

# THE TREACHER COLLECTION OF PREHISTORIC ARTIFACTS FROM MARLOW

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FOR some years prior to the outbreak of the Second World War a deposit of brickearth (NGR SU/861873), close to the north bank of the Thames and a mile north-east of Great Marlow, was worked by a small brick-making firm. The site was visited periodically by the late Llewellyn Treacher, who gradually amassed a collection of prehistoric artifacts discovered by the workmen. The deposit was about half a mile in diameter and the brickearth was dug out in long 3-ft.-wide trenches. Dates written on some of the specimens indicate that the finds were made between the years 1925 and 1936.

On Treacher's death the collection was given by his widow to F. M. Underhill, Esq., F.S.A., who placed it on exhibition for a time in the Hambleden Museum. Since 1955 it has been in Mr. Underhill's possession, and he has recently invited the writers to prepare the present report upon it. None of the material has previously been published, except for occasional references to the Neolithic pottery and flints.<sup>1</sup> In 1925 Treacher read a paper to the Berkshire Archæological Society on an unaccompanied skeleton (possibly Romano-British) which had been found in the brickearth that year, and an abstract, giving a general description of the site, was printed shortly afterwards.<sup>2</sup>

The collection includes flint implements which range in type from Palæolithic to Late Neolithic, a couple of stone tools, and some "Western" Neolithic pottery, as well as a few small sherds of Early Iron Age ware and a single fragment of a medieval cooking-pot. In the circumstances the finds can only be discussed on a typological basis, since there is no evidence as to associations or relative positions. A summary treatment is therefore accorded in the following pages to the greater bulk of the flints (weighing in all some 30 lb.), for the mass of flakes, cores and scrapers cannot readily be assigned to any particular chronological or cultural context. The topography of the site and the Palæolithic and Mesolithic artifacts are described by one of us (J.J.W.) and the Neolithic material by the other (I.F.S.). Miss Helen Waugh has contributed a note on the Early Iron Age sherds, and we have to thank Dr. F. S. Wallis of the Implement Petrology Survey of the South-West for his kindness in identifying the source of a stone axe.

## TOPOGRAPHY AND DATE OF THE BRICKEARTH

The site of the Marlow Brickyard is still visible (September, 1963), although much overgrown. It is near the southern, river-side edge of a low but distinct terrace which has a surface level of 10–15 ft. above the surface of the flood plain. There is not a gradual slope to the flood plain, but a slight bluff running parallel to the river in the gardens of the houses on the opposite side of the road to the old brickyard. The alluvium (i.e., brickearth) on the present flood plain rests on an uneven surface of gravel. There is an average of 2–4 ft. of it exposed in the large gravel pits between the Marlow Brickyard and the river.

The date of the brickearth at the brickyard must be earlier than that on the flood plain, which is mainly Holocene, so a very late Pleistocene date is indicated for it. Exceptionally high floods do not reach this level.<sup>3</sup> Anything post-Pleistocene should therefore only be in the upper levels of this brickearth, except for the occasional slipping down of objects into the lower levels through cracks and animal burrows, and investigations made by Mr. W. A. Seaby in 1932 confirm that this was the case.

At the time when the finds were being made, Mr. Seaby, then assistant at Reading Museum, inspected the site and an interesting letter from him to the late O. G. S. Crawford, dated 14th November, 1932, and preserved in a Reading Museum file, describes the result of his enquiries and observations.<sup>4</sup> He states:

“ . . . the brickearth lies close to the surface; actually there is a gradation from black humus, through sandy earth till it becomes quite a fine layer at 9 in. down. The workers usually remove about 1 ft. 6 in. to get rid of stray flints. I had a chat with Mr. Gibbons, the manager of the yard, and he tells me the flint implements (and presumably the pottery) are found at this level and to about 6 in. deeper in the brickearth (see sample enclosed). It is when the men are handling the clay from this depth that they come across and cut their hands on the sharp flaked flints. The brickearth goes down to a depth of about 10 ft., then there is about the same depth of gravel (I take it this is drift material) and below which come the clay beds and/or the chalk. The Thames runs half-a-mile away to the South and the area is flat with just the slightest downward slope to the river. I believe Treacher is of the opinion that this brickearth was not deposited by the river but cannot fathom his reasons. In any case he is doubtful as to an Upper Palæo date for the deposition. All I can emphasise is that the worked flints are found in pretty well the highest layer of the deposit and there is a good 8 ft. apparently undisturbed brickearth below.”

Treacher stated, when discussing the discovery of the human skeleton,<sup>5</sup> that this was found at the *base* of the brickearth, and that the latter was only 4–5 ft. deep. The skeleton was almost certainly intrusive, despite the apparent absence of any sign of disturbance.

In view of the probable Late Pleistocene date suggested for the brickearth and underlying gravel, it is possible that the two palæoliths (Fig. 1) are from these deposits. The Levalloisian type flake in mint condition may have been *in situ* in or at the base of the brickearth. Levalloisian sites are not known in this area of the Thames Valley, but downstream in the Langley-Iver area<sup>6</sup>

they are found in brickearth, though at a much higher level (c. 60 ft. above the river). The hand-axe is from a gravel deposit because it is rolled and stained. How it came to be in the brickearth can only be guessed at: it may have been found in some local exposure of terrace gravel and carried to the site, or possibly thrown up from the underlying gravel by early diggings. Hand-axes have not been recorded from such low terrace gravels in the Marlow district, but the late date for this type of hand-axe accords well with the age of the gravel.

The Mesolithic and Neolithic artifacts indicate visits or possibly short-lived settlements in the kind of place so frequently favoured by prehistoric peoples: a slight eminence immediately above the marsh and water at the bottom of the valley.

