

SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2014.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 45.

Archaeology in the area continues to change with organisations coming and going and others joining others and changing their name. For some years Northants Archaeology provided our cover picture. Let us hope that continues now they are MOLA Northampton.

This year we have included a section on the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the South Midlands for 2014 and another for our Conferences in 2014.

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* 46. Copy date is 31st March 2016; please refer to Notes for Contributors.

Finally, I would like to thank Joan Schneider for her hard work proof-reading the contributions and to Barbara Hird for producing the index.

Barry Horne ACIfA
Editor

CBA South Midlands website: archaeologyuk.org/cbasm

On this site are:

Scanned copies of *SMA* 1-43

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 -
13th century malting oven with staff from Phipps Brewery.

Back cover -
Angel Street, Northampton. Medieval chess pieces, head of king/queen, left, and bishop, right.

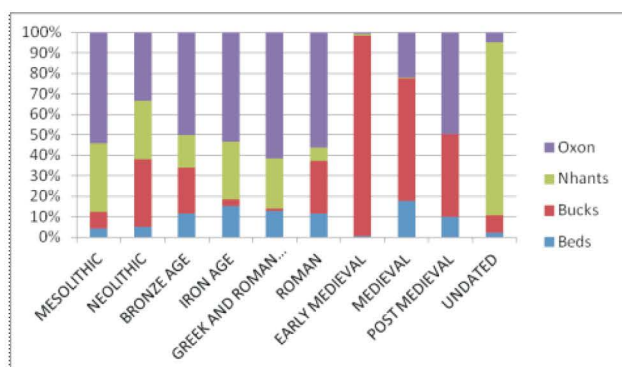
The Portable Antiquities Scheme in the South Midlands in 2014

Anni Byard with Margaret Broomfield, Julie Cassidy, Ros Tyrrell, Julian Watters and David Williams

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a national scheme for the recording of archaeological objects found by the public. In 2014 the PAS recorded its one millionth find, an unassuming 4th century Roman coin from a hoard of c 22,000 found in Devon. This milestone represents nearly 17 years of online recording, undertaken by a network of 37 Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) covering every county in England and Wales. The majority of people recording with PAS are metal detector users, although archaeological objects are also found and reported by people out walking, gardening, or during formal fieldwalking exercises. The PAS also administers finds of treasure, items stipulated as such by the Treasure Act 1996, which replaced the old Treasure Troves laws. More information on treasure can be found at www.finds.org.uk/treasure.

Although there is increasing pressure on FLOs in terms of resources, increasing workload and financially, the service they provide has led to the recognition of new archaeological sites and new object types and has provided local metal detectorists with a platform to contribute to the past. Museums have had the opportunity to acquire treasure objects and other artefacts through the Treasure Act and directly from finders, facilitated by the PAS. A new Heritage Lottery Funded volunteer project, PAST Explorers, aims to increase the recording capacity of the PAS through the help of regional volunteers. Other centrally administered projects that involve the PAS include MicroPasts, a crowdsourcing and crowd-funding initiative with University College London and the Lost Change: Mapping coins project as well as many other local and regional projects.

In 2014 the four counties covered by the CBA South Midlands group (Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire) 551 individuals have offered c 9800 artefacts for recording. Over 5000 of these are coins from an important late early-medieval hoard from near Buckingham (see below). Overall, Roman finds are the most numerous, with medieval and post-medieval artefacts second and third respectively. The graph below provides a visual representation of the chronological spread of finds (excluding post-1850 finds)*. (Note the impact the Lenborough hoard has on the figures for Buckinghamshire)



Portable Antiquities Scheme

The following report offers a spotlight on some of the 'finds of note' from each county, however thousands more objects are available to view on the PAS database. For more information visit the website or contact your local FLO.

Bedfordshire

Although the PAS sees and records more objects of metal than any other material, members of the public, including metal detectorists, are increasingly finding and reporting items of pottery and stone. One amazing object is a Neolithic stone battle-axe (BH-8525D6; Fig 1) dating from c 3000-2500 BC



Fig 1. Possible Neolithic stone macehead from Elstow

discovered near Elstow. The battle-axe is nearly 15cm long and weighs a little under 300 grams; the material from which it is made suggests a Scandinavian origin, and although parallels are known from Denmark, the question of whether this is a contemporary loss or a more modern import remains to be seen. Another remarkable survival is a near-complete ceramic vessel of first century date, dredged from the River Ouse just outside Bedford. With a spout on one side this vessel has been interpreted as an infant's feeding bottle (BH-C0C3F7), and can be paralleled with vessels excavated from Clapham (Dawson, 1988).

A silver penny of Henry I (AD 1100-1135) found in Wilden appears to be one of only two known and the only full penny example (the other is a cut halfpenny). The 'PAX' issue penny (BH-FD4CD7; Fig 2) was probably struck at the Derby mint. Interestingly the moneyer's name, Lifwine, appears to be misspelt. The PAX issue coins were only struck for a short period of time and this example can be dated to AD 1103.

A well preserved non-heraldic seal matrix found near Podington belonged to Matilda Le Croiser, no doubt a member of the Croyser family who held the manor of Hinwick in the 13th century. The pointed oval seal (SUR-DAFA21), a popular shape for women's seals, is inscribed with the legend S¹MATILDE.LECROISER. An increasing number of seals bearing the names of women are coming to light through finds recorded with the PAS.

Buckinghamshire

Each year around 1000 objects and coin hoards are reported as Treasure throughout England and Wales. Any object over 300



Fig 2. Medieval silver penny of Henry I from Wilden

years old made of at least 10% precious metal or two or more gold or silver coins (or 10 copper alloy coins) from the same findspot may constitute Treasure and need to be reported to the Coroner. In 2014 Buckinghamshire had 10 such cases, including a silver annular brooch from Quainton and a hoard of gold nobles from the west of Buckingham. The hoard of six nobles of Edward III (BUC-3F1861) was issued between 1356 and 1369 and are to the traditional standard of medieval English gold coins at over 23 carats. The amount would have totalled £2 - a great amount for anyone below the elite levels of English society, at the very least the equivalent of hundreds of pounds in modern terms.



Fig 3. Medieval seal matrix from Duddershall.

A wonderfully fine seal matrix unusually depicts a large fish, probably a pike; pike were widely consumed in the medieval period (BUC-204D4A; Fig 3). The inscription reads S' DEACANTVS DE ETON (Seal of the Deanery of Eton). Which Eton is referred to on the matrix is difficult pin down; the Eton now in Berkshire was not a deanery in the medieval period whereas Eaton, Bedfordshire is listed as a deanery up until the Victorian period. There is however a number of Etons across the country, any of which could have been the source of this very fine seal matrix.

A 9th century Saxon silver dress fastening from Stokenchurch (BH-080300) of very high quality depicts a strawberry-type plant in Trehwiddle-style, a form not usually encountered in Anglo-Saxon art and therefore of some rarity. In late December 2014 a spectacular find of c 5190 late Anglo-Saxon pennies of Ethelred (AD 968-1016) and Cnut (c AD 1016-1035) was discovered wrapped in a sheet of lead alloy at Lenborough near Buckingham (BUC-7FE6F2). This

is a discovery of national importance and the quality and quantity of coins will be of great interest. The coins are currently at the British Museum for expert analysis and identification and a report is forthcoming.

Many of the most interesting finds however are not classed as treasure; a Roman cruciform anthropomorphic plate brooch of 2nd century date from Ibstone (SUR-8905CD) is one of a very small number recorded. Although damaged and incomplete, the detail of the face mask is clear while the blue enamel in the cruciform arm terminals is a rare survival.

A lead alloy papal bulla from the Haddenham area shows little wear or damage (BERK-4E38B4). Papal bullae were seals attached to official documentation of the Catholic Church. This example bears the name of Pope Gregory X (born Teobaldo Visconti), who was pope from 1st September 1271 to his death in 1276. The reverse of the bulla bears the faces of Saint Paul and Saint Peter (left and right respectively) with their initials above (Fig 4). Bullae are not particularly common finds and when found are usually broken.



Fig 4. Medieval papal bulla from Haddenham.

Working closely with metal detector users, the PAS had added a great deal to our knowledge and understanding of metal artefacts. Indeed new classes of objects are being recognised and recorded. A later 16th or early 17th century purse frame from Quainton (BUC-82D836) is the first complete example of its type known. David Williams (Surrey and East Berkshire FLO) has been researching Tudor purses and has identified a number of fragments which can now be shown to belong to purses such as that from Quainton. A leather or textile bag would have been attached to the frame.

Northamptonshire

Although coins hoards of the size and date of the Buckinghamshire find are rare, smaller hoards of Roman and medieval date are more common. Iron Age hoards also appear; a collection of six Iron Age silver coins from Weston-by-Welland are of a type produced in Lincolnshire and neighbouring counties from about 60/50 BC (NARC-8D2FC7). Traditionally associated with the Corieltavi, some of the coins have been struck with the same die, indicating that they were kept together since the time of striking to the time of deposition, sometime between AD 20 and AD 50.

Northamptonshire has had several finds of note of Roman date, including a silver denarius of Augustus (27 BC - AD

Portable Antiquities Scheme

examples of this type of harness pendant have been recorded with the PAS, this is the first example to contain, or retain, a rock crystal bead. This discovery therefore sheds light on a decorative feature hitherto unknown on medieval harness pendants.

A single silver or gold coin that pre-dates AD 1714 would not normally constitute Treasure, but under the stipulations of the Treasure Act 1996 a coin whose use has been changed to an object may qualify. Such was the case for a worn shilling of Elizabeth I (AD 1558-1603). Converted into a mount, the object from Canons Ashby (NARC-FF2D58) has had a ring of silver removed from within the flan, leaving the four arms of the reverse shield cross intact. The opposite side of the mount (the obverse of the coin) is obscured by an adhesive used to attach it to a backing plate. It appears to have functioned as a dress accessory or mount, and leaving the shield and arms of the English royal shield may have been a symbol of loyalty.

Another interesting object is a modern (probably Victorian) forgery of a Civil War siege coin (NARC-BC5422). The rectangular silver coin depicts the sun over a castle, with nothing on the reverse. Official 17th century issues of this type are often termed 'Scarborough' or siege shillings, issued by provincial mints using plate or other scrap silver while under siege, in Scarborough between July 1644 and July 1645. However the example from Canons Ashby is comparable to Victorian copies held within the archives of both the Ashmolean and British Museum.

Oxfordshire

An Early Bronze Age (2350-1601 BC) knife-dagger from near Bicester is not a common find (BERK-2C1FC7). The knife-dagger is broadly triangular in plan and is mostly complete although the circular rivet holes are no longer enclosed (Fig 7). A few other examples have been recorded by the PAS from Wiltshire, Shropshire, Suffolk and Norfolk; all Early Bronze Age knife-daggers recorded by Gerloff



Fig 5. Roman horse and rider brooch from Thrapston.

14), dating to c 18 BC found in Brigstock (NARC-89F617). From an uncertain Spanish mint, the coin depicts a toga picta over tunica palmata between an Aquila (eagle) and wreath. The reverse depicts a quadriga (four-horse chariot). Another find of note is a complete hippocampus brooch from Thrapston (NARC-4A7504) dating to the 2nd century AD (Fig 5). The Hippocampus is a seahorse-type creature, half horse half fish, and although a small number of these brooches have been recorded with the PAS, its completeness makes it a rare survival.

Artefacts associated with medieval horse harness fittings are not unusual finds; however, one 13th or 14th century harness pendant from Paulerspury (NARC-6E1773) is an important discovery (Fig 6). This decorative fitting contains a rock crystal bead, suspended from its circular mount in such a fashion that it could swing freely. Although numerous



Fig 6. Medieval horse harness pendant from Paulerspury.



Fig 7. Bronze Age knife-dagger from near Bicester.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

(1975:170) were found associated with cremation burials beneath barrows. The findspot of this dagger, within 100m of two (now ploughed-out) burial mounds suggests that the dagger deposition is related to the surrounding burial complex.

Roman period finds are the most common of those reported in Oxfordshire. Several Roman objects recorded by the PAS in 2014 are considered noteworthy, either because of their rarity or state of preservation. One unusual object is an eagle head cart fitting of 1st century date (BERK-5AABFE). The eleventh example recorded on the database, this fitting from Lockinge would have been the terminal of a cart fitting to which the reins were tied when the vehicle was stationary (see Crummy, 1983: 106 ref. 2545 for a similar example). The eagle's head is realistically rendered with feathers delineated both by moulding and incisions and a small spherical object grasped within the eagle's open beak is a feature commonly seen on this type of object. The distribution and date of similar pieces suggests a military connection.

An unusual Roman 'P-shaped' brooch of second to third century date from Beckley (BERK-EFCAF1), is not of British manufacture, but rather has a European origin in the Pontic and Balkan regions (Pers. comm. Martin Henig University of Oxford). More decorative examples have been noted in British contexts, but this is typically a continental type with precursors in La Tene II brooches of the middle to late Iron Age (c 450–100 BC) and ultimately as progenitor of Anglo-Saxon long brooches. Another unusual brooch is a Roman enamelled pelta-shaped plate brooch from Middle Aston (BERK-43CE20). This brooch is decorated with enamelled cells in intricate geometric and floral patterns incorporating red, yellow and blue enamels, much of which survives (Fig 8). These brooches have a general eastern distribution and Mackreth (2011; 167 and plate 110) suggests a manufacturing locale of Durobrivae on the Nene. An excavated example was recovered from a context dated to c AD 150–180 (ibid.) and although they have been found in contexts as late as AD 400, their manufacture was likely restricted to the 2nd century AD.

A complete copper alloy early-medieval hooked tag from Wallingford (BERK-126B30) is of a type used from the second half of the 7th to the 11th century AD. They were

probably all-purpose fastenings used to secure clothing, purses, etc. There are several well-known and usually well-made silver hooked tags with fields divided by a ladder-pattern arranged in the shape of the letter Y, as this example is. The division into three panels was a style in use broadly during the 9th century AD and it is likely that the Wallingford hooked tag copies these silver examples.

