

Anyone wishing to send contributions to the Newsletter should send copy to 3 Luther Terrace, Oxford (Tel. 43888) before the last Tuesday in each month.

### SURVEY

Hagbourne Hill. The Archaeology Research Laboratory, with the assistance of a number of trainees and Mike Farrington, undertook a geophysical survey of the site. Nothing was found.

### EXCAVATION

Abingdon, Stent Street. The excavation by Mike Parrington with the Abingdon Area Archaeological Society. Bob Wilson has been carrying out experimental dry sieving of medieval pits and has found quantities of fish bones which are normally too small to be recovered by conventional techniques. These finds have added to the list of animal species found in medieval Abingdon.

Berinsfield. David Miles returned to this site during October. Preliminary trial trenching has revealed a stone-lined burial and Roman ditches. Also in the area a 'boat-shaped' structure is in evidence, but as yet has not been identified.

Wallingford, Millbrook Development. A trial excavation was undertaken by Richard Thomas, a trainee, together with the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society. A Victorian pit and possible Iron Age ditch were uncovered.

Warborough, Church Piece. Trial trenching by George Lanbrick and volunteers was undertaken to discover the damage caused by subsoiling to archaeological features. Some of the burials had suffered some damage and continued subsoiling could have disastrous effects on buried material. The owners of the site have been very co-operative and have shown great interest in the findings.

Wilcot. The discovery of a cobbled area by Richard Chambers and George Lanbrick at the Wilcot DMV has put an end to the threat of ploughing of the field.

Witney By-pass. The excavation, directed by Richard Chambers, will be concluded at the end of October. The site has created a certain amount of local interest and has also been visited by a photographer from ARC, the contractors who are undertaking the construction of the by-pass. Iron Age and Roman buildings and a cemetery have been uncovered.

### OBSERVATION

Oxford, Osney Abbey. Brian Durham has been keeping a watching brief on the Mill Stream site which is being made into a marina. The walls of a medieval waterfront building have been revealed in mechanical excavation.

### PUBLICATION

Abingdon, Ashville Trading Estate. Animal bones are being sorted by Bob Wilson for sending to Harwell for carbon 14 dating. Martin Jones, who has been studying the carbonized grain, now has enough data to be able to use the computer at St. Cross College to explore the applications of computers in archaeology. His investigations have recently brought to light what he believes might be a piece of Iron Age bread!

Abingdon, Barton Court Farm. Bob Wilson is studying butchery patterns revealed in the animal bone material recovered from this site. Mary Harman, examining the human skeletons reports that: 'On the whole this was a fairly ordinary group of newly-born or recently-born infants, of varying dates: there were a few adult skeletons, including two Anglo-Saxon ladies buried with newly-born babies; quite possibly they died in childbirth. The star of the company, osteologically speaking, is an Iron Age man with two additional teeth behind his upper right wisdom tooth - small, but definite molars: this anomaly is very rare, recorded only once before in several thousand skeletons.'

Appleford and Farnoor. Mark Robinson has been continuing with the identification of seeds from these two sites. His work so far has shown that the land at Farnoor was not used for hay cultivation during the Iron Age, but there is some evidence for this sort of use during the Roman period.

Berinsfield. Mary Harman's work on the 99 skeletons recovered during August 1974 is progressing well and 'Promises to be a good group of very nice people' ....!

#### FUTURE EXCAVATION

Oxford Morris Garages. It is hoped that when the planned move of Morris Garages to Cowley takes place, the area in front of the building will be available for excavation.

#### OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Field Course. George Lambrick and one of the trainees attended a Field Course organised by Chris Taylor of the RCHM. It was a useful opportunity to meet county archaeologists from other parts of the country.

An advertisement for an Administrative Assistant/Secretary for the Unit brought in a response of over sixty enquiries of which more than thirty resulted in actual applications for the post. A replacement is being found for Veronica Ashcroft, who is leaving the Unit in the middle of November to work in London.

#### CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Monday 10 November	Peter Reynolds: 'The Theory of Experimental Archaeology'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m., OUAS.
Monday 17 November	M.U. Jones and W.T. Jones: 'Mucking Essex: Cropmark sites, including two Saxon cemeteries'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m., OUAS
Wednesday 19 November	J.M. Taphouse: 'The Oxford Canal'. John Mason High School, Abingdon, 7.30 p.m., AMHS.
Saturday 22 November	CBA Group 9 Autumn Meeting: 'Archaeology in the South Midlands: Progress and Prospects'. Mander College Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, 2.00 - 5.30 p.m.
Monday 24 November	Miss Janet Davidson: 'Hill-forts and Hunter-gatherers in New Zealand Prehistory'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m., OUAS
Friday 28 November	Philip Barker: 'Recent Excavations at Wroxeter (Viriconium), Shropshire'. 8.00 p.m., OUDES (30p)

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER (CONT.)

Monday 1 December	Sebastian Rahtz: 'Death in Oxford'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m., OUAS.
Tuesday 2 December	Unit Staff Meeting
5 - 7 December	Medieval Forests, Parks and Gardens. OUDES
14 - 17 December	The Built Environment. OUDES