

MAKING SENSE OF THE PAST

Oxford Archaeological Unit
Annual Review 1997-98

25 YEARS
AU
1973-1998

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OAU is one of the largest archaeological practices in Europe. Since its establishment 25 years ago it has grown to provide a comprehensive range of archaeological and historical services spanning the full range of heritage management, both in Britain and internationally.

Services include:

- Consultancy, environmental assessment and planning advice
- Field survey and evaluation
- Excavations and research
- Building survey and recording
- Post-excavation and publication
- Education and exhibitions
- Archives
- Church archaeology

OAU is committed to providing a client service which is both cost-effective and of high quality, and has a reputation for innovative approaches.

In order to provide the full range of skills clients require, OAU employs a full time staff of over 80 people including field archaeologists, historic buildings and finds specialists, illustrators, IT, administrative and management personnel.



Recent clients include:

Alfred McAlpine Consultants Ltd
Amey Building Ltd
ARC Southern Ltd
BAA McArthur/Glen (York)
BBTA Consultants JV
Berkshire County Council
Blue Boar Motorways
Bovis Homes Ltd
CBA Consultants Ltd
Chatham Historic Dockyard
Comtel
Countryside Commission
Département de la Mayenne
English Heritage
Environment Agency
Eton College
European Regional
Development Fund
Forte Hotels
Gibb Ltd
Hammerson Plc
Heritage Council (Republic
of Ireland)
Hills Aggregates Ltd
Historic Royal Palaces Agency
John Lewis Partnership
Laing Homes Ltd
La Ville de Mayenne
Marks & Spencer Plc
Ministère de la Culture, France
Museum of London
National Trust
Ove Arup and Partners
Oxford City Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Penspen Ltd
Peter Fraenkel and Partners
Pirelli Construction Ltd
Prestoplan Design and Build
Rail Link Engineering
Railtrack
Région des Pays de Loire
RMG Construction JV
(Gloucester)
Royal Hospital Chelsea
Seaboard Plc
Southern Electric
Tay Homes (Midlands) Ltd
Tesco Stores Ltd
Thames Water Utilities
Union Railways Ltd
University of Reading
Vale of White Horse District
Council
Whitecliff Properties
Wimpey Homes

Following a period of dramatic expansion and change 1997-98 has been a year of consolidation, but one in which we have developed new areas of activity.

Industrial archaeology is not a subject automatically associated with Oxford, but the OAU has successfully established itself as a major operator in this field.

We have also consolidated our reputation in the field of Historic Buildings Recording. This has been recognised by our success in winning a contract to record Somerset House, one of London's most important buildings, the renewal for the next five years of our contract with the Historic Royal Palaces Agency and the award of a contract at Westminster Abbey.

Director's Report

A broader range of projects

We have also been successful in broadening our range of consultancy projects, notably in the Republic of Ireland where we were commissioned by the Heritage Council to carry out a review of Urban Archaeology.

Subsequently OAU has also been asked by the Heritage Council to undertake a review of Irish post-excavation requirements. Another recent success was the OAU and Chris Blandford Associates joint bid to draw up the Draft Management Plan for the Stonehenge World Heritage Site.

As archaeologists we study change, a constant reminder never to be complacent. The archaeological market place is not an easy environment. Competition remains stiff and pricing overly keen. Following the icy grip of recession the thaw has been relatively short lived. Restraints on major infrastructure projects, notably the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, have made future planning unpredictable. The upturn in supermarket, shopping and business park developments may be affected by the threat of a downturn in the economy. The strength of sterling has had a substantial impact on our overseas activities, particularly in France. Also of concern is the low impact of Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG) 15 (Buildings). Unlike PPG16 (Planning and Archaeology), PPG15 is not, it appears, being vigorously implemented by local authorities. On a more optimistic note Lottery, (or would-be Lottery) projects have generated archaeological work at the Tower of London, Sadlers Wells,

the Cambridge Rowing Lake, the Victoria & Albert Museum, Somerset House and Abingdon Abbey. Changes to Lottery rules have also created new opportunities for dedicated archaeological projects in the future.

Major discoveries

1997-98 has been another remarkable year for archaeological research. In Mayenne our investigations of the Château have produced major discoveries and the links with the local community and schools are particularly satisfying. Nearer to home we have continued to exploit development opportunities to carry out research in the Thames valley. The Yarnton and Eton Rowing Lake projects and the Thames Flood Alleviation Scheme are some of the largest landscape investigations the OAU, or anyone else, has ever undertaken. Journalists like superlatives and here we can provide them - some of the earliest and most prolific agricultural sites in Britain, the earliest bridges over the Thames, the earliest plough (or ard) and rare Anglo-Saxon settlement evidence.

Another long-term interest of the OAU is the origins and development of towns. Oxford continues to be a focus of activity with new evidence of Roman settlement and of Beaumont Palace, the birthplace of Richard the Lionheart. Our largest

urban excavations have continued at The Oracle site in Reading.

Excavation is worthless without publication. The OAU's post-excavation department continues to produce monographs and reports for local journals. These, with good archives, are essential for the preservation of the archaeological record. As an educational charity the OAU is also concerned to promote archaeology to the widest possible public. This has been a particularly good year for projects with schools in France and Britain. We hope, with the help of our sponsors and clients, this will continue.

Finally I would like to thank our many clients without whose financial support we would not operate. Also the local authority curators and English Heritage staff who promote much of our work, and finally the OAU's Trustees, chaired by Dr Margaret Ware, academic advisors and our staff who keep the show on the road.

David Miles
Director





Tim Allen of OAU consulting with Phil Catherall of the
Environment Agency

Stonehenge: a major project for OAU
as part of the World Heritage Site
Draft Management Plan



Consultancy and environmental assessment

During the past year OAU has been engaged on a variety of significant consultancy projects, including several strategic studies concerned with how cultural heritage resources are managed. Our review of Irish Urban Archaeology is reported on page 28.

Contribution to World Heritage

In collaboration with Chris Blandford Associates, we contributed the archaeological and historic landscape input to a landscape and planning assessment of the Avebury World Heritage Site, undertaken as one of the major studies underpinning the WHS Draft Management Plan. We have now been commissioned as part of the same team to help draw up the Draft Management Plan for the Stonehenge part of the WHS.

We have continued acting as the Project Archaeologist on the A35/A30 road scheme in Dorset and Devon for BBTA and Connect. The A30 has revealed a whole sequence of Neolithic to Roman sites, including an unknown Roman fort already damaged by earlier road widening. This scheme has again demonstrated the value and thoroughness of the DBFO format for roads archaeology.

Ridgeway Study

A desk study and walkover survey of the whole of the Ridgeway path from Avebury to Ivinghoe (a total distance of about 85km) was begun in March 1998, commissioned jointly by the Countryside Commission and English Heritage. The purpose of the survey is to establish how the management,

interpretation and access to the cultural heritage of the Ridgeway can be improved.

During the year the pilot stage of the Oxford Urban Archaeological Assessment was completed on behalf of the City Council and funded by English Heritage. This has established the basic data collection procedures, data structure and GIS requirements, including the possibility of 'stretching' historic maps to fit detailed modern plans of the city. The main study is due to progress in the coming year and when complete will provide an invaluable tool for planning, research and education.

We have continued to carry out a wide range of desk studies and the cultural heritage aspects of environmental assessment work. This has included input to EAs for enlargement of Abberton Reservoir in Essex, and finalisation of the EA for a major housing development at Shinfield in Berkshire. At Compton Martin on the edge of the Mendips in Somerset, we undertook the cultural heritage study of a large forestry scheme, involving an extensive desktop study and walkover survey. We have also continued our involvement with the Monuments Protection Programme, for which we are currently looking at bridges across the whole of England.

OAU provide:

- Desk-top research and reports
 - Environmental assessments
 - Expert witnesses for public inquiries
 - Consultancy on the full range of heritage management issues
 - Curatorial services
 - Professional education on cultural heritage and environmental assessment
-





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GR. 10402



Bronze Age skeleton excavated in the
course of the Eton Rowing Lake project

Excavation and evaluation

OAU is at the forefront of the recent trend towards assessments and evaluations of archaeological remains to enable more rational decisions to be taken about preservation, building design and excavation. OAU has carried out assessments, surveys and excavations in most counties across southern and central England, and can ensure that project designs meet the requirements of the relevant County Archaeological Officer.

Expert advice

Our evaluations are often integrated into environmental assessments or planning applications and cover developments of all types and sizes from small building extensions to pipelines, roadschemes and railways which can be many kilometres long.

OAU can also provide expert advice on how to preserve archaeology *in situ*. This is the recommended solution according to government planning guidelines (PPG16), and can often be achieved through minor design adjustment.

Where preservation *in situ* is not viable OAU provide a comprehensive service of sound, cost effective advice to manage the full archaeological impact of a development.

Oxford Archaeological Advisory Service

The OAAS continues to advise the City Council on planning matters. The Service this year reviewed 2005 planning applications, scrutinised 229 in detail, and commented formally on 64. Fieldwork included a total of 31 interventions. The growth of new

information on the historic city from these inquiries has reinforced the need for an Urban Archaeological Database, and the successful pilot study is on the point of being expanded to accommodate the entire historic core of the city.

This year has provided significant archaeological developments (prehistoric and Roman), and one major surprise (Saxo-Norman).

New archaeological developments include the discovery of a fourth group of Bronze Age ring ditches, still all within a radius of little over 500 metres. Given that our knowledge of this area is obscured by the historic city, this is beginning to rival the densest prehistoric ritual areas in the region.

Oxford is known nationally as one of the five great pottery-producing centres of Roman Britain, but a century of inquiry has provided little information on contemporary settlement. This has at last changed with the discovery of a series of enclosures at Mansfield College.

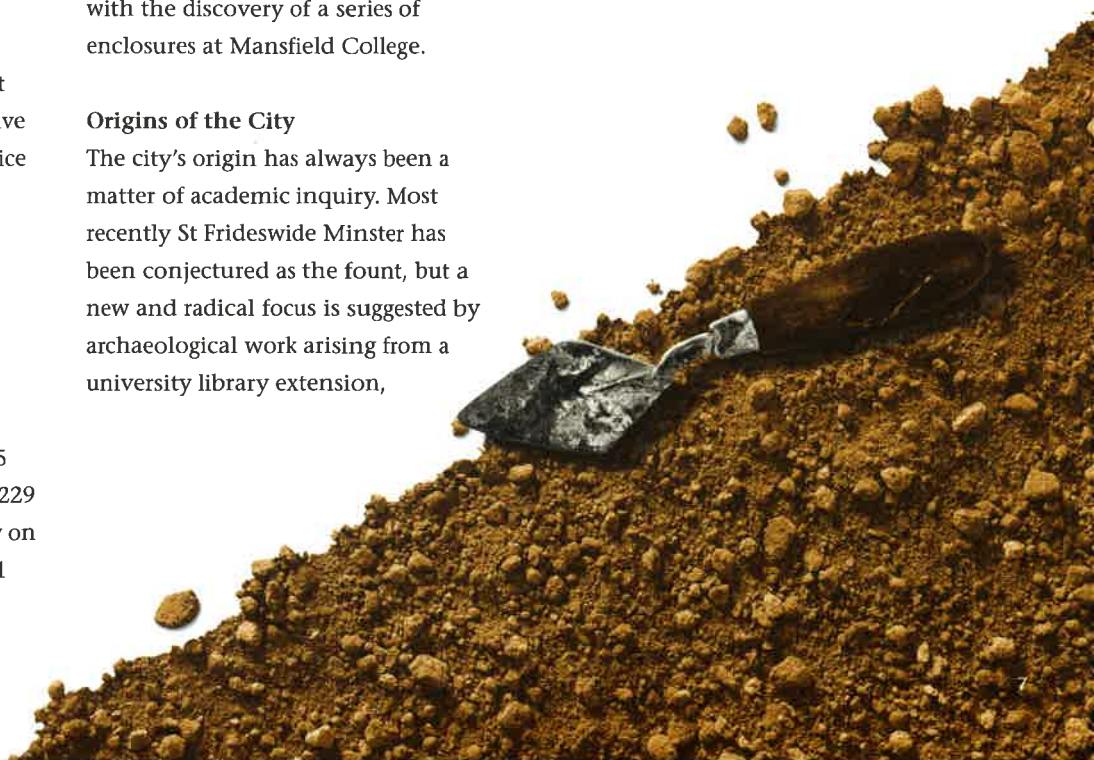
Origins of the City

The city's origin has always been a matter of academic inquiry. Most recently St Frideswide Minster has been conjectured as the fount, but a new and radical focus is suggested by archaeological work arising from a university library extension,

which involves the gardens of the Institute of Archaeology flanking St John Street. The Norman activity relating to the royal palace of Beaumont seems to extend further east and appears significantly earlier than previously thought. It is too early to assume a Saxon royal estate centre here, but the results seriously realign our thinking about what preceded one of England's most successful Saxon town foundations.

