

SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

NUMBER 44, 2014

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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2013.

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ISSN 0960-7552

EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 44.

Since the last volume of *SMA* we have had the results of a survey of members. Most members seem to be happy with *SMA* but a few did make comments.

One request was for interesting articles in addition to the site reports. I have tried to answer this plea with my article about the Boudican battle being south of Dunstable. I invite articles for future editions.

Another request was for the grouping together of articles about the same place. This would involve me in a great deal of effort (I'm a volunteer). Please use the index. That is what it is for.

It was also claimed that the writer of an article could not be contacted. Most of the contributors have web sites. Those that don't can be contacted through me, the editor. See Contents page and Notes for Contributors for my contact details.

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* 45.

Copy date for *SMA* 45 is 31st March 2015; 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/cbasm

On this site are:

Scanned copies of *SMA* 1-42

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 -

Moat of Fulk de Breauté's Castle during excavation, 5m long, 12th century oak bridge truss in foreground. Excavations will be completed during 2014 with the results of post-excavation works to follow in 2015. Sponsored by Headland Archaeology.

Back cover -

The 12th century building in the outer bailey of Northampton Castle, viewed from West Bridge with the present railway station in the background. Sponsored by MOLA Northampton.

BEDFORDSHIRE**ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY****Amptill, Dynevor Cottage, Rectory Lane**

(TL 03670 38293)

Gareth Shane and Christiane Meckseper

Planning permission was granted for a two-storey side extension at Dynevor Cottage. Pottery sherds of 12th and 13th century date and a small quantity of animal bone were found in made ground within the footing trenches. No definite archaeological features were identified on the site. In the medieval period the development area was most likely agricultural or garden land at the back of, and uphill from, the plots fronting Church Street and adjacent to the parish church. Dynevor Cottage is a modern octagonal building which incorporates a 19th century cottage along the frontage of Rectory Lane. Ordnance Survey maps suggest that the cottage definitely stood on the site by 1901, but it may have been built in the late 19th century as earlier maps also show structures on the site but they are less clear. The post-medieval pottery and tobacco pipes retrieved during the archaeological investigations are most likely associated with activity in and around the cottage. OASIS ID: albionar1-150745 Accession Number: BEDFM:2013.25

Bedford, 15 Silver Street (TL 4940 9853)

Mark Phillips and Gary Edmondson

Albion Archaeology was appointed to undertake a programme of archaeological works to fulfil conditions attached to planning permission. Ground disturbance requiring archaeological observation comprised the hand excavation of two narrow wall footing trenches: one internal, towards the northern limit of the standing building and the second in the yard immediately to the north, comprising a small extension to the existing building. The two trenches

uncovered very similar deposits. A number of modern foundations and service trenches were identified cut into a layer of dark soil, likely to have been formed as a result of the cultivation of garden plots. Continuous monitoring during hand excavation and scanning of the spoil produced only four sherds of medieval pottery and a single sherd of modern transfer-printed pottery. All of the exposed structural foundations and service runs were related to the modern use of the site. Where the underlying geology was exposed no evidence was found for earlier discrete features cut into it; nor was any evidence for large-scale disturbance such as cellars or quarrying found. OASIS ID albionar1-135048 Accession Number BEDFM:2012.56

Bedford Northern Bypass (TL 019 506 - TL 034 510)

Mike Luke, Christiane Meckseper, Jo Barker, Kathy Pilkinton and Iain Leslie

During April 2013 and from October 2013 to January 2014 open area excavation was undertaken in advance of construction of the Bedford Northern Bypass. The latter will link the A428 Bromham Road (at its junction with Gold Lane/Deep Spinney) with the A6 Clapham Road (Sainsbury's roundabout). Evaluation of the majority of the route had comprised aerial photographic study, geophysical survey and trenching (Albion, 2012). The western section subject to investigation comprised the road corridor and a balancing pond (total c 5.5ha); the eastern section (where the road is to be constructed on embankment) comprised just a balancing pond (c 0.5ha). One more section of the bypass requires archaeological investigation, after which the results will be assessed. The following, therefore, represents a preliminary summary of results.

Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age (Fig 1)

The earliest firm evidence for activity was located in the western part of the road corridor. It comprised small pits, large pits and ring-ditches broadly dated to the late Neolithic-early Bronze Age. The pits were c 0.7m in diameter and 0.5m

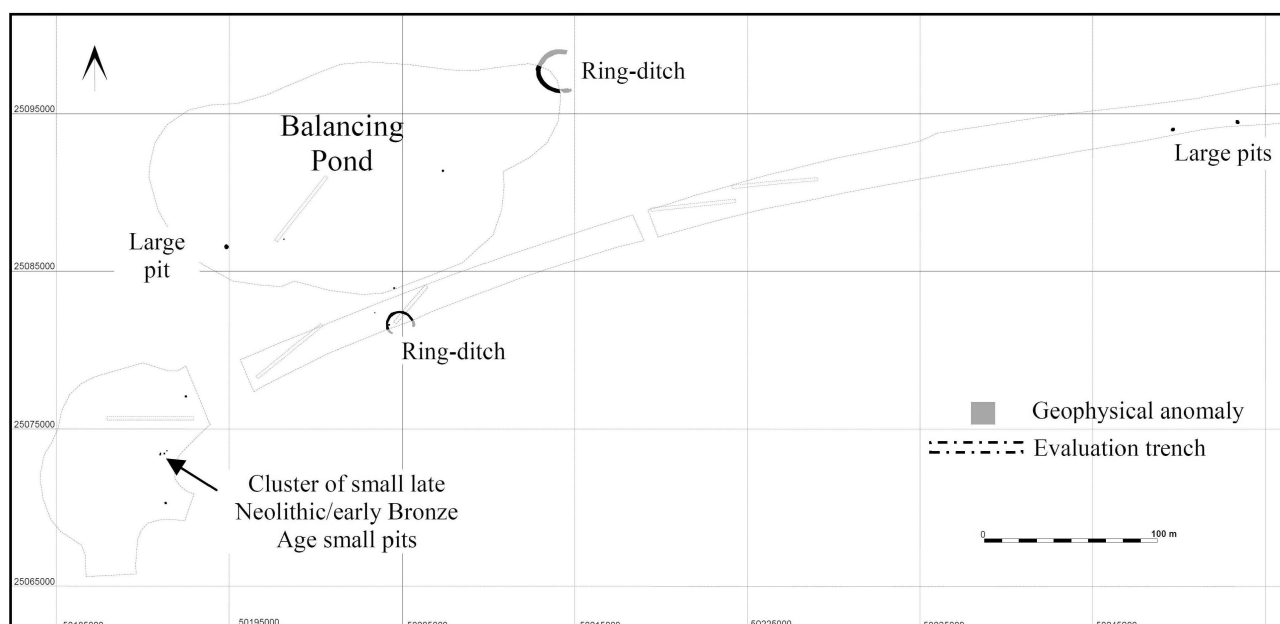


Fig 1. Later Neolithic- early Bronze Age: pits and ring-ditches at the west end of the road corridor and within Balancing Pond 1.

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deep. Some had dark fills and contained flints and pottery but others were sterile. Most were dispersed across the area but one cluster of five pits was identified to the west. They are comparable to the pits found within the Biddenham Loop, *c* 2km to the south (Luke *et al*, 2008). Three large pits with steep sides were *c* 2.5m in diameter and <2.4m deep. Their fills were sterile but their dimensions and profiles are comparable to large pits dated to the early Bronze Age on the Biddenham Loop (Luke *et al*, 2009; Luke forthcoming). Two ring-ditches, *c* 170m apart, were investigated. They are presumed to be early Bronze Age in date but did not produce any datable artefacts. Only part of the ring-ditches lay within the investigation area. Their full extent - 14m and 21m in diameter - is known from non-intrusive surveys. One small pit was present within the interior of the southern ring-ditch but its fill was sterile. Numerous similar monuments have been investigated on the Biddenham Loop (Luke, 2008; Luke forthcoming).

Middle-late Bronze Age/early Iron Age

The main evidence for this period, not all securely dated, comprised a field system, enclosure and triple-ditched boundary. The fields were defined by small ditches, *c* 75m apart, and contained no evidence for internal activity. Although poorly dated, they may be comparable to the extensive field systems securely dated to this period on the Biddenham Loop (Luke forthcoming). An enclosure defined by a ditch *c* 2m wide and 1m deep appeared to be established within the field system but on a slightly different alignment. A staggered arrangement of the eastern ditch indicated an entrance *c* 7m wide. Within the interior were isolated and clustered arrangements of postholes and small pits, some of which produced late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. These are similar to features associated with enclosures, which had much smaller ditches, at Gold Lane, Biddenham (Dawson, 2004, 9-11). The triple-ditched boundary to the east comprised three parallel ditches, *c* 5m apart is undated. However, it is similar to that dated to this period at Eastcotts to the south-east of Bedford (BCAS, 1995).

Romano-British

The main area of activity was found adjacent to the River Great Ouse within a balancing pond at the east end of the

bypass. This comprised an enclosure system which was first identified in evaluation trenches (Albion, 2011) in an area where ground conditions did not permit geophysical survey. The system extended beyond the limit of excavation but comprised broadly rectangular enclosures adjacent to a north-south trackway. Dispersed small pits and postholes were present but no obvious domestic focus. However, it is presumed to be fairly close as the ditches were rich in domestic debris including *c* 12.5kg of pottery and 23kg of animal bone. A few fragments of fired clay slabs and kiln bars and a late Iron Age copper alloy terret ring were also found. The pottery suggests that the enclosure system may have been established in the late Iron Age but did not survive to the 4th century.

The investigations at the west end of the bypass were close to the site of a known stone-lined Roman well (Simco, 1984, 56 and fig 56) but no adjacent contemporary activity was found. However, two Roman brooches were found in post-medieval quarry pits at the east end of the western part of the bypass, suggestive of a Roman site in the vicinity (location unknown).

Medieval and modern

Furrows indicative of medieval strip fields were identified along the bypass corridor but most extensively within the balancing pond at the east end. Post-medieval quarry pits were found at either end of the western section of the bypass and may have destroyed Roman features in these areas.

OASIS ID: BEDFM:2011.91 Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.91

References

- Albion Archaeology, 2012; Bedford Western Bypass Northern Section, Bromham Road, Bedford. Results of Archaeological Evaluation. Report 2012/59
- BCAS, 1995; Bedford Southern Bypass Post-excavation Assessment Report. Report 95/14, 51-60
- Dawson M 2004; Archaeology of the Bedford Region. *BAR British Series* 373
- Luke M 2008; Life in the Loop: investigation of a prehistoric and Romano-British landscape at Biddenham Loop, Bedfordshire. *EAA* 125

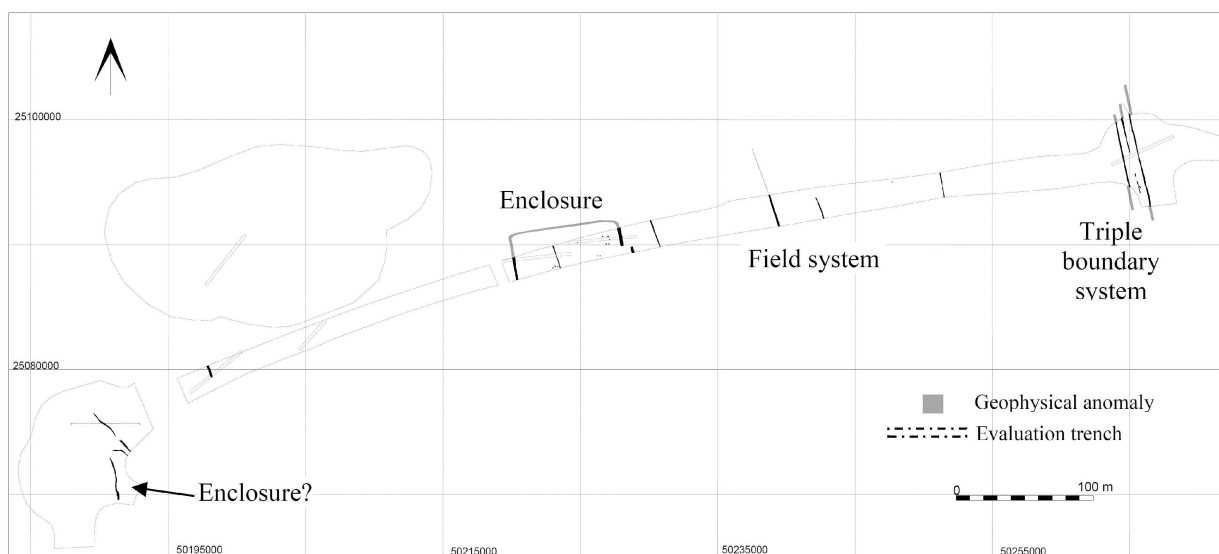


Fig 2. Middle Bronze Age-early Iron Age: ditches and settlement enclosure at west end of the road corridor.

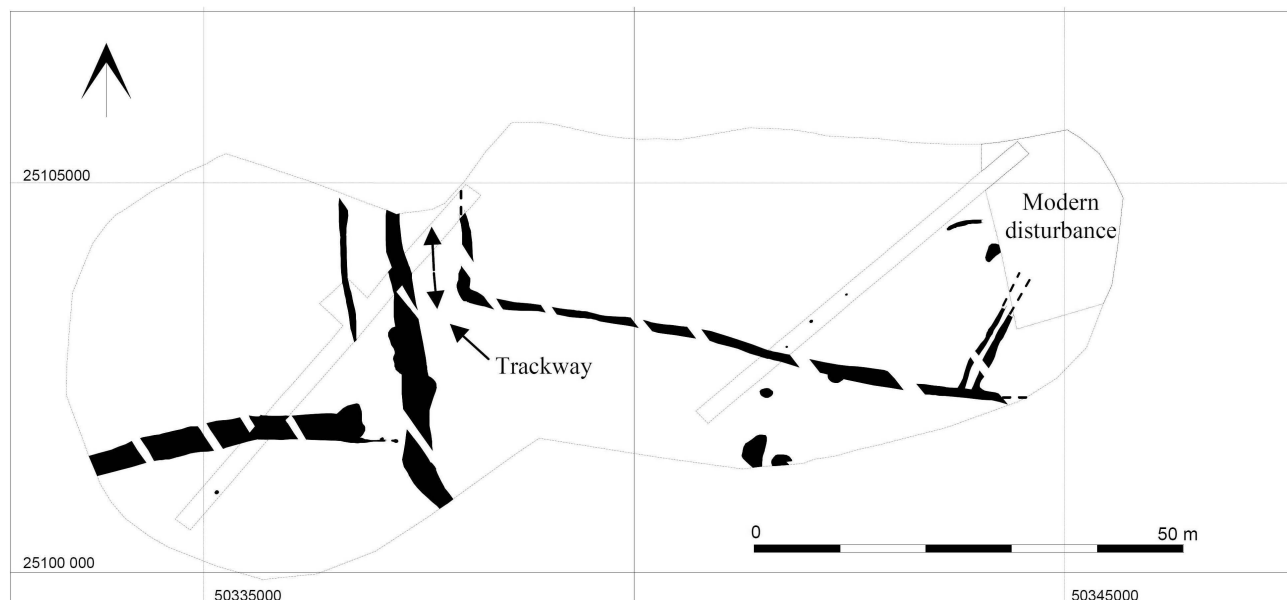


Fig 3. Late Iron Age/early Roman: settlement enclosures within Balancing Pond 3.

Luke M forthcoming Close to the Loop: 6000 years of landscape and settlement evolution within and near the Biddenham Loop, Great Denham, west of Bedford. *EAA*

Luke M, Archer J and Barker B 2008; 'Bedford Western Bypass', *SMA* 38, 2

Luke M, Archer J, Barker B and Bell A 2009; 'Land West of Bedford Development Area', *SMA* 39, 3

Simco A 1984; *The Roman Period: Survey of Bedfordshire*

Biddenham, The Three Tuns PublicHouse

(TL 02177 49931)

Richard Gregson and Ben Barker

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a watching brief during excavation of the footings and drainage trenches for an extension to the Three Tuns Public House. Three early/high medieval ditches and a medieval pit were identified, in addition to a modern pit, several drains and modern layers. The ditches are likely to have defined property boundaries and plot subdivisions to the south of Main Road. The investigation also identified evidence for levelling activity to the west of the three current buildings that is likely to have enhanced archaeological preservation in this area. OASIS ID: albionar1-153651 Accession Number: BEDFM:2013.15

Biggleswade, Furzenhall Cottage, Furzenhall Road

(TL 1937 4671)

Christiane Meckseper

Planning permission was granted for the construction of new timber outbuildings at Furzenhall Cottage. The ground reduction revealed several features relating to a septic tank that was located in the centre of the building footprint. No archaeological features were identified during the groundworks and no artefacts were present within the topsoil. OASIS ID: albionar1-153651 Accession Number: BEDFM:2013.29

Bromham, 10 The Green (TL 0084 5137)

Wiebke Starke and Rob Wardill

Planning permission for the demolition of an early 20th century domestic dwelling and the redevelopment of the site into four detached properties with garages was granted by Bedford Borough Council. Seven 1.6m wide trenches were opened within the proposed development area. Some of these revealed evidence for possible Saxo-Norman/early medieval activity in the southern part of the site, closer to the village green. The features in these trenches produced moderate quantities of 10th-13th century pottery. Limited evidence for modern features/disturbance was also revealed.

OASIS ID: albionar1-144487 Accession Number: BEDFM:2013.09

Campton, 3 Greenway (TL 1305 3813)

Richard Gregson and Kathy Pilkinton

Planning permission was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the demolition of an existing garage and construction of a new dwelling within the north-eastern half of the property. Four modern pits, probably for refuse, and two structural features associated with 19th and 20th century garden activity were revealed by the observation and investigation of the construction groundworks. OASIS ID: albionar1-148758 Accession Number: BEDFM:2013.19

Clifton, Harbrook Lane (SP 1640 3870)

Richard Gregson and Rob Wardill

Trial trenching uncovered a number of well preserved features beneath the subsoil located in the northern of the two fields comprising the site. The features included four medium-sized ditches, two of which were re-cut/renewed, and one large pit. The layout of the ditches suggests that they are all on the same or similar alignment to adjacent existing field and property boundaries. This alignment, along with the character of the ditches, suggests that all probably represent boundaries of some sort and supports a post-medieval or later

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date for them. OASIS ID: albionar1-150058 Accession Number: BEDFM:2013.23

Elstow, Elstow Lower School (TL 0528 4708)

Kathy Pilkinton and Ben Barker

Planning permission for the construction of new classroom and hall blocks, along with associated car parking, adjacent to the existing Elstow Lower School was granted by Bedford Borough Council. A larger programme of archaeological investigation had previously been carried out on the site. This had uncovered a sequence of activity on the site from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age onwards. The 2013 work revealed possible Iron Age features but also the remains of post-medieval quarry pitting that had probably truncated earlier remains in the area. OASIS ID: albionar1-143856 Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.80

Langford, rear of 58 Church Street (TL 1859 4171)

Iain Leslie and Ben Barker

Planning permission was granted on appeal for the construction of a single dwelling, garage and access road on land to the rear of the site. No archaeological features were observed during the course of the investigations. In conjunction with the results of previous investigations at 62-72 Church Street this would suggest that medieval remains in this part of Langford are confined to the area adjacent to the street frontage, east of the current development. OASIS ID: albionar1-144738 Accession Number: BEDFM:2013.11

Riseley, land adjacent to 160A High Street

(TL 0463 6325)

Christiane Meckseper and Marcin Koziminski

Planning consent was granted on appeal for the erection of a two-storey detached 'eco cottage' near the southern boundary of the site with associated infrastructure. No archaeological evidence was revealed during the works and no artefacts were identified within any of the excavations. OASIS ID: albionar1-135021 Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.54

Shefford, Shefford Lower School (TL 0903 4624)

Mike Luke, Ben Barker, Jo Barker, Kathy Pilkinton and Ian Turner

Archaeological investigations, comprising open area excavations and watching briefs, were undertaken between December 2012 and December 2013 associated with improvements at Shefford Lower School. The latter is located over a Roman settlement first investigated in 1826 by local antiquarian Thomas Inskip who thought he had found a temple and cemetery (Dryden, 1845, 10). More recent work along with re-analysis of the earlier investigation has been published (Luke *et al*, 2010).

The recent investigations have confirmed that, despite considerable modern disturbance, Roman features do survive in close vicinity to the upstanding walls of the modern school. The features and artefacts add to the existing knowledge of the Roman settlement; they also confirm that it originated in pre-Conquest period. The majority of the identified ditches are likely to be continuations of ones seen in previous investigations. However, their discovery

provides a better understanding of the layout and extent of the enclosures within the settlement. It is likely that the westernmost ditch marks the western limit of the domestic part of the settlement. To the west of this was an area of quarrying, at least c 70m by 25m. One surprising discovery, given that it was found beneath a present school building, was a posthole and significant dump of Roman building material. This is further evidence for a post-built building tentatively identified in previous investigations.

As with the previous investigations, large quantities of building material (roof tile, flue tile, brick and wall plaster) were found. This is likely to have derived from the aisled building - believed to have had a suite of highly decorated rooms with hypocausts at its south-east end - found in previous investigations. However, it is not impossible that another



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Fig 4. Shefford Lower School. Interpretive plan showing the recent investigation areas (cross-hatched and labelled SLS2012) in relation to the layout of the Roman settlement based on previous archaeological investigations (after Luke *et al*, 2010, fig. 18).

substantial building existed within the settlement, especially as a deposit 6kg of roof tile was found c 75m to the south. The finds assemblage included large quantities of pottery and animal bone. Other artefacts included a copper alloy finger ring and vessel handle from a shallow bowl, an iron knife and fragments of quernstones.

The investigations have confirmed that, despite considerable modern disturbance, Roman features do survive in close proximity to Shefford Lower School. The features and artefacts add to the existing knowledge of the Roman settlement. OASIS ID: albionar1-131916 Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.46

References

Dryden H 1845; 'Roman and Romano-British remains at and near Shefford, Co. Beds', in *Cambridge Antiquarian Society* Vol 1. No. 10, 1-25

Luke M, Preece T and Wells J 2010; 'A Romano British aisled building and associated settlement south of Ampthill Road, Shefford', *Bedfordshire Archaeology* Vol. 26, 269-346

Stondon, land at Lower Stondon (TL 1640 3560)

Kathy Pilkinton, Jeremy Oetgen, Ben Barker

Evaluation demonstrated that most of the proposed development area was devoid of significant archaeological features. Only Trenches 1 and 3, at the south-west of the development area, revealed anything of note; each contained one feature that produced Iron Age pottery. Further stripping was undertaken to map and record the extent of the Iron Age remains, which comprised a small group of enclosure ditches and other features dating to the early-middle Iron Age. Approximately 1kg of early and middle Iron Age pottery was recovered. It is highly fragmentary, with few diagnostic vessel forms identifiable. The animal bone assemblage was also small (less than 1kg) and fragmentary. OASIS ID: albionar1-135687 Accession Number: LUTNM:2012/39

Stotfold, land off Arlesey Road (TL 2137 3707)

Ian Turner

Stotfold Town Council in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council 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. Open area investigation was confined to the area impacted by the car park and changing facilities. It revealed remains associated with a multi-phase Romano-British farmstead. A roundhouse drip gully was located in the eastern part of the area, close to relatively shallow enclosure ditches that exhibited signs of re-cutting. The ditches in the western part of the area were more substantial, less frequently re-cut; they are more likely to represent field boundary ditches. They also contained a high concentration of animal bone (mostly horse) which may be indicative of animal butchery/processing activity in the vicinity. A small number of pits were also identified, mainly toward the west and centre of the excavation area. These were generally shallow and did not contain any significant quantities of finds. The recovered pottery ranged in date from the late Iron Age to the 4th century AD. Metalwork included a significant quantity of Roman hobnails, two copper alloy Roman coins

and a fragment of a medieval rumbler bell. OASIS ID: albionar1-147997 Accession Number: BEDFM:2012.57

Stotfold, Two Brewers Public House, Hitchin Road

(TL 2111 3629) (evaluation)

Richard Gregson and Wes Keir

Planning permission was granted for the conversion of the Two Brewers Public House into a residential dwelling, along with the construction of three new dwellings. Three ditches were revealed during trial trenching, one of which could be dated to the late Iron Age period. The other two were both sealed beneath the subsoil suggesting they were likely to date to no later than the post-medieval period. OASIS ID: albionar1-151980 Accession Number: BEDFM 2013.22

Stotfold, Two Brewers Public House, Hitchin Road

(TL 2111 3629) (mitigation)

Ian Turner and Wes Keir

Following evaluation (see above), further archaeological excavation was carried out in July 2013. The earliest feature was a large boundary ditch aligned north-northeast-south-southwest. It appeared to pre-date a number of features dating to the 1st century BC - 2nd century AD. Two very small sherds of pottery recovered from its fill suggest that it could date to as early as the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. The majority of the archaeological features on site appeared to date to the 1st century BC - 2nd century AD. They comprised a large pit and an enclosure that adjoined a boundary defined by several inter-cutting ditches. The relatively high number of recovered pottery sherds indicates that these features are likely to be in the immediate vicinity of a contemporary settlement. Animal bone and fired clay fragments further reinforce the idea that a domestic focus was located close by. Later features comprised a ditch, possibly dating to the late Saxon period, and the footprint of an outbuilding associated with the Victorian cottage previously used for the 'Two Brewers'. OASIS ID: albionar1-15436 Accession Number: BEDFM 2013.22

Thurleigh, Blackburn Hall Farm (TL 5041 2585)

Richard Gregson and Wes Keir

Planning consent was granted for a new grain storage building at Blackburn Hall Farm. The only archaeological features revealed during the groundworks were two small, east-west aligned ditches. Although no artefacts were recovered from either ditch and their location matches no known historical boundaries, they were both sealed beneath the subsoil and are likely to be post-medieval or earlier in date. OASIS ID: albionar1-150905 Accession Number: BEDFM:2013.26

Westoning, The Bell Public House (TL 0343 3268)

Robert Wardill and Richard Gregson

Planning permission and listed building consent were granted for the alteration and extension of The Bell Public House and the erection of three detached dwellings on adjacent land. Trial trenching revealed a post-medieval ditch

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and a tree-throw together with several modern features, including two postholes, a dog burial, and a large area of pitting. OASIS ID: albionar1-141591 Accession Number: LUTNM 2012/43

Wrestlingworth, Home Farm Manor (TL 2585 4709)

Richard Gregson and Rob Wardill

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a stable block and sand school on land at Home Farm Manor. No archaeological remains were revealed in any of the groundworks associated with the development. This suggests that the development area is situated beyond the extent of the possible Saxon and medieval settlement at Wrestlingworth. OASIS ID: albionar1-146628 Accession Number: BEDFM:2013.20

Yielden, Middle Farm, High Street (TL 0128 6684)

Mark Phillips

Planning consent was granted for the installation of a swimming pool at Middle Farm. Two sides of the construction trench for the swimming pool were cleaned and recorded. The deposits consisted of construction/demolition deposits, garden soil layers and geological deposits. The construction/demolition layers are likely to be associated with a recently demolished modern outbuilding. No cut features or any archaeological deposits predating the post-medieval period were identified. OASIS ID: albionar1-151769 Accession Number: BEDFM:2013.28

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Podington, Glebe Farm (SP 9650)

Catherine Edwards

Evaluation on behalf of vento ludens Ltd. A total of 30 trenches from 60 contained archaeological features of varying levels of significance. The geological horizon remained fairly consistent across the whole of the site, with drift deposit of grey boulder clay with sand and chalk inclusions. Four phases of archaeological remains were recorded on site. The first phase is thought to date to the prehistoric period and was in the form of undated linear gullies which were recorded across the site. The gullies are thought to be the remains of early prehistoric activity. The second period of activity was during the Late Iron Age to early Roman period where intensive settlement activity was recorded within the south-eastern corner of Whitlands field. The third period of activity dates solely to the early Roman period and indicates the reuse of the earlier period ditches and gullies. The final period of activity dates to the medieval to post-medieval period, in the form of furrows, a post-medieval field boundary and a single post-medieval wall footing. The trenches were overlain by a claggy clay buried soil which in turn was overlain by a silty clay topsoil. The date and provenance of this layer is unknown. OASIS <aocarcha1-144749> BEDFM: 2013.12

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY

Bedford: Vicars Walk, Goldington (TL 0748 5081)

Martin Cuthbert

In June and November an evaluation was carried out at Vicars Walk, ahead of proposed residential development of the site. The work identified a post-medieval brick structure and associated yard surfaces. Map regression indicates that a building identified on the 1st edition 1894 OS map matches the location of the brick structure identified within the evaluation trenches. The ornate paving and yard surfaces and the proximity to Goldington Hall suggest that the structure is an outbuilding associated with Goldington Hall.

Harlington, 32 Sundon Road (TL 0365 3035)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In August a strip, map and sample excavation was carried out in advance of a new housing development at 32 Sundon Road. Along the southern end of the site, the excavation revealed a series of pits containing pottery dating to the early medieval period, representing settlement activity. A number of post-medieval dumped deposits were also exposed, containing residual early medieval pottery, clay pipe, 19th/20th century ceramics, glass and metal, associated with later occupation on the site.

Lidlington, Thrupp End Farm (SP 9877 3963)

Calli Rouse

Between October 2012 and April 2013 a watching brief was carried out at Thrupp End Farm, during works to refurbish and extend the existing farmhouse. The site is located adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, which comprises two areas of earthworks that are thought to represent either fishponds or paddocks, probably of medieval date. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief. It was observed that the development site was much flatter than the surrounding scheduled area, and this, coupled with the presence of a layer of made ground across the site, suggested that it had been subject to disturbance, probably related to its time as a farmhouse and associated farmyard.

Luton, Town Centre Transport Scheme

(TL 09054 21699 - TL 09782 21151)

Bob Zeepvat and Calli Rouse

In July, historic building recording was undertaken of five buildings directly affected by, or in close proximity to, the proposed Luton Town Centre Transport Scheme. The buildings comprised Station House in Midland Road, three small structures within the former Midland Railway goods yard, off Church Street and Crescent Road, and Cougar Garage, at the junction of Crescent Road and Crawley Green Road.

Station House is a small double-fronted detached house of typical mid-19th century style, with a more recent extension to the rear. It predates the coming of the railway to Luton in

1860, having been constructed as a private dwelling on the southern edge of the Hightown district of Luton. Following the opening of the Hertford, Luton and Dunstable Railway it became the station master's house, remaining as such until 1969. It is now a solicitor's office. Recording was limited to the exterior of the building.

Of the three Goods Yard buildings, that on Crescent Road was the largest, comprising a single-storey brick structure with a central section under a ridged corrugated sheet roof, with pent roof 'wings' built in similar materials on its east and west sides. The stock bricks and concrete window lintels used in its construction suggested a 20th century date, and the building first appears on Ordnance Survey mapping in 1924. Internal features included a large cold room in the western 'wing' and a small office, most of the interior comprising a single open space. The building was last used as a pet food store, and before that an abattoir.

The second building, located at the entrance to the Goods Yard, was a single-cell brick structure beneath a roof of clay tiles. Inside it had a suspended timber floor, and a small fireplace in the north-west corner. The building first appears on Ordnance Survey mapping in 1901. Cartographic evidence reveals it was a weigh house, controlling traffic to and from the Goods Yard.

The third structure was a long, narrow building to the south of the Goods Yard entrance, adjacent to Church Road. Its construction, comprising orange-red bricks set in English bond, with detailing in cream bricks and a slate roof, suggests a late 19th or early 20th century date: the building is first shown on Ordnance Survey mapping for 1901. No details of its past functions were found: it is currently used by Network Rail. Although identified originally for internal and external recording, only an external photographic record of this building was made when it became apparent that it was not affected by the road scheme.

Cougar Garage was a large brick structure of five bays, beneath steel-framed, glazed ridged roofs. The Crescent Road frontage, constructed in a style reminiscent of Art Deco, comprised four vehicular entrances, the centre two subsequently reduced in size, all with prominent surrounds constructed in brick, and with brick detailing on the walls between. At the north-west end an upper storey had been added to the offices in that area: the materials used suggested a late 20th century date for this. The upper part of the rear of the building was clad in large red ceramic tiles. Internally the building had a concrete floor throughout, and was subdivided and occupied by partitions and structures of relatively recent date. The entrances into the adjoining structure suggested that this extension was of relatively recent date. Cougar Garage first appears on Ordnance Survey mapping in 1938, and in 1964 it is labelled 'Depot'. On cartographic evidence the north-west extension was added in the latter half of the 20th century. Cougar Garage's most recent function was a car body repair shop: the 1964 designation 'Depot', the size of the building and the absence of typical 'garage' features suggested that its function has changed over time.

Potsgrove, 17 Sheep Lane (SP 9332 3072)

Bob Zeepvat

In May a programme of historic building recording was undertaken of 17 Sheep Lane, Potsgrove, prior to demolition of the building and its replacement with a modern house. This small cottage was probably constructed during the 18th century, within the hamlet of Sheeplane, which grew to be the largest settlement in Potsgrove parish by the early 19th century. In 1834 the property is first recorded as the 'Red Cow' beerhouse, which it remained until 1918. Having passed into the ownership of the Duke of Bedford's estate in the second half of the 19th century, after it ceased to be a beerhouse the property was used as tied accommodation for agricultural workers on the Duke's estates. It was sold off by the estate in 2012.

The historic core of the building comprised a stone and brick-built structure of two storeys, aligned north-south, with a large brick chimney stack at its north end, and a single-bay, two-storey brick-built extension to the north-east, both beneath thatched roofs supported by framing constructed with mostly rough-hewn, untrimmed timbers. To the west, a single-storey brick extension with a lean-to slate roof housed the stairs to the upper floor. Cartographic evidence indicates that these elements were all in place by 1882. To the north was a single-storey brick-built extension with a gabled slate roof, which served most recently as a kitchen/scullery. Cartographic evidence suggests that this was constructed in the early 20th century, replacing an earlier structure with a slightly larger footprint. The thatched stone porch was a late 20th century addition.

Internally, the house had evidently undergone significant changes in recent years. Ground floors were modern concrete, and much of the upper floor and its supporting joists were of late 20th century date. The stairwell structure, originally of single-skin brick construction, had an inner skin of concrete blocks inserted into it. On the first floor, partition walls were studding frames clad with plasterboard. The thatched roof was no more than 20 years old, and had replaced an older roof with a higher ridge line, so the untrimmed framing was most likely of similar date. Internal doors, where surviving, were mostly original plank-and-batten type. The distinctive timber-framed casement windows all had modern fittings, and appeared to be 20th century replacements.

Stotfold, The Old Rectory, 49 Rook Tree Lane

(TL 2207 3671)

Ralph Brown

In April a trial trench evaluation was undertaken in the grounds of The Old Rectory, as a condition of planning permission for a detached house, garage and access route development. Two trial trenches were excavated and archaeological remains of the medieval and post-medieval periods were present. They comprised a variety of pits, postholes and ditches which are considered to be of local significance. A small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery was collected.

In June and July a watching brief was maintained during the excavation of foundation pads, connecting ring beam trenches and levelling operations for the new house. The

Bedfordshire

earliest features revealed were a medieval pit and ditch: during the post-medieval/modern period the site was disturbed by a large quarry pit which extends to the north of the site, into the grounds of the Old Rectory. A variety of modern features were also present.

Woburn, Woburn Abbey (SP 9630 3280)

Alistair Hancock

Detailed resistance survey of 4.4ha was carried out on parkland located slightly to the northwest of Woburn Abbey. The survey results show that large parts of the east of the surveyed area has been impacted by undated extraction; elsewhere the survey has defined resistance anomalies interpreted as having a geological or modern (services and drainage) origin. It is probable that the survey area has not been included within the different phases of formal gardens located closer to the Abbey and that structural features are absent.

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Southill, Broom South Quarry (TL 1758 4201)

Jonathan Tabor

Excavations at Broom South Quarry, between April and November 2013, revealed significant archaeological remains dating from the Early Neolithic through to the Anglo-Saxon period (Fig 5). The 32.6ha site is located on the western flank of the Ivel valley to the south-west of Biggleswade and forms the latest part of a long-established landscape scale investigation into the archaeology of Broom Quarry (see also Cooper and Edmonds, 2007; Tabor, 2014). Post-excavation

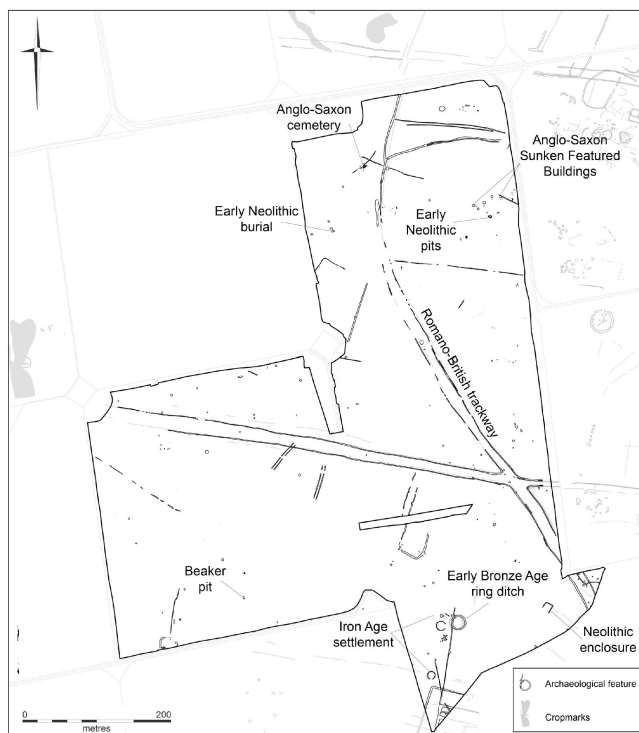


Fig 5. Broom South Quarry.

work is currently at an early stage and as such the following site chronology should be regarded as provisional.

Neolithic

The earliest archaeological activity encountered dated to the Early Neolithic and comprised two pit clusters, along with a number of isolated pits, and a multiple human burial. The pit clusters yielded small assemblages of Classic Carinated Plain Bowl type pottery and worked flint, and are typical of the dispersed Early Neolithic occupation recorded in the Broom landscape. The multiple burial was contained within a large sub-rectangular pit and comprised the articulated remains of two adults, each placed in a crouched position 'mirroring' each other, together with the articulated remains of a juvenile and a disarticulated skull. The skeletons appear to have been placed in a cist-like structure or chamber within the pit the lower edge of which was defined by carefully placed stone/flint cobbles; amongst these were seven worked stones including fragments of saddlequern and a hammerstone. No formal grave goods were found associated with the burials although the partial remains of a Classic Carinated Plain Bowl vessel were recovered from the pit's upper fill. Later Neolithic activity within the landscape was represented by part of a rectangular enclosure and a large pit/watering hole in the south of the excavation area both of which produced small assemblages of Peterborough Ware pottery. The enclosure was located in an area of intensive post-medieval quarrying and only the north-eastern end survived, most of its interior having been truncated. Consequently the feature is difficult to interpret although enclosures of this type often occur alongside other Neolithic monuments such as cursuses and are a recurrent feature of the numerous monument complexes along the Great Ouse valley (Malim, 2000).

Beaker and Early Bronze Age

Evaluation of the proposed Broom South Quarry site in 2004 recorded a pit containing an impressive assemblage of Beaker pottery totalling 353 sherds representing at least ten distinct vessels (Cooper, 2005). The 2013 excavation proved this to be a relatively isolated feature although one other pit produced a small assemblage of Beaker pottery. Evidence of Early Bronze Age activity was dominated by apparently funerary-related features including a cluster of pits amongst which were two cremations associated with Early Bronze Age pottery sherds, probably deriving from an urn(s). In addition, a substantial ring ditch, previously visible as a cropmark in the south of the excavation area was also excavated. No interments were found associated with the ring ditch and it failed to yield any definitive dating evidence; however, it has been provisionally dated to the Early Bronze Age.

Later Prehistoric

Dispersed Late Bronze Age activity was identified in the form of isolated pits, whilst many of the sites' pit-wells/watering holes may prove to date to this period; however, on the whole the later Bronze Age was poorly represented within the site record. A much greater Iron Age presence was recorded with the remains of two roundhouses, each associated with a small cluster of storage pits, excavated in the south of the excavation area. The finds

assemblages recovered from these features were surprisingly limited - although a crouched human burial was recovered from one of the pits - suggesting that settlement may have been relatively short-lived (certainly in comparison to the significant multi-phase Middle Iron Age settlements previously recorded at Broom Quarry (Cooper and Edmonds, 2007; Tabor, 2014)).

Romano-British

The site plan is dominated by two Romano-British trackways, which intersect at a 'crossroads' close to the eastern edge of the site. The trackways form part of a wider network of route-ways - visible as cropmarks across much of the Broom landscape - which connected a series of Romano-British settlement sites located along the River Ivel. In the southern corner of the quarry area, a series of settlement enclosures, which fell partially within the excavation area, represent the edge of one such settlement site.

Anglo-Saxon

Three Sunken Featured Buildings (SFBs), one of which had been previously identified during the 2004 evaluation, were recorded in the north-east of the excavation area. The features produced significant pottery and animal bone assemblages as well as a number of finds associated with weaving, including a bone comb and a spindle whorl. Some 150m to the west, a small cemetery comprising three extended adult burials within sub-rectangular graves, one of which was surrounded by a sub-oval gully/ring ditch, has also been provisionally dated to the Early Saxon period and seems likely to have been contemporary with the SFBs.

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Tabor J 2014; *Archaeological Investigations at Broom Quarry, Bedfordshire: Phases 11-13. Post Excavation Assessment*, Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No. 1213

Swineshead, Sandye Lane (TL 0581 6586)

Simon Timberlake

In April 2013 an archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken on the line of the perimeter footings for a new single-storey dwelling to the rear of Sale Cottage, Sandye Lane, Swineshead. Here some 78m² of trenching revealed at least seven shallow and sinuous intersecting ditches, aligned north-east to south-west and south-east to north-west, from which small amounts of locally-manufactured 12th century coarseware pottery were recovered. The assemblage included most of one shallow dish identified as a probable flour measure; both this and the environmental remains from the site, which included carbonised cereal grain, suggest

breadmaking and milling and are thus indications of domestic activity and dwellings nearby. The presence of three re-established boundary ditches parallel to the edge of the current churchyard supports the idea that the present 13th-14th century construction has earlier 12th century origins.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Kempston, The Bury (TL 01566 47366)

Jeremy Mordue

An evaluation identified Roman field boundaries. An undated cremation burial and some undated ditches may also be Roman. Medieval ditches and pits found with 12th to 13th century pottery were probably associated with agriculture. The evaluation area was close to the site of a 17th century red brick mansion and the remains of ancillary buildings and drains associated with this were found, along with evidence of landscaping.

INDEPENDENT

Bedford, Manton Lane (TL 0414 5099)

Mike Luke, Steven Cockings and Elizabeth Sayer

Three test pits were dug in August 2013 within a presumed area of Roman settlement. The latter had been first discovered during building work within Edith Cavell Lower School to the south of Manton Lane but local archaeologists had observed a possible masonry wall within a pipe trench to the north. The latter was subject to salvage investigation which showed it to be the foundations of a Roman wall (Albion, 2013). Subsequent to this a number of geophysical surveys were undertaken by amateur and professional organisations to the east of the wall. While the results appeared to confirm the presence of at least one building, the results were too ambiguous to determine its precise layout.

To investigate the area further a number of test pits (TPs) were opened. These were organised by the local Roman historians and undertaken by local archaeologists and volunteers from Bedford and across the county, overseen by professional archaeologists from Albion Archaeology. Resources permitted the excavation of three 2m x 2m test pits between 17th and 26th August 2013. In relation to the postulated 'building' they were situated: outside it to the south-west on the projected alignment of the known masonry wall (TP 1); within the possible entrance porch (TP 2); and inside the main range of rooms to the east (TP 3). Their precise position was adjusted in the field on the basis of high resistance readings identified by members of Leighton Buzzard & District Archaeological & Historical Society on the day they were opened. An initial summary of the discoveries is presented below but a preliminary report is being prepared for publication in the next Bedfordshire Archaeology that will include all known investigations in the vicinity (Luke *et al* forthcoming).

The sequence of medieval to modern deposits within each test pit proved to be similar. Below the turf and modern

Bedfordshire

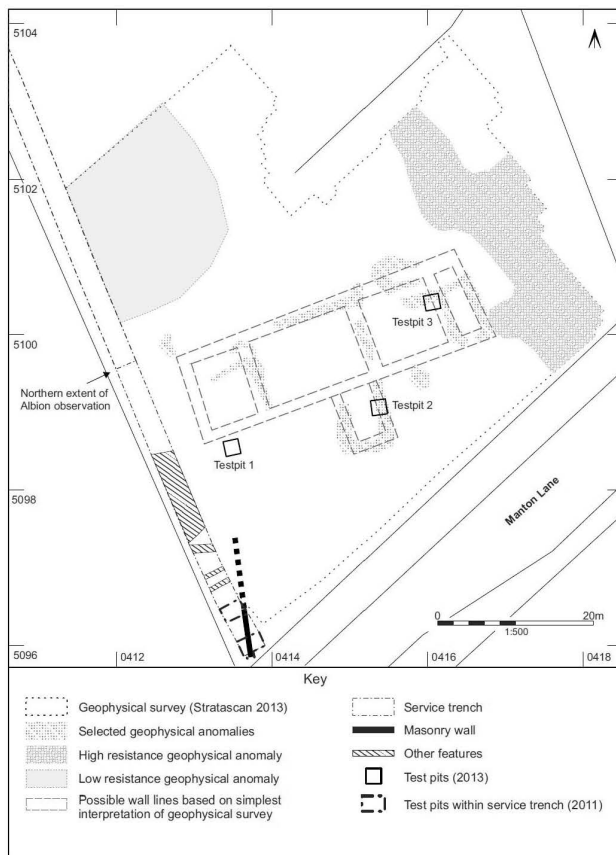


Fig 6. Manton Lane, Bedford. Simplest interpretation of geophysical survey with the masonry wall and location of test pits dug in 2013.

topsoil was a layer interpreted as soil build-up associated with medieval/post-medieval ploughing. It was thickest in TP 1 and shallower in TPs 2 and 3.

No walls or obvious internal floors of a Roman building were located but all three test pits contained Roman features/deposits and finds. The nature of the mortar layer within TP 3 strongly suggests that it derived from a nearby masonry wall; it may have been deposited during robbing of building stone. It increased in thickness to the north, in the direction of a possible wall identified by the geophysical surveys. The compact gravel surface in TP 2 was not horizontal. It sloped down slightly to the south, suggesting that it probably represents an external 'yard' surface rather than the internal floor that might have been expected given its position within the postulated 'building'. The large pit found within TP 1 was probably part of the same feature seen in the pipe trench and interpreted as a quarry. However, the latter interpretation seems unlikely as the base of the pit was strikingly horizontal and did not stop at any visible change in geology, as would be expected with a quarry pit.

The finds assemblage from the test pits has been catalogued to professional standards but has not been studied in any detail. The following is a provisional summary. Pre-Roman finds comprised worked flint flakes and a small quantity of pottery of predominantly late Iron Age date (c 50 BC-AD 50). Roman pottery is represented by locally manufactured coarse wares in sand- and shell-tempered fabrics, broadly datable to the 2nd century onwards. Second century continental fine wares are central Gaulish samian and fine black-slipped ware. Later Roman regional imports are 3rd- to

4th century colour-coated wares from the Nene Valley and Oxfordshire.

Building material comprises ceramic roof tile (tegulae and imbrices) and combed flue tile, possible tesserae, mortar fragments, limestone roof/floor tiles, and a piece of wall plaster. Oyster shell and animal bone fragments associated with datable Roman artefacts are considered to be of similar date.

Other objects datable to the Roman period are a copper alloy coin (AE4) of the emperor Constans (datable to AD 347-348 from the upper fill of the large pit in TP 1), a lead vessel patch/repair, a copper alloy earring and a fragment from a late 3rd-4th century conical beaker in clear colourless glass.

Post-Roman pottery ranges in date from the Saxon period (one sherd) to the present day, the majority of 17th century and later date. Datable items are a cast copper alloy thimble (1730-1800), a generic post-medieval bone needle or pen case, and a cast lead shot. Building material includes post-medieval roof tile fragments, modern brick and roofing slate, and pieces of land drain. Clay tobacco pipe stem and bowl fragments, a shoeing nail, ferrous smelting slag, a piece of fuel ash slag, and a small quantity of coal and clinker were also recovered. A number of predominantly 19th and 20th century glass bottles and window glass fragments were identified. The site is believed to have reverted to agriculture in the post-Roman period (and certainly by medieval times based on the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks), but the presence of post-medieval artefacts in the vicinity of the wall suggests the masonry remains may also have been quarried for building stone.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to over fifty people who were involved with the test pits. A list will be included in the Preliminary Report so is not repeated here. However, without the co-operation of the landowner (Ranc Care Homes) it would not have been possible to undertake the test pitting. In particular the assistance of their financial director, Nik Hingston, is acknowledged, not least because he joined in with the test pitting! The authors would like to thank Councillors Colleen Atkins and Louise King who secured funding for cataloguing of the finds. A grant was also received from Charles Wells brewery. Bedford Borough Council, Bedfordshire Archaeological Council and Albion Archaeology are supporting the publication of the preliminary report in Bedfordshire Archaeology.

