

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

1991-92

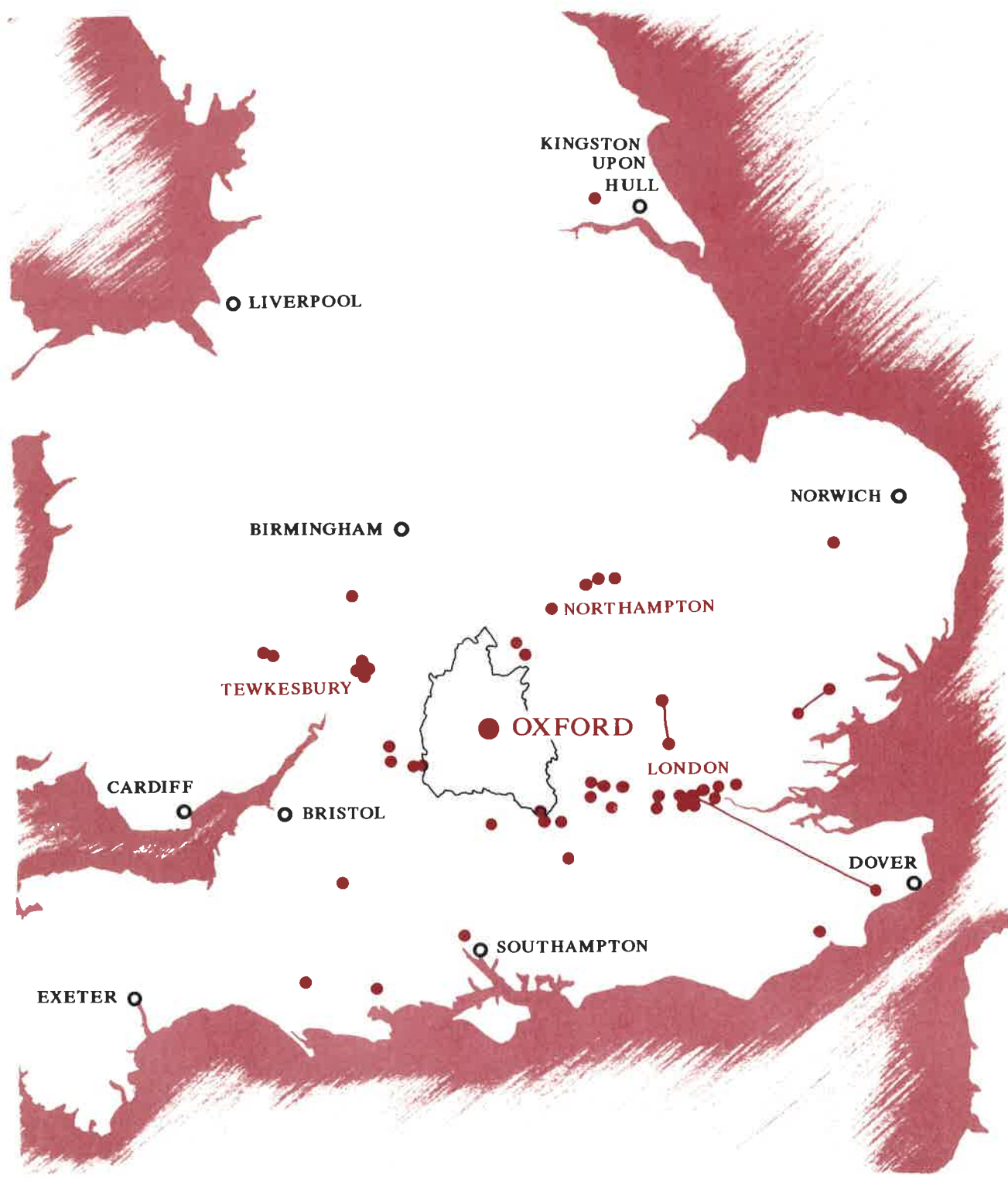
annual report

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Major Sites Investigated by the OAU



Director's Report

The Chinese curse '*may you live in interesting times*' has certainly applied to 1991/92. The past year for the OAU has been one of achievement, expansion, and uncertainty. The continuing recession and the imminence of the general election in the latter part of the year combined to create a time of unprecedented difficulty in the development world.

The past year has seen a radical reorganisation of the structure of the Unit. There are now three main departments: the Consultancy Department led by George Lambrick, the OAU's Deputy Director; the Fieldwork Department under John Moore; and a new department, the Post-excavation Department, headed by Dr Ellen McAdam. Together with the Director and Simon Palmer, the Unit Manager, they form the Unit's Senior Management team.

The purpose of the Post-excavation Department is to improve the management of the post-excavation process and ensure that the current major projects are tackled effectively, and that the OAU's backlog of unpublished sites is whittled away over the next three years. The Post-excavation Department is soon to take up residence in new premises at Unit 4, King's Meadow, Osney Mead, where an enlarged Drawing Office led by Paul Hughes and most of the archaeologists involved in the post-excavation programme will be based.

This expansion and reorganisation of the Post-excavation Department has been made possible by the support of English Heritage, following the proposals included in MAP 2 (*The Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage, 1991).

At the same time archaeologists are learning to cope with the new world of PPG 16 (the Department of Environment's Policy Guidance Note on Archaeology). This recommends evaluation and preservation *in situ* instead of excavation as a means of protecting the archaeological heritage. In the short term this, combined with the recession, has led to a decline in the number of large-scale excavations, with a substantial increase in the need for desk-top assessments and field evaluations. PPG 16 firmly places the cost of excavation on the shoulders of developers. English Heritage nevertheless proved very supportive in the case of important sites, which for various reasons have not been caught in the planning net. In the past year the English Heritage has funded excavations at Eynsham Abbey and in the Yarnton landscape project (see below pp 10 and 16).

Despite the halt in office building in Oxford, the provision of student accommodation has continued and the OAU has carried out a number of field evaluations in the city at the request of the city planning authority. The richness of Oxford's pre-medieval archaeology continues to emerge; Roman pottery kilns were revealed at Nuneham



Major Sites Investigated by the OAU: Oxfordshire



Courtenay during investigation of the course of the Didcot-Oxford pipeline (see below p 13). East Oxford's archaeology still remains relatively unappreciated. The Roman black country at Cowley was a landmark before the Town and Gown existed. Greater efforts need to be made to recover its history before it is permanently lost beneath a skirt of housing, hypermarkets, hospitals, and industrial estates.

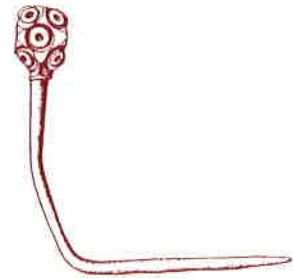
A more strategic approach to the City's past is needed, giving consideration to the direction of future research, the improvement of the historic data base, and the identification of deposit survival. It is hoped that such a survey can be undertaken when English Heritage has completed its review of recent town surveys such as those for York, Cirencester and our own Dover survey.

In the past year the OAU has undertaken 136 projects in three countries and 22 English counties from Humberside to Kent and Dorset. 78 of these were in Oxfordshire. Outside Oxfordshire the greatest concentration on our work was in Gloucestershire, London, Northamptonshire, Berkshire and Kent. Many of these projects did not involve excavation, but consisted of desktop assessments or consultancy work for planning enquiries. The most notable of these was at Tewkesbury, where the great series of planning enquiries which ran for over seven months was a greater clash of arms than the original battle of 1471 (see below p 25).

Although Oxford and Oxfordshire continue to form the nucleus of the Unit's activities, excavations, evaluations, and consultancy work take us much further afield. This year the most extensive project was also the most distant: an 800 km pipeline from the Bulgarian border through Greece. This study was part of an Environmental Assessment carried out as a result of the adoption of the European Community Directive on the Environment. The Unit is building up a considerable expertise and reputation in this field and as a result was a major contributor to the recent packed session on Environmental Assessment at the Institute of Field Archaeologists Annual Conference at Birmingham University.

The introduction of the market economy into archaeology has not been welcomed by everyone. However, if standards are to be maintained, archaeologists must communicate and co-operate. The creation of flexible teams is now becoming routine and it is now standard practice to commission fieldworkers from other units and specialists (particularly for environmental work and ceramic studies) from particular areas. For Environmental Assessments the teams are multi- and inter-disciplinary ranging from socio-economic and noise specialists to naturalists and archaeologists.

The Unit has close links with a number of universities. In Oxford Dr Mark Robinson of the University Museum advises us on environmental issues. The Oxford University Research Laboratory for Art and Archaeology under Professor Michael Tite co-operates with the OAU on analytical and dating projects, particularly the White Horse Project. The OAU is co-operating with the Archaeology Department of Cambridge University. A joint CASE student (C J Stevens) is



A decorated pin from one of the Saxon halls at Yarnton.

examining the development of prehistoric cereal farming in Southern Britain (supervised by Martin Jones) and a Cambridge PhD student, Robert Rippengael, is using Unit material in his study of the organisation of Romano-British settlements. Research on human bones from Unit sites is being carried out at Sheffield University and Leicester University.

As an educational charity the OAU regards education as a major aspect of its work. It is particularly important, as we extend our activities into areas beyond our traditional heartland, that we continue to communicate with societies, amenity groups, schools, and local authorities. There have been open-days and school visits on accessible excavations such as Eynsham Abbey. In addition to the many single talks to groups the OAU has conducted a well attended series of lunchtime lectures at the Museum of Oxford about the recent work of the OAU.

A travelling exhibition, *Scientific Techniques and the White Horse Project*, funded by the Royal Society has been exhibited at libraries and museums all over the county, in co-operation with County Council's Department of Leisure and Arts. There has also been frequent coverage of our work in local and national media. The Director has a regular monthly broadcast about local archaeology on Radio Oxford. The OAU has also assisted in the exhibition at the Bishop's Palace, Witney; our excavation now lies beneath a spanking new Teflon roof and is about to be opened to the public thanks to English Heritage, Witney District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, and the English Tourist Board.

The Unit organises the In-Service Archaeology course jointly with English Heritage and Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education. In the past year six students have taken part. Discussions are underway at the present time with English Heritage and the University to reorganise the course to provide a more flexible service to professional and would-be professional archaeologists.

The Unit is also committed to continuing education for its own staff. A regular series of seminars on our own work has been initiated and in addition seminars have been provided for staff on a variety of subjects including computing, report preparation, finds analysis, health and safety, and MAP 2.

Since the Unit started in 1974 we have issued a regular newsletter (and never missed an issue). This used to provide a summary of all our projects. In the past two years the scale and character of our work began to make this impractical. As a result we decided to change the format to provide a more readable news-sheet with wider appeal and to produce this Annual Report. Summaries of our projects will continue to be published in the relevant CBA and County Annual Reports and academic journals. Project summaries are filed in the Unit as they are completed; non-confidential summaries are available on request for the cost of reproduction and postage.

The past year has seen a number of changes in Unit staff. Richard (but better known as Charlie) Chambers has left us to join his wife Angela in expanding their horticultural business. Charlie is one of the best known characters in Oxfordshire archaeology and there is scarcely an edition of *Oxoniensia* in the past 18 years which does not contain a contribution by him. We wish him well with the bonsai and the geese.

From the Finds Department, Cecily Cropper has departed to begin a course in stained glass conservation at Lincoln Cathedral; and from the Drawing Office Simon Chew has returned to his home town of Blackpool to work as a freelance illustrator.

Hugh Coddington, an OAU Research Assistant, has joined the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies as Deputy County Archaeologist.

