

HOBS MOAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

MAN HOURS LOST DUE TO ABSENTEEISM	24/3206	MAN HOURS LOST DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER	38/3206
DISCIPLINARY MATTERS	C. Barrett and A. Allen warned about time-keeping attendance and general attitude on 18th December.		
GENERAL COMMENTS	Weather conditions have made work on site difficult, although the time was utilised by drawing, lectures and planning. Supply problems appear to have decreased since 3rd December.		
LANDSCAPE PROGRESS	Although this work has been affected by the weather, good progress has been made in tidying up the scrub and opening up areas that were hitherto inaccessible to the public.		
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRESS	The archaeological work has been severely affected by the weather as the sediments are susceptible to the rain. Very little work has been undertaken on H.M.1 or H.M.3 this month due to waterlogging. H.M.2 showed differential sedimentary fills in section and cumulative drawings were made, earlier bank features were found and recorded. All exposed areas were backfilled to protect them over the Christmas holidays.		

HOBBS MOAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (February)

MAN HOURS LOST DUE TO
ABSENTEEISM

104/3206

MAN HOURS LOST DUE TO
ADVERSE WEATHER

1920/3206

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

I. Smith was given verbal warning and sent home after repeated warnings about throwing a dart at other members of staff. Although an act of gross stupidity, no malice was intended.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Although some work did take place on site, February was the worst month of this excavation/landscape year. Whilst there was no time when staff were in fact idle, it is considered that very little useful work was undertaken during the 15 days of frost and rain, consequently this fact is reflected in the above figures. There were approximately 37 visitors to site including David Wilkes who discussed progress. U.B.A.F.U. on site.

LANDSCAPE PROGRESS

Weather severely affected the landscaping work. Frost made any digging work impossible, therefore activities such as they were concentrated upon tidying and fence erecting.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRESS

Work began again on H.M.3 - overburden removed from eastern end of trench revealing some form of cobbling - enigmatic elements are increasingly evident as 1 phase of activity merges into another. Very little work on H.M. 1. H.M. 2 still proving interesting, but due to weather only section cleaning undertaken, taphonomic studies on buried soil suspended due to weather.

HOBBS MOAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (March)

MAN HOURS LOST DUE TO
ABSENTEEISM

112/3206

MAN HOURS LOST DUE TO
ADVERSE WEATHER

456/3206

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

GENERAL COMMENTS Although the weather was still problematic work on site increased and the summer is ahead. Visitors to site numbered 81, including David Wilkes, twice, about progress - Alan Hewson with tree supervisor - Deputy Director Technical Services - 6th form college. Phosphate and Pⁿ sampling began.

LANDSCAPE PROGRESS

Three trees have been felled and cleared away. Saplings removed and passed in part to parks (although few were worth saving). Preparations are underway for restabilizing banks and await staff increases. Leaves have been removed from a substantial area of the site in order to allow the indigenous bluebells to flourish.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRESS

H.M. 1 has proved to contain two in situ clay floors, each overlaid by occupation debris. Post holes located in construction slots have been identified and 13th century pottery has been found.
H.M. 2 - work on the earlier linear feature continues as does the removal of the longitudinal section overlaying the buried soil.
H.M. 3 still proving enigmatic with multi-period activity - i.e. late cobbles - earlier revetment or masonry structure. Several other phases occur but tend to fuzzle the stratigraphical sequences - further work will elucidate the situation.

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DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

N. Shepherd dismissed November 13th for misconduct; E. Robinson dismissed November 28th for misconduct. Both p/t arch workers.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The pace set in October on the archaeological side of the project slackened considerably owing to the run of bad weather. This means that the deadline set by English Heritage for the archaeological trenches currently under excavation has become rather more pressing.

The landscaping team continues to function well and all the targets set for 1986 have been met.

LANDSCAPE PROGRESS

Excellent.

I am advised by E. Banks, landscaping supervisor, that assistance from the Parks Dept (Technical Services) has been less effective recently.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRESS

Trenches H.M.1. and H.M.2. have progressed during November at a lesser rate but are approaching completion. When they are completed, trench H.M.3 will be reopened, and it is to be hoped work in it will be finalised by December 31st.

Generally the archaeology of the site - as seen in the three trenches - has become more understandable throughout the month, allowing optimism for the forthcoming Interim Report scheduled for June.

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DISCIPLINARY MATTERS	
None.	
GENERAL COMMENTS. The run of bad weather experienced during October and November continued, dislocating planned-for progress in the archaeological trenches. The landscaping team continued to function well.	
LANDSCAPE PROGRESS Excellent. The general appearance of the site improved further throughout the month. The initial experiment in grassing and stabilising the rampart on the western side of the site seems to be producing satisfactory results. Assistance from Technical Services remains somewhat arbitrary in quality.	
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRESS Scheduled Monument Consent ended on December 31st; I am pleased to report that trenches HM1 and HM2 have been completed on time. However, trench HM3 remains incomplete: this will have to be the subject of further negotiation with English Heritage. I am of the opinion that it was badly thought-out and planned by my predecessor - I do not see why this team and the present management of the site should be required to disguise this difficulty. Therefore it seems to me that it should be included in an application for a further period of SMC, where its inherent problems may be addressed in a considered and responsible fashion. Elsewhere, the archaeological team executed its educational brief well. During the month an exhibition was mounted in the branch library at Hobs Moat and a travelling exhibition was provided for the Libraries Service. An evening lecture was given to a local hist. society.	