### PALÆOLITHIC FLINTS

The finely made hand-axe (Fig. 1:1) is very slightly rolled, highly lustrous, and stained a pale yellow-brown. Part of the tip is missing, but the fracture is not a recent one for, although it is not stained like the rest of the implement, it is just as lustrous. Small particles of brickearth remain on both faces, so there is no reason to doubt the unusual provenance of this specimen.

The thinness of this hand-axe and its flattened butt place it in an evolved Acheulian industry. Such implements are rare and do not occur in Britain in the Middle and Late Middle Acheulian industries (as represented by the Middle Gravels and Upper Loam of Swanscombe, Kent) and when they are found in any datable context they appear to belong to the Penultimate Glaciation or Last Interglacial period of the Pleistocene. Two similar hand-axes come from the bluff deposit between the Muscliff and Christchurch terraces in the Bournemouth area<sup>7</sup>; both are sharp and probably contemporary with the bluff deposit, and this must be coeval with or later than the Christchurch terrace, which is at 18–27 ft. O.D. The age of this terrace is uncertain, but it post-dates a low sea-level of at least –15 ft. O.D. This low sea-level can only be the maximum of the Penultimate Glaciation or the beginning of the Last Glaciation.

Another similar hand-axe from Santon Downham, Suffolk,<sup>8</sup> comes from a low terrace of the River Ouse, and a Late or post-Penultimate Glaciation date is suggested. Amongst hand-axes dredged from the River Thames at Erith<sup>9</sup> is one which closely resembles that from Marlow; these specimens have presumably derived from the filling of a buried channel contemporary with a low sea-level. Another hand-axe of this type comes from the apparent rock-shelter site at Oldbury, Kent, which is also suggestive of a late date.<sup>10</sup>

The other flint implement of Palæolithic type is a wide, well-struck flake completely devoid of cortex, save for a minute portion on one side of the striking-platform (Fig. 1:2). Unlike the hand-axe described above, this flake is in mint condition, save for a very thin ochreous staining and one patch of faint patination. Traces of brickearth remain on both faces. The striking-platform is faceted and one edge of the flake has been blunted by secondary chipping to afford a comfortable grip while cutting with the other.

This flake can be matched by many from Levalloisian sites and it is very unlikely to belong to any other industry.

## MESOLITHIC FLINTS

### RAW MATERIAL AND CONDITION

The mass of the flint is not of high quality. Some is river gravel material, but the thick unrolled cortex on many of the flakes suggests a source in or on the chalk. It is all patchy in colour and texture, generally a light buff-grey with cherty inclusions, except for one broken but well-struck oval flake of fine grey flint. There is also one flake of lustrous yellow-brown flint. None of the flakes is patinated save a long blade mentioned below, but a very faint ochreous staining covers many of them. Three flakes have a heavier ochreous staining with a slight lustre, as on the Levalloisian flake described above, but there is nothing else distinctive about them.

### AXES AND ADZES

A finely made example of a medium tranchet axe is illustrated (Fig. 2:1). It is labelled "Marlow Brickearth, 4.11.27". The cutting edge is very sharp and it is unlikely that this tool was ever used. Another axe of very similar form, but smaller ( $4\frac{1}{4}$  in. long), is marked "West Street, Marlow". The edge of this one is slightly blunted. A third axe, a light tranchet,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, is marked "Marlow, 20.2.30". Fig. 2:5 is an adze sharpened by tranchet blows from each side.

There is one axe-sharpening flake. It represents the final touch to the cutting-edge of an axe or adze and is not a resharpening flake. Unlike the tools, it is lightly patinated. It does not fit any of them.

Two rather similar triangular-sectioned, roughly flaked pick-like tools, both about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, look like rough-outs for medium tranchet axes. Also in this category of tools are the cutting end of a broken and rechipped medium tranchet axe, a short (3 in. long) stumpy axe not sharpened by tranchet blows, and a core-piece which may have been intended as a light axe. One other unusual tool is the rough gouge-adze (Fig. 2:4). Whereas the tranchet axes and adzes are clearly of Mesolithic type, it is difficult to place this gouge-adze in any particular flint industry. The general style of flaking, however, is reminiscent of Mesolithic work and it is possible that it was made from a two-plate-formed core.

### GRAVERS

Two graters are illustrated (Fig. 2:2-3). No. 2 is a simple graver with multiple facets and made on a stout flake. This tool was probably hafted, as the butt-end has been thinned by secondary working across the bulbar face. The edges have been trimmed on the major part of both sides and made smooth by slight grinding. No. 3 is a plain oblique graver, also sharpened by multiple facets, and made on a thick plunging flake. There are four other very doubtful graters.

### CORES

There are 14 cores,<sup>11</sup> most of which are so crude and unsystematic that they cannot be classified. Two are pieces which have shattered along incipient frost

cracks, two have been used subsequently as hammerstones (if not flaked for that purpose), and a rough boring tool has been made on a flattish core which may have been a broken axe rough-out. Some delicate blades about 2 in. long have been struck from one end of a single-platformed core, and there are two small multi-platformed cores of methodical type. Only one core, however, can be related with confidence to the blades described below. It is worked down to very small size, but has been a two-platformed prismatic core from which blades could have been detached (Fig. 2:6). A thick plunging flake in the collection fits this core and they are illustrated together. None of the blades fit it, but several are of identical flint and could have been struck from this core before it was reduced to such a small size.

#### CORE-REJUVENATION FLAKES

The presence of two-platformed cores and blades indicates that blade production was carried out on the site of their discovery. Such blade production requires careful preparation of the core and frequent adjustment of the striking platform, the latter operation producing the characteristic flakes described as core-rejuvenation flakes. Three have been identified, two of the type which runs along the edge of the striking-platform and one (Fig. 2:7) which cuts right across it.

#### FLAKES

There are 316 flint flakes,<sup>12</sup> mainly crude, irregular and struck in a clumsy manner from poorly-prepared cores; most of them are undatable. Forty-five flakes have, however, been selected as products of a competent blade industry (Fig. 2:8-14). The longest blade (No. 8) is 5¼ in. long has a negligible striking-platform, and shows signs of use near the bulb of percussion. Unlike all the other blades or related pieces, it is lightly patinated. The only other blade over 4 in. long is No. 9. Not all the pieces selected are successful blades; over half were probably discarded failures, but they appear to be of the same industry and are included in the following list of sizes:

Over 4 in. long	..	..	..	..	2
3-4 in. long	..	..	..	..	9
2-3 in. long	..	..	..	..	21
1-2 in. long	..	..	..	..	13

The technique of production is Mesolithic, but they are thicker than the blades from Maglemosian sites in the tributaries of the Middle Thames (such as Thatcham and Denham) and there is no microblade element. The proportion of blades over 3 in. long is also higher.

The edges of most of the larger blades have the serrations and slight chip-pings indicative of use; four have some crude secondary working of an unspecialized kind, although one might be described as a curved side-scraper and another as a notched blade.

Of the remainder of the flakes, 45 show signs of heavy use or unspecialized secondary working. Nine are "bar-hammer" flakes, struck in the manufacture of axes. Five of these are of such similar flint that they must have come off the same axe.

#### HAMMERSTONE

A cylindrical piece of quartzite, 5 in. long and weighing 1 lb., has been used as a hammerstone at both ends and, to a lesser degree, along the edges. One end is more battered than the other and a few small flakes have been detached here and along one of the edges, the latter part of the tool probably serving for the removal of flakes by the bar-hammer technique.

#### NEOLITHIC POTTERY

The collection includes some 20 sherds of Neolithic pottery, all of "Western" facies. None of the pieces is decorated and the ware is, for the greater part, thick, coarse and rather crudely finished. Four vessels are represented by rim fragments; the profiles are illustrated in Fig. 3:1-4.

No. 1. Four sherds seem to belong to this large and heavy vessel with an irregularly out-rolled rim and an estimated diameter of about 15 in. Parts of the walls ( $\frac{3}{8}$  in. thick) and the round bottom ( $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick) are present, and it is likely that the original form was that of a deep pot. The surfaces are a reddish-buff in colour and the clay is fine-grained and soft in texture, suggesting that the local brickearth has been used in its manufacture. It contains fairly numerous particles of calcined flint, up to  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. in diameter.

No. 2 is represented by a single rim sherd from a vessel of smaller diameter, about 12 in.; the curvature of the profile and the thinning of the wall towards the lower end of the sherd suggest that this may have belonged to a carinated bowl. It is dark brown in colour throughout, and the clay is fairly hard and laminated in section, so that some other source seems to be indicated for the raw material. Calcined flint has been added as a filler.

No. 3 is again a single sherd; the rim has been pressed outwards and is flat on top; the diameter has been about 7 in. The texture is similar to that of No. 1; the colour somewhat darker. No flint or other added substances are visible.

No. 4 is a fragment from a small vessel, about 5 in. in diameter. The rim is rolled neatly outwards and the ware is soft and free from stone inclusions.

The remaining sherds are all featureless; the fabrics are similar to those described above.

It is hardly possible to draw any very positive conclusions from material so limited in quantity. However, the provisional remark may be made that the group seems to be allied, as might be expected, to the "Western" pottery from sites to the north of the Thames rather than with that from sites to the south. This is suggested by the uniformly heavy character of the surviving rims,<sup>13</sup> the general thickness and coarseness of the ware, and the absence of the classical baggy pot with lugs set close beneath the rim—a type which occurs in almost every assemblage from Wessex<sup>14</sup> and Sussex,<sup>15</sup> and extends to Abingdon in Berkshire,<sup>16</sup> but is hardly represented, if at all, on the other side of the river.

## NEOLITHIC FLINTS AND STONE AXE

The majority of the readily classifiable Neolithic flint implements were most probably contemporary with the pottery just described. They are, at any rate, types which occur elsewhere in association with "Western" pottery. These flints include the leaf-shaped arrowheads, larger bifacially flaked implements of leaf shape, a sickle-flint, and probably the ground flint axes and the stone axe. A few implements indicate less intensive frequentation of the site by the Beaker folk (a plano-convex knife and a triangular arrowhead or knife) and by native Late Neolithic people (a fragmentary discoidal polished knife). A number of objects in the collection cannot at present be assigned to well-defined cultural contexts.

### RAW MATERIAL AND CONDITION

The flint used for the Neolithic artifacts is in general similar to that described in connexion with the Mesolithic industry, and some at least of the material was evidently brought from the chalk. The two fragmentary ground axes are made of a creamy grey flint, a chisel is of pale grey flint; these clearly originated elsewhere and may be flint-mine products.

No staining or patina (except on naturally fractured surfaces) was observed, and most of the artifacts retain the dull surfaces of freshly struck flint. Lustre is present on some of the tools, varying in degree from a slight shine to a high glassy polish. It is most unlikely that this lustre is due to natural causes (sand-polish, chemically redeposited silica, etc.), for it is confined to objects which exhibit signs of prolonged use, and is sometimes especially well developed along the working edges. This group of tools would provide excellent material for a microscopic study of use-traces along the lines developed by Semenov.<sup>17</sup>

### LEAF-SHAPED ARROWHEADS

There are four leaf-shaped arrowheads (Fig. 3: 5-8) and a fragment from a fifth. All have bifacial retouch; on Nos. 5 and 6 nearly the whole of both faces has been worked over; on Nos. 7 and 8 only the edges, leaving large areas of the original flake surfaces. The longest specimen (No. 6) is now incomplete, but has been about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in. in length.

### LAUREL-LEAVES

There are two larger and heavier implements of leaf form, bearing varying amounts of retouch on both faces (Fig. 3: 9-10), a possible rough-out for an object of this type, and a thinning flake that may have been detached from one in the course of manufacture.

