



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Newsletter should send details before the last Tuesday of each month.

#### BICESTER, King's End Farm

Peter Briebrach reports that no further archaeological material has come up from this site currently being developed as a housing estate. It is envisaged that more of the Romano-British settlement will be revealed when the developers begin phase 2b of the housing scheme.

#### CHALGROVE

The area under excavation at Chalgrove is continuing to expand. The northern extension of the manor house mentioned in August's newsletter appears to be a crosswing inserted at its eastern end. This projects virtually up to the edge of the moat and attached to its northern end is the much sought after garderobe pit. As a result of this crosswing's construction the main hall of the manor building may have been shortened and to compensate for this it was expanded westwards. The central hearth also appears to have gone west as well in order to maintain its central position.

Projecting approximately from the middle of the northern side of the manor house is a narrow structure, which may have been of timber frame construction on dwarf stone walls. The main interest in this is its mortar floor which has produced the only 'in situ' decorated tile plus the impressions of a number of others laid in a diamond pattern.

The majority of the ground plan of the manor has been obtained and efforts are now concentrated on revealing the plans of the associated buildings to the south, the extent of the cobbled yard and any possible entrances across the moat.

#### GRAVEYARD SURVEYS

The Alvescot & Black Bourton Society have begun the survey of Alvescot & Black Bourton churchyards with a site meeting at which it was decided to draw up a plan of the graveyard before commencing to record the individual memorials. It was pointed out at the meeting that those people from the village mentioned on the War Memorial by the school were not mentioned in the burial register and likewise those buried in the Strict Baptist Chapel also near the school.

#### HARDWICK, Mingies Ditch

Excavations have now finished on the Iron Age site. The compound to the north of the site mentioned in the previous newsletter was not in fact related to the site but was a Roman drainage ditch cutting off a loop of the original course of Mingies Ditch. It is now thought that the entire Iron Age settlement has been uncovered and that it consisted only of the double ditched enclosure with the compound to the south.

An Open Day was held on Sunday 6 August which had as much rain but over twice as many visitors (550) as last year.

#### LANGFORD

Richard Chambers inspected a site east of the parish church at Langford where the proposed new village hall may be built. The area, which is at present under pasture appears to contain slight, badly eroded traces of house platforms or small paddock boundaries further back from the road along with a presumed

pre-enclosure period pond. The clearest earthworks belonged to the ditches of the 18th-19th century hedged field boundaries now partially cleared. Earthworks are still visible in the adjacent field to the south of the site.

#### NEW ROAD FROM OXFORD TO BIRMINGHAM (M40 EXTENSION)

The first of four contracts for the excavation of trial pits to examine the nature of the ground beneath the line of the proposed motorway extension in Oxfordshire has now been completed without producing any archaeological material. A second contract has now begun which involves the examination of the route between Waterstock and Wendlebury. So far no archaeological material has come to light from this second contract.

#### SHILTON

Mr G Fowler has undertaken to begin a comprehensive graveyard survey of the memorials at the parish church in Shilton.

#### SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

The second half of the development of the Mutton Lane housing estate is now well under way and all the footings have been dug, without revealing any further archaeological information. The site has now been bulldozed to such an extent that there is little point in continuing the watching brief.

#### CALENDAR

An Archaeological Workshop, sponsored by the Oxford University Department for External Studies, is being held at the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, 46 Hythe Bridge Street by T G Hassall MA FSA et al.

This course is intended for advanced students who have already attended tutorial courses in archaeology and the Department's Archaeological Certificate course. The aim of the course is to allow students to pursue their own individual research projects under the supervision of members of the staff of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. Applications in writing should be made to Mr T G Hassall, Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford.

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 p.m. 26 September, 1978

The Unit wishes to apologise for the delay in producing this month's newsletter due to technical problems.