

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.

ABINGDON - Barton Court Farm. Further to Bob Wilson's study on butchery patterns, the animal bone material has been found to vary considerably, and has a very unusual distribution. Most of the ditches contain cattle bones; while the palisade trenches contain mainly sheep bones.

Wendy Lee has been drawing pottery from the site - she is now waiting for further samples.

David Miles is currently working on the Roman pottery.

ABINGDON - Ashville Trading Estate. Bob Wilson has received some results from Harwell on the specimens of animal bones sent for carbon 14 dating. Bob's analysis of the bones reveals large amounts of sheep bone but not much in the way of horse or pig bone.

Martin Jones continues his studies on the carbonized grain and has been using the St. Cross College computer with the assistance of Dr. Petford. He is currently writing up plant-remains report.

Mike Parrington is continuing work on the site and has completed the first draft site report which has been circulated to Unit staff. Mike Parrington was grateful for comments! The small finds report has also been completed.

During the examination of the wood from the Roman well, a large piece of wood resembling a small 'cricket bat' has been found to be worked. It is thought to be a segment of a wooden plough.

BERINSFIELD. Further trenching has been carried out by David Miles. The known Roman ditches were sectioned and three further pagan Saxon graves were excavated, one of which was a grave of a male with weapon. Site work has finished.

DORCHESTER - Queensford Farm. Mary Harman has been writing up the skeletal report for the site.

FARMOOR. George Lambrick's analysis of the site continues. The presence of tap slag indicates iron working on the site. George has been working on percentage comparisons of Iron Age pottery by weight and number of sherds. Apparently percentages vary considerably and no conclusion has yet been drawn.

Mark Robinson reports that he has received two pollen analyses. The London Institute has agreed to look at four more samples. Results of the two pollen diagrams showed that one in three hundred examined was of a cereal type; pollen indicates clearance - no trees, mainly grass and meadow land. During the Roman period hedges were introduced probably associated with the droveway. The pollen also revealed bracken spores during the Iron Age period. Bracken would most likely have been grown at Boars Hill or Cunnor Hill and then transported to Farmoor for animal bedding.

George has discovered fossil remains at Farmoor; these consist of two mammoth teeth and a horn, and the upper part of the skull of an animal resembling an Auroch.

2

NORTHLEIGH - N. Oxfordshire - Grim's Ditch. Dave Fine (trainee) is cutting a section at Northleigh. Weather has been holding up progress.

OXFORD - Blackfriars. George Lambrick is in the process of writing up the report on the eastern half of the site. Finds report has been completed.

Diane Collins has been cleaning the glass found on the site.

OXFORD - Oxford Castle. Maureen Mellor continues to work on Oxford Castle finds.

OXFORD - Greyfriars. Humphrey Woods is preparing a write-up of two trenches dug in Turn Again Lane which have established the line of the east range of cloisters.

OXFORD - St. Thomas. The Unit/OUAS excavation on the eastern side of the Hanel continues. More stratification similar to that on the western side of the road has been found. The sequence stops in the C12.

OXFORD - Osney. Brian Durham has discovered four walls on this site which do not appear to be related in any way! He hopes to be able to offer an explanation at a later date.

WALLINGFORD. The A.B.S. have dug their hole at Wallingford Castle to keep their planning application 'alive'! Richard Thomas (trainee) observed the work on this site and reported the existence of C12/C13 dump levels, similar to those found by Robert Carr.

WARBOROUGH - Church Piece. Trial trenching by George Lambrick was continued by Dave Fine (trainee). He has found further evidence of sub-soiling damage to the site.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

An Administrative Assistant/Secretary. Mrs. Annie Lipson, has been appointed to replace Mrs. Veronica Ashcroft who left the Unit in the middle of November.

Museum of Oxford. Brian Durham reported that this will be opening shortly. He has been assisting, in an advisory capacity, with the display.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

6th - 7th December

Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society are organising a survey of medieval earthwork at Sunningwell. Mike Parrington has further details. Richard Thomas is assisting.

14th - 17th December

Department for External Studies in conjunction with the European Architectural Heritage Year Education Panel and National Institute for Adult Education has arranged a course for tutors - "The Built Environment" to be held at Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY (Cont.)

19th December

Mr. Frank Pettit of Oxford University Computing Service will be giving an introduction to computers for all Unit staff.

2nd - 4th January

OUDES weekend school on 'The Archaeology of Monastic Sites' to be held at Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford.

21st January

Abingdon archaeological meeting: Mr. P.J. Fowler will talk on 'Early Agriculture' - John Mason High School, Abingdon. 7.30 p.m.

27th January

Unit Staff Meeting.

30th January

Guy Beresford: 'Recent Excavations on Medieval Village Sites', OUDES, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford, 8.00 p.m. (30p)