

SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

NUMBER 42, 2012

CONTENTS	Page
Editorial	ii
Bedfordshire	1
Buckinghamshire	8
Northamptonshire	21
Oxfordshire	37
Index	89
Notes for Contributors	101

It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2011.

EDITOR Barry Horne
 'Beaumont'
 Church End
 Edlesborough
 Dunstable, Beds
 LU6 2EP

CHAIRMAN: Ian Nunney
 2 West View
 London Road
 Little Irchester
 Wellingborough
 Northants
 NN8 2DZ

HON SEC: David Ingham
 1a Stamford Lane
 Warmington
 Peterborough
 Northamptonshire
 PE8 6TW

TREASURER Stan Cauvain
 1 Oakland Close
 Freeland
 Witney
 OX29 8AX

Typeset by Barry Horne

ISSN 0960-7552

EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 42.

This volume is some 10 pages longer than volume 41 and to some extent this reflects an increase in activity in the region. It is also due to a double contribution from a major contributor.

Once again 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* 43.

Copy date for *SMA* 43 is 31st March 2013; please refer to Notes for Contributors.

Barry Horne AIfA
Editor

Front cover -
Banbury Lane, Northampton, uncovering the uppermost layer of the human bone deposit.
Sponsored by Northants Archaeology.

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

On this site are:

The cumulative index to volumes 1-41

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

Scanned copies of *SMA* 1-36

BEDFORDSHIRE**ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY****Bedford - Norse Road (TL 0877 5204)**

Christiane Meckseper

Housing development on a c 12ha piece of land to the north of Norse Road, Bedford was preceded by a 1.1ha open area excavation, which revealed evidence for an early to middle Iron Age settlement in the form of a series of enclosures strung out over a distance of c 150m along the west bank of a tributary of the Renhold Brook. It is likely that they represent settlement and animal enclosures within a pastoral landscape.

In a later phase a series of pits was dug, truncating some of the enclosures but possibly contemporary with others. The pits were probably dug to extract clay or to provide water. They were backfilled with mainly sterile material mixed with small quantities of domestic refuse from the Iron Age enclosures or from a settlement nearby.

The last phase of activity was defined by a small post-built structure of uncertain form. Its central posthole contained a possible ritual deposit of a dog skull and skin with the four paws attached.

Remnants of medieval agriculture in the form of sub-surface furrows were identified across the entire excavation area. Two 'furrows', on a different alignment, may represent a trackway.

Bedford - former St Bede's School, Bedford

(TL 0429 5004)

Gary Edmondson, Slavomir Utrata

Archaeological evaluation revealed evidence of an extensive cultivation soil, extending across the site. Although the soil is dated to the post-medieval period, small residual sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the northern part of the site. A series of limestone walls, sub-dividing the site but surviving at foundation level only, appeared to have been removed in the 19th century when the site was developed. No earlier archaeological remains were present.

Bedford - Mile Road (TL 06174771)

David Ingham

An archaeological excavation was carried out in August and September 2011 ahead of a new building programme at Bedford Academy, on the southern outskirts of Bedford. The area examined covered 1.3ha, situated between previously excavated Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments to the east and late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery kilns to the west.

Evidence for prehistoric activity is limited to two pits, currently thought to be Neolithic, and the fragmentary remains of a field system which is probably middle Bronze

Age to early Iron Age in date. Most of the excavated remains belong to the 1st century AD, and comprise a series of interconnecting enclosures that were frequently remodelled, tending to become larger through time. They seem to have been primarily stock enclosures, although they also contained limited evidence for a low level of human occupation. The recovery of kiln furniture from the western enclosures suggests a link with the previously excavated site to the west, which may help to account for the relatively large size of the pottery assemblage. A handful of cremation burials were also identified.

Although the enclosures were subject to quite intense usage, their remodelling seems to have ended in the early 2nd century. However, the presence of three Saxon sunken-featured buildings that respect the enclosures' layout suggests that they remained in occasional use until at least the middle Saxon period, before the site was turned to arable cultivation in the medieval period.

Bedford Water Main (TL 1424 4772)

Mike Luke, Richard Gregson

Archaeological investigation took place in June 2011 immediately in advance of the construction of a short length of the Bedford Water Main to the west of the extensive Romano-British roadside settlement near Kempston Church End (Dawson 2004, 38-66; Luke *et al.* 2007, 1-2).

Two features were observed to the west of Cemetery Road: a ditch and a cremation burial. The ditch was the continuation of one observed within the Bedford Bypass investigations (Luke *et al.* 2007, 1-2) and appears to represent a boundary between settlement to the east and open fields or pasture to the west. The cremation burial was placed in a small grave adjacent to the boundary; it was unusual in that it contained a dozen nails. Similar burials were found on the Biddenham Loop but it is uncertain if the nails were attached to timbers used in the pyre, were part of a casket or were the remains of hobnails.

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

Clifton, Land at Pedley Farm (TL 1629 3907)

Christiane Meckseper

Trial trenching failed to reveal any significant archaeological remains. The only features within the trenches consisted of: an undated gully, probably associated with a modern field boundary or a drainage ditch; several modern field drains; and the remains of a possible building or yard surface in the northern part of the site.

Cranfield - Nissan Technical Centre (SP 9334 4255)

Christiane Meckseper

Construction of a car park at the southern side of the site revealed a series of ditches and a possible large pit. No

Bedfordshire

dating evidence was retrieved from the features but the morphology of an adjacent cropmark complex is suggestive of a late prehistoric/Roman date.

Cranfield - Home Farm (SP 9536 4163)

Mark Phillips

Persimmon Homes are undertaking residential development of land in Cranfield, to the south of the High Street and bordered by Court Road and Lodge Road. Archaeological excavations were undertaken in five areas (totalling 2.6ha) following evaluation carried out in 2004. Additional land allocated for off-site drainage was subject to archaeological monitoring.

The earliest evidence consisted of a low density spread of features relating to unenclosed middle to late pre-Belgic Iron Age settlement. In the late Iron Age and Roman periods the south-east corner of the site contained a complex sequence of settlement enclosures with some associated pits, post-holes and water holes. Other features spread across the eastern half of the site comprised field boundaries, trackways and parallel cultivation trenches. Two cremation burials were found, one of which was situated within a large square enclosure. Medieval evidence consisted mainly of the remains of ridge and furrow. A small number of pits dated from the Saxo-Norman to high medieval period found along the south-east edge of the site are likely to represent peripheral activity associated with medieval settlement.

Dunstable - All Saints' Academy (TL 01162310)

Marcin Koziminski, Wes Keir

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording were undertaken during construction works associated with a replacement school at All Saints Academy, Houghton Road, Houghton Regis. Though the school lies in a landscape rich in archaeological remains, no archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks. The only deposits revealed were those associated with development of the school grounds since its opening in 1936.

Elstow - Wixams, Area 7 (TL 0549 4492)

Rob Wardill, Iain Leslie

Earlier archaeological investigations of this land identified several areas of archaeological sensitivity and these were designated as Areas 1-6. All of these areas have been investigated and the results of that work have been disseminated. A further Area (7) was designated to cover the site of the former Elstow Storage Depot. The trial trenching showed that, although some areas were heavily disturbed due to modern construction and demolition works, much of the evaluated site, especially those areas that had been left as open land, were relatively undisturbed. There was the potential for archaeological survival in these areas but no features of archaeological significance were found in any of the trenches.

Farndish - Parsonage House, Church Lane

(SP 92876368)

Christiane Meckseper, Gary Edmondson

Planning permission was granted for the dismantling of an existing stable and erection of a games room with associated works in the grounds of Parsonage House, Farndish. Archaeological observation of the groundworks did not reveal any pre 18th/19th century archaeological features. A narrow foundation for a limestone wall may be related to an elongated stable block or outhouse along the eastern boundary of the present-day garden, which is shown on a map of Farndish dating to 1800.

Harrold - 10 Church Walk (SP 9526 5672)

David Ingham, Rob Wardill

Monitoring of a drainage trench revealed that it was not deep enough to expose undisturbed geological deposits. No archaeological features were discovered, although the subsoil in one part of the trench produced a moderate assemblage of shell-tempered pottery from the medieval Harrold kilns.

Harrold - Green Tree, 146 High Street (SP 9465 5671)

Christiane Meckseper

The excavation of foundation trenches, a service trench and a soakaway for a house extension were monitored. No archaeological features were revealed. A small quantity of 12th-13th century pottery was retrieved during cleaning of the base of the foundation trenches. Such material is common in Harrold and the sherds are part of a general background scatter of pottery, most likely spread through manuring.

Henlow - 41 High Street (TL 1762 3831)

Richard Gregson, Gary Edmondson

An archaeological investigation revealed extensive make-up deposits of post-medieval to modern date, with occasional associated features comprising pathways and a ditch. At a depth of 0.9-1.2m a series of earlier archaeological features were revealed, comprising shallow, ditched boundaries at right angles. These are tentatively dated to the Saxo-Norman period by a small pottery assemblage.

Little Staughton - All Saints Church (TL 1070 6300)

Marcin Koziminski, Rob Wardill

Archaeological investigations carried out during building groundworks revealed floor make-up deposits probably associated with the construction of the south aisle in the 14th century, and the renewal of the floor in more recent times. Evidence for the site's earlier use as a graveyard was present in the form of numerous disarticulated human bones. Pottery dating suggests the use of the site from as early as the Saxo-Norman period. Whether this very early use was associated with a contemporary church or a secular

settlement is not clear from the results of the archaeological investigations.

Luton - University of Bedfordshire, Luton Campus, Phase 2A (TL 0952 2111)
Ian Turner, Rob Wardill

Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken in January 2011 on behalf of the University of Bedfordshire. The Phase 2a site is located approximately halfway along the north side of Vicarage Street and forms part of a wider redevelopment of the University of Bedfordshire's Park Square Campus in Luton. The two trenches contained a number of early medieval archaeological features, sealed beneath a buried former soil. The features probably represent a large structure of early medieval date, contemporary with the castle of Fulk de Breauté.

Marston Moretaine - 38 Lower Shelton Road, Lower Shelton (SP 9988 4257)
Marcin Koziminski, Rob Wardill

Archaeological observation of the construction of a porch and rear extension revealed a north-south aligned ditch. Although the feature produced no finds, it is thought to be post-medieval/modern in date as it was cut into the subsoil

Oakley - Riverstone House, Westfield Road
(TL 0031 5329)
Wiebke Starke, David Ingham

A watching brief on the construction of a riding arena revealed an undated north-south ditch where overburden was removed down to the top of undisturbed geological deposits. No other archaeological features were encountered. Pottery fragments and flint artefacts were retrieved from the topsoil and subsoil, attesting to activity in the area dating from the late Neolithic to the medieval period.

Stevington - St Mary's Church (SP 9904 5365)
Mark Phillips

Building works within the church involved minor reduction of the floor level in the north-west corner of the north aisle. No significant archaeological observations were made. Within the churchyard, construction of an arch-drain produced a small amount of disarticulated human bone and a small assemblage of medieval pottery.

Thurleigh - Bedford Teleport (TL 3719 6107)
Marcin Koziminski, Mike Luke

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording were undertaken during the construction of a new satellite dish. The site lay close to a probable late Iron Age settlement (outside the airfield perimeter). Evidence for the use of the area for bomb storage during WWII was recorded. This confirmed the accuracy of a 1944 plan of the airfield, although some additional structures were located. The work has also indicated that ground disturbance

resulting from activity associated with the WWII airfield is quite minimal.

Tingrith - Harlington Wood End Cottage, Wood End
(TL 0183 3155)
Marcin Koziminski, Wes Keir

No archaeological features or deposits of significance were revealed during observation of the construction of side and rear extensions. Other than geological deposits, only layers associated with modern landscaping of the grounds and a modern pit were revealed.

Willington - 2 Church Road (TL 11245011)
Ian Turner

A pit identified in the north-west corner of the site during construction work contained no artefacts and remains undated. However, it is unlikely to be contemporary with the other modern pits to the east of the area, as they contained relatively high numbers of modern artefacts. It probably relates to earlier occupation of the site and does demonstrate that archaeological features do potentially survive.

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Sandy, Station Road, Tesco (TL 1773 4853)
Ian Hogg and Catherine Edwards

Archaeological Evaluation 20th to 22nd December 2010 and 4th to 7th January 2011 On behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd (BEDFM 2010.40)

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of nineteen archaeological trenches across the site. Natural sand was observed in all trenches. A possible Iron Age ditch was the earliest anthropogenic 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. Further work is anticipated for 2012.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES & CONSULTANCY LTD

Chawston, Land adjacent to Black Cat Roundabout
(TL 1597 5565)
Martin Cuthbert & Alastair Hancock

Following an initial geophysical survey, evaluation trenching was undertaken in February on a parcel of arable land north of the A1 Black Cat roundabout, near Chawston. The geophysics and trenching defined an area of Romano-British ditches and pits at the northwest end of the site. These features form a continuation of an extensive

Bedfordshire

cropmark site located in the field immediately to the west. Elsewhere the evaluation revealed evidence of agricultural activity of medieval and later date. At the southeast end of the site, two or possibly three undated shallow ditches may predate the medieval period.

Clophill, St Mary's Old Church (TL 0919 3885)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In June and July an evaluation was carried out at St Mary's Old Church, in response to its proposed conversion into a hostel for walkers on the Greensand Ridge path. The church, a Grade II* listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is thought to have been built in the 14th/15th century, but may be earlier. It was replaced in 1848 by a larger church constructed in the centre of the village and, despite being used as a mortuary chapel until the early 20th century, has become a ruin. The roof was removed in 1957, resulting in damage to the historic fabric of the building.

The evaluation uncovered 18th century vault and a possible 19th century vault, both disturbed, a partially articulated burial, and a rough wall or foundation possibly related to an earlier phase of the church. The remains of a brick and tile floor possibly associated with renovations carried out in the 19th century, and significant levels of 20th century made-ground/dumped deposits, were also uncovered, along with a number of discrete undated features, possibly intrusions associated with more recent disturbance. A possible earlier ground horizon containing sherds of late medieval reduced-ware pottery was identified inside and outside the church.

Cranfield, Court Road (SP 9567 4181)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

A watching brief was undertaken at 46 Court Road in October, during the excavation of footings for an extension to the existing property. The footing trenches were cut through ground previously disturbed by a number of services, and no archaeological remains were observed.

Dunstable, Friars Walk (TL 0201 2153)

Calli Rouse

In July trial trench evaluation was carried out on land belonging to 1 Friars Walk and The Chestnuts, in order to inform planning proposals for the site. Two of the six trenches were barren, three contained a number of shallow irregular pits, and one revealed three postholes. One pit contained a single sherd of late medieval pottery and a fragment of tile, possibly Roman. One of the postholes contained sherds of post-medieval glass and pottery. The other features remained undated.

Based on the nature of the features revealed, and the almost total absence of domestic refuse of any period from the evaluation, it appears that the site was subject only to a low level of unspecified activity, distant from any habitation, prior to the development of Friars Walk in the first half of the 20th century.

Dunstable, West Street (TL 0161 2172)

Lydia Breeze-Chilcott & Bob Zeepvat

A heritage asset impact assessment was prepared for St Marys Court, West Street in November, in advance of proposed works to the west and north boundary walls of the site, which lies within the Dunstable Conservation Area. No heritage assets are recorded on the site, though sites and finds relating mainly to Roman, medieval and later periods are known in the surrounding area. The site lies within the zone of movement related to the prehistoric Icknield Way, and adjacent to West Street, its more recent successor. It is located outside the Roman town, but in an area where burials might be expected. Little is known of Saxon Dunstable, but the site lies on the edge of the medieval and later town. The earliest known building on the site was in place by 1822: it was replaced by a larger house in the late 19th century, and a second house was built next to the first in the early 20th century. St Marys Court itself is probably of mid to late 20th century date.

Harlington, Sundon Road (TL 0365 3035)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In October an evaluation was carried out at 32 Sundon Road, Harlington, prior to residential redevelopment of the site. This revealed that the central part of the site had been subjected to post-medieval/modern modification, possibly quarrying, but the southern and northern areas of the site were less disturbed. A medieval pit was revealed in one trench, and residual medieval pottery sherds were present across the site.

Kimbolton, Warren Lane (TL 0967 6834)

Karin Semmelmann

A photographic survey was undertaken of historic fabric revealed during restoration works to Warren House, Warren Lane, in September. Warren House has been extensively analysed by various specialists in *inter alia* historical research, architectural history, dendrochronology and stone masonry both prior to and during the restoration works. This survey merely served to record some of the exposed detail.

Leighton Buzzard, North Street (SP 9217 2530)

Calli Rouse

Trial trench evaluation was carried out in July on land to the rear of the Wilkes Almshouses, North Street, to inform proposals for the redevelopment of the site. Eleven trenches were excavated within the footprints of the proposed buildings. A range of post-medieval and modern features were found across the site, largely relating to previously demolished outbuildings. Three post-medieval ditches recorded in the south-western part of the site show some correlation to features recorded on the 1880 Leighton Buzzard Town Plan. A shallow gully containing a single sherd of medieval pottery was recorded close to the centre of the site. The results of the evaluation support the theory that the site was located on the periphery of the early settlement at Leighton Buzzard.

Moggerhanger, Moggerhanger Park (TL 1343 4865)
Martin Cuthbert

In March a watching brief was undertaken during ground reduction for the construction of car and coach parks at Moggerhanger Park. No archaeological features were observed in either area, though one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil in the car park area. Excavations in this area did not breach the subsoil, so it is possible that archaeological deposits may survive in this location.

Ridgmont, Segenhoe House (SP 9824 3588)
Martin Cuthbert

A watching brief was carried out at Segenhoe House in March, during the excavation of footing and associated service trenches for the extension of the existing house. No deposits or finds of archaeological significance were revealed.

BEDFORD MUSEUM SATURDAY ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP

Bedford, Priory Country Park (Newnham 'villa')
(TL 0740 4910)
Helen Parslow

Although the Country Park takes its name from the medieval Newnham Priory, even older remains have been found there. Where there is now a large artificial lake there was once a putative Roman villa and one of a few sites in Bedfordshire that evince high Roman culture. The 'villa' was revealed through crop-marks in the 1950s and excavated prior to aggregate extraction in the 1970s. Until recently, it was presumed completely destroyed. However, a trial excavation by the young (8-16 year-old) members of Bedford Museum's Saturday Archaeology Workshop (SAW) has raised hopes that some remnants of the regionally important site may still survive.

SAW was alerted to the possibility by the Country Park Rangers, who told them that an intact ditch and overgrown

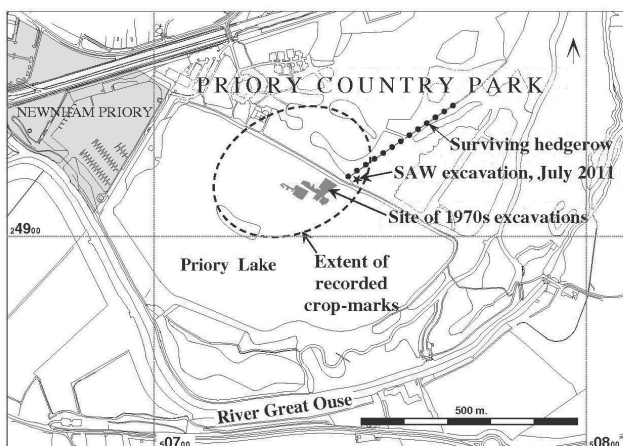


Fig 1. Priory Country Park, Bedford - the 2011 dig in relation to the Newnham Roman 'villa' site.

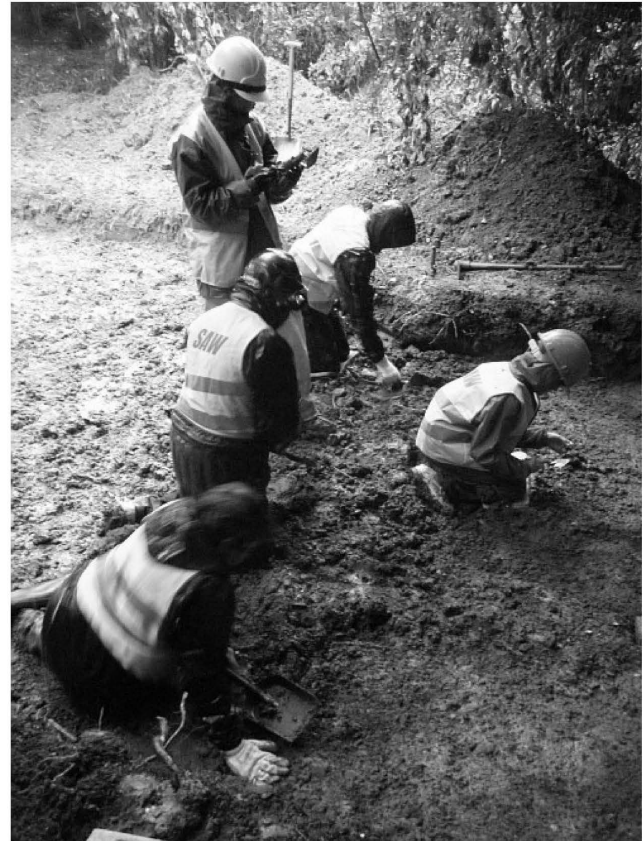


Fig 2. Initial cleaning of the trench by SAW, supervised by a member of Albion Archaeology staff.

hedgerow predating the quarry still existed within an area of dense scrub (Fig 1). If the hedge was still there, there was a chance that some intact stratigraphy also remained.

As part of the Festival of British Archaeology, during the weekend of 16th and 17th July 2011, SAW carried out a small excavation with assistance from Albion Archaeology and the Priory Country Park Ranger Service.

On Saturday, an area of c 7m x 6m was first stripped to a depth of c 200mm using a mini-digger. Despite torrential rain two features were uncovered. Drier conditions on the Sunday enabled further work to be carried out and sections were excavated through these features.



Fig 3. A makeshift awning warded off the worst of the downpour on day 1.

Bedfordshire

Initial identification of the finds recovered shows the majority to date from the late Roman period including roof tile and a sherd of an Oxford ware mortarium. Although not conclusive, the results indicate that adjacent to the hedgerow there is potential for the survival of *in situ* archaeological deposits of Roman date.

It is hoped that further excavation will take place during the Festival of British Archaeology in July 2012.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford, Manton Lane (TL 0415 5110)

Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken to observe the excavation of a pipe by Anglian Water in the road and verge on Manton Lane. No archaeological features were present. No artefacts were recovered

Bletsoe, Waiting for the Sun Farm (TL 0201 5827)

Tim Upson-Smith

A watching brief was carried out during an excavation for a sewerage tank at Waiting for the Sun Farm. No archaeological features were present in the area of investigation. BEDFM 2010.37

Blunham, Barford Road (TL 1485 5106)

Jim Burke

A trial trench evaluation took place on land off Barford Road. An isolated gully contained two sherds of Iron Age pottery, and there were furrows of the medieval ridge and furrow field system. A large collection of post-medieval metal buttons, the majority of which were of the same style, were recovered from the topsoil. BEDFM.2011.46

Cardington Airfield (TL 085 467)

John Walford

Two blocks of land, with a total area of 7.4ha, were subject to detailed magnetometer survey in advance of the construction of two ponds at Cardington Airfield. This work revealed at least two enclosures of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date, and other features including two possible kilns. Further anomalies were detected which indicate the presence of modern pipelines, railway track beds and an area of disturbed ground containing a substantial amount of ferrous debris.

Dunstable, 8 Princes Street (TL 0161 2218)

Tim Upson-Smith

A single trial trench was excavated at 8 Princes Street in advance of a proposed house construction. The only feature, a pit, contained a single body sherd of Hertfordshire grey ware pottery dating to the 12th-14th centuries. No further archaeological features were present. LUTNM.2011.88

Harrold, 85 High Street (SP 9481 5625)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological trial trench excavation was carried out in the garden of 85 High Street, a grade 2 listed building. A stone-lined pit, and other pits and a ditch of medieval date were truncated by 19th century domestic rubbish pits. The range of pottery recovered and the faunal remains is indicative of domestic settlement. BEDFM.2009.33

Houghton Conquest, High Street (TL 0117 6708)

Anthony Maull

An open area excavation was carried out across part of the interior and the exterior of a moated enclosure, although the moat ditch itself was not excavated. Late Saxon settlement comprised linear boundary ditches, providing evidence for plot formation. A small structure may have been a shelter related to iron smelting. The boundary plots were retained until the mid-12th or mid-13th centuries although there was little evidence of intensive occupation. An almost complete copper bowl, dating to the 12th or 13th centuries, was found in a pit to the rear of the plots. The excavation of the moat was not required so there is no definitive date for its construction, but based on the evolution of the surrounding landscape it may have been dug between the mid 12th and mid 13th centuries. Within the moated enclosure the boundary ditches were partially extant until at least the mid-14th century. There was a building, perhaps related to small-scale iron smelting and smithing. Subsequently a structure of sill-beam construction was built and later a stone building was constructed in the mid-late 15th century in the same location. It is unclear whether the moat was still open at this date. The site had been levelled by the mid-16th century and has been pasture since. BEDFM.2009.50

Marston Moretaine, Moreteyne Farm (SP 989415)

John Walford

A magnetometer survey on 22.8ha of land at Moreteyne Farm identified parts of at least two enclosures, possibly connected with adjacent Iron Age or Romano-British remains. Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also identified.

Shefford, Stanford Road (TL 147 394)

Ian Fisher and Steve Morris

Archaeological trial excavations were undertaken following a geophysical survey that identified a number of curvilinear features and several possible pits. A sub-rectangular feature contained early-middle Saxon pottery, suggesting that it may be the remains of a sunken-featured building. Similar pit-like anomalies on the geophysical survey may indicate further such features in the vicinity. A number of possible boundary ditches may have been contemporary. There were further scattered features although the majority were undated. A substantial ditch dates to the post-medieval period and may be a former field boundary, although it is not recorded on historic maps. BEDFM 2011.73

Silsoe, Cranfield University campus (TL 0798 3513)
John Walford

An archaeological geophysical survey on 10.3ha of land at the former Cranfield University campus identified medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation patterns. Many magnetic anomalies were various features such as land drains, ferrous pipelines, ferrous or ceramic debris in the soil, larger ferrous objects and magnetic disturbance caused by standing buildings, fences and other modern installations.

Tempsford, Tempsford Hall (TL 1665 5352)
Adam Yates and Edmund Taylor

An archaeological earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken at Tempsford Hall. The earthwork survey identified the extent and form of the earthworks associated with the probable late Saxon/medieval tenement plots fronting onto Station Road, to the north of the development area, and of the moated medieval manor to the west, which was excavated in 1999 (*SMA* 30 (2000), 7). The trial trench evaluation proved that within the development area there were few archaeological remains. BEDFM 2011.75

Thurleigh, Cross End, Field Farm (TL 0686 5813)
David J Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of two new agricultural buildings on land at Field Farm. Plough soil punctuated by modern rubbish pits was noted throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Toddington, M1 Junction 12 (TL 0188 3016)
Jim Brown and Jason Clarke

Three areas close to M1 Junction 12 were subject to open area excavation. A small cemetery in use from the late Iron Age (early 1st century AD) to the early 2nd century AD was fully excavated. It comprised some fifty urned cremation burials in shallow pits, typically accompanied by a number of accessory vessels, and a single inhumation burial (Fig 1). A boundary ditch system of the same date had respected the location of the cemetery. An excavated area to the east of the M1 was crossed by a series of Roman boundary ditches spanning the 1st to 2nd/3rd centuries. A single pit contained a little burnt bone and quantities of dark soil, charcoal, burnt stones and burnt clay.

An excavated area to the west of the M1 contained an extensive layer of dumped clay which produced a quantity of pottery wasters, dated to the 12th-13th centuries and presumably from a nearby kiln. There was a clay foundation for a timber-framed building with a near-complete large jar sunk in the ground in one corner, which may have been utilized as a water cistern. An H-shaped stone foundation for a small structure adjacent to the timber building, is dated to the late 15th-16th centuries. This activity is probably

related to the documented medieval place name of Nuppings Green, which was perhaps either a single farm or a small settlement. LUTNM 2010.67

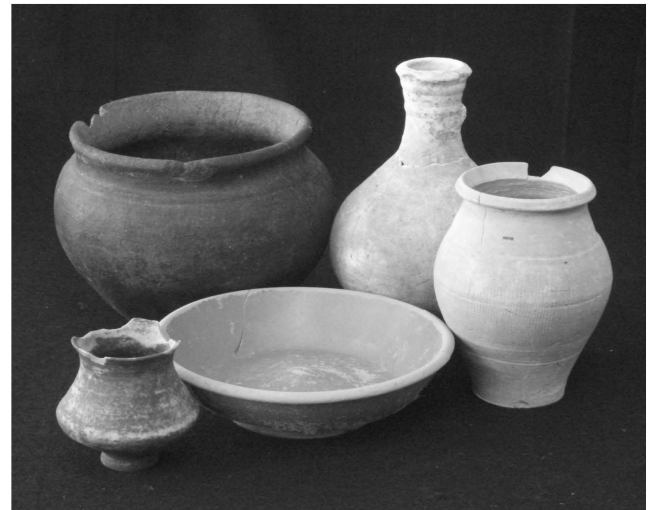


Fig 4. An urn and a selection of accessory vessels from the early Roman cemetery at Toddington, M1 Junction 12.

Toddington, M1 Junction 12 Overbridge (TL 0208 2981)
Tim Upson-Smith

Building recording was carried out of the Overbridge at M1 Junction 12 prior to its demolition. The structure of the bridge had altered little since its initial construction in 1958, one of 128 bridges in the first stretch of the M1 motorway between Luton and Crick, Northamptonshire. It was made from reinforced concrete, as pre-stressed concrete was still a fairly new innovation at the time. Minor repairs and the addition of a handrail on the southern parapet were the only changes.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Fieldwork Summaries 2011 by Chris Thatcher and Elizabeth Popescu.

Silsoe, Cranfield University (TL 0791 3550)
Chris Thatcher

The earliest remains on this site included a portion of a relict Roman field system which lay in close proximity to an Early to Middle Saxon sunken-featured building with associated pits. This may be indicative of the re-use of pre-existing land boundaries by the Saxon populace. Activity increased during the 12th to 14th centuries when a series of plot boundaries were laid out either side of West End Road, within which lay a quarry and cess pits. A metalled surface dating to this period was aligned perpendicular to the road and may have been a trackway. In the subsequent years these boundaries fell out of use as activity in the vicinity declined, although extant buildings on West End Road dating from the late 17th century show that the area was not entirely abandoned.

Buckinghamshire
OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Leighton Buzzard, Land at Clipstone (SP 9500 2700)
Vix Hughes

Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Andrew Josephs Ltd, on behalf of Sibelco Ltd, to undertake an evaluation of land at Clipstone, east of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. It is proposed to extract minerals from the site. The work was undertaken between 8th - 12th August and 5th - 9th September 2011. The evaluation consisted of 77 trenches and enhanced the results of previous evaluation work carried out at the site.

A sparse scatter of Bronze Age to early Iron Age features was recorded in both phases of evaluation. The current work indicated that at least some of these features may be of middle Bronze Age date. Previous work had demonstrated the presence of two areas of late Iron Age/early Roman settlement, one in the northern part of the site and one extending into the southern part. The current evaluation confirms this general pattern. In addition, some evidence of outlying field boundaries was located to the east of the northern settlement. The suggestion that some form of activity continued into the later Roman period is reinforced with the discovery of later Roman pottery in a ditch close to the southern settlement. Truncated remains of medieval or early post-medieval ridge and furrow agriculture were widespread across the site. range of datable material included pottery, ceramic building material and flint. The relatively unabraded pottery assemblage constituted pre-dominantly later prehistoric and Roman material, with some post-medieval material also present. The earliest material dated to the middle Bronze Age (1500-1140 BC).

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Aylesbury High School, Walton Road (SP 82681333)
Ian Turner, Marcin Koziminski, Rob Wardill

Trial trenching in advance of construction of a new 6th-form block revealed a ditch of possible late Iron Age date. The lack of other features suggests that the ditch is an outlying settlement feature, possibly a field boundary. A possible continuation of the ditch was recorded during a watching brief on construction works.

Bletchley - Shenley Road (SP 85633334)
Christiane Meckseper, Gary Edmondson

Groundworks associated with residential development at the junction of Shenley Road and Ludlow Close were subject to archaeological monitoring. A few very small, abraded sherds of late Iron Age pottery define the earliest activity on the site. The earliest features comprised a series of ditches. They probably represent elements of a post-medieval field system, lying to the north of the Three Trees crossroads which formed an early settlement focus. A

number of brick structures and post-pads were also revealed - part of a complex of farm buildings shown on the first edition 25-inch OS map of 1895.

Bow Brickhill - Land at Drakewell Road (SP 49102343)
Gary Edmondson and Marcin Koziminski

Trial-trench evaluation revealed no evidence of archaeological deposits within the main areas of development. No artefacts were recovered to indicate activity in the medieval or earlier periods.

High Wycombe – Desborough Castle Play Area (SU 84729332)
Marcin Koziminski and Rob Wardill

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the installation of a new children's play area within the scheduled ancient monument. Although the site lies in an area rich in archaeological earthworks, no archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the observation and investigation of the construction groundworks.

Marlow – Land at Riley Road (SU 84798659)
James Newbould

Trial trenching revealed the remains of three pits datable to the post-medieval and modern periods. They may be related to the use of the land as the gardens or back-plots of houses and shops on West Street as shown on the 1843 Great Marlow Tithe map and the 1st edition OS map of 1876. The presence of a possible Roman sherd within the largest pit does not necessarily indicate contemporary activity within or immediately adjacent to the area. The sherd was extremely abraded and appeared within a securely dated post-medieval deposit containing post-medieval tile.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

Akeley, The Old Rectory (SP 7066 3747)
Calli Rouse

A watching brief was undertaken in May at the Old Rectory, during groundworks for an extension to the east of the existing building. A limestone and brick footing for the south wall of a recently demolished outbuilding, contemporary with the Old Rectory, was revealed. A cast iron drainage pipe was also observed. No further significant finds or features were noted.

Bletchley, Buckingham Road (SP 8545 3325)
Karin Semmelmann

In August a programme of historic building recording and heritage impact assessment were completed for 170 Buckingham Road. The site comprises an early 20th century farmhouse and a Grade II listed timber-framed outhouse

with adjoining brick-built stores. A detailed record was prepared of the outhouse, formerly a cottage, which dates from the late 16th or early 17th century. It has retained many early features such as plank and batten doors, an 18th century spring latch and a 19th century iron fireplace. The cottage was refurbished in the 19th century when it was still used as a dwelling, and re-roofed in the late 20th century following a fire. Cartographic and structural evidence suggest that the adjoining buildings are 20th century brick replacements of earlier buildings on the same site. The site was part of Bengal Farm, which operated a retail dairy until bought by the present owners.

Despite its location on the Roman road from Watling Street to Thornborough, in an area of Romano-British farmsteads, there is little archaeological evidence for pre-medieval activity on or close to the development site. Medieval and post-medieval activity was largely of a rural nature until the 20th century when the site was subject to various rebuilding initiatives. Consequently it was suggested that there was an overall low to medium potential for encountering archaeological remains on the site.

Chartridge, Bellingdon Brickworks (SP 9380 0616)

Jonathan Hunn

A programme of geo-archaeological recording was undertaken at Bellingdon Brickworks between July 2007 and May 2011. This comprised observation of the removal of topsoil and overburden, and the subsequent monitoring of each extraction pit. After an initial machine-cut trench was made across the first deposit of 'brickearth' a series of intermittent site visits were made to observe and record the individual extraction pits. No significant geo-archaeological deposits or features were observed.

Cheddington, Mentmore Road (SP 9200 1758)

Karin Semmelmann

Following a historic building assessment, between April and December a watching brief was carried out at 22 Mentmore Road during groundworks for an extension to the existing house. The watching brief revealed some post-medieval pottery fragments, some of the foundations for the recently demolished 20th century garage and some disturbance to the north of the building, which is likely to have been related to the modern building works. No further archaeological finds or features were observed.

Coleshill, Magpie Lane (SU 9440 9534)

Gareth Shane and Karin Semmelmann

In November historic building recording was undertaken at Bowers Farm, Magpie Lane, at the owner's request. Bowers Farm is a Grade II listed timber-framed house of four and a half bays encompassing two storeys and attics. The first three bays were constructed around 1615 followed by a carriageway in 1686, creating a fourth bay at the eastern end of the building. There are several extensions to the house, the earliest of which is possibly late 17th or early 18th century and comprises the core of the northern addition to the house. This was further extended in the 19th and 20th

centuries. A brick-built extension to the west of the house appears to be of 19th century date and links the house with former farm buildings to the southwest. In the late 20th century Bowers was extended at the east end and the interior layout was subject to alteration.

The house is one of several in the hamlet dating from before 1650 and is clearly of architectural significance in that the upper floor was designed specifically to allow the owner greater privacy. The house was divided into cottages in the late 18th century but reinstated in the early 19th century, after which it was part of a working farm until the early 20th century. The last use of the buildings for agricultural purposes was in 1964, when the barn that had been rented out to a local farmer burnt down.

Lavendon, Castle Farm (SP 9170 5434)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

Between January 2009 and February 2011 a watching brief was carried out at Castle Farm, during the residential conversion of farm buildings, the construction of a house and three detached garages, and the provision of associated services and landscaping. Castle Farm stands on the site of Lavendon Castle, founded by the Bidun family before 1232, and now a scheduled ancient monument. The watching brief uncovered a limestone wall, part of a possible gateway, and wooden beams forming part of a fence or structure, all thought to be of recent date and assessed to be of little archaeological significance.

Loughton, Pitcher Lane (SP 8380 3780)

Gareth Shane

In October an evaluation was undertaken on land in Pitcher Lane, Loughton, in advance of an extension to the graveyard at All Saints Church. Two trenches were excavated and archaeology comprising two post-holes was present in one of these. One contained a single medieval pot sherd and a lump of fired clay, the other was undated. No other archaeological features or finds were located on the site.

Mursley, Salden Manor (SP 8521 2971)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

A watching brief was carried out at Salden Manor, Cooks Lane in March, during the construction of a tennis court. A banked area was present along the western side of the site. Upon excavation the bank comprised made-up ground containing significant quantities of dumped orange bricks and tile. A number of large limestone blocks were also uncovered: these could possibly have derived from Sir John Fortescue's mansion, the site of which lies immediately north of the development.

Newport Pagnell, Union Street (SP 8763 4402)

Bob Zeepvat

In February a programme of historic building recording was carried out on 12 Union Street, Newport Pagnell, in advance of its conversion and extension for residential use. The site

Buckinghamshire

comprised two adjoining buildings, constructed of brick with slate roofs, located at the north end of the yard to the rear of the 'Cannon' public house.

The two-storey western building is the larger of the two, and from its ground floor plan was probably used as stables. Cartographic and structural evidence points to it being the earlier structure, probably built in the early 19th century and therefore predating the Cannon brewery, which was established on the site in 1860. This building was in a particularly poor state of preservation at the time of the survey.

The eastern building is a smaller single-storey, two-roomed structure. The rooms originally appear to have had independent access, and could have been offices, for example for a yard foreman or gatekeeper. From the available cartographic and structural evidence this building was constructed between 1882 and 1900, on the site of an earlier, smaller building. The section of limestone wall on the north side of Building 2 may be a survival from this earlier structure.

Newton Longville, St Faiths Close (SP 8469 3134)
Carina Summerfield-Hill

Between August and October a watching brief was carried out at 3 St Faith's Close, during the construction of a two-storey side extension to the existing house. The works revealed that the site had undergone much disturbance with services and made-ground deposits overlying buried topsoil. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

Penn, Elm Road (SU 9074 9368)
Gareth Shane

In September a watching brief was undertaken at 1 Red Lion Cottages, Elm Road, during groundworks for an extension to the existing building. An aim of the project was to recover and record any evidence of the medieval and post-medieval tile industry in Penn. Excavation of the footings was observed but no archaeology was located or recovered.

Princes Risborough, High Street (SP 8088 0335)
Karin Semmelmann

Historic building recording of 1 High Street, Princes Risborough was undertaken in May as a condition of planning permission for the conversion of the building to offices and residential units. The property, which consists of a 3-storey double fronted house and a 2-storey wing with a curved front elevation, is listed Grade II. It was erected in the later 18th or early 19th century, the latter possibly as an infill. In the early 19th century the building was owned by Thomas Winslow and it consisted of the rooms on the street frontage. By the later 19th century both parts of the building had been extended southwards, the eastern extension comprising a 2-storey section with a single-storey addition to the rear. The eastern extension was extensively remodelled in the 20th century when the single storey

section was demolished, the pitched roof replaced by a flat roof and the single-storey addition built on the eastern side to allow access to the internal staircase. For much of the 19th and into the early 20th century it belonged to the Benning family. Henry Benning was a poulterer, butter merchant and corn and hay dealer between 1853 and 1883, and his widow lived in the house until the early 1920s.

Princes Risborough, Picts Lane (SP 8008 0274)
Bob Zeepvat

In August a pre-determination trial trench evaluation was carried out on the former Whiteleaf Furniture factory site in Picts Lane, to inform proposals for residential redevelopment of the site. The site lies to the south of the town, adjacent to the railway station. An initial desk-based assessment indicated that the site had moderate potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains.

Ten trenches were opened across the site. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed. The soil profiles encountered suggested that some truncation had taken place during the construction of the factory and/or its demolition. It is thought unlikely that undisturbed archaeological features might survive on the site away from the trial trenches, and the impact of the proposed redevelopment of the site on buried heritage assets was assessed to be low.

Stoke Hammond, Willowbridge Marina (SP 8828 3144)
Martin Cuthbert

A trial trench evaluation was carried out in August at Willowbridge Marina, Stoke Road, prior to the construction of an extension to the present marina. Six trenches were excavated within the proposed development, and cleaned to determine the presence of archaeological remains. East-west aligned ridge and furrow earthworks were present in five of the six trench locations. Ridge and furrow earthworks were not present in the north-eastern corner of the site. Truncation caused by the construction of the canal or the present marina may have caused this. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the trenches.

Stony Stratford, High Street (SP 7867 4068)
Martin Cuthbert

An evaluation was carried out in May on land to the rear of Tower House, 96 High Street, to inform proposals for the construction of a detached house. One trench was excavated within the area of the proposed development. Archaeology was present in the form of three ditches and two pits. One ditch contained six sherds of medieval pottery with a broad date range from the 13th - 17th centuries, as well as a quantity of animal bone. One pit was modern: the remaining features were undated.

Terrick, Risborough Road (SP 8357 0909)
Carina Summerfield-Hill

In May an evaluation was carried out at the former BOCM works, Terrick, in advance of the erection of a two-storey care home with associated access, parking, cycle store and landscaping. The evaluation uncovered a possible prehistoric ditch, Roman ditches, pits and a human cremation, and several undated features. It is likely that the Roman features form part of a more extensive agricultural landscape related to the Roman villa c 600m southeast of the site.

Waddesdon, Waddesdon Estate Visitor Car Park (SP 7731 1729)
Karin Semmelmann

In March a heritage impact assessment was prepared for three fields and an area of woodland on the Waddesdon Estate, to inform proposals for the site, including a car park with visitor reception facilities, a minibus route towards the house, and the creation of a woodland area. The three fields, known as Thorns Close, Yearling Paddock and Old Park, are located along the northern boundary of the estate adjacent to the A41. The setting of all these proposals is the Grade I listed Historic Park and Garden at Waddesdon and the Grade II listed buildings comprising the Dairy Complex, clearly significant heritage assets themselves. Aside from this, the main heritage considerations were Akeman Street Roman road and the medieval deer park, which formerly included at least part of the three fields. Additionally, the proposed mini-bus route traverses the site of Rasings or Moton's manor and its associated houses, which is also of at least local significance. It was noted that the creation of the parkland and the construction of Waddesdon House required the removal of vast quantities of soil. Spoil management and drainage/landslide problems resulting from the extensive groundworks are likely to have had an effect on any surviving archaeological remains. Whether this has caused disturbance and/or destruction or deposited additional overburden which is now protecting earlier remains is yet to be ascertained.

Proposed Minibus Route
SP 7380 1690
David Kaye

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken in June on the proposed minibus route, through an area of woodland south of the Dairy Complex. Seven trenches were excavated: archaeological cut features were present in three of them. One trench contained three intercutting ditches of Roman date. Two other trenches revealed silted ditches of post-medieval date. One of these had a later land drain cut into its fill: the other had a later ceramic land drain overlying it.

In five trenches a layer of redeposited clay, similar to the underlying natural clay, was present beneath topsoil and sealing most of the cut features. This contained post-medieval pottery sherds as well as residual fragments of Roman, Saxon and medieval pottery. It is likely that this

material was deposited during the creation of the park. The source of the redeposited material is not known.

Old Park
SP 7306 1731
Alastair Hancock

A geophysical (detailed magnetometer) survey was undertaken in August at Old Park, to determine whether Akeman Street could be identified where its route is thought to cross the Park. The survey results show that recent agricultural use of Old Park has been intensive, and the Roman road could not be definitively located. Magnetic anomalies perhaps caused by archaeological features are present near the suggested location of the road but they are weak and amorphous, and may be caused by relatively recent human activity or the presence of geomorphological features.

Weedon, Chestnuts Farm (SP 8161 1805)
Gareth Shane

In April a watching brief was undertaken at Chestnuts Farm, during ground reduction for the construction of a tennis court. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed. The gardens of Chestnut Farm showed significant signs of landscaping which could go some way to explain the absence of archaeology on this site.

Wendover, Wendover House School (SP 8720 0725)
Karin Semmelmann

A heritage impact assessment was prepared for Wendover House School in June, to inform development proposals for the site. The school is on the site of Wendover manor house, immediately south of the 14th century church.

Wendover is located on the crossroads of two ancient route ways and between two significant prehistoric landscapes, a Neolithic/early Bronze Age ritual landscape to the west and a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age hill fort to the east. Evidence of Roman and early Saxon activity has been found on and close to the site, which became part of a multiple estate in the middle Saxon period, only to fragment in the 12th century when the manor was given to Hugh de Gurnay.

The development of the manorial site and indeed the church is unclear as there is little archaeological or historical evidence for pre-medieval origins at the present location. Local lore tells of the church being moved by the Devil during construction, and archaeological evidence suggests the area to the north of the site could be the focus for the Anglo-Saxon and early medieval settlement. The establishment of the borough in the early 13th century led to a new street plan, which not only isolated the church and manor from the commercial centre but also emphasised the socio-political divide between Wendover Borough and Wendover Forrens.

Wendover House School was established within the grounds of the Grade II listed manor house rebuilt by Devey

Buckinghamshire

in the late 19th century. The oldest parts of the building are the stable block, which bears the date 1735, and part of the main building, which could be 17th century. Several purpose built school buildings were added from the 1960s in a variety of architectural styles. Archaeological remains uncovered during construction works include a female skeleton to the east of the site and medieval and post-medieval features in the Grade II listed walled garden to the northwest. Roman coins and medieval pottery have also been found in the grounds. The earliest occupation evidence recovered from the school grounds and the churchyard so far is 12th century.

Willen, Caldecote Farm Quarry (SP 8810 4216)

Alastair Hancock & Martin Cuthbert

Following initial desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, in October and November pre-determination evaluation trenching was undertaken on an area of proposed aggregate extraction to the south of Caldecote Farm, Willen Road. It is envisaged that extraction will occur in two phases, subject to separate planning applications: this evaluation examined the area of the first extraction phase (Area A). The assessment indicated that the medieval settlement of Caldecote could extend into the northern part of Area A. The geophysical survey did not reveal conclusive evidence of coherent settlement activity, but large areas of disturbed magnetic background, frequently indicative of settlement, were present at the north of the site.

The evaluation confirmed that remnants of medieval settlement are present at the north end of Area A, and that the centre and south of the area formed part of the medieval open field system. Recovered finds suggest that activity became less pronounced during the latter part of the medieval period, and the north of Area A may have then been incorporated into an open agricultural landscape for a time until enclosure.

A small number of undated and dispersed post holes and shallow ditches were identified at the centre of Area A, but their significance is currently uncertain. Distributed across the wider evaluation area were dispersed and undated shallow ditches indicative of the presence of a system of agricultural land division pre or post-dating the medieval open field system and pre-dating post-medieval enclosure.

Limited prehistoric human activity may be defined by a relatively substantial pit containing a small assemblage of flint artefacts of Neolithic/Bronze Age date. Attempts to radiocarbon date animal bone recovered from this pit were unsuccessful due to a paucity of extractable collagen.

Winslow, Vicarage Road (SP 7679 2765)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

During March and April a trial trench evaluation was undertaken prior to housing development at The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Road. Desk-based assessment undertaken some years earlier had determined that the site had been occupied since at least the 18th century. The site of the earlier house survived as a slight platform in the rear

garden of the present house, which had been built in the mid 19th century.

The evaluation revealed that the site had been built up by almost one metre in places, probably since the late post-medieval period. Beneath the build-up, a single shallow feature of probable Roman date was identified to the north of the present house. In the rear garden two intercutting medieval ditches, one of them recut, were located, as well as a number of undated and post-medieval pits, and a possible robbed-out structure of post-medieval date.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Peter Marsden

Collective Research Activities during the year

The society's Historic Buildings Group 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 .

Historic impact analysis ahead of the HS2 high-speed rail plans

The main activity of 2011 was in response to the plans to run a high-speed rail line, known as 'HS2', across Buckinghamshire from end-to-end on its route from London to Birmingham. The proposed route affects many historic buildings and archaeological sites, some of which would be completely destroyed if construction goes ahead according to initial plans.

Because the government allowed only a few months for public responses to the HS2 plan, the Society lacked both time and resources to survey the possible impact along the whole route from Denham in the south to Chetwode in the north. However six detailed 'spot-check' surveys were done as exemplars of the likely impact on the historic assets of the county. Four were a detailed focus on the village of Twyford, where the line would pass within 150m of the Grade 1 listed parish church, with general surveys at Chetwode in North Bucks and Potter Row in the Chilterns.

The text of the Society's submission to the government's 'Consultation on HS2' is on-line at: www.bucksas.org.uk/hbgprojects/hs2consultationresponse.html.

The six survey reports are also available for download.

Recording the historic public houses of Buckinghamshire

Aims to record the pubs and former pubs of the county, most of which are historic buildings in their own right. A survey of 11 pubs and former pubs in Weston Turville was completed. Surveys were started in Wendover, Stewkley and Whitchurch.

Hedgerley listed buildings survey

Aims to survey, draw and research the listed buildings in the village of Hedgerley. Four have been surveyed and a fifth dated by dendrochronology. A report on Shell House (1680-90) has been submitted for publication in *Records of Buckinghamshire*.

Those on four other buildings - The White Horse, Old Keepers, the Old Quaker House and the Garden Cottage - are at various stages of writing up. A summary of results can be found on the website at: www.bucksas.org.uk/hbgprojects/2009_4.html

Wingrave village survey

Detailed surveys of two buildings have been completed and are being written up: Windmill Hill Farmhouse (early 16th century, with part of the former windmill re-used in its roof) and Dean Leys (dendro-dated to a construction date of between 1493 and 1527).

Great Horwood village survey

A village survey day in October 2011 was attended by 25 people, both members of the BAS Historic Buildings Group and local villagers. The aim is two-fold: to make an external record of all buildings within the village's historic core, outlined by its Conservation Area, and to conduct detailed internal and external surveys of significant buildings.

The initial survey identified and recorded 119 buildings, and the report on these is being written up. The first individual building survey is planned for late January 2012.

Publications

Records of Buckinghamshire volume 51- 2011

A Late Prehistoric Settlement and other excavations along the Taplow to Dorney water pipeline 2003-04, *Jonathan Hart, E R McSloy and Andrew Mudd*

A Middle Iron Age Farmstead at Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, *James Newbould*

Roman Rural Settlement at Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes, *Stephen Morris and Simon Carlyle*

Saxon and Medieval activity at Walton Street, Aylesbury, *Pip Stone*

Three Sceptre or Staff Mounts from Buckinghamshire, *Linda Babb*

The Romanesque Doorways at Dinton and Leckhampstead, *Rita Wood*

Medieval Kingsey and Tythrop, 1086-1335, *Keith Bailey*

Town and Countryside in Medieval Ivinghoe, *Mark Page*
Lord and Lady of the Manor: the Disraelis at Hughenden, *Pamela Horn*

Historical and Named Trees at Burnham Beeches, *Helen J Read*

Notes:

Aylesbury celebrities of the last century: Transcription of hand-written notes by Robert Gibbs dated 1 May 1877, Sue Fox. £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.

Other significant activities

Buckinghamshire Local History Network

The subject of the 2011 Conference, held at Halton in October under the auspices of the Society, was 'Military Buckinghamshire'. Talks were given on:

Moats, mottes and castles: status and defence in medieval Buckinghamshire, *Mike Farley*

The Buckinghamshire gentry and the Hundred Years War, *Dr Andy King*

Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire in the Civil War, *Dr Alan Thompson*

Portraits of the Civil War, and others, *Sarah Gray*

Buckinghamshire and the First World War, *Michael Senior*
The secret war in Buckinghamshire: Bletchley and beyond, *Jonathan Byrne*

Portraits of Buckinghamshire military men, *Sarah Gray*

The Buckinghamshire voluntary military tradition, *Professor Ian Becket*

CHILTERN ARCHAEOLOGY

Yewden Roman villa, Hambleton (SU 7840 8555)

Dr Jill Eyers

Yewden villa and the archaeology of the wider surrounding area of the Hambleton valley were investigated by Chiltern Archaeology between 2008 and 2011. During the programme a large area of the valley, from Mill End to Hambleton, was investigated by geophysics, field walking and metal detecting surveys (Eyers, 2011; Payne, 2010; Eyers and Mays 2011; Eyers and Hutt 2012). In addition, three woodland archaeological surveys (Eyers 2009; 2010) and an underwater evaluation of the river Thames (banks and channel) were carried out. A full evaluation of the finds from the 1912 excavation (Cocks, 1921) was also undertaken.

The field surveys revealed evidence from all eras in the Hambleton valley. The area from the River Thames at Mill End to the modern village of Hambleton has produced



Fig 1. A reconstruction of the buildings and enclosure of the Yewden complex of the 4th century, based on the footings of the 1912 excavation and including details determined by finds analysis.

