

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES: 1962-63

Abingdon, Berks. (1) Further excavations were undertaken on the site of the Neolithic causewayed camp by Mr. D. M. E. Avery, Miss H. J. Sutermeister and Mr. J. Maddicott in advance of housing development.¹ (SU/511982.)

(2) Sherds of Romano-British and 12th-century pottery were found in a small cutting in the cellar of 19, East St. Helens by J. W. B. Dunthorne.

(3) Sherds of Romano-British pottery were reported from small excavations in the cellars of 28, East St. Helens by M. Braybrooke. These two areas extend the Romano-British site reported in 1865² and 1961.³

(4) A fragmentary medieval floor-tile was found among dredged material upstream of the lock above the town. It was of Hohlers type W 13, not so far recorded from Abingdon.⁴ (SU/507971.)

Asthall, Oxon. Struck flints, including barbed-and-tanged arrowheads, micro-cores, small blades and a fabricator, were found by Mr. W. Castle in ploughed fields on the site of the large Romano-British site. A bronze brooch and many coins were also found. (SP/290112.)

Bampton, Oxon. Sherds of indeterminate Romano-British pottery were found at Calais Farm during fencing in advance of housing development, immediately east of the farm-buildings. The gravel-pit adjacent on the north, now disused, produced Iron Age pottery. (SP/319033.)

Banbury, Oxon. A pit containing sherds of 12th-century pottery was excavated by Mr. R. Fearon, during rebuilding of the White Horse Hotel in High Street. Undisturbed clay was observed more than a foot above the present street-level. (SP/456406.)

Begbroke, Oxon. Struck flints and sherds of Romano-British pottery including a rim of Samian ware of the 2nd century, were reported by Mr. P. J. Boyle during soil investigation at the Weed Research Station, Begbroke Hill Farm. Air-photographs taken for the station revealed indeterminate crop-marks. Flints around SP/481137 and SP/484136: Romano-British pottery at SP/484135. Crop marks at SP/476137.

Bicester, Oxon. (1) Massive rubble wall-footings were reported by Mr. G. Carline in trial trenches on the site of St. Edburghs Priory 150 yds. east south-east of the parish church, in advance of building by the County Council in Old Place Yard. The footings lay from 2 to 5 ft. below the surface. Beside them, below layers of rubble and loam, were burials from 4 ft. 6 ins. to 6 ft. The plan of the Priory was largely revealed in 1819.⁵ (SP/584221.)

¹ Leeds, *Ant. J.* vii (1927), 438-64; viii (1928), 461-77; Case, xxxvi (1956), 11-30.

² Peake, *Archaeology of Berkshire* (1931), 108, 172.

³ Sturdy and Case, *Oxoniensia* xxvi/xxvii (1961/2), 336.

⁴ *Records of Bucks.*, xiv (1941/6), 45, 100.

⁵ Dunkin, *History of the Hundreds of Bullington and Ploughley* (1823), 250-2.

NOTES AND NEWS

(2) Undisturbed gravel was exposed at a depth of 2 ft. after demolition of the island block of shops projecting into London Road at the eastern end of the Market Place. (SP/586224.)

Bloxham, Oxon. (1) Sherds of Romano-British coarse-ware and a small bronze coin of Gratian were found in cuttings by the Bloxham School Archaeological Society on the site previously investigated.⁶ (SP/422361.)

(2) A rectangular enclosure 160 yds. east of Oldbarn Farm was reported from air-photographs by M. P. Sheil. (SP/450360.)

Broughton, Oxon. A triangular enclosure 130 yds. west of Rectory Farm was noticed on air-photographs by M. P. Sheil. (SP/424383.)

Burford, Oxon. A spearhead of late Saxon type, probably from the district, was found among the effects of the late Dr. C. T. Cheatle.

Buscot, Berks. Two small jugs of Romano-British grey ware, dredged up at the weir, was reported by Mrs. H. F. Wise.

Chadlington, Oxon. Struck flints, including an end-scraper on a flake, were found by Miss H. J. Sutermeister and R. Hughes immediately south-east of Knollbury, a large rectangular earthwork. (SP/317229.)

Charlton, Northants. At the Iron Age hill-fort, Rainsborough Camp, two further seasons' excavation by Mr. J. W. Banks and Mr. D. M. E. Avery with members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society resulted in the discovery of earlier Iron Age occupation, of the plan of the main gate, of sherds of Belgic pottery and of Roman wall-footings of the 4th century. (SP/526348.)

Clanfield, Oxon. (1) Two large intersecting prehistoric enclosures were noted as low earthworks in pasture on Burroway Meadow by Mr. E. Pocock. (SP/308003.)

(2) Sherds of Romano-British pottery of 3rd- and 4th-century date were found by Mr. E. Pocock in ploughing land 600 yds. west of Windmill Farm. (SP/279014.)

(3) Mr. E. Pocock also reported an iron key of Ward-Perkins's type VII with circular bow,⁷ perhaps 14th century, dug up by Mr. I. Farmer in the churchyard. (SP/283022.)

Cogges, Oxon. Many sherds of late Romano-British pottery of Sandford ware from builders, trenches north of the Barn at Gill Mill were reported by Mrs. P. Mansfield. (SP/380070.)

Chinnor, Oxon. A Romano-British site indicated by sherds, tesserae and a sesterius of Trajan, was discovered by Mr. R. R. W. White near Lower Farm, Chinnor. (SP/754013.)

Dorchester, Oxon. Extensive excavations on the Roman town, carried out for two seasons by Professor S. S. Frere on behalf of the Dorchester Excavation Committee, revealed many details of early settlement of the mid 1st century, of the 2nd-century defences, of late Roman houses and of two periods of Anglo-Saxon occupation. (SU/577941.)

