

SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2012.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 43.

This volume is much the same length as volume 42 despite the ending of the Marcham excavation which has provided a long report for a number of years. However, to counteract this we have contributions from some new groups.

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* 44 is 31st March 2014; please refer to Notes for Contributors.

Finally, I would like to thank Joan Schneider for her hard work proof-reading the contributions.

Barry Horne AIfA
Editor

CBA South Midlands website: **archaeologyuk.org/cbasml**

On this site are:

Scanned copies of *SMA* 1-36

The cumulative index to *SMA* volumes 1-37

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

SMA - Notes for Contributors

Front cover -

A trial trench in the car park in front of Northampton station located a 12th century wall within the outer bailey of the former castle, and this attracted both media and local political interest, with the excavators posing for photographs with local councillors and the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation.

Sponsored by Northants Archaeology.

BEDFORDSHIRE**ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY****Bedford - Britannia Ironworks (TL 04422 48947)**

Wes Keir, Wiebke Starke and Rob Wardill

Trial trenching revealed that large areas of the former ironworks site, away from known significant disturbance (eg former basements and sand pit), had suffered relatively little truncation. The earliest features revealed were two early-middle Iron Age pots. Remains likely to be associated with Cauldwell Priory were identified at the northern end of the site, in an area where a considerable depth of levelling material (2.25-2.9m) had been deposited prior to and during the use of the ironworks. Remains of post-medieval and modern land use likely to be associated with a former farm were recorded in the central part of the site.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.24 OASIS Ref: albionar1-123377

Bedford - Bedford College campus improvements

(TL 0485 4942)

Mark Phillips and Jeremy Oetgen

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken during the installation of a new river water cooling system at Bedford College's Cauldwell Street campus. The site lay within the southern burh of Bedford, which was established in the late Saxon period and was defined by a ditched boundary, now known as the King's Ditch. The development works were situated close to the western arm of the ditch where it runs into a modern concrete culvert.

The pipe trench crossed St Mary's Gardens. The southern edge of this area was formerly bounded by a back channel of the river. Deep limestone foundations found here correspond to a building shown on a map of 1836 at the junction of the King's Ditch and the back channel. A later map suggests that this building had been removed by 1841. To the north of the back channel the natural landform sloped gradually down to the main river channel. In this area the land had been built up and levelled with dump deposits, which contained refuse items dating from the late 19th and 20th centuries. These deposits were cut by modern foundations which corresponded to buildings shown on a 1967 Ordnance Survey map. The investigations did not recover any evidence for the original form of the King's Ditch.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.30 OASIS Ref: albionar1- 125281

Bedford - Former Krupp-Camford Works, Ampthill Road (TL 0462 4822)

Richard Gregson and Jeremy Oetgen

A mixed development is proposed on land to the west of Ampthill Road, Bedford. The majority of the application site was formerly occupied by the Krupp-Camford Automotive Engineering Works.

The whole of the proposed development site comprises 12.75ha of land lying approximately 1.3km south-west of Bedford town centre. In a second phase of evaluation, four trenches were opened but all revealed only former gravel quarries. The deposits within them were exclusively related to quarrying and subsequent backfilling, overlain by deposits related to construction of the engineering works.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.64 OASIS Ref: albionar1-107583

Bedford - Land at Greyfriars (TL 0457 4994)

Kathy Pillinton and Rob Wardill

Bedford Borough Council is proposing the creation of a surface car park on land at Greyfriars, Bedford. The site is located to the west of the suggested boundary of the Saxon and medieval core of the historic town and east of the Greyfriars Franciscan Friary. It also lies on the possible course of the Saffron Ditch, an important early landmark and boundary in the development of the town. During the 19th century a planned street grid was laid out and various residential terraces together with industrial/commercial buildings were constructed in the area. Later during the 1960s this part of the town was extensively remodelled the 19th century structures were demolished and two tower blocks were constructed on the present site.

Trial trenching confirmed that the foundations of the former tower blocks were substantial enough to have destroyed any potential archaeological remains at their locations and that some deeper foundations were associated with the 19th century development of the area. The works also found that a considerable depth of overburden was present across the site. However, no archaeological remains of significance were identified.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.76 OASIS Ref: albionar1-139910

Bedford - Manton Lane (TL 0414 5099)

Jeremy Oetgen and James Newbould

Early in 2011 a local archaeologist, Steven Cockings, observed the remains of a limestone wall on a development site at Woodlands, Manton Lane. Excavating with the permission of the developer, he provisionally dated the wall as Roman, indicating the presence of a previously unknown and potentially significant archaeological site. This discovery was reported to the Historic Environment Team of Bedford Borough Council. Because there was no planning condition requiring archaeological mitigation of the development, Bedford Borough Council (with the cooperation of the developer) invited Albion Archaeology to investigate and record the remains within the area to be affected by the laying of a service trench and to observe digging of the trench. (Fig 1).

Albion Archaeology confirmed the presence of a limestone wall foundation of probable Roman date (Fig 2). It was aligned north-south and largely comprised a single, generally pitched course of rough-hewn limestone. However, the southernmost part of the foundation

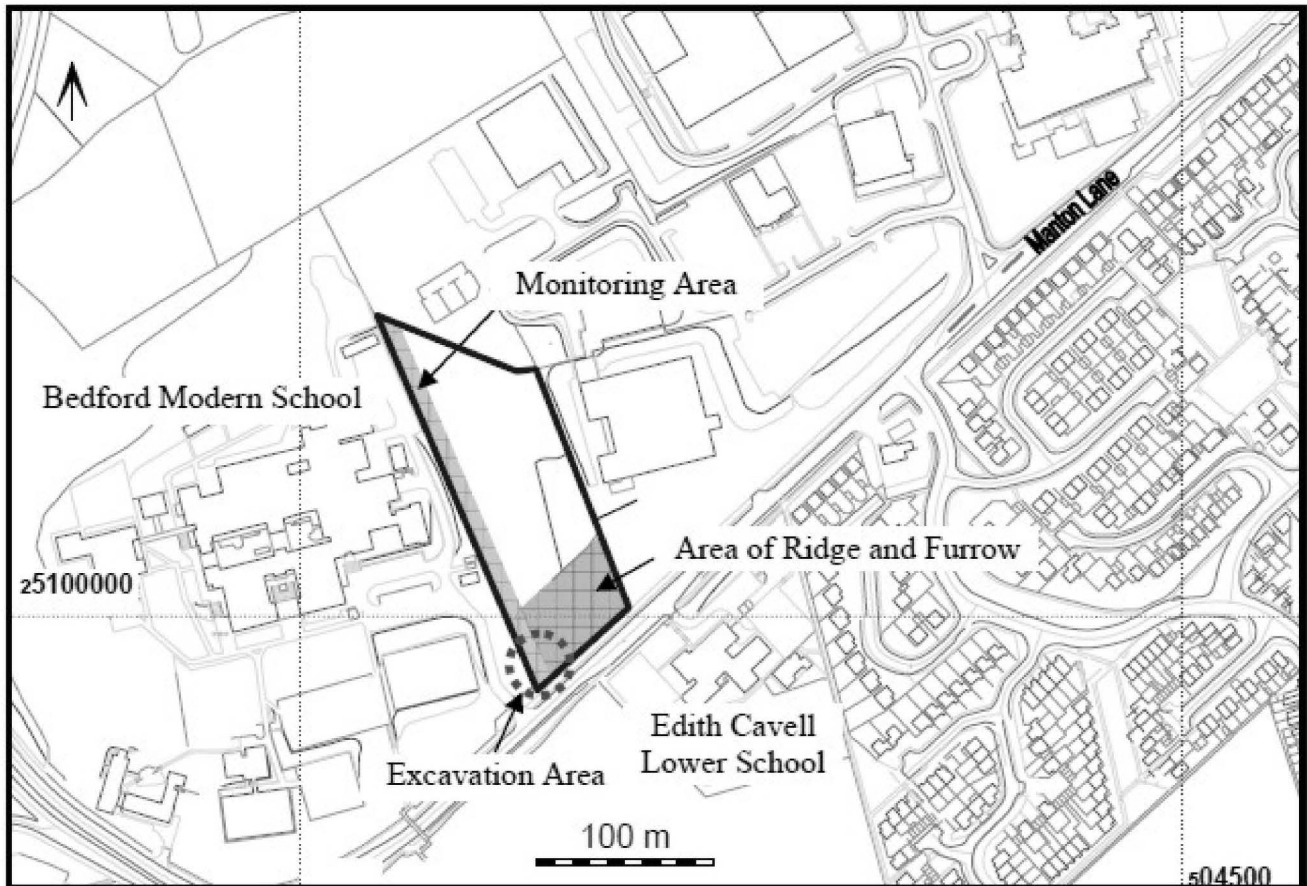


Fig 1. Manton Lane. Site plan.

consisted of three courses of pitched limestone, laid in a herringbone pattern - a form commonly, though not exclusively, Roman. The deeper foundation had been constructed where the wall crossed an earlier feature, which contained Roman pottery. An additional course of horizontally bedded limestone facings survived in places and this is likely to represent remains of the lowest course of

the upstanding wall. Excavations also revealed evidence that the wall had been robbed in the post-medieval period, possibly accounting for the limited survival of the shaped stone.

The wall was overlain by a demolition deposit containing mortar, limestone fragments, ceramic building material, wall plaster and 2nd century Roman pottery. With the exception of a single sherd of Roman pottery from the wall fabric no artefactual material was directly associated with the wall, but a Roman date is indicated by the presence of Roman artefacts within the overlying and underlying deposits and corroborated by the proximity of remains found by Cockings in 2010 at Edith Cavell School. The extent of this general scatter of Roman material suggests that there was a range of Roman buildings in the immediate vicinity, either side of Manton Lane.



Fig 2. Manton Lane. Limestone wall foundation of probable Roman date

In a service trench upslope of the wall, three small linear features were observed found to the south of a large, undated depression likely to be a quarry. These

features all contained deposits that yielded mortar, limestone and Roman artefacts indicating they were filled during or after the demolition of the buildings.

The depth of overburden (0.3-0.4m) above the archaeological horizon identified during investigations by Albion Archaeology indicates that conditions for the preservation of any such remains within the remainder of the site are likely to be favourable.

Accession No: BEDFM:2011.48

OASIS id:

albionar1-102039

Bedford - Saracen's Head, St Paul's Square

(TL 0500 4973)

Mark Phillips and Gary Edmondson

Albion Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological works during refurbishment of The Saracen's Head, 13 St Paul's Square, Bedford. Four pits were identified. The earliest two continued below the base of the trench and produced small amounts of charcoal, limestone fragments and 12th-13th century pottery. A large pit with a shallow, concave profile appeared to cut the upper edges of the earlier pits. The absence of any evidence for burials is significant. The investigations at nos 14-15a and in St Paul's Square in 1987 demonstrated the presence of an extensive late Saxon/early Medieval cemetery extending to the north of the church. The area monitored at The Saracen's Head appears to have been situated outside of the cemetery, which suggests that its northern boundary lay a short distance to the south.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.47 OASIS Ref: albionar1-131906

Bedford - St John's Street (TL 0509 4925)

Mark Phillips

A programme of archaeological monitoring works was undertaken by Albion Archaeology during the conversion of former commercial offices to residential units at 29-31 St John's Street, Bedford.

This second stage of works took place during the construction of an amenity area with play equipment, hard and soft landscaping, planting and the erection of a fence. Intrusive works in this area were minimal with the play area and planting containers being contained within low brick walls built on top of the existing tarmac ground surface. A series of fence post holes along the eastern street frontage was monitored but no significant archaeological remains were found.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2008.32. OASIS Ref: albionar1-141448, albionar1-41362

Bedford - 20-22 Silver Street (TL 0496 4982)

Gary Edmondson

Monitoring of groundworks associated with modifications to the buildings was undertaken on the site, located roughly mid-way along the southern side of Silver Street, within the old town of Bedford.

Work inside the standing buildings revealed traces of backfilled cellars under the existing floors. A coal cellar, with stepped footings, occupied the area towards the street frontage; to the rear a vertically sided cellar was revealed. Its tiled walls indicated a different function - possibly a storeroom with internal partitions.

To the rear of the plot the existing outbuildings were demolished and the ground level was then reduced, before a series of wall footings was excavated. The stratigraphically earliest, though undated, features were located towards the rear of the site, comprising a pit and a posthole. These pre-dated an extensive garden soil which contained post-medieval finds. This was truncated by a series of steep-sided features interpreted as robbed walls, defining elements of the footprint of a substantial stone building, which did not respect the present property boundaries. The infill of these trenches was truncated by a series of pits of uncertain function, clustered at the western margin of the investigation area. These did not respect the current property boundaries. They were sealed by a disturbed cultivation soil, which is thought to be material removed from the street-front area when the current buildings were erected.

In the south-eastern area of the site the floor of a clay tobacco pipe kiln was exposed. The wares of several local pipe-makers were recovered; the forms indicate a mid-late 19th century date. This feature was only revealed at the formation level of construction work, limiting the scope for investigation. A rectangular feature further west may have been associated with the kiln.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.38 OASIS Ref: albionar1-129602

Bedford Western Bypass - Northern Section

(TL 0191 5051 to TL 0372 5101)

Christiane Meckseper, Kathy Pilkinton and Iain Leslie

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to evaluate the route of the proposed road corridor which extends from the Deep Spinney Roundabout, Bromham Road in the west to the A6 Clapham roundabout in the east. The evaluation of the road corridor comprised aerial photograph analysis, geophysical survey, geoarchaeological investigation and trial trenching. It revealed several foci of archaeological significance.

A late Neolithic/early Bronze Age ring ditch was located within Balancing Pond 1. A late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditched enclosure and trackway were located within the western part of the road corridor. The presence of postholes within the enclosure and domestic debris suggest that this was part of a settlement. An early-middle Iron Age possible roundhouse was identified c 250m to the east of the earlier potential settlement. Although similar in form to ring ditches, the diameter of this feature was more comparable with a roundhouse than a burial monument.

A Late Iron Age/early Roman settlement was located to the east of the road scheme within Balancing Pond 5. It comprised ditched enclosures which produced large

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quantities of pottery and a number of postholes, although not all of the latter could be firmly dated. At the western end of the road scheme no evidence was found for any Roman activity in the vicinity of the stone-lined well found during quarrying in the 19th century.

The geology in the vicinity of the western section of the bypass consists of Third, Second and First Terraces of the River Great Ouse (or Biddenham, Stoke Goldington and Felmersham Terraces respectively). Despite the proximity of known finds spots of artefacts and palaeo-environmental material of this period, no such remains were found during the geoarchaeological test pitting and it is believed that the bypass does not impinge on the Biddenham Terrace.

Museum Accession no: BEDFM 2011.91 albionar1-120845

Biddenham - Land to rear of Ramsmead, Church End (TL 0181 4986)

Anna Rebisz-Niziolek and David Ingham

Groundworks for a detached house and garage were monitored by Albion Archaeology. Only one feature was

identified during the watching brief; it is likely to be late Saxon/Saxo-Norman in date.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.52 OASIS Ref: albionar1- 109181

Biddenham - Biddenham Loop (Great Denham) sports complex (TL 0210 4815)

Ben Barker, Iain Leslie and Mike Luke

Archaeological excavation was undertaken for CgMs Consulting Ltd in advance of a new sports complex funded by David Wilson Homes (South Midlands) on the southern part of the Biddenham Loop (Great Denham). The latter has produced evidence for human occupation from 10,000 years ago to the early Saxon period. It has previously been investigated in advance of Bovis Homes (Luke, 2008) and the more extensive David Wilson Homes development (Luke *et al*, 2009; Albion in prep.). The results of these excavations are being incorporated into the on-going analysis and publication of the Bedford Western Bypass and adjacent David Wilson Homes development (Albion in prep). (Fig 3)

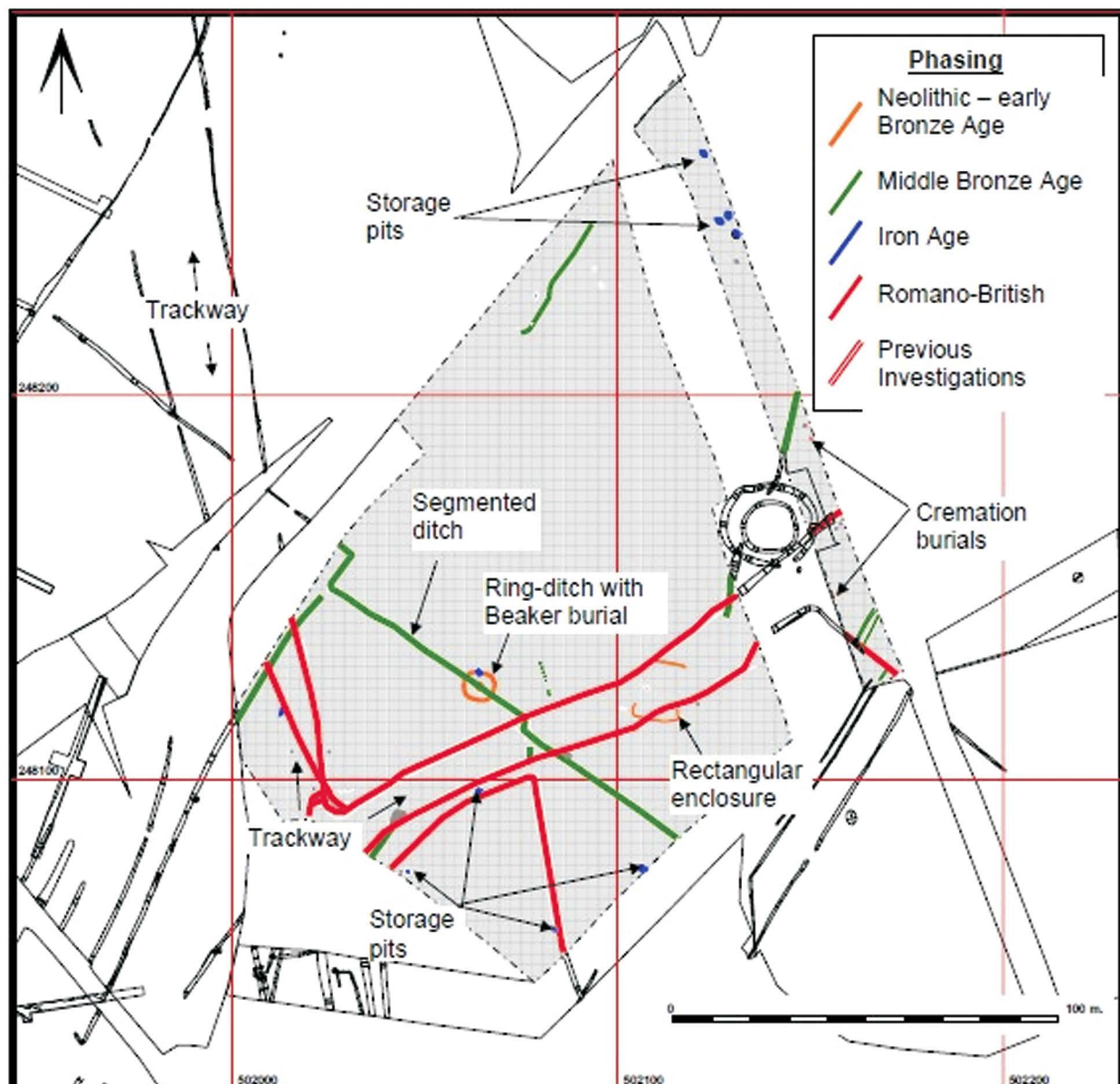


Fig 3. Biddenham Loop all features.



Fig 4. Biddenham Loop. The ring-ditch fully excavated.

Ring-ditch and Beaker burial (Fig 4)

The sports complex was located on the periphery of a Neolithic-early Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary cluster mainly to the west of a hengi-form monument (photo on front cover of *SMA* 39). An unexpected discovery within the excavation area was an early Bronze Age ring-ditch. This was only *c* 7m in diameter defined by a shallow ditch. The latter had been redug on at least one occasion. It is likely that, in the first phase, there was an entrance to the north-east, which was subsequently repositioned to the south-west. The later entrance was subsequently blocked by a linear pit. Just off-centre was a large oval grave, measuring *c* 2.9m x 2.1m x 1.2m deep.

The crouched body was laid on its left side with the head to the north, knees flexed and arms bent at the elbow, with the forearms resting over the pelvic area. It was accompanied by a range of grave goods: stone wristguard; boar's tusk; copper knife-dagger with antler pommel; two barbed and tanged arrowheads and a Beaker. (Fig 5)

Although the skeleton was complete many of its bones were in a poor state of preservation. It has been identified as that of a probable male who was over 26 years old but probably not of advanced years. The skeleton yielded a radiocarbon date of 2456-2145 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC-43790: 3823+30BP).

The crouched body (on the left side with head to the north), the individual concerned (adult probable male), the nature of the grave goods (with the possible exception of the boar's



Fig 5. Biddenham Loop. The Beaker inhumation (Beaker and wristguard visible).

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tusk) and their positioning are elements of a remarkably consistent range of themes seen in Beaker burials

Cremation burials

Two cremation burials were found within c 5m of a previously excavated hengi-form monument. One was urned and one not, but both have been radiocarbon dated to the early Bronze Age. The complete rim and partial upper body of a Collared Urn was recovered. Given that the base and lower body of the vessel were missing it is clear that the vessel had been inverted and the base subsequently truncated by modern ploughing.

Possible mortuary enclosure

A rectangular enclosure, c 15m x 12m and aligned just off north-south, was defined by a shallow truncated ditch. The widest gap was on the east side and the way the ditch turns inwards might suggest the presence of an entrance here. All of the ditch fills were excavated by hand but no artefacts were recovered. The monument's dating is, therefore, problematic. However, given that it is truncated by Romano-British trackway ditches and is located within a monument and burial cluster, a Neolithic/early Bronze Age date seems likely. Its assignment to the late Neolithic is more speculative and is based on the fact that the early Neolithic and early Bronze Age monuments within the Loop are quite distinctive and that there is no burial taking place in the Neolithic.

Middle Bronze Age

Extensive systems of fields have previously been identified within the Biddenham Loop (Luke *et al.* 2009). Until the 2012 work, all of the known middle Bronze Age field ditches respected the earlier monuments, suggesting that the latter were still revered, sacred sites. Although the change to fields and tracks was dramatic, it had not resulted in the wholesale erasure of the previous landscape and, presumably, the beliefs that underpinned it.

However, the recent investigations uncovered a middle Bronze Age ditch, which is the only one to be dug through the exact middle of an earlier ring-ditch (and over the top of the Beaker burial). It is unclear if the position of the ditch was designed to desecrate the burial (possibly by a group of people moving into the area) or to tap into its spiritual power. The ditch is also peculiar in that it had been redug over fairly short lengths on a number of occasions, a practice that has not been identified elsewhere on the Loop. Perhaps the special qualities of the place needed to be re-enforced in some way by the act of ditch digging.

Middle Iron Age

Five farmsteads of this period are known within the Biddenham Loop - all are located on the periphery of the middle Bronze Age fields, which presumably remained in use (Albion in prep.). The farmsteads were characterised by the presence of large pits, usually in clusters, used to store grain. A number of similar pits were found dispersed across the recent investigation area and would have been situated within fields as the nearest farmsteads are over 80m away.

Romano-British

Four farmsteads of this period are known within the Biddenham Loop. They were linked - at least over the southern part of the Loop - by two extensive trackways (Albion in prep.) which intersected within the recent investigations. The trackways comprised parallel ditches, spaced 11m apart, but no surfacing survived. The majority of the Roman finds (pottery and some metal objects) were recovered from the trackway ditches to the south of the excavation area (nearest to a known farmstead). A ditched enclosure located on the east side of the north-south trackway is probably one of the peripheral enclosures associated with this farmstead.

References

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Biggleswade - Holme Mills Heritage Project

(TL 1851 4298)

Gary Edmondson and Slawomir Utrata

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during works associated with the adaptation of the Jordan's Mill and adjacent area to a Heritage Centre. The mill-site lies approximately 900m to the south-west of Biggleswade, straddling both banks of the River Ivel. The mill is associated with two islands and a complex series of leats and channels.

The current mill dates to the late 19th century and is the county's longest-surviving, industrial-style, corn mill. The earliest documentary evidence for a mill at the site is indirect evidence from a 1639 will. The earliest cartographic evidence for a mill is a 1702 map, which is vague, but appears to show the mill on the west bank of the river, with an external mill wheel on the eastern gable wall. A plan of 1781 provides a detailed layout of the mill and associated buildings; this seems to be the basic layout which undergoes modification into the 20th century.

Groundworks associated with the mill building revealed evidence for several phases of earlier building. On the eastern island, below the modern concrete floor in the eastern bay, traces of red brick footings may define elements of the mill which burnt down in 1899. Traces of ironstone wall footings defined the eastern end of a smaller mill, with associated bypass leat. It would appear that the eastern gable of the current mill is within the earlier bypass leat, which may explain the need for its substantial footing. The north-west corner of another ironstone building was revealed immediately south-east of the standing mill - presumably on the eastern side of the bypass leat. Traces of another ironstone structure revealed at the formation level

within the mill building may define part of an even earlier mill. On the western island, groundworks revealed traces of red brick footings which correlate with buildings shown on the 19th century maps.

The investigations have provided an insight into the development of the mill site. Despite major redevelopment in modern times, deposits associated with early phases of building survive. However, groundworks associated with the development of the Heritage Centre had limited impact on the deposits, restricting the scope for both damage and the opportunity to investigate the earlier deposits. No finds were recovered to provide dating of the chronological sequence, though available historical maps provide some corroborating evidence.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2010.66 OASIS Ref: albionar1-131901

Bolnhurst and Keysoe - Sherwood Cottage, Kimbolton Road (TL 0884 6015)

Richard Gregson

Archaeological monitoring of the footing trenches for a new garage failed to reveal any remains of archaeological significance.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2010.63 OASIS Ref: albionar1-122218

Bolnhurst and Keysoe - Fern Cottage, Keysoe West (TL 0675 6127)

Mark Phillips

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out historic building recording. The work comprised a measured survey and photographic record followed by monitoring during demolition.

The cottage was built during the 19th century, not appearing on the enclosure map of 1806. As originally built it was in cob and thatch, 1 1/2 storied, one up one down with a brick stack in the east end for a single hearth and a narrow outshot at the rear. The roof was made with small section round-wood with common rafters. Examination of the clay walls during demolition showed horizontal lifts but no vertical jointing indicating cob rather than clay lump construction.

Subsequently the building was doubled in size with a timber-framed extension at the east end. The 1884 first edition OS map shows the cottage in its extended form. Surviving elements from the extension comprised the thatched roof and hearth attached to the back of the original hearth and a single corner-post and diagonal brace observed during demolition. The roof was supported by two collar/rafter principal trusses and rafters in sawn timber. During the 20th century the walls in the east half of the cottage were rebuilt in brick, leaving the original roof in situ and fragmentary remains of the original timber-framing at the junction between the two halves of the building.

The building fits a pattern in this part of north Bedfordshire of small cottages constructed on the roadside waste and is similar to other examples of clay-walled cottages built in this area during a period of population expansion in the 19th century.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.48. OASIS Ref: albionar1-139864

Dunstable - Land at Thorn Turn (TL 0004 2423)

Richard Gregson and Ben Barker

An archaeological field evaluation, comprising geophysical survey followed by trial trenching, was carried out to the north of Dunstable. The majority of the 50 excavated trenches contained archaeological features. These comprised ditches and pits, dating from at least the Roman period and including the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. A number of undated features were also identified. The majority of the features from the Roman period onwards appear to be associated with land division away from any settlement focus. Very few datable artefacts were recovered from the site.

Accession Number: LUTNM:2012.21. OASIS Ref: albionar1-131918

Eaton Bray, The Gate House (SP 9708 2094)

Richard Gregson and Gary Edmondson

A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out during the erection of a garage at the Gate House, The Comp, Eaton Bray. No remains of archaeological significance were revealed within the footings trenches.

Accession Number: LUTNM:2012.30. OASIS Ref: albionar1-129603

Eaton Bray - 4 Moor End Lane (SP 9764 2005)

Wiebke Starke

Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of geotechnical test pits, foundation trenches for dwellings and garages, and a number of service trenches and manholes was carried out at the site. Investigation and research have concluded that the site had been re-developed several times throughout the late 19th and 20th centuries. This is reflected in the results of the archaeological observation, during which no features pre-dating the modern period were found.

Accession Number: LUTNM:2012.15. OASIS Ref: albionar1-122254

Flitwick - Land at Maulden Road (TL 042 361)

Kathy Pilkinton and Rob Wardill

Flitwick Town Council is looking to acquire land for a new cemetery off Maulden Road. Archaeological evaluation of the site comprised geophysical survey followed by trial trenching.

Four ditches, a row of postholes and an area of modern disturbance were revealed. All the features dated to the post-medieval and modern periods and are probably associated with land division and/or farming activities. No

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features of significant archaeological interest were found at the site.

Accession Number: LUTNM:2012.32. OASIS Ref: albionar1-131930

Great Barford - The Hoo, 31 High Street (TL 1311 5220)
Ben Barker and Kathy Pilkinton

Trial trenching in the rear garden of the property revealed no evidence for significant archaeological remains. Where features were present they were generally dated to the post-medieval and modern periods. One ditch contained a single sherd of medieval pottery. This feature was parallel to the road and may represent an earlier property division.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.32. OASIS Ref: albionar1-122218

Harrold -10 Church Walk (SP 9526 5672)
Anna Rebisz-Niziolek

Monitoring of service trenches and wall footings did not reveal any archaeological features. The subsoil in one part of the site produced a moderate assemblage of medieval shelly pottery, probably produced locally.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.66. OASIS Ref: albionar1-109098

Langford - Mushroom Farmhouse, Church Street (TL 1862 4169)
David Ingham and Wiebke Starke

Planning permission was granted for the construction of three detached houses with associated garages and an access drive on land at Mushroom Farmhouse, to the rear of 62-72 Church Street, Langford.

The evaluation revealed a concentration of medieval remains at the eastern end of the site, comprising ditches and a pit. An undated gully that may have had a structural function was revealed further to the west. The pottery recovered dates mostly to the medieval period, but the few Saxo-Norman sherds suggest a certain amount of earlier activity nearby. The volume of pottery and animal bone recovered is fairly modest but does suggest that settlement-related activity took place in the vicinity. The medieval remains were all recorded at the eastern end of the site closest to Church Street. The features may therefore relate to activities that took place to the rear of properties fronting onto Church Street.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.77 . OASIS Ref: albionar1-120817

Leighton Buzzard - Chamberlains Barn (SP 9310 2680)
Christiane Meckseper and Wiebke Starke

Trial trenching took place between March and April 2012 and demonstrated that few significant archaeological remains were present within the development area. Most of the archaeological features consisted of a series of medieval furrows and modern or post-medieval ditches which are probably associated with the current field boundary.

Several late 19th century and modern field drains were also recorded. The location of a double-ditched circular enclosure, revealed by geophysical survey, was confirmed. It consisted of one continuous internal ditch, possibly representing two phases, and the terminus of a potential outer ditch that was intermittent in nature. Pottery retrieved from both features was early Iron Age in date.

Accession Number: LUTNM:2011.96 . OASIS Ref: albionar1-131910

Little Staughton, Baptist Chapel schoolroom (TL 108 619)

Christiane Meckseper and Richard Gregson

Planning consent was granted for the erection of a new dwelling following the demolition of the former Baptist Chapel schoolroom. Documentary research of old photographs and maps showed that the schoolroom was little changed from its original construction, which was a simple rectangular one-celled cottage with a fireplace and chimney at each end. The main alteration that had taken place in the 20th century was the insertion of two hopper windows in its western side, facing the main road.

The precise date of the construction of the schoolroom is unclear but elements of the building fabric confirm a date in the early 19th century. In particular, the narrow margin lights of the main east-facing windows had become a common feature of sash windows in the early 19th century.

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks revealed a garden soil, two drains and a possible brick structure, associated with the schoolroom and caretaker's cottage. The buried brick structure may represent part of an earlier building or an earlier phase of the caretaker's cottage as shown on the Enclosure map of 1803. A roughly north-south aligned ditch was recorded in the foundation trenches. Its date and function are unclear. However, as the Colmworth Road (High Street) was significantly wider in the 18th/19th century than it is today, it is possible that it may represent an early roadside ditch or roadside boundary. The investigations also recorded a large pit containing a fragment of late medieval pottery. While this is likely to be residual, it is nevertheless an indicator that medieval activity did take place in the vicinity of the site.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.21 . OASIS Ref: albionar1-122228

Luton - Luton Dunstable Busway (TL 1007 2085)
Marcin Koziminski and Rob Wardill

Luton Borough Council and the then Bedfordshire County Council applied for an order under the Transport and Works Act 1992 to construct and operate a guided busway between Luton and Dunstable. Archaeological monitoring of groundworks at seven locations along the busway route was undertaken. The only archaeological features pre-dating the construction of the railway were revealed at Dog Kennel Down. These included two northwest-southeast aligned early Roman ditches. Though containing no artefacts, a further similarly aligned ditch is likely to be contemporary. These ditches may well have served as field

boundaries/drainage ditches associated with agricultural activity, though the pottery recovered from the ditches during these works and the preceding trial trenching may indicate evidence for settlement activity in the vicinity. Two undated features that could be associated with the Roman activity were also revealed: a ditch and a deep pit, which may originally have been used as a storage pit or well and which contained a partial cow skeleton.

Numerous layers and features associated with the development and use of the railway were revealed. Of particular note was a brick well located in deposits associated with the railway embankment near the former Dunstable Town Station.

Melchbourne and Yelden - Church Cottage, Melchbourne (TL 0288 6535)

Ian Turner and Wesley Keir

Evaluation and mitigation works on a single-storey sunken extension, new garage and hardstanding, with connecting access paths, was undertaken within the garden of Church Cottage. The site lies within the village's medieval settlement core and within what has been interpreted as a possible manorial enclosure. The investigations revealed a relatively complex sequence of medieval and later pits and ditches, which have made a modest contribution to understanding of the evolution of a small part of Melchbourne. The recovered artefacts and ecofacts have shed light on the types of ceramics in use in the village and the crops grown by the inhabitants. The pottery also indicates that there was activity on the site in the Saxo-Norman period, even though this is not represented in the contextual sequence. However, the small size of the investigation area, in particular, has hampered interpretation of the remains - it has not been possible to demonstrate conclusively that the remains are associated with a manorial centre. However, the work has clearly indicated that this part of the village has considerable potential to preserve significant archaeological remains which could potentially contribute to understanding of its origins and development.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.1 OASIS Ref: albionar1-116879

Potton - Land East of Biggleswade Road (TL 2225 4888)

Wesley Keir and Marcin Koziminski

Twenty-three of 31 excavated trenches contained archaeological features. These comprised ditches and pits dating from the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods as well as a number of undated features. The majority of the medieval features identified within the site appear to be associated with land division away from any main settlement focus. However, more substantial amounts of pottery recovered from some of the pits suggests some degree of settlement activity in the vicinity.

The majority of the features identified within the site were dated to the post-medieval and modern periods. They are associated with land division and management.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.05 OASIS Ref: albionar1-131265

Roxton - Laburnum Cottage, Chawston (TL 1568 5619)

Christiane Meckseper

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks at Laburnum Cottage revealed that there are substantial areas of made ground, both at the front and the rear of the cottage. During the quarrying and earthmoving operations parts of a human skeleton were imported onto the site and dumped within the gravel deposits. This was most likely an inadvertent and not deliberate act. The date of the human bones is unclear. The lack of artefacts within the deposits suggests that there was no nearby human habitation in the medieval period or earlier. The quarrying and earthmoving most likely took place in the post-medieval period prior to and as a preparation for the construction of Laburnum Cottage, which was built c 1700.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.20 OASIS Ref: albionar1-92433

Sandy - Land at Saddlers, 7 Swaden (TL 1820 4905)

Iain Leslie

Excavations covering c 280m², undertaken in advance of construction of a house extension, revealed a substantial late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditch and 2nd-3rd century Roman settlement remains comprising pits, ditches, structural slots and an urned cremation burial. The site lies c 500m north of the Roman town of Sandy and probably represents part of a farmstead situated on the Baldock to Godmanchester road. No evidence for this routeway, which it had been suggested ran through the site, was revealed.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.03 OASIS Ref: albionar1-117331

Sandy - 19 Stratford Road (TL 1855 4762)

Christiane Meckseper and Kathy Pilkinton

Monitoring during the construction of a replacement garage with annex accommodation, associated services and landscaping to the rear of 19 Stratford Road, Sandy, revealed no archaeological remains.

Accession no: BEDFM.2012.61 Oasis no: albionar1-135007

Shefford - Shefford Lower School, Bloomfield Drive (TL 0903 4624)

Ben Barker, Mike Luke and Ian Turner

Albion Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at Shefford Lower School, which partly overlies a known Roman settlement (Luke *et al*, 2010). The investigation identified Roman, medieval and modern remains comprising quarry pits, boundary features and agricultural features. The most significant discovery was the presence of large Roman quarry pits and a boundary ditch. The nature of the features, the small quantity of finds and the absence of

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features to their west suggests that the edge of the settlement has now been identified.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.46 OASIS Ref: albionar1-131916

Shillington - Pegsdon Grange tennis court, Pegsdon (TL 1184 3035)

Christiane Meckseper

Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for a new tennis court was undertaken

In the north-west corner of the excavation the top of a brick chamber was exposed. It consisted of a rectangular cut, lined with a single layer of bricks. The chamber had external dimensions of 1.4m by 0.7m.

Accession Number: LUTNM:2012.25 OASIS Ref: albionar1-128876

Stanbridge - Whitehouse Farm (SP 9715 2422)

Christiane Meckseper and Richard Gregson

The majority of archaeological features found during trial trenching dated to the 19th and 20th centuries. They were related to the use of the farm complex and adjacent post-medieval cottages which were demolished at the turn of the century. Medieval furrows suggest that the area always lay some distance from the contemporary settlement foci and was used for agriculture. The exception to this was the presence of a small un-urned cremation, which contained 2g of human bone from a juvenile, c 3 years of age.

Accession Number: LUTNM:2012.22 OASIS Ref: albionar1-131872

Stotfold, Fairfield Park Lower School

(TL 2022 3503)

Kathy Pilkinton, Ben Barker and Jeremy Oetgen

Archaeological investigations over c 0.5ha took place in the playing fields of Fairfield Park Lower School. Remains dating from the late Bronze Age through the Iron Age and into the late Roman period were revealed. (Fig 6)

Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age

Remains from this period were largely represented by artefacts present in later Roman and Iron Age features, presumed to be residual. However, small clusters of post holes scattered across the site produced pottery suggestive of this earlier date. A number of small pits also date to this period.

Early - Middle Iron Age

This period is largely represented by a dense area of pitting in the south-east corner of site. Almost 100 largely circular pits of varying size were revealed. The most common 'type' being

steep/vertical-sided storage pits with flat bases. These appeared to have been deliberately backfilled, partially with re-deposited natural. Two contained partial human remains and one a partial dog skeleton. Smaller shallower pits often contained deposits suggestive of refuse; one of these also contained disarticulated human remains. The pits contained very little intrusive material, suggesting a period of disuse prior to the establishment of the later Roman ditch and enclosure systems.

The dating of the features in the northern half of the site is less clear. However, the possible remains of two roundhouses and a scattering of pits belong to this period, as does at least one four-post 'granary' structure. Five shallow ditches aligned northwest-southeast across the south-west corner of the site appear to represent the limit of activity dating to this period.

These features appear to represent the periphery of the larger, previously excavated settlement of this period located to the south-east (Webley *et al*, 2007).

Late Iron Age / Early Roman

The most prominent feature relating to this period is the corner of a large enclosure, presumably continuing to the north-west of site. The V-shaped ditch was up to 3m wide. A number of scattered pits and gullies, largely internal to the

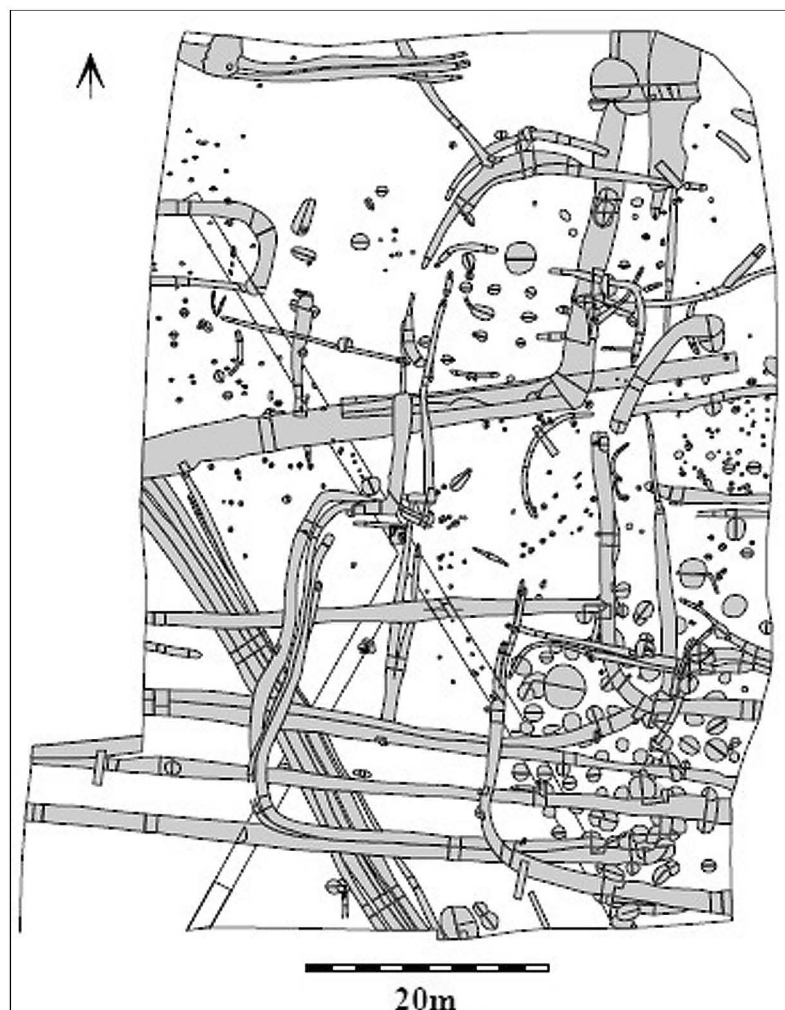


Fig 6. Fairfield Park Lower School. All features plan.

enclosure appear to be contemporary, as is a smaller rectangular enclosure, partially visible at the western extent of the site.