The changes in the nature of the work in the Unit has meant there have been a number of recent recruits to our staff. Marisia Lane has joined us as the secretary to the Consultancy and Fieldwork Departments. Field Officers on short-term contracts in the past year have included Dr Jonathan Hunn, Miles Russell, Dr Peter Wardle and Mike Webber. The Post-excavation team has been supplemented by three Senior Research Officers, Dr Michael Roaf, ex-Director of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, Dr Frances Healy, who has joined us from the Trust for Wessex Archaeology, and David Jennings from the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford, and also by an Archives Officer, Anne Dodd. The Drawing Office has three new members, Danny Hacker from the Museum of London, Karen Nichols from the Test Valley Archaeological Unit, and Gill Hale from the British Museum.

Congratulations to Simon Palmer and his wife Judith on the birth of their second child, Rachel, and also to Simon and Inga Brereton and to Sara and Jonathan Wallis on their marriages.

As usual it is a pleasure to record our thanks to the many friends, organisations and individuals who have assisted us during 1991-92: our financial supporters and clients; the staff of English Heritage, particularly Dr Geoffrey Wainwright and Stephen Trowe, Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council, the Ashmolean Museum and Library and the many County Archaeological Officers who have assisted us in our work, notably Paul Smith and Hugh Coddington (Oxon), David Hopkins (Berkshire), Alan Hannan (Northants), John Williams (Kent), and Jan Wills (Gloucestershire).

As usual a steady hand has been provided by the Unit's Committee chaired by Dr Peter Salway. It is a particular pleasure this year to see that the contribution to local archaeology of our Hon. Secretary, Louise Armstrong, has been acknowledged with her election to a Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries.

The City of Oxford

Brian Durham

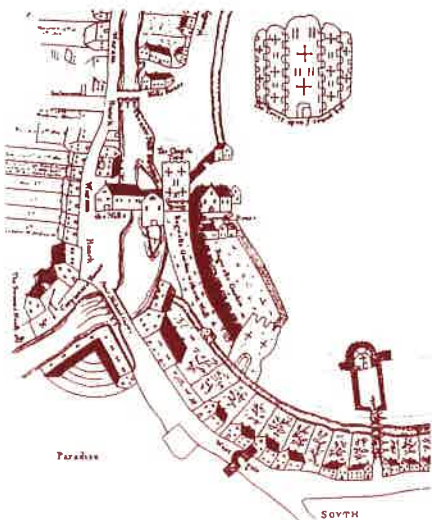
Under the government guidelines (PPG 16), the city planning authority requested that an evaluation take place at 113-119 High Street. This provided enough data for the council to ensure that the development by Lincoln College will be fully recorded archaeologically. It will be the largest basement excavation in the city for ten years, spanning five medieval tenements.

In another university-led development Brasenose College have teamed up with Pegasus Retirement Homes to develop the former Oxford City Football Ground at White House Road just S of Folly Bridge. Trenching showed that many of the soil marks visible on air photographs belonged to a small middle Iron Age settlement on the banks of a stream. A link with the Saxon focus of Oxford under Christ Church is still unproven, but a tree-ring date for timber from a late phase in the silting at the BT Tunnel site (described in last year's report) suggests that the route was well-established by the early 7th century AD, and it is reasonable to suggest that the river was crossed at this point in the prehistoric period too.

The BT tunnel work will be incorporated in a multi-theme monograph on Saxon Oxford, entitled *Oxford before the University*. Research arising from this project shows that the West Saxon *burh* at Oxford redefined the local section of a national boundary running along the Thames. The many channels of the river were gathered into one channel which could be supervised from the town, probably in an attempt to control Viking shipping.

As the interest in Oxford's river crossing deepens, we are pleased to note that English Heritage is making progress on the necessary task of scheduling the Grandpont causeway as an ancient monument. The 11th-century structure was damaged for a second time in 12 months when one of the five arches of the oldest surviving bridge in England was completely filled with concrete.

Map in Brasenose College Archives of Grandpont c 1600



The Saxon monograph has provided an opportunity to collate the data from minor sites which have accumulated in the archives. One example is the plotting of gravel levels from the High Street, where it is clear that there is a drop opposite St Mary the Virgin, perhaps on the line of the Saxon east defences which have, so far, been deduced largely from topographical arguments. The distribution of early metalling suggests that the streets outside this defence were paved like the internal streets. The laying out of the town may have been largely 'ceremonial', because none of these primary surfaces show any sign of wear.

In an excavation carried out for All Souls College, the Saxon levels were inaccessible, but the work provided the College with a new insight on its own lost medieval architecture, particularly the cloister

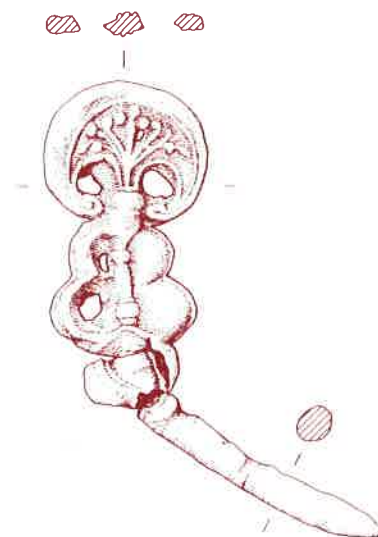
and hall under Hawkesmoor's Great Quad. From the demolition deposits of the cloister came a most unusual decorated lead stylus or crayon. It is appropriate that it came from a property fronting Catte Street, which was the centre of Oxford's medieval book trade.

The publication in *Oxoniensia* of the St John's Hospital report, telling the story of excavations in the kitchen area of Magdalen College in the late 1980s, has made a major contribution to the study of Oxford's medieval institutions. A field evaluation for a proposal from Magdalen for a quadrangle in the SW corner of the Deer Park showed a strange shallow depression of medieval date, which might have been the floor of a fishpond on the line of the Hospital's early water supply. The line of the culvert which brought the water to this point was sought in a watching brief on sewerage work by the City Council, which showed a staggering 1.8 m. of street surfaces in Longwall Street beside the Deer Park. This reflects the importance of this NE route round the outside of the town.

A proposal by the County Council to build on the south bailey ditch of the castle at Paradise Street led to another field evaluation, which in this case raised tantalising questions about the management of water in the ditch. A substantial building beside the Castle Mill Stream on a map of 1617 was a culvert house with sluices to flood the moat, and a smaller building isolated in the middle of the moat could well have housed another sluice for an excavated stone-lined leet leading towards a house on the edge of the ditch.

Medieval Oxford was more than colleges and town walls and recent college building has provided chances to look at the field systems surrounding the town. Trenching at Manchester College showed the boundary between suburban properties and the strip fields behind, and a trench at Mansfield College showed the end of one of these half-acre plots where it became the second line of the civil war defences with a ditch 7 m wide and 3 m deep.

This year's work has therefore provided important new results for the city's heritage. The investigation of the city's archaeology needs to be streamlined to avoid damage to important deposits in future developments. The Unit has therefore run a pilot survey on the distribution of archaeological deposits and historic buildings, the first step to establishing a database to assist in the consultation process in future years.



A lead stylus or crayon found at All Souls College. Plain lead crayons are widely known in this country, but this is the first decorated example found this side of Paris.

Eynsham: Investigating a Medieval Landscape

Graham Keevill

The Eynsham area has seen a great deal of archaeological activity over the years, especially as a result of gravel quarrying to the north of the town. Since 1989, the Oxford Archaeological Unit has been engaged in a major programme of fieldwork concentrating on the site of Eynsham Abbey. The project began as a straightforward rescue excavation, but in the last year work has increasingly been diversified into a study of the Abbey within its contemporary landscape. This has involved geophysical and earthwork surveys, a pipeline evaluation and excavation, documentary research, and a preliminary study of gravestones in St Leonard's churchyard.

The excavations on the site of the Abbey have revealed the existence of a major Bronze Age domestic enclosure, which was abandoned by the beginning of the Iron Age. The site was then deserted until the early Saxon period, when Eynsham may have been the centre of a small 'royal' estate. Several sunken huts were found during the excavation. Large amounts of fine stamp-decorated pottery had been dumped in the huts, along with loomweights, spindlewhorls, and bone combs.

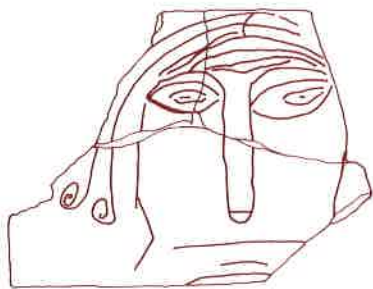
The earliest documentary reference to a minster church at Eynsham dates to 864, but the minster may have been established as much as two centuries earlier. The Abbey site was occupied by timber halls during this period. Part of a collapsed mortar wall panel was found, giving an important insight into construction techniques of these buildings.

The Saxon minster was replaced by a Benedictine Abbey in 1005 and, apart from a period of uncertainty after the Norman Conquest, the Abbey flourished throughout the medieval period. The Dissolution of the Monasteries, however, saw the closure of the Abbey. Its buildings were systematically robbed of all reusable materials during the 16th and 17th centuries. The excavated remains of the Abbey were described in the Unit's March 1992 News-sheet.

According to documentary sources, a major enlargement of the Abbey precinct took place on the SW side of the precinct in the early 13th century. The Abbey bought up private properties and diverted roads in order to construct a flight of fishponds. These survive largely intact, along with their feeder streams, dams, and leats.

At this time one of the private properties belonged to *Herveius filius Petri* (Harvey son of Peter), who owned a house, courtyard and croft. A small moated enclosure immediately to the S of the fishponds fits this description well. The Unit was able to investigate this site thanks to Thames Water, who funded an evaluation and subsequent excavation in advance of pipeline construction. The moat was probably constructed in the mid to late 11th century, on a site which had also

Medieval face-tile from Eynsham



been occupied in the Romano-British and late Saxon periods. The moat was certainly defensive in character, with wide ditches holding water at least 1 m deep. A causeway on the E side of the moat gave access to the platform where buildings stood. Several deep pits to the E of the moat were used as rubbish dumps and thick layers of burnt seeds and grain had been dumped in the pits.

The Abbey's purchase of Harvey's property led to its abandonment. No evidence has yet been found for any activity on the platform from the mid 13th century onwards and the moat ditches dried up probably in the course of ensuring a satisfactory water supply for the fishponds, which were carefully tended until the Dissolution. The Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England has surveyed the ponds, and an ecological survey has also been carried out. Hopefully at least one of the ponds may be restored to a wetland habitat.

The S half of St Leonard's churchyard originally lay within the Abbey precinct. Most of the graves here are of the 19th and 20th centuries. The N half of the churchyard, however, contains many gravestones of the 17th and 18th centuries. A sample study of the gravestones took place in 1991, and it is hoped that all the stones can be recorded in the near future. The sample showed that a great deal of information can be gained with regard to family groupings, distribution of graves by date, and the design and iconography of the stones themselves. The 18th-century monuments, in particular, display a fine range of cherubs and death's heads, hour glasses, and so on.

The long task of post-excavation analysis will begin in the near future. Meanwhile the survey programme will continue and it is hoped that further geophysical work will take place. In the longer term, a management plan will be produced in collaboration with English Heritage. This should involve an enhancement of the legal protection currently afforded to the site, and also the display of parts of the precinct such as the ponds. After 450 years of neglect, Eynsham Abbey will again be a centre of local interest.



