

# Notes and News

## THE SOCIETY IN WARTIME

It is pleasant to be able to record that the Society has so far been able to carry out its usual programme of lectures and (except in Michaelmas Term, 1939) excursions, despite war-time difficulties in making the arrangements. It has meant, as in the last war, occasional changes in the hour, on days when the moon did not shine at 8 p.m. As was only to be expected, the attendance at meetings has dropped a little, but those members of the Society who have braved the rigours of the black-out have found that the lectures that have been arranged have more than maintained the pre-war standard of excellence. It is hoped that this good beginning is but a foretaste of what can be done throughout the war's duration, and that members will support the Committee's efforts by coming to the meetings and excursions in increasing numbers, and by bringing their friends evacuated from less peaceful parts of the country, for whom special terms of membership have been arranged.

As was doubtless inevitable there has been a noticeable drop in the Society's membership, more especially in the numbers of those paying full membership subscriptions which include *Oxoniensia*. Despite this it has not been found necessary to reduce the size of the present volume of *Oxoniensia* by more than a very small number of pages and illustrations. The Committee recognize that, unless membership figures rise again, future volumes of the journal will have to be smaller; but they would be extremely loath to suspend publication altogether, and every nerve will be strained to keep the journal alive. Members are urged to make the Committee's task the easier, not only by continuing their own subscriptions, but by attracting new subscribers to *Oxoniensia*, thus helping in the struggle to maintain intellectual activities which in this country are so largely dependent on local support.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following discoveries have been made in the district during the twelve months since the notes published in volume IV were compiled :

1. *Chiselhampton, Oxon.* In Messrs. John Allen & Sons' new gravel-pit south of the Clifton Hampden-Chiselhampton road during gravel-digging, two palaeolithic hand-axes of Acheulian type have been discovered. One, found in the gravel, has the normal brown patina; the other, found in a clay pocket, is scarcely patinated at all. Both have been given to the Ashmolean by the late Major G. W. G. Allen.

Elsewhere in the pit some Romano-British sherds were found in a heap of occupation-débris.

2. *Stanton Harcourt, Oxon.* During the summer of 1940 a large ploughed-out barrow was excavated in the field called Barrow Field. The primary cremation, of Middle Bronze Age date, yielded an 'incense-cup' with chevron and other geometrical decoration on the sides and base, and vertical slashes through the walls; a bronze dirk

## NOTES AND NEWS

and awl (or sharpener ?) in a sheath of wood and hide ; a whetstone ; a flint fabricator, and three beads. Round the periphery of the barrow, inside the ditch were 23 Anglo-Saxon burials, more than half of them small children or infants.

Various circular and rectangular enclosures in adjacent fields, the existence of which had been revealed by air-photographs, were also investigated.

The ditch of a large oval enclosure surrounding the southernmost Devil's Quoit was sectioned and proved to be nearly 60 ft. across and 8½ ft. deep, with a bank on the outside. Within this enclosure four further stone-holes (beside that of the Quoit itself) were found. The site must now be accepted as that of a 'Henge' monument, with an oval of probably seven widely-spaced stones, and with two entrances roughly east and west.

In the centre of a double ring-ditch some 600 yards E. of the barrow was an Early Bronze Age crouched burial with a flint knife and jet slider. A single ring-ditch cutting this double ring had a beaker-burial in the centre. Of two other ring-ditches near by, one produced remains of a cremated burial, the other was barren. Also in the same area, an enclosure of a different type was explored and found to consist of a sequence of ditches for a small settlement of Iron Age date.

Some 500 yards S. of the barrow an isolated ring-ditch yielded a crouched burial, presumably Early Bronze Age, in a primary position in its peripheral ditch.

3. *Port Meadow, Oxford.* In May and June, 1940, the Oxford University Archaeological Society examined one of the rings revealed by Major Allen's air-photographs on Port Meadow. It consisted of two circular ditches, one overlapping the other, from which the gravel had been thrown to form a low bank on the outside. No evidence of their date or purpose was found, as the bottom of each ditch was below water level.

4. *Shotover, Oxon.* In April, 1940, Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson sank a trial hole into a mound revealed by one of Major Allen's air-photographs and suspected of being a barrow, which lies on the south side of the old Oxford-London road at the foot of the western slope of Shotover Hill. The mound proved to be artificial and probably of some archaeological significance ; that it is a barrow is not yet proved.

5. *Crawley, Oxon.* In March, 1940, Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson, on behalf of the Ashmolean Museum, cut three sections through the Akeman Street SW. of Chasewood Farm, which demonstrated that the original Street did not run along the middle of the present grass track, but lay mostly under its southern boundary hedge. The Street changes direction slightly at the top of the rise E. of the road from Leafield to Crawley. The Roman paving consisted of irregularly-laid stones bound with stiff clay, topped by a dressing of pebbles. There were no flanking ditches.

Search was also made for a barrow marked on the O.S. maps 690 yards SW. of Chasewood Farm and 80 yards N. of Akeman Street. A series of trenches revealed no trace of any mound or ditch or other archaeological remains. Later, in May, 1940, search was made for another barrow marked on the O.S. maps 155 yards WNW. of the Farm. There was a slight mound here, but it proved to be a promontory of natural rock.

6. *Cholsey, Berks.* A crouched burial, perhaps of Bronze Age date, was found in July, 1940, at a depth of 3½ feet in a layer of clay with flint during the digging of a pit on the high ground on the eastern edge of the village.

7. *Hatford, Berks.* The Hatford sand-pit (*Oxoniensia*, IV, 196) has produced a calcined bone weaving-comb of normal Early Iron Age type, as well as some potsherds of parallel date ; all are now in the Ashmolean.

## NOTES AND NEWS

8. *Cowley, Oxford.* Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson reports that excavations were carried out by members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society between 22 November, 1939, and 10 March, 1940, on a Romano-British potter's site at Between Towns Road, by kind permission of the Vicar of Cowley. Roman pottery had already been found nearby during the building of the Conservative Club in 1936, and the discovery of numerous sherds, evidently part of a 'waster' dump, while digging foundations for two air-raid shelters opposite St. James's Church Hall, suggested that further excavations would be advisable.

The site lies some 1600 yards W. of the Roman road which runs through Dorchester-on-Thames to Alchester, and about 1400 yards ENE. of a similar potter's field at Rose Hill, Cowley (*Oxoniensia*, I, 94). Both soil and subsoil are sandy; the whole area, however, was greatly disturbed and no definite stratification was visible.

The main discovery was a small pottery kiln of the open type, 4 ft. 6 ins. long by 2 ft. 6 ins. wide, and oriented roughly NE.-SW. At the SW. end was a shallow stoke-hole cut in the sand and lined with large stones, some of which were found *in situ*. The kiln itself was much destroyed, only the walls, floor, and central partition of the furnace remaining. Fragments of the floor and walls of the pot-chamber were found in and around the furnace. Close to the kiln were two pits for puddling clay, in one of which was an iron sickle; another pair of these pits, and a puddling platform of flat stones, lay 20 yards to the north; close to these were fragments of a second kiln and a rough hut-floor.