Roman Burials 1st/2nd century

Trial trenching of the site (BCAS 1977) had uncovered a high status Roman cremation burial with eleven accessory vessels; the cremated bone itself was within a glass amphora. These are on display in the newly refurbished Higgins Museum in Bedford.



Fig 7. Fairfield Park Lower School. Recording cremation burial.

The recent excavations uncovered a similarly high status burial of the same period roughly 10m to the south (Fig 7 and 8). The cremated bone was contained within a casket, of which only the copper alloy fittings survived. Eight accessory vessels were present, most notably four samian bowls, a small cup with green lead glaze and a glass jug. An iron lamp and hanger were also placed within the grave cut.

Roman 2nd/3rd Century

A series of enclosure and boundary ditches, largely aligned east-west across the southern half of site are the most prominent features dating to this period. Although in some cases they appear to respect the limit of the earlier pitting both the stratigraphic evidence from site and the artefact assemblage suggest distinct and separate periods of activity in the area.

At the northern end of site a number of shallow curving enclosure ditches date to this period. They appear to enclose a structure formed of at least six large postholes and a series of gullies. A possible hearth feature and a cobbled surface located to the west of these are also Roman in date.

In the north-east corner of site a large well, at least 3m deep, was identified.



Fig 8. Fairfield Park Lower School. Cremation burial with remains of casket.

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A single urned cremation burial with two accessory vessels, located in the vicinity of the earlier burials but later in date, was also identified.

Roman 3rd/4th Century

A small artefactual presence within this period was identified, concentrated in layers overlying earlier ditches in the north-east corner of the site adjacent to the well. The upper fills of the well itself also contained artefacts of this date.

References

BCAS, 1997, Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold: Archaeological Field Evaluation. Unpublished BCAS report, number 1997/12

Webley L, Timby J and Wilson M 2007; Fairfield Park, Stotfold, Bedfordshire: Later Prehistoric Settlement in the Eastern Chilterns. *Bedfordshire Archaeology* Monograph 7

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.31 OASIS Ref: albionar1-131855

Stotfold - Stotfold Football Pitches, Arlesey Road (TL 2137 3707)

Ian Turner

Stotfold Town Council in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council have submitted a planning application to develop land adjacent to Larksfield Surgery, Arlesey Road, Stotfold, into a community football facility consisting of three football pitches with accompanying toilets and car parking.

Five of thirteen trenches to the south-east of the development site revealed archaeological features of Roman date. The remains comprised eighteen ditches, a possible stone-lined corn dryer, a hollow-way/track-way, a large pit and two post-holes. An additional seven ditches and two post-holes were investigated which are undated but are probably also Roman or possibly earlier. The features present a fairly dense grouping and the presence of moderate amounts of pottery and animal bone suggest that they represent a domestic settlement site. The remains are significant in that they indicate the presence of a Roman period settlement of currently unknown size and status.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.57 OASIS Ref: albionar1-137842

Thurleigh - Bedford Teleport (TL 3719 6107) Mark Phillips

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording were undertaken during the construction of a new satellite dish. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential - it is close to a probable late Iron Age settlement (outside the airfield perimeter); it also contains wartime and post-war remains. Previous investigations have been undertaken on this site in advance of the construction of a number of satellite dishes in the 1990s and an additional one in 2011. These investigations recovered artefacts dating from the late Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval periods, along with evidence for the wartime use of this part of the airfield.

The investigation recorded the location of one of the wartime concrete access roads which led to a nearby bomb store. The remains confirm the location of the road as shown on a plan of 1944. No evidence for any earlier activity was recovered. The observations confirm earlier findings that the impact of 20th century ground disturbance associated with the activity on the site is low and that there is potential for the survival of earlier deposits, where present.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.56 OASIS Ref: albionar1-104381

Willington - 21 Chapel Lane (TL 1140 5017) Ben Barker and Iain Leslie

Planning permission was granted for the construction of two single-storey detached dwellings with garages and a new access drive. The groundworks revealed two undated features of archaeological significance: a field boundary and a pit. Also observed were numerous modern intrusions likely to be associated with the disposal of domestic refuse from the houses to the south of the development area.

Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.94 OASIS Ref: albionar1-116024

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Sandy, Station Road (TL 1773 4853) Cat Edwards

Excavation on behalf of Longcross Construction was carried out ahead of redevelopment. The excavation revealed the presence of Iron Age and Roman complex ditch systems and pit groups, a kiln or oven and a stretch of stone wall. Beyond these features lay an area of the Roman cemetery where 29 burials were recorded. Some of the individuals had been buried with complete pottery vessels and a number had evidence for footwear in the form of hobnails preserved around the feet. Post excavation work and publication is currently on hold.

BEDFM: 2010.40

Podington, Glebe Farm, NN27 (SP 9650 6250) T Fidler

A watching brief on behalf of vento ludens Ltd comprised the monitoring of 30 geotechnical test pits. The geological horizon remained fairly consistent across the whole of the site, with drift deposit of grey boulder clay with sand and chalk inclusions, overlain by either natural sands or buried soil consisting of clay and silty clay topsoil. No archaeological features were recorded on site, but three small abraded fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material were retrieved and retained from the topsoil of two test pits.

BEDFM: 2012.79

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

Aspley Guise, The Wheatsheaf (SP 9477 3585)

David Fell and Jonathan Hunn

In January a heritage asset impact assessment was prepared for the Wheatsheaf public house, in order to inform proposals for the redevelopment of the site. Buildings are shown on the site on historic mapping from the mid-18th century. The original Wheatsheaf public house was constructed during the early 19th century and was replaced by the present building c 1910.

An evaluation, carried out in August, revealed post-medieval features within two trenches, some of which were likely to be associated with the most recent phase of the public house. A post-medieval brick-lined feature and possible boundary ditch were also identified, and may have belonged to an earlier phase of the site.

Chicksands, Lodge Farm (TL 1209 4017)

Mo Muldowney

In March a watching brief was carried out at Lodge Farm during ground reduction for the construction of an agricultural building. The work identified a series of large modern agricultural waste pits in addition to two late post-medieval made-ground deposits. No archaeological features were observed.

In November an evaluation was undertaken on land at Lodge Farm (TL 1194 3992), ahead of the construction of a solar farm. Five trenches were excavated but no archaeological features were revealed.

Clapham, High Street (TL 0340 5229)

Mo Muldowney

In December 2011 an evaluation was undertaken on land associated with The Swan, a former public house on Clapham High Street, ahead of proposed residential redevelopment. The work identified a moderate number of ditches, pits and postholes of Saxo-Norman and medieval date, and a post-medieval ditch and layers.

Subsequent excavation during April and May 2012 showed that the site was characterised by a large number of pits and postholes of varying sizes and shapes, and several ditches either parallel with, or set at right-angles to the High Street. A fragment of quern stone was recovered from one of these pits: another contained the partially articulated remains of a pig's leg. In the central and eastern parts of the site the pits were grouped and intercutting and one set of pits contained cess and charred grains, providing the best evidence for domestic occupation. Postholes also varied in size and shape and were located across the site, with concentrations towards the rear of the plot and on the frontage. There was evidence in four or five instances of posthole/postpipe combinations and also stone post-packing. A small number of wide, deep postholes were located in the north-west

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corner of the site, associated with a large ditch set at right-angles to the road. A similar posthole/ditch arrangement was identified at the rear of the plot, but on a smaller scale.

The finds assemblage is characterised by a moderate quantity of pottery, including a number of decorated and glazed examples, and animal bone. A spread/hollow in the north-west corner of the site produced fragments of glazed, decorated floor tile and roof tile and an interesting iron paddle-like implement. Fragments of limestone, possibly from a wall or other structure, were recovered from a large number of features but do not appear to have derived from the site. Other finds of interest include a large fragment of quern stone (possibly granite) and a small but not insignificant quantity of slag, including a partial smithing hearth bottom.

Clophill, High Street (TL 0828 3776)

Mo Muldowney

In June an evaluation was undertaken on land between 3 and 3a High Street, ahead of the construction of two semi-detached dwellings. Three post-medieval pits were identified near the centre of the site. No features were present in the other trenches to the north and south.

Maulden, 121 Ampthill Road (TL 0509 3802)

Gareth Shane

In October an evaluation was undertaken at 121 Ampthill Road, prior to the construction of a terraced house. Two trial trenches were excavated within its footprint. These revealed a deep covering of made ground, likely to have been deposited in the 1970s when the existing terrace was constructed. It appeared likely that ground levels were reduced for that development, removing any archaeological features or deposits that may have been present.

Potsgrove, Coach House Church Lane (SP 9519 2993)

Jonathan Hunn

In July a watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension to The Coach House, Church Lane. The watching brief revealed only evidence of modern services and an earlier modern surface of brick setts in front of the building. The house stands on a gentle south-east facing slope, and there was evidence for levelling up the area in front of the building. No features or deposits were found predating the construction of the house, which dates to the 1960s or early 1970s.

Shillington, Pirton Grange High Road (TL 1229 3300)

David Kaye

In May a watching brief was carried out at Pirton Grange, High Road, during the excavation of footing trenches for a single-storey extension adjacent to an existing office barn conversion. No archaeological cut features or deposits were noted, and no artefacts were present in the overburden.

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Wrestlingworth, Church of St Peter (TL 2590 4736) Carina Summerfield-Hill

In January a watching brief was carried out during drainage improvements at St Peter's church. Nine articulated or partly articulated burials were encountered, five of which were preserved in-situ, whilst the remaining four were fully excavated and a rapid analysis was carried out. Moderate levels of disarticulated human remains and two disarticulated skulls were also uncovered. The works revealed no earlier church foundations, nor any further evidence to increase our understanding of the west tower.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORD BOROUGH

Vanessa Clarke (Senior Archaeological Officer, Historic Environment Planning Services, Bedford Borough Council.)

Fieldwork Projects

There have been a large number of development-related fieldwork projects undertaken within the Bedford Borough Council area in 2012.

A particular highlight has been the recovery in the Great Denham/ Biddenham area, of a Beaker burial accompanied by a stone wristguard, pot, arrowhead and knife. The skeleton is of a male, aged 35-45 and has a radiocarbon date of 2456-2145 cal BC SUERC-43790: 3823±30BP) at 95.4% probability, with a date of 2350-2195 cal BC at 83.5% probability. His mourners had buried him on his left-hand side with his face to the north, and with his legs bent. His grave was large and rectangular in shape. Buried alongside him were the accoutrements of a hunter, and symbols of status. His grave may have been covered by a round barrow common at this time (Early Bronze Age, 2300BC).

Some of the objects found in the grave hint at how he was dressed or adorned when he was buried. On his forearm was a wristguard to protect the arm from the recoil of an archer's longbow. Further finds include a Beaker pot, a boar's tusk, knife and barbed and tanged arrowhead - the latter pointing towards his right heel. It was likely that the items were placed in the grave for use in the next life.

Work continues on another find of great significance, the discovery of a high-status early Saxon burial from the Cardington area discovered in 2011. The inhumation burial, probably a female 18-25 years old, was associated with a 'Coptic bowl' and a series of iron fittings. Radiocarbon dating indicates a date of 551-646 cal AD (1465 ±30BP). This type of burial is rare and is of national significance. The presence of grave furniture indicates the body was at the very least placed on a bier, but more likely within a coffin. The presence of a comb was not an unusual grave good but the presence of a 'Coptic' bowl does suggest that the remains belonged to someone of importance. Its presence also increases our knowledge of the distribution of the rite - this burial being the first in Bedfordshire to contain such a vessel. The fact that this burial may be of a woman is also noteworthy, as the vast majority of burials

accompanied by 'Coptic' bowls are male (Geake, 1997, 85). Given that a burial containing nationally rare Iron Age ringmail was found nearby in 2009 and the site is located on a slight ridge overlooking the Ouse and Elstow Brook, being visible for some distance, it is possible that the site continued to have a ritual/ funerary importance over hundreds of years. Details of further selected sites are given in Appendix 1.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

Scanning of all hard copy documentation held within the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (BBHER) including reports, images, photos, slides and plans has been completed. The resultant digital files have been catalogued using Exegesis Library Link software and integrated with the BBHER database and GIS system. This means that all digital files connected with each HER record can be accessed at the touch of a button from the database or GIS application. We can now retrieve and access this digital information efficiently and reliably, which will help with the process of data cleaning and dealing with the extensive backlog that has built up.

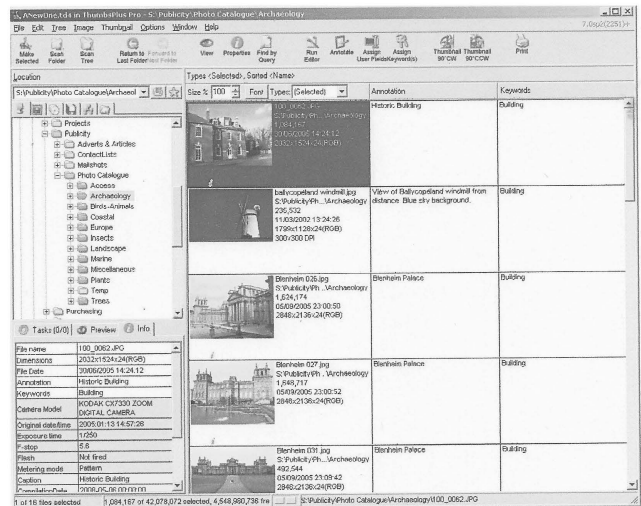


Fig 9. Example screenshot of Library Linked images.

Outreach

Throughout 2012 extensive work was undertaken by the Senior Archaeologist in conjunction with Marston Vale Trust towards making a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the design and implementation of a heritage interpretation strategy within Bedford River Valley Park. We expect to hear very soon as to whether our bid has been successful or not.

Bedford River Valley Park is a green space that will eventually cover 868ha as parkland, largely occupying the floodplain of the River Great Ouse on the urban fringe of Bedford. Once complete, the Park will be of an impressive scale - more than two times the size of Central Park and six times the size of Hyde Park - and will contain 240ha of floodplain forest with networks of access routes and a 2.3km rowing lake. It will provide a major new area of multi-functional greenspace on the urban fringe of Bedford to serve the recreational needs of an expanding population.

Bedford River Valley Park contains a microcosm of the historic environment of Bedford Borough, with archaeological remains, standing buildings and excavated sites dating from all periods (latest count - over 230), a number of which are designated heritage assets. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic artefacts represent the earliest periods of human occupation in Britain. The Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments are one of the most important groups in the region, recognised by their scheduling, and have strong comparative links with internationally important sites such as Stonehenge. Iron Age and Roman period rural settlements and farming landscapes are a ubiquitous feature of Bedfordshire's archaeology, and a number are known within the park. Saxon sites are generally rare, yet settlement remains have also been identified within the park. The transition from Saxon to Norman England is represented by earthwork castle sites overlooking the park from the north bank of the River Great Ouse. Medieval settlement and landscape is clearly represented, with Newnham Priory in the west and Willington Dovecote and Stables in the east, with local villages still largely within their medieval boundaries and containing nationally important moated manorial sites. The park is also characterised by later and widespread gravel extraction which has resulted in the identification of many of the archaeological sites and finds. The old alignment of the Bedford to Cambridge Varsity Line cuts through the park and is now used as the Sandy to Bedford cycleway which forms part of the National Cycleway Route 51. The railway was opened in 1862 and closed in 1951 and remains include the track bed, bridge structures and the station sidings at Willington.

The creation of Bedford River Valley Park will achieve a creative reuse of a number of worked-out clay and gravel pits for the benefit of the local community and visitors from further afield. It will replace (an albeit interesting) industrial landscape with a large area of publicly accessible green space where the surviving designated and non-designated heritage assets can be better presented in a more appropriate setting. This increased access to the landscape in which the heritage assets are set and in some cases direct access to the sites themselves, provides an opportunity to recognise through their interpretation, the important contribution they have made in shaping Bedford River Valley Park's past and present landscapes, and how their conservation and enhancement can positively add to its future landscape for the benefit of all.

The project involves the development of interpretation for the diverse heritage of Bedford River Valley Park. Through mixed media interpretation, comprising interpretation panels with QR codes and/or Near Field Communication, an interactive website with downloadable documents and gaming apps, a portable exhibition, podcasts, geocaching, bluetooth hotspots, leaflets and walks, the aim is that the general public will have readily accessible information about Bedford River Valley Park, and how the park is a living, breathing landscape where human activity has shaped the land, in the past, present and for the future. This project will allow visitors to appreciate the rich heritage of BRVP's landscape and take a journey through time to see how human activities have influenced the area.

Interpretation facilities will be located in a number of key locations within BRVP. On-line resources and website features will also be available for 'distance learning'. The interpretation for this project will span the entirety of the known history of the Bedford River Valley Park landscape.

A talk was given to Willington Local History Group in October 2012 on the preparation of the bid.

Appendix 1

Bedford

Archaeological monitoring at Silver Street by Albion Archaeology revealed the remains of a 19th century clay pipe kiln.

Excavations undertaken by Albion Archaeology to the east of the town to the south of Goldington Road identified Late Iron Age activity at the western margin of the site, whilst the truncated remains of part of a Roman settlement, principally occupying the high ground near Goldington Road, were revealed to the northeast. Two substantial ditches situated lower down the slope, may define the main extent of the Roman settlement.

Open area excavation following earlier evaluation work investigated two sites ahead of housing development and a cemetery extension to the north of Norse Road. The first site comprised a number of Saxon pits of uncertain function some of which had been used for the deposition of burnt material. One associated possible timber-framed structure was also identified. The second site comprised a small scale Iron Age farmstead site, evidence for which was in the form of enclosure ditches, a number of intercutting large pits, and a number of post holes.

High Street, Clapham

A trial trench evaluation followed by open area excavation was carried out by Archaeological Services and Consultancy in advance of housing development at High Street, Clapham. Medieval settlement remains were identified.

Chapel End, Colmworth

A programme of archaeological investigation undertaken by Souterrain Archaeological Services revealed evidence of a substantial enclosure ditch containing artefacts and environmental data attesting to settlement during the middle to late Iron Age. Additionally, evidence of Saxo-Norman occupation was also identified.

Harrold

A small scale excavation undertaken by Albion Archaeology in 2012 to the north of the High Street revealed principally Iron Age and Romano-British settlement features together with a small cremation cemetery. The work also revealed a substantial medieval boundary ditch likely to have formed the limit of the medieval settlement.

A trial trench evaluation to the south of the high street by Northamptonshire Archaeology identified medieval and post-medieval remains dating from the 12th to 16th century. These mostly comprised pits, one of which appeared to be partially stone lined.

Park Road, Melchbourne

Trial trench evaluation followed by open area excavation was undertaken by Albion Archaeology. This revealed evidence of occupation on the site from the Saxo-Norman period onward characterised by the presence of multiple ditches and pits.

Dairy Farm, Renhold

Evidence for prehistoric, Roman and Post-Medieval activity was identified across the landscape in the form of pits, ditches, postholes and sparse artefact scatters, during an evaluation. Subsequent ongoing excavation by Cambridge Archaeological Unit has revealed extensive prehistoric remains including a deposit of residual early Mesolithic flints, 11 cremations - some with associated small ring ditches - and funerary artefacts including a Deverel-Rimbury pottery pygmy cup, a Beaker crouched inhumation, a separate pit with Beaker pot, a pit containing aurochs skulls, a 'U'-shaped enclosure cut through a

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double stake hole alignment, and a stitch ditch. Also a small probable Saxo-Norman cemetery.

Stewartby Way, Stewartby

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Albion Archaeology. A total of 32 trial trenches were opened across the site. Seven of the trenches contained remains dating from the early - late Iron Age with the features appearing to be broadly distributed along the higher ground which runs across the centre of the site. Ditches were the commonest type of feature and two of the larger ditches identified appear to form the corners of two enclosures. Other features included a small pit and two hearths comprising large, irregular burnt stones. The features most likely represent the remains of a small scale farmstead 'type' settlement which appears to have evolved throughout the Iron Age. Subsequent excavation confirmed the results of the evaluation and identified a farmstead settlement of middle to late Iron Age date comprising a number of roundhouses and associated enclosures. The importance of the remains within the locality is elevated due to the extensive clay extraction which has taken place in the surrounding area for the brick manufacturing industry.

Bedford Road, Wootton

A trial trench evaluation undertaken by Albion Archaeology revealed the remains of early to middle Roman period boundary ditches and a gully, also two contemporary pits and two post-medieval quarry pits, and an undated feature but possibly dated to the Roman period.

BEDFORD MUSEUM SATURDAY ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP

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

Helen Parslow

As part of the Festival of British Archaeology, July 2012 we returned to continue the small excavation started in 2011, with assistance from Albion Archaeology and the Priory Country Park Ranger Service. (Figs 10, 11 and 12.)

The weather on this occasion made conditions much more favourable than in 2011 and so the archaeology was a lot clearer. The trench was extended and carefully cleaned by the children. A small curved feature was observed, this was



Fig 11. Bedford, Priory Country Park (Newnham Roman 'villa').



Fig 12. Bedford, Priory Country Park (Newnham Roman 'villa').

excavated and found to be extremely shallow and had modern "finds" including packaging from filter coffee.

There was however a wide and very deep ditch observed and this was excavated to a depth that time restraints would allow. This contained both modern and Roman remains and ran parallel to the hedgerow and ditch of a boundary that was present on historical maps from 1843 onwards)

It is planned that the excavation will have the final stage during the Festival of British Archaeology in July 2013.

Also to be noted is the forthcoming publication in the East Anglian Archaeology series of Newnham: a Romano-British bath house and estate centre east of Bedford by D Ingham, J Oetgen and A Slowikowski. This is an ALSF-funded report on analysis of the excavations directed by Angela Simco between 1972 and 1975.

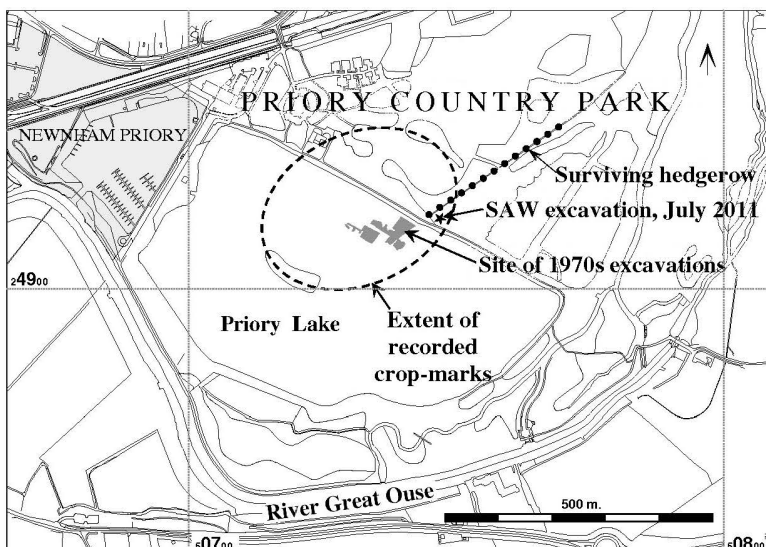


Fig 10. Bedford, Priory Country Park (Newnham Roman 'villa')

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Ducksworth Farm, Stagsden (SP 96601 47642)

Naomi Field

Archaeological building recording, comprising a full photographic record and building assessment of the farm buildings belonging to Ducksworth Farm was carried out for Abbeymill Homes, in advance of restoration for residential use (Field 2012). The small group of mainly brick buildings, is set around two courtyards west of the farmhouse within a moated site (Beds HER ref.3905), thought to date from at least the early 14th century. The manorial complex was abandoned by around 1600 and the current farmhouse sits virtually on the lip of the filled-in north arm of the moat. The HER entry for Ducksworth Farm describes the building as being an 'altered 17th century Farmhouse'. It is further described as being 'L-plan, colourwashed, roughcast over brick and timber-framing' (Beds. HER ref. 6943). This building was not included in the 2011 survey. The original manor house was probably more centrally located within the moated area, although no evidence was found for any previous structural remains during the recent watching brief that accompanied the building survey. A single sherd of 11th-14th century pottery (Type BO7, medieval shelly ware) was found (Cruise 2012).

Ordnance Survey maps show that the number of outbuildings expanded slowly over the period from 1883-1960. The farm was part of the Crown estate until it was sold in 1921. Sales catalogues from both 1921 and 1943 describe the function of the outbuildings in detail, which were mainly cattle sheds and stables, but few original fixtures and fittings survived. The most notable exception was a pair of drive wheels that were part of a line shaft for an electrical milking machine installed in the late 1920s, and photographed soon after its installation by the Bedford Corporation Electricity Department (Beds. Archives Z224/24).

A weatherboarded timber-framed barn on stone footings appears to have been the earliest structure on the site. (A



Fig 13. Barn at Ducksworth Farm, Stagsden, Beds. Front elevation showing double door with nesting boxes above. Looking south-west (Naomi Field).

second, smaller, weatherboarded barn had been demolished prior to the survey and other weatherboarded timber frames were found in secondary positions within the complex). An unusual feature of the barn was the presence of nesting boxes above the double door (Fig 13). The remainder of the outbuildings were constructed in local brick with bull-nosed edging on pillars and external corners of structures.

The recorded timber-framed barn appeared, to all intents and purposes, to be typical of an 18th century construction. However, cartographic evidence shows that there were no buildings, not even the farmhouse, on the site until after 1839. The earliest available map for the parish is one made in 1815 by the Ordnance Survey. Preliminary drawings prepared at a scale of 2" to the mile, in advance of the publication of the First Edition 1" map. The Bedford section (OSD 233) shows the village of Stagsden and an area labelled Stagsden West End. Although West End farmhouse is depicted neither the moat nor any building is shown on the site of Ducksworth Farm. The map accompanying the Stagsden Enclosure award of 1828 is of a larger scale and shows three plots of land, nos. 375, 376 and 377, which are described in the accompanying schedule as 'Ducksworth pightle' (a dialect word meaning a hedged enclosure), 'Ducksworth spinney' and 'Ducksworth', which comprised the moated site itself. The moat is clearly depicted extending eastward from the north-east corner of the spinney almost reaching the road, then turning southwards and finally west, with a detached pond also depicted. No buildings are shown inside the moat or indeed anywhere close by. Other buildings such as West End Farm to the south of Ducksworth Farm are clearly depicted, so the absence of buildings cannot be explained as being a consequence of the lack of detail

The 1835 1st edition OS map does show a building labelled simply as 'Lodge' which looks as if it may have been at the north-west corner of our site, although no building is depicted on the 1839 Tithe award map. It is only the 1883 1st edition 1:2500 survey that clearly shows both the farmhouse and the outbuildings around two courtyards. The conclusion to be drawn from this evidence is that all the buildings on this farm were constructed some time after 1839 and before 1883. By 1883 the farmhouse had been in existence long enough for various extensions to the main building to have been added. The timber-framed part of the farmhouse, which lies in the south range, and is described as being 17th century in date merits re-examination to establish the status of the timber frame within its construction.

The results of this survey have highlighted the need for an integrated approach to the study of standing buildings. Despite structural evidence to the contrary, cartographic evidence shows that the farm and outbuildings at Ducksworth Farm were probably all built after the first quarter of the 19th century. The development of Ducksworth Farm is a cautionary tale, reminding us that the recycling of materials is nothing new.

References

Field, Naomi 2012; Ducksworth Farm, West End, Stagsden, Bedfordshire. Archaeological Building Recording. Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy Report no. 0938

Bedfordshire

Cruise, Graham 2012; Ducksworth Farm, Stagsden. A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief. Network Archaeology Ltd Report no. 466

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Arlesey, Stotfold Road, Etonbury School (TL 203 372)
John Walford

A detailed magnetometer survey of the school playing field was commissioned by the BEST (Bedfordshire East Schools Trust) Archaeological Society. The survey mapped a small complex of ditched enclosures of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date. An early 20th century backfilled gravel pit was also identified.

Bedford, Meadow Lane (SP 5088 2494)
Adrian Chadwick

Archaeological trial excavation was undertaken, on behalf of Bedford Borough Council, on land off Meadow Lane. The ground had been scraped, compacted and heavily disturbed. No archaeological features or deposits were positively identified. Only one possible ditch was noted, and the trench flooded before this could be investigated. Modern and early modern land drains were also present. BEDFM: 2012: 40; OASIS 130275

Biggleswade, Kennel Farm (TL 210 444)
John Walford

Detailed magnetometer survey of c 7ha of land at Kennel Farm has suggested the presence of a ring ditch, perhaps of Bronze Age date, and identified two probable Iron Age or Romano-British enclosures. Smaller features, including a section of ditch and some possible pits or kilns, were also identified, and a ridge and furrow field system was shown to be ubiquitous across the area of survey.

Cardington Airfield (TL 085 467)
John Walford

A magnetometer survey carried out on two blocks of land, with a total area of c 11.8ha, prior to the construction of two ponds has located two discrete Iron Age or Romano-British enclosures and a cluster of small enclosures of similar date. Two possible kilns of unknown date were more tentatively identified. Many modern features were also located, including pipelines, railway track beds and an area of disturbed ground containing much ferrous debris.

Leagrave, M1 (TL 0519 2348)
Paul Clements

An archaeological watching brief was carried out beside the M1 motorway, southbound at Leagrave, during the cleaning of an existing drainage ditch and the excavation of a trench at the base of the motorway embankment. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered. OASIS 128071; LUTNM 2010.67

Luton, Woodside Road, Harrow Inn (TL 0725 1857)
Christopher Jones

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out ahead of extensions to Harrow Inn. A brick-lined well was uncovered, no other archaeological deposits or finds were identified. LUTNM:2012/36; OASIS 133149

Meppershall, High Street (TL 13950 36870)
Jason Clarke

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of the High Street. The only feature was a post-medieval field boundary, backfilled in the late 20th century. LUTNM.2012.20; OASIS 124377

Old Warden, Swiss Garden (TL 1488 4472)
Joe Prentice

An archaeological evaluation investigated the remains of a garden structure called the Overlook within the Swiss Garden, which was created in the 1820s. The remains of the structure comprise a brick wall with five integral buttresses on either side, retaining a mound of soil to the west. The investigation revealed that originally the mound of soil had been retained at the sides by a wall, most likely of ironstone, which would have prevented the soil from eroding. No evidence was found of any paths or steps leading to the summit of the mound nor was there any evidence of how any superstructure was configured. BEDFM.2012.2

Potsgrove, Hillfarm (SP 9482 3044)
David J Leigh

A watching brief during groundworks connected with the construction of a new extension at the rear of Hillfarm noted modern disturbance throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS 123717

Shefford, Ampthill Road, Shefford Lower School (TL 1377 3873)
Christopher Jones

A small archaeological excavation was undertaken prior to the proposed construction of an extension of the main school building. The only feature exposed was a late Roman ditch, which produced a small assemblage of pottery and roof tile. The rest of the site was disturbed by modern drains and the construction of the present school buildings. BEDFM. 2011. 90; OASIS 119883

Shefford, Shefford Road, Bridge Farm (TL 145 384)
Adrian Butler and Carol Simmonds

A detailed magnetometer survey, carried out on an area of c 4.8ha on a proposed development site at Bridge Farm, mapped enclosures likely to relate to a known cropmark complex (HER 11766), and small ring ditches, possibly roundhouses. A medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation system was present over the entire area.

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Subsequent trial trenching dated the enclosures to the middle/late Iron Age, perhaps the 1st century BC, and another small enclosure spanned the 1st century BC to the mid 1st century AD. The medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation was confirmed by surviving remnant furrows. There was some modern activity including a rubbish pit, areas of tree disturbance and an extensive network of field drains. BEDFM:2012.22 OASIS 126568

Silsoe, Barton Road, former Cranfield University Site
(TL 080 352)

Tim Upson-Smith

Following a programme of geophysical survey and trial trenching a limited open-area excavation was undertaken. Boundary ditches and pits dating from the late Saxon to the 12th century were excavated, as well as irregular artefact-filled hollows and the remains of a possible oven. Further ditches, pits and the remains of a rectangular stone building were associated with post-medieval pottery. There were no further remains across the remainder of the site, probably due to the landscaping and groundworks related to the construction of the former university campus LUTNM:2011.48

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Compiled by Kate Clover and Elizabeth Popescu

Pulloxhill, Water Treatment Works (TL 0803 3353)

Garth Rees

An earthwork survey recorded extant medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. It survived to a maximum height of 0.5m and a maximum length of 89m. No other archaeological features were identified.

Biggleswade, Dunton Water Treatment Works

(TL 2419 4476)

James Fairbairn

Excavation produced evidence of prehistoric settlement in the form of ditches and pits containing Late Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age pottery. The results of the investigation have provided the first dating evidence of known cropmark enclosures revealed from aerial photography and suggest an earlier date for these remains than had previously been considered.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Stantonbury - Heathley Chase, Wolverton Road

(SP 8418 4192)

Ben Barker and Rob Wardill

During construction works on a housing development unexpected human remains were discovered. They were

subject to forensic investigation and judged to be of "ancient origin and not of forensic interest". Following consultation with the Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer, Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an emergency area excavation and watching brief.

The majority of the human remains were disarticulated and had been disturbed by ploughing and modern services. However, in places, the remains appeared to have been protected by in-situ placed stones. The material recovered from these contexts appeared to suggest the deposition of multiple individuals. It is likely that the remains have been recovered from a highly truncated burial monument. The communal nature of the burials and their placement within a monument suggested an early Neolithic date, an interpretation that was supported by scientific dating and lithic typology. Dating of two pieces of bone gave radiocarbon ages of 4762 ± 37 BP and 4752 ± 37 BP, giving a calibrated date of the middle of the fourth millennium BC for both samples.

Well dated and recently excavated early prehistoric monuments are rare within the Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire area. Although better-preserved examples, such as Whiteleaf Hill do exist, the remains unearthed at Heathley Chase are still of considerable significance within the county. A recent resource assessment of the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age in Buckinghamshire notes only four long barrows, one oval barrow, and seventeen burials as being listed in the HER. Accession Number: AYBCM:2012.1 OASIS Ref: albionar1-118054

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Long Crendon, Gurkha Tavern, 83 Bicester Road

(SP 6894 0896)

Cat Edwards

A watching brief, on behalf of Wolff Architects, on ground reduction was undertaken at this former public house. The sequence of deposits identified during the watching brief was recorded as a natural clay and stone horizon, overlaid by a previous tile and brick floor layer which in turn was overlaid by a hardcore and gravel layer laid as a preparation layer for the modern concrete floor layer. No features or finds of archaeological interest were identified during the watching brief

AYBCM:2012.12

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MARLOW

Investigations at Warren Wood 2010/2011

John Laker

Between February 2010 and November 2011, Archaeology In Marlow (AIM) conducted excavations within a double enclosure at Warren Wood, in order to locate artefacts and

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the remains of buildings that might help to date the site. These investigations dated much of the site to the Medieval period. However, Neolithic and Bronze/Iron Age artefacts were also unearthed, indicating previous occupation that had not been suspected.

In 2005 and 2006, AIM had conducted part of its ROMADAM (Recording Of Marlow And District's Ancient Monuments) Project at Warren Wood. Within Warren Wood, an inner and an outer enclosure are located, thought to date from Medieval times (500 to 1500AD). Although the enclosures were accurately surveyed, no intrusive investigations were conducted at that time to decisively date the site.

Objective

In subsequent investigations in 2010/2011, AIM and the land owners were interested to date the site. To achieve this objective, AIM drew up a plan to excavate four 1m square test pits in the inner enclosure and another four in the outer enclosure (for comparison purposes), down to natural geology.

Location

Leaving Marlow on the A4155, travel towards Bourne End, cross the bypass and take the next left turn (after the Garden Centre), Winchbottom Lane; about a mile up the lane a footpath will be found on the right; this leads into Warren Wood, up a very steep hill! A short distance after the footpath's gradient has levelled out, the man-made earthwork can easily be seen on the left behind the AIM information board at SU 8715 8972. This site is on private land and permission must be obtained from the owners, the Mash brothers, to explore it.

Topography and Geology

Situated on the chalk hills of the Chilterns, approximately 100m above sea level, the inner enclosure of the earthwork measures approximately 50m in diameter whilst the outer enclosure is slightly larger. The earthwork was constructed on a plateau of glacial sand and gravel deposited during a previous ice age, which lies over the chalk bedrock.

Research

A comprehensive work by Mr Andrew Pike from 1996 entitled *Earthwork Enclosures in the Buckinghamshire Chilterns* lists six earthwork enclosures, along with three more possible sites. He writes, 'In short, these enclosures can perhaps be interpreted as the centres of small woodland settlements, with the principal dwelling and outbuildings situated within the smaller enclosure, where there is one. The larger "bailey enclosure" would have, perhaps, afforded protection to a small domestic herd from wild animals, such as deer and wild boar which were prevalent in Buckinghamshire in the medieval period. It would doubtless be the deer and boar, which were the principal animals that were hunted. Fieldwork in some of the enclosures has produced small quantities of medieval pottery so, despite the lack of documentary evidence, a date in the medieval period for these structures may be suggested'.

Artefacts

Roof Tile

Of the nearly 41kg of roof tile unearthed, Bucks Museum Resource Centre dated it all to the late medieval/early post medieval period, c 1400-1700. Due to the lack of change in manufacturing methods over this period, it is hard to be more precise. The very large amount of tile recovered from the trenches suggests a substantial tile-roofed building in the immediate vicinity. Since almost all of the pottery from the site pre-dates the tile, it is possible that a non-domestic tiled building, such as a barn, was a later phase of use of the site. Only one tile fabric was present. Only 4 pieces of roof tile were found in the outer enclosure.

Pottery (Medieval)

The Medieval pottery, identified and dated by Paul Blinkhorn, was mostly Medieval Grey Sandy Ware, probably manufactured at the Denham kiln, dating from the mid-11th to the late 14th centuries (188 out of 190 sherds). Only one sherd of medieval pottery was found in the outer enclosure.

Pottery (Iron Age)

An area was identified within one of the inner enclosure test pits dating from well before medieval times. Of the 82 pre-medieval pottery sherds, excavated from the inner and outer enclosures, 79 were excavated from this single test pit. The vast majority of these, almost certainly originating from one pot, dated from the Bronze Age, or the early Iron Age. Some of these sherds fitted together indicating a rim diameter of 30cm (Fig 1). In addition, 222 out of 225 pieces of chalk were found within this test pit, along with 18 burnt stones, which weighed nearly 3kg.

Flints

Significant numbers of large pieces of flint were found in clusters in all the test pits in the inner enclosure, which had almost certainly been imported into the area. These flints were mixed up with roof tile and pottery sherds. The flints may have formed parts of structures, as the evidence pointed to a tumble of building and domestic materials.



Fig 1. Warren Wood. Iron Age pottery.

Very few flints were excavated from the outer enclosure test pits.

Worked Flints

Many suspected worked flints were unearthed by trainee excavators on the site for later identification. Of the 114 sent for identification, only 44 proved to be 'man made'. Roughly twice as many worked flint pieces were found in the outer enclosure as in the inner enclosure. However, 30 out of 37 suspected 'Pot Boilers' (largish flints heated in a fire and then dropped into containers of water, so that the water boiled very quickly) were positively identified as such, or as burnt stones.

Miscellaneous Artefacts

10 metal artefacts were found; all in the inner enclosure. 9 were x-rayed by Oxford Museum Resource Centre. All artefacts were badly corroded and comprised a possible key, pins and nails. The remaining piece was identified as slag. Only 18 pieces of charcoal and wood, weighing 23g, were excavated; all from the inner enclosure.

Discussion

Inner Enclosure

Most of the Medieval pottery sherds were dated from the mid-11th century onwards. However, the roof tile fragments were dated from the 13th century onwards. The perplexing aspect here is that significant quantities of roof tile were mixed in with the pottery sherds. In fact, significant amounts of roof tile pieces were located in contexts below those which yielded pottery sherds. The presence of 5 animal bones indicate the probability of a kitchen/cooking area. It can be argued that a substantial quantity of large flints, plus substantial quantities of roof tile, indicate a building, or buildings, of a relatively high standard. This mixture of flints, tile and pottery sherds, indicate that any construction had been demolished at some time, rather than just falling into disrepair. Although accurate dating has still not been achieved, it appears that the site was occupied in Medieval times from around 1050AD until 1400AD, but probably not much later.

Unexpectedly, late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was found. The site had obviously been in use for many years prior to Medieval times. Flint flakes (27) and pot boilers (18) were also identified within the inner enclosure test pits (probably late Neolithic, or early Bronze Age).

Outer Enclosure

The evidence for Medieval activity is sparse within the outer enclosure. It has been suggested that if the inner enclosure had a building, or buildings, the outer enclosure would have been used for keeping animals (possibly wild boar). The evidence of 17 pieces of worked flint and 12 pot boilers suggests that humans were in the vicinity, probably in the late Neolithic, or early Bronze Age eras and 3 sherds of Iron Age pot also suggest a human presence well before Medieval times.

Was there a Deer Park at Warren Wood?

Andy Ford

Historical Interpretation

The strong evidence for Medieval occupation of the site at Warren Wood could help to resolve one of the unresolved historical mysteries concerning Marlow in the Middle Ages.

In April 1233 King Henry III granted his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, eighteen fallow deer from the royal forest of Windsor for the establishment of a deer park in Marlow. Historians have not been able to identify further records relating to this deer park and its location has consequently remained a mystery.

More than 50 medieval deer parks have been identified to date in Buckinghamshire alone, accounting for a small proportion of the estimated 3,200 that may have existed across the country at various points during the medieval period. The 13th century in particular witnessed a remarkable proliferation in their establishment across the country. Many, including Richard's park in Marlow, were first established with grants of deer by Henry III from his own parks in the royal forests. The main purpose of these parks was to provide the lord of the manor with a private hunting ground and a ready source of meat in the form of venison. Fallow deer was the beast of the chase par excellence and it is worth noting that it was this particular breed that was granted to Richard by his brother for the establishment of his park in Marlow. In addition to hunting, the land in the deer park was occasionally put to other uses including the pasturing of cattle and the raising of horses. Parks were often also a valuable source of timber and enabled swine to be fed on the pannage from the trees.