Drayton, Berks. Sherds of Romano-British 2nd- to 4th-century pottery were found by Mr. F. W. McComb in ploughed ground at Sutton Wick Field. (SU/478952.)

Eynsham, Oxon. (1) On the site of the Saxon and Medieval Abbey, excavations in the modern extension of the churchyard by grave-diggers, reported by Mr.

⁶ Case and Sturdy, *Oxoniensia*, xxv (1960), 131.

⁷ London Museum Medieval Catalogue (1954), 141.

NOTES AND NEWS

H. C. D. Cooper, and trial cuttings by Mr. J. Hanson produced layers of rubble from destroyed medieval buildings, with floor-tiles. No structures were planned; burials, one in a stone coffin and one in a lead coffin, have also been unearthed, dug through undisturbed gravel which was found at a depth of 3 ft. (SP/434091.)

(2) Sherds of Romano-British wares and of 11th- and 12th-century pottery were reported by Dr. E. L. Jones from small excavations in the field south of the site of the Abbey. (SP/433089.)

Faringdon, Berks. Mr. A. Coombs reported many fragmentary and unfinished rotary hand-querns from the quern-quarries,⁸ since filled in. (SU/294933.)

Frilford, Berks. Miss D. Rushworth excavated trial trenches at the site of extensions to the Noahs Ark Inn, encountering undisturbed sand at a depth of 2 ft. (SU/439963.)

Hanborough, Oxon. Two further ring-ditches in the complex 500 yards north of City Farm, Eynsham were excavated by Miss S. Steele and Mr. G. Avery with members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society. (SP/429117.)

Harwell, Berks. A stone coffin of late 12th-century date, previously discovered in 1867,⁹ and other details of the structure of the parish church were recorded by Dr. J. M. Fletcher.

Iffley, Oxon. Sherds of late Romano-British pottery of typical types of Sandford ware were exposed in earth-moving during the construction of the Southern Link Bypass. Kilns had previously been found in the area.¹⁰ (SP/534029.)

Islip, Oxon. (1) Finds continued to be reported from the site of the Romano-British temple or nearby; struck flints by J. Gray, other struck flints including a leaf-shaped arrowhead and a scraper by R. Hughes, and a bronze brooch of 1st century Romano-British type by C. P. Case, all these from the same field as the temple; various objects by Messrs. R. and A. Crisp from the site of the temple itself, including votive letters of sheet bronze, bronze bracelets, glass beads, coins of Tetricus I and the House of Constantine. (SP/537126.)

(2) Early Iron Age sherds, pre-Belgic, were found by Mr. M. R. Williams during quarrying 500 yards south of the site of the temple. (SP/533123.)

(3) A Romano-British villa of corridor type was observed from the air by Mr. W. T. Knapton, and photographed by Dr. M. J. Aitken. Sherds of Romano-British pottery and rubble footings were found in trial trenches excavated by Dr. M. J. Aitken, Mr. M. Tite and Mr. J. H. Sherrell. (SP/533135.)

Kidlington, Oxon. Indeterminate struck flints and Romano-British sherds of 1st- or 2nd-century date were found by Richard Hughes 600 yards west-north-west of the parish church. (SP/492150.)

Kirtlington, Oxon. Sherds of 12th-century pottery and a short-cross penny (c. 1205-1218) of King John were found by Dr. G. W. Irons in gardens of new housing at Acre End. (SP/500203.)

Lechlade, Glos. Further extensive excavations were made by Mrs. M. U. Jones in advance of gravel digging in Messrs Amey's pit. Mrs. Jones has kindly supplied the following information: Up to the end of 1962 nearly 20 acres in fields O.S. 73 and 301 had been investigated and mapped, with features indicating land utilization from Neolithic to medieval times. In O.S. 73 these features belonged exclusively to Early

⁸ Crawford, *Archaeology in the Field* (1953), 102-3.

⁹ Walker, *Berks. A. J.*, xxxvi (1932), 21.

¹⁰ Case, *Oxoniensia*, xxiii (1958), 135.

NOTES AND NEWS

Iron Age settlement, which preceded a substantial Romano-British villa. Eastwards, the outlying elements of the villa were found, including gravel pits, burials and a possible estate boundary. Here there was a marked increase of evidence of earlier settlement. For the most part this consisted of occasional groups of circular pits, not always containing attributable finds. However in 1961 one group of pits produced Early Bronze Age sherds, and in 1962 a rimsherd of Rinyo-Clacton ware was found in the later of two overlapping pits, sited close to a posthole complex of two parallel lines some 20 feet apart.

Mrs. Jones also recorded a mammoth's tooth at the base of the Summertown-Radley terrace-gravel. (SP/218008.)

Lyford, Berks. A small pottery bottle of late 13th- or early 14th-century date and a bronze scale-pan found in digging a soakaway in the garden of a cottage opposite the vicarage were reported by Mr. A. V. Williams. (SU/392942.)

Lyneham, Oxon. (1) Struck flints, probably Neolithic, including a small scraper, were found in ploughed ground by R. Hughes near the north end of the long barrow. (SP/297211.)

(2) Indeterminate struck flints were discovered in ploughed fields by R. Hughes 250 yards north-west of Lyneham Camp. (SP/297216.)

Marcham, Berks. A barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead, Early Bronze Age, was found in a market garden by Mr. F. H. Busby. (SU/460966.)

Milton, Berks. An extended inhumation-burial, found during excavating for a pipe at the north-eastern corner of the junction of Sutton and Drayton roads, was reported by Rowstock Police. The burial was perhaps an outlier from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery 150 yards to the east.¹¹ (SU/487926.)