About 15,000 sherds of pottery were collected. Mortaria and handled jugs and bowls of coarse white ware predominated, many of the former bearing the stamp of the potter VOSSULLUS, hitherto unknown. Decorated red colour-coated wares and imitation Samian forms were also fairly common. No positive dating evidence was obtained, but a preliminary survey of the pottery suggests that this site was occupied from the 2nd to the late 4th or early 5th century A.D. It is hoped to publish a more detailed account later.

9. *Cassington, Oxon.* Early in 1940, while a trench was digging along the Lane leading to Cassington Mill, four or five graves lying at a depth of 1-2 ft. were cut through. Some of the skeletal remains were examined in the Department of Human Anatomy at the University Museum and proved to be of the normal Romano-British type.

In August some Anglo-Saxon graves were found by gravel-diggers in Smith's Pit II (see fig. 1, p. 3). Unfortunately they had all been destroyed before they could be investigated archaeologically, but it has been possible to acquire the following grave-goods from them for the Ashmolean:

1. A tall conical beaker of green glass, c. 9½ ins. high, with horizontal and vertical thread decoration, type as Baldwin Brown, IV, 487, pl. cxxvii, 2, from Alfriston, Sussex.
2. Fragments of bronze and wood from a bronze-mounted wooden bucket c. 3 ins. high and 3½ ins. diam.
3. An iron shield-boss with a portion of its handle.

In addition two superb gilt-bronze brooches of Kentish type from one of the graves are now in the possession of Mr. F. Lay of Cassington, and it is known that an iron spear-head was also found. The number of graves discovered is uncertain.

10. *Dorchester, Oxon.* A burial was found in the top of the northern mound of the Dyke Hills close to its middle point. Very few fragments of the skeleton were recovered for examination, but in view of the discovery of Anglo-Saxon burials near this

## NOTES AND NEWS

same point in the Dykes when a portion of them was ploughed out in 1870, this skeleton is presumably of that date. No grave-goods were reported.

11. *Wallingford, Berks.* The Anglo-Saxon cemetery in the grounds of the Pavilion has yielded some more interments, bringing the total number up to 24.

12. *Charlton-on-Otmoor, Oxon.* During digging operations in the garden of the public house opposite the parish church a burial of uncertain date, probably mediaeval, was found in June, 1940. The skeleton is now in the Department of Human Anatomy in the University Museum.

D. B. HARDEN.

### CROP-MARKS SEEN FROM THE AIR, NORTHFIELD FARM, LONG WITTENHAM, BERKS. (PLATES XVI-XXI; FIG. 10).

In the year 1893 a long drought occurred and the tenant of Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham, noticed markings in the crops where the barley and sanfoin grew taller and richer in lines and patches. He carried out certain excavations and the marks were surveyed. Prof. F. J. Haverfield and Mr. J. L. Myres were interested in the site and the former gave an account to the Society of Antiquaries, which was published together with a plan of the marks (*Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 2 ser. xviii, 10 ff., plan opp. p. 14).

For the past six years observations have been made from the air, and the accompanying map (FIG. 10) shows the marks which have been photographed during that period. The map is intended to form a companion to that published in *Oxoniensia*, III, 169, showing the crop-marks in the corresponding area on the other side of the River Thames, in Dorchester parish.

The marks are all of the type produced by the refilling of trenches and pits with soil of a more fertile nature than the subsoil which it replaces. Although some which were recorded by the first observers have not shown themselves and a number which were not previously recorded have appeared, the air-photographs confirm, in the main, the great accuracy with which the marks were originally observed and planned, due allowance being made for the difficulties of producing an accurate ground survey in the standing crops.

There are two main groups, one to the west and another to the east of the Northfield Farm buildings; a third group lies about half-a-mile to the south, near what is marked on the O.S. map 'Site of Littleton.'<sup>1</sup>

I. To the north-west of the buildings there is an extensive system of rectangular, ditched enclosures and several circles (PLATE XVI). One of the smaller circles is contained in a round-cornered enclosure of an unusual type with an incurved entrance. To the east of this in the field called Scabbs there is a group of circles, pits and straight-sided enclosures (PLATE XVII). These two systems seem to be of different type and period, as in several cases the lines cross and there is a general lack of symmetry between them.

In Fox Furlong, to the southward, there are several straight-sided enclosures and a well defined circle, together with a number of pits (PLATE XVIII).

A number of the circles are traversed by the sides of enclosures, so that it is probable that they are each of different periods. To the west of this group there is one circle lying beyond the farm road, which has the appearance of being the site of a levelled round barrow.

<sup>1</sup> . . . Little Town, a row of cottages removed in the early 19th century': *V.C.H. Berks.* iv, 381.