Richard of Cornwall held extensive estates along the Thames Valley in addition to land in the South West and East Midlands. He reputedly became the richest man in England, participated in a Crusade and was elected King of the Romans in 1257. Throughout his life (1209-72), he was a key figure in the politics of the realm and, for most of the time, an important ally of his brother Henry III.

He acquired land in Little Marlow in 1231 when he was granted the honour of Wallingford, to which much of the parish was then attached. Also in 1231, Richard married Isabella Marshall, the recently widowed wife of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester whose lands included Great Marlow. The heir to the De Clare estates was at that point a ward of the crown. While Richard of Cornwall may have aspired to gain custody of some of these lands, it seems that he did not secure custody of Great Marlow until at least 1239 and, even then, it was a short-lived prize, because in August 1243 Richard de Clare reached adulthood and inherited the title and estates of the Earl of Gloucester. The most likely site for Richard of Cornwall's deer park is therefore to be found in Little Marlow.

There are several reasons why Warren Wood could be a strong candidate for the site of Richard's deer park. Firstly, it shares many of the characteristics of other known deer

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parks in terms of both location and features. It is - and probably was - well-wooded and was situated at the edge of the likely boundary of the parish of Little Marlow. The size of the wood also is consistent with other known medieval deer parks.

The archaeological finds to date from the site at Warren Wood are also broadly consistent with the establishment of Richard's deer park in 1233. It is possible that the dwelling that has been identified through the archaeological investigations was that of a park keeper. Dwellings of this type would have been common in deer parks at this time. Maintenance of the park was a significant activity, as was winter-feeding of the deer, and some form of onsite human presence was often necessary to deter poachers. The keeper who lived in the dwelling was therefore an important manorial official.

A further clue is offered by the name of the site. For some time, it has been assumed that the name of the wood derived from the local Borlase Warren family who were prominent local landowners during the eighteenth century. However, the first record of a map for the wood identifies it as "The Warren". This title gives scope for a different interpretation into the genesis of the name, rooted in its use as a noun rather than as an association with a local family.

"Warren" had a number of different meanings during the medieval period, but all in some way were associated with the hunting or rearing of animals. In one sense, it was the exclusive right granted by the king to a lord enabling them to hunt smaller game over their estates such as hares, pheasant and partridge. The right of free warren therefore meant both the right to hunt particular warrenable animals and also the place where the right was exercised. Although this suggests something quite distinct from a deer park, in practice the two could often become intertwined. It was quite common, for example, for deer parks to contain other animals beyond deer for the lord's hunting, whether that was for food or simply for pleasure. Either way, the possibility that the name of Warren Wood is derived from the medieval use of the term for a hunting area cannot be lightly dismissed.

One of the problems with this interpretation is the lack of supporting boundary evidence. Deer parks were enclosed areas, necessarily so in order to contain the deer. In practice, this normally meant the combination of a substantial earth bank, topped by a palisaded fence, with an inside ditch that together created a formidable barrier. To date, no such banks have been clearly identified at Warren Wood, although the site does contain many features of archaeological interest that have yet to be investigated.

There is one final possible interpretation of the site that is again linked to the name, specifically that it contained a rabbit warren. In the early medieval period, rabbits were extremely rare and highly prized, both for their meat and their fur and there is evidence of their being farmed in England from the early thirteenth century. Richard of Cornwall certainly had a rabbit warren at his estate in Twickenham, but to date there has been no archaeological

evidence at Warren Wood to support this use of the site. It is worth noting, however, that deer parks and rabbit warrens were not mutually exclusive. The latter were sometimes maintained alongside or within the grounds of the former, as was the case at both Twickenham and Stonor.

There are no further records relating to the deer park in Marlow after Richard's death. By the turn of the fourteenth century, the number of parks across the country was at its peak and for various reasons it declined after that. Due largely to the effects of the Black Death and the subsequent labour shortage, it became more and more difficult to maintain the hunting parks and many gradually fell into disuse and were leased out.

It is to be hoped that further, ongoing archaeological investigations at Warren Wood will help to answer some of these outstanding questions, but for now it is reasonable to conclude that the site is a potential candidate for the location of Richard's deer park in Marlow.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

Aylesbury, County Museum (SP 8184 1390)
Carina Summerfield-Hill

In February and March a salvage excavation was carried out at the County Museum during landscaping work in the museum garden. The excavation uncovered three phases of activity ranging from Saxon to post-medieval date. (Fig 2)

The first phase comprised a 'dark soil horizon' that has been previously identified on the site and adjoining areas of Aylesbury. It contained finds of residual Iron Age and early Saxon, with early to late medieval and post-medieval pottery. The Iron Age pottery was probably associated with the Iron Age hill-fort within which the site stands, and the horizon may have started to accumulate at some point in the Saxon period, with substantial disturbance during later periods.



Fig 2. Excavating burials in the garden of the County Museum, Aylesbury.

The second phase was represented by five articulated inhumations cut through the soil horizon into the natural strata. Two burial episodes were identified. The first consisted of a row of four individuals, with heads to the northwest. A radiocarbon date of AD 650-690 was obtained for the deepest of these. The second comprised a single individual with the head to the west, overlying the deepest burial and possibly cutting another. All the burials were laid out in an extended, supine position, with no grave goods, and are thought to be part of a wider cemetery associated with the nearby minster site.

The most recent phase of activity consisted of a number of post-medieval pits, and a post-medieval construction cut for the site boundary wall. One of the pits contained a collection of disarticulated human bone from a single individual, probably representing the re-interment of an individual from the earlier cemetery.

Bow Brickhill, Pine Haven, Watling Street
(SP 9069 3259)
Calli Rouse

During May a watching brief was carried out at Pine Haven, Watling Street, during groundworks for two new houses on the site. It was thought that the site retained some potential for the survival of Roman remains, due to its proximity to Roman Watling Street, and a higher potential for the survival of remains relating to Little Brickhill's medieval tile industry. However, no significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, and evidence for possible sand quarrying was recorded during the project.

Buckingham, Church of St Peter and St Paul
(SP 6947 3377)
Carina Summerfield-Hill

In March a watching brief was carried out at the Church of St Peter and St Paul during the excavation of an inspection trench, dug to examine structural movement of the church walls. The church stands within the grounds of a former Norman castle. The work revealed that the church is constructed on made ground associated with the clearance of the castle mound. The full extent of the church footings was exposed revealing a brick and mortar foundation with a flint/pebble and mortar foundation base. No finds, features or archaeological deposits were exposed.

Chartridge, Bellingdon Brickworks (SP 9335 0640)
Jonathan Hunn

In September a strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken in a field east of Bellingdon Brickworks, in advance of the extraction of clay for brick-making. Apart from remains of a former chalk extraction pit, no other features were present on the site. Following site stripping, geo-archaeological investigation was undertaken to identify the survival of potential palaeo-environmental information. No such deposits were identified, and it was concluded that there was nothing to be gained by further such investigations in this area of the Chiltern plateau.

Chesham, 23 Missenden Road (SP 9556 0130)
Jonathan Hunn

In July a watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension to 23 Missenden Road. The site lies within the historic core of Chesham, Roman pottery has been found there, and evidence of Roman settlement has been recorded in the vicinity. Ground reduction and the excavation of footing trenches for the extension revealed that much of the area had been built up in several episodes of dumping, possibly over several centuries. Analysis of pollen from a peaty deposit within this sequence revealed that the deposit had been laid down in a herbaceous fen adjacent to open agricultural land, both pastoral and arable, possibly during the Iron Age or Roman period. Excavation of a soakaway in the lawn to the north revealed undisturbed natural stratigraphy. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the watching brief.

Loughton, The Green (SP 8343 3781)
Gareth Shane

During September and October a watching brief was carried out at Fullers Barn, The Green, during ground reduction and service trenches for the construction of an art studio. The area subject to the watching brief consisted entirely of made ground and no archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered.

Mursley, Salden Manor (SP 8251 2971)
Mo Muldowney

During January and February excavation and watching brief were undertaken at Salden Manor during groundworks associated with the construction of a garage and driveway. The work identified the remains of a substantial 18th century (or earlier) brick structure, partially faced with clunch. Small portions of internal and external floor surfaces were also identified. The excavation of footings for the garage identified a series of poorly defined intercutting pits and layers that both pre- and post-dated the building. Foundations and floor surfaces relating to late 19th century farm buildings were also identified in both the driveway and garage areas.

Newport Pagnell, Bury Field Common (SP 8690 4437)
Alastair Hancock

In May, ASC undertook collaborative exploratory geophysical survey at Bury Field Common, along with the Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP) and Cotswold Archaeology Ltd. The survey results confirmed that subsurface remains of an Iron Age/Romano British settlement are preserved at the common, which was suspected after chance finds of artefacts were made during non-archaeological work. The most readily identified settlement evidence comprises an expansive system of ditched enclosures. The full extent of the enclosures has not been defined by the completed geophysical survey, but it is hoped that further phases of survey will be arranged to achieve this objective.

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Olney, 15 High Street (SP 8888 5126)
Bob Zeepvat

A watching brief was maintained in June, during excavations for the footings of an extension to the rear of 15 High Street. The site lies within the historic core of the town, and had the potential to reveal evidence of medieval or earlier activity.

The watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest in the area of the new extension, and no artefacts were recovered from site or the spoil removed from it. The site and adjoining areas were covered by a significant depth of modern made ground, and it is likely that levels have been modified and possibly truncated, though the survival of archaeological features elsewhere in the garden cannot be ruled out. Cartographic evidence suggests that the site had been occupied by a succession of outbuildings since the late 19th century, and it is likely that construction works connected with those outbuildings had already caused significant disturbance to the site area.

Padbury, land near Norbury (SP 2301 4713)
Ralph Brown

In October a watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a trench for an underground electric cable in a field south-west of Padbury. The cable forms part of a supply route between Steeple Claydon and Buckingham. The trench was cut through topsoil straight into the natural clay, in which nine archaeological features were encountered, including four ditches and one pit. Four of the features contained late Iron Age to early Roman pottery. The concentration of archaeological remains of this period within the field may be associated with the Norbury Camp hill-fort, immediately to the west.

Shenley Brook End, Egerton Gate (SP 8346 3580)
Carina Summerfield-Hill

Between November 2011 and May 2012 a watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to 6 Egerton Gate during the construction of a house. The overburden, containing sherds of 20th century pottery, slag, and fragments of brick and slate was initially reduced exposing the natural strata, into which the footing trenches were cut. Two sewer trenches were excavated out into the road, revealing a series of made-ground deposits. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

Soulbury, Home Farm, Liscombe Park (SP 8828 2569)
Karin Semmelmann

In January historic building recording was undertaken of a barn at Home Farm. The building is single storey under a tiled roof. The original brickwork, set in Flemish bond with burnt headers, is particularly striking and remains largely intact on the north and west elevations. The building was probably constructed in the late 18th century when Jonathan Lovett owned the estate. It was extended to the south in the

mid to late 19th century and subsequently suffered substantial rebuilding to the east.

Wendover, Wendover House School (SP 8720 0725)
Karin Semmelmann and Mo Muldowney

In June 2011 a heritage impact assessment was prepared for Wendover House School, to inform development proposals for the site. The school is on the site of Wendover manor house and is located 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. Roman and early Saxon remains have been found in and close to the site, which became part of a multiple estate in the middle Saxon period only to fragment in the 12th century.

The development of the manorial site and church is unclear. Local lore tells of the church being moved by the Devil during construction, and archaeological evidence suggests that the area north of the site could be the focus for Anglo-Saxon and early medieval settlement. The establishment of the Borough of Wendover 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 manor house, which was rebuilt in the late 19th century. The oldest parts of the building are the Grade II listed stable block, which bears the date 1735, and part of the main building, which could be 17th century. Finds uncovered during construction works in the vicinity include Roman coins and medieval pottery, a female skeleton, and medieval and post-medieval features. The earliest occupation evidence recovered from the school grounds and the churchyard is of 12th century date.

In August an evaluation and watching brief were undertaken ahead of the proposed development. A few ditches spanning the prehistoric to post-medieval periods were identified, and postholes, a pit and ditches of late medieval date. The watching brief was negative.

Winslow, The Old Vicarage (SP 4768 2277)
Carina Summerfield-Hill

Following an evaluation in 2011, in January a watching brief was carried out at The Old Vicarage, during residential redevelopment. The project revealed a large north-south feature along the western side of the footing trench, previously noted in the evaluation. It extended beyond the limit of the footing trenches, contained animal bone and possible medieval and post-medieval pottery, and may have been a pond. Other features revealed in the evaluation, notably two ditches on the south side of the site, were not revealed in the watching brief.

One new feature revealed during the watching brief was a brick wall along the south side of the footing trenches. It was constructed of unfrosted red bricks, bonded with yellowish mortar. An earlier house is known to have existed at the south end of the site, latterly represented by a slight platform. The wall may be associated with the earlier house as it was in close proximity to the platform. A further possibility is that the wall may be a boundary associated with the garden of the Old Vicarage.

Wolverton, Holy Trinity Church (SP 8042 4121)
Calli Rouse

In February a watching brief was carried out in the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church, during the implementation of drainage works. Five articulated/partially articulated burials, six skulls and disarticulated remains were recorded. One of the trenches excavated during the project was in close proximity to the base of the adjoining medieval motte, and revealed a series of made-ground deposits containing no finds, related to the levelling of the churchyard and backfilling of the motte ditch, carried out in the 19th century.

Woughton on the Green, The Green (SP 8750 3752)
Bob Zeepvat

In October a historic building assessment was prepared for 5 The Green, to inform proposals for the refurbishment and repair of the building for residential use. The property comprises two early 19th century linked dwellings, Cottage Farm fronting the green and Woodbine Cottage to the rear, both listed Grade II. They had been unoccupied for several years, and were in a dilapidated state.

Cottage Farm was constructed in the first half of the 19th century: cartographic evidence suggests a date between 1825 and 1867. As built the house occupied a similar footprint, but structural evidence indicates that the roofs of the northern part and the original southern wing were lower, possibly with dormer windows to the upper floor. At this time the building probably accommodated two separate households: one in the northern part of the building and one in the southern wing.

In the late 19th century the walls and roof were raised to their present configuration, and the southern wing was extended. From the cartographic evidence, these changes had probably taken place by 1881. Since that date the only changes to the building appear to have comprised provision of modern services, the construction of a single-storey kitchen extension (now demolished) at the south end, and the replacement of some original windows in the northern part of the building with UPVC units. The latter appears to have occurred after 1975, when the building was listed.

Apart from the basic fabric of the building, the assessment revealed few features of architectural or historic significance. Timber framing indicating the early lower roof of the building survives on the first floor and in the attic. The fireplace, cupboards and wainscoting in one of the ground floor rooms of Cottage Farm are surviving early 19th

century features, and there is a mid to late 19th century tiled iron fire surround in Woodbine Cottage.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES
Compiled by David Gilbert

Beaconsfield, Windsor End (SU 9448 8987)
David Gilbert

Four trenches were excavated to the natural geological formation. These revealed 18th century or later garden features including a well.

Brill, Sports and Social Club (SP 6560 1392)
Gavin Davis

A watching brief was conducted during the ground reduction and excavation of foundation trenches within the footprint of a new extension at Brill Sports and Social Club, Church Street, Brill, Buckinghamshire. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Brill, The Red Lion (SP 65566 13804)
Stephen Yeates

An historic building assessment and an archaeological watching brief were conducted. This determined that although some of the building can be dated to the 17th century as claimed by the RCHME, and other sources, part of the timber frame of the back part of the public house may be considerably older and perhaps the remains of a medieval hall of the later 14th century. Further rebuilding of the structure is evident in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

The archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of the below ground refurbishment works. A kiln was discovered beneath a Phase 2 wall of the building (17th century). The kiln was well preserved and had surviving evidence of a barrel-vaulted roof and dating evidence suggesting a 15th or 16th century origin. It could have been used for pottery or tile manufacture. To the northeast of the public house further archaeological features were identified.

Castlethorpe, South Street, Maltings Farm
(SP 8015 4435)
Gwilym Williams

During a watching brief at Maltings Farm, South Street, Castlethorpe it became clear that an extensive area of a Romano-British farmstead and associated enclosures was extant beneath the former farmyard to the rear of Maltings Farm house. The area had not been evaluated prior to development and as a consequence its archaeological potential was unknown. A portion of the investigation area was destroyed without archaeological monitoring as the main contractor did not realise that access roads and services were part of the watching brief condition.

Buckinghamshire

The remains investigated comprised pits, an oven, the footings of a postulated barn, identified from stone pads, as well as what appear to be small lambing enclosures and a large north/south oriented ditch on the east side of the settlement. Special finds include two fibulae brooches, in addition to a good assemblage of pottery. The pottery has not yet been dated, but is clearly late prehistoric to Roman in date. Further investigations will be carried out later this year which may reveal more of the barn and pits, in addition to opening up an area on the east side, where a balancing pond is to be installed, which will hopefully reveal the enclosure ditch in plan.

Chesham, Hawridge, Hawridge Court (SP 95016 05846)
Margaret Feryok

A watching brief was conducted by during the ground work. An undated buried soil horizon was noted.

Ludgershall, High Street, Pear Tree Farm (SP 6600 1733)
David Gilbert

Two trenches revealed a similar sequence of deposits. Three small pits were located; ones was 19th century or later and it is possible the other two were of a similar date although could date from the late 16th century onwards. A residual waster may indicate 16th-17th century pottery production in the area.

Marlow, Cromwell Gardens, Broomhurst (SU 8505 8655)
Paul Riccoboni

One 10m long trench was excavated. Two pits of late post-medieval date (19th century) were encountered at the northern end of the trench.

Marlow, the rear of 90 High Street (SU 8501 8634)
Gwilym Williams

An archaeological evaluation comprising two trenches was conducted on land within the line of the former burgage plot. The remains revealed comprise a small late medieval or early post-medieval building along with indications of two other structures.

Medmenham, Ferry Nab (SU 8061 8382)
Gwilym Williams

A watching brief was conducted during groundworks. Archaeological remains consisting of two chalk walls, dating from after the 12th century, and possibly relating to abbey outbuildings were present in one of the watching brief areas, in addition to the walls and concrete floor of a late 19th or early 20th century half-cellaried structure, which may be a WWII bomb-shelter, in a second watching brief area.

Shabbington, 17 Kimbells Close (SP 6678 0697)
David Gilbert

A watching brief was conducted during the ground works. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Shipton Lee, Grange Farm (SP 735 208)
Stephen Yeates

A building assessment was carried out on the Grade II listed buildings. Uncovering the chimney at the west end of the Farmhouse has demonstrated that the original chimney stacks must predate the currently surviving timber-framing, which is almost certainly of a 17th century date or earlier. This is indicated by the surviving stair supports and floor line that would necessitate an entrance through the timber framing that currently survives, which is not there. The external wall may have been rebuilt or encased by the early 18th century, although it should also be recognised that such chequered designs do occur on buildings as early as the early 17th century. If the chequered design is of the early 17th century then there is no need to envisage a rebuild or encasement, hence this could be one of the earliest chequered brick designs in Buckinghamshire and the Home Counties. If a rebuild or encasing, then this is not the case, but this process of rebuild or encasement could have occurred even in the latter part of the 17th century.

The ovens are difficult to date, but on their brick size they may be constructions of the early 18th century, and could, considering the date of the chimney, be replacements for earlier ovens attached to the back of the chimney.

The dating of the chimney, or parts of the chimney, to the early 17th century or perhaps 16th century (albeit with suspected later encasement) implies that part A of the structure probably started life as a three-celled structure with two gable-ended chimneys. This basic plan was maintained, probably into the 19th century when the two western cells were joined together. This plan was widespread in the southeast of England, and that some of the examples which he gives contained the title manor. It is feasible that this three-celled structure could be or have been part of the Dormer Mansion. If this is so then the outline of the three-celled unit, and the features on the internal wall against the chimney, step supports, floor support and corner timber could be of a date of c 1540.

Skirmett, Shogmoor Lane, Crooked Chimney Cottage (SU 7769 8989)
Paul Riccoboni

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during groundworks for a new extension. Two postholes were encountered in the new footing trench, cut into the surface of the natural geology. One pit was seen in the section of a new soakaway. No dating evidence was recovered.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2012

Nick Crank (Senior Archaeological Officer, Conservation & Archaeology Team, Development Management, Milton Keynes Council)

Fieldwork Projects

Twenty six development-related fieldwork projects were undertaken in the Milton Keynes area in 2012. A particular highlight was the recovery of 2 complete Iron Age notched log ladders from continuing excavations on the Western Expansion Area in Calverton. These substantial (>2m long) worked timbers are believed to be the largest recovered examples in the UK and consequently of national significance. (Fig 3)



Fig 3. In situ Iron Age Log Ladder, Western expansion Area, Calverton. (@ Nick Crank)

Another find of great significance was the chance discovery of human remains during construction work at Stantonbury Park to the north of the New Town in January. With initial involvement from Thames Valley Police and Prof. John Hunter of Manlove Forensics it was quickly realised that the find was of archaeological rather than forensic interest and Albion Archaeology were appointed by Taylor Wimpey to conclude investigations with funding for post-excavation work being granted by the Emergency Archaeological Recording Fund.

The investigations revealed the partially disarticulated remains of multiple individuals in addition to a number of placed stones. It is thought that the site represents a truncated burial monument with the apparently communal nature of the burials suggesting an early Neolithic date. This date is supported by two radiocarbon dates placing the

remains in the middle of the 4th millennium BC and six struck flints of the same date range. As such, although quite truncated and disturbed by agricultural activity the site represents the earliest funerary monument discovered in north Buckinghamshire.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

The Senior Archaeological Officer completed an action plan for the development of the HER over the next 3 years and this was approved by English Heritage in August. A key component of the action plan is the procurement of replacement database software to achieve better compliance with the appropriate national heritage data standards and to provide a more sustainable and accessible platform for the future. It is hoped that this will be achieved in early 2013. Additionally, it is hoped to develop and train volunteers over the next 2 years to assist with work on the HER backlog and enhancement projects.

Outreach

In May 2012 a team of archaeologists including members of CLASP and local archaeological contractors Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd and Cotswold Archaeology carried out a magnetometry and contour survey of an area of Bury Field Common, Newport Pagnell. The survey, coordinated by the Council's Senior Archaeological Officer targeted the site of a formerly scheduled barrow destroyed in World War II and also a recent find spot indicating Iron Age and Roman settlement on the common. The results of the survey demonstrated the presence of a previously unknown Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlement. It is hoped that further phases of survey will be undertaken in order to better characterise and define the extent of the settlement.



Fig 4. Geophysical Survey Underway at Bury Field Common, Newport Pagnell. (@ Nick Crank)

On Saturday 10th November over 400 people of all ages came through the doors of the Central Library to enjoy a range of activities and talks at the 6th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day.

New this year was a hands-on archaeology workshop hosted by Albion Archaeology. This free activity for young people

Buckinghamshire

gave a practical insight into the varied methods and skills used by modern archaeologists, including use of microscopes and photography.

There were also displays throughout the library on the borough's heritage plus stands from active local organisations such as the City Discovery Centre and Northamptonshire's Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project. Event regulars Magiovinium Metal Detecting club also proved popular with their wide-ranging collections of artefacts.

In the morning local archaeologist and excavator of Bancroft Roman villa Bob Zeepvat presented a fascinating talk to a packed room, reflecting on the development of the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit from its beginnings in 1971 to the completion of its publication programme in 1993. The Unit was originally set up by the Development Corporation and coordinated and undertook all the archaeological work within the designated area during the 1970s and 80s.

A particular highlight of the day was provided by very special guest and nationally respected archaeologist Professor Tim Darvill of Bournemouth University. Joint leader of the first team to excavate within Stonehenge for over 50 years, Prof. Darvill presented his ground-breaking research on the origin and meaning of this world-renowned site under the enigmatic title: 'Merlin's Magic Circles: Stonehenge and the Use of the Preseli Bluestones'.

Planning for this year's event on Saturday 9th November has already started and updates to the programme will appear throughout the year.

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Karen Thomas

Tudor Lea, Ferry Lane, Bourne End (SU 9768 5706)
Tim Braybrooke

An evaluation of two trenches was conducted by MOLA between 21st May and 1st June 2012. The natural Teddington terrace gravels were observed to be capped by peat deposits (close to the river) in turn sealed by alluvial clays and silts of up to 2m in thickness. The alluvial deposits were sealed by a worked topsoil and turf. A shallow, 20th century horticultural bedding trench was observed in the second evaluation trench, being c 2.50 wide and running parallel to and c 9m from the current river bank. This contained occasional sherds of pottery (including plant pots), glass and corroded iron nails. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed.

NATIONAL TRUST

Compiled by Gary Marshall

Bradenham (SU 8172 9833)

Over the winter of 2012 the National Trust collaborated with the Princes Risborough Countryside Group to produce a resistivity survey of part of a large arable field on the east side of Smalldean Lane in the parish of Bradenham. The survey was designed to test surviving evidence of a scheduled Bronze Age barrow (SU 8163 9827), which, for a number of years, has suffered plough damage until taken out of cultivation in the early 1990s. It was also designed to test evidence for a ring ditch in the middle of the field (SU 8180 9824) which became apparent as a parch mark in 2010. The key finding from the survey was evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing, which, though not apparent on the surface, is manifested on the survey plot as regular lines of high and low resistance, probably reflecting cuts made into the underlying clay and flint which have then become in-filled with topsoil. The survey over the barrow confirmed that though it has been badly plough damaged in the past it still retains evidence of the central mound to a height of at least 0.5m and that it is surrounded by a broad ditch up to 5m in width. The overall size of the barrow encompassing outer margins of the ditch is c 40m. The survey identified several other rings within the field, varying in size from 13m in diameter to 40m in diameter - without excavation it is unclear if these are further ploughed-out barrows indicating a cemetery or evidence of ring ditches surrounding Iron Age dwellings. Field-walking reveals occasional fragments of Iron Age and Roman pottery within this field.

Cliveden (SU 9104 8515)

The South Terrace at Cliveden is a Grade 1 listed structure which is believed to date from the 1670s. It acts as a major retaining structure and viewing platform for Cliveden House, the home of the Astor family until the 1940s. The terrace is suffering structural problems which the National Trust is currently addressing. A watching brief was maintained by the Trust over two small holes knocked through the brickwork of the front elevation for the purpose of investigating suspected vaults behind the terrace. The two holes confirmed for the first time that the existing brick elevation with its series of blind arches is in fact a later re-fronting of the original elevation and probably dates from the mid 18th century. It lies in front of and conceals an earlier series of shallow rounded niches corresponding with a sequence of niches shown on an engraving published in Colen Campbell's 'Monumenta Britannica' in 1717. The engraving shows a series of 26 niches rising from an elaborate brick plinth and separated by engaged columns with Corinthian Capitals. This represents a major discovery as it had previously been believed that the existing front elevation represented the original 1670s elevation.

The Trust also undertook restoration works on the 1860s Cockerell Pavilion situated on the north-west corner of the South Terrace. A watching brief was maintained by Network Archaeology over ground reductions between the terrace and the pavilion as these formed the subject of a planning condition. These led to the discovery of a

substantial square concretious lime mortar structure (SU 9099 8518) which is believed to be the base for a garden urn or statue, perhaps dating to the Astors' acquisition of the property in the 1890s. It also revealed an earlier brick retaining wall running east-west across the ramped lawn between the pavilion and the west end of the terrace. This appeared to be a much earlier structure, of late 17th or early 18th century date.

Ground reductions as part of the restoration of the 1890s Duke's Steps at Cliveden revealed fragmentary evidence of a brick foundation at SU 9110 8520. This was also monitored and recorded by Network Archaeology. This structure corresponds with the former location of service buildings - stables and a coach house - shown on the Colen Campbell plan and elevation of Cliveden. These were built as part of the Duke of Buckingham's house of the 1670s.

Monitoring of trenches for a new sewerage scheme across the estate were also monitored by Network Archaeology. They revealed substantial brick foundations within the gravel walk below the South Terrace at two locations (SU 9097 8515 and SU 9107 8514). These are thought to be the remains of the original steps built at either end of the terrace in the 1670s. The sewer scheme also revealed evidence of medieval occupation in the form of a pit containing pottery at SU 9114 8507.

Stowe Gardens (SP 6789 3760)

A watching brief maintained by the National Trust over the excavation of four evaluation trenches designed to locate 18th century paths in the area of the gardens between the Saxon Deities and the Gothic Temple revealed broad spreads of bright orange gravel at a depth of no more than 0.15m below the ground surface. The evidence confirmed the original route of the 18th century path between these two monuments and it has now been restored close to its original alignment. Unfortunately a mature lime tree lies across the original route and the restored path has therefore been diverted slightly to the east of its original alignment.

West Wycombe Village (SU 8291 9465)

The National Trust is currently undertaking a three year project to refurbish the village buildings at West Wycombe and is using the services of Oxford Archaeology to record the roof structures exposed as a consequence of stripping and relaying clay roof tiles after the installation of modern insulation materials. The buildings were partially repaired and re-roofed after their acquisition by the Royal Society of Arts in the late 1920s and one repeat discovery has been traces of wheat straw which the Society used in the 1920s as insulation material below the tiles. Dendrochronology dating forms part of the project and the Trust hopes to be able to establish a firm sequence of construction for a number of the buildings, providing a chronology for the development of the village and for styles of construction making up the individual buildings. So far recording has been completed on 11-13 High St West Wycombe, suggesting the earliest part of this building dates from the mid 16th century, with the southerly part of No 13 added in the mid 17th century. Recording of Nos 24-27 and 34-35 Crown Court is currently underway and a dendro date of

1648 has been obtained from the ground floor timber of 35 Crown Court.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Aston Clinton, College Road (SP 8761 1320)

Jim Burke

Following an evaluation in 2011 (*SMA* (2012), 42, 18) a second phase of archaeological trial trench was undertaken on land at Aston Clinton. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow were identified in two trenches, but no other archaeological remains were found. AYBCM.2011.223

Aylesbury, 41 Walton Road, The Grove (SP 8246 1328)

David J Leigh

An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new single storey extension and car-park extension. Modern disturbance was noted throughout the investigation area and a single water-filled post-medieval well was recorded, the shaft measured 0.86m in diameter and it was in excess of 5m deep. It was constructed of unworked stone with brick repairs to the upper surface. No earlier archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. AYBCM 2011.155

Padbury, Old End, Sunny Hill Farmhouse

(SP 7153 3050)

Tim Upson-Smith and Amir Bassir

An assessment of elements of the 17th/18th century Sunny Hill Farmhouse demonstrated that the partition and chimney are likely to date to 1842 when the facade of the building was rebuilt in brick. OASIS 129546

A more detailed study of the building recorded structural alterations, with particular attention paid to the ground floor partitions and northern chimney, which are to be removed during the proposed works. The chimney is likely contemporary with a brick rebuild of the southern facade in 1842. The partition, which dates to the original 17th century construction of the building, retains some of this original fabric along with later phases of alteration dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. OASIS 130743

Stowe Landscape Gardens (SP 6764 3750)

Joe Prentice

During the restoration of the Grotto, an archaeological watching brief was conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of the National Trust. The work provided an opportunity to examine the construction of the pebble mosaic floor, which was set in lime mortar in a succession of small areas, each perhaps representing a day's work or a batch of mortar.

Buckinghamshire

The drain which served the, now incomplete, marble basin and a lead water pipe of uncertain function were also recorded.

Observation of service trenches for the new water and electricity supply revealed only levelling layers outside the structure. NT event number ENA5530

Thornborough, Coombs Farm Barns (SP 7328 3237)

Tim Upson-Smith

A heritage asset assessment carried out on Coombs Farm Barns, a 19th century and later farm, demonstrated that the buildings are in poor to very bad condition.

The yard is split into two main elements, a courtyard and secondary yard. In addition there is a range of derelict domestic buildings to the south, an open-fronted shed, and a modern Dutch barn.

The farmyard buildings appear to be broadly contemporary, constructed in red brick. The roofs are all kingpost truss with Welsh slate over, the exceptions to this are two buildings which are now roofless. Three buildings have corrugated iron roofs and another has a corrugated asbestos roof.

The original windows, where they survive, are wood-framed casements with a varying number of top lights and the bottom part having wooden horizontal sliding hit-and-miss ventilators. OASIS 129343

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Hambleden, Fingest Farm (SU 7776 9109)

Jonathan Gill

Historic building recording and investigation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology for the National Trust on three buildings within a small farmstead. The buildings were a timber-framed, 4-bay barn of probable later 18th century date, a stables and milking parlour also probably of 18th century date, and a cattle shed which has a secondary 20th century roof. The buildings were laser scanned and a plan produced from this showing roof timbers. Archaeological annotation was added to this to provide an indication of the age of the ranges and further building recording was undertaken.

Milton Keynes, land at Wavendon Park, Woburn Sands (SP 9240 3690)

Brian Dean

An evaluation undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in January 2013 for Storey Homes revealed few archaeological features. The only potentially significant and datable artefacts recovered during this investigation were retrieved from the upper fill of a ditch. The dating evidence for this feature is equivocal. The four pottery sherds are of late Iron Age date, but the group is too small to be

considered reliable dating evidence for the feature. This ditch and the adjacent former hedge coincide with a sinuous magnetic anomaly which is interpreted in the geophysical survey report as a headland associated with extensive medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow.

A concentration of features in the central southern part of the site, although intrinsically undated, is most likely to represent a field track, boundary and associated drainage ditches, leading south from Deethe Farmhouse. The available documentary evidence suggests that the farmhouse was established in the 18th century.

These remains are of limited local significance, although the late Iron Age sherds suggest settlement in the vicinity in that period.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Compiled by Steve Preston.

Beaconsfield, Springfield Quarry (SU 9300 8865)

Susan Porter

Excavation revealed further elements of a prehistoric (Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age) field system previously explored (see TVAS Monograph 14). A publication report on this phase of work at the quarry is in preparation.

Burnham, land to the rear of Burnham House

(SU 8310 8250)

Susan Porter

A late post-medieval well and pit were excavated in a recording action.

Haddenham, 44 High Street (SP 7387 0835)

David Platt

Intercutting pits and layers observed in a watching brief were all of 19th or 20th century dates, and a witchert wall was stratigraphically later than these.

Haddenham, The Red Lion, 2 Church End

(SP 7408 0811)

David Platt

Evaluation trenching revealed three pits, one of which was over 5m in diameter. A small collection of pottery suggests that two at least of the pits are medieval. Residual Roman pottery was also recovered.

High Wycombe, Methodist Chapel, The Row, Lane End (SU 8078 9179)

Danielle Milbank

Building appraisal showed that the building had undergone little modification since its construction in 1865. Internal divisions at ground and first floor level were added in the

20th century, with later 20th century modernization of fittings.

High Wycombe, RAF Daws Hill (SU 8700 9170)

Andy Taylor

Despite the high density of development of the site as an RAF support station, large areas of the archaeologically relevant levels on the site had survived, usually buried beneath modern made ground. However, no deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed in a 44-trench evaluation.

Lillingstone Lovell, Hall Farm (SP 7125 3987)

Steven Crabb

Two brick floors were revealed during a watching brief, and preserved in situ. They may relate to an outbuilding associated with the manorial buildings known to have been demolished in 1788.

Marlow, Peerland House, Chapel Street (SU 8505 8678)

Susan Porter

A single trench encountered a substantial amount of modern made ground and no deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no finds recovered.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Amersham - The Pheasant Public House

(SP 97229 98599)

Anne Upson and Bob Davis

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a rapid historic building appraisal at the Pheasant Public House in Amersham. The rapid survey of both the cartographic and fabric evidence has been able to suggest a chronology and phased development of the building. This suggests that the earliest phase of building on the site is a small timber-framed dwelling of two bays with central chimney stack dating to the 16th or early 17th century.

There is evidence from one of the exposed beams now inside the main pub to suggest that the original walls were infilled with wattle and daub. It is possible that the original building did not have a first floor, or only a single first floor chamber in the east bay, with stair access on the south side of the chimney. There is evidence to suggest that the west bay was floored out in the 18th century. The exposed west floor beam and first floor doorway cut through the tie beam strongly suggest that this is the case. The larger west dormer window on the north side of the building was probably inserted at this time. This building probably existed in that form until the second half of the 19th century, when it was extended to the east by a single bay of similar scale to the pre-existing two.

By the early 20th century the building was first referred to as 'Beer House' probably licensed to sell alcohol. Sometime

between the Second World War and 1964 the building was further extended to the west and east probably into a more recognisable plan form of a public house with bar and seating area with staff accommodation provided by the single storey flat at the west end. Access was created into the first floor of the timber-framed section via a staircase from the west and an additional bedroom built onto the south side of the building.

In the late 20th century the building underwent a large re-organisation with a large single storey extension to the bar area and larger kitchens and up-to-date toilets built to cater for increased clientele. The external form of the front range of the extended property survives relatively well, and the uneven ridge line demonstrates the early origins and phases of extension of this range. The narrow, linear form and simple roofscape of the original cottage has been replicated in its eastward extensions. Though the large extensions to the rear (south) have impacted negatively on the legibility of the early building from the south.

Internally, evidence of the survival of the early cottage is limited at ground level to the low ceiling heights, the large fireplace with bressumer, and the cross beam supporting first floor joists in the eastern bay, and the beam of the east end wall. It is assumed that the boxed-in structural beam along the line of the removed south wall of the original east bay is an RSJ. At first floor, more comprehensive evidence survives, with the brickwork of the chimney stack, the timber framing of the walls, including corner posts and wind braces, and much of the roof structure.

Amner and Oving (SP 78643 21790)

Sue Farr and Piotr Orczewski

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a watching brief during groundwork at Amner and The Kennels, Marston Hill, Oving. Archaeological mitigation was required as a condition of planning consent and comprised the monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of 4 houses within the site. The watching brief was maintained during ground levelling and machine stripping of topsoil and subsoil deposits within the site. Made ground deposits containing post-medieval and modern material was noted across the area and it was clear the site had previously been heavily landscaped and disturbed both by former construction works and vegetation. No archaeological features were identified during the fieldwork.

Weston Turville (SP 85487 12328)

Mark Williams and Ben Urmston

An earth resistance survey was conducted over land near Rectory Farm, off New Lane, Weston Turville, near Aylesbury. The project was commissioned with the aim of establishing the presence, or otherwise, and nature of detectable archaeological features on the site ahead of a proposed development.

The site comprises arable fields to the north of Rectory Farm, approximately 1km north of Weston Turville and

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some 4km southeast of Aylesbury. The A41 lies 500m to the north of the site, marking the line of the former Roman road of Akeman Street. The survey area was largely flat and surrounded by other arable fields; it was under stubble, having recently had ripening crop removed.

The survey area was targeted upon a rectangular enclosure identified through a recent gradiometer survey, the character and appearance in plan suggested that the enclosure dated from the Romano-British period and, as it was considered that there was the potential for structures with stone foundations to exist at the site, a supplementary earth resistance survey was commissioned. The earth resistance survey covered some 2.7ha and has demonstrated the presence of anomalies of definite, probable and possible archaeological interest within the survey area, along with regions of low and high resistance and numerous linear trends. The large rectangular enclosing ditch identified in the gradiometer survey is clearly visible, with strong rectilinear anomalies forming its circuit. Several other rectangular sub-enclosures have been detected lying on a similar orientation to the outer enclosing ditch.

Numerous linear anomalies consistent with ditches have been identified, predominantly oriented orthogonally to the main enclosure. It is considered likely that some of these represent the remnants of ridge and furrow, although the contrast of the anomalies with the general background makes it difficult to ascertain accurately which of these represent ploughing. Elsewhere, numerous amorphous regions of low and high resistance are consistent with pits and other archaeological features, although their character makes them difficult to interpret confidently.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Long Buckby - Land off Station Road (SP 6253 6675)

Kathy Pilkinton, Adrian Woolmer, Ben Barker, Jackie Wells and Gary Edmondson

Development was proposed for land to the east of Station Road, Long Buckby. Ten trenches were opened, revealing considerable variation across the site. The main concentration of archaeological features was located in two trenches, near the top of the slope in the central part of the area where several phases of Roman activity were identified. As well as ditches, pits and a masonry structure, an extensive dumped deposit occupied the base of an elongated depression. Residual flintwork as well as sherds of early-middle Iron Age pottery hint at earlier activity in the vicinity.

OASIS Ref: albionar1-127197

Yardley Hastings - Chase Park Farm (SP 8486 5489)

Gary Edmondson

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological work associated with the

construction of a wind turbine. The investigation revealed a substantial recut ditch aligned roughly north-south. The form of several fills suggests the presence of an associated bank to the west. Other features included the very truncated remains of a possible structural slot aligned obliquely to the ditch in the area immediately to the east. No finds were recovered from the ditch fills or any other features.

The location and alignment of the ditch do not correspond to any boundaries shown on historical maps. It is possible that it is associated with Roman finds previously recovered from the area to the south.

OASIS Ref: albionar1-135023

Walgrave - Butchers Garden (SP 8025 7232)

Slawomir Utrata, Jackie Wells and Gary Edmondson

Two trenches were opened to investigate the footprint of a proposed new house. Trench 1 was situated towards the front of the plot. Below a cultivation soil, a complex sequence of features was revealed, with evidence of activity dating to the Saxo-Norman, early medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The features included pits, ditches, smaller gullies, postholes, a possible structural beam-slot, as well as ironstone wall footings and drains - the ironstone structures probably relating to a post-medieval farmstead.

In contrast, Trench 2 situated to the rear of the plot revealed modern surfaces, which, based on their insubstantial construction, formed a path rather than a track, with limited evidence for earlier features.

Wollaston - The Old School Room, Bell End

(SP 9083 5629)

Mark Phillips

Planning consent for conversion of the Old School Room for residential use included a condition requiring a programme of archaeological recording prior to the alteration of the building.

The Old School Room is a single cell, single storey building in limestone with a corrugated iron gabled roof with an axial internal stack at the north end of the building. Access is via doors in the east and west sides and the south end. It is lit by two windows in the west side. Internally it has a single fireplace with a cast iron surround at the north end and built-in shelves and cupboards to either side of the chimney breast. Two tie-beams are visible beneath a plastered ceiling which obscures the rest of the roof structure.

A building which appears to correspond to this one appears on an estate survey dating from 1774 and subsequently on the enclosure map of 1789. The south end of the building appears in an engraved view of the village dating from 1808.