Although the PAS does not generally record post c 1700 AD finds, sometimes objects are deemed to be of significant interest or curiosity and merit a record. A moulded lead alloy statuette of a female holding a scroll and a lyre was one such object. The statuette has an iron rod extending from beneath the folds of the robe; the feet or base is missing and the rod was probably in place to strengthen the statuette. The figure appears to be a muse and her robes and accessories are very well moulded; the folds of her robe are clearly visible. An iron rod runs through the statuette and would have both strengthened it and allowed it to be mounted on a base. Two other examples are known to the author, one in the Harvard Art Museum and one in *Treasure Hunting* magazine (January 2013 issue). Although initially this appears Greco-Roman, it is probably a late Georgian Neo-Classical piece. Both this and the Harvard example appear to have come from the same mould; it is possible that they are both 19th century Grand Tour souvenirs from the same workshop (pers. comm. Martin Henig, University of Oxford).

The finds highlighted above are but a very few of those recorded in the four counties in 2014. In total, up to and including 31st December 2014, the CBA South Midlands counties have recorded 68,884 individual artefacts. These are all available to view by using the advanced search facility on the PAS database (www.finds.org.uk/database). Within the database you can search by area (county, parish), artefact type (brooch, pilgrim badge), period (Mesolithic, medieval) and other facets. For more information on the PAS visit the website or contact your local FLO:

Bedfordshire - Julian.watters@stalbans.gov.uk;

Buckinghamshire - rtyrrell@buckscountymuseum.org;

Northamptonshire - jucassidy@northamptonshire.gov.uk;

Oxfordshire - Anni.byard@oxfordshire.gov.uk;

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Thanks to Martin Henig of the University of Oxford for his comments on several of the finds, and to the regional FLOs for their comments on drafts of the text.

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Mackreth D F 2011; *Brooches in the Late Iron Age and Roman Britain*. Oxbow Books, Oxford.



Fig 8. Roman pelta-brooch from Middle Aston.

Conference - Buckinghamshire Archaeological Review 2014

Sunday 27th April at The Cruck Barn, Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre, Alston Drive, Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes MK13 9AP

Tickets: £15 for members of CBA South Midlands and its affiliated organisations

£19 for non-members. A buffet lunch was included.

10:30am: Tea, coffee and biscuits

11:00am Welcome

11:05am Shannon Hogan: Cambridge Archaeological Unit - *Unravelling a prehistoric landscape one step at a time – excavations at Manor Farm, Old Wolverton*

11:35am Stuart Foreman: Oxford Archaeology - *A Roman site at Quarrendon, Aylesbury, with all its eggs in one basket*

12:05am Yvonne Edwards: Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society - *Roman ditches and what they tell us: recent excavations at Sarratt Bottom*

12:35pm Amy Bunce: Border Archaeology - *The Archaeology of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area*

1:05pm Lunch – a cold buffet was provided (vegetarian and gluten-free options available)

There were tours of Bradwell Priory's Grade I listed chapel with 14th century wall paintings during the lunch interval. There were also be poster displays and a CBA book stall

2:45pm David Green: Buckinghamshire County Council - The Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project

3:15pm Rob Atkins: Oxford Archaeology East - Excavations at Broughton and Brooklands 2006–2008: a landscape study

3:45pm Martin Cuthbert: Wing Heritage Group - Test-pit exploration of the early history of Wing

4:15pm Andy Chapman: MOLA Northampton - Gayhurst barrow cemetery: an update

4:45pm Close

Conference - Industrial Archaeology Day

Saturday 11th October 2014 at Clophill village hall, Kiln Lane, Clophill, Bedfordshire, MK45 4DA

Tickets: £15 for members of CBA South Midlands and its affiliated organisations

£20 for non-members. A buffet lunch was included.

10:00am Tea, coffee and biscuits

10:30am Welcome

10:35am Marilyn Palmer: CBA Vice-Chair and author of the CBA's 'Industrial Archaeology: A Handbook' - Industrial Archaeology and the Archaeological Community: Fifty Years On

11:35am Katie Carmichael: Investigator at English Heritage - The Hat Industry of Luton and its Buildings

12:15pm Lunch – a cold buffet was provided (vegetarian and gluten-free options available)

1:10pm CBA South Midlands AGM

1:30pm Jennifer Ballinger: Conservation Officer, Northampton Borough Council - 'Built to Last'? The conservation and management of the buildings of the boot and shoe industry

2:15pm Stuart King: Churchill Fellow, Craft Historian and Woodland Archaeologist - From Bodgers to Bow Benders: Chair-making in High Wycombe

3:00pm Tea, coffee and biscuits

3:30pm Claire Price: CBA Conservation and Community Officer for England - CBA listed building casework: an industrial selection

4:15pm Phil Marsh: author of 'The Full Works' - The Full Works: 175 Years of the Wolverton Railways Works and the Royal Train

5:00pm Close



Jennifer Ballinger, Conservation Officer, Northampton Borough Council, giving her talk 'Built to Last?'

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Ampthill, 21 Woburn Street (TL 0337 3813)

Ian Turner

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a single trial trench evaluation. A large, deep cut feature was identified along most of the trench. A machined sondage revealed that it was c 1.8m deep with a flat base. The feature appeared to have been cut to create a level platform or terrace into the natural ground slope and had later been backfilled with deposits which reformed the slope. Artefacts contained in the lower deposits of the feature indicate that it was no earlier than 17th to 18th century in date. The purpose of the feature is uncertain. It was probably excavated as a terrace, intended as a building platform, or possibly as a quarry pit. OASIS ID: albionar1-167242 Accession Number: BEDFM 2013.78

Arlesey, Etonbury Academy (TL 20434 37157)

David Ingham and Jeremy Oetgen

Seven trial trenches were positioned to test geophysical anomalies and apparently blank areas. Four of these trenches revealed archaeological features, with evidence of two separate Iron Age settlements in the field to the east of the Academy. OASIS ID: albionar1-175548 Accession Number: BEDFM 2014.25

Bedford, Britannia Ironworks (TL 0442 4895)

Wes Keir, Richard Gregson, Jackie Wells and Holly Duncan
A planning application for the construction of 205 residential units and associated infrastructure in the western half of the former site of the Britannia Ironworks in Bedford was approved with an archaeological condition.

An initial phase of evaluation, comprising 11 trial trenches, was undertaken by Albion Archaeology in 2012. A second phase of trial trenching, comprising a further 9 trenches, was

undertaken in 2014. Archaeological features pre-dating the early 20th century expansion of the Ironworks were revealed in 16 of the 20 trenches. The earliest features revealed were two pits dating to the middle Iron Age. Remains likely to be associated with Cauldwell Priory were identified at the northern end of the site in an area where a considerable depth of material (2.25-2.9m) had been deposited prior to and during the use of the Ironworks in order to level up the ground. OASIS ID: albionar1-159939 Accession Number: BEDFM 2012.24

Bedford, 9 Goodmayes Close (TL 0660 4854)

Iain Leslie

Archaeological features dated to the 11th-13th centuries had previously been found close to the present development. Groundworks for the development comprised the excavation of a foundation trench for the new dwelling and a pit for the installation of a soakaway. No features of archaeological interest were revealed. OASIS ID: albionar1-164631 Accession Number: BEDFM 2013.57

Bedford Northern Bypass (TL 0290 5100)

Mike Luke, Christiane Meckseper and Jo Barker

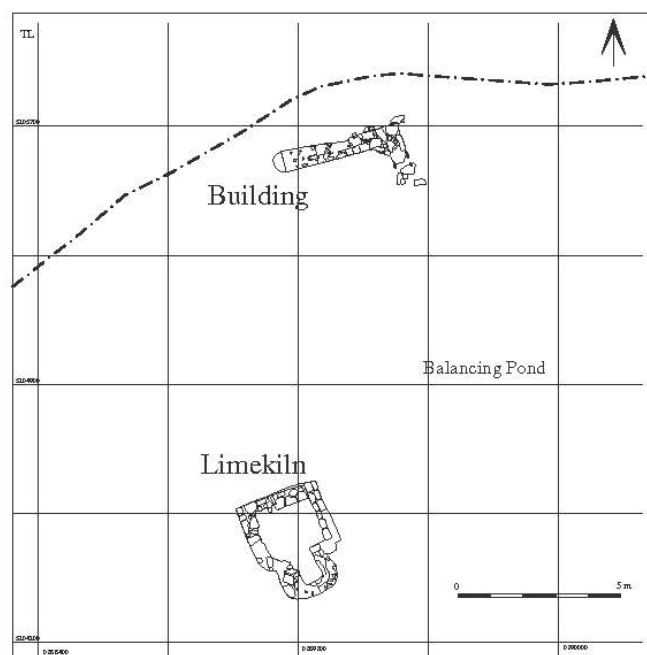
The final phase of open area excavation was undertaken by Albion Archaeology during May and June 2014 in advance of construction of the Bedford Northern Bypass. The latter will link the A428 Bromham Road (at its junction with Gold Lane/Deep Spinney) with the A6 Clapham Road (Sainsbury's roundabout). As part of the same road scheme open area excavation in different areas was undertaken during 2013 and 2014 (Luke *et al*, 2014). The final area c 2ha comprised a length of the road corridor and an adjacent balancing pond, which had previously been part of the Great Ouse Valley Golf Course. Due to land access issues this area had not been subject to any evaluation.

All the investigated remains date to the post-medieval period and comprise quarry pits, a limekiln and an associated building. The quarrying extended over almost all the excavation area.

Within the balancing pond a limekiln and associated building had been constructed over backfilled quarry pits (Fig 1). The limekiln measured 3.5m x 3m and comprised a sunken square chamber and sub-circular firing chamber. The sides were reveted with limestone blocks and the floor consisted of compacted limestone fragments. Remains of slaked-lime (the slaking process involves the mixing of water with burnt lime to produce lime mortar) and burnt fuel were present in the interior. Rakings from the kiln were visible in the backfill of the surrounding quarry pits. The possible building was situated 10m north of the kiln and is likely to represent an associated structure. Only the base of the north and east walls survived but these indicated that it would have been rectangular in plan. OASIS ID: albionar1-120845 Accession Number: BEDFM:2011.91.

References

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Bedford, Shackleton Primary School, Percy Road (TL 0538 4844)

Anna Rebisz-Niziolek

Planning permission was granted for the construction of two new classroom blocks, a covered walkway, a footpath and an extension to the existing car park. The only archaeological feature revealed during monitoring of the works was a short length of a small ditch, located to the rear of the main school building. It contained a number of Roman artefacts and adds to the small, but growing, body of evidence for Roman settlement activity in the immediate vicinity of the school. OASIS ID: albionar1-181850 Accession Number: BEDFM 2014.46.

Biddenham - Land North of Biddenham (TL 0220 5070)

Mike Luke, Christiane Meckseper and Benjamin Carroll

Archaeological investigation, comprising seven areas of excavation totalling *c* 4ha was undertaken by Albion Archaeology between October 2014 and February 2015 (Fig 2). The work was done on behalf of Hallam Land Management in advance of potential residential development of land between Bromham Road (A428), Biddenham and the Bedford Northern Bypass (currently under construction).

The excavations revealed evidence dating from the Neolithic to the post-medieval period. Some of the activity is the continuation of that found during investigations ahead of the Bedford Northern Bypass (Luke *et al*, 2014).

Neolithic/early Bronze Age

The earliest evidence for activity comprised small pits and a ring-ditch broadly dated to this period. The dispersed small pits, *c* 0.7m in diameter and 0.5m deep, occurred to the west (Area B) and south-east (Area H). The majority of the pits were sterile, but a small number contained flints and pottery.

The ring-ditch in Area A had been identified as cropmarks and as a geophysical anomaly. It was *c* 30m in diameter, with a ditch *c* 1.6m wide and 1m deep. It had been redug on one occasion. To the north-east there was a 1.7m wide causeway through the ditch. Central within the ring-ditch was a pit *c* 1.6m in diameter and 0.28m deep. It was fully excavated but did not appear to be a grave. No dating evidence was recovered from the fills of the ring-ditch and the central pit but it is presumed to be early Bronze Age in date. Numerous similar monuments have been investigated *c* 1.5km to the south within the Biddenham Loop (Luke, 2008, fig. 2.2; Luke forthcoming).

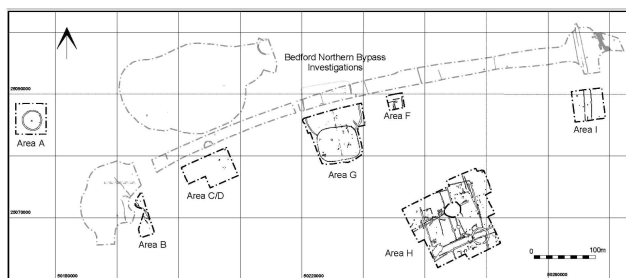


Fig 2. Land north of Biddenham excavation areas.

Middle Bronze Age/early Iron Age

The main evidence from this period, although not all securely dated, comprised a dispersed activity focus (Area C/D) and a palisaded enclosure (Area G).

Activity focus

Area C/D contained dispersed features including small pits and postholes. Of the latter one group clearly formed part of a four-post structure *c* 2.6m square. A small number of the pits contained flint and pottery, although quantities were tiny. In addition, a single saddle quern was recovered from one of the pits. The nature and distribution of these features suggest that they form part of an activity focus which continued into the Bypass corridor to the north.

Palisaded enclosure

Area G was targeted on the continuation of the ditched enclosure investigated within the Bypass corridor to the north (Luke *et al*, 2014, 2). The western and eastern ditches of the enclosure continued into the excavation area as expected, but then after curving slightly inwards they terminated respecting a previously unknown palisaded enclosure (Fig 3). The latter was sub-rectangular in plan and *c* 60m x 50m in extent. It was defined by postholes spaced 0.2-0.5m apart with no gap suggestive of an entrance. The postholes were mostly under 0.4m in diameter and 0.2m in deep.

