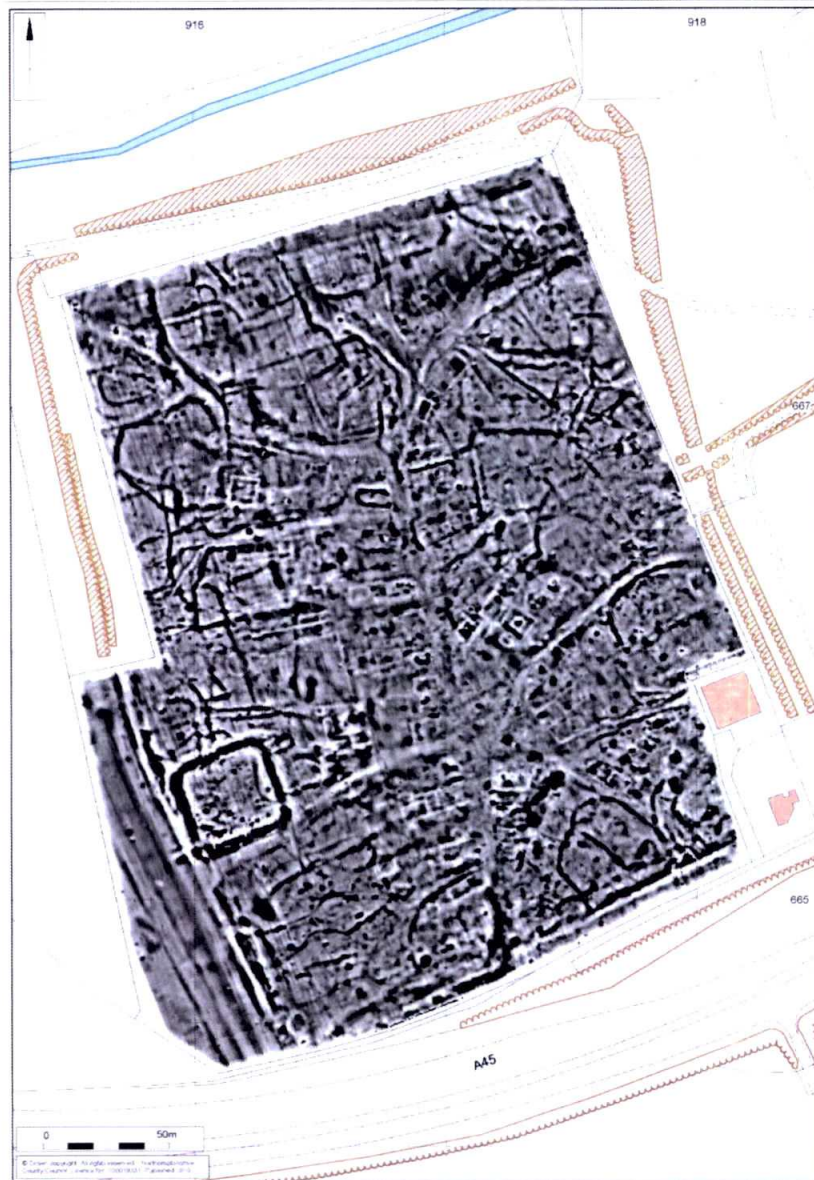




SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

NUMBER 41, 2011

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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2010.

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ISSN 0960-7552

EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 41.

This volume is some 10 pages shorter than volume 40. To some extent this reflects a lessening of activity but it is also due to a contribution from a major contributor being carried over to SMA 42 because of late submission.

I would like to thank Northants Archaeology for sponsoring the cover.

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* 42.

Copy date for *SMA* 42 is 31st March 2012; please refer to Notes for Contributors.

Barry Horne AIfA
Editor

Front cover -
Geophysical survey of the walled area of Irchester Roman town.
Sponsored by Northants Archaeology.

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

On this site are:

The cumulative index to volumes 1-40

The index to the CBA Industrial Bulletin Nos 1-16 (1967-71)

Scanned copies of SMA 1-36

BEDFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON
GEOPHYSICS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Dunstable Downs (TL 0060 2038)

Roger Ainslie

Magnetometry and earth resistance surveys were carried out for the National Trust on a series of approximately circular sinuous mounds which are visible as slight surface features on the floor of a valley on the western side of the Downs.

Magnetometry did not produce anything useful but the resistivity at a half metre sample interval showed the visible mounds and some others which are now difficult to see on site.

Geophysics cannot ascertain the purpose of these anomalies. Various interpretations have been put forward for these earthworks including re-cut and overlapping turf mazes, tent drains and vehicle tracks (Fig 1).

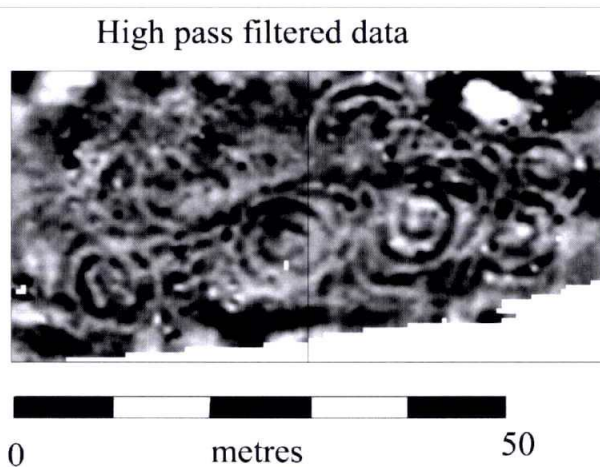


Fig 1. Geophysics plot, Dunstable Downs.

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford Water Main

(from TL 3131/4934 to TL 1424/4772):

Mike Luke, Jo Barker, Marcin Koziminski and Ian Turner

Archaeological investigation took place between October 2010 and February 2011 immediately in advance of the construction of the Bedford Water Main. It comprised strip/map/investigate and some watching briefs. The route was 2.7km long. It started in the Queens Park area of Bedford in the north-east (TL3131/4934), passed through the Biddenham Loop and finished near Kempston Church End to the south-west (TL1424/4772). At the design stage the route of the water main was amended to avoid, wherever possible, known significant archaeological remains. In addition, the pipe was directionally drilled as it passed under the extensive Romano-British roadside settlement near Kempston Church End. The following provisional summary is presented in chronological order. It is hoped that the results will be incorporated into the ongoing

Bedford Western Bypass and Land West of Bedford analysis/publication project.

Middle Bronze Age

Numerous ditches were identified which appeared to be part of the field system previously identified with the Biddenham Loop (Luke *et al* 2009, 3-4). The creation of fields at this time represents a major change from the open, "monument-dominated" landscape known to have existed within the Loop during the Neolithic and early Bronze Age.

Early Iron Age

Four adjacent pits of a pit alignment (one of three known within the Biddenham Loop) were present within the working corridor. They were similar to those found during earlier, adjacent investigations on the Loop (Luke *et al* 2009, 4).

Romano-British

Archaeological remains of this period were identified in three areas and are described from north-east to south-west.

Queens Park - a number of ditches containing small quantities of Roman pottery were identified. This is the first evidence for activity of this period in this part of Bedford.

Southern Biddenham Loop - a series of ditches were identified, some of which correspond with cropmark and geophysical anomalies. It is clear that they are part of a north-south trackway and enclosures, associated with a known Romano-British farmstead (Luke *et al* 2007, 1). The density of features and quantity of finds were unexpected and may suggest that the farmstead was considerably larger than previously thought. The pottery is all "fully Romanised", ie there are no late Iron Age/early Roman transitional types.

Kempston Church End - a narrow ancillary trench was dug on the supposed periphery of the extensive settlement known from previous investigations (Dawson 2004, 38-66; Luke *et al* 2007, 1-2). A number of ditches and pits were observed and contemporary pottery was recovered.

Late Saxon/early Medieval

A sunken-featured building and a number of ditches on similar alignments were investigated in the Queens Park area. The building contained late Saxon pottery, animal bone and an iron knife of 9th or 10th century date. In the same area, a number of ditches and pits, containing Medieval pottery, indicate continuing settlement. Again, this is the first evidence for activity of this period from this part of Bedford.

References

- Dawson M 2004; *Archaeology of the Bedford Region*, BAR British Ser. 373
- Luke M, Archer J, Barker B, Beswick I. and Smith M 2007; 'Bedford Western Bypass', *SMA* 37, 1-3
- Luke M, Barker B, Barker J, Bell A and Gregson R. 2009; 'Bedford Western Bypass', *SMA* 37, 1-8

Bedfordshire

Biggleswade, 10 Hitchin Street (TL 18925 44471)

Gary Edmondson & Ian Turner

Archaeological evaluation of a plot of land on Hitchin Street, Biggleswade revealed significant truncation by the former Black Bear Inn, which had occupied the site since at least 1661. Extensive terracing associated with modern deposits also affected the area west of the street frontage. Despite this a series of deposits dating from the medieval and post-medieval period were revealed.

Of uncertain date was a substantial, recut boundary ditch, aligned roughly north-south and running obliquely to the modern street. Immediately to the west of the ditch was an extensive quarry pit, at least 12m long. It contained 17th-18th century artefacts as well as medieval material. The pit appears to have been carefully and systematically infilled; it was sealed with a capping layer of imported, compacted ironstone sand, at least 0.25m thick. To the rear of the site a series of extensive intercutting post-medieval pits were revealed, below extensive terracing associated with modern deposits. The fills of these features contained a mixture of residual medieval and post-medieval artefacts.

Cockayne Hatley, 15 Village Road (TL 26034962)

Gary Edmondson & Richard Gregson

A small area of ground disturbance provided a valuable insight into activity associated with the medieval settlement, as well as providing an indication of earlier use of the site. The earliest recorded features, a re-cut boundary ditch, date to the early medieval period. Residual early medieval pottery, derived from later deposits, suggests that other features and activity may have been located in the vicinity. During the late medieval period, the area became a focus for pitting. The clustering of the pits suggests that the earlier land division remained intact. Residual sherds of

Iron Age and Saxo-Norman pottery hint at other, earlier phases of activity.

Dunstable, Priory Church of St Peter

(TL 02132187)

Christiane Meckseper, Joe Abrams & Mark Phillips

Archaeological remains observed during construction works outside the west entrance to the church comprised the foundation cut for a 15th century (south-western) buttress, together with clunch and tile fill associated with the foundation and underpinning. Several compacted earth make-up layers were exposed and partially excavated. These represent previous surface layers and date from the post-medieval to modern periods. The works also revealed postholes for scaffolding, most likely erected during repair work on the buttress in 1930.

Excavation for a foul-water drain revealed clunch rubble and compacted earth make-up layers below the flagstones in the north lobby of the church. Within the churchyard the drain cut through a homogenous graveyard soil, containing small quantities of disarticulated human bone. Beyond the churchyard the top of a post-medieval drain or culvert was exposed below the lawn outside the Church Hall.

Accession Number: Luton 2010.100 OASIS Number: albionar1-84569

Dunstable, Woodside Connection (TL 03942248)

James Newbould, Wesley Keir & Joe Abrams

Fieldwalking recovered 16th-17th century pottery and Medieval/post-Medieval ceramic building material. Observation of geo-technical test-pits revealed a largely uniform sequence of soils, derived from chalk, across the site. Two features of possible archaeological origin and an area of modern landscaping were revealed within two of the test pits.



Fig 2. View of the investigation area from east during earthmoving with Harrowden (top left) and outskirts of Bedford (top right).

Eastcotts Flood Scheme, Nr Bedford (TL7800 4790)

Mike Luke, Ben Barker and Jo Barker

Archaeological investigations were undertaken between March and June 2011 in advance of flood compensation measures on the south-east outskirts of Bedford near the hamlet of Harrowden (Fig 2). In total c 16ha of land on both sides of the Elstow Brook (a tributary of the River Great Ouse) was stripped and investigated. The presence of flint tools and flakes hints at human activity in the late Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age. However, the first substantive evidence for activity on the site dates to the early Iron Age. The development has provided an opportunity to study the evolution of the landscape from the early Iron Age, through the Iron Age and Roman periods into the early Saxon period. The results are enhanced because they are adjacent to excavations undertaken in advance of the construction of the Bedford Southern Bypass (BCCAS 1995) and a commercial development to the north (Northamptonshire Archaeology). Assessment and analysis are still to be undertaken so the following represents a provisional summary of results.

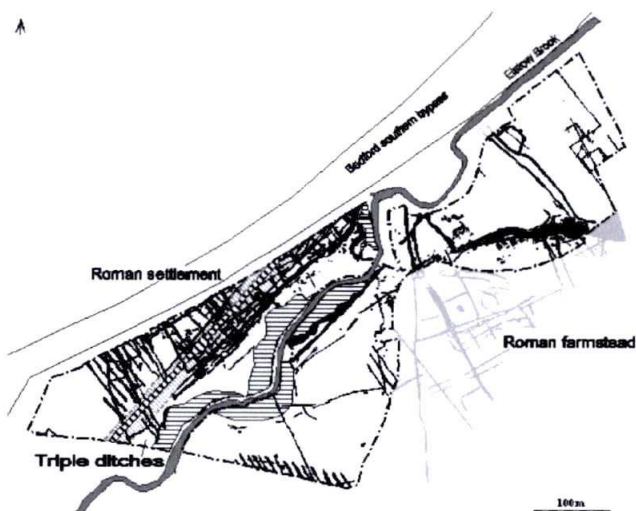


Fig 3. All features plan of the Eastcotts Flood Scheme investigation area.

Early Iron Age

One of the most significant features of the pre-Roman landscape was a boundary that ultimately comprised three broadly parallel ditches. Cropmark evidence suggests that these extended for c 900m from the Elstow Brook in the south to the River Great Ouse to the north. Although parts of these boundaries had been previously investigated to the north, the recent work has produced two significant new pieces of information about them:

1. **Form** - six pits were found during archaeologically controlled machining below one of the ditches. These clearly predate the ditch. They may represent a formal pit alignment or a more localised feature.
2. **Dating** - pottery suggests that the pit alignment may have been dug in the early Iron Age and that the ditches were dug a few hundred years later in the Middle Iron Age.

Middle Iron Age

A small number of dispersed pits of this date were identified to the south of the Brook. Some are interpreted as storage pits but others were larger and may have been water holes. It is also possible that some of the isolated cremation burials date to this period but radiocarbon dating will be the only way to confirm their date.

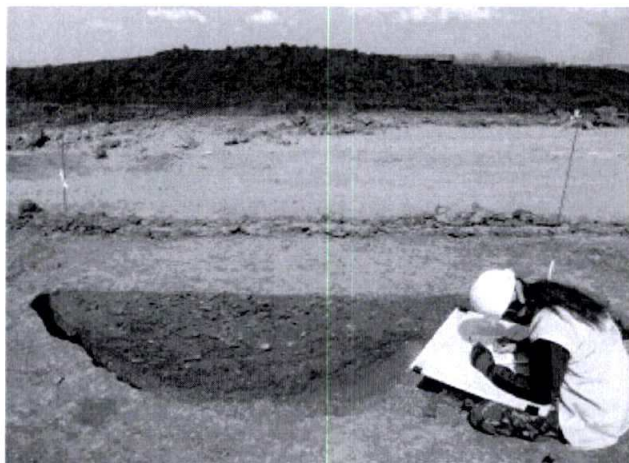


Fig 4. Recording of a large Middle Iron Age pit south of the Elstow Brook.

Late Iron Age

Several foci of late Iron Age activity were identified. South of the Brook:

- Ditched enclosure adjacent to the Brook - although no buildings were identified, sufficient domestic debris was recovered to suggest that this was a settlement. The ditch had been redug a number of times and therefore it may have originated in the early Iron Age.
- Farmstead - Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the area of the Roman farmstead, suggesting it may have originated in the pre-Conquest Late Iron Age.

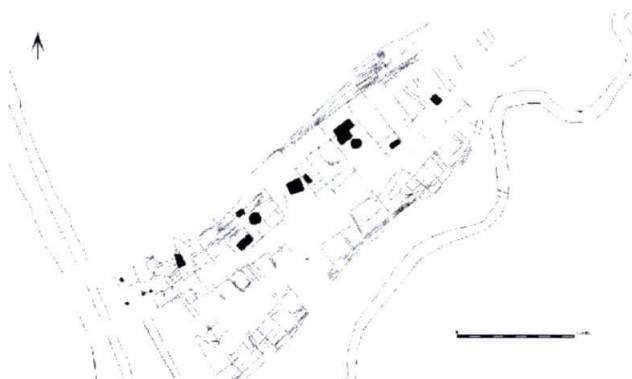
North of the Brook

Fig 5. Overall simplified plan of Eastcotts Romano-British settlement north of the Brook showing major boundaries and possible buildings (in black). This plan includes the recent investigations, along with those from the Bedford Southern Bypass and those by Northamptonshire Archaeology on the northern periphery of the settlement.

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- **Settlement** - a small ditched enclosure and isolated ditches are dated to this period, suggesting activity pre-dating the Romano-British settlement (see below). The enclosure was incorporated into the enclosure system of the later settlement.

Romano-British

Two settlements of this period were identified within the development area. They were no more than 150m apart, on opposing sides of the Elstow Brook, and were very different in character. Rather surprisingly, evidence for fields and trackways was only present to the south of the brook and not in the vicinity of the more substantial settlement to the north.

Settlement north of the Brook

The existence of this settlement was first revealed by the discovery of archaeological remains, including a pottery kiln, during the construction of the Southern Orbital Sewer in 1977/78 (White 1980, 20-4). More extensive investigations were undertaken in 1994 in advance of the construction of the Bedford Southern Bypass (BCCAS 1995, 136-173). The settlement was believed to comprise an arrangement of ditched enclosures but it was unclear if these represented a number of complex, but essentially discrete, systems or a contiguous system of conjoined enclosures.

The recent investigations have allowed the complete plan of the settlement to be determined. It is now known to extend over *c* 4ha and to comprise *c* 15 narrow rectilinear enclosures (*c* 15-25m wide and 110m long). Its western limit is formed by the Iron Age triple-ditched boundary (see above) which clearly continued to have significance into this period. A series of roughly parallel gullies form the other boundaries of the settlement. These may represent cart ruts or hedges. All the boundary ditches had been redug on a number of occasions. The settlement's size, the regular layout of its constituent enclosures and the lack of activity beyond its boundaries could suggest that it is a planned village.

A number of rectangular and round buildings were identified within the Bypass investigations. Their distribution suggests that the northern part of each enclosure was the focus of domestic activity. A possible 'threshing floor' was tentatively identified within the recent

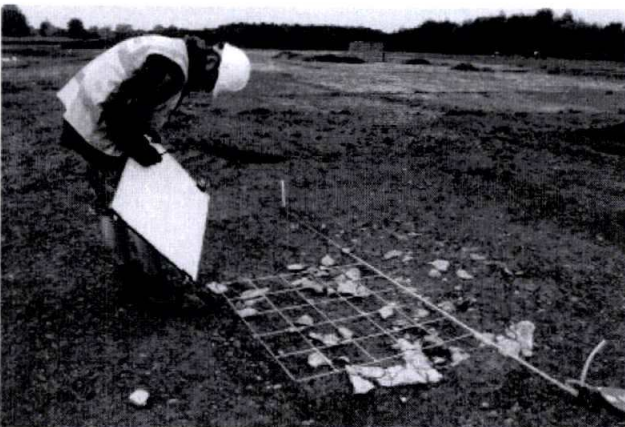


Fig 6. Archaeological recording of possible threshing floor.

investigations and a drying oven for crop processing was found on the Bypass investigations.

A number of large and deep pits were discovered - typically on the periphery of the settlement. They are interpreted as water holes. The lower deposits within some of these pits were waterlogged and contained a number of leather shoe fragments and a timber plank.



Fig 7. Well preserved timber plank in lower part of Roman water hole.

In terms of non-agricultural activities there was significant evidence from the settlement for iron smithing and pottery manufacture. More meagre evidence for bronze, textile, wood and bone working was also found.

Iron smithing - The recent investigations produced *c* 10kg of ferrous smithing slag; the Bypass investigations produced at least twice as much again. This material was only found in two adjacent enclosures, suggesting this specialist activity was undertaken by specific individuals or households rather than by the whole community.

Pottery production - The recent investigations have produced over 250 fragments of kiln bars. These sausage-shaped, fired clay objects were used to support pots while they were fired in kilns. This material was concentrated in a single enclosure suggesting that potting was also a specialist activity. Pottery kilns were found on the Bypass and Southern Orbital Sewer investigations. The presence of numerous kilns on the southern fringes of Bedford has been interpreted by some as evidence for industrial-scale production.

Surprisingly few human burials have been found - seven inhumations and four cremation burials in total - but all were located within settlement enclosures. Other possible evidence for ritual activity comprised a small number of complete/partial animal skeletons and unusual artefact deposits.

The finds recovered from the recent investigations indicate that this settlement originated in the early 2nd century AD. Only a small quantity of 4th century pottery was present and it is possible that the settlement was abandoned by the middle of the 4th century.

Given the excavation sampling strategy, a relatively large amount of pottery was recovered from the settlement (*c* 90kg). The majority was locally made grey wares and shelly wares. Regional imports (eg from Oxfordshire, Hadham,

found c 200m to the north (within the Northamptonshire Archaeology investigation area).

Medieval

By the Medieval period the area was part of the open field systems of the nearby townships of Harrowden and Cardington, as indicated by the presence of near ubiquitous sub-surface furrows.

References

BCCAS 1995 *Bedford Southern Bypass Post-Excavation Assessment Report Volume 1, 2, 3 & 4* (unpub. report No. 95/14)

White R F 1980; 'The Bedford Southern Orbital Sewer: a watching brief', *BAJ* 14, 19-24

Flitwick, Former White Horse public house

(TL 03973477)

David Ingham

Excavation of foundation trenches revealed a number of modern features, including small-scale quarrying, but nothing that predated the late 19th century development of the site. It did, however, establish the potential for archaeological features to survive in the vicinity of the development, in areas that were untouched by quarrying.

Knotting, Church of St Margaret of Antioch

Rob Wardill

Groundworks associated with the refurbishment and repair of the church were monitored. Disarticulated human remains and a possible grave were identified to the south-west of the church in a soakaway pit. The insertion of a French drain allowed the full circumference of the church foundations to be recorded. Their full depth was never exposed in the trench but enough was revealed to show variations in construction. Re-used architectural masonry was present throughout. The excavation works within the church revealed several interesting aspects of its history, including an early floor level in the nave, architectural elements of the chancel and transepts arches and the remnants of the demolished south wall of the nave. Later additions to the church, such as a brick burial vault, were also uncovered.

Langford, Land off Church Street (TL18614159)

Mark Phillips & Hester Cooper-Read

A rectangular, three-bay barn with a central, full-height door-opening was recorded. It measured 11.85m by 6.35m and was aligned east-west. The frame was of machine-sawn softwood throughout and was constructed on a low, brick plinth. The frame's principal components were tenoned and pegged whilst the lighter parts, studs and diagonal braces, were nailed. Externally, it was clad in weatherboard with a plain tile roof. Roof trusses consisted of a collar and tie beam with raking struts. The purlins were clasped between the principal rafters, tie beams and the notched ends of the raking struts. The roof structure was braced by diagonal beams running from the wall plate level on one truss up to the collar beam level on the adjacent truss.



Fig 8. Investigation of a poorly preserved Roman skeleton.

Verulamium, the Nene Valley) and continental imports (eg samian ware from Gaul) were present. A small number of metal artefacts were recovered, including coins, brooches, a ring, knives, timber nails and hob nails. All were in poor condition. In addition, single examples of antler, bone, jet, leather and wooden objects were found.

Farmstead south of the Brook

The extent of the farmstead south of the Brook is indicated by cropmarks. It extended over c 1.2ha and comprised a series of large enclosures associated with possible trackways. Its location was taken into account during the design of the flood attenuation scheme so that the majority of it was preserved beneath a soil bund. Only its northern periphery was investigated. This contained a series of ditches, small and large pits, postholes and cremation burials. These features produced 8kg of pottery, quantities of animal bone and, among the other finds, iron slag. In contrast to the settlement to the north of the Brook, the latter appeared to be derived from smelting rather than smithing.

Early Saxon

A handful of structures and pits which contained small quantities of early Saxon pottery were present within both Romano-British settlements. This activity was concentrated in specific areas and was not spread evenly across the former settlement area. In addition, a single sunken-featured building was identified close to the southern edge of the recent investigations away from the Roman farmstead. A small contemporary settlement was



Fig 9. Early Saxon sunken-featured building under excavation.

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The western bay had one mid-height floor, forming a loft lit by a single window in the western elevation. The eastern bay had two floors, at mid-height and attic level. These were of lightweight, slatted construction as was the partition which divided the mid-height floor from the central open bay. There were two doors in the eastern elevation, one at ground level and a first-floor taking-in door. There was also a horizontal vent in the eastern gable. The inner ends of the floors were supported by posts consisting of re-used railway sleepers.

Historic plan evidence indicates that the building was constructed between 1900 and 1921, first appearing on the third edition 25-inch OS map which was surveyed in 1921. The barn appears to correspond to one described in the rate assessment of c 1927 when the owner was E M Street.

The slatted construction of the floors and partition in the eastern end of the barn indicate that it was probably used as an onion store. Specialised onion stores of a similar slatted construction occur in the area around Biggleswade where market gardening has formed an important part of the local economy.

Luton Dunstable Busway

Christiane Meckseper & Hester Cooper-Read

Historic structures were surveyed at the Luton Dunstable branch railway line in advance of preparations for the construction of the Luton Dunstable guided busway. The route of the busway will largely follow the line of the disused railway between Luton and Dunstable. As part of construction works the former railway track, bridges and various structures along the route will be removed, whilst groundworks and landscaping will impact on the cuttings and embankments.

The infrastructure of the line began to be dismantled from its partial closure in 1965 onwards. Today, virtually none of the signals, signal boxes or any other fixtures and fittings survive. Only a few isolated examples are still in evidence on National Rail land east of Luton Station and along the line. Dunstable Town station and Luton Bute Street station have been completely demolished. The line itself continued to be serviced and repaired until 1992. A large section of track between Skimpot Road, Dunstable and Luton Town football club was completely replaced and moved several metres to the north in conjunction with the construction of the Hatters Way in the 1980s. None of the bridges are original, a small number towards the centre of Luton date to the 19th century but the majority were replaced in the 20th century.

Luton, Luton Aquatic Centre (TL10122432)

Christiane Meckseper & David Ingham

Luton Borough Council granted planning permission for a new recreation centre, the Luton Aquatic Centre, on land adjacent to Lothair Road Recreation Ground, Hitchin Road, Luton. The site was trial trenched in January 2010 and in October 2010 four excavation areas were opened. The investigations revealed elements of an agricultural landscape, possibly in existence from as early as the Bronze Age but with definite dating evidence from the Late Iron Age/early Roman to modern periods. It included remains of

Late Iron Age/early Roman agricultural and livestock enclosures and a trackway, as well as post-Medieval enclosures, field boundaries and part of the 19th century Manor Farm. These remains lie within a wider landscape of prehistoric and Roman settlements, sampled at Butterfield Green, Butterfield Business Park and the Vale Cemetery and Crematorium extension. The development area is also located on the periphery of the medieval settlements of Swifts Green and Hayes Manor (recorded in the HER), although only Medieval and post-Medieval field systems and enclosures, indicating agricultural use, were encountered.

Marston Park, Marston Moretaine

Between June and October 2010, open area excavation was undertaken in advance of housing development on two areas of land adjacent to the Elstow Brook (a tributary of the River Great Ouse). Settlement activity dating from the Middle-Late Iron Age (MLIA) to the Saxon period was encountered.

Area 1 (5.18ha) (TL 00014170)

James Newbould, Joe Abrams and Ian Turner

Middle-Late Iron Age enclosed settlement (MLIA).

The c 3ha sub-oval settlement enclosure was defined by a deep ditch with entrances to the south and south-east. It was associated with five roundhouses in two separate clusters. The two roundhouses towards the northern part of the enclosure were defined by drip gullies (15m and 8m in diameter), which produced exclusively hand-made pottery. The larger of the two had a southeast-facing entrance and internal pits and postholes. The smaller had three entrances and lay outside the enclosure ditch. This cluster may represent the remains of an unenclosed settlement, pre-dating the main enclosure.

The three other roundhouses were located in the southern part of the enclosure, between the southern and south-eastern entrances. They were 12-15m in diameter and had all been rebuilt at least once. They produced both hand-made and 'Belgic' Iron Age pottery (over 600 sherds, weighing 11.5kg), suggesting they were slightly later in date than the first cluster. All three featured internal post-holes and pits. The westernmost roundhouse was the best preserved. It featured a central, clay-built hearth-base (capable of supporting a brazier), surrounded by a four-post structure. The roundhouse was rebuilt at least twice; the original southeast-facing entrance shifted to east-facing, then back to southeast-facing.

Approximately 25m to the east of the enclosure ditch, and following its curve, were the truncated remains of two parallel, curvilinear ditches, spaced c 5m apart. They probably represent some form of stock-control system and may have defined the eastern boundary of the settlement. A similar, concentric ditch system dating to the MIA was excavated at Mingies Ditch, Oxon. (Allen and Robinson 1990).

Late Iron Age settlement (LIA)

The LIA settlement was characterised by the continued use and extension of the MLIA enclosure, although the

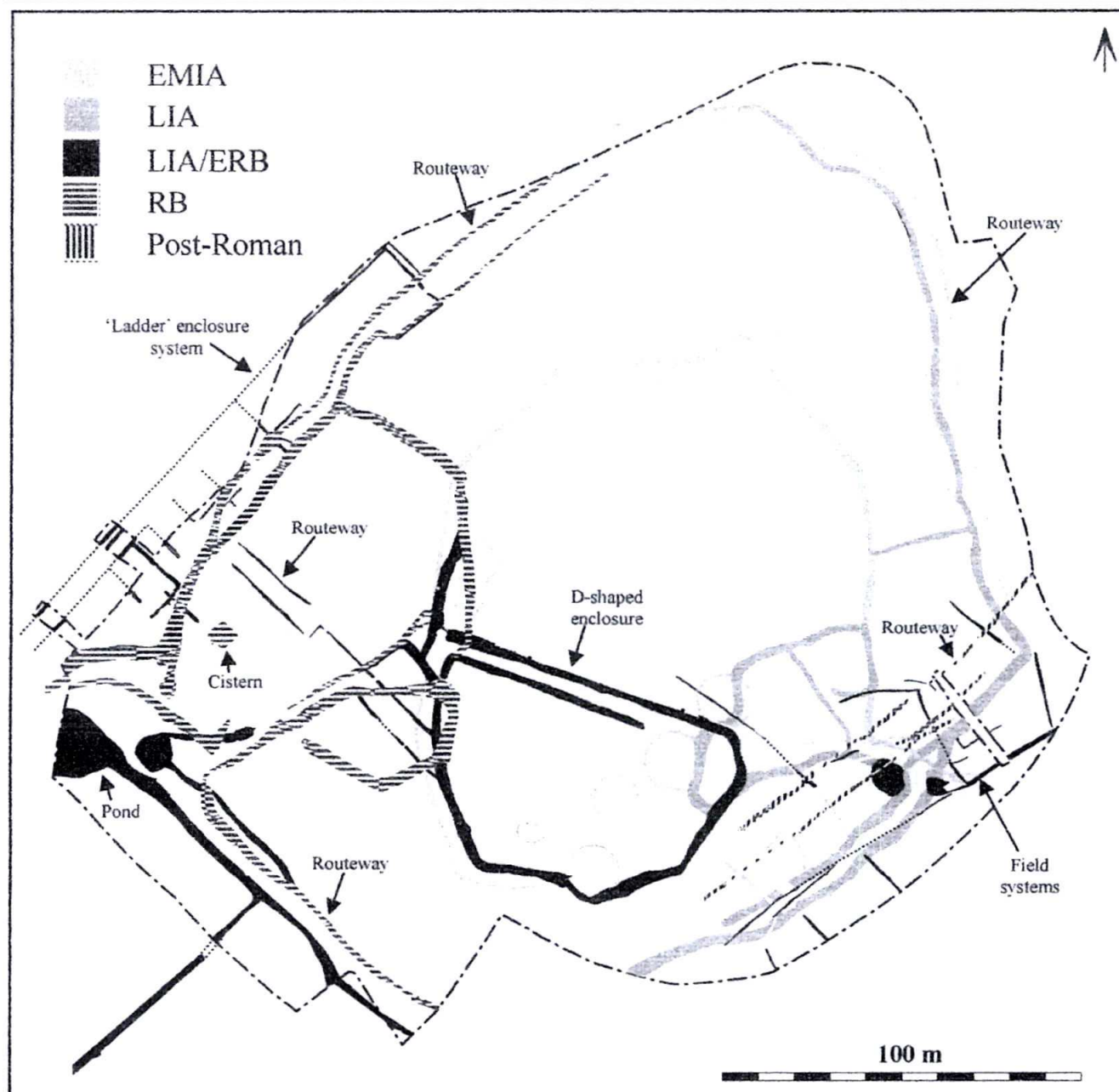


Fig 10. Marston Park, Marston Moretaine plan.

south-eastern entrance was closed. The concentric ditch system was retained but a number of new, smaller enclosures were built into it.

An internal sub-enclosure was created on the site of the abandoned MLIA roundhouses. Two new roundhouses were built further to the south-west, nearer to the main enclosure's southern entrance. Their drip gullies produced a mixture of hand-made, 'Belgic' and late pre-Roman Iron Age pottery.

The MLIA stock-control ditches were replaced by a single, deep ditch, which was connected to the main enclosure. To the south, two large ditches formed subsidiary enclosures, which were again probably associated with stock control or drainage. They may also have redrawn the southern limits of the settlement.

Late Iron Age/early Romano-British settlement shift

This period is characterised by the beginnings of a shift in the focus of activity towards the north-western part of the site. The LIA enclosure system was largely abandoned. It probably survived as an earthwork and a portion of the outer (eastern) ditch was re-dug.

Part of a northeast-southwest aligned rectilinear, 'ladder' enclosure system was identified along the northern edge of the site. It was associated with a perpendicular, northwest-southeast aligned, ditched routeway.

The routeway was replaced by a large, D-shaped enclosure in the south-western part of the site. It was characterised by deep ditches with an extended, parallel-ditched entrance, suggesting a stock-control function. The enclosure occupied an area of higher ground, while a number of subsidiary ditches drained water from the main enclosure ditch onto land to the south. The MLIA and LIA enclosure ditches had been largely infilled with alluvium by this date,

Bedfordshire

suggesting that flooding was becoming more commonplace at this time. The deeper sections of the former ditches developed into ponds, possibly as a consequence of flooding and/or animal use. However, a number of ditched field systems were created to the south-east of the enclosure, suggesting that this land was by no means unusable.

Another northwest-southeast aligned, ditched routeway was created to the west of the enclosure. The ditches were much more substantial than those of the MLIA routeway. Both drained into pond-like features to the north-west. These may have originated as clay-pits, which were subsequently used to channel or store water. One was over 3m deep and contained the remains of access steps made of stone and re-used timber.

A small cemetery, comprising two urned cremation burials and an inhumation, was also located in the central part of the site. Two further, isolated cremation burials (one urned) were also identified.

Romano-British settlement enclosure

The D-shaped enclosure was superseded by a new enclosure system, shifting the focus of activity further towards the north-west. The northwest-southeast aligned routeway was retained and led into another large, D-shaped settlement enclosure, which was also associated with a northeast-southwest aligned routeway to the north.

The interior of the enclosure featured numerous pits, internal divisions and a deep, square-shaped cistern, the earliest phases of which produced the remains of leather shoes and a number of waterlogged structural timbers. Pottery dates suggest this enclosure remained in use into the 3rd and 4th centuries. Several contemporary ditches were also identified in the central part of the site.

Post-Roman cultivation

The upper fills of a Romano-British quarry pit/pond contained a medieval cistern bung, indicating that silting of the Roman settlement features continued for hundreds of years after its abandonment. The remains of northwest-southeast aligned furrows demonstrate that the land was brought under cultivation during this time. To the south, the remains of a Medieval northeast-southwest aligned plough headland were also encountered. It followed the alignment of Iron Age enclosure ditches and a ditched routeway which, although undated, was in existence before the medieval fields were set out.

Area 2 (0.47ha) (TL 9995 2412)

James Newbould, Joe Abrams and Kathy Pilkinton

Late Iron Age/Romano-British cremation cemetery and settlement remains

A small cremation cemetery was located c 30m south of the Elstow Brook. It comprised four urned cremation burials (including an unusual double burial - two individuals in separate urns in the same grave) and two un-urned cremation burials with accessory vessels. Two poorly-preserved, undated inhumation burials were also associated with the cremation cemetery.

Approximately 90m to the north-east, a series of ditches and a large, square-shaped pit or cistern are associated with

previously known Iron Age and Roman remains to the immediate south-east of Area 2 (Wells and Edwards forthcoming). The ditches were perpendicular to the brook and drained into it. The pit contained pottery dating from the LIA to the 4th century, suggesting a prolonged sequence of activity in the vicinity.

Early Saxon settlement remains

Several areas of pitting and two sunken-featured buildings were located 10–40m to the south-east of the Elstow Brook. They represent the northern edge of a Saxon settlement identified during excavations in advance of the construction of the entrance road to the Marston Vale Millennium Country Park (Wells and Edwards forthcoming).

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Allen T G and Robinson M A 1990; *The Prehistoric Landscape and Iron Age Settlement at Mingies Ditch, Hardwick-with-Yelford, Oxfordshire*, Oxbow

Wells J and Edwards R J forthcoming; *Pits, Pots and Postholes. Archaeological Investigations at the 'Millennium' Country Park, Stewartby*.

Melchbourne and Yelden, Yelden Village Hall

(TL 01096700)

Mark Phillips & Joe Abrams -74736

Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission for the construction of an extension to Yelden Village Hall. An area of approximately 10m by 7m was excavated down to the formation level for the floor of the new building. No significant archaeological remains were observed during the groundworks.

Potton, 1 Warren Farm Cottages, Deepdale

(TL 20674875)

Christiane Meckseper & Joe Abrams

Groundworks consisted of two components: the excavation of foundation trenches and the reduction in ground level of the footprint of the building. Although the site lay 30m north-east of a Romano-British cremation cemetery excavated in the 1980s, no archaeological remains were revealed during the works.

Roxton, 2 Great North Road, Chawston

(TL 1654356208)

Christiane Meckseper & Gary Edmondson

Three trial trenches were excavated on the site of a proposed fishing lake. None of the trenches contained any archaeological remains, despite the presence of prehistoric funerary monuments in the vicinity.

Stewartby, Land west of Broadmead Road

(TL 0208742971)

Ben Barker & Rob Wardill

Out of a total of fourteen trial trenches, two contained the remains of Late Iron Age activity in the form of a small pit and a heavily truncated ditch. Six randomly distributed

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postholes were also identified in the vicinity of the pit; they may also date to the Late Iron Age. Two other trenches contained an undated shallow ditch and a post-Medieval pit. Traces of north-south aligned furrows were identified in eight of the trenches.

Stewartby, Land off Stewartby Way (TL 02584162)

Wes Keir & Rob Wardill

Trial trenching revealed the remains of early-late Iron Age activity. Ditches were the commonest type of feature; the majority were aligned northwest-southeast or northeast-southwest. Two of the larger ditches appear to form the corners of two enclosures. Other features included a small Iron Age pit and two hearths comprising large, irregular stones.

The Iron Age features most likely represent a small scale farmstead-‘type’ settlement, which may have been present in one form or another throughout the Iron Age.

Wootton, Church of St Mary the Virgin (TL 00374507)

Mark Phillips & Rob Wardill

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council to oversee groundworks associated with the removal of pews in the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wootton, Bedfordshire, and to investigate and record any archaeological remains that were uncovered.