Grims Ditch and the Wallingford Bypass

George Lambrick, John Moore, and Peter Wardle

A number of sites affected by the construction of the Wallingford bypass have been examined by the OAU. The most important one, at Mongewell, was a long narrow island with late Bronze Age houses and a rubbish tip at the downstream end. It was probably served by a timber bridge across the wide shallow channel now buried beneath the floodplain. It may have controlled river traffic and hence the exchange of prestige goods.

An innovative design for the new road bridge not only preserves the archaeology intact and accessible but has reduced the cost by at least one million pounds. The design was produced by Oxfordshire County Council engineers and uses reinforced earth abutments and piers placed in the river.

The main excavations were where the bypass crosses the supposed line of Grims Ditch. This linear earthwork about 7.2 km long was previously thought to be a late Iron Age tribal boundary. The character of the monument changes along its length: it is regular and straight in places but elsewhere it is irregular. The section under excavation in Mongewell Park turned out to have been restored as the park boundary, perhaps designed by Capability Brown. Grims Ditch was used in the Roman period but may have been constructed earlier.

There was evidence of medieval and Roman ploughing and of prehistoric 'arding', and beneath this features which look like 'lazy beds' (a type of ridged cultivation) - the first example of this practice in prehistoric lowland Britain. This is particularly rewarding since the agricultural pioneer Jethro Tull lived in nearby Crowmarsh and the excavations took place in the grounds of an agricultural research establishment.

Photograph of prehistoric or Roman cultivation ridges



The Didcot-Oxford Pipeline

Graham Keevill

Pipelines offer an opportunity to study long slices of the landscape, and inevitably they reveal hitherto unknown and unexpected archaeological sites. This was true of Thames Water's Didcot-Oxford water main, which crossed some 16 miles of countryside. Part of its route lay in areas of the Thames valley where dense clusters of cropmarks demonstrated the existence of archaeological sites. In these areas careful planning and evaluation meant that the effects of the construction work on the archaeology were minimized.

Elsewhere, however, sites could not be avoided. An extensive Romano-British enclosure and ditch system at Haddon Hill, NE of Didcot, was one such site. Fortunately, because of the restricted width of the pipelining works, the archaeology has suffered only limited damage.

The most spectacular discovery on the pipeline was the Romano-British kiln site near Nuneham Courtenay, reported in the Unit's December 1991 News-sheet. The kilns produced the full range of Oxfordshire wares, including beakers, flagons, bowls and mortaria, from the 2nd to 4th century. These products may have been shipped down river to London, as the site is only 250 m from the Thames. Local markets at Alchester and Dorchester were also easily accessible: the main road between the sites lies 2.6 km E of the kilns. It is notable that the parish boundary between Nuneham Courtenay and Sandford on Thames, which is 100 m N of the site, goes in a straight line from the Thames to the Alchester-Dorchester road.

The site lies under a field of medieval ridge-and-furrow, which explains why it was unknown. A geophysical survey undertaken recently by English Heritage's Ancient Monuments Laboratory has confirmed that the kiln site is very extensive, and that it is contained within a series of rectangular enclosures. Several kilns can also be identified. We now have to find out whether the site extends into the arable fields to the east, and if it does how extensively has ploughing damaged it? In the longer term, however, the site is likely to be preserved as an Ancient Monument; the force of development will actually have led not only to the discovery, but also to the protection of an important archaeological site.

Extract from AML magnetometer survey showing rectilinear enclosures overlaid by ridge and furrow. Some of the kilns lie just inside the left handside of the enclosures.



Alchester (A421)

Paul Booth

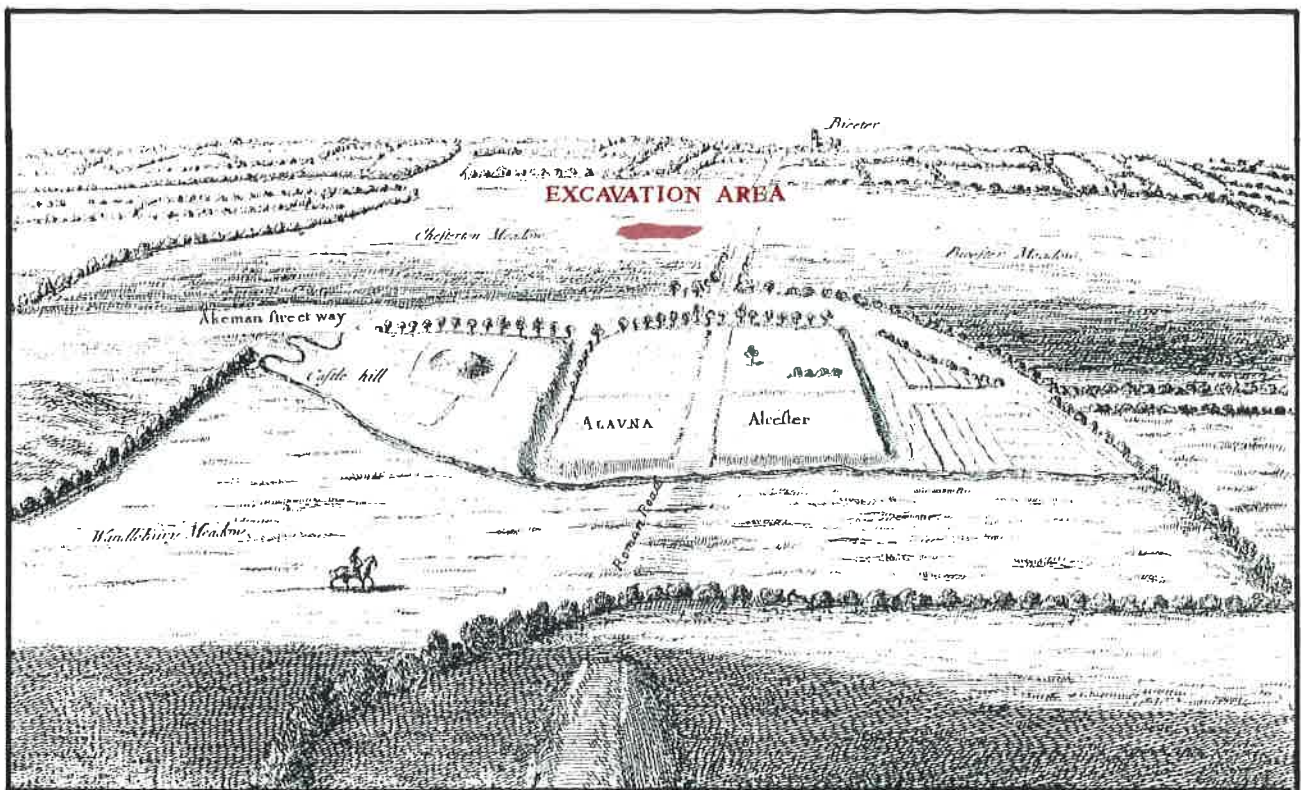


Fragment of monumental inscription of Purbeck marble (reading uncertain)

Stukeley's 1776 engraving of Alchester from the south. The recent excavations were in the area of Chesterton Meadow.

A number of sites N of the walled Roman town of Alchester were excavated in advance of road construction. The main sites, which lie N of Chesterton Lane (thought to follow the line of Akeman Street) and W of its junction with the major N-S (Towcester-Dorchester) Roman road through Alchester, both produced evidence of middle Iron Age settlement succeeded by intensive Roman activity. The earliest Roman feature, perhaps dug in the mid first century AD, was a large E-W ditch running parallel to the line of Akeman Street. This E-W alignment was perpetuated throughout the Roman period by a complex succession of ditches which gradually shifted southwards.

In the 2nd century N-S boundary ditches divided the site into a series of properties along Akeman Street. Pits, gullies, a few cremation burials, and an associated ritual pit were found. Many of the earlier Roman features were covered by late 3rd-4th-century buildings, with both timber and partly stone-built rectilinear structures following the earlier alignment. Further W was a partly stone-built structure and to the N of it were more ditches, a well, and a corn drying oven. At the settlement margin there were 31 late Roman burials aligned roughly E-W.



An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Didcot Power Station

Angela Boyle

Didcot Power Station is the unlikely location of a small Anglo-Saxon cemetery which was discovered and excavated by the OAU in June 1991. It is probable that the cemetery extends beyond the excavation area. The burials of 17 individuals were uncovered. There were two males, between five and seven females (two are quite uncertain), three subadults and five unsexed adults. Preservation of all the skeletons was poor.

The richest grave was grave 12 which contained the extremely decayed remains of a child aged 3-5 years (the youngest of the skeletons discovered). Excavators were alerted to the existence of the grave by quantities of gold and silver braid found close to the surface. The entire contents of the feature were removed as a soil block and excavated with great care inside the finds department. Only then did the skeleton and the numerous grave goods become apparent. Among the grave goods were a bronze work-box which is likely to have hung on a chain from the waist, decorated beads, a pair of shears, a buckle, and an iron pin. One of the beads is of an unusual horned type whose parallels are mainly continental.

The 15 year old individual in grave 7 was wearing an attractive necklace made up of a silver pendant, a pierced Roman coin, and a small selection of glass beads. This form of necklace is typical of the 7th century.

Social activities of the Anglo-Saxon period are represented by two gaming pieces which lay at the feet of the middle aged woman in grave 2. The pieces are made from polished horse molar teeth, flat on one side and rounded on the other. The type is known from other Anglo-Saxon sites such as Faversham in Kent, but the game for which they were used remains a mystery.

Although the cemetery yielded few finds, the diagnostic objects such as the gaming pieces, work-box and silver pendant are all typically 7th century. Indeed a lack of finds is in itself a common feature of this period and is thought by many to reflect the increasing influence of Christianity upon pagan burial rites.

An unusual feature of the cemetery was evidence of an immediately adjacent settlement with pits, postholes, and two sunken featured buildings. It is not common for Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and settlements to be located close together. However, the settlement is dated by the pottery to the 6th century and, therefore, precedes the period when the cemetery was in use.