The interior of the enclosure contained isolated and clustered pits and postholes, including two probable four-post structures. The pit cluster in the southwest corner of the enclosure comprised features *c* 1.2m in diameter and 0.15m deep. One isolated pit was *c* 3m in diameter and 0.9m deep with a dark charcoal-rich upper fill. A number of other pits within the interior had dark fills, some of which contained

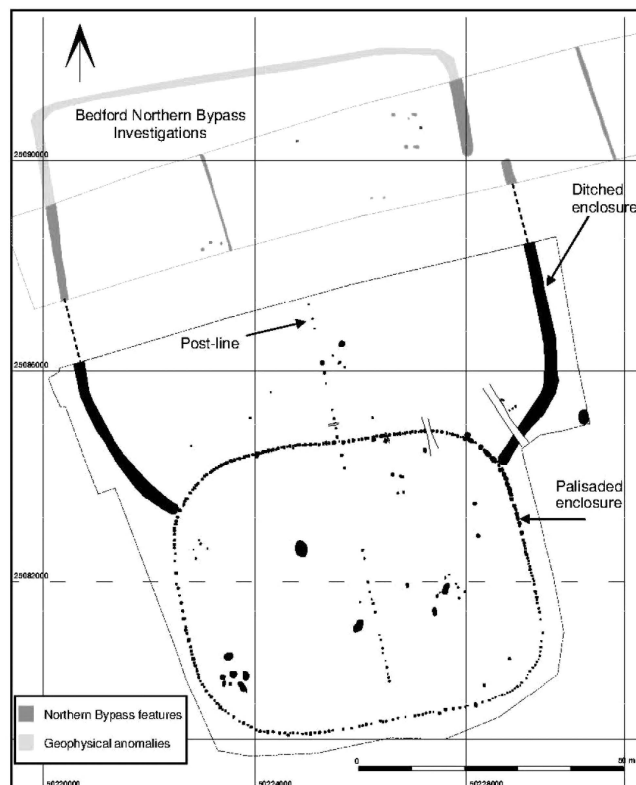


Fig 3. Probable late Bronze Age/early Iron Age enclosures (Area G).

Bedfordshire

burnt stones although no in-situ burning was present. The enclosure was bisected by another posthole alignment that continued into the ditched enclosure to the north.

Although a small assemblage of pottery and flint was recovered from these features, it was not particularly diagnostic of date. Therefore, the best dating evidence is the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery recovered from the ditched enclosure within the adjacent Bypass investigations (Luke *et al*, 2014, 2). Contemporary palisaded enclosures are not common in the region but a comparable one with limited evidence for internal activity is known at Horcott Pit, near Fairfield, Glos. (Lamdin-Whymark *et al*, 2009, fig 14). However, the integral palisaded and ditched enclosure within Area G is particularly unusual.

The only feature identified beyond the palisaded enclosure was a large pit *c* 2m in diameter and 1.1m deep. It contained a small undiagnostic assemblage of flint and pottery. A similar pit, also undated, was found in Area F, *c* 60m to the east. The dating of these pits is uncertain but similar ones within the Bypass investigations were assumed to be late Neolithic/early Bronze Age in date (Luke *et al*, 2014, 2), although a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date is perhaps more likely given the greater amount of evidence for this period.

A scatter of small pits containing late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery and flint were found *c* 200m to the south-east within Area H (Fig 2).

Romano-British

The main evidence from this period comprised a farmstead (Area H), peripheral activity (Area F) and a trackway (Area I).

The farmstead comprised at least four rectilinear enclosures on either side of a trackway (Fig 4) and is, therefore, comparable in layout to those within the Biddenham Loop (Luke, 2008, fig. 2.16). The recorded features probably represent the northeast corner of the enclosure system, although small pits and postholes were found to the east. However, in all other directions the enclosure system continued beyond the limit of the excavation area. The

trackway was defined by two parallel ditches *c* 9m apart and also continued beyond the limit of excavation in both directions.

Evidence for activity within the enclosures comprised dispersed and clustered groups of small pits and postholes, four water pits, hints of limestone and cobbled surfaces and an area of quarry pits. The latter were clearly located to exploit a band of clay but no pottery kilns or kiln furniture were present. The quarrying extended into the trackway corridor. No obvious buildings were identified but a larger quantity of domestic debris was found in the enclosures to the north of the trackway suggesting these contained the farmstead's domestic focus.

The overall finds assemblage comprised 18.4kg pottery, 69 other artefacts including 37 coins and 14.5kg of animal bone. The majority of the ceramic assemblage dates to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. The absence of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery indicates that the farmstead was post-Conquest in origin.

Area F, *c* 150m north of the farmstead, contained ditches and a cluster of pits, all of which produced Roman pottery. One of the ditches is almost certainly the continuation of one of the ditches within the farmstead.

Area I, *c* 180m to the north-east, contained two parallel ditches. These are the continuation of ones interpreted as part of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age boundary within the adjacent Bypass investigations (Luke *et al*, 2014, 2). However, given the presence of small amounts of Roman pottery within the Area I ditches and the presence of a trackway within the farmstead, it is considered more likely that these features are Romano-British in date.

Early Saxon

This period was represented by one small pit in the eastern half of Area H. It contained a large quantity of early Saxon pottery, probably a single vessel. Although no cremated bone was present to indicate a burial, the feature was unusual because the vessel appeared to be placed on a layer of several large stones within a dark, charcoal-rich fill.

Medieval

Furrows of presumed medieval date were identified within Areas G and H and their absence in other areas is believed to be largely the result of modern ploughing.

Post-medieval

A penannular ring-ditch was present in the southeast corner of Area H (Fig 4). It truncated the Roman features and contained artefacts dating to the 18th century. The ring-ditch is, therefore, interpreted as the quarry ditch around a windmill. Its location correlates with field names such as 'Windmill Hill' on the 1794 pre-enclosure map. No evidence for the trench or pit mounting of the mill foundation timbers was observed. They are presumed to have either been set in the mound, which was subsequently truncated, or mounted clear of the ground on a brick or stone wall. This is commonly seen on 17th and 18th century post mills (Crossley 1990, 129). A smaller semi-circular ditch lay to the west of the windmill but its function is uncertain.

The edge of extensive post-medieval quarrying was located at the southern limit of Area B. It is this area of quarrying that is believed to have located, and destroyed, a Roman

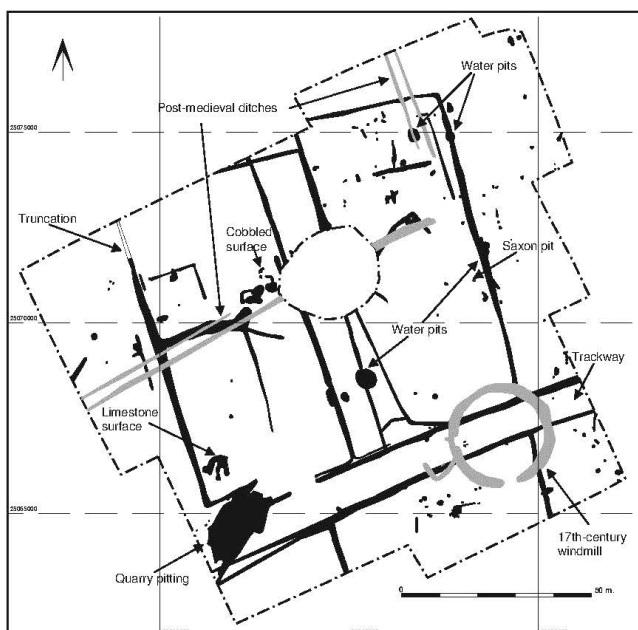


Fig 4. Romano-British farmstead (Area H).

stone-lined well (Simco, 1984, 56 and fig. 56). It is, therefore, interesting to note that no contemporary features or artefacts were found in Area B. OASIS ID: albionar1-189025 Accession Number: BEDFM 2014.55

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Biggleswade, Land at Kennel Farm (TL 2085 4406)

Jo Barker and Jeremy Oetgen

Trial trenching located part of an early medieval enclosure system, situated on the periphery of the extensive contemporary settlement recorded to west and south. The enclosures produced small amounts of pottery and animal bone and are, in isolation, of relatively low archaeological significance. OASIS ID: albionar1-174524 Accession Number: BEDFM 2014.22

Caddington, Land at Chaul End (TL 0578 2121)

Mark Phillips

Geotechnical survey work was undertaken in advance of a possible future planning application for redevelopment of the site for residential use. Previous investigations in the area around Caddington have produced evidence dating from the Palaeolithic period and so specialists in geoarchaeology and Palaeolithic archaeology attended the site to assess the potential for Palaeolithic deposits. Seven geotechnical test pits were examined and the three with the greatest potential for survival of Palaeolithic deposits were monitored. The investigation of the site found no evidence of activity pre-dating the modern use of the site. No archaeological features were identified in the trenches and no artefacts were recovered from the test pits or the excavated spoil. OASIS ID: albionar1-174555 Accession Number: LUTNM 2014/11

Dunstable, Land to rear of 4 Great Northern Road (TL 0246 2136)

Kathy Pilkinton

Planning consent was granted for residential development of the site. Open area investigation revealed a low level of Roman and early medieval activity, though the limited and mixed nature of the finds assemblage made secure dating of the features particularly uncertain. OASIS ID: albionar1-170607 Accession Number: LUTNM 2014/05

Eaton Bray, White Horse Public House, Park Lane (SP 9684 2094)

Jeremy Oetgen

Post-excavation analysis of environmental evidence from 12th-13th century deposits has shed light on the character, date and development of the medieval settlement at Eaton Bray.

Trial trenching and subsequent open area excavation were undertaken as a condition of planning permission. No buildings were found but three undated ditch segments enclosing a number of discrete features were interpreted as remains of late Saxon to medieval croft or garden plots on the edge of the medieval village (HER 16838).

The most significant feature comprised a well containing waterlogged organic deposits dated by pottery to the 12th or 13th century. The sequence of fills suggested the well was initially backfilled with bulk organic material. These deposits were then capped with a sterile silty clay, followed by alternating humic deposits and occupation debris (including animal bone) representing episodic infill and erosion, indicating the use of the former well as a rubbish pit. The uppermost deposits were derived from gradual erosion and natural silting of the well/pit once rubbish dumping had ceased. The sequence of deposits was sampled for plant remains and pollen, the analysis of which was completed in 2014 by John Giorgi and Gill Cruise respectively.

The pollen and charred plant remains

Pollen evidence strongly indicates that an open, mixed arable-grassland landscape existed in the locality and that woodland and hedgerows would have been largely absent. Similarly, although there were indications of fairly herb-rich, weedy, grassy areas close to the site, there were no indications of stable debris, accumulations of dung heaps or stock trampling; any stables would have been located elsewhere. Increases in grassland taxa and reduction in arable/disturbed soil taxa in the later sample suggest a local expansion in grassy communities. This may indicate an overall increase in the area of grassland or, more likely, a fallow phase within the medieval agricultural cycle.

Charred plant remains from three bulk soil samples all produced very rich and virtually clean grain assemblages. Free-threshing wheat (including bread wheat) and, to a lesser extent, hulled barley were the main cereals being used on the site; oats and rye appeared to have only been minor crops. There was also a little evidence for beans and wild foods (hazel nuts and elderberries). Given the pollen evidence for the absence of woodland resources, the latter would have been imported onto the site.

The weed seeds suggest that the local soils may have been used for cereal cultivation - both the heavier loams and clays to the west of Eaton Bray, which would have been better suited to the growing of bread wheat, and the better drained less clayey loams to the east, which would have been more suited to barley cultivation. There was tentative evidence for the winter sowing of crops and the harvesting of cereals fairly low on the straw.

There was no significant difference between the individual charred plant assemblages, all of which are indicative of clean grain deposits which may have been accidentally burnt during activities associated with the final cleaning and food

Bedfordshire

preparation/cooking; there was little evidence for debris from earlier stages of crop-cleaning.

The significance of the environmental evidence in relation to the medieval settlement at Eaton Bray

The site lies on the north-west edge of the postulated extent of the medieval village of Eaton but some distance away from the main medieval foci which were centred on the Great Green to the north, St Mary's Church and a smaller medieval moated site to the south-east. The form of the medieval settlement of Eaton Bray is considered unusual (Coleman *pers. comm.*), because it is an elongated settlement which consisted of several foci around several linear village greens. One of these elongated greens lay directly to the east of the White Horse public house (Fig 5); it is depicted on Jefferys's map of Bedfordshire of 1765 and the Enclosure map of 1860 shows it as a market place. However, its earlier history is conjectural. The environmental evidence from the well, which suggests the local presence of open grassland, implies that the green was already extant in the medieval period. OASIS ID albionar1-148289 Accession Number: LUTNM 2013/06

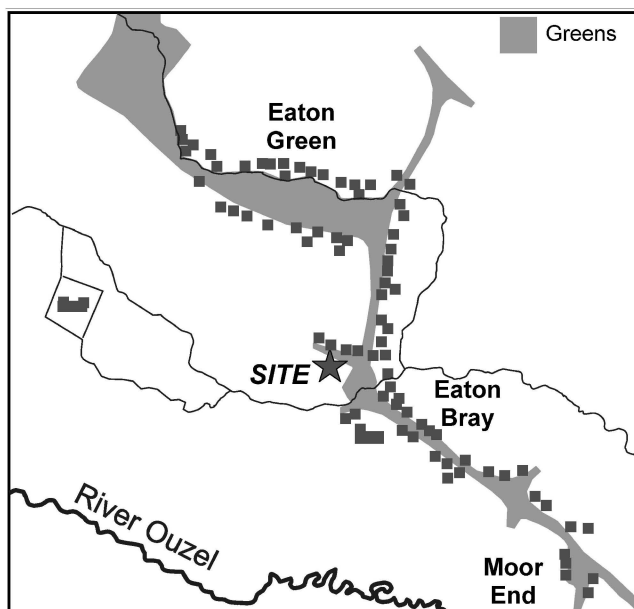


Fig 5. The White Horse pub site in relation to Eaton Bray as depicted on the Jefferys map of Bedfordshire.

