

Making sense of the

PAST

Annual Review
1995-96

Oxford Archaeological Unit

Making sense of the **PAST**

The Oxford Archaeological Unit is an independent organisation, and is one of the largest archaeological practices in the country. The OAU is a registered charity and a limited company.

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About the OAU: introduction to the annual review

OAU was established in 1973 and has grown to be one of the largest archaeological practices in Britain, employing more than 70 people including field archaeologists, historic buildings and finds specialists, and a team of illustrators and computing personnel, as well as full-time administrative and management personnel. As an independent, well-respected organisation OAU can offer sound advice and expert services to both private and public sectors and has a reputation for innovative approaches.

The Unit is based in Oxford and has close links with the University. We are well-positioned to undertake projects throughout the UK and overseas while maintaining access to the specialist libraries and data sources of Oxford and London including the Bodleian and Ashmolean collections.

OAU offers a comprehensive range of archaeological and historical services which span the whole process of heritage management. These include the following categories, further information about which can be found throughout the annual review:

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

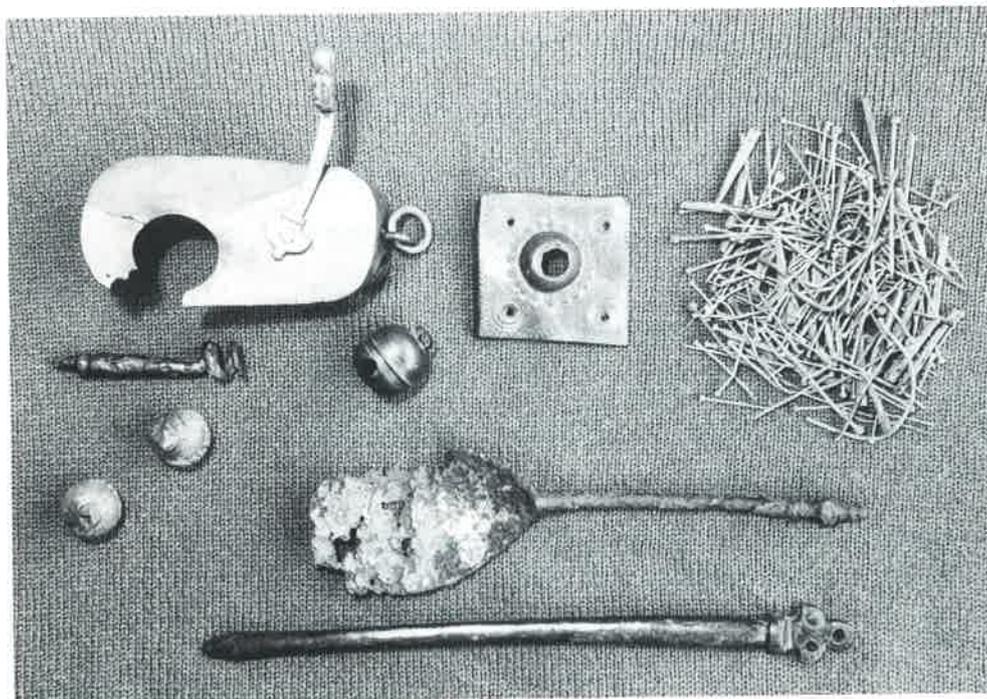
Specialist areas of OAU activity include development of strategic approaches to the historic environment, public inquiries and Scheduled Monument Consent cases, historical research and specialist input for environmental assessment. We are a Member of the Institute of Environmental Assessment and are developing methods of environmental auditing for the historic environment.

In addition to a large number of projects for the commercial sector, the Unit has conducted numerous English Heritage funded projects and also works closely with bodies such as the National Trust, Local Authorities, the local Nature Conservation Trust and Oxford Diocese.



Soil samples being processed through flotation machine to recover seeds and other environmental evidence

A complete medieval pot being examined in the finds section



Post-medieval metalwork from Camber Castle, Sussex, including a tinder box and musket wormer (top left) and a clock hand (bottom)

Director's report

This has been an exciting and productive year for the OAU. There have been major archaeological discoveries, our post-excavation programme continues effectively to tackle the publication backlog and a record number of archives and finds have been deposited with museums. We are also about to move, after twenty years in the Hythe Bridge Street offices.

Although the archaeological market is not generally buoyant the OAU has undertaken a record amount of fieldwork. We have concentrated, in particular, on winning large projects which require a high level of skill and experience and professional support. Major excavations include the Eton Rowing Lake (for Eton College) where Tim Allen, Ken Welsh and their team found a prehistoric channel of the Thames and possibly the earliest bridge across the river (Late Bronze Age). On the banks of this channel are superbly preserved Mesolithic and Neolithic sites where the debris of individual flint-knappers lies intact. Excavation will continue in 1996.

There have also been large-scale excavations at the Reading Business Park (for Prudential Assurance Ltd) where more of an extensive Bronze Age settlement was found alongside a stream channel. The *Sunday Times*, with slight exaggeration, dubbed this Britain's first housing estate.

Another major and unexpected discovery was in the moat of the Tower of London (for Historic Royal Palaces Agency). A superb stone structure is believed to be the remains of a newly-built gate which collapsed on 23rd April 1240. It was rumoured that the ghost of Thomas á Becket was to blame. Work will continue in 1996 on the moat as part of the Tower Environs Project.

The OAU's largest excavation project is the English Heritage funded research project at Yarnton. This work is taking place in the context of gravel extraction over 140 hectares by ARC which is giving us the opportunity to explore the development of an Upper Thames landscape from the earlier Neolithic until the medieval period; it is now the longest lived continuously occupied site we have ever found. Gill Hey has now carried out five seasons of investigation, which in 1995 concentrated on a Neolithic and early Bronze Age burial area and an early Iron Age occupation site. In conjunction with English Heritage's Archaeometry Branch we are exploring techniques, some experimental, for evaluating sites in floodplain areas – a topography which is increasingly being targeted for development but which resists many traditional methods such as air photography and geophysical survey.

In the latter part of the year the OAU expanded its numbers of staff considerably to tackle the A417/9 road scheme from North Wiltshire across the Cotswolds. The areas around Latton and Birdlip have proved to be particularly rich and near the latter a large Roman roadside settlement was uncovered on top of the Cotswolds. This is the first Design, Build, Finance and Operate road scheme, and has taught us a great deal about handling such operations.

Historic Building recording is another area in which OAU has expanded its activities. The implementation of PPG 15 has resulted in an increasing demand for our skills, and our staff has also expanded to include expertise in industrial archaeology. We have undertaken a substantial amount of recording at the Tower of London and Kensington Palace (for HRP). The most spectacular discovery, however, was in the Wheelwright's Shop in Chatham Dockyard, where the timbers of an 18th-century Man-of-War were laid out, like an Airfix kit, as a foundation for the floor.



Our work has increased in variety and also in geographical range. In Montserrat, West Indies we recorded the sites of sugar plantations on the island and investigated the plantation buildings and cemetery at the Trants Airport site. The project went onto the back burner due to 'seismic uncertainty' – in other words the volcano began to spew ash over Plymouth, the capital, and the surrounding area. There has since been a state of emergency and the future is uncertain as long as the volcano continues to rumble unpredictably. In Oman Ellen McAdam undertook a rapid survey of a proposed pipeline and OAU contributed to the Environmental Assessment (for Penspen). David Wilkinson also began a programme of excavation and survey at Ostia (the port of Rome) with Reading University and the Soprintendenza Archaeologica di Ostia.

The OAU attempts to maintain a high standard in its fieldwork, reports and archives. However, this requires that standards are agreed and instituted across the country, and in our experience this is not always the case. The danger is that increasing competition then leads to prices and standards being driven down. Another serious problem is the lack of suitable stores for excavated material. Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 promotes 'preservation by record'. There should, therefore, be somewhere to store these records securely and accessibly. In many parts of Britain there is no such place. Most alarmingly, London's archaeological storage facility may soon no longer be available for excavation archives. Nevertheless the OAU has continued to reduce substantially the material in its own temporary stores and to ensure that its archives meet the standards required by the best museums.

Publication is a primary obligation for archaeologists and usually their biggest problem. The OAU's Strategic Plan identifies the clearance of its publication backlog as a principal task. With English Heritage support this continues, now led by David Jennings since the departure of Dr Ellen McAdam for a post with English Heritage. Many reports have appeared this year notably the monograph on the prehistoric complex at Goring (for Thames Water) which includes a rare Upper Palaeolithic site, and the two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Berinsfield and Didcot.

One of the aims identified in the Strategic Plan is to re-unify the OAU on one site. After considerable effort to locate a suitable home this is about to happen. In the summer of 1996 we will move into the former Olivetti Factory at Unit 4, Osney Mead Industrial Estate. This will provide us with offices, labs and storage facilities in one building, improve communication and efficiency in the Unit, and consolidate our position as one of the best-equipped and staffed archaeological organisations in the country.



The Chateau of Mayenne, Pays de la Loire, France. The OAU has just won a major survey and excavation contract at this important Carolingian and medieval castle

Consultancy, environmental assessment and planning advice

Expert researchers at the OAU can research any site or project, and provide a desktop report tailored to the individual requirements of the client. The OAU is well-placed to take advantage of specialist libraries and reference collections in Oxford and London. For many sites, critical historical data on ground conditions (including potential contamination), previous structures and archaeological deposits can be collected before any on-site investigations begin. With OAU's wide extensive experience, assessment of possible risks and costs thus becomes easier – a major boon at this difficult 'unseen' stage of the project.

OAU is currently acting as consultant to Union Railways Ltd, on the cultural heritage implications of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. This has involved the development of an integrated approach to the assessment of the cultural heritage in relation to other environmental factors in both urban and rural settings. We have also contributed specialist cultural heritage studies and expert witness support for several road schemes, including the Birmingham Northern Relief Road for Midland Expressway Ltd and the A27 Worthing-Lancing improvements for Acer Consultants.

Other recent environmental assessment projects have included a major new reservoir proposal for Thames Water, a rowing course at Dorney for Eton College, a study of the Thames floodplain in the Oxford area for Thames NRA, possible new town and village schemes, forestry proposals, holiday villages, golf courses, landfill and mineral extraction developments, several motorway service area and superstore schemes and overseas projects, including gas and oil pipelines in Greece and Oman and an airport extension on Montserrat.

OAU's Deputy Director and Head of Consultancy has presented papers on the cultural heritage and environmental assessment to conferences organised by the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Institute of Field Archaeologists, and regularly contributes to various university heritage conservation courses.

One of OAU's regular services is to provide specialist planning advice and to prepare desk studies on the archaeological and historical implications of development proposals. These include superstores, waste disposal, mineral extraction, housing schemes and commercial development for clients such as Tesco Stores, ARC, Bovis Homes, British Rail Property Board and many others.

OAU has experience of providing expert witnesses for public inquiries dealing with local plans, planning applications, Scheduled Monument Consents, road schemes, listed building consents and rights of way disputes.

OAU has always played an important part in developing strategic approaches to archaeology and executing strategic approaches for conserving the heritage. Pioneering studies in the 1970s included mapping the archaeology of the Thames gravels, a study of Oxfordshire's historic towns and studies on the effects of ploughing on archaeological sites. In recent years the OAU has provided specialist input to the development of design guidelines for inter-urban roads for the DOT, and the development of approaches to historic landscape assessment for English Heritage.

Consultancy and environmental assessment in 1995–96

In 1995–96 OAU's consultancy team continued to provide support to a number of long-running projects. The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill continued to progress through the Commons Select Committee and OAU provided support to URL in considering issues raised in the Committee. We have also carried out a series of geoarchaeological assessments along the route.

The long running inquiry into the Birmingham Northern Relief Road finally came to an end, with OAU continuing to provide input considering objectors' alternatives. During the year we also completed a strategic archaeological assessment of the Thames Gateway for English Heritage and Kent and Essex County Councils. Our appraisal of areas of archaeological interest at Wolverhampton was also finished.

On the national scale, we completed our assessment of Dovecotes and Ice Houses for English Heritage's Monument Protection programme, and we drew up proposals for an assessment programme for bridges, starting in 1996/7. A major project, also now completed, was the rapid mapping of settlement pattern characteristics across England for the Countryside Commission's Landscape Character Mapping programme. The data was restructured, in collaboration with Birkbeck College, so that it could be integrated with other information compiled for the survey (run by Chris Blandford Associates). This involved the statistical manipulation of postcode data using GIS (a computerised geographical information system), and provided a different insight into settlement patterns. The technique deserves further development, using the historic land divisions represented by parishes as a framework for analysis, as was done for the first OAU study.

