

# 13

## Oxfordshire

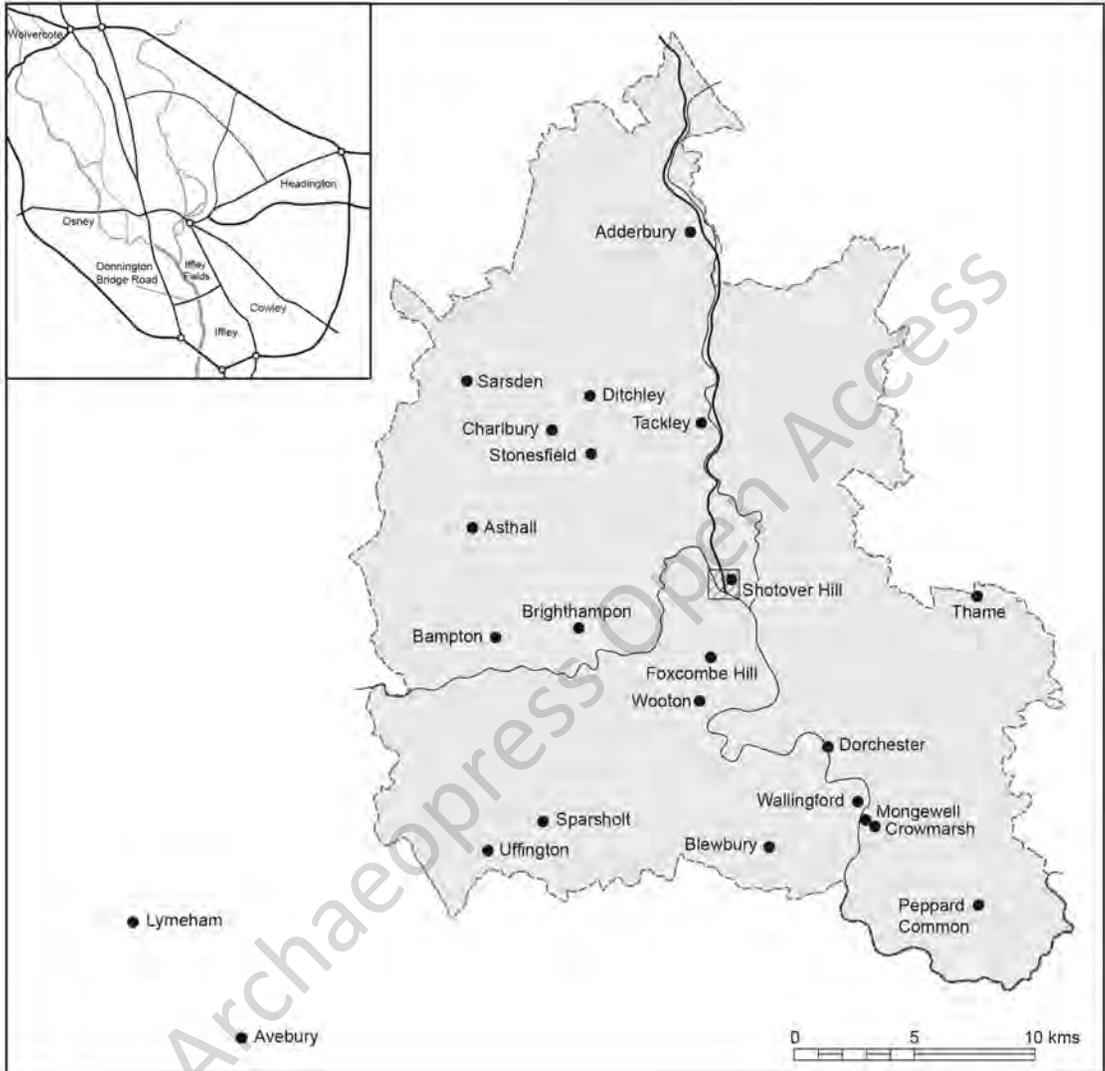
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### 13.1 Introduction

The Pitt Rivers Museum (PRM) holds *c.* 3,241 objects from Oxfordshire that are currently defined as archaeological.<sup>1</sup> This represents just *c.* 11% of the archaeological collections from the UK, and just *c.* 2.4% of the Museum's world archaeological collections as a whole. However, such is the quantity of British material, and the international distribution of the collections as a whole, that collections from only 10 of the 134 countries represented in the 'archaeological' collections are larger than those from Oxfordshire. Thus, even if leaving the 'ethnographic' collections aside, the Oxfordshire archaeological material represents a significant element of the Museum's collections. Some 2,852 (*c.* 88%) of these objects from Oxfordshire are prehistoric stone tools. Less than half were obtained through excavation, most being recovered through field-walking or collected during gravel extraction, and many more being collected during building works (*Figure 13.1*).

Earlier chapters have considered the UK archaeological collections from the Palaeolithic (Chapter 9), later prehistoric and Romano-British (Chapter 11), and medieval and post-medieval (Chapter 12) periods, and have discussed some of the Oxfordshire material in the process. The point has been made already, especially in Chapter 12, that many of the apparently 'ethnographic' objects from England in fact represent significant resources for historical and archaeological studies. This is certainly the case for the PRM's Oxfordshire collections: the number of medieval and post-medieval objects is significantly under-estimated, since many are currently classified as 'ethnographic'. Some of these objects were clearly collected in a broadly 'archaeological' manner, such as the undated ivory tuning peg 'found near Eynsham' in 1912 (1938.34.553), or the brass-moulder's tool 'dug up near Farringdon' and purchased in 1906 (2007.91.1), or even the wooden post with cross-bar, donated by 'the Misses Bradford', which was 'one of about 120...found standing in the pond at Adderbury' when it was cleaned out in 1930 (1932.23.1). Still others are of broader value for historical and material culture studies. A major future research challenge lies in developing research that uses these objects – which have neither the exoticism that we might expect of ethnographic objects, nor the antiquity that we might expect of

<sup>1</sup> This chapter considers objects recorded as collected from the ceremonial county of Oxfordshire, as defined by the Local Government Act of 1972 and the minor boundary changes since then. Some objects historically recorded as within Berkshire therefore fall within the scope of the chapter. A previous, partial assessment of the PRM's Oxfordshire archaeological collections, on which this chapter builds, was completed by Simon Thorpe as part of his assessment for his MSc in Professional Archaeology (Thorpe 1996).



archaeological objects – as resources for archaeologies, anthropologies, histories, and geographies of the English past: work that has been begun by the Museum's *Other Within* project (Gosden and Wingfield in prep.; Wingfield 2009, 2010, 2011a, 2011b; Wingfield *et al.* 2009).

The chapter outlines the Oxfordshire material in the PRM Founding Collection (13.2), with particular reference to sites at which General Pitt-Rivers undertook fieldwork. However, the majority of the collections were formed after the founding of the PRM, and before the establishment of the Oxfordshire Museum in 1964, and the Oxford City Museum in 1975. The chapter considers the development of the collections through the principal collectors and donors between 1884 and 1939 – a period shaped by the curatorship of Henry Balfour from 1891 to 1939 – (13.3), and then their development after 1939 (13.4). Smaller archaeological collections from Oxfordshire are considered in section 13.5, and concluding remarks are made in section 13.6.

*Figure 13.1 Map of the main archaeological sites in Oxfordshire referred to in Chapter 13.*

### 13.2 Oxfordshire Archaeology in the Founding Collection

The PRM founding collection holds an unquantified assemblage (>140 objects), of later prehistoric and Romano-British date, that derives from fieldwork undertaken by Pitt-Rivers in Oxfordshire between 1868 and 1870.

An assemblage of later prehistoric flintwork from Ditchley Park (c. 75 artefacts) makes up the largest component (1884.123.128–191, 1884.123.356–363, 1884.123.369–371). Most were collected in April 1868, when we know that Pitt-Rivers stayed with his wife's uncle, Lord (Harold) Dillon, at his house at Ditchley Park (Bowden 1991: 71–2; cf. Dillon 1876), although 4 worked flints are specified as having been collected from the site of 'Devil's Pool'/'Grim's Dyke' at Ditchley on 12 September 1868. A further assemblage, also collected in April 1868, is from Stonesfield Roman Villa at Callow Hill, near Ditchley (cf. Taylor 1941; Thomas 1957). This includes c. 10 sherds of Romano-British ceramics, at least 4 later prehistoric flint scrapers, a spindle whorl and a stone nodule (1884.104.75, 1884.123.364–368, 1884.140.11–20). Pitt-Rivers published a paper based on his fieldwork at Ditchley and Callow Hill in 1869 (Lane Fox 1869), and his description of fieldwalking refers to a number of items that are directly identifiable in the PRM collections:

I picked up a piece of Samian pottery representing in relief a satyr and two woman dancing [1884.140.11], a stone spindle whorl [1884.104.75], several fragments of scored tile, and with them five flints, consisting of two flakes shewing the bulbs of percussion on the flat side [1884.123.366 and 1884.123.368], one ball about an inch in diameter chipped all around [1884.123.364], and two well-formed scrapers [1884.123.365, 367]... (Lane Fox 1869: 4).