Milton, Oxon. A mound about 250 ft. long and 90 ft. wide running north and south and bisected by the Deddington-Bloxham road was observed by Mrs. V. W. Stead. (SP/442350.)

Noke, Oxon. Struck flints, including a leaf-shaped arrowhead and a fabricator, a fragment of sheet-bronze decorated with incised triangles (possibly the socket of a Bronze Age spearhead) and a penny of Edward I were found by Mr. H. R. Spice in cultivating a paddock at School House. (SP/545132.)

Nuneham Courtenay, Oxon. Sherds of Romano-British pottery were found by Mr. J. Reeve 300 yards east of Lower Farm. (SP/539006.)

Oxford: 5, Alfred Street. In the excavation of footings for an extension of B. H. Blackwell Ltd. on the site of Saint Edward's Church, rubble wall-footings and burials were found, intersected by rubbish-pits containing pottery of the 15th, late 17th and mid 18th century, when the site was part of the Bear Inn.¹² (SP/51470614.)

Oxford: Balliol College. Pits containing early 17th-century pottery, clay pipes and glass were unearthed during work for electrical installations just north of the doorway of staircase XIV. Undisturbed gravel was observed at a depth of 5 ft. 6 ins. (SP/51290648.)

Oxford: 16, Blandford Avenue. A scatter of sherds, including indeterminate Iron Age, Romano-British, 12th- and 13th-century and post-medieval wares was picked up by Mr. B. St. G. Drennan. (SP/501101.)

Oxford: 121 High Street. Excavations for rebuilding for the Westminster Bank Ltd., on the site of Studley's Inn showed 19th-century disturbances. (SP/51480618.)

¹¹ Peake, *loc. cit.*, 134, 212.

¹² Sturdy and Case, *loc. cit.*, 338.

NOTES AND NEWS

Oxford: Iffley. A small cutting inside the parish church showed that no footings survive of a former east wall 20 ft. east of the tower at the termination of the late 12th-century walls. A previous easternmost bay is indicated, either apsidal or on the lines of the present early 13th-century work. (SP/527034.)

Oxford: Magdalen Street West. A base-metal forgery of a groat of Henry V or VI was found in digging holes for traffic lights east of the Randolph Hotel. (SP/51220653.)

Oxford: Merton College. Undisturbed gravel was observed at a depth of 2 ft. 6 ins. in a trench by the west end of the Hall during reconstruction work. (SP/51720607.)

Oxford: Merton Street. The footings of the Town Wall were observed during bulldozing for foundations for a new Principal's House for Merton College. Within the walls a deposit of red loam and topsoil 3 ft. thick overlay undisturbed gravel, which was at a depth of 9 ft. 9 ins., and contained no finds. This perhaps represents a bank thrown up on the line of the existing Wall of the 13th-century in late Saxon times. (SP/51900615.)

Oxford: Oseney Mill. Medieval worked stones among building debris were reported by Mr. H. Smith at a depth of 4 to 5 ft., in trenches in advance of construction 80 yds. east-south-east of the mill-house on the fringe of the Abbey site. (SP/50430586.)

Oxford: Broad Street. (1) An ancient road surface at a depth of 1 ft. and undisturbed gravel at 3 ft. 6 ins. was observed in trenches immediately outside the south-east corner of the churchyard of Saint Mary Magdalen.¹³ (SP/51270643.)

(2) Sherds of late 16th-century pottery and glassware, with animal bone, leatherwork and oystershell were recovered from excavations in the filling of the town ditch in the basement, and to the north-west of the Sheldonian Theatre during reconstruction work. (SP/51520644.)

(3) Similar late 16th-century material was recovered in digging out basements and footing-trenches for new buildings for Exeter College at the north-east corner of Turl Street, also in the filling of the town ditch. A rubbish-pit containing late 17th- or early 18th-century pottery and glass had been dug through the filling. No trace of the town wall survived in the area excavated; but immediately south of its line a deposit of red loamy topsoil, 3 ft. 3 ins. thick was observed overlying 9 ins. of loamy topsoil above undisturbed gravel. This may represent a bank on the line of the wall in late Saxon times: no finds were recovered from it. (SP/51420643.)

Oxford: Christ Church. Extensive excavations to elucidate features of the early town were undertaken by Mr. D. Sturdy, Mr. J. Cherry and Mr. J. Maddicott. Within the Cathedral the late 12th-century plan of the north-eastern chapels was revealed. Outside the east end a late Saxon cemetery was found, but no trace of the suggested apses of 8th-century date.¹⁴ 40 yards to the north extensive remains of late Saxon occupation, including ovens were cleared beneath a 12th-century road.¹⁵ Struck flints, including a Lower Palaeolithic Clactonian flake, were also found. Two sections were excavated by the town wall. On the site of Eagle Hall⁶ a cutting⁶ showed undisturbed gravel at a depth of 10 ft. intersected by many medieval pits. (SP/51570599.)

Oxford: River Cherwell. The neck and bearded mask of a stoneware mug of

¹³ Case and Sturdy, *loc. cit.*, 134.

¹⁴ Warner, *Oxford Cathedral* (1924), 12-22.

¹⁵ Sturdy, *Oxoniensis*, xxvi/xxvii (1961/2), 30-1.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 27-9.

NOTES AND NEWS

typical early 17th-century type was brought up on a punt pole by Mr. D. Sturdy at the head of the New Cut, on the course of the old main stream of the Thames. (SP/521053.)

Oxford: 18-21 Cornmarket. Pits containing 11th- and 12th-century pottery were observed during excavations for continued rebuilding by Messrs. Marks and Spencer. None were less than 25 ft. from the present street frontage.¹⁷ Pottery and glass of the late 17th century were found in a rubbish pit. (SP/51300631.)

