

HBMC PX PROJECT

Half Year Progress Report 1987-8

Cholsey White Cross

The main work so far has been the detailed recording of the flints and the wood. The drawing has been started.

Analysis of the wood has been more rewarding (but also more time consuming) than expected. There is clear evidence of a high degree of species selection in the choice of structural timber (all oak) and rods (all except one hazel). About 50% of items in these categories are charred, unlike any of the branchwood, which again is represented by different species (blackthorn/cherry, alder, hawthorn/apple etc.; and ash). There is good evidence of a range of woodworking techniques and distinctions are possible between structural pieces and offcuts. The worked top of one of the in situ piles provides important evidence for the remarkably low height of the structure above water level, which has important implications for the interpretation of the structure and the contemporary hydrological conditions. Several axe marks have been recorded but relatively few provide complete blade end profiles and no distinctive individual tool signatures have been identified. Much of the wood report is now in draft.

The flints also proved interesting. A high proportion of the waste material is very crude rough waste and the "cores" are characteristically crude with numerous often unprepared platforms used for very few removals. Implement types proved difficult to isolate, many pieces being multi-purpose. Retouch was very crude. Differences in density and the character of the flintwork occur between different parts of the Bronze Age island, and between the island and the river channel. Microwear study by Andrew Brown has suggested an explanation of the denticulate types of flint.

In the remaining part of the financial year the pottery will be recorded and a draft report prepared, and further progress will be made on the drawings and with the small finds.

WALLINGFORD BY-PASS FIELDWALKING RESULTS 1985-6

WALLINGFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fieldwalking

A preliminary survey of the proposed route "C" of the Wallingford By-Pass has been carried out by a group of volunteers from the local archaeological society during the Autumns of 1985 and 1986. A "corridor" 90 m wide following the proposed mid-line of the road (see maps) through all the arable fields on the route was walked.

Summary of Finds

Field 0005A. SLADE END FARM. The OS map shows Roman coins found in this field but it has been infilled with rubble in one half and only 19th Century clay pipes and modern pottery was recorded.

Field 5255. BRADFORD BROOK/RAILWAY LINE. Two sherds of grey pot-rim:- Early Roman. Nine sherds of black coarse pot. Iron Age. Finds identified by David Miles.

Field 6200. GRIMS DITCH. Quantity of modern tile, pot and flint. The landowner informed us that crouched inhumation burials with iron spear heads had been found in the vicinity some 15 years ago during ploughing. The finds were not reported or kept. The field will be rewalked this year.

Field 0001. WINTERBROOK LANE. Circular cropmarks of probable Bronze Age barrows noted in this field. (Miles D. The Upper Thames Valley). Conditions for fieldwalking poor - no significant finds. Rewalk in 1987.

