

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.

ENSTONE WITH DITCHLEY PARK ESTATE May 1974-November 1976 (E. Leggatt)

The Enstone group was formed at the inauguration of the Oxfordshire Parish Survey in May 1974. The first summer was spent obtaining the necessary maps and marking on the field numbers. The area of the parish with Ditchley Park is very large and extends on to four sheets of the 2½ inch maps, SP 42, 41, 32 and 31.

As the main objective of this group is to investigate the area bounded by the North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch, we applied for permission to enter the Ditchley Estate.

During the autumn of 1974 and winter of 1975 sketch surveys of earthworks in Sheers Copse, Kingswood Brake and Barrow Piece were made. Later in 1975 investigations began in Bottom Wood and Ash Copse (SP 387 202 centred) revealing a network of intersecting banks and ditches of different periods. Measured surveys of two earthworks were made and plotted on to tracings of the O.S. map of 1880 (O.S. Oxon. XXI. 10, 1:2500).

In February 1976 a tracing of Edw. Grantham's Estate map of Ditchley, 1726, was reduced to a scale of 1:10,560 approx. and overlaid on the present day 6 inch Estate map, to compare the layout. Woods, fields and trackways were walked to examine the changes.

In May a hedge count was carried out on relevant parts of the Green Lane to Chipping Norton (SP 3715 2160 centred) in an attempt to explain differences between the early maps and the existing layout.

During this autumn a measured survey of the Grim's Ditch west of Model Farm (SP 3780 2060 centred) has been completed for 300 metres of its length in a ploughed field. The result suggests that its form and construction was probably similar to that shown by D. B. Harden in his excavations on the Ditch, east of Model Farm and Ditchley House (Oxoniensia Vol. II, 1937, 'Excavations on Grim's Ditch, North Oxfordshire', D. B. Harden, pp 74-92).

Work also continues on the documentary aspect of the survey, both in the wider area of all the North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch parishes and in the general history of Wychwood Forest.

Visits to Church Enstone, Clevelcy and the Chalford Valley emphasised the striking contrasts between this part of the parish and Ditchley.

Copies of all field work have been deposited in the Field Department of the Museum at Woodstock, and annual reports circulated to those concerned.

KIDLINGTON, Moat Cottage

Richard Chambers has now wound up the trial excavations at Moat Cottage. The earliest dateable material from the site belonged to the fourteenth century although the trial trenches may have missed earlier

recognisable medieval material. To the east of the present cottage, itself once part of a large house, walls and floors of a probable late medieval date were uncovered. During the second half of the eighteenth century there remains were buried by soil purposely dumped to raise the ground level and a small, walled garden constructed to the east of the house. The extent of the medieval moat remains unclear although the site does not appear to have been completely enclosed.

#### LEWKNOR, Moor Court

A moat surrounding Moor Court at Lewknor was completely surveyed by one of the In-Service Trainees attached to the Unit, Derek Gadd, together with its internal buildings and associated earthworks. This moat site will be the subject of detailed documentary investigation.

#### OXFORD - The Hamel

Work by Maureen Mellor on the updating of the index for published medieval pottery from Oxfordshire is complete and the Oxford fabric types have, for the most part been correlated with the published work.

#### OXFORD - New Inn Court

The processing of pottery from this site has been completed. The pottery includes an interesting late eleventh century pit group which compared well with the occupation levels under the Castle Mound.

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

The original trench has effectively proved the absence of any substantial building, but was valuable in giving members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society an insight into urban digging. As on another similar site (New Inn Court 1972) there was more than 2 metres of post medieval fill above a relatively undisturbed late medieval horizon. The medieval pits below this were beyond reach without comprehensive shoring. Not dispirited, Kevin Flude and his enthusiastic helpers have started an alternative trial trench 40 metres to the south-east.

#### PLOUGH SURVEY

The proofs for this publication have appeared and been corrected. It is hoped that it will be published in time for a ploughing symposium in February 1977.

#### RADLEY, Barrow Hills

Work on this site has now been completed and the line of the road will be watched when earth moving starts next spring. Because of the large numbers of frost cracks and solution holes uncovered during trial excavations it has been decided not to carry out the geophysical survey of the road line. The publication drawings of the site are being prepared by Alison Allden, an In-Service Trainee with the Unit.

#### STANDLAKE (L. Armstrong)

Since the launching of the County Parish Survey in 1974, the Standlake Local History Society has been engaged upon two main tasks: compiling a documentary and photographic record of all the houses in the village over 100 years old, and walking fields in the parish.