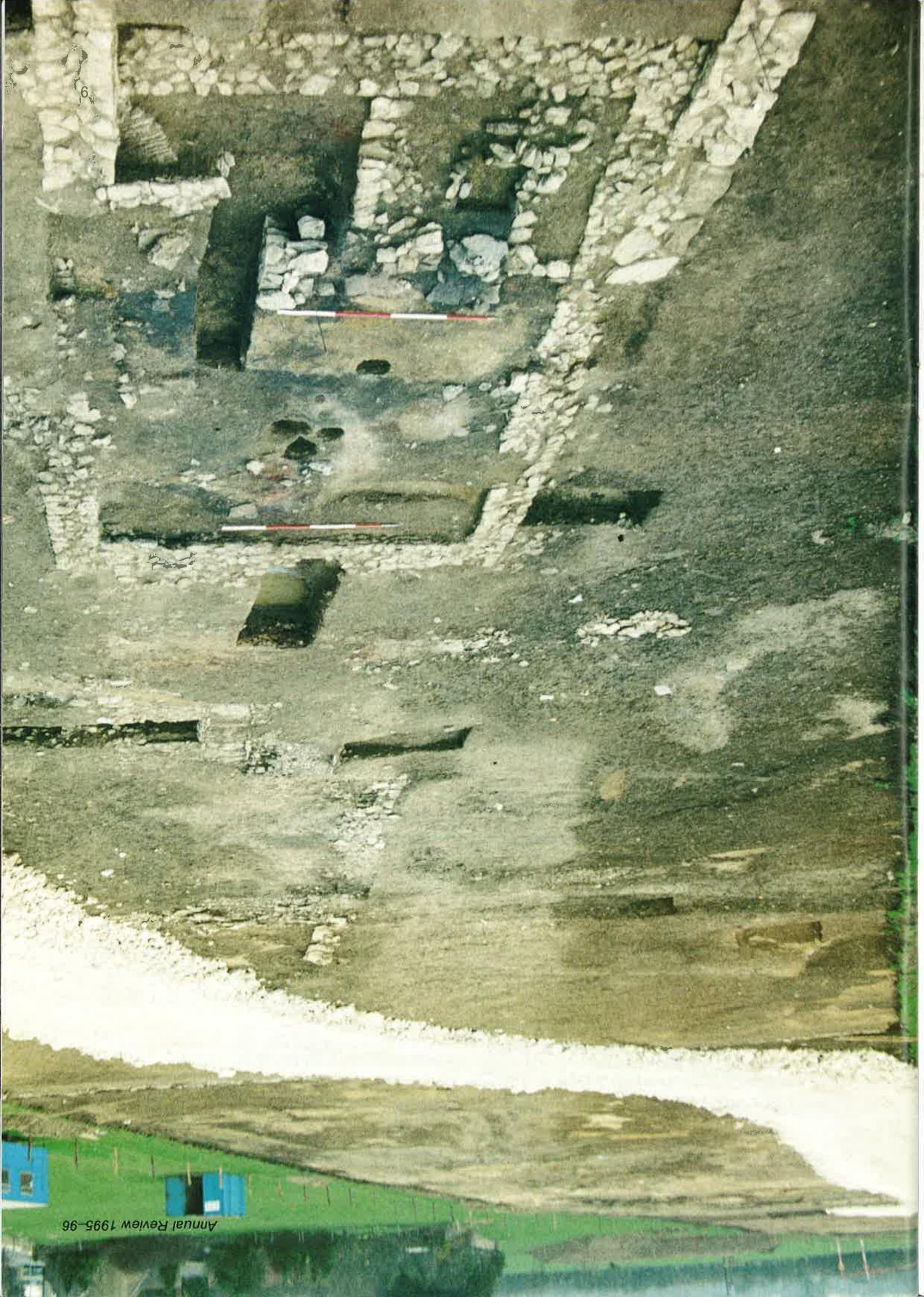
OAU has continued work on a series of motorway service area proposals, including schemes on the M6, M3 and M25. We also saw through to the mitigation stage the M20 Scheme which we began last year. Other road-related work has been relatively quiet, though OAU is advising Acer Environmental on the archaeological aspects of junction improvement on the A13 in East London.

The consultancy services of the unit continue to be in demand around the country for specialist input to Environmental Assessments and work this year has included assessments of quarry extension proposals in the Peak National Park, and of probably the largest farm woodland scheme in England, at Long Bredy in Dorset. Desk studies and specialist input to Environmental Assessments and planning applications has continued for various other superstore, landfill and housing schemes in Cambridgeshire, Berkshire, West Midlands and elsewhere.

In Oxford City OAU has completed a detailed desk study of Oxford Castle for the County Council and has continued to act as archaeological consultants for the major developments proposed on Railtrack land which affect the site of Rewley Abbey and the listed LMS station building. Across the chiese wall OAU continues to provide Oxford City and Oxford Diocese with archaeological advice on planning and church developments respectively (see separate reports).

Facing page:

Excavations on the A417 / A419 road scheme (see page 18). The stone foundations are those of a late medieval bakehouse or brewhouse on the edge of Latton Village



Field survey and evaluation

The Oxford Archaeological Unit has been among the pioneers of the recent trend towards assessments and evaluations of archaeological remains to assist 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 we are familiar with many museums and County Sites and Monuments records.
- ◆ OAU provides a service of ensuring that project designs meet the requirements of the relevant County Archaeological Officer prior to work being carried out, and will make suitable arrangements, subject to landowners agreement, to deposit the archive and finds with the relevant museum at the earliest opportunity.
- ◆ OAU's field evaluations include surface collection, geophysical and earthwork surveys using computerised plotting of results from integrated databases. Excavation trenching is carried out efficiently with careful recording of all key information.
- ◆ OAU's field evaluations are often integrated into Environmental Assessments or Planning Applications, and cover developments of all types and sizes, from small building extensions in sensitive areas to major extensive developments covering several square kilometres, or in the case of pipelines, roads and railways, many kilometres long.
- ◆ With information gained from evaluation, OAU can advise on how best to preserve archaeology in situ. This is the recommended solution according to government planning guidelines, and can often be achieved through minor design adjustment.
- ◆ When design adjustment is not the answer, OAU can provide a full excavation and post-excavation service to record archaeology before development – see page 14 and 24 for details.

Field evaluation in 1995-96

Unlocking the Tower of London – the moat evaluation

One of the OAU's most important and high-profile evaluations of the past year has been in the moat around the Tower of London. As the millennium approaches, the Historic Royal Palaces Agency is seeking ways to give visitors a better general appreciation of the site, and this plan might include re-flooding the moat. We have been studying its archaeology to help determine the feasibility of such a scheme. Our work has included geophysical and ground radar surveys as well as trial trenches, and some of the results have been startling.

Much is already known about the moat's history – the massive ditch was dug in the late 13th century as part of a major enlargement of the defences under Edward I. Various buildings have existed within the moat over the centuries, but how well do they survive below today's carefully nurtured turf? A bridge or causeway which had spanned the south-east corner of the moat since Edward I's time was demolished in 1680, but a more dramatic fate befell a Victorian bastion in the north moat: it took a direct hit from a Luftwaffe bomb in 1940, and was subsequently demolished.

The trench dug in 1995 quickly located Edward I's Iron Gate causeway 1.8 m below ground in very good condition. We hope to open up a larger area in 1996 to examine the structure in more detail. The Victorian bastion lay much closer to the surface: indeed, parts of its masonry were barely covered by the turf. It had also produced a very strong response in the geophysical survey, and we can be sure that the walls continue for a long way down into the moat.

One discovery in the evaluation was completely unexpected, and very exciting. A massive wall was found at the bottom of the western arm of the moat, sealed by nearly 3 m of silt and rubble. The character of the masonry suggests that it belongs to the reign of Henry III, well before the moat itself was dug out. What have we found? This puzzle will exercise our minds for some time to come, but the 13th-century chronicler Matthew Paris vividly describes the collapse of a newly-built gate on 23 April 1240, with a similar catastrophe exactly one year later. Stones rarely speak to us so directly, but we hope to see much more of our new structure in further excavations this year; perhaps we have found part of Henry III's lost gate or barbican.



Our work for HRPAs this year has extended well beyond the Tower moat. See elsewhere in this review for the extensive and impressive building surveys carried out at the Tower, Hampton Court and Kensington Palace, and the Tower archives project established last year has continued. A similar project has started at Hampton Court Palace, while fieldwork there consisted of small-scale excavations for engineering projects. Once again more work has taken place at the Tower, with a small but important excavation on the Wharf and several watching briefs. A report describing most of our work at the Tower from 1993 to 1995 should be published in the *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* during 1996.

Yarmton, Oxfordshire –
this aerial view shows the numerous
trenches of a major rural evaluation –
see page 15
(Photo © RCHM)



The two projects on this page were undertaken as part of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link programme, and were funded by Union Railways.

Tollgate cropmark complex, Gravesend, Kent

Only two or three Neolithic mortuary enclosures or long barrows have been found in Kent, so the opportunity to examine a probable example of such a monument at Tollgate was very welcome – it was known to exist from the evidence of air photographs. The enclosure, in a once prominent position on the false crest above a dry valley, had been heavily ploughed so that it was impossible to tell whether a long barrow mound once existed, but the surviving ditches were sampled. Snail shells, which can be a useful indicator of prevailing ground conditions, showed that woodland reclaimed the area following the monument's abandonment.

Three thousand centuries ago: Palaeoliths and the Pleistocene at Purfleet, Essex

Some evaluations call for innovative approaches, as was the case at the internationally important Palaeolithic site at Purfleet, which lies on the proposed route of the Channel Tunnel Rail link. The work consisted of box-shored pits which were taken down to a depth of 3 m through the sands and gravels. Material from each 0.25 m of the sequence was hand-sorted and sieved, and the sediments were recorded and sampled for environmental evidence, in conjunction with a programme of boreholes.

The results fully justified the careful approach, and a considerable number of Palaeolithic flint artefacts were recovered, including bifacial hand-axes. These are multi-purpose implements which could be used for butchering, smashing, scraping and cutting; they are typical of the lower Palaeolithic period, c. 500,000 – 30,000 years ago. The flints were found in a deposit which had eroded out of a chalk cliff. This cliff had formed the southern edge of an ancient channel of the Thames, and sediments at the edge of the channel contained further flint artefacts. Pollen analysis showed that a temperate climate prevailed, in a period between two glaciations which is thought to date to about 300,000 years ago. The area was then one of mixed deciduous woodland.



Excavations and research

OAU has a policy of ensuring that all its major projects reflect national and local research priorities. It has been at the forefront of such research, including analysis of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon society, settlement pattern and economy, and the archaeology of river floodplains and early prehistoric ceremonial complexes.

- ◆ Current and recent major excavation projects include a Neolithic long barrow and Roman villa at Stanwick, Northants (for ARC in advance of gravel extraction); a major Iron Age and Roman settlement and monastic site at Abingdon prior to an office development (for Vale of White Horse District Council); an Anglo-Saxon and medieval abbey at Eynsham (for English Heritage); multi-disciplinary documentary, survey and excavation studies of well known national monuments at the Rollright Stones and Uffington White Horse (for English Heritage) – see also below for details of 1995-96 projects.

- ◆ OAU has unequalled experience of landscape investigation on the Thames floodplain and terraces – see below for details of the Yarnton and Eton Rowing Lake projects. Extensive excavation work has also just begun on the Maidenhead flood relief scheme, for the Environment Agency.

- ◆ A long-running series of excavations in the centre and suburbs of Oxford remains fundamental to the unit's activities. This year the work will take on a different slant as we begin a survey of Oxford's archaeology, funded by English Heritage and Oxford City Council, and utilising three-dimensional computer modelling. We have previously carried out surveys of Dover, Wolverhampton and of a number of Oxfordshire towns.

- ◆ Other recent urban excavations include sites on the Jubilee Line Extension in London (for London Underground Limited) and work in Abingdon, Bicester, Shrewsbury, Cirencester, Dover, Reading, Hereford and Bridgenorth.

Excavation in 1995–96

The Yarnton–Cassington Archaeological project

Over the summer of 1995 we undertook our fifth major excavation season in the ARC gravel–extraction pit at Yarnton, with funding provided by English Heritage. In past years we have uncovered an extraordinary range of archaeological sites in this area, but the evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age domestic activity (from around 3750 BC) is particularly unusual. This has survived on the Yarnton floodplain because it was buried beneath successive flood silts of the river Thames. One of the aims of last season's fieldwork was to examine a contemporary burial site, and a Neolithic rectangular enclosure was exposed which had been sited within a grazed clearing in woodland. It had probably once been 65 m long by 25 m wide, but its eastern end had already been quarried away. Neolithic workers probably excavated the ditch as a single operation, with an entrance in the centre of the southern side and a bank inside the ditch. The function of the enclosure was not immediately evident, but similar enclosures excavated elsewhere (for example by Professor Atkinson at Dorchester on Thames) show that these features were associated with burial practices, including exposure of the dead, and suggest that they are related to small enclosures which are sometimes found beneath Neolithic long barrows. We hope that analysis of the results of magnetic susceptibility and phosphate surveys undertaken over the interior may shed some light on this issue. Recutting of the enclosure ditch, and the positioning of posts within it, took place in the later Neolithic.

The most striking aspect of this site was its use for burial and special activities from the time of its construction until the middle Bronze Age. Other parts of Yarnton floodplain are dotted with pits and postholes of a domestic nature, but the only features found in this area were burials or pits containing 'special' deposits (for example a pit lined with sherds from a decorated pottery vessel), many of which contained cremated human bone. A cremation deposit was found within the centre of the enclosure and an inhumation lay to the west of the entrance. Twenty metres north of the enclosure lay a Beaker grave which contained the crouched body of a man. With him was a very fine Beaker vessel which held a smaller and cruder Beaker and a flint scraper. Six barbed–and–tanged arrowheads were found beneath his hip, originally within a pouch. An inhumation lay in the top of the enclosure ditch and seven other cremations were found.

In the late Bronze Age the site seems to have lost its special status and two small settlement sites were located here, comprising single, circular post-built structures surrounded by a scatter of pits. At around this time (c 800 BC) the water table was rising and soon afterwards the floodplain was abandoned for habitation.

The other aim of the 1995 field season was to examine the earliest part of a small village–like settlement which was established on the nearby higher gravel terrace, possibly as a response to the abandonment of the floodplain. Here, on Cresswell Field, we recovered the much more substantial remains of late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age occupation, including the remains of circular, post–built structures, gullies and fence lines and numerous pits, including deep grain storage pits. The well–preserved artefacts included a complete iron adze head and part of a jet earring. Some 'ritual' features were found, consisting of deliberately–placed deposits, including a human skull, whole and partial animal burials and a deposit of smashed, highly decorated pots.

However carefully evaluations are undertaken, archaeology has a knack of turning up surprises. The presence on Cresswell Field of a small U–shaped enclosure of Neolithic date was completely unsuspected. A deep, probably Beaker, grave discovered in the open end of the enclosure contained the body of a woman buried in a wooden coffin. An infant burial lay in a pit adjacent to it and an adult inhumation was found nearby. Equally unexpected was the presence of Anglo–Saxon occupation with a timber hall, fence lines, three sunken–featured buildings and two large, ditched enclosures. Finds included weaving equipment, but only one sherd of Anglo–Saxon pottery.



A corner of the enclosure during excavation



Cleaning the burial within the Neolithic long enclosure

Bronze Age residents of Berkshire: phase II excavations at the Reading Business Park

The first phase of excavation at Reading Business Park was published by OAU in 1992. Further excavations in 1995 comprised two areas within the course of a proposed flood relief channel. Work began in late August 1995 and was funded by Prudential Assurance Limited.

The first phase excavations uncovered part of an extensive late Bronze Age settlement (c 1200–700 BC). In the second phase investigations we aimed to define the full limit of the settlement, and investigate late Bronze Age activity further to the north.