Of the two finished specimens, the smaller (No. 9) has a brilliant lustre over the whole of one face as well as over the hinge-fracture at the base, where there are a number of short parallel scratches at right angles to the long axis. A lesser degree of lustre is developed on the other face. Signs of heavy use are evident at the tip and along part of the adjoining edge, both of which are worn smooth.<sup>18</sup> There is a certain amount of lustre on both faces of No. 10 and of wear on both its edges. The possible rough-out is a flake  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, partially retouched at both ends by the bar-hammer technique.

Nos. 9 and 10 are typical specimens of this class of artifact, first discussed at length in the report on the Hurst Fen site in Suffolk,<sup>19</sup> where many were found, but also represented at a number of other "Western" Neolithic sites.<sup>20</sup> It is interesting that both of the finished laurel-leaves from Marlow have evidently been used as knives, for as a rule there is no clear evidence as to the function of these objects.

#### NON-CRESCENTIC SICKLE

This thin and finely retouched implement (Fig. 3:11) has been blunted along the straighter edge, first by nibbling retouch from the dorsal surface, then by grinding (shown black in the illustration). The convex edge, originally sharp, is now somewhat worn and exhibits along the greater part of its length, and on both faces, a band of friction-lustre nearly a quarter of an inch in width (stippled in the illustration). Elsewhere both faces have a faint gloss. Most non-crescentic sickles are thicker and less elaborately retouched than this one<sup>21</sup>; the closest parallel is perhaps the specimen from Cissbury in Sussex.<sup>22</sup> Grinding has also been employed to blunt the non-working edge of one found at Farnham in Surrey.<sup>23</sup>

#### AXES

There are two fragments of ground flint axes (Fig. 4: 1-2). As noted above, both have been made of a creamy grey flint, possibly mined. No. 1, a butt half, has come from a large and heavy axe of pointed oval cross-section. After breakage the butt has been used as a hammer. Both faces of the axe exhibit a moderate degree of lustre, but none is to be seen on the broken or battered parts. An unusual feature of this axe is that, in addition to a few flake scars that have not been obliterated by the grinding, series of small deep pits are present along the thicker parts of the tool, and these, too, have preceded the final grinding treatment. It appears that the initial shaping of the axe was carried out in part by pecking or battering, a technique normally used only on stone axes. No. 2 is the cutting end of a smaller and thinner axe with rounded oval cross-section. Sharpening facets, extending for about 2 in. along the blade, are conspicuous features. On this specimen, too, there is some gloss over the greater part of the original surfaces, but not where it has broken across and been retouched. Along the cutting-edge is a band of brilliant lustre,  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. wide, and further lustrous areas occur on the centre of each face at about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the edge, where the axe is just over 1 in. thick. The latter must represent the points of greatest penetration when the axe was in use. Both axes are of normal "Western" types.

There is also an intact chipped axe, and the butt end of another. Both are made of inferior dark grey flint with numerous flaws, and retain some patches of cortex. The workmanship is crude and the sides of the complete axe are not symmetrical. It is 6 in. long,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide at the centre, tapering to  $1\frac{9}{16}$  in. at the blunt cutting-edge and to 1 in. at the butt; the maximum thickness is  $1\frac{9}{16}$  in. These two axes are not closely datable.

#### STONE AXE

The butt end of this somewhat irregularly shaped and broken axe (Fig. 4: 4) has been fairly extensively rechipped. Traces of the pecking and flaking by which the tool was shaped before grinding are still visible. The cross-section is oval, with slight facets along each side. The fragment has been identified by Dr. F. S. Wallis as of Group VI rock, originating in the Great Langdale series of Westmorland.<sup>24</sup> There is of course no evidence as to whether or not this axe was associated with the "Western" Neolithic material from the site, but it is by no means unlikely that this was the case, for Group VI axes have been found in such contexts at Hurst Fen,<sup>25</sup> Abingdon<sup>26</sup> and Staines in Middlesex.<sup>27</sup>

#### FLINT CHISEL

This tool (Fig. 4: 3) is made of pale grey flint and has been ground only along and above the cutting-edge and along the adjacent parts of the sides. The cutting-edge is well-worn and considerably chipped by use. A moderate degree of lustre is present on the original (but not the damaged) surfaces. The cultural affinities of this implement are not clear, for none of this type appears to have been found in a closely datable context.

#### DISCOIDAL POLISHED KNIFE

This fragment (Fig. 3: 12) evidently comes from a knife of considerable size, but not enough of the circumference remains to show whether the shape was circular, sub-rectangular or sub-triangular. So far as can be judged from this piece, the grinding was confined to a band about an inch in width round the edges, which were themselves quite blunt. This specimen exhibits a brilliant lustre along the surviving part of its edge and to a depth of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. on the more complete face, presumably indicating prolonged friction with some substance containing organic silica. This lustre does not extend into the deep cortex-covered flaw or over the broken and subsequently rechipped areas. The fragment is the sole object from the site that may be ascribed with certainty to an industry of Piggott's "Secondary Neolithic" type.<sup>28</sup>

#### PLANO-CONVEX KNIFE

Fig. 3: 13 illustrates a well-made specimen of a plano-convex or slug knife. The bulbar surface is plain and the dorsal has been almost completely retouched, save for a narrow strip of cortex along part of the central area. Both edges exhibit traces of wear and a moderate degree of lustre is present on both faces. In Southern England knives of this type appear to belong to the Long-Necked Beaker industries.<sup>29</sup>

#### TRIANGULAR OBJECT

This implement (Fig. 3: 14) is probably also a Beaker type. It may be an unfinished arrowhead or, since a certain amount of lustre on both faces suggests that it has been handled a good deal, more probably a small knife. There are signs of use along one edge.