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY**Amphill, Church Street (TL 0388 3828)**

Ian Hogg

Archaeological evaluation on behalf of Dandara Ltd. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of eleven trenches located across the site. The vast majority of archaeological features were recorded on the higher ground in the north and west of the site within, only drainage channels being found in the waterlogged trenches to the southeast. The archaeological remains consisted mainly of agricultural features including cultivation strips and tree boles. Post-Medieval pottery was retrieved from most of these features with only residual finds from earlier periods. (BEDFM 2010.28)

Sandy, Station Road (TL 1773 4853)

Ian Hogg and Catherine Edwards

Archaeological evaluation on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of nineteen archaeological trenches across the site. The natural yellow, green or orange sand was observed in all trenches. A possible Iron Age ditch was the earliest man-made feature recorded on site. A series of ditches and three burials were also recorded on site dating to the Roman period. A peat horizon was recorded in the trenches located in the undisturbed areas to the west and south of the site. The peat is thought to be Roman in origin. The results suggest a Late Iron Age and Roman occupation. (BEDFM 2010.40)

Bromham, The Green (TL 00865129)

Jonathan Hunn / Calli Rouse

Between January and May a watching brief and trial trenching were undertaken at 1-2 The Green, Bromham, during redevelopment of the site. Trenching at the front of the site revealed a linear feature containing a layer of limestone fragments and domestic debris of 18th and early 19th century date. This followed the same alignment as a supposed 16th century ditch revealed in an earlier evaluation of the site. The watching brief, on excavations for a service trench in front of the houses and a large soakaway in the rear gardens, revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance.

Caddington, Rushmore Close (TL 06282006)

Alastair Hancock

In January and February a pre-determination evaluation was carried out on a small parcel of land on the northern periphery of Caddington. The clay-with-flint and brickearths of the Caddington area are known to contain *in-situ* earlier Palaeolithic archaeological remains. Trenching revealed ephemeral evidence of later prehistoric activity: an early-mid Iron Age post hole and a small number of other tentatively identified and undated features were present at the east of the site. A shallow ditch and possible pit at the west of the site were interpreted as dating to the post-Medieval period.

Chawston, land adjacent Black Cat Roundabout

(TL 16005560)

Alastair Hancock

In June detailed magnetometry was carried out on 2.6ha of land adjacent to the Black Cat roundabout, in advance of proposed development. At the north-west end of the survey area linear/curvilinear magnetic anomalies indicated the presence of three infilled archaeological ditches. These features may define the area of intense activity associated with archaeological enclosures and trackways visible as crop marks to the west of the survey area. Two discrete areas of magnetic enhancement were located in close proximity to the three archaeological ditches, and probably identify infilled archaeological pits. Two more tentatively identified areas of discrete magnetic enhancement are located nearby and could also originate from infilled archaeological pits.

Houghton Conquest, 3 How End Road (TL 03324087)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In July a watching brief was carried out at 3 How End Road, Houghton Conquest, during the excavations for two new fishing lakes. The works uncovered the remains of late 18th century buildings shown on contemporary mapping, and a number of modern shallow linear features, likely to be land drains. No significant finds were discovered.

Bedfordshire

Leighton Buzzard, 14 Redwood Glade (SP 91962720)

Jonathan Hunn

In July a watching brief was undertaken on groundworks for an extension to 14 Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard. The work was required because of the development's proximity to two Bronze Age barrows, both scheduled ancient monuments. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed during the watching brief, and it appears that the area was probably truncated by landscaping during the construction of the present estate in the 1960s or 1970s.

Potsgrove, The Old School (SP 95082983)

Jonathan Hunn

In May a watching brief was carried out during groundworks for a detached garage at the Old School, Potsgrove. The site lies to the north-east of a moated site, opposite St Mary's Church. Only a limited area of subsoil was exposed within the footprint of the new building. Some building debris, which may have belonged to an old barn, was revealed just below the ground surface to the west of the new building. The only material found within the footprint of the new building was of late 19th century date. No pre-modern features or artefacts were noted.

Salford, Brittens Lane (SP 93383931)

Calli Rouse

During March an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 24 Brittens Lane, Salford, during groundworks for the construction of a new lounge. A modern cobbled area was uncovered at the south eastern edge of the development, and may represent the remains of a former garden path. No significant archaeological remains were observed during the watching brief and the archaeological impact of the development is likely to have been minimal.

Toddington, Station Road (TL 09969033)

Jonathan Hunn

In April and May a watching brief was undertaken in the groundworks for an extension to the rear of 11 Station Road, Toddington. No deposits, features or finds of archaeological significance were noted during site clearance, ground reduction and the excavation of service trenches. The only intrusive features that were identified were the remains of modern drainage runs.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Dunstable, Land at North West Dunstable

(TL 00002240)

Jonathan Hart

An archaeological fieldwalking survey recorded concentrations of artefactual material dating to the

Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods.

Studham, Studham Hall Farm (TL 0135 1532)

Stuart Joyce

A watching brief recorded a ditch from which 12th to 13th century pottery was recovered. This feature appears to be the continuation of an earthwork.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Amphill, Tavistock Avenue (TL 0280 3687)

Jim Brown

Open area excavation on land between the A507 and Tavistock Avenue examined extensive archaeological features, comprising multiple parallel trenches left behind by Roman plantation agriculture, possibly a vineyard (Fig 11). Initially there was small scale planting on the upper slope of a small stream valley and the larger area was divided by ditches, with open ground between. Subsequent reorganisation brought the whole of the area under plantation using the earlier boundaries to define planting groups, although the boundaries themselves were disused. Numerous parallel cultivation rows were laid out, probably for growing soft fruit, grapes or hops.

The pottery was extremely abraded and in poor condition, often with cess-like accretions, perhaps gained from manure, and had probably originated from a domestic settlement nearby that was occupied from the Late Iron Age to the Roman 2nd century AD. The manure was perhaps sourced from middens and turned over into pre-prepared bedding trenches. The plantation probably failed and was abandoned within the first half of the 2nd century, as it showed no evidence for development from the late 2nd century. BEDFM 2009.85

Amphill, Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane

(TL 03603680)

Jim Brown

A Geophysical survey and trial trench excavation was undertaken on land between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane. A solitary Iron Age pit contained burnt stone and parts of two or three pottery vessels. There were two possible postholes adjacent with no finds.

The base of a post-Medieval brick-built kiln contained large quantities of fuel ash slag. Of similar date to the kiln was a wide distribution of small post-Medieval enclosures, many of which appear on early maps. The enclosures are thought to have been for horticulture or allotments and the kiln may have produced lime for use as a fertiliser. BEDFM 2010.55

Biggleswade, Boddington Gardens (TL 1964 4570)

Mark Patenall and Tim Upson-Smith

An evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of a sewer that will form part of the Boddington Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme. In the area designated for the site

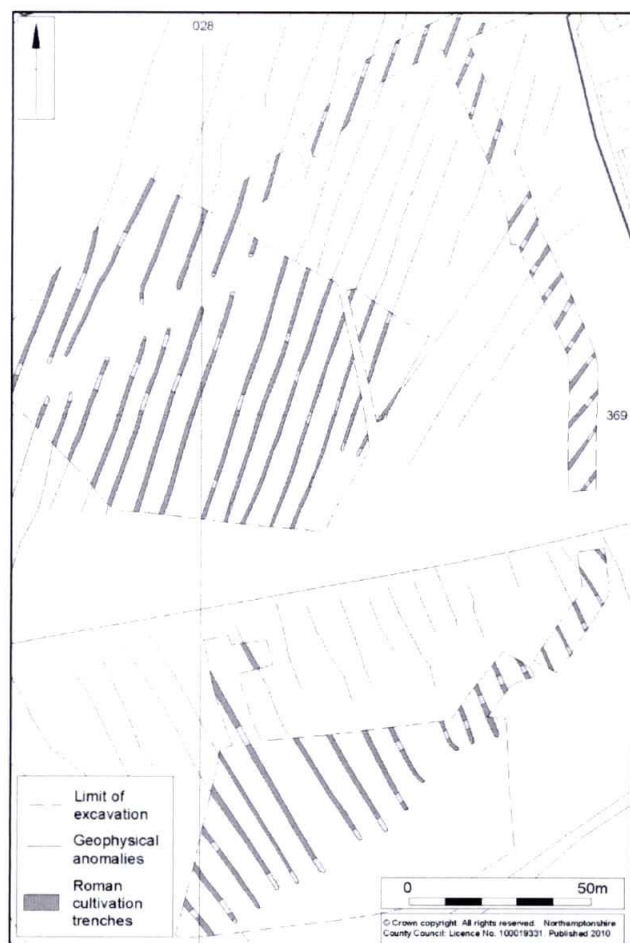


Fig 11. Roman cultivation trenches at Ampthill, Tavistock Avenue

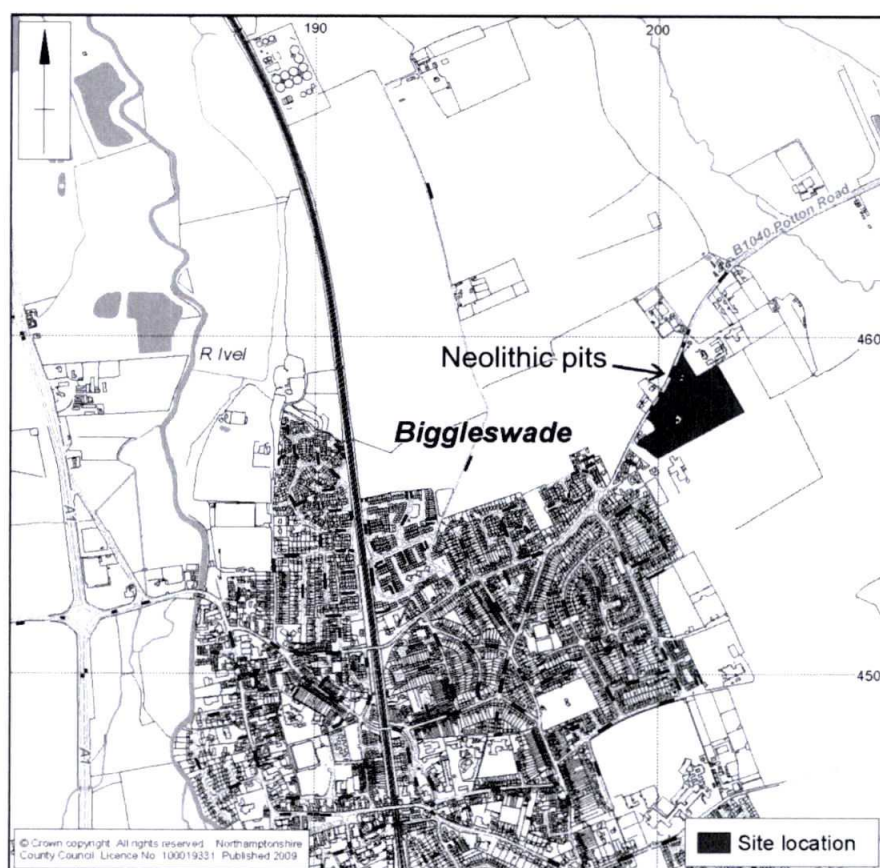


Fig 12. Site Location.

compound, were two early to middle Iron Age pits containing sherds of hand-built pottery from a variety of vessels, a small stone bead and a small assemblage of animal bone and charred cereal grain. No archaeological remains were encountered in the trenches positioned on the route of the proposed pipeline.

A watching brief carried out during the groundworks for the pipeline demonstrated that these remains did not extend into the easement and no other archaeological remains were encountered in this area. BEDFM 2009.79

A Peterborough Ware pit group from Potton Road, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire

Andy Chapman, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Introduction

A proposed housing development site lay to the east of Potton Road, Biggleswade, on 4.5ha of agricultural land immediately north-east of the town and 1.4km east of the River Ivel, at 31.5m above Ordnance Datum (Fig 12, TL 20704580).

Desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, followed by trial trenching by Albion Archaeology (2008) identified a group of three Neolithic pits as the most significant archaeological remains present. A condition requiring further excavation was attached to the planning consent by Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist, and CgMs Consulting commissioned Northamptonshire Archaeology to undertake a small area excavation, measuring 20m by 16m, to encompass the three known Neolithic pits and to establish that no further contemporary pits lay nearby (Fig 13).

The area was excavated by machine to a depth of 400mm onto the natural orange sandy gravel. There was brown sandy subsoil, 100mm deep, and dark brown sandy topsoil, 300mm deep. The three Neolithic pits located by the earlier trenching (Fig 13, Trench 6) were identified and excavated. Six other features were also exposed, excavated and recorded, but these were either natural anomalies or modern features.

The report on the results of the open area excavation, which was directed by Christopher Jones, did not include an analysis of the Neolithic pottery recovered by Albion Archaeology or the results of radiocarbon dating (Jones 2009). This additional information was presented in a supplementary report (Chapman 2011), which has formed the basis for this published summary.

The Neolithic pits

The three Neolithic pits lay in a line aligned north-north-east to south-south-west (Fig 13). The pits to the south, 605 and 16, were only 0.3m

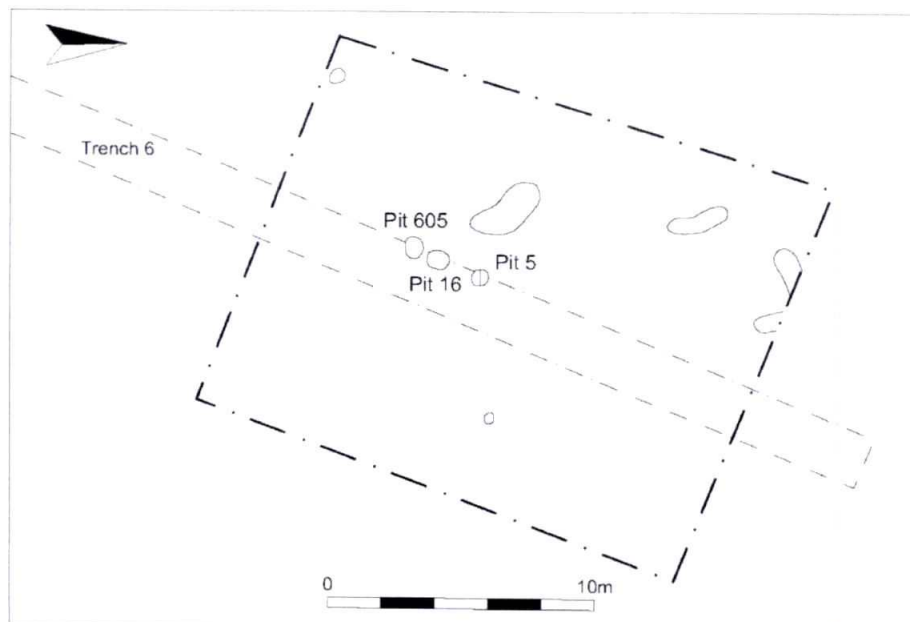


Fig 13. The excavated pit group.

apart and possible sherds from the same vessel were recovered from them, indicating that they were probably closely contemporary. The third pit, 5, lay 1.1m to the north and contained pottery from a single vessel with a different decorative technique, perhaps suggesting that it was not exactly contemporary with the other two.

Pit 605, which was fully excavated by Albion Archaeology, was 0.7m in diameter by 0.4m deep, with steep sides and a concave base (Albion 2008, 20). The fill of friable mid brown-grey sandy silt contained 13 sherds, weighing 189g, which make up small proportions of three vessels.

Pit 16, which had been quarter-sectioned during the evaluation, was fully excavated. It was 0.6m in diameter by 0.3m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The fill of brown-grey sand contained a single sherd of pottery.

Pit 5 was uncovered but not excavated in the evaluation, and was sectioned and then fully excavated in the open area excavation. It was 0.5m in diameter by 0.25m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The fill of brown-grey sand contained six large sherds, weighing 278g, not all joining, which comprise about a quarter of a Mortlake bowl.

Chronology and radiocarbon dating

Radiocarbon dating of stratified assemblages has suggested that the Peterborough ware tradition was fully developed by 3000BC, and dates for Mortlake ware span 3600-2300BC (Gibson 2002, 80). Grooved ware is believed to have appeared in southern England a little later, by about 2800BC.

A bulk soil sample from the fill of Pit 605 produced a small quantity of wood charcoal, and five small pieces of carbonised hazel nut shell, weighing 0.2g, which was submitted for radiocarbon dating. Due to the presence of a plateau in the calibration curve for the late 4th millennium, this has given a broad date spanning some four centuries at the end of the 4th millennium BC, 3340-2930 Cal BC (95% confidence, 4450 $\pm$ 40 BP, Beta-285987). At 68% confidence two

likely date ranges of about a century each are indicated, 3320-3230 Cal BC and 3110-3020 Cal BC.

This date falls well within the known range for Peterborough ware, but predates the overlapping introduction of Grooved ware.

The Neolithic pottery

A total of four vessels in the Peterborough ware tradition were all only partially represented.

From Pit 605 there are rim and body sherds from a Mortlake bowl with a pronounced shoulder, a concave neck and a flattened rim, which is decorated with a herringbone pattern of oblique fingernail impressions on the body, neck and rim and also on

the inside to a depth of 30mm below the rim (Fig 14, Vessel 1).

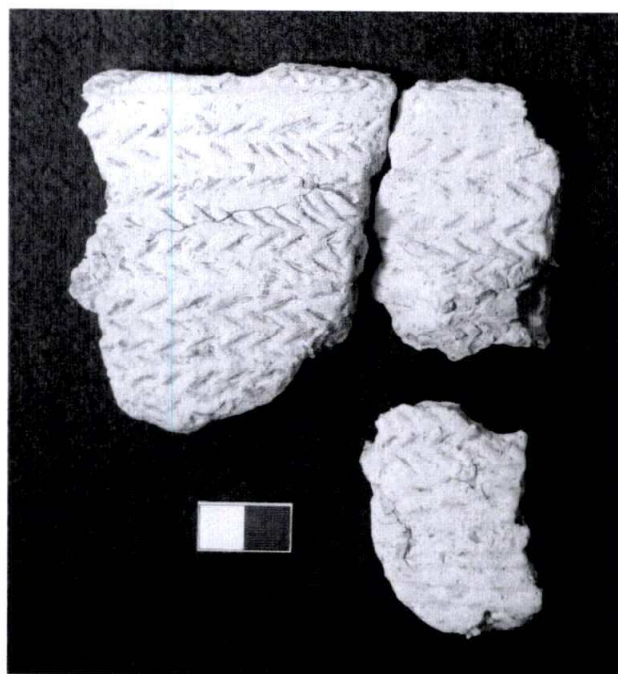


Fig 14. Mortlake bowl from Pit 605, Vessel 1 (Scale 20mm).

There is also an abraded sherd from the shoulder of another Mortlake bowl from Pit 605, which is probably from the same vessel as an abraded rim sherd from Pit 16, the only sherd from that pit (not illustrated). There are faint remnants of fingernail impressions suggesting that the decoration was also a herring-bone pattern.

The other six sherds from Pit 605 come from an unusual and distinctive vessel (Fig 15, Vessel 2). The body sherds are straight-walled and there is a surviving remnant of an angle onto a flat base. The surviving body is decorated with a herringbone pattern executed in elongated impressions, and these continue onto the angle of the base, suggesting that the

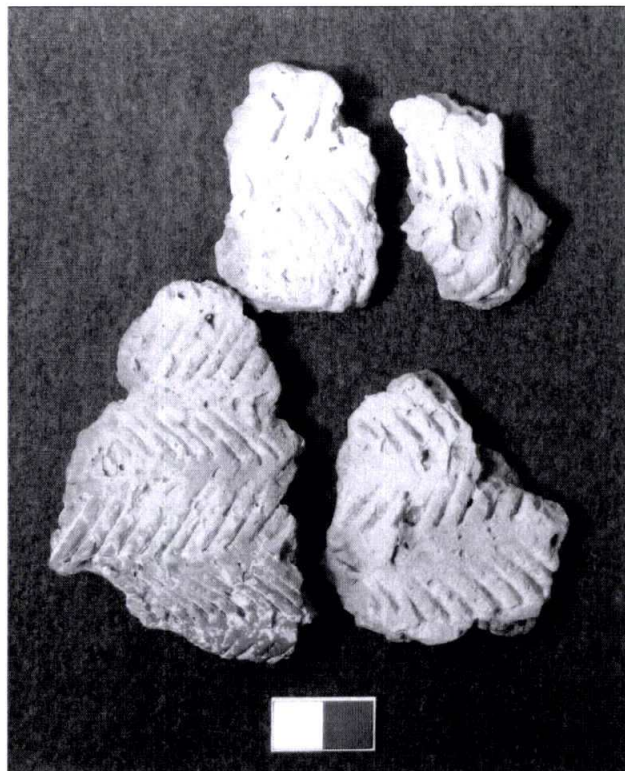


Fig 15. Probable Fengate ware sherds from Pit 605, Vessel 2 (Scale 20mm).

entire base may also have been decorated. It is harder and thinner-walled than the Mortlake bowls, 6-8mm thick in comparison to 9-13mm thick for the Mortlake bowls.

The vessel form, with a flat base and straight walls, is consistent with the Fengate style within the Peterborough ware tradition, but it is difficult to find parallels for the profuse decoration, which has elements that would be more common in later pottery traditions, such as Grooved ware or even Food vessels of the early Bronze Age. However, the presence of anomalous vessels within the Peterborough

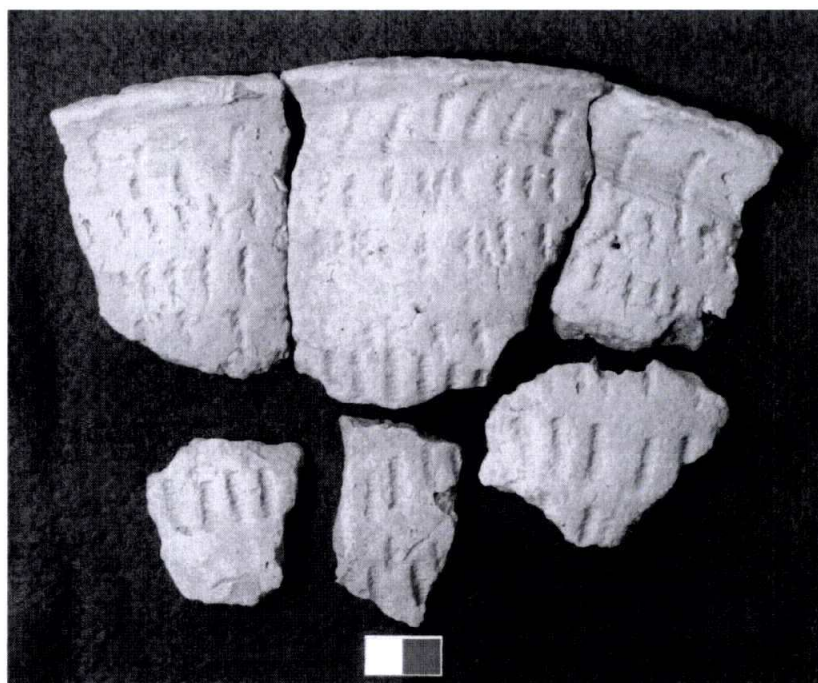


Fig 16. Mortlake bowl from Pit 5, Vessel 4 (Scale 20mm).

ware tradition is now being more widely recognised (Alex Gibson pers comm), but if found as isolated vessels radiocarbon dating may be the only means to be certain of the correct stylistic attribution.

From Pit 5 there are six sherds, including three large joining rim sherds, which make up about a quarter of a Mortlake bowl, with a rim diameter of 220mm (Figs 16 and 17, Vessel 4). The lower body and neck are decorated with rows of vertical whipped-cord maggot impressions, which are deeply impressed. Two rows of decoration on the upper body comprise shallower and shorter impressions, which appear to have been made with a twisted cord. On the interior there is a row of vertical whipped-cord impressions immediately below the rim, and the top of the rim is decorated with whipped cord impressions partly forming triangles.

Discussion

The line of three Neolithic pits at Biggleswade appears to be an isolated group. The appearance of similar small clusters of pits dated to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age has been noted at several other sites in Bedfordshire. There are examples on the chalk uplands in the south and also to the north on the gravels of both the Great Ouse and the Ivel (Luke 2007, 39). Like the pits at Biggleswade, excavated examples have also produced small assemblages of Neolithic and early Bronze Age pottery, struck flints and sometimes animal bone and charred plant remains, often hazel nut shells. Pit groups in the broader East Anglian region have been studied by Garrow (2006).

At its simplest, such small clusters of pits containing a range of domestic debris have been regarded as equating directly with minor and temporary habitation sites (Garrow 2008, 10), but Garrow argues that we need to more fully understand many aspects of their occurrence, including their location within the landscape, and the scale, density and duration of occupation represented at these pit sites. In

East Anglia, Garrow has noted the tendency for Peterborough ware sites to produce either single pits or pits 'grouped closely together, almost without exception in pairs', and he also notes that this pattern has been seen elsewhere in Britain (Garrow 2006, 61). Biggleswade can be interpreted as conforming to this pattern. The three pits are a small group, tightly clustered, and two of them do form a pair, with similar pottery assemblages, while the third pit was a little further away and contained a different pottery assemblage, and was perhaps broadly but not immediately contemporary with the other two.

Connections with acts of structured deposition are a further consideration, and in Pit 5 at Biggleswade the presence of sherds from around a quarter of a single Mortlake bowl and the absence of any other domestic debris, might be interpreted as relating to structured deposition rather than the casual discard of domestic waste. In contrast, Pit 605 contained sherds that make up smaller proportions of three vessels, and

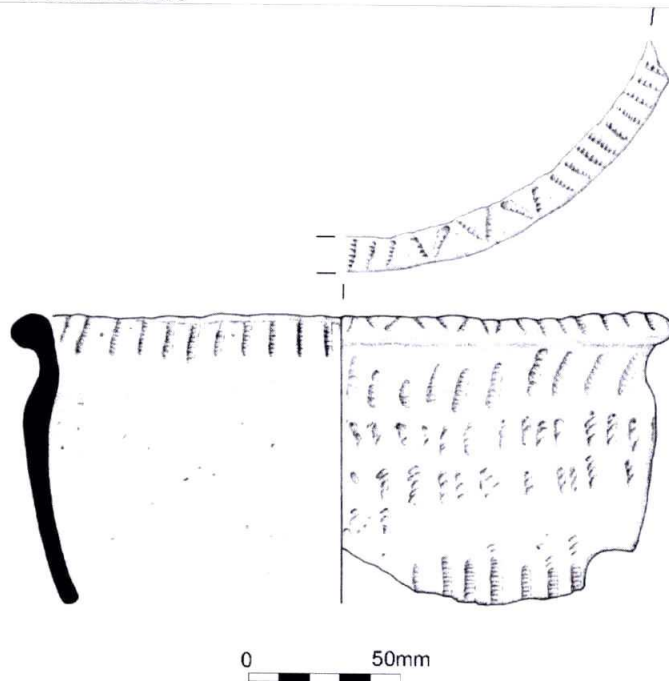


Fig 17. The Mortlake bowl from Pit 5.

also a little carbonised material, including hazel nut shell fragments. As another contrast, Pit 16 contained only a single sherd of pottery, and the abraded state of this sherd may suggest that its inclusion in the fill was accidental rather than deliberate. However, the pit may have contained organic material, totally lost to decay.

It is possible that what we are seeing is the disposal of debris at the termination of short-term episodes of settlement, but with this material requiring burial in structured acts of deposition. Whatever its interpretation, the Neolithic pit group at Biggleswade provides an addition to the growing county and regional corpus of small pit groups of the Neolithic and early Bronze Ages, which often appear fortuitously during the evaluation or excavation of sites of later periods. The discovery of further examples and the recording of the exact nature of the contents of such pits will add to the future discussion of this subject.

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Harrold, The Green, Well House

(SP 9519956677)

Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the digging of the footings and a service trench for an extension to a house. There were five probable boundary ditches, three of which were dated to the 12th century. A significant amount of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil. BEDFM 2010.24

Harrold, 85 High Street (SP 94815625)

Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at 85 High Street. It demonstrated the survival of archaeological features of medieval date, though truncated by 19th century domestic rubbish pits. The range of pottery recovered and the faunal remains was indicative of domestic settlement. BEDFM 2009.33

Little Staughton, Colmworth Road, Green Acres

(TL 106623)

Edmund Taylor

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of two dwellings on land at Green Acres. Two intercutting ditches, aligned north-west to south-east, were revealed on the eastern edge of the development area. The latest of these produced pottery dating to the mid 19th century. BEDFM 2010.27

Ravensden, Manor Farm Cottage, Wood End

(TL 0567055430)

Carol Simmonds

An archaeological investigation was carried out at Manor Farm Cottage, Wood End near Ravensden, comprising 1.2ha of pasture, with the area of impact measuring c20m by 10m. A small area measuring 8.7m by 4.8m was excavated to archaeological horizons, while the rest of the area remained at higher levels. No significant remains were present on the site; the only archaeological feature encountered was a ditch from which a quantity of post-medieval pottery, glass and clay pipe was recovered. BEDFM 2010.47

St Mary's Lower School, Stotfold (TL 22053690)

Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological excavation of land at St. Mary's Lower School, was carried out in advance of the construction of an extension to the school. There was a boundary ditch dated to the 12th century and a pit. The ditch and pit may relate to features recorded during excavations in 1975, suggesting medieval settlement remains. Made-up ground was encountered in the southern part of the site, which was

probably connected to the last phase of extension to the school. BEDFM 2010.32

Shefford, Shefford Lower School (TL 13803865)

Nathan Flavell

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at Shefford Lower School, in response to the submission of a planning application for the proposed extension to the existing pre-school building. The evaluation revealed a Roman ditch, a pit and a furrow. BEDFM 2010.31

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

2010 Fieldwork roundup for *South Midlands Archaeology*
Compiled by Steve Preston, January 2011

Biggleswade, Glebe House, Southill Park, Southill

(TL 14814238)

James Lewis

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in a watching brief.

Chalgrave, Chalgrave Manor Golf Club, Dunstable Road (TL 01152750)

Tim Dawson

A shallow pit and three probable plough furrows were recorded in a watching brief; two sherds of late Medieval pottery (one coming from the pit) and a small amount of unstratified tile were recovered.

Leighton Buzzard, Land at Clipstone (SP 95002700)

Jo Pine

Of the 34 evaluation trenches excavated, 20 revealed certain or probable archaeological features, dating mainly from the late Iron Age-early Roman period but with several probably earlier Iron Age and later Bronze Age features also present. The majority of the features and finds came from an area of about c 3ha extent in the north-eastern part of the site, where there is certainly a Late Iron Age to early Roman settlement, and probably later Bronze Age occupation. A focus of late prehistoric activity was also recorded in the west; while a continuation of a previously known Late Iron Age-Early Roman settlement was recorded in the far south-west of the site. Other trenches contained Medieval or later ridge and furrow earthworks.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Quainton, 7 The Green

Mark Phillips

A rapid survey of the building was undertaken, comprising a measured sketch plan of the ground floor, photographs of key features and notes.

Newport Pagnell, Chicheley Hall (SP 90494550)

Mark Phillips, & Joe Abrams

Between May and November 2009 archaeological monitoring and mitigation works were undertaken during renovation and conversion work at Chicheley Hall, an early Georgian country house (grade I listed). Earthwork remains in the fields around the Hall may be associated with a possible shrunken Medieval village. The work undertaken comprised strip, map and sample excavation of discrete areas where groundworks had the potential to expose archaeological remains and archaeological monitoring of areas of more limited groundworks such as service trenches. Work within the Coach House to the west of main house uncovered medieval and later remains. These included boundary ditches and pits dating from the early medieval period. The pits contained pottery, animal bone and ecofacts including a significant assemblage of charred plant remains. A number of human burials were found in the western part of the Coach House; they are associated with the adjacent parish churchyard. Further features, possibly dating from the medieval period, were identified during monitoring of a service trench in a field to the south of the house.

Newport Pagnell, Parchment Works, Caldecote Street (SP 87574348)

Wesley Kier, Rob Wardill

Planning permission was granted for the demolition of a 19th century factory building within the site of the William Cowley Parchment Works and the construction of a new three-storey building in its place. Trade directory entries suggest that the parchment works were established on the site sometime between 1868 and 1876. Maps dating to 1644 also show elements of the town's Civil War defences possibly being located within the site.

The archaeological works comprised the excavation of three test pits that revealed features and deposits associated with the recently demolished parchment works building. These comprised demolition layers, remnants of foundations and make-up layers. In addition, three sunken, wood-lined lime pits and a brick wall foundation were revealed; they pre-date the latest form of the building prior to its demolition.

No evidence of the Civil War defensive earthwork or any other activity pre-dating the 19th century parchment works was revealed.

Buckinghamshire

Newport Pagnell, Parchment Works, Caldecote Street
(SP 87574348)

Hester Cooper Reade, Christiane Meckseper

During December 2009 and January 2010 a Level 3 (English Heritage 2006) historic building survey of the rear building of William Cowley Parchment Works was carried out.

As the only extant parchment works in England, the Caldecote Street workshop is of great significance in any record of the trade and its history. The building itself is unremarkable and fairly typical of the large workshops used for light industrial and artisan-level craft production. However, the processes taking place in the building are unique and an integral part of the built environment. Many undesignated buildings of this type suffer demolition and alteration and it is therefore important to make an appropriate record.

Documentary and map evidence suggests that the parchment workshop at Willen/Caldecote Road was first established in, or a short while before, 1876 as part of an already established tradition of parchment-making in Newport Pagnell. The workshop was built by David Cook who ran the works until sometime between 1883 and 1899, when William Cowley is first associated with the building. Although the building has been altered and re-modelled many times, the general as-built structure and building footprint is clearly recognisable.

The building complex recorded as part of these works was originally one of a pair of similarly constructed workshops either side of a narrow yard. The present-day structure is built largely of brick in Flemish bond, with a timber-framed upper storey and pitched roof. A number of re-built and additional extensions have been added to the north and south of the core building. Evidence for long thin stretches of glazing and large, louvered, upper-storey openings is still visible as are a number of fixtures and fittings that have changed little over time.

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Newport Pagnell, The former Aston Martin site
(SP 88084375)

Les Capon

Evaluation on behalf of Pinnacle Consulting Engineers Ltd. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 16 trenches. Alluvial or natural deposits of varying character were observed in all 16 trenches, consisting of sandy clay, alluvial blue clay and alluvial sands and gravels. The key features recorded were a medieval pit and post-Medieval pits and ditches, located adjacent to the Tickford Road frontage and northern boundary. In addition to this, multiple post-medieval pit and structural features were identified concentrated in the western half of the site. A large undated palaeochannel feature was also located during the course of the evaluation in the northeast corner of the site. (AYBCM: 2010.123)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

Aylesbury, Tring Road (SP 83251340)

Martin Cuthbert

In December an evaluation of the southern part of Tring Road Allotments, Aylesbury, was undertaken in advance of a proposed extension to Tring Road Cemetery. Evaluation was required because previous discoveries within and adjacent to the allotments had indicated that the site may contain burials of the Saxon period. The evaluation revealed no burials of any period, and little evidence of activity pre-dating the Medieval period. The area was in use as arable land during the Medieval and post-medieval periods; significant truncation and reworking of soils and natural sediments was identified, and it is suggested that ploughing and recent use of the site as allotments will have destroyed any shallow archaeological features which may have been present.

Bradwell, Bradwell Abbey (SP 82683947)

Carina Summerfield-Hill & Gareth Shane

During March and April a watching brief was carried out at Bradwell Abbey during the installation of a security fence and associated tree planting. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

In August seven test pits were excavated at Bradwell Abbey in order to determine the depth, construction and condition of the footings below the farmhouse and associated buildings, to inform proposals for structural stabilisation and repair. A test pit against the farmhouse revealed that its relatively shallow footings stand on natural cornbrash limestone. Three test pits to the south, against the former stables (now the Interpretation Centre) uncovered further shallow footings, stone surfaces both predating and contemporary with the existing medieval structure, and a probable 19th century lean-to structure. A test pit against the Stone Barn revealed shallow footings. A test pit against the 19th century Red Barn, at the south end of the site, revealed substantial limestone footings beneath the brick wall. The final test pit, against the 19th century farm cottages, revealed typical Victorian stepped brick footings.

Burnham, Burnham Beeches (SU 9585 (Centre))

Karin Semmelmann

In March an archaeological field survey was undertaken of Burnham Beeches, in order to aid the future management of the estate. Burnham Beeches is owned by the Corporation of London and was purchased to provide an open space for public enjoyment whilst preserving the natural aspect of the site. It covers an area of approximately 220ha within which are areas of woodland pasture, beech coppice, heathland and bog. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSI), a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Within the Beeches are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs); one a late prehistoric hill fort and the other a medieval moated site. A third SAM, an 18th century animal enclosure, lies immediately south of the site. Burnham Beeches is itself a

relict archaeological landscape, with pollards and coppiced beeches providing evidence for former woodland management practices.

Over one hundred individual archaeological features were recorded during the survey, ranging in date from the Iron Age to the 20th century, mostly related to land management, quarrying or World War II activity. Because of the intensive use of the Beeches during the war years, followed by a major re-constitution of the landscape afterwards, many slighter features, such as saw pits or charcoal burners' yards, have been destroyed. The management and mitigation of the surviving archaeological record in relation to the Burnham Beeches Management Plan 2005-2010 is considered in some detail in this report.

Calverton, Upper Weald (SP 8014637766)

Calli Rouse

During November and December 2010, an archaeological watching brief was carried out at 3 Upper Weald, Calverton, during groundworks for the construction of a garage, and an extension to the existing property located within the footprint of a demolished barn. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, although an area of disturbed ground was recorded below the demolished barn.

Dorney Reach, Meadow Way (SU 91577955)

Calli Rouse

During March a watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for a new play area at Trumpers Field, Meadow Way, Dorney Reach. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, and it was noted that there was a lack of subsoil across the development area. The site forms part of a school playing field and is adjacent to the M4. It was concluded that the site is likely to have been truncated, either during the levelling of the playing field, or as part of the easement of the M4.

Granborough, St John the Baptist Church (SP 76782500)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In September and October an excavation and watching brief were carried out at St John the Baptist Church, Granborough, during the construction of a toilet and associated services. The development area did not contain any articulated human burials, and only two fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered. A limestone surface of probable post-Medieval date was excavated.

Haddenham, Banks Road (SP 74162278)

Jonathan Hunn

In June a trial trench evaluation was undertaken on the site of the former Spicer Hallfield factory, Banks Road, Haddenham, prior to redevelopment. The evaluation followed an earlier desk-based assessment, and was carried out in order to establish whether any archaeological

deposits survived on the site. The evaluation demonstrated that most of the site, with the exception of the area adjacent to the south-eastern entrance, had been subject to widespread truncation during construction of the factory and only those areas on the extremities of the site, to the north and south, retained any potential for surviving archaeology. The only features noted were modern, and only a single unstratified, abraded body sherd of Medieval date was recovered. It appears that the site lay beyond the occupation area of medieval Haddenham.

Ivinghoe, Windmill Close (SP 94571607)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In October an evaluation was carried out at Old Brewery Stables, Windmill Close, Ivinghoe, in advance of the construction of a house. The remains of a demolished 20th century building comprising a Totternhoe clunch wall and frequent fragments of 20th century tile were found. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed.

Loughton, All Saints Church (SP 83753788)

Karin Semmelmann

In January a watching brief was undertaken at All Saints Church, Loughton, during the installation of underfloor heating, and a new floor. The existing floor was removed, revealing several 19th century brick-built burial chambers and tombs, three areas of redeposited burials and one fully articulated burial. The burial chamber in the chancel, belonging to the Smith family, was accessible by a set of brick steps. It contained four lead-lined coffins and an empty shelf intended for a fifth burial. The burial chamber in the south aisle had been backfilled and had no steps into it. The vault, which probably belonged to the Hanstrapp family, had been truncated to accommodate the joists for the existing floor. The individual tombs in the chancel were under ledger slabs dedicated to members of the Crane and Athawes families, dating from the 17th and 19th centuries respectively. The various brick-built structures all appeared to date from the early 19th century and their construction had clearly caused major disruption to existing burials within the church, which had been carefully reburied in three locations, all within timber coffins. The exposed historic fabric of the building revealed little out of the ordinary. The foundations were 200-550mm deep and consisted of the same density of Blisworth limestone as the main walls. The exception to this was the tower arch, where the foundations were far more substantial.

