ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes are the result of field-work in this area undertaken in 1941. Thanks are especially due to Miss B. M. Blackwood, Mr. R. C. Weatherby and Mr. D. W. C. Downey, for the help that they have given in this rescue work.

1. *Abingdon, Berks.* Just S. of a point about 440 yds. along the track to Sutton Wick Farm, a few R.-B. sherds on the surface may indicate a small settlement nearby.

2. *Alchester, Oxon.* Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson reports: A section across Langford Lane at a point 130 yards E. of the ford, on the slope of Graven Hill, revealed no traces of the Roman road, which, it has been suggested, passed through this point on its way to the ford from Wretchwick Farm (*V.C.H., Oxon.*, i, 272). This supports the suggestion (l.c.) that Akeman Street by-passed Alchester to the N.

At a point 800 yards S. of the ford, on the continuation of the southern branch of Langford Lane, a freshly cut drainage-ditch exposed a section of rough stone wall running parallel with the ditch and hedge for some 25 ft. It was covered with a layer of débris containing scored tiles, perhaps the remains of a hypocaust, and late 3rd or 4th century R.-B. red colour-coated pottery.

3. *Cassington, Oxon.* (cp. *Oxoniensia, v, 3, fig. 1*).

*Tolley’s Pit.* One or two pit-sections were still visible chiefly on the W. face, but the SE. and SW. faces were entirely featureless. On the opposite side of the road, in the older portion of the same Pit, were two clear pit-sections.

*Tuckwell’s Pit.* Several pits, probably Iron Age, were observed on the W. face, while a few were to be seen in the R.-B. area opposite.

*Smith’s Pit II.* A section had been cut near the middle of the N. side of the large enclosure-ditch near Cassington Mill (cp. *Oxoniensia, iv, 196*), which showed that it was 12 ft. deep by 30 ft. wide (pl. XIII, c). Though the middle and upper strata contained many Roman sherds, no conclusive evidence of Roman date was obtained from the lowest silt. A number of pit- and ditch-sections within the great ditch, which lay between 50 and 100 yards from the middle of its eastern side, contained pottery of 1st century (post-conquest) wares, and R.-B. forms were very plentiful on the surface. Several unstratified sherds showing Belgicized influence have also been found within the enclosure-ditch. The ‘ghost’ of a square sectioned R.-B. sleeper-trench, 1 ft. wide and 6 ins. deep, was traced for 15 ft. Several other ditch-sections were found close by (pl. XIII, A, B), some filled with the red earth typical of the Bronze Age in this region.

*Smith’s Pit II (a).* In the small disused pit opposite, a sherd or two from a small food-vessel were found in a heap of burnt matter deposited among débris from Smith’s Pit II. Some small pit-sections were also noted here.

*Partridge’s Pit.* Twenty or more pit-sections (e.g. pl. XII, B,C) yielding good Iron Age AB pottery were visible.

4. *Dorchester, Oxon.* In April, 1941, on the extreme N. face of Allen’s Pit, on either side of, and close to, the Roman road, more than a dozen pit- and ditch-sections were noted.
5. **Eynsham (Foxley Farm), Oxon.** Two Neolithic storage pits (depth 2 ft. 9 ins.) were found in the centre of an Iron Age settlement complex (fig. 13, s). E.I.A. pits had been subsequently cut through them, but a number of decorated Neolithic B sherds,\(^1\) including rims of two bowls, remained in a burnt layer 6 ins. from the bottom of one pit together with animal refuse; the rim of a smaller bowl was obtained from the other pit.

On the SW., and inner, edge of one ring-ditch (fig. 13, b) a crouched burial was found with a B-beaker similar to that illustrated from Stanton Harcourt, *Antiq. J.*, xi, 59, no. 3: the ditch, being of later date, had cut through the filling of the grave.

A second beaker, perhaps paralleled by no. 2 from Stanton Harcourt (l.c.), together with a bowl of B-beaker character and a small, square-sectioned, bronze awl were found with a skeleton when cutting a drainage trench (fig. 13, a). Earlier in the year an A-beaker, decorated with two horizontal rows of lozenges separated by a band of horizontally and vertically scored lines, was retrieved by workmen from within the area of the beaker-cemetery (fig. 13, f: *cp. Oxoniensia*, iii, 23).