As Bowden (1991: 72) describes, Pitt-Rivers' discussion of his fieldwork at these sites explored the question of attributing stone stool technology to the Romano-British period (Figure 13.2), his interpretation of the dyke as a Roman-period fortification, and the potential of flintwork to 'mark the residences of British slaves, who dwelt in huts of wicker, or some other perishable material, in the immediate vicinity of their master's house', in contrast with the very different material culture of nearby villa sites (Lane Fox 1869: 6).

A second article on the archaeology of Oxfordshire, published in the *Journal of the Ethnological Society of London* in 1870, related to the landscape of Dorchester and Wittenham Clumps, and especially to the earthworks of the Iron Age oppidum. The PRM founding collection includes a small assemblage of later prehistoric and Romano-British material – 5 pottery sherds, 18 flint objects and 3 coins – collected during fieldwalking undertaken at Dorchester Dykes (1884.41.178–182, 1884.99.21–23, 1884.123.29–33, 1884.123.372–380, 1884.123.385–388). Four later prehistoric flint tools and a sherd of Bronze Age pottery are from Sinodun Hill Fort (Wittenham Clumps) (1884.123.381–384, 1884.128.37).<sup>2</sup> The flintwork from these sites may include the objects illustrated in the 1870 paper alongside the plan and profiles of the earthworks (Figure 13.3).

Pitt-Rivers' 1870 paper on Dorchester holds an important place in the history of the historic preservation movement in Britain. Extending the logic of Pitt-Rivers' earlier 'rescue' interventions in London and elsewhere, it set out concerns about the damage, in the name of agricultural improvement, of the earthworks at Dorchester. In the early 19th century the earthwork could be described as having 'banks... sixty feet asunder at bottom... their perpendicular height is twenty feet' (Anon 1840: 104), but in 1861

<sup>2</sup> There is one further object from Wittenham Clumps a flint scraper donated by Alexander James Montgomerie Bell in 1891 – 1891.14.2. Two further flint objects from Dorchester Dykes were donated to the OUMNH in 1872 and transferred to the PRM in 1886 (1887.1.54–55); see 12.3.1 below.

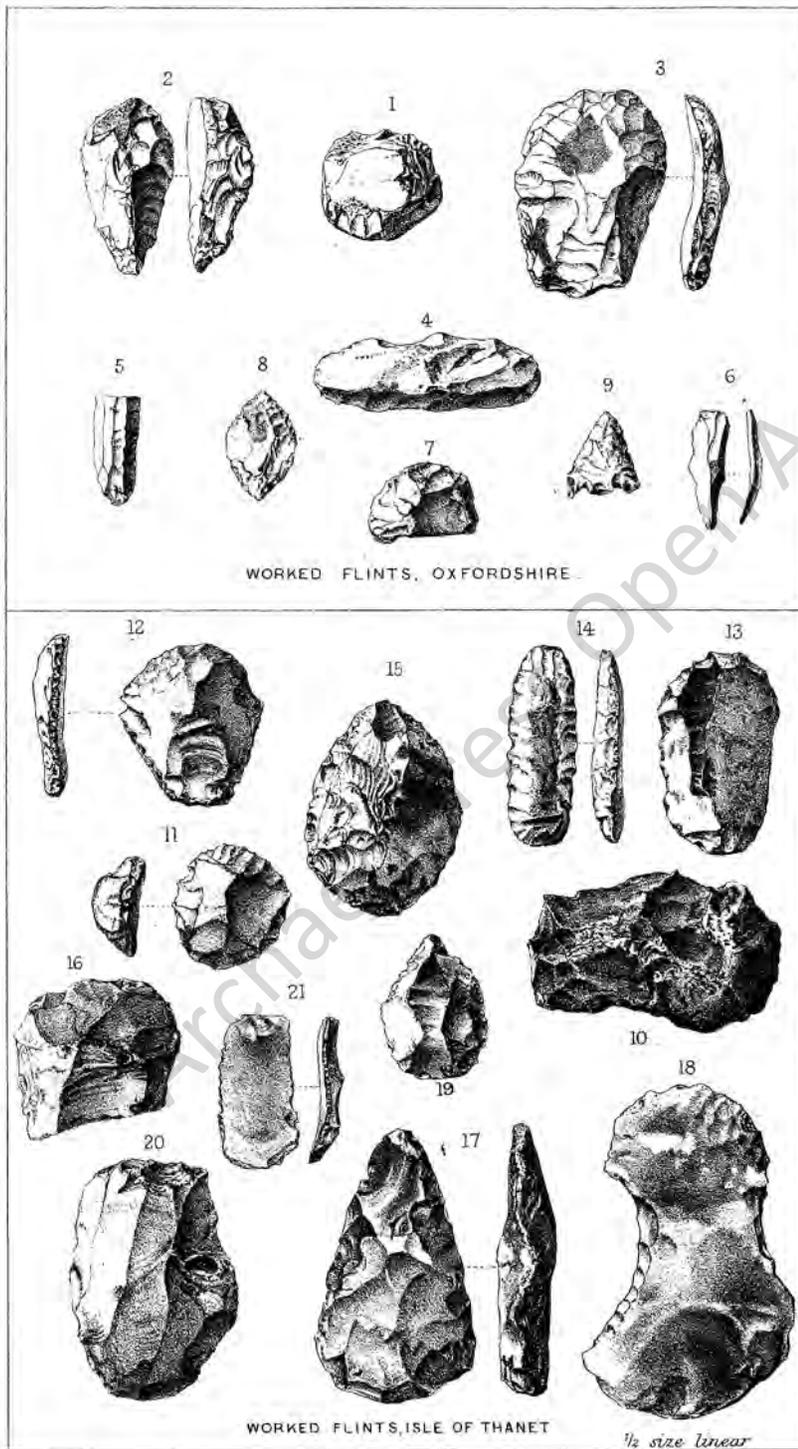


Figure 13.2 Illustration of flints found in Oxfordshire and the Isle of Thanet by General Pitt-Rivers (from Lane Fox 1869).

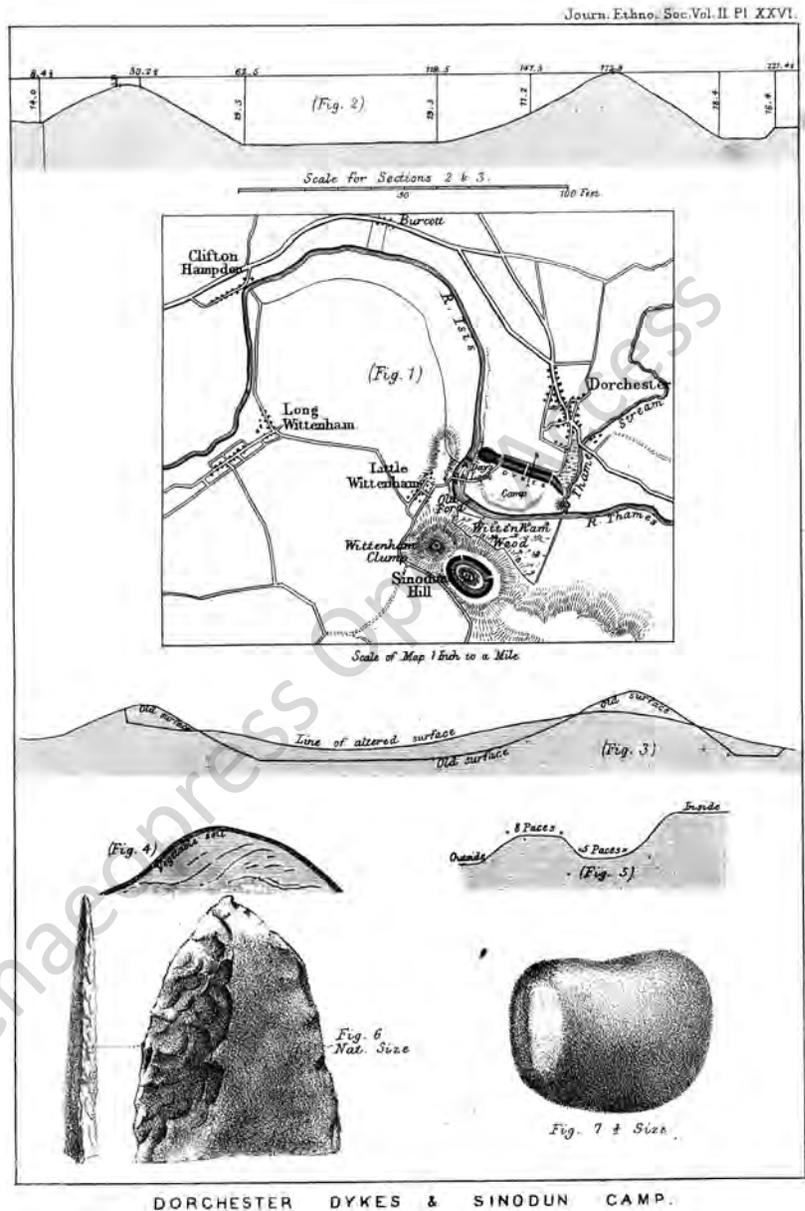


Figure 13.3 Plan and section drawings made by Pitt-Rivers at Dorchester Dykes and Sinodun Camp, Oxfordshire (from Lane Fox 1870, plate XXVI).

the land around Dorchester was enclosed (Lobel 1962). At some point in the mid-late 1860s the landowner, Thomas Latham of Bishop's Court Farm, began to undertake a systematic flattening, an action which drew widespread attention. On Thursday May 26 1870 the issue was discussed at the Society of Antiquaries of London, and

‘It was proposed and carried that a letter, bearing the signature of the President, Earl Stanhope, should be sent to Mr. Latham, the owner of the ground, urging him to preserve uninjured a site which tradition connected in various ways with the earliest history of this country’ (Jones 1870: 496).