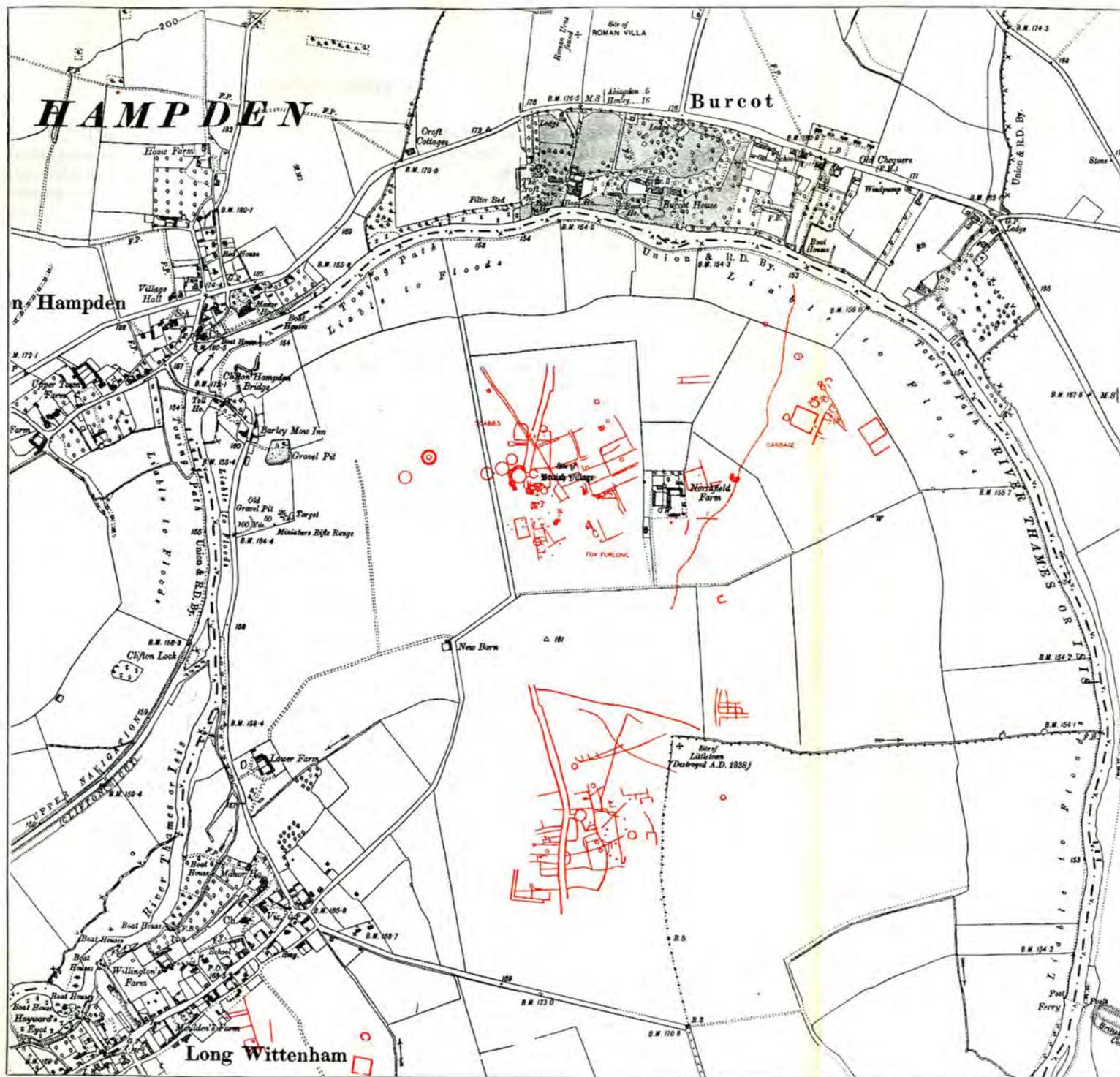


FIG. 10  
CROP-MARKS AT LONG WITTENHAM, BERKS.

Scale  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins. = 1 mile.

Taken from the 6in. Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

## NOTES AND NEWS

II. The field immediately to the east of the buildings (PLATE XIX) contains a rectangular enclosure and a small triple-ditched enclosure with rounded corners. Crossing this field in a N.-S. direction there is a line of post-holes, evidently of a stockade, which extends to the river bank and passes through the triple-ditched enclosure. The southern end of this stockade was noted by Haverfield.

The field to the north, named Garbage (PLATE XX), which is crossed by this stockade, contains several circles and a large number of pits. Close to the river there are several rectangular enclosures.

III. The group of marks near Littletown (PLATE XXI) is complex, most nearly resembling that in Scabbs. As the main arteries of both of these groups appear to be very similar and are in alignment, it seems probable that they were connected. No marks which would confirm this have, however, been seen in the intervening field, although the conditions during the period of observation ought to have produced them if any existed.

In this area there are several circles, some cut by lines, and a number of small enclosures on each side of a passage-way. There is a length of stockade running in a W.-E. direction. Although the two stockades were very similar they lie at right angles to one another and there is no evidence that they were connected.

Other enclosures and a circle lie close to the village of Long Wittenham.

Some small rectangular enclosures to the north of the farm buildings are recorded in considerable detail by Haverfield, but as these now lie in a grass field very little can be seen of them from the air. The field north of Burcot, where the O.S. map marks 'Site of Roman villa,' and which has been watched closely, has revealed no visible marks at all.

G. W. G. ALLEN.

## THE GEOLOGICAL ORIGIN OF FOUR STONE AXES FOUND IN THE OXFORD DISTRICT

Dr. F. S. Wallis, Deputy-Director of the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, has recently been instrumental in having sections of four polished stone axes from the Oxford district analysed. The analysis, made under the auspices of the sub-committee appointed by the South-Western Group of Museums and Art Galleries for the petrological examination of stone implements, demonstrated that all four axes were of epidotized tuff of intermediate or basic composition, as found *in situ* in the Stake Pass area in the Lake district. They therefore come from the factory discovered by Professor D. M. S. Watson and mentioned by S. H. Warren in *Journ. Royal Anthropol. Inst.*, LI (1921), 198. For an axe from Foxcote (Glos.) from the same factory see G. C. Dunning in *Trans. Bristol and Glouc. Arch. Soc.*, LVIII, 284 f.

The four axes thus analysed were :

1. From Alvescot, Oxon.: *Oxoniensia*, III, 168, no. 2.
2. From Kencot, Oxon.: *ibid.*, no. 3.
3. From Sutton Courtenay, Berks.: *ibid.*, no. 4.
4. From Abingdon, Berks. (Neolithic A2 village site): *Antiq. Journ.*, VIII, 468.

Since the fourth example came from a stratified site and was accompanied by Neolithic A2 pottery, it provides a firm date for the Stake Pass factory itself. It is hardly necessary to emphasize the great importance of this information from the point of view of trade and trade-routes in the later Neolithic period.

D. B. HARDEN.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### THE FRILFORD SITE—A POSTSCRIPT

In their admirably detailed report on the excavations at Frilford, published in *Oxoniensia*, IV, 1-71, J. S. P. Bradford and R. G. Goodchild give two reasons for 'the importance of the Frilford region during the Roman period': (i) the Iron Age history of their site with its religious implications; (ii) the supposed existence of a secondary Roman road from the Berkshire Downs towards Alchester. It is possible that a third reason, or rather a rider to the two which they have mentioned, may be adduced.

It is well known that in Gaul the areas occupied by Celtic tribes can be more or less accurately determined by studying those of the mediaeval bishoprics.<sup>1</sup> On the basis of this information, Camille Jullian<sup>2</sup> pointed out that in numerous instances, when we pass from one tribal area to another, we are compelled to cross a belt of what is often, to this day, wild, forested land. In Britain we cannot use such ecclesiastical evidence to lay an exact course for Celtic tribal boundaries; nevertheless the geological observations of Bradford and Goodchild (*op. cit.*, p. 3) make, according to the Jullian principle, the Vale of the White Horse an extremely tempting line for the boundary of Dobuni and Atrebatas, which must have lain hereabouts. Moreover archaeology has something to say; their site, as they point out (*op. cit.*, p. 6), is virtually on the northern edge of the haematite pottery culture-complex, and they might further have pointed out that it is virtually on the southern edge of the Dobuni coin area.<sup>3</sup> Moreover there is the final and most interesting point that the site is on the very fringe of the 'Romano-Celtic' temple area as plotted by Wheeler:<sup>4</sup> and again Gallo-Roman experts have noted the frequency of temples on the known frontiers of Gallic tribes. I would, in fact, compare the Frilford site to Champlieu between Silvanectes and Suessiones,<sup>5</sup> or Tintiniac between Arverni and Lemovices.<sup>6</sup> The case for a frontier religious site at Frilford is surely very strong.

But the unique character of the Frilford site rests upon the double religious complex: there is the 'rotunda' no less than the temple to be considered. It is necessary to show even more than normal prudence in discussing British or even Romano-British religion. Nevertheless it appears that the religious ideas, whatever they were, expressed by the 'Romano-Celtic' type of temple are a function of the Iron Age C or Belgic culture-complex, and do not seem to have spread beyond it. It is not easy to say precisely in what types of religious structure the religious ideas of the rest of Roman Britain were expressed.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless a conjecture may be made. Kendrick<sup>8</sup> has already drawn attention to the remarkable amount of Roman pottery which turned up during the excavation of Stonehenge. We can now add a similar profusion of Roman pottery from monuments of a similar type at Avebury<sup>9</sup> and Arminghall.<sup>10</sup> Even the very slight examination of the Arbor Low circle produced a little Roman pottery.<sup>11</sup> It looks in fact as though

<sup>1</sup> On this point see *inter alia* Holmes, *Caesar's Conquest of Gaul*, p. 347.

