

## Notes and News

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES : 1967

*Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon.* Coldwell Bridge, Long Barrow I. Mr. D. Benson undertook a second main season of excavation on this site east of Coldwell Bridge. A horned, false entrance of dry stone walling was revealed at the eastern end of the barrow. The barrow mound and its revetment were further examined; hurdling was found to have been used in its internal construction. Pre-barrow features included two hearths. Neolithic pottery and Neolithic and Mesolithic flints were recovered from the buried soil profile which by analysis of molluscan fauna provided evidence of a change from a closed woodland to an open grassland environment. (SP/299175.)

*Bampton, Oxon.* Mr. G. Williams excavated a section of a ditch on a building site 300 yards north-east of Calais Farm. In the fill were a few Roman grey sherds and a burnt Samian base stamped POT . . . NM, of the central Gaulish potter Potitianus. (SP/318033.)

*Finstock, Oxon.* Mr. Watts reported Romano-British sherds found by Mr. Theodore Harris whilst digging a grave in Finstock churchyard. The sherds are all in hard grey fabric and of types current in the 2nd century. (SP/35951645.)

*Hailey, Oxon.* A scatter of abraded sherds including Belgic or Early Roman wares was found by Mrs. Woodford in fields ca. 600-700 yards south of Grims Ditch. (SP/395117.)

*Hanborough, Oxon.* A rescue excavation on the site of the East Settlement<sup>1</sup> north-west of City Farm, was carried out by Mr. D. Benson. The site was that of a small late Iron Age farmstead with the remains of a circular hut, 10 m. in diameter, defined by substantial post holes. More than 80 associated pits were excavated. A detailed report will appear. (SP/43151160.)

*Kencott, Oxon.* Mr. G. Williams reported Roman pottery and building stone in a field. (SP/25600625.)

*Minster Lovell, Oxon.* P/C Brown found a scatter of Roman pottery in a field just north-west of the boundary with Curbridge. (SP/323104.)

*Oxford, 13-14 Turl Street.* During the construction of the new Lincoln College annex, behind the shop front, a 12 foot high section of Medieval and post-Medieval deposits was exposed and recorded. (Oxford Excavations Committee.)

*Oxford, Station Yard.* Mr. T. G. Hassall for Oxford Excavations Committee undertook trial excavations on the site of Rewley Abbey. No traces of structure were found in a 50 ft. long trench to the north of the site to be occupied by the new fire station.

*Oxford, Magdalen Bridge.* Mr. T. G. Hassall examined a deep culvert discovered by G.P.O. workmen. The culvert ran north-west beneath the north side of the road and was traced for ca. 80 ft. from Magdalen Bridge. It had been blocked at both ends. The culvert was covered with a semi-circular stone built arch ca. 4 ft. wide; it was dry and full of silt to the springing of the arch.

This culvert has no outfall, and must have been cut and blocked during reconstruction of the bridge in 1771, at latest. It cannot be the culvert shown on the map made ca. 1773 in connexion with the work of the Paving Commissioners.<sup>2</sup> That culvert has outfall on the south side of the bridge, and is still in use.

<sup>1</sup> *Oxoniensia*, xxxix/xxx, 1964/5, 42, fig. 2.

<sup>2</sup> H. E. Salter, *Surveys and Tokens*, Oxford, 1923, 9 and map 3 facing p. 72.

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*Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxon.* Quantities of waste flint, and a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead were found on the ploughed surface of the first field west of Coldwell Brook and north of the B.4473. (SP/297175.)

*Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxon.* Coldwell Bridge, Long Barrow II. Some 270 metres (300 yards) east-south-east of Long Barrow I (see *Ascott-under-Wychwood*), on a crest of the opposite, west side of Coldwell Brook and south of the B.4473, are the remains of another long barrow. Though the site has been much reduced by ploughing, the mound appears to be about 57 m. long, aligned east-west with a broader area, 30 m. across, at the eastern end. The slope of the mound is difficult to distinguish from that of the natural crest, but the barrow mound appears to be at least a metre high. Small slabs of coarse limestone, similar to those found in the inner wall of Long Barrow I, have been ploughed up from the periphery of the mound and especially from its eastern end, but none of the finer-grained and dressed stones characteristic of the outer wall of the former barrow have been noticed. Slight depressions in the ground on both sides of the mound may indicate quarry ditches. This site was first noted by O. G. S. Crawford in 1930.<sup>3</sup> He felt unable to determine whether it was a long or round barrow; there seems no doubt that it was the former. (SP/29751745.)