Buckinghamshire

archaeological evidence dating from the lower Palaeolithic to the modern period. Within the immediate area of Yewden villa, south of the village, the most abundant finds and features were Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman. Geophysical survey revealed the presence of a broad range of features including field boundaries, enclosures, tracks and further buildings. Iron Age and Roman settlement overlap in the fields adjacent to and within Yewden. Evidence from geophysics has also indicated the location of two potential temples near the villa. A further building inside the villa enclosure was identified as a possible shrine.

Evaluation of the finds from the 1921 Yewden excavations (stored in the Buckinghamshire County Museum) became a prime focus of the project when it became apparent that the vast majority had not been catalogued, or been subject to expert analysis. During the project, the skeletal remains from the excavations were found to be in very good condition and have been re-examined (Mays and Eysers, 2011; Mays *et al* 2012). It was concluded that the large number of infant burials found at the north end of the site mostly died at 38-40 weeks gestation, and that the likely cause of this was infanticide. This aspect of the work received extensive coverage by the media. The uncatalogued material from the 1912 excavation was sorted, identified and researched and catalogued finds were re-evaluated (coins, iron, human bone). These allowed, for the first time, an assessment of the dates and use for each individual building, furnace, pit and other structure which has completely changed all previous interpretations for Yewden villa, including the EH scheduling. The results are included in the recently published site monograph (Eysers, 2011).

References

- Cocks A H 1921; 'A Roman-British homestead in the Hambleden valley, Bucks.', *Archaeologia* 71, 141-98.
- Eysers J 2009; *Woodland archaeological survey, Ridge Wood, Hambleden, Buckinghamshire*. Chiltern Archaeology Report No.120.
- Eysers J 2010; *Woodland Archaeological survey North Cot Wood, Hambleden, Buckinghamshire*. Chiltern Archaeology Report No. 121.
- Eysers J 2011; *Romans in the Hambleden Valley. Yewden Roman Villa*. Monograph 1. ISBN 978-1-904898-12-2.
- Eysers J and Hutt A 2012; Mill End Roman Villa, Hambleden: Geophysical survey and assessment. *Records of Bucks*. In press.
- Eysers J and Mays S 2011; Infanticide in Roman Britain? The Yewden villa babies. *Current Archaeology* Nov 2011, 260:28-33.
- Mays S and Eysers J 2011; 'Perinatal infant death at the Roman villa site at Hambleden, Buckinghamshire, England.' *J. Archaeol. Science* 38: 1931-38.
- Mays S, Robson-Brown K, Vincent S, Eysers J, King H and Roberts A 2012; An infant femur bearing cut marks from the Roman Villa at Hambleden, Bucks. In press.
- Payne A 2010; *Magnetometry survey of Horseleys Field, Hambleden, Bucks*. English Heritage Research Department Report Series No. 61-2010.

Little Orchard Field, Hedgerley

(SU 969 875 central point)

Dr Jill Eysers

Little Orchard field lies on the edge of the historic part of Hedgerley village. There are subtle landscape features which present as potential archaeology. A desk top survey along with resistance and magnetic susceptibility surveys proved the area to be disturbed ground and showed a clear relationship with an adjacent small quarry where clay has been extracted in the past (unrecorded). Tracks relating to this and a potential platform for a structure were noted, but there was no strong indication of settlement or a kiln, both of which had formed a tentative suggestion and was the reason for commencement of the work.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Bletchley, Slad Farm, Water Eaton (SP 8695 3150)

Peter Davenport

Historic building recording of a Victorian model farm was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology prior to demolition. Fabric analysis and map regression allowed the original form of the farm to be established. The farm was a complex of brick buildings of mid 19th century date, with a farmhouse and attached workrooms arranged around a central courtyard. The barn on the north range was quite small and of unusual design. Other buildings were tool and vehicle sheds, shelter sheds, pigsties and possible veal pens. Despite alteration, much of the original fabric, but none of the fittings, still survived.

Stone, Bugle Horn Public House (SP 7955 1207)

Peter Davenport

Historic building recording by Cotswold Archaeology of the boundary wall of the pub car park demonstrated that the wall was erected at the same time as the main estate wall of nearby Hartwell House (1855), to which the ground enclosed once belonged, and shared its characteristic of the inclusion of geological specimens. The wall had been extensively repaired but its decorative nature and the inclusion of relatively few geological specimens were still evident.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Compiled by David Gilbert

Aylesbury, Temple Square, The Queens Head

(SP 81823 13788)

Stephen Yeates

Historic building recording was carried out on the chimney of the Queen's Head public house, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. This was part of a process of renovation work being carried out at the listed building, which involved the dismantling and reconstruction of the existing chimney over the smaller and older part of the building. The

chimneystack is of a possible 16th century construction with 18th century additions.

Brill, The Stable House (SP 65650 13737)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during groundworks at Stable House, The Green, Brill. The excavations were generally very shallow and limited due to the construction methodology employed. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered. Limited post-medieval pottery and tile were recovered from topsoil stripping.

Burnham, Burnham Abbey (SU 6381 9670)

Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was conducted during alterations at Burnham Abbey, Buckinghamshire. This included alterations to the sewerage and drainage systems, the moving of a fire escape and the cutting of a foundation for a lift shaft. In all locations any medieval archaeology that had previously existed on the site would appear to be destroyed. The most significant layers were destruction layers associated with the post-medieval period.

Cuddington, Holywell Farm (SP 7565 1160)

Paul Riccoboni

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in advance of the proposed construction of a new development at Holywell Farm. Five trenches, with a cumulative length of approximately 102m were excavated to the uppermost surface of the archaeology or natural geology. The earliest features were Romano-British ditches and pits seen in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5 which covered a relatively flat area on the immediate crest of a slope descending northwards. The ditches probably once formed boundaries of a Romano-British farming complex, which occupied this hilltop during the 2nd through to the 4th century AD. The actual settlement evidence came from a series of postholes, a gully and waste pits from Trenches 2 and 3 set close to the boundary ditches of the Romano-British farmstead.

All of the ditches were broadly contemporary with a mixture of both early and later Roman pottery within the fills. The ditches were generally deep with sharp concave sides filled with sandy clay, which looked deliberately backfilled rather than gradual filling over time. During a later phase of activity, a large (possibly defensive) ditch seen in Trench 5 orientated approximately north-east south-west may have re-instated the boundaries of the farm during the 3rd/4th century AD. This ditch contained some Saxon and post-medieval pottery on its uppermost surface, which indicates the site was still probably occupied into the Saxon period and also proves later farming activity, such as ploughing, has truncated and disturbed the surface of some features. Other features also contained Saxon pottery a further indication of post-Roman settlement. The site was then abandoned and left as pasture until modern times.

Ford, Water Lane, Moreton Barn (SP 7889 0954)

David Gilbert

A watching brief was conducted during the stripping of soil to foundation level for a new all-weather riding arena. Over much of the area this was too shallow to impact upon archaeological layers. The only feature recorded was an undated ditch.

Great Missenden, Road Farm Barns (SP 88515 02832)

Stephen Yeates

Building Recording was carried out on two barns, Road Farm, Great Missenden. These are to be renovated to return them to agricultural use. The barns form one side of a courtyard, they are dated generally to the 18th century although there are reasons to think that the construction of the barns extends over a far longer period.

Haddenham, Fort End, 2 Fern Lane (SP 7408 0888)

Gwilym Williams

Five trenches were excavated within the proposal development area. Medieval ditches, dating from the 12th and 13th centuries as well as at least one medieval quarry pit, and undated postholes for a possible building were investigated.

Haddenham, White Hart House (SP 74136 08254)

Stephen Yeates

Building Recording work was carried out at White Hart House, Haddenham. This confirmed certain beliefs about the date of the building, suggested phasing of the property and provided drawings of the chimney to be wholly or partially removed. The historic background research also suggested that the present building may lie on the location of a far older building dating from the late 14th century.

Kingswood, Bicester Road, Sharps Hill Farm

(SP 6845 1955)

Imogen Grundon

Historic building recording was carried out prior to the demolition of two northern extensions. Three phases of building were recognised. The extensions appear to have been used as a butchery, cold store and larder.

Ludgershall, Church of St Mary the Virgin

(SP 6605 1725)

Imogen Grundon

In March 2010, the lead from the roof was stolen, it became necessary to review the damage that piecemeal patching of the lead over the decades had caused to facilitate a repair programme. The timbers were examined and the drawings of the roof annotated with the repair points.

Buckinghamshire

Marlow, Lower Pound Lane, Marlow Sports Club

(SU 8454 8595)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was undertaken during ground reduction in advance of a new artificial turf area with landscaping, floodlighting, fencing and car parking at Marlow Sports Club. The surface of the natural geology was seen across the centre of the field and no archaeological features or finds were present.

Nether Winchendon, Manor Farm House

(SP 7321 1226)

Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was conducted during the construction of a new conservatory onto Manor House Farm, Nether Winchendon, Buckinghamshire, a grade II* listed building. The trenches uncovered a number of features, of which the major one was the remains of a probable kitchen of probable 16th century date. The remains of a possible earlier limestone structure were also noted, but this was of an unknown date.

Princes Risborough, St Mary's Church (SP 8060 0349)

Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was carried out at Saint Mary's, Princes Risborough, during the removal of the Victorian floor and its replacement with a new oolitic limestone floor with drainage ducts inserted below. This work retrieved finds of earlier periods and also identified a number of earlier structural features, which enables the reinterpretation of the phasing of the development of the church. Previous interpretations of the church (VCH 1908; RCHME 1912/3; Pevsner and Williamson 1994) had suggested a simple nave and chancel structure that pre-dated the 13th century. This implied that the nave had been lengthened in the 14th century. This sequence of events can now be corrected. Limited archaeological evidence survives for an early but as yet poorly dated phase of the church. The walls of this structure were probably robbed. The Phase 2 structure, over which the present nave sits, was initially considerably longer measuring at least 21.9m in length. The west wall of the nave was detected in the drainage channels dug below the impact layer under the present tower. Investigation of the service cuts to the west of the church confirmed that there was a further wall beyond the present tower which indicated that rather than a square tower the building had a rectangular porch more in line with late Anglo-Saxon churches of the 9th to 11th centuries (for example Cirencester, Gloucestershire). In the 13th century the aisles were added on the north and south side, and the arcades inserted. These were longer, like the nave, than previously thought, as indicated by the line of a blocked door at the west end of the south aisle. In the 14th century the west end of the church probably collapsed leading to the insertion of new arches and the shortening of the nave. Further phases of the church can be detected internally from the later 16th to the early 19th century through posts for gallery steps and pulpits where protestant views reconfigured how the church

should be used. The Victorian reworking of the church was also apparent from 1867-8, as were later repairs.

Bibliography

Pevsner N and Williamson E 1994; *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire*, London: Penguin

RCHME 1912; *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Buckinghamshire*, volume 1, London: HMSO

VCH 1908; *A History of the County of Buckingham*, volume 2, London: Saint Catherine's Press

Slapton, Church of the Holy Cross (SP 93715 20690)

Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was conducted at the church of the Holy Cross, Slapton, during drainage works. The trenches uncovered a series of broader foundations around the church, and also noted the apparent profile of a ditch through the churchyard. Surprisingly no burials were noted in the graveyard, thus potentially indicating the probability of a low level of interment on the site over the years.

Stokenchurch, Wormsley Park (SP 73950 94420)

Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of footings and grading of the land during the construction of the new auditorium for Garsington Opera on the estate. Grading below the new ha-ha identified the remains of a probable field boundary, while grading activity elsewhere failed to penetrate the subsoil. Excavations above the ha-ha wall uncovered the remains of a probable building constructed of timber and brick on a chalk platform, a possible Tudor conduit, and an earlier ha-ha bank of the early 19th century. The excavations for the concrete pads below the ha-ha produced evidence for a small area of medieval ridge and furrow in what was formerly a field called Home Field, a significant boundary marked on a map of 1759 (but which again could be significantly older) and also a series of undated features from an area formerly called Haw Field.

Terrick, Nash Lee Road, The Chiltern Brewery

(SP 8514 0817)

David Gilbert

An evaluation comprising two trenches revealed a buried soil layer containing 11th-13th century pottery and prehistoric flint work. The abraded Sandy and Shelly Ware recovered from the layer may indicate that the area was ploughed during the late 11th century, but this had ceased by the 12th century when there was deposition of the later pottery types, which were in far better condition. This medieval agriculture may have disturbed or destroyed earlier prehistoric remains in the area, evident by the flint artefacts.

Wavendon, St Mary's Church (SP 9115 3720)

Eoin Fitzsimons

A watching brief was conducted at St Mary's Church, Wavendon during the excavation of the floor in the West

MARLOW ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Marlow, Riley Park (SU 8470 8670)

Peter Borrows

A resistivity survey of the Eastern section of the park indicated a linear anomaly, in addition to the footings of the former stand of Marlow Football Club. Excavation of a trench across the Southern end of the feature proved inconclusive, but it appeared to be the infilled remains of an unrecorded stream bed that may have been associated with a boundary shown on a plan stated as dating from 1806. The few ceramic building material finds suggested infilling in the late 19th century. It is hoped to revisit the feature to obtain more information.

Marlow, Rookery Park (SU 8504 8685)

Peter Borrows

Construction work in the park early in the year damaged the buried footings of a Victorian house demolished in the 1960s. In order to fix the poorly recorded position of these footings, a resistivity survey was undertaken together with excavation of a number of trenches to expose the extent of the building that had been extended on several occasions. The domestic finds recovered were consistent with the later occupation of the house. It was hoped to find evidence of an earlier farmhouse said to have been incorporated into the later property. A small section of flint wall was uncovered at the end of the season that appeared to be consistent with the expected position and fabric of the farmhouse. Also discovered was what appeared to be the top of a chalk block wall to the cellar of the house. If this proves to be the case, it may indicate a property that predated the farmhouse and it is planned to investigate the cellar in 2012.

NATIONAL TRUST

Gary Marshall

West Wycombe Park (SU 82979 94570)

In 2008 The National Trust published an article in Records of Buckinghamshire on a series of brick and timber structures revealed in the lake and stream beds at West Wycombe Park. These are thought to date from an early 18th century period of landscaping and though difficult to identify due to their fragmentary state they appear to form a series of sluices and channels for diverting the course of the River Wye. In 2011 a further structure appeared in the south bank of the north stream as a consequence of the River Wye drying up, leading to erosion of part of the bank. This structure consists of two timber-lined 'chambers' separated by a 0.35m wide gap laid into a cut in the underlying sandy gravels. The sides and bottoms to the two chambers are lined with yellow clay, evidently in an attempt to make them watertight. A solid floor of brick and re-used quarry tiles overlies the clay base in each chamber. Dimensions of the two chambers are hard to determine as they have eroded badly, however, they have a width of 1.3m and an estimated

Tower and associated drainage. Twenty-two burials (sixteen in the West Tower, and six in the drainage trench) and one crypt were uncovered. The burials from within the West Tower were all juvenile dating from the 13th century. The burials uncovered in the drainage trench were undated.

Whitchurch, 3 Church Headland Lane (SU 8035 2095)

Gwilym Williams

A three-trench evaluation on land at Kempston Cottage was carried out. Quarry pits dating from 18th or 19th centuries were present.

Wotton Underwood, South Pavilion (SP 6856 1608)

Gwilym Williams

A watching brief was conducted during the construction of a swimming pool in the gardens of the house. As a consequence the works for the pool-construction revealed pits with a date range from the mid/late 11th to 14th centuries, which accords with the date-range of features identified during the previous evaluation. Similarly, the very compact natural clay resulted in relatively shallow features. The earliest feature, dating from the mid to late 11th century was a large pit extending beyond the south edge of excavation. Six pits dated from the late 11th to early 13th centuries, one of which was cut by the northeast/southwest oriented gully of an enclosure. There were four pits associated with this phase dating from the early to mid 13th century.

The earlier features are dominated by small assemblages of Oxford ware, which also contain Cotswold-type ware and Newbury A/B ware. The assemblages increase in size in later features but with the addition of early Brill/Boarstall ware and Potterspury indicating that Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire industries assume dominance. Paul Blinkhorn comments that sherds in the assemblages are fragmented and of a low mean weight, suggesting that the deposits are secondary.

Deposits dating from the mid 13th to 14th centuries onwards were present beneath a stone cill which was investigated during the watching brief. The cill represents part of a building. As the building extended beyond the edges of the excavation, it is not clear whether it represented the north gable-end of a small building measuring 4m wide and of unknown length, or the north side of building extending for 8m, some of the cill having been removed in antiquity.

To the west within the walled garden, the earlier evaluation had located a gully and possible pit, which cannot be tied to the recent work. To the east of the watching brief, an evaluation trench located part of the green way illustrated on an estate map (BAS 96/47) of 1649 as well as the edge of a medieval pond. To the north of the medieval activity was a low wall, parallel with the garden wall of the walled garden. The whole was sealed by dumps of clay associated with the creation of the formal lake within the grounds of Wotton House, undertaken by Capability Brown in the mid 18th century.

Buckinghamshire

height of 0.4m. The depth from front to back is difficult to assess as erosion of the front edge has removed much of the structure. Traces of a hard lime render were observed in one of the corners, suggesting that the chambers were deliberately lined. Whether or not these structures served an industrial process, or were built as eel or fish traps remains unclear. They probably date from the early 18th century.

Stowe New Inn (SP 68176 36435)

The National Trust acquired Stowe New Inn in 2005 in order to restore this complex of Grade II* listed buildings and provide new visitor facilities. The inn is sited on the southern edge of Stowe Park and was built c 1717 at Lord Cobham's instigation to accommodate visitors to his fledgling gardens. It lay at the crossroads of two minor local roads and therefore drew custom from travellers, as well as from the local inhabitants. It continued as such until about 1860 when trade must have died away and thereafter it became a working farm.

An initial appraisal of the buildings was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2007 and this has been followed up by two years of watching briefs and building recording during the recent phase of restoration works in 2010 and 2011. Much new evidence had come to light, not least from dendrochronology dating which has confirmed that the timbers for the main part of the building were felled in 1717. The dairy on the north side of the inn has been dated by this method to c 1782, as has a small extension on the courtyard side of the east range. Interestingly the dairy roof also incorporates a number of c 1550 timbers, and there are also a number of re-used timbers used as floor beams and joists. This may suggest an earlier inn on the site; however, the groundworks in and around the buildings failed to uncover the pottery, glass and other artefact evidence one would expect to find with an earlier period building. Other than a substantial kitchen drain on the north side of the inn the only major observation to arise from the groundworks was a series of gravelled paths from the old garden on the south side of the inn.

The recording of the interiors proved much more interesting, suggesting that a major phase of alteration commenced c 1782 and continued until at least 1797, coinciding with a change in the family keeping the inn at this time. The original dog-leg staircases were altered and new stair towers built to provide wider, straighter stairs, probably more convenient for customers. Partitions were inserted to create passages and more privacy for the parlours, at the same time as doorways were blocked and new doorways added leading on to the passages. Fireplaces were reduced in size from their original broad openings, perhaps accompanied by the insertion of coal-burning grates from the first time.

Evidence for a succession of decorative schemes is particularly well-preserved. Much of the original plaster survives, retaining original paint schemes and a series of black-painted skirting throughout the rooms. Later layers of plaster in two of the parlours carry a c 1790 paint scheme consisting of a sky-blue paint above the chair rail and a

stony colour below. As part of this decorative scheme narrow border papers were hung around the door and window fittings and at ceiling level. Traces of one of these papers have been used to create a reproduction. Nearly 70 historic wallpapers have been recovered, including a fragment of an early block-printed paper dating from 1720.

The restored New Inn opened its doors again to the public in February of 2012, having last served the public in 1856. The report arising from the second phase of archaeological recording will be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County HER. Artefacts recovered from under floorboards and behind panelling have been placed on display in a c 1800 bureau placed in one of the old parlours.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Aston Clinton, College Road (SP 877 135)

Ian Fisher

Archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Aston Clinton. A late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement, dating from the early/mid 1st century AD to the 4th century, occupied an area of c 1.5ha at the south-east of the site. The settlement comprised a series of rectilinear ditched enclosures, as well as structural remains, pits and an inhumation burial. A further small focus of activity lay to the north-east. Possibly defining the eastern boundary of the settlement was a broad feature that may be a palaeochannel, although its course was not visible on the geophysical survey. A sinuous, low bank sealed the palaeochannel and may demarcate the parish boundary, although the date of its construction is unknown. Further to the north the parish boundary appeared to be marked by a broad, shallow ditch, also undated. AYBCM.2011.223

Buckingham, Tingwick Road (SP 687 335)

Ian Fisher

A magnetometer survey was conducted on c 16ha land off Tingwick Road immediately adjacent to St Rumbold's Well, a Scheduled Monument. The survey identified a ditched enclosure of uncertain date and a number of other ditches and pits. The majority of these features were overlain by medieval or later ridge and furrow.

Claydon House, Middle Claydon, near Buckingham (SP 7193 2531)

Joe Prentice

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on behalf of the National Trust during the excavation of a trench for the installation of a new central heating oil pipe on the south side of the house at Claydon, a Grade I House and a Grade II Registered Park and Garden. The trench led from a small enclosed yard to the south-east of the house, across the south lawn and then bifurcated before entering the building through two separate openings in the south façade. It revealed truncated brick wall footings, a culvert and an unidentified feature built of tile and stone.

Cliveden House, Taplow, Maidenhead (SP 7600 5880)
Joe Prentice

The National Trust commissioned the archaeological monitoring of 23 geotechnical test pits and hand-dug pits along the line of a proposed new sewer system within the Grade I registered park and garden surrounding Cliveden House, a Grade I listed building. The work provided an opportunity to assess the formation of the garden landscape. The evaluation has demonstrated potential evidence of grading and levelling at the north end of the parterre but little else within the areas monitored. A brick culvert of probable modern date was revealed within the base of the Rushy Valley.

Long Crendon 116 High Street, Courthouse
(SP 6978 0908)
Joe Prentice

The National Trust, who wish to undertake a phase of modernisation and up-grading of the Courthouse, commissioned building recording to provide a greater understanding of the historic resource. The building is a rectangular structure of five bays and two storeys, with an oak timber frame and panels infilled by brick or wattle and daub. Repairs were carried out by Caroe and Partners in 1985, with a further stage of repair in 1987 when woodwool panels to the upper floor were substituted for the brickwork (NT display panel, first floor of Courthouse). These appear to be restricted to the south side of the upper floor where they are present above the jetty, and were introduced to reduce weight. It is possible that some of the other plastered panels may retain original, or at least historic, wattle and daub. The whole frame rests on a raised plinth of stone, with some brick repairs.

The exterior is painted with a white lime wash on the western, southern and eastern elevations; the north elevation is not painted and the various infills can be clearly seen. The roof is covered with red clay peg tiles, an early 20th century replacement. Internally all of the ground floor wall surfaces comprise either plaster infill or stud and matchboard panelling; all painted. There are modern kitchen and bathroom fittings and electric storage heaters throughout. Apart from the hall and a small part of the kitchen where a brick floor can be seen, the floor surfaces are covered by fitted carpet or vinyl. The first floor is of oak or pine boards. The underside of the roof is also plastered and painted. All windows are modern replacements, indeed, all early photographs show no windows at all on the ground floor.

Castlethorpe, The Chequers, The Fish Ponds
(SP 7968 4436)
Angela Warner

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during work to expand and refurbish a play area within the earthworks of a Scheduled Monument (No 19080) known as 'The Fish Ponds' in Castlethorpe. The groundworks did not encounter any archaeological features. Remedial work

to repair erosion to the earthworks and damage caused by animals was also carried out. AYBCM.2011.169

Milton Keynes, Haversham, The Grange (SP 8307 4312)
David J Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the installation of a new drainage system on land at The Grange. A disturbed stratigraphy was recorded throughout the area of investigation. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. AYBCM:2011.224

Milton Keynes, Haversham, Hill Farm (SP 830 442)
Ian Fisher

An archaeological geophysical survey was carried out on land proposed for the construction of a wind farm at Hill Farm. A ring ditch and two sub-rectangular enclosures, ditches and a D-shaped enclosure were identified. Two pit groups and two likely ditches could be of Romano-British date, linked to the known habitation around Hill Farm to the south. Three likely industrial features, possibly lime kilns, were identified within a sub-rectangular enclosure which also contained a group of pits within one corner. A possible trackway was connected to the enclosure on two sides. Ridge and furrow cultivation respected the major features, perhaps suggesting a medieval or early post-medieval date for them. Possible ditches, a trench and several pits were also located and a post-medieval field boundary.

Milton Keynes, Ravenstone, Common Street
(SP 849 506)
Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological watching brief was carried out along the route of a new electricity cable trench in Common Street. A series of undated limestone walls, a stone-lined drain, stone piers and part of a former road surface were recorded. Previous service trenches were also observed during the watching brief. AYBCM:2010.127

Olney, 13 Bridge Street (SP 8890 5111)
Joe Prentice

Building assessment and historic map consultation has shown that 13 Bridge Street, listed Grade II for group value, has been in existence on virtually the same footprint since at least 1810. The house is a two-bay, two-storey building of coursed limestone with occasional brick dressings. Architecturally, its form is typical of early 19th century domestic building, although it has been significantly altered both internally and externally during the 20th century.

Olney, 40 West Street (SP 8884 5174)
Edmund Taylor

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on land to the north of 40 West Street in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered. AYBCM.2011.247

Buckinghamshire

Olney, Market Place, Sutcliff Baptist Church

(SP 8887 5134)

Amir Bassir

An archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Sutcliff Baptist Church was carried out in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing buildings. The evaluation revealed the remains of several late 18th and early-mid 19th century brick vaults and burials in two phases: those buried before the raising of the churchyard and those buried afterward. The earlier burials were sealed by layers of made-up ground through which the later brick vaults and burials were cut. The raising of the level of the churchyard possibly corresponds to the Burial Act of 1857, though the tomb of John Sutcliff (1818) is level with the modern, raised ground surface. It is possible that the tomb was also raised at the same time as the churchyard in order to avoid partially burying it, as it is the eponymous chapel. AYBCM: 2011.231

Soulbury, Butlers Cottage (SP 8883 2601)

David J Leigh

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Butlers Cottage in advance of the construction of a new dwelling to replace the existing house. A modern ditch cut through a small pit from which a quantity of medieval pottery and a single sherd of Roman pottery were recovered. AYBCM:2011.232

Stowe Landscape Gardens, Eleven Acre Lake (SP 6739 3699)

Joe Prentice

An archaeological watching brief was conducted, on behalf of the National Trust, during the excavation of a series of trial trenches across the historic line of a lakeside path to the north side of the Eleven Acre Lake. The gravel surfaced path 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.

Stowe Landscape Gardens, Hawkwell Field (SP 6788 3715)

Joe Prentice

An archaeological watching brief was conducted, on behalf of the National Trust, during the excavation of a series of trial trenches across the historic line of paths to the north side of the Octagon Lake within the Hawkwell Field. A gravel path located between the Palladian and Chinese bridges related to a later period layout. The line of the earlier lakeside path was not found and it is thought that at the date for which a path is depicted in that location it was most likely grass and not surfaced. Further trenches between the Palladian Bridge and Lamport Gardens, the Palladian Bridge and Gothic Temple and Gothic Temple and the Elysian Fields all revealed historic gravel paths.

Earthwork features close to the Gothic Temple were also recorded. A shallow undulation appears to relate to the

former Ha-Ha which approached the building from the south with a westward projecting semi-circular bastion. On the west side of the Gothic Temple is a flat, broad platform which is thought to be the grassed-over gravel terrace which would have afforded views westwards towards the main house. Excavations to recreate this path revealed three brick drains of probable 19th century date within the Elysian Fields. A series of zig-zag slit trenches to the north of the path which leads from the Gothic Temple to the Elysian Fields are thought to be modern, 20th century, and related to the school rifle range located in the bottom of the valley immediately to the north. The date of their construction or infilling is uncertain, although it is thought that they probably date to the 1950s.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Aston Clinton, Land off Stablebridge Road (SP 889 116)

Brian Dean

Between 14th February and 18th February 2011, Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of evaluation on behalf of CgMs Consulting on land off Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire. A total of 19 trenches were excavated revealing a number of archaeological features, particularly in the north-western half of the site. The evidence suggests that a settlement of late Iron Age/early Roman date lies within or close to the site. Pottery recovered from a smaller number of features indicates that such activity continued into the Roman period, at least until the 2nd century AD. There was little evidence of activity of earlier or later periods, although a small quantity of residual worked flint was recovered from later features. In addition, two undated ditches in the south-western corner of the site may form part of a post-medieval trackway recorded during an earlier watching brief at the site. The pottery assemblage dated largely from the late Iron Age to early Roman period. The earliest pottery dated from the late Iron Age to 43/70 AD. The latest pottery was recovered from a single feature in Trench 7 and dated to between AD 120-200. One fragment of ceramic building material was recovered. This was assessed to be of medieval date. Two fragments of bone hair pin were dated, with reference to typology, to a date of between 50 AD and 200 AD. A medieval tile was also recovered.

Aylesbury, Mill Street (SP 8236 1404)

Neil J Adam

In February 2011 Hill Partnerships Ltd commissioned Oxford Archaeology South, to undertake a deskbased assessment examining the cultural heritage resource and the impact of the proposed development upon it at Mill Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. The site is centred on SP 82369 14040 and lies within the administrative area of Vale of Aylesbury District Council. The Site is located on Kimmeridge clay, less than half a kilometre to the north east of Aylesbury town centre and is considered to have Moderate to Low archaeological potential. The historic core of Aylesbury dates from the later prehistoric period and includes post-Roman, early medieval and medieval phases.

It also includes a medieval Listed Building and a further 26 Listed Buildings dating from the Post-medieval period. The area immediately around the Site appears to have been open pastureland up to the end of the 19th century, although a well was sunk in the far south east corner at some point prior to 1879. This well was covered over by 1899 and six small buildings were constructed across the Site at some point prior to 1925. These buildings were demolished one by one over the next 60 years with the last extant structures recorded there in the 1980s.

The site is currently covered with concrete and undergrowth and appears to have been terraced in its north east corner. Trial pits and boreholes excavated across the Site in September 2010 exposed the foundations of a number of the 20th century buildings that previously occupied the Site, showing that they have impacted the underlying clay to depths of up to 350mm below current ground level. The results of this survey also indicate that the Site has been terraced prior to the 20th century development, although the degree of this terracing is currently unclear. Dating evidence was garnered mainly from structural elements and historic maps but earlier activity was evidenced through a single bow brooch dated to the 1st century BC and to Roman coins recovered from the proximity of the site.

Denham, Buckinghamshire Golf Club (TQ 051870)

Mike Donnelly

In March 2011, Oxford Archaeology South undertook an evaluation at Buckinghamshire Golf Club, Denham, on behalf of Hunter Price Chartered architects. One 'T'-shaped evaluation trench was located within the confines of the proposed building footprint. This was expected to encounter a pond (possibly originally part of a medieval moat) that is shown on historic maps dating back to the late 16th century. It also had the potential to encounter archaeological remains buried by alluvial deposits associated with the adjacent River Colne.

A raised gravel bank was identified which appeared to mark the eastern edge of the pond/moat. A tree line (which partly survives in the present garden) appears to have been planted along the bank, which therefore seems most likely to be an artificial landscaped feature associated with the gardens of Denham Court. The date of construction of the bank is unclear, although it clearly overlay the Holocene alluvial sequence and was an extant garden feature until the late 20th century.

The soil sequence in Trench 1 was different on either side of the gravel bank: on the western side of the bank the sequence consisted of modern demolition debris, at least 1.2m deep, which was apparently used to infill the pond/moat shown on historic maps. The pond is believed to have been infilled during a refurbishment of Denham Court in the 1980s. To the east of the bank the sequence comprised garden soils to a depth of 0.8m below ground level, below which alluvium was encountered. The base of the alluvium was not encountered within the evaluation trench, although a test pit was dug at the southern end to a depth of 2.5m. The alluvium contained significant quantities of preserved

organic material, including tree branches and twigs, in peaty lenses, although the only artefact recovered was a single undiagnostic flint flake found close to the top of the sequence.

Two series of auger samples were subsequently undertaken to establish the full depth and character of the alluvial sediments. These were sampled at 0.1m intervals and were assessed by an environmental archaeologist. They contained no evidence for human activity, but clearly show that the alluvial sequence has potential for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction and radiocarbon dating, should it be required.

Fleet Marston, Wayside Farm (SP 7797 1596)

Daniel Watkeys

In early September 2011 Oxford Archaeology carried out a metal detecting survey and test pit evaluation at Wayside Farm, Fleet Marston, Buckinghamshire. The work consisted of two phases of controlled metal detecting survey, a series of excavated shovel test pits and a further series of excavated 1m square test pits. The results showed a concentration of material around the still extant Church of St Mary, with the volume of finds decreasing significantly away from the church. The majority of dated finds from both phases of metal detecting survey, including a range of copper alloy and silver coins, came from the later Romano-British period. Some metalwork dating to the Saxon and Medieval periods was also recovered. The test-pits contained a range of pottery dating from the Romano-British into the Post-Medieval period.

Hedsor Wharf, near Cookham (SU 9039 8605)

Mike Sims

In 2010, Oxford Archaeology South undertook the excavation of a test pit and a watching brief. The work was commissioned by Mrs L Rowland during the construction of a new boathouse on the north bank of the River Thames. The watching brief revealed evidence for the 19th and 20th century stabilisation of the river's edge sealing a probable 19th century topsoil horizon. No evidence for any earlier activity was encountered.

High Wycombe, All Saints Church (SU 865 930)

Mark Woodley

A watching brief carried out by Oxford Archaeology South in 2010 and commissioned by JBKS Architects on behalf of All Saints Church PCC in advance of the installation of new toilets and kitchens revealed three internal brick-built burial structures of post-medieval date. The vaults contained triple-shelled wood and lead coffins. Small assemblages of disarticulated human remains, medieval tile, metalwork, animal bone and shell were recovered. The bulk of the material was redeposited, probably during restoration work in the 19th century. The exception to this were three damaged and poorly preserved medieval floor tiles, found *in situ*.

Northamptonshire

Wendover, St Mary's Church (SP 871 073)

Mike Sims

A watching brief undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in 2010 for the Parochial Parish Council during the installation of a new suspended floor within the church revealed clusters of truncated burials around the aisle pier bases and two brick burial vaults within the central aisle of the nave. Ground reduction and underpinning within the south porch revealed burials pre-dating the building of the porch. These probably relate to the three relocated headstones adjacent to the south-west corner of the south aisle. This work also exposed two possible chalk-surfaced paths leading to the south door. No evidence was found for any of the earlier internal medieval floor surfaces, or for any earlier phases of the church's construction.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Compiled by Steve Preston

Reports on all these investigations are available at www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp

Akeley, Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane (SP 7094 3785)

Andrew Muddin

Two sherds of early post-medieval pottery were recovered during a watching brief.

Aylesbury, NEA Site, Aylesbury Waterside, Walton Street (SP 8215 1350)

Andrew Weale

Late 19th and 20th century building foundations, discovered in evaluation trenching, appear on various editions of the Ordnance Survey maps. Underlying deep alluvial deposits appeared to represent overbank flooding, dated between the late 17th and 19th centuries. No palaeochannels or water management features were encountered.

Burnham, 7 Church Walk (SU 9272 8241)

James McNicoll-Norbury

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in evaluation trenching.

Haddenham, 25 High Street (SP 7396 0850)

Andy Taylor

Evaluation trenching revealed an early medieval ditch and gully, and an undated pit. A single fragment of Bronze Age pottery was also found.

Haddenham, 5 Townsend (SP 7414 0912)

Andrew Weale

Excavation has shed light on the development of the late Saxon and medieval village from the 10th to the 17th century,

with abandonment before reuse in the late post-medieval period. Residual finds of Neolithic to Bronze Age flints, Iron Age and Roman pottery indicate sporadic use of the site and its environs in these periods. Post-excavation analysis is in progress.

Ludgershall, Tetchwick Farm (SP 6790 1885)

David Platt

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in a recording action.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Dodford - Dodford Manor (SP 6118 6040)

Hester Cooper-Reade, Rob Wardill, Ian Turner

Building recording showed that the earliest building on the site dates to the 17th, possibly 16th, century with the construction of a barn and a number of associated buildings. The farm largely took on its present form sometime after the completion of the 1742 map with the incorporation of the barn into one of a range of farmyards associated with a new house built on the site. The 18th century changes to the built environment reflect ownership changes within the surrounding estate, but also took place within a period of more consolidated landholdings and the introduction of more advanced farming techniques which allowed production for the developing urban markets.

Although the barn and associated buildings have been repaired and altered over time, the 18th century farm retains its plan form and contains a relatively complete 16th/17th century barn, the only surviving structure of an earlier group of farm buildings that once stood on the site.

Archaeological observation of groundworks revealed a pit of possible late Saxon/Saxo-Norman date, indicating the potential for the survival of further features of the period in the vicinity.

Lower Harlestone - Southview, Glebe Lane (SP 7059 6525)

Marcin Koziminski, Rob Wardill

One feature of archaeological interest was revealed during the groundworks associated with the construction of a riding arena. It comprised a small ditch which possibly formed the corner of an enclosure. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the feature, its stratigraphic location beneath the subsoil and cutting into natural geology, and the nature of its fill, suggest it is of some antiquity, and possibly associated with nearby prehistoric and Roman cropmarks.

**Northampton - Land at Banbury Lane, Pineham
(SP 7260 5800)**

Mike Luke, Ben Barker

Trial trenching in advance of housing development located numerous furrows indicating the site was open fields during the medieval period. A number of post-medieval and modern boundaries and disturbance were also located. However, the most significant evidence comprised a Neolithic-early Bronze Age monument and late Bronze Age-Iron Age field systems.

The Neolithic-early Bronze Age monument was located in the northern part of the development area and comprised three concentric ditches with a diameter of c 22m. The presence of Collared Urn sherds in one of the ditches suggests an early Bronze Age date and burial function. However, monuments of this type are known to have a long history and to have changed function over time.

The central part of the development area contained evidence for a field system which extended over at least 2ha. It typically comprised fields defined by single boundary ditches, although, in a few places, parallel ditches c 5m apart are suggestive of trackways or double boundaries. The main field system is on a comparable alignment to that found on Site 2 within the adjacent Swan Valley Business Park.

Burton Latimer - Higham Road (SP 9030 7450)

Mike Luke and Mark Phillips

Archaeological investigations were undertaken between April and July 2011 for CgMs Consulting in advance of housing development by David Wilson Homes (South Midlands) adjacent to Higham Road, Burton Latimer. Following evaluation by geophysical survey and trenches, c 1.8ha of land was subject to open area excavation. The majority of the archaeological evidence derived from a Romano-British settlement, although the presence of small quantities of flint flakes and late Bronze Age pottery hint at pre-Roman activity. The following represents a provisional summary of results.

Origins and development

The Romano-British settlement was established in the late 1st century AD on previously unoccupied land. The earliest evidence for activity comprised ephemeral traces of a rectilinear enclosure system. In the mid-2nd century a rectilinear 'ladder' enclosure system with integral trackway was established. The enclosures contained at least one roundhouse, isolated slots, pits and a handful of cremation burials. This settlement covered more than 1.8ha, extending beyond the development area to the south. The rectilinear enclosure system was altered in the late 3rd century - the trackway and some enclosures went of use while others were repositioned but on a smaller scale. Quarrying took place at the northern end of the former trackway. Dispersed inhumations occurred over the southern part of the settlement and a cemetery was established within one of the



Fig 1. View of the investigation area from the north with Roman ditch system visible (*slightly confused by medieval furrows and difference in natural to the right of the photo*).

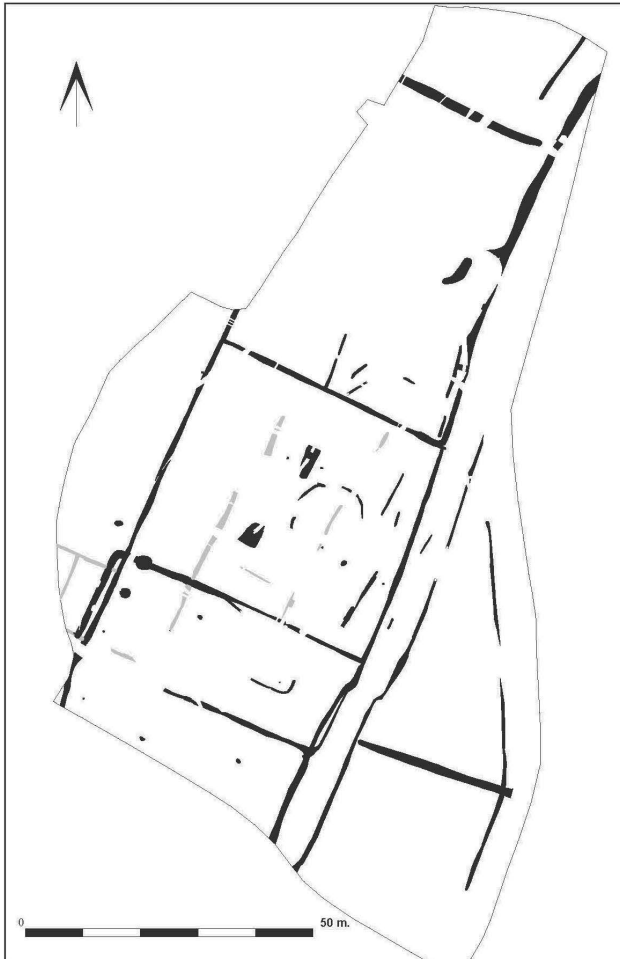


Fig 2. Mid 2nd to mid 3rd century settlement layout.

northern enclosures. The settlement appears to have remained in use into the late 4th century.

Buildings

One possible roundhouse was defined by an ephemeral gully *c* 13m in diameter. Several short straight gullies may represent the only surviving evidence for rectangular timber buildings. Although small amounts of roof tile and even fragments of *opus signinum* were recovered, they had clearly been brought to the settlement from elsewhere. The most substantial possible evidence for a building was a sub-rectangular area of closely packed stones which may



Fig 3. Closely packed stone foundation.

have been a foundation plinth for a small building. Its location in the vicinity of the cemetery may indicate an association - perhaps a tomb or mausoleum-type structure, although there is no supporting evidence for this hypothesis.

Quarry pits

Several areas of deep pits were identified, apparently dug over a long period of time to extract clay for use in buildings and structures. Some were later used as rubbish dumps and produced large quantities of finds.

Burials

Forty-five inhumations were found within the settlement, 30 of them in a cemetery in one of the northern enclosures. The graves were positioned adjacent to and parallel to the enclosure ditches suggesting that they were contemporary. The cemetery was in use during the late 3rd/4th centuries.

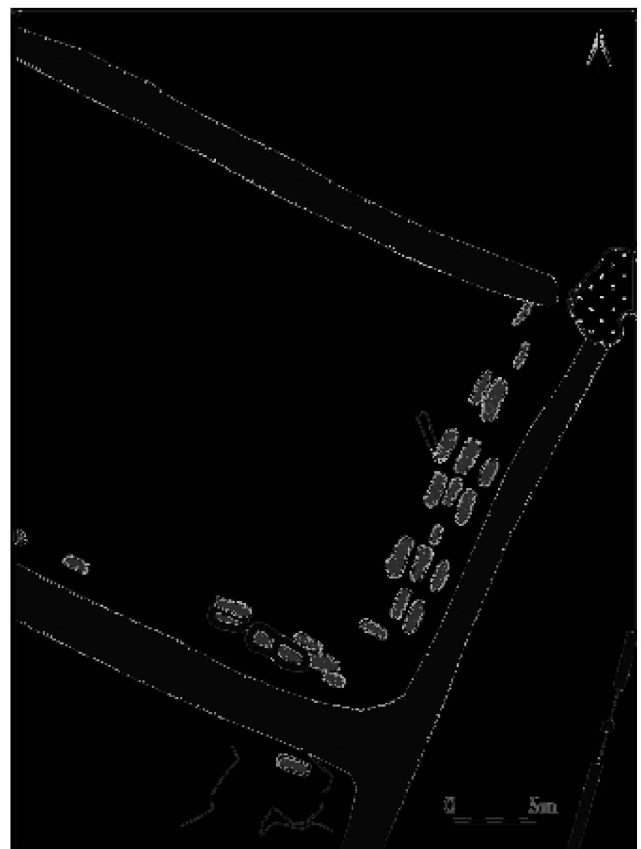


Fig 4. Plan of the cemetery (thick black outline = grave with multiple burials).

In the majority of the graves the body had been laid out in a supine position. There were, however, single examples of crouched and prone burials. Two bodies had been decapitated with the head placed between the lower legs in one case and to the side of the lower leg in the other.

Three examples of multiple burials within the same grave were identified. The overall spacing of the graves and the absence of intercutting suggest that there was no real pressure on space within the cemetery. Therefore, the occurrence of multiple burials like these on a rural settlement seems particularly unusual, especially as this practice is more common in urban cemeteries in Roman Britain. For obvious reasons the graves are referred to as

“double-” and “triple-deckers”. In the case of the triple-decker three coins were found at the bottom of the grave, perhaps suggesting that the three people buried in it had died around the same time.

Ten graves produced evidence for the presence of a coffin in the form of coffin nails and fittings, the position of the body within the grave, and the grave shape. A few of the graves produced evidence for the protection of the body by some other means, eg stone blocks placed around the head and feet which presumably supported a timber cover. Pottery vessels, coins and joints of meat were the commonest grave goods.



Fig 5. One of the pottery vessels placed in a grave.

Agriculture and crafts

The inhabitants of the settlement, like most in rural Roman Britain, presumably practised mixed agriculture, although the absence of any quernstones is unusual. In terms of non-agricultural activities there was sufficient evidence from the settlement for metal working, but only slight evidence for bronze, bone and leather working.

Some 10kg of metallurgical residues, indicating that smithing was being undertaken within the settlement, were recovered. One feature also contained a relatively large number of iron strap and strip fragments, perhaps remains of recycled items, or a smith's discarded stock. No *in-situ* smithing hearths survived, although several fragmentary hearth bottoms were recovered.

Small quantities of bronze working slag and an unfinished brooch were found. The small size of the assemblage may suggest this activity was carried out for a limited period of time, perhaps by a peripatetic artisan.

Finds

Over 40kg of pottery were recovered. Most of it was locally made coarse ware (grey ware and shelly), much of it from the Nene Valley. Small quantities of regional imports were present, including fine wares from Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire, along with samian from Gaul.

Metal finds included: bronze coins, bracelets, brooches, rings and strap ends; and an iron axe, chisel, hobnails, key, knife, nails and miscellaneous objects and weights. Nearly 200 coins were recovered - some possibly associated with the late 3rd century coin hoard found within the settlement in 1954. While the coins and steelyard weights indicate a degree of commerce, there were relatively few items of personal adornment. Perhaps the most unusual object was the right foot of a cast bronze statuette.

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Sudborough, Barnwell Manor Wind Farm

(SP 9650 8460)

Catherine Edwards

An evaluation was carried out in June 2011 on behalf of Barnwell Manor Wind Energy Ltd. (BAM 11) at the site of the proposed Barnwell Manor Wind Farm, Sudborough. An evaluation comprising six machine excavated trenches was carried out on site. The natural horizon was established on site in all trenches and recorded as silty clay with inclusions of chalk, flint and limestone. Three of the trenches contained archaeological remains. The remains were mainly in the form of linear features consisting of an undated ditch, a possible Roman gully and a post-medieval gully. The ditch is likely to represent a possible field boundary, whilst function of the gullies remains unclear. The pottery recovered from the possible Roman gully has been identified as a shell ware which may date to the Roman period. Further finds included post-medieval tile.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Aldwincle, Lyveden New Bield (SP 9840 8531)

Steve Malone

On behalf of the National Trust, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a programme of gradiometer survey within the Moated Orchard and immediately north of the lodge at the late 16th century Lyveden New Bield. Within the Moated Orchard the geophysical survey identified a wide rectilinear feature, perhaps the corner of an enclosure. Part of this has previously been recorded by resistivity survey as a high resistance anomaly, suggesting it is a rubble-filled feature or a foundation. Further magnetic anomalies at the eastern corner of the enclosure, and immediately to the south, probably represent other, related, archaeological remains. No archaeological features were identified in the area north of the lodge.

Northamptonshire

Fotheringhay, Main Street (TL 0611 9326)
Steve Malone

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief within the rear garden of the 17th century Old Vicarage, located in the historic core of Fotheringhay, for Mr S Grace. Gravel layers, perhaps paths, associated with possible kerbing were revealed, together with a wide, shallow, rubble-filled pit. Although no dating evidence was recovered from these they are considered to be associated with the house or its garden and, hence, post-medieval or recent.

Harringworth, Shotley Shortwood Farm (SP 9245 9720)
Gary Taylor

Historic building recording was undertaken, by G Taylor of Archaeological Project for Mr K Dove and Harris McCormack Architects, on a group of farm buildings in the hamlet of Shotley. The buildings are shown on maps dating from the 1880s and later. Four ranges around a courtyard were recorded. Forming one side of the courtyard, a large threshing barn of mid-late 18th century date was the earliest building in the complex. Later, perhaps in the early-mid 19th century, an animal house or cow shed was constructed on the opposite side of the courtyard. Toward the end of the 19th century two further ranges were built. Both were open-fronted, with one functioning as a cart shed and the other as an animal shelter. Alterations had been made to several of the buildings in the 20th century.

Potterspury, Poundfield Road (SP 7608 4283)
Mark Peachey

A strip, map and sample investigation was supervised by M Peachey of Archaeological Project Services for Francis Jackson Homes Ltd. Located south of the historic core of the village, the site is alongside the Watling Street Roman road and near to remains of the medieval pottery industry. A ditch was revealed and corresponds to a field boundary shown on OS maps from 1884 until 1970. Although the ditch yielded a piece of medieval pottery this is thought to be residual. A 20th century brick building was also revealed. A moderate quantity of locally-made 13th-15th century pottery, including a single waster, was recovered.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

Barnwell, Well Lane (TL 0464 8504)
Calli Rouse

In August a watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to the Old Station House, Barnwell, during groundworks for the residential development of the site. When the initial site visit was made, it was evident that the site had been levelled prior to the commencement of development. As a result, any potential surface remains had been removed. Ground reduction and footing trenches on the western side of the site revealed a probable buried land surface, suggesting that

this side of the site had been built up, probably during the construction of Barnwell Station in the mid 19th century. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief.

Deanshanger, Church Lane (SP 7610 3965)
Gareth Shane

A strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken in June on land adjacent to 8 Church Lane, in advance of the construction of a detached house. Supervision of topsoil stripping revealed a limestone foundation, probably a field boundary of post-medieval or modern date, extending from the southeast edge of the site on a north-south alignment. Only modern finds were recovered from the topsoil, and no other archaeological features were observed.

Fotheringhay, St Mary and All Saints' Church (TL 0603 9320)
Gareth Shane

In July a continuous watching brief was carried out at St Mary and All Saints Church, during the removal of the church gates and widening of the access. Large worked stones, possibly re-used, were revealed in the footings of the church wall and gates. No other archaeology was observed or recovered.

Great Doddington, High Street (SP 8841 6489)
Calli Rouse

A strip, map and sample excavation and watching brief were undertaken at 23 High Street in September, in advance of the residential development of the site. During the excavation, five phases of activity were identified, ranging from the Roman period to the 15th century. Phase 1 represented Roman activity on the site, and suggested that there was a domestic settlement nearby, though not within the site boundaries. Following the Roman period there was no activity until the Saxo-Norman period, when possible property boundaries and refuse pits were located not far from the road. In the 13th century there was a shift in the focus of domestic activity to the north eastern corner of the site. By the 14th century, the density of activity had lessened, but possible boundary ditches suggest that the site assumed a more agricultural character. In the final phase, a 15th century well was probably associated with a dwelling fronting onto the High Street.

The watching brief focussed on the southern end of the site, where trenches were excavated to house underground heating pipes. Eight large features were identified during this phase of works, two of which were dated to the 13th century. No dating evidence was recovered from the remaining six features, but all contained a similar fill, suggesting they were contemporary. It is thought that these features represented either extraction or refuse pits connected with the probable settlement in the fields adjacent to the development site.

Marston St Lawrence, Glebe House (SP 5353 4214)
Karin Semmelmann

Between August and October historic building recording and a watching brief were undertaken on a Grade II listed building at The Glebe House, as a condition of planning permission for development involving buildings on the site. The ancillary building was built in the late 17th century using locally sourced building stone. The feature of the east elevation is its domestic style, with mullioned windows under hood-moulds characteristic of the 1670s. The west elevation shows considerably less refinement in its fenestration and overall building technique. It was episodically rebuilt in the 19th and 20th centuries and retains no architectural detail worthy of note.

The interior has lost its first floor as well as the original roof. The floor joists have survived, and appear to be early 17th century re-used timbers with lambs' tongue chamfer stops. The timbers supporting the present roof are probably 19th century. There are no features surviving within the building to indicate specific use. However, the lower status of the building is demonstrated in the use of two or more timber lintels within the reveals rather than stone lintels, as is the case in the adjacent Coach House.

The watching brief revealed a considerable amount of made ground as well as the remains of a probable pathway to the west of the building and a possible garden feature to the northeast.

Towcester, Watling Street (SP 6926 4866)
Calli Rouse

In October an evaluation of land to the rear of 185 Watling Street was carried out in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing building. One trench and one test pit were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. The trench was within the existing lawn area, and the test pit within the existing patio area. The trench cut through several layers of made ground before reaching the natural strata. The test pit was excavated to below the maximum depth of the proposed footings, and did not breach the level of made ground. No significant archaeological features or finds were noted.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Oundle, Oundle South Bridge (TL 0375 8775)
Peter Davenport

Historic building recording of Oundle South Bridge was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in advance of repairs. The bridge carries the road to Thrapston across the River Nene, just south of the town centre, and is both a Listed building and a Scheduled Monument. It was suspected that there is a medieval core to the bridge, which is otherwise probably largely 18th century. Mortar comparisons, stratigraphic analysis and stylistic observations allowed a phasing of the various parts of the bridge to be achieved and

confirmed that there is an older core in the northern three arches, that these had been widened, and that the southern four arches are a later and narrower replacement of an earlier structure. A later medieval date for the earlier core, an early post-medieval date for the widening and an 18th century date for the southern end rebuilding are suggested. Detailed observation of the masonry indicated much repair work of various periods, including a large amount of repointing in cementitious mortars.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Apethorpe, Bridge Street, The Garage Block
(TL 0249 9578)
Joe Prentice

A building assessment recorded the remains of a small stone and brick building which appeared to be of mid-late 19th century date. The building has been substantially altered and partially demolished, as well as being re-roofed relatively recently. Oral evidence suggests that the building served as a smithy/forge during the 1930s when it was also used by a wheelwright. Almost no evidence of this phase now remains and it is not thought that it was built to function as such, but was simply a barn associated with the nearby Manor Farm.

