

Notes

ANTIQUITIES FROM OXFORDSHIRE IN WEST MIDLANDS MUSEUMS

The following note is the result of a survey of archaeological collections in West Midlands museums carried out by the West Midlands Archaeological Collections Research Unit under the auspices of the West Midlands Area Museums Service. All museums in the counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire were included in the survey, but not private collections or material currently under study at Field Units. One of the aims of the project was to make the collections more widely known, especially artefacts of non-local origin, through a series of short notes in relevant county and specialist journals.

Seven West Midlands museums have antiquities from Oxfordshire (post-1974 boundaries) and these are presented below, arranged alphabetically by site within period. Many do not have a more precise provenance and the four figure grid references in brackets are given merely as an aid for locating sites; where further details about findspots or circumstances of discovery are known these are noted, together with a fuller grid reference if available. Resources have not allowed the compilation of full catalogue details, nor have extensive trawls through documentation and literature been possible. As the primary intention of the listing is to give researchers an idea of the type and quantity of material held in West Midlands museums it is hoped that this brevity will be forgiven.

All dimensions are in mm., and the following abbreviations have been used when citing museum accession numbers: Bir = Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery; Cov = Coventry, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum; Lap = Birmingham University, School of Earth Sciences, Lapworth Museum; Nun = Nuneaton Museum and Art Gallery; Stk = Stoke-on-Trent City Museum and Art Gallery; War = Warwickshire Museum; Wos = Worcester City Museum Service.

PREHISTORIC by P.J. WATSON, P.J. WISE and D.J. SYMONS

Chinnor Hill [SP70]

Later flint blade flake (War A2621).

Chipping Norton [SP3127]

Bronze looped palstave (Bir 1966A41).¹

Cowley [SP5304]

Leaf (kite) shaped arrowhead of type 4B in pale grey-brown translucent flint; L 25, W 13, Th 2. Barbed and tanged arrowhead of Sutton type b in grey and white flint; L 28, W 21,

¹ P.J. Watson, *Catalogue of British and European Prehistoric Metalwork in Birmingham City Museums* (BAR Brit. Ser. 233, 1993), no. 52.

Th 6. Barbed and tanged arrowhead of Sutton type b in dirty buff-brown flint; L 23, W 21, Th 4. (All Bir 1991A401).

Mollington [SP424473]

Animal bone and bronze hoard excavated in July 1965 comprising assorted bones of sheep, ox, horse and dog, four socketed bronze spearheads and a bronze sword scabbard chape. (War A1390, A1391.1-2).²

Sonning Eye [SU7476]

Later flint flake tool and flake (Wos).

Wallingford [SU6089]

Later flint borer and knife/scrapper (Bir 1973A233, 238).

Box of over 100 flakes and tools from the Rev. C. Rogerson collection (Stk part of 120'1960). Two later flints: a core/scrapper and a blade flake, 'found on surface of a ploughed field' (Cov 66/30/1-2).

Witney, near [SP3509]

Iron Age? copper alloy bowl handle said to be from near Witney. Cast. An oval handle with ribbed decoration with an attached escutcheon decorated with palmettes. Purchased from a dealer in Yorkshire (Bir 1958A5). J.W. Hayes, formerly of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, has identified this as Late Etruscan or Roman Republican work of c. 300 BC and has questioned how likely it is to be an import of that date. (Fig. 1)

IRON AGE COINS by D.J. SYMONS

The coins described below were both formerly in the collection of the late Mr. Ian Donal Finney of London. Mr. Finney presented his collection to Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery in two parts in 1992-3. The coins were acquired from dealers in the London area and the provenances are those provided at the time of purchase. The year that Mr. Finney acquired the coins is also given. Full details and photographs of the coins have been deposited with the Celtic Coin Index, Institute of Archaeology, 36 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PG. (The Index aims to record all Celtic coins found in Britain and would be very pleased to hear of any material that is as yet unrecorded, as well as any new finds).

Woodstock, near [SP4416]

'Atrebatas', silver unit of Commius. Not in Mack; Van Arsdell 355-3.³ Bought in 1989. 1993C355 (FL543).⁴

² M.R. Ehrenberg, *Bronze Age Spearheads from Berks, Bucks and Oxon* (BAR Brit. Ser. 34, 1977).

³ R.P. Mack, *The Coinage of Ancient Britain* (1975); R.D. Van Arsdell, *Celtic Coinage of Britain* (1989), 355-3.

⁴ D.J. Symons, 'Further Celtic Coins from the Finney Collection', *Spink Numismatic Circular*, xcvi.8 (Oct. 1990), 268-72.

