

IN TOUCH

Issue 35

Oxford Archaeology
Review 2014/15



Welcome to In Touch

It has been a busy and exciting year for us at Oxford Archaeology. In this edition of In Touch, we are proud to share with you some of the highlights of our work undertaken in 2014–2015 in a wide variety of contexts, including urban regeneration, housing schemes, infrastructure projects and utilities/renewables. Some wonderful discoveries have been made, demonstrating in some cases that even on the most carefully planned and evaluated project, unexpected and important results can come to light. The unique Mesolithic cremation burial on the line of the Chelmsford Effluent Pipeline, the causewayed enclosure discovered on our joint venture project with Cotswold Archaeology at Thame in Oxfordshire, and, more recently, the extent and quality of the remains of the medieval Greyfriars that has just emerged from beneath the multi-story carpark at the Westgate Centre in Oxford are good examples.

As a heritage charity we exist to improve knowledge of the past and to inform people about our discoveries, not to put our reports and finds on dusty museum shelves where they will be hard to find (not that most museum shelves are dusty,

of course!). Even though we undertake most of our work in a development context, we think it is important for all our projects to make a contribution to research and to an increased understanding of the past. Indeed, there would be little point in excavating sites if they did not produce these positive outcomes. Our results have value to a wide variety of people, including our clients who are paying for the work and who can demonstrate the benefits that have come from their developments, a very diverse range of archaeological researchers, and to the public at large who have an insatiable curiosity about the past and of the places in which they live or they visit.

We are keen to maximise the potential of the information we uncover, partly by improving the ways in which we communicate internally and externally, but also by accessing academic expertise. To this end, we are delighted to announce the establishment of the new Oxford Archaeology Research Committee, following on from the previous Academic Panel, which will hold its inaugural meeting at our AGM in November. We hope that this will be the start of a fruitful relationship, bringing knowledge and advice to



our projects, alerting our committee members to new discoveries as they emerge and fostering future joint research projects.

We will continue to share our discoveries with everyone on our new website, www.oxfordarchaeology.com, on Facebook, Twitter and flickr. I hope you enjoy reading this year's edition of In Touch.

Gill Hey
Chief Executive Officer,
Oxford Archaeology



Trustees (l–r): Richard Briant, John Cruse, Peter Warry (adviser), Chris Gosden, John Barrett, Adrian Tindall, Helena Hamerow (Inset: Laurence Keen OBE)



Senior Management Team (SMT) (l–r): Rachel Newman, Rob Early, Simon Palmer, Anne Dodd, Gill Hey, Stephen Macaulay, Aileen Connor, Alan Lupton, Stacey Farrell. (Inset: Bob Williams, Paul Spoerry, Dan Poore)

Meet Oxford Archaeology's Research Committee

Lindsay Allason-Jones OBE

Research Committee

Retired Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Artefact Studies and Reader in Roman Material Culture, Newcastle University

John Barrett

Trustee

Emeritus Professor, Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield

Nick Barton

Research Committee

Professor and Lecturer in Palaeolithic Archaeology, University of Oxford

Martin Bell

Research Committee

Professor in Archaeological Science, University of Reading

John Blair

Research Committee

Professor of Medieval History and Archaeology, The Queen's College, University of Oxford

Richard Bradley

Chair of Research Committee

Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, University of Reading

David Breeze OBE

Research Committee

Honorary Research Professor, University of Durham

Richard Briant

Trustee

Associate Fellow, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

Don Brothwell

Co-opted from the former Academic Panel

Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, University of York

Mark Bowden

Research Committee

Senior Investigator and Team Manager, Historic England

Anwen Cooper

Research Committee

Post-doctoral Research Assistant, EngLald Project, University of Oxford

John Cruse

Trustee

Retired Oil Executive, Member of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society

Chris Gosden

Chair of Trustees

Chair of European Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford

Helena Hamerow

Trustee

Professor of Early Medieval Archaeology, University of Oxford

Laurence Keen OBE

Trustee

Retired Archaeological Officer, Dorset County Council

William Manning

Co-opted from the former Academic Panel

Emeritus Professor of Roman Archaeology, Cardiff University

Timothy Mowl

Co-opted from the former Academic Panel

Emeritus Professor of History of Architecture and Designed Landscapes, University of Bristol and Professorial Research Fellow in the Humanities Research Institute, Buckingham University

Kenneth Painter

Co-opted from the former Academic Panel

Vice-President of the British Archaeological Association

Joshua Pollard

Research Committee

Reader in Archaeology, University of Southampton

Peter Salway

Co-opted from the former Academic Panel

Emeritus Professor of the History and Archaeology of Roman Britain, The Open University

Rick Schulting

Research Committee

Lecturer in Scientific and Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Oxford

Niall Sharples

Research Committee

Professor of Archaeology, Cardiff University

David Shotter

Co-opted from the former Academic Panel

Emeritus Professor of Roman Imperial History, University of Lancaster

Barney Sloane

Research Committee

Head of Strategic Planning and Management, Historic England

Adrian Tindall

Trustee

Consultant, Archaeological Risk Management

Gabor Thomas

Research Committee

Associate Professor in Early Medieval Archaeology, University of Reading

Peter Warry

Adviser to Trustees

Visiting Research Fellow, University of Reading, Honorary Fellow, University of Oxford

3 offices giving OA a nationwide reach



OA by numbers

280 staff employed



12,000 environmental sample buckets used last year

1973

THE WICKER MAN IS RELEASED IN CINEMAS
PINK FLOYD RELEASE "THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON"
and The Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit is founded



21TB

(15 million floppy disks)
project data stored on servers



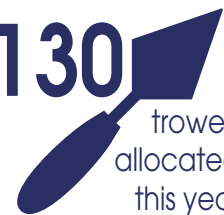
3000+

visitors to our open days 2014-15

7500+ finds washed each week

*JULY 1981 - INDIANA JONES RECOVERS THE ARK OF THE COVENANT
OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EXCAVATES DORCHESTER BYPASS AND CLAYDON PIKE*

130



100 archives deposited 2014-15

60km string used on our sites each year



450,000 flints from Bexhill

40,000

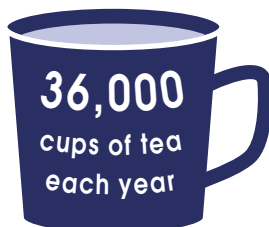
contexts recorded across 3 offices 2014-15

2200 archives deposited since 1973

*JUNE 1989 - INDY FINDS THE HOLY GRAIL
OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY STARTS WORK AT YARNTON*

1994

Time Team introduces the British public to tea-time archaeology
Oxford Archaeology celebrates its 21st birthday
Work begins on Channel Tunnel Rail Link (HS1) and Eton Rowing Lake



75 graduates enrolled on our Graduate Trainee scheme
2300 reports available online at library.thehumanjourney.net



MAY 2008 - INDY ENCOUNTERS ALIENS (?!)

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY ENCOUNTERS EARLY MAN AT RONALDSWAY AIRPORT

1973

42 years of experience

2015

400,000 BP
Ebbsfleet Elephant

400,000 years of history



AD 1960
RAF Upper Heyford

In this issue

Welcome to our Annual Review special edition of In Touch. In this issue we have introduced our newly formed Research Committee, explored some of our research themes, shown in colour below, and looked back at some of the highlights of our work from the last financial year.

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People of influence: OA staff as advocates for heritage

Advocacy organisations, whether operating at an international, national or regional level, have never been more important within the context of cuts in decision-making roles in local authorities and an increased awareness of the importance of empowering communities, reflected in the recent Cultural White Paper where 'people and place' are foremost in considerations concerning the value of cultural heritage.

Within the archaeological sector we are increasingly looking at multiple sustainable outcomes from our projects that engage our communities and stakeholders during the archaeological process and allow us to share more widely our research outcomes. Staff at Oxford Archaeology have a long tradition of engaging with a wide range of advocacy organisations which help shape the future of our profession, define research objectives and develop stronger relationships with an ever-increasing number of interest groups. Below we highlight some, but not all, of the many advocacy roles that our staff currently take on.



Last year, the Institute for Archaeologists became a chartered organisation (ClfA), significantly raising the profile of professional archaeology. OA, a strong supporter of the ClfA, currently has Paul Spoerry on its new Board of Directors, Rob Early on its Advisory Council, and Paul Spoerry and Dan Poore serving on the Registered Organisations Committee. Rebecca Nicholson is the founder member of the

Research and Impact Group Committee, while Nicky Scott is a member of the Archive Group.

An equally important forum for the profession is the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME), which is solely devoted to representing the profession's interests in the business world and is a forum for developing good business practice. Bob Williams recently stood down from several years of service to make way for OA's CEO Gill Hey.



Other important national organisations include the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), one of the longer established archaeological advocacy organisations. Over the years, many of our staff have supported work on the CBA's regional committees and have made contributions to its publications, and currently Steve Lawrence sits on the CBA South Midlands Group committee, while Aileen Connor is a member of the CBA East Committee.

ICOMOS-UK promotes the appreciation and understanding of our cultural heritage across the UK and worldwide and celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. Numerous OA staff past and present have been active members. Rob Early is currently on the Executive Committee and Gary Jones is on the new Digital Technology National Committee.

There are a wide range of national and regional research and advisory forums for archaeology and the historic environment that are key for sharing the results of our work and developing strategies and policies for research.





OA staff are involved in a very wide range of these types of forums and some examples follow. Paul Booth has recently completed a three year term as president of the Study Group for Roman Pottery. Edward Biddulph is currently a member of the group's committee, while Alice Lyons has served as its conference secretary. Matt Brudenell is on

the committee of the Later Prehistoric Finds Group and the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group. Elizabeth Popescu sits on the council of the Medieval Society and on the Advisory Panel for the Archaeology of Burials in England. Nicky Scott has been a member of the Society for Museum Archaeology committee since 2007 and is the sole representative in this forum from the professional archaeological sector. Rachel Newman has decades of experience working on and chairing steering group committees on regional research frameworks in the north-west, including numerous Hadrian's Wall research and advisory roles. In the south of England, Julian Munby, formerly on Historic England's Advisory Committee, is the chairman of the Chichester Fabric Advisory Committee. Paul Booth sits on the Oxford City and County Archaeological Forum, an advisory body of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society that has existed in one form or another since at least 1839.

Learned societies, civic trusts, local groups and community archaeology projects connect an ever-increasing network of interest groups and communities to archaeology, heritage and the historic environment. Our staff are active as members and in the governance of these organisations. Gill Hey is on the council of the



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Society of Antiquaries of London, and is on the Society's committee for Kelmscott Manor. She is also a Trustee of the Rollright Trust. Rachel Newman is a Trustee for Senhouse Roman Museum and the Mouswald Trust, and is President of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society and Vice-Chairman of the Lancaster Archaeological and Historical Society. Paul Spoerry is President of the Cambridge Archaeological Field Group, while Stephen Macaulay sits on the

committee of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. Julian Munby is a Trustee of the Oxford Preservation Trust. OA staff are also involved in developing interest in archaeology among young people through, for example, the Young Archaeologists' Club. Jonathan Millward is a leader at the Oxfordshire branch, while Edward Biddulph helps lead the Aylesbury branch.



These are just some examples of our many varied roles in advocacy within archaeology, heritage and the historic environment and demonstrate an extraordinary commitment from our staff throughout all our offices. This work is invaluable for satisfying one of OA's key objectives in its 2020 strategy – to share and advance knowledge about the past and create partnerships for public benefit.

Rob Early

Minerals and Aggregates

Emmets Post, Dartmoor

In September 2014, staff from OA South excavated an early Bronze Age round barrow on Dartmoor in its entirety. This rare opportunity arose when quarry company Sibelco was granted permission to extend its quarry pit and extract china clay from the moorland beneath the scheduled monument. In turn, Sibelco relinquished its mineral rights to other archaeologically-sensitive areas and, with English Heritage (now Historic England), funded the excavation.

Following a topographic survey, the barrow was excavated to reveal a primary low turf mound sealing a buried soil. A small cairn almost exclusively of diorite fragments overlay the primary mound, and within the cairn a central deposit containing prehistoric pottery and quartz fragments and capped by a diorite slab was found. No traces of



human remains were encountered. The cairn was covered by a larger secondary turf mound, which was surrounded by a fragmented kerb of granite blocks. A substantial hollow in the top of the mound and disturbance to the central area of the cairn point towards an unrecorded antiquarian investigation of the barrow.