Proposed cover design by work-experience pupil, Lucy Hall of Blessed George Napier School



Yarnton

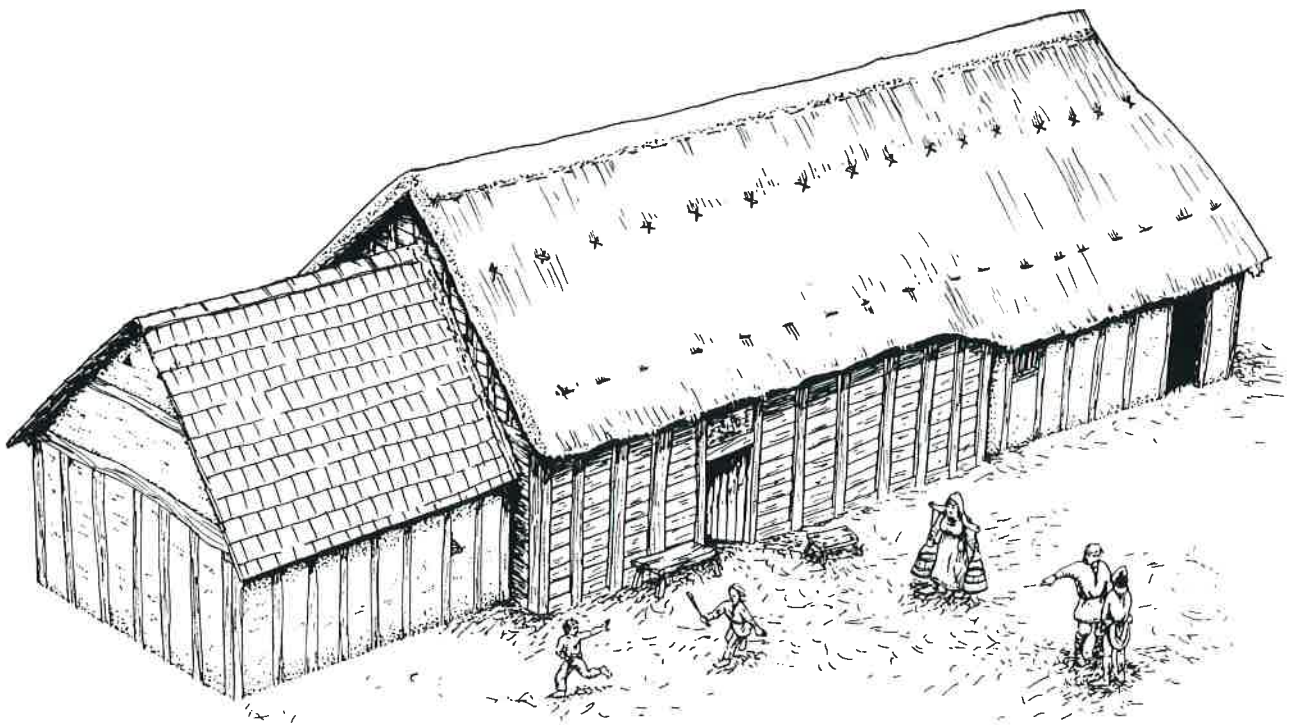
Gill Hey

The Saxon settlement at Yarnton contained at least four large timber halls. These halls were substantial dwellings, probably for an extended family group. Around the settlement were enclosure which may have been horse paddocks as large numbers of horse bones were recovered in the excavations and the carbonized samples indicate that fodder vetches were being cultivated. Carbonized and waterlogged remains also provided evidence for rye, wheat, barley, lentils (perhaps the earliest known use of this pulse in Britain) and flax.

The middle Iron Age to Saxon settlement is now the plant site of the ARC gravel pit. The late Bronze Age and early Iron Age settlement to the NW remains to be examined. Evaluation work in autumn 1991 on the floodplain below this settlement revealed extensive early prehistoric occupation from the late Neolithic to the late Bronze Age on the banks of an old river channel. A wooden platform jutting into the channel had been preserved within the waterlogged silts. Two gravel causeways were also found running across the low-lying ground. It is hoped to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the remaining area in order to establish the full potential of this very rich part of the Oxfordshire countryside.

This work has been funded in its entirety by English Heritage. However, without the active cooperation of both ARC and the landowner, Guy Pharoan, this work could not have been undertaken.

A reconstruction of a Saxon hall at Yarnton, based on the posthole layout.



Woodeaton, Temple Hill

John Moore

Woodeaton is well known for its Romano-British Celtic temple. In addition early Iron Age pottery and metalwork have been found and a later Iron Age phase has evidence for metal working. For a proposed agricultural development of the site an evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Mrs R Hall. A surface collection survey over half the area indicated a dense concentration of Iron Age and Roman pottery to the E and W of the temple with a moderate scatter of pottery of both periods and Roman tile over the majority of the areas examined. An area, external to the Scheduled Monument and c 80 m due S of the Temple was evaluated by trenching. While there were no objections to the proposed development on archaeological grounds the planning application was rejected. Subsequently the archaeology was reburied following minimal examination of cut features by hand excavation in the evaluation trenches.

The area evaluated and exposed lies on the S-facing slope just below the crest, on which the Temple is sited, and affords wonderful views down into the Cherwell Valley. While the area was not cleaned after stripping and no features were excavated, features were recognisable and could be dated by the exposed pottery. Numerous postholes led to the identification of one roundhouse and probably others were present. Associated with these postholes were several pits. Early Iron Age pottery and some slag was found with these features. A major ditch of the Roman period was orientated NE-SW and parallel to the crest of the hill. Other smaller ditches/gullies were undated.

In the majority of the area examined ploughing had extended down to the cornbrash with evidence of the top of the bedrock suffering the effects of the plough. Features had been truncated and vertical stratigraphy as seen in previous excavations had been destroyed. The exception to this was an area E of the track running from the top of the hill down to the road to Woodeaton. Here a layer of dark grey charcoal-rich clay loam underlay the ploughsoil and overlay what is interpreted as an early Iron Age soil horizon. The charcoal-rich layer contained numerous fragments of burnt limestone and burnt daub, and a large quantity of Iron Age pottery. Many of the 13 postholes and six pits (in a trench 20 m x 1.6 m) were seen to cut this layer which was only partially removed. Other features associated with the early Iron Age horizon were suspected.

Milborne Port: A Question of Planning

David Miles

The introduction of the planning guidelines PPG 16 has put preservation of archaeological deposits *in situ* firmly in the forefront of planning policy. This is a notable success for archaeologists, but it can present problems for local authority planners. They have to reconcile the conflicting needs of modern society, which demands houses, roads, and raw materials such as gravel, and conservation.

Engraved on every planner's heart is the word 'reasonable'. So when is it reasonable to insist that archaeology should be preserved rather than excavated? When should archaeological excavation be allowed as a mitigation measure?

These issues are confronting South Somerset District Council and English Heritage at Church Lane, Milborne Port. The OAU is acting as consultant here to Beechcroft Developers Ltd, one of the leaders in the retirement homes field. Beechcroft specialise in high-quality, well designed retirement complexes often in small historic towns. With an ageing and relatively affluent population there is a demand for this kind of development, centrally placed in attractive small towns. Not surprisingly, Beechcroft and archaeology often coincide.

At Milborne Port two evaluation exercises have been carried out on the proposed development site to the E of the church of St John. The first evaluation, by the Trust for Wessex Archaeology, produced evidence for Saxo-Norman and later medieval occupation. As Milborne Port is known to have been an Anglo-Saxon town (the fifth largest in Somerset in the Domesday Book) English Heritage stepped in and the site was scheduled as an Ancient Monument.

Trench 12 of the evaluation looking west towards St John's Church



In a town centre scheduling raises the issue of what is sometimes called 'heritage blight' most acutely. And Milborne Port is a particularly sensitive case. A second evaluation by the OAU confirmed that the early medieval remains consist of pits and ditches, not walls or mosaics. Their value is not so immediately obvious to the non-archaeologist. They also lie only inches beneath the surface so design solutions (that is designing the building to cause minimum impact on the buried deposits) are difficult and expensive.

The OAU is working with the architects engineers, English Heritage and local authority officer to fund the best compromise at Milborne Port. But this site raises issues which archaeologists, planners and developers will increasingly have to address in a post PPG 16 world.

Glastonbury Abbey, Somerset Humphrey Woods

Since 1987 the OAU has carried out four seasons of evaluation excavation on behalf of the Glastonbury Abbey Trustees, who are intending to build a new museum as an extension to the shop and entrance to the ruins. The site lies to the N of the late 12th-century Lady Chapel and immediately to the S of the chapel serving the almshouses built by Abbot Richard Beere in 1542 for ten female paupers.

To the immediate N of the Lady Chapel the 'ruinous corner' of the undercroft of what was clearly a two-storey building still stands. The SW corner of this building was excavated by Bligh Bond in 1911: his excavations showed that it was 12.50 m wide.

'The Great Chartulary of Glastonbury', now in the Marquess of Bath's library at Longleat, gives two sets of evidence for building in the area of the 'ruinous corner' and to its N. The first is an agreement of 1203 that Savaric Fitzgeldwin, Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury, should 'have the buildings next to the Chapel of the Blessed Mary which were those of the abbots, with the larder to the north corner of the said chapel, and a door is to be made towards the market place of Glaston ...'. The second, dating to 1333, mentioned a 'house newly built in the garden of the Galilee contiguous with the outer gate, with the space between the wall and their footpath ...'. The Galilee is a structure of three bays connecting the Lady Chapel to the W end of the nave of the great church.

Excavation of the site of the new museum has exposed walls and floors in a good state of survival. A range of buildings runs N-S through the site. The two walls so far exposed are 1.30 m apart and are interpreted as a corridor. The principal rooms of the range must lie to the east, in the area which is to be excavated in the summer of 1992.

At the northern end of the excavation area, to the SE of the almshouse chapel, is a structure with a face set back 1.20 m from the line of the centre wall of the range. This is tentatively interpreted as a door or part of a gate structure, and it may well be the 'door ... turned towards the market place of Glaston' of the 1203 agreement.

To the W of the building range, cobbled surfaces suggest a yard area. Immediately to the S of the almshouse chapel, a well constructed cobbled surface is associated with a robbed wall. This wall is too slight to be load-bearing, and probably represents a boundary. It is significant that its projected line would be towards the medieval gate fronting upon Magdalen Street which is now the principal entrance to the Abbey ruins.

Andy Parkinson frame-planning a cobbled surface and behind the hoarding the roof of the almshouse chapel and tower of the parish church



Stratford Market Depot, East London

David Wilkinson

It is difficult to believe that in the 12th century the Stratford Market Depot site was once an area of open pasture and orchards, in which lay the medieval abbey of Stratford Langthorne with the Channelsea River flowing nearby. The pasture and orchards are now the kind of junkstrewn wasteland which only *homo urbanus* seems able to create, while for health reasons the Channelsea River runs underground through a concrete pipe and not a single trace of the abbey remains above ground.

The OAU was asked by London Underground Limited to evaluate the site (due to become a major depot for the Jubilee Line Extension). Initially the major focus of interest was the Savignac and later Cistercian abbey founded in 1137. Our trenches revealed part of a substantial medieval masonry building and a number of burials. The burials may be related to a minor church which stood in the abbey grounds, but identification of the building remains problematic for we still cannot be sure whether the main claustral buildings lay N or S of the abbey church.

Although the abbey site was fascinating, the discovery of prehistoric and Roman settlement in an open area N of the abbey precinct was an unexpected bonus. A few residual finds suggest some Neolithic and Bronze Age activity but major use of the area apparently began in the middle Iron Age, while the later Iron Age is also represented by pits, postholes, gullies, and ditches. There was also a ritual/religious element and we discovered a crouched inhumation and, nearby, a horse burial, which attracted considerable media interest and made a fleeting appearance on Channel 4's 'Down to Earth'.

Middle Iron Age horse burial, c 300 BC



Extensive occupation continued in the 1st and early 2nd centuries AD, followed by a possible break, and then by further use of the site in the 3rd century. All in all the evaluation has revealed a rare opportunity to investigate a substantial Iron Age and Roman site using open area techniques, and we are hopeful that the OAU will carry out a major excavation at Stratford in 1992. Other work will include an investigation of a 19th-century silk-printing works, and the evaluation of some minor Jubilee Line sites in Canning Town, where there is some chance that prehistoric peat deposits are preserved within the alluvium of the River Lea.

We would like to thank London Underground Limited for commissioning and funding the work. Support from the Passmore Edwards Museum and the Museum of London is also gratefully acknowledged.

Roundhouse Farm, Marston Meysey, Wiltshire

Tim Allen

The OAU carried out a field evaluation at Roundhouse Farm for Greenham Construction Materials Ltd following a planning enquiry, at which some experts suggested that cropmarks indicated the presence of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure and a bank barrow, as well as two ring ditches and an extensive Roman field system. The evaluation was planned to investigate the cropmarks and areas covered in alluvium where a former stream might have crossed the site.

In the event the cropmarks of the 'Neolithic enclosure' proved to be of natural origin and the parallel linear cropmarks of the presumed 'bank barrow' were late medieval or later. Two circular cropmarks were confirmed as barrow ditches and the Roman field system was also located.