<sup>2</sup> *Histoire de la Gaule*, II, 17, 33. <sup>3</sup> G. C. Brooke, *Antiquity*, VII, 282, map VIII.

<sup>4</sup> *Ant. Journ.*, VIII, pl. XLVII. It is also on the northern fringe of the Belgic bead-rim culture (Dunning and Hawkes, *Arch. Journ.*, LXXXVII, fig. 25).

<sup>5</sup> Grenier, *Manuel*, I, 181. <sup>6</sup> Lallande, *Tintiniac*.

<sup>7</sup> Small square or rectangular *cellae* have been excavated at Chedworth (*Trans. Brist. & Glos. Arch. Soc.*, LII, 255), Jordan's Hill, Weymouth (*Proc. Dorset N.H. & A.S.*, LIII, 265), and Nettleton Shrub, Wilts. (*J.R.S.*, XXIX, 220).

<sup>8</sup> *Druids*, pp. 153 and 155, n. 1; see Col. Hawley's interim reports, *Ant. Journ.*, I-VI, VIII.

<sup>9</sup> *Arch.*, LXXXIV, 135. <sup>10</sup> *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, II, 7.

<sup>11</sup> *Arch.*, LVIII, 479. I fear that we can hardly press the few Romano-British finds from Gorsey Bigbury into service (*Proc. Spelaeological Soc.*, v, 55). But the 'Amphitheatre' at Woodcuts (Pitt-Rivers, I, 231) may be a religious structure.

## NOTES AND NEWS

the religion of districts outside the 'Romano-Celtic' temple area was at least in part a continuation of a cult in which 'hengés' and stone circles played the principal part. Now, as the excavators remarked, the Frilford 'rotunda' is precisely a small Iron Age 'henge' remodelled as a stone 'rotunda' in the Roman period; but I do not see why the ditch of the 'henge' should be secondary to the post-holes, as the excavators suggest (*op. cit.*, p. 15). Maiden Castle (where the 'Romano-Celtic' religious complex has intruded at a late date (*Ant. Journ.*, xv, 270)) produced a similar 'rotunda' of late Roman date, 22 ft. internal diameter with post-holes. Wheeler (*ibid.*, xvii, 281) diagnosed it as a hut with possible religious significance. But that was before the Frilford discoveries; and his earlier Iron Age hut may be no more than the Roman filling of a 'henge' ditch, for he does not seem to have checked this possibility by sectioning the site. May we not, therefore, claim the two Frilford temples as belonging, the one to the Atrebrates, the other to the Dobuni, each expressing their different religious ideas upon their common frontier? We might even dare to see in the pit in the 'rotunda' something connected with the cult of the dead analogous, as Mr. G. M. Young has pointed out,<sup>1</sup> to the *βοθροί* of Hellenic cults.

If my frontier theory is correct the excavations would appear to show that the Frilford site possessed this character even before the Roman conquest. I think, therefore, that, in spite of the excavators' claims (*op. cit.*, p. 10), the hut partially underlying the 'Romano-Celtic' temple is its ritual predecessor. The 'Dobunian' 'henge' comes first in time, and so is nearer the ford, thus actually nearer to Atrebatian territory. It is very tempting to see in the Woodeaton site, where, *mutatis mutandis*, similar conditions occur,<sup>2</sup> a frontier site between Dobuni and Catuvellauni; and thus the Roman road, which is postulated, will have joined the two.

C. E. STEVENS.

### BLUE PIGMENT OF ROMAN DATE FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

During excavations by the Oxford University Archaeological Society at Woodeaton in 1921 examples of blue pigment for fresco-painting were found in the form of finely-ground paint on a small sherd used presumably as a palette, and also of small biconical-shaped balls made by rolling in the hands. The type and shape of the balls correspond well with Vitruvius's description, c. 24 B.C., of the manufacture of this blue pigment (Vitruvius, Loeb ed., iv, ch. xi).

By X-ray powder photography it has now been shown (*Nature*, cXLVI, no. 3688 (8 July, 1940), p. 26), that this pigment is a calcium copper silicate identical both chemically and in crystal structure with similar examples of crude blue frit and paint from Silchester (Berks.), Wroxeter (Salop), and several Italian and Near Eastern sites.

E. M. JOPE: G. HUSE.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN THE CITY OF OXFORD

*Beaumont Street.* In June, 1940, workmen digging a trench across the street in connexion with the extension of the Ashmolean Museum laid bare a foundation-wall which ran along the line of the street 9 ft. out from the edge of the southern pavement and directly opposite the central window of the new Ashmolean building. The wall was 3 ft. high and 2 ft. thick at the top, which lay 5 ft. below the surface of the street. The

<sup>1</sup> *Antiquity*, VIII, 459. Thurnam (*Arch.*, XLIII, 181) had drawn a similar parallel in discussing the ritual pits found in Wiltshire barrows. We might compare the pit at Jordan's Hill (*op. cit.*).

<sup>2</sup> On the Cherwell as a frontier see Leeds in *Arch.*, LXXI, 229, to which add Hawkes & Dunning, *op. cit.*, p. 258, and Brooke, *op. cit.*, maps vi (Whaddon Chase—*i.e.*, Cassivellaunus-coins) and xi (Cunobeline coins).

## NOTES AND NEWS

masonry had a well-marked batter. A cache of mediaeval pottery was found at a depth of 7 ft. on the N. side of this wall, apparently in a shallow pit. The pottery is now in the Ashmolean, but the trench had unfortunately been filled in before the find was reported to the Museum staff.

Mr. E. M. Jope reports that the pottery forms a group which may be attributed to the earlier part of the 14th century with some reasonable degree of certainty. There are three pitchers of pale buff fabric and speckled green glaze, and flimsy, round-sectioned handles, tolerably complete, and fragments of two others, with strap-handles. Their rims are clubbed and their general form is derived from the baluster jugs and pitchers of the 13th century. There are, finally, some fragments of a cooking pot in fine hard buff ware with a clubbed rim, such as may be exactly paralleled at Bungay Castle, Suffolk, in a deposit well dated to 1294.

*Broad Street.* In December, 1939, during the insertion of an 8 in. water-main for the supply of the new Bodleian building a portion of wall some 2½ ft. high, built of flat stones rather loosely laid, was unearthed. The top of the masonry, a length of 15 ft. of which was exposed, was 2 ft. below the surface, and the wall ran ENE.-WSW., its eastern end being some 30 ft. W. of the front of the Indian Institute and 36 ft. N. of the NE. corner-post of the railings of the Clarendon Building. If reference be made to Cole's survey of the Clarendon Quadrangle in 1713 (*Oxoniensia*, III, pl. xvi, after Skelton, *Oxonia Restaurata*, II, fig. following pl. 100) it will be seen that this position exactly tallies with the line of the front of the houses pulled down to make way for the Clarendon Building, and this fragment of wall may presumably, therefore, be ascribed to those earlier structures. A large-scale plan showing the exact position of the wall and of the water-main is deposited in the Ashmolean, by courtesy of the Oxford City Engineer.