The two phases of excavation at Reading have identified one of the best examples of a late Bronze Age settlement in southern England. The planned and well-organized nature of the site suggests a sustained period of permanent occupation. Houses and other structures occupied an area close to a stream course that bounded the settlement to the north, with domestic pits sited close behind them to the south-east. An alignment of large pits was below the water table in an area south of the hut circles, and may be evidence of flax-retting; four-poster structures to the south-east are probably granaries. Waterholes were identified across the site, including one adjacent to the stream course, which suggests that the stream alone did not provide sufficient water to the settlement.

A burnt mound just to the south of the stream course was one of the surprise finds of the second phase excavations; it was made of large quantities of fire-cracked flint mixed with earth and charcoal. Burnt mound deposits are more commonly found in the Midlands or on upland sites but recent excavations within the Thames and Kennet valleys show a more widespread distribution. A definitive interpretation for burnt mounds remains elusive, although researchers favour two theories based on ethnographic parallels, namely middens created by the debris from either sauna or feasting sites. The mound at Reading is at least 85 m long and 12 m wide, probably the largest example of a burnt mound to date. The uncharacteristic length of the mound could suggest a gradual shift over time along the edge of the stream course.



Little Bronze Age activity was identified during excavations north of the settlement. However, a small segmented ring ditch was found close to an area which produced a large quantity of Neolithic pits. This ring ditch would probably have had an enclosing bank with one or more entrances and could have been used as an arena for a range of ceremonial activities. The ditch segments contained a number of deposits of later Neolithic material including worked and burnt flint, antler and cremated bone.

The Reading ring ditch belongs to a well known group of monuments named after the type site at Dorchester-on-Thames, of which the most famous is the first phase of Stonehenge. This type of ring ditch frequently occurs alongside cursus monuments and has a general distribution across much of southern England. The chronological development of these ring ditches places them between causewayed enclosures and henge monuments, towards the end of the middle Neolithic (c 3250–2570 BC).

Excavation of a middle Bronze Age cremation urn

Oxford: long-ago life on the Leys

Evaluation on the line of the new peripheral route at Grenoble Road, Blackbird Leys produced unexpected results, in the shape of a middle Bronze Age to late Iron Age settlement. Due to time pressure, an excavation began immediately, and 3,300 square metres of the site was stripped and recorded within two weeks. The work was funded by Oxford City Council

The site is on the north slope of a clay hill spur to the south of Blackbird Leys. The presence of an Iron Age settlement on clay geology changes our perception of the settlement pattern around Oxford which has been dominated by sites on the river gravels.

On the eastern side of the site there were a few Bronze Age pits and postholes, one of which contained a large cylindrical loomweight. Very unusually, the loomweight was decorated with lines made by a round-toothed comb, which is normally only found on early or middle Bronze Age pottery.



King's Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers, Northants

Between October and November 1995, a large-scale excavation was undertaken for the Duchy of Lancaster on a 42 ha site just north of the town of Higham Ferrers. The site's potential had been suggested by air photographs, and was subsequently confirmed by field evaluation, and magnetometer and surface collection surveys.

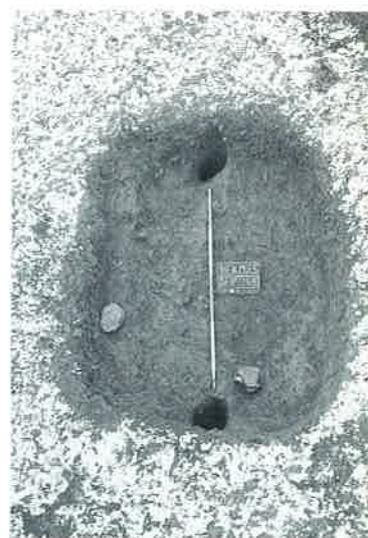
The first principal element of the site was a discrete Iron Age settlement. This contained a multi-phased rectangular ditched enclosure typical of middle Iron Age settlements in central England. At least two circular structures were found, one of which was trench-built and surrounded by its own enclosure ditch. The large area enclosed makes this a relatively rare structure.

The other major element was an Anglo-Saxon site, which is unusual in that its occupation spans the entire Anglo-Saxon period. It included a large open-ended oval ditched enclosure over 100 m across – on the basis of preliminary analysis the ditch dates to the early to middle Anglo-Saxon period (c AD 500 – 900). Few features from this period were located inside the enclosure, and it may have been used as a stock enclosure rather than, as had originally been thought, enclosing a high-status building. The entrance to the enclosure was shown to have been blocked by a later ditch, a feature not evident from the air photographs.

Two separate settlement areas were investigated. To the north-west of the oval enclosure four sunken-featured buildings were excavated, probably of early Anglo-Saxon date, together with a range of pits and possible post-built structures. Slight traces of post holes were extremely difficult to see in the ironstone geology.

The second settlement area overlapped the south end of the oval enclosure; it was covered with postholes of middle to late Anglo-Saxon date which formed what is currently interpreted as two large overlapping timber halls. A sequence of shallow gullies forming a pattern of rectangles overlay the timber halls, and these are thought to be the rear tenement boundaries of late Anglo-Saxon and possibly medieval houses.

The Anglo-Saxon settlements follow the pattern found at similar sites where it has been shown that the nuclei tend to shift through time. However, Higham Ferrers is fairly untypical of other sites in the area due to the presence of the large oval enclosure ditch and the quality and the types of the pottery that were found. This is especially true of the assemblages from the early to middle Anglo-Saxon period which are usually characteristic of high status sites.



Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building

Cutting a swathe in the Cotswolds – the A417 / A419 Road Scheme

In February 1996 OAU began excavations on a series of sites along a new 25 km major dual carriageway improving the road between Swindon and Gloucester. This includes by-passes for Latton in North Wiltshire, and Cirencester and Stratton in Gloucestershire. Much of the route, both south and north of Cirencester follows the Roman road, Ermine Street. The archaeological work forms part of the Design Build Finance and Operate scheme, by which a private sector consortium (Road Management Group) is undertaking the construction and operational maintenance of a government road scheme as part of the government's Private Finance Initiative. OAU is subcontracted to the main environmental consultants, Chris Blandford Associates, who in turn are contracted to provide the archaeological services by the joint venture construction company. The project is the first big archaeological scheme of this type where the private sector consortium is responsible for the archaeology as well as all the construction. As such it is very much seen as a test case.

The archaeological interest of the scheme can be divided into a series of themes, which are being explored through about 40 excavations and "strip and record" type investigations coupled with a general watching brief. The scheme as a whole represents a transect from the top of the Cotswolds down into the Thames valley, and one of the interesting questions is to consider how settlement and landuse varied across this transect through time. The excavations have already picked up a number of earlier prehistoric pits (usually in areas where they were not expected). These indicate domestic activity of Neolithic or Bronze Age date away from known monuments, and as such are a significant new insight into activity of this period on the Cotswolds. Two Bronze Age ring ditches have been excavated in association with a pattern of rather irregular segmented ditches which appear to form part of a field system, again a probable first for the Cotswolds. A series of Iron Age enclosures, apparently crossed by Ermine street, are of particular interest in relation to the nearby late Iron Age *oppidum* at Bagendon.

Roman sites are sparse, but relatively unusual. At the northern end of the road scheme at Birdlip there is a large late Roman settlement immediately next to Ermine Street which includes traces of circular stone buildings and other walls, cobble spreads, areas of intense burning, workshop or house gullies, wells, ditches and a corn drier. The character of this site and its proximity to Ermine Street make it unusual for the area and its detailed interpretation will have to await completion of excavation and analysis of the prolific finds.

Ancient roads and road building is another theme of the project. Already areas of extensive rutting and traces of metalling have been found spreading well to the side of the Roman road, possibly reflecting medieval and later use after maintenance of the Roman road surfaces had declined and before the 18th-century turnpiking resulted in the first round of private sector finance for improvement of this road. A ubiquitous feature of Ermine street is the proliferation of roadside quarries – some can be identified as Roman where they have not been cut away by later quarrying.

Finally, we wish to investigate environmental change. This includes the investigation of colluvial (hillwash) deposits in dry valleys on the upper parts of the route and alluvial and peat deposits in the Churn valley, both north of Cirencester and at Latton.

Overall, even if many of the excavations have not turned out quite as expected from the evaluation work, the broad themes and aims proposed before work began have proved to be both interesting and attainable, and it is expected that the project will meet most of its archaeological objectives.



The Eton Rowing Lake Project: the earliest bridge over the Thames?

Between July and September 1995 the evaluation of this 150 hectare development was completed, and the first season of excavation was carried out with the help of more than 120 volunteers from British and foreign universities, schools and local archaeological societies.

The most significant discovery was a former channel of the river Thames. Several phases of channel and bank have been preserved as the river changed course between the Neolithic (c 4000 BC) and the Roman period (400 AD). Within excavation Area 1 the earliest phase contained the remains of a beaver lodge (and the beaver itself!), mixed with pottery and struck flint. Elsewhere prehistoric man often made use of timbers felled by beavers, and our timbers are being examined for similar evidence.

On the floodplain adjacent to the river thirteen flint knapping areas have been preserved *in situ*, buried beneath later flood silts. The largest of these contains numerous rough-outs for leaf-shaped arrowheads, probably indicating a manufacturing area of early Neolithic date (3500–3000 BC). Further from the river the pottery and flint is early Bronze Age (1000 years later), and the arrowheads are barbed-and-tanged.

In the later phases of the former Thames channel four waterlogged timber structures have been found. In Area 3 two of these, which lay adjacent to one another, were excavated. The earlier consisted of timber abutments on opposite banks of the channel constructed of oak uprights up to half a metre in diameter, which are radiocarbon dated to between 1500 and 1200 BC.

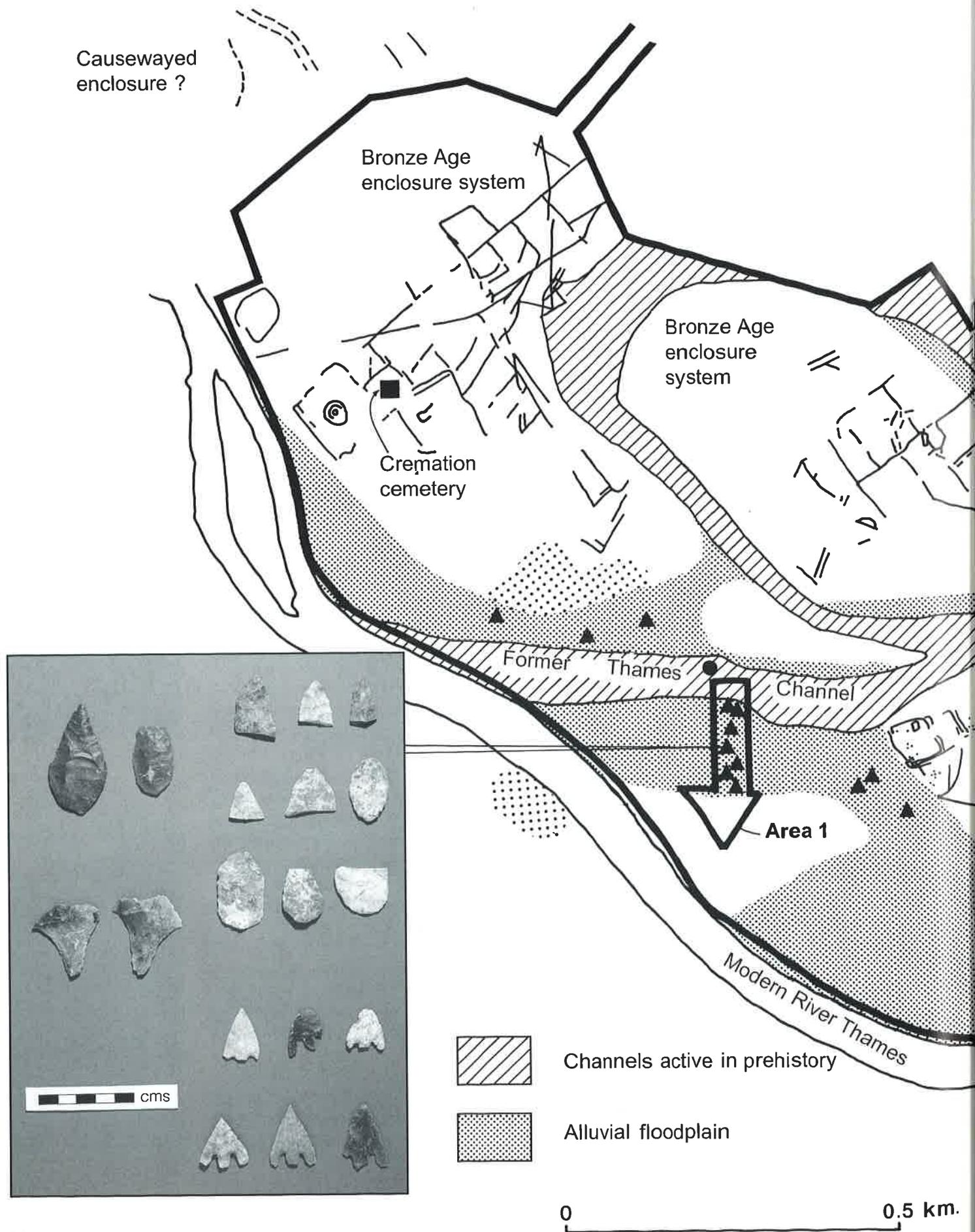
Alongside, two paired lines of uprights spaced at 3 m intervals ran for 30 m across the river. These are interpreted as supports for a bridge some 2 m wide. The uprights were of coppiced oak roundwood, and are radiocarbon dated to between 800 and 400 BC. A wattle hurdle and human bones were found adjacent to the 'bridge', which may therefore have been used as a platform to deposit offerings in the river.

Roman deposits have also been found in the latest levels of the former channel, including a complete bowl by the channel edge, and the wooden side of a possible cart.

Archaeological finds dredged from the river Thames in the past have included many prehistoric metal objects, complete pottery vessels and human bones. There is fierce debate as to whether these are chance losses, washed out from bankside settlements or deliberate offerings. Since the finds are never *in situ* the argument is unresolved. The survival of nearly 2 km of the prehistoric river Thames here, with well-preserved archaeological sites adjacent, makes this site of great importance. As well as detailed excavations, the contractor's excavation of the channel will be the subject of continuous archaeological monitoring.