OAU provide:

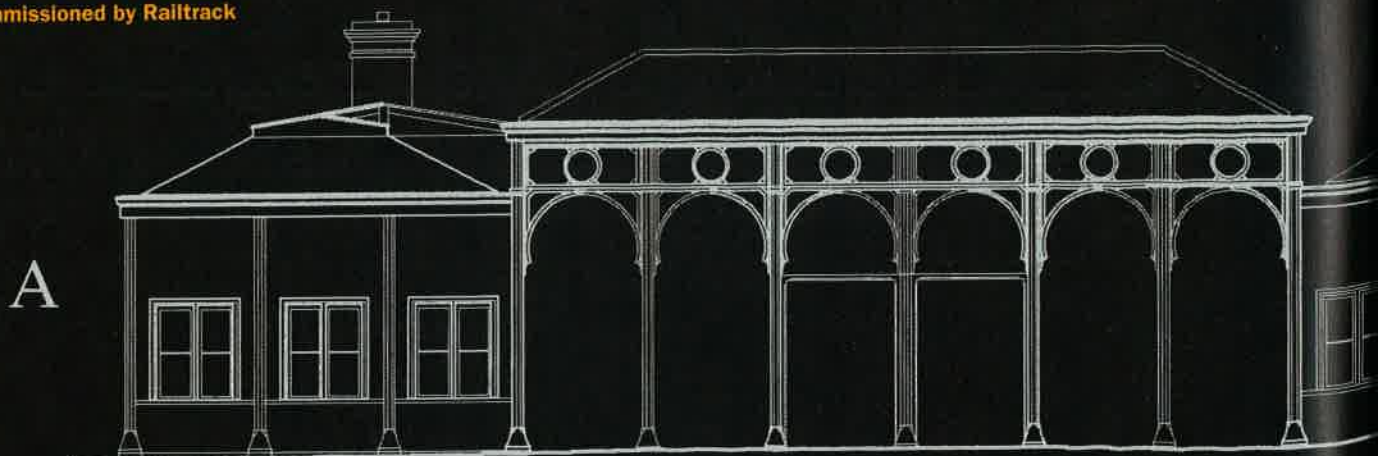
- Expert advice
 - Project design and management
 - Assistance with planning policy (PPG16)
 - Professional excavation
 - Insight and informed opinion
-



Surveying Tondy Iron Works,
South Wales



South elevation of Oxford
LMS station from survey
commissioned by Railtrack



SOUTH ELEVATION (C.1914)

Industrial Archaeology

This last year has seen OAU consolidating its position as one of the leading practitioners in this field. As a result, further dedicated staff have been recruited to assist Rob Kinchin-Smith in this aspect of our work.

Major projects

Recording of Tondu Ironworks in South Wales for Groundwork Bridgend started this year. Apart from this and three beer-related sites (a mid-19th century maltings, an early/mid-19th century brewery and a 17th century manorial brewhouse, projects funded by The Vale of White Horse D.C., Somerfield and the Garsington Opera respectively), this year's projects have been transport-dominated.

Oxford LMS station

In the news most recently has been the Oxford LMS station, where OAU carried out detailed recording, analysis and new research for Railtrack. This work revealed the building's true relationship to the Crystal Palace and unearthed a Victorian melodrama of railway rivalry, patent-dodging and brazen showmanship.



Surveying Oxford LMS Station

Recording and assessing

Also in Oxford, Wimpey Homes commissioned OAU (in collaboration with RCHME) to record the earliest phases of Morris' Cowley works. Other projects have included assessing a canal-side granary in Hertfordshire and further projects at Chatham Historic Dockyard. Dover Harbour Board commissioned OAU to assess the 'technical significance' of elements of the beaux-arts Western

Docks station, a project where OAU developed contacts established during the MPP on Bridges carried out for English Heritage. Most recently, OAU recorded a bus depot in Reading which was established in 1903 as headquarters, tram-sheds, principal workshops and generating station for the newly built municipal tramways. The project was made possible through the generosity of the client (Hammerson International) and volunteers from the Berkshire Industrial Archaeological Group.

OAU provide:

- Surveying and recording
 - Assessment and analysis
 - Advice on industrial heritage issues
-



A



**15th-century cruck roof,
Cumnor Farm**

Buildings Archaeology

At the Historic Royal Palaces the work on the White Tower was completed this year with a survey of the spine wall; the dendrochronological study of the building timber is providing some interesting and unexpected dates for different phases of floor and roof carpentry. Roof carpentry was also examined at Kensington over the Council Chamber; at Queen Charlotte's Cottage, Kew (part of the royal menagerie), and over the Great Hall of Hampton Court.

A valuable link between client and planning authority

Large building projects increasingly require an input on archaeological recording, and OAU is able to advise at all stages of work, especially on obtaining the initial agreements for work, and negotiating between clients and planning authorities. Major reconstruction work at Stoneleigh Abbey, Warwickshire, called for a programme of work on buried and standing remains of a Cistercian Abbey and post-medieval mansion.

An extensive conversion of 4 St James's Square (General de Gaulle's wartime headquarters) has helped to elucidate a complex multi-period town house of the de Grey family, and reveal the extent of a magnificent early 18th-century service wing which had a vaulted basement kitchen beneath the coachhouse and stables! Smaller projects included the recording of a 15th-century farmhouse with cruck roof construction at Cumnor, Oxfordshire.

Investigations in advance of proposals are also undertaken. At

Kenwood House we were asked by English Heritage to unravel the building phases of the 18th-century ornamental Dairy, in advance of decisions on its refurbishment. In Oxford appraisals of the historic fabric were carried out at University College (Hall and Kitchen), New College (Warden's Barn) and Lincoln College (Kitchen) before planning applications were made. Advice and prior appraisal^s have also been given on a number of public house conversions (Kent, Norfolk and Suffolk), country house modifications (Berkshire, Wiltshire and Herefordshire), and heritage lottery applications (Stow on the Wold Youth Hostel).

ST Coleridge found in wine cellar

The archaeology of churches may also call for advance investigation. The latest in a series of reorderings at the much rebuilt St Aldate's Church was appraised by following the documented history through diocesan records. By contrast a curious morning was spent in the crypt at Highgate Church looking for Samuel Taylor Coleridge's tomb, which turns out to be in the reused wine-cellar of an 18th-century house on the site of the church, and not beneath his memorial stone.

OAU provide:

- Pre-planning (PPG15) advice and initial appraisal
 - Rapid photographic, digital and measured survey
 - Detailed recording and historical analysis of buildings
 - Historical investigation of documentary history
 - Assessment of setting and impact issues
-





Schoolchildren examining a prehistoric
rubbish pit at Yarnton

Education

In addition to its professional services, OAU has a continually developing programme of educational initiatives for schools and the public, both at home and abroad.

As a registered charity, OAU is committed to making archaeology more accessible and interesting to the general public. Land development provides an ideal opportunity to undertake archaeological work, and as this is funded directly by the developers, they are also contributing to the community by facilitating the understanding of local archaeological heritage.

Educational projects undertaken in the past year include:

Abroad

30 school parties from 15 local schools have visited the Château de Mayenne for tours and workshops. The work is organised within the French National Curriculum. With the help of OAU, one school is undertaking a CD ROM project based on the work in the château and has had an article accepted for the magazine 'Arkéojunior'. Funding is provided by la Ville de Mayenne, le Conseil Régional, le Conseil général and le Ministère de la Culture and European Regional Development Fund.

At home

A number of INSET sessions for teachers have been structured around the archaeology found at Yarnton, as well as on-site work and follow-up sessions in the classroom for children. In the autumn of 1997, 600 mainly

primary school children visited the site. Educational work was undertaken in conjunction with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service and the Oxfordshire Education Authority, and with the co-operation of Worton Rectory Farms Ltd and ARC Southern. Funding was provided by the English Heritage Education Service.



At the Tower of London, funding provided by the Historic Royal Palaces Agency enabled OAU to arrange educational activities with two schools from Tower Hamlets. This consisted of school visits and project work both in the classroom and at the Tower.

At The Oracle in Reading, Hammerson UK Properties plc funded site tours, a public viewing gallery and on-site work for schools, providing the opportunity for everyone to learn more about the town's history.

Also in the Thames Valley, Eton College, Eton Aggregates Ltd and the Council for British Archaeology funded the production of a school teaching pack based on the prehistoric and Roman finds from the Eton Rowing Lake excavations.

Working with developers

- Exhibitions, display boards and booklets within the framework of the National Curriculum
- On-site visits and follow-up sessions for schools at Keystages 2 and 3 of the National Curriculum (England and Wales)

Working with schools

- Classroom sessions on archaeological topics within the context of the National Curriculum Keystages 2 and 3
 - Loan of handling collections of archaeological material
 - Teaching packs and other resources
 - INSET (In Service Training) opportunities for teachers
-





Excavation of a corn-dryer at Barton
Court Farm in 1976

The OAU: The First Twenty Five Years

The tremendous pressures of development in the late 60s and early 70s in Oxfordshire led to the creation of a series of Archaeological Excavation Committees. By 1973 there were five of these in the county, each tackling specific problems, drawing on the same pool of enthusiasts for their trustees, but with no strategy or provision for the region as a whole. By coincidence the newly established County Council was approached for funds by two of these archaeological organisations on the same day. Not surprisingly the County Council suggested that the archaeologists put their house in order.

The Oxfordshire Excavation Committee

The Oxfordshire Excavation Committee was constituted in July 1973, supported by a single county grant from the Department of Environment, and by Oxfordshire County Council. The committee's new Unit was based in three, soon-to-be demolished, terraced houses in Luther Terrace, Oxford and began operations in October. The first Chairman was Professor Barry Cunliffe with Tom Hassall as Director, David Miles as Senior Field Officer and Richard Chambers, Brian Durham, John Hinchliffe, Mike Parrington and Kirsty Rodwell as Field Officers.

With the optimism of youth, a contemporary account stated 'individual Field Officers will carry out an excavation and then write it up before going into the field again'.

At that time rescue archaeology was often frantic, a fire brigade response to the urgent. The new Unit aimed to work in a more coherent and problem-orientated research framework. The avoidance of the word 'rescue' in the Unit's title symbolised this approach.

To promote its research programme the Unit initiated rapid surveys of the Upper Thames gravels, historic towns and of plough*damage. These were possible because of Oxfordshire's pioneering Sites and Monuments record, established in 1966.

The early years

In the early years the Unit's research focused on the Iron Age and Roman landscape, the inter-relationship and economic basis of a range of sites, mainly identified from cropmarks. At Barton Court Farm, Ashville, Farmoor and Gravelly Guy particular attention was paid to the recovery of environmental data. The Unit was fortunate to recruit a talented team of environmental scientists, Martin Jones, Mark Robinson and Bob Wilson, who worked closely with the field teams.

While this was an exciting period for those of us in the field, the Unit's administrators suffered horrendous financial stress and uncertainty, as government grants were undermined by inflation. With a core staff of about 15 people, 80% of the Unit's funding came from

the state and local government. However, financial uncertainty bred an entrepreneurial culture. In 1976 the OAU looked to broaden its geographical area of activity and undertook projects in Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. In 1979 the OAU began a ten-year project, the largest rural excavation in Britain at the time, near Lechlade in Gloucestershire.

The late 70s also saw the emergence of job creation programmes in archaeology. For a time these seemed a godsend, injecting fieldworkers into cash starved projects. In retrospect they created a legacy of problems, particularly for the publication of excavations.

University links

In 1978 the OAU formalised its links with the Oxford University Department for Conservation Studies, particularly to promote the Archaeological In-Service Scheme – now the Diploma and Master of



Studies in Professional Archaeology. This course continues to be a stepping stone into the profession for many young graduates and field workers.

Important changes

The end of the 70s saw important changes in archaeology in England. The Department of Environment, still the principal backers, moved away from supporting organisations towards project funding. For some units this was a fatal blow. Fortunately the OAU had predicted and, to some extent, initiated this trend. Its problem-orientated research proposals in Oxford and the Upper Thames valley fitted neatly into the new orthodoxy.

This was recognised when, in 1982, the OAU won the first Country Life Award for the best work by a professional archaeological organisation. The judges praised 'the pioneering work ... particularly impressive in the way the Unit has pursued a finely co-ordinated programme within the framework of rescue archaeology'.

In the 1980s the OAU's research interests shifted. A series of projects



Professor Peter Fowler of Newcastle University examines the late Bronze Age ard from the Eton Rowing Lake excavations'

made important contributions to earlier prehistoric studies: at the Rollright Stones, the Drayton and Dorchester cursuses, Barrow Hills, Radley, (the most complete excavation of a Neolithic/Bronze Age barrow cemetery in England) and later the Bronze Age landscape at the Reading Business Park. George Lambrick's British Academy funded survey of the Thames Flood Plain helped to promote new avenues of research in the Thames valley, culminating in the current landscape projects at Yarnton and the Eton Rowing Lake.

Administrative trauma proves to be benefit

In March 1980 the Unit was rocked by an administrative trauma – Oxfordshire County Council withdrew its financial services. In retrospect this was beneficial. The Unit changed its name to the Oxford Archaeological Unit, became a Limited Liability Company and learnt to administer itself and its cash flow. This proved to be invaluable training for the harsher world of commercial

archaeology which was to come in the 90s.

It took several years for the Thatcher government to make an impact. English Heritage (then known to the initiated as HBMC) was created in 1984. In the mid to late 80s counties such as Berkshire began to develop policies requiring developers to evaluate their sites for archaeology and mitigate the impacts of their proposals. This culminated in the introduction of the DOE's Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning) which, it is fair to say, revolutionised the structure and practices of English archaeology. The OAU won developer funded contracts at the Reading Business Park, Swindon, Glastonbury Abbey, and the proposed Eton College Rowing Lake. The resulting shock-waves were traumatic for British archaeology as units lost their regional monopolies and found themselves in an increasingly commercial, competitive and professional environment. It was during this period, in 1986, that the OAU's Director, Tom Hassall, resigned to become the Secretary of the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments (England). After two years his replacement, Dr Ian Burrow, left for the United States and David Miles was appointed as Director with George Lambrick as Deputy.

In 1988 the OAU's income rose by 50% thanks to commercial archaeology. The new environment required new responses. Changes were made to the Committee structure in 1990; largely redundant advisory committees were dissolved. Professor Sheppard Frere retired as Chairman and was succeeded by Professor Peter Salway. The OAU's post-excavation department, led by Dr Ellen McAdam, was established with English Heritage's support, dedicated to



Excavation of the defensive ditch surrounding the late Iron Age settlement at Abingdon

clearing the accumulated backlog of unpublished projects and to ensuring that in a commercial world new projects were managed effectively to completion and publication.

Diversification

Since 1990 environmental and strategic studies have become a major part of the OAU's work, beginning with the Channel Tunnel Rail Link for which we were appointed as archaeological consultants. These have acted as a springboard into diversification – into the recording of historic buildings, industrial archaeology and overseas projects (Greece, Oman, Ukraine, Libya and Montserrat). Currently the OAU is undertaking two strategic studies for the Irish Government - of Ireland's historic towns and of the publication backlog.