*University College.* Mr. E. M. Jope reports that the frost and snows of last winter caused a sudden subsidence in the Radcliffe Quadrangle of the College during January, 1940, which revealed a stone-built chamber at the NE. corner of the southern half of the lawn.

The main chamber was 12 ft. by 10 ft. by 12 ft. high, and its roof lay some 5 ft. below the surface. The bottom of the chamber was filled with thick slime to a depth of 3 ft. or more and could not be properly investigated, but it was ascertained that the floor consisted of the natural subsoil of blue clay. The lower levels of the slime contained small fragments of china of probably the later 18th century. The chamber had a corbelled roof of rough stone blocks, and where this corbelling joined the vertical walls was a ledge about 3 ins. wide. This had a curious yellow brown paste piled all round it, and although a microscopic examination yielded no evidence as to its nature, it is possible that it may have been brewing dregs. About 3 ft. below the top of the east wall of the chamber was a tunnel 2 ft. square in section, through which ran a heavy lead pipe debouching into the chamber. The further end of this tunnel had been bricked up at a point corresponding to the front wall of the east side of the quadrangle.

Most probably the structure was merely a sump pit. As subsequent alterations may have taken place, the bricking up of the passage cannot be taken as a proof that the chamber antedates the quadrangle buildings, which were erected in 1716-1719. Indeed, the fact that previously to this the area was covered by a garden, and that, at the time of building, the level of the quadrangle was probably considerably raised to its present height, argues against this earlier date. This makes it most probably an accessory to the Master's residence, which was the original function of the building on the east of the quadrangle. A full report, with plan attached, is deposited in the Ashmolean.

D. B. HARDEN.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### A 15TH CENTURY HOARD FROM THAME, OXON.

On 31st May, 1940, an event of very rare occurrence took place at Thame, an inquest on Treasure Trove. The subject of inquiry was a small hoard consisting of ten silver coins and five gold rings, a combination which lends the hoard a special interest. The hoard was discovered in the bank of the R. Thame, west of the town, and, to judge from the statements made at the inquest by the finder, W. G. McKenzie, and others, it had evidently been thrown out in the previous summer when the river was dredged, but nearly a year elapsed before it was exposed to view by the weather.

The ten coins are all of the denomination then known as groats. They comprise (1) Edward III, (2) Richard II, (3) Henry V, and (4-10) Henry VI, the earliest being struck between 1351 and 1353, the latest in 1457, so that the hoard must have been lost after this latter date. Moreover, while the two earliest coins are much worn, the later examples are in remarkably fresh condition, indicating that they had not been long in circulation at the time of their deposit.

The rings have been declared by experts to fall within the later part of the period covered by the coins. One or two can be as early as the 14th century, but, taken as a whole, they may be assigned to the first part of the 15th century. They are:

- (1) a massive ring set with a 'toad-stone' (a palatal tooth of the fossil fish, *Lepidotus*).
- (2) a thin ring with high bezel set with a small turquoise.
- (3) a ring with chased hoop and flat hexagonal bezel of a green stone.
- (4) a small hoop ring, chased with floral motives and engraved with a black-letter inscription, *tout pour vous*, 'all for you'.
- (5) a superb, jewelled, reliquary ring, its hoop set with tabular amethysts, and the open-work lid of its large box-bezel set with a cruciform amethyst. Inside the bezel is a loose plate chased with a floral design, repeating that on the upper side of the plate forming the back of the bezel, the under side of which is decorated with a scene of the Crucifixion. That the two similarly decorated surfaces were intended to protect a relic of the True Cross is clearly shown by the letters incorporated in the design of the lid and continued round the sides of the bezel; these are to be read MEMANTO MEI, DOMINE; Remember me, O Lord.

The hoard was declared to be 'treasure trove' and was, therefore, surrendered to the Crown, whose representatives, deciding not to exercise their right, courteously allowed the Ashmolean Museum to acquire it. Towards the purchase-price the National Art-Collections Fund has made a generous contribution.

It is intended to publish the hoard more fully at a later date.

E. T. LEEDS.

### A ROYAL COAT OF ARMS IN THE CLARENDON HOTEL, OXFORD (FIG. 11)

In one of the south-east rooms on the first floor of the building until recently known as the Clarendon Hotel in Cornmarket Street, Oxford, there is a contemporary example, in gesso-work, of the Tudor Royal Arms. The panel measures 40 by 24 inches, has a decorated vine-leaf border and is inserted in the wall above what may be a reconstructed fireplace. The Arms, surrounded by the Garter, show France modern quartering England with the dexter supporter a lion and the sinister a dragon. Very few traces of colour exist and it is not possible to determine the original tincture of the dragon. If it

## NOTES AND NEWS

was red the arms could be identified as those of Henry VIII, Edward VI or Elizabeth in the first part of her reign; later the Queen bore the dragon gold. The motto here appears as 'Dieu et mon droit' and not the 'Semper eadem' as used by Elizabeth, and it seems that the arms are probably those of Henry VIII. There is no evidence to



FIG. 11

A Royal Coat of Arms in the Clarendon Hotel, Oxford.

show how or when these arms came to be in the place where they are now found. It is, however, to be hoped that this notable example will be preserved either in any new building erected on the site or elsewhere in Oxford.

P. S. SPOKES.

### SHILTON BRIDGE (PLATE XXII)

The reconstruction of the bridge over the Shil Brook at Shilton, near Burford, became necessary in 1938 owing to the decay of its stonework. At the same time it was necessary to widen the carriageway and to improve a bad hump. The bridge was a small structure with one central span of 6 ft. and two side spans of 4 ft., but it was of some merit architecturally in spite of its small scale. Being also situated in one of the most beautiful villages in Oxfordshire and admirably adapted to its position, it was desirable in the rebuilding to preserve the features of the old structure as far as possible.

The faces of the old bridge were taken down stone for stone, and rebuilt on the new line. All the old stones were re-used in their former relative positions except when they were so badly decayed that replacement was absolutely necessary. When this was done old weathered stone was used. The rest of the bridge inside was rebuilt in concrete. The work was carried out by the Oxfordshire County Council with their own workmen. PLATE XXII shows photographic views of the bridge before and after rebuilding.

J. J. LEEMING.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### CAST-IRON WATER-PIPES FROM WOODSTOCK, OXON.

In March, 1940, the Waterworks Department of the Oxford City Council, during some repairs to the water-mains in the town of Woodstock, had occasion to remove some 25 cast-iron pipes, which had hitherto formed part of the system, and which must be at least 100 years old. Each was 9 ft. long, with an outside diameter of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins. and an average bore of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  ins.; the walls varied between  $\frac{3}{4}$  and 1 in. in thickness. In the middle of each pipe the exact weight was engraved. Those that were examined varied between 2 cwts. 3 qrs. and 2 cwts. 3 qrs. 18 lbs., and one which was actually weighed agreed closely with its marked weight. Photographs, including close-up views of the inscriptions, were taken, and the negatives are in the Ashmolean. Examples of the pipes themselves will be preserved by the Waterworks Department.

Local tradition claims that these pipes were originally used as pillars encased in bricks to support a building and that their use as water-mains was secondary; but the story has no factual basis and will not bear examination.