In contrast to this, a series of Iron Age settlements was found, only one of which had been suspected from the cropmark evidence. These were strung out along the former stream course, but alluviation, which began in the late Iron Age, had sealed some of the Iron Age features.

The presence of both early and middle Iron Age settlements and the added environmental potential of its low-lying situation makes this an unusual and important site for the Iron Age in the Upper Thames valley. Of more general significance, however, this work has shown the limited value of cropmark evidence alone without thorough field evaluation.

Interpretation of
a) *Cropmark evidence*
b) *Results of evaluation*



Church Archaeology

David Miles



This has been an eventful year for church archaeology in the Oxford Diocese. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), upon which the OAU Director sits as Archaeological Advisor to the Bishop of Oxford, established a working party, which produced a paper outlining its policy on archaeology. This conforms to the Chancellor's advice that the Diocese should adopt the best practices if the Church of England is to remain exempt from aspects of listed building and planning control.

Although the Diocese has a clear policy that the assessment, preservation, and recording of archaeological remains are the responsibility of the parish, problems can, nevertheless, arise. At St Mary's Church, Thame, there has been a serious confrontation between the PCC and archaeologists, planners and the DAC. Following an evaluation, which revealed the presence of large numbers of medieval burials and medieval floor levels, the church continued with a major reordering of this Grade I church without undertaking further archaeological recording. This eventually resulted in South Oxfordshire District Council serving a stop-notice on the church and the Chancellor recalling the Consistory Court. As a result the Chancellor announced that archaeological investigation should be undertaken before further work on an extension could proceed. As we go to press, negotiations are taking place with St Mary's newly appointed consultant, Professor Martin Biddle, to attempt to achieve a solution.

Elsewhere the implementation of the Diocese's archaeological policies have proved less contentious. Results show the value of monitoring drainage trenches, extensions, pipelines, and new underfloor heating schemes. At the Church of the Holy Rood, Sparsholt, the remains of a 14th-century N transept were located and within it the life-size stone effigy of a priest dating to the late 13th century. At Newbury foundations of a Norman church were found and at Woodeaton the foundations of an unsuspected earlier church, probably belonging to the Anglo-Saxon period. At Stoke Lyne the remains of a medieval N aisle were located. Probably the most spectacular discovery was at Thame where, during the course of the contentious reordering, the vault of the Herbert family was found. This was a well-preserved stone structure. Inside spectacular red velvet-covered wooden cases contained internal decorated lead coffins. The fine deposition plates showed that the vault was used from the 1670's until 1810, when it was closed and forgotten. We are grateful to the vicar of Thame for drawing our attention to the vault and to Julian Litton of the Victoria and Albert Museum for his help in recording it.

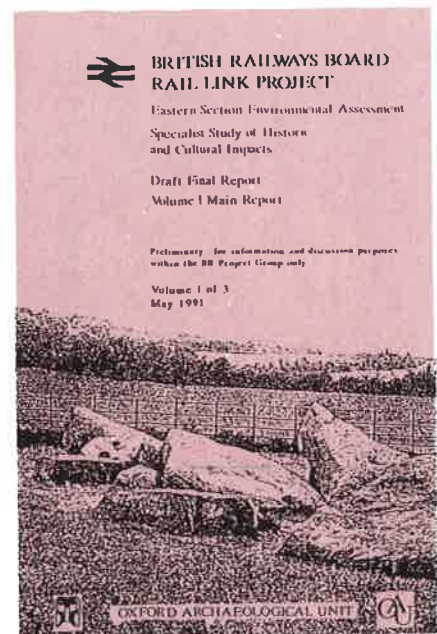
1991-1992 has seen further growth in this relatively new activity for the Unit. As a result of our work on the Rail Link and various road schemes we have established a reputation for providing specialist input into the Environmental Assessment of major infrastructure projects. The Consultancy Department continues to be headed by George Lambrick assisted by Julian Munby. We now have a Junior Research Officer, Simon Brereton, who has had a major role in the Rail Link project and also looks after computerisation of databases and administrative procedures. During the year the Unit became a member of the Institute of Environmental Assessment, one of only two archaeological organisations to join.

We are increasingly asked to act as specialist subconsultants in tenders for national strategic environmental policy studies; these currently involve a study led by Chris Blandford Associates for the Department of Transport on good practice standards for the environmental assessment and design of inter-urban roads. Our association with Chris Blandford Associates has also resulted in work on several road schemes throughout the South East, from Oxfordshire to Kent. We are also working closely with various other engineering and environmental consultants, notably Acer Consultants Ltd on the A27 Worthing Improvements, Travers Morgan on the third bore of the Blackwall Tunnel and Rendel Palmer and Tritton on the A40 North of Oxford Improvements. The type of study varies considerably from preliminary constraints mapping to detailed assessment. Altogether we have had input at some level into 15 road schemes in the last year.

The A27 study has involved a fully integrated study of archaeology, historic buildings and the historic importance of the landscape in a study area of 11 square km. All three route options were covered by geophysical and fieldwalking survey. This represents one of the most detailed and integrated studies of its kind, building on our previous experience with the Rail Link.

The pattern of consultancy work directly feeding into field survey and evaluation has become increasingly common over the year. Another good example is the Blackwall Tunnel where it has been possible to test and validate the conclusions of a desktop documentary research on the likely survival of 17th-century and later docks, by incorporating preliminary archaeological fieldwork into the geotechnical ground investigations.

The Rail Link continues to reflect political vicissitudes, the whole character of the project and its transport and financial targets being thrown into doubt by the Government's rejection of BR's preferred route at the Conservative Party Conference last year. From the Unit's point of view this resulted in disrupting plans for further fieldwork and a hiatus before further work took place on refining and extending

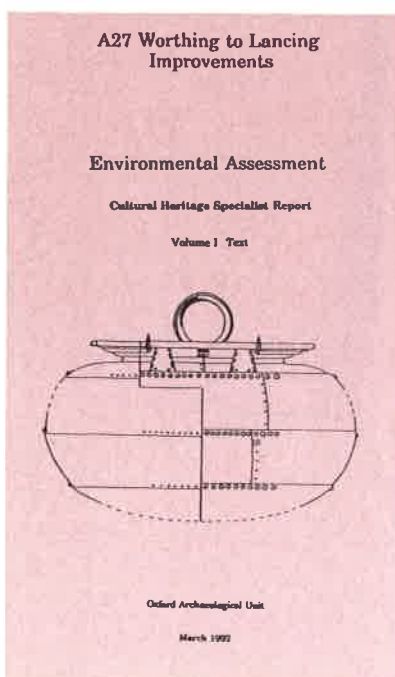


studies already done on the new route corridor in order to define environmental constraints. This process is now continuing and we are delighted to have been re-awarded the Rail Link contract. The project has been of significance in enabling us to build up ideas on the methods of carrying out further integrated assessments of the historic environment, and looks set to continue to do so as the project seeks to establish high standards.

Other major consultancy projects include the South West Oxfordshire Reservoir Development study project for Thames Water Utilities Ltd, which is another major infrastructure project. So far most of the work has been to identify key constraints within a large study area to inform the choice of site. Further more detailed studies including fieldwork will continue as the scheme proposals are refined and developed.

The range of projects involving the Unit's input continues to widen, including golf courses, landfill, gravel extraction, industrial and commercial developments. In size they range from single houses to very large developments such as the reservoir. Some produce quite surprising results, such as the proposal to build a private golf course in a historic park which was thought to contain the earthworks of a deserted medieval village: the village may well exist, but the earthworks were the remains of a pre-existing private golf course.

One of the ways in which the Unit contributes to the wider appreciation of this developing field of archaeological endeavour is through lectures and articles. In 1991 George Lambrick contributed to the IFA Annual Conference session on 'The Green Debate' a paper on 'The importance of the cultural heritage in a green world: towards the development of landscape integrity assessment' which is to be published in the summer of 1992. The standard of the Unit's graphics for consultancy reports continues to be universally admired, a considerable tribute to the dedication and skill of our illustrators, notably Paul Hughes and Danyon Rey. We are also well supported by our researchers, particularly Helen Glass, Laura Green and, now mainly transferred to the Fieldwork Department, Rachel Morse.



The Battle of Tewkesbury Revisited

David Miles

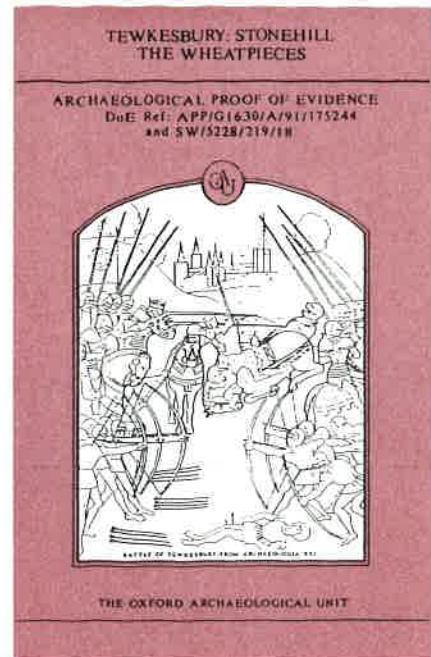
For over a period of six months the Unit was involved in an epic series of Public Inquiries at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Working with planning consultants Chapman Warren, on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd, the OAU carried out a study of the archaeological and historical landscape implications of the Tewkesbury/Ashchurch Local Plan as a whole, and a series of individual development proposals.

The strategic issue in question was whether a substantial area S and E of Tewkesbury should be developed for housing in association with the construction of a new bypass. This is the first time, to our knowledge, that a developer has funded archaeologists to oppose local plan proposals. The OAU argued at the Inquiries that the proposed policies of Tewkesbury Borough Council would have a damaging impact on an historic town which in 1965 the CBA classed as one of 51 towns '*so splendid and so precious that the ultimate responsibility for them should be of national concern*'. The issue was also complicated by the presence of the battlefield of Tewkesbury, scene of the great clash between Yorkists and Lancastrians in 1471. The OAU's case was assisted by Dr Anthea Jones, a specialist in Tewkesbury's history and author of the standard history of the town. The Council for British Archaeology also supported our view that the area S of the town should not be subject to major development.

Battlefields have become a serious planning issue with the announcement that a Battlefields Register (of similar status to the Gardens Register) is to be created by English Heritage. Drawing on the Inspector's decision at the Naseby Inquiry, the OAU and Chapman Warren argued that the battlefield should be viewed as the sum total of events, and not as a tightly restricted area. To support this case, the OAU and Anthea Jones carried out a detailed study of the battle, its sources and topography.