Loughton, land at Pitcher Lane/School Lane (SP 83803775)

David Fell

In June an evaluation was undertaken on land between Pitcher Lane and School Lane, Loughton, in advance of the construction of a housing development. Seven trenches were excavated but no significant archaeological features were present. The development is unlikely to have an impact on significant archaeological remains and the

Buckinghamshire

archaeological impact of the development is considered to be low.

Ludgershall, High Street (SP 65991755)

David Fell

In July an evaluation was undertaken on land to the rear of The Bungalow, Ludgershall, in advance of the construction of a house. A single evaluation trench was excavated but no significant archaeological features were present.

Mentmore, Crafton Road (SP 89221978)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In June a strip, map and sample excavation was carried out prior to the erection of a stable block and manege at Woodlands Crafton Road, Mentmore. The site is adjacent to the deserted village earthworks of Crafton. No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered.

Newport Pagnell, Willen Road (SP 88104216)

Martin Cuthbert

Following a desk-based assessment, in October and November evaluation was undertaken of an area of land to the south of Caldecote Farm, Willen Road, Newport Pagnell, to inform proposals for gravel extraction. The site is located on the gravel terraces on the west side of the Ouzel valley. Fieldwork, excavations and chance finds over the last half-century have revealed significant evidence of prehistoric activity, Bronze Age burial and Iron Age and Roman occupation within this landscape. The evaluation revealed a small amount of prehistoric activity at the eastern end of the site with a large pit containing butchered animal remains. Medieval settlement has been identified on the northern periphery of the site comprising pits and ditches. The main part of the site seems to have been in agricultural use since the medieval period and a number of trenches contained undated features.

Olney, High Street (SP 88945184)

Calli Rouse

In October a pre-determination evaluation was carried out on a land to the rear of Brock's Garage, 124 High Street, Olney, prior to the residential and commercial re-development of the site. The evaluation identified a Medieval ditch, a post-medieval, irregular sided pit and a large feature, possibly a pit, of medieval date. The Medieval ditch contained pottery dated to the 13th-15th centuries, and may represent a property boundary. The early development of the northern end of the town is not well understood, and the ditch suggests that there was activity in the area as early as the 13th century.

Olney, Lavendon Road/Wellingborough Road (SP 89035237)

Calli Rouse

In July an evaluation was undertaken of land adjacent to the junction of Lavendon Road and Wellingborough Road,

Olney, in advance of the proposed development of a car dealership and filling station. The development site is adjacent to the extensive Roman settlement at Ashfurlong: a geophysical survey had previously revealed probable quarrying on the east part of the site. The evaluation uncovered evidence for extensive quarrying, probably dating to the 19th century. The finds recovered from the site date to the modern period, and it seems likely that any earlier archaeological remains located within the boundaries of the development site may have been destroyed by the quarrying.

Shenley Church End, Shenley Road (SP 83273665)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In July an evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to a former 19th century cart shed in Shenley Road, Shenley Church End, in advance of development. Trenching revealed the remains of 19th/20th century rubbish pits and a structural footing. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Sherington, Church Farm (SP 89044650)

Calli Rouse

During September, watching briefs were carried out during the groundworks for a new driveway and field barn at Church Farm, Church End, Sherington. An area of linear earthworks of uncertain date had previously been recorded along the route of the new driveway. Little evidence of these was recorded above ground, and no evidence was observed below ground level. An area of burning and a spread of rubble, both of which included fragments of post medieval and modern brick and tile as well as animal bone, were also revealed. These are both likely to be remnants of agricultural activity within the field.

Stony Stratford, St Mary & St Giles Church (SP 78694047)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

Following a trial trench evaluation in 2008, between May and November a watching brief was maintained at St Mary and St Giles Church, Stony Stratford, during the construction of an extension to the church. Little in the way of significant features, finds or deposits were observed, as the work entailed excavating through made/disturbed ground. A few disarticulated human remains were uncovered, along with post-medieval pottery sherds, glass and tile fragments, clay pipe stems and animal bone fragments.

Whitchurch, North Marston Lane (SP 79382130)

David Fell

In April an evaluation was undertaken on land at North Marston Lane, Whitchurch, in advance of the construction of a housing development. Four trenches were excavated but the only evidence of past activity was a quarry pit, probably dating to the 19th century. No other archaeological features or artefacts were present.

Winslow, Market Square (SP 763927610)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In April an excavation was carried out adjacent to St Laurence's Room, Market Square, Winslow, in advance of an extension to the building. The excavation uncovered a number of ditches, gullies and pits of medieval date, seven articulated inhumations and a quantity of disarticulated human bone. Radiocarbon dates were obtained for bone from two of the inhumations, providing dates of 945±40AD and 1505±40AD respectively. These dates indicate that the south side of the original churchyard was encroached upon by the expansion of the Market Square, following the grant of a market in 1235 by Henry III.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Compiled by Peter Marsden

Collective Research Activities during the year 2010

The society's Historic Buildings Group (HBG) ran a series of collective research and survey projects during 2010. Their results are summarised here and published in a series of pages on the society's website at .

Recording the historic public houses of Buckinghamshire

The aims are to record the pubs and former pubs of the county, most of which are historic buildings in their own right. A survey of 35 pubs and former pubs in Winslow was completed. Pubs in the village of Weston Turville were surveyed and the results are being written up. The project team also completed their 'Historic Public Houses Survey Pack', which is available to download from the website at .

Hedgerley listed buildings survey

This aims to survey, draw and research the 12 listed buildings in the village of Hedgerley. Four have now been surveyed and a fifth has been dated by dendrochronology: Shell House dates from 1680-90 and is built in a similar architectural style to Winslow Hall - but somewhat less grand. The report, at final draft stage, will be submitted for publication in Records of Bucks 2012.

The landlord of the White Horse hoped the survey might prove his village pub to be medieval. Sadly not: it's 18th century.

Dendrochronology at the Old Quaker House has shown this was built in 1485, the year Henry VII defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth.

During summer 2010 the project team did a 'rush' survey of The Garden House, originally the gardeners' cottage for the Hedgerley Park estate, which was scheduled for demolition. This proved to be an interesting relic of estate food production, surrounded by its walled garden.

Old Keepers, a pair of cottages later converted to one, look likely to have been part of the village's brickmaking industry.

Wingrave village survey

The year's main event was a Historic Buildings Workshop in October, jointly run by the HBG and the Wingrave Archives Society. The one-day workshop examined the issues raised by different ways of dating historic buildings, in particular by stylistic features on one side and by the science of dendrochronology on the other. Twenty buildings in Wingrave were surveyed (including two 'fakes'!) and dendro cores taken from two. Detailed surveys were:

Windmill Hill Farmhouse, which dates from the early 16th century and was found to have part of the former windmill re-used to reinforce its roof timbers.

Dean Leys, a two-bay cottage where dendrochronological analysis gave a construction date of between 1493 and 1527.

Dendro-dated buildings of Buckinghamshire

Aims to examine the county's 50-plus historic buildings whose construction dates have been scientifically proven by dendrochronology. By comparing their descriptions, it is hoped that accurate dates may be set on the use of structural, architectural and decorative building features in Buckinghamshire. A 'dating chart' compiled by this method would enable other buildings to be dated more accurately. By on-line searching the project team has collected structural and architectural information about 35 buildings so far.

A step-by-step survey guide for historic buildings

The Wingrave Workshop identified a need for a 'beginner's guide' to how to survey a historic building, what to observe, what to record. It needed to be 'in sequence' – in other words it needed to set out the building's features in the order in which you would naturally see them. External features first, including the building's surroundings, then obvious features inside, with complex items such as types of roof truss and plan forms left till later.

Starting from these principles, and informed by recent surveying experience in both Wingrave and Hedgerley, the guide was reworked through eight drafts. It is now available to download from the society's website at .

2010 Publications

Records of Buckinghamshire volume 50 - 2010

This has the following articles:

Excavation of a mid-Saxon settlement at Water Eaton, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, *Alastair Hancock*

Manorial Demesnes in Domesday Buckinghamshire: A Reappraisal, *Keith Bailey*

A medieval moat at the former White Swan public House, Westcott, *Wesley Keir and David Ingham*

Chesham Bois Manor, home to the Cheyne family for 350 years: Historical and Archaeological investigation, *Yvonne Edwards, Anne Paton, Marion Wells, John Gover and Vaughan Birbeck*

The Rookery, Bishopstone, Aylesbury: an archaeological building survey, *Sue Fox*

Notes:

Buckinghamshire field names, *Keith Bailey*

A Buckinghamshire Magna Carta, *Roger Betteridge*

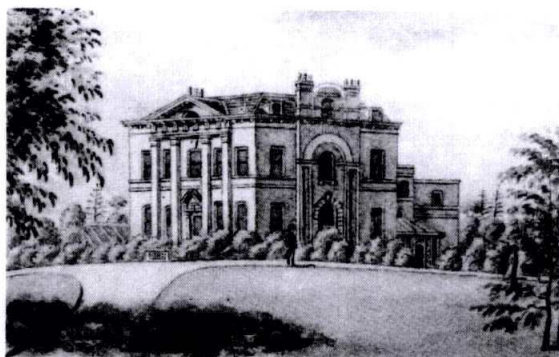
Buckinghamshire

Stowe Landscape Gardens: Home Farm mill pond, *Gary Marshall*

£16.50 direct from the County Museum in Aylesbury, or by post (add £2.50 to cover postage and packing) from Bucks Archaeological Society, County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP.

RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Volume 50 2010



Watercolour of Iwer Grove House by Joshua Gosselin, 1812
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An illustrated history of early Buckinghamshire

Edited by Michael Farley

ISBN 978-0-9558158-4-3

This has the following chapters:

Introduction - Michael Farley

Earliest Buckinghamshire - Barbara Silva and Lucy Farr

Prehistoric farmers, Sandy Kidd

Roman Buckinghamshire AD 43-410 - Bob Zeepvat and David Radford

Saxon Buckinghamshire AD 410-1066 - Michael Farley

Medieval Buckinghamshire AD 1066 - c 1540 - Kim Taylor-Moore

Postscript - Sandy Kidd

£15.99 direct from the County Museum in Aylesbury, or by post (add £2.50 to cover postage and packing) from Bucks Archaeological Society, County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP.

Other significant activities

Buckinghamshire Local History Network Conference

The subject of the 2010 conference, held under the auspices of the society, was 'Some great Buckinghamshire houses and their owners'.

Topics covered were: The Great Houses of Bucks - power, land and money - David Thorpe; Nether Winchendon House and its family - Robert Spencer Bernard; Chilton House - inheritance through the female line - Sir Henry

Aubrey-Fletcher; Ashridge - the Earls of Bridgewater and others - Mike Thompson; Clivedon - the two Dukes, Buckingham and Sutherland - Charles Pugh; The Rothschilds in Bucks - George Ireland; Chequers - Rodney Melville

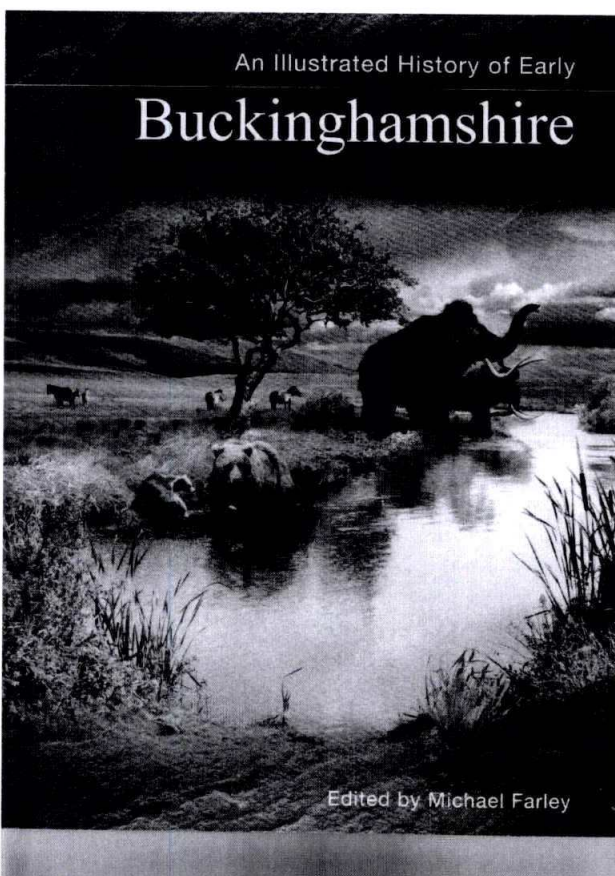
On-line Records of Buckinghamshire

The society has begun a rolling programme to make back numbers of the annual Records of Buckinghamshire available on-line. The journal was first published in 1858 and the majority of its early volumes have been out of print for some years.

The first on-line volume went live on the society's website in October 2010. This is volume 11, first published in 1919-1926. It includes transcribed MSS of the county's Archdeaconry Courts, parish records of Newton Longville, Hillesdon and Clifton Reynes, and the Bucks Oath Rolls, and articles on Aylesbury's Charter, Tickford Priory, Roman remains at Radnage, Excavations at Bulstrode and Danesborough, and the building accounts of Winslow Hall. To access this and other On-line Records volumes, go to .

The Society's website

The society's website was upgraded during 2010 to include regular reports of current research activities and links to other historical and archaeological resources within the county. The website is at Bucksas.org.uk.



CHILTERN ARCHAEOLOGY

Dr Jill Eyers

Woodland archaeological survey, Northcot Wood and Chalk Pit Wood, Hambleden

(SU 793862 & SU 792855 (centre points))

The project formed part of the Romans in the Hambleden Valley Project and was designed to explore the wider archaeology of the hills and woodland surrounding the Roman villa complex.

There were a variety of features found within this section of woodland including at least 6 gravel pits, 5 chalk pits, 6 sawpits, 5 field boundaries, a major holloway, a charcoal hearth and 2 unknown features (possible further gravel extraction). Chalk extraction has been confined to Chalk Pit Wood as the name indicates, and the gravel extraction was confined to the North Cot Wood. Sawpits were more numerous in Chalk Pit Wood which was where the charcoal hearth was discovered. Of the field boundaries located in both woodlands, only one section was part of an ancient boundary and occurred in Chalk Pit Wood. No ancient flora was present, and the records and maps indicate constant felling and wood re-planting since the 1880s, with some areas under cultivation. The holloway was of primary interest as it leads down (as part of the Rotten Row road) directly into an enclosure on the project site which is now proved to be an Iron Age enclosure ditch (results to be published 2011).

The other features encountered were all estimated to date from the 1700s through to the early 1900s.

Exploratory dive in the River Thames at Mill End, near Hambleden

(SU 785848 to SU 788845)

This dive was part of the Romans in the Hambleden Valley Project and was to investigate the potential of a Roman quay or other river infrastructure associated with the adjacent Mill End villa. The purpose or main income for this villa remains a pertinent question as it is very close to the Yewden villa complex. As it is inferred that Yewden may have been a large agricultural centre, it was questioned what role, and date, Mill End villa played. The results are to be published in a report during 2011, but can be summarised as no infrastructure found from the Roman period, although a number of other finds emerged, from axe hewn wood to whole clay pipes to Hamilton bottles.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**Denham, The Lea (TQ 04908600)**

Alistair Barber

Following previous work (Coleman, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008) a final phase of area excavation in advance of gravel extraction was carried out in 2010 on behalf of Harleyford Aggregates Limited. The 0.4ha excavation area, situated within the north-eastern corner of the southern field, lay immediately east of excavations undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2003 (Fig 18).

Middle Bronze Age

A sub-circular ring ditch (2) located within the south-eastern part of the site was situated approximately 40m north of a ring-ditch (1) partially revealed during the 2003 excavations. Ring ditch 2 had a v-shaped ditch which enclosed an area approximately 5m by 6m in size and the remains of six sub-circular and oval pits were identified within it. Three of these pits contained small quantities of charcoal and unburnt human bone, perhaps identifying former interments, whilst the remainder produced small amounts of charcoal but no surviving bone. Small quantities of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from the infilled ring ditch, however it is probable that Ring Ditch 2 is broadly contemporary with Ring ditch 1 which dated to the Middle Bronze Age period.

A circular pit 6m south-west of the ring ditch contained small quantities of burnt human bone and charcoal, together with Late Prehistoric/Early Iron Age pottery, identifying a prehistoric cremation burial close to the ring ditch.

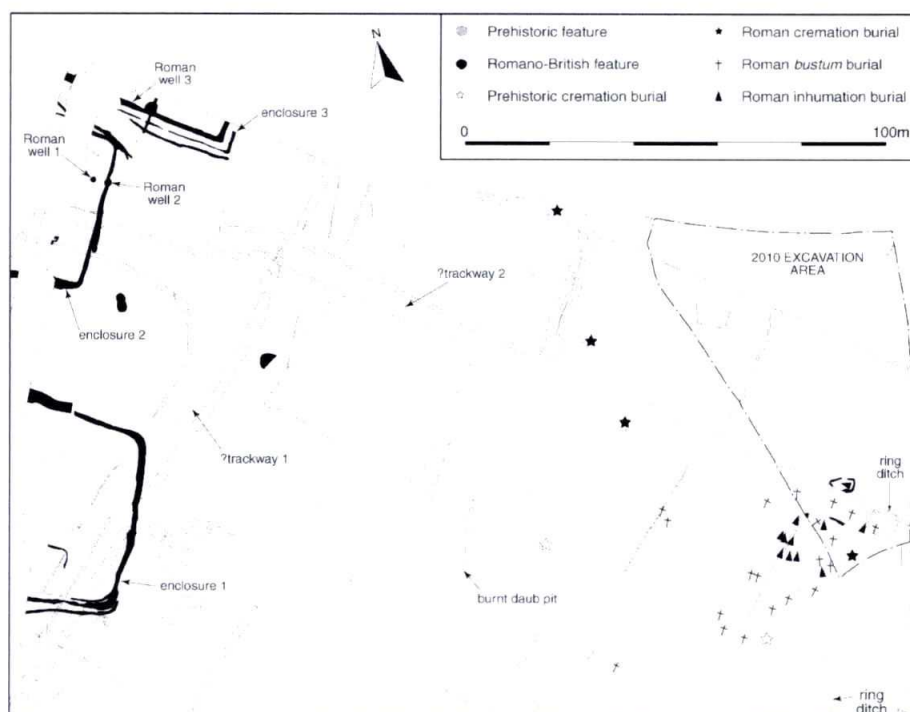


Fig 18. The Lea, Denham.

Buckinghamshire

Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age

The infilled Middle Bronze Age ring ditch was cut by a north-west/south-east aligned field system ditch, containing Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery, forming an eastward continuation of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age rectilinear field system identified during the previous excavations. Within the north-western part of the site three sides of a narrow, shallow, undated gully, set parallel with the axes of the field system, may represent a contemporaneous enclosure or animal pen within the north-east corner of a ditched plot.

A number of isolated, undated, pits and postholes were recorded within the northern part of the site, together with a large number of undated tree throw pits. These features may be contemporary with the field system ditches.

Romano-British (3rd and 4th centuries AD)

Roman funerary activity comprising bustum and inhumation burials was also identified. Six Late Roman bustum burials were encountered immediately to the north-east of those previously excavated in 2003. Four relatively evenly spaced bustum burials had been set in a row immediately south-west of, and parallel to, the former Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age field system ditch (conceivably still discernible as a landscape feature in the Late Roman period). One bustum burial cut the southern part of the Middle Bronze Age ring ditch. A small pit or posthole at the northern end of another bustum burial potentially represents a former grave marker. All six bustum burials produced burnt human bone, both from their basal pyre debris and from overlying backfill deposits. Several contained discernible cremated skeletal remains overlying the pyre debris.

Two bustum burials contained iron nails and hob nails within the pyre debris. The truncated/plough-damaged base of a Roman pottery vessel, set upon pyre debris, was found in another bustum burial.

Three inhumation burials were noted close to the Middle Bronze Age ring ditch, and the Late Roman bustum burials. One north-east/south-west aligned inhumation had cut through an earlier bustum burial, the only bustum burial to have been treated in this fashion. At the base of the grave a thin layer of blue-grey clay broadly conforming with the shape of a body was identified and contained a Roman coin as well as a fragment of unburnt wood. A second north-east/south-west aligned inhumation lay immediately west of the Middle Bronze Age ring ditch. The third inhumation burial, aligned north-east/south-west, was the only burial located to the north of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age field system. It lay parallel with and respected the earlier ditch and was surrounded by two sections of enclosing ditch, with a central break/access point to the burial on its northern side. No skeletal material was identified within any of the inhumation burials.

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Worminghall, Lower Brook Farm (SP 6437 0823)

David Parry

An evaluation identified two ditches containing post-Medieval/modern finds.

JOHN MOORE

Brill, 15 The Green (SP 65721380)

Eoin Fitzsimons

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of footings for an extension to the side of the property. One undated pit and an undated ditch were observed along with the footings of an early-modern privy.

Chilton, The Old Forge (SP 6873011620)

Christer Carlsson

The reduction of the ground level to the west of the house required the removal of an existing retaining wall whilst the machine-excavated foundation trenches at the south of the house revealed two 13th century pits. No new structural elements in relation to The Old Forge building or its previous use as a workshop were detected. Beneath the floor of the Boot Room, Hall & Store, were an older floor level and a posthole, and probably relate to the 17th century forge.

Gerrards Cross, Oxford Road (TQ 00368764)

Jenny Winnett

Four trenches, totalling approximately 90m in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology. The limited excavation in Trench 1 revealed walls, a throughway and compacted earth surfaces and evidence for the division of external space. These features may reflect the post-Medieval remnants of a tenement and/or the French Horn Inn that once occupied the site.

Haddenham, 26 Rudds Lane (SP 74060924)

Gwilym Williams

The evaluation revealed evidence of ridge and furrow, as well as a single undated posthole.

Henley-on-Thames, Marlow Road, Fawley Court

(SU 76498432)

Paul Riccoboni

Four trenches, totalling approximately 41.5m in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology within the

courtyard of Fawley Court. The earliest feature was a ditch orientated on a north-south alignment sealed beneath a deposit containing 18th century bricks. The fill of this ditch contained a well preserved wooden stake. A second shallow gully was undated but was probably of post-medieval date. Trench 2 revealed a chalk floor/yard surface dated to the 19th century AD, which was probably a yard surface not recorded on any historic maps. The latest features included two modern red brick walls, which may have once formed part of garden buildings such as greenhouses or garden walls.

Little Missenden, Church of St John the Baptist
(SU 920989)
Jenny Winnett

A watching brief during the lifting of a ledger slab in the north chapel in the church was conducted in preparation for its repair. Previous repair of the floor in the post-Medieval/modern period was evident. Medieval tile found in the fill of the vault was also present in other parts of the church's flooring, bonded with concrete mortar, suggesting a re-use or re-setting of these tiles in the modern period. During examination of the vault fill three fragments of human bone were identified. All bone and artefacts were returned to the vault prior to levelling.

Long Crendon, Chearsley Road, Scout Hut
(SP 69470884)
Stephen Yeates

The evaluation found that the site appeared to have been quarried and contained a number of make-up layers, the earliest of which was of an ill-defined date, but the later fills more recent. There were also three modern features truncating these deposits.

Marsh Gibbon, Church Street, St Mary's Church
(SP 6475623228)
Linzi Harvey

A watching brief took place during the demolition of the existing churchyard wall and excavation of footings for a new. Evidence was uncovered to show the 19th century raising of the graveyard levels and repairs to the wall. A small quantity of disarticulated human remains was also found.

Medmenham, Ferry Lane
(SU 80618382)
Gwilym Williams

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of a drainage trench. The ground had been previously disturbed by drainage with no archaeology visible at a depth of 0.6m below modern ground level.

Milton Keynes, Groveway, Schering-Plough Campus.
(SP 888366)
Juan Moreno

Three trenches, totalling approximately 60m in length, were excavated to reveal ditches and postholes relating to Roman activity between the 1st and 4th centuries AD, predating the earthwork remains of the medieval village of Walton. Some medieval features were also identified although they are limited in their scope. Other undated features might date from the middle/late Iron Age to Medieval period.

Turville, Turville Valley Road, White Cottage
(SU 76439104)
Christer Carlsson

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of footings for an extension of the property. An 18th century garden soil horizon with a later posthole and a demolition/construction layer were observed.

Whitchurch, White Horse Lane, White Horse
(SP 8023920773)
Gwilym Williams

Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was located adjacent to the standing building and revealed a quarry pit, yielding some burnt brick, stone and tile with pottery indicating a late 15th century date. A further two pits with late 15th century pottery were also investigated. Trench 2 was located east of the White Horse, in the former pub car park. Post-Medieval quarrying, in addition to an undated, pre-19th century posthole, were revealed. Remains of a 19th century stone building, as well as a later brick lean-to, were also revealed.

Worminghall, 75 The Avenue, Court Farm
(SP 64190801)
Wayne Perkins

A watching brief was conducted during ground works for two new house extensions. Two Medieval pits and an undated pit were found. An unexplained modern structure, of concrete and corrugated iron, adjacent to the house was also found.

Wotton Underwood, Old Vicarage
(SP 68681602)
David Gilbert

A watching brief was conducted during the groundwork for a new garage, swimming pool and tennis court. No archaeological features were recorded.

Buckinghamshire
**MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY
SERVICE**

Compiled by Karen Thomas

**Chalfont St Peter, Holy Cross Convent School, The
Grange** (SU 9988090610)
Antony Francis

Twenty-one evaluation trenches were excavated on the site. Prehistoric features, including ditch termini and a possible eaves drip gully, were identified, concentrated in the south part of the site. The possible eaves drip gully could suggest a domestic settlement. Stratified struck flints in some features are likely to be of Neolithic to Bronze Age date. Possible prehistoric features were also located in the east part of the site, although no dating material was recovered here. Probable 16th - 18th century structures and possibly earlier boundary ditches were concentrated in the west of the site. The structures included walls, a possible floor and post holes that may relate to a building or to garden features. Elsewhere on the site, a likely 19th century soakaway pit was identified. BU-HGC10

Marlow, Danesfield House, Henley Road
(SU 8163084400)
Sian Anthony

A watching brief on a single test pit within the Hambledon Room of the hotel revealed a layer of re-deposited natural, probably intended to support the wall foundations, beneath a deposit of large chunks of compacted limestone rubble. This was covered by a layer of concrete. All of these deposits abutted the foundation wall consisting of 14 regular courses of red bricks with a light grey bond. The five courses of the wall visible above the concrete layer were whitewashed. The base of the wall was not observed. BU-DFH05

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Buckingham, London Road (SP 706326)
Christopher Jones

An archaeological evaluation on land at London Road comprised sixty-one trenches, each 40m long by 2m wide. There was one shallow pit and a single ditch. A small quantity of pottery suggests that these features were Middle to Late Iron Age in date, perhaps the 1st century BC. AYBCM 2010.40

Milton Keynes, Bletcham Way, Fenny Lock
(SP 88293519)
Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land north of Bletcham Way, Fenny Lock, ahead of the creation of a travellers' site. Six separate trenches were dug in heavily wooded land. The excavation revealed an undated ditch and

the remnants of a buried soil in the northern part of the proposed development area; much of the land had already been greatly made up. AYBCM 2010.110

Milton Keynes, North Crawley, 25 High Street
(SP 92784473)
Nathan Flavell

An archaeological evaluation, comprising two trial trenches and observation of two geological test pits, was undertaken ahead of a proposed housing development of c 290m² on a vacant plot of land adjacent to 25 High Street. There were the remains of three early gullies and a late 19th century house. The three truncated boundary gullies suggest that the line of the High Street on the north side was angled slightly to the north-east, slightly different to its current position; parallel with the present south side, observable at the Old Bakehouse, 26 High Street, which is thought to date from the 17th century.

The small cottage, with a small yard and a simple brick floor, was probably the one recorded on the Ordnance Survey in 1881, which shows that the street frontage was fully developed by then. The pottery and small amount of clay pipe found in demolition layers suggest that the cottage had been demolished by c 1920, which agrees with the 1925 Ordnance Survey map. AYBCM 2009.194

Milton Keynes, Hanslope Road, Old Bunsty
(SP 8391247063)
Iain Soden

The farmhouse and an adjacent well-house are both listed Buildings (Grade II) and adjacent farm buildings are listed by curtilage. Building assessment and historic map consultation ahead of proposed alterations to the property has shown that Old Bunsty farmhouse has been on the same footprint since at least 1810. Architecturally its form is likely to be of the 18th century although evidence for anything earlier is scant. Subsequent structural alterations have been considerable, but confined to the rear, service wing which has undergone various subdivisions. Only a few historic non-structural features are visible in the interior.

Milton Keynes, Newton Leys, Drayton Road
(SP 86923093)
John Walford

An archaeological geophysical survey was undertaken on land at Drayton Road, Newton Leys. Magnetometry of a 12.9ha area revealed faint evidence for a curvilinear feature and an L-shaped ditch. There was no evidence of the truncated Middle Iron Age drainage ditches identified during the excavation of the adjacent access road. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was present across the entire area and this may be masking the earlier archaeology.

Milton Keynes, Olney, 12 High Street (SP 88985141)
Jim Burke

A trial trench evaluation was conducted on land at the rear of 12 High Street. Two trenches, one 7.5m long and one

8.0m long, were excavated within the 0.07ha development area, revealing two modern pits and a former hedge-line. The western part of the development site had been heavily disturbed by modern dumping and levelling activities, whilst the eastern part has remained undisturbed. A modern garden drain ran across the development area below the topsoil. AYBCM 2010.22

Milton Keynes, Stony Stratford, Mill Lane, Stratford House (SP 785403)

Iain Soden

Archaeological buildings assessment recorded a group of structures which comprise Stratford House and Ousebank Cottage. In addition to the two large dwellings, one of three floors with cellar, the other of two floors, the buildings included a stable, a former chapel, a conservatory and a garage.

Recording has shown that the two properties coalesced in an organic fashion from a variety of early disparate buildings of uncertain association into a single sprawling property which eventually included such unusual elements as a non-conformist chapel. The properties bear no indication that they were ever intimately connected with the tannery purported to have lain at the far end of the plot.

While the origins of the buildings probably lie in the 18th century, the fixtures and fittings of any note all belong to a suite inserted during the property's heyday, at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. They last underwent any real alteration in the 1930s. While some of the properties appear to have retained earlier fabric and features, large portions, irrespective of age, are in serious disrepair.

Milton Keynes Stony Stratford, Mill Lane, Stratford House (SP 78524030)

Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological evaluation comprising six trial trenches was undertaken on a proposed development site at the rear of Stratford House. The evaluation located a pit containing prehistoric flints, two small sherds of abraded Iron Age and Roman pottery, and several features of late post-medieval date relating to the site's later use as a tannery and private garden.

Part of a pipe clay wig curler was recovered, originally an elongated rod with a circular cross-section, 11-15mm in diameter, and expanded baluster-shaped terminals. Curler-making is thought to have been a sideline of clay tobacco-pipe manufacturers, and for this reason they often preserve maker's marks, although this example does not. Wig curlers were used by both men and women from the 16th to 19th centuries.

A 19th century box iron was also found. Although heavily corroded and in three pieces it is complete with its wooden handle. The iron is c 160mm long by c 65mm deep and weighs c 2.5kg (about 5lb). The iron would have been hollow with a lifting door on the back into which a heated iron 'slug' would be placed. It was a development of the charcoal iron where hot coals would be placed inside the hollow iron, with this type though they needed to be ventilated and often would leave smudges on the clean

laundry. Whereas with the thinner flat iron type two were needed, one in use and one heating up, with the box iron you had two 'slugs', one heating and one in use. AYBCM 2010.17

Stowe Landscape Park, Eleven Acre Lake

(SP 6739536990)

Joe Prentice

An archaeological watching brief was conducted, on behalf of the National Trust, during the excavation of a series of transverse trial trenches across the historic line of a lakeside path to the north side of the Eleven Acre Lake at Stowe Landscape Gardens. The gravel-surfaced path, known from plans to have existed from the early years of the 19th century, was located in all but one of the trenches and the line of the path corresponded well with the route indicated from contemporary site maps and has been shown to survive along almost the entire northern side of the lake where investigated.

Stowe, Stowe House School (SP 6749037480)

Joe Prentice

An archaeological watching brief was conducted, on behalf of Stowe House Preservation Trust, during the construction of a temporary turning area and the excavation of soil for new step foundations on the east side of the south front of Stowe House School. Limited archaeological deposits were present along with brick footings for former steps within some of the recessed arches along the south front. Excavation for the turning circle was contained within the topsoil and only the top of the underlying levelling layers were exposed.

West Wycombe, 40 Church Lane (SU 8301 9577)

Simon Carlyle

In July 2010, part of a human skull and other fragments of human bone were discovered by builders digging a trench against the north wall of 40 Church Lane, West Wycombe. Human bones had been unearthed on previous occasions in the lane, but the age and circumstances of the burials were entirely unknown. To investigate further, the National Trust, the owners of the property, commissioned Northamptonshire Archaeology to carry out an archaeological excavation of the area on the north side of the cottage. This uncovered the remains of four individuals from a row of graves cut into the chalk bedrock; one individual has been radiocarbon dated to the mid 3rd to early 5th centuries AD (240-420 cal AD, 98% confidence, 1710±40 BP, Beta-285988). The bone fragments discovered by the builders came from a late medieval/early post-medieval ditch that ran parallel to Church Lane and passed under the front wall of the cottage; the bones, of at least two individuals, probably came from other Roman graves disturbed by the cutting of the ditch.

Two pits dating to the late 15th/early 16th centuries were found in the foundation trench for a new garden wall adjacent to Church Lane. The archaeology was sealed by a layer of subsoil and dark garden soil containing 18th and 19th

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century pottery and glass, and a part of a possible Medieval rowel-spur.

Wexham, Langley Park (TQ 00878183)

Joe Prentice

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the construction of new footpaths, a new visitor centre and lake clearance works at Langley Park. An earthwork survey was conducted with a Leica Global Positioning System (GPS), which plotted the probable original lakeside edge. A photographic survey was also undertaken of the 19th/20th century boathouse on the lake edge. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. AYBCM 2009.100

Wycombe, West Wycombe Hill (SU 828 949)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a mock grave for a media production at West Wycombe Hill (Scheduled Monument No: BU80, Wycombe) near St Lawrence's Church, a Grade I Listed Building. Material relating to a modern pathway was recorded lying directly above the natural substratum. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Aylesbury, Aylesbury Waterside, Exchange Street (SP 82251365)

Andrew Weale

No pre-modern archaeological features were encountered in evaluation trenching. Building foundations of late 19th or 20th century date were discovered, which appear on various editions of the Ordnance Survey maps. Underlying deep alluvial deposits appeared to represent overbank flooding deposits with no evidence of extensive organic preservation nor evidence of palaeochannels or water management features.

Burnham, 10 Church Walk (SU 92738236)

James McNicholl-Norbury

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in evaluation trenching.

High Wycombe, Land adjacent to Dovecot Carpark, Archway (SU 86359335)

Andy Taylor

A single undated gully was the only potentially archaeological feature observed in an evaluation. Bulk and column samples of humic soils deeply buried by modern made ground have been retained for future study.

Ickford, St Nicholas' Church (SP 64600737)

Henrietta Longden

Undated inhumation burials, disarticulated and disturbed bones were observed during a watching brief and reinterred.

Long Crendon, Long Crendon Industrial Estate, Drakes Drive (SP 70350815)

Danielle Milbank

Evaluation trenches revealed a range of archaeological deposits mostly of Roman date. Several linear features appear to represent an enclosure complex, presumably relating to a low status farm. Two sherds of Saxon pottery were recovered from one ditch along with several prehistoric flint flakes retrieved from topsoil and subsoil layers.

Thornborough, Western Green Farm (SP 7352533555)

Tim Dawson

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in a watching brief.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Potterspury, John Hellins Primary School

(SP 759043085)

David Ingham

Archaeological monitoring of the removal of a concrete slab and the excavation of foundation trenches for a new structure was carried out. The upper 0.8m of the soil profile comprised made ground that had supported the concrete slab; beneath this, the trenches were excavated through undisturbed geological deposits of boulder clay until they reached the underlying limestone bedrock. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Irthlingborough, Church Street (SP 94857075)

Catherine Edwards

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Retail Development Partnership Ltd comprising six machine-excavated trenches. The natural was recorded as a yellow brown sandy clay with inclusions of natural stone varying in frequency per trench. The archaeological remains were mainly in the form of linear features and pits which appeared to represent a field boundary and general activity relating to a nearby settlement. Pottery recovered from the site indicates a 12th-13th century date. Further finds included animal bone and a fragment of iron slag. There is very good potential for other features associated with the 12th-13th century settlement to be found on site. Such remains could be viewed as regionally significant due to

their potential to inform on the development of Irthlingborough. (CHI10)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Hackleton, Main Road (SP 80835490)

Mark Peachey

Archaeological Project Services carried out a trial trench evaluation in Hackleton village for Francis Jackson Homes Ltd. A previous desk-based study indicated the site was close to discoveries of Iron Age and Roman artefacts suggesting settlements of these periods, and within an area of medieval and later occupation and agricultural remains. The evaluation revealed Medieval ditches, some of which may form an enclosure. These enclosure ditches were associated with pits that contained small quantities of pottery, animal bone and domestic or agricultural processing waste. It is possible that during the Medieval period the site fell within an area of paddocks and enclosures at the periphery of the main area of habitation. Post-Medieval activity at the site was indicated by a ditch parallel to Main Road and a cobbled probable farm track leading off it. Postholes defined a fence line alongside the track. Evidence of iron smithing in the vicinity was also revealed and a Bronze Age flint scraper was recovered.

Northampton, Regent Street (SP 75226299)

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief within the walled circuit of Medieval Northampton for Westleigh Developments Ltd. However, only walls of late post-medieval cellars were revealed.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD.

Brackley, A43 Service Station (SP 59223627)

David Fell

In December a programme of archaeological test pitting was undertaken on the site of a proposed service station adjacent to the A43 at Brackley. The test pits indicated that the site has been disturbed, probably during the construction of the A43. The level of disturbance is greatest in the northern part of the site, where the natural soil profile had been truncated and a layer of modern material deposited. A lower level of disturbance was observed in the southern part of the site, where part of the natural subsoil survives beneath shallower deposits of modern redeposited material.

Marston St Lawrence, The Glebe House (SP 53534214)

Karin Semmelmann

An historic building assessment was undertaken in August of the Coach House and an adjoining structure at The Glebe

House, Marston St Lawrence, to inform development proposals for the site. Both buildings are characteristic of the early 17th century. The present state of the Coach House makes it appear to be the older of the two. It was originally a separate building, of unknown function. The upper floor may have been used as a hay loft, and then later converted to a living space or an area for meetings or other communal activities. Both buildings are of considerable local significance given their age, location and association. Both retain significant aspects of their original build and, in the particular case of the Coach House, demonstrate changes in form and function over time. The site and its grounds are also of some significance, as The Glebe House was closely linked to the church and manor house until recent times.

Overthorpe, Church Cottage (SP 41854100)

Karin Semmelmann

In April, historic building recording was undertaken of elements of Church Cottage, Overthorpe, as a condition of planning permission for redevelopment of the building. The cottage, which is Grade II listed, is stone built under a thatched roof and has been modernised and extended in the 20th century. The area of particular interest for the purposes of this report was the partition wall between the southern bedroom and the landing and the associated door. The partition was seen to have been initially built in the 19th century and a new frame and plasterboard added to it in the later 20th century. The latch on the plank and batten door is probably 18th century, although the door itself is likely to be mid-late 19th century. The door frame moulding is of a simple style that could be of almost any date.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Bugbrooke, land off John's Road (SP 68385720)

Alexandra Wilkinson

An evaluation identified several small undated ditches on a broadly north/south alignment, possibly part of a rectilinear field system. Undated pits and a posthole were also revealed.