On March 2nd 1871 it was reported to the Society that:

‘Mr.Latham... had commenced the work of destruction, and had levelled and ploughed up a considerable portion of the remains on the flat ground on the Oxfordshire side of the river. After some discussion, in which Col. A. H. Lane Fox, F.S.A. and W. H. Black, Esq. F.S.A. took a part, it was arranged that Mr Buckland and Colonel Lane Fox should proceed to the spot and do their best to interest Mr Latham in the preservation of the Dykes’ (Buckland 1873: 92–3).

Letters about the earthworks were published in *The Times*, *Pall Mall Gazette* and *Jackson’s Oxford Journal* on 9 June 1870. The following month an anonymous article in *Saturday Review of Politics, Literature, Science and Art* stated that ‘whether the Dorchester dykes were made by Aulus Plautius or by any later Roman general, there can be no doubt that they are genuine Roman works’ (*Saturday Review of Politics, Literature, Science and Art* 2 July 1870, p. 477). A response to this letter was published in the *Pall Mall Gazette* (11 July 1870), under the pseudonym ‘A Late Assistant-Quartermaster-General’: without a doubt – and especially because of the similarities between this letter and the article presented to the Ethnological Society (Lane Fox 1870) – the author was Pitt-Rivers. This letter refuted the idea that the earthworks were Roman in date:

‘Having twice examined the camp at Dorchester – and I may observe en passant that I know of no place that will so well repay the military officer who has an archaeological turn of mind for the trouble of visiting it – I have arrived at a totally different conclusion from the writer of the article. First, the camp is not Roman... I examined carefully, by pacing backwards and forwards, the whole of the interior of the camp at a time when the crops were off the ground; but I failed to discover a single fragment of Roman tile or pottery... On the other hand, evidence of British occupation was abundant; I found several fragments of undoubted British pottery in the materials excavated from the dykes [1884.41.178–182], a fragment of a flint spearhead and debris of the fabrication of flint implements [1884.123.29–33]’.

Harold St George Gray (1929: 20) and Mark Bowden (1991: 76) both suggest that Pitt-Rivers excavated at Dorchester. However, Pitt-Rivers’ published description of fieldwalking and examination of a ‘section of a fresh cutting’ (Lane Fox 1870: 413), alongside the description in the anonymous letter in the *Saturday Review of Politics, Literature, Science and Art* (p. 478) (‘the work of destruction is actually going on. The pickaxe and shovel were busily at work only a few days back’), it is more probable that Pitt-Rivers collected these objects from cuttings or spoil heaps made by Latham’s works.

The broader significance of the Oxfordshire material deriving from the General’s own fieldwork has two principal aspects. Firstly, at both Ditchley (Lane Fox 1869: 5) and Dorchester (Lane Fox 1870: 415), Pitt-Rivers explored differences and commonalities between Iron Age and Romano-British archaeological remains: a theme that would be significant for much of his future fieldwork beyond Oxfordshire, for example at Castle Hill (Caesar’s Camp) in Kent (Pitt-Rivers 1883a; see Chapter 11 above). Secondly, Pitt-Rivers’ activities at Dorchester (Lane Fox 1870) formed an important early element of the development of John Lubbock’s 1882 Ancient Monuments Act, and the historic preservation movement more generally (Chippendale 1983: 5).

In addition to the material discussed above, there are also 3 flint flakes from Shipton-under-Wychwood Barrow, marked ‘Tumulus Shipton Oxon ALF 1872’ (1884.123.26–28). Further archaeological material from Oxfordshire in the PRM founding collection includes a number of objects purchased or collected by the General: an Anglo-Saxon bronze fibula and string of amber beads from Standlake (1884.76.140, 1884.79.62), an undated iron dagger marked ‘Oxfordshire P.R.’ (1884.121.26), and a model of the chambered tomb at Wayland’s Smithy (1884.140.97; see discussion in 10.5.2 above). Finally, a small quantity of material in PRM founding collection relates to early ‘rescue’

collecting in the city of Oxford: 4 sherds of post-medieval ceramics (1884.40.32–35) from the site of the Angel Hotel, 79–84 High Street, which was demolished for the construction of the Examination Schools in 1876.

### 13.3 Oxfordshire Collections 1884–1939

#### 13.3.1 *Transfers*

A small number of archaeological objects came to the PRM between 1884 and 1939 through transfers from the Oxford University Natural History Museum (OUMNH) and the Ashmolean Museum.

The transfer in 1935 from the OUMNH of material collected by George Rolleston included an unquantified and unidentified assemblage of ceramics, recorded as found at Wytham, Oxford in November 1873 (1935.46.16–24), and 9 flint flakes ‘from graves at Brighthampton’ collected by ‘Mr Barter’ in 1875 (1887.1.430; see Akerman 1857, 1860a). An undated transfer from the OUMNH of material collected by William Buckland included an unquantified assemblage of Romano-British ceramics, flintwork, coins, bone and shell recovered by ‘James Hearn’ (or Hearne) from ‘Hatford Glebe’, Oxfordshire (1989.8.1–4).<sup>3</sup>

Transfers of Oxfordshire archaeological material from the OUMNH in 1886, 1891 and 1892 comprised: 2 flint objects from Dorchester Dykes collected in November 1872 (1887.1.54–55); an undated iron spearhead collected by Henry Hippiusley from Sparsholt in 1850 (1887.1.425); a polished stone axe found at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford donated by F. Grimsley in 1873 (1887.1.239); an iron arrowhead collected by Henry Willett (1885.1.1); a small assemblage of later prehistoric flintwork from Wantage formerly exhibited at Stephen William Silver’s private museum at Letcombe Manor, Berkshire (1906.20.247–255); 9 Neolithic flint tools recovered ‘from graves at Brighthampton’ in 1875 by Mr Barter (1887.1.430); an iron axe head ‘dug up at the Park, Shipton Manor, Kidlington’ and donated by W.E. Sawyer; 7 late medieval or early post-medieval ceramic objects collected from the site of the Angel Hotel, 79–84 High Street by George Augustus Rowell (1887.1.407–411): the site from which ceramics in the PRM founding collection came from, see 13.2 above; an early Bronze Age flint knife from the River Thames at Henley-on-Thames (1892.66.5); and a Roman coin of the 4th century CE, recorded as found in the mouth of a skull at Freeacre Farm, Long Wittenham by Rev. James Charles Clutterbuck (1891.61.20; see Clutterbuck 1848; Akerman 1860b, 1863). Further material probably collected by Clutterbuck was transferred from the OUMNH, comprising a polished stone axe from Chalgrove (1892.66.7), 2 stone axes from High Road, Nettlebed (1892.66.9, 1892.66.11), and 3 stone tools from the River Thames at Long Wittenham (1892.66.3–4, 2007.74.1).

An unquantified assemblage of later prehistoric flintwork collected by ‘A.E. Bruerton’ through fieldwalking at Pudlicote Farm, Wychwood Farm, Chilson and Wychwood Forest was transferred from the Ashmolean Museum in July 1907 (1907.46.1). An Anglo-Saxon bronze fibula brooch from Charlbury Camp, donated by Sir William Anson in 1913, was transferred to the Ashmolean Museum in an exchange in 1931.

#### 13.3.2 *Henry Balfour*

During Henry Balfour’s curatorship (1884 to 1939), approximately 2,921 Oxfordshire archaeological objects were acquired by the Museum. This represents nearly 90%

<sup>3</sup> The PRM collections include a letter from James Hearne of Hatford Rectory to William Buckland (dated 28 April 1842). As likely Rector of St George Church, Hearne would have held glebe land (property assigned to the clergymen assigned as part of his benefice), and it is presumably this land (‘Hatford Glebe’) from which the objects were recovered. Unfortunately, no further details are currently known on the find spot.

of all the Oxfordshire archaeological objects in the Museum, and contrasts with only 184 (approximately 5%) that subsequently came to the Museum. However, Balfour shaped the Oxfordshire archaeological collections not only through his curatorial activities, but also through his own collecting and donations. He donated 358 'archaeological' artefacts from Oxfordshire, of which *c.* 349 were collected by Balfour himself from at least 33 different sites within the county.