#### SCRAPERS

The collection includes some two dozen end-scrapers on struck flakes and one side-scraper. A number of heavy specimens with steeply retouched working edges are probably accountable to the "Western" Neolithic occupation on the site, but the group may also contain both Mesolithic and later Neolithic scrapers, and since there is a considerable overlapping of characteristics in the scrapers proper to all these industries little more can be said.

#### CORES

Three cores are most probably Neolithic. The first is a specimen that has been struck from at least five directions and worked down to very small size ( $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. in maximum dimension); this is a common type on "Western" Neolithic sites. The second is a flat nodule, retaining much of the original cortical surface and flaked from alternate directions along one edge. It, too, would not be out of place in a "Western" industry. The third is a carefully prepared core, with one convex and one flat face; two large flakes have been struck from opposite ends of the latter. Objects of this type appear to belong to the later Neolithic industries.<sup>30</sup>

#### EARLY IRON AGE POTTERY

These sherds are all very small and number about a dozen; all but one evidently come from the same vessel. Miss Helen Waugh reports on them as follows:

Sherds of Iron Age A type: fairly hard, fine, blackish-brown/reddish-brown ware, slightly micaceous, with a tempering of fine flint grits. The outer surface, where it survives, is well smoothed and slightly burnished. The sherds are too small for certainty about the form, but suggest a carinated bowl, with a slightly tapering, rounded, plain rim.

Iron Age A is not yet well-defined in the part of the Thames Valley round Marlow. There is here no trace of decoration which might suggest affinities with Wessex, via Berkshire, or with Chinnor and related sites on the Chilterns, spurs of which run down almost to Marlow; indeed, the fine wares of the carinated bowls from Chinnor are quite different.<sup>31</sup> The Thames Valley and its neighbourhood, however, elsewhere provide other, undecorated, varieties of the bowl form which may well be relevant: e.g. those from sites on the Upper Thames—Long Wittenham<sup>32</sup> and Mount Farm<sup>33</sup>; and also from the Surrey group—Sandown Park,<sup>34</sup> Wisley,<sup>35</sup> Cobham,<sup>36</sup> and St. Catherine's Hill, Guildford.<sup>37</sup>

The sherds are therefore perhaps best assigned, though very tentatively, to Southern First A or an early phase of Southern Second A: later fifth to mid-third century B.C.

#### MEDIEVAL SHERD

The latest object in the collection is a large featureless sherd from the body of a medieval cooking-pot. The exterior is brown with smudgy black patches, the interior buff. The fabric is gritty and contains abundant coarse sand and sparse particles of flint, the latter occasionally as large as  $\frac{3}{16}$  in.

across, but mainly smaller. A certain amount of the sand and flint has dropped out, leaving a slightly vesicular surface. The sherd is probably of the twelfth or thirteenth century A.D.

<sup>1</sup> S. Piggott, *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles* (1954), 36, 383; J. F. Head, *Early Man in South Bucks* (1955), 161.

<sup>2</sup> See note 5.

<sup>3</sup> Information supplied by the Thames Conservancy shows that even in the severe floods of 1947 the water level only rose to 93.94 ft. O.D. (Liverpool) at Marlow Lock. The surface level of the Marlow Brickyard site is 100 ft. O.D. and it is about half a mile downstream of the lock.

<sup>4</sup> Quoted by kind permission of Mr. W. A. Seaby and the Director of Reading Museum.

<sup>5</sup> Paper read to the Berkshire Archæological Society; extract printed in the *Reading Mercury* for 2nd May, 1925. The bones were examined by Sir Arthur Keith, who concluded that they were unlikely to be of great antiquity and suggested a date in the second or third century A.D. The skull was presented to the British Museum (Natural History).

<sup>6</sup> *Antiq. Journ.*, XVI (1936), 420-43.

<sup>7</sup> *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, XV (1949), 31-33; Figs. 13, 15.

<sup>8</sup> R. A. Smith, *The Sturge Collection* (1931), 49; Fig. 244.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 67; Fig. 296.

<sup>10</sup> R. A. Smith, *A Guide to Antiquities of the Stone Age* (British Museum, 3rd ed., 1926), Pl. V:J.

<sup>11</sup> Excluding three cores which appear to be of specifically Neolithic character.

<sup>12</sup> In addition, the collection includes 28 pieces of naturally fractured flint.

<sup>13</sup> See *Windmill Hill and Avebury: Excavations by Alexander Keiller, 1925-39*, ed. I. F. Smith (1965), Fig. 30, for diagram showing the contrasting frequencies with which simple and heavy rim forms occur on sites in Wessex and elsewhere.

<sup>14</sup> E.g. at Windmill Hill, Wilts. (*Windmill Hill and Avebury*, Figs. 20-23).

<sup>15</sup> E.g. at Whitehawk (*Sussex Arch. Colls.*, LXXVII (1936), 60-92, Fig. 3).

<sup>16</sup> *Antiq. Journ.*, VII (1927), Pl. LIII: b, c, h.

<sup>17</sup> S. A. Semenov, *Prehistoric Technology* (1964).

<sup>18</sup> The worn edge is that on the right-hand upper half of the face shown on the left in the drawing.

<sup>19</sup> *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, XXVI (1960), 223.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 226.

<sup>21</sup> See examples illustrated by E. C. Curwen in *Antiq. Journ.*, XVI (1936), 85-90, and in *The Prehistory of the Farnham District* (Surrey Arch. Soc., 1939), 194-9.

<sup>22</sup> *Archaeologia*, XLII (1869), Pl. VIII:20.

<sup>23</sup> *Prehistory of the Farnham District*, Fig. 61.

<sup>24</sup> Since this axe comes from an area outside that with which the Implement Petrology Survey of the South-West is concerned, the thin section cut for identification purposes has been returned and is now preserved with the finds from Marlow.