Deanshanger, Land off The Beeches (SP 76403930)

Jamie Wright

An evaluation identified a ditch containing Roman pottery. Undated furrows were also present.

Deanshanger, Land off Stratford Road (SP 76933977)

Jamie Wright

An evaluation recorded a possible ring ditch and two other ditches, all of which contained Roman pottery. A probable Roman trackway was also identified. A wide and shallow feature which was not fully exposed contained a sherd of probable early Anglo-Saxon pottery. Post-Medieval features including a pit, a ditch and furrows were also present, along with undated and modern ditches.

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Kilsby, DIRFT Expansion (TL 01351532)

Peter Davenport and Jamie Wright

The latest phase of recording at DIRFT exposed boulder clay in the northern and eastern areas and gravel to the south-west. The gravel was almost exclusively occupied by penannular gullies, with a few pits and postholes. Preliminary analysis suggests this occupation dates to the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age. Two possible Bronze Age burnt mounds and a later double-ditched oval enclosure were also recorded. The clay was almost exclusively given over to Roman rectangular ditched enclosures and drainage ditches, as well as a series of ponds or water holes.

Sandy Lane (TQ 34978008)

Jamie Wright

A watching brief was undertaken along the Sandy Lane Improvement North road scheme. A possible roundhouse at least 10m in diameter was identified, the gully of which contained prehistoric pottery. Six small prehistoric pits or hearths were located close to the roundhouse and more lay further to the east. An alignment of six Early/Middle Iron Age pits over a distance of 18m was also identified. These had been truncated by one of three parallel ditches. In another area, over 50 postholes, small pits and hearths were excavated, including two possible post-built roundhouses, both of which were undated. Elsewhere, an un-urned

cremation was present, along with a hearth and further undated ditches.

Towcester, Belle Baulk (SP 68444884)

Tim Havard

An evaluation identified two medieval ditches and a possibly associated ditch containing earlier post-medieval pottery. The two Medieval ditches also contained residual Roman pottery. Two undated pits, one with *in situ* burning, a post-Medieval field boundary ditch and a post-Medieval stone spread were also identified.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Alderton Mount (SP 740470)

Tim Upson-Smith

Northamptonshire Archaeology and the volunteers from the Friends of Alderton Mount and Monuments (FOAMM) carried out a three-week programme of excavation on a raised platform within the eastern side of the Alderton Mount. The excavation demonstrated that the platform was constructed in the first half of the 12th century and that a stone building, which stood in the southern part of the platform, went out of use in the 14th century (Fig 1). At the south-west side of the excavation a deep robber trench

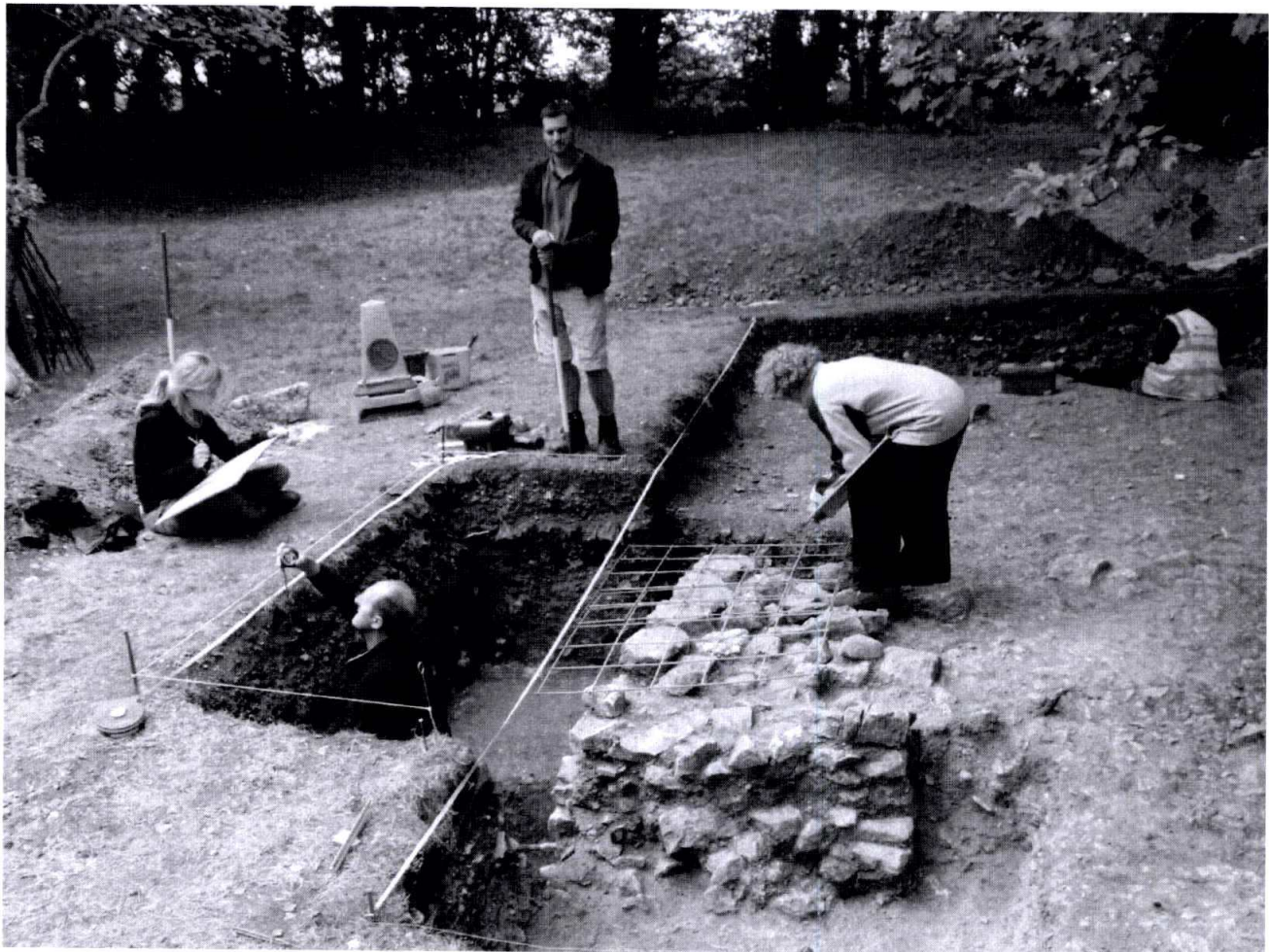


Fig 1. Excavation of stone wall at Alderton Mount.

suggesting the former presence of a defensive wall or building was found. Further excavation is proposed over a further season in 2011 to shed further light upon the structural remains found so far.

Burton Latimer, Burton Wold Wind Farm
(SP 917 738)

John Walford and Christopher Jones

A magnetometer survey was carried out ahead of the proposed expansion of Burton Wold Wind Farm. Five sample blocks, with a combined area of 12ha, were surveyed. The survey revealed three small ditched enclosures of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date, a possible triple ditch system, several other ditches and pits, and extensive ridge and furrow of medieval origin. Two exceptionally large ferrous anomalies were also detected. The subsequent trial trench excavation of seven 20m long trenches exposed a palaeochannel and three shallow gullies aligned across one trench. None of the archaeological features produced finds.

Burton Latimer, Hog's Hollow (SP 8951 7411)

Carol Simmonds and Jason Clarke

A geophysical survey and trial trench excavation were carried out on a plot of land at Hog's Hollow. There was no evidence for archaeological remains within the area.

Byfield, Boddington Road (SP 49540 53650)

Danny McAree

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land off Boddington Road. Four trenches totalling 75m long, were excavated, but no features or artefacts were present.

Chipping Warden, Welsh Road
(SP 5106 4943 and SP 5166 4846)

Paul Clements

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land alongside Welsh Road, Chipping Warden, during the connection of a water pipeline. The watching brief revealed no archaeological finds or deposits.

Church Stowe, land off Main Street (SP 6360 5790)

Adrian Butler and Jim Burke

A geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land north of Church Stowe in response to the submission of planning proposals for the formation of a lake or field pond. The geophysical survey identified several anomalies in the northern development part of the site, which were shown by subsequent trial trenching to be of geological origin, although evidence of land clearance in the form of isolated tree throws, were found. One tree throw contained a quantity of prehistoric pottery and charcoal.

Church Stowe, Wyndham House (SP 638 576)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new swimming pool and extension at Wyndham House. Throughout the area of the new swimming pool undisturbed soils were recorded sealed beneath a layer of re-deposited ironstone. In the area of the new extension modern disturbance was evident throughout the footprint of the new development. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Corby, Tower Hill Road (SP 8629 8833)

Jason Clarke

An archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Beanfield Infants School, Corby, was carried out in advance of the construction of a new school, Maplefields, on the site. The evaluation revealed a Roman ditch dated to the late 1st to early 2nd century AD, a probable post-Medieval field boundary ditch and an undated ditch. Made-ground was encountered in the northern part of the site, where an artificial terrace had been created, and there was evidence that the soils were largely redeposited.

Culworth, County Heritage Site (SP 5454 4702)

Joe Prentice

Desk-based and building assessment revealed that the red brick and stone animal shelter, of 19th century date, has undergone alterations over the years. It comprises a simple open-sided shelter with an enclosed room at the southern end and was probably associated with the adjacent Culworth Hall when originally built. The north and south walls are built entirely of red brick bonded in lime mortar, whilst the east wall comprises a pre-existing ironstone boundary wall to the adjoining property on top of which has been added a low brick wall to increase its height and thus create the east side of the building.

Daventry, Eastern Way (SP 5731 6289, SP 5784 6300 to SP 5879 6505)

James Ladocha

A magnetometer survey was undertaken in four areas, totalling 3.3ha of land, to the north-east of Daventry. Several anomalies could be of archaeological origin, two ditches running parallel to each other and a possibly associated pit alignment could be Iron Age in date. Remnant medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also present in places. Other anomalies comprised ferrous pipes and debris and spreads of ceramic material.

Daventry, Canal Arm (SP 5731 6289)

Tim Upson-Smith

An evaluation, comprising the excavation of four test pits, was carried out on land adjacent to Eastern Way Daventry, prior to the development of the land for a canal basin, housing and a recreation area. A floor surface and post-pad dating to the 12th century were uncovered. These are likely

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to form part of a timber-framed building possibly fronted onto Welton Road.

Deanshanger, Westfield Avenue (SP 75804030)

Jim Brown

An evaluation comprising geophysical survey and trial trenches targeted on geophysical anomalies was carried out. A substantial linear feature, possibly a former stream, was identified crossing the southern area. It is dated to the middle/late Iron Age and had probably silted up before the Roman period. A substantial ditch was also excavated to the south of this. It may connect to the stream on a perpendicular alignment, but it was sterile of finds and therefore is currently undated.

Desborough, Harbrough Road (SP 797840)

John Walford

Archaeological geophysical survey was conducted on land at Harbrough Road, Desborough. Magnetometry of a 6.4ha area revealed remnant furrows of the Medieval open field system of agriculture.

Evenley (SP 60053576)

Nathan Flavell

An archaeological excavation was carried out on the site of a post-medieval watermill, near the village of Evenley. The excavation identified medieval activity on the site of the watermill, comprising two ditches, a small assemblage of Medieval pottery and possibly the remains of a mill race pre-dating the post-medieval channel, suggesting that there may have been a watermill on the site from at least the 12th/13th centuries, if not earlier. This may be one of the three watermills in Evenley recorded in Domesday Book in AD 1087. The post-medieval watermill and mill race were probably constructed in the 16th/17th centuries. The remains of the mill buildings were not encountered; map evidence suggests that these probably lie immediately to the west of the site.

The mill race, which was visible on the surface as a substantial silted channel with banks on either side, measured approximately 5m wide by 2m deep and extended across the field for a distance of c 240m. On the south side of the mill race were the remains of a drystone revetment wall that dates to the late 17th or 18th centuries. The watermill fell out of use in the early 19th century and the mill race was deliberately blocked with a dump of blue clay at around this time. A watching brief, maintained during the construction of the pipeline in selected areas, encountered no archaeological remains, other than those of a post-medieval drystone wall and features previously identified by trial trench evaluation.

Greatworth, Stuchbury, Spring Farm Ridge

(SP 5730043200)

James Ladocha

A magnetometer survey was carried out ahead of the proposed construction of a wind farm at Spring Farm Ridge,

Stuchbury, Greatworth. Three out of five turbine bases and their related access roads were surveyed, along with the location of a permanent meteorological mast, and the route of an overhead cable to be undergrounded. This gave a combined area of approximately 3.5ha. The survey revealed two ditched enclosures of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date, several other ditches and pits, and ridge and furrow field cultivation of medieval origin. However, almost half of the survey produced a disturbed magnetic response, hindering archaeological identification and interpretation.

Higham Ferrers, Station Road (SP 960 697)

Ian Fisher and Tim Upson-Smith

A geophysical survey and archaeological trial trench evaluation of farmland to the east of Station Road was carried out. The results of the trial trenching confirmed that the features identified by geophysical survey in the south-western corner of the site relate to a Middle Iron Age farming settlement. This forms part of a larger complex of contemporary settlement activity that extends to the south of the site and to the west of Station Road, parts of which were investigated in the 1990s prior to the development of the area for housing. Many of the excavated features were still visible in the subsoil and the preservation of the pottery was very good. An infant burial was found in the corner of one of the enclosure ditches. A Medieval field boundary was also encountered.

Irchester Roman town (SP 919 668)

Adrian Butler

A geophysical survey was commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council in order to provide an enhanced understanding of the nature and extent of archaeological remains associated with Irchester Roman town in order to inform the future management of the site. Magnetometer survey of the walled town revealed a large square ditched enclosure, possibly of Iron Age date and pre-dating the town (Fig 2). Of the town itself, the enclosing wall was located to the south and south-west, and to the south-west the defensive ditches were also recorded. The internal road arrangement, with roads branching from a central south-north spine is well shown. The major new contribution of the survey is the number and variety of stone building types that have been recorded. The majority appear to be simple strip buildings, with their gable ends facing the adjacent roads, particularly the central street, but even a few of these appear to possess a heated floor or *hypocaust*, and so aspired to a higher status than rooms heated by simple open braziers. In addition, there are a number of more complex building groups, including two arrangements of buildings set within courtyards. These were perhaps just the houses of rich urban dwellers, but one might be a *mansio*; government accommodation for the use of officials whilst travelling. Another building complex comprises concentric square walls with circular buildings to either side, an arrangement normally characteristic of a temple/shrine comprising a square room, *cella*, surrounded by a walkway, *ambulatory*. There is also a possible small bath house, containing at least three heated rooms. The recorded stone



Fig 2. Geophysical survey of the walled area of Irchester Roman town.

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buildings take up only a small proportion of the interior of the walled area; however, it is worth noting that many Roman towns were predominantly occupied by timber buildings. An area to the east of the Roman town, not previously surveyed, produced evidence of enclosures, a droveway, features relating to Chester-on-the-Water deserted village, two further Roman roads and a tramway associated with quarrying to the east.

Irthlingborough, Finedon Road (SP 9415071300)

Carol Simmonds

An archaeological trial trench evaluation over 3.1ha was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology at Finedon Road on the northern edge of Irthlingborough. At the time of evaluation the site was partly under brownfield conditions with factory buildings still standing. A portion of land in the eastern part of the site was undisturbed and still had standing medieval earthwork of ridge and furrow field cultivation. Seven trenches were excavated. No significant remains were present, the only archaeological feature encountered was a shallow ditch from which a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered.

Irthlingborough, land to the west by the A6 (SP 708936)

Mark Holmes

A magnetometer survey was carried out across a proposed development area to the west of Irthlingborough by the A6. A number of highly magnetic features, suggestive of limekilns were identified. Magnetically disturbed areas were detected, likely to be the by-product of the industrial past of the site. Several former quarry pits of various sizes were also located. The site was found to retain the ridge and furrow of the Medieval field system.

Islip, Rectory Farm Barns (SP 98587894)

Angela Warner

Archaeological building recording was carried out at Rectory Farm Barns in response to the submission of a planning application for the proposed conversion to the existing Grade 2 listed, 18th century buildings. The evaluation demonstrated the probable sequence of construction and former uses of the barns which are currently used as workshops and storage.

Kettering, land to east (SP 900775)

Ian Fisher

A magnetometer survey was undertaken on 177ha of land to the east of Kettering. A 50% sampling strategy was followed, expanded around cropmarks. Several *foci* of likely prehistoric and Romano-British settlement were located. These comprised a mixture of scattered individual settlements in the north and north-west of the survey area, and a particular concentration of settlement in the south-east. Here at least five distinct *foci* of settlement were identified within an area of 100ha. Some elements of

settlement are also associated with linear land boundaries extending for in excess of 0.5km. Intersecting ditch systems show that more than a single period of activity is represented. Parts of the land contained little other than ridge and furrow.

Kettering, The Market Place (SP 866784)

Paul Mason

A programme of watching briefs and open area excavation was undertaken at the southern fringe of Market Place, Kettering. The truncated remains of 18th-20th century tenements were revealed, comprising stone wall foundations, stone and brick-lined cellars and pits. In association were assemblages of pottery, clay tobacco pipe, animal bone and other finds, including pieces from sets of late 19th/early 20th century dentures (Fig 3). They were constructed from Vulcanite, which was invented in 1850 and was used until the mid-20th century. Documentary research identified the tenements as the remnants of commercial premises and provided details of their occupancy throughout the later post-medieval period.

Long Buckby, St Lawrence's Church

(SP 62726772)

Jim Brown

An archaeological watching brief monitored repair of the churchyard wall at St Lawrence's Church. A cross-section of the retaining wall was recorded with homogeneous grave earth behind. No buried remains were disturbed during the works. The wall is likely to be of 19th century construction.



Fig 3. Vulcanite dentures of the late 19th or early 20th century from Kettering Market Place (Scale 50mm).

Milton Malsor, Malzor Lane, Manor Farm

(SP 7318755618)

Danny McAree

Archaeological building recording was carried out on two ranges of barns and farm outbuildings at Manor Farm, Malzor Lane. The stone-built barns are the subject of planning consent for conversion to domestic dwellings. The buildings had been cleared of all internal fixtures and fittings and part of the roof of one range removed prior to recording. The buildings retain few structural features of note. The barns all appear to date from the late 18th century with 19th and 20th century alterations, modifications and additions.

Naseby Battlefield Visitor Centre (SP 688787)

Anne Foard-Colby

Archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land proposed for Naseby Battlefield Visitor Centre, following geophysical survey in 2009 (*SMA* 40 (2010), 19). A relict stream bed was observed in two trenches. Earthwork remains of Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were present. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil. A post-Medieval coin was recovered from the topsoil.

Nether Heyford, Weedon Road (SP 657585)

Paul Mason

A geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Weedon Road. No significant archaeological remains were detected within the proposed development area. A single sherd of pottery dated to the 18th/19th centuries was recovered from the fill of a land drain.

Northampton, Angel Street Car Park

(SP 75486028)

Jim Brown

Trial excavations at Angel Street Car Park, confirmed the survival of archaeological remains in parts of the site, whilst in other areas remains have been completely obliterated by modern cellars and foundations. Saxo-Norman features, perhaps belonging to timber structures lay in the south and east of the site. Undisturbed Medieval soil layers were identified in the south and south-east of the site, including deposits abutting a possible 12th century stone wall foundation with 15th century modifications. The building would have fronted St Johns Street. There was a 13th century stone building in the south-east of the site along the same frontage. A 17th century stone building stood along Fetter Street. Buried soil layers of the 17th-18th centuries were present, cut by 19th century features and wall foundations. Remains of the 19th century buildings survived along St Johns Street and Fetter Street. Deep cellars of 20th century date precluded excavation of trenches along the Angel Street frontage.

Northampton, Banbury Lane (SP 72605800)

John Walford

A magnetometer survey was carried out on 7ha of land south of Banbury Lane. A monument, up to 23m in diameter and comprising three concentric ditches, is likely to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Further ditches to the south of this feature probably represented a continuation of a previously identified Iron Age site to the west. A post-Medieval ditch, modern pipelines and plough marks were also present.

Northampton, Beckett's Park Marina (SP 7593 5997)

Simon Carlyle

An auger survey across c 1.2ha was carried out on the islands in the lake adjacent to Beckett's Park. The results of the auger survey, combined with map evidence, show that the lake was created as a boating lake, sometime between 1901 and 1927, and that the islands are largely undisturbed remnants of the original floodplain deposits. Boreholes on the banks of the lake indicate made-ground and disturbance in these areas, with alluvial deposits surviving beneath. A watching brief, carried out during the removal of the two islands near the centre of the lake, encountered alluvial deposits overlain by a buried soil horizon and modern overburden. The buried soil contained sherds of late 19th and early 20th century pottery and fragments of glass.

Northampton, Gold Street (SP 752 604)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during water main replacement works in Gold Street, Northampton. One, possibly two, deposits that may have been the remnants of metalised road surfaces, lay beneath clay deposits containing numerous small off-cuts of leather. A brick drainage culvert of probable mid to late 19th century date was also recorded. This lay beneath and was cut by modern rubble deposits which were sealed beneath modern road surfaces. No other artefacts were present.

Northampton, Market Square (SP 755605)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the installation of a new fountain in the Market Square. The work comprised the excavation of two pits for the installation of the fountain equipment. No significant archaeological deposits were present since the stratigraphy was disturbed by recent activity. A single unstratified pottery sherd of medieval date was recovered.

Northampton, Pavilion Drive (SP 76455820)

Anne Foard-Colby

A rapid metal detector survey and archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Pavilion Drive was carried out in advance of the construction of a new Criminal Justice building. The metal detecting survey recovered five artefacts dating from the 16th to 20th centuries. The trial

Northamptonshire

trench evaluation revealed a ditch which was undated and most probably the remains of a post-Medieval field boundary. Made-ground was encountered in the south-west corner of the site, where a possible hard standing had been created for sectional buildings.

Northampton, Upton D1 (SP 721559910)

Ian Fisher and Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation was carried out on two areas of the proposed development Upton D1, Northampton. The ground was heavily disturbed and both the survey and evaluation did not reveal any archaeological remains.

Oundle, Herne Road (TL 04558794)

Nathan Flavell

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Herne Road in response to a planning application for a proposed residential development. The earliest features found were two palaeochannels, possibly of prehistoric date, sealed by a buried soil horizon. A single gully containing Roman pottery dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries was also present. In the centre of the area was a large ditched boundary aligned east-west that had gone out of use by the early 19th century. The ditch was overlain by a headland visible as a raised bank in the field. The headland was probably part of a pre-enclosure system of ridge and furrow cultivation. The majority of the surviving ridge and furrow dates to the post enclosure cultivation of the fields.

Paulerspury, Gray's Close (SP 72504565)

Chris Jones

An archaeological trial trench excavation was undertaken of land off Gray's Close. There were three Medieval ditches dating from the 11th to the mid-late 13th centuries, which may relate to former property boundaries for buildings fronting onto Gray's Lane which have been destroyed by modern development. The ditches were demonstrably earlier than a series of denuded ridge and furrow earthworks present on site, which probably date to the 14th century. The land probably went out of cultivation at some time in the 15th century when the land around the village was enclosed.

Paulerspury, Grays Lane (SP 72664561)

John Walford

An archaeological geophysical survey was carried out on land at Grays Lane. A magnetometer survey was undertaken over an area of 1.5ha. Although there were no obvious archaeological features, three small, possibly linear features may represent former ditches. A strongly dipolar anomaly may possibly be the backfill of a former pond. Faint cultivation marks, probably the remains from ridge and furrow agriculture were also present.

Towcester, Moat Lane (SP 69314884)

Anne Foard-Colby and Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological evaluation comprising four trial trenches in October 2006 and ten test pits and one trench in March 2010 on a proposed development site at Moat Lane demonstrated the survival of Roman layers and located the probable line of the robbed Roman town wall. It also demonstrated the survival of a Medieval metal surface in the garden of Mill Cottage.

Towcester, Bury Mount (SP 68564915)

Tim Upson-Smith and Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks and the earthmoving phase of the reconstitution of Bury Mount, a Norman earthwork motte within the former Roman Town of Towcester (*Lactodorum*). Roman remains, comprising the wall of a building and *in situ* hypocaust *pilae*, were found under the western edge of the motte. The motte ditch has been traced around its entire circumference, while the layered manner of construction of the motte itself has been further confirmed (SMA (2008), 38, front cover). The monument remains have now been stabilised and re-presented to the public. Scheduled Ancient Monument, County Number 13623.

Watford, Watford Lodge Farm (SP 60407030)

Ian Fisher

Geophysical surveys were carried out as part of the archaeological evaluation of a proposed wind farm site, at Watford Lodge Farm. One hectare was surveyed around each of five turbine bases. A linear group of probable ditched enclosures was detected in T1, whereas a single, larger enclosure was identified in T2. Both T2 and T3 were found to contain areas of possible ferrous or ceramic dumping. More probable ditches, possibly part of an ancient field system, were resolved in T3. In T4 a pair of probable linear ditches, several pits and two possible roundhouses were identified. Further possible linear ditches were detected in T5.

Weldon, 9 School Lane (SP 928 895)

Anne Foard-Colby

Archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken to inform a planning application for the erection of a house and garage, at 9 School Lane, Weldon. There were no archaeological features or finds present. A series of demolition layers, believed to have been deposited in 1995 from the 19th century school site close by, were observed, overlying the original topsoil.

Wellingborough, Northampton Road (SP 875667)

John Walford

An archaeological geophysical survey was undertaken on 5.4ha of land to the immediate south-east of Northampton Road. The gradiometer results show the characteristic

pattern of Medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation across most of the area, which is also visible as earthworks in the fields. Aside from this there do not appear to be any anomalies of archaeological interest. The main features revealed are strong pipeline anomalies, ferrous responses along the course of a former field boundary, and concentrations of ferrous debris.

Welton, Ashlyn, Kiln Lane (SP 58366566)
Jim Brown

Archaeological trial excavation comprised two trenches within the former garden of Ashlyn, Kiln Lane, Welton. The trenches revealed palaeochannel deposits filling hollows carved by a former watercourse of unknown date. The deposits produced a small quantity of animal bone.

Winwick, Winwick Warren Farm (SP 640746)
Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Winwick Warren Farm. The evaluation found the remains of a probable Roman enclosure ditch together with gullies and further ditches. Analysis of the pottery suggests a 1st to 3rd century AD date. Remnants of Medieval furrows of Medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation were also present.

Wollaston Museum (SP 90806294)
Adrian Butler

Wollaston Heritage Society commissioned a geophysical survey on land adjacent to Wollaston Museum, believed to be a former Methodist burial ground. Earth resistance survey of a 140m² area revealed former garden features.

Wollaston, 160 London Road (SP 35007630)
Danny McAree

Trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at 160 London Road, Wollaston. Two trenches, each 5m long, were excavated under archaeological supervision. The surface of the site had been extensively modified, removing earlier land surfaces and archaeology. No archaeological remains of earlier periods were present in either trench.

Woodford, Paddock Close (SP 962 770)
Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological evaluation comprising seven trial trenches was undertaken on land off Paddock Close. The evaluation followed on from an earlier geophysical and fieldwalking survey which had suggested the presence of Iron Age features on the eastern edge of the development area (*SMA*, 40 (2010), 21). The evaluation identified ditches and other features of probable Middle/Late Iron Age date.

OXFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON GEOPHYSICS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Cumnor, Chilswell farm (SP 49120282)
Roger Ainslie

A magnetometry survey was carried out for Oxford Preservation Trust to investigate Roman remains reported by Niall Donald and Sally Crawford in *Oxoniensia* in 1986. A D-shaped ditched enclosure, a trackway, possible kilns or similar and rubble spreads were indicated by this method. It is hoped to carry out earth resistance surveys to gain more detail of the rubble spreads.

Drayton St Leonard, Water Lane (SU 5990096174)
Roger Ainslie

Resistivity and magnetometry surveys were carried out for Charles Dickerson in a small field off Water Lane. The only significant anomaly was a high resistance area indicating that if there had been a building there it was on the north eastern side of the field.

Oxford, Exeter College (SP 514064)
Roger Ainslie

A resistivity survey and profiles were carried out in the Rector's Garden for the Rector of the College. These indicated a high resistance area on the northern part which may well coincide with the site of a previous chapel and library. A low resistance ditch-like anomaly approximately 5m wide ran south eastwards across the southern part of the garden but its purpose and date could not be determined by this geophysical technique.

Parishes Against Gravel Extraction

Dorchester on Thames, Overy (SU 582938)
Roger Ainslie

Magnetometry was undertaken on the northern side of the Henley road for the PAGE group and on the southern side out of interest. We are grateful to Stephen Cook for permitting access.

Whilst magnetometry here can be good at locating ditches and hearths it is less good at locating buildings made from flint or timber. The road from the precursor of Dorchester bridge was located and a branch going northwards. The area has a series of enclosures many of which appear to have hearths or similar high temperature burning. The enclosures will have contained buildings which were not detected and appear to go down as far as the end of the present Meadside houses. They are assumed from surface finds to be Roman and thus this is a significant addition to the extent of Roman Dorchester on Thames. (Fig 1)

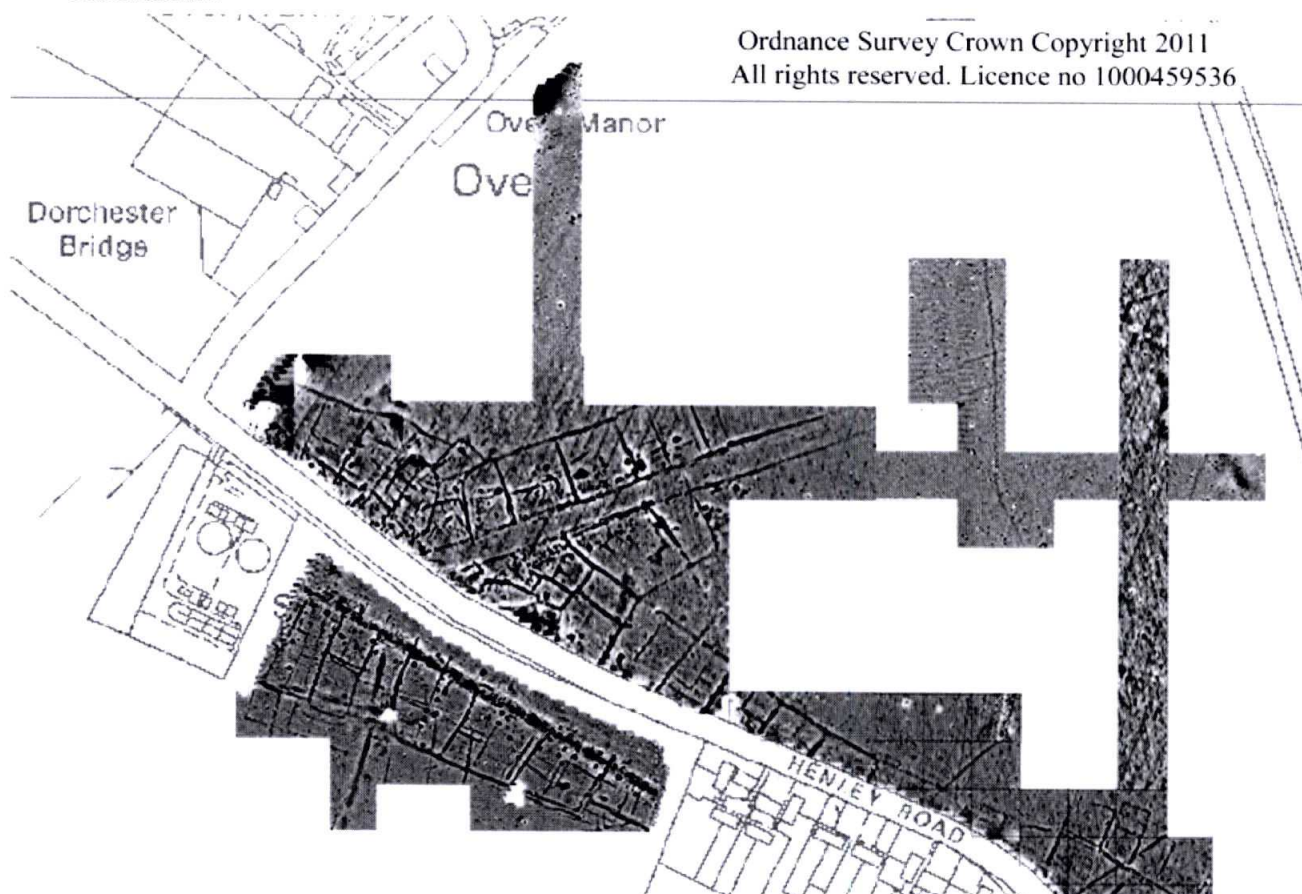


Fig 1. Overy, near Dorchester on Thames, magnetometry survey. Grids 30 metres square.

Drayton St Leonard, Eastern area (SU 60099717)

Roger Ainslie

A line of magnetometry grids was surveyed east-west across this field. It located a ditch which may well be the causewayed camp or henge ditch with a gap in it and a right-angled anomaly which may be the end of the Drayton St Leonard cursus. The first ditch has been shown on recent air photographs by George Farrant to extend across this field with occasional gaps and to have straight sections with angled corners which appears to be similar to the henge at Marden, Wiltshire.

Drayton St Leonard, Western area (SU 945976)

Roger Ainslie

Lines of magnetometry grids were surveyed across this field. Two main areas of anomalies were located.

The first at SU 59720 97230 was a rectilinear series of small ditch-like anomalies. Geophysics could not establish their date or purpose.

The second at SU 59720 9700 was an east-west line of circular anomalies. These appear to be on line with a series of bomb craters seen in an air photograph of the eastern field and are apparently the result of a plane from the Mount Farm airfield dropping its bombs before returning to base. One of these anomalies was investigated by others with a mechanical digger and part of a barrel was found in its backfill indicating a fairly recent date. Fortunately they did not investigate the anomaly which the magnetometry indicates may still contain its bomb.

Stadhampton (SU 59809817)

Roger Ainslie

Lines of magnetometry grids were surveyed across a large field to the south of the village. They located several barrow ditches many of which were already known. An additional barrow was located in the north eastern part of the field and two small circular ditches, approximately 5m diameter, were found towards the centre and its south western corner. There therefore appears to be a wide scatter of presumed funerary monuments across this field which may relate to the Stadhampton cursus, which has its southern end across the river to the north.

Warborough (SU 5944093190)

Roger Ainslie

Magnetometry located ditches which appear to form a Romano-British farmstead complex. These remains can also be seen on recent Google maps' air photos.

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Henley-Upon-Thames, Market Place Mews

(SU 7596 8261)

Ian Hogg

Archaeological evaluation on behalf of London and Henley Property Services. The evaluation comprised four trenches

and two test pits. The natural orange gravel deposit was observed in all trenches. A series of ditches and pits, related to transitional and early post-Medieval burgrave plots was revealed across the site. A series of 17th/18th century walls was also recorded. Most of the linear features on the site followed the alignment of the burgrave plots and the current town layout. The pits within these probable plots have been interpreted mainly as rubbish pits. (OXCMS: 2010.83)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

Barton, Land South of Bayswater Brook

(SP 55700803)

David Fell

In August an evaluation was undertaken on the south side of Bayswater Brook, Barton, in advance of the construction of a new play pool. One trial trench was excavated but no significant archaeological features were present. The development is unlikely to have an impact on significant archaeological remains and the archaeological impact of the development is considered to be low.

Britwell Salome, Home Farm (SU 67019293)

Jonathan Hunn

In April, investigations comprising a watching brief and evaluation were undertaken at Home Farm, Britwell Salome, in response to the conversion of a barn for residential use, and the construction of a new stable block. Attention was focused on the interior floors of two barns of post-medieval date. In both instances neither barn was found to overlie any deposits of archaeological interest. The vicinity of the barns was also devoid of any material pre-dating the 19th century.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Milcombe, Oak Farm (SP 40783467)

Rebecca Riley

An archaeological evaluation revealed features associated with a deserted medieval village located west of the site. These included the remains of a building, including hearths and stone surfaces, as well as a trackway and pits. Pottery from these features suggests that occupation occurred during the 12th to 14th centuries. A rectilinear enclosure was also identified and may be either medieval or earlier in date. The evaluation also demonstrated that the western part of the site had been subject to flooding during the medieval period. Residual prehistoric and Roman finds were also recovered.

Oxford, Eastwyke Farmhouse, Abingdon Road

(SP 51650495)

Laura Gadsby and Jonathan Hart

Historic mapping shows the site to have been fortified in the Civil War. An earthworks survey identified one of two possible moat ditches depicted on a map of 1815, along with garden features shown on the 1876 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map. Modern features, including a swimming pool and summer house were also recorded. A watching brief identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Oxford, Eastgate Hotel car park (SP 51940617)

Jamie Wright

An evaluation exposed the tops of two probable medieval pits containing 13th or 14th century pottery. The walls of a mid to late 17th century single storey building were also recorded, along with three later pits.

Oxford, Oxford Camera (Underground Book Store)

(SP 51590633)

Steven Sheldon

A watching brief recorded the foundations of the Radcliffe Camera building and post-Medieval make-up or demolition deposits.

Oxford, Oxford University Physics CL2, Parks Road

(SP 51370705)

Chiz Harward

An evaluation recovered a sherd of Roman pottery from a post-medieval soil. A series of wheel ruts containing residual medieval pottery and late 17th to 18th century clay tobacco pipes were also present, along with horticultural or landscaping features relating to the use of the site as part of the University Parks.

JOHN MOORE

Abingdon, 13 High Street (SP 49709708)

Fiona Bradshaw and David Gilbert

A watching brief was requested during a borehole survey. A sequence of modern "made-ground" was recorded that could represent infilling of a quarry pit.

Abingdon, Culham, High Lodge Farm

(SU 45036496542)

Jenny Winnett and Christer Carlsson

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the nature, significance of and the extent of plough damage to cropmarks and archaeological remains. In total ten trenches were opened up in two different areas. A number of ditches, pits, postholes and a Roman cremation burial were recorded. A number of features in each trench were

Oxfordshire

excavated in order to date them and to determine the level of damage caused by modern farming.

Abingdon, Old Gaol (SU 49849694)

Paul Riccoboni and David Gilbert

During demolition of the Sports Hall and the Swimming pool archaeological investigations were carried out to the rear of Twickenham House, which formerly served as a car park (Area 1). A second area (Area 2) was also investigated beneath the former Sports Hall.

Archaeological Results: Area 1

Prehistoric Period

The earliest archaeological deposits are remains of dense occupation from the Iron Age period. A series of gullies and post holes related to settlement evidence from this period have been recorded across this area, surviving particularly well at the western end of the site. Of particular note were two hearths with surviving *in situ* burnt remains. Beneath one hearth were further archaeological remains including a large pit with carbonised seeds and lithics preserved within the fill. Other interesting finds from this area include a copper ring, large bone pin, slag and a spindle whorl.

Roman Period

Sealing the Iron Age features were Roman 'yard' surfaces consisting of thin layers of small rounded pebbles which seemed to form a series of successive resurfacing layers across this general area. Traces of these Roman 'yard' surfaces were seen surviving most consistently across the western area of the site but were also present in small patches at the eastern end of the site in at least two different locations.

Cutting through one layer of pebble 'yard' surfacing was a large Roman quarry pit backfilled with successive layers of Roman waste material. Other Roman pits were located across the area and also contained general waste materials from the period.

The structural remains of a stone-walled building first identified in the rear of Twickenham House (Wilson and Wallis, 1991: Trench 89/2) was further investigated and re-examined. The building was only partly exposed within the excavation area and measured 11.5m in length and had a minimum width of 9.5m. The structural remains were composed of partially-robbed wall footings constructed of loosely compacted stone rubble and areas of *in situ* floor surfaces of fine gravel overlaid by compacted clay. The building was in part constructed through the fills of the large Roman quarry pit where the rubble wall footings were deeper in order to reach more stable ground.