Oxford: 55-58 Cornmarket. Excavations undertaken by Mr. J. Cherry on behalf of the Oxford Excavations Committee in the cellars of the former grocery store of Messrs. Grimby Hughes, revealed late Saxon cellar-pits and rubbish-pits, and many rubbish-pits of the 12th century and later. (SP/51300623.)

Oxford: Parks Road. Sherds of Romano-British pottery, a skeleton and ditches were observed in excavations for a storm-sewer in the verge of the road west of the Clarendon Laboratory. (SP/514070.)

Oxford: Windmill Road. Many sherds of late Romano-British pottery (indicating a kiln site producing Sandford wares) were picked up by Mrs. W. O. Hassall from flower-beds at the Wingfield Hospital, and recovered from builders' trenches nearby by Mr. G. Beard. (SP/547065.)

Rollright, Oxon. Struck flints including part of a plano-convex knife, a horseshoe scraper and a flake were found by R. Hughes in ploughed land within 10 yds. of the Whispering Knights. (SP/299308.)

Sandford-on-Thames, Oxon. Romano-British pottery of Sandford-Kiln type, including complete vessels, was discovered by Mr. P. H. Crickmay in the bank of a stream 550 yds. west of Minchery Farm. (SP/540023.)

Sandford St. Martin, Oxon. A barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead, Beaker culture or Early Bronze Age, was found by Mr. G. E. Fowler in ploughed ground. (SP/415275.)

Stanford in the Vale, Berks. Trial trenches excavated by the Oxford University Archaeological Society with Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Howse revealed no signs of occupation within the moated enclosure and a second enclosure to the south, 600 yds. north-east of Stanford Park Farm. (SU/363935.)

Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. (1) Early Iron Age settlement-sites and a ring-ditch containing an inhumation-burial with bronze bracelets were excavated by Messrs. D. M. and G. J. L. Avery and Mr. D. Keen, south-west of the sites reported on page 1 ff.

(2) On the site of a deserted medieval hamlet 200 yds. east of Pinkhill Farm, Mr. and Mrs. G. I. Churchill found wall-footings and sherds of 12th-century pottery. Excavations by Miss H. J. Sutermeister and the Oxford University Archaeological Society revealed robber-trenches and footings of more than one period. (SP/439071.)

Tadmorton, Oxon. An extended Romano-British inhumation-burial, probably 3rd or 4th century, was found when ploughing a hill sloping north-east between Broughton and Madmarston and was reported by Lord Saye and Sele. The partially preserved skeleton was of a woman in her thirties, according to Mr. D. F. B. Roberts, Dept. of Human Anatomy, Oxford, height about 5 ft., of slender build and probably of native stock. It was in a limestone coffin, about 5 ft. 6 ins. long, 1 ft. 3½ ins.-1 ft. 1½ ins. wide and 10½ ins. deep. The lid was secured by 4 iron clamps; it was

¹⁷ Sturdy and Case, *loc. cit.*, 338.

NOTES AND NEWS

originally a single slab of limestone about 6 ft. 5 ins. long, 3 ft. 5 ins. wide and about 5½ ins. thick. The coffin, but not the lid, was lined with a single sheet of lead. A fragmentary glass unguent bottle¹⁸ was found near the right hand. (SP/40453855.)

DAVID STURDY,
HUMPHREY CASE.

TUSK OF MAMMOTH IN THE FLOOD PLAIN GRAVELS AT WOLVERCOTE

During the construction of the Oxford By-Pass by Messrs. Higgs and Hill Ltd., from 1959 to 1961, a pit was excavated in the gravels of the Flood Plain at Upper Wolvercote (National grid: SP/487105), where the A40 road crosses the River Thames and the Oxford Canal. The pit yielded a tusk, curved in two directions, which is attributed to Mammoth. The section comprised:

Soft dark silty clay (Recent alluvium) 3 ft.
Subangular oolitic gravel with sand seams 16 ft.
Oxford Clay.

Both the superficial deposits were seen to vary irregularly in thickness southward across Pixey Mead and Port Meadow towards Osney, the alluvium from 1½ to 7 ft. and the gravel from 5 to 16 ft.

The tusk was identified by Dr. A. J. Sutcliffe, British Museum (Natural History). Molars of Mammoth from the same locality came into the collections of the Department of Geology, University Museum, Oxford at about the same time, through Mr. H. J. Hambridge. J. S. SHILLITOE.

A BEAKER-CULTURE BURIAL AT DORCHESTER, OXFORD

Sherds of a beaker were noticed by Mr. W. G. Simpson¹⁹ in February 1962 in the east face of Messrs. Amey's gravel-pit 300 yards east of Queensford mill, immediately west of the road from Dorchester to Wally corner (SU/581950). The loose sherds were collected but the greater part of the vessel was left *in situ* lying at the bottom of a shallow grave, part of which was excavated by members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society during the Hilary Term.