Riseley, Land to the rear of 36 High Street

(TL 0391 6256)

Mark Phillips and Slawomir Utrata

A watching brief was carried out during construction of a new dwelling. The earliest dateable archaeological feature was a pit containing a single sherd of pottery dated to the 15th-16th centuries. Other features included two NE-SW aligned ditches and a clay-filled, circular feature that is interpreted as a well. OASIS ID albionar1- 177720 Accession Number: BEDFM 2014.32

Shefford, Robert Bloomfield Academy

(TL 1386 3867)

Mark Phillips

Planning permission was granted for the demolition of temporary classrooms and the construction of a new two-storey classroom block. No archaeological features

were identified during monitoring of the groundworks. The results of this investigation, reinforced by the results of previous trial trench evaluations on this side of the school complex, suggest that the Roman settlement focus was located to the north of the development area. OASIS ID albionar1-190309 Accession Number: BEDFM 2014.5

Shortstown Lower School - evaluation (TL 0685 4683)

Christiane Meckseper, Ben Carroll and Jackie Wells

Trial trenching site of the former school site revealed a small number of archaeological features to the north and west of the main school building. Those to the west of the school appear to date to the early Iron Age and define a series of enclosures. Some of the features to the north of the school appear to correlate with vegetation marks. Although truncated by medieval and later cultivation, these features have at least local significance, given the findings from the nearby site at the former RAF Cardington, further to the east. OASIS ID albionar1-170792 Accession Number: BEDFM 2014.10

Shortstown Lower School - mitigation (TL 0685 4683)

Gary Edmondson and Jackie Wells

Continuing on from the earlier evaluation, open area excavation was undertaken prior to the demolition of the main school building. The earliest phase of activity comprised an early-middle Iron Age enclosure and a possible associated roundhouse. Subsequently, another ditched enclosure was tacked on to the east. Evidence of recutting suggests that this area was a focus of activity for an extended period of time.

Subsequently, the area was utilised in the Saxo-Norman period with traces of two phases of activity, suggesting a focus of habitation in the vicinity. A series of angular ditches were replaced by a boundary and (in the east) possible building elements. In the medieval period the land was under arable cultivation, with a series of furrows following the slope of the ground. OASIS ID albionar1-176124 Accession Number: BEDFM 2014.10

Silsoe, Silsoe House, 2 Ampthill Road (TL 0813 3580)

Wes Keir

Planning permission was granted for alterations and additions to the existing Silsoe House. A programme of archaeological works revealed a number of post-medieval ditches. OASIS ID albionar1-166003 a\Accession Number: LUTNM 2013/23

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY

Woburn: Abbey Park (SP 9648 3258)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In February and March a programme of observation and monitoring was carried out within the Grotto Garden, following the unexpected discovery of human remains whilst excavating a trench for pipework associated with a ground-source heat pump. The trench revealed that the observed area had been extensively landscaped through truncation of the natural deposit and deposition of

made-ground, activity probably associated with construction of the present house in the 17th century. Four partially articulated human skeletons were excavated, along with disarticulated human remains. These are thought to be associated with the medieval Abbey, but little in the way of dating evidence was discovered, apart from a residual yellow and green-glazed medieval floor tile.

BARRY HORNE AND ASSOCIATES

Totternhoe, West Field (SP 981 211)

Introduction

This site was first noticed on an air photograph by Angela Simco (per comm). It was soon realised it was the only site in the area, found by fieldwalking, which showed as a cropmark. The author suggested this was due to the underlying geology. The cropmark being made visible by the Combe deposit but not by the Lower Chalk (Horne, 2000).

The photograph appeared to show a rectangular layout of enclosures which suggested to the author that the site was Roman in date. This was backed up by the finding of Roman material by Worthington G Smith, the local antiquary (Smith, 1904). He records finding a large number of broken cinerary urns in waste-pits in West Field, Totternhoe. He also says "The discoveries of Roman waste-pits and pottery at Dunstable fall into insignificance when compared with the waste-pits found in West Field, Totternhoe in 1899. The long trenches were not fewer than eight in number, and from 25 feet to 30 feet apart; they were full of broken Roman pottery and bones. The pottery included not only broken vases [sic] of all sorts, but floor and roof tiles and pieces of the so called Samian ware". On a large map of the area which accompanies the text, Smith indicates an area of West Field with six north-south dotted lines which he labels "Roman Waste Pits". It is unclear if these lines are meant to represent the trenches to which he refers. West Field itself refers to a larger area so we cannot be certain of the location of the "large number of broken cinerary urns in waste-pits in West Field".

West Field is about 1.2km away from the site of the late 3rd to mid 4th century Roman villa (SP 9896 2071) which was partially excavated in the 1950s (Matthews, Schneider and Horne, 1992).

Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics was employed to carry out a geophysical survey of the site in 2014 (2nd October 2014 - 17th October 2014) (Ainslie, 2014).

Geophysical Survey

The magnetometer survey revealed a number of enclosures running roughly north-south in two parallel rows separated by a trackway (Fig 6). The enclosures at the northern end are of a ladder formation while that at the southern end, on the west, and seemingly earlier, is of a more elaborate design and is comparable with a banjo enclosure at South View (Cunliffe, 2005).

The northern end of the field is about three metres lower than the southern end so that colluvium is deeper at the northern end. The eastern side of the field is similarly lower and this has led to the obscuration of features shown by magnetometry. A small amount of resistivity was

undertaken in these areas and this confirmed the continuation of the enclosures.

In the northern part of the area there is what appears to be roughly north-south ridge and furrow.

Several arcs are discernable in some of the enclosures and these may be round houses.

Conclusions

Prior to the geophysical survey being carried out the evidence all seemed to point to the site being Roman. However, the site now has a decidedly Iron Age appearance. During 2015 it is intended to sample some of the features to see if they can be dated.

Special thanks to the farmer Tim Linney.

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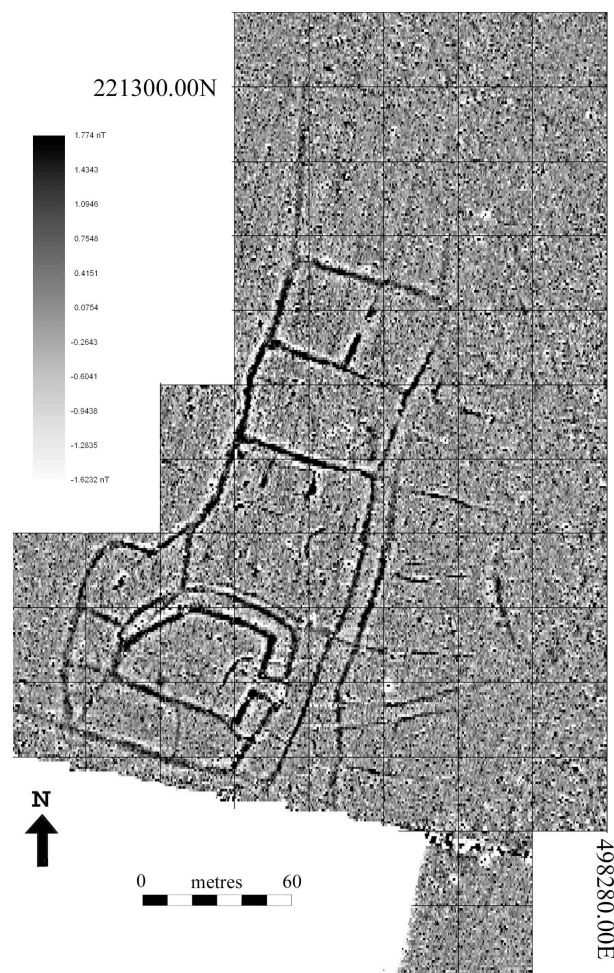


Fig 6. Totternhoe, West Field. Magnetometer survey.

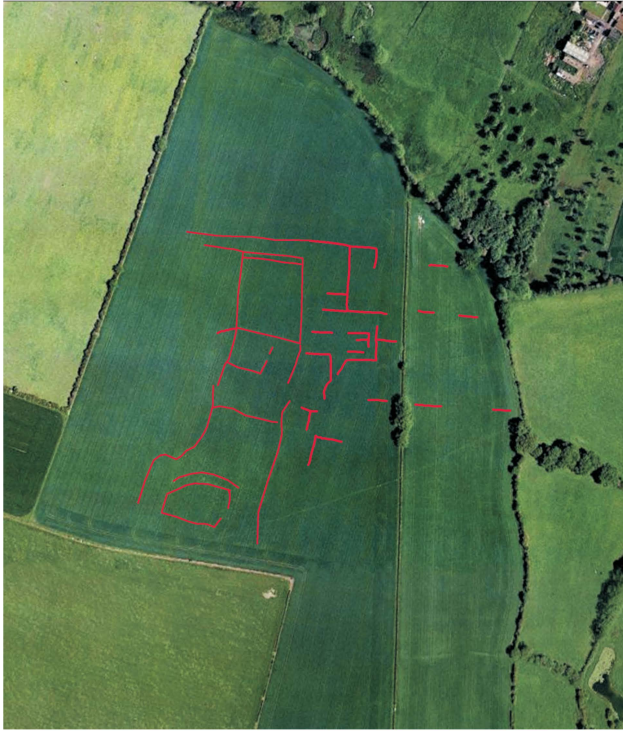


Fig 7. Totternhoe, West Field. Cropmarks.

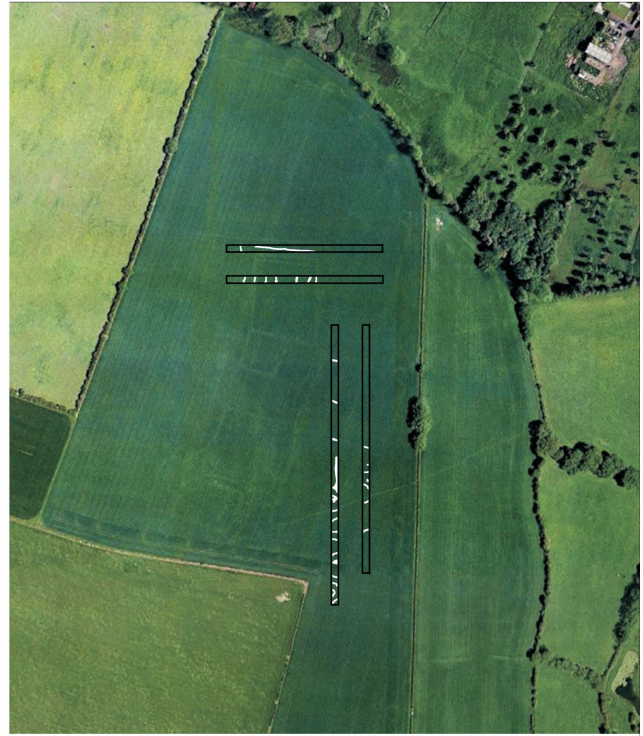


Fig 8. Totternhoe, West Field. Resistivity.



Fig 9. Totternhoe, West Field. Magnetometry.



Fig 10. Totternhoe, West Field. All results.

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Heath & Reach: The 'Dukes Head', Leighton Road (SP 9256 2803)

Bob Zeepvat

In September a desk-based assessment was prepared for the 'Dukes Head', to inform preparation of a heritage statement in support of a planning application for the construction of two detached dwellings to the rear of the property.

The assessment revealed only slight evidence for prehistoric, Iron Age and Saxon activity in the study area. Some evidence of Roman occupation is recorded from the gravel

pits to the east and south of the village, but there is no evidence to suggest that this extends to the assessment site. Occupation in the two settlements that eventually joined to form Heath and Reach is not recorded before the medieval period. The discovery on the assessment site of a medieval pottery kiln in 2006 suggests that further evidence of this industry may survive in the development area. The building that became the 'Dukes Head', originally the 'Duke of Cumberland's Head', is first recorded in 1745, and remained a public house until 2007. It is Grade II listed. The development area appears to have been a paddock or garden until it became the pub car park in the late 20th century.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORD BOROUGH 2014-15

Vanessa Clarke, Senior Archaeological Officer
Historic Environment Planning Services

Fieldwork Projects

There have been a large number of development-related fieldwork projects undertaken with the Bedford Borough Council area in 2014-15.

A particular highlight has been the investigation of a large plot in the Saxon and Medieval heart of Bedford after the demolition of the Bedford Town Hall complex and before the redevelopment of the land off St. Paul's Square and south of Horne Lane for a mixed-use scheme. Two phases of archaeological evaluation revealed the remains of Saxo-Norman activity on site and evidence for a possible building with extensive mortar floors dating to the 12th to 13th centuries. Extensive backyard activity was also recorded, mainly pits and ditches which also produced lots of pottery dating to the 12th and 13th centuries. This suggested a site with reasonably high-status buildings towards the frontage of Horne Lane, with refuse deposition in an area to the rear of the buildings in what must have been largely open ground subject to flooding.

In a trench to the east of the former Town Hall, two inhumations thought to be associated with the demolished medieval Herne Chapel and aligned east to west, were also located.

Fieldwork has continued in the Dairy Farm area of Willington Quarry, recent work revealed well preserved waterlogged palaeo-channels which contained organic remains dating from the later Prehistoric and Roman-British periods. Notable artefacts recovered from near the surface of the deposits include a beehive quern complete with central iron pivot and partial remains of the wooden handle within the socket, and part of a wooden bowl. On the edge of the palaeochannels an area of earlier flint working was identified suggesting that the channels were active for a prolonged period of time. The palaeo-channels were preserved in situ and therefore not subject to full excavation. Fieldwork in the Dairy Farm part of the quarry is now coming to an end with full post-excavation analysis and reporting to follow.

