

May 1976

Anyone wishing to send contributions to the Newsletter should send copy to 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EP (Tel. 43888) before the last Tuesday of each month.

ABINGDON - Barton Court Farm

An area of about 70 by 40-50 m. has been uncovered. Excavations are being concentrated on trying to analyse occupation of the Romano-British closes and paddocks which surround the villa. So far one area can be seen where a corn drier has been used for crop processing, and in the adjacent area is an unusual well which is constructed in the bottom of a stone well house. Mark Robinson excavated this well and while this produced few finds he did obtain two good samples. A further area within the farm complex has been used for the burial of newborn babies. Slightly older skeletons are buried with sheep and dog skeletons. South of the main Romano-British complex is an oval enclosure with a waterhole within it; a pair of iron shears has also been found in this area and it seems possible here that there was a paddock used for the penning of animals, possibly sheep.

Throughout the whole area there is evidence of fairly intensive occupation in the Pagan-Saxon period with two and possibly more sunken huts and many postholes which are currently being excavated. One of the sunken huts has so far produced a lead loom weight, a bone comb, bone pins possibly used in weaving, and decorated Saxon pottery.

BENSON

During the last two weeks of May, Mike Parrington was asked to investigate a report of a find of pottery on a farm at Benson. This proved to be pottery from an Iron Age occupation site with pits.

CASSINGTON

Richard Chambers is currently following up the report of the discovery of a skeleton on a farm at Cassington. The investigation has been delayed owing to nesting Kingfishers but he will report on the skeleton in due course.

FARMOOR - Reservoir

Mark Robinson has spent two weeks at the London Institute of Archaeology learning wood identification and has now done all the wood samples from Farmoor. The other samples he has taken from the site are now sorted for seeds and insects and he hopes to finish their identification soon.

George Lambrick has spent most of the month preparing an exhibition of the results of the Farmoor excavations. The site contractors, Shepherd Hill, have very generously donated

£150 towards the cost of the exhibition and this has been used to provide display screens and photographs. The exhibition is to be held on 29th-30 May.

LONG WITTENHAM - Northfield Farm

George Lambrick has been to see this site to find out about the subsoiling threat for the Department of the Environment. It appears that the main parts of the site have not been subsoiled except for one area of cropmarks in the southern part of it.

OXFORD - Greyfriars

The Oxford University Archaeological Society are currently excavating the Greyfriars range of cloisters. They are finding some useful structures.

THRUPP

Bob Wilson has spent two days clearing up the rubbish from the Stone Age enclosures to the south and east of this site and has been collecting samples of bone. He is having some difficulty with the sandy soil and animal burrows.

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CALENDAR FOR JUNE AND JULY

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| 7 June  | OUAS - Dr, Norman Hammond 'Searching for the Origins of Maya Civilisation in Yucatan'.<br>Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.                      |
| 14 June | OUAS - John Martin 'Reading Between the Layers: an Introduction to Geo-Archaeology'.<br>Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.                        |
| 26 June | Rescue AGM and afternoon conference - 11.30 a.m.<br>Lecture Theatre Block, Leeds University  |
| 29 June | Unit staff meeting - to be held at Barton Court Farm site - 2.30 p.m.  |
| 28 July | Joint meeting of Rescue Archaeology in the north with the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne. 6.00 p.m. in the Mining Institute |

THE OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Appointment of In-Service Trainee

During the coming academic year 1976/77, the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit proposes to appoint a Trainee who will take part in the In-Service Training Scheme for Archaeologists, currently being organised by the Oxford University Department for External Studies and financed by the Department of the Environment. Further particulars can be obtained from the Director, Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford OX1 2EP.