

OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT NEWSLETTER
INCLUDING OXFORDSHIRE PARISH SURVEY NEWS

No. 2 - February 1977

Anyone wishing to send contributions to the Newsletter should send copy to 4^c Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EP (Tel. 43888) before the last Tuesday of each month.

ABINGDON

The material from previous Abingdon excavations is being prepared for inclusion in the various site archives by Michael Parrington.

ABINGDON - 19 East St. Helen's Street

Several hundred sherds of hitherto unknown Roman and Medieval pottery came to light during recording of 19 East St. Helen's Street, by Jeremy Milln an in-service trainee, for the Museum Field Services Department. These had been left behind by a previous occupant and allegedly excavated from the cellar in 19^c5.

BENSON - Mill Lane

A report on this site which produced Late Iron Age pottery and a British coin has been prepared for publication by Michael Parrington.

CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Jeremy Milln reports that progress of a gas feeder main brought briefly to light considerable evidence of Romano-British occupation on the north-east flank of the existing village. Between the gloomy crepuscular hour of 2⁶th January and 11.00 a.m. on the rainy day that followed frantic fossicking yielded about 50 sherds of Romano-British coarse wares, some animal bones and a bone implement that may be an, unfortunately unstratified, weaving bobbin. Several pits of varying sizes were observed in the sides of the machine trench, two of which contained hearth deposit. The remains of a denuded gravel enclosing bank and ditch were exposed with traces of the fossilised land surface which it clearly sealed. A burial of a young male adult, only 5' 4", was also excavated. Five fragments of black Romano-British pottery were recovered from the grave fill.

DORCHESTER Archaeological and Historical Group

Mr. Shingleton, the Secretary/Treasurer, reports that the Dorchester Group has been transcribing the records of the Grammar School founded by John Fettiplace in 1657. The work has now been completed and has been published in the form of an attractive booklet. The booklet contains all the original Statutes, lists of Masters and pupils between the date of foundation and 1714. They are all reproduced in the original English and spelling and make very interesting reading. The booklet will be sold in aid of the Dorchester-on-Thames Museum and will be on sale there during the summer months. In the meantime, copies can be obtained from Mr. Shingleton (4 Abingdon Road, Dorchester OX9 8JY) at a price of 50p plus 10p for postage and packing.

OXFORD

Brian Durham reports negotiations with the Property Service Agency and its clients the Post Office are now progressing satisfactorily for a preliminary excavation on the Morris Garages site in St. Aldates. An excavation on this site would give an opportunity to confirm the findings of the 1970 excavation of the St. Aldates 'causeway'.

The processing of Medieval pottery from Greyfriars has been completed; the post-Medieval wares from the site include tea-bowls in Chinese porcelain, and some 20 chamber-potties.

Maureen Mellor has become acquainted with 'George' (the University Computer) and feels this to be the beginning of a 'deep and fruitful relationship'.

OXFORD - St. Mary's College Chapel (16th and 17th centuries)

There has been a breakthrough by the shock troupe of the University Society. Acting on a whisper from 'Deep Throat', gallant Captain Kevin Flude opened up a new offensive in the house-keeper's garden at Frewin Hall, and surprised a deeply-entrenched diagonal buttress on what chief-strategist corporal John Blair identified as the junction of the enemy's south and east flanks. Latest dispatches tell of a second assault across the southern lines.

RADLEY - Barrow Hills

The report on this site has now been completed by Michael Parrington with the exception of a report on one of the small finds which is awaiting conservation in the Ashmolean Museum.

THE ENCLOSURES OF THE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE GRIM'S DITCH PARISHES By Beatrice Dobie

This outline of the documentary work on the Grim's Ditch parishes enclosures will concentrate on any unusual or especially interesting features of the awards. Provisions common to the awards such as roads and tithe commutation will be largely omitted.

No Documentary Evidence of Enclosure

This is the case in three parishes, Combe, Glympton and Kiddington. The last two were emparked in the early eighteenth century but were open field earlier. Reference in a hitchin of 1653 of the 'Southe Fielde' of Glympton shows this. It also gives 'Kiddington Fielde' as a boundary. Kiddington Field is also marked on the 1726 Ditchley estate map.