Aston le Walls, Blacksmiths Lane, Trinlans
(SP 4951 5101)
Ian Fisher

An archaeological investigation was carried out to inform a planning application for the removal of an existing barn and the construction of a replacement barn on a larger footprint on land opposite Trinlans. There were no archaeological features or finds present.

Benefield, Harley Way, Churchfield Quarry
(TF 006 879)
Ian Fisher and Anthony Maull

A magnetometer survey of land adjacent to Churchfield Quarry identified a complex of ditched enclosures of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date, and a possible extension to the earthworks of Churchfield deserted medieval village. In the evaluation, Romano-British ditches and a pit containing a newborn infant were excavated, all dating to the 1st to early 2nd centuries AD. The general paucity of artefacts and complete absence of finer pottery indicates that it was probably a low status rural farmstead. Where aerial photography identified rectilinear soil marks probably relating to Churchfield deserted medieval village, the remains of a medieval stone building were found, with pottery dated to the 13th century. A further spread of material in another trench may suggest that other buildings survive on the northern boundaries of the site.

Northamptonshire

Blatherwycke Hall (SP 8165 4492)

Joe Prentice

Blatherwycke Hall Stables were built in 1770 to serve the now demolished house nearby (SMA 36 (2006), 25). During archaeological building recording in 2008 graffiti were identified on the first floor of the building, some of which date to the late 18th century, others relate to the installation of the now lost clock turret and weathervane during the 19th century (SMA 40 (2009), 18). As part of the Planning Condition applied to the building during conversion a detailed record of the graffiti was required. An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for new internal walls and rainwater pipes. This revealed the existence of stable-yard walls previously known only from 19th century maps.

Boughton Hall Park (SP 7537 6647)

Joe Prentice

An archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches was undertaken within the grounds of Boughton Hall Park, a Grade II listed Park and garden, in advance of excavation to create a new lake. The evaluation revealed the presence of an undated ironstone wall and culvert along with modern field drains.

Bozeat, 6 Church Walk (SP 9064 5917)

Andy Chapman

Following recovery of a skull by builders, small scale excavation located further *in situ* remains and also the remains of a second burial, running beneath the house wall, and disarticulated remains of further individuals. It is likely that they had once lain within the corner of the adjacent churchyard, with this area taken into the present property, which was once the rectory, before the 19th century.

Brackley, Church Road, Steepways (SP 5899 3736)

Jason Clarke

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land to the rear of Steepways. A modern make-up layer was observed, probably deposited during the construction of the house extension. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were recorded.

Brackley, Brackley Sawmills (SP 590 384)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on 6.9ha of land at Brackley Sawmills. Archaeological features of possible Iron Age date were found including postholes and a ditch terminal, with small quantities of Iron Age pottery.

Brackley, Egerton Close (SP 5904 3740)

Jim Brown

Archaeological trial excavations were carried out at Egerton Close. An undated ditch containing animal bone was overlain by buried topsoil. Three further ditches on

different alignments, cut the buried soil, and are dated by tile to after the 14th century, with one ditch clearly of 19th century date. Residual Roman and medieval finds were also recovered alongside quantities of animal bone. In addition, a post-medieval limestone rubble wall was cut into the buried soil, with its rubble collapse lying on the buried soil. All of these deposits lay below an accumulation of topsoil formed from leaf litter and garden soil.

Bradden, Water Lane, Lodge Farm Cottage (SP 6462 4813)

Joe Prentice

A building assessment recorded a former pair of pigsties to the rear of Lodge Farm Cottage. The building is constructed mainly of limestone and contains two equal-sized rooms, each with a single pedestrian door and a smaller opening for the pigs, both of which are now infilled. The building later had windows inserted into one room after its use as pigsties ended, thus making it serviceable as a workroom and store.

Brixworth, Northampton Road (SP 7450 6990)

Ian Fisher and Carol Simmonds

Geophysical survey identified three enclosures, possible pits, and substantial areas of disturbance. The trial trenching located the ditches of three Roman enclosures as well as two pits containing burnt stone and charred grain. The pottery was of mid/late 1st century to late 2nd century date. Small scale quarrying truncating the enclosures is suspected to be of Roman date.

Remnants of post-medieval field boundaries, corresponding with fields shown on historic maps, were also found. Large industrial-scale ironstone quarrying took place in the post-medieval/modern period. The works, including a tramway, are shown on 19th century historic maps.

Bugbrooke, 5 High Street (SP 6773 5759)

Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken to observe the groundworks for the construction of four houses, associated garages and infrastructure. No archaeological deposits were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

Bugbrooke, Peace Hill (SP 6728 5701)

Carol Simmonds

A magnetometer survey carried out on 1ha of land at Peace Hill recorded a possible ditch. The application area has extant ridge and furrow of medieval field cultivation surviving as earthworks.

Burton Latimer, Bridle Road (SP 8922 7463)

Mark Holmes

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the construction of an underground water

Northamptonshire

tank. An undated ditch was the only archaeological feature present.

Chelveston, RAF Chelveston Airfield (TL 006 688)

Tim Upson-Smith

At the former RAF Airfield building recording was carried out on two Nissen huts of possible World War 2 construction prior to their restoration for reuse as storage.

Church Stowe, Main Road (SP 6360 5790)

Jim Burke

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a pond in the field, following geophysical survey and trial trenching (*SMA* 41(2011) 29). No archaeological features were encountered, although a small number of worked flints, prehistoric and Roman pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil.

Cogenhoe, 76 Station Road (SP 827 609)

Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological watching brief recorded the remains of an early 20th century subterranean brick chamber with ceramic pipework, possibly the remains of either a water storage tank or a septic tank, and a rubbish pit was also found. No significant archaeology was present.

Collingtree, 3 Spinney Drive (SP 7509 5575)

David J Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new extension. The remains of a modern brick built out-building were noted, whilst undisturbed garden soils were present across the remainder of the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Corby, Priors Hall Zone 3 (SP 928 902)

Ian Fisher and Chris Jones

Following geophysical survey, an archaeological evaluation comprising 94 trial trenches was carried out on 380ha of land at Priors Hall. In the centre of the development area, there is a complex of Roman stone buildings and enclosures. The evidence points to the presence of at least one high status building, a villa, which may contain intact floors. Quantities of painted wall plaster and other building materials were recovered. Other stone buildings lie nearby. Quantities of tap slag indicate that iron smelting was being carried out in the vicinity. Trial trenching also investigated a ring ditch, and demonstrated that its origins lay at least in the early Bronze Age, as a suspected round barrow, but see below.

Corby, Priors Hall Zone 3 (SP 9185 9165)

Chris Jones

In October and November 2011 a prehistoric ring ditch and an adjacent ditch system, located by geophysical survey and

investigated by previous trial trenching, were subject to open area excavation. The ring ditch has been shown to be a henge monument dating to the early Bronze Age, the final centuries of the 3rd millennium and the early 2nd millennium BC. It sits on high sloping ground, just below the watershed, overlooking the Willow Brook, which joins the River Nene to the east. The henge was near circular at 31.0-33.5m in diameter, with a broad U-shaped ditch and an entrance to the south-east (Fig 6). The former presence of an external bank was indicated by deposits of limestone that had come in from the outside, suggesting the presence of an earthen bank perhaps with a stone revetment quite close to the ditch (Fig 7). There were a few shallow pits within the interior, and to the north-west an unurned cremation burial of a 6-8 year old child, accompanied by a jet bead (Fig 8). Twenty-three metres south of the henge a small pit contained an assemblage of decorated and rusticated Beaker sherds, and fragments of hazel nut shell. A middle Bronze Age side-looped spearhead came from the upper fill of the henge ditch. To the north of the henge there was an L-shaped interrupted ditch system, and a red deer antler tine from the ditch has been radiocarbon dating to the middle

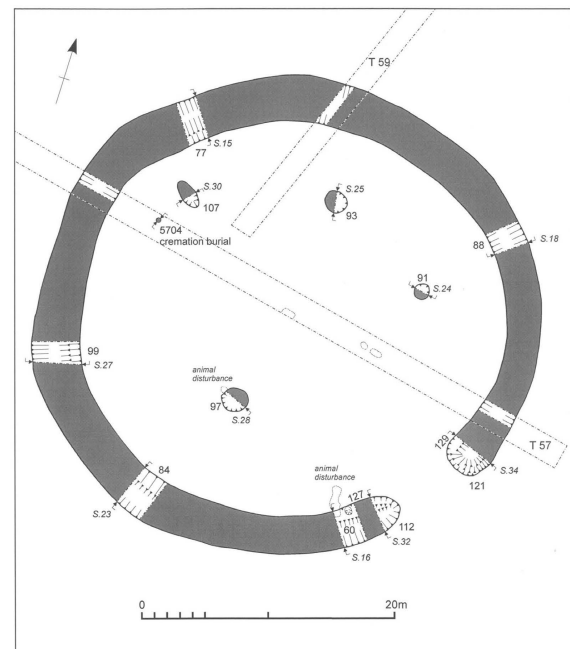


Fig 6. The Priors Hall henge.



Fig 7. Excavation of the henge ditch at Priors Hall, showing the tips of limestone from the external bank.



Fig 8. The jet bead (11mm diameter) accompanying the cremation burial at Priors Hall.

Bronze Age, 1200-1000 Cal BC. The ditch also produced part of a human femur and fragments from a cylindrical fired-clay loomweight.

Cranford St Andrew, Cranford Estate (SP 933 789)
Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological evaluation, carried out to inform a planning application for the construction of a single wind turbine on the Cranford Estate, revealed a number of tree throw depressions and root disturbance. However, no archaeological features were present.

Crick, Bury Dyke (SP 5893 7263)
Danny McAree

Archaeological remediation works were carried out to record disturbed archaeological horizons along the sides of two trenches cut through the earthwork remains of the shrunken medieval village at Bury Dyke. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from two of the four pits exposed in the sides of the trenches.

Crick, 7 Drayson Lane, Greenhill Farmhouse (SP 5883 7282)
Joe Prentice

A building assessment recorded a former cattle shelter associated with a former farmhouse on the west side of Drayson Lane. The building is of mid 19th century date and comprises, in its current form, two separate areas which contained stalls for cattle. The brick barn was built against a pre-existing stone wall. This area has been substantially altered and arched openings on the east elevation largely blocked. A later brick addition has been added at the northern end, most likely for storage.

Daventry, 27 High Street (SP 5732 6250)
Iain Soden

An archaeological watching brief during stripping out at the 17th century Grade II-listed building, enabled records to be made of areas of the east and west walls of the property. The old frontage building had had a rear wing added. A former doorway and a previous stair location were revealed, and a floored-over cellar was located. All these have been covered over by the refurbishment.

Daventry, Middlemore Farm (SP 5619 6485)
John Walford

A magnetometer survey on 4ha of land identified a medieval ridge and furrow cultivation system across the two areas.

Deanshanger, Church Lane (SP 7614 3971)
Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Church Lane in response to a planning application for the erection of a single dwelling. The evaluation revealed a medieval pit, a medieval stone wall, a pond or quarry pit and a 17th century rubbish pit. The ground appears to have remained as either paddock or under cultivation for many years.

Eydon, Eydon Hall Estate, Manor Farm House (SP 5423 5002)
Iain Soden and Joe Prentice

A building assessment recorded the Manor Farm House and associated farm buildings. The farmhouse dates to the mid 17th century with later additions and alterations, the associated farm buildings most likely date to the 18th and 19th centuries. The group of domestic buildings of Eydon Manor Farm comprise four principal phases of construction; the first to be built was the main farmhouse, the second was perhaps the lean-to on the west side, the third was the detached cottage and, finally, the building connecting the cottage to the farmhouse. All are built in regional vernacular style using, for the most part, local stone with only the latest section, the link, using brick, a material often not widely used in predominantly stone areas until the coming of the railways in the second quarter of the 19th century, although probably later here. The detached cart-shed, wash-house and the two sets of stables and carriage houses are 19th century additions.

The detached former stable block, listed Grade II, and associated stock buildings lying to the east of the northern entrance to the estate along with further buildings to the east of the same driveway, were also recorded. The stable block, built of dressed and coursed ironstone, dates to the mid 17th century with later additions and alterations. The stone and brick range of stock buildings most likely date to the 18th and 19th centuries. Finally, there are the modern steel and corrugated sheeting sheds.

Flore, 2 King's Lane (SP 6473 6024)

Joe Prentice

A building assessment recorded a small stone and brick stable block and coach house of late 19th century date, with a hay loft above and a small tack room with store and privy added to the western end at a later date. It had most recently been used as a garage and store. A cast iron corner trough that had been in the stables was seen in the garden, reused as a planter.

Great Brington, The Last Straw (SP 667 648)

Danny McAree

Archaeological building recording was carried out at *The Last Straw*, a Grade II Listed thatched cottage, gutted by fire. A supposed cruck blade recorded in 1977 is purported to indicate a possible medieval date, and a blocked doorway may indicate an early cross-passage design. A west wing was added prior to 1748. In the late 19th century the building was divided into three cottages. Major alterations in the 1990s returned the building to a single dwelling. The recent fire has denuded the historic fabric considerably.

Greatworth, Stuchbury Manor Farm (SP 5567 4363)

Adrian Butler, Carol Simmonds

A detailed geophysical survey of land at Stuchbury Manor Farm identified a possible ditch. Trial trenching found two undated ditches, probably relating to peripheral farming or land management. The mitigation works identified the extent of one of the ditches and evidence for localised limestone extraction.

Greatworth, Stuchbury, Spring Farm Ridge (SP 573 432)

Simon Carlyle

During an evaluation at Spring Farm Ridge a single Iron Age ditch was found, although further undated ditches may be contemporary. There were two main areas dating to the Roman period. One area comprised probable enclosures and boundary systems, as well as a series of quarry pits, and appeared to be in use throughout the Roman period. A second area comprised the remains of a Romano-British building of modest status and associated activity. Pottery associated with the building dated exclusively to the 2nd century, while some of the peripheral activity may have dated to the later Roman period.

Gretton, Church of St James the Great (SP 8985 9441)

Tim Upson-Smith

A small test pit evaluation and watching brief was carried out prior to and during the installation of a new cess tank. No archaeological deposits or burials were observed during the work.

Hardingstone, 14-18 The Warren (SP 7666 5762)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken to observe groundworks during the construction of a pair of semi-detached and one detached house, on land to the rear of 14-18 The Warren. No archaeological deposits were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

Irchester, Chester Farm (SP 920 669)

Ian Meadows

An auger survey followed by a watching brief of the dredging of Chester Water was commissioned by The Environment Agency. It was concluded that the channel silts were modern in date. SM NN83

Irchester, Gipsy Lane (SP 9220 6610)

Chris Jones

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off High Street and off Gipsy Lane. Twenty-three trenches, each 30m long by 2m wide, were excavated. There was part of an Iron Age enclosure ditch and two shallow Roman gullies. The rest of the possible features comprised two shallow gullies and post-medieval and later quarrying.

Isham, 36a South Street (SP 8884 7396)

Angela Warner

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the installation of a new sewer in the garden of 36a South Street. No archaeological features were encountered, although slight earthworks were visible in the garden, in the garden of the adjacent property and in the field to the east. A single sherd of St Neots ware pottery was recovered from a deposit of made-ground near the house.

Kettering East (SP 900 775)

Ian Fisher, Carol Simmonds and John Walford

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out magnetometer survey on 332ha of land east of Kettering. A 50% sampling strategy was followed, expanded around cropmarks, resulting in a total of 177ha of survey. Several foci of likely prehistoric and Romano-British settlement were located. These comprised a mixture of scattered individual settlements and a concentration of at least five distinct foci of settlement. 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 truncated ridge and furrow of medieval field systems.

Kettering, Thurston Drive (SP 8663 7697)

Ian Fisher and Carol Simmonds

Geophysical survey and trial trenching was conducted on land proposed for development at Thurston Drive. The survey and subsequent trial trenching confirmed the

Northamptonshire

presence of extensive modern disturbance. No archaeological features were recorded and no finds were recovered.

Kislingbury, south of Bugbrooke Road (SP 6975 5920)
Ian Fisher and David J Leigh

A detailed geophysical survey was carried out on land proposed for residential development. Magnetometer survey identified the corner of a possible ditched enclosure of unknown date and two ditches of putative medieval date. Subsequent trial trench evaluation only recorded undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered.

Little Houghton, 53 Lodge Road (SP 8047 5941)
Chris Jones

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out in the rear garden of 53 Lodge Road. The evaluation consisted of a single trench. No archaeological deposits or finds were identified.

Long Buckby, Station Road, White Barn Farm (SP 6155 6660)
Ian Fisher and Edmund Taylor

An archaeological investigation was carried out to inform a planning application for the construction of two wind turbine bases at White Barn Farm. Geophysical survey identified a possible pit group and medieval ridge and furrow. Subsequent archaeological evaluation in the footprint of the proposed wind turbines did not identify any archaeological remains.

Lowick, Colpman's Farm (SP 980 795)
Paul Clements

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a magnetometer survey in two fields, totalling an area of 18ha, on land south of Colpman's Farm. The survey identified one linear anomaly which is likely to be a former field boundary. Ridge and furrow cultivation systems were detected in both fields.

Lyveden New Bield (SP 983 854)
Joe Prentice

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken, on behalf of the National Trust, at Lyveden New Bield within the area known as the Moated Orchard, within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument (SM No: 69) and the Grade 1 Registered Park and Garden (1001037). The aim was to establish the presence or absence of the circular planting borders and paths laid out by Sir Thomas Tresham between 1597 and his death in 1605. A series of concentric rings can be seen on an aerial photograph taken in c 1944, but shortly afterwards the area was ploughed. Geophysical survey did not reveal indications of the circular beds nor were any identified during the evaluation. The only features revealed were underlying medieval features relating to land use prior

to the creation of the Elizabethan garden and surrounding canals.

Middleton Cheney, Astrop Road, Middleton Lodge Farm (SP 5015 4064)
Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological investigation was carried out to inform a planning application for the construction of a single wind turbine, at Middleton Lodge Farm. There were no archaeological features or finds present.

Middleton Cheney, Waters Lane (SP 505 420)
Ian Fisher

A detailed magnetometer survey over an area of c 2.4ha was carried out in advance of a proposed development scheme at Waters Lane. This revealed at least two ditches, a possible pit of apparently pre-medieval date and ridge and furrow cultivation of probable medieval origin. Pipelines and other likely modern features were also mapped.

Milton Malsor, Malzor Lane, Home Farm (SP 7318 5561)
David J Leigh

An archaeological strip, map and record was undertaken in advance of residential development on land at Home Farm. Modern disturbance was noted along the north-western boundary of the investigation area, whilst undisturbed soils were present throughout the remainder. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Milton Malsor, 33 Rectory Lane, Mortimers (SP 7344 5528)
Andy Chapman and Pat Chapman

Building recording was carried out on a coach house, built in ironstone between 1885 and 1899, prior to renovation as a dwelling. The building comprises a carriage house, three stables and an upper storey hayloft. It is roofed in slate with decorative ceramic ridge tiles, and there are internal brick jambs for the doors and windows, brick floors and brick partition walls. The doors and windows and their fittings are probably original. The rainwater goods and electric light were installed in the mid-20th century.

Moreton Pinkney, Banbury Road, The Grange (SP 5749 4919)
Steve Morris

Archaeological work was undertaken to observe groundworks at the site of a proposed swimming pool in the private garden of The Grange, which is located within the historic core of the village. A 19th century stone track was recorded, also pottery, ceramic building material and glass bottles of 18th to 20th century date were recovered.

Northampton, Banbury Lane (SP 725 582)

Mark Holmes, Adam Yates, Andy Chapman and Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

The Banbury Lane middle Neolithic mortuary enclosure was excavated in July and August 2011, following discovery by geophysical survey and evaluation by trial trenching in 2010. The project is managed by Myk Flitcroft of CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of David Wilson Homes. Anwen Caffell and Malin Holst of York Osteoarchaeology have carried out the initial assessment of the human bone assemblage.

The site lies to the south-west of Northampton within a loop of Wootton Brook, which joins the River Nene 700m to the north. The Briar Hill Neolithic causewayed enclosure, which was excavated in the 1970s, lay 1.5km to the north-east.

The enclosure comprised three closely-spaced concentric ditches. The outer ditch was 23m in diameter and the inner ditch enclosed a central space 7.8m in diameter (Fig 9). None of the ditches possessed consistently asymmetrical fills to show the presence of banks or a central mound, and no features survived within the central area. There were broad entrances to the north-west through the middle and outer ditches, although the outer entrance had later been closed by a further length of ditch.

The inner ditch had a narrower entrance and this had been blocked by an elongated pit, 2.8m long by 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep. It is the contents of this pit that make the Banbury Lane monument a unique site of national importance. From bottom to top the pit contained a dense mass of disarticulated human bone from at least 130 individuals. Gouge and chopping marks on the bones around the major joints suggest that partially decayed corpses had been forcibly dismembered. Preliminary assessment of the bone deposit, which was uncovered, recorded and lifted by Rob Smith (Fig 10), indicates a possible total of 7500 bones and 9400 bone fragments.

The deposit is highly selective, with the femur most common, followed by humerus, tibia and then the lower arm bones. There are no complete skulls but there are fragments, with a group at the eastern end of the pit (Fig 11), but there are nowhere near enough skulls to match the limb bones. Vertebrae and ribs are present in small numbers, but hand and foot bones are near non-existent. This all indicates that the dismembering took place elsewhere, with only the selected material being brought to the monument for deposition.

Two radiocarbon dates indicate that the bone deposit was the product of a single event occurring in the middle Neolithic (3360-3100 Cal BC), although it will require a further programme of dating to establish the chronology of the whole monument. In form and date, the monument would fit best alongside the middle Neolithic oval barrows, but may be a precursor of the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age henge monument tradition.



Fig 9. The triple ditches of the middle Neolithic mortuary enclosure at Banbury Lane, Northampton.

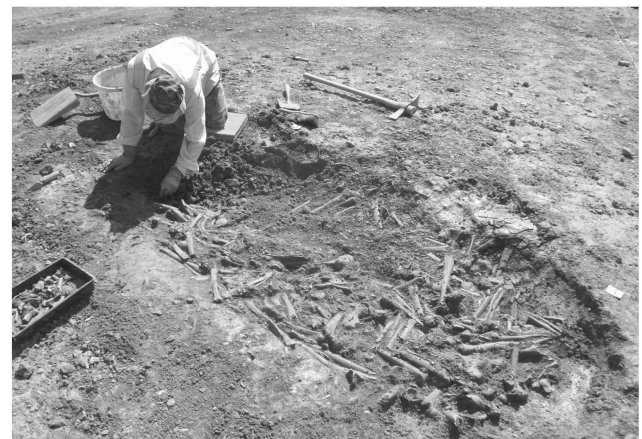


Fig 10. Banbury Lane, Northampton, uncovering the uppermost layer of the human bone deposit.

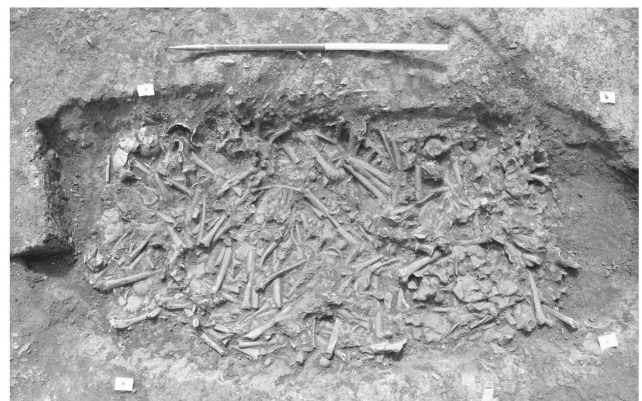


Fig 11. Banbury Lane, Northampton, one of the 16 layers of human bone fully uncovered.

This group of material will clearly provide the basis for much speculation and debate as to the story behind this remarkable assemblage, but that debate must properly await the results of further analysis. What is clear at present is that the remains have the potential to provide new insights into Neolithic demography, health and mortuary ritual at a time, the middle Neolithic, for which little skeletal material is available.

Very little pottery was recovered from the monument, just a few sherds of probable Collared Urn from the final ditch fills, although 100m to the south, a shallow pit contained at least half of a Peterborough ware bowl. Other nearby associated activity included a poorly-preserved crouched

Northamptonshire

inhumation. The southern area of the site also contained an enclosure system dating to the Iron Age and a single pit contained a small assemblage of Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Northampton, Delapre Abbey (SP 7595 5912)

Amir Bassir

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks connected with a project to repair and reinstate the historic water gardens at Delapre Abbey. The watching brief revealed the remains of a 19th century culvert and levelling layers but no pre-19th century archaeology.

Northampton, Kings Heath, Kings Heath Primary School (SP 7367 6253)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at Kings Heath Primary School as part of a pre-application for development within the school grounds. No archaeological remains or artefacts were present in the evaluation.

Northampton, Overstone Leys (SP 7920 6550)

Chris Jones, Carol Simmonds and Adrian Butler

A third phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken, following previous geophysical survey and trial trenching (*SMA* 40 (2009), 19). There were the remains of a Romano-British settlement dating to the late 1st to 4th centuries, comprising a number of intersecting rectilinear ditched enclosures. Within the settlement were the remains of at least three roundhouses, of which one was stone built and a length of wall that may have been the remains of another building. The artefactual evidence indicates that the settlement was a fairly low-status, rural farmstead with possible field boundaries extending away from it to the west and south. Undated ditched boundaries found in earlier phases of the evaluation may also be remnants of a wider field system. Early/middle Saxon activity comprised a deep, flat-bottomed pit that may be a substantial sunken-featured building. A further such feature was also found, suggesting the presence of a dispersed or shifting Saxon settlement. Further postholes may be the remains of timber buildings and a series of undated ditches may also have been contemporary.

Magnetometer survey was carried out on a further c 2.5ha of land at Overstone Leys following the large-scale evaluation to the east. A curving ditch and a linear ditch were located, although rectilinear anomalies to the north of the curved ditch are possibly geological rather than archaeological.

Northampton, Upton (SP 719 587)

John Walford and Anne Foard-Colby

A magnetometer survey and evaluation was carried out on 0.5ha of land at Upton prior to a proposed car park development. The survey identified one possible ditch and traces of ridge and furrow cultivation. However, much of the survey area was magnetically disturbed, demonstrating

the widespread presence of hardcore and other magnetic debris within the topsoil. The trial trench evaluation found two pits, one of which contained considerable burnt stone and flint, together with a furrow of medieval field cultivation.

Oundle, Lilford Lodge Farm (TL 035 854)

Paul Mason

The first phase of a trial trench evaluation on the River Nene floodplain at Lilford Lodge Farm found no archaeological features or artefacts. Deep deposits of alluvium lay across the site, which forms the northern end of a proposed marina development.

Pytchley, Isham Road, All Saints' Church (SP 860 747)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the connection of mains services at All Saints' Church. Other than the expected grave-soil and burials, no other archaeological features were encountered. A small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered from the grave-soil.

Raunds, 22 Rotton Row (SP 9987 7325)

Chris Jones

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out, in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent, on land to the rear of 22 Rotton Row. The evaluation identified a medieval boundary ditch, which had been identified to the north in the excavation of Furnells manor in the 1970s, and more recently to the south (*SMA* 33 (2003), 55). A shallow isolated pit was the only other feature present. The evidence from the excavation would suggest that the development area contains remains peripheral to the adjacent manorial and settlement sites.

Raunds, St Peter's Church (TL 0004 7306)

Jim Brown

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the installation of a new water pipe at St Peter's Church. An unmarked grave and a brick-built crypt were identified and avoided, and their locations surveyed for future reference. No definite headstones survive for these burials. All chancel was collected and reburied.

Raunds, Warth Park (SP 9835 7315)

Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken to observe the excavation of geo-technical test pits for the Warth Park development, Phase 2. No archaeological deposits were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

Rockingham Castle (SP 8679 9101)

Joe Prentice and Tim Upson-Smith

A desk-based assessment was carried out to determine the history and development of the walled kitchen garden at Rockingham Castle. A building assessment recorded the remains of the southern enclosure of the garden, and dated the structure to the second half of the 19th century. Trial excavation revealed evidence of planting trenches and garden paths dating to the 19th century, but no earlier activity. Three galvanised metal or zinc plant labels remained on the walls, and two were legible. One bears the inscription *Violette Hâtive*, a variety of nectarine; the other bears the name *Imperatrice*, probably the plum, *Ickworth Imperatrice*.

Salcey Forest, near Hartwell (SP 8014 5136)

Carol Simmonds

The Forestry Commission commissioned a walkover survey on four areas totalling 29ha in Salcey Forest. These were targeted in order to 'ground-truth' features identified by LiDAR survey (Light Detection And Ranging). A number of features were noted including a D-shaped enclosure, an earthwork bank and drainage ditches. A detailed measured survey of a rectangular earthwork enclosure was also undertaken.

Shotley, Wakerley Road (SP 9350 9801)

Jason Clarke

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land for a proposed sewage treatment works. No archaeological features or deposits were present and no finds were recovered.

Shutlanger, 33 Main Road (SP 7293 4998)

Andy Chapman

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new house, which almost directly overlay the former cottage. To the rear, an extension to the new house ran partly onto the former garden. Here the natural was overlain by up to 0.6m of garden soil. There were no earlier disturbances of the natural and no earlier artefacts were present.

Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit (SP 6750 4200)

Ian Fisher

A programme of detailed magnetometer survey was carried out on 42.2ha at Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit. The survey located anomalies relating to recent structures and deposits, roads and tracks, reburied hard standing, service pipelines and ferrous debris. Two possible archaeological anomalies were identified in one area, putatively ditches, but equally feasibly ephemeral modern features, such as drainage channels or beaten paths. Despite the extensive disturbance on the site, sufficient open areas were surveyed between tracks and around hard standing to demonstrate little significant archaeological activity.

Southwick, Bulwick Road (TL 0107 9219)

Danny McAree

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land off Bulwick Road, Southwick, to monitor the excavation of a single electrical supply trench along the side of the roadway. The proposed works extended across the documented historic forest boundary. Apart from other modern service trenches, no artefacts were present and no archaeological features were exposed.

Stanford-on-Avon, 3 Church Lane, Ashleigh House (SP 588 788)

Carol Simmonds

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the construction of a new garage at Ashleigh House. Made ground, probably a result of the infilling of an old water course or pond, was noted but no archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Stanion, Brigstock Road (SP 924 869)

Jason Clarke

Excavation took place as part of a proposed development of a waste recycling facility. There was a late Iron Age boundary ditch and three early Roman roundhouses. These were replaced in the 2nd century by a Roman villa together with ancillary structures, including a post-built aisled barn with drying oven, two further drying ovens, stone-lined wells and water cistern. The main buildings were a continuation of a building to the west partly excavated in 2002 (*SMA* 33 (2003), 53). To the east of the buildings there was a possible metalworking area focused around a stone-built roundhouse. A driveway defined by parallel ditches led to a partially metalled ford over Harpers Brook. The villa, the processing area and perhaps the driveway appear to have gone out of use by the late 3rd century, when a series of ditches were created, and an oven was inserted into the demolition deposits of one of the villa buildings. The site appears to have been fully abandoned in the 4th century AD. A small amount of medieval pottery from the building rubble suggests post-Conquest robbing of the villa for building stone.

Tansor Grange (TL 074 904)

John Walford

Detailed magnetometer survey was carried out on two blocks of land, with a total area of c 3.8ha, in advance of the construction of a wind turbine and access road at Tansor Grange. This work revealed a substantial complex of enclosures of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date associated with a boundary ditch also seen as a cropmark.

Thrapston, Huntingdon Road (SP 0130 7880)

Paul Clements and Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation was carried out on 5ha of land proposed for a Rural Agricultural Centre at Thrapston. The geophysical

Northamptonshire

survey identified a faint circular ring ditch, interpreted as a possible Bronze Age barrow ditch, and an oval enclosure, probably also of prehistoric date, both situated at the highest elevation. The trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of the oval Iron Age enclosure, which produced a modest assemblage of middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone. An undated gully was also identified, and this coincided with the western side of the possible circular ring ditch.

Titchmarsh, Church of St Mary (TL 0200 7986)

David J Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during renovation works comprising the removal of the existing pews and wooden sections of flooring from the nave, south aisle and north aisle. Undated deposits were revealed containing a possible fragment of grave slab. A George V copper penny was found sealed beneath the central pews, possibly indicating the date of installation.

Towcester, Easton Neston House (SP 7017 4943)

Joe Prentice

Easton Neston House is a Grade I listed mansion, built by Nicholas Hawksmoor between 1685 and 1695. Recently sold, the house was in need of repair and renovation after many years of minimal maintenance and inappropriate alterations. In addition, following the removal of tapestries, long associated with the house, there was a need to introduce panelling to fill those voids. A number of 20th century additions were removed to improve or reinstate earlier layouts. Recording was carried out prior to and during alterations.

Towcester, Wood Burcote, Wood Burcote Estate (SP 6976 4729)

Carol Simmonds

A measured earthwork survey was undertaken on 26ha of land within the Wood Burcote Estate. The survey identified and recorded earthworks including the open field system relating to the shrunken medieval village of Wood Burcote. Later activity was represented by features associated with the landscaping of the 20th century parkland and modern disturbance.

Upton Park (SP 714 597)

Ian Fisher and Paul Mason

Geophysical survey by magnetometry was followed by a trial trench evaluation on 32 ha of land at Upton. A previously evaluated Bronze Age barrow was re-located by geophysical survey. Prehistoric features including pit alignments and ditched field divisions were dated to the Iron Age by small assemblages of pottery. Roman features, including a metallised trackway, have been dated to the 1st/2nd centuries AD.

Warmington, 18-20 Chapel Street (TL 0777 9123)

Edmund Taylor

An archaeological evaluation on land at 18-20 Chapel Street revealed a small group of postholes which are likely to be structural elements of a late medieval building known to have fronted onto Chapel Street. To the rear of the plot there was a boundary or drainage ditch which dates from the 12th to 15th centuries.

Weldon, The Old Woodyard (SP 929 824)

David J Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new dwelling with garage on land at The Old Woodyard. Modern disturbance was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Wellingborough, Olympic Way, Hardwick Schools (SP 8724 6830)

Joe Prentice

Archaeological trial excavation was carried out in the grounds of Hardwick Schools in advance of new building to extend the existing capacity of the school buildings. Four trenches were opened but none showed any evidence of archaeological activity.

Wellingborough, 48 Park Road (SP 8919 6824)

Joe Prentice

A small brick building of late 19th century date was recorded. The workshop at the rear of Park House, Upper Havelock Street was almost certainly built at the same time as that property in 1881. The building has been substantially altered but retains evidence of former openings on the ground floor. However, it retains almost no fixtures and fittings which could indicate its original function.

Whittlebury, Porterswood Farm (SP 6947 4567)

Ian Fisher

An archaeological investigation was carried out to inform a planning application for the construction of a single wind turbine, at Porterswood Farm. There were no archaeological features or finds present.

Wollaston, 86 High Street, former Excelsior Band Club (SP 9078 6291)

Joe Prentice

A building assessment recorded the former Excelsior Band Club at 86 High Street. The building, listed grade 2, comprises a stone building, formerly a domestic residence fronting onto the High Street which has been substantially extended and altered. The most fundamental change to the original building has been the removal of the entire first floor level during the 1980s. The extent of the alterations means that few early or original features now remain.

Wollaston, Tower Farm (SP 9220 6235)
John Walford

An area of c 2ha was subject to detailed magnetometer survey. The only archaeological features identified were furrows relating to the former open field system of Wollaston.

Yarwell, Nassington Road, Nassington and Yarwell Cemetery (TL 0680 9726)
Steven Morris

The Nassington and Yarwell Joint Burial Board commissioned a trial trench evaluation on land proposed for a cemetery extension. No archaeological features were recorded. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Middleton Cheney, The Red Lion Public House (SP 49855 41847)
Taleyna Fletcher

The building, originally constructed in 1696, had been unoccupied for more than two years before an historic building survey was undertaken. As a result, it had suffered from general deterioration from both neglect and vandalism. The site underwent significant expansion in the 18th and early 19th century at the height of the coaching era. More recently, in the mid-late 20th century, many of the original features, fixtures and fittings were removed, although the layout and the original local stone was retained.

Whilton, Whilton Sewage and Water Treatment Works (SP 4620 26520)
Rob Atkins

Modern features were found to contain residual Roman pottery.

Oundle, The Talbot Hotel (TL 04066 88126)
Taleyna Fletcher

Historic building survey undertaken at the Talbot Hotel in Oundle, Northamptonshire took place in advance of a number of minor internal and external alterations to the Grade I listed former medieval coaching inn. In addition, an archaeological watching brief noted the presence of a cobbled surface, wall foundations and a well within the courtyard area.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Watford Gap, Watford Gap Renewable Energy Park (SP 6030 6790)
David Score

Oxford Archaeology South have undertaken a twenty five trench evaluation of land at Watford Gap in advance of the submission of a planning application. Seven archaeological features were revealed (including a single ditch recorded in both Trenches 16 and 17). Of these 4 were clearly related as part of a cultivation system in Trench 8. Two further ditches were recorded in Trenches 10 and 19. Two of the ditches are positively dated and interpreted as post medieval field boundaries and while a small quantity of abraded probably Roman pottery was recovered from one of the other features they may be medieval or post medieval in origin. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was also recorded in the southern and eastern areas of the site. Limited dating evidence was recovered which consisted of 3 sherds of late Iron Age/Roman pottery. Fragments of post-Medieval land drain were also recovered.

OXFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON GEOPHYSICS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Abingdon, 215 Radley Rd (SU 5097 9824)
Roger Ainslie

Small magnetometry and resistivity surveys were carried out in the garden of this house for the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society to see if the ditch of the Abingdon Neolithic causewayed camp could be located. The only possible anomaly which could have been a ditch was located near the rear of the house. A report has been put on the Archaeology Data Services grey literature system reference 116157.

Weston-on-the-Green, St. Mary's churchyard (SP 5313 1856)
Roger Ainslie

A resistivity survey was carried out for Bob and Paula Hessian to see whether the extent of the former chancel of this church could be located. Surprisingly, despite the area having been covered with graves during the past 200 years, it appears that the extent of the former chancel was still detectable. A report has been put on the Archaeology Data Services grey literature system reference 109025.

Bicester, Church Street (SP 5834 2234)
Carina Summerfield-Hill

A watching brief was carried out at 4 Church Street between September and November, during the construction of a conservatory to the rear of the property. The excavation of a soakaway revealed that the made ground present on the site contained sherds of residual late medieval/post-medieval pottery. Underlying this was an undated linear feature orientated northeast-southwest. The footing trench also contained deposits of dumped worked limestone. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map depicts a rectangular enclosed area to the west of the house. This is thought to be a walled garden, possibly related to the linear feature and concentrations of dumped worked limestone.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Bicester, Aldi, Launton Road (SP 5919 2259)
Vasileios Tsamis

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a small number of post-medieval and modern field boundaries and features relating to modern land use of the site. One undated ditch was the only possible feature of any antiquity. No features or finds certainly pre-dating the post-medieval or modern periods were identified.

Begbroke, Begbroke Science Park Access Road (SP 4753 1343)
Stuart Joyce and Vasileios Tsamis

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology exposed curvilinear features corresponding to cropmarks identified through aerial photography. A subsequent excavation exposed a probable 18th or 19th century field boundary ditch and an undated gully, although the cropmark features proved to be non-archaeological.

Kirtlington, Manor Farm (SP 5001 1941)
Tim Havard

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a probable Roman pit, a probably Anglo-Saxon ditch and a medieval ditch and pit. Undated features were also present, including at least ten storage and quarry pits, a well, wall footings and stone surfaces.

Oxford, Staircase 9, Wadham College (SP 5150 0650)
Alexandra Wilkinson

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded the stone foundations for Staircase 9 and the adjacent buildings. Several pits were also identified, one of which dated to the 13th to 14th centuries. A feature truncated by the extant building may have been part of the earlier Back Lodgings.

Oxford, Wadham College Graduate Study Centre (SP 5160 0655)
Mark Brett

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified wall foundations and floors relating to a medieval Friary, known to have occupied the site from 1268 until the dissolution, and to a row of modest cottages associated with late 19th century development of the site depicted on historic mapping.

Watchfield, Westmill Farm (SU 2464 9101)
Mark Brett and Stuart Joyce

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology exposed ditches and a posthole, possibly associated with Iron Age activity previously recorded adjacent to the site. A subsequent watching brief recorded an undated ditch on an alignment comparable to that of extant strip fields and ridge and furrow earthworks in the vicinity. An undated possible limestone quarry was also present.

EAST OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY PROJECT

Compiled by Jane Harrison on the basis of volunteers' work

The Bartlemas Chapel Excavations (SP 535 055 off the Cowley Road)

Interim Summary Report (22nd September - 4th November 2011)

This report brings together in brief all the work of the Project volunteers who carried out the excavation and made a first summarised report of their work at the Ark-T Centre on 9th December 2011; a full interim report, compiled by volunteers working with Project staff, will be available in summer 2012. A short interim report is also available on the project website: www.archeox.net

The Project spent six weeks excavating three trenches in the grounds of Bartlemas Chapel. An open weekend attracted hundreds of visitors, many locals dropped in regularly, and

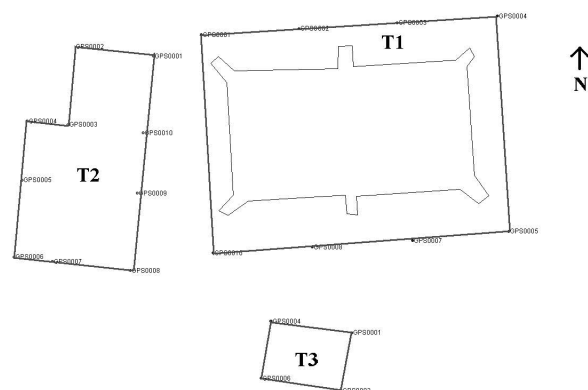


Fig 1. Location of trenches around Bartlemas Chapel.

regular articles appeared in the local press. The excavation team consisted of around 10-25 people per day, making a total of at least 100 local volunteers of all ages who participated in excavating, recording, drawing, photographing, and cleaning and organising finds, with training and support from the Project officers and a core group of more experienced volunteers. For many this was their first experience of larger-scale excavation and teaching was a vital part of the dig. The excavation uncovered a range of buildings and finds, from the early medieval period to the 19th century, ten *in situ* human burials and a series of charnel pits with disarticulated human and animal bone.

The opportunity to excavate arose because the Chapel needed remedial work to improve a damp problem resulting from rainwater pooling against the northern wall on the outside of the building. This work involved digging a trench all around the Chapel for a new drainage pipe. The Oxford Diocese granted a Faculty to the Project to provide archaeological control on the drainage works and to excavate further in areas west and south of the Chapel (Fig 1). Geophysical survey (resistivity) had already been undertaken in the grassy area west of the chapel, and spreads of stone showed in the results. Were these the buried remains of an earlier chapel, buildings related to the leper hospital/almshouse, or of 19th century farm buildings?

The history of the area is relatively well-known. From being a 12th century leper hospital (founded *c* 1126) the foundation had, by the 14th century, transformed into an almshouse, leprosy having almost disappeared in this country by that time. The hospital passed to the responsibility of Oriel College in the early 14th century and this was probably the time when the present structure was originally created, although it has been modified considerably since then. During the English Civil War Bartlemas Farmhouse, then operating as an inn, the buildings of the almshouse and the Chapel itself were used as a base by Parliamentary soldiers camped outside Royalist Oxford. Reports suggest the Chapel and the almshouse were severely damaged during that conflict. After the war the Chapel and Bartlemas House to the north were rebuilt and continued to operate as an almshouse, under the supervision of Oriel, until the Chapel and surrounding buildings were absorbed into a farm in the 19th century. Finally in the early 20th century the Chapel was adopted by the Diocese of Oxford and the houses became private dwellings.

Many questions remain about the site. Could more be discovered about the layout of the early leper hospital? There should be an earlier chapel on the site as the present Chapel is 14th century and the leper hospital must have had a chapel from its foundation in the early 12th century. What really happened on the site in the Civil War? Where was the burial ground? Were there other buildings near the Chapel before the scatter built rapidly in the farming 19th century, visible in Henry Taunt photos, and was then demolished?

Trench 1: around the Chapel

The excavation began with a 1m wide trench around the outside of the Chapel: from the surface downwards the first third of a metre of existing drainage gravel was taken off

using a small mechanical digger: pottery, old glass and window-leading were extracted from the already-disturbed ground. Large amounts of loose building stone and rubble were uncovered to the west and south of the Chapel; some of it dressed and occasionally carefully worked. This hinted at periods of extensive damage followed by major rebuilding. To the north of the Chapel well-built courses of stone were revealed, projecting from under, and on a slightly different alignment to, the existing Chapel. To the east of the Chapel a mortar floor - probably the interior of a small building - was uncovered in the northern half of the trench, with fragments of human bone already turning up in the top-soil to the south of that floor.

Small, 1m wide exploratory test-excavations were dug into the narrow trench around the Chapel. These were extended in places to make sense of the archaeology found, and to make it easier to complete the drainage works around the early walls and foundations discovered to the north. The shallow foundations of the 14th century chapel were generally in relatively poor condition, perhaps reflecting disturbance during the Civil War, with the Chapel requiring quite major repair. None of the present 14th century windows match, and the existing stonework may have been imported from other buildings in Oriel College's estate in a renovation exercise in the 17th century. On the south and east sides the foundations of the existing building incorporated large arches which seem to have been an architectural feature, perhaps designed to spread the load of the structure over the plentiful small water-courses running across the site.

The stonework excavated on the northern side of the Chapel showed several phases of rebuilding: the well-built courses running almost the entire length from the north-east corner west to the north door ran under the present chapel and buttresses. Was this the earlier Chapel? The complexity of the stonework around the buttresses suggested more than one episode of re-building - some of it done rather sloppily. Running to the east of the present Chapel there seemed to be an extension to the pre-14th century building revealed to the north. This was cut through by the construction trench for the existing Chapel. Although it was difficult to confirm the layout of this building, there was plentiful evidence for worked stone and mortar. The floor of this eastern structure



Fig 2. Skeleton 1 to the east of the Chapel, part-excavated.

Oxfordshire

seems to have been re-used in the 19th century: farmers making good use of existing foundations.

The trench around the Chapel also produced burials. Under the terms of the agreement with the Diocese all undisturbed burials were to be left where they were found and simply drawn, measured and photographed. Already disturbed and re-located bones were retrieved, however, for examination and then re-burial on Chapel land. To the east of the Chapel was discovered a well-preserved skeleton (SK 1 - Fig 2), probably of a young man, laid out on his back with his head in the west against the Chapel wall and his legs to the east. When this burial was uncovered in entirety it was found that a later burial (SK12) had cut into the grave, and the lower legs and feet of SK1 were either obscured by the skull of this second west-east burial, or had been removed during the cutting of the second grave. This re-cutting of graves happened relatively often in medieval cemeteries. SK1 had its head in a prime spot against the altar so perhaps represented the remains of one of the officials of leper hospital/almshouse.

To the north and south of the Chapel two charnel pits were located; where bones disturbed in digging later graves, or in building work, had been gathered together for re-burial in another preferred spot under the eaves of the Chapel. Some of these re-buried bones may have been disturbed during, and in the aftermath of, the Civil War. The pit to the north was very interesting as it started out with carefully laid out long bones and ended with a jumble of human bones, glass and animal bone, including a large dog's skull. To the south a much damaged and disturbed stone-lined grave, lying east-west only half a metre south of the Chapel wall, contained many more human bones, heaped together and probably including the original occupant of the grave re-used for charnel. All these bones will be carefully examined and the results will provide much more information about the people buried around the chapel. It clearly was a well-used grave-yard: not only do the two charnel pits suggest that, but during the digging of a vital new soak-away to the south of the chapel, three more west-east burials (SKS 8, 9 and 10) were recorded and left



Fig 3. Trench 2 looking north.

in place. Only a small fraction of the burials will have been uncovered during these excavations.

Trench 2: to the west of the chapel

This L-shaped trench, maximum size 10m x 6m, uncovered a sequence of small buildings, outside yards and working surfaces as well as several more burials. The earliest building lay on a completely different alignment, north-northeast-south-southwest, to any other on the site and seemed to have been slightly dug into the natural clay geology, with a roughly-paved surface outside it to the north-west. Two west-east laid out burials (SKS 11 and 13), found in the final days of the excavation, had been dug through the south-east edge of the floor surface of this structure. Little more than the skulls of these in situ burials were revealed, but again one grave had been slightly cut into the other. Both of the skulls were turned to one side and other long bones in one of the graves (SK11) suggested that the arms of the skeleton were bent up beside the head.

These burials and the early building were covered with the gravel-mortar floors and rubble-remains of other later small buildings and yards in this southern area of the trench. This sequence of little buildings may have been everything from medieval buildings related to the leper hospital, through temporary structures put up during the Civil War, to out-buildings for the farm. Certainly surfaces were re-used in the 19th century and the robbed-out remains of a substantial boundary-like wall were found running north-east/south-west across the south of the trench.

Another burial (SK5) was discovered just north of this sequence of buildings. This grave was dug to run nearly north-south. Some of the skeleton ran into the trench-side but the pelvis and legs were visible. The occupant of this relatively shallow and perhaps unofficial grave was a young child (aged around 6-7 years). Pottery in the grave-fill suggested that the burial might have been a little later than the 15th century. Less than 2m to the north under another sequence of walls, cobbled yards and small buildings lay another child burial (SK6/7, aged around 4-5 years), again relatively shallow and lying north-south. The skull and upper spine had been damaged by the digging of a slot for a line of small upright stones that may have been the kerb support for the internal wall of a later structure. The grave had presumably been either unmarked or forgotten.

In the north-west corner of the trench the legs of another burial (SK2) were uncovered: this seemed to echo the three in the soak-away trench. This west-east aligned grave was clearly west of the buildings in that area, dug well-down and neatly laid out. All these four graves may have been dug from the same land surface. The sequence of buildings to the north of the trench began later than that to the south and was associated with a number of Civil War finds: clay pipes, pottery and un-fired musket balls. There was a considerable amount of Civil War period material across the site, suggesting that the occupation may have been for some time and by quite a number of soldiers. Thus Trench 2 not only produced fascinating burial evidence but also evidence for small buildings in the vicinity of the Chapel.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Compiled by David Gilbert

Bampton, Community Centre (SP 3132 0311)

Gwilym Williams



Fig 4. Bartlemas Chapel and trench 2 looking south-east.

Trench 3: south of the Chapel

This small trench, 3m x 2m, produced more evidence for structures in the grave-yard; only a corner of the building was uncovered and the proximity of the Chapel means it cannot have been very big, perhaps 3m long, but the foundations were stone-built, substantial and related to what may have been a stone-flagged floor. Almost nothing was found inside the building except fragments of human bone. Was this a small chapel or perhaps an ossuary? Another stone-lined grave just showed in the corner of the trench and the area also produced very interesting evidence for the working of animal bone and an example of poorly-executed 19th century drainage.

Three scientific researchers from the Oxford Research Laboratory for Archaeology visited the excavations twice and took various tiny scientific samples from some of the bones, which will be tested to discover more information about date, diet, age, health and disease.

There is much more to be learnt about this site as the detailed post excavation investigations are carried out. This is being done by teams of volunteers with the support of the Project team and core volunteers, and we are taking the opportunity to hold lots more workshops, including on environmental sampling with Oxford Archaeology, drawing, pottery, report writing and finds.

We would all like to thank very warmly the residents of Bartlemas, especially Sarah and Christopher Franks, Sally Jeffrey and the vicar the Reverend Adam Romanis. Paul Booth, Alison Roberts and the DAC archaeological advisor Julian Munby provided regular on-site support and we would of course also like to thank Oriel College, including the Groundsman at Oriel's playing field, and the Diocese of Oxford for their support and help. The volunteers were marvellous.

The Project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the John Fell Fund of the University of Oxford. Supported by The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund

Bampton, Ham Court (SP 3100 0307)

Gwilym Williams

The first stage of archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Ham Court, Bampton. Evidence for the late medieval moat, which is believed to surround the manor house, was found on the south side of the property. No dating material was recovered. Cut into the top of the moat was a 19th century boundary ditch. South of the late medieval moat, an earlier possibly prehistoric ditch was investigated.

Bicester, Chapel Street, Bryan House (SP 5843 2221)

Paul Riccoboni, Gwilym Williams and David Gilbert

An archaeological evaluation followed by three open area excavations on land at the former Bryan House and land fronting onto Chapel Street, Bicester was carried out. The first phase of archaeological work comprised the opening of six trenches, in which demolition deposits and walls associated with the 12th century Augustinian Priory Church were located. Two trenches were excavated on Chapel Street, which revealed evidence for post-medieval houses, which used to front the street until the 1930s.

Open area excavations took place in areas not destroyed by deep wall footings of the former Bryan House and on two areas fronting onto Chapel Street. An almost complete plan of the eastern end of the Priory Church (nave, aisles and

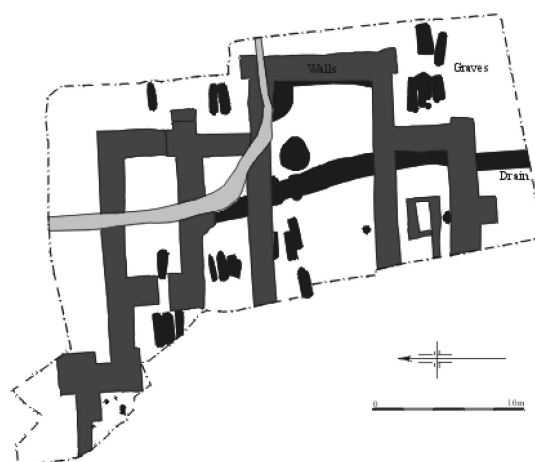


Fig 5. Excavation plan. Bryan House, Chapel Street, Bicester.