Historical maps and documents indicate that the building formed part of a complex of outbuildings and barns owned by the lord of the manor. At the break up of the manorial estate in 1844 the building was purchased by Adam Keep. It

formed part of a larger L-shaped plot which included a house now known as Keep House. The building was converted for use as a school room in the later 19th century. It was run by Adam Keep's daughters, Margaret and Alice.

No features associated with the original function of the building were identified but it is likely that it would have been used for storage of agricultural products or animal housing. It occupied the west side of a yard area associated with other agricultural buildings to the north and was located on the eastern edge of the village.

OASIS Ref: albionar1-135054

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

Abthorpe, Brackley Lane (SP 6497 4640)
Gareth Shane

In June an evaluation was carried out at Brackley Lane in advance of the construction of a small housing development. Four trenches were excavated but no significant archaeological features were present. Three plough furrows were present in one trench, and two lengths of modern brick wall were revealed in another. In the remaining trenches only recent cultivation activity was evident.

Culworth, Manor House (SP 5425 4708)
Karin Semmelmann

Between September and December historic building recording and a building watching brief were carried out at Culworth Manor House, as a condition of listed building consent for development on the site. The house is a Grade II listed stone building of two storeys, attics and cellars under tiled roofs. Built by the Danvers family who held the manor from 1437 until 1776, the Manor House now comprises three of the four ranges of buildings around a central courtyard. The east range has been subdivided into two cottages.

The earliest surviving part of the house is the south range, which dates from c 1600. It was extended in the early 17th century by the addition of two wings to the west of the south range, and the final phase occurred in the late 19th century when the still open northern range was constructed. The building fell into decay after the last of the Danvers family died in 1794, and the interior was stripped of its oak fittings, fireplaces etc before 1830.

The building was restored in the 1920s-40s and the present building works have revealed an extensive array of alterations in modern building materials, most particularly concrete. The report also questions previous interpretations of the building's history, with the suggestion that the present south range did not in fact house the hall.

Duston, 39 Main Road (SP 7207 6108)
Bob Zeepvat

In August historic building recording was undertaken of a structure to the rear of 39 Main Road, prior to its demolition during redevelopment of the site. Though in a dilapidated condition, the single-storey building had been soundly constructed of coursed ironstone blocks set in lime mortar, and the survival of a row of joist holes in its rear wall indicated the former existence of an upper storey. No evidence was found to determine its original function: it is suggested that the ground floor was used as stables (its final use), possibly with storage above.

From cartographic evidence the building appears to have been constructed between 1722 and 1855. This date range was narrowed by the discovery of the date '1851', inscribed into the south-western face of the building. According to evidence from its former owner the building must have reached its present truncated form by the mid-20th century.

During the development, which comprised construction of a detached bungalow, a watching brief was maintained on groundworks. The site is in the historic core of Duston, and is close to the probable alignment of a Roman road linking the Roman settlement at Duston with Watling Street at Whilton Lodge. Observation of ground reduction and the excavation of footing trenches and a soakaway revealed only undisturbed natural soils below topsoil, and no finds, even of relatively modern date.

Marston St Lawrence, Glebe House (SP 5350 4214)
Karin Semmelmann

In September a historic building assessment was undertaken of The Glebe House Barn, to inform development proposals. The late 17th century barn was built as part of a complex of farm buildings for what was then the vicarage. The barn is rubble built with a corrugated metal roof. An early 20th century stable block abuts the northern elevation of the barn and a steel-framed barn has been added to the rear.

The interior of the barn has seen considerable alterations. Secondary brick-built walls were constructed along the east and west elevations, possibly in the 18th century, a window was inserted into the south wall in the 20th century, as was a corn-drying system in the southern end of the building. The furnace and ventilation passages are set into the concrete base of the system, which provided for three dryers. A door had been inserted into the north wall of the barn and a window in the same wall had been blocked up. The stable block replaced an earlier slightly wider and considerably shorter building shown on early mapping, which survives as a roof scar on the northern gable end of the barn.

Middleton Cheney, Banbury Lane (SP 4968 4235)
Martin Cuthbert

In February and March, evaluation comprising detailed magnetometry and trenching was carried out on an area of arable land located to the south of Banbury Lane, in advance

Northamptonshire

of development. Two pits containing an assemblage of late Neolithic grooved ware pottery were identified in the northwest part of the site. Four undated shallow pits or postholes were present slightly to the west. The Late Neolithic pits were not identifiable from the results of the geophysical survey, and it is unclear from the results of the evaluation whether they are isolated features or if further contemporary features are present at the northwest of the site. The evaluation also identified relatively recent archaeological remains associated with medieval, post-medieval and modern agricultural activity.

Based on the evaluation results, excavation of two areas of the site was carried out in May. At the centre of Area 1 was a Bronze Age cremation cemetery, comprising three pits containing the cremated bones of three adults. Two of the cremations were not interred with any finds and may have been buried in fabric bags that have since rotted away. The third cremation, along with a bronze pin and a ceramic object resembling a spoon, had been placed into a Bronze Age Collared Urn, which was inverted before being interred. All the burials were radiocarbon dated to the early 2nd millennium BC. (Fig 1) The cremation cemetery was located north of two pits excavated during the evaluation. Both contained pottery dating to the late Neolithic period. A circular posthole structure located southeast of the prehistoric features has been radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age. Further features within this area include a post-medieval field boundary ditch and three undated pits. A Roman ditch dated from pottery retrieved from the fill was located at the centre of Area 2. An alignment of postholes was located slightly south of the ditch. The postholes contained no finds, but their position in relation to the ditch could define the remnants of a contemporary fence line or structure.

Three further alignments of postholes and a shallow gully were identified within this area, all undated.



Fig 1. Middleton Cheney: Bronze Age ceramic 'spoon' recovered from cremation (photo: Wessex Archaeology)

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Compiled by David Gilbert

Middleton Cheney, Main Road, Purely Plants Garden Centre (SP 4941 4167)

David Gilbert

A metal detector survey and a watching brief were carried out on ground works, the latter during the removal of topsoil and the digging of service trenches for a building. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were identified.

Middleton Cheney, north of Banbury Lane (SP 49137 42498)

Paul Riccoboni

One 15m long trench was excavated to the surface of the underlying natural geology. The trench covered the general area proposed for a new wind turbine. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present.

Yelvertoft, 91 High Street, The Manor (SP 60107 75307)

Gwilym Williams

Monitoring was carried out during removal of rubble from the upper part of a cellar associated with the Arts and Crafts period extension to The Manor. The plan of the cellar was recorded and sondages were excavated under archaeological control to examine the locations of supporting walls, floors and potential access to the cellar.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Adstone (SP 5861 5024)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological evaluation, conducted prior to a proposed wind turbine development, found a field boundary noted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. OASIS 138432

Aldwinkle, 123 Main Street (TL 004 821)

David Leigh

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of five test pits, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. Both modern disturbance and undisturbed soils were recorded throughout the area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS 13446

Ashley, 1 Green Lane (SP 7958 9087)

Amir Bassir

Buildings recording was carried out on a 19th century threshing barn prior to the conversion of the structure to housing. The ironstone and pale limestone, two-storey building is roofed with grey Welsh slate and has brick-built partitions. The brick-laid ground floor was found to be in good condition, although the threshing area had been left as

bare earth. A concrete column with a classical style stone base had been cut to fit as a support for the first floor. Apart from a narrowed window in the south elevation, no sign of alteration was visible in the structure. OASIS 130501

Ashton, Ashton Wold (TL 0795 8804)

Tim Upson-Smith

Buildings recording was carried out at the Potting Sheds, prior to their restoration and conversion to holiday lets, and the associated walled garden. The survey demonstrated that although the new Ashton Wold estate had been designed by Hackvale and built in 1900, the kitchen garden had been entirely fitted out by Foster and Pearson Horticultural Engineers of Beeston, Nottingham, including the boiler, heating system and greenhouses.

The range of buildings on the outside of the north wall of the walled garden have been collectively known as The Potting Sheds. However, only one room in this range is the Potting Shed, the other rooms served other functions within the life of the walled garden. The range of buildings is of one build with the walled garden, all constructed in coursed rock-faced limestone with roofs tiled with Collyweston limestone. All the rooms have lime-washed brick walls, the floors are laid brick and the ceilings lath and plaster. The rooms retain Bakelite light switches. The decorative scheme follows that of the estate with the doors and internal woodwork in a light turquoise blue, the window frames externally are white. OASIS 124344

Aston le Walls, Main Street, St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School (SP 4973 5082)

Laszlo Lichtenstein

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a detached classroom. Fragmentary remains of a former building, believed to be 19th century in date, were found during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new classroom. The remains comprised a corner of brick-built foundations, and the brick surface and walls of a possible drain or narrow passageway which appeared to be linked to the fragmentary remains of an ironstone wall. An ironstone yard surface was also seen near the ironstone wall. The pottery was all post-medieval in date. OASIS 139955

Blakesley, 19 Church Street (SP 6277 5070)

James Ladocha

A watching brief on land opposite 19 Church Street during the levelling and subsequent foundation excavations for two new houses found no archaeological deposits, features or finds. OASIS 127465

Blakesley, Old School Lane (SP 623 500)

Jason Clarke

A watching brief carried out on land at Old School Lane noted a thick layer of topsoil overlying undisturbed subsoil and natural geology. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were recorded. OASIS 133704

Brackley, Foxhills (SP 592 386)

Ian Fisher and Christopher Jones

A detailed magnetometer survey of c 8ha of land confirmed that the site contained part of an unenclosed settlement of probable Iron Age date linking up with similar remains previously discovered at Brackley Sawmills (*SMA* (2012) 42, 28) and on the site of the BP petrol station. Ploughed-out ridge and furrow, of medieval or later date, occurred across virtually the entire survey area. OASIS 130737

The trial trench evaluation found a group of roundhouse ring ditches, postholes and pits. A single posthole produced Early Iron Age pottery, probably dating no later than the 6th century BC. The majority of the pottery, including the material associated with the roundhouses, is dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age, 4th to 1st centuries BC. A single large pit produced a mixed pottery assemblage dating to the late Pre-Roman Iron Age, indicating that occupation had continued into the early decades of the 1st century AD.

Bugbrooke, Peace Hill (SP 7281 7010)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Peace Hill, followed geophysical survey (*SMA* (2012), 42, 28) prior to development. Two linear ditches were found, each containing pottery dating to the Iron Age. Earthworks of the medieval ridge and furrow cultivation system survive in part of the area and the remnant furrows were seen in all trenches. OASIS 136922

Burton Latimer, Finedon Road (SP 8982 7392)

Robyn Pelling

A detailed magnetometer survey of c 2ha of land at Finedon Road was undertaken in advance of proposed residential development. Ridge and furrow cultivation and a possible ditch were the only archaeological features present. However, magnetic interference from modern features, including fencing and underground services, obscured parts of the survey area.

Chacombe, Village Land (SP 490 439)

Adrian Chadwick

Archaeological trial excavation was undertaken on behalf of Chacombe Parish Church Council, on the site of the graveyard extension to the Church of St Peter and St Paul's. There were no archaeological features or deposits identified. A modern pit, containing a partly charred sheep carcass, charcoal and plastic sheeting was not excavated. OASIS 129694

Charlton, Camp Farm (SP 530 350)

Paul Clements

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for the construction of a new farm. No archaeological features were observed.

Northamptonshire

Charwelton, 5 Church Street (SP 5348 5581)
Christopher Jones and Laszlo Lichenstein

An archaeological trial trench excavation was undertaken prior to proposed residential development. The fill of a quarry pit included a few sherds of pottery dated between the 12th and 17th centuries. There was also a gully and a single ditch. A concrete platform for the standing garage and a further quarry were also noted. A subsequent watching brief noted disturbed ground.

Charwelton, 8 Church Street (SP 5348 5581)
Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological evaluation, prior to a proposed residential development, found no archaeological features or finds. The development area was heavily disturbed by tree and shrub roots. OASIS 136453

Corby, Kirby Lane, Kirby Hall (SP 9275 9246)
Stephen Morris

Trial trench excavations for English Heritage were undertaken to inform decisions prior to the proposed redevelopment of the West Range of Kirby Hall, a Grade 1 Listed Building and Scheduled Monument (No 1014421). The intention is to re-roof the West Range and create a new first floor Long Gallery to view the Great Garden and house an historic art collection. The ground floor will accommodate a new visitor's centre, which will require new foundations, floors and buried services.

The excavations demonstrated that there was a natural incline of the ground southwards towards a stream on the south side of the Hall. This landscape had been levelled off to create a platform to build the Hall, reducing the ground to the north onto the natural limestone bedrock, so that the building only required shallow foundations. The ground and the foundations to the south had to be made-up. Sealed below the construction levels at the southern end of the West Range is a possible buried soil containing medieval pottery dating between the 13th to 15th centuries, which may be the remains of pre-hall deposits. Features relating to the development and occupation of the Hall were present as construction levels, internal floors and partition wall slots. Two trenches placed in the garden, adjacent to the west side of the West Range produced Hall foundations and garden features, which included a stone-lined drain from within the house and a garden path. The only pottery recovered from the building layers were from the upper deposits which were late 19th to early 20th century in date. OASIS 119748

Culworth, land north of Culworth Hall (SP 5465 4750)
David J Leigh

A watching brief undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new gallop noted undisturbed soils with no archaeological deposits or artefacts.

Daventry, Monksmoor Farm (SP 579 644)
John Walford and James Burke

No archaeological features were observed in a watching brief conducted during the excavation of geotechnical test pits.

A geophysical survey identified two of the areas of archaeological interest which were subject to trial trench evaluation. There were a small number of ditches dating to the Iron Age/Roman period. The evidence from this evaluation broadly agreed with the results of an earlier evaluation in the same area. There were also remnants of extensive ridge and furrow cultivation and post-medieval and modern field boundaries and modern dumping. A possible field boundary may correspond to one of the other areas of archaeological interest. OASIS 138472

Deanshanger, Stratford Road (SP 7693 3977)
Jason Clarke

An excavation was carried out on land north of Stratford Road. There was a trackway and ditches dating from the late 1st century to early 2nd century AD, which were contemporary with enclosures recorded to the south. They went out of use in the early 2nd century, possibly as part of land reorganisation with the establishment of the villa to the south (*SMA* 35 (2005), 38). Remnant traces of medieval ridge of furrow field cultivation were present in Area 3. OASIS 145179

Deanshanger, south of Stratford Road (SP 7708 3977)
Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the route of an offsite sewer, south of Stratford Road. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were observed in the trench sections. No further archaeological features or finds were present. OASIS 137442

Desborough, Harborough Road (SP 797 840)
Christopher Jones

An archaeological trial trench excavation was undertaken at Harborough Road, prior to proposed development. There were three shallow gullies and a possible pit or ditch terminal, but no finds were recovered. Remnant furrows of ridge and furrow cultivation were seen across the site. All the features were aligned in the same direction as the ridge and furrow, which could indicate they are associated with the agricultural system. OASIS 127733

Earls Barton, 1 Harrowick Lane (SP 850 638)
Christopher Jones

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks ahead of the construction of two new dwellings. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS 136552

Finedon, 29-35 High Street, Tudor Gate Hotel
(SP 9175 7206)

Tim Upson-Smith and Charlotte Walker

Buildings recording was carried out at the former Tudor Gate Hotel. The building was constructed with a squared coursed ironstone facade and limestone rear, with a slate roof and brick stacks at the ridge and at either end. The early 19th century Grade 2 listed element of the hotel had undergone many changes in recent years, which had removed earlier or original features. The unlisted late 19th century elements had also undergone major changes, leaving little trace of original function. OASIS 128313

Flore, Living Stones (SP 6407 6006)

Amir Bassir

Buildings recording was carried out on a 19th century, single-storey, brick-built outbuilding prior to either its demolition, or conversion into accommodation blocks. The building forms a lean-to against an existing stone boundary wall and is divided into four rooms serving as storage and workshops. The structure had been altered since its construction, with the northern bay demolished and rebuilt in the 20th century. The outbuilding probably replaces an earlier 17th-18th century one though none of the earlier fabric survives. OASIS 121041

Greens Norton, 12 School Lane (SP 7318 5561)

David J Leigh

A watching brief undertaken during groundworks for the construction of a new residential development noted undisturbed soils and no archaeological deposits or artefacts.

Hargrave, All Hallows Church (TL 036 706)

David J Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during alteration work, which comprised the excavation of service trenches and the replacement of the chancel step along with the construction of a new bell-ringing platform and doorway. Disturbed material was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Hartwell, School Lane (SP 7883 5029)

Jim Burke and Charlotte Walker

An area of late Iron Age/early Roman settlement was excavated in advance of development. The site was occupied for a short period, perhaps the late 1st century BC to the middle of the 1st century AD, with abandonment shortly after the Conquest. There were two adjacent partial enclosures, one of which was flanked by a ditch nearly 2m deep, with either open sides or boundaries that had left no below-ground evidence. Within the enclosures and between them, there were some subsidiary linear and curvilinear gullies, and a few pits. The features produced a small assemblage of late Iron Age hand-built wares and a larger

group of wheel-finished vessels dating to the early to mid 1st century AD. The deposition of two complete upper stones from beehive rotary querns may define the abandonment of Iron Age customs and the adoption of a Romanised lifestyle. Other features including a truncated paved area, remains of furrows and three ditches associated with medieval and post-medieval land use, were also noted. OASIS 134178

Hellidon, Hellidon Grange (SP 5152 5800)

Iain Soden and Charlotte Walker

A building assessment recorded the exterior and interiors of this former vicarage and school designed by the Architect William Butterfield, a leading light in the Ecclesiologist Movement. Begun in 1850 around the vestiges of an older vernacular building, the house was extended three times before it was sold to a private owner in 1910. Although the structure and form are demonstrably by Butterfield, much of the interior has been reordered with many alterations and additions, notably between 1910 and 1935, detracting from the Butterfield design. Throughout, the structure has utilised quality materials. OASIS 126962

Hellidon, Hellidon Grange, The Cottage (SP 6550 8154)

Iain Soden and Charlotte Walker

The Cottage is a brick-built structure of c 1850 which was a stable for 120 years until, apart from minor alteration and following its disuse, it was converted into a house in 1972. It was extensively altered for this change of use and nothing of its previous identity can now be discerned. The interiors are a mixture of 1970s and subsequent decor. Adjacent brick sheds were also for stabling but these too lack any remains from their former use. OASIS 124525

Helmdon, 87 Church Street, Helmdon House

(SP 5911 4322)

Christopher Jones

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the stripping for an access road and new equestrian ménage. Modern disturbance was noted in the ménage area and earlier made up ground for a previous trackway on the access road. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS 136525

Higham Ferrers, Castle Fields (SP 9613 6871)

David J Leigh

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new public footpath and limited clearance of vegetation from the moat within the Scheduled Monument (SM No 13607) of Castle Fields. Minimal excavation remained within the topsoil. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS 140952

Northamptonshire

Irchester, Chester House Farm (SP 9178 6672)

Pete Townend

A watching brief was undertaken during geotechnical evaluation. Under the current access road a limestone surface was uncovered probably relating to an earlier road surface seen in 2005 (*SMA* (2005), 35, 39; *SMA* (2006), 36, 27). The overlying layers contained both Roman and medieval pottery so the surface could either relate to the shrunken medieval village of Chester on the Water or the Roman occupation.

Irchester, Victoria Park (SP 910 668)

Stephen Morris

A report is now available describing the results of the detailed watching brief and targeted excavation carried out ahead of the commercial development of Victoria Business Park across an extensive area immediately to the west of the Roman walled town of Irchester during 2004-2005 (SM NN83).

Iron Age activity included two ditched enclosures, one of which was probably a small farmstead.

The Roman remains were more extensive, with the investigation of the south-western corner of the Roman town revealing substantial remains of the town's defensive stone wall and three defensive ditches. The partial exposure of the Roman town's western suburban occupation revealed the remains of buildings sited adjacent to a metalled road and this was largely preserved beneath the modern development. Other features such as ditches, pits and wells were identified dating to the 1st to 3rd centuries AD.

There was a single early to middle Saxon sunken-featured building. Later activity included the remains of the medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation system. The most recent events relate to the 19th century

ironstone quarrying and a tramway system, with the quarry backfilling during the 20th century returning the land to agriculture. OASIS 125934

Irchester Roman Town Research Excavation

(SP 919 668)

Ian Meadows

Northamptonshire County Council commissioned two trenches within the area of the Roman walled town (SAM NN83), where magnetometer survey in 2010 has provided a detailed plan of the roads and buildings (*SMA* (2011), 41, 30-32 and front cover). The trenches were targeted on specific areas to provide information to inform future management strategies. Along the line of the northern defences the intention was to establish the impact of recent ploughing and the potential damage caused by recent illegal grazing by horses. The second area was on the Romano-Celtic square shrine first uncovered by Baker in the late 19th century, to characterise its current state of preservation and the nature of the antiquarian excavations.

On the northern defences, the Roman and earlier levels were found to be deeply buried and had not been damaged either by the track or the hollow worn by livestock using the water trough. A sandy subsoil contained prehistoric flints of late Mesolithic/early Neolithic date. This was cut by a ditch that may have defined part of a land parcel pre-dating the erection of the town defences, and there were also remains of two structures. The remains of one wall were cut through, indicating that the defences disregarded previous alignments. This was reminiscent of the situation within the southern defences, where a building lying at an angle to the line of the wall was apparently also truncated. The pottery dates these remains to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, with hardly any material recovered of 3rd century date. The apparent hiatus of activity after the 2nd century is of potential significance as this is when the defences would have occupied this area.



Fig 2. Irchester Roman Town, showing the inner cella and the outer ambulatory walls, left, and the precinct wall, with a gate pier, and the metalled road, right.

Part of the ground plan of the Romano-Celtic square shrine was revealed (Fig 2). This demonstrated that neither Baker's excavations nor subsequent arable cultivation have done substantial damage to the remains of the shrine. It was also evident that Baker had adopted a style of wall chasing whereby the upper surface and faces of masonry walls were exposed. In most instances his excavations had not penetrated more than a single course below the present surface, although in places the entire surviving face appears to have been exposed. It was also shown that, in keeping with many shrines, the whole interior had been raised to create a podium.

Irthlingborough, 332 Addington Road, Crows Nest public house (SP 9568 7241)

Christopher Jones

Evaluation within the garden of the public house found no archaeological features or artefacts. OASIS 119284

Irthlingborough, Nene Business Park (SP 955 710)

David J Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for a new business development. Pits and ditches containing Iron Age pottery were recorded and a wall foundation of probable Romano-British date. These provided further evidence for the nature and extent of Iron Age to Romano-British activity in the area of Crow Hill (NHR 1780) a hillfort which encompasses an area c 3ha and dates from the early to middle Iron Age with evidence of continuous occupation through to the early-middle Saxon period.

Irthlingborough, Wellingborough Road (SP 935 699)

John Walford

Magnetometer survey was carried out in advance of a proposed development scheme. The only archaeological features to be identified in the c 3.3ha area were traces of medieval or later ridge and furrow cultivation. OASIS 119378

Kettering, 131 Hawthorne Road (SP 8668 7773)

David J Leigh

A watching brief during the construction of a new residential development on land adjacent to 131 Hawthorne Road recorded undisturbed soils with no archaeological deposits or artefacts.

Kings Sutton, 1 Wales Street, The Bakehouse (SP 4965 3625)

Amir Bassir

Building recording carried out on outbuildings, to the rear of The Bakehouse, dated to the 19th century were probably the stable and storage for the baker's business. The single-storey outbuildings, built in ironstone and limestone with later brick additions, were in a state of severe disrepair, overgrown and partly unroofed. There was evidence of

repair and alteration, with the addition of an internal partition wall in one room and the building of a brick extension to the west.

A subsequent watching brief in advance of the construction of a new residential property noted a possible archaeological feature. Abraded sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the subsoil above and around the feature but not from the feature itself. The majority of the area was highly disturbed by the footings for the now demolished buildings.

Kings Sutton, Hampton Drive (SP 496 366)

Jason Clarke

An archaeological trial trench evaluation located probable Iron Age roundhouse ring ditches and an enclosure, dating to the 2nd and 1st centuries BC. OASIS 135431

Kislingbury, 27 Mill Lane (SP 6950 5934)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological evaluation prior to a proposed residential development found a medieval ditched plot boundary together with a scatter of features dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods, probably back-plot activity. OASIS 138264

Long Buckby, Harbidge Lane, Hillgay (SP 623 675)

Chris Chinnock

An archaeological trial trench evaluation, prior to proposed residential development, found wall foundations, metalised surface and a ditch thought to relate to medieval tenements along the old Cambridge-Coventry road. OASIS 139373

Marston St Lawrence, 6 Field View (SP 5375 4253)

David J Leigh

A watching brief undertaken during groundworks noted modern disturbance throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Mears Ashby, Mears Ashby Hall (SP 8386 6643)

Chris Chinnock

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to a proposed residential development. No archaeological features were observed. OASIS 39689

Moulton, Moulton College, Pitsford Centre (SP 7683 6779)

Amir Bassir

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a new dirty water lagoon. No archaeological deposits were encountered and only two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered.

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Northampton, Bedford Road, Midsummer Meadow (SP 7657 5988)

David J Leigh

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new skate-park. Modern made ground was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Northampton, Brackmills Point (SP 785 592)

Ian Fisher

A detailed magnetometer survey of land at Brackmills Point detected several weak linear anomalies, which probably represent lengths of ditch probably associated with Roman ditches previously discovered to the north and west of the survey area. Extensive traces of ridge and furrow cultivation were also detected. OASIS 134379

Northampton, Castle Station (SP 7477 6043)

Andy Chapman

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out within the concourse of Northampton Castle Station, which lies within the outer bailey of the former Northampton Castle, which was largely levelled in the late 19th century when the station was built. Late Saxon deposits survive at a depth of 1.05-1.3m below modern ground level. Above this there are features dating to the 12th century, which belong to the early history of the castle. A length of ironstone wall, 0.60m wide, may be part of a building set immediately inside the outer bailey bank, while a length of linear slot may be part of a contemporary timber building. Domestic activity in this area is denoted by the presence of pottery and an animal bone assemblage including cattle, sheep and pig, some displaying butchery marks, along with dog and domestic fowl. The absence of any later features or pottery indicates that activity in this area through the 13th to 15th centuries had caused no significant below ground disturbance, and the overlying soil horizons may derive from the later medieval and the post-medieval periods when

the outer bailey was an orchard prior to the building of the railway station. The trial trenching attracted much attention from local media and from local politicians (Fig 3). More extensive excavations are planned for the spring of 2013 in advance of construction work on the new station. OASIS 137470

Northampton, Cherry Orchard School (SP 7849 6232)

Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological excavation was carried out at the former Cherry Orchard School where a well-preserved Roman pottery kiln was excavated prior to the construction of the school in the 1950s. Although much of the rest of the site was quarried in the 19th and 20th centuries, further Roman remains were identified. There were two parallel boundary or enclosure ditches close to the kiln. The southern ditch contained large quantities of kiln-bar fragments. To the west, there were two further parallel ditches with an entrance through the western ditch. It is possible that the two ditch groups formed a sub-rectangular enclosure or field-system. The ditches broadly date from the mid-1st century AD to the mid/late 2nd century AD. A grave, which had been dug into one of the boundary ditches, contained the remains of a middle aged male. OASIS 134231

Northampton, Delapré Abbey (SP 7595 5910)

Robyn Pelling

A watching brief during trenching to replace overhead cables noted thick layers of building material showing post-medieval disturbance under the current road surfaces. Closer to the original Abbey, possible ironstone foundations were uncovered in three areas. Post-medieval brick structures were also visible throughout the site.

Northampton, Fishmarket and 5 and 7 Sheep Street (SP 7532 6064)

Mark Holmes, Tim Upson-Smith and Amir Bassir

Building recording and analysis was undertaken on the former Fishmarket and 5 and 7 Sheep Street, Northampton.

The Art Deco-styled Fish and Meat Market was built in 1938 as a response to increasing concerns regarding the safety of selling fish and meat in the open market (Figs 4 and 5). Original plans for the market show the L-shaped building with 28 butchers stalls and 22 fish stalls, mostly in groups of two, a buffet counter and ladies and gents toilet and cloakroom facilities. Below the market is an air raid shelter. In 2006, after some years of declining business, prior to demolition the market was closed and converted to an art gallery, then finally closed in 2012 to be demolished. Numbers 5 and 7 Sheep Street have their origins in the 18th century, undergoing multiple alterations and internal rearrangements since. Few elements of their original build remain in the structures. All were derelict at the time of survey.

In addition to this work, a test pit excavated on land to the north of Yard Lane revealed the remains of post-medieval buildings and a possible post-medieval quarry. OAISI 136360



Fig 3. Northampton, Castle Station, the excavators and local councillors pose in front of the trial trench.



Fig 4. The main entrance to Northampton Fishmarket showing the Art Deco tiled surround.



Fig 5. The interior of Northampton Fishmarket showing the steel roof trusses and the three-sided clock.

Northampton, Harlestone Road, Dallington
(SP 715 633)
Ian Fisher

Geophysical survey was conducted on 9.8ha of land alongside the A428 at Dallington. A few linear anomalies were detected, including one which coincided with the location of a prehistoric pit alignment previously identified from cropmarks. During the course of the survey, a Neolithic leaf arrowhead was retrieved from the field surface. OASIS 127149

Northampton, Hervey Street, The Cricketers' Arms
(SP 7606 6124)
Amir Bassir

Building recording was carried out at The Cricketers' Arms prior to conversion to housing and the demolition of the outbuildings. The property was built as a Public House between 1878 and 1881. The front elevation is red brick in Flemish bond with a variant of Flemish bond on other elevations. The front elevation has a blue and white paint scheme and retains the original facade. The cellars were purpose-built with raised, brick walkways for storing beer kegs. A chute at the bottom of the stair end rises to a trapdoor in the garden from which kegs could be rolled down wooden runners to the cellar. An original cast iron fireplace with tile surround was present on the eastern wall of the bar. Very few original features survive in the building due to alterations and upgrading of the property. One of the pub games still in the bar was table skittles, also known as

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Hood skittles or Northamptonshire skittles, a classic pub game from the English midlands. OASIS 126979

Northampton, Kent Road, Princess Marina Hospital (SP 719 606)

Tim Upson-Smith and David J Leigh

A buildings recording and trial trench evaluation was undertaken at the former Princess Marina Hospital in advance of residential development.

The hospital, constructed between 1964 and 1972, was designed by the Stillman and Estwick-Field Partnership, in a brutalist style of architecture displayed in many of their designs, for what was the first psychiatric hospital to be purpose-built for patients with acute disorders. The buildings are predominantly of low single-storey construction in dark brickwork with an emphasis on the horizontal line and rectangular form.

The hospital is in four blocks, further subdivided into smaller units or wards. The separate blocks may have catered for patients of differing levels of psychiatric disorders, with the southern block being for high security patients and the others being for progressively lower risk patients. This was demonstrated by the height of the wall surrounding each block, which was progressively lower with one block having no enclosing wall at all. The accommodation for the staff was constructed in a distinctive almost triangular style with brickwork brightly painted in pastel pink

In the trial trenching modern disturbance was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS 130856 (building recording) 130859 (evaluation)

Northampton, Kingsthorpe, Kingsthorpe Village Primary School (SP 7473 6317)

Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological trial trench evaluation ahead of possible development found no archaeological remains or artefacts. OASIS 124568

Northampton, Raeburn Street, Raeburn School (SP 7669 6278)

Jason Clarke

A trial trench evaluation recorded no features and no artefacts were recovered. OASIS 139954

Northampton, Ringway (SP 7420 5906)

Edmund Taylor

An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the Double Four public house (now demolished), in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings, encountered no archaeological deposits or artefacts.

Northampton, Thorn Hill, Briar Hill Primary School (SP 7387 5922)

David J Leigh

A trial trench evaluation undertaken in advance of redevelopment work at the school recorded disturbed soils throughout the investigation area, but no archaeological deposits or artefacts. OASIS 131040

Northampton, Upton Lane, Quinton House School (SP 7192 5976)

Pat Chapman

A watching brief during excavation of a water pipe trench along the earthworks of Upton deserted medieval village (SM165) noted a pronounced scarp associated with the earthworks. There was also an area of rabbit burrow disturbance, and modern disturbance near the school buildings. No finds or deposits associated with the medieval village were recovered. OASIS 136476

Oundle, Lilford, Lilford Lodge Farm (TL 035 854)

Edmund Taylor

The second phase of a trial trench evaluation on the River Nene floodplain (*SMA* (2012), 42, 34) found deep deposits of alluvium. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed. OASIS 11965

Oundle, Oundle and Kings Cliffe Middle School (TL 0346 8933)

Tim Upson-smith

No archaeological features were present in the evaluation trenches within the proposed footprint of a new building at the school.

Potterspury, 27 Church End (SP 7619 4312)

Christopher Jones

No archaeological features or artefacts were present in the single trial trench within the garden of 27 Church End. OASIS 138431

Potterspury, 1 Furtho Lane (SP 7626 4305)

Paul Clements

A watching brief during the groundworks for the construction of two new dwellings saw no archaeological features, but modern pottery and bricks were recovered from the topsoil.

Raunds, 35 Grove Street (SP 9947 7242)

James Ladocha

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of wall footings for two small blocks of flats. Two undated ditches and a 19th century stone-lined pit may be related to buildings and gardens present on the 1880s Ordnance Survey map. The pit and ditches were overlain by make-up

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layers and subsequent demolition overburden related to the modern commercial units that were previously present. OASIS 138271

Ravensthorpe, The Hollow, Kildonan (SP 67162 70403)
Paul Clements

A watching brief during the groundworks for a new dwelling at Kildonan encountered two ditches, neither of which produced any dating evidence. OASIS 121027

Rockingham Castle (SP 8685 9104 and SP 8674 9093)
Carol Simmonds

An evaluation of part of the gardens at Rockingham Castle followed an evaluation, desk-based assessment and buildings recording of the walled garden in 2011 (*SMA* (2012) 42, 35). There was made ground where an artificial terrace for the 19th century garden had been created. A small portion of a path and a short length of brick wall associated with the walled garden were recorded.

Silverstone, 33 Cattle End (SP 6646 4363)
David J Leigh

An unurned human cremation burial and a pit, both undated, were excavated during a watching brief connected with the construction of a new arena on land at 33 Cattle End.

Sulby, Park Farm (SP 6538 8154)
Iain Soden

A single visit watching brief to the site of Sulby Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) was carried out during trenching to replace cables adjacent to Park Farm and its adjacent coppice. No buried archaeological deposits were present. OASIS 124717

Towcester, Belle Baulk (SP 6844 4884)
Jim Brown

Two main concentrations of features were excavated in advance of residential development on the west side of Towcester, outside the Roman town defences.

Within the smaller area a large sub-rectangular pit, filled with fire-cracked river pebbles and charcoal-rich silty clay, was adjacent to a linear ditch with a V-shaped profile. A small group of shallow pits, packed with fire-cracked river pebbles lay nearby. The principal pit contained antler, burnt bone, worked flint, a grinding stone and charcoal, which has been radiocarbon dated to the middle Bronze Age.

In the larger excavation area there were three sides of a double-ditched rectangular enclosure of Roman date (Fig 6). The ditches drained down slope towards the River Tove. Within the enclosure was a rectangular building, 20m long by 8m wide, defined by 27 large postholes or post-pits, with a lean-to portico structure along the north side. A large sub-rectangular timber and clay-lined holding tank was associated with the building, and drained into the

surrounding enclosure ditch. The pottery was of mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD date, containing a greater proportion of flagons and jars than other pottery forms. The building and its tank were perhaps part of an industrial process such as brewing or fulling cloth, although it may have previously been a simple barn. OASIS 127111

Towcester, Northampton Road, Masonic Hall
(SP 6922 4890)

James Ladocha

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of new wall footings for an extension. A layer of possible Roman date was uncovered in places, but the excavations were largely characterised by a thick post-medieval make-up layer overlain by modern deposits relating to the land use prior to the start of works. OASIS 126867

Towcester, Old Greens Norton Road, Central Woolgrowers (SP 6872 4935)

Jim Brown

Excavation took place of a small enclosure immediately behind the former Roman Watling Street frontage to the north of the Roman town. The frontage had been lost to modern roadside landscaping. The enclosure was roughly rectangular, formed by a subdivision of longer continuous ditches that lay perpendicular to the Watling Street, perhaps a property backage, maybe one of several extending along the roadside.

Within the enclosure lay a possible ancillary building. The principal pits in the immediate vicinity contained fairly large unabraded Roman pottery sherds dating predominantly from the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD. The pottery was accompanied by an equal quantity of animal bone. Other deposits included a disturbed inhumation, represented by disarticulated human bone from a ditch fill.

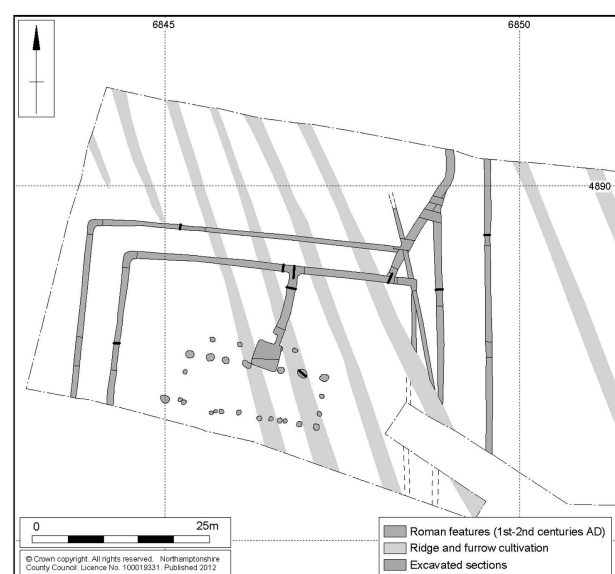


Fig 6. Towcester, Belle Baulk, showing the double-ditched enclosure, the posthole building and the water tank.

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A possible rear boundary plot ditch was identified, and on its immediate west were two human cremation burials in urns, seen in evaluation (*SMA* (2010), 40, 21), roughly contemporary with the disuse of the enclosure.

The central portion of the site produced no archaeological remains, and the former Central Woolgrowers building lay upon an artificial terrace, cut into the original hillside.

Towcester, 10 Pomfret Road (SP 6905 4861)

David J Leigh

Evaluation in advance of proposed residential development noted disturbed soils throughout the investigation area. No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS 123601

Towcester Vale (SP 696 472)

Ian Fisher

A magnetic gradiometer survey of the proposed 'Towcester Vale' development area, covered approximately 180ha to the south of Towcester, from the A43 in the west to the A5 in the east. Many remains of Iron Age or Romano-British date were detected, including a large and multi-phased settlement, a second, smaller settlement with an associated field system, several isolated ditched enclosures and various smaller features and linear ditches. The survey also detected features relating to the shrunken village of Wood Burcote, and extensive tracts of former medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation. OASIS 125934

Towcester, Water Lane (SP 692 484)

Mark Holmes and Alex Thompson

The report describing the excavations conducted in 1998 has now been completed. Excavation had been hampered by the extremely wet ground, and parts of the site were preserved, uninvestigated, beneath the surface car parks. Activity in the early 1st century AD is indicated by presence of small quantities of Belgic pottery. Roman settlement appeared to be concentrated in the period from the later 1st century AD up to the construction of the town wall in the late 2nd century AD. A line of substantial post-pits and a parallel ditch probably enclosed the compound or plot of an affluent Romanised household, perhaps fronting onto Watling Street to the east. To the west, a metalled road, dated to the late 1st or early 2nd century, may have been part of the Alchester Road, with contemporary settlement nearby. Following the construction of the town defences there was little domestic settlement in this extramural area, although usage for burial, which may have begun in the early 2nd century, continued through the 3rd and 4th centuries; 28 inhumations and one unurned cremation were recovered. The burials appear to have been in small extramural backplot groups, rather than a formal cemetery. Two people had been decapitated and another exhibited spinal tuberculosis, Pott's disease. An unusual genetic anomaly in three burials suggested that they were related. Late Roman activity to the south-west comprised a rectilinear enclosure with a nearby T-shaped drying oven. A large post-medieval ditch along the northern margin of the

site may have been part of Towcester's Civil War defences. OASIS 141539

Upper Benefield (SP 979 887)

John Walford

A detailed magnetometer survey of the proposed 'Stonepits' Quarry site at Upper Benefield revealed little of archaeological interest. OASIS 136335

Upper Boddington, 23 Frog Lane (SP 4805 5346)

David J Leigh

A trial trench evaluation in advance of proposed residential development noted disturbed soils throughout the investigation area. A single unstratified sherd of medieval pottery was collected. OASIS 123601

Upper Boddington, Welsh Road (SP 8347 5320)

David J Leigh

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land west of Welsh Road in advance of an extension to the burial ground of St John the Baptist Church. Undisturbed soils were recorded. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered. OASIS 123596

Weedon, 24-30 Queen Street (SP 6228 5890)

Edmund Taylor

A trial trench evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of new dwellings. A single gully of probable post-medieval date was located, no other archaeological deposits or artefacts were found. OASIS No. 121025

Weedon Lois, Weston, Armada House (SP 9163 6819)

Iain Soden and Charlotte Walker

Armada House, also known as Weston Manor House, is a Grade II Listed Building which was severely damaged by fire in 2011. It is reputedly a 16th century manor house with 17th century and later alterations. A pair of apparently medieval cruck-blades stand in the south range, indicating a potentially earlier origin, while that same range appears to have been re-fronted in its present form.

The house is built largely of stone from the local Jurassic limestone with occasional blocks or patches of ironstone. The windows are also turned in the ironstone. Some brick has been used in alterations. While timber-framing of the western half is relatively intact to first floor level, the roof is largely burnt out, but where it survived the fire of 2011, it is of clay peg tiles.

From the second quarter of the 20th century the house was owned by the noted literary figure Sir Sacheverell Sitwell, and his wife Georgia, one of whose principal family homes was the nearby Weston Hall.

Wellingborough, Doddington Road (SP 890 658)

Mark Holmes and Jason Clarke

A detailed magnetometer survey on the site of a proposed crematorium on land east of Doddington Road identified three areas of potential archaeological features. To the west were enclosure ditches and possible field boundaries probably relating to a previously known Romano-British site. To the east a further two undated enclosures and other ditches were present. Ridge and furrow cultivation was evident across the survey area, which was also traversed by a number of modern services. OASIS 137179

Trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of a sub-square enclosure and possible associated ditch. No dating evidence was recovered but the form of the enclosure suggests an Iron Age origin. The site was traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. OASIS 138651

Wellingborough, The Slips, Home Farm (SP 8927 7077)

Edmund Taylor

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground works associated with the replacement of a water pipeline by Anglian Water. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered.