The OAU's most substantial overseas project began in 1996 at

Mayenne, Pays de la Loire – a major investigation of the Château de Mayenne for the French Ministry of Culture, the European Union and the local authorities.

A national and international perspective

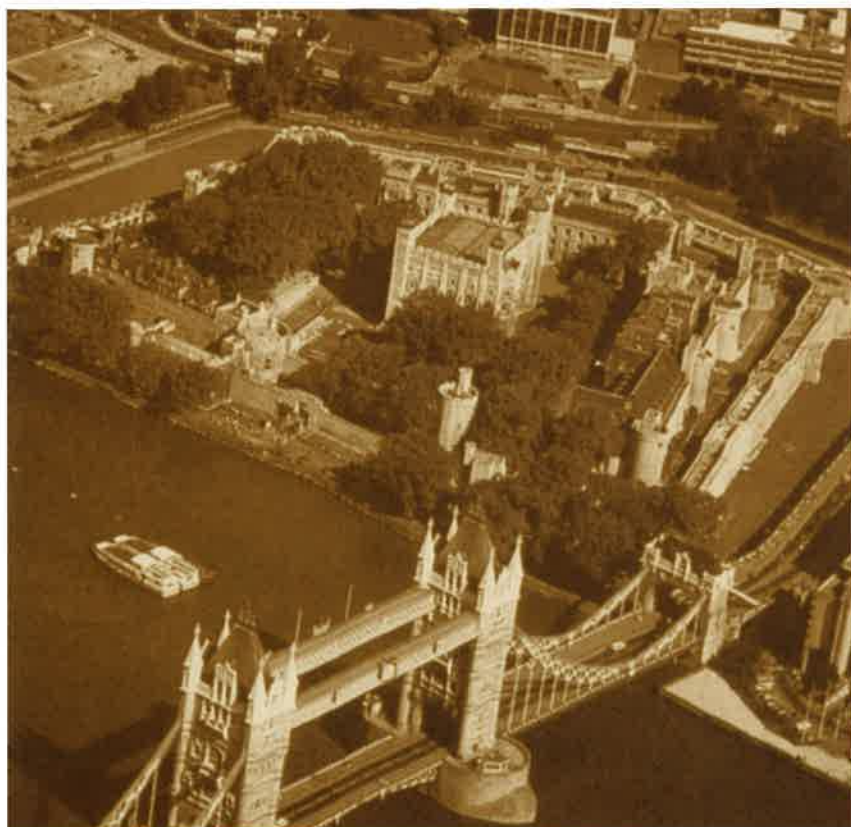
In Britain the OAU is active nationwide, from the Tondur Ironworks in South Wales to Roman settlements outside York. For the past five years we have acted as consultants to the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, with spectacular discoveries at the Tower of London.

By 1991 the OAU was carrying out 136 projects in 22 counties and three countries. The long-term research in Oxford and the Thames Valley has also continued. Thanks to English Heritage support for pre-PPG16 sites major discoveries have been made at Yarnton and the Anglo-Saxon Minster and Abbey at Eynsham. At Abingdon

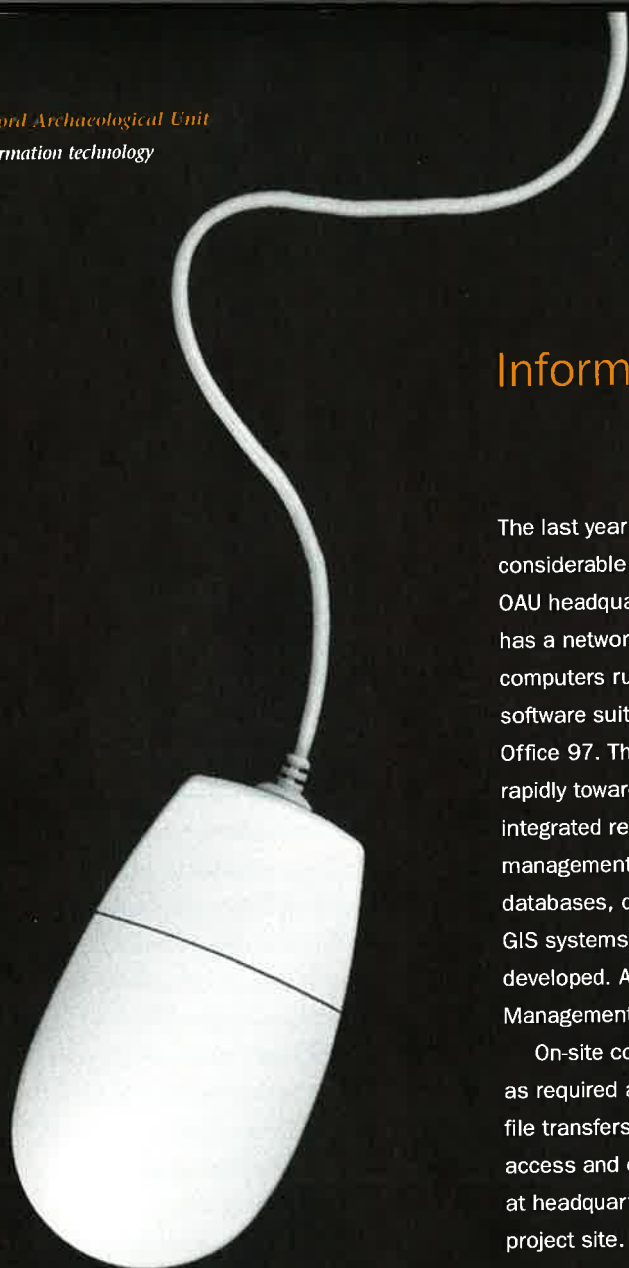
the discovery of massive late Iron Age defences was the key that unlocked the town's topography. In Oxford a long series of targeted excavations has clarified the relationship of the original Oxenforde, the Norman Grandpont and the topography of St Aldates. In 1994, with the Oxford Research Laboratory for Art and Archaeology, we dated the region's outstanding icon, the Uffington White Horse, to about 1000BC.

We live in interesting times and it is unwise to become complacent. On its 21st birthday in 1994 the Unit's constitution was redrafted and a smaller group of Trustees, chaired by Dr Margaret Ware, was established to concentrate on finance and policy. A larger Council and Academic Committee oversee the Unit's archaeological work. The Unit itself moved from its three buildings to a single site at Janus House on Osney Mead. The OAU is now equipped to deal with the most demanding projects, such as the country's first Design Build Finance and Operate (DBFO) road scheme, the A417/9 across the Cotswolds. Here our team of 100 archaeologists successfully excavated over 40 sites in nine months within the framework of a demanding contract and timetable, with no delays to the construction programme.

In 1974 the authors of the first survey of the OAU wrote 'It will be interesting in, say five years' time, to re-examine the validity of the Unit concept and our own small part in it'. The founders may not have guessed what 25 years would bring, but I hope that they feel that their concept has been worthwhile and that the Oxford Archaeological Unit has stood the test of time.



Spectacular discoveries have been made at the Tower of London



Information technology

The last year has witnessed considerable growth of OAU's IT system. OAU headquarters at Janus House now has a network of 70 IBM-compatible computers running a standardised software suite of Windows 95 and MS Office 97. The Unit is also working rapidly towards a standardised and fully integrated recording, analysis, and file-management system; multi-user databases, digital field recording and GIS systems are currently being developed. Accounting and Project Management systems are also in use.

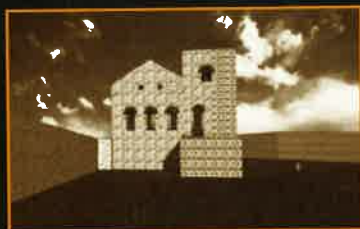
On-site computer networks are set up as required and co-ordinated by email file transfers. The Unit has full Internet access and external and internal email, at headquarters and at each large project site. Laptop computers are provided where applicable.

The Graphics Office has six new machines each equipped with AutoCAD

R14, Adobe PageMaker, PhotoShop, and Illustrator. Further copies of AutoCAD and GIS software (Map II and Gsys) are in use by field and post-excavation officers. Surface modelling and raster-manipulation software is also in regular use.

OAU is fully equipped for all forms of digital input (A0 and A4 scanners, Nikon slide-scanner, A0, A1, A4 Digitising tablets, digital cameras) and output (CD-Recorder, Zip-drive, A3 and A4 laser printers, A2 and A4 colour inkjets, A0 pen-plotter, and neighbouring graphics bureaux for larger work).

The Unit is committed to invest in the future strength of its IT system, seen as a key element in the maintenance of quality in increasingly large and complex projects. OAU is fortunate to have the critical financial mass to be able to take this longer-term view.



**Computer models of
10th-century enclosure and tower
at the Château de Mayenne
(using AUTOCAD R13)**



Post-excavation and publication

OAU's publication programme is one of the largest in Europe and reflects the scale of our fieldwork operations. As a number of our projects are some of the largest excavations undertaken in the country, a notable percentage of OAU's post-excavation projects extend over 3-5 years. As a consequence year-on-year progress remains largely intangible to the general public until the final report is published. However, significant progress has been made, guaranteeing a steady flow of publications over the forthcoming years.



'small town' and The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Butler's Field, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: Volume 1: prehistoric and Roman activity and Anglo-Saxon grave catalogue. The second volume of the report on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery is in its final editorial stages and publication is expected within the next 12 months. Closer to final publication are the results of the nationally significant excavations of the Neolithic and Bronze Age burial complex at Barrow Hills, Radley, Oxfordshire, which is currently being typeset and should be available before the end of 1998.



Beaker accompanying Early Bronze Age burial from Barrow Hills, Radley

In the last year, OAU staff worked on 67 projects with reports being published on subjects as diverse as Neolithic flint scatters, Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and medieval urban settlement.

OAU continued to contribute towards county journals, including *Oxoniensia*, *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, and *Archaeologia Cantiana*.

Two new major reports in OAU monograph series

Since 1991 we have published ten reports in our monograph series. Two major reports were published in the series this year: Asthall, Oxfordshire: excavations in a Roman



Gold 'earrings' from Barrow Hills, Radley. This style of earring, dating to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, may represent the earliest goldwork in Britain



13th-century stained glass female head, illustrated in the forthcoming report on the excavations at Eynsham Abbey, Oxfordshire

Occasional papers

A new departure for OAU is an Occasional Paper Series for small-medium sized reports. The first report in the series will concern our excavations in the Roman small town of Springhead, Kent and should be available before the end of 1998. These reports will be distributed free-of-charge to appropriate bodies like museums, libraries and interested individuals.

The Oracle, Reading

Hammerson plc, developers of The Oracle, a major new shopping and leisure development in the centre of Reading, appointed OAU in early 1997 to undertake archaeological investigations on the site.

A project of this size produces many thousands of finds and records – the detailed study of this huge mass of data is under way, and it is already clear that a major story is emerging. The damp, low-lying excavation area includes the River Kennet and several side channels, located on the southern fringe of the early town; this was the medieval industrial suburb, where the water was utilised by millers, tanners, dyers and brewers, to name but a few. Some of these industries, such as tanning, were sited on the edge of Reading for another reason: they were simply too noisome for ordinary citizens to put up with. The OAU team have found and recorded structures and artefacts relating to working people – the so-called ‘people without history’ – enabling us to understand how they lived and worked.

There were some surprises amidst the industrial grime. Considerable wealth had gone into the construction of a large, medieval stone-walled hall which was uncovered on the site. Under one of the walls were timber foundation piles, which were sampled for tree ring dating. The piles were shown to date from the year 1276.

16th-Century Tannery

A large number of circular pits in regular lines were discovered which, upon investigation, turned out to be the remains of a 16th-century tannery. Tanning was a particularly foul industry for which urine and dog faeces were essential ingredients.

Examination of the tannery pits, in which the animal hides would have been soaked, clearly showed the imprints of large wooden vats which would have been used to contain the tanning liquor.

Circular pits in regular lines were found to be the remains of a sixteenth century tannery. Inset shows one pit where the imprint of a large wooden vat which would have been used to hold the tanning liquor can be seen. The tanning liquor consisted of a number of unpleasant ingredients including urine and dog faeces.



Collecting samples of timber foundation piles for tree-ring dating





Pupils from many Reading schools visited The Oracle excavations. Here a future archaeologist comes face to face with a 12th-century carved corbel.

Spreading the word

The 1997 work at The Oracle saw intense public interest from the people of Reading. Jonathan Emery, The Oracle Project Manager for developers Hammerson, was keen to involve the local community right from the start, and a programme of guided tours and school visits was quickly agreed. A viewing area was also opened, and proved very popular.

The open day, held in the summer of 1997, was hugely successful. In the course of a scorching August Saturday, over 2000 people received guided tours and viewed finds from the excavations. In addition to this, children from a large number of schools in the Reading area came to look at the excavations and finds, and discover more about the history of the town, its industries and inhabitants.

As well as being of interest to the community, a large urban excavation such as this provides excellent experience for recent archaeology graduates. A project like The Oracle enables them to develop further the practical skills and high standards required by professional archaeology.

Large projects like The Oracle provide good opportunities for recent graduates. Guy Cockin, seen here cleaning a 13th-century wall foundation, graduated in archaeology from Reading University in 1995. Since joining OAU he has gained training and experience in excavation techniques and environmental analysis.





Château de Mayenne, France

The news that the French government had extended OAU's excavation licence until December 1999 successfully concluded the first year's work at the château, which has recently been classified as a site of national interest. The project is funded from five separate sources: the Ministry of Culture, the European Regional Development Fund, the Région of the Pays de la Loire, and the department and town of Mayenne.