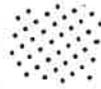
On the gravel terraces adjacent to the ancient river we found middle Bronze Age crouched inhumation burials and pits (1500–1200 BC). The site therefore contains three separate Bronze Age burial areas: a barrow cemetery on Site I, the middle Bronze Age inhumation cemetery near the Roman site and a Later Bronze Age cremation cemetery further north-east.

In 1996 we will excavate the other two waterlogged structures, the Neolithic floodplain, an area of Mesolithic flintworking, the early Bronze Age barrow cemetery and the middle Bronze Age inhumations.





Cropmarks



Areas of concentrated Mesolithic activity



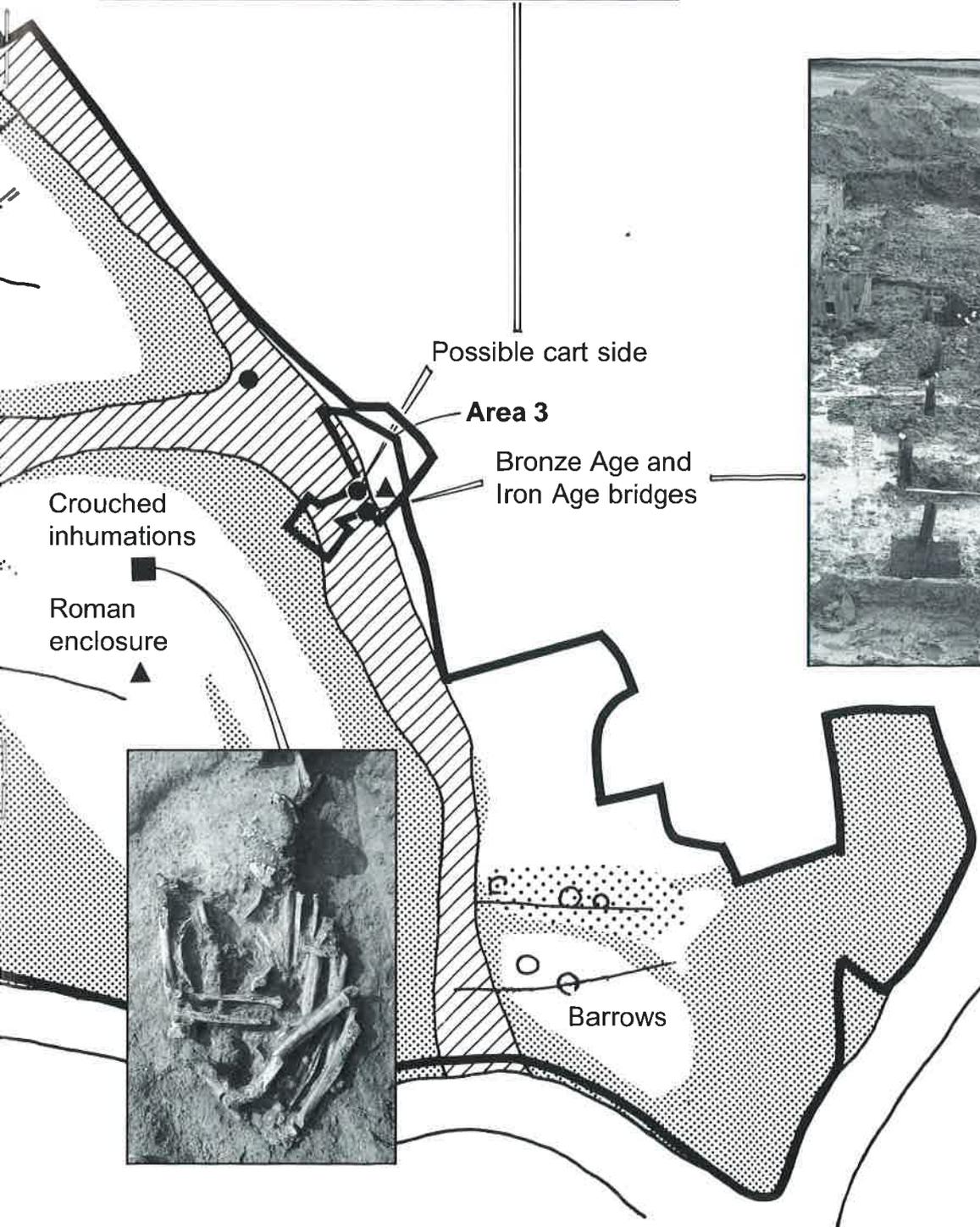
Struck flint cluster



Human remains



Waterlogged structures



Building survey and recording

OAU has long-standing experience of building recording projects, both as archaeological studies of standing buildings, and non-destructive surveys. Clients include the National Trust, Historic Royal Palaces, English Heritage, Union Railways and Railtrack; much work is also undertaken for individual property owners. Recent work has included an increasing amount of small-scale recording in relation to planning consents under the terms of government planning guidance (PPG15).

- ◆ OAU is archaeological consultant to Historic Royal Palaces, dealing with some of Britain's most spectacular historic buildings – the Tower of London, Hampton Court and Kensington Palace.
- ◆ Our environmental studies for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link have included assessment of numerous historic buildings, from St Pancras station to minor vernacular buildings in Kent.
- ◆ OAU specialises in the detailed investigation and assessment of historic buildings, and uses a range of recording methods, with access to specialised services such as photogrammetry and dendrochronology. Emphasis is placed on understanding the building in its context, and the provision of written reports in addition to drawn or photographic records. This may include historical and architectural research, and the use of records ranging from medieval Latin building accounts to 19th-century newspapers.
- ◆ We can provide advice on the impact of development on historic buildings, in advance of planning applications, or in relation to planning inquiries (e.g. the assessment of the historic setting of listed buildings).
- ◆ Recent building survey work has included a wide range of building types and materials, from medieval to industrial, throughout England and overseas. Structural studies of churches and medieval barns, timber-framed and stone medieval houses in town and countryside have been undertaken, as well as work on country houses and their ancillary buildings such as stables and dovecotes. Industrial buildings have been investigated, from railways to dockyards, and this has included buildings made of corrugated iron and even paper.

Buildings archaeology in 1995–96

A steady growth in planning-related work has included preliminary investigations to inform decision-making, at 17th-century Milcombe Dovecote (a Scheduled Ancient Monument), and the National Trust owned Morden Hall (Surrey). Photographic surveys before conversion were undertaken at Old Priory Stables, Bicester and the barn at Horton-cum-Studley. Two towers have provided interesting material: repairs and conservation work at Shirburn Church revealed a hitherto unknown lantern stage in the medieval tower. At New College Oxford the conversion of the lower stage of the Bell Tower to a rare book store allowed a close examination of the masonry, and a reconsideration of the original building accounts.

More extensive structural analysis was undertaken on a number of buildings. At New Shipton, Sutton Coldfield, a cruck barn was investigated prior to conversion and dated by dendrochronology to the 15th century; although suspected as being domestic, it was shown to be agricultural, and can be related to the late medieval expansion of farming onto extensive areas of common land. At Ock Street, Abingdon, a 17th-century house has been gradually taken apart to reveal aspects of its original structure, and intriguing remnants of what appear to be timbers from a Thames barge.

The Historic Royal Palaces Agency continue to provide a series of interesting building projects. Work at Kensington Palace on new costume display galleries provided a rare opportunity to investigate below floors and behind panelling. Evidence for the rapid series of changes made to the palace in a few decades around 1700 grows ever more complex – including a completely unknown wall cavity where brickwork had been removed and replaced by a framework of timber struts. In the Tower of London the major project has been a study of the short terrace of mid 17th-century brick houses at Nos 4–5 Tower Green, revealing both a complex history of internal refitting and interesting traces of the medieval curtain wall against which they were built.

Industrial and modern buildings have also formed a significant part of our work. At the beginning of the year the assessment of the Trants estate buildings on the island of Montserrat, West Indies, led to an examination of almost fifty other estates on the island with remnants of the sugar industry, including mills and steam engines. Back in Britain, a small recording task was undertaken to observe the demolition of a relatively modern dry dock in Chatham Docks, with an unusual opportunity to compare the design drawings with the actual construction. A greater task was in the so-called Wheelwright's Shop in Chatham Historic Dockyard. This is a single-storey building from the late 18th century, and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, which was the subject of a detailed recording programme as a series of wooden floors was removed. Only at the end of this laborious task, when the final layer of ship's deck planking had been removed, was the lowest stage uncovered and a remarkable discovery made. The entire floor of this large building was covered with the closely-spaced timbers from a dismantled ship of the line, perhaps dating from the middle of the 18th century. The timbers include ribs and deck beams, and features such as painted graffiti, hammock rails and carpenters' marks. This is a quite unprecedented find of timber from dry land, and will provide an almost unique opportunity to study the methods of construction from real ship's timbers rather than a drawing or model. Work has paused while a further assessment is made of how this discovery can be conserved and studied.

Consultancy advice and research on historic buildings has included further input to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link project, and preparing assessments for public inquiries in North Devon, at Coggeshall Abbey in Essex, and Chesham (Bucks). Reports were produced on the Officers' Mess at Feltham, Middlesex, a 19th-century apple-store in Chichester, West Sussex, and the Victoria and Bull Hotel in Dartford, Kent. The last of these led to the astonishing discovery of a major series of 18th-century capriccio paintings on panel that seem to have escaped recognition in this Grade II* building.



Wheelwrights shop, Chatham – floor made of 18th-century ship's timbers

Post-excavation and publication

It is essential, and a matter of professional responsibility, that the results of excavations are published in order to disseminate the information gained. In recognition of this, county archaeologists and other curatorial bodies often require publication as part of their planning consent. The production of these reports can be a complex task and requires specialized skills.

OAU has a dedicated team of post-excavation specialists who, in conjunction with the fieldwork staff, work on one of the largest post-excavation programmes in the country. This team includes computer technicians, finds specialists, editors, illustrators and stratigraphers. In addition OAU has well-established contacts with many leading freelance finds specialists across the country.

Our Graphics Office are skilled in the whole range of visual display and presentation from reconstructions and exhibitions to typesetting and book design.

Some OAU projects are amongst the largest archaeological investigations ever undertaken in the country, and OAU is one of the few organisations which has a proven track record in completing not only the excavations but the complex task of writing and publishing reports.

With its large programme of post-excavation work, OAU has gained some of the most extensive experience of working with the English Heritage project management model outlined in their document *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991). This model is applied not only on all English Heritage projects but also with increasing frequency by county archaeologists.

OAU offers a cost-effective and efficient service –

We can:

- ◆ Provide displays of the results of excavations
- ◆ Provide popular publications relating to excavations
- ◆ Produce reports for regional and national journals
- ◆ Produce reports in our own monograph series, which is published in association with the Oxford University Committee of Archaeology

Also, OAU staff often disseminate information relating to sites, with prior agreement of the client, at lectures and conferences both locally and nationally, helping to publicise projects, and to promote the public understanding and knowledge of the past.

Post-excavation in 1995–96

OAU's post-excavation programme has progressed considerably over the past year, with staff working on over 60 projects. There are a further 25 projects where the future funding or precise terms of the research design are being negotiated, and the present fieldwork commitments mean that the post-excavation workload will increase next year.

This year has seen the publication of two major monographs concerning an early postglacial, Neolithic and Bronze Age site at Goring, and the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Berinsfield and Didcot. The early post-glacial butchery site (c 8,000 BC) at Gatehampton Farm, Goring is the first to be identified in the Upper Thames valley. Its location at the narrowest part of the Goring Gap, where the Thames cuts through the Berkshire Downs, would have made it an ideal place for late Glacial hunters to ambush migrating herds as they slowed down when crossing the river. The Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Berinsfield and Didcot span the period from the mid 5th to the 7th centuries. The larger excavation at Berinsfield represents a nationally significant contribution to Anglo-Saxon studies, reporting on the results of the analysis of 118 burials and their gravegoods. Both reports are available from Oxbow Books, Oxford.

Other substantial reports published this year include one on the excavation at the site of the fort of the Roman Channel fleet and later Saxon Shore fort in Dover, and another on a series of Neolithic and Bronze Age ring-ditches from Shorncote, Gloucestershire. A list of OAU publications this year is appended at the back of this review.

Given the long time-periods necessary to commission, integrate and analyse the data recovered from large excavations, post-excavation projects can extend over three to four years. This year has seen the initiation of several substantial projects on major excavations completed in the past few years, which will not be completed until 1998. One of these concerns our excavations at Eynsham Abbey, Oxfordshire, which uncovered significant remains from the late Bronze Age through to the dissolution of the monastery in 1538–9. We have also begun the analysis of our excavations at Alchester, Oxfordshire which examined a large section of the northern suburbs of this Roman small town.

A project whose post-excavation programme has been on-going for some time is Yarnton where various exciting discoveries are coming to light in the analytical stage. Work on the small cemetery next to the Iron Age and Roman settlement, initially believed to be late Roman or very early Anglo-Saxon in date, has provided very unexpected results. Radiocarbon determinations which have been recently received show that nine of the thirteen skeletons dated from the middle Iron Age, two are late Roman and two middle Anglo-Saxon. Re-analysis of some of the data suggests that we have a small middle Iron Age inhumation cemetery of around 35 graves, 25 of which were concentrated just beyond the contemporary settlement. This is the largest middle Iron Age cemetery known outside the Arras culture of East Yorkshire and the cist burial tradition of South-West Britain.

Meanwhile, Mark Robinson has been looking at the carbonised plant remains from the 1992 Yarnton excavations. Flotation of a soil sample from a pit, which contained a beautifully-worked early Bronze Age flint knife, recovered a few pieces of carbonised bread, which looks like burnt toast. The structure of the bread can be seen through a microscope and parts of barley grains are visible; we hope that Richard Evershed from Bristol University will be able to analyse other food residues in the sample. A recipe may be with us soon!

At the other end of the post-excavation cycle, several of OAU's largest projects are in their final editorial stages and we can expect their publication in the next 12–18 months. These include a volume drawing together evidence for Anglo-Saxon and earlier medieval Oxford, the results from excavations at a large Neolithic and Bronze Age barrow cemetery at Barrow Hills, Radley and an Iron Age settlement at Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt.