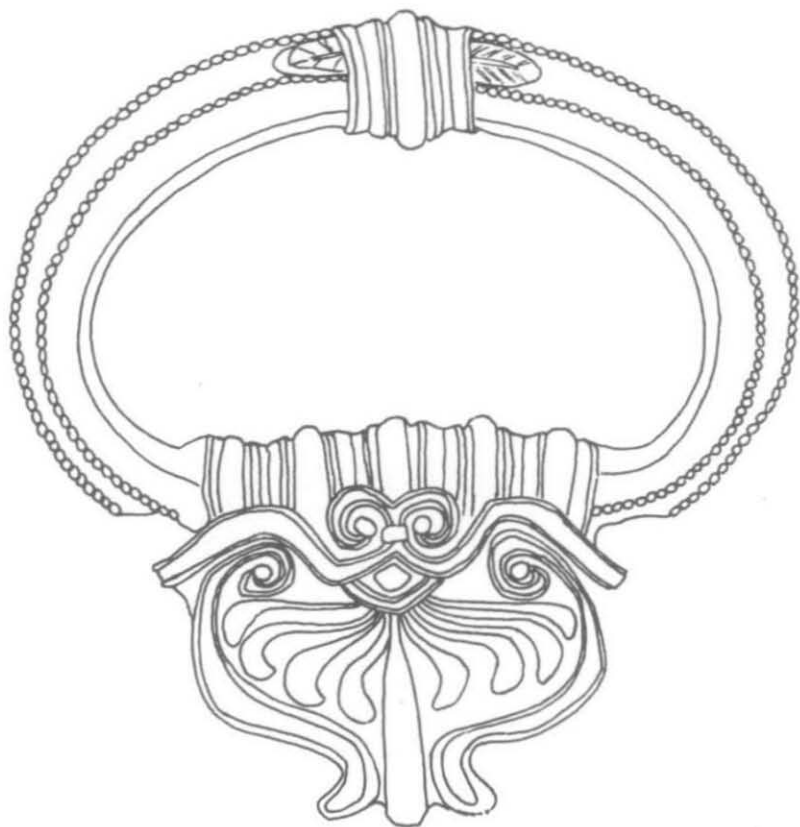


Fig. 1. Iron Age? copper alloy bowl handle said to be from near Witney. Scale 1 : 1.

Wootton, near [SP4419]

'Dobunni', class J silver unit (attributed by Van Arsdell to Catti). Mack 384 variety; Van Arsdell 1137-1 variety. Bought in 1991. 1993C375 (FL581).⁵

ROMAN by D.J. SYMONS and P.J. WISE

Dorchester [SU5794]

Trefoil-shaped copper alloy pendant with a raised and perforated sub-circular lug at the rear top. Apparently undecorated. Found in February 1911 by T.G. Barnett at the back of a house

⁵ D.J. Symons, 'British Celtic Coins added to the Finney Collection, 1991', *ibid.* c.7 (Sept. 1992), 226-7.

parallel with Sandhurst Lane, at a depth of approximately 4 feet, close to the right knee of one skeleton which had a second skeleton lying diagonally across it. (Bir 1957A235)

'Dorchester' (Oxfordshire or Dorset?)

Approximately half of an armlet composed of strips of leather wound around a metal core and decorated with silver? wire and coral? beads. Said to have been found 'in a Roman urn dug up at Dorchester'. Both the dating and the provenance must be regarded as uncertain. (Bir 1953A689)

North Leigh [SP397154]

Twenty-eight tesserae from North Leigh Roman Villa collected in 1815 and 1967 (War A146 and A2994).

Oxford, no exact provenance

A mortarium rim sherd in Oxfordshire ware; late period, 3rd–4th century. (Nun X160)

Oxfordshire, no exact provenance

Copper alloy fibula. Dolphin brooch of relatively early style, with simple backward hook and small shallow wings. (Bir 1953A671)

Wallingford, Mongewell Dyke [SU6089]

Base of a colour coated beaker; red slip on orange fabric. (Bir 1978A333)

ROMAN COINS by D.J. SYMONS

Oxfordshire, no exact provenance

The following four coins are said to have been found near Oxford prior to 1951 and to be from an otherwise unrecorded hoard:⁶

Diocletian (AD 284–305), billon follis. *RIC* VI, Ticinum, 45a (Bir 1961C33.41).

Maximian (AD 286–305), billon follis. *RIC* VI, Lugdunum 108b (Bir 1961C33.56).

Constantius I Caesar (AD 293–305), billon follis. *RIC* VI, Lugdunum 165a (Bir 1961C33.54).

Constantius I Caesar, billon follis, *RIC* VI, Londinium 37a (Bir 1961C33.55).

⁶ C.H.V. Sutherland, *The Roman Imperial Coinage, VI: From Diocletian's Reform (AD 294) to the Death of Maximinus (AD 313)* (1967); for a more detailed publication see D.J. Symons, 'Notes on Three Romano-British Hoards', *Brit. Numismatic Jnl.* 60 (1990), 131–4, pl. 23–4.

MEDIEVAL by T. BRIDGES

Oxford, Christ Church (found in the building in 1863)

Shallow inlay tile. Orange glaze. Dark brick red to purple clay. Bevel on two edges only. About twenty small round holes on back for keying. Abstract design of curved lines and foliage, possibly one of a four-tile pattern. 133 × 135 × 21 (Wos 1976/407i).

Embossed tile. Pale yellow glaze. White pipe clay. No bevel. Shield in centre with escutcheon carrying lion rampant; surrounded by four 4-petalled flowers and with fleur de lys in corners. 113 × 110 × 20. (Wos 1976/407ii).

P.J. WATSON, P.J. WISE, D.J. SYMONS and T. BRIDGES

ASPECTS OF ANIMAL LIFE AND DEATH IN AN IRON AGE SETTLEMENT AT TUCKWELL'S PIT NEAR RADLEY, OXON.

Summary

Bones of domesticated animals associated with an Iron Age house and enclosures were analysed to indicate some of the economy, husbandry and other cultural activities including possible feasting on mutton joints.

Published Iron Age bone collections of any size from Oxfordshire are not yet common and an opportunity is taken here to present and discuss results from an informative if problematic collection from Tuckwell's Pit, between Radley and Abingdon, Oxon. This report results from the recent study of the bones, based on a short publication report and archive evidence of the site assembled by Roger Ainslie under the auspices of the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society.¹

The now destroyed settlement lay at map grid reference SU 523 976² on the inner edge of the first gravel terrace near the clay slope leading to the second terrace. A broad bend of the River Thames lies 0.9 km. to the E. and S.