A section was cut across a chord on the N. side of the large round barrow (fig. 13, d) which stood, at its centre, about 3 ft. above the surrounding surface. On the air-photograph (pl. xi) a distinct white ring appears round the dark central mound, and this is also to be seen from the air at circle 13, Standlake. At Eynsham, however, there was no gravel packing round the central mound to account for it. The ditch, 14 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep, enclosed an area 140 ft. in diameter, in the centre of which was a low mound of clean earth 80 ft. across. Near the W. edge of the latter was a cremation pocket of uncertain date. Some 29 ft. N. of the centre of the barrow was a circular pit, 4 ft. wide by 4 ft. deep, filled with rich black earth in which were a few animal bones.

A shallow ditch, averaging 12 ft. wide and 1 ft deep, was traced northwards from the centre for about 40 ft. and was sealed by the central mound, which it therefore antedated: its filling was of the reddish loam characteristic of Bronze Age sites in this area. Extensive search failed to reveal any primary burial in the barrow.

The centre of the largest ring-ditch NW. of this barrow was examined with negative results (fig. 13, h). A section was cut through the NE. periphery of the ring-ditch further S. (fig. 13, h), which proved to be 10 ft. across and 4 ft. deep (pl. xiii, e). On its outer lip, beneath what appeared to be a ledge of undisturbed gravel, stained and solidified by 'leaching,' was an inhumation with a bone pin. The position of the latter leaves no doubt that this solidified gravel was silting, showing that 'leached' gravel may not always be undisturbed 'natural.'

During the summer a long and tortuous drainage trench, running roughly N. and S., (fig. 13) was cut through an extensive Iron Age settlement. Within 360 ft., over a dozen pit-clusters were identified, each containing from 4 to 8 separate pits. These were so superimposed that they formed unbroken and continuous blocks of filling. In addition 23 isolated pits, up to 6 ft. in diameter, were located. The area covered by the pits was shown by trial trenches to extend at least 150 ft. further SE. 300 ft. NE. was another group of Iron Age pits, which may or may not be contemporary with the larger occupation-area, but was not apparently continuous with it.

The majority of these storage pits had vertical sides, though some were U-shaped and a few undercut. Their general dimensions, as far as could be discovered, appeared to be slightly larger than those common on other local sites. Several small enclosure-ditches were identified. The form and decoration of the few sherds found were of A2 and AB type.

\(^1\) To be illustrated in *Antiquaries Journal.*
Plan showing crop-marks to be seen from the air at Foxley Farm and Southfield Barn, Eynsham, Oxon. The dotted lines indicate modern boundaries. Sc. 9 ins. = 1 mile.

Based on photographs taken by the late Major G. W. G. Allen, and on the 6 in. O.S. map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.
A quarter of a mile away, close to the road (FIG. 13, KK) lay yet another distinct group of pits. These produced Belgicized pottery exclusively, dating just before or just after the Roman conquest. In conjunction with this pottery was a small sling-stone of clay.

The complex and extensive crop-marks N. of Southfield Barn (PL. XI, FIG. 13, z) seem from the surface finds of pottery to be of the Roman period. The superimposition of enclosure-ditches indicated several phases of development. Several pit- and ditch-sections containing R.-B. pottery, etc., were also observed near the Belgicized site. Whether these two R-B. habitation-sites form part of a single and continuous zone of occupation parallel with the road has yet to be established. One of the field-systems attached to the R.-B. settlement may probably be identified in the boundary-ditches on the lower half of the air-photograph which terminate along the line of junction between the gravel and clay, in large, roughly, quadrangular blocks. Note the broad approach road with parallel ditches (cp. those at Woodcuts, found by Pitt-Rivers), and also the three parallel lines which run N.-S. across the road. In Luftbild und Vorgeschichte, p. 37, the latter were described as mediaeval, but apparently without any special reason.

