

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 - Ashville Trading Estate

Bob Wilson's bone report is virtually complete. Of interest in the bone measurements are an exceptionally large Iron Age dog c 60 cms at the shoulder - most are around 50 cms - also a bone from a horse nearly 13 hands in height - most Iron Age horses range from 10-12 hands. Mr. D. Bramwell has identified late Iron Age domestic fowl which is an early record of this species.

CHALGROVE (Grid Ref. SU 63.5968 PRN 4486)

Following the discovery during Summer 1976, from the air, of a previously unknown moated enclosure south of Chalgrove village by R. Chambers, an examination was undertaken by J.M. Steane, C.J. Bond and J. Campbell of Oxfordshire County Museum who report as follows -

"Survey revealed the existence of a second more irregular and much larger moated enclosure immediately to the east of the first. This was found to be roughly triangular in shape, 90 metres east side, 75 metres north side. It contained a platform in its north east corner, 25 metres x 30 metres. Augering established the presence of limestone rubble on the platform below the topsoil, suggesting either dumping of building material or the presence of a robbed out building. Nettles growing on the uneven surface showed areas of recent disturbance. The rectangular enclosure to the west, 75 metres north side, 90 metres east side had a slight internal bank on all four sides. A stub bank running out into the moat at the south east corner may have been the abutment or a bridge. The absence of traces of buildings or disturbance and the presence of a rich flora on the grassland, the result of no ploughing for possibly 300 years, indicated that this enclosure may have been used for stock. The moat was dug through thin layers of chalky wash and clayey gravels into the gault clay: augering showed the clay was reached 70 cms below the original ground surface in the moat separating the two enclosures.

The date is at present unknown but it may already have been a feature in the landscape when the stream was diverted and straightened round the site. The tithe award map, 1840, shows that the moats lie to the west of Frogmore Lane, a greenway which curves south east from the present High Street to the church. The site seems to have been related to the early settlement centred on the church which is planted round a green (now divided up). The other Chalgrove moat is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the west. The farms round it are connected to Chalgrove east settlement-complex by the spread of the village along the present planned lines at High Street. This seems to be a secondary phase of village settlement.

The moated site is due to be levelled to make a playing field in 1977 and discussions between the Unit, the Museum and the O.C.C. have resulted in some plans for archaeological investigation."

CHINNOR

Trevor Hussey of the Chinnor Historical and Archaeological Society reports that the Chinnor group has begun a survey of the hedgerows

of its parish; recording the species, the presence of trees, kinds of management, extent of disease or damage and soil details. Following the work of Dr. Hooper the group is searching for documentary evidence to date some hedges, enabling the group to correlate the number of species with the age of the hedge. This formula will then be used to estimate the ages of other hedges in the area and so throw light on features associated with them. By looking at the species of shrub and herb the group hopes to discover the positions of ancient woodlands, long since gone.

#### CHIPPING NORTON

At Chipping Norton a hurried graveyard survey is being organised by Mr. R. Evans at the Methodist Church in New Street before the memorials are cleared and the graveyard levelled. Of interest is one inscription; the work of a mason who could not spell! An interim report on this work should also appear soon.

#### KIDLINGTON - Moat Cottage

Excavations are continuing at Kidlington with local volunteer labour force under the supervision of Richard Chambers. Trial trenching so far has revealed the large inner enclosure to be post-medieval and the post-medieval landscape in the surrounding 7-8 acres is much more complex than was previously thought. A trench has now been inserted into the vegetable garden at Moat Cottage and it appears that below three feet of soil build-up there is medieval stratification at last!

#### OXFORD - Blackfriars

George Lambrick has been observing the Blackfriars site since work started on the new Church Army Hostel in Norfolk Street. The walls of the west cloister range and alley have so far been observed, confirming the findings of the 1974 excavations.

#### OXFORD - Broadgates, Pembroke College

Pottery recovered by Duncan Wilson of the OUAS earlier this year proves to be exclusively twelfth century. It is concluded that the building whose floors were subsiding into these pits would have been a thirteenth century fore-runner of the existing medieval hall.

#### OXFORD - The Hamel

Maureen Mellor's work continues to produce invaluable comparative dating from stratified pottery groups. The twelfth and early thirteenth century assemblages from The Hamel show an absence of 'residual' late Saxon-type fabric and so are a 'sobering control' on the sequence from St. Aldates, where recirculation of sherds from the deeper levels seems to be distorting the totals for the comparable period. Similar analysis is being done on the late Saxon and Medieval groups from New Inn Court.