The investigation also involved community participation. Up to six volunteers worked with the OA team at any one time, and an open day was held towards the end of the excavation.

The fieldwork not only allowed Sibelco to extend its quarry, but gave us an almost unique opportunity to investigate the structure and landscape of a barrow in a setting that has seen very few archaeological excavations. Post-excavation work funded by Historic England is now under way.

Olaf Bayer

Messingham Quarry, Lincolnshire

During 2015, OA East was commissioned by Andrew Josephs Associates to excavate a potentially very early iron smelting furnace in advance of an extension of the Sibelco Ltd sand extraction quarry at Messingham, Lincolnshire. Radiocarbon dates obtained from an earlier evaluation suggested that the furnace originated in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, although some doubt had



been cast on the validity of this date.

Despite freezing winter weather, the team carefully exposed, excavated and recorded the furnace and associated slag heap; a second mound was also excavated during a later stage. Preliminary assessment of the iron-working slag has been carried out by the project archaeometallurgist, Gerry McDonnell. The charcoal assemblage recovered has also undergone initial assessment at OA East's environmental facility.

A major result of this work is that a sample of charcoal taken from within the furnace wall that was sent for radiocarbon dating returned a date of 776–509 cal. BC at 95.1% confidence (SUERC-59289), which largely confirms the previous results. Combined, these provide a clear early Iron Age date range of 776–590 BC, making this – as far as the archaeometallurgist or we can ascertain – the earliest dated smelting furnace in the country. The full analysis of the slag assemblage will make a valuable contribution to current understanding of the industry and economy of the early Iron Age in Britain.

Graeme Clarke

Housing and Mixed Development

Beaulieu, Essex

For the last three years OA East has been investigating an area to the northeast of Chelmsford in Essex that is rich in Iron Age and Roman remains, medieval manors and nucleated settlements. The works, which are being undertaken in stages but will eventually cover roughly 349ha, have been commissioned by AECOM (formerly URS) on behalf of Countryside Zest in advance of a major residential and mixed use development to be called Beaulieu.

So far we have opened around 545 trenches (following a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and initial trenching) and excavated seven of the identified significant sites, along with nine smaller ones. One of the sites comprises a complex Iron Age settlement enclosure, remodelled following the Roman Conquest, with an adjacent small cremation cemetery containing high-status pottery vessels. Other discoveries include extensive late Bronze Age and early Iron Age dispersed settlement, two medieval moated house platforms, a large late medieval pit containing an assemblage of leather shoes, and the foundations of a high-status 16th-century house with brick-built cess pit and cold cellar. The most enigmatic features uncovered so far comprise extensive rows of Tudor brick foundation pads. These may represent post-pads for the temporary tented accommodation set up



for the royal court, based at Beaulieu for over a month in 1527.

The project has progressed smoothly, with evaluation and assessment reports being produced at each stage. The initial results already indicate that these investigations will make a valuable contribution to understanding changing settlement patterns and land use in this part of Essex.

Helen Stocks-Morgan and Richard Mortimer

Thame, Oxfordshire

Between January and August 2015, OA South was involved in a large excavation for Bloor Homes Ltd in advance of a housing development on the edge of Thame in Oxfordshire. It was the first project to be carried out by Oxford Cotswold Archaeology, a joint venture with Cotswold Archaeology.

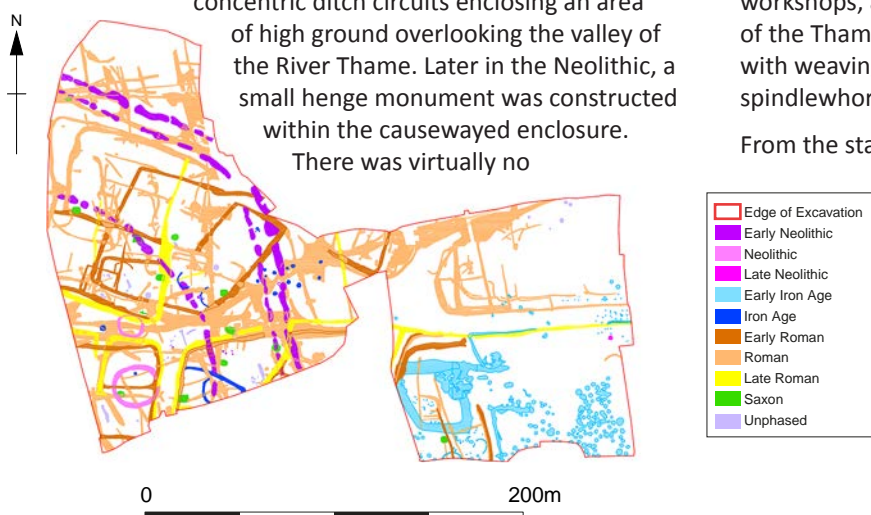
Arguably the most exciting discovery was that of a previously unknown causewayed enclosure. The monument, of Neolithic date, has three roughly concentric ditch circuits enclosing an area of high ground overlooking the valley of the River Thame. Later in the Neolithic, a small henge monument was constructed within the causewayed enclosure. There was virtually no

activity during the Bronze Age, but in the early Iron Age a settlement was built on lower ground away from the enclosure.

The Roman period saw the construction of enclosures, which contained hearths and corn-drying ovens, as the site became an important centre for processing agricultural produce. Sunken-featured buildings, characteristic of the Saxon period, were also uncovered. It is generally thought that such buildings were workshops, and so it was gratifying to discover that many of the Thame examples contained objects associated with weaving, such as loomweights, bone pins and spindlewhorls.

From the start, we knew that the site contained some significant Iron Age and Roman archaeology, but in the event, the excavations far surpassed our expectations. The post-excavation work is likely to be equally exciting. Meanwhile, a new phase of occupation begins at the site with the construction of houses by Bloor Homes.

Ken Welsh and John Boothroyd

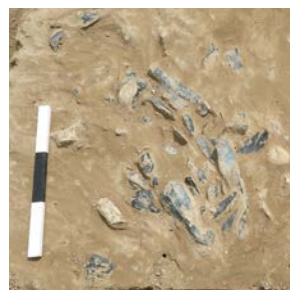


Tales of the unexpected: uncovering our Palaeolithic and Mesolithic past

Over the last few years, OA has uncovered a wealth of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains. Indeed, since 2008 we have discovered more of these early prehistoric sites than at any other time in our 42-year history.

Upper Palaeolithic campsites

Recently, OA has excavated three highly significant Late Upper Palaeolithic lithic scatters. The earlier of these, at Guildford, Surrey, includes around 5500 struck flints, derived from sediments that have produced dates through optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) of 16,570–13,110 years before present (BP) and 16,870–14,110 BP. Owing to the pristine nature of the flint, further analysis is likely to provide fresh insights into the lifestyles of hunter-gatherers in the late Ice Age.



Long blades in situ at Hinxton

The other two scatters are later in date and both contain material typical of the Terminal Upper Palaeolithic 'long blade' industries that straddle the late glacial/early post-glacial

boundary. One of these was uncovered in the Beam River Valley, Dagenham, and potentially relates to a short-stay kill site, perhaps associated with a floodplain crossing point. The other 'long blade' lithic scatter was discovered during the final weeks of an excavation at the Hinxton Genome Campus, Cambridgeshire. This scatter comprised more than 5000, largely undisturbed, flints, and associated sediments have been OSL dated to 12,120 BP. Given the importance of this site, options are currently being explored to identify the most appropriate means of analysing the assemblage and disseminating the data.

Lost landscapes of Palaeolithic Britain

OA's other main contribution to Palaeolithic archaeology has been through its design and management of Historic England's Lost Landscapes of Palaeolithic Britain project. This forms part of the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP), with outputs comprising an update of The English Rivers Palaeolithic Survey (TERPS) artefact database and a report to inform relevant research activities undertaken as part



Late Upper Palaeolithic flint scatter at Guildford

of the NHPP. In addition, a peer-reviewed OA monograph has been produced, which is due for publication towards the end of this year.

Mesolithic archaeology

An increasing focus of OA's work has involved the discovery, excavation and analysis of Mesolithic sites. The majority of these are defined by lithic scatters, at times associated with ephemeral structural remains, hearths, or tree-throws, although we have also excavated a highly significant Mesolithic burial and a rare example of an early Mesolithic house.

Camps and activity areas

The majority of the lithic scatters derive from southern England. Indeed, the bulk of these were discovered during the construction of the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road, which uncovered around 20 early Mesolithic scatters, two of middle Mesolithic date, along with between 110 and 140 later Mesolithic scatters. Although post-excavation analysis has only just started, the scatters and associated environmental evidence will certainly enhance our understanding of the early Holocene in south-east England.

Other recent southern discoveries include early Mesolithic flint scatters from Didcot,



Flint findspots at Bexhill



Late Upper Palaeolithic long blade from Guildford (actual size)

Oxfordshire, and the Beam River Valley, Dagenham, both potentially associated with short-stay camps, and late Mesolithic scatters from Gill Mill and Bicester Village Coach Park, the latter of which included around 4500 flints that were associated with tree-throws. A small Mesolithic scatter was also discovered during work along the A21, in Kent.



Mesolithic dam and beaver lodge, Stainton West

Turning to northern England, excavations at Stainton West, near Carlisle, led to the discovery of a significant late Mesolithic site, which will be published next year. The site produced Mesolithic wooden artefacts, palaeoenvironmental evidence and around 300,000 pieces of worked stone. The stone finds relate to an encampment that was repeatedly occupied over several centuries until the mid-5th millennium BC, and that was perhaps associated with catching migratory salmon. Interestingly, detailed lithic analysis, including pioneering



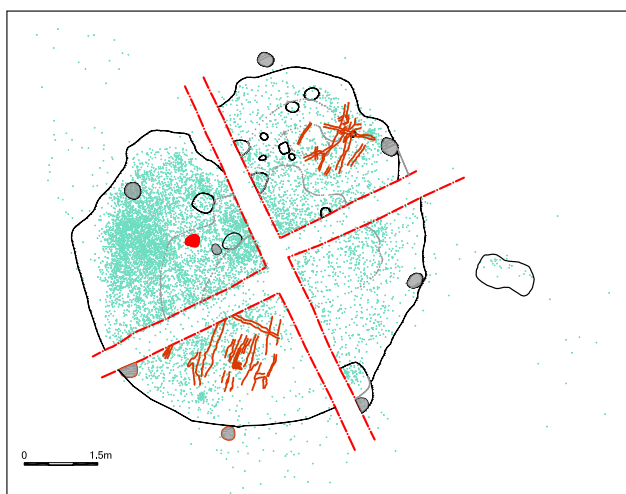
Sieving stations at Stainton West

use-wear analysis, has demonstrated that the activities undertaken at the encampment occurred within the same zones over its history, and that they were

constrained by interactions with a midden, watercourses and woodland vegetation. The sources of the lithic materials also suggest that the site lay at the hub of a hunter-gatherer network extending to the west coast and 100km in other directions.

Early Mesolithic house

At Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man, the remains of an early Mesolithic house were uncovered by OA in 2009. This house contained large quantities of charcoal, indicating that it had burned down, and dates to the final centuries of the 9th millennium BC. It was set within a depression and defined by a ring of postholes. It was also associated with hazelnut caches and c 19,300 pieces of struck flint. The lithics indicated blade manufacture, with



The Mesolithic house at Ronaldsway, above showing flint findspots in turquoise

narrow blades being the most frequent form (a type often associated with late Mesolithic assemblages), and some of the microliths related to hunting, butchery and working of organic material. Analysis is ongoing and will provide fascinating insights into the form and nature of the early Mesolithic in northern Britain, and beyond.

Mesolithic burial

Apart from lithic sites, a Mesolithic cremation was also recently discovered during pipeline excavations at Langford, Essex. This cremation lay in a shallow pit and



Mesolithic cremation, Langford - the first of its kind discovered in Britain

represents the remains of at least one adult or older juvenile. It dates to the mid-6th millennium BC and, significantly, represents Britain's first example of Mesolithic cremated human remains.