The gravel-pit E. of Foxley Farm, when visited in March, 1941, had, since the excavation of the beaker-cemetery in 1938 (Oxoniensia, iii, 23, fig. 4), been extended slightly at the NW. and SW. corners. On the N. and W. faces there were visible about a dozen shallow pits and ditches (e.g. PL. XIII, D), mostly V-shaped, though some W-shaped, in section. Their dimensions varied between 6 ins. and 1 1/2 ft. deep, by between 2 ft. and 5 ft. wide; they should not be confused with the numerous root-holes on the site, which at first might have been taken for post-holes. They yielded no dating evidence, but since they were not of regular Iron Age or R.-B. form, they may be Bronze Age.

At the S. corner, there were 3 or 4 U-shaped pits, about 1 ft. deep by 3 ft. wide, together with a post-hole. These contained a few Roman sherds and probably formed part of the same settlement which produced Belgicized and Roman pottery in 1938, close to this spot. This, in turn, may have been linked with the Belgicized settlement to the NE. (v. supra), and may also form part of the settlement shown in the crop-marks photographed by Major Allen S. of the track to Foxley Farm. Near the borders of some photographs we seem to see part of a broad circular ditch in the fields opposite Foxley Farm on the other side of the road. Its authenticity would have to be determined by several special projections.

6. Frilford, Berks. In the spring of 1941 the well known quarry (cp. Buxton, Antiq. J., i, 87 f. and Oxoniensia, iv, 54) opposite the Noah's Ark was enlarged up to the road (thereby destroying any remaining Saxon graves in that area), and also northwards for some distance. The method employed in quarrying made effective salvage impossible, though a fragmentary skeleton and a certain amount of unstratified Roman coarse ware were retrieved.

A small plain food-vessel (for the form, cp. B.A.P., 1, pl. xxix, 6), was obtained by the late Sir Arthur Evans in March, 1941, from a gravel-pit, some half mile S. of the Noah's Ark, E. of the Wantage road. It had probably fallen from a small pocket in the course of working the gravel.

Two hundred yards from the SW. corner of Marcham Park an occupation-layer over 100 ft. long contained an abundant quantity of Roman pottery and animal refuse. Several small ditch-sections were visible on the E. edge. The pottery appeared to extend into the 4th century. The site would appear to be of some importance.

Just W. of the Frilford cross-roads, a ditch-section and pottery indicate a smaller Roman site.
NOTES AND NEWS

Nearly 200 yards N. of Cradle Farm, parts of two Deverel-Rimbury urns were found with a damaged cremation.

7. Fyfield, Berks. Just W. of the wood by N. Audley Farm and a little below the brow of the Corallian ridge above the Thames an intermittent occupation-layer over 50 ft. long with a fair quantity of Roman pottery points to the existence of a settlement.

8. Hatford, Berks. Further salvage work on the Iron Age settlement-site produced a good quantity of late A2-AB pottery and a number of well defined pit-sections over a wide area (pl. XII, d, e).

9. Kingston Bagpuize, Berks. During February, 1941, a minor Saxon boundary bank was excavated at Kingston Bagpuize. A broad earthy spread runs N. and S. along the line of the parish boundary S. of the Kingston Bagpuize-Abingdon road (O.S. 1 in. (5th ed.) 'Aelfrith's Dyke ') and is apparent northwards as far as the Faringdon road. In charters of 956, 968 and 977 'Aelfrith's Dyke' is mentioned as existing both N. and S. of the Abingdon road, also a 'Short Dyke' running as a continuation S. of it towards the river Ock, and on the same line further N. an 'Old Dyke' running from N. Audley Copse to the Thames (see Grundy, B.B.O.J., xxxix, 108 f. and xxx, 105 f.). A trial trench cut through at a point 635 yards S. of the Abingdon road revealed no evidence of ditches nor of date. Where best preserved, its overall width was 80 ft., and showed a rise of a little over 4 ft.

10. Marcham, Berks. About 100 yards NW. of the small copse near Hyde Farm, a little Romano-British coarse-ware possibly suggests a small occupation-site.