Work at a further quarry site near the Blackcat Roundabout has revealed multi-period remains which also appear to be focussed on a number of palaeo-channels. Remains include a small Romano-British settlement within a sub-rectangular enclosure, a large interrupted ditch which has yet to be conclusively dated, and a number of dispersed pits of late Neolithic and early Bronze Age date. Fieldwork in the area is expected to continue for sometime.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

In 2014-2015, the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Team completed a mini-audit of the HER in conjunction with Historic England. The key aims of the audit were to assess the state of the HER, its strengths and weaknesses, and to use the information generated by the process to develop a series of recommendations for the HER's improvement and enhancement, which in turn has informed the creation of an Action Plan setting out key priorities and individual tasks, timescales and resources. The Action Plan is already being implemented and so far has included the updating and

cross-checking of listed building data held in the HER with the Historic England National Heritage List and will include the production of a suite of HER policy documentation and a host of mini-enhancement projects, designed to improve the scope and content of the HER. Capacity building measures are also being investigated as part of this process.

We have recently taken on a work experience student who is currently studying for their MA in Landscape Archaeology, to help out in the HER. Over the next year they will receive an insight into the working life of an Historic Environment officer, mainly focussing on the HER but also gaining experience of archaeological development management. In return, they will assist with the updating and maintenance of the HER.

Outreach

Bedford River Valley Park project

Throughout 2014-15 extensive work was undertaken on the delivery of the Heritage lottery funded, Past, Present and Future Landscapes of Bedford River Valley Park project by the Senior Archaeologist and project partners, The Marston Vale Trust, in conjunction with heritage interpretation specialists, In-Heritage. The project has also received additional invaluable support in kind, from Albion Archaeology (particularly Jeremy Oetgen), Willington Local History Group, the Saturday Archaeology Workshop (particularly Susannah Oliver), Bedford Borough Parks and Countryside Team (particularly Ed Burnett) and Bedford Sixth Form College.

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

Bedford River Valley Park contains a microcosm of the historic environment of Bedford Borough, with archaeological remains, standing buildings and excavated sites dating from all periods, a number of which are designated heritage assets. Further background details appear in *SMA* 43, 2013, pp.14-15.

The project involves the development of interpretation for the diverse heritage of Bedford River Valley Park (BRVP). Through mixed media interpretation, comprising interpretation panels with QR codes and/or Near Field Communication, an interactive website with downloadable documents including family fund downloads, a portable exhibition, podcasts, geocaching, leaflets and walks, and an animated film aimed at a young audience, the aim is that the general public will have readily accessible information about BRVP, and how the park is a living, breathing landscape where human activity has shaped the land, in the past, present and for the future. This project will allow visitors to appreciate the rich heritage of BRVP's landscape and take a journey through time to see how human activities have influenced the area. Interpretation facilities will be located in a number of key locations within BRVP. On-line resources and website features will also be available for 'distance

Bedfordshire

learning'. The interpretation for this project will span the entirety of the known history of the BRVP landscape.

Interpretation boards have been installed at a number of sites (see: www.bedfordrivervalleypark.org/heritage-project-interpretation-boards-installed/) with help from the Priory Rangers and Community Payback Team, focussing on Mesolithic hunters, Neolithic burial practices, Late Iron Age and Roman settlement, Medieval Newnham Priory, the River Great Ouse highway and the introduction of the Oxford to Cambridge railway. Reconstruction drawings were specially commissioned for these from the artist, Pete Urmston.

A guided walk centred on the new interpretation boards was provided at the Festival of British Archaeology on 26th July 2014 by Jeremy Oetgen of Albion Archaeology, as part of the project. The project's partners, the Marston Vale Trust produced at the time a leaflet of a self-guided walk around the heritage interpretation boards. This is available at the Priory Visitors' Centre and online as a downloadable pdf from the BRVP website.



Fig 11. Artist's reconstruction drawing of Newnham Priory, Bedford - the archaeological remains now hidden beneath a car park.

A mobile exhibition focussing on the park's heritage will shortly be erected at its first location - at the key gateway point into Bedford River Valley Park - Priory Country Park Visitors' Centre. It consists of six hard-wearing vinyl pop-up banners on stands, themed chronologically and focussing on BRVP's archaeological sites and past landscapes.

A session led by Bedford Museum's Educator (Learning and Access Officer) and leader of the children's Saturday Archaeology Workshop (SAW) took place in October 2014, where the content and design of the proposed children's family fun downloads were developed, suitable for home or school use. The sheets include guidance on making an Archaeology Cake, making 'Stained Glass Window' biscuits and Time Traveller's Search etc. They will be posted as free downloadable pdf/s on the Bedford River Valley Park website and be available as paper copies at key sites around the Park, such as the Priory Country Park Visitors' Centre.

A geocache trail has been designed for BRVP. In 2014, Bedford Sixth Form College offered their machinery and student involvement in the production of the trail's geocoins, which have been made from wooden roundels. Text for laminated heritage-themed information cards will be put

inside the clip boxes and placed at each geocache site within BRVP. Trail details will be posted on geocaching.com.

Three volunteers from the Willington Local History Group attended an oral history training workshop on the 2nd April 2014 ahead of the recording of podcasts for the listening posts and websites; these volunteers recorded 12 oral histories for the Bedford River Valley Park listening posts, which were delivered to the Park in March 2015 ready for installation.

The A3 leaflet aimed at providing an introduction to the heritage of BRVP has been drafted with inside pages split into different chronological periods with images, and a map with key interpretative sites marked on eg listening posts and interpretation boards. These will be available as paper copies and as downloadable pdfs.

An animated film takes young viewers on a chronological romp through Bedford River Valley Park's archaeological landscapes and recent history. It is accompanied by a specially commissioned song. It includes woolly mammoths, Mesolithic hunters, Roman bathers, marauding Vikings, medieval monks, local boatmen and one of Europe's oldest airship sheds and will be available on the BRVP website.

The Bedford River Valley heritage webpages are almost complete. They include detailed information on a number of archaeological and historic sites to be found throughout the park and will include information on the geocache trail, listening posts/podcasts, the animated film, family/ school downloadable activity sheets and A3 guide to the heritage of BRVP.

The project has also worked with students from Bedford College who filmed the Bedford Borough Senior Archaeological Officer, local commercial archaeologist, Jeremy Oetgen, who has excavated many of the Park's sites, members of the specialist heritage interpretation team working on the project and staff from Marston Vale Trust, lead partners on the project. The focus of this film has been the Park's archaeological landscapes and the project itself. It includes shots of excavated items such as mammoth tusks, Palaeolithic handaxes and a medieval lead priest's chalice. The film will be uploaded to YouTube shortly when editing is complete. It is aimed at 12-18 year olds. It was undertaken in response to a Bedford Sixth Form College Focus group session in September 2014

1-4 St. Paul's Square, Bedford

The Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record will also be involved in June 2015, with an information 'Treasure Hunt' focussed on the recently restored 1-4 St. Paul's Square, Bedford, a medieval timber-framed building. Until recently, the buildings had been left empty and unused for around 40 years. However, with funding from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), Bedford Borough Council and grant funding from Bedford High Street's Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), Aldwyck Housing Group is converting the buildings to create 10 new affordable flats for local people and regenerating an important part of the town centre.

The buildings have a rich history and because of this, the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Team commissioned a recording of the timber frame structure, supported by dendrochronological dating undertaken by English Heritage which provided a date of AD 1438-59 for the original structure, a surprisingly early date.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**Ampthill, 97a Dunstable Street (TL 0349 3795)**

Jeremy Mordue

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features pre-dating the late post-medieval period.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

(Formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology)

Summaries for 2014 compiled by Pat Chapman and Andy Chapman

Biggleswade, Potton Road (TL 1990 4590)

James Fairclough

In a trial trench evaluation, only two pits and a gully were found, and the only finds were an iron nail and an iron strip. This site lay across the road from a previous site that contained a Neolithic pit group (*SMA* 41 (2011), 11-14). BEDFM: 2012.29

Chalton and Houghton Regis, A5-M1

(SP 9959 2435 to TL 0383 2587)

Jason Clarke and Christopher Jones

Archaeological trial trench evaluation for the A5-M1 Link Road began in May and identified two concentrations of archaeological remains. Late Iron Age and Roman enclosure boundaries, either side of the M1 motorway, may have been part of a contemporary ancient landscape that was fragmented by the motorway development in 1958-1959. A large Roman quarry pit may also indicate small scale extraction. Anglo-Saxon pottery and a loomweight were found on the west side of the motorway, on the fringes of Chalton. Two existing plot boundaries appeared to form a small village end of 12th century date, occupied by properties, with medieval remains in the field adjacent. LTNMG 1093

Chalton, M1 Junction 11a (TL 0366 2572)

Jason Clarke

Geotechnical investigations were to include trial pits for monitoring archaeologically sensitive areas. However, the geotechnical team used boreholes, so no deposits were visible for archaeological inspection. LTNMG 1093

Chelveston Airfield (TL 0062 6805)

Jason Clarke and Gemma Hewitt

Two ditches dating to the later 1st to 2nd centuries AD and remnant furrows of ridge and furrow medieval cultivation were recorded in a trial trench evaluation and watching brief. Remains of the airbase included part of the main 1940s 'A-frame' runway and the truncation for the surviving runway of the 1950s. BEDFM.2014.58

Langford, Station Road (TL 190 404)

Ian Fisher and John Walford

Detailed magnetometer survey identified two rectilinear enclosures of unknown date and two areas of magnetic noise which may relate to buildings depicted on the 1829 inclosure map of Langford. BEDFM 2014.30

Luton, M1 Junction 10a (TL 0937 1928)

Carol Simmonds, Anne Foard-Colby, Gemma Hewitt

An archaeological earthwork survey was undertaken for Luton Borough Council of the areas of Kidney Wood likely to be directly impacted by the Junction 10a Road Improvements. During observation of groundworks a pattern of shallow gullies forming a possible prehistoric field system was recorded. The medieval boundaries of Kidney Wood were still surviving intact into the 17th and 18th centuries. However, they were substantially truncated in the 18th and 19th centuries when the woodland and surrounding landscape was intensively managed and quarried for a local brickmaking industry at the Luton Hoo estate. Luton Hoo, although noted for its pleasure grounds and visible display of wealth, was also a working estate for timber, wood, clay/brick and chalk. LUTMN 2013.25

Marston Mortaine, Wood End (SP 9770 4160)

Liz Muldowney

Six trenches were excavated to target geophysical anomalies in fields adjacent to Wood End moat. A medieval to post-medieval drainage channel serving the nearby moat was recorded in two trenches. Elsewhere a series of ditches were recorded, all dating to the transitional Iron Age to early Romano-British period. The geophysical survey plot indicates that these were part of enclosures and trackways. One trench contained only furrows of a ridge and furrow field system. BEDFM: 2013.45

Shefford, Stanford Road (TL 1462 3940)

Edmund Taylor

Archaeological excavations were carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA Northampton) at Stanford Road during April and May 2012. There was an early/middle Anglo-Saxon settlement containing three sunken-featured buildings. The finds include a spindlewhorl and fragments of annular loomweights and the pottery assemblage includes stamp impressions, suggesting a date of the mid-6th to earlier 7th centuries. An exceptionally small thumb-pot could have been a child's toy. Medieval and post-medieval ditches were also recorded. BEDFM: 2011.73

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Summaries by Rachel Clarke

Elstow to Wixams Main Replacement Water Pipeline (TL 0380 3915 to 0380 4337)

Chris Thatcher and Graeme Clarke

Evaluation trenching did not identify significant remains, although the subsequent monitoring of the topsoil strip in the northern part of the scheme exposed a series of archaeological features. Most of the features investigated in the subsequent excavations related to medieval occupation and activity dating from the 12th to 14th centuries, and included pits, postholes, a cobbled surface and several boundary plot ditches. These can clearly be related to known medieval settlement remains in this location (HER 653/1889), represented by earthworks including house platforms, ridge and furrow and a moated site (HER 5223), that were associated with the adjacent hamlet of How End.

Bedfordshire

Although now largely ploughed out, the remains show clearly as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Ditched boundaries and a pit dating to the post-medieval period were also revealed in one of the excavation areas. (OA East Report 1626)

Luton, Luton Vale Cemetery Extension (TL1060 2466)

Chris Thatcher

An archaeological excavation revealed evidence of activity spanning the early Iron Age to post-medieval period. Iron Age settlement activity was represented by enclosure and boundary ditches, in addition to a series of at least three roundhouses, a number of pits and large watering holes. The Roman period was represented by increased formalisation of enclosures and other boundaries, along with a number of large pits/postholes relating to early Roman settlement in the southern part of the site.

A small cemetery was identified in the north-east corner of an enclosure in the southern part of the site. This was probably initially established in the Iron Age when a small barrow appears to have been constructed, into which a number of possible graves (no bone survived) were subsequently inserted. This cemetery continued to be used throughout the Roman period, during which time seven cremation burials were added.

Later activity on the site comprised a number of medieval and post-medieval boundary ditches, the former aligned

parallel with and perpendicular to Butterfield Lane; a clunch-filled foundation trench and a pit were present in the southernmost of these plots. (OA East Report 1679)

Pertenhall, Land to the South of Manor Farm

(TL 076 644)

Robin Webb

Evaluation revealed numerous ditches and furrows, along with several pits that were dispersed across five fields. Trenches were positioned to the east of a series of geophysical anomalies, interpreted as a probable Roman villa: remains that were to be left *in situ*. No features directly relating to the villa were identified and the majority of the small group of finds recovered (including single sherds of Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval pottery) are likely to have been residual. This land to the east of the suspected villa is low-lying and wet, overlying the Oxford Clay, and is most likely to have been damp pasture unsuitable for occupation. (OA East Report 1720)

Pulloxhill Water Treatment Works, Sand Lane

(TL 0804 3365)

James Fairbairn

This area contained earthworks thought to represent medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. The archaeological works revealed that the earthworks were more severely truncated than was apparent from the surface topography.

