

OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT NEWSLETTER

INCLUDING OXFORDSHIRE PARISH SURVEY NEWS

No.8 - September 1977

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

David Miles and Diane Hofdahl are glad to announce that they have emerged from under several tons of Barton Court Farm pottery at last, armed with an alarming amount of Level 3 statistics, and severe brain damage. Afficionados of Roman pottery may care to digest the following: 284,675 grams of stratified fourth century AD pottery included - 19% Oxford ware; 0.6% of rival colour-coated wares, all Nene Valley types except for two sherds of New Forest material, 60.5% grey wares, 6.8% shell-gritted (what is sometimes called calcite-gritted), 2% Black-Burnished, 0.7% Samian, 6.6% residual Iron Age, etc.

Phil Page, an inservice trainee, has been working with Martin Jones, floating samples from Barton Court Farm. He has examined a hoard of Common Orache (*Atriplex Patula*) from the same site, and calculated the total number of seeds in the sample, for comparison with other known caches. It appears that several of these were not man-deposited but are the result of rodent action.

BERINSFIELD - Mount Farm

The major excavation planned for Mount Farm has been saved from the financial axe by the provision of funds from ARC and the Job Creation Programme. Six school leavers and four older unemployed people have been selected for the six-month excavation which is to start under George Lambrick's direction on September 5th. In addition to the ten JCP employees, three Unit staff will be working there full-time, and the project will be incorporated into the inservice training scheme. Mount Farm is a major Bronze Age to Roman site with the possibility of Neolithic and Saxon remains as well. It is hoped to deal with the whole of this area by systematic sampling compared with more extensive excavation. A programme of environmental work and detailed pottery analysis is also planned which should make a very interesting comparison with the results from other sites such as Ashville. The excavation will continue through the winter until the end of March. There will be no week-end work, but experienced volunteers (unpaid) will be welcome to help during the week.

CHALGROVE

Work continues on the twin moated sites. The smaller rectangular moat has now been explored further and appears to be a late medieval or post medieval creation. Excavation is also continuing on the medieval manor house. Volunteer labour is urgently needed during the day, every day of the week except Tuesdays, but including week-ends. We are no longer excavating on Wednesday evenings.

HARDWICK

Excavations at Mingies Ditch have now been concluded for the year. A late find was a fourth hut, but it was not as well preserved as the other three. Two "four post structures" have been identified, one of them partly enclosed by a gully. Under the gravel banks of the settlement, spreads of charcoal and burnt soil were found. These may represent traces of clearance of the site before it was occupied.

An open day was held on the 14th August and the weather was the worst that we had experienced on the excavation to that date. In view of this the 250 visitors to the site seem to be a very satisfactory number.

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

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|----------------|--|
| 19th September | Malcolm Graham, Local History Librarian at the Central Library, Westgate, Oxon on "Family History Sources in the Local History Collections". |
| 1st October | Thames Water Authority Open Day at the new Farmoor Reservoir, including an exhibition of the results from the Archaeological excavation. |

OXFORD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT FOR EXTERNAL STUDIES

Oxfordshire Parish Survey One Day School on

WOODS IN THE LANDSCAPE

to be held at Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford on

SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 1977

Tutor: Dr. Oliver Rackham

(Author of Trees and Woodlands in the British Landscape)

The school will start with coffee at 10.00 a.m. at Rewley House and finish with tea at 4.30 p.m. Please note that lunch will not be provided. During the afternoon there will be a local excursion, probably to Wychwood Forest near Stonesfield.

FEE: £3.00

If you would like to attend please complete and return the form below together with your remittance to The Course Secretary, Oxford University Department for External Studies, 3-7 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA as soon as possible and no later than 31st October 1977.

WOODS IN THE LANDSCAPE - Saturday 12 November 1977

Name -----

Address -----

----- Telephone No. -----

FEE: £3.00