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**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
(MOLA Northampton)**

Compiled by Pat Chapman

Ampthill, Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane, Warren Farm
(TL 0360 3680)
Paul Clements

New works undertaken on land between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane included further excavation in the vicinity of middle Iron Age pits and a post-medieval lime kiln, following geophysical survey and trial trench excavation in 2010 (*SMA* (2011), 41, 10). No additional archaeological features were identified. BEDFM 2010.55; OASIS 166408

Bedford, Eastcotts Road, former Turnpike Public House
(TL 070 480)
Tim Upson-Smith

No archaeological features or artefacts of pre-modern date were observed or recovered during evaluation. BEDFM 2013.46; OASIS 158141

Biggleswade, Potton Road (TL 1990 4590)
Chris Chinnock

Enclosures of probable Iron Age or Roman date were identified by a detailed magnetometer survey carried out over a proposed development area. These results largely correlated with the cropmarks and Historic Environment Record data. OASIS 144430

Chelveston Airfield (TL 0062 6805)
Jason Clarke

A series of ditches and a pit spanning the middle to late Iron Age to early Roman periods as well as traces of medieval ridge and furrow were excavated during trial trench evaluation. Use of the land as an American airbase was also identified. BEDFM.2013.49; OASIS 174363

Clifton, Harbrook Lane (TL 1623 3874)
Chris Chinnock

Remnant furrows of ridge and furrow cultivation was identified by detailed magnetometer survey. No other archaeological features were present. OASIS 143959

Dunton, Boot Lane (TL 2361 4454)
Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Remnant furrows from the medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation were recorded during trial trenching. Possible post-medieval clay pits, remains of two probable hedge lines and old tree throws were also recorded. BEDFM.2013.8; OASIS 148916

Houghton Regis, land north of Bedford Road
(TL 0156 2448)
Ian Fisher and Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

One feature of indeterminate archaeological or geological origin, two modern pipes, and a scatter of modern debris in the ploughsoil was identified by magnetometer survey of 7ha of land. Subsequent trial trenching recorded an undated pit, two tree throws and colluvial deposits. OASIS 140770 geophysical survey; 151344 evaluation

Linslade, Leighton Road (SP 9030 2595)
James Ladocha, Edmund Taylor

Early/Middle Saxon ditches and gullies and ridge and furrow of probable medieval origin were recorded during a programme of evaluation comprising earthwork survey, geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. LUTNM2013.3; OASIS 152478

Marston Moretaine, Wood End (SP 978 416)
Paul Clements

It was confirmed that an earthwork feature was a moat during a detailed magnetometer survey, covering c 7.8ha of land, commissioned by the Marston Vale Trust in advance of a proposed programme of woodland planting. A series of ditches that perhaps represent medieval or early post-medieval plot boundaries were lying alongside a track, one large pit and some medieval or later furrows of a former field system were also identified. BEDFM 2013-45; OASIS 158998

Pulloxhill, Orchard Road, Fryer Herne, Plot C
(TL 0623 3386)
Christopher Jones

A medieval fish pond was found during evaluation. One sherd of pottery dated to the mid 13th-15th centuries was retrieved from the alluvial layer and a 16th century pottery sherd came from the subsoil. LUTNM 2013/24; OASIS 167256

Wilden, Barford Road, Bedford Borough
(TL 1115 5339 to TL 1024 5523)
Christopher Jones and James Ladocha

Archaeological attendance was undertaken during the replacement of a rising main by Anglian Water, to the south of Wilden. A number of undated ditches and gullies were located at the south end of the pipeline and are thought to relate to two large areas of cropmarks on either side of the road. BEDFM 2013.06; OASIS 151582

Bedfordshire OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Compiled by Kat Hamilton and Rachel Clarke

Pulloxhill, Water Treatment Works (TL 0803 3353) James Fairbairn

Archaeological monitoring and recording of geotechnical test pits revealed a single undated ditch predating the extant ridge and furrow in one test pit and modern disturbance in another. (OA East Report 1466)

Pertenhall, Manor Hall (TL 07223 64809) Louise Bush

Evaluation revealed archaeological features across the site, predominantly dating from the Late Iron Age to Early Roman periods. High levels of Saxo-Norman and medieval activity were also encountered. Two main areas of probable Iron Age settlement activity were identified in the south-east corner, and just below the crest of the hill mid-way across the site. Both areas included settlement boundaries with a mixture of smaller enclosure ditches, associated pits and ovens; evidence for several roundhouses was also found. The second area showed continuation of use into the Early Roman period. Later activity was represented by two medieval cobbled surfaces and associated features that were found along the crest of the hill, in addition to a possible trackway. The latter may be a remnant of the trackway seen on the 1879 OS map, which runs in a north-easterly direction through the site from the approximate location of Keysoehill Farm (to the south-west), to the old road on the north-east edge of site. (OA East Report 1493)

SHARNBROOK LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Compiled by June Barnes

Introduction

In 2013 Sharnbrook Local History Group was able to carry out an exciting community archaeology project on a scheduled site in the village - a moated earthwork believed to be a medieval site, possibly a castle or manor house.

The Group has been involved in archaeological research in the village for a number of years. From 2007 to 2012 it hosted an annual two-day garden test pit dig as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA), run by Access Cambridge Archaeology at Cambridge University, in villages across East Anglia. In addition two community test pit digs have been carried out by local residents. The aim of the HEFA test pit programme is to study the origins and development of medieval villages. Over six years more than 70 test pits have been dug around the village and from these has emerged evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and early Anglo-Saxon activity, and a dispersed scatter of several discrete settlement sites across the present village in the late Anglo-Saxon period. Pottery from the high medieval period has been found widely across the village.

Background

The scheduled site (SAM 20404) is situated on the western edge of the village in the Castle Close Wildlife and Heritage Site which is owned by the Parish Council. It is one of the many moated sites in Bedfordshire but is of particular interest because it is one of only four oval/circular sites. The monument is defined by a ditch approximately 7m wide by up to 3m deep, inside which are a 1.5m high bank and a central island approximately 60m across.

There is limited documentary evidence of the site's history. The present name is taken from old field names. The earliest known references to 'Castle Close' are in the 1617 Survey of Sharnbrook (AD 997 page 26) and a map of 1765/70 [reprinted 1849] showing two Castle Closes. Within the two closes is a semi-circular feature. This is very similar to the earthwork described in S Lewis's Topographical Dictionary [1861 and after], (and quoted in Harvey's "Hundred of Willey" page 455) as saying "*there was a circular mound and moat, called Castle Close at Sharnbrook, indicating the site of a castle, probably at the time of Stephen*". The other relevant documentary evidence relates to the Triket family who held land in Sharnbrook, in succession to Robert son of Rozelin who is recorded in the Domesday Book as holding 2 hides under Count Eustace of Boulogne. The Trikets were recorded in 1202 as having a manor house in Triket Bury. Could the earthwork be the site of Triket Bury?

Previous archaeological investigations of the site have been limited to a field survey carried out in 1979/82 by Leicester University students (Brown and Taylor 1991) and a geophysical survey carried out by Northampton Archaeology (Simmonds, 2008), which indicated earthwork bank and ditch and possible internal features. There have been no excavations carried out on the earthwork or in the vicinity. The test pits nearest to Castle Close have produced very little pre-modern pottery.

The Project

In 2013 we received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund's All Our Stories programme which aimed to encourage communities to work with academic institutions to research their local heritage. This enabled us to continue our relationship with Cambridge University archaeologists and undertake an investigation of the earthwork. The aims of the project were: to identify the character, age, survival condition and significance of any archaeological remains and deposits on the island and the depth and condition of the ditch and bank; to give members of the public living in and around Sharnbrook the chance to take part in archaeological investigations on a site at the centre of their community and develop a wide range of practical and analytical archaeological skills; to increase knowledge and understanding of Castle Close and its environs by heritage professionals and members of the public; and to provide data to inform and guide future conservation, management, interpretation and presentation of the monument in Castle Close.

After extensive consultations with English Heritage and Bedford Borough Council Archaeological Officer we were granted Scheduled Monument Consent to dig a 2m x 2m trench to be located in the vicinity of a sub-rectangular feature indicated on the geophysical survey, and to carry out an auger survey across the bank and ditch.

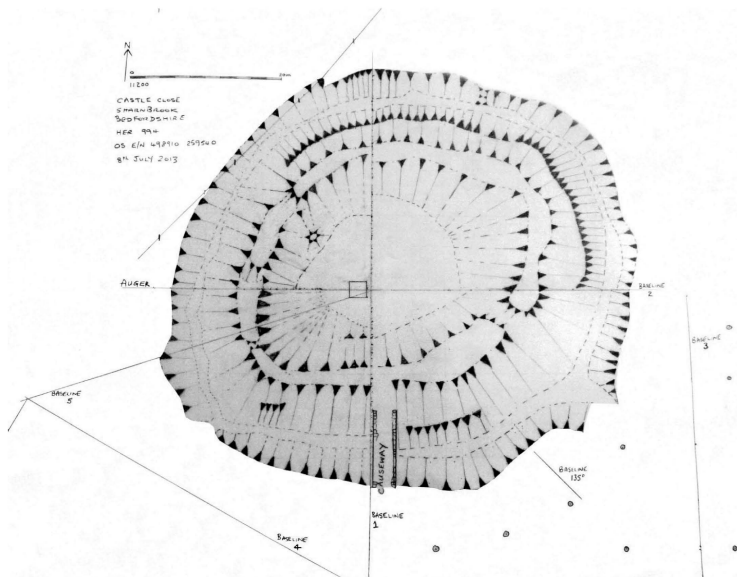


Fig 7. Earthwork Survey plan showing position of excavation trench and line of auger sampling (The supplied image has been tidied up in an effort to improve clarity. Ed.)

Excavation

Prior to the excavation some of our members received training from Albion Archaeology staff and were then able to carry out a more detailed field survey of the earthwork (Fig 7). This helped us to identify the preferred location of the trench and auger transect and to record them accurately. This survey has since been extended to cover the area surrounding the moat.

The excavation and auger survey were supervised by Dr Carenza Lewis and Dr Alex Pryor from Cambridge University, and the work was carried out by over 35 members of the Sharnbrook Local History Group and other local residents of all ages. It took place at the end of August 2013 over four sunny days.

Until six years ago the island had been covered in trees and scrub which were removed when the Parish Council obtained the land. The surface is now covered in grass but it was not surprising that excavation of the trench revealed the remains of a tree stump and tree roots. The 2m x 2m trench was sited slightly south and west from the centre of the monument on flat, grassy ground. The trench was excavated by hand in 10cm spits with features excavated sequentially. All the spoil



Fig 8. Photograph showing burnt clay deposit on west side of trench.

was sieved by hand, and *in situ* features were cleaned, planned and left *in situ*.

Topsoil and subsoil was initially removed across the whole of the trench in three 10cm spits (Contexts 1-3). The finds from these layers included 59 sherds of Early Medieval Shelly Ware and single sherds of Early Medieval Sandy Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware, including some rim pieces and larger sherds. Other finds included small fragments of red ceramic building material, 10 pieces of slag and some unidentifiable fragments of iron including an open-ended teardrop-shaped iron loop, which may have been part of a horse harness or agricultural equipment.

At 0.3m depth a stone-rich layer was encountered, largely comprising fragmented limestone in flat, 'tablet' form ranging in size from 5cm to 30cm long and distributed across the base of the trench in three irregular pseudo-linear spreads. Close inspection indicated that no part of the layer constituted an *in situ* constructed feature such as a wall or floor. It was interpreted

instead as a redeposited spread, possibly demolition rubble from an un-mortared wall or other built feature.

Removal of a 10cm spit showed the stony layer to be shallow across most of the trench but to dip down in the southeast corner. Further excavation below this layer revealed a number of features as well as pottery and other finds. A dark pink deposit of burned clay against the west side of the trench continued into the unexcavated area. Cleaning showed it to extend over an area of at least 0.5m and to be up to 20cm thick. A large fragment of limestone, whose pink colour showed it also to have been previously subject to heating, lay along its southern edge and was interpreted as the base of a clay hearth or oven. (Fig 8) Excavation of a slot on the east side of the burnt area revealed a gently sloping curved feature c 0.3m deep which was tentatively interpreted as either a pit or a stoke hole for the hearth or oven, with the fill mostly comprising material riddled or raked away from the oven/hearth after use.

Context (4) contained 73 sherds of Early Medieval Shelly Ware and two sherds of Stamford Ware. Three small corroded iron artefacts also found were identified as horseshoe nails similar in form to Ian Goodall's Type A, dating to the 11th to 13th century AD. Other finds included animal bone, fragments of red brick or tile and charcoal.

Removal of the stone layer where it dipped into the south-east corner revealed a gently sloping cut which appeared to be sub-rectangular in form (Fig 9). Its lowest silt fill contained ten 12th century pottery sherds, small fragments of red brick or tile, slag and six more corroded iron Type A horseshoe nails. Within its base the cut of a small circular feature was observed and following investigation by half-sectioning it was interpreted as a posthole. The fill of the posthole included six more Early Medieval Shelly Ware sherds.

Further sherds of Early Medieval Shelly Ware and four more corroded iron Type A horse shoe nails were found in the slot excavated across the northern half of the trench. It was not possible in the time available to establish whether this layer lay on top of natural or whether further cultural deposits remained at lower levels.

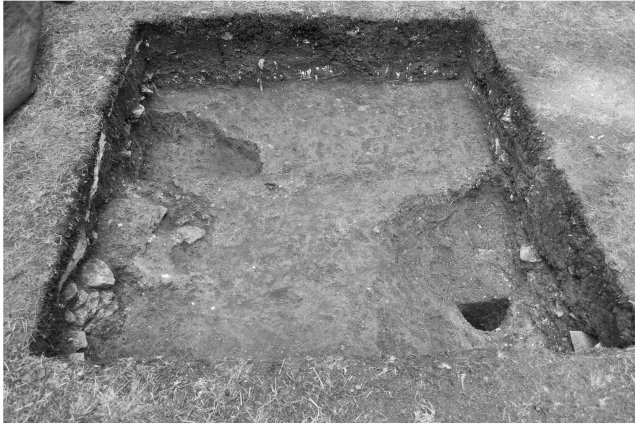


Fig 9. Photograph of trench at the end of the excavation (looking north), showing hearth/oven area and ashpit on west side, and sloping cut and half-sectioned post-hole in south east corner.

Auger Survey

The auger survey aimed to establish the depth of the ditch and the height of the bank above the original ground surface, along with any other information about the building and post-construction history of the monument. The survey was carried out by hand using a 10mm diameter auger, coring at intervals of 1m from the inside of the bank to beyond the outer edge of the ditch on a transect orientated east-west. All of the auger holes encountered natural deposits or stones within 40cm, and most within 20cm. Those that encountered stones were the holes on the top of the bank inside the ditch, suggesting that the bank may have been partly constructed by piling stones up to form a basal layer. The only observed layering was between a dark humic woodland topsoil containing large quantities of decaying leaf matter and a slightly more clay-rich compact subsoil with some roots. The natural deposits were very compact clay-rich sediments with small chalk-gravel inclusions up to 5mm in size.

Summary of Results

The burnt clay deposit was the only *in-situ* constructed feature, and appears to be the remains of a clay hearth or oven constructed with a clay base partly surrounded with kerbing stones. The general appearance of this feature suggests it was a domestic hearth or oven used for cooking. The charred and ashy material in the small pit on its north side presumably derived from clearing out exhausted fuel and other residues from the hearth/oven. This suggests the burnt area is more likely to be an outside hearth or (more likely) oven, rather than a hearth inside a building. The hearth/oven provides good evidence for domestic activity within the Castle Close monument.

The layer of broken limestone which extended across most of the trench at 30-40cm below the present ground surface displayed some linearity suggesting demolition rubble from an un-mortared wall or stone bank. There was no definite evidence for a building tentatively indicated by geophysical survey but the presence of a posthole and the linear stone rubble spread hint at the presence of a building or a windbreak.

The bent condition of the horseshoe nails indicating prior use suggests shoeing or reshoeing was taking place somewhere in the vicinity.

The auger survey of the bank and ditch indicated that the bank is largely composed of broken limestone similar to that spread across the trench, and which occurs naturally in the locality. The coring indicated that the ditch has not been substantially affected by silting, with the natural only marginally deeper than the present ground surface.

Stratigraphic evidence indicates that all the excavated features could be contemporary, and this is supported by the pottery, all of which was closely dated to between 1100 and 1200AD. In addition, the horseshoe nails also fall within the same period, dating to the 11th to 13th century. The features in the excavated area can therefore be confidently dated to the 12th century, with a high probability that all date to a single phase of activity. The total absence of any finds dating from other periods is notable and if replicated across the rest of the site would clearly indicate that the site is entirely of 12th century date.

Conclusions

The finds and features in the excavated area can be confidently dated to the 12th century AD, and it can be inferred that the entire monument dates to this same period. The oven/hearth and the quantity of pottery suggest this is a largely domestic site.

The used horseshoe nails support the premise that it is a moderately high-status site, as suggested by the moat and bank.

It can be confidently asserted that Castle Close is a 12th century manorial site. The archaeological evidence appears to support the argument from the historical records that this is the site of Triket Bury, manor house of the Triket family in 12th Century.

There is no evidence for any post-12th century activity in the excavated areas of the site.

The surviving archaeological features in the excavated area are fairly shallowly buried beneath the present surface, with the upper surface of the rubble spread at just *c* 30cm beneath the surface. This provides some protection for the medieval archaeological remains, but this may not pertain elsewhere on this site.

The unusual form of the Castle Close site, within a sub-circular moated enclosure, adds to its significance now as one of a relatively small number of such sites to have been dated by excavation and supporting historical data.

The data obtained from this investigation can be used to guide future conservation, management, interpretation and presentation of the monument in Castle Close.

Note: The full technical report is in preparation (March 2014) by Access Cambridge Archaeology and will be submitted to Bedford HER and recorded on OASIS.

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**SOUTERRAIN
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Arlesey, 168 High Street (TL 193 364)

Martin D Wilson

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the preparation of foundations for a rear extension.

Brick footings of a small 20th century outbuilding were uncovered. Nothing of archaeological significance was present. OASIS Ref. souterra1-157714

Colmworth, Colley Hill Farm (TL 106 582)

Martin D Wilson

Iron Age (Fig 10)

A late Iron Age/pre-Roman conquest enclosure was partly excavated prior to the re-development of the site of Colley Hill Farm at Colmworth, north Bedfordshire. The work was preceded by evaluation trenches. The open-area excavation took place in the proposed footprints of a new stable block and a barn, a total area of 265m². Three phases of Iron Age activity were identified: Phase 1, MIA; Phase 2, LIA; and Phase 3, LIA.

The dominant feature was a substantial enclosure ditch in Phase 2, whose structural characteristics and topographical setting share cultural affinities with the Wootton Hill type enclosure, a form well-attested in the region (cf Dix, B and Jackson, D, 1989; Deegan, A, 2007; Kidd, A, 2004; Meek et al, 2004; Hart, J, *et al*, 2010) but which has not previously been identified in Bedfordshire. The site is located around

the 63m contour and overlooks the Colmworth Brook to the north. Based on aerial photographic evidence, the enclosure probably defined a sub-rectangular site of about 0.2ha. Three sections dug were across the enclosure ditch, which was 3.4m to 4m in width and 1.2m to 1.5m deep. Two of the sections, on its northeast/southwest alignment revealed a fairly steep V-shaped profile. The third section, through its northwest/southeast alignment showed a less steeply inclined profile and wider base. A socketed iron reaping-hook was found in an upper fill of domestic waste. The survival of environmental data was poor, although grains of carbonised wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were found in the primary fill, sufficient to illustrate that the subsistence was at least partly dependent on cereal cultivation. Phase 2 is interpreted as a rural settlement surrounded by a formidable defensive perimeter ditch and bank, the latter of which is most likely to have been topped with a palisade. There was little evidence of interior features, other than two shallow undated post holes.

The presence of residual Middle Iron Age pottery (Phase 1) at Colley Hill suggests either continuity, or a re-foundation, of settlement at a preferred location.

In Phase 3, a substantial waterhole was dug through the northwest corner of the enclosure ditch. An uncommon type of copper-alloy spring-cover brooch was recovered from an erosion deposit on the side of the pit. The brooch is a pre-Roman conquest Gaulish import found mainly in the Catuvellaunian/Trinovantian tribal territories, and is securely dated to the second quarter of the 1st century AD. The absence of 'Romanised' pottery suggests that Colley Hill was abandoned before the Roman conquest.

The excavated area has to be viewed in conjunction with the series of rectilinear enclosures known from cropmarks (undated) immediately to the east of the site, the westernmost of which undoubtedly forms part of the Colley Hill enclosure. This evidence suggests that the enclosure was one of several, of varying size, adjoining or added on to each other, some perhaps later than others.

In view of the lacunae in present knowledge about the character and extent of Iron Age settlement beyond the valley and gravel areas of Bedfordshire, the discovery is considered to be both locally and regionally significant. It is believed that there was a preference for higher ground during the Middle Iron Age, such zones including the sides of river valleys, or higher still, within woodland clearings (Dawson, 2007, 63), the latter which may apply to the settlement at Colley Hill. The dearth of such sites may only be a reflection of the rarity of opportunities to investigate upland areas. The technical report describes the findings at Colley Hill in the context of comparative sites from the region.

Medieval period

Colley Hill Farm is located within the former medieval settlement of Chapel End/Colley Hill at Colmworth (HER17142). The farm was built close to the junction of two roads, which partly survive as hollow-ways. It was situated in the former medieval open fields, within the furlong field known as Near East Brook Field. There is no clear surface evidence of the field system today, although the remains of medieval furrows were revealed during the excavation. The area of investigation area appears to have been either pastureland or a paddock since at least the early-19th century,

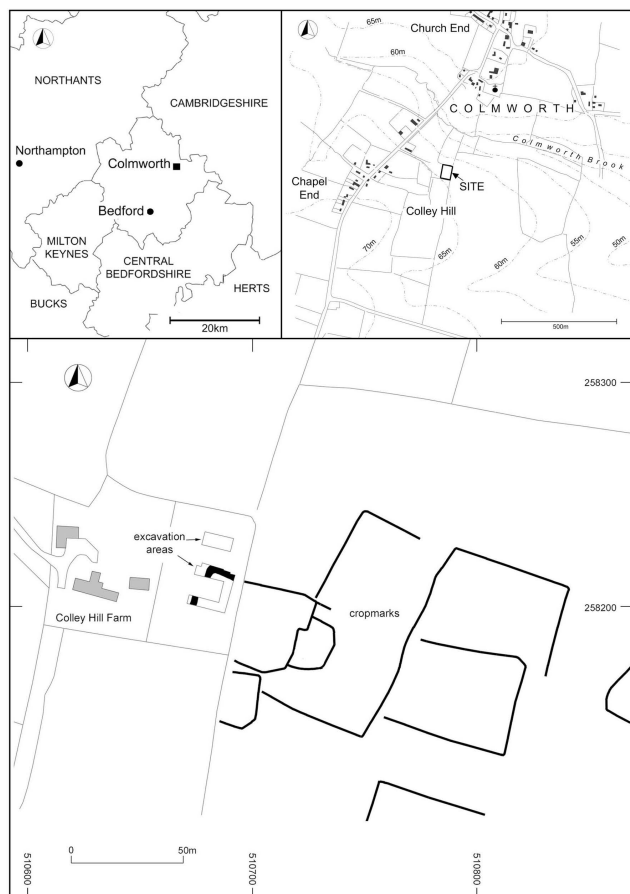


Fig 10. Colley Hill Farm, Colmworth, north Bedfordshire.

Bedfordshire

remaining undisturbed except for the insertion of land drains. OASIS Ref. souterral-143116

A second phase of evaluation was undertaken at the site of Colley Hill Farm in advance of proposed development. Three trenches were excavated. In one trench there was evidence of domestic occupation in the late-Saxon/early Norman period. This comprised a possible 'raised' water channel with 10th to 12th century pottery and a pit or ditch terminus with an assemblage of pottery (mostly un-abraded) broadly dated to the 9th to 11th centuries. The two other trenches were blank. The discoveries lie c 30m northwest of a junction between two hollow-ways, one of which, prior to the early 19th century was the main road to Colmworth. The former medieval settlement of Chapel End/Colley Hill is believed to have been in this vicinity. It is thought that the site has survived agricultural disturbance for many centuries, with archaeological remains surviving just below the topsoil. Other finds consisted of flints, including a Levallois-type core stone, reflecting prehistoric background activity at the site.

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Radwell, Land adjacent to the former Swan Inn, Felmersham Road (TL 394 482)

Martin D Wilson

Archaeological monitoring and excavation was undertaken in the former curtilage of the Swan Inn at Radwell. The inn, which dates from the 17th century, stands on the west side of the village green, and on the north side of the main road between Felmersham and Milton Ernest. The objectives of the work were broadly to attempt to recover information that may contribute to our understanding of the origins and location of settlement at Radwell.

The investigation revealed a large, shallow sub-quadrangular pit [002] (c 3m, eastwest by 2.8m, northsouth) with a fairly

flat base at a depth of 0.2m-0.26m, except in its northeast corner, where it was stepped down to an irregular-shaped cavity, 0.64m deep. The base of the shallow part of the feature had a very thin layer of dirty soil (< 5mm) interpreted as 'trample'. The deeper part of the pit was joined from the north by a shallow channel. Limestone rubble had been tumbled into the channel and the pit bottom. Amongst the rubble were fragments of three strap-handled jugs or pitchers of 12th-13th century date, all of freshly broken appearance, suggesting that infill occurred in the same period. Both pit and channel appear to have formed part of a single structure. The upper fill of the pit comprised occupation deposits with pottery dated to the 10th/11th century.

There was no evidence of industrial or craft activity, so the function of these features is presumed to have been of a domestic or mundane nature. There were no other structural elements present. One possibility is that it was a latrine pit with chute covered by a structure, although the environmental sample is not revealing. A small number of carbonised grains - free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/compactum*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) - represent debris from domestic activities.

At least two-thirds of the building plot (648m²) was stripped of topsoil at some juncture in the 20th century for the creation of public house car park, leaving occasional thin traces of occupation deposits, possibly dating to the 12th/13th century.

Collectively, the evidence relates to occupancy during the late Saxon to early Norman period (10th/11th century) and again during the 12th-13th century, the latter may well pertain to a medieval tenement at this location. To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of evidence for medieval domestic occupation at Radwell. OASIS Ref. souterral-155822

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

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Houghton Regis, Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road (TL 0350 2464)

Daniel Bray

Evaluation trenching over 14ha revealed a range of archaeological deposits, mostly dating from the Iron Age. The most notable feature is a rectilinear enclosure identified by prior geophysical survey and now confirmed as being of Iron Age date. Other linear features of similar date presumably form elements of a paddock and enclosure system in the surrounding landscape. A small amount of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery points to some earlier activity in the vicinity.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION, WEST OF THE WILLINGTON DOVECOTE AND STABLES, IN 2013

(TL 107499)

Dorothy Jamieson.

One Sunday afternoon in August 2012 a group of volunteers marked out the position of features in the ground west of the Dovecote and Stables, which had been revealed by a resistivity survey undertaken by the National Trust in 1997. They enjoyed doing that, and as several visitors to the buildings found it interesting to watch, it was decided to have another go and take the investigation further in 2013.

A new resistivity survey

Two 20m squares were laid out by volunteers to the west of the National Trust's Tudor Stables in Willington on June 30th 2013 and two weeks later Kevan Fadden and Bob Randall brought their resistivity surveying equipment and carried out a demonstration and training exercise for local people who were interested in archaeology in general and resistivity surveying in particular.

Kevan and Bob explained how the machine used electricity to trace the position of the foundations of former buildings, or other material, under the surface of the ground. The importance of laying out the survey grids accurately was emphasised and there were discussions about the importance of safe working practices and the dangers of lightning strikes. The 20m squares were divided into 19 strips with ropes marked into 1m lengths, and mobile probes were set up in the best positions.

The machine was demonstrated and Kevan and Bob helped four people to use it. The results were displayed on laptops and ways of enhancing the images were shown. The grid which was produced was later used by archaeologists to help to select positions for the two trial pits, dug on the site on Sunday July 28th, see below.

'Secrets below the Surface' at the Tudor Dovecote and Stables, Sunday July 28th 2013

By 10 o'clock in the morning a table in the Tudor Stables contained all sorts of equipment borrowed from neighbours, including trowels, garden sieves, seed trays, water carriers and a mattock. The volunteer team welcomed the two



Fig 11. Aerial view of the site, with the survey image superimposed. Image from Bob Randall with a Google image. Copyright Google

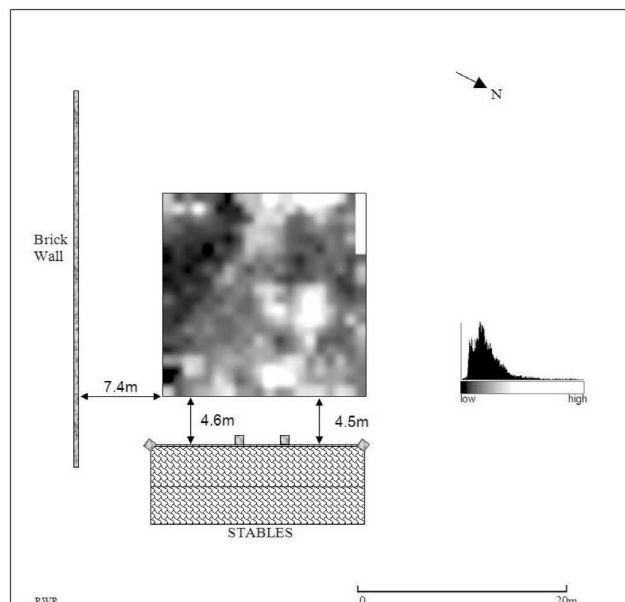


Fig 12. Location of the Resistivity Survey area. Image Bob Randall.

archaeologists who came along to advise and supervise: Angus Wainwright, National Trust Archaeologist for the Eastern Region; and Terry Spencer, who at that time lived in the village and was glad to take up a trowel after a gap of several years. Local people and helpers from Bedford, Amptill, Kimbolton and Stevenage were welcomed too.

Two trial pits were opened and the turf set to one side. The soil was removed in layers 10 centimetres deep and carefully recorded on standard sheets by written descriptions and drawings. The soil was sieved on to large plastic sheets and any finds put into labelled seed trays to be washed later in the day. At the end of the day both pits were filled in and made good. After some rain, they were almost invisible.

We were delighted that some families came to see what was going on in the afternoon. The children were soon listening carefully to explanations and they and their parents got on their knees to see what they could find.

The pit nearest the Stables yielded fewer finds than we hoped. There was a layer of material which may have been the surface of a path or courtyard, and a few finds which



Fig 13. Activity in the afternoon. Image from Julie Scherrer.

Buckinghamshire



Fig 14. Group Training for Resistivity Surveying. Image from Julie Scherrer.

included the rim of a jar made of yellow-glazed pottery which was later dated as being 19th century.

The team had hoped to find evidence of a wall in the pit further west, but did not do so. The materials found included bricks, stones, roof tiles, floor tiles, pieces of pottery and clay pipes, fragments of bone, some very rusty hand-made nails and two tiny fragments of glass; this suggested that there had been a building nearby. The bottom layer of the deposits may not have been reached by the end of the day, so the pit was lined with polythene ready for another dig, perhaps next year.

After drying out, the finds were taken to the Higgins museum in Bedford where the results were said to be 'promising.' Surprisingly little material seemed to date from Tudor times. The clay pipes were thought to be 17th century and much of the pot may date from the 19th century. The oldest find was a tiny piece of worked flint, thought to be Mesolithic, that is dating from the Middle Stone Age.

The volunteer team would like to thank Mr and Mrs Godber for giving us permission to open these two pits on their land. We would also like to thank our friends who helped us so willingly; Kevan and Bob for lending their machine and sharing their expertise, the two archaeologists for their patience and clear explanations, the local people and the families who joined in and came along to help us find out more about Willington's history.

On Sunday June 29th 2014 we will open two more pits nearby, hoping to find the corner of a wall or other evidence. Again we hope that visitors will take an interest and that parents will bring their children to see what is going on.

If you would like more information, contact Dorothy Jamieson at or telephone her on 01234 404879.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Emberton, Church of All Saints (SP 8496 9456)

Wiebke Starke and Robert Wardill

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological investigation during the installation of two

trench-arch drains and associated works. The results of the observations were broadly similar in all parts of the graveyard. No artefacts, cut features, burials or disarticulated bone were identified in the majority of the excavated areas. A small section of a north-south aligned limestone wall was visible in the trench north of the church to the north-west of the north aisle.

Burials and a larger amount of disarticulated human remains were encountered in the pump pit south-east of the south porch. The former 19th century gravel path, leading around the west side of the church to the tower door, was identified in the trench leading around the north-west corner of the church towards the north porch. Artefacts recovered from the graveyard soil comprise a small amount of late Saxon/Saxo-Norman pottery, a 13th century French jetton and a 15th century shoe buckle. OASIS ID: albionar1-159566 Accession Number: AYBCM : 2013.71

Winslow, Rands Farm, Shipton (SP 7770 2740)

Christiane Meckseper

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new agricultural access adjacent to Rands Farm. Archaeological monitoring of the construction works took place in November 2013. Two post-medieval and/or modern ditches and several modern pits were cut through subsoil. In addition, a number of postholes truncated a silt layer; some were still partially covered by the subsoil. The ditches contained modern brick and tile fragments. The most distinct of the postholes produced a coarse sand-tempered pottery body sherd (4g) of probable 13th century date and an unworn sheep molar (3g). Despite the fragment of medieval pottery, the date and function of the postholes are difficult to ascertain. Their proximity to the known medieval settlement remains might suggest that they were associated in date and function. However, a wooden post in one of the features suggests that at least one of them was modern in date. The features are preserved *in situ* below a protective membrane and imported hardcore for the trackway. OASIS ID: albionar1-158164 Accession Number: AYBCM : 2013.97

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Pinewood Studios, Langley Corner (TQ 0160 8489)

Chris Clarke

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land adjacent to Pinewood Studios consisting of ten trenches. Natural sandy gravel was recorded in all of the trenches. The evaluation identified a low density of features consisting of two undated gullies and an undated pit, in addition to two post-medieval or modern boundary ditches. The lack of dating evidence or late date associated with these features, suggests the archaeological features are of negligible to local significance only. OASIS <aocarcha1-148466>

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY

Chilton, Chilton House (SP 6854 1162)
Bob Zeepvat

In October a photographic survey was undertaken of a Grade II listed garden wall at Chilton House, to inform proposals for remedial repairs. The wall, which is constructed mostly of limestone blocks of varying sizes bonded with lime mortar, includes two moulded stone arches of 16th century date, is in a poor condition, with cracks and, in one part, a distinct lean to the east. Several episodes of past repair were noted, including possible rebuilding, and rendering with cement mortar.

Great Missenden, Misbourne Drive (SP 8963 0074)
David Fell

In October and November a desk-based assessment was prepared in order to inform proposals for the demolition of three modular classroom buildings at Misbourne School, Great Missenden, and the construction of a single building in the middle of the school complex.

The Misbourne School is located on the southern periphery of Great Missenden, west of Missenden Abbey, and has the potential to contain heritage assets from the prehistoric to medieval periods relating to the development of the town. Cartographic evidence shows that the assessment site comprised open fields from at least the early 19th century until the construction of the school in the mid-20th century.

Nash, Land at Stratford Road (SP 7817 3408)

Following an earlier desk-based assessment, in January an evaluation of land adjacent to Church Farm was carried out in advance of the residential redevelopment of the site. Two trenches in the northern part of the site revealed a significant amount of modern build-up, indicating that this part of the site had been subjected to recent activity. Both trenches also contained a thick humic layer, probably indicative of the site being previously used for agricultural purposes.

One feature, a small pit, was discovered in the southernmost trench. This pit appeared to have been re-cut twice, and a single sherd of medieval shelly ware was recovered from its uppermost fill. The function of the pit remains unknown, but its presence, combined with records held within the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record, suggests medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.

Princes Risborough, Picts Lane (SP 8008 0263)
Calli Rouse

In October a desk-based assessment was prepared for the Total Carbide site, Picts Lane, as part of the pre-application process for the residential redevelopment of the site. The site has the potential to contain heritage assets dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods, relating to the nearby Culverton Mill, and probable agricultural activity. However, the area has been largely covered by industrial buildings since the latter part of the 20th century, the foundations of

which are likely to have compromised the potential for survival of any below-ground remains across most of the site. The conclusions of the assessment are broadly in line with the results of an earlier evaluation undertaken by ASC on the adjoining Whiteleaf factory site.

Stoke Hammond, Land off Drayton Road (SP 8697 3096)
Mo Muldowney

During late 2012 and early 2013 a programme of archaeological investigation, comprising strip, map and sample excavations and evaluation trenching, was carried out on the Newton Leys development, off Drayton Road. A large assemblage of struck flint, interpreted as locating significant Neolithic or Bronze Age activity, was recovered during fieldwalking of the area in 1995. However, archaeological features of these periods were not identified during the investigations and only three residual flint artefacts were recovered.

The results of the investigations were otherwise consistent with those of recent archaeological investigations completed adjacent to the site. The earliest identified evidence comprised dispersed and truncated ditch segments defining remnants of part of the field system of a middle Iron Age settlement excavated slightly to the north. The site then appears to have been little used until it was incorporated into the medieval open field system of Newton Longville and it has since seen continuous agricultural use.

Waddesdon, Waddesdon Manor (SP 7460 1630)
David Fell and Mo Muldowney

In May a desk-based assessment was compiled in order to inform proposals for the development of a car park and associated facilities in Bail Field, on the Waddesdon Manor estate. The assessment suggested that there was moderate potential for the survival of buried heritage assets largely due to the emparking of the land in the late 19th century and the presence of remains of the shrunken settlement of Wormstone, which lies to the east of the site.

During August an archaeological evaluation was carried out in Bail Field, on the Waddesdon Manor estate, Buckinghamshire, in advance of the construction of a car park and associated access and drainage. The work identified up to five early medieval ditches in the east part of the site, close to the shrunken medieval settlement of Wormstone. A number of land drains and associated ditches and a post-medieval pit were also present. A small assemblage of animal bone and pottery was recovered. Residual sherds of Romano-British pottery in the medieval ditches indicate that Roman remains may be present nearby.

Milton Keynes, Broughton, Broughton Manor Preparatory School (SP 9025 3961)
Janice McLeish

In April a strip, map and sample excavation was carried out at Broughton Manor Preparatory School, in advance of a classroom extension. Eleven archaeological features were revealed comprising seven ditches, three postholes/pits and one tree throw. Finds were recovered from most of the features with exception of the tree throw and two shallow

Buckinghamshire

linear ditches. Animal bone and pottery were the most abundant finds with two registered finds comprising a possible Neolithic flint blade and a single small unfinished spindle whorl, both of which are proposed as residual finds within a possible Iron Age/Romano-British curvilinear ditch. It was possible to relate several of the ditches to features recorded during extensive excavation of the surrounding area in 2007, which revealed a late Iron Age and Roman farmstead and related activity.

Milton Keynes, Middleton, Land to the North-East of Middleton Primary School (SP 8851 3910)

Martin Cuthbert

In June an evaluation was carried out on land to the north-east of Middleton Primary School, ahead of the proposed construction of a drop-off parking area, sports pitch and associated landscaping. Poorly dated ditches and post holes were identified at the north of the site and Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA) or early Romano-British ditches and pits at the west. A large pit or intercutting pits at the centre and south-west of the site identifies quarrying of LPRIA or early Roman date. The south-east part of the site had been significantly disturbed by recent activity associated with the former Hartigans gravel quarry. The LPRIA or early Roman remains are locally significant as they are the first identified in Middleton.

During July and August excavation was undertaken on the site. Settlement evidence of the LPRIA and early Romano-British periods was revealed, confirming the results of the evaluation. The earliest features comprised two superimposed pennanular gullies and associated postholes, representing two phases of roundhouse. Following the disuse of the roundhouse a large north-south aligned boundary ditch with an east-west branch was constructed. Three phases of enclosure ditches located at the west and two at the east of the site appeared to drain into the large boundary ditch, suggesting it was in use for a long period of time. A number of gullies, pits and postholes were also identified. Features of other periods were limited to one early-mid Saxon pit and furrows of the medieval open field system of Milton Keynes village.

Following a programme of analysis, it is anticipated that the results of the excavation will be published in *Records of Buckinghamshire*.

Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell, Caldecote Farm (SP 8810 4216)

Martin Cuthbert

Following earlier investigations, including desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trenching, in October an earthwork survey was carried out on the site of the proposed Caldecote Farm Quarry, Willen Lane. The survey recorded banks, ditches and hollows at the north of the site, interpreted as post-medieval field boundaries and quarrying. Evidence of modern agricultural activity was also present. None of the earthworks appear to be related to the adjacent medieval settlement of Caldecote, although sub-surface features associated with the medieval village were discovered in the vicinity of the earthworks during trial trenching.

Milton Keynes, Shenley Brook End, Little Stocking (SP 8330 3530)

Mo Muldowney

Between November 2012 and April 2013 a watching brief was carried out on land at Emerson Farmhouse, 27 Little Stocking, during groundwork associated with the residential development of the site. The work revealed that the area around Emerson Farmhouse had previously been subject to considerable lateral and intrusive truncation. The only surviving features were two pits of probable post-medieval date, one of which contained the sawn skeleton of a horse.

Milton Keynes, Stony Stratford, 7A High Street (SP 7886 4034)

Martin Cuthbert

In April a watching brief was carried out during groundworks for an extension at 7A High Street. The proximity of the site to the High Street suggested it had the potential for the survival of archaeological remains that might have contributed to the understanding of the development of Stony Stratford. No pre-modern archaeological finds or features were observed within the trenches. One area of modern disturbance was recorded in the north western part of the site, which may be connected to the construction of the bank on the adjacent plot.

Milton Keynes, Stony Stratford, 2 Market Square (SP 78710 40395)

Calli Rouse

Following an earlier trial trench evaluation, in April a watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the residential redevelopment of land adjacent to 2 Market Square. The 2007 evaluation had revealed a number of post-medieval and modern floor surfaces, as well as part of a late medieval limestone feature of unknown function. The watching brief did not reveal any new pre-modern features. An extension of one previously recorded late medieval limestone feature was tentatively interpreted as a wall footing.

Milton Keynes, Thornton, Thornton Hall (SP 7612 3542)

Bob Zeepvat

In February an assessment was carried out at Thornton Hall, to inform proposals for remodelling part of the ground floor of the house. The panelling in the Dining Room is in the Jacobethan style, popular from c 1830 onwards, at which time the house was the farmhouse for Tyrellcote Farm. The panelling is machine-made, and therefore of later 19th or possibly early 20th century date. Although it was not possible to remove areas of the panelling to examine the fabric of the walls behind, in the two locations where examination was possible the walls were plastered and painted, with skirting boards at the south-west corner of the room, indicating that the panelling had been applied over existing wall finishes. The panelling also respected a service pipe run down the south-west corner, and so must post-date it. The nature of the joins between panels, and the way panels have been cut to fit

existing features in the room, all demonstrated that the panelling must have been brought in from another building, and made to fit its present location. Certain sections, notably around the cupboards flanking the fireplace, may have been made to cover areas for which none of the imported panelling was suitable.

The provenance of the panelling is uncertain. Evidence from a former occupant suggests that it was brought in c 1918, though its previous location is not recorded. It has been suggested that it came from Thornton Manor (now Thornton College), which was much enlarged and rebuilt in Tudor Gothic style in 1850 by the architect John Tarring for the Hon. Richard Cavendish. It is possible that the panelling was installed at the Manor at this time, and was taken to Thornton Hall in the early 20th century as part of the 'gentrification' of the existing farmhouse.

Milton Keynes, Weston Underwood, Cross Lane
(SP 8666 5058)

Bob Zeepvat

In February a historic building assessment was prepared for an outbuilding at Manor Cottage, Cross Lane, to inform proposals for its demolition and replacement. Manor Cottage is a stone-built, Grade II listed house of 17th century date. The outbuilding lies within the curtilage of the listed building.

The outbuilding first appears in the historical record as a separate entity in 1882, though it is almost certainly earlier. Maps of late 17th and early 18th century date show an extended south-west wing of the house occupying this location. The building is a small, single-cell stone structure, wholly unremarkable with no significant features or fittings. The former existence of a brick flue and photographic evidence for a chimney on its south-east wall hint at a specific function other than general storage, but what remains undetermined. The outbuilding is not listed, though its location within the curtilage of the Grade II listed Manor Cottage implies at least local significance.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Peter Marsden

2013

1 Collective Research Activities during the year

The society's members ran a series of collective research and survey projects during 2013, relating particularly to the expected impact of the HS2 high-speed rail project on the county and through its Historic Buildings Group. Their results are summarised here and published in a series of pages on the society's website at www.bucksas.org.uk/hbg.html.

The Historic Impact of HS2 High-Speed Rail

The society continues to respond to the plans to run a high-speed rail line, known as 'HS2', across Buckinghamshire from end-to-end on its route from London to Birmingham.

In particular investigations continued at the site of Stoke Mandeville's deserted medieval village, which dates back to at least the Saxon period and will be totally obliterated by HS2. Four tracks running abreast will pass through the remains of its Saxo-Norman church. New work in 2013 included the transcription of all known wills for evidence about the village before its desertion, a three-day geophysical resistivity survey of the outer enclosure around the churchyard, and proposals for the management of the estimated 2,500 burials which will have to be removed. Reports on all these activities are in preparation.

Considerable effort was spent in responding to official documents issued by HS2 Limited in preparation for the building of the line, including a Draft Code of Construction Practice and what the company has termed 'design refinements' which affect the historic environment. In particular the society responded to the HS2 Environmental Statement, which set out the impact the line is expected to have. This includes historic and archaeological sites.

The society raised particular concern at Doddershall, where, despite a clear indication of the extent, significance and heritage value of the deserted medieval village, the HS2 engineers have designated its whole area as 'required for construction work'. The inevitable heavy earth-moving equipment would leave no trace whatsoever of the fragile earthworks.

This is but one among many serious concerns at the damage likely from HS2 to the county's historic landscapes. Others include the scheduled monument of Grim's Ditch and the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Concern is magnified because the parliamentary 'Hybrid Bill' will enable HS2 to specifically set aside all earlier legislation that would normally protect our historic environment.

Reports on these activities are regularly added to the society's website, where the HS2 project 'home page' is at www.bucksas.org.uk/hs2home.html.

Recording the historic public houses of Buckinghamshire

This project aims to record the pubs and former pubs of the county, many of which are historic buildings in their own right. A survey of nine pubs and former pubs in Stewkley was completed. Surveys were started in Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Chesham, Cholesbury St Leonard's and Marsh Gibbon.

Historic buildings group surveys

Members of the Historic Buildings Group continued work on surveying, drawing and researching historic buildings in Hedgerley, Wingrave and Great Horwood. A report on Shell House, Hedgerley (1683) was published as a major article in Records of Buckinghamshire. Two other reports were added to the society's website: on a 17th century cottage in Great Horwood and on Uplands at Cryers Hill, a 19th century 'gentleman's residence' of architectural value which is subject to an application for redevelopment. These and other projects can be found on the website at www.bucksas.org.uk/hbgprojects.html

Buckinghamshire

2 2013 Publications

Winslow in 1556: The survey of the Manor by David Noy

The manor of Winslow, including Granborough and Little Horwood, was surveyed in 1556, probably to maximise revenue for the Crown. Winslow was in royal ownership after the dissolution of St Albans Abbey, and in 1556 had an absentee landlord, who owed the Crown money, and a resident bailiff. Then the surveyor Thomas Gedge came to call. This book paints a picture of Winslow in 1556: its people, its properties, their occupations, their families and relationships, their petty crimes and long-term feuds. Putting together the 1556 Survey with other historical documents - wills, inventories, parish registers, legal records, David Noy develops a panorama of Winslow's economic, social and religious life in the mid-16th century. With the text of the Survey itself, translated and published here for the first time. 160 pages, fully annotated and with indexes of People and Places. To receive a copy send £5.00 (including postage and packing) to Bucks Archaeological Society, County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP.

Records of Buckinghamshire Volume 53 - 2013

A Romano-British Malt House and other remains at Weedon Hill, Aylesbury - Gail Wakeham and Philippa Bradley

A multi-period site at Broughton North, Milton Keynes - Alex Thompson and Bob Zeepvat

Investigations at Warren Wood, Little Marlow, 2010-2011 - John Laker and others

Excavations at St Laurence's Meeting Room, Market Square, Winslow - Carina Summerfield-Hill

The View of Frankpledge in the Chilterns - Gary Marshall
Buckinghamshire in 1327: The evidence from the Lay Subsidy Returns - Keith Bailey

A deer park at Seagrave's Farm, Penn - Miles Green

Wycombe Heath and the Londoners' Chase - Miles Green

Lowndes Park earthwork mound: windmill or burial mound? An archaeological investigation - Yvonne H Edwards, Marion Wells, John Gover, Birgitta Thwaites, Jill Hender and others

Enclosure and the changing landscape of Hillesden - Judith Curthoys

Why did Edward Penn build only half a house? A historic building analysis of Shell House, Hedgerley - Peter John Marsden

'Bad beds and worse eating': The restoration and revival of the New Inn, Stowe - Gary Marshall, with illustrations by Amir Bassir

Lady Astor and the gardeners at Cliveden, 1920s-1950s - Pamela Horn

Notes:

Slade names in Buckinghamshire - Keith Bailey

Lay Rectorships: Where the past catches up with the present - Jeremy Howarth

My life as a hewer of coal - Alan Dell

Copies cost £18.50 including postage and packing from Bucks Archaeological Society, County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP.

3 Other significant activities

Buckinghamshire Local History Network Conference

The subject of the 2013 Conference, held at Little Chalfont in September under the auspices of the Society, was 'Power, money and the landscape'. Talks were given on:

Roman villas and their landscape in Buckinghamshire - Professor Keith Branigan

Lord or peasant? The origin of the nucleated village and the open fields with special reference to North Bucks - Dr Richard Jones

Theatres of power: Buckinghamshire forests and chases - Dr Graham Jones

Conspicuous display: The 18th century great house with special reference to Hartwell - Richard Wheeler

Rothschild money moving a mountain: The creation and role of the Waddesdon gardens - Catherine Taylor

Conserving the Chilterns 1920-1950 - Dr Richard Quinault

On-line Records of Buckinghamshire

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

The third on-line volume went live on the society's website in January 2013. This is volume 1, originally published in eight parts in 1854-1858. This includes articles on Antiquities of the Chiltern Hills, Aylesbury Church in 1848, Desecrated churches of Buckinghamshire, the History of Mursley-with-Salden, Cold-Harbour, Earthworks at Hampden and Little Kimble, Drayton Beauchamp, a manorial history, Biddlesden Abbey and its lands, and 49 other articles.

To access this and other On-line Records volumes, go to www.bucksas.org.uk/onlinerecords.html.

The Society's Website

The society's website has increased in size during 2013, particularly in relation to the archaeology of HS2, and includes both regular reports of current research activities and links to other historical and archaeological resources within the county. The website is at www.bucksas.org.uk.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

COUNTY

Sarah-Jane Farr

Senior Archaeology Planning Officer

This has been a challenging year within Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service with the departure of the County Archaeologist, Sandy Kidd in March 2013. Julia Wise (HER Officer) and Bill Boismier (Archaeology Planning Officer) carried out all planning advisory work until Sarah-Jane Farr began as Senior Planning Archaeologist in July and Eliza Alqassar returned to work in October 2013.