Although the bases of the furrows survived intact, the ridges appeared to have been truncated and then reconstructed, presumably during works associated with the installation of services associated with the Water Treatment Works. (OA East Report 1623)

Stotfold, 97 The Old Bakery Site, No 97 The Green

(TL 2181 3752)

James Fairbairn

Trenching revealed a possible later medieval pond or naturally wet area, a small post-medieval pit and a number of 19th and 20th century brick foundations. (OA East Report 1643)

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Leighton Buzzard, Late Saxon and Medieval Occupation at 16 North Street (SP 9223 2517)

Tom Woolhouse and Berni Sudds

An archaeological evaluation and excavation were carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) at 16 North Street, Leighton Buzzard (SP 9223 2517; Fig 12 and 13), in September 2013, in advance of residential redevelopment. The northern part of the site had been heavily truncated by a former garage and bus depot and no archaeological remains survived. However,

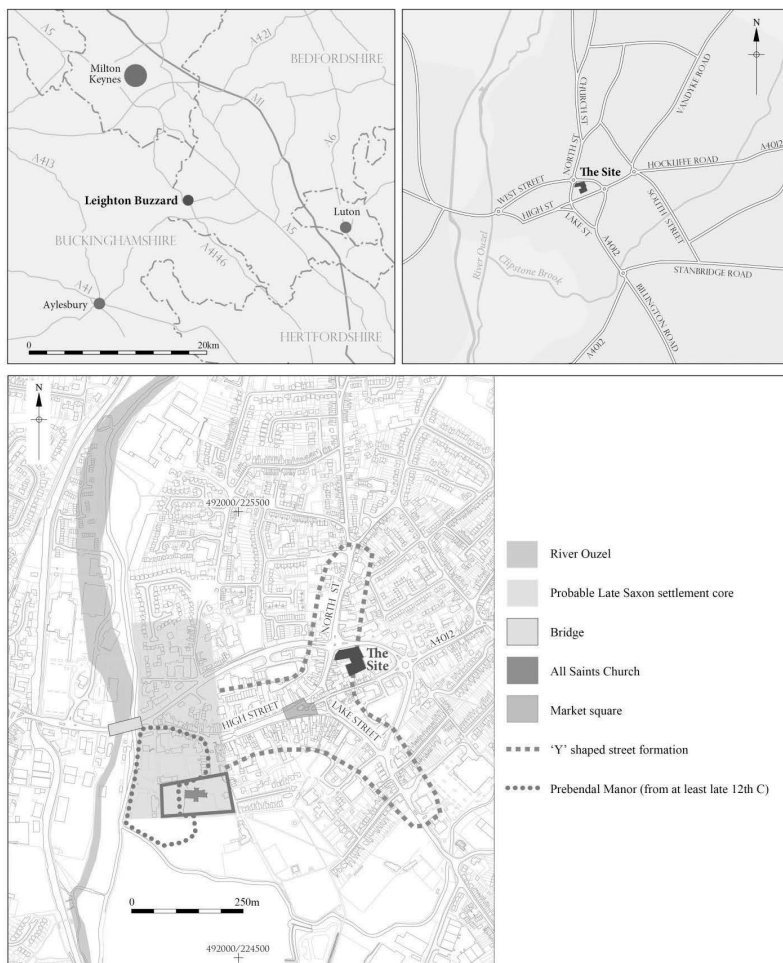


Fig 12. Site location showing conjectured Saxon and medieval components of Leighton Buzzard town plan (Based on Leighton Buzzard Archaeological Assessment: MacQueen and Edgeworth, 2005, fig. 14).

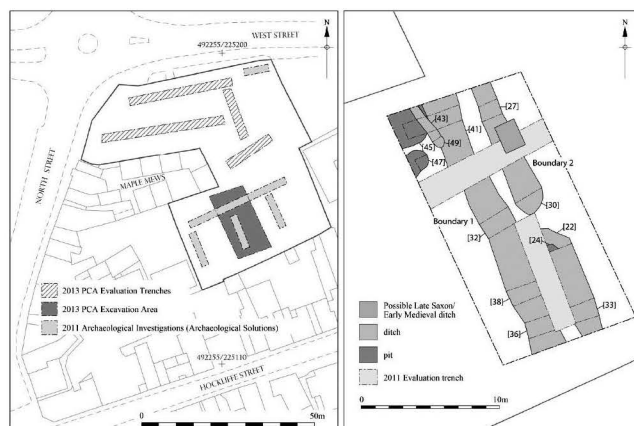


Fig 13. Site plan and archaeological features.

late Saxon and medieval deposits were preserved on the higher ground in the south of the site, which had previously been gardens.

Two parallel plot boundary ditches spaced approximately 1m apart and both around 2-2.5m across and 0.4-0.6m deep, crossed the excavation area on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig 13). The eastern ditch, Boundary 2, was in two sections, with the *c* 1m gap between their terminals forming a possible entrance. The associated pottery indicates that the ditches were successive demarcations of the same boundary rather than contemporary. Slots excavated across the ditches forming Boundary 2 produced small assemblages of St Neots-type ware and calcareous early medieval sherds, in addition to two small sherds of Hertfordshire-type greyware. An eleventh-century date is likely, with final infilling in the *c* mid-12th. The terminus of the southern ditch forming Boundary 2 was also cut by a pit [24] containing a St Neots Ware everted jar rim. The western ditch, Boundary 1, is certainly no earlier than mid-12th century in origin, based on the presence of Hertfordshire-type greyware and, in the southern most slot, a localized dump of household pottery including 27 sherds from an Orange Gritty jar and a jug rim and top of a stab-decorated handle in Brill/ Boarstall-type ware (*c* AD 1250-1400). A medieval rubbish pit [45] was recorded in the north-west corner of the excavation area, in addition to a drainage ditch slightly offset from the alignment of the larger plot boundaries. Another feature [47], which mostly lay beyond the western limit of the excavation, could be a pit or the terminus of a boundary ditch orientated perpendicular to Boundaries 1 and 2.

Significantly, the pottery assemblage from the site is, overall, dominated by St Neots-type ware (64 sherds; 432g), mostly found residually alongside 'high medieval' material. The group includes jars and bowls, with sherds often having heavy external sooting and traces of internal residues, indicating that they were used for the preparation and heating of foods and liquids. The bowls have distinctive pre-Norman Conquest 't'-shaped or in-turned rims. The range of forms, sooting and residues reflect domestic occupation close to the site during the late Saxon period, with Boundary 2 suggesting that formal divisions between household plots might already have been established by this time. Other finds from the ditches and pits comprise small quantities of iron slag and animal bone, preservation of the latter having been adversely affected by the sand geology.

The alignment of Boundaries 1 and 2 appears to be closely related to the line of Hockliffe Street, to the south of the site (Fig 13). It has been suggested that the basic 'Y'-shaped layout of streets in Leighton Buzzard town centre, comprising the High Street, triangular market place, Lake Street and North Street (Fig 12), is the result of deliberate re-planning in the 12th century (Coleman 1996), with the pre-Conquest Saxon settlement located to the west, on the east bank of the River Ouzel, and perhaps focused around a river crossing south of the present (originally medieval) bridge (MacQueen and Edgeworth 2005, 15-16). Hockliffe Street (formerly Jeffs Lane or Gigg Lane) is thought to be a later addition, in place by the 15th century (Coleman, 1981).

One of several problems with this model of the town's development, which has previously been highlighted, is that the High Street seems oddly disconnected from the main roads entering the town from the west, but when viewed in its wider landscape context, lines up very well with the orientation of the old main road through Wing to Aylesbury. Therefore, the High Street might actually be an important early element of the town's topography, which was cut off from the rest of this north-east to south-west route during the conjectured 12th century re-planning (MacQueen and Edgeworth, 2005, 19 and 32). This excavation demonstrates that there were indeed people living in this part of the town before the Norman Conquest, some distance from the previously-supposed late Saxon settlement core. Furthermore, the alignments of the excavated boundary ditches suggest that a route on the line of High Street and Hockliffe Street may already have been in place from as early as the late Saxon period, flanked by ditch-defined domestic burgage plots. An old sandstone wall foundation beneath the neighbouring buildings at Maple Mews is on the same alignment as the excavated ditches and testifies to the longevity of the plot boundary alignments, which may have been established in this part of the town as early as the 11th century, and which continue to be mirrored in the modern-day property boundaries.

Analysis of the pottery was carried out by Berni Suds. Full details of the background to the project, methodology, descriptions of all the archaeological features and deposits recorded and complete specialist reports can be found in the archive report (Morgan-Shelbourne, 2014), copies of which are available at Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (Site Code FLBN13) and online at the Archaeology Data Service website (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk>) under OASIS ID preconst1-159648. A previous phase of trial trench evaluation on the site was carried out by Archaeological Solutions in 2011 (Pozorski and Higgs, 2011).

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd, who kindly funded the work. The fieldwork was supervised by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne, assisted by Mary-Anne Slater. The project was managed for PCA by Mark Hinman.

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SOUTERRAIN SERVICES LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Cranfield, Hartwell Almshouses, High Street
(SP 95264 41934)

Martin D Wilson

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundwork for a rear extension and excavation of a gas service trench to the front of the building. The almshouses were built in the 19th century on the site of 18th century almshouses. The groundwork revealed stone foundations of the earlier building. There were no other finds of archaeological interest and no artefacts present. A disused brick culvert of probable 19th century date was exposed in the gas service trench. OASIS Ref. souterrai-192914

Yelden, Bottom Farm (TL 501461 267177)

Martin D Wilson

A Level 3 built heritage record was made of a group of disused and partly ruined 19th century brick-built farm buildings at Bottom Farm, Yelden. The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account, identifying the broad phases of development. The farm was once a part of the Yelden Estate, owned by Robert Clavering Savage, one of Yelden's principal landowners. It had been in Clavering ownership since at least the 18th century. The farmhouse, destroyed in the late 20th century, evidently was late medieval or post-medieval in date, having been timber-framed with wattle and daub walls and a thatched roof. The site was visible as a platform earthwork.

It is variously maintained that the surviving range of buildings, either originated as a brick-works, or were associated with brick manufacture prior to becoming a farm. However, the buildings are typical of a 19th century estate, while the documentary evidence provides a corroborative account of a farm operating a mixed economy of livestock rearing and cultivation. No evidence of brick production was found. The report also highlights the proximity of a brick-works owned by the Yelden Estate, which, for some 40 years, co-existed with the farm. OASIS Ref. souterrai-199567

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Newton Longville, Land off Whaddon Road
(SP 8419/3147)

Christiane Meckseper

Archaeological evaluation revealed only post-medieval agricultural features in the form of a deep subsoil and a field boundary ditch first shown on the tithe map of 1844. Two trenches contained modern demolition dump layers, possibly associated with the construction of bungalows and houses to the east. OASIS ID albionar1-157397 Accession Number: AYBCM : 2013.70

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY (ASC)

Princes Risborough: 1 High Street (SP 8087 0335)

Calli Rouse

In February a trial trench evaluation was undertaken of land to the rear of 1 High Street, in advance of proposed residential redevelopment of the site. The trench did not reveal any structural evidence, but two pits, probably of late post-medieval date, were cut into the natural, and sealed by nearly 1m depth of soil. The evidence suggests that the examined area may have been included within a garden or backyard of a property fronting the High Street. The building on the site fronting the High Street was recorded by ASC in 2011.

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Broughton, The Old Rectory, London Road
(SP 8946 4011)

Bob Zeepvat

In May a heritage asset impact assessment was prepared for a plot of land at the Old Rectory, in order to inform development proposals for the site.

The assessment showed that potential archaeological interest in the site was focused in the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. To the immediate north-west of the Old Rectory, recent excavations at Broughton North revealed part of a Roman field system, probably associated with a series of farmsteads known to exist along the Broughton Brook valley. The field system had been truncated to the south by gravel quarrying, but could possibly extend as far east as the development site. Broughton village was probably established in the late Saxon period: the development site's proximity to the church, and therefore possibly the core of settlement, indicates potential for evidence of Saxon activity. Likewise, the site has potential for evidence of medieval settlement, in particular, a medieval predecessor to the Old Rectory, itself of 18th century date.

Princes Risborough, Sorting Office, Bell Street
(SP 4875 0324)

Bob Zeepvat

In April a historic building survey was undertaken of the former Postal Sorting Office in Bell Street, prior to demolition. The building was probably constructed between 1936-40, as a local centre for the sorting and distribution of mail in the Princes Risborough area, and finally closed its doors in 2011. It comprised a two-storey structure of brick and concrete, with a flat roof and cellar, built in the architectural style known as 'Post Office Georgian'. The building appeared to have undergone relatively few structural alterations. In the late 1990s or early 2000s the first floor was effectively abandoned, and the building's functions were concentrated on the ground floor, which was refurbished.

Stony Stratford, 25-33 Vicarage Road (SP 4787 2406)

Bob Zeepvat

Between April and August archaeological monitoring was undertaken during redevelopment of 25-33 Vicarage Road. The site is located within the historic core of the medieval market town, and had the potential to reveal heritage assets of medieval and later date. Observation of ground reduction and the excavation of footing pits and trenches revealed limestone footings beneath many of the walls of the 19th century brick buildings on the site, suggesting either an earlier phase of stone buildings, or the selective use of structural materials for different purposes. It was also apparent that subsoil deposits on the site are of significantly greater depth than on nearby sites in the town. It is possible that this phenomenon is the result of disposal of spoil from development in the vicinity, though it could equally be of natural origin. Underlying natural deposits, typically comprising orange gravel, were not observed in the watching brief. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were noted.

