

Anyone wishing to send contributions to the Newsletter should send copy to 3 Luther Terrace, Oxford (Tel. 43888) before the last Tuesday in each month.

### SURVEYS

Gravel Survey Tim Gates, of the Berkshire Committee, has been working on a survey of sites in Berkshire and he is including some sites in South Oxfordshire not covered in the Unit's survey.

Towns Survey Kirsty Rodwell, assisted by Mrs. E. Beard, is continuing to prepare the text and maps for the Survey.

Cumnor Hill By-pass Field walking, which has been directed by George Lambrick, is now complete. One site has produced interesting topographical evidence, which the O.U.A.S. is following up. Part of a Deserted Medieval Farmstead was located.

Plough Survey The South Midlands Archaeological Working Party (previously the South Midlands Archaeological Advisory Committee) has requested that the plough survey, to be carried out by George Lambrick, should initially take the form of a general feasibility survey to discover the problems and establish methods. The survey could then be used for either individual county surveys or on a multi-county basis.

### EXCAVATIONS

Ducklington By-pass An isolated 7th century burial group has been found. Work on this site, directed by Richard Chambers, is being hampered by a combination of the bad weather and the contractors. It is a cropmark site where Jeff Williams has found Romano-British material in the past.

Oxford, Hertford College, St. Helen's Passage. Brian Durham and the O.U.A.S. have excavated part of the outer town wall with a postern built into it, about 13 ft. below ground level.

Oxford, Wadham College Brian Durham has been looking for dating evidence for the building which John Blair, of the O.U.A.S., has discovered belongs to the buildings of the Austin Friars. It probably dates from the sixteenth century.

### PUBLICATION

Abingdon, Ashville Trading Estate, Marcham Lane. Michael Parrington has now moved from the Abingdon office in Broad Street to 3 Luther Terrace, Oxford, where he has started writing the report on the site. Martin Jones is working on the carbonised grain samples found on the site.

Abingdon, Barton Court Farm; Berinsfield, Wally Corner. Wendy Lee and Robin Spey are continuing on drawings and plans for the two sites. David Miles has been dating the material from Berinsfield and has found an increasing amount from the early fifth century, including reused Roman brooches and military metalwork. Elizabeth Crowfoot has been examining textile samples, which have been attached to the back of brooches, etc. She identified the garments of one woman as a fine wollen dress, a heavy woollen cloak and a linen shroud.

Crowmarsh, Grim's Ditch. Mark Robinson has completed his report on the snails from this site

Farmoor. George Lambrick is working on the drawings and plans of the excavation, which took place in July this year.

Oxford, St. Aldate's. Mark Robinson's report on the samples from this site is in progress.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Finds Recording. A system to co-ordinate and standardise the presentation of finds recording is being introduced by Diana Collins. A number of problems have been presented by members of the staff, although it is generally agreed that such a system will greatly assist report writing.

Environmental work. Bob Wilson has built up a collection of over twenty animal skeletons for reference purposes.

Finds from ARC Properties. Mr. Lawman, the Public Relations Manager from Gold Fields (the parent company of ARC), visited the Unit to discuss an exhibition they are staging on 'Finds from ARC Properties', which is to include a number of finds from the Berinsfield site.

Ashville Trading Estate Open Day. The Open Day on Sunday, 10 November, was a great success, attended by between three and five thousand people. We are very grateful for the enthusiastic help of the Abingdon and District Archaeological Society, who assisted with the organisation of the Open Day and sold refreshments to the visitors. Over £60 in donations was received. The excavation is now complete and the site has been backfilled.

York Visit. Peter Addyman and other members of the York Unit visited the Oxford Unit early in November. In particular, the environmental specialists from both Units found it useful to meet each other.

CALENDAR for December, January and February

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| Tuesday, 17 December                     | Unit Staff Meeting.   |
| Friday, 3 January -<br>Sunday, 5 January | Weekend conference on 'The Small Towns of Roman Britian', Rewley House. By ticket only.   |
| Thursday, 23 January                     | Richard Foster. 'Vernacular Architecture in the Vale of the White Horse'. O.A.H.S.  |
| Monday, 27 January                       | Dr. H. Taylor. 'The Present State of Study of Anglo-Saxon Churches', 8.15 pm., Ashmolean Museum, O.U.A.S.                                 |
| Tuesday, 28 January                      | Unit Staff Meeting.<br><br>George Lambrick and others. Excavations at Farmoor Reservoir and other Unit sites. 5.00 pm, Rewley House, 20p. |
| Tuesday, 25 February                     | Unit Staff Meeting.<br><br>Don Benson. Recording Processes. 5.00 pm. Rewley House, 20p.   |

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