Oxfordshire

chancel) first constructed in c 1183 on land donated by Gilbert Bassett was uncovered. Three main phases of building works were identified, the earliest being an intact 12th century culvert with domed roof. Wall footings of the nave and aisles, which formed the main church building were 2m wide reaching depths of over 1.5m. The latest phase was a 14th century addition to the north aisle, dated by stratigraphic relationships and building materials purchased in the account rolls assumed to be for these later additions. The preservation of the archaeology was best outside the building footprint of the former Bryan House where parts of some floors survived *in situ*. The discoveries within the church included burials with traces of wooden coffins, charnel pits and a stone-lined vault. Covering the burials were bedding layers for decorated tiled floors. Beneath the former Bryan house the *in situ* floor layers were not surviving but the walls of the church and below floor levelling deposits were surviving. Burials and charnel pits were also located outside the eastern end of the main church, occupying the space between the end of the church and the stream (now culverted).

The North Transept was partially revealed and the floor layers associated with this area were hand excavated. The remains of a probable reliquary thought to be that of the patron Saint of Bicester now called St Edburg was discovered within a lead container buried into the latest floor layer. St Edburg was the daughter of a 7th century Saxon King and her remains were lost with the dissolution of the priory. Within the lead container were the remains of c 20% of a single human skeleton with no pelvis or skull meaning determining sex is difficult without specialist scientific methods. The discovery of the reliquary within the area of the North Transept suggests the shrine (now at Stanton Harcourt Parish Church) was probably located here.

Post-dissolution demolition layers and intrusive features were also encountered across the site, in particular outside the southern aisle where moulded stone blocks could be seen in rubble layers. During the post-medieval period the site was left as pasture until the 1940s when a Territorial Army centre was erected, followed by a block of flats and a retirement home in the 1960s. The site is currently under redevelopment.

Blenheim Park (SP 4246 1821 to SP 4275 1820)
Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during ground reduction in advance of a new access track. The Roman Road of Akeman Street was uncovered at the north western end of the new track and a wide ditch was seen orientated northeast-southwest towards the south eastern end. The ditch is considered to be associated with the nearby Grim's Ditch, which can still be seen as a visible earthwork in the unploughed field.

Bloxham, Chapel Street (SP 4319 3593)
Gwilym Williams

A two-trench evaluation recorded an undated soakaway and part of the Victorian wall.

Broughton, Old Rectory (SP 4199 3841)
David Gilbert

A watching brief was conducted during the ground works. Nineteenth century garden structures were recorded, as was a demolition area, again 19th century. Also noted were earlier, but undated agricultural ditches.

Chalgrove, 114 and 116 High Street (SU 6381 9670)
Stephen Yeates

Only medieval agricultural deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 24 Manor Farm Road (SP 5067 1076)
Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during groundwork involving initial topsoil stripping followed by excavation of wall footing trenches up to 1m in depth from present ground levels. To the rear of the property Roman pits were encountered and a compacted surface with an overlying Roman occupation soil containing pottery sherds and animal bones dating from the immediate post Roman conquest. Above the occupation soil was a thick heterogeneous layer containing stones and flint nodules thought to be Roman building material. One post-medieval pit was also discovered cutting through a Roman pit. At the front of the property a new porch, wall footing trenches for a new utility room and service trenching connected to a new soakaway revealed further pits, gullies and a posthole all of early Roman date with a notably large quantity of 1st century AD pottery from the fill of the pit in the service trench. Limited interpretations can be made as to the function of the site due to the nature of the small excavations, but it would seem probable that this area was part of the extra-mural Roman settlement of Dorchester, not previously thought to have extended this far east of the town.

Faringdon, land north of Gloucester Street (SU 28660 95690)
Paul Riccoboni

Four trenches, totalling approximately 110m in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology. The earliest feature was a ditch containing early-mid 11th century date pottery in its upper fill orientated on approximate north-east/south-west alignment sealed beneath subsoil and topsoil deposits. A shallow curvilinear gully on the same alignment was undated but was possibly of similar date. A further ditch on a more northerly alignment was later and of probable mid 16th - 17th century date. Six undated ditches were all orientated on north-east/south west alignments, considered to be either associated with medieval burgrave

plots or drainage ditches of a medieval or post-medieval date. Two further undated shallow gullies were on similar alignments. The latest features were a large pond of 17th or 18th century date and very modern features connected to a large water duct.

Goring on Thames, Saint Thomas of Canterbury's Church (SU 59765 80715)

Stephen Yeates

Only in three of the very narrow sondages sunk for the erection of the lamp posts was any significant archaeology found, one a burnt deposit, the other a wall of the priory and the latter a significant rubble scatter. These deposits relate to activity on the former priory site.

Great Tew, Great Tew House (SP 3970 2906)

David Gilbert

A watching brief is on-going during work at Great Tew House and within its grounds. Extensive remains of medieval ridge and furrow is evident to the west and south of the main house.

Hanwell, Hanwell Castle (SP 4363 4360)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was carried out during groundwork at Hanwell Castle involving the excavation of an electricity cable trench. During rebuilding for the northern part of the western boundary wall foundations for an earlier building and external yard surface were recorded. Two walls and a floor surface thought to belong to this building were uncovered within the electricity cable trench.

Long Wittenham, High Street Footbridge Cottage.

(SU 5453 9369)

Gwilym Williams

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during groundwork for the construction of a new build. A single roughly north/south orientated ditch, with a single sherd of pottery dating from after the 11th century was present.

Oxford, Littlemore 31 Cowley Road (SP 5838 02970)

Paul Riccoboni

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to find the remains of a known malthouse and coach house seen on an enclosure map of 1819. The fieldwork involved the excavation of one 10m trench to varying depths of between 71.81m AOD and 72.43m above ordnance datum. Structural remains were discovered believed to be the surviving floors of the coach house with a robber trench marking the line of the removed coach house wall. A well was also discovered at the south east end of the trench associated with a curving kerb line and stone floor, perhaps functioning as the hard-standing on which a wooden structure over the well may have stood.

Oxford, Sandford Road, Littlemore Mental Health Centre (SP 5330 0234)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted following an archaeological evaluation of the site. A ditch first discovered in the evaluation was re-investigated and pottery was recovered dating from the late Iron Age to early Roman period. A pit of late 1st century to 2nd century AD Romano-British date and a later ditch were also discovered.

Oxford, Marston, 4 Mill Lane (SP 5261 0886)

Gwilym Williams

The watching brief identified two ditches and a possible pit in the footings trench of the extension as well as a further feature of uncertain nature in the soakaway, which may represent remnants of a building.

Oxford, Rose Hill (SP 5358 0365)

David Gilbert

A watching brief was undertaken after the area had undergone an Evaluation in 2008. Considerable disturbance of a comparatively recent date was encountered across the site. This is likely to be attributed to the development of the site since the late Victorian period with the construction of a series of relatively short-lived buildings. However, pockets of archaeological remains survived.

Iron Age

A sequence of at least five inter-cutting ditches containing middle Iron Age pottery was recorded in the evaluation (JMHS 2008) and these ditches appear to continue to the east curve towards the south. This curve would suggest that it formed part of an enclosure. The number of similarly aligned ditches would indicate a long-lived settlement. The fact that individual ditches could be seen cut into the fills of earlier ones would indicate that these had completely or very nearly filled up before new ditches were excavated.

This sporadic digging of the ditches could be due to the underlying sand deposits causing the ditches to erode quickly or the banks to become unstable. It could also be due to the need to increase the defences at certain times or perhaps it shows that the enclosure was slowly contracting or moving south. The ditches are relatively shallow and therefore it is probably prudent not to view these as defensive, but more to demarcate the settlement area and prevent animal intrusion. Indeed the relatively nearby settlement at Barton (JMHS 2005) displays no indication of fortification until the Late Iron Age.

A possibility also exists that the enclosure was used periodically. No evidence was seen for the formation of a turf line sealing any of the ditches, although later truncation could have removed this. It should be noted that the new ditch would have been cut at least partially were the bank of the previous one would have been. Therefore it is possible that the earlier bank was intentionally slighted and its material used to fill the earlier ditches prior to any new

Oxfordshire

excavation. The section of the ditches seen displays a fairly tight curve to the south, while this does not conform to the “classic” circular or oval enclosure examples of more angular one are known such as at Winnall Down and Farley Mount, both in Hants and Groundwell Farm, Wilts (Cunliffe 2005)

A four-post structure was also recorded and is likely to be related to the Iron Age settlement of the area, although there were no associated finds. This would have been situated in the lee of the bank. Its proximity to a late ditch may indicate that it was associated with an earlier phase when presumably the bank was further to the north.

Iron Age pottery was also recovered during the excavations at Annesley Road and Ellesmere Road (Harden 1936) suggesting that contemporary activity in the area was quite widespread. Settlement in the area associated with the limestone hills could well have been self-contained units exploiting the range of rich soils in their hinterlands during the Middle Iron Age (Cunliffe 2005). During this period the landscape appears to develop and become more organised with trackways and rectangular paddocks laid out, sometime impinging upon earlier settlements. As part of this change a new type of settlement appears, such as that seen at Barton Court Farm, where the farmstead is enclosed in a rectangular ditched enclosure (*ibid.*). This would appear to be the likely situation at Rose Hill.

Roman

Roman pits were noted cut into the upper fills of the Iron Age ditch during the evaluation. Both were oval, almost 1m across and appeared to have been heavily truncated by later landscaping (JMHS 2008). This would indicate that the earlier earthworks had ceased to exist by the 2nd century AD. Most of the later Roman ditches do not appear to respect the lines of the earlier Iron Age ones and certainly do not appear to have been constructed to enhance or repair any previous ones.

The rectangular ditched enclosure of the type seen at Barton Court Farm is seen as a precursor to the development of later Roman period enclosures (Cunliffe 2005). Again this is possibly what is occurring at Rose Hill. Two of the three ditches recorded by Harden (1936) at Annesley Road and Ellesmere Road were aligned east to west and this corresponds roughly to two of the Roman ditches located during the watching brief. While unlikely to be contemporary due to their proximity to each other these two ditches do indicate at least two phases of Roman activity on the site.

A pottery kiln was recorded. It was of a similar design and construction to that excavated at Annesley Road (Harden 1936) although it was slightly smaller in overall dimensions. The kiln found on Annesley Road had the stoke-hole to the west, while this kiln had its stoke hole aligned to the east, although this had been partially truncated by modern activity. The kiln is situated close to two ditches of contemporary date. Henig and Booth (2000) note that kilns in the Oxford region often are situated within enclosures, together with a range of buildings and other

structures, and placed in a semi-industrial landscape. These kilns also seem to cluster closely together in small groups therefore it is likely that a second kiln is represented by a structure recorded just to the north, partially seen within a service trench.

The proximity of one ditch was at first considered an issue for a contemporary date, however the lay out of kilns and ditches at Lower Farm, Nuneham Courtney shows that kilns are often placed close to such ditches (*ibid.*). Harden (1936) speculates that the Annesley Road kiln was abandoned during the late fourth to early 5th century, based on the pottery fragments dumped into the fill of the stoke-hole. The pottery recovered from the fill of the kiln was slightly earlier, dating to the late 3rd to 4th century. It could be suggested that the local centre of industry and habitation was moving slowly north and west during the late Roman period. Indeed kiln remains to the south (PRN 3656) appear to be associated with 2nd century Roman pottery styles.

Several of the associated pottery forms identified do not feature in Young's (1977) summary and therefore extend the repertoire of types thought to be made at the Rose Hill kilns.

Bibliography

Cunliffe B 2005; *Iron Age Communities in Britain (Fourth Edition)*

Harden D B 1936; Two Romano-British Potter's Fields near Oxford. *Oxoniensia* 1, 81-102

Henig M and Booth P 2000; *Roman Oxfordshire*

John Moore Heritage Services 2005; *An Archaeological Evaluation at Bernwood First School, north Way, Barton, Oxford*. Unpublished client report.

John Moore Heritage Services 2008; *An Archaeological Evaluation at King of Prussia, Rose Hill, Oxford*. Unpublished client report.

Young C J 1977; *Oxfordshire Roman pottery*, BAR 43, Oxford

Sandford-on-Thames, Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel (SP 5318 0185)

Adrian Chadwick

Three machine-dug trenches were excavated to the north-west and south-east of the existing hotel complex. Archaeological features and pottery of medieval and/or post-medieval date were identified in all three of the trenches.

Somerton, Old School House (SP 4968 2887)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief during the construction of a new garage. No archaeological features or finds were observed, except that of an animal burial, probably dog of unknown, possibly medieval date. Two sherds of medieval pottery were also discovered within a buried topsoil.

South Newington, Church of St Peter ad Vincula
(SP 40747 53423)
Eoin Fitzsimons

During the course of the watching brief 12 partial skeletons were uncovered. These were undated.

South Stoke, Woodcote Road (SU 6172 8350)
Gwilym Williams

The evaluation revealed no archaeological remains. A monitoring action on the strip of the drive for the new build dwelling revealed the postulated medieval trackway visible on air photographs, although no dating was recovered.

Standlake, 72 Abingdon Road (SP 3881 0316)
Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during the stripping phase of the groundwork. A Victorian era bottle dump and a probable late 19th/early 20th century boundary garden wall were found. During the excavation of the footings for the build by machine a potential prehistoric linear ditch was uncovered.

Thame, 16 Priest End (SP 7029 0622)
Juan Moreno and Adrian Chadwick

A watching brief was carried out during the construction of an extension to an existing residential building. A small drain and a 'soak away' of probable early modern or modern date were observed in a construction trench to the rear and west of the property, whilst further to the east a large pit or additional 'soak away' feature was recorded. This was also likely to be of early modern (19th or early 20th century) date.

Toot Baldon, 1 and 3 Queen's Cottage (SP 56953 00842)
Stephen Yeates

The Grade II listed building 1 and 3 Queen's Cottage was partially destroyed in a fire. Much of the structure was damaged, but a few features survive to enable a drawing of plans and wall elevations from which the re-building of the cottages could be made around parts of the surviving structure.

Wallingford, Meriden Court (SU 6028 8920)
Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a new electricity cable re-routed around the perimeter of a new residential development at Meriden Court. A possible Saxon pit was uncovered. Other post-medieval and modern features were encountered.

Wallingford, Trenchard Close (SU 6042 8905)
Eoin Fitzsimons

No archaeological deposits were encountered other than a gravel quarry probably of the 20th century.

Wallingford, Wallingford School (SU 6065 8996)
Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief during ground reduction in advance of a new all weather sports pitch at Wallingford School. The earliest feature was a pit dated by a high density of flint-work to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The presence of flint debitage and tools indicate this feature may have been the remains of a cremation or of a short stay campsite with cooking pit. The medieval features consisted of two pits probably contemporary and one late medieval/early post-medieval field ditch which once formed a now extinct boundary.

Wallingford, 71 Wantage Road (SU 5968 9007)
Adrian Chadwick

Four machine-dug trenches were excavated. The only archaeological features identified were two pits in Trench 1 of relatively recent date, along with two unstratified prehistoric worked flints. No archaeological remains were identified anywhere else within the development area.

Wantage, Vale and Downland Museum (SU 3970 8784)
David Gilbert

An undated ditch was located that appeared to run roughly parallel to Church Street was located during the watching brief. The proximity of the ditch to the street and its size would seem to preclude it from being the rear of a burgage plot and one might speculate that considering its location it could be part of the Minster boundary ditch.

Witney, High Street
Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was conducted. The rapid removal of ground uncovered significant *in situ* deposits of the medieval burghal properties facing onto the line of the High Street, and a successor group of early post-medieval properties. Earlier features were detected on the site, but no sufficient dating evidence associated with them.

JOHN WAND

St Matthew's Church, Langford (SP2480 0255)

St Matthew's church, Langford, is of particular interest because of its two Anglo-Saxon roods and Saxo-Norman central axial tower. The church, which has been described on several occasions (Taylor, 1899, pp 50-3, Austin, 1931, pp 36-8, Bird, 1932, pp 104-5, Sherwood and Pevsner, 1974, pp 678-81, and Page, 2012), consists of a Norman

Oxfordshire

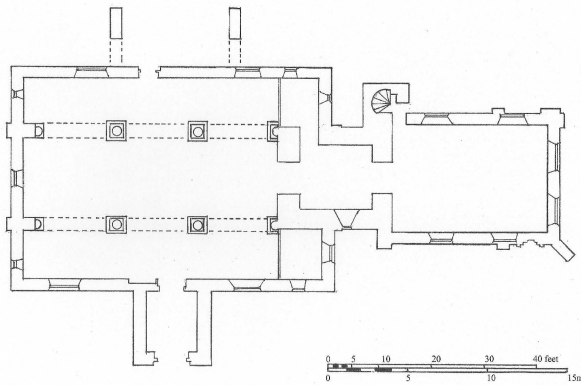


Fig 6. Plan of St Matthew's Church, Langford.

nave, to which north and south aisles were added about 1200 which clasp the central tower, a 13th century chancel and south porch (Fig 6).

The central tower is discussed by Bird (1932, pp 104-105), MacKay (1963, pp 83-84), Fisher (1969) and in detail by Taylor and Taylor (1965, pp 367-72), the latter provide several figures and consider it to have been built in the late 11th century. Internally the ground floor of the tower consists of eastern and western arches of Anglo-Saxon architectural composition connected by a stone barrel-vault which has a cross bay to accommodate the head of an Early English lancet in the south wall. There is some debate over whether the stone barrel vault is original or not; Taylor and Taylor think not, on the basis that the first floor is about three feet below the original first floor doorways. This view has been accepted by Sherwood and Pevsner (1974) and Hoey and Thurlby (2004). The latter include Langford in their survey of Romanesque vaulting in Great Britain and Ireland. None of these authors have identified a third, north, opening to the ground floor, which is concealed in the boiler room/organ chamber behind the panelling across the east end of the north aisle and behind the organ, which is positioned in the tower. As can be seen in Fig 2, the arch is of a high architectural standard and is similar in style and construction to the east and west arches, particularly the latter (fig. 168 in Taylor and Taylor, 1965);

Like the west arch, the north arch is a round-headed opening of plain square section. The left impost is now missing behind the east wall of the north aisle. The right hand impost is square and chamfered; both imposts are returned along the wall into the tower. It is about 12 ft (3.65m) high and 3ft 5in (1.04m) wide. These dimensions can be compared to those for the western arch of 14 feet (4.27m) by 7 feet (2.13m) and the eastern arch of 15ft 8in (4.77m) by 7ft 3in (2.21m). It is also noteworthy that the arch is off centre relative to the tower. The fact that the east wall of the north aisle overlaps the stonework also indicates that the arch is part of the original tower and predates the construction of the aisles in about 1200. Examination of the south wall of the tower has not revealed any sign of a similar opening, although a layer of plaster might conceal blocking.

It is also worth noting that the upper wall of the nave above the arcade overlaps the edges of the tower by about 3.5



Fig 7. Photograph of north arch in central tower from the north; the wall on the left of the picture is the east wall of the north aisle (photograph: author).

inches (9 cm) on both its north and south sides (Fig 6). This overlap, which is not shown in fig. 164 in Taylor and Taylor (1965, pp 370), indicates that this wall was built some time after the tower.

References

- Austin R 1931; 'Transactions for the Year 1931' *Transactions of the Bristol and Glos Arch Soc* **53** pp 13-64
- Bird W H 1932; *Old Oxfordshire Churches*, London: Burrow
- Fisher E A 1969; *Anglo-Saxon Towers Newton Abbot*: David and Charles
- Hoey L R and Thurlby M 2004; 'A Survey of Romanesque Vaulting in Great Britain and Ireland' *Ant J*, **84** pp 66-93
- MacKay T F 1963; 'Anglo-Saxon Architecture and Sculpture in the Cotswold area' *Transactions of the Bristol and Glos Arch Soc* **82** pp 13-64
- Page M 2012; *Victoria County History for Oxfordshire*, Vol 17; forthcoming 2012
- Sherwood J and Pevsner N 1974; *Oxfordshire* Harmondsworth: Penguin
- Taylor C S 1899; 'Transactions for the Year 1899' *Transactions of the Bristol and Glos Arch Soc* **22** pp 22-72
- Taylor H M and Taylor J 1965; *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

KEEVILL HERITAGE CONSULTANCY

Compiled by Graham Keevill

Oxford: Christ Church, Demant's Cottage
(SP 5145 0605)

Graham Keevill and Cathy Underwood

A desk-based appraisal and preliminary building assessment of Demant's Cottage, a small two-storey building to the north of Tom Quad, Christ Church, was carried out in March 2011. This was followed by a watching brief on site investigations in July 2011, and building refurbishment works from August 2011 into the beginning of 2012. The investigations and refurbishment also provided the opportunity to make a detailed drawn and photographic record of the Cottage itself, especially its timber framing. The watching brief provided evidence for an earlier and substantial building, possibly pre-dating the garden wall for the northern canonries against which the cottage was built, and perhaps of later medieval date. Evidence for a further building certainly of medieval date, and probably related to the masonry under the garden wall, was revealed at the base of a new service trench across the garden of the canonry to the east of Demant's Cottage. A large stone-lined soakaway chamber or cess-pit was also found in this trench. The chamber was probably of post-medieval date. It had been re-used when a new main drainage system was established around Christ Church in the late 19th century; the brick vault over the chamber was of this date.

Oxford: Christ Church, Merton Field (SP 5168 0588)
Graham Keevill and Cathy Underwood

A watching brief was carried out on behalf of the Cathedral School in July 2011 during excavation of a service trench from the Master's Garden Wall to the Sports Pavilion in Merton Field, Christ Church. The trench was 0.33-0.35m wide and excavated to a depth of approximately 0.50m. It was 43m long to the Merton Row path, 5.8m across the path, and thence 80m to the Pavilion. The shallowness of this meant that the depth of archaeological deposits investigated was limited, and no significant remains were noted. A small collection of post-medieval clay pipe stems, 19th century creamware pottery and a few pieces of rubble stone were observed during the excavation but not retained.

Oxford: Christ Church, Tom Quad (SP 5146 0598)
Graham Keevill

A watching brief was carried out intermittently during 2011 on service connections around Tom Quad and through toward Peckwater Quad at Christ Church, Oxford. The work mostly involved renewal of existing runs, and no areas of undisturbed significant archaeological strata were encountered. Various areas of footings for the west, north and east ranges of Tom Quad were recorded. The work continued into 2012.

Oxford: 16-17 Turl Street (SP 514064)

A desk-based appraisal and preliminary building assessment of 16-17 Turl Street, Oxford, was carried out in March 2011 on behalf of Oxford Student Hubs. This was followed by a watching brief during building refurbishment works during March-May 2011. Nos 16-17 Turl Street are Grade II listed buildings with 18th century frontages and 19th-century alterations. They have stone-built cellars, with the east-west party wall being on the line of (and probably incorporating fabric from) the medieval city wall. The double-fronted No 16 is on the corner of Turl Street (formerly The Turl) and Ship Street, while No 17 is attached to the north of 16 and fronts solely onto Turl Street. The post-medieval Turl Gate, the medieval wall and two bastions/towers are shown on Loggan's map of 1675. Bastion 5 still survives and is incorporated in No 15 Ship Street, just to the west of No 16.

The work identified several areas of stone masonry that appear to be of medieval date. The likelihood that the spine wall between Nos 16 and 17 was of that date was already well recognized, but the recording of what seem to be openings on the first floor and second floor half-landing of No 16 is new. It is difficult to interpret the first-floor opening, but it may be a later insertion for a window or door associated with a building erected against the south side of the city wall at a time when there was nothing to the north. The alternative - that the opening could be a connecting door between later properties straddling the wall - seems less likely. Loggan's map of 1675 clearly depicts two structures built end-on to the wall on the site of No 16. There appears to be a gap to their north - or at least, their northern gables rise clear above the city wall and anything beyond it. The opening on the second floor half-landing, meanwhile, can be identified with some confidence as the inner side of a crenellation on the parapet walkway.

The western third of No 16 Turl Street appears to have originated as a separate property. The absence of the third floor, and the different ceiling/floor heights both suggest this, and the map evidence points in the same direction. Though not definitive, it did seem that the south wall of the three-storey section butted against the chimney-gable of the four-storey part. It may be unwise to hazard a date for the addition, but the materials used perhaps suggest a 17th or early 18th century date rather than anything later. Finally the internal and external features of both Nos 16 and 17 accord with the later 18th century date accepted for them, but it can now be suggested that No 16 at least was a re-development of existing buildings on this plot.

The Church of St Agatha, Brightwell cum Sotwell
(SU 5779 9079)

Graham Keevill and Cathy Underwood

Two small test pits were hand excavated to the south of the nave of St Agatha's church in September 2011, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. The pits lay within the footprint of a proposed new parish room. The design involves piled foundations, and this raised concerns over the potential for disturbance of articulated human skeletal

Oxfordshire

remains given that the development area lies within the historic graveyard of the church. The test pits were placed adjacent to two of the pile locations, and were excavated to depths of 1.2m; core sampling for a further depth of 0.3m (maximum) established the geological formation. While the graveyard soils above this did contain disarticulated human bone in some quantity, no articulated remains were present. The building work will go ahead in 2012, with a watching brief being maintained.

The Church of St Britius, Brize Norton (SP 2999 0759)

A watching brief was carried out on the excavation of a 0.8m-deep test pit to the north of the Church of St Britius, Brize Norton, in May 2011 on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. The existing drainage around the church is failing, and the excavation was carried out to assess whether it might be feasible to take a new drain across the graveyard to the north of the church, and thence to an existing storm-water drain on the south side of Carterton Road. The main concern was that human skeletal remains might survive at relatively shallow depth here, and thus cause problems for the possible new drain run. An intact but crushed juvenile skull was found at the base of the pit, with parts of a rib, a clavicle and an arm bone. Though in quite poor condition, these appeared to be *in situ*. These bones were left in place. The small quantity of disarticulated bone from the layers above was reburied when the pit was backfilled, on the same day as it was excavated. If replicated along the rest of the intended new drain route, these results suggest that it should be possible to insert it with little or no disturbance to *in situ* skeletal remains.

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Karen Thomas

Oxford, The Radcliffe Infirmary (SP 4509 2071)
Steve White with Tim Braybrooke OX-RAD07

Following earlier interventions on the site in 2002 by Oxford Archaeology (OXYE02) and in 2007, 2009 and 2010 by Museum of London Archaeology (OX-RAD07), further watching brief monitoring of drainage works around the circumference of the Infirmary found no evidence of archaeology due to truncation by previous service works.

Wallingford, The Street, Crowmarsh (SU 6130 8940)
Greg Laban OX-STW11

The evaluation and excavation took place in March - June 2011 of 13 trenches and a stripped area of 1,090 square metres. Evidence of a large ovoid defensive ditch was found in five of the trenches with possible remains of it in 2 others in the southern and central area of the site and again in the stripped excavated area to the north. In most excavated areas the base of the defensive ditch cut into the natural valley gravels below. The remains of the ditch and the associated artefacts may relate to the 12th century siege castle seen on the 1914 edition OS map, named as

"Stephen's Mount". The evidence suggests that the c 25m wide ditch was hastily dug with the material likely being moved to the inside edge of the ditch to form a central mound or embankment. Soon after its creation the earthwork appears to have been slighted, shown in the evidence as tip layers, where the material that created the mound/embankment in the centre was tipped back into the ditch.

Other features found in the large stripped area to the north, such as an area of chalk hard standing and several ditches and pits, probably correspond to activity supporting the larger defensive work to the south. The large amount of pottery and a few metal finds recovered throughout the site dating to the 11th - 13th century support the hypothesis that the site underwent intensive activity over a relatively short period of time.

NATIONAL TRUST

Coleshill House (SU 24104 93903)
Gary Marshall

In 2011 the 'Coleshill Uncovered' project undertook an archaeological project involving excavation, metal detecting and survey to record the remains of features associated with the training of WWII auxiliaries. In recent years there has been increasing interest in this secretive aspect of the war, leading to the discovery of a number of so-called operations bases or hideouts where trained men would have gone to ground and carried out acts of sabotage in the event of German invasion. Coleshill was used as the training ground for these men and it retains a near complete bunker concealed in woods east of the house. The recent project has involved uncovering and recording a number of concrete hut bases associated with this activity. The metal detecting was carried out to recover and record surface artefact evidence dating from the wartime period. It was also undertaken to assess whether or not there might be other buried structures - oral testimony suggests that there were possibly as many as eight operations bases used in the training process. A strong signal over one findspot led to the discovery of what appears to be a filled-in shaft concealed by a counterweighted trap door. This will be the subject of an excavation in July of 2012 when a number of test pits will be opened up and further metal detecting surveys carried out.

NORTH OXON ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Edward Shawyer

This year's dig ran from April to December and was an extension of the small excavation of a Roman building we started on the edge of town ground field in 2010.

The original trench which was just two conjoined 4m x 2m trenches was extended into an irregular excavation covering most of an 18m x 7m rectangular area. The reason for this

PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS ON A ROMAN BUILDING IN SWALCLIFFE LEA
2010-2011 SP 38103849



Fig 8. Plan of excavation of the Roman building at Swalcliffe Lea.

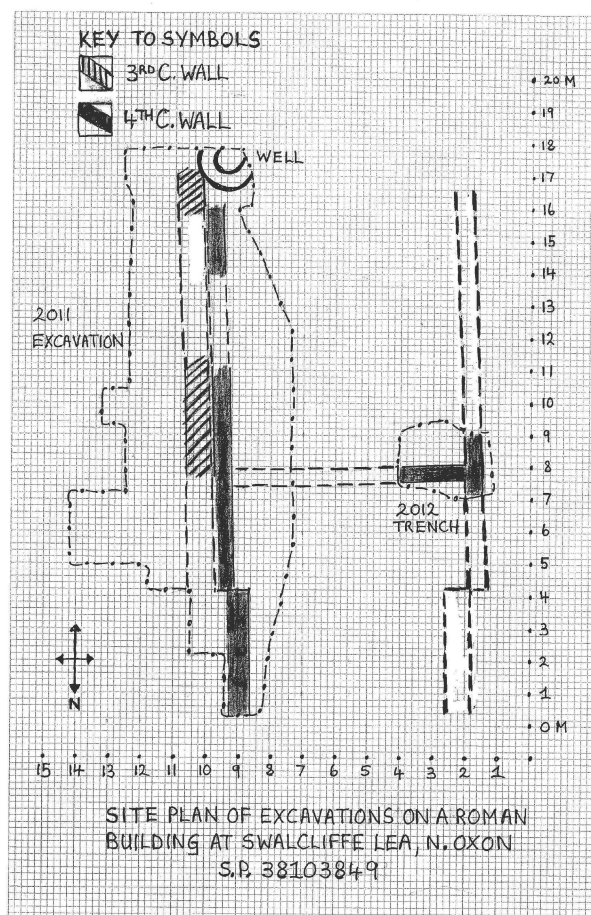


Fig 9. Site plan of Roman building at Swalcliffe Lea.

shape was that we were largely restricted to the grassy area on the edge of the field; so we used nearly all the available space; we only extended about one metre into the actual field itself.

The dig was our only activity, with no field walking or surveying being carried out.

Swalcliffe Lea Roman Building (SP 3810 3849)

Further excavation this year cleared up a few questions asked in the previous season. The upper stone layer beneath the burning layer turned out to be a Victorian farmyard and the lower stone layer which with its burnt stones and iron slag appeared to be a floor surface now appears to be either a cobbled yard or a side street in the settlement. This surface appears to have a bit of a camber and declines towards the wall found last year. The finds on and above this stone layer were late Roman with coins dating from Constantine the Great to Gratian, so the layer is probably late 3rd century in date and contemporary with the wall. More of this wall was exposed and it was about 75cm wide and bound by yellow clay and earth. The bottom course was intact in places, but the upper courses had been shifted and tilted about 20-30cm further east by pressure from above and the side.

West of this wall we found another wall higher up running parallel just about 8-10cm beneath the surface and level with the Victorian yard. This wall was thus quite damaged

by the plough over the years since it must have been exposed partially when the ground was flattened for the Victorian yard.

The new, higher wall had a stone surface west of it and this was bound by yellow clay which had charcoal flecks in it. About 16m of this late wall was exposed and it ran in a roughly north-south alignment. The southern end of the exposed wall had a post-Roman well dug through it and at the northern end the wall made a dogleg and carried on for another 4m.

No cross walls were found or evident last year, though it was surmised that one probably existed where the wall made a dogleg, since this looked like an extension to the original building.

The date of the wall and floor appear to be 4th century with coins being found dating from the Constantine dynasty to Gratian and Valentinian II.

Four sections were cut through this late floor and the wall and a fine cobbled floor was found extending westwards from the early wall under the late wall and floor, which was about 20cm thick. The early floor was also covered and bound by yellow clay.

The late wall had a post-Roman well cut through it at the southern most edge of our excavation. The well was made of stone and lined and sealed with clay outside the structure; it has not been dated yet but could be medieval, since this excavation is in the same field as the medieval settlement and is only 20m from one of the house platforms. The 2012 excavation is currently under way and we have found the east wall of the 4th century Roman building and a substantial cross wall 75cm wide and bound with clay and possibly mortar. The new finds are over 30cm below the surface and well preserved, as opposed to the eastern edge of the building which had been exposed by ground levelling and damaged.

The conclusion at present is that we have a long rectangular 4th century house up to 25-30m long and 7.1m wide made up of 2-3 rooms, which could have housed several families. These strip buildings are quite common in village settlements and another was excavated in the settlement nearby in the 1960s. The large stone floor did look quite crude and suggested an agricultural use, but now we can see it bound by clay in a better state of preservation, this may not be the case after all.

It looks very likely that the 3rd century house could be identical to the building above, though its cobbled floor is better than the cruder floor that covered it. Beneath this, from our section in 2010, we know we have a white clay floor of a possible 1st-2nd century house, which we hope to be able to investigate further.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY**Wardington, Church Farm (SP 4914 4639)**

David J Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new dwelling on land at Church Farm. Modern disturbance was noted throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Witney, Gill Mill Quarry (SU 455 011)

Ian Fisher

A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken on 44ha of land adjacent to Gill Mill Quarry, near to Witney. The survey identified three probable Bronze Age ring ditches, part of a probable Iron Age or Romano-British enclosure, an undated pit cluster and an enigmatic elliptical feature of unknown date and function. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation of medieval or later date was also detected.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH**Abingdon, Abingdon Museum Lift Pit (SU 4979 9705)**

Jodie Ford

In March 2009 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation and geotechnical exercise at Abingdon Museum, Abingdon, in advance of a planning application for the construction of a new lift shaft and the lowering of the basement floor by 1m. Undated pits or postholes were revealed within two testpits to the south of the museum. The pits/postholes were overlain by a sequence of metalled Roman road surfaces, and were most likely Iron Age in date. The bases of probable early Roman pits were observed within two testpits cut through the existing floor. Roman and medieval soil horizons overlay the deposits. A total of 119 sherds of pottery weighing 1159g were recovered from 17 contexts. The assemblage was of mixed Roman and post-Roman (medieval) date. Some contexts were dated purely by one or the other but some of the Roman pottery was clearly residual. The Roman pottery comprised 69 sherds and the post-Roman 50 sherds. The total date range for all finds runs from late 1st to early 15th century AD.

Arncott to Bicester, Powerline Pole replacement

(SP 5797 2161)

Mike Sims

On the 6th of September 2011 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a trench for a replacement electricity pole south of Bicester and north of the Romano-British town of Alchester. A layer of modern ploughsoil sealing an earlier, undated, worked soil horizon was observed but no archaeological features or finds were encountered.

Aston Rowant, St Peter and St Paul's Church

(SU 7269 9901)

Helen Webb

Between August and December 2011, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire (SU 7269 9901). The work was commissioned by Montgomery Architects, on behalf of St Peter and St Paul's Parochial Church Council. It involved a watching brief on the excavation of the footings for a WC and kitchenette extension, and the associated drain runs and soakaway, and the excavation of a small grave for the re-interment of human remains.

The watching brief revealed evidence for Victorian activity on the north side of the church, in the form of a brick-capped drain run and a small spread of bricks that possibly pertain to the remains of a temporary surface/pathway that had been removed in antiquity. Three grave cuts were revealed in the footings for the extension, but no burials were reached, and no dating evidence was recovered. A further four grave cuts were revealed within the soakaway. A single burial, that of a juvenile, was reached within one of the grave cuts. The fact that these graves intercut each other, combined with the discovery of coffin fittings, indicates that all four were probably post-medieval in date. Within the drain run trenches, two masonry features possibly relating to previous grave memorials were observed. Aside from the single articulated skeleton, the groundworks revealed a quantity of disarticulated human bone. The dating evidence in the form of bricks and coffin fittings suggest a Victorian date and a post-medieval date respectively.

Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme (SP 464 431)

Bryan Matthews

An excavation was carried out by Oxford Archaeology for the Environment Agency in 2010. The earliest features comprised discrete small pits, which were recorded across the north of the site. These did not appear to form any pattern and were not thought to be part of any domestic structure. A number of pits contained sherds of Peterborough Ware pottery, dating to the Neolithic period. The fieldwork also uncovered a large oval-shaped double enclosure within the north-eastern corner of the site. This comprised at least two concentric ditches with entrances to the north and west. The outer ditch was apparently the earlier of the two and contained large fragments of a bucket urn of possible Bronze Age date within a re-cut of one of its northern termini. Field systems and enclosures, assigned to the late Iron Age or Roman period on the basis of the pottery and other finds collected from them, were recorded. Two stone-lined corn-driers were associated with the field systems and enclosures. There was a patchy survival of medieval furrows, and a very large hollow within the north-western corner of the site was a stone quarry probably of post-medieval date.



Fig 10. Cleaning the ring ditch. The cursus runs horizontally across the middle of the photograph. The

Berinsfield, Dorchester Cursus (SU 568 959)
Gill Hey

As part of a joint project between Oxford Archaeology, the University of Oxford and local community of the area around Dorchester-on-Thames, co-ordinated through its museum, geophysical survey was undertaken in 2008 to the north of the A415 Dorchester to Abingdon road, just to the west of its junction with the A4074. This detected what appeared to be the continuation of the Dorchester cursus, north of its previously known extent, and at a position where it seemed to intersect with a small circular feature. Another linear ditch was also observed. Gravel extraction in the 1940s and 1950s and the construction of the Dorchester bypass in the early 1980s had been thought to have largely destroyed this monument.

Excavations in July 2010 confirmed the identification of the large linear ditch as the north ditch of the cursus; its similarity to that monument dug to the south in advance of gravel extraction (Whittle *et al* 1992) was marked. They also revealed the circular feature to be a ring ditch *c* 10 m in diameter which cut across the top of the cursus ditch and was centrally placed over it. The cursus ditch seems to have been deliberately backfilled in this area, presumably from its internal bank. A large pit, central to the ring ditch, was also uncovered, cutting into the backfill of the cursus ditch. Excavations in July 2011 were designed to investigate this central feature and the relationship between the ring ditch and cursus with more care.



Fig 11. The Beaker burial. © Ian Cartwright.

Further excavation of the cursus ditch in 2011 failed to reveal dating evidence, although OSL samples were taken; the lower soils looked promising for landscape reconstruction. In its original form, the ring ditch was found to have been constructed in segments with an entrance to the north-west, a similar alignment to other small ring ditches excavated just to the south of the A415 in the late 1940s/early 1950s (Atkinson *et al* 1959). The date of its first construction remains unknown, although a pit containing a polished flint axe, cremated bone, over 75 struck flints and a little pottery, thought to be Grooved Ware, lay within its circuit. OSL samples were taken from the ditch fill.

The ring ditch was later re-dug as a continuous circuit, although the north-west entrance was retained. It seems most likely that this event took place to provide a mound over a grave dug in the middle of the ring ditch. The burial was of a person around 5ft 9in tall and 17 to 25 years at death and, judging from the orientation of the body with the head to the north, this may well have been a man. He was buried with a fine All-Over-Comb Beaker pot, which probably dates to the very beginning of the Beaker period, *c* 2400 cal BC. The position of the grave in a sacred place that had been of particular importance for, perhaps, a millennium is of considerable interest.

References

- Atkinson R J C, Piggott C M and Sandars N K 1951; *Excavations at Dorchester, Oxon*, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Whittle A, Atkinson R J C, Chambers R, and Thomas N 1992; Excavations in the Neolithic and Bronze Age complex at Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, 1947-1952 and 1981, *Proc Prehist Soc* 58, 143-20

Bicester Eco Town, Exemplar Site, Caversfield
(SP 5788 2520)

Brian Dean

In 2010, Oxford Archaeology completed a programme of archaeological evaluation on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd. A total of 70 trenches were excavated, accounting for 4% of the 21 ha site. Only six trenches contained features worthy of further investigation. These features were all linear and varied in orientation and dimensions. The features were recorded and interpreted as possible agricultural ditches, but with the caveat that they were ambiguous and could equally be natural features. The fills of the excavated features bore a marked resemblance in colour, composition and compaction to the natural geology observed in low-lying areas of the site, and towards the southern limit of the site. No finds were recovered. The results suggest that the exemplar site lies in an area devoid of significant archaeological activity.

Bicester, Langford Lane (SP 57050 19650)
Paul Murray and Steve Lawrence

Throughout 2010 Oxford Archaeology undertook a two-stage field evaluation of land along the proposed route of a new access road and bridge crossing for Langford Lane around the perimeter of the Scheduled Monument of

Alchester Roman Town. This took the form of a magnetometer and resistivity geophysical survey followed by the excavation of 48 trial trenches. Large enclosures were identified although there was scant evidence of activity within their interiors. Artefactual evidence was also rather limited although that which was encountered suggested a bias towards the 2nd century AD. The recovery of charred processed cereals from a ditch in Trench 21 perhaps indicates a primary agricultural function to these enclosures. Settlement or increased densities of features associated with the roadside zones were not encountered with any certainty although Trench 21 did produce the only posthole from the evaluation suggesting some form of structure may be present.

Road surfaces were encountered in Trench 2. These were associated with a flanking ditch and a channel that probably diverted or canalised a stream alongside the road. Other localised areas of surfacing indicate roadside activity within this area although the nature of this could not be established within the confines of the evaluation. A dense collection of ditches and possible other features/deposits was recorded in Trench 3 and the combined pottery assemblages indicate 1st century AD activity. Track ditches leading to the military parade ground were excavated within Trench 4. These were generally unremarkable although a single casket cremation burial was positioned adjacent to one of the ditches.

Bloxham, Queen Street (SP 4280 3557)

Gerry Thacker and Ben McAndrew

In April 2011 Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation in the front and rear gardens of the Bungalow on behalf of Corylus Planning and ahead of the construction of three new dwellings. The evaluation consisted of three trenches and two test pits which were excavated on, or close to, the footprint of the proposed dwellings. The earliest archaeological evidence comprised a length of ditch containing pottery of late Saxon-early medieval date (11th century). A number of other undated ditches might be related and might represent a simple system of ditched enclosures, possibly agricultural, and associated with contemporary settlement nearby. Evidence was also recovered for stone-founded structures fronting on to both Queen Street and Kings Road. Pottery and brick from within these structures suggest they may originate in the late medieval/Tudor period, although they may be later structures that incorporated residual or re-used materials. A relict agricultural or garden soil of post-medieval date, sealed by the modern topsoil, was visible in some of the trenches and suggested that the area had been put over to tillage at some point. A large quarry pit was cut through the soil and contained a mixed assemblage of pottery from the late medieval period to the 19th century.

Buscot, Eaton Weir, Anchor Island (SU 2470 9855)

Jonathan Gill

In 2010, Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological investigation on the surviving walls and other remains of a water wheel pit at Anchor Island to the south-west of Kelmscott on the Buscot Estate. The work

was commissioned by The National Trust. The substantial remains survive from a pair of waterwheels which were installed in the 1860s. The principal surviving visible structures on which the recording focused are two brick walls which formed the pit for one of the waterwheels. The immediately adjacent pit has now been infilled, as has the main channel of water which was diverted from the river to power the wheels. Each wall retains evidence of the former wheel including mountings, holding-down bolts, guard plates, empty sockets and areas of collapse from former adjoining structures. Although the remains of the pit form only a relatively minor structure they are of interest as evidence of Victorian attempts to apply principles of industrial efficiency and modernisation to agriculture. They are also of interest as a wider example of the range of structures required by a great country estate.

Dorchester-on-Thames, the Dorchester Project

(SU 577 941)

Paul Booth

July 2010 saw the third consecutive season of excavation by the Dorchester Project, run jointly by Oxford Archaeology and the University of Oxford, in the allotments which overlie the south-west quarter of the Roman small town. Work continued in the same 30m by 20m area as in previous years, with the main north-south Roman road through the town at its eastern margin. It now seems likely that in the late Roman period most of this was an open area, at least partly surfaced with gravel, and perhaps serving as a market place or other public open space. Fragmentary remains of the east side of a building c 5.5m wide, probably of timber construction on a rubble foundation and fronted by a gravel surface, were found at the west edge of the site some 25m from the road line. The date of the building is not yet known, but it must have been out of use by the time it was cut by a late Roman ditch, which may define the north-eastern part of an oval or sub-rectangular enclosure. By the time that this ditch was dug, probably after AD 350 at the earliest, a considerable number of pits and shallow hollows had been dug in the area between the road and the building to the west. Some of these features were used for rubbish disposal, but whether or not this was their original function is uncertain. A few features may have been later in date, the most significant of these being a substantial north-south aligned ditch at the west end of the site. This feature projected some 7m from the northern margin of the excavation, butt-ending just north of the putative enclosure ditch and apparently respecting its alignment. Although certainly late Roman in origin its uppermost fill produced early Saxon pottery.

Just to the north of these deposits and at the western edge of the Roman road lay a small early Saxon sunken-featured building. Finds from the structure were inevitably mostly of later Roman date, but include a small but significant group of early Saxon pottery, although close dating of the latter is very difficult. The present example is significant because it mirrors one of broadly similar type excavated by Professor Frere in 1962 some 50m south of the current site and in an exactly corresponding location on the west side of the Roman road. Further examples were excavated in 1972 by

Oxfordshire

Trevor Rowley approximately 200m to the north at Beech House, also within the walls of the Roman town.

The finds from the 2010 season of excavation are similar in character to those of previous seasons, and are dominated by significant quantities of animal bone and pottery. The most significant individual object was a distinctive late Roman buckle with two horses' heads found in the upper fill of the curvilinear ditch. This buckle type was probably associated with late Roman officials or quasi-official personnel and is the third example found in the present excavations. This is a remarkable concentration of these objects for a small site and underlines the long-standing suggestion that Dorchester was unusually important at the very end of the Roman period.

Faringdon, land off Coxwell Road (SU 28063 94248)
Steve Leech

Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation within a field west of Coxwell Road, Faringdon, on behalf of CgMs Consulting and Welbeck Land Limited in 2010. Of the 40 trenches excavated, 29 contained archaeological features. These included a group of linear features, pits and post-holes, concentrated in the north-western area of the field, some of which dated to the late Iron Age-early Roman period. Furrows of a probably medieval date were identified throughout the field but particularly towards its northern boundary. Post-medieval quarry pits were present in the south-western area of the field, and probable post-medieval ditches were seen adjacent to the field's eastern boundary.

Great Rollright, The Old Railway Halt Scrapyard (SP 3272 3035)
Mike Sims

On 13th April 2011 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on the site of a proposed new vehicle dismantling building at the Old Railway Halt Scrapyard, Great Rollright, West Oxfordshire. The watching brief revealed evidence that the terracing of the site for the Banbury to Kingham Junction railway had truncated the majority of the area of the development site. A small 3m wide strip of undisturbed ground was cut back but no archaeology was observed. Demolition debris consistent with a lime kiln was observed to the immediate north-east of the site but no evidence for its original location was encountered. Dating evidence for modern activity was recovered in the form of worked stone, glass, iron and plastic.

Hook Norton, The Orchard, Queen Street (SP 355 331)
Mike Sims

In October and November 2011 Oxford Archaeology conducted a watching brief during the construction of a new dwelling at The Orchard, Hook Norton, Oxfordshire. The watching brief recorded two phases of post-medieval worked soil overlying weathered natural, together with a post-medieval rubbish pit.

Evidence for a disturbed early medieval rubbish or cess pit was recovered from the backfill of an existing electric cable trench, but no evidence for the original feature could be observed within the trench sides. No other evidence for activity pre-dating the post-medieval period was encountered.

Dating evidence consisted of pottery from between the 11th and 13th centuries AD and from between the 18th and 20th centuries AD. Fragments of brick were also dated to between the 18th century and the 20th century AD based upon form and fabric.

Littlemore, Lawn Upton House (SP 5374 0263)
Bryan Matthews

A watching brief in 2010 by Oxford Archaeology for Hives Planning on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Trust revealed no archaeological features or finds.

Little Rollright, Chipping Norton Rollright Quarry (SP 2854 3031)
Richard Brown

In early September 2011, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Rollright Quarry, Chipping Norton. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Smiths of Bletchington Ltd and involved the monitoring of soil stripping for the construction of a haul road and prior to stone extraction. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were observed.
Mapledurham, Mapledurham Mill (SU 6693 7674).
Ben Ford

Between May and August 2011 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the removal of an early 20th century turbine installation and construction of a modern low-head turbine at Mapledurham Mill. The watching brief observed details of the 1922 turbine installation, and several phases of mill race construction associated with the 17th and 18th century expansion of the mill. Elements of previous phases of mill construction were recovered from ground-raising dumps on the island to the south of the mill associated with remodelling of the southern mill race channel. Fragments of a waterwheel, including wooden parts and iron fittings, probably from that removed c 1920, were recovered from deposits associated with the 1922 turbine installation. Wooden staging probably associated with the construction of a jetty or landing stage was exposed along the edge of the northern millrace. No evidence for millraces or structures pre-dating the 17th century mill was encountered.

Northmoor, Pinnocks Farm (SP 412 029)
Paul Leader

A watching brief in 2010 by Oxford Archaeology for Mr Chris Neale revealed modern disturbed ground and garden soils overlying natural gravel. No significant archaeology was observed.

Oxford, All Soul's Staircase (SP 517 063)

Ben Ford

Between August and September 2011, Intermittent visits to monitor the underpinning of the building Staircase X, did not reveal any relevant archaeological horizons. In January 2012, a service trench leading from the Redevelopment at All Souls Staircase X to the High Street in Oxford was excavated. It revealed a single layer of disturbed ground, with no finds.

Oxford, Bannister House, Pembroke College, Brewer Street (SP 5125 0594)

Deirdre Forde

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken a programme of historic building recording on Nos 7-8 Brewer Street (Bannister House) in Oxford prior to its renovation as part of a large development by Pembroke College. Bannister House is a multi phase structure from which No 7 appears to be the oldest surviving element, probably dating from the mid to late 17th century, although it is possible that the cellar and ground floor could retain earlier elements. No 7 is a fine example of a large urban timber-framed building and is probably representative of a certain phase of timber frame building in Oxford city, which has now mostly been lost.

The first phase of No 8, to the north, was built onto the stone west gable wall of No 7, probably in the late 17th century. It is a small three storied stone building with a single room at each level. The roof shows evidence of rearrangement in the 19th century, probably around the time of the first extension to the south and as a consequence the southern arrangement of the first phase has been lost. No evidence of any major phase of alterations in the 18th century appears to survive and the second phase of No 8, to the south, is likely to date to the first half of the 19th century. It is a relatively high status extension with high ceilings and a grand, ornate staircase which demonstrates an aggrandisement of the house. The third phase, to the west, which added a further three large rooms to the house, was likely to have been built shortly after in the early to mid 19th century.

The investigation of Bannister House forms part of a wider programme of archaeological work at the Pembroke College development site which also includes the recording of several other structures prior to their demolition (including No 6 Brewer Street) and below-ground recording during intrusive works. The current report has enhanced understanding of Bannister House and it adds to a previous analysis undertaken by the Oxfordshire Buildings Record in May 2011. Dating was derived from historical records.

Oxford, Bartlemas Nursery School, off Cowley Road (SP 524 055)

Robin Bashford and Steve Leech

In February 2010, Oxford Archaeology returned to the former Bartlemas Nursery School site, previously investigated in June 2008, with the aim of extending a trench over the present-day draining ditch, which bounded

the eastern extent of the site, and to retrieve if possible, any datable material. The western part and a re-cut of a ditch were found, which contained 20th century tile.

Oxford, 15 Belbroughton Road (SP 51192 08504)

Robin Bashford

In 2010 Oxford Archaeology completed a field evaluation, which revealed deposits associated with the construction of the existing property in the first half of the 20th century and an earlier ploughsoil horizon.

Oxford, Brasenose College, Radcliffe Square

(SP 515 062)

Chris Richardson and Mike Sims

Fieldwork by Oxford Archaeology in 2010 at Brasenose College revealed evidence for a structure and pits that pre-dated the construction of the 16th century college buildings, and structural evidence for an internal wall within the Buttery, floors within the Servedy and walls forming the 19th century College Rooms and Scullery. Much of the site had been landscaped in the 19th century.

Oxford, Holywell Street (SP 5172 0654)

Alison de Turberville

A watching brief was carried out during the alterations to the accommodation at Navapan Hall, 27 Holywell Street for Harris Manchester College, Oxford. A photographic record of the building before the building works were carried out was also made. The architectural assessment was limited to areas where works were carried out although this has contributed to enhancing the overall understanding of the historic phasing of the building. The name Holywell Street is taken from the nearby manor of Holywell, situated at the junction of Manor Road and St Cross Road. Holywell street itself is situated on land that was formerly part of the manor and owned by Merton College since the 13th century. Construction of houses on the street dates back to the 16th century and the layout was largely complete by the later 17th century. No 27 Holywell Street has a long history of construction of extensions and outbuildings as well as alterations to the interior layout and its external appearance. The property has been owned by Harris Manchester College since the early 20th century and is used as student accommodation. No 27 Holywell Street has a long history of repairs and alterations necessitated by its continued occupation. Probably initially constructed of timber frame on stone foundations, the front elevation appears to have been rebuilt wholly in stone with occasional timber supports. A bay window has been added to the elevation although the remains of a possible earlier bay window were seen during the replacement of floor joists on the ground floor reception room. Initially detached, No 27 now forms part of a terrace on the north side of the street. The infilling of a passageway to the east can be seen in the extension of floor joists on the first floor and the brick construction of the adjacent eastern wall. This work had certainly taken place by the mid 19th century as seen in the map of Oxford by Hoggar (1850).