His own donations include 3 artefacts – a small flint object, interpreted by him as a possible fragment of a Neolithic polished stone axe and donated in November 1911 (1911.41.3), and two gunflints collected in June 1921 (1938.35.377–378) – which were found in the flowerbeds of his own garden at Langley Lodge, Headington, Oxford. Indeed, Balfour's interest in stone tools dominated his donations. He gave *c.* 183 stone tools and gunflints from Oxfordshire to the PRM, mainly consisting of material collected during fieldwalking (much of which he presumably carried out himself). These comprise *c.* 37 stone tools from North Stoke (1897.43.16–22, 1898.20.70, 1912.36.12–29, 1912.39.1–10, 1915.37.31) and smaller assemblages from Boars Hill (1938.35.390–393), Charlbury (1938.35.365), Chipping Norton (1897.43.14–15), Mongewell (1907.1.15–22, 1912.39.15), The Moors, S.E. Oxon' (1912.39.16–18), Nettlebed (1897.43.12–13, 1903.6.17), North Hinksey (1906.16.18–21), Shotover Hill (1895.21.5–14), South Stoke (1912.39.11–12), Stonesfield (1915.37.32–41), Tackley (1938.35.394–405), Wallingford (1909.4.3, 1912.36.9–11, 1912.36.13–14, 1912.43.23–32, 1918.42.88–92), Wantage (1907.26.17–21), Wolvercote (1938.35.388–389). Balfour also donated some apparently unworked flint from Oxfordshire (1917.9.60), and an unquantified assemblage of geological specimens, gun flints and stone tools, including Lower Palaeolithic material, from Iffley (1903.6.18, 1905.5.6, 1905.53.5–7, 1915.7.114, 1915.7.116, 1916.23.12 and 1917.9.58, 1938.35.379–382, 1938.35.386–387). As well as flintwork, Balfour also donated a Romano-British iron arrow-head from Sand Hill Farm, Headington (1898.20.65), and an iron arrow-head 'ploughed up at Stonesfield' (1890.17.2). A further object from Stonesfield – an undated spindle whorl – may also have been collected by Balfour (2010.25.1).

While material obtained in this way – from known sites in the region (from which other PRM donors had collected), and through fieldwalking – forms the majority of Balfour's donations, there is also a significant body of archaeological objects discovered in the course of building works, in Oxford and beyond. These include 4 post-medieval ointment pots from the site of the Forestry Institute (8 Parks Road; 1907.1.5–12); an iron stirrup from the site of the Radcliffe Science Library (1898.20.68); glass phials, ceramic ointment pots and a copper alloy thimble from Hertford College (1907.26.9–13); an ivory comb from Balliol College (1910.8.1); 4 undated sherds of pottery from the Electrical Department (Clarendon Laboratory) of the University Museum (1908.36.40–43); a gun-flint 'found during excavations at the Bodleian Library' (1938.35.367), a flint arrow-head and a scraper 'found in river-ballast at Osney Lock' (1911.41.1–2), a leather shoe 'found 20 ft below the surface in excavating for drainage works at the top of Speedwell Street, Oxford' (1891.9.1); 3 stone tools recovered from Pots Stream, Hinksey during dredging (1898.20.64, 1898.20.69, 1911.29.55); and 4 Neolithic ground stone axes from the site of a new gasworks in Abingdon (1915.37.42–45). Additionally, *c.* 28 clay tobacco pipes (1898.20.71–72, 1912.20.35–37, 1918.42.1–25, 2006.84.1–2), a copper alloy thimble (1925.8.1), 9 gunflints (1938.35.368–376), and an iron horse shoe, iron claw hammer and hob-nailed boot (1933.51.8–9) are recorded as collected by Balfour from unidentified sites in Oxford. A Neolithic polished stone axe from Headington (1907.26.16) and 3 gun flints from New Iffley (1938.35.383–385) may also have been collected during building works.

Similar to the material collected during groundworks for construction was material revealed within the fabric of standing buildings, which includes a wooden matchbox (1938.35.1027) that was ‘found behind plaster wall in Mr Parker’s shop, Pembroke Street, Oxford’, and currently classed as ‘archaeological’ on the PRM database. A forged Roman lamp purchased by Balfour in Oxford in 1918 (1932.88.441) is also listed on the PRM database as from the county.

Five archaeological objects from Oxfordshire were purchased at Stevens Auction Rooms during Balfour’s curatorship: 5 flint scrapers from North Stoke (1927.87.34–38). Further purchases from local collectors are discussed in 13.5 below.

Taken together the archaeological material from Oxfordshire donated by Henry Balfour provides a snapshot of his own collecting activities, including local fieldwalking for the collection of flintwork, and obtaining objects from groundworks for construction, especially in central Oxford.

### 13.3.3 *Henry John Reynolds Moreton*

The PRM holds *c.* 339 stone tools collected by Henry Moreton (1827–1921), the third Earl of Ducie, from his estates in West Oxfordshire, predominantly around the parish of Sarsden. Some 139 were donated in 1899 (1899.11.1–139), and a further *c.* 200 posthumously in 1922 (1922.46.1–199). The majority of the collection has little recorded detail of provenance, apart from a *c.* 64 flints from Lyneham Long Barrow (1922.46.137–199). These collections do not comprise the full extent of Henry Moreton’s collecting activities at his estate, with further objects known to be held by Bristol City Museum. The PRM collections from Sarsden possibly include flintwork studied by Thomas Downing Kendrick in his study of arrow-head typology and distribution (Kendrick 1932: 44), and one of the flints was mentioned in a gazetteer of British Mesolithic finds (Wymer and Bonsall 1977: 226). Lyneham Long Barrow was excavated, at the invitation of Moreton, by Edward Condor in 1884, and Neolithic and Anglo-Saxon material, including inhumations, was recovered (Condor 1895). The Natural History Museum in London holds the surviving skeletal material.<sup>4</sup> The location of the rest of the excavated material is unknown.

### 13.3.4 *Percy Manning*

Percy Manning (1870–1917) is known for his interest in English folklore (Manning and Leeds 1921: 227; Grant 1999; Heaney 2004) as well as for his archaeological activities, which included excavations at Alchester Roman Fort, Oxfordshire in 1894 (Myers 1895: 34).<sup>5</sup>

Manning donated 219 objects to the PRM in 1911, 149 of which were from Oxfordshire (Petch 2009a, 2009b). Of these Oxfordshire objects, 60 are currently classed as ‘archaeological’ on the PRM database. Nearly half of these objects are keys: 18 from unrecorded locations in Oxfordshire (1911.29.108–111, 114–119, 122–125, 131–134), 7 from the city of Oxford (1911.29.107, 120, 126–130), two from Asthall (1911.29.112–113) and one from Osney (1911.29.121). Why keys dominate this

<sup>4</sup> Correspondence from Rob Kruszynski, Curator of Palaeontology at the Natural History Museum, recorded on the PRM database, provides the following accession numbers and brief descriptions: *PA SK 2669* [Present acc. no.]; *E.11.9/576* [Previous no.]; Calvaria and mandible [Description]; Anglo-Saxon [Remarks]; *PA SK 2670*; *E.11.9/577*; Child’s calvaria and mandible; Anglo-Saxon; *PA SK 2671*; *E.11.9/578*; Calvaria; Anglo-Saxon; *PA SK 3304*; *1952.2.20 .2*; Calvaria; Neolithic ‘Lyneham skull no.3’; *PA SK 3704*; *1952.2.20 .1*; Calvaria and mandible; Anglo-Saxon ‘Lyneham skull no.2’.

<sup>5</sup> Manning’s excavated material from Alchester Roman Fort was donated to the Ashmolean Museum, along with his documentary archive. The Manning archive has recently been fully indexed and provided with an online searchable database <http://www.ashmolean.org/ash/amps/oha>.

particular donation is not known: however, the PRM founding collection contained *c.* 42 keys, some of which Pitt-Rivers published (Pitt-Rivers 1883b)<sup>6</sup>, and 828 English keys formed the Catherine Parsons' collection, which was donated to the Museum in 1950 (1951.13; Wingfield 2008).

Manning's archaeological donations also included 2 Bellarmine jugs recovered during city drainage works on High Street, Oxford (1911.29.94–95); 7 iron horseshoes from Cruel Field (now Crowell Road), Cowley and other locations in Oxfordshire (1911.29.97–103); an ear scoop from Oxford (1911.29.65); a horse snaffle from Headington (1911.29.104); a pair of compasses from Broad Street, Oxford (1911.29.61); another pair of compasses from Weston-on-the-Green (1911.29.62); and an iron rapier, the blade of which is inscribed 'SAHAGUM'<sup>7</sup>, recovered during works on the site of Jesus College for new buildings on Ship Street in 1906 (1911.29.9).<sup>8</sup>

Percy Manning's importance to archaeology at the PRM lies not only in his objects, however, but also in his systematic recording of Oxfordshire antiquities. Between 1896 and 1914 Manning compiled detailed lists of archaeological sites and finds from journals, newspapers and Museum annual reports. He did not publish the list in his lifetime, but Edward Thurlow Leeds<sup>9</sup> updated and published it, organised by parish, in 1921 (Manning and Leeds 1921). Archaeological objects from Oxfordshire in the PRM accessioned in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are often only recorded on the NMR and Oxfordshire HER as a result of their inclusion into this document.