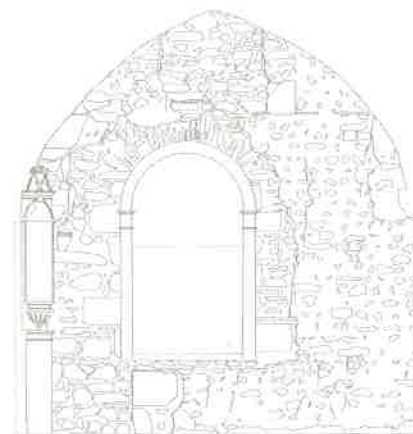
The earliest stone built structure comprises a rectangular building on three levels with a square tower on four levels attached at its south-western corner. This building has been encased by subsequent phases of construction, which have contributed to its exceptional preservation. During the initial two year contract, the building recording programme has focused on identifying the phased development of the standing building (*petit château*); while the excavation has emptied the backfilled lower rooms of the building to find evidence of early occupation.

Local companies engineer structural support

The excavation of the main building was the principal task for our 1997 programme of work, and comprised the removal of 400m³ of infill by hand. Before this operation could commence, structural engineering, designed by BECB and manufactured by Gruau (two local companies from Laval), was installed on the ground and first floor levels. This was to support the weight of the 13th-century vaulted ceilings on the ground and first floors of the main building (an estimated 160 tonnes), which were to be undermined during excavation. The structures bridged the distance between the north and the south walls of the rooms, hugging the column supports and thus redirecting the downward charge from the central pier to the walls of the room.

The excavation of the lower room of the main building reached depths of up to 5 m. Postholes found skirting the sides of the room have been interpreted as evidence for an independently suspended timber floor. The height of the former floor is indicated by the limit of original render visible on exposed elevations. Two splayed windows

identified in the northern wall would have lit the room. The basement was backfilled between the late 11th and 12th centuries, probably as a defensive measure, during a construction campaign that raised the main rectangular building by a storey. The installation of the pier support for the vaulted ceilings was probably part of the 13th-century building campaign, which included the construction of the outer courtyard walls with mural tower defences constituting the basic plan of the château today.



Military and gaming finds

Enormous quantities of finds have been recovered during the excavation and are currently being photographed. Amongst the metal objects, quantities of arrow and lance points, blades, spurs and stirrups have been identified, with a surprising lack of domestic items. Over 70 bone game pieces with six dice and a quarter of a *tabula* games board have been recovered; one of the largest collections of its kind found on an individual site in Europe. A total of 79 coins have been recovered, including seven Denier Normands dated to the administration of William the Conqueror who besieged the château in 1063 AD, and five rare late Carolingian coins from the reign of Charles the Simple (898-922) and his son Louis IV d'Outremer.

The tourist season and the heritage weekend in September brought the total number of visitors discovering the archaeological excavation at the château to 5,000. A large number of school parties also visited (see page 13).

Structural engineering: Iron structures supporting 13th-century ceilings
(photo: Rupert Austin, Canterbury Archaeological Trust)

The Eton Rowing Lake Project

Summer 1997 was the third season of excavation in advance of the construction of the Olympic standard Rowing Lake. Over a period of ten weeks, a team of more than 20 staff and up to 80 volunteers carried out five area excavations, and completed the Watching Brief on the excavation of a palaeochannel of the river Thames.

Mesolithic and Neolithic finds

Work on the earliest phases of the Thames palaeochannel revealed tools left by the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers who visited the riverside periodically. These included an antler mattock drilled for hafting, and perforated circular pebbles usually called maceheads, but possibly used as weights on digging sticks, as shown on examples of contemporary rock art.

Thanks to the generosity of Sir John Smith and Eton College, there was a second season of work on the early Neolithic midden found in 1996. Another 15,000 Neolithic finds were recovered, including flint sickle fragments and other tools used

for cereal harvesting, fragments of quernstones for grinding corn, charred cereal grains, the bones of domestic cattle and sheep, and also some round-based pots. The finds make this one of the most prolific sites excavated in southern England, and radiocarbon dates confirm that this is one of the earliest settlements with evidence for agriculture in Britain. Negotiations are currently in progress with English Heritage for funds to realise the full research potential of this unique settlement.



Mesolithic digging stick weights and example of their use from rock-art (reproduced by kind permission of John Wymer and Shire Publications)



Bronze Age ring-ditch (ploughed out barrow) with posthole structure in the centre

The Bronze Age and after

Another Bronze Age ring-ditch was excavated, within which a square arrangement of postholes marked the presence of a possible mortuary structure. Late in the Bronze Age there was a change of burial rite, and human and animal skulls were found on a sandbank in the river. Close by was a driftwood platform into which rows of vertical stakes were driven, and on which chips from woodworking were found.

A ditched enclosure visible as a cropmark from the air proved to be an Iron Age farmstead that continued in use through most of the Roman period. This was the settlement served by the bridges across the Thames found in 1996. The enclosure lay very close to the former channel of the Thames, and clearly took advantage of river trade, as a Celtic 'potin' coin from Kent and Iron Age pots both from the Thames estuary and from the Upper Thames valley were found at the site. In the Roman period fine tablewares from the Continent reached the site. The farm appears to have been abandoned before the end of the Roman period, probably because the adjacent channel was silting up and because of increased flooding of this low-lying area.

Excavation will not resume until the year 2000 or 2001; in the meantime we will be concentrating upon writing up the results. We would like to thank Eton College who funded the excavations, Eton Aggregates for their co-operation and assistance in carrying out the work during their extraction operations, and all those who took part.



Iron Age potin coin from Kent

The Swindon to Gloucester DBFO Roadscheme

Most of the major planned archaeological works on the A419/417 DBFO Trunk Road Improvement were completed by the end of 1996, as reported in last year's Annual Review. However, in the summer of 1997, following the closure of the existing highway, 12 very large cross-sections were excavated across the line of Roman Ermin Street to the north-west of Cirencester.

Severe time constraints

Working under severe time constraints, with the contractors eager to construct new concrete bridges at each location, the archaeological teams completed each section on or ahead of schedule. Several of the sections revealed over four metres of superimposed compacted metallised road surfaces, and most demonstrated at least two metres of well stratified deposits. At almost every location it proved possible to identify a Roman stone *agger* laid directly on the

pre-Roman ground surface, although surprisingly there was little trace of the side ditches usually associated with Roman roads. Unfortunately few dateable artefacts were recovered, making the positive dating and phasing of the subsequent medieval and post-medieval road surfaces more problematic. Notwithstanding these uncertainties, this was certainly the first major excavation of Roman Ermin Street outside of a Roman town, and quite possibly the first investigation of a major Roman road on this scale in a rural environment.

The post-excavation programme is now in full swing, with an anticipated publication date of spring 2000. The successful excavation of the road sections enabled the main contractors, Road Management Group (RMG), to complete the road nine months ahead of schedule and the 26 kilometres of dual carriageway was officially opened in December 1997.



Excavation of a section showing the camber of the Roman road surfaces

The Yarnton-Cassington Project

Investigations of the remarkably well-preserved Neolithic and Bronze Age landscape on the floodplain of the river Thames at Yarnton continued this year. This work is being funded by English Heritage and supported by the gravel extractor, ARC Ltd and the landowner, Worton Farms Ltd.

In previous years we have examined Bronze Age domestic sites and burials, but this year we looked at the kinds of activities that people undertook away from settlements. How did people use and modify their wider environment between 2000 BC and 800 BC?

A trench across a silted-up river channel was excavated in order to obtain waterlogged remains, which will enable us to reconstruct the Bronze Age landscape over part of the study area. Such channels are wonderful traps for environmental information: waterlogged plants will tell us what grew in the river and on its bank; beetles and snails will allow reconstruction of the kinds of vegetation which grew in the surrounding fields, and pollen will enable us to establish the woodland and vegetation cover over a wider area. The surprise discovery was the presence of a small causeway constructed of sand and gravel

which ran across the channel. It seems to have been built at a time when the river had started to silt up, and would have been very boggy underfoot in the winter.

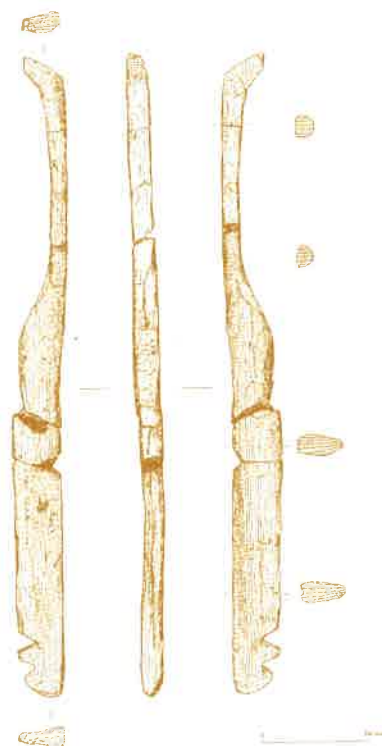
A Bronze Age ditch headed down to this river channel and is the only boundary ditch of this date that we have uncovered. It appeared to have been situated in an area of grassland, away from contemporary settlement, and its purpose is uncertain.

Prehistoric saunas?

Burnt stone and charcoal are common finds on this low-lying topography, and in particular they are found in pits and as spreads on the banks of small river channels which flowed across the floodplain. There is considerable debate amongst archaeologists about the function of these 'burnt-mound deposits'. Are they cooking pits or the remains of prehistoric saunas?

A regular oval pit with straight sides containing burnt stone and what would have been pure charcoal was exposed. Next to the pit was a deep waterhole, which, because its fill had been underwater since it was deposited, contained many kinds of organic remains which would normally decay. The preservation of pollen, beetles,

snail shells and waterlogged plants will enable us to recreate the environment around the waterhole and may shed some light on the activities which were associated with the deposition of the burnt stone. Sloe stones may indicate that bushes grew around the top of the hole, but sloes can also be used as a dye.



Well-preserved wooden object, possibly a weaving sword

Worked wood had also survived, including traces of wattle fencing which may have surrounded the top of the waterhole. The most important find was a wooden object, 0.60 m long. We have not yet found a parallel for this artefact and are unsure of its purpose. It may have been used in textile production, perhaps as a weaving sword, but any suggestions that readers have will be willingly received. It is possible that 'burnt-mound deposits' are associated with textile production, a process in which steam and hot water is important.

School visits

The Yarnton education programme also continued this season, and over 600 children were able to visit the site, tour the excavations and try their hand at excavating their own 'archaeological trench'.



Prehistoric waterhole. This contained an important deposit of organic material including pollen, plants, beetles and snail shells, which will enable us to recreate the environment of that period

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

In last year's Annual Review it was reported that OAU had commenced the main phase of evaluation work in advance of the construction of the High Speed Rail Link through Kent. Including those sites previously described, OAU has now completed 16 major evaluations at sites stretching between Gravesend in north Kent to near Folkestone on the coast. Almost 350 individual trenches, 32 deep test-pits and 16 boreholes have been excavated on sites ranging from deeply buried Palaeolithic remains at Ebbsfleet and Mesolithic and Neolithic flints at Harrietsham, to post-medieval clay pits near Boxley village.



Roman pottery from Saltwood Tunnel

At Saltwood Tunnel near Folkestone at least one Roman cremation and numerous ditches indicate the site of a settlement, and work near Sellindge has revealed a previously unrecorded late Iron Age or early Roman settlement and field system. In addition, the need to relocate major utilities in advance of the construction of the railway necessitated an intensive watching brief at Pepper Hill near Gravesend and the subsequent excavation of a major new Roman cemetery, described separately on page 33.

The work carried out by OAU, in association with other evaluations elsewhere on the route, has now enabled a carefully designed mitigation strategy to be prepared by Rail Link Engineering (RLE) in consultation with the County Archaeologists and English Heritage. Unfortunately, the widely publicised funding difficulties have delayed the tendering process for the main excavations, although at the time of writing (June 1998) it is anticipated that major archaeological works will commence shortly.



Excavating evaluation trenches on the route of the Rail Link



Excavation of test pits and soil sieving at Harrietsham

Ireland

It is perhaps appropriate that in the year of the peace process OAU has undertaken projects both north and south of the border.

Urban Archaeology

In 1997 OAU was commissioned by the Heritage Council in the Republic of Ireland to carry out a strategic review of urban archaeology in Eire. The scope of this study has been wide ranging, dealing with key issues such as information systems, legislation and planning, archaeological mitigation, research, archives and publication.

Urban archaeology currently accounts for over half of all archaeological investigations in Eire. The huge increase in archaeological activity in the 1990s is mostly a result of government and EEC policies, which have encouraged urban renewal in historic towns. Resources have been severely stretched to cope with the pace of development and this largely explains why the success of Irish urban archaeology is mixed.

We have suggested numerous ways of improving the situation, aimed at National and Local Government departments and agencies, Universities and professional bodies. Overall, our recommendations have the capacity to fulfil a number of immediate objectives, which combine to support wider goals. These concern effective administration of public policy; promotion of sustainable policies for development; promoting people's pride, sense of place and appreciation of the urban past; and



Plan of Mound of Down area

facilitating high quality research and education.

Northern Ireland

OAU has undertaken two projects in Northern Ireland. At Downpatrick George Lambrick provided an analysis of the impact of a proposed supermarket development on the setting of the Mound of Down, a ringwork and motte forming one of Ireland's more important early medieval secular monuments. This was an opportunity to bring to bear techniques of assessing issues of setting developed for the A27 Worthing inquiry. OAU's increasingly sophisticated

digital graphics allowed us to present photographic images directly related to a plan showing key physical characteristics of the area around the Mound.

At Newtownards Klara Spandl carried out a detailed desk study and walkover survey of a development site in the area of the Castle Bawn, just south of the Dominican Priory. Originally a massive walled garden and arboretum dating from the 17th century, the Castle Bawn later became a textile factory complex before being cleared in the 1970s. Only the surrounding wall of the Bawn remains. The project is now entering a full Environmental Assessment stage.



Panoramic photo - Mound of Down

Somerset House

This year OAU was commissioned by the Heather Trust for the Arts to carry out an archaeological survey of the riverside wing of Somerset House, The Strand, London, during conversion work for a museum of decorative arts.

