

*The
Marcham
Society*

Newsletter

Last Month's Picture - Where is this?

Last month's newsletter included a picture and we were supposed to reveal where it was taken at last month's meeting—apologies that we forgot to do that. We've decided that we will reveal the location in the next newsletter every month from now on. This one was taken by Simon Blackmore and the location is the brick wall looking from Manor Farm towards Mill Road .



The Iron Age and Romano-British Landscape of the Vale of the White Horse

Our last lecture of the present series is presented by William Wintle and it will take place on Tuesday May the 8th. Refreshments will be served from 7:30 p.m .and the meeting will start at 7:45 p.m.

Thank you to all those that have supported the current lecture series. We will be designing the programme for next season soon so if anyone has any ideas of what they would like to hear please contact Judith Fontaine (peter.fontaine172@btinternet.com)

This is the first of the new style newsletter which we hope you like. This month we have the following

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 Bier
 Archeology Starts on
 Anson Field
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Bier Restoration

Committee member Malvin Drakley has rescued the bier that is owned by All Saints church in Marcham but which has been stored in a barn at Manor farm for many years and, as can be seen by the top picture, it was in a sorry state. Malvin has started the restoration by dismantling all the components and sanding down the wooden structure as can be seen in the second picture. There is still much work to be done on the wheels, steering mechanism, hinges, boards, and leather straps

etc.. This is a labour of love and will take some time but we hope to provide more pictures as the restoration continues.

What is a Bier? - a movable frame on which a coffin or corpse is placed before burial

Archaeology Starts on New Village Hall Site

Finally the work has begun. The first digging started in early April and the picture opposite shows the size of the task as the ground is exposed for the archaeologists to start their work. We will be providing updates as the dig continues. See the next page for more pictures of the initial earth removal

Archaeology Starts on New Village Hall Site

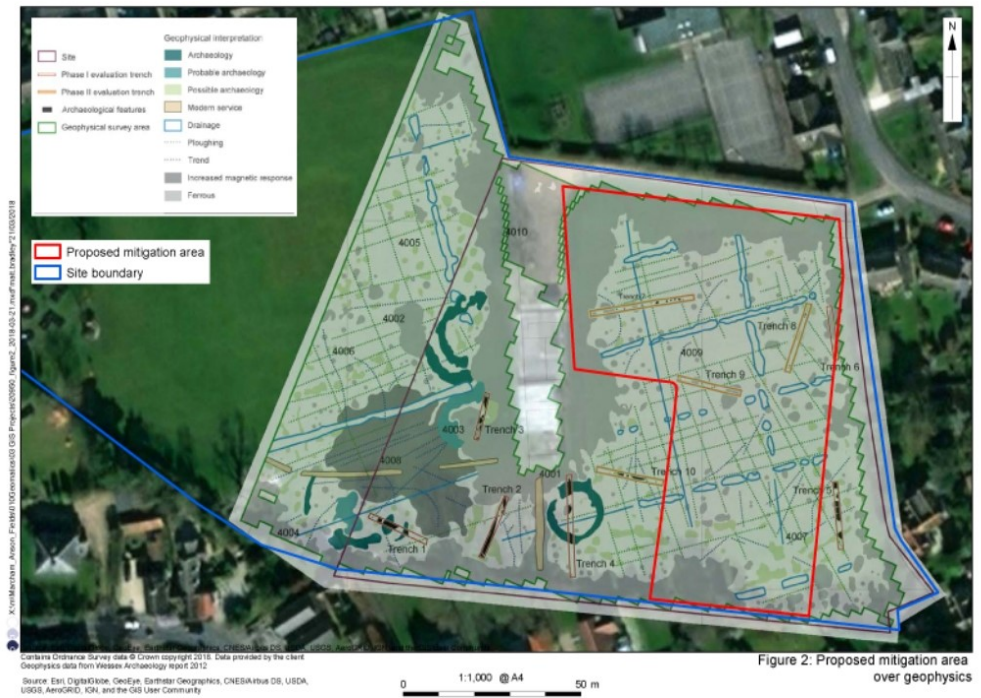


Figure 2: Proposed mitigation area over geophysics



Large earth moving equipment employed



What Lies Beneath?



Something of interest?



**Archive Meeting,
Wednesday 2nd May
2:30 p.m.**

There will be another chance to help catalogue the contents of the archive boxes next Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm in the Boardroom at Manor Farm. Only a few boxes remain to be checked, thanks to all those who have kindly given up their time to help.

Our archive? - Come along and see if it is.



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 30 June – Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society will be celebrating their 50th anniversary with an Abingdon History Day at the Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road. Further details will be available nearer the date on the website <http://aaahs/org.uk/>

Saturday 7 July – Marcham Society Annual Barbecue – hopefully the weather will have improved by then!