### 13.3.5 *Thomas James Carter*

The PRM holds *c.* 231 objects purchased from Thomas James Carter (1832–1909) between 1898 and 1905. Carter was a brickfield worker, who collected stone tools, some of which may have been found during gravel extraction and other quarrying activities in Oxfordshire. When rheumatism forced his retirement Manning, who became acquainted with him whilst fossil hunting, provided employment collecting Oxfordshire folklore (Manning 1902). In addition to ethnographic objects from Oxfordshire, which included a complete Morris dancer's costume, and folk medicines such as a powder made of fish bone scrapings (1901.4.115) and a slug on a thorn (1898.71.1; see Richardson 2009), the PRM holds some 131 stone tools purchased from Manning.

The first purchase consisted of 18 flint arrow-heads and scrapers from Blenheim Farm, Crowmarsh (1897.76.1–19), and subsequent assemblages of later prehistoric flintwork came from Nuffield Hill (1898.54.1–14), North Stoke (1898.54.15–18, 1901.67.10–28), Wallingford (Grim's Ditch, 1901.67.1–9, 1902.74.15), 'Cowley Heights' (1901.67.29–30), 'The Moors' (1901.67.31–38) and Mongewell (1902.74.1–14, 1905.75.1). Studies of Neolithic remains around North Stoke has been carried out more recently (Holgate 1988: 236; Ford and Hazell 1991), but has not focused on the upland areas at Nuffield Hill and Blenheim Farm represented by Manning's artefacts. A natural flint, the shape of which resembles a Palaeolithic handaxe, was purchased from Carter in January 1902, and was reported as having been found in Minster Ditch, North Hinksey (1902.73.1).

<sup>6</sup> A further *c.* 106 locks and keys from Pitt-Rivers' collections were donated to the PRM by George Anthony Lane Fox Pitt-Rivers in 2010 (2010.80).

<sup>7</sup> The sword inscription 'Sahagum' was the subject of correspondence in *Notes and Queries* in the 1860s (Pinkerton 1867).

<sup>8</sup> The PRM holds at least 2 further objects recovered from excavations at Ship Street around this time: a ceramic spindle whorl (1905.52.1) and a whetstone (1904.52.7).

<sup>9</sup> Leeds also donated an assemblage of pins and wire (1910.15.1–3) recovered from the site of a post-medieval pin factory on Thames St, Oxford to the PRM; see 12.5 below.

As well as stone tools, the 1897 purchase also included 2 post-medieval buckles from Wallingford (1897.76.19–20), a whetstone found during drainage work at Ship Street, Oxford (1904.52.7), and 3 undated ceramic loom weights from Milton Stream, Milton (1897.76.21–23; Leeds 1923: 181; cf. Rogers 2007: 30).

### 13.3.6 *Bruce Morton Goldie*

Bruce Goldie (1869–1959) was a classics teacher at St Edwards School, Summertown (Petch 2009c). He donated more than 100 archaeological objects, which included stone tools from East Sussex, Hampshire, London, Surrey, Kent and Guernsey, and a range of material from the City of Oxford.

During works at St Edward's School in 1923, Goldie collected a range of archaeological material. The objects which he donated to the PRM from the site comprised an unquantified assemblage of undated pottery sherds (1923.49.3), 3 'rods of white pottery' (1923.49.4), and 8 flint objects (1923.49.1–2, 1923.49.5, 1927.9.4–5, 1928.11.5–7). The discovery of the site was briefly reported in the *Journal of Roman Studies*:

'Two miles north of Oxford itself traces of a very poor settlement occupied from the second to the fourth century, have been found by Mr. Bruce Goldie in the playing-field of St. Edwards School, Woodstock Road' (Collingwood and Taylor 1924: 229).

This paper refers to the Romano-British material being deposited at the Ashmolean Museum ('Accession Register for 1924: 592–594'), and it is possible that the non-Romano-British finds were given to the PRM. An unidentified object collected by Goldie from Marston Ferry Road, Oxford in 1923, and recorded at the time as a 'pitch stone scraper', may be made of slag (1923.49.5).

Further donations from Goldie comprised 12 Bronze Age barbed and tanged flint arrow-heads from Wallingford (1934.3.1–12), and a few single finds from the University Parks: a spindle whorl (1928.11.4), 2 flint scrapers (1927.9.2, 1928.11.2), a ceramic wig curler (1927.9.3), a clay tobacco pipe bowl (1929.38.1) and a gun flint (1928.11.3).

### 13.3.7 *Raymond Wilson*

Raymond Wilson, of the Vicarage, Tackley, Oxfordshire, sold a number of archaeological objects to the PRM, and exchanged many more. Around 126 objects in the PRM came from Wilson, which include later prehistoric worked flint and metalwork from Switzerland, Denmark, France, Belgium and Egypt, and stone tools from Cambridgeshire, Kent, Lincolnshire, Suffolk, West Sussex, South Yorkshire, Aberdeenshire and County Antrim.

From Oxfordshire, there is a collection of c. 12 stone tools from Tackley (1910.72.1, 1910.72.13–14, 1910.72.17–19, 1910.72.27–28, 1910.72.30–31), and a similar number from Charlbury (1908.57.8, 1910.72.2, 1910.72.4–9, 1910.72.20–26, 1910.72.29, 1910.72.32). Further stone tools collected by Wilson are from Duns Tew (1910.72.3), Stonesfield (1908.57.9–19, 1908.58.1, 1910.72.10–12), Kiddington with Asterleigh (1908.58.2) and Wootton (1910.72.15).

### 13.3.8 *Alexander James Montgomerie Bell*

Alexander J.M. Bell (1845–1920; *Figure 13.4*) was a classical scholar and teacher, as well as an enthusiastic amateur archaeologist, natural historian and anthropologist (Nicholas 2009a). The PRM holds c. 3,965 objects collected by him: 260 of these were donated to the Museum by Bell during his lifetime, and the remaining 3,705 were sold to the Museum by his son following his father's death in 1920 (1921.91).

Almost all (3,923) are recorded as 'archaeological' objects, and 3,835 of these are stone tools. Around 1,428 of the 3,923 archaeological objects are from Oxfordshire.

Bell had collected Palaeolithic tools from gravel pits at Limpsfield, Surrey while working at Limpsfield School (Bell 1888; Evans 1897: 609–10). The PRM holds *c.* 961 objects collected by Bell from Limpsfield. However, in 1890–1891 Bell and his wife Anna Mary (m. 1875) moved to 7 Rawlinson Road, Oxford, and Bell commenced collecting from Oxfordshire, and donating to the PRM. Bell never wrote about his field methods, but he appears mainly to have collected regularly from quarries and brick pits.<sup>10</sup>

A significant element of the Bell collections comprise some 322 Palaeolithic flints from Wolvercote, Oxford (Bell 1900; 1908.10.2–3, 1921.91.472–473, 1921.91.475.1–50). Bell published the results of his work at Wolvercote Brick Pit, including photographs and drawings of the deposits (Bell 1894a, 1894b, 1904), and it is now considered one of the most important Palaeolithic sites in the Thames Valley (Wymer 1968: 87; see discussion by Alison Roberts in 9.4.6 above). Bell also collected an Acheulean handaxe from Summertown Brick Pit (1921.91.472.2).

Even more numerous than the material from Wolvercote is Bell's collection of *c.* 760 stone tools from Iffley (Nicholas 2009b), including both later prehistoric flintwork and Palaeolithic material. These comprise some 76 objects recorded as simply from 'Iffley' (1897.45.1, 1901.21.5, 1902.1.2–19, 1906.9.6, 2011.3.1–14, 2011.4.1, 2011.5.1–31, 2011.6.1, 2011.7.1, 2011.8.1); *c.* 149 objects from Cornish's Pit, Iffley (1900.37.1–3, 1902.1.1, 1907.53.1, 1921.91.459, 2009.124.1); some 533 from 'New Iffley' (1900.2.4–9, 1901.21.2–3, 1902.1.20, 1903.37.1, 1904.27.2–17, 1905.4.4–8, 1905.35.2–3, 1906.9.7–11, 1906.9.14, 1907.53.7, 1907.53.9, 1912.19.8, 1921.91.405, 1921.91.459, 1938.35.386, 2007.72.1); and 2 from 'Lower Iffley' (1900.2.2–3). During the late 19th and early 20th century Iffley was a small village and civil parish beyond the city limits of Oxford. In the mid 20th century the parish was dissolved and the area absorbed into the City (Lobel 1957). Bell's investigation therefore covered a period of increased urbanization, and the material he collected provides one of our most valuable resources for understanding the prehistory of the area. There is also a small amount of flintwork recorded as collected or purchased by Henry Balfour from Iffley, at the same time as Bell's collecting, including *c.* 11 Palaeolithic stone tools (1903.51.1, 1905.5.6–7, 1905.53.5–7, 1906.75.49, 1915.7.114, 1915.7.116, 1916.23.12), 2 natural flints (1903.6.18, 1917.9.58), and *c.* 8 gun-flints (1938.35.379–387).

