

July 1976

Anyone wishing to send contributions to the Newsletter should send copy to 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EP (Tel. 43888) before the last Tuesday of each month.

ABINGDON - Barton Court Farm

The excavation on this site has been extended since last month to the south and south west. Further very late Roman ditches and Saxon sunken huts and pits have been located. Features are still being found and it is intended to machine dig further to the south and west to see if the features run through to the clay, or whether the features are solely in the gravel. One of the sunken huts has revealed 12 lead loom weights - this hut is the fourth on this site to have produced weaving equipment. Also a complete, decorated pot was found in one of the Saxon huts of the sixth century type. This is thought to be parallel to one from Osney.

Bob Wilson continues to compare animal bones taken from this site with those from the Ashville site.

The Open Day at Barton Court Farm on 4th July was attended by an estimated 1,000 people in spite of competition from other activities on that particular day within the Oxfordshire area.

ABINGDON - Ashville Trading Estate

Mike Parrington has now completed the draft of his part of the report and is just awaiting final specialist reports. Bob Wilson is still looking at the animal bone samples from the site and is at present undertaking a specific project on teeth and tooth wear of cattle jaws. Mark Robinson has been examining samples taken from the Bronze Age ditches and has found few snail species, typical of gravel. The Iron Age features have proved slightly more interesting in that they contain Swan Mussel - Britain's largest fresh-water bi-valve.

ABINGDON - Stert Street

The Abingdon Society, under the supervision of Mike Parrington are excavating on this site. They have removed all medieval deposits and now reached Roman features - buildings, ? houses. They hope to find further features in the present trench they are digging.

OXFORD - The Hamel

The Oxford University Archaeological Society in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit commenced work on this site at the beginning of the month. They have cleared out most of the medieval features and have only the alluvial and top soil to take off now. So far the excavations have not been very productive although Bronze Age features are known to be there. The excavation should be finished within the next two weeks or so.

OXFORD - Marks and Spencer Site

Substantial damage is being caused by machines on this site and it is not expected to recover many features.

SOUTHERN FEEDER GAS PIPELINE

The laying of the pipeline is being observed by Richard Chambers who reports that it is now moving northwards from East Ilsley in Berkshire. Access to the pipeline has been severely restricted following problems at an animal diseases research station at Compton in Berkshire.

OXFORDSHIRE PARISH SURVEY

Richard Chambers is organising a meeting of the members of this Parish Survey on Sunday 12th September.

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

9 August - 27 August and 4 September - 2 November	Exhibition of Oxfordshire Archaeology in Action - 'The Buried Past Today' - organised by the Oxfordshire County Council Department of Museum Services at 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford for the first three weeks and thereafter at the Oxford Museum
12 September	Meeting of members of the Oxfordshire Parish Survey, 2.15 p.m. at 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford.