



SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

The Newsletter of the Council for British Archaeology, South Midlands Group
(Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire)

NUMBER 37, 2007

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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2006.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 37.

The introduction of page charges in volume 36 certainly improved the financial position of the group. Despite the introduction of charges it is heartening to see a number of new contributors for this volume, in particular from active amateur groups. Overall however the volume is slimmer than volume 36. This is by no means a bad thing if it means people are cutting out the verbiage and getting to the point. SMA is a vehicle for getting information into the public domain not the place of final publication.

All contributors get at least one page free so there is really no excuse for non-contribution. However, some organisations continue to provide no report of their work in the area. County archaeologists and professional colleagues are asked to apply pressure to these defaulters.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who sent in reports and ask that they, and anyone else, send in articles for *SMA* 38. In particular we would like to thank Northants Archaeology for sponsoring the cover. Please send a note, however short, of any work carried out in the four counties.

Copy date for *SMA*38 is 31st March 2008; please refer to Notes for Contributors.

Barry Horne AIFA
Editor

Front cover - Pineham North, Upton, Northampton
Sponsored by Northants Archaeology.

CBA South Midlands website: **CBA-SouthMidlands.org.uk**

The cumulative index to volumes 1-36, is available on the website at:

WWW.britarch.ac.uk/smaindex

The index to the CBA Industrial Bulletin Nos 1-16 (1967-71) is available on the website at:

WWW.britarch.ac.uk/smaindustrialindex/index.html

BEDFORDSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Kempston-Biddenham, Bedford Western Bypass

Site 3 (TL 0192 4797):

Mike Luke, Ben Barker and Ian Beswick

Approximately 1.6ha of open area excavation was undertaken between January and February 2006 towards the south of the Biddenham Loop which is an area of intense past activity (Luke, forthcoming). The majority of the features were located in the eastern half of the excavation area. The site was situated towards the periphery of a Romano-British farmstead known from non-intrusive survey outside the road corridor. The results can be summarised as follows:

Prehistoric: A small lithic artefact assemblage comprising stuck flint of possible Neolithic and early Bronze Age date was recovered from later features.

Early-middle Iron Age: a cluster of five steep-sided and flat-bottomed pits was identified in the western part of the excavation area. These contained early-middle Iron Age pottery and are likely to have been storage pits associated with a farmstead contemporary with others known on the Biddenham Loop.

Late Iron Age-early Romano-British: a new farmstead was established to the east of the early-middle Iron Age one. This included a rectilinear enclosure and an area of associated unenclosed activity, but it clearly continued beyond the limits of the excavation. The pits contained small quantities of domestic debris.

Early Romano-British: the earlier farmstead continued in use and some of its earlier boundaries were incorporated into a more extensive enclosure system. Geophysical survey has indicated that this extended over 2.5ha to the east of the road corridor. Evidence for contemporary activity within the excavation area comprised enclosure ditches, pits and an inhumation burial. These produced moderate quantities of domestic debris including pottery, ceramic building material, animal bone and oyster shells.

Romano-British: Although a number of the earlier boundaries were redug and replaced, the earlier enclosure layout continued in use throughout this period. Again, the excavation area was clearly on the periphery of the farmstead. Two of the enclosures within the excavation area contained inhumations suggestive of two discrete cemeteries but it is uncertain, at this stage, if they were definitely contemporary. A total of 29 inhumations and two cremations were identified. The majority of the skeletons were extended and the head of one was repositioned between the feet. Sufficient nails were recovered from five graves to suggest the presence of a coffin. Only a small number of graves contained grave goods which included

Bedfordshire

shoes, glass and ceramic vessels, a glass bead necklace, copper bracelets, earrings and a bronze finger ring.

In addition, a pottery kiln was identified; its stokehole utilised an infilled enclosure ditch. The kiln has been provisionally dated to the 4th century on the basis of archaeomagnetic analysis.

Site 5 (TL 0163 4768)

Mike Luke, Ben Barker and Matt Smith

Comprised c 1.1ha of open area excavation undertaken between January and May 2006. It was located within the extensive Romano-British settlement centred on Kempston Church End (Dawson, 2004) on the opposite side of the River Great Ouse to Site 3. The results can be summarised as follows:

Prehistoric: a small lithic artefact assemblage was recovered of probable Neolithic and early Bronze Age date. All the material was residual in later features.

Late Iron Age/early Romano British: the earliest firm evidence for activity was pre-Conquest in date. It comprised a northeast-southwest trackway with two adjacent enclosures and some unenclosed activity. There is a suggestion of a second perpendicular routeway, based on the alignment of some of the enclosure ditches. The main domestic area of the settlement at this time is believed to have been located several hundred metres to the north-west.

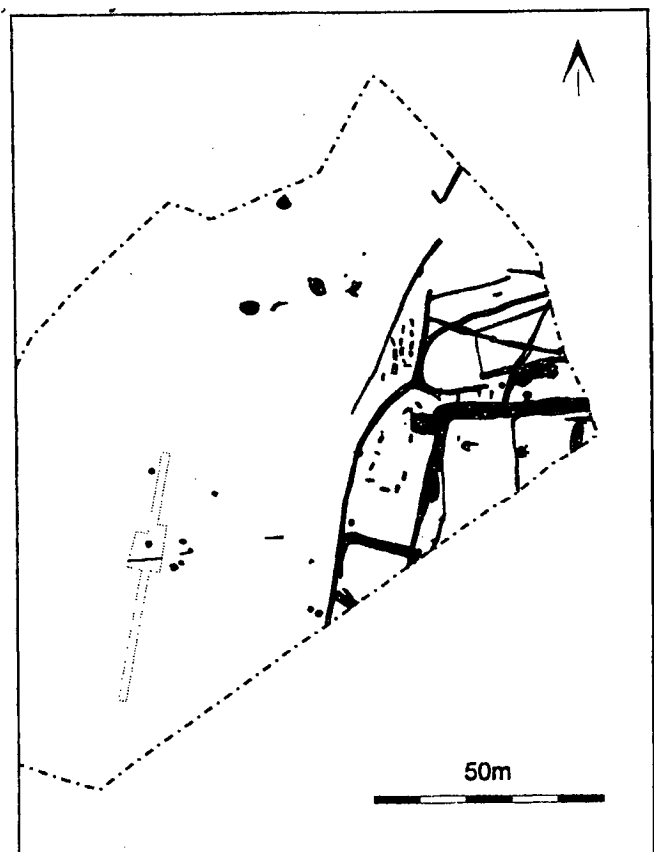


Fig 1. Site 3 all features plan.

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Romano-British: the first firm evidence for domestic activity within this part of the settlement was during the 1st/2nd centuries and this continued throughout this period. A metalled northwest-southeast roadway with side ditches was constructed. Previous investigations have demonstrated that this roadway continued northwards for over 450m and was the focus of the settlement. The roadside ditches were redug and the metalling resurfaced on a number of occasions. It appears to have continued in use throughout the life of the settlement.

Domestic activity within ditched enclosures was principally located adjacent to the roadway. The shape of the excavation area meant that the enclosures on the west side of the roadway were examined in detail but those to the east, nearer the river, were only partially visible. In addition, the depth at which the features/deposits occurred to the east of the roadway meant that these were preserved in situ and not fully excavated.

The domestic enclosures west of the roadway were all defined by ditches behind which were small enclosures/fields. The layout of the enclosures changed over time but the earlier boundaries were often incorporated in some way into the later ones. The domestic enclosures contained evidence for timber and stone buildings, stone-lined wells, isolated pits and postholes. At least twenty-five large cess pits, dating from the 2nd century onwards, were located towards the rear of the domestic enclosures. Some exhibited evidence for revetment and it is clear that not all were contemporary.

Early-middle Saxon: limited evidence was recovered to suggest that part of the settlement was occupied during this period. The roadway was encroached upon and may not have continued in use. A post-settlement, dark layer sealed

the features within part of the excavation area and this was in turn sealed by alluvial flood deposits.

Medieval: the site was within a strip field associated with Kempston Church End. The presence of arable fields at this time is indicated by a system of parallel furrows which only survived in the north-east half of the excavation area. A period of flooding, post-dating the furrows, is indicated by a significant depth of alluvial silts.

Site 8 (TL 0147 4739)

Mike Luke, Ben Barker and Jo Archer

Approximately 1.3ha open area excavation was undertaken between August and October 2006. It was situated 150m from Site 5 and 70m from Site 7 (Luke *et al*, 2006). The results can be summarised as follows:

Neolithic and early Bronze Age: a small lithic artefact assemblage comprising struck flint of possible Neolithic and early Bronze Age date was recovered within later features.

Romano-British: evidence for two areas of activity was identified. The first, nearest to the Kempston Church End settlement, comprised a square arrangement of a gully and a nearby unurned cremation burial. The square feature has provisionally been interpreted as a shrine or mausoleum. A second area of activity was defined by shallow, parallel ditches which are presumed to be associated with some kind of cultivation.

Saxo-Norman: initially, activity in this period comprised field boundaries and an integral trackway. Subsequently, two small ditched enclosures were added. One of these contained a possible rectangular building, but the other was devoid of features.

Early medieval: two areas of settlement were identified, separated by a metalled trackway with side ditches. The area to the south was the continuation of the earlier settlement, although the original enclosure ditches were replaced. The new enclosure contained a post-built building and three cess pits. A second area of settlement to the north of the trackway was only partially located within the excavation area but also appeared to contain a number of buildings within ditched enclosures. To the west of this area was an enclosure which contained a sub-circular pond c 30m in diameter and 1.2m deep; it is interpreted as a fish pond. To the north of this was a series of parallel furrows indicating that this area was cultivated.

Late medieval: by this period, settlement is believed to have shifted eastwards outside the area of excavation. The northern area of early medieval settlement was replaced by a number of enclosure ditches which contained the original pond and a second sub-rectangular one c 70m by 30m. The two appear to have been linked by a ditch which may have served as an overflow channel.

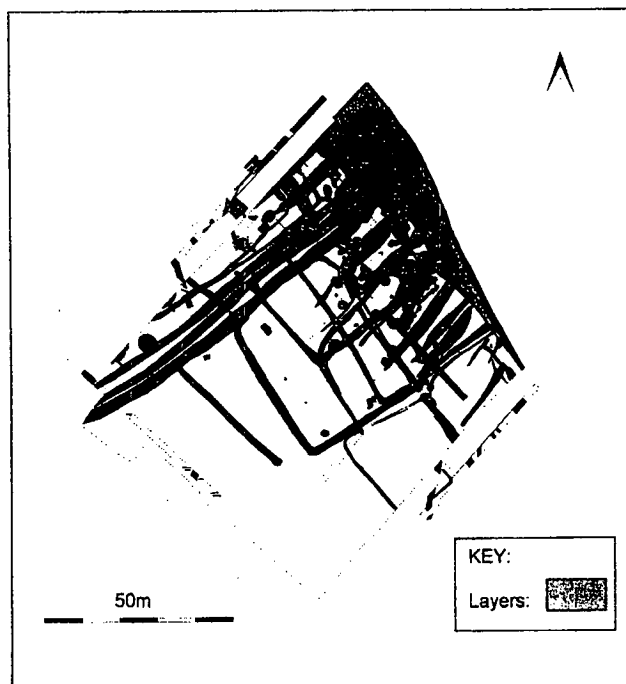


Fig 2. Site 5 all features plan.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Beadlow, Top Farm (TL 1052 3859)

David Kaye

The proposed landscaping at the site involves tree planting around the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries of the site. The site lies just to the west of the proposed location of Priory, a Benedictine house which flourished between the 12th and 15th centuries.

Of the eight evaluation trenches investigated, only Trench 6, running parallel with the eastern boundary of the site, contained archaeological features. These included the possible butt end of a ditch or pit, cutting a sub-circular pit. Both these features were shallow and contained various artefacts dating from the late medieval period. The only other feature in this trench consisted of a clay deposit which contained one fragment of peg tile. Trenches 7 and 8, on the same alignment and to the south of Trench 6, also produced notable quantities of unstratified medieval artefacts.

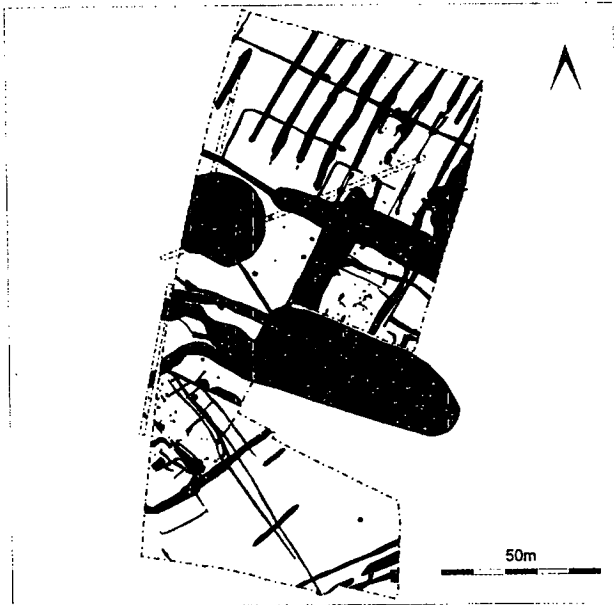


Fig 3. Site 8 all features plan.

Post-medieval: the ponds were eventually infilled, partially with rubble probably associated with the new 'mansion' building known to have been constructed to the east in the early 18th century. New field boundary ditches and a trackway were established in this period. Part of one of the fields contained tree planting holes suggestive of the presence of an orchard.

References

- Luke, M. forthcoming, Life in a Loop: Investigations of a prehistoric and Romano-British landscape *East Anglian Archaeology Monograph*
 Dawson, M 2004; Archaeology of the Bedford Region, *BAR British Ser.* 373, 152-228.
 Luke, M et al 2006; 'Site 7', *SMA* 36, 1.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

Steppingley, Park Farm Coach House, Peakes End (TL 0131 3474)

C Hallybone

A watching brief was carried out in February 2006 at Park Farm Coach House, Peakes End, Steppingley, during the groundworks for the construction of a ménage and new stable block/yard. Monitoring of shallow topsoil stripping revealed no evidence of the earlier farmstead remodelled by the Duke of Bedford in the 19th century. Much of the topsoil remained in situ during the shallow site stripping in the northern part of the proposed ménage.

Biddenham, Bromham Road (TL 0230 5050)

Chris Turner

A previous archaeological evaluation on the site, carried out by the Heritage Network, demonstrated the survival of a low density of features dating to the prehistoric period (35), these were located at the eastern end, in Plots 6 and 7 of the new development.

Two further phases of archaeological work were undertaken as part of the mitigation strategy. The first phase consisted of an open area archaeological excavation of the building footprints for Plots 6 and 7. This revealed two features, including a Late Bronze/Early Iron Age butt ended ditch, aligned broadly northwest to southeast, which ran across the middle of the site. A natural silty hollow, which extended eastwards and southwards beyond the limits of the site, was also investigated in the southeastern corner of the excavation trench. It contained six unurned cremations and a scatter of cremated bone. Although no artefacts were recovered to date the cremations, they have been assigned to the late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age on the basis of their relationship with the butt-ended ditch

The second phase consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of the footings trenches for the garage in Plot 5. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this area.

On the basis of these findings it is suggested that the present site is located on the periphery of the prehistoric activity identified to the north.

Biggleswade, Oak Tree Farm (TL 2097 4658)

David Kaye

Five trial trenches were excavated across the site, measuring between 20m and 50m in length. A small ditch, running

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approximately north to south, was recorded crossing Trench 4, in the centre of the site and two narrow parallel ditches, running northwest to southeast, were identified in the western trench (Trench 5). No artefacts were recovered to date these features. Evidence that the site had previously been covered in trees, including root disturbance and tree boles, was found in all five trenches.

Hatch, Burnt Land, Vinegar Hill (TL 1606 4715)

David Kaye

During the construction of two new ponds for the commercial fishery at Vinegar Hill, Hatch, two Iron Age pits were identified within the footprint of the new eastern pond. In addition, a pond, two post/stake holes, and two modern ditches were recorded.

The western pond contained the truncated remains of a ridge and furrow field system and its probable boundary ditch. Three other ditches were observed, at least two of which appear to pre-date the ridge and furrow.

Henlow, St Mary's Church (TL 1780 3876)

Adrian Gibson and David Hillelson

The preliminary examination of the tower and aisles of St Mary's church has shown that the building has undergone many alterations and repairs which have left their mark in the fabric. The elements that were examined appear to have been built with the intention of being rendered, and this suggests that the visual quality of the materials used, both for the original construction, and for later repairs, was not crucial. The loss of the render, at an earlier period, however, affords us the opportunity for a closer examination of the fabric.

Although the tower and its buttresses appear to be of a unitary construction, the top of the tower shows signs of later alteration, and the embattling of the top of the tower is a later addition with signs that it has been regularly repaired. The stair turret, also, appears to have been regularly repaired, and its parapet may be a later addition.

The two aisles predate the construction of the tower, but the west wall of the north aisle has been incorporated into the fabric of the north facing north-west buttress, suggesting a contemporary remodelling. A remodelling, and probable extension, of the south aisle has also taken place, but in this case the west wall of the south aisle has been built on to the south facing south-west buttress. The clunch blocks, incorporated into the fabric of the eastern and western elevations of the south aisle, attest to another phase of remodelling when the aisle roof was raised, and it is likely that the embattling of the aisle roof dates to this period.

A further inspection of the fabric was made from scaffolding erected around the tower. This has concluded that the clunch-built tower was likely to have been rendered originally, and that at least one phase of re-rendering could be identified. Subsequent to the removal of the render, deterioration of the stonework has resulted in the need for

regular repair, and the replacement of eroded stonework with brick, carstone, oolitic limestone, and stacked tile. The tower underwent a major restoration in 1925-6, and a further programme of repairs was undertaken in 1959.

The south aisle was also clunch-built and may originally have been rendered. Subsequently, the south aisle was refaced in carstone, probably in the course of the restoration of the nave and aisles in 1889.

Higham Gobion, Church of St Margaret, (TL 1038 3278)

David Hillelson

The photographic recording and monitoring of the rebuilding of the buttress at the south-western corner of the church has enabled the documentation of a number of features associated with its construction and later phases of repair. These include the keying of the buttress into the structure of the nave, the re-use of worked stone in its core, the use of injected lime grout to fill cracks, and evidence for the original south-west corner of the nave.

Keysoe, Manor Barn (TL 0776 6374)

Geoff Saunders

Despite the proximity of the study area to Keysoe Manor the fieldwork did not reveal any indication of activity on the site predating the 19th century.

Meppershall, 83-85 High Street (TL 1377 3638)

Geoff Saunders

Five trial trenches were excavated across the site. They revealed a possible trackway consisting of a metallised surface with associated drainage ditch of 14th – 16th century date in Trench 1; a possible springhead or hollow containing 10th – 11th century pottery in Trench 4; and a drainage ditch of 11th – 12th century date in Trench 5. A further boundary ditch in Trench 1 yielded no datable artefacts.

Although no direct evidence of occupation on the site was revealed the evaluation has suggested the presence of domestic activity in the vicinity.

Potton, Braybrooks Drive (TL 2238 4897)

Geoff Saunders

Six trenches, measuring between 20m and 50m in length, were excavated across the footprints of the proposed buildings. They demonstrated that the eastern half of the site is located within the floodplain of the Potton Brook. Trench 1, at the western end of the site, was the only trench to contain cut features, one of which yielded significant artefacts including late medieval pottery, horn core, and slag.

A further stage of mitigation was undertaken, concentrated on the garage block to Plot 2. This revealed a pit complex which contained at least five intercutting pits. The pits yielded pottery and tile dating to the late medieval/early post

medieval period. A significant amount of horncore, a common waste product of tanning, was also recovered. A former tan yard, Braybrooks Tannery, was located on the adjacent plot (HER 7898).

LEIGHTON BUZZARD AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Heath and Reach, Pond Meadow (SP 926 279)
Barry Horne

The Society (LBDAHS) was formed in March 2006 with an inaugural talk given by Stephen Coleman, of Bedfordshire County Council, on landscape. Since then it has gone from strength to strength with over 90 members by the end of the year. LBDAHS has an ethos of combining historical and archaeological research reminiscent of the early days of Time Team.

The core area of study is the old parish of Leighton Buzzard which included the parishes of Heath and Reach, Eggington, Billington and Stanbridge. Using a grant generously provided by Leighton-Linslade Town Council and with the permission of the farmer, Tom Baird, we started work on a small field very near to the centre of

Heath. The field, Pond Meadow, showed promise as it had a pond, a number of humps and bumps and a sunken area in one corner adjacent to the road. Malcolm Donald, a surveyor, generously provided a 10cm survey of the field that very clearly showed the variation in the topography.

Unfortunately there are no documentary records relating to the field so we were not able to target a particular known feature. As we are a new society, with only two members with extensive archaeological experience, we wanted a dig that would find something, but not more than our inexperienced team could manage. Bernard Jones, Site Director, decided we would investigate the relationship of the sunken area, mentioned above, to the rest of the field, so a 6m x 2m cut was marked out which included the high ground, bank and sunken area.

The turf was taken off by hand as were the underlying strata. Weather permitting, excavation was undertaken from 10am until 5pm. Each week we excavated on a weekday and a day at the weekend to ensure all members had an opportunity to take part. Members were given training in excavation, surveying and recording techniques.

We were all surprised by the number of finds from such a modest excavation. The major feature found was a short length of medieval/post-medieval land drain running along



Fig 4. Excavation at Pond Meadow, Heath and Reach.

Bedfordshire

the contour. In association with this were fragments of a 14th/15th century glazed flagon as well as a coarse grey flagon handle with chevron decoration. Finds also included a flint tool, much abraded pottery, iron slag and possible kiln debris.

The iron slag and possible kiln debris are of great significance because there are documentary references to iron working at Heath in the Middle Ages. Indeed Thomas of Leighton is famous for the ironwork on the doors of the churches at Leighton Buzzard and Eaton Bray as well as for the ironwork at Westminster Abbey.

Twenty two members took part in the excavation. Further work on the site will be undertaken during 2007.

An interim report has been published in *Transactions*, No 1, 2007 and a DVD has been produced of the excavation. Details of the availability of both are on our website, LBDAS.org.uk.

MANSHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Report by R Hudspith

MAS Resistivity Survey at Maiden Bower Hillfort 2006 (SP 996225)

A southeast-northwest transect across the was surveyed by the Society in the autumn of 2006. The survey appears to support the identification of an internal ditch, as noted by Pollard and Hamilton (1994), behind the bank of the hillfort; some indication of possible hut circles and a large irregular ditch or pit - perhaps part of the original causewayed enclosure - close to the modern quarry edge, Fig 5.

Priory Middle School, Dunstable (TL 216021)

Excavation to the west of the school revealed a chalk-capped pit or well top, of at least post medieval date. The upper fill of the feature contained a deposit of relatively intact 'hip' and 'valley' roofing tiles.

Excavation close to the school boundary with Wellington Terrace in 2005 identified the edge of the medieval plot ditch and a tree throw hollow or possibly a sunken floored hut containing Roman tile fragments. The features were sealed by a 19th century trackway.

SE Gate

Internal ditch?

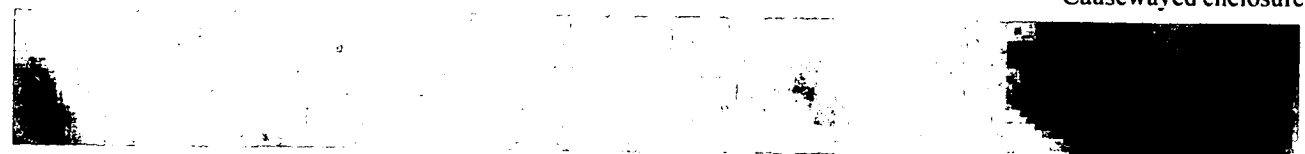
Bank?

Hut circles?

Quarry edge

Internal ditch/

Causewayed enclosure



SE Key: Black=low resistance White: High resistance Survey 20m X 180m

NW

Fig 5. Maiden Bower Hillfort, internal features.

Excavation in the garden of an adjacent property revealed the medieval ditch (possibly re-cutting a Roman ditch on the same alignment). The fill of the ditch contained medieval sherds, animal bone fragments and residual Roman sherds and tegula fragments.

Ashton Middle School (TL 016222)

Excavation in the school grounds close to modern Watling Street identified no archaeological features.

Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable (TL 018215)

Excavation in the garden of 'Manton', Bull Pond Lane, revealed portions of two cross-shaped features (as predicted) and a medieval ditch aligned north-south. One of the 'crosses' contained a chalky fill which included residual Late Iron Age and early Romano British pottery, the other 'cross' a dark loamy fill with late medieval potsherds.

Park Street, Dunstable (TL 013125)

A test pit in the garden of a property in Park Street identified no archaeological features.

Luton Road, Kings Oak Development (TL 029221)

A watching brief at this development site identified no archaeological features other than modern drainage works and fence postholes.

Priory Gardens, Lighting Scheme (TL 021217)

A watching brief of 5 pits dug for lampposts and a shallow service trench excavated in Priory Gardens, identified no archaeological features apart from a deposit of Totternhoe stone in the base of one of the pits.

Reference

Pollard J and Hamilton M 1994; *Recent Fieldwork at Maiden Bower*, 21 p10-18

Bedfordshire

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Pat Chapman

Biddenham Loop, west of Kempston (TL 022 484)

Paul Mason

The excavation of 90 geotechnical test pits by Hydrock Consultants Ltd on land within the Biddenham Loop and to the west of Kempston, was monitored on behalf of CgMs Consulting (formerly JSAC). The pits measured 0.6m by 2m by up to 5m deep. The only feature located was a large ditch, 1.1m deep and 2.3m wide, cut into the natural sands and gravels. It appeared to run on a north-west to south-east alignment and was filled with alternating layers of silt and gravel. No dating evidence was retrieved.

Cranfield, The Leathern Bottel, 19 Broad Green (SP 9607 4318)

Carol Simmonds, Paul Kajewski

An archaeological evaluation comprising five trial trenches was carried out on 0.6ha of land proposed for housing at The Leathern Bottel. Two gullies were revealed, one was undated and the other is dated to the 19th century by a sherd of underglaze blue transfer-printed pottery. This work was followed by a watching brief during groundworks associated with the residential development across the southern end of the area, which revealed two gullies dating to the 17th and 18th centuries, and heavily disturbed stratigraphy in the area of the demolished cellar of the former public house.

Houghton House (TL 0409 3971)

Anthony Maull

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of postholes for four new information panels placed both within Houghton House and outside the building. The footings of an internal wall were found within the entrance hall.

Tilsworth, Stanbridge Road (SP 9734 2431)

Pat Chapman

An evaluation was carried out on land off Stanbridge Road, Tilsworth on behalf of the Stanbridge and Tilsworth Community Association. The single trench was located within the footprint for the proposed new Community Hall on the recreation ground. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

M1 Widening, Junctions 10 – 13

(SP 960 370 – TL 080 190)

Mark Holmes, Danny McAree

Geophysical survey and fieldwalking were conducted at various points alongside the M1 motorway between Junctions 10 and 13. The works were part of the Stage 3 Cultural Heritage Surveys undertaken as part of early project involvement for the M1 Widening Scheme. A

combined area of c 22ha in 26 fields was surveyed by gradiometer. Ditches and possible enclosures were identified in six of the fields.

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken on c 42ha in 21 fields. There were 26 struck flints of prehistoric date and four sherds of Roman pottery, but these were too few and scattered to be of any great significance. There were also small scatters of medieval pottery. Spreads of brick and tile and moderate quantities of post-medieval pottery were recorded from most of the fields, but these can be attributed to manuring of arable fields.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled and edited by Edward Biddulph

Bedford, Riverside Square (TL 0482 4958)

Jon Hiller

In May and June 2006, Oxford Archaeology undertook a field evaluation at Riverside Square, Bedford, on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The evaluation revealed river terrace gravel across the site, in places capped by alluvium. Medieval cultivation or garden soils were seen across the site. Post-medieval postholes or pits, a soakaway and a possible beamslot indicated the presence of a property fronting Horne Lane; a post-medieval boundary ditch was seen to the east of the property. The concrete and brick foundations of the 19th century Horne Lane Brewery (later the Charles Wells Brewery) were exposed. An iron tank and part of a tiled floor were also revealed. A large undated gravel quarry was excavated and part of a riverside structure, possibly a boathouse, was recorded.

Dunstable, Church Street (TL 0186 2220)

Neil Lambert

In September 2006, Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation at Ashton St Peter's Lower School, Church Street, Dunstable for Turley Associates Ltd, acting on behalf of Aldi Stores Ltd. The evaluation consisted of four trial trenches and revealed a number of pits and linear features containing Roman pottery of the early 1st to late 4th century AD and a residual sherd of Iron Age material. Two 4th century Roman coins were also recovered. The remains of a late post-medieval well were revealed in one of the trenches.

Hyde, Luton Hoo (TL 1046 1847)

Daniel Dodds

A series of field investigations at Luton Hoo, Hyde, were carried out in January and February 2006 on behalf of Cardy Construction Ltd. The investigations revealed three main types of feature, all post-medieval in date. These included: 1) medium sized ditches, which were most likely to be the remnants of previous field boundaries or trackways; 2) large quarry pits used to extract clay; 3) small concentrations of shallow pits, which could be the remains of moorings for

Buckinghamshire

barrage balloons or the foundations for radar stations. In addition to these there were a number of undated irregular features, which were thought to be the result of periglacial erosion. There was evidence across the estate of the use of Luton Hoo as a military centre in World War II. This took the form of asbestos remains in the topsoil probably originating from the roofs of Nissen Huts, and domestic rubbish bearing the NAAFI Logo (Navy Army Air Forces Institute). There was no indication of any surviving archaeological features before the 18th century. The fieldwalking produced a small assemblage of worked flint, which implies the presence of low density late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity in the immediate area.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AOC

High Wycombe, Former Ercol Factory Site
(SU 88130 92647)

Chris Clarke

Between 9th December 2005 and 4th October 2006 an intermittent archaeological watching brief on behalf of Bellway Homes was undertaken to observe a programme of intrusive ground works.

The ground works consisted of a series of trenching to assist in the construction of new residential units. Observations revealed that the ground sequence was limited to compact natural chalk, occasionally sealed by deposits of modern made ground. The results support the findings of the previous phase of archaeological investigations indicating that large parts of the site had been terraced or truncated.

No archaeological remains or finds were observed during the course of the ground works.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

Aylesbury, 82-84 Walton Street (SP 8225 1325)
C Hallybone

An archaeological excavation at 82-84 Walton Street, Aylesbury was carried out in 2006. This site lies on the south-eastern side of the historic Saxon settlement of Aylesbury, and appears to have been open land, possibly used for animal rearing and the disposal of waste. Between the 9th and 13th centuries the area appears to have been divided up into rectangular plots. No definite evidence for domestic activity was identified, but the finds are consistent with occupation close by.

Aylesbury, Bucks Herald and Wilkins Solicitors site
(SP 8213 1354)
A Ginns and I Williamson

A watching brief and trial trench evaluation carried out in March and July 2006 revealed few archaeological features

but recorded a sequence of alluvial deposits demonstrating the waterlogged and marginal nature of the land flanking the Bear Brook, with a spur of dry land projecting towards the Bear Brook. Layers of organic alluvium investigated indicate that the channel of the brook was open and silting up in the late medieval period, along with evidence for several phases of a possible meander of the Bear Brook or post-medieval management of the channel as it silted. By contrast a large backfilled channel is likely to represent a post-medieval managed water course, probably related to the construction of the Grand Union Canal. A substantial deposit of clunch rubble, overlain by a clay-deposit, may have formed the infill of a water course or part of a larger structure.

Bletchley, 139-143 Buckingham Road SP 8542 3318
P Ilson

A programme of evaluation and follow up excavation revealed three phases of medieval activity representing changes in plot boundaries between the 13th and 16th centuries. Post-medieval features mainly related to property boundaries to the rear of Buckingham Road and cobbled surfaces indicative of a former yard in this area.

Chesham, Chesham Hospital, Hospital Hill
(SP 9624 0129)
C Hallybone

In January 2006 an evaluation and earthwork survey was conducted at an area known as The Balks, surrounding Chesham Hospital, revealing depositional layers consistent with the creation of 'strip lynchets'. Finds, many residual, dating from prehistory through to the post medieval period were recovered indicating the site has been used continuously over a long period. Terrace 2 appears to have been constructed at the same time as the cottage hospital in 1869. Terrace 3 and Slope 4 appear to have been raised and extended at this time. This concurs with the known development recorded on the Tithe map and early Ordnance Survey maps.

Denham, Denham Park Farm (TQ 0230 9010)
C Hallybone

An archaeological trial trench evaluation at this site in August and September 2006 identified sixty-five archaeological features, many relatively shallow linear field drains/boundaries. Finds recovered from these features include Iron Age, Roman, medieval and modern pottery, along with metal objects, plastic and glass. Based on their alignment and associated finds a group of postholes and pits/postholes are likely to represent the remains of a late prehistoric structure. Trench 110 contained the remains of farm buildings most likely dating to the post-medieval/early modern period.

CAM ARC

Grendon Underwood, The Hardwick to Marsh Gibbon Pipeline (SP 797 195 to SP 626 238)

Chris Thatcher

Work undertaken along the proposed route of this gas pipeline suggests a probable Roman settlement in the vicinity. This includes possible structures, enclosures and evidence for iron smelting. The close proximity of Roman Akeman Street to the south may well have facilitated this activity, for which a readily available supply of iron ore would have been required. Structural remains include a line of postholes/postpads, sealed by a possible demolition layer, which contained significant quantities of pottery and ceramic building material. A metal surface recorded adjacent to these structural remains may have formed part of a courtyard/external surface associated with the building. Banked ditches and a number of possible rubbish pits were also found.

Milton Keynes, Broughton Manor Farm (SP 900 395)

Rob Atkins and James Drummond Murray

Broughton Manor Farm lies on the eastern fringes of Milton Keynes. Excavation has demonstrated that a Middle Iron Age settlement was established on the western part of the site with enclosures, huts, pits and two 'four-post' structures that may have been used for drying crops. In the Late Iron Age a series of droveways were laid out and the settlement moved further west. During the Early Roman period the circular Iron Age huts were replaced by rectangular Roman buildings and a farmstead was established, possibly as part of a larger villa estate.

Along either side of the droveways a cemetery was established in the 1st century AD. Over forty cremations have been excavated thus far, many with collections of pottery vessels and other artefacts including brooches. The earliest graves included Iron Age pottery and artefacts suggesting the cemetery was for the local Iron Age elite who adopted Roman traditions after the Conquest. A small shrine lay adjacent to the cemetery with one cremation inside it. The farmstead continued into the 4th century when the site was abandoned. In the medieval period the area was used for arable farming.