Taken together, OA's continued, and often unexpected, discoveries of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites, and our ongoing programmes of analysis, are making significant inroads into early prehistoric archaeology. These remains are fairly varied, comprising lithic scatters, together with remarkable evidence relating to burial and settlement, and as such they will greatly contribute to wider knowledge of these distant periods.

Richard Gregory and Mike Donnelly

Geoarchaeology

Deephams Sewage Treatment Works, Enfield, Middlesex

When amateur geologist Samuel Hazzledine Warren was collecting Ice Age fossil mammal bones from gravel pits in the terrace gravels of the River Lea in north-east London at the turn of the 20th century, he discovered peat horizons sandwiched between layers of gravel. These contained plant assemblages that are characteristic of a cold climate or 'full glacial' environment and form part of the 'Lea Valley Arctic Bed'. This distinctive vegetation of the Arctic Bed is known as the 'tundra steppe', the habitat of the woolly mammoth.

During the early to mid 20th century Arctic Bed deposits were recorded at a number of sites in the Lea Valley, but the absence of recent discoveries has precluded modern scientific analysis.

One of the key aims of investigation by OA South for Cascade Consulting Ltd on behalf of Thames Water at Deephams Sewage Treatment Works, Enfield, has been to locate and investigate similar deposits, described by J.F. Hayward during development of the site in the 1950s.

Initial work in 2010 comprised desk-based assessment of historical borehole data in order to model the sequence of sediments and predict the likely location of Arctic



Bed deposits. In 2011 excavation of a deep pump shaft successfully identified a sequence of organic deposits radiocarbon dated to the period immediately following the Last Glacial Maximum (c 18,000 years BP). Although slightly later than Hayward's sequence, in 2015 a series of deep boreholes were drilled to recover core samples suitable for detailed analysis.

Liz Stafford

Westgate, Oxford



Much of the Westgate Oxford development is located within the floodplain of the Thames, which has been reclaimed by several centuries of water channel management and ground raising to form the landscape of today. Buried beneath this modern urban environment lies evidence of a previous, very different, and constantly changing landscape with a succession of ancient meandering natural river channels and hidden islands dating back to the end of the last ice age, some 10,000 years ago.

Since the main excavations, for Laing O'Rourke Construction Ltd, began in early 2015, OA South's

geoarchaeologists have been gathering data which will allow them to piece together the changing nature of the Thames floodplain over this epic timespan, map buried topographic features, and discover the effects of the changing water-tables and flood events. This work is important for identifying potential locations of *in situ* prehistoric remains, such as trackways, and it will also provide baseline data for interpretation of medieval water management associated with the Greyfriars monastic complex and mill.

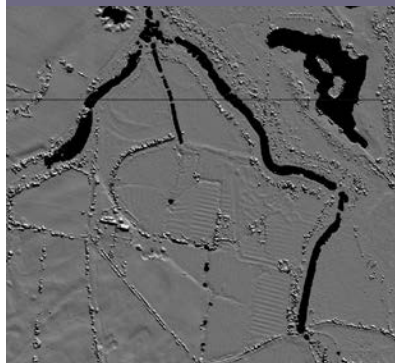
Some initial investigation was carried out by drilling boreholes down to depths of over 6 metres, and extracting sediment cores. The information was used to generate a 3D model of the prehistoric topography, showing the line of the prehistoric channel known as the Trill Mill Stream and a possible island to the south. A 50m long, 5m deep trench also revealed the various channels and silting episodes of the stream's 10,000 year life before it was covered in the 19th century.

Samples collected from these sediments will be analysed for information on the vegetation and hydrology of the floodplain through the study of pollen, plant remains and aquatic molluscs and radiocarbon dating.

Liz Stafford

Environment

Agri-environment schemes and COSMIC



OA South's Heritage Management Services has been involved over the past year delivering projects for Historic England's National Heritage Protection Plan, a strategy designed to identify heritage that matters most and is at greatest risk.



One such project is an assessment of the use of agri-environment schemes, which aims to highlight

whether the mechanisms used within environmental stewardship have allowed non-scheduled nationally important sites to be identified and preserved. It examines how issues have been prioritised, and whether appropriate consultation has been permitted. In addition,

it will establish where cross- or multi-issue gains have been made with single grant payments, suggest how the scheme may better identify, record and map potentially nationally important sites in grassland and, to a lesser extent, arable landscapes.

The assessment looks at case studies in Oxfordshire, West Berkshire and Hampshire, and lessons drawn from the study will be rolled out in 2016 to coincide with the introduction of a new land management scheme.

Since 1999, OA has been at the forefront of developing an understanding of the issues associated with the effects of arable agriculture on archaeology. Known as COSMIC, the project has resulted in the creation of a risk assessment model, which has in turn allowed risk assessments to be undertaken for all scheduled monuments identified by Historic England's Heritage At Risk (HAR) team. These resources will be invaluable to HAR staff tasked with keeping existing assessments up to date and producing new assessments.

Both projects demonstrate the significant contributions OA has made to Historic England's framework for the protection of historic environments.

Klara Spandl

The Willerby and Derringham Flood Alleviation Scheme, East Yorkshire

Staff from OA North returned in March 2015 to Holderness, East Yorkshire, to investigate the archaeology within a flood alleviation scheme to the west of Hull. This investigation has produced surprising results, including evidence for prehistoric tree-clearance and salt production, an Iron Age square barrow, Iron Age and Roman-period enclosure, field systems and settlement remains, and medieval domestic and industrial activity.

The Willerby and Derringham Flood Alleviation Scheme is being implemented by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, with some funding from the European Regional Development Fund and constructed by Balfour Beatty.

Earlier evaluations and geophysical surveys suggested that the route of the scheme had low potential for archaeological remains, but subsequent excavation revealed much more than initially anticipated.

Among the archaeological highlights are a Collared Urn and a polished stone axe head from features associated with tree clearance in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, a system of tidal creeks and channels that were exploited for salt making during the Iron Age, a crouched skeleton within a square barrow dated to the Iron



Age, and midden deposits, trackways and evidence of metalworking associated with medieval buildings.

What was initially envisaged to be a three-month job employing five staff became a six-month job for 30 staff. The fieldwork demonstrates OA's ability to deliver large projects and to manage changing expectations while meeting the client's needs, in this case those of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Stephen Rowland

Researching historic buildings

Our work on historic buildings continues to bring in a wide variety of cases that touch on all periods and many building types. Whether exploring a much changed Thames-side public house or the domestic cellars of a royal palace, we find much of interest and unexpected opportunities for discovery and explanation. So how does this work and its dissemination constitute research or contribute to research by others in the field?

Building archaeology is often and most irritatingly described as ‘building recording’, when the essential process is one of investigation, followed by records, whether written, drawn or photographic; it is archaeological in the sense that buildings have sequences and often complex varieties of three-dimensional stratigraphy. The misapprehension is reflected in official guidance and also in the manner of commissioning work, while the concentration on ‘recording’ means that there is hardly any material available on how to investigate or what to look for in a building.

There is a serious need for informed and systematic guidance on the history and development of building components such as windows, flooring, plaster, glass, not to mention nails, screws and door handles – matters that have long been taken seriously by historical archaeologists across the Atlantic, but in these islands tend to be known by some with particular interests, but not so easily available to general practitioners. This is a fundamental research area that needs to be addressed.



Royal Carriage Factory, Woolwich Arsenal

The products of building investigations most often reside in grey literature, which we generally make public in our online library, and the availability of these results would reward the determined reader, as the recent thematic explorations of ‘unpublished’ archaeological work at a national level has shown. Our results may also feed into existing projects as at the Woolwich Arsenal, where the work of OA has contributed to the published Survey of London volume, while the investigation of the GWR Traction Maintenance Depot at Old Oak Common (for



Supervised demolition of the farmhouse at Burgess Hill Farm after recording has been completed

the Crossrail Interchange) is destined to be part of the forthcoming publication of OA and Ramboll. The series of buildings lost to the Crossrail project (investigated by MOLA and Wessex) have become part of another OA/Ramboll publication, where the research interest of the very mixed bag of minor domestic and industrial buildings has prompted a surprising number



GWR Maintenance Depot, Old Oak Common

of questions about such unexpected areas as the development of food tinning, the delivery of meat by underground to Smithfield Market, the design of early electricity showrooms, and the impact of new office machinery in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Individual buildings can make a significant contribution to research interest. A close examination of the roof of Christ Church Hall in Oxford has demonstrated the extent to which a basic hammer-beam design was modified to take an extensive dressing of heraldic and personal ornament reflecting Cardinal Wolsey’s status and authority. This can be compared with our



Wolsey's Cardinal's Hat, Christ Church Hall

continuing involvement at Hampton Court Palace, where our investigation of the roofs and exterior brickwork has enhanced the understanding achieved by previous work of the manner in which Henry VIII modified and extended Wolsey's incomplete mansion. New phases have been identified in the brickwork, and the tree-ring dating has greatly enhanced the study of the structural carpentry.



The Church Loft, West Wycombe

On a less grand scale, but of no less interest is the carpentry and structural history of the National Trust estate at West Wycombe, where a programme of renovation by the National Trust has allowed an overview of many listed buildings in the village (which in pre-motorway days sat astride the main A40 route to London). Only parts of the buildings were to be seen (most often exteriors and roofs), but a picture emerged of the pattern of building and rebuilding in an estate village that has an almost urban character. Wholly rural were the series of buildings lost to the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling, and the listed buildings at Burgess Hill Farm (also known as May Day Farm) in Capel (Tunbridge Wells), including the farmhouse, barn, stable and the curtilage oast house



Oast House at Burgess Hill Farm



Exterior brickwork, Hampton Court Palace

were investigated before removal. The barn and stable were dismantled by the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, and the site partially excavated to reveal more of their history. Oast houses are very familiar but curiously under-researched, and await a full study of their chronology and distribution; this one was so much rebuilt there was not so much to be said. Almost the same might be said of the farmhouse, but the chronology of the timber and brick building with its outshot was carefully investigated to determine the sequence of construction of this small estate farm.

The results of projects such as these will be available for those undertaking regional or type studies, and while recognising their part in larger research questions the projects themselves do not necessarily include time to follow these up to the fullest extent that might be desired. Often the accumulation of information from many projects may prove significant, such as the observation from our work of the mutually distinct distribution of roofs with 'curved inner principals' (south and east of Oxford) and roofs with 'slotted purlins' (north and west of Oxford) that has revealed a regional pattern distinct from the well-known east/west boundary of cruck roofs. Likewise the involvement of Dr Daniel Miles and the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory has been vital in providing dates and building up overall chronologies.

Julian Munby

3D stratigraphy within the farmhouse at Burgess Hill Farm

Urban Regeneration

Royal Arsenal, Woolwich

The Royal Arsenal in Woolwich is being transformed through a major scheme of urban regeneration. Since 1999, Oxford Archaeology has been on hand to provide archaeological services in this historically, architecturally and archaeologically important site.

In the latest phase of fieldwork, undertaken between November 2014 and June 2015 for Berkeley Homes Ltd, a team from OA South uncovered remains dating from the Iron Age to Victorian period. These include an early Iron Age enclosure that was a forerunner of a later, massive oppidum-style ditch seen in previous works, the remains of 17th- and 18th-century warehouses and wharves that once fronted the Thames, clay-pipe kilns and a bread oven, which provide a tantalising glimpse into the cottage industries that were practised within the historic waterfront area, and, most significantly, a middle Saxon cemetery.

Some 76 inhumation burials were found in a dark soil overlying the natural gravels. These were orientated east-west and have been radiocarbon dated to the late 7th or early 8th century AD. Although a small trading settlement is documented in the historical literature (Woolwich derives from its Saxon name), little trace of this has been



recovered. The discovery of the cemetery provides rare evidence for activity during this formative period.

The Royal Arsenal has been witness to activity and regeneration since the Iron Age. OA continues to work closely with the developers and other stakeholders to record and conserve the historic features of the site and inform and facilitate the needs of the development.

David Score

Shudehill Mill, Manchester

The NOMA Project, which is transforming 20-acres on the northern fringe of Manchester city centre on behalf of the Co-operative Group, is the largest urban regeneration scheme in north-west England. The centrepiece is the iconic One Angel Square, which is presently used as the Co-operative Group's head office and is considered to be one of the most sustainable large buildings in Europe.