*Standlake, Oxon.* P/C Brown found a fragment of pottery with a skeuomorphic representation of a metal bucket handle, in the waste tip of a gravel pit. The wall of the vessel (fig. 13) slopes inwards, and the rim is thickened and rounded. The handle

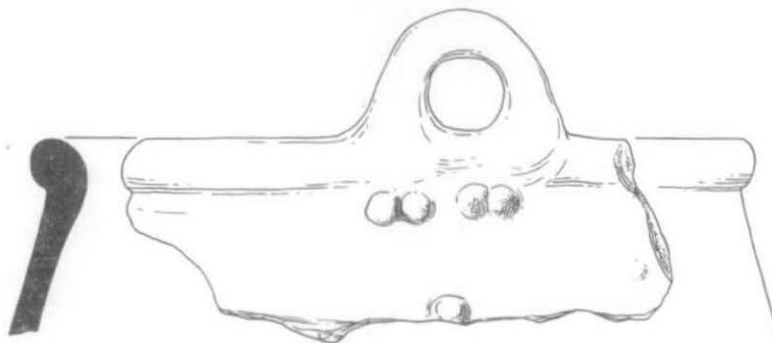


FIG. 13  
Pottery bucket from Standlake (Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

is formed by a loop of clay standing up from the rim. On the outside wall below the rim are applied knobs of clay simulating rivets in an escutcheon plate. Traces of the upper groove of a border, which would probably have been lattice burnished, survive below the bottom rivet. The fabric is a soft mottled grey ware of a type current in the 1st century A.D.

A similar rim with handle is known from Heybridge, Essex.<sup>4</sup>

DON BENSON.  
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<sup>3</sup> Ordnance Survey Records.

<sup>4</sup> T. May, *Catalogue of the Roman pottery in the Colchester and Essex Museum*, Colchester, 1930, pl. LIIIA.

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### THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT HARWELL, Grave 7

While making a drainage trench in his garden in the summer of 1966, Mr. R. L. Otlett, the present owner of Downscroft, The Hollow Way, Harwell discovered part of a skeleton. Knowing of the earlier excavation<sup>5</sup> of Anglo Saxon graves from the garden, he promptly advised the Ashmolean Museum of his find. The writer visited the site, and with the help of Mr. Otlett and his neighbours excavated the grave.

The grave lay in the square H 6 of the grid laid down by the previous excavators. It was cut 2 ft. deep, into the hard bedded chalk; it did not impinge on the soft, 'dis-solved chalk' into which the first six graves had been dug. The skeleton was extended on its back, head to the west and orientated a little south of east like the other graves; the head rested on a pillow, a slab of chalk 2 ins. thick, and the hands crossed the pelvis. The only object found with the burial was a spearhead. It was deeply embedded in the left side of the skeleton.

Mr. H. Carter, of Reading Museum, has kindly prepared the following report on the skeleton, and an analysis of the position of the spear in the body:

#### *Harwell Grave 7. Bone Report*

Skull and pelvis crushed to about half original depth dorsoventrally.

End of long bones much decayed, several with shaft broken, probably after burial. Approximate measurements; humerus-340 mm., clavicle-170 mm., femur-475 mm., tibia-375 mm. Remainder incomplete. Height calculated from long bones-5 ft. 8 ins. Measurement from crown to heel of re-constructed skeleton-5 ft. 11½ ins.

Eyebrow and supra mastoid ridges slightly developed (inconclusive as to sex). Sciatic notch narrow, angle 45° (typical of male). Head of femur in vertical distance 55 mm. (usually under 45 in females, over in males). Upper third molars erupted but unworn; lower third molar unworn; (this would indicate an age of about 20 years, with a wide margin of error upwards. The rest of the teeth are little worn, and the man was probably under 30 years old).