The geological soil substrate consisted of a yellow-brown silty loam, probably of alluvial origin, which contrasts with the red-brown loam subsoils common on the first terrace at nearby Iron Age house and enclosure sites at Thrupp, Abingdon, also excavated by the Abingdon Society.³ Feature fills at the Tuckwell's site were of grey, yellow and brown loams cutting the substrate.

The stratified site settlement consisted of two phases of circular Iron Age house gullies

¹ R. Ainslie, 'Excavations at Thrupp nr. Radley, Oxon.', *South Midlands Archaeology*, 22 (1992), 63-4.

² Ibid.; A. Mudd, 'The Excavation of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Site at Eight Acre Field, Radley', *Oxoniensia*, lx (1995), Fig. 1.

³ G. Jones, R. Thomas and J. Wallis, 'Radley, Thrupp Farm', *CBA-9 Newsletter*, 10 (1980), 180-2; R. Everett, unpubl. report held by Abingdon Area Archaeol. and Historical Soc.

followed by at least two phases of overlapping and adjacent Iron Age gullies, apparently of enclosures 10–15 m. across and which opened on to a succession of long curving enclosure/droeway ditches of Iron Age and possibly Roman date (Fig. 1).⁴ Finds, especially the pottery, indicate that the prehistoric features date to the 3rd to 4th centuries BC.⁵

Bronze Age to Early Iron Age rural activity in an open, largely pastoral landscape E. of the site has been discussed recently⁶ and a similar Mid Iron Age environment, with some arable land, can be postulated. The analysis of the bone evidence from Tuckwell's Pit indicates something of the animal economy, husbandry and other cultural activities in the area.

The Animal Bones

Forty-four percent of the 1,331 bones and fragments were identified. Table 1 shows the distribution of bones according to the usual categories of fragment frequency among the major features of the site. Fills of the house gullies (F1 and 5) and other smaller features (Fs 11–21) appear dominated by coarser debris of cattle and horse while the later enclosure gully fills (Fs 7–10) are dominated by bones of sheep/goat, particularly from F9 where they amount to 97% of the identified bones (none of goat were identified among the sheep/goat jaws). It is the large sample size ($n = 263$) of the latter feature which produces the high percentage of sheep bones in the overall bone collection. Pig bones are noticeably uncommon in comprising only 2% of all the identified bones.

The abundant bones in F9 were observed to be a dense accumulation and those recovered were only part of a larger deposit that was substantially dug out and destroyed by gravel company machining. In the same gully an abundance of sheep mandibles was noted and retrieved. All skeletal elements in the bags of bones, however, were well represented and mixed with mandibles which are common but not especially numerous. There are 16 relatively complete mandibles which with 29 smaller fragments comprise 18% of the F9 group along with 35 loose teeth or 14% of the group. Table 2 shows the percentages of head, foot and body parts of sheep and these are not exceptional where compared with those of other local Iron Age sites, e.g. Ashville and Appleford.⁷

Table 2 also gives an indication of how much bones were degraded by site processes such as scavenging, trampling and butchery.⁸ Sheep bones in the house gullies and other features appear quite degraded (Index of 80%) whereas bones of the enclosure gullies appear much better preserved (Indices of 39%–41%). Many of the latter sheep bones were relatively complete and some of them, e.g. from the lower limbs, appeared to have been articulated when deposited.

Butchery marks were noted for the sheep bones in F9. Transverse knife cuts on the midshaft of a tibia and around bones of the hock joint are probably marks from the skinning of the carcasses. Cut marks on the main meat carcass occurred on three distal humeri, around a

⁴ Ainslie, *op. cit.* 63–4.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ M. Robinson, 'Plant and Invertebrate Remains', in Mudd, *op. cit.* 41–50; A. Parker, 'Pollen Analysis', in *ibid.* 50–3.

⁷ R. Wilson, 'The Animal Bones', in M. Parrington, *The Excavation of an Iron Age Settlement at Ashville Trading Estate (Abingdon), 1974–76* (CBA Research Report 28, 1978), Tables xii & xiii.

⁸ R. Wilson, 'Degraded Bones, Feature Type and Spatial Patterning on an Iron Age Occupation Site in Oxfordshire', in N.R.J. Fieller, D.D. Gilbertson and N.G.A. Ralph (eds.), *Palaeological Investigations: Research Design, Methods and Data Analysis* (BAR International Series 266, 1985), 81–93.