Wollaston, 50 London Road, Cromwell House (SP 9055 6260)

Tim Upson-Smith

A building recording was carried out of the roof of an outbuilding, which demonstrated that the roof was a typical vernacular style. It was not possible to date the origins of the roof although the outbuilding appears on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880. The roof had been repaired in the near past as many of the common rafters were sawn 4" by 2" pine.

Yardley Gobion, Manor Farm (SP 7678 4469)

Jim Burke

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken to observe two service trenches and the foundation trenches for a house. A small amount of unstratified medieval and post-medieval pottery was discovered, but no significant archaeological features or deposits were present.

Yardley Gobion, The Elms (SP 7646 4485)

Amir Bassir

The stone and brick-built, single-storey outbuildings, dated to the 19th century, were unused, and in a state of disrepair and partially demolished. The fabric of the buildings showed evidence of alterations such as blocked doorways and inserted and removed partitions. OASIS 129611

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Collyweston, Northamptonshire to Ketton, Leicestershire Pipeline (SK 9954 0354)

Anthony Haskins

The investigation discovered a small Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint scatter located on the eastern side of the River Welland. A silted-up modern boundary ditch was also identified along with a single medieval plough furrow.

Culworth, Gate House Farm (SP 53948 47248)

Taleyna Fletcher

Five main phases of development were identified during the building survey spanning four centuries. The earliest phase was the construction of the earliest part of the current farmhouse in the late 17th century, and three subsequent significant extensions; the expansion of the farm including the creation of the farmyard in the late 19th century and the conversion of the farm buildings into modern offices in the late 20th century. The earliest map consulted was the 1839 Tithe map, which depicts another parallel building range on the western side of the present range. Although there is no evidence to indicate when this was constructed, if it was contemporary with the earliest phases of buildings, the range may have included a threshing barn, hay barns, maltings, brew house or storage for other animals and/or a cart shed. This also suggests the original layout of the farm was directly to the north of the farmhouse, as opposed to the shift to the east witnessed in the late 19th and early 20th century.

The survey of the farmhouse identified a number of interesting features including blocked-up areas of the cellars, a hidden staircase in the service part of the farmhouse and a wealth of datable fixtures and fittings throughout. There is further potential for more features to be revealed during any future works within the house. The background research also revealed that the house once had additional wings on the road-frontage and a range of outbuildings parallel to those still present.

Although modernisation and conversion has removed many original fixtures and fittings from the outbuildings which would help to identify their original use, the listed building descriptions made during the 1980s have helped to interpret the use of one of the buildings as a granary.

Irthlingborough, Land West of Irthlingborough (SP 708 936)

Chris Thatcher

Archaeological evaluation revealed that large parts of the proposed development area had undergone significant modern disturbance as a result of subsidence associated with localised iron mining and subsequent attempts to reinstate and stabilise the ground. A concentration of archaeological features, including possible boundary and enclosure ditches and a few pits, were recorded on the high ground close to the centre of the development area. These

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remains may represent the surviving remnant of a wider settlement truncated by modern activity. Conversely, they might also indicate the presence of a putative Roman or prehistoric settlement on the high ground. A Neolithic arrowhead was recovered from this area which is of note as it provides rare evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity. Other than this find, very little material culture was recovered by the evaluation, which may suggest that the site formed part of the wider agricultural landscape rather than being an area of settlement.

Kettering, Land East of Kettering, Phase A (SP 904 775)
Nick Gilmour

This major evaluation comprised the excavation of 253 trenches over c 205ha of land. Prior to the trenching, a geophysical survey had already been carried out and the results of this were used to inform the trench locations. The evaluation identified eight distinct areas of activity, most of which dated to the Later Iron Age and Earlier Roman periods. These areas correspond well with those suggested by the geophysical survey, but appear to bear little relationship to the geological or topographical setting.

Six areas of predominantly Later Iron Age date appeared to represent small farmsteads. Finds from these sites comprised largely pottery and animal bone. Charred cereal grains and chaff were recovered from the environmental samples taken from these features.

The two remaining areas differed in character and dated to the Earlier Roman period. One was characterised by a large number of ditches, postholes and pits from which a substantial assemblage of pottery, comprising largely storage jars and kitchen wares, was recovered. In addition, a copper alloy brooch of immediately pre-conquest date was found within the subsoil. This site seems to be a farmstead, on a larger scale than the Iron Age examples already noted. The second area of Roman activity is more enigmatic. No structural features were identified, but a substantial pottery assemblage, comprising fine wares and kitchen wares, was found within ditches.

In addition, a sunken-featured building containing pottery of 5th to 9th century AD date was excavated. This suggests some continuity of land use beyond the Roman period. Of particular interest is an Early Saxon iron bell, also recovered from the sunken-featured building.

Overall this evaluation suggests an interesting archaeological landscape, which could offer insights into the Iron Age to Roman transition.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Lilbourne, Night Owl Truck Stop, Watling Street
(SP 55278 76397)
Vix Hughes

In June 2012, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by O'Brien Contractors Ltd to undertake a programme of

archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) recording and evaluation on land at the Night Owl Truck Stop, on the A5 Watling Street. No features of archaeological significance were encountered. A single field boundary was recorded within the SMS area that is present on the first-edition OS map of 1884 and remained in use until it was backfilled in the 1970s. The evaluation comprised six trenches which identified the remnants of furrows and field drains.

Crick, land off the A5/A428 Junction 18 of the M1
(SP 5706 7304)

Gerry Thacker and Steve Leech

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Status Environmental Ltd/ Winvic Construction Ltd to undertake an evaluation and subsequent excavation at land off the A5/A428 Junction 18 of the M1.

Evaluation in April 2012 of this 1.6ha site comprised eight trial trenches. The only archaeological feature of note was a pit containing charcoal and fired clay hearth or oven furniture of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date.

Undated features included a narrow ditch, a truncated posthole, and a burnt out tree root. Land drains of post-medieval date were present in the majority of trenches, including one that had been inserted into a post-medieval ditch. The natural on the site was gravel-rich clay with outcrops of mudstone and was overlain by c 0.5m of topsoil and sandy clay subsoil.

Further targeted excavation in October 2012 was then undertaken on a 32m x 31m area (Trench 9) adjacent to the pit feature revealed in the evaluation. A further pit containing charcoal and pottery of early Iron Age date, an undated posthole and three tree throw holes were also recorded.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Kings Sutton, Scotts Farm, Walton Grounds
(SP5088 3463)

Steven Crabb and Andrew Munding

Observations of footing pads revealed that the site had been largely truncated, although alluvial deposits did survive. No archaeological features were recorded and only modern finds observed.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Daventry University Technical College
(SP 57180 63060)
Andrew Norton and Alex Sotheran

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed new

University Technical College on land off Ashby Road, Daventry. The Site has been subject to very low level test pitting (Upson-Smith 2010) as part of a wider scheme. No archaeological finds or features were encountered in the test pit excavated within the Site although the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks was noted. As a result of the archaeological potential of the Site, Northamptonshire County Council produced a brief (NCC 2012) outlining the requirement for four 30m evaluation trenches, and a topographic survey of extant earthworks.

This evaluation revealed the remains of several furrows and a post-medieval/modern ditch. All the features were thought to be of agricultural origin, and no dating evidence was retrieved from any of the features during the course of the evaluation.

Daventry - Land at Site 10 Middlemore Farm (SP 56426 65114)

Andrew Norton and Alex Sotheran

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed new housing development. The Site is adjacent to a Romano-British settlement/farmstead lying under and around Middlemore Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire. As a result of the archaeological potential of the Site, Northamptonshire County Council produced a brief (NCC 2012) outlining the requirement for six 30m evaluation trenches within the north of the Site.

This evaluation revealed the remains of several furrows and an undated drainage gully. All the revealed archaeological features were thought to be of agricultural origin and no dating evidence was retrieved from any of their fills. Prior to the medieval/post-medieval period the Site may have formed pastoral land around the known Romano-British settlement. The south-eastern part of the Site had been landscaped during the construction of the adjacent housing development.

OXFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON GEOPHYSICS

Report by Roger Ainslie

Cholsey (SU 595 874)

Magnetometry surveys were carried out and air photos were inspected with Keevill Heritage Associates for the Communities Against Gravel Extraction group (CAGE). Lidar pictures also indicate a very large system of boundaries in this area which are presumably of Roman date. A large, presumably Roman but possibly medieval, site together with several barrow ditches was discovered in the vicinity by using magnetometry. For a large site to have escaped discovery before now indicates the limitations of the records of the known archaeology in this type of location. (Fig 1)

Cumnor (SP 475 040)

A magnetometry survey revealed ridge and furrow and two small enclosure ditches which may relate to the present road in this area. A small area of high anomalies indicated the possible site of a building but an earth resistance survey was unable to identify any structures.

Cumnor Hurst (SP 478 039)

As part of arrangements for publishing this site, first reported by the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society, *SMA*13 (1983) p124, magnetometry and earth resistance surveys were carried out. These revealed anomalies which could be many pits together with curvilinear ditches which may be associated with Iron Age round houses. A report on the geophysics has been submitted to the Archaeology Data Services' Grey Literature system ref. abingdon1-146290.

Drayton, Abingdon (SU 487 955)

A small earth resistance survey in the grounds of Stonehill house indicated an anomaly some 4m wide running in an approximately northnorthwest-southsoutheast direction. Unfortunately the ground conditions were too wet for good results and it is hoped to continue work when conditions are better. Only excavation is likely to give an indication of its date.

ACB ARCHAEOLOGY

Long Wittenham - 1 Fieldside (SU 5438 9349)

Anni Byard

From the 17th to 22nd April 2012 ACB Archaeology undertook a watching brief on all groundworks ahead of the construction of a ground floor rear and side extension at 1 Fieldside. The watching brief recorded one 20th century pit that contained iron, tin cans and other modern debris. This pit was the coal-hole, backfilled with soil and modern debris in the early 1970s (current owner, pers comm.). One body sherd of glazed pottery, a Brill/Boarstall type ware dating to the late medieval/early post-medieval period was recovered from the top or garden soil (Context 001) and is a residual find that may be interpreted as 'background activity'. No archaeologically significant deposits were encountered.

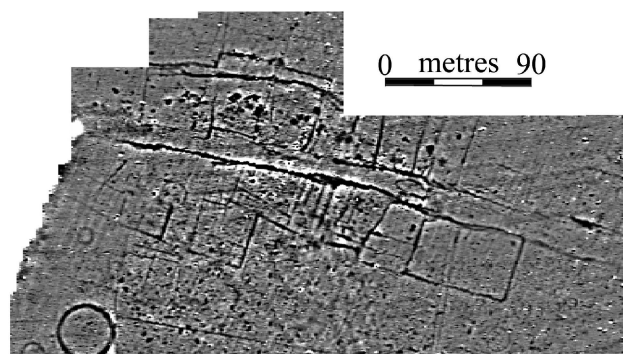


Fig 1. Magnetometry survey near Cholsey.

Oxfordshire AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Nettlebed, 1-6 Watlington Street (SU 7010 8684)
C Clarke

A watching brief, on behalf of Manorgrove Homes (UK), was undertaken at the site of 1 - 6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, monitoring a programme of residential construction works. The sequence of deposits identified during the watching brief was of limited archaeological significance. The earliest archaeological feature encountered was a partial chalk-lined well, with an unknown date of construction, although it is recorded as being backfilled during the late 18th to 20th century. Two brick-lined wells/soakaways and part of a backfilled basement associated with the 19th century, were also identified. OXCMS:2011.207

BLEWBURY LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY GROUPS

Blewbury Big Dig - Test Pit Programme - 1st Interim Report (SU 531 859)
Dave Carless

Introduction and Methodology

With the aim of promoting community archaeology in Blewbury and helping to establish an understanding of the history of settlement in the village, a programme of garden test pits was started in 2012. We began with a demonstration weekend in which we dug three pits on public land to gain community interest and train participants in the methodology. This was followed by the "Big Dig" weekend in June in which 9 pits were dug including one in the village primary school. A further four pits over subsequent weekends brought the total for the year up to 16, well spread throughout the village.

A standard methodology was developed based on those used by similar programmes at Wallingford and Ewelme. 1.5m x 1m pits were excavated in artificial spits of 100mm (or less if there was evidence of context change) until the water table or "natural" was reached - normally confirmed by sondage or auger. 100% of excavated material was sieved (except where sticky clay-like alluvium made this impossible and then hand sifting was used) to extract finds. Sections and plans of pits were drawn before backfilling. Post-excavation processing of finds was generally done off-site later in the year.

Finds

Unless of particular interest, stone and ceramic building material was returned to the pit during back filling. All other material was taken off-site for subsequent washing, sorting, counting and weighing, retaining all data by context (pit and spit number). Material was categorised as:

- Pottery
- Clay pipe
- Bone/teeth
- Flint/stone

- Glass
- Metal
- Ceramic building material
- Wood/charcoal
- Other

All pottery was retained and stored for later analysis and dating. Other materials were only retained if of particular interest or as representative examples.

By good fortune our very first pit produced a Charles I "rose farthing" (1636-44) and an Edward IV half groat (1464-65) but apart from these no coins older than Victorian were found in any pits.

Analysis of Pottery Finds

In total 1304 potsherds, mostly small single pieces, were recovered from the 16 pits. Where possible these were assigned date ranges: Early/Mid Saxon (410 to 900AD), Late Saxon (to 1066), Saxo-Norman (to 1150), Medieval (to 1450), Post Medieval (to 1750) and Modern. There were no Roman or Prehistoric finds. The temporal distribution across all pits is shown in Fig 2.

The spatial distribution of pottery finds in each date range has been plotted in a GIS environment and is shown in Figs 3a to 3f.

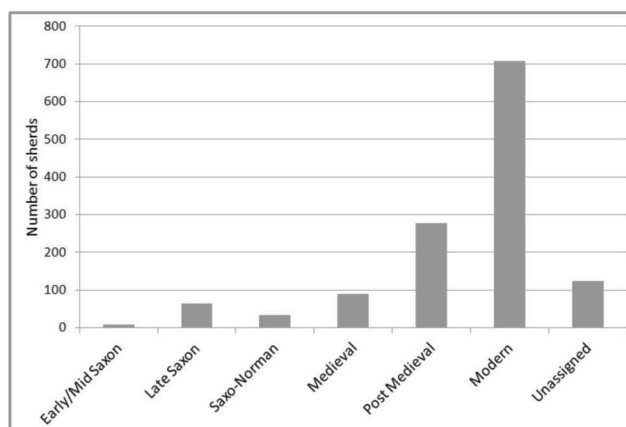


Fig 2. Blewbury Big Dig. Temporal distribution of pottery finds from all pits.

Discussion

As a community archaeology project the Blewbury Big Dig has proved a success. As well as the school involvement we have had enthusiastic participation of local garden owners and willing diggers and pot washers from within the village and the surrounding area, including the extensive collaboration of other local archaeology groups.

Though we remain cautious until more data has been gathered from the on-going campaign some settlement patterns are beginning to emerge:

- No evidence was found of prehistoric or Roman settlement within the present village curtilage
- There is evidence of early/mid Saxon (dated 5th to 8th century) occupation. This is the earliest occupation evidence yet found in the village and may have connections with the pagan burials on Blewburton Hill and elsewhere within the Parish.

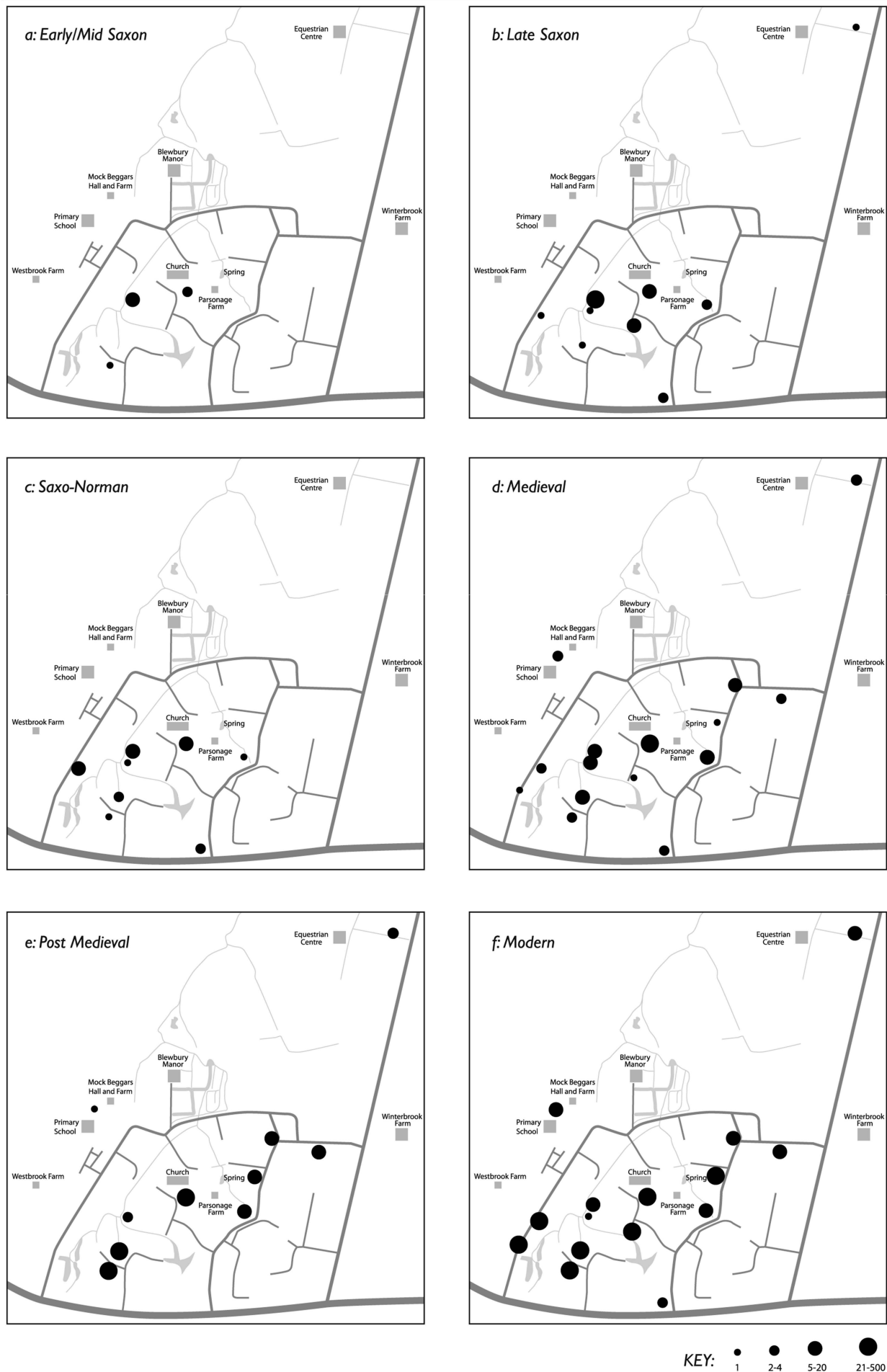


Fig 3. Blewbury Big Dig. Spatial distribution of pottery finds from different periods.

Oxfordshire

- There is evidence of continuous occupation from Saxon to modern times.
- No evidence was found of settlement outside the areas of occupation shown on the 1805 enclosure map implying that there has been no contraction of the village prior to its modern expansion.

The Forward Programme

It is planned to dig a similar number of test pits in 2013 and the locations will be chosen to focus on a number of specific research questions:

- What evidence is there of early occupation in the Nottingham Fee Manor (a small manor dating back to the Domesday Book, entirely surrounded by the Great Manor of Blewbury)?
- What are the early Saxon origins of Blewbury? Is there evidence of a possible minster church?
- Where were the historic boundaries between village and fields?

Acknowledgements

The programme has been undertaken in partnership with South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group and with the kind support of The Wallingford History and Archaeological Society. We are greatly indebted to June Strong for help in dating the pottery. We are also most grateful for generous financial support from Sustainable Blewbury.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Abingdon, Drayton Road (SU 4855 9572)

Paul Riccoboni

Twenty-two trenches were excavated to the underlying natural geology or uppermost surface of the archaeology. The archaeological evaluation followed after a geophysical survey of the site and confirmed suspected archaeological anomalies in four of the trenches. Other anomalies across the site were tested in the field and considered to be natural. Near the centre of the field were features that comprised most commonly ditches, pits and postholes, which would fit the character of a prehistoric farmstead. The only dating evidence recovered from the evaluation was mid to late Iron Age pottery leading to the suggestion that a small farmstead with simple outlying fields, marked by ditched boundaries, once occupied this site during the mid to late 1st millennium BC. The site was probably abandoned during the 1st century BC.

Abingdon, 51 East St Helen Street (SU 4971 9688)

Paul Riccoboni

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during groundworks. The pottery assemblage recovered suggests the site was used initially during the 2nd century AD and was then abandoned during the late Roman period. It was not re-occupied until the late medieval/early post-medieval period. The presence of a relatively large quantity of wine bottles and broken plates may suggest that the property was used as a public house during the early 19th century.

Abingdon, Thornhill Walk (SU 4927 9803)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during the redevelopment work. A variety of features and finds were discovered which indicate the site was occupied during the 2nd century AD. Lower layers contained a mix of prehistoric and Roman pottery sherds. The layers are perhaps related to a shallow Roman quarry pit. One posthole and a pit have been identified as Roman. Other gullies and postholes across the site are either Roman or undated. All prehistoric sherds (36% of the entire assemblage), were residual within Roman or later features.

Three parallel Roman walls orientated on a northwest-southeast direction were uncovered across the site. Two walls probably formed the sides of a small building, which may have had a wooden front and back walls. An area of modern disturbance makes this interpretation difficult to prove. Between the two walls was rubble a spread which may have formed a floor surface. On its surface were iron nails and slag indicating this building may have been used as a workshop.

A larger wall to the north was not straight and was therefore perhaps a property boundary wall. However, usually a boundary wall would be expected to fully enclose the property. A loose pea grit deposit was only seen on the north side of the wall and may have been the remains of a make-up layer for a yard surface. The site was seemingly abandoned during the 3rd century AD and not reoccupied until the modern era.

Beckley, 1 Sandpath (SP 5649 1091)

Gwilym Williams

A watching brief was conducted during the ground works. No archaeological finds or features were found. Observations of the natural geology - Beckley Sand Member - indicate however that previous comments regarding the presence of a stone-made Roman road running along the line of Sand Path may well refer to the limestone bedding within the sand, or potentially the underlying Berkshire Oolite Series. Nevertheless, the conclusion drawn was that the Roman road previously observed was probably a geological formation.

Bicester, Chapel Street (SP 5848 2228)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during ground reduction for a new single storey extension. The monitored ground works involved the excavation (by hand) of the footing trenches usually to a depth of c 0.9m from the present ground level. Grave cuts could be seen at the eastern end of the site, but the burials were not encountered. Three broken headstones were collected from this area. At the south western corner of the site a brick-built crypt was recorded. A later second brick-vaulted crypt was seen in the side of the footing trench, but was not disturbed.

Bicester, Place Yard (SP 5835 2205)
Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during ground reduction for a new car park. No archaeological features or finds were present at the site.

Bloxham, Church Street, Godswell Park (SP 4311 3572)
Paul Riccoboni

Two trenches of cumulative length of 60m were excavated to the surface of the underlying natural geology. The site had been subject to recent unmonitored topsoil stripping in advance of a temporary compound. No archaeological features or deposits were present.

Burcot, Lynden Close (SU 5644 9593)
Paul Riccoboni

During the excavation for the new basement a late Iron Age/early Romano-British ditch was discovered orientated in an approximate north-south direction traversing the length of the new basement.

Burford, 163 High Street, White Oak (SP 2511 1188)
Adrian M. Chadwick

One 30m long machine-dug trench was excavated. Two pits or postholes of probable early modern date were recorded, along with a ditch infilled with early modern or modern material, and a possible early modern pit or tree throw/grubbing out feature.

Chinnor, Station Road (SP 7538 0117)
Stephen Yeates

A watching brief is on-going during work at the playing fields. So far there appears to be limited evidence for medieval ridge and furrow as well as some undated pits.

Cholsey, 34 Honey Lane (SU 58822 86280)
Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during ground reduction in advance of development. The principal north-south Roman road through the county from Dorchester to Silchester was uncovered beneath the former house during the removal of concrete footings. A chalky bedding deposit was encountered which supported the road agger, and sections showing the 'agger' and road surface metalling along with a probable road side ditch were also recorded. Other possible ditches either side of the road may indicate the shifting alignment of the road over a long period of time perhaps as part of general road maintenance and/or resurfacing.

Clifton Hampden, Fullamoor Farm House
(SU 5335 9510)
Paul Riccoboni

One trench, totalling approximately 10m in length was excavated to the underlying natural geology. Two features were revealed in the trench comprising two postholes; all were sealed by the subsoil and topsoil. Within one posthole was a belt buckle of probable Post-medieval date. At the rear of the house over the location of a proposed orangery, two positions were hand-augered revealing a c 0.3m deep overburden before solid ground was reached.

Cropredy, Claydon Road (SP 4694 4716)
Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was conducted during the ground stripping prior to the construction of a new marina to the north of Cropredy. The only indication of any activity was the remains of ephemeral features, which were probably all of an agricultural origin and had become severely truncated by modern ploughing. A handful of post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered again probably the result of agricultural activity.

Cropredy, land off School Lane (SP 4681 4604)
Paul Riccoboni

Seven trenches, totalling approximately 210m in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology. There were no archaeological features or deposits in any of the trenches.

Ditchley Park (SP 39133 21495)
Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was conducted during the alterations to a barn for the insertion of a biomass heating system and the cutting of the accompanying pipe trenches that were numbered 1 to 11. The location of the Grim's Ditch was already known, but the excavations of the trenches provided some information on the construction of the monument in this area of its course (Trench 1). Though a number of features were noted it is difficult to date some of these features precisely. A number of features recognised in the area of the Timber Yard (Trench 9), for example ditches and post-hole, were cut from below the subsoil and it is likely that these could have been of a later prehistoric or Roman date, although they were essentially undated. The reason for suspecting an early date is that a piece of daub was recovered from this area. Observations in Trench 2 noted the remains of a significant stone building of a medieval date under the park land to the north of the Grim's Ditch and downhill from it. Though not precisely datable the tile from this building seems to be of a 12th or 13th century date, and a residual Roman coin was recovered from the site but was unstratified. This structure may have been located in a partial enclosure, as the line of a ditch was located between it and the Grim's Ditch. Trench 6 (cut by British Telecom) uncovered the remains of three walls near the stables, which were associated with square handmade nails and fragment of glass with the emblem of the Earl of Lichfield. Wine

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bottles of the 16th and 17th century were produced with the emblems and seals of those who had purchased the beverage. This does not prove, but could be considered suggestive that an earlier residence of the lords of Ditchley was located in the vicinity of the stable. In this case it could be argued that such beverages are likely to have been consumed in the principle house of the estate. The remains of a number of culvert systems were recognised in the base of the valley in Trenches 4, 5 and 8. The date at which the main culvert was put in could not be ascertained by archaeology but has to relate to some phase of the park, either of a later medieval but more likely of an early post-medieval or 18th century date. There were also a number of post-medieval to imperial buildings identified in a number of trenches. There was evidence obtained of an earlier structure identified in the vicinity of Lower House (Trench 4) and of a second structure in that trench. Evidence was also ascertained in connection with the construction of Ditchley House (Trench 1), the Stables (Trench 3). Trenches 8 and 10 produced evidence of activity in the formal laid out gardens. This included evidence of structures and wells.

Dorchester-on-Thames, Wittenham Lane (SU 5782 9379)

Gwilym Williams

A two-trench evaluation subsequently led to an excavation within the footprint of the proposed new-build. The excavation indicated occupation from the Late Iron Age through to mid 2nd century AD, part of the extra-mural settlement of the Roman town at Dorchester-on-Thames, and comprising rubbish pits and postholes as well as a number of ditches. By the late 2nd or early 3rd century, it appears that the postulated roadside activity had been abandoned and replaced by an organised cemetery, comprising at least 30 east/west oriented inhumations, bounded on the south side by a boundary ditch, which may well be associated with an internal bank. Similar cemetery enclosures have been recorded elsewhere at Dorchester-on-Thames. The burials are undated, but the majority appear to have been interred in coffins, indicated by the presence of iron nails; some evidence of familial grouping may also be present. Further post-excavation analysis is anticipated.

Eynsham, Station Road, Abbey Barns (SP 4318 0913) Gwilym Williams

A watching brief was carried out during ground-works at Abbey Farm, Station Road, as the former agricultural barns were converted to domestic units. Archaeological remains comprising remains of potentially Roman activity, including at least one pit, in addition to residual Roman pottery was recovered. Further remains reported include part of a medieval road, or possibly a threshing floor, as well as a large area of a cobbled surface; a number of walls indicated the former existence of buildings within the grange complex. Ditches and pits were also present; a number of these were undated and it is not clear whether these were medieval or part of the later post-medieval farm. There were indications of possible plots, which contained

pits and postholes, although it is not clear whether these are indicative of occupation predating the absorption of this part of Bynsham into the abbey precinct in the early 14th century.

Faringdon, Park Road (SU 2910 9450) Gwilym Williams

The evaluation at land off Park Road, Faringdon indicated the presence and reasonably good survival of a Roman settlement spanning the late 1st to early 4th centuries AD. The activity was focussed on the sandy capping of the Corallian ridge deposits, with no evidence off the sand for any Roman activity at all. Indeed the claylands downslope were notable for the absence of any archaeological activity.

The Roman activity comprised ditches, including a possible driveway or path, on two postulated alignments. The chronological relationship is uncertain, but it is possible that the earlier system is represented by the west-by-northwest/east-by-southeast ditches; it is not possible to assert whether there were any returns at rough right-angles as none were found with any dating. The later system comprises those ditches dating from the mid 3rd century onwards oriented northeast/southwest and northwest/southeast. However, given the limited view afforded by the evaluation it is not possible to assert unequivocally the form of the settlement or its function.

Fringford, Main Street, Gable Cottage (SP 6049 2891) Paul Riccoboni

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground works. No features or finds of archaeological significance were present.

Fringford, Main Street, Rosemary Cottage (SP 6049 2891) Adrian M Chadwick

A watching brief was conducted during the ground works. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Goring-on-Thames, Icknield Road (SU 6070 8175) Gwilym Williams

Four trenches were excavated on land adjacent to the pumping station on Icknield Road, no archaeological remains were present.

Gosford, 129 Bicester Rd (SP 5027 1355) Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during excavation for a new two-storey dwelling. Two undated features were recorded and one sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil.

Great Milton, Church Road, Church of St Mary the Virgin (SP 6282 0242)

Andrej Celovsky

A watching brief was carried out during groundwork at the churchyard. Several successive deposits and a Victorian footpath were recorded. No other features of archaeological significance were observed.

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 walled garden. So far limited evidence for medieval activity in the area has been seen, but no trace of the earlier manor house.

Hanwell, Hanwell Castle (SP 4364 4361)

Paul Riccoboni

Five trenches, totalling approximately 36m in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology or uppermost surface of the archaeology. Within Trench 1 the earliest feature was a north-south wall with a drain on its western side. The wall perhaps formed part of the previous internal quad. A later 18th century pit was recorded destroying the wall on the south side of the trench. This pit and another layer within the trench contained a high proportion of residual medieval pottery sherds leading to the tentative suggestion that this area was once associated with an earlier medieval great hall, which may have existed beneath the present house or closer to the lake.

Within Trench 2 the earliest feature was an east-west wall with a step footing constructed of cotswold stone with a north-south return. These walls were located at the corner of the projected Tudor castle and could be the surviving remains of a tower or north-south enclosing wall. Between the walls was a deposit containing architectural plaster and other objects such as a fragment of window sill of Tudor date, which would suggest demolition deposits from the destruction of the castle are present across this area. To the immediate south of Trench 2 the ground level had been raised by demolition deposits (Trench 3). Within Trenches 4 and 5 the surviving archaeology included presumed garden features, which may have once formed Tudor walkways or flower beds within a carefully designed pleasure garden.

Hook Norton, Saint Peter's Church (SP 35510 33123)

Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was conducted during the insertion of new drainage. The investigation was extremely productive in that it confirmed an earlier phase of the building that was previously unknown, possibly relating to an 8th or 9th century phase of the church. There are also indications of a series of other structures in the churchyard, which are essentially undated but must presumably be High Medieval (1066-1400) or earlier. The church has previously been associated with the location of a minster church. The new

evidence is for an early church but defining a proper status for this church is more problematic in the light of certain historical developments.

Horley, Little Lane (SP 4161 4377)

Paul Riccoboni

Six trenches, totalling approximately 80m in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology. No archaeological features or finds were discovered. Stone outcropping was investigated across the site, but was proven as natural.

Kingston Blount, Pleck Lane, Briarwood (SU 7393 9952)

Adrian M Chadwick

A watching brief was conducted during the ground works. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Long Wittenham, High Street, The Granary

(SU 5463 9393)

Gwilym Williams

The watching brief identified an undated pit and a late post-medieval light building in the footings trench of the new garage.

Long Wittenham, High Street, Wittenham Court

(SU 5450 9386)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during the ground works. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Lower Heyford, Land to the rear of 17-19 Freehold Street (SP 4869 2481)

Paul Riccoboni

One 20m trench was excavated to the underlying natural geology or uppermost surface of the archaeology. The earliest feature was a pit, which contained Victorian industrial waste presumably from a nearby forge. Other garden features were noted cut into natural all with modern finds.

North Stoke, Greenacres, Pickets Lane

(SU 6090 8607)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during the ground works. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Oxford, Folly Bridge (SP 51448 05457)

Gwilym Williams

A watching brief was conducted during the replacement of a water main, to ensure that only modern material was impacted upon. The depth of impact was c 1m, and therefore well above the medieval Grandpont. During the watching brief remains of a building which formerly fronted

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onto Folly Bridge were observed. Works in Folly Bridge Court were also monitored, although these only revealed modern made ground associated with the present development.

Oxford, Headington, 19 St Andrew's Lane (SP 5454 0773)

Adrian M Chadwick

An archaeological evaluation was conducted. In addition to a post-medieval or early modern well backfilled with demolition debris, a series of pits was also identified, filled with dump deposits containing animal bone fragments and late medieval and early post-medieval pottery and brick fragments. In addition to this domestic refuse, green staining around the sides of the pits indicated that they had once also contained significant quantities of cess and/or urine. At least six postholes from an unidentified structure possibly post-dating the pits were also present.

Oxford, Headington, 7 Stephen Road (SU 5443 0714)

David Gilbert

Despite the potential for the site to be within a Saxon cemetery, the single trench located only mid 20th century horticultural beds.

Oxford, Iffley, Anne Greenwood Close, Iffley House (SP 5327 0398)

Adrian M Chadwick

A total of three machine-dug trenches were excavated, two of these were 10m in length and one 4.8m long. No archaeological remains were found.

Oxford, Jericho, 43 Jericho Street (SP 5060 0700)

Adrian M Chadwick

One trench 6.5m long and up to 0.8m wide was machine-excavated. A series of modern and early modern made ground deposits up to 1.1m thick overlay the fills of several cut features including a pit and a posthole. These features contained medieval, post-medieval and early modern pottery, clay pipe and other finds were probably 19th century in date.

Oxford, Lonsdale Road, St Michael and All Angels Rectory (SP 5088 0926)

Gwilym Williams

A two-trench evaluation in the garden of the Rectory recorded no archaeological features. A single unstratified sherd of flowerpot was recovered from Trench 1.

Oxford, 21 Norham Road (SP 51377 07758)

Adrian M Chadwick

A watching brief was conducted during the ground works. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Oxford, 1 Park Town (SP 5114 0781)

Gwilym Williams

The excavation, which was preceded by a watching brief during demolition and a subsequent evaluation, revealed the presence of six Middle Iron Age pits and a further five undated, although possibly Middle Iron Age, pits, many of which were very truncated by Victorian garden features, as well as features associated with the former laboratory.

The Middle Iron Age features were for the most part truncated to an extant depth of c 0.2m. Dating is represented by only a couple of sherds of pottery. Nevertheless, one pit seems to have comprised two depositional events with groups of vessels as well as different animal bone assemblages dominating each respective layer. Some 8m to the northeast a heavily truncated gravel surface yielded both Middle Iron Age pottery and possible evidence for iron working, represented by a smithing hearth bottom and some fuel ash slag.

The evidence for Middle Iron Age activity on the gravel spur between the Cherwell and the Thames has up until now been quite limited. This excavation shows that the Middle Iron Age sherds recovered from St John's College (Beckley and Radford 2011, 14) were not isolated, and that indeed the activity at Whitehouse Road (Mudd *et al* 1993) is part of a more developed use of the landscape than previously expected. Comparisons with other Middle Iron Age sites in the Middle and Upper Thames Valley, such as Claydon Pike, Thornhill Farm and Abingdon where the Middle Iron Age settlements were located at the confluence of the Thames and its tributaries (in addition to the Port Meadow settlement within the Thames distributary) must be made (cf Lambrick forthcoming). Further Middle Iron Age settlement activity can surely be expected in the vicinity.

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Oxford, Hill Top Road, Southfield Golf Course (SP 5388 0563)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during ground reduction in advance of the installation of three new ponds. Those on the western side of the site (Ponds 2 and 3) were not monitored for archaeology as they had clearly been reduced in the past to produce upcast sand to landscape the area around the final 18th putting green.

The archaeological features comprised a number of discrete features considered to be prehistoric or early Roman in origin, related to a possible nearby settlement with an iron working industrial zone. A large pit was excavated towards the south-eastern end of the site and contained hammerscale within its fill. Close by was another pit with flue and

associated with postholes and stakeholes. The burnt stones found in the flue indicate this pit also had a possible industrial iron working function. Other postholes were recorded across the general area of the new pond but formed no discernable shape or patterns which could be assigned with confidence to any individual structures. The postholes probably represent the only surviving remains of a prehistoric fence line or building. The small area available for excavation and a lack of dating evidence means we cannot postulate further. Any future ground works on the golf course should be closely monitored in order to attempt to further understand the nature of any prehistoric settlement on this hilltop.

Oxford, junction of Walton Street and Little Clarendon Street (SP 50935 06858)

Gwilym Williams

A watching brief was conducted during the ground works. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Oxford, Woodstock Road, St Edward's School (SP 5040 0910)

Gwilym Williams

Two trenches were machine-excavated, one 15m in length and one 5m in length. No archaeological features or deposits were present in either trench, and only a few unstratified fragments of late 19th or early 20th century porcelain and brick were recovered from the topsoil.

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

Adrian M Chadwick

The Ground Penetrating Radar survey of a car park area immediately north-east of the existing hotel complex identified possible buried masonry features, with other results indicative either of either fragmented masonry and/or demolition or makeup layers.

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.

Interestingly, the date of the pottery apparently reflects late Saxon and Saxo-Norman occupation, pre-dating the establishment of the Preceptory by the Templars in AD 1239-1240. Sandford was first mentioned in a charter of AD 811, when lands there were granted by Kenulf, King of the Mercians to Abingdon Abbey, with further lands at Sandford granted to this abbey in 931 by Athelstan. The likely presence of a probable ford nearby might also have attracted occupation. It therefore seems possible that on the Site there was a settlement either built in association with the 11th century church, or pre-dating it.

Tackley, Upper Weaveley Farm (SP 4632 1863)

Paul Riccoboni

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a new burial ground. Twenty-four trenches were excavated to the underlying natural geology or uppermost surface of the archaeology. The majority of the trenches were blank, with the exception of three trenches that recorded four ditches and a posthole, all undated.

Wantage, 21-23 Wallingford Street (SU 6090 8607)

Adrian M Chadwick

An evaluation and watching brief were conducted. No significant archaeological remains were identified.

Wendlebury, Church Lane, Chestnuts (SP 5592 1966)

Paul Riccoboni

A watching brief was conducted during groundworks connected with a new extension. A layer of stone was seen directly above natural clay across the eastern end of the site and within a service trench to the north of the site, which almost matches with the remains of a medieval trackway recorded in the adjacent field. No dating evidence was secured across any part of the site, but the two trackways are considered to be medieval as medieval finds were recorded from the surface of the trackway in the adjacent field.

KEEVILL HERITAGE CONSULTANCY

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Dobsons (SU 5855 9064)

Graham Keevill

An archaeological watching brief was maintained at Dobson's, Sotwell Street, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell during August 2012. The work comprised a shallow soil strip (0.3m maximum from existing lawn level) over a proposed extension at the east end of the property, and excavation of new foundation trenches for the extension's south and east walls. The structure's north and west sides joined onto existing parts of the house and thus did not need new footings. The new foundation trenches were 1m deep from the lawn level and 0.5m wide; the south and east trenches were 5.2m and 4.3m long respectively. Two small triangular pads to extend the footings for the conservatory at the west end of the building were also examined. The excavations contained nothing of archaeological interest.

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

Graham Keevill and Cathy Underwood

The watching brief started in 2011 on behalf of the Parochial Church Council continued during September 2012, in this case during the excavation of new drain runs to the north and east of the Church. Substantial quantities of disarticulated human bone were recovered, along with coffin handles and nails, but no in situ skeletal remains were found. A small quantity of medieval and later pottery was also collected, along with two Iron Age sherds. The human

Oxfordshire

bone will be reburied in due course, once a further phase of the watching brief has been completed.

Dorchester on Thames, 24 Bridge Street (SU 5786 9387)

Graham Keevill and Cathy Underwood

A watching brief was maintained during foundation and service trench excavations at 24 Bridge End, Dorchester on Thames, for construction of a new car port and refurbishment of an existing stable block. The work was required because numerous Roman burials and artefacts had been found in the immediate vicinity of the site. No burials were found on this site, although a single fragment of human pelvis was recovered from a post-medieval/modern soil layer in the service trench. This was presumably of Roman origin but clearly not in its original context; the same applied to a single sherd of Roman pottery from one of the foundation pits, again in a post-medieval/modern soil layer. A few sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered, along with a well, a cess-pit/soak-away, and a brick foundation, all apparently of late 18th or earlier 19th century date.