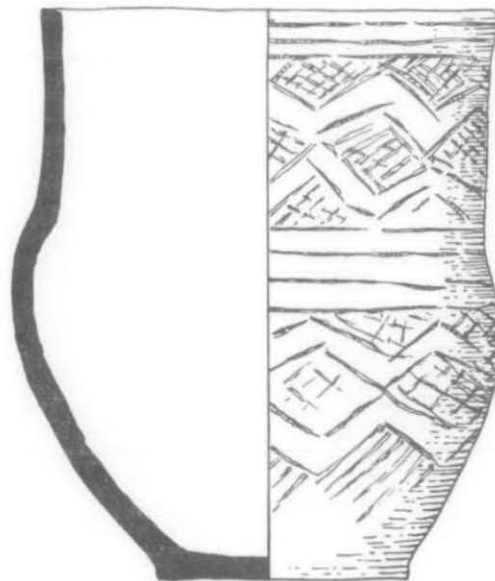
The face of the gravel-pit, aligned approximately north and south, was cleaned for almost 25 ft. (FIG. 12); the contractor's dumps prevented any further excavation. About 1 ft. 6 ins. of brown sandy-loam, topsoil and alluvium, overlay gravel bedded with sand and clay. The grave was aligned east and west, 4 ft. wide as exposed in the section, dug about 1 ft. 6 ins. into gravel with concave sides. It contained an inhumation-burial. The bones were in a very bad state of preservation but it seemed that the head was at the east end and that the body had been laid on its side with the legs flexed and the beaker (FIG. 12) placed at the feet. A continuous line of charcoal was traced along the south side of the grave, perhaps the remains of a coffin. It was not possible to excavate the east end of the grave.

The section of a ditch 2 ft. wide dug about 1 ft. 6 ins. into gravel lay about 4 ft. 6 ins. south of the grave. Its steep sides suggested that it had silted rapidly; the greater part of the sandy filling had come from the outside.

¹⁸ cp. *Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain* (British Museum; 2nd edn., 1958), PL. XII, no. 15.

¹⁹ This account has been drafted by Mr. Case from Mr. Simpson's notes.

NOTES AND NEWS



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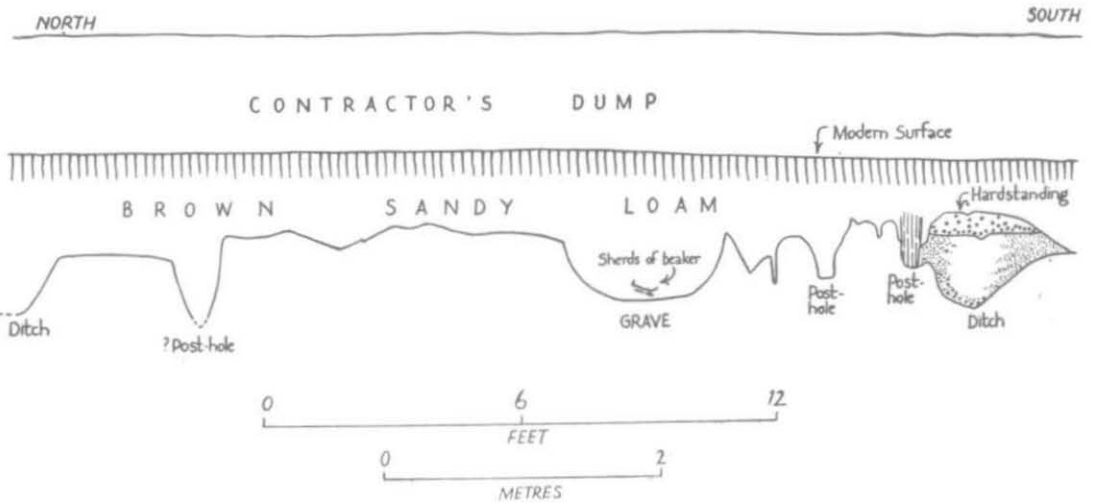


FIG. 12

*Above: Beaker from Dorchester.
Below: Diagram-section of fall of gravel-pit.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The top of the ditch had been levelled and filled in with gravel, and this gravel-filling had been later dug away to north and south. The surface of the natural gravel between the ditch and the gravel had been considerably disturbed; and the section showed two post-holes.

Part of another section of ditch showed at the extreme north of the face. It seemed possible that the two sections of ditch were part of the same ring-ditch. The natural gravel north of the grave was undisturbed, apart from the ditch and a possible post-hole. The filling of the grave and other features was brown sandy loam indistinguishable from the topsoil and alluvium (except where noted on FIG. 12). No signs were seen of a barrow or mound.

The section gives some slight evidence that the grave may have been enclosed by a ring-ditch with bank (Type 2, see p. 39), in which case the burial was eccentric, and it may have been one of several. A good parallel would be Lambourn 17.²⁰ Ring-bank monuments are typical of beaker-culture funerary practice in the region (see p. 40). The grave was about 100 yards north of the Dorchester cursus; a ring-bank monument with a central grave with a comparable beaker was found immediately adjacent to the cursus at North Stoke, some 8 to 9 miles downstream.²¹ The east-west alignment of the grave at Dorchester is uncommon.²² The later activity at the site was undated but may have been connected with Romano-British farming, attested at Wally Corner, 570 yards north.²³ The filling of the ditch may have been for the purpose of making a hard-standing.

Long-necked beaker (A-beaker): *Oxon.* 61. Ashmolean Museum: 1962. 245.

Almost complete, fairly well-made; virtually gritless, no doubt grogged. Smoothed light brown exterior, blotchy where worn; blackish core, brown to dark brown interior. Base pitted, only partially preserved. Impressions of notched stamps in irregular triangles and diamonds and horizontal lines; carelessly done.

This vessel has a funnel-shaped neck which separates it from the majority of long-necked beakers found in the region which have the upper part of the neck convex, or show a moulding immediately beneath the rim. But its best parallels may be found among the first mentioned group, for example with *Oxon.* 51 from the monument at North Stoke, already quoted.

W. G. SIMPSON.

HUMPHREY CASE.

TRACES OF SAXON NOMADIC LIFE NEAR OXFORD

Grazing rights on hill-pastures in Ireland remained into the 19th century, as part of a developed system of transhumance well illustrated by traditional ballads.²⁴ In England clear traces of interlocking series of ancient grazing-rights are found, for instance in Kent, where groups of settlements near the coast had ordered privileges in

²⁰ Case, *Berks. A. J.*, LV (1956-7), 23-5.