Fieldwork Projects

Thirty nine development-related fieldwork projects were undertaken in the four Districts of Buckinghamshire county. At 90 High Street, Marlow, excavation to the rear of the existing street frontage building found a medieval pit with disarticulated human remains - parts of the skeletons of two adolescents. Backyard burial is unusual for a medieval town centre site so close to the churchyard and radio-carbon dating of the bones has shown them to be Bronze Age suggesting that the barrow cemetery, known to exist much further to the west, extended into this area. Excavations by Foundations Archaeology along the line of a new electricity cable discovered evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement including a 'Grubenhaus' (pit house) at Chandlers Hill, Iver.

Detailed comments on the High Speed 2 Draft Environmental Statement were submitted in July 2013 as part of the overall County Council response. There will be significant impacts on known and potential sites of archaeological interest, notably Grim's Ditch scheduled monument, the Registered park and gardens at Hartwell, the Roman town at Fleet Marston and Doddershall Hall landscape.

David Green (Buckinghamshire County Council Landscape Advisor) has completed the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Towns Project, the summary publication will be available in 2014.

HER enhancement

The HER Officer enhanced the HER's recording of historic buildings by inputting local buildings of note across the county. Volunteer recording projects include adding nearly five hundred war memorial records to the HER and inputting records of milestones and mileposts - with one hundred and eighty six recorded to date.

CHILTERN ARCHAEOLOGY

Dr Jill Byers

St Dunstan's Church graveyard extension excavation (SP E118 0433)

In June and July 2013, Chiltern Archaeology carried out an area excavation of the site destined for the extension to the graveyard at St Dunstan's Church, Monks Risborough. The area was c 2,400m². A large quantity of unstratified finds was encountered in the cleaning layer. These ranged from stone tools to a variety of post-Medieval items, with large quantities of Roman and early Medieval artefacts (notably ceramic building material and pottery) in the assemblage. The large quantity of unstratified finds was due to a vast number of intercutting features. These features included 43 pits, 18 ditches and gullies, 19 postholes and 11 layers. In all 286 contexts were recorded. Features provided phase dates of Iron Age, Iron Age to early Romano-British, Roman 3rd to 4th century; Saxon 5th to 9th century and various features of Medieval date particularly the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. The indication is that the land formed part of an open disposal area close to habitation throughout this period. The sparse finds representative of later than the 14th century probably reflects the change in the use of the area to farmland (for grazing) and the cessation of pit digging and rubbish



Fig 1. Section at the east end of the site showing three intercutting ditches. Cut 028 is Roman; Cut 016 late 11th to 12th century and Cut 024 is 12th to mid-13th century.

disposal as a result. This coincides with the final phases of church building in the 14th century. The church has always been reportedly dated to the 14th century. However, this project takes back the age for the early phase of church building considerably, which is now known more precisely (from building stone within dated contexts). The first phase of building for the church was in the mid- to late-11th century. It is therefore suggested that parts of St Dunstan's church are Norman, with further building in the early 14th and then 15th century. There may well have been an earlier Saxon church on the site, given the ownership of the land by the Canterbury monks from the 8th or 9th century. The monks actively managed the area up to the 14th century, and indeed retained the land until their dissolution of their monastery in 1539.

The importance of this excavation lies not only in the above range of occupation evidence, but in providing rarer glimpses of Iron Age (including a roundhouse drip gully) through to early Roman and importantly the Roman to Saxon to Norman transition. In short a very exciting site!

CUTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Beaconsfield, 37-47 London End (SU 9470 9019)
Simon Ceryle

An evaluation identified only modern deposits.

Buckinghamshire
IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES LTD

Haversham (SP 8363 4366)

A Heritage Asset Survey at Hill Farm House by Iain Soden traced the origin and architecture of this double-pile Grade II listed farmhouse to the immediate post-enclosure period, probably soon after 1764. It was extensively reordered around 1815. It lies adjacent to known Roman remains, some of which have been excavated archaeologically. The report led to alterations being carried out without further need for archaeological input.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES
Compiled by David Gilbert

Brill, 44 Temple Street (SP 65600 14095)
Paul Riccoboni

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in advance of the proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two new dwellings. One 5.5m long trench was excavated down to the surface of the archaeology or natural geology. A ditch orientated on a north-west south-east direction was discovered at the north-western end of the trench. It contained pottery which dated the fill of the ditch to the 16th century. Other discrete features, interpreted as two postholes and pit, were adjacent to the ditch. Two features contained pottery dating to the 13th century. The earliest find was a residual early Neolithic flint blade. The features represent medieval and post-medieval activity on the proposal site, which may be related to industrial functions such as a kiln, although only one fragment from manufacturing waste was recovered.

Dinton, Cuddington Road, Marsh Mead Farm
(SP 7578 1157)
Stephen Yeates

An archaeological evaluation identified a number of features of a late Iron Age to early Roman date. The subsequent excavation identified a number of features, which could be divided into five simple phases. The earliest features were probably quarry hollows and agricultural plough soil deposits. These features lacked datable material, but they were truncated by the datable remains of the Phase 2 enclosure ditch.

Phase 2 saw the construction of an enclosure ditch, which contained quantities of Roman pottery, some Roman tegulae and box flue tile. There was also iron slag and vitrified furnace lining. Only two linear features were noted on this enclosure, but they gave a measurement of over 30m by 15m. The enclosure extended into the area of the stables, which was exempt from any archaeological investigation. It is possible that it is in this area that the structure would have been located and also where the iron working would have taken place. The 2nd century ditch found in evaluation Trench 3, although recut, may well be the east side of the enclosure. A few other features could be placed into this period, one of

which was probably part of a ditch on the southwest side of the site, which contained Roman pottery and daub.

Indications of any activity from the 3rd to the 16th century were scarce, there was one cut feature, which had to be placed in this Phase 3, as it was determined that it cut the line of the enclosure ditch but was itself cut by a small drainage ditch that contained 17th century pottery. This hollow looked as if it cut into earlier features, so perhaps the robbing or quarrying of deposits was the motive here, if man made, or perhaps a product of tree planting or bioturbation.

Phase 4 was of the 17th century, and contained a number of small discrete features interpreted as ditches and gullies and small pits. A handful of these features contained datable evidence. There was a further small group of features that were not dated, but were attributed to this phase as they were sealed by the subsoil, and this deposit also contained pottery attributed to the 17th century.

Gerrards Cross, 12 Camp Road (SU 9970 8814)
David Gilbert

A single trench was excavated that revealed a possible posthole or small pit. This feature was heavily truncated and remained undated.

High Wycombe, All Saints' Church (SU 86564 93084)
Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was conducted during exploratory sondages to determine the presence of underground features around the south porch at All Saints' Church. The excavation uncovered the foundations of the porch and its buttresses that had been reworked in places with the addition of later bricks into a mainly flint foundation, along with a series of layered deposits that were different on the inside and outside of the church. No dating evidence was recovered from the surrounding layers and only one or two fragmentary pieces of disarticulated human bone were present.

Monks Risborough, Burton Lane, Monks Mede
(SP 8122 0430)
Gwilym Williams

The two-trench evaluation in the garden of Monks Mede recorded a quarry pit, dating from after the Roman period, and a late medieval or early post-medieval wall base, in addition to undated postholes and a ditch, that were investigated. The ditch may well be part of the same enclosure observed in 2004. Unstratified Roman building materials and medieval pottery indicate that some of these undated features probably date from these periods. An early prehistoric bladelet was also recovered.

Quainton, Shipton Lee, Grange Farm (SP 735 208)
Wayne Perkins

A Watching Brief was conducted while the building complex of the Grange was being redeveloped for modern housing. This necessitated the wholesale refurbishment, restoration and in some cases, demolition of certain building elements.

Slapton, the church of the Holy Cross (SP 93715 20690)
Stephen Yeates

Two watching briefs were conducted at the church of the Holy Cross. The first watching brief observed a series of trenches around the church that uncovered a series of broader foundations, and also noted the apparent profile of a ditch through the churchyard. Surprisingly at this time no burials were noted in the graveyard, thus potentially indicating the probability of a low level of interment on the site over the years. The second watching brief saw a small section of trench cut for the insertion of an electricity cable. The remains of a brick foundation and a single grave cut were observed.

Turville, The Church of St Mary the Virgin
(SU 7670 9115)
Wayne Perkins

A watching brief was undertaken during work in the churchyard. Twenty human skeletons were recovered for re-burial from a septic-tank pit. Although several burial deposits contained coffin furniture and fittings most did not.

Twyford, Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (SP 6659 2666)
Gwilym Williams

Two trenches were excavated on land to the east of the present burial ground of the church. Trenches excavated through previously recorded earthworks confirmed them to be part of an early high medieval manorial complex. Ditches formed an enclosure round a raised platform. Pottery from the abandonment phase dated from the 11th to 13th centuries. The former vicarage, which was probably the former manor house, located 40m to the west, was built in the 15th century, and appears to have replaced the former structure located in the vicinity of the evaluation.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2013

Nick Crank

Fieldwork

Twenty nine development-related fieldwork projects were undertaken in the Milton Keynes area in 2013.

Particular highlights included: The excavation of an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement adjacent to Middleton Primary School, Milton Keynes village by Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd; and a trial trench evaluation in Ravenstone by Albion Archaeology which revealed remains of the former church of Ravenstone Priory (Fig 2.).

Records of built heritage included a detailed photographic survey of Middleton Hall and Eagle walk prior to remodelling within Central Milton Keynes's Grade II listed Shopping Building.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

The HER was successfully migrated to Exegesis HBSMR software in September and was also re-launched on the



Fig 2. Paved floor of Ravenstone Priory Church overlain by demolition layer to right. Scale 30cm. (Albion Archaeology).

Heritage Gateway via HBSMR in November. Moving to HBSMR brings a number of benefits including improved accessibility, greater ease of searching, cross-compatibility and integration with mapping.

Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) carried out an assessment of the archaeological resource in mineral and aggregate search areas within the county, including Milton Keynes. A case study examining the effects of mineral extraction on built heritage was carried out in the Olney area as part of this project. The resultant reports and datasets should be published via the Archaeology Data Service in 2014.

Outreach

In September the Senior Archaeological Officer led a 'Heritage Hike' guided walk in the Ouzel valley as part of the Heritage Open Days season.

On Saturday 9th November 2013 the Central Library played host to the 7th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day. For the second year running a hands-on archaeology workshop was provided for the under 10s, this year hosted by local firm ASC Ltd (Fig 3.).

Stands and displays included a team from the Wing Heritage Project, a study group established to improve knowledge of the village's heritage prior to the production of a neighbourhood plan. Other displays included Northamptonshire's Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP) and the Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS) plus Archaeology Day regulars Magiovinium Metal Detecting club whose



Fig 4. Milton Keynes's Archaeology Day. ASC Ltd Archaeology Workshop proved very popular.

wide-ranging collections of artefacts proved as popular as ever.

The biggest draws of the day were the two lectures held in the Local Studies Library. In the morning local archaeologist and resident pottery specialist on television's 'Time Team', Paul Blinkhorn presented 'Carry On Trowelling'. This proved a highly entertaining romp through the history of archaeology in the media, highlighting and debunking many myths in the process. Paul rounded off his talk with a question and answer session in which he provided fascinating insights into the making of Time Team.

The afternoon saw a real change of gear as Cecily Cropper of MFL Archaeology spoke on the subject of Forensic Archaeology, charting its development and use in criminal and post-conflict situations both in the UK and abroad. Cecily used some well-known criminal cases from the past as examples as well as touching on her own work with the United Nations in worldwide post-conflict situations.

On display from November 2013 to April 2014 in various library venues was a new exhibition of recent archaeological work from across the borough. Compiled with information from 7 external contributors, the exhibition featured both development related projects and community archaeology such as the Bury Field geophysical survey. It was accompanied by 3 cases of finds from the Wolverton Anglo-Saxon and Broughton Gate Iron Age and Roman cemeteries. The exhibition may be viewed online via the Discover MK website:

<http://www.discovermiltonkeynes.co.uk/>

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

NATIONAL TRUST

Gary Marshall

Stowe Gardens (SP67663695)

During the period from October to the end of December 2013 major engineering works were undertaken in the gardens at

the Octagon Lake cascade to build a new outfall culvert from the lake. The cascade is believed to form part of Lord Cobham's earliest designs for the gardens, dating from between 1714 and 1720 when an earth bank was raised to hold back the waters of the Octagon Lake and create a spillway above the Eleven Acre Lake. At a later date, probably during the 1750s, the spillway was converted to an elaborate rockwork cascade adorned with reclining river gods and other statuary. The current simplified appearance of the rockwork probably dates to alterations carried out in the 1880s.

The 2013 works were designed to meet the requirements of the Dams and Reservoirs Act and involved the construction of a new culvert and heightening of the existing dam. A watching brief was maintained by the National Trust over excavations to remove the existing brick culvert which is believed to be contemporary with the 1880s alterations. This led to the discovery of an underlying brick floor for a previous culvert, perhaps dating from the early 19th century. At its downstream end this earlier culvert exited into a pool of open water framed by artificial rockwork. A timber frame to the mouth of the culvert was recorded in-situ and subsequent sampling for dendrochronology dating confirmed a felling date range of 1758-77 for its construction.

The removal of this earlier floor led to the discovery of an earlier stone-sided culvert measuring 0.64m in width. Unfortunately the top had been removed when the second brick floor was installed; however, it was clearly a well-built structure with the two courses of stone forming the side walls neatly dressed and tightly laid. This culvert most likely dates to the 1714-20 period when the earth dam was first laid and a means of exiting the water from the Octagon Lake to the Eleven Acre Lake was required. The watching brief therefore successfully recorded evidence for two earlier phases of culvert and also recorded evidence for an earlier rockwork pool preceding the current pool existing above the spillway over the Eleven Acre Lake.

West Wycombe Village (centred on SU829946)

The National Trust owns the majority of the historic buildings in West Wycombe Village, having acquired them from the Royal Society of Arts in 1933. The RSA had in turn acquired the buildings from the West Wycombe estate at a time when they were in a decrepit state and there were serious proposals to demolish them. Thanks to the efforts of the RSA they were restored and brought up to 20th century standards of accommodation. Twenty three of the fifty or so buildings in Trust ownership are listed and range in date from the mid-16th century through to the 20th century.

A number of these buildings are currently being upgraded with new roof coverings and internal works to provide new kitchens and bathrooms. Consequently the works are providing an opportunity to re-assess the construction, evolution and date of these buildings and the National Trust has commissioned Oxford Archaeology to provide a drawn and descriptive record of the roof structures, plus limited internal examination where possible. The services of Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory have also been commissioned to sample and provide felling dates for the buildings. The earliest building dated by this process is the Church Loft on the north side of the high street, the timbers

of which have provided a felling date of 1465. This building (not owned by the National Trust) was built to accommodate the business of the Church and is still owned by the Diocese. On the opposite side of the road the Crown Court complex arranged around a central courtyard, has provided a range of construction dates, the earliest forming the west range (No 27) has returned felling dates of 1561. The north range has returned dates of c 1543 for the carriage arch into the complex and 1648 for the adjacent east part of the range (Nos 34-35) with a slightly earlier date of 1640-41 for the kitchen. Immediately west of Crown Court on the high street no.25 has returned a felling date of winter 1531-32 and the adjacent building (no. 24) a felling date of winter 1532-33. At the opposite (west) end of the high street the complex of timber-framed buildings constituting Nos 2-9 has provided felling dates of 1554 for No 3 and 1555 for No 4 with the rear range of No 4 dating to 1569.

The project is so far in its early stages. However, it is clear from the dendro-dating and recording that a large number of the village buildings originate from the early to mid 16th century. They were possibly built as merchant houses since the high street historically has been an important route to Oxford (A40). Alterations were made in the 17th century and a large number of buildings were refaced in the 18th century but retaining behind the brick elevations the original timber framing. Further analysis and sampling for dendro-dating will take place in 2014 when the roofs of Steps House and Black Boy cottage are stripped. A synthesised account of the historical development of the village is due for completion at the end of 2014.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY (MOLA Northampton)

Compiled by Pat Chapman

Aston Clinton, Chapel Drive (SP 882 124)
Chris Chinnock

A medieval pit dated to the late 12th-13th centuries was recorded in evaluation. Occasional furrows associated with medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were observed. The alignment of two small undated drainage gullies suggested they were related to medieval agricultural activity. A pair of postholes were of post-medieval to recent date. AYBCM:2013.101; OASIS 160409

Aston Clinton, College Road North (SP 877 135)
Carol Simmonds and Jim Burke

Archaeological earthwork survey and excavation was undertaken following evaluation (*SMA* (2012) 43, 29). An area of late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement was located on a slight ridge of ground situated adjacent to ponds and marshy ground. There seemed to have been a short-lived attempt at cultivation, perhaps a vineyard, in the late Iron Age/early Roman period, but this was quickly abandoned. Activity was subsequently focussed on the slight ridge and comprised multiple enclosures arranged around a series of ponds. A possible rectangular timber building was constructed in the 1st or 2nd centuries AD and a possible

roundhouse was built in the 2nd century. Both buildings had fallen out of use by the 3rd or 4th centuries. A number of burials and cremations dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries and included three examples of decapitation. AYBCM:2010.223; OASIS: 147436

Aston Clinton College Road North, water and sewer pipelines (SP 845 133 to SP 877 135)
Jason Clarke

Enclosures dating from the middle to late Iron Age were recorded before the laying of new water and sewer pipelines for 3km with an easement corridor of 30m. A sub-square mortuary enclosure was probably constructed in the mid to late 1st century AD. Although no central burial survived there were two associated cremation burials, as possible satellites, radiocarbon dated to the mid 1st to early 2nd century AD. The final phase of activity was a sub-square enclosure, with pits and postholes, constructed in the early 2nd century AD, with activity continuing into the 4th century AD. Along the easement were two trackways dating from the 2nd century AD as well as contemporary and undated ditches. AYBCM.2012.87; OASIS 174600

Granborough, 4 Marston Road (SP 7675 2497)
Amir Bassir

An assessment of the 16th century cottage recorded an original build with an eastern open hall and central smoke bay with a two-floor western bay, the building was extended southward at ground floor level during the 17th century in a phase of alterations which also saw the construction of central and western chimneys and a new stair. The early - mid 20th century saw a further phase of work which included the rebuilding of much of the main elevations, alterations to the west chimney, construction of a new corrugated roof over the original thatch and addition of internal partitions in the first floor rooms. OASIS 144769

Ivinghoe, The Old Brewery (SP 946 160)
David J Leigh

An archaeological watching brief recorded modern overburden throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. AYBCM: 2013.12

Marlow, 90 High Street (SU 8501 8634)
Simon Markus

The disarticulated human remains of two juveniles aged 10-12, radiocarbon dated to 2140BC to 1950BC (95% confidence) and a sherd of Bronze Age Beaker pottery, had been reburied in a medieval pit dated to the mid 12th century. There were two chalk-walled buildings dating to the 16th century with later brick additions. A watching brief recorded a feature dating to at least the 16th century. AYBCM:2013.11; OASIS 154301

Buckinghamshire

Milton Keynes, Lavendon, 5 Northampton Road
(SP 9157 5364)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A post-medieval outbuilding was uncovered along with late medieval and post-medieval pottery from the garden soil, during groundworks connected with the construction of a single-storey extension. OASIS 162154

Milton Keynes, Wavendon, Church Farm (SP 911 365)
Chris Chinnock and John Walford

An earthwork platform, an undated network of ditches and extensive tracts of medieval ridge and furrow were recorded by archaeological geophysical survey on 24ha of land. Some modern disturbance was also identified. OASIS 164313

Olney, The Carlton House Club (SP 889 515)
David J Leigh

Two large pits of probable late-medieval or early post-medieval date were recorded in an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the foundation trenches. A stone structure with a later brick relieving arch, probably dates to the 18th-19th centuries, and there are also other stone and brick walls. Map evidence indicates that these structures had been demolished by the end of the mid 20th century. AYBCM: 2012.36

Olney, Sutcliff Baptist Church (SP 8887 5134)
Gemma Hewitt

An archaeological watching brief, following evaluation by NA (*SMA* (2012), 42, 20) was carried out during a graveyard clearance and relocation of burials, before building an extension to the church. Several brick burial vaults of 18th to 19th century date were seen, generally 1.6m deep, with brick floor and walls constructed with plain unfrogged bricks. The roofs of these vaults had been removed during previous building works in the 1980s and the vaults backfilled with modern building material, such as blue engineering bricks and edging bricks, which had been truncated during previous building works. The remains of earlier burials were observed to lie at a greater depth at the western extent of the churchyard. The tomb of John Sutcliffe was damaged beyond repair when lifted, and a replacement will be erected. AYBCM: 2013.100; OASIS 160206

Olney, Warrington, Home Farm (SP 4898 2539)
Christopher Jones

Two pits, both containing medieval pottery, dating to the 13th-15th centuries were recorded during evaluation.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Westbury to Buffers Holt Phase 2 Mains Replacement
SP 5593647 64133602

James Fairbairn

Sporadic evidence, in the form of post-medieval ditches and drainage features, was observed during this watching brief, while small sherds of Roman and medieval pottery found close to the brook to the east of Westbury are probably the result of colluvial activity. (OA East Report 1565)

Mursley, The Beechams, rear of Nos 9 and 11 Main Street
SP 8160 2850

Rob Atkins

Evaluation showed that medieval deposits survived within the higher ground in the eastern part of the site whereas the western area was on land which was formerly part of a pond or stream where no remains predating modern build-up were found. Two medieval pits contained moderate assemblages of 13th to early 15th century pottery. A sample from this pit also produced a significant charred seed assemblage. Three undated postholes lay adjacent to the pits and may have been the remains of a late medieval/early post-medieval structure, or structures, that fronted onto The Beechams. During the 19th or 20th century the site was subject to significant landscaping, resulting in a covering of deposits between 0.6m and 1m thick. (OA East Report 1455)

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Bierton, land north-east of Aylesbury (SP 8200 1630)
Steve Leech

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Hallam Land Management and Rob Bourn of CgMS to undertake evaluation trenching on the site of a proposed housing development on land c 1.5km to the north-east of Aylesbury town centre. The trenching was carried out between 12th August and 3rd September 2013. Thirty five of the originally proposed sixty trenches were opened, the remainder being abandoned as landowner permission was not forthcoming. The excavated trenches - 35 in total - were located in three areas.

Area 1: Extensive traces of Iron Age and Roman settlement were encountered in the north-western field, on a slight rise next to the River Thame. Mid-late Iron Age pottery was found in association with two small circular enclosures (possible roundhouses) and a series of sub-rectangular enclosures or field boundaries. The prehistoric pottery assemblage as a whole appears generally characteristic of the middle Iron Age, although some contexts could date from as late as the 1st century BC. An articulated piglet skeleton from an Iron Age ditch is of particular interest as a potential ritual deposit.

Roman artefacts were predominantly associated with a roughly sub-rectangular enclosure. The largest Roman pottery assemblage came from a series of small rectilinear enclosures, which perhaps represents the core of the Roman

settlement. The date range of the Roman pottery appears to be focused predominantly in the 2nd century AD, possibly extending into the early 3rd century AD. Oven or kiln fragments suggest that small scale pottery manufacture was carried out on or near the site. An earthwork enclosure was identified from aerial photographs and Lidar data, overlying the Roman settlement. This is interpreted in the Buckinghamshire Heritage Environment Record as a possible medieval moated manor (HER0234400000). The enclosure is certainly post-Roman in date, as it was recorded directly overlying the Roman features, but otherwise the evaluation did not find any evidence for its date.

Area 2: A shallow, plough-eroded pit contained the surviving parts of an articulated cattle skeleton but no artefacts. No other potentially significant features were identified.

Area 3: One ditch produced animal bone and a single sherd of possible late Iron Age pottery. No other potentially significant features were identified.

SOUTERRAIN SERVICES LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Astwood, The Old Swan inn (NGR 495126, 247352)

Martin D Wilson

An archaeological investigation was carried out during ground preparation for a new house within the curtilage of a 17th century inn, within the historic core of Astwood village. A concentration of 13th/14th century rubbish pits was exposed along the northwest boundary of the site, together with a single pit of post-medieval date. The evidence most likely pertains to domestic occupancy of the site during this period. The apparent absence of archaeological features elsewhere (c 150 m²) seems to suggest that the pits were dug at the edge of a land plot, possibly the boundary of a medieval tenement. There were possible traces of the medieval ground surface above the pits. In the late 18th or early 19th century the surface of the site was covered with a substantial layer of hearth waste, presumably hard-standing for horse-drawn carriages. Apart from the insertion of land drains the medieval pits were undisturbed. To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of archaeological evidence for medieval settlement at Astwood.

Milton Keynes HER Event No.1343. OASIS Ref. souterra1-154822

Hanslope, Maltings Farmhouse (SP 80530 46750)

Martin D Wilson

An archaeological investigation was undertaken during ground preparation for a new dwelling in the historic core of Hanslope village. The development plot was within the curtilage of a 17th century farmhouse, which was surmised to be the site of a medieval tenement, one of a row that fronted the village green at Church End. The investigation revealed a series of ditches and gullies broadly dated by pottery to the 12th/13th century. These features were masked by an occupation layer of 13th/14th century date. A cobbled surface revealed at the same level was possibly of the same period.

The evidence pertains to domestic occupancy of the site, thus supporting the theory of a tenement. The archaeology had suffered no disturbance during the post-medieval to modern periods. The construction design enabled medieval deposits and features to remain in situ. To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of evidence for 13th century settlement at Church End.

Milton Keynes HER Event No.1317. OASIS Ref. souterra1-136484

Olney, 1 Cobbs Court, High Street (SP 888 517)

Martin D Wilson

Archaeological investigation revealed evidence of the earliest known medieval tenement in the High Street, Olney. The discovery was made by Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited during ground-works for a new office extension within a former medieval burgrave plot on the west side of the street.

The remains are understood to be that of a large timber structure that fronted the main road (now High Street) in the 12th/13th century. It comprised four substantial post-holes forming a right-angle and four sub-rectangular cellar-pits. Two of the cellar-pits were completely excavated and sampled during the investigation. Their dimensions were comparable: 2.15m x 1.3m x 0.2m deep and 1.9m x 1.4m x 0.3m deep.

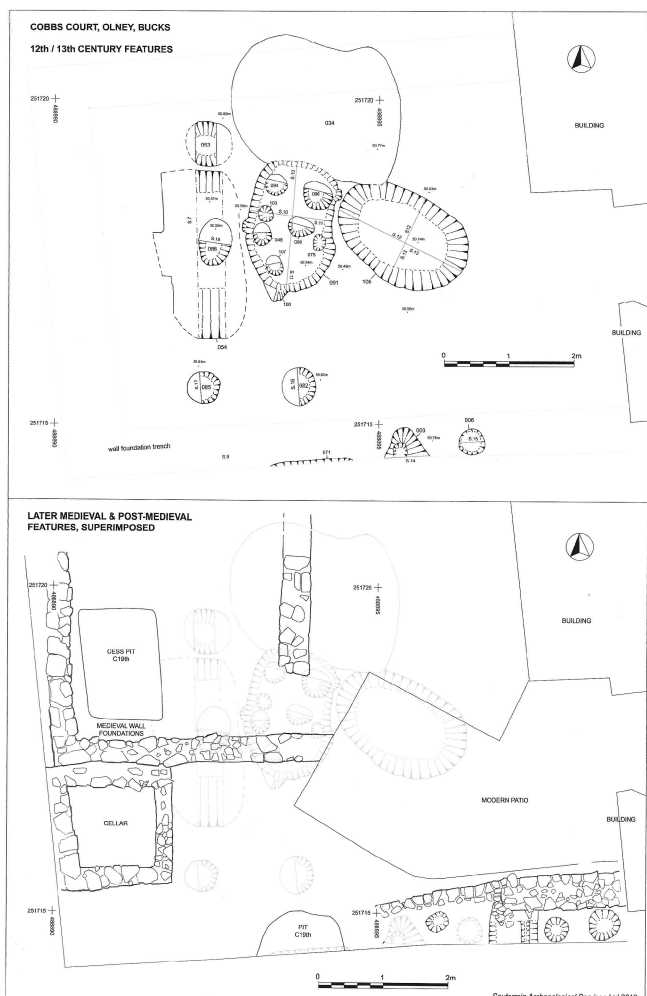


Fig 5. Olney, 1 Cobbs Court, High Street.

Buckinghamshire

A series of post-holes inside one of the cellar-pits indicated a suspended floor above the storage area.

The other two cellar-pits were recorded by section. One of these measured 2.3m x c 2m x c 0.26m deep, while the other 2.54m long, had a stepped level between 0.44m and 0.62m. The close proximity of these structures and lack of super-imposition suggests that they were housed under a single structure. One of large post-holes was situated in the base of cellar.

A fifth cellar-pit was partly exposed on the south side of the site, which may have belonged to another building. Notably, this showed that the 12th/13th century occupation at Cobbs Court extended beyond the present property boundary (ie the burgage plot division), which is resonant with the evidence from a watching brief at 24 Market Place, Olney, in 2002, where the arrangement of land in the 12th/13th century continued beyond the boundaries of later medieval linear plots (Edmondson, 2002).

The 12th/13th century building had been demolished to make way for a timber-framed building erected on stone foundations, with a 2m deep stone-built cellar abutting its south side, which appears to have been in use until the early 19th century. An unused Potterspury ware cooking pot left upright in the base of one of the cellar-pits suggests that this redevelopment took place in the late 13th century, whilst a stone-built sill beam pad laid in the base of one of the cellars signifies that work on the new timber-framed building commenced shortly after demolition. The cellar-pits were in-filled with soil and household rubbish, probably shovelled in from nearby occupation levels. The analysis of faunal and environmental remains from the cellars provides an image of rural domestic economy. The diet included wheat, cabbage, peas, cattle, goats, pig and eels. Livestock was slaughtered close by the dwelling.

Medieval cellar-pits of this type are understood to have been used for cool storage of food such as meat and dairy products. They have been found in Bedford (cf Hassal, 1979a; Hassal, 1979b) and are particularly well-attested in Oxford (cf Sturdy D and Munby J, 1985; Roberts MR, 1995; Andrews P and Mephram L, 1997; Walker G and King R, 2000), where they were sometimes lined with clay or wattle. It is suspected that two others were uncovered during building works on the west side of the market place at Rose Court, Olney in the late 1990s (Lisboa, 2005), about 420m southeast). The apparent paucity of comparative features in Buckinghamshire most likely reflects differences in archaeological interpretation and the often limited opportunity to explore medieval street frontages, where archaeological visibility is often very fragmentary.

The pottery from Cobbs Court is mostly locally-produced unglazed coarse ware cooking vessels from Olney Hyde and Harrold. There is, however, a glimpse of the wider medieval trading network, with green glazed jugs and plates from Lyveden (28 miles) and Potterspury (20 miles) in Northamptonshire, and from Brill and Boarstall in south Buckinghamshire (37 miles).

Olney is understood to have undergone planned expansion northwards from the original Saxon settlement around the church and market place area (English Heritage n.d.). This development is thought to have been originated sometime in the 13th century; in 1237, there were 56 burgesses in the township. The new areas were characterised by long narrow burgage plots at right angles from either side of the High

Street which extend to the 'back lanes' of West Street and East Street; a large proportion of these property boundaries are still in existence today.

The findings from Cobbs Court may reflect a hitherto unknown, distinct phase of urban growth in Olney wherein tenements already stood, perhaps randomly, along the approach road from the north. The street frontage may have been further back than it is today. The results also suggest that the planning of the 13th century borough was not so much a simple 'expansion' onto virgin ground, but a radical socio-economic revision of the layout of the existing market town. Milton Keynes HER Event No.1305. OASIS Ref. souterrai-125788

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Olney, 39 High Street (SP 888 5154)

Martin D Wilson

A watching brief was conducted during ground preparation for a new extension at the rear of 39 High Street, Olney. The site is a former medieval burgage plot on the west side of High Street. The plots are understood to have been created in the 13th century. Three intercutting pits were exposed which are broadly dated by pottery to the 13th century. One of the pits was clay-lined and may have been a storage pit, possibly for foodstuffs. Milton Keynes HER Event No.1325; OASIS Ref. souterrai 139916

Stony Stratford, 131 High Street (SP 784 406)

Mercedes Planas and Martin D Wilson

An 'as found' record was made of the former Rising Sun inn at Stony Stratford prior to development and conversion works. The report by Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited provides an appraisal of the historic development and occupancy of the building and a descriptive and illustrative account of observations together with photographs and scale elevations and plans.

The original house was a five-bay two storey house with attic. It was stone built with a façade of Flemish bond brickwork. Two of the original lower windows have

segmental arches. It is roofed in brick-red ceramic tiles. A poorly-executed brick extension was added to the rear of the building possibly in the mid-19th century, which involved the reconstruction of two thirds of the roof below the ridge beam. Inside, much of the original timber frame is visible, with joists bearing carpenter's numerals. At the rear is a former stable block and carriage house arranged around a yard. Like the main house the original structure was stone built, but has been partly re-built in brick. It is roofed in red ceramic tiles. The carriage house, a single celled stone-built building, is in poor condition and roofed in corrugated steel. A ceiling has been inserted, with possible servant accommodation above. The roof frame has two historic trusses with threaded purlins and crudely applied concave braces, suggesting an 18th century revamp of trusses acquired from earlier structures. The historic appraisal deduced that the house, stables and carriage house were likely to have been built in the second quarter of the 18th century, although the building may not have become an inn until 1753. Milton Keynes HER Event No.1314. OASIS Ref.souterra1-131764

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

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

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

A small excavation has just been completed and post-excavation work is at an early stage. Several re-cut medieval boundary ditches and later quarrying were revealed.

High Wycombe, Bassetsbury Manor (SU 8766 9238)
Genni Elliott

A number of late post-medieval cut features and a wall were recorded in evaluation trenches. Two sherds of medieval pottery, some Roman tile (reused?) and a residual prehistoric struck flint were also recovered.

Newton Longville, Church of St Faith, Whaddon Road (SP 8477 3144)
David Platt

Five skeletons were recorded in a watching brief in the churchyard, three of probable 18th-19th century date and two of earlier post-medieval date. All human remains and artefacts were retained at the church for reburial.

Winslow, Land East of Furze Lane (SP 7644 2809)
Tim Dawson

A geophysical survey identified magnetic anomalies relating to the ridge and furrow field patterns that are visible across most of the site as earthworks. In some areas the extant earthworks had been eroded away and the survey was able to plot the position they had once occupied. The only other

anomalies recorded were ferrous spikes and magnetic disturbance which were most likely caused by buried metallic objects.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Wellingborough, Bourton Way (SP 8823 6600)
Mike Luke, Ben Barker and Kathy Pilkinton

Between November 2013 and January 2014 Albion Archaeology undertook open area excavation in advance of a David Wilson Homes residential development on land off Bourton Way, Wellingborough, adjacent to the A45 Wilby Way roundabout. The project was managed by CgMs Consulting. Approximately 0.75ha was investigated in an area known to contain an Iron Age settlement (Thomas and Enright, 2003). The following represents a preliminary summary based on the preliminary report produced at the end of fieldwork (Albion, 2014).

The settlement is now believed to be c 5ha in extent. It comprised both open and enclosed elements and was occupied for c 400 years. It is a type of settlement which can be categorised as 'aggregated' or 'agglomerated'. Although there are comparable settlements in the county, eg Crick, it is generally thought that the majority of the Iron Age population lived in small enclosed and unenclosed farmsteads.

There is no evidence that the outer limit of the settlement was ever enclosed by a single major boundary ditch. Therefore, although essentially 'open' in character, ditches were dug within the settlement to define small enclosures and fields. Based on the results of all archaeological investigations (including geophysical survey, shown in grey on the overall settlement plan) the occupied zone, as indicated by the location of roundhouses, was mainly in the north-west part of the settlement - partly within the recent investigation area. There were also broad zones where pits and postholes were dug. Some of the posthole arrangements indicate the presence of 4-post structures, possibly raised granaries. A



Fig 1. Bourton Way. Recent excavation area in relation to overall Iron Age settlement.

Northamptonshire

number of more discrete areas appear to have been set aside for repeated quarrying. Some of the larger, often rectangular, ditched enclosures contained only limited evidence for activity and are therefore interpreted as fields or paddocks. In addition, a dozen smaller ditched enclosures were present, including several within the recent investigations. Some of the ditches were c 1m deep. These defined small, probably family, compounds and some of them contain roundhouses. The surviving evidence for roundhouses comprised a circular drainage gully/ditch, which would have gone around the perimeter of the actual building (for which very little evidence survived). The actual interior of the building would be typically between 8m and 15m in diameter. The gully/ditch varied greatly in size with some c 1.4m wide and 1.1m deep; the larger ones were probably dug to emphasise the occupants' importance as well as to provide drainage.

Nearly all of the gullies/ditches around the roundhouses had been redug on numerous occasions and within the recent investigation area as many as five recuts were identified. Where gaps in the gully/ditch were identified they usually faced east or south; this would have maximised sunlight within the interior of the building.

In contrast to previous investigations a large number of isolated pits were present in the recent investigation area, often in the vicinity of the roundhouses. Domestic rubbish in the form of pottery and animal bone was found in many of the pits, although rubbish disposal was probably not their original purpose. In addition, a number of discrete areas, c 15m x 10m in extent, appear to have been set aside for the repeated quarrying of clay - presumably for use as daub in the walls of buildings

Large quantities of pottery (30kg) and animal bone (39kg) were recovered. Only limited evidence was found for craft production. This included iron-working in the form of possible ferrous smelting slag (c 200g), but the majority of the slag smithing (1070g), including small amounts of hammerscale. The excavations have yielded only 12 iron artefacts, including a knife or slicker, a bracelet/armlet and an annular ring. Bone and antler were clearly utilised, as evidenced by the presence of part of a possible bone pin and fragment of a possible sawn antler weaving implement.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING SERVICES

Ashton, 85 Hartwell Road (SP 76861 50 27)

An archaeological standing building survey was carried out prior to the demolition of 85 Hartwell Road, Ashton. The property was the location of discovery of a coin hoard in the 1950s.

The coin hoard discovered in the roof of the building in 1955 and an historic map of the village dated to 1727 suggests that the building dates from the 17th or 18th centuries. The survey recorded that the building is much altered leaving little of historical or architectural interest; as a result no definitive

dating evidence was recorded. The 1727 map appears to record a building, different in appearance to the standing building. The latest coin from the coin hoard dates to 1686, but that provides little indication as when the hoard was closed. Therefore secure dating of the building is difficult to establish.

Ostensibly the building is a pre-19th century stone-built rural dwelling with a historic core of two separate dwellings, one a single bay, the other one and a half or two bays. Originally one and a half storeys and thatched, the roof was raised and the thatch replaced in 1955. There are a number of late 20th century additions.

Heathencote, Heathencote Farm (SP 471216 247942)

Heathencote Farmhouse dates from the early 18th century, the outbuildings appear to be largely early to mid 19th century in date, built in local stone with red brick detailing and appear to be largely single phase. The large threshing barn has been extended at some point in brick. The cartshed to the west contains a number of interesting features, most notably an apotropaic mark of overlapping incised circles forming a "daisy wheel" and an attractive queen post truss roof.

Modern maintenance and upkeep is likely to have removed some of the historic and architecturally interesting features from the buildings; however, sufficient remains to establish the original layout, form and functions of the buildings.

Norton, Dry Fields Farm (SP 59953 62100)

The building is stone-built with a modern corrugated asbestos cement sheet roof and likely to be 19th century in date. Historical sources indicate the building was originally part of the nearby Borough Hill Farm before being sold in the late 20th century. On first inspection the building appears to be a cart shed, however both documentary and physical evidence confirms the building was originally a cow hovel. There are a number of re-used timbers of unknown date and origin within the roof structure.

Shutlanger, The Old Chapel (SP 472609 249849)

The Chapel was built in 1844 as a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and remained in use until 1985. The Chapel was extended in 1889 with seating for a congregation of 160; the extension was also used as a school room. As with most nonconformist chapels, the Chapel is simple in appearance with only very simple flourishes such as a coloured fanlight above the door.

Documentary sources indicate extensive and prolonged problems with the extension culminating in its partial demolition in 1949. The Chapel remained in use throughout the remainder of the 20th century and even welcomed the Wesleyans from Stoke Bruerne upon the closure of their Chapel in 1975.

Thornby, The Red Lion Public House (SP 67046 75662)

The Red Lion, Thornby, potentially dates to the early 17th century, the outbuilding recorded by this historic building recording most likely dates to the early 19th century when the pub was operated alongside the landlord's farming. The

building began as part of a larger linear range of agricultural buildings, most probably a cow hovel or milking parlour. When, in the mid to late 19th century, the pub operated as a standalone inn the building was most likely converted to stabling with a coach house within the westernmost bay. In the 20th century, documentary evidence indicates that at least part of the building reverted to being a cow shed.

Physical evidence observed during the site visit including floor surfaces and the likely location of feeding troughs confirms the agricultural origins of the building. Extensive evidence of alterations and re-building was also recorded.

Wicken, Home Farm (SP 74276 39276)

Home Farmhouse dates from the early 18th century, a mid 19th century tithe map of the village records an outbuilding occupying the same footprint as the current outbuilding. This historic building recording observed no evidence that the current building dates to this period. The physical evidence indicates that the building is late 19th or early 20th century in date, built of local stone and red brick. The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1881 does not show a building in this location. It is possible that the building was built on the footprint of the earlier building, possibly utilising any remaining standing walls.

It is possible that the building was built as a cow hovel and later converted to a cart shed with a granary above, a common agricultural design. The size and style of the building, is, however, grand. It is possible that the tenant of Home Farm at the time was more than a common farmer and attempted to reflect this in the building.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY

Boughton, Moulton Lane (SP 7544 6581) **Bob Zeepvat**

In October, historic building recording was undertaken of Chapel Cottage, 1 Moulton Lane, prior to residential conversion.

This former Methodist chapel was constructed in 1804, the first in the Northampton area. It was constructed in a simple vernacular style, using local stone, with a thatched roof. However, it did have some pretensions in its size and the inclusion of a gallery. The building was re-roofed and renovated in 1851, when the roof was probably slated, and was again restored in 1868. Throughout the second half of the 19th century its congregation increased and declined repeatedly. The building was again renovated and re-roofed with machine-made tiles in 1951/52. The chapel ceased to be used for religious services in 1964 and was sold. Since then it has been used as a garage and store.

The survey revealed that little structural evidence remains of the original chapel building, other than the four walls. Internally, although some features typical of chapels are present, these are all modern pastiche, post-dating the building's use as a chapel.

Hellidon, Catesby Road (SP 5362 5733) **Calli Rouse**

During March an evaluation was carried out at Long Furlong Farm, Catesby Road, in order to inform proposals for the construction of a wind turbine. A single trench was excavated and a human cremation burial was present at the south east end. The cremation was of an adult human and was radiocarbon dated to 1900 ±30 BP. No other archaeological features or artefacts were present.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Brixworth, Land East of Northampton Road **(SP 7495 6962)** **Vas Tsamis**

An evaluation identified ditches likely to have formed part of a field system. Although dating evidence was limited, this may have been of later prehistoric date. A circular enclosure may represent the remnants of a round house. Ridge and furrow remains and post-medieval quarries were also recorded, but there was no evidence that a Saxon settlement previously identified to the north-west extended into the site.

Towcester, Moat Lane Regeneration (SP 6931 4884) **Simon Carlyle, Peter Davenport and Mark Brett**

An evaluation and excavation revealed extensive remains associated with the development of the Roman town, within an area extending to the east of Watling Street and including early property boundaries dating to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD. These contained archaeological features indicative of 'backyard' activity, including the disposal of domestic refuse. Elsewhere, a number of Early Roman quarry pits were identified. In places, these early features had become covered by deposits of 'dark earth', indicating a change of land use within the later Roman period.

Activity within the middle 2nd to 3rd centuries AD included the construction of a number of structures, including that represented by a series of substantial post-pits. Most notable was a cellared room representing the western end of a substantial stone building presumed to comprise a number of rooms. Adjacent to the building was the metallised surface of a side street or alley, comprising a thin layer of pebbles leading towards Watling Street. The alignment of the building is slightly oblique to that of the Roman road.

The building had an unusual construction, with well-built limestone walls set in a large foundation trench packed with blue clay. An inner revetment wall was built inside the cellar and the gap between the inner and outer walls was packed with blue clay; blue clay was also used to form the floor. The internal walls contained a series of vertical slots, arranged asymmetrically, presumably to hold upright wooden posts. The cellar measured 5m in width and was at least 5.5m long, with the walls surviving to a height of 1.4m. In the later Roman period the function of the building appears to have changed, with the addition of a less well-constructed annexe to the north-east and the setting up of an oven or furnace and a stokehole. At the end of the Roman period the building was

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demolished and the cellar infilled with demolition rubble and soil; several complete Roman vessels were found on the floor of the cellar and a considerable number of cattle skulls were found in the demolition debris.

In another area, the remains of a small wooden casket contained three near-complete vessels dating to the mid to late 2nd century, including a greyware pot containing cremated human bone. Along the easternmost edge of the development area, a large ditch is likely to be associated with the town defences. A wide, shallow linear feature parallel to this may represent the line of the town wall, presumably completely robbed out during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Activity extending into the 4th century AD was subsequently sealed in places by a further build-up of 'dark earth'. This material was however absent closest to Bury Mount, a motte likely to have been constructed in the first half of the 12th century, and it is therefore conceivable that the area was stripped of overburden to construct the mound.

A substantial ditch, indicated to be approximately 18m wide and 2m deep, was partially exposed within the southernmost part of the development area, opposite the 12th century St Lawrence's church. This ditch is likely to represent the outer bailey ditch associated with the motte to the north. The remains of a malthouse and other buildings depicted on 19th century maps were also investigated, along with a World War II surface air raid shelter.

Daventry, DIRFT II, Zone 3 (SP 5639 7370)

Simon Carlyle

An evaluation encountered field boundary ditches of probable Iron Age/Roman date. One ditch defined a possible enclosure containing shallow pits and postholes. The absence of artefactual and ecofactual material within the fills of these features, combined with their low-lying, stream-side setting, suggests that they were peripheral to the main focus of occupation and were probably agricultural.

Deanshanger, Land at South Barn (SP 7696 3990)

Peter James

A strip, map and sample excavation revealed a Late Iron Age/Roman field system. Undated quarry pits were also present.

Earls Barton, 9 High Street (SP 8523 6395)

Simon Carlyle

An evaluation identified a Roman settlement, possibly a small farmstead. The remains consisted of enclosures, pits, a keyhole-shaped oven, an occupation layer and a hearth. The recovered pottery mostly dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, with some later Roman fabrics also present. Later activity included the remains of a timber building, possibly a barn, associated with a ditch. These appear to relate to an earthwork platform and, although undated, are in the location of a building shown on a late 18th century map. A further ditch contained possible prehistoric pottery, although this may have been residual.

Fotheringhay, Fotheringhay Bridge (TL 0605 9299)

Peter Davenport

Cotswold Archaeology assessed the suitability of Fotheringhay Bridge for the creation of a management plan that would simplify the application of ancient monument consent procedures for routine repairs and maintenance. Fotheringhay Bridge was erected in 1722 to replace a bridge built in 1573. It was concluded that Fotheringhay Bridge is essentially of one build period, and the preparation of a management plan to facilitate the agreement of a standing scheduled monument consent for minor works would be feasible.

Irthlingborough, Irthlingborough Bridge (SP 9570 7062)

Peter Davenport

Cotswold Archaeology assessed the suitability of Irthlingborough Bridge, a Scheduled Monument and Grade I Listed Building, for the creation of a management plan. Irthlingborough Bridge is thought to be of 14th century date and may be somewhat earlier. Major work was carried out on the bridge in 1754 and there is evidence of repairs in 1668. The last major piece of work on the bridge is supposed to have occurred in 1922 and is marked by a date plaque of 1925. Superficial observation indicates that there are other undocumented repairs and alterations visible in the fabric, some of which could be very ancient, but which need further clarification. It was concluded that the bridge is a complex monument which needs more investigation and the creation of a conservation management plan.

Long Buckby, Station Road (SP 6222 6701)

Simon Carlyle

An evaluation recorded small ditches containing Roman pottery. These may have been on the periphery of a small farming settlement. Medieval plough furrows, the remains of Long Buckby's open field system, were present across the site and seem to relate to parts of four or five former open fields.

Middleton Cheney, Banbury Lane (SP 4958 4243)

Liz Muldowney

An evaluation identified four ditches which may have formed part of a pre-medieval field system. An undated possible pit was also recorded, along with evidence for medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

Northampton, Proposed Northampton Bus Interchange (SP 7535 6065)

Jonathan Hart

A watching brief identified no archaeological remains.

Onley, Barby Pools Marina (SP 5184 6976)

Simon Carlyle

An evaluation on a block of land within Warwickshire and Northamptonshire identified well-preserved ridge and

furrow earthworks across the site, along with a small number of undated features. Within the Warwickshire part of the site, the edge of a Roman settlement was investigated.

Piddington, Land off Church Road (SP 8024 5459)
Simon Carlyle

An evaluation revealed ditches containing Roman pottery, tile and animal bone. Medieval ditches were also found along with evidence of crop processing.

St John's Car Park, Northampton (SP7561 6020)
Mark Brett

An excavation was undertaken within the former precinct of the medieval Hospital of St John. Two clusters of medieval pits found were probably used for the disposal of domestic rubbish and contained pottery dating from the 12th to early 14th centuries. Assemblages of bone included meat-rich cuts from sheep and cattle and a variety of fish, including both marine and freshwater species; the presence of squirrel and cat may indicate the preparation of pelts. Botanical remains included the common range of cereals but also more unusual items such as figs, plums and cherries. It is possible that these relate to the diet and economy of the Hospital inhabitants.

Walgrave, Cross Farm (SP 7999 7206)
Simon Carlyle

An evaluation identified a probable medieval plot boundary aligned perpendicular to Old Road and smaller medieval ditches that may have formed plot sub-divisions or small enclosures within the plots. The alignment of the plot boundary and the greater density of features in the eastern part of the site suggest that these remains are associated with backyard activity to the rear of dwellings that fronted on to Old Road in the medieval period. Evidence of grain drying on the site was also found.

Wilby, St Mary the Virgin (SP 8667 6617)
Simon Carlyle

A watching brief was undertaken on the site of the former medieval north aisle which was demolished in 1839. The work revealed demolition material and exposed the foundations of the current north wall of the church, which replaced the medieval north arcade. Stone from the columns of the former north arcade, including capitals and bases, had been reused to form the foundations of the new north wall. Parts of the external churchyard soil were also revealed and contained disarticulated human remains which were reburied in the churchyard.