#### *The Position of the Spearhead*

When the bones were uncovered (FIG. 14) the spearhead was found resting on the third and following ribs of the left side, with its point embedded beneath the joint between the 7th and 8th thoracic vertebrae, and its socket protruding laterally and slightly upwards.

The second rib was broken off short, but in all probability it originally overlay the spearhead, and this would have contributed to its fracture and eventual loss.

Assuming that the relative positions of the parts remains unaltered from the time of death, the spearhead would appear to have entered on a level with the top of the heart, at a point close to the left nipple, and passed inwards to lodge against the backbone. Such a course would have taken it directly through the heart.

It is possible that it was left in that position at burial because of the difficulty of extracting it after it had passed twice through the rib-cage and entered the dense mass of muscle and tendon which lies behind and beside the vertebrae. If the haft snapped or pulled out from the socket, very little of the metal would be left exposed, and its extraction would then be impossible without dismembering the corpse.

The position is just what might be achieved by an overarm thrust from a right-handed man face to face with his opponent.

The spearhead (FIG. 15) is of iron, with a split socket in which are traces of wood surviving as corrosion—so the shaft was probably broken. In date it agrees with the 5th-6th-century date of the other finds from the cemetery.

<sup>5</sup> J. R. Kirk and K. Marshall, A Saxon cemetery near Harwell, *Oxoniensia*, XXI, 1956, 22-34. Six graves were excavated; the finds are of the fifth and sixth centuries, beginning with a notable *Buckelurne* and ending with a small square headed brooch of Kentish type.

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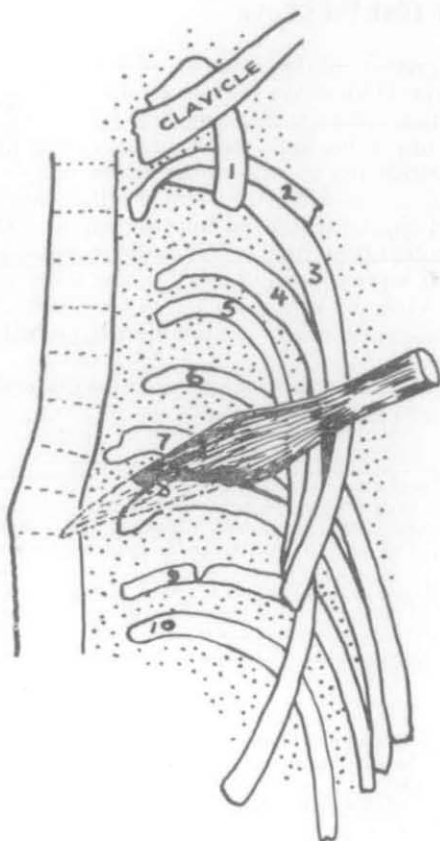


FIG. 14  
Sketch showing position of the spearhead.

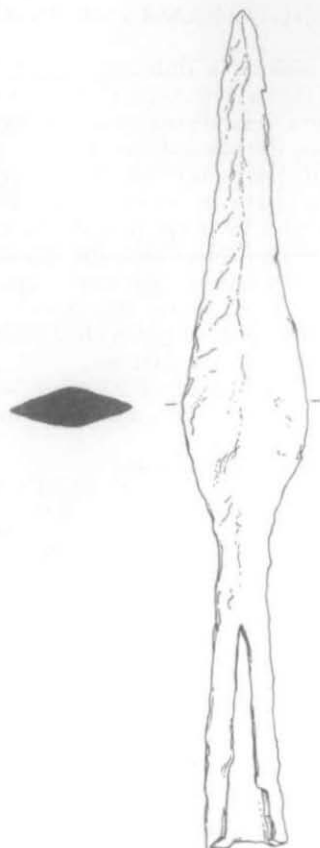


FIG. 15  
Iron spearhead (Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

There seems no doubt that the spear thrust caused this man's death. It is worth noticing that here is a man killed by an Anglo-Saxon spear, and buried in an Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

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### THE PAPERS OF RICHARD CARTER ESQ.