11. Shipton-on-Cherwell, Oxon. During spring, 1941, Roman pottery, mostly coarse ware of the 2nd to 4th centuries, including a fragment of Samian (Drag. 33: mid-2nd cent.), was found together with animal bones in shallow depressions, about 15 ft. across by less than 2 ft. deep, at the Shipton Cement Works, where similar pottery was found in 1928–9 (V.C.H. Oxon., 1, 342).

12. Standlake, Oxon. During gravel-digging in February, 1941, in gravel-pit D (see Antiq. J., xxiii, forthcoming) a Bronze Age male skeleton was removed by workmen; sherds of a B-beaker with finger-nail ornament (cp. B.A.P., 1, pl. viii, 65) accompanied it. A female crouched skeleton, not of typical Bronze Age type, was found in gravel-pit B without any grave-goods (pl. XII, a) (cp. crouched burial in gravel-pit C, Oxoniensia, III, 163). Gravel-digging in pit A cut through the outer lip of the ditch of the large barrow (Stone, Arch., xxxvii, 363 f., no. 13), visible in the air-photograph (Antiq. J., xxiii). Trial trenches revealed the barrow to be an earthen mound surrounded by a wedge-shaped gravel throw-up similar to the Middle Bronze Age barrow at Stanton Harcourt (Oxoniensia, v, 161). No dating material was obtained since the central area of the barrow lay beneath a ploughed field.

More than 30 pits and ditches, probably Iron Age, were examined; throughout the area pottery and food-refuse were noticeably scarce, though a distinct habitation nucleus was visible at the S. corner of pit D, and in pits B and C along the edge of the gravel above the stream. Their dimensions and characteristics fully agreed with Stone's observations. Unstratified Roman pottery was found in pits A, B, and C, and also in the uppermost silt of the ditch of the barrow, indicating sporadic settlement of uncertain character.

13. Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. The gravel-pit, practically water-logged in February, 1941, in Friar's Field, Sutton, showed several small pit-sections, but no dating material was obtained.
NOTES AND NEWS

No archaeological finds were obtained from the following sites, when they were visited in 1941:


Cumnor, Berks. (a) The quarry opposite Bradley Farm; (b) Farmoor gravel-pit.

Little Wittenham, Berks.—The newly ploughed slopes of Wittenham Clumps.

Long Wittenham, Berks. (a) Bearth’s Farm gravel-pit; (b) Garbage field, Northfield Farm (Oxoniensia, v, 164).

Stanford-in-the-Vale, Berks. (a) Two pits N. of Coldharbour Farm, E. of road to Pusey; (b) Stanford quarry, W. of Perry’s buildings.

Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. The pit at Blackditch, W. of the village.

Yarnton, Oxon. (a) Partridge’s pit; (b) Sandy Lane pit.

J. S. P. BRADFORD

J. M. MORRIS

ROMANO-BRITISH SKELETONS FROM COWLEY, OXON.

Capt. Christopher Musgrave writes:

‘On October 2nd, 1940, I excavated a grave at the Pressed Steel Works, Cowley, about 20 yards NW. of the point where the Roman road from Alchester to Dorchester crosses the Oxford-Wheatley railway. The discovery was made during the extension of a railway siding. Workmen reported that about six graves had already been demolished, the skull and some of the bones from one of which, a female c. 25–30 years old, had already been sent to the Comparative Anatomy Department of the University. The skeleton I excavated was an aged male, supine, extended, with no grave goods. The skulls conform to the R.-B. type and the proximity of the Roman road supports such a dating. Both skeletons will be preserved in the Human Anatomy Department of the University of Oxford.’

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN THE CITY OF OXFORD

In recent excavations in colleges for static water-tanks, All Souls and Oriel have yielded typical Oxford groups of mediaeval pottery mostly belonging to the 12th, 13th and early 14th centuries, and containing little which can reasonably be considered as later than 14th or 15th century, confirming the documentary evidence of considerable economic depression in Oxford at this period.

Each site produced one example of the soft, shelly East Anglian late Saxon ware, like the fragments from Logic Lane and Lincoln Hall (Oxoniensia, v, 45 f). Even more striking a link with East Anglia is a shallow bowl from All Souls clearly imitating the East Anglian style, but of a fabric with much sand and little powdered shell, such as would be considered 12th century in the Oxford region. This ware, however, may well show close links with the Anglo-Saxon past of Wessex.