Medieval Period

The Medieval period was mainly represented by large pits some of which reached depths which extended deeper than the impact levels of the development at 50.6m AOD. The pits contained various fills of decomposed organic materials and general waste from the period with broken pottery sherds and large quantities of butchered animal bones throughout. A Medieval ditch also crossed the site on an approximate northeast-southwest orientation and seems

to have acted as a boundary ditch with an increased density of pitting on the western side.

Post-Medieval period

The post-Medieval period was represented mainly on the eastern side of the site beneath the demolished building of No 4 Turn Again Lane. Three cellars were excavated in this area, which probably dated to this period. The truncated remains of walls related to buildings (which would have fronted onto Turn Again Lane) were also recorded. Domestic refuse pits were also sampled to the rear of these property plots, one of which contained an entire horse skeleton.

No features connected with the construction of the Old Gaol were seen in this area. However, features and finds related to the Old Gaol are expected during the watching brief stage of works which is closer to the Police Station and Old Gaol.

Modern

Some wall footings consisting of mainly red brick were recorded within the northern area of the site, which related to greenhouses and other outbuildings that formed part of the Twickenham House complex dated to the 18th century. Garden soil from this period formed as a result of the area being used as an orchard. Further dark earth build up occurred within the last twenty years to level the ground for use as a car park.

Archaeological Results: Area 2

This area located beneath the old sports hall was characterised by heavily truncated medieval pits. Large concrete pads were inserted during construction of the sports hall in the 1970s which impacted deeply into natural gravels.

The bases of nine medieval pits and a well were the only surviving features that survived in the area to be impacted on by the new development. The remainder of the archaeology located in the evaluation trench (JMHS, 2009) was recorded beneath the required depth of the new development and therefore remained preserved *in situ*.

Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological excavations at the Old Gaol have provided an invaluable insight into the archaeology and history of Abingdon. The good preservation of features and finds from the prehistoric period fits neatly into an ever growing picture of the Iron Age settlement. Other find spots and features have been located within this general area of Abingdon which provide further direct evidence of the existence of an Iron Age *oppidum* at this location.

The prehistoric features seem to be related to a dense settlement with industrial activities taking place such as the manufacture of textiles and metal objects. Later Roman 'yard' surfaces seal the earlier features indicating a change of function in this area during the Roman period.

The large Roman pit seen in the central zone of Area 1 was almost certainly a Roman gravel extraction pit, which was subsequently filled with domestic waste. The stone walled building, although damaged by later medieval and post-medieval pitting, did have some surviving wall footings and *in situ* floor layers. A 2nd century *terminus post*

quem construction date for this building (Wilson and Wallis, 1991) can now be revised.

The Medieval linear feature may represent the remains of a boundary that divided separate tenement plots in the rear gardens of properties which fronted onto Bridge Street and Turn Again Lane. Different activities within defined plots can be postulated with the stone walled building on the eastern side of this boundary and dense refuse pits on the western side.

Bibliography

JMHS 2009; 'An Archaeological Evaluation at the Old Gaol, Abingdon' Unpublished Report

Wilson and Wallis 1991; 'Prehistoric Activity, Early Roman Building, Tenement Yards and Gardens behind Twickenham House, Abingdon' in *Oxoniensia* 56 -15

Bicester, Whiteland's Farm (SP 57682173)

Emily Eastwood & Jenny Winnett

A watching brief was conducted during the laying of a new sewer pipeline. Numerous post-Medieval features were found during the topsoil stripping including wall foundations and associated demolition material from two post-medieval farm buildings, and two boundary ditches. During the excavation of the pipe trench several small burnt deposits were found sealed by the post-Medieval soil but lacked associated datable material.

Bloxham, Temple Close (SP 43323653)

David Gilbert and Christer Carlsson

An archaeological recording action was conducted following on from a previous evaluation that recorded Iron Age activity in the area. A series of pits was recorded across the site, four of which also produced Iron Age pottery. Also noted was a ditch and contemporary postholes for one or more structures.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Mackney Lane (SU 58218992)

Eoin Fitzsimons

One trench, 20m in length, was excavated to the natural geology. No archaeological features were recorded.

Burford, Bruern Grange (SP 25751875)

Christer Carlsson

A watching brief was conducted during the groundwork for a new drainage system. A possible medieval pond bank was located in the western part of the investigation area, but no other archaeological features were present.

Chesterton, Manor Farm Lane, Tithe Barn

(SP 56202140)

Steve Hammond & Eoin Fitzsimons

The watching brief was successful in locating Anglo Saxon-early Medieval pits and a ditch that contained fragments of pot, bone and floor tile suggesting that it may have been used as a rubbish pit. Contemporary domestic

remains have been found 40m north-east and the ditch could represent a boundary ditch delineating the edge of the settlement.

Chipping Norton, Church Street (SP 31252729)

Paul Riccoboni

The only finds of archaeological interest recovered during the watching brief were early post-Medieval pottery sherds. Finds such as this are expected within the centre of historic Medieval towns.

Didcot, Marsh Bridge Cottages (SU 53558995)

Eoin Fitzsimons, Wayne Perkins and John Moore

An evaluation and subsequent watching brief was conducted. Up to three phases of activity are suggested with some of them occurring in the prehistoric period. The presence of some pits suggests that at least one phase was not solely agricultural. The probability of the pottery being Bronze Age suggests that the known Bronze Age archaeology in the area extends on to this site.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 80 High Street (SU 57759462)

Christer Carlsson

Two trenches were opened up in the garden belonging to the property. A number of ditches and pits were found in the trenches and the pottery in the fills suggests they can be dated to both the Roman period and the early medieval. Residual sherds of Anglo Saxon pottery indicate occupation in the area in the 5th and 6th centuries.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 2 Rotten Row, Willow Tree Cottage (SU 5785094125)

Wayne Perkins

A watching brief was conducted during ground works. The development area was in proximity to several previous find spots of human remains. One pit or ditch terminal of possible Medieval date was seen.

Dorchester-on-Thames, Watling Lane (SU 5767793945)

Eoin Fitzsimons

The evaluation revealed both Roman and post-Medieval quarrying, and a series of post-Medieval pits.

Eynsham, Beech Road, Eynsham Primary School

(SP 43580977)

Stephen Yeates

The remains of a linear ditch were noted during the watching brief cut into the natural that was probably of a late prehistoric date. There were also two other rammed limestone features that may also have been linear features, perhaps some type of slight foundation.

Oxfordshire

Epwell, 1 The Close (SP 35234043)

John Moore

A watching brief was undertaken during surface stripping for a new residential dwelling. The only feature found was a small pit that may have been a modern planting pit.

Faringdon, All Saints' Church (SU 2868795596)

Christer Carlsson

In total three trenches were opened up in order to determine the levels of preserved burials in different areas of the cemetery. The investigation proved that burials are present in the ground west, north and northeast of the church. These burials were found on different levels and could therefore be from different periods. Another purpose of the investigation was to establish the level of the natural in different areas of the cemetery. The natural was located with an augur and encountered at depths ranging between c 107.00-107.90m AOD.

Hanwell, Hanwell Castle (SP 43634360)

David Gilbert, John Moore and Charlotte Haines

A watching brief was conducted during the ground work at Hanwell Castle during the restoration of the western boundary wall (northern section). The foundations of the original boundary wall were located as was a possible earlier building and external yard surface. This building appears to have at least two phases of flooring.

Kidlington, Bicester Road (SP 50141297)

Juan Moreno

Nine trenches, totalling approximately 270m in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology, exposing post-Medieval linear features and remnants of a ridge and furrow medieval farming system.

Merton, Piper's Mead (SP 57461750)

Linzi Harvey

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during ground works for five new buildings. No archaeological features were recorded.

Middleton Stoney, Park Farm (SP 51792423)

John Moore

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for the development of the erection of a grain store. Settlement activity of the very late Iron Age and the early Roman period was found. This consisted of an enclosure, other ditches and occasional pits.

Oxford, Banbury Road, Oxford Hawks Hockey Pitch

(SP 50671076)

Paul Riccoboni and David Gilbert

The surface of the natural geology was seen across most of the field and no archaeological features or finds were present at the site. A service trench was also monitored and did not reveal any features or finds.

Oxford, Barton, Burchester Avenue (SP 50720704)

Stephen Yeates

A single 10m long evaluation trench was excavated. Buried soil horizons were identified but no significant archaeology existed.

Oxford, 6 King Street (SP 50720704)

Stephen Yeates

The site lies on one of the Thames gravel terraces, which have in the past produced abundant archaeological features and finds from the prehistoric and early Medieval periods. The suburb of Jericho was developed during the 19th century after the canal had been built and the establishment of the printing press site of Oxford University Press. The evaluation trench identified the remains of a pit (undated) and the remains of a building presumably 19th century but with later alterations.

Oxford, 274-276 Woodstock Road (SP 50430912)

Paul Riccoboni

Three trenches, totalling approximately 25m in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology. One posthole was revealed in Trench 2 sealed by the subsoil and topsoil. All the other features were dated to the late post-Medieval period or were modern.

Ramsden, St.Johns House (SP 34801486)

Fiona Bradshaw

An ongoing archaeological watching brief is being conducted. No archaeological features were recorded.

Standlake, Brighthampton, Malthouse Farm

(SP 38330334)

Eoin Fitzsimons

The investigations found evidence for Romano-British and medieval settlement. The former was found in the southern part of the site while the latter was in the north. The Romano British occupation was from the mid 3rd century into the 4th century while the Medieval activity was during the second half of the 11th century and the 12th century. No Anglo-Saxon activity apart from residual pottery was found. It is possible that there was some limited activity in the 16th or 17th century before the land became part of Malthouse Farm in modern times.

Stanton Harcourt, Blackditch (SP 40810561)

Eoin Fitzsimons

The archaeological evaluation established that the majority of the site had been quarried for gravel deposits.

Sutton Courtenay, Church Street, Manor House

(SU 50259416)

Eoin Fitzsimons

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of footings for an extension to the side of the property. One late 11th-12th century rubbish pit or ditch was observed.

Tetsworth, Attington House (SP 69470140)

Stephen Yeates

The evaluation recorded numerous features earlier than the present house including a ditch, banks of re-deposited clay, Medieval to post-Medieval foundations and a collapsed timber and brick wall of an earlier build, a road with side ditches, and a post-Medieval pit. There were also a number of features contemporary with the present house including a post-Medieval re-deposited clay to form the terracing, walls relating to the laying out of the formal garden in 1742, and evidence to associate the pond or folly moat with this phase. Gravel deposits and drains were also noted in front of the present house.

Wallingford, Croft Villas (SU 60278940)

Jenny Winnett

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of foundation trenches and other groundwork associated with the construction of new housing. The ground had been heavily disturbed in parts by previous levelling activity and compaction associated with use of the site as a train yard and by numerous modern services. A single modern pit was present.

Wallingford, Meriden Court (SU 60288920)

Jenny Winnett

An ongoing archaeological watching brief is being conducted, which so far has revealed several ditches some undated but others associated with Early-Middle Saxon pottery.

Wallingford, Wallingford Library (SU 60518953)

David Gilbert

A watching brief during the groundwork for a new wall was conducted. The dismantled wall had been built on the foundations of an earlier, 17th century or later, wall that had re-used stone blocks that had likely originated in the Priory Church. No other archaeological features were recorded.

Witney, Woodstock Road, Northfield Farm, The Barns

(SP 36831042)

John Moore

No archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief.

KEEVILL HERITAGE CONSULTANCY**Oxford: Christ Church, access lift to the Ante Hall**

(SP 51510594)

Graham Keevill and Cathy Underwood

Archaeological mitigation works were carried out from late October 2009 to May 2010 before and during the construction of a new access lift to Wolsey's Great Hall at Christ Church. The new lift rises from the Buttery Cellar at ground-floor level to the Ante Hall on the first floor. In doing so it passes through the early 18th century vault of the cellar (which originated in Wolsey's era) and cuts back into the east wall of the Ante Hall. The impact on the historic fabric was considered to be acceptable so long as an archaeological record was made in advance of work, and a watching brief was maintained during it. Detailed survey drawings were made of the east wall of the Ante Hall where the lift emerges, and of the blocked 'doorway' on the ground floor at the south end of the west wall of the staircase block. In fact this door is an early 19th century 'dummy', with solid masonry infill behind it as far back as the wall line of Wolsey's era. Excavations in the cellar and the ground-floor lobby to its east for the lift pit and a temporary support foundation respectively were also carried out archaeologically. The mitigation revealed several elements of Cardinal Wolsey's masonry that had been hidden by 18th and 19th century alterations, as well as the foundations for his work. Small but useful groups of medieval and later pottery were recovered from the two pit excavations, and also from debris above the Buttery Cellar vault when the floor was lifted in the Ante Hall. A number of late medieval and later architectural fragments were also recovered during the work.

Oxford: Christ Church, Meadows Building Staircase 3 refurbishment (SP 51560590)

Graham Keevill

A contract to conserve the masonry entrance tower of the Meadows Building (Christ Church), and completely refurbish the rooms within Staircase 3 associated with it, was carried out from March 2010 through to the end of the year. The work involved some groundworks in the basement of the tower, and to upgrade or replace existing drainage and water supplies on both the south and north sides of the range. These works were the subject of a watching brief, intensive in the basement and intermittent externally. All of the excavations were in modern made ground (principally existing service runs), and no significant archaeological remains were revealed.

Oxford: Christ Church, the Cathedral, Watching Loft (SP 51570599)

Graham Keevill and Cathy Underwood

Emergency works were needed during July-August 2010 to stabilise the vault of the Watching Loft to the south of St Frideswide's Shrine in Christ Church Cathedral. This involved exposing the top of the vault by lifting the floorboards from above it, clearing loose debris from over the vault, and inserting a stainless steel support system above it. The top of the vault was fully recorded in plan and photographically as part of this work, and the loose debris was all sieved to recover any archaeological artefacts. These proved to be remarkably plentiful, with a substantial assemblage of painted medieval window glass, a few lead comes, fragments of miniature stone architectural details probably from a tomb or shrine, many paper fragments (mainly 18th century), several copper alloy objects (including pins and a jetton), and iron nails. Many nutshells and seeds were also noted, with a sample of these being kept. It is hoped that a report specifically on this group of finds will be published in due course. The emergency works were completed successfully.

Oxford: Christ Church, Merton Field (SP 51770590)

Graham Keevill and Cathy Underwood

A watching brief was carried out in August 2010 during excavation of a pit for a new cesspool adjacent to an existing sports pavilion on Merton Field, Christ Church. The pit measured c 2m square and was excavated to a depth of 2.25m. Alluvial silt and gravel deposits in the lower half appear to be the result of natural deposition events, with no obvious evidence for subsequent re-working. Merton Field would have been on the margin of the Meadows flood plain area, with a river channel running along its southern margin. These layers were most probably laid down by that channel. A broadly Saxon-medieval date range may be suggested, but no greater accuracy than this can be attempted from the limited evidence of this watching brief. A probable topsoil or ploughsoil overlay these deposits, but there was no directly associated dating evidence. The subsequent rubble layer was evidently a deliberate deposit, but its significance is unclear. The rubble content may have been incorporated in an attempt to establish a drier area on the edge of the floodplain. Two sherds of 16th/17th century pottery were recovered from the upper part of this layer. The remaining contexts consisted of subsoil and topsoil.

Christ Church, the Cathedral Cloister (SP 5154 0596)

Graham Keevill

A watching brief was carried out in November 2010 on emergency excavations in the cloister at Christ Church Cathedral. Heating pipes which run across the cloister to the Chapter House had been leaking for some time. The existing ducts were successfully located, but the leak was not within the cloister garden and so must be in the east range, close to the Chapter House door. The excavation was wholly within the footprint of the ducting, believed to date from the late 19th or early 20th centuries. Much of the cloister has also been thoroughly excavated, in some areas

on several occasions, most recently in 2008 when a water feed to the new cloister fountain was monitored (that again was in already disturbed ground). Several dozen fragments of disarticulated human bone were found during the 2010 excavations, even though it was entirely along the existing trench run. These fragments were collected for reburial in an empty vault in the gardens between the Chapter House and the east end of the Cathedral.

Woodeaton, Church of the Holy Rood (SP 53491190)

Graham Keevill

Photographic recording of the medieval roof and other features of this Grade I listed church was carried out for Andrew Townsend Architects on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. The survey took place towards the end of a substantial programme of conservation and repair to the roof and the remarkable group of 14th century wall paintings in the nave, and was grant-aided by English Heritage. Recording concentrated on the relationship between the roof (which is clearly of at least two phases) and the wall paintings. This is problematic, in that the roof form suggests successive 13th and 14th/15th century phases, as noted in the list description. The eastern truss in the nave is part of the earlier phase, but it sits directly in front of (and thus partly blocks) the 14th century wall paintings on the east wall above the chancel arch. This anomaly is difficult to explain but the easternmost five trusses, all of the earlier phase, were tally-marked in a way that is strongly suggestive of their having been rebuilt/re-positioned, probably as part of the later rebuilding of the roof. They may have been fitted into a compressed space, and perhaps moved further east as well. This may explain the uncomfortably close juxtaposition of the eastern truss against the wall paintings.

Parishes Against Gravel Extraction (PAGE)

Graham Keevill

Archaeological evaluation was carried out during September-November 2010 on behalf of PAGE at Overy (SU 583938, on the southern edge of Dorchester on Thames), Drayton St Leonard (SU 598969) and Stadhampton (SU 598984), Oxfordshire. Geophysical surveys (by Roger Ainslie, fully reported separately (Fig 1, page 36)) and fieldwalking were essayed at all three sites, while three small trial trenches were also excavated at Drayton St Leonard. The magnetometry results at Overy provided further evidence of the extent and intensity of this previously undiscovered site. The substantial number of fieldwalking finds were overwhelmingly of Roman date, and it seems highly likely that the site itself is a suburb of the Roman town just to the north on the opposite bank of the river Thame.

At Drayton St Leonard, the geophysical survey revealed evidence for the large interrupted ditch. Several finds of diagnostically Neolithic date were found during the fieldwalking here, in an assemblage otherwise dominated by less diagnostic prehistoric material. Unfortunately the trial trenching was of limited value because of poor weather and ground conditions, but the presence of one sherd of Neolithic pottery appears to be significant. Furthermore a clear subsoil layer was present in all the trenches, sealing all

of the observed archaeology. The cropmarks and features observed in the various surveys can therefore be regarded as ancient rather than modern. The nature of the very extensive interrupted ditch system remains unproven, but it seems most likely to be earlier prehistoric and broadly within the causewayed camp tradition. The enclosure system to the west of the Black Barn, meanwhile, appears to be of Iron Age and/or Roman date.

At Stadhampton, the surveys have confirmed the presence of circular features, most probably the remnants of Bronze Age date. Some of these appear to be ploughed-out round barrows, but the smaller penannular (incomplete circular) examples may be associated with cremation burials. The flintwork recovered during the fieldwalking would be consistent with a middle prehistoric date.

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Oxford, The Radcliffe Infirmary (SP 45092071)

Tim Braybrooke with Pat Miller, Mike Tetreau and Steve White

Following earlier interventions on the site in 2002 by Oxford Archaeology (OXEYE02) and in 2007 and 2009 by Museum of London Archaeology (OX-RAD07), an evaluation was carried out between December 2009 and February 2010 and intermittent watching briefs between March and December 2010.

The evaluation in June 2010 may have revealed the remains of a prehistoric ring ditch immediately behind the old Infirmary building and curving back underneath it to the east. To the west it had been completely truncated by Infirmary buildings and services. Little of this ring ditch survived but the profile and fill characteristics closely resemble those of the other three excavated in 2009 and it aligns well with two of these and several of those observed in aerial reconnaissance photographs of the University Parks c 300m to the east; hinting at a large, spatially structured, prehistoric monumental landscape. The curvature of the ditch suggests that it may have had a diameter of at least 20m. No datable evidence or suitable Radiocarbon samples were recovered, however, a Radiocarbon sample from one the 2009 ring ditches yielded dates of 1890-1690 cal BC. If, indeed, these monuments do form a part of a large ritual landscape it is possible there was some degree of contemporaneity between the monuments.

A continuation of the boundary ditch sequence first identified in 2009 was found adjacent to the north-west corner of the original Radcliffe Infirmary building. This consisted of at least three, parallel, successive ditches the fills of which, apart from the latest which contained animal bone fragments, were sterile of finds (the 2009 excavations recovered 13th to 15th century pottery sherds and glass fragments elsewhere in the latest ditch). The frequency of these ditches re-cut on the same alignment suggests they represent a longstanding property boundary.

The former Infirmary burial ground, known to have been in use from 1770 to 1855 and in the south-west corner of the site, overlaid a quarry pit, the backfill of which contained

mid-late 18th century material, and an undated ditch. It was bounded by a heavily robbed wall, apparently shown on a map of 1797, to the east, in places flanked with horticultural bedding trenches.

A total of 36 burials were identified and a sample of 14 excavated; extrapolating from these figures gives an estimate of up to 700 graves within the remaining burial ground. Burial density was higher in the south with many graves inter-cutting; charnel deposits and disarticulated remains in the grave fills indicated areas of the burial ground having been reused. Those laid to rest in the burial ground are likely to have been people too poor to afford a grave in their own parish or those whose bodies were never claimed from the Infirmary. The skeletons were generally in a good state of preservation, several showing evidence of pathologies and most showed evidence of having been buried in coffins. Burials were predominantly individual inhumations, aligned perpendicular to the main burial ground axis and Walton Street, south-west to north-east rather than the usual east to west, and there was evidence for a collective burial pit in the north with possibly cross stacking of coffins. A sudden accumulation of casualties such as may have been precipitated by the cholera outbreak that claimed 116 lives in 1854, a year before the burial ground went out of use, could have necessitated the digging of such a pit. The then physician to the Infirmary and pioneer of diagnostic instruments, Sir Henry Acland (1815-1900) is said to have played a major role in containing the outbreak.

Further work revealed the burial ground to be heavily truncated to the south by the Walton Street access road and buried services. Remains of early Infirmary ancillary buildings first recorded in 2009 were found adjacent to the north-west corner of the main Infirmary building and evidence of a drainage system in the form of six stone-lined and two brick-lined drains together with two stone lined cisterns was observed immediately to the rear of the Infirmary. There were also a number of horticultural bedding trenches associated with garden features of the Infirmary and the Radcliffe Observatory to the north. Post-excavation work is ongoing. OX-RAD07

NATIONAL TRUST

Gary Marshall

Chastleton village bakehouse (SP 2473829265)

The National Trust recently acquired the remains of the village bakehouse at Chastleton. Though now sadly dilapidated the bakehouse is nonetheless an important survival, illustrating how bread, cakes and pastries were baked as a communal endeavour on a regular basis by the village. Little is known about the date or history of the building and no-one in the village can remember when it was last used, though this was almost certainly in the 1920s or 30s. A mid 19th century date for its construction seems most likely.

The Trust are currently restoring the building with the aim of bringing it back into working order so that it can be used for events and demonstrations. The restoration work has

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been informed by an archaeological survey of the building, completed in 2004, which has recorded the surviving stone walls and the brick oven at one end of the building. The survey has recovered evidence for a chimney and flue outside the oven mouth which allowed smoke during the firing stage to be drawn away. Some questions remain, notably whether the top of the oven was tiled over or fully enclosed within a tiled roof? There is a small aperture below the oven and it is not clear whether or not this was used for storing wood or for pre-heating the base of oven. As with so many past technologies the knowledge has been lost of how to effectively operate the oven and we shall only find this out by trial and error when the restoration is complete. Or as the old adage goes 'The proof will be in the pudding'!

Chastleton North Garden excavation (SP 2480729092)

An archaeological watching brief was maintained by the National Trust's Regional Archaeologist over a shallow trench dug in May 2010 for bringing an electric cable from the north side of the house to the privies in the west garden. A wall built of local iron-rich limestone was unearthed in the south-east corner of the garden, running northeast-southwest and on a tangent to the north elevation of the building. It probably pre-dates the 1607-12 construction date for Chastleton House. Only a very small extent of the wall was uncovered and its full extent therefore remains to be determined. Chastleton House was the subject of a major restoration project undertaken by the Trust between 1993 and 1995 when a number of stone structures pre-dating the existing house were discovered in various areas of the gardens.

Coleshill auxiliary bunker SU 24509380

Another unusual structure which the Trust has in its care in Oxfordshire is the WWII underground bunker at Coleshill Park. Coleshill was used during the 1940s by the army as a base for the training of auxiliaries whose task was to go to ground in the event of enemy invasion and carry out sabotage behind German lines. As part of the training school prototype bunkers known as 'operations bases' were built in disguised, out of the way locations – the one at Coleshill is situated in an area of woodland on the edge of the park and under the cover of yew trees which would have prevented its detection from aerial reconnaissance.

The bunker was the subject of an archaeological survey started in 2000 and completed in 2010. Concerns about its condition mean that it could eventually collapse and it is important that a permanent record should exist of its design and construction. The Trust is also proposing to build a replica which can be used for educational purposes. The bunker is set between 1 and 3m below ground level and is built on the cut-and-cover principle with the main frame formed of curved corrugated iron sheets. Entry is via a vertical ladder contained within a ladder well. A blast wall then conceals the small underground kitchen and WC before the main chamber is reached. This housed up to eight men. At the far end of the chamber an escape tunnel leads out to a pivoted door that was built into the face of the ha-ha wall looking out onto the park. The bunker incorporates some interesting design features, including doorframes set

at a slight slant so that they were self-closing. The flue from the small cooker connects to a small chimney that was set within the outlines of a decayed tree to prevent detection. Beds and tables in the main chamber were pivoted to hinges on the walls so that they could be folded up when not needed.

The long term future of the bunker remains uncertain but will be informed by regular monitoring. The Trust arranges occasional tours to the bunker and concerns over safety may mean that some invasive repairs may be needed; the bunker has already been the subject of minor repairs when the concrete ceiling over the kitchen area started collapsing.

NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Edward Shawyer

Our events this year consisted of two digs instead of just one. Things started well in April with an excavation of Roman features I had noticed exposed by the re-cutting of a ditch lining the farmyard. A Roman building was partially revealed and things were just getting very interesting when we had to abandon the dig because of constant bee attacks. Their hives were only 14m away and the vibration from our digging must have upset them.

Luckily the farmer Duncan Jack was kindly able to offer us another site in September on the edge of a field well away from the bees. Here we had a week long excavation in an area where a lot of building stone was being turned up by the plough and here we discovered yet another Roman building, the further excavation of which we will be continuing in 2011.

Excavations

Swalcliffe Lea Roman building (SP 38953849)

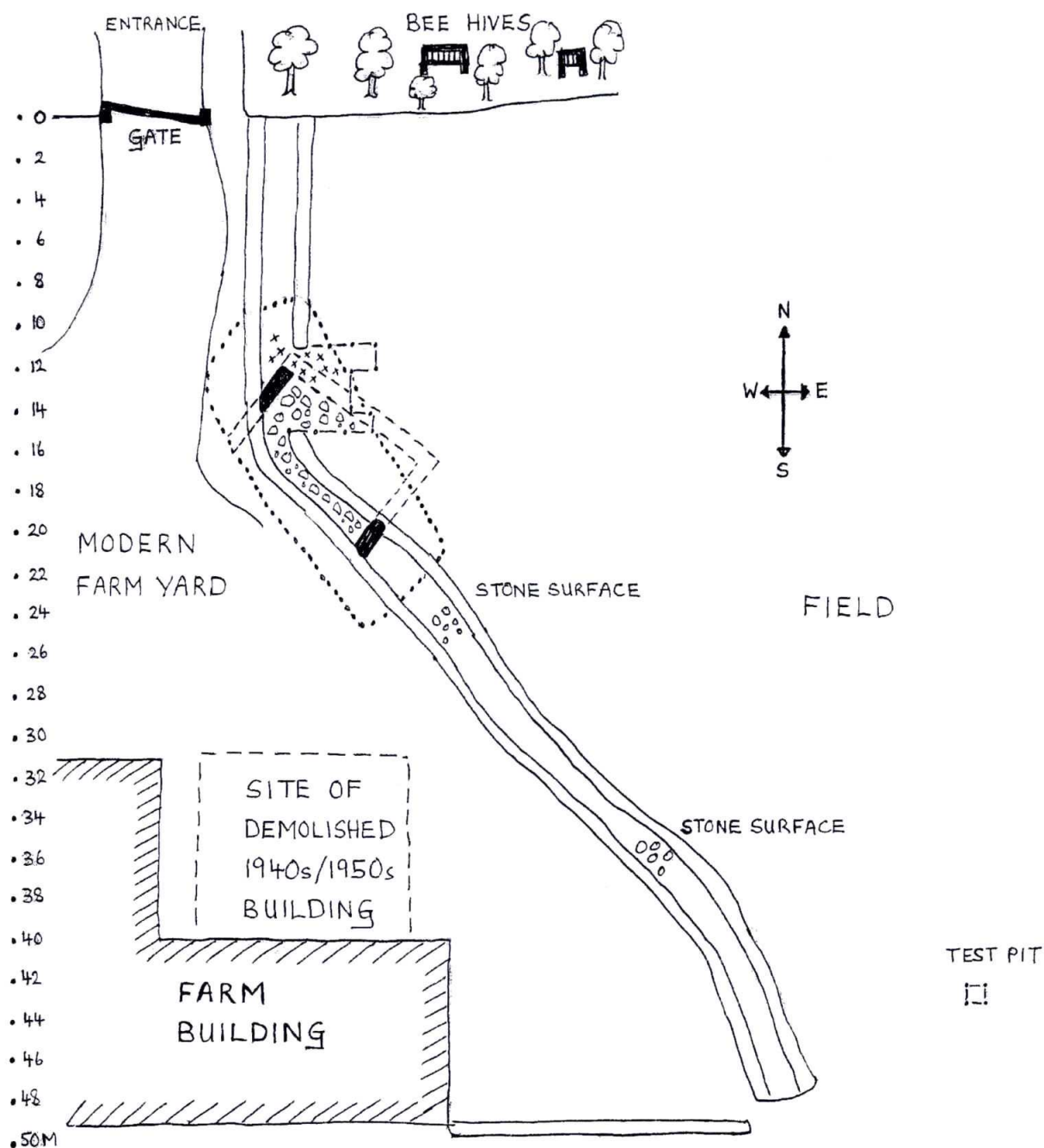
Trench 1

Attention was drawn to two walls running north-east/south-west which had been partially exposed by the re-cutting of the farmyard ditch. This operation had also partially cut through in places a nice stone slab floor which lay between the two parallel walls. (Fig 2)

The pottery found was late Roman consisting of grog ware, samian, grey wares, Oxfordshire red mortaria and shell tempered wares. Other finds included part of a 3rd century radiate and a Bronze Age tanged and barbed arrowhead found in the re-deposited topsoil.

The slab floor had quite a few burnt, oxidized stones and iron slag associated with it. Beneath this floor in the northern end of the trench were the remains of possibly two super-imposed white clay floors which seemed to belong to an earlier building.

Above the Roman building was a layer of Victorian rubble about 30cm thick from some demolished farm building. A possible wall from this structure cut through the slab floor in an east/west alignment. Above the Victorian rubble was about 6cm of a gravel farmyard which itself had been covered along its edge facing the field with about 6cm of soil.



**SITE PLAN OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES
REVEALED BY THE DITCH EXCAVATION 2010
(S.P. 38953849)**

KEY TO SYMBOLS



ROMAN WALL



PROBABLE COURSE OF WALL



AREA OF VICTORIAN RUBBLE



EARLIER CLAY FLOOR



BANK LINING DITCH



LIMIT OF EXCAVATION



STONE SLAB FLOOR

Fig 2. Swalcliffe Lea Roman building (SP 38953849).

Oxfordshire

Any further recording or analysis was impossible since the bees attacked anyone in the vicinity.

Other Features

About 4m south of the building traces of some kind of Roman stone surface were exposed and yet another stone surface was encountered 10m further down in the same direction. Unfortunately due to the bee problem further investigation was not possible.

One of these surfaces may be the continuation of the Roman street we found last year, since it is in direct alignment with it.

The test pit is where we originally started digging until we found there was nothing of interest there. There was the usual topsoil of 30-40cm depth, then there was a further 30cm of loamy/clay soil with plenty of Roman pottery in it, below this the natural reddish clay soil began to emerge. The soil with Roman pottery probably represents part of the garden areas in the settlement.

Swalcliffe Lea Roman building (SP 38103849)

Trench 1

Our second excavation also involved partially digging through the old gravel yard of the farm which was altered in the last few years. Beneath this was an area of burning which looked old until we discovered 1950s asbestos tiles in it. Our best dating evidence ever for part of the modern yard was provided by crisp packets with "best before the end of March 1990" on them. A sign of what future archaeology may be like! (Fig 3)

Beneath the burning was a layer of stones and some traces of a clay floor which had late Roman pottery associated with it. The burning was almost on top of the Roman surface, the same as the Victorian rubble was on top of the Roman layer in the other dig this year; the reason for this is because soil had been stripped from the area when it was levelled to make the yard.

At the edge of the yard area we found a large area backfilled with a grey clayish soil underneath which was an oak straining post for a barbed wire fence set into concrete. This post had cut through the top Roman layer and was embedded in a lower stone floor about 16cm deeper.

The upper floor was 4th century since we found 2 coins of the Constantinian dynasty in the soil beneath it. With both floors there were many burnt stones and also iron slag. Evidence for local metalsmithing is very common in this settlement, at all levels of occupation, but particularly in the late 4th century. We also found a wall aligned north-north-east/south-south-west, pointing to the top of Jesters Hill and another stone surface on the other side of it.

A deep section was dug and this showed up the two floors and 12-14cm beneath the lower floor was a white clay floor from an even earlier building and yet another 14cm below this was a layer of stones set into the natural orangy/yellow ironstone soil.

The conclusion was that there were at least three layers of occupation, the earliest probably being 1st-2nd century and even here there were the ubiquitous slag deposits.

Hopefully more will be revealed about this site in the 2011 excavation.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Bodicote, Oxford Road (SP 46543746)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Bodicote, south of Blackwood Place and Molyneux Drive and north-west of Cotefield Farm, Oxford Road. The finds from two isolated prehistoric pits included worked flint, pottery and hazelnut shells. There were two areas of late Iron Age/early Romano-British activity comprising ditches, gullies, pits and a possible ring ditch. Remnant furrows of Medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation and post-Medieval field boundary ditches were also found. OXCM.2010.85

Finnere, Banbury Road, Finnere Quarry and Landfill Site (SP 6260 3275)

Ian Fisher

A geophysical survey was carried out on c 10.5ha of land in three fields proposed for a northern extension to Finnere Quarry and Landfill Site, Banbury Road. The magnetometer survey revealed several anomalies indicating archaeological features; a possible Iron Age roundhouse or earlier circular monument, a pit, six ditches and a curvilinear ditch that could be part of a large circular feature. It is likely that these features could be a continuation of the complex of Bronze Age and Iron Age features previously excavated to the south of the current survey. Also revealed were areas of diffuse anomalies that could indicate previous shallow quarrying or natural geology. Other anomalies were more likely to be of modern origin responding to ferrous debris and ferrous objects.

Wallingford, St Martin's Lane (SU 89406075)

Iain Soden

Excavation was carried out on the former cemetery at St Martin's Lane ahead of development. St Martins was the principal church of late Saxon Wallingford. Burials within its cemetery exhibit strong pre-Conquest characteristics and while these are seen elsewhere, there are some aspects which may be peculiar to the immediate area, suggesting a range of local variations to these common rites. Earliest use of the churchyard has been dated to the late 10th to early 11th century by radiocarbon dating, and use continued until the end of the 14th century, serving a dwindling parish population before rapidly falling out of use. No burials post-date 1412.

Osteological analysis of 187 of the 211 excavated skeletons has depicted a lay population which was almost equally split between males and females, with only a slight bias towards males. Due to this and other previous disturbances, the proportion of burials in the churchyard which survived to excavation remains unknown. Their distribution showed no discrimination. A high proportion of children but a comparative lack of newborns and very young children is notable, but its significance is unclear since so many disarticulated remains were also present. The mortality profile of the site differs in this respect from most others, being more even.



Fig 3. Swalcliffe Lea Roman building (SP 38103849).

The population was of average height for the period nationally, but with the males buried at St Martin's being slightly shorter than at Oxford, possibly because the population included fewer higher-status and monastic burials at Wallingford. Both degenerative pathologies and inherited conditions affecting bone were noted, as were noteworthy rates of trauma, some of it violent. Generally they led healthy early lives compared to other urban

populations; although evidence of tuberculosis and iron deficiency suggests that living conditions and diet at the heart of medieval Wallingford were far from ideal.

The few finds have resonance in funereal contexts as losses from clothing or personal items, such as a crucifix or a simple pilgrim badge. The late Saxon mortar mixer has added to a growing list of this distinctive early constructional feature across the Midlands. While its

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presence indicates the vicinity of the late Saxon church, no foundations of St Martin's church appear to have survived 1712 cellar-digging and quarrying for gravel.

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

Grange Farm, Balscote (SP 3917641798)

Paul Clark

Grange Farm was described by Wood-Jones (1963) as an early 16th century, three-unit, cross-passage hall house. This year an opportunity arose to conduct a more detailed survey than previously possible when wall plaster and ceilings were removed during renovation work, revealing hidden internal wall joints, blocked openings, ceiling details and changes in mortars. (Fig 4)

An important feature of the house is a window with Perpendicular blind tracery and an unusually large four-centred arched doorway. Wood-Jones considered these to be of c 1500 origin but possibly reused from elsewhere. Buildings of England (1974), revised this suggesting the window and door dated the building to the 15th century. Unusually for a traditional hall-house services appeared to be at the high end (elevation) with the parlour at the lower end, a surprising 0.76m below the central hall.

Grange Farm is constructed from local brown marlstone and stands on a sloping site, aligned approximately north-south, below and gable-end on to the street.

A lack of uniformity between features on the internal and external walls suggested the long side walls had been externally re-clad, either partly or wholly, with the now unified facades hiding structural changes behind. There were noticeable differences in construction, degrees of batter and thickness of the side walls from bay to bay. There were also un-keyed joints between the side walls and some cross walls, particularly between hall and cross-passage. Very poor quality interior walls at the north west corner of bay 1 suggested rebuilding at this point. A plan of 1684, (VCH; 1969), suggested this could relate to a now demolished cross wing, or main range, which lay parallel, and adjacent to, the street. There was insufficient evidence to determine whether this range was earlier, later or contemporary with the surviving range.

Wood-Jones suggested that Bay 5 had been added as an extension of the original parlour (Bay 4) in the 17th century. There was conflicting evidence for the relationship between these bays and the rest of the house but on balance it was concluded that both Bays 4 and 5 were probably of one construction phase and later than the rest of the house. Structural differences and the severe change in floor levels suggested a discontinuity of function between the two areas, with the conclusion that the lower part was probably originally constructed for other than domestic use.

Smoke blackening on the wall dividing the hall and cross-passage, an inserted ceiling and fireplace, and tall window biased away from the cross passage support the central bay once functioning as an open hall.