CHILTERN ARCHAEOLOGY

Olney, Church of St Peters and St Pauls (SP 890 510)

Dr Jill Eyers

Assessment of the Gate Piers to the church. The purpose of the survey was:

To determine the building stones used in the construction of the gate piers to the church.

To visit and assess the possible local sources of suitable building stone.

To advise on suitable building stones for the gate pier repairs.

The piers have undergone several past repairs and they are composed of several types of stone. Parts of the original structure include (from the top down):

Weldon Stone (Lincolnshire Limestone Formation, oolitic and shelly with distinctive cross-stratification and weathers grey)

Ketton Stone (Blisworth Limestone Formation also known as Lincolnshire Limestone from Ketton. Oolitic with sparse or no fossils)

Blisworth Limestone (probably a local source, but a different character to the currently quarried material, micritic, oolitic, some blocks fossiliferous)

Ancaster Stone? nearer the base, which is oolitic and shelly with a sparry cement

Bath Stone (top bed) large areas of column repairs

Portland Stone column repairs weathering very white

Great Missenden, Missenden Abbey (SP 898 010)

Dr Jill Eyers

Geophysical survey of Abbey grounds (south)

The purpose of the survey was to investigate the cause of linear parch marks within the grounds during excessively dry weather. Although the linear features were seen to the south of the ha-ha (a cattle grazing area) they are best interpreted as a garden layout. The data infers this early garden to be pre-1787 to 1806 which was the period of the Oldhams' residency who were responsible for the emplacement of the ha-ha.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Burnham, Dropmore Park (SU 9303 8635)

David Kaye

The site lies within grounds listed on the statutory Register of Parks and Gardens, and includes the main house, which dates to the late 18th and early 19th centuries and is Grade I listed. The development includes a new terrace of dwellings incorporating an underground carpark, a further underground carpark, two surface carparks and a new access road.

Seven evaluation trenches were excavated. Only one feature was recorded which is likely to predate the turn of the 19th century. This was a posthole in Trench 1 which contained pottery dating to the period 1580-1700. Trench 1 also contained a wall and a gully of 19th century date. Trenches 2 – 5 either contained modern services or were blank, and Trenches 6 and 7 contained brick foundations associated with 19th century green houses.

The proposed route of the access road had been cleared of ground cover in advance of the evaluation works. Six test pits were dug by hand at intervals along the length of the trackway between the estate's north eastern boundary at

Buckinghamshire

Heathfield Road and the north eastern approach road to Dropmore. Two were located within an area identified as possible metallurgy by the client, one in the centre of the trackway, and the other offset to the west and extending beyond the trackway's limit. Of the remaining test pits, two were located to the south of the possible metallurgy, one to the north and one to the east. All the pits were dug to a depth that exposed the undisturbed natural geology.

The possible metallurgy appears to be a layer of weathered natural sand and gravel, which is confined to the middle of the study area. There was no evidence to suggest that it formed a deliberately laid surface, and no other features or deposits that are considered to be of archaeological origin were revealed during the evaluation.

Stoke Poges, Repton Bridge, Stoke Park (SU 9723 8258)
David Kaye

Monitoring of the restoration works on the Repton Bridge revealed that the bridge was constructed of a brick core faced with Portland stone on the piers and ashlar limestone on the spandrels. It has undergone a number of restorations and repairs over its lifetime, most notably in the 1940s when the structure was remodelled to accommodate heavy farm vehicles.

The restoration work replaced many of the unsympathetic repairs, using materials more in keeping with the original design. All visible later additions were removed from the bridge, and its original appearance was restored.

JOHN MOORE

Brill, Chapmans Lane
(From SP 6547 1495 to SP 6561 1438)
John Moore

A watching brief was conducted during the renewal of the Chapmans Lane Rising Main. The route was from Chapmans Lane to the junction of Tram Hill and then northwards along Tram Hill to a point just south of the junction with the lane to Norcotts Kiln Cottages. Except for the new pumping well at the western end of the length along Chapmans Lane the work was within the highway, on the north side of Chapmans Lane and the west side of Tram Hill. No archaeological remains were disturbed.

Charndon, Hill Farm, Hill Farm House (SP 6699 2412)
John Moore

A watching brief was conducted during groundworks for a new cottage. A pond, probably associated with the early use of Hill Farm, was found along with an outflow channel. Several pits of late 19th century date or later were also recorded.

Gerrards Cross, Wykehurst, 96 Camp Road
(SU 9928 8807)
David Gilbert

A watching brief was conducted during the landscaping ground work at 96 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross. The site lies on a garden slope approaching the ramparts of the Iron Age bivallate hillfort of Bulstrode Camp, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The investigation revealed numerous modern service trenches and pits, but no archaeological features.

Haddenham, Townside, Poultry Farm (SP 7385 0827)
Gwilym Williams

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning permission prior to the construction of a single dwelling. The site lay on the eastern side of Townside, an old road defining the western edge of the medieval settlement. Two trenches were opened and excavated to natural. The site was heavily truncated by medieval quarry pits and ditches. There appears to be activity on the site, represented by gullies and a possible posthole, prior to 13th century cultivation. Quarrying for wychert also was undertaken during the same century before the land reverted to agricultural/horticultural use in the late 13th/early 14th century. The site was enclosed by a wall sometime after the 17th century when again the land was cultivated.

Long Crendon, Harroell, Haroells End (SP 4697 0869)
John Moore

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as part of a consideration of a planning application for the construction of a detached dwelling. Three ditches, several postholes and stakeholes, and a pit were located. The remains were heavily truncated. The ditches coupled with the pit and small discrete features indicate settlement activity. The ditch cutting through the infilled pit within one trench shows that the activity was of some longevity. While a small sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the ditch in another trench although this could be residual. However, the lack of finds from other periods lends weight to the probability that the occupation activity is of prehistoric date, possibly Neolithic or late Bronze Age.

Long Crendon, Land to the rear of 25, High Street
(SP 6961 0888)
David Gilbert

A watching brief on this site was conducted during all ground disturbance work. The site was formerly in use as a garden and was bordered on the northern, eastern and western sides by residential properties and to the south by Burt's Lane, where there were the partially demolished remains of a small cottage fronting this road. A full photographic archive of this building was produced. Ten pits were located, the majority of which are undated. One was thought to be modern while at least two are dated to the 17th-18th century and pre-dated the construction of the

cottage on Burt's Lane. All features were truncated by subsequent horticultural activity.

Ludgershall, Ludgershall Farm (SP 66411 17342)
David Gilbert

A watching brief on this site was conducted during the redevelopment of the site. All ground disturbance work for foundations and services was monitored. Archaeological deposits were limited; the only feature was an undated ditch. However, it possibly pre-dates the 17th century or later surface of the farmyard that was recorded during an evaluation of the same site in 2005.

Ludgershall, Wotton End, near Brooklands Farm (SP 6654 1716)
David Gilbert & John Moore

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in 2004 as part of a consideration of a planning application for the construction of a detached house and garaging with an access track. The site was considered to lie within the envelope of the medieval village of Ludgershall. Further to the results of the evaluation additional archaeological investigation was required as a condition of the planning consent. This further work comprised the excavation of two trenches; one within the paddock to be developed with the new house and the other in the field to the south where the access track was proposed. This second trench extended the previous trench in the area. Also a watching brief was then carried out on all intrusive groundworks associated with the area of the new building.

A quantity of medieval pottery of 13th-17th century date was found in both trenches. Aerial photographs indicate ploughed out ridge and furrow in the paddock only slight traces were found during the watching brief. The trench in the field to the south sectioned the extant ridge and furrow and confirmed the earlier layout of strips located in 2004. A walk over survey of the immediate area confirmed that multiple phases of ridge and furrow are present in the area.

NATIONAL TRUST
Gary Marshall

West Wycombe Park (SU831944)

In 1991 and 1994 the main lake and feeder streams in the gardens at West Wycombe park dried up – the consequence of a lack of rainfall recharging the chalk springs feeding this system. This exposed a series of brick and timber-lined channels in the lake and stream beds which are thought to be the remains of an elaborate hydrological system for channelling water through the gardens. They had certainly gone out of use by 1752 as Morise Jolivet's map of the gardens of this date shows a different configuration of lakes and feeder channels, corresponding with what can now be seen in the garden landscape.

A shortage of rainfall in 2005 meant that once again the lakes and streams dried out, thus exposing the evidence that had been recorded in 1991. Several new features were also observed and recorded, notably a short length of brick-lined channel within the stream feeding the former saw mill in the park. The opportunity was taken to remove several samples of timber from one of the channels in the main lake for dendrochronology dating and one of these returned a felling date range of 1711-16. This means that the structure cannot be earlier than this date. An approximate date of c1716 can therefore be assigned and it seems highly likely that most of the structural evidence within the lake and stream beds is contemporary, in which case there is strong evidence for an earlier system of water management pre-dating the layout shown in place by 1752. Sir Francis Dashwood acquired West Wycombe Park in the first decade of the 18th century and this system must therefore have been put in place soon after he acquired the property. It appears to have been relatively short-lived and may have been more functional than the later designed landscape, perhaps feeding fish or eel traps or even providing the leat for a mill. Unfortunately the partial remains of the system makes it difficult to interpret – the only element which can be positively identified is the footings for a small foot bridge in the stream below the main cascade which can be reconciled with a bridge shown on the Jolivet plan.

During January of 2007 strong winds blew over two large ash trees, slightly to the south-west of The Temple of Venus and south of the north stream. The roots of one of these trees pulled up the brick footings of a substantial wall measuring 0.65m in width. The wall appeared to run on a north-south alignment, continuing in either direction beyond the outline of the root hole. The deep bricks used in its construction match those of a substantial wall footing found in the north stream in 1991 and the two structures are likely to be connected, perhaps forming the outline of a garden wall pre-dating the landscaping shown on the 1752 map. A geophysics survey is to be undertaken in 2007 to investigate the extent of this structure and to investigate other garden structures which appear on the 1752 map.

Bradenham, Park Wood (SU 816982)

Beginning in December of 2005 and continuing into 2006 the National Trust commenced the Bradenham Woods Historic Landscape Survey. The survey is supported by a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund administered by the Chilterns AONB and the aim is to map, record and interpret in detail the archaeology of a typical area of Chilterns woodland, identifying features which typify beech woodland, as well as those which are atypical. The fieldwork has been undertaken almost entirely by volunteers working with the Trust's Regional Archaeologist, although the main survey framework, tied into the Ordnance Survey grid, was completed by Oxford Archaeology.

During the first season of work nearly 100 earthwork features were mapped using the Trust's EDM and described on context sheets. Most numerous are the sawpits which are dotted throughout the woodland, indicating sites where pits

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for the cutting of logs were located, probably close to where the tree was actually felled. Some of these pits re-use earlier ditches, thus cutting down on the amount of labour required in excavating the pit. Other features typifying the archaeology of woodland management include boundary banks and ditches and charcoal burning platforms.

However, it is also clear that much of the woodland cover at Bradenham is probably relatively late in origin, dating from the second half of the 18th century, and therefore preserving a number of significant features relating to an earlier pattern of land use. A prominent bank and ditch feature on the north-west side of the wood is almost certainly the boundary of the Tudor park associated with Bradenham Manor. Its extent defines only part of the park and the full outline remains to be defined. Other early features include a prominent oval mound, possibly a well preserved barrow but more likely to be the site of a prospect mound or prospect tower associated with the park. The survey has also recorded a number of lynchets running along the contours of the wood, suggesting that much of the crest of the hill and the valley sides below the wood was under arable cultivation. Map evidence suggests that some of these lynchets relate to 20th century cultivation. However, those on the steep valley sides and within the core of the woodland must relate to an earlier period of cultivation, perhaps associated with a site identified in the late 1970s as a medieval homestead (*Records of Bucks*, 1979).

The survey has continued through the winter of 2006/7 and a further season of work is planned for the winter of 2007/8.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Pat Chapman

Calverton, Passenham Quarry (SP 7786 3896)

Ed Taylor

A group of four ring ditches, presumed to be levelled Bronze Age round barrows, formed a linear cemetery on low-lying ground adjacent to the River Great Ouse. They are being excavated in two adjacent areas during 2006-7 prior to quarrying by Cemex UK Materials Limited. The ring ditches had been located by geophysical survey and confirmed by trial trench evaluation (*SMA* 34 (2004), 24).

Two of the ring ditches have been fully excavated as well as more than half of a third. One was double-ditched and measured 30m in diameter with the inner ring 16m in diameter. The second also measured 30m in diameter, while the third was 22m in diameter. Within one of the ring ditches the natural was raised and domed, suggesting that the former central mound had only been fully ploughed away in recent times. The other two had probably been in antiquity. The ditches were up to 1-1.2m deep, but no contemporary internal features had survived and it must be assumed that all traces of any former burials had been lost to ploughing. The absence of any deeper central graves suggests that the primary burials are most likely to have been cremations, which would suggest that the barrows were probably constructed during the first half of the second

millennium (2000-1400 BC). There is little other material evidence to date the barrows, but the upper ditch fills contained residual Iron Age pottery from nearby settlement. The remaining one and half ring ditches will be excavated in 2007.

Part of a previously unknown pit alignment was also exposed, running roughly at right angles to the river just beyond the southern end of the barrow group. A total of 42 pits were investigated, and geophysical survey indicates that the alignment continues beyond the excavated area. The pits were generally circular or oval in plan, 0.8-1.1m in diameter, and 0.4-1.1m deep. The upper fills of most of the pits contained residual early Iron Age pottery, with c 1000 sherds recovered. This suggests that there is likely to be an associated domestic settlement nearby, which may have been a precursor to known middle-late Iron Age and Roman settlement that has also been located by geophysical survey and confirmed by trial trenching on land to the immediate east of the investigated area.

Leckhampstead, Middle End Barn (SP 7279 3761)

Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological strip and record excavation, carried out during the groundworks for the construction of a new stable on land at Middle End Barn, found a pond and a small pit. Finds from the pond included pottery dated from the 12th to 17th centuries and part of a 'bunsen'-type pewter candle holder dated to the late 15th to late 16th century. The pit was also post-medieval in date.

Leckhampstead, White Cottage (SP 7276 3773)

Leon Field

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at White Cottage, ahead of a new house and garage. Three evaluation trenches were excavated across a former house plot. There were no finds or features.

Milton Keynes, Newton Leys (SP 869 315)

Adrian Burrow

An archaeological evaluation of 92 trenches was carried out on 40ha of land at Newton Leys south of Bletchley, on behalf of CgMs Consulting. This defined an area of occupation, dated to the middle to late Iron Age and with a limited indication of some Roman activity. This comprised at least one ring ditch interpreted as a roundhouse, and a series of ditches, gullies and small pits and postholes as well as several occupation deposits filling shallow hollows. The remnants of medieval furrows were also present in some fields.

Milton Keynes, Nova (TL 4914 2386)

Adrian Butler, Adrian Burrow, Ed Taylor

The entire site occupies an area of approximately 99ha on the east side of Milton Keynes. It is bounded to the south by the A421 Standing Way and to the west by the A5130. It is

being evaluated and excavated in stages between 2006 and 2007.

A geophysical survey was carried out on 80ha of land. Detailed gradiometer survey located a possible ditched extension to a field boundary, a sub-rectangular enclosure and linear features and a possible droveway, and two overlapping ditched enclosures. Remnant medieval ridge and furrow was detected over much of the site.

Archaeological evaluation, carried out on behalf of CgMs Consulting, comprised 63 trenches and targeted the geophysical anomalies. This confirmed that the ditch systems were part of a multiple-period settlement site, including limited Iron Age occupation and a rural Romano-British settlement that was certainly in use during the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell (SP 856 431)

Steve Morris

Excavation, commissioned by WSP Environmental Ltd on behalf of GladeDale Homes, took place on land adjacent to the former Rocla Pipeworks, near Walnuts Farm, Newport Pagnell following trial trench evaluation (*SMA* 36, (2006), 16).

There was a small late Iron Age settlement in the northern part of the site. A linear boundary ditch ran for 163m, and continued beyond the excavation. Its fill contained some early Roman pottery, although the boundary may have been established in the Iron Age. Transverse ditches suggest the setting out of adjacent field boundaries, and the linear ditch probably bounded a droveway. By the later 1st century AD a ditched enclosure had been created to the immediate north of the boundary while a square enclosure to the south was added in the 2nd century. These two enclosures were maintained and recut through the 3rd and 4th centuries (Fig 1).

Both enclosures contained internal sub-divisions and other gullies, pits and postholes. These features produced a wide range of domestic artefacts, including evidence for small-scale bronze casting, but no house plans survived.

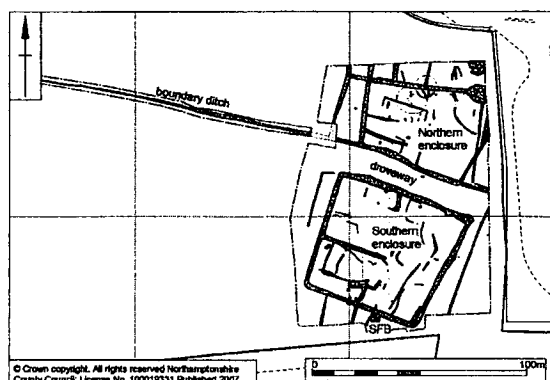


Fig 1. The Roman enclosure system at Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell

The animal bone assemblage was dominated by cattle, indicating that pastoral farming was an important aspect of the economy, while fragments of rotary querns and millstones, and the remains of drying ovens with the presence of charred cereals relate to arable exploitation.

A single Saxon sunken-floored building lay adjacent to the ditch on the southern side of the southern enclosure. The furrows of a ridge and furrow field system were also present.

Newport Pagnell, North Crawley, Brook End Farm

(SP 91893 44361)

Joe Prentice

A redundant barn attached to the farmhouse of Brook End Farm was the subject of a proposal to repair and convert to domestic accommodation. The barn was probably an animal shelter dated to the 18th century, both from the construction techniques and its relationship to the 17th century farmhouse and adjacent barn. The quality of the surviving original timbers indicates that the building was cheaply built, partly using re-used timbers, and the condition suggests that the building has been poorly maintained during its life. The present condition is poor, with much alteration and replacement of timbers.

Olney, Warrington Road (SP 8883 5251)

Nathan Flavell

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Warrington Road. The earliest feature was a backfilled quarry which contained Anglo-Saxon pottery and a residual late Roman coin. The majority of the features were truncated ditches and gullies which were remnants of field divisions predating those shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, and a large backfilled pond. Modern overburden was found in the southern part of the site due to the construction of the railway in the 19th century.

Stowe Landscape Gardens (SP 6805 3630)

Anthony Maull

Corinthian Arch

As part of the ongoing programme of restoration and repair of monuments within the estate at Stowe Landscape Gardens, the National Trust has undertaken the repair and restoration of the Corinthian Arch. Excavations in advance of the work and watching briefs have been carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (*SMA* 34 (2004), 25; *SMA* 35 (2005), 19 and *SMA* 36 (2006), 16).

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground reduction to reinstate gates to the arch to their original position and widen the Queen's Drive to its original width. During the groundworks, the footings of military columns were revealed. A brick-lined well and two wooden posts were observed during the stripping of the topsoil.

Buckinghamshire

New Inn Farm

A detailed survey of this Grade II* listed building was completed in 2006. For a description see (*SMA* 36 (2006), 16).

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled and edited by Edward Biddulph

Buckingham, Manor Farm (SP 699 349)

Nick Pankhurst

A field evaluation was carried out in September 2006 at Manor Farm, Moreton Road, Buckingham on behalf of Bellway Homes and Taylor Woodrow. The evaluation revealed a single middle Bronze Age cremation burial (c 1200 BC or earlier) that had been placed in a ceramic vessel made with a grog-tempered shelly clay. An area of burnt material nearby may have been associated with the burial. Medieval and post-medieval ditches and plough furrows were also revealed, concentrated at the north end of the site. A modern pig burial interred with recent glass was uncovered.

Burnham, Dropmore House (SU 9248 8611)

Jon Hiller

An evaluation in the Italian Garden, commissioned by Gifford Archaeology, was carried out on behalf of Corporate Estates Ltd. The work revealed a selection of features associated with the garden, including tree and plant holes, flower beds, drainage pits and gullies, the original construction trenches for gravel paths and a base of a fountain. All of the features and structures date to the 19th/20th century.

Fenny Stratford, Belvedere Nurseries (SP 8874 3395)

Andrew Norton

Between February and April 2006 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at Belvedere Nurseries, Fenny Stratford, near Milton Keynes. The work was commissioned by Dobbies Garden Centre plc. in advance of a garden centre development. The results of the watching brief were limited by the relatively small size of the observation area and the fact that archaeological features were below the water table and the level of impact of the development. Nevertheless, the fieldwork revealed evidence for a Roman field system. Four ditches were identified from which Roman pottery and animal bone was recovered. Previous work had revealed Roman inhumations, though none was seen during the watching brief.

Gerrards Cross, Bulstrode Park (SU 9860 8835)

Mike Sims and Daniel Dodds

An archaeological watching brief was carried out in June and August 2006 within the grounds of Bulstrode House, Bulstrode Park, Gerrards Cross. The work was

commissioned by WEC International in advance of the excavation of drainage and the installation of underground water storage tanks. The watching brief revealed deposits relating to the 19th century demolition of the west wing and a secondary building to the south-west of the Pigeon Tower, and the 19th century remodelling of the formal gardens. No evidence for the extent or form of any of the earlier phases of the house was encountered.

Iver, St Peter's Church (TQ 0500 8130)

Mike Sims

In November 2006 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at the Church of St Peter's, Iver. The work was commissioned by Iris Preston in advance of essential repairs requiring the removal of the existing chancel floor. The watching brief revealed the sleeper walls for the 17th century box pews. These had been replaced in the 19th century by choir stalls after the insertion of an underground boiler room. No evidence for the Anglo-Saxon apse was observed and there was little evidence for the presence of burial vaults under the undisturbed parts of the chancel floor.

Lavendon, Lavendon Grange (SP 9021 5355)

Bryan Matthews

In June 2006 a field evaluation was carried out within the plot of a proposed garage within the grounds of Lavendon Grange. The evaluation revealed post-medieval made-ground deposits overlying natural, but no earlier deposits or features.

Mentmore, Mentmore Towers (SP 9025 1963)

Ian Cook

EN-Plan, on behalf of Buckingham Securities, commissioned a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken of test pits being excavated in the park and house of Mentmore Towers, Mentmore. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features within any of the excavated test pits.

Olney, Aspreys (SP 8839 5233)

Leo Webley

An excavation and watching brief was carried out at Aspreys, Olney, Milton Keynes, on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd. This revealed a pit alignment dating to the early Iron Age. Environmental evidence indicated that the pits had been left to gradually fill within a largely open landscape. The silting deposits from the pits suggest that the alignment was not flanked by an earthwork bank. During the middle Iron Age, one of the pits, by then just a shallow hollow, was selected for the interment of a crouched inhumation burial. This burial provides an illustration of the long-term significance that pit alignments could hold. Later activity was limited to medieval and post-medieval agriculture and quarrying.

West Wycombe, 21-23 Copperfields (SU 8411 9424)
Mike Sims and Daniel Dodds

In February and December 2006 a watching brief was carried out on land off Copperfields, West Wycombe. The work was commissioned by Banner Homes Ltd in advance of construction of a new residential development and associated access road. The watching brief revealed stratigraphy consistent with agricultural use prior to incorporation into domestic gardens. No artefacts, deposits or features dating earlier than the late 19th century were observed.

Wolverton, Wolverton Velodrome (SP 8194 4150)
Andrew Norton

A site at Rail Bridge and Wolverton Velodrome, Wolverton, Milton Keynes was investigated between February and December 2006 on behalf of White Young Green Environmental. The investigation comprised: an evaluation of the site of Radcliffe Arms, a 19th century public house serving the railway; a watching brief during the excavation of service trenches within the Velodrome; the recording of the velodrome and a photographic survey of the Royal Train Shed retaining wall; a 'strip, map and sample' exercise ahead of the construction of a new access ramp; and ground works on the early 19th century rail bridge.

The evaluation failed to reveal any remnants of the Radcliffe Arms, though a well possibly associated with the public house was uncovered during the watching brief phase of works. The evaluation and watching brief demonstrated that the area had been reduced and completely cleared in the 18th or 19th century prior to the construction of the football pitch and associated velodrome. Field drains associated with the football pitch were noted. The strip map and sample exercise did not reveal any archaeological features on the site of the velodrome. The work in the vicinity of the rail bridge exposed brick walls and girders associated with the earliest phase of the bridge, and identified the parts of the structure that were extended in 1889. The brick chamber of a pumping station was also recorded, as were postholes and a brick channel, possibly associated with a lifting shed. The velodrome and sports ground date from 1885 and include an early example of a football grandstand. The Royal Train Shed was built in 1889 on the site of an earlier lifting shop.

RICHARD IVENS

Akeley, Village Hall (SP 7095 3765)
Richard Ivens

A watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with a new Village Hall development. No evidence was revealed to suggest that this part of the village had ever been used for other than agricultural purposes. No indications were found of any pre-medieval use of the site. Slight remains of possible cultivation ridges and furrows

were noted. A possible ditch was also identified during monitoring of a service trench. This feature is of uncertain date but might relate to the northern boundary of an area of old inclosures, named New Close on the 1794 enclosure map.

Bow Brickhill, Crossroads Farm (SP 89378 33779)
Richard Ivens

Archaeological investigations were carried out during the groundworks associated with a small extension. No evidence was revealed to suggest that this small development site had ever been used for other than garden and agricultural purposes. No indications were found of any pre-medieval use of the site. Two small pits containing the skeletal remains of young sheep were found; one certainly modern and the other probably so.

Olney, land to the rear of 13-17 High Street (SP 88815 51430)
Richard Ivens

An archaeological evaluation consisting of 50m of trial trenches was carried out on behalf of Archaeologica Ltd, in advance of a housing development. The poorly preserved and heavily robbed remains of a pitched stone surface and a separate wall foundation were identified, along with an abandoned stone-lined well. It is thought likely that these are all of relatively recent date. No evidence of certain pre 19th century deposits was identified. Extensive evidence of 19th century and later rubbish pits, etc was revealed.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Cogenhoe, St Peter's Way (SP 8283 6066)
Katie Murphy

An evaluation for Francis Jackson Homes Ltd was carried out close to previous discoveries of Iron Age and Roman remains. However, only a modern demolition layer was identified. It is possible that the site was lowered previously, during the creation of gardens and allotments.

Corby, Prior's Hall (SP 928 902)
Rachael Hall

Following geophysical survey that identified potential archaeological features an evaluation was carried out in an area of iron smelting activity and near to Roman remains. Iron Age pits and a possible well were revealed. An iron smelting furnace, thought perhaps to be Roman in date, was identified, and other Roman features were also revealed. Small pits containing charcoal were recorded and one of these provided a calibrated radiocarbon date of 550-660 AD (2). Remnants of medieval ridge and furrow were also noted.

Northamptonshire

Duddington, Collyweston Quarry (SK 9970 0045)

Victoria Mellor

An evaluation, on behalf of Bullimores Sand and Gravel Ltd, was carried out in an area where prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains, including evidence of iron smelting, had previously been identified. Earlier geophysical survey recorded anomalies interpreted as representing localised industrial activity at the site. Evaluation trenches revealed probable clay extraction pits, from which industrial waste, particularly roasted iron ore, was recovered. Small quantities of iron smelting slag were also retrieved. It seems likely that ore preparation was the primary activity at the site. No dating evidence was obtained but the industrial activity is likely to be no later than the medieval period.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

Collyweston, Park Farm (SK 9949 0270)

P Weston

An archaeological evaluation in February/March 2006 on land adjacent to, and partially within, the Scheduled Ancient Monument of The Manor, or The Palace, of Collyweston, revealed evidence of late medieval or early post-medieval midden activity. Two shallow pits or postholes lay outside the area of the SAM. One of these features contained a single sherd of Nene Valley Colour-coated pottery of Romano-British date.

Elton Estate (SP 9939 7804)

I Cameron and T Schofield

A fieldwalking and metal detector survey on land at the Elton Estate in February 2006 revealed pottery of medieval to early modern date, iron objects, predominantly nails and plough parts, a belt buckle and possible stirrup, and a small cluster of struck flints within the ploughsoil.

Oundle, Gardenways, Black Pot Lane (TL 0412 8832)

P Weston

An evaluation at Gardenways, Black Pot Lane in October 2006 revealed a pit/quarry pit, a further probable quarry pit and a robber trench. Finds indicate a post-medieval date, though a small number of residual medieval pottery sherds were recovered. A layer of clay-rich made ground was identified below a recently-formed garden subsoil in all three trenches, and a further possible buried soil deposit was identified in one trench.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Kilsby, DIRFT (SP 558 730)

Laurie Coleman

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken between January and April 2006 at DIRFT,

Kilsby, Northamptonshire. Five areas within the development area, comprising 3.7ha in total, were subject to a programme of strip, map and record.

A number of small pits and cremation burials, probably dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early to Middle Iron Age, were identified. The stripped area also revealed evidence of intense activity including numerous roundhouses, enclosures, ditches, pits and postholes. The majority of these excavated features dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age and appeared to represent a continuation of activity dating to this period previously identified and investigated on the DIRFT site to the east and north-east. At the western end of the excavation area, the remains of part of a probable field system dating to the Romano-British period were identified.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Pat Chapman

Blakesley, 7 High Street (SP 6248 5013)

Iain Soden

A buildings recording was undertaken at Kendall House, 7 High Street, ahead of a like-for-like replacement for the floor of the property's dining room/ceiling of the cellar below. The vaulted cellar may be as early as late-medieval, but nothing apparently remains of the structure which originally surmounted it.

The structure of the floor from within the front cellar was secondary to the building. If the frontage building is 18th century, then the floor cannot be very much later in date, perhaps early 19th century, based upon the bricks upon which the frame rests and without which the floor could not function. Nothing survives of the original floor, nor is it clear how it might have related to the surrounding walls. One third of the floor had been replaced once more, the frame of this section employing a variety of re-used timbers of unknown dates and sources.

Brackley, College Place and Market House Courtyard (SP 5854 3684)

Simon Carlyle

An evaluation was carried out in College Place and Market House Courtyard to the rear of the frontage. The earliest feature was a medieval ditch with a possible bank, which probably predates the expansion of the planned medieval town in the late 12th/early 13th centuries. There were a number of pits, probably cess pits, which broadly date to the 13th century and are probably related to the burghage plots associated with the expansion of the new town. The ground level in College Place appears to have been raised by at least 0.5m in the late 15th century. Until the mid 20th century the area was occupied by gardens and orchards, before being cleared for industrial and agricultural buildings and yards.

Brackley, 27 Market Place (SP 5850 3686)
Joe Prentice

A watching brief was carried out in this Grade II listed building, before a new concrete floor was installed in place of the current suspended wooden floor which had partially collapsed. The floor had been laid on pine joists supported by dwarf walls constructed of Fletton brick suggesting a mid to late 20th century date for its construction. The depth of the clay beneath the void and rubble layer below the present floor was essentially at the level required for the insertion of the new concrete floor so there was no need or opportunity to investigate further and no indications were uncovered of any earlier occupation on the site.

Brafield-on-the-Green, 62 Billing Road (SP 819591)
Joe Prentice

As part of the restoration of the Grade II listed cottage at 62 Billing Road it was necessary to remove the existing thatch covering which exposed the underlying roof timbers. The cottage, built of coursed limestone and ironstone rubble with brick end stacks, is an interesting survival of a largely unaltered low status building, probably of 18th century date. It has undergone some alterations internally which have changed the way in which it was used, but very little modernisation had been carried out. The top coat of the thatch was approximately 30 years old, though beneath it survived small remnants of earlier material in a very degraded state. The roof timbers were in a very poor condition and had undergone many repairs and the poor quality of the wood indicated that the cottage was made from cheap materials; most of the timbers were only roughly trimmed and many retained bark. All were heavily infested with wood boring insects.

Daventry, Middlemore Farm (SP 4565, 2651)
David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during 2005 and 2006 during infrastructure works on land at Middlemore Farm, Daventry. An undisturbed stratigraphy was noted across all of the development area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Edgcote House (SP 505 479)
Pat Chapman

A watching brief was undertaken at Edgcote House, during the digging of a pit in the basement to install a replacement lift, commissioned by Johnston Cave Associates, Architects on behalf of Mr and Mrs D Allen. No archaeological features or artefacts were found within the re-excavated lift pit.

Empingham to Hannington Pipeline
(SK 9460 0800 – SP 8250 7110)
Ian Fisher, Steve Morris

Geophysical prospection was conducted as part of the archaeological evaluation of a proposed pipeline route from Empingham in Rutland to Hannington in Northamptonshire on behalf of Anglia Water Services. A total area of c 12ha, spread across 27 fields, was surveyed by fluxgate gradiometer. Major archaeological features were found in four fields and lesser archaeological features, including remnant ridge and furrow field cultivation and isolated lengths of ditch, in a further fourteen.

Greens Norton, St Bartholomew's Church (SP 669 499)
Chris Jones

A single trench was hand excavated adjacent to St. Bartholomew's Church, prior to a proposed extension. Down to 1.2m no burials were recorded, only fragmented pieces of bone scattered within the subsoil. Below 1.2m a small slot was excavated down to 1.7m to the natural sand and this produced more human bone. This could be evidence of late medieval or early post-medieval burials at that depth. No grave cuts were apparent. No architectural remains were recorded.

Higham Ferrers, Saffron Road (SP 9598 6856)
Steve Morris

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken on the site of the Saffron Road car park, prior to the development of a new doctor's surgery. The remnant of a single possible medieval pit, which contained four sherds of 12th century pottery, was discovered towards the Saffron Road frontage. The construction of a coal yard in the 19th century and later clearance for the current car park appeared to have removed earlier archaeology.

Irchester Roman Town (SP 94244 67793)
Paul Mason

Evaluation, comprising three test pits, took place on land to the north-west of Irchester Roman town in advance of the construction of an access road and car park. The subsoil contained sherds of 1st to 4th century pottery. This was followed by a watching brief whilst the ground was prepared for the construction of the car park and access road. Ten human skeletons, dated to the early-mid 4th century by pottery within the grave fills, were exposed and excavated as a result of the work. Anomalous bone growth inside the skull of one of the skeletons may be the result of meningitis.

Islip, Harpers Brook (SP 995 802)
Danny McAree

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a trench for electric cabling on land beside Harpers Brook, Islip. There was evidence that the land surface had been

Northamptonshire

extensively modified during gravel extraction in the 1960s and 1970s. No archaeological remains were present.

Newton Bromswold to Chelveston pipeline

(SP 9939 6563)

Tim Upson-Smith

An evaluation comprising geophysical survey, fieldwalking, watching brief and excavation was carried out during preliminary groundworks ahead of the proposed Raunds to Newton Bromswold Anglian Water pipeline. At the southern end of the pipeline near Newton Bromswold, an excavation was carried out at Manor Farm. The pipeline provided a transect across two of a system of four enclosures previously identified through aerial photography and geophysical survey (Fig 1). The enclosure ditches and other features produced a small assemblage of late Iron Age pottery, including a complete jar from the base of a ditch. Upper fills and the fills of recut ditches also produced some wheel-finished vessels of the late Pre-Roman Iron Age and a little early Roman pottery, along with a copper alloy brooch dated to the first half of the 1st century AD. It would therefore appear that occupation of the enclosures continued into the 1st century AD, with a final phase of occupation in the middle of the 1st century that may have been relocated southward. During the medieval period the site was under cultivation and truncated furrows of a field system overlaid the earlier archaeology.

Northampton, Barnes Meadow (SP 768 595)

Karen Deighton, Carol Simmonds, David Leigh

A mitigation strategy and a watching brief were carried out during ground works for the creation of a wetland habitat within the area of the Battle of Northampton of 1460, as defined on English Heritage's Battlefields Register. There were no features or artefacts present.

Northampton, Berrywood Road (SP 7058 6114)

Anthony Maull

A watching brief was carried out, on behalf of Halcrow Group for English Partnerships under advice from Northamptonshire County Council, during the excavation of a series of geotechnical testpits between Berrywood Road and Sandy Lane ahead of road improvements. No archaeological features or artefacts were found.

Northampton, Buckton Fields (SP 7468 6514).

Chris Jones

An archaeological evaluation, comprising 24 trenches across c 12ha of land, was undertaken at Buckton Fields, on behalf of the Environment Dimension Partnership for their clients Ensign Group Ltd. A Mesolithic flint flake was found at the interface between the subsoil and one of the natural striations. The remnants of the surviving anti-aircraft battery structures dating from World War II, confirmed by the presence of two linear ditches, were also recovered.

Northampton, 82 Derngate (SP 75 60)

Tim Upson-Smith

Initial work has been carried out prior to the demolition of part of the rear of the building and its conversion into a visitor centre for 78 Derngate, which has been restored to its 1917 appearance, when it was remodelled by the Scottish architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh for Northampton businessman Joseph Bassett-Lowke.

Number 82 first appears on the Northampton map of 1847 (Wood and Law) and is Regency/early 19th century in style.

The original interior fittings, where they survive, reflect this date. The rear of the building appears to have been remodelled at the beginning of the 20th century with a new kitchen and service area being built on the original footings. Recently the building has had an attack of dry rot which necessitated the removal of a high proportion of woodwork and plaster from the inner face of the exterior walls. At this time the servants' room on the first floor was re-roofed and the walls partially rebuilt in breeze block. The chimney for this room and the kitchen were also removed. Although these works have removed historic fabric from the building, the proposed demolition of part of the rear of the building has allowed a further detailed look at the construction and development of the building.

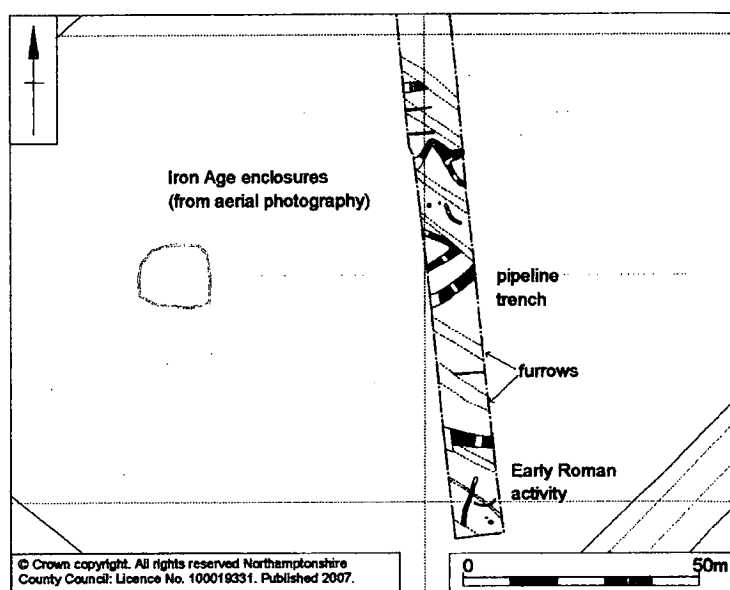


Fig 1. The Iron Age enclosures at Newton Bromswold

Northampton, George Row (SP 7544 6041)
Simon Carlyle

A watching brief was carried out at County Hall, George Row during the excavation of two postholes in the paved area in front of County Hall, to receive the sockets for two flagpoles. Due to the small size of the excavations, no archaeological features could be identified, although deposits beneath the pavement sub-base may be of archaeological interest.

Northampton, Harlestone Quarry (SP 705 645)
Leon Field

An area of approximately 1.2ha was stripped. Radiocarbon dating indicates that residual charcoal of early Bronze Age date had been deposited in a pit alignment, while a single small pit containing burnt debris is also of early Bronze Age date. Major features included part of a pit alignment of probable late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. A linear boundary ditch and a scatter of postholes and pits define an area of open settlement that included remnants of possible roundhouses and perhaps two four-post structures. A small pottery assemblage may be of early-middle Iron Age date. Furrows of a medieval ridge and furrow field system were also recorded.

Northampton, Sixfields (SP 7189 6018)
Anne Foard-Colby

Archaeological evaluation comprising six trenches, commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of English Partnerships, was carried out on 0.79ha of land proposed for an access road situated to the east of the A45 and south of the Sixfields Football Stadium. No archaeological features were present.

Northampton, Upton Way Flood Attenuation (SP 72085924)

Ian Fisher, Anne Foard-Colby

Geophysical survey, archaeological evaluation and a watching brief, commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of English Partnerships, was carried out on c 2ha of land proposed for the Upton Way Flood Attenuation Scheme. Geophysical survey detected possible anomalies that might have been archaeological features. However, trial trenching demonstrated the presence of alluvium over the natural ground to a depth of 0.2 – 0.9m and no archaeological features were present. During the watching brief for the installation of the haul road, two post-medieval features, a corner of an enclosure ditch and a shallow gully, were observed below the topsoil and cut into the subsoil. An earlier arm of the River Nene, before the river was straightened, was also observed and its fill yielded a small number of Roman pottery sherds and residual flint flakes.

Northampton, Upton, Pineham North

Archaeological excavations, commissioned by ProLogis Developments Ltd via Under Construction Archaeology, were carried out on land at Pineham North, Upton, Northampton, immediately adjacent to the M1 motorway, in advance of the first two stages of a major residential and business/industrial development. The sites have been identified from fieldwalking, geophysical investigation and trial trenching (*SMA* 36 (2006), 29).

Site 2 (SP 713 584)
Jim Brown

Material of early to mid-Bronze Age date was found comprising pottery and worked flint from pits on the hilltop. Funerary remains comprised the ring ditch of a possible barrow and a Bronze Age cremation cemetery associated with a post alignment. An early phase of linear ditches may have formed a field system of late Bronze Age date (Fig 2).

In the latter part of the middle Iron Age the hilltop was occupied for a relatively short period, perhaps 100 years. The settlement comprised at least two phases of roundhouse construction set within a substantial ditched enclosure, with other associated ditch systems and enclosures.

A further area of Iron Age settlement lies to the north, and will be investigated at a later stage in the development programme, while a small area of Iron Age settlement to the south lay beneath a Roman settlement, Site 1, see below.

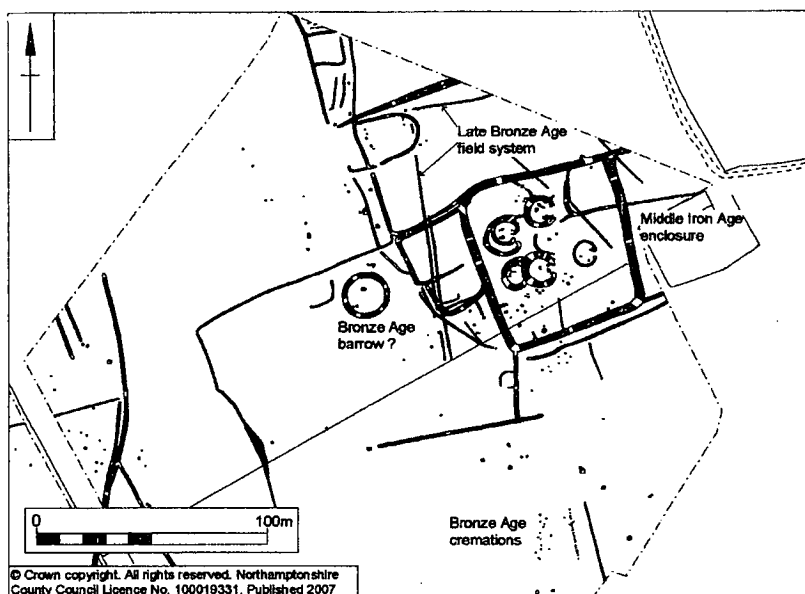


Fig 2. The Bronze Age remains and the Iron Age settlement at Northampton, Pineham North

Northamptonshire

Site 1 (SP 712 582)

Simon Carlyle

An area of late Iron Age settlement was succeeded in the 1st century AD by a small farming settlement that continued in occupation throughout the Roman period, until the late 4th century, although there may have been a brief hiatus in occupation in the 3rd century (Fig 3). Associated with the early Roman settlement were three cremation burials. Two were accompanied by a range of luxury items, including a small range of Roman finewares and conical glass jugs, dating to the late 1st to early 2nd century AD (Front cover), while the third cremation was in an earthenware urn. Also dating to the late 1st/early 2nd century were a circular stone and timber building and a T-shaped malting oven.

The settlement underwent significant changes during its history, with much recutting and realignment of the ditch systems, and at least four main phases have been identified through to the late 4th century.

Following its abandonment, no further occupation was evident. However, the recovery from the plough soil of part of a shield boss and an iron spearhead, dating to the late 5th/6th century, suggests that one or more early Saxon graves had lain on or near the abandoned Roman settlement.

Northampton, Upton, Quinton House School

(SP7189 6018)

Adrian Butler, Anne Foard-Colby

Geophysical survey and archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on 0.2ha of land proposed for a sports hall at Quinton House School. A single pit within a known alignment was found. An Iron Age enclosure contained a number of internal features, and a series of ditches lay beyond the enclosure. This activity all lay to the

west of a previous open-area excavation that examined a further length of the same pit alignment, and further Iron Age enclosures forming an extensive area of settlement, with Roman settlement to the east, and at the western margin of Duston Roman town (*SMA* 31 (2001), 37).

A medieval enclosure ditch, which may be part of the northern end of the deserted medieval village of Upton was found.

Northampton, Upton, Sandy Lane North (SP 707 626)

Ian Fisher, Ed Taylor

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at Sandy Lane, on behalf of Atkins Heritage, prior to the proposed Sandy Lane Improvement Scheme. The few archaeological remains comprised undated ditches and gullies, most of which corresponded with geophysical anomalies. Other features identified by the geophysical survey were found to be attributable to modern disturbance or to be of probable geological origin.

Northampton, Upton, Sandy Lane

(SP 708 602 to SP 705 618)

Ian Fisher, Anne Foard-Colby

Following geophysical survey an archaeological trial trench evaluation, commissioned by the Halcrow Group Ltd acting on behalf of their clients English Partnerships and Northamptonshire County Council, was carried out on land proposed for the Sandy Lane Relief Road at Upton. There were a series of isolated ditches possibly of Iron Age or Roman date. A single sherd of probable late Iron Age pottery was recovered from a ditch. Considerable variation in the natural geology was noted over the entire route of the road corridor, including the presence of a possible palaeochannel.

Northampton, Upton, Cross Valley Link Road

(SP 708 602 to SP 710 587)

Ian Fisher, Anne Foard-Colby

Following geophysical survey an archaeological trial trench evaluation comprising eleven trenches, commissioned by the Halcrow Group Ltd acting on behalf of their clients English Partnerships and Northamptonshire County Council, was carried out on land proposed for the Cross Valley Link Road, Upton. A length of a pit alignment was located by the geophysical survey and confirmed in the evaluation, but no dating evidence was recovered to confirm the expected early Iron Age date. There were also a series of ditches possibly of Roman or medieval date underlying a ridge and furrow landscape identified from geophysical survey and aerial photographs.

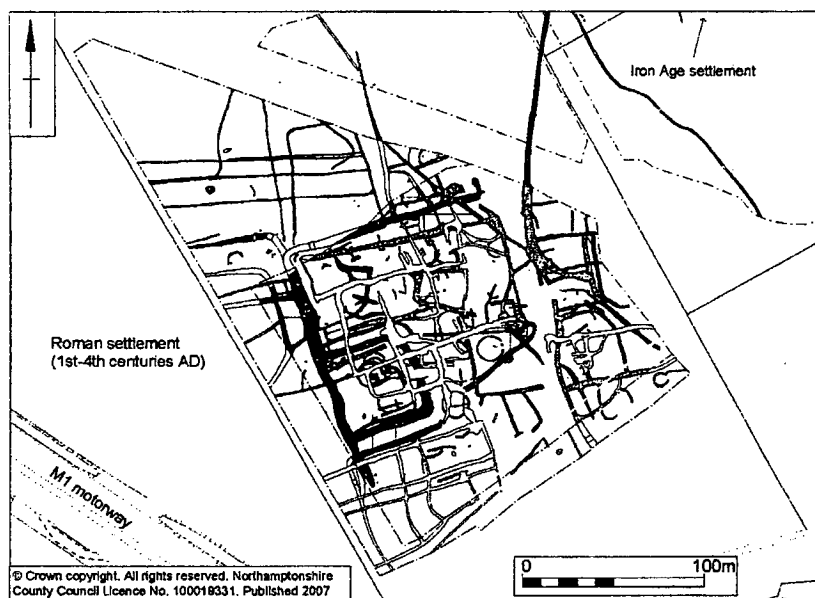


Fig 3. The Iron Age to late Roman settlement at Northampton, Pineham North

Northamptonshire

Rothwell, Jubilee Street (SP 817 808)

Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological evaluation comprising 23 trial trenches, commissioned by Entec on behalf of Bovis Homes Ltd, was carried out on 8.2ha of land proposed for housing in Rothwell. Three intercutting ditches and a gully were found. No dateable evidence was recovered from any of the features.

Rothwell, north (SP807816)

Ian Fisher

Geophysical prospection, commissioned by CgMs Consulting, took place on a 40ha proposed development site to the north of Rothwell. The whole area was investigated by magnetometer scanning and a sample area of c 12.5ha was surveyed in detail. An extensive settlement complex of presumed Iron Age date was found. This was overlain by post-medieval agricultural remains, including a barn, trackway and several field boundaries. Remnant medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation was also found.

Stanion, 3 Corby Road (SP 9142 8697)

Anne Foard-Colby

Archaeological trial excavation was carried out on 0.03ha of land at 3 Corby Road, Stanion. The trenches revealed evidence of medieval occupation in the form of shallow pits, gullies and postholes. Pottery from the site suggests a 13th century date for the majority of features. There was no evidence that this area had been involved with the medieval pottery manufacturing industry of Stanion.

Sulby, former Sulby Hall (SP 6597 8167)

Andy Chapman

A human skull was cast up from a badger sett in a copse at Sulby that covers the site of Sulby Hall, demolished in 1948. The police forensic team visited the site and recorded and collected further human remains, which were scattered on the ground in the vicinity of a large badger sett. Scattered stone in the same area is presumably rubble from the levelled hall. However, it is possible that the bones may have come from a chapel and cemetery contemporary with the medieval village that lies only some 200m to the west. There is a documented parish church at Sulby, dedicated to St Botolph, and it is recorded that the nave had fallen down long before 1451, but the location of the church is unknown.

Thorpe Waterville, Thorpe Castle House

(TL 0220 8141)

Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the digging of a hole for a new septic tank. A series of layers were observed which were probably within the southern arm of the moat. These and the location suggest the silting up and infilling of part of the southern arm of the moat. Artefacts recovered from the layers include a sherd of

medieval pottery, a glazed medieval roof tile and floor tile and a fragment of worked stone. Post-medieval window glass and stone roof tiles were also recovered. A 16th century copper alloy jetton was recovered from the topsoil.

Towcester, 147 Watling Street (SP 693 487)

Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land proposed for an extension at 147 Watling Street. Parts of three stone walls with an associated floor indicated the presence of a Roman building, while later postholes suggest that it was replaced by a timber structure. A considerable quantity of pottery was recovered, ranging in date from the late 1st to 3rd centuries AD, along with two Roman coins and a quantity of metal objects including a lead weight, a spoon and iron nails. Post-medieval and modern rubbish pits cut the later garden layers and contained pottery spanning the 15th to 20th centuries.

Warkton, 5-6 Pipe Lane (SP 891 799)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken, on behalf of Simons Development Ltd through Under Construction Archaeology, during the construction of a new driveway and parking bays on land at 5-6 Pipe Lane. Walls and floor surfaces belonging to a former medieval house fronting onto the lane were revealed. The pottery assemblage indicates that occupation in this area dates back to the 12th century, and the cottage would have been occupied in the 13th and 14th centuries, before being abandoned and levelled. This particular plot has never subsequently been re-occupied.

RICHARD IVENS

Silverstone, The Church of St Michael and All Angels (SP 66800 44200)

Richard Ivens

Two Test Pits (each 1.5 x 1.5m) were hand-excavated at locations within the footprint of a proposed extension of the church rooms into the existing churchyard. The upper 25-35cm of both test pits proved to be of recent date. Evidence of burials of uncertain date was recognised in both test pits. A stone yard, drive or floor was identified occupying most of the area of Test Pit 1. The remains of a badly robbed wall(s) were revealed in Test Pit 2. This feature had also been disturbed by several graves but still occupied a substantial portion of the Test Pit. Neither the function nor the date of the stone features could be determined within the confines of the Test Pits. Work was therefore suspended, with the agreement of the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, without disturbing the remains any further. The artefacts are mainly of quite modern date but several medieval and late 17th-18th century potsherds were also recovered.

Oxfordshire

Thurning, Church of St James the Great

(TL 08575 82600)

Richard Ivens

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of drainage trenches and a soakaway. No pre-19th century deposits were observed.

OXFORDSHIRE

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Blewbury de-commissioning

(SU 5506 8541 to SU 5288 8523)

Kelly Saunders

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of the Blewbury de-commissioning pipeline in the winter of 2005/06. No features or deposits of archaeological interest, excepting a small undated gully, were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material predating the modern period was recovered.

FIELD SURVEY OF A ROMAN VILLA AT EAST HANNEY

Knight Boyer, John Hawes and William Wintle

Introduction

Since 2001 the University of Oxford has been excavating a late Iron Age and Roman site at Marcham/Frilford as both a research and training excavation (Lock *et al* 2002; Lock *et al* 2003; Lock *et al* 2004; Gosden *et al* 2005). The results obtained from this site have stimulated wider research into the landscape of these periods in the Vale of the White Horse (Bishop 2001; Boyer 2006). Included in this wider research is an investigation of four Roman villa sites in the vicinity of Frilford, one of which lies some kilometres south of Frilford on the Vale clay at East Hanney (SMR 7600).

Only a small amount of published material describing previous work on this villa is available. In 1961 a reference was made to sherds of 2nd and 3rd century Romano-British pottery and other material found about a mile and a quarter east of the village of East Hanney (Case and Sturdy 1961, 132). Subsequently, following the discovery of further Roman material by Wantage District Field Club, a resistivity survey together with a small two-day excavation was undertaken at the end of September 1967. This revealed two floors of limestone slabs and gravel. Further work 200 feet to the south exposed the footings of a building 30ft by 75ft, one wall of which sealed a pit containing first century material. Pottery extending from the first to the 3rd or 4th centuries was recovered together with one Saxon sherd (Rutland and Thomas, 1968).

In the 1990s an extensive archaeological survey was undertaken in East Hanney in connection with a potential

new reservoir. This survey found further Iron Age and Romano-British material near East Hanney, together with a trackway leading north towards Frilford (Hearne, 2001).

The Field Survey

An examination of aerial photographs in the NMR failed to produce any evidence of crop or soil marks. The field survey was carried out in August 2006 shortly after the field had been ploughed. The field descends from west to east in two slight steps. The western step can be associated with a field boundary which has been removed but which is clearly marked on the first edition 6" OS map dating from the 1880s. The cause of the eastern step remains unclear.

The field is crossed by an electricity cable carried on pairs of substantial wooden posts. The cable passes close to the area marked by the Ordnance Survey as the site of the villa. This part of the field was therefore examined and it was soon apparent that a substantial amount of Romano-British pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) was present on the surface. An area of 150m by 150m was therefore laid out for a detailed fieldwalking survey. The 150m base line for this survey was established 10m to the south of the electricity cable posts. From this base line fieldwalking transects were measured 100m to the south and 50m to the north. Each transect was therefore 150m long and the collected pottery and CBM were bagged every 50m. Assuming the transects are 2m wide, this provides a 20% sample.

The Pottery and CBM Analysis

A detailed description of the material recovered is given by Boyer (2006), but Fig 1 and 2 summarise the distribution in terms of weights and counts of pottery and CBM.

A total of 406 pottery sherds and 229 CBM fragments were collected. Within these totals there was a clear distributional pattern as illustrated by Fig 1 and 2 and as summarised in tables 1 and 2 below (Boyer, 2006, 47-53).

In the most southerly section only 84 pottery sherds and 16 fragments of CBM were collected, which by count represents only 20.7% of the pottery and 7% of the CBM. Local wares predominated with only Oxford colour-coated, coarse oxidised and reduced wares standing out. Iron Age pottery made up 17.9% of this sub-assemblage. The middle area yielded 39.3% of the total pottery, while the 45 CBM fragments represented 19.7% of the CBM by number, but only 12.11% by weight. Coarse oxidised wares (23.9%) and reduced wares (35.2%) were the largest pottery types represented. Iron Age pottery was 11.3% of the total.

The northernmost area provided 40% of all pottery collected. Locally-produced wares that predominated were fine and coarse oxidised wares (23.4%), Oxford colour-coated wares (5.6%) and reduced wares (38.9%). Here, Iron Age pottery made up only 8% of the total. Only in this northern area were non-local wares found, although in very small quantities. Strikingly, 73.4% of all CBM found was in this northern area, and the weight of this material represented 83% of all CBM.

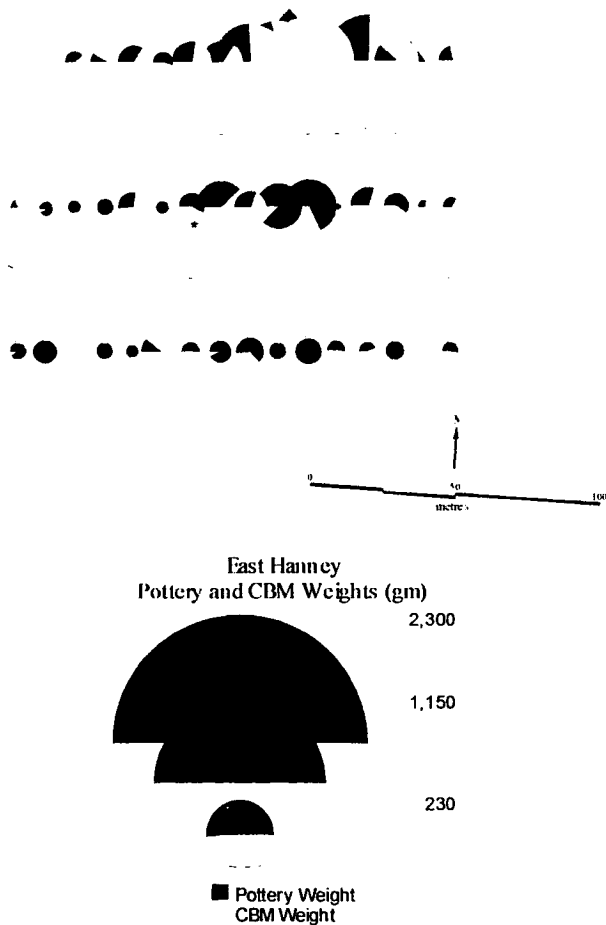


Fig 1. Fieldwalking Survey: Pottery and CBM by Weight
Source: Boyer (2006,75-76)

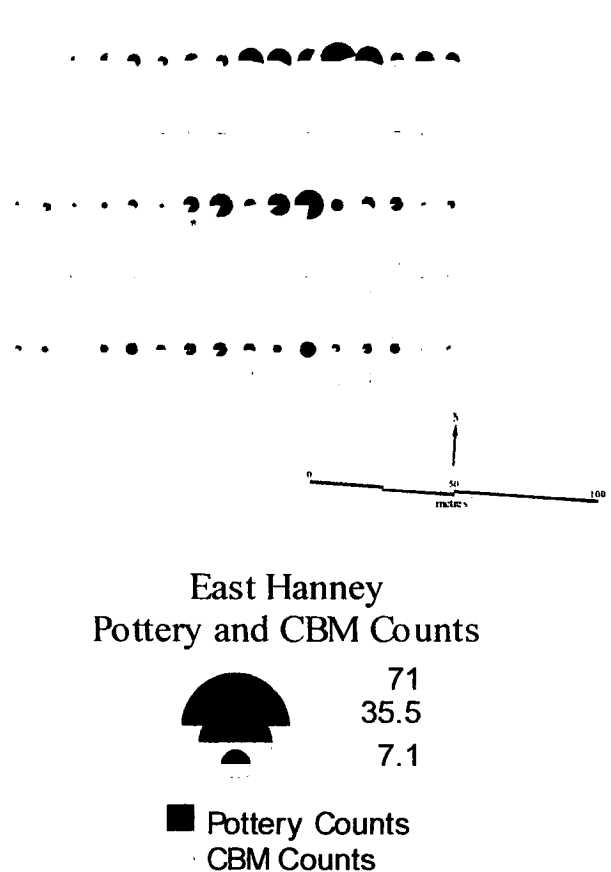


Fig 2. Fieldwalking Survey: Pottery and CBM by Count
Source: Boyer (2006,75-76)

Table 1 – Pottery Analysis by Area

Area	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (g)	% Sherd Count	% Sherd Weight
North	163	1427	40.15%	44.51%
Middle	159	1083	39.16%	33.78%
South	84	696	20.69%	21.71%
Total	406	3206	100.00%	100.00%

Table 2 – CBM Analysis by Area

Area	CBM Count	CBM Weight (g)	% CBM Count	% CBM Weight
North	168	6306	73.36%	83.07%
Middle	45	919	19.65%	12.11%
South	16	366	6.99%	4.82%
Total	229	7591	100.00%	100.00%

The fieldwalking revealed the highest concentrations of pottery and CBM in the north-east of the fieldwalked area. This was therefore the area chosen for geophysical survey.

The Geophysical Survey

Fig 3 shows the location and results of the seven 30m grids surveyed in relation to the fieldwalking transects while Fig 4 provides a larger image of the geophysical survey.

The magnetometer survey was undertaken using a Bartington Instrument's GRAD601 gradiometer with a single magnetometer tube. Grids were laid out in 30m squares and were walked in a clockwise "zigzag" pattern. The traverses were one metre apart and readings were taken four times a metre along each traverse. The magnetometer was set to a scale of 100nT with a sensitivity of 0.1nT. The results were processed by Archeosurveyor and are displayed as block shaded images using a grey-scale.

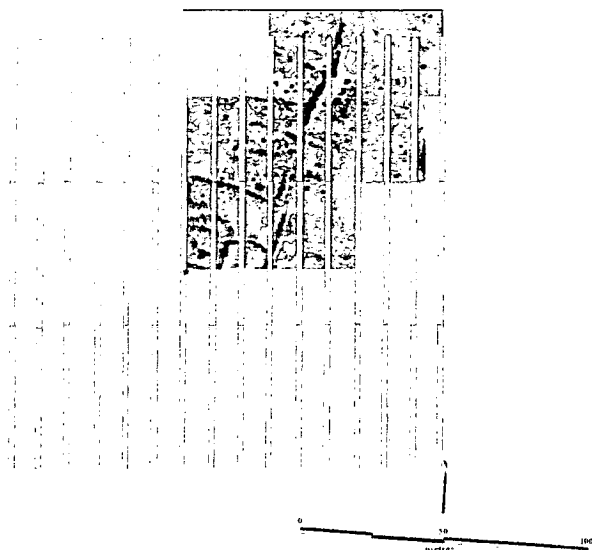


Fig 3. Geophysical Survey

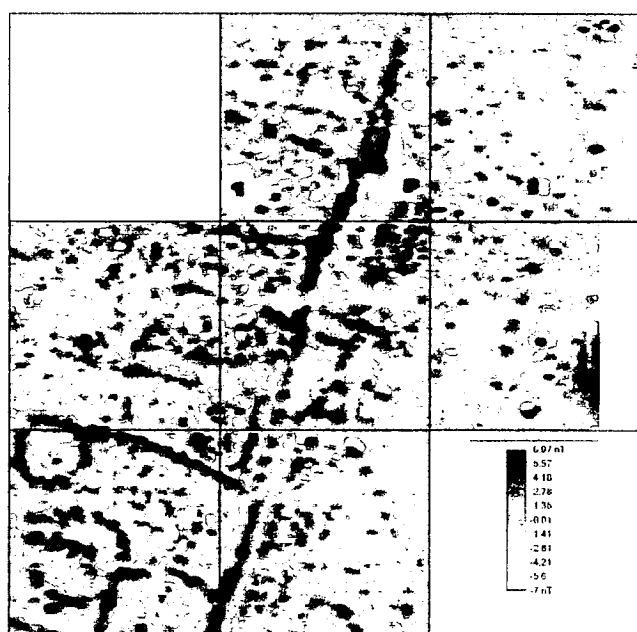


Fig 4. Geophysical Survey of 7 grids (30 m square) at East Hanney, August 2006.

Discussion

These results demonstrate that a geophysical survey is able to provide substantial additional detail to the known villa site at East Hanney. In particular, they demonstrate the success and usefulness of this technique on an area of the clay Vale which does not show crop or soil marks on aerial photographs.

The geophysical image appears to show a ditch, trackway or holloway running north-south. This may be the trackway discussed by Hearne (2001, 8-9) which she suggests heads towards Frilford. It is also possible it runs towards the known villa at Garford, which lies just south of the Ock and to the east of Frilford.

To the east of the track or ditch is apparently the site of a small villa, possibly 15m in length by 7m wide. If this is indeed the villa, it is smaller than the excavated villas at

Frilford, which is 21m by 12m (69.5 ft by 40ft) (Evans 1897) and at West Challow, which is 25m by 11m (82ft by 36ft) (Davey 1876). However, like both of these villas, this villa has a south-west to north-east orientation.

To the west of the trackway there appear to be a number of rectangular enclosures. Two large circular features are noticeable in the south-west of the image, of diameters approximately 9m and 12m. These may be Iron Age roundhouses, or small circular enclosures.

The Results of the Wantage District Field Club Fieldwalking and Excavation.

Following the fieldwalking and geophysical survey described above, the opportunity has been taken to examine the material in Reading Museum obtained from the fieldwalking and excavation undertaken by Wantage District Field Club in the 1960s. Although the location of these excavations cannot now be determined precisely, the four small trenches excavated in the northern area are almost certainly situated within the area of the current fieldwalking grid, and probably within the area of the geophysical survey. The three trenches located about 70m further south also appear to lie within the fieldwalking grid, but just outside the geophysical survey.

The material in the museum confirm the northern trenches as being over, or near, a Roman building, with numerous fragments of roofing and hypocaust flue tiles and one small piece of painted wall plaster. There is less evidence that the building located further south dates to the Roman period, although it does overlay Roman and possible Iron Age material.

Conclusions

The fieldwalking evidence has confirmed the location of a villa or Romanised building. The geophysical survey has revealed the existence of a ditch or track and enclosures adjacent to the villa. It is not unreasonable to assume these are contemporary with, and related to, the villa. It is likely that this is also the area excavated by Wantage District Field Club in 1967.

It is hoped that a further geophysical survey will be undertaken in 2007 in order to determine the full extent of the features which appear to be associated with the villa.

Acknowledgements

The authors are very grateful to Mr Neil Walker, the owner of the land at East Hanney for permission to conduct this fieldwalking and geophysical survey on his land. In addition, Mr Moffatt allowed us to park our cars on his land. Jill Greenaway of Reading Museum has kindly provided access to the East Hanney material deposited there by Wantage District Field Club.

This work forms part of an MSc dissertation by Knight Boyer supervised by Professor Gary Lock at the Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford.

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JACOBS

Abingdon, Maud Hales Bridge (SU 500 968)

Adam Brossler

In November 2006 Oxfordshire County Council commissioned watching brief to be undertaken on a traffic management scheme on Maud Hales Bridge, Abingdon. The work comprised the installation of traffic lights at the south end of the bridge and an electronic counting device in the tarmac. As the bridge is a Scheduled Monument (OX231) Scheduled Monument Consent was required in order to undertake the work. The work comprised the cutting of a series of 15mm wide channels, measuring 70mm in depth, along a section of the bridge. No archaeological features or finds were identified nor was any part of the bridge structure exposed during the works.

Oxford, A40 east of Headington Roundabout (SP 5579 0741)

Adam Brossler

In August and September 2006 a watching brief was carried out on the A40 London Road, to the east of Headington Roundabout, on behalf of Oxfordshire Highways. The presumed alignment of a Roman road enters the south side

of the London Road (A40) carriageway from Ridgeway Road and coincides with the centre of the present carriageway at approximately SP 5579 0741. The work was in respect of road reconstruction, which required the removal of the present tarmac and lower surfaces to an unspecified depth. The work was undertaken in two phases; the first phase removed 0.4m of tarmac and sub-base and the second phase removed 0.3m of sand natural geology. The watching brief did not record the presence of any archaeological features, deposits or finds.

JOHN MOORE

Abingdon, The Chestnuts, off Radley Road (SU 5134 9826)

Gwilym Williams

A watching brief was carried out on land between Wick Lodge and Aesculus, The Chestnuts, Abingdon during the excavation of footings for a new house located close to the Radley Barrow Hills archaeological site. Garden soils overlay natural gravels on the north side of the site. An 18th century gravel driveway overlay two undated ditches, the former of which had a ploughed out bank associated with it.

Ardley, Ardley Road, Long House (SP 5425 2757)

David Gilbert

A watching brief was conducted during the ground work for new buildings in the area previously occupied by Long House, Ardley. The investigation revealed numerous modern service trenches, but few archaeological features, a well and a small ditch that were undated but probably associated with the previous dwelling.

Banbury, Noral Way (SP 4560 4290)

John Moore

A watching brief was conducted during groundworks for a new office development. Ditches for a small enclosure were found in the northeast corner of the development area. These were undated.