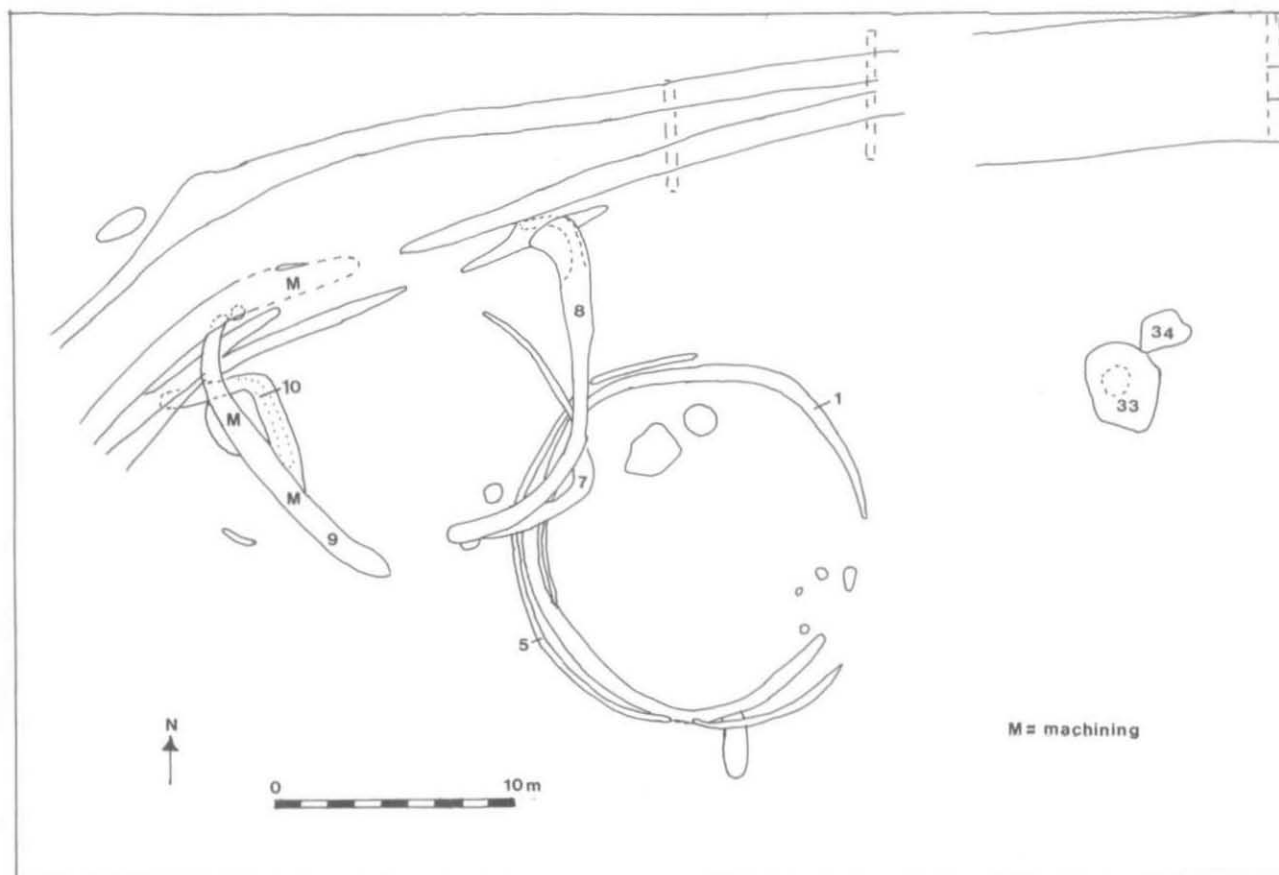


Fig. 1. Plan of features at Tuckwell's Pit, Radley, Oxon. (after Ainslie, footnote 1).

TABLE 1. FRAGMENT FREQUENCY OF SPECIES AND OTHER BONES AT TUCKWELL'S PIT

Feature no.	1	5	7	8	9	10	11-21	33-34		
Feature type	House gullies		Enclosure gullies				Pits etc.	Well	Total	%
Phase	1	2	3	4	4	3	—	—		
Cattle	62	—	1	17	6	7	29	20	142	25
Sheep/goat	36	2	6	29	254	23	12	19	381	66
Pig	2	1	—	2	3	1	—	3	12	2
Horse	6	—	2 ¹	4	—	—	16	8	36	6
Dog	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8 ²	8	1
Identified	106	3	9	52	263	31	57	58	579	44
Unidentified	142	—	17	44	313	57	88	91	752	56
Total	248	3	26	96	576	88	145	149	1331	
Burnt bones	7	—	—	2	23	2	2	2	36	3

¹ Counting bones and teeth of horse cranium as one.² Counting bones of dog cranium as one: articulated with 4 cervical vertebrae.

TABLE 2. PERCENTAGES OF SKELETAL ELEMENTS OF SHEEP AND CATTLE

Feature no.	Sheep			Cattle	
	House gullies, pits, etc.	Enclosure gullies		House gullies etc.	Enclosure gullies
	1,5,11-21 & 33-34	7,8 & 10	9		
Sample size	69	58	254	110	31
	%	%	%	%	%
Head	48	21	39	53	52
Foot	9	14	14	17	10
Body	43	66	48	30	39
Degradation index	80%	41%	39%		

cervical vertebra, and diagonally on the ventral neck of a scapula: these latter marks are probably from the disjuncting of carcasses and meat removal. A similar butchery pattern was reported at Ashville.⁹

Indications of the slaughtering ages of the three main species are given by the Mandible Wear Stages listed in Table 3. Cattle and pig ages are too few to be assessed and the sheep sample is not a large one. Both lambs and older sheep are represented by the jaws and the age distribution lies between Iron Age and Romano-British patterns at other local settle-

⁹ Wilson in Parrington, op. cit. 119-23.

TABLE 3. MANDIBLE WEAR STAGES AT DEATH

Cattle	26e, 44.
Sheep	9, 10, 10e*, 11e*, 11e* 20e, 22*-22* (pair?), 22e, 22e*, 22e*, 23*, 29*, 30*, 32e-32e (pair?), 32e 34, 34*, 36e, 39, 39*, 39*
Pig	11e.

e = estimated MWS (A. Grant, 'The Use of Tooth Wear as a Guide to the Age of Domestic Ungulates', in R. Wilson, C. Grigson and S. Payne (eds.), *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeol. Sites* (BAR Brit. Series 109, 1982), 91-108.