OA North has been involved in the project since 2009, first by way of a desk-based assessment and evaluation, and then through several phases of excavation. Over the years, the fieldwork has revealed large areas of workers' housing that formed part of a notorious Victorian slum known as Angel Meadow. More recently, work north of Angel Meadow has focused on an area of considerable archaeological interest – the site of Richard Arkwright's Shudehill Mill.



The Shudehill cotton mill was built in 1780–82, and is considered to have been the first powered textile factory to be established in Manchester, utilising technology that



paved the way for the application of steam power to the cotton industry. The mill had been investigated by Channel 4's Time Team in 2005, but the excavation in 2014–15 by OA North revealed much more evidence for the development of the mill and its power systems.

OA North has worked closely with the Co-operative Group, not only to ensure that the significant archaeological remains have been dealt with appropriately, but also to encourage community involvement through open days and the participation of local schools and groups, such as the Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society.

Ian Miller

Burials

Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man

Archaeologists from OA North carrying out an excavation in 2009 for the Manx government in advance of a runway and taxiway extension at Ronaldsway Airport uncovered a remarkable story of Man's prehistoric past. Three human skeletons, dated to the Iron Age, were found within a well-preserved Bronze Age settlement. The discoveries suggest that the Bronze Age settlement was monumentalised and used as a cemetery.

Since then, osteological analysis undertaken at OA South on the skeletons has revealed more about these individuals. Two of the skeletons, one an adult female, the other a young child, were buried together within a single grave cut through the floor of a much older and abandoned middle Bronze Age house. The female skeleton, radiocarbon dated to c 800–400 cal. BC, was found in a tightly crouched position, suggesting that the body was tightly bound, placed in a bag, or even mummified. The child had been placed on top of the adult.

The third skeleton was recovered from a grave of stones constructed over an abandoned late Bronze Age/early Iron Age house. The skeleton of a young or prime adult male was radiocarbon dated to c 50–100 cal. AD. He had an iron and copper-alloy bangle on his upper arm and a series of sharp-force wounds created around the time of death, which are strongly suggestive of inter-personal



violence. Indeed, it is possible that the individual was a warrior who had died from sword wounds.

The archaeological excavation was just one part of the work that ultimately allowed larger aircraft to take off from Ronaldsway Airport. The osteological analysis, however, reminds us that much of the work to reveal the hidden histories of individuals can come long after fieldwork ends.

Helen Webb and Fraser Brown

Creslow, Buckinghamshire

During a metal detecting rally in October 2014 undertaken by a group called the Weekend Wanderers, a signal revealed parts of several iron and copper alloy objects, and when detectorists dug into the ground, they also found samian ware vessels. The finds suggested that a high-status Roman burial had been discovered.

The Finds Liaison Officer of Buckinghamshire County Council turned to OA to investigate. The excavation confirmed that the discovery was a burial, and over several days the finds were recovered and the feature recorded by OA staff, assisted by the detectorists and landowners.



The burial, dated to the 2nd century AD, consisted of wooden box, which contained a rich assemblage of two samian ware cups, two samian ware dishes, a pottery flagon, two glass vessels, a bronze jug with decorated handle, bronze *patera*, iron open lamp or lamp holder, two unidentified lead objects, and an urn holding the cremated remains of an individual, iron hobnails from a shoe, and an intaglio, probably of jasper, depicting the goddess Minerva on the left facing a smaller figure holding a wreath.

The burial lies at the western edge of the distribution of a group of relatively rare cremation burials found across south-eastern Britain that contain glass and bronze vessels and lighting equipment, and is an important addition to this body of evidence.

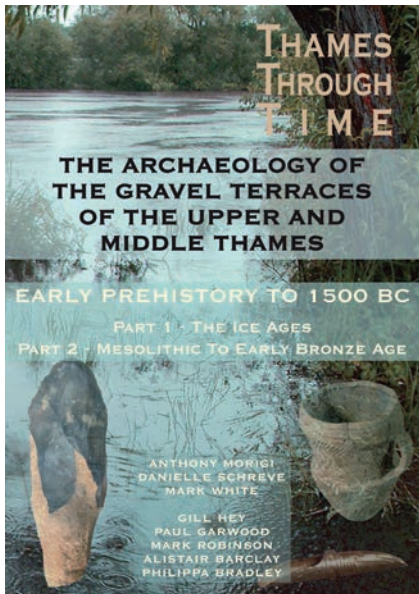
In calling in OA, Buckinghamshire County Council recognised the expertise of our field staff and burials department, who ensured that the burial was excavated quickly, but with adherence to the highest professional and ethical standards.



Carl Champness and Paul Booth

Research and publication: excavation is only half the story

As the research potential of development-led archaeological investigations is being increasingly recognised, it is worth remembering that Oxford Archaeology has been carrying out its own research and has made significant contributions to knowledge of the past since its foundation over 40 years ago. With over 270 books and academic monographs to its name, not to mention a strong tradition of publishing in archaeological journals, OA is one of the leading publishers of archaeological research in the country. Here are just a few of the highlights.



OA is proud of its long tradition of pioneering work to understand archaeological sites in their rural landscape context, and changing patterns of occupation and use over time. The Thames Valley has long been a focus of research at OA South, from a survey of the river gravels of the Upper Thames Valley, published in 1974, to *Thames*

Through Time, a monumental work of synthesis published in several volumes since 2007 that looks at the changing landscape from early prehistory to modern times. OA South has also transformed our understanding of the landscapes around Heathrow and Stansted airports and along the route of High Speed 1 in Kent in collaboration with Wessex Archaeology and others.

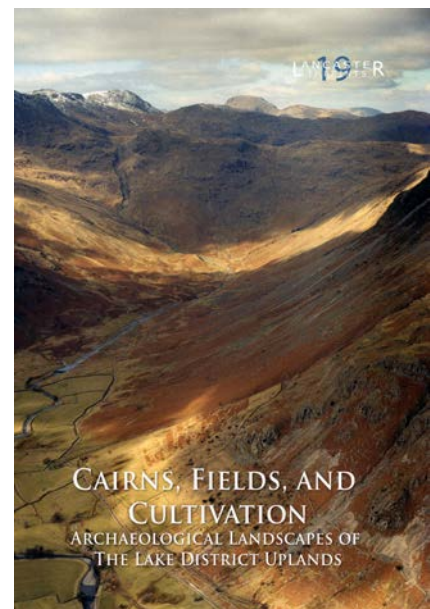
In the north of England, OA North has led the field in understanding complex wetland landscapes. Its volumes on the wetlands of Merseyside, Lancashire, Cumbria, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Greater Manchester have become models of landscape publication. Of a more recent publication, *Cairns, Fields, and Cultivation: Archaeological landscapes of the Lake District uplands*, a reviewer wrote in the journal, *Landscape History*: “The work presented here is in the very best tradition of field archaeology”.

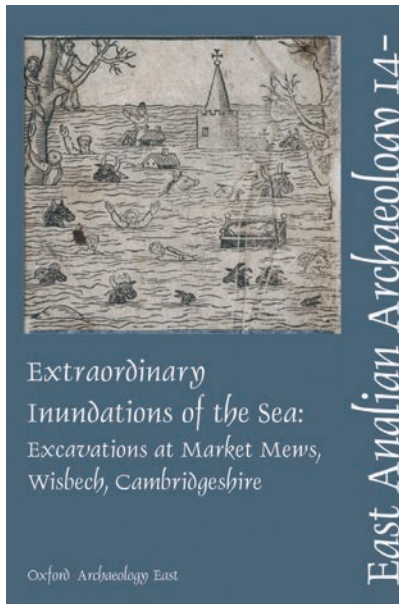
OA East continues to explore the complex history of the varied landscapes of the east of England, including the fens, the clay and chalk uplands, coastal and river valley settings. For example, at Methwold Fen in Norfolk, excavation yielded traces of early Neolithic beaver activity. At Love’s Farm, St Neots, a site about to be published, OA East examined swathes of the local clayland landscape (once thought to be cold, wet and uninviting) on an unprecedented scale. Many of the finds

show a distinct bias towards votive offerings, providing new insights into religious practice in the countryside.

Towns and cities continue to be a fundamental area of research. For example, in *Extraordinary Inundations* (2012), OA East presented analysis that showed the impact of successive marine flooding during the medieval period at the little-studied town of Wisbech. OA South has been at the forefront of increasing understanding of Oxford’s past, having excavated across the city and in practically every university college. Its monograph, *Oxford Before the University*, published in 2003, remains a highly regarded and sought-after volume. OA North’s two-volume publication *The Carlisle Millennium Project: excavations in Carlisle 1998–2001* (2009) has added greatly to our knowledge of the Roman fort and medieval city. OA has also presented research on the origins and development of Winchester, Southampton, Ipswich, Norwich, and Greater Manchester, among other cities, and looking forward, our analysis of investigations on the Crossrail (with Ramboll) and Thameslink (with PCA) projects in London is well advanced.

Our post-excavation work often involves a multi-disciplinary approach, with the use of innovative techniques and collaboration with other institutions and leading experts. At Stanford Wharf Nature Reserve in the Thames Estuary, published in 2012, (*London Gateway: Iron Age and Roman salt making in the Thames Estuary*) a battery of scientific analyses, including soil micromorphology, chemical analysis and archaeobotany, revealed hitherto unknown processes in Iron Age and Roman salt production, and finally solved the mystery of what the famous ‘red hills’ of





East Anglian Archaeology 14-

Essex were made of. Excavations at Tipping Street, Stafford, revealed kilns used for the production of late Saxon Stafford-type ware. Post-excavation research included a comprehensive re-analysis of Stafford's Anglo-Saxon radiocarbon dates using Bayesian modelling, which has provided strong support for the theory that the pottery

industry was introduced to the site in the early to mid 9th century under Mercian rule. The Cumwhitton Viking cemetery project, published in 2014 monograph *Shadows in the Sand*, demonstrated what can be teased out of a site where there was no skeletal survival by careful excavation and using a suite of techniques including x-rays and reconstruction. During the analysis of a spectacular Neolithic trapezoidal enclosure at Rectory Farm, Godmanchester, OA East worked with Professor Clive Ruggles to produce a new interpretation of the archaeoastronomy of the site, linking it to the local landscape of the Ouse valley, which is studded with prehistoric ceremonial monuments. OA East has also worked in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust to produce a paper on genomics combining DNA evidence from cemetery sites at Hinxton, Linton and Oakington.

Some of our projects have employed strontium and oxygen isotope analysis to answer questions of origins and population movement. Analysis published in 2010's *The late Roman cemetery at Lankhills, Winchester* on 40 individuals from OA South's excavations at the important late Roman cemetery, showed an almost complete lack of correlation between non-British origin and supposedly 'intrusive' suites of grave goods, adding to the important debate about the extent to which identities were adopted by people in the past, rather than simply inherited. Isotope analysis was combined with forensic studies of skeletal remains to reconstruct the story of the 50 predominantly young males found decapitated and dumped in a mass grave at Weymouth. Many of them had spent most of their lives outside the British Isles in places as far afield as Scandinavia, the Baltic region, Belarus and Russia, consistent with their probable identification as a group of Vikings captured and executed by the English. The results were published in *'Given to the Ground': A Viking-age mass grave on Ridgeway Hill, Weymouth* in 2014.

At the same time, OA South published *'Remember me to all'*, a technical synthesis of the innovative work undertaken on behalf of the Australian and British

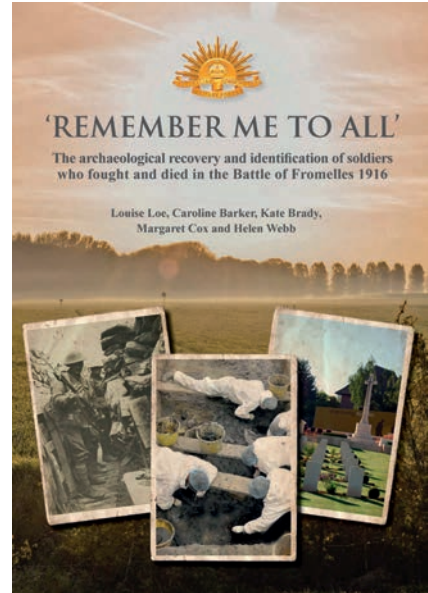
defence ministries to recover and identify the remains of 250 soldiers who died in the Battle of Fromelles in July 1916. The project called for the development of a new methodology for historic identifications on a large scale. Through the combined analysis of artefacts found with the soldiers, historical documentation such as enlistment records, the dental and skeletal evidence, and sampling of DNA from the soldiers and living family members, it was eventually possible to identify 144 men by name.