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES LTD

Armada House, Weston (SP 9613 6819)

Following a Heritage Asset Survey in 2012, Level 2/3 building recording was carried out by Iain Soden on this Grade II-listed fire-damaged 16th century manor house as a

condition of listed building consent. Though much detail was lost to the fire, the work recorded a re-used pair of elm cruck-blades in a previous, 19th century overhaul, while a programme of tree-ring dating showed considerable re-use of late 15th century oak coffered ceiling in the main Elizabethan hall and kitchen range of c 1590. Other hidden or blocked elements were rediscovered before re-covering.

Biggin Hall, Kitchens (TL 0107 8913)

As a condition of listed building consent levied by English Heritage, Level 3 building recording was carried out by Iain Soden and Joe Prentice on the Grade II*- listed Hall's post-1822 kitchens (probably of 1852-5) which were overhauled and extended in the period 1902-14 to form a scullery. The work took in the structure of the buildings, the fixtures and fittings, together with the furniture of both kitchen and the scullery, which had been brought together from other sources in the hall in the past.

Bozeat, Manor Farm Barn, 7 Dychurch Lane (SP 9078 5903)

Level 2 Building recording and trial excavation by Iain Soden took place as a condition of listed building consent on this Grade II-listed barn scheduled for conversion, which was found to have been stables, farm office, and even a family home, as well as being the place of abode of a WWII German Prisoner of War. Two evaluation trenches showed that the former Manor Farm had terraced the ground to the south (where a modern extension was to lie) to accept a former tractor/cart shed. No pre-19th century archaeology was present. No further work was required.

Bragborough Hall, Braunston (SP 5600 6640)

Three pieces of work were carried out here by Iain Soden over 2012-13. Desk-based archaeological assessment of the estate (630a), a Heritage Asset Survey of the Grade II-listed Hall (Greek Revival, constructed 1841 in brick around surviving elements of an earlier building), and Level 2 building-recording on alterations to the rear of the hall, together with works to up-grade the 20th century accommodation in the 18th and 19th century stables and nearby barn.

Deanshanger, Church Lane (SP 7614 3971)

Following an earlier evaluation by another contractor, conditional fieldwork by Iain Soden for Mr C Wynne-Williams comprised excavation of a new house and separate double-garage footprint. The site benefits from excellent historic mapping. The excavation uncovered the foundations of a medieval stone building at the edge of settlement and evidence for adjacent long-term medieval and later water-management amidst periodic inundation.

Ecton Hall Garden barns (SP 8287 6371)

As a condition of planning consent Iain Soden with Joe Prentice and Tom Soden recorded to English Heritage Level

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2 the very overgrown 19th and 20th century kitchen garden buildings of the former Ecton Hall for Seagrave Developments, before demolition. The earliest buildings were brick stables of just pre 1850 and amongst later ones was a purpose-built cucumber house, which was accorded a greater level of record in view of its good preservation. Many of the other buildings (11 recorded) were in a state of near- or total-collapse, but included notably a pre-fabricated corrugated shed which may have been bought from the military before the First World War as a former parallel in Royal Artillery use c 1905 is known.

Geddington Grange (SP 8734 8288)

A Heritage Asset Survey was carried out by Iain Soden on the Grade II-listed Grange Farmhouse prior to proposals for alterations to the interiors. The farmhouse was built 1811-17, part of the estates of the Duke of Buccleuch, in the midst of national agricultural advances. Unaltered until the 1880s, but with a third, 20th century phase. The farm was not very productive and much of its land was given over to ironstone quarrying. Nearby farm buildings were used as a barracks in WWI.

Knuston, Home Farm Barn (SP 9375 6635)

Level 2 building recording was undertaken by Iain Soden as a planning condition on conversion of this Grade II listed mid-18th century crop barn to commercial use. Although an impressive and cavernous space, the barn was found to retain little historic or architectural detail. Modern buildings lay up against the barn on two sides.

Long Buckby, Harbidge Lane (SP 6230 6750)

Approximately 25m² trial trenching was undertaken by Iain Soden in pre-determination works amidst the former earthworks of the shrunken medieval hamlet of Salem, now part of Long Buckby and possibly the original castle-related settlement in the late 11th century. This was in connection with proposals for a new home with detached garage. No archaeology was present in the trenches and no further works were required.

Long Buckby, Holly House, 24 High Street (SP 6292 6754)

A Heritage Asset Survey and Level 2 building recording were conducted by Iain Soden on the Grade II* listed Holly House. This fine 3-storey house originates either just before or just after the English Civil War and can be clearly traced in documents from the Hearth Tax onwards. In the later 19th century it was owned by a succession of doctors to the village and the house grew to twice its current size. The extensions were demolished in the mid-20th century by the family of the last doctor, reducing the house to its original core. It was subdivided and in multiple tenancies during WWII. One well-known tenant in the 1940s was Stanley Unwin, the BBC Radio personality, renowned for his 'nonsense language'. A separate 18th century cottage and later stable/coach house in the grounds were also recorded.

Stanwick, Hall Farm Barns (SP 9763 7110)

As a condition of Planning Consent Level 2 Building Recording was carried out by Iain Soden on some of the last un-converted elements of this former mid-19th century planned farm. These comprised a probable office and grain store (often - probably erroneously - called a dovecote), and adjacent stabling. The buildings are being converted to accommodation.

Sulgrave, Little Street (SP 5866 5446)

Approximately 90m² of evaluation trenches by Iain Soden, with Tom Soden, Danny MacAree and Rachel Swallow, for Watson and Cox Construction Ltd, as first stage fieldwork condition on the construction of five new homes. A scatter of medieval pits and gullies showed a likely concentration of features at the middle of the site. In accordance with agreements, further fieldwork took place in January 2013. This showed that layouts of gullies both pre-dated and post-dated a large backfilled medieval free-stone quarry in the back-plots. The earlier gullies may have demarked burgage plots, of which two were united in the quarrying. Later gulleys represented horticultural/paddock uses for the re-constituted land. Pottery and other finds were sparse.

Syresham, 40-42 Broad Street (SP 6291 4171)

A programme of observation and recording by Iain Soden during the digging of foundations for a new home within the historic frontage and close to the edge of a putative pre-Conquest oval enclosure, noted the scant remains of the previous, (probably 18th century) thatched cottage which was lost in the 1930s. No earlier remains were present.

Whittlebury, Church Way (SP 9100 4097)

A single pre-application evaluation trench of 21m² on the site of the former Forge Garage was dug by Iain Soden with Tom Soden, in connection with plans for two new dwellings. The fieldwork uncovered a single well-dated late Iron Age post hole beneath modern garage deposits, close to the Whittlebury Iron Age hill fort and its possible original approach. A mitigation strategy has been agreed.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Brackley, Fox Lane (SP 58086 36996)

Gwilym Williams

The watching brief identified that a significant part of the proposal area had been previously disturbed during previous building works. No archaeology was present.

Lower Boddington, Hill Road, The Old Post Office (SP 48258 52353)

Hayley McParland

Two test-pits were opened with a view to establishing any previous impact on potential archaeology within the

proposal area for a new build. Extensive ground-reduction within the proposal area indicates that the archaeological potential was nil.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY ROUND UP

Lesley-Ann Mather

The planning archaeology service is provided by Planning Services, part of the Environment and Planning Division of the County Council. The Sites and Monument Record (SMR) is based within the Archives and Heritage Services section of the Customer Services Division.

The County Archaeological Advice Service, comprising the County Archaeological Advisor and Assistant Archaeological Advisor, enables a holistic approach to the management of the historic environment of the County. We provide advice on planning applications submitted to Northamptonshire County Council and five of the six District/Borough Councils in Northamptonshire. The provision of archaeological advice has resulted in a range of investigations covering prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. There has also been a rise in building recording, covering designated and non designated assets.

Advice on development plans has increased significantly since the inception of the service in 2010. We provided a total of 562 planning responses in 2012-2013, compared with 521 in 2011-12, 389 in 2010-11 and 77 in 2009-2010. The increase in the last year was, although less pronounced than the previous years, was still almost 8%. Northampton Borough Council (NBC) received the greatest number of responses, with Daventry District Council (DDC) receiving the second highest. The dramatic increase in NBC responses is a result of the regeneration programme within the Borough combined with a relatively low starting point. DDC has a strategic location adjacent to the M1 and as a consequence is an attractive area for residential and industrial development.

In 2013-14 a total of 5673 planning applications were made to the Northamptonshire local planning authorities. Each was assessed for archaeological potential, resulting in the production of a total of 142 briefs for archaeological work and 98 site visits.

The figures demonstrate the value of and need for the Planning Archaeology Service and has enabled a closer working relationship across the participating authorities.

As a result of this work, a number of previously unidentified archaeological sites have been discovered in the county. The addition of these new records to the SMR has contributed to our understanding of Northamptonshire's historic environment. A general overview of selected investigations from 2013-2014 are discussed in more detail below. Further information for these will become available when the final reports are deposited with the SMR.

Foxhills, Brackley

A detailed magnetometer survey by Northamptonshire Archaeology now known as MOLA confirmed that the site contained part of an unenclosed settlement of suspected Iron Age date, linking up with similar remains previously discovered at Brackley Sawmills and on the site of the nearby A43 petrol station. The survey also indicated that

ploughed-out furrows of a medieval ridge and furrow field system occurred across most of the area.

The subsequent trial trench evaluation found evidence for several centuries of Iron Age settlement including a group of roundhouse ring ditches, postholes and pits. A single posthole produced Early Iron Age pottery with incised zig-zag decoration, 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.

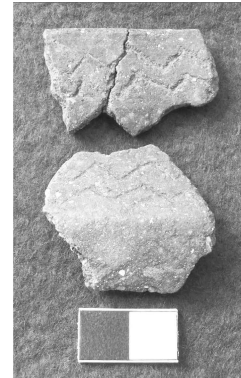


Fig 2. Early Iron Age pottery decorated with incised zigzags, from Brackley, Foxhills (Scale 20mm). MOLA.

Creed Road, Oundle

In the north of the County an excavation was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services at Creed Road, Oundle, prior to residential development by Persimmon Homes. The site revealed evidence for a continuation of the late Iron Age and Roman settlement excavated immediately to the east in the 1990s (Maull and Masters, 2005 *Northants Archaeology* 33, 47-78).

The excavation identified at least four more Iron Age roundhouse ring ditches, some intercutting, indicating a long period of occupation through the late Iron Age and Roman period. By the early second century a system of ditched enclosures had replaced the previous pattern of settlement. Expansion in the 3rd century saw ditched enclosures constructed flanking and east to west aligned trackway. Modifications in the 4th century included a large, rectilinear enclosure, possibly partly walled.



Fig 3. Creed Road, Oundle. Aerial view of the site (APS).

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Initially thought to be a small, stone-built villa, this programme of work suggests that the enclosure surrounded a sequence of circular structures interpreted as a possible shrine. A series of small hearths and deposits of animal bone were recorded within the structures and enclosure. The area around the structure contained significant quantities of metalwork, brooches, coins and nails. The excavators suggest that the location of the site, sitting high on the hillside above the Roman town on the River Nene at Ashton, fits in with a regional grouping of circular and polygonal shrines, including those previously identified at Brigstock, Collyweston, Thistleton and more recently at Rutland Water.

Polwell Lane, Barton Seagrave

An open area excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology. The work was undertaken between July and December 2012 on land to the south-west of the medieval core of the village of Barton Seagrave. It followed a programme of archaeological field evaluation undertaken by Phoenix Consultants in 2009 which identified an Iron Age settlement and Roman field boundaries.

The preliminary results of the excavation suggested that people lived and farmed in the area from at least the Middle Iron Age (c 400 years BC to 100BC) through to Anglo-Saxon times. In the Roman period this area was given over to a series of ditched enclosures, perhaps paddocks for livestock, probably associated with a settlement to the south. Early Anglo-Saxon occupation was defined by four 'sunken-featured buildings' (grubenhaus). The excavators suggest that this indicates that the early medieval village covered a larger area than was previously thought. The bulk of the Saxon pottery assemblage comprised decorated sherds of 5th to 6th century date. Other artefacts included animal bone, worked bone and spindle whorls used in the spinning of yarn.

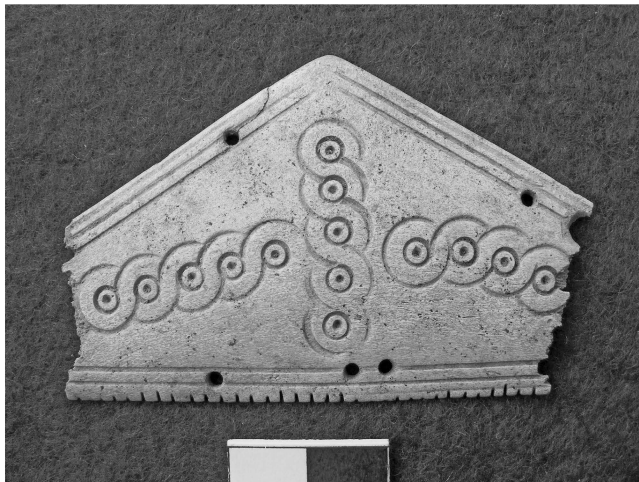


Fig 4. Polwell Lane, Barton Seagrave. Anglo-Saxon bone comb handle (MOLA).

Other Notable Sites

Excavations at Moat Lane, Towcester were undertaken in the area between the Scheduled Monument Bury Mound and the A5, Watling Street. The works were undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in advance of the construction of a new office for South Northamptonshire District Council, in association with commercial and residential development. The lower part of a small Roman building was identified, the presence

of which is unsurprising given the location in a landscape rich with evidence of Roman settlement. The post excavation analysis is currently progressing and the final report should provide a valuable insight into the development of the Roman town.

Development East of Kettering was subject to evaluation of part of the site by Oxford Archaeology East, revealing evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity. A small part of the area has recently been investigated and this has identified a possible Iron Age shrine. Interestingly it did not appear during the geophysical survey and was only identified as it was adjacent to a large Iron Age ditch which was subject to mitigation. The rest of the area is still to be excavated and it is expected that further important archaeological evidence will be identified.

The Corby Link Road involved a varied approach to archaeological mitigation including excavation, strip, map and sample, and observation and recording. The works were undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology under challenging conditions and timescales. The report is yet to be published, but the linear scheme identified previously unknown archaeology ranging from the Bronze Age through to the medieval period. Of special interest was the Bronze Age cremation cemetery and an area of Saxon settlement.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY (MOLA Northampton)

A short history of Northamptonshire Archaeology

Andy Chapman

This will be the last entry to appear in SMA under the name Northamptonshire Archaeology.

As stated in the official press release: 'On the 21st January 2014, Northamptonshire Archaeology transferred from Northamptonshire County Council to MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology). The 50 strong team based in Northampton continues to work closely with clients to assess and investigate the archaeology and built heritage of the area, cost-effectively and speedily, as it has for over 25 years. The changes have come about in response to plans Northamptonshire County Council submitted in 2011 to rehouse its archaeological service, to secure its future stability and growth. MOLA was selected by Northamptonshire County Council in December 2012, through a competitive tender process, as the preferred new home for its archaeology team.'

The progress of the archaeological fieldwork team within Northamptonshire County Council has been recorded in the pages of *South Midlands Archaeology* (or *CBA Group 9 Newsletter* as it was) from the early 1970s.

The employment of a full-time archaeology officer occurred in May 1973 (*SMA* (1974), 4, 32-3). In that first year Paul Everson initiated the formation of a Site and Monuments Index and advice was given on a number of new road schemes including an M1-A1 link road and the Northampton-Wellingborough A45 new road. The A45 and its later extension eastwards, the A45/A605, was to play a large role in fieldwork projects until the end of the 1980s.

Following the departure of Paul Everson, Alan Hannan was appointed as County Archaeologist in August 1976, along

with Glenn Foard to develop the Sites and Monuments Record and a second assistant to work on post-excavation (*SMA* (1977), 7, 45-46). Alan Hannan was to oversee the rapid growth of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Unit through the late 1970s and 1980s. The excavation of Furnells manor, Raunds began in 1977, and by 1980 the entry for NAU had grown to 11 pages, with Dennis Jackson excavating an Iron Age earthwork enclosure at Brigstock, Dave Windell excavating Iron Age enclosures at Earls Barton and Great Doddington on the route of the A45, Graham Cadman continuing the excavations at Raunds and Michel Audouy at Earls Barton Church (*SMA* (1980), 10, 21-33).

The early 1980s saw excavation at Ashton Roman town by Brian Dix (*SMA* (1983-85), 13-15). In the second half of the 1980s, the Raunds Area Project, a co-operative venture with English Heritage with much of the manpower supplied through the Manpower Services Commission, saw excavation at Stanwick Roman villa by EH, and at the deserted medieval hamlet of West Cotton Raunds and at further sites within Raunds itself by NAU, along with the systematic fieldwalking survey of four parishes (*SMA* (1988-1991), 18-21).

In 1991 it was all change with the rise of developer funding and competitive tendering, and the consequent need to separate the functions of planning advice (Curatorial Section) and commercial fieldwork (Contracts Section) (*SMA* (1992), 22, 29-41). This was taken a stage further in July 1993 when the Curatorial Section became Northamptonshire Heritage under Alan Hannan, shortly after moving into County Hall, Northampton, while the Contracts Section became Northamptonshire Archaeology, with Brian Dix as Chief Archaeologist, staying in the offices at Wootton Hall Park on the outskirts of Northampton (*SMA* (1993-94), 40, 40-52 and 41, 21-30). In that first year 29 projects were undertaken, all but five within Northamptonshire.

The story for the rest of the 1990s was one of steady growth in size and the number of projects undertaken, with an increasingly higher proportion of the work outside Northamptonshire. After the departure of Brian Dix in the late 1990s, Michel Audouy saw NA through a difficult period and then left archaeology, with Steve Parry taking over as Principal Archaeologist, a role he continues to hold with MOLA. By 2001, half of NAs work was out of county and this rose to two thirds by the mid 2000s, with growth continuing. In 2005 over 150 client reports were issued and in 2008 the number went over 200. Then, along with everyone else, there was a downturn with the recession of the late 2000s. However, in 2013, our final year as Northamptonshire Archaeology, the number of client reports issued reached a record high of 265, a nine-fold increase in the 20 years from 1993; covering geophysical survey, building recording, desk-based assessments, watching briefs, trial trench evaluations and open area excavations.

Summaries of the work accomplished by Northamptonshire Archaeology have been published in the pages of *SMA* over the years, frequently featuring on the front cover. Copies of nearly 700 client reports are currently available through the Archaeology Data Service, and the final total will approach 1000 reports. From 1990 to the end of 2013 NA issued some 3135 client reports, 1463 in Northamptonshire and 1672 for out of county projects. Between 1982 and 2011 there were 158 magazine articles, journal articles and monographs, with

90 of these published in the ten years between 2004 and 2013.

The Historic Environment Record and the Archaeological Planning Advisors remain with Northamptonshire County Council.

It is sad, after forty years, to see an end to fieldwork in Northamptonshire carried out within public service, but while the move to MOLA heralds the end of Northamptonshire Archaeology this should be just the beginning of the next chapter in the story for the staff of the new organisation: a story that we will continue to record in the pages of *South Midlands Archaeology*.

2013 report compiled by Pat Chapman

Ashton, Stoke Road (SP 7640 4996)

Liz Muldowney

A series of extensive, intercutting Romano-British pits were recorded, as well as a recently backfilled pond, within the footprints of the proposed development on land at Stoke Road. OASIS 164142

Barnwell, Lilford Lodge (TL 040 850)

Ian Fisher

Remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were recorded in a detailed magnetometer survey on 0.9ha of arable land. OASIS 163723

Blisworth, former Duke's Arms Inn (SP 723 533)

Amir Bassir

Barns and stables, on land adjacent to Grafton House, were associated with the former Duke's Arms inn which was constructed in 1793 to serve the adjacent Grand Union Canal. The inn closed in the 1870s and was converted into a private residence. The barns and stables were determined to be of a late 18th to early 19th century date with mid 19th century and modern alterations and additions. OASIS 150271

Blisworth, Chapel Lane (SP 7264 5372)

Carol Simmonds

No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered during a trial trench evaluation on grassland north of Chapel Lane.

Bozeat, Hillside Close (SP 9062 5861)

Paul Clements

Remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation were recorded by a detailed magnetometer survey on land south of Hillside Close. OASIS 158815

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Bozeat, 1 St Mary's Road (SP 9053 5877)

Tim Upson-Smith

No archaeological deposits were recorded and no artefacts were recovered during a watching brief observing the groundworks for the construction of a single dwelling. OASIS 160402

Brackley, Manor Road, Winchester House School

(SP 5847 3741)

James Ladocha

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during a watching brief; a consistent stratigraphy of natural substrate overlain by subsoil and topsoil was identified across the site. OASIS 151997

Broughton, Glebe Avenue (SP 8378 7561)

John Walford and Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow, which also survives on the site as slight earthworks, were recorded by a detailed magnetometer survey. The layout matches the open field arrangements depicted on a 1728 map produced for John, Duke of Montague. Weak anomalies, perhaps representing earlier archaeological features, were also detected. Two linear ditches and one pit were found in the subsequent trial trench evaluation, each containing pottery dating to the late Iron Age. Additionally, three undated linear ditches and a possible alluvium layer were found. The remnant furrows were seen in all trenches. OASIS 142675 geophysical survey; 145395 evaluation

Bugbrooke, Ace Lane (SP 6771 5726)

Chris Chinnock

Possible prehistoric features, medieval and post-medieval pits and a post-medieval building with associated demolition debris were excavated during trial trench evaluation. OASIS 147533

Bugbrooke, Peace Hill (SP 7281 7010)

Christopher Jones

There were two ditches and a large pit, probably the margins of an area of open settlement and a large linear ditch, possibly a boundary system. There was a single sherd of residual middle Bronze Age pottery. All the features produced hand-built pottery dated to the early to middle Iron Age, and a radiocarbon date of 410-380 Cal BC (95% confidence) confirmed this. Earthworks of the medieval ridge and furrow cultivation system survive in part of the area and remnant furrows were seen across the excavated area, as seen in evaluation by NA (*SMA* (2013), 43, 35). OASIS 149451

Chacombe, Silver Street, Village Land (SP 491 440)

John Walford

The results of a detailed magnetometer survey of the Village Land, which contains earthworks relating to a manor house

and other medieval settlement, correlated broadly with the layout of the earthworks, but revealed much additional archaeological detail. Some areas of modern disturbance were also detected. OASIS 141130

Charwelton, Banbury road, Thistledome (SP 5344 5607)

Tim Upson-Smith

No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered during the evaluation on land at 'Thistledome'. OASIS 140018

Cranford, Home Farm (SP 9264 7769)

Anne Foard-Colby

Remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation that had been truncated by later limestone land drains were recorded in a watching brief carried out prior to the construction of an anaerobic digester. No other archaeological remains or finds were present. OASIS 154508

Croughton, Brackley Road (SP 5473 3376)

Simon Markus

Two trial trenches within a field adjacent to the village of Croughton did not contain any evidence of activity dating earlier than the 20th century. OASIS 142100

Culworth, High Street, D'Anvers House (SP 5408 4704)

David J Leigh

No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were recorded in a watching brief undertaken during construction of a new equestrian exercise area at the rear of D'Anvers House. Relatively undisturbed soils were present throughout the investigation area. OASIS 145444

Daventry, Middlemore, Plots 8W and 9 (SP 5619 6485)

James Ladocha

The natural substrate was encountered within all of the excavated areas but no features of archaeological interest were present. A small number of worked flints, some pottery and other finds were recovered from the topsoil. OASIS 142106

Denton, Denton Road, Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre (SP 8320 5563)

Chris Jones

No archaeological features or artefacts were present in trial trenches within the footprint of a proposed new building. OASIS 141074

Desborough, Harrington Road (SP 7939 8327)

Ian Fisher

A detailed magnetometer survey detected medieval ridge and furrow which is visible as earthworks within the field. No archaeologically significant anomalies were present.

Easton on the Hill, All Saints' Church (TF 0099 0469)

Edmund Taylor

A trial trench evaluation, in advance of the proposed extension of the existing cemetery, recorded two linear features and two postholes which, although undated, may relate to medieval settlement thought to have existed to the south of the proposed development area. OASIS 151641

Earls Barton, Main Road (SP 8505 6455)

James Ladocha

Two separate areas of enclosures probably relating to Iron Age and/or Roman settlement were identified by a detailed magnetometer survey on 16.5ha of land. Two ring ditches may represent prehistoric funerary or ritual monuments. Medieval ridge and furrow was also identified.

Earls Barton, 1-27 Thorpe Road (SP 8532 6288)

Garreth Davey

A magnetometer survey undertaken over an area of 1.26ha did not identify any significant archaeological features. OASIS 165901

East Haddon, Grovelands Farm (SP 6584 6814)

Garreth Davey and Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Two subcircular ditches and an L-shaped ditch possibly forming a corner of an enclosure were recorded by geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. Two linear ditches and remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow were also noted. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was a surface find. OASIS 166669

Ecton, 41 High Street (SP 82854 63471)

Chris Chinnock

A ditch, dated to the earlier 11th century, which may have been a plot boundary within the late Saxon village, was recorded in an evaluation trench along with a recently robbed garden wall. OASIS 145808.

A subsequent watching brief recorded a post-medieval layer. No archaeological features or finds were noted.

Great Doddington, Earls Barton Road (SP 8764 6465)

James Ladocha

Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was identified along with a possible post-medieval ditch and modern features in a trial trench evaluation. Modern features are possibly related to an enclosure present on maps from the 1880s to the 1950s.

However, a Roman coin was recovered from one of these features.

The mitigation works identified a number of modern features, including quarrying and a linear gully. The gully and an adjacent spread of material probably related to an enclosure, and associated pond/structure, present on maps from the 1880s to the 1950s OASIS 157214 evaluation; 162087 mitigation

Harpole, Northampton Road (SP 6928 6033)

Chris Chinnock

A possible enclosure was identified by detailed magnetometer survey. Other linear features were interpreted as possible ditches. Remnant furrows of medieval field cultivation were present. OASIS 157212

Harringworth, Seaton Road Church Farm

(SP 9162 9737)

Liz Muldowney

The extent of a cemetery, previously radiocarbon dated to the 7th to 11th centuries, was established during evaluation. Evaluation in 2000 by NA had located the cemetery (SMA (2001), 31, 36). The graves were aligned west to east and were laid out in six rows, aligned north to south, although it is likely that more are present. Where observed, the individuals had been buried supine with their heads to the west. Investigation of the graves was confined to establishing their extent and positioning. The original cemetery covered an area at least 47m by 30m and is likely to have contained several hundred individuals. A single late Saxon gully and a large 12th century rubbish pit were the only other features, the pit truncated several graves. OASIS 145793

Horton, 1-5 Denton Road (SP 8190 5464)

Anne Foard-Colby

A pit containing pottery sherds of at least three vessels of late 18th to early 19th century date was recorded during the machine excavation of three house foundations on land adjacent to 5 Denton Road and to the rear of 1-5 Denton Road. No further archaeological features or finds were present. OASIS 141332

Irchester, Chester Farm (SP 919 668)

Ian Meadows

A small open area excavation within the historic orchard associated with Chester Farm, an area of the eastern suburb of the Roman walled town at Irchester, was commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council. The recovered remains included a previously unknown side road with properties fronting onto both sides, possibly as many as five to six buildings, suggested by the patches of possible floor material, two had hearths cut into their floors, although it was not clear if they were domestic in character. In addition, at least one group of inhumation burials, a possible late Saxon pit, ridge and furrow cultivation and limited recent garden remains were also identified. A most surprising element discovered in the excavation was a substantial rabbit burrow

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within which large amounts of Roman pottery sherds had been carefully gathered by a rabbit or rabbits from their burrow. This burrow also further reflects the intrusive and destructive nature of rabbit activity on the site, although in this instance it was limited to the edge of the orchard. The purpose of the excavations was to establish the impact of post-Roman activity, in particular garden cultivation, and to better characterise the survival of remains outside the walled area. The works also permitted the involvement of school and amateur groups in the project as part of the broader aims of the development of Chester Farm as a heritage asset. OASIS 155788

Irchester, 66 High Street (SP 9261 6596)
Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A shallow medieval gully, dated to the 12th century, parallel to the existing boundary wall was recorded in a watching brief during groundworks connected with the construction of a single storey dwelling. The remainder of the plot had been heavily disturbed. OASIS 164219

Islip, Chapel Hill (SP 9887 7881)
David J Leigh

Modern disturbance was recorded in half the site during groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling and the refurbishment of existing buildings. Undisturbed soils were present across the remainder of the site. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS 169358

Kettering, 12 Paradise Avenue (SP 8766 7700)
Tim Sharman

A watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling saw no evidence of archaeological activity. OASIS 154665

Kislingbury, 3A Church Lane (SP 696 594)
Jason Clarke

A pit containing a sherd of St Neots ware pottery, dating c 900-1100 AD, was recorded during a watching brief. OASIS 160791

Kislingbury, 27 Mill Lane (SP 6950 5934)
Anne Foard

A series of linear ditches, probably medieval village plot boundaries, produced medieval pottery spanning the 11th to 15th centuries. Two groups of stone wall foundations, one of which post-dated a medieval ditch system, may be the remains of cottages or boundary walls, dating to the 16th century or later. More recent building remains were also recorded during machine excavation and associated groundworks for four houses, following evaluation (SMA 2013, 43, 39). OASIS 167468

Lilbourne, land east of (SP 570 770)
Ian Fisher and Chris Chinnoek

A curvilinear anomaly which may represent part of a prehistoric ring ditch and a set of anomalies which appear to represent two small ring ditches of indeterminate date were identified during a detailed magnetometer survey on the site of a proposed wind farm. OASIS 145014

Lilbourne (SP 572 764)
Paul Clements

A posthole, pit and ditches dating from the Iron Age and early Roman periods were found during trial trench evaluation. The site was traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. OASIS 150553

Little Harrowden, 74 Main Street (SP 8729 7166)
James Ladocha

A shallow ditch, heavily root-disturbed, of possible 1st century AD date was identified along with two shallow hollows of possible natural origin during trial trench evaluation. These features, and the natural substrate, were overlain by thick layers of subsoil and topsoil which may have been built up during landscaping of the garden. OASIS 150264

Little Houghton, 1-3 Meadow Lane (SP 803 596)
Jason Clarke and James Ladocha

Three 20th century outbuildings attached to a former butcher's shop and dwelling were recorded prior to their demolition, along with two fireplaces removed as part of the application. No documentary evidence was identified relating to the outbuildings, their previous usage being understood from contemporary observations and local knowledge.

Mears Ashby, 18 Bakehouse Lane (SP 8389 6676)
Ed Taylor

No pre-modern deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of an evaluation in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings. OASIS 167129

Middleton Cheney, Brasenose Cottage (SP 498 421)
Tim Upson-Smith

Originally two cottages constructed in un-coursed squared limestone and ironstone, and un-coursed rubble, one is 17th century in date, of two storeys and three bays, the other is 18th century. The alterations comprise the cutting of the tie beam on the first floor to lower the floor level and the removal of modern partitions. OASIS 160463

Middleton Cheney, Main Road, The Coach House
(SP 5076 4164)

Tim Sharman and Anne Foard

Following the discovery of human skeletal remains on the site an archaeological watching brief was undertaken. Two intercutting ditches were identified within the watching brief area from which pottery dated to the 11th to 12th centuries were recovered. No additional human remains were identified. OASIS 164566

Naseby, 60 High Street (SP 688 778)

Christopher Jones and James Ladocha

No archaeological features or finds were present in an archaeological investigation during removal of overburden and the machine excavation of house foundations. OASIS 151063

Northampton, Booth Rise (SP 7871 6474)

Liz Muldowney

Part of an early Romano-British rural settlement was uncovered as well as a small number of late Iron Age pits and early Anglo-Saxon settlement. The ditch systems were constructed in the early 1st century AD and were maintained and modified through to the middle to late 2nd century AD when the area was abandoned. The core of the settlement associated with these features was not within the boundaries of the excavated area, although the relatively large pottery assemblages in field ditches, often comprising large unabraded sherds, suggests that domestic structures were not far away. OASIS 159669

Northampton, Brackmills Point (SP 798 593)

Jason Clarke

An undated pit that may have been a midden for the disposal of hearth waste was identified during trial trench evaluation, as well as remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

The subsequent excavation recorded two pits, one of which contained a number of worked flints, including flint debitage, dating to the early Neolithic while charred hazelnut shell has been radiocarbon dated to the end of the early Neolithic, 3530-3380 at 90% probability. OASIS 144680 evaluation; 157157 excavation

Northampton, Castle Station (SP 7477 6043)

Andy Chapman and Tim Upson-Smith

Trial trenching in 2012 (*SMA* (2013), 43, 40 & cover) within the short-term car park in front of Northampton rail station had shown the survival of a stone wall dated to the 12th century within the outer bailey of Northampton Castle, despite the levelling of the castle remains in the later 19th century to permit the building of Castle Station and its extensive goods yard, now the main station car park. Pre-castle deposits were also located.

Between March and June 2013 the temporary car park was subject to open area excavation in advance of construction of

the new station building. The area was opened in stages, finally measuring 37m by up to 27m, and to the west abutting the front wall of the levelled Victorian station.

Beneath the castle remains, there was an extensive buried soil and a system of curvilinear boundary ditches, which turned westward and ran into a sunken area, seasonally moist, running down towards the late Saxon river edge. To the east there were further ditches and a series of pits varying from 1.0m to 5.0m in diameter. There were no late Saxon timber buildings, although the recovery of ceramic cresset lamps from a ditch near the south-eastern limit of excavation may suggest that they stood nearby. Most of the pre-castle deposits produced quantities of animal bone, and it would seem that this area had been a dumping ground from a busy slaughterhouse, situated near the river crossing.

The stone building within the outer bailey of the castle was fully excavated, although it was much disturbed by recent drains. It was 9.4m long by 4.5m wide, with ground-laid, un-mortared walls, apart from the western wall which was deeply founded as it abutted the inner face of the outer bailey bank. There was a wide doorway at the eastern end of the northern wall and a large hearth, 2.5m long by 1.2m wide, at the western end of the building. This was a minor functional building at the very western end of the outer bailey, perhaps a farriery. External stone surfaces lay to the south and east, and there were remnants of other walls, perhaps a further small building to the east. The building had a short lifetime, as it had been levelled by the end of the 12th century. Thereafter, there was no further building within this part of the outer bailey.

During a watching brief on the digging out of the brick foundations of the adjacent Victorian station, following completion of the open area excavation, intermittent remnants were recorded of mortared stone foundations, 1.2m wide, for the revetment wall fronting the outer bailey bank, which was 15m wide. To the south, now partly beneath the raised approach to the West Bridge, there may have been a postern gate through these defences, which would have provided direct access from the outer bailey to the river crossing. (Figs 5, 6 and back cover.)

A more detailed account of the archaeology of Northampton Castle is available in *British Archaeology*, 135, March/April 2014, 'In search of Northampton Castle'.

Northampton, 69 Clarence Avenue (SP 7526 6252)

Anne Foard-Colby

No archaeological features or finds were found in a watching brief during the machine excavation of a single house foundation. OASIS 159301

Northampton, Collingtree (SP 744 565)

Ian Fisher, John Walford, Chris Chinnock, Liz Muldowney, Jim Burke

The magnetic gradiometer survey of approximately 98ha, extended from the M1 motorway in the south to the Wootton Brook in the north, detected three settlement sites of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date, with a combined extent of approximately 4.5ha. Extensive tracts of medieval ridge and furrow were also detected.

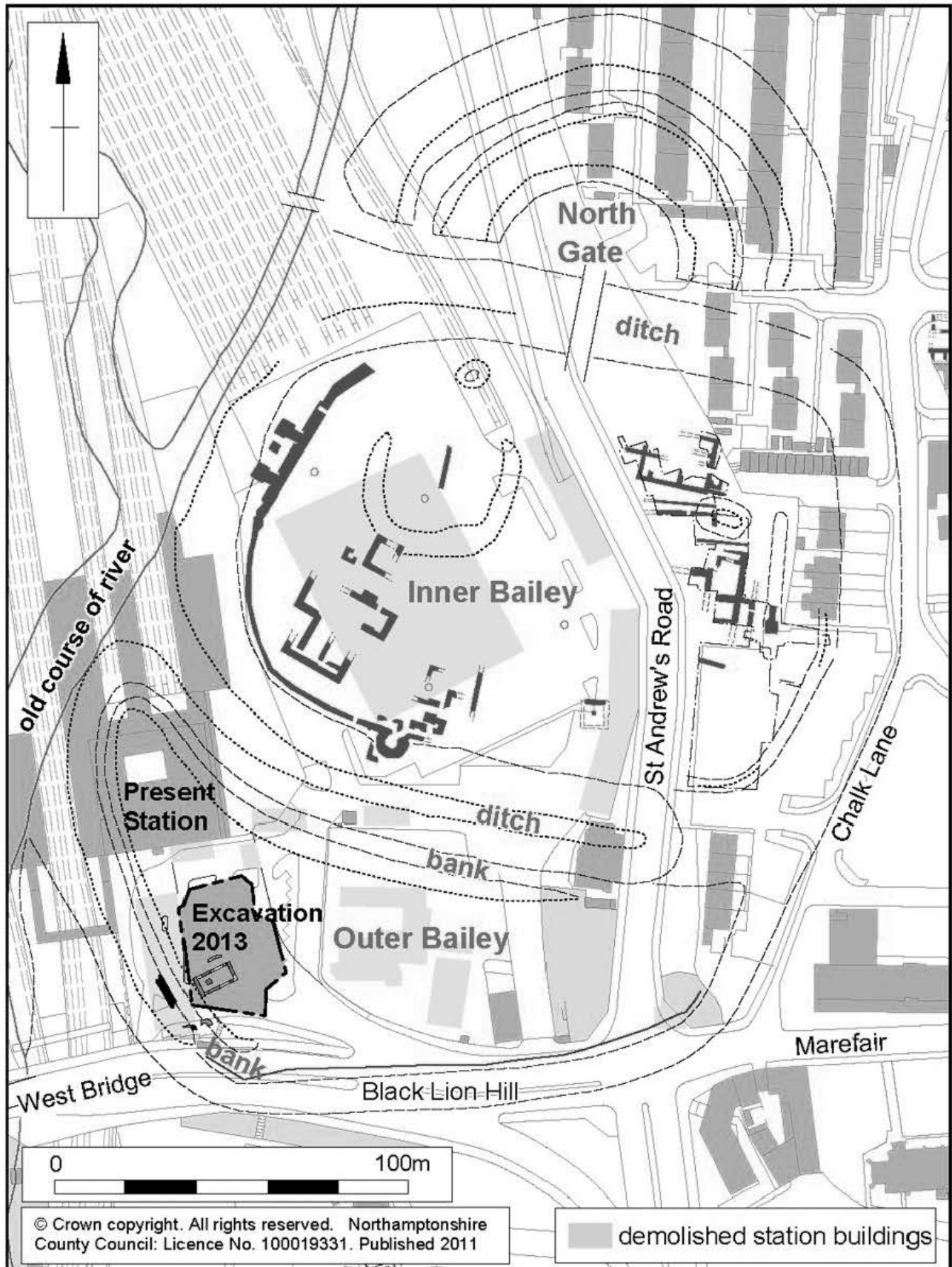


Fig 5. Northampton Castle, showing the location of the 2013 excavations and the castle plan overlaid on a modern base map.



Fig 6. Excavation of the 12th century building at Northampton Castle; in the background is the brick wall of the Victorian station, left, and late Saxon ditches cutting natural, centre and right.

The evaluation identified the remains of a small enclosed Romano-British settlement. The combination of the geophysical survey plot and the trenching suggests that occupation was relatively restricted in scale. Two outlying features were also recorded beyond this settlement area, one

dated to the Iron Age and the other, although undated, could be from a later period. OASIS 144403 geophysical survey; 154111 evaluation

Northampton, Hardingstone, Newport Pagnell Road
(SP 763 574)

Tim Upson-Smith

Excavation, following evaluation (*SMA* (2006) 36, 28), revealed elements of a late Iron Age enclosure and ditch system. A small pottery assemblage is tightly dated to the late Iron Age, 1st century BC, and the terminals of the main enclosure ditches all contained significant deposits, including a near complete burnished jar, and also a bottom stone from a rotary quern. The animal bone comprises the main domesticated animals, with sheep dominant and perhaps forming the economic base for the settlement. A pit and a ditch fill produced quantities of charred cereal seeds of barley, oats, wheat and spelt wheat, and the pit also produced a rich assemblage of weed seeds. The excavated site forms the western part of a more extensive area of contemporary settlement, partially excavated in 1968, but to the east occupation also continued though the 1st century AD. During the medieval period the site was under cultivation and truncated furrows of a field system overlay the earlier archaeological deposits. OASIS 157798

Northampton, Little Billing, All Saints Church (Fig 7.)
(SP 8044 6178)

Chris Chinnock

Multiple unmarked burials were encountered at varying depths during an investigation on the footprint of a proposed extension and associated service trenches adjacent to the north wall of the church, towards the western end. Many of



Fig 7. Late Saxon burial at Little Billing Church, with stones set around the head

Northamptonshire

the burials relate to the late-medieval and post-medieval usage of the graveyard, but two burials had stones placed around the head, an early medieval burial practice that is likely to pre-date the Norman Conquest, perhaps broadly contemporary with the stone carved Anglo-Saxon font standing in the church today. Burials were also found along a service trench with some lying beyond the churchyard boundary in the garden of an adjacent house, indicating that the graveyard had contracted sometime prior to the late 19th century. OASIS molanort1 - 170781

Northampton, Wallace Road, Kingsley Primary School
(SP 7675 6278)
David J Leigh

A truncated natural substratum was recorded throughout the investigation area in a watching brief during groundworks for a new extension and soak-away. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS 160000

Northampton, Swan Street car park (SP 75667 60275)
Jim Brown

A medieval pit below cultivation soils, similar to evidence previously identified at nearby sites within the Norman New Borough, was found during trial trench excavation. The medieval soils had been heavily truncated by post-medieval terracing in the south of the proposed development, fronting St Johns Terrace. Below the main car park the medieval layers were thicker and more deeply buried, but had been subjected to heavy vertical truncation by basements, a well and service lines belonging to the former Lion Foundry. No structural remains were identified that pre-dated the foundry works. Sufficient pottery was retrieved to provide a datable stratigraphic sequence, but the quantity of finds suggested a site with low intensity medieval activity and with minimal dumping. OASIS 156673

Northampton, Whitehills, Buckton Fields (SP 7458 6519)
Liz Muldowney

Excavation identified features associated with post-medieval agriculture; an early World War 2 searchlight battery and a mid 20th century rubbish pit. OASIS 154649

Northampton, 23 Regent Street (SP 7525 6097)
Tim Upson-Smith and Amir Bassir

Constructed as a boot and shoe factory in the mid 19th century, leather was produced here until the 1970s. The property was later used as a factory producing signage, canopies, blinds and awnings. A fire in the late 20th century caused significant damage to the interior of the structures, resulting in the site being abandoned and lying derelict until 2013, when plans to convert the buildings to residential dwellings were approved.

Despite the damage caused by the fire, some remnants of former machinery such as a drive shaft and a service lift remained in situ. OASIS 154156

Paulerspury, Grays Lane (SP 7257 4556)
James Ladocha

A magnetometer survey over an area of 0.59ha identified an undated square enclosure and linear ditch. OASIS 165900

Paulerspury, High Street, Dorkingham House
(SP 7225 4551)
Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

No archaeological features or finds were observed in a watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a garage. OASIS 156832

Paulerspury, Tews End Lane (SP 7211 4566)
Paul Clements

Three enclosures with internal pits, ditches and a possible roundhouse were recorded during a detailed magnetometer survey on 3.6ha of land. Modern field boundaries and a pond were also recorded. OASIS 159205

Pitsford, High Street, Pitsford Recreation Ground
(SP 7505 6771)
Jim Burke, Amir Bassir

No evidence of archaeological activity was observed in the watching brief during the excavation of six foundation trenches. OASIS 154811

Potterspury, Potterspury Lodge School, The Barn
(SP 7462 4474)
Tim Upson-Smith

The building formed an integral part of a mid to late 19th century farmstead, functioning as a cart shed. The building is a simple, rectangular plan of one build, with the exterior walls in coursed limestone faced internally with red brick in English bond, with brick detailing around the cart entrances and windows. The building was originally open fronted with three carriage arches facing north. These were later covered over with timber, sliding garage-style doors. Segmental red brick arches and bull-nosed brick sills are present around the doors and windows. The bricks forming the jambs of the cart openings and window openings are also bull-nosed. The gabled roof was originally Welsh slate with bull nose bricks at the eaves. The southern half of the roof was later re-covered in corrugated iron. The first floor is an open plan space which had been subdivided into two smaller tack rooms at the western end. A row of raised, enclosed chicken coops run the full length of the south wall. OASIS 166527

Road 33 Hartwell Road (SP 7613 5164)
Jonathan Elston

Remnant furrows of post-medieval agricultural activity and a single gully were recorded by trial trench evaluation in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings and access roads. OASIS 143190

Rockingham, The Cottons (SP 8672 9171)
Simon Markus, Anne Foard-Colby

Late medieval and post-medieval buildings, pits, postholes, ditches and drains were located, concentrated in two separate areas behind properties fronting onto Main Street. Artefacts recovered from the two areas included medieval and post-medieval pottery, animal bone, glass, window lead, building materials, clay tobacco-pipes and other late post-medieval finds. The buildings are believed to have been outhouses for a small row of cottages. Map evidence indicates that the outhouses were probably demolished c1806-1815. OASIS 152666

Rushden, Barrington Road (SP 9673 6631)
John Walford and Chris Chinnock

Remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation and footpaths following a rectangular pattern were recorded by geophysical survey. The trial trenching confirmed the presence of the ridge and furrow and uncovered modern features, possibly related to its former use as an allotment. OASIS 160844

Rushton, Desborough Road, Ashridge (SP 8389 8294)
Simon Markus

A small amount of 20th century disturbance was seen in the excavation of one of four test pits during a watching brief. OASIS 154746

Rushton, Whitegates Farm (SP 8542 8296)
Anne Foard-Colby

A Roman boundary ditch and Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials were found through archaeological monitoring during restoration of a former meander of the River Ise. Arrangements were made to preserve the archaeological remains in situ. Surface finds were collected from the topsoil. OASIS 166611

Spratton, Brixworth Road (SP 7184 7035)
John Walford

Remnants of former stream beds, ridge and furrow cultivation and modern ferrous debris were recorded in a detailed magnetometer survey on 2.5ha of land.

Spratton, St Andrews Church (SP 717 701)
David J Leigh

A watching brief during the removal of existing pews and timber flooring and excavation of drainage trenches recorded disturbed material throughout the investigation area. A single sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and a 15th/16th century jetton were collected from unstratified deposits.

Stanwick, 31 Grange Road (SP 9800 7116)
James Ladocha

No archaeological features or finds were observed during a watching brief connected with the construction of a new dwelling. OASIS 160659

Steane, Walltree House Farm (SP 5421 3725)
Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A mid to late 19th century farm building was probably a corn barn. Repairs and alterations had been made by the MoD during the Second World War, most notably the raising of the rear barn door, possibly to make it easier for machinery to pass through. OASIS 150622

Towcester, 22 Brackley Road (SP 6910 4877)
Christopher Jones

No archaeological features or finds were observed during a watching brief.

Towcester, 1 Queen's Road (SP 6912 4865)
Simon Markus

No evidence relating to the Roman town defences was observed in the evaluation trenches. Archaeological deposits were limited to late post-medieval make-up layers and garden soils. OASIS 151706

Towcester, Woodend, Main Street College Farm Barn (SP 614 493)
James Ladocha

Modern material was recorded throughout the investigation area. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Upper Heyford, White Gates (SP 665 595)
Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A late 19th century carriage house and stable block with many original features: feeding troughs, fireplace and hooks in the tackroom had provided stabling for two or three horses. The use of Foxleys' Patent Bricks allowed the entire rear of the house, along with the south facing garden wall, to have been strung to grow fruit. OASIS 146838

Walgrave, Kettering Road (SP 8067 7242)
Jason Clarke and Mo Muldowney

An entrance into a possible ditched enclosure of pre-medieval date was recorded in an evaluation. The site was traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. OASIS 154910

The excavation recorded undated ditches forming part of a field-system. The driveway and boundary ditches are likely to be prehistoric date, because of the leached fills and absence of artefacts. A series of post-medieval furrows was also identified.

Northamptonshire

Warmington, Peterborough Road, Little Orchard and the Red Lion Public House (TL 0759 9139)

Ed Taylor

A single, undated ditch was recorded within the plot at the Red Lion. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

Welford, Newlands Road (SP 640 799)

Ian Fisher

Detailed magnetometer survey on 2ha of arable land identified part of an undated enclosure ditch and medieval ridge and furrow cultivation but no other archaeological features were evident. OASIS 163812

Wellingborough, Ruskin Avenue, Ruskin Infant School (SP 872 675)

David J Leigh

Modern disturbance was recorded throughout the investigation area during groundworks for a new extension, drainage works and temporary haul road. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS 161742

West Haddon, land north-west (SP 6310 7220)

Ian Fisher

A detailed magnetometer survey indicate the presence of the roads and enclosures of a Roman settlement. Medieval ridge and furrow was also identified. OASIS 143205

West Haddon, land north (SP 978 416)

Paul Clements

A ring ditch, a possible Bronze Age barrow, and enclosures showing that the Roman settlement identified by previous archaeological works (*SMA* (2006) 36, 30) extends south-east around the east side of West Haddon were recorded by detailed magnetometer survey. Furrows of medieval ridge and furrow were also identified. OASIS 159755

Woodford Halse, land north of Byfield Road (SP 5383 5324)

Ian Fisher

Magnetometer survey identified ploughed-out remains of medieval ridge and furrow as well as a number of ferrous signals of likely modern origin. OASIS 140695

Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre (SP 8320 5563)

Tim Upson-Smith

The cast iron and brick-built, single-storey buildings were built during World War II as office and accommodation buildings associated with a munitions storage depot. The munitions storage buildings were located in woodland to the east. Some of the buildings in the survey were found to be unused. The fabric of the buildings showed evidence of

alterations such as blocked doorways. After 1980, the area became a training ground, latterly becoming part of the East Midlands Training Area. OASIS 147459

Yardley Hastings, Bedford Road (SP 8620 5701)

John Walford, Chris Chinnoek

Post-medieval hedgerows and a pond identified in the geophysical survey trial trenches were confirmed by trial trenching. OASIS 151993

Yarwell, New Manor Farm (TL 0693 9888)

John Walford

A large, flat-bottomed rectangular pit, 5m long by 4m wide and 0.6m deep was identified during a watching brief. The fills contained animal bone, including a horse skull, and there was a deposit of burnt debris near the base of the pit. The absence of datable finds leaves its date and function uncertain, but it bears comparison with some small timber buildings of late medieval or early post-medieval date with sunken floors, probably utilised as workshops. OASIS 157029

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



The Desborough mirror: the society logo

40th Anniversary

In the late 1950s and early 1960s increased leisure and wealth produced a resurgence of interest in local history and archaeology. At the same time there was a growing realisation that the ever-quicken pace of development, which in Northamptonshire included ironstone and gravel quarrying as well as housing, industry and new roads, was resulting in loss or damage to numerous archaeological sites. As a result this period saw the appearance of several local societies, many of them active in the attempt to salvage as much as possible in front of the bulldozers.