1. All Souls (Cloister Quadrangle). The pottery was about 6 ft. deep, underlying much rubbish probably from the cloister buildings, about 1490–95. Apart from a few fragments of typical 12th to 13th century cooking-pots and the early vessels noted

1 E.g., St. Neots (Hunts.), Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc., xxxiii, 147, fig. 6, nos. 1, 6, and pl. iii; Abingdon Piggotts (Cambs.), Proc. Preh. Soc. E. Angl., iv, 221, fig. 3 M.

2 See Berks. A. J., forthcoming, for a full discussion with illustrations.

3 E.g., Old Sarum, Antiqu. J., xiv, 174 ff.

89
NOTES AND NEWS

above, chief interest attaches to a group possibly of the later 15th century, the first collegiate period. The fragments are of hard buff very fine ware, but show some link with the mediaeval tradition in the occasional convex bases, the everted rims, and applied strips decorated with finger-tip impressions. These vessels do not normally occur with the typical Oxford 12th, 13th and 14th century groups such as those from the Bodleian Extension site (Oxoniensia, iv, 89 ff.). The most profuse site so far known for such vessels is the Old Bodleian Quadrangle (1941). The rest of the fragments almost entirely belonged to the simpler 13th century type of pitcher.

Overlying the layer of building rubbish were a large number of printed and glazed paving-tiles of the usual All Souls types, with the addition of a few new designs. They are probably those made for the chapel by Richard Venge, 1442-47, and will be described in detail elsewhere.

2. Oriel (Middle Quadrangle). The finds were 3-6 ft. below the present level, on the sites of the tenements known as Wyght's and Bookbinder's, on the E. side of Oriel St. The former was ruinous by 1357, and Aungevin's, the next tenement towards High St., had degenerated to a 'toft' by 1345. By the end of the 14th century these tenements had been incorporated into Oriel College, when they probably formed part of the college garden. Thus the main body of the pottery would appear to be earlier than the mid-14th century, and indeed there are very few fragments which could be dated after 1350.

The collection is very representative of Oxford 12th, 13th and 14th century pottery, comparing well with that from the Bodleian Extension site. Large 13th century globular pitchers are numerous, and there is also a great variety of styles of the more ornate jugs, and a few true balusters. Of the earlier pottery there are several fragments of shelly unglazed globular pitchers derived from late Saxon prototypes, many 12th and 13th century cooking-pots, and one base fragment of an apparently unglazed tripod-pitcher (cp. Oxoniensia, iv, 117; Antiq. J., xx, 103). A more detailed account appeared in the Oriel Record (January, 1942).

E. M. JOPE.

CORRIGENDA

Mr. E. A. Greening Lamborn writes:

In my paper "The Arms on the Chaucer Tomb at Ewelme," Oxoniensia, v, 78 ff., I said (p. 91) that the Stonors descend from Geoffrey Chaucer, as is asserted in Burke's Peerage and History of the Commons and in Lipscomb's Bucks. I have lately discovered, and have shown in Notes and Queries, vol. 181, no. 12 (20 Sept. 1941) and 182, no. 20 (16 May, 1942) that the alleged descent is, in fact, impossible.

In my review in Oxoniensia v, 179 (line 16) I referred to a dean of Salisbury of the 16th century; for "dean" read "archdeacon".

AN OXFORD GOLDSMITH

The career of a skilful engraver of arms and inscriptions on a silver rosewater basin (1685-6) and a caudle cup (1689-90) at St. John's College, Oxford, has long puzzled students. Both are signed with his name, L. King, assumed to have been a

1 Loyd Haberly, Medieval Paving tiles, nos. cxxi, cxxii, cxxiii, clxviii, cccix.
2 E. F. Jacob "The building of All Souls," Essays presented to James Tait.
4 For the text of this note see also the author's letter to The Times of Friday, 18th April, 1941. It is republished here by courtesy. [EDD.]

90
NOTES AND NEWS

London craftsman, as they were made there. But in studying the history of Oxford goldsmiths from the time of Alfred the Great until recent times I have found that his full name is Lemuel King and that he was apprenticed to Daniel Portel, the elder, goldsmith of Oxford, a tavern friend of Anthony Wood.