Winslow, 23 Station Road (SP 7700 2830)

Bob Zeepvat

In December a historic building survey was undertaken of buildings at 23 Station Road, in advance of residential redevelopment of the site. Three buildings were examined: the house, a service range to the rear, and a Nissen hut located by the rear boundary of the property.

The house was built in the 1870s, following the opening of the Bletchley-Oxford railway, and the construction of Station Road. As built it was a typical Victorian villa, with patterned brickwork, stone detailing and elaborate brick chimney stacks externally, and bespoke joinery internally, all typical of the period, suggesting that it was built for a reasonably prosperous individual. The adjoining two-storey service wing would have housed the household's transport: horses, trap and tack, with food and bedding for the horses. Between c 1880 and 1899 the house was extended, with additions to the main part of the house and to the service wing to the rear. The service range was also extended during this period. The extensions to the house were constructed so as to blend seamlessly with the original structure, using identical brickwork, lintels, sills etc. Additional accommodation was provided, both for the family who owned the house, and for their household staff.

The final alterations were made to the house in the latter half of the 20th century. They appear to fall into two phases, the first possibly to provide suitable facilities for a veterinary practice which may have been based there, and the second with adaptations for an elderly and infirm resident, including some reduction in the occupied areas of the house.

The Nissen hut was constructed c 1965-78. Its intended function remains uncertain, though the ample provision of windows on both sides suggests it was used as a workshop rather than for storage. It has not been used for many years, and is in an advanced state of collapse.

Woughton on the Green: The Green (SP 8790 3778)

Bob Zeepvat

During November a watching brief was maintained as a condition of scheduled monument consent during the installation of a storm water drain along the south side of The Green at Woughton.

Excavations for the drain encountered only undisturbed ground and disturbances for modern buried services to the houses on the south side of the green. No deposits or finds of any archaeological significance were noted. From a survey of the village earthworks, it appears that the route followed by the drain crossed the very rear (south) end of any crofts fronting the original lane crossing The Green. The impact of the drainage works upon the scheduled ancient monument is likely to have been low.

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE**

Report for 2014. There have been further changes in personnel within Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service this year. In April 2014 Philip Markham took over from Sarah-Jane Farr as Senior Planning Archaeologist and there has also been a change of management, with Simon Newell taking over as team leader from Sheila Keene in September 2014.

Development Management

The Service was consulted on 510 proposals in 2014, resulting in 60 development-related fieldwork projects being undertaken in Buckinghamshire. Residential developments continue in various scales; excavation at a development site in Aston Clinton recorded Iron Age to Romano-British settlement and revealed a large section across a Roman road, most probably the Lower Icknield Way. A public open day was organised by Eliza Alqassar and she was invited to talk to local schools and community groups as a result.

The county has seen an increase in Solar Farm applications in recent years. Applicants are routinely requested to supply a geophysical survey together with targeted trial trenching prior to determination. Such evaluations regularly record Romano-British rural settlement remains and these areas are often removed from the development proposal or, if appropriate, involve the use of concrete footings rather than driven or screw piling.

Buckinghamshire

High Speed 2

Detailed comments on the High Speed 2 Environmental Statement were submitted in January 2014 as part of the County Council response. The service has subsequently contributed to the County Council's formal parliamentary petition. A meeting with HS2's archaeologists was held in July 2014 to discuss proposals for fieldwork at a number of locations in the county. Work on HS2 continues in preparation for the Parliamentary Select Committee hearings and the County Archaeological Service is a member of the HS2 Heritage Sub Group with meetings held every couple of months to discuss route-wide issues.

Historic Environment Record

The number of direct HER enquiries increased in 2014 to 113. The number of enquiries received from the general public and local groups remain relatively low, presumably most people are finding their way to the online HER on 'Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past' and 'Heritage Gateway'. The HER software system was upgraded to the most recent version in October 2014.

HER Volunteer recording projects include inputting records of inns and public houses from reports produced by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society's Historic Buildings Group and other local groups - there are now nearly five hundred records of inns and pubs in the HER.

The HER Officer is also working in partnership with the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust volunteers on an HLF-funded pilot project researching and recording undesignated historic parks and gardens in Buckinghamshire.

Historic Towns Project

David Green has completed the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Towns Project and finalised reports for each town are available to view or download from our website. An overall summary report was published on the results of the project and copies are available to download from the website or as hard copies.

Future

Ever increasing budgetary pressures have meant that the County Council has to undertake further reorganisation of its services, with some services externalised or delivered in new ways. A 'Future Shape' programme of reorganisation of the whole organisation is currently underway and will take effect from April 2015. The County Archaeological Service will be part of an Environment Service within Transport, Economy, Environment.

Philip Markham

Senior Planning Archaeologist,

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Aylesbury, New Road (SP 6600 2150)

Mo Muldowney

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified ridge and furrow earthworks across most of the site. The earthworks

were well-preserved but the ridges had been cut by two post-medieval/modern ditches. In addition, a modern intrusion was identified that may be associated with a former 19th century building shown on historic mapping.

Emberton, Emberton Solar PV Array (SP 9006 4953)

Peter James

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology followed on from cropmark analysis and a geophysical survey which had indicated the presence of enclosures, two trackways and ditches. The evaluation confirmed the presence of a rectilinear enclosure associated with Roman finds. One of the possible trackways, a ditch and part of a circular enclosure were also confirmed as archaeological features during the evaluation but remained undated. Other anomalies were geological in origin. Features not recorded during the geophysical survey comprised two further ditches, one of which contained post-medieval finds, and ridge and furrow remains.

Ilmer, Land at Bumpers Farm (SP 7642 0614)

Daniel Stone

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded enclosure ditches and pits and confirmed the results of a preceding geophysical survey. These remains were found with Late Roman pottery and are suggestive of a Late Roman farmstead located on high ground, with the lower ground utilised for agriculture.

Loughton, Little Loughton Manor (SP 8338 3778)

Dan Stone

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded ditches and postholes. One ditch contained medieval pottery and the features probably relate to activity within the curtilage of the 15th century manor house and its medieval antecedent. A series of made ground deposits may represent backfilling of the medieval moat.

Milton Keynes, 47 High Street, Olney (SP 8882 5157)

Daniel Stone

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified no archaeological remains.

Newport Pagnell, The Old Chapel (SP 8758 4383)

Paulo Clemente

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified the remains of a possible brick wall, perhaps part of the now-demolished main body of the chapel.

Whitchurch, Whitchurch Reservoir (SP 8013 1988)

Peter James

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded no archaeological remains.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Report compiled by David Gilbert

Amersham, 43 Whielden Street (SU 95724 97163)

Stephen Yeates

Historic building recording took place on the grade II listed structure. This is a building of five distinct phases. The earliest phase is the early 17th century construction of the building as a double fronted structure with an outshoot turret at the rear. Phases 2 and 3 occurred in the 18th century. This saw the addition of a wing on the southwest side of the building, probably in the middle of the 18th century, but probably post-dating the map of 1742, and the reworking of the front and side of the building later in the 18th century. The bow window is a shop feature of the early 19th century. The northwest wing was added in a 22 year period from 1876 to 1898.

Brill, 18 The Green (SP 65725 13804)

Mark Woodley

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the conversion of the existing part of an outbuilding into ancillary accommodation with a new single storey link to the existing dwelling. A 13th century or later pit, a modern demolition layer and an unidentified cut feature dating to the 16th century or later were observed and recorded.

Chinnor, Spriggs Holly Lane, Batt Hall (SU 7657 9835)

Mark Woodley

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in advance of the proposed demolition of an existing dwelling and the erection of a new building. One trench was excavated to the east of the current house. No archaeological features were identified.

Hulcott, All Saints Church (SP 8532 1668)

Gavin Davis

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavations of the foundations during of the repair and restoration of the boundary wall and lychgate of All Saints Church. The excavations revealed the possibility that the Victorian walls had either been built onto earlier red brick walls or that there had been a later rebuilding of these walls with a concrete foundation built upon the lower four brick

courses. No other finds and features were identified during the excavations.

Kingston Lisle, Fawler Road, Fawler Manor

(SU 32316 87790) Mark Woodley

A small pipe trench for drainage was monitored showing the previous floor layers, wall foundations and building rubble of the manor.

Long Crendon, 17-19 Bicester Road (SP 6925 0877)

Andrej ěelovský

Four evaluation trenches 36m long in total were excavated across the site. Archaeological features (two ditches and one posthole) found were related to the late 19th and 20th century activities on site. No other archaeological feature or finds related to medieval and/or early post-medieval settlement elements including the buildings shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map were revealed during evaluation.

MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP**Maids Moreton Mound Excavation (SP 7019 3547).**

Susan Fern & Lyn Robinson.

In August 2014 an excavation was conducted on the site of Maids Moreton mound. Historically, the area in which the mound is situated consisted of at least 12 acres of agricultural land which was used as a smallholding over several centuries, with 9 acres being sold off to a neighbour around 1993. The land then became part of the public house. Records indicate a potential medieval settlement on or directly next to the land, as can be seen on Buckingham County Council's website (Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past). These include a 'Possible medieval house platform recorded in field survey' and 'possible site of medieval manor house' (Grid reference SP 70140 35490). The mound was initially recorded in 1973 under the Sites & Monuments Record (Bucks County Council) as a possible medieval or post-medieval windmill mound, however this has recently been corrected as relating to elsewhere in the village.

The site itself is situated within the village of Maids Moreton, and lies along the A413 Buckingham to Towcester Road. The village is adjacent to the market town of Buckingham and its history has always been closely connected with the town's development. The parish of Maids Moreton covers approximately 1,365 acres and was once made up of 376 acres of arable land, 786 acres permanent grass and 26 acres woods and plantations

The earthwork is approximately a 2m high roughly square platform defined on three sides by a continuous scarp slope, whilst on the fourth (north-west side) it is defined by the 5m wide 1.5m deep ditch. The ditch encompasses about a third of the site and its continuation at I (Fig 1.) is assumed, but it has probably been interrupted by later landscaping and infill. Previous owners allowed use of the site as a motor cycle scrambling track, which may have significantly altered the original contours. The site is surrounded by native hedgerows, trees and 18th - 19th century ditches (C on site plan) on two sides

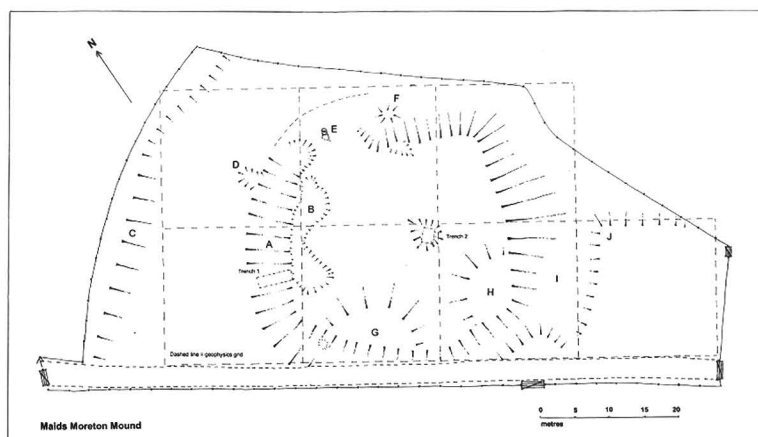


Fig 1. Site plan. Maids Moreton Mound.



Fig 2. Trench 1. Maids Moreton Mound.

of the land. The land around the mound can become quite water-logged, in particular in the areas directly around the mound.

A on the site plan represents the 5m wide ditch which surrounds three quarters of the mound and contains trench 1. D and F on the site plan are unknown depressions, while H is a small hillock within the mound. J represents the levelled area contiguous to the former residential pub site and road.

The Excavation

Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was situated across the ditch which surrounds three-quarters of the mound. Trench 1 was originally laid out to a width of 1.5m (north-south) and a length of 5m (east-west) across the ditch, however it was subsequently reduced to a width of 0.5m. Trench 2 was situated centrally upon the top of the mound; this location was chosen because if previous assumptions that this was the site of a mill proved correct then this would potentially provide evidence of the quarter bars of a postmill. Trench 2 was slightly smaller than Trench 1 and initially started at 1.5m², however it was extended to a width of 1.5m and a length of 2.15m.

Prior to the excavation of both trenches the grass and top soil were removed by spade to approximately 0.15m depth. The material was placed upon tarpaulin where it was later scanned with a metal detector.

Trench 1. Context 101 (Fig 2.) measured 0.2m in thickness and minimum width of 1.5m (north-south) and a minimum length of 5m (east-west). It comprised a dark grey-coloured soil which was very soft and crumbly with occasional small flint pebbles. Finds in context 101 consisted of several fragments of 19th to 20th century pottery, a 20th century glass

bottle, a 0.303 bullet and several fragments of 13th to 15th century pottery. The layer overlies ditch fill 102.

Context 102 was a thickness of 0.13 to 0.23m and width minimum 1.5m (north-south) x minimum 5m (east-west). It comprised a light brown soil, with a slight orange tinge which was of a silty texture, and had a soft and slightly clayey consistency. The soil contained occasional small to medium limestone fragments up to 10 to 15 cm and occasional rounded flints. The layer contained fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Context 103 was a thickness of up to 0.28m and width minimum 1.5m (north-south) x length 3.5m (east-west) It comprised a dark grey soil, slightly silty in texture, and when squeezed the soil formed sticky balls. There were slight inclusions of charcoal, small flint and one piece of stone roof tile. There were large amounts of angular limestone 20-25 cm in size at the upper surface. The context contained exclusively medieval pottery and bone. There was a dense spread of fragmented stone across the full width at the western end of the ditch. Some of these stones were angular and appeared to be discarded building material; some stones were reddened by burning.