* = mandible from F9.

ments.¹⁰ Horse crania or mandibles indicate two ages of death around 7 years and one around 10 years.¹¹

Five probable female and one possible male pelves of sheep were recorded. This may underrepresent the number of males which were killed at the younger age stages, perhaps their unfused pelves surviving less well than those of adult females. Evidence of the slaughtering ages and the representation of the pelves of the sexes indicates the sheep were mainly ewes raised to provide meat and dairy products although their wool would have been important.

A few bone measurements indicate that the slaughtered animals were of quite small size but comparable to the size of Iron Age animals elsewhere.

Discussion

This incompletely excavated settlement was suggested to be comparable to other regional houses and their enclosures.¹² Possibly the excavated area was a small part of a large enclosure like that at Watkins Farm, Northmoor,¹³ but compared to the houses and their contemporary enclosures at Farmoor¹⁴ and Ashville,¹⁵ the small enclosures (Phases 3 and 4) at Tuckwell's Pit clearly are separate from and replace the house features (Phases 1 and 2) which must have been abandoned and filled before the third phase occurred.

With this distinction drawn, and according to a model of the spatial patterning of bones,¹⁶ the bones of the first two phases appear to represent bones which were considerably degraded and scattered before accumulating as predominantly coarse debris in site features like the first house gully. Alternatively, this debris was derived from the keeping of a relative abundance

¹⁰ J. Hamilton, 'A Comparison of the Age Structure at Mortality of Some Iron Age and Romano-British Sheep and Cattle Populations', in Parrington, op. cit. 126-33.

¹¹ I.A. Silver, 'The Ageing of Domestic Animals', in D. Brothwell and E. Higgs (eds.), *Science and Archaeology* (1969), 282-302.

¹² Ainslie, op. cit. note 1.

¹³ T.G. Allen, *Watkins Farm, Northmoor, Oxon.* (Thames Valley Landscapes: the Windrush Valley 1, 1990).

¹⁴ G. Lambrick and M. Robinson, *Iron Age and Roman Riverside Settlements at Farmoor, Oxfordshire* (CBA Research Report 32, 1979).

¹⁵ Parrington, op. cit. note 7.

¹⁶ R. Wilson, 'Projects Modelling the Spatial Patterning of Bones', in R. Luff and P. Rowley-Conwy (eds.), *Whither Environmental Archaeology?* (Oxbow Monograph 38, 1994), 57-66; R. Wilson, *Spatial Patterning Among Animal Bones in Settlement Archaeology* (BAR Brit. Series 251, 1996).

of cattle and horses at the site. This alternative seems improbable since 8 sheep jaws (and therefore a modest estimate of Minimum Number of Individuals) indicated their abundance amongst the debris of the main house gully although other sheep skeletal elements were rather less abundant.

Bone remains associated with the later enclosures appear more problematic to interpret. The spatial patterning model and the site evidence indicates that less degraded sheep bones were deposited in or close to the small enclosure gullies of Phases 3 and 4. If the sheep bones were produced as domestic refuse, this suggests at least one house stood nearby and was contemporary with the small enclosures. Alternatively, the enclosures stood as relatively isolated structures (e.g. brushwood fences, gullies and possibly hearths) around which domestic (mundane meal taking), ceremonial (e.g. feasting) and/or religious ritual (e.g. sacrifice) activities involved mutton joints and the bones within them. The categorisation of these activities is not clear cut¹⁷ but opens up a number of interpretative possibilities.

Mundane meal-taking (assuming it was by relatively few people over a considerable time) appears less probable since one might not expect the diet to consist of a succession of carcasses of the same species, and more dietary variety and a greater degradation of bones over a longer period would be expected. On the other hand the quantity of sheep carcasses represented in F9 (as indicated by limited sample retrieval and any Minimum Number estimate based on mandible frequency, Table 3), species predominance and butchery evidence could indicate an episode of feasting by quite a number of people.

Ritual as religious sacrifice¹⁸ is possible. However, although some of the sheep bones appeared articulated, skeletons were not buried whole, and there is evidence of carcass butchery. The evidence could imply that meat joints were sacrificed but since most of the collected bones appeared mixed up, especially those of the best cuts, it is suggested the joints were eaten and bones discarded rather than sacrificed in the strict sense of offering them uneaten.

Regarding the function of the enclosures, the evidence is ambiguous. Perhaps the enclosures, particularly including the 'droveway' ditches, were a management system for drafting animals, especially sheep, to smaller groups, comparable to husbandry discussed by Pryor for the Bronze Age Fenlands,¹⁹ possibly to keep animals overnight, milk them or shear them. Perhaps the enclosures stored rural products or trade goods. Perhaps they were an incidental location of symbolic activity and ceremonial feasting, or possibly the focus for a more specific religious function. The latter has been argued for the Iron Age enclosure on Harrow Hill, Sussex, where cattle mandibles were common,²⁰ and more generally for most types of Iron Age features in Wessex.²¹ Thus the sheep mandibles in F9, a horse cranium in F7, and a dog cranium and neck vertebrae in a well, F33, may take on Iron Age symbolic and ritual significance although there is little other material evidence, e.g. metalwork, to support such a contention.

¹⁷ Wilson (1996), op. cit. note 16, Table 20.

¹⁸ E.g. A. Grant, 'Survival or Sacrifice? A Critical Appraisal of Animal Burials in Britain During the Iron Age', in C. Grigson and J. Clutton-Brock (eds.), *Animals and Archaeology* (BAR International Series 227, 1984), 221-7; J.L. Brunaux, *The Celtic Gauls: Gods, Rites and Sanctuaries* (1988); J.D. Hill, *Ritual and Rubbish in the Iron Age of Wessex* (BAR Brit. Series 242, 1995).