We continue to assist, often at the request of Historic England, with the publication of important backlog projects investigated by others. OA North took on the analysis of Norton Priory, Bewsey Old Hall and the Carlisle Millennium project, and OA East the analysis of a Roman villa at Rectory Farm, Godmanchester. OA South is bringing to final publication and synthesis of decades of work by many individuals at Torre Abbey, a house of Premonstratensian canons at Torquay.

In addition to carrying out research and publishing the results of excavation, OA has helped to shape research priorities and industry standards and practices. In 2014, Oxford Archaeology, in partnership with Wessex Archaeology, published the Regional Research Frameworks volume for the Solent-Thames region. OA East has undertaken a range of research projects into pottery of varying date (most being funded by Historic England), including early Iron Age Darmsden-Linton ware, Roman Horningsea ware, medieval Ely wares and a corpus of medieval pottery in Cambridgeshire. Each of these pieces of work contributes new typologies and fabric series, forming essential reference works for ceramic specialists across Britain. OA North, meanwhile, has played a major part in the development of the North West Archaeological Research Framework, providing both a period co-ordinator as well as contributors.

Discoveries do not stop at the end of excavation, but continue during post-excavation analysis, during preparation of synthetic studies, and on research projects in collaboration with others. Discoveries, however, mean little without publication of the findings and provision of further study through the archive and dissemination of datasets, roles of which OA is justly proud.

Anne Dodd, Liz Popescu,
Rachel Newman and Edward Biddulph



Heritage Services

Ferry Farm, Calstock, Cornwall

A heritage assessment can involve all sorts of techniques. We were asked by Natural England to carry out an assessment at Ferry Farm in Calstock, Cornwall. The brief required us to assess both the known heritage assets and those identified by our work for their condition and significance, produce work specifications, make management recommendations, and oversee the management works.

Using LiDAR and aerial photographs, our desk-based assessment (DBA) identified a probable hillfort defending the land inside the loop of the river that now contains Ferry Farm. The DBA also suggested that the undated riverside quay on the farm could relate to a recently discovered Roman fort at Calstock, which may have been re-supplied, via the estuary, by sea.

Between 1869 and 1884, two attempts were made to extract copper from the Harewood Consuls mine. From these attempts, the overgrown standing remains of an engine house, with associated structures and earthworks, remain within woodland next to an uncapped mine-shaft 55m deep. We carried out a detailed survey of the standing remains and a small-scale evaluation of the possible site of a White Coal kiln, and provided a suite of detailed recommendations for the site's future management, consolidation and further interpretation.



Parts of the site are designated SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest), and there are bats in the mine-shaft, dormice by the ferry, and an otter hover by the farm. We commissioned an ecological survey to avoid unintentional ecological damage that our management recommendations may cause. We have now made our recommendations to the owners and Natural England.

Ianto Wain

Richmond College, Richmond upon Thames



Oxford Archaeology is often involved in a project long before excavation begins on site. An example of this early-stage planning advice is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a proposed development in south London, which OA South's Heritage Management Services completed recently, commissioned by Cascade Consulting.

Richmond upon Thames College has been working with Richmond Council to redevelop its Twickenham site to include new college buildings and schools that cater for a wide range of student ages and needs. The project

may also involve the construction of a new office complex for Haymarket Media Group, a specialist international media and information company, and together, the college, the council and Haymarket have been exploring the design of a campus for 'excellence in education and enterprise'. As a neighbour to the site, Harlequins, one of the top rugby teams in the country, has also committed to support the programme and will be looking at how its sport, fitness and community work will contribute to the campus.

OA produced the EIA chapter, looking at the potential effects of the development upon the known and potential archaeology of the area and on the historic buildings and landscapes of this iconic area of London. We worked closely with the scheme designers and project team to understand and reduce any potential impacts of the scheme upon the cultural heritage resource. We also oversaw and managed a geophysical survey of the college playing fields in order to further refine our understanding of the archaeology of the site.

Ianto Wain

Historic Buildings

Riley's Snooker Hall, Lambeth

OA South was asked by Premier Inn to look at Riley's Snooker Hall in Lambeth ahead of conversion of the site to a hotel. The building was constructed in c 1909 as a temperance billiard hall, and was one of a series built in London and Manchester by the Temperance Billiard Hall Company.

Our task was to look for evidence of the original façade and produce drawings of what we believed to be the original design of the elevation. Architects would then incorporate the drawings into the plans of the new hotel.

Unfortunately, the building was clad in metal sheeting and the interior covered with indeterminate detritus. The original fascia shown on a 1960s' elevation drawing, meanwhile, had been removed, along with the columns and capitals between the windows.



However, above the front stood a fine cupola with moulded heads, and inside were the remains of nouveau/deco stained glass. And when the boards that covered the concrete piers were peeled back, the original decorative tiles were revealed. The removal of the plywood boards and modern sheeting also revealed a narrow strip of mosaic floor, as well as glass block walls to the lower part of the front elevation.

The investigation, which allowed Premier Inn to discharge its planning conditions and move ahead with the development, showed that the building fitted into the standard house-style of the Temperance Billiard Hall Company. It also revealed how well hidden

the history of a building can be.

*Jon Gill and
Julian Munby*



Gawthorpe Barn, Burnley

Every now and then you come across a building that just literally makes your jaw drop and leaves you momentarily stunned into silence. So it was with Gawthorpe Barn, near Burnley in Lancashire. The exterior is impressive enough, but that does little to prepare you for that first time you enter the cavernous interior of the aisled barn.

In 2014, OA North was invited by the National Trust to record what is undoubtedly one of the most impressive barns in England. A full 3D survey of the barn was carried out using all the digital building recording techniques available to us, including laser scanning and a topographic survey by photogrammetry using our in-house UAV.

The barn, which is part of the Gawthorpe Hall estate, dates to around 1605. Much of the timber work is largely original, including parts of a cattle stall, one of the earliest surviving in the country. Each of the trusses is supported by a padstone or plinth, some of which are up to 2.5m high, and the nave of the barn soars to around 10m creating a cathedral-like space.



The 3D survey proved to be very effective, allowing us not only to create a detailed picture of the barn, but also help to inform the programme of building repairs, which the National Trust planned to carry out through the year.

Karl Taylor

Spotlight on OA's Specialist Services

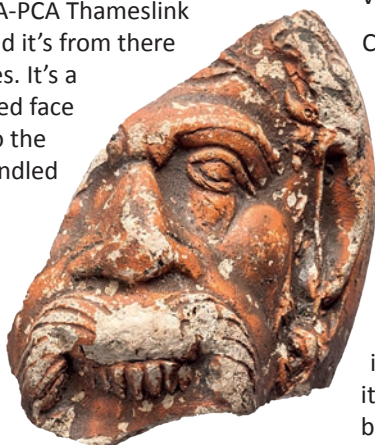
A significant element of Oxford Archaeology's UK-wide provision of heritage services is our extensive range of in-house specialists based across our three regional offices. Often well-regarded experts in their field (or fields), many of OA's specialists have worked for the company (or its previous incarnations) for a significant number of years, contributing to ongoing research, the development of policies and standards, and works of reference.

Our services include specialisms in ceramics of all periods, alongside ceramic building material, and objects of metal, wood, antler, stone, clay and leather. Our state-of-the-art environmental processing facilities enable our environmentalists and archaeobotanists to efficiently process samples and analyse a wide range of plant and other remains. There are experts in animal and fish bones, while our large burials team specialises in the excavation, recording and analysis of often large and complex cemetery groups.

Here some of our specialists reveal what they've been working on and what exciting discoveries have been in their finds (or environmental) trays over the last year or so.

Roman Pottery by Edward Biddulph

I've been a Roman pottery specialist at OA South since 2001. Over the years, I've worked on some exciting assemblages, among them 450-odd ceramic grave goods from Pepper Hill Roman cemetery in north Kent, and pottery from the north-west corner of Roman Winchester. Recently I've been reporting on over 22,000 sherds from Southwark as part of the OA-PCA Thameslink project for Network Rail, and it's from there that my favourite find comes. It's a chubby-cheeked and bearded face that had been applied on to the side of a pot, probably a handled beaker made in Central Gaul during the late 1st century. The face is likely to represent the satyr Silenus, and the vessel may have seen ritual use associated with the cult of Bacchus.



Worked stone by Ruth Shaffrey

I have worked for OA South for 14 years as, among other things, a worked stone specialist. My particular speciality is querns, and the object I have chosen is a fine example of an exceptionally large pot quern recently found in a 14th-century foundation at the Westgate Centre in Oxford. It is probably made from Quarr stone from the Isle of Wight, supplies of which were exhausted during the 13th century.

Pot querns comprise two stones, the larger base (as here), and another smaller stone which was rotated inside it. Grain would have been fed through a hole in the centre, which also contained an iron spindle, and

the grain would have been ground into flour between the two stones. This quern originally had two handles and a spout, typical features of pot querns. Pot querns are not common finds and are typically associated

with ecclesiastical and/or urban contexts. At 72cm diameter, this example is significantly bigger than its closest counterpart (at 57.5cm) and twice the average size for pot querns. It is therefore unique.

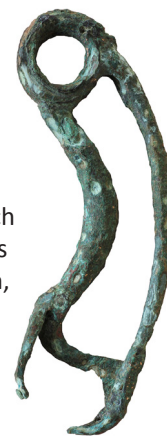


Miscellaneous finds by Chris Howard-Davis

I've worked for OA North and its predecessor LUAU (based at Lancaster University) since 1980, ending up as Finds Manager in our northern office. Material culture is not thick on the ground up here, and specialists are sparse. As a result I have to be capable of reporting on a wide array of finds, ranging from Bronze Age pottery to Victorian teapots.

Choosing a find or assemblage of particular interest has proved almost beyond me.

I love them all, and really interesting finds are rare up here. The pictured find – a late Iron Age involute brooch – is from the Willerby and Derringham Flood Alleviation Scheme in East Yorkshire, which was commissioned by Balfour Beatty Civils Ltd. Found on the collarbone of a skeleton, it was in such a poor state that I feared it would crumble if I even breathed on it. Prompt conservation was its saviour, but now I have to wait until the project is finished before I can wax lyrical. Why do I like it? Because it's the first one I've ever seen in the flesh. That's all the reason I need!



Osteoarchaeology by Mark Gibson

I started working for OA South back in 2004, originally in the field, but for the last seven years I've been a member of the burials department. I've excavated and analysed skeletons and cremated bone from all three of our offices, but one of the most interesting bones I've recorded was from Brunel Court, an OA North excavation which took place on the site of a priory in Preston.

In the left orbit (eye socket) of a child aged 6–11 years there was a kidney-shaped erosive lesion, a highly



unusual location for such a lesion. The cause of this lesion was most likely a soft tissue tumour which eroded the bone, the prime candidates being a lacrimal gland tumour or the rather more enigmatically named histiocytosis X. Either of these would have caused a swelling above the eye as well blurred vision. The rarity of this condition, along with the clear effects it would have had on the person makes this one of my favourite bones.

Archaeobotany by Rachel Fosberry

Having worked in Cambridgeshire for 16 years, I am used to finding charred crop processing waste in samples from Roman sites, but the scale at which it was found at



the site in Over is unprecedented. Initial assessment of samples taken from the 'black stuff' found dumped in large pits across the site showed that it is mostly composed of spelt wheat chaff: thousands of glume bases along with smaller amounts of grains.

Spelt is a hulled wheat in which the grain is tightly enclosed in a spikelet. In order to release the grain the spikelets were parched and pounded, resulting in huge amounts of fine chaff, which proved excellent as tinder for fires. The quantities found at Over must represent a process in which vast amounts of chaff were being burnt. In addition, several of the spelt grains have germinated and there are even whole spikelets surviving where the grain has sprouted while still enclosed in the outer chaff. One possible interpretation of this evidence is that it represents the brewing of beer on a massive scale – possibly for the Roman Army.