The late Major G. W. G. Allen, who inspected the pipes, very kindly furnished the following report upon them:

'The pipes are of exceptionally heavy section and are rather rough castings. Their heaviness would be accounted for by the difficulty of casting thin pipes of that length at the time they were made, perhaps by a local foundry. The ends are plain, not socketed, and the joints were made with cast-iron sleeves, about 7 ins. long, which fit fairly closely on the pipes, the space at each end of the sleeve being filled with lead packed with hemp in the usual way.

The ends of the pipes have been cut off roughly on the bevel, probably to remove the headers of the castings, which were, I expect, moulded in a horizontal position, and thus would have surplus ragged metal risers at each end. The material of both the pipes and sleeves seems to be identical and is a good quality cast-iron. I have no doubt that they are old water-mains and never served any other purpose.

Until within the last few years Woodstock has had its water supply from Blenheim. There are some old waterwheel-driven pumps, which I believe provided the town supply, at the inlet to the lake at the northern end, behind the wall where the road crosses the River Glyme. I would expect that these and the pipes are contemporary.'

D. B. HARDEN.

### JACKSON'S OXFORD JOURNAL

Mr. Philip B. Gove writes from the Department of English, New York University, University Heights, New York, U.S.A. :—

'After diligent attempts to locate the extant files of *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, particularly from its beginning in 1753 to the end of the 18th century, I find that they share the obscurity that has fallen upon much of the early history of English newspapers. The nearest complete file, in the Bodleian, lacks 65 numbers to 1800; some of these exist in the scattered collections at other places—the City Library, County Hall and British Museum—but there are still 13 numbers that I have not been able to find in Oxford and seven not anywhere.

I am preparing for publication a report of the various holdings, and should like to communicate with anyone who has any 18th century numbers or knows where they exist. Of special value would be information that would enable me to examine numbers 1059, 1263, 1275, 1296, 1340, 1341 and 1793.

I should also like to learn of the whereabouts of numbers of the *Oxford Flying Weekly Journal*, which preceded Jackson's newspaper. There is one number in the Bodleian, but I know of no others.'

If any readers of *Oxoniensis* are in the possession of information on these points, Mr. Gove would be most grateful if they would either write to him direct, or send it to Honorary Secretary of the O.A. & H.S. at the Ashmolean Museum, who will gladly forward it.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### THE LATE MAJOR G. W. G. ALLEN, M.C., F.S.A.

The proofs of his note on the Long Wittenham crop-marks had only just been passed for press when the tragic news came that Major Allen had lost his life in a motor-cycle accident on Sunday, 24 November, 1940, at the age of 49. An engineer by profession, and governing director of his family firm, Messrs. John Allen & Sons (Oxford), Ltd., he had nevertheless in recent years made a deserved name for himself, not only in this country, but abroad, as an archaeological air-photographer. Indeed, in 1938, a book on the subject which was published in Germany entitled *Luftbild und Vorgeschichte* (Hansa Luftbild G.M.B.H., Berlin), included amongst its 63 air-views of English sites no less than 17 by Major Allen himself. This book demonstrated conclusively (though to those who knew the facts no proof was needed) that Britain, which was the first nation seriously to make use of this aid to archaeological study, still leads the field therein.

Major Allen was a member of this Society and had been a keen supporter of *Oxoniensia* since its inception in 1936. No volume of the journal has yet appeared which has not included among its illustrations examples of his magnificent air-views of local sites; and for volume III he himself wrote a note (to which that published above on Long Wittenham is a companion and amplification) on the series of crop-marks in the fields around Dorchester, accompanied by photographs and a large-scale map.

The Keeper of the Ashmolean contributes the following memoir :—

By the unfortunate accident through which the late Major George W. G. Allen lost his life archaeological research has suffered a severe loss. Air-photography as an aid to archaeology is essentially a child of British initiative, and Major Allen, himself an expert airman, inspired by the pioneer work of O. G. S. Crawford and Alexander Keiller, took up the pursuit some few years ago with an extraordinary enthusiasm and ardour, and, as the results of his efforts have proved, with an unqualified and almost unrivalled success. Nothing but the best was good enough for him. A large part of his success derived from his intensely practical mind. Dissatisfied at one stage by the quality of the photographs taken, as affected by the apparatus he then possessed, he brought his engineering skill into play to the extent of personally constructing a camera more suited to the requirements of solo-flying. The same devotion to his pursuit led him to attack his subject again and again in order to secure the fullest details or to elucidate any obscure or doubtful point.

Though his activity was by no means restricted to the Oxford district, it is only natural that there should his principal work have been done. Indeed he may be said to have entirely revolutionized our knowledge of the early occupation of the upper Thames valley. For the fumbling searches and hypotheses of the past he substituted rapidity and certainty by furnishing archaeological workers with a brilliantly documented survey, not only of sites already partially known, but of many others whose existence was previously entirely unsuspected, though many of them are of the highest importance. The prehistoric settlements at Eynsham, Stanton Harcourt, North Stoke, and Cassington, the Roman villa at Ditchley and the whole complex of long-continued settlement in and around Dorchester and Long Wittenham are among the very notable contributions to archaeology which have resulted from Major Allen's photographic reconnaissances.

But the value of his work did not stop at photography. All his aerial results were carefully checked by personal observation on the ground, and nothing gave

## NOTES AND NEWS

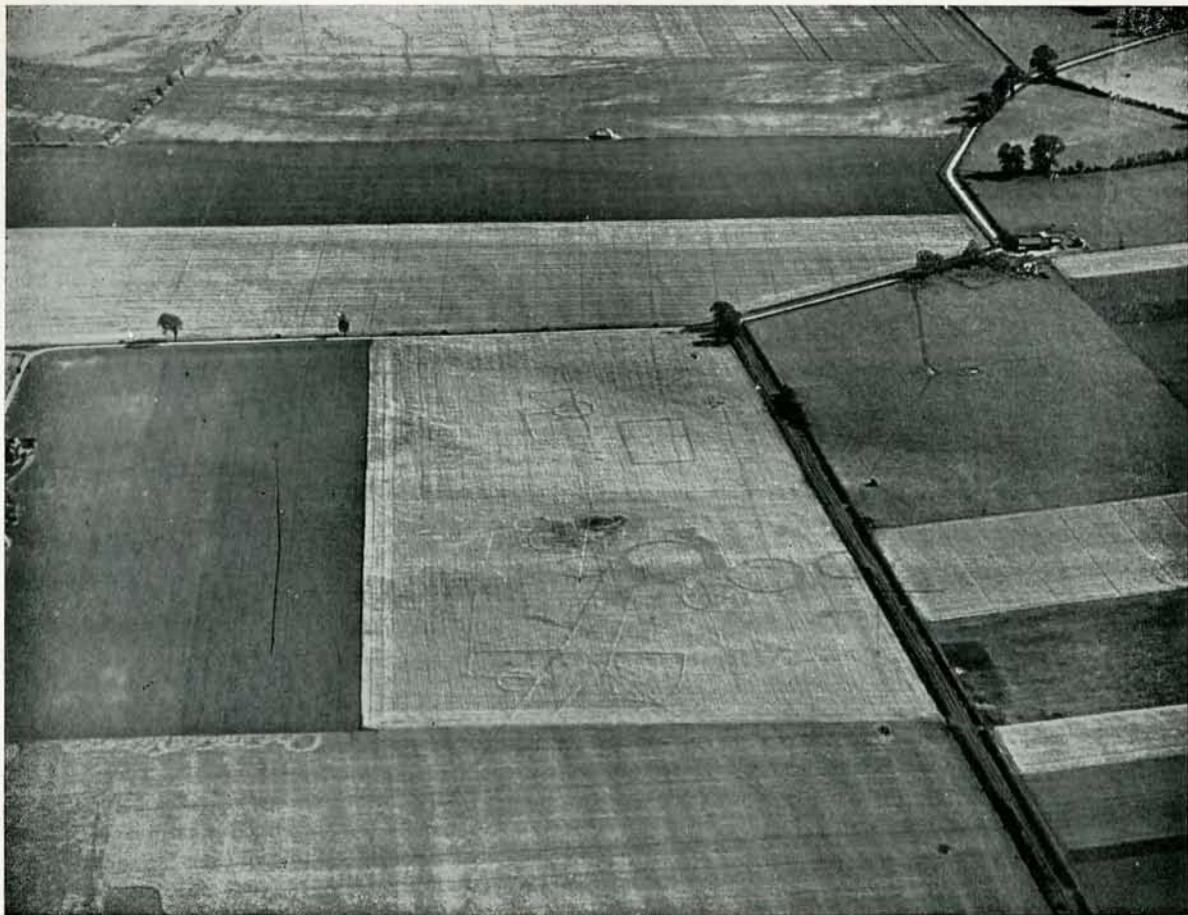
him greater pleasure than to see the actual development by excavation of a site which he had previously surveyed.