Known to most of us as Britain's register of births, marriages and deaths, the great neo-classical quadrangle of Somerset House was built in the reign of George III as the first purpose-designed public building in London.

The most puzzling component of the south range was the river terrace. It follows a tradition of neo-classical terraces in Palladian style, but this one was exceptional in being open to the river by a great arch, creating a covered central basin and two docks, now infilled. They are described on the construction drawings as the 'royal bargehouse', but there is little to explain how they were used.



Surveying and recording of the Royal Bargehouse at Somerset House

Conversion of the bargehouse coincides with renewed interest in the extraordinary pageantry of the Thames in the last five centuries. The tradition disappeared in Victoria's reign when the Lord Mayor and the city livery companies disposed of their state barges. Somerset House had been built at the edge of a river teeming with water taxis and lighters; its bargehouse may have accommodated one of the finest water 'limousines' ever built, a shallow designed by the architect William Kent for the Prince of Wales in 1732. The re-excavation of the dock promises a new perspective on the workings of the Hanoverian court, its civil service and its teeming river.



Yeoman Gaoler Tom Sharp examining the late medieval fish trap found in the west moat
(Photo: Press Association)

Historic Royal Palaces: The Tower of London

Our research into the moat at the Tower of London for Historic Royal Palaces continued this year, with further fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. We uncovered more of Henry III's defences of 1240, finding part of the dam that separated his moat from the Thames. The entrance causeway built in 1275-81 by Edward I was examined, exposing medieval masonry unseen for hundreds of years. We also found beech pile foundations, and tree-ring dating has proved that the trees were felled between 1275 and 1277.

Spectacular finds

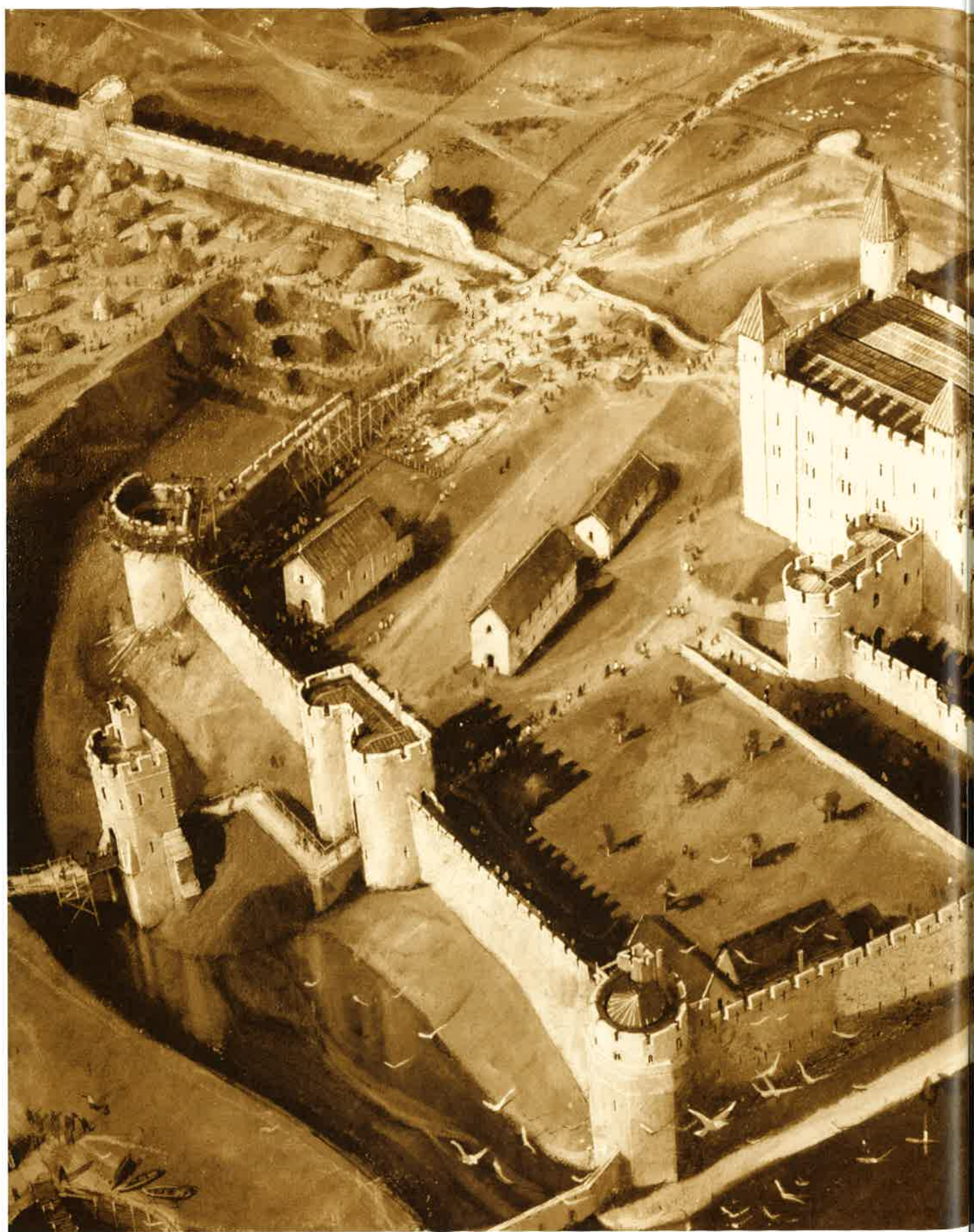
Finds have been abundant and occasionally spectacular, as with the beautifully preserved late medieval fish trap. This had been weighted and pegged down, showing that it survived in its original position. The discovery clearly touched the public's imagination, receiving national press coverage and international attention through the National Geographic and the New York Times. There was even talk of a feature in an angling magazine! The trap is now undergoing the painstaking process of conservation; hopefully it will be displayed at the Tower in the near future.

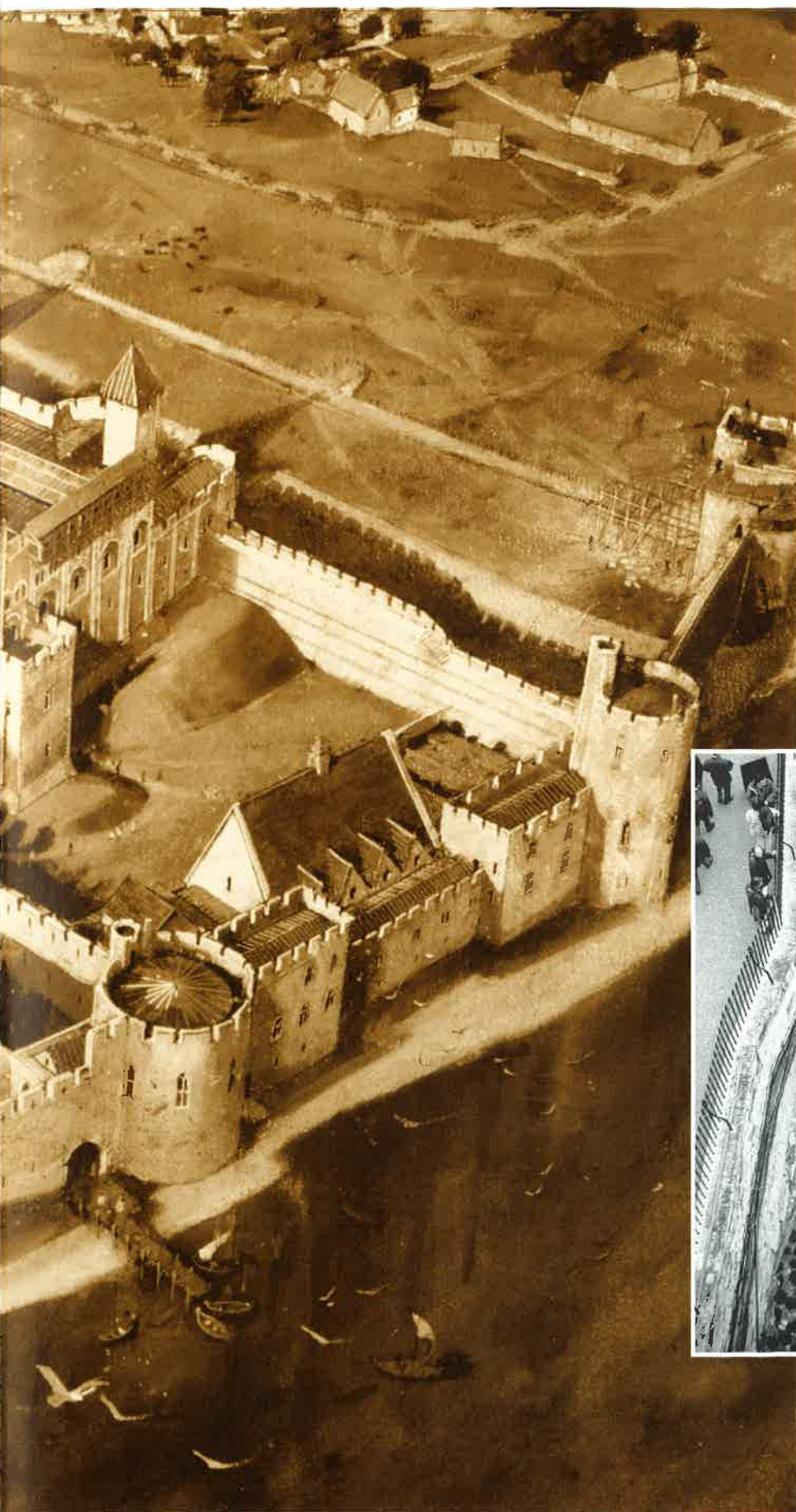
A better understanding

Analysis of our findings is at least as

important as the fieldwork. We have made great strides in understanding Henry III's castle, for instance, working closely with our colleagues at Historic Royal Palaces and the military historian Beric Morley (seen recently on *The Time Team*). HRP commissioned a reconstruction painting on the basis of that research. Some of the details were speculative at the time, such as Beric's suggestion that the square building we found in the west moat would have been polygonal in its upper levels. He was vindicated subsequently when we found an ashlar block which shows that the exterior faces met at 45°, as expected in a polygonal plan.

Henry VIII was the last reigning monarch to reside at the Tower. Its diminished status as a palace thereafter was balanced by its increasing importance as a base for the Royal Mint and the Board of Ordnance, while it continued to function as a castle. Excavations outside the moat have located the 18th-century Irish Barracks in the outer ward. Three successive barrack blocks were revealed, with internal stairwells and fire places much in evidence. The 18th-century building was swept away in the late 19th century, having been made redundant by the Duke of Wellington's Waterloo Barracks which now houses the Crown Jewels.





An educational resource

The Tower of London is an incomparable resource in many ways, not least for education. This became clear when we were involved in an exciting project with over 100 children from two schools in Tower Hamlets. Graham Keevill visited both schools twice to tell the children about the Tower and OAU's work there, and three parties came along to work on the site. The nine- and ten-year-olds collected coins thrown by tourists into two 'wishing well' areas at St Thomas's Tower, picking them up in carefully gridded rectangles. About 50,000 coins were collected, and the children were able to look at where visitors had come from by identifying the country of origin of the coins. Surprisingly, French Francs were under-represented! The children showed tremendous enthusiasm and we hope to repeat the project in future years.

STOP PRESS

At the end of June OAU heard that it had been successful in retaining the HRP contract. We are looking forward to working with HRP through to 2003.



Excavations on the north side of Edward I's entrance causeway

Ivan Lapper's reconstruction painting of work in progress on Henry III's defences, c. 1240

© Historic Royal Palaces

Excavation of a burial with associated pottery
at Pepper Hill



Southern portion of Romano-British cemetery discovered at Pepper Hill, Kent, during excavation

A Romano-British Cemetery at Pepper Hill, Kent

In the autumn/winter of 1997 Pirelli Construction Company Ltd commissioned OAU to undertake a detailed watching brief of the topsoil stripping operation during works for SEEBoard, located to the south of the A2 Watling Street near Pepper Hill. A Romano-British cemetery was discovered approximately 0.5 km to the south of the Roman town of Springhead (Vagniacae) and 200 m to the south-west of the scheduled temple complex.

Poor weather conditions and the detailed nature of the work necessitated the construction of a polythene tunnel over the excavation area. The cemetery was at least 40 m long and up to 25 m wide and was sited beside a Roman road, which survived as a metalled hollow-way. Excavation revealed approximately 200 cremations and inhumations, although more are known to exist to the north in an as yet unexcavated area. The burials range in date from the late 1st to probably the mid 3rd century AD.

Most burials were accompanied by at least one pottery vessel; other grave goods were comparatively rare, although hob-nailed footwear was found with a number of cremations and inhumations. A single burial was associated with a group of six glass beads, which appeared to form part of a bracelet.

The cremated bone is extremely well preserved, while inhumed bone is poorly preserved in the slightly acid ground conditions. Several possible box-burials were recorded and one casket burial with a decorative lock-plate was excavated. *In situ* coffin nails were frequently found, and in some cases coffin and body 'shadows' were also recorded.

This cemetery appears to be a good example of an urban cemetery lining a possible main road, where it would be easily accessible but not interfere with agricultural and other domestic uses.



A selection of Romano-British pottery vessels from Pepper Hill. Most of the burials from the site were accompanied by at least one vessel.

Fringford Paddock

The excavation of this late Saxon and medieval site near Bicester took place from August - October 1997.

The earliest features at the site comprised a series of Iron Age and Romano-British boundary ditches and these were overlain by a further series of ditches of 10th/11th-century date, including a possible domestic enclosure. This phase was superseded by 12th-century ridge-and-furrow. Arable activity appears to have ceased during the mid-late 13th century, when three stone buildings were constructed.

One of the buildings comprised a rectangular structure with an external room and an internal dividing wall. A number of clay floors and several hearths were noted, and a series of internal post-holes and gullies which may represent an earlier timber structure. The building was surrounded by an occupation horizon which produced large quantities of pottery and metal objects, particularly horseshoes and horseshoe nails, but also wood-working tools, buckles, a lock, a key, a heckle-tooth and an animal bell.