Archives

All archaeological fieldwork projects generate written, drawn and photographic records, and no project can be regarded as complete until these records have been assembled into an archive, and deposited in a museum together with the associated finds. The creation of an ordered and accessible archive is both a professional responsibility and a standard set by all archaeological curators in the public sector.

The OAU created a dedicated archive section in 1991, to complement its finds section, and has built up substantial expertise in the area. We are widely regarded as one of the most innovative and successful archiving services operating in the country today.

We comply with all currently applicable standards, and with the specifications of English Heritage, local government planning archaeologists and museums. We have wide experience of the complex problems that can arise with the transfer of archives to museums, relating in particular to the ownership of finds, and to material and intellectual copyright.

We currently prepare archives for 36 different museums throughout the UK, and have particular expertise in London. We also contribute regularly to the National Monuments Record of the RCHME.

We offer the following services:

- ◆ negotiation and liaison with museums to ensure compliance with local standards and conditions
- ◆ preparation, indexing and packaging of records to archival standards
- ◆ security and preservation copying of primary records
- ◆ advice on archiving procedures, and on creating in-house archives for clients who wish to retain their own archaeological collections
- ◆ assembling, assessing and constructing archives for substantial backlog-clearance projects
- ◆ archiving the records of building survey, meeting the standards set by PPG 15 and the RCHME

Archiving in 1995-96

Our main priority over the last year has been the despatch of completed archives to museums, a process which began in earnest two years ago. In this time, we have successfully deposited 204 archives with 23 different museums throughout the country. Approximately half of these have gone to the Oxfordshire County Museum Service, but significant numbers have also been deposited with the Museum of London, the Corinium Museum at Cirencester, Dover, Reading and Newbury museums and the county museum services of Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire. Eight archives have gone to the Ashmolean Museum, and one each to the British Museum and to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon. The process continues into the new financial year, with nearly thirty archives now ready to go to the Museum of London.

The RCHME National Monuments Record is no longer funding the microfilming programme, but will continue to store the master security copies of our records: a further fifty archives have been added to our microfilmed collection this year. In addition, we are taking steps to preserve our slide collections, ensuring that all old, deteriorating material is reviewed and copied.

We have continued to participate in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' Working Party on archaeological archives, and the guidelines set by the Working Party were published last year, co-authored by Anne Dodd of the OAU.

The move to the new building will provide us with a long-awaited opportunity to create an OAU resource centre, which we hope will incorporate our maps, reports, photographic collections and library, as well as our archives. On a less positive note, it has become apparent over the last few months that museum services in many areas of the country are being particularly badly hit by funding reductions. We have noted with concern a growing number of areas where museum provision is now inadequate to support PPG 16 generated archaeology, and the OAU has raised these concerns with appropriate bodies at a national level.



Iron Age bone objects from Cresswell Field, Yarnton – see page 15

Finds



Medieval bone chess piece (knight) from the White Cliffs Experience site, Dover

1995 saw the Finds Processing Section expand from two full time and one part time member of staff to four full time members. The expansion was necessitated by the ever-increasing flow of finds and associated paperwork produced by over 160 excavations which took place in 1995–96. Many of the projects were small evaluations that require rapid processing of the material in order to provide results promptly to clients. The finds processing staff have to meet the demands of these smaller sites and juggle them with the needs of larger excavations. Very large projects, such as the Eton Rowing Lake, demand the assistance of a full-time finds co-ordinator to cope with the quantities of material recovered.

The last year has also seen close co-ordination between finds and archive personnel, with the intention of depositing material from some of the older excavations as well as current projects. Since the beginning of the year we have deposited material from over 150 sites with over 30 receiving museums. Each museum has its own varied specifications about box size, bag sizes and paperwork, all of which have to be met wherever possible. OAU Trustees have offered us much support and encouragement in this daunting task.

One excellent piece of news is that the final resting place for the 1035 skeletons from the Abingdon Vineyard site has been confirmed, and this will be the Natural History Museum in London. The Vale of the White Horse District Council has agreed to fund the necessary re-boxing and transportation. The material will thus be available for study together with other large collections of skeletal remains from sites such as Spitalfields (London) and Poundbury (Dorset).

Another important aspect of finds work is the liaison with project managers and specialists to ensure that the processed material is available for recording and detailed analysis. This year has been particularly frenetic as some of the specialists begin work on the larger post-excavation projects such as Eynsham Abbey, Yarnton Worton Rectory Farm and Camber Castle. At times it has been a squeeze to fit everybody in and the department is looking forward to the imminent move to new, more spacious premises.

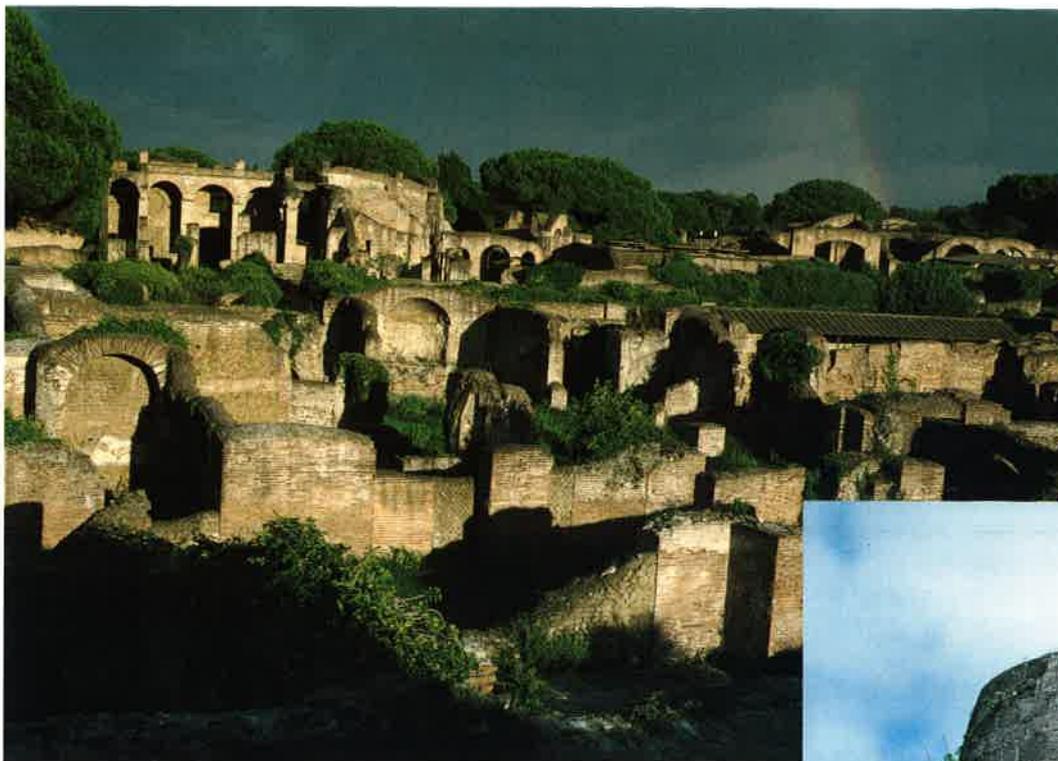
Outside work hours the department plays a part in introducing young people to the delights of archaeology. Twice a year we act as hosts to a group of children from the Young Archaeologists Club, telling them a little about what the OAU does, and then allowing them to get some hands-on experience of washing finds. The response is always positive, and we look forward to this bi-annual event.

As a final note OAU would like to thank the various volunteers who have helped us over the past years, and in particular to Elizabeth Waite, who has now volunteered on a regular basis for many years.



Early Iron Age iron adze from Cresswell Field, Yarnton – see page 15

OAU abroad



Above: the ruins of the Roman port of Ostia, Italy – see
Director's Report, page 6
Right: windmill used for crushing sugar cane,
Montserrat, West Indies
Below: excavations in the Marcacocha Basin, Peru –
directed by Robert Early of the OAU



Education and the OAU

The OAU is in a position to provide educational and related services and is involved in education in a number of ways. It is a direct provider, organising day schools and conferences on archaeological topics and providing professional development training. A list of lectures, conferences and broadcasts appears at the end of this annual review. OAU also supports other educational providers, particularly through its close involvement in the Diploma in Field Archaeology run by the University of Oxford (Department for Continuing Education). The unit is also making the first tentative steps in providing resources for class room teachers within the framework of national curriculum history. A third element comes through working with developers to disseminate information about particular projects and discoveries, whether through publication of pamphlets, the creation of small exhibitions or the preparation of display boards.

The Yarnton project illustrates some of the possibilities. The educational work being planned for Yarnton will be funded by English Heritage, and will run in conjunction with the fieldwork programme which will be continuing this summer. The first stage of the educational programme involves the preparation of material for teachers, including a small booklet, based on the archaeological fieldwork. English Heritage is funding the employment of a seconded teacher to prepare these materials. The second stage of the project consists of In-service Training (INSET) sessions which are planned for the early summer. These will provide teachers with background to the project as well as building upon the information contained in the booklet. The seconded teacher will be the main provider supported by unit staff. These elements are all leading to the final and crucial element of the educational project which comprises school visits to the site during excavation. Again English Heritage will be funding a seconded teacher to work with Yarnton project staff to enable both teachers and their pupils to fully realise the educational potential of a large-scale archaeological project.



The Yarnton educational work will not end there. Unit and project staff will be working with the gravel extractors, Amey Roadstone Corporation, to prepare text and illustrations for a booklet to publicise the archaeological work at Yarnton. This will be published and primarily funded by ARC.

The unit is also involved indirectly in education through the CBA, and a member of the OAU's staff is the Educational Liaison Officer (ELO) for the South Midlands Region. Over the past ten or eleven months since his appointment, he has been making contact with educational providers within the region. It is hoped to build on these contacts to enable the unit to provide educational support throughout the South Midlands.

Oxford Archaeological Advisory Service

OAAS (the Unit's independent advisory service to the City Planning Authority) has continued to advise on new planning applications. 196 applications were vetted out of a total of 1861 for the twelve months, and advice was given on 40, (up from 32 last year). In all cases notified to date the advice has been taken up.

The service's initial three-year contract has now been renewed for a further two years, and seminars with senior officers and committee members have helped us to forge direct contacts. There have been fifteen evaluations, eight watching briefs, three area excavations and three surveys, each investigation leading to important new information, and helping to identify research objectives in sensitive areas. In the course of the year post-excavation work has proceeded on eleven projects. Brian Durham of OAAS has been nominated by the Council as its representative on the newly established Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.

This year there have been three large industrial and housing developments. Rover has embarked on two developments flanking the line of the Alchester to Dorchester Roman road. Each was evaluated by OAU, and the results are significant for this little-known part of the city. OAAS monitored evaluations which suggest a possibly abortive Bronze Age attempt to construct an enclosure on stony subsoil, the hard surface of which was later exploited by the Roman road, while Roman and medieval ploughing was confined to a non-stone area to the west.



Another unsuspected prehistoric settlement appeared at nearby Blackbird Leys (see page 17). On the adjoining housing and football stadium developments OAAS has monitored four evaluations and three area investigations on what is proving to be the most extensive area of Roman pottery manufacture in Oxfordshire, with eight new kilns found already, in four well-spaced groups. The importance of this industry is enhanced by a valley fen alongside, with up to 1.5 m of peat, including a horizon of Roman pottery. Coupled with environmental evidence from the area this should provide data on the fuel sources available to the potters. This historic landscape spans different geologies, and is framed by regular boundaries which may define the controlling or promoting estate. In general, the work is beginning to address the research issues which were discussed at a day school on Roman Oxford held during the winter at Rewley House.

In a neighbouring area at Littlemore Hospital the primary interest was initially Roman, but two out of three evaluations have instead located medieval and possibly late Anglo-Saxon settlement, suggesting an early focus to Littlemore itself. On a different scale, small evaluations and amateur fieldwork in Oxford's modern northern suburbs have illustrated Iron Age, Roman and possibly Anglo-Saxon deposits on the second terrace, while hedgerow survey on the first terrace suggests that regular field enclosures could be a secondary development from a very early, possibly even Roman, field system. One of the evaluations (in advance of extension of the University Parks pond) showed such deposits on the edge of the terrace.

The new information coming out of evaluations is an important check on the validity of planning advice drawn largely from the County sites and monuments record. This will be enhanced by the Oxford Urban Database, which we can report has now been agreed in principle between the City Council and English Heritage. It is hoped that a pilot study will be under way in the course of 1996–97.