The photographic record is now complete; each house has been photographed from two different angles, and identified by its new postal address where applicable, its familiar name, and a six-figure grid reference. (The late Mr. Peter Spokes asked that copies should be lodged in the Bodleian Library.) The documentary evidence consists of a discursive account of the history of each dwelling, a Brunskill form, and a sketch plan of the interior with notes of any especially interesting feature. When all is complete, the material will go to the Oxford City and County Museum for photocopying, and thence to the National Monuments Record at the Department of the Environment. Our Chairman, Brig. F. R. L. Goadby, has been almost wholly responsible for compiling and making sense of the often tortuous threads of the documentary material. He has used College archives, Manor Court Rolls; Wills, Land Tax, Heath Tax, Tithe, Poor Rate and Census Returns, Parish Registers, and individual deeds. The history of our houses has been traced back to the mid sixteenth century in some cases.

Meanwhile, out in the fields, we have found two Romano-British settlements, one with a substantial quantity of sherds lying on the ploughsoil, dating from the early second century A.D. to the early fourth century. A coin of Constantine the Great, A.D. 330-335, was also found. The second Romano-British site lies about 1 km to the NE. Both these sites are heavily cropmarked. During the last few weeks another field on the northern boundary of the parish has yielded late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, together with numerous flints which have yet to be examined. During the coming season we hope to tackle some of the fields in the hamlet of Brighthampton in the west of the parish.

An important task that we have not yet begun is to record the old agricultural buildings; we have several fine barns still standing, and various wagon-sheds, byres and brewhouses, etc. I am sure we're not alone in finding that time and practical assistance are in short supply!

#### STOKE TALMAGE, Golda Manor

This moated site examined by Derek Gadd appeared largely intact but extensively overgrown and was only photographed and measured.

#### WALLINGFORD

The Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment has turned down the application by ABS to build on the site of Wallingford Castle.

#### WANTAGE, Belmont Park/Ham Road Site

Members of the Wantage Archaeological and Historical Society have retrieved many fragments of Romano-British pottery from this site whilst building work was in progress. The pottery formed a general spread all over the site, 0.40-0.50 metres below the ground surface. One grey-ware base sherd bears part of a potter's stamp on the inside.

#### WHEATFIELD, Lower Farm

Yet another moated site examined by Derek Gadd - this was found to have been destroyed; consultation with the farmer confirmed that it had been bulldozed some years ago.

OXFORDSHIRE PARISH SURVEY

The next Parish Survey progress meeting is to be held at 2.15 p.m. on Sunday, 16th January, 1977, at the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford. After the general business, Beatrice Dobie and Elizabeth Leggatt will be describing their work centred on the parishes of Ditchley and Enstone. Geoff Williams will be showing the film "Excavations at Barton Court" which he recently made for the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit.

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OTHER NEWS ITEMSAERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The cropmarked sites photographed during various flights last summer have been identified and several new sites have been recognised.

CROPMARKS

Geoff Williams has almost completed his survey of the 'Cropmarks on the Alluvium in the Upper Thames Valley' and is hoping that the results will make it possible to forecast the emergence of such sites in other river valleys.

In the course of fieldwork on the above he has discovered evidence of a Romano-British settlement covering some 2 acres and buried deep in the alluvium with the possibility of standing walls (SP 334 010: PRN 8199).

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CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

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| 3-5 December | OUDES. Weekend School on Medieval Industry, at Missenden Abbey Adult Education College, Great Missenden, Bucks.                          |
| 21 December  | Next staff meeting followed by Christmas party   |
| 7 January    | Closing date for entries to Museum Holiday Exhibition (for children), Museum Education Department, Oxfordshire County Museum, Woodstock. |
| 10 January   | OUDES. 10-week course begins on Local Historical Documents: Beginners. Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford, 7.30 p.m.                |
| 16 January   | Parish Survey Progress Meeting at 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford. 2.15 p.m.  |
| 17 January   | OUDES. 8-week course begins on Local Historical Documents: Advanced. Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford, 7.30 p.m.                  |
| 19 January   | OUDES. 5-week course begins - An Introduction to Planning. The Old Library, Nuclear Physics Department, Keble Road, Oxford. 7.30 p.m.    |

- 19 January Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society. Mr. G. Beresford 'Excavations at the Deserted Medieval Village at Goltho, Lincs'. John Mason School, Wootton Road, Abingdon, 7.30 pm.
- 27 January Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society. Miss C. Bloxham 'Oxfordshire Customs and Folklore' Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.