In September 1965 a group of these local societies formed the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies to, 'promote the study of archaeology in Northamptonshire, to co-ordinate fieldwork by local

archaeological societies..., and to ensure the proper recording and the publication of results'. From 1966 onward they published an annual Bulletin; the first issue ran to 20 pages, as a 'modest first step towards the achievement of the latter objective'.

Nine years later, the next major step was taken, and the Federation became Northamptonshire Archaeological Society. The card-covered and stapled Bulletin, which largely carried short summaries and had never exceeded 69 pages, was replaced by a full journal, Northamptonshire Archaeology, with the capacity to carry detailed site reports and notes in addition to the annual roundup. The first issue, volume 9 in the series including the Bulletins, ran to 117 pages.

The foundation of NAS was reported at some length in *South Midlands Archaeology*, then known as *CBA Group 9 Newsletter* (SMA (1975), 5, 47).

'The foundation of a new county archaeological society in this country is an unusual event in the 1970s. By the standards of most counties, Northamptonshire is 100 years behind the times. Nevertheless, the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society came formally into existence in May 1974 and became open to general membership in September, as a transmutation of the former Federation of Northants Archaeological Societies. It answered a series of generally felt needs, most obviously (i) for a county-wide society which might attract the interest of the widest general public as individual members and can act as a focus and spokesman for the archaeological viewpoint in the county, and (ii) for a medium of publication for the important rescue excavations in the county.

The society was publicly launched at an inaugural meeting in October, at which the guest speaker was Professor Barry Cunliffe. Individual membership of the society was £2 per annum.

Through the forty years since then the major achievement of the society has been the regular publication of the journal, although not quite annual, the issue for 2014 will be volume 38. During this time some 205 full reports have been published and with the notes, the annual roundup and other material a total of 5090 pages were published between 1974 and 2012. Past journals have all been scanned, and PDF copies of articles are available online through the CBA ArchLib.

In 1999, to celebrate its 25th anniversary, NAS held a day school with a series of speakers presenting period overviews of the archaeology of the county. Following on from this, in 2004, NAS published an overview, 'The Archaeology of Northamptonshire', edited by then journal editor and chairman, Martin Tingle, a volume that has now sold out.

When Martin moved away from the county, Andy Chapman took over the editorship of the journal, which has been revamped by moving from the traditional quarto size to A4 with full colour printing.

In 2010 we also marked the outstanding fieldwork of one of the society's founder members and the most prolific contributor to the journal, by publishing the autobiography of 'Dennis Jackson: a Northamptonshire Archaeologist'.

This year, to mark our 40th anniversary, we are taking a different approach and on the weekend of the 20-21 September, at Sywell Country Park, NAS will be hosting a weekend of Ancient Crafts, including prehistoric pottery,

flint knapping and much more with a mixture of public demonstrations and workshops by skilled craftsmen and re-enactors.

For many years now membership has remained at around 150, with a small annual turnover of leavers and new members. Hopefully we can at least retain that membership as NAS moves towards its 50th anniversary.

For further information about Northamptonshire Archaeological Society please go to our website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk, or contact the secretary by email at: NAS196674@gmail.com.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Culworth, Gate House Farm (SP 53948 47248)

Taleyna Fletcher

Monitoring work followed a historic building survey previously undertaken at the farmhouse and associated buildings. The first phase comprised monitoring of foundation trenches adjacent to the farmhouse, where a sequence of foundations beneath the existing building was observed. The second phase of works consisted of monitoring of trenches in the field to the north of the farmyard and one leading into the farmyard itself. The only archaeological remains were encountered in trenches to the immediate north of the farmyard and comprised a stone culvert/drain, the foundations of a parallel wall and an undated ditch. These are tentatively dated to the 12th-14th century based on pottery recovered from the back-fill of the drain cut. These features may be associated with earthworks known to exist within this part of the site. (OA East Report 1531)

Easton Neston, Showsley Grounds (SP 71723 50769)

Taleyna Fletcher

An Historical building survey was carried out on a range of redundant farm buildings at Showsley Grounds. The Grounds are located on the site of Swardsley Priory, a Cistercian Nunnery.

Cartographic evidence from a map dated 1844 indicated the presence of an earlier range of buildings, that pre-dated those surveyed. Of the surviving remains, four main phases of development spanning approximately 100 years were identified, beginning with the construction of the earliest buildings in 1868, as part of the Easton Neston Estate farm improvements. There followed subsequent alterations to reflect changes in agricultural practices, through to the construction of two large storage units in the mid 20th century, which mark the introduction of large mechanical farm machinery. A number of interesting original features were identified, including wooden feeding troughs, original brick floor surfaces in the stables, a date plaque and an iron hopper bearing the crest of the Fermor-Hesketh family. (OA East Report 1501)

Northamptonshire

Kettering, Land East of Kettering, Plots R7 and R8 (SP 8975 7820)

Nick Gilmour

Excavation revealed Middle Iron Age activity, including a large boundary ditch crossing the entire 400m length of the site. Adjacent to this was a rectangular structure, possibly a rare example of a Middle Iron Age shrine. Very little material was recovered from this feature and there were no directly associated 'votive' deposits, although the articulated remains of two sheep were found nearby. A large roundhouse was identified close to the possible shrine and may have been associated. Both structures had been re-cut on a number of occasions and there was a notable lack of settlement activity, including pits, in the vicinity. Several other ditches, probably part of a field system, and a single large, isolated, pit were also present, also of Middle Iron Age date. A single post-medieval ditch was also recorded. (OA East Report 1530)

Moulton, Moulton College Holcot Site (SP 77963 66815)

Rob Atkins

Cropmarks suggested the area contained a sub-rectangular enclosure and other linear ditches. Evaluation identified three ditches in the northern part of the site, two of which contained small assemblages of Late Saxon/early medieval pottery. During subsequent excavation a single Late Iron Age pit was uncovered in the north-western part of the area. Environmental evidence suggests the presence of a settlement of this date nearby. Two residual Roman pottery sherds were also recovered. Two phases of Saxo-Norman to early medieval occupation were identified in the northern part of the site, less than 100m from Castle Hill; a site known for its medieval manor. Early medieval features included quarry pits as well as isolated pits and one rectangular pit that contained evidence for cereal processing. A second phase of activity was indicated by the presence of possible boundary ditches suggesting that reorganisation of the site took place in the 12th century. (OA East Reports 1461 and 1492)

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Irthlingborough, Nene Valley Wetlands power line cable installation (SP 9465 6960)

Andrew Simmonds

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Western Power Distribution to undertake a watching brief during the excavation of a cable trench within the Nene Valley at Irthlingborough. The excavation exposed a transect across part of an extensive area of Iron Age to early Roman settlement that had been previously identified in this part of the valley.

Excavation was limited to the impact depth of the cable trench and the features were only exposed where this was sufficient to penetrate the alluvium that blanketed the area. Part of the trench was excavated along the embankment of the disused branch rail line that had joined the former Ebbw

Vale Iron Ore Works to the Peterborough-Northampton main line and revealed only layers of made ground associated with the construction of the embankment.

The remains were characterised by ditches and pits, with a small number of smaller features that may have been postholes. The ceramic evidence indicated that activity spanned the middle Iron Age to the early Roman period, with a peak in activity during the 1st century AD. There was no positive evidence for activity later than the 2nd century. A single pit was cut through the lower part of the alluvium that overlay the majority of the other features and provided evidence that there were at least two phases of activity, separated by an alluvial episode.

Northampton, land east of Brackmills (SP 7880 5890)

Vix Hughes

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an evaluation. A total of 28 trenches were excavated across the site. Archaeological remains dating to the middle Iron Age, late Iron Age/early Roman and Roman periods were recorded. In addition, evidence for medieval ridge and furrow agriculture was present across the site.

Evidence of settlement dating to the middle Iron Age was found in the higher, southern part of the site. A series of small sub-circular enclosures, recorded as geophysical anomalies, appear to date from this period. In addition, further pits and ditches containing Iron Age pottery, animal bone and fragments of oven or hearth furniture were present.

Settlement activity appears to continue into the late Iron Age/early Roman period, again focused on the high ground overlooking the River Nene. The activity continued into the Roman period proper, with some evidence that it became more extensive in the late Roman period. A length of stone-built wall footing was present in one of the trenches and is almost certainly Roman in date. Whether this formed part of a building or some other structure was not clear.

Extensive earthworks, the remains of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture, were present across the site. The presence of late medieval pottery in a layer adjacent to an existing pond on the eastern boundary of the site may suggest that the pond formed part of the medieval landscape. Possible evidence of small-scale post-medieval quarrying was present at the southern edge of the site where a layer of sandy silt containing frequent stone fragments was recorded. It is noticeable that evidence of ridge and furrow, either as earthworks or as geophysical anomalies, is absent from this area, having, perhaps, been destroyed by quarrying.

Towcester, Wood Burcote Court (SP 697 473)

James Mumford

An evaluation at Wood Burcote Court uncovered evidence for activity throughout the Roman era, but with a particular emphasis on the middle Roman period. Features containing Roman pottery and ceramic building material included ditches, pits, a possible post-built structure and an inhumation burial, which was dated by a pot of late Iron Age/early Roman date or 2nd century date pending further analysis. A stone spread could represent the floor make up and wall footing of a building and was dated by pottery of

late Roman date. Evidence for quarrying, perhaps associated with brick or tile making may date to the earlier medieval period, with agricultural activity in the form of boundary ditches and extant ridge and furrow likely to have continued throughout the medieval period.

**SOUTERRAIN
SERVICES LTD**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Higham Ferrers, 15 Kings Meadow Lane (SP 9586 6916)
Martin D Wilson

Archaeological investigation was carried out during the preparation of foundations for a new house within a back garden alongside Kings Meadow Lane. Located on the northern edge of the medieval borough, the lane was the main route in the medieval period between Irthlingborough and Higham, whilst this part of the town is understood to have been the main focus of agricultural tenements. The excavation revealed that the ground levels had been modified in the modern period, probably for the creation of the garden. A small assemblage of 17th to 19th century pottery sherds were found in the topsoil, but no archaeological features were present. OASIS Ref. souterrai 157504.

**Stoke Bruerne, The Bungalow, Stoke Park
(SP 74126 48863)**
Martin D Wilson

Archaeological observation and recording was carried out during the preparation of foundations for a new house within Stoke Park (Registered Park and Garden) to the south of the village of Stoke Bruerne. The investigation revealed evidence for land-use and occupation at, or in proximity to the site during the 13th/14th century. A medieval ditch offset from an ancient lane possibly represents a tenement boundary. It is the first datable below-ground archaeological evidence of medieval occupation in this area, providing corroborative evidence for the suspected deserted village or hamlet of Shaw. The village is believed to have existed between the 13th and 15th centuries and is likely to have been contemporary with a deer park, which, until the 16th century, appears to have been limited to a wood to the north, which is now largely occupied by Stoke Park Wood. The quality of environmental evidence was poor due to the intensity of modern ash woodland. Nevertheless, the presence of three cultivated cereal grains (probably *Triticum* sp.) is suggestive of domestic occupation on or near the site. The pottery evidence, albeit little in quantity, illustrates that there was intercommunication at Shaw, between the pottery manufactories at Pottersbury, Northants (c 7 miles) and Brill, Buckinghamshire (c.30 miles) during the 13th/14th centuries. This was probably through the intermediary of a nearby market (eg Towcester, c 5 miles) and/or pedlars. OASIS Ref. souterrai-138620

Northampton, Booth Rise (SP 78705 64745)
Martin D Wilson and Mercedes Planas

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out in advance of proposed development at Booth Rise, Northampton. The survey revealed a range of archaeological-type anomalies caused by induced magnetism across the study area. At least two extensive concentrations of buried features were identified which resemble ancient enclosures or field systems.

Stanwick, Plot 2 - 49 East Street (SP 98436 71157)
Martin D Wilson

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the preparation of foundations for a new building at a plot of land on the southeast periphery of Stanwick village, immediately to the south of No 49 East Street. Trenching for strip foundations revealed an undated ditch, presumably a field drainage ditch or property boundary. OASIS Ref. souterrai-155210

Stanwick, Plot 1 - 49 East Street (SP 98410 71135)
Martin D Wilson

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the preparation of foundations for a new building in the rear garden of No 49 East Street on the southeast periphery of Stanwick village. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS Ref. souterrai-155209

Stanwick, Plot 3 - 49 East Street (SP 9840 7119)
Martin D Wilson

Archaeological investigation was carried out during construction of a new building on the south side of East Street. Ground reduction revealed that the site was truncated in the 20th century to install a large glasshouse with boiler room. There were no archaeological deposits or artefacts.

Wellingborough, 5-9 Strode Road (SP 8961 6796)
Mercedes Planas and Martin D Wilson

An 'as found' historic buildings record was made of three late 19th century properties in Strode Road, Wellingborough, prior to alteration and extension work. The properties are numbered 5, 7 and 9. The report provides an appraisal of the historic development and occupancy of the buildings from available documentary sources and oral history, and a descriptive and illustrative account of observation. The record includes photographs and scale elevations and plans. The historic appraisal revealed that from c 1890 until c 1914, all three properties were owned by a Job Master. The outbuildings at the rear of the properties originally consisted of stables and cart sheds, all of which formed a part of the Job Master's business premises. The properties were fronted by shops with accommodation (sometimes rented) above. The shop at No 5 was part of Strode Road Dairy/Phillips Dairy between the 1920s and 1970s. The middle property (No 7) was sold to a butcher in the mid-20th century and the outbuildings were converted to a slaughterhouse. It was later

Northamptonshire

taken over by the Phillips' business. OASIS Ref. souterral-167088

Newton Bromswold, The Pastures, Church Lane

(TL 9999 6596)

Martin D Wilson

Trial trenching was carried out in advance of construction of a private dwelling on the north eastern edge of the village of Newton Bromswold. Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed.

Yardley Hastings, Cherry Tree Cottage, 21 Northampton Road (SP 86366 56833)

Martin D Wilson

Excavation was undertaken during ground preparation for rear and side extensions to a possible early 19th century dwelling house (Fig 8). An objective was to attempt to recover information about the medieval settlement at Yardley Hastings, where archaeological evidence of the period has so far been slight.

The most significant discovery was that of a pottery production site in 1979, on the south-western edge of the modern village, on land which was formerly part of the present development site. Four areas were investigated (A to D), although the main focus of work was on a short-lived kiln in Area B, c 20m from the recent area of investigation. The majority of 'tentatively identified' kiln products - cooking pots, bowls and jugs - dated between AD 1200 and 1400.

The recent development at Cherry Tree Cottage revealed the site of at least one timber structure, represented by a sill/sleeper beam trench, two post-holes and three to four shallow stone-based post-settings. The features were dated by pottery to the 13th century. It was not possible to determine the form and extent of the structure(s) since they continued beyond the property boundary to the west. The post-settings are comparable to others observed in 1979 (in Area A), which were thought to represent the site of simple or makeshift shelters above working areas. It is therefore quite likely that the recent discoveries represent a further extent of the medieval pottery production site. The limits of the ground reduction in the back garden meant that the extent of the medieval site was not fully ascertained.

The 13th century pottery sherds at Cherry Tree Cottage have a shelly fabric and derive from unglazed cooking pots and bowls. They are most probably products of a Yardley Hastings kiln, if not from the known kiln. In addition, a small number of 13th/14th sherds represent regional trade from within a 26 mile radius: Lyveden, (c 26 miles/c 41.8km) and Potterspury (16 miles/25.7km). Other non-Yardley Hastings products comprised Hertfordshire-type grey ware, sand-tempered

oxidized ware and medieval sandy ware; all broadly dated to the 13th century.

Soil samples indicate that the structure(s) were sited on an area of damp grassland. It is thus inferred that pottery production at Yardley Hastings was carried out away from the main areas of habitation on the southwest edge of the village, possibly on heath land or waste, as evidenced elsewhere (eg Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire). Collectively, the evidence from the investigations of 2013 and 1979 may suggest a fairly small scale occupation, particularly since wider documentary study has shown that before the end of the 13th century most pottery making in England was carried out by small-holding cottagers (Le Patourel 1968). The recent investigation produced no further pottery evidence until the 17th century, which probably relates to agricultural land-use. A substantial brick-built 19th century well was found at the rear of the existing house.

OASIS Ref. souterral-164743

References

Brown K 1994; 'A medieval Pottery Kiln at Yardley Hastings, Northamptonshire', *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 25, 159-175

Le Patourel H E Jean, 1968; Documentary Evidence and the Medieval Pottery Industry, *Medieval Archaeology*, 122

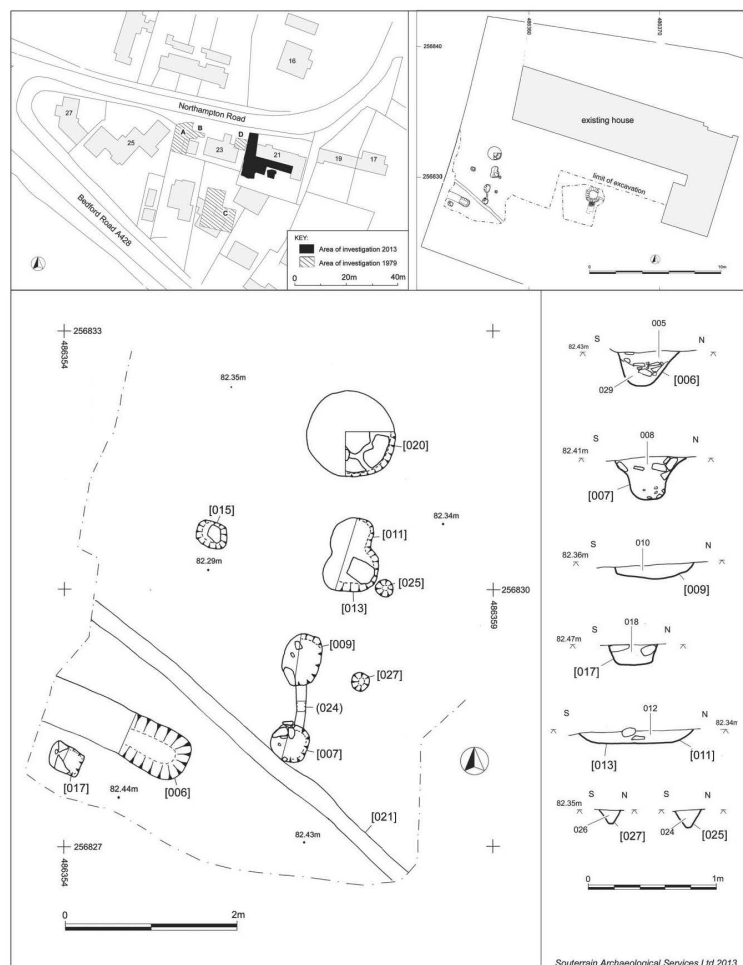


Fig 8. Yardley Hastings, Cherry Tree Cottage, 21 Northampton Road.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

Kislingbury, 3a Church Lane
Gavin Speed

Brackley, Burwell Farm, Turweston Road (SP 592 376)
James Harvey

During January and February 2013, ULAS undertook a 43 trench field evaluation on land at Burwell Farm, south of Turweston Road, Brackley, prior to the proposed development of the site. This followed desk-based assessment and geophysical survey that suggested the site had the potential for Iron Age and Roman settlement remains.

Archaeological features were recorded within 18 of the excavated trenches. Within Area 1 and the northern part of Area 3 evidence of Mid-Late Iron Age settlement activity was recorded. This was located on the top of the same east-facing slope as Iron Age activity previously recorded to the north of the site at Foxhills. Although there was no evidence to suggest this activity continued into the Early Roman period, part of the site does then appear to have been subsequently re-used during the Early Anglo-Saxon period. The trenches within the southern part of Area 3 and Area 4 contained very little archaeological evidence, consisting of isolated ditches and stakeholes. Extensive fluvial deposits were recorded at the southern end of the site, within Area 5 that may date to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Evidence of pitting dating to the Mid-Late Iron Age was recorded in association with these river deposits and may relate to specialised activities rather than indicating actual settlement activity on this floodplain area. Within the north-western corner of Area 5 part of a stone structure was recorded that correlated with a building marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885.

The site archive will be held by ULAS, accession number NH_TRB13, until an appropriate recipient organisation is established for Northamptonshire.

Daventry, Mickel Well Park (SK 56045 17321)
Roger Kipling

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in December 2013 on land at Mickel Well Park, Daventry in response to residential development proposals.

The evaluation, comprising six 30m trenches, revealed localised evidence of archaeological activity in the form of a small ditched enclosure of possible Late Iron Age date in the western sector of the assessment area and of further likely field ditches, at least two of which are of late 1st and 2nd century Romano-British date. Pottery and ceramic building material recovered from the latter hint at the presence of settlement in the near vicinity, whilst the presence of wheat chaff from three of the ditches is indicative of crop processing activity in the near vicinity. A small but wide-ranging assemblage of animal bone confirms the presence of domesticated animals as well as domestic fowl and hare.

The site archive will be deposited with the Northamptonshire County Council Museums Service under accession number NH-MWD 2013.

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at 3a Church Lane, Kislingbury in advance of a proposed residential development.

The evaluation revealed archaeological deposits consisting of ditches/gullies, three dating to the medieval period; these may represent property or field boundaries. A further seven archaeological features were undated, but were of a similar composition and orientation and so may be contemporary. Four worked flint fragments of probable Neolithic/Bronze Age and Mesolithic or Upper Palaeolithic date were all found residually within the medieval ditches. These hint at prehistoric activity within the area.

The site archive will be held by ULAS, accession no. NH_KIS13, until a recipient organisation for Northamptonshire has been established.

Lilbourne, 29 Yelvertoft Road (SP 56485 76890)
Roger Kipling

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in May 2013 on land to the rear of 29 Yelvertoft Road, Lilbourne, in advance of residential development. A single ditch was revealed which produced pottery and brick of 19th century date.

The site archive will be held by ULAS until it can be deposited with a suitable museum in Northamptonshire.

Pineham (SP 71500 58700)
Gavin Speed and James Harvey

Between April and November 2013 ULAS undertook excavation of a 7.5ha area Pineham, located in the Nene Valley, 4km south-west of Northampton. The excavation revealed evidence for human activity from Upper Palaeolithic artefacts through to post-medieval ploughing, with the key discovery of a substantial Roman rural settlement.

The earliest activity consisted of evidence of a reasonably rare find of an Upper Palaeolithic long blade (c 120mm long) found within the floodplain of the site. Prehistoric activity consisted of Neolithic and Bronze Age pits on a sand and gravel promontory to the east, a possible ring ditch, Iron Age ditches and a roundhouse were also located. Detailed phasing is uncertain at present (prior to detailed post-excavation analysis), however, it was clear during the excavation that a D-shaped enclosure was Late Iron Age and/or Early Roman in date.

The majority of the evidence consisted of a substantial Roman rural settlement, much of which dates to the late Roman period. A late Roman farmstead appears to have been added to an earlier east-west field boundary. This consisted of many field boundaries/paddocks, a large water hole (containing surviving timber revetment and fragments of a leather shoe), cobble surfaces and ovens/kilns.

An intriguing small stone-built rectangular structure was discovered set within a small enclosure. The structure contained an internal vent/flue that ran the perimeter of the building, with a fire pit located at the southwest corner of the building. Although heat was recorded within the fire pit area,

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little evidence of heat was seen elsewhere, perhaps suggesting the channel was designed to distribute smoke around the building. The structure could have had multiple functions including grain drying or smoking food. The location of the structure next to the main entrance of the site (perhaps leading directly to nearby Roman Duston) suggests that the function of the building may relate to final processing of agricultural resources prior to leaving the site. Full analysis of the environmental sample will help clarify its function.

More pits and postholes and some possible beam slots were recorded within the higher ground, the ditches also appeared to contain denser concentrations of pottery in areas suggesting domestic activity. However, no clear buildings were discovered. The depths of the features were noticeably shallower on the sand and gravel area, suggesting these elements of the site may have been lost through horizontal truncation. One of the wells was fully excavated to a depth of some 5m. At the base of the well a large quantity of animal bone was recovered within a dense matrix of stone. Some of the bone appeared articulated, perhaps suggesting that whole carcasses had been deliberately thrown down the well and had subsequently become split up during decomposition.

The site produced many important finds but one of the best and least expected came from a narrow ditch forming part of the southern boundary of the enclosure complex. From here four fragments of a circular lead tank were recovered that have been interpreted as parts of an Early Christian baptismal font. The pieces were laid individually along a short section of the ditch. The base of the tank had been cut into two separate pieces and the other two recovered pieces consisted of around c 2/3 of the side of the tank that had been flattened out. The pieces appear to have been cut to a portable size, perhaps intended as scrap metal. No furnaces were recorded on the site but two lead ingots have also been recovered perhaps suggesting metal was being melted down on the site. The excavations also revealed evidence for significant Anglo-Saxon activity, including Sunken-Featured Buildings of various forms and sizes, along with pottery and other Saxon objects. It is intriguing (but at present uncertain) how these relate to the late Roman activity.

A further area remains to be excavated in 2014 in the field to the west (thought to contain an Iron Age settlement).

Staverton, Daventry Road (SP 54172 61063)

Roger Kipling and Gavin Speed

A topographic survey and archaeological evaluation were undertaken in October 2013 by ULAS on land at Daventry Road, Staverton, in advance of residential development.

The survey of the ridge and furrow within the proposed development demonstrated that the system was spaced at around 4.9m, and is probably medieval in origin. The excavation did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features with the exception of an undated gully and post hole and the stone foundation of a wall. The site archive will be held by ULAS under the accession number NH STAV 2013 until a recipient organisation for Northamptonshire has been established.

Wellingborough, land adjacent to The Dun Cow public house, 2 Gold Street (SP 88823 68331)

Wayne Jarvis

ULAS carried out an archaeological excavation on land adjacent to The Dun Cow, 2 Gold Street, Wellingborough in advance of a proposed residential development. Archaeological features had been identified in a previous evaluation within the area of the proposed building. During the follow-up excavation an area was stripped to archaeological levels within the proposed building footprint which revealed further archaeological evidence.

A dense concentration of features was exposed dating predominantly to the 12th-13th centuries including pits, ditches, gullies and some structural evidence including one or more hearths. The nature of the features is indicative of domestic activity characteristic of medieval backyards, but the distribution pattern and form of the features suggests that this activity might be associated with structures to the south rather than the Gold Street frontage at the west.

Some earlier pottery of late Saxon date was also recovered most probably residual in the later contexts. Later activity (18th-19th century) was also identified across the site area, presumably associated with the original public house.

The site archive will be held by Northamptonshire County Council, with the accession no. NHD2013.

Building Recording

Wellingborough, the former Dun Cow Public House, 2 Gold Street, (SP 8882 6833)

Negative Projects

Dallington, 117 Harlestone Road (SP 73594 61479)

Lilbourne, 29 Yelvertoft Road (SP 56485 76890)

Lower Weedon, Ordnance Way (SP 62414 59339)

Oundle, The Riverside Hotel, Station Road (TL 04660 88928)

Titchmarsh, 6 Church Street (TL 022 798)

OXFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Abingdon, Skeletons at Bowyer Road (SU 4988 9799)

J Brocklesby, M-N Pilgrim, T Stopps and J Wallis

In June 2011, the society was invited by the owners to investigate skeletons found in their garden in Bowyer Road. When contractors had removed a concrete slab, the remains of at least four burials were uncovered. The police forensically examined one skull and decided it was old enough to be archaeology rather than a crime scene. Seven burials, possibly Roman or Saxon, had previously been reported by Duncan Wilson (*Oxoniensia* 44, 1979, pp. 97-99) at this site, then known as Boxhill.

Four trenches were excavated by hand in the garden. This slopes down to the River Stort which lies at about 56m above ordnance datum. Due to previous building and landscape

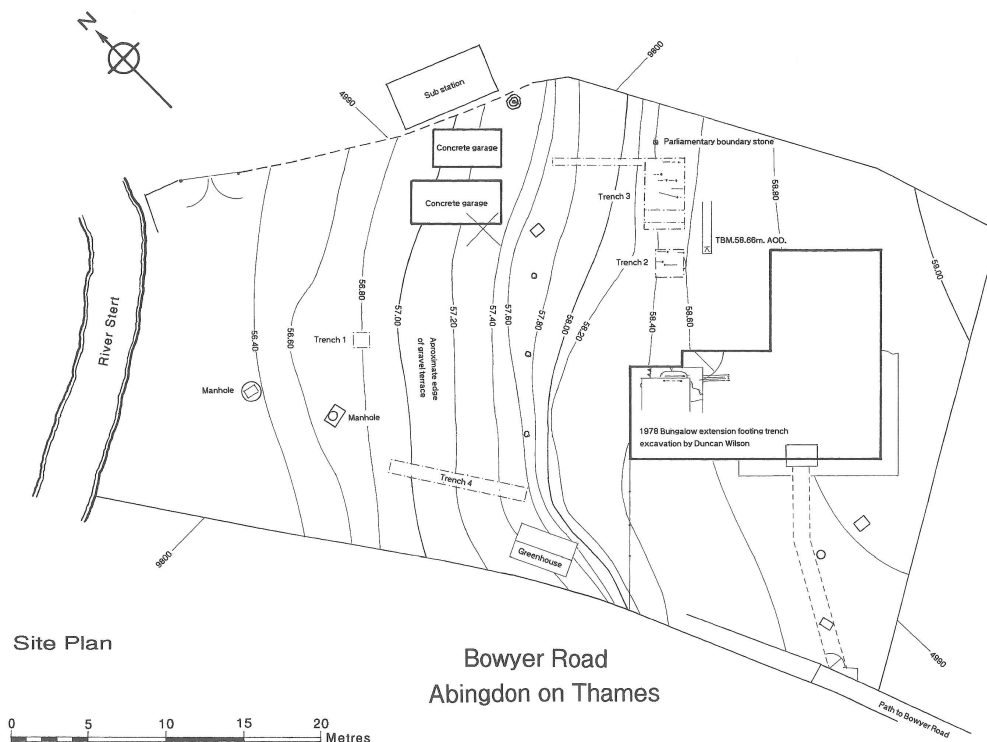


Fig 1. Bowyer Road, Abingdon.

work the ground was very disturbed. However, human remains were uncovered only 40cm below the ground surface in Trenches 2 and 3, sited on the terrace edge at about 58m above ordnance datum. These were 32m south-east from the river (see Fig 1). A bone from burial 310 is being radio-carbon dated.

A total of 1,372g of Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered from these very disturbed soils, also 55 pieces of worked flint which were predominantly Neolithic, 3 being Mesolithic. Post-excavation analysis is currently being carried out by the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society.

Our thanks go to Tim Allen and Dr Peter Hacking for their advice, support and expertise.

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Bicester, Tesco Store, Oxford Road (SP 5793 2176)
Les Capon

The strip, map and record was undertaken prior to development of the proposed car park and garage and the northwest section of the proposed foodstore. Two areas of excavation, covering a total of 2ha, have been undertaken targeting the areas of archaeology established in the 2007 evaluation. The work will be continued into 2014, but currently, linears, pits and roundhouses have been recorded with minimal Roman and post-medieval finds.

OASIS<aocarcha1-157207> OXCMS: 2013.114

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY

Benson: Churchfield Farm (SU 614 917)
David Fell

In November an evaluation was carried out at Churchfield Farm in advance of the construction of a small housing development. Five trenches were excavated across the footprints of the proposed buildings but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were present in the trenches. The north and central part of the site had been disturbed by 20th century gravel extraction but the south-west end was probably less disturbed.

BLEWBURY LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY GROUPS

Dave Carless

Blewbury Big Dig - Test Pit Programme - 2nd Interim Report. SU 531859 (village centre)

Introduction

The background, methodology and results of the first season were presented in the 1st interim report last year and so are not repeated here. In addition to the 16 test pits completed in 2012, a further 9 have now been completed and a programme of geophysical surveys of open spaces within the village has

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been started. As the programme will continue and potentially be completed in 2014 detailed results of these are not presented here.

The locations of test pits for 2013 and 2014 have been 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?

Analysis of Pottery Finds

In total 2343 potsherds, mostly small single pieces, were recovered from the 25 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.

As in 2012 there were no Roman or Prehistoric finds. The temporal and spatial distributions of 2013 pottery finds are consistent with the 2012 results.

Geophysical Surveys

Within the village itself a number of open spaces which are each large enough to accommodate several 20m x 20m grid surveys have been identified. Fortunately these lie in locations that may help answer our research questions.

Both a resistivity meter and gradiometer are being used to investigate these spaces, and test pits are also being dug within them to complement the surveys. A training exercise has taken place in the smallest of the sites (the Play Close) and work has started on another. Results from these will be included in next year's report.

Discussion

The Blewbury Big Dig continues to be a success as a community archaeology project. We continue to have 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 still remain cautious our conclusions on settlement patterns from last year remain unchanged:

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.

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

Both the test pit programme and the geophysical surveys will continue in the 2014 season. Barring unexpected events it is anticipated that this phase of the work will then be largely completed, but there remain many potential targets in the parish to investigate!

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 and to Geoff Deakin for use of his gradiometer. We are also most grateful for generous financial support from Sustainable Blewbury.

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

The Oxfordshire Buildings Record was as active as ever in 2013, but much of the recording work was carried out for ongoing projects that will be published later, in particular, the South Oxfordshire Project in Ewelme Hundred and a project on Chipping Norton as part of an English Heritage programme on 'early fabric in historic towns'.

Two buildings were recorded and tree-ring dated with financial support from the Vernacular Architecture Group, and a number of buildings have been recorded and published on the Abingdon-on-Thames town council website as part of the Abingdon Buildings and People project managed by AAAHS.

Southfield Farmhouse, Sutton Courtenay
(SU 50048 93644)

David Clark

The OBR were invited by the Vale of White Horse conservation officer to examine this building (Fig 2) during renovation work in 2013. It had been surveyed by Dr C R J Currie in the 1970s (see *Oxoniensia*, 1992), but more historic fabric was now exposed and revealed further information about the building.



Fig 2. Southfield Farmhouse.

The farmhouse is situated on the west side of the High Street which runs southwards from the Green at Sutton Courtenay. There were farm buildings to the rear and around a wide plot that extended northwards to the Ginge Brook.

Southfield Farmhouse consists of three main elements - a timber-framed and jettied range (I) at right angles to the High Street, a further timber-framed range (II) to the rear, and a west wing (III) parallel to the street forming a T-shaped plan as shown in the ground floor plan at Fig 3, with the system used for locating the bays and roof trusses.

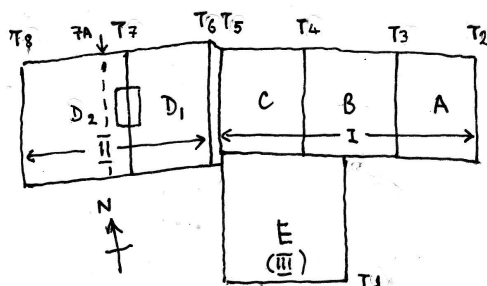


Fig 3. Ground plan showing main elements.

Currie's conclusion was that bays A, B and C were the surviving elements of a 15th-century wing to a lost medieval hall, and bays D1 and D2 were a kitchen added in the 16th century. The hall was replaced in the 17th century by the present bay E, but he found evidence in the south wall of the wing for the service doorways from the hall. The central bay of the wing (B) had been reframed in the 17th century. This basic outline remains valid. However, alterations (probably in the 1980s) involving removal of a staircase in bay B and creation of a new one in bay C may have removed historic fabric and hence, although the present study has identified a number of enhancements of the earlier account, we recognise that a definitive interpretation may not now be possible.

The jettied eastern bay (A) at the street end was timber framed, the gable pebble-dashed with smooth areas mimicking quoins. When this was removed, the timber frame could be seen with curved downward braces from the posts to the jetty beam. In the gable was a crown strut and downward braces from the rafters to the collar. The ends of eight flat-laid joists forming the jetty were visible behind a plank fascia board. The upper floor of bay A had downward braces to the mid-rail, and two studs either side of what may have been a small window. The roof of bay A consisted of unsooted rafter pairs.

Most of the timber frame of Bay B survived at first floor level, but there had been much reconstruction of the ground floor. The framework was pegged to T3, but was not aligned with that in bay A. The panels were almost square, and had no downward braces. The wall-plates had stop-splayed and tabled scarf joints with transverse key, a joint seldom found in the Vale of White Horse but elsewhere datable to the 14th century.

Bay C had also been altered, but the western truss, T5 was intact above ground floor level. Over bays B and C the roof seemed all of one build and consisted of smoke-blackened rafters supported by clasped purlins in A-frame trusses with no struts or infill above the collar, although (secondary) staves survived below it. There were curved windbraces between principals and purlins. The common rafters were

pegged at their apexes and there was no ridge. The floors in bays B and C were clearly secondary insertions.

Bay D was separately framed, with a narrow gap separating T6 from T5. The timber framing of the first floor of Unit II (D1 and D2) had panels which were roughly square, one near the west end under the eaves containing a timber window with diamond-set mullions. The ground floor of both bays was replaced by brickwork in Flemish Bond.

The roof of bay D was also heavily sooted. In bay D1 there were curved wind-braces from principals to purlins and seven common rafters, all sooted. There was no ridge plate. In both wall-plates were secret-bridled scarf joints with squinted abutments and two face pegs. Bay D2 was longer than D1 - with 10 common rafters - but had an intermediate collar (7A). The infill above this was heavily soot-encrusted on its eastern face, but was clean to the west. There was evidence in the (sooted) soffit of the collar for a former crown-strut and staves for infill. These had been removed after the sooting, as all mortices were internally free of blackening. A massive chimneystack with adjacent oven had been inserted into the former smoke-bay in the centre of bay D.



Fig 4. Detail of framing at south gable.

Bay E to the south was timber-framed, with a massive rubblestone stack at the south gable. Here, the tie-beam was set within the stonework; above it was a collar and a queen-post. The purlins were clasped between collar and principal rafter, but as can be seen from Fig 4, the end of the east purlin had an empty mortice for a secret-bridled scarf joint with squinted abutments. The three peg holes arose from the fact that when the purlin was in place, the inner hole was unusable due to the presence of the principal rafter, and so a third hole was made below, so the bridle might have two pegs. Thus, when built, block E had a further bay (or bays) to the south. This was corroborated by the unweathered outer surface of the truss, and the pegs which were not fully hammered in. The carpentry features (queen-posts, secret-bridled scarf and diamond-mullion windows) were exactly the same as those in unit II and suggested that they might be contemporary. The only visible primary fenestration of block E was a pair of diamond-mullion windows, untypical of a domestic building. One explanation might be related to an obvious change of plan in this unit whereby a stack was inserted into an intended smoke-bay

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during or shortly after construction, before smoke could blacken any of the timbers. Having made this change, unit II was finished off as the kitchen while unit III became the main domestic range.

We concluded that the identification of the western building (unit II) as a 16th century kitchen seemed reasonable. The pegging of truss T6 from the west (ie from within the unit) confirmed that it was secondary to unit I. The small mullioned windows at a high level were characteristic of kitchen ventilators. Unit II was clearly constructed asymmetrically for a purpose, and it is likely that the stack was installed in a smoke-bay between T7 (presumably closed) and T7A, which may have been closed above a (lost) intermediate tie-beam. Bay D1 may have been for food preparation, and there would have been a passage (in the position of the present access) to D2 (with the smoke-bay) behind. Following insertion of the stack, this arrangement was reversed, with cooking in D1.

The identification of Unit I as a medieval wing presupposes that there was a hall at right angles to it, and that was the basis for Chris Currie's interpretation. We do not disagree with this. The most clearly datable section is the basic frame of the unit, in which the wall-plates, upper parts of the trusses, and most of bay A all survive from the primary build. The stop-splayed and tabled scarf joint with transverse key, found in the wall-plates at Cressing Temple wheat barn, and dated to 1257-1280 is anomalous, as nothing else in the building remotely approached such an early date.

Bay B was rebuilt at some stage, probably in the 17th century, when a floor was inserted and a staircase created to reach the new first floor. Bay C seems to have been floored over around the same time, but with a far cruder axial beam and transverse joists (some reused) lodged over it. Thus the medieval configuration was of a wing with three bays, one (A) floored, and two open bays, B and C, probably acting as a kitchen and services to a hall on the site of Unit III.

The later history of the present building seems to have been a gradual appropriation of bays D1, D2 and C to uses associated with the farm - the digging of a cellar in bay C may have been associated with dairying - and the upper floors were for storage, and in the case of bay A, for pigeons.

The southern bay of unit III seems to have been demolished before the enclosure map of 1804, which shows a building of the same shape as that seen today, and the infill materials that were applied to weatherproof the gable seem to be 18th century in date.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Oxford, 20 - 22 and 24, St Michael's Street (SP 5118 0634)
Peter Davenport

Historic building recording and a watching brief investigated the construction history of the buildings. The main front block of Vanbrugh House (No 20) was seen to be of one build of c 1720-30, with a rear range added c 1810-1820. St Michael's former vicarage (No 24) was seen to have an early 17th century timber-framed core. This had been extended in the later 17th century and both sections were substantially refurbished in the early 18th century in a style almost identical to Vanbrugh House. No 22 was an early 19th

century infill range of which only the partly rebuilt elevation survived demolition in 1965.

Faringdon, Land off A420 (SU 2824 9439)
Derek Evans

A watching brief recorded no archaeological remains.

Kirtlington, Manor Farm (SP 5001 1941)
Alexandra Webster

A programme of recording identified two pits containing 8th to 11th century AD pottery as well as boundary ditches, quarry pits and postholes containing 11th to 13th century pottery. A residual Roman flue tile fragment and a possible Early or Middle Anglo-Saxon iron pin were also found.

Letcombe Regis, The Greyhound Inn (SU 38159 86518)
Christopher Leonard

An evaluation revealed a post-medieval boundary ditch and five post-medieval/modern refuse pits, probably associated with the Greyhound Inn.

Oxford, Land at Barton (SP 5450 0830)
Derek Evans

An evaluation identified a Roman ditch. A small assemblage of residual Roman pottery indicates that further Roman activity was present in the vicinity. Most of the archaeological remains dated to the 12th-15th centuries and possibly relate to a putative deserted medieval settlement near Bayswater Brook. The land was reorganised in the early post-medieval period when a system of ridge and furrow ploughing was established.

Oxford, New Jericho Health Centre Building (SP 5078 0710)
Kelly Saunders

A watching brief recovered a residual sherd of Roman pottery.

Oxford, The Oxford Spires Academy (SP 5395 0518)
Peter James

A watching brief identified no archaeological remains.

Oxford, Wadham College (SP 5160 0655)
Mark Brett

An excavation was undertaken within the area occupied by an Austin Friary founded in 1268. Following the Dissolution, the site was sold and divided into tenements running north/south from Holywell Street and historic map evidence shows occupation continuing through from the late 16th century to the modern period. The earliest deposits were medieval cultivation soils which contained pottery dated to the late 13th to 14th centuries. These were cut by the foundation trenches for limestone wall found in association

with medieval pottery. The foundations were cut by a further foundation trench for what appeared to be the western end of a structure extending eastwards, beyond the limit of excavation. Modern remains included a cellar, a probable brick chimney and a cobbled surface cut by pits containing animal bones. A large pit containing construction waste and quantities of disarticulated human bone was presumably associated with the disturbance of graves during construction works in 1969-70.

Steventon, Goose Willow Farm (SU 4457 9292)
Tom Weavill

A watching brief revealed no archaeological remains.

Wantage, Land at Crab Hill (SU 4046 8901)
Jamie Wright

An evaluation identified ditches associated with pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age through to the later Roman period. Seven Roman coins were recovered along with a small assemblage of animal bone. The remains are indicative of settlement and relate to a cropmark complex.

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES LTD

Bampton, New Road (SP 3750 3200)

A desk-based assessment was carried out by Iain Soden for Richborough Estates on 6ha of land north of New Road, east of Bampton in connection with proposed 100 new homes on Thames gravel. Research showed nearby Roman farmstead remains and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, but suggested that such remains probably did not extend much further north, beyond an area where many remains have previously been lost to housing (as suggested by aerial photos). The assessment concluded that potential was low and that historic maps indicated potentially 600 years of ploughing. This was borne out by a subsequent detailed geophysical survey by Stratascan, which recorded very clear and prominent readings of former ridge and furrow cultivation below the modern ploughing and only two small anomalous (truncated) linear features in all of 6ha. No further fieldwork was required.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Abingdon, 14 Abbey Close, October House
(SU 49983 97055)
Paul Riccoboni

The watching brief located archaeological features dating from at least the Roman period onwards. The edge of a possible stone wall set with a sandy mortar was sealed beneath a layer containing only Roman pottery and a fragment of imbrex tile. The wall may have once formed part of a Roman building, close to the River Thames. The pottery assemblage recovered suggests the site was used initially

during prehistoric (Iron Age) and Romano-British periods and was then abandoned during the late Roman period when 'dark earth' deposits covered this area and other areas of the Abbey. A layer of demolition rubble with a broken decorated floor tile, presumably discarded from the destruction of the Abbey buildings, covered the dark earth deposits. This was in turn cut by post-medieval pitting, deposits and garden walls.

The preservation of the archaeological deposits was good in the northern half of the extension only, with the southern side truncated by later post-medieval activity. Excavations beneath the living room inside the house revealed the stone wall foundations of the building which probably dates to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. Post-medieval pottery sherds including a large quantity of 17th century drinking vessels and clay tobacco pipes were found during ground reduction in this room leading to the suggestion an earlier building on the site was once used as a 17th century tavern. The tavern may have closed when the building changed to residential use in 1698.

Abingdon, Ock Street, Mayott House (SP49229692)
Paul Riccoboni

Two trenches were excavated to the underlying natural geology or surface of medieval archaeology. The archaeological evaluation revealed a series of medieval rubbish pits and ditches cut into the natural clay and in some instances cut into a subsoil, within both trenches. The pits and possible ditches contained medieval refuse dated to the 13th century with some earlier residual pottery sherds from the 10th and 11th centuries. The site has proved early medieval habitation towards the western end of Ock Street which did not continue after the early 14th century.

Bampton, Moonraker Lane (SP 3149 0311)
Gwilym Williams

A watching brief undertaken during the excavation of footings trenches revealed an Early/Middle Iron Age enclosure ditch, two post-medieval pits and modern truncation. The broad Early/Middle Iron Age enclosure ditch may well be associated with settlement activity to the west of the present site

Banbury, Horsefair, The Woolpack (SP 4537 4047)
Stephen Yeates

Building recording and an archaeological watching brief was carried out on the conversion of The Woolpack. The watching brief identified the remains of a shallow linear feature that ran parallel to the present boundary plots and churchyard wall but was essentially undated. There was a cess pit probably associated with the earliest development of the public house. The remains of wall lines were detected under the building. Sondages and sewer runs were not observed.

Oxfordshire

Blenheim Park, Mapleton Pond (SP 41752 17206)
Stephen Yeates

An evaluation in the northwest part of Blenheim Park in the vicinity of Mapleton Pond (SP 41810 17400) and in the Mapleton Valley or Combe Bottom (SP 41752 17206) was undertaken. The aim of the report was to identify the remains of a culvert system that runs from Mapleton Pond to the Lake in Blenheim Park for the Blenheim Estate Management. The culvert was identified (central point SP 41752 17206) and although the lower part of the culvert was found to be operational, the upper part of the culvert has been found to have been damaged by tree roots and badger activity, thus causing problems to drainage capacity in the upper part of the valley and flooding in the valley. Two undated pits were also detected in the evaluation (SP 42310 16453) adjacent to the culvert in Trench 8, and also what may be part of a rammed surface in a cut (SP 42531 16462) in Trench 9. These were not to be further disturbed so were left unexcavated and undated as they were not the primary reason for the evaluation in the first place.

Cassington, Yarnton Road (SP 4553 1122)
Andrej ěelovský

Four machine-dug trenches were excavated, of which two (Trenches 1 and 2) were placed across known cropmarks within application area. Archaeological features (part of one ring ditch, two linear ditches, one cremation burial) and pottery mainly of prehistoric date were identified in Trenches 1, 3 and 4, and one shallow gully of post-medieval or modern date was identified in Trench 2.

Dorchester-on-Thames, Martin's Lane (SU 5794 9456)
Andrej ěelovský

One machine-dug 19m long trench was excavated across the proposed footprint of new-build. One mid to late 2nd century Roman ditch and three early to mid 20th century features were recorded within the trench. No other archaeological features were identified in trench.

Dorchester-on-Thames, Wittenham Lane (SU 5782 9381)
Andrej ěelovský

One 15m long trench was excavated across the proposed footprint of new-build. Archaeological features (two pits, one ditch, three postholes and an occupation layer) associated with early Roman extra-mural settlement and seven late Roman burials were identified in the trench.

Eynsham, 26 High Street (SP 4342 0923)
Wayne Perkins

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on a number of small-scale landscaping projects that were undertaken including the removal and reinstatement of a yew hedge, the creation of a new access drive and the backfilling of an old swimming pool and new garage. During the superficial landscaping operations no archaeological deposits were observed. An occupation layer (or spread) was

located during the mechanical excavation of the garage footings which contained pottery, animal bone and metalworking slag.

Faringdon, Coxwell Road (SU 28193 94219)
Gwilym Williams

A four-trench evaluation was undertaken. No archaeological remains earlier than the late 19th century were present; this comprised a single field boundary ditch first visible on OS 2nd Ed. (1899) and removed by the late 1970s OS (1980).

Faringdon, Great Coxwell, Coxwell Road, Steeds Farm (SU 2780 9423)
Stephen Yeates

A sixteen trench evaluation was undertaken. Only one trench contained the remains of a drainage ditch, a further trench had a possible very truncated ditch. The only other features noted were agricultural furrows. Of the finds the pottery and ceramic building materials were of little value, more significant was the recovery of a stray piece of worked flint.