Oxfordshire

Oxford, Macclesfield House, New Road (SP 5090 0620) Carl Champness

Oxford Archaeology undertook geoarchaeological monitoring of five geotechnical boreholes in 2010. The site formed part of the infilled Oxford castle motte ditch. The purpose of the work was to confirm whether the ditch extended across the site and assess how much of this sequence survives underneath the footprint of Macclesfield House. The boreholes identified a 5m deep motte ditch sequence preserved underneath the site. The sequence comprised waterlogged organic silts and alluvium dating from the 11th century, which overlay Oxford Clay and was sealed by up to 1m of 16th to 18th century infilling and burial deposits and 2m of 18th century building rubble and infill. The truncation from the foundations of the former 19th century school and police station/military armoury on the site were found to be confined to the upper 1-1.5m of the sequence.

Oxford, 11 Norham Road (SP 5140 0783) Mark Woodley

A watching brief in 2010 by Oxford Archaeology uncovered a single ditch and two pit features. There was no dating evidence from these features, but the nature of the fill material suggests a medieval or later date. No archaeological features were observed during the excavation of a pipe trench. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the spoil generated by machining.

Oxford, Osney Abbey (SP 5039 0588) Vix Hughes and Matt Morgan

A watching brief was undertaken in 2011 on the site of Osney Abbey within the surviving building of Osney Mill. The work was commissioned by W H Munsey Ltd in advance of works to the building which is a scheduled monument. The archaeological mitigation of the deposits beneath the removed timber floor, in the scheduled Grade II listed Osney Mill building, revealed that there was an extensive deposit of accumulated debris which had been deliberately dumped after the construction of the brick dwarf walls which supported the timber floor. The deposit was dated to the later 19th century and contained a significant amount of bone waste. There was a post-depositional aspect to the deposit, in that dust and material had obviously percolated through the floor itself.

Oxford, Oxford Brookes University (SP 5360 0650) Jennifer Thurstan

Between February and June 2011, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Brookes University's Headington Campus at Gipsy Lane, Oxford. The work was commissioned by Brookes University and comprised the monitoring of ground reduction and excavations for foundations in advance of construction of a new library and teaching building. The work revealed undisturbed Brackley sands at the base of the holocene sequence, overlain by an undated subsoil and topsoil with

later disturbance resulting from 20th century construction work. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed.

Oxford, Pembroke College (SP 5134 0596) Ben Ford

Oxford Archaeology undertook a series of watching briefs at Pembroke College between November 2009 and September 2010.

Substation works: The lowest deposits reached relate to late medieval/post-medieval pits, garden soils and make-up layers for the college gardens and greenhouse. A stone-lined cellar/cesspit was encountered in the south-east corner. Post-medieval intercutting pits were encountered throughout the trench. A probable Victorian well was observed at the northern edge of this excavation.

Waste Pipe Trench North Quad: A trench for a waste pipe was excavated in the North Quad. No archaeological remains were revealed.

Kitchen Refurbishments: Concrete/mortar floor and 19th century make-up levels for the kitchen were recorded.

Kitchen Refurbishments trench: A brick-built garden retaining wall was seen at the eastern end of the trench near to the ground surface, while a small wall constructed of limestone blocks was observed running east to west at the bottom of this trench.

Foundation trench in Fellows' Garden for 'Orangery'/Greenhouse: The foundation of the college boundary wall was uncovered at the south-west end of the trench. A layer of mortar was seen piled up on top of this backfill against the wall. A pit was recorded towards the south-east end of the north run of the trench, but contained modern pottery and ceramic building material and could have been a gardener's rubbish pit. The remains of a demolished wall was observed towards the northern end of this trench and a mortar and plaster layer seen in section could be from this demolished wall. The foundations for the gardeners' stores and kitchen block were uncovered at the far north end of this trench. The soil layers exposed were mainly make-up/levelling deposits most likely laid down in an attempt to landscape/raise the ground level of the Fellows' Garden.

Foundation trenches for new bicycle racks and service trenches: A trench for a new service pipe was excavated in the south-east corner of the Quadrangle. A series of made up layers were encountered below the flagstone level where a probable mortar floor level was observed. A trench was excavated in the building to the north of Chapel Quad Hall. Two narrow brick walls running parallel to each other were observed and most likely formed a brick lined drain. A trench was excavated along the east wall of the Kitchen Hall. A brick culvert was seen running east to west at the northern end of this trench. The soil fill of the trench appeared to be sterile garden soils. The garden soils were later interpreted as being fills of possible inter-cutting pits

although cuts for such pits could not be identified in section. The service trench was extended along the south wall of the Kitchen Hall where similar deposits to the rest of the trench were encountered.

Bicycle Rack - Area 2: Fragments of a cobbled surface and associated ragstone/cobble wall were encountered. Medieval or post-medieval pottery was recovered. A series of drains and drain bases and a well were located against the wall. These were possibly part of a recent phase of college works.

Bicycle Rack - Area 3: Only the flagstones were removed as a change in design meant that no further ground reduction was to take place.

Kitchen Service Yard: An L-shaped trench was excavated in the Kitchen Service Yard. A soil horizon, which contained post-medieval pottery, was recorded beneath the concrete yard surface. This deposit was cut by modern services and one pit. A brick-built culvert/drain of possible 18th century date was seen at the bottom of the trench.

Oxford, 61 St Aldate's (SP 5140 0566)
Carl Champness

In 2010, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological field investigation at the site of proposed student accommodation. A watching brief was maintained on all intrusive works associated with the removal of the existing building remains. A number of trenches were excavated for new services and to remove existing ones. Two foundation pits for a lift shaft and crane base were also monitored. In addition, two geoarchaeological boreholes were dug in order to mitigate the impacts of piling and to assess the geoarchaeological potential.

No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief. The service trenches revealed a sequence of modern building rubble overlying thick post-medieval land make-up deposits, on to a moderately well preserved floodplain sequence. With the exception of the ground piles, the impact of the development was confined mostly to the post-medieval reclamation deposits. The two boreholes produced a 3.4m deep Holocene sequence of organic silts and alluvium overlying Pleistocene gravel and sealed by up to 2m of post-medieval land reclamation deposits. The results of the fieldwork suggest that the site was reclaimed from the 11th century associated with the construction of the Grandpont, and then late experienced significant ground raising activities in the post-medieval period. Prior to this the site may have been too wet for occupation and frequently prone to waterlogging and flooding.

Oxford, St Anthony's College (SP 5091 0749)
Ben Ford

An archaeological trench evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology between 17th and 20th October 2011 at Nos. 64 and 66 Woodstock Road, part of the campus of St. Antony's College Oxford. The investigation comprised

three trenches of a combined length of 25m. Post-medieval quarrying activity was observed in all trenches varying from 1.24-1.86m+ below current ground level, and significantly truncating the natural gravel geology. These had been only partially backfilled to the rear of Nos 64 and 66, which explains the change in height between the front (west) and lower rear (east) of these buildings. A Victorian garden wall, representing the former boundary wall between Nos 64 and 66 was located in Trench 3. A contemporary pit of indeterminate use was located in Trench 2. A substantial modern feature containing demolition material was observed in Trench 3 and may be contemporary with a similar, but smaller feature in Trench 2; these are considered to be associated with a phase of site clearance and reconstruction in the area post-1961 and pre-1972. A total of six sherds of pottery were found in two deposits, all dated to between 1820 and 1900, and seven pieces of ceramic building material, all of 19th century date, were collected from four deposits.

Oxford, New Liftshaft, Taylor Institute, St Giles (SP 5120 0657)
Mike Sims

In October and November 2011 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a new liftshaft at the Taylor Institute, St Giles, Oxford. Evidence for post-medieval occupation layers, a stone-lined well and a cellar wall was observed. These are probably associated with the buildings fronting St Giles which were demolished in 1931 prior to the construction of the extension to the Taylor Institute. No earlier deposits or features were encountered. Dating evidence comprised fragments of 18th to mid 19th century AD pottery.

Oxford, Turl Bar Lincoln College (SP 4145 0622)
Richard Brown

During November 2011 Oxford Archaeology carried out work on behalf of Lincoln College in the Mitre Inn complex, associated with the redevelopment of the Turl Bar as student accommodation. The work comprised a watching brief on service and internal rearrangement works as well as a 2m x 2m excavation in the area of a proposed lift pit. Several medieval pits and a Victorian rubbish pit were excavated and recorded in the lift pit area these were overlain by a garden soil. Service works were not deep enough to reveal archaeological remains. A single re-used aged timber was noted, recorded and retained in place within the building. See page 60 for a summary of excavation results and a note on the pottery from a lift pit excavation at the Turl Bar Oxford.

Oxford, University Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street (SP 5158 0627)
Paul Leader

Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief for Confluence PCM in 2010. The fieldwork revealed three medieval pits, thought to be for gravel extraction associated with the construction of the church. All three pits contained human remains, none of which were articulated. No

Oxfordshire

evidence for earlier phases of the church or lane surfaces were encountered.

Oxford, University Parks, Electricity Substation and Cable Trenching (SP 5155 0713 and SP 5146 0707)

Christof Heistermann and Andy Norton

An archaeological investigation by Oxford Archaeology in 2010 on behalf of Oxford University Estates Directorate and Scottish and Southern Energy plc comprised an archaeological watching brief during the trenching for HV and IT ducts, and a small-scale archaeological excavation in advance of an extension to the existing electricity sub-station. A Neolithic pit, part of a possible barrow ditch, Roman ditches and pits, and late medieval and/or post-medieval boundary ditches were recorded. The Neolithic pit may have been contemporary with a nearby barrow and the Roman and later features formed part of an agricultural landscape.

Oxford, 77 Walton Street (SP 506 072)

Mike Sims

Between July 28th and August 2nd 2011 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief at 77 Walton Street, Oxford during work to enlarge existing light wells to the front and rear of the property. The watching brief observed that the 1895 construction of the terrace had completely truncated any earlier archaeology at the front of the building. A buried (undated) soil horizon was recorded at the rear of the house. No evidence for the late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval activity noted at No 75 extending into the development area was observed. A large quantity of fragments of brick and tile was recovered. These were evaluated on site and determined to date from the 19th century and were not retained.

Oxford, Warneford Hospital, Headington (SP 538 059)

Brian Dean

Oxford Archaeology completed an evaluation in 2010 on behalf of GBS Consulting. Five trenches were excavated to assess the presence and condition of any archaeological deposits within the site of proposed development. Archaeological deposits were observed in only a single trench, illustrating the low concentration of archaeological activity. A ditch containing pottery of a Roman date and a small posthole were recorded.

Oxford, Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street (SP 5110 0630)

Jim Mumford

An evaluation by Oxford Archaeology in 2010 against the south side of Oxford's city wall at the rear of the Wesley Memorial Church was commissioned by the Wesley Memorial Church. The evaluation revealed a 17th century garden soil and a robber trench for the 13th century city wall. The wall had been subject to at least two repairs/alterations, one of which may have comprised the creation of a doorway. The construction deposits were overlain by two

thick soil horizons deposited prior to the 19th century redevelopment of the site.

Oxford, Wolfson Building Extension, Somerville College (SP 5091 0692)

Mike Sims

On the 19th and 20th of September 2011 Oxford Archaeology carried out an Archaeological Evaluation on the site of a proposed extension to the Wolfson Building, Somerville College, Oxford. The evaluation consisted of two 5m long trenches and revealed a sequence of late 18th/19th century worked soils directly overlying the prevailing natural. These deposits had been severely truncated by a number of large pits, probably dug for gravel extraction, which had been backfilled with redeposited material, domestic refuse and construction debris dating to the 19th century. These pits may be associated with either the construction of the original manor house in 1829 or possibly the late 19th century college building programme. No evidence for the continuation of the archaeology observed in the adjacent Radcliffe Infirmary site was encountered. A range of datable artefacts was recovered including, brick, tile, clay pipes and pottery. These were all dated to the 18th and 19th centuries AD.

Radcot, Radcot Weir (SP 296 002)

Mike Donnelly

In 2010 Oxford Archaeology undertook the evaluation of a natural bypass channel at Radcot Weir on behalf of the Environment Agency. Three trenches were cut through a sequence of alluvial deposits and lower gravels. Besides a modern pit, no archaeological features were identified. However, animal bone was recovered from the uppermost gravel deposits.

South Leigh, Gill Mill

Paul Booth and Andrew Simmonds

A programme of archaeological examination at Smith and Sons (Bletchington) Ltd Gill Mill gravel quarry continued during 2010. The earliest significant features revealed belong to the middle Iron Age - with four small discrete clusters of features, three of which may represent occupation, perhaps seasonal in nature. Limited late Iron Age-early Roman activity lay adjacent to one of these foci. A totally new nucleated settlement was established in the valley bottom in the early 2nd century AD. Covering at least 10ha (the central part of which lies beneath the present Gill Mill House) the settlement was laid out around paved roads running across and along the valley. The settlement plan was characterised by ditched enclosures containing a variety of structural and other evidence. In total parts of four stone buildings have been revealed (two totally excavated), although other structures are less easily identified. Rare high status structural elements are suggested by small quantities of flue tile and tesserae. Large numbers of pits are present in parts of the site, and waterlogged or partly waterlogged material has survived in some of these. Cremation and inhumation burials are mainly scattered around the margin of the settlement; among these a mid 2nd

century inhumation within a wooden chamber beneath a ditched mound is of exceptional importance for the region.

A range of biological evidence reveals an environment of damp grassland and the economy of the settlement is likely to have been heavily biased towards cattle rearing and marketing. The site has produced a large and important animal bone assemblage, while the principal artefactual component is formed by the pottery, one of the largest assemblages ever excavated in the region. There is also a large and important assemblage of some 960 coins. There is also an important group of religious material, including carved stone pieces, ceramic Venus figurines and perhaps other associated objects. Together these suggest the existence of a significant shrine, probably located within the focal area of the settlement. The coin and pottery evidence is consistent in suggesting that occupation of the settlement came to an end c AD 370, rather before the end of the Roman period.

South Leigh, Gill Mill (SP 375 077)

Brian Dean

Between 4th April and 21st April 2011 Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation in the area of a potential extension to Gill Mill Quarry, Ducklington, Oxfordshire, on behalf of Smith and Sons (Bletchington) Ltd. Subsequent to a geophysical survey, a total of 89 trenches were excavated within the 44.5ha site to check the character and interpretation of features revealed in that survey and establish the presence, extent and character of other archaeological features and deposits within parts of the site which produced no magnetic response. These excavations revealed a moderate to low density of archaeological features. Evidence was recovered for the land being utilised for burial as evidenced by the presence of three ring ditches one of which contained a truncated urned cremation. Later use of the land appears to be for agrarian purposes with a sequence of linear and discrete features being observed. The volume of dating evidence was limited but pottery sherds recovered suggest activity on the site from the mid to late Neolithic and possibly in the Bronze Age. Activity in the middle to late Iron Age is better represented with some evidence for early Roman activity dating to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD.

South Leigh, Gill Mill (SP 369 079)

Paul Booth

A roughly rectangular area of c 1.7ha in Area 13 of Smith and Sons (Bletchington) Ltd Gill Mill quarry was subject to strip map and sample excavation ahead of gravel extraction. This area contained scattered features, almost entirely of early Roman date. The most coherent features were two small rectilinear enclosures, roughly 25m apart. The first, in the centre of the site measured c 17m x 15m and was aligned approximately east-west, while to the west the second, less regular in plan, had maximum dimensions of c 15m x 12m and was aligned northwest-southeast. Each had a single entrance roughly in the centre of the short axis, facing west and north-west respectively. There was no significant evidence for interior features and both enclosures may have

been for stock. More extensive but discontinuous arrangements of ditches and gullies and a few pits lay mainly to the south-west and north of the two enclosures. These features, mostly very shallow, suggest further enclosures and possible field boundaries, while a modest finds assemblage suggests the presence of at least some domestic activity on or close to the site. The Roman features were overlain by remnants of ridge and furrow on a northeast-southwest axis.

South Leigh, Gill Mill (SP 388 066)

Paul Booth

An area of c 3.1ha at the south-eastern extremity of Smith and Sons (Bletchington) Ltd Gill Mill quarry (Tar Farm 6) was subject to strip map and sample excavation ahead of gravel extraction. This area contained a dense spread of features suggesting continuous activity on the floodplain of the River Windrush from the middle Iron Age through to at least the early 3rd century AD. Post-excavation assessment of this site is just starting, so the present summary is subject to change. The earliest phase of middle Iron Age activity consisted of a scatter of at least seven (and possibly as many as 10-12) probable roundhouses, surrounded by drainage gullies but otherwise unenclosed. Later in the middle Iron Age more substantial ditches defined a larger probable roundhouse location and were linked to a series of sinuous boundaries which cut some of the earlier roundhouse locations but respected the position of some of the others. A single four-post structure produced the waterlogged base of one of its uprights. Overall, the middle Iron Age occupation seems to have occupied a roughly south-southwest-north - northeast aligned zone extending at least 160m from the south-west margin of the site and perhaps defined on its eastern side by a more-or-less continuous but irregularly aligned series of ditches.

Occupation of the late Iron Age/early Roman period, notably absent from the major 2nd century and later settlement focus to the north around Gill Mill itself, took the form of an extensive series of irregular enclosures and other ditches, again with some indication of domestic activity, although specific building locations are, as is usual in this region and period, difficult to identify. In the early 2nd century, or possibly a little earlier, these enclosures were in turn superseded by a more integrated layout of approximately rectangular enclosures and minor trackways, linked to a major trackway which ran the entire length of the north-east margin of the site (a distance of 260m) and is known to continue further to the north-west. The evolution of this trackway was complex, its boundaries including numerous recut ditches and also localised alignments of posts, and it seems to have been long-lived - its broad alignment being mirrored by that of the present-day Cogges Lane which runs along the edge of the valley floor in this area. Evidence for buildings in the 2nd century is again extremely scarce. The best-defined structure was a small but substantial four-post gateway associated with a late (possibly early-mid 3rd century) reworking of part of the enclosure/subsidiary trackway layout. Waterlogged post bases survived, and were of beech rather than oak. Other features included small linear clusters of pits.

Oxfordshire

Quantities of finds other than pottery and animal bone (the latter including two horse burials) were quite small, but include a few fragments of a roller-stamped flue tile. This clearly did not derive from a structure on the site, but perhaps suggests the presence of a high status early Roman building in the vicinity. The pottery assemblage also includes small quantities of early Roman imported fine wares which are very unusual in the context of rural settlement in the region, but these are likely to be earlier in date than the tile and their significance is not yet clear.

South Leigh, Gill Mill (SP 385 065)

Paul Booth

A further area of the Gill Mill quarry (Tar Farm 7), amounting to just over 1ha and centred some 250m west of Tar Farm 6, was subject to strip, map and sample excavation in advance of gravel extraction. This area was separated from Tar Farm 6 by the Hardwick Brook, a tributary of the Windrush, and had a significantly different pattern of use. The earliest feature was an irregular roughly north-south aligned palaeochannel, apparently an early course of the Hardwick Brook, located in the south-east corner of the site. This was cut by the north-northwest-south-southeast aligned ditches of a trackway, running perpendicular to and south from the line of an east-northeast-west-southwest aligned ditch which crossed the main part of the excavated area. No features were recorded north of this ditch, but to the south in the western part of the area was a group of small ditched enclosures roughly laid out in relation to it, and also including a discrete rectangular enclosure c 16m x 15m, very similar to those from Gill Mill Area 13 described above, but with entrances in both narrow sides. Only very small quantities of finds were recovered from any of these features, which may all relate to aspects of stock control. The pottery consisted almost entirely of a single common fabric which has a later 1st-3rd century date range, but it is quite possible that all the linear features here (except the undated palaeochannel) are solely of 2nd century date.

Steeple Aston, near Brasenose Farm

(SP 456 264 to SP 461 268)

Mike Sims

A watching brief in 2010 on land south-west of Brasenose farm was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Energy plc in advance of the realignment of overhead power cable poles within an area close to archaeological features identified by aerial photographs. The watching brief revealed an undated ditch, which was overlain by a buried ploughsoil.

Wallingford, 3 Thames Street (SU 6089 8941)

Mike Sims

Between July and August 2011 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new extension at 3 Thames Street, Wallingford. The watching brief recorded evidence for two phases of medieval occupation on the site including a number of rubbish pits. These were sealed by post-medieval worked soil. No features or dating evidence earlier than the

12th century was observed. Dating evidence was recovered from the majority of the deposits. These finds included numerous sherds of pottery and ceramic building material. The pottery has been dated to two broad clusters, 1175 -1275 AD and post-medieval (late 18th century onwards). Two fragments (possibly from the same vessel) outside these groups dated to the 14th or 15th centuries together with 3 pieces of clay roof tile provisionally dated to the same period. These were recovered from a possible occupation layer. No other evidence dating to the medieval period was recovered. The majority of the brick and tile recovered was of modern origin and its presence was noted but it was not retained.

Witney, land west of Witney (SP 331 094)

Mike Donnelly

An evaluation in 2010 by Oxford Archaeology on behalf of Oxfordshire Land Ltd identified a row of possible postholes. Two undated pits, two postholes and a post-medieval ditch were also discovered.

A posthole in Trench 4, contained a single Iron Age pottery sherd. Stuck flints of probably Neolithic date were collected from the ploughsoil.

Woodeaton, Romano-Celtic Temple Scheduled Monument (SP 5354 1263)

Mike Sims

A watching brief in 2010 by Oxford Archaeology within the boundary of the Romano-Celtic Temple Scheduled Monument revealed no archaeological deposits.

Woodstock, Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SP 4439 1684)

Mike Sims

Between the 20th and 29th September 2011 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief at the site of the proposed new "Soldiers of Oxfordshire" museum to the rear of the Oxfordshire Museum, Fletchers House, Woodstock, Oxfordshire. The watching brief observed two phases of late post-medieval garden soil overlying post-medieval made ground. No evidence for any earlier activity such as residual finds or truncated features was encountered. No dating evidence was recovered.

A summary of excavation results and a note on the pottery from a lift pit excavation at the Turl Bar Oxford (SP 4145 0622)

Pottery by John Cotter, site report by Richard Brown

In July and September of 2011 Oxford Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological work ahead of development at the Turl Bar, to the rear of the Mitre Inn on Turl Street, Oxford. Excavation work was focussed in the location of an intended lift pit. This area revealed the undisturbed pre-town ground surface at a comparable level (62.27 m OD) to that seen in previous work in the area. It was overlain by an undated mortar floor surface which in

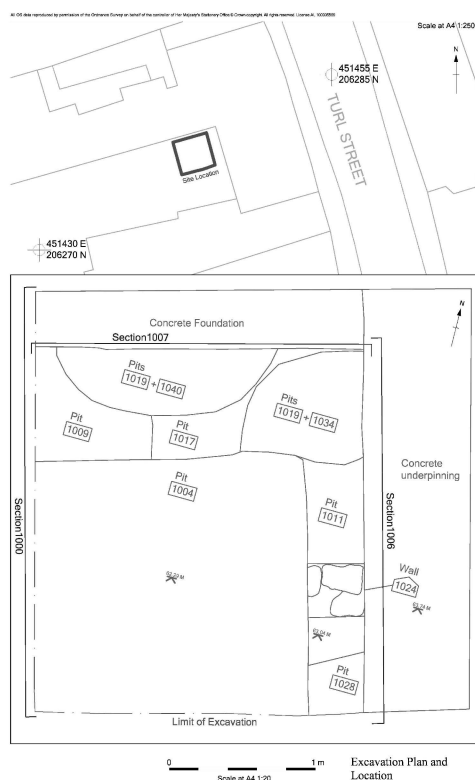


Fig 12. Location and excavation plan.

turn was cut by a series of inter-cutting Late Medieval and post-medieval pits with some residual Saxon pottery also present. The foundations of two post-medieval walls were also recorded.

The pits on the whole appear to reflect domestic dumping, with the exception of one large 18th century, probable latrine pit (see Fig.12 cut 1004). It is likely that this was used by the Mitre Inn (and also possibly by the earlier

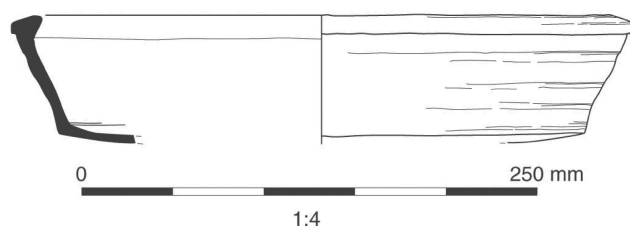


Fig. 13. Early Medieval Oxford ware ('Cotswold'-type ware). Shallow bowl. Diameter 340mm. Brown fabric with grey core. Heavily sooted exterior. Date c 1050-1250 (probably c 1175-1250?). Context (1027), Pit 1028.

Bicester's Inn), which subsumed the property after the 15th century. There is no evidence of industrial processes in the artefacts or deposits.

The work at the site is fully reported in OA 2012.

Summary Pottery Report

Seven small sherds from the pit sequence occur in fabrics normally regarded as late Saxon and these are all residual in 12th or more likely 13th century contexts. These comprise two small very worn sherds of late Saxon Oxford shelly ware (OXB, probably one vessel, including rim) and five sherds of St Neots-type ware (OXR). The latter represent at least three vessels including fairly fresh everted rims from two small jars with external sooting. Late Saxon pottery has been found previously in the immediate area of Turl Street. Early Medieval Oxford ware (or eCotswold f-type ware, OXAC), which is common on this site, mostly occurs as fairly large, fresh jar/cooking pot sherds and a bowl or two including a complete profile with heavy external sooting (Fig 13). This has a broad dating in Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds area of c 875-1250 but in Oxford is more typical of the period c 1050-1225 (Mellor 1994, 51-52), and this is almost certainly the date in this case - partly owing to its frequent association in pits here with OXY, which outlived it.

Most of the medieval contexts here are dated to the period c 1075-1300 by Medieval Oxford ware (OXY) which is easily the commonest single pottery type from the excavation (125 sherds). Most of this comes from the fills of a small number of pits (Pit 1011 (ctx 1010), Pit 1013 (ctx 1012), Pit 1028 (ctx 1027), and Pit 1034 (ctxs 1032, 1033). Cross-joining sherds from these contexts indicate their closeness in date and their very intercutting nature. Sherds from a single distinctive Olney Hyde-type shelly ware jug occur in Pits 1011, 1013 and 1034, and sherds from a distinctive glazed OXY pitcher occur in Pit 1013 and both fills of Pit 1034 as well as in post-medieval Pit 1004. Pits 1011 and 1013 alone produced most of the medieval pottery from the site (47 and 56 sherds respectively). OXY is present on the site mostly in the form of wheel-thrown unglazed jars/cooking pots (most showing external sooting) but characteristic yellow-glazed pitchers are also quite common. These include at least a couple of fairly large tripod pitchers (mainly c 1075-1250) - as examples of tripod feet and sherds with characteristic combed decoration and applied thumbled strips were recovered. Associated wares, including a few sherds of early Brill ware (OXAW) glazed jugs with red painted decoration, and other regional coarse wares (OXAQ, OXCG), suggest that most of these earlier contexts date to the later 12th or first half of the 13th century rather than any earlier than this. Pits 1011 and 1013 probably date to the period c 1200-1275/1300 but Pit 1013 is slightly contaminated by a single sherd of 15th-16th century late Brill ware (OXBX) and by a few pieces of medieval tile including a plain glazed floor tile (c 1250+) and a late medieval quarry tile. A sherd of 11th-12th century Coarse Cotswold-type ware (OXBR, Pit 1011) is a rare type in Oxford and only known from one or two other sites including Oxford Castle (Mellor 1976, 259). This is from the sagging base of a jar with an internal greenish glaze and sooting underneath. A small unglazed body sherd of ?OXY from Pit 1017 (ctx 1014) is decorated with faint horizontal bands of triangular or square rouletting. This type of decoration is very rare on OXY and as the sherd is in a coarser, browner fabric than usual it may be an example of Wallingford ware from south-east Oxfordshire (Mellor

Oxfordshire

1994, fig. 16.23, Fabric WA38). The type is previously unknown from Oxford.

Remarkably little high medieval pottery (c 1250-1400) of any sort was identified from the site suggesting this period saw very little activity here in terms of pit digging or pottery deposition. A mere four sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM, c 1225-1625) were found - normally a very common type in Oxford. These, however, are residual in post-medieval contexts and may all be of late



Fig. 14. Brill/Boarstall ware ;Cistercian;-type copy (OXAM/OXCL). Small sherd from shoulder of highly decorated cup with stamps and applied pads in white clay. Fine sandy orange fabric with glossy clear (brown) glaze all over interior and exterior. Max length 38mm. Probably mid 16th century. Context (1005), Pit 1004.

medieval/early post-medieval date (see OXBX below). A single sherd of unglazed Saintonge whiteware (OXCC) was also recovered. The latter is a very rare type here - presumably because of the city's inland position. The sherd, which was residual in post-medieval Pit 1004 (ctx 1005), appears to come from quite a large unglazed vessel - possibly a pegaux (wine jar). Its association here with the medieval Mitre Inn (and its medieval cellars) may not be purely coincidental.

A modest collection of late medieval/early post-medieval wares suggests pottery deposition and pit digging re-commenced on the site in the later 15th century. Most of the vessel forms identifiable from the period c 1475-1600 are types of drinking vessel and may represent refuse from the Mitre Inn. These include sherds from a couple of imported Raeren stoneware drinking jugs - a common import of the period c 1475-1550. Most vessels are in late Brill ware (OXBX) including a small drinking jug from Pit 1040 with a dark brown 'Cistercian' glaze. Sherds from an unglazed flattened gourd-shaped costrel (a sort of hip flask used by travellers) were found in Pit 1009 along with one of the Raeren mugs (Mellor 1994, fig. 67.8; 1997, fig. 39L).

Perhaps the most interesting piece is a small sherd from the shoulder of a highly decorated Brill copy of a 'Cistercian'-type ware cup with elaborate palmette stamps

on the body and small coin-like applied pads in white clay with stamped pellet decoration (Fig 14). This probably dates to the mid 16th century but was residual in Pit 1004. No exact parallel for this decoration has been located, but a cup from the Hamel site, Oxford, has larger white clay pads stamped with a similar palmette design (Mellor 1980, fig. 20.35). The latter is from an early-mid 16th century context although similar cups with white pads occur in Oxford as late as c 1600 (Mellor 1997, fig 46R). The other main dating emphasis is represented by a small but fairly well-preserved collection of 18th century wares. Several of these are from Pit 1004, dated to c 1750-1790 by a large assemblage of well-preserved clay pipes (see elsewhere). The absence of refined Staffordshire white earthenwares suggests a date closer to c 1750-1770. The pit contents have the character of latrine or cess-pit deposits - typical of tavern refuse. Included here are a couple of near-complete plain white tin-glazed chamberpots of c 1680-1750 and parts of a tall tankard in Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware and a redware flowerpot (PMR). While these are notable for their fairly good state of preservation, they are fairly common finds on post-medieval sites in Oxford.

Bibliography

OA 2012; The Turl Bar, Turl Street Oxford. Archaeological Excavation Report (unpublished client report)

Mellor M 1976; 'The pottery' in Hassall, T G, *Excavations at Oxford Castle, 1965-1973*, *Oxoniensia* 41, 255-266.

Mellor M 1980; 'Pottery' in Palmer, N, 'A Beaker burial and medieval tenements in The Hamel, Oxford', *Oxoniensia* 45, 160-182.

Mellor M 1994; 'Oxfordshire Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region', *Oxoniensia* 59, 17-217.

Mellor M 1997; *Pots and People*, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

Mill Farm, Church Enstone (SP 37685 24954)

David Clark

Mill Farm is a time-capsule of farming life and associated activities from the 18th century onwards. The mill is an interesting survival of a watermill with probably ancient origins which has been adapted through the centuries, its present form deriving probably from the late 17th century with some equipment and features of the mid-late 18th.



Fig 15. Mill Farm Church Enstone.

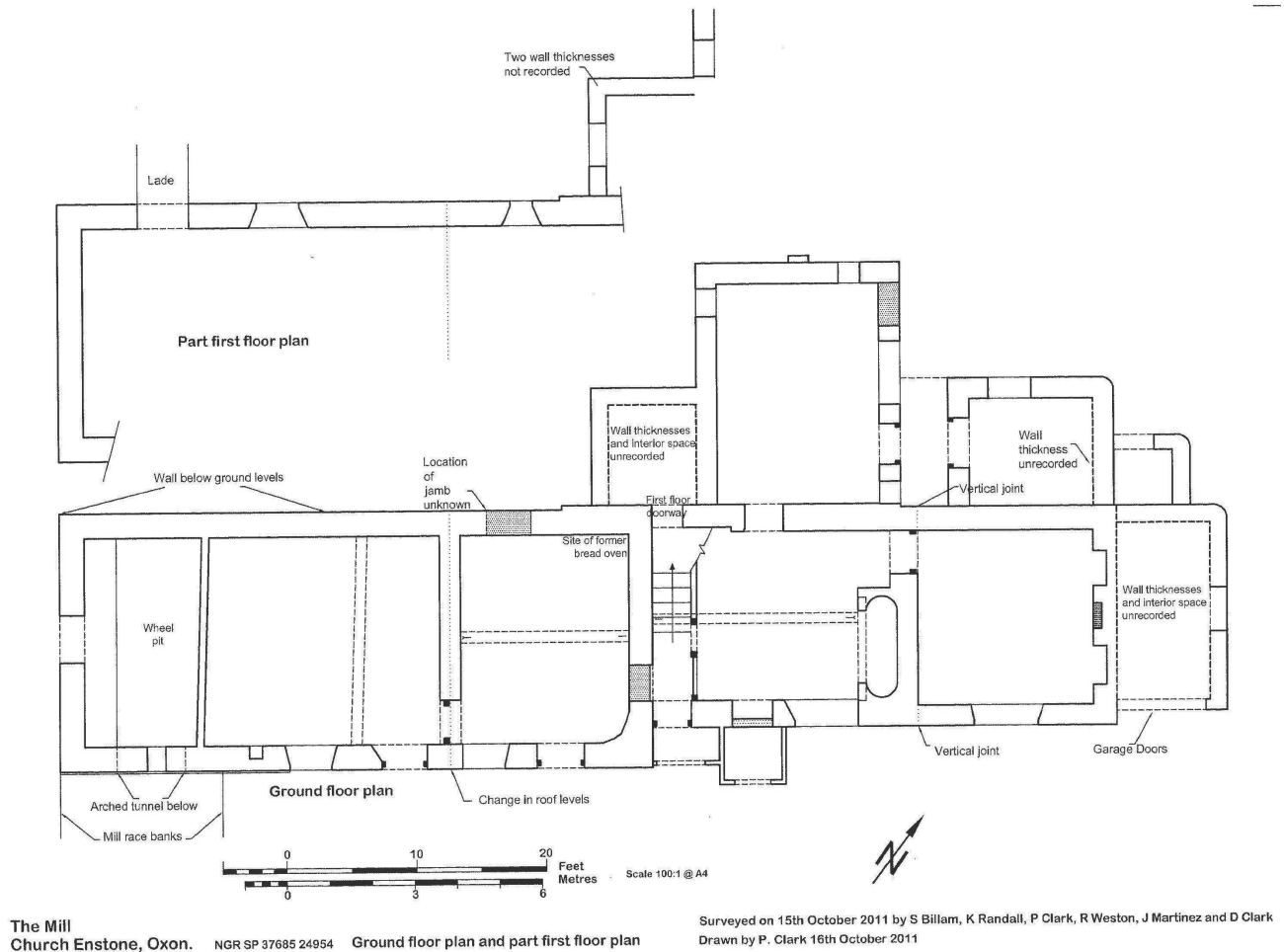


Fig 16. Ground plan and part first floor plan.

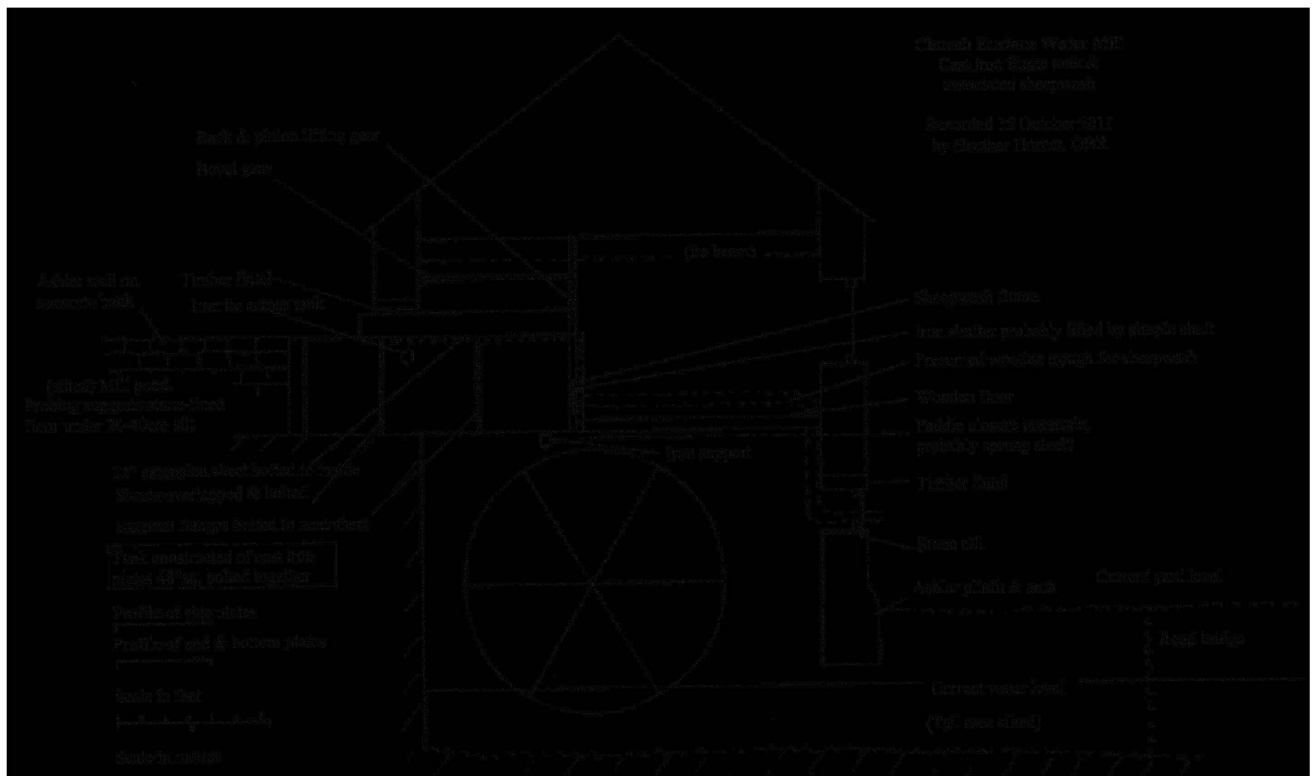


Fig 17. Water supply arrangements.



Fig 18. Tail race with sheepwash opening above.

While the house has been used exclusively as a farmhouse since milling ceased in the 1970s, the mill equipment and machinery has been left largely complete and has not been aggressively tidied up. It is in five distinct parts, mill, bakery, house, extension and modern garage. The ground floor plan is at Fig 16.

The materials are similar for each part - limestone rubble, laid broadly in courses. The plinth of the western building (the mill - comprising the wheelhouse and milling area) and the stream arch are ashlar. This is very much a 'show' façade - the rear elevation has no coursing and no plinth. Although there is no straight-joint between the mill and the next building (the bakery), the latter is of three stories with a higher roof-line and large quoin stones to the east. The bakery stands somewhat proud of the adjacent building (the house) to the right. All parts of the roof are covered with Welsh slate.

The building lies between a contour leat and feeder stream, a tributary of the Glyme, which it joins a short distance to the south. The leat seems to predate anything which is standing at the mill today. There were medieval fishponds upstream of the mill, so the water in this valley has been controlled for centuries. It has a sluice behind the house which manages the flow. The mill pond has been strengthened with ashlar masonry of high quality, similar to some within and below the wheelhouse. From the pond the water entered the mill building at first floor level and into a cast iron tank. The water supply arrangement is shown in Fig 17.

Flow to the wheel is via a full-width shutter in the bottom of the tank, controlled by a rack and pinion lifting mechanism operated by turning a bevel gear with a long iron lever. A small shuttered door in the tank front was for water to be diverted to flow along wooden pipes to a shaft that emerged at the front of the building for a sheep-wash (Fig 18). Tail race water left the wheel pit through an ashlar stone arch, rejoining the main stream some 100m downstream.

The mill has two floors and an attic. At ground floor level, a narrow western bay accessible by a doorway in the west gable, contains the mill-wheel. Above the doorway is an external power wheel, the only surviving part of a former

system for powering the wheel when water levels were low by using a traction engine to turn this and thence the grindstones without using the water wheel. The wheel may also have been used to power external machinery.

The waterwheel is an overshot wheel, cast iron in construction, made up of 6 castings per side, bolted together at the rim with overlapping joints and held together with a force-fit collar where the castings meet the hub. Each casting consists of a 1/6th hub and spoke section and the flat rim. The diameter of the wheel is 10ft 6in and is 4ft wide. There are 42 u-shaped buckets which are bolted to the sides of the rim via two lugs which are also part of the castings. There are steel sheet coverings on the lower part of the outer casting also securing the buckets. There are two sheets per casting, twelve in all. The wheel is fixed to the shaft with wedges (iron), which is a traditional wheelwrights' way of centring the wheel on the shaft. The shaft runs into large plumber blocks (on either side) which are positioned by wedges via a sub-plate bolted to the stone retaining wall of the wheel pit.

The arrangement of the mill (Fig 19) follows the general pattern whereby the waterpower not only rotates the grindstones but also raises the sacks of grain to the topmost floor, where it is stored in wooden bins either side of a central passage through the attic. From these bins the grain descended under gravity to the two pairs of millstones on the first floor and finally to the ground (meal) floor where the finished product was bagged up. One pair of stones, with associated hopper and horse, survives. The waller wheel is also *in situ*, fixed to a type of 'Armfield Arch' above the mill shaft.

Also on the ground floor is a former workspace, with external access by means of a two-part stable-type door in the front elevation. The first floor is supported by two heavy transverse beams, with closely spaced, chamfered and stopped softwood joists laid vertically. At attic level are the grain bins. The roof trusses comprise paired principal rafters, pegged at the apex, with a slight taper towards the top and supported by queen struts to the tie-beams. The assembly marks are deeply chiselled. The common rafters lie above this structure. They rest on trenched purlins and meet at a plank ridge which sits well above the apexes of the principal rafters.

One of the fascinating pieces of equipment at the mill is cast iron scales. This bears the inscription, 'Prize medal Class 5 Great Exhibition' at the top, and on the frame, 'By Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent. W Chambers Day Patentee'. William Chambers Day was a manufacturer of a number of different types of scales, many for delicate work such as for apothecaries and coin and bullion weighing where accuracy was paramount. The firm was started around 1829 in Birmingham. The company became Day and Millward in 1852, so the Enstone scales may well be one of the last products of the earlier company.

The bakery was in the taller building to the east of the mill. The oven was at the northeast corner. All the baking equipment has been removed, but the dough-kneading

trough survives at first floor level. External access to the first floor was by means of a taking-in door, again in two sections. There is no evidence for a hoist either externally or internally. The attic space was accessible only from the mill or the house to the east. The roof structure of the bakery is visible and comprises paired principal rafters with a collar and two purlins to the front and a single purlin to the north. The purlins are joined at the principal with loose tenons. The collars are probably pegged into the principals but each joint is additionally strengthened by means of iron straps.

The house is in two parts, a western section with the doorway, and an eastern later extension with higher floor levels and no doorway. The main (kitchen) extension to the rear is behind the western part of the house, and is again in roughly coursed limestone rubble. Behind the eastern part is a small outbuilding. The house is now entered via French doors to the left of the porch, into a lobby from which a winder stair ascends to the first and second floors. There is a (blocked) former doorway just inside this lobby which at one time gave direct access into the bakery. The single room at ground floor level has a wide 17th century style fireplace exposed during flood repair work in the late 20th century. There is evidence of an inglenook seat, the site of a former bread oven and a spice cupboard with quality joinery built into the stack. The chimneystack supports a roughly hewn but chamfered spine beam.

The roof truss visible in the attic room has the same form of construction as that in the bakery next door. No roof trusses

are visible in the eastern extension. Although the floor levels are slightly higher than those in the western part, and the casement windows are somewhat larger, efforts have been made to follow the style of the earlier structure.

Previous owners and occupiers

Enstone was a property of the abbey of Winchcombe until the Dissolution. There were mills here at the time of Domesday (1086). John Hartley (b1793) was the miller in 1841, with only 14a of land, but by 1861 farming had expanded in the ownership of John Gregory, as miller and farmer of 110a. After 1881 he had employees (baker, miller) living there - the farmer's family having presumably moved elsewhere. The Ivings family owned and occupied the mill for much of the 20th century. Latterly most of the milling was for animal feed, not the commercial milling of wheat for baking. The bakery operation seems to have been relatively short-lived in the late 19th (and possibly early 20th) century.

Discussion

The list description suggests a date of 'mid-late 18th century, possibly incorporating older work'. There are a number of hints at what this 'older work' might be. The location of the mill may be ancient, and the water supply system perhaps relating to medieval fishponds may be the earliest structure on the site. The ashlar of the mill wheel building is quality work suggesting a moneyed landlord, while the fireplace and spine beam in the house have very much a 17th century

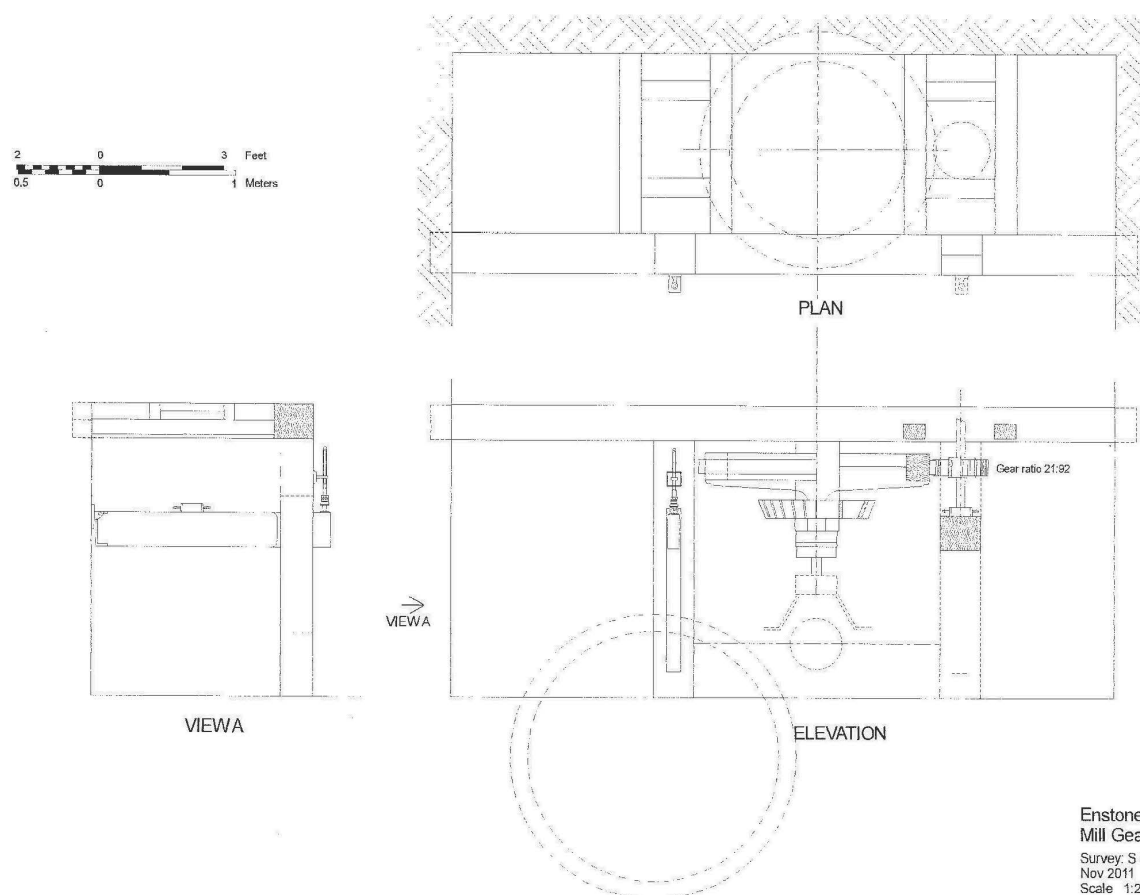


Fig 19. Mill mechanism.

Oxfordshire

feel. The roof structure, however, is later, and similar to that of the bakery adjacent, so perhaps renewed at some point, perhaps if a formerly thatched covering was replaced by slate in the late 18th or 19th century. The mill roof, although different in form, also seems of this period, and the door furniture with hand-wrought nails is consistent with a date before 1850.

The mill machinery seems to be fairly standard, judging by other examples described and illustrated by Foreman (Oxfordshire Mills, 1985). The sheepwash, although unusual, is not unique. The wheel and flume are fairly standard, but are complete. The internal mechanics of the mill itself are eclectic, the 'wallower' or 'waller' wheel being particularly interesting for the compass arm wooden gear on the upright shaft. The waller wheel mechanism is possibly of the mid 18th century. The ironstone spindles and associated gear, yoke etc, are also interesting, being a later 19th century refinement, compared with the other principal mill machinery.

The buildings show the consequences of changes through time, as baking ended and then milling, while the house and its outbuildings were adapted to different requirements – dairying, egg-washing, and greater domestic comfort.

This report has been compiled with the assistance of members of the recording team and Simon Hudson and Dave Pearce of the SPAB mills section.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP (SOAG)

Gatehampton Farm Roman Villa (SU 6079 7985) Hazel Williams

Last reported in *SMA* 40, 2010, the investigation of this 3rd to 4th century building and the surrounding landscape continues. This is a long-term voluntary excavation run by

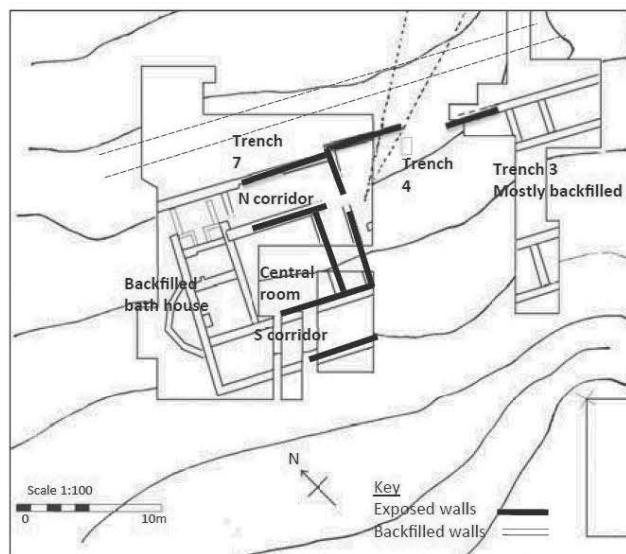


Fig 20. Plan of site in 2010 showing exposed walls and backfilled areas of Trenches 3, 4 and 7.

experienced SOAG archaeologists, investigating both the layout and phasing of the villa building and the multi-period features in the surrounding landscape.

Excavation in 2010 began with a much smaller open trench area than in previous years after the backfilling of the bathhouse and other small trenches in 2009. The main focus at Gatehampton in 2010/11 was the 'central room', so described because it lies between a short north corridor and the long south corridor of the western part of the villa building. At 6m square, it is the largest room excavated so far at the villa. It is adjacent to the two heated rooms of the bathhouse to the west and a narrow corridor to the east. (See Fig 20.)

The room was heated: it has a well-built rectangular hearth in the north wall and may also have benefited from the transfer of heat from the adjacent bath house, either simply through a door opening or possibly through ducts into the room. The walls were decorated with red and yellow plaster, and pink plaster with white and black dots and lines. The height of the ceiling is a matter of speculation, but even if the building was largely single storey the apex of the roof in this room must have been quite high. Evidence from owl pellets suggests there were horizontal beams across the roof-space.

The central room appears to have had a well-maintained floor composed mainly of chalk, but with three patches of tesserae remaining. A small slot cut into the floor allowed us to examine earlier levels. The tesserae were laid on sand on mortar; below the mortar is a layer of silt and this is on a cobbled surface just above the natural. At present it is not clear how far the cobbles extend, but the uneven surface of this layer would indicate that this must have been an exterior space, perhaps a courtyard. At some time it seems that the space now called the central room was incorporated into the main house, either as a new extension or conversion of an exterior space into an internal one. This required a new floor surface and the mortar, levelling sand and tesserae were laid. A coin dated to 330-334AD suggests the new floor must have been laid after this date.

Work also began in 2010 and continued in 2011, on examining the previously untouched area between the current Trench 7 and the backfilled Trench 3 (excavated several years ago) which is less than 10m to the east. There has always been the assumption that there is one continuous building, and late in 2011 wall footings and surfaces linking the two were indeed found. More work will be needed to establish the exact layout and phasing of this part of the building.

Finally, we have commenced a new geophysical survey of those areas of the site not yet excavated to devise a future excavation plan that is agreeable to the new site owners.



Fig 21. Flint core from Highlands Farm test pit.

Highlands Farm (SU 741812)

David Oliver

In conjunction with the Henley on Thames Archaeological & Historical Group (HAHG) a 2m x 2m test pit was dug at Highlands Farm, near Henley on Thames.

The Highlands Farm site is a SAM and SSSI. It is probably the most prolific source of Palaeolithic tools of the four major sites within the UK, although that was when the gravel pit was in active production and its working faces were examined by John Wymer in the 1950s and 60s.

Wymer reported finds at the rate of around 70 per cubic metre of gravel, apparently from the “six inch to two foot” layer that is immediately above the chalk; but he also noted that there was a distribution of worked flints in the higher levels of the gravel. The flints covered a range from Clactonian through to middle Acheulean with many hand axes amongst the finds; these were often found at the sorting plant having been rejected as being too large for the graded gravel that was being commercially produced. The current thinking is that these tools were the work of *Homo Heidelbergensis* and can be dated to 400,000 to 450,000 years ago.