Ewelme, the Cloisters (SU 6465 9136)

Graham Keevill and Cathy Underwood

A watching brief was maintained during site investigations for and relaying of the car park surface at the Cloisters, Ewelme, Oxfordshire, during September-October 2012. No remains of archaeological significance were encountered. There was tentative evidence for mineral extraction during the late medieval or post-medieval periods. A few sherds of pottery and roof tile of these dates were found. Footings for the historic and modern boundary walls around the car park were also exposed and recorded.

Oxford: Balliol College (SP 5130 0657)

Graham Keevill

An archaeological and historical appraisal of the Hall at Balliol College was carried out in support of a planning application for refurbishment and alterations to the Hall itself, the ante-room to its west, the ground-floor Buttery Bar, and the basement kitchens. The college wishes to make significant access improvements to the Hall and other areas of this fine building by the architect Alfred Waterhouse, completed in 1877 (with further work by Alfred, and subsequently by his son Paul).

The appraisal included research in the college archives, which contain many of the original design drawings, and extensive examination of the buildings themselves, in order to determine the nature and extent of interventions into the fabric from the early 20th century onwards. The resulting report was an important part of the planning application, which was approved on 1 November 2012.

Oxford: Christ Church (SP 5146 0598)

Graham Keevill and Catherine Underwood

Several projects were carried out during the year at Christ Church, where GK is the House Archaeologist. Some of these were ongoing from 2011, such as the survey of the tiled floor in the Allestree Library above the south cloister walk, and watching briefs on new water and gas connections around Tom Quad. The former contains a remarkable survival of medieval tiles, re-set here probably in the later 17th century when the library itself was established by its eponymous benefactor.

We have surveyed and planned the tiles, while Maureen Mellor has recorded and analysed them all as part of the project, in conjunction with the Ashmolean Museum's TileWeb project. The Tom Quad service works have entirely been within areas of existing disturbance, but have exposed the offset footings of the Quad's ranges in several places. Other service excavations around the Quad involved the insertion of new heating ducts across gardens to the rear (south) of its south range. Archaeological interest in this area centres on the city defences, with remnants of the city wall having been identified in past excavations. The new ducts were too shallow to reveal any more of the wall, but an interesting assemblage of medieval pottery and floor tile (with encaustic fragments) was recovered from the overlying sequence of dumped deposits.

Moving back to Tom Quad, a watching brief was also maintained during the construction of a new access ramp on the north side of the west range, just inside the entrance through Tom Tower. Evidence for an earlier set of steps onto the raised terrace was found here immediately behind the existing ones. Unfortunately little or no archaeology was present in the remainder of the ramp excavation due to the presence of Victorian and modern services, but a new drain connection just into the lawn on the east side of the terrace did reveal a substantial medieval masonry wall.

Other minor projects included excavation of a 1.5m deep pit for a new Christmas tree in Peckwater Quad (no significant archaeology); monitoring the cutting of a new hatch in a corridor wall in Tom 9 hatch; and monitoring of work to improve fire escape routes (so allowing previously empty rooms to be brought back into use) in the Killcanon building. The main interest here was the recognition of a blocked door between two attic rooms. This in itself was unremarkable - but when the blocking was re-opened, the door was found to be still in situ. It was fully recorded, and then refurbished so that both doorway and door were not only retained, but were also brought back into use. One final 'minor' project deserves mention: a new en suite bathroom was inserted in an existing alcove adjacent to a guest bedroom in the Deanery, on the east side of Tom Quad. This involved small-scale excavations just to the east of the east range, where remnants of a medieval yard surface or road (possibly Frideswide's Lane) were found. Inside, the new en suite room was found to sit above a substantial under-floor void, created by the establishment (at an unknown date) of a 'false ceiling' in the ground-floor room below. Fortunately this had preserved the original moulded timber cornices and

ceiling beams, probably of 17th century date, from what had evidently been a substantial and impressive room, much like the existing ground-floor dining room (which retains very similarly moulded timbers).

MARCHAM COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

Marcham - Farm Close, Manor Farm (SU 4537 9652)
Paula Levick

Between 9-11th August 2013, residents from Marcham and the surrounding villages took part in test pit excavations at Farm Close. Training and supervision was provided by archaeologists from Oxford University, and almost 40 adults and children took part over the three days.

Farm Close lies in the heart of Marcham village, and less than 1km to the north-east of the substantial Iron Age, Roman and Romano-British complex investigated by Oxford University between 2001-2011 (Marcham/Frilford Excavations, *SMA* 2002-2012). The primary aim of the Farm Close excavation was to offer local people an introduction into archaeological fieldwork, but also provided an opportunity to assess whether the Roman and Iron Age activity extended into modern-day Marcham and if anything could be added to the medieval history of the village.

A geophysical survey had revealed a possible section of large curving ditch in the northeast corner of the field. There was also a suggestion on historic mapping (Rocque, 1761) that cottages once lined the road in the north of the field. Auguring across the site showed the geology to be variable with shallow calcareous soils in the east grading to deeper waterlogged deposits in the west. A much deeper deposit was discovered in the north of the field, close to the location of the possible buildings. These various features were investigated through nine test pits.

A small number of very abraded pottery sherds, a fragment of glass and a square-cut nail recovered from test pits in the south of the field provided the only evidence for Roman activity, and much of the later activity was focused in the north of the site towards the line of the road (the modern A415).

A test pit in the north confirmed the ditch identified through magnetometry. This was 30cm deep and 80cm wide although probably truncated through later ploughing. The lower fill contained large amounts of 13th-14th century pottery, mostly Brill/Boarstall ware, a small number of finds of a domestic nature, and the fragmentary remains of sheep, cattle and pig.

Some evidence for a structure in the form of postholes and a possible mortared floor were recorded in the area identified from historic mapping. A few metres to the south of this a number of intercutting pits were discovered. These were recorded in plan, but owing to time constraints were not

excavated. A mixture of 13th-14th century pottery wares, including some glazed pieces and a combed fragment recovered from the surface of the features, suggests the underlying features are contemporary or earlier.

In the autumn of 2012, a three-year HLF-funded community archaeology project 'The Trendles Project 2' began which gives local people the opportunity to continue their interest in archaeology. Further information, and a full report of the Farm Close excavation is available on the Project website at <http://trendlesproject.com>

Acknowledgments

Special thanks are owed as always to the Cumber family, who once again provided endless and varied support. Thanks also go to William Wintle and John Hawes who carried out the geophysical survey and to the supervisors and residents of Marcham and the surrounding villages for all their hard work during the excavation.

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY

Fermi Avenue, Harwell Science and Innovation Centre, Didcot (SU 47972 86710)
Heather Knight and Sarah Ritchie

Four evaluation trenches were excavated on the site between 23rd and 27th January 2012. The natural chalk is capped by a stiff orange-brown clay and gravel. A possible ditch terminus in Trench, 1 in the south-western corner of the site, contained small fragments of abraded prehistoric pottery. The pottery was too fragmented to precisely date although it is likely to be of Bronze Age/Iron Age date. A small gully found in Trench 1 may also be from the later prehistoric periods but, as it contained no dating evidence, this is not certain. A large ditch recorded in Trench 1 contained a fragment of 18th/19th century pottery at its base. It is likely this ditch is a field boundary/drainage ditch. This would confirm early cartographic sources, such as Rocque's 1761 map, which shows the site as open land in the mid 18th century. This large ditch was the latest feature found during the evaluation which confirms that the site was open farmland until RAF Harwell opened in February 1937.

A watching brief at the site between 21st May and 27th June 2012 produced no archaeological finds or features from within the majority of the site. A large east-west orientated ditch located in the southern area of the site, corresponds with the Harwell and Chilton Parish Boundary line. This Parish Boundary has been extant since at least 1761, as confirmed by early cartographic sources, such as Rocque's map of the same date. However, historical documentation suggests that the boundary has existed in the same location since at least the 10th century, when in AD 973 a charter, signed by King Eadgar, gave the manor of Harwell to his thegn Ælfric for his perpetual inheritance. The manorial boundaries in the AD 973 charter seem to be little different from those of the modern parish. The wide date range (Roman to early 19th century) of the finds retrieved from within the ditch support the likelihood of an early creation date, a long period where the ditch was open and in use, and

Oxfordshire

a gradual silting up as the ditch fell out of use as a physical marker of the parish boundary. Cut into the ditch were two north-south orientated land drains filled with roughly hewn local Coral Ragstone and pebbles, and are most likely 19th century or later in date. No archaeological remains were present in the northern area.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Bicester, Bucknell Road (SP 5810 2525)

Adrian Butler

A magnetometer survey was carried out on land proposed for the construction of the Bicester Eco Development. The geophysical survey confirmed and expanded upon a previous aerial photography survey that had identified cropmarks, indicating a concentration of archaeological features throughout the area. Particular concentrations of features included sub-rectangular and sub-circular ditched enclosures, curvilinear ditches and pits, likely to be of late prehistoric or Roman date. Of particular interest was a possible long curving driveway or crowding alley.

Launton, Yew Tree Farm (SP 610 227)

Paul Clements

A detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development site recorded a few weak magnetic anomalies of uncertain archaeological significance.

Marcham, Priory Lane (SU 4563 9655)

John Walford and Mark Holmes

A magnetometer survey detected features probably associated with medieval or post-medieval tenements visible on the 1818 Inclosure Map of the village, as well as various pits and ditches. OASIS 136295

Trial trenching identified boundary and enclosure ditches and some isolated pits and a posthole dating from the Saxo-Norman to the 13th century. Slag found in a large pit derived from iron smithing. Two limestone walls were also present, although these may belong to a later post-medieval phase of activity. OXFCMS 2012.139 OASIS 136527

Shrivenham, Farleigh Road (SU 2321 8891)

Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological evaluation on land at Farleigh Road observed a scatter of late Iron Age or Romano-British ditches and pits. OXFCMS 2012.151; OASIS 139109

Wolvercote, 9 Plough Close (SP 4963 0961)

Jason Clarke

A trial trench evaluation identified the remains of a recently demolished structure, probably a sewage pumping station. Its construction appears to have reduced the previous ground level, truncating any potential archaeological remains. No other features were present. OXCMS.2012.62

NORTH OXON ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Report by Edward Shawyer

Swalcliffe Lea Roman Settlement

This year we extended the site we have been digging on since September 2010 and the excavated area was doubled in size, yielding very satisfactory results. The layout of the late Roman building has now emerged and what appeared to be a distorted east wall last year can now be seen to have had a dog leg. We were a little surprised and also pleased to discover that the building was a corridor house, making it somewhat grander than a simple rectangular cottage.

The excavation of this site was our only archaeological work carried out this year.

Swalcliffe Lea Roman Building (SP 3810 3849)

Last years excavation had exposed a 4th century wall overlying an earlier 3rd century wall, the upper wall running roughly north-south and the lower one running on a more southeast to northwest alignment. As mentioned this 4th century wall seemed to be distorted, but it was merely forming a dog leg where an extension had been added. The reason we thought it may be distorted was due to it being so near the surface, the levelling of the Victorian yard had almost exposed it.

Last year's dig was designated as being Trench 1 and the new excavation, Trench 2, was first opened 9m west of the east wall, where we calculated the parallel west wall should be. Our estimation of the building's dimensions and our assessment of which stone surface was interior proved to be spot on and we were lucky to find both the west wall and an intact cross wall at the first attempt.

Trench 2 was extended in size to equal Trench 1 and both trenches were rationalised into two parallel rectangular trenches about 20m long and 5m wide, separated by a narrow baulk. In all, the new trench revealed the presence of 5 rooms with maybe more yet to be uncovered.

The east wall had 2 dog legs and last year no trace of any cross wall was found; though now we know that the northerly cross wall was robbed in medieval times and the southern may have been partially demolished in Roman times to form an extension to the corridor (Room 3).

The central part of the east wall was the original building 11m long and 9m wide which was a two-roomed cottage with a corridor to which had been added another building to the north at right angles (Room 4) perhaps at the same time; later on another slightly wider building was added to this southern end, which seems to have replaced an earlier structure, since we found an earlier wall incorporated into the northern end of the floor of Room 5.

The walls were all about 0.8m wide made of ironstone, dressed on one side and bound by clay and a sandy material, which may be a very weak lime mortar with a high percentage of sand mixed in. The floors were made of

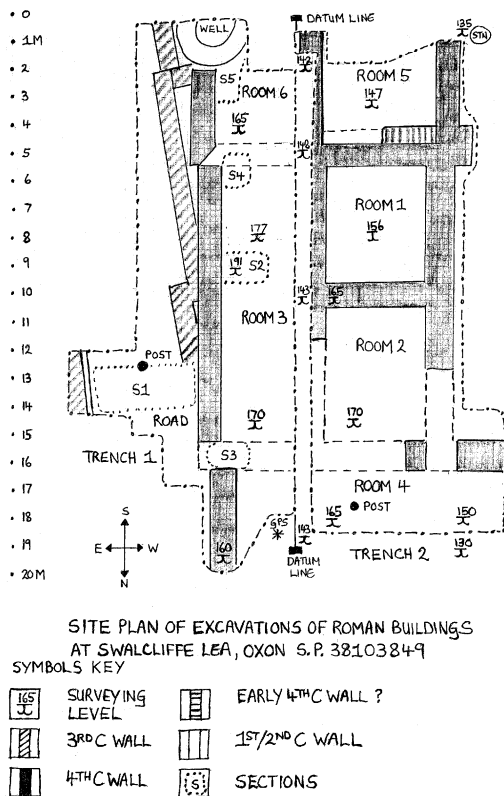


Fig 4. Site plan of excavations of Roman Building at Swalcliffe Lea.

packed stone bound by the same clayey, sandy mortar and were covered with a layer of yellow clay, which was firm and had plenty of charcoal patches in it, presumably from braziers, since we found no hearths in the rooms.

While Rooms 1, 2 and 5 looked like habitation, Room 3 (the corridor) was made up of larger packed stone, though traces of a smaller stone/soil layer were found upon it. By contrast, Room 4's floor was covered by large stone slabs and smaller stones packed together in a slanting fashion, many of which were reddened by fire. This floor seems to have been a working agricultural surface for housing livestock. Part of this floor may have been robbed at the same time as the walls and also disturbed by a 20th century oak fence post which we found stuck into it.

Among the finds we found a small amount of medieval pottery which was associated with the robber trenches and near the surviving walls, which suggests when they were robbed. The medieval hamlet was in the same field and a 15th century house excavated in 1959 was just 46m away.

The finds in this 4th century house (Building 1a) were restricted mainly to 3rd/4th century pottery and animal bones. Only 2 coins were found this year, a 3rd century radiate of Tetricus in the soil above Room 5 and a worn 4th century coin on the floor of Room 2.

Upon examination the east wall of the 3rd century house (Building 1b) can also be seen to dog leg which suggests that it was similar to the structure that followed it; however the whole building was on a slightly different alignment.

East of Buildings 1a and 1b was a stone layer beneath a later Victorian yard; which was a layer of smoother, more weathered stones, which we interpreted last year as either a cobbled yard or a street. We dug a section through this layer and also extended the trench a bit further east and discovered the wall of another structure (Building 2a) just 3.5m away from Building 1b.

When we sectioned the stone layer between the two buildings we found a layer of packed stones sloping from east to west and at the west end was a narrow drainage ditch lined with clay. There seemed to be at least 2 layers of packed stones, the lowest was flush with Building 2b, while the upper layer was flush with Buildings 2a and 1b. There seemed to be a build-up of dirt to the level of Building 1a. The upper layer of stone yielded 3rd/4th century pottery, while the lower was definitely 1st/2nd century in typology.

So the stone layer must have been a narrow street of 1st/2nd century date, with maybe two buildings either side (they other would be beneath Buildings 1a and 1b), which was metalled again in the 3rd century with two new buildings replacing the older ones and then later Building 1a replacing Building 1b by the late 4th century, though the road just got muddier and was not renewed with fresh metalling.

After the Roman period we see stone robbing of Building 1a taking place at least from medieval times and then a Victorian farmyard being laid right up to the edge of Building 1a. Oak fence posts were knocked through the site in the early 20th century. Also a post-medieval well was cut through the east wall of Building 1a; further excavation of it revealed 17th to 19th century pottery inside, which perhaps indicates it was filled in during the 19th century.

Overall we now have excavation records for over ten buildings in this settlement and records for a similar number of structures revealed by farming operations over the last fifty years and a picture is emerging of a relatively prosperous village or small town where all the buildings were of stone or at least had stone foundations, with paved streets and supplied with stone and timber lined wells. We have excavated one villa building with mosaics and hypocausts, two compound farmsteads, one possible bakery and a corridor house, plus other rectangular houses. Metalworking was carried out on site through all the Roman occupation, and had become a minor industry by late Roman times when we have evidence for at least six forges in the settlement.

Agriculture probably would have been the main occupation, with a large amount of pastoral farming, attested by the large quantity of animal bones found, many of which were young beasts when slaughtered. Arable farming also must have been practised; backing this we have numerous finds of quern stones plus at least one corn dryer.

There has been a large amount of pottery found across the entire site, along with over a thousand coins, as well as all the usual metal and bone household artefacts.

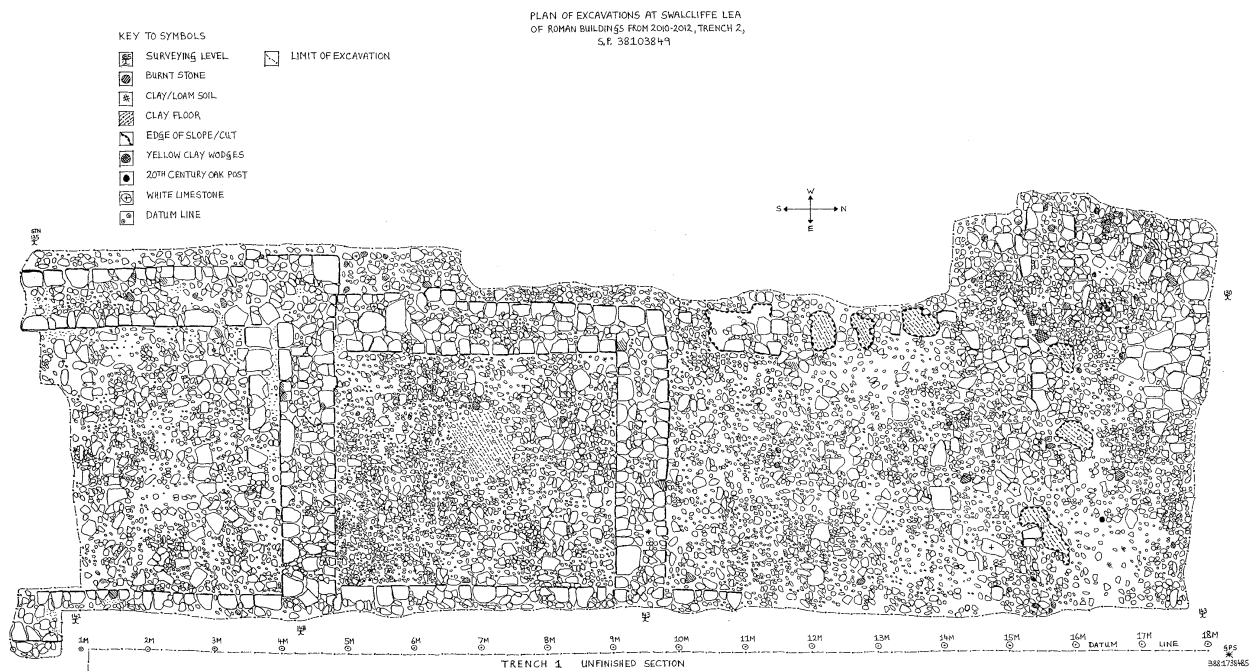


Fig 5. Plan of excavation of Roman Building at Swalcliffe Lea. Trench 2.

In conclusion the picture is of a quite prosperous lowland Roman settlement, the same as the rest of lowland Roman Britain and not that of an undeveloped Iron Age rural backwater as was once imagined before we started our investigations twenty years ago.

NATIONAL TRUST

Report by Gary Marshall

Chastleton House (SP 24817 29031)

A watching brief was maintained over a small 1.5m square pit dug to a depth of 0.55m for the purpose of creating a soakaway on the west side of the 17th century stableyard. Previous excavations in the stableyard have identified surviving sections of pitched stone paving; however, this excavation exposed modern gravel layers over a dump of clay and stone overlying a natural blue-grey clay at a depth of 0.3m.

Coleshill (SU 2450 9388)

Further excavations were undertaken on the site of the Coleshill Auxiliaries training ground during July of 2012 by the Churchill's Underground War (Coleshill) project. This was the second season of survey and excavation, following up the results of excavations undertaken in 2011 over the site of a number of concrete hut bases associated with the auxiliaries. The 2012 excavations involved further excavations of a concrete ramp at the southern end of the site, thought to be an inspection pit for motor vehicles. It also involved the further investigation of a shaft lined with corrugated iron at the northern end of the site, believed to be a second underground bunker or Observation Base) associated with training the auxiliaries. The latter

confirmed that the shaft was actually a training structure and did not lead to a fully-formed underground bunker.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Abingdon, Abingdon Abbey Shopping Centre, Queens Street (SU 497 971)

Robin Bashford

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Scottish Widows Investment Partnership Ltd to undertake the excavation of lift pit areas prior to the expansion of retail units. Evaluation and excavation of the site revealed Roman, medieval and post-medieval pits and features characteristic of nearby domestic occupation. An absence of prehistoric evidence (the site was located within the Iron Age oppidum) may be due to the presence of a bank in this area during the period, subsequently levelled by Roman occupation. This can only be speculation as no direct evidence of such a sequence of events was revealed.

Abingdon, Abingdon School (SU 4923 9753)

John Boothroyd, Kate Woodley and Tim Allen

In March 2013 four trenches were excavated on the site of the proposed Abingdon Science Centre for Ridge, acting on behalf of Abingdon School. The underlying geology is terrace gravel deposits, and two areas of the site had previously been quarried in the 19th century. The trenches were all 1.6m wide, and together added up to 90m in length. Two of the trenches established that quarrying was more extensive than indicated on historic maps. A third trench revealed only 19th-20th century features, and the final trench contained only one undated gully.

Abingdon, St Helen's Church (SU 4985 9608)
Dan Sykes

Oxford Archaeology conducted a watching brief during the construction of a new foul drain connection at St Helen's Church in January and February 2012. The watching brief recorded the remains of three parallel north-south aligned stone walls within the garden of the present Church Centre, two of which were dated to the post-medieval period. Within the present graveyard a backfilled vaulted brick tomb was recorded. No extant inhumations were disturbed along the route of the new service trench, although the presence of human remains in the form of charnel was noted at several locations.

Ambrosden, Springfield Farm (SP 6070 1940)
Jim Mumford and Tim Allen

An evaluation consisting of 12 trenches was carried out by Oxford Archaeology for EDP acting on behalf of Bloor Homes. An earlier geophysical survey by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy revealed traces of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, and a small number of ditches believed likely to be of post-medieval date. There were also areas of irregular geophysical anomalies that were provisionally interpreted as relating to pig sties that formerly lay around the edges of the western part of the site. The evaluation largely confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, but also revealed a small number of ditches in the north-east corner of the site, one of which contained Romano-British pottery. These ditches all followed a broadly south-west to north-east alignment. There were very few finds, suggesting that this was part of a field system rather than being close to a settlement focus.

Bampton, Rushey Weir (SP 3227 0003)
Steve Leech

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation (SMS) in May 2012 at Rushey Weir. The work was commissioned by Atkins Limited on behalf of the Environment Agency in advance of the upgrading of the existing paddle and rymer weir facility. The SMS revealed that the larger northeast part of the area had been previously disturbed by weir construction. The southwest extent of the site revealed two curvilinear ditches. These ditches were both of post-medieval date and one was part of a 'D'-shaped field boundary, still partially in use today and the other a probable enclosure adjacent to the river.

Barford St John, Manor House, Church Lane (SP 438 331)
Dan Sykes

In January 2012 Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by Tom and Joanna Purton to conduct a watching brief during the construction of a new swimming pool at Manor House. No archaeological features were observed during the work.

Berinsfield, Dorchester Cursus, Deacons Field (SU 568 959)
Gill Hey

Work on the north-west end of the Dorchester Cursus by the Discovering Dorchester Project continued in July 2012. This is a research excavation being undertaken collaboratively by Oxford Archaeology, Oxford University's School of Archaeology and the local community around Dorchester-on-Thames. The site had first been detected during geophysical survey by the Department of Continuing Education.

Previously, a 26.5m stretch of the northern ditch of this 1.8km long monument had been exposed and examined, and it was seen to have been deliberately backfilled in order to position a circular ditched enclosure, later redefined as a ring ditch, over the top of it. A Beaker burial had been discovered in the centre, as reported in last year's *South Midlands Archaeology*. This year, despite appalling weather conditions, further work was undertaken to understand the earliest phases of the circular enclosure, which appears to have been segmented and, perhaps, similar to those excavated by RJC Atkinson on the south side of the A415 road (Atkinson *et al*, 1951).

A further trench was excavated across the interior of the Cursus and the southern Cursus ditch was revealed in the south-west corner of the field, c 45m from the north ditch. A section was excavated across it, but it yielded no dating evidence. Pits were exposed within the interior of the Cursus, two of which were excavated. One contained many flint tools, cremated bone and pottery dating to around the time of the construction of the monument. The other was early Bronze Age in date and contained a large, decorated Collared Urn, probably made in around 1800 cal BC. Conservators from the Ashmolean Museum lifted this vessel en bloc and are currently excavating its contents in the laboratory. Cremated and unburnt bone has already been recovered. A later, probably Roman, ditch was also found, running north-west to south-east within and slightly obliquely to the line of the cursus.

Reference
Atkinson R J C, Piggott C M and Sandars N K 1951; *Excavations at Dorchester, Oxon*, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Claydon, Clattercote Priory Farm (SP 4564 4902)
Brian Dean

In February 2012, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned on behalf of ARM Buildings Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the site of a proposed weaner building on Clattercote Priory Farm. A total area of 341.31m² was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.14m. The area encompassed the entirety of the footprint of the weaner building. No archaeological deposits were observed within the excavated area. However, a single flint blade recovered suggested Mesolithic or early Neolithic activity in the vicinity.

Oxfordshire

Deddington, Deddington Town Hall (SP 4669 3166)

Jonathan Gill

Small scale building recording of Deddington Town Hall focusing principally on the windows which are to be replaced was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology. The building is a modest but prominent and attractive structure at the centre of the town which appears to have been rebuilt in the early 19th century, replacing a 17th century structure. The rebuilt structure incorporates earlier fabric which may be from the previous building.

Didcot, Great Western Park (SU 5079 8995)

Steve Lawrence

A series of significant archaeological discoveries was uncovered at Great Western Park development in Didcot, as part of Oxford Archaeology's investigations at the site for Taylor Wimpey between 2010 and 2012.

Hundreds of flint artefacts dating to the early Mesolithic period, carefully excavated from a rare in-situ deposit. These were deposited by hunter-gatherers in a hollow with evidence of associated camp fires. The investigations in 2011 had previously found other early prehistoric finds, including a complete Neolithic bowl. The excavations in 2012 then revealed a rare example of a late Neolithic to early Bronze Age 'pond-barrow' on the east edge of the development. This comprised a stone floored circular depression with a six-post platform structure on one side. The pond barrow was probably used for mortuary ceremonies, with exposure of the dead to the elements on the raised platform. Several superbly made flint arrowheads and other flint items were placed within the barrow, probably as offerings. Three Bronze Age post-built roundhouses were found to either side of the barrow and both the barrow and these slightly later houses were enclosed within a large ditched enclosure.

The 2010-11 excavations uncovered a large Iron Age settlement comprising up to 60 roundhouses. There were hundreds of grain storage pits, several quarries, human burials, domestic rubbish and dumps of pottery and animal bones associated with feasting. There is also evidence of another settlement, which dated late Iron Age to Roman period. Features included a ditched farmyard for stock, several wells and six 'corn drying ovens'. In the late Roman period, a modest stone-walled villa with a hypocaust was constructed. This appeared to deliberately avoid the site of the Iron Age settlement. Taylor Wimpey has redesigned the perimeter road around the new 'Boundary Park' playing fields to avoid damaging the villa remains, which will be preserved for the future. Other findings have included an Anglo-Saxon sunken-floored building of the 5th or 6th century.

Didcot, Park Road (SU 51363 89014)

Robin Bashford

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned in August 2012 by RPS on behalf of Bloor Homes (Western) to undertake an archaeological evaluation. Seventeen trenches were

excavated, of which four revealed archaeological features. These comprised three postholes and a pit within the eastern part of the site and a narrow gully and single posthole within the north-western part of the site.

None of these features produced dating evidence although one pit and posthole appear to be of recent origin. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was present across the majority of the northern and western part of the site. Within the northern field this was faint but visible upstanding earthworks on an east-northeast-west-southwest alignment. Furrows were also visible in some of the excavated trenches within the southern field.

Dorchester-on-Thames, Discovering Dorchester Project (SU 5774 9410)

Paul Booth

The Dorchester Project training excavation in the allotments which overlie the south-west quarter of the Roman town continued in July in the same 30m x 20m area as in previous years, with the main north-south Roman road through the town at its eastern margin. Work concentrated on a number of Roman ditches and related deposits. The Roman road was also partly sectioned, revealing a number of superimposed surfaces. It is possible that there was a roadside ditch on the west side of the road from early in the period, although if so this was sealed by later layers. A fragment of mortar floor suggests that there may also have been at least one roadside building in the same general area. Further west, the east frontage of a building at the west end of the site, some 25m from the road line, was at least c 10m long. This building probably lay within an enclosure defined on its eastern side by a palisade set in trenches which extended north and south beyond the edges of the site. A gap in the palisade trenches aligns with the mid point of the east wall of the building, suggesting that there was an entrance at that point. The palisade trench, possibly of 2nd century date, was later recut as a boundary ditch, retaining the entrance opening.

Later ditches transformed the use of the area. A ditch lying alongside the Roman road in the south-east corner of the site curved away from it to the north-west, eventually running beyond the edge of the excavated area in a westerly direction through the opening in the north-south palisaded/ditched boundary and cutting the associated building. This curvilinear ditch, perhaps of later 4th century date, had a small entrance in its northern side, between the road and the now disused enclosure/building complex to the west. What it itself enclosed is uncertain, although it must have been more than just the extensive midden deposits located in the southern part of the site, but any potential high status settlement components would have lain south of the excavated area. Two more east-west ditches were found running close to the north edge of the site. These were deeper and more steep-sided than the curvilinear ditch, but were of roughly similar late Roman date. Their function is uncertain, but if they too were enclosure ditches they would have related to an area north of the site.

The curvilinear ditch and the adjacent palisade ditch terminal to the south were cut by a pair of pits. One of these was perhaps very late Roman in date, and contained part of a decorated bone comb along with other finds, while the second pit produced early Anglo-Saxon pottery. Most notable amongst the large quantities of finds were a fragment from a late Roman pottery vessel decorated with figures of deities in niches, and a coin of Edward the Elder (AD 899-924). The latter, from the top of the fill of the curvilinear ditch, does not seem to relate to excavated features within the site, but is a useful (and rare) indicator of the continued importance of Dorchester in the mid Saxon period.

Work for the Dorchester Project (a partnership of Oxford University Institute of Archaeology, Oxford Archaeology and Dorchester Abbey Museum) was directed by Paul Booth.

Henley-on-Thames, Greys Court Car Park (SU 725 834)
Jane Smallridge

In February 2012 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake a topographic survey of extant earthworks believed to be related to a known post-medieval hollow-way at Greys Court. In October 2012 Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief on the construction of a new visitor car park over the area of the earthworks and observed and recorded the remains of ditches along the north side of the hollow-way. No other archaeological features were observed.

Henley-on-Thames, Townlands Community Hospital, York Road (SU 7575 8279)
Steve Leech

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Vinci Construction on behalf of Amber Construction and Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the Townlands Hospital site. The evaluation in October 2012 consisted of three 30m trenches located within the gardens and car park of the hospital. Excavation of the trenches revealed widespread truncation throughout the site. Two of the trenches contained no significant archaeology with the third containing narrow cultivation strips overlying two post-medieval pits, all probably associated with the Victorian workhouse which previously occupied the site.

Kirtlington, land at Nutlands, Bletchington Road (SP 5007 1922)
Brian Dean

In February 2012, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned on behalf of Trinity Properties Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the site of a proposed new domestic dwelling on land at Nutlands. The total area of the building footprint was 172.5m². The footings for the walls were excavated to a depth of 1.2m and the internal area of the building was excavated to an average depth of c 0.4m. No archaeological deposits were observed within the excavated area.

Middleton Stoney, Dewar's Farm Quarry (SP 5446 2491)
Jim Mumford

Oxford Archaeology undertook Phase 2 of a Strip, Map and Sample recording in September and October 2012 on behalf of Smith and Sons (Bletchington) ahead of quarrying at Dewars Farm, north of Middleton Stoney. The 1.4ha excavation exposed a small cluster of Neolithic pits, one of which contained Peterborough Ware sherds of pottery and another with a flake from a polished axe. An undated segmented boundary ditch was also recorded along with localised quarries and post-medieval field boundaries. This evidence adds to the results from the Phase 1 fieldwork completed in 2008.

Oxford, Cantay House, 36-39 Park End Street (SP 507 062)
Mike Sims

In May 2012 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Cantay Investments to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the demolition and redevelopment of the old furniture depository attached to the south of Cantay House. The watching brief observed deep deposits of post-medieval made ground overlying undated, possibly natural, material.

Part of the site had been truncated by earlier (19th/20th century) basements and septic tanks, while a further part had been truncated by a possible mooring or wharf associated with the Dukes Cut. The truncated foundations of two east-west aligned stone-constructed walls were observed, possibly the front and back walls of a range of terrace houses shown on the Loggan map of 1675, but any associated occupation layers had been removed.

Oxford, Conduit House (SP 49524 05046)
Gemma Stewart

Conduit House is a single storey 3-bay limestone ashlar building built in c 1615-17, and located just to the south of Oxford City. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM number 28132), and a Grade II* listed building. Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by English Heritage in March 2012 to undertake a watching brief. While the site itself is located outside of the scheduled area, the scheduled status of the building made a watching brief necessary. The purpose of the work was to observe the removal of one interpretation panel and to check for archaeological remains (perhaps relating to the construction and use of the building) as a new one was being installed, to the north of the building. Two 0.2m diameter postholes were excavated by hand to an overall depth of 0.68m below ground level. Natural clay was recorded at 0.66m below ground level. Topsoil was present in both holes. No archaeology was observed and no finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

Oxfordshire

Oxford, 8-9 Crick Road (SP 5144 0766)

Mike Sims

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Geoffrey de Jager to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of rear extensions and wine cellars. The watching brief observed evidence for two post-medieval soil horizons overlying natural gravels. No evidence for activity pre-dating the post-medieval period was observed.

Oxford, 12a Friars Entry (SP 5114 0643)

Steve Leech

In December 2012, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Adrian James Architects on behalf of OISE Holdings Ltd to carry out an excavation and watching brief. The works consisted of the archaeological excavation of a test-pit and a watching brief during the excavation of five site investigation test pits. Modern made ground was recorded in all test pits to the full depth of excavation. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Oxford, 33-35 George Street (SP 5113 0635)

Mike Sims

In March 2012 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Gondola Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a cellar extension at the rear of 33-35 George Street. The watching brief revealed a linear feature, probably the northern edge of the medieval city ditch. The feature was backfilled with early post-medieval material and sealed by a succession of occupation layers, dating to the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

Oxford, 6-7 High Street (SP 513 062)

John Boothroyd

In June 2012, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Henderson Global Investors to undertake an archaeological investigation in the basement of 6-7 High Street. A possible late Saxon cellar pit was recorded, which had been truncated by later pits. Charred remains associated with the cellar pit were radiocarbon dated to the 8th-9th century. A series of early medieval pits and two wells were also present. One of the two wells appears to have remained in use for a considerable period of time and was finally backfilled in the period AD 1620-1650.

Oxford, Hinksey Side Weir, South Hinksey (SP 5216 0466)

Matt Morgan, Mike Sims and Tim Allen

Between September and October 2012 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological test-pit evaluation and watching brief during the construction of a new fish pass by the Environment Agency on the floodplain of the Thames. The initial test-pitting involved six test-pits 1m square and up to 1.2m deep, which revealed two distinct peat deposits overlaid by a sequence of alluvial deposits below topsoil along the length of the channel. Further monitoring of the

peat deposits along the whole length of the channel was undertaken because of the possibility of preservation of organic artefacts or structures. No artefactual evidence or evidence for cultivation was found, nor was any artefactual evidence recovered from the overlying alluvial deposits.

Assessment of the peat deposits revealed that waterlogged plant and insect remains were moderately well-preserved, and a radiocarbon date of cal AD 670-775 was obtained on a waterlogged seed from the lower peat deposit. This middle Saxon date is consistent with the general environmental sequence previously suggested from St Aldates, but provides closer dating for peat formation than in earlier investigations.

The seeds that were identified suggested natural vegetation, with no evidence for cultivation in the immediate vicinity. This fits the current absence of any evidence for mid-Saxon occupation south of the Thames at Oxford.

Oxford, Keble College Sports Ground, off Woodstock Road (SP 5055 0876)

Mike Sims

Between March and May 2012, Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new machinery store at Keble College Sports Ground. The watching brief recorded evidence for post-medieval activity pre-dating the sports ground. The evidence consisting of a brick pathway, and probable modern landscaping. No earlier archaeological remains were observed.

Oxford, Lady Margaret Hall (SP 5155 0755)

Steve Leech

In November 2012, Oxford Archaeology undertook a targeted excavation (15m by 15m) within the footprint of the graduate centre development on land at Lady Margaret Hall on behalf of the college. The excavation identified an undated gully below 19th century debris and made ground encountered within an earlier evaluation. No further extent of the gully, associated dating evidence or other discrete features were present within the excavation area.

Oxford, Lincoln College Garden Building (SP 5148 0626)

Jonathan Gill

Historic building recording on the Garden Building at Lincoln College was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology. This fine Edwardian structure is Grade II listed, and works are currently underway to extend it and create a new arts centre. The works have included the demolition of a previous extension and a programme of building recording was undertaken, principally focusing on this extension, prior to the start of the development.

Oxford, Lincoln College, Turl Street (SP 5149 0628)

Ben Ford

Staff from Oxford Archaeology have been excavating on the site of a proposed basemented arts facility in the secluded location of the Fellows' and Rector's Gardens at Lincoln College on Turl Street in central Oxford. Now owned by the college this tranquil setting had until the start of the 19th century been located to the rear of a small street, called Rotten Row, which had medieval origins and dog-legged around All Saints Church. In the 13th century, three tenements are known to have occupied the site. The site also sits within the Late-Saxon burh.

The earliest remains, preserved at a depth in excess of 2m below current ground levels, were two well-crafted stone walls, measuring over a metre thick, which represented all that remained of a large and prestigious medieval stone building. This extended beyond the southern limits of the excavations. Its function is as yet unknown. This structure was later modified in the 16th century and a large stone-walled room was added to the north. It is probably the single building that is shown sitting behind Rotten Row on maps of the same date. It had gravel and dirt floors, thick occupation deposits and ash and charcoal from a well-constructed stone oven (perhaps with a specialist function as yet unknown). This space was used intensively, but the oven was replaced by a more domestic looking fireplace sometime later. The building was eventually demolished sometime in the 17th/18th century, its northern wall retained to form a boundary between the college lands to the north and the tenements of Rotten Row to the south (later this wall became the dividing wall between the Rector's and Fellows' Garden). Where the building had stood became a small stone courtyard, one of a number connected by passageways and paths leading from Rotten Row and Turl Street to small structures, probably workshops that had crowded the area. These were eventually pulled down and buried below demolition rubble and the soils that formed the Rector's Garden.

Oxford, Magdalen College (SP 5198 0625)

Ben Ford

In September 2012 Oxford Archaeology undertook test pitting within the 'New Library' at Magdalen College after the temporary removal of the lower book stacks. The test pits revealed the well-preserved remains of medieval and early post-medieval buildings that fronted onto High Street/Gravel Walk (formerly Bridge Street). Subsequently in October, Oxford Archaeology commenced an excavation in Longwall Quad prior to the construction of a library extension. The excavation identified at least one late Saxon pit, also cess pits, quarry holes and tenement boundaries associated with medieval tenements. Post-medieval remains included two stone-built basements, belonging to buildings that fronted onto the former Gravel Walk established after the foundation of the college in the 15th century (located just to the south of and parallel to Bridge Street). Notable finds from the site include a large collection of 18th century wig curlers and a cut throat razor that can be linked to John Broughton, a wig maker (perukier) and

barber who occupied one of the tenements fronting Gravel Walk from 1750-1776. In the northern part of the Quad about 115 burials belonging to the burial ground of the medieval hospital of St John the Baptist were recovered. Phase II of the excavation will continue later in 2013.

Oxford, Oriel College JCR (SP 5163 0619)

Jonathan Gill

Historic building recording was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology on several areas of the Grade I listed Oriel College ahead of the creation of the new Pantin Library.

Oxford, Oxford Sewage Treatment Works, Littlemore (SP 5440 0200)

Carl Champness

In June 2012 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Thames Water Utilities Ltd to maintain an archaeological watching brief on ground investigations. The work was undertaken as part of the advanced works for a proposed new thermal hydrolysis plant at the site. The watching brief did not identify any significant archaeological deposits, although pre-sewage works deposits were identified underneath the modern made-ground deposits overlying the bedrock. A sequence of black humic rich deposits was encountered across the site and indicated the pre-sewage works soils had already been disturbed. It is possible that these deposits may relate to an earlier phase of activity at the sewage works or may pre-date its construction. A sequence of fluvial sands were also located to the north east of Area A potentially associated with a tributary of the Littlemore Brook. No dating evidence was recovered from these deposits.

Oxford, St Hugh's College (SP 450 207)

Mike Sims and Tim Allen

Between September and November 2012 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for the construction of the new Dickson Poon building at St Hugh's College. The earliest activity was the furrows of ridge-and-furrow cultivation running north-south across the site. These underlay landscaping deposits probably associated with the houses documented on the site from 1832 onwards. A succession of rubbish pits dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries was observed. Two 19th century well shafts, one brick-lined, the second stone-lined, were also recorded. These may relate to the same houses, or may alternatively have been associated with the houses that still front onto Canterbury Road, whose rear gardens have since been incorporated into the college grounds.