Great Milton, Church Road, Brookbank (SP 6284 0253)
Gavin Davis

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of foundation trenches within the footprint of a new build. One small, undated, pit was observed in section.

Henley-on-Thames, Hart Street, Longlands House (SU 76226 82673)
Stephen Yeates

The watching brief identified the remains of structures and surfaces set back from the street frontage. The flint and tile wall and clay mortar surface was stratigraphically the earliest features on the site. This was probably of a later medieval date, although the precise dating of this is poor. The later brick and flint structures appear to be associated with ash deposits. These phases were probably of an 18th or 19th century date.

Henley-on-Thames, Phyllis Court Drive, Phyllis Court (SU 7624 8323)
Stephen Yeates

The evaluation was on the whole negative for three trenches, with only fragments of tile being recovered from the subsoil. This could have occurred with field manuring in fields that essentially lie outside the medieval and post-medieval defences of Henley. Only in Trench 4 was the remains of a drainage ditch identified, which from a find in its fill was undoubtedly a late drainage ditch. It was probably a field ditch possibly originating at the time of Inclosure, but which had subsequently been re-excavated and cleaned out.

Islip, The Walk, Riversdale (SP 5267 1400)

Gavin Davis

A watching brief was conducted during the ground reduction and excavation of foundation trenches within the footprint of a new extension, during the underpinning of the existing barn and during the ground reduction for a new basement partially underneath the existing barn at Riversdale. The remains of two foundation walls, some 19th century pottery and some 19th century and early 20th century glass were recovered during the excavation.

Lower Heyford, Church Lane, Heyford Manor

(SP 4844 2486)

Gavin Davis

A watching brief was conducted during excavation of foundation trenches within the footprint of a new extension. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Merton, Merton Road, Home Farm (SP 590193)

John Moore

An archaeological watching brief and sample excavation was conducted during all ground works associated with the new solar farm on land north of Home Farm, Merton. The first stage of work was a pre-planning determination archaeological evaluation which uncovered prehistoric and Saxon features. Following planning permission a further stage of archaeological works was required as a condition of planning permission. Archaeological monitoring took place during the excavation of 1.4 miles of trough trenching (used to bury cables) excavated at various locations across the field. Across the eastern side of the field it would seem less archaeology was present. Within the trenches across the south-western portion of the field many mid to late Iron Age ditches and a Roman ditch were discovered. Three probable cremations were discovered, although the burnt bone survival was almost non-existent and mainly survived as bone paste. One each was dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods while the third was undated.

The route for the new HV cable trench was stripped in advance of the installation of the cables located beneath the present haul road which skirts the perimeter of the field. As a result ditches and postholes related to the Iron Age settlement were discovered. Of particular note was an almost complete large late Iron Age vessel recovered from the side of the trench.

Two areas around the earlier evaluation Trenches 7 and 18, which contained evidence of Saxon occupation, were opened in an attempt to better understand the Saxon features. As a result Area A (c 17m x 15m) revealed a series of ditches of mid-late Iron Age date which enclosed a curvilinear feature (probable eaves drip gully) thought to be associated with a prehistoric dwelling (of two phases). In addition postholes were found in Invertor Station 12 which was a continuation of Area A. These postholes may have been for above ground storage structures although not enough of the area was opened to fully understand the archaeology here. There were no storage pits encountered. The animal bones indicate a predominantly cattle and sheep economy. Area B (c 27m x 18m) revealed further ditches and an eaves drip gully for a

roundhouse dated to the Iron Age. The Saxon material originally found in this location must have been within a feature cut into an Iron Age ditch.

The Roman evidence from the site was relatively sparse with only one ditch yielding an almost complete Roman pot. The archaeology across the south-western part of the field was sealed beneath a thin layer of alluvium and cut into another similar deposit showing flooding of this part of the Iron Age site. During the late medieval and post-medieval period the field was cultivated with extant ridge and furrow still visible. The excavation area was not large enough to fully understand the exposed features, but some limited interpretations can be made from the available evidence.

Oxford, Abingdon Road, Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel (SP 5168 0492)

David Gilbert

A desk-based study and earthwork survey were conducted at the site of a defensive position during the Civil Wars. The study concluded that the evidence did not support de Gomme's star-shaped redoubt surrounding the farm. It is highly likely that the site was a medieval farm possibly originating in the late Saxon period and that it was surrounded by rectangular ditches. It was these ditches that were re-used during the Civil War to defend the Grandpont Causeway as it crossed the Eastwyke Ditch.

Oxford, 11 Fyfield Road (SP 51465 07735)

Gwilym Williams

A watching brief was conducted as part of a house extension. No archaeological remains predating the construction of the house were present.

Oxford, 191 Godstow Road (SP 488 095)

Gwilym Williams

A watching brief conducted during the excavation of footings trenches revealed an undated drainage ditch which was earlier than the Victorian period, and a Victorian rubbish pit.

Oxford, 17-41 Mill (SP 505 061)

Paul Riccoboni

One trench totalling 15m was excavated to the surface of the archaeology or natural ground. Two linear features were discovered; one considered to have been the tree-lined road shown on the historic map of 1587 and the other a side ditch. The southern side ditch contained 19th century finds within its fill. The road has been suggested to have been a 'sunken way'. It contained no datable finds with only a piece of iron and animal bone recovered. Two sondages revealed the natural gravels reaching depths of a minimum of 1m.

Oxford, 1 Parktown (SP 51139 07806)

Gwilym Williams

The site was located on Second Terrace Gravels (Summertown-Radley Series). Six features cut into the

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gravel yielded sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. A further five undated features with similar fills were also revealed. All the pits were filled with mid brown sandy silt loam and peagrit gravel, although charcoal flecking was occasionally noted. Truncation by later Victorian planting beds may be responsible for the lower quantities of finds from these features.

A large sub-rounded 'grain-silo', measuring 1.8m (east/west) × 1.2m (north/south), was located on the south edge of the investigation area, extending beyond the edges of excavation. The pit was clay-lined and backfilled with three distinct pit-fills.

The clay lining was c 10-20mm thick on the sides and base and sealed by the lowest filling of the pit, which yielded an assemblage of 58 sherds of pottery, weighing 1026g, consisting largely of jars, dominated by the sandy fabric (SA). Cattle, pig, and some sheep bone were present, as were 12 fragments of burnt stone weighing 5771g and two pieces of fuel ash slag, weighing 204g. Overlying the earliest fill was dark brown grey silty sand loam with charcoal flecking which appeared to have been tipped from the west. In contrast to the earlier layer, the majority of the pottery assemblage, comprising 37 sherds weighing 971g, was made from the limestone rich fabric (SALI). Jars also dominated this assemblage. There were 42 cattle bones with sheep and pig represented also. There were also 15 fragments, weighing 3846g, of burnt stone present. The pit was sealed by a layer of loam which yielded two sherds of pottery (SALI), weighing 65g and bone.

To the northeast of the pit in the eastern extension of the evaluation trench, was a layer which survived as a circular

area of stamped gravelly sandy silt, cut on all sides by a later garden feature. Eight animal bones recovered from the surface, although only a single sheep bone was identifiable. The pottery assemblage, comprising a total of 11 sherds, weighing 244g, was dominated by the oolitic limestone fabric (LI), which was not present anywhere else during the intervention. Two burnt stones, weighing 474g, were also recovered, in addition to two fragments of slag: a plano-convex smithing hearth bottom, weighing 132g, and some fuel ash slag, weighing 5g.

A layer of buried cultivation soil up to 0.5m thick sealed the Middle Iron Age activity. A thinner deposit of Victorian garden soil contemporary with or slightly later than the construction and use of the house in the 19th century overlay the buried soil horizon.

There were 15 Victorian garden features present. These comprised a layer of gravel, representing a gravel path as well as a range of planting pits, many of which are visible on the 1878 1:500 map of Oxford. Maps after this period become increasingly less detailed, and it is not always possible to be sure of the function of the pits.

Some of the footings trench of the former laboratory were also visible as rectilinear truncation filled with concrete, brick, slate and iron. These were not further recorded.

Discussion

Middle Iron Age

The Middle Iron Age pits recovered during the excavation at 1 Park Town were largely truncated and only two appear to have been reasonably well preserved. The presence of the

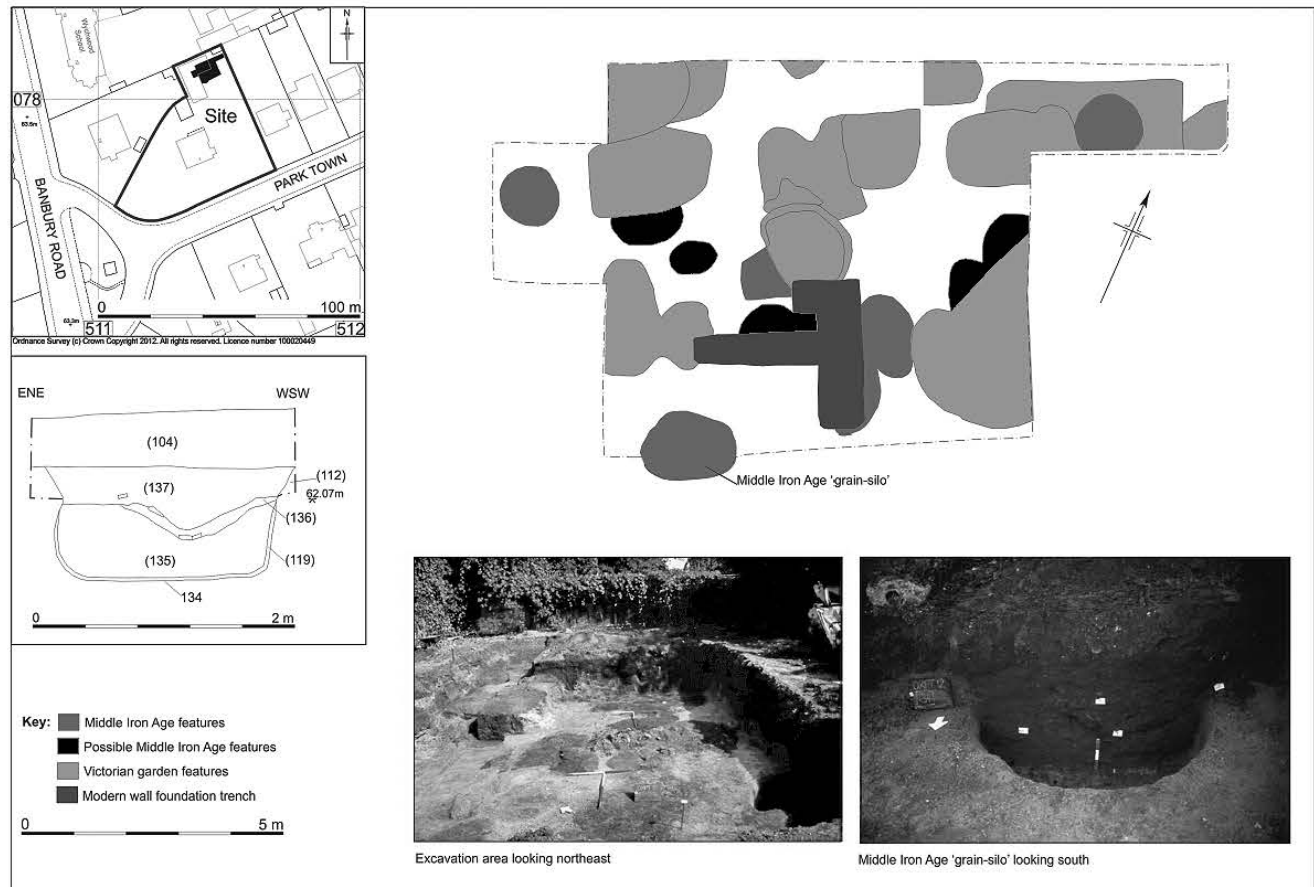


Fig 5. 1 Parktown, Oxford.

occupation surface indicated the high likelihood of further remains subsisting beyond the edges of the investigation area. The results of the investigation indicate Middle Iron Age activity on the spur of land separating the Cherwell from the Thames.

The back-filling sequence of the best preserved pit comprised dumps of gravelly loam, in the uppermost part of the earliest was pottery, bone, burnt stone and two small pieces of fuel ash slag. Analysis of the bone does not indicate that there was a particularly ritualistic process of deposition: rather that the material comprises rubbish disposal. The high proportion of sandy fabric jars from the earliest dump contrasts with a corresponding high proportion of sandy limestone jars from the overlying fill. The significance of this bias is not readily apparent.

Burnt stone was also recovered from the pit, further pointing to a cooking, or indeed feasting, event being represented in the archaeological record. The animal bone seems to confirm such an interpretation consisting of two cattle, two sheep and one pig. Fuel ash slag, which was also present, need not be associated exclusively with industrial processes. During excavation it was seen that a layer had been thrown in from the west, potentially indicating the location of settlement activity. The overlying deposit of gravelly loam also yielded a small amount of pottery, faunal remains and a small assemblage of cereal grains and associated weeds of cultivation as well as wood charcoal.

The contents of the fills of the pit indicate that it was associated with settlement activity in the immediate vicinity: conjoining sherds of pottery are unlikely to have travelled far, and the range of animal skulls, mandibles, burnt and otherwise processed bone as well as bone gnawed by dogs only adds to this impression. The natural faunal remains revealed a local environment entirely consistent with Second Terrace Gravels elsewhere in the Upper Thames Valley: open grassland which even the shade-loving snail species would have tolerated where the grass lay sufficiently long.

Other pits investigated during the excavation failed to provide the same volume of data, largely due to these other features having undergone significant truncation, with the exception of a small pit, which may possibly represent a posthole or similar, probably part of a building - either a roundhouse or some form of four-post structure, typical of the period. It is not easy to fully understand the context of the site, although it is clear that it was not isolated, but part of a larger occupied landscape, potentially incorporating field systems and domestic enclosures, roundhouses and farm structures, which were laid out overlooking the Cherwell.

19th century Park Town

Park Town is located on land previously owned by New College. Acquired by the Oxford Board of Guardians, it was subsequently redeveloped as a suburb (Hinchcliffe, 1992, 27-8).

It is unsurprising that the grounds were laid out, as seen on the 1878 OS (1:500) map. The general pattern in Park Town appears to have been that the house was owner-occupied, unlike the slightly later built houses to the south in Norham manor (Hinchcliffe, 1992, 216-43).

The grounds were laid out to indicate a rural setting, as was common with many such villa developments, while making the best of limited grounds. The stables, which would have

provided accommodation for one of the few, if not perhaps the only male servant in the house, were located as discreetly as possible within the plot. The gardens are shown on the 1878 map, and subsequent editions, with planting beds and trees as excavated. The OS map reflects the layout of the site, rather than providing an idealised version of the mid-Victorian villa suburb.

Bibliography

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Oxford, Old Marston, 1 Elsfield Road (SP 5265 0882)

David Gilbert

A watching brief was conducted during the ground works for an extension. Two undated pits and an undated ditch or garden feature were recorded. Map evidence suggests that these could be post-medieval in origin.

Oxford, William Morris Close (SP 5475 0474)

Paul Riccoboni

Six trenches, totalling approximately 80m in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology or uppermost surface of the archaeology. Four ditches considered to be post-medieval field boundaries and one post-medieval posthole were revealed.

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

Andrej ěelovský

A strip-map-record excavation and watching brief revealed activities within the area dating from the late 15th to the late 20th century. Four pits represented late 15th early 16th century activities. One of the pits suggested metallurgy activities within the area. Imported Seville 'Green on White' Earthenware recovered from one of the pits was clearly associated with high-status activities. Those two features broadly correspond with the last decades of existence of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John. The majority of recorded context represent a series of yard surfaces, demolition and levelling activities broadly associated with later farm and were dated to the period from the late 16th to the late 20th century. Also some evidence suggests existence of medieval buildings within the area, which could possibly be associated with the Knights Templar Preceptory.

Somerton, Ardley Road Dormer House (SP 49810 28649)

Stephen Yeates

The evaluation produced a significant amount of pottery relative to the area opened up. Pottery sherds attributed to the Bronze Age (one), Iron Age (two) and Roman (three) periods were recovered along with early medieval and high medieval pieces. The pre-medieval pottery sherds were either considered to be unstratified or residual within other contexts. What this assemblage does do is point to the longevity of activity in the centre of Somerton village, at least in a seasonal fashion. Regarding the features, there were at least three phases that could be recognised, two of which

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were medieval and related to probable structural remains and the last was associated with the 19th century.

Somerton, 1 Church Street (SP 4975 2861)

Paul Riccoboni

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during ground-works for the construction of a new extension. One pit, dated by just a single pottery sherd to the early post-medieval period, was located.

Sutton Courtenay, Milton Road (SU 49719304)

Gwilym Williams

Eight of the trenches revealed evidence of ridge and furrow; one was blank; and a further one trench, located in the southwest corner of the proposal area, revealed a dense concentration of undated postholes, pits and gullies masked by a cultivation horizon associated with the ploughed out ridge and furrow, in the field. A rim of Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from the base of this deposit.

Wallingford, St John's Road, Meriden Court

(SU 6028 8920)

Gwilym Williams

A strip, map and record exercise was conducted during the excavation of footings trenches that revealed a number of undated postholes, pits and a ditch, which might be associated with the adjacent Anglo-Saxon remains previously revealed during watching briefs, as well as two modern pits associated with the site's former use as garaging.

Wallingford, St John's Road, St John's Primary School

(SU 6037 8910)

Gavin Davis

A watching brief was conducted during the ground reduction and excavation of foundation trenches within the footprint of a new extension at St John's Primary School. No archaeological material or features were discovered.

Warborough, 8 Green Lane (SP 5972 9338)

Wayne Perkins

A watching brief was undertaken; a number of alluvial layers associated with the nearby River Thames were identified although no archaeological features were found.

Witney, Cogges, Cogges Manor Farm (SP 3606 0957)

Gwilym Williams

A watching brief, conducted during the excavation of footings for playground equipment and a bridge at the site, failed to reveal any archaeological deposits of significance, with the exception of a stub of wall, which was not impacted upon.

Wolvercote, Wolvercote Primary School (SP 4975 0977)

David Gilbert

Four trenches targeting cropmarks were excavated that revealed two Iron Age ditches and a large pit along with several undated features. Ditches associated with the late medieval and post-medieval agricultural field of Churchcroft (Horslow) were located, as were two discrete 18th century features.

Woodcote, James Farm (SU 6432 8217)

Simona Denis

A watching brief was undertaken during the ground reduction following the demolition of the existing single storey side and rear extensions, for the erection of a new extension. No archaeological finds or features were found

NATIONAL TRUST

Gary Marshall

Great Coxwell Court House (SU 2691 9395)

A watching brief was maintained by the National Trust over renovations to the 15th century Court House at Great Coxwell village. Lifting of floorboards throughout the ground floor allowed for the recording of the underlying joist structure, which appears to be a relatively recent early 20th century introduction placed over a compacted lime/earth/rubble floor. At first floor level lifting of floorboards revealed a much earlier boarded floor consisting of a mixture of oak, elm and pine planks up to 15 inches in width laid over underlying oak and elm joists. It is believed that this floor was added sometime during the late 15th century when the earlier open hall dating from the 1450s was converted into a building with a lower and an upper floor. The boards were assessed for dendrochronology dating during the 2013 works. However, the potential for firm dating was assessed as low. During the watching brief a fragment of rail from a section of 17th century panelling was recovered from under the floorboards on the first floor, suggesting that at least one of the first floor rooms was either a panelled parlour or a bedroom. Panelling discovered on the north wall of the ground floor living room is believed to date from the late 19th century or possibly even the early 20th century.

NORTH OXON ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Report by Edward Shawyer for 2013

Swalcliffe Lea Roman Settlement

This was our final season on the site we had been excavating since 2010 and it saw more interesting developments and twists in the plot as new discoveries were made. We attempted to resolve what kind of buildings we had by digging some large extensions to our original two trenches and joining the two up. Despite some adverse weather conditions and a reduced work force we managed to obtain

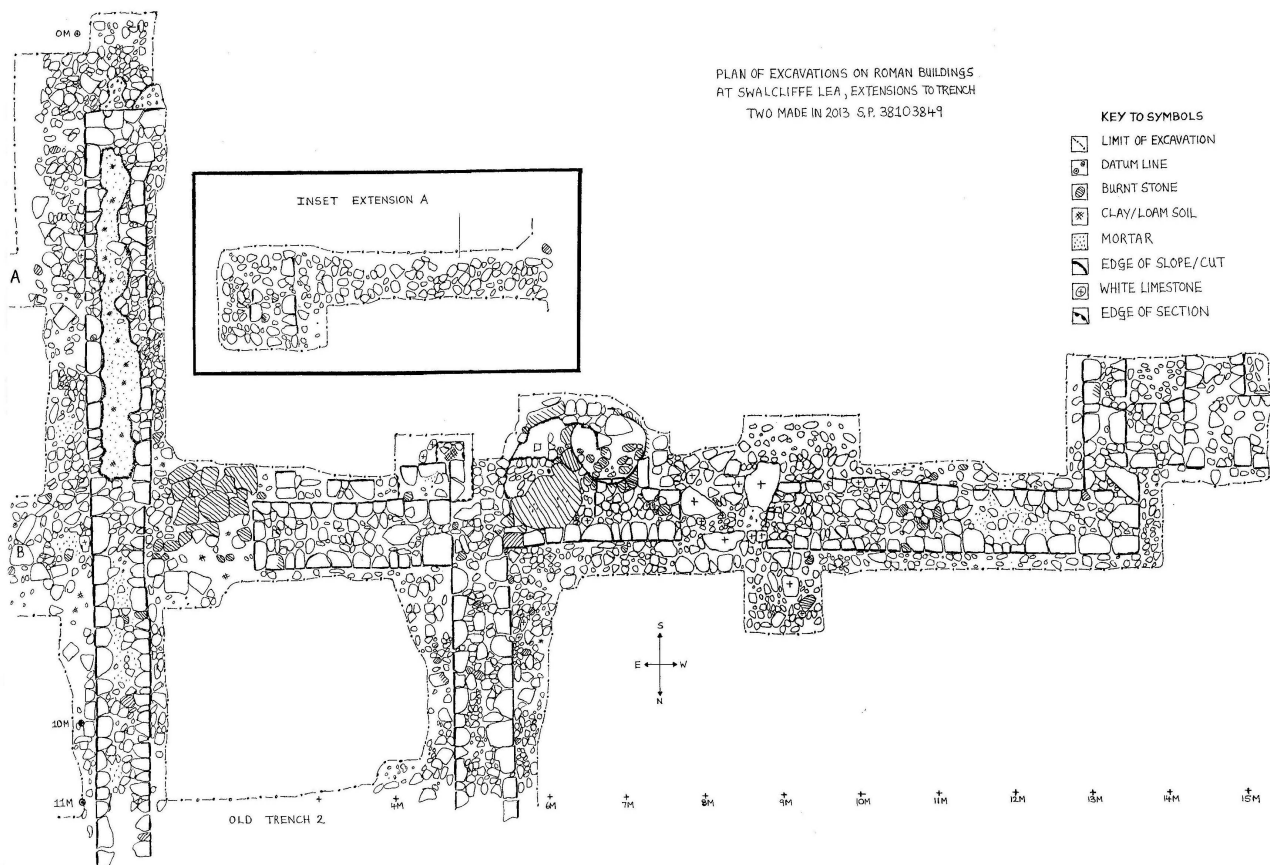


Fig 6. Swalcliffe Lea Roman Buildings. Extensions to Trench 2 made in 2013.

some very satisfactory results. Once again this was our only project this year.

Swalcliffe Lea - Roman Buildings (SP 3810 3849)

The first change was the notion that the dog-legging east wall belonged to Building 1; firstly when the presumed western wall was completely excavated there was no trace at all of any linking walls where the two dog-legs occur and then another dog-leg was found when the east wall was extended to the north.

On first appearance it had looked as though the east wall was the edge of a corridor (Room 3), but now it appeared highly unlikely. East of this wall and directly abutting it in one location was the Victorian farm yard which must have obliterated the rest of the building. This made the east wall the last 4th century phase of Building 2 and the space imagined to be Rooms 3-5 a metalled courtyard or a street. Building 2 also yielded new phases, the presumed 3rd century west walls of Room 1 and 2 having another wall above them which was close in date to the later 4th century east wall.

So the revised system for Building 2 is firstly 2a, the late 4th century phase which has been largely destroyed by the Victorian levelling and the insertion of a metalled yard. Beneath that we have the new phase, now 2b1, which may be early 4th century and like the 3rd century 2b2 underneath it, comprised at least two rooms aligned roughly north-south. At the bottom we have two 2nd century walls (2c) of a single room. All the floors were cobbled and bound by clay and dirt. The metalled area between the buildings, which may be a narrow street, is also interesting. The top layer of large stones

and cobbles were bound by clayey soil, but were well-laid. Beneath this was a layer of small pebbles and stones and then beneath that the well-worn cobbles set in yellow clay which were on the same level as the 3rd century building 2b2. In our section in Room 1 we found an even earlier stone surface level with 2c. The two sides of this putative street progressively narrow towards the north from 2.4m to 1.8m and it has been suggested that maybe this was for funnelling livestock. The area north of Room 2 is paved with large slabs and this may have been an animal pen.

As regards Building 1, to gain the shape of the building, we dug more extensions to trench 2 and basically followed the walls which luckily were intact. Time and manpower was lacking by this stage in the season. We followed Room 3 to its conclusion and then discovered that the building was an L-shape and headed westwards.

In all we found two new rooms, re-named 4 and 5, since the original areas so called were no longer possible rooms. Also there was another building attached to Building 1 by a small connecting wall, which has been named Room 6.

In the northeast corner of Room 5 was a rectangular hearth set into the wall, which had a roughly semicircular stoking hole, it was in excavating this area which had been disturbed by medieval stone robbers that an earlier circular oven was found beneath the hearth. The oven was jokingly dubbed the "pizza oven" by a local visiting artist, which may not be too far from the truth since Roman bread was often baked in round loaves as witnessed by the finds in Pompeii. We also found two doorways to Rooms 4 and 5, just over a metre wide.

SITE PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS OF ROMAN BUILDINGS AT
SWALCLIFFE LEA S.P. 38103849
2010-2013

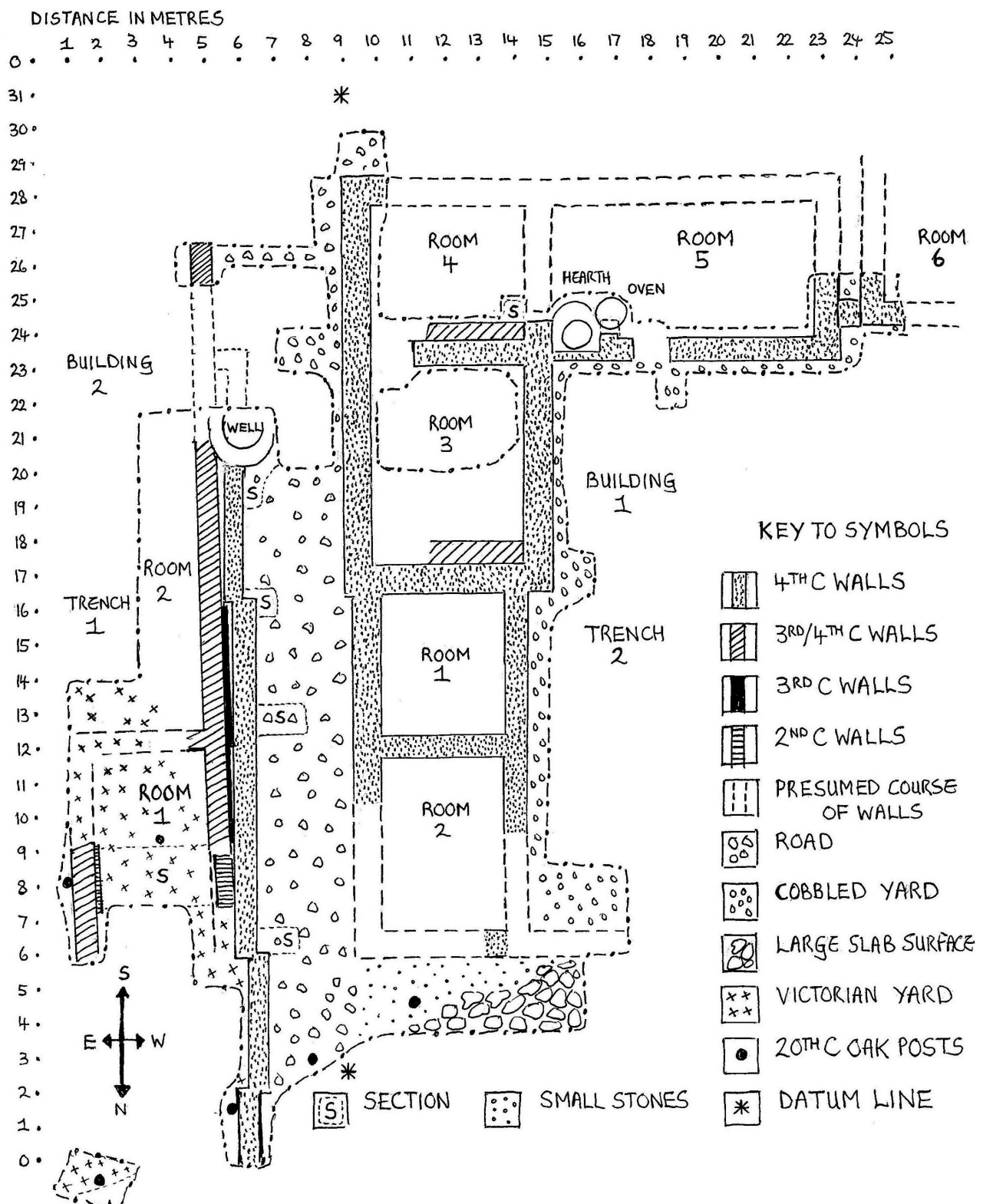


Fig 7. Swalcliffe Lea. Site plan of excavations.

In Room 4 was found a matching earlier wall incorporated into the floor to match the similar one found in Room 3 the year before. The date of this wall is probably early 4th or 3rd century. Excavation of the robber trench in Room 2 showed that Rooms 2 and 1 had been added onto the earlier L-shaped

building since they rested on a layer of natural thick yellow clay. The floor surface of Rooms 4 and 5 were again large stones set in mortar. A section dug in Room 4 revealed that there was a white limestone slate floor beneath this, which related to the early 4th and 3rd century walls, beneath this was

a layer of burning and a stone and mortar surface with a possible earlier wall beneath the 3rd century one. This in turn rested on a shallow 8cm layer of brown loam which lay upon a thin stone layer with some iron slag amongst it, which had natural yellow clay beneath it.

So there were two possible phases before, which gives Building 1 four phases. The last phase 1a, comprises a 5 roomed L-shaped building, which was 4th century in date and had a connecting outbuilding (Room 6). This complex was formed around a courtyard, which is clearly visible on the ground and there are probably more outbuildings associated with it.

This type of complex is our third example of a compound farmstead in the settlement and is very similar to the one excavated in 2001/2, (see *SMA* 2002 and 2003).

The second phase 1b was a 3rd/4th century L-shaped building of three rooms, with a circular oven in the west room (Room 5 above).

The third and fourth phases 1c and 1d lie beneath the 1b house and must be 3rd to 2nd century in date at least.

There were not so many small finds this year, just one coin of Constantine in Room 4, a belt buckle, plenty of Roman pottery, a bone toggle of unknown date, a billhook, a whet stone and blue bead from Room 5, more medieval pottery around the walls, attesting to stone robbing and importantly some small bits of red wall plaster from Room 1.

Another interesting feature is that with all the rebuilds of Buildings 1 and 2, they seem to have respected the property boundaries of the time throughout the Roman period.

Post-Roman features we detected were a line of 20th century oak posts heading out into the field, just the stumps remaining inserted into the Roman floor surfaces.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY (MOLA Northampton)

Compiled by Pat Chapman

Adderbury, land north of Aynho Road (SP 4779 3592)
Liz Muldowney

Undated ditches, a possible circular ditch, a possible medieval ditch and post-medieval linear eroded features were recorded. OXCMS:2013.157; OASIS 166909

Bicester Ecotown, Bucknell Road (SP 5621 2352)
Ian Fisher

A small number of linear ditch anomalies and a former field boundary were identified over an area of 12ha. OASIS 166867

Bicester, Howes Lane (SP 564 231)
Ian Fisher and Jim Burke

Evaluation confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, with the identification of a small group of Iron Age features in one field and Romano-British ditches dated to the 1st-4th century, probably representing enclosure systems, in another. Site investigations were severely hampered by wet

ground conditions and flooded trenches. OXCMS.2013.28; OASIS 139962 geophysical survey; 144800 evaluation

Ipsden, Icknield Farm (SU 6225 8408)
Mo Muldowney

No archaeological remains were identified during evaluation. OXCMS:2013.156; OASIS 165560

Marcham, Priory Lane (SU 4574 9656)
Jim Burke

Ditches and gullies dating to the Saxo-Norman period produced a small pottery assemblage, and remnant furrows of a later medieval/post-medieval field system were recorded in evaluation. This followed evaluation in the adjacent field by NA (*SMA* (2013) 43, 58). OXCMS 2013.110; OASIS 157266

Oxford, Warren Crescent (SP 548 060)
Chris Chinnock

It proved impossible to determine whether any archaeological remains were present, because the geophysical survey results were dominated by intense magnetic anomalies arising from modern infrastructure and construction debris. OASIS 141648

Sutton Courtenay, Milton Road (SU 497 930)
John Walford

A modern gravel pit and traces of medieval or later ridge and furrow were identified in a detailed magnetometer survey.

Swalcliffe, Stourwell Barn (SP 3798 3628)
Edmund Taylor

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the evaluation in advance of the construction of an anaerobic digestion facility. OXCMS:2013.58; OASIS 151239

Witney, Curbridge Road, Spingfields Nursery (SP 337 091)
John Walford

Geophysical survey detected traces of medieval ridge and furrow and small areas of modern disturbance. OASIS 151325

Witney, New Yatts Road (SP 368 111)
John Walford, Paul Clements, James Ladocha

Three ring ditches, identified by geophysical survey, were confirmed to be the remains of three denuded Bronze Age round barrows, all located on Cornbrash geology. Although no associated cremations or inhumations were identified, either within the ring ditches or as satellite deposits, a possible pit in the centre of one of the ring ditches may contain a central burial. The barrows appear to be part of a

Oxfordshire

wider cemetery, with other examples recorded to the south-east. A shallow, interrupted ditch mirrored the change in geology across the site, perhaps indicating a change in land use. A small amount of pottery may date both it and one other ditch on site to the Roman period. Several post-medieval/modern field boundaries were also identified. OXCMS 2013.135; OASIS 151666 geophysical survey; 160920 evaluation

ARCHAEOLOGY IN OXFORD CITY 2013

David Radford

Fieldwork Projects

This was another busy year for archaeology in Oxford reflecting the continuing economic dynamism of the city and the level of forward investment being deployed by the University and College sector. Over the course of the year 39 development related archaeological investigations took place. Of these the most decisive archaeological intervention was the excavation of the 18th-19th century burial ground belonging to the former Radcliffe Infirmary. The site is to be redeveloped as part of the University of Oxford's centrepiece Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ). The excavation by Oxford Archaeology revealed 345 graves divided into two distinct groups either side of a central path. A number of amputated limbs and other evidence for medical intervention were noted but, perhaps surprisingly, only one skeleton showed signs of anatomisation. The University of Oxford Research Laboratory has been involved in additional sampling work at the site and discussions are taking place regarding the scope of a future research project on the assemblage. Significant excavations were also undertaken within the historic core over the year by Oxford Archaeology at Magdalen College, Lincoln College, New College and Worcester College.

Elsewhere in the City excavations investigated part of the medieval and post medieval suburb of St Clements (Southampton Archaeology) and the previously little-studied medieval village of Old Marston (Thames Valley Archaeological Services). In Littlemore a previously unknown Iron Age banjo-enclosure was discovered by evaluation trenching by Thames Valley Archaeological Services on land adjacent to Littlemore Hospital.

The East Oxford Community Archaeology Project (Archeox) has continued its programme of talks, educational workshops and post-excavation work throughout the year. In October, Archeox undertook a small scale excavation at Donnington Sports Ground in order to establish whether a recent geophysical survey had correctly identified a previously unknown Neolithic pit circle. The excavation recorded features and flints that support this interpretation.

The Oxford Archaeological Action Plan

The Oxford Archaeological Action Plan 2013-2018 was presented to the East and West Planning Committee's in March and a digital copy is now available on the City Council website. The plan provides an introduction to the archaeology of Oxford and links to the period-based archaeological assessments and research agendas recently produced for the City. The action plan has led to the conclusion of talks with the County Council for the

integration of the City Urban Archaeological Database and County Historic Environment Record using HBSMR software. The data migration is planned for March 2014. A further outcome has been the production of the first annual monitoring statement for archaeological assets, also available on the council's website.

Outreach

Outreach work for the year included public talks by the City Council Archaeologist at the County Oxpast and Festival of Archaeology events. The City Council was very pleased to offer ongoing support to the East Oxford Community Archaeological Project including providing access to council land for the training excavation at Meadow Lane Recreation Area.

The year saw a successful open day Organised by Oxford Archaeology during the Magdalen College Longwall Quad excavation, which attracted over 600 people. The public outreach undertaken by Oxford Archaeology for the Radcliffe Infirmary burial ground excavation (which was screened from public view for ethical reasons) included press coverage and filming for Time Team and The Grave Trade programmes. A popular leaflet is to follow. This will be the second popular leaflet produced for the ROQ site, the first being published this year by Museum of London Archaeology. This included a new artist's impression of the Late Neolithic-early Bronze Age monumental landscape in north Oxford.

The City Council Archaeologist attends regular Oxford City and County Archaeological Forum (OCCAF) meetings and the submitted reports of recent archaeological work in the city are made available on the council website. An annual summary of archaeological work in Oxford is also produced for the journal of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society (*Oxoniensia*).



Fig 8. Excavation at the Radcliffe Infirmary Burial Ground (David Radford)

David Radford, City Council Archaeologist, Heritage and Specialist Services, Oxford City Council.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Bicester: Bicester Village Coach Park (SP 5846 2197)

Ian R Scott

In January 2013 Oxford Archaeology excavated the site of a new coach park at the Bicester Village retail outlet (Fig 9). It was anticipated that the excavation would find evidence of the late Iron Age-early Roman settlement known from excavations to the south of the site or of the Saxon settlement to the north. Instead the excavation uncovered a group of tree-throw holes containing a significant assemblage of late Mesolithic flintwork, a possible ditched enclosure of Bronze Age date, two possible early-middle Iron Age pits and medieval pit (Fig 10). The absence of Saxon material indicates that the southern limit of occupation associated with the late Saxon minster and lay settlement, from which Bicester originated, must lie somewhere north of this site.

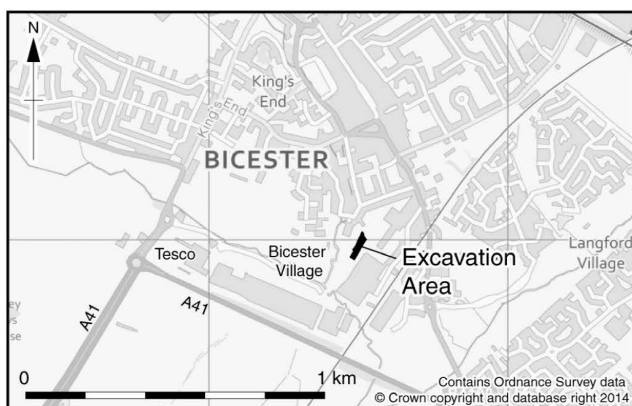


Fig 9. Bicester: Bicester Village Coach Park. Site location.

Mesolithic worked flint

The excavation produced 4116 pieces of flint, much of it recovered from nine tree-throw holes, and most of it (3587 pieces) from tree-throw hole 61. The flint was sorted into 461 pieces of complete debitage and 3655 pieces of broken debitage. The complete debitage comprised 276 pieces of complete blade and flake debitage, 27 core dressing pieces, 15 cores and core fragments, 37 retouched pieces, 15 microliths and microlith fragments, 3 utilised pieces and 88 pieces of microdebitage and was subject to a full technological and attribute analysis as part of the post-excavation process. The broken debitage (3655 pieces) was recorded by type and quantified. What follows is a very brief summary of the full analytical report.

Flint is the sole raw material of which 340 pieces are good quality brown or grey flint probably from local sources. There are 20 pieces of a light grey opaque flint of coarser texture, possibly from river gravel deposits, and two microliths made on a distinctive translucent orange flint. The remaining material was indeterminate. Within the sample, 233 pieces (84%) of the complete debitage retained acute fresh edges. Generally the condition of the lithics is good, but some of the indeterminate fragments may be debitage damaged through post-depositional processes.

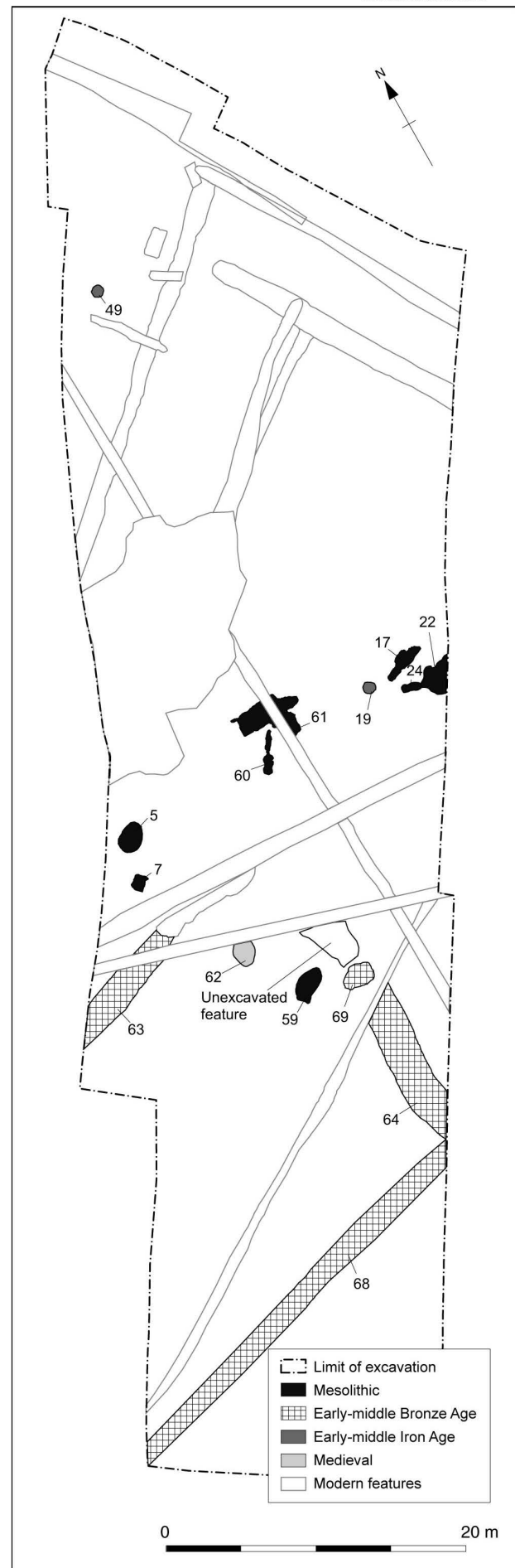


Fig 10. Bicester: Bicester Village Coach Park. Plan of the site.

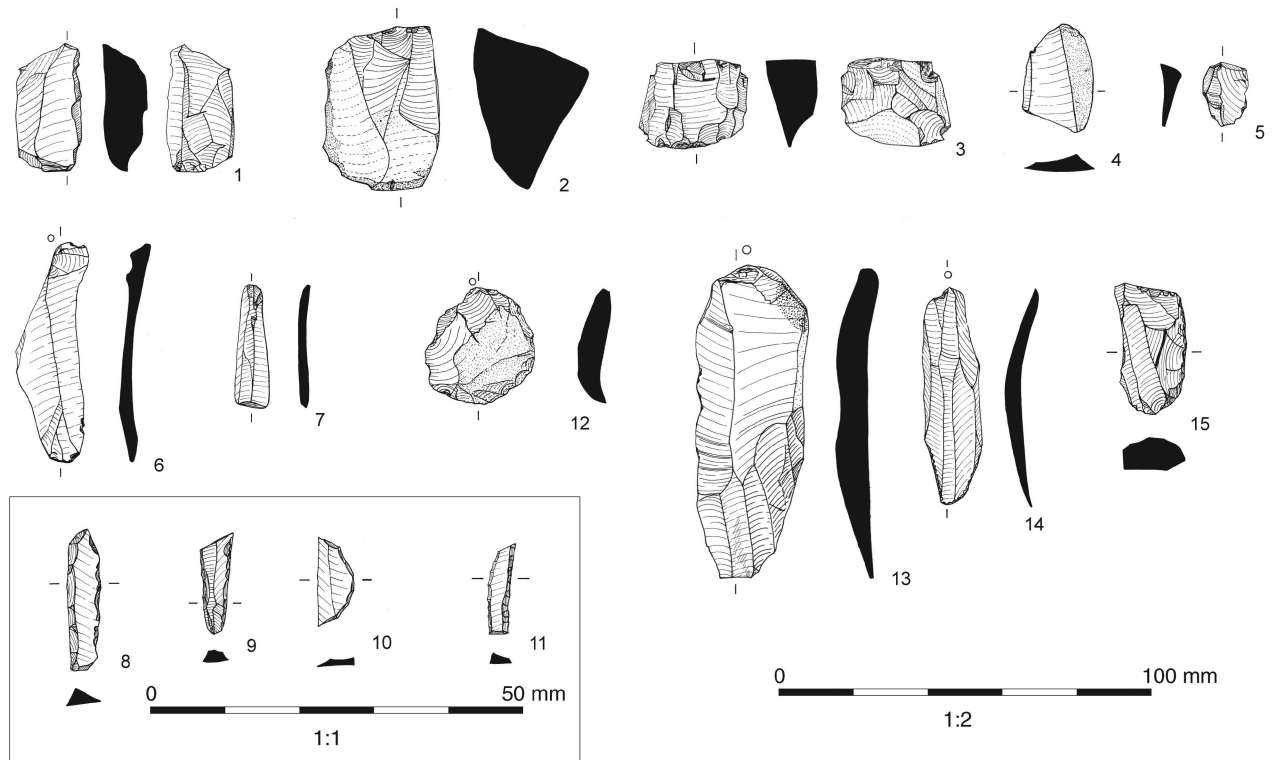


Fig 11. Worked flint from Bicester Village Coach Park.

Primary technology.

There are ten complete cores and five core fragments, and a relatively large number of core trimming and core rejuvenation blades and flakes. There is evidence for various core technologies including opposed platform cores (Fig 11, 1), single platform cores (Fig 11, 2) and right angle platform cores (Fig. 11, 3). The negative scars on the cores are predominantly blade scars rather than flake scars. By contrast, flakes (Fig 11, 4-5) are more common than blades (Fig 11, 6-7) amongst the debitage in the analysed sample, but these flakes may represent earlier stages of core reduction, and the production of blades may have been more significant during the later stages of reduction.

Secondary technology

The microliths include backed bladelets (Fig 11, 8), scalene triangles (Fig 11, 9), crescents (Fig 11, 10), and a rod (Fig 11, 11) as well as microlith fragments. Microwear studies elsewhere have shown that the microliths were used for working antler and bone, wood and for processing meat, as well as for missile points. The other retouched pieces include scrapers (Fig. 11 12) and various retouched flakes and blades (Fig 11, 13-14), a denticulate, a notched piece and a core fragment with edge damage from use (Fig 11, 15). These provide evidence for hide processing and woodworking.

Discussion

Relatively little is known of the Mesolithic period in Oxfordshire (Hey, 2014), and therefore the assemblage of 4116 pieces from Bicester is a significant discovery. Overall the assemblage is characteristic of late Mesolithic narrow blade technology, although there is some material that may represent early Neolithic activity, such as one of the cores with right angle platforms and some of the larger broader blades.

Most of the flint was recovered from tree-throw holes and is likely to represent secondary deposition, although it is possible that the material derives from occupation close by. The relatively fresh edge condition of the flint suggests limited post depositional movement. The presence of broken blades and flakes, irregular debitage and indeterminate fragments suggests the possibility of some movement of the material and possible trampling, and may suggest the presence of nearby middens. The tree-throw holes form a close group perhaps on the edge of a clearing. Late Mesolithic lithic assemblages in tree-throw holes are attested to elsewhere in the region, and in some instances has been interpreted as intentional deposition, perhaps marking the end of a phase of habitation or as an offering made to the land. At Bicester, evidence for deliberate deposition is not readily identifiable and the assemblage is best seen as indicating the presence of late Mesolithic group/s in a wooded environment.

The microliths, some undoubtedly from composite tools, indicate hunting and perhaps the subsequent processing of kills involving butchery and hide-working activity. The presence of broken microliths and the reduction of prepared cores in order to produce blade blanks for microlith manufacture imply the repair and replacement of damaged tools. The non-microlith component of the retouched tools also indicates that tasks involving scraping and cutting activities including woodworking. The small number of microliths and the bias towards lithic debitage over cores suggests that some material produced on site was removed for use elsewhere.

Evidence for late Mesolithic activity in the Upper Thames Valley points to a prevalence of small sites in all topographical locations associated with river courses. Such evidence is thought to represent the movement of small groups of people along river valleys in search of seasonal

resources and/or hunting animals (Hey with Robinson, 2011, 208-211).

A site at Tubney, 20 miles to the south west, is thought to have had evidence of more permanent occupation with a range of domestic activities taking place (Bradley and Hey, 1993, Simmonds *et al*, 2010). Sites in lower-lying areas, such as Kidlington (Booth, 1997) and Abingdon (Allen and Kamash, 2008), as well as others identified as lithic scatters throughout the Thames valley (Hey with Robinson, 2011), are, like Bicester, representative of short-term or seasonal occupation hunting sites, and are dispersed throughout the area.

Possible Bronze Age enclosure

The possible Bronze Age enclosure comprised three broad but shallow ditches which produced a single small sherd of possible Beaker, a sherd of a possible Deveril-Rimbury vessel and a small fragment of cast copper alloy. Ditches 63 and 68 were parallel and aligned southwest-northeast. The third ditch (64) was aligned at approximately a right angle to the first two ditches and formed the northeast end of the possible enclosure. Pit 69 and the adjacent unexcavated feature may have formed parts of the latter ditch. There were no other associated features and only very limited artefactual evidence, suggesting a non-domestic function. This may have been an isolated enclosure or part of a wider landscape division.