¹⁹ F. Pryor, 'Sheep, Stockyards and Field Systems: Bronze Age Livestock Populations in the Fenlands of Eastern England', *Antiquity* 70 (1996), 313-23.

²⁰ W.H. Manning, 'Ritual or Refuse: the Harrow Hill Enclosure Reconsidered', in B. Raftery (ed.), *Sites and Sights of the Iron Age: Essays on Fieldwork and Museum Research Presented to Ian Mathieson Stead* (Oxbow Monograph 56, 1995), 133-8.

²¹ Hill, op. cit. note 18.

Acknowledgements

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BOB WILSON

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JAMES (NOT JOHN) GREEN (1729–59), ENGRAVER TO THE UNIVERSITY

James Green, whose promising career as an engraver in mid 18th-century Oxford was cut short by illness and death, has been denied a place in history through confusion over his name. His work in Oxford during the 1750s is not unimportant, and it is to him that we owe the valuable series of drawings of vanished buildings, including Oxford's Gildhall and many medieval halls.

William Green (1698–1754) of Halesowen had six sons: Charles (1719–78), William (1723–1802), John (1727–?), James (1729–59), Amos (1796–1807), and Benjamin (1739–98), of whom the last three all became proficient artists, two of them being associated with Oxford.¹ Baptised on 3 October 1729, James's first engraving was made in 1746 when he was 17, a view of Halesowen Church dedicated to the patron, Sir Thomas Littleton.² There is little doubt that James, and not his brother John, was the engraver, and the confusion seems solely to have arisen from the entry in Horace Walpole's *Catalogue of Engravers*:

JOHN GREEN, a young man who made great proficiency in graving landscapes and other things (particularly heads of Thomas Rowney, Thomas Shaw, D.D., W. Derham, D.D., and the plates for Borlase's *Natural History of Cornwall*, and many of the seats); he was born in Hales Owen, in Shropshire, and bred under Basire, an engraver of maps, father of the present engraver to the Antiquarian Society. Green was employed by the University of Oxford, and continued their almanacs; but died immaturely three or four years ago. His brother is in the same business.³

Green was working in Oxford from at least 1750 as a topographical artist, making some if not all of the very important series of views of Oxford halls commissioned by the antiquary Edward Rowe Mores and preserved in the Gough collection, which show the state of several medieval domestic buildings which have been much altered since, and others (the Gildhall) which have vanished.⁴ In 1751 under the direction of Mores, then archivist of Queen's College,

¹ [Johnson Ball], *1951 Festival Exhibition of Pictures by the Eighteenth Century Halesowen Artists James, Amos and Benjamin Green, Council House, Halesowen* [hereafter *Halesowen Catalogue*] (1951), family tree opp. p. 8. As will become apparent, much of this note depends on the research of Johnson Ball.

² *Halesowen Catalogue*, 9, 13 (§ 1).

³ H. Walpole, *A Catalogue of Engravers . . . in England* (1764), 127 (issued in reprints together with his *Anecdotes of Painting*, ed. Dalloway (1826), Wormum (1862), Murray Reprint Library (1872), 466). The error has been copied by most dictionaries of artists, and the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Vertue's notes on engravers, the source of much of Walpole's material, do not mention Green, 'Vertue's Notebooks', VI, *Walpole Society* xxx (1955).

⁴ s.v. Mores in *D.N.B.*; Bodl. MS. Gough Oxon 50, where no. 19 is signed 'J. Green', but some may be by his brother Benjamin; Gough acquired much of Mores' library.

he drew some similar views of the old buildings of Queen's which had been demolished in the 1730s.⁵ He was also engraving in Oxford in 1750, for Francis Wise's catalogue of the Bodleian coin collection *Nummorum antiquorum* ... (1750) included vignettes of Wise's garden at Elmsfield, and Green also engraved vignettes for a classical text published by Mores.⁶ After George Vertue ceased his long run of engraving the Oxford Almanacks, producing his last one in 1751, James Green (signing both as Js. Green and J. Green) engraved all the almanacks for the years between 1752 and 1759.⁷ There is a further possibility for confusion here, since between 1733 and 1751 a Mr. Green, 'Green the painter', or William Green was paid for the design of 13 almanacks, having been entered as a privileged person in 1739; however it cannot be shown that he was a relative.⁸ But it was James Green who designed and engraved the fine views of the Radcliffe Library and St. Mary's Church used in the almanacks for 1752 and 1754, that of Trinity College for 1756 (for which the College has the original drawing, signed 'James Green del.'), of Corpus Christi for 1758, and the Sheldonian Theatre for 1759. While the engraving was handsomely rewarded at £50, the designs were reckoned to be worth 7 guineas [£7.35] or less. In the intervening years of 1753, 1755 and 1757 there was a return to the allegorical subjects familiar in earlier almanacks until 1722, and these were engraved by Green but designed by Samuel Wale. After James's death, his brother Benjamin Green engraved the almanacks for the years 1760-2.⁹

Something more of James Green can be learned from the renowned Cornish antiquary and naturalist William Borlase (1696-1772), who came to Oxford in 1753 to print his *Observations on the Antiquities, Historical and Monumental, of the County of Cornwall* (1754). He had previously asked for advice on publishing, and having been recommended both by Dean Littleton (of Exeter) and by Smart Lethieullier (an Essex antiquary) to use 'Mr. Green', wrote to Francis Wise inquiring whether he was 'at leisure to undertake the whole engraving'.¹⁰ The Dean of Exeter was the son of Sir Thomas Littleton, for whom Green had made his first engraving, as mentioned above. Borlase would have met Green when he came to Oxford and stayed from June 1753 to January 1754 to see his book through the Jackson's press (having been advised to avoid the cost and delays of the Clarendon Press). Subsequently, writing to John Hutchins in November 1754 about the publication, Borlase remarked,

As to the drawings they were done by a very ingenious young man there, one Mr. Green, recommended to me by the worthy Dean of Exeter, and I cannot tell you what they cost me, but his price is not much above half of a London engraver, and excepting two or three top hands, his works are as good as any, and his hand growing every day better.