<sup>25</sup> *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, XXVI (1960), 224.

<sup>26</sup> *Antiq. Journ.*, XXXVI (1965), 23. In the light of other evidence it now seems probable that the Great Langdale axe from Abingdon belonged to the primary occupation of that site.

<sup>27</sup> *Arch. News Letter*, 7, No. 6 (1962), 133; 134, n. 3a.

<sup>28</sup> S. Piggott, *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles* (1954), 285.

<sup>29</sup> Cf. specimens from Plantation Farm (*Antiq. Journ.*, XIII (1933), 272).

<sup>30</sup> E.g. as in the industry from Arreton Down, I.o.W. (*Proc. Preh. Soc.*, XXVI (1960), 291).

<sup>31</sup> *Antiq. Journ.*, XXXI, 142 ff.

<sup>32</sup> *Oxoniensia*, II, Fig. 1:6-8.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, Fig. 6:D.8 BV I.

<sup>34</sup> *Antiq. Journ.*, XXVII, 37-8, Fig. 16:1.

<sup>35</sup> *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, XI, 33, Fig. 1:8-10.

<sup>36</sup> *Arch. Journ.*, CII, 18, B.6.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, K.1.

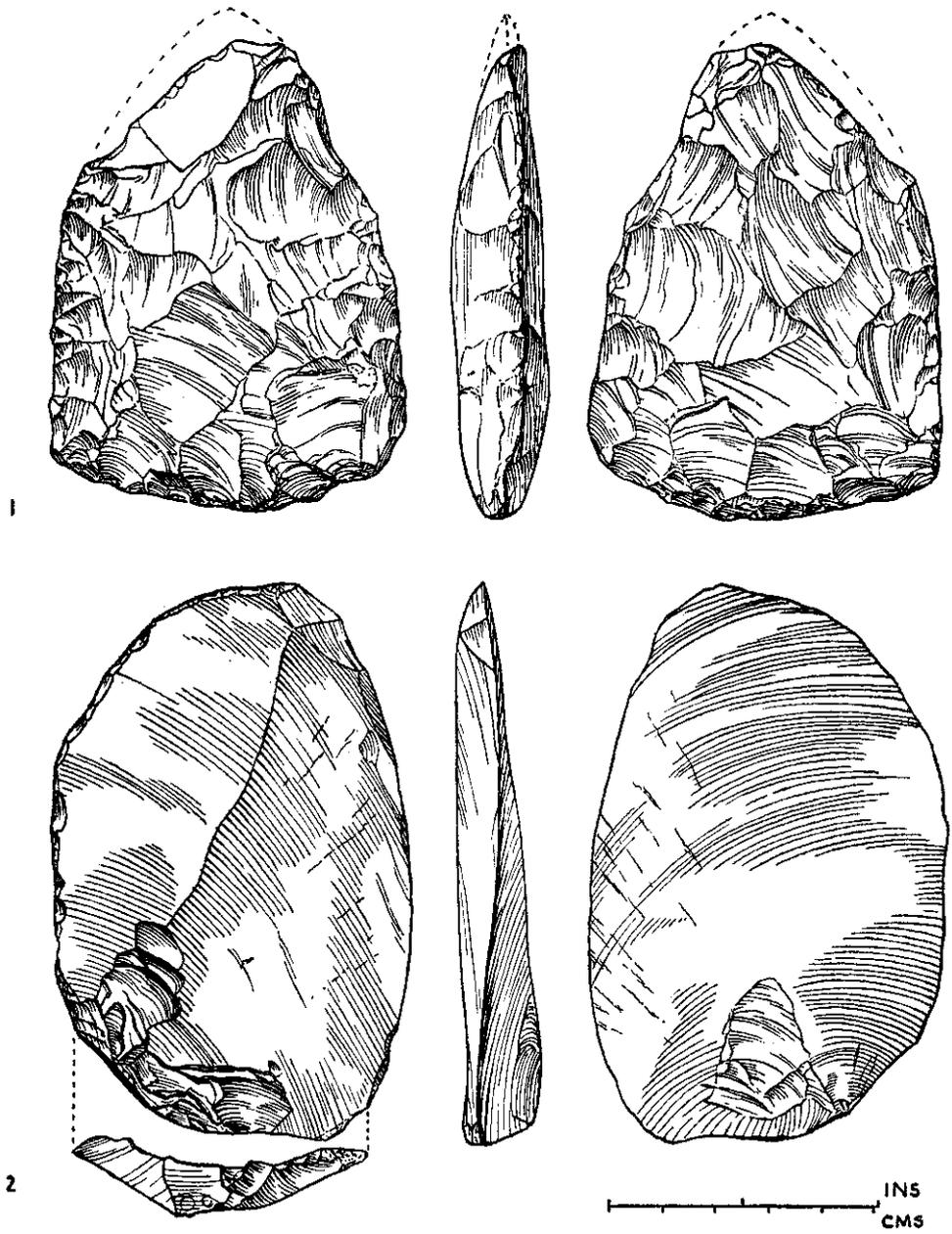


FIG. 1. Marlow Brickyard. Late Acheulian hand-axe and Levalloisian flake. (Scale  $\frac{7}{16}$ .)