Beckley and Stowood, Closes Field, Ot Moor (SP 5650 1275)

John Moore

An evaluation of this site was conducted for the RSPB. Boundary ditches formerly dividing the present single field were found. The only evidence associated with the known Roman activity to the west was a single piece of Roman tile and four sherds of pottery found in ploughsoil in the west end of the field. The Roman activity did not extend into this field. The multi-division of this field shown on the 1st edition OS map is based on an 11m wide unit (perhaps a double strip) apparently laid out in the late 15th or 16th century.

Oxfordshire

Bicester, Bure Place Car Park (SP 5830 2250)

David Gilbert

An evaluation of this site was conducted prior to redevelopment of the area. Four trenches, totalling 50m in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology. Modern ground disturbance associated with demolition of earlier houses recorded on the 1st edition OS map was identified in the north of the area. While to the south was a very thick layer of made ground. An undated wall was recorded to the south of the site. A palaeo-channel was recorded running north to south across the site.

Bicester, 19 London Road (SP 5860 2220)

David Gilbert

An evaluation of this site was conducted in May 2005. Two trenches, 40m in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying Oxford Clay geology at a maximum height of 70.11m OD. The archaeological deposits identified required a full excavation to take place.

This excavation was conducted in June 2005. Recorded were early agricultural ditches backfilled prior to the construction of a 14th or 15th century building, a French drain of horn cores that ran parallel to and behind the building, a second drain covered the main entrance to the dwelling. The building had gone out of use by the 17th century and had collapsed by the 18th century. Also located were three ditches associated with agriculture or a market garden, dating from the 14th century onwards. Also located were two sherds of residual Romano-British pottery. The watching brief of the area continued into 2006 and revealed a well a short distance away probably associated with the dwelling.

Black Bourton, St. Mary's Churchyard (SP 2859 0421)

David Gilbert

John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological excavation within the area designated for the new cemetery at St. Mary's Church, Black Bourton between Monday the 5th June and Friday 16th June 2006. Black Bourton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 indicating that it was well established by this period. An archaeological evaluation in 2002 located an Anglo-Saxon sunken feature building that was associated with finds of Ipswich Ware (725-850AD).

The Anglo-Saxon Minster of Bampton lies 2 miles from the settlement at Black Bourton. The Minster is first mentioned in the 950s, by which time it housed a religious community venerating the relics of Saint Beornwald. The site of Black Bourton would have been within the territory of Bampton. Four sunken feature buildings were revealed during the excavation. Three rectangular post-built buildings were also present. Associated finds from these buildings included worked animal bone: pins and a comb, and pottery dating to the early to middle Saxon period, Ipswich Ware was present in the assemblage. The settlement of the area was clearly multi-phased. One of the sunken feature

buildings had later been truncated by the digging of a well and to of the post built structures are clearly not contemporary with two of the sunken feature buildings. The upper fill of the well contained pottery of a 10th to 11th century date. Pottery of 11th to 12th century date was also recovered from the adjacent churchyard to the east.

A linear fence-line was also located, a common feature on Saxon sites where they form internal divisions within a settlement. Early to middle Saxon pottery was recovered from the fill of one of its component postholes. Two circular post built structures were also excavated. Each had an outer circle of postholes with a central pit or pits and was associated with early to middle Saxon pottery. These have been interpreted as early Saxon shrines (J Blair pers comm.). Ritual activity is evident from the 7th century onward at Bampton and the early phase of this site may be contemporary.

Chinnor, Lower Farm (SP 74926 00357)

John Moore

The owner, Nick Potter, reported the finding of an inhumation during the excavation for a land drain. The body was lying on its side with its lower legs and arms to the rear as if bound at the time of burial. Four pits also were partly visible within the trench. A sherd of Romano British greyware may have come from the grave fill. It is reported that the field to the west is popular with metal detectorists. This suggests an Romano-British settlement site of some extent.

Chiselhampton, Chiselhampton House (SU 5955 9906)

Gwilym Williams

Excavations revealed an archaeological sequence extending from the late Iron Age to the 19th century. Two field-systems spanning the late Iron Age and early Roman periods were the earliest dated features; medieval activity associated with the manor was excavated on the east side of the site; and overlying all were two phases of gardens, including in the later phase part of a formal garden and the kitchen gardens. The remains of a post-medieval building were also examined.

In addition a watching brief was also undertaken during topsoil stripping associated with the main excavation which evidenced a building, a yard and field boundary to the north in the historic Church Close; additionally pipe-trenching revealed the remains of the ha-ha or pale ditch between the inner park and the outer park to the south of the site.

Culham, Wilts & Berks Canal, Culham Reach

(SU 4966 9496)

Gwilym Williams

A Watching Brief was carried out at Culham Reach, Oxfordshire during the excavation of a canal cut. Alluvial deposits overlay a thin band of peat. A deposit representing

either a dump of Kimmeridge Clay, or a dewpond lined with such was observed in the west end of the canal cut.

Dorchester-on-Thames, Bridge End, The Chequers

(SU 5785 9394)

David Gilbert and Roger Ainslie

An evaluation of this site was conducted prior to development of the site. Three trenches, totalling 18m in length, were excavated to the natural gravels. Archaeological deposits suggested that the area lies within a post-medieval quarry for aggregates. Foundation deposits of a 19th century house were also located. A geophysical survey was also conducted of the area but failed to locate any significant features. It had been previously thought that the Roman defences lay within this area. These are demonstrably to the north of the site based on map evidence. Significantly this clearly shows a turn to the north of the defences and the line of the eastern defences can now be established.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 51 Watling Lane

(SU 57677 94106)

John Moore

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of foundations for a new studio. Deposits relating to the rampart of the Roman walled town were encountered. These had been cut into by post-medieval pits.

Eynsham, 46 Acre End Street (SP 4318 0933)

John Moore

An evaluation of this site was conducted prior to development. The site had been ploughed prior to the expansion of Eynsham in the medieval period. The ploughing may be of Romano-British date. A ditch, probably an internal boundary within a burgrave plot, was dated to the 14th century. Boundary ditches at the rear of the burgrave plots were found. These had been recut. One may have been deliberately backfilled in the 17th century. Another one may have been earlier and of 14th century date.

Fritwell, Fritwell CE Primary School (SP 5280 2940)

John Moore

A watching brief was conducted during the ground reduction and excavation for foundations and services for a residential development. No archaeological remains were present.

Great Bourton, Church Close, Pennybuckle Cottage

(SP 4560 4550)

David Gilbert

A watching brief was conducted during the ground work for building work on land north of Pennybuckle Cottage, near Church Close, Great Bourton. The investigation revealed numerous garden and natural features, but no archaeological remains.

Long Wittenham, High Street, Lammas Eyot

(SU 5433 9361)

David Gilbert & Ian Travers

A watching brief was conducted during the ground work for a new dwelling and garage on land south of Lammas Eyot, High Street, Long Wittenham. The investigation revealed several Saxon boundary ditches and evidence of later Medieval activity. A great deal of the site had been subjected to modern disturbance and many horticultural features were revealed during the monitoring.

Oxford, Christ Church, Blue Boar Quad (SP 5145 0608)

Mick Parsons

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of several geotechnical pits. Medieval pits were found cut into the top of terrace gravel deposits. A 15th or 16th century building was found. This had been partly dismantled and covered by material probably excavated for the cellars of the Peckwater Quad buildings. Layers and features associated with later use of the area as gardens were found.

Oxford, Former Bernwood School Site, North Way, Barton (SP 5535 0780)

David Gilbert & John Moore

A watching brief and excavation of this site was carried out between April and July 2005. Although the site was heavily truncated by modern activity significant archaeological deposits were located.

This long lived site probably started as enclosed settlement towards the end of the early Iron Age and continued into the late Iron Age. Its location suggests that it had a defensive function as well. The last use of the site was as a cemetery in the early Roman period.

Introduction

The site is located on the northern side of North Way in Barton, Oxford and lies on the top of the south side of the valley of the Bayswater Brook. The site was formerly a playing field of Bernwood School (Fig 5).

Archaeology

A perimeter ditch with a 5m wide entrance was found on the west side (Fig 6). The rounded V-shaped ditch survived 1.1 – 1.45m wide and up to 0.86m deep. A series of six post holes were excavated 1-2.5m to the east of the line of the two ditches and in between the two terminals at the causeway. Although six were positively identified it would seem that many show evidence for multiple cuts and re-cuts. These marked the position of a substantial gateway between an internal bank.

A linear cluster of eight roughly circular pits were located in an area approximately 15m x 10m (Fig 6). This area is centred on a pit containing a crouched inhumation that was discovered during the evaluation in 2002 (John Moore Heritage Services, 2002). The smallest pit was 0.5m in

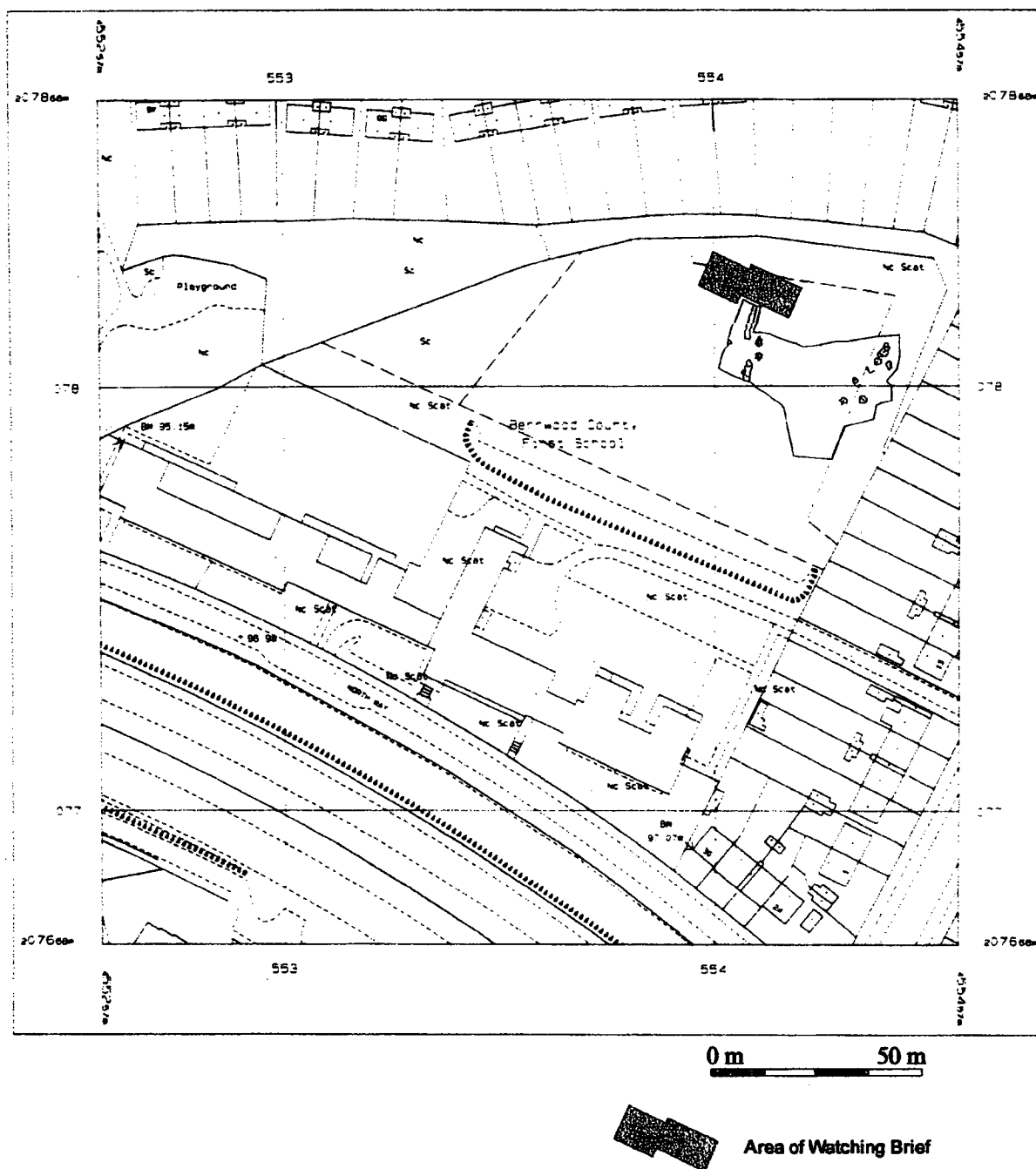


Fig 5. Former Bernwood School Site, North Way, Barton.

diameter and the largest 2m. The rest mostly varied between 1.2 and 1.7m in diameter. Three of the pits contained flexed burials.

Pottery (Fig 7)

The pottery assemblage is composed of 131 sherds of pottery weighing 1137g. Much of this material is fragmented and there is relatively little stylistic information. The material ranges in date from the early to late Iron Age and can be grouped into 11 separate fabric types.

Five sherds were in a particularly good condition and were selected for illustration, these are as follows:

P1: A rim from a short necked shouldered jar with crudely wiped light yellowish brown surfaces, it is closely paralleled by a vessel recovered from an early/middle Iron Age structure at Slade Farm, Bicester (Woodward and Marley, 2001, Figure 17:27), and made from a sandy ware containing limestone (Fabric Group 3).

This fabric group was used for both early and middle Iron Age vessel types and includes both hard and soft wares. It is characterised by moderate to very common sand and sparse

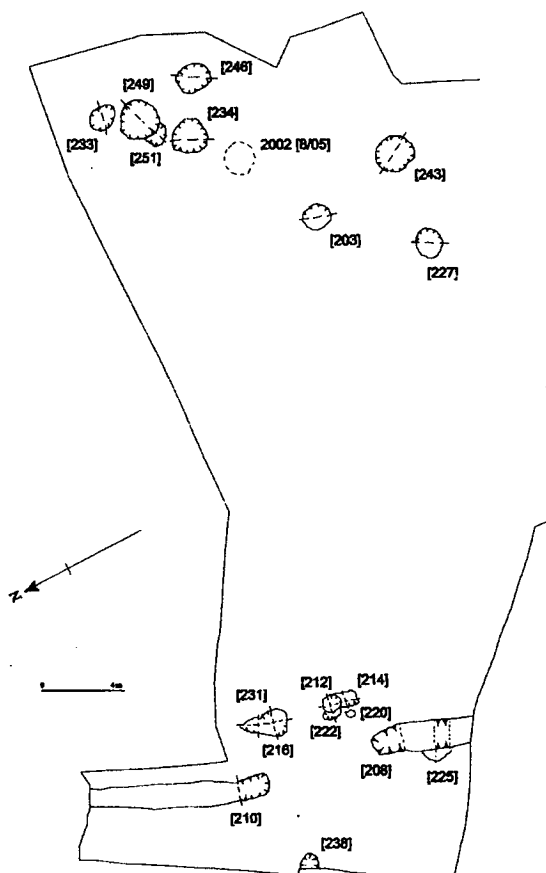


Fig 6. Former Bernwood School Site, North Way, Barton.

limestone. The sand is mainly composed of fine to coarse rounded grains of quartz (0.12 to 1mm), while the limestone is angular and in most of the wares ranges up to 1.0 or 2.5mm in size, but is up to 5mm in one of the fabrics. Moderate well rounded iron ore (<0.06 to 1mm), sparse rounded to sub-angular clay pellets (0.5 to 1.5mm), and rare to sparse organic inclusions (up to 17mm long) and mica (<0.06mm) can also be present.

P2: Part of an open miniature vessel with a yellowish red exterior. The style echoes that of the much larger barrel shaped jars within the early Iron Age assemblage from Site 1 at Stanton Harcourt to the west of Oxford (Hamlin 1968, Figure 6: 1 and 11). Yet it also recalls the shape of the middle Iron Age miniatures from Appleford to the south (De Roche and Lambrick 1981, Figure 22: 15 and Figure 23: 1). It is in a sandy fabric (Fabric Group 1).

The fabrics in this group were used for early and middle Iron Age vessels, are soft and all contain common to abundant sand. A small percentage (5 sherds, weighing 80g) include silt sized to fine sub-angular or rounded quartz sand (<0.06 to 0.25mm), together with sparse iron ore and rare glauconite in the same size range, and rare angular calcareous inclusions (0.1 to 0.8mm). A slightly higher proportion of sherds (13 sherds, weighing 21g) incorporate fine to medium grade sand composed of a mixture of rounded quartz and quartzite (0.12 to 0.5mm), together with sparse mica (<0.06 mm) and organic inclusions (1.0 to 2mm long), and rare sub-rounded voids which probably represent

leached calcareous material (2.0 to 5mm). The majority of the sandy sherds (43 sherds, weighing 275g) contain fine to coarse sub-rounded quartz sand (0.125 to 1mm), alongside rare organic inclusions (up to 2mm long).

P3: An externally expanded rim of early Iron Age type from a necked vessel. This has a dark grey burnished exterior. A vessel with a broadly similar profile came from the Phase I pits at Farmoor (Lambrick 1979, Figure 21:4), where a date between 550 and 300 BC was suggested (ibid., p. 37). Further parallels occur within the early Iron Age assemblage from Site 1 at Stanton Harcourt (Hamlin 1968, Figure 6: 24). It is made from a sandy fabric containing shell (Fabric Group 5).

These fabrics were used for early and middle Iron Age vessels. They are mostly hard and all contain common to very common sand together with sparse to common shell. The sand is either composed entirely of quartz or of a mixture of quartz and quartzite, while the size range in individual wares varies from very fine (<0.06 to 0.1mm) to medium (0.25 to 0.5mm) or coarse (<0.06 to 1mm). The shell in most of the wares ranges up to 2mm, with fragments of up to 6mm in one of the fabrics. Sparse well rounded iron ore (<0.06 to 0.2mm) and rare mica (<0.06mm), organic material (up to 6mm long) or sub-angular grog (up to 2.5mm) may also be present.

P4: A closed globular jar with a handle. This is broken into four fragments weighing 120 grams, that represent 20% of the rim and upper walls. The vessel has a burnished dark grey to yellowish brown exterior and is made from a sandy fabric with limestone (Fabric Group 3).

P5: A fresh rim fragment from a neutral globular bowl with a dark grey burnished exterior, in a sandy fabric containing shell (Fabric Group 5).

The globular profiles of the two more complete middle Iron Age vessels P4 and P5 are typical of contemporary assemblages from the Upper Thames Valley, where such vessels are in the majority. They are represented, for example, in south and south-east Oxford at Road (Timby, 1994, Figure 12: 1, 3, 4, and 13) and Blackbird Leys (Brown, 2004, Figure 5: 13); to the south of Oxford at Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon (De Roche, 1978, Forms D0 and D1) and Appleford (Hinchliffe and Thomas, 1981, Figure 5: 19 and 22; De Roche and Lambrick, 1981, Figure 18: 3, 4, 5 and 9); to the west at Farmoor (Lambrick, 1979, Figure 22: 39, 43 and 55, Figure 23, 75, 89, 90, 107 and 108) and Northmoor (Allen, 1990, Figure 20: 6, Figure 22: 4 and Figure 23: 18); to the north-west at Witney (Timby, 1996, Figure 6: 3, 4 and 9); and to the north-east at Merton (Barclay, 1998, Figure 12: 8) and Bicester (Woodward and Marley, 2001, Figure 14: 8, 9, 11 and 12).

The forms of these vessels may well be common, but the occurrence of a handle on the jar from Cut 203 marks it out as exceptional. Occasional handles are represented within the assemblages from sites in the Oxford region, with examples being recorded at Whitehouse Road (Timby,

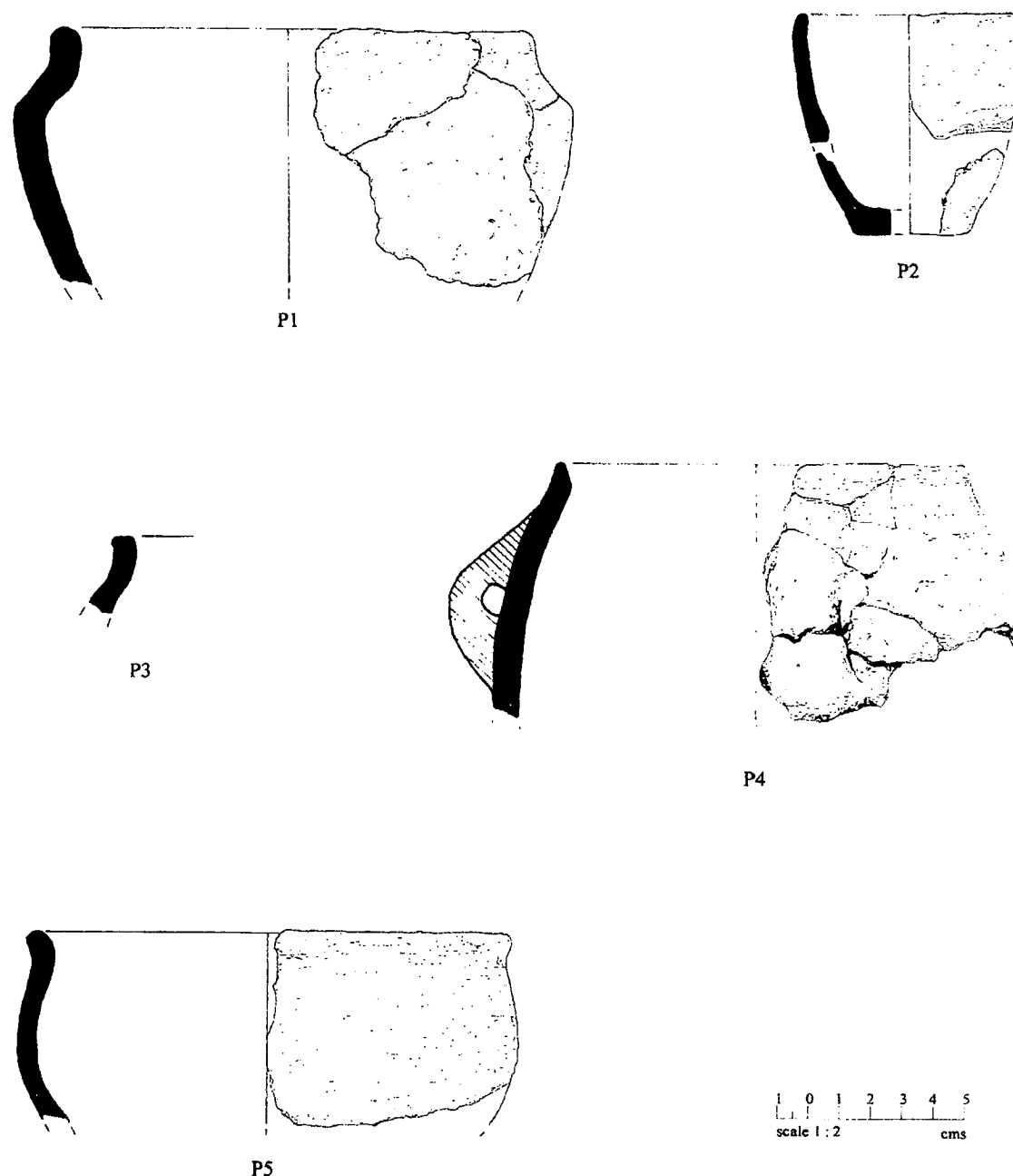


Fig 7. Pottery. Former Bernwood School Site, North Way, Barton.

1994, Figure 12: 7 and Figure 13: 15), Ashville Trading Estate (De Roche, 1978, Figure 44: 188 and Figure 48: 261), Appleford (De Roche and Lambrick, 1981, Figure 23: 8) and Farmoor (Lambrick, 1979, p. 37). However, all of these are detached and it is rare to find a handle still mounted on a middle Iron Age jar.

Discussion

The remains although severely truncated by later activity show that there was an enclosed Iron Age settlement perched on the top of the south side of the valley of the

Bayswater Brook. The enclosure ditch on the west side has a 5m wide causeway. Between the ditch terminals and slightly to one side are two groups of intercutting postholes. This spacing and juxtaposition would suggest some form of gateway blocking the causeway between an internal associated bank. The ditch was not traced further north outside of the excavation area. This may have been due either to landscaping to create the playing field or erosion of the valley edge as identified during the 2002 evaluation. This evaluation trenching also revealed that the north edge of the area fell steeply away to the north (John Moore Heritage Services 2002). It is possible that the settlement

was not enclosed on this north side with the steep slope acting as the barrier on this side.

It is estimated that up to 1.25-1.5m of the ground may have been lowered to create a level playing field (see below). This would mean that the perimeter ditch could have been 1.8m - 2.35m deep and c 3m wide. Coupled with an internal bank this would have made a formidable barrier. This is larger than the middle Iron Age ditches at Mingies Ditch (Allen & Robinson, 1993) and Watkins Farm (Allen, 1990). Its dimensions would lie closer to those of the middle ditch at Abingdon (Allen, 2000), although that is not to suggest that this site is anyway on the same scale as the Oppidum. Two groups of gateway postholes were positively identified and it would appear that many show evidence for multiple cuts and re-cuts. The fact that some of those postholes that were identified also cut others lends some weight to this theory. This would indicate that the gateway structure associated with these postholes was maintained and rebuilt over a considerable period of time. Given the fact that the bases of the postholes survive the degree of truncation on this site, the timbers must have been massive and the gateway substantial. The entrance being close to the edge of the valley suggests that a main route followed the top of the valley edge.

In 2002 evaluation Trench 8 located a pit [8/05] containing a crouched inhumation (John Moore Heritage Services, 2002). The head was to the north and the fill showed signs of scorching and burning. The current work located a further eight pits in the vicinity of this burial. This burial is very similar to the two (229) & (236). These also show signs of scorching and burnt material in the fills. They are all within 6m of the 2002 burial, one as close as 1.5m.

Two pits were seen to inter-cut each other [249] & [251], suggesting multiple phases of activity on the site. These pits do not show any evidence for inhumation, probably indicating that these pits were dug for similar purposes, that of storage. The sherds from [251] show no signs of abrasion and as such date this feature to the middle Iron Age. The pottery report highlighted the mixed character of the wares from the pits contrasting with the restricted range of mainly sandy fabrics from the enclosure ditch and gateway postholes. Although this may be misleading due to the very small assemblage of pottery it is therefore probable that the pits are multi-phased covering a wide date range.

One inhumation (236) was placed on the primary fill (237) of the pit [234] that it was buried in. This seems to indicate that at least some of the burials were in fact a secondary use for these pits. The scorching within these reused pits may be evidence for some form of ritual cleansing by fire before the burial of the dead.

There is a linear alignment to the pit cluster, which is consistent with other sites in the region during the early to middle Iron Age (Allen, 2000) although it is possible that the pits excavated are only part of a much larger area that extended to the east and north of the site which has been truncated by later activity. Again only the very bottoms of

the pits survived and there may have been others of different periods that were not quite as deep. The apparent linear arrangement is not parallel to the enclosure ditch where seen.

The majority of the pits are circular, probable storage pits common in the early and middle Iron Age, although some are more irregular in plan, which is often attributed to the late Iron Age. There is a gradual disappearance of cylindrical storage pits into the late Iron Age (*ibid*). Some intercutting between pits suggests a considerable duration of occupation. The fact that the pits only survive up to a maximum depth of 0.42m and were generally 0.15-0.25m deep suggests that c 1.25-1.5m of the site has been truncated to form the playing field.

Most local Iron Age settlements include the occasional human burial in storage pits, as at Beard Mill and Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt, Standlake, Dorchester, at City Farm and at Ashville, Abingdon (*ibid*). Grave goods are not present (*ibid*). This type of burial can often be found in both open farm settlements and hillforts. Iron Age burials in the region are usually laid on one side in either a crouched or foetal position. Occasionally heavy stones are placed over the body, which are often tucked close to the side of the pit (Cunliffe, 2005, 552). All the inhumations discovered on the site conform to these criteria. This includes the burial [8/05] which is demonstrably Roman in date.

Sometimes only select human bones are present within these pits. This has parallels to pit [203] which may be a ritual deposit with pottery, a variety of animal bone (see Appendix B, 204) and a humerus laid on and between stones. Many of this type of deposit were present at Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt. The fresh conjoining sherds of a globular jar indicate the date of this deposit is in the middle Iron Age. Many other ritual deposits are known within disused storage pits (Cunliffe, 2005, 570).

The morphology of the pits combined with the early to middle Iron Age pottery in the fills of burials [234] and [227] would seem to clearly date these features. Apart from in certain contexts the majority of the pottery shows signs of abrasion. However, a convincing indicator that some of the pottery is not contemporary with the deposits and may be residual is the C₁₄ date obtained from the inhumation (8/07) excavated in 2002. This was dated to the period between 20AD and 240AD (95.4% probability). The burial pit [8/05] associated with this inhumation contained within its fill 11 sherds of Iron Age date. Also within the pit was a worn rim in a sandy fabric that is probably Roman Oxfordshire ware (John Moore Heritage Services, 2002).

Although the burial pits [227] and [234] did contain datable material, much of it was abraded in a similar fashion to the material from [8/05]. It is therefore impossible to accurately date these inhumations, without more C₁₄ dating. The fact that burial [236] lies on a primary fill of pit [234] shows that the pit was not specifically dug for burial and therefore must date to the Iron Age use of the site. The pottery within both the lower fill and upper fill of the pit is consistently early

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Iron Age in date and appears to date to a transitional phase at the end of this period. The pottery from burial [227] is of early or middle Iron Age date.

The other burial [8/05] is early Roman in date. It is unusual to get Roman burials within a former Iron Age settlement although Roman shrines are known to have replaced earlier Iron Age religious structures such as at Frilford, Oxon. The location of Roman religious buildings within hillforts has also raised the possibility that they may have contained defined religious foci (Cunliffe, 2005, 563). There was Roman occupation from at least the 2nd century within the Bayswater valley (Allen, 1995) and a cremation urn of the later 1st or early 2nd century has been found nearby (see Archaeological Background above). It is possible that earlier Roman settlement remains to be found somewhere in the area. The enclosed site overlooks the area of the Roman settlement and there appears to be continuity of burial practice from the Iron Age into the earlier Roman period. Not only has the knowledge of the location of earlier burials remained but also the tradition of burial rites. The Roman burial pit again appears scorched, it is circular and of the same depth and the burial has been placed in a flexed position. Without the C₁₄ dating the burial would have been considered Iron Age in date with the probable Roman sherd thought to be intrusive.

The site would have been visible from the later Roman settlement alongside the Roman road where it crossed the Bayswater valley. Some of the residents may have been local descendants using a 'sacred' place for burial while others may have been new migrants bringing with them the newer tradition of cremation as shown by the late 1st or early 2nd century cremation pot found in the area.

While it is difficult today to determine the exact topography of the site's location due to the housing development in the area, the site was located adjacent to the steep edge of the Bayswater valley to the north and probably close to a lesser slope down to the north-east. The size of the ditch and its associated bank coupled with its location suggests a defended site. While such sites as Mingies Ditch and Watkins Farm on the Thames gravel terraces are enclosed, the ditches are less substantial (Allen, 1990, Allen & Robinson, 1992). This site is similar to Cunliffe's middle Iron Age earthwork-enclosed settlements (2005, 241-4) but given its location it could be argued that it could be loosely classed as a defended settlement. The area of the Upper Thames Valley, west of Oxford and east of Lechlade remains relatively unchanged into the late Iron Age, as an area of traditional farming. This contrasts with Abingdon and Dyke Hills where enclosed oppida are established. Coin evidence suggests that this area further south was on a boundary zone of tribal groups (Miles, 1998). The area of the Bayswater Brook and the Cherwell Valley may again have been close to a tribal boundary resulting in the settlement being located where it was.

While some of the pottery could be early Iron Age on the grounds of the fabrics the earliest dateable material appears to be at the end of this period at a transition with the middle Iron Age. This would tie in with the establishment of

earthwork-enclosed settlements seen elsewhere. Certainly some of the pits and at least one burial are dated to the middle Iron Age. Late Iron Age pottery within the enclosure ditch fill and one of the gateway postholes shows that occupation of the site continued into this period. While no pottery was present from the primary fills of the ditch the number of gateway postholes shows longevity of use of the enclosure and suggests that the settlement was enclosed from its foundation. However, the function and date of the pit outside the enclosure ditch is unknown.

While little proper excavation has been carried out along the line of the Roman road to the east, late 1st century activity seems to be confined to the vicinity of the road, in the form of a cremation. Second century activity is only known about 200m to the east of the road and north of the Bayswater Brook. In the 3rd and 4th centuries the activity was closer to the road. Ditches, kiln debris and burials of this date have all been found to the north-east of the site clustered along the Roman road (Allen, 1995).

Conclusion

The main problem associated with this site was that much of the archaeology on the site has been truncated by later landscaping of the area. However, sufficient has remained for us to be able to suggest the function of the site and place it within its landscape.

Bronze Age activity in the area appears to have been confined to the valley bottom of Bayswater Brook that is overlooked by the site. By the early/middle Iron Age this activity had moved to the adjacent hillside within an enclosed settlement. This area is the focus of activity until the Roman period with a move back to the valley bottom. However, the higher area was used for burial in the early Roman period. The evidence would suggest a continuation of earlier Iron Age burial traditions within the area, into the early Roman period, possibly even continuing the tradition of pit digging in the area. It may mark a time of change within the society with people trying to keep links to the past alive, reaffirming traditions and ancestral land claims.

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Oxford, Ruskin Lane (SP 5081 0661)

Mick Parsons

Three trenches, totalling 32m in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying geology. Archaeological deposits were limited; Trench 2 contained a single pit of Victorian date. The most notable feature located was the southern edge of a palaeo-channel, which was identified in Trench 1.

Stadhampton, Chiselhampton House (SU 5955 9906)

Gwilym Williams

Excavations revealed an archaeological sequence extending from prehistory to the 19th century. Two field-systems from the Iron Age and early Roman periods were the earliest dated features; medieval pits were excavated on the east side of the site; and overlying all were three phases of formal gardens, including possible evidence of the kitchen gardens as well as a post-medieval house base. In addition a watching brief was also undertaken during topsoil stripping associated with the main excavation which evidenced a building, a yard and field boundary to the north in the historic Church Close; additionally pipe-trenching revealed the remains of the hah or pale ditch between the inner park and the outer park to the south of the site.

Stadhampton, Orchard House, School Lane

(SU 5995 9866)

John Moore

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of foundations for a new extension. A burial was found and although undated is thought to be related to the known prehistoric monuments in the area.

Standlake, Abingdon Road, Oxford Downs Cricket Club (SP 3881 0326)

John Moore & Ian Travers

An evaluation of this site was conducted. Three trenches, totalling 60m in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology at a maximum height of 65.64m. Archaeological features were limited. Five undated ditches were revealed, along with two possible small pits. A very small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered, however, it was not associated with any of the man-made features.

Following the evaluation of the site an archaeological watching brief was conducted during selected groundworks associated with the development. Excavation of parts of the two roads and a house plot and garage plot towards the north of the site were examined.

Several features were recorded on the north edge of the site. No dateable artefacts were forthcoming from the features.