On the superb quality of his photographs there is little need to dilate ; the results are its own best witness, as an inspection of the fine series of enlargements presented by himself to the Ashmolean Museum and now on exhibition there proves. Of the practical knowledge he acquired he gave lavishly to all who sought his advice and assistance, at the same time communicating his experience to others in lectures and in published articles. Not yet, however, is it possible fully to assess the sum total of this great labour of the leisure-hours of an already busy life. That is to come ; for the unflinching generosity of his life-time he has extended to all time, since by his Will all his aerial photographs and negatives are to find a home in the Ashmolean Museum. There they will constitute a memorial erected by himself to one who, with a natural modesty almost unappreciative of his own achievement, has placed archaeological research under an inestimable debt. His work in this field has been broken off untimely ; his memory, that of a cheery personality with a genius for friendship, will remain an inspiration to all who were privileged to know and work with him.



NORTHFIELD FARM, LONG WITTENHAM, BERKS.  
Air-view of enclosures to the NW. of Northfield Farm (p. 164)

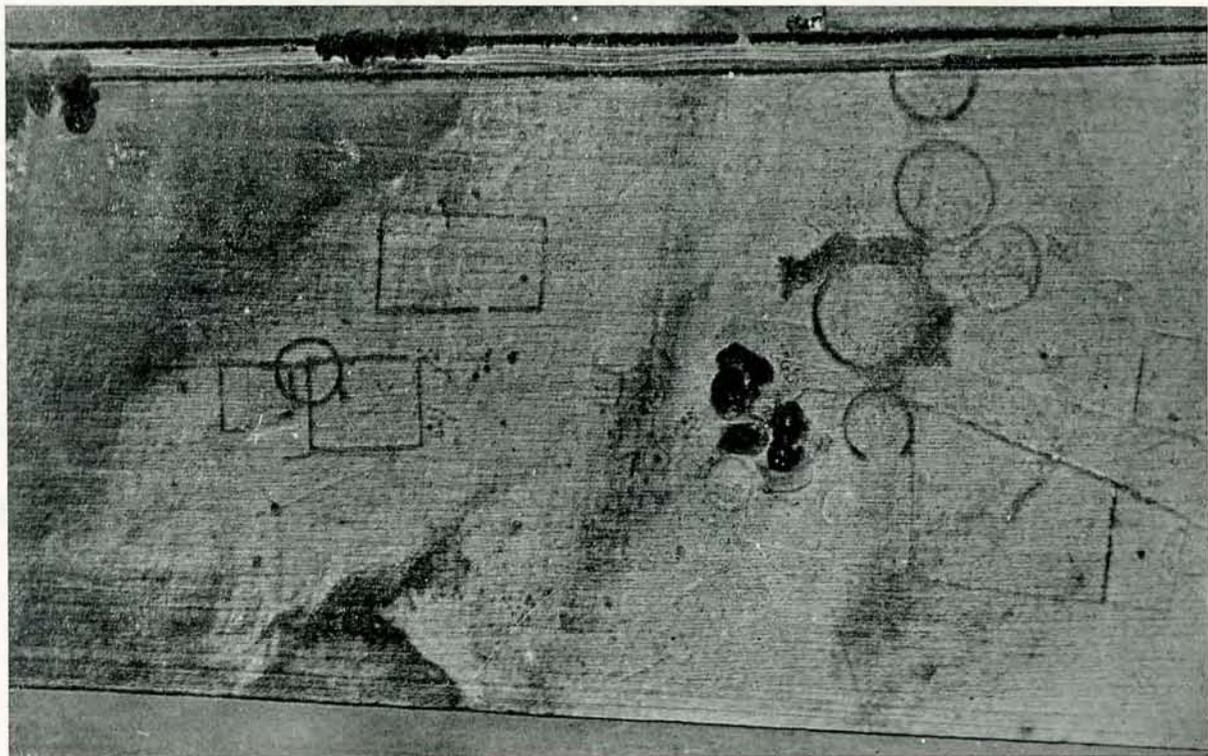
*Ph. G. W. G. Allen*



NORTHFIELD FARM, LONG WITTENHAM, BERKS.