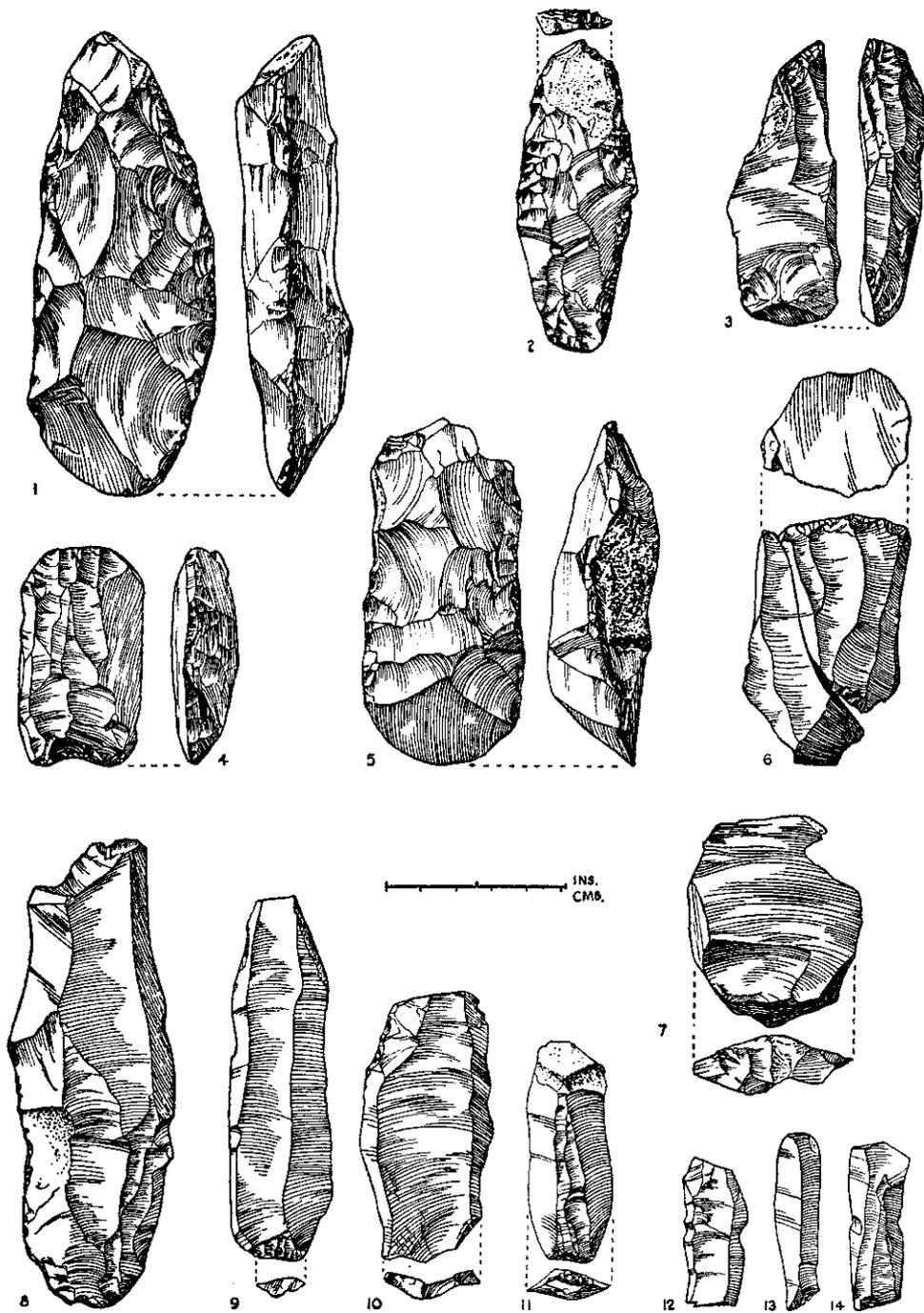


FIG. 2. Marlow Brickyard. Mesolithic implements and flakes. (Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ .)