Shareswell Coppice in Spelsbury Parish

This was enclosed by Royal Licence in 1638 at a time when Charles I was attempting to raise revenue through, inter alia, the revival of forest dues. Shareswell Coppice was part of 'Whichwood' Forest and may be Sheer's Copse SP392190.

Gagingwell (hamlet of Enstone) Private agreement Enclosure 1713

Documentation shows the cumbersome nature of this process. Individual agreements were entered into between the land owners and each man. There is a 'draught' agreement book and a copy of it also a document explaining how the book is set out and a petition from William Drinkwater to Lord Litchfield against his land allotment.

Charlbury Private Agreement 1715

A brief document. Enclosure of common grazing land. Bishop Secker's Visitation Returns 1738 record disagreement over common rights and grazing between Stonesfield and Charlbury.

Counsel's Opinion on the Proposed Enclosure of Ditchley 1746

Enclosure was proposed to limit grazing in Ditchley which Enstone and Spelsbury had enjoyed through vicinage. Counsel felt Ditchley land owners consent essential if the bill was to be passed. Vicars of Enstone and Spelsbury had common rights by statute of Elizabeth I and would have to be compensated. Enclosure was not by Act of Parliament.

Northleigh Private Act of Parliament 1759

Allotment costs given - usually £2. The whole Act, surveying etc. cost £1500. Riots on Northleigh Heath 1759 and 1761 subdued by Berkshire Militia.

Dean Private Act 1759

First mention of much used commissioner, John Watts. Middle Burrow near Dean Grove is significant as this is the site of suggested original village, and 'burrow' means town. Series of documents on fencing costs, gates, and hedges associated with the enclosure including hunting gates made and inserted for 13/2 charged at £1.5.0.

Wootton Private Act 1770

John Watts, a commissioner. Costs of enclosure given 'surveyor or the several persons employed by us' cost £98.9.7 $\frac{1}{4}$. Fences and gates were erected at the proprietors expense of £130.11.6. The total cost was £1,461.4.0. Only award to mention gated roads. Also mentions Hilford, the Hill Ford of the ninth century charter SP445193.

Radford Private Act 1772

Award quoted by Jordan, the antiquarian vicar of Enstone but has since been lost. John Watts again a commissioner.

Spelsbury Private Act 1803

Very typical award. States that a meeting of those 'interested' was to be held on Monday 5th July 1802 at the house of John Prickett - that is the Litchfield Arms. Ditchley Woods named as a boundary.

Stonesfield Private Act 1804

One new road passing Ditchley Gate specifically mentioned. Stone pits for making and repairing roads granted to rector as part of tithe compensation. Akeman Street is a furlong name.

Hailey Private Act 1823

The award was stated to be 'engrossed on vellom' and a meeting for the proprietors and others 'entitled to consideration' was to be held at least two days after the notice appeared in Jackson's Oxford Journal. It was also stated that the turnpike should be diverted. £20 had been raised by the proprietors for the upkeep of private roads and footpaths. Rubbish pits and stone quarries provided.

Neat and Church Enstone Private Acts 1841

These two awards were enacted simultaneously. Their combined field area (lying between the two settlements) corresponds almost exactly with Enrestan of Domesday - this seems to suggest they were once a single unit.

Deforestation of Whichwood Forest 1857 under the General Enclosure Act of 1845

Work on the award began in 1853 and enclosed 8,753 acres. Deer were to be removed or destroyed within two years of the Act's passage. Forest boundaries were clearly described. Reference to an 'early' wall (the foundations still standing) at Buchleap Copse SP348174 and an ancient wall divided the forest from Walcot Field. A 'nearly obliterated' ditch was sited between Leafield and Ramsden Heath.

Ramsden (under 1845) Act 1862

Akeman Street to be public road number one. Two public watering places are at Mount Skippitt SP353159 were to be cleansed, maintained and repaired from a rate levied on some allotments.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - BRILL (Prosser's Yard - SP656143)

After an appeal for assistance from the Buckinghamshire County Museum, Peter Lock, an in-service trainee with the Unit, has been investigating a single-flue updraft kiln which was discovered at Brill during the course of building operations. Its orientation is roughly west-east with an oval furnace chamber of 1.6m. internal diameter. The flue is 78cm. long.