Iffley Church

Church Archaeology

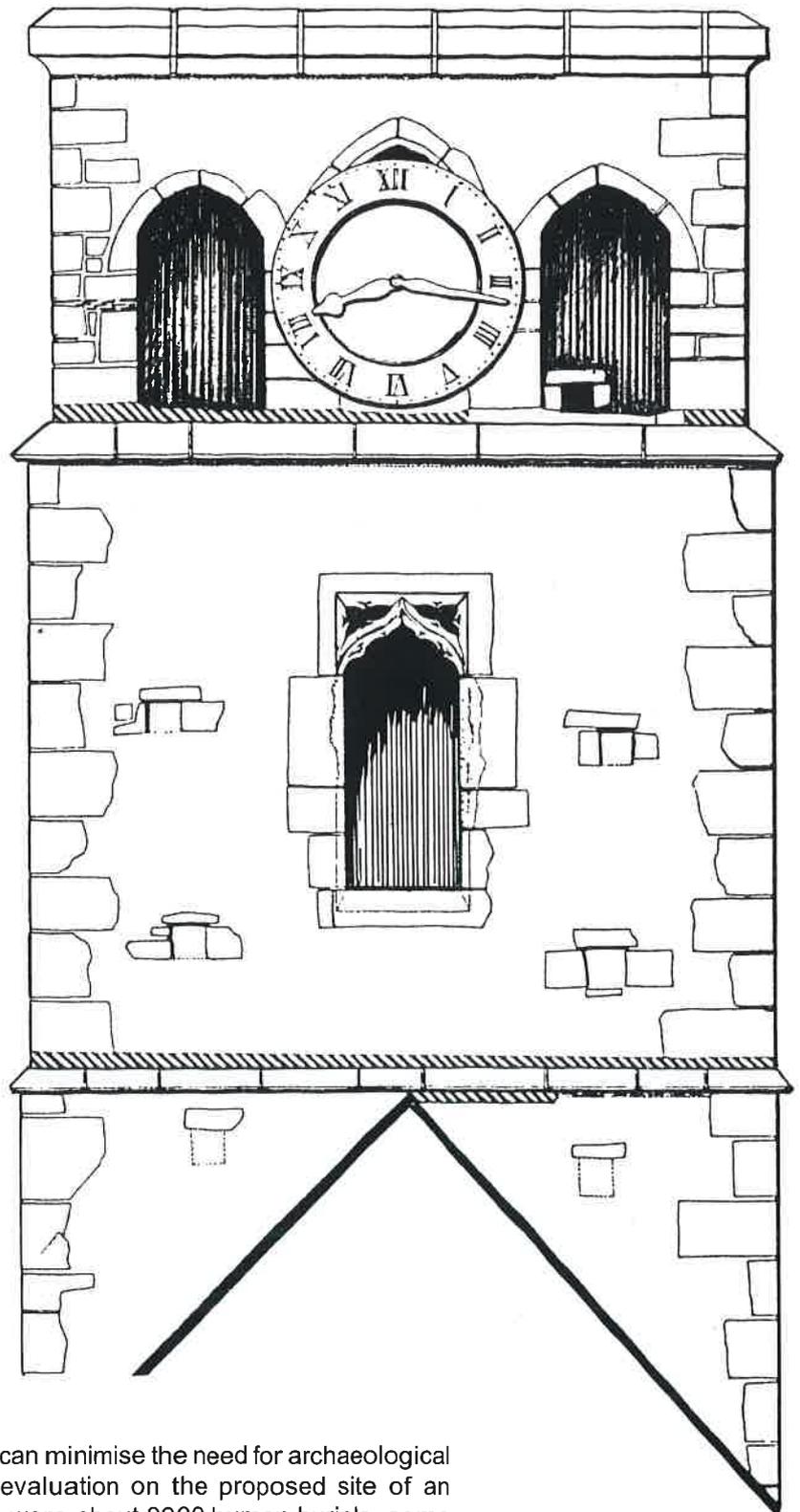
The church is often the most important historic building in a community. The fabric of the building and its monuments reflect the religious faith, wealth, status, and aspirations of the people who have lived around it for the past thousand years or more. The people themselves may also be buried in and around the church. The OAU specialises in the architectural recording, historical research, and archaeological excavation of churches.

David Miles is Archaeological Advisor to the Bishop of Oxford and sits on the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Julian Munby is a member of the Fabric Advisory Committee of Chichester Cathedral and is the author of the definitive study of the remarkable medieval roofs. Graham Keevill, prior to joining OAU, was Archaeologist to Carlisle Cathedral.

Repairs to church fabric may reveal important evidence of the church's history. At Shirburn (Oxon) we have recently recorded the 14th-century arcading, revealed when the rendering on the church tower was stripped. New drains or heating systems can also provide important evidence of the church's origin. At Woodeaton the foundations of two unsuspected pre-Norman buildings and Anglo-Saxon burials were discovered in French drains. At Garsington the removal of part of the church floor led to the discovery of an unknown Anglo-Saxon church, showing that a church can be much older than is implied by the historic records.

Important discoveries can be made simply by undertaking a watching brief during trench digging or floor removal, but some church schemes may have a much greater archaeological impact. At St Nicholas, Sevenoaks, OAU excavations were carried out in advance of a major construction of underground parish rooms. The entire building sequence of the church, from the early Norman period, was untangled. Five hundred burials, from the medieval period to the 19th century, were also recorded.

Early consideration of the design of church work can minimise the need for archaeological recording. At St Mary's, Brackley a small-scale evaluation on the proposed site of an extension for new parish rooms showed that there were about 2000 human burials, some Anglo-Saxon, within the footprint of the building. Consultation between OAU archaeologists and the architects led to the redesign of the foundation so that the extension could be built, the burials left undisturbed, and archaeological costs minimised. The sooner the PCC and the architect establish the archaeological implications of any work, the more likely it is that a satisfactory solution can be found.



List of OAU publications, 1995–96

* denotes author who has since left the OAU

Leigh Allen

- 1995 (with H Glass) Small finds, in G Hey, Iron Age and Roman settlement at Old Shifford Farm, Standlake, *Oxoniensia* 60, 139-46.
- 1995 Small finds, in M Roberts, Excavations at Jowett Walk, Oxford, *Oxoniensia* 60, 240-1.
- 1995 Medieval metal small finds, in M Roberts, Excavations in the Bodleian Library Exhibition Room, Oxford, *Oxoniensia* 60, 247-56.

Tim Allen

- 1995 (with N Barton and A Brown) Lithics and landscape: archaeological discoveries on the Thames Water pipeline at Gatehampton Farm, Goring, Oxfordshire 1985-92, OAU Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph No 7.

Alistair Barclay

- 1995 (with H Glass and C Parry) Excavations of Neolithic and Bronze Age ring-ditches, Shorncliffe Quarry, Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire, *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society* 113, 21-60.
- 1995 (with R Thomas) Prehistoric features; Discussion; Beaker and Deverel-Rimbury pottery; The later Neolithic pottery, in A Boyle *et al* *Two Oxfordshire Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries: Berinsfield and Didcot*, OAU Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph No 8.
- 1995 Transforming vessel types on the funeral pyre, *The Old Potter's Almanack* 3(2), 5-6.
- 1995 Prehistoric pottery and fired clay, in A Mudd, The excavation of a later Bronze Age site at Coldharbour Road, Gravesend, *Archaeologia Cantiana* 114, 384-93.
- 1995 (with V Fell and J Wallis) An iron socketed axehead from the River Thames, Buscot, Oxfordshire, *Oxoniensia* 60, 417-8.
- 1995 Prehistoric pottery, in A Mudd, The excavation of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age site at Eight Acre Field, Radley, *Oxoniensia* 60, 35-8.
- 1995 (with H Glass and G Hey) Fired clay, in G Hey, Iron Age and Roman settlement at Old Shifford Farm, Standlake, *Oxoniensia* 60, 136-38.

Paul Booth

- 1995 Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, in M R Roberts, Excavations at Park Farm, Binfield, Berkshire, 1990, in Barnes *et. al* *Early settlement in Berkshire*, Wessex Archaeology Report No 6, Salisbury, 106-117.
- 1995 Roman and other pottery from fieldwalking, in T G Allen *Lithics and landscape: archaeological discoveries on the Thames Water pipeline at Gatehampton Farm, Goring, Oxfordshire, 1985-92*, OAU Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph No 7, 95-96.
- 1995 (with P Everson) Earthwork survey and excavation at Boys Hall Moat, Sevington, Ashford, *Archaeologia Cantiana* 114, 411-434.
- 1995 The Roman pottery, in D R P Wilkinson, Excavations on the White Cliffs Experience site, Dover, 1988-91, *Archaeologia Cantiana* 114, 91-114.
- 1995 Middle Iron Age pottery; Roman pottery; The Anglo-Saxon pottery; The Roman pottery: Anglo-Saxon pottery, in A Boyle, A Dodd, D Miles and A Mudd, *Two Oxfordshire Anglo-Saxon cemeteries: Berinsfield and Didcot*, OAU Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph No 8, 13, 16-26, 101-103, 210, 230-231.
- 1995 Excavations on the line of the city defences at New College, Oxford, 1993, *Oxoniensia* 60, 205-224.
- 1995 Roman pottery, in A Mudd, The excavation of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age site at Eight Acre Field, Radley, *Oxoniensia* 60, 38.

Angela Boyle

- 1995 The human bone, in A Barclay and H Glass (with C Perry), Excavations of Neolithic and Bronze Age ring-ditches, Shorncliffe Quarry, Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 113, 39-41.
- 1995 The cremation, in M Roberts, Excavations at King's Meadow near Cirencester, *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 113, 68.
- 1995 (with A Dodd, D Miles, A Mudd) *Two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries: Berinsfield and Didcot*, OAU Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph No 8.

Pippa Bradley

- 1995 Struck flint, in A Mudd, The excavation of a later Bronze Age site at Coldharbour Road, Gravesend, *Archaeologia Cantiana* 114, 394-399.
- 1995 The flint, in P Booth and P Everson, Earthwork survey and excavation at Boys Hall Moat, Sevington, Ashford, *Archaeologia Cantiana* 114, 424.
- 1995 The flint assemblage, in A Boyle and A Mudd, *An Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Didcot Power Station*, OAU Thames Valley Landscapes No 8, 209-210.
- 1993 A waisted axe from near Bashley, Hampshire, *Lithics* 14, 15-17.

- 1995 (with R Thomas) Flint and stone, in A Boyle, A Dodd and D Miles, *An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Berinsfield, Wally Corner*, OAU Thames Valley Landscapes No 8, 11.
- 1995 Worked flint, in A Barclay and H Glass (with C Perry), Excavations of Neolithic and Bronze Age ring-ditches, Shorncliffe Quarry, Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 113, 25-45.
- 1995 The worked flint, in A Mudd, The excavation of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age site at Eight Acre Field, Radley, *Oxoniensia* 60, 38-40.
- 1995 The worked flint, in G Hey, Iron Age and Roman settlement at Old Shifford Farm, Standlake, *Oxoniensia* 60, 147.

Anne Dodd

- 1995 (with J Owen, N Merriman and C Wingfield) *Towards an accessible archaeological archive: the transfer of archaeological archives to museums; guidelines for use in England, N Ireland, Scotland and Wales*, Society of Museum Archaeologists.
- 1995 (with A Boyle, D Miles and A Mudd) *Two Oxfordshire Anglo-Saxon cemeteries: Berinsfield and Didcot*, OAU Thames Valley Landscapes No. 8.

Gill Hey

- 1995 Iron Age and Roman settlement at Old Shifford Farm, Standlake, *Oxoniensia* 60, 93-175.

David Jennings

- 1995 (with S D Loginov) The excavations: Erk Kala trench 1, in G Hermann, K Kurbansakhatov *et. al.*, *The International Merv Project: preliminary report on the third season, Iran* 33, 34-6.

Graham Keevill

- 1995 Processes of collapse in Romano-British buildings: a review of the evidence, in L Shepherd (ed.), *Interpreting Stratigraphy* 5, 26-37.
- 1996 The reconstruction of the Romano-British villa at Redlands Farm, Northamptonshire, in P Johnson with I Haynes (eds), *Architecture in Roman Britain*, CBA Research Report No 94, 44-5.

Colm Moloney*

- 1994 Excavations at the Peel Arms Site, Tamworth, Staffordshire, *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society* 35, 5-19.

John Moore*

- 1995 Plot adjacent to 4 Helthe Road, Hardwick, Oxon, *Oxoniensia* 60, 426-8.
- 1995 Bell Lane and North Street, Thame, *Oxoniensia* 60, 429-30.

Andy Mudd

- 1995 The excavation of a later Bronze Age site at Coldharbour Road, Gravesend, *Archaeologia Cantiana* 114, 363-410.
- 1995 (with A Boyle, A Dodd and D Miles) *Two Oxfordshire Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries: Berinsfield and Didcot*, OAU Thames Valley Landscapes No. 8.
- 1995 The excavation of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age site at Eight Acre Field, Radley, *Oxoniensia* 60, 21-66.

Julian Munby

- 1995 (with J M Steane) Swalcliffe: a New College barn in the fifteenth century, *Oxoniensia* 60, 333-78.

Mark Roberts

- 1995 Excavations at Park Farm, Binfield, 1990, in I Barnes *et. al.*, *Early settlement in Berkshire: Mesolithic-Roman occupation sites in the Thames and Kennet Valleys*, Wessex Archaeology Report No. 6, 93-130.
- 1995 Excavations at King's Meadow near Cirencester, *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society*, 113, 61-71.
- 1995 Excavations at Jowett Walk, Oxford, *Oxoniensia* 60, 225-46.
- 1995 Excavations in the Bodleian Library Exhibition Room, Oxford, *Oxoniensia* 60, 247-56.

Ian Scott

- 1995 Daggers and inlaid scabbards, in W H Manning, *Report on the excavations at Usk 1965-76, The Roman small finds*, University of Wales, 22-9.

Nicola Scott

- 1994 Animal Bone, in C Moloney, Excavations at the Peel Arms Site, Tamworth, Staffordshire, *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society* 35, 19.

1995 Antler, in A Barclay and H Glass (with C Perry), Excavations of Neolithic and Bronze Age ring-ditches, Shorncliffe Quarry, Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire, *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 113, 25-45.

R Tyler

1995 (with G Hey) Trench M, in Iron Age and Roman settlement at Old Shifford Farm, Standlake, *Oxoniensia* 60, 112-24.

David Wilkinson

1995 Excavations on the White Cliffs Experience site, Dover, 1988-91, *Archaeologia Cantiana* 114, 51-148.

1996 (with J Delaine) *Survey and excavation at Regio I, Insula IV, Ostia: interim report on the 1995 season*, University of Reading/Soprintendenza Archeologica di Ostia.

Bob Williams

1996 (with P J Hart and A T L Williams) *Wavendon Gate: a late Iron Age and Roman settlement in Milton Keynes*, Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series No. 10.