The site from which the Palaeolithic material was recovered has been suggested as being located at SP 525 044 (see Wymer 1968: 91), or else in the vicinity of SP 528 033 (Roe 1968: 250). The first location is adjacent to the Thames at Donnington Bridge, underneath the City of Oxford Rowing Club, the second is centred on the Rose Hill estate built to the south of Iffley village in the mid-20th century. Both locations are almost certainly inaccurate; the most probable location is 250 m further east from the Wymer reference, and 1.3 km further north from the Roe reference. This suggestion is based in part on the site name 'Cornish's Pit' (Pocock 1908; Sandford 1924: 145; Arkell 1947: 220). Historic Ordnance Survey maps show only one gravel-pit in the area, this pit is present on the first edition 1:2500 County Series (published for this area between 1875 and 1878), just to the west of Fleetlands House, but is not shown on the second edition (published between 1899 and 1900), when a row of houses named 'West View Cottages' had been constructed immediately to the north-east of

<sup>10</sup> However, a reference to an unfinished manuscript was made in his *Times* obituary 'His last years were spent at South Newington, near Banbury, where he was employed in writing a book embodying his palaeological researches, and it is hoped that his manuscripts may be published with his own drawings of the many implements in his collection'. Its current location is unknown. For the obituary see 'Mr A.M. Bell', Tuesday, July 13 1920, p. 14.



Figure 13.4 Photograph of prolific collector Alexander Montgomery Bell (1845–1920) at Balliol College, Oxford. Reproduced by kind permission of the Master and Fellows of Balliol College.

the pit. By the mid-20th century the pit had been built upon, and lay under Arnold Road, just to the south of the crossroads with Donnington Lane (now Donnington Bridge Road; SP52720450), and possibly in the gardens of the ‘West View Cottages’, which survive today. This location for Cornish’s Pit also fits with those objects recorded as from ‘New Iffley’, since Donnington Bridge Road was formerly known as New Iffley Lane (Talbot n.d.).<sup>11</sup>

The only published reference to Palaeolithic tools from Iffley was made by Bell in a 1904 paper predominantly devoted to Palaeolithic deposits around Wolvercote. Bell described the Iffley deposits as being:

‘...an *omnium gatherum* [a miscellaneous collection or a hodgepodge] of all the debris that ever rolled in to the Thames Valley: Oolitic fossils; Cretaceous fossils, Tertiary conglomerate, Northern-Drift quartzites, jaspers, and volcanic rocks, gravel, and sand’ (Bell 1904: 129).

Pocock (1908) and Sandford (1924) produced the next publications to mention the site (cf. Sollas 1926). Both were geologists and neither discussed the Palaeolithic assemblage at any length. In the case of Sandford, however, this is through necessity rather than design as he reports that:

‘A large number of very ocherous and much waterworn implements were obtained, as also a number of less worn, slightly ocherous, patinated specimens, apparently of Chellean type... It is to be regretted that, so far, the whereabouts of most of these implements is still unknown to me; but, in the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Mr. H. Balfour has a large boucher... The whole series, if bought to light again, should be of considerable interest’ (Sandford 1924: 145).

The Palaeolithic material from Iffley remained poorly understood and unsorted for most of the 20th century, until the work of the Characterization project.<sup>12</sup> Thus, descriptions by Derek Roe (1966: 250), John Wymer (1968: 91) and David Briggs (Briggs *et al.* 1985: 12) refer to between 25 and 29 handaxes as the known surviving

<sup>11</sup> A further location is suggested in a description given in 1924 by Kenneth Sandford, who reported that the pit had been re-opened and that he had examined it himself (Sandford 1924: 145). Sandford described the pit as ‘situated between New Iffley Lane and Fairacres Road, between Fairacres housing estate and the Thames; about 50 yards from the former and 300 yards from the latter’. New Iffley Lane was renamed Donnington Bridge Road in the first half of the 20th century (Talbot n.d.). This description puts the reopened pit on the opposite (northern) side of Donnington Bridge Road from the original pit. The discrepancy in location is likely the result of the original pit being exhausted or the land being already set aside for construction. With a 30–40 year period of development around Donnington and the Fairacres estate it is possible that quarrying continued on an *ad hoc* basis with the extraction point varied as necessitated by construction. None of the Iffley stone tools the Pitt Rivers Museum holds were collected after 1921, and it is likely that they are from the first location – ‘Cornish’s Pit’ – at SP 5272 0450.

<sup>12</sup> Although a hand-written card and typed sheet cataloguing the Iffley material was completed in the 1990s by R.J. MacRae, an archaeologist and researcher at the Donald Baden-Powell Quaternary Research Centre, and are on file in the PRM Related Documents File under accession number 1921.91.459.

extent, with Briggs adding that ‘sadly, many of the palaeoliths have been lost to private collections’ (1985: 12). John Wymer in his gazetteer of Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology in Britain (1968: 91–2) became only the second person (after Sandford) to study stone tools from Iffley in detail. He recorded 28 known handaxes, all from the PRM. Wymer’s classification system showed 14 of these axes to be a ‘Type E’, that is pointed handaxes that are 4 inches (10.16 cm) long. Unfortunately, no accession numbers were provided and it is not known which tools he examined. The collection was summarized after this analysis to be a ‘typical Middle Acheulean assemblage’ (1968: 92), Wymer concurring with Sandford (1924) that the deposit was from the Summertown Gravel terrace. In 2000 the Iffley tools were subject to their first in-depth analysis by Hyeong Woo Lee as part of a Ph.D. thesis on the Lower Palaeolithic Stone Artefacts from Selected Sites in the Upper and Middle Thames Valley (Lee 2001). Lee analysed 145 tools from Iffley (2001: 104–12),<sup>13</sup> agreeing with Wymer that the assemblage was predominantly mid-Acheulean (Lee 2001: 104). His analysis noted that the Iffley tools tended to be shorter than nearby comparable assemblages, such as those from Wolvercote, with the average length of a handaxe being 8.52 cm. With the computerization of the PRM’s accession books (completed by 2002), and the ongoing cataloguing it has become clear that the full extent of the Iffley tools was not realized at the time of Lee’s work, and that at least 40 further objects await analysis.

Later prehistoric flintwork from Iffley (c. 468 objects) is recorded in the PRM database as being Neolithic in date, and has not been studied since being deposited in the PRM. The sites from which Bell recovered this material require further research for full identification, but a description of one find-spot for this material survives in the archive of Percy Manning, as a copy of Bell’s notes:

‘Behind Fairacre House, towards Donnington House over about 10 acres. Gravel overlaid by humus about 2’6”’, many flints found on surface. In places shallow linear shaped hollows sunk down to gravel c. 15 ft diam. Factory of flint, numerous core + flakes, cores mostly small, some larger. Mostly quite black + transparent, 3 or 4 fabricators (small fragment of entirely polished celt; surface)’ (Manning Archive, Ashmolean Museum: Manning 692).

This description suggests that the site was very close to Cornish’s Pit, to the north: between Fairacres Convent of the Incarnation and Donnington Lodge. Bell never published any details of his Neolithic finds at Iffley, although he did give a lecture to the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire in 1909 on the subject.<sup>14</sup> The finds are briefly mentioned in Percy Manning’s *Archaeological Survey of Oxfordshire* (Manning and Leeds 1921: 250).

As well as the material from Iffley and Wolvercote, Bell donated smaller assemblages from a number of other sites in Oxfordshire. These comprise around 137 arrow-heads and other flintwork from Stonesfield (1921.91.404); c. 76 flint scrapers from Wootten (1901.21.1, 1921.91.412); c. 56 flints from Tackley (1906.9.1–5, 1921.91.406); c. 37 undated flints from the bank of the River Cherwell in Oxford (1921.91.406 .10–47); c. 3 flint scrapers from Shotover Hill (1891.11.1, 1891.14.1, 1912.19.3); c. 12 flints from ‘near the Holywell’ at Tadmerton (1911.30.1); a flint scraper from Cowley (1901.21.4) and one from Sinodun Hill, Dorchester (1891.14.2);

<sup>13</sup> Sadly Lee did not include any accession numbers in his catalogue, instead relying on a personal numbering system, although the numbers are recorded on the objects via coloured freezer stickers with catalogue numbers written on in blue biro; these are now fading.

<sup>14</sup> *Oxford Times* 25 May 1907; Percy Manning’s notes on the lecture are also held in the Manning Mss, Ashmolean Museum.

and 3 flint flakes Linton Road in North Oxford (1905.4.1–3). He also donated an undated stone lamp found at Brasenose College (1912.77.1), and an iron arrow-head from an unlocated Oxfordshire site (2008.33.1).

### 13.4 Oxfordshire Objects after 1939

#### 13.4.1 *Transfers*

No archaeological objects from Oxfordshire were transferred from the OUMNH after 1939, although an undated axe-head ‘dug up at the Park, Shipton Manor, Kidlington’, donated by W.E. Sawyer (1941.12.3), is recorded as coming to the PRM through the OUMNH’s Department of Geology.

A transfer of objects was made to the PRM from the Ashmolean Museum’s Department of Antiquities on 16 January 1953, and subsequently included in Coghlan’s programme of metallurgical analysis (Coghlan 1956). The material in this transfer from Oxfordshire comprised a Romano-British iron knife from the villa site at Frilford (1953.1.34) and a medieval iron arrow-head from Woodeaton (1953.1.35). Also transferred from the Ashmolean Museum were 2 undated ceramic copper-working crucibles from the former site of Marks and Spencer at Cornmarket Street, Oxford, possibly collected by Arthur Evans (transferred May 1950; 1950.5.01, 1950.5.02);<sup>15</sup> and a stone adze, probably from New Zealand but found by ‘Mrs L.M. Neale’ in her garden in the Oxford suburb of Botley, (transferred June 1954; 2003.35.1).