Wallingford, 1 Market place (SU 6078 8941)

David Gilbert

An evaluation of this site was conducted prior to development. Four trenches, totalling 31m in length, were excavated to a depth of 1.6m below ground surface. Archaeological deposits were limited. All trenches showed a sequence of made ground. Augering would suggest that the area lies within a quarry for aggregates. All trenches located several 19th - 20th pits.

Wantage, St Mary's School, Newbury Street

(SU 3993 8774)

David Gilbert

An evaluation of this site was conducted prior to the site being sold for development. Eleven trenches, totalling 139m in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology or significant archaeological features. Numerous linear ditches and postholes possibly associated with timber structures were located, most were undated. However, those to the north of the site were dated to the Early-Middle Saxon period while others across the entire site were dated to the Saxo-Norman to Early Medieval period. To the south of the site excavated features were from the 15th century onwards.

A second stage of evaluation of this site was later conducted. Two trenches, totalling 8m in length, were excavated. Archaeological features were limited to an undated posthole truncated by a later 15th to 16th century pit, and a modern garden feature.

Oxfordshire

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Compiled by Vince Gardiner

Letcombe Regis, Former Dow Agrosiences Site
(SU 37952 86302)

Anthony Mackinder

Ten evaluation trenches were excavated in May 2006. Several pits and ditches of Roman date were recorded, in addition to modern landscaping. Natural chalky silt was observed in eight trenches.

NATIONAL TRUST

Gary Marshall

Greys Court (SU 72488342)

Throughout 2006 the main house at Greys Court near Henley has been clad in scaffolding as a major project has been undertaken to relay the roof of the building and carry out repairs to masonry and brickwork. The reproofing project is phase I of a two phase programme of works to the building; phase II involving the renewal of services will be carried out in 2008. The phase I works have been the subject of a watching brief and recording exercise undertaken by Oxford Archaeology resulting in the production of a complete plan of the roof construction, plus representative sections to illustrate the different forms of roof truss. The interpretation of the evolution of the roof has been supported by further sampling for dendrochronology dating, an initial phase of sampling having been carried out in 2003 to support an earlier survey of the building completed by English Heritage. As a result of the two surveys and the two sampling projects we now know that the earliest section of the roof dates to c 1450-51 and forms part of a jettied timber-framed building that partially survives in the core of the present building. The timbers of the main east range of the roof were felled between 1573 and 1575, suggesting an earliest date for the completion of the east range and the main part of the building of c 1575. Sampling of the central west range gave identical felling dates (1573-74), though the archaeological recording has suggested that the timbers have subsequently been reconfigured. The sampling programme successfully dated the north-west section of the roof, providing felling dates of 1759-60 and thus contradicting English Heritage's view that this part of the building was added in the 17th century. Similar dates were obtained for an inserted truss which carries the north end of the east range of the roof over a projecting full height bay frontage. This extension was thought to have been added in the 1760s but the slightly earlier dating is highly significant because it is likely to confirm that the exceptionally fine rococo ceiling in the ground floor drawing room was carried out by Thomas Roberts of Oxford. The dating has shown that the Greys Court alterations were carried out at precisely the same time as Roberts was completing a decorative scheme in the new library at Christ Church, employing many similar features,

and which virtually confirms the involvement of Roberts at Greys Court.

NORTH OXON ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Edward Shawyer

Our original intention this year was to continue the excavation of the villa site in the Swalcliffe Lea settlement. As a sideline we planned to dig a narrow strip trench in the north-east corner of the same field, since a possible stretch of Roman road 56a (Margary) was identified by Cathy Stoertz, an aerial photography interpreter at the National Monuments Record in Swindon. The aim was to get a quick section across the road and its ditches.

The excavation began on August 13th. However after the heatwave we had a rainy spell that prevented our farmer baling the straw on the field. Therefore we decided it was better to excavate the road area, which was free of straw and transfer to the villa once the field was clear. Constant minor falls of rain frustrated this plan and also the fact that we found not just a road, but two buildings on either side of it, as well as the archaeology becoming complicated.

So the sideshow became the main excavation and with good results, since more details were revealed about the settlement. No other archaeological activity took place this year, save some observations made of medieval earthworks in a field in Broughton.

Excavations

(SP 39233845)

The Roman road (56a)

The first trench (Trench 1) came down upon Building 1, which was a late construction and had been built over the 1m wide southern ditch and over 2.5m of the road itself. We then exposed 3.5m of road ending in a 19th century field drain, which cut diagonally across the road and had also cut through the south-west corner of another Roman structure (Building 2). A northern ditch was not detected. We enlarged the excavation and we were able to dig a small section through the road in Trench 2, which we could compare with the side section in Trench 1 and which gave us the profile we needed. The southern ditch was excavated, this proving to be 1m wide and stone lined, matching the 1959 description of the roadside ditch excavated at the west end of the settlement. The ditch had two clear layers of infill, the lower was a lighter coloured soil, mixed with yellow clay, while the upper was a darker grey soil, which from its smell had manure in it. Crucially the upper fill had a coin of Carausius (286-293AD) in it, thus making Building 1 above 4th century in date. Pottery and coins from this building were all late Roman.

The road itself had three or four layers of metalling, the topmost being a 10-20cm layer of ironstone gravel and iron slag deposits, these were flush with Building 1 and not

GENERAL PLAN OF THE 2006 EXCAVATIONS
OF ROMAN BUILDINGS AND A ROMAN ROAD
AT SWALCLIFFE LEA, NORTH OXON.
S.P. 39233845

- KEY**
-  LIMIT OF EXCAVATIONS
 -  CONJECTURAL CONTINUATION OF 4TH C WALLS
 -  4TH C A.D. WALLS
 -  ROMAN ROAD SURFACE
 -  ROADSIDE DITCH
 -  DEEP SECTIONS

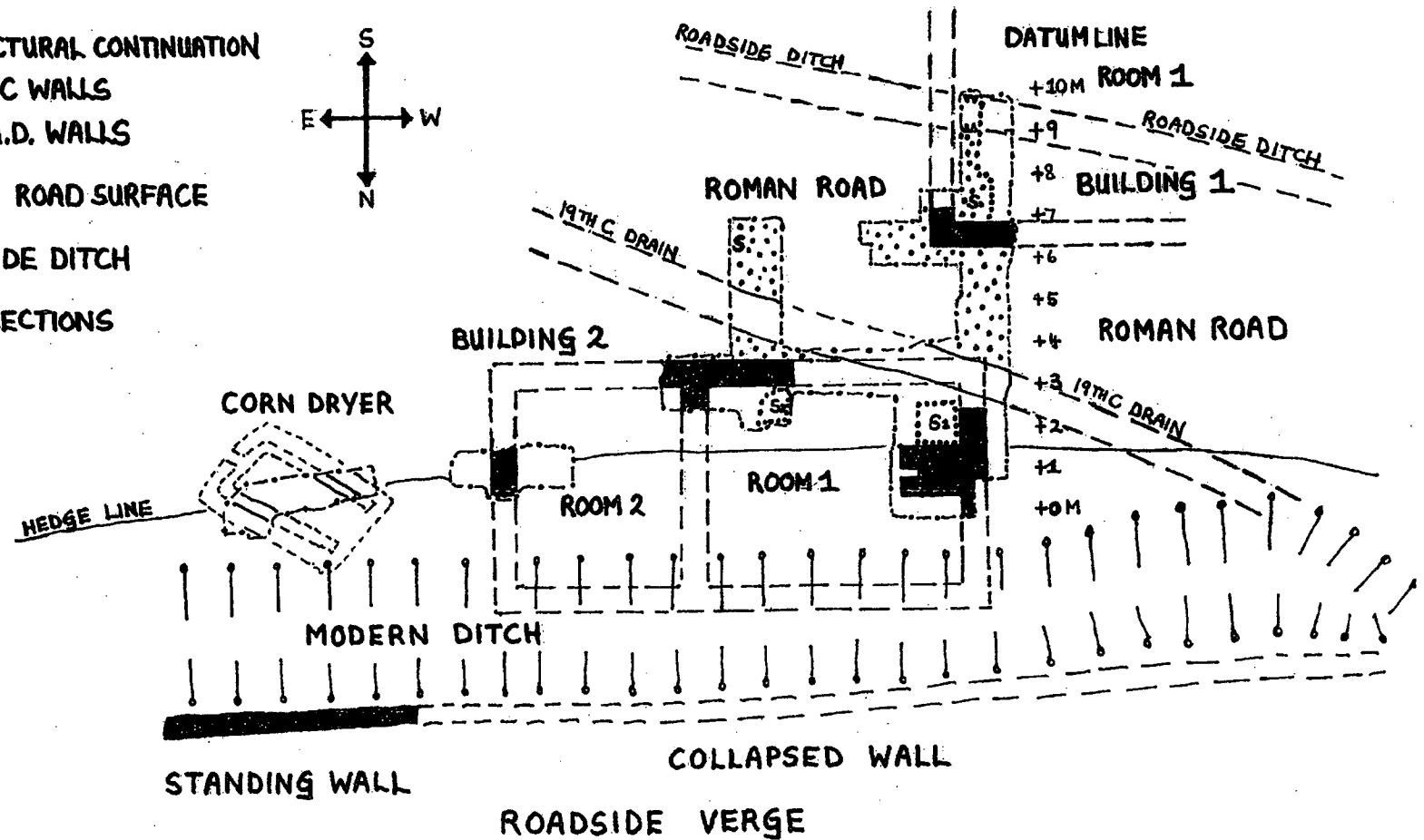
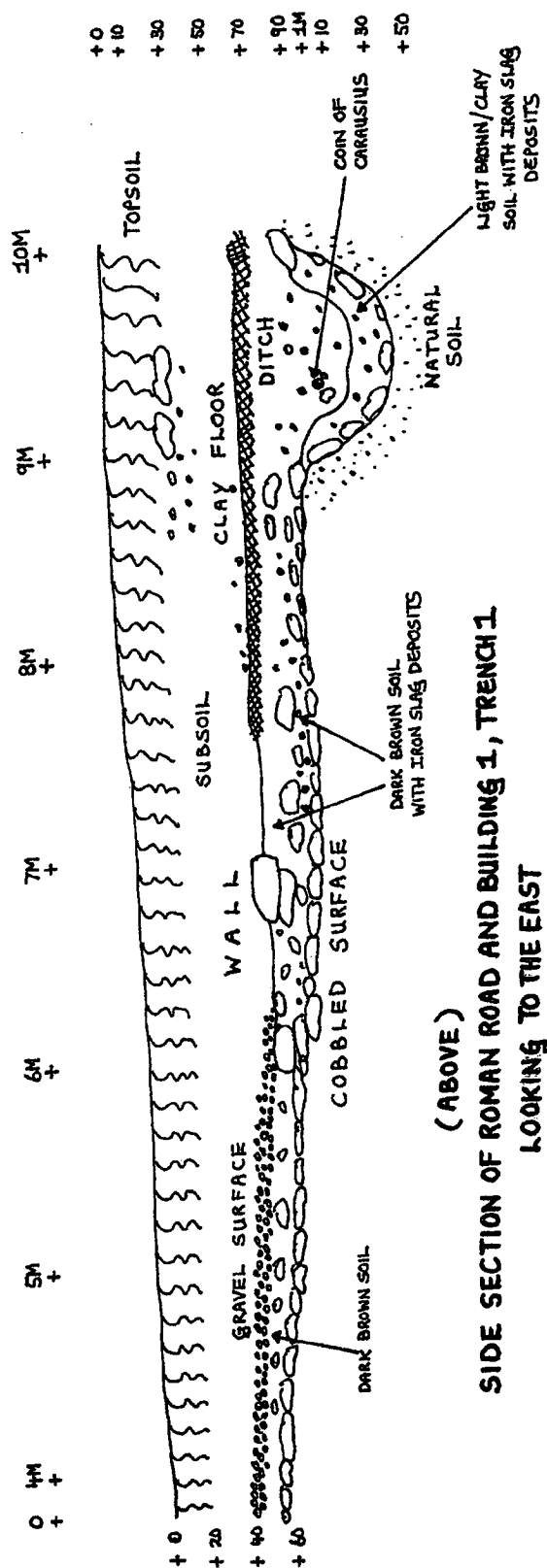


Fig 8. Swalcliffe Lea. General plan of 2006 excavations.



**SIDE SECTION OF ROMAN ROAD
TRENCH 2, LOOKING WEST
(BELOW)**

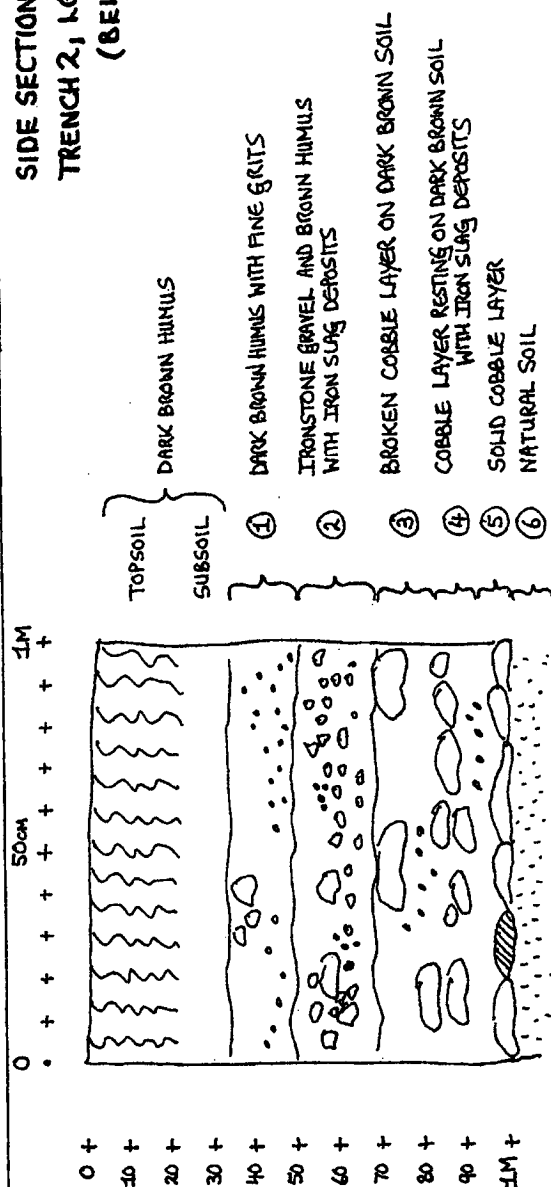


Fig 9. Swalcliffe Lea. Roman Road.

found beneath it, so are considered to be 4th century also, late Roman pottery and coins also being found upon them. The lower levels of the road consisted of 20-30cm depth of two to three courses of ironstone cobbles with iron slag added for extra hardcore. In between these layers was a dark brown humus soil, which can only have been accumulated from many years of animal traffic upon the road. The iron slag had been scattered upon the road in both lower and upper levels and had also been washed into the ditch fill.

This section of the road lies in a hollow, with a steep slope to the south and a former stream to the north, so there was a constant problem of soil run off into the ditch. Indeed the 50cm ditch had partially silted up before it was filled in to make way for Building 1.

In conclusion the evidence suggests that originally the road had a single layer of metalling, was cambered and had at least one ditch. The lower levels seem to represent periodic renewal of the cobbling which was directly deposited upon the soil build up on the road, along with iron slag being scattered to add hardcore. This build up must represent at least 100-200 years of use, thus making the original road late 1st century or early 2nd century in date. The section of road excavated in 1959 was 7.6m wide, while our section was 5.5m wide, though this was due to the presence of Building 2. The Roman road continued to be used in the Middle Ages and is referred to in the 12th century as being a salt way, which it could equally have been in Roman times, since the road lead south-westwards towards Tiddington, Alcester and Salinae. The road still exists today and it is evident that the course altered here because this section silted up and so the road shifted to higher ground behind Building 2, just 6m to the north.

Building 1

As mentioned, this construction was dated by the coin of Carausius lying beneath it in the ditch and the late Roman pottery and coins found in it. The floor was simply a 10cm layer of white clay which had been oxidized a pinkish red colour and had some charcoal deposits upon it. This surface lay directly upon the same rich, brown humus that filled the ditch and which was found in the cobble layer of the road. A section of the north wall was uncovered and this was laid directly upon the earth and cobble. This wall was about 75cm wide and would have had foundations only one course deep, this with the absence of any mortar or clay would make it a sleeper wall for a wooden building. The section of the east wall we dug had been robbed, but here we found 7 late Roman coins in poor condition. Upon the clay floor we found a lot of iron slag and domestic pottery.

In conclusion we seem to have a 4th century domestic building, made of wood and thatch, with stone sleeper walls and clay floors, in which possibly there was some metalworking taking place as well.

Building 2

The west wall of this structure was discovered in Trench 1, a 19th century drain having cut diagonally through the southwest corner of the building. A squarish hearth 1.6m

long x 1.3m wide, centrally placed, abutted the wall. Two more trenches revealed that this was a two room building 11.5m long by an estimated 5.25m wide. The walls of this structure were well constructed and mortared with the same sandy lime mortar found on the nearby villa site. Two courses of these walls survived and were directly laid upon earlier walls held together by bluish-grey clay of which two courses were also visible. Associated with the mortared walls was a fine stone floor, of which most of the slabs had been oxidized a deep red, indicating the room had been very hot. The stones were laid upon soil footings on top of a white limestone slate damp course and this in turn lay upon a bluish-grey clay floor, which was associated with the earlier structure and lay upon soil and stone footings.

Above the oxidized floor was a 25-30cm layer of packed stones and soil which has been interpreted as being a late floor. Time was lacking to dig beneath the early floor as well as the fact that the digging was very hard since it was a succession of solid features on top of each other. The pottery finds indicate that the oxidized floor was 4th century and so the building as well. The use of a white limestone slate damp course is also found in Room 13 of the villa and this was early 4th century, while mortared walls were only found in the late Roman phases.

The early building must be at least 3rd century, though more cannot be said, while the late floor on top of the oxidized floor is classic late 4th century for this settlement. Two sections were dug in Building 2 and during the digging of section 2 the late 4th century floor was so solid it may have been the edge of a late wall or some structure, though time was lacking to properly define it.

In conclusion the original building was probably 3rd century, with clay-packed sleeper walls, clay floors and a timber superstructure. This structure may also have been two roomed, certainly the hearth was present in Room 1. Then after 300AD it was demolished and rebuilt upon its former foundations, though more solidly. The walls were made of stone, though there is little evidence for a slate roof. The high temperatures in Room 1 hint at some kind of industrial activity, of which blacksmithing can be ruled out as there was no slag found on this level, and pottery making as well, since there were no wasters or piles of pottery. The best guess at present is that it was a bakery, since a corn dryer was found just a few metres away. The late 4th century occupation has the customary deposits of iron slag, but nothing substantial and little was found of its plan, the old walls probably being re-utilized. This building, it appears had been detected before in 1966, when the roadside ditch was recut. Bill Ford of the Shipston upon Stour Historical Society making observations of farmwork at the time recorded that "a substantial stone paved floor was revealed from which a quantity of late Romano-British pottery was recovered."

The Corn Dryer

This structure was discovered when we opened Trench 4, hoping to see how far Building 2 extended. Two stone-lined channels were found, which had a lower, stone-lined space

Oxfordshire

between them, in which many of the stones were fire reddened. No iron slag was detected in this trench.

Since this construction was only detected on the last day of the dig, there was only time for a small trench through part of it. The structure faced south-east and is an estimated 4m long x 2m wide. From its shape it doesn't appear to resemble any pottery kiln and an absence of iron slag rules out metalworking, therefore a corn dryer is the best explanation.

The stone-lined drain

This entered Blakelands field (the villa field) in line with the field boundary by the turkey sheds and was intended to channel water from the latter. The drain cut across Blakelands field following an old stream course to empty into the main brook. This channel was three courses high and covered by capstones, being lined with local bluish-grey clay and made of local ironstone. Our farmer Duncan Jack informed us that it had been built by French Napoleonic prisoners and we found some 18th-19th century pottery associated with it. It had certainly long fallen out of use by the time the ditches were recut in 1966.

Conclusion

The confirmation of the road's course and the obtaining of dating evidence for it were important discoveries this year. It is now evident that there was originally a lone building on the eastern edge of the settlement on the north side of the road. However, by the 4th century the southern road ditch had partially, if not entirely, silted up and then was covered over by the creation of a building, which also took up 2.5m of the road, thus narrowing the exit of the village to just 3m.

Our excavation bore quite a resemblance to the 1959 Oxford University Archaeological Society's dig led by Geoffrey May, a celebrated archaeologist who later edited *Current Archaeology* and who unfortunately passed away in the same month that the road he dug was excavated again for the first time in 46 years.

Medieval Sites

Broughton (SP 422385)

This pasture field has been known for years to have shrunken village earthworks, but no study has been made of them and little mention made either. The south side of the field is on the flank of a hill and bordered by the present B4035, from which one can easily spot four or five house platforms. To the east of them on lower ground are what appears to be a couple of village ponds. Also this winter, flooding revealed a number of small fields or enclosures, by the side of the old stream course, which has been evidently straightened and redirected to its present location. It is hoped at some stage to carry out a hachured survey of this field's features.

Broughton (SP 41953855)

Another possible house platform was noted in the neighbouring pasture field to the southwest, lying opposite the present road, near to the bridge across the stream.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Pat Chapman

Finnmere Quarry (SP 622 322 & SP 628 320)

Adrian Butler

A geophysical survey, on behalf of Premier Aggregates Ltd, was conducted on 34ha of land proposed for mineral extraction. Magnetic susceptibility survey revealed several areas of enhanced readings possibly indicating archaeological features. Detailed gradiometer survey in the northernmost part of the site identified a circular and a sub-rectangular enclosure with related ditches, possibly an extension to a known archaeological site to the east. Elsewhere most anomalies relate to medieval ridge and furrow cultivation or modern agriculture.

Witney, Shores Green Interchange A40 (SP 375 095)

John Walford

Geophysical prospection, commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, was carried out as part of the archaeological evaluation of a proposed slip-road construction site at the Shores Green Interchange on the A40 near Witney. Two survey blocks, with a total area of c 2.7ha, were investigated by detailed magnetometer survey. Nothing likely to be of archaeological significance was found.

Witney, Marriott's Close (SP 4354 2100)

Adrian Burrow

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Marriotts Close, Witney, on land proposed for residential and commercial development. The only archaeological remains present were two parallel ditches which most likely related to tenement plots fronting onto the High Street, dating from the late medieval period.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled and edited by Edward Biddulph

Adderbury, Church of St Mary the Virgin (SP 4708 3535)

Mike Sims

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during July and October 2006 at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Adderbury, Oxfordshire. The work was commissioned by the Parish Church Committee of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fabric Committee, in advance of work to the drainage gullies. The investigation revealed the presence of a 19th century brick crypt alongside the north wall of the north transept, but no evidence for any of the earlier phases of church construction.

Aston, White House Farm (SP 3400 0320)

Dave McNicol

In May 2006 an evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to White House Farm, Aston, on behalf of Builders Ede Ltd. The evaluation revealed a number of probable post-medieval field boundaries, and a possible floor surface or wall foundation of an uncertain date. One medieval pit was uncovered, along with a number of undated pits.

Barford St Michael, High Street (SP 436 325)

Mike Sims

A watching brief was carried out between June 2005 and November 2006 at The Potteries, Barford St Michael and commissioned by Catling and Catling Ltd revealed evidence of extensive post-medieval truncation caused by the construction of workshops that previously occupied the site, but no evidence of earlier archaeology.

Barton, Beckley View (SP 553 079)

Dave McNicol

In January 2006 a field evaluation was carried out at Brome Place and Fettiplace Road, Barton, Oxford, on behalf of Lovell. The evaluation revealed a large amount of modern building debris throughout the site. Several of the trenches were unable to be fully excavated due to the discovery of a number of gas pipes throughout the site. No significant archaeology was observed during the course of the evaluation.

Bicester, St David's Barracks (SP 5833 2052)

Granville Laws

A field evaluation was carried out in January 2006 on the footprint of an existing tennis court at St David's Barracks, MOD, Bicester on behalf of Defence Estates. The evaluation revealed a subsoil plough soil, a recently buried turf/topsoil horizon, tree disturbance and evidence of modern made ground. No significant archaeological remains were located during the evaluation.

Cassington, Cassington Rising Main (SP 461 119)

Robin Bashford

In October and November 2006 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at Cassington, Oxfordshire during the replacement of a 240m length of mains sewer. The work was undertaken on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a 0.4m wide trench for the new main, which was excavated through a series of clays of the upper Cretaceous. No archaeological features were observed.

Charlbury, Walcot Farm (SP 346 198)

Mike Sims

An archaeological watching brief, commissioned by H Rittson-Thomas, was carried out throughout 2006 at

Walcot Farm, Burford Road, Charlbury, Oxfordshire. The fieldwork revealed the truncated foundations and cellar of the old manor to the north of the present building and evidence for a dressed stone terrace wall around the north-west and north-east sides of the present raised garden. Evidence was further found for the base of a possible mock temple and later additional structure at the base of the terraced wall and the robbed out base for a flight of steps leading down from the raised garden to a path running around the fish ponds. Excavations within the Scheduled Ancient Monument to the south-west of the house produced evidence for small retaining walls and associated garden beds running along the base of the terraces within the ornamental gardens.

Cholsey, Honey Lane (SU 588 861)

Paul Murray

An evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Soha Housing Ltd in November 2006 at 67 Honey Lane at the site of the former Thames Water Pumping Station, Cholsey. The evaluation revealed modern soil layers representing landscaping of the site, most likely during construction of the current structures. Below these was a thin layer of former subsoil that filled irregularities in the surface of the natural chalk. Two features were excavated, one of which has been interpreted as resulting from tree root disturbance, the other appearing as the base of a modern rubbish pit pre-dating the landscaping work.

Faringdon, Folly Farm (SU 2930 9505)

Ben Ford

An evaluation was carried out on behalf of Bloor Homes and Wicklesham Commercial Properties. The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological features or deposits with the exception of an undated ditch. Some evidence for 19th and 20th century landfill was also identified.

Heythrop Park, The Wilderness (SP 3628 2610)

Mike Sims

In November 2006 an excavation, commissioned by Dubois Landscape Architects, was carried out on the culvert leading to the Cold Bath at Heythrop Park, Oxfordshire revealed that the portion of the culvert running under the track had been replaced by modern salt glazed pipes; the western end of the culvert was intact, and the eastern end of the culvert was much further up the stream than anticipated. The culvert had been subject to partial collapse and heavy silting.

Kingston Bagpuize, Pinewoods Road (SU 3850 9850)

Granville Laws

During February 2006 a field evaluation was carried out that comprised test pits and sieving on land off Pinewoods Road, Kingston Bagpuize Oxfordshire. This exercise, on behalf of Hanson Aggregates Ltd, followed fieldwalking undertaken in January 2006, and, in general terms, the test pitting results

Oxfordshire

mirrored the distributions seen in the fieldwalking plots. The test pit evaluation revealed worked flint, though no significant concentrations of activity were identified. Manuring scatters of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date were also observed. Two layers which could represent archaeological features were uncovered.

Little Wittenham, Castle Hill (SU 560 924)

Leo Webley

A limited excavation was carried out along the line of the south-west entrance to the at Castle Hill, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire, in preparation for the laying of a new surfaced entrance to the hillfort. The work was carried out in May 2006 on behalf of the Northmoor Trust, which owns and manages this Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The excavation was of limited depth, but exposed a thick deposit of chalk that may represent undisturbed bedrock, cut by an east-west gully. A hollow in the chalk was probably worn by pedestrian traffic. The gully produced one sherd of Early Iron Age pottery, but the feature was likely to be later, as it appeared to cut a clay layer further upslope that contained Roman and later pottery. It may be a drainage ditch from the hilltop. The visible rampart either side of the entrance was shown to consist of post-medieval soil, probably a lynchet from the ploughing of the hilltop. No certain trace of the prehistoric defences was found.

Oxford, Ashmolean Museum (SP 5114 0656)

Rob Tannerhill

During late July and early August 2006 a field evaluation was carried out at the Museum. Mace Ltd commissioned the work on behalf of Oxford University Estate's Directorate.

Residual, locally-produced, pottery dating to the 11th and 12th centuries was recovered from later features and perhaps attested to activity on the site from that date. The earliest in situ activity, however, dated to the 13th and 14th centuries, and was represented by intercutting pits associated with tenements established along the western side of St Giles. A number of postholes cut a humic soil horizon that overlay the pits. The postholes formed no particular pattern but show that timber structures of some description occupied this area after the 15th century. A layer of broken building material extending over the whole excavated was possibly laid in preparation for the construction of a building, which was represented by a limestone wall or foundation surviving to at least three courses high and extending beyond the trench to the east and west. The location and form of this structure matches a building shown on Faddens map of 1789. This structure then formed the basis for a subsequent building made of 19th century brick. An associated salt-glaze ceramic service-pipe leading to a small square structure located internally to the brick foundations possibly represented a small outbuilding with an internal lavatory or basin. Immediately to the north a very large cut may record a cellar, though no structural elements remained.

Oxford, Jesus College (SP 5139 0635)

Mike Sims

A watching brief was carried out at Jesus College Oxford. The work was commissioned by ADP Architects in advance of the excavation of new cable duct trenches. The watching brief revealed a layer of undisturbed soil possibly pre-dating the college construction. This was sealed by made-ground probably relating to the construction of the second quadrangle.

Oxford, Magdalen College School (SP 5221 0580)

Robin Bashford

A field evaluation at and on behalf of Magdalen College School, Oxford was carried out in October 2006 in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the Dining Hall. Iron Age pottery was recovered from two post holes although no other prehistoric features were present within the trenches. A number of medieval features were revealed during the evaluation which have been interpreted as evidence for 13th century quarrying, although artefactual evidence was sparse and the date of these features was uncertain. Additionally, an east-west-aligned ditch, containing 13th century pottery was recorded and may mark the northern extent of this activity. In addition to the medieval features, the evaluation revealed a north-south-aligned ditch possibly associated with a star pointed outwork forming part of the south-eastern limit of Oxford's Civil War defences. A number of post-medieval pits were recorded to the east of this ditch and may represent features associated with the use of the defences.

Oxford, Osney Lock (SP 5036 0586)

Mike Sims

The Environment Agency commissioned a watching brief at Osney Lock in November 2006. This was in advance of renewal of the lock gates and maintenance on the lock. The watching brief revealed that the lock had been completely refurbished in concrete during the 1970s, and that no evidence for any earlier lock structure was visible. Any silts (and associated finds) had accumulated after that date.

Oxford, Pembroke College (SP 5128 0600)

Mike Sims

A watching brief was carried out at Pembroke College Oxford in August 2006. The work was commissioned by Carter Jonas LLP in advance of work on new steps. The watching brief revealed 19th century construction debris overlying a buried soil horizon. No evidence for Beef Lane, known to lie within the development area, was observed.

Oxford, Sandford Road (SP 5347 0253)

Mike Sims

An archaeological watching brief that was undertaken in August and September 2006 at A G Palmer House, Sandford Road for Knowles and Son revealed layers of

post-medieval made-ground deposited over natural sands. No significant archaeology was encountered.

Oxford, South Parks Road (SP 5154 0700)

Ian Cook

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during July and August 2006 at the site of the Biochemistry building, South Parks Road, Oxford. The work was commissioned by Oxford City Council on behalf of Laing O'Rourke in advance of the construction of a new Biochemistry building for Oxford University. The watching brief revealed a series of linear features which were dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period, as well as a series of post-medieval rubbish pits. A group of seven postholes was uncovered which may represent an old fence line or structure of some kind. Four substantial postholes were seen at the bottom of a tree throw hole, but their purpose was not clear.

Oxford, St John's College (SP 5122 0690)

Steve Teague

An evaluation carried out to the rear of Queen Elizabeth House and 20 St Giles for MJP Architects on behalf of St. John's College Oxford uncovered pits dating to the 13th to 15th centuries. Pits of 16th-18th century date were also revealed, one of which produced a sizeable assemblage of cattle horn working waste. Large gravel quarries of probable late medieval/early post-medieval date were encountered across the eastern part of the site. An extensive deposit of demolition debris was observed across the northern part of the site and sealed several of the pits and quarries. This is likely to reflect the location of former buildings that extended to the east of Black Hall that could include a farm range. Brick paths, planting holes and soils of 18th/19th century date were also revealed and related to landscaping of the gardens. Three pits that did not produce finds from the western part of the site could reflect considerably earlier activity. A distinctive soil infilled these and is particularly characteristic of prehistoric features encountered within Oxford.

Oxford, Towles Mill, Hinksey Stream (SP 517 039)

Mary Nicholls

During June 2006 hand excavation of ten 1 x 1m test-pits and 11 hand-augered boreholes was carried out on the former site of Towles Mill on Hinksey Stream, Oxford on behalf of the Environment Agency. The test-pits were intended to define the specific location and extent of the 19th century mill and any possible underlying earlier mill remains, whilst leaving all structural remains encountered *in situ*. The investigation also evaluated the nature of archaeological deposits along the southern bank of the northern/bypass channel.

The test-pits along the line of the bypass or northern channel revealed a consistent sequence of alluvium, overlain by subsoil. A single undated feature and a probable path, running northwest-southeast, and parallel with the Bypass

Channel, was probably associated with the later use of the mill. Test-pit 11 demonstrated that extant structural elements of Towles Mill were hidden by ivy and undergrowth under the raised mound on the mill island. These *in situ* brick remains contained evidence of metal fittings that may pertain to gearing and drive mechanisms relating to mill operations. The position of the mound suggests that it was part of the core of mill buildings located on the northern side of the wheel race, which survives today as a stone lined element to the current southern channel (formerly the mill channel). The size of brick and the associated pottery finds date this structure and its use to the 18/19th century.

Beyond the limits of the mound, and as evidenced from Test-pits 1, 2, and 3 further to the north, there were buried structural remains relating to the same phase of 18/19th century activity. The buried remains of a probable limestone foundation in Test-pit 2 indicated the presence of non-brick structural elements probably relating to an earlier mill building. These could be of medieval date or later and may be contemporary with the stone wheel-race channel walls. Other evidence of the mill's appearance is indicated by building materials found in Test-pits 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 at some distance from its footprint. The ceramic peg tiles, commonly used in medieval and post medieval structures, indicated a roofing material, but also potentially may have hung, as a cladding, on half-timbered upper wall elements. The remains of coloured leaded window point to an aesthetic consideration to the building's appearance perhaps suggesting a domestic as well as practical function. Alternatively any of this material may have been imported to the site and relate to non-mill structures.