A number of rectangular features whose fill included corrugated iron and 20th century finds were recorded along the southern edge of the site. There are parallels to these features in the demolished air raid shelters found at other colleges (such as the one within the Provost's Garden at Queen's College), and it is likely that they date from the WWII use of the college as a military hospital.

Oxfordshire

The only find probably pre-dating the ridge and furrow was a single human bone found in a 19th century layer. This is undated, but is likely to be residual from an earlier burial, as no Christian cemetery is known in the vicinity. No other traces of earlier activity were seen.

Oxford, Templars' Retail Park (SP 540 040) Steve Leech and Deirdre Forde

In November 2012, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation and building survey at Unit 1 Templars' Retail Park for Kyarra Sarl in advance of the re-development of the retail unit. Two trenches were located within a former garden centre area and one trench was located within a service area. The remains of buildings associated with the Oxford Steam Ploughing Company, probably constructed after the factory was acquired by John Allen and Sons Ltd in 1897, were found in the former garden centre. Modern made ground deposits to a depth of more than 1m below the current ground surface were recorded in the service yard. No archaeological features pre-dating the late 19th century were present.

A gable, which formed part of the factory buildings and which had been re-located to its current location following the closure of the factory, was recorded. A ragstone boundary wall was partially recorded. The wall probably dates to the foundation of the Oxford Steam Ploughing Company in the late 19th century, but an earlier date cannot be ruled out.

South Leigh, Gill Mill Quarry (centred SP 375 077) Paul Booth

Towards the south-east end of the quarry two separate parts of quarry area Tar Farm 7, together covering almost 2ha, were examined. In the south-east area (SP 3870 0655) the fills of an undated palaeochannel were cut by ditches defining a trackway aligned northnorthwest-southsoutheast, linking at its northern end to west-southwest-east-northeast aligned boundaries recorded previously. These features were probably of 2nd century date. The only other features in this area were three pits, probably contemporary with the use of the trackway. To the west (SP 3855 0660) an open area contained a penannular gully and an adjacent L-shaped gully, close to which were some of a scattered group of 15 cremation burials. Two of the latter were contained in vessels of early Roman date, and several of the others produced groups of small nails, also suggesting a Roman date, but were otherwise unaccompanied. Such early Roman cremation burials are unusual in a rural context in this period. To the north-west the adjacent quarry area (Tar Farm 8, centred SP 3840 0675, also roughly 2ha in extent) was stripped under archaeological supervision and planned. Excavation had only just commenced when curtailed by flooding. Features revealed include parts of the complex of ditches defining a road running westnorthwest-eastsoutheast from the centre of the large Roman settlement at Gill Mill to the west; parts of this road, probably established in the first half of the 2nd century AD, had been previously recorded in areas both east and west of Tar Farm 8. Plots both north and south of the

road were defined by ditches running perpendicular to its alignment. One of the former appears to contain gullies defining a round building of more than one phase, while on the south side of the road a patch of stone may be a platform for another building. South-east of the latter the roadside plots extending towards the River Windrush contain very few Roman features. The work was by Oxford Archaeology for Smith and Sons (Bletchington) Ltd and directed by Paul Booth.

Wantage, 28-29 Belmont (SU 3960 8827) Mike Sims

In April 2012 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Hanbury Properties Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief on the site of 28 and 29 Belmont during the construction of two new dwellings. Deep deposits of post-medieval worked soil were observed overlying the natural greensand and colluvium. No deposits, features or residual finds pre-dating the 19th century were observed.

Wantage, Charles Cottage, Childrey (SU 3617 8739) Jonathan Gill

Small scale building recording was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology on a brick pier which was removed during refurbishment works. The cottage is grade II listed and the pier was located within an area that was formerly a smithy.

Wantage, Grove Technology Park (SU 386 897) Steve Leech

In January 2012, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Thames Valley Police at the site of a proposed police facility at Grove Technology Park. This comprised an L-shaped trench, 30m long and 1.5m wide, situated within the south-western area of the proposed development. No archaeological deposits or remains were present.

Wantage, Stockham House (SU 392 888) Dan Sykes

Oxford Archaeology conducted a watching brief in January 2012 on behalf of CgMs during geotechnical test pitting at Stockham House. Twenty-nine test pits were monitored during the course of the works, with one feature of archaeological interest observed and recorded, an east-west aligned ditch dating to the late Iron Age or early Roman period.

Wantage, Stockham House (SU 39309 88882) Robin Bashford and Tim Allen

Following a watching brief in January, Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation comprising the excavation of 30 trenches in July and August 2012. The evaluation revealed a series of ditches and shallow pits. Finds were sparse, but included some pottery of middle Iron Age date, as well as fired clay and burnt stones. These features are likely to belong to middle Iron Age fields and enclosures,

and the finds may indicate a settlement. Human bones belonging to part of a single juvenile individual were recovered from one of the ditches at the south-west end of the site. Single features containing pottery of the later Bronze Age and of the Roman period were also found.

The evaluation also identified north-south ridge-and-furrow cultivation, whose northern limits were evident as a low broad bank close to the northern edge of the main field that was examined. A ditch following the same alignment as the bank was probably associated. The site was also crossed by the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal, most of which had been infilled and buried.

Evidence for large-scale 20th century landscaping, probably associated with the adjacent airfield, was recorded in a trench at the north-west edge of the evaluated area, and north of the former canal.

Watchfield, Cowans Camp (SU 24178 90390)
Steve Leech and Tim Allen

In December 2012, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Cowans Camp for CgMs. Twenty-four trenches each 30m long and 1.5m wide were located within the area of impact of the proposed development. Excavation of the trenches confirmed the location of a quarry shown on 19th century maps, and revealed various features dating to the 20th century use of the camp, many of which were visible on aerial photographs. These features included various service trenches, two ditches and one pit. No trace of any earlier archaeological activity was observed, either as archaeological features or deposits, or as residual finds.

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

Oxford, 84 St Aldate's - rear wing (SP 514 059)
David Clark

The owner of the building had permission to take it down, have it conserved and then rebuilt within a modern shell on the same site. Oxfordshire Building Record (OBR) were invited to carry out a full recording of this building while it was being demolished.

The rear building at 84 St Aldate's consisted of a stone wall along the northern boundary of the site on to which was built a timber-framed structure supported to the east by the house fronting the street (Fig 6). There was a stone chimneystack against the north wall, later extended upwards in yellow brick. The only later external additions to the building were two late 20th century brick outshuts at the west end. The roof covering had been removed and replaced by plastic sheeting, but evidence was found that both Stonesfield slates and plain red tiles had been used earlier.

To the south the frame sill beam seems to have rested on the ground, with no obvious foundation, and the ground floor frame was constructed first so that the first floor could act as



Fig 6. Rear wing of 84 St Aldate's.

a platform from which the next stage of the walls could be built so avoiding the use of scaffolding. This was confirmed by the fact that the pegs in both wall frames at first floor level had been driven in from the inside of the building. It also allowed the room divisions at first floor level to be different from those below. Thus the ground floor comprised a large heated room to the east while above it were two smaller rooms.

Above first floor level the frame consisted of five bays delineated by six trusses, each comprising a pair of principal rafters tenoned into a tie-beam and a pair of queen-posts tenoned into the principals at the height of the purlins. The principals were joined near the apex by collars. The bays were of different widths - 1, 2 and 5 (numbered from the east) had eight common rafters, 3 and 4 had six. Differences in the westernmost truss showed that this was the original end of the building.

The roof frames were characterised by separate butt-purlins in each bay, set with a shoulder slightly into the principal. The common rafters were in two separate parts, but shared a mortice within the purlin. Only the upper rafter was pegged to the purlin (from the exterior). The feet of the common rafters were set into shallow mortices in the wall-plate. There was no ridge, all the rafters being fixed at the apex by mortice-and-tenon joints. Most of the rafters had assembly marks, deeply chiselled Roman numerals, in a mirror-image layout so that the numbers read 'normally' down the rafter from the apex.

The building had structural problems from an early date, probably because the southern frame sank into the ground, taking the whole structure southwards and downwards. Beams pulled out of their sockets in the stone wall and timbers broke where joints had weakened them. One of the roof trusses (Fig 7) had a pine?-tree trunk attached to the principal rafter by three iron forelock bolts, and at the foot both timbers were clasped to the tie-beam by an iron hoop fixed with a bolt. The collar had been removed, sawn down and re-fixed by nails to the inserted timber.

There was a 17th century three-light window in bay 1 (see Fig.8) but the wall-plate had stave mortices in the soffit - two of which were visible above the window lintel. There

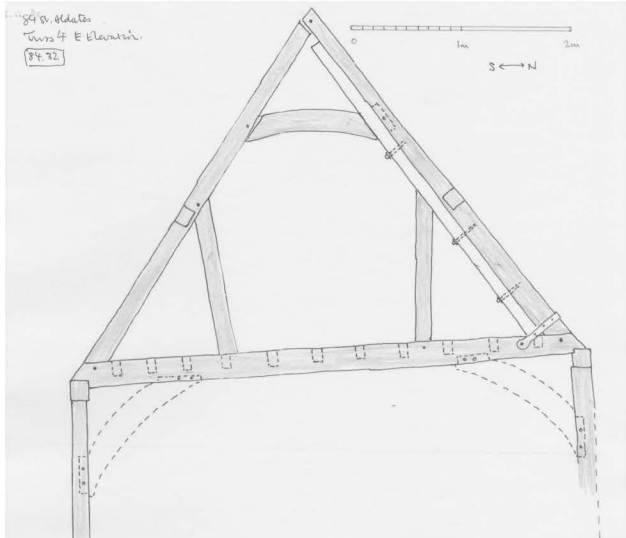


Fig 7. Upper part of T4 from east.

was a corresponding groove in the rail below suggesting that the panel was closed before the window was inserted.

Tree-ring dating by the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory showed that the primary frame was built from timber felled over a period of years up to and including the winter of 1636/7, and hence the structure was probably built in the early months of 1637. The property was at that time owned by All Souls College, and their lessee was Thomas Seymour, manciple of Corpus Christi. It was normal for such officials to be businessmen in their own right, and he probably built it for his main occupation. A structure on the site was later described as a malthouse, and the central two-bay open first floor may have been used for this, but there was no evidence for a kiln. However, the eastern part of the building seems to have had domestic fireplaces from

the start, so was probably accommodation ancillary to the house on St Aldate's.

In 1643, Seymour gave houseroom to the Elliotts, royal servants who needed to be close to the king at Christ Church. This family would have needed at least three rooms for a mother, son and two daughters. The visitors may have been put up in the rear building or, more likely the Seymours would have been expected to give up their main property for important visitors. A new staircase and new windows seem to have been inserted into the rear building, probably around this time, so allowing the spaces to be used independently of those in the house in front.

Later tenants were maltsters but when All Souls sold the property in around 1800 a baker was living there. A college servant owned it in the mid 19th century and it was a restaurant in 1881. By the end of the century it was an ironmonger's shop. In the 20th century there was a saddler and a greengrocer, with T G West, motor engineers, in the rear building from 1927. In the second half of the century the upper floor of the rear building was for many years the kitchen of the Restaurant Elizabeth, which operated at first floor level using rooms in Nos.82, 83 and 84.

STANFORD IN THE VALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT (SU 342 935) David Ashby

Introduction

The Stanford in the Vale Archaeological Research Project is an on-going project which commenced in 2008. The project currently has three main aims: 1. To gain a further and greater understanding of the archaeology of Stanford in the

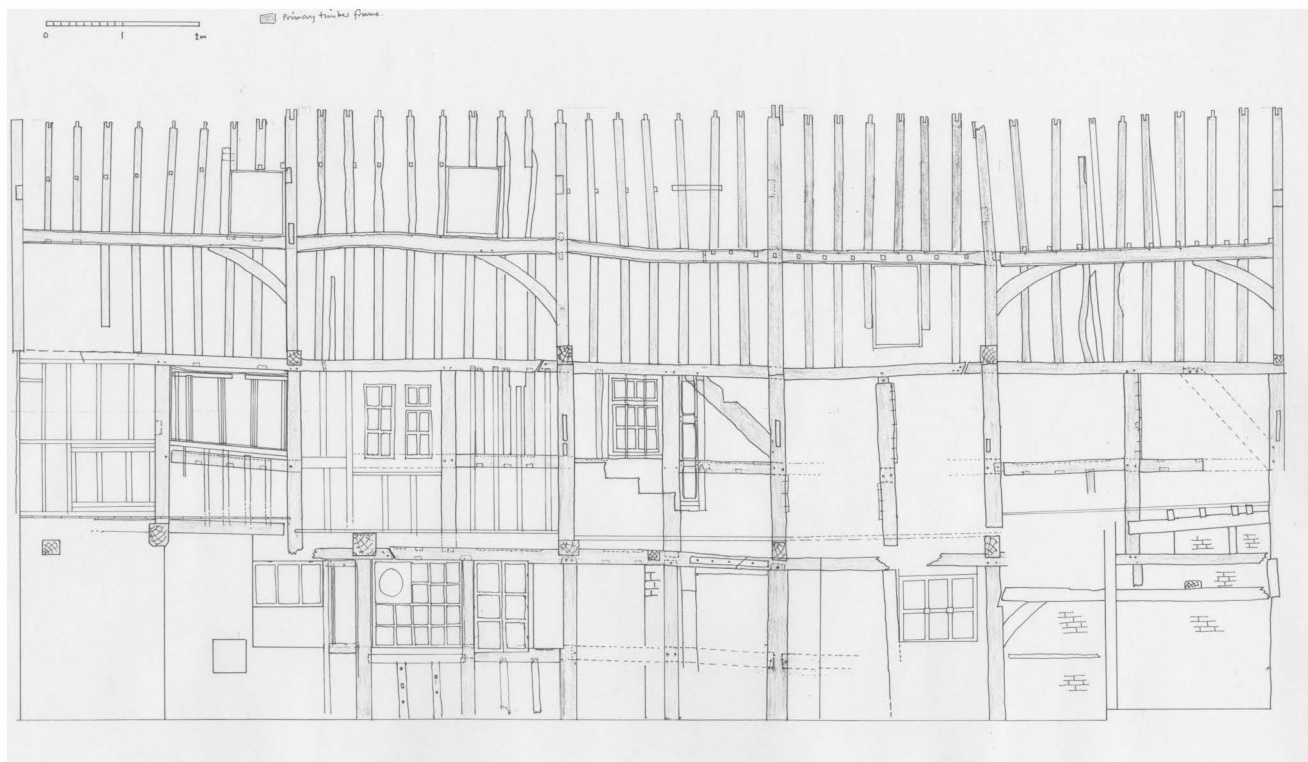


Fig 8. South wall frame from the north.

Vale; 2. To either prove or disprove the following hypothesis: Stanford in the Vale was planned as a 10 acre 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 2011 project season the project expanded from looking at one field in the village, to looking at the village settlement and its surrounding fields as a whole. During the first year of the expansion of the project, four main areas of land within the village were examined through the use of resistivity surveys. These were: Cox's Hall; Ashdown House; the Church War Memorial; and Upper Green. Within these areas a large quantity of possible archaeological features were identified, dating from the Iron Age to the modern period. These included such features as: a possible demolished western wing at Cox's Hall; a large negative feature at the edge of the War Memorial area; a possible prehistoric ditch at Upper Green; and a large quantity of structures, ditches and other features at Ashdown House, thought to date to the medieval period.

During the 2012 project season, a large amount of further work was carried out within the village and its surrounding fields, which will be discussed in this article. The work undertaken was: geophysical surveys at multiple sites; full excavation work the results of the geophysical surveys undertaken in 2011; and test pitting at seven sites in the village. The article will also discuss the work that is proposed to be carried out during the 2013 project season.

Geophysical Surveys (resistivity)

St Denys Church (SU 341 935)

The survey of St Denys church contains four proposed archaeological features. These include the possible outer boundary ditch of the cemetery prior to its extension in the 19th century. Also identified was a large curvi-linear ditch which surrounds the Church on all four sides. This ditch is thought to relate to an anomaly identified on the Ashdown House, Millennium Green and Manor House geophysical surveys, as discussed and interpreted below. The other features identified were a low resistance feature also identified on the War Memorial geophysical survey, carried out in 2011, which, due to its size and shape, is thought to be a possible charnel deposit (Ashby, 2011b, p.11); and a possible rectangular feature seen at the south-west area of the cemetery. Currently this feature has no interpretation, but may be a possible timber structure pre-dating the current cemetery. It should also be noted that a large scatter of high resistance features can be identified on the plot; these are known to be related to modern gravestones and grave memorials.

The Manor House (SU 341 934)

Within the geophysical survey area of Stanford Manor House, a series of geophysical anomalies has been identified. Two of the anomalies identified are thought to be buried services, namely a sewer main and a possible water pipe which could be seen to continue on into the Millennium Green geophysical plot. Apart from these two

modern features, the only other identifiable possible features shown are a continuation of the ditch which has been shown to surround both the Manor House and Church, and a possible associated structure which is located just within this ditch feature. The possible structure may be related to the ditch feature, or may postdate this feature entirely. It should also be noted that it was not possible to undertake any geophysical survey work to the north-west of the current house, due to a large and thick deposit of concrete which was located just below the topsoil.

Millennium Green (SU 342 933)

In the geophysical survey carried out within the area of Millennium Green, as seen in Fig 9, ten possible archaeological features were identified. A minimum of four of these features are thought to be modern in date including: a field boundary running along the south west side of the survey data; a possible water pipe; and a footpath and related features. All but two of the other features are thought to relate to the adjacent Manor House (at the northern end of the survey area). These features include a large high resistance anomaly thought to be the boundary wall to the Manor House dating to the post medieval period (as it has been identified on historic mapping), and possible internal structures relating to the boundary wall. One of the other two features identified has no interpretation at present but may be a high area of geology, whilst the other feature is thought to be a continuation of the ditch feature identified on the Ashdown House, Manor House and Church geophysical plots.

Church Green (SU 342 935)

Within the Church Green survey data a number of both high and low resistance anomalies were identified. Most of these features are thought to be structural in nature and may relate to the possible market activities that are thought to have occurred on the Green during the medieval period. In addition, some of the features may relate to post-medieval activities, as written sources state that there was a pound and Blind House located on the green. Furthermore, features

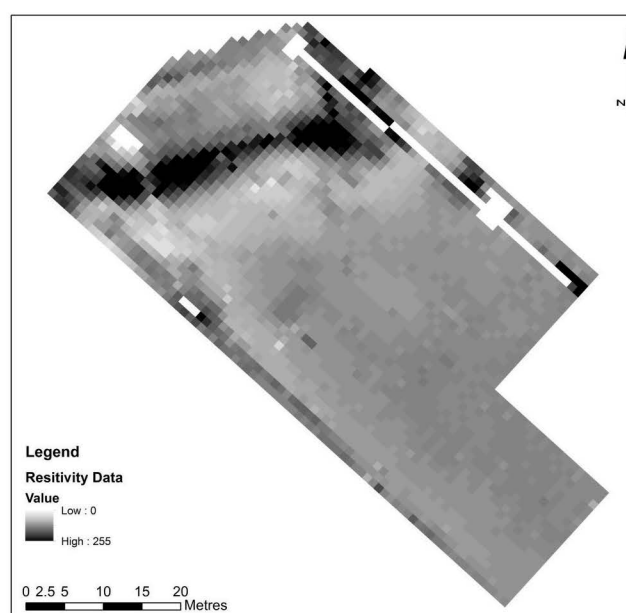


Fig 9. Millennium Green geophysical survey.

Oxfordshire

identified on the part of the green closest to the church may relate to modern activities and landscaping around the sections of road and footpath which criss-cross this area. However, further archaeological work and interpretation is needed to better understand the features identified on the geophysical plot, and to date them.

Penstones Court (SU 343 930)

Within the Penstones Court survey area, seventeen possible archaeological features have been identified. Most of these features are thought to be modern in date, including a known rising water main, installed in 2009. The other modern features are probably related to the farm which was located adjacent to the site prior to the construction of the modern Penstones Court buildings. These features are mainly hard standings, track ways and associated raised areas, which are thought to have been installed to keep the track ways above the boggy areas at the southern end of the field (and also to prevent flooding in these areas). Apart from these features, two possible archaeological anomalies were identified. These include a linear ditch feature running north east to south west which is possibly the outer ditch to the Roman settlement, as just beyond this feature two Roman cremations dating to the second to third century were found during installation of the rising main. The other archaeological feature is a curvi-linear ditch feature. This may possibly be prehistoric in date, as it is outside of the current known settlement area of Stanford in the Vale.

The School Playing Field (SU 343 933)

Within the Survey area of the Village School Playing Field, nine anomalies were identified. These range from low to high resistance features including those that are known to be modern, including a lump of concrete that could be seen from the surface. The other features include two possible ephemeral features, which may be remains of structures from the medieval period or an earlier phase of activities.

Further features identified include the footing of the boundary wall and two low resistance anomalies which are adjacent to the north eastern boundary wall and road. These two anomalies currently have no interpretation, but can be seen to extend into the adjacent survey area of Ashdown House to the north. The other features include two high resistance anomalies which are thought to be possible structures relating to either medieval or post-medieval activities next to the road.

Excavations

All the trenches excavated within the area of Ashdown House and Cox's Hall were undertaken to examine the results of geophysical survey work undertaken during the 2011 project season.

Cox's Hall (Trench 12) (SU 340 931)

During the 2011 project season geophysical survey work was undertaken within the grounds of Cox's Hall. Based on these results, one trench (Trench 12) was excavated to examine the remains of the demolished western wing of the property, as shown on both the geophysical survey and the historic mapping data. The size of the excavated trench was

3m wide by 4m long, and was placed over the northern end of the possible wing of the house.

This excavation found that the western wing of the house was in the same position as shown on the historic mapping, with the walls being of a limestone and rubble core construction. It was also shown that the building had deep interior cellars (1.5m deep from current ground surface), which, on the demolition of the property, were filled with wall plaster and other demolition material. Furthermore, the finds material recovered from this feature show that the structure had moulded brickwork, leaded windows and red and white painted interiors. The finds material also allowed for a possible explanation for the demolition of this wing to be made. Within the base of the cellar, deposits of soot and ash deposits were found, along with burnt plaster and brickwork. This suggests that the wing is most likely to have been demolished due to a large fire within this part of the house. Furthermore, the documentary evidence shows that this demolition work occurred between 1890 and 1910. It should also be noted that due to the depth of the cellars and their loose rubble fill, a date for the construction of this wing could not be determined through archaeological excavation work, nor could it be determined if an earlier structure overlaid the one constructed in the 16th century.

The excavation also demonstrated that once the demolition work had been completed, this part of the garden (adjacent to the house) was laid out with formal gardens and flowerbeds. This was then further overlain by a levelling layer and then the modern turf surface as can be seen today.

Ashdown House (Trench 13 and 14) (SU 342 934)

All the trenches excavated within the area of Ashdown House were undertaken to examine the results of geophysical survey work undertaken during the 2011 project season.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was excavated to examine a group of three possible archaeological features which were shown on the geophysical plot. These included a possible wall feature; an area of high resistance, either thought to be a cobbled surface or structure; and a large possible ditch feature. The trench was 2m wide by 10m long. Apart from a dump of late 16th to early 17th century demolition material, all of the features within the trench were found to date to either the medieval period or earlier. The medieval features included: one cobbled surface; two possible stone structures, one of which was overlain by the cobbled surface and one which was adjacent to it; a stone-lined gully, which possibly flowed into the medieval pond further down the field; and a large and thick deposit of medieval debris. The deep deposit of medieval material was 0.9m in depth and is thought to be a dump of rubbish material from the medieval settlement. This deposit contained finds material including 225 fragments of medieval ceramics; animal bone, including cattle, sheep, pig and deer; and small finds material including a small fragment of bone comb, a complete iron knife dated to the fourteenth century, and other worked bone artefacts. Slag and fragments of kiln lining were also

found, showing industrial activities within the area of the site.

The final, and most important, feature found was the ditch feature located at the south eastern end of the trench. This deep feature was overlain by the deposit of medieval material. The pottery evidence recovered from this ditch shows that it dates to the Saxon period (10th century). Due to water-logging of the deposit, preserved wood remains were also found. These included one small fragment of wood with two incised lines carved into it, which is also thought to date to the Saxon period. Furthermore, charred barley seed recovered from the environmental samples taken from this feature show that large quantities of barley were being grown in the area. Poppy seed was also recovered from the sample, showing the possibility of poor sorting of grain prior to consumption. Finally, this ditch is found to line up with the geophysical anomaly shown on the Ashdown House survey suggesting that this ditch feature most likely continues on into the adjacent Millennium Green, Manor House and Church survey areas and can be dated to the same period.

Trench 14

Trench 14 was excavated to examine a possible large structural anomaly which could be seen on the geophysical survey plot. The trench was 2m wide by 6m long. It was found that this geophysical anomaly related to a large dump of modern building material and rubble which had been deposited into the depression where the old village pond was located. It is thought that this dumping activity occurred within the last twenty to thirty years, and may possibly relate to the construction of new classrooms for the adjacent village school.

Test Pitting (Test pits 1 to 7)

During the 2012 project season, seven test pits were dug in the gardens of properties within the modern village settlement. These test pits were located randomly within the settlement (where permission could be gained) and within the gardens themselves, determined by where enough room could be found for the test pit and spoil heap. Each test pit was 1 m square and was dug in 0.1m spits to the depth of either the natural geology or 1m dependent on which was reached first.

The pottery remains from these test pits enable a large amount of information to be gained about the changing nature of the settlement. This data can be seen in Table 1 below. It can be seen that most of the test pits contained post medieval pottery and, apart from one test pit which was located on the outskirts of the modern settlement, also contained medieval pottery. The largest quantities of medieval pottery (from Test Pits 2 and 5) were recovered from the centre of the historic village settlement close to the excavation areas of Ashdown House. A large quantity of Saxon pottery was also recovered from the test pits with quantities ranging from eight to four sherds per individual test pit. This is an important discovery as, prior to these test pits being excavated, very little evidence (apart from that shown in the 2012 trenching) had been found for a Saxon settlement in the area of the modern village. Lastly, there

was also a large volume of Roman pottery recovered from the test pitting sites. This data shows a spread of Roman pottery deposits across the whole village settlement, including a large deposit of twenty three sherds from within Test Pit 5, which may relate to Roman activity in this area.

ID	TP Number	Roman pot Quantity	Saxon Pot Quantity	Medieval Pot Quantity	Post Medieval Pot Quantity
1	1	9	6	13	1
2	2	8	5	89	11
3	3	9	4	7	89
4	4	6	4	25	7
5	5	23	8	101	0
6	6	0	0	0	26
7	7	3	0	2	9

Fig 10. This table shows the quantities of pottery by period recovered from each test pit to date from Stanford in the

Flint material dating from the Mesolithic Period through to the Bronze Age was also found, including flint scrapers, blades and microliths. Slag from copper, glass and iron working and animal bone from cattle, sheep, pig, bird and rabbit were also recovered. The animal bone also included one articulated skeleton of a Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) found within Test Pit 4. Lastly, small finds were also recovered from the test pits including an iron knife, dated to the medieval period and a silver brooch dating to 1896.

Discrete features were also found within the test pits. These included timber slots and post holes within test pit 1 which are thought to date to the Roman period; possible tree throws within the top of Test Pit 3, and three post holes dug into the natural at its base; and 2 possible timber-framed medieval structures and a possible roadside ditch within Test Pit 5. It should also be noted that the features and medieval deposits found within Test Pit 5 are located at a higher level than the current adjacent modern road surface (located less than 1m away) showing the possibility that the modern road may have been in use from as early as the Roman period as the gullying effect has worn down the depth of the road to its current location.

Summary of data

From the data presented above it can be seen that the archaeology within the village is extremely important, and can be seen to date from the Mesolithic to post-medieval periods. The data collected from the 2012 project season has increased our knowledge of Stanford in the Vale in the Saxon period, as a large amount of previously unknown features and pottery from this period have now been found through both excavation and geophysical techniques. These include a Saxon ditch which surrounds both the church and Manor house in its entirety, possibly indicating that the current Manor House overlies a Saxon Motte and the current church overlies one from the same period, as seen in Fig 11. This data also shows that a larger amount of Roman activity within the main village settlement has been found than previously thought, with large quantities of Roman pottery being recovered from the test pitting. Furthermore, a large amount of undisturbed and important medieval archaeology has also been found during this season of the project that underlies the modern village settlement. This has been found through all three techniques utilised on the site, showing that the settlement at this period may possibly

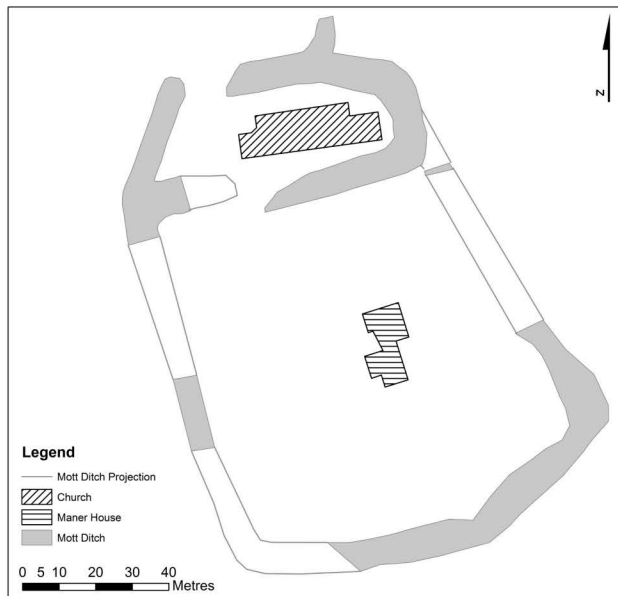


Fig 11. Showing Saxon ditch which surrounds both the church and Manor house in its entirety.

have been larger in size and more active, with industry, a large population and other activities occurring. Finally, archaeological work has allowed a much better understanding of the post-medieval archaeology within the village. An example of this is Cox's Hall, where a better understanding has been gained of the demolished West Wing of the structure, and the possible reasons for its demolition.

Summary of project to date

Through the work undertaken during the project since 2008 a large quantity of archaeological remains, dating from the Mesolithic period to the modern day, have been unearthed. These include Mesolithic and Bronze Age flints from around the village, recovered from both test pitting and trenching work. The data also shows the possibility of a larger Roman, Saxon, and medieval settlement than has previously been thought, with large medieval stone buildings being excavated within the grounds of Prior's Farm (Ashby, 2011a) and Ashdown House, and also identified on areas where geophysical work has been undertaken. Furthermore, the project has also demonstrated that the settlement of Stanford in the Vale has moved over time, with the Roman settlement being located further south than the centre of the present settlement, the Saxon settlement being located more towards the centre of the current settlement, surrounding both the church and Manor House, and the medieval settlement spreading more than 600m further south than at present, continuing right up to Upper Green. As the medieval settlement was nearly twice the size of the modern settlement of Stanford in the Vale, this suggests that the settlement was possibly a market town during this period. The finds material recovered from the village may also support this interpretation with large amounts of industrial waste being recovered. However, even though a great deal of information has been identified using the techniques utilised during the 2012 season, further work is needed to better understand the way in which the settlement changed through time, and in turn the possible reasons why the medieval settlement of Stanford in the Vale

shrank from a possible town in the medieval period to a small village settlement in the later post-medieval period.

Aims of 2013 Excavations

During the 2013 project season, three main types of archaeological work will be undertaken.

Firstly, geophysical surveys will continue on open areas of land within the village and its surrounding fields, with the aim of producing a comprehensive map of the possible buried archaeology of the settlement. This will mainly be carried out using resistivity survey, and hopefully Ground Penetrating Radar where suitable sites can be identified.

Secondly, further full excavations will be undertaken in areas of archaeological interest identified through the geophysical survey results. This will include a minimum of one further trench at Ashdown House. This should enable the dating and function of important archaeological features from a number of different 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, further 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 further show how the settlement and landscape has changed in these areas through time.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations that have helped me during the 2012 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. I would also like to thank the main archaeologists who have helped me carry out the fieldwork and post excavation on the project, including Dave Grant, Dr Katie Tucker, Briony Lalor; and Nathalie Barrett. Lastly, thanks should be given to my colleagues, the students 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.

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SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP (SOAG)

Goring, Gatehampton Farm Roman Villa

(SU 60797985)

Hazel Williams

This excavation of a 3rd-4th century villa building and survey of the surrounding landscape is SOAG's longest running project. During 2011 and 2012 the focus was firstly on completing excavation work in Trench 7, the large 15m by 20m trench over part of the villa building shown in the elevated view of the site Fig 12. The aim was to achieve a better understanding of the different phases of the western end of the villa building. Work on the site has also progressed eastward, with an extension to Trench 7 to link up with an older backfilled trench that was excavated in the 1990s. Combined with the geophysical survey of the eastern side of the site field this has confirmed the continuation of the building in that direction and shown areas for further investigation.

Progress of excavation on this site

The site plan Fig 13 shows the progress of the excavation from the 1990s to date and the results of the geophysical survey of part of the site field in 2011. The first major trench on the site, Trench 3, was dug in the 1990s, on the eastern side of the site field close to the hedge. It was a narrow trench across the width of the building (walls shown in white). This established the location, dating and an indication of the layout of the villa. Excavation then moved to Trench 7, the bathhouse area 20m to the west (backfilled bathhouse). Since the bathhouse area was backfilled in 2009 the excavation has progressed eastward, to look at the relationship between the probable later addition of the bath house and the rest of the building. Work concentrated on the



Fig 12. Elevated view of the site looking north-east in July 2011. (Photo Dave Oliver).

area in Trench 7 shown as 'exposed walls' in Fig 13, in particular the central room, north corridor and adjacent areas to the east. A new trench area (b) was opened in 2011 and extended in 2012, to close the gap between Trench 7 and Trench 3 and work continues on this.

Excavation 2011-12

The central room

Labelled 'central room' due to its position between the north 'corridor' and south corridor, the work on this room has been key to establishing the phases and some indication of the dating of the western end of the villa building. Fig 12 shows the 6m square room (centre left, partially backfilled), after the removal of the demolition rubble. It has a compacted chalk floor, two patches of tessellated pavement in the north east corner and a rectangular tiled feature on the north side of the room. Also shown are some of the slots cut into the floor to investigate earlier levels.

When last reported (*SMA* 42) it appeared that there was a cobbled layer under the chalk floor but this is now confirmed as a natural surface. A narrow slot was cut into both chalk and tesserae to find which of these surfaces was laid first. It became clear that the patches of tesserae were enclosed by the chalk, with some isolated tesserae found under or within it. A coin of Constantine II was found in the levelling layer under the tesserae, showing that the floor was laid after AD330-334.

A larger L-shaped slot cut into the floor on the western side of the central room and two further slots showed that the tessellated area and sub floor layers did not extend across the whole room. There is evidence of a different sequence of construction on that side; the chalk was laid directly on silt and between the silt and the chalk were contexts containing

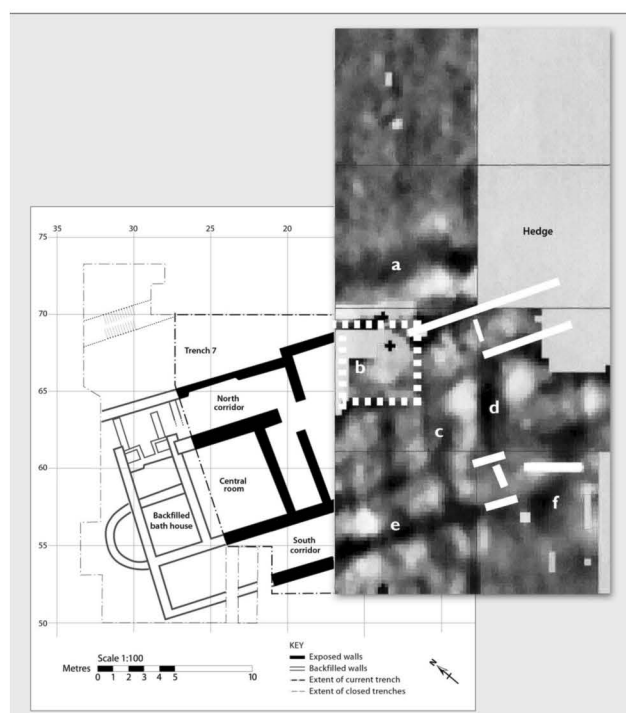


Fig 13. Plan of trenches and geophysical survey 2011.

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evidence of combustion, most likely from metalworking. The rectangular feature built against the north wall of the room was initially identified as a hearth. However, no traces of soot or charcoal were found in or on the feature and its purpose is not known; it may be a decorative and load-bearing plinth. It pre-dates the laying of the chalk floor and may have been in position when only the eastern part of the area had a tessellated floor surface; The current interpretation is that this area was at one time an open-ended barn used as a workshop area for industrial activity before or during the laying of the tessellated floor on the eastern side of the room. At some point the whole area was enclosed and the chalk floor laid over both the workshop area and the tessellated floor.

Two further stages in the life of the building were shown in the excavation and analysis of the demolition layer over the chalk floor of the central room. Previously, small animal bones found in the lower level of the collapse debris over the chalk floor were identified as owl pellets, from barn owls roosting in the building before collapse of the roof but after abandonment by human occupants. Excavation of the remaining half of the demolition deposit in 2011 provided an opportunity to sample more of these bones and to look for any concentrations of the material. This was supervised by SOAG's Tom Walker and two drop points were identified implying two separate roosts and therefore more than one year of occupation. Radiocarbon dating on the limb bones suggest the time when the building was abandoned is probably between AD 340 and AD 380.

The eventual collapse of the structure was seen in the substantial layer of fallen roof tile and flint stones over the owl pellet assemblage. Plotting of nails among and below this roof debris proved useful when some patterns of distribution were identified during research by SOAG's Dave Jobling. A number of nails were found to have mineralised wood attached and these were found along a line north to south in the centre of the room. This may indicate a fallen beam or simply an area where the conditions were right for the replacement of the wood by iron corrosion products to take place.

The north corridor

A similar picture of an early construction phase followed by the laying of a more permanent floor is seen in the north corridor. At the eastern end a hearth area with charcoal and burnt deposits lay over the flint and mortar sub-floor, in the angle of the north and end wall. Some of this sub-floor had already been removed and the remaining layer was finally cleared in 2011. This revealed the outline of a pit that appeared to be cut into the reddish silty levelling layer under the sub-floor and the natural gravel layer beneath; several tile fragments rested at an angle around the edge of the pit. The pit is 1.5m by 1m, sub-rectangular with a U-shaped profile with a sharp slope and flat base 0.46m deep. The fill consisted of building rubble; sandy silt, mortar and chalk mixed with large and small flints, limestone and terracotta tile fragments. Pottery found within the fill included two pieces of Samian ware. The impression is that this is building rubble from elsewhere in the villa. The original purpose of the pit is unclear; there is no evidence to suggest what it might have been used for but the deep gravel would

have provided a cool place for food storage, for example. It may have been used during a construction phase when the silty levelling layer was already in place but more solid floors were still to be laid. Just over 2m west of the pit, in the same room, a triangular iron object was found positioned vertically in the same silty layer. This was thought possibly to be part of a tool used when the sub-floor was laid.

Geophysical Survey

A large area of the landscape west of the villa, including the villa enclosure ditch, has been surveyed in the past, but only small areas of the site field had been surveyed, usually ahead of excavation. Little is also known about the extent of the building or its enclosure, to the east. A small exploratory trench dug in the mid 1990s seemed to confirm the continuation of the exterior north wall through the hedge line in that direction and a quick resistivity survey either side of the hedge also appeared to confirm this but may have picked up areas of gravel hard standing. So a more comprehensive survey of both the site field and adjacent car park area was planned and the first part of this completed in 2011.

Fig.2 shows the geophysical survey in relation to the trenches. An area 20m by 40m, in 10m grid squares was surveyed using SOAG's RM 15 Resistance Meter. Two of the grid squares on the eastern side were omitted, in part due to proximity to the hedge but also because a 2m wide section north to south across this area and the enclosure ditch had already been excavated as part of Trench 3. The enclosure ditch (a) is shown continuing eastward with a darker area of backfill close to Trench 3. Area (b) was opened in 2011 and has since been extended further south to cover features shown in the survey. The continuation of the exterior north wall of the building across to Trench 3 is confirmed although there is a robbed-out section. As expected, a parallel inner wall on the north side has also been found enclosing an area of mortar floor. Part of a possible north-south wall across the building, indicated (c) on the survey has also been uncovered. Work in this area continues and will be reported more fully next year.

Another possible wall west of (c) seems plausible as the gap between the exposed walls shown in Trench 7 and wall (c) is nearly 10m and it is likely there is another division of the space. The walls previously excavated in Trench 3 are shown in white and the dark area (d) is in fact the backfill of the long narrow southern part of Trench 3, less than 3 metres wide. It appears that the south wall of the building continues east (e) and the inner wall on that side too. Area (f) is less clear due to the proximity to a modern building and other obstacles. It is difficult to determine whether the exterior south wall continues or turns inward at this point. The plan is to extend this survey into the car park area in 2013 and this may answer some of these questions.

Acknowledgements

Participation was very good, as usual, with 15-20 diggers on site most Sundays from the end of May to the end of October in 2011 and 2012. The excavation benefits greatly from SOAG's team of experienced diggers but the project is

also designed to provide an accessible introduction to anyone interested in archaeology.

An Open Day (Fig 14) that included 'Afternoon tea at the villa' in September 2012 was a great success with over 100 people on site, mainly from local archaeological societies. It was a good opportunity to discuss the site with fellow archaeologists and the trenches were open for young diggers, especially, to join in on the day.

I must express our gratitude to Sarah and Roger Edmunds for their invaluable support for both the project and the open day. I would also like to express our appreciation to everyone else associated with the site, including Robin Cloke, for the help that they provide.



Fig 14. Open Day September 2012.

Also very important to this project is the skill and enthusiasm of the diggers, most of them SOAG members who have worked on the site regularly for several years; their knowledge and experience is of great benefit to the project. The project also relies on a small team who ensure that everything runs smoothly; my particular thanks to Steve Gibson, our hard-working Deputy Director, to John Hefferan for his dedication to recording all our ceramic building material and to David Cox, our Finds Officer on site. Thanks also to Dave Jobling and Tom Walker for their work and further research on the central room and the associated finds.