There is a possibility of development taking place within the area covered by the old gravel pit, as well as around the buildings that form the Highlands Farm complex and also potentially within the field that bounds the northern edge of the SAM. This has caused concern within HAHG. The test pit was dug at a point some 90m from the SAM where access was granted at the rear of a garden in Highlands Lane, which is the domicile of a HAHG member. The object

of the test pit was to see if there was evidence that the finds found within the old gravel workings continued this far from the SAM and also to determine if the geology was similar. In this we were supported by Richard Oram who is the county archaeologist with responsibility for South Oxfordshire. Richard spent two days digging on site and has arranged for environmental samples to be analysed and finds to be expertly identified.

Unfortunately this location proved to be partly over a clay-filled solution hole in the chalk which limited the exposure of gravel and reduced the maximum depth of excavation that could be achieved due to safety considerations and consequential restricted access for the diggers. Nevertheless a 2.2m depth was achieved exposing a 1.75m sequence of gravel. All the removed material was sieved and some worked flints were recovered, the most significant find being probably the large core shown in Fig 21.

Identifying tools, as opposed to naturally broken flints, particularly with earlier tools, proved difficult and we were fortunate to have two site visits by Professor Terry Hardaker from the University of Oxford, who is an expert on stone tools. Professor Hardaker brought examples of tools found on this site and gave a brief course on tool identification; that, together with his examination of our finds trays, reduced the probable finds to a small number - we had erred on the side of possible rather than probable when putting flints into the trays.

An afternoon was also spent on site by Dr Robert Hosfield of the University of Reading. Dr Hosfield is also a specialist in stone tools and additionally in palaeo river channels; his advice on the excavation technique to be used was invaluable.

Initial conclusions, before we have any of the expected expert input, are that the gravel sequence is similar to that Wymer described, but that his highly productive layer is probably around 1.5m deeper than we were able to reach. Tom Walker (of SOAG) had proved the depth to the chalk by using a hand auger: this was 3.8m in the centre of the test pit, but 1.2m deeper only 60cm away into the clay filled solution hole. Hence it is obvious that with our maximum obtained depth of only 2.2m we were still above the “Wymer Layer”. These solution holes are still active around the site with a new one, a few metres across at the surface, having recently appeared only 50m away in the garden of another house in Highlands Lane. There is the suggestion of very many more visible as small dark circles on Google Earth.

Ewelme hundred: supporting the Victoria County History and the South Oxfordshire Project (SU 645685)

Michael Green

SOAG are partners of the *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire* in its current researches into the history of the Ewelme hundred and will assist wherever their expertise can be of best use. In particular, SOAG is closely involved with *The South Oxfordshire Project: Perceptions of Landscape, Settlement and Society*, led by Dr Stephen

Oxfordshire

Miles on of the VCH and University of Oxford. (See main report by Miles on elsewhere in this issue.) This is an innovative and interdisciplinary landscape analysis project for the Ewelme hundred that will utilize the full range of archaeological techniques alongside architectural and historical research. Whilst this is a separate project, the work will feed into the historical research of the VCH for the 'red book' on Ewelme. In 2011 SOAG supplied many of the volunteers for fieldwalking and test pit digging in Ewelme, working alongside professional archaeologists and experts from Oxford and elsewhere.

Brightwell Baldwin Community History and Archaeology Project (BBCHAP):

Brightwell Park 2011 interim report (SU 653954)

Ian Clarke

Introduction

An introduction to this project was published in *SMA* 37 (2007) and in *SOAG Bulletin* No 61 (2007) and interim reports have been published in subsequent issues of both these journals.

A resistivity survey in Brightwell Park in 2008/09 located the site of the old manor house (burnt down in 1788), revealing an extensive complex of buildings with clear signs of surrounding formal gardens, in close proximity to the well-known Brightwell Park dovecote (SU 6528 9540).

Excavation of this site commenced in 2009 with a single large area trench (Trench 1) which was partly reopened and extended in 2010. The conclusion from 2009/10 was that we had located the probable main entrance to the (late) medieval manor house and it was postulated that there had been a gate (or possibly a gatehouse) leading into a courtyard in front of the main house. There appeared to have been significant remodelling of this area in the post-medieval period. (See reports in *SMA* 40 and 41.)

In early 2011 we learned that Brightwell Park was to be sold. With no guarantee that excavations would be possible in future years, we decided to open a sequence of relatively small trial trenches - 'keyhole' style - over the supposed site of the main house and its assumed terrace overlooking the formal gardens to the east. The research aims outlined were: to explore the extent of the buildings believed to be represented by the large, roughly rectangular geophysical anomalies to the south of the dovecote and east of Trench 1 (T1); to determine whether these do indeed represent a large, high status dwelling (ie the manor house); to probe earlier contexts to determine whether the site does date back to the medieval; and to look for evidence of destructive fire within the main buildings. Excavation took place from 23 July to 7 August, 2011.

Location of trenches

Possible locations for a maximum of twelve trenches were selected in advance, to be changed or extended in the light of discoveries in the field. In the final count eight were opened, numbered T2 - T8 and T12. Only four were opened at first: T2, T3, T4 and T6 were located over what was



Fig 22. Trenches 4 & 7: in T4 the later east wall of the house (sectioned) was built across a medieval tiled hearth. It continues beyond through T7 with a part cobbled surface to the east.

assumed to be the lines of west walls of the main house. However, it became clear in the first week that these trenches had revealed what was probably a much larger terrace and it was necessary in the second week to extend the trenches westwards to discover what is in fact an east facing wall of the house, not a west wall. This placed the building between this wall and a parallel wall found on the east side of Trench 1 and (rather unexpectedly) precisely in the area previously thought to be a courtyard. Trenches T5 and T7 were added thereafter to explore links with walls found previously in T1. T8 and T12 explored outlying features of the terrace. The principal discoveries were as follows:

Trench 2 revealed the core of a substantial chalk and lime mortar wall running north-northwest - south-southeast and another at right-angles running east-northeast from it, forming a tee shape. The eastern facing of the north-south wall had been robbed out but the other wall appeared to be of full width at the base. The area in the southeast corner was made up with rubble in a soil matrix to the full depth of the walls, but that in the north-east corner largely by soil with some rubble. An area of soil to the west of the north-south wall was excavated only to a shallow depth but did not appear to contain significant rubble. The geophysics suggests the north-south wall continues to a point close to the dovecote but this was not proven.

Trench 3 also revealed the core of a wall running north-northwest - south-southeast of similar construction to

and in-line with that in T2. An external cobbled surface on the east side had been cut through to rob out the external facing. A second wall appeared to run west-southwest at right angles to this, although this was not fully excavated. Any possible floor surface in the internal (north-west) corner of these walls had been robbed out.

Trench 4 revealed a chalk and lime mortar core of a wall running north-northwest - south-southeast, parallel to but offset west from that in T2/3 by about 3m. Again there was an external surface to the east side of it, this time of levelled and compacted sandy-gravel and divided by an inset line of weathered chalkstone slabs laid parallel to the wall and about 2.5m from it. A second wall ran west-southwest at right-angles to the first, this time aligned with a similar wall in T1 found in 2010. Significantly these walls overlay earlier features, notably a large, late-medieval, tiled hearth edged with a line of dressed limestone slabs set into a clay floor. The hearth backed onto an earlier wall running west-southwest - east-northeast and both this wall and the hearth tiles were fire blackened. The hearth was built over by the later wall, which ran at right angles to the hearth and its backing wall. The later wall was sectioned to reveal the hearth (Fig 22). Floors associated with the later walls had been robbed out but earlier floors appear to survive.

Trench 6 again revealed a north-northwest - south-southeast chalk and lime mortar wall core, similar to and in line with that in T4 but less well preserved. Outside it on the east side was an identical gravel surface with single line of inset chalkstone slabs, in line with that found in T4. The wall core here ran parallel to two more closely-spaced walls on its west side, both of rough dressed chalkstone slabs, one with a lime mortar and one with a sandy-clay mortar bond. This is suggestive of successive remodelling of the façade of the building here.

Trench 5 was placed adjacent to the north-east corner of Trench 1 to explore a possible west-east wall link with T3. Although the emerging archaeology was suggestive of such a link there was insufficient time to complete the excavation to be certain.

Trench 7 was opened between T3 and T4 to further explore the wall links between features in these two trenches and



Fig 23. Trench 8: a clay bonded medieval wall.

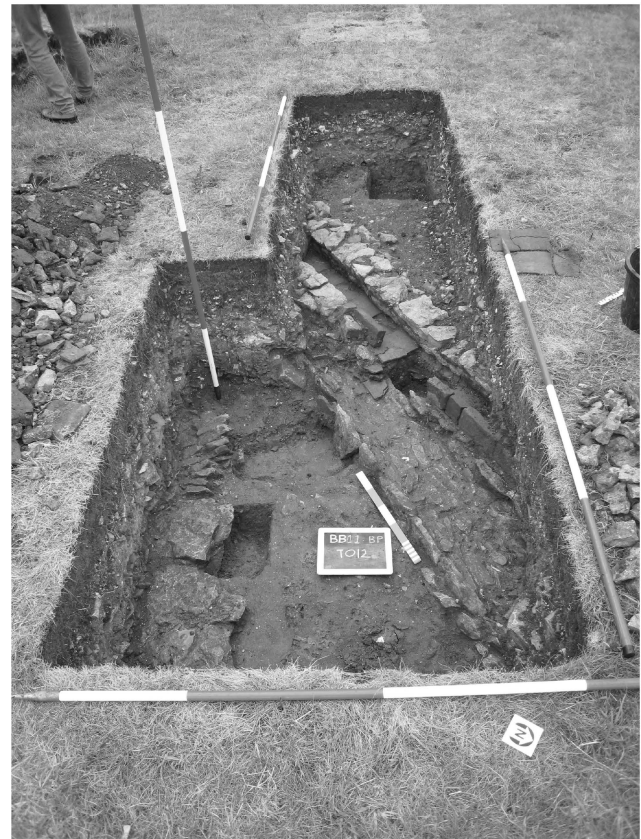


Fig 24. Trench 12: the medieval drains.

with T1. Again the core of the main north-northwest - south-southeast wall was revealed, together with an expected wall at right-angles aligned with one found in T1 in 2010. Just as in T4, the main north-south wall had been built over late medieval features that followed the west-southwest - east-northeast alignment. Outside this wall on its east side was a cobbled surface, similar to that found in T2. (See Fig 22).

Trench 8 explored a geophysical anomaly towards the south angled at 45° to the main features. This turned out to be a deep and compacted gravel surface with soil to one side, perhaps part of an ornamental terrace path and garden. However, excavation below this revealed a quite unexpected and substantial wall, again running north-northwest - south-southeast but not aligned with any found in the other trenches. The wall was beautifully built of large, rough-hewn chalkstone slabs with a sandy-clay bond (Fig 23). On each side were signs of a clay floor reinforced with chalkstone slabs, largely robbed out.

Trench 12 explored the eastern edge of the terrace. Here we were looking for indications of a terrace wall, or possibly evidence of steps leading to the gardens beyond. Neither of these was found, but digging through the layers of (assumed) terrace make-up rubble, revealed two drains running at an angle out of the terrace on a roughly north-south alignment (Fig 24). The earlier one was a shallow, open surface drain constructed entirely of rough-hewn chalkstone and associated with a partly robbed out paved surface made from very large, rough-hewn chalkstones. These features were laid directly on the natural soil. This drain had, at a later date, been replaced by one on almost the same line but at a slightly higher level, this time

Oxfordshire

constructed from mixed chalkstone and brick with a floor of roof-tiles. It was not clear whether this also was an open drain or whether it had once been covered, but given the untidy mixed construction the latter seems more likely. Any associated paving and cover slabs had been robbed out. These drains went out of use when the terrace was raised.

Conclusions

A full report and closer dating will have to await the outcome of more detailed analysis of the data from the 2011 excavations, but it is already clear that conclusions reached in 2009/10 must be substantially reconsidered. Some broad and tentative conclusions can be offered at this stage.

We can now be confident that there was a substantial post-medieval house here, with a large ornamental terrace, and that house overlies an earlier one from the late medieval period. The evidence in T4, T6 and T7 suggests there was extensive remodelling of the original manor house, involving significant demolition and rebuilding. This is likely to have taken place in the late 16th and early 17th centuries and may reasonably be associated with the building of the extant stone-built dovecote. The principal buildings of the later house appear to be aligned with the dovecote on a principal north-northwest - south-southeast axis - which interestingly enough was our original hypothesis in 2008/09 - but their full extent and ground plan still remains unclear.

Based on the evidence of the large hearth in T4 and earlier features in T7, the medieval house may have had in part a west-southwest - east-northeast alignment, occupying part of the later terrace. We cannot at this stage rule out that it had a courtyard, as suggested in 2009/10, although the location of this must now be uncertain. The paving and surface drains beneath the east side of the later terrace are clearly associated with this earlier house.

The enigmatic clay-bonded wall in T8, buried under the later terrace, is part of a substantial medieval building, separate and removed some distance from the site of the manor house, although still conforming to a general north-northwest - south-southeast alignment. The fine construction of this wall suggests a building of some status, but whether chapel, barn, or another house is unclear.

Regarding the destructive fire of 1788, the comprehensive post-demolition stripping of the site means that in any case much evidence has been removed. All the central trenches contained varying evidence of burning, although often this was associated with localised and earlier fires. However, the wide spread of charcoal fragments in the upper levels and the frequent occurrence of fire damaged window glass and melted lead comes, together with fragments of decorative iron hinges and lock plates, would appear to provide sufficient evidence for the 1788 event.

Lastly, we found no evidence of post-demolition reuse of the site. Unwanted rubble was spread over the stripped buildings but the terrace appears to be well preserved beneath the thin top soil.

Acknowledgments

This has been my last time leading a team in the field, so I would like to give a very big thank you to all the SOAG members and other volunteers for their skill and hard work, not least to Site Supervisors Peter Shackleton and Janet Eastment, Site Organiser Mike Vincent and Finds Officer (and my lovely wife) Catherine Clarke. And lastly, on behalf of myself, the field team and SOAG, a very special thank you to landowners Tessa and Nigel Mogg, who sadly have now moved from their beloved Brightwell Park. We wish them well in their new home, nearby in Watlington.

Greys Mound - an interim report on the lithics recovered from fieldwalking surveys in 2010/11 (SU 72688161)

Janet Eastment (with introduction by David Nichols)

Introduction

Since 2007 investigations have continued into the large, isolated mound in Barrow Field, Rotherfield Greys. The results of geophysical and topographical surveys carried out between 2007 and 2010 were summarised in *SMA* 40 (2010). These surveys identified the mound as an important prehistoric monument with possibly a long period of use - with earliest phases probably dating from the late Neolithic through to at least the early/mid Bronze Age.

Barrow Field is located on the Winter Hill gravel terrace, an early part of the Anglian glacial deposits, at an altitude of 94m, and lies 3km west of Henley-on-Thames. The important SAM/SSSI Palaeolithic site of Highlands Farm is 1.3 km away to the east. (See SOAG report above for recent work at Highlands Farm.)

During 2010/11, field walking to sample the lithics of the site (Barrow Field) and the adjacent easterly field (Rowcroft) was organised by the author. These surveys have provided evidence of a long period of activity previously unsuspected in this area, although this may be attributable to limited field research in the past.

Fieldwalking Surveys

Row Croft - (3ha approx.) Part of the field was intensively walked at 2m wide transects while the remainder was extensively walked in east-west transects.

Barrow Field - Approximately 0.75ha of this field had been ploughed and this was walked in 2m wide transects in a north-south direction alternating to south-north. 93 transects were completed in this manner by the SOAG members participating in the survey.

A total of 154 pieces of prehistoric struck flint was recovered as a result of both fieldwalking surveys at Row Croft and Barrow Field. The majority of these appear to be from small nodules of flint probably of the local Clay-with-Flints origin. However, several pieces seem to be from a different source and it is possible the flint source for these was the nearby chalk outcrops.

Analysis

After a comprehensive analysis of the assemblage it was found that the artefact types fall into four distinct categories: flake tools, debitage, cores and natural utilised flint. Flake tools represent the highest percentage of artefact type recovered. These have been classified into tool types: scrapers, knives and cutting blades, retouched edges, borers, notched, combination tools and fabricators. The lithic assemblage from the fieldwalking surveys at Greys Mound has revealed three separate prehistoric periods of human activity at this location:

Mesolithic	6.5%
Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	11.7%
Later Bronze Age	81.8%

Further research

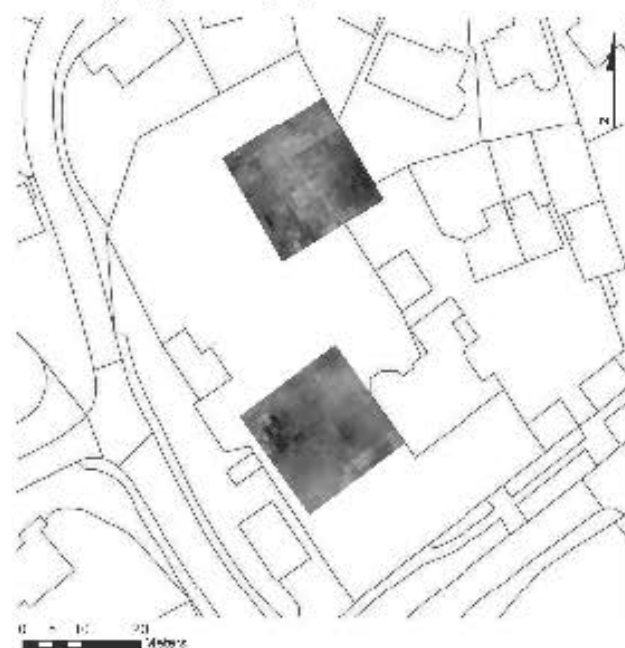
The author is currently investigating Greys Mound and the surrounding area for her post-graduate research with the University of Winchester.

STANFORD IN THE VALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

David Ashby

Introduction

The Stanford in the Vale Archaeological Research Project is an on-going research project which commenced in 2008.



Cox's Hall Resistivity Survey Results

Legend

Grid 1	Grid 2
Value	Value
Low	Low
High	High

251658240

Fig 25. The map shows a copy of the Cox's Hall resistivity geophysical plot.

The project currently has three main aims: 1. To gain a further and greater understanding of the archaeology of Stanford in the Vale; 2. To either prove or disprove the following hypothesis: Stanford in the Vale was planned as a 10th century medieval market town which had failed by the end of the medieval period. At this point Stanford in the Vale formed into a village; 3. To get the community involved in their local heritage and archaeology.

During the 2010 project season no archaeological excavation work occurred, but instead a large amount of archaeological survey work was undertaken, through the use of: geophysical techniques (magnetometry, resistivity and ground penetrating radar); topographical survey; and an auger survey. All these techniques were used in one main field on the outskirts of the current settlement at Priors Farm. Through the use of these techniques a large number of possible archaeological features were found. Most of the features found are thought to date to the medieval period, including structures and a series of possible kilns (Ashby, 2011, p.70). However, features were also found that possibly date to the prehistoric period, including a 4.17m deep shaft surrounded by an enclosure ditch, and also a possible mini-henge (Ashby, 2011, p. 48, 51, 64).

During the 2011 project season the project has been expanded from looking at one field in the village to looking at the village settlement and its surrounding fields as a whole. Currently, four main areas of land within the village have been examined through the use of resistivity survey. These areas are: Cox's Hall; Ashdown House; the Church War Memorial; and Upper Green. Also, discussed below, is the proposed work to be carried out during the 2012 project season.

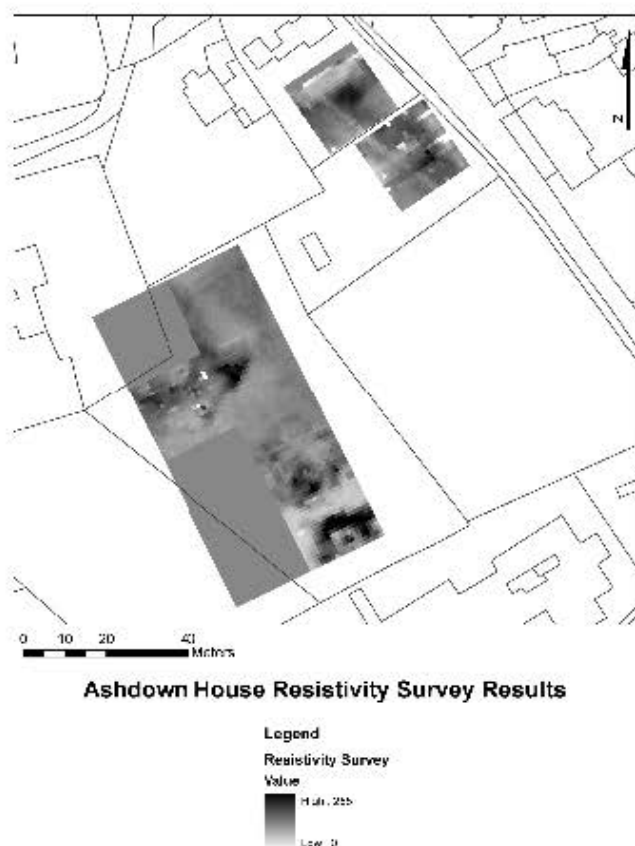
Cox's Hall (SU 340 931)

The first of the sites which was surveyed was the gardens of Cox's Hall. The Present Cox's Hall house is thought to have been built in 1690, and is a Grade II listed structure.

During the geophysical survey two grids were surveyed and six possible archaeological features identified. A copy of the plot can be seen in Fig 25. From the features identified on the plot, there are three possible structures, one of which is surrounded by a possible ditch about 6m wide, and may date to the medieval period. The second of the structures has been identified as that of part of the demolished west wing of the house, which was demolished between 1890 - 1910 and the third a possible timber framed building with a brick or stone chimney at its western end, which is thought to pre-date the construction of Cox's Hall. Furthermore a possible enclosure ditch can be seen in the south corner of the data, with a possible entrance on the northwest side. The nature of this feature would suggest it may be prehistoric. Finally, one low resistance feature can be seen, which, at present, is undated and of unknown function.

Ashdown House (SU 342 934)

The second of the sites which were surveyed was the garden of Ashdown House and two adjacent fields. From the whole area surveyed a total of fifteen possible archaeological features have been identified, eight in the large field and seven in the small field and garden areas. A copy of the survey results can be seen in Fig 26.



251658240

Fig 26. The map shows a copy of the Ashdown House resistivity geophysical plot.

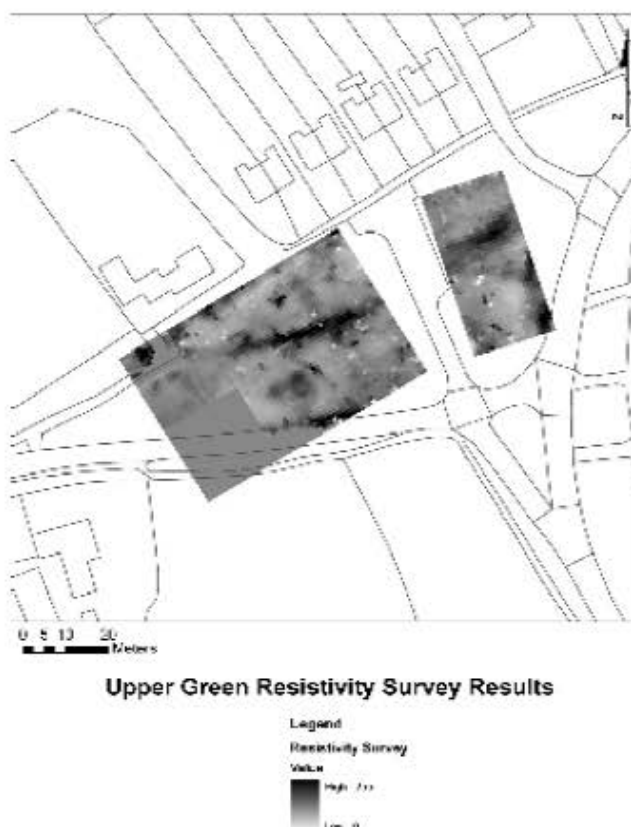
Within the large field, four possible buildings have been identified. The first structure is located in the northwest corner of the survey area, and is thought to be a possible Elizabethan kitchen, thought to relate to the adjacent Manor House. This is thought to be surrounded by a wall, and a second small structure on its eastern corner. This structure is also thought to be related to the possible ditch channel, which the building seems to respect (the ditch is aligned north-south). The third structure can be seen in the centre of the data, and is also thought to possibly be surrounded by a wall. The feature is thought to date to either the medieval or early post-medieval periods. The fourth possible structure is located in the south edge of the plot. The structure has 1m thick walls and possibly two rooms. The structure also respects the location of the pond (which is thought to be the village pond), which is adjacent to the structure. As the village pond is thought to be early medieval or later, this building is also presumed to belong to the same date-range.

The smaller field and garden also have a large array of possible features, which, apart from one, a known mains sewer pipe that crosses the data and cuts through some of the features, are all thought to pre-date the construction of the house. The first three features which can be identified are of low resistance. At present, they are undated and of unknown function. Three other features which can be identified on the data seem to relate to multiple phases, as one feature overlaps the other two. The earliest of these

features is a possible linear ditch aligned northwest southeast, and is thought to date to the early medieval period. Another of these three features is a possible large structure, which is adjacent to the ditch. This feature is 4.5m wide and is seen to turn a right angle to the northeast at its north end. Due to its size and shape it is presently thought to be a substantial and possibly very significant wall, probably dating to the medieval period. The last of these three features, which is thought to overlay both the ditch and large wall, is a possible small boundary wall probably enclosing an area on the west of the plot. This feature is thought to date to the early post-medieval period.

Church War Memorial (SU 342 935)

The third of the sites was an area within the cemetery of St. Denys Church, which was surveyed prior to the construction of their new War Memorial. Only one small 10m by 10m area was surveyed, and two features identified. The first of these features is a single wall. This is thought to be part of the footing of the current stone boundary wall for the church cemetery. The second feature is an extremely low resistance (~22 ohms) feature, found in the southwest corner of the data, right on the edge of the plot. Currently this is thought to possibly be part of a ditch enclosure surrounding either the present or an earlier church on the site. It is hoped that permission can be obtained to undertake a more extensive resistivity survey of the cemetery to see if



251658240

Fig 27. The map shows a copy of the Upper Green resistivity geophysical plot.

this feature continues, and to confirm whether or not it is a ditch.

Upper Green (SU 341 938)

The fourth of the sites which was surveyed was Upper Green. From the whole area surveyed a total of fourteen possible archaeological features have been identified. A copy of the survey results can be seen in Fig 27.

From the data the first main feature which can be identified is a large possibly curvilinear ditch. The ditch can be seen to cross from one side of the data to the other and is 4m wide. Due to its size and shape the ditch is thought to date to the prehistoric period, and if projected is likely to surround an area of about 60,000m². In addition, a second smaller linear ditch has been identified, which is aligned southeast-northwest. This is thought to be a boundary ditch which may date to any period. The next set of features which have been identified is a series of possible buildings/structures. This includes six possible buildings, all of which are thought to date from the early post-medieval or medieval periods, as they are not present on any of the mapping data of the area dating back to the 1760s. In addition, two possible boundary walls can be seen, the first is next to one of the structures, on the east side of the data. This feature is thought to be related to the building it is adjacent to, and so is thought to date from the same period, possibly medieval. The second possible boundary wall is located along the north edge of the data plot. This wall is thought to be an earlier boundary wall for the house which it is in front of; as the present house dates to before the 17th century, this feature is also probably post-medieval in date.

Lastly three other features have been identified. The first is a low resistance feature, currently of unknown date and function. The other two features identified are both thought to be modern features related to the two roads adjacent to the survey area. These features are thought to be the concrete backing of the edges of the modern kerb for the roads.

Summary of data

In conclusion, an array of archaeological features has been identified from across all the survey areas. These features date from the prehistoric period onwards, and include modern features such as buried services and parts of modern roadways. Most significantly, there are a number of possible buried structures seen on all the survey data, mostly thought to date from either the medieval or post-medieval periods.

Summary of project to date

During the work undertaken for the project from 2008 to the present, large numbers of substantial stone buildings have been identified, through geophysical survey or excavation, within the present settlement area and its surrounding fields. This suggests that the settlement was originally larger than the present historic centre of the village, although further work is necessary to be able to confirm whether these structures are part of the presumed medieval market town. The work has also identified prehistoric activity

beneath the present settlement, which includes activity from the Mesolithic period (Ashby, 2008, p.15) onwards, and includes large enclosure ditches, possibly showing settlement activity, as well as a possible mini-henge and shaft 4.17m deep (Ashby, 2011, p. 48, 51, 64). Further work is needed within the research area to better understand features already identified through geophysical techniques. Also, work is to be undertaken in as many other areas of the settlement as possible where previously there has been non work or very little archaeological research undertaken.

Aims of 2012 Excavations

During the 2012 project season, three main aspects of further archaeological work will be undertaken. Firstly, geophysical surveys will continue in open areas of land within the village and its surrounding fields, with the aim of producing as comprehensive a map as possible of the buried archaeology of the settlement. Secondly, full excavation will take place in the area of a number of the anomalies identified through the geophysical survey work. This should enable dating and function of important archaeological features from multi-periods to be ascertained, therefore enabling understanding of how the settlement has changed through time and also how to better interpret the geophysical plots in the future. Thirdly and finally, test pitting will be undertaken within the village, mainly in built up or restricted areas where it is not possible to carry out geophysical survey work. This keyhole excavation technique should improve the understanding of these areas within the settlement where other methods of mapping the archaeological data are difficult. The ability to use this technique will show how the settlement and landscape has changed in these areas. It is currently hoped that some of the test pitting work will be undertaken by local community volunteers with the help of trained archaeologists.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations that have helped me during the 2011 project season. Special thanks go to all the land owners in the village who have let me undertake archaeological fieldwork on their land, and also to all the villagers who have been patient with me undertaking the fieldwork on public land. Thanks should also be given to the members and committee of the Stanford in the Vale Local History Society who have helped to get the local community involved in the project and to disseminate information about the project to the local villagers. Lastly, thanks should be given to my colleagues and the staff of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Winchester, as without their help it would not be possible to undertake the project.

Bibliography

- Ashby D (2008); Stanford in the Vale excavation: a site report explaining excavations and field work on a site in Stanford in the Vale in Oxfordshire in 2008. Unpublished report, copy held in Oxfordshire County Records Office, Oxford.
- Ashby D (2011a); The Archaeology of a Field at Priors Farm, Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire: a site report explaining excavations and field work on a site in Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire in 2010. Unpublished report, copy held in Oxfordshire County Records Office, Oxford, and Unpublished Dissertation, held by the Department of Archaeology, University of Winchester, Winchester

THE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE PROJECT

Stephen Miles

Further fieldwork was carried out in 2011 as part of this interdisciplinary historical/archaeological project, including garden test pitting, geophysics, fieldwalking and the investigation of standing buildings. The fieldwork is designed to help reconstruct past landscapes as a basis for investigating how inhabitants understood their environment and constructed their identities over the period c 500-1650. Most of the fieldwork has so far been carried out in Ewelme, a rural parish 4km north-east of Wallingford. This work has uncovered important new evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in outlying parts of the parish and clarified the layout of the well-known but largely demolished medieval manor house of the Chaucers and de la Poles on Ewelme high street (for geophysics at Ewelme Manor see *SMA* 41, p. 61). The following text describes the first phase of a programme of garden test pitting in Ewelme which is designed to elucidate the origins and growth of the village and its relationship with dispersed farmsteads on the higher ground in the south of the parish. The outstanding discovery was a wall forming part of substantial 13th or 14th century building in the garden of Ewelme primary school.

Ewelme test pits (SU 64 91)

Ten test pits were excavated across the village between July and December 2011 (Fig 28). The pits were dug by volunteers, including members of the South Oxfordshire

Archaeological Group, with guidance from staff of Oxford Archaeology (OA) and from Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. Pits measured 1m x 1.5m and were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Excavation was by archaeological context, with topsoil removed in 10cm spits. Records were made on standard OA record sheets, and drawings and matrices were produced for analysis and eventual archival deposit. Pottery identifications were provided by Paul Booth and John Cotter (OA), Lorraine Mephram (Wessex Archaeology), and Maureen Mellor. Detailed interpretation must await the completion of the test pitting, but the initial findings are summarised below.

Late Iron Age/Roman activity in the currently occupied village area is indicated by re-deposited potsherds found in pits at either end of the settlement (Pits 1, 7 and 8). No pit produced more than 8 sherds, and the fragments in Pits 7 and 8 were highly abraded. The fabrics include glauconite-tempered ware (made probably from local Greensand) and grey ware. It is unclear at present how this and other scattered evidence relates to apparently intensive Roman activity just north-west of the village revealed by field survey in 1979-81 (HER, PRNs 12,286, 27437-42).

No certainly identified Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered, and it is not yet known whether there was any settlement within the village area before the late Anglo-Saxon period. There is clear evidence of significant early and mid Anglo-Saxon activity in the parish, but its focus seems to

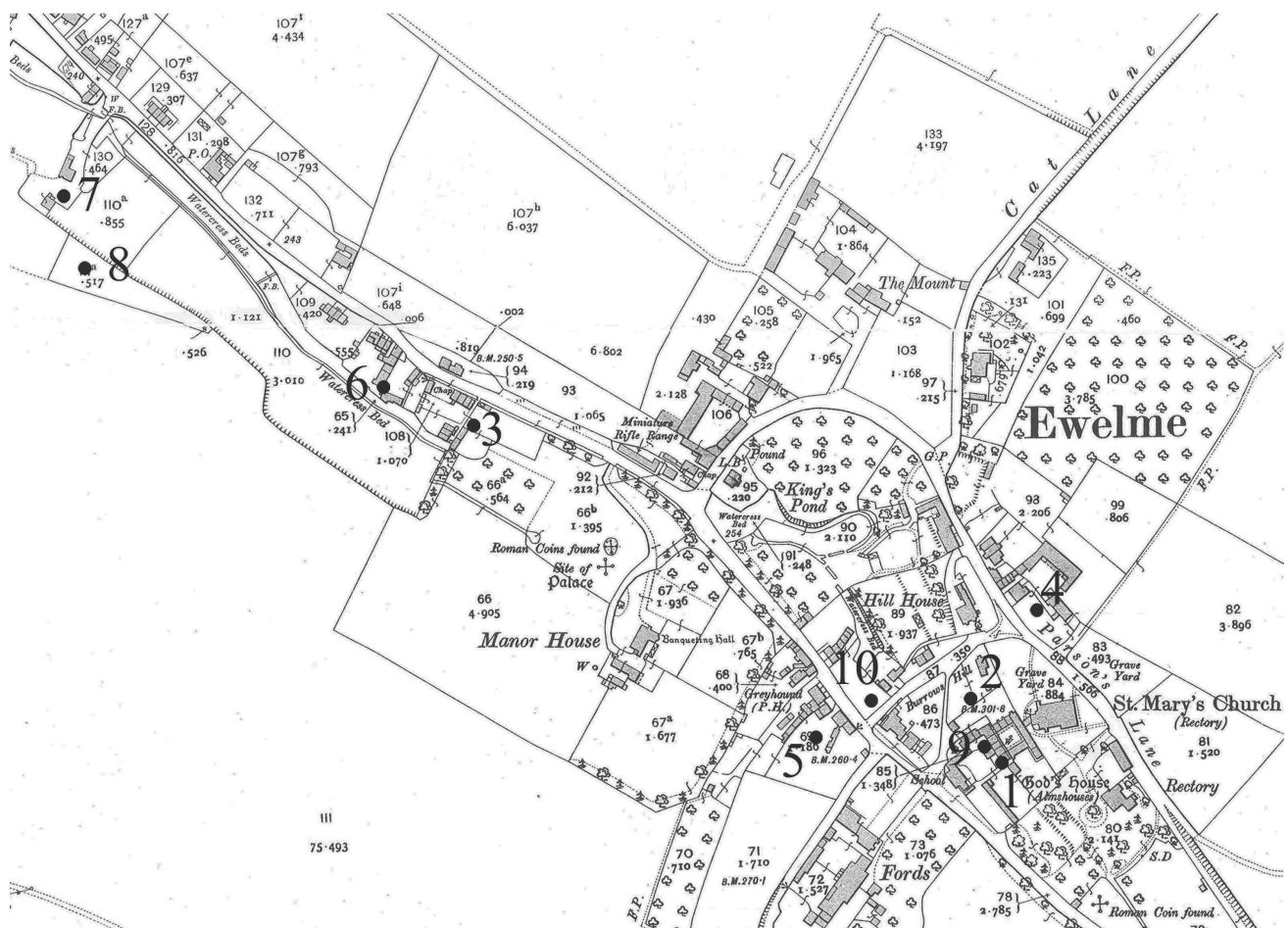


Fig 28. Map showing the locations of test pits 1-10 on the 1912 OS map of Ewelme (Alexander Portch).



Fig 29. Photograph of the medieval wall found in test Pit 9, 40m from the parish church.

have been to the north and north-west of the village. This is in contrast to Benson, an important Anglo-Saxon royal centre 3km west at the confluence of the Ewelme Brook and the Thames, where there is evidence of 6th to 7th century occupation within the modern settlement itself. However, this picture may be altered by subsequent discoveries.

Pits 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 produced around 120 sherds of medieval pottery, most of it probably 12th to 14th century in date. Chalk and flint-tempered and sandy coarse wares predominate. The great majority of these wares were probably locally produced, and only three sherds have been identified as probable Kennet Valley B ware. There was also some green-glazed Brill ware, late medieval glazed white ware and imported late 15th or 16th century Raeren stoneware, the latter presumably brought up the Thames from London. The pits which produced the largest amounts of medieval pottery were at the eastern end of the village: Pit 9 contained sixty-one sherds and Pits 1 and 5 both produced fifteen sherds. But this material was also present further west, where Pits 7 and 8 contained ten and five sherds respectively. At present, the ceramic evidence and standing buildings suggest an elongated and polyfocal medieval settlement, which Domesday shows existed in some form by 1086.

Test Pit 9, at Ewelme primary school, contained a substantial medieval feature which could be part of one of the village's four high-medieval manorial sites. A 0.6m wide flint and mortar wall (context 906) survived to a depth of at least 11 courses under an area of lawn forming one of several terraces on the hillside below the church (Fig 29). The construction cut of the wall (905) was visible on the west side, but could not be detected in the extension to the test pit dug on the east side. A possible 13th century deposit (918) was truncated by the wall cut and therefore predates the wall. This deposit contained pieces of early glazed peg tile and coarseware pottery. The construction cut fill (907) contained a probably later 13th century piece of green-glazed Brill ware, as well as less closely dateable medieval coarsewares. This evidence suggests that the wall was constructed in the late 13th or 14th century. The limited size of the trench means that the length of the wall could not be determined, though geophysical survey by Gerard

Latham indicates the presence of a second wall forming part of the same building running to the south-west.

Additional excavation would be required to determine the earliest occupation of the site, which may well have covered a sizeable area, though the presence of numerous later buildings and differences in ground level restrict the potential for investigation. At any rate, it is clear that the building of which the wall formed a part must have been abandoned before William and Alice de la Pole built the school and adjacent almshouses in the mid-15th century. However, the south-western range of the almshouses follows the alignment of the excavated wall, which may suggest that some remains were still visible when the almshouses were constructed. If this building is part of a medieval manor site, then the complex would have commanded fine views of the valley below, which provided a route up into the hills via Cow Common.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Compiled by Steve Preston, January 2012

Abingdon, Christ Church, North Street (SU 5015 9834)
James Lewis

Seven inter-cutting ditches were found in evaluation trenching, all certainly or probably of medieval date, along with a residual prehistoric struck flint and Roman pottery.

Abingdon, Fieldside, Long Wittenham (SU 5462 9373)
Tim Dawson

One of four linear features recorded in a watching brief contained a single sherd of medieval pottery.

Bletchington, Black Head Inn, Station Road
(SP 5018 1763)
Andrew Mundin

Stone foundations for two structures were recorded in a watching brief. One of these contained a cellar and dates from no earlier than the start of the 18th century and is depicted on 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps. The other structure is also of post-medieval date but may have been demolished and replaced in the 19th century. A few sherds of late medieval or early post-medieval pottery were recovered from post-medieval made ground.

Caversham, Sonning Eye Quarry (SU 7460 7640)
Andrew Weale

Several phases of investigation have so far revealed a small number of archaeological features, of which the most notable is a dense spread of fire-cracked flint considered to be the remains of a burnt mound. Pottery ranging from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman period has been found, along with one Mesolithic flint and several that are probably Bronze Age, and deposits with environmental potential. A radiocarbon dating programme is to be undertaken. Fieldwork is ongoing.

Oxfordshire

Chilton, Chilton Field, Avon Road (SU 8614 8600)
Jo Pine

Excavation has revealed the substantial masonry foundations, cellar and drains of a small Roman villa. Post-excavation analysis is in its early stages. Photographs of the excavation can be seen at <http://www.tvas.co.uk/news.html>

Cholsey, 25 Station Road (SU 5872 8641)
Andrew Munding

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

Didcot, All Saints Church, Lydalls Road (SU 5195 9055)
Andrew Munding

A watching brief is ongoing. Nothing earlier than Victorian has been encountered so far.

Fritwell, 19 East Street (SP 5281 2926)
Andrew Munding, James McNicoll-Norbury

A ditch containing over 50 sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery was recorded in a watching brief.

Garford, Wantage Road (SU 4320 9518)
Andrew Munding

Evaluation trenching revealed two ditches corresponding to known cropmarks. Both contained mixed assemblages of prehistoric pottery. Two trenches found several unsuspected features, probably of Roman date, that had been partially covered by a medieval ploughsoil.

Marcham, Upwood Park, Tubney (SU 4550 9999)
James Lewis

Three gullies, two ditches and one undated cremation burial were uncovered during a recording action. The linear features all appear to be late post-medieval and correspond to features shown on maps. The cremation may be prehistoric; it contained the remains of an infant and an adult, possibly the mother. Six sherds of medieval and nine of Roman pottery were recovered, but all were unstratified.

Marston, Bricklayer's Arms, Butts Lane (SP 5275 0895)
James Lewis

Evaluation trenching revealed a density of archaeological deposits dating to the Medieval period. The ceramic evidence places these mainly between the 12th-14th centuries. They appear to represent boundary features within a settlement. An excavation is under way at the time of writing.

Oxford, 109 Rose Street (SP 5369 0356)
James McNicoll-Norbury

No archaeological deposits or finds were identified in a watching brief.

Oxford, 86 Windmill Hill, Headington (SP 54686 06715)
Andrew Munding

One evaluation trench revealed a number of Victorian or modern cut features and a goat burial. A subsoil deposit contained ten large but abraded sherds of Roman pottery.

Oxford, Beenhams Cottage, Railway Lane, Littlemore (SP 5358 0268)
James Lewis

Evaluation trenching revealed a single undated feature, probably modern.

Wantage, 46 Newbury Street (SP 3978 8752)
Steve Ford

Thirteen evaluation trenches revealed just two small ditches (one with a recut) of likely medieval date. A small collection of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from other trenches.

Woodstock, Young's Garage, Oxford Street (SP 4472 1669)
Andrew Munding, James Lewis

No deposits of archaeological interest were observed in evaluation trenches. A few sherds of medieval and post medieval pottery were recovered from modern made ground.

Reports on all these investigations are available at www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp

Publications

At the time of writing (January 2012), TVAS Monograph 10 (*Archaeological Investigations in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 1995-2010*, edited by Steve Preston) was with the typesetter; publication would be expected before the end of January. This contains chapters on the following:

Medieval and later occupation at 51-53 St Mary's Street by Jo Pine

An early Anglo-Saxon urned cremation burial and an infant grave in a medieval ditch at St John's Primary School by Sian Anthony and Steve Ford

Medieval occupation to the rear of the Old Post Office, Church Lane by Jo Pine and Stephen Hammond

Eleventh-century occupation at the former Lamb Garage site, Castle Street, by Graham Hull, James Lewis, Andrew Munding and Jo Pine

Late Saxon and Medieval backlands at the Harris Garage Site by Steve Ford

Investigations on the line of the Saxon burh defences and the outer line of the Norman Castle defences by Steve Ford and others (includes sites at 33 Croft Road; St George's Road; Cromwell Lodge, Thames Street; Riverside Park; 6A St John's Road; Castle Farm; and 24 Castle Street)

Medieval occupation, possibly including a distillery, to the rear of 17–20 St Mary's Street by Jo Pine and Andrew Weale

As with all TVAS Monographs, this volume is available direct from Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR (or email sales@tvas.co.uk)

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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

The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford - 2011: interim report

Introduction to the Vale and Ridgeway Project

The background to the project and site has been detailed in the previous ten 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* 2010b, Kamash *et al* 2011), as well as on the project web site: and a longer interim (Kamash *et al* 2010a).

As in previous years the excavation acts as a training excavation, and is committed to education in the widest sense. This, our 11th and final season of excavation, saw participants from across the world 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 organisations. Various activities were organized for National Archaeology Day when over 1000 people visited the site.

The 2011 Excavation Season [Figs 30 and 31]

Excavations this season continued in two areas on Trendles Field; the Roman religious complex (MF), and an area of predominantly Iron Age activity (MFP) [Fig 30].

In MF, investigations were focussed on Trench 40 which continued work begun in 2009 and 2010, and Trench 21, originally opened in 2004, with continued investigations in 2006 to 2008 and 2010. The aim of these trenches was to investigate activity in the area towards the end of the drain which runs southwards from the semi-amphitheatre toward the River Ock.

In MFP, investigations in Trenches 3 and 4 continued from the 2010 season, and two new trenches, Trenches 5 and 6 were opened to further investigate the anomalies identified from geophysical survey [Fig 31]. Trench 5 was located to investigate a second curvilinear enclosure similar to that under investigation in Trench 3 and Trench 6 to investigate the extent of the cluster of pits recorded in Trench 4 and a further enclosure suggested by the geophysics.

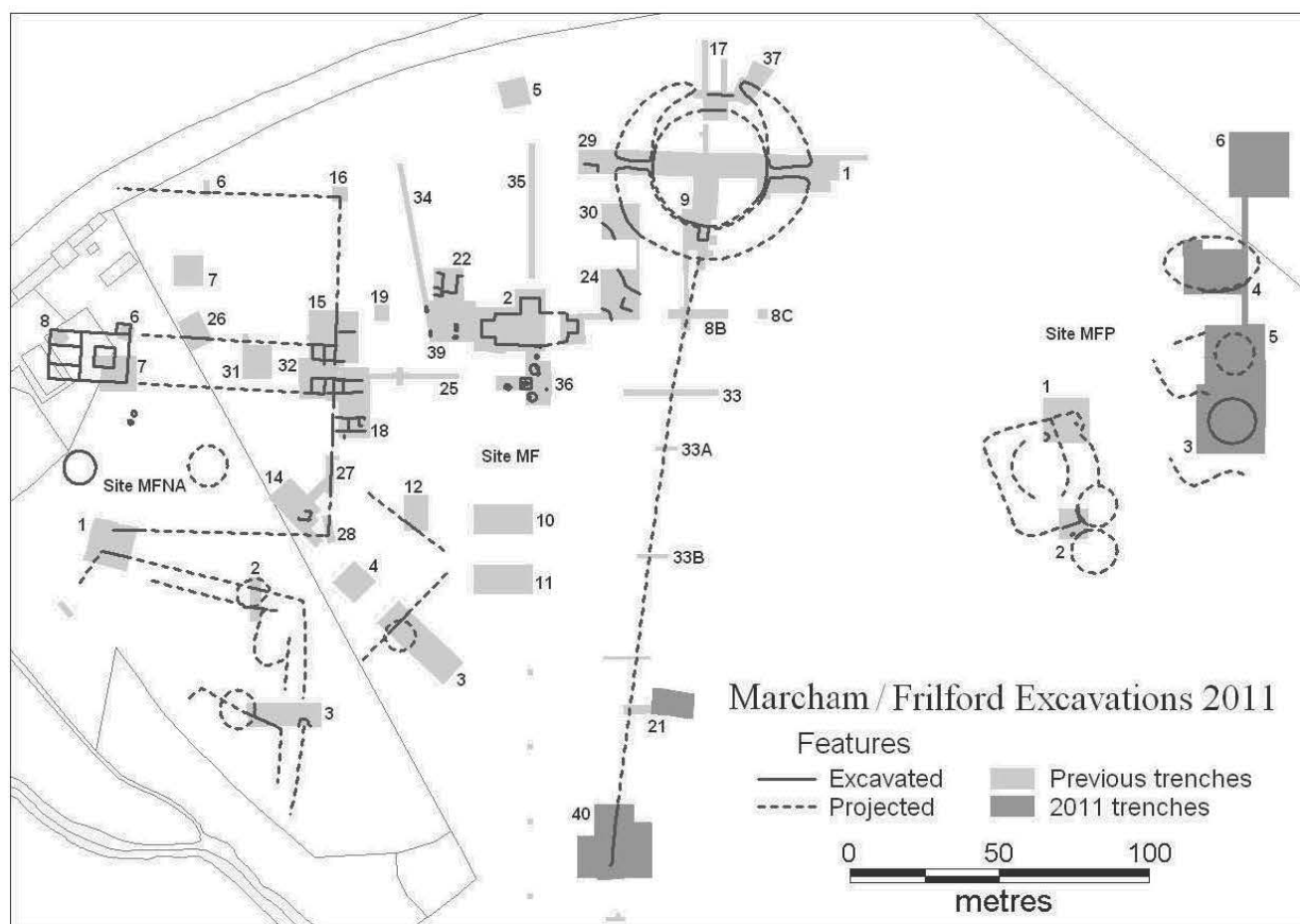


Fig 30. Overall plan of the site showing the excavation areas and the trenches excavated in 2011.

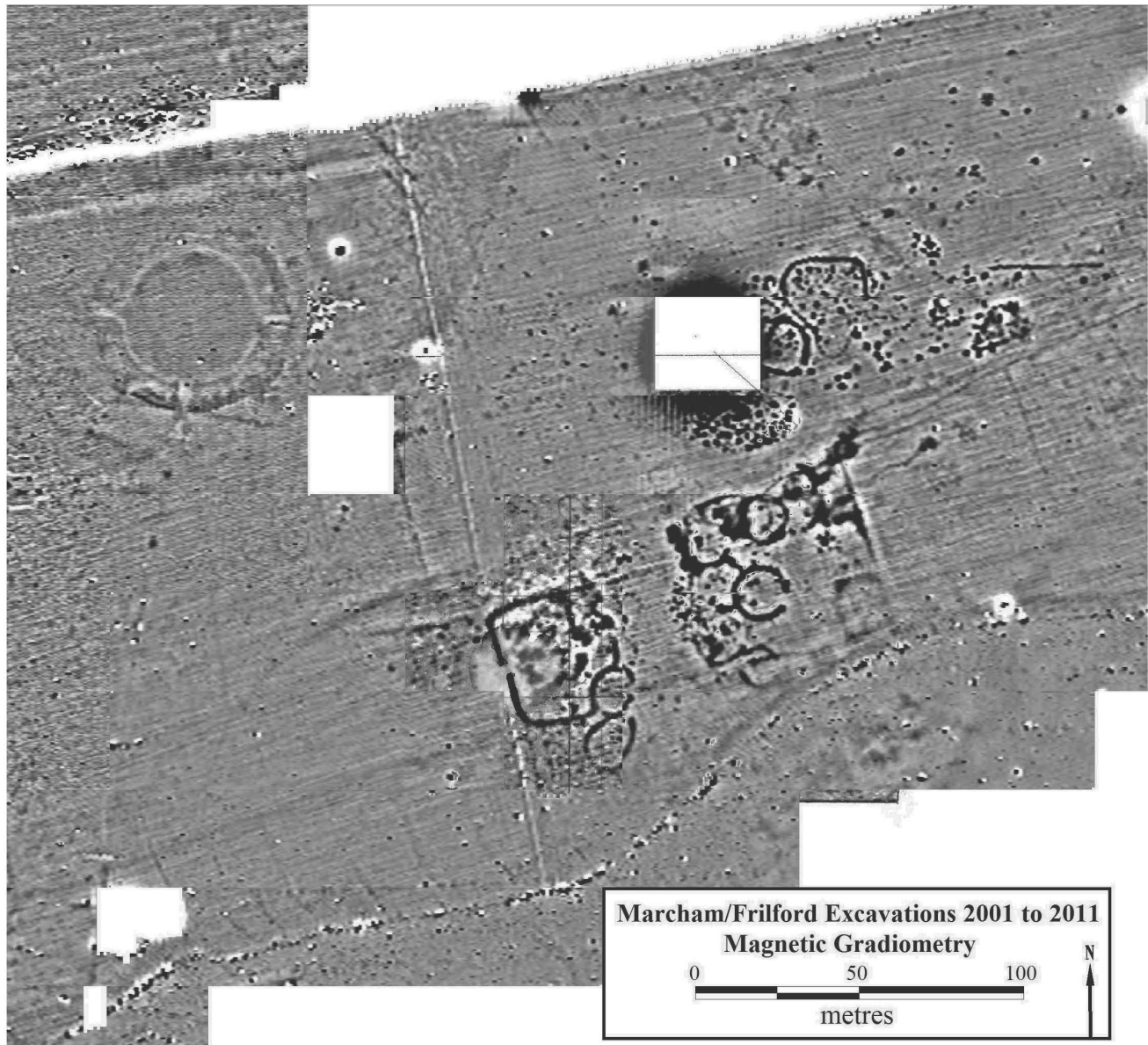


Fig 31. Extract from the geophysical survey of the MF and MFP excavation area.

Excavations in the religious complex (MF11) Trenches 21 and 40

MF11 Trench 21 [Fig 32]

Trench 21 in the south of Trendles Field was originally opened in 2004 to investigate the course of the drain and an east-west palaeochannel of the River Ock. The overlying alluvium in this area does not lend itself to geophysics and the unexpected discovery of archaeological deposits, in particular a large waterlogged pit (or possible well) [21,010], from which a number of exceptional finds have since been recovered, has resulted in periodic investigations since that time.