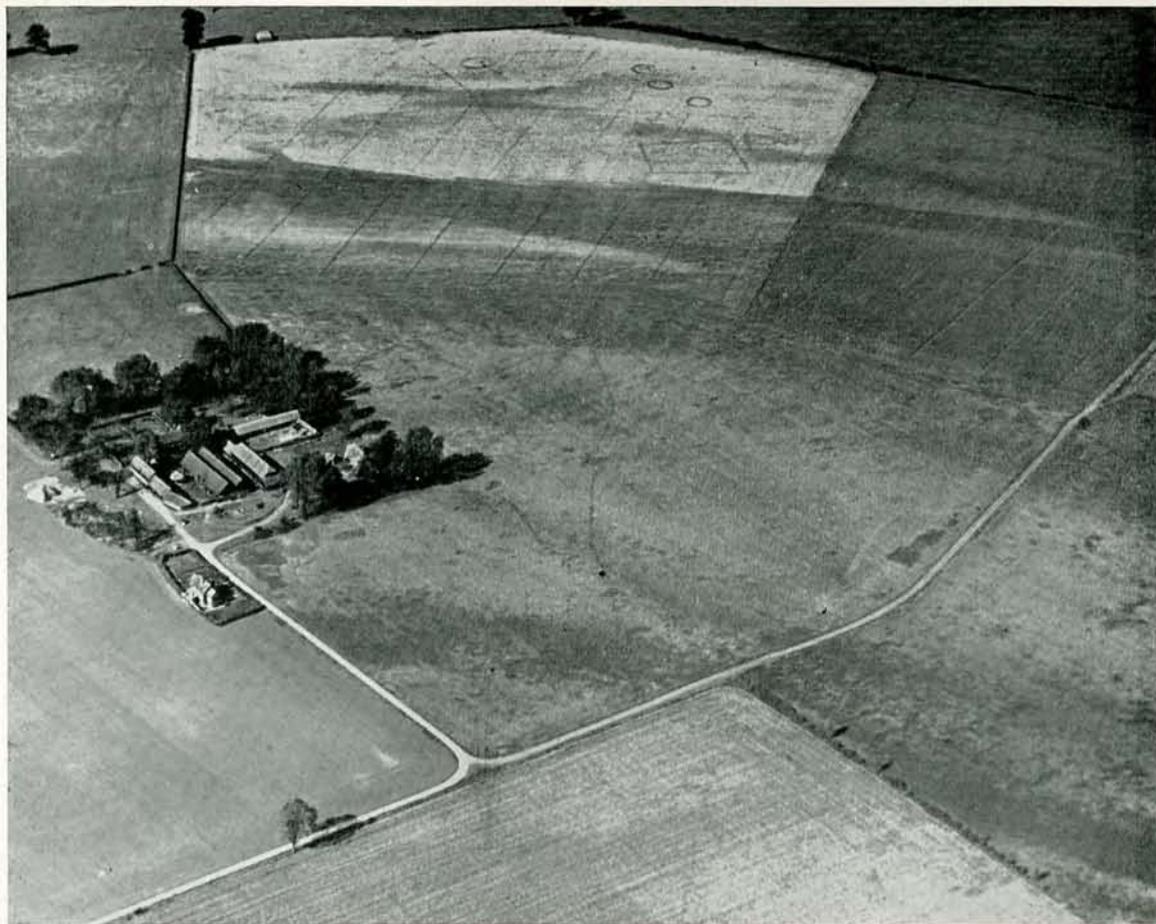
Air-view of marks in the fields called ' Scabbs ' and ' Fox Furlong ' ; at the top, site of Littletown (p. 164)

*Ph. G. W. G. Allen*



NORTHFIELD FARM, LONG WITTENHAM, BERKS.  
Air-view (vertical) of enclosures in ' Fox Furlong ' (p. 164)

*Ph. G. W. G. Allen*



NORTHFIELD FARM, LONG WITTENHAM, BERKS.

Air-view showing stockade and enclosures E. of farm buildings and in field called ' Garbage ' beyond (p. 165).

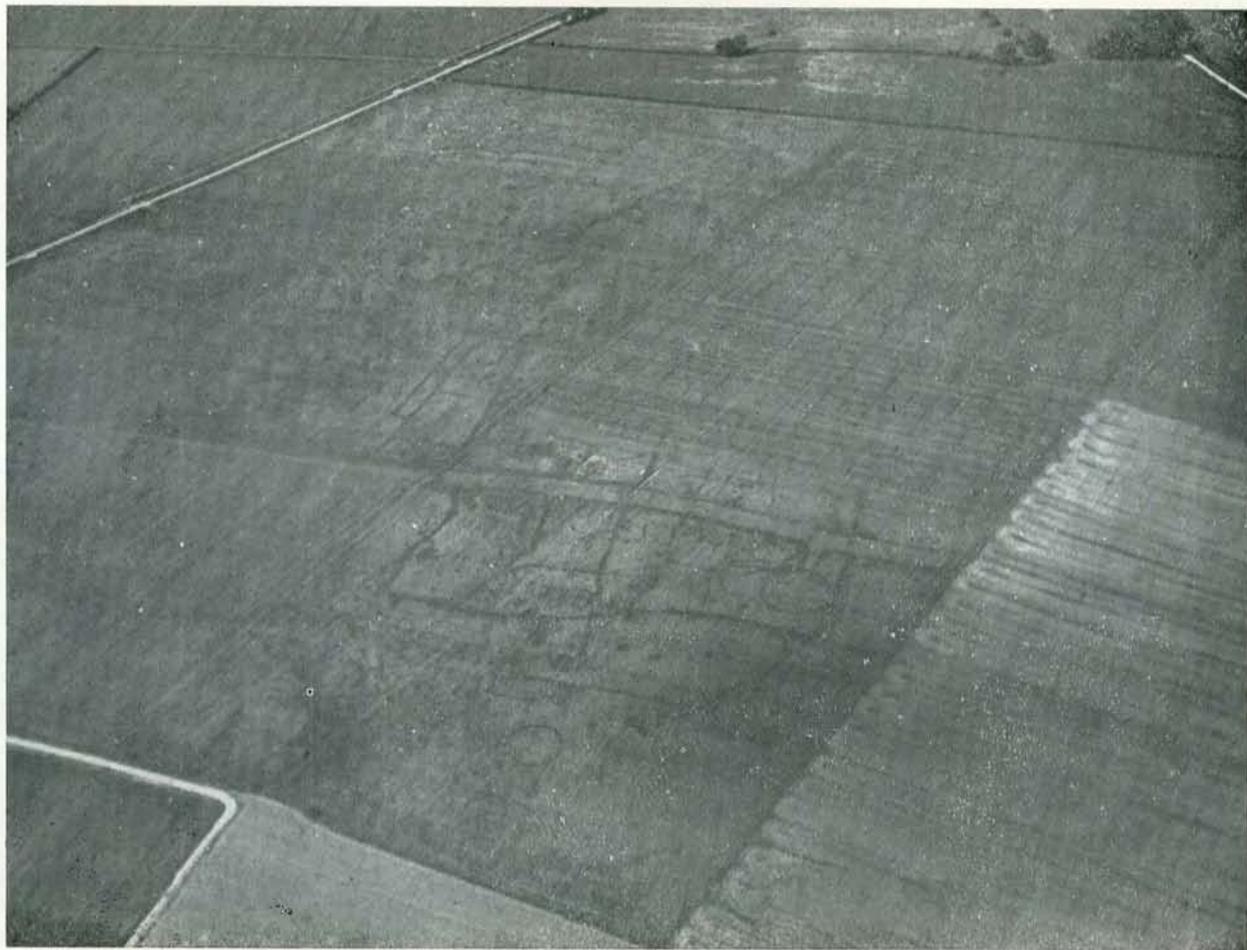
*Ph. G. W. G. Allen*



NORTHFIELD FARM, LONG WITTENHAM, BERKS.

Air-view of crop-marks in 'Garbage' field showing stockade extending towards R. Thames (bottom right) and triple-ditched enclosure (top left) (p. 165)

*Ph. G. W. G. Allen*



NORTHFIELD FARM, LONG WITTENHAM, BERKS.  
Air-view of crop-marks S. of the farm, near site of Littletown (p. 165)

*Ph. G. W. G. Allen*

PLATE XXII



A



B

SHILTON, OXON.

Bridge over the Shil Brook (A) before, and (B) after the recent reconstruction (p. 170).

*Phlt. J. J. Leeming*