Early-mid Iron Age pits

Two small shallow pits (19, 49) were attributed to the early-middle Iron Age. Each yielded a small quantity of pottery and some animal bone. Pit 49 had a larger bone assemblage, including a significant proportion of bone from juvenile cattle, perhaps representing a single calf, as well as smaller quantities of sheep/goat and pig. The upper fill included patches of reddish soil, possibly dumped hearth debris. There is no other evidence for a contemporary settlement.

Medieval pit

Pit 62 located in the central part of the excavation area was shallow and contained a single fill with a nail and a sherd from a Brill/Boarstall ware strip jug with rouletted decoration dating from c 1250-1350.

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OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH - main report

Abingdon, Abingdon School Science Centre

(SU 4923 9753)

Kate Wheaton

Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation in the tennis courts, coach park and the area north of Waste Court rugby pitch on behalf of Abingdon School ahead of the construction of a new science centre and coach park. The evaluation consisted of eight trenches that were excavated within the footprint of the proposed centre and coach park.

The earliest archaeological evidence in the tennis court area comprised one residual sherd of Iron Age pottery. Otherwise the earliest features were two pits containing pottery of post-medieval date (18th-20th century). A number of other undated features including a probable segmented ditch and a posthole might be related and might represent a simple system of agrarian landscape use.

In the coach park area, a large 19th century quarry pit was located and contained a mixed assemblage of pottery dating from the 19th to the 20th century. East of the coach park, evaluation was targeted upon a possible cropmark ring ditch halfway along the track between the coach park and the sports centre. No trace of any ring ditch or any associated features was found in either of the two trenches dug to investigate this. The only potentially ancient feature was an undated gully found at the north-west corner of the grassed area in Waste Court field. The easternmost trench located the edge of another probable 19th century quarry close to the northern boundary of the school grounds, the quarry perhaps bounded by a recent ditch observed running north-south just to the west.

Abingdon, land off Radley Road (SU 5148 9865)

Kevin Moon

A geophysical magnetometer survey was carried out on the site, owned by Radley College, to clarify cropmark evidence that suggested a collection of enclosures crossing the southern part of the site, and to help target evaluation trenches. Cropmarks had already indicated a number of large discrete features, including sub-rectangular examples that might have been post-Roman, and previous findspots and cropmarks also indicated later prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

Oxfordshire

Previous excavation near the south-west corner field had exposed ditches containing Roman pottery and other finds, and had also recorded stone 'walls' possibly suggesting a building, though only an interim summary account of this excavation had been produced. One of the aims of evaluation was to locate this excavation more clearly, and to clarify the character and date of the recorded walls.

The geophysical survey provided a more complete view of a system of linked and sometimes overlapping ditches and enclosures, and suggested that there were some discrete features within them. Evaluation was therefore targeted upon a selection of the ditches and other anomalies, in order to date the system and its development.

The evaluation confirmed that the results of the geophysical survey were genuine and that the enclosures were of Roman date. The earliest Roman pottery was of early-mid 2nd century date, but most of the activity appeared to belong to the later Roman period, that is the 3rd or 4th centuries AD. The range of finds was limited, giving little indication of varied activity, although the pottery and animal bone, together with the survival of postholes, deep slots and probable pits, suggests that there was probably domestic occupation on the site. The 'walls' appear to have been bands of concreted limestone within the natural gravel, and so of natural origin. Evidence to date therefore suggests a low status rural settlement.

A few struck flints of late Mesolithic or early Neolithic date were also found, but none in contemporary features. Those at the very south-west edge of the site may indicate a concentration of activity close to the oval barrow known from cropmarks 60m further south. Roman features were also found here, showing that activity extended south of the main area of enclosures. The south-east corner of the site did not, however, produce any features or finds. North of the enclosure system the few trenches were largely blank, except for an undated ditch and a tree throw hole containing a flint tool and stone rubber at the very north of the site.

Banbury, land north of Wildmere Road, Banbury Gateway (SP 4678 4229)

Gerry Thacker

An evaluation of four trenches at Banbury Gateway revealed plough furrows of probable medieval or post medieval date and land drains. No finds were recovered.

Bicester, Bicester Village Coach Park (SP 5846 2197)

Andrew Simmonds

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation at the Bicester Village retail outlet in an area where a coach park was to be constructed. It was anticipated that the excavation would find evidence of the late Iron Age-early Roman settlement located to the south of the site or of the Saxon settlement to the north. Instead the excavation uncovered a group of tree-throw holes containing a significant assemblage of late Mesolithic flintwork, a possible ditched enclosure of Bronze Age date and two early-middle Iron Age pits. The absence of Saxon material indicates that the southern limit of occupation associated with the late Saxon minster and lay settlement, from which Bicester originated, must lie somewhere north of this site.

Bicester, Bicester Park and Ride (SP 5714 2112)

Steve Leech

Evaluation trenching on the site of a proposed Park and Ride site to the south of Bicester identified various undated possible pits or postholes. These include two possible, though undated, hearth pits. A single human cremation burial contained hobnails and tacks (the latter probably from a box) but no other artefacts. It is almost certainly of Roman date. The most common features encountered were ditches and gullies. These contained very few artefacts, indicating that the site lay within an area used predominantly as agricultural fields or enclosures since at least the Roman period, suggested by the presence of small amounts of Roman pottery from one ditch. Many of the ditches and gullies investigated were field drains of modern date identified by ceramic drains or other 19th or 20th century artefacts.

Bicester, Bicester Eco Development (SP 5670 2420)

Vix Hughes

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Hyder Consulting, on behalf of A2Dominion, to undertake an evaluation of the site of the proposed Bicester Eco Development to the north-west of Bicester. A total of 529 trenches was excavated in an area of 360ha. Of these trenches 130 had features of archaeological origin, including 26 that had only furrows or modern features.

Evidence was found for activity from four main periods. The earliest was represented by a single Neolithic feature. There were four locations of early-middle Iron Age activity. The majority of activity was seen spanning the Roman period, and located in two main areas. A small amount of later, medieval to post-medieval, activity was observed throughout.

A burnt mound feature and a second, similar, feature were seen in one trench. Although undated the type of feature and the topographical setting are consistent with Bronze Age burnt mounds, of which there are only two other known locations in Oxfordshire. Upslope from the burnt mounds was a cluster of four clearly defined pits, which were again undated, but were probably prehistoric.

The nature of the early to middle Iron Age activity is difficult to determine given the paucity of remains and their dispersed distribution. There is little overall cohesion and the features may represent spatially and chronologically distinct activities. None were consistent with settlement sites.

The Roman activity revealed in the evaluation is fairly typical of rural domestic occupation in Oxfordshire; two habitation foci associated with a mixed arable and pastoral economy. Neither site is of high status and the evidence suggests an everyday functionality to the occupation.

It was possible to discern pottery groups from the early Roman period dating to the 1st-2nd centuries and later Roman groups dating to the 3rd-4th centuries. Later pottery occurred within all three areas with significant early Roman assemblages. This therefore suggests some continuity of activity in these areas throughout the period. These sites would have been within the general hinterland of the Roman fort at Alchester to the east.

A number of furrows and ditches that probably date to the medieval and post-medieval periods were recorded across

the site, the remnants of arable agriculture, but no settlement remains of these periods were present.

Bicester, Site 37, Gavray Drive (SU 5933 2259)

Kate Wheaton

An archaeological evaluation of land off Gavray Drive, Bicester on behalf of Chiltern Railways comprised six trenches, in which ridge and furrow and a later field ditch were identified. No significant archaeological features or finds were encountered.

Bicester, land adjacent to substation on Pingle Field (SP 5839 2193)

Ian Cook

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by ADAS UK Ltd on behalf of SSE to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation and watching brief on land adjacent to the south of the electrical substation at Pingle Field, Bicester. The underlying alluvial clays, sands and gravels were reached in all areas and further investigated in several locations. A modern cable trench was revealed in the area of the switch house but no archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered.

Buckland, Rushey Wier (SP 3227 0003)

Mike Donnelly

A field evaluation at Rushey Wier on behalf of the Environment Agency comprised machine excavation of four 8m long trenches on a strip of land sandwiched between two early Neolithic scheduled ancient monuments. Three of the four trenches were targeted on cropmarks while the fourth represented a control trench.

Archaeological features were found in all four trenches. Trench 1 located over a large pit-like cropmark revealed a large tree throw containing late Mesolithic or early Neolithic flints. It also contained a small pit containing a single sherd of late Bronze Age pottery. Trench 2 was located over a very similar cropmark and revealed a large pit of medieval date with pottery and animal bone, cut by a shallow ditch. Trench 4 revealed one of the two ditches that were present as cropmark evidence. This feature was quite deep but did not yield any datable finds. It was cut by a large pit containing medieval pottery but this feature appeared to cut the subsoil and the sherds may be residual. Despite its size, the pit was not visible as a cropmark. Trench 3 was the control trench and revealed a tree throw or palaeochannel containing sparse struck flint as well as a possible pit and posthole.

The results of the evaluation indicate that quite dense archaeological remains are present here that range in date from the prehistoric periods through to the Medieval. It also indicates that features are present that were not visible as cropmarks.

Didcot, land north of the Ladygrove Estate

(SU 5310 9160)

Steve Leech

Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation of an area bounded to the south by the Ladygrove Estate, to the north and east by the B4016, and to the west by the Moor Brook. Trenching was restricted in some parts of the site by gas mains, two of which crossed the site. A total of forty five trenches each 50m long and 2m wide was excavated.

At the north end of the site, where the ground rises onto the gravel terrace, cropmarks and geophysical survey had indicated a variety of archaeological features, and a concentration of ditches, plus a number of pits, was found. Finds indicated that one pit, which was particularly large, was probably late Bronze Age in date, one ditch contained later prehistoric pottery and others were of Romano-British origin. South of the terrace, which dipped quite steeply onto the Gault Clay, a number of ditches were also found within a couple of hundred metres, particularly in the north-east corner, and two of the most substantial of these contained later prehistoric pottery. Pits and postholes were also found in a single trench just off the edge of the gravel terrace, though none was dated.

A small number of worked flints were recovered from this part of the site, and appear to represent Mesolithic or early Neolithic activity in this vicinity, though on a limited scale. No other evidence of earlier prehistoric activity was found on the site. In the central part of the site a variety of ditches and gullies were seen, but none (other than a recent example) was dated. On the west side of the site the density of trenches was less, and here work was targeted on a possible palaeochannel suggested by the geophysical survey. No waterlogged deposits were found, nor any artefactual evidence, perhaps bearing out the evidence from the plan that this feature was a man-made, or at least modified, channel rather than a natural watercourse.

In the southern part of the site alluvium was encountered. No archaeological features were found here either cutting the alluvium or sealed by it, and despite the high water table no waterlogged deposits were preserved. Snails from this part of the site suggested that the environment was one of low-lying floodplain, marshy but dry enough for some terrestrial species, that was periodically flooded.

The evaluation demonstrated that archaeological features continued onto the Gault Clay, but except at its very edge no features other than ditches were certainly identified. The very limited artefactual material tentatively suggests that a field or enclosure system of later prehistoric date may have extended across the area, but the ditches found may alternatively be of several dates.

Only in two small areas of the site was there any evidence that might support the suggestion of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, and in neither case was there any dating evidence.

Cuddeston, All Saint's Church (SP 6007 0306)

Mike Sims

A watching brief, during the excavation of exploratory test pits adjacent to the south porch of All Saint's Church, revealed details of the foundations of the south porch, which

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was overlain by churchyard soil. No evidence of burials or of any other activity was observed.

Ducklington, St Bartholemew's Church (SP 3591 0762)

Helen Webb

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Bartholemew's Church, Ducklington. The monitored groundworks involved the excavation of a sump for a septic tank, in the western part of the graveyard, on the south side of the church tower. Apart from a quantity of disarticulated human bone, a total of 12 intercutting, *in situ* burials were revealed. Of the 12 skeletons, four were juveniles and eight were adults. The presence of coffin fittings, which included nails, upholstery studs, grips and coffin lace, indicated that these were post-medieval in date. Buttons and a shroud pin, indicative of funerary attire, were present in two burials.

Fringford, St Michaels Close (SP 6080 2905)

Mike Sims

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new water pipe and storage tank by Anglian Water. No archaeological deposits were observed, and there were no finds.

Milton Heights, Land at Milton Heights, Home Farm

(SU 481 9104)

Gerry Thacker

Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation on land at Milton Heights on behalf of Stewart Lilly Associates. The evaluation identified two north-south aligned ditches, which contained a small number of pottery sherds of Roman date, and a series of west-east orientated plough furrows, which contained finds of post-medieval pottery, bottle glass and ceramic building material. A single north-west to south-east aligned ditch, two postholes and a tree throw hole remained undated.

Oxford, St Aldates Street (SP 5142 0575–SP 5142 0565)

Mike Sims

Oxford Archaeology conducted a watching brief during carriageway maintenance on a section of St Aldates. These works included reducing the road level prior to the laying of the new surface, together with associated works including service ducting and drainage. The depth of impact of the groundworks was such that only late 19th and 20th century deposits associated with the construction of the present day highway were exposed. No deposits or features pre-dating the 19th century were encountered.

Oxford, Lincoln College Garden Building

(SP 51497 06265)

Steve Teague

Proposals for a new arts facility with a basement within the Fellows and Rectors Gardens at Lincoln College, Turl Street, Oxford led to excavations and a watching brief by Oxford

Archaeology. The site lay within the late Saxon burh adjacent to All Saints Church and to the rear of a late medieval side street later known as Rotten Row. No definitive evidence of pre-Conquest activity was found. The earliest evidence comprised a large number of pits dating from the late 11th to mid 13th centuries that were probably located within the rear of one or more tenements that fronted High Street, situated 45-55m to the south. The pits probably had a variety of functions including quarries, wells or were used for the disposal of rubbish.

From the mid 13th-14th century one or more masonry buildings were constructed over most of the site representing expansion of structures from the High Street frontage over the former yard/open ground. One contained several phases of stone-built ovens and hearths suggesting a kitchen or perhaps served an industrial function since crucible fragments were found within later demolition deposits. During the mid 16th or 17th century new building(s) were constructed on a different alignment, presumably influenced by the layout of Rotten Row. One structure had a fireplace built into its north wall, with latrines and a well added to its north, suggesting a domestic residence. The building was eventually demolished sometime during the late 17th/18th century. Its northern wall was retained to form a boundary between the College lands to the north and the tenements of Rotten Row to the south which finally in the 19th century formed the dividing wall between the Rectors and Fellows Garden.

Oxford, Old Abingdon Road (SP 5167 0372)

Mike Sims

A watching brief during drainage repairs adjacent to Old Abingdon Road included excavations to expose existing drains together with excavations for a new inspection chamber and drainage run.

The excavations exposed a previously unknown stone-constructed culvert running under the Old Abingdon Road, together with details of the roadway make-up. The exposed section had been heavily disturbed by a series of modern services including water, gas and storm drains, causing it to collapse in places. Although no dating evidence was recovered, its location and details of its construction suggests that it may be associated with the construction of the approaches to the railway bridge in the 1840s.

Oxford, The Old Malthouse, Paradise Street

(SP 5094 0601)

Jonathan Gill

Number 19a on the west side of Paradise Street forms one of the relatively few surviving buildings from the historically important brewing and malting industries in Oxford. The building formed part of the Swan Brewery, one of the industry's principal sites in the city but it was separated from the main brewery by the Castle Mill Stream and it appears to have formed part of a maltings complex associated with the Swan Brewery. The building is known as the Old Malthouse but its form is not that of the classic malthouse and it may be that it formed a storehouse within the maltings.

There are some small windows in the building suggestive of a maltings but they are found more in the gable ends than in

the main walls and there is no indication of the building having had a kiln, a steep or low ceiling heights, other diagnostic signs of a malthouse. It is possible that the building had a number of uses in different periods and that it did serve as a malthouse for a period but it seems unlikely that this was its original function.

The building is an interesting and valuable survival from the city's brewing past and it contributes to the character of this part of the conservation area. The building lost its industrial function many years ago and it was converted to offices in the later 20th century (probably 1980s). The current investigation relates to proposals to convert the building from offices to residential accommodation and it has allowed an archive record to be made of the structure.

The interior of the building retains few visible features relating to its historic use but there is evidence of a series of former posts which would have supported the first floor and an interesting range of marks on the timbers of the roof trusses. These marks include both carpenters' marks, which would be made during the construction process and importers' marks which would be made by the trader or shipping company to indicate the destination, the grade or quality of the timber.

Oxford, Pegasus Road, Blackbird Leys (SP 5555 0270)

Nick Taylor

Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation, on behalf of the Mace Group, at the site of a new swimming pool at Pegasus Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford. A stone-filled land drain was recorded, cut through a thin layer of subsoil. Although the land drain was undated, five abraded sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the subsoil. No other archaeological features were present and there was evidence for widespread truncation of the site, presumably associated with the construction of the existing playing fields within which the site is located.

Oxford, Garden Store, Queen's College (SP 5174 0634)

Jane Phimester

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by The Queen's College, Oxford to undertake historic building recording and below-ground archaeological recording prior to the construction of a new WC and associated drainage routes in the north-east corner of the Fellows' Garden at The Queen's College. The programme of work includes the demolition of an existing garden store, which OA recorded as specified by Oxford City Council in accordance with the Listed Building Consent. Cartographic research undertaken by The Queen's College archivist has been used and enhanced, which dates the structure to between 1725 and 1848. The 1848 plan confirms that the structure was in use as a WC at this time, which ties in with the extant internal fabric of the store including glazed wall tiles typical of a WC of this period. The building is a simple structure, with brickwork typical of late 18th century structures in Oxford. The earliest phase of brickwork incorporates vitrified headers, with later phases indicating that the structure has been heightened and modified.

Oxford, Goodhart Building, University College

(SP 51818 06198)

Robin Bashford

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Dr Roland Harris to undertake a watching brief during the hand-excavation, by other parties, of two engineering test pits that were required to investigate the nature of the foundations of the extant Goodhart Building (1961-2). No geological gravels, original overlying sub-soils, stratified horizontal archaeology, archaeological features or structures were encountered. The earliest deposits revealed within each test pit comprised a thick (up to 0.9m) deposit of homogeneous mid-brown clayey silt extending down from a depth of c 1.0m below ground level. These deposits were in turn overlain by deposits containing modern building material debris, almost certainly, originating from the construction of the Goodhart Building in 1961-2.

Oxford, Land off Barton Road, Headington

(SP 5500 0758)

Alexandra Latham

A four-trench evaluation was carried out by Oxford Archaeology on the site of a proposed residential development in the Urban District of Headington. The development area was c 1.1ha in extent, lying between the historic villages of Barton and Old Headington.

Seven possible archaeological features were identified in the trenches, including ditches, pits and possible postholes, five of which contained no artefacts and are therefore of uncertain date. They are most likely to derive from the 20th century use of the site. Several features investigated were found to be shallow and irregular and were considered to be geological in origin.

Artefact concentrations were found in two early 20th century refuse deposits, one infilling a ditch or pit in the centre of the site and one infilling a ditch near the north-west corner of the site. The artefacts present in these deposits in general date from the late 19th and early 20th century, although one 13th-14th century medieval pottery sherd and a few 18th century sherds were found incorporated within these later contexts. The ditches found in the trenches do not correspond with any boundary ditches shown on historic maps of the site. They may be internal drainage ditches associated with the early 20th century orchard.

Oxford, Lime Road, Botley (SP 4873 0505)

Mike Donnelly

Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation on behalf of Bovis Homes (SW) Ltd. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 16 trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m. Of the 16 trenches, 13 contained no archaeological features or deposits. An undated ditch was identified along the eastern edge of the site and a pit containing burnt flint was found in the southern corner. A buried soil horizon containing medieval pottery and animal bone was also recorded here.

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Oxford, Keble College, Acland Site (SP 511 071)

Robin Bashford

Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a trench for a guide wall to facilitate a piling rig. This was in advance of the installation of a contiguous pile wall along the south-western boundary of the site of the former Acland Hospital. The watching brief recorded evidence for a post-medieval building and deposits associated with its demolition prior to the construction of the Acland Hospital buildings from the latter part of the 19th century. A stone-lined well was also recorded, although the relationship between this structure and the building was uncertain. A relatively sterile reddish-brown deposit appeared to be the earliest deposit encountered and may represent the post-glacial loessic subsoil known to overlay the second gravel terrace on which Oxford sits. Alternatively, it is possible that it represented fills derived from the loess. Features with fills of similar composition have been excavated on numerous sites across the city, and are often associated with activity pre-dating the urban development of Oxford following the foundation of the burh in the 9th-10th century.

Oxford, Old Cloisters, Brasenose College (SP 515 063)

Vix Hughes

Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation on the site of a proposed refurbishment at the Old Cloisters, Brasenose College. A total of four trenches were excavated. The earliest dated deposit sequences contained pottery in use between 1550 and 1650 and survived as islands of strata left intact between late 17th and 18th century graves. These deposits were a c 400 mm thick sequence of mortar floors interleaved with silts which overlaid an undated homogeneous garden soil. The main Quadrangle at Brasenose was built in the 16th century with the Second Quadrangle construction beginning in 1656. The mortar deposits represent a building or buildings between these two construction phases.

A total of five separate graves was located, but not excavated, within the evaluation trenches. The graves and marker stones largely corresponded with a historic plan of the interments, although one marker stone had no grave beneath it. The graves are undergoing gradual post-depositional decay and consequently it was observed that there are significant below-ground voids where coffins have disintegrated but the spaces have not infilled with surrounding material.

Oxford, Old Indian Institute Building, Broad Street (SP 515 065)

Nick Taylor

An archaeological watching brief maintained during the excavation of a lift pit shaft (and preliminary inspection pit) in the basement of the Old Indian Institute Building in Holywell Street revealed three re-cuts of the town ditch dating to the 17th century, likely to relate to re-fortification during the Civil War royalist occupation of the town. The location of the recorded linear features corresponds with the projected alignment of the town ditch in this part of Oxford. The location of the recorded linear features corresponds with

the projected alignment of the town ditch in this part of Oxford. The east-west aligned features seen in the central part of the excavation would appear to represent Civil War period re-cutting and cleaning of the ditch.

Oxford, Osney Micro-Hydro Scheme (SP 50305 05923)

Mike Sims

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a low head turbine at Osney Lock. The watching brief observed a succession of deposits of post-medieval made ground forming an island between Osney lock and the weir controlling the level of the River Thames. All the deposits date from the late 18th/early 19th century onwards and were probably laid down during the construction of the first Osney Lock in 1790 and during subsequent work. No evidence for the old fishweir associated with Osney Abbey or for any other earlier water management structures was observed. As part of the work a photographic record and written description of the weir gates ("Weir B") immediately west of the development was undertaken prior to their replacement.

Oxford, Radcliffe Infirmary, Walton Street (SP 5101 0714)

Mark Gibson

Excavations at the former Radcliffe Infirmary burial ground were undertaken by Oxford Archaeology for RB Development Management, on behalf of the University of Oxford. In accordance with a Faculty from the Diocese of Oxford and a brief set by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor in consultation with the City Archaeologist, all the burials were archaeologically recovered and were to be re-buried off site. Almost the entire area covered by the burial ground was investigated and a photographic record of the Walton Street wall was made.

A total of 370 burial 'units', comprising articulated skeletons, isolated limbs and disarticulated bones were recorded and recovered. This was in addition to coffin remains (primarily the metal fittings), animal bone and pottery. Among the 370 burial units that were identified were 345 graves, 21 shallow pits containing isolated limbs and four charnel pits (pits containing disarticulated human bones from burials that were disturbed by past activity). From these a total of 347 articulated skeletons, 22 amputated limbs, nine isolated limbs (probably also amputations, but not confirmed) and 40 large bags of disarticulated/charnel bone were recovered. The burials were found throughout the area that was investigated, although none was found beyond the line of the north-east foundation wall for the 1921 eye hospital. This foundation wall probably follows the line of the burial ground's original boundary, of which some physical evidence may have survived. No burials extended beyond the Walton Street wall, which defines the south-western limit of the burial ground. The extent of the burial ground to the south-east and north-west was not identified. The area to the south-east has been heavily truncated by modern activity, but burials may have continued under the St Catherine's building. To the north-west, the burial ground was built over by St Paul's Church, now Freud's.

The burials formed two distinct groups, located on the north-west and south-east sides of the burial ground, separated by a wide path which was completely free of burial activity, or other archaeological remains, and was bordered by linear bedding trenches on either side. The graves on the north-west side were organised in clear regular rows and were evenly spaced. Also in this area were two charnel pits, and in one, two articulated skeletons. In addition, there were four large negative features of unknown function that pre-date the burial ground, as well as the remains of structures that post-date the burial ground but pre-date the 1921 eye hospital. Burials on the south-east side of the site comprised intercutting rows and were more numerous, denser and more tightly packed than those on the north-west side. Also present in this area were two charnel pits, a large negative feature of unknown function (similar to those found on the northern side), a possible prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon pit (dated on the basis of pottery) and the remains of structures that post-date the burial ground but pre-date the eye hospital.

All the graves contained a single inhumation each, almost all of which would have been interred inside a coffin (represented by iron fittings and a stain left by the wood). This is with the exception of one grave which contained a young adult female who had been buried with a neonate alongside her. The location of associated coffin fittings suggests that they had been buried within the same coffin. The graves were generally aligned south-west to north-east, although a number were found to be perpendicular to this (north-west to south-east). For example, two graves were aligned alongside the Walton Street wall, possibly because space in the southern half of the cemetery was restricted when they were created. In addition, a further six graves were located along the south western side of one of the large negative features in the northern area.

Provisional observations made during excavation suggest that approximately 80% of the assemblage were adults and around 20% were juveniles (children and adolescents). Their ages ranged from birth to over 60 years, but the majority seemed to be 18 to 35 years of age. Interestingly, at least one of the children was below the required minimum age (seven years), specified by the Board of Governors for admission to the hospital. Around two thirds of the adults are males and around a quarter are females; the remainder (approximately another quarter), including the children, probably cannot be sexed.

Other provisional observations are that skeletal pathology/evidence for disease is prevalent, as might be expected for a hospital assemblage. Evidence of medical intervention has been observed on around 20 of the articulated skeletons (including three juveniles) and some of the charnel. This almost exclusively consists of limb amputations or craniotomies (removal of the top of the skull to enable study of the brain after death), although there is one example of a trepanation (a hole drilled or scraped through the skull to treat intercranial diseases or reduce pressure on the brain). Several of the amputated and isolated limbs bear the marks of instruments that had been used to amputate them, and in some cases it is possible to suggest the condition that had prompted their removal. Evidence for anatomisation (defined here as the dissection, removal and separation of body parts following death) has been observed on one skeleton only. This apparent lack of anatomisation is

unexpected, considering the numerous examples that have been found among contemporary hospital assemblages.

Oxford, West Quadrangle, St Cross College (SP 511 066) Robin Bashford

Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation at the West Quadrangle, St Cross College. The evaluation revealed that the post-glacial loessic subsoil which overlies the second gravel terrace was relatively undisturbed by later truncation. No prehistoric features were identified (and no residual prehistoric finds recovered); indeed this deposit contained the earliest pottery recovered from the evaluation, dating to c 1170-1350. Over much of the area a thick homogeneous garden soil was recorded up to c 0.9 m thick. It is likely that this deposit had formed since the medieval period, but had been subject to significant reworking up to the 18th century. The evaluation revealed very little evidence for medieval occupation/activity such as pits/quarry holes/wells and so on. A series of inter-cutting ditches on a north-northwest/south-southeast alignment were recorded adjacent to a Grade II listed wall which marks the western boundary of the site. The earliest ditch contained an undated fill whose reddish colour had been clearly derived from the loess, suggesting a date no later than the early medieval. The later recuts of this ditch contained fills that were very similar to each other which yielded medieval pottery along with mid 16th - early 17th century pottery. These probably related to boundary ditchworks both during the period when the Carmelite Friary occupied the former palace site and after their demise at the Dissolution.

Other evidence for post-medieval activity included an upstanding wall marking the parish boundary between St Giles and St Mary Magdalen; a parallel and much more substantial wall foundation was recorded c 7m to the south of the parish boundary. This was probably a property boundary shown on the 19th century mapping, but was probably earlier in date than this.

Additionally sample excavation and recording were made of a stoned-lined well backfilled in the late 17th - mid 18th century, rubbish pits dating from the mid 18th and late 19th centuries and the corner of a mid-late 19th century subterranean structure (probably a basement) which was modified and had a non-basemented extension added in the late 19th - 20th century.

Shillingford, River of Life, North Farm (SU 5868 9318) Mike Sims

Oxford Archaeology excavated five evaluation trenches on the site of the proposed wetland development 'The River of Life' at North Farm, Shillingford. The investigation exposed alluvial deposits in excess of 1.2m depth within four of the trenches, with the underlying terrace gravel only encountered within one, at a depth of 1m below the current ground level. No evidence of human activity or peat deposits was observed within any of these strata. Evidence of 20th century made ground directly overlying the alluvium was observed within the northernmost trench, elsewhere the alluvial deposits were overlaid by cultivated soils.

Oxford Archaeology was subsequently called out to deal with suspected human bones revealed during the excavation

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of an area to create a fenland environment. The bones proved to belong to a heavily-truncated supine burial, which was without associated finds. The Oxfordshire Planning Archaeologist instructed that the burial be left *in situ* and carefully covered over. One bone that had already been disturbed was removed for sampling for radiocarbon dating before being returned to the ground. A date of 370-180 cal BC was obtained on the bone, placing the burial in the middle Iron Age.

Some 3m to the south a ditch running north-west to south-east was found, and a small sample excavated by hand. There were no finds, but a sherd of late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery was recovered from the surface of the ditch.

Steeple Aston, Brasenose Farm, west of Oxford Road (SP 4638 2645)

Mike Sims

Oxford Archaeology undertook a controlled watching brief during the construction of a new dwelling. Two phases of cultivated soil were recorded overlying the natural clay. The earliest was undated, while the latest could be dated to the 19th/20th centuries. No significant archaeology was observed.

Sutton Courtenay, land to the rear of 92-112 Milton Road (SU 4940 9295)

Chris Pickard

An archaeological evaluation on behalf of Pye Homes uncovered a single undated ditch in the north-western part of the site. No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

Wallingford, Police Station (SU 6071 8901) Robin Bashford

A field evaluation at Wallingford Police Station, commissioned by RPS Planning and Development, revealed a deep sequence of soils deposited over the natural late Devensian/early Holocene soil which overlies the gravel. A single residual flint of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date was the only prehistoric find. Two fragments of Roman tile were also found, but these two were probably redeposited. Late Saxon or Saxo-Norman features were found all across the site, and consisted of pits and ditches of various sizes, plus at least one posthole. The finds and ecofacts from these were well-preserved, and demonstrate domestic occupation. One madder-stained potsherd indicates that dyeing was being carried out on or close to the site.

No trace of the church of St Lucian or of any associated graveyard was found, and it is probable that these do not lie within the site. A small quantity of pottery of later 12th-13th century date was found, but features were confined to one trench close to the frontage. Later medieval and early post-medieval material was absent. The difficulty of determining the relationship between the buried topsoil and the late Saxon and medieval features is probably the result of cultivation of this soil in the later medieval period, and it is possible that the site was used as a garden within St John's Hospital. The site probably remained in cultivation after the dissolution of the Hospital, as no activity of the later 16th or

early 17th century was found. A number of pits of the late 17th or early 18th century were scattered across the site. These were probably associated with the almshouses erected on the adjacent site in AD1681. Finds include the best examples yet known of the stamps of an Abingdon clay pipe maker.

The current ground level of the police station site is considerably higher than that of the more recent flats to the north and east, and in all trenches except that at the front, the depth of soil over the late Devensian/early Holocene soil was more than 1m, which may suggest that the ground level has been raised by the importation of topsoil. Nearly 0.5m of topsoil was deposited over the early 18th century features, and finds indicate that this occurred in the latter half of the 19th century. The foundations of the south-west corner of the Cottage Hospital built on the site in AD1881 were found close to the current frontage, and were in line with those of the earlier almshouses to the north. As the imported soil was cut by these foundations, it seems most likely that it was brought in immediately prior to the construction of the Cottage Hospital. Other features associated with the Cottage Hospital include a brick-built dome-topped well and a group of rubbish pits. A number of dogs had been buried in the garden of the hospital.

Wallingford, Radnor Road (SU 5989 8953) Mike Sims

Oxford Archaeology monitored the excavation of an electric cable trench across open ground off Radnor Road. The watching brief observed two phases of cultivation soil with modern intrusions and disturbance. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Wantage, Chain Hill (SU 4033 8750) Kevin Moon

A trial trench evaluation on the behalf of CgMs Consulting was carried out on a site to the east of Chain Hill. The trenches revealed a single pit of medieval date, dated by a single sherd of medieval pottery, and a ditch that contained a fragment of lava quern of likely Roman or mid- to late-Saxon date. Other features including ditches and postholes were undated, although a tree-throw hole contained a single piece of flint debitage. Plough furrows of possible medieval date were also noted, as was evidence of made ground of recent date within the extreme north-western corner of the site.

Wantage, Stockham Farm (SU 3800 8864) Kate Wheaton

Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation on land at Stockham Farm on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The site is approximately 3.8ha in extent and the evaluation consisted of seventeen trenches each measuring 30m by 1.5m. The earliest archaeological evidence comprised two Bronze Age flint flakes recovered from the subsoil. A small cluster of features, including a possible waterhole, in the centre of the site may be of later prehistoric date but their function is uncertain. Occasional sherds of later Roman and medieval pottery were also recovered but the majority of the features recorded were undated and consisted of shallow ditches. It is thought likely that many of these may be the remnants of

medieval ridge and furrow agriculture. A watching brief on geotechnical test pits on the site and on land adjacent to the site was also undertaken but no archaeological features were recorded.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP (SOAG)

Goring, Gatehampton Farm Roman Villa (SU60797985) Hazel Williams

The excavation has reached an interesting phase with a large trench in the site field and a new trench opened in the car park area to the east. Two large rooms and part of a corridor were excavated in the 10m by 12m trench in the site field. In the car park trench, substantial walls were found and suggest that we may be close to finding the extent of the building.

In 2013 a record number of volunteers participated in the excavation, nearly 80 in all. It is particularly pleasing that this included twenty young children under 14 years as the site attracted more family groups. An important part of SOAG's aims for archaeology in South Oxfordshire is to engage and enthuse the next generation of young archaeologists.

The Gatehampton Open day in September attracted a similar number. This was organised in collaboration with a walking group from Pangbourne and another from Whitchurch that included a 'walk through history', ending at the villa site. A dry sunny day made all the difference, with the whole site open and the villa layout marked out for visitors to see. As usual, guided tours, displays of finds and information and refreshments were provided. The day was a great success.

Excavation

Room 6

This room is 6m square with one or two courses of wall footings on three sides. It has a mortar and crushed tile floor, patched in places with crushed chalk. A section of wall on the south side had collapsed inward and several layers of red, green and white painted plaster were found beneath the rubble. There is also painted plaster still *in situ* along a 2m section of the east wall, extending up to 15cm above floor level. A small square furnace feature close to the west wall

appears to relate to an earlier phase of the room when it was a working area; it is partially covered by the later floor. This transition from working area to higher status living space was also seen in Rooms 2 and 3.

Room 8

This 6m by 3m room has a floor with both chalk and tessellated areas; these are large terracotta tesserae and some are still in place on the south side. A bronze *folles* of Constantine I dating to AD332-3 was found in the sandy levelling layer under the floor in the north east corner of this room. There is no south wall but simply a 'sill' feature consisting of large ceramic tiles placed vertically and dividing a tessellated area within the room from a similar surface in the area that may be an extension to Room 3 South Corridor. On the east side of the room is a section of wall constructed with both very large flint stones and flat terracotta tiles and many large flints were found in the adjacent demolition rubble.

Trench 16

This trench was opened 15m east of Trench 7, beyond the field hedge in a car park area. It is 2m wide and 12m long. Surveys of this area using both magnetometry and resistivity had proved difficult due to areas of gravel and road metalling. However, substantial walls have been found within the trench and these may even represent the end of the villa building but more investigation is needed. A short section of east-west wall is likely to be the continuation of the exterior north wall of the building. This meets a substantial wall running southwards that was constructed using both large flint stones and large flat ceramic tiles (very similar to the wall in Room 8). An L-shaped wall feature also extends out beyond the north exterior wall. Up to 30 loose black and white mosaic tesserae were found on the east side of the trench, but no evidence of a mosaic. A similar deposit was found in the demolition rubble outside the bath house at the western end of the building. Possible drain features appear to extend east beyond the walls.

Discussion

The project is only part way through the investigation of Rooms 5-8 with more work needed in 2014 to uncover earlier phases. There is also the question of how far the building extends eastward and some progress has been made on this in Trench 16. The wall on the east side of Rooms 7 and 8 appeared in the 2011 resistance survey to extend right across the building raising the possibility that this was the western end of a separate, maybe earlier building. In fact all the internal walls excavated so far to the east of this wall line are entirely of chalk blocks, unlike those in the western part of the building where flints were used with some minor chalk packing. There is the possibility that this is an earlier building but more dating evidence is needed.

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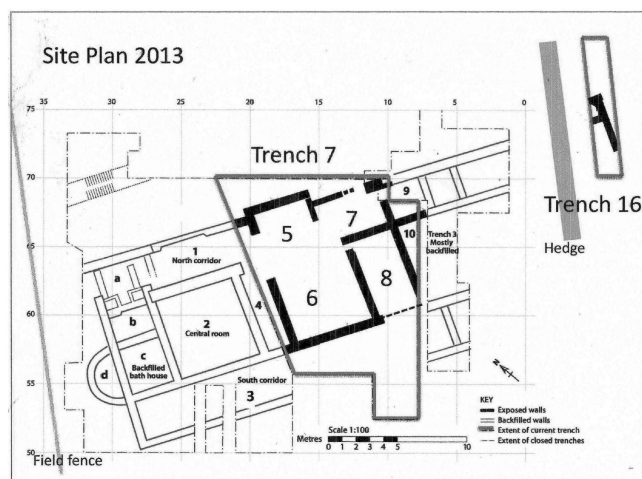


Fig 12. Gatehampton site plan 2013.

Oxfordshire

Stadhampton, Ascott Park

(SU 611 981)

Ian Clarke

Introduction

Ascott Park is close to the village of Stadhampton and about 12km south-east of Oxford. The park is owned by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) who commissioned Oxfordshire Buildings Trust (OBT) to carry out extensive historical and archaeological research, preparatory to improving public access and the opening of an Historical Trail in 2010. The site is well marked for those who travel along the B480 between Stadhampton and Chalgrove by a group of stone gate piers and pillars backing onto a wide, double avenue of lime trees stretching south into the distance but with no sign of a great house. The park is on the English Heritage (EH) Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, registered Grade II, list number 1001086. Various buildings and structures are also listed Grade II or II*, including a dovecot, a 'granary/icehouse' (or banqueting house) and a pavilion. For the full list see Bowden & Rardin 2007 or the EH website.

The history of the post-medieval occupants of Ascott Park, the Dormers and their successors, and the problems surrounding where they lived, has been ably summarised by John Sykes of OBT (Sykes 2008/2012). William Dormer commissioned a new house c 1660, complete with formal avenues and gardens laid out in the latest fashion, but the house accidentally burnt down in 1662 when close to completion and was never rebuilt. Despite much recent research, the precise location of this house is still disputed and remains unconfirmed.

Earlier work

In 2007, Mark Bowden of EH led an archaeological survey and investigation of Ascott Park on behalf of OBT (Bowden and Rardin, 2007). The survey elucidated the post-medieval history of the park, of particular interest here being those features relating to the extensive remodelling of the site at the time of the building of the new house by William Dormer. Bowden confidently locates the 1662 house on an axial alignment with the main avenue and gateway, at a rectangular hollow (or cellar) (21) fronting a linear earth bank (or terrace) (22) and overlooking formal gardens to the south. This is where 'local tradition' places the house (Judge 2001, 127).

[Note: The numbers in brackets are identifiers from the EH report included here for cross-referencing.]

Also in 2007, a geophysical survey was carried out by Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics (AAG). Earth resistance and magnetometer techniques were used to survey much of the area of the 17/18th century formal gardens, including the earth bank (22) and hollow (21) thought by EH and OBT to be the location of the 1662 house. Both methods detected important archaeological features: the magnetometry showed linear features relating to the garden layout and possible rubble spreads; the resistivity gave better results for both garden and possible building remains (Ainslie et al 2007; Ainslie 2008). In their report (2007), the Ainslies propose that "...areas of probable rubble and linear features...north of the earth bank" (22) indicate a large house

arranged around a rectangular courtyard, perhaps open to the east. This is thought unlikely by Mark Bowden who interprets the area as an 'entrance courtyard' for the house (Bowden and Rardin, 2007, 16).

In 2009, an excavation was organised by OBT and directed by independent archaeologist Brian Dix. The volunteers who took part in this excavation included a number of SOAG members. A number of trenches were opened to examine remains of the 17/18th century formal gardens, the earth bank (possible terrace) (22) and hollow (potential house site) (21). Dix's report summarises the results and findings, but he is unable to offer any firm conclusion regarding the location of the 1662 house (Dix, 2012). His long Trench 7 that sectioned the bank (22) and western end of the hollow (21), revealed the foundations of an outer retaining wall for the terrace-bank and clear evidence for a robbed-out surrounding wall in the hollow and possible flagstone floor. However, Dix proposes that the archaeological evidence: "...is consistent with the creation of a former basement or cellar in the early 18th century... [but] *that the project was unfinished, and possibly abandoned at an early stage*" (my italics). Dix suggests the 1662 house was perhaps located elsewhere and that the hollow may represent a second attempt to build a new house in the early 18th century (Dix, 2010/2012). An area of "building rubble" east of the hollow (21) and towards the 'granary' (34) is suggested as worth investigating as a possible site (Dix, 2009).

The results of the 2009 excavation may be usefully compared with those of an earlier excavation in 1969 by Susanna Everett and colleagues, when a long trench also sectioned the bank (22) and hollow (21) but at the eastern end. Significant quantities of rubble, mortar, burnt tile, ash, charred wood and melted lead were found within the bank. Rubble, brick, tile and mortar were also found in the hollow immediately north of the bank but the rest of the hollow was relatively clean. A coursed limestone and mortar wall 0.6m thick survived on the south side of the bank. On the south side of the hollow (north side of the bank) a coursed limestone and mortar wall 0.9m thick was revealed surviving to a height of c 2m, but no evidence was found for a wall on the north side of the hollow. Everett speculated as to whether the long, narrow bank could possibly be the remains of a house but found this difficult to believe. She firmly concluded: "It is certain, however, that contrary to local tradition there were no buildings in the hollow to the north of the bank" (Everett, 1969).

One final possibility, put forward in response to Dix's unsettling conclusions, was that the house might have been located at the southern end of the main avenue, looking across a formal garden towards the terrace bank; in which case the hollow could be the site of a grotto/pavilion (Clarke, 2011).

Preliminary geophysical work by SOAG

SOAG accepted an invitation from John Sykes of OBT to consider further fieldwork at Ascott Park with the primary aim of finally determining the location of the 1662 house. A preliminary geophysical survey was carried out in 2013 to assist with the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological work. The survey was an extension outwards (on all sides) of the ground resistance survey carried out by AAG in 2007, the data from the two surveys being merged. The primary purpose of the new survey was to see whether there were any rectilinear anomalies suggesting a substantial

building in the locations suggested by earlier researchers or in peripheral areas, but it also enhanced the important 'courtyard' area of AAG's results by placing it in a wider context.

Analysis of the enlarged dataset has revealed the following summary findings:

The high resistance in the rectilinear area north of the bank, interpreted by AAG as possible rubble spread, is simply the background response from well-draining surface soils and geology, which extend over a wide surrounding area. Ainslie's 'courtyard house' theory can be safely discounted.

There is no evidence to indicate a house at the southern end of the main avenue. Clarke's alternative theory can also be safely discounted.

The magnetometry response towards the 'granary', interpreted by AAG as possible rubble spread, does not suggest a house site. There is resistivity evidence for walls in this general area related to the 17/18th century remodelling: it seems likely that the walled enclosure of the early house was reduced in size at some date and that another wall is an integral part of the terrace/house in the hollow. Further investigation is needed.

There is evidence of one, possibly two, buildings in the southern area of the formal gardens but these appear to predate the 17/18th century terraced gardens. They will need further investigation at some stage.

The geophysical evidence in general firmly supports the interpretation of a double-pile house with basement and ground-floor terrace in the 'traditional' location, as proposed by Bowden (EH).

SOAG will proceed with the last as the working hypothesis, including the probability that the terraced gardens and avenues are an integral part of a mid/late 17th century 'grand design'. A thorough reappraisal of all of the earlier work is underway preparatory to formulating the research strategy.

A secondary (detached) survey in 2013 in the north-east corner of the park attempted to locate the site/ground plan of the lost medieval chapel but without success. Any substantial remains may have been ploughed out.

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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 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 examining the village settlement and its surrounding fields as a whole. During 2012's project seasons, the second year of the expansion of the project, six main areas of land within the village were examined through the use of resistivity surveys. These included: St Denys Church cemetery; The Manor House; The Millennium Green; Church Green; Penstones Court; and the school playing field. Within these areas a large quantity of possible archaeological features were identified, dating from the Roman to the modern periods. Furthermore, excavation work was undertaken at Cox's Hall, to examine the demolished western wing of the 17th century house, and two trenches within the field at Ashdown house, one of which (Tr13) revealed extensive medieval and Saxon remains. Lastly, the first seven test pits were dug within gardens in the village, giving a large amount of new insight to the underlying archaeology and heritage of the settlement from the Mesolithic to modern periods.

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, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR); full excavation work from the results of the geophysical surveys undertaken in 2011; and test pitting at nine sites in the village. This article will also discuss the work that is proposed to be carried out during the 2014 project season.

St Denys Church (SU 341 935)

The GPR survey was undertaken over the internal floors of the church, within the nave, chancel and aisle. The survey was carried out at 0.5m transects with readings being taken at 2.5cm intervals, to a depth of 3m. From the survey data, four main groups of features were identified. The first of the features identified is the modern heating pipes, just underlying the floors. The second is the underlying geology, Stanford formation limestone, seen at 2m below the current floor surface. The third group of features is a series of three vaulted graves, including a possible chancel deposit, measuring up to 2m in depth. These are thought to relate to grave slabs overlying these features on the church floor.

The final and most significant feature identified, from the data plots, and in turn the most important, is the possible foundations of the early 12th century church, which was demolished during the 14th century. As seen in the time slice (see Fig 13), a series of possible wall features, forming a rectilinear shape, were identified on the plot from 0.5 m to 2m below the current ground surface. The plot is thought to indicate the chancel and nave of the 12th century church, with the radar reflections indicating that the walls are over 1m thick and built on to the solid underlying geology. This anomaly is significant, as it indicates well preserved archaeology underlying the current 14th century church on the site.

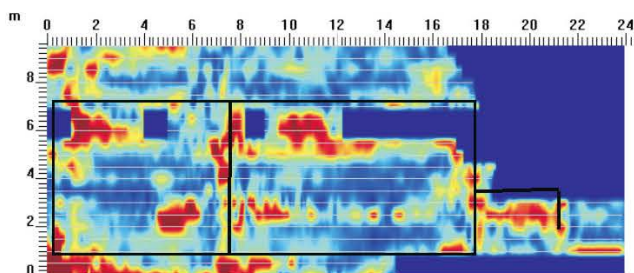


Fig 13. GPR time slice 1.30-1.40m, indicating an early stone structure underlying the present church. This may possibly be the foundations of the 12th century church on the site (walls indicated by Black lines).

Excavations

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.

Ashdown House (Trench 15) (SU 342 934)

Trench 15 was excavated within the field of Ashdown house, adjacent to the Millennium Green and Manor House. The trench was excavated to examine two main features, the first a structure seen on the 1800's historic mapping, known in the village as the "Elizabethan Kitchen" and the second to examine a high resistance anomaly identified on the resistivity plot, of the field. The trench excavated was L-shaped and 2m wide by 5m long, with the post-excavation plan seen in Fig 14.

The archaeology within the trench was found to be split into six main phases. Phases 6 and 5 formed the two phases of a stone building, dated to the post medieval period (Fig 14). Of these Phase 5 relates to the earliest structure, of stone

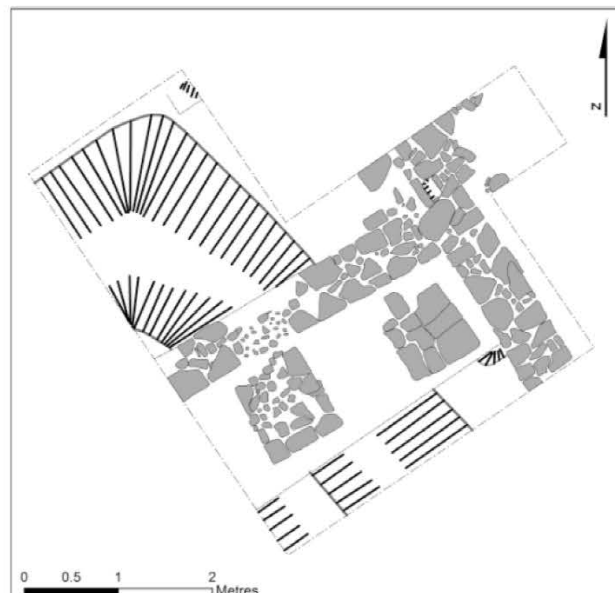


Fig 14. Post excavation plan of Tr15, Ashdown House, showing foundations of a post medieval structure, overlying the Roman settlement boundary ditch (red lines).

construction and a minimum of two rooms. The second phase of this structure (Phase 6) indicated that the earlier structure was partially demolished, with the interior wall becoming an exterior wall, with a series of stone buttresses being added to give further structural strength. This building is thought to be the structure indicated on the 1800's map. Underlying this structure was Phase 4, a medieval deposit, including a pit and truncated ditch feature. This layer was about 0.5m deep and contained over 66g of medieval pottery as well as worked bone related to either leather or cloth working. This phase of activity is thought to relate to the other medieval deposits within the field, and so indicated medieval activity within the area. Phase 3, of which underlies Phase 4, was comprised of a Saxon deposit as well as a single post hole. This deposit contained large quantities of Saxon pottery, as well as a rubbing stone, indicating leather working, glass slag indicating glass working, and charred barley seed (*pers comm*, C Bird), recovered from the environmental samples, indicating brewing. To date this is the largest volume of Saxon pottery found within a single area of the settlement, and may indicated a high amount of Saxon activity within the area of the Manor House at this time.