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THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Abingdon, Christ Church, Northcourt Road
(SU 5015 9834)
Susan Porter

No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief.

Abingdon, New Care Home, Thames View
(SU 5004 9723)
James Lewis, Daniel Bray

No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief: few elements of the building work penetrated deep modern made ground.

Ashbury, Land at Idstone Road (SP 2623 8488)
Susan Porter

Evaluation trenching revealed only a single undated pit.

Banbury, Oak Farm, Milcombe (SP 4070 3465)
David Platt

Excavation, just completed at time of writing, has uncovered an extensive medieval field system, with a rectangular stone building, several wells, and a substantial dovecote (this last clearly later, however). Further details will emerge as post-excavation work gets underway.

Bicester, St Edburg's Church (SP 5831 2227)
Steven Crabb, Andrew Munding, James Earley and Jacqueline Pitt

Observations were made as the choir vestry floor was reduced for new under floor heating works. An 18th century brick vaulted crypt was uncovered, thought to be associated with the nearby memorial to Sir Edward Turner and his wife, Dame Cassandra. Two leather-clad coffins survived within the crypt, which was not opened. An exterior pipe trench for a new French drain uncovered the exterior vestry foundation and sacristy, and also uncovered portions of four burials along with redeposited human bone. A soakaway pit also revealed the top of an external crypt.

Cholsey, Village Hall, Station Road (SU 5859 8643)
Susan Porter

A ongoing watching brief has so far revealed only a modern wall and pit and an undated (probably also modern) ditch.

Cholsey, land between 14-16 Amwell Place
(SU 5891 8644)
Christopher Crabb

A watching brief revealed the presence of a large ditch, tentatively given a medieval date, which is probably a

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continuation of a ditch seen in previous work. An undated pit was also present.

Culham, Laurence House, Rye Farm (SU 5053 9675)
Aiji Castle

No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed in an evaluation.

Dorchester, Land to the rear of 32-36 High Street (SU 5779 9438)
Jo Pine and Tim Dawson

Excavation and a watching brief on a site partially within the scheduled area of the Roman town have uncovered Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains, mainly pits, some of which were probably quarries, but also including around half a dozen inhumation burials. Post-excavation work is in its early stages at time of writing.

Henley-on-Thames, Windyridge, Elizabeth Road (SU 7447 8168)
Tim Dawson

No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed in an evaluation.

Henley-on-Thames, Beechwood Cottage, Harpsden Wood (SU 7757 8025)
Andrew Munday

No features or finds of archaeological interest have so far been observed in an ongoing watching brief.

Henley-on-Thames, Longacre, 228 Greys Road (SU 7443 8162)
Andrew Munday

No features or finds of archaeological interest have so far been observed in an ongoing watching brief.

Long Wittenham, Witta's Ham Cottage, High Street (SU 5475 9389)
David Platt

Three pits were observed in a watching brief but all were certainly or probably of late post-medieval date.

Mongewell, The Wall House (SU 6120 8797)
Andrew Munday

Several features were encountered during groundworks but they were mostly of late post-medieval or modern date. Two ditches were observed, one of which was undated and the other tentatively dated to the medieval period. Residual and stray finds of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered.

Moulsford, Cranford House School (SU 5877 8418)
David Platt

A cluster of eight intercutting pits were uncovered in the area stripped for a new sports pitch. These pits produced a modest volume of Roman pottery, tile and animal bone and are considered to be Roman in date. A single sherd of Late Saxon pottery was recovered from the upper layer of one pit that lay immediately beneath the subsoil and is considered to be intrusive. This sherd is possibly 'Thetford Ware', a type rarely encountered in Oxfordshire.

North Stoke, Barracks Farm (SU 6136 8528)
Christopher Crabb

No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief.

North Stoke, Chalk Pit Cottage, 2 Wallingford Road (SU 6142 8627)
Christopher Crabb

No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief.

Oxford, 31 Church Lane, Old Marston (SP 5275 0898)
David Platt

A pit most likely of 14th century date was the only feature seen in evaluation trenching.

Oxford, 49-51 Jeune Street (SP 5261 0585)
Danielle Milbank

A converted stable building was photographically recorded prior to redevelopment.

Oxford, Bury Knowle Park Depot, North Place, Old Headington (SP 5466 0753)
Andy Taylor

Evaluation trenching revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest.

Sutton Courtenay, Studio at Wharf Barn, 43A Church Street (SU 5407 9437)
Danielle Milbank

A photographic record was made of the studio at Wharf Barn, which appears to be a former boathouse, of early to mid 20th century date, built with re-used 19th century bricks, and with decoration to match its setting within the gardens of the historic Wharf Barn; for example, the style of a window at the front is a typically Victorian imitation of 17th century forms: it appears unlikely to be a reused 17th century window.

Wallingford, Land at Upton Road (SU 5985 8890)

Daniel Bray

The evaluation revealed a small number of features of archaeological interest, two of which are probably a part of the same medieval ditch, and a further feature was undated. A single prehistoric flint flake and a sherd of Roman pottery were also recorded.

Wallingford, Sherwood Farm, Mackney (SU 5796 8981)

Steven Crabb

Excavations in advance of development of a new barn complex revealed a number of phases of archaeological features on the site. The major phase comprised part of a middle Iron Age farmstead with a ring gully house and associated pits and postholes. A substantial later Roman ditch, subsequently recut, was also recorded. Both of these components were overlain by a ridge and furrow field system of medieval or post-medieval date.

Wallingford, 23 Winterbrook Lane (SU 6031 8841)

Steven Crabb

Nothing of archaeological interest was observed during a watching brief.

Yarnton, Bernard Close, Cassington Road

(SP 4818 1211)

Andrew Mundin

Nothing of archaeological interest has so far been observed during an ongoing watching brief.

Publications

TVAS Monograph 14: Settlement and Landscape Archaeology in the Middle Thames Valley: Slough and Environs by Steve Preston was published during the year. It contains reports on several sites in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, including:

Ford S 2012; 'Middle Bronze Age occupation and enclosure and Roman occupation at All Souls Farm Quarry, Wexham, Buckinghamshire', [Chapter 5]

Lewis J 2012; 'Bronze Age occupation and later Bronze Age field boundaries at Springfield Quarry, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire', [Chapter 6]

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 tvass@tvass.co.uk)

THE WALLINGFORD HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**Wallingford Urban Test Pitting Programme**

(SU 606 897)

Katharine Keats-Rohan

The exceptionally well preserved outlines of the Alfredian burh and medieval borough of Wallingford, Oxon (formerly

Berks) are frequently reproduced in aerial photographs. Yet despite having the best preserved rampart sections of any of Alfred's burhs and a modest but unmistakable documentary indication of the town's importance in the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval period, it was not until the early 21st century that a full-scale archaeological investigation was launched. The Wallingford Burh to Borough project, lead by Neil Christie, will shortly produce its final report of full-scale excavations at key areas of the town such as the Kincroft, the Bullcroft and the Castle. The first two are now public parks; the castle is long gone, but the earthworks are extensive and impressive. A small but important priory is known to have existed on the Bullcroft site in the north west sector, but no visible remains survive. This landscape preserves evidence of the functions of an early medieval fortified town, embracing both animal husbandry for subsistence and economic reasons on open spaces within the walls, and the clustering of habitation within well-defined areas, notably in the south-east sector. The latter contains the market area; dwellings also doubled as trade workshops and shops. Of the 11 parish churches only 3 remain, in the south-east sector. The marked documented contraction of the town from the late 13th century to the 16th century preserved this unique townscape, but the reasons for the contraction are still not well understood (Creighton, Christie *et al* 2009).

Exploring more fully questions relating to which parts of the town were settled earliest and for longest, whether indications of trading or social structures survive, and how much archaeological stratigraphy differs in depth over the town, requires an alternative to large-scale excavation. An urban test pitting programme was undertaken on behalf of the Project by The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS). After initial training by Burh to Borough Project members in August 2008, the scheme has proceeded under the direction of Gerard Latham and aims to complete at least 100 test pits within the medieval borough and at selected sites outside. Sixty-one test pits have been completed to date. Essentially, it is an exercise in statistical sampling, so a standardized method is used for each test pit. Each pit measures 1m by 1.5m and may be no more than 1.2m deep. If features or contexts of interest are evident at the maximum depth a small sondage or auger is used to gain an idea of what type and depth of archaeology may lie beneath. Taking large and small-scale excavation together, stratigraphical depth varies considerably from 1m to 3m over the town, with the 'higher status' (castle and priory) sites being prominent amongst the deepest. The depth at which archaeology is encountered from present ground level is also recorded. This too is very varied.

The test pits are located in private gardens which are offered by local people. Fortunately, we have been offered sites all over the town and outside its Saxon limits so that we have been able to establish a coherent overview of the whole town and its immediate vicinity, which is needed for any convincing statistical review. Because this important venture relies upon the generous cooperation of the townspeople great care is taken with the location of test pits. A site visit establishes whether or not a pit can be dug with due regard to the safety of householders, their children and pets, and that of the diggers. Once work begins we are

Oxfordshire

mindful of the need to restore the garden to its original condition as far as possible. A test pit rich in finds backfilled with fine-sieved garden soil might need a little topping up before the turf layer is replaced. The test pit is measured out orientating either North South or East West if possible. The diagonal for a 1 m x 1.5 m test pit is 1803 mm. Using this as a base, we can locate the corners of the pit, then mark the trench out with string, using nails at the corners. We then lay out our tarpaulin around the pit outline. An initial photograph is taken, after which we can begin removing the turf layer. This will be carefully laid to one side for replacing at the end of the dig.

Test pits are dug in 200mm spits. The excavated soil is sieved into builder's bags, which can later be easily dragged back over the tarpaulin to the edge of the trench and tipped for ease of backfilling. Photographs are taken before and after the turf layer is removed, and then at the beginning and end of each spit. Details of each spit, soil colour and composition, inclusions, finds, features and so on are recorded in writing and by photos. If there is any archaeological patterning after removal of the spit, a quick plan is done at that stage. So in a test-pit containing lots of evidence a series of plans is generated, including a location plan within the garden, section plans detailing any features revealed, and a final plan of the stratigraphy. Once the full process of recording is completed, the garden owner is given a CD containing the final report and copies of all photographs and site drawings made.

These small pits can yield a considerable amount of material, all of which is collected, labelled by spit, subsequently washed, sorted into types, weighed and counted. The vast majority of finds are pot sherds, but we have occasional small finds, such as a bone ring dating between 1200-1500 (Test Pit 24, Reading Rd, SU 60715 89040). Perhaps the most significant small find to date is a silver short-cross penny of King Cnut (1016-35) minted in Norwich, found in Test Pit 60 behind the Coach and Horses on the Kinecroft (Fig 15). Most of the glass found is modern, as is a considerable proportion of the metal found; indeed, relatively modern building demolition debris is frequently encountered throughout the town. This kind of modern disturbance is a typical hazard of urban test pits or key hole excavations and can be very frustrating. Our first pit, close to Wallingford Bridge at 101 High Street was instructive. The area dug was clearly made ground and contained everything from three Roman sherds (actually



Fig 15. Silver short-cross penny of King Cnut (1016-35) minted in Norwich, found in Test Pit 60 behind the Coach and Horses on the Kinecroft.

very rare finds in Wallingford) to 19th century metal slag. Yet close to the house itself some years ago an almost intact Anglo-Saxon cooking pot was recovered.

To date a total of 91,542 items have been recovered from 61 test pits, including 12,001 pot sherds, 9,220 bones, 827 clay pipes, 3,450 pieces of slag, and 47,835 items of building material. All of these items have been recorded in Excel spreadsheets. The pottery has been identified and classified by TWHAS member June Strong, and verified by Catherine Keevil, the Project's pottery specialist, using the typology of local wares established by Maureen Mellor (Mellor 1994).

The pottery is a significant new assemblage that will be especially useful in the study of, in particular, medieval Wallingford and Oxford wares. This formidable data resource has been created by our leader Gerard Latham, an expert geo-physicist who has recently added GIS to his skill set. A preliminary attempt to combine all this information in a map of relative densities of pot types from different periods proves illuminating.

Pottery sequencing is a necessarily inexact art, so date ranges are normally fairly long and there are plenty of overlaps. Gerard has calculated the densities of pot sherds for each period, working within the following broad limits:

Roman	55BC to 410AD
Anglo Saxon	410AD to 1066AD
Saxo Norman	1066AD to 1150AD
Medieval	1150AD to 1450AD
Post Medieval	1450AD to 1750AD
Modern	1750AD to Present
Unassigned	Unknown

Fig 16. Pottery date ranges.

As can be seen (Fig. 17, Anglo-Saxon pot density map), for the Anglo-Saxon sherds (total 426) the highest densities were yielded by Test Pits 51 (Flint Cottage, 53 High Street, SU 60512 89505), 50 and 55 (Flint House, 52 High Street), 60 (7 Crispin Place), 59 (Coach and Horses, Kinecroft) and 12 (St John's Green). A similar picture emerges for Saxo-Norman (total 2,106), led by Test Pits 55, 60, 40 (18 Castle Street), 59, 51, and 54 (Thames Street). For Medieval (total 2,349), the picture starts to change. Test Pit 50 heads the list by some distance, followed by 34 (Bullcroft), 06 (7 St Martin's Street) and 38 (4 Croft Terrace); Test Pit 20 was on another part of the 52 High Street site. Of these, only Test Pit 06 appears among the six highest densities of post-medieval pot. None of them appears amongst the highest densities of modern pot. (Fig. 18, Top 6 Test Pits by percentage of pot and slag finds)

Crude as this approach necessarily is, the evidence for the contraction of the town from the late 13th century clearly emerges. So too does the notion of a concentration of habitation in the south-east section, with an initial extension into the south-west being curtailed by 1300. What also emerges is the importance of early finds outside the putative borough walls on the south, up to the boundary formed by Bradford's Brook, demonstrating archaeologically the

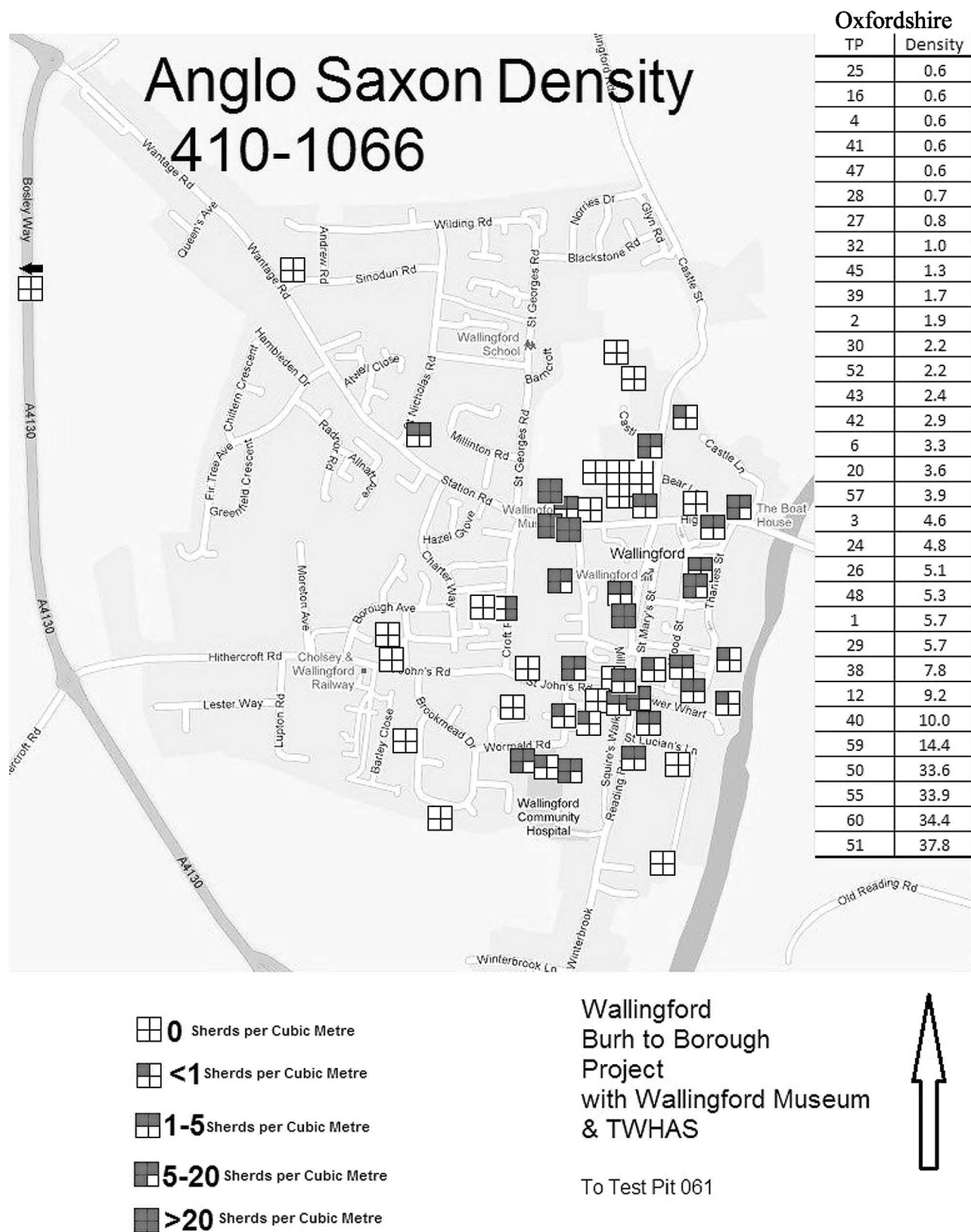


Fig 17. Anglo-Saxon pot density map.

existence of a suburb here that is also revealed in historical documents.

Another intriguing result emerges from looking at the density of finds of slag, the residue of medieval blacksmithing. The top five sites are Test Pit 55 (1,267), Test Pit 51 (964), Test Pit 50 (258), Test Pit 48 (107) and Test Pit 30 (99). The last two are both in Wood Street, one of the oldest streets in the town but neither of which provided

any significant pre-modern finds. Test Pits 55, 51 and 50 are close together at the back of Flint House (the Museum) and Flint Cottage, on the western end of High Street and we have already encountered them as having the highest density of material dating before 1450. The lost site of Wallingford Priory, in the parish of Holy Trinity, lies behind and slightly to the east of these properties (a single building now in two ownerships), as has been demonstrated by test pits dug by both the Project team and TWHAS. The

Anglo-Saxon sherds		Saxo-Norman sherds		Medieval sherds		Post-medieval sherds		Modern sherds		Slag in numbers	
TP	Per cent	TP	Per cent	TP	Per cent	TP	Density	TP	Density	TP	No. items
51	15.96	55	45.9	50	23.9	42	28.79	30	10.18	55	1267
50	15.73	60	14.4	34	7.02	06	9.95	42	9.18	51	964
60	33.6	40	33.6	06	5.62	30	7.96	54	5.78	50	258
55	14.3	59	8.69	38	4.85	10	7.35	38	4.35	48	107
59	6.1	51	6.89	51	4.47	33	5.05	48	4.27	30	99
12	4.23	54	4.32	20	4.09	48	4.13	01	3.87	01	56

Fig 18. Top 6 Test Pits by percentage of pot and slag finds.

significant slag remains from this area have been reviewed by expert Graham Morgan who believes they 'represent the residual material removed from (one or more) blacksmith's hearths, allowing their reuse. The quantity present from the test pits sample would indicate a fairly intensive industry'. The location, between the important priory site, just inside the West Gate, and opposite the western-most extension of habitation at Wallingford's high point, is striking. Apart from the 13th century bell-pit of St Michael's found in 1975, this is the oldest site yet discovered in the town showing evidence of smithing. The trade was among those mentioned in the Domesday Book account of the town. The present writer recently found documentary confirmation that the priory site was a major ecclesiastical site in the Anglo-Saxon period, home to secular canons who were replaced by Benedictine monks before 1100. These results also confirm the view of TWHAS historians and the Burh to Borough team that both northern sectors, west and east, were elite areas serviced by a south-dwelling urban population. Smithing for the castle was done on site, or goods brought in, but the evidence of metal working outside an ecclesiastical precinct on the south-west makes abundant sense. A further indication of high status pre-Conquest buildings was revealed during a major excavation by Northampton Archaeology in advance of the Waitrose development, at the junction of St Martin's Street and High Street. A 10th century mortar mixer was discovered that must have been used in the building of a stone church. Nothing remained of the church, but nearly three hundred burials, several dating back to the tenth century, were discovered (Soden, Jones and Westgarth 2005). Throughout the whole medieval period St Martin's church was subject to Holy Trinity.

The re-discovery of some of the priory outline has been one of the highlights of the Test Pit campaign. The discovery of a tiled floor in Test Pit 07, clearly related to the priory, was a high point. Remarkably, Test Pit 07 had nothing between the modern ground layer and a dense medieval demolition layer beneath which the floor was found. There was no pot and only 2 bones. This site was clearly abandoned after the priory was closed in 1524/28, possibly being used as a rubbish dump before being redeveloped as a farm during the 18th century. Furthermore, six architectural fragments from the priory were recovered from the demolition of a wall in the south of the Bullcroft, at the back of Wallingford Library premises at SU 6051 8953 in 2010. Five appear to have come from the same late medieval cross-window, evidently from the priory. All six are now kept at Wallingford Museum. Test Pit 02 uncovered a corner of a substantial stone building, with a shallow pit alongside, at the site of the lost medieval Hospital of St John, outside the South Gate at St John's Green. Both these ecclesiastical sites

give evidence of the contraction of the town. The archaeology was encountered early, at 0.4m in the case of St John's, and the mortar bed for a tile floor at 0.9m at the priory site, Test Pit 07.

2013 is the 40th anniversary of the founding of TWHAS. Members' wealth of knowledge about the surviving historical documentation built up over many years, as well as experience on small-scale excavations held from the 1970s onwards, has been of major benefit to the Burh to Borough Project team. Our association with the Project team has likewise been of huge benefit to us, reinvigorating our archaeological activity and helping to bring more people into the society, keen to help with the test pitting programme and thus to learn more about the formerly important and still delightful town in which most of us are privileged to live. The project has also given a huge boost to our historical activity, some of which has already been published (2009), with a further book due out later this year. Wallingford has a lively sense of community which has been fully displayed in the interest shown in the Project's excavation open days, attendance at jointly run conferences, and in the numbers of people willing to let us place our test pits in their gardens.

The study of Wallingford, long overdue, has received a huge boost in the last 10 years, thanks to the Burh to Borough Project and its association with TWHAS. There is every sign that at last Wallingford is where it belongs, firmly on the map of archaeologists and historians of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. Ignore us at your peril!

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WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Marcham - Anson Field (SU 45790 96747)

Sue Farr and Steve Thompson

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Anson Field, Marcham. A

geophysical survey was initially completed which revealed the remains of a possible prehistoric barrow cemetery, as well as numerous other anomalies of potentially archaeological origin.

The archaeological evaluation comprised six trenches positioned to investigate the results of the geophysical survey. The evaluation identified numerous remains of prehistoric date including a Bronze Age barrow and an Early/Middle Iron Age settlement, which was potentially occupied through into the Late Romano-British period.

The identification of the Bronze Age barrow, (with a likely central primary burial whose ditches had gradually silted up during the Iron Age), suggests that other anomalies identified from the geophysical survey are also likely to be Bronze Age barrows, due to their shared characteristics and morphology, and form part of a nucleated barrow cemetery.

The Iron Age settlement appears to be extensive with numerous storage pits reused for rubbish dumping, boundary ditches potentially separating fields or properties and possible post-built structures. The features contained pottery dating to the Early/Middle Iron Age though fragments of later material including 3rd/4th century AD Black Burnished Ware pottery from south-east Dorset was also recovered.

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a second phase of archaeological trial trench evaluation at Anson Field, Marcham. The site comprises an area of approximately 1.5ha and is currently utilised as a football pitch with an area of land and children's nursery separating the pitch from a cricket pitch. The Phase II evaluation (comprising four trenches) targeted the existing football pitch which became available following the end of the football season. A planning application (P12/V0854) has been submitted to White Horse District Council for a residential development of up to 51 dwellings at the site and the Principal Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council had advised that a programme of archaeological work should be completed prior to the determination of the planning application, to ascertain the archaeological potential. The site was previously investigated by geophysical survey which revealed the remains of a possible prehistoric barrow cemetery, as well as numerous other anomalies of potentially archaeological origin. These features were investigated through the excavation of six trenches (Phase I evaluation) which revealed numerous remains of prehistoric date including a Bronze Age barrow and an Early/Middle Iron Age settlement, which was potentially occupied through into the Late Romano-British period.

The Phase II evaluation identified further Early/Middle Iron Age features including two roundhouses, identified through postholes and a drip gully, and two further re-used storage pits, one of which contained a potentially deliberately-placed ritual or symbolic 'structured deposition' of a cattle skull sealed beneath a layer of stones. It is clear that any development on the site will have a detrimental effect on the underlying archaeological remains

which are located across the site and further mitigation in the form of archaeological excavation will be required ahead of development to ensure their preservation by record.

Banbury - Land to the East of Southam Road

(SP 445852 243108/SP 45852 43108);

(SP 445264 243046/SP 45264 43046)

Mark Williams and Naomi Brennan

Wessex Archaeology was appointed to carry out a programme of archaeological trial trenching evaluation on land east of Southam Road, Banbury. The archaeological evaluation was requested by the Archaeological Advisor to Oxfordshire County Council, as part of a programme of pre-planning environmental assessment designed to inform the preparation of the 'Archaeology and Cultural Heritage' aspects of a multi-disciplinary Environment Statement.

Fifty five evaluation trenches were machine excavated in order to further understand the archaeological potential of the Site and the likely impact of proposed construction works on buried archaeological deposits. The trench locations were targeted to verify potential archaeological anomalies identified through an earlier phase of geophysical survey and informed by a desk-based assessment of the surrounding area compiled in late 2011.

The Hardwick Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) lies within the Site boundary. Archaeological remains were identified in 25 trenches; the features comprised ditches, gullies, pits and stakeholes. Datable features were found in Trenches 23, 32, 40 and 45. The remaining features did not produce any datable evidence within the interventions excavated. The finds assemblage comprised 285 sherds consisting mainly of Neolithic pottery (188 sherds) from a single pit, Bronze Age pottery, Romano-British pottery and worked flint. Worked flint was recovered from trenches 32 and 45 and pottery was recovered from Trenches 23, 32, 45 and 46. A common stratigraphic deposit model was recognised across the Site comprising topsoil/ploughsoil overlying subsoil above natural. In a small number of the trenches a colluvial layer was identified. Underlying natural was encountered between 0.3m and 0.58m below ground level.

Modern intrusion was evident across the Site consisting of land drains which were frequently recorded truncating the natural. It is likely that the Site has been intensively farmed during the recent past possibly decreasing the possibility of recovering ephemeral archaeological evidence.

Archaeological deposits identified through trial trenching evaluation reflect prehistoric presence in the locality, particularly during the Neolithic and Bronze Age eras as represented by the moderate number of recovered pottery sherds and flint. Romano-British presence is represented by a single sherd of pottery at the northern edge of the core DMV. While the trial trenching exercise did not corroborate the circular feature identified through geophysical survey in the eastern field, a concentration of prehistoric and undated archaeological activity (droveway, gully and ditch) was

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noted within the footprint of this potential feature with an assemblage of prehistoric flint and pottery recovered from Trench 45 north of the circular feature.

The alignment of the north-west to south-east aligned ditch at the south-western corner of the circular anomaly was identified in Trench 46; pottery recovered from this trench may be Mid-Bronze Age in origin. This group of archaeological features and finds may be indicative of more concentrated prehistoric settlement activity. Peripheral evidence relating to the Hardwick DMV is limited. Recorded gullies and ditches while currently undated may relate to land cultivation through various archaeological and historic eras. Given the scale of the site and the proven archaeological potential particularly associated with the Hardwick DMV, the level of recorded archaeology identified through the evaluation programme is proportionately low. The programme of archaeological evaluation comprising archaeological desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching has robustly assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Advisor of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be required as a condition to planning consent.

Wessex Archaeology was also commissioned to carry out a second archaeological evaluation on land west of Southam Road, Banbury. Thirty two evaluation trenches were machine excavated in order to further understand the archaeological potential of the Site and the likely impact of proposed construction works on buried archaeological deposits. Potential archaeological remains were identified in 15 of the 32 trenches; identified features comprised ditches, gullies, pits, postholes, stakeholes and a cremation burial. No dateable finds were recovered from any of the deposits excavated. A common stratigraphic deposit model was recognised across the site comprising topsoil/ploughsoil overlying subsoil above natural. In a few of the trenches alluvial layers were also noted.

Underlying natural was encountered between 0.35m and 0.7m below ground level. Archaeological deposits were recorded at various topographical locations from the top of the south-north rising slope to its base. An absence of archaeological deposits was noted on the north-west to south-east declining slope towards the stream bed that flanks the site to the west. Modern intrusion was evident across the site consisting of land drains which were frequently recorded truncating the natural. It is likely that the Site has been intensively farmed during the recent past possibly decreasing the possibility of recovering ephemeral archaeological evidence. The even distribution of recorded archaeology at the site does not suggest that significant slippage of subsoil deposits has occurred down the north-south down slope. The level of recorded archaeology identified through the evaluation programme is relatively low given the scale of the site and the proven archaeological potential across the wider area.

The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Advisor of any further archaeological

mitigation measures that may be required as a condition to planning consent

Oxford - Land at Manor Place

(SP 452108 206600/SP 52108 06600)

Andy Crockett and Phil Harding

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land proposed for development at Manor Place, located to the east side of Oxford in the Holywell area of the city. Documentary sources (including Loggan's 1675 bird's-eye view of Oxford), indicate the archaeological potential of the site is dominated by the likely line of the outer defences of Oxford passing through the site, constructed in 1644-5 during the English Civil War.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of three linear evaluation trenches, two of which due to the presence of protected trees (the site is within a Conservation Area) were divided into two separate lengths. Although the trenches were arrayed evenly across the site, Trench 1 was located to specifically target the potential line of the Civil War defences. A contingency was also included for up to three boreholes to allow retrieval of samples at depth should substantial features (such as the defensive ditch) be revealed.

The evaluation succeeded in locating an apparent western terminal of the Civil War ditch, aligned east to west and heading towards the nearby Holywell Mill Stream. The ditch was approximately 10m wide, and borehole investigations determined the base at this location to be approximately 3.3m below modern ground surface. Whilst relatively shallow, these dimensions are broadly comparable with similar sections through these defences elsewhere, such as at the nearby Chemistry Research Laboratory on South Parks Road.

The apparent ditch terminal exposed appears to corroborate Loggan's portrayal of a gap in the defensive circuit at this point, possibly representing some form of sally port, defended by an adjacent bastion enclosing 'Hollywell'. The ditch was located directly to the north of a raised natural gravel ridge, immediately to the south of which was the truncated remains of a substantial earthwork rampart measuring over 8m wide at the base.

Evidence was recorded to suggest the rampart had some form of external revetment, with the main body of the earthwork comprising successive bands of alternating redeposited fluvial gravel and clay banked against this revetment. An old ground surface was recorded both beneath the rampart, and elsewhere within the site, with artefact evidence from Trench 2 in particular producing both medieval and 16th/17th century pottery. The date for the slighting of the defences is uncertain, and no artefact evidence was recovered to add to this debate, but documentary sources suggest the defences remained as a visible earthwork at the site until at least the second half of the 19th century, but by the early 20th century simply known as 'site of entrenchment'. A made ground deposit sealing

both the rear of the rampart and the old ground surface exposed in all trenches, and the main homogenous upper ditch fill are likely to correspond to the slighting of the defences. Thereafter, a second old ground surface developed, most probably associated with the establishment of allotments across the site at the turn of the century. In conclusion, the evaluation has confirmed both the documented presence within the Site of a part of Oxford's Civil War defensive circuit, and specific detail on Loggan's 1675 bird's-eye view of the city regarding the possibility of a deliberate entrance through the defences at this location.

Oxford - Park Hospital, Headington

(SP 454400 206280/SP 54400 06280)

Mark Williams and Ben Urmston

A detailed gradiometer survey was conducted over land at Park Hospital in Headington. The project was commissioned with the aim of establishing the archaeological potential of the site in advance of the proposed development. The site comprises the Park Hospital for Children with its surrounding gardens, the Rosemary Rue Building and Triangle Building with adjacent car parks, a car park in the north-west area of the site and a temporary car park at the centre of the site, just to the west of Park Hospital. The gradiometer survey covered c 1ha and has demonstrated the absence of anomalies of archaeological interest within the survey area. The main purpose of the survey was to identify the presence or absence of pottery kilns within the area, therefore the car park area was surveyed in anticipation of the high responses that would be produced by kilns and related features. The survey highlighted the presence of modern services and trends in the data which may be anthropogenic possibly related to ditches etc. No readings were identified which seem to be unambiguous thermomnament signatures which would be characteristic of kilns and kiln related features. Areas of modern disturbance and the presence of cars within the car park masked the responses in these areas.

West Hanney - Church Farm

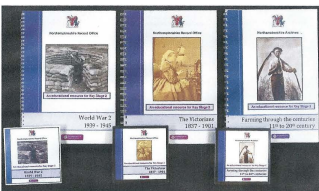
(SU 440684 192890 / SU 40684 92890)

Damian De Rosa and Steve Thompson

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Church

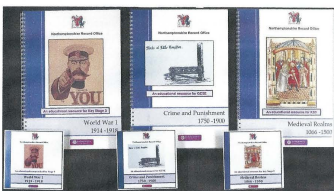
Farm, West Hanney, Oxfordshire. The site is located in West Hanney, Oxfordshire, and c 15km southwest of Oxford and comprises a c 0.55ha irregular parcel of land to the north of Church Farm Farmhouse. The site is currently occupied by a farmyard with accompanying farm buildings, one of which, a barn and stables is a Grade II Listed Building. The topography of the site is relatively flat at c 63m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), situated between the Childrey Brook to the west and the Letcombe Brook to the east, which are tributaries of the River Ock. The site was investigated by eight machine-excavated trial trenches of varying sizes and represented a 4% sample of the c 0.55ha development area. A metalled/cobbled surface associated with 17th to 18th century pottery was revealed within a number of the trenches, which is likely to be contemporary with the 18th century Grade II listed Barn and Stables and possibly even the slightly earlier 17th century Grade II listed Church Farm house just to the south of the Site. The surface was fairly haphazard, utilising whatever stone material was to hand; indicative of a typical farm yard surface and not like the well-constructed cobbled surfaces visible around the listed buildings. However, the surfaces revealed in the trenches could be associated with the listed structures and visible cobbled surfaces and are therefore of relatively moderate importance. It would appear that the south west corner of the farm is the oldest part of the site and the proximity to the Church of St James (dating from at least the 1150s) could indicate the potential for medieval remains sealed beneath the post-medieval cobbled surfaces. However, these surfaces were not removed during this programme of works as they may be incorporated into the redevelopment of the Site. The remaining areas of the site within the trenches revealed no archaeological features and/or deposits of significance; there were modern animal burials and services. In the event that the metalled/cobbled surfaces revealed in the trenches are considered to be in a condition not worthy of preservation in situ, and not deemed suitable for retention within the redevelopment of the site, it is possible that further archaeological mitigation could be required where they are removed. The full scope and methodology of any required mitigation would need to be confirmed and agreed with the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Officer who advises the Local Planning Authority.

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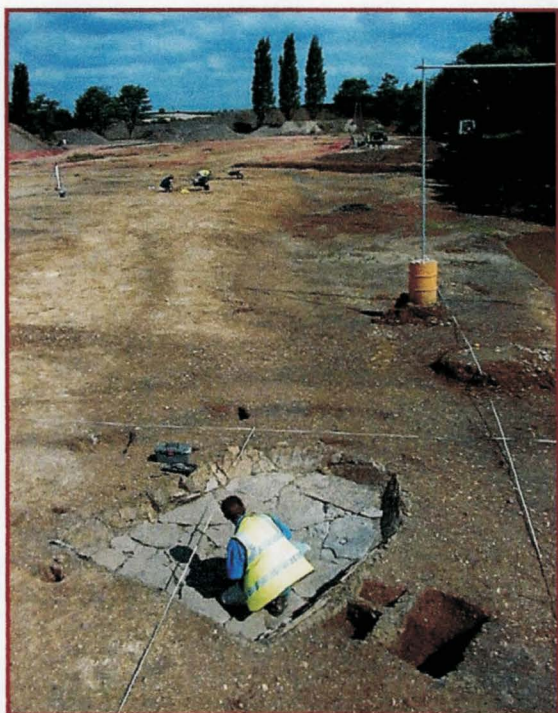
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HARROLD

5,000 YEARS OF LIFE AND DEATH IN A NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE VILLAGE



The Bedfordshire village of Harrold occupies a location on the river Great Ouse that has been inhabited since early prehistory. Albion Archaeology's three excavations in the village between 1997 and 2003 revealed evidence for activity dating back as far as the middle Neolithic, with a crouched burial providing the focus for a later round barrow. A farmstead which had been established in the late Iron Age was also discovered; continuing into the Roman period, its paddocks and crop-processing area attest to an agricultural economy. Signs of Saxon activity were mostly sparse, with the excavations located on the periphery of the developing village, although one settlement focus was identified. Evidence of industry in the Middle Ages, however, was much more substantial: more than 290kg of locally made, shell-tempered pottery came from the smallest of the three excavations, with pottery manufacture and metalworking likely to have taken place nearby.



Edited by
David Ingham
and
Drew Shotliff
2012



Available from Albion Archaeology, St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Bedford MK42 0AS
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ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY MONOGRAPH 1



Early Dunstable in Maps and Pictures

by Barry Horne and Brian Dix with illustrations by David Hornby and Vanessa Hornby.

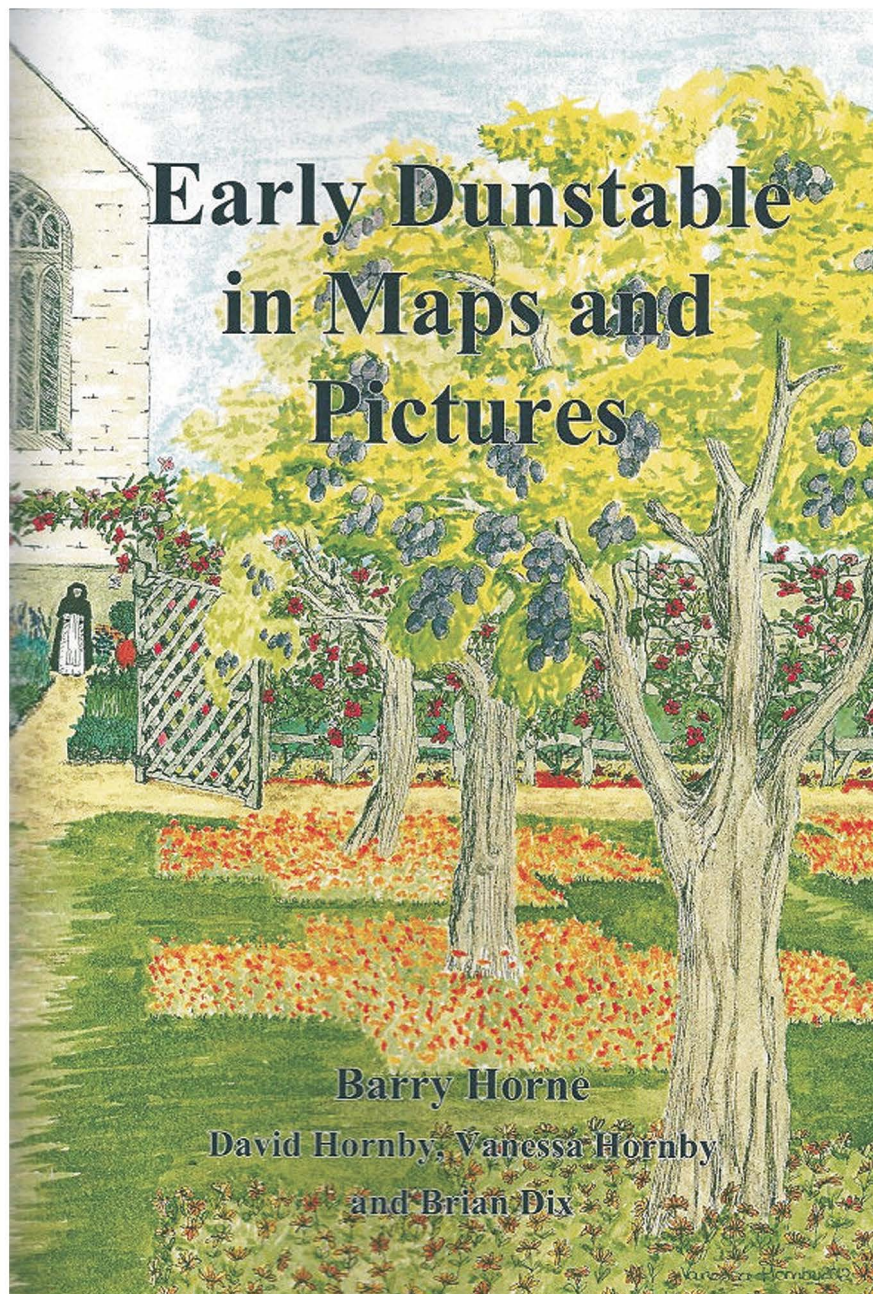
The book includes maps of what the town may have looked like when it was “planted” by Henry I about 1100 and again in 1132 when the Augustinian Priory was established.

Evidence suggests that a windmill was incorporated into Dunstable when it was carved out of Houghton Regis. This evidence is presented.

Brian Dix contributes a chapter about the Dunstable Blackfriars Great Orchard which was excavated in the 60s, 70s and 80s and found to consist of 288 large cross-shaped holes, each 11 feet across, dug into the chalk bedrock. These holes were arranged in four areas each 200 feet by 100 feet. He explains the religious significance of the crosses and of the 400 foot long feature called the Buttress Trench which runs alongside the areas of crosses. The Dunstable Blackfriars Great Orchard is unique. Specially commissioned paintings show what it may have looked like.

50 A4 pages with 57 illustrations.

Copies of this full-colour publication are available from Barry Horne, Beaumont, Church End, Edlesborough, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2EP. Price £12 + £1.40 p+p. Cheques payable to Barry Horne.



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BJH

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