Compiled by Rachel Clarke



Training and Capacity Building

Graduate trainee scheme

Oxford Archaeology launched our graduate trainee scheme during the summer of 2014. The initiative was driven by the desire to formalise OA's training programmes across the organisation, to invest in staff development, to support CfA initiatives, and to meet a shortfall in the number of field staff at a time of a rapidly expanding fieldwork programme.

The first group comprised fifty trainees, most being recent university graduates. Each was allocated a mentor and began a structured training programme involving levels of attainment, the development of skills, such as excavation, recording and finds processing, and maintaining a personal learning record.



There were challenges – for example, keeping the trainees with the mentors and ensuring a range of tasks was available for them to experience – but these in a way provided positive outcomes. For instance, trainees gained



experience working as part of a team and with different members of staff.

By the end of the programme, the training was completed successfully and many trainees were able to apply for membership of CfA at Practitioner level, one of the goals of the scheme. All graduate trainees would recommend the scheme to other recent graduates, and their experiences scheme will be used to develop the scheme further, ready for the next intake.

Edward Biddulph and Rachel Clarke

Jigsaw Training Dig at Covington, Huntingdonshire



Jigsaw has been working with 22 voluntary archaeology groups in Cambridgeshire since the Heritage Lottery funded project started four years ago, providing training in geophysical surveys, test-pitting, and small trench excavations, as well as a range of class-based courses. However, the Jigsaw team decided to expand the project design by running its first and only training dig in July 2014, targeting a probable medieval manorial site that had been identified by the Covington History Group using

geophysical survey, and opening it up to participants from across the county and beyond.

Significant remains were revealed, including boundary ditches, two beamslots possibly relating to the original manor house, pits, a probable hollow-way and a pond-like feature. A huge volume of material, notably animal bone, was recovered. The pottery dates mostly to the 12th–14th centuries, although some Saxon and possible Iron Age material was also found. The preliminary results suggest that this fascinating site has the potential to totally change what we understand about the village's history.

In all, 70 people took part over the fortnight.

Everyone seemed to have a great time, learning basic excavation and recording techniques, as well as how to make medieval pottery and how to build and fire a Roman-style kiln. In addition, a public open day was held on the last day of the dig, using the volunteer diggers as the site tour guides. A report on the project is currently being prepared.

Jemima Woolverton and Jo Richards

Public and Community

The Romans of Fane Road, Peterborough



OA East runs a very successful outreach programme and over the last couple of years this has included a community project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund: The Romans of Fane Road.

Launched in November 2013, the project was developed following the discovery of a previously unknown Roman

villa by OA East near Peterborough in 2011. This project was designed to engage the people of Peterborough in their heritage, regardless of age or ability.

Underpinned by the use of social media, the project included guided walks, lectures, visits to schools and local groups, open days and exhibitions. In 2014, the very 'hands on' community excavation proved to be one of the most popular events, revealing further evidence of the Iron Age settlement and Roman villa. This year saw the completion of two interpretation boards and two popular booklets – one specifically aimed at children. In addition, the project has provided teaching resources and equipment for use by the local community. Two reports have also been compiled, one of which details the archaeological results and the other provides a project evaluation for the HLF, including detailed and very positive feedback on almost every element of the project. The latter report was well received by the HLF, who may use it as a case study.

The project's multiple legacies will ensure that the foundations laid by the Romans of Fane Road project will continue to be built upon and enjoyed by the people of Peterborough for years to come.

Rachel Clarke and David Crawford-White

Rhyddings Park, Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire

The environmental charity Newground, in partnership with Hyndburn Borough Council and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is developing Rhyddings Park, Oswaldtwistle. The project aims to restore the park by refurbishing a former coach house, rejuvenating derelict spaces, and returning a walled garden to life as a community garden.

Newground intends to engage local communities in the rich history of the park by inviting them to participate in an archaeological excavation. As part of the enabling works, OA North has been working with Newground to evaluate the most suitable focus for a public excavation.

Test-pits excavated across the snow-covered park in January 2015 revealed the substantial stone-built foundations for the external and internal walls of Rhyddings Hall, a Pugin-inspired villa occupied by mill owner Robert Watson in the 19th century (and demolished in 1938), along with exquisite Minton floor tiles, which hint at the building's ornate interior décor. The foundations of an earlier building, an 18th-century manor house known as Riddings, proved to be rather elusive, but a small but interesting assemblage of post-medieval pottery was discovered.



Based on the results obtained from the test pits, and in the light of OA North's successful community excavation of the nearby Arden Hall in 2012, there is little doubt that the site of Rhyddings Hall would provide a very interesting target for a public excavation and provide many opportunities for community involvement.

Ian Miller

Community engagement – a formula for success?

Oxford Archaeology is not simply a development-led archaeological organisation, but also an educational charity, involved in heritage in its broadest meaning. Our vision is to be at the forefront of advancing knowledge about the past and working in partnership with others for public benefit. And it is the word ‘partnership’ which is perhaps key to the success of our community engagement with Oxford Archaeology. So often, it is our local knowledge, local contacts, established partnership and successful relationships that are the linchpins for developing and winning outreach or community archaeology projects.

This is certainly the experience at OA East, which has built up over time a formidable reputation for extensive and often ground-breaking education and outreach programmes. Community groups that have secured Heritage Lottery funding (HLF) for new projects invariably turn to local archaeological practices (more often than not OA East) with whom they have already developed working relationship.

OA East’s biggest community archaeology project, Cambridgeshire Jigsaw, owes its entire existence to long established partnerships OA East (formerly CamArch) had with several district councils (notably Huntingdonshire), Cambridgeshire County Council, the local people and local societies and groups. This was due to the knowledge that OA East had developed over 20-plus years, and beyond this our involvement with CBA East and the East of England English Heritage Office (as it was called then).

Wisbech Castle – Discovery The Lost Bishops Palace, another large HLF project of OA East, also owed its success to the partnerships between Cambridgeshire County Council, local schools, the Wisbech Castle Museum, their volunteers and the members of the Wisbech Society, but importantly beyond that to the local people of Wisbech. Residents flocked to join the dig in numbers we never expected but after several commercial excavations by OA East in the town, local people very much saw this



as finally their opportunity to get involved too. The local interest was such that they formed their own archaeological society (FenArch) and they have now secured three HLF grants of their own (all of whom have involved OA East in some way).



Successful community projects at OA North have similarly developed out of strong relationships with local groups and curators.



Jigsaw launch

A number of long-term community projects at OA North, such as Windermere Reflections, Sizergh Castle, Altogether Archaeology landscape surveys (including our involvement in the Long Meg and her Daughters Stone Circle project), have come to an end with conferences, social jamborees, the publication of various popular booklets, and in one case, for Altogether Archaeology project, the use of the majestic Chapter House of Durham Cathedral.

But after the celebrations die down, there is inevitably that quiet little voice asking, ‘what’s next?’. And so now we are in the process of bidding and preparing follow-





Altogether Archaeology Survey

on projects, each trying to be more ambitious than their parent projects, and each developing out of the very strong professional and personal relationships that were formed from the success of earlier community ventures.

Our volunteer base is continuing to grow. Some of the individuals who started out a few years ago, green and inexperienced, are now developing in confidence, and are either undertaking archaeological research off their own bat, or are coming back to us as experienced archaeologists.

Some of the most important aspects of outreach are the talks that we offer to local societies, conferences, and the volunteer opportunities we offer to students at local schools and colleges. It is rare that a week goes by without one of our staff giving a lecture for the local community, and include formally delivered individual lectures, talks to various local archaeological societies and local groups, participation in larger talks and conferences, and as part of more informal site open days.

This work develops a relationship with the local community that can, and does, develop into community projects. So while these may seem in a pure commercial sense unprofitable, they are seeding the ground for archaeological work that is financially, academically and personally rewarding, and also helps to invest in the archaeologists of the future.

At OA South, there has been less of a tradition of running community archaeology projects, but successful projects have nevertheless developed out of our long-standing relationships with other organisations. One of our biggest projects is the Discovering Dorchester Project, which began in 2007 as a collaboration between Oxford



Gill giving a tour at Dorchester-on-Thames

Archaeology, Oxford Archaeology's School of Archaeology, Dorchester Abbey Museum, and the people of the village of Dorchester-on-Thames, with funding derived largely from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Each summer, OA runs a training excavation for students, local people and other volunteers.

OA South worked in 2012 with the University of Oxford again on a community project in the south Oxfordshire village of Ewelme, near Wallingford, which involved a programme of garden test pitting. We also had a role in the East Oxford Archaeology and History Project, which ran from 2011 to 2015 and was funded by the university and the HLF.

In some cases, community engagement is built into commercial projects, much to the benefit of the client, as well as to us and local people. For example, a



community excavation was organised in 2010 as part of the archaeological works by Oxford Wessex Archaeology (an Oxford Archaeology and Wessex Archaeology joint venture) associated with the East Kent Access Road on the Isle of Thanet, Kent. Over four weeks, the excavation was host to more than 100 local volunteers, and allowed schools and other groups to visit the site in safety away from the pressures and traffic of a construction site. Needless to say, this



programme of outreach and community activities would not have been possible without the support and involvement of the client, VolkerFitzpatrick Hochtief Joint Venture, and Kent County Council.

Outreach and community archaeology projects are very often the most rewarding and fulfilling work we can do. Spending a week or a month on a dig where everyone wants to be there, often in a volunteer capacity, reminds us of why we got interested in archaeology in the first place. Our community projects have been successful, not only because of the partnerships we have forged with other organisations and local groups, but also the wealth of experience built up over many years.

*Stephen Macaulay, Jamie Quartermaine,
Adam Parsons and Edward Biddulph*

Transport and Infrastructure

The M6 to Heysham Link Road, Lancashire

Some 77 years after the scheme was first devised, OA North spent much of 2014 on an archaeological excavation along the route that will connect Junction 36 of the M6 with the Heysham and Morecambe peninsula. The work was funded by Costain on behalf of Lancashire County Council, and presented an excellent opportunity to examine the archaeology of the Howgill Brook valley and its environs.

The archaeological works uncovered two key sites. One of these contained the remains of a rectangular Neolithic structure, possibly a house, and an assemblage of 1200 late Mesolithic/early Neolithic flints. The second key site was of much later date, consisting of a complex of buildings and associated features spanning the 12th century to early post-medieval period. A substantial timber building, dated to the mid-12th/mid-13th century, stood on the west bank of the brook, while more substantial medieval buildings were encountered on the east bank of the brook. This latter site may have formed an element of Beaumont Grange, an important estate belonging to Furness Abbey.



The link road will be open to motorists in summer 2016. Such good progress has been made that already Lancashire County Council is starting to think about how to mark the opening. Oxford Archaeology is proud of the contribution it has made in ensuring that the project is delivered on time, along the way revealing some of the hidden history of this historically fascinating area.

Stephen Rowland

Bicester to Oxford rail line

OA South completed a series of evaluations and excavations as part of Bicester to Oxford Collaboration's upgrade from a single track operating between Bicester and Oxford to a dual line providing a new fast link between Oxford and London Marylebone.

At Holts Farm, a previously unknown Iron Age and Roman settlement was identified, although the earliest phase may be a segmented ring ditch of possible late Bronze Age origin. Remarkably, a well preserved landscape of medieval ridge and furrow appears to have been partly influenced by the arrangement of prehistoric enclosures. In another area close to Holts Farm, staff uncovered a number of features, one of which, a ditch, contained metalworking debris and fragments of a crucible, indicating industrial activity, which was dated by pottery to the middle Iron Age.



One of the largest excavations was at the site of the Langford Lane diversion. This skirts the southern boundary of the scheduled monument area of Alchester Roman town. The excavation area provided a transect across the full width of the extramural area to the south of the town centred on the Alchester to Dorchester-on-Thames Roman road.

More of a Roman town and its hinterland is now known thanks to the efforts of Oxford Archaeology's field staff. The project is now in the early stages of post-excavation, and further insights are expected. Meanwhile, the first Chiltern Railway passenger train ran on Monday 26th October and now passengers are benefitting from faster travel between Oxford and London via Bicester.