Oxford, University College (SP 5174 0620)

Steve Teague

During late July and early August 2006 a small field evaluation was carried out at University College, High Street, Oxford. The work was commissioned by University College to inform on the archaeological implications of proposals to redevelop the kitchen, buttery and hall. The evaluation showed that intact and deeply-stratified archaeological levels survive and pertain to a possible 13th century structure (overlying an earlier and undated cut feature) and a pit associated with properties that once fronted Kybald Street or High Street. A second possible structure may have served as a mason's workshop during the reconstruction of University College between 1634-1668, prior to the construction of the kitchen. Good correlation was found with the archaeological evidence for the construction of the Kitchen during 1668-69.

Oxford, Westgate Car Park (SP 5108 0594)

Robin Bashford

Between July and September 2006 a field evaluation was carried out at the Westgate Centre, Oxford, commissioned by John Samuel's Archaeological Consultants on behalf of the Westgate Partnership. This phase of evaluation comprised four trenches within the multi-storey car park,

Oxfordshire

seven in the surface car parks and a further five in areas adjacent to the car parks.

The car park lies at the interface between the second gravel terrace and the Thames flood plain. The trenches to the south of the site revealed an organic deposit overlying the undulating top of the first gravel terrace, and overlain by a series of alluvial clays. The organic deposit is thought to have formed from the remnants of a reed swamp which had been buried beneath numerous phases of later alluviation. The alluvial deposits appeared to be cut by a number of channels, with some containing evidence for timber revetment. They were predominantly medieval or post-medieval in origin and fairly consistent with cartographic evidence. A limited amount of evidence was also recovered for discrete features cutting the alluvial deposits, which also appeared to be medieval in origin and have been tentatively interpreted as clay quarrying.

Two parallel timbers identified in a previous evaluation and interpreted as a timber-lined channel were re-excavated. These appeared to be overlain by a potential north-south aligned stone 'surface' which may represent a post-medieval ford across the Trill Mill Stream at the base of the second terrace. The timbers may have been associated with the stone surface, although the original interpretation cannot be discounted.

Evidence for possible 11th-12th century land reclamation extending southwards from the second terrace was also recovered, and it is possible that this was specifically undertaken to create a building platform for the construction of the Franciscan friary of Greyfriars in the 13th century. Robbed or partially robbed walls which presumably relate to the friary complex were identified in a number of the trenches within the multi-storey car park, and one trench contained a series of what appeared to be midden deposits, possibly representing the disposal of rubbish away from the site of occupation or domestic activity.

Shillingford, Wharf Road (SU 5945 9262)

James Mumford

A watching brief was carried out from February to June 2006 at The Loans, Wharf Road, Shillingford, Oxfordshire. The work was commissioned by Laurie Kosobucki in advance of the construction of a new swimming pool at the rear of the property. The watching brief revealed thick soil horizons that appeared to relate to the site's former use as a dairy farm and also 19th and early 20th century garden make-up. A feature was observed in the last part of the ground-works and could be a ditch relating to the enclosure recorded in crop marks to the north-east of the site. It cut through the alluvium deposit overlying the natural and was sealed by the thick subsoil, which may seal earlier features on the river flood plain.

Standlake, Abingdon Road (SP 3892 0297)

Dave McNicol

The rear garden of 94 Abingdon Road, Standlake, was investigated in June and August 2006 on behalf of Mr

Pavier. The evaluation revealed part of a late Iron Age ring ditch, measuring 2.45m in width and 0.65m deep. Pits and post-holes associated with the ring ditch were also uncovered during the evaluation, and a post-medieval ditch was recorded.

Sunningwell, Lincombe Lodge (SP 4921 0154)

Mike Sims

In October 2006 a watching brief was carried out at Lincombe Lodge, Boars Hill, Sunningwell, Oxfordshire. The work was commissioned by J A Pye (Oxford) in advance of the demolition of the existing lodge building and the construction of a new building. The watching brief revealed no significant archaeology within the development area.

Thame, Thame Park (SP 7172 0377)

James Mumford

A field evaluation was carried out in September 2006 at Thame Park, Thame, on behalf of the owner. The evaluation revealed surviving monastic buildings and deposits at 0.3m to 0.5m below the surface.

Wantage, Former Wantage Wharf (SU 4397 1882)

James Mumford

A field evaluation at Smith's Transport Yard, formerly Wantage Wharf, Wantage on behalf of the Development Planning Partnership Ltd exposed no archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the construction of the canal wharf in the early 1800s.

Woodstock, Blenheim Park (SP 426 186)

Andrew Norton

A field evaluation undertaken in March 2006 at North Lodge, Blenheim Park, Woodstock, Oxfordshire on behalf of JG Land and Estates revealed the presence of two limestone wall footings, which were associated with the North Lodge buildings. No other archaeological deposits were identified. Grim's Ditch and Bank survive to the south of the Lodge but do not extend into the evaluation area.

Woodstock, Oxford School of Drama (SP 4501 1898)

Mike Sims

Between October 2005 and April 2006 a watching brief was carried out at the Oxford School of Drama, Woodstock, Oxfordshire. The work was commissioned by BGS Architects in advance of the construction of a new building and change of access. The watching brief revealed the continuation of one of the Roman-period roadside ditches observed within a 1996 evaluation, post-medieval topsoil and the original farmyard surface, but no other significant deposits or features were encountered.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Goring, Gatehampton Roman Villa (SU 60797985)

Hazel Williams

The Roman villa excavation and landscape survey at Gatehampton was described fully in last year's *SMA*, 36. The floors and wall footings of the substantial 3rd to 4th century villa building survive in good preservation within an enclosure ditch. Extensive geophysical surveys by SOAG of the landscape around the villa and earlier excavation in the 1980s by Oxford Archaeology indicate that the building is part of a Roman farmstead set out in the 2nd century.

This is a voluntary excavation that has run for over 12 years and provides opportunities for people of all ages and experience to participate in and enjoy, archaeology. Nearly 60 people dug at Gatehampton in 2006, the site was open for visitors and diggers during National Archaeology Week when summer school students, a group from a local school (with a Roman picnic lunch) and several families joined us for some digging experience.

The 2006 season

Overhead photographs taken of the site in July 2006 give an excellent view of the current trenches (Fig 10). Taken from the south, this is a trench area of 15 by 20m; the large partly excavated room to right of centre in the photograph is 6m square. The parallel flint and chalk walls of the corridor on the south side of the villa are clearly visible. It has a chalk floor with several hearths and two areas of terracotta tessellated pavement (left foreground). To the west of the

central room is the stokeroom, main hypocaust and to the south a further partially heated room with an *opus signinum* floor and two box tiles visible in the east wall. In the background the pale line of a gravel deposit lies between the north wall of the villa and the villa enclosure ditch in the north west corner of the trench. A new area of the trench (top right) was opened in 2006 over the corridor on the north side. A small section of this corridor is visible in the picture.

During 2006 the north corridor was excavated for a length of 6m with no dividing walls found. Wall footings survive with one or two courses of flint above floor level and with painted plaster still attached in places. A small section of a thin mortar floor is exposed under the layer of demolition rubble. Pottery found included a large fragment of a 3rd-4th century Oxfordshire pottery shallow bowl with red and white slip decoration, discovered by an 11 year old first time digger, and two fragments of Oxfordshire red-slipped ware bowls with moulded decoration depicting hunting scenes.

The north east corner of the central room was also excavated in the new trench area (Fig 11). A small area of terracotta tessellated pavement approximately 75cm by 40cm was found unexpectedly in this corner, with two long terracotta tiles forming a possible doorway to the next room to the east. As often happens, this discovery came at the end of the excavation during wet weather so this feature will be fully excavated next year. The tessellated surface, consisting of large terracotta tesserae roughly cut into approximately 3cm cubes, is particularly well preserved as it lies beneath a 2m by 1m compact deposit of tiles and mortar (Fig 12). The good preservation of the tiles and the large number of complete or nearly complete examples suggests a roof

collapse although there are some fragments of floor tiles and bricks. Unusually for this site there are several complete ridge tiles, imbrex and tegulae (including one with both paw prints and hobnail pattern). Roman owl pellets were found previously on the chalk floor surface on the west side of this room (*SMA* 36). It is interesting that the owls would have occupied this part of the building after it was abandoned but while the roof still provided some protection.



Fig 10. Overview photo of trenches, Caption 'View from south over current trenches'

A section of the enclosure ditch was

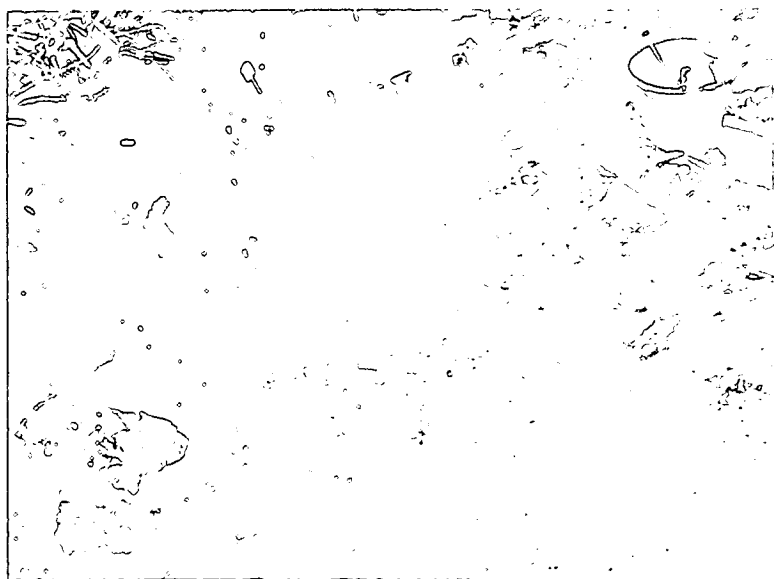


Fig 11. New area of tessellated pavement.

excavated in 2005 and this trench was extended northwards to investigate a chalk surface up to 1m wide overlying a shallow feature in the baulk of the ditch trench that looked like a channel running into the ditch. This proved to be one of two roughly circular, shallow depressions, 30-40cm across and about 30cm deep, filled with chalk and some flint stones. These features and the chalk surface do not appear to respect the line of the ditch and may relate to a later phase when the ditch had gone out of use. The close proximity of this ditch to the north wall of the villa suggests that it may have been constructed with an earlier smaller phase of the building. A ditch feature 20m to the north could be part of a later larger enclosure system. At this stage we do not have supporting dating evidence to confirm this; the second ditch will be excavated in 2007.

Acknowledgements

Particular thanks are due to the landowner, Robin Cloke, for his continued help and interest in this excavation. Thanks to Tim Allen of Oxford Archaeology and to Paul Smith, Oxfordshire County Archaeologist for their help and advice and thanks also to all the dedicated and hardworking volunteers who participated in 2006.

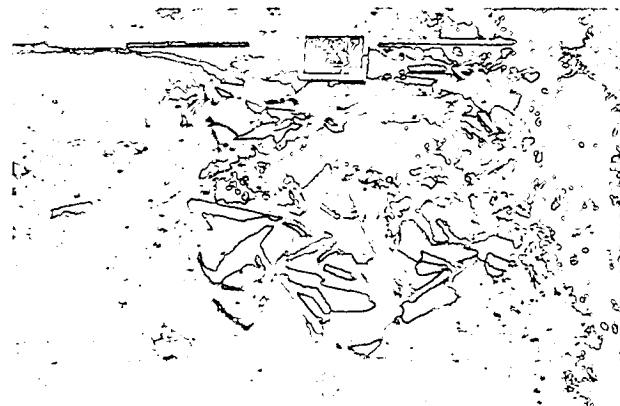


Fig 12. Tile deposit over tessellated pavement.

The SOAG excavations at Gatehampton villa are co-directed by Hazel Williams and Cynthia Graham Kerr. More details and further up-dates can be seen on the SOAG website at soagarch.org.uk.

Brightwell Baldwin Community History and Archaeology Project: an introduction to a new community initiative

Ian Clarke

Brightwell Baldwin in South Oxfordshire is a spring-line settlement near the base of the Chiltern escarpment, about two miles west of Watlington. The Brightwell Baldwin Community History and Archaeology Project (BBCHAP) is a community based project being run in association with the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group. It is a long term research project, centred on the parish of Brightwell

Baldwin but extending into the surrounding parishes. The broad aim is to research the development of this area from earliest occupation to the present day. The long term objective is to make a thorough record of the parish's past, interpreting what is found within the context of other Chiltern spring-line settlements and that of Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire as a whole.

The project will utilise the skills and knowledge of local volunteers from Brightwell Baldwin and the surrounding parishes, working alongside and receiving essential training in archaeological and other research techniques from SOAG archaeologists, and from professional archaeologists and other specialist advisors as necessary. The project is open to all, whether experienced or not.

The parish occupies an elevated position on a shelf of the Lower Chalk and Upper Greensand. In the south the Lower Chalk is capped by the Wallingford Fan Gravels. In the north the Upper Greensand drops away gently to the Gault Clay vale around Chalgrove.

The Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS, 2004) identified the landscape type as Estate Farmland: a rolling agricultural landscape characterised by country houses set in ornamental parkland, regularly-shaped medium to large hedged fields, small estate villages and dispersed farmsteads. Brightwell Baldwin is a typical example of the type.

The parish comprises twin settlements: the small village of Brightwell Baldwin, with its largely 14th century parish church of St Bartholomew and late 18th century manor house of Brightwell Park, and the hamlet of Brightwell Upperton. In addition to the home and glebe farms of Brightwell and Upperton there are three outlying farms: Cadwell, Whitehouse and Brightwell Grove. The parish is part of the half-hundred of Ewelme. The name Baldwin relates to Baldwin de Berford who held manors in Chalgrove, Cadwell and Brightwell in the 14th century.

Before that the settlement was simply known as Brightwell, which means clear springs in Old English.

The earliest historical evidence for settlement is the Anglo-Saxon charter of 887 (S 217), in which Æthelred of Mercia grants 6 hides at Brightwell, together with outlying woods and meadows. Earlier work (Clarke, 2006) has identified the certain location of the outlying meadows and probable location for the woods, and these confirm that the Anglo-Saxon estate was smaller than the modern parish, with the northern boundary being further south in the 9th century. The deserted medieval village (DMV) of Cadwell (Allison *et al*, 1965; Bond, 1975), in the north of the parish, remained a separate manor into the 1700s. The research collated archaeological indicators in and around the parish which suggest Romano-British settlement prior to the Anglo-Saxon, certainly at Cadwell and probably also at Brightwell, where the Roman Lower Icknield Way has been shown to pass on an east-west line through the centre of the village (Morris *et al*, 1968; Sharpe and Carter, 2006).

Evidence for continuous occupation from Roman through to modern times was earlier amassed by A C Fraser (1988) in his unpublished History of Brightwell Baldwin, but it is likely that the springs and rich soils at the base of the Chiltern escarpment attracted settlement here well before the Roman era, certainly in the Iron Age and perhaps earlier in the Bronze Age.

The research carried out by SOAG members Ian Clarke, Janet Sharpe and Phil Carter (2006) was presented to an open meeting in Brightwell Baldwin in April 2006, when parishioners were invited to join in further research. The response was an enthusiastic vote to set up a community project to build on both the recent research and the earlier historical researches of Brightwell historian A C Fraser and Brightwell archivist Peter Kent. Forty-five people signed up for the project, including five SOAG members, with about a third wanting to take part in some fieldwork.

Early work will concentrate on two areas of particular interest to the Community: Cadwell, in the north of the parish, where we have evidence for Roman occupation and the DMV, and the southern area of Brightwell Park where extensive earthworks suggest deserted medieval settlement and we have the proposed line of the Lower (Roman) Icknield Way.

Large parts of these areas of interest are permanently under grass, where fieldwalking is of limited use and geophysical survey will be essential. SOAG is applying for Heritage Lottery Funding in 2007 to purchase a resistance meter and associated equipment for extensive use on the project. Although Brightwell will take priority, the equipment will be made available for other SOAG projects.

This is SOAG's first venture into the challenging world of Community Archaeology and as such it is experimental. But if we are successful it can provide a model for any number of similar projects in the future.

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Brightwell Baldwin Community History and Archaeology Project: training excavation in Blooms field: interim report 2006 (SU 653 947)

Ian Clarke

This report is dedicated to the memory of our friend and colleague Don Church of Brightwell Upperton.

Don worked for just one season on the Brightwell community project. He was a natural, with tremendous enthusiasm and talent. He quickly became my right hand man and I valued his opinion – we all did. He died unexpectedly in January 2007 and is much missed by his family and friends. He was a great character and would have become a fine archaeologist.

The Brightwell Baldwin Community History and Archaeology Project (BBCHAP) is a community project that started in April 2006, to be run in association with the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG). An introduction and background to the project is given in the preceding article. This report outlines the results of a training excavation held over two weeks in July/August 2006.

In any Community Archaeology Project an essential ingredient is ownership by the Community. If we start with the premise that it is their history and archaeology we are researching it is clear that they should have an equal say in the direction the project takes. Given the impact that TV like Channel 4's Time Team have had, it comes as little surprise that what people want to take part in, or see happening in their own village, is a dig. For the mass of the population archaeology is synonymous with excavation. Just so at Brightwell, where there was an overwhelming vote to hold a training excavation in the first season, as a 'curtain-raiser' to the new project. The only problem was where to dig?

In choosing a site for a community training excavation, consideration should be given to selecting one that is appropriate in scale, where the archaeology is close to the surface, and the stratigraphy is likely to be relatively

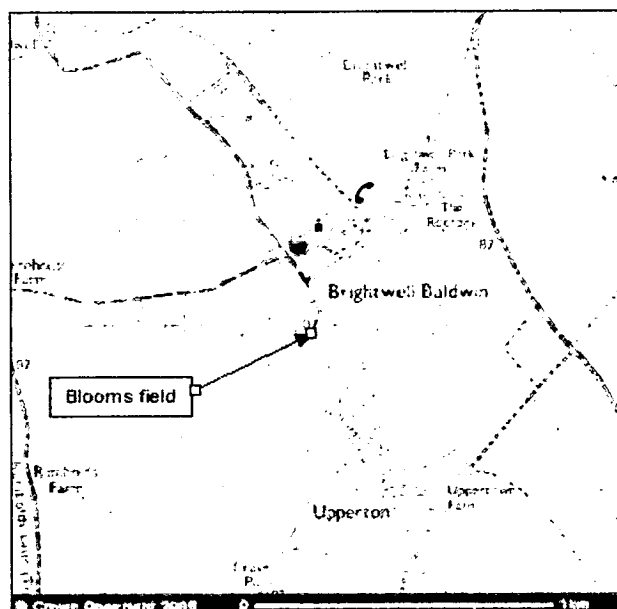


Fig 13. Location of excavation site. *Reproduced from Ordnance Survey map data by permission of Ordnance Survey, © Crown copyright.*

straightforward. Ideally the type site should be familiar and relevant to the community. Fortunately we already knew of such a site in Brightwell: a deserted farm in an old enclosure known as Blooms field. The owners had joined the project and so, thanks to their generosity and curiosity, we would be digging up their field.

Blooms field – an ancient enclosure

Blooms field lies between the two settlements of Brightwell Baldwin and Upperton, but somewhat closer to the former, on the west side of the road linking the two (Fig 13). The field is listed as Blooms (5 acres) in estate surveys of 1847 and 1859 (Fraser, 1988) when it was part of Brightwell Farm. It was well known in the parish that there had once

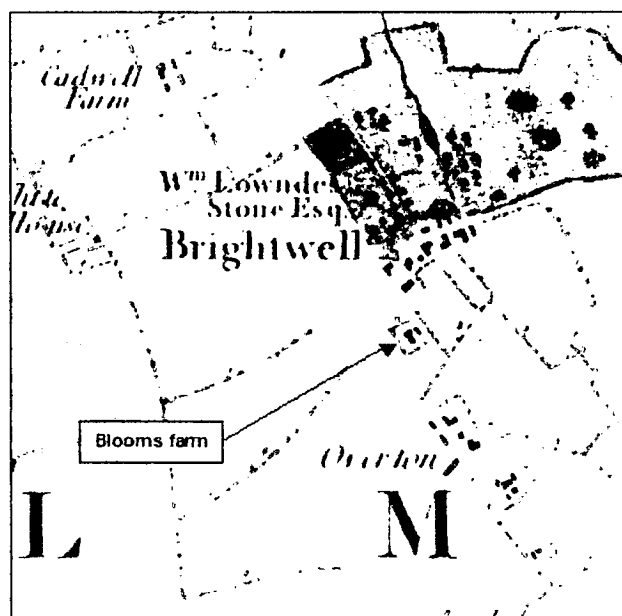


Fig 14. Richard Davis' map of Oxfordshire of 1797. (Part of Sheet XI, enlarged)

been a farm in this field. The earliest map showing the farm and its enclosure is Richard Davis' map of Oxfordshire of 1797 (Fig 14). The map accompanying the Brightwell Baldwin Enclosure Award of 1802 (ORO E43a) also shows the enclosure, as plot 62, containing a farmhouse and four outbuildings.

The same enclosure award tells us that the farmhouse was occupied by a 'Widow Quatremaine'. The Parish Register and wills confirm that this was Mary, widow of Thomas Quatremaine (1729-1798) and that she died in December 1816. It seems likely that Mary was the last occupant and that the farm was pulled down soon after her death. Certainly it does not show on the earliest Ordnance Survey map published in 1830 and there is no later record of it.

We know Blooms field is an ancient enclosure but how old is it? The earliest reference in the Brightwell estate papers is in an assignment of lease of 1588 (ORO E43b) where it is referred to as a 'close called Blomes'. A Geoffrey Blome is listed in the lay subsidy of 1306 as the second wealthiest person in Brightwell, between the Abbot of Dorchester and William de Bereford. There is no mention of any Blome at Brightwell in the Hundred Rolls survey of c 1275, so it is likely that Blomes/Blooms was enclosed by Geoffrey Blome, or a descendent of his, in the late 13th or early 14th century. An inquisition post mortem held at Oxford in 1358 (C. Edw. III) to enquire into the lands held by John Blome, who died in 1349, includes 5½ acres of land and ½ acre of meadow at Brightwell held of Baldwin de Bereford, the Lord who gave his name to Brightwell Baldwin. The 5½ acres is almost certainly the field still known as Blooms. John Blome's heir was a daughter and a minor and Blomes close reverted to Baldwin de Bereford. [Note: 1 acre = 0.4ha]

Training and Research Aims

The principal aims agreed with the BBCHAP group were:

- to provide an introduction to and training in Basic Excavation and Recording
- to locate the Blooms Field farmhouse and determine the ground plan, construction and date
- to follow up with training in Basic Post-Excavation Techniques

Training was based on the well tested methodology developed by the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project (SHARP). Copies of their field manual (SHARP & Cox, 2003) were purchased for each volunteer and the SHARP team kindly gave permission for all their recording sheets to be reproduced under the BBCHAP header. Volunteers attended a classroom session the evening before first going on site, where they were introduced to the basic principles of excavation and essential terminology. All subsequent training was hands on, on site.

Equipment and funding

Providing basic equipment for a dig is not hugely expensive but does cost a few hundred pounds. Volunteers purchased their own hand trowels and field handbooks, and provided heavy digging tools and wheelbarrows from their garden

sheds. A survey level, tripod and staff were purchased with a grant of £250 to Brightwell Baldwin Parish from the Chilterns Conservation Board, 40th Anniversary Fund; fortunately there was enough left over from this to purchase buckets and hand shovels as well. The Chilterns Conservation Board have been most supportive of the project and are maintaining a keen interest. All equipment suppliers provided generous discounts and we are very grateful to them for this support.

Geophysical Survey

Using an enlargement of the 1802 map as a guide, a twin-probe resistance survey of part of the field was carried out in May 2006 to locate the farm buildings. This was done with the generous assistance of Gerard Latham of The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society, using his own TR/CIA resistance meter. The survey suggested two possible sites for the farmhouse and firmly located two of the outbuildings. The other two outbuildings were missed as they are under the hedge and verge alongside the road. The survey confirmed that the archaeology was close to the surface.

Trenches and Methodology

With two possible locations for the farmhouse two trenches were planned. The dig was carried out over two weeks in July and August in the hottest Summer temperatures recorded for many years. The ground surface had been baked hard by the long dry spell so machine stripping of the turf was essential.

Trench 1 was a disappointment. The grating, rending noise made by the mechanical shovel was not because we were scraping across a building, it spelt trouble. Immediately below the turf was a dense concentration of medium sized flint, in a firm, silty-clay matrix. The machine put in a trial cut across the trench, 1m wide x 0.6m deep, but the layer was barren of the bulk finds one would expect to find from building demolition or from a farmyard site. There was absolutely no building archaeology and no artefacts either. What we had opened up appeared to be a recent (ie post-farm-demolition) fill of a hollow. The most likely hypothesis was that this might have been a pond in the farmyard. But whatever it was, it was completely unsuitable for a training dig, so it was quickly recorded and filled in again. Just one find was recovered from the turf of Trench 1: a large horseshoe. One horseshoe does not a farm make ... but at least it was a start!

Trench 2 was totally different and an immediate success. Along the centreline of the southern half of the marked out area was a series of shallow depressions, which was an encouraging start as they were centred on a neat rectangle of high resistance on the geophysics plot. This time the bucket cut softly below the turf and as it lifted the soil away finds were falling out of it. The whole of the stripped area was littered with late or post-medieval artefacts: iron nails, fragments of hand-made roof tile, broken pottery and glass. The trench was opened to 16m x 6m and included an area just beyond that covered by the geophysics. The trench edges were cleaned up by hand but the surface was left

untouched for the volunteers to view and recover the remarkable spread of finds in the first clean-up.

Despite machine stripping, much heavy digging would still be required to remove the overburden of top soil. With the very high summer temperatures we decided to come on site early and dig only in the mornings. Although this reduced the available man-hours it proved a wise decision in the circumstances. The top soil was removed selectively following the emerging shape of the building, in the end leaving 40% of Trench 2 unexcavated. A proportion of the top soil was sieved and surveyed with metal detectors. The bulk of the top soil was excavated with the mattock; the lower layers were excavated with the trowel down to the top surface of the building archaeology, which was left in situ.

A farmhouse revealed

We set out to find an 'L' shaped farmhouse – but found a 'T' shaped one!

Our working copy of the 1802 Enclosure Award map (dated 1900) showed an 'L' shaped building and the geophysics seemed to confirm this. The theory was that we might have a medieval long-house (represented by the long part of the 'L') facing east towards the road, with a small lean-to 'outshut' at the back. But as the walls and floors were slowly uncovered it proved more and more difficult to reconcile the archaeology with this theory. A new theory was put forward by Don Church: that the main part of the house in fact faced north, not east. He argued that this solved the difficulties we had in interpreting the archaeology and made better social sense – anyone building a substantial new farmhouse on enclosed land close to Brightwell main village, would want to present his best side towards his benefactor, focusing the front of his house towards Brightwell Park. His new theory certainly made sense of the emerging archaeology.

Confirmation and a breakthrough came from examination of the copy of the 1802 map in the Brightwell Estate papers (ORS E43a). This map is on parchment and is dated 1858, so it takes precedence over the 1900 paper copy we had been using. It clearly shows the farmhouse as a 'T' shape, with the larger, main part of the house on the north side forming the cross arm of the 'T' and a small 'annexe' on the south side forming the stem.

Ground-plan

The ground plan that eventually emerged was indeed 'T' shaped and facing north (Fig 15).

The main part of the house was rectangular. The width of the frontage is unknown as the east wall was under the baulk, but is at least equal to the recorded depth of 6.5m (21ft or 7yd) and may well be more. A re-examination of the geophysics results suggests a probable frontage of 10m (33ft or 11yd), giving proportions of 3 : 2. An 'annexe' was built out at a right-angle to the back of the house and this was quite narrow, at about 3.75m (12ft or 4yd) wide and perhaps 6.5m (21ft or 7yd) long, although again the length could not be determined for certain as the end wall was under the baulk. It was not centrally placed, the west wall of

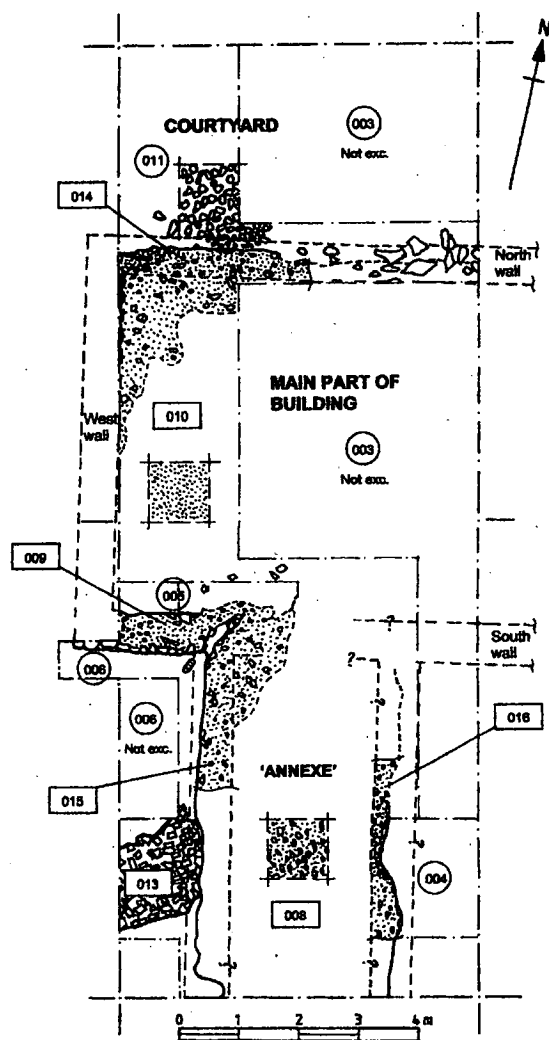


Fig 15. A schematic plan of Trench 2, with an outline of the western part of the farmhouse superimposed.

the annexe being about 2m (6ft or 2yd) from the south-west corner of the main part of the house. I have purposely given the English conversions here because buildings were typically laid out in integer multiples of these old units.

Fronting the house on the north side was a courtyard [011] paved with irregular chalk slabs. There was a significant scattering of roof tile fragments over this area, representing demolition debris. About 5m from the north-west corner of the house, the courtyard was paved with larger chalk slabs. These extended under the line of the front wall in this area and this may be the main threshold. If the frontage is 10m wide then the front entrance was symmetrically placed.

Walls

The ground slopes gently from West to East in Blooms field, with an average fall of 0.36m over the 6m width of Trench 2 (1 in 17). Beneath the plough soil [003] is a sub-soil [004=005=006] of firm, yellowish-brown clay at an average depth of 0.2m but with a slightly shallower slope of 0.28m over 6m (1 in 21).

The foundations for the outer walls [009, 014, 015, 016] of the farmhouse were cut into the clay layer, very shallow on the east side and deeper on the west side to level the foundation. The walls were faced with rough-hewn, randomly-coursed, local chalk (clunch or Totternhoe stone) bedded in lime mortar, with a chalk rubble and mortar core incorporating rare fragments of brick. The south-west wall [009] of the main house had survived well and was 0.6m (2ft) thick. Elsewhere the walls had been largely robbed out and thickness was more difficult to determine, but the front wall [014] appears to have been 0.6m thick and it seems likely they were the same throughout. The chalk-stones facing the surviving wall were of a small size for constructional stone, with average dimensions of 180 x 50 x 100mm but with a very wide variation in shape and size. Occasional loose stone recovered from the topsoil was similar.

A small extension was cut into the west side of the trench to explore the south-west corner of the main part of the building. This confirmed that no special treatment was given to the quoins, either by using larger chalk blocks or bricks. Lenses of topsoil and specks of charcoal in the clay showed where the original cut for the foundations had been back-filled. Unusually, the outer part of the wall was set much deeper into the clay than the inner.

The annexe appeared to have been built at the same time as the main house. Certainly there was no discontinuity in the construction of the walls. A gap at 45° across the south-west internal corner was a stress-induced crack resulting from subsidence in the annexe, of which more later. About halfway along the west side of the annexe, a deposit of broken roof tiles [013] appeared to have been deliberately laid outside the building to form a path, leading away at an angle from a shallow depression in the wall foundations where there may have been a doorway. These tiles were well within the clay layer and appeared to pre-date the demolition phase.

Floors

The floor in the main part of the house survived over a large area as a thin layer of mortar [010]. This had been laid on the natural slope of the clay, so although the main structure of the house was levelled the floors were not. A spread of rubble in the north-west corner and faint plough marks cutting through the mortar showed that the field had been shallow ploughed at some time after demolition.

The mortar had clearly been the bedding for a brick floor although no bricks were found in situ. Only fragments of brick were recovered but these show they were hand-made using moulds, typically 32 – 38mm (1¼ – 1½ in) thick and 108 – 114mm (4¼ – 4½ in) wide, the length being unknown. All show extensive wear from foot traffic on one face and some have slight traces of mortar on the opposite face. Whilst brick flooring could be a later addition there was no evidence of earlier flooring, unless this was the virgin clay. The wear on the floor bricks suggested they had been down a long time.

The floor in the annexe was probably also brick as there was no discontinuity between the floor levels in the two areas. However, the mortar layer [008] was much thicker over the central area of the annexe where there had been significant subsidence. There was evidence of more than one attempt to build up the floor to deal with this subsidence, first using mortar, chalk and building rubble, and then with a hard, mid-brown silty-clay sub-soil [012] containing frequent medium-large flint and occasional medium-large brick. There were no finds in this layer.

Subsidence in the annexe was severe and clearly an ongoing problem during the life of the house. It continued after demolition and was the cause of the line of shallow depressions in the field observed before stripping.

Overlying the walls and floors was rare demolition debris in situ, including a noticeable tile scatter in the north-west corner of the annexe. Overlying the whole of the sunken area of the annexe was a firm-hard layer of mid-brown silty-clay [007] containing frequent brick and tile, medium-large chalk and occasional flints. The layer contained rare small-medium pottery and glass, rare iron and moderate-frequent charcoal flecks. It resulted from the first phase of post-demolition work, where sub-soil and demolition debris had been used to build up the lowest part of the site before covering the whole with valuable topsoil.

Topsoil [003] had been used to cover the whole site. This contained frequent residual finds of all kinds: building materials, pottery, window glass, glassware and bottles, iron and bone. These were evenly spread throughout the layer.

Windows

One fragment of "H" section, lead glazing bar [S013] and significant quantities of thin, clear glass recovered showed that the house had leaded lights.

Roof

Many fragments of hand made roof tile were recovered but none complete. The width was 178mm (7") and thickness 16mm (5/8") but the length could not be determined. The few fragments of valley tile recovered were too small to measure the angle precisely but do suggest the roof had a steep angle. Whilst not an infallible clue this might suggest the roof was thatched originally. The majority were a red fabric but there were a few fragments of a white fabric tile which could have been used decoratively. All tiles were hung from two pegs.

Fireplace

This was not located but we can be certain there was one. Our revised, 'T' shaped, ground plan meant that the house was much wider than our trench. If the building is 10m wide the fireplace could be centrally placed and under an unexcavated part of the trench; alternatively it may be on one of the three end walls that remained under the baulk. The fireplace is an important dating feature that remains to be located at a future date.

