



Fig. 4 Four iron blades (SF 44): A–D side views; E top view of pack as found. F Blade from Sutton Courtenay. Ashmolean Mus. 1923.848. Scale, half actual size.

straps, or from a staple connected to a strap. One grave contained a stapled hasp, SF 38, while SF 58, a key of Ward Perkins Type I A (1940, 134) came from the settlement area, together with rings, staples and bucket fittings. One complete and three fragmentary knives of Böhner (1958) Types A and C were found and also a pack of four slightly-curved blades (SF 44, Fig. 4) with single rivets for attachment at one end. The other end is in all cases broken, but if the blades were originally symmetrical, they are of the draw-knife family, but perhaps used for dressing leather.¹³ A smaller blade of this type was found in an Anglo-Saxon hut at Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire (Leeds 1923, pl. XXVII, L). Other tools identified are awls, punches and, possibly, heckle-teeth.

Slag The waste-products of smithing operations on the site total 16 kg. These are not found in Iron Age contexts, but otherwise occur in most others, including the fill of a trench and circular feature F6 and 7 (Fig. 1) which was cut through the cemetery and was itself overlaid by subsequent inhumations. The slag includes buns which are characteristic of smithing pits; other fragments yet to be sectioned are suggestive of smelting.¹⁴

Daub Burnt daub occurs as isolated fragments in many features. Two adjacent deposits in the upper fill of ditch C yielded 94 kg of well-preserved daub. The existence of both the impressions of the wattle frame and the surfaces of the daub indicate that it came from a straight wall 0.1m thick, consisting of a wattle frame with daub on both sides. Some fragments also bear the impressions of flat timber which may have been structural posts. There may be enough of these post impressions to enable the average to be calculated. Richard Darrah has undertaken to prepare a report.

Flint The site has produced only 1 kg of worked flint in the form of waste flakes, retouching flakes, cores and tools. The flint occurs in contexts where it is interpreted as residual.

Stone Imported stone in the form of fragments of Mayen lava millstone have been found, but the presence of glacial erratics in the gravel hinders the determination of other imports. Clearly used in kiln or furnace construction is a soft local stone, namely shelly crag. This is frequently pink in colour, having been subjected to heat. A perforated triangular piece was perhaps used as a tuyère or weight; part of a (?)limestone tuyère was found with smithing debris in F7, the circular termination of F 6 (Fig. 1).

Animal bone and molluscs

Occupation debris chiefly in the form of oyster shells and the smashed bones of ox, sheep, pig and fowl occurs in the fill of the ditches. Fragmentary antler is also found, suggesting that this material may have been worked on the site. Horn does not survive. Oysters are not the only molluscs represented, but greatly outnumber others. They have the characteristics of present-day 'wild' Butley oysters. Snail shells and fish-bones occasionally survive. Dr Caroline Grigson has undertaken to prepare a report on the animal bone.

Discussion

As Wade recently remarked (1980, 98), the interpretation of Middle Saxon settlements is difficult, simply because there is no wide context in which to view them. There are only three excavated and published Middle Saxon sites within a 150 km radius of Burrow Hill. These are North Elmham, Norfolk, interpreted as an episcopal settlement (Wade-Martins 1980), Maxey, Northants, with its peasant dwellings forming a *vill*, or perhaps part of an estate (Addyman 1964) and Wicken Bonhunt, Essex, which awaits full publication and interpretation.¹⁵ However, Wicken Bonhunt is probably the best site for comparison since, although it lay outside the East Anglian kingdom, no less than 70% of its pottery is thought to