#### OXFORD - Greyfriars

The OUAS concluded their work on the east range of the cloister with a weekend battle against the ground water. The two-phase development of the cloister was clearly seen, and a rebuild of the choir wall is suggested as strengthening to support a bell tower.

However, the pre-priory horizon could only be partly excavated. The outpourings of the spring-line, even in this exceptional summer, raises the question of how the friars themselves coped with this volume of water flowing only inches below their floors.

Derek Gadd, an In-Service Trainee, is processing pottery from previous excavations in the Greyfriars and associated sites.

#### OXFORD - St. Mary's College, St. Michael's Street

The OUAS have now started a limited excavation in Frewin Hall to look for traces of a building shown on Agas' map of 1578. This may be the chapel of a monastic college founded in the fifteenth century, the roof of which has since been re-erected on the Chapel of Brasenose College.

#### RADLEY - Barrow Hills

Excavations have been taking place for the last four weeks along the route of the Abingdon peripheral relief road with the help of a small Anglo-American work force! The site under excavation at the moment is Barrow number 2, which was previously examined in 1944. An 11 metre wide trench through the centre of the barrow has located traces of the pre-barrow ground surface. The remains of the barrow mound has also been located where it has been protected from plough damage by cultivation ridges on the N and S side of the barrow. The central area of the barrow is ploughed right down to natural and no trace of the mound survives there.

Several earlier linear features underlying the barrow have been identified. These features are presumably Neolithic or early Bronze Age in date although little dating evidence has been recovered from them so far. Very little in the way of finds has been recovered from the site. A few fragments of Bronze Age pottery was found in the pre-barrow ground surface and the finds from the barrow ditches consist of a few sherds of Romano-British pottery indicating that the ditches remained open into the Roman period. A secondary burial with a small iron knife was recovered from the ditch silt, presumably Roman in date.

One of the In-Service Trainees, Alison Ailden, has been working on the site. She has been helping to record the site by planning, drawing sections and photography.

#### WILCOTE

At Wilcote the Finstock Local History Society have been busy recording another part of the deserted medieval village exposed during the first ploughing of a field of permanent pasture adjacent to some earthworks described in the C.B.A. Newsletter No. 6 (1976). Much new information, including a large amount of early medieval pottery has been retrieved. Several worked flints were also found, of which the most notable was a finely made, barbed arrowhead. This material has yet to be analysed and the Finstock group will be reporting on this later.

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#### OXFORDSHIRE PARISH SURVEY

Richard Chambers would like to stress the need for eight figure grid references, e.g. SU 9734 0723, or area centering on SU 9731 2379. Six figure references are too vague for our needs in the Sites and Monuments Record and there should be no difficulty in reading eight figure references with the aid of a six-inch Ordnance Survey map.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

- 1 November OUAS - P. J. Fasham. 'Recent Work on the M3'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.
- 2 November OUDES - R. J. Bradley. 'Colonisation and Clearance', 8.15 p.m., Helwys Hall, Regents Park College.
- 8 November OUAS - Dr. D. J. Keene. 'Archaeology and Documents in Early Medieval Winchester'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.
- 9 November OUDES - R. J. Bradley. 'Arable and Pasture', 8.15 p.m., Helwys Hall, Regents Park College.
- 13 November OUDES Local History Committee of the Rural Community Council and the Oxford Archaeological and Historical Society. A day meeting on the Local History of Oxfordshire, University Museum, Parks Road, 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
- 15 November OUAS - S. McGrail. 'Prehistoric and Early Medieval British Boats', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.
- 16 November OUDES - R. J. Bradley. 'Hunting, Gathering and Fishing', 8.15 p.m. Helwys Hall, Regents Park College.
- 22 November OUAS - Dr. Anne Ross' lecture has been cancelled; another lecture will be arranged.
- 23 November OUDES - R. J. Bradley. 'Transhumance'. 8.15 p.m. Helwys Hall, Regents Park College.
- 29 November OUAS - Presidential Address and elections. 8.15 p.m. Ashmolean Museum.
- 30 November OUDES - R. J. Bradley. 'Some Patterns and Some Problems'. 8.15 p.m. Helwys Hall, Regents Park College.
- 30 November Staff meeting.
- 17 December Provisional date for staff meeting.