Borlase also used Green for his *Observations on the ... Islands of Scilly* (1756).¹¹

⁵ See J.R. Magrath, *The Queen's College* (1921), list of plates at vol. i, pls. xi, xxv; vol. ii, pl. xl.

⁶ S. Gibson, 'Francis Wise', *Oxoniensia*, 1 (1936), 184 (see 186 note for the origins of the *Oxoniensia* vignette); for the garden see *V.C.H. Oxon.* v, 117 and pl. opp. 239; Mores edition of 'Declaris Rhetoribus' of Dionysius of Halicarnassus, see *D.N.B.*

⁷ H.M. Petter, *The Oxford Almanacks* (1974) provides full information on authorship and payments, but does not resolve the John/James problem.

⁸ Petter, *Almanacks*, 12-13; Halesowen Catalogue, 7.

⁹ See Petter, *Almanacks*, 66-9 for the payments for designs and engraving; a design for the view of Corpus has now been acquired by the Ashmolean (§808), and is catalogued with Green's other designs for 1752, 1756 and 1759: D.B. Brown, *Ashmolean Museum Oxford, Catalogue of the Collection of Drawings IV: The Earlier British Drawings* (1982), 356-9 (§804-9); for Wale see *ibid.* 642f.

¹⁰ P.A.S. Pool, *William Borlase* (1986), 141-3.

¹¹ Pool, *Borlase*, 145, 155; the writer's copy of Green's Oxford Almanack for 1757 has a label addressed to Borlase in Cornwall on the back of it, and was perhaps sent to him by Green.

James Green's talents were now being more generally recognised, for on 22 July 1756 he was privileged as 'engraver for the University' (that is, he was made a privileged person of the University, thus obviating the need for apprenticeship or freedom of the City).¹² This post was held in direct succession to a series of official engravers who seem to have held the post for life: firstly David Loggan (1635–92), appointed in 1669 as '*publicus Academiae Sculptor*' and privileged by the University in 1672,¹³ and then Michael Burghers (1653?–1727), privileged in 1694 after Loggan's death as engraver to the University.¹⁴ Burghers was evidently followed by George Vertue (1684–1756), who does not seem to have been privileged, but perhaps need not have been, since he proposed himself to the Vice-Chancellor as University engraver on Burghers' death in 1727 stating that he intended to work in London rather than Oxford; he certainly engraved the almanacks between 1727 and 1751.¹⁵ Green also succeeded Vertue at the Society of Antiquaries after he resigned as engraver to the Society and Green was appointed in his place, after a ballot in January 1757; his work for the Society included a plate in volume II of the Society's *Vetusta Monumenta*, and also some for the *Table of . . . Coins*, 1763 edition.¹⁶

Borlase engaged the same engraver for the *Natural History of Cornwall* (1758), and again came to Oxford to supervise the engraving and printing.¹⁷ Another book with illustrations engraved by Green appeared after his death: *London and its Environs Described* (1761). Undated engravings from portraits of Derham, Rowney and Shaw were made by Green, and two of his Oxford views were published as aquatints by F. Jukes thirty years after his death. He engraved an undated plan of Lord North's gardens at Wroxton, and a large plan of St. Paul's Cathedral published in 1758 is also attributed to him.¹⁸

In *Jackson's Oxford Journal* for Saturday, 20 January 1759 appeared the following notice:

Last Week died, after a most painful Illness, which he bore with true Christian Resignation, Mr. James Green, Engraver to this University, and to the Antiquarian Society. A young Man, whose Genius in his Profession entitles him to be classed among the first Artists; and whose Affability and engaging Behaviour rendered his Death deservedly regretted by his Acquaintance.¹⁹

There can be little doubt, judging from the performance of the Almanacks alone, of the quality of Green's work, and to the dutiful obituary can be added the personal testimony of Borlase, of 'the late ingenious Mr. James Green, who, but that death interposed, had soon been among the first of his profession'.²⁰

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¹² J. Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses 1715–1886* (1887), 556; M. Graham (ed.), *Oxford City Apprentices 1697–1800* (Oxf. Hist. Soc. n.s. xxxi), p. ix.

¹³ C.F. Bell and R. Poole, 'English Seventeenth-century Portrait Drawing in Oxford Collections', *Walpole Soc.* xiv (1926), 59; J. Willis Clark introduction to 1905 reprint of Loggan's *Cantabrigia Illustrata*, p. cviii; these two are the most detailed sources for the life of Loggan.

¹⁴ J. Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses 1500–1714* (1891), 213 (privileged 7 July 1694 as '*Calcog. Uni.*'); he is described as Engraver in the Vice-Chancellor's accounts for 1694, H. Carter, *A History of the Oxford University Press* (1975), 129, 201.

¹⁵ Petter, *Almanacks*, 12; neither Vertue nor Green are mentioned in Carter, *History*; for Vertue see *D.N.B.* and his life in Walpole's *Catalogue of Engravers*, above note 3.