Lectures and broadcasts, 1995-6

Tim Allen

02/05/95 The working farm: agriculture,

09/05/95 The working farm: crafts,

12/10/95 Oppida: the ultimate hillforts?,

24/10/95 Rome and Britain: the pre-Claudian influences,

31/10/95 Social re-ordering: the first centuries BC to AD,
- all lectures for Certificate in British Archaeology, OUDCE, Rewley House

28/04/95 Abingdon - broadcast for Central Television,

14/05/95 Eton Rowing Lake - interview for Fox FM,

17/09/95 Civic Heritage Day: guide to ancient Abingdon,

04/10/95 Archaeology in Abingdon - Kennington's Women's Institute,

07/10/95 Locating and evaluating lithic scatters - Lithics Studies Society,

24/10/95 E for excavation - Radio Oxford,

13/11/95 Archaeology O-A level lecture - Eton College,

20/11/95 Why do we study archaeology? - Eton College,

22/02/96 Recent archaeological work in Abingdon - Shrivenham Historical Society,

09/03/96 The Eton Rowing Lake Project: past work and future prospects -
Berkshire Archaeological Society Day School,

Alistair Barclay

29/09/95 Standing stones and alignments: a lighthearted look at the archaeology of Mull, OAU Unit 4 Seminars,

25/11/95 A cemetery complete: investigations and interpretation of the Barrow Hills, Radley monument complex - Barrow studies in the 1990s: A tribute to L V Grinsell, St Luke's School of Education, University of Exeter,

18/12/95 Remains of the clay: refired pottery and ritual in prehistory - Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, University of Reading,

02/04/96 The Portal Dolmens of the north east Cotswolds: symbolism, architecture and the transformation of the earliest Neolithic - O Neolítico Atlántico e as Orixes do Megalitismo, International Colloquium, University of Santiago de Compostela,

Paul Booth

15/05/95 Roman towns in Oxfordshire - Bicester Local History Society,

10/10/95 Roman Warwickshire - Coventry and District Archaeological Society, Nov-Dec Undergraduate Diploma in Archaeology, OUDCE, 6 week Introductory Course, 1995

18-19/11/96 Roman Pottery, OUDCE course,

24/02/96 After The Churchill: recent work in the Oxfordshire potteries - OUDCE Day School on Roman Oxford,

Angela Boyle

13/09/95 Human bone from Anglo-Saxon cemeteries- Smithsonian Institute Seminar: the Age of Arthur,

12/01/96 The study of human skeletal remains - Wallingford Archaeological and Historical Society,

Pippa Bradley

29/09/95 Standing stones and alignments: a lighthearted look at the archaeology of Mull - OAU Unit 4 Seminars,

07/10/95 Locating and evaluating lithic scatters - Lithic Studies Society meeting, OAU,

Simon Brereton

6/11/95 Archaeology and environmental assessment (with Graham Keevill) - Oxford Brookes University, (repeated to Bournemouth University course in Heritage Management, 5/2/96)

Anne Dodd

23 -24/10/95 Archiving in an archaeological unit - OUDCE course, Beyond PPG16: what is Preservation?,

Brian Durham

20/04/95 The Hospital's Clerk - Salford Local History Group,

06/06/95 Recent archaeological research in Oxford - Henly Local History Group,

08/11/95 Pre-conquest Oxford - Oxford College of Further Education,

05/12/95 The Bishop's Palace at Witney - Standlake and District Historical Society,

15/12/95 Archaeology in East Oxford - Oxford City Council Planning Committee,

09/02/96 Medieval fortified palaces - Wantage Field Club,

13/03/96 The topography of medieval Oxford - Oxford College of Further Education,

Robert Early

20/05/95 Putting the bores in context: exploratory excavation at Juchuy Aya Orqo in the Southern Peruvian Andes - Institute of Archaeology London, South American Seminars,

10/11/95 Recent excavations in the Maracocha Basin in the Southern Peruvian Andes, OAU Unit 4 Seminars,

09/03/96 Recent excavations at Reading Business Park - Berkshire Archaeological Society Day School,

Gill Hey

16/11/95 Excavations at Yarnton - Witney and District Historical and Archaeological Society,

20/04 - 22/6/95 Archaeology of the Andes (course for Oxford University Department of Continuing Education at Rewley House),

13/06/95 Yarnton in the Neolithic: excavating a floodplain landscape - Oxford University Archaeological and Historical Society,

24/06/95 Guided visit to Yarnton excavations - Young Archaeologist's Club,

05/07/95 Current work at Yarnton - OAU Annual General Meeting,

17/07/95 Current excavations at Yarnton - Radio Oxford, David Clargo show,

04/09/95 Air photography at Yarnton - BBC National News (all four main news programmes),

15/09/95 Yarnton: Excavating the Anglo-Saxons - Smithsonian Institute,

17/10/95 Excavations at Yarnton - Clanfield History Society,

17/11/95 Tales of the unexpected: recent work at Yarnton (with Christopher Bell) - OAU Seminar series,

23/11/95 Recent work at Yarnton - Cassington village, open lecture,

15/02/96 Recent excavations at Yarnton, 1995: Neolithic and Bronze Age burial customs - Museum of Oxford,

05/03/96 Further excavation work at Yarnton - BBC Radio Oxford, David Clargo show,

06/03/96 Yarnton in the Neolithic and Bronze Age: recent work on the Thames floodplain - Friends of the Oxfordshire County Museum,

David Jennings

17/01/96 The practicalities of archaeological project design - Designing Archaeological Projects, OUDCE,

Graham D Keevill

30/07/95 The Tower of London - Broadcast on BBC Radio Oxford,

15/09/95 Eynsham Abbey and the origins of English Christianity - Smithsonian Institute Seminar,

18/09/95 The work of the Oxford Archaeological Unit - seminar for students from the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany,

- 06/11/95 Archaeology and planning: the impact of PPG 16 - seminar at Oxford Brookes University,
 22/11/95 - 13/12/95 Anglo-Saxon England - OUDCE evening class, Burnham, Bucks,
 20/01/96 The landscape of Anglo-Saxon England: the evidence of archaeology and place names - Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, Certificate in Local History),
 10/01/96 - 20/3/96 The archaeology of industry - OUDCE evening class, Newbury College,
 15/02/96 Stratigraphy and phasing in medieval and later cemeteries: an outline of some problems and approaches - Interpreting Stratigraphy 7, University of York,
 16/02/96 The stratigraphy of buildings at the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace - IFA Buildings Special Interest Group Conference, University of York,

George Lambrick

- 28/09/95 Archaeology and planning - Oxford City Planning Committee,
 3/10/95 The Devils Quoits and archaeology of the Stanton Harcourt area - Standlake Historical Society,
 7/10/95 The Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the cultural heritage - Kent Archaeological Society Linear Archaeology Conference,
 23/10/95 Impact assessment and preservation decisions - Oxford University Department of Continuing Education,
 24/01/96 Environmental assessment and the cultural heritage - Oxford Brookes University, Environmental Assessment and Historic Conservation Course,
 24/02/96 Prehistoric Oxford; Archaeology and planning - Day school on Roman Oxford, Oxford University Department of Continuing Education,
 09/03/96 Archaeology and conservation - Countryside Conservation Course, Oxford University Department of Continuing Education,
 16/03/96 The Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the cultural heritage - Kent Archaeological Society,
 03/04/96 Historical landscape assessment principles and practice - Sheffield Hallam University Landscape Conference,

David Miles

- 18/04/95 White Horse Hill - BBC TV Tomorrows World,
 25/04/95 White Horse Hill - BBC Radio 4, Going Places,
 15/05/95 The White Horse Hill Project - Cowley Local History Society,
 24/05/95 The Trants Project - Montserrat National Trust,
 10/06/95 The White Horse Hill Project - National Trust, Abingdon Guildhall,
 05/08/95 Iron Age Britain - Open University/Oxford Undergraduate Course,
 09/08/95 Arthur's Britain - Smithsonian Institution lecture series,
 12/08/95 Iron Age Britain - Open University/Oxford Undergraduate Course,
 02/10/95 Induction Course - Oxford University Diploma in Field Archaeology,
 05/10/95 Iron Age Archaeology Seminars - Stanford University,
 17/10/95 Pre-Saxon Oxford and the Ford - OUDCE,
 30/10/95 The White Horse Hill Project - Oxford University Wives Fellowship,
 02/11/95 The White Horse Hill Project - The Ramblers AGM, East Challow,
 09/11/95 The White Horse Hill Project - Uffington Village Hall,
 11/11/95 The Excavation of St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks - Archaeology in Kent Conference,
 21/11/95 The White Horse Hill Project - Wantage 41 Club,
 06/12/95 Local archaeology - Radio Oxford,
 12/12/95 The White Horse Hill Project - Radio Wiltshire, Wiltshire Sound,
 17/01/96 Designing Archaeological Projects - OUDCE,
 18/01/96 The Landscape of Roman Britain - Institute of Archaeology,
 20/01/96 The White Horse Hill Project - Berkshire Archaeological Society,
 24/01/96 Theoretical Archaeology Seminar - Stanford University,
 30/01/96 Archaeology and Development - Radio 4,
 05/02/96 The White Horse Hill Project - Minster Lovell Historical Society,
 08/02/96 The White Horse Hill Project - Wootton Historical Society,
 19/02/96 Eltham Palace - Presentation to Residents,
 20/02/96 The White Horse Hill Project - Witney and District Historical Society,
 24/02/96 Roman Oxford - Day school on Roman Oxford, OUDCE,
 26/02/96 Complexity and Conflict - Oxford Architectural & Historical Society,
 05/03/96 White Horses and Giants - The Cerne Historical Society,
 15/03/96 Britons Romans and Saxons in the Cotswolds - Fairford Preservation Trust AGM,
 23/03/96 The Cerne Giant Enquiry - Bournemouth University,
 25/03/96 The White Horse Hill Project - Gloucester and District Archaeology Group,
 27/03/96 The White Horse Hill Project - Aston History Group,

Andy Mudd

- 05/06/95 Medieval remains at Bridgeworth - Radio Shropshire,

Julian Munby

- 07/04/95 Timber-framing - RICS Conservation course,
 06/05/95 Historic Buildings in Oxon - Goring Historical Society,
 06/05/95 All Things is Well: Life in a North Country House - Below Stairs Conference, OUDCE,
 12/05/95 PPG15: The Contractor's View - Planning Conference, OUDCE,
 11/10/95 A Medieval Town House in East St Helen's Abingdon - O.P.T.,
 21/10/95 The Roof of Westminster Hall - Farnham Commemoration,
 14/11/95 The Castle and Grandpont - Oxford Before the University Series, OUDCE,
 01/12/95 The Origins of the Coach - OAU Unit 4 Seminar,
 2/12/95 The early printed Maps of Oxford - Images of Oxford, OUDCE,
 08/01/96 Laura Ashley - Oxford Brookes University School of Architecture -
 20/02/95 Recent Work on Oxon Buildings - Cowley Local History Society,
 26/02/96 Investigating Historic Buildings - Cumnor Local History Society,
 21/03/96 The origins of the Coach - Museum of Oxford,

Mark Roberts

- 06/12/95 Excavations at Wyndyke Furlong, Abingdon - South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group,

David Wilkinson

- 11/10/95 Rewley Abbey: Oxford's first college? - Oxford Metal Detectors' Club,
 22/2/96 Industry, history and archaeology - Desk studies in investigations of contaminated land', Society for Chemical Industry conference,
 08-09/05/96 Health and safety for archaeologists (two-day course, with J. Allan) - OUDCE,

List of projects 1995-6

Written reports of all fieldwork (watching briefs, evaluations, excavations, building surveys) and consultancy projects are compiled for clients, regardless of scale. In addition, summaries are contributed to the relevant regional and national journals (eg *London Archaeologist*, *Britannia*) and to County Sites and Monuments Records.

† More detailed report in this Annual Review

‡ Report submitted to *CBA Newsletter (Wessex)*

§ Report submitted to *South Midlands Archaeology*

International Projects

- Montserrat** - environmental assessment and survey of sugar estates
Oman - environmental assessment in advance of oil pipeline
Italy (Ostia) - excavation and survey: Roman insula

National projects

- Bridges** - assessment programme proposal for English Heritage
Dovecotes and Ice-houses - cultural heritage assessment for English Heritage (Monuments Protection Programme)
Landscape mapping - completion of historical landscape mapping (assessment of methodology) for English Heritage
 † **Settlement patterns** - landscape character mapping for the Countryside Commission

Regional projects

- † **Swindon to Gloucester A417/A419 road** - 40+ excavations and investigations, with general watching brief: prehistoric to post-medieval sites

Berkshire

- Brimpton, Larkwhistle Farm** - excavation and post-excavation analysis of middle Iron Age settlement
Charvill, East Park Farm - evaluation: early and middle Neolithic settlement activity
East Shefford, East Shefford House - evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance
Newbury, St Michael's St - evaluation: 18th- to 19th-century activity

Reading, The Oracle - watching brief and ongoing evaluation: medieval and post-medieval activity
† **Reading Business Park** - phase II excavations and post-excavation analysis: late Bronze Age settlement and burnt mound
Remenham, Aspect Park Golf Club - evaluation: Iron Age and Roman settlement
Windsor Bourne Ditch Flood Relief Scheme - watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance
White Horse Hill, Uffington Hill Fort - training excavation of hillfort interior and gateway
Woodley, Duffield House - excavation of Bronze Age settlements: ongoing post-excavation analysis

Buckinghamshire

Chesham, Mount Nugent Farm - consultancy: setting of listed building
† § **Eton Rowing Lake** - major evaluation completed; first season of volunteer excavations and consultancy leading to agreed mitigation scheme
Hedsor, St Nicholas' Church - watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance
Mursley, St Mary's Church - watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance

Derbyshire

Ivonbrook and Hartshead Quarry - desktop and evaluation: no significant archaeology

Essex

† **Purfleet** - evaluation: lower Palaeolithic artefacts and sediments

Gloucestershire

Fairford, Kempsford Stubbs Farm - excavation and post-excavation analysis: 1st- to 2nd-century Roman field system
Horcott, Carriers Arms - evaluation: Roman and medieval activity
Lechlade, Butler's Field - publication: Volume 1 (prehistoric and grave catalogue) complete, final editing of Volume 2
Lydney, Dairy Farm - evaluation: medieval ditches and post-medieval pits
Somerford Keynes, Neighbourbridge - post-excavation assessment: early Roman settlement

Gwent

Undy, Newport - post-excavation analysis of medieval buildings associated with moated enclosure

Hampshire

Fareham, Cams Hall - illustration of architectural detail
M3 motorway service area - consultancy and environmental assessment

Hereford and Worcester

‡ **Alvechurch, land adjacent to Red Lion St** - watching brief and post-excavation analysis: post-medieval tanning pit

Hertfordshire

Hitchin, Foxholes - consultancy for nursing home extension

Kent

Boys Hall Moat - publication of excavations: medieval moated manor
† **Chatham Maritime, No. 8 slipway** - building survey: dry dock
† **Chatham Historic Dockyard, Wheelwright's Shop** - building survey: remains of 18th-century ship of the line
† **Gravesend, Tollgate cropmark complex** - evaluation: probable Neolithic mortuary enclosure
M20, Hollingbourne - environmental assessment, evaluation and excavation: late Bronze Age, later prehistoric and Roman settlement
Northfleet, Springhead - post-excavation assessment and research design complete and approved
Wye, The Granary - building survey: post-medieval granary

