cutting edge was broken or became blunt, and has been re-ground and polished at a later date, thus shortening the implement slightly. The re-working is easily discernible by a slightly different patina, and by a better polish.

E. C. ROUSE.

NOTLEY ABBEY

[On p. 200 of the present volume a brief description was given of the fragments of the south aisle and transept of the conventual church, and of a large strip of tiling on the north cloister-walk then recently uncovered. Since then, the lessee (the late Mr. Noel Bingley, one of our members), has unfortunately died, and the tiles were left exposed during the winter of 1931-2 and have largely decayed.

During 1932, by the courtesy of Mr. H. Reynolds, some further excavation in the field to the east was undertaken by Mr. Haberly and by Mr. Christopher Hohler, of Long Crendon, and a note of their discoveries has been kindly contributed by the last-named.

ED.]

The walls uncovered were those forming the N.E. corner of the Chapter House, part of the south wall of the S. transept, with the doorways at both ends of the 'slype,' or passage between the two buildings. The E. face of the S.W. tower pier was also exposed, together with another base to the E., which is not in line with it. At the junction of the N. transept with the nave was found an external plinth, and a shaft-base on a corbel near the floor inside. Within the

Chapter House the bench was found, with a heater-shaped base above it. In the S. transept numerous broken mullions of very friable stone occurred. The western doorway of the slype showed four members with typical E.E. bases, while the eastern doorway was plain.

To the east of the slype many broken tiles were found of at least two types, one with a bright yellow glaze, decorated with animals and simple geometric designs; the other tiles were larger and thinner and adorned with grotesques, foliage, etc. The thicker kind resemble closely those found on the site of Little Marlow Nunnery (illustrated by a large plate in *Records*, vol. VIII., p. 433), thus the animals and the coat of arms appear, and the two lettered tiles: *SIGNUM SC'E CRUCIS* and *RICARD' ME FECIT*.

A tile marked *RICARD'* is at Thame Abbey, and it is considered likely that this Richard was a 14th century craftsman who travelled about with his moulds.

In addition to the tiles, some interesting fragments of glass were found, consisting of bulged quarries decorated with grisaille work of oak-leaves and trellis; this seems identical in appearance with glass at Merton College Chapel. Other fragments of grisaille work bore foliage on a cross-hatched ground, and a pattern made of lozenges with an annulet in the middle of each.

The feet of a statue, made of very soft stone and with traces of red and gilding, was found near to the west door leading to the cloister.

X'PHER H.