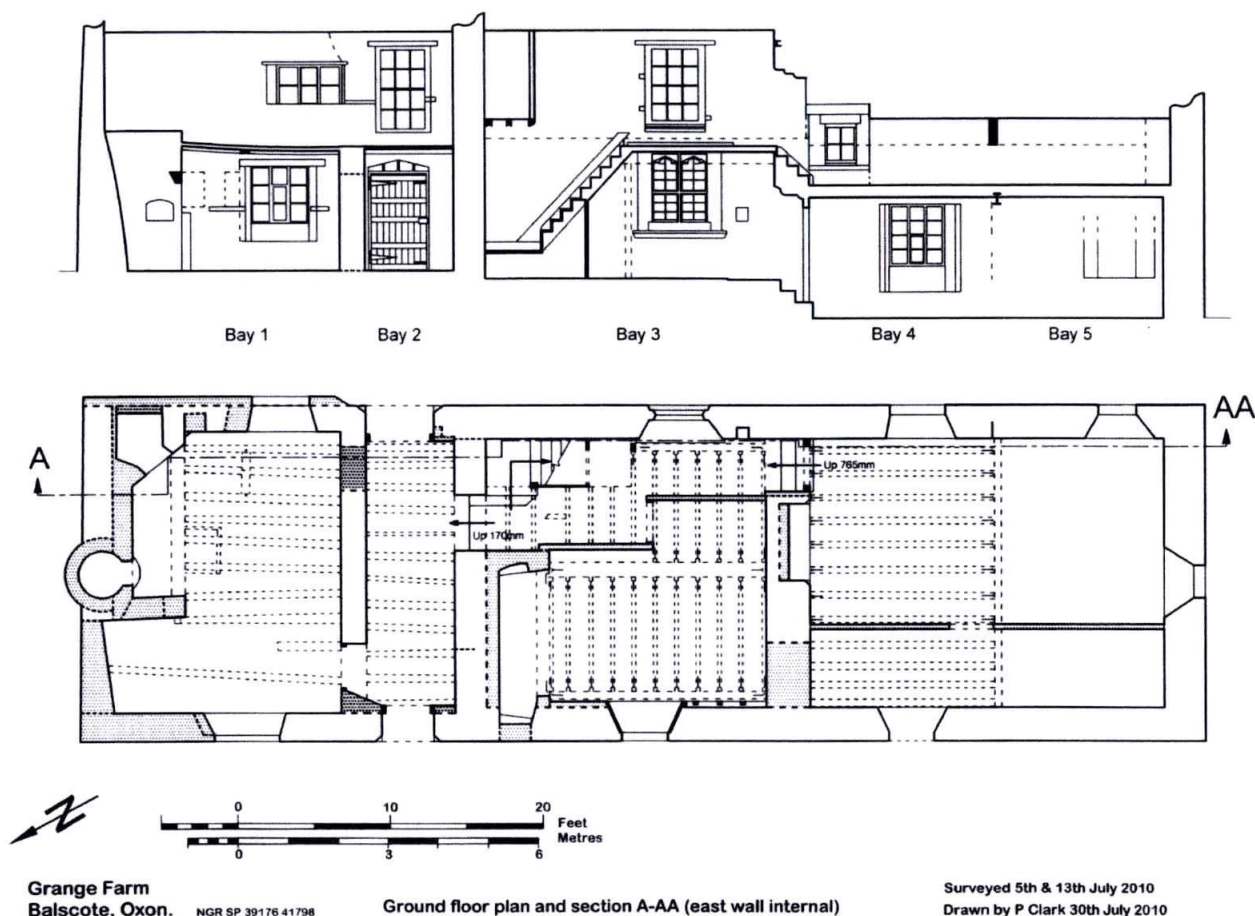


Fig 4. Grange Farm, Balscote.

The ceiling over the upper bay was probably also inserted suggesting this bay also was originally single storey. The space does not appear to have been heated prior to the ceiling being inserted. Two doorways led off the cross passage into this bay as if conforming with the traditional pantry - buttery layout. However, within a single storey two-bay house, service and parlour functions probably shared this bay. No evidence for a dividing wall remained other than the two doorways.

If the house originated as a single storey two-bay hall house it seems improbable that it would have been constructed with such a high status Perpendicular window and ornamented principal doorway, suggesting these features were probably reused and therefore inserted after their stylistic date. Alterations to the window, and its unusual proportions, noted by Wood-Jones, support this possibility. If Grange Farm was a new building incorporating the latter it would probably have comprised a larger more unified structure contemporary with the architectural style of those features, compared to the incrementally developed building we see today. The likely source of the window and doorway is Wroxton Priory, 1½ miles away. Grange Farm was within the Priory's estate prior to its dissolution in 1536 and shortly after when the new owner was forced to demolish the ecclesiastical buildings under the terms of its sale.

The ceiling of Bay 1 was possibly inserted after the 16th century. Within it a contemporary trimmer beam suggests the east doorway was given over to accessing a staircase to the first floor. Later, but still in the early 17th century a chimney was inserted through the ceiling, possibly allowing the ground floor service room to operate as a kitchen. The lower two bays (Bays 4 and 5) appear to have been converted to domestic use at this time. A new ceiling was inserted together with a Tudor-arched moulded stone fireplace. Unusually early for this period, a ground floor corridor divided the bay, providing access to the hall and probably to stairs in bay 5. The fireplace in the hall may have been inserted at the same time although the flooring over of the hall most likely occurred in the mid 17th century. Later the same century a new stair was inserted through this ceiling, possibly replacing that rising through Bay 1.

Bay 3 stairs were replaced during a major refurbishment circa 1800 when the eaves were raised and roof renewed over the hall and upper end, new sash windows inserted and corridors added. It was not until after Wood-Jones's survey that the eaves were raised over bays 4 and 5.

The new evidence uncovered in this latest survey suggests that Grange Farm, subject to its relationship with the parallel range, developed from a single-storey, two-unit dwelling, possibly in the early 16th century, although there is no evidence to suggest this may not have been earlier. 16th century occupants probably took advantage of cheaply or freely available architectural features to enhance the building's status rather than commission new ornate windows and doorways. The enhancement of the building by these features appears to have preceded several subsequent phases of enlargement and modernisation throughout the 17th century, and with the exception of the c 1800 works, substantially resulting, in the apparently unified building we see today.

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SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Brightwell Baldwin Community History and Archaeology Project

Brightwell Park 2010 interim report (SU 653954)

Ian Clarke and Janet Eastment

Introduction

The Brightwell Baldwin Community History and Archaeology Project (BBCHAP) is run by the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG). An introduction to the project was published in *South Midlands Archaeology No 37 2007* and in *SOAG Bulletin No 61 (2007)* and interim reports have been published in subsequent issues of both these publications.

A resistance meter survey in Brightwell Park in 2008/09 located the site of the old 'Manor of Parkes' which was burnt down in 1788. It revealed an extensive complex of buildings in close proximity to the well known Brightwell Park dovecote (SU 65289540) with clear signs of formal 'Italianate' gardens laid out to the east and south of the buildings. In 2009 an exploratory excavation targeted part of the manor house buildings, as reported in *South Midlands Archaeology No 40 (Clarke, 2010a)* and in *SOAG Bulletin No 64 (Clarke, 2010b)*.

The tentative conclusion from the 2009 dig was that we had uncovered part of a wing of the main house, built along the north side of a courtyard, with possibly part of a 'gatehouse' appearing in the south-west corner of the trench. If correct, then the Great Hall of the Medieval manor would probably be fronting the east side of that courtyard about 8m (25ft) east of the trench. A re-examination of the geophysics appeared to support this interpretation. For 2010 it was decided to partly reopen and extend the 2009 trench (hereafter Trench 1) to the south and west to look for evidence of a gateway or gatehouse. The new area of Trench 1 was centred on a major cross-axial alignment (established from the geophysics) which linked the later carriage gate on the west side of the house to the centre of the parterre garden immediately to the east of the house. The reopened area of Trench 1 provided a reference level and allowed further excavation to address unanswered questions from 2009. The total area open at the end of the dig was 90m² of which 62 were new.

This interim report covers the 2010 excavation. The findings from the 2010 dig are such that it is necessary to substantially revise a number of the provisional interpretations from 2009. Part of what follows is therefore adapted from the 2009 interim report but with changes and additions to reflect our revised thinking.

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BBCHAP is a community project and all excavations are training excavations, with local volunteers receiving basic tuition from and working alongside more experienced SOAG archaeologists. The excavations are also open to mature students from universities who need field experience as part of their course requirement.

Description of the archaeology

Fig 5 is an overhead photo of the extended Trench 1 taken from a pole camera and showing the archaeology near the end of the dig. The area at the bottom of the picture enclosed by the dotted lines is that part of the 2009 excavation that was reopened. Following the date of this picture, a further 4m² was opened and cleaned on the north side, as indicated by the solid lines, and cleaning of areas in the south-west and north-east corners was completed. Numbers for contexts that had been removed by this stage are not shown.

Earlier features - the north-east and south-east corners of Trench 1 (Figs 5 and 6)

We start our description in the north-east corner in the area of the trench that was reopened. Building features here are among the earliest uncovered and a more detailed examination of these was part of the excavation plan.

The plan did not allow the complete removal of later building archaeology to fully reveal earlier levels, but the latter were partly explored in 2009 by a sondage through a gravel layer [004]. This revealed the lower layers of a substantial wall [016] c 1m (3ft) thick, built from large,

rough-hewn, local chalkstone (Totternhoe stone) in a lime mortar. This had been reduced to a level just above a mortar floor [014] about 50-75mm (2-3in) thick, laid after the wall was built and abutting it on the east side. The floor was laid on a compacted silty-clay sub-soil which also bounded the west side of the wall at the same level. This was not excavated but appears to be the natural.

The mortar floor [014] was incomplete and the ground beneath had subsided, giving the floor a south-north downward tilt. The same tilt was visible in wall [016] and in the ground the other side of it. The southern edge of floor [014] was bounded by another chalk and lime mortar wall [008] built from the same ground level as the floor. Both walls were built before the floor was laid. The walls were clearly contemporaneous for a time but their age and relative chronology could not be determined with certainty. They contained very rare fragments of brick and tile, which suggests a date in the later Medieval but is not in itself conclusive. The chalk used for [016] was generally large/very large and blocky, but that for [008] was medium/large rubble. Wall [008] at first appeared to be c 0.5m thick with tumbled masonry on its south side, but there was uncertainty about this in 2009. Further excavation in 2010 confirmed that it was twice as thick at c 1m (3ft). The confusion arose because there was a distinct line along the centreline of the wall where the northern half-thickness had survived to a greater height. This might simply be a quirk of survival, but more likely is evidence that the wall was at some time reduced in thickness down to ground level (and

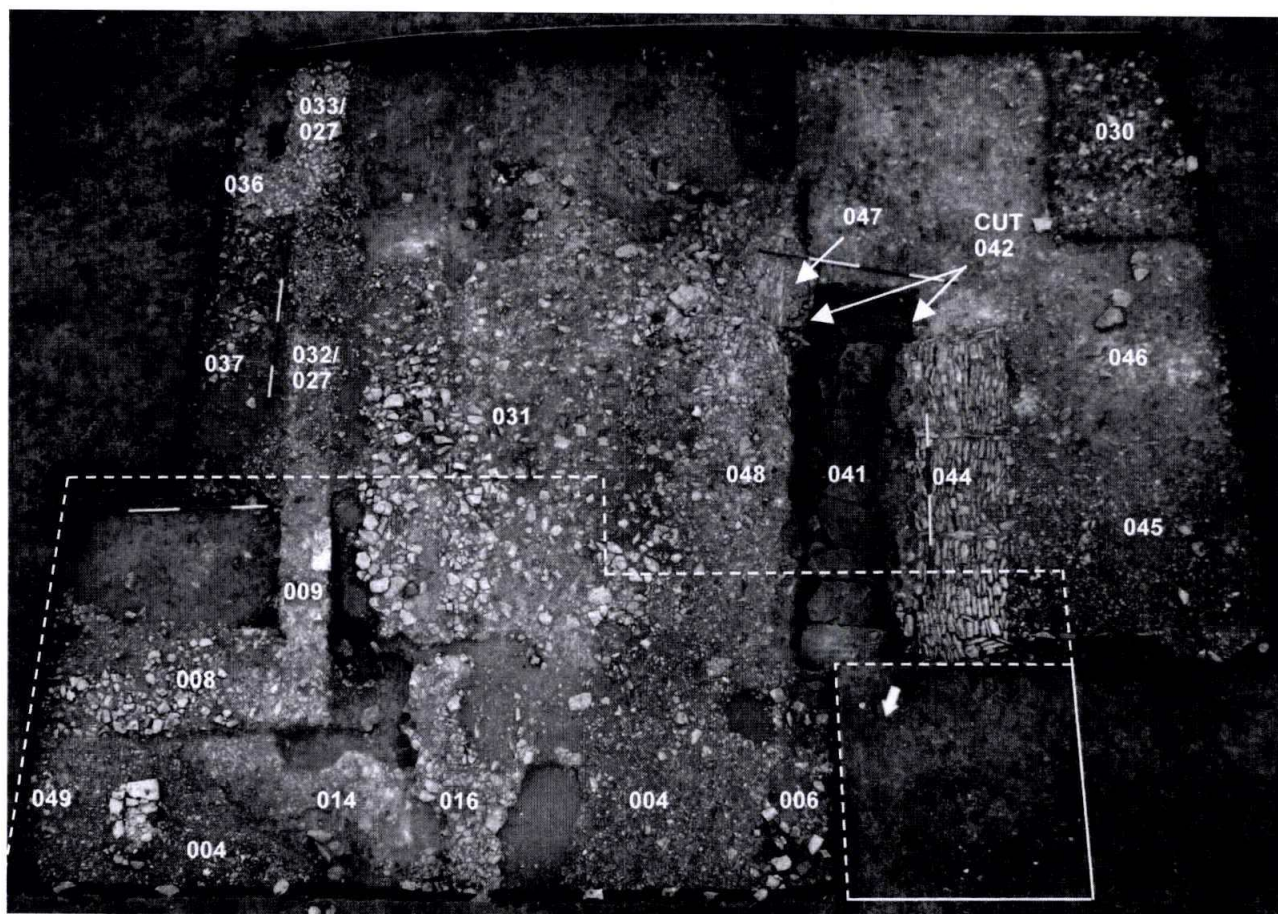


Fig 5. View of Trench 1 in 2010. (North is to the bottom of the picture; the survey poles are 2m; the area enclosed by dotted lines is the reopened part of the 2009 trench; the area enclosed by solid lines was later excavated.)

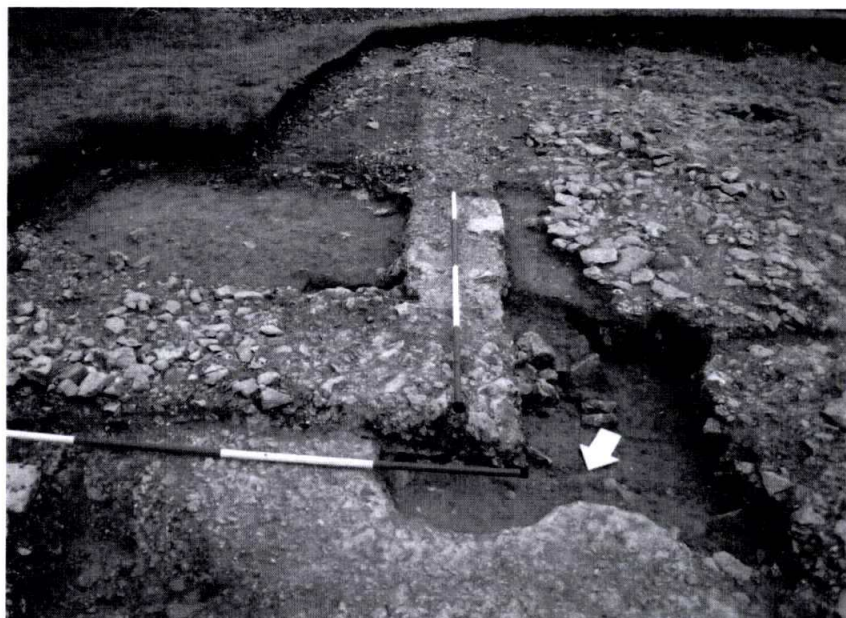


Fig 6. The 'porter's lodge' (room with the mortar floor) is in the foreground. Beyond it was the medieval gateway leading into the courtyard on the left. The rubble area centre-right is where the Tudor gatehouse once stood. The wall stretching away to the south is the post-Medieval courtyard wall, built on Medieval foundations at the far end.

probably also in height) to match wall [009] built later at right-angles to it (see below).

Further cleaning in the north-east corner revealed that the eastern end of wall [008] merged seamlessly and at right-angles with a line of masonry [049] running parallel to the trench edge and disappearing into the east and north balks, the visible part being *c* 0.6m wide and of similar construction to [008]. It is clearly another wall, parallel to wall [016] and floor [014] is bounded by it on the east side (as is the later overlying gravel layer [004]). These three walls enclose three sides of a room 2.8m (9ft) east-west and at least 2m (6ft) north-south, probably larger.

In the south-west corner of this room, the floor was broken away along an irregular line. This, together with some tumbled masonry in line with the western end of wall [008], had suggested in 2009 that the latter might originally have extended up to and abutted wall [016]. Further investigation in 2010 revealed no clear evidence for such a link at ground level and it is possible that there was a narrow gap here 0.6m (2ft) wide, defining a door opening. If so, we may reasonably infer a link between these walls at a higher level. However, the limited excavation here showed no clear evidence for wall [016] beyond the projected line of the inner face of wall [008], suggesting it may have been deliberately truncated and wall [008] cut back to accommodate later changes. The damage to the floor in this corner could have resulted from this.

Close examination of the construction and relationship of wall [008] to wall [009] built at right-angles to it, confirmed that the latter belongs to a later phase. It is only 0.46m (18in) thick and is built from a ground level some 75mm higher. Rather than being bonded in, it appeared to but up to the older wall along a 45° angle, although this could not be confirmed without complete removal. This could suggest that the earlier wall [008] incorporated a large chamfer on the outer corner extending to about one third its thickness,

lending weight to the interpretation of a doorway here, but equally may be deliberate keying of the new wall to the old..

Moving now to the south-east corner of the extended trench. Here a substantial wall [033] *c* 0.65m (2ft) thick was revealed on the same alignment as wall [009] and disappearing into the south balk. It joined seamlessly with a similar wall [036] at right-angles disappearing into the east balk. The construction was chalk rubble in lime mortar with a shallow foundation in the silty-clay natural, very like wall [008] and apparently of similar date. These two walls are probably the corner of a building. Like [008], wall [033] showed signs of having been reduced in width, the eastern side being below the later ground level, as was the entirety of the remains of wall [036]. It appears that at some date these walls were demolished and the outer foundation of wall [033] was built over by a narrower wall [027] in line with (or as part of) wall [009]. Between wall [008] and the corner formed by walls

[033/036], a gap *c* 4.4m (*c* 15ft) wide defined the entranceway way into the courtyard. This was only later filled in by the new wall [009/027], as will be described more fully in the next section.

Later features - the central area of Trench 1 (Figs 5 & 7)

We now turn to a description of the major features across the centre of the trench, traversing from west to east.

On the west side, part of a metalled track [045/046] *c* 3.5m (*c* 11ft) wide was revealed, with a compacted surface of small/medium flint. It approached from a south-westerly direction on a gentle downward slope, curving to the right at the end to meet a well-constructed chalkstone pavement [044] which continued at the same slope. The approach track was bordered and contained by large rough-hewn chalk slabs laid on edge, still in situ on the north side but displaced and scattered on the south side. These edging stones ran square to the pavement on the north side, but curved away to the south-west on the south side. The surface on the south side of the track was worn away, suggesting heavy traffic to and from that direction in the later stages of use. A single line of medium cobblestones provided a decorative edging between the track and the pavement, a few of these remaining in situ on the north side but elsewhere displaced or missing. The approach track and pavement are centred on the cross-axial alignment mentioned in the introduction, with an error of less than a 0.3m (1ft), and are in line with the entranceway to the courtyard on the east side of the trench.

The pavement [044] was constructed from large rough-hewn chalk slabs, dry-laid on edge in close-packed parallel lines across the line of the track. These were bordered and divided into large rectangular panels by single lines of slabs at right-angles forming a decorative pattern. The border stones on the right side followed the approach curve of the track. Three panels covered the width of the



Fig 7. The approach to the Tudor gatehouse was from right to left across the chalkstone pavement. Originally twice this width, the pavement was cut through to insert an 18th century drain. It sloped down to a surface gully lined with cobbles, a small remnant of which survives at the far left corner of the drain cut. Beyond the gully to the left a flint surface sloped up to where the gatehouse once stood.

track and a fourth (= [013] from 2009) extended northwards beyond the track. This northern panel was less well preserved and its function less clear, but it probably represents an alternative approach from the north-west. The pavement stones had been laid in a shallow cut in the silty-clay natural on a bed of sharp sand, with fine sand brushed in to fill the gaps. Only the upper half of the pavement remained *in situ* - the lower half had been cut through and removed to insert a later drain [041] as described in the next section - but it was clear that originally the pavement had sloped down to a surface gully [047]. This gully had also been largely cut away to insert the drain, but a small part remained *in situ* at the southern end sufficient to reconstruct its appearance: medium/large rough-hewn chalkstones, laid on edge, formed a line (possibly a double line) of long, narrow, rectangular boxes, filled with close-packed medium cobblestones. Unlike the pavement, this had been laid directly on the silty-clay natural. The cobblestones were similar to those edging the approach side of the pavement and would have provided a robust and decorative feature.

Sloping up beyond the gully towards the central area of the trench, was a well-metalled hard-surface [048] of small/medium flint, similar to that of the approach track [045/046]. As the slope of this eased it merged contiguously along an irregular line with a large area of medium/large rough-hewn chalk slabs and rubble [031] with some embedded broken roof tile. This formed a roughly level hard-surface covering the whole, sub-rectangular, central area of the trench. The surface of this had been consolidated with lime mortar, but beneath this (tested with a shallow sondage in one small area) was a dense mass of un-mortared and clean, medium/large chalk rubble and roof-tile. Layer

[031] stopped just short of the line of wall [009] suggesting it had been cut through to construct that wall and what may have been a later extension of it [027] (see below). Layer [031] was on a level with the courtyard surface [037] (= [017] in 2009) beyond the line of wall [009/027]. This comprised well compacted, poorly sorted chalk rubble and roof-tile in a silty-clay matrix.

Overlying layer [031], notably on the northern side, were thin, patchy areas of fine reddish and yellowish-brown sand and sandy gravel [010/024] (not shown). It is suspected that these were more extensive than eventually recorded, as this material was all too easily removed by enthusiastic cleaning to reach 'solid' archaeology in the early stages of the dig. These fine sandy gravels were

thought in 2009 to be associated with post-fire demolition and clearance events, but it now seems more likely that they are remnants of a top-dressing for [031], now clearly seen as an exterior, metalled surface.

The south side of layer [031] was bounded along an irregular line by an area of silty-clay sub-soil extending into the south baulk. This had a large, irregular sunken area on the east side and smaller ones on the west side which had been filled with medium flints in an indurated yellowish-brown sharp-sand matrix, with the whole area then roughly levelled with the same material [028] (not shown). Whether the sunken areas resulted from the removal of structures or from natural subsidence was not determined. At the north extremity of the eastern sunken area, closest to [031], a hole opened up which was probed but not explored further. It may be an old animal burrow, which would suggest the area was outside any structure, but might possibly indicate a drain associated with a structure. The same silty-clay sub-soil also extended into the west baulk alongside the approach track [045/046] and appears to be the natural.

Returning briefly to the area on the north side of the trench. At some point in time wall [016] was reduced to close to the level of floor [014]. This area was then covered and levelled by a compacted layer [004] of small/medium flint in a yellowish-brown sharp-sand matrix, up to 150mm thick. This was bounded by wall [049] on the east side and partly by wall [008] on the south side. Otherwise on the south side it was contiguous along an irregular line with layer [031] (= [018] from 2009). Gravel layer [004] is the same as the hard surface [048] and represents the same event.

As noted in the previous section, between wall [008] and the corner formed by walls [033/036] there was a gap c 4.4m (c 15ft) wide, only later filled in by wall [009/027]. It is



Fig 8. Eighteenth century field drain with one capping stone removed. The bottom is clay lined.

possible that this infill was carried out in two stages. Wall [009] has a shallow foundation that ends at a sub-rounded cut to the same depth. This cut may once have held a stone terminal pillar for wall [009], leaving a reduced width opening into the courtyard of c 2.5m (8ft). It is also possible that walls [033/036] were demolished or reduced in height at this time and a similar pillar and wall were built along the former line of [033]. If there was a pillar at the end of [009], at some time it was removed and the shallow cut filled in with a yellowish sandy gravel. Beyond it a very thin layer of the same material provided a levelled foundation [032] up to the end of reduced wall [033] for the construction of a new courtyard wall [027], closing off the gap. Wall [027] was c 0.46m (18in) thick and would then have formed an extension of wall [009] up to and along the line of [033]. However, it is equally possible that the whole of [009] and [027] were built as one event and that the shallow, sub-rounded cut has some other interpretation not yet considered.

The land drain (Figs 5, 7 and 8)

Mention has been made above of the later insertion of a drain. This was laid in a linear, rectangular trench [cut 042] about 1.1m wide and 0.6m deep, dug on a slightly curving north-south line, crossing the west side of Trench 1 and extending into the south and north baulks. This trench cut through the subsoil on the south side, the stone gully [047] and chalkstone pavement [044] in the central area, and the hard surface [048/004] on the north side. The upper fill of the cut was excavated in the vicinity of the pavement to reveal a well constructed, 200mm (8in) square-section land-drain [041], with a clay-lined floor and walls of large, rough-hewn chalkstone capped with very large chalkstone slabs. Broken roof tiles had been used as packing where necessary to steady the capping stones. The drain was inspected over some distance in both directions with a fibre-optic camera and was in good condition, with the

build-up of loose soil in the bottom from water seepage and worm action only 50-75mm (2-3in) deep. The drain was dry-stone built with a fall of 1 in 12 from south to north.

After construction, the drain was covered in with a mix of soil and any building materials that had been excavated [040] (not shown), including chalkstones and cobblestones from the pavement and gully. This was topped off within the upper section of the cut with a mixture of chalk rubble and broken brick in a weak lime mortar [006/030]. Finally, the whole area of the track, pavement and gully was covered with similar building rubble in a weak lime mortar [030], bringing this area up to the level of the central area [031] and creating a gentle and even slope downwards from west to east. This mortared rubble layer

extended into the southern and western baulks where it was tapering out in thickness. The geophysics suggests it does not continue for any great distance. There was no sign that this rough rubble surface had been finished to create a smooth driveway.

It is important to note here that the mortared brick and chalk rubble upper fill [006] of the drain cut was wrongly interpreted in 2009 as the remains of a probably Tudor period outer wall. Rather than the gravel hard-surface [004] being laid up to this supposed 'wall', it is now clear that [004] was cut through to insert the drain and then back-filled with [006]. Likewise, the widening out of the supposed 'wall' in the south-west corner, interpreted in 2009 as the possible corner of a gatehouse, proved to be simply a corner of layer [006=030] overlying the gravel hard-surface [004].

The upper layers of Trench 1 showed that in the final act of returning the old manor house site to parkland, the remains of the demolished buildings were covered over with a layer of clean, medium, sub-angular flint gravel to level the site and provide drainage, finished off with topsoil and seeded to grass.

Discussion and provisional interpretation

The focus of the 2010 excavation was to try to locate a gateway or gatehouse into the courtyard. No mention of the discovery of such has been made so far in our description of the archaeology, so we must now address this important issue.

We will start by outlining what we might expect to find at a manor house such as Brightwell Park, which spans the medieval, Tudor and early post-Medieval periods. Gatehouses first appeared as a defensive feature of castles, spreading to cathedral, abbey and monastic enclosures in the late 13th and 14th centuries in response to increasing social unrest. The purely domestic gatehouse is essentially a feature of the later medieval period. (Wood, 1965). The

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nature of domestic gateways changed over time, from being a simple gate in a courtyard wall in the earlier medieval to a large and often decorative gatehouse in the late medieval and early Tudor periods. Defining the formal approach to a house, an elaborate gatehouse became a fashion statement, declaring the wealth and status of the owner and often displaying his heraldry. Increased stability in the late Tudor and Jacobean periods, together with growing French and Italian influences on fashions, brought significant changes to domestic house and garden layouts. (Strong, 1979). The house became outward looking. Old Medieval courtyard walls were demolished or reduced in height to open up the house to the view, and to be viewed, and houses were remodelled to reflect the new fashion for symmetry. The owners of Brightwell Park during this period were sufficiently influential at court and at times wealthy enough to have kept up with these changing fashions (Fraser, 1988). But what evidence do we have from Trench 1 to suggest that they did so?

The major features across the centre of the 2010 trench are aligned on an important cross-axis of the complex and clearly represent an approach to the house of some status. It is not unreasonable to suppose that somewhere here there was a gateway and perhaps a gatehouse at some point in time. Indeed we can fairly say that even if we have not found an actual gateway, we have much that tells us where it must once have been. But the evidence is perhaps more compelling than that.

The gap between the room with the mortar floor in the north-east corner and the building in the south-east corner, defines the entranceway into the medieval courtyard. The most likely location for a gate in this period would be in the line of outer wall [016] if projected across this entranceway. The wall is thick enough (*c* 1m) to have been built of solid masonry to a sufficient height and the area at the truncated end of this wall might be where part of the wall and a substantial doorpost (as suggested in 2009) was removed. Whether the outer wall continued beyond the entranceway for any appreciable distance, or doglegged to meet the building in the south-east corner, is unproven, although the latter seems more likely. It is possible that the projected wall is the outer wall of a typical 14th century 'oblong block' gatehouse with integral porter's lodge (Wood, 1965, p157), with the inner wall perhaps being in line with wall [049]; there is slight evidence that the latter may once have extended southwards. The room on the north side is certainly the right size and location for a porter's lodge. The possible doorway in the south-west corner of this room could provide access to the entranceway, but only if the main gate was located far enough away for the gate leaf (which would open inwards) not to block the doorway. Even then access would be inconvenient, so with this layout it seems less likely this was doorway. A final possibility is that the outer wall of the gatehouse projected forward of the line of [016], which might then give the necessary clearance for the porter's doorway here, especially if the main gate was doubled with a small pedestrian gate on the north side, a layout popular in the late medieval period (Wood, 1965, p.157). Whatever the layout was, there would have been a track approaching the gate from the west. But the elaborate threshold features revealed across the middle of the trench are clearly of later construction.

We know that outer wall [016] was demolished at some time and appears to have been truncated, and that both it and the adjacent mortar floor were covered over with a heavily compacted (indurated) flint gravel layer [004]. The 'porter's lodge' on the north side of the entranceway then ceased to exist. (Subsidence noted in this room may have been one factor prompting this change.) This new gravel layer formed an exterior hard-surface which extended eastwards for several metres and southwards cross the entranceway as [048]. This hard-surface is clearly an integral part of the constructions in Trench 1 that provided a new, robust and decorative threshold to the gate. But was this for the old gate/gatehouse or for a new one, and if new, what form did it take?

Across the approach, the gravel threshold [048] slopes up from the gulley to the level area [031] occupying the central area of the trench. This level area, centred on the entranceway, is quite different and clearly not of the same quality or construction as the rest of the new threshold features. The rough, chalkstone layer occupies a sub-rectangular area of *c* 5.5m (18ft) north-south by 3m (10ft) east-west and appears to be a fill for an area exposed by the removal of some large structure. And the only likely structure here is a gatehouse. The area is not large but is sufficient for a modest gatehouse, appropriate in scale to the manor house. If the structure was an existing gatehouse (but without the porter's lodge) then it confirms that this projected forward of the line of wall [016], as suggested above. But given the apparent truncation of the earlier wall, it is possible that a new gatehouse was built. In the late 15th and early 16th centuries, which is when this change appears to have taken place, the fashion was for symmetrical, tall gatehouses, often built in brick (Wood, 1965, p161). It seems likely that either a new gatehouse was built or an existing one was remodelled in a more elaborate, taller, style. This would have had a four-centred arch with a rectangular frame or label and a decorative window above. Plenty of constructional chalkstone and Tudor brick fragments have been recovered from the site, including some bricks with rubbed mouldings and chamfers. The late Tudor dovecote built of chalkstone with brick door and window surrounds may well echo the style of this earlier Tudor gatehouse. Regrettably, there was insufficient time to excavate the quantity of chalk rubble that made up layer [031], so any direct evidence for the gatehouse remains buried.

The final stage reflects clearly the Jacobean /early post-medieval fashion for opening up the house to view. The gatehouse was demolished and the foundation area filled in, but leaving the approach features in place. Any medieval buildings on the west side of the courtyard were demolished along with the old courtyard wall. A new, low, courtyard wall was built on the same line, with a narrower opening, probably with decorative pillars. The new entranceway was slightly to the right of centre of the old gate, suggesting the front of the house may have been remodelled with a central porch, in line with the new symmetrical fashion. (The geophysics hints at a similar gap further south in the line of this wall, maintaining symmetry.) Later it seems that this entrance too was closed off, which must mean that a new entry to the house was devised. Given the layout of the formal, 18th century carriage drives, arrival would still have been to this area, so an entry through the

north wing seems possible. Two brick foundation pads found in 2009 hint at a remodelling of the façade here.

The insertion of the drain and levelling of the area with rubble is difficult to date with certainty. The rubble layer contained a substantial quantity of ceramics from the late 17th and 18th centuries, but nothing later than about the 1750s, so whether the work pre- or post-dated the 1788 fire is unclear at this stage. It may have been work in progress to create an improved turning area for carriages, or could be a need to improve drainage and ease the work of transporting salvaged materials to the new manor house site. Given the quality of the work carried out on the drain, the former seems more likely.

In summary, the 2010 excavation uncovered the fine approach features forming the threshold for a gatehouse in the Tudor period, and evidence for an earlier medieval gate or gatehouse with integral porter's lodge. Although the excavation stopped short of finding direct evidence for the gatehouse, the indirect evidence from the surrounding archaeology leaves little doubt about where it once stood - on the high central area of the 2010 trench. The dig revealed too that the Tudor gatehouse was demolished in the 17th century to make way for the new, outward-looking fashions of the post-medieval, hinting at more wide scale changes to the house itself. It seems that the owners of Brightwell at this time were indeed "Keeping up with the Joneses".

Acknowledgments

A community project's success is dependent on the enthusiasm and skill of its volunteers. We would therefore like to thank all who took part in the excavation, not least Site Supervisor Janet Eastment, Finds Officer Catherine Clarke, and Site Organiser Mike Vincent, and to congratulate them on their achievement. Our grateful thanks go once again to our enthusiastic and supportive landowners, Tessa and Nigel Mogg, who this year had the pleasure of walking through the gateway to the old house.

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STANFORD IN THE VALE RESEARCH PROJECT

Priors Farm (SU 3443 9364)

David Ashby

Introduction

The Stanford in the Vale Research Project is an ongoing project which commenced in 2008. The project's aims are to either prove or disprove the theory that Stanford in the Vale was an early Medieval town which then, at some point, reduced in size to that of a village, which it remains to this day. During the 2009 excavation season two trenches were excavated, within which two Anglo-Saxon features (a pit and short section of wall), two Medieval buildings, and a Medieval cobbled surface, were found, along with finds material. Residual finds material from the Roman and Bronze Age was also found.

During the 2010 season no archaeological excavation work was carried out and, instead, archaeological survey work was undertaken. The techniques utilised in the field, and the results from these discussed below, were: an earthworks survey; resistivity survey; magnetometry survey; ground penetrating radar; and an auger survey. Also discussed is the work which is proposed to be carried out during the 2011 excavation season.

Archaeological survey

The first three techniques utilised were resistivity, earthwork and auger survey. From these three techniques mixed results occurred. The resistivity survey results showed very few archaeological features, and this is mostly thought to be due to a problem with the equipment.

The earthwork survey which was carried out came out with more promising results. From the examination of the data, two main types of archaeological feature were found. These were: five raised building platforms, including two never before recorded; and a large raised area in the north-west corner of the field. This area has been interpreted as being a possible enclosure surrounded by a ditch, which was partially shown on the 2008 magnetometry data and the 2010 GPR data. In addition, from the earthwork survey, it can be seen that the field drops by 4.26m from the western end to the eastern end of the field. This is most likely due to the brook which is located at the eastern end of field.

The last main survey technique used, which produced mixed results, was that of the auger survey. Three main areas were examined using this technique, and within these areas four waterlogged samples were taken. From Area One, it was thought to be unlikely that the spring within the field has always been located in its current position, and instead had been moved at some point in the past. This is because large quantities of wheat, barley seed and charcoal were found within a sealed context at the base of the spring and, due to the amount and type of material found, it is thought that it derives from pit features rather than the spring.

The results from the survey in Area Two have shown that, within this transect, there was most likely a ditch running north-south dividing the current field into two separate fields. From this area one soil sample was also taken, and

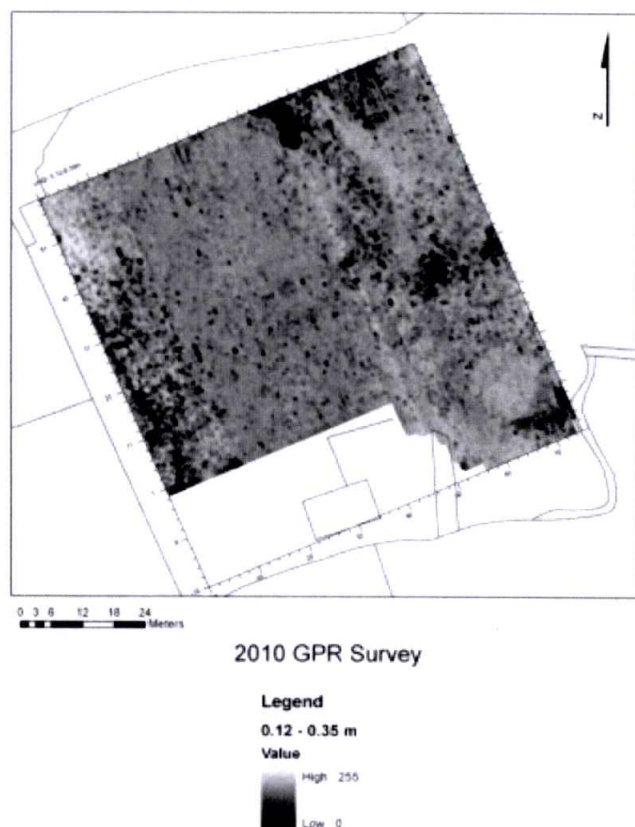


Fig 9. Results from Slice Two of the GPR survey on the western end of Prior Farm field, Stanford in the Vale.

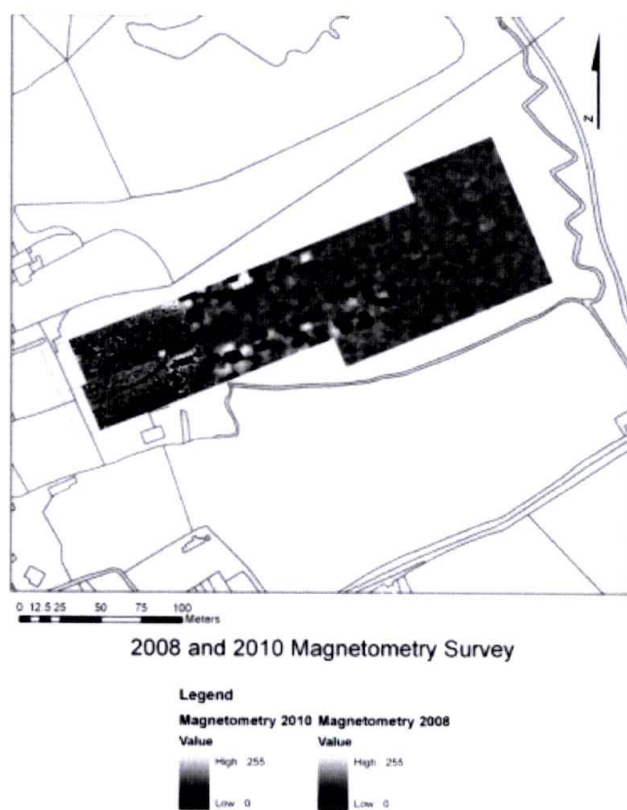


Fig 10. The Magnetometry data from the 2010 survey season at Priors Farm, Stanford in the Vale.

was found to contain a large quantity of charcoal. This is thought to derive from the primary fill of the ditch, making the ditch approximately 1.35m in depth. The third and final area where this survey was undertaken came up with mixed results. One of the reasons for this was the weather conditions when the survey took place as the ground was extremely dry which meant it was hard to get the augur to reach the bedrock. However, this third survey area is thought to be the most likely natural location of the spring prior to it being relocated to its current position.