Richard Carter, the son of Richard Carter a brewer of Oxford, was born in 1672. He was a student at Balliol and then became a member of the Inner Temple. He was made a justice of Anglesea in 1720 and in 1721 Chief Justice of Glamorgan, Brecon and Radnor, an office which he held until his death in 1755. In 1711 he married Martha, widow of George Blackall of Great Haseley, which he made his residence until

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he bought Easington House at Chilton in Buckinghamshire in 1739. He was survived by two sons, George Richard and Thomas Richard, and one daughter, Martha who married Sir Thomas Aubrey Bt. of Llantrithyd.<sup>6</sup>

His papers which are deposited in Oxford County Record Office are of particular interest in that they include documents of a type not generally found in local archives, notably the papers relating to his work as a justice out of sessions and to his professional work as a lawyer. There are no title deeds to his estates or manorial records except a stray presentment for the court leet of Great Haseley. Apart from a few abstracts of title, schedules and bills the papers classified as estate papers, CJ II/1-88e, relate almost entirely to lawsuits over properties mortgaged to him, including property of the Tippings of Wheatfield and the Dormers of Ascott, and the Blackall estates at Great Haseley and in Middlesex. The whole estate seems to have the subject of a suit brought on behalf of George Blackall's younger children after his death and the Middlesex estate of a suit for payment of carpenter's bills for work done in his lifetime. These papers include a draft agreement, CJ II/70, between Martha Blackall and John Piddington, stone cutter, for the erection of a monument (presumably that of her first husband) in Great Haseley church;<sup>7</sup> and also, in an estate account book for Great Haseley later used by Richard Carter for rough accounts, a note of money spent on his own monument at Chilton.<sup>8</sup>

There are few records of a purely personal nature among the papers. One letter, CJ II/55, from Richard Carter's eldest daughter Martha, who was evidently at a boarding establishment in London and wished to go to George II's coronation with her governess and the other girls, has only survived because her father used it to make a note about the Tipping family's mortgages. Most of the papers classified as personal, CJ III/1-19, concern a somewhat extraordinary quarrel between Carter and Sir John Dormer of Ascott. Dormer sent Carter an insulting letter and subsequently visited his house on two occasions with an armed retinue. On the first occasion Carter was out and on the second Dormer was restrained by the constable and inhabitants of Great Haseley. The reason for the row is not clear. Carter had become assignee of part of a mortgage on Dormer's estates at the time, but although he was arguing with the other mortgagees as to the amount of money due to him, he does not seem to have been directly involved in the suit they brought against Dormer to compel repayment. According to Carter's own account, CJ III/4, he had neither seen nor heard from Dormer for two years and had previously befriended him in procuring him a pardon when he had been convicted of manslaughter.

His official papers relate to his stewardship of the honour of Ewelme, for which there is nothing of particular interest except a rota of court days, and to his work as a justice. His justice's papers include a calendar of prisoners committed for felony and misdemeanour in Oxford Castle in 1722, CJ IV/1, copies of official orders from the Privy Council for the enforcement of anti-papist laws, orders and examinations similar to those found among parish poor law records, and a few covering the sort of cases which came before the justices out of sessions. An order was made for the apprehension of a labourer wanted for robbery and assault, an innkeeper was summoned from Dorchester for obstructing the excise men and a tanner and tawer were both convicted

<sup>6</sup> Lipscomb, *History of Buckinghamshire*, I, 133, 144.

<sup>7</sup> T. W. Weare, *Some Remarks upon the Church of Great Haseley*, 82.

<sup>8</sup> Lipscomb, 144.

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for concealing or giving false information about skins in their possession. In 1735 William Read of Wheatfield, his servant John Cox and Charles Cornish of Latchford were all examined about the theft of shirts, left to dry on a hedge near William Read's house, by a man who ran away through Latchford and was unsuccessfully pursued by the servant. There is also a copy of a petition, CJ IV/24, from the justices of the peace and acting commissioners of land tax in the neighbourhood of Henley against the granting of a new charter to the town in 1721. The corporation were asking for larger privileges and the landowners, who sold the bulk of their wheat and barley by contract in Henley Market, felt that they could have no hope of justice if their contracts were determined, not by the Assize judges, but 'by new judges made out of such inferior people as the present Mayor and Alder[men] an Innkeeper an Attorney a surgeon, a Chandler Two Brewers a Glover a Shoemaker and 3 Malsters.'