In 2010 Trench 21 was extended to the north of [21,010] to investigate archaeological features that were possibly associated with the pit. A ring ditch/gully [21,070] and floor surface (21,067) were revealed in the extended part of the trench. Further excavation of pit [21,010] resulted in the recovery of a number of finds including a wooden writing tablet, wicker basket and a second pottery vessel with a hole punched into its side.

In 2011 the northern extension of Trench 21 was extended to the west by a further 5m to investigate whether a ring ditch/gully [21,070] continued in that area and to determine if it was part of a drip gully of a round house. More of floor surface (21,067) was uncovered, as well as a gravel bank (21,090). The ring ditch/gully and floor surface were trowelled down to reveal a worn, cobbled surface (21,109). Pit [21,010] had cut through this surface, and the eastern edge of the cobbles showed signs of possible wheel ruts running southeast-northwest. The cobbles did not appear to continue under the gravel bank but may have been laid over the top. A single posthole [21,113] cut through the surface. The lack of further postholes suggests that [21,070] was not the ring ditch of a round house, but might have served as an enclosure for the large pit [21,010].

To the western corner of the new extension, a linear feature [21,095] was uncovered running southeast-northwest which cut into the gravel bank (21,090). A section through [21,095] revealed a heavily robbed out wall [21,099]. On the east side of this, a beam slot [21,101], running parallel



Fig 32. Plan of MF Trench 21.

with the wall trench, cut into both the floor surface (21,067) and ring ditch/gully [21,070], indicating [21,101] was later. Further work was also carried out on the eastern area of Trench 21 which was extended in 2006/7. This included the area around the Roman stone-capped drain [21,060] which revealed a circular pattern of pitched cobbles [21,103] that were cut by [21,059], the drain cut. This suggests that the cobbled surface was an early feature on the site, at least earlier than the drain.

MF11 Trench 40 [Fig 33]

Excavations continued in Trench 40, first opened in 2009 and incorporating two earlier trial trenches - 33E and 33F. Its main purpose was to investigate the end of the arena

drain which had evaded detection in previous years, and to look for any associated remains.

As anticipated, the end of the drain [40,007] was located. The drain, having run underground within cut [40,008], emerged through the northern bank of the erosion channel and discharged into a small, southwards draining ditch [40,071]. No clear stratigraphic relationships were seen between the ditch cut and drain trench or between their respective fills, and it is presumed that the two were created, functioned and silted up as a single unit.

The structure of the drain was comparable to that seen elsewhere on the site, comprising two rough dry-stone walls spanned by large undressed capstones. There was no elaboration at the drain terminal, and no evidence for associated structures of any significance. A probable path surface (40,066), comprising a thin, cambered strip of weathered limestone pieces, ran along the eastern side of [40,071]. A similar deposit recorded in Trench 33 [33,052] in 2006, was probably part of the same feature.

The path surface, the fills of ditch [40,071], and the southernmost part of the arena drain were all sealed by the upper fills of the erosion channel group [40,058] which comprised dark sandy silt deposits with extensive iron mottling and an abundance of late Roman detritus including large quantities of pottery and animal bone, 4th century coins, and a smaller number of other finds. Our initial thoughts that this material had washed down through the drain no longer seem reasonable due to the overall quantity and the size of individual pieces. It now seems much more likely that this material was deposited here, probably in a wet/boggy area that the drain fed into.

To the east of the drain and ditch, other features were sealed beneath the upper channel fills. Towards the north of the trench a small number of charcoal-rich patches (40,140), (40,142) and (40,143), some set within small scoops,

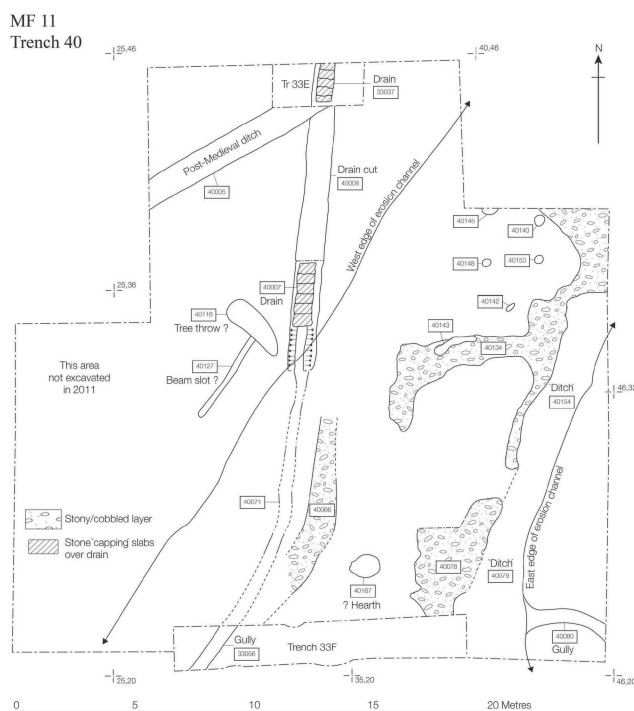


Fig 33. Plan of MF Trench 40.

Oxfordshire

[40,148] and [40,150] were identified. In the same area was an enigmatic cluster of limestone pieces and very large re-fitting sherds of grog tempered Roman pot (40,145) set within a slightly charcoally matrix and in the south of the trench a possible hearth base consisting of a densely packed cluster of heavily burnt limestone pieces [40,167]. This may be the source of context (40158), a widespread but discontinuous lens of grey ashy material and re-deposited clumps of burnt soil lying beneath (40,004).

Also beneath the upper channel fill was a branching and sinuous spread of redeposited limestone (40,078) and gravel (40,134) beneath which were two postholes [40,164] and [40,173], a small pit or butt-end [40,168], containing a blade core, and a single course of rough limestone blocks, possibly the footings of a wall [40,175]. A deep sondage through the gap between (40,134) and (40,178) showed both to be underlain by the lower channel fills (40,166) and (40,184), from which several worked flints were recovered. The edge of (40,134) ran parallel to the eastern edge of the erosion channel, so that the two edges appeared to define a ditch [40,154], assumed to be a continuation of possible ditch [40,079] investigated in 2010. However, neither [40,079] nor [40,154] had a clear and convincing ditch profile when sectioned, and their western edges have proved particularly hard to define.

To the west of the arena drain, and outside of the erosion channel, two poorly dated features were identified - one a probable tree throw [40,116], which produced one flint blade and a few pieces of debitage, the other an ephemeral linear depression [40,127] most plausibly interpreted as a beam slot. The date and function of [40,127] is unknown, and was not associated with any other structural features.

Excavations in the Iron Age enclosures (MFP11)

Trenches 3-6

MFP10 Trench 3 [Fig 34]

Trench 3 was opened in 2010 to elucidate the function of a large curvilinear ditch group [3011] identified by geophysics, and its relationship to the surrounding enclosures. Several interventions were made across the ditch which produced a large amount of metalwork from the upper fills and revealed a marked contrast between finds in the north and those in the south. Although too large for a domestic structure no function could be established. The pits excavated inside the feature contained one or two fills and were without artefacts.

In 2011, the focus was placed on completing the unfinished ditch sections and investigating the features identified outside the ditch including several pits to the north, a series of pits and gullies in the south-west corner, and a second ditch in the north-west corner. The southern ditch terminus was fully excavated revealing it to be square-shaped, with a clear area of burning and producing a number of finds including large deposits of bone and a copper ring from the fills.

Three pits were excavated in the north of Trench 3 [3019], [3017] and [3217]. Pit [3019] was 0.80m in diameter and 0.45m deep and undercut, with a broken quern stone as the

uppermost fill and an amount of green clay possibly associated with pottery production from the lower layers. Pit [3017] was unusual in that it was rectangular, 60cm by 40cm and 1m deep, with a 'ledge' on the eastern side. It was severely undercut on the northern side, possibly due to erosion. The top layers produced evidence for metal working with the discovery of two crucibles (one of which retained a separate yellowish fill), while the lower layers produced burnt stone, an unfired loom weight and a large amount of green clay. Pit [3217] was 1.2m in diameter and 75cm deep and was also undercut. The top layers produced a very dark, organic fill with stones arranged in a circular pattern suggestive of a hearth. Both [3017] and [3217] produced large amounts of iron slag.

Interventions in the south-west showed that the intercutting pits and gullies were shallow, contemporaneous features with few finds. The largest and deepest of these, ditch [3047], was 1.05m wide and 0.25m deep from which a large amount of animal bone and a human femur were recovered. Pit [3285] was undercut with two shallow gullies cut into it in the south [3287] and north [3313]. It contained two very dark fills and the base was lined with a red ceramic material (3318) identified as a collapsed pot. This covered all sides of the pit suggesting it had been purposely placed there. It is possible that this was a furnace or kiln with the surrounding features playing some function in relation to this, although there was no evidence of extensive burning or slag.

In the north-west, the area identified as a ditch in 2010 was revealed to be a complex group of inter-cutting features and layers, group [3233]. It was not fully excavated but appeared to be similar to the large inter-cutting features identified in Trench 5.

Most of the major features in Trench 3 cut through a reddish-yellow layer (3035). This is not a natural layer, and it was often difficult to clearly identify the edge of some

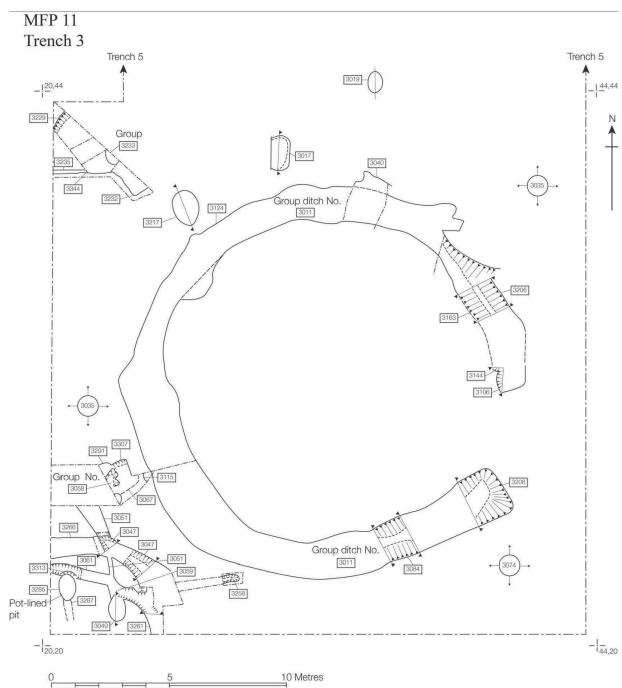


Fig 34. Plan of MFP Trench 3.

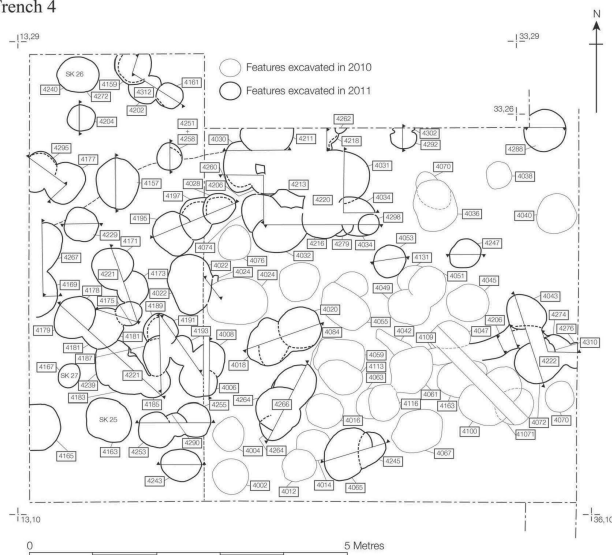
MFP 11
Trench 4

Fig 35. Plan of MFP Trench 4.

features. In several areas it also overlay a possible alluvial wash (3301). A 1m wide slot was placed in the centre of the trench in order to investigate this further which showed it to be the uppermost layer of a series of alluvial deposits similar to those identified in Trench 2 in 2008-2010.

MFP11 Trench 4 [Fig 35]

Trench 4 was opened in 2010 over an extensive cluster of discrete and intercutting pits visible on the geophysics (circled in Fig 30). In 2010 approximately 40 of the pits were excavated or half-sectioned. In 2011 the trench was extended 7m to the west and in that extension by an extra 3m to the north. The northern extension confirmed that the pit clusters continued into an area obscured on the geophysics by interference from an electricity pylon. While the cluster clearly extended west beyond the confines of the trench, the density of pits diminished rapidly towards the south, suggesting that despite the lack of any remaining traces, some sort of boundary might once have existed.

In 2011 a further 60 pits were investigated including complex groups [4220] in the north and [4221] in the west, both comprising twelve intercutting pits, as well as the remaining pits in cluster [4222]/[4042], cut by a later narrow curvilinear gully [4206]. As found in 2010, all of the pits were heavily truncated with some surviving only to a depth of 0.1-0.2m. Despite this truncation a few remained to over 0.5m in depth, for example intercutting pits [4065] and [4245]. The trench also contained several near-linear pit arrangements, always of three intercutting pits, for example group [4266], pairs of pits, and discrete pits. Although this suggests some deliberate patterning it is also possible that further pits were cut at a level now lost through erosion.

Quantities of well-preserved Iron Age pottery and animal bone, occasionally articulated, were recovered, along with two further burials: SK25 in [4163], a circular pit 2m in diameter in the south of the extension, and SK26 in pit [4240] 13m to the north. The former, a young adult, was well-preserved and had been placed on the bedrock. The skeleton was semi-prone with one arm outstretched. The

more damaged skeleton [SK26] in the north was that of a child which had been placed in a tightly crouched position in a slightly smaller circular pit, again directly onto bedrock. The fragmentary remains of an infant burial [SK27] were also discovered in the bottom, of a surviving scoop of small circular pit [4167], just to the north-west of SK 25. Finds of disarticulated human bone down-slope in Trench 3 suggests that more of the pits may once have contained burials.

MF11 Trench 5 [Fig 36]

Trench 5 was opened in 2011 to link Trench 3 and 4 in the east of the site. The purpose of this trench was to investigate a further large enclosure similar to that under investigation in Trench 3, and to also investigate the variable geology of the site which appears to have had a strong effect on the nature of the surviving archaeology.

In 2011 a 20.5m x 20.5m trench was opened across the ring ditch of the large enclosure. The enclosure, which was approximately 16m in diameter, appeared irregular in plan, and excavation showed that this resulted from it being constructed of paired ditches and the intercutting of the ditches. A further sinuous ditch [5040] cut centrally though the interior of the enclosure from the south-west, before turning northwards mid-way along its course, where it appears to continue as a pair of shallow ditches [5175] and [5177].

Several interventions were made across the enclosure. Ditch group [5029] and gully group [5069] in the south of the enclosure revealed a series of features. The largest of these [5249] cut both [5158], a shallow 40cm deep ditch, and

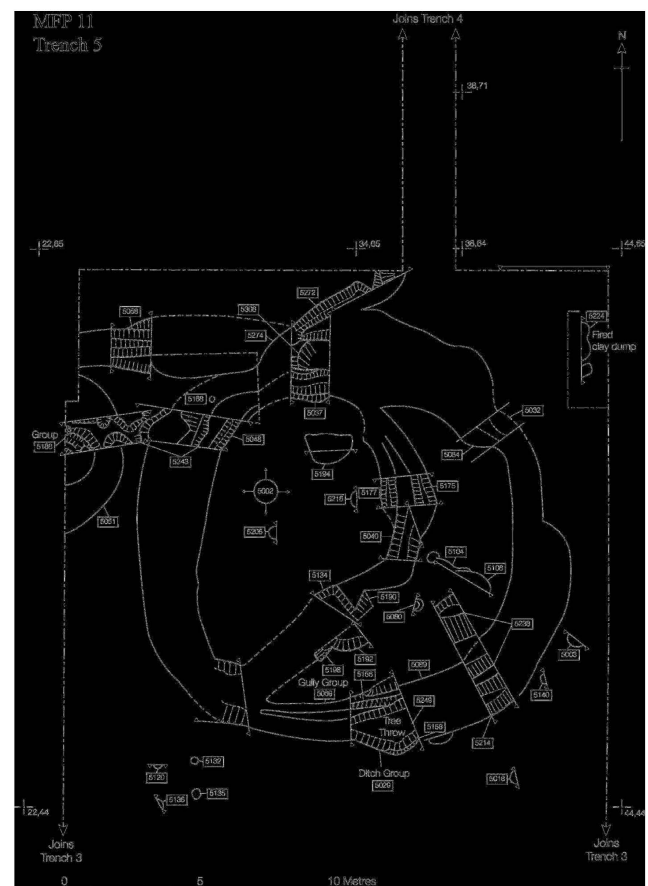


Fig 36. Plan of MFP Trench 5.

Oxfordshire

[5156] a narrow 20cm deep gully, and was interpreted as a possible tree throw. To the east of these, the enclosure ditch was made up of two ditches; outer ditch [5214] which was 1.6m wide by 1.2m deep and filled by a dark silty deposit [5241] from which a large amounts of burnt animal bone and charcoal was recovered, and inner ditch [5238] which had steeply sloping sides and was approximately 1m deep.

Further to the north-east the enclosure comprised two circuits with the earlier ditch [5084] later cut by outer ditch [5032].

The enclosure continued as a series of shallow ditches and gullies in the north [5037], [5308], [5272] comprising an inner ditch [5308] which was 0.7m wide and 0.45m deep and cut down to natural. This appears to have cut a curvilinear ditch [5037] with shallow sloping sides and flat base, 28cm deep. A V-shaped ditch [5272] 0.55m deep extended northwards from the outer enclosure ditch cutting through bedrock.

Four shallow pits between 0.25-0.6m deep were investigated within the enclosure [5104] which was cut by a further pit [5108], [5192] which was cut by ditches [5190], [5198] and [5134], and pit [5194]. Pit [5194] in the north of the enclosure was rectangular 1.3m long x 0.8m wide with a

flat base. A collection of deliberately placed boulders was found in the secondary fill.

Outside the enclosure in the north-west of the trench a series of what appeared to be small, possibly intercutting ditches were investigated, group [5188]. This showed that while some of the features might have been deliberately cut, the entire area had the appearance of a natural but heavily eroded surface probably formed through water puddling and erosion, and rapidly overlain with a deposit of clay (5091) 20-60cm thick.

In the north-east of the trench a fill from an irregular-shaped pit [5224] contained a loom weight and numerous finds of fired clay.

A number of postholes 30-50cm in diameter were also investigated within and outside the enclosure. Some were found to be shallow, probably truncated features, for example [5216] at only 7cm deep, others such as [5205] were more substantial at 22cm deep. Four postholes in the south-west corner of the trench, [5120], [5132], [5135], [5136], appear to form a square of approximately 1m although it was not possible to determine their function.

MF11 Trench 6 [Fig 37]

The Iron Age pits recorded in Trench 4 were found to continue northwards into Trench 6 at the top of the slope, where they had been heavily truncated; the trench having an average depth of 0.3m to bedrock. The pits ranged in size from 1.75m x 1.75m, with a depth of 0.75m, to 0.75 x 0.8m with a depth of 0.07m. The majority were isolated events, occasionally clustered. From pit [6005] a single cockspur was recovered.

Pit [6027], measuring approximately 1.8m x 2m, and 0.35m deep, located in the south-east corner of the trench, contained an Iron Age crouched inhumation (SK24). [6027] was partially cut by ditch group [6184], and a series of large stones cut from the bedrock had been placed along the edge of the pit, probably to redefine it. The ditch narrowed at this point, presumably to skirt around the edge of the pit whilst maintaining the diameter of its own circular enclosure, estimated at around 10m. This ditch was also Iron Age.

A larger Iron Age ditched D-shaped enclosure [6186], was found in the south side of the trench. This was re-cut once by [6187], either to widen or redefine it, which created a double-ditch profile along most of its length. The ditch also cut through a number of pits, suggesting that the location of any pits within the enclosed space may be coincidental.

A third enclosure [6185], is believed to pre-date [6184] and post-date [6186/7], as it is cut by the former but appears to avoid the latter by virtue of a straight length and sharp turn. Only two pits were found to cut any of these ditches, all others being either cut by, or of no stratigraphic relation to them. All ditch interventions contained Iron Age finds.

A general spread (6099), containing a very small number of Roman finds filled a natural hollow over ditch intervention

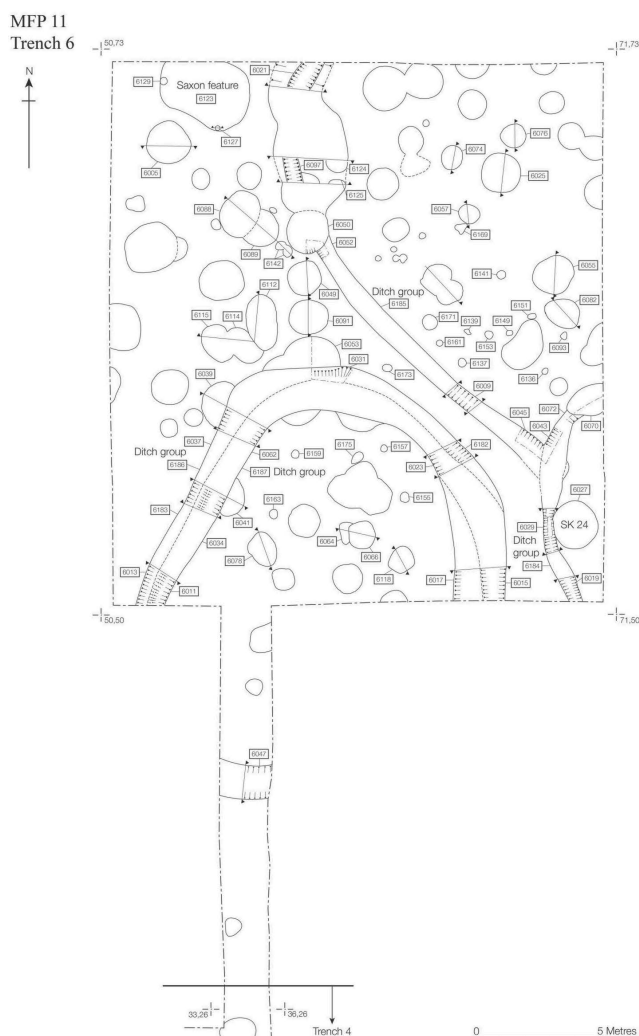


Fig 37. Plan of MFP Trench 6.

[6097] and pits [6124] and [6125]. It was a maximum of 0.05m thick and had no discernible cut.

Close to spread (6099), in the north-west corner of the trench, a pit [6123] measuring 2.5m x 3.8m, with a depth of 0.22m was filled with mixed burnt material. Cut into the base of the pit on the west side, was a posthole of indeterminate purpose [6129], with a diameter of 0.3m and depth of 0.51m. An ephemeral posthole was also identified on the south side [6127].

Finds within pit [6123] included Anglo-Saxon potsherds, two spindle whorls adapted from the bases of Roman ceramic vessels, an early Saxon bone comb, and a number of Roman coins, one of which was pierced, all of which suggest that this is a Saxon feature. It is also possible that the Roman finds discovered within spread (6099) were also deposited at this time. Environmental sampling within pit [6123] returned a number of eel and frog bones, and fragments of egg shell. It seems likely that [6123] was used for deposition of general re-deposited waste material, although its original purpose is uncertain.

In addition to [6127] and [6129], eighteen further postholes were excavated, including one double posthole filled with animal bone. Six other potential postholes were un-excavated. They formed no discernible pattern. All postholes contained small fragments of pottery and posthole [6153] contained a complete cow skull.

Conclusions

The eleven seasons of excavation at Marcham/Frilford have produced a massive amount of evidence as well as stimulating various intellectual questions regarding the Iron Age and Romano-British periods in central England. The practicalities of the post-excavation work are well underway and there are plans in place to bring this to a conclusion within the next few years. Our current thinking regarding the interpretation of the site has been outlined in (Kamash *et al* 2010a) although, as is often the case, this may change as we work our way through the material. The size and complexity of the site and its material remains offer a unique opportunity within central England to study an Iron Age site with evidence for extensive ritual structures and practice which were then replaced by a rural Romano-British temple complex including an unusual type of 'amphitheatre' and a range of other religious/ritual structures. The unusual character of the various Iron Age enclosures which appear not to be domestic, the ring-ditches to the east and the large barrel-shaped enclosure to the west, seem to act as important markers to be later replaced by an equally unusual Romano-British site. This inevitably raises questions of changing social relationships between the indigenous population and incoming new ideas and social norms within a religious/ritual context and the role that material culture played within those relationships. It is an opportunity to rethink what we mean by religion and ritual, especially within the Iron Age, and indeed whether they are valid terms at all.

The intention is to publish the final reports as monographs in the Oxford University School of Archaeology Monograph Series.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Will and Janey Cumber for endless and varied support and to John Gibbs for daily on-site support. Any project of this size 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 by Mike Athanson and Alison Wilkins. The geophysical surveys were carried out by William Wintle, Oxford University and Tony Johnson of Oxford ArcheoTechnics. Educational activities were organised by Megan Price.

References

- Kamash Z, Gosden C and Lock G 2010a; Continuity and Religious Practices in Roman Britain: the case of the rural religious complex at Marcham/Frilford, Oxfordshire. *Britannia* 41, 95-125.
- Kamash Z, Gosden C and Lock G (with contributions by Elizabeth Brophy, Roger Glyde, Jane Harrison, Janice Kinory, Paula Levick, Sheila Raven, Jane Smallridge, Dan Stansbie, Matthew Symonds and Peter Warry) 2010b; The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2009: interim report, *SMA* 40, 44-53.
- Kamash Z, Gosden C and Lock G (with contributions by J Harrison, P Levick, J Smallridge and S Raven) 2009; The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2008: interim report. *SMA* 39, 45-55.
- Kamash Z, Gosden C and Lock G (with contributions by J Harrison, P Levick, J Smallridge and S Raven) 2008; The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2007: interim report. *SMA* 38, 68-76.
- Kamash Z, Gosden C and Lock G (with contributions by P Daly, J Harrison, P Levick, H Lewis, J Majewski and S Raven) 2007; The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavation at Marcham/Frilford 2006: interim report. *SMA* 37, 61-64.
- Lock G and Gosden C (with P Daly, D Bukach, Z Kamash, P Levick, J Majewski, S Raven, L Bendall, J Harrison, H Lewis, E Otiende, V Iminjili and S Yeates) 2006; The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2005: interim report. *SMA* 36, 55-71.
- Gosden C and Lock G (with R Bailey, D Bukach, H Fluck, J. Harrison, Z Kamash, M Langford, P Levick, H Lewis, J Majewski, S Raven, J Smallridge, P Warry, C Wheeler and S Yates) 2005; The Vale and Ridgeway Project: excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2004. *SMA* 35, 94-105.
- Lock G and Gosden C (with D Bukach, P Daly, D Griffiths, P Levick, J Majewski, S Raven, P Warry, C Wheeler and S Yeates) 2004; The Ridgeway and Vale Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2003 – interim report. *SMA* 34, 84-94.
- Lock G, Gosden C, Griffiths D and Daly P 2003; Hillforts of the Ridgeway Project: excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2002. *SMA* 33, 84-91.
- Lock G, Gosden C, Griffiths D, Daly P, Trifkovic V and Marston T 2002; Hillforts of the Ridgeway Project: excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2001. *SMA* 32, 69-83.

**WALLINGFORD BURH TO BOROUGH
RESEARCH PROJECT & THE
WALLINGFORD HISTORICAL AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**

**Civil War Bastion at the Barbican at Wallingford
Castle, South Oxfordshire (SU 60870 89792)**

Dr Neil Christie (Wallingford Burh to Borough Research
Project)

As a continuation of the Wallingford Burh to Borough Research Project (2008-10) - some of whose results have been reported in this journal and elsewhere (see Bibliography) - a trench (Project Trench 10) in the summer of 2011 sampled the upper levels of the prominent earthwork on the north-west corner of the Wallingford castle site, a space tentatively associated with the Barbican or fortified formal entrance into the core castle grounds from the North Gate. The extensive geophysical survey undertaken here (Christie, Edgeworth *et al* 2010), combined with targeted ground-penetrating radar assessment, indicated sizeable masonry survival at depth at the lip of the 'barbican' earthwork, and at least one potential built structure in its southern sector, and Trench 10 was designed to explore part of the defensive component here and part of the built unit. A trench of 20m x 15m was planned, but was reduced on its northern and eastern flanks once it was recognised that proximity to the slopes on each side would weaken the stability of the exposed trench edges. This meant that the trench was not able to trace

directly the presumed masonry work, which can be assumed to be medieval.

The trench was opened by mechanical digger and supervised slot cuttings were made down to recognisable archaeology in the northern half of the trench; much shallower clearance was required in the southern half coming down to rubble deposits and a remnant built structure. The north-east section of the latter was exposed, but without clear traces of internal surfaces. Its walls were of slight construction with minimal mortar bonding, and with fair quality chalk stone used only on the eastern external face; the assumption is that most material here was reused. The walls overlay degraded rubble and mortar spreads. A more consistent and large rubble spread was traced in the south-west of the trench. These spreads relate to a phase of demolition and levelling, with subsequent imported soil cover; these mid brown sandy silt deposits were noticeably mixed in their ceramic content, with finds ranging from 11th through to 15th century date; potentially the redeposited material came from clearance of the inner bailey ditch.

In the northern half of the trench a quite diverse archaeology emerged, one signifying dramatic remodelling of the site. Two main deposit types were identified in the various north-south excavation slots, generally running as alternate angled bands laid from south to north: orange brown sandy gravel bands set over or overlain by firm, green-grey or brown-grey marl deposits; some mixed deposits were also evident where the transitions between marl and sand-gravel were less secure (see fig 38). The thicknesses of all these



Fig 38. View of north-east corner of 'Barbican' trench, showing the angled bands of alternate marl and sand-gravel running up to and over the remnant of the burh rampart.

deposits varied - from substantial sand-gravel fills over 1m deep to thinner angled deposits of 20-30cm. These denote careful episodes of alternate laying of deposits (probably by different work gangs), angled to run up to the north end of the 'barbican' prominence. Minimal finds came from these deposits, indicating rapid construction.

Unexpectedly, excavation at the north-east corner of the trench in fact uncovered the angled (sloping southwards) remnants of a rampart formed of dark reddish brown silt, comparable to the build of the late Saxon rampart excavated by Brooks and in Trench 7 of our project. Only 1.2m length and 0.6m depth of this construction was revealed since the trench depth at this corner and the relative weakness of the trench edges made it dangerous to continue without shoring. Our interpretation is that this marks part of the line of the late Saxon and medieval defences and that this was still a prominent feature, presumably fronted by a stone wall from the Norman period. The sand-gravel and marl deposits were thus designed to run up to the back of this wall in a systematic process of reinforcement and raising of the ground level behind. The rubble spreads and soil deposits in the south half of the trench then denote a rearward stabilising of the ground. The noted built structure overlies this levelling work but its date and function are not secure; certainly, however, it was not a unit of any quality or durability.

Problematic was the absence of a clear surface to the raised levels on the 'barbican', although the north section of the trench did retain a horizontal, 0.06-0.08m thick silty marl layer set beneath a rubble and brick band directly beneath topsoil. Conceivably this could mark part of a platform surface, potential fragmentary traces of which also existed on the baulks between slots. A few clay pipe fragments and occasional post-medieval pot and some bone were recovered from this; otherwise it was striking that such late material was rare.

The interpretation proposed is that Trench 10 has revealed a substantial re-working of the presumed barbican space, with a massive importation of materials to elevate and reinforce a defensive position. The sand gravel and marl deposits in fact match those found in our 2008 Trench 1 excavation of a Civil War bastion to the north of Trench 10 in the Castle Meadows, but here the construction work was carried out on a much bigger scale, with many metric tons of imported materials. Trench 1 was more securely dated by the high number of clay pipes from the top of the platform, which was well preserved (see the detailed geological analysis of the materials in Wilkinson *et al* 2009). The absence of such material and surface at Trench 10 may be explained by a deliberate slighting and clearance of the bastion, pulling down the remnant facing stone wall and dragging down the top skin and flanks of the imported platform and materials. One must stress the very elevated setting of this site - potentially substantially raised for the Civil War conflict, since this position will have been ideal to observe and defend with vigour the North Gate and to protect the main entry point into the reconditioned castle (Note this contemporary reference to the 1643 defensive dispositions: 'They have made very strong workes about the castle, and a double drawbridge at the entrance to the castle and two drakes [guns] planted there upon one carriage'). If

correct, we have here a notable archaeological guide to the major works undertaken by the garrison and other labour to refortify Wallingford castle; it is in its own right an invaluable component of Wallingford's archaeology and has much wider, national significance. However, at the same time, we need to recognise that this Civil War reworking and the post-Civil War slighting of this have masked the medieval deposits to some considerable depth.

Bibliography

N Christie, M Edgeworth, O Creighton, H Hamerow and with A Hyam and G Speed 2008; 'Wallingford: charting early medieval and medieval expansion and contraction', *Medieval Settlement Research* 23, 2008 (2009), 53-57.

N Christie, M Edgeworth, D O'Sullivan, J Taylor, A Hyam, G Speed, O Creighton, M Fradley and H Hamerow 2009; 'The Wallingford Burh to Borough Research Project: 2008 interim report', *SMA*, 39, 2009, 63-66. (ISSN: 0960-7552)

N Christie, M Edgeworth *et al* 2010; 'Mapping Wallingford castle' (section in Medieval Britain and Ireland, 2009), *Medieval Archaeology*, 54, 2010, 416-420.

N Christie, O Creighton, M Edgeworth and M Fradley 2010; 'Have you found anything interesting?' Exploring early medieval and medieval urbanism at Wallingford: sources, routes and questions', *Oxoniensia*, lxxv, 2010, 35-47.

N Christie, O Creighton, M Edgeworth and H Hamerow in prep. Townscapes in Transformation. *The Archaeology of Wallingford, AD 800-1300* (Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph).

I P Wilkinson, A Tasker, A Gouldwell, M Williams, M Edgeworth, J Zalasiewicz and N Christie 2010; 'Micropalaeontology reveals the source of building materials for a defensive earthwork (English Civil War?) at Wallingford Castle, Oxfordshire', *Journal of Micropalaeontology*, 29, 2010, 87-92.

Project website:

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/research/projects/wallingford>

WILLIAM WINTLE, ALISON MACDONALD AND JOHN HAWES

Geophysical Survey in Marcham, 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* 2010; 2011). 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; 2011). This report describes the results obtained from a recent geophysical and fieldwalking survey in Marcham.

The Site

The field surveyed is located to the north of Marcham village on the sandstones and limestones of the Corallian ridge. The solid geology of the southern part of the field is limestone and the northern part sandstone. This area lies within the aerial survey mapping of the Thames Valley Mapping Programme and in the south-eastern part of the field cropmarks have been mapped which appear to represent an enclosure with a trackway leading to the north-east. A fieldwalking survey by Richard Hingley in the

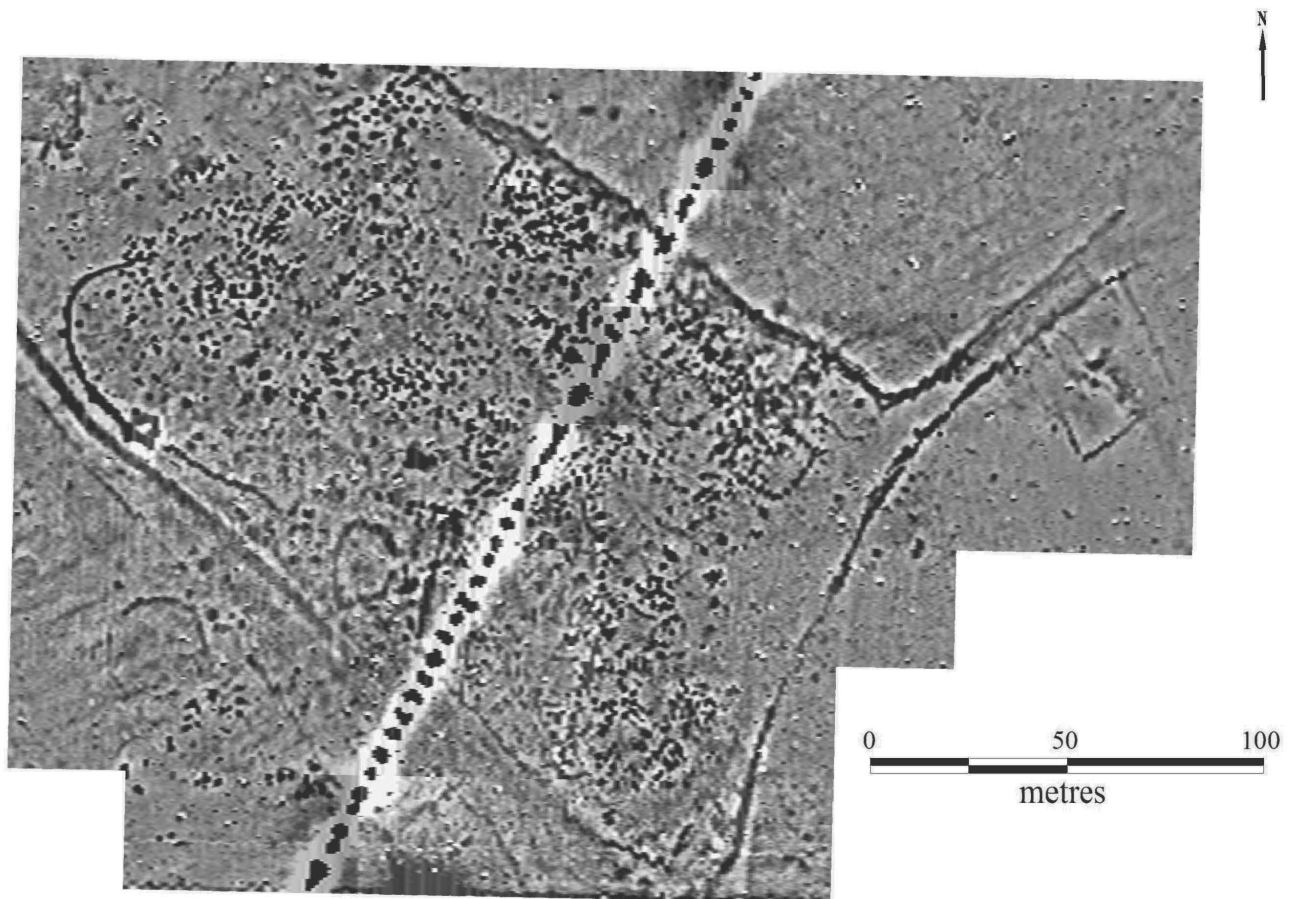


Fig 39. The Geophysical Survey.

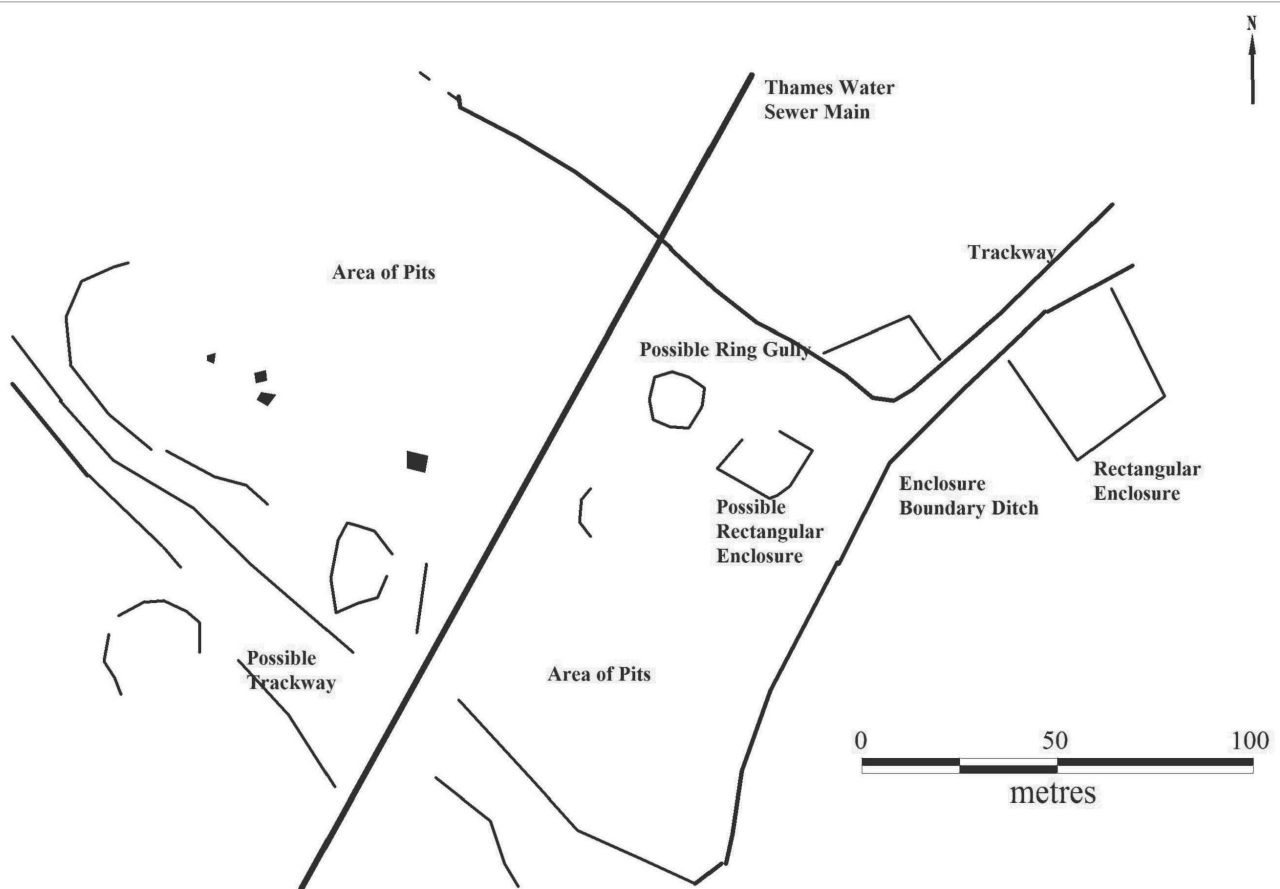


Fig 40. The Geophysical Survey Interpretation.

early 1980s detected Iron Age pottery over the area of the cropmarks. Moreover, some Roman pottery and small quantities of tile were present as a discrete scatter in the south-east of the site.

The area selected for fieldwalking and geophysical survey was a three hundred metre square in the south-east of the field containing most of the cropmarks and which is most likely to provide evidence of Iron Age and/or Romano-British settlement and activity.

The Geophysical Survey

The geophysical survey as illustrated in Fig 39 has confirmed the main elements of the aerial photographic evidence and the archaeological interpretation is illustrated in Fig 40. Running through the survey from south-west to north-east as a strong magnetic anomaly is a Thames Water sewer main.

The continuous black lines in Figs 39 and 40 represent positive magnetic anomalies usually interpreted archaeologically as ditches. It is not clear from either the geophysical survey or aerial survey mapping whether the ditches form a complete enclosure as the north-west may be open. The most well defined ditches are the eastern and northern. In contrast, the southern ditch is poorly defined except in the extreme west. Within these enclosure ditches there are well defined areas of magnetic anomalies which contrast with much quieter areas outside the enclosure. These anomalies are almost certainly due to human activity. Many of these anomalies are likely to be pits, but some appear slightly more substantial and range in size from two metres by three metres to three metres by four metres. Although these may be Anglo-Saxon grubenhauser they are more probably of Iron Age or Roman-British date.

In the north-east a trackway leads out of the enclosure and the trackway ditches appear to end quite abruptly. To the south-east of this trackway is a well defined rectangular enclosure measuring about 30m by 25m. Within the main enclosure is a small, rectilinear enclosure approximately 18m square. To its north-west is a circular gully of 13m diameter. It is possible this is a roundhouse gully. Other partial arcs are also present but it is not possible to state whether these may also represent roundhouses.

The Fieldwalking Survey

Systematic fieldwalking was undertaken on Saturday and Sunday 5th/6th March 2011. The field had previously been ploughed and harrowed which provided 100% ground cover visibility. However, as this cultivation had only recently been done there had been little weathering to allow the pottery and other artefacts to separate from the soil. On the Saturday the fieldwalking team consisted of the authors plus ten students enrolled on the OUDCE MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology course. The weather was overcast with brief sunny intervals. On Sunday one author continued the survey when the weather was overcast in the morning but sunny in the afternoon. On both days all artefactual material was collected.

A 200m base line was laid out near the southern boundary of the field which was then marked at ten metre intervals. From each 10m mark on this base line six 20m stints were defined running northwards to define 126 fieldwalking stints. All archaeological material within 1m each side of the walker was collected and bagged every 20m. This methodology provided a 20% sample over the walked area.

Subsequently, during the geophysical survey, pottery was collected without recording its position beyond knowing it was in the survey area. By this time the soil surface had become more weathered and artefact visibility had improved and only material believed to be Roman or earlier was collected.

Saturday 5th March.

The Roman pottery sherds from each stint were counted and weighed and this information was entered on record sheets, along with basic information on form (ie rim/body/base), class (fine ware/coarse ware), fabric description (ie grey/black with sandy inclusions) and if appropriate, surface treatment and decoration. The Roman sherds were primarily orange granular/sandy coarse wares or grey granular/sandy coarse wares. Small numbers of pale granular wares (Oxfordshire Parchment wares), grey/black sand-tempered wares (Black Burnished 2 wares), shell-tempered coarse wares (South Midlands shell-tempered wares) were also found. Other sherds identified in small quantities were Oxfordshire white-ware mortaria, Samian wares and Oxfordshire red/brown slipped wares. The distribution of sherds was plotted but there were no obvious patterns in the data.

Sunday 6th March and Subsequent Finds.

The assemblage contained eighteen fragments of ceramic building material none of which appeared to be Roman and is instead most probably post-medieval and modern. The pottery assemblage contained 88 sherds. Reduced sandy/granular greyware, most probably Roman but dateable only to the broad range of first to the 4th century AD, dominated the assemblage. There were few other Roman wares, limited to one or two sandy oxidised orange/red sherds but these were very abraded. Additionally, there were two pieces of Oxfordshire White Ware but no Mortaria, one piece of Oxford colour coat but no Samian ware. There was one late Roman rim with black slip probably Black Burnished 1. The coarse ware fragments are mainly non-Roman. The five hand-made shell/flint tempered sherds including one rim and the two grog tempered sherds are probably Iron Age. Seven small abraded sherds of sand tempered ware, some of which appear to be hand-made are also probably Iron Age. The distribution of sherds was plotted but there were no obvious patterns in the data.

Discussion

The geophysical survey has confirmed the aerial photographic evidence of an enclosure in the south-eastern part of the field. The morphology of the enclosure would suggest an Iron Age and/or Roman date. Within the main enclosure there is a square structure about 18m on each side which may represent a building but is more likely to be a

Oxfordshire

small enclosure. To its west is a possible ring gully of a roundhouse. Although the structural evidence for human occupation is small, the large area containing pits does suggest human occupation. The western end of the enclosure and/or trackway has not been detected as it lies outside the survey area. The exterior of the enclosure is largely devoid of magnetic anomalies and there is therefore no evidence of a related field system.

The previous fieldwalking by Richard Hingley had detected Iron Age pottery over the cropmark area together with some Roman pottery and small quantities of tile in the south-east of the site. The current fieldwalking has detected relatively low levels of both Iron Age and Romano-British pottery. Most of this was quite small and abraded so there was little or no indication of fresh material being brought up. The Romano-British pottery seems primarily to be coarsewares and to cover the second to 4th century AD. The tile was generally very small and abraded and is perhaps more likely to be modern than Roman. The geophysical survey has not identified any structure with which to associate tile.

Due to the low numbers of sherds detected in each stint there is no discernable relationship between the pottery counts and the underlying archaeological features as revealed by the geophysical survey. It appears that ploughing is slowly redistributing the pottery across the field. This differs from other surveys in Frilford and Garford where the pottery distribution is closely correlated with archaeological features (Boyer *et al* 2008; Wintle and Hawes 2011). In addition, the construction of the sewer main through the enclosure may have distributed material over a wide area.

Geophysical survey and fieldwalking are not able to determine whether the enclosure ditches preceded, were simultaneous with, or post-dated the initial occupation. It is possible settlement may have commenced on the site during the middle Iron Age and continued through the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The enclosing ditches are likely to have been recut at different times and this may explain the multiple ditches on the south-western side.

A small number of magnetic anomalies appear as large, possibly rectangular pits. Although these may represent Anglo-Saxon grubenhauser they are perhaps more likely to be Iron Age or Romano-British features.

Conclusions

The geophysical and fieldwalking survey of the field has provided useful additional information on this known cropmark. The outline of the enclosure, as defined by the aerial survey mapping has been confirmed and considerable further detail added. The fieldwalking has confirmed Iron Age and Romano-British activity within this area although this may not have been continuous. Less pottery was recovered than had been expected. The main fieldwalking on March 5th and 6th may have followed too closely the cultivation of the field, reducing artefact visibility. Alternatively, long term ploughing may have distributed the archaeological material over a wider area, reducing its density within the enclosure.

Survey Technique

The magnetometer survey was 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 one metre 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.

Acknowledgements

The authors are very grateful to Mr Will Cumber for permission to conduct this fieldwalking and geophysical survey and to Mr Chris Welch of English Heritage who gave permission for this survey to take place on a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The authors are also grateful to the OUDCE MSc class in Applied Landscape Archaeology for assisting in the fieldwalking on 5th March.

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.

References

- Boyer K, Hawes J and Wintle W 2007; Field Survey of a Roman Villa at East Hanney, Oxfordshire, August 2006. *SMA* 37, 22-25.
- Boyer K, Hawes J and Wintle W 2008; Geophysical Survey at two locations in Frilford, Oxfordshire. *SMA* 38, 52-56.
- Kamash Z, Gosden C and Lock G 2010; The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2009. *SMA* 40, 44-53.
- Kamash Z, Gosden C and Lock G 2011; The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2009. *SMA* 41, 62-68.
- Wintle W, Hawes J and Boyer K 2009; Geophysical Survey at and near Cherbury Camp, Oxfordshire. *SMA* 39, 67-71.
- Wintle W, Boyer K, Hawes J and Levick P 2010; Geophysical Survey at the Noah's Ark Inn, Marcham, Oxfordshire. *SMA*, 40, 75-80.
- Wintle W and Hawes J 2011; Geophysical Survey in Garford, Oxfordshire. *SMA*, 41, 68-73.

Index

NOTE: Locators in *italics* denote illustrations.