Lancashire

Manchester, Deansgate - completion of post-excavation assessment and research design for vicus excavations

Leicestershire

Bardon Hill Park Pale - desktop for quarry extension: medieval park pale

London (including greater London)

A113/A117 Junction - consultancy for mitigation strategy
Balham High Road - desktop report: nothing of archaeological significance
Brent St, Brent - evaluation: 19th-century landscaping
Chelsea Royal Hospital - desktop: possible plague pit
Ealing, Alperton Lane - evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance
Eltham Palace, Greenwich - desktop and evaluation: post-medieval features and possible prehistoric ditch, east and south-east of moated site
Feltham, Officers' Mess - building survey: late 18th century building
Hampton Court Palace - ongoing archiving/cataloguing of records; test-pits in Base Court for foundations of pre-Henry VIII range; test-pits in west moat and on bridge to Great Gate House showed moat emptied in 1908-10; building survey of Great Watching Chamber roof built by Henry VIII
Isleworth, Snowy Fieldier Way - evaluation and excavation: Iron Age activity
Kempton, Water Treatment Works - evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance
† **Kensington Palace** - building survey: analysis of walls of the King's Drawing Room
Merton, Morden Hall - evaluation and building survey: 18th-century house and 19th-century landscaping
112-15 Old Broad St - evaluation: foundations of Austin Friary
Peggy Bedford Public House, Longford - evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance
Pinner, Tesco Store - evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance
Putney, Coldstream Gardens - evaluation: 18th- to 19th-century activity
Putney, Stroud Lodge - evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance
Queen Victoria St, Faraday Buildings - evaluation: Roman building and quarrying
Sadler's Wells Theatre - desktop and evaluation: post-medieval remains of theatre manager's house
Stratford Market Depot - post-excavation assessment and research design: Iron Age and Roman settlement, medieval Stratford Langthorne Abbey, 19th-century silk-printing works
Tentelaw Lane (The Cedars), Brent - evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance
Tower of London - ongoing archiving/cataloguing of records; moat evaluation; watching brief on service works (post-medieval and Victorian structures; radar survey of inner curtain wall; building survey (4-5 Tower Green); Wharf Excavation (medieval revetment wall and later structures); completion of post-excavation analysis on inner ring main
Twyford Abbey, Brent - evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance
Uxbridge, Harefield Road - completion of publication of Bronze Age double-ditched driveway
Uxbridge, Warner Brothers - Environmental statement and watching brief: no significant archaeology
Victoria and Albert Museum - building survey: 19th-century mosaic floor

Norfolk

† § **Brettenham, Melford Meadows** - post-excavation analysis: Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement
North Waltham Tesco store - desktop report: Romano-British and prehistoric archaeology

Northamptonshire

Ditchford Pit, Wellingborough - completion of post-excavation analysis: Roman and medieval causeways adjacent to River Nene
† § **King's Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers** - evaluation, excavation and post-excavation analysis: Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon settlement
Stanwick, Redlands Farm - post-excavation analysis of excavations on round barrows and long barrow; post-excavation assessment and research design for Roman Villa excavations

City of Oxford

† § **Blackbird Leys, Grenoble road** - evaluation and excavation: middle Bronze Age to late Iron Age settlement
Bodleian Library, Exhibition Room - post-excavation analysis and publication of early 13th- to 16th-century buildings
Cornmarket, Gas Main - watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance
§ **Ebor House, Blue Boar St** - excavation: medieval and post-medieval pits
Godstow Weir - desktop: weir replacement
Jowett Walk - post-excavation analysis and publication: late 12th- to late 14th-century buildings
§ **Littlemore Hospital** - evaluation: medieval soil horizons and residual Roman pottery
Littlemore, Lawn Upton School - watching brief: medieval soil horizons
§ **Magdalen College, Longwall Quad** - excavation: part of 11th- to 12th-century building

Paisley House, Redbridge - building survey: house using paper construction, built in 1842
Paradise Square - post-excavation analysis: medieval activity
Rewley Abbey - consultancy: medieval Abbey and *studium*
Rex Richards Building, University science area - publication of late Bronze Age barrows
† § **Rover Works** - evaluation on either side of Roman Way and excavation of Bronze Age/early Iron Age features
St Thomas' St - post-excavation analysis of medieval suburb
Tidmarsh Lane - post-excavation analysis: castle wall and probable west gate, with extra-mural structure
§ **University Parks, pond extension** - evaluation: early channel of Cherwell
§ **Whitehouse Road** - evaluation: channels, possibly medieval
§ **William Dunn School of Pathology** - watching brief and evaluation: medieval ploughsoils

Oxfordshire

A421 Wendlebury-Bicester dualling - ongoing post-excavation analysis of extra-mural Roman settlement at Alchester
† **Abingdon, 35 Ock St** - building survey: 17th-century timber-framed house
Abingdon, 83 Ock St - post-excavation analysis on 12th- to 13th-century building
Abingdon, Regal Cinema - consultancy and desktop study: predicted Roman defensive ditches and medieval St Edmund's Chapel
Abingdon, Tilsley Park Leisure Complex - watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance
Abingdon, Wyndyke Furlong - post-excavation analysis on Iron Age to Anglo-Saxon excavations
§ **Abingdon, Vineyard** - excavation and post-excavation analysis of Iron Age and Roman occupation outside the defenses
§ **Appleton, St Lawrence** - watching brief: possible medieval churchyard boundary ditch
§ **Banbury, land east of Southam Road** - ongoing watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance
§ **Banbury, Tudor Hall School** - watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance
Berinsfield/Didcot - publication of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries
§ **Bicester, Library** - watching brief: medieval burial associated with St Edburga's Priory
Bicester, Unipart - desktop report
Blackthorne, land adjacent to The Royal Oak - watching brief: medieval and post-medieval activity
Blenheim, High Lodge - building survey: 18th-century park estate building
§ **Buckland, land at Church Cottages** - watching brief and evaluation: medieval deposits and features
Devil's Quoits, Stanton Harcourt - reshaping earthworks and re-erecting stones; site management
Dorchester, Mount Farm (Berinsfield) - post-excavation and research design completed
Drayton, Highways Depot - ongoing post-excavation analysis: Neolithic features
Drayton, Purton Glebe - ongoing post-excavation analysis: Neolithic cursus
Ducklington, Gill Mill - evaluation and watching brief: Roman settlement
§ **East Challow, St Nicholas' Church** - watching brief: foundations of original buttress removed in 16th century
§ **Faringdon, All Saint's church** - watching brief: Victorian brick vaults, undated graves, re-used medieval masonry
Freeland, St Mary's Church - Building survey: Victorian vestry
§ **Fritwell, St Mary's Church** - watching brief: possible pre-church structure
Goring, Gatehampton Farm - publication of multi-period landscape
Stanton Harcourt, Gravelly Guy - completion of text and final report editing: major Iron Age settlement
§ **Horton-cum-Studley, Warren Farm** - building survey of 18th-century timber-framed barn
§ **Milcombe Dovecot** - building survey: 18th-century dovecot
§ **Minster Lovell Hall** - evaluation and watching brief: medieval cemetery and 19th-century cottage
Minster Lovell Tythe Barn - evaluation (barn interior): preceding structures Northmoor,
§ **Littlebrook Nurseries** - watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance
§ **Northmoor, Manor Farm** - watching brief: Roman ditches
§ **Nuneham Courtenay** - fieldwalking: extended known boundaries of major Roman ceramic production site
§ **Nuneham Courtenay, Book Repository** - watching brief: medieval ditched enclosure with 10th to 11th-century pottery
North Leigh Villa and Minster Lovell Hall - research for display panels
Radley, Barrow Hills - final report editing: major late Neolithic and Bronze Age monument, Anglo-Saxon settlement, Roman cemetery

Sandford-on-Thames, Templars Court - building survey: roof structure survey of 15th/16th-century house
Shiplake, Lashbrook House - watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance
§ **Shirburn, All Saints Church** - evaluation and building survey: analysis of 14th-century church tower
Standlake, Old Shifford Farm - post-excavation analysis and publication: late Iron Age and Roman settlement site
Steeple Aston, Hopcroft's Holt Hotel - evaluation: Roman farmstead
§ **Stonesfield, land at Jennet's House** - watching brief: nothing of archaeological significance
Sutton Courtenay, land at Sutton Wick - ongoing watching brief and excavation: evidence of tree clearance, undated enclosures
Wallingford Bypass - post-excavation analysis of Grim's Ditch earthwork and various late Bronze Age sites
Wantage, Mabley Way - evaluation: Roman enclosures
Wantage, 58 Mill St - evaluation: nothing of archaeological significance
Witney, Cogges Manor Farm - post-excavation analysis of parlour excavations (Anglo-Saxon sunken featured building)
Witney, Mount House - post-excavation assessment and research design: medieval Bishop's Palace
† § **Yarnton floodplain** - fieldwork, post-excavation assessment and analysis on Neolithic and Bronze Age domestic, burial and ceremonial sites
† § **Yarnton, Creswell Field** - fieldwork and post-excavation assessment: Neolithic and Bronze Age burials, and Anglo-Saxon settlement
† **Yarnton, Worton Rectory Farm** - post-excavation analysis: late Iron Age to Saxon settlement site

Shropshire

‡ **Bridgenorth, Castle St** - evaluation: medieval stratified deposits
‡ **Shrewsbury, Ellesmere Road** - post-excavation analysis: Romano-British enclosure

Staffordshire

Birmingham North Relief Road - consultancy (objectors' alternative routes)

Surrey

Kingsnympton Park Estate - evaluation: post-medieval quarrying

Sussex

Camber Castle - post-excavation assessment and analysis: Henry VIII shore fort (1963-83 English Heritage excavations)
Chichester, Royal West Sussex Hospital - consultancy: 19th-century apple store
West Hoathly, Wakehurst Place, Millennium Seed Bank Project - desktop report

Warwickshire

Alcester, Stratford Rd - watching brief: Roman suburb
‡ **Bidford-on-Avon, Broom Mill** - watching brief: Victorian mill demolition, no earlier structures
Compton Verney - building survey: country house, possibly by Vanbrugh
‡ **Fenny Compton, 2 Church St** - watching brief and evaluation: corner of probable late medieval building
‡ **Long Itchington, Glebe Farm** - excavation and watching brief: deserted medieval village
Packington Landfill - desktop report for landfill extension

West Midlands

† **Walmley, New Shipton Down** - building survey: 15th-century cruck barn
Wolverhampton - completion of historic town centres study

Wiltshire

Bulkington - post-excavation analysis completed: medieval house enclosures
Colleshill, River Cole restoration - watching brief: scatter of Iron Age pottery
Salisbury Plain - consultancy (new tank tracks)
Watbury Chalk Quarry - fieldwalking: nothing of archaeological significance

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Recent Oxford Archaeological Unit Publications

Thames Valley Landscapes is a series of monographs published by the Oxford University Committee for Archaeology. They present the results of major OAU excavations on sites in the Thames valley, ranging in date from the Neolithic to the early modern period. The title of the series reflects the Unit's aim of building up a total picture of the prehistoric and historic landscapes of the region, grouped around the Thames confluences including the rivers Windrush, Coln, Evenlode, Ock and Kennet.

Two Oxfordshire Anglo-Saxon cemeteries: Berinsfield and Didcot

by A Boyle, A Dodd, D Miles and A Mudd. Report and analysis of the graves, artefacts and skeletal remains. Excavations uncovered over 120, mostly inhumation burials, dating from the 5th to the 7th centuries AD. 274p, 97 figs, 44 tables (*Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph No 8, 1995*) 0947816860 pb £28.00

Lithics and landscape:

archaeological discoveries on the Thames Water pipeline at Gatehampton Farm, Goring 1985-92

by T G Allen. This report reveals occupation from the early post-glacial to the middle ages, including evidence of a Mesolithic butchery site and Bronze Age cemetery. 140p, 64 figs, 22 tables (*Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph No 7, 1995*) 0947816852 Pb £18.00

In Harvey's House and in God's House: excavations at Eynsham Abbey 1991-3

by G D Keevill. Excavations of the Great Cloister and adjacent medieval ranges have been supplemented by smaller developer-funded investigations to build a coherent picture of Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement at Eynsham, west of Oxford. 46p, with illus. (*Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph No 6, 1995*) 0904220109 Pb £9.50

Excavations at the Devil's Quoits, Stanton Harcourt

by A Barclay, M Gray and G Lambrick. Report on three seasons of excavation conducted in advance of gravel extraction in 1972, 1973 and 1988 at the henge monument near Stanton Harcourt. 140p, 62 illus. (*Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph: Windrush Valley No 3, 1995*) 0947816844 Pb £18.00

The prehistoric landscape and Iron Age enclosed settlement at Mingies Ditch, Hardwick-with-Yelford, Oxfordshire

by T G Allen and M A Robinson. Evidence for Neolithic alder forests and the discovery of a structurally detailed middle Iron Age farmstead were the highlights of this excavation project. 250p with illus. (*Thames Valley Landscapes Monographs: Windrush Valley No 2, 1993*) 0947816828 Pb £28.00

An Iron Age and Romano-British enclosed settlement at Watkins Farm, Oxon

by T G Allen. More evidence for Iron Age farming, especially for horse breeding, was uncovered at this site that extended into the Romano-British period. 130p, with illus. (*Thames Valley Landscapes Monographs: Windrush Valley No 1, 1990*) 0947816801 Pb £12.00

Excavations at Roughground Farm, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: a prehistoric and Roman landscape

by T G Allen, T C Darvill, L S Green and M U Green. A Roman Villa established at the start of the 2nd century AD continued a pattern of occupation which began in the Neolithic. The villa was added to over the centuries but abandoned around AD 360. 208p, with illus. and 4 fiches (*Thames Valley Landscapes Monographs: Cotswold Water Park No 1, 1993*) 0947816836 Pb £24.00

Reading Business Park: a Bronze Age landscape

by J Moore and D Jennings. The largest number of late Bronze Age roundhouses so far discovered in southern England were found by rescue excavation in advance of development. 130p, with illus. (*Thames Valley Landscapes Monographs: Kennet Valley 1, 1992*) 094781681X Pb £16.00

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