

INTRODUCTION

IN 1935, Major A. G. Wade, M.C., F.S.A., in correspondence with our President, Lord Onslow, drew the attention of the Surrey Archæological Society to the wealth of archæological material which was then being found at Farnham, and of which, for the most part, no record was being made. At the same time he stressed the need for a new, independent, investigation of the Farnham River gravels and the Palæolithic implements which they contain. There have been many conflicting opinions expressed regarding these gravels in recent years, and it was felt that they are of such importance (particularly in view of the recent advance which has been made in the study of the gravels and implements of the Thames valley) that a fresh investigation was called for, made the more urgent through the rapidity with which these gravels are being removed by quarrying.

This Survey has therefore been prepared with a twofold object in view, the first being the investigation of the gravels and their contained Palæolithic implements, the second the recording, as far as possible, of all the archæological material from the district, the limits of which are those shown on the series of maps accompanying this work.

Dr. K. P. Oakley has very kindly undertaken the first part of this work, and his recent work on the Terrace gravels of the Thames valley (with which the gravel deposits of its tributaries are, of course, intimately connected) made it particularly desirable that he should do so.

The Mesolithic sites, and the implements found at them, have been studied for many years by Mr. W. F. Rankine, who has not only prepared the section (Part II) describing the Mesolithic and Neolithic material, but has contributed information and drawings essential to the preparation of much of the remainder of this work.

Attached to the Neolithic section is the Report on the

excavation of the Neolithic Long Barrow at "Runfold Farm," near Badshot Lea, which was discovered by Mr. Rankine, and so fortunately came to light during the preparation of this survey. This Report is the work of the Morven Institute of Archæological Research, whose director, Mr. A. Keiller, with Mr. S. Piggott, kindly undertook these excavations on behalf of this Society, which provided the funds required for carrying out the work.

It is of interest to record that the discovery and investigation of this site resulted from the work then being done in connection with this survey.

The remainder of this work (Bronze Age-Pagan Saxon Period) I have prepared with the very great assistance of Major Wade, who has both rescued objects which would otherwise have been destroyed, and has provided copious information about them and about previous discoveries in this district.

In the appropriate section of the Survey (Romano-British, p. 226) is embodied a note on the results of the brief excavations which were carried out for this Society, in the summer of 1935, on ground adjoining the Stoneyfield Gravel Pit. As is described, this is the site of a Late Bronze Age "Urnfield," found to have been disturbed subsequently both by Iron Age and Roman burials,¹ and, at one point, by a Roman pottery kiln.

Late Bronze Age occupation in this area appears to have been considerable, and an extensive occupation site, which has produced much archæological material (of the kind well known from the results of the "Plumpton Plain" sites in Sussex, excavated by Dr. Curwen), has been found, close to "Green Lane," on the Shortheath ridge. Here, as at so many Late Bronze Age sites (*e.g.*, "Park Brow," Sussex), occupation continued into the Iron Age, apparently without any interruption.

Of the Earthworks in the district, consisting of several camps and a number of round barrows, there is little to record, since, as yet, none has been excavated, and the "surface indications" are not always reliable. It is hoped that it will be possible before long to investigate some of them, but it will

¹ The excavations encountered only R.-B. material, *viz.*, a group of five cremations.

not be possible to include any account of the results of this work in the present survey.

The Roman sites are, almost without exception, connected with the remains of pottery kilns, so that the main endeavour of this section of the work has been the publication of the different types of pottery which they produced. The dating of these sites is not assisted by the almost total absence of coins or small finds. It seems as though the potters of this region were people of considerable poverty, and they appear to have been living under conditions very similar to those of the occupants of the Belgic Hut (at site "507"), or of the Pagan Saxon Hut (Firgrove pit, near Farnham Station) of both the preceding and succeeding periods.

In conclusion, it will be seen from this survey that Farnham is almost unique as regards the range of its archæological material. Practically every period, from Lower Palæolithic to Pagan Saxon, is represented within a radius of barely a mile from the centre of the town. As regards two items at least, *viz.*, the Mesolithic Hut site and the Neolithic Long Barrow, this region makes a contribution to archæology that is of outstanding importance.

Amongst those, not already mentioned, who have so kindly assisted in the compilation of this survey, either by the provision of information or photographs, or by lending objects in their possession for illustration, thanks are due particularly to the following:

Mr. C. Borelli; Major Anderson, Mr. Choate, Canon O'Farrell and Mr. J. A. Patterson.

A. W. G. L.