The final main phase of activity, Phase 2, which was dug into Phase 1 the underlying solid geology, was found to be the corner of a deep, v-shaped, ankle-breaker, Roman ditch (see red lines on Fig 14). The ditch contained not only Roman pottery, but also Roman floor tile and both iron and glass working slag. The archaeological evidence also indicated the presence of a bank which is thought to have been pushed into the ditch, when it was back filled. The identification of this feature within the trench is highly significant, as it indicates a much larger Roman settlement, underlying Stanford in the Vale than previously thought. Prior to this find, the settlement was only thought to be a single farmstead, but now is thought to be a much larger Roman settlement, with a high likelihood that the modern High Street running through the settlement is overlying and on a similar alignment to the Roman high street running through the centre of the settlement.

Test Pitting (Test pits 8 to 16)

During the 2013 project season, nine test pits were dug in the gardens of properties within the modern village settlement. These test pits were located based on permission, available access and space for the test pits and spoil heap. Each test pit was 1m 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, apart from TP16, and all apart from four of the test pits also contained medieval pottery. The test pits which did not contain any medieval pottery were mostly within the gardens of modern housing. The exception to this was TP 11, dug in the garden of Stanford mill, which showed no evidence for an earlier mill on the site than the present one in the 17th century. Furthermore, a large quantity of Saxon pottery was also recovered from the test pits with quantities ranging from fifteen to two sherds per individual test pit. This evidence is important, as it indicated a much larger Saxon settlement than previously thought, with TP 9 indicating that the Saxon settlement spread further North and TP 14 shows it spreads further east than previously thought. Lastly, a large volume of Roman pottery has also been recovered from the test pitting. This data shows a spread of Roman pottery deposits across the whole village settlement and Roman ceramic building material has also been found. This material is thought to relate to the Roman settlement of Stanford, however, due to most of the Saxon and medieval deposits being sited directly on top of the natural geology, it is thought that the early Roman activity has largely been removed.

Flint material dating from the Bronze Age was also found, including a minimum of three flint scrapers, as well as a large quantity of flint debitage. Slag from copper, glass and iron working was also found, mostly dating to the post-medieval period; however one large fragment of copper slag was found in TP 9, dated from the pottery in the same layer to the medieval period. Also, fragments of brick kiln slag were recovered from TP 9, in relation with over 60kg of brick fragments, related to Stanford brick works. Animal bone from cattle, sheep, pig, bird, deer, rodent and rabbit were also recovered, on which a large amount of new bone growth was observed on some fragments from medieval contexts. This is thought to indicate systemic diseases within the animal population of this period, however further scientific analysis is needed to confirm the exact disease type which is causing this. Lastly, small finds were also recovered from the test pits

ID	TP Number	Roman pot Quantity	Saxon Pot Quantity	Medieval Pot Quantity	Post Medieval Pot Quantity
8	8	9	5	38	52
9	9	2	9	9	1
10	10	1	1	0	11
11	11	0	0	0	8
12	12	4	6	46	8
13	13	2	0	0	2
14	14	2	15	17	2
15	15	0	0	0	1
16	16	2	2	2	0

Table 1. This table shows the quantities of pottery by period recovered from each test pit to date from Stanford in the Vale.

including: lead objects; copper alloy objects, including an aglet, button and WWII bullet casing; worked bone; two post medieval coins; and an iron knife.

Discrete features were also found within the test pits. These included a medieval stone wall at the base of TP 12, thought to be the foundation of a timber building, adjacent to the church; and two large post holes at the base of TP 14, dated to the Saxon period, and thought to be part of a Saxon structure/building. Two further modern pits, containing modern building rubble deposits were also found in TP 8 and TP 15.

Summary of data

From the data presented above it can be seen that the archaeology within the village is extremely important, and dates from the Mesolithic to post-mediaeval periods. The data collected from the 2013 project season has increased our knowledge of Stanford in the Vale's history during the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. From the Roman period it has been shown that the settlement is much larger than previously thought, and surrounded by a deep ankle-breaker ditch and earthen rampart bank. From the projection of this ditch it is indicated that the modern High Street in the village corresponds with the centre of the Roman settlement so is likely to overlie the Roman road. Moving into the Saxon period, from both the trenching and test pitting it has been seen that the settlement was much larger than previously thought, projecting up into the northern part of the settlement at Upper Green and with a substantial timber post building in the east (TP 14). It has also been demonstrated from the Tr 15 that the area surrounding the Manor House has a series of significant Saxon deposits, indication abundant Saxon activity in the centre of the settlement. Further medieval archaeology, associated with the medieval town was also found, increasing our knowledge of the settlement of the period. This includes the significant identification of the foundations of the 12th century church 0.5m below the current church floor surfaces and a possible medieval stone building adjacent to the church cemetery (TP 12). All the archaeological techniques utilised at Stanford have shown that the settlement during the medieval period was much larger in size, with a significant sized population, undertaking industry and other activities in the settlement. Finally, archaeological work has allowed a much better understanding of the post-medieval archaeology within the village. Two examples of this are TP 11 which indicated that the adjacent Stanford Mill does not date back to the medieval period, as previously thought, and is only 17th century in date; and secondly identification of the two phase stone structure adjacent to the current Manor House, possibly an ancillary building surrounding the manor.

Summary of project to date

Through the work undertaken on the project since 2008 a large quantity of archaeological remains, dating from the Mesolithic period to the modern day, has 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, 2011)

Oxfordshire

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 shifted 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 and north of the current settlement, right up to Upper Green, and surrounding both the church and Manor House, and the medieval settlement spreading more than 600m further south than at present. 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 2013 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 shrunk from a town in the medieval period to a small village settlement in the later post-medieval period.

Aims of 2014 Excavations

During the 2014 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 buried archaeology of the settlement. This will mainly be carried out using resistivity survey; however GPR will also further be utilised where suitable sites are 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 identification of the 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. Also excavations will be undertaken in a second field in the village to determine the extent of a possible medieval mill found during the Priors Farm Excavations of 2009, with permission only recently being granted to access this adjacent field.

Thirdly, further test pitting will be undertaken within the village, mainly in built up areas or areas of difficult access 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. 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 2013 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 within the area of the church.

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 field work and post excavation on the project, including Dave Grant, Dr Katie Tucker, Briony Lalor; Nathalie Barrett, Giles Carey; Nick Watson and Mike Brace. Lastly, thanks should also be given to my colleagues, the students and staff of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Winchester, as without their help it would not be possible to undertake the project and Chris Bird of Sparsholt College for identification of archaeobotanic remains.

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Abingdon, Abingdon Guildhall, Abbey Close (SU 4988 9706)

Genni Elliott

Building survey to assess the impact of proposed internal modifications to the Guildhall recorded a complicated set of rooms housed in several different buildings that have been gradually linked together over a long period of time. Substantial alterations in the 1730s, 1758, 1911 and the 1960s internally, and the removal of buildings to the east and west in the 1930s shaped the exterior façade. Remains of part of the Abbey wall may form part of the east wall of the Roysse Room, judging by its thickness, comparable with that of the Abbey Gateway. The survey confirmed that the walls to be removed were modern or had already undergone substantial modification.

Alvescot, St Peter's Church (SP 2738 0460)

Andrew Mundin

Two phases of watching brief were maintained. Ground reduction on the north-west exterior of the church exposed four 18th/19th century high status graves, three of which contained lead coffins in brick chambers. Two of these had been previously marked with tomb slabs. A piece of decorated masonry on the western edge of the excavation could represent part of an early phase of the church. During pipe trenching, partial remains of four more graves were identified, as were three ditches, along with a face of the tower's buttress foundation. The graves are not well dated and limited analysis of the remains was possible. Pottery

from the ditches indicates that they are at least of Medieval date and broadly contemporary with the earliest standing elements of the Church. A blocked window was uncovered in a filled-in recess on the northern portico exterior wall. A small collection of Roman, Saxon and Medieval pottery was recovered.

Aston Upthorpe, Frimley Stables, Thorpe Street
(SU5530 8640)

David Platt

A number of features of certain and probable archaeological interest were revealed in evaluation trenching, with a range of dates represented. The earliest feature is a ditch tentatively of Bronze Age date with others certainly and probably of Roman and medieval dates. A chalk-lined well is undated. A watching brief is still in progress.

Bicester, Land at Old Place Yard (SP 5840 2220)

Andrew Weale

Evaluation demonstrated the substantial survival of the fabric of the medieval priory with wall foundations, floor bedding surfaces and other features including two ovens along with stone robbing trenches and demolition deposits from its dissolution. A small volume of finds and features represent activity pre-dating the Augustinian priory complex (late 12th century), with Iron Age and Saxon pottery present and a hollow-way recorded.

Bicester, Land at South Lodge Stables, Caversfield
(SP 5837 2503)

Tim Dawson

A small number of positive linear anomalies were identified through magnetometer survey. These may represent ditches but they do not form any obvious pattern which would identify a specific type of site.

Bicester, St Edburg's Church (SP 5831 2227)

Andrew Mundin

Observations at the church included a new exterior pipe trench and internal works. In the pipe trench, ten partial articulated graves and skeletons were recorded, of possible medieval and more certain post-medieval date. Three brick-lined crypts are dated no earlier than the 18th century. A large quantity of disarticulated human bone and some medieval and post-medieval pottery was also recorded. Within the church, three test pits were dug. One of these encountered a small patch of mortared bedding for a floor and another uncovered an interment probably of 18th century date. A small collection of medieval and post-medieval floor tiles was recovered from the test pits.

Bicester, Langford Park Farm, London Road
(SP 5845 2134)

Andrew Mundin

A small area excavation (following an evaluation reported in SMA 40) is in the early stages of post-excavation.

Bix, Leys Stables, Old Bix Road (SU 7323 8516)

Daniel Bray

No archaeological features were revealed and no finds of any date recovered from evaluation trenches.

Cholsey, The Elms, West End (SU 5807 8609)

Tim Dawson

A single undated ditch was recorded in a watching brief.

Culham, Land at Abingdon Road (SU 535 945)

Andy Taylor

Evaluation trenching over a large site has just been completed. Bronze Age ring ditches already known from cropmarks were confirmed on the western side of the site with Iron Age/Roman enclosure complexes in the south. Sporadic features across the rest of the site include a Neolithic pit, Roman linear features, pits and cremations. Finds of all periods were few.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 32-36 High Street

(SU 5779 9438)

Jo Pine and Tim Dawson

Excavations in advance of a housing development revealed Roman occupation in the form of postholes, pits and five inhumation burials in two shallow pits. There is a hint of earlier Roman occupation but the majority dates from the later Roman period, including the burials. A single sherd of Saxon pottery came from a late post-medieval pit. Medieval use of the area takes the form of a complex of inter-cutting pits; the earliest dating from the late 12th-14th century with a 14th-16th century phase also recorded. Later post-medieval quarrying of the brickearth was also revealed. The fieldwork sheds light on the sequence of development of the Roman and medieval topography of the town, especially in relation to occupation in the extramural Roman settlement to the north of the town walls. Although no building remains of medieval date were recorded, the density of intercutting pits together with possible lime mortar mixing pits suggests intensive backland activity throughout the medieval period behind houses fronting the High Street. A full publication report is in preparation. A subsequent watching brief confirmed that the works did not penetrate to the archaeological horizon.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 50 Watling Lane (SU 5762 9398)

Andrew Mundin

No archaeological finds or deposits were uncovered during a watching brief.

Eynsham, 13-15 Mill Street (SP 4320 0937)

Susan Porter

An evaluation revealed only an undated pit, and a stream channel or pond, infilled in late post-medieval times.

Oxfordshire

Eynsham, 17 Mill Street (SP 4320 0940)
Tim Dawson

Medieval ditches, pits and postholes were recorded in an evaluation. An early post-medieval stone-lined drain, a later post-medieval well and various more recent features were also noted.

Finnmere, Finnere Quarry Extension, Banbury Road (SP 6220 3220)
Steve Ford

Evaluation trenching revealed a small complex of archaeological deposits at the northern end of the site. These closely match a series of curvilinear and circular anomalies identified by geophysical survey, but with additional small features beyond this zone. Sample excavation revealed they were of later Iron Age date. Other geophysical anomalies elsewhere on the site were not obviously of archaeological origin. A few Neolithic or Bronze Age struck flints and a single sherd of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the spoilheaps.

Harwell, Harwell Science Park, new antennae site (SU 4825 8675)
Andy Taylor

Nothing of interest has so far been observed in a watching brief which is not yet complete.

Henley, Phyllis Court (SU 7624 8323)
Andrew Mundin

A watching brief is still in progress.

Launton, Manor Farm (SP 6035 2285)
Andrew Mundin and Aiji Castle

A single undated ditch was observed during a watching brief.

Marcham, Upwood Park, Tubney, Phase 3 (SU 4550 9999)
James McNicoll-Norbury

A gully, a pit, a cremation and a possible grave were recorded in ongoing work at this quarry site (see *SMA* 42). The gully appears to be the remains of a prehistoric linear system, and the cremation may be of a similar period. Further work is expected to permit the features to be more closely datable.

Merton, Pavitar Nivas, Main Street (SP 5790 1792)
Tim Dawson

No archaeological finds or deposits have so far been found in a watching brief which is not yet complete.

Mongewell, The Wall House (SU 6120 8797)
David Platt

Nothing of archaeological interest was discovered during the latest phase of a watching brief (see *SMA* 43 for previous work).

Moulsford, Pipeline between Woods Farm, Streatley (West Berkshire) and Moulsford Reservoir (SU5825 7952 to SU5893 8326)
David Platt

Excavations in advance of pipelaying revealed a prehistoric ring ditch and pits; and a medieval ditch.

Oxford, All Souls College (SP 5171 0631)
Genni Elliott

Observation of the route of a cable trench revealed a post-medieval buried soil. Excavation was not deep enough to reach natural geology. A small quantity of medieval and later pottery and other artefacts was recovered.

Oxford, 28 Abberbury Road, Iffley (SP 5309 0362)
Andy Taylor

No deposits or finds of an archaeological interest were observed in an evaluation.

Oxford, Land adjacent to Littlemore Hospital, Littlemore (SP 5320 0261)
Tim Dawson, Steve Ford

Evaluation trenching confirmed the presence of an Iron Age 'banjo' enclosure identified by geophysical survey earlier in the year. A ditch of medieval date and a possible Roman cremation burial were also recorded. A single struck flint and small quantities of Roman, Saxon and medieval pottery were also recovered.

Old Marston, Bricklayer's Arms, Butts Lane (SP 5275 0895)
James Lewis and Steve Preston

An excavation of 0.22ha revealed a dense cluster of medieval pits, postholes and linear features, probably dating from the 11th-14th centuries. A single sherd of Roman pottery was also present.

Old Marston, 31 Church Lane (SP 5275 0900)
David Platt

Excavation of a small site (0.18ha) allowed a small cluster of pits, postholes and linear features, ranging from the 11th to the 14th centuries AD, to be recorded, together with a few features dating from the later 15th or 16th century. Some time depth to the formation of the medieval features was evident from the pottery assemblage and stratigraphy. The medieval features relate to those from the Bricklayer's Arms excavations just to the south (above) and suggest parcelling

of the landscape in this part of Marston, to form paddocks or more likely property boundaries. TVAS Occasional Paper 4 detailing the two Marston sites has gone to press at time of writing this.

Standlake, 133 Abingdon Road (SP 3921 0294)

Andrew Mundin

No archaeological finds or deposits were uncovered during a watching brief.

Steventon, Hill Farm Solar Park (SU 4525 9111)

Susan Porter, James McNicoll-Norbury

No archaeological deposits or finds have so far been observed in an ongoing watching brief.

Sutton Courtenay, Peewit Farm, Drayton Road

(SU 48949 94054)

Susan Porter

Evaluation discovered deposits of Early Saxon date (a pit and a posthole, with other undated features possibly contemporary), probably representing an occupation site. A single prehistoric struck flint was also recovered.

Thame, The Old Pound Cottage, 46 Wellington Street (SP 7092 0580)

Andrew Mundin

A few sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from made ground deposits during a watching brief.

Wallingford, Wallingford Rowing Club, Thames Street

(SU 6085 8921)

Aidan Colyer, Tim Dawson and Andy Taylor

Much of the work observed in a watching brief did not penetrate to the archaeologically relevant level. Only at the extreme west of the site was natural gravel observed, and here three small features were recorded, probably dating to the late Saxon or very early Norman period.

Wallingford, The Glebe, Reading Road (SU 6068 8892)

Genni Elliott

A single sherd of medieval pottery was the only find from a watching brief

Wantage, 46 Newbury Street (SU 3978 8757)

Natasha Bennett, Andrew Mundin, Genni Elliott

Following evaluation last year, no further features of archaeological interest were encountered during the groundworks. Medieval pottery, a post-medieval copper alloy earring and possible Roman glass fragments were recovered from exposed sections in southern parts of the site.

Witney, Northfield Farm (SP 3675 1041)

Daniel Bray

Linear features of later Roman date were discovered in evaluation trenching. The archaeological features were located beneath a thickness of modern made ground

Yarnton, Little Marsh Playing Field, Yarnton Lane

(SP 4845 1233)

Genni Elliott

Nothing of archaeological significance was found in evaluation trenching.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Carterton, RAF Brize Norton, Project S0015

(SP 2865 0645)

N Brennan

No archaeological features were recorded during a sample investigative watching brief undertaken by Wessex Archaeology during groundworks at the proposed Simulator Training Buildings, RAF Brize Norton. Initial ground reduction was observed in the eastern part of the site, and some excavation for foundation trenches and pads was observed in the western part.

Chinnor, Land at Oakley Road (SP 7518 0005)

G Shaw

A detailed gradiometer survey conducted by Wessex Archaeology over 8ha of land, in two fields, at Oakley Road, Chinnor, revealed two subrectangular enclosures in the northern part of the survey area. Numerous isolated pit-like and fragmentary linear anomalies, both within and close to the enclosures, are of uncertain archaeological origin. A former field boundary was identified in the eastern part of the survey area, and other possible former boundaries can also be seen, along with other isolated anomalies considered to be of possible archaeological interest. Ploughing trends oriented parallel with existing boundaries were recorded throughout the survey area, probably associated with modern agricultural activity. A large amount of ferrous debris in the smaller field, in the north-west of the survey area, may have obscured archaeological features in this area, although a possible former boundary has been identified crossing the centre of the field. The magnetic disturbance associated with a former railway was noted bordering the south-eastern boundary of the survey area.

Grove, Land West of Bellinger's Garage (SU 4055 9085)

A Tuck

An archaeological evaluation by Wessex Archaeology of 3ha of land west of Bellinger's Garage, Grove, revealed numerous ditches and gullies. Small sherds of undiagnostic pottery, in a shelly fabric used in the South Midlands during the Iron Age and Romano-British period, were recovered from the surface of an unexcavated feature, possibly a ditch. However, although an Iron Age settlement is known nearby

Oxfordshire

at Monk's Farm, Grove, there was no other evidence from the evaluation for Iron Age activity, and the pottery is considered more likely to be Romano-British in date. A substantial Romano-British ditch, 3.8m wide and 1.2m deep and aligned approximately north-south, was recorded across two trenches in the western part of the site, from which was recovered Romano-British pottery (from the Oxfordshire pottery industry), a fragment of Romano-British ceramic building material and animal bone. A smaller ditch, also containing Romano-British pottery, ran perpendicular to it towards the east, appearing to form part of an enclosure/field system; some of the other, undated ditches and gullies, a number of which shared the same orientations, may be associated. A number of post-medieval former field boundary ditches and field drains were also recorded.

Land at Shrivenham (SU 2435 8873)

R Lefort

A detailed gradiometer survey conducted by Wessex Archaeology over 3.4ha of pasture off Longcot Road, Shrivenham, revealed pit-like anomalies and a number of linear anomalies that may represent former field boundaries. Most of the other anomalies appear to relate to relatively recent agriculture.

AVON ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT LTD

Cowley, Site off Barn's Road (SP 54368 03954)

Andrew Young

Archaeological evaluation on behalf of the GreenSquare Group, at a site of proposed development located off Barn's Road, Cowley, Oxford, centred at SP 54368 03954. The project was carried out prior to the determination of a planning application for the redevelopment of the site and in order to establish the potential archaeological impact of future development, in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The evaluation project followed on from the results of a preceding Desk-based Assessment and a preliminary geotechnical survey, the latter indicating that the majority of the site was overlain by up to 500mm of recent made ground that in turn overlay the natural geology, the Beckley Sand series. The Desk-based study revealed that the site is located in an area where significant evidence of the nationally important Roman pottery industry in Oxford, including the remains of pottery production kilns, has been identified previously although no statutory designations affected either the site itself or its immediate area. Map evidence shows that from the early 17th century to at least the early 20th century, the majority of the site consisted of agricultural land, with a cluster of buildings of unknown function occupying the southern third of the site from the mid-19th century onwards. The site was most recently occupied by the Cowley Community Centre, a building erected in the late 1960s and demolished in 2010.

Four trial trenches were opened by machine, in accordance with a brief issued by the City Archaeological Officer, in order to establish the presence or absence of significant buried archaeological deposits on the site and, if present,

their location, extent, quality, degree of survival, date range and overall archaeological importance, and consequent potential impact on the future development. A simple stratigraphic sequence was revealed in three of the four trenches, consisting of made ground, overlying a sandy subsoil, which in turn overlay the undisturbed natural sand substrate. Two of these three trenches also contained a buried soil layer, sealed by the made ground deposit. In the fourth trench, this stratigraphy had been largely truncated by a substantial modern cutting, which encompassed most of the area of the trench.

The trenches revealed a number of shallowly buried archaeological structures, deposits and cut-soil features, none of which provided specific evidence for the locally based Romano-British pottery production industry. The principal archaeological features located consisted of two limestone wall foundations, probably representing the remains of the buildings shown on maps of 19th century date, a pit and a ditch of Romano-British date in Trenches 1 and 4, and an earlier, but undated gully in Trench 1. The Roman ditch or pit in Trench 1 truncated a gully, indicative of earlier, but undated activity. Modern features included a concrete machine base, with associated cut in Trench 1, and modern brick and concrete footings in Trench 4, the latter associated with a large modern disturbance.

Finds were limited and largely restricted to a small assemblage of medieval and Romano-British pottery, mostly retrieved from Trench 1. The majority of the Romano-British sherds were recovered from the large pit of ditch-terminal Trench 1. Two further Roman sherds were retrieved from a ditch terminal in Trench 4. On the basis of the pottery the Roman activity was dated to the later period, the 3rd to 4th centuries AD, although the small number of sherds



Fig 15. Barn's Road, Cowley Evaluation Trench 1. Post-medieval structures and Romano-British deposits.

recovered suggests that activity was located outside the local focus of Roman settlement.

On the basis of the evidence gathered during the project it was concluded that none of the trenches located archaeological remains directly related to the Oxford Romano-British pottery industry, or deposits associated with Roman pottery production. Furthermore, none of the trenches revealed buried archaeological deposits or structures that could be considered to be of national importance or indeed of sufficient quality to justify preservation in-situ at the expense of future development. OXCMS 2013.47

DID BOUDICA AND PAULINUS MEET SOUTH OF DUNSTABLE?

Barry Horne

Between 1968 and 1971 I did a good deal of driving on the A5 and at some point, lost in the mists of time, I was struck by how the valley near the Caddington turn would make a good battlefield.

Nothing more came of this idea until 2004 when Dunstable Town Council decided that History Week would have the theme "Dunstable at War". Dunstable obviously did its bit in wars. The vicar was shot at in the Civil War, tank tracks were made in WWI and Spitfire canopies were made in WWII. The Meteorological Office was located at Dunstable in WWII with a thunderstorm detector on Dunstable Downs disguised as a haystack. Not much to get your teeth into from an archaeological point of view.

I was the Honorary Secretary of the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable at the time and by 2004 I had learned that the Boudican battle was associated with a "defile" which seemed to be interpreted as a valley. Boudica had sacked Verulamium so could my "battlefield" south of Dunstable be where she met her Waterloo? Not according to accepted wisdom which favoured a site near Mancetter in the Midlands. At the time of the Boudican revolt the Roman army was in Anglesey getting rid of the druids. Tacitus (Tacitus, 109) briefly describes the activities of the Britons and Romans. The last thing we hear about the Britons, prior to the battle, is that they are at Verulamium. Paulinus on hearing of the revolt hurries south with a small number of

soldiers and reaches Londinium before the rebels sack it. He abandons Londinium and Verulamium to their fate. Where is Paulinus, with his small number of soldiers, and the main Roman army, between now and the battle? Is it conceivable that Paulinus retreated to the Midlands to wait, with his army, for the Britons to travel up the route of the modern A5 for the battle? I believe the answer is emphatically "No".

Countdown to Battle

My suggestion that an exhibition about the Boudican battle form the centre piece of our Dunstable at War contribution was not greeted with enthusiasm. However, as no one had a better idea we went with it. The crucial question was "is it possible for the Roman army, marching south, to reach Dunstable before the rebel army heading north"? By allowing time for each of the different activities of both sides it is possible to draw up a timeline. From this it is possible to see that the Roman army can reach the Dunstable area in 18 days and the rebels in 19 days with the battle on day 20 of the rebellion. See Fig 1.

The exhibition in the Priory Church featured this timeline and pictures of the battle drawn by Tony Woodhouse. The Dunstable Gazette of June 2nd 2004 included an article under the headline "Was this the site of Boudicca's last battle?" (O'Donoghue, 2004). It was a good article. Unfortunately the circulation of the Dunstable Gazette does not reach the archaeological world so nothing came of the idea and it languished until the 22nd February 2013.

Dunstable gets its fifteen minutes of glory

On the 22nd February 2013 I received an email notification of a conference entitled "ON BOUDICA'S TRAIL: INNOVATIVE RESEARCH - A one-day conference on recent work at Mancetter, with historical and military context" on Saturday June 29th 2013 at the University of Warwick.

The flyer said that alternative battle sites were going to be included as poster presentations. These were three in number and Dunstable was not one of them. I contacted the organiser and told her about my theory concerning Dunstable and asked how I could submit it for consideration. Margaret Hughes, the organiser, replied that it was a mainly Mancetter day and that the three sites listed on the flyer were local to the area. It had not been anticipated that people like me would come forward with alternative battle sites they would want to present. She explained that the programme was full but suggested it might be possible to include additional poster

presentations of alternative suggestions. The organisers changed the programme slightly so that short presentations and poster displays were made on six alternative sites. I was not able to attend the conference but Dunstable got an airing as a poster and a handout. The day was chaired by Dr Stanley Ireland who drew the attention of those attending to the alternative battlefield suggestions. He drew particular attention to Dunstable.

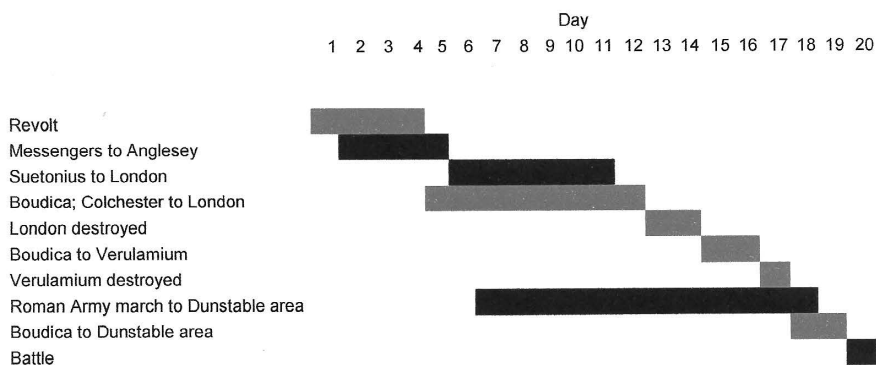


Fig 1. Sequence of events between revolt and battle. From this it is possible to see that the Roman army could have reached the Dunstable area before the rebel army.

Boudica and Paulinus Battle Site

Conference reaction

As a result of the conference I was contacted on 1st July 2013 by Grahame Appleby who attended the conference and presented his own theory that the battle took place near Arbury Banks, near Ashwell. He sent me a copy of his article for comment (Appleby, 2009).

On 6th July 2013 I was contacted by Nathan Ross, who did not attend the conference, but had been told of my contribution. Amazingly he had come to the same conclusion as me that the battle was just south of Dunstable. He had been debating the site for about two years on the online forum Roman Army Matters. He also sent me a copy of an article (Ross).

On 11th July 2013 Ian Dexter, who had attended the conference, sent me an email after he had visited the site and been fired with enthusiasm by it. He wanted to know what was being done to prove it was the battlefield. Over the next few days he and Peter Burton, another Battlefield Trust member, visited farmers and headteachers at the schools in the area to get permission to metal detect. Things happened very quickly.

Ian and Peter visited me on 23rd July 2013. I told them everything I knew about the archaeology of the site. This came mainly from the fieldwalking which had been done. Very little had been found. The farmer at Turnpike Farm had told Ian and Peter of fired clay balls which he had found when trees were being grubbed up on Blows Down lincies. We realised these may be sling shot and possibly dateable by

thermoluminescence techniques. Sadly, a search failed to find them.

An informal group called The Watling Street Project was set up with Ian Dexter as the Chairman and me as Archaeological Advisor to investigate this and other Watling Street sites.

I contacted Stephen Coleman (Historic Environment Information Officer) who kindly provided HER information for the suggested battlefield area. There was nothing obviously battlefield related.

A search of the Portable Antiquities Scheme website gave the same result.

After Verulamium

After sacking Verulamium the Iceni must have had a number of emotions. They had bested the Romans in three actions so there must have been those, perhaps the majority, who wanted to go on and finish the job. After all there was the army which had been in Anglesey. Where was that? There must also have been those who wanted to return home with their loot. I suspect those who wished to continue would have held sway. Silchester must have been a tempting target if they wished to continue their orgy of destruction. By choosing to attack Silchester they would have been heading away from home. One might also ask why the Iceni did not attack Silchester after London as there is a Roman Road between the two. Might they instead wish to engage the

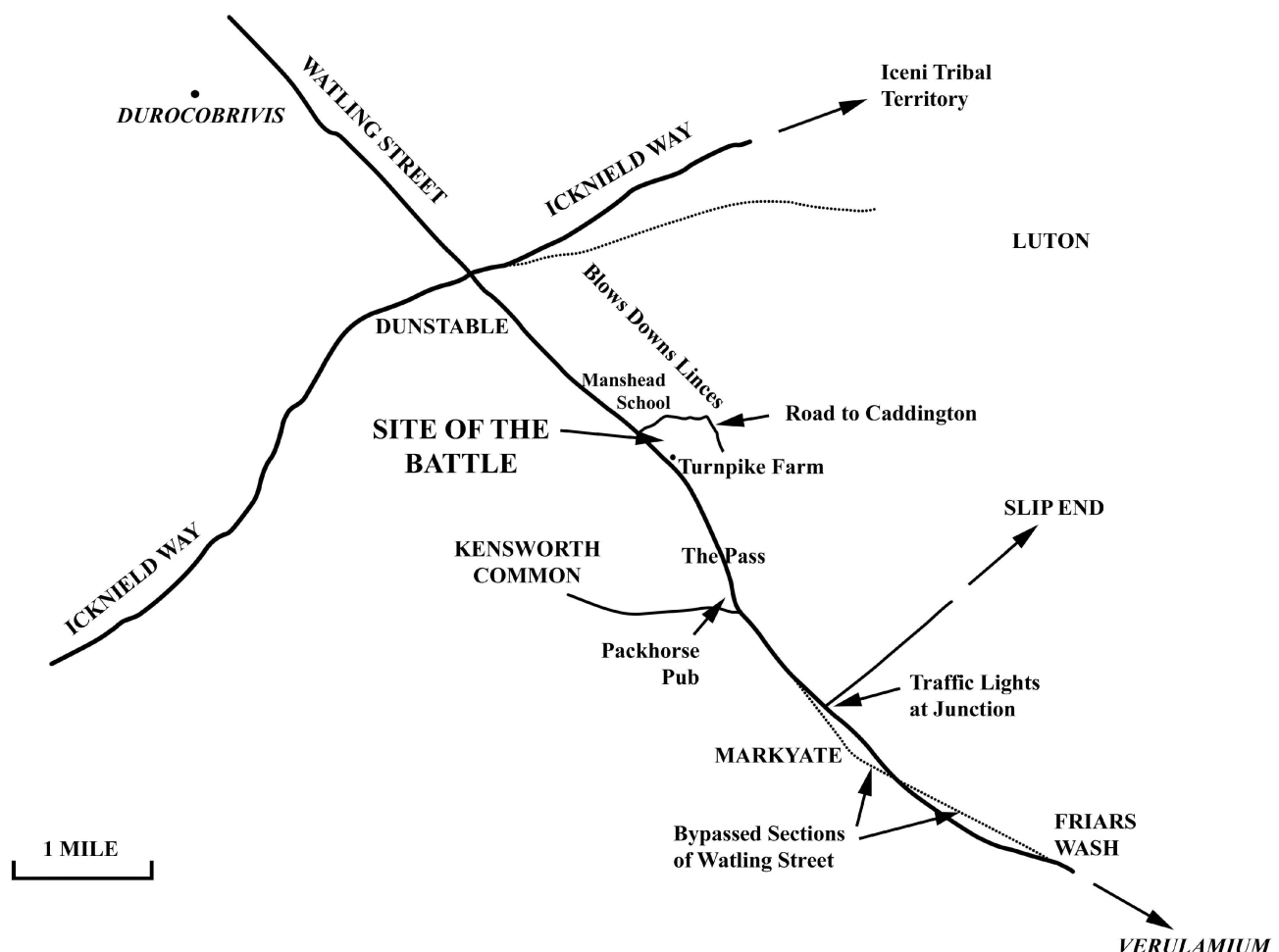


Fig 2. Sketch map of the area south of Dunstable showing the places mentioned in the text.



Fig 3. View looking south across the battlefield towards Turnpike Farm. (BH)

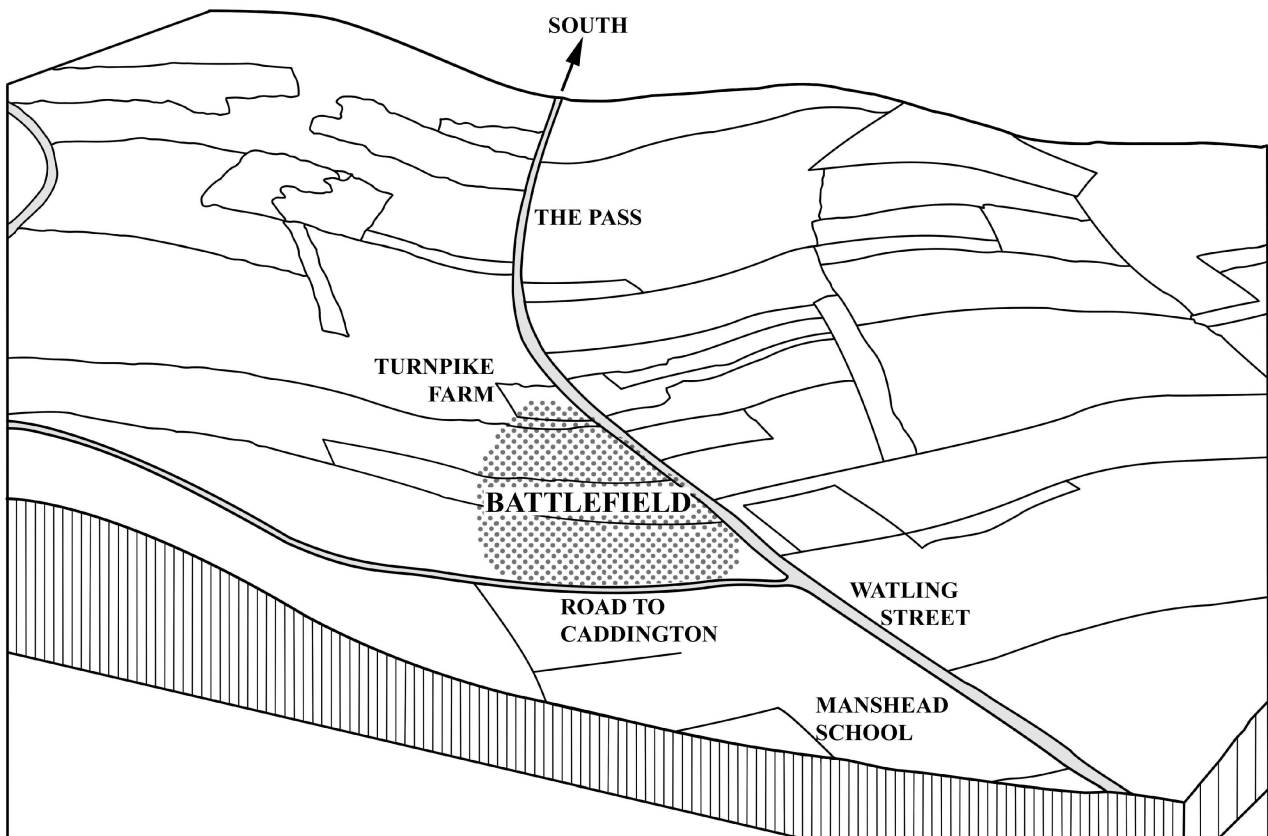


Fig 4. Block diagram of the Battlefield south of Dunstable.

Roman army, which they must have suspected was somewhere around, to deliver a knockout blow?

Tacitus tells us that Paulinus wanted to bring the Britons to battle. How was he to achieve that with a degree of certainty that he would win? Britannia would be lost were he to fail. This must have weighed heavily on his mind since he last saw his army in Anglesey. The losses of Colchester, Londinium and Verulamium must have convinced him enough was enough. He needed to take control of the

situation and bring the Britons to battle at a place of his choosing. According to Tacitus this is exactly what he did. How might he have achieved this? While he was in the Verulamium area Paulinus must have had contact with friendly natives, otherwise his small force would have been wiped out. Having chosen a battlefield, I suggest he used his contacts to spread rumour and uncertainty in the Boudican army. Where was the Roman army, how big was it and what was it going to do? If, at the appropriate time, he could spread a rumour that the Roman army was going to attack the Iceni

Boudica and Paulinus Battle Site

tribal area I think there is reason to believe the Boudican army could be drawn to the valley south of Dunstable to be engaged by the Roman army. Boudica will have wanted a quick way home and Dunstable gives access to the Icknield Way, a direct route home for the Iceni. If they could defeat the Roman army on the way so much the better.

Does Dunstable fit the battlefield description?

Tacitus wrote a description of the rebellion some 49 years after the event and does describe the battle. This description is in two sentences:

Deligitque locum artis faucibus et a tergo silva clausum, satis cognito nihil hostium nisi in fronte et apertam planitiem esse, sine metu insidiarum. (Ch. 34)

Ac primum, legio gradu immota et angustias loci pro munimento retinens (Ch 37).

Those two sentences have recently been translated by Dr Stanley Ireland as:

He [Paulinus] chose a site with a narrow approach and backed by a wood, having made sure that he would only have the enemy in front and that the plain of battle was open and presented no danger of an ambush.

At first the legion did not move from its position and kept the narrow confines of the defile as its protection.

There is a degree of latitude in the translation so "narrow approach" could be "narrow pass" and "defile" could be "pass" so the description might be:

He [Paulinus] chose a site at a narrow pass and backed by a wood, having made sure that he would only have the enemy in front and that the plain of battle was open and presented no danger of an ambush.

At first the legion did not move from its position and held on to the narrow pass as its protection.

Tacitus is clearly describing something unusual which he has not seen, which has been described to him by someone who saw it many years before. I think the word pass is significant because it describes a route flanked by higher ground, the slopes of which may have been wooded. The effect of this on a large body of people moving through the countryside would be to constrict the column and so cause them to slow down and for the column to lengthen as it went through the pass. Paulinus seems to have chosen a plain, where he placed his army, entered by a narrow pass through which the Britons entered. The phrase "*held on to the narrow pass as its protection*" sounds as if the Roman army was near the narrow entrance to restrict the number of Britons who could enter before the attack took place. Most of the Britons with their chariots and wagons would have been trapped in the pass and not able to help the fighters in the plain or turn and flee back through the pass. It would have been the bloodbath described by Tacitus.

I believe the site south of Dunstable fits the description above. As it heads north the Watling Street enters a pass roughly where the traffic lights are in Markyate. The pass becomes more pronounced at the Pack Horse public house where the road goes off to Kensworth Common. Turnpike Farm is roughly where the pass widens into the plain occupied by Manshead School. It is likely that the Roman Army was deployed in the plain between the road to Caddington and Turnpike Farm. The Roman army would be positioned where the Britons in the pass would have had to rapidly traverse across a sloping hillside to join the fray. This

would have been difficult for people and very difficult for chariots.

The Boudican army would have been spread out over many miles as they travelled up Watling Street. I estimate there would have been about 10,000 to the mile so an army of 40,000 might have covered 3 to 4 miles, much of this army being beyond the pass when the fighting started. This would have stacked the odds heavily in favour of the smaller Roman force. The best and keenest warriors would presumably have led the Iceni column so once the Roman army had beaten them the rest would have realised the game was up and fled in terror.

Is it the Battlefield?

We can be fairly certain that Paulinus travelled through this plain and pass on his way to London for his initial reconnaissance of the situation. Once he knew Verulamium was the next target after London he could have decided on the best place for the battle and how to lure the Britons to it. The last thing he would have wanted was a large force of well-armed blood-thirsty natives rampaging around the countryside on a system of roads Rome had provided.

I think it is likely he used the subterfuge mentioned above to convince the Iceni they should attack the army before it attacked their home territory. By choosing a site just south of Dunstable the Roman army could place itself between the rebel army and the Icknield Way, its route home (Watts, 2004). An ancient route such as the Icknield Way was probably more comfortable for the Iceni as it was turf and so easier on their feet and those of their horses. The Romans with their hobnailed sandals were shod for metalled roads with turf shoulders.

How can we identify the Boudican Battlefield?

The obvious answer to this might seem to be that we look for weapons. In the case of the Roman forces the following might be lost during the battle: swords, spears, knives, shields, helmets, sling shot, armour and fittings, Roman equipment, horse fittings, bows and arrows, hobnails. The Boudican Army might lose; swords, spears, knives, shields, sling shot, bows and arrows, chariot fittings. Much of this equipment will have been gathered up after the battle by the Romans and natives so that little will remain after almost 2,000 years to identify the site. Members of the Watling Street Project carried out some metal-detector surveys in 2013 and early 2014 but sadly found nothing relevant to the battle.

However, I do not believe that all is lost if it is true that the Iceni brought their families with them. With families come culture so we should expect to find traces of Iceni culture where the baggage train was ransacked by the Romans. We might expect to find discrete collections of domestic equipment and Iceni pottery where it was abandoned by the Iceni who fled after being trapped in the pass between the Pack Horse public house and the entrance to the plain near to Turnpike Farm. The same type of material might also be found alongside the bypassed sections of the Watling Street between Markyate and Friars Wash.

I raised the idea of looking for pottery from the baggage train with J D Hill of the British Museum and received the following comment: "Your question about pots and the baggage train is intriguing but depends on them travelling

with pots and assuming that the rebels are only from Norfolk. Some handmade pottery from Norfolk and East Anglia would be distinctively different from the local pottery used at this time in terms of shape and fabric, but it would need careful examination and if only small sherds are available in the plough soil, might be difficult to prove" (pers comm). Difficult, but not impossible. Fortune favours the brave.

Intensive fieldwalking may find this material but I feel it is unlikely bearing in mind the time that has passed and the nature of prehistoric pottery. We are more likely to find material where there has been grass for a considerable time, perhaps centuries, where worm action has taken material, including pottery, down a foot or two (Darwin, 1881). Test pitting would be a slow way of finding this material. A much quicker and more effective way would be to drill test holes with a 9" posthole drill. Dozens of 9" diameter holes drilled randomly down to the natural bedrock alongside the road would allow the grassland alongside the Watling Street to be examined more quickly.

Could the Battlefield be further north up Watling Street?

As mentioned above the Icknield Way was the route home for the Iceni. It is a high level, and so a dry route, which avoids rivers and skirts around the fens. They would make good progress along it.

Further north of Dunstable the dry ground of the Chilterns is lost and there are more rivers between the Watling Street and the Iceni homeland. Beyond Magiovinium (Fenny Stratford) the Great Ouse and the Fens start to present a barrier to the east and we have to ask ourselves if the Iceni would really risk being cut off from direct access to their tribal territory?

By the time of the rebellion there will have been many traders and merchants travelling about Britain on the roads created by the legions so I think it is reasonable to expect that the elders of the tribe would have had a good idea of the geography of southern Britain and the barriers to movement presented by large rivers and the Fens. Bearing this in mind I think it unlikely the battlefield was any further north than Dunstable.

Conclusion

I believe there are a number of reasons for thinking the site south of Dunstable is where the momentous battle took place between Boudica and Paulinus. It is near to Verulamium, the last place Tacitus mentions the Britons sacked, but not near enough for him to say the battle took place at Verulamium. Tacitus does not mention any other places being sacked so we may conclude that Durocbrivis and Magiovinium were not attacked. We could ask why Tacitus does not say the battle took place at Durocbrivis, modern Dunstable. Dunstable has no river so the name Durocbrivis, meaning twin bridges, more accurately describes a large first century Roman settlement about two miles north of Dunstable in the parish of Tilsworth. I believe the settlement moved late first/early second century (Horne, 2009). The battlefield was thus about three miles from Durocbrivis.

Paulinus will have seen the site as he travelled south to review the initial situation and will no doubt have appreciated its potential as a place where he could bring the Britons to battle and win.

Finally it matches the odd description Tacitus gives us where he mentions a plain and a pass.

I believe intensive fieldwork with posthole drills will find evidence of the presence of the Iceni. All we need now is for someone to try. Sadly, polio in 1957 means that cannot be me.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Joan Schneider and David Hornby and his family, for their efforts in preparing Fig 2 and 4. I would also like to thank them for their helpful suggestions, some of which I took. Thanks to Joan for proofreading. All errors and omissions are mine.

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Book Reviews

Julie Cassidy

Bedfordshire Seventeenth Century Tokens

John Gaunt. Edited and expanded by Gary Oddie. Published by Galata (2011). ISBN: 978-0-9543162-9-7

Research into this volume was begun in the 1960s by John Gaunt, a member of the Bedford Numismatic Society, and completed after his death by fellow society member Gary Oddie.

This book deals only with the 17th century tokens issued by shopkeepers and tradespeople between 1648 and 1672 as a response to a shortage of officially issued small change. There are over one hundred such tokens from Bedfordshire alone. By illustrating every one of these issues, this volume acts as a valuable reference book for those who are interested in studying and identifying tokens. By combining these illustrations with contemporary records, the book becomes not only a reference tool, but a record of the social history of Bedfordshire in the seventeenth century.

Northamptonshire & The Soke of Peterborough; Tokens and Checks.

P. D. S Waddell. Published by Galata (2012). ISBN: 978-1-908715-01-2

Unlike the Bedfordshire volume reviewed above, this volume deals not only with tokens issued in Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough due to a

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shortage of government issued small change, but also with other tokens and checks with a nominal monetary value including store checks and machine tokens dating up to the mid-20th century.

With over 180 examples illustrated and each chapter beginning with an introduction giving a brief introduction to the specific type of numismatics with which it deals, this book is not only a very good reference book for anyone with an interest in tokens, it offers a brief record of social history and trade of Northants and Peterborough right up to the mid-1900s.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme and Roman Britain

Dr Tom Brindle. Published by The British Museum; Research Publication 196. (2014)

ISBN: 978-0-86159-196-1

Since its establishment in 1997, the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has proven to be a valuable resource for researchers. Approximately over 40% of the almost one million records on this database are of a Roman date. In this book, Tom Brindle publishes his PhD research using Roman data from the PAS database to find out how finds from a ploughzone context can be used to indicate the presence and nature of Roman sites in the landscape. Brindle brings together all the Roman PAS data and uses it to indicate the presence of 240 previously unknown Roman sites. This study is relevant to the South Midlands CBA group as Dr. Brindle uses Northamptonshire as one of his regional case study counties, focusing on finds recorded in the vicinity of two nucleated sites in Titchmarsh and Norton/Whilton Lodge (the Roman town of Bannaventa, a Scheduled Ancient Monument). In these Northants case studies, the metal detected and field walked data enhances and augments already recorded archaeological information.

Two books making use of Northamptonshire medieval and later landscape data were published during 2013 and are reported on below by Graham Cadman (Heritage Assets Officer for Northants County Council).

An Atlas of Northamptonshire, The Medieval and Early-Modern Landscape

David Hall, Tracey Partida and Glenn Foard. Published by Oxbow Books (2013). ISBN: 9781842175118

This new volume compliments the *Rockingham Forest: An Atlas of the medieval and early-modern landscape* by Foard, Hall and Partida, published by the Northants Record Society in 2009. Both are in A4 format.

The new volume finishes the task begun with the earlier volume by covering the remaining 1,999km² (772miles²) of the historic county of Northamptonshire, including the Soke of Peterborough. The two volumes present in map form the results of fieldwork and documentary research undertaken since the mid-1960s to map the landscape of the whole of Northamptonshire prior to enclosure by Parliamentary Act. The methodology of integration and analysis of the data, in digital form using a Geographical Information System (GIS), was originally developed by the authors in the 1990s in work for Northamptonshire County Council.

For the link to the Rockingham Forest Trust Resource Centre and downloads of Atlas pages and reports go to: to www.rockingham-forest-trust.org.uk/what-we-do/heritage/

online-resource-centre - Link to ADS for downloads of GIS (simplified) data. The project was called 'A GIS aided study of agriculture and landscape in Midland England'

Champion: The Making and Unmaking of the English Midland Landscape

Tom Williamson, Robert Liddiard and Tracey Partida. Published by The University of Exeter Press (2013).

ISBN: 978-0859898683

The publishers website reads:

'This book concerns the origins of villages and open fields, and their development in the late medieval and post-medieval periods, in the Midland, 'champion' areas of England. Focusing on Northampton, but of national significance in its implications, it presents the most detailed reconstruction of landscape and land-use in a medieval county ever attempted, provides a radical reinterpretation of village and open-field origins and casts new light on the practice of agriculture, the development of open fields and the character of the enclosure process, in the post-medieval period.'

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28th December 2013