Porter (c. 1630-94) was one of several prominent goldsmiths in the 17th century and was active in repairing and supplying vessels for Magdalen College, though nothing from his workshop can be identified. No other example of the beautiful engraving of this freeman (1680) of Oxford, signed or unsigned, has been traced on plate in his native city or elsewhere. Illustrations of part of his work on the above basin and cup may be seen in Mr. H. C. Moffatt’s admirable book on the Oxford Plate. 2

E. ALFRED JONES

BENJAMIN WEBB

In Canon Ollard’s admirable article in Oxoniensia, vol. v, on ‘The O.A. and H.S. and the Oxford Movement’, he gives an account of the visit of Cambridge ecclesiologists to Oxford in June, 1846. It may be of some interest to mention that the visitors—or some of them—were admitted on this occasion ad eundem to the Oxford M.A. degree. This was certainly the case with my father, Benjamin Webb, who stayed at Magdalen as the guest of J. R. Bloxam. He had been secretary and treasurer of the Cambridge Camden Society at its original foundation while he was still an undergraduate of Trinity. More than half a century later, when in 1890 Mr. Gladstone paid a memorable visit to Oxford (reminiscences of which were published by the late C. R. L. Fletcher in the Cornhill Magazine for April and May, 1908, and afterwards brought out in book form), I was privileged, being then a probationer Fellow of Magdalen, to meet him at a breakfast party given by the then President (T. H. Warren), and he said to me that in knowledge of English churches my father came next after his (Gladstone’s) own brother-in-law, Sir Stephen Glynne (not Glynn, as misprinted, vol. v, p. 159, where Canon Ollard records his presence at a dinner given by E. A. Freeman to the Cambridge men), who is stated in the D.N.B. to have surveyed and made notes on 5,530.

CLEMENT C. J. WEBB

THE ARMS OF THE FISHER FAMILY

In Oxoniensia, v, 179, Mr. Lamborn’s reference to the hatchment of the late Warden of New College might mislead those whose Oxford heraldry is not up-to-date. This ‘passable version’ of the Fisher arms rests on a letter and drawing sent to Warden Fisher by Sir Arthur Cochrane, Clarencieux King of Arms, already embodied in an escutcheon on the east end of the new library at New College. The resemblance of the arms on the hatchment, and on the library, to those of John Fisher, Bishop (not Dean) of Salisbury 1807-1825 is due not to chance but to blood-relationship. Warden Fisher was great grandson of Philip, 3 brother of the Bishop.

JOHN L. MYRES

THE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY, OXFORDSHIRE, VOL. I

Members of the Society may like to know that, by courtesy of the publishers of the Victoria County Histories, a limited number of copies of the archaeological portion (pp. 223-372) of volume I of the Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, bound in paper covers, is available at the Ashmolean Museum for the price of 12s. 6d., postage 7d. This includes the articles on Early Man, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon Remains. Orders for copies should be sent to the Librarian, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and should be accompanied by a remittance of 13s. 1d. to cover cost and postage.

1 E. A. Jones, Cat. of Plate of Magdalen College, Oxford, pp. xiv, 95 ff.
2 H. C. Moffatt, Old Oxford Plate (1906).
EYNHAM, OXON. Crop-marks seen from the air at Southfield Barn.

Photo by courtesy of Major G. W. G. Allen after V.C.H. Oxon. I.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN OXFORDSHIRE AND BERKSHIRE GRAVEL-PITS

A. Standlake, Oxon. (Pit B). Crouched burial, Bronze Age or later.
D, E. Hatford, Berks. Iron Age storage pits.

A B C D E

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN OXFORDSHIRE GRAVEL PITS
A, B. Cassington, Oxon. (Smith's Pit ii). Bronze Age or Romano-British ditches.
C. The same. Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British enclosure ditch.
D. Eynsham, Oxon. (Foxley Farm). Bronze Age or Romano-British ditch.
E. The same. Bronze Age ring-ditch.


OXONIENSIA Vol. VI (1941) NOTES AND NEWS