The building probably functioned as a farrier's workshop, but there was no evidence that metal had been smithed at the site. It is possible that the buildings formed part of a manorial complex before they were apparently abandoned during the 14th century. Apart from sporadic stone-robbing, there was little activity at the site thereafter, which appears to have been under pasture to the present day.

The excavation is a useful addition to the growing corpus of examples of the development of medieval villages in the south midlands, and is one of the few settlements of this type that has been investigated in recent years. Brandon Gate Homes Ltd funded the excavation work.

Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme

In the summer of 1997, OAU carried out a second season of excavation in Dorney and Taplow funded by the Environment Agency, along the route of the Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme. Together with the nearby OAU excavations at the Eton Rowing Lake, the project will form the basis for a landscape study of the human environment, settlement patterns and activity in this relatively under-studied part of the Thames valley, from early prehistory to the post-medieval period.

Over 15 hectares, comprising 11 sites, have been investigated along the route of the scheme. The twelfth and final site will be investigated in autumn 1998.

Neolithic

Prehistoric discoveries include an early Neolithic 'midden' deposit at Lake End Road West, from which c.700 sherds of pottery and c. 900 pieces of worked flint were recovered. Nine later Neolithic pits have produced a nationally important assemblage of Peterborough Ware and associated worked flint, including part of a polished flint axe.

Mid-late Bronze Age

Excavations to the east of Marsh Lane revealed an area of middle Bronze Age activity including a series of ditches, which may represent the edge of a settlement site. A widely distributed group of middle Bronze Age cremation burials have also been found in the surrounding area. A segmented Bronze Age ditch at Lake End Road contained part of a middle Bronze Age bucket urn.

Iron Age/Romano-British

At Lake End Road, a system of field boundaries and tracks was laid out in the later prehistoric period, some of which has survived in the landscape to the present day. A settlement consisting of ditched enclosures and at least one timber building seems to have been superimposed on the boundaries of one of the early Iron Age fields in the 1st century AD. The site was probably a low status farmstead and was occupied until at least the late 2nd century AD.



Neolithic pit under excavation. This pit contained Peterborough Ware pottery and flint artefacts

Anglo-Saxon

One of the most important discoveries was that of more than 90 large Saxon pits, distributed on either side of Lake End Road, and also found at Lot's Hole. Most of the pits probably date to the 8th-9th century AD, although there are indications that some were in use as late as the 10th or 11th century.

Some of the pits may have been wells, while others seem to have been used as rubbish pits. They contained many artefacts, including textile manufacturing implements (loomweights, pin beaters, needles, an iron weaving comb, spindle whorls and shears) and personal items (bone comb fragments, including a rare, elaborately carved handled example, bronze and bone dress pins, tweezers, spearheads and knives). Domestic

items such as pottery, including a few imported Frankish vessels, glass, keys, a possible cow bell, latch lifters, iron tools and lava quernstones from the Rhineland were also recovered. The pits also contained large quantities of animal bone and charred plant remains. There is evidence for metal working on or close to the site, in the form of smithing slag and fired clay hearth lining.

Although no Saxon building remains were found, this is probably the site of a settlement. The site may be associated with the royal estate at Old Windsor and is at present best interpreted as the edge of a secular estate centre, possibly a *villa regalis*. The settlement clearly extends over a considerable area and there is a strong likelihood that its core lies under the present village of Dorney.



Anglo-Saxon bronze and worked bone artefacts: double-sided combs (left and right); decorated comb handle (centre top); bronze pins and tweezers, a carved comb handle and worked bone offcuts (centre)

Projects 1997–98

Written reports of all fieldwork and consultancy projects are compiled for clients. In addition summaries of most fieldwork projects are contributed to regional newsletters such as CBA Newsletter (Wessex, West Midlands) and South Midlands Archaeology.

More detailed reports of many projects are also contributed to the relevant regional and national journals. Project summaries are also provided to County Sites and Monuments Records.

International Projects

Mayenne, France: Château de Mayenne – excavation and survey of the castle and post-excavation analysis

National Projects

English Heritage Bridges Survey – consultancy: cultural heritage assessment for English Heritage (Monuments Protection Programme)

Regional Projects

Swindon to Gloucester A417/A419 Roadscheme – watching briefs and post-excavation analysis: 35 separate sites along the route of the Swindon to Gloucester Roadscheme revealing multi-period activity from the Neolithic to the post-medieval period

The Ridgeway – consultancy: examining the management, access and interpretation of English Heritage features along the east and west Ridgeway in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire

Bedfordshire

Dunstable, Totternoe Road – evaluation: ridge and furrow and late Neolithic pit

Berkshire

Ascot, Round Barrow House – watching brief: standing Bronze Age round barrow

Bracknell Town Centre – consultancy: Cultural Heritage assessment of the potential impact of the redevelopment of the town centre

Brimpton, Lark Whistle Farm – post-excavation analysis: middle Iron Age settlement, report complete

Eton, King's Stable – excavation and post-excavation analysis: medieval urban deposits and features probably associated with Windsor bridge

Hungerford, Somerfield – consultancy: archaeological desktop assessment prior to evaluation

Lambourne, 34 High Street – building survey

Maidenhead, Spencer's Farm – evaluation: double moat and possible bank that may belong to the Norman manor house of Elinstone

Reading, Business Park – post-excavation analysis: extensive late Bronze Age settlement and associated activity

Reading, Little Lea Park – excavation: later Iron Age and Roman complex of enclosures

Reading, Marks and Spencer – evaluation, excavation and post-excavation analysis: medieval and post-medieval tenements, report complete

Reading, Oracle – excavation, watching brief, building survey and post-excavation assessment: deeply stratified urban archaeological site,

includes 13th-century stone hall, 16th-century tannery, 17th-century Oracle Workhouse and early 20th-century tram depot

Reading, Minster Mill – excavation: part of the Oracle project

Reading, Gas Pipeline – watching brief: medieval features associated with a farm

Shinfield, Church Lane – evaluation: post-medieval ditches and pits

Shinfield Environmental Assessment and Development – consultancy: a Cultural Heritage assessment prior to housing development

Thatcham, Northern Distributor Road – excavation and post-excavation: Roman settlement

Warfield, St Michael's Church – watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance

Buckinghamshire

Dorney, Eton Rowing Lake – 3rd season of excavation and post-excavation assessment: prehistoric wooden structures, Neolithic midden, Bronze Age barrows and Roman farmstead

Dorney, Lake End Road West – excavation and post-excavation assessment: part of Tranche 2 of the Environment Agency project; Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity and major Anglo-Saxon settlement

High Wycombe, All Saints Church – watching brief: post-medieval wall and buried vault

Langley Marish – consultancy regarding proposed alterations to church

Taplow, Amerden Lane – watching brief: part of Tranche 2 of the Environment Agency project; small Bronze Age settlement

Taplow, Marsh Lane, East and West – excavation and post-excavation assessment: part of Tranche 2 of the Environment Agency project; middle Bronze Age cremations and possible post building

Taplow, M4 Motorway Diversion – excavation and post-excavation assessment: part of Tranche 2 of the Environment Agency project; late Iron Age/Roman trackway and post structure.

Shenley Church End, St Mary's Church – evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance

Windsor, Old Windsor Flood Alleviation Scheme – watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance

Cambridgeshire

Cambridge, Fulbourn Hospital – post-excavation analysis: late Bronze Age enclosures

Devon

Bovey Tracey, The Park – consultancy: archaeological survey

Plymouth, Manadon – consultancy: desktop assessment of the grounds of a former country house on the outskirts of Plymouth

Dorset

A30/A35 – consultancy: for A30/A35 Roadscheme in Dorset and Devon

East Sussex

Rye, Camber Castle – post-excavation analysis: medieval and post-medieval Henrician coastal defence castle

Gloucestershire

Ermin Street 15 – excavation: part of Swindon to Gloucester A417/A419 Roadscheme, excavation across Roman road

Kempford, Roman Villa – evaluation: early Roman settlement

Lechlade, Cuthwine Place – excavation: late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditches, Iron Age pit and a 15th- or 16th-century pit

Lechlade, Butler's Field – editing of report on Anglo-Saxon cemetery

Lechlade, Little London – consultancy: archaeological desktop study prior to evaluation of a development site in an archaeologically rich area

Lydney, Harbour Road – evaluation: ridge and furrow

Shorncliffe Quarry – excavation and post-excavation analysis: prehistoric settlement and Roman ditches

Stonehouse, Bonds Mill – evaluation: ridge and furrow and post-medieval features including a quarry pit

Fairford, Thornhill Farm – post-excavation analysis: late Iron Age to Roman pastoral site

Hampshire

Hampshire Historic Landscape – consultancy: historical assessment of Hampshire

Hereford and Worcester

Broadway – excavation: post-medieval deposits including stone-lined culvert

Leintall Ears, Manor Farm – building appraisal: Grade II listed farmhouse

Humberside

Aldborough Gas Pipeline – consultancy: assessment of the Cultural Heritage implications of a pipeline

Brigg, Tesco – evaluation: undated ditches and post-medieval features associated with the rear plots of houses

Hertfordshire

Rickmansworth, Hampton Hall Farm – desktop assessment and building survey: canal-side granary and cottages

Watford, Abbots Langley, Leavesden Aerodrome – evaluation: late Iron Age activity and medieval quarry pits

Ireland

Belfast, Newtownards – consultancy: desktop archaeological assessment

Downpatrick – consultancy: archaeological assessment of the setting of the Mound of Down

Irish Towns – consultancy: a review of the urban archaeology of southern Ireland

Kent

A2 Swanscombe – consultancy and watching brief: for the widening of the A2 carriageway through Springhead Roman town. The watching brief revealed disturbed Roman deposits

Aylesford, White Horse Stone – evaluation: late Bronze Age and early Iron Age ditches and the remains of a possible Roman road

Boxley, Boxley Road – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: late Iron Age and early Roman boundary with scatters of Iron Age and Roman pottery. A medieval ditch and scatter of medieval pottery, associated with a farmstead

Chatham Dockyard – watching brief and building survey: survey of post-medieval concrete ship-building slipway

Chatham Dockyard – desktop assessment: site of Old Timber Yard

Chatham Wheelwright's Shop – building survey and evaluation: the survey and removal of numerous floor layers, the lowest of which was placed on timbers from an 18th-century warship

Cobham, Cobham Park Golf Course – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: middle and late Bronze Age activity and a mid to late Iron Age ditch

Cobham, West Scalers Hill – evaluation: Mesolithic flint, small late Iron Age/early Roman settlement

Dover Western Docks Station – consultancy: assessment of ‘technical significance’ of a 20th-century passenger walkway

East Farleigh – building survey: 19th-century pumphouse

Ebbsfleet – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: late Pleistocene deposits and Holocene sediments

Ebbsfleet Valley – consultancy: assessment prior to archaeological investigations

Ebbsfleet, ZR4 Pylon Relocation – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: Pleistocene sediments and Holocene colluviation

Harrietsham – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: Neolithic flints and medieval ditch

Hollingbourne M20, Snodland – post-excavation analysis: Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery with some post-medieval material

Kingsnorth Pipeline – consultancy: assessment of the Cultural Heritage implications of a gas pipeline

Lenham, Chapel Mill – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: Bronze Age pit

Lenham, Chilston Park – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: medieval and post-medieval field boundaries

Maidstone, Buckland Lane – evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance. No evidence for the Roman villa reputed to be nearby

Maidstone College and Palace – consultancy: assessment of the archaeological potential within the Archiepiscopal Palace

Northfleet, Springhead – post-excavation analysis: pipe trench through Roman small town

Sevenoaks, St Nicholas’ Church – post-excavation analysis: published article about post-medieval vaults and graves

Saltwood Tunnel – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: 1st- and 2nd-century Roman settlement

Singlewell, West of Church Road – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: prehistoric flints, Bronze Age pits and posthole, Anglo-Saxon finds

Springhead, Pepper Hill – excavation and watching brief: Roman cemetery

Sellindge, Station Road to Church Lane – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: Mesolithic flint, late Iron Age features and post-medieval boundaries

Waterloo Connection – evaluation: prehistoric flints, late Neolithic/Bronze Age ditches and late Iron Age/early Roman activity

Leicestershire

Leicester, Hamilton Tesco – evaluation: mid to late Iron Age occupation

London

Bexley Parks – consultancy: archaeological survey of Danson and Footscray London parks, prehistoric through to 18th century including a Roman settlement

College of Arms – excavation: Roman city wall

Croydon Tramlink – evaluation, excavation and watching brief: prehistoric to post-medieval sites

Dagenham, Ford Road – evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance

Ealing, 32 St Mary’s Road – evaluation: large post-medieval pit and ditch

Hampton Court Palace 9 – archive project: compiling a catalogue and database of finds and archives from all previous archaeological investigations at Hampton Court Palace

Hampton Court Palace 25 – evaluation of post-medieval deposits and structures (Close Bowling Alley) associated with Henry VIII’s occupation of the Palace

Hampton Court Palace 27 – building survey: roof of Great Hall

Highgate, St Michael’s Church – building appraisal: investigation of vault below nave

Hillingdon, Hayes, Comfort Inn – evaluation: remains of post-medieval building

263–275 Kennington Lane – consultancy: desktop assessment prior to the construction of a Tesco store

Kensington Palace, Council Chamber Roof – part of ongoing building survey

Kenwood House – building survey: 18th-century dairy

Kew Palace, Queen Charlotte’s Cottage – building survey and watching brief: survey of roof of 18th-century cottage; watching brief located remains of a 19th-century cistern or sewage chamber

27–28 Lincoln’s Inn Fields – watching brief: deposits post-dating 1700

Kingston upon Thames, 69–75 Clarence Street and 24–28 Fife Road – consultancy: desktop assessment prior to alterations in the historic centre of Kingston upon Thames