Discussion

What was the constructional style of this farmhouse and when was it built?

The site had been robbed of reusable materials. Approximate quantities of building materials recovered were:

Broken roof tiles c 1000 (excluding the 'path' deposit [013])

Chalk-stones and fragments c 200

Broken bricks c 50

Most of the bricks were identifiable as floor bricks. The almost complete absence of constructional brick and the relative rarity of chalk-stones and fragments, suggest that brick and stone were not the main constructional materials. The demolition site was noticeably clean with very little mortar and chalk debris, but a significant scattering of broken tiles left in situ. Rubble might have been collected for infill elsewhere, but it would make no sense then to leave the broken tiles. The demolition layer outside the building, showing in the trench section, was also minimal. Whilst 0.6m (2ft) thick walls could have been built to single or two story height, the evidence suggests rather that they were dwarf walls, built to support a timber frame clear of the ground. The small sized and irregular chalk-stone facing and the lack of any special treatment for the quoins would support this. Another indicator may be the asymmetry of the foundation. There was no sign of internal walls so any internal divisions are likely to have been of timber, although we should caution that not all of the trench was excavated. If this was a timber-framed building, then the absence of post holes means it was built on a sill or sole plate.

The presence of rare brick fragments incorporated in the wall rubble fills and the apparently original brick floors, shows that the house was built after brick became available in this area. The earliest brick buildings in the locality are the school and alms houses at Ewelme, dating from 1442. Brick then came into more general use over the next century, becoming very fashionable in the Tudor period but still rare in this area. The Ewelme bricks would probably have been made on site and this is only 2½ miles away, so it is possible that 'our' bricks came from Ewelme and that the farmhouse dates from c 1442. A comparative analysis of the bricks might confirm this.

Clear-glass, leaded windows are very unusual in ordinary houses before the mid 15th century. Whilst they could be a later addition/enhancement, they too point to a possible Tudor period construction.

The constructional evidence suggests the house was built sometime between c 1450 and c 1600. If we are right about the frontage, the symmetrical arrangement would point to a late date, perhaps Elizabethan rather than early Tudor. A simple, rectangular ground-plan became common for new farmhouses from the late 16th century and this was a time of prosperity, when many new houses were built and old ones remodelled. Whilst we cannot entirely rule out a stone-built construction to half or even full height, the details do favour

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a typical 'Tudor' style, timber box-framed building. The roof could have been tiled originally, although two other houses in the village from roughly this date or slightly later (Glebe Farm and Shepherds Cottage) are thatched. A later date would suggest a two-story house with gabled upper windows, rather than a hall house. Sadly, the assignment of lease of 1588 (ORS E43b), which contains our earliest reference to Blomes close, makes no mention of a tenement, but this cannot be taken as proof that the building is later than this.

Do the small finds and pottery support the dating?

The small finds included the window lead mentioned above. There was also a small, steel eating fork [S008] with two straight prongs. It is recorded that these were first brought to England from Italy by Thomas Coryate in 1608. At first ridiculed, they were slowly adopted by the rich and by the mid 1600s were considered fashionable among the wealthy. These finds, although not closely dateable, at least give us *termini post quem* in the Tudor and early Jacobean periods.

An unusual 'button' (Fig 16) in cast copper alloy [S003], possibly silvered, may provide another date but at present is baffling the experts. The British Button Society have not



Fig 16. Unusual button.

seen anything like it before, so research is continuing.

The majority of pottery recovered was locally produced earthenware for the kitchen and dairy, in a red fabric with a brown or olive glaze. Only a few items are dateable earlier than the mid 15th or later than the early 19th centuries.

Among the early wares are one piece of possibly late Roman painted ware, some Saxo-Norman ware from the 10/11th century and some developed Stamford ware from the 12/13th century. A few sherds of Tudor green bring us to the 14/15th century. The earliest closely dateable pottery for which we have significant quantities is from the late 15th/16th century (Cistercian ware) and we have even more from the 17th century (Midland black and Staffordshire slipware). The significant quantity of fine wares recovered are generally dateable to the late 18th/early 19th century. These include fragments of porcelain and fine classical black basalt ware, perhaps Wedgewood. These are status items and were no doubt valued possessions.

In general, the pottery supports occupation between perhaps the late 15th but certainly the 16th century and the demolition date of c 1820.

The death of a farm

Why was the house and farm pulled down early in the 19th century? We can only speculate.

Thomas and Mary Quatremaine would seem to have led a reasonably comfortable and prosperous existence at Blooms, but after Thomas died, in 1798, the next twenty years for Mary would inevitable have been more difficult. Mary died in December 1816 at Whitehouse Farm, at that time being tenanted by her grandson James Quatremaine, otherwise known as James Coates, born out of wedlock to her daughter Elizabeth. Elizabeth married William Coates twenty months after James was born but we do not know if he was James' father. James was sole executor of Mary's will and inherited the residue of her estate after significant disbursements to her daughters Elizabeth and Anne. Mary's two sons had died earlier, so, with James tenancing the much larger Whitehouse Farm, it seems there was no Quatremaine to take over the tenancy at Blooms. Certainly the Quatremaines disappear from the parish records after Mary's death.

The small farm may well have been in decay by this time and in need of significant repairs. We may recall the subsidence in the annexe of the farmhouse, which could have contributed to structural problems. What was the cause of this subsidence? One theory concerns the water supply that must have been there to make it worthwhile putting a farm on this site in the first place. Springs used to emerge in Upperton from the Lower Chalk where it meets the underlying, harder Totternhoe Stone and this line runs through Blooms field; so there may possibly have been a spring in the field that fed a pond, perhaps in the area briefly explored by Trench 1 some 20m to the south-east of the annexe. It is possible that the annexe was inadvertently built over the line of this spring and sub-surface erosion caused the subsidence. Eventually the spring would run deeper underground and dry up.

More importantly perhaps, the enclosure of the open fields at Brightwell brought about the grouping of the land into larger units centred on the main farms. The small farm at Blooms would have been an anachronism in this new regime. With no obvious tenant, expensive repairs needed, and a failing water supply, the farm had reached the end of its useful life. The Lord of the Manor, William Lowndes-Stone (d 1830), seized the opportunity, demolished the buildings and reused or sold all the useful building materials. A thin layer of topsoil from the field was pulled over the site and the old pond was filled in with sub-soil and flints from one of the gravel pits in the parish. The field was shallow ploughed at some time, perhaps when covering over the site, but in the main from then on it was given over to Brightwell Farm and used as pasture.

And pasture it remains to this day. A peaceful enclosure at the heart of Brightwell, with history under the grass.

Acknowledgements

The dig was a success in bringing together the community volunteers and training them in a short time to carry out an excavation. The training regime worked well, natural talents emerged, and a disciplined and motivated team was quickly formed. By the second week some fine work was being carried out with both mattock and trowel. Despite the high temperatures and the discovery that field archaeology involves hard work, the enthusiasm and interest of the volunteers never wavered. Most importantly, we had a great deal of fun doing it. Post-excavation involvement was less successful and a revised approach will be needed in the future.

The average number of volunteers on site over the two weeks was 12 with a maximum of 16, including four regulars from the surrounding parishes of Cuxham, Chalgrove and Benson. Four SOAG members took part. Many more parishioners and their friends came to visit the site and there was an organised visit by SOAG.

This report has benefited from the observations and insights of a number of people, but most notably the late Don Church. The brief historical notes are based on research into the local Quatremaines and the Blomes by Foy Treloar and Joan Barker of Cuxham, and David Viall of Chalgrove. Their work is ongoing and will be reported more fully at a later date.

Success in the field depended on the efforts of everyone involved and I record my thanks to them all. To single out individuals always seems unfair, but I must in particular thank: Jane and Phil Hughes for letting us make a mess of their field, Peter Kent (Parish archivist) and Dorothy who have done so much to promote and facilitate the project, Terry Stone and the parish committee for their support, Nigel and Tessa Mogg for their much valued encouragement, the Chilterns Conservation Board, and lastly my wife Catherine for her supervision of the on-site finds processing and for putting up with my obsession.

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TIM SOUTHERN

Springwoods, Rotherfield Peppard (SU 710, 810)

Springwoods is a composite of earlier woodland and meadow that occupies approximately 6ha on the southern side of the valley separating the main area of Rotherfield

Peppard from Sonning Common. The surface geology is clay with flints overlying chalk. The woods are now managed and are mainly of beech and birch with considerable holly.

Within the woods is a brick built springhead with a family crest (Knollys Family), numerous banks and ditches, quarries, saw pits and possible Second World War bomb craters. A lynchet exists in the eastern part that was once meadow.

A desktop assessment (Southern, 2005) of the archaeological features within Springwoods was undertaken and in conjunction with site visits and the examination of clay samples has revealed a number of unique features.

The archaeology appears to be grouped into three main phases with the oldest being the long linear ditch, and its associated earth works including the supply channel from the main spring, the channels running down the eastern and western edges of the woods and the additional springs feeding this ditch. This western channel is to the west of the woodland bank and ditches. It is likely that this group of features was associated with mineral processing and could be connected to the Romano-British industrial site located a few hundred metres to the southeast. The clay samples taken from this site have been found to be very similar to the non-natural clay located behind Widmore Pond and associated with the Romano-British industrial site. The local clay contains iron oxides, sand as well as clay and there is evidence that on the industrial site to the southwest that both pottery and glass were worked. Field name evidence suggests that at some point in time iron was also worked.

The bank and ditch boundaries form a second group that postdates the linear ditch. These banks and ditches pre-date

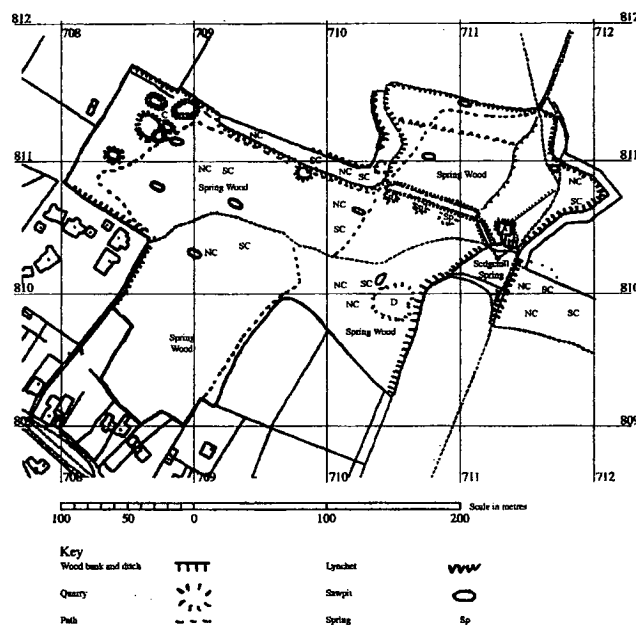


Fig 17. Springwoods. A sketch map of the woods (Adapted from Morris 2002). (c) Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved.

Oxfordshire

the quarries (C) in the north western corner of the woods that may well be marl pits as described by R Plot in 1675 (Plot, 1677). A number of shallow depressions in the region of these quarries are, according to local tradition, the result of bombs during the Second World War.

A third group consists of the construction of the pond (A) just to the north of the spring, the re-routing of the footpath that linked Blount's Court Road, Sonning Common with Rotherfield Peppard Common, and the consequential blocking of the channel (B) that once flowed down the eastern edge of the woods. The re-routing of the footpath will have occurred after the construction of Blount's Court House and will therefore have occurred after 1287 (Rendell, 1976).

The clay in the quarry D is also very similar to the non-natural clay found behind Widmore Pond.

Widmore Pond and surroundings, Sonning Common (SU 712, 805)

Widmore Pond is located on the side of a valley on the eastern periphery of the village of Sonning Common.

Today it consists of two ponds that are joined to form one large pond by a narrow strip of water. The main pond is visible from Widmore Lane and is of irregular shape of about 200m by 100m. To the south of this main pond is a second pond that is approximately 30m in diameter. This

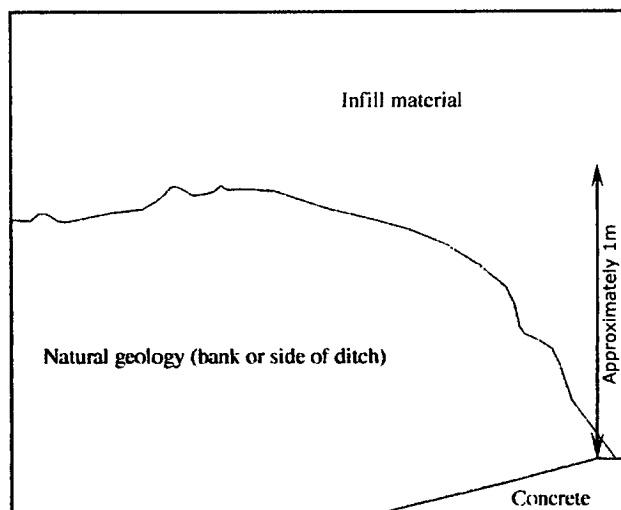


Fig 18. Diagram showing the "feature" observed in the drive to Slade's House

smaller pond can be attributed to the work described by Plot (Plot, 1677) and undertaken by T Stonor in 1675. The field that surrounds the smaller rear pond is called Little Sparrow.

The work described by Robert Plot (Plot 1677) is of the clearance of Widmore Pond and the artifacts found including whole oak trees, stags' heads, and Roman pottery. The article makes it very clear that the area dug was an area of infilled material and that the pond was once larger than it is today.

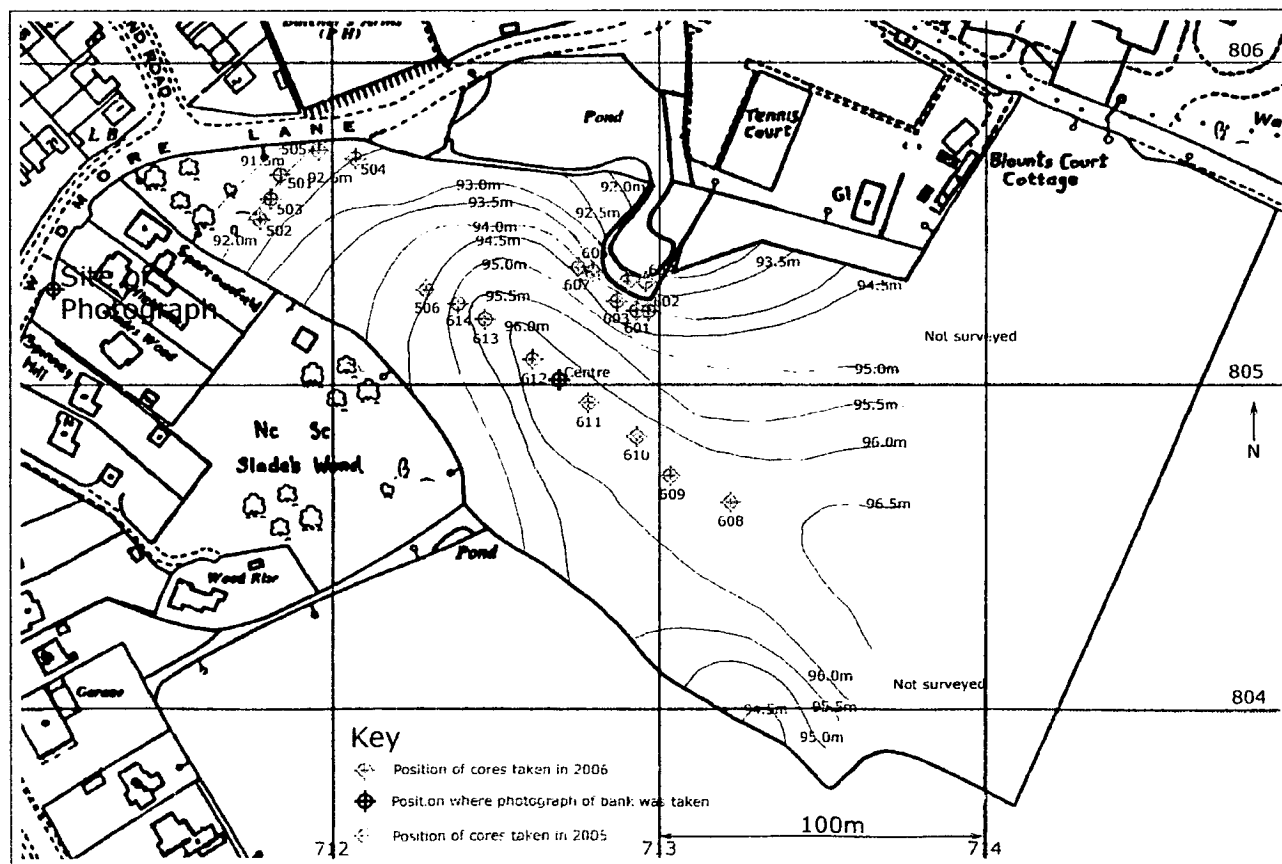


Fig 18. Figure showing the location of the various cores. This figure also shows the contours and the location of Slade's House. (c) Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved.

During the late 1990s in the drive to Slade's Wood house (to the south west of the pond) an apparent archaeological or geological feature was photographed. This feature (Fig 18) appears to be the side of a ditch or cutting.

To understand this feature and how the pond and its surroundings relate to the Romano-British site located in Great Sparrow, the adjacent field to the east, a series of cores was obtained from the Little Sparrow, and a large percentage of the Little Sparrow was surveyed topographically and by gradiometer (Geoscan FM36). (Southern, 2006).

The cores and the simple analysis of their clay and sand content has revealed that the feature shown in Fig 18 can be observed in the field Little Sparrow on what appears to be a line from the point in Slade's Wood house to the north-western corner of Widmore Pond.

The clay analysis showed that at least two different clay materials were found in the area behind the pond, one a yellowish colour and the other a more red colour. The natural clay from the site is the darker of the two. Although the colour of the clay can be altered by either weathering or by thermal processes, the fact that two adjacent cores show the two different colour materials is consistent with one, the lighter coloured material, being brought on to the site from elsewhere.

The topographical survey (Fig 19) revealed what appears to be a mass of material that has slipped down the valley side forming a dome on the surface of the field just behind the pond. The gradiometer survey showed a large ferrous response under this slipped soil besides various other anomalies that can be attributed to circular structures consistent with a Romano-British date and a rectilinear enclosure.

This work suggests that Widmore Pond was originally either a geological fault or opencast pit that has been infilled leaving just the current pond and that this and the field Little Sparrow are associated with the known archaeological site in the adjacent field, Great Sparrow.

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UFFINGTON VILLAGE PROJECT EXCAVATION 2002

Alan Hardy and Alistair Barclay

with contributions by Paul Blinkhorn, Philippa Bradley

Introduction

In September 2002, Oxford Archaeology (OA), in partnership with the Friends of Tom Brown's School Museum, Uffington, undertook an archaeological evaluation of a prehistoric site north of the village, situated on a small headland. The evaluation broadly confirmed the indications of the cropmarks and the geophysical survey, that the site was of an enclosed settlement occupied for a period between c 500BC and 150 BC. Domestic and structural features were excavated to provide dating evidence, and some indication of the settlement's character.

Project Background

In November 2001, the Tom Brown's School Museum, were awarded a Local Heritage Initiative Grant for an archaeological research project in the environs of their historic village. The theme of the project was to investigate the relationship between the village of Uffington and the White Horse. One element of the project was an archaeological evaluation of a prehistoric site 0.5km north of the village (SU 295 899).

The fieldwork was designed as a co-operative venture involving Friends of Tom Brown's School Museum, and OA, the latter providing professional guidance and training throughout the programme and managing the fieldwork. The investigation was centred on a newly discovered archaeological site situated approximately 0.5km north of the modern village of Uffington (Fig 20).

Topography and Geology

The site is approximately 0.2ha in area (based upon the cropmarks and the geophysical plot), at an elevation of c 101m OD, and is situated north-west of Uffington in arable land, immediately south of the line of the 19th century canal (Fig 20). The site is situated on the southern edge of a band of Kimmeridge Clay running into Lower Greensand to the south, overlaid by periglacial sands.

Strategy

The site was first identified from aerial photography of (NMR 15774/02, 15774/04 - Pl 1). Preparatory to the excavation, a resistivity survey of the area was undertaken by Andrew Payne of English Heritage, and a 5m contour survey of the site was undertaken by OA (Fig 21).

Based upon the results of the surveys six trenches were laid out across the headland, each designed to answer specific research questions. Areas that appeared to be excessively 'busy' (in archaeological terms) were avoided, as these would needlessly complicate the interpretation, given the constraints of time and resources.

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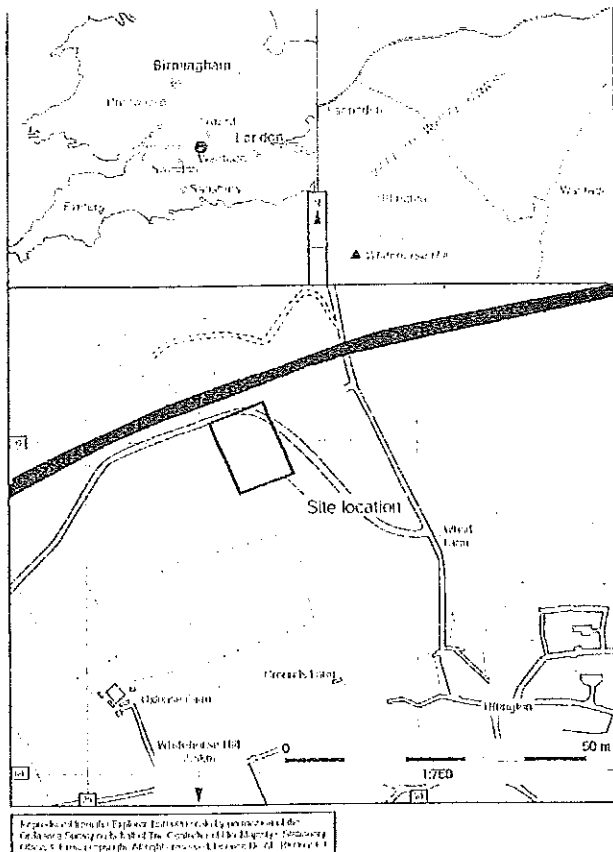


Fig 20. Site location

Archaeological description

General

The natural subsoil across the plateau was a fairly fine greensand, typically overlaid by a pale brown sandy silt ploughsoil and a sandy loam topsoil. Across the top of the plateau (Trenches 3 to 6) the topsoil was up to 0.25m deep, and the interface between the topsoil and the ploughsoil - and the ploughsoil and the natural - was indistinct, making the definition of revealed archaeological features very difficult. In contrast, the topsoil/natural interface on the northern slope of the plateau was relatively clear, the topsoil never more than 0.20m in depth, and the ploughsoil layer almost non-existent.

Trench 1 - 32.5m NW-SE (Figs 21, 22)

The trench was situated at the north-east extremity of the site, and was targeted on a cluster of geophysical anomalies of both ditches and pits, and the line of the disused canal. All exposed features were cut into the silty sand natural (126), and (with the exception of the backfilled canal 116 - see below) sealed by a vestigial silty sand subsoil (101) and 0.20 m deep topsoil.

At the south-east (upslope) end of the trench two 'U' shaped ditch termini (104 and 102) were exposed, along with two possibly associated postholes (117 and 119). The fills (103 and 105) of both termini were a similar grey/brown silty sand. The latter produced a significant quantity of worked flint, pottery and burnt stone and bone, suggesting the proximity of a domestic focus.

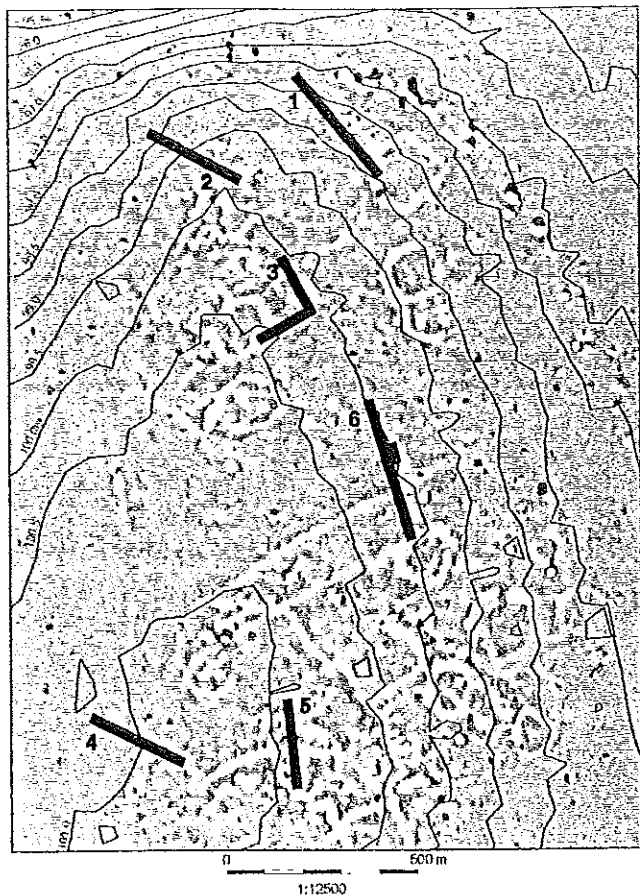


Fig 21. Geophysics plot and contour survey overlay

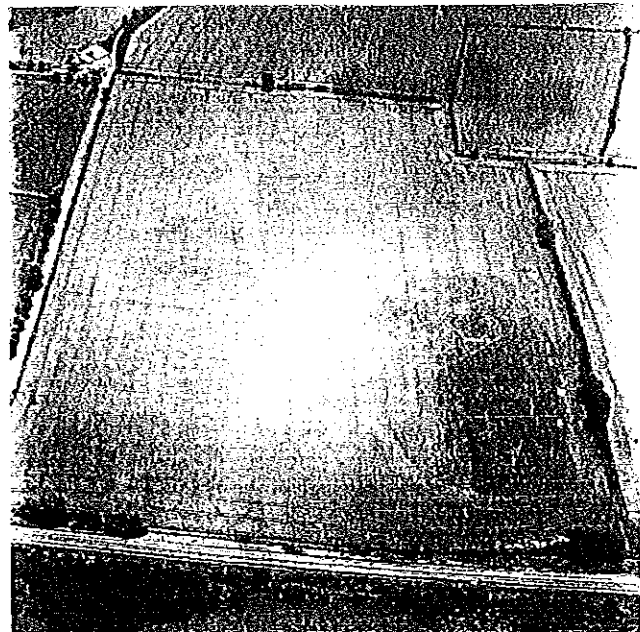


Plate 1. Aerial photograph of site cropmarks, view south.

To the north-west of ditch 104, seven subcircular pits were totally or partially exposed (107, 109, 121, 110, 112, 124, and 114). Each was of a broadly similar diameter of 1.2m - 1.4m, and depth of 0.2 - 0.3m (where excavated). Finds from the pit fills were scarce, comprising a few pottery sherds, bone fragments and flint flakes.

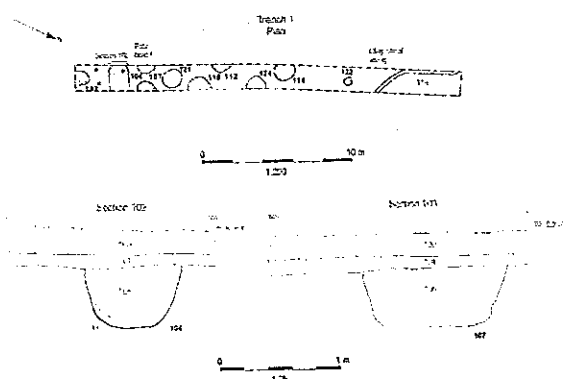


Fig 22. Trench 1 plan and sections.

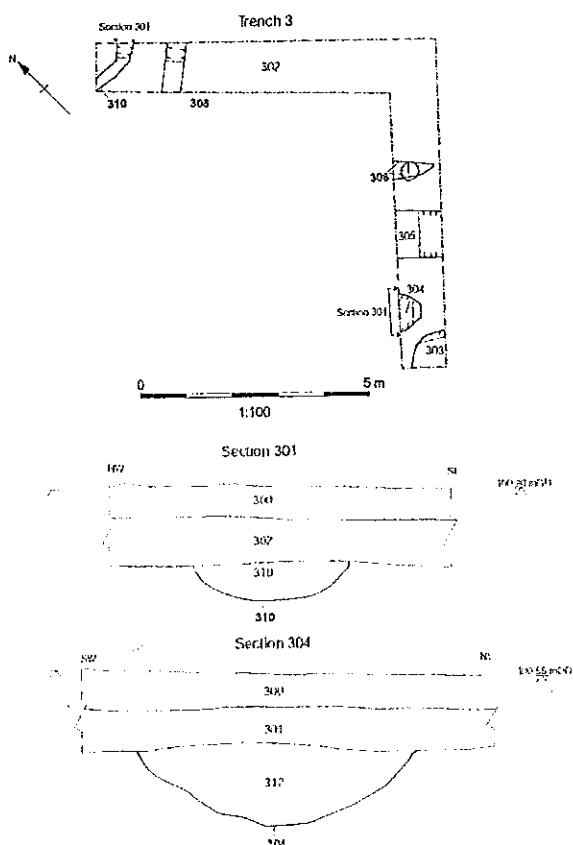


Fig 23. Trench 3 plan and sections.

To the north-west of the pits a poorly defined linear feature (125) was identified, oriented northeast-southwest, and apparently representing the settlement enclosure ditch visible on the geophysical plot. A small irregular feature (122), possibly an associated posthole, was identified alongside feature 125.

In the north-west end of the trench the backfilled cutting (116) for the canal was exposed. The canal has clearly been lined with blue clay, and backfilled with sand.

Trench 2 - 25m NW-SE (Fig 21)

The trench was situated at the north-west edge of the settlement, targeting both of the settlement enclosure ditches. Two small 'U' shaped ditches were identified, (202 and 204), crossing the trench on a northeast-southwest

orientation. Both were shallow (no more than 0.1m deep) and were cut into the silty sand natural (201) and sealed by a sandy loam topsoil (200), up to 0.2m deep. No finds were recovered from their silty clay fills (203 and 204).

Trench 3 - 14m NE-SW, 15m NW-SE (Figs 21, 23)

Trench 3 was L-shaped and positioned to investigate a group of enclosures, gullies and pits within the northern complex of settlement features. All features were cut into the natural sandy silt natural (302). A single tree-throw hole (316) was recorded in the middle of the trench.

Two features were revealed at the northern end of the trench. Part of a ring gully (310), packed with stone (309) within a silty sand matrix (319) was revealed; fill 319 was sampled for charred remains, and also produced a large fragment of a Middle Iron Age bowl (see below). It is likely that this gully belongs with a roundhouse structure. To the south-east of this gully was a shallow ditch (308) that contained a single fill (317). This fill contained 56 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery.

The southern arm of Trench 3 contained a shallow ditch (305), and three pits (303, 304, 306). A possible large pit (303) at the southern end of the trench produced no finds from its sandy silt fill. Adjacent to this feature was another circular pit (304), which was half-sectioned against the baulk. The brown sandy loam fill (312) of this pit contained 27 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery and a single piece of Droitwich briquetage. To the north of these pits was a shallow ditch (305) that contained two fills of brown sandy loam (313, 314) both of which produced Early Iron Age pottery. This ditch may have belonged to a subrectangular enclosure identified in the geophysical survey. Near this feature was a small pit (306), which was found to cut a shallow gully. Both fills consisted of a dark brown sandy loam (315). These features were not fully excavated and it is possible that they both represent animal disturbance as it was difficult to define their edges. Finds from the gully and pit were collected under the same number (315), and included pottery of Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age and Middle Iron Age date.

All the features were sealed by a sandy silt subsoil (301), up to 0.25m deep and a 0.2m deep topsoil (300).

Trench 4 - 22m NW-SE (Fig 21)

The trench was situated on the southern edge of the settlement, targeted on the settlement enclosure ditch and a possible trackway. Two linear features were identified, cutting the natural of compact silty sand (407). Ditch 400 was oriented northwest-southeast, and was a shallow 'U' shape in profile, measuring 1.85m wide x 0.35m deep. A single fill of light brown sandy silt produced no finds. To the east, a 0.95m wide x 0.2m ditch (402) was revealed, oriented northeast-southwest. A single fill (403) of grey brown silty sand with charcoal flecks produced no finds.

Both features were sealed by a mid-orange brown silty sand subsoil (405) up to 0.15m deep, and the sandy loam topsoil (406), up to 0.25m deep.



Plate 2. View from site towards the White Horse, Dragon Hill and Uffington hillfort.

Trench 5 - 22m NW-SE (Figs 21, 24)

The trench was targeted on a dense but ill-defined cluster of anomalies identified in the southern part of the site.

The orange grey silty sand natural (502) was cut by a sequence of intercutting ditches oriented northeast-southwest. The earliest features in the sequence were ditches 518 and 520. Both were cut by later features, so their original width is unknown, although both displayed a depth of up to 0.7m in shallow 'U' shaped profiles. Ditch 518 contained a single fill (519) of greyish brown silty sand. Ditch 520 contained a lower fill (521) of greyish brown silty sand, and an upper fill (522) of similar material, which produced pottery and animal bone.

Cutting both ditches 518 and 520 was ditch 515, measuring 2m wide x 0.8m deep. The primary fill (517) of yellow brown silty sand contained pottery and bone. The upper fill (516), a dark grey brown silty sand, produced pottery, flint and animal bone.

The northern side of ditch 518 was cut by ditch 509, measuring 1.85m wide x 0.55m deep. Its single dark brown silty sand fill produced pottery, bone and flint.

Approximately 2m south of this group of features was another ditch (513) oriented on a more north-south alignment, and measuring 1.15m wide and at least 0.45m deep. Its single sandy silt fill produced pottery and bone. Further to the south a pit (or possibly a ditch terminus) (503) was partially revealed. It measured 1.5m wide x 0.38m deep and its three fills (504, 505 and 506) all of sandy silt, contained pottery bone and flint.

At the southern end of the trench a shallow gully (507) was identified. The definition of this feature was particularly difficult due to what appeared to be animal disturbance. The gully's single dark grey silty sand fill (508) contained pottery, bone and flint.