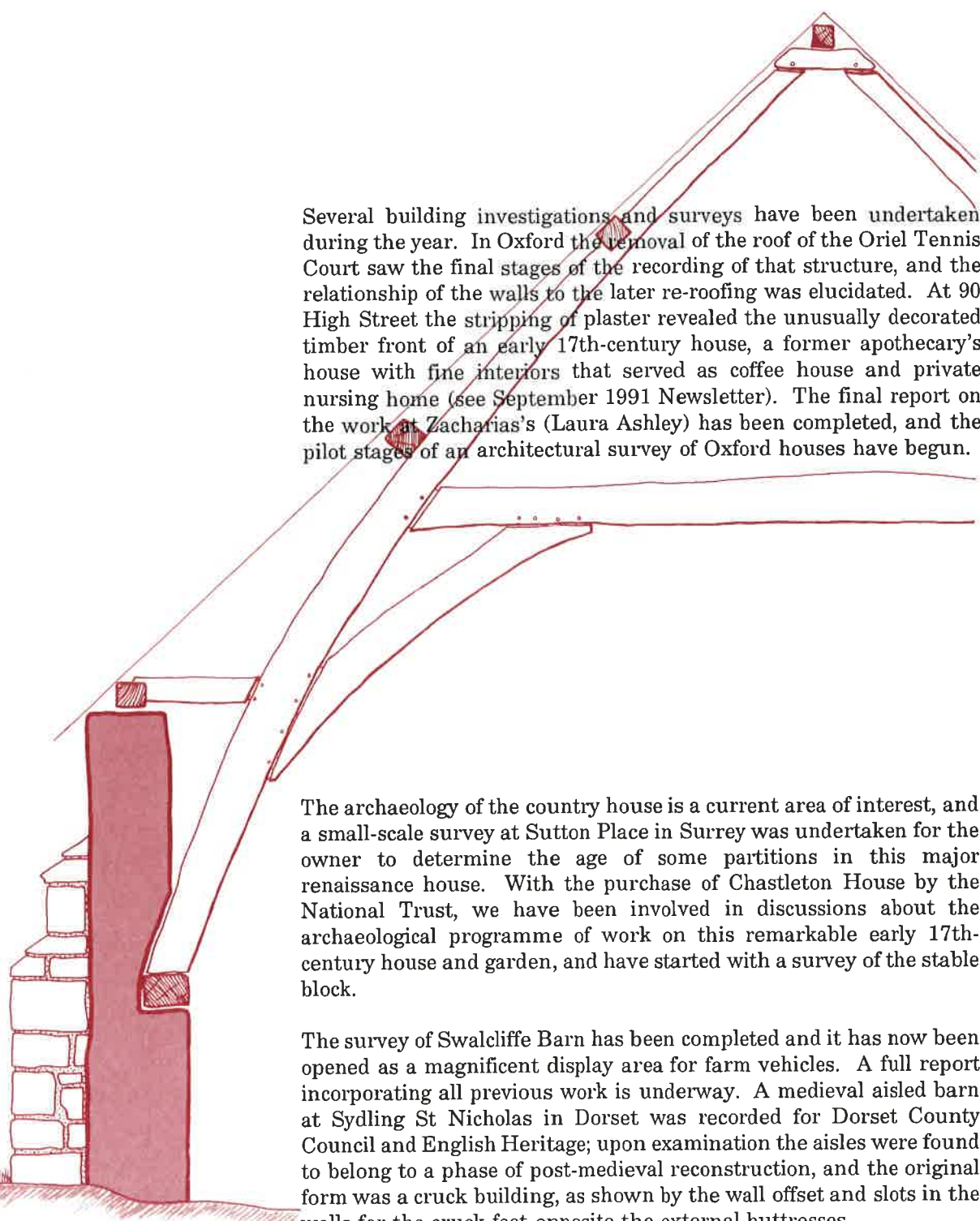
Robert Hitchins Ltd also commissioned an archaeological evaluation of their proposed development site near Natton, E of Tewkesbury and beyond the M5 motorway. A small Romano-British settlement and cemetery were found close to the motorway. It is proposed to exclude them from the development area. Traces of prehistoric settlement would be further defined and either preserved or recorded before any development takes place.

The results of the second battle of Tewkesbury are now awaited. The Secretary of State should pronounce later this year.



Building Archaeology

Julian Munby



Several building investigations and surveys have been undertaken during the year. In Oxford the removal of the roof of the Oriel Tennis Court saw the final stages of the recording of that structure, and the relationship of the walls to the later re-roofing was elucidated. At 90 High Street the stripping of plaster revealed the unusually decorated timber front of an early 17th-century house, a former apothecary's house with fine interiors that served as coffee house and private nursing home (see September 1991 Newsletter). The final report on the work at Zacharias's (Laura Ashley) has been completed, and the pilot stages of an architectural survey of Oxford houses have begun.

The archaeology of the country house is a current area of interest, and a small-scale survey at Sutton Place in Surrey was undertaken for the owner to determine the age of some partitions in this major renaissance house. With the purchase of Chastleton House by the National Trust, we have been involved in discussions about the archaeological programme of work on this remarkable early 17th-century house and garden, and have started with a survey of the stable block.

The survey of Swalcliffe Barn has been completed and it has now been opened as a magnificent display area for farm vehicles. A full report incorporating all previous work is underway. A medieval aisled barn at Sydling St Nicholas in Dorset was recorded for Dorset County Council and English Heritage; upon examination the aisles were found to belong to a phase of post-medieval reconstruction, and the original form was a cruck building, as shown by the wall offset and slots in the walls for the cruck feet opposite the external buttresses.

The Greek Pipeline

David Miles

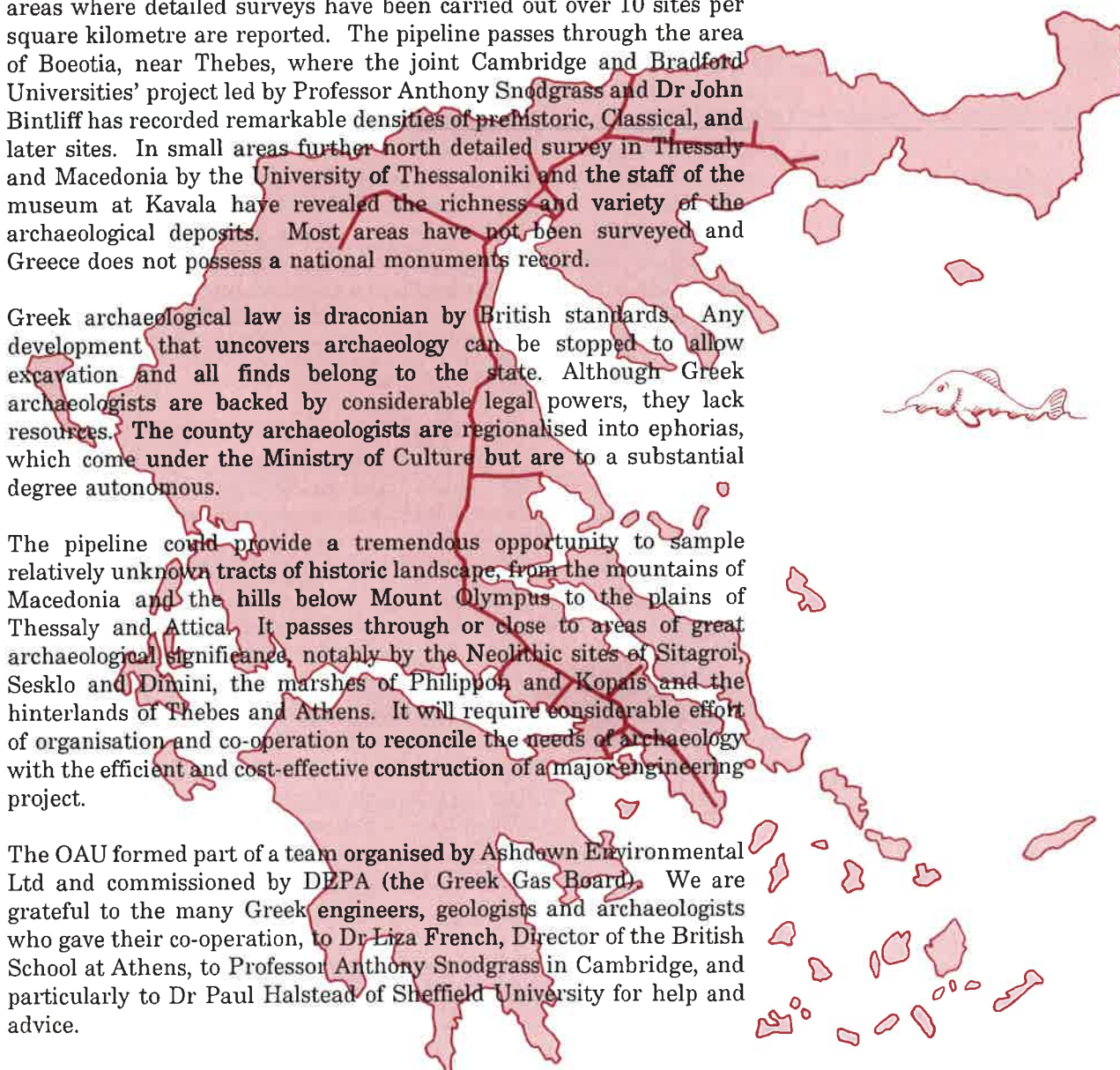
For the first time the OAU has contributed to an Environmental Assessment abroad. A pipeline is proposed to run across Greece for 800 km from the Bulgarian border to the Bay of Salamis, W of Athens. This will bring natural gas from Russia to outlets in the N and SE of Greece.

The Greek Archaeological Service has already ensured that the pipeline will not pass through known major archaeological sites. However the historic landscape of Greece is surprisingly unexplored. In the few areas where detailed surveys have been carried out over 10 sites per square kilometre are reported. The pipeline passes through the area of Boeotia, near Thebes, where the joint Cambridge and Bradford Universities' project led by Professor Anthony Snodgrass and Dr John Bintliff has recorded remarkable densities of prehistoric, Classical, and later sites. In small areas further north detailed survey in Thessaly and Macedonia by the University of Thessaloniki and the staff of the museum at Kavala have revealed the richness and variety of the archaeological deposits. Most areas have not been surveyed and Greece does not possess a national monuments record.

Greek archaeological law is draconian by British standards. Any development that uncovers archaeology can be stopped to allow excavation and all finds belong to the state. Although Greek archaeologists are backed by considerable legal powers, they lack resources. The county archaeologists are regionalised into ephorias, which come under the Ministry of Culture but are to a substantial degree autonomous.

The pipeline could provide a tremendous opportunity to sample relatively unknown tracts of historic landscape, from the mountains of Macedonia and the hills below Mount Olympus to the plains of Thessaly and Attica. It passes through or close to areas of great archaeological significance, notably by the Neolithic sites of Sitagroi, Sesklo and Dimini, the marshes of Philippou and Kopais and the hinterlands of Thebes and Athens. It will require considerable effort of organisation and co-operation to reconcile the needs of archaeology with the efficient and cost-effective construction of a major engineering project.

The OAU formed part of a team organised by Ashdown Environmental Ltd and commissioned by DEPA (the Greek Gas Board). We are grateful to the many Greek engineers, geologists and archaeologists who gave their co-operation, to Dr Liza French, Director of the British School at Athens, to Professor Anthony Snodgrass in Cambridge, and particularly to Dr Paul Halstead of Sheffield University for help and advice.



The Post-Excavation Department

Ellen McAdam

In 1991 the Unit carried out a review of its management structure which resulted in the creation of the Post-excavation Department under Ellen McAdam. The publication shortly afterwards by English Heritage of the influential second edition of *Management of Archaeological Projects*, which sets out a detailed model for archaeological project management, has amply justified the change.

One of the most significant departures of MAP2 as far as post-excavation is concerned is the introduction of the concept of a formal review stage in which the results of fieldwork are assessed for their potential for analysis; the post-excavation assessment provides the basis for a revised research design which forms a detailed project plan for the post-excavation phase. So far, the Unit has produced three MAP2-style revised research designs. The first related to Brian Durham's work on the Thames crossing at the Shire Lake, and work began on the post-excavation in November. The Shire Lake report will form part of the larger monograph by Brian Durham on Saxon Oxford (*Oxford before the University: four Saxon themes*) which was the subject of the Unit's second research design. Finally, the Unit undertook a reassessment leading to a revised research design of the 1983-5 excavations of features of the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods at Barrow Hills, Radley, which it is hoped will lead to full publication of this important monument complex.