Steve Lawrence

Utilities and Renewable Energy

Chelmsford Effluent Pipeline, Essex

Sometimes the most significant discoveries are not made until after the fieldwork has ended. In the spring of 2014, a team from OA East, commissioned by Mott MacDonald Ltd, returned to Essex to investigate a number of sites that had been identified by evaluation along the route of a new Essex and Suffolk Water pipeline. Five areas were investigated along the 14.5km-long route between Chelmsford and Langford.

These sites revealed archaeology dating from most periods between the Mesolithic and modern, with the more significant elements including an early to middle Bronze Age barrow and an early Saxon (6th to 7th centuries AD) settlement. The latter, found at the eastern end of the pipeline route close to Langford, comprised the remains of at least seven timber halls and two sunken featured buildings.

Arguably one of the most important outcomes of this work did not come to light until the initial post-excavation analysis. Radiocarbon dating indicated that what had appeared to be a superficially uninteresting cremation deposit found in a pit was in fact Mesolithic – making this the first positively identified cremated human remains from this period in Britain.



In addition to being a significant discovery in the course of delivering the archaeological requirements of Mott MacDonald Ltd, this result has wider implications, particularly in terms of highlighting the need to undertake more systematic radiocarbon dating of unaccompanied cremations, both as part of future projects but perhaps also in relation to existing excavation archives.

Nick Gilmour

Walney & Burbo Bank Offshore Windfarms, Morecambe and Liverpool



When DONG (Danish Oil and Natural Gas) Energy wanted to build two offshore windfarms – one off the coast of Walney in Morecambe Bay, the other at Burbo Bank in Liverpool Bay – OA North was called in to investigate at the sites where the schemes made landfall.

An evaluation along the onshore export cable route of Burbo Bank Extension Offshore Windfarm, which extends inland from the coast of north Wales near Prestatyn to a substation at Bodelwyddan, uncovered pits, ditches,

gullies and other evidence of a prehistoric settlement. Burnt material from some of the features were radiocarbon dated to the early to middle Bronze Age. The remnants of field ditches further along the route were of early medieval date and appeared to form part of a system of drainage ditches leading to the River Clwyd.

At the site of an electricity substation for Walney Extension Offshore Windfarm near Heysham, Lancashire, the evaluation uncovered a sequence of peat and marine flood deposits and the potential remains of late prehistoric or Roman settlement. On further investigation, however, these features were shown to be natural elements of a system of palaeochannels associated with the wetland environment.

While the archaeology was not spectacular, our work has improved our understanding of these coastal areas, and allowed DONG Energy to proceed with the construction of its windfarms. It also demonstrated that even offshore schemes have onshore impacts.

Jamie Quartermaine and Stephen Rowland

Educational Institutions

The University of Oxford: The Queen's College and St Cross College



Oxford Archaeology has long enjoyed a close relationship with the University of Oxford, having provided heritage services to almost every college on behalf of the university's Estates Services or individual colleges. This year has been no exception, with the Queen's College and St Cross College being

among the several colleges that have seen archaeological investigation ahead of building work.

Fieldwork in the Provost's Garden of the Queen's College uncovered a suspected builders' compound – complete with toilet-block pit, a saw-pit and lean-to building – associated with the construction of the present college buildings during the 17th and 18th centuries. Quarry pits alongside these features had been filled tobacco pipes, pottery, bottles and spoons and other waste, providing a snapshot of domestic life during that period. More significantly, the work uncovered medieval buildings and a metalled road surface, which provide much needed

information on the development and expansion of Oxford in the 11th century.

An exciting discovery of a different kind was made at St Cross College. Excavation of the college garden revealed a skeleton dated by a coin buried with it to the early 17th century, the Civil War period. The individual was female, and apart from the coins (a second coin of the same date was also found), is unusual because the individual was buried outside consecrated ground. Whether the young woman had died of disease at a time when formal burial was difficult, or belonged to a non-conformist religious group, is uncertain, but the excavation, as at the Queen's College, is helping to shed light on important aspects of the city's past.

Richard Brown and Carl Champness



Hinxton Genome Campus, Cambridgeshire

The Wellcome Trust is another research institution with which OA has developed a long and successful partnership – over 20 years and counting! One of the most recent phases of work happened during the spring and summer of 2014.

Excavations by OA East at the Hinxton Genome Campus, Cambridgeshire, identified new evidence for the early utilisation of this landscape, in the form of a shallow pond or pool containing a rare and mostly undisturbed scatter of Late Upper Palaeolithic long blades. Adjacent to the Palaeolithic flintwork was another hollow containing pottery and flints datable to the early Neolithic period. Both assemblages are significant and have excellent research potential.

In addition, the fieldwork uncovered pits of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Iron Age date, and a major ditched boundary, recut on a number of occasions



and recorded in earlier excavations, which contained Saxon and later pottery. Remains of a small medieval settlement, and timber structures and settlement features dating to the 12th century were also revealed.

The partnership between OA East and the Wellcome Trust has yielded remarkable results in the lab, as well as in the field. Skeletons from previous excavations at Hinxton and from other sites in Cambridgeshire were incorporated into an ancient DNA sequencing programme undertaken by the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute. The results of the analysis, which have just been

published, have provided important evidence for the migration of people in the Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon period in eastern England.

Rachel Clarke and Paul Sperry

A year in print

From its inception, Oxford Archaeology has been committed to ensuring that the results of its fieldwork and other activities are disseminated widely. This has traditionally been through printed media, principally monographs and journal articles, but is increasingly through digital means. We have a proud record of publication, and each year sees a crop of books and papers roll off the press. The past financial year has been no exception.



The year began with the publication of two very different, but equally well-received monographs. *Broughton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: the evolution of a South Midlands landscape*, by Rob Atkins, Liz Popescu, Gareth Rees, and Dan Stansbie, and *'Remember me to all': The archaeological recovery and identification of soldiers*

who fought and died in the Battle of Fromelles, 1916, by Louise Loe, Caroline Barker, Kate Brady, Margaret Cox and Helen Webb.

The latest volume in the Lancaster Imprints series, *Archaeology at the waterfront: 1: Investigating Liverpool's historic docks*, by Richard Gregory, Caroline Raynor, Mark Adams, Rob Philpott, Christine Howard-Davis, Nick Johnson, Vix Hughes, and David A Higgins, was published in autumn 2014, while February saw the publication in the East Anglian Archaeology series of *A late Saxon village and medieval manor: excavations at Botolph Bridge, Orton Longueville, Peterborough*, by Paul Spoerry and Rob Atkins.

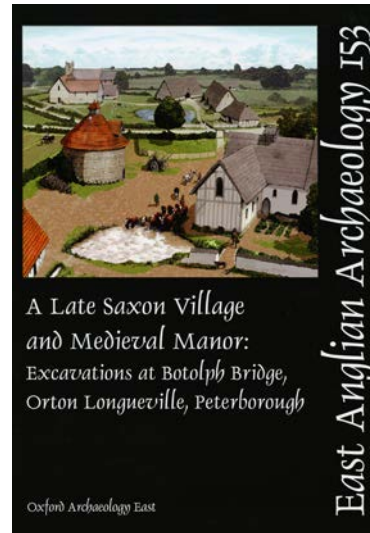
Many of our reports are destined for county- or period-based archaeological journals. Recent reports include a report by Rob Atkins and Sarah Percival on evidence for early Iron Age chronology at Chatteris, and a report by Rob Atkins and Valory Hurst on an ancient track across south Cambridgeshire, both published in the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*. *Records of Buckinghamshire* for 2014 contained a report by Chris Thatcher, Liz Popescu and Daniel Hounsell on excavations along the Hardwick to Marsh Gibbon pipeline. Nick Gilmour and Louise Loe's report on the Mesolithic cremation-related deposit from Langford, Essex, England, acknowledged as 'a first for the British Mesolithic', was published in *Mesolithic Miscellany*, while a paper on Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon genomes from East England, by among others Liz Popescu, Rachel Clarke, Alice Lyons and Richard Mortimer, is available via *bioRxiv*, the pre-print server for biology.

The 2014 volume of *Oxoniensia*, the journal of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society, contains

two articles by Oxford Archaeology: a report by Robin Bashford and Anne Dodd on medieval and post-medieval remains at Corpus Christi College, and an account by Robin Bashford and Ben Ford of medieval and post-medieval evidence at Jesus College and Market Street.

The year has also seen papers on specialist aspects of our sites – including a report on a late Roman military burial at Dorchester-on-Thames by Paul Booth, and a note by Ruth Shaffrey and John Allen about a whetstone from Tackley, Oxfordshire, both published in *Britannia* – or new analysis of old data, such as an examination by Edward Biddulph of residual pottery from Pepper Hill and Lankhills Roman cemeteries, published in *TRAC 2014*.

In addition to these academic reports, we continue to produce non-technical, popular booklets. Two publications that emerged from the Romans of Fane Road community project were a children's booklet that tells the story of the excavation through the eyes of one of



the project's young volunteers, and a popular booklet that focused more on the finds and features recorded during the dig. Meanwhile, the *Greater Manchester's Past Revealed* series, which began in 2010, goes from strength to strength. Recent editions examine medieval and industrial Salford, the archaeology of Cheadle.

Many of OA's significant discoveries have featured in the press and national archaeology magazines. This year had been no exception, with stories on the mass Viking burial at Weymouth and the Viking-age cemetery at Cumwhitton appearing in *Current Archaeology*, and a piece on Fromelles in *Current World Archaeology*.

And on top of all this, our online library of client reports, digital editions of published reports, and research archives continues to grow. Now containing some 2300 items, the library (<https://library.thehumanjourney.net/>) is an essential research resource.

Edward Biddulph

All in a day's work: a round-up of OA's extra-curricular activities

There is more to Oxford Archaeology than fieldwork and report writing, as each year staff become involved in a wide range of 'extra-curricular' activities beyond their normal day-to-day tasks. The past year has been no exception, as the expertise of our staff has been much in demand.

OA North's Cumwhitton Viking-age cemetery project was up for a Current Archaeology Award 2015 in the 'Rescue dig of the year' category, while OA East's Jigsaw project was highly commended at the British Archaeological Awards 2014, having been nominated in the 'Best Community Engagement Archaeology Project' category. OA East was also acknowledged for its work on the Bury PZ Mains Water Pipeline project. It was nominated for



Rachel Newman at the Current Archaeology Awards

an Anglian Water 'We Love What You Do' Business Award. In addition, our partners have been recognised for their work on projects with which we have been closely associated, notably

Liverpool's Everyman Theatre, whose radical redesign – incorporating bricks recorded by OA – was awarded the prestigious RIBA Sterling Prize, and Crossrail, Anglian Water and DP World, which were nominated for British Construction awards.

The year saw the opening of two museums in which the work of OA heavily featured. The Ralph Allen CornerStone Centre at Combe Down, Bath, is dedicated to the history of Combe Down village and the stone mines that surround it. OA carried out a ten-year recording recovery project during consolidation of the mines, and some of the results of the work are displayed in the museum. One of the most rewarding, and poignant, projects was the investigation of mass graves in which soldiers who had died in the Battle of Fromelles in 1916 had been buried. Artefacts recorded during the



Opening of Le Musée de la Bataille de Fromelles

work, and information about the individuals recovered, are displayed in the Musée de la Bataille de Fromelles, which was opened in July 2014.

In April 2014, staff were at the Dorset County Museum to launch two volumes that reported on the excavation of the Weymouth Relief Road. One of these was the report on a mass burial of Vikings. Later that year, Weymouth's Vikings, which formed part of the British Museum's 'Vikings – Life and Legend' exhibition, were transferred with the exhibition to the Museum Für Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Berlin, and OA's Helen Webb was on hand to help with the installation. There was a display of smaller scale in June 2015, when Guildford's new fire station was opened with a ceremony and a display of Palaeolithic flints (which greatly interested guest of honour the Duke of Gloucester) recovered from our excavation at the site.