Kingston upon Thames, Kingston College Car Park – evaluation: modern structure and services

Kingston upon Thames, Mill Place – evaluation: palaeochannel and late Neolithic flint

Middle Temple Library – evaluation: disturbed deposits including plaster that may have come from an earlier building

Morden Hall Park – desktop and archaeological assessment for the National Trust

New River Head – consultancy: 17th–19th-century waterworks

Nottingham House, Neal Street, Covent Garden – watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance

Putney Bridge Road – evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance

Royal Chelsea Hospital – watching brief: further work on the possible remains of earlier college and drainage systems of the quad

Somerset House, Gilbert Collection – building survey: survey of the south and embankment wings prior to redevelopment and archaeological excavation

4 St James Square – building survey and watching brief: building dating to 1725 with later additions

Stratford Market Depot – post-excavation analysis: Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman and medieval activity and 18th/19th-century industrial activity

Tower of London 16 – archive project: compiling a catalogue and database of finds and archives from all previous archaeological investigations at the Tower of London

Tower of London 17 – evaluation and post-excavation analysis: continuation of large-scale evaluation of the tower moat and its environs

Tower of London 50 and 76, Irish Barracks and Curtain Wall – excavation and watching briefs: located in East Mint Street, 17th–19th-century barrack blocks

Tower of London, Wharf Wall – evaluation of the Wharf Wall of the Tower

Tower of London, White Tower – building survey: examination of historic floors and medieval roof drainage channels

Norfolk

Brettenham, Melford Meadows – post-excavation analysis: Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement, final editing of completed report

Northamptonshire

Brackley, St Peter’s Church – watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance

Canons Ashby – building survey and watching brief: National Trust post-medieval house

Crick, Main Road, Forte Posthouse – evaluation: ridge and furrow

Great Billing, High Street – evaluation: Pleistocene deposits, undated pits and post-medieval boundary ditches

Higham Ferrers, Kings Meadow Lane – post-excavation analysis: Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon occupation

Northampton, Derngate – post-excavation analysis: early medieval defences, quarries and domestic rubbish pits

Stanwick, Redlands Farm – post-excavation analysis: prehistoric remains and Roman villa and associated features

Sulgrave Manor – watching brief: undated field boundaries, a 17th-century stone-lined drain and a possible 19th-century courtyard

Wellingborough, Ditchford Causeway – watching brief: medieval or Roman causeway

Oxfordshire

A421 – post-excavation analysis: northern suburbs of the Roman town of Alchester

Abingdon Abbey – building survey: photogrammetric survey and archaeological analysis prior to repointing work

Abingdon Multiplex – evaluation: probable Neolithic long barrow and remains of possible Bronze Age round barrows and Beaker fragments

Abingdon Reservoir Proposal – series of evaluations: a variety of small settlements ranging in date from the Bronze Age to 4th-century Romano-British

Abingdon, 4–5 Vineyard – building survey: 19th-century maltings and offices

Abingdon Vineyard – post-excavation analysis: Iron Age to post-medieval occupation, final phase of recording action

Abingdon, Wyndyke Furlong – post-excavation analysis: Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlements with possible Saxon activity

Appleford Sidings, Sutton Courtenay – evaluation: possible Bronze Age cremation pits and Roman, medieval and post-medieval boundary ditches

Ashbury, Tower Hill – post-excavation analysis: Bronze Age transitional hilltop settlement with associated metalworking debris, including hoards of bronze axes

Bicester, Bicester Park, Unipart – evaluation: 2nd-century Roman settlement and undated ditches

Charlbury, Former Primary School – evaluation: modern soakaway

Drayton, Highways Depot – post-excavation analysis: prehistoric and Saxon settlement, report complete

Drayton, Purton Glebe Farm – post-excavation analysis: multi-period site including Neolithic cursus

Ducklington, Area North West of Gill Mill House – evaluation: Roman field system, occupation and Roman fording points

Eynsham Abbey – post-excavation analysis: Bronze Age features, Anglo-Saxon and medieval ecclesiastical complex

Fringford, The Paddock, Rectory Lane – evaluation, excavation and post-excavation analysis: Iron Age/Roman and Saxo-Norman ditches and enclosure. Ridge and furrow and three 13th-century stone structures. Post-medieval trackway

Garsington, Brewhouse – building survey and watching brief: post-medieval manorial industrial building

Goring, Thames Bank – evaluation: early to mid Anglo-Saxon ditch and the footings of a demolished post-medieval building

Henley, Bell Street – post-excavation analysis: Roman and medieval activity

Kidlington, Lock Crescent – post-excavation analysis: ?Neolithic enclosure and related ditches

Merton, Borrow Pit – post-excavation analysis: Bronze Age ring-ditches

Radley, Barrow Hills – final editing of report on Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex, and writing of report on Roman and Saxon occupation

Stanton Harcourt, Gravelly Guy – post-excavation analysis and editing: Iron Age and Roman settlement

Steeple Aston, Heyford Road – evaluation, excavation and post-excavation analysis: Roman and medieval ditches. Possible prehistoric pit and Roman inhumation

Wallingford Bypass – post-excavation analysis: late Bronze Age sites along route of bypass

West Oxford Sewer Project – watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance

Wantage, Mably Way – excavation and post-excavation analysis: two possible Roman ditches and post-medieval drainage ditches

Witney, Land West – consultancy: desktop assessment of development area

Witney, Mount House – post-excavation assessment and analysis: medieval moated bishop's palace

Witney, Witan Way – evaluation: post-medieval pit and postholes

Yarnton, Cresswell Field – post-excavation analysis: Iron Age to Anglo-Saxon activity

Yarnton, Flood Plain B – excavations and post-excavation analysis: prehistoric causeway and ditch, Neolithic pits, Bronze Age burnt mounds, late Bronze Age and early Iron Age settlement and Roman and medieval field boundaries

Yarnton, Worton Rectory Farm – post-excavation analysis: Iron Age to Anglo-Saxon occupation

City of Oxford

Blackbird Leys zone C – post-excavation analysis: Iron Age occupation and Roman pottery industry

Castle Mill Stream – watching brief: medieval timber platform and massive foundations

Eastgate Hotel, High Street – evaluation: post-medieval garden features

Exeter College – building survey: medieval college building

Lincoln College – watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance

Lincoln College – building assessment: medieval kitchen and roof

Littlemore Hospital – evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance

LMS Survey – building survey: archaeological investigation of the former LMS station

Magdalen School – consultancy: archaeological desktop assessment prior to development

Mansfield College – excavation: Roman activity

Nuffield Press – building survey, evaluation and watching briefs: part industrial survey (first phase of Morris Cowley) and part survey of probable post-medieval manor house wall with earlier features below

Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre: evaluation – ploughsoils with Iron Age and Roman finds

Oxford City UAD – consultancy: Urban Archaeological Database

Sackler Library – evaluations and excavation: Remains of substantial medieval walls indicating a high status secular building, possibly Beaumont Palace. The first sherd of middle Saxon Ipswich ware found in Oxford. Possible prehistoric ditch

Said Business School – watching brief: Victorian deposits associated with the railway station

Salter's Boatyard, Lock Cottage, Folly Bridge, Abingdon Road – evaluation and building survey: remains of 19th-century building

St Aldate's Church – consultancy: archaeological implications of proposed reordering of church

37a St Giles – evaluation: medieval pits associated with the rear of suburban burgage plots

64-66 St Thomas Street – evaluation, excavation and post-excavation analysis: remains of stone and cob-walled medieval and post-medieval buildings

Queen's College, Provost's Garden – evaluation: Saxo-Norman gravel surface and associated features. 13th- and 14th-century pits and post-medieval pits

University College, the hall, kitchen and buttery – building appraisal: assessment of the historic fabric of the college

Somerset

Compton Martin, Hazel Manor Farm – consultancy: desktop assessment of the archaeological heritage of a proposed forestry development area

Staffordshire

Rugeley Pipeline – consultancy: assessment of the archaeological implications of a gas pipeline

Suffolk

Ipswich, The Swan Inn Pub – building assessment: Grade II listed timber-framed building

Surrey

Guildford, Manor Farm – consultancy: desktop assessment of the former royal hunting lodge of Guildford

Penton, Hook Island Wetland – watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance

Wales

Swansea, 57-58 Wind Street – watching brief: modern deposits

Tondu Ironworks – consultancy: environmental assessment

Undy, Church Road – editing of report on medieval buildings and associated enclosure

Warwickshire

Alcester, Stratford Road – post-excavation analysis: editing of completed report on Roman suburban activity

Bedworth, George Street Tesco – watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance

M42, MSA Catherine de Barnes – consultancy: environmental assessment

Stoneleigh Abbey – watching brief and building survey: medieval and post-medieval building

Wiltshire

Avebury Garage – consultancy: desktop assessment prior to the construction of a hotel

Easton Grey Manor – building assessment: historical evaluation of certain features of the manor house

Latton Lands – excavation: prehistoric and Roman activity

Yorkshire

York, Fulford, Naburn Hospital – watching brief: Iron Age or Roman ditch, and ridge and furrow

Lectures and Broadcasts 1997-98

Tim Allen

The Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
9/4/97, South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group

The Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
26/4/97, CBA South Midlands Conference, Bedford Museum

The Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
8/5/97, Maidenhead Archaeological Society

The Neolithic and Bronze Age Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
10/5/97, Maidenhead Archaeological Society

Britons and Romans: the earliest town, and The growth of medieval Abingdon
7/6/97, Abingdon Day School with Vale of White Horse District Council

Historic Abingdon
26/6/97, Radio Oxford: Thames Valley Walk

The Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
30/6/97, Eton Wick Village Hall

Abingdon: the oldest town
4/7/97, Radio Thames Valley FM

The Eton Rowing Lake excavations
6/7/97, Radio Thames Valley FM

Tour of Eton Rowing Lake excavations
20/7/97, Lithic Studies Society

Recent discoveries at the Eton Rowing Lake
11/8/97, Radio Thames Valley FM

Eton Rowing Lake excavations
13/8/97, Hamilton TV

Tour of Eton Rowing Lake
13/8/97, Eton Wick History Group/Dorney Residents Association

Open Day at Eton Rowing Lake
17/8/97

Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
10/9/97, Eton Wick Village History Group

Tour of historic Abingdon
14/9/97, Civic Heritage Open Day

The Neolithic and Bronze Age Archaeology of Britain
29/9/97 - 16/3/98, WEA evening classes at Altwood School, Maidenhead (11 lectures)

Excavations in Abingdon
21/10/97, West Hannay History Society

The Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
19/11/97, Institute of Archaeology, London

The Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
29/11/97, Buckinghamshire Day School, Aylesbury

The medieval town
17/2/98, Rewley House lecture series: Medieval Oxfordshire

The Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
19/2/98, Abingdon Archaeological and Historical Society

The Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
7/3/98, Berkshire Day School, Reading

The Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lake
12/3/98, Farnham Common Society

Recent excavations in Abingdon
30/3/98, Cumnor Historical Society

Alistair Barclay

Ceramics: Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery workshop
6/5/97, Undergraduate Certificate in British Archaeology, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Organiser and discussant, Neolithic Studies Group, British Museum
10/11/97

Pathways to pastoralism: the cursus monuments of the Upper Thames valley (with G Hey)
10/11/97, Neolithic Studies Group, British Museum

Ceramics: Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery workshop
17/11/97, WEA evening class, Altwood School, Maidenhead

Christopher Bell

Yarnton, a 5,000 year old village
14/11/97, Richmond Archaeological Society
The Neolithic and Bronze Age Archaeology of Britain
29/9/97-22/3/98, WEA evening classes at Altwood School, Maidenhead

Paul Binkhorn

The trials of being a utensil: medieval pottery function at the deserted medieval village of West Cotton, Northants
16/5/97, Medieval Pottery Research Group, Worcester
Stranger in a strange land: middle Saxon Ipswich Ware
22/11/97, Pottery in the Making, British Museum
"All art is quite useless": the meaning of material culture in 14th and 15th-century north-western European art
17/12/97, Theoretical Archaeology Group, Bournemouth
Late Saxon pottery
16/2/98, Institute of Archaeology Seminar Series, Oxford

Paul Booth

Oxfordshire mortaria
27/9/97, seminar of Study Group for Roman Pottery at University of Birmingham
Introductory Course - Undergraduate Certificate in British Archaeology (8 weeks)
10/97-12/97, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Angela Boyle

A skeleton from Butlers Court, Aylesbury
7/5/97, Radio Fox FM
The analysis of the bones of St Chad
30/10/97, St Mary's Parish Church
The analysis of the bones of St Chad
6/3/98, Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire Archaeological Society
Later prehistoric burial practices
9/3/98, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education
Human bone - Diploma in Applied Archaeology
21/4/98, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education
Human bone - Diploma in Applied Archaeology
28/4/98, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Tess Durden

An introduction to lithics
10/11/97, WEA evening class, Altwood School, Maidenhead

Gill Hey

Archaeology of the Andes
10/4/97-12/6/97, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education
Yarnton: five thousand years in one village
10/9/97, IFA Conference
Archaeology of the Andes
5/11/97, Didcot and District Archaeological and Historical Society

Prehistoric landscapes at Yarnton
3/12/97, Undergraduate Certificate Course, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education
The Origins of the Village (Aspects of the Medieval Oxfordshire Landscape series)
27/1/98, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education
Yarnton and its Landscape
21/2/98, Anglo-Saxon settlement: recent work and new approaches conference, The McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge University
No rest for the dead: burials of the 1st millennium BC at Cusichaca, Department of Cuzco, Peru
13/3/98, Sainsbury Research Unit, University of East Anglia

David Jennings

Designing Archaeological Projects
19/11/97, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education
OAU and post-excavation
13/1/98, Reading University Archaeology students