¹⁶ J. Evans, *A History of the Society of Antiquaries* (1956), 129, and Halesowen Catalogue, 11–12 for quotations from the Society's minute books.

¹⁷ Pool, *Borlase*, 104, 176.

¹⁸ Halesowen Catalogue, 20–1; Wroxton print at Magna Gallery, Oxford.

¹⁹ *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 20 January 1759 (no. 299), p. iii.

²⁰ Pool, *Borlase*, 104.

THE OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTE BOOKS

The North Oxfordshire Archaeological Society (after 1887 the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society) originated in 1852 and published Transactions and Reports from 1853.¹ The society was affiliated with the OAHS in 1954, and after the society finally amalgamated with the OAHS its papers were given to the Bodleian Library in 1973. They comprise minute books from 1909 to 1971 and a volume of miscellaneous papers.² An earlier minute book covering the years 1869–1908, formerly in the possession of P.S. Spokes (Hon. Treasurer in 1950–1, later President) has now been presented to the Bodleian through the kindness of Mrs E. Leggatt of the County Museum Services, to join its companions.³ Down to 1882 the minutes are a transcription of a 'scarcely intelligible' original, but are thereafter a contemporary compilation (see 16/1/1883); there are several printed notices of society excursions, and a small amount of loose correspondence.

The society committee meetings were usually held at the Clarendon Hotel, Oxford and were mainly concerned with the annual excursion and printing, but later with minutes of excursions; as early as 1874 incorporation with OAHS was discussed and rejected. In 1877 two latten spoons, 'the sole remains of the society's own collection', were given to the Ashmolean Museum. Perhaps fortunately the society was not over-active in field archaeology, though in 1878 there was an expedition to Chastleton 'for the purposes of exploring an ancient camp . . . never yet . . . excavated. The exploration will be conducted under the superintendence of gentlemen of great experience in such matters'.

Not without interest are the arrangements for transport: a visit in 1883 to Stratford on Avon in 'drenching rain' occasioned the remark that it was as well 'that travelling was by rail, and not, as usual, chiefly by driving'. Excursions might begin and end with a rail journey, and dinner arranged at a suitable hotel prior to return; if driving the 'drags' (later 'brakes') left the Oxford GWR station at 9 a.m., though the return might be by rail, or at least 'in time for the down slow trains on the Birmingham and Worcester lines'. Other incidents convey the flavour of the late Victorian society outing. At Swalcliffe in 1887 the President, Sir Henry Dryden, made 'several sketches for illustration in the annual report'. A joint meeting was held with the Berkshire Archaeological Society in 1890 at the White Horse. In 1891 the ruins of Minster Lovell were found 'uncared for, abandoned to dilapidation dirt and decay'. A trip was made by steam launch to Nuneham and Abingdon in 1894, though too long was spent in the gardens at the former, and the latter was only seen in great haste.

In 1896 the Treasurer Mr Kinch absconded, with a loss to the society of £40. A proposal to include OAS Reports in the new *Berks, Bucks and Oxon Journal* was rejected in 1897, as was a request to amalgamate publication with OAHS in 1902; when Adolphus Ballard wrote in March 1904 proposing the publication of a proper county journal by amalgamation and increasing membership, this met with little encouragement (and was not effected until 1936). But the society remained active: a printed circular was produced in 1901 inquiring about village feasts, and in 1902 the society's Jubilee celebrated its foundation in 1852. The Rev. H.E. Salter, who was to become a prominent member, and eventually President, joined in 1903. A special meeting in 1908 gave favourable consideration to Professor Haverfield's suggestions for the repair and maintenance of the North Leigh Roman Villa (proposing an

¹ See 'Report No. 88, 1950–3', in *Oxoniensia*, xvii/xviii (1952–3), 255–70; E.H. Cordeaux and D.H. Merry, *Bibliography of . . . Oxfordshire* (Oxf. Hist. Soc. n.s. xi, 1955), §302; the final printed report seems to be No. 92 for 1957, in *Oxoniensia*, xxii (1957), 119–20.

² Bodl. MSS. Top. Oxon. d.659–61, *Summary Catalogue* (1916–75) at §55140–4.

³ Bodl. MS. Eng. d.2917 (the shelfmark Top. Oxon. has been discontinued).

appeal for funds to fence and repair the site) and asking £10 to repair the mosaic. A letter from Haverfield explains that he intended to obtain a lease from the Duke of Marlborough. From 1909 the story continues in the minute books already held in the Bodleian Library.

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SPENCER CORSETS LIMITED, BRITANNIA ROAD, BANBURY: ADDENDUM

Further information concerning the Britannia Buildings has been provided by Mr. J.S.W. Gibson since the publication of my article on Spencer Corsets Limited.¹ Mr. Gibson's great-grandfather was Henry Stone (b. 1818), a Banbury bookseller who started the boxfile manufacturing business of Henry Stone & Son Limited in Parson's Street, Banbury. The actual patent for the boxfile was taken out in 1869 by John Cash (J. & J. Cash, the name-tape firm) who gave the patent to Henry Stone, his brother-in-law. Expansion of the firm occurred particularly under Lewis Stone (b. 1859), the founder's son. The firm occupied the Britannia Buildings from c. 1882 until the 1970s.

I am grateful to Mr. Gibson for this additional information.

SALLY STRADLING

¹ S. Stradling, 'Spencer Corsets Limited, Britannia Road, Banbury', *Oxoniensia*, lxi (1996).