During the year a review of the work required to complete the Unit's backlog reports was carried out and a five-year programme for its completion agreed with English Heritage. This has already begun: the records for Watkins Farm, Northmoor, have been archived, the report on Mingies Ditch, Hardwick, has received final editing and is being typeset, and work is underway on the completion of the reports on the Romano-British cemetery and Anglo-Saxon settlement at Barrow Hills, and the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wally Corner, Berinsfield.

During the year very substantial progress was also made on reports on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Butlers Field, Lechlade, and on the Devils Quoits monument at Stanton Harcourt, both of which are now ready for final editing. Although it is the great monolithic post-excavation projects like these which absorb much of our efforts, it would be unfair not to mention the vast amount of valuable work done throughout the year on smaller reports and evaluations by members of the fieldwork and consultancy departments as well as of the post-excavation department.

None of this progress in the last year would have been possible without the sympathetic cooperation of the Unit's English Heritage Inspector, Steve Trow, and the Monitoring Officer, Jon Humble, to both of whom we offer our thanks.

OAU Activities April 1991 - March 1992

FIELDWORK AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

- † report lodged with County Sites and Monuments Record
‡ report submitted to South Midlands Archaeology (CBA Group 9)
§ report submitted to Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine
¶ more detailed report in this Annual Report

International

- Greece ¶ - archaeological study for environmental assessment of a gas pipe line from the Bulgarian border to Salamis
Libya - desktop study for environmental assessment of three areas for potential oil development.

National

- Department of Transport/Chris Blandford Associates - advice on formulation of policy concerning cultural heritage aspects of environmental assessment and design of interurban roads

Bedfordshire

- Sundon, Aubers Farm - advice on mitigation of the effects of agricultural procedures on the archaeological remains

Berkshire

- Cookham, Holy Trinity Church † - watching brief
Newbury, St Nicholas Church † - excavation for heating system revealing the foundations of the Norman church
Old Windsor, Manor Farm † - evaluation on Scheduled Site revealing Mesolithic and Bronze Age flint scatters
Osterley Park, National Trust - building survey of stables
Reading KP, Kennet Valley - assessment of archaeological potential
Shinfield, Hartley Court Farm - provision of information for planning consent
Slough, Cippenham † - evaluation of prehistoric and Roman site and desktop study of development area
Wokingham, All Saints Church † - watching brief

Buckinghamshire

- Dorney, Boveney Court ‡ - consultancy over archaeological impact of construction of rowing lake for Eton College
Great Linford Park ‡ - cultural heritage study for proposed country park development including archaeological evaluation revealing Roman field system

Dorset

- Sturminster Marshall, Walnut Tree Field - excavation in advance of flood relief works, revealing Neolithic flintwork and Late Saxon and early Medieval occupation
Sydling St Nicholas - building survey of an aisled barn

East Sussex

- Winchelsea bypass - desktop study of alternatives for bypass scheme (A259)

Essex

- A12 Hatfield Peverel to Marks Tey - desktop study of alternatives for road widening scheme
Thremhall Priory - desktop assessment of former priory site

Gloucestershire

- Ashchurch, North Fiddington † - field evaluation for the Public Enquiry relating to the Tewkesbury/Ashchurch Local Plan
Cirencester, Old Cricklade Road † - evaluation and excavation of Roman remains on site of new Tesco supermarket
Kempsford, Manor Farm † - evaluation before planning application revealing Roman field system and enclosures

- Kempsford, Stubbs Farm † - evaluation before gravel extraction revealing Roman field system and enclosures
Natton † - evaluation of Romano-British settlement and cemetery
Shorncliffe † - watching brief on gravel pit next to site of Bronze Age barrows
Tewkesbury, Cowfield Farm † - desktop assessment and field evaluation for the Public Enquiry relating to the Tewkesbury/Ashchurch Local Plan
Tewkesbury and Ashchurch - archaeological and historical study for Public Enquiry relating to the Tewkesbury/Ashchurch Local Plan

Hampshire

- Fleet, Railroad Heath - cultural heritage study of heathland site for development including geophysical and palynological survey
Nursling, Dairy Lane † - evaluation of Mesolithic and Roman settlement

Hereford and Worcestershire

- Droitwich - cultural heritage desktop study of a proposed landfill scheme

- Lower Bullingham - consultancy on scheduled monument

Hertfordshire

- A1(M) Hatfield - cultural heritage desktop study for motorway widening scheme junctions 1 to 5

Humberside

- North Humberside, South Cliffe - assessment of archaeology

Kent

- Rail Link Project - specialist input on the design and environmental assessment of British Rail's High Speed Link to the Channel Tunnel, including fieldwalking and building survey

London

- London Underground - consultancy Jubilee line extension
Barking Power Station - consultancy on appropriateness of proposed evaluation strategy
Newham, Canning Town, proposed station site † - evaluation for the extension of the Jubilee Line
Newham, Stratford Market Depot † - evaluation of site of a depot on the Jubilee Line finding Iron Age burials, Roman occupation and the site of the medieval abbey of Stratford Langthorne

- Richmond, Teddington Police Station † - evaluation of site of Victorian greenhouse

- Southwark, Aberdour Street - assessment of archaeological potential for a housing scheme

- Southwark, Alexander Fleming House † - evaluation showing post-medieval occupation with evidence for a sugar refinery nearby

- Southwark, Tower Bridge Road † - evaluation of Roman remains adjacent to Watling Street

- Tower Hamlets, Blackwall Tunnel † - cultural heritage study for environmental assessment of proposals for new tunnel including archaeological evaluation as part of geotechnical ground investigation

Norfolk

- Bridgham - cultural heritage desktop study of a land raising scheme

Northamptonshire

- Brackley Castle † ‡ - evaluation of the motte and bailey

Culworth, Berry Hill Close † ‡ - evaluation prior to extension of cemetery revealing an Iron Age enclosure
 Irthlingborough † ‡ - archaeological study for environmental assessment of gravel extraction proposals
 Northampton, Kings Heath, Whitelands † ‡ - evaluation of Neolithic causewayed enclosure, Bronze Age pit alignments, and Roman enclosures.
 Stanwick Redlands Farm † - evaluation on Site L (prehistoric settlement) and watching brief on Romano-British villa
 Wellington, Ditchford Causeway † ‡ - evaluation and watching brief on the floodplain next to the Roman causeway during gravel extraction

Oxford City

All Souls College † ‡ - archaeological evaluation and geophysical survey of the medieval buildings beneath the Great Quad
 Cowley - consultancy on the archaeology and history of the area
 90 High Street - building survey of early 17th century house
 118 High Street † - evaluation of archaeological potential before development of Nos. 115-119
 Longwall Street † - watching brief on sewerage work revealing street surfaces
 Magdalen College, Deer Park † ‡ - archaeological evaluation of site for new quadrangle with evidence for a possible medieval fishpond
 Manchester College † ‡ - evaluation revealing evidence for the medieval field boundaries
 New College Bell Tower † - evaluation and investigation of the city defences
 Oriel Tennis Court † - building survey and watching brief
 Paradise Street, Thames Water Authority † ‡ - investigation of the south bailey ditch of the castle
 40 Park End Street - desktop evaluation of proposed development
 Parks Road, Department of Rural Economy - excavations on site of conference centre
 Rewley Abbey - consultancy on proposed development
 St Aldates British Telecom tunnel ‡ - recording of section through Grandpont
 St Annes College † ‡ - field evaluation for new student accommodation block
 St Cross College † - location of the 1687 Meeting House of the Society of Friends
 Sandford, Oxford Science Park † - watching brief because of Roman kilns in the area
 White House Road, Oxford City Football Ground † ‡ - evaluation of Middle Iron Age settlement and medieval activities

Oxfordshire

A40 North of Oxford improvements - archaeological desktop study for road scheme
 A40 Witney-Cassington dualing - field evaluation for road scheme
 A420 Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor bypass † - evaluation before construction of bypass revealing Roman field systems
 Abingdon, Abbey Gateway † - watching brief
 Abingdon Vineyard Area 6 - excavations in advance of redevelopment revealing Roman occupation and medieval tenements
 Abingdon, Radley Road † - watching brief scattered late Roman features
 Abingdon, Leather Works † - watching brief
 Appleford Crossing - desktop study for environmental assessment, cropmarks and possible Roman villa
 Banbury, Tudor Hall School † - watching brief
 Bicester, 7-8 Market Street † - evaluation of archaeologically sterile site

Blewbury, Westbrook House † - watching brief
 Chalgrove, Mill Lane † - watching brief
 Charlbury, St Mary's Church † - evaluation in advance of drainage works
 Chesterton, Alchester ‡ ¶ - evaluation and excavation in advance of road construction (A421)
 Didcot-Oxford Pipeline † ‡ ¶ - evaluation of and excavations on the line of a new water main from Didcot to Oxford
 Didcot Power Station † ¶ - evaluation and excavation of Anglo-Saxon cemetery
 Dorchester, Fleur-de-Lys Public House † - evaluation of part of the Roman town before construction of an extension
 Dorchester, 1 Samian Way † - evaluation of part of the Roman town and defences
 Drayton St Leonards, Three Pigeons Public House † - evaluation showing no archaeological remains
 Eynsham, Mead Lane ‡ - consultancy for planning application for gravel extraction
 Eynsham Abbey, Thames Water pipeline † ‡ ¶ - excavation of medieval moated site
 Eynsham Abbey ‡ ¶ - excavation of part of the Abbey in order to extend the cemetery of St Leonard's Church
 Farmoor Water Treatment Works † - evaluation of area found to have been previously disturbed
 Fimmere, Foxley Field - consultancy for planning application
 Fyfield and Tubney, Tubney Wood ‡ - excavation of Mesolithic sites
 Goring, Gatehampton Farm † - geophysical survey and watching brief on multi-period site
 Hardwick with Tusmore, Hethe Road † - evaluation of DMV
 Harpsden, Bolney Farm † - evaluation on riverside Iron Age settlement
 Hatford - consultancy on Roman pottery
 Hook Norton St Peter's Church † - watching brief
 Little Faringdon Church † - watching brief
 Long Hanborough, The Malt House Public House † - field evaluation of archaeologically sterile area
 Noke, St Giles Church † - watching brief
 Northmoor, Church Farm Desk - archaeological study and consultancy for proposed house on Scheduled Monument
 Northmoor, Pinnocks Farm † - field evaluation of Iron Age and Roman deposits in connection with Stonehenge Farm consultancy
 Northmoor, Stonehenge Farm † - consultancy on Scheduled Monument consent and planning applications for gravel extraction
 Nuffield, Huntercombe Place † - watching brief
 Radley, Goose Acre Farm, Eight Acre Field - excavation of late Bronze Age settlement and Roman field system
 Shellingford Quarry † - fieldwalking produced prehistoric flints
 South Hinksey, Hinksey Hill Farm † - evaluation of mesolithic, prehistoric and Roman site
 South West Oxfordshire Reservoir - environmental assessment of reservoir options
 Sparsholt, Church of the Holy Rood † - watching brief resulting in the discovery of a life size stone effigy of a 13th century priest
 Stanford-in-the-Vale, Bowling Green Farm - further excavation of Roman settlement
 Stoke Lyne, St Peter's Church † - evaluation discovering remains of the medieval north aisle
 Stonesfield, Spratt's Farm - archaeological and historical appraisal
 Sutton Courtenay, Scheduled Ancient Monument 250 - desktop assessment of Saxon village settlement
 Swalcliffe Barn - building survey of cruck barn for HBM
 Tetsworth, Lobberdown Hill - field survey and hedgerow

investigation during construction of golf course
 Thame, Bell Lane, Police Station † ‡ - evaluation and watching brief on medieval settlement
 Thame, St Mary's Church † - watching brief on re-ordering of the church
 Wallingford, Castle Farm † - watching brief on castle defences
 Wallingford, Grims Ditch † - excavation of Late Bronze Age settlement, Roman ditch, and part of a medieval village in advance of the Wallingford bypass
 Witney, Mount House, Bishop of Winchester's Palace ‡ - excavations in advance of roofing the remains
 Witney, Cogges Manor Farm - excavation of N wing of manor house
 Woodeaton, Holy Rood Church † - watching brief revealing a possible Anglo-Saxon church
 Woodeaton, Temple Hill † ‡ ¶ - evaluation of an area 80 m south of the Romano-British temple revealing an Iron Age roundhouse and a major Roman ditch
 Yarnton, Worton Rectory ‡ ¶ - excavations on Saxon and prehistoric site
 Yarnton floodplain † ‡ ¶ - evaluation for gravel extraction proposal