The other two survey techniques used, ground penetrating radar and magnetometry, as discussed below, have been shown to indicate a large number of more important archaeological features within the field.

Ground Penetrating Radar

The ground penetrating radar survey took place in the top western half of the field, in the same location as the 2008 magnetometry survey, and 41 data slices, to a depth of 5m were produced. From these data eight main archaeological features (most of which were previously unknown), of multi-periods and multi-interpretations were found. These features can be divided into three main periods: Medieval; prehistoric; and an unknown or multi-period date. The Medieval features are: a cellared building, a cobbled surface and a pond; the prehistoric features are: a possible mini-henge monument (located in the north east corner of the data) and a possible ditch/palaeochannel; the features of an unknown date are: an enclosure ditch, a shaft (shown to be 4.17m deep), and a number of pits. The ditch and shaft (located at the western edge of the data) are probably to be interpreted as a prehistoric ditched enclosure with an entrance containing the shaft feature (see Fig 9 for their relationship). However, it is possible that the two features are not related and the shaft could be a deep Medieval well, whilst the ditch is from an earlier period.

One of the main, and most important, archaeological features found on the ground penetrating radar survey is that of a possible mini-henge feature located in the North East corner of the survey data, which can be seen in Fig 9. From the plot, it can be seen that the feature is constructed out of nine separate pit-shaped features, which make a C-shape with the entrance pointing towards the east. These nine pits are all of a similar size and depth (0.9m in diameter and between 0.25m and 0.35m in depth), and are all spaced at similar intervals (between 1.2m and 1.3m apart). In addition, the size of the feature is significant as it measures about 7.2m east-west by 7.8m north-south, and because of its size and the size of the individual pits, it has been interpreted as a mini-henge, and therefore is an extremely important addition to the archaeology of the local area.

Magnetometry

The magnetometer survey was carried out in the western end of the field, and was undertaken in order to complete the previous magnetometry survey which was started in 2008 (at the top end of the field). The results from this survey can be seen in Fig 10. It can be seen from this figure, like that of the ground penetrating radar survey, that many different types of features of different dates can be seen, and also the data can be divided into two main areas of archaeological

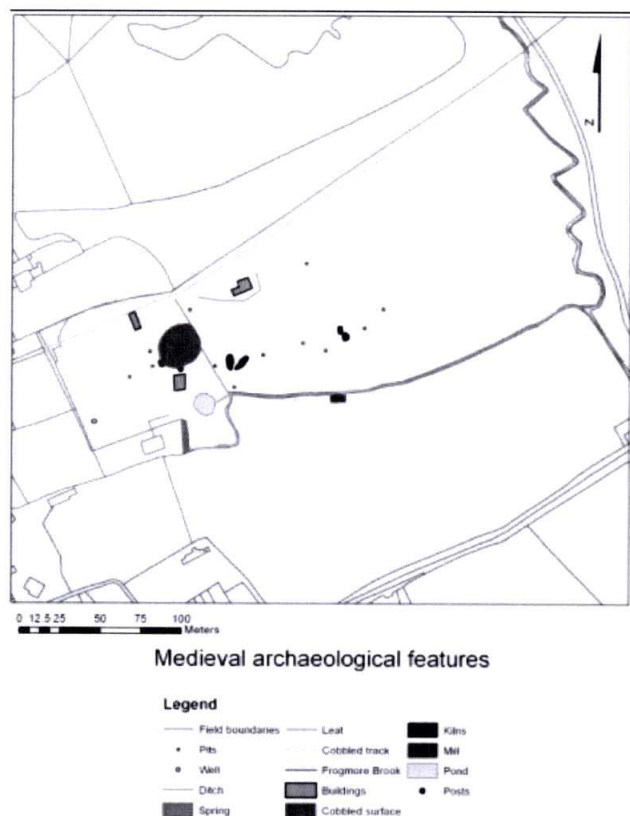


Fig 11. The Medieval features currently identified within Priors Farm field, Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire, including the Medieval Water Mill and its associated features.

activity: the southern side of the field, and the northern side of the field. On the south side of the field most of the features are currently interpreted as being a set of kilns and a large number of possible pits or dumps of modern metal working debris (such as found in Trench Nine during the 2009 excavation season). The features on the northern side of the field are: a possible U-shaped enclosure ditch; at least one possible building (rectangular in shape), contained within the U-shaped enclosure; and a small amount of possible pits, similar to those shown on the southern side of the data. All the features which can be seen on the survey to date, bar that of the possible dumps of modern metal material, are currently thought to date from either the late Saxon or Medieval periods. However, this date cannot be confirmed at present as none of these features have been excavated.

Finally, also shown on the magnetometry data (Fig 10) is the area to the east end of the plot which shows no archaeological features. It is currently thought that due to the amount of archaeology found across the rest of the field, this area also contains archaeological features, which are most likely buried under a deep layer of alluvial sediments, which would have been deposited during the flooding episodes of Frogmore Brook. This material is most likely to be more than 1m deep meaning that the magnetometer could not pick up these features beneath the alluvial material. Due to this the only way to find any archaeological remains at this end of the field will be by carrying out a ground penetrating radar or auger survey or through excavation.

Conclusion

From the work which has been carried out during both 2010 and the previous two seasons, some interpretation can be made about the archaeology contained within the field. One of the main periods which can be seen to be very important within the field's heritage is that of the Medieval period. This is due to the large quantity of features which have been found within the field from this period, and can be seen within Fig 11. Also from this period, there is one group of features which can be seen as being more important than the others, as the discovery of them may rewrite the area's heritage. These important features are that of the pond (mentioned in the ground penetrating radar data), leat (now presently a stream) and a large and substantial stone-built structure (Ashby, 2010) which has been interpreted as a Medieval water mill and associated features, all of which were previously unknown.

Aims of 2010 excavations

During the 2011 excavation season, it is hoped that the project will be expanded into the village and local community of Stanford in the Vale. Because of this, the project is to be split into three main phases. The first is test pitting which is to be undertaken by the local community in their back gardens. This should produce a spread of data across the village, and so help to understand the village's archaeology and heritage further. The second phase is to undertake a geophysical survey of some of the open fields surrounding the village and the third is to excavate one trench within the Priors Farm field to examine the shaft feature on the ground penetrating radar data.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations that helped me during the project. Special thanks to Jim and Sylvia Thornycroft, for allowing the project to undertake excavation and survey on their land. Thanks should also go to Oxfordshire's County Archaeologist, Paul Smith, for supporting my work on the site. And lastly thanks to the organisations which have helped the project: the academics and the volunteer group at the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford University; Kristian Strutt, Geophysical Researcher at the University of Southampton, for helping to carry out the ground penetrating radar survey; and the academic staff at the Department of Archaeology, the University of Winchester.

Bibliography

Ashby D 2010; Stanford in the Vale, Prior Farm. *SMA* 39: 28-29

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Benson, Land at Littleworth Road (SU 61509200)

Andrew Weale

Evaluation trenching revealed occupation and landscape activity across much of the site. A modest collection of artefacts was recovered. Several periods were represented by Mesolithic/Neolithic flintwork and pottery of the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, Middle/Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and post-Medieval periods, but few of the cut features were well dated.

Bicester, Wendlebury Road (SP 57302094)

James Lewis

A single evaluation trench revealed the remains of a cobbled limestone Roman road surface and a moderate amount of 3rd to 4th century Roman pottery and other finds (nails, iron slag, glass, ceramic building material) all also likely to be Roman. The site is on the line of the road from Alchester to *Lactodorum*, modern Towcester. The absence of any trace of the road from a previous evaluation trench to the north may suggest either that its line took a course slightly west of Wendlebury road further north (closer to the modern A41), or that it had been removed by the construction of the modern Wendlebury Road at that location.

Bicester, Langford Park Farm, London Road (SP 58452134)

Andy Taylor

Evaluation trenching showed that two periods are represented by deposits across the site: early Roman and late Saxon. The deposits comprised linear features, pits and a posthole with a Roman buried soil or midden at the eastern end of the site. A single prehistoric flint flake was also recovered.

Bicester, Green Lane, Chesterton (SP 55902110)

Andrew Munding, James Lewis

The evaluation revealed very few features, the best of which was a stone-lined drain. None of the features could be dated and no pre-modern artefacts were recovered.

Bicester, Church of Immaculate Conception, The Causeway (SP 58352237)

James Lewis and James McNicoll-Norbury

A number of archaeological features were identified during a watching brief and excavation including the edge of a Saxon cemetery (at least eight graves), pits, a posthole and a ditch. Post-excavation work is in its early stages

Burcot, The Close Care Home, Abingdon Road

(SU 56319592)

Tim Dawson, Susan Colley, Andrew Munding

Neither archaeological deposits nor finds were observed during the watching brief.

Cholsey, 25 Station Road (SU 58728641)

Andy Taylor

Evaluation revealed linear features representing field or paddock boundaries tentatively dated to the Roman period (and one to the later Roman period) but the pottery recovered could just as easily be residual in features of Saxon, Medieval or later date. A late post-Medieval posthole was also identified and a single struck flint of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date recovered.

Church Enstone, St Kenelm's Church (SP 37952512)

James McNicoll-Norbury

A watching brief observed what may be the remains of an earlier (Medieval) phase of the church, three graves, one of which is of medieval or earlier date, and a small amount of disarticulated human bone. Pottery finds included sherds of Roman, Medieval and post-Medieval date.

Dorchester-on-Thames, St Birinus School

(SU 57899438)

Tim Dawson

Two late Roman pits and a late Roman ditch were recorded in a watching brief. It is possible that the ditch is a part of the defences of the town. If so its late infilling date is especially significant. The alignment of this feature would, however, suggest the defences headed towards the river rather than forming the classic playing-card shape normally posited for Dorchester; there is as yet no evidence for the eastern side of the defences. An alternative might be to see this ditch as part of the boundary of a precinct around the Abbey, which would also probably be in this position, although in that case all the pottery must be redeposited; there seems to be enough pottery (119 sherds), however, and in good enough condition, to discount this as unlikely. A single sherd of 5th century pottery tentatively suggests the presence of sub-Roman occupation on or near the site.

Enstone, Land at Cox's Lane (SP37802395)

James Lewis

An undated ditch, and a possible pit and possible gully were the only features recorded in an evaluation; there were no finds.

Faringdon, Bowling Green Farm Quarry, Chinham Farm (SU314949)

Andrew Weale

Excavation of 1.5ha of land revealed a series of enclosures of Iron Age and Roman dates, and a handful of earlier (Bronze Age) features. Among the small collection of

prehistoric flints is a surprisingly high proportion likely to be of Mesolithic date. Post-excavation work is ongoing.

Goring-on-Thames, Nursery Farm, Gatehampton Road
(SU 60707980)

Andrew Munding

No features were discovered in a watching brief, but two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the subsoil.

Hinton Waldrist, St Margaret's Church Graveyard Extension (SU 37499910)

Andrew Munding

Evaluation by auger survey identified silt/clay deposits associated with a large, deep feature, representing a continuation of the extant moat to the north east beyond its current terminal. It is assumed that the moat had been backfilled during the extensive landscaping of the grounds in the 17th century though no dating evidence was produced. Waterlogging had led to the preservation of organic remains in the lower ditch fills.

North Stoke, Black Barn Farm (SU 62158652)

Andrew Weale, Andrew Munding, Susan Colley

Evaluation trenching confirmed the presence of a ditch known from aerial photographic evidence to be part of a cropmark enclosure complex, and suggested a late Roman date for its filling. A small amount of Roman tile in the ditch also suggests a building in the vicinity. Four features were discovered during subsequent monitoring of topsoil stripping, away from the cropmarks. Two of these were small pits of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date, a third was undated and the fourth, probably a tree hole. Prehistoric flint flakes and a sherd of post-Medieval pottery were also recovered.

Oxford, The Warden's Lodgings, 19 Merton Street
(SP 51900615)

James Lewis

No archaeological deposits were identified in a watching brief.

Oxford, Lincoln College Garden Building, Lincoln College (SU 51506208)

James Lewis

No deposits pre-dating late post-Medieval times were revealed in test pits. Residual pottery of Medieval and later date was recovered.

Oxford, Trajan House, Mill Street, Osney
(SP 50400595)

Tim Dawson, Andy Taylor, Andrew Munding

Two lift pits were observed during excavation. A layer in each lift pit, at a depth of c 0.6m, contained 15th/16th century pottery, but also more modern finds. The lowest levels

could not be clearly identified as being of Medieval date, as no finds were recovered.

Oxford, 2 Lanham Way, Littlemore (SP53600265)

James Lewis

No artefacts or deposits of archaeological interest were found in evaluation trenching.

Oxford, Wood Farm Primary School, Titup Hall Drive, Headington (SP 55150625)

James McNicoll-Norbury

During a watching brief, a single sherd of Roman greyware pottery was recovered from the stripped surface of the natural geology across the site but no deposits of archaeological interest were present.

Stonor, Stonor Arms Hotel (SU 73678853)

Tim Dawson, Susan Colley, Andrew Munding

Watching brief observations were carried out during machine levelling of the soil bank to the rear of the site and footing trenches for the new construction. These confirmed only the remodelling of the site and building during development of the 18th century Stonor Arms Hotel and grounds. Observations were also made to the minimal modifications to the 18th/19th century core of the building.

Thame, Church Farm (SP 70900690)

Andy Taylor

Seven areas were excavated, with the largest centred on a substantial ring ditch. The main excavation identified six, possibly seven late Neolithic grooved ware pits which produced three radiocarbon dates between 3111 and 2903 cal BC, a large diameter Early Bronze Age ring ditch with a radiocarbon date of 1979-1772 cal BC, and an early Iron Age pit alignment. The other smaller excavation areas contained gullies of possible Roman and post-medieval date and a probable post-medieval trackway.

Wallingford, Land off Bell Lane, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell (SU 58389098)

James Lewis

Evaluation revealed two very shallow gullies, probably reflecting the presence of a boundary, which seem likely to be of late Saxon or Medieval date, though the only finds were two sherds of Wallingford ware and a single residual sherd of Roman pottery.

Wallingford, New Moorings, Riverside Park
(SU 61098954)

Tim Dawson

Several finds representing a variety of time periods were recovered from material dredged from the River Thames. These include an Anglo-Saxon iron spearhead (Fig 12) and a sherd of Medieval Wallingford ware pottery.



Fig 12. Damaged Anglo-Saxon sword-headed spear from Wallingford, New Moorings, Riverside Park.

Wallingford, Flood Compensation Area, Riverside Park
(SU 61128934)

Jacqueline Pitt

Despite the limited extent of the watching brief, the site has produced potentially significant results. A ditch that was uncovered is very close to the line of the parish boundary, which is thought to reflect the historic borough's bridgehead defences. Although it appears to be on a slightly different alignment, the ditch may be close enough to be part of earthworks rather than the boundary. Its width is great enough to suggest it served a defensive purpose, and although the small portion excavated was shallow, the full ditch may have been much deeper. Unfortunately no dating evidence was retrieved.

Wallingford, Former Scout Hut, St Georges Road
(SU 6042589675)

Andy Taylor, Andrew Munding, Jacqueline Pitt

The site of this watching brief lies immediately outside the earthwork rampart of the M

edieval town ditch on its west side next to the open area known as Bull Croft. This ditch is thought to follow the defences of the 'burh', dating from the 9th century, at which time Wallingford was part of a network of defended towns within the Thames Valley. An edge of an original cut for this ditch was identified on the site, within the east side of both of the new footings, under made ground. This places it 2-2.5m west of the extant west edge of the town ditch. The ditch seen here cannot be dated, but its partial filling along this west side may be relatively recent.

Wallingford, Land at Winterbrook Lane (SU60298842)
James Lewis

Two undated pits and two undated features that could be pits or ditch termini were the only features recorded in an evaluation.

Wallingford, Land at Winterbrook (SU59108840)
James Lewis

Two phases of evaluation trenching confirmed the presence of a number of archaeological features (some already

identified from geophysical survey and aerial photographs) and showed that these span several phases of activity, but with an appreciable density only in the early Iron Age. The remains encountered may be considered typical of this part of the Thames Valley, spanning the late Bronze Age, early Iron Age, Roman (primarily late Roman) and Medieval periods. An isolated Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age grave was also present. Areas of high archaeological potential have already been excluded from the development area by design.

Wallingford, 60 Radnor Road (SU 59898954)
Sean Wallis

A small excavation area revealed two gully termini, dating from the middle to late Iron Age, possibly part of a ring gully ditch. All the remaining features appear to be Roman in date and, where they can be more closely dated, suggest settlement activity during the 3rd to 4th century. Although a large number of Roman coins have been found in the wider area around Wallingford, there is little evidence for substantial settlement in the town itself at this time; most of the Roman finds have come from either the western part of the Saxon walled town, or the area outside it. The deposits recorded here therefore appear to indicate another location of Roman occupation in this western area of Wallingford.

Wallingford, Cromwell Lodge, Thames Street
(SU 60888922)

James McNicoll-Norbury

Two Late Saxon features were identified in the watching brief, with sherds of Saxon pottery also recovered from layers elsewhere on the site.

Wantage, 53-67 Newbury Street (SU 39958752)
James Lewis

Evaluation trenching uncovered several shallow linear and curvilinear gullies of certain and probable archaeological origin, along with a buried soil layer, dating from medieval times. Both early and late medieval pottery was recovered along with a few residual prehistoric struck flints.

Wantage, Grove Airfield (SU39508940)
James Lewis

A ditch and a pit containing probable Middle Bronze Age pottery were revealed in one evaluation trench located on the proposed site of the sports pavilion. The other trenches contained nothing of archaeological interest with only 19th and 20th century deposits revealed on the site of Barwell Farm.

Witney, SSE Power Cable, Langel Common, Cogges
(SP 35960978 to SP 36220978 to SP 36200988)
Susan Colley

No archaeological features were observed nor artefacts recovered during the watching brief.

THE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE PROJECT

Stephen Miles

The South Oxfordshire Project is an interdisciplinary historical/archaeological investigation of landscape, settlement and society in South Oxfordshire from the early Anglo-Saxon period to the 17th century. The first phase of the project (to April 2012) is being run by Oxford University History Faculty and the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire and is funded by OUP's John Fell fund. Further funding is being sought to extend this to a four-year research programme resulting in a substantial monograph. The study area, which covers over 10,000ha, comprises the ancient parishes of Ewelme hundred: Benson, Berrick Salome, Brightwell Baldwin, Chalgrove, Cuxham, Easington, Ewelme, Great Haseley, Newington, Nettlebed, Nuffield, Swyncombe, Warborough, and Warpsgrove. This area, which is being studied at the same time by the VCH, includes the important Anglo-Saxon royal centre at Benson, and encompasses contrasting landscapes: villages and open fields in the clay vale, and dispersed hamlets, early enclosures, and wood-pasture in the Chilterns uplands. The project has the potential to make a major contribution to our understanding of the long-term development of the English countryside. Fieldwork is ongoing, including fieldwalking and test-pitting, and anyone interested in taking part should email stephen.miles@history.ox.ac.uk.

Ewelme Manor (SU 6440 9148)

In February and March 2011 Roger Ainslie (Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics) carried out a geophysical survey in the grounds of Ewelme Manor, High Street, Ewelme (Fig 13). The current house is a much-altered survivor of a formerly more extensive residence built by

William and Alice de la Pole in the 1440s, possibly on the site of an earlier manor house. This grand home was one of the most important aristocratic architectural commissions of the 15th century - reflecting the political and social ambitions of its owners - and included a moated courtyard house, a three-range 'base court' beyond (including a gatehouse and accommodation block for servants and guests), and a detached stable and barn. This complex was in disrepair by the early 17th century, when it was largely demolished. The surviving building, probably once part of the southern range of the 'base court', extended further to the south-east until it was reduced in size in the 18th century. Much of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, including a pasture field in the west and part of the large garden east of the house.

Documentary evidence about the house has been explored in some detail, notably by John Goodall, and there have been field inspections, including a preliminary earthwork survey by Oxford Archaeology. However, the site had not previously been subjected to geophysical investigation. Magnetometry showed that the northern and eastern parts of the site were most likely to contain building remains. Resistivity surveying in these areas appears to have located very extensive structural remains, including in the garden. The south-western corner of the moated site stands out clearly in the field west of the house. There is no indication of a substantial ditch separating the moated site and the surviving building, which a 1612 survey describes as being outside the moat. This may accord with an early 18th century engraving, which suggests there was by then only a small water-filled ditch next to this range. An area of high resistance north-west of the moated site may represent old rectangular ponds (shown on an auction catalogue map of 1817) which have been back-filled with rubble. A more detailed picture might be produced by a denser resistivity survey or the use of ground-penetrating radar.



Fig 13. Resistivity survey of Ewelme Manor.

Kamash, Z., Gosden, C. and Lock, G. (with contributions by Elizabeth Brophy, Richard Coe, Roger Glyde, Jane Harrison, Janice Kinory, Paula Levick, Katherine McCullough, Sheila Raven, Jane Smallridge and John Walford)

The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2010: interim report

Introduction

The background to the project and site has been detailed in the previous nine 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; Kamash *et al.* 2007; Kamash *et al.* 2008; Kamash *et al.* 2009; Kamash *et al.* 2010a and 2010b), as well as on the project web site:

<http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/VRP1.html>

As in previous years the excavation acts as a training excavation, and is committed to education in the widest sense. This season's excavation, our tenth overall, saw participants from across the world including the USA and Norway as well as from a selection of British schools and 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 over 1000 people visited the site.

The 2010 Excavation Season [Figs 14 and 15]

Excavations this year were focussed on Trendles Field, in two different areas: the area of the Roman religious complex (MF) and an area of predominantly Iron Age activity (MFP). In MF, Trench 40 was continued from the previous season and Trench 21, which had been investigated in 2004, and 2006 to 2008 was extended to the north. The aim of these trenches was to investigate activity towards the end of the drain leaving the semi-amphitheatre in Trench 40 and to the north-east in Trench 21.

In MFP, Trench 1, which had been subject to flooding in 2007, was reopened, Trench 2 was continued from the previous season, and two new Trenches, 3 and 4, were opened further to the east. All of these trenches were located on interesting geophysical anomalies visible in William Wintle's survey [Fig 15]. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 targeted two sets of rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures in order to develop a deeper understanding of the function and chronology of these features. Trench 4 was placed in an area that seemed to have a very high density of pits to the north of these two sets of enclosures, so that we could investigate the relationship between this cluster of pits and the enclosures.

Excavations in the religious complex (MF10): Trenches 40 and 21

MF10 Trench 40

Excavations continued in Trench 40, c 25m x 25m, in the area of the putative end of the drain. The final destination of the drain [40,007] continues to evade our detection, but is definitely still stone built into the centre of Trench 40. One possibility is that the drain peters out, which would explain why it is so difficult to find. In spite of this, the continued excavation of the ponding deposit (40,058) has proven fruitful. It is hoped that further, detailed analysis of the finds

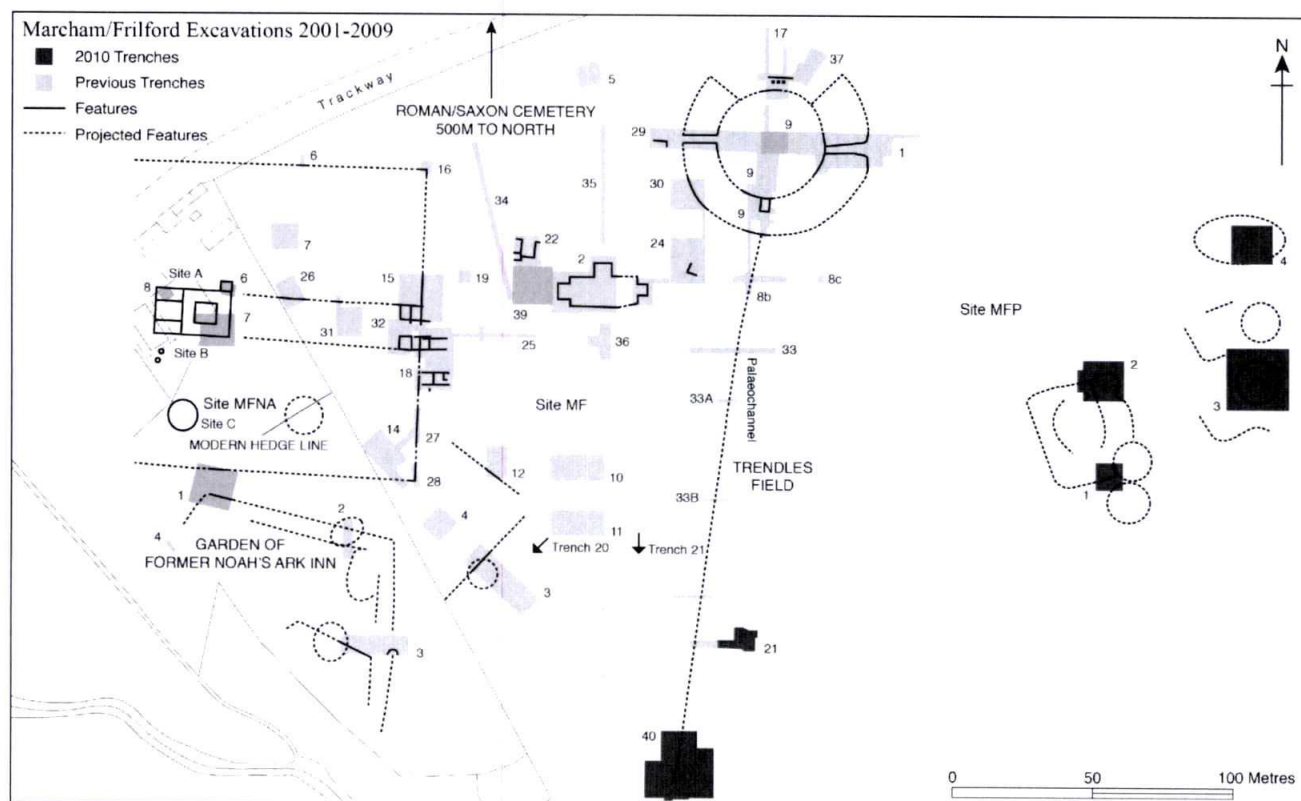
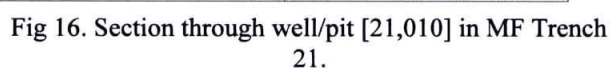


Fig 14. Overall plan of the site showing the different excavation areas and the trenches excavated in 2010.

Ditch Group [1001] was the western terminus of the northern circular enclosure ditch. Ditch cut [1002], c 0.88m wide x c 0.30m deep, was filled with a single fill (1003). The ditch was cut into the reddish subsoil (1044) that covered nearly the entire trench. The ditch fill had a very high charcoal content, along with a relatively large number of

In 2004, excavations in this area revealed a well or large pit [21,010] that had excellent waterlogged preservation at the eastern end of the trench [Fig 16]. The limited excavations in that season yielded a leather shoe and a nearly complete pottery vessel. In this season, a larger area was opened at this eastern end to reveal fully the extent of this feature and ascertain if it was related to any nearby structures (the depth



Oxfordshire

MFP 10

Trench 1

Section 1.02

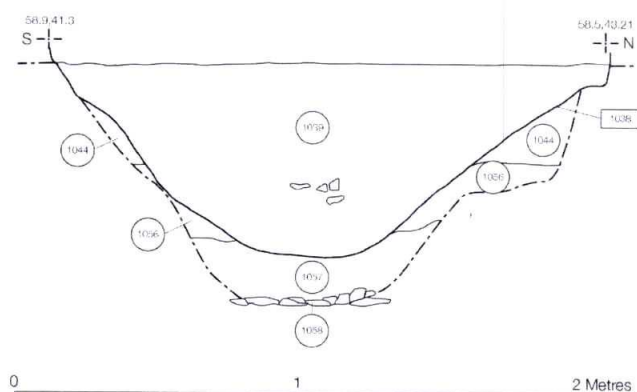


Fig 18. Section through ditch [1038] in MFP Trench 1.

burnt animal bones. The fill also contained fragments of large animal bones, including horse. The ditch is much narrower and shallower than the other enclosure ditches in the trench, [1010], [1013] and [1038]. Presumably, this is due to the fact that the portion of the ditch excavated is a terminus, rather than the main portion of the ditch. Curvilinear ditch [1038] lay to the south of the circular enclosure ditch group [1001]. In 2007, a complete badger skull was recovered from the ditch fill (1039). The ditch, which was *c* 2.0m wide at top and *c* 0.7m deep does appear to have a broader, flat base (*c* 0.6m wide) when compared to the rectangular enclosure ditches, groups [1010] and [1013] [Fig 18].

The southern-side ditch of the rectangular enclosure, group [1010], ran through the centre of the trench. The ditch cut [1061] was a v-shaped ditch *c* 1.5m wide at top and *c* 0.1m wide at the base; it was *c* 0.85m deep. [Fig 19]. The ditch was similar in shape to that found in ditch group [1013] (see below), which is the eastern turn of the rectangular enclosure ditch; however, the southern turn of the ditch was not nearly as deep (less than 1m). A linear feature [1036] cut the fill (1062) of ditch [1061]. This shallow and ill-defined feature contained both limestone blocks and a few examples of modern brick, probably of 19th century date. This may have served as a modern agricultural land drain, although the line of stones stopped abruptly at the western baulk of

MFP 10

Trench 1

Section 1.11

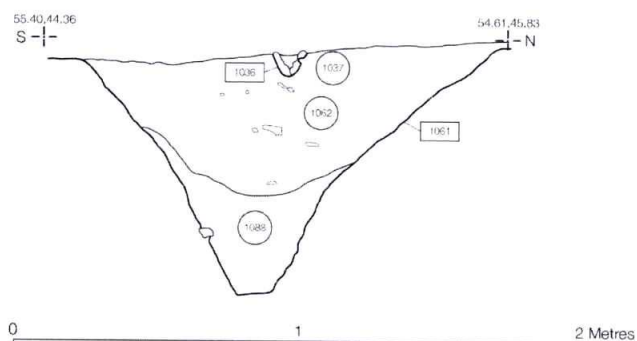


Fig 19. Section through ditch [1061] in MFP Trench 1.

the trench and was not laid out in a fashion to maximize drainage down to the River Ock. A further explanation is that the line of stones and modern brick might represent material dragged into this linear alignment at some point by a farm plough.

The eastern ditch, group [1013], of the rectangular enclosure that was evident on the geophysical survey ran into the northern baulk. Ditch cut [1048] had three separate fills: (1060 - primary), (1063 - secondary) and (1049 - tertiary). The ditch was *c* 2.1m wide at the top and *c* 1.1m deep. The shape of the ditch was similar to that found in ditch group [1010]. The phasing of the different enclosures remains unclear as no direct stratigraphic relationship could be established, but can maybe be established on the basis of pottery evidence.

A series of pits, [1032], [1080] and [1089], were located at the corner of the rectangular enclosure where groups [1010] and [1013] intersected. Small pit [1032] was cut into group [1013]. Its fill (1032) contained Iron Age pottery and animal bone fragments. Pit [1080] was much larger in plan (*c* 1m in diameter) and was probably also later than groups [101] and [1013]. Large sherds from a single large vessel were retrieved from this pit, but unfortunately, due to lack of time, this pit was not fully excavated.

Finally, a group of three discrete pits were located in the southern central area of the trench: [1020], [1006] and [1011]. Pits [1020] and [1006], which were excavated in 2007, were very shallow and only *c* 0.2m deep. Pit [1011] was the only pit in the trench that is visible on the geophysical survey. This pit was half-sectioned and was found to have undercut sides to form a slightly bell-shaped cut. This pit, which was bell-shaped and *c* 0.8m deep, was significantly larger than the other two pits. It contained a single fill (1012) that yielded Iron Age pottery.

MFP10 Trench 2 [Fig 20]

Trench 2 is located on sloping ground with high land to the north-east and low land to the south and south-west. The

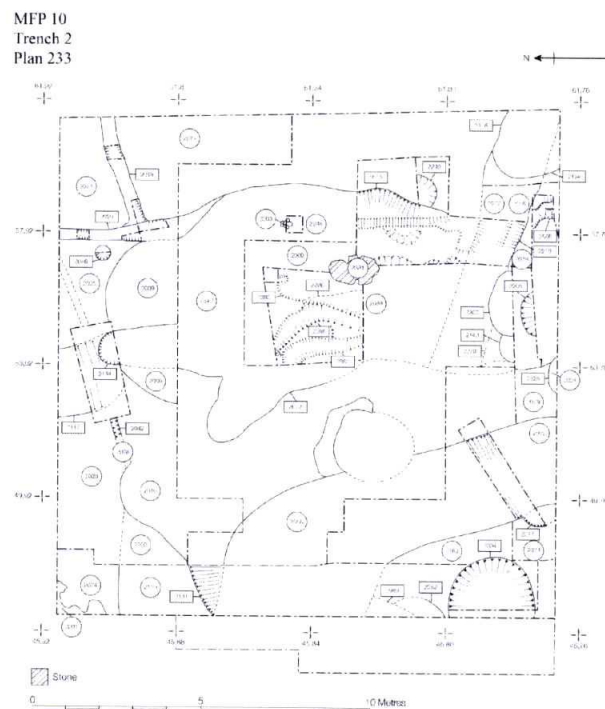


Fig 20. Plan of MFP Trench 2.

bedrock drops almost vertically from 98.06m OD to 96.04m OD, at which depth it is overlain by a thick natural layer of glauconite-rich green sand that is in turn overlain by tufaceous white clay.

Excavations at this level revealed shallow sub-circular cuts into the white clay, particularly [2205] from which spread a lens of dark, charcoal-rich silt and waste material (2178), containing Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age transition pottery recovered in MFP09. Similar deposits were subsequently found to extend non-continuously at an almost uniform average depth of 97.00m OD across the south side of the trench and to have been sealed by substantial deposits of tufaceous and colluvial clays, occasionally interspersed with further dark lenses and bioturbation. Over time, the gradient of these deposits increased, developing a slope silted from the north side. Environmental sampling has shown the tufaceous and colluvial deposits to be sterile.

At the centre of the trench, cut into the tufaceous clays to a depth of 96.51m OD, are two parallel curvilinear features, [2385] and [2386]. It is possible that these were drainage channels, as the primary fills of both are consistent with waterborne silt deposition and excavation in wet weather proved their effectiveness for this purpose. However, both channels are cut through a thin band of green sand at an approximate depth of 96.67m OD, which was weathered during excavation to create a distinctive profile absent from the original section. This suggests that their use may have been necessarily brief. The relationship between these features and the Bronze Age enclosure ditch excavated in MFP09 is uncertain due to the intrusion of later features and can only be said to be broadly contemporaneous.

Throughout the Iron Age, a series of intercutting pits were cut into the tufaceous and colluvial clays. It is possible that their purpose was the quarrying of these deposits, but they were also used for deposition of waste and a single neonatal burial (2140). Many of the pits were contemporary, leaving a large hollow of partially silted features. It was at this time that the Bronze Age D-shaped enclosure was remodelled, with the original ditch re-cut by a v-shaped Iron Age ditch, group [2380], curving sharply south, which was itself re-cut twice. This and another ditch aligned north-west/south-east, group [2379], may have partitioned and reduced the size of the enclosure. The edge of the latter ditch was lower on the north side where it truncated the partially silted pits and was itself truncated by further pits.

The early Roman midden identified in MFP08 was divided by 1m² grids excavated in spits, in order to evaluate the pattern of finds identified in MFP09. The midden comprised three layers: group (2378) in the re-cut Iron Age ditch [2380], mentioned above; group (2377) between [2380] and pit group [2012], and which appeared largely to consist of colluvial silts; and group (2376) that levelled the [2012] pits. The majority of clustered deposits appeared to be within (2378), but concentrations of oyster shell and metal slag were also found elsewhere.

Central within (2376) and over [2012] lay (2381), the largest of three tabular limestone rocks, the others being in (2378), lifted in MFP09, and in the top of what is now known to be an isolated Iron Age pit, [2004], and which was lifted in MFP08. Stone (2381) is 1.5 x 0.9 x 0.3m, with rough circular holes throughout. Some of these holes pierced the entire breadth of the stone, but there was no

evidence of their being other than natural. No distinctive deposits were identified beneath the stone. In addition, it was found to be possible for the stone to stand unsupported on one edge. It seems likely that the holes imbued this stone with an indeterminate significance that warranted its deposition in the midden, possibly as part of a closing event whereby focus shifted toward the religious complex. It is also probable that the holes aided its transportation to that location as the stone itself is of a very great weight. The other stones, none of which were found to have holes, may have inherited significance by association.

The final phase of activity was the cutting of three sub-circular Roman pits of unknown function with vertical sides and flat bases, through the midden layer (2376). Another potential example remains unexcavated, and cuts the Iron Age ditch [2380]. This shows that although the major focus moved towards the west, activity in this area continued longer than previously supposed.

MFP10 Trench 3 [Figs 21 and 22]

Trench 3 was located over a large curvilinear anomaly visible in the geophysical survey [Fig 15] to elucidate its purpose and its relationship with the nearby enclosures. In 2010, the principal aim of Trench 3 was to investigate this curvilinear ditch [3011] and some of its associated features. All the features excavated cut through a yellowish-red layer (3035) that spread throughout the trench. It appears to have been hill wash from the area of Trench 4 and provided the trench with a very different landscape to Trenches 1, 2, and especially 4. Excavation in the south-east corner suggests that there might be archaeology underneath this layer.

Ditch [3011] was approximately 18m in diameter, c 2m wide and 1.10m deep, with a v-shaped profile, into which several interventions were made. On the eastern side ditch there was an entrance, aligned to the south-east; here the termini of the ditch were distinctive as they were cut square, in both plan and profile [3119 and 3084] [Fig 22]. In the

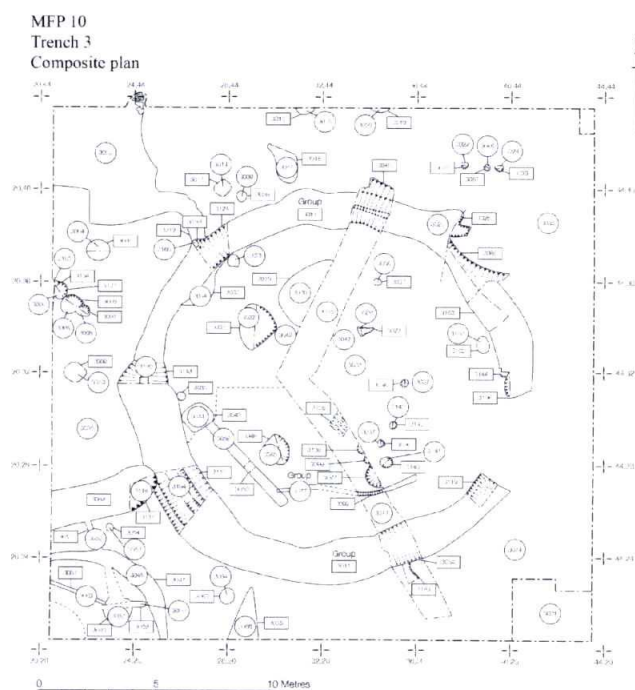


Fig 21. Plan of MFP Trench 3.