Graham Keevill

Tower of London moat
12/4/97, BBC Southern Counties Radio live interview
Tower of London moat
14/4/97, BBC Greater Manchester Radio live interview
Tower of London moat
14/4/97, Kingston University site tour
Tower of London moat
10/5/97, Kent Archaeological Society
Tower of London moat
12/5/97, Tower Hamlets Conservation Area Advisory Group site visit
Guided walk round the gardens at Hampton Court Palace
17/5/97, Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society
Tower of London moat
3/6/97, Henley Archaeological Society
Tower of London moat
6/6/97, College of Estate Management site tour
Tower of London moat
9/7/97, Oxfordshire Historical Research and Detector Club
Tower of London moat
23/7/97, BBC Science Unit interview (subsequently broadcast on BBC Radio 5 Live)
Tower of London moat
7/8/97, English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service site visit
Archaeology of Medieval Palaces
16-21/8/97, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education Summer School
Tower of London moat
20/9/97, Congress of Independent Archaeologists annual conference
Tower of London moat
30/9/97, Pre-cast Stone Association annual meeting
Tower of London moat
3/11/97, Minster Lovell Historical Society
Tower of London moat
6/11/97, City of London Archaeological Society site visit
Tower of London moat
12/11/97, Royal Archaeological Institute, at the Society of Antiquaries of London
Tower of London moat
26/11/97, All Hallow's Barking, London

Tower of London moat
9/1/98, Wallingford Archaeological and Historical Society
Tower of London moat
24/1/98, Berkshire Archaeological Society
Tower of London moat
4/2/98, talk to children from St Paul's School, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower of London moat
10/2/98, talk to children from Hermitage School, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower of London moat
12/2/98, talk to children from St Paul's School, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower of London moat
24-26/2/98, talks to and site work by children from St Paul's and Hermitage Schools, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Attendance on Environment Agency river Thames boat journey and presentation
2/3/98
Tower of London moat
5/3/98, site visit by children from St Paul's School, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower of London moat
17/3/98, Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society
Tower of London moat
26/3/98, follow-up visit to St Paul's School, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower of London moat
31/3/98, follow-up visit to Hermitage School, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Rob Kinchin-Smith

The history and industrial archaeology of Tondur Ironworks
2/8/97, open lecture at the Environment Centre, Tondur
OAU and industrial archaeology
28/11/97, OAU seminar series, Janus House
Reading Mill Lane Bus Depot
7/4/98, radio broadcast on BBC Thames Valley FM
Reading Mill Lane Bus Depot
14/4/98, television broadcasts on BBC South Today and Newsroom Southeast

David Miles

Archaeology in Oxford
25/4/97, St Ebbe's Residents Committee
The story of the White Horse
2/5/97, Royal Military College of Science (Cranfield University)
25 years of Archaeology in Britain
7/6/97, Abingdon Guildhall
The Archaeology of Britain
10/6/97, Philips Exeter Academy
In Search of the White Horse
25/6/97, Chichester & District Archaeological Society
Arthur in Fact or Fiction
7-19/9/97, Oxford Smithonian Seminar
Induction Course
29/9/97-2/10/97, Oxford Diploma in Professional Archaeology
The Archaeology of York
10/10/97, Philips Exeter Academy
Church Archaeology
22/10/97, Ennemy, Belgium
The British Museum
26/10/97, Philips Exeter Academy
Design Build Finance and Operate: Road Schemes in Archaeology
29/10/97, Oxford Professional Courses
Life in the Roman Villa
4/11/97, Woodstock, Friends of County Museum
Britain's Earliest Town
6/11/97, The Friends of Abingdon

Tintagel / Glastonbury Tor
7-8/11/97, Philips Exeter Academy

In Search of the White Horse
-11/97, Eynsham Historical Group

Arthur in Fact and Fiction
13/11/97, Philips Exeter Academy

Designing Archaeological Projects
19/11/97, Oxford Professional Courses

In Search of the White Horse
-12/97, Cambridge Archaeological Society

The Work of the OAU
13/1/98, Reading University

The Nature of Archaeological Evidence
17/1/97, Educational Film, Eton

Later Prehistory Lectures
-2/98, Oxford University Diploma in Archaeology

Heritage Projects and the Lottery
18/2/98, Oxford Professional Courses

Writing for Archaeologists
2/3/98, Oxford Professional Courses

The White Horse,
28/3/98, BBC Radio 4

Archaeology in Oxford
9/4/98, Oxford Rotary Club

Andy Mudd

Swindon to Gloucester DBFO Roadscheme
27/10/97, Gloucester and District Archaeological Society

Swindon to Gloucester DBFO Roadscheme
28/11/97, Brimpsfield Parish Council

Swindon to Gloucester DBFO Roadscheme
19/1/98, Lechlade Historical Society

Julian Munby

Understanding Timber-framed Buildings
4/4/97, RICS Conservation course

Archaeology of the Local Built Environment
15/4/97, Clanfield Historical Society

Oxford Archaeology 16th-18th centuries
16/4/97, Oxford Guild of Guides

Recent Work on Medieval Oxford
22/4/97, Historical Association, Oxford Branch

Documentary Sources for Building History
28/4/97, Oxford Brookes

Health and Safety in Building Archaeology
1/5/97, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Recent discoveries in Oxford Buildings
12/5/97, West Oxford U3A

Medieval Technology and Carpentry: the waggon and the origins of the coach
15/5/97, Oxford University Medieval Archaeology Seminar

Oxford City Walls
22/5/97, SPAB conducted tour

Medieval Oxford tour
23/5/97, Oxford University Department of Continuing Education

People and Fields in Medieval Portchester
11/6/97, Oxford University Seminar in Social and Economic History 1000-1600

Oxford Colleges
21-25/7/97, course on Oxford Experience Summer School

Chastleton House tour
16/8/97, OAHs

Topography of the Medieval Town
2/9/97, Undergraduate Certificate Course, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Les Origines du Coches
26/9/97, Palais de Versailles, colloque 'Voitures, chevaux et attelages en Europe XVIe-XIXe siècles'

The 1899 Clarendon Quad Excavation
7/10/97, OAHs

The Origins of the Coach
27/10/97, Enstone Local History Circle

Tudor Oxford: Houses, Furniture and Decoration
11/11/97, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

The Oxford Almanack for 1757
11/12/97, Society of Antiquaries Miscellany

The Château de Mayenne
8/1/98, Society of Antiquaries

New Shipton Farm, Sutton Coldfield,
Archaeological Survey

21/1/98, Sutton Local History Research Group and West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust

Health and Safety in Buildings Archaeology
23/1/98, Rewley House, Oxford

Medieval Oxfordshire Landscape: The Origins of the Village
27/1/98, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Iffley Parsonage: an architectural history
7/2/98, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Documents and Buildings as Historical Evidence for Medieval Towns
28/2/98, Dorset Local History Group

Archaeology and Planning: PPG 16 and EAs
6/3/98, Greenwich University

Oxford: the Formation of the Street Plan
21/3/98, Ashmolean Museum, Planning Oxford

Past and Present

Oxford Buildings Tour
28/3/98, Dilettante Tours

David Score

The Oracle dig and careers in archaeology
26/3/98, Kendrick School, Reading

David Wilkinson

Archaeology and The Oracle development
8/8/97, Reading Pensioners Working Group

Archaeology and development at The Oracle
14/11/97, Reading Borough Council Planning Department

History and archaeology at The Oracle
25/11/97, The Fir Tree Club, Reading

Health and safety for archaeologists
(with J Allan)

22-23/1/98, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Archaeology at The Oracle
20/2/98, The Rotary Club of Reading Maiden Erlegh

Making it happen, coping with the unexpected: implementing the solution
6/2/98, Archaeology, Planning and Development conference, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Archaeology at The Oracle, new findings in 1997
7/3/98, Berkshire Archaeological Society Annual Day School

The Oracle Project
13/3/98, OAU Seminar Series

Principal site tours of The Oracle excavations:
9/5/97, Bracknell and Wokingham College

archaeology 'A' Level class

13/6/97, Hammerson PLC - International meeting

14/5/97, Berkshire Field Research Group

24-25/6/97, Kendrick School

30/6/97, Reading University archaeology department

16/7/97, Mayor and Councillors of Reading Borough Council

23/7/97, Reading Civic Society

16/8/97, Excavation open day (c. 2000 visitors)

18/8/97, Reading Museum staff

-11/97, Programme of visits from Reading Schools

21/10/97, Reading University extra-mural archaeology class

1/11/97, Reading Library staff

12-13/11/97, Reading University archaeology department

Bob Williams

The Archaeology of the A417/419 DBFO Roadscheme
10/7/97, Radio Gloucester

Engineering aspects of the Swindon-Gloucester DBFO Roadscheme
1/8/97, Rail Link - Rail Link Engineering

Swindon-Gloucester DBFO Roadscheme
11/9/97, IFA Annual Conference

The Archaeology of the A417/419 DBFO Roadscheme
29/10/97, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

From the Romans to DBFO
19/11/97, Institution of Civil Engineering

Surveyors

The Archaeology of Milton Keynes
29/11/97, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Publications 1997-98

Tim Allen

1997

Abingdon: West Central Redevelopment Area, *South Midlands Archaeology* 27, 47-54

(with G Hey and D Miles) A line of time: approaches to archaeology in the Upper and Middle Thames Valley, England, in *Riverine Archaeology* (ed. J Graham-Campbell) World Archaeology 29 (1), 114-129

(with K Welsh) Eton Rowing Lake, Dorney, Buckinghamshire. Second Interim Report, *South Midlands Archaeology* 27, 25-34

Alistair Barclay

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The Portal Dolmens of the North East Cotswolds: symbolism, architecture and the transformation of the earliest Neolithic, in *O Neolitico e as Orixes do Megalitismo* (ed. A Rodriguez Casal)

The Prehistoric Pottery and Fired Clay, in The excavations of two barrows at Merton, Oxfordshire (P Bradley, M Parsons and R Tyler) *Oxoniensis* 62, 64-68

Earlier prehistoric pottery, in A prehistoric-early Roman site near Lock Crescent, Kidlington (P Booth), *Oxoniensis* 62, 35

The Later Prehistoric Pottery, in Archaeological work at the Rover Plant Site, Cowley, Oxford (T Durden and G Keevill), *Oxoniensis* 62, 94-96

Late Bronze Age Pottery, in Archaeological Investigations on the Motorway Service Area, Junction 8, M20 at Eythorne Street, Hollingbourne, Kent (I Scott), *Archaeologia Cantiana*, 124-32

Christopher Bell

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An archaeological excavation on land adjacent to Snowy Fielder Way, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow, Middlesex, *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* 47, 35-60

(With G Keevill) The excavation of a trial trench across the moat at Hampton Court Palace, *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* 47, 145-156

Paul Blinkhorn

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(with C Cumberpatch, eds) *Not So Much a Pot, More a Way of Life. Recent Approaches to the Analysis of Material Culture*, Oxbow Monograph 83

Habitus, Cultural Identity and Anglo Saxon Pottery, in *Not So Much a Pot, More a Way of Life. Recent Approaches to the Analysis of Material Culture*, (eds P Blinkhorn and C G Cumberpatch) Oxbow Monograph 83, 113–124

(with A Woodward) Size is Important: Iron Age Vessel Capacities in Central and Southern England, in *Not So Much a Pot, More a Way of Life. Recent Approaches to the Analysis of Material Culture*, (eds P Blinkhorn and C G Cumberpatch) Oxbow Monograph 83, 153–162

Paul Booth

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Asthall, Oxfordshire: excavations in a Roman 'small town', Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph 9, Oxford

(with G Keevill) Settlement, sequence and structure: Romano-British stone-built roundhouses at Redlands Farm, Stanwick (Northants), and Alchester (Oxon.), in *From roundhouse to villa*, (eds R M and D E Friendship-Taylor), Lower Nene Archaeol Soc, 19–45

A prehistoric-early Roman site near Lock Crescent, Kidlington, *Oxoniensia* 62, 21–50

(with C Cropper and A Hardy) The Excavation of Iron Age and Medieval Features at Glympton Park, Oxfordshire, *Oxoniensia* 62, 101–108

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The regional archaeological setting of the Roman roadside settlement at Wilcote – a summary, in *The Romano-British roadside settlement at Wilcote, Oxfordshire II. Excavations 1993–96* (A R Hands), *Brit Archaeol Rep* (Brit Ser) 265, 9–20

Angela Boyle

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The human skeletal assemblage, in *Asthall, Oxfordshire: excavations in a Roman 'small town'* (P M Booth), Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph 9, 135–137, Oxford

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(with D Jennings, D Miles and S Palmer) *The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Butler's Field, Lechlade, Gloucestershire. Volume 1: Prehistoric and Roman Activity and Anglo-Saxon grave catalogue*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph 10, Oxford

(with G Keevill) 'To the praise of the dead, and anatomie': the analysis of post-medieval burials at St Nicholas, Sevenoaks, Kent in *Grave Concerns: death and burial in England, 1700–1850* (ed. M J Cox), CBA Research Report 113, York, 85–96

Philippa Bradley

1997

(with M Parsons and R Tyler) The excavations of two barrows at Merton, Oxfordshire, *Oxoniensia* 62, 51–86

Worked flint, in *Excavations at Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames 1993–1994* (C Moloney), *Oxoniensia* 62, 127–8

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Cecily Cropper

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Tess Durden

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(with G Keevill) Archaeological work at the Rover Plant site, Cowley, Oxford, *Oxoniensia* 62, 87–100

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Ben Ford

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Alan Hardy

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(with C Cropper and P Booth) The Excavation of Iron Age and Medieval Features at Glympton Park, Oxfordshire, *Oxoniensia* 62, 101–108

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1998

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Gill Hey

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Jonathan Hillier

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David Jennings

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Graham Keevill

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Julian Munby

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James (not John) Green (1729–59), Engraver to the University, *Oxoniensia* 62, 319–321

The Oxfordshire Archaeological Society Minute Books, *Oxoniensia* 62, 322–23

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Mark Roberts

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Ian Scott

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Nicola Scott

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Ric Tyler

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