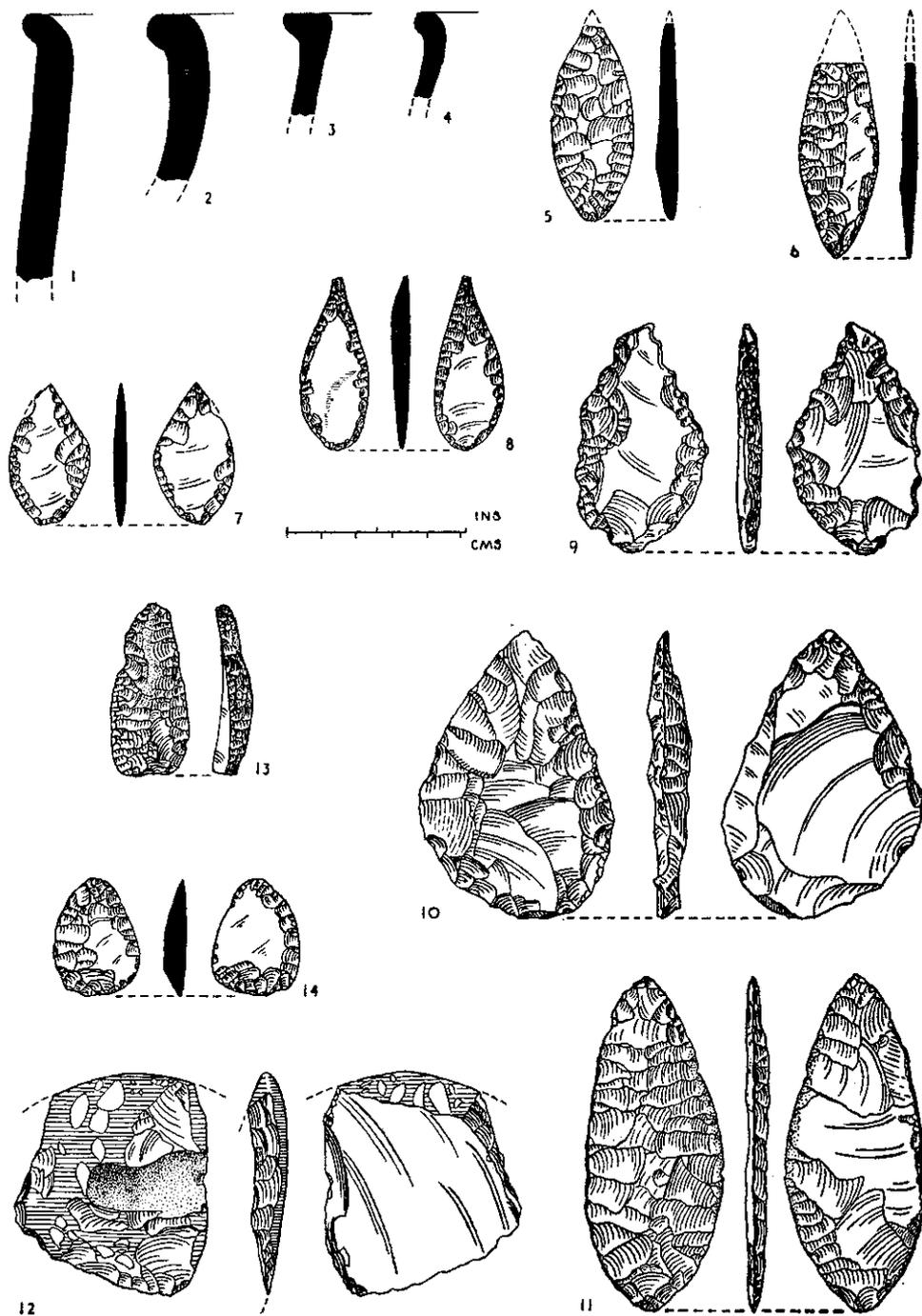


FIG. 3. Marlow Brickyard. Profiles of "Western" Neolithic sherds (1-4); leaf-shaped arrowheads (5-8); laurel-leaves (9-10); sickle-flint (11); fragment of Late Neolithic discoidal polished knife (12); plano-convex knife and triangular object, Beaker culture (13-14). *Note:* On No. 11 friction-lustre is indicated by stipple, grinding by black. (Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ .)

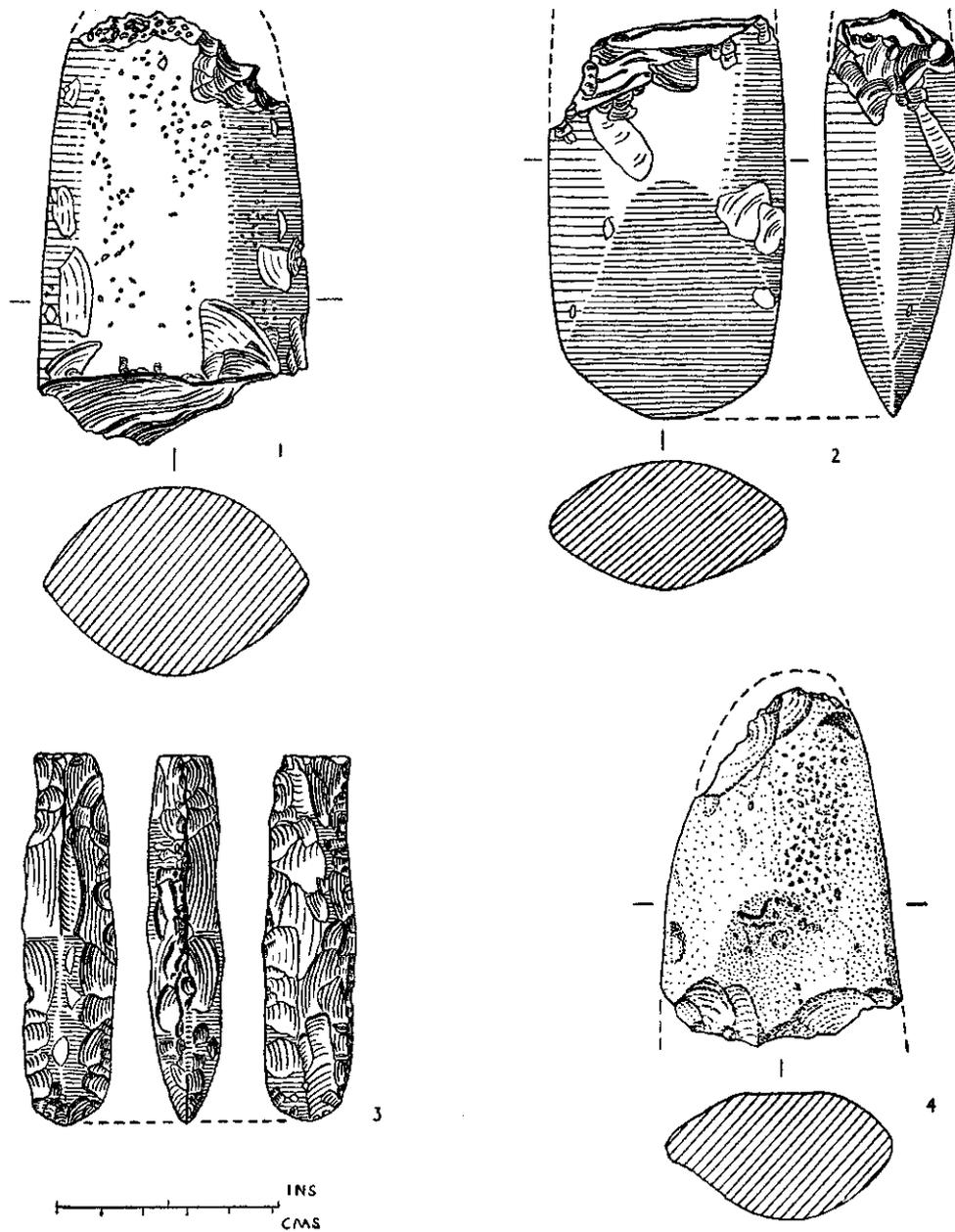


FIG. 4. Marlow Brickyard. Fragments of ground flint axes (1-2); flint chisel (3); fragment of stone axe of Group VI (4). (Scale  $\frac{3}{8}$ .)