Beyond the University, 3 stone axes from Wolvercote (1946.5.71–72) and Cherbury Camp (1946.5.73) came from a collection of William Buckland and Frank Trevelyan Buckland. These had originally been donated to the British Museum and were distributed by Curator Christopher Hawkes in 1946, just before taking up his professorship at Oxford.

The PRM’s purchase of *c.* 8,332 objects from Ipswich Museum in 1966 included *c.* 1,311 archaeological objects from the UK. Until recently it appeared that this included no archaeological material from Oxfordshire. However, in 2007, 30 previously unaccessioned stone tools from Peppard Common, Oxfordshire were found (2007.52.1–30). Boxed with labels and documentation from Ipswich Museum, it appears that they were acquired by Donald Baden-Powell, who oversaw the transfer from Ipswich to the Pitt Rivers Museum. It is not known if this was part of the 1966 operation, or an unrelated acquisition. The Ipswich documentation stated that they were collected by Arthur E. Peake in 1913 and displayed in Ipswich Museum at an unknown date. Peake excavated at Peppard Common in 1913 (Peake 1913, 1914). The 1914 paper also includes details of further work undertaken at the site by Reginald Allender Smith (1873–1940), later Keeper of British and Medieval Antiquities at the British Museum. Peake’s excavation uncovered a number of possible Upper Palaeolithic features, including two possible quarry pits along with a working floor, which led him to interpret the site as a Palaeolithic axe factory. Later survey at the site suggested some of the axes are Neolithic in date. In his 1914 paper Peake stated that some of the stone tools had been deposited at Ipswich Museum. The article contains illustrations of many of the stone tools he excavated and consequently there is significant potential to reconcile artefacts held here with the published examples. Research should also be undertaken to ascertain if the remainder of the archive remains with Ipswich Museum. The location of the full archive and a specialist survey of the artefacts is desirable, enabling reassessment of Peake’s excavation and firmer dating of the artefacts.

<sup>15</sup> The PRM also holds 3 copper-working crucibles recovered during excavations at 20 Cornmarket, Oxford (1935.51.1–3); see 12.5 below.

### 13.4.2 *Herbert Henery Coghlan, Newbury Museum*

Herbert Henery Coghlan (1896–1981) was Curator of the Borough Museum, Newbury (now West Berkshire Museum, Newbury) and a long standing associate of the Pitt Rivers Museum (Petch 2009d). Trained as an engineer, he led a programme of archaeometallurgical analysis on a wide range of ferrous and non ferrous prehistoric objects at the PRM, as part of the Ancient Mining and Metallurgy Committee of the Royal Anthropological Institute (Coghlan and Voce 1950). The results were published in three of the PRM's *Occasional Papers on Technology* series (Coghlan 1951; 1956; Allen *et al.* 1970). Objects from Oxfordshire studied in this programme of analysis included a bronze axe from Ganfield Farm, donated by Sir William Anson in 1901 (1901.28.1; see 13.5 below), a bronze axe and medieval iron prick spur collected from Wood Farm, Tackley by William Evetts (1904.31.1–2; see 13.5 below), as well as the iron knife from Frilford Roman villa and the medieval arrow-head from Woodeaton mentioned in 13.4.1 above (1953.1.34–35).

As Curator of Newbury Museum, Coghlan was the source, through exchange or donation, of around 239 objects in the PRM, of which 10 are from Oxfordshire (1951.10.57–60). All of these objects are Bronze Age ceramic sherds, 7 of which are recorded as from Churn Down and Churn Plain (1951.10.57, 1951.10.60). No documentation was provided with the transfer, causing confusion over the find-spot. While PRM documentation formerly suggested that Churn Plain was near the River Churn in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, this assessment has located it as a floodplain situated at the head of the River Pang, near Churn Hill in the parish of Blewbury. There is a high incidence of Bronze Age activity in the area, with at least eight round barrows known around Blewbury (Grinsell 1936: 41–3), at least one of which was excavated in the mid-19th century. The paucity of documentation means that it is not currently possible to link the sherds with a barrow or any other feature or site. It may be hoped however that research in the West Berkshire archive may reveal documentation that allows context to be restored to these sherds. The 3 remaining sherds (1951.10.58) were excavated from the Mid–Late Bronze Age enclosure at Rams Hill, which was excavated in 1938–1939 by Stuart Piggott (Piggott and Piggott 1940a, 1940b). Sherds from Piggott's excavation are currently held by the West Berkshire Museum<sup>16</sup> and it may be that the 3 sherds in the Museum were also excavated during this work.

## 13.5 Smaller Collections

### 13.5.1 *Palaeolithic*

Among the smaller donations and purchases not mentioned above is a significant body of Palaeolithic material. This includes 4 objects from Wolvercote Brick Pit: a handaxe purchased from J. Hutt in 1907 (1907.65.1); a stone flake collected by Rev. Henry George Ommaney Kendall in 1903 (1916.20.17); and 2 handaxes purchased from George Warmington (1928.51.1, 1933.74.1). The PRM also holds 15 illustrations of Palaeolithic stone tools held by the PRM by C.O. Waterhouse, 12 of which are from Wolvercote Brick Pit (1943.8.1–3 B, 1943.9.1–6 B, 1943.10.83–85 B).<sup>17</sup> Further Palaeolithic material comprises a flint core from 'Chaundy's gravel pit' in Radley, donated by Mr G. Chaundy (2010.77.1); a handaxe from a gravel pit at Berinsfield donated by Colin Winterbourne (1970.44.1); a handaxe collected by Thomas Plasted from excavations at Summertown House, Summertown (1913.75.1); a handaxe from

<sup>16</sup> Berkshire Museum accession numbers O.A. 270, S.138, 139, 1938, 256.

<sup>17</sup> Further illustrations of stone tools by Waterhouse depict objects from North Stow, Cambridgeshire (1947.2.4 B), Hawkchurch Broom, Devon (1947.2.12 B), Baker's Hole, Kent (1947.2.8 B), and La Cotte de St Brelade, Jersey (1947.2.7 B).

New Ifley purchased from 'unknown labourers' (1903.51.1); a handaxe from Abingdon donated by Nigel Scaysbrook (1972.28.1); a Mousterian flint scraper from Bradley Farm Quarry, Cumnor donated by R. Brown (1933.36.1); a possible Mousterian stone tool collected from Shotover Hill by L.K.M. Cocks, which came to the PRM through K.P. Oakley at the British Museum (1966.31.1); 2 fragments of mammoth tusk from Cassington (1942.12.68) donated by Derek Riley (RAF Abingdon) in December 1942; and 2 further fragments of mammoth tooth from Curtis' gravel pits, Radley, donated by 'Mr Newport' in April 1944 (1944.4.15–16, 1944.8.225).

In 1911, a collection was purchased from Thomas Henry Powell and W.R. Davis (or Davies), which came through David Hogarth of the Asmolean Museum (cf. Gill 2004). It is comprised of *c.* 22 Palaeolithic (and possibly also Neolithic) stone tools and natural flints from Rumbold's Pit and Gould's Grove, Ewelme (1911.80.1–22), a flint hammerstone from Beggar's Bush Hill (1911.80.23), and a further *c.* 49 undated flint tools from Wallingford/Grim's Dyke (1911.80.24, 1911.80.65–73), Benson (1911.80.25–26) and North Stoke (1911.80.27–64), and another unrecorded site in Oxfordshire (1911.80.74). Nine further Palaeolithic stone tools from a gravel pit near Rumbold Copse, Ewelme (1905.72.1–6) and from Goulds Grove, Ewelme (1905.72.7–9), are recorded as have been purchased from 'J.H. Powell', who may have been the same person as, or a relative of, Thomas Powell.

### 13.5.2 *Later Prehistoric and Romano-British*

Four Neolithic stone axes came to the PRM through single donations or purchases: one recovered during dredging of Hinksey stream, Oxford, purchased from J.R. Corby (1914.61.1); one from Horton-cum-Studley donated by Turner Henderson (1923.46.1); one from Mapledurham, purchased from an 'unknown labourer' (1925.60.1), from dredging of the River Thames between Long Wittenham and Clifden Hampden, donated by William Henry Young (1906.55.1); and one from Black Bourton that came to the PRM with the purchase of a larger collection of Maori material culture from the estate of Charles Smith in 1923 (1923.87.357). A further stone axe, donated by Ernard G.J. Hartley, is mentioned below.

Further smaller collections of later prehistoric material comprise: 4 flint arrow-heads from Gaskell's Farm, Kiddington purchased from Mr Cassell (1904.57.1–4); a flint arrow-head found at Frilford Heath by Quentin Quixano Henriques (1930.64.1); 2 flint arrow-heads and a bronze axe found between Pusey and Hatford by Sir William Anson (1896.47.1, 1898.40.1, 1901.28.1); a prehistoric ceramic spindle whorl found during excavations at Ship Street by 'Mr Wheeler' and donated by Professor William Sollas (1905.52.1); and a lead spindlewhorl, possibly of a later prehistoric date, found at Kennington by R.J. Baker (1986.38.1). An undated stone spindle-whorl from Abingdon came to the PRM as part of a donation of stone objects from the estate of Eustace Fulcrand Bosanquet in April 1941 (1941.4.36).