The largest single group of papers are those accumulated in the course of Richard Carter's work as a barrister, drafts and copies of legal proceedings, deeds and particulars. Quite a number of the estate particulars were evidently prepared for sales as they give distances from the nearest town and emphasize all the advantages and amenities of the properties in question. Most of these, like the deeds have survived without any accompanying papers and are arranged in alphabetical order by place. They relate to places outside Oxfordshire as well as within. Among the Oxfordshire deeds is a draft exchange, CJ V/50, made in 1727 by Sir Edward Simeon of Britwell Prior who conveyed land in Britwell to the Bishop of Oxford in order to extinguish his claim to common rights on land which the Simeons had enclosed to build a mansion and make a park. Most of the legal proceedings concern people and estates outside Oxfordshire. The most interesting of the local cases are a suit brought by the Company of Tailors of Oxford for the recovery of three shillings and fourpence imposed as a fine on a journeyman for refusing to serve the office of warden of the journeymen; and another for unlawful arrest brought by the constable of Woodstock against the recorder and other gentlemen who had committed him to prison for inciting disturbances during the mayoral elections. The most illuminating group of cases are four relating to tithe payments, CJ V/6, 18-22, 27, 28. Several occupiers of land at Hawksbury in Gloucestershire petitioned the Lord Chancellor against the Vicar, John Ryland, who was attempting to over-ride the parish's established system of commuting tithe for gardens, orchards and milk at the rate of a penny for every garden or orchard and threepence for every milch cow. According to the petition the Vicar had intimidated some of his poorer parishioners into paying in kind or at a different rate and was threatening to sue others in the ecclesiastical courts at Gloucester. At Radnage in Buckinghamshire about 1722 the occupant of the mill had a dispute with the incumbent as to whether he should pay tithe on corn ground at the mill, on hay cut from headlands and on black cherries gathered from hedgerow trees. He defended his non-payment for the following reasons: corn coming to be ground at the mill had already been tithed once; hay cut from headlands which were only wide enough to allow for turning a plough was by custom non-titheable; and the black cherries picked from the hedges were in the same class as hazel nuts and other wild fruits which were not tithed. Moreover, he claimed, they were all used in his own household or eaten when picked by his children and servants. A suit for payment of unpaid tithes at Saunderton, also in Buckinghamshire, in 1704 ended in an order for the defendant to account with the rector. At Sonning in Berkshire the Vicar disputed with his parishioners in general about the amount due from the parish for commutation and with the occupant of the mill as to whether the



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mill and its lands were titheable or not. The miller claimed that the mill, being an ancient one founded before *Articuli Cleri* came into force, was exempt and that great tithe, if it had been payable on corn ground and on tolls, would have been due to the impro-priators and not the Vicar. He sets out, however, the amount of corn ground at the mill from 1713 to 1718 in terms of loads and sacks. The Vicar was also suing for payment of small tithes, but it is not clear from the miller's defence whether the claim was for payment in kind or for an unduly large sum in lieu. He sets down how many pigs and hens he kept and what they were worth and the weight and value of fruit picked from his half acre of garden ; also some rather vague estimates of how many vegetables he had planted ; '... about 550 of Cabbage Plants... about a Peck of Garden Beanes... 3 Pints of french Beans... 2 pennyworth of Carrott seed & an Ounce of Onion seed & 3 pennyworth of Lettice Spinage Garden Cresses and Red-dishes...' He ends by observing that since he was tithed for eggs he ought not to be tithed for the chickens which came out of the eggs.

Some of the papers cannot be fitted in with the main series of Richard Carter's papers and have been placed in a section at the end. Among them are the fishing rules for Weston Turville reservoir, CJ VIII/5, as set out for reprinting in 1816, and an undated 18th-century scheme, CJ VIII/2, designed to show how the stamp duty in Wales might be increased by six hundred pounds a year without being 'burthensome to the subject'.

E. D. PAUL.