The features in the southern part of the trench were sealed by an orange grey silty sand subsoil (501), up to 0.5m deep. This was indistinguishable in the northern part of the trench

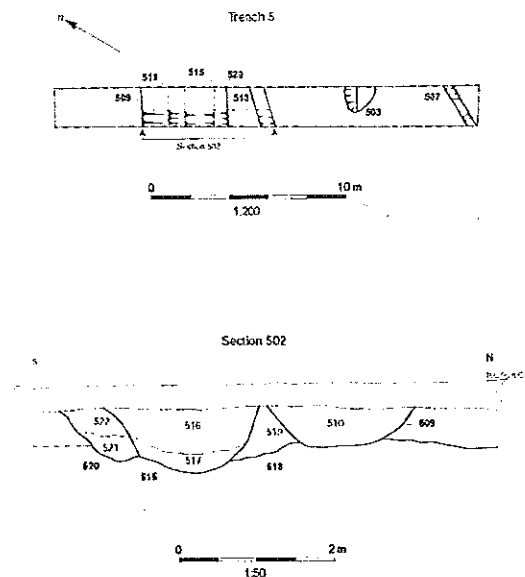


Fig 24. Trench 5 plan and sections.

between the upper feature fills and the sandy silt topsoil (500).

Trench 6 - 32m NW-SE (Fig 21)

The trench was targeted on what appeared to be an 'open' area in the geophysics plot, possibly bisected by a trackway ditch. The natural was a greyish orange-brown silty sand (602), overlaid by an ill-defined layer of slightly darker silty sand subsoil (601), and the topsoil (600) measuring up to 0.25m deep. Although there was a slight darkening of the exposed natural horizon across the trench at the supposed location of the ditch, no feature was identified. A sondage was dug on the east side of the trench to confirm that the main trench had reached natural. No finds were recovered from any of the deposits in the trench.

Finds

The following are summary reports on the finds assemblages recovered from the excavation. Full details and analytical methodologies are contained in the site archive.

Pottery

Some 563 sherds of pottery were recovered from the excavations. Most of the assemblage is of early Iron Age date, although small quantities of Bronze Age, middle Iron Age, Roman, post-Roman and Saxon pottery were also recovered.

Prehistoric and Roman pottery and fired clay by Alistair Barclay

Featured Sherds

The Iron Age assemblage includes sherds from both fine and coarse ware vessels. Fine wares tend to be sand tempered and well-finished sometimes by burnish and a few have red finish. A small number of sherds are highly decorated and one (now lost) displayed a stamped circle. Coarse wares can be shell tempered and where decorated carry finger-tip impressions, mostly on the shoulder and sometimes on the rim. A small number of featured sherds

are from rounded and ovoid shaped vessels that are more likely to be of middle Iron Age date. One rim or lid in a grog tempered fabric is probably late Iron Age in date (context 603). Roman sherds were recovered from contexts 300, 508 and 603. Two late Bronze Age sherds were recovered from contexts 315 and 516 and a decorated sherd from a collared urn of early Bronze Age date was recovered from context 511.

Discussion

A high proportion of the pottery is of Iron Age date. Some of the are stylistically similar to All Cannings Cross style pottery and this could indicate that the origins of the site go back to the 8th century BC, and a few sherds of late Bronze Age pottery hint that the origins of the site could be even older. The recovery of a relatively small quantity of middle Iron Age pottery indicates continuation of occupation - maybe on a smaller scale - with possible abandonment by the late Iron Age.

The early Iron Age pottery from the excavation is similar in character to material recovered from the excavated Castle Hill hillfort at Uffington and from the open settlement at Tower Hill, Ashbury (Miles et al, 2003), indicating that the valley settlement at Uffington and the enclosed hillfort settlement were broadly contemporary.

Illustrations (Fig 25)

1. Early Bronze Age. ?Collared Urn. Body with a single line of impressed twisted cord decoration (10g). Fabric G3. Condition worn. Context 511.
2. Early Iron Age. Rim and neck sherd from a fine ware red finish angular bowl (13g). Fabric A1. Burnish. Condition worn. Trench 5 unstratified.
- 3-4. Early Iron Age. Decorated shoulder sherds from one or more fine ware bowls (29g). Fabric A1. Burnished surfaces. Condition average to worn.
5. Early Iron Age. Decorated body sherd with red finish (15g). Fabric A1. Outer surface originally burnished.
6. Early Iron Age. Furrowed rim sherd (9g). Fabric B1. Burnish within furrows. Possibly refired. Condition average to worn. Context 312.
7. Early Iron Age. Decorated sherd - incised lines and impressed ovals (8g). Fabric B1. Ext. burnish and int. smoothed. Condition average. Context 312.
8. Early Iron Age. Decorated sherd (10g). Fabric N1. Condition average-worn. Context 315.
9. Middle Iron Age. Globular jar (93g). Fabric AS2. Ext. burnish, int. smoothed. Condition average. Context 318.
- 10 Late Iron Age - early Roman. Rim sherd from a lid or small bowl (20g). Fabric G1. Condition worn. Context 603.

Fired Clay

A small piece of a Droitwich briquetage salt container was recovered from a single excavated context (312) that also contained Iron Age pottery. This find is important as Droitwich briquetage is rarely found south of the river Thames. Another recent find has come from an Iron Age settlement at Faringdon, which is only a few kilometres north of Uffington.

Anglo-Saxon pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

Two small sherds of hand-built Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from unstratified contexts. One was in a chaff-tempered fabric typical of the tradition in the region, and could date to any time from the 5th to the 9th century. The other was in a fine, slightly micaceous fabric with few visible inclusions, and was decorated with fingertip impressions, in a design reminiscent of a 'rosette', ie a large central impression surrounded by a ring of smaller ones. Myres (1977, 29) sees finger-tipped rosettes, when in combination with incised curvilinear decoration, as being very early in date, with common continental parallels from the 4th century (eg Myres 1986, figure 5.a). However, such decorative schemes had largely fallen from use by the mid-5th century, and it therefore seems likely that the decorated sherd from this site dates to the very earliest part of the Anglo-Saxon period.

Worked flint by Philippa Bradley

Introduction

A total of 131 pieces of worked flint and four pieces of burnt unworked flint were recovered, from both stratified and unstratified contexts. Very little diagnostic material was present but there appears to be some Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic material together with some possible later flint. The assemblage is composed mainly of a range of flakes, blades, blade-like flakes, chips and cores also being recovered. A controlled approach to knapping seems to have been practised; many of the flakes and some of the cores bear evidence for platform edge preparation and two core rejuvenation flakes were found. A variety of cores were recovered and included both flake and blade examples, although the latter are dominant. The retouched forms are limited and are not particularly diagnostic for dating purposes (a possible scraper, retouched flakes and an unfinished object). However, these pieces would not be out of place in a Mesolithic or Neolithic context.

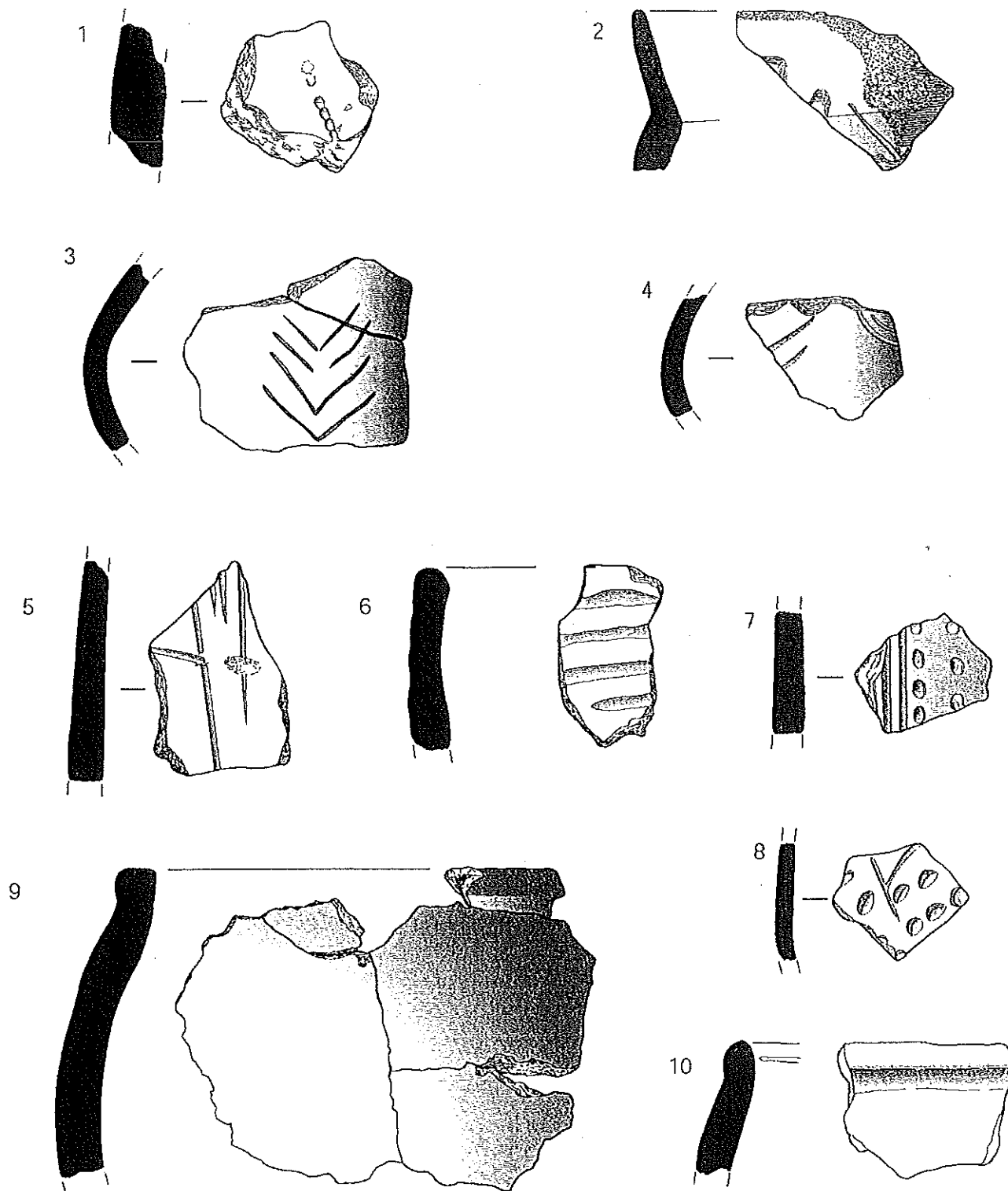
Discussion

This small assemblage of worked flint shows that knapping was occurring on site and that some other domestic tasks that exploited the flint were also probably taking place. It is likely that the inhabitants would have utilised the local flint that they encountered during everyday activities (pit and ditch digging for example). It compares well with material from White Horse Hill and Tower Hill (Bradley, 2003).

Animal bone by Bethan Charles

Although the excavation yielded only a modest quantity of animal bone, evidence from that recovered indicates that all the main domestic species were being kept at the site (cattle, sheep and pig). Beef, mutton and pork is likely to have been the staple meat diet of the inhabitants, probably supplemented by domestic fowl and goose, wild game and fish.

It is unlikely that cattle and sheep would have been kept primarily for meat; cattle provided the muscle for traction and were possibly also kept for their milk, while sheep would have been farmed for their wool and milk. From the



 Burnished area

0  100 mm

1:2

Fig 25. Prehistoric pottery.

evidence most of the pigs from the site were slaughtered before their 2nd year - it is unlikely that these animals would have been kept much beyond that age since they did not provide much in the way of secondary products and would have been farmed for their meat alone.

Three horse teeth were recovered from the site providing evidence that horses were almost certainly kept in and around the site during the lifetime of the settlement.

Environmental evidence by E.C. Stafford

Three soil samples, retrieved from early-Middle Iron Age feature fills (108, 115, and 319) were submitted for the assessment of environmental indicators. The from the samples were moderate in size and contained substantial quantities of modern intrusive material in the form of roots and weed seeds. Small quantities of *Triticum diccocus/spelta* (emmer/spelt wheat) and cf. *Avena* sp (oat) were recovered, along with chaff. Weed seeds were occasionally present in all of the samples, predominantly *Polygonum* sp (knotgrass etc) and occasional *Graminae* sp (grasses). Other charred material included very occasional fragments of shell, probably hazelnut.

In conclusion, charred plant remains were preserved in all three samples, although this was largely confined to fragmentary wood charcoal with only a very small quantity of cereal grain/chaff or other plant remains (<5 items in each sample). This confirms domestic cereal processing, but not on a particularly large scale.

Discussion

Introduction

The fieldwork was designed to be minimally intrusive, and to restrict its aspirations to a limited agenda of research questions. Therefore any conclusions drawn from the results of the six trenches must be seen as tentative and qualified.

Chronology

The characteristic outline of Iron Age hut circles and animal pens were seen on both the photographs and the geophysics plot. The pottery sequence confirms that the major part of the occupation is spread across this period from as early as 700 BC to as late as 50 BC. However the presence of quantities of Mesolithic and Neolithic flints, and Bronze Age pottery suggest that this small plateau may have been a favourable site at least as far back as 7000 BC. Whether the site was occupied in the Neolithic period is not certain - so far none of the features excavated appears to be of that date. The presence of two sherds of potentially early Saxon pottery (albeit in unstratified contexts) raises the possibility that the site (or the vicinity) was also occupied briefly in the 5th century AD. Burials and isolated finds of this period have been recorded in the vicinity, most notably in a re-used prehistoric barrow next to the White Horse itself, and from the site of the Roman villa at Woolstone. However, actual settlements have been more elusive (Miles *et al*, 2003, 265). Uffington (Uffentune) is first mentioned in the 10th century,

but how far back that settlement goes remains uncertain (Cooper and Smith, 2004, 13-16).

In the context of the local landscape, both the hilltop fort and the White Horse itself are both clearly visible from the site today and in a cleared landscape, would have been equally visible 2500 years ago (Plate 2). Their construction could have possibly predated the settlement by centuries. There is little doubt that the Horse must have been routinely maintained after its construction (Miles *et al*, 245) and yet the 'resident' population of the hillfort itself was never high, nor particularly consistent (*ibid.* 250), suggesting that the chalk figure's maintenance was accepted as the responsibility of a wider community. It follows that the sense of guardianship over, and connection to the Horse that is so evident within the village of Uffington today most probably existed in some form in the Early-Middle Iron Age settlement under investigation.

The settlement form

The settlement appears to have been confined to the plateau, maybe a response to the of the lower-lying - and perhaps seasonally flooded - ground to the east and south. The presence of two phases of a perimeter ditch around the entire settlement (identified by the resistivity survey and the aerial photography) was confirmed in the excavation (Trenches 2 and 4), although the modest size of the revealed ditches (even allowing for truncation by ploughing) suggests that they were not in themselves intended for defence. However, it is likely that they would have been augmented by banks and possibly fences or hedges. It was notable that virtually no finds were recovered from the perimeter ditches, suggesting a well-maintained system of rubbish disposal.

The settlement clearly displays two foci of activity, and the two perimeter ditches suggest that the northern focus was the original one. The two parallel and straight northeast-southwest ditches suggest a , on the south side of which another domestic focus was developed. Trench 6 confirmed the open area in the centre of the site, but did not clearly identify the trackway ditch. This difficulty of feature definition was common on the top of the plateau. The silty sand subsoil would be most likely to be disturbed by modern ploughing, creating a deep and well mixed ploughsoil layer - in contrast to the northern sloping part of the site. Here the ploughsoil layer is constantly washed away; while this must truncate the features to some degree, at least the surviving archaeological horizon remains clear. It is also possible that either the construction of the canal, or its backfilling served to 'landscape' the northern slope, although the obvious disturbance was far less than expected.

The structures within the settlement consist of near-circular enclosures that appear to represent the characteristic drainage and/or eaves drip ditches dug around circular houses. No evidence was found of postholes within the footprints of the houses, although such an absence is not necessarily significant. The structural postholes for houses at that time need not have been very deep, and may well have been completely destroyed by ploughing.

Oxfordshire

Many of these house circles have rectangular or irregular ditches running off them, which appear to be paddocks or corrals. Evidence of cattle and horse was identified in the animal bone assemblage. The latter would be most unlikely to have been kept as draft animals, and were clearly held in special regard among Iron Age peoples in general - and undoubtedly so in a settlement close to the White Horse itself.

The trenches also confirmed the presence of groups of pits (for instance in Trench 1). The modest quantity of pottery and bone recovered from these pits suggests that they were probably not initially dug as rubbish pits. An alternative use may have been for storage of grain; while their position close to the hut circles supports this idea, the few charred plant remains argue against this hypothesis.

Conclusion

The principal aim of the fieldwork was achieved; the settlement was confirmed as of Early to Middle Iron Age in date (c 700 BC to 150 BC, with some signs of occupation continuing to the 1st century BC). Therefore, the settlement was broadly contemporaneous with the hillfort and, perhaps, with the White Horse itself. It is not surprising, therefore, that the pottery recovered from the site is of similar character to that found at the Hillfort. The slight evidence for horse remains, albeit of uncertain date/phase, provides an interesting link with the chalk figure. The recovery of a small piece of a Droitwich briquetage salt container indicates that the occupants had access to non-local resources and inter-regional exchange networks.

The archive

The site archive has been deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Services under the accession number OXCMS:2002.215.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork and the production of this report were funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The authors would like to express their gratitude to the community of Uffington for making the project such a success. Individual and profound thanks must go to Sharon Smith and Jane Cooper of the Tom Brown's Museum, Uffington, for their tireless enthusiasm and energy, and to Eric Penser, the owner of the site, for his generous cooperation.

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UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD

Geophysical surveys in the Abingdon area

John Walford

Geophysical surveys on the Thames floodplain near Abingdon.

During 2005, the author of this note, who was at that time a postgraduate student at the University of Bradford, undertook a dissertation entitled 'Archaeological prospection on floodplain and gravel island sites near Abingdon, Oxon'. As part of this research, geophysical surveys were performed on two sample areas close to the Thames. One was an area of 1.6ha south of Thrupp, in Radley parish (SU 516971) and the other an area of 4.3ha on the south side of Swift Ditch, in Culham parish (SU 511965).

On the Thrupp site, an earth resistance survey identified part of the extinct watercourse known as Thrupp Water and a sub rectangular high resistance anomaly which was tentatively interpreted as indicating a demolished building. Linear anomalies of uncertain origin were also noted. Earth resistance survey on the Culham site revealed Quaternary/Holocene geological features, post-medieval field boundaries and the line of a track which once led to the old lock at the eastern end of Swift Ditch. Some linear anomalies were discovered which could not be related to the post-medieval landscape and there was one small penannular, high resistance anomaly of possible archaeological significance.

Magnetic gradiometer surveys were carried out on both sites but the results added little to the earth resistance data.

Copies of the dissertation have been deposited with the University of Bradford Department of Archaeological Science, the Oxfordshire SMR and the Abingdon and Area Archaeological and Historical Society (AAAHS).

The author wishes to acknowledge assistance received from members of AAAHS during the course of his research, and especially Bob Eeles, Rachel Everett and Roger Ainslie.

Geophysical Survey in the garden of Thrupp House.

On 8th June 2005, at the invitation of the residents, Andrew and Emma Coker, the author undertook an earth resistance survey in the garden of Thrupp House (SU 516972). It was hoped that the survey might reveal features associated with the shrunken medieval village of Thrupp. However, the survey proved uninformative, the only clearly identifiable anomaly appearing to derive from a modern service trench. A brief report on this work, including plots of the data, has been deposited at the Oxfordshire SMR.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Kamash, Z, Gosden C and Lock G (with contributions by Patrick Daly, Jane Harrison, Paula Levick, Helen Lewis, Jędrzej Majewski and Sheila Raven)

The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2006: interim report

Introduction to the Vale and Ridgeway Project

The background to the project and site has been detailed in the previous five interim reports in *South Midlands Archaeology* (Lock and Gosden 2002; Lock and Gosden 2003; Lock *et al.* 2004; Gosden and Lock 2005; Lock and Gosden 2006), as well as on the project web site:

http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/research/research_projects/marcham

A more in-depth analysis of our findings since the project started in 2001, including the 2006 season, has been synthesized in a forthcoming publication (Kamash, Gosden and Lock forthcoming).

As in previous years the excavation acts as a training excavation, and is committed to education in the widest sense. This season's excavation saw participants from across the world including Norway, USA, Australia and Singapore as well as from a selection of British Universities. Education Officers were on-site throughout the month of excavation and gave tours to many visitors including groups from local schools and community organizations. Various activities were organized for National Archaeology Day when c 1,000 people visited the site. Talks are given throughout the year to local societies and community groups. This was the second of two seasons partly funded by a Lottery (Local Heritage Initiative) grant that enabled local people to participate in the excavation.

The 2006 excavation season

The 2006 excavations had five main goals:

- 1) further investigating the interior of the large circular structure (the possible semi-amphitheatre) and its western entrance which involved extending existing Trench 9 westwards (known as Trench 29);
- 2) further investigating the probable shrine to the south-west of the large circular structure in Trench 24 and the area between here and the western entrance (Trench 30);
- 3) exploring further the entrance through the temple *temenos* wall in Trenches 15 and 32, investigating the pathway through the *temenos* towards the temple (Trenches 31 and 26) and defining the south-eastern corner of the *temenos* wall (Trenches 27 and 28);
- 4) further exploring the building in trench 22 between the *temenos* and the large circular structure; and
- 5) further exploring the archaeology identified to the far south of the site in Trench 21.

As part of this, work resumed in a number of existing trenches, with extensions made to facilitate our research goals, as well as in several new trenches. In all areas, the

initial stripping of turf and/or removal of backfill was assisted by machine shovel, with work continuing by hand once archaeological deposits were reached. The 2006 field season focused largely upon the Romano-British components of the site, and little if any prehistoric material was encountered. The location of all trenches is shown in Fig 26.

The Large Circular Structure (Trenches 9 and 29)

This large and enigmatic feature was first discovered by aerial photography in 1976 and identified as an amphitheatre by Hingley (1985) based on a small excavation. Each season since 2001 we have been excavating various parts of this structure, which consists of an arena wall c 40m diameter with surrounding low earthen bank. The wall itself survives in remarkably good condition. At each of the cardinal points is some kind of feature, obvious from the aerial photography and later geophysical survey. It is likely that this structure is a semi-amphitheatre of a type similar to those found in northern Gaul (Kamash *et al.* forthcoming).

The existing L-shaped trench inside the interior of this structure was extended c 40m to the west (Trench 29) through the western entrance and banks. Excavation was hampered to some extent by flooding inside the structure.

Capstones were removed (and later replaced) from several sections of the main drain and its feeders and at the junctions between these. The sections through the junctions of the feeder drains with the main drain suggest that the entire network was contemporary and part of the original conception of the building. The drains did not have a constructed base and therefore must have been built to deal with the fluctuating water table characteristic of this area.

Excavation just to the south-east of the central area revealed more of the later phase features identified in 2005. The probable beamslot [9390] continued further to the east and seemed to have marked the edge of a rough working surface made of robbed stone pieces. Late 4th century pottery was retrieved from this surface. The surface ran under the baulks, so widening of the trench in this area may reveal more about this elusive later activity.

To the west, excavations in Trench 29 revealed the same sequence for the interior of the structure as that identified to the south and east ie the ground surface was stripped down to the natural clay and a deposit of sand laid down as a floor surface; at the end of its life the arena was filled with thick deposits of clay that were rich in pottery and animal bones. The continuation of the western feeder drain, which one would expect to run through this trench, has not yet been identified, but further excavation next year should confirm its course.

The arena walls in the west also displayed the same characteristics as those encountered elsewhere, including the white plaster with red lines. A slot through the western entrance, which will be continued next season, has revealed a substantial cut through the bedrock, which may have been

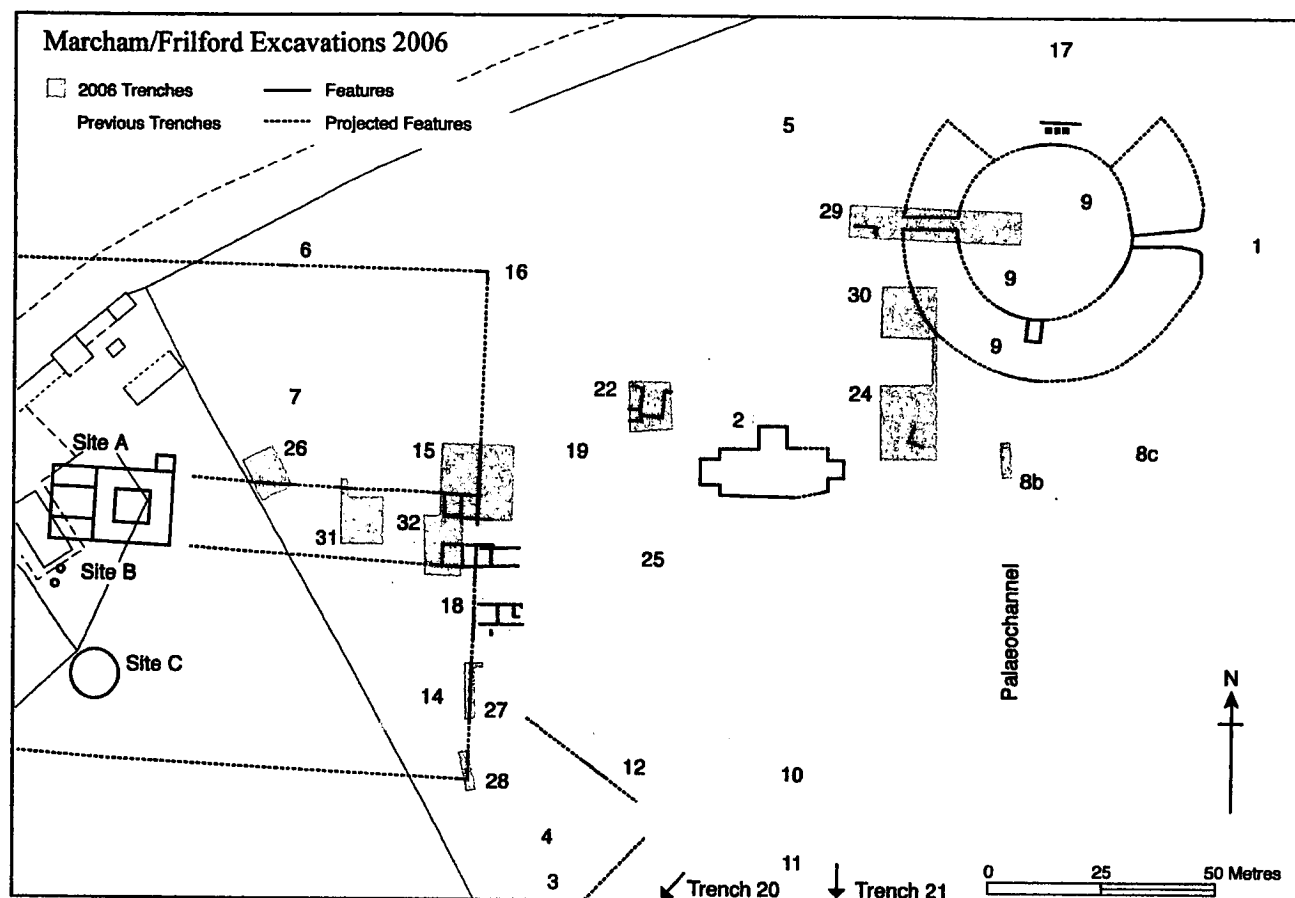


Fig 26. Plan of the excavated trenches at Marcham/Frilford 2001-2006, also showing the outline of the *temenos* and temple buildings excavated in 1937-8.

covered with pink plaster, and a masonry step into the arena. The pathway into the arena seems to have been flanked to the north and south by parallel banks, which had considerable stone packing. The pathway between the banks seems to have been protected from ploughing by this packing; further to the west beyond the flanking banks, the pathway had undergone significant plough damage and was identifiable only as a thin spread of gritty mortar. Cut into the top of the southern flanking bank was a masonry building, three sides of which have thus far been found. Several small groups of tightly-packed, upright stones, which seem to be neither postpads nor post-packing, were found inside the walls and along the line of the pathway outside the building. These stone groups are similar to those found in Trenches 24 and 8b (see below), though very few artefacts were retrieved from the general area.

Activity to the southwest of the large circular structure (Trenches 24 and 30)

Excavations continued in Trench 24 to elucidate the nature of the structure to the south-west of the semi-amphitheatre. As in previous years a large number of worked bone and copper alloy pins were found in the area. These objects seem to have been associated with the many stone groups (described above) characteristic of this trench, which suggests that these stone groups may have been foci for deposition. The ritual nature of this area was further confirmed by the excavation of a complete sheep/goat burial in the southern part of the trench.

To the north between Trenches 24 and 29, a new Trench (30) was opened to investigate the banks. To the south of this trench, in very close proximity to Trench 24, a complete cattle burial cut into the banks was excavated; again it seems significant and suggestive of ritual that two animal burials have so far been found in this area. Excavation of the banks confirmed that they were constructed from interleaving deposits of sand and clay, which probably derived from the creation of the arena. The banks overlay a preserved Iron Age soil, in which no cut features of prehistoric date were identified.

The *temenos* area (Trenches 15, 32, 31, 26, 27 and 28)

The temple and its were originally identified and excavated by Bradford and (1939) in the garden of the Noah's Ark Inn. A large part of the eastern end of this *temenos* lies in Trendles Field. In previous seasons, excavations in this area have revealed: the line of the *temenos* wall from the north-eastern corner to just south of the *temenos* entrance; a large number of Iron Age pits, a large Roman pit and a midden in the south-eastern corner of the *temenos* and buildings directly outside the eastern wall of the *temenos* either side of its entrance. Excavations in the *temenos* area in this season saw continued investigation of the entrance area (Trench 15) as well as new trenches directly inside the entrance (Trench 32), over the pathway towards the temple (Trenches 31 and 26) and at the south-eastern corner of the *temenos* wall (Trenches 27 and 28).

Trenches 15 and 32 showed evidence for structures directly inside the entrance and flanking either side of the temple pathway; these structures are still under investigation, but initial work suggests that they were two-roomed structures, possibly open onto the pathway. Further to the north in Trench 15, inside the *temenos* a complete sheep/goat burial was excavated close to a plastered square, which may have been the foundation for an altar. The animal was buried with two pots, one of which was a complete Oxford colour-coat vessel in an unusual small jar form (P Booth pers comm). Another significant find from this season's excavations was that the temple pathway was bordered, to the north at least, by a substantial masonry wall. This wall had been preceded by an earlier phase of timber uprights marked by a series of large postholes.

The line of the eastern wall was traced further to the south in Trench 27. The south-eastern corner was subsequently found in Trench 28. In both trenches, as elsewhere, the *temenos* wall had been extensively robbed. Also as elsewhere, a cobbled surface was found to run alongside the wall on the outside of the *temenos*.

The buildings in Trench 22

Trench 22 was first opened in 2004 and revealed the southern end of a two-roomed building, with external post-holes suggesting a veranda, part of a sizeable oven and a small western annexe. The scale of the excavation and the paucity of finds in 2004 left the size and use of the building open to question, along with its relationship to other structures on the site. In 2006 the trench was extended northwards by 7m in an attempt to address those issues.

In this season the complete plan in stone foundations of a three-sided Romano-British rectangular building open to the north was revealed. The north end of the western north-south wall was finished with a sub-circular and carefully constructed wall-end, about 0.7m in diameter. This was perhaps built as the base for a pillar, statue or monumental wall terminal. There were hints of a corresponding terminal at the end of the eastern wall, but it had been heavily plough damaged. The interior of the main building probably had a beaten earth floor, which had generally been kept clean. Close to the western wall of the building, a large oval hearth (c 1m long) was excavated. This building may have been a shrine visited as part of a progression from or to the main arena and its associated ritual areas.

Post-holes suggested an earlier wooden phase of construction as has also been suggested for other buildings on the site, such as those in Trench 18. Later walls, dividing the rooms of the earlier stone building, and less well-constructed hearths and working hollows suggest a re-use of the main building, probably in the late Roman period.

Activity in the south of Trendles Field (Trench 21)

In 2004 a geological test trench across an east-west of the River Ock to the far south of Trendles Field revealed unexpected archaeological deposits. In order to understand

more fully the archaeology of this largely unexplored part of the site,

Trench 21 was reopened this season. Excavations uncovered a Roman well surrounded by a series of cobbled surfaces. Waterlogged deposits in the well contained a complete pot and a leather shoe. The well was remodelled and its mouth widened, probably in the later Roman period. The well, which might have served a near-by, currently undetected, building, suggests strongly that this southern part of the site may prove to be as rich archaeologically as the northern part of the field. It is unclear at present how this area might have co-ordinated, if at all, with the wider religious complex.

Aims for 2007

Work in the 2006 season has confirmed many of our interpretations of the site and has consolidated our knowledge of the sequences inside the arena, its banks and in Trench 24 (Kamash *et al* forthcoming). Work in the area of the semi-amphitheatre in 2007 should tie up any remaining loose ends in Trenches 9, 29 and 24. Priority areas for further investigation will be the extent of the banks to the north of the structure and how the structure is related to the north-south palaeochannel.

Significant advances have been made in understanding how the area was articulated and used. Further work must be done to understand the nature of the structures inside the *temenos* entrance and to elucidate the nature of ritual activity inside the enclosure. This latter aim may see a return and extension to the large pit and midden in Trench 14 in the south-eastern corner of the *temenos*.

Finally, it appears that the southern part of the site may contain a wealth of well-preserved archaeological remains. The presence of the well suggests the possibility of further buildings or activity in this area. Continued excavations in this part of the site may reveal the extent of the religious complex and how it articulated as a whole.

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WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Bicester, Evaluation of land south-west of
(SP 57100 22000)
Kirsten Egging

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Terence O'Rourke Ltd, on behalf of Countryside Properties (Bicester) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land south-west of Bicester. The evaluation formed part of a programme of archaeological work in connection with proposals for development. The land evaluated was agricultural; mainly arable with two small areas of pasture, and lay on limestone/limestone cornbrash, covered, in places, by either alluvium or colluvium.

The site lies close to known Romano-British settlement remains, including the town of Alchester, and a Saxon cemetery. Ridge and furrow was extant in one pasture field with trace of it elsewhere.

Evaluation comprised 134 trenches, divided into six areas, targeted on cropmarks, geophysical anomalies; blank areas and areas of unknown potential. The location of the trenches was also determined by the proposed development.

The initial programme of 137 trenches was reduced to 128.5 trenches due to obstacles, reassessment of the proposals and the results of trenches already investigated. A further six trenches (Area F) were required due to the repositioning of development proposals.

Forty-one trenches contained archaeological features and deposits. In summary these included:

- 1) Two ring-ditches, probably representing round barrows. The larger was dated to the Early Bronze Age and had an internal ring-gully. The smaller was not dated.
- 2) A Middle Bronze Age bronze palstave in good condition was found in a medieval or later deposit.
- 3) Late Iron Age settlement represented by a ring-gully, post-holes/pits, ditch and possible hearth.
- 4) Romano-British settlement associated with known cropmarks.
- 5) Romano-British pits, post-holes, quarries and linear features.
- 6) Possible Saxon ditches, pits, post-holes and bank earthwork.
- 7) Medieval or later quarries and track.
- 8) Post-medieval field boundary.

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