Helen Webb arranging the Viking mass grave display in Berlin

OA has been well represented at conferences. OA South's Chris Hayden spoke about our work at Great Western Park, Didcot, at a day of lectures at the Oxfordshire museum about a La Tène-style mirror from Didcot and its Iron Age context. At the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) conference in Istanbul, delegates heard papers by Jamie Quartermaine and Rob Early. The inaugural conference in Cardiff in April of the newly chartered Institute for Archaeologists was well attended by OA staff, two of whom, Anthony Dickson and Carl Champness, also gave presentations. Helen Webb and Mark Gibson spoke about the Radcliffe Infirmary project and Louise Loe about the Weymouth Vikings at the Royal Archaeological Institute. Louise also gave a talk about the Vikings at the British Museum and at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences about Radcliffe Infirmary.

Conferences are not the only way that the expertise of our staff has been recognised. In the summer of



Jamie Quartermaine and students in Tel Akko

2014, Jamie Quartermaine travelled to Israel to undertake a photogrammetric survey with Jewish and Arab students at Tel Akko (at a time, incidentally,

of heightened tensions between Israel and Gaza). Jamie spoke later about this work at the EAA conference. Later that year, Gareth Rees and Andy Greef were involved with excavation and survey work at Mograt Island in Sudan in partnership with Humboldt University.

Closer to home, OA East was invited by Manchester Metropolitan University to assist with the completion of a Young Roots HLF project at Oakington, Bones Without Barriers. At OA South, Louise Loe served on the Data Analysis Team for the annual Fromelles Joint Identification Board, and in autumn 2014, Louise was awarded Visiting Research Fellow status at the University of Reading. Apart from acknowledging Louise's contribution to burial studies, the fellowship allows the university and OA's Heritage Burials Services to develop a number of joint research and training initiatives.



Bones without Barriers website

In fact, the strength of our connections with universities continues to grow. The burials department and the University of Oxford launched a Knowledge Exchange Fellowship project, 'Promoting the human history of Oxfordshire', which focused on burial archaeology in the county. More links were made over the summer of 2014 when OA South received three University of Oxford postgraduate students as interns. This pilot project proved to be very successful, and a second group of interns joined us this summer.

Training of another kind was provided by OA South in October 2014, as staff from Rowland Brothers Exhumation services visited Heritage Burials Services for a day of training in osteoarchaeology. There was more knowledge exchange in June this year, when members of the Society for Medieval Archaeology came to view



Society for Medieval Archaeology visit

remains from the 'lost' church of St Augustine at Stoke Quay in Ipswich.

OA has also contributed to providing training in archaeological has been working with the Hadrian's



Maryport excavation

Wall Trust on the Maryport Roman Settlement Project, while the long-term training excavation at Dorchester-on-Thames, run by OA South, Oxford University and the people of Dorchester, continued over the summer of 2014. But community engagement has not been confined only to these projects. OA North has been working with the National Trust at Ambleside Roman fort, the Lunesdale Archaeology Society at Low Borrowbridge Roman fort, and on Heritage Lottery funded projects on Vicarage Fields Roman fort in Lancaster, the Windermere Reflections project, and at the former Jubilee Colliery in Oldham, while OA East's groundbreaking Jigsaw project continues. And then there have been various public events and open days, for example at Radwinter in Essex, and the Ashmolean Museum, the Queen's College and Westgate in Oxford.

Our partnerships with other institutions are also helping to provide training for our staff. OA South's post-excavation manager Anne Dodd is working with the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education to prepare a series of training courses which OA will support as part of our commitment to give staff better training opportunities, and 'skill-up' ahead of the HS2 work programme.

Our staff have given time to speak to the media and broadcasters. The BBC History Unit visited the Oxford office to view some of the Weymouth Vikings, while



BBC crew filming at Thame

production company Lion TV filmed archaeologists in action at the Oxford Cotswold Archaeology dig in Thame for the BBC Learning Zone. Much media interest was generated by the possibility that OA East staff working at the Palace House Stables in Newmarket had uncovered the remains of legendary race horse, Doctor Syntax.

What a busy year! Then again, that is no more than usual. Perhaps our extra-curricular activities are actually more 'intra' than 'extra'. Long may it continue.

Edward Biddulph

Who makes Oxford

OUR CLIENTS

Throughout the year we were commissioned by almost 450 different clients from all over the UK. We hold a range of national frameworks with clients such as Highways England, National Grid, Anglia Water, and Cambridge County Council, and provide services to many public authorities, educational institutions and other bodies.

We can't mention everyone here, but large or small your business is much appreciated, and continues to build on over 40 years of providing quality and committed archaeological and cultural heritage services wherever and whenever you need them.

A2 Dominion Developments Ltd	English Heritage	North of England Civic Trust
ADAS UK Ltd	Environment Agency	North Pennines AONB Partnership
AECOM Ltd	Environmental Resources Management Ltd	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Anglian Water Services Ltd	Essex and Suffolk Water	Northumberland National Park Authority
Ashbury Construction Services Ltd	Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios	Oxford County Council
Atkins Ltd	Gardiner & Theobald LLP	Oxford Diocese
Austin Newport Group Ltd	George Scarborough Ltd	Oxford Preservation Trust
Australian Army – Unrecovered War Casualties	Groundwork Oldham & Rochdale	Oxford University Estates Services
Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering Ltd	Hadrian's Wall Trust	Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd
BAM Construction Ltd (South East)	Hanson UK	Pegasus Planning Group Ltd
Barratt Homes Eastern Counties	HaskoningDHV UK Ltd	Pembroke College, Oxford
BDW Trading Ltd	Heathrow Airport Ltd	Pennsylvania State University
Beard Construction Ltd	Heritage Lottery Fund	Prime Property & Construction Ltd
Bellway Homes (East Midlands)	Heyford Park Settlements LP	PS Manor Farm Solar Ltd
Berkeley Homes (Oxford & Chiltern) Ltd	Hill Partnerships Ltd	The Queen's College, Oxford
Berkeley Homes East Thames Ltd	Hinxton Hall Ltd	Redrow Homes Ltd
Birse Civils Limited	Historic Royal Palaces	Royal Household
Black & Veatch Ltd	Hochtief Vinci JV	RSK Environment Ltd
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Homes & Communities Agency	Savills (UK) Ltd
Bloor Homes Ltd	HysderWSP JV	Scottish and Southern Energy Plc
Blues Property Urban Ltd	ISG Jackson Ltd	Sea Change Sussex
Bovis Homes	Isle of Man Government	Sibelco UK Ltd
Brasenose College	J Murphy and Sons Ltd	Skanska BAM Northern Hub Joint Venture
Brett Aggregates Ltd	Jackson Civil Engineering Ltd	Skanska Construction UK Ltd
British Museum	Kent County Council	Skanska JV Projects Ltd
Buckingham Group Contracting Ltd	Laing O'Rourke Infrastructure	Smith & Sons (Bletchington) Ltd
Buckinghamshire County Council	Laing O'Rourke plc	SSE Ltd
Buttress Fuller Alsop Williams Ltd	Lake District National Park Authority	St John's College (University of Oxford)
Cambridge Medipark Ltd	Lancashire County Council	St John's College (University of Cambridge)
Cambridgeshire County Council	LDA Design	Standard Life Investments
Campbell Reith	Lend Lease Residential (North West) Ltd	States of Jersey Planning & Environment Dept
Capita Property and Infrastructure Ltd	Lincoln College Enterprises	Stepnell Ltd
Cascade Consulting	London Gateway Park Development Ltd	Strutt & Parker LLP
CgMs Consulting Ltd	London Gateway Port Ltd	Surrey County Council
Churches Conservation Trust	Lovell Partnerships Ltd	Swinton Shopping Centre Limited Partnership
Co-operative Group Property	Luton Borough Council	Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd
Costain Ltd	Magdalen College, Oxford	Thames Water Utilities Ltd
Countryside Properties (UK) Ltd	Manchester Metropolitan University	Torbay Council
Countryside Zest (Beaulieu Park) LLP	Manx National Heritage	Trevor C. Cobbold (Agricultural) Ltd
Crest Nicholson (South West) Ltd	Middleton Aggregates Ltd	UCLAN – University of Central Lancashire
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Derby City Council	Mott MacDonald Grontmij Joint Venture	Whitbread Group plc
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Archaeology?

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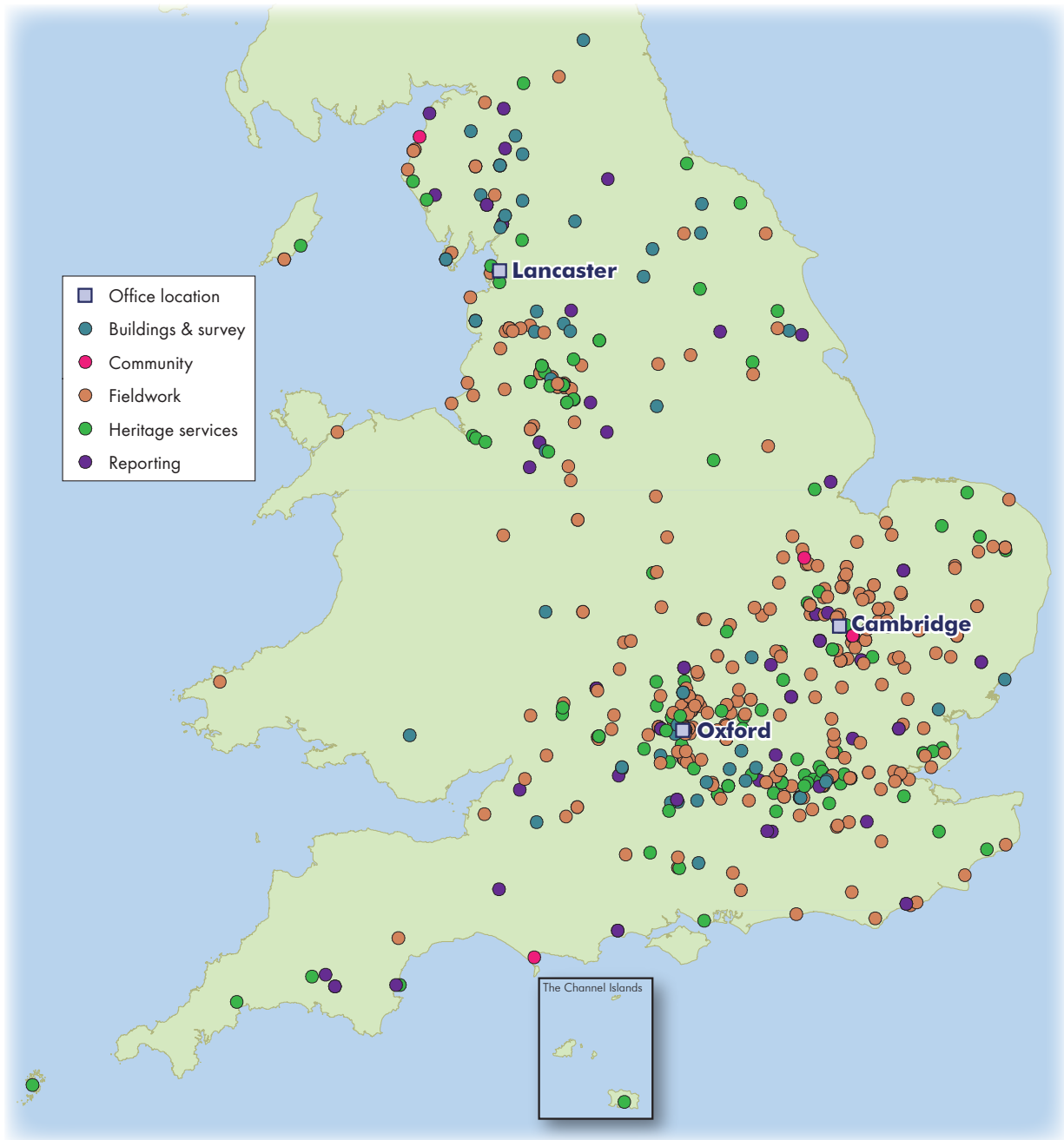
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In Touch was edited by Edward Biddulph, Rachel Clarke and Richard Gregory.
 Layout and design was by Hannah Kennedy and the issue was printed by Holywell Press Ltd.

Cover image: *The former Magdalen College School hall (J.C. Buckler, 1849–51) revealed by the removal of the 20th-century galleries in Magdalen College Library prior to archaeological excavation.*

Photo taken by Magdalena Wachnik

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