²¹ Catling, *Oxoniensia*, XXIV (1959), 1-12.

²² Case, *Oxoniensia*, XXI (1956), 21.

²³ Sutton, *Oxoniensia*, XXVI/XXVII (1961-2), 7-18.

²⁴ E. E. Evans *Irish Heritage* (Dundalk 1945), 10, 52, 112. This note owes much to discussions with Mr. H. J. Case and Mr. E. Pocock.

NOTES AND NEWS

distant sections of the Weald: Tenterden means 'the swine pasture of the men of Thanet', 17 miles away.²⁵

Nearer at hand, around Wychwood Forest many woods belonged to distant Oxfordshire villages: most notable was the large area around Charlbury, which was an outlying part of Banbury Hundred 15 miles away. (See map, FIG. 13 for inter-commonings in the Oxford region.) In Saxon times this must have been the woodland where the Bishop of Dorchester's men from his villages around Banbury had long-standing rights to get timber and to pasture swine.

The ancient possessions of Saint Frideswide's, the mother church of Oxford, and now the Cathedral, may represent a single scattered estate consolidated, perhaps in the 6th and 7th centuries, from the grazing rights of a nomadic economy of the early days of the Saxon settlement.

This estate comprised land on many different rocks at varied elevations, covering every terrain of the region except the chalk Downs. In 1004, Saint Frideswide's held three hides (now 500-700 acres) of upland grazing, on Oolitic limestone and Cornbrash on the dip-slope of the Cotswolds, at Whitehall in Tackley.²⁶ Much sheep-pasture remained here in the 17th century.²⁷ At Over Winchendon, Bucks.²⁸ the church held 10 hides in 1004 (and in 1086) comprising the whole parish, now 1,200 acres on an intricate formation of rounded hills and narrow ridges deeply incised by streams, on limestone and clay of the Portland and Purbeck Beds, Kimmeridge clay and soft marls of the Corallian.

Nearer to Oxford a group of lowland meadows lay in the broad clay vale of the Upper Thames with its wide terraces of Limestone gravel. At Cutslow 2 hides (about 300 acres) lay on third terrace gravel, Oxford clay and alluvium.²⁹ At Cowley 3 hides in 1004 and 4 hides in 1086 represent about 500 acres of second terrace gravel and Oxford clay.³⁰ At Binsey³¹ about 100 acres of flood-plain gravel and alluvium, and a further 30 acres of alluvium,³² immediately south of the church and now part of Christ Church Meadow, also belonged to Saint Frideswide's from an early date.

The lowland meadows in the Thames Valley around Oxford would have provided suitable cattle-grazing in summer, while sheep were driven from the nomads' winter quarters near Oxford to the upland pastures no more than 16 miles away. In addition the heavy clay-lands with their thick woodland could have supported many swine. This group of properties may have been given as a single estate to form part of the endowment of the church, perhaps at the time of its foundation, traditionally in the 8th century. The estate, originated from nomadic pastoral farming, would be economically viable in that form until a growing population forced on the countryside the almost universal medieval pattern of villages based on arable farming.

It is not likely to have been developed before the Saxon settlement of the 5th and 6th centuries A.D. in the Upper Thames Valley, since in the previous centuries an

²⁵ H. C. Darby and E. M. J. Campbell, *The Domesday Geography of south-east England* (Cambridge 1962), 532.

²⁶ S. R. Wigram, *Cartulary of the Monastery of Saint Frideswide* i, O.H.S. xxxviii (1894), 4, 6.

²⁷ J. L. G. Mowat, *Sixteen Old Maps of Properties in Oxfordshire* (1888), 5.

²⁸ *Cartulary of Saint Frideswide* i, 3, 6, 8, 11. *V. C. H. Bucks*, i (1905), 243; iv (1927) 123.

²⁹ *Cartulary of Saint Frideswide*, i, 4, 7, 8, 11. *V. C. H. Oxon*, i (1939), 409.

³⁰ *Cartulary of Saint Frideswide*, i, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14. *V. C. H. Oxon*, i (1939), 409; v (1957), 261.

³¹ *Cartulary of Saint Frideswide*, i, 11, 14.

³² *Cartulary of Saint Frideswide*, ii, 3, 18.

