

the only possible venue, a side hall. We set up the screen and projector, and put out the chairs. The first member of the guild arrived five minutes after the advertised time; within half an hour we had a chairman and the meeting started. When it was all over, I had some difficulty getting away from the hall. A very hairy artist blocked my way with a plate full of half crowns in his hand. "Come on; you can't expect us to organise a meeting like this for nothing, you know!"

We retired to the car, only to find that the tenor's audience had now arrived in force. Our little vehicle was completely hemmed in on all sides. We sat in the car for an hour waiting for the final curtain to come. The windows steamed up. At intervals a suspicious policeman shone his torch in.

If the speaker has come a long way on a cold night, there are other little details which might help to make him comfortable. I know one museum at which the lecture hall is isolated from the lavatory

for security reasons. The speaker has to manage as best he can in the car park nearby.

**Payment.** Many speakers, I am one of them, will talk for nothing if it can be considered as "casting bread upon the waters." There is a lot that archaeology can gain from keeping people informed, and listening. But if you don't want to pay, it's only fair to say so at the outset. It saves a lot of embarrassment. You should *always* offer to pay the speaker's expenses, even if he does seem well heeled. I shall never forget the Young Conservative club. They asked me after I arrived if I would mind leading a debate on comprehensive education before I spoke about archaeology. After the meeting they told me they had no funds for paying speakers' expenses. Their pint tankards had never been empty for more than a few seconds the whole evening. Nor can I forget that other lot who (this is quite true) asked me half-way through my talk if I would mind having a short break because Harold Wilson was on television at nine o' clock!

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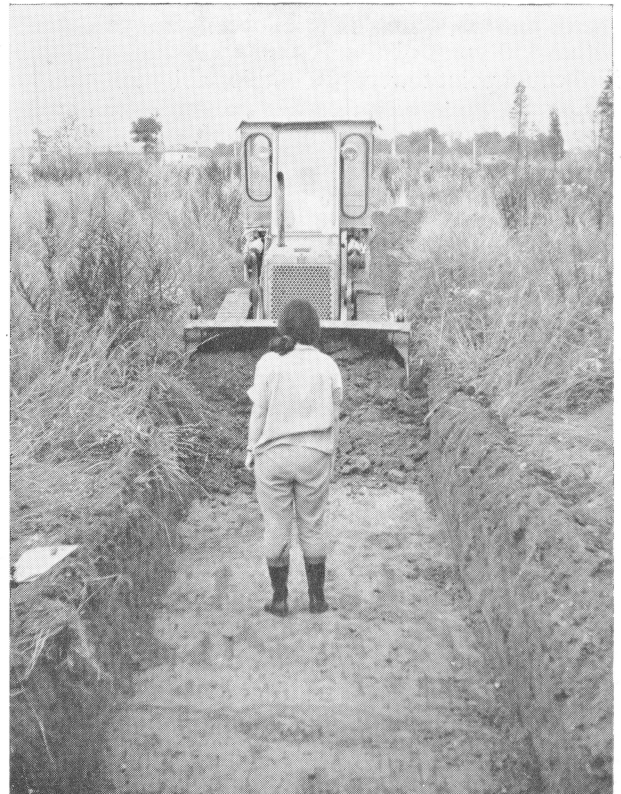
## Rescue Excavation at Bedfont

TO INVESTIGATE some crop marks on a site between East and West Bedfont (just south of London Airport), London and Middlesex Archaeological Society are sponsoring a rescue excavation on an area at Esso's West London Terminal where some further oil tanks are shortly to be erected. Other portions of the crop mark site outside of Esso's compound are threatened by a number of proposed projects.

The crop marks on the Esso site include a ring ditch, three boundary ditches and some possible pits. On the adjoining land besides further ring and boundary ditches there is also a Neolithic causewayed camp (see *Antiquity* Vol. 40 plate 25 — June 1966).

Because of security and fire precautions the number of diggers has had to be limited. However with the help of a grant from the Department of the Environment, a Drott is being used to clear the overburden which includes dumped material from the site of the adjacent existing oil tanks.

Early results have been the location of the ring ditch, two boundary ditches and some pits. In addition, an Iron Age hut circle 32 feet in diameter is being exposed; it has a very close parallel with those excavated in 1940 by Professor Grimes on the Heathrow site (2 miles away). It is hoped that a report will appear in the next issue of the *London Archaeologist*.



The Drott cleaning a trench to pick up a boundary ditch