Pottery from the kiln dates it to the early eighteenth century. Apart from a great deal of pottery, some kiln furniture, together with a late seventeenth century token and the bowl of a clay pipe were recovered. No written evidence has yet come to light to suggest a date for the site. Peter is grateful for help and advice from Mike Farley and Richard Chambers.

PARISH SURVEY NEWS

Several groups have asked for more copies of the new checklist. At present more are being duplicated and will be available shortly.

A day school on Oral Recording of local history and traditions will be held at the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit on Saturday 12th March, from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. In the morning speakers will cover the intentions of the oral history recordist, basic training in oral history techniques. The role of the museum archive will be covered by John Rhodes, Keeper of Antiquities at Woodstock Museum, and during the afternoon there will be practical training sessions. Hugh Philips and a colleague from Radio Oxford will advise on the use of the tape recorder and interviewing techniques. The number of students is limited to 12 for practical reasons. At present 2 places remain vacant, and anyone interested, please write to Mr. R. A. Chambers at the Unit.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Newsletter for Archaeologists

A Newsletter compiled by Anthony King and Mike Pitts of the Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY, aimed specifically at those actively engaged in directing research, excavation and field work, has been issued this month. It is planned to produce one Newsletter during each of the three academic terms. These may be obtained by sending stamped addressed envelopes (3) to Anthony King or Mike Pitts at the Institute.

Plough Survey

George Lambrick's Plough Survey has now been published in a booklet form entitled 'Archaeology and Agriculture'. This booklet is intended to give archaeologists a reasonably detailed summary of modern cultivation techniques to provide some basis for quantifying the likely effects of different techniques on archaeological sites. The problems of assessing "plough damage" are also discussed, particularly in the light of the technological considerations. Attention is also drawn to

how a conversion to direct drilling may mitigate the harmful effects of cultivation.

Further information and copies may be obtained from the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, price £1 (plus 15p postage and packing) until the end of March 1977, and thereafter £1.50 (plus 15p).

CALENDAR FOR MARCH AND APRIL

- 5 March Historical Documents, Topography and the Archaeology of Towns. Saturday School at the University Centre, Northampton.
- 7 March OUAS. Duncan Wilson. 'Prehistoric to Medieval Ploughs, and their Development'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.
- 8 March OUAS. Professor Glyn Daniel. 'Changing Perspectives in Prehistory'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.
- 10 March OAES. Tom Hassall. 'Excavations in Oxfordshire, 1976'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.
- 11-13 March Department for Adult Education, Leicester University. Residential course on 'Leather for Archaeologists and Conservators'. Knuston Hall.
- 16 March Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society. Professor J. Bains. 'Egyptian Temples'. John Mason School, Wootton Road, Abingdon, 7.30 p.m.
- 17 March Oxford Geology Group. Mr. H. P. Powell. 'The Geological Collections in the Museum'. Department of Geology, Parks Road, Oxford, 6.30 p.m.
- 25 March 'Moor Court and other Moated Houses' - talk by members of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit based on their recent work and illustrated by slides. Lewknor School, 8.0 p.m.
- 26-27 March OUDES. CBA Group 9 Annual Report Conference 1977. Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford.
- 28-31 March OUDES. Seminar on Settlement of the Early Iron Age in Britain and Northern France. Rewley House.
- 1-7 April Department for Adult Education, Leicester University. Residential course on 'Field Archaeology and the Landscape'. Knuston Hall.
- 15-16 April OUDES. Weekend school at the Teachers Centre, Banbury. 'The Development of Banbury in the Nineteenth Century.'
- 15-17 April OUDES. Weekend conference at Rewley House. 'The Archaeology of Mercian Towns.'
- 20 April Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society. Mr. L. Brooks. 'Local National Trust Country Houses'. John Mason School, Abingdon, 7.30 p.m.
- 21 April Oxford Geology Group. Mr. M. J. Bradshaw. 'North Oxfordshire Geology and Building Stone', Department of Geology, Parks Road, Oxford, 6.30 p.m.
- 23-24 April Seminar on 'Kilns of the Potteries'. Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke on Trent. Fee £7.