NOTES AND NEWS

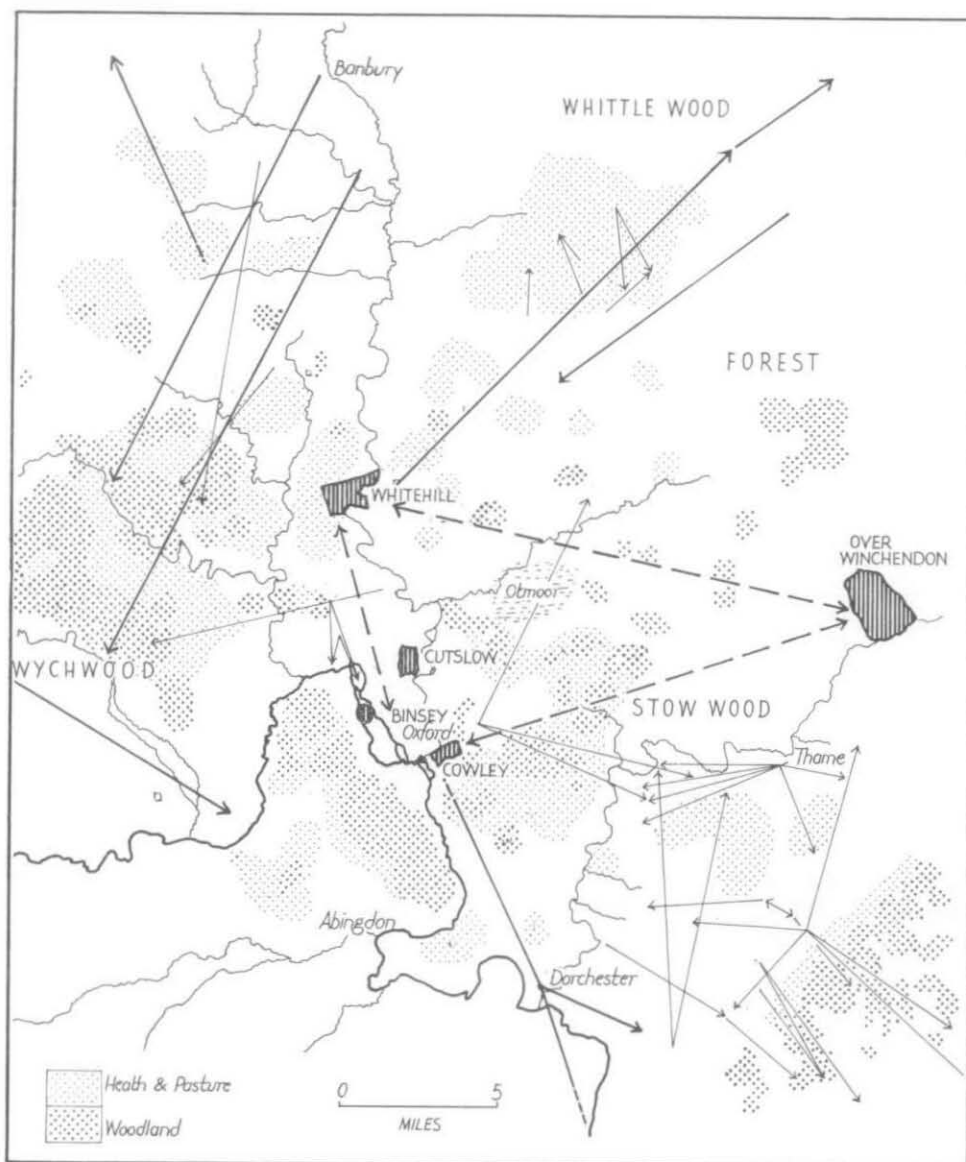


FIG. 13
Intercommonings in the Oxford Region.

NOTES AND NEWS

entirely different pattern of land use had covered the area.³³ Under Roman occupation large estates on the Cotswolds practised commercial arable farming; native villages survived under a subsistence economy, while the wooded clay uplands of the Corallian heights around Oxford were severely encroached on to feed the many kilns making cheap pottery by a mass-production equal to anything modern Cowley can show. The Saxon period saw a return to the prehistoric pattern of land-use, and the primitive economy suggested above perhaps throws light on that of the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age discussed above by Mr. Case on p. 51 ff. The same basic environment would ensure many parallel features.

DAVID STURDY.

ST. MARY'S JACOBEOAN PINNACLES

In *The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford* (1897), T. G. Jackson records that the upper pinnacles surrounding the base of the spire were 'ruinated by time and tempest' early in the 16th century and were rebuilt in the early 17th century. Basing his account on a general statement by Plot, Jackson says (p. 133), 'Dr. King [Vice-Chancellor 1607-10] found the upper part of the pinnacles gone or nearly gone, and he put his Jacobean finish, "set thick with pinnacles", on the top of the truncated stump of the original work.' It is this Jacobean finish which one sees in Loggan's print (1675) (PL. II) and it survived, apparently little changed, until the repairs and alterations of 1848-52.

The records of a case in the Vice-Chancellor's court in 1618 confirm this account in general, but give a slightly later date for the work and show that some of this 'Jacobean finish' was not a matter of vicechancellorian taste but an embellishment suggested at a much humbler level and at a very late stage of the work.³⁴ The case was brought against Denis Edwards and Roger Acton, churchwardens of St. Mary's, by Anthony Bentley, brother and executor of the mason John Bentley, who died in December 1615. The details are set out in evidence given on 26 and 28 October 1618 by John Philip of Idle and Calverley, Yorkshire, and Robert Eastwood of Holywell, two masons formerly employed by John Bentley. According to this evidence, 'about some foure or five yeres since,' the spire of the church needed repointing and a new top stone and four large pinnacles had to be erected round the spire. This work was the subject of an agreement between John Bentley and the churchwardens and parishioners of St. Mary's, and the masons heard it 'rehearsed unto Dr. Singleton, then Vicechancellare . . . in the presence of John Bentley and some other'. As Singleton was Vice-Chancellor from 1611 to 1614 these two items of evidence suggest that 1613-14 was the date of the new work on the spire. Further evidence shows that the agreement did not cover all the work which was actually undertaken.

Philip and Eastwood were both engaged on this work and both testified that, as Eastwood put it, they 'hearde Mr. Edwardes finde faulte with the bare and naked standing of the great south-east pinnacle after it was builte and hearde him desire the saide John to invent and adde some what for the better ornament and sight thereof'. John Bentley thereupon instructed the masons to erect two small pinnacles

³³ (Eds.) A. F. Martin and R. W. Steel, *The Oxford Region* (1954), 86, fig. 27.

³⁴ University Archives Hyp. B.4. Depositions in Vice-Chancellor's Court 1604-19, ff. 334b-6b.