Oxfordshire

MFP 10
Trench 3
Sections 3.36 & 3.37

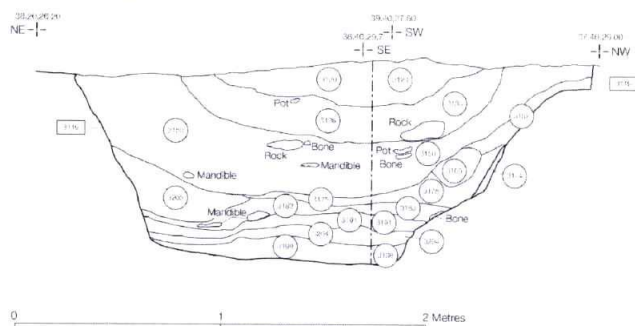


Fig 22. Composite section of ditch terminus [3119] in MFP Trench 3.

upper fills of the ditch a large amount of metalwork was uncovered including brooches and rings of early Roman date. In the lower fills, there was a discrepancy in finds between the northern and southern sides of the ditch; on the southern side and at the ditch termini a number of finds clusters consisting of a large amount of animal bones and some Iron Age pot sherds were found, this in contrast to the northern side which produced no such evidence. The clustering of finds suggests that this discrepancy is not due to erosion and hill wash, but rather was a set of deliberate acts of deposition in the southern part of the ditch. Inside the ditch a number of pits, gullies and postholes were identified and excavated. They were all shallow with limited finds.

The function of the curvilinear enclosure is not clear, but it does not appear to be straightforwardly domestic. It is too large to be a roundhouse. Although an arc of postholes was found towards the eastern entrance to the enclosure, there do not seem to be sufficient numbers of these for a house structure. The contrast in finds between the northern and southern parts of ditch [3011] and between the ditch and the pits inside the enclosure is also hard to explain. It is unusual to find a ditch that is more finds rich than its associated pits, which either suggests that these features are of different dates or were subject to very different depositional practices, as was suggested for the different sides of the ditch itself. The presence of metalwork in the top fills of the ditch suggests that the enclosure still held some importance into the early Roman period. Further analysis of the finds and their patterning may help us to unravel the function of this enclosure.

Outside the ditch, pits in the northern and western sides of the trench were excavated; they were also shallow with limited finds. Also identified was a second ditch in the north-western corner [3002] and a series of pits and gullies in the south-western corner [3047, 3049, 3059, 3061]. These will be investigated further, along with the curvilinear ditch, next season.

MFP10 Trench 4 [Figs 23-25]

Trench 4 was located over a distinctive cluster of pits visible on the geophysics. This cluster, the northern extent of which is obscured on the geophysics by interference from an electricity pylon, appears to be very tightly bounded, but there is no ditch or other form of physical boundary visible

MFP 10
Trench 4
Plan 400

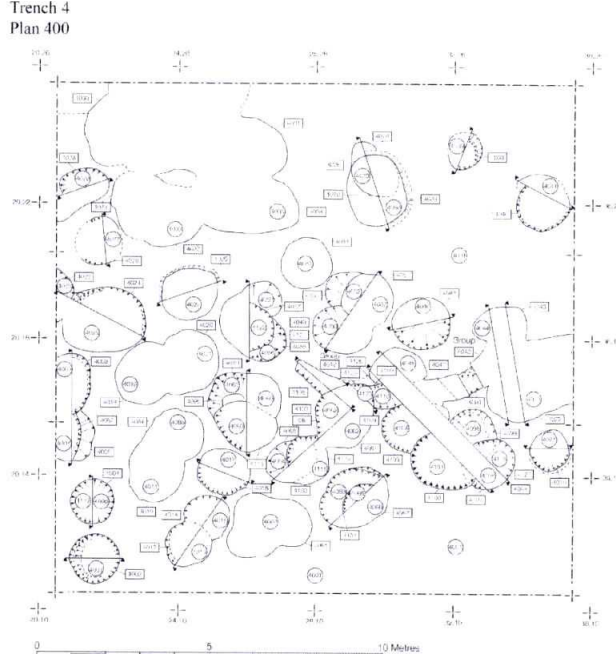


Fig 23. Plan of MFP Trench 4.

MFP 10
Trench 4
Section 4.14

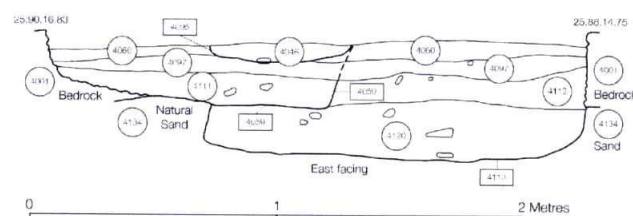


Fig 24. Section through pits [4095], [4059] and [4113] in MFP Trench 4.

in the survey. This lack of physical boundary was confirmed by the excavations.

The trench contained *c* 40 inter-cutting and discrete pits cut through the bedrock, which was only *c* 0.1-0.2m beneath the top surface. The lack of the reddish brown soil covering the bedrock that is characteristic of the majority of the rest of the site is notable here. This is particularly striking given the depth at which the bedrock lies in Trenches 2 and presumably 3. This implies, firstly, that the ground may have dropped off more dramatically in the past than the current topography would suggest and, secondly, that there has been significant erosion in this area. The second suggestion is confirmed by the shallowness of the pits, many of which were less than 0.5m deep [Fig 24]. Some of the finds in the eastern part of Trench 3 almost certainly derive from the area in and around Trench 4. Despite the heavy truncation that these pits have suffered, some significant finds were still made. The most noteworthy of these was the burial of a juvenile [SK 21] in pit [4078] to the north of the trench [Fig 25]. The shallow oval pit was *c* 1.3m long x *c* 1.0m wide. As well as this burial, there were also several finds of well-preserved and in some cases articulated animal bone. In addition to the pits, a shallow

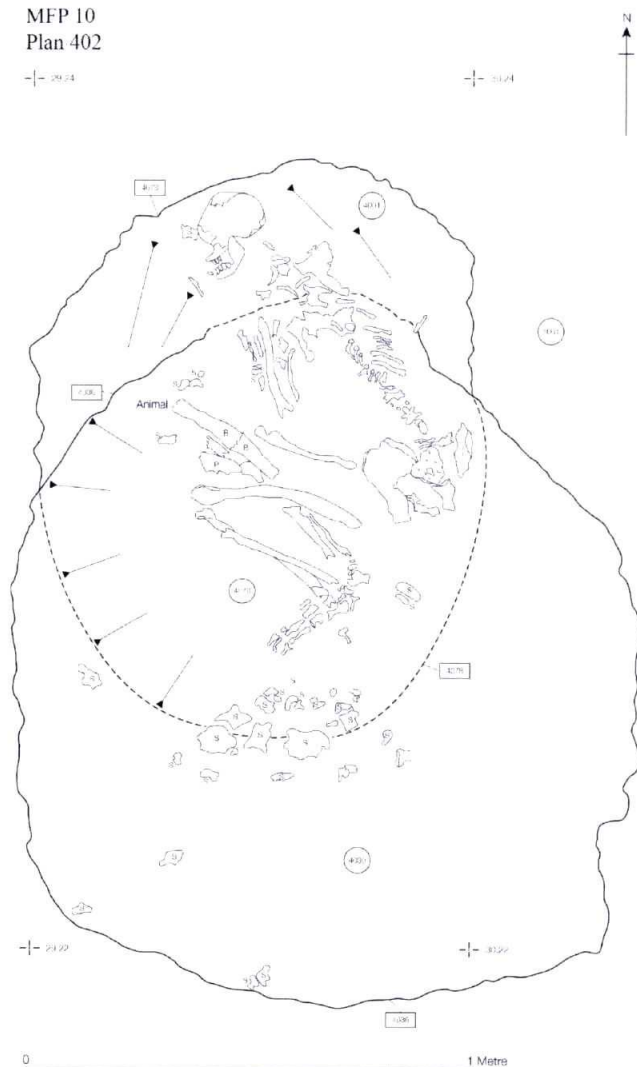


Fig 25. Plan of SK 21 in pit [4078] in MFP Trench 4.

curvilinear gully [4042] also ran through the south-eastern corner of the trench.

Conclusions and future plans

The excavations in southern part of the Roman religious complex continue to contribute to our understanding of some of the activities at this site. As has been mentioned in previous interim reports, these activities seem to fit into well-known, long-term patterns of practice involving wet and boggy places in Roman and pre-Roman Britain (see eg Fulford 2001). The find of a partial wooden writing tablet in the large pit or well in Trench 21 also suggests that at least some of the people who attended this complex were literate, upper class and engaging in Roman ways of living in Britain.

Further to the east the Iron Age enclosures and the cluster of pits are adding to our knowledge of what happened on this site before the Roman period religious complex came into being. While the exact nature of this activity is still unclear, the nature of the material culture found in this area and some of the ways in which it has been deposited suggest that this activity was not straightforwardly domestic. Given the apparent scale of activity across this site in the Iron Age, both here and further to the west in the scheduled area (Kamash *et al* 2009 and 2010b), this does beg the question

of where the people doing these things and creating these enclosures were living.

It is anticipated that 2011 will be our final season of excavations at this site. A key unanswered question for the religious complex area, which we hope to resolve this summer, is the final destination of the drain leaving the semi-amphitheatre. The remainder of our effort will be focussed on the Iron Age enclosures to the east of the religious complex. Excavations will continue in Trenches 3 and 4 to further elucidate their function and chronological relationships. Given the curious variability of the geology in this area, which appears to have a strong effect on the nature of the archaeology, we intend to open a further trench to link Trenches 3 and 4. This trench will also investigate another of the large circular enclosures, which may also help to shed some light on their function. Another trench will also be located to the north-east of Trench 4 in the area of enclosure complex. It is hoped that these trenches, in addition to those we have already excavated in this area, will provide us with valuable insights into the Iron Age activity in this field and possibly suggest some reasons as to why it became such a large religious focus in the Roman period.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Will and Janey Cumber for endless and varied support. Any project of this site is a team effort, so thanks also to the supervisory staff, students and volunteers who were involved in making the season a success. Funding was provided by the Cumber Family Trust and Oxford University. The illustrations were prepared and compiled by Mike Athanson and Alison Wilkins.

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WILLIAM WINTLE AND JOHN HAWES

Geophysical Survey in Garford, Oxfordshire

Introduction

Since 2001 the University of Oxford has been excavating a Late Iron Age and Roman site at Trendles Field in Marcham as both a research and training excavation (Kamash *et al* 2010a; 2010b). This excavation has stimulated wider research into the landscape of these periods in the Vale of the White Horse (Boyer *et al* 2007; 2008; Wintle *et al* 2009; 2010). An important element of this landscape is the River Ock which runs eastwards through the Vale to join the Thames at Abingdon. The Romano-British temple at the Noah's Ark Inn and the semi-amphitheatre in Trendles Field lie a short distance to the north of the River Ock. However, prehistoric and Roman settlement also extends south of the river into Garford. This report describes the results obtained from a number of recent geophysical surveys in Garford.

Garford

In much of the Vale the River Ock flows close to the boundary between the sandstone and limestone of the Corallian Ridge and the Kimmeridge clay, but in the vicinity of the Noah's Ark Inn and east Garford this is not the case. Here the Corallian sandstone and limestone is found on both sides of the river. Moreover, east Garford forms a slightly elevated ridge between the River Ock and the Childrey brook and is therefore less prone to flooding than East Hanney to the south of the Childrey brook. These geological and topographic factors have important environmental and archaeological consequences. Significantly, in the area of the temple site at the Noah's Ark Inn the land on both sides of the River Ock drains quickly and is therefore a suitable location for a ford or bridge across the river.

Arthur Evans (1897) was the first to describe Roman material south of the River Ock when he recorded surface finds of pottery and other material extending south-east from the Noah's Ark Inn and beyond an old ford across the river to Blackington Copse in Garford. Further investigation was undertaken by Richard Hingley through fieldwalking and an analysis of aerial photographs from which he identified a Bronze Age cemetery, other ring

ditches, prehistoric and Roman settlement evidence together with a small villa (Hingley, 1979; 1980; 1981). Based on this a map of the cropmarks and villa was published by Miles (1982, 73).

Aerial survey has demonstrated that Garford contains extensive settlement evidence from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods and this has been investigated through geophysical survey and fieldwalking. Fig 1 shows the areas in east Garford where geophysical survey has been undertaken. The earliest activity appears to be the digging of ring ditches, probably burial barrows from the early Bronze Age. One particular cluster visible in the south-west of Fig 26 was first identified by Hingley (1980, 143) who felt it was the largest barrow cemetery on the Corallian ridge.

Field 1

The geophysical survey results from Field 1 and the barrow cemetery are illustrated in Fig 27. At least ten ring ditches are clearly visible and they mostly have a diameter of between 24m and 28m. More than ten groups of barrow cemeteries are known on the gravel terraces of the Upper Thames with varying layouts. In common with many of these the Garford complex does not have an overall linear layout and therefore differs from the linear barrow cemetery at Radley (Barclay and Halpin, 1999, 323). Important settlement evidence, marked by irregular ditches and pits to the east and west of the barrow cluster is also revealed by the survey. A more regular field system lies to the north-east, with a trackway dividing two field systems. The smaller, western field system or enclosure contains numerous pits and may therefore have been an occupation area. In contrast, the eastern fields contain very few pits and may represent small enclosures for stock.

Features detected through geophysical survey are often dated by morphological comparison with similar features of known date. In this case important additional dating evidence is provided by the pottery collected by a fieldwalking survey. This pottery was distributed somewhat unevenly across the field with three concentrations in the north-west, south-west and north-centre. Surprisingly small amounts of pottery were found over the enclosure directly to the north of the barrows with more found in the apparently empty fields to the east. Prehistoric pottery was largely restricted to the east and south-west. A total of 970 sherds weighing 7kg were recovered, of which 548 were Romano-British and 90 were prehistoric. Most of the Romano-British pottery was heavily abraded with little diagnostic material. The largest component was 386 sherds of reduced greyware. In addition there were 48 sherds of Oxford white ware, which included a mortaria fragment, and 35 sherds of Oxford colour-coated ware. The assemblage also contained eleven sherds of Roman shell gritted ware, five small fragments of samian and small amounts other wares. No Roman ceramic building material was found. The pottery concentration seems too high for all of this assemblage to be accounted for by field manuring and it is probable that one or more settlements were located here. The assemblage appears to date mostly from the middle to late Roman period.

The majority of the 90 sherds of prehistoric pottery were shell/flint tempered but some burnished and sand tempered wares were also present. The eastern part of the field associated with enclosures and pits accounted for 72 of the

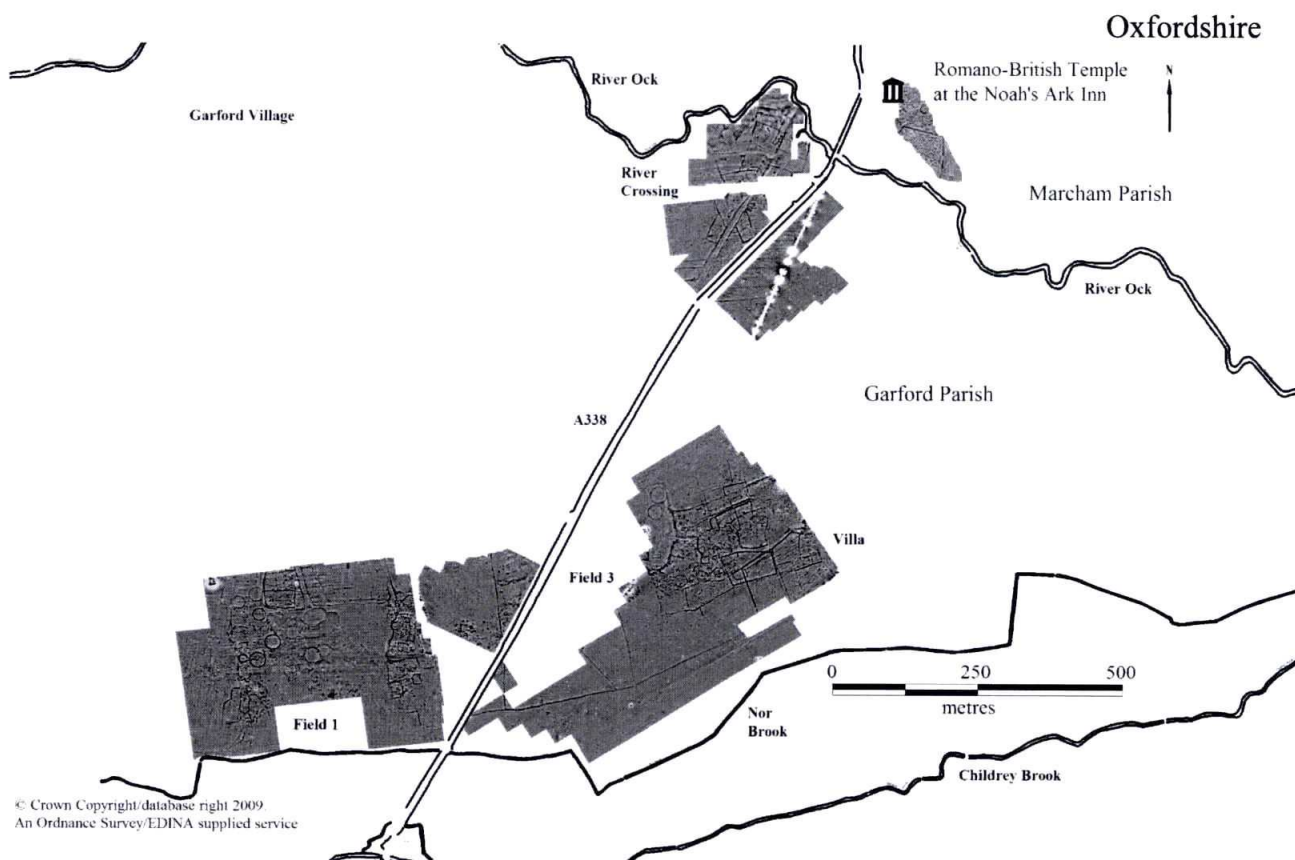


Fig 26. Geophysical Survey in Garford.

sherds. This prehistoric pottery appears to date to the early and middle Iron Age. Other pottery recovered included 97 sherds of glazed pottery, 185 sherds of undiagnostic coarse ware some of which may be Roman, 42 pieces of post-medieval oxidised pottery and seven pieces of undiagnostic grog tempered ware.

The occupation sequence seems to begin in the Iron Age (or earlier) to the east and south-west of the barrows. A more regular field system appears to be introduced during the Roman period and settlement may have continued in both these eastern and south-western areas. The lack of high

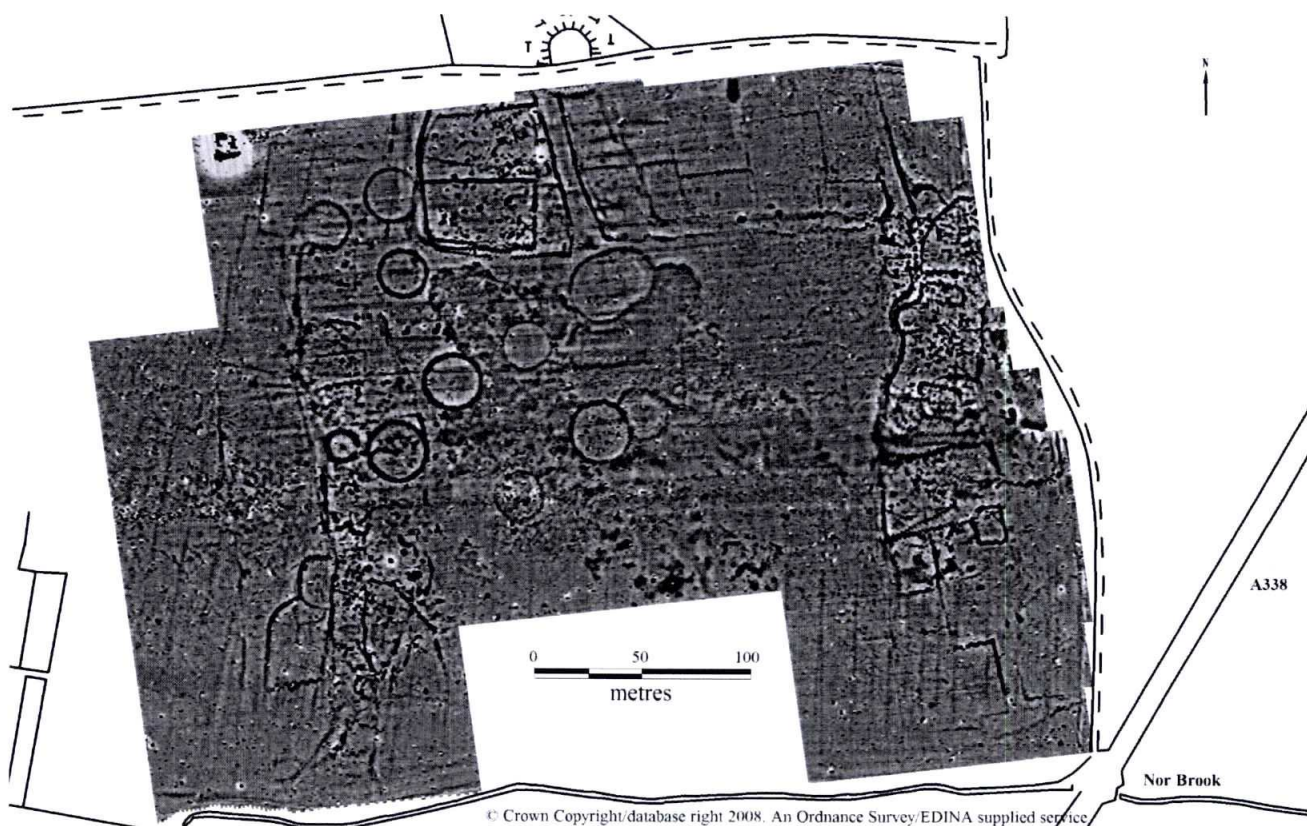


Fig 27. Geophysical Survey in Field 1 (Bronze Age barrow cemetery).



Fig 28. Geophysical Survey in Field 3 (Iron Age and Roman Settlement).

status pottery and structural features would suggest this was a relatively low status, rural settlement.

Field 3

Aerial survey had previously indicated the wide range of archaeological features present in Field 3 and a map of the cropmarks was published by Miles (1982, 73). A small villa had been detected in the south-east of the field by Richard Hingley (1979). The geophysical survey results from Field 3 are illustrated in Fig 28 and have added considerable additional detail.

Both cropmarks and the geophysical survey show a long, well defined ditch close to the southern boundary of the field and which continues westwards into Field 1. It is possible that this is a prehistoric and/or Roman precursor of the current Nor Brook. Both this ditch and the Nor Brook lie close to the boundary between the sandstone of the Corallian ridge and the Kimmeridge clay of the Vale and appear to be drainage ditches leading from springs to the west of Field 1 to the River Ock. Possibly at some time after the Roman period the earlier ditch went out of use and was replaced with the Nor Brook to its south. Also visible in Field 3 are two ditches which run southwards from a nineteenth century quarry to this ditch (or the Nor Brook). Although these may be of prehistoric date it is also possible they may date from the 19th century as quarry drains. In the extreme west of Field 3 a further ditch runs northwards. This does not appear to be related to the quarries and may be of prehistoric or Roman date. Although probably primarily a drainage ditch it may also have served as a boundary between settlements in Field 1 and Field 3. Four ring ditches are visible in the north-east of Field 3 and may be related to the barrow cemetery in Field 1. The eastern part of Field 3 is dominated by a set of regular and irregular enclosures

together with areas of pits and other small features. The masonry foundations of a small rectangular building are visible in the south-east.

Fieldwalking recovered 1305 sherds weighing 12.3kg from Field 3. The majority of this, 964 sherds can be dated to the Romano-British period and consist of 643 sherds of reduced greyware; 90 fragments of Oxford colour-coat ware (red and brown) which included eight pieces of mortaria; five sherds of Oxford white-coated ware including two pieces of mortaria; 54 fragments of oxidised wares which are probably Roman but some of this may be abraded colour-coat wares. The Oxford ware assemblage is completed by 50 sherds of Oxford white ware including five pieces of mortaria. Samian is limited to twenty sherds some of which are patterned and two show signs of burning. The remainder of the Roman pottery consists of black sandy coarse ware, shell gritted ware and some black burnished ware.

The site of the villa is under grass and could not be fieldwalked. The highest concentration of Roman pottery is located directly to the north and north-west of the villa. The number of sherds per grid declines rapidly with increasing distance from the villa apart from two survey grids positioned over rectangular enclosures in the very north of the survey area. Although the quantity of samian recovered is small it may indicate settlement from the second century or earlier. The rest of the Roman pottery indicates a later occupation through to the 4th century.

Ceramic building material was collected where it was believed to be Roman and included eight tegula fragments and eight pieces of combed tile with several different comb patterns. These most probably represent box flue tiles. Fifteen other fragments of possible Roman tile were recovered. This ceramic building material suggests the villa

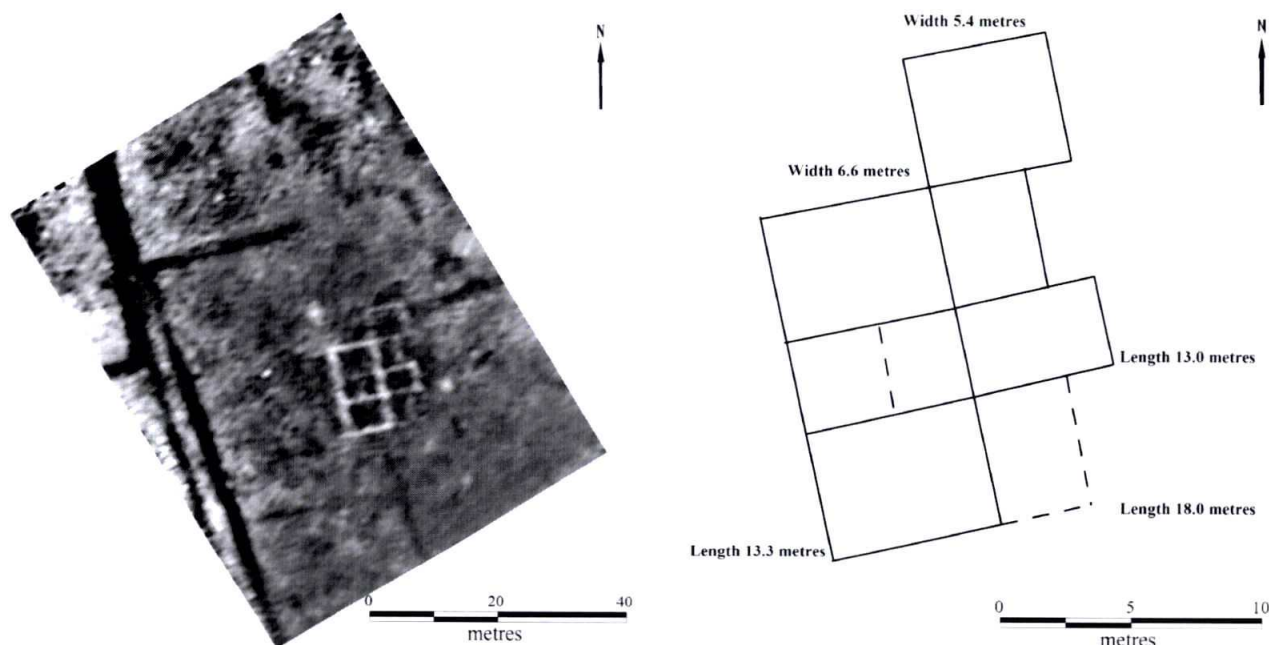


Fig 29. Garford Villa (Resistivity Survey and Interpretation).

supported a tiled roof and perhaps had under-floor heating as attested at Frilford (Evans, 1897; Boyer *et al* 2008) and probably also at East Hanney (Boyer *et al* 2007).

The prehistoric pottery consists of 136 sherds which appear to date from the early to middle Iron Age. The assemblage consists mainly of shell/flint tempered wares although 26 burnished pieces were also recovered together with 25 pieces of sand tempered ware. This prehistoric pottery is mainly concentrated to the north-west of the villa building in an area of pits and circular features. A further 18 sherds of undiagnostic, grog tempered ware which may be either Roman or pre-Roman was also recovered. The assemblage also contains 149 sherds of undiagnostic coarse ware which could be Roman or later and have not been included in the Roman count. The absence of late Iron Age pottery may indicate there was no continuity of settlement from the Iron Age but this is perhaps unlikely.

The Villa

The villa is very small and of unusual shape. It was initially detected from aerial photographs by Richard Hingley (Hingley, 1979, 128) and a plan was published by Miles (1982, 73). Recent magnetic and resistivity surveys have largely confirmed Miles' original interpretation. The villa appears to consist of a rectangle measuring 13.3m by 6m on its western side and containing three rooms. This rectangle is very clearly defined in the resistivity survey as shown in Fig 29. To its east is a less symmetric set of rooms consisting of a north-east room and a room in the centre-east. These rooms may be joined by a corridor and this corridor may extend further southwards. The whole would be symmetric if there was a room in the south-east to match that in the north-east. These eastern rooms are clearly visible in the resistive survey, but are less intense than the main rectangle. There is perhaps the merest hint of a south-eastern room in the resistivity survey but this is not confirmed in either the magnetic survey or the aerial photographs. Nevertheless, the resistive survey indicates there is more masonry surviving for the western rectangle

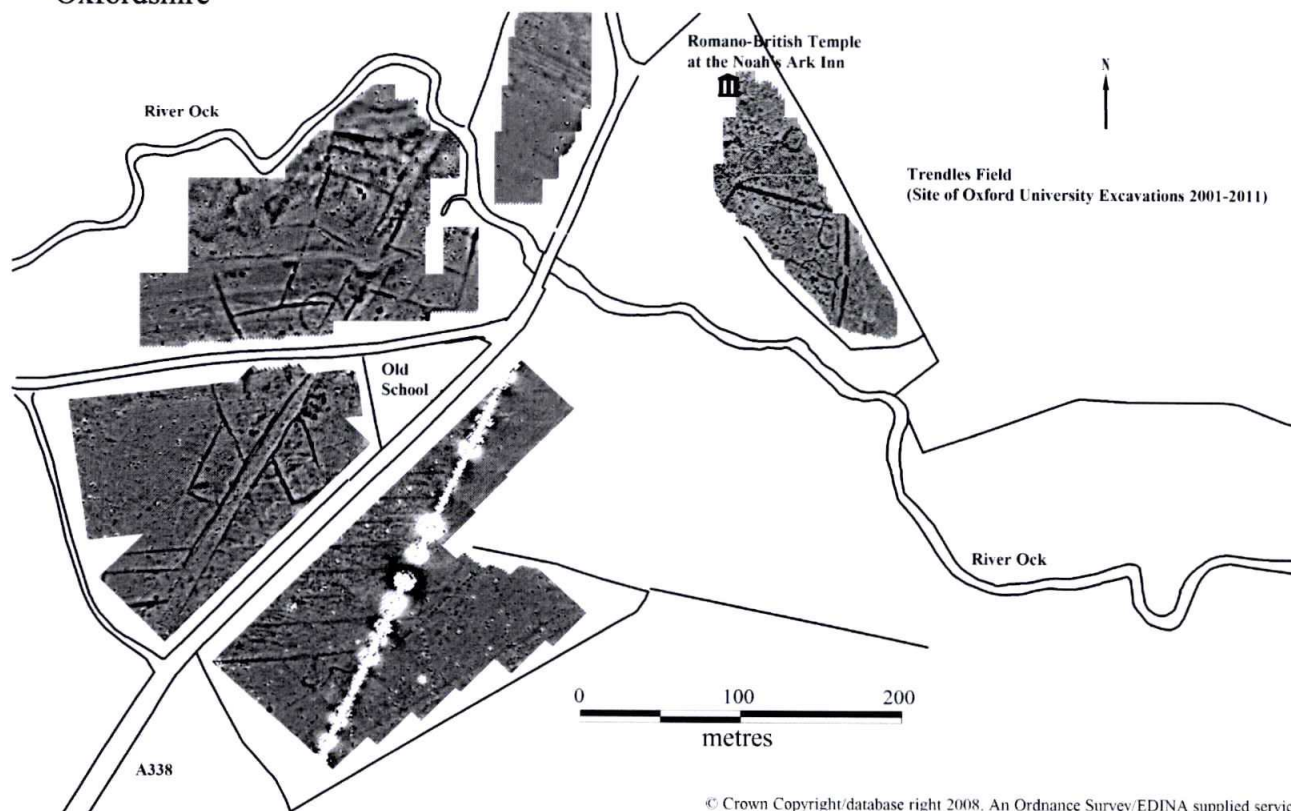
than the eastern rooms and this may indicate a greater depth of foundations. Possible explanations are that the western and eastern halves are not of the same date, or that the western portion contained an upper storey.

The villa is located near numerous ditches outlining enclosures of various sizes and shapes. Indeed one ditch appears to pass through the villa and it is not clear whether the ditch pre-dates or post-dates the villa.

The River Crossing

The first discussion of the roads around Frilford was given by Arthur Evans who argued that the road adjacent to the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Frilford formed part of a Roman road from Besselsleigh to Wantage (Evans, 1897, 352). However, there is little direct archaeological evidence to demonstrate the road is of Roman date. John Rocque's 1761 map of Berkshire (Margary, 1973) shows a straight road northwards from East Hanney to the River Ock, but does not show the current straight alignments northwards from Frilford to Besselsleigh and southwards from East Hanney to Wantage. These may be largely or completely the work of the Besselsleigh Turnpike Trust in the late 18th century (Lambrick, 1970; Rosevear, 1993).

It has been known from aerial survey that an earlier crossing of the River Ock lies slightly to the west of the modern crossing and this has been confirmed by geophysical survey as illustrated in Fig 30. As the modern river crossing is shown in Rocque's 1761 map the western route must have been abandoned before this date. However, the original construction of this western crossing has not been determined and could be any date from the late Iron Age to the early 18th century. Rocque's map also indicates the Noah's Ark Inn and a bridge across the River Ock. It is not clear if the current bridge is earlier than 1761 or whether the Besselsleigh Turnpike Trust replaced or improved the original bridge. It seems probable that the Noahs' Ark Inn, the bridge and eastern deviation are all of the same date, possibly the first half of the 18th century. Their construction



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Fig 30. Crossing the River Ock.

is likely to have caused considerable disturbance to the western part of the *temenos* of the Romano-British temple.

It can be seen from Fig 30 that the western route appears to be associated with a number of small enclosures and cuts an earlier ring ditch. In the field directly to the south of this ring ditch and to the west of the Old School significant amounts of Roman pottery are visible on the ground surface and there is a marked geophysical anomaly to the east of the double ditches at this point. Initial fieldwalking over this anomaly in 2007 recovered 93 sherds of pottery weighing 0.74kg. Much of this assemblage (48%) consists of reduced Roman greyware probably from the Oxford area including a piece of 'colander'. Oxford colour-coated wares in red and brown including five rims and three bases made up 24% of the assemblage. In addition there were three pieces of Oxford white ware including a fragment of mortaria.

Further fieldwalking in 2008 recovered another 200 pottery sherds weighing 1.6kg. Again the major components of this were Roman greyware (40%) and Oxford colour-coated ware including 5 pieces of mortaria (30%). Lesser components included a single fragment of samian ware; five shell gritted sherds which are probably late Roman; two fragments of Oxford white ware including a piece of mortaria and some oxidised pieces which are probably Oxford wares together with some coarsewares which are mainly Roman. The assemblages from both years show remarkable similarity. Also collected in 2008 were six fragments of ceramic building material weighing 0.49kg including fragments of tegulae and a tile with combed patterning suggesting a flue tile. The Roman pottery represents mainly a 3rd to 4th century date while the finds of pottery and tile suggest a residence with a tiled roof and a heated room.

It has not proved possible to follow the route of the earlier, western river crossing to the north of the River Ock. The way is blocked by a small wood but it is probable that it ran just to the west of an existing field boundary. If the road continued northward on this alignment then it would have passed through the Romano-British cemetery which lies to the north-west of the Romano-British temple. No indication of such a road was detected in an earlier geophysical survey of this area (Boyer, *et al* 2007). Both Bradford and Goodchild (1939) and Kamash (2010b) have argued for an eastern entrance to the temple and its surrounding *temenos*. There is no surviving archaeological evidence for the western part of the temple and *temenos* so it is unclear how the temple related to the road (assuming the road existed in the Roman period).

Discussion

The geophysical survey has confirmed the aerial photographic evidence that Garford contains important archaeological material extending from the Bronze Age to the Roman period. It is suggested that the importance of this area lies in specific geological and topographic factors which make it suitable as a crossing point of the River Ock. The area seems to have been first used in the early Bronze Age as a barrow cemetery and then to have been occupied during the Iron Age and Roman periods. It is not clear whether the ritual importance of the location in the early Bronze Age continued throughout the Iron Age and into the Roman period, as represented by the temple and semi-amphitheatre to the north of the River Ock, or whether the importance of the location was periodically rediscovered through being a convenient place to cross the river. Similarly, it cannot be demonstrated that settlement

was continuous throughout the Iron Age and the Roman period. By the 6th century AD the ritual or religious significance of the area seems to have declined and settlement moved to new locations.

At least two Roman style buildings were constructed in east Garford and at least one of these had a tiled roof and a heated room. The building adjacent to the possible river crossing was situated about 300m to the south-west of the temple with clear intervisibility across the valley or flood plain of the River Ock. Both the temple north of the river and the building to the south of the river are located on higher ground above the flood plain. The villa in Field 3 lies about 850m to the south of the temple and they are separated by a ridge of slightly higher ground. In consequence, the temple would have been much less visible from the villa and perhaps only the temple roof may have been visible.

Survey Technique

The magnetometer surveys were undertaken using Bartington Instrument's GRAD601 gradiometers with single and double magnetometer tubes set to a scale of 100nT with a sensitivity of 0.1nT. Grids were laid out in 30m squares and were walked in a clockwise "zigzag" pattern. Traverses were 1m apart with readings taken four times a metre. The results have been processed by ArcheoSurveyor and are displayed as block shaded images using a grey-scale.

The resistivity survey was undertaken using a Geoscan Research RM15-D resistivity meter. Grids were laid out in 20m squares and were walked in a clockwise "zigzag" pattern. Traverses were 1m apart and readings were taken every 0.50m along each traverse. A mobile probe separation of 0.5m was used. The results have been processed by ArcheoSurveyor and are presented as block shaded images using a grey-scale. Areas of high resistance are shown as light grey or white and of low resistance as dark grey or black to allow for easier comparison with the magnetometer surveys.

Acknowledgements

The authors are very grateful to Mr Neil Walker and Mr Tony Carter for permission to conduct these geophysical surveys on their land. This fieldwork forms part of a D.Phil dissertation by William Wintle supervised by Professors Gary Lock and Chris Gosden at the Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford.

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1. The submitted article should follow the format of *South Midlands Archaeology*. That is:

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3. One purpose of *SMA* is to act as a record of the work carried out in the area; this does not mean that it need be dull. Contributors are asked to be as interesting as possible for the many members of CBA South Midlands who are not archaeologists but who have a lively interest in the past.

4. If, during an investigation, nothing was found, don't be afraid to say so in simple terms.

5. When the article is submitted please ensure that all text (including captions) and pictures are included and clearly labelled.

6. The preferred method for receiving text is as a Rich Text File (rtf extension) sent by email to bhorne@globalnet.co.uk with a subject of "SMA contribution". Please do not send documents with embedded pictures. Pictures and text must be separate files. CDs with the contribution can be mailed to Beaumont, Church End, Edlesborough, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2EP. If you are unable to comply with the above please contact the Editor. (Barry Horne - 01525 221219 or at the above email address)

7. Pictures and diagrams should be of the highest possible quality; the printed version can be no better than that submitted.

8. Proofs will not be sent to contributors.

9. Contributors are responsible for the accuracy of their data.

10. Please note that charges are as follows: Professional/commercial - 1 free page, remainder charged at £18/page; Amateur group - 2 free pages, remainder charged at £18/page. The submission of an article will be taken as an agreement to pay the charge. Invoices will be sent out during the summer and payment is expected prior to publication in the autumn.

BJH

28th December 2010