Somerset

Glastonbury Abbey † ¶ - evaluation for extension of visitor centre
 Milborne Port † ¶ - evaluation of remains in town centre in advance of development

Surrey

A3 improvements - cultural heritage desktop study and walk-over survey for consideration of route options
 Sutton Place - building survey of part of renaissance country house

Warwickshire

Upper Brailes, Henbrook Lane † - evaluation of archaeologically sterile area

West Midlands

Wolverhampton, Carlton Road Playing Field † - field evaluation of archaeologically sterile area
 Wolverhampton, Tettenhall - survey of archaeological potential

West Sussex

A27 Worthing bypass - cultural heritage study of route options including fieldwalking and geophysical survey

Wiltshire

Chippenham, Melbourne Farm † § - evaluation of prehistoric settlement and Roman settlement and enclosures
 Longleat, Aucombe Wood - study of cultural heritage impact of a holiday village scheme
 Marston Meysey, Roundhouse Farm † § - evaluation of Bronze Age ring ditches, Iron Age settlements, and Roman field system

SEMINAR

23.2.92 The Late Iron Age to Roman transition - West Midlands Roman Pottery Group Meeting, Unit 6, hosted by P.Booth and T.Allen.

LECTURES AND BROADCASTS

Tim Allen

19.4.91 Abingdon - Friends of Abingdon
 23.4.91 Abingdon - Steventon Women's Institute
 2.5.91 Abingdon - St. Helen's School, Abingdon
 8.5.91 Abingdon - Friends of the Pitt Rivers Museum
 10.5.91 Abingdon - Richmond Archaeological Society
 15.5.91 Abingdon - Abingdon Day Hospital, lunchtime

7.6.91 Abingdon - Wallingford Archaeological Society
 3-5.7.91 3 lectures - Christchurch Summer School
 17.7.91 Abingdon - St. Peter's College Summer School
 6.8.91 Abingdon - OUDES Summer School
 17.10.91 Abingdon - Marcham Historical Society
 28.10.91 Abingdon - Cumnor Historical Society
 23.11.91 Abingdon - Hillforts Study Group
 Feb to March 1992 Late Iron Age to Late Saxon Archaeology of Berkshire - 5 evening class lectures at Slough
 29.2.92 Abingdon - OUAS conference in Oxford

Paul Booth

10.7.91 Excavations at Alchester (A421) - Radio Oxford
 26.11.91 Excavations at Alchester (A421) - University of the Third Age
 28.1.92 Excavations at Alchester (A421) - Bicester Rotary Club
 12.3.92 Roman pottery - Abingdon Archaeological Society
 10-16.8.91 Pottery in the archaeological record - Archaeology Summer School, Rewley House
 Jan-Apr 92 Roman Britain in context (with Paul Garwood) - Abingdon evening class

Brian Durham

Nine part series on Underground Oxford for Radio Oxford

Gill Hey

8.5.91 Yarnton - Oxford Historical Research and Detector Club
 28.5.91 Yarnton - Oxford University Archaeological Society
 17.9.91 Yarnton - Yarnton and Begbroke Historical Society
 7.11.91 Yarnton - The University of the Third Age, Abingdon
 28.11.91 Yarnton - An open lecture at Cassington Village Hall, hosted by the Womens' Institute
 24.1.92 Yarnton - Council for the Protection of Rural England
 17.2.92 Yarnton - Adderbury History Association
 26.3.92 Yarnton - OAU Lecture Series, Museum of Oxford

Graham Keevill

15-17.4.91 When standing buildings fall - IFA Conference, Birmingham
 2.7.91 Eynsham Abbey - Royal Naval Association, Kidlington
 17.7.91 Eynsham Abbey - OAU AGM
 25.7.91 Lower Farm, Nuneham Courtenay - Radio Oxford, Fox FM, Central TV, BBC TV
 7.8.91 Redlands Farm, Stanwick - Upper Nene Archaeological Society, Northants.
 13.8.91 Eynsham Abbey - Central TV
 5.9.91 Eynsham Abbey - Radio Oxford
 23.9.91 Eynsham Abbey - Kidlington & District Historical Society
 15.10.91 Eynsham Abbey - Witney Historical Society
 17.10.91 Eynsham Abbey - Eynsham History Group
 19.10.91 Eynsham Abbey - Oxford Local History Association day school, Eynsham
 23-24.11.91 The reconstruction of the facade of the Redlands Farm villa, Northants - Roman Research Trust conference on Architecture in Roman Britain, London
 6.12.91 Abingdon Abbey gatehouse - Radio Oxford
 7.1.92 Eynsham Abbey - Henley Archaeological Society
 4.2.92 Eynsham Abbey - Oxford Architectural and Historical Society
 17.2.92 Eynsham moated site - Thames Water in-house video shoot
 25.2.92 Eynsham Abbey - Oxford ex-WRENs Association
 19.3.92 Eynsham Abbey - OAU Lecture Series, Museum of Oxford

27.3.92 Miscellaneous sites - Upper Neolithic Archaeological Society, Northants.

Ellen McAdam

28.3.92 The use of data flow diagrams to model post-excavation processes - CAA Århus, Denmark

David Miles

- 5.4.91 The administration and management of Archaeological Units - Oxford Archaeological In-Service Course
16.4.91 The Iron Age in the Thames Valley - Institute of Archaeology, Birmingham University
22.4.91 The White Horse Project - Faringdon Probus Club
26.4.91 The White Horse Project - National Trust Southern Region Committee, Uffington
26.7.91 Talk on local archaeology - Radio Oxford
7.9.91 The Roman countryside - Roman Research Trust, Oxford
15-27.9.91 The age of Stonehenge - The Smithsonian Summer School, Worcester College, Oxford
30.9.91 The archaeology of Lechlade - Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group, Cheltenham
1.10.91 The making of England (8 lectures) - Stanford University, Oxford
16.10.91 The Anglo-Saxons in the Thames Valley - Bedfordshire Archaeological Society, Bedford
19.10.91 The archaeology of churches - Diocesan Advisory Committee and Oxford Historic Churches Trust Conference, Oxford
25.10.91 The management of Archaeological Units - Oxford Archaeological In-Service Course
5.11.91 The work of the Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1991 - Oxford Architectural and Historical Society
27.11.91 The White Horse Project - Hungerford Archaeological Society
28.11.91 The dating of the White Horse - Research Laboratory for Archaeology and History of Art, Oxford
10.1.92 The work of the Oxford Archaeological Unit in the Thames Valley Wallingford Historical Society
20.1.92 Talk on local archaeology - Radio Oxford
28.1.92 The Iron Age: nature of the evidence - Open University Certificate Course
31.1.92 Talk on local archaeology - Radio Oxford
11.2.92 The changing face of archaeology in Britain - Institute of Archaeology, Oxford
28.2.92 Talk on local archaeology - Radio Oxford
29.2.92 The origins of Oxford - Oxford University Archaeology Society Conference
11.3.92 Archaeology and planning: the role of independent units - Association of Museum Archaeologists, Gloucester
12.3.92 The White Horse Project - OAU Lecture Series, Museum of Oxford
13.3.92 Peopling the past: the archaeology of man and animals - Annual Joint Meeting of the Oxford Medical Society and the Society of Veterinary Surgeons, Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford
14.3.92 The archaeology of the Thames Valley - Reading University
15.3.92 Archaeology and the role of amateur societies - BBC Radio 5
18.3.92 The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Lechlade - Thames-down Archaeological Society, Swindon
27.3.92 Talk on local archaeology - Radio Oxford
27.3.92 Archaeology and the dead - Central Television

Michael Roaf

10.2.92 Media and the message: interpreting the temples at

Tepe Nush-i Jan - Institute of Archaeology, University College London

12.2.92 Survivals and revivals: the persistence of motifs in the art of the ancient Near East - Oriental Institute, Oxford University

23.3.92 - Persepolitan echoes in Sassanian architecture: did the Sassanians attempt to recreate the Achaemenid empire? - School for Oriental and African Studies, London University

Dave Wilkinson

28.11.91 Stratford Market Depot - Thames Television News

29.11.91 Stratford Market Depot - LBC Radio

3.12.91 Stratford Market Depot - Down to Earth, Channel 4

WORK ABROAD

Peru

Gill Hey returned to Peru in August 1991 to carry out reconnaissance in the Andes near Cuzco in order to refine the settlement pattern for the earliest occupation in the area and provide comparative data for the site she has been working on at Cusichaca. She will return to Cuzco this year to complete her analysis of the pottery sequences for the Early Horizon and Early Intermediate periods (c 800 BC - AD 200) in the Cusichaca Valley.

Ecuador

Andy Mudd worked in the Cojimies region of Manabi province in N coastal Ecuador from July - October 1991. This fieldwork will contribute to his MPhil thesis at the Institute of Archaeology, London started in 1989. Cojimies had not been previously explored archaeologically although it was well known as the source of many illegally traded antiquities. Some 80 sites from c 1000 BC until the Spanish conquest have been identified in the survey and a regional ceramic chronology is being constructed.

PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the publications listed below reports have been written for the fieldwork undertaken by the OAU. Some of these are confidential but most are in the public domain. For details see the list of Fieldwork above.

Durham, B 1991

The infirmary and hall of the medieval hospital of St John the Baptist at Oxford *Oxoniensia* 56

Evans, E and Keevill, G D 1992

When standing buildings fall *The Field Archaeologist* 16, 295-7

Hagelberg, E, Bell, L S, Allen, T, Boyde, A, Jones, S J and Clegg, J B 1991

Analysis of ancient bone DNA: techniques and applications, in *Molecules through Time: fossil molecules and biochemical systematics*, G Eglinton and G B Curry (eds), The Royal Society (London), 399-407

Keevill, G D 1991

Carlisle Cathedral: Fraternity watching brief, 1988 *Transactions Cumberland Westmorland Antiquarian Archaeological Society* XCI, 289-92

Rahtz, S P Q, Davies, W and Allen, T G 1992

The development of dynamic archaeological publications, in *Archaeology and the Information Age*, P Reilly and S Rahtz (eds), Routledge (London and New York), 360-383

The OAU publishes three newsletters and an annual report each year. Subscriptions should be made payable to the Oxford Archaeological Unit.

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