Abingdon, Oxon

Abingdon Museum lift pit; Iron Age, Roman, medieval 51

North Street, Christ Church; medieval 75

Radley Road; possible Neolithic causewayed camp 37

agricultural activity, medieval (*see also* ridge and furrow)

Chalgrove 42

Chawston 3-4

Akeley, Bucks

Chapel Lane, Rose Cottage; post-medieval 22

The Old Rectory; C19 outbuilding 8

Akeman Street Roman road

Blenheim Park 42

Waddesdon; not located 11

Alchester Roman town

Langford Lane, Bicester; Roman features, casket cremation burial 52-3

SP 5797 2161, to north 51

Aldwincle, Nhants; Lyveden New Bield 25

almshouse, medieval; Bartlemas Chapel, Oxford 38-41, 38-41

animal burials *see* dog burials; goat burial; horse burials

antler tine, red deer, middle Bronze Age; Corby 29-30

Apethorpe, Nhants; Bridge Street, The Garage Block 27

Arncoft to Bicester Powerline, Oxon (SP 5797 2161) 51

Aston Clinton, Bucks

College Road; late Iron Age/Roman, parish boundary 18

Stablebridge Road; Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval 20

Aston le Walls, Nhants; Blacksmiths Lane, Trinlans 27

Aston Rowant, Oxon; St Peter and St Paul's church 51 axes

flint, Neolithic polished; Berinsfield 52

iron, Roman; Burton Latimer 25

Aylesbury, Bucks

Mill Street; Roman finds, pre-C20 terracing 20-1

Temple Square, Queens Head; C16 14-15

Walton Road, Aylesbury High School; Iron Age 8

Walton Street, NEA Site, Aylesbury Waterside; post-medieval 22

bakery, C19-20; Church Enstone 63, 64-5

Bampton, Oxon

Community Centre; medieval and post-medieval 41

Ham Court; prehistoric, medieval and C19 41

Banbury, Oxon

Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme (SP 464 431);

Neolithic, Bronze Age, late Iron Age/Roman, medieval, post-medieval 51

barns

Roman; Stanion 35

post-medieval: Apethorpe 27; Crick 30; Harringworth 26

Barnwell, Nhants; Well Lane, Old Station House 26

barrows, Bronze Age round: Thrapston 35-6; Upton Park 36

bead, early Bronze Age jet; Corby 29, 30

Bedford

former St Bede's School; post-medieval 1

Manton Lane 6

Mile Road; Neolithic, Bronze/Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval 1

Norse Road; Iron Age settlement, medieval agriculture 1

Priory Country Park; possible Newnham Roman villa 5-6, 5

Bedford Water Main (TL 1424 4772); Roman 1

Bedfordshire 1-8

Begbroke, Oxon; Begbroke Science Park access road, C18/19 38

Benefield, Nhants; Harley Way, Churchfield Quarry, Iron Age, Roman, Churchfield DMV 27

Benning family of Princes Risborough 10

Berinsfield, Oxon; Dorchester Cursus (SU 568 959), continuation of cursus, ring ditch, early Beaker burial, Grooved Ware pit 52, 52

Bicester, Oxon

Arncoft to Bicester Powerline (SP 5797 2161) 51

Bicester Eco Town, Exemplar Site, Caversfield 52

Chapel Street, Bryan House; medieval Priory Church, post-medieval houses 41-2, 41

Church Street; possible walled garden 38

Langford Lane; Roman features, casket cremation burial 52-3

Launton Road, Aldi; post-medieval features 38

Blatherwycke Hall, Nhants; Stables, C18 and C19 28

Blenheim Park, Oxon; Akeman Street, ditch associated with Grim's Ditch 42

Bletchington, Oxon; Station Road, Black Head Inn, post-medieval 75

Bletchley, Bucks

Buckingham Road; C16/17 8-9

Shenley Road; late Iron Age, post-medieval 8

Water Eaton, Slad Farm; Victorian model farm 14

Bletsoe, Beds; Waiting for the Sun Farm 6

Bloxham, Oxon

Chapel Street; C19 features 42

Queen Street; late Saxon, medieval, post-medieval 53

Blunham, Beds; Barford Road, Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval 6

bone, animal

undated prehistoric; Radcot 58

Iron Age: Marcham/Frilford 80; Thrapston 36

Roman: Dorchester 42; Marcham/Frilford 79; South Leigh 59, 60

medieval; Harrold 6

medieval/post-medieval; Stony Stratford 10

bone, disarticulated human (*see also* charnel pits)

large middle Neolithic deposit; Northampton 33, 33

Index

bone objects

- Roman hair pin; Aston Clinton 20
- Saxon comb; Marcham/Frilford 83
- undated; Oxford 41

Boughton Hall Park, Nhants 28

boundaries (*see also under* ditches)

- Roman: Great Doddington 26; Greatworth 31
- medieval: Great Doddington 26; Marston 76; Silsoe 7
- post-medieval: Bicester (field) 38; Brixworth (field) 28; Marlow 17; Milton Keynes (field) 19

Bow Brickhill, Bucks; Drakewell Road 8

bowl, medieval copper; Houghton Conquest 6

Bozeat, Nhants; Church Walk 28

bracelets, Roman copper alloy; Burton Latimer 25

Brackley, Nhants

- Brackley Sawmills; Iron Age features 28
- Church Road, Steepways 28
- Egerton Close; late and post-medieval 28

Bradden, Nhants; Water Lane, Lodge Farm Cottage 28

brick

- late medieval/Tudor; Bloxham 53
- post-medieval: Hook Norton 54; Oxford 58

bridge; medieval core with post-medieval work, Oundle 27

Brightwell Baldwin, Oxon; Community History and Archaeology Project 68-70

- Brightwell Park; late medieval manorial buildings, post-medieval house 68-70, 68-9

Brightwell cum Sotwell, Oxon; church of St Agatha 47-8

Brill, Bucks; The Green, Stable House 15

Brixworth, Nhants; Northampton Road, Roman, post-medieval 28

Brize Norton, Oxon; church of St Britius 48

brooches, Roman

- copper alloy; Burton Latimer 25
- unspecified, bow; Aylesbury 21

Broughton, Oxon; Old Rectory, C19 and earlier 42

Brown, Lancelot 'Capability', at Wotton House 17

Buckingham; Tingwick Road, magnetometer survey 18

Buckinghamshire 8-22

buckle, late Roman official/quasi-official; Dorchester 54

Bugbrooke, Nhants

- High Street 28
- Peace Hill; medieval 28

buildings of unspecified type

- Roman: Dorchester (timber on rubble foundation) 53; Greatworth (domestic) 31; South Leigh (stone) 58, 59
- medieval: Benefield 27; Houghton Conquest (stone) 6; Luton (large) 3; Stanford in the Vale (stone) 71-3, 71-2; Wotton Underwood (stone-cilled) 17
- late medieval/Tudor stone-founded; Bloxham 53
- post-medieval: Newport Pagnell (C19) 9-10; Silsoe 7; Stanford in the Vale (stone) 71-3, 71-2; Toddington (early, stone-founded) 7

burgage properties; Witney 45

burials *see* cemeteries; churchyard burials; cremations; inhumations; mortuary enclosure; vaults, church and churchyard

Burnham, Bucks

- Burnham Abbey 15
- Church Walk 22

burnt mound; Caversham 75

Burton Latimer, Nhants

- Bridle Road 28-9
- Higham Road; undated flints, Bronze Age, Roman 23-5, 23-5

Buscot, Oxon; Eaton Weir, Anchor Island, C19 wheel pit 53

buttons, post-medieval metal; Blunham 6

carbonised material *see* cereals, charred Roman

Cardington, Beds; Cardington Airfield, Iron Age/Roman 6

castle, medieval siege; Wallingford 48

Castletorpe, Bucks; The Chequers, The Fish Ponds 19

cattle shelter, C19; Crick 30

causewayed camp, Neolithic; Abingdon 37

Caversham, Oxon; Sonning Eye Quarry, Mesolithic, Bronze Age to Roman 75

cellars, post-medieval: Bletchington 75; Oxford 57

cemeteries (*see also* churchyard burials; mortuary enclosure)

- Roman inhumation; Burton Latimer 24-5, 24

ceramic building material (*see also* tiles)

- medieval; Aston Clinton 20
- post-medieval: Marcham 87; Moreton Pinkney 32

cereals, charred Roman: Bicester 53; Brixworth 28

cess pits

- medieval; Silsoe 7
- post-medieval; Oxford 61, 61, 62

Chalgrove, Oxon; High Street, medieval agriculture 42

chapel, medieval; Bartlemas Chapel, Oxford 38-41, 38-41

charnel pits, medieval: Bicester 42; Oxford 40

charred deposits *see* cereals, charred Roman

Chartridge, Bucks; Bellingdon Brickworks 9

Chawston, Beds; Black Cat Roundabout, Roman, medieval, post-medieval 3-4

Cheddington, Bucks; Mentmore Road, post-medieval 9

Chelveston, Nhants; RAF Chelveston Airfield, Nissen huts 29

Chetwode, Bucks; HS2 high-speed rail line consultation 12

Chilton, Oxon; Avon Road, Chilton Field, Roman villa 76

Chipping Norton, Oxon; Rollright Quarry 54

chisel, Roman iron; Burton Latimer 25

Cholsey, Oxon; Station Road 76

Church Enstone, Oxon

- Domesday Book 65
- Mill Farm; C17-20 watermill 62-6, 62-5

Church Stowe, Nhants; Main Road 29

churches

- Saxon: Langford 45-6; Princes Risborough 16
- medieval: High Wycombe 21; Little Staughton 2-3; Princes Risborough 16; Weston-on-the-Green 37

- post-medieval work: Clophill 4; High Wycombe 21; Princes Risborough 16; Titchmarsh 36
- undated; Slapton 16
- churchyard burials (*see also* vaults, church and churchyard): Aston Rowant 51; Bozeat 28; Little Staughton 2-3; Olney 20; Raunds 34; South Newington 45
- Claydon, Bucks; Claydon House 18
- Clifton, Beds; Pedley Farm 1
- Clipstone, Beds; SP 9500 2700, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval 8
- Cliveden House, Taplow, Maidenhead, Bucks; parterre 19
- Clophill, Beds; St Mary's Old Church 4
- coach houses: Flore 31; Milton Malsor 32; Oxford 43
- cockspur, Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 82
- coffins
- Roman nails and fittings; Burton Latimer 25
- medieval wooden; Bicester 42
- post-medieval wood and lead; High Wycombe 21
- Cogenhoe, Nhants; Station Road 29
- coins
- Roman: Aylesbury 21; Burton Latimer (bronze) 25; Fleet Marston (bronze and silver) 21; Gatehampton Farm (330-334) 66; Marcham/Frilford 83, (C4) 79; South Leigh 59; Swalcliffe Lea (Constantine I to Gratian) 50
- modern; Titchmarsh (George V) 36
- Coleshill, Bucks; Magpie Lane, Bowers Farm, C17 9
- Coleshill House, Oxon; WWII hut bases, shaft 48
- Collingtree, Nhants; Spinney Drive 29
- comb, early Saxon bone; Marcham/Frilford 83
- conduit, C16; Stokenchurch 16
- Corby, Nhants; Priors Hall Zone 3
- early Bronze Age henge 29-30, 29-30
- Roman villa, iron smelting slag 29
- core, Palaeolithic flint; Highlands Farm 67, 67
- corn-driers
- late Iron Age/Roman; Banbury 51
- Roman; Stanion 35
- cottages
- medieval; Great Brington 31
- post-medieval: Bletchley 8-9; Eydon 30; Great Brington 31; Oxford 38; Toot Baldon 45
- cow skull, Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 83
- Cranfield, Beds
- Court Road 4
- Home Farm; Iron Age, Roman, Saxo-Norman, medieval 2
- Nissan Technical Centre; late prehistoric/Roman 1-2
- Cranford St Andrew, Nhants; Cranford Estate 30
- cremations
- unspecified prehistoric; Marcham 76
- Neolithic; South Leigh 59
- early Bronze Age, of child; Corby 29, 30
- late Iron Age/Roman; Cranfield 2
- Roman: Bedford 1; Bedford Water Main, Kempston (with nails) 1; Bicester (in casket) 53; South Leigh 58-9; Terrick 11; Toddington (early, urned, with accessory vessels) 7, 7
- Crick, Nhants
- Bury Dyke shrunken medieval village 30
- Drayson Lane, Greenhill Farmhouse; C19 cattle shelter 30
- crucibles, Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 80
- Cuddington, Bucks; Holywell Farm, Roman, Saxon, post-medieval 15
- culverts, post-medieval: Boughton Hall Park 28; Claydon 18; Northampton 34; Oxford 57
- cursus monument; Dorchester Cursus 52, 52
- dairy, C18; Stowe 18
- Daventry, Nhants
- High Street; C17 building 30
- Middlemore Farm; ridge and furrow 30
- Day, William Chambers (C19 scales manufacturer) 64
- Deanshanger, Nhants
- Church Lane; medieval, C17 30; post-medieval 26
- decorative schemes, C18; Stowe 18
- defences
- Oxford; medieval city wall 47, 58
- Wallingford: medieval 48; Civil War bastion 84-5, 84
- deliberate deposit (*see also* animal burials)
- Roman, in wet/boggy area; Marcham/Frilford 79
- dendrochronology, post-medieval: Hedgerley 13; Stowe 18; Wingrave 13
- Denham, Bucks; Buckinghamshire Golf Club 21
- Didcot, Oxon; Lydalls Road, All Saints Church, C19 76
- ditches (*see also* linear features; monuments, prehistoric; motte ditch)
- unspecified prehistoric: Bampton 41; Blenheim Park 42; Standlake 45; Terrick 11
- Neolithic; Oxford 58
- middle Bronze Age; Corby (system) 29-30
- Iron Age: Brackley 28; Greatworth 31; Marcham/Frilford 80-3; Upton Park (field boundary) 36; Watchfield 38
- middle Iron Age; South Leigh 59
- late Iron Age: Aylesbury (boundary) 8; Cranfield (boundary) 2; Oxford 43; Sandy 3; Stanion (boundary) 35
- late Iron Age/Roman: Cranfield 1-2; Toddington (boundary) 7
- Roman: Bedford Water Main (boundary) 1; Bicester 53; Chawston 3-4; Cranfield (boundary) 2; Cuddington 15; Dorchester (late) 53; Kempston (boundary) 1; Milton Keynes 19; Oxford 43, 44, 58; Sandy 3; South Leigh 60; Stanion 35; Terrick 11; Toddington (boundary) 7; Waddesdon 11
- Saxon: Houghton Conquest (late, plot boundary) 6; Kirtlington 38; Northampton (early/middle) 34; Wantage (boundary?) 45

Index

- late Saxon/early medieval: Bloxham 53;
Henlow (boundary) 2; Tempsford
(tenement plot boundaries) 7
- medieval: Abingdon 75; Bampton 41; Brackley
28; Faringdon 42-3; Haddenham 15, 22;
Harrold 6; Houghton Conquest (plot
boundary) 6; Kirtlington 38; Long
Wittenham 43; Oxford 55, (boundary)
58; Raunds 34; Stanford in the Vale
(surrounding structure) 71, 71;
Wallingford (field boundary) 45;
Wantage 76; Warmington 36; Winslow
12
- post-medieval: Bampton (boundary) 41; Bletchley
8; Brackley 28; Faringdon 42-3, 54;
Marcham 76; Marston Moretaine 3;
Oxford (boundary) 58; Potterspury
(boundary) 26; Shefford 6; Waddesdon
11; Wallingford (boundary) 45; Watford
Gap (boundary) 37; Witney 60
- undated parish boundary; Aston Clinton 18
- DMVs *see* villages, deserted and shrunken medieval
- Dodford, Nhants; Dodford Manor, late
Saxon/Saxo-Norman, C16/17-18 22
- dog burials
 - Iron Age, possibly ritual; Bedford 1
 - medieval; Somerton 44
- Domesday Book; on Church Enstone 65
- Dorchester Cursus, at Berinsfield, Oxon 52, 52
- Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon
 - allotments overlying SW quarter of Roman small
town; Roman, late Roman and early
Saxon features, late Roman
official/quasi-official type
 - buckle 53-4
 - Manor Farm Road; Roman extra-mural
occupation 42
- drains
 - Roman; Marcham/Frilford 77-80, 77-9
 - post-medieval land-; Watford Gap 37
- droveway, Roman; Stanion 35
- Dunstable, Beds
 - All Saints' Academy, Houghton Regis 2
 - Friars Walk 4
 - Princes Street; medieval pit 6
 - West Street; C19/20 buildings 4
- Edburg, St; medieval reliquary, Bicester 42
- eel bones, Saxon; Marcham/Frilford 83
- Elstow, Beds; Wixams (Area 7) 2
- enclosures
 - unspecified prehistoric: Banbury (oval
double-ditched, pre-Iron Age) 51; Lower
Harlestone 22; Stanford in the Vale 71,
71, 73
 - Iron Age: Banbury (late) 51; Bedford 1;
Cardington 6; Cranfield (late, settlement)
2; Irchester 31; Marcham 85-8, 86;
Marcham/Frilford 77, 78, 80-3, 82-3,
(curvilinear) 77, 77, 78, 80-3, (D-shaped)
82, (surrounding large pit) 78, 79;
 - Marston Moretaine 6; Northampton 34;
Tansor Grange 35; Thrapston (oval) 35-6;
Witney 51
 - late Iron Age/early Roman: Aston Clinton 18;
South Leigh 58, 59
 - Roman: Banbury 51; Bedford 1; Bicester 52-3;
Brixworth 28; Burton Latimer 24-5, 24-5;
Cardington 6; Cranfield (settlement) 2;
Greatworth 31; Lower Harlestone 22;
Marcham 85-8, 86; Marston Moretaine 6;
Oxford 44; South Leigh 58, 59, 60;
Tansor Grange 35; Witney 51
 - medieval; Wotton Underwood 17
 - undated: Buckingham 18; Milton Keynes 19
- environmental material (*see also individual types*)
 - Roman; South Leigh 59
 - Saxon; Marcham/Frilford 83
- Ewelme, Oxon
 - Ewelme hundred research project 67-8
 - Ewelme Primary School; C13/14 building 74-5,
74-5
 - north and north-west; early and middle Saxon 74-5
 - South Oxfordshire Project 74-5, 74-5
 - test pits across village; late Iron Age/Roman and
medieval pottery 74-5, 74-5
- extra-mural settlement, Roman; Dorchester 42
- Eydon, Nhants; Eydon Hall Estate, Manor Farm House,
C17-19 30
- Faringdon, Oxon
 - Coxwell Road; late Iron Age/early Roman,
medieval, post-medieval 54
 - Gloucester Street; medieval and post-medieval
42-3
- farm buildings, post-medieval (*see also* farmhouses):
Apethorpe 27; Bradden 28; Crick 30; Dodford 22;
Eydon 30; Great Missenden 15; Harringworth 26
- farmhouses, post-medieval: Church Enstone 62-6, 62-3;
Eydon 30; Marlow 17
- farmsteads, Roman: Benefield 27; Cuddington 15;
Greatworth 31; Northampton 34
- Farndish, Beds; Church Lane, Parsonage House, C18/19 2
- field systems
 - Bronze-Iron Age: Bedford 1; Northampton 23
 - late Iron Age/Roman: Banbury 51; Leighton
Buzzard 8
 - Roman: Northampton 34; Silsoe 7
 - medieval: Towcester 36; Willen 12
 - post-medieval; Willen 12
- figurines *see* statuettes
- Fleet Marston, Bucks; Wayside Farm, Roman to
post-medieval 21
- flint artefacts
 - unspecified prehistoric: Burton Latimer 23;
Marcham/Frilford 80; Terrick 16
 - Palaeolithic; Highlands Farm 67, 67
 - Mesolithic: Caversham 75; Rotherfield Greys 70-1
 - Neolithic: Berinsfield 52; Haddenham 22; Willen
12; Witney 60

- late Neolithic/early Bronze Age: Oakley 3;
Rotherfield Greys 70-1; Wallingford 45
Bronze Age: Caversham 75; Haddenham 22;
Rotherfield Greys 70-1; Willen 12
Flore, Nhants; King's Lane, C19 stables and coach house 31
Ford, Bucks; Water Lane, Moreton Barn 15
ford, Roman; Stanion 35
Fotheringhay, Nhants
Main Street, Old Vicarage; post-medieval 26
St Mary and All Saints' church 26
Fritwell, Oxon; East Street, medieval pottery 76
frog bones, Saxon; Marcham/Frilford 83
furrows, medieval (*see also* ridge and furrow): Bedford 1;
Faringdon 54

gardens and garden features, post-medieval: Bicester 38;
Broughton 42; Lyveden New Bield 32; Oxford 57;
Rockingham Castle 35; Standlake 45; Stowe 20;
Wotton Underwood 17
Garford, Oxon; Wantage Road, prehistoric, Roman,
medieval 76
Gatehampton Farm Roman villa, Oxon 66, 66
geophysical surveys
Marcham, to north of village 85-8, 86
Stanford in the Vale 71-3, 71-2
glass bottles, post-medieval: Moreton Pinkney 32;
Standlake 45
goat burial, undated; Oxford 76
Goring on Thames, Oxon; St Thomas of Canterbury's
church, medieval priory 43
graffiti, C18-19; Blatherwycke Hall 28
Great Brington, Nhants; The Last Straw, medieval 31
Great Doddington, Nhants; High Street, Roman,
Saxo-Norman, medieval, C15 26
Great Horwood, Bucks; village survey 13
Great Missenden, Bucks; Road Farm Barns, C18 15
Great Rollright, Oxon; Old Railway Halt Scrapyard 54
Great Tew, Oxon; Great Tew House, medieval 43
Greatworth, Nhants
Stuchbury, Spring Farm Ridge; Iron Age, Roman
31
Stuchbury Manor Farm 31
greenway, medieval; Wotton Underwood 17
Gregory, John (*fl.* 1861, of Church Enstone) 65
Gretton, Nhants; church of St James the Great 31
Greys Mound, Rotherfield Greys, Oxon; Mesolithic,
Neolithic, Bronze Age flints 70-1
Grim's Ditch, Blenheim Park, Oxon 42
gullies
Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 80
Roman: Dorchester 42; Irchester 31; Sudborough
25
medieval: Faringdon 42-3; Haddenham 22
post-medieval: Faringdon 42-3; Marcham 76;
Sudborough 25

ha-ha; Stokenchurch 16
Haddenham, Bucks
Fort End, Fern Lane; medieval 15

High Street; Bronze Age, medieval 22
Townsend; Neolithic to Roman finds, Saxon and
medieval village, post-medieval
reoccupation 22
White Hart House 15
hair pin, Roman bone; Aston Clinton 20
Hambleton, Bucks
Yewden Roman villa; Neolithic to Roman finds,
Iron Age and Roman settlement, villa with shrine
and temples 13-14, 13
Hanwell, Oxon; Hanwell Castle 43
Hardingstone, Nhants; The Warren 31
Harlington, Beds; Sundon Road, medieval 4
Harrington, Nhants; Shotley Shortwood Farm, C18-19
26
Harrold, Beds
Church Walk; medieval pottery 2
High Street; medieval settlement 6
High Street, Green Tree 2
Hartley, John (*b.* 1793, of Church Enstone) 65
hazel nut shell, Bronze Age; Corby 29
hearth bottoms, Roman; Burton Latimer 25
hearths, Iron Age and Roman; Marcham/Frilford 80
Hedgerley, Bucks
listed buildings survey website reference (Garden
Cottage, Old Keepers, Old Quaker House, Shell
House, White Horse) 13
Little Orchard Field 14
Hedsor Wharf, Bucks 21
henges
early Bronze Age; Corby 29-30, 29-30
undated mini-henge; Stanford in the Vale 71, 73
Henley on Thames; Highlands Farm, Palaeolithic flints 67,
67
Henlow, Beds; High Street, Saxo-Norman, post-medieval 2
High Wycombe, Bucks
All Saints Church; medieval, post-medieval 21
Desborough Castle Play Area 8
Highlands Farm, near Henley on Thames, Oxon;
Palaeolithic flints 67, 67
hobnails, Roman; Burton Latimer 25
Hook Norton, Oxon; Queen Street, The Orchard, medieval,
post-medieval 54
horse burials, Roman; South Leigh 60
hospital, medieval; Bartlemas Chapel, Oxford 38-41, 38-41
Houghton Conquest, Beds; High Street, moat, late Saxon,
medieval, C15 6
houses
Roman; Swalcliffe Lea 48-50, 49-50
post-medieval; Bicester 41; Oxford 55; Princes
Risborough 10
HS2 high-speed rail line, projected route 12

industrial activity
Iron Age and Roman; Marcham/Frilford 80
C18 'chambers' in river; West Wycombe Park
17-18
inhumations (*see also* churchyard burials)
undated prehistoric, crouched; Northampton 33-4

Index

- early Beaker period; Berinsfield 52, 52
- Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 81, 82
- late Iron Age/Roman: Aston Clinton 18; Toddington 7
- Roman: Benefield (neo-natal) 27; Burton Latimer (graves with multiple burials) 23-4, 24, 24-5; Hambleden (indicating infanticide) 14; South Leigh (including one in wooden chamber beneath ditched mound) 58-9
- medieval: Bartlemas Chapel, Oxford 40, 41; Bicester 42; Wavendon (juvenile, under church tower) 16-17
- inns (*see also* public houses)
 - medieval; Oundle 37
 - C18; Stowe 18
- Irchester, Nhants
 - Chester Farm 31
 - Gipsy Lane; Iron Age, Roman, post-medieval 31
- iron working (*see also* slag)
 - late Saxon/medieval; Houghton Conquest 6
- Isham, Nhants; South Street 31
- Ivings family of Church Enstone 65
- jet bead, early Bronze Age; Corby 29, 30
- Kempston, Beds; TL 1424 4772, Roman 1
- Kettering, Nhants
 - Kettering East (SP 900 775); prehistoric, Roman 31
 - Thurston Drive 31-2
- key, Roman iron; Burton Latimer 25
- kiln furniture, Roman; Bedford 1
- kiln waste, medieval; M1 (Junction 12) 7
- kilns
 - lime, medieval/early post-medieval; Milton Keynes 19
 - pottery
 - Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 80
 - Roman; Oxford 44
 - unspecified type
 - Iron Age/Roman; Cardington 6
 - medieval; Stanford in the Vale 71
- Kimbolton, Beds; Warren Lane, Warren House 4
- Kingswood, Bucks; Bicester Road, Sharps Hill Farm 15
- Kirtlington, Oxon; Manor Farm, Roman, Saxon, medieval 38
- Kislingbury, Nhants; Bugbrooke Road 32
- kitchens, C16: Nether Winchendon 16; Stanford in the Vale 72, 72
- knife, Roman iron; Burton Latimer 25
- Langford, Oxon; St Matthew's Church, Saxon, medieval 45-6
- latrine pit, post-medieval; Oxford 61, 61, 62
- Lavendon, Bucks; Castle Farm 9
- Leighton Buzzard, Beds
 - Clipstone (SP 9500 2700); Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval 8
 - North Street, Wilkes Almshouses; medieval, post-medieval 4
- leper hospital, medieval; Bartlemas Chapel, Oxford 38-41, 38-41
- LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey; Salcey Forest 35
- lime kilns, medieval/early post-medieval; Milton Keynes 19
- linear features (*see also* ditches)
 - late Iron Age/early Roman; Faringdon 54
- Little Houghton, Nhants; Lodge Road 32
- Little Rollright, Oxon; Rollright Quarry 54
- Little Staughton, Beds; All Saints Church, Saxo-Norman, medieval, post-medieval 2-3
- Littlemore, Oxon; Lawn Upton House 54
- Long Buckby, Nhants; Station Road, White Barn Farm 32
- Long Crendon, Bucks; High Street, Courthouse 19
- Long Wittenham, Oxon; High Street, Footbridge Cottage, medieval 43
- loom weights
 - middle Bronze Age cylindrical fired-clay; Corby 30
 - Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 80, 82
- Loughton, Bucks; Pitcher Lane, medieval 9
- Lower Harlestone, Nhants; Glebe Lane, Southview, prehistoric/Roman 22
- Lowick, Nhants; Colpman's Farm 32
- Ludgershall, Bucks
 - church of St Mary the Virgin; roof 15
 - Tetchwick Farm 22
- Luton, Beds; University of Bedfordshire, Luton Campus, Phase 2A, early medieval 3
- Lyveden New Bield, Nhants; medieval, Elizabethan 32
- M1 motorway (Junction 12), Toddington, Beds
 - late Iron Age, Roman, and medieval settlement, possibly Nuppings Green 7, 7
 - overbridge, built 1958 7
- manor houses and manorial sites, medieval
 - Brightwell Baldwin 68-70, 68-9
 - Ewelme 74, 75, 75
- Mapledurham, Oxon; Mapledurham Mill 54
- Marcham, Oxon
 - north of village; Iron Age, Roman, Saxon 85-8, 86
 - Tubney, Upwood Park; prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval 76
- Marcham/Frilford, Oxon; Noah's Ark area, multi-period site 77-83
 - Iron Age 77, 78, 80-3
 - barrel-shaped, ditched enclosure (MFNA Trenches 1-3) 83
 - eastern end of Trendles Field: (MFP Trench 3) 77, 77, 80, 80-1; (MFP Trench 4) 77, 77, 81, 81; (MFP Trench 5) 77, 77, 81, 81-2; (MFP Trench 6) 77, 77, 82, 82-3; burials 81, 82; geophysical survey 77, 78; industrial activity 80; large curvilinear enclosures 77, 78, 80, 80, 81, 81-2, 83; pit cluster 77, 81, 81, 82, 82-3
 - Iron Age-Roman continuity 83

- Roman religious centre 77-80; cobbled and gravel surfaces 78-9, 79; drain, southern end 77, 78-80, 78-9; industrial activity 79-80; well or pit (Trench 21) 78, 79; wooden writing tablet 78; Trenches (21) 77, 78-9, 79, (40) 77, 79, 79-80; votive offerings 79
Saxon; pit in east of Trendles Field 82, 83
geophysical surveys 77, 78
waterlogged deposits 78
- Marlow, Bucks
Lower Pound Lane, Marlow Sports Club 16
Riley Park; boundary, post-medieval 17
Riley Road; post-medieval/modern pits 8
Rookery Park; C19 farmhouse, earlier building 17
- Marston, Oxon; Butts Lane, Bricklayer's Arms, medieval 76
- Marston Moretaine, Beds
Lower Shelton Road, Lower Shelton; post-medieval 3
Moreteyne Farm; Iron Age, Roman, medieval 6
- Marston St Lawrence, Nhants; Glebe House, C17 27
- metal objects
Roman: Burton Latimer 25; Fleet Marston 21
Saxon; Fleet Marston 21
medieval: Fleet Marston 21; Wallingford 48
- metal working
Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 80
Roman: Burton Latimer 25; Stanion 35
late Saxon/medieval; Houghton Conquest 6
- Middle Claydon, near Buckingham; Claydon House 18
- Middleton Cheney, Nhants
Red Lion public house, C17 37
Waters Lane; medieval and earlier 32
- mills *see* water mills
- Milton Keynes, Bucks
Haversham, The Grange 19
Haversham, Hill Farm; undated ring ditch, and possible Roman, medieval and post-medieval features 19
Ravenstone, Common Street 19
- Milton Malsor, Nhants
Malzor Lane, Home Farm 32
Rectory Lane, Mortimers; C19 coach house 32
- moated sites, medieval: Bampton 41; Houghton Conquest 6; Tempsford 7
- Moggerhanger, Beds; Moggerhanger Park 5
- monastic buildings, medieval: Bicester 41-2, 41; Goring 43; Oxford 38
- monuments, prehistoric
Neolithic; Dorchester Cursus 52, 52
Neolithic-early Bronze Age; Northampton 23
- Moreton Pinkney, Nhants; Banbury Road, The Grange, C18-20 32
- mortuary enclosure, middle Neolithic; Northampton 33, 33
- motte ditch, C11; Oxford 56
- Mursley, Bucks; Salden Manor 9
- musket balls, C17 unfired; Oxford 40
- nails, Roman iron; Burton Latimer 25
- Nether Winchendon, Bucks; Manor House Farm, C16 16
- Newport Pagnell, Bucks; Union Street, C19 9-10
- Newton Longville, Bucks; St Faiths Close 10
- Nissen huts, WWII; Chelveston 29
- Northampton
Banbury Lane; middle Neolithic mortuary enclosure with large disarticulated human bone deposit, Collared Urn fragments, Iron Age enclosure system, Saxon pit 33-4, 33
Delapre Abbey; C19 34
Kings Heath, Kings Heath Primary School 34
Overstone Leys; Roman and early/middle Saxon 34
Pineham, Banbury Lane; Neolithic-early Bronze Age monument, late Bronze Age-Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval activity 23
Upton; medieval ridge and furrow 34
Upton Park; Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman 36
- Northamptonshire 22-37
- Northmoor, Oxon; Pinnocks Farm 54
- Nuppings Green medieval settlement, Beds 7
- Oakley, Beds; Westfield Road, Riverstone House, late Neolithic to medieval 3
- Olney, Bucks
Bridge Street; C19 house 19
Market Place, Sutcliff Baptist Church; C18/19 20
West Street 19
- opus signinum*; Burton Latimer 24
- Oundle, Nhants
Lilford Lodge Farm 34
Oundle South Bridge; later medieval, post-medieval 27
Talbot Hotel; medieval 37
- ovens *see* corn-driers
- Oxford
unspecified prehistoric; Norham Road 56
Neolithic; University Parks 58
Iron Age: Annesley Road 44; Ellesmere Road 44; Rose Hill (settlement) 43-4; Sandford Road 43
Roman: Annesley Road 44; Ellesmere Road 44; Headington, Warneford Hospital 58; Headington, Windmill Hill 76; Rose Hill (pottery kilns) 44; Sandford Road 43; University Parks 58
medieval: Bartlemas Chapel, Cowley Road 38-41, 38-41; Brasenose College 55; castle motte ditch 56; Christ Church 47; city wall 47, 58; High Street, University Church of St Mary 57-8; New Inn Hall Street 58; New Road 56; Norham Road 56; Pembroke College 56-7; Turl Street 47, 57, 60-2, 61-2; University Parks 58; Wadham College 38
post-medieval: Christ Church 47, 47; Norham Road 56; Pembroke College 56-7; St Aldate's 57; St Giles 57; Turl Street 61,

Index

- 62; University Parks 58; Woodstock Road, St Anthony's College 57
- C16: Brasenose College 55; Christ Church 47; Turl Street 62, 62
- C16/17; Holywell Street 55
- C16-18; New Road 56
- C17: Bartlemas Chapel, Cowley Road 39, 40; Brewer Street 55; New Inn Hall Street 58; Turl Street 47; Wadham College 38
- C18; Turl Street 47, 62
- C18/19: Littlemore, Cowley Road 43; St Giles 57; Somerville College 58
- C19: Bartlemas Chapel, Cowley Road 39-40, 41; Brasenose College 55; Brewer Street 55; Christ Church 47; New Road 56; Osney Mill 56; Turl Street 57; Wadham College 38; Walton Street 58; Woodstock Road, St Anthony's College 57
- other sites and watching briefs: All Souls, Staircase X 55; Bartlemas Nursery School, off Cowley Road 55; Belbroughton Road 55; Littlemore, Railway Lane, Beenhams Cottage 76; Marston, Mill Lane 43; Oxford Brookes University 56; Radcliffe Infirmary 48; Rose Street 76
- Oxfordshire 37-88
- Penn, Bucks; Elm Road, Red Lion Cottages 10
- pigsties, undated; Bradden 28
- pipes, clay tobacco; Oxford 40, 47, 58
- pit alignments
- Iron Age; Upton Park 36
- Roman; South Leigh 59
- pit clusters
- Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 77, 77, 81, 81, 82, 82-3
- Roman, linear; South Leigh 59
- undated; Witney 51
- pits (*see also* cess pits; pit alignments; pit clusters; quarries and quarry pits)
- Neolithic: Banbury 51; Bedford 1; Oxford 58
- Neolithic/Bronze Age: Wallingford 45; Willen 12
- Bronze Age; Corby 29
- Iron Age: Abingdon 51; Bedford 1; Cranfield 2; Marcham/Frilford 77, 82
- late Iron Age/early Roman: Cranfield 1-2; Faringdon 54; Marcham 86, 87, 88
- Roman: Abingdon 51; Brixworth 28; Chawston 3-4; Cranfield 2; Cuddington 15, 15; Dorchester 42, 53; Kirtlington 38; Milton Keynes 19; Oxford 43, 44, 58; South Leigh 58, 59; Terrick 11; Toddington 7
- Saxon: Dodford 22; Marcham/Frilford 83; Northampton 34; Silsoe 7; Wallingford 45
- Saxo-Norman; Great Doddington 26
- medieval: Bampton 41; Cranfield 2; Crick 30; Deanshanger 30; Dodford 22; Dunstable 6; Great Doddington 26; Harlington 4; Harrold 6; Hook Norton 54; Kirtlington 38; Oxford 38, 55, 57-8, 60-2, 61; Raunds 34; Wallingford 45, 48; Wotton Underwood 17
- post-medieval: Deanshanger 30; Dorchester 42; Hook Norton 54; Marlow 8; Oxford 56, 57, 60-2, 61, (latrine) 61, 61, 62; Winslow 12
- undated: Kirtlington 38; Middleton Cheney 32; Milton Keynes 19
- plant labels, zinc; Rockingham Castle 35
- plaster, painted wall
- Roman: Corby 29; Gatehampton Farm 66
- C18; Stowe 18
- ponds
- medieval; Wotton Underwood 17
- post-medieval: Church Enstone (mill) 63, 64; Faringdon 43
- post-built structures
- Iron Age: Bedford 1; Oxford (4-post) 44; South Leigh (4-post) 59
- Roman; South Leigh (4-post gateway) 59
- postholes
- Iron Age: Abingdon 51; Brackley 28; Cranfield 2; Marcham/Frilford 82, 83; Watchfield 38; Witney 60
- late Iron Age/early Roman; Faringdon 54
- Roman: Bicester 53; Cranfield 2; Cuddington 15; Dorchester 42
- Saxon; Northampton 34
- medieval: Loughton 9; Warmington 36
- Potter Row, Bucks; HS2 high-speed rail line projected route 12
- Potterspury, Nhants; Poundfield Road, medieval, C19 26
- pottery
- unspecified prehistoric; Garford 76
- Neolithic
- Grooved Ware; Berinsfield 52
- Peterborough Ware: Banbury 51; Northampton 33
- other; South Leigh 59
- Beaker period: Berinsfield 52; Corby 29
- Bronze Age
- late: Burton Latimer 23; Caversham 75
- urns
- bucket; Banbury 51
- Collared; Northampton 23, 33
- other and unspecified: Haddenham 22; South Leigh 59
- Iron Age
- grog-tempered; Marcham 87
- shell, and shell/flint, tempered; Marcham 87
- middle; Thrapston 36
- late: Aston Clinton 20; Banbury 51; Bletchley 8; Ewelme 74; Leighton Buzzard 8; Oxford 43
- other and unspecified: Blunham 6; Brackley 28; Caversham 75; Haddenham 22; Marcham 87, 88; Marcham/Frilford 83;

Index

- Oxford 44; Upton Park 36;
Watford Gap 37; Witney 60
- Roman**
- Black Burnished; Marcham 87
 - grey wares: Burton Latimer 25; Ewelme 74
 - Hertfordshire fine wares; Burton Latimer 25
 - imported fine wares; South Leigh 60
 - Nene Valley ware; Burton Latimer 25
 - Oxfordshire mortaria: Bedford 6; Marcham 87
 - Oxfordshire wares: Burton Latimer 25; Marcham 87
 - Samian wares: Burton Latimer 25; Marcham 87
 - shelly ware: Burton Latimer 25; Sudborough 25
 - South Midlands shell-tempered wares; Marcham 87
 - early: Aston Clinton 20; Cuddington 15; South Leigh 60; Toddington 7, 7
 - late: Cuddington 15; Leighton Buzzard 8
 - other and unspecified: Abingdon 51; Aston Clinton 20; Banbury 51; Benefield 27; Bicester 53; Brixworth 28; Burton Latimer (grave goods) 25, 25; Caversham 75; Church Stowe 29; Dorchester 42; Ewelme 74; Fleet Marston 21; Greatworth 31; Haddenham 22; Leighton Buzzard 8; Marcham 76, 87, 88; Marcham/Frilford 78, 79, 80; Oxford 43, 44, 58, 76; Soulbury 20; South Leigh 59, 60; Watford Gap 37
- Saxon**
- Oxford shelly ware; Oxford 61
 - St Neots ware: Isham 31; Oxford 61
 - early; Dorchester 53
 - late; Bloxham 53
 - other and unspecified: Cuddington 15; Marcham/Frilford 83; Northampton 34
- Saxo-Norman: Bloxham 53; Little Staughton 2-3**
- medieval**
- Boarstall ware: Oxford 62; Wotton Underwood 17
 - Brill wares: Ewelme 75; Oxford 61, 62
 - Cotswold-type ware: Oxford 61, 61; Wotton Underwood 17
 - Harrold shell-tempered ware; Harrold 2
 - Hertfordshire grey ware; Dunstable 6
 - Kennet Valley B ware; Ewelme 75
 - Newbury A/B ware; Wotton Underwood 17
 - Olney Hyde-type shelly ware; Oxford 61
- Oxford ware: Oxford 61, 61; Wotton Underwood 17
- Potterspury ware; Wotton Underwood 17
- Saintonge ware; Oxford 62
- Wallingford ware; Oxford 61-2
- late: Bletchington 75; Bloxham 53; Clophill 4; Ewelme 75; Oxford 61; Terrick 16
- other and unspecified: Abingdon 51; Benefield 27; Crick 30; Ewelme 75; Fleet Marston 21; Fritwell 76; Harlington 4; Harrold 2, 6; Hook Norton 54; Leighton Buzzard 4; Long Wittenham 43; Loughton 9; Marcham 76; Marston 76; Moggerhanger 5; Oakley 3; Oxford 57; Potterspury 26; Pytchley 34; Sandford-on-Thames 44; Somerton 44; Soulbury 20; Stanion 35; Stevington 3; Stony Stratford 10; Terrick 16; Wallingford 48, 60; Wantage 76
- post-medieval**
- Brill ware, late, 'Cistercian'-type copy; Oxford 62
 - creamware; Oxford 47
 - Raeren stoneware: Ewelme 75; Oxford 62
 - Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware; Oxford 62
 - white wares; Oxford 62
 - early: Akeley 22; Bletchington 75; Bloxham 53
 - other and unspecified: Bloxham 53; Cheddington 9; Cuddington 15; Fleet Marston 21; Hook Norton 54; Leighton Buzzard 8; Oxford 40, 57, 58, 62; Sandford-on-Thames 44; Stony Stratford 10; Waddesdon 11; Wallingford 60; Wantage 76
- pottery production (see also kilns (pottery))**
- Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 80
 - medieval; Toddington 7
- Princes Risborough, Bucks**
- High Street; C18/19 10
 - Picts Lane, former Whiteleaf Furniture factory site 10
 - St Mary's church; earlier structure, Saxon and medieval churches 16
- public houses (see also inns)**
- Buckinghamshire recording of historic 12
 - C17; Middleton Cheney 37
- Pytchley, Nhants; Isham Road, All Saints' Church, medieval 34**
- quarries and quarry pits**
- Roman: Brixworth 28; Burton Latimer 24; Greatworth 31

Index

- medieval: Haddenham 15; Oxford (gravel) 57-8; Silsoe 7
 - post-medieval: Bampton 41; Banbury (stone) 51; Bloxham 53; Brixworth (ironstone) 28; Faringdon 54; Irchester 31; Whitchurch 17
 - undated; Kirtlington 38
- quern stone, Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 80
- Radcot, Oxon; Radcot Weir, undated animal bone in gravel deposits 58
- radiocarbon dating; middle Neolithic human bone deposit, Northampton 33
- railway; projected HS2 high-speed rail line 12
- Raunds, Nhants
 - Rotton Row; medieval 34
 - St Peter's churchyard 34
 - Warth Park 34
- reliquary of St Edburg, medieval; Bicester 42
- resistivity survey; Stanford in the Vale 71-3, 71-2
- ridge and furrow
 - medieval: Banbury 51; Blunham 6; Bugbrooke 28; Cranfield 2; Daventry 30; Great Tew 43; Long Buckby 32; Marston Moretaine 6; Middleton Cheney 32; Northampton 34; Stokenchurch 16
 - medieval or post-medieval: Leighton Buzzard 8; Lowick 32; Silsoe 7
 - undated: Buckingham 18; Milton Keynes 19; South Leigh 59; Stoke Hammond 10; Watford Gap 37; Witney 51; Wollaston 37
- Ridgmont, Beds; Segenhoe House 5
- ring ditches (*see also* barrows; roundhouses)
 - Neolithic/Bronze Age: Berinsfield 52, 52; South Leigh 59
 - Bronze Age: Thrapston 35-6; Witney 51
 - Roman; Marcham/Frilford 78, 79
 - undated; Milton Keynes 19
- ring gully, Iron Age/Roman; Marcham 86, 87, 88
- rings, copper alloy
 - Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 80
 - Roman; Burton Latimer 25
- ritual deposits (*see also* votive offerings)
 - Iron Age dog burial, possibly ritual; Bedford 1
- roads, Roman (*see also* Akeman Street)
 - Bicester 53
 - Dorchester 53
- Rockingham Castle, Nhants; walled garden, C19 35
- Rotherfield Greys, Oxon; Greys Mound, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flints 70-1
- roundhouses (*see also* ring ditches; ring gully)
 - middle Iron Age; South Leigh 59
 - Iron Age/Roman; Marcham 86, 87, 88
 - Roman: Burton Latimer 24; Northampton 34; Stanion 35
- Salcey Forest, near Hartwell, Nhants; earthworks 35
- Sandford-on-Thames, Oxon; Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel, medieval, post-medieval 44
- Sandy, Beds; Station Road, Tesco, late Iron Age, Roman 3
- scales, cast iron, by William Chambers Day; Church Enstone 64
- settlements
 - unspecified prehistoric; Kettering 31
 - Iron Age: Bedford 1; Cranfield 2; Hambleden 14; Oxford 43-4; South Leigh 58, 59
 - late Iron Age/Roman: Aston Clinton 18, 20; Leighton Buzzard 8; South Leigh 58, 59
 - Roman: Aston Clinton 20; Burton Latimer 23-5, 23-5; Cranfield 2; Great Doddington 26; Kettering 31; Northampton 34; South Leigh 58-9, 59-60
 - Saxon: Haddenham 22; Northampton 34
 - medieval: Cranfield 2; Marston 76; Willen 12
- shafts
 - possibly prehistoric; Stanford in the Vale 71, 73
 - WWII; Coleshill 48
- sheepwash, C17/18; Church Enstone 64, 64, 66
- Shefford, Beds; Stanford Road, Saxon settlement 6
- Shotley, Nhants; Wakerley Road 35
- shrines, Roman
 - Hambleden 14
 - South Leigh (indicated by offerings) 59
- Shutlanger, Nhants; Main Road 35
- Silsoe, Beds; Cranfield University, Roman, Saxon, medieval 7
- Silverstone, Nhants; Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit 35
- slag
 - Iron Age; Marcham/Frilford 80
 - Roman: Burton Latimer 25; Corby 29
- Slapton, Bucks; church of the Holy Cross 16
- soakaways, C19/20; Thame 45
- Somerton, Oxon; Old School House, medieval 44
- Soulbury, Bucks; Butlers Cottage, Roman and medieval 20
- South Leigh, Oxon; Gill Mill gravel quarry, Neolithic/Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity, Roman settlement, unusual burial, possible nearby shrine 58-60
- South Newington, Oxon; church of St Peter ad Vincula 45
- South Oxfordshire Project 74-5, 74-5
- South Stoke, Oxon; Woodcote Road, medieval 45
- Southwick, Nhants; Bulwick Road 35
- spearhead, middle Bronze Age side-looped; Corby 29
- spindle whorls, Roman ceramic; Marcham/Frilford 83
- stable blocks, C19: Eydon 30; Flore 31
- Standlake, Oxon; Abingdon Road, prehistoric, C19/20 45
- Stanford in the Vale, Oxon; geophysical survey 71-3, 71-2
 - Ashdown House; early medieval to post-medieval 71-2, 72
 - Church War Memorial 72-3
 - Cox's Hall; prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval 71, 71
 - Priors Farm; prehistoric shaft, mini-henge, medieval kilns 71
 - Upper Green; prehistoric, medieval/early post-medieval 72, 73

- Stanford-on-Avon, Nhants; Church Lane, Ashleigh House 35
- Stanion, Nhants; Brigstock Road, Iron Age, Roman, medieval 35
- statuettes, Roman
 cast bronze, right foot; Burton Latimer 25
 ceramic Venus; South Leigh 59
- Steeple Aston, Oxon; near Brasenose Farm 60
- Stevington, Beds; St Mary's Church 3
- Stewkley, Bucks; historic public houses 12
- Stoke Hammond, Bucks; Willowbridge Marina 10
- Stokenchurch, Bucks; Wormsley Park, Garsington Opera, medieval and post-medieval 16
- Stone, Bucks; Bugle Horn public house, C19 14
- stone, carved; Roman religious items, South Leigh 59
- Stony Stratford, Bucks; High Street, medieval 10
- Stowe, Bucks
 Stowe Landscape gardens, Eleven Acre Lakes 20
 Stowe Landscape Gardens, Hawkwell Field 20
 Stowe New Inn; dendrochronology, original paint scheme 18
- strap ends, Roman copper alloy; Burton Latimer 25
- strip building, Roman; Swalcliffe Lea 48-50, 49-50
- Sudborough, Nhants; Barnwell Manor Wind Farm, Roman, post-medieval 25
- sunken-featured buildings: Bedford 1; Dorchester 53; Marcham 86, 87, 88; Northampton 34; Shefford 6; Silsoe 7
- Sutcliff, John, of Olney, Bucks (*d.* 1818) 20
- Swalcliffe Lea, Oxon; Roman strip building 48-50, 49-50
- Tansor Grange, Nhants; Iron Age or Roman 35
- Taplow, Maidenhead, Bucks; Cliveden House garden 19
- temples, Roman; Hambleden 14
- Tempsford, Beds; Tempsford Hall, late Saxon, medieval 7
- Terrick, Bucks
 Nash Lea Road, Chiltern Brewery; prehistoric, medieval 16
 Risborough Road; prehistoric, Roman 11
- tesserae: Gatehampton Farm 66; South Leigh 58
- Thame, Oxon; Priest End, C19/20 45
- Thrapston, Nhants; Huntingdon Road, Bronze Age, Iron Age 35-6
- Thurleigh, Beds
 Bedford Teleport; WWII bomb storage 3
 Cross End, Field Farm 7
- tiles
 Roman
 flue; South Leigh 58, 60
 roof: Bedford (late) 6; Burton Latimer 24
 medieval
 floor: High Wycombe 21; Oxford 61
 roof; Wallingford 60
 unspecified: Aston Clinton 20; Brackley 28
 post-medieval: Brackley 28; Marlow 8; Oxford 58; Sudborough 25
- timber-framed buildings
 medieval; Toddington 7
- C17: Coleshill 9; Oxford 55; Stanford in the Vale 71, 71
- Tingrith, Beds; Wood End, Harlington Wood End Cottage 3
- Titchmarsh, Nhants; church of St Mary 36
- Toddington, Beds *see* M1 motorway (Junction 12)
- Toot Baldon, Oxon; Queen's Cottage 45
- Towcester, Nhants
 Easton Neston Houses 36
 Watling Street 27
 Wood Burcote Estate; medieval 36
- town, Roman small; Dorchester 53-4
- trackways
 late Iron Age; Cranfield 2
 Iron Age/Roman; Marcham 86, 87, 88
 Roman: Bicester 53; Cranfield 2; South Leigh 58, 59, 60; Upton Park 36
 medieval: Bedford 1; Milton Keynes 19; Silsoe 7; South Stoke 45
 post-medieval: Aston Clinton 20; Milton Keynes 19; Moreton Pinkney 32
- tramway, ironstone quarry; Brixworth 28
- traps, possible C18 fish or eel; West Wycombe Park 17-18
- trenches
 Roman parallel cultivation; Cranfield 2
 C20 rifle range; Stowe 20
- Tresham, Sir Thomas, of Lyveden New Bield (*d.* 1605) 32
- Twyford, Bucks; HS2 high-speed rail line, projected route 12
- Upton Park, Nhants; Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman 36
- vaults, church and churchyard
 medieval stone-lined; Bicester 42
 post-medieval: Clophill 4; High Wycombe 21; Olney 20; Raunds 34
- village surveys: Great Horwood 13; Wingrave 13
- villages, deserted and shrunken medieval: Bury Dyke, Crick 30; Churchfield, Benefield 27; Nuppings Green 7;
- Wood Burcote, Towcester 36
- villas, Roman: Bedford 5-6, 5; Chilton 76; Corby 29; Gatehampton Farm 66, 66; Stanion 35; Yewden 13-14, 13
- Waddesdon, Bucks; Waddesdon Estate Visitor Car Park, Roman, post-medieval 11
- Wallingford, Oxon
 Crowmarsh, The Street; C11-13, C12 siege castle 48
 Meriden Court; Saxon, post-medieval 45
 publication on work 1995-2010; contents 76-7
 Thames Street; medieval, post-medieval 60
 Trenchard Close 45
- Wallingford Castle, Barbican; Saxon, medieval, Civil War 84-5, 84
- Wallingford School; Neolithic, Bronze Age, medieval, post-medieval 45
- Wantage Road 45
- wallpapers, C18; Stowe 18
- walls (*see also* defences; plaster, painted wall)

Index

- medieval: Deanshanger 30; Ewelme (possibly manorial) 74, 75, 75; Stanford in the Vale (boundary) 72, 73
 - post-medieval: Bedford 1; Stanford in the Vale (boundary) 72, 73; Wotton Underwood (garden) 17
- Wantage, Oxon
 - Newbury Street; medieval 76
 - Vale and Downland Museum; possible Minster boundary 45
- Wardington, Oxon; Church Farm 51
- Warmington, Nhants; Chapel Street, medieval 36
- Watchfield, Oxon; Westnill Farm, Iron Age 38
- water cistern, Roman; Stanion 35
- water holes, late Iron Age/Roman; Cranfield 2
- water mills: Buscot 53; Church Enstone 62-6, 62-5; Mapledurham 54; Oxford 56
- waterlogged material
 - middle Iron Age; South Leigh 59
 - Roman: Marcham/Frilford 78; South Leigh 58, 59
- Watford Gap, Nhants; Watford Gap Renewable Energy Park, late Iron Age/Roman, medieval, post-medieval 37
- Wavendon, Bucks; St Mary's Church, medieval 16-17
- Weedon, Bucks; Chestnuts Farm 11
- weights, Roman steelyard; Burton Latimer 25
- Weldon, Nhants; The Old Woodyard 36
- Wellingborough, Nhants
 - Olympic Way, Hardwick Schools 36
 - Park Road; C19 building 36
- wells
 - Roman; Stanion 35
 - medieval: Great Doddington 26; Swalcliffe Lea 50, 50
 - post-medieval; Oxford 43, 56, 57
 - undated; Kirtlington 38
- Wendover, Bucks
 - development to middle ages 11
 - historic public houses 12
 - St Mary's church 22
 - Wendover House School; Roman, medieval, post-medieval 11-12
- West Wycombe Park, Bucks; C18 timber-lined 'chambers' in river 17-18
- Weston-on-the-Green, Oxon; St Mary's churchyard 37
- Weston Turville, Bucks; historic public houses 12
- Whilton, Nhants; Whilton Sewage and Water Treatment Works 37
- Whitchurch, Bucks
 - Church Headland Lane, Kempston Cottage; post-medieval 17
 - historic public houses 12
- Whittlebury, Nhants; Porterswood Farm 36
- wicker basket, Roman; Marcham/Frilford 78
- Willen, Bucks; Caldecote Farm Quarry, Neolithic/Bronze Age, medieval, post-medieval 12
- Willington, Beds; Church Road 3
- Wingrave, Bucks
 - Dean Leys House; C15-16 dendrochronology 13
 - village survey 13
 - Windmill Hill Farmhouse, C16 13
- Winslow, Bucks; Vicarage Road, The Old Vicarage, Roman, medieval, post-medieval 12
- Winslow, Thomas, of Princes Risborough 10
- Witney, Oxon
 - Gill Mill Quarry; Bronze Age, Iron Age or Roman, medieval or later 51
 - High Street; medieval, early post-medieval 45
 - land west of Witney; Neolithic, Iron Age, post-medieval 60
- Wollaston, Nhants
 - High Street, former Excelsior Band Club 36
 - Tower Farm; ridge and furrow 37
- Woodeaton, Oxon; Romano-Celtic Temple Scheduled Monument 60
- wooden writing tablet, waterlogged; Marcham/Frilford 78
- Woodstock, Oxon
 - Oxford Street, Young's Garage 76
 - Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, rear of Fletchers House; post-medieval 60
- World War related features
 - Chelveston; Nissen huts 29
 - Coleshill House; hut bases, filled-in shaft 48
 - Thurleigh; bomb storage and other structures 3
- Wotton Underwood, Bucks; South Pavilion, medieval, post-medieval 17
- Yarwell, Nhants; Nassington Road, Nassington and Yarwell Cemetery 37
- Yewden Roman villa, Hambleden valley, Bucks 13-14, 13

Notes for Contributors

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

name of the County followed by

name of the organisation (if applicable) followed by

name of the writer or compiler followed by

body of the article with suitable headings and sub-headings.

2. If the article consists of many separate site reports, each site should be reported as follows:

name of the site followed by

grid reference (eg SP 1234 5678 [alphabetic prefix must be included]) followed by

name of the person who wrote the site report followed by

individual site report with suitable headings and sub-headings.

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. Each illustration must be a separate file in bmp, jpeg or tiff format. 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

26th July 2012