Context 104 was a thickness of up to 0.5m and width minimum 1.5m (north-south) x length 1.1m at top (context 105) consisting of a silty clay, light brown in colour and when squeezed it formed sticky balls. There were large amounts of charcoal found throughout, possibly associated with burning in this area. Further small angular amounts of limestone and flint were found throughout. There were significant amounts of medieval pottery, however most of this was in the upper half of the layer. The pottery appeared to be the same date as that in context 103, which may suggest a rapid filling of the ditch; it peeled cleanly off context 105. Context 104 overlaid 105 including fill of phase 2 ditch 106.

Context 105 was a minimum thickness of 0.9m and width minimum 1.5m (north-south) x length 1m at top and 1.1m at base (east-west). It consisted of mottled yellow-brown clay which was fine and silty, again it formed dense sticky balls when squeezed. Context 105 was lighter in colour than 103 and 104, and although it contained charcoal there was less than in the previous layers and there were fewer inclusions. It contained exclusively medieval pottery, mainly in the upper layer, and included a number of large cooking pot rims. The full depth was not confirmed (minimum 1.45m below ground) as the trench kept filling with water from 0.9 m depth. At 1.37m a large animal bone/skeleton was found. However, due the water filling the area this was difficult to excavate so it was left in situ. Fill of phase 1 ditch 107.

Context 106 (medieval phase 2 ditch) was excavated to a depth of 0.6m from the top to base and had a width of 1.2m at top and 0.4m at the base, the length extended outside the margins of the trench. Context 106 was identified as a later phase 2 re-cutting of the original moat/ditch 107. It was identified because the fill (104) peeled off easily from the fill (105) of the earlier ditch 107. 106 has steep sloping sides and probable flat bottom, however this was not confirmed with certainty as trench 1 filled with water and it could extend lower than the dashed line on section 1.1.

Context 107 (original phase 1 cut of the ditch/moat) the width was a minimum of 1m and the length extended outside the trench. It was difficult to determine the shape of the ditch as only the upper part of the east side of the cut was revealed in the section. It appeared to be a steep near-vertical cut into

108. The boundary between 105 and 108 was hard to determine due to intermixing of the two layers. The corresponding west side of the cut seems to have been removed by the later cutting of 106. 108 is thought to be the original phase 1 cut for the moat/ditch and the fill (105) indicates a medieval date. It was difficult to make any firm conclusions for the original depth and profile of 107 due to time, depth and water logging.

Context 108: the dimension was not fully determined. 108 comprised yellow brown slightly silty sticky clay with small fragments of crushed chalk or limestone. No charcoal, pots or other items were found in 108, and it was concluded to be the natural glacial clay.

In Trench 1 two small finds were found: small find 1 was a small flower petal pin in copper-alloy with central riveted pin which was found at about 0.5m depth. In 105 a medieval pot-mend rivet was found.

Trench 2. Context 201 was a thickness up to 0.16m and width 1.5m x length 1.5m. It consisted of dark grey-coloured soil which was very soft and crumbly. Some fragments of medieval/post-medieval pottery were found in 201.

Context 202 was a thickness of 0.16 to 0.20m and width minimum 1.5m x minimum length 1.5m which was similar to 201 ie a dark grey soil, soft and crumbly. Fragments of medieval and post-medieval pot continued to be found alongside several fragments of bone and some wrought iron nails. 202 also contained a dense spread of fragmented stone across the base of the layer. As in Trench 1 some of these stones were angular and appear to be building materials and included large pieces of stone roof tile, two with peg holes. The roof tile was of the Collyweston type of laminated limestone found in Northamptonshire and the floor (or hearth) tile was reddened burnt limestone. This feature potentially indicated that some form of building may have been at the site.

Context 203 was a thickness of 0.20m to 0.50m and width 1.5m x length 1.5m. It comprised a compacted yellow clay-like soil, silty in texture with inclusions of charcoal throughout. Medieval pottery continued to be found within 203. Two small finds of interest were found: a lead weight (possible spinning whorl) and a piece of bone carved with ring and dot decoration (potentially part of an Anglo-Saxon or medieval comb). 203 again had an area of stones. Feature 1 was a curve of limestone (Blisworth) and sandstone (Northampton) some angular in shape and went into the north-east and east sides of the trench. Trench 2 was extended on the north-east side to a length of 2.15m to see if the wall continued in that direction with the possibility of forming part of a built structure. The extension of the trench did show a continuation of the rubble layer from Feature 1, however there was no continuation of Feature 2. The extension of the trench produced further pottery increasing in size and another small find, part of a bird-of-prey's talon.

Context 204 was a thickness of 0.5m to 0.76m and width 1.5m x length 2.15m. The soil at this level was consistent with a buried topsoil, being quite crumbly and dark brown in colour. There were large pieces of charcoal/carbon deposits which would be indicative of burning by humans. Medieval pottery continued to be found in this layer, alongside parts of bones and teeth. There were also samples of worked flint within 204. When the sides of the trench had been tidied there was evidence of orangey clay within the east top

corner, possibly dug out from below and placed there for a specific purpose.

Context 205 was a minimum thickness of 0.76m, width 1.5m and length of 2.15m. The soil at the top of 205 continued to be consistent with that of 204, still very dark in colour and crumbly. This gradually changed the deeper the layer went, becoming more yellow clay, pebble and grit. Some fragments of pottery were still being retrieved. In the east corner of the trench, opposite to where Feature 2 had been, a dark area of leached soil continued to go down beyond the yellow clay layer in the rest of the trench. Feature 3, a potential ditch, may have been formed by digging out the clay that was noted in the side of 204. The fill of feature 3 (204) was excavated and pottery and artefacts consistent with that found towards the base of 205 continued to be found. At this point auger samples were taken in the base of Trench 2 to a depth of 0.4m below the base of the trench which produced yellow clay (206) and then in Feature 3 to a depth of 25cm, again producing yellow boulder clay - therefore giving the trench a total depth of 1.2 to 1.3m before hitting natural.

Conclusions.

Both trenches revealed a significant amount of domestic pottery which has been analysed by Paul Blinkhorn, kindly funded by a grant from CBA South Midlands. The pottery assemblage comprises 473 sherds with a total weight of 4219g. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region, and indicates that the main period of activity at the site was from the 11th - 12th centuries. Well-known 13th - 14th century wares, such as Brill and Potterspury types are unusually scarce in the assemblage. The range of vessel types present is entirely jars, bowls and jugs, with the first-named by far the most common. Paul Blinkhorn comments that this is a very typical pattern for pottery finds of earlier medieval date. To date the pottery evidence, geophysics, small finds and animal bones suggest domestic occupation with a stone-built structure on a mound surrounded on at least three-quarters of its perimeter by a ditch. The position of Maids Moreton Mound adjacent to a very old track linking Buckingham with Towcester, its proximity to the parish of Stowe and documentary evidence of landholding links with post-Conquest lords of Stowe give food for thought. A second excavation is planned for next summer (2015) to further investigate this small yet significant site.

CONSERVATION AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2014

Fieldwork

Twenty five development-related fieldwork projects were undertaken in the Milton Keynes area in 2014.

A particular highlight was the resistivity survey and trial trenching commissioned by the Council and carried out in Stantonbury parish by Headland Archaeology to inform proposals for a new country park at Stanton Low. The initial resistivity survey was partly conducted at twice the 'normal' resolution and produced a very detailed plan of the late 17th century manor and gardens constructed by Sir John Wittewronge. Subsequent trial trenching revealed the

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well-preserved foundations of the manor house, an ornamental pond and pathways. A management plan including designation proposals will be produced in coming months.

Records of built heritage included a level 3 survey of the American-style Motel Building at Newport Pagnell Services prior to demolition.

In July Oxford Archaeology published 'Broughton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: The Evolution of a South Midlands Landscape'. Lavishly illustrated in colour, it takes an in-depth look at the various archaeological finds from the Brooklands and Broughton Gate developments on the eastern flank of the New Town. The extensive excavations across a 200ha area adjacent to the village of Broughton revealed the fluctuating fortunes of neighbouring settlements from the Iron Age to the medieval period. Of particular interest were the richly-furnished Iron Age and early Roman period cremation cemeteries.

Building Conservation

In July the former Bus Station in Central Milton Keynes was listed at Grade II, joining the Shopping Building (thecentre:mk) and 7-23 Silver Street, Stony Stratford (terraced housing and covered entrance to Cofferdge Close) as designated early examples of MKDC architecture. A proposal to demolish much of Cofferdge Close to construct a larger supermarket was dismissed as the result of a public enquiry held in March, predominantly on heritage grounds.

Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council completed a review of the Loughton Conservation Area with the assistance of the Conservation and Archaeology Team. The review proposed a revised boundary and included management proposals. The principal boundary change is

the inclusion of the Equestrian Centre within the conservation area. The changes outlined were approved as a delegated decision on 10th March 2015.

The proposed New Town Local Heritage List was approved at Cabinet in October. Officers are currently preparing a bid for HLF funding.

Outreach

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

On Saturday 8th November 2014 the Central Library hosted the 8th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day. For the third year a hands-on archaeology workshop was held. Organised by Border Archaeology these activities for young people gave a practical insight into the varied methods and skills used by modern archaeologists to over 40 young people (Fig. 3).

Stands and displays included a team from the Wing Heritage Project, Northamptonshire's Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP) and the Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS) plus Archaeology Day regulars Magiovinium Metal Detecting club. Also present in the foyer to identify any treasures brought in by the public was Ros Tyrrell, Finds Liaison Officer from the Portable Antiquities Scheme for Bucks and MK.

As in previous years the biggest draws of the day were the two talks held in the Exhibition Space. In the morning Sadie Watson from Museum of London Archaeology gave an assured lecture on the recent British Archaeological Award winning excavations at the Bloomberg site. Detailing both the amazing preservation of Roman buildings and artefacts encountered prior to the recent redevelopment of the site in addition to the post-WWII discovery of the Temple of Mithras and the subsequent controversy regarding its preservation.

The afternoon talk was by Dr John Gater (GSB Prospection Ltd), well known as Time Team's resident geophysical survey (Geofizz!) expert. John's talk was an entertaining romp through the history of Time Team as well as a clear exposition of the various survey techniques, how they work and why they sometimes don't! John's celebrity status was underlined by his reception and a record audience for an Archaeology Day lecture of 73.

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

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Karen Thomas

Thorney Lane Bridge, Thorney Lane, Iver
(TQ 0390 7993)

David Sorapure and Lara Band

In December 2014 the Museum of London Archaeology carried out standing building recording of the bridge carrying Thorney Lane over the railway. The bridge was built in three phases, the first in the late 1830s as part of the construction of the Great Western Railway. The bridge was extended to the



Fig 3. Milton Keynes Archaeology Day.

north in 1878 and again in 1914. It is brick built with three arches in total and two piers. The earliest phase of the bridge was built to a generic design with a flattened semi-elliptical arch. This design accommodated the broad gauge used on the GWR at that time. The bridge was demolished at the end of 2014.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

(Formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology)

Summaries for 2014 compiled by Pat Chapman and Andy Chapman

Great Horwood, Willow Road (SP 773 309)

Adam Meadows

A detailed magnetometer survey of land south of Willow Road identified medieval to early post-medieval remnant furrows of ridge and furrow cultivation, modern pipelines and a modern track.

High Wycombe, Hughenden Manor (SU 859 957)

John Walford and Ian Fisher

Detailed magnetometer survey at Hughenden Manor for the National Trust did not identify any archaeological features within area of the proposed visitor car park. An undated surface scatter of burnt flint was observed in a field just to the west of the proposal area, but an extension of the survey across this feature proved uninformative. The watching brief during the construction of the car park verified the negative survey.

Marlow, The Compleat Angler Hotel (SU 8519 8606)

Simon Markus

One test pit within the footprint of proposed development revealed alluvial deposits overlain by several levelling layers probably linked to the construction of the car park. No further archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Milton Keynes, Bletchley, Eaton Leys Farm

(SU 888 329)

Ian Fisher

A magnetometer survey of 109ha of land at Eaton Leys Farm between February and September 2014, mapped much of the southern half of the Roman town of Magiovinium, (SM 1006943). The survey of the scheduled area was carried out under licence from English Heritage (Fig 4). There is an extensive roadside settlement comprising rectangular plots along the southern side of Watling Street. However, there is also a second row of ditched plots aligned west-east, with the two alignments converging to the east. The multivallate defences, comprising up to five concentric ditches, were a later addition which truncates the earlier town plan. A number of features of particular note include a monumental building close to the River Ouzel, a possible circular shrine, and probable industrial remains in the eastern extramural zone. The survey also shows a road emerging from the southern edge of the town defences. This forks, with one branch heading south, parallel to the river, with a semi-detached suburb straddling the road 150m to the south, while the westerly fork must head to a nearby river crossing. The interpretation of the survey results agrees with recent

discussions of Magiovinium, which postulate a late 2nd to early 3rd century AD phase of defensive works and consequent suburban contraction. A separate area of Roman settlement was identified approximately 1km south of the town, comprising two adjacent rectilinear enclosures. Less substantial archaeological remains, of unknown date, were detected in the intervening area. Traces of medieval ridge and furrow and post-medieval field boundaries were detected across the entire survey area.

Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell, Kickles Farm

(SP 8632 4510)

Chris Chinnock

Trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of a sub-rectangular enclosure identified in a geophysical survey and recorded additional curvilinear ditches and pits. Sherds from three large thick-walled jars (two of scored ware), a large open bowl and a smaller bowl, formed a single dense deposit in the upper fill of a pit. They date to earlier middle Iron Age, probably the 3rd century BC. Furrows indicative of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present. AYBCM: 2014.76

Milton Keynes, North Crawley, The Old Rectory

(SP 9251 4468)

Amir Bassir and Tim Upson-Smith

A pair of outbuildings, labelled respectively as Hay Barn and Deer Barn, were part of a larger complex of outbuildings adjacent to The Old Rectory. They both have 19th century origins as hay barn and cart shed until the cessation of agricultural activity at the property, with later small scale alterations. The Deer Barn clearly incorporates the remains of