Five later prehistoric flint arrow-heads from Oxfordshire (1917.53.89–94) and a flint scraper from Mongewell (1917.53.76) came to the PRM as part of a donation from the estate of Edward Burnett Tylor in 1917. An earlier donation by Tylor had included an undated stone tool from North Stoke (1911.32.28).

The collections also include a wide range of currently undated flintwork from Oxfordshire, which is probably of later prehistoric date, but also includes post-Roman material (including gun-flints). Apart from those discussed earlier in this chapter, the largest is a collection of *c.* 210 worked flints from Tackley collected by William Evetts (1903.29.1–82, 1904.31.1–69, 1906.31.1–35, 1909.7.1–2, 1938.35.394, 1938.35.396, 1938.35.400–403, 1938.35.405). The collections also include a flint tool collected from the Ridgeway at Uffington by G.L. Rogers (1905.24.1); a flint

arrow-head found in Norham Road, North Oxford by Mrs D. Manning (1933.21.1); a further 7 flint tools purchased from Rogers, from Ferry Hinksey (1906.69.1–7); 5 worked flints from Boar's Hill (1906.75.23–25, 1906.75.34), a flint flake from New Iffley (1906.75.49), a flint borer from Kennington (1906.75.52), and a flint arrow-head from Frilford (1906.75.35) all collected by J.T. Hill; a flint flake 'dug up at the Lodge, University Museum, Oxford' donated by Henry Trim (1905.62.1); worked flint found on a path from South Hinksey to Boars Hill in 1908 (1921.12.1), and a gun-flint found in Headington (2007.101.19), donated by Rev. Laurence W. Grensted; and a gun-flint from Summertown donated by H.J. Hambidge (1942.3.2). Francis Knowles donated 3 stone tools from Radley (1933.72.25–26, 1939.13.1), 3 further stone tools from Oxfordshire for which no site is recorded (1940.7.344–346), and a clay tobacco pipe from the University Parks, Oxford (1944.3.2; see 13.5.4 below).

Smaller collections containing Romano-British material include a single Romano-British ceramic sherd from Eynsham (1931.23.2) and a ground stone axe 'found when digging up a tree-stump at Frilford' (1931.23.1) donated by Ernard G.J. Hartley in 1931; a Romano-British ceramic flask from Deddington (1927.18.1); a Romano-British iron knife from Middle Barton (1934.52.1); a Romano-British ceramic bowl found in the Cherwell River at the University Botanic Gardens, Oxford in 1886 by Professor Henry Moseley (1920.22.4); and an undated glass bottle also found by Moseley in the River Cherwell, donated by W.F. Lloyd James (1920.22.8). A currently unquantified, unaccessioned – and unlocated – collection of photographs of human skeletons excavated at Woolstone Roman Villa, donated by Robert Walker, is recorded in the PRM's Annual Report for 1884, but may not be held by the PRM (no accession number).

#### 13.5.4 *Post-Roman*

Smaller collections of Anglo-Saxon material comprise 3 sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery from Wallingford donated by H.N. McLeod (1941.12.1) and an Anglo-Saxon bronze pin from a gravel pit at Bampton donated by Jasper Taylor (1888.32.1).

Later material includes a small number of weapons and knives: an undated iron sword 'found in rubbish in a field in Headington', and purchased from Gordon Stacey (1938.26.1); an 'old Cromwellian sword (broken)', also from Headington, purchased in 1905 from an 'unknown labourer' (1905.67.1); an undated stone mace-head, purchased by Francis Llewellyn Griffith from an unknown scout at the Queen's College in 1882, after having been found in Witney (1918.10.1); an undated iron arrow-head found at Godstow by Henry Willett (1885.1.1); a post-medieval hunting knife, 'dug up in Cowley Road', donated by Joseph Walker (1898.68.1); and a post-medieval knife found at Witney by T.J. Brown (1910.14.1).

A range of post-medieval clay pipes and pipe bowls were donated to the Museum, especially in the 1940s: 2 fragments of clay tobacco pipes from Angel Meadow, Oxford, donated by Ivor Michael Allen (1948.3.1–2); 4 clay tobacco pipes 'dug up in Oxford many years ago', donated by William Chesterman of the OUMNH (1945.3.9–12); a pipe bowl donated by Dr Robert Haldane Macgill's, excavated from the garden of 'Cherwell' on Linton Road, Oxford (1934.38.1); a clay tobacco pipe (and an iron key) found during excavations in front of the OUMNH, donated by Geoffrey Turner (1941.10.46–47); a clay pipe bowl found by unknown labourers on the road from Eynsham to Cassington, and donated by Beatrice Blackwood (1941.12.71); the bowl of a clay tobacco pipe found in the River Isis by Donald Ferlys Wilson Baden-Powell in 1906 (1968.23.30); and a pipe bowl from the University Parks (1932.10.1). A further clay tobacco pipe bowl found in the University Parks, donated by Francis Knowles (1944.3.2).

A number of smaller collections of post-medieval objects were recovered during groundworks for construction works in the city of Oxford. These comprise an

undated glass bottle ‘dug up (c. 12 feet) at found at St Mary’s entry, Oxford’, donated by a builder named Mr Hutchins, through J.P. Harrison (1895.24.1); 3 copper-working crucibles recovered during excavations at 20 Cornmarket, Oxford, and purchased from ‘Nash’ (1935.51.1–3); 2 undated sections of pavement, made of animal bone, discovered during alterations at 97 St Aldates, and donated by the President and Fellows of Magdalen College (1910.7.1–2); and an ‘obsolete trowel’ ‘dug up at the University Museum’ by an ‘unknown labourer’ was purchased in 1931 (1931.79.1). Additionally, in May 1910, Thurlow Leeds, who worked at the Ashmolean Museum, donated 39 pins and pieces of wire (1910.15.1–3) recovered from the site of a post-medieval pin factory on Thames St, Oxford. An undated hammerstone (1906.57.6), along with a sherd of a Bellarmine ceramic vessel (1923.47.25), were recovered during excavations at Magdalen College, and were donated by Robert Günthür with a natural flint from Beckley (1897.18.1). Further donations include an undated iron key from North Leigh donated by S.C. Hathaway (1947.8.19); 2 quern stones from South Leigh donated by Mrs Gerard Moulton per Rev. Arthur East (1903.38.1–2); and a hand-made pin ‘found in an old book in the Christ Church library’, donated by Professor Frederick York Powell (1901.12.1).

Finally, the collections include a small number of unusual historical objects. An obsidian blade from California, was donated to the PRM by Professor Robert R. Marett after it had been found at the entrance to the University Parks opposite Keble College by his grand-daughter (1942.12.62). A stone adze dug up in the garden of ‘K.G. Rook’ in Abingdon in 1951 may be Neolithic in date, but is recorded in the PRM database as possibly from Polynesia (1951.11.49). Finally, there is a small collection of local forgeries: 24 forged flint arrow-heads and bone tools collected by George Sheppard Morgan from North Stoke in 1898 (1898.31.1–24).

### 13.6 Concluding Remarks

Building on the small collections from Pitt-Rivers’ own fieldwork, the PRM’s Oxfordshire archaeological collections were strongly shaped by the curatorial activities of Henry Balfour. The gradual decrease in collecting after 1939 indicates how no later curator built connections with local archaeologists working outside of the University in the way that Balfour had done. Particular strengths in the collections, which are priorities for future research, are the collections which relate to the fieldwork of Pitt-Rivers himself (see discussion in Chapter 1), the Palaeolithic collections from Wolvercote, Iffley and elsewhere in Oxfordshire, the later prehistoric flintwork, and the collections that relate to early ‘rescue’ archaeology collections from Oxford. The changing connections between local archaeological collecting and ethnographic or folklife studies also remain little understood.

Today a principal challenge in the curation of these collections lies in building new kinds of local connections. Indeed, the blurring of boundaries between European ‘ethnographic’ and ‘archaeological’ objects mentioned at the start of this chapter holds a further contemporary relevance for the Oxfordshire collections. Over the past two decades socio-cultural anthropology has pioneered the study of historical connections between museum collections and source communities, and the creation of new connections in the present (Peers and Brown 2003). But outside the New World such connections between communities and archaeological collections remain relatively unexplored (see discussion in Chapter 1 above). In this context, the research potential of the Oxfordshire archaeological collections lies not only in academic research, and also their potential as resources for public archaeology. Data exchange with Oxfordshire HER is a major priority for future research, along with examining the survival of archival sources for the larger collections, such as those of Bell. There

remains a considerable opportunity to enhance locational data for many objects, especially through historic map analysis, the objects from Hatford Glebe (1989.8.1–4) and the Palaeolithic material from gravel pits being prime examples. More generally, however, the Oxfordshire archaeological collections provide a unique resource for developing public archaeology at the PRM: with the full range of archaeological communities, and with the public.

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