NOTES AND NEWS

and, when that was done, sent them to ask the churchwarden if they should erect 'two other like small pinacles at the bottom of the articulate great pinnacle, and whether the saide John should finish the other three great pinacles with like small pinacles at their bottom corners'. This was approved; Edwards asked for 'all the other three greate pinacles to be garnished with foure like small pinacles at everie corner of everie one of them', and he verbally agreed that Bentley should be 'satisfied and contented for the same'. The little pinnacles were subsequently viewed by other workmen and according to Eastwood they were valued at 20s. a piece for materials and workmanship. This presumably was the basis for the sum still in dispute and unpaid in 1618.

The other records of the case do not survive, nor does the list of questions put to witnesses, but Eastwood's admission that 'the newe greate pinacles be not so broade at foote as the places lefte for bases for pinacles thereon to be built' suggests that the churchwardens had, not unnaturally, expected more substantial pinnacles than Bentley provided and that they considered his slender Jacobean pinnacles a breach of agreement which could only partially be rectified by adding little corner pinnacles looking, as Jackson put it, 'rather like ornaments on a shelf'. This evidence again confirms the accuracy of Loggan's drawing in an instance where, at first glance, he appears to be adding awkward and rather improbable Jacobean details to a medieval building.

I. G. PHILIP.

AN EARLY VIEW OF OXFORD

Among the earliest general views of Oxford are those from the East and from the South which form the first plate of David Loggan's *Oxonia Illustrata*, printed at the Sheldonian Theatre in 1675. The first of these, which fills the upper portion of that plate, is reproduced here as PL. 1A. It will immediately be seen that the painting reproduced with it (PL. 1B) is based closely on the engraving, from which it differs only in the foreground *staffage*.

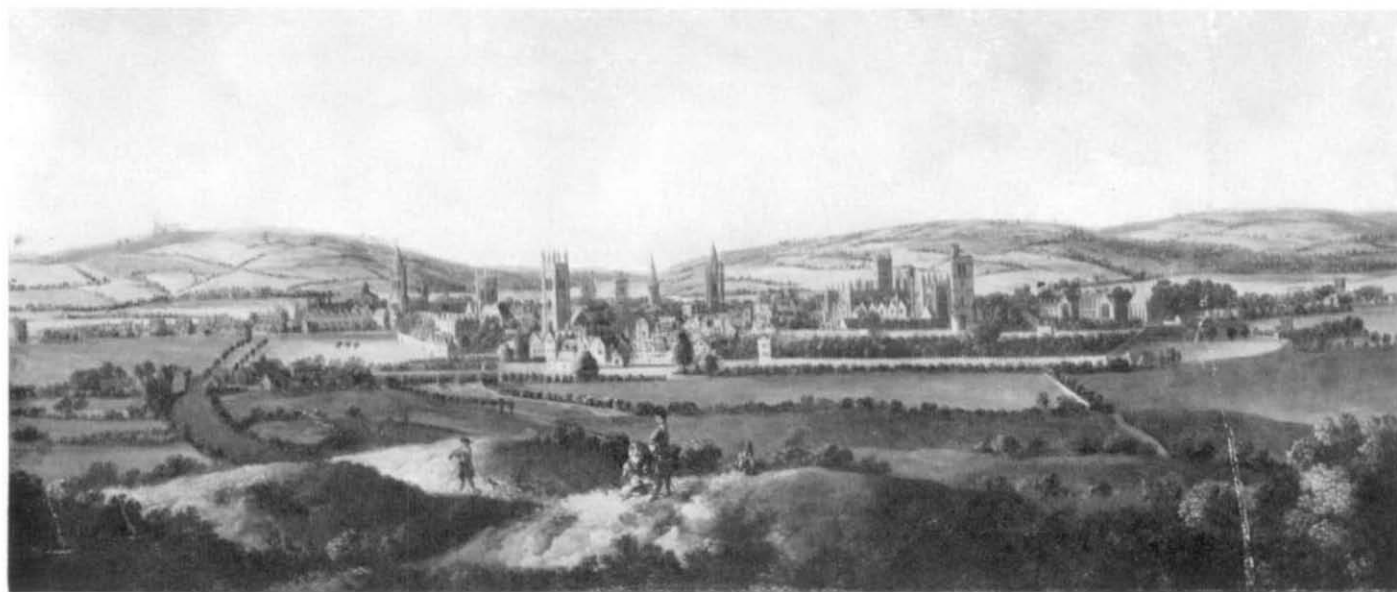
This canvas, which is reproduced here by kind permission of Sir Henry Phillimore, is one of several versions of the painting. Another is reproduced on plate 13 of the first volume of Colonel M. H. Grant's *History of the Old English Landscape Painters*. There it is attributed, as are most of the other versions, to the Dutch artist, Jan Griffier (c. 1645-1718), who settled in England in 1667 and produced many competent topographical paintings in this country. However, it seems unlikely that he would be content to base such an important subject as his view of Oxford directly on another artist's engraving, and on these grounds the attribution must be considered a very doubtful one.

The connexion between the painting and the engraving has not hitherto been recorded. In addition to conflicting with the attribution to Griffier it also affects the date of the painting. Hitherto, on topographical evidence, this has been given as between 1670 and 1680, which is, of course, the date of Loggan's print. However, from the point of view of style and technique a somewhat later date, perhaps in the 1730's is indicated.

LUKE HERRMANN.



A



B

- A. THE PROSPECT OF OXFORD FROM THE EAST NEAR LONDON ROAD, by David Loggan. From plate 1 of *Oxonia Illustrata*, 1675. (Ashmolean Museum, Sutherland Collection, C11 53.)
- B. A VIEW OF OXFORD FROM THE EAST, formerly attributed to Jan Griffier. Oil on canvas. (Collection, Sir Henry Phillimore.)



ST. MARY'S JACOBEOAN PINNACLES. From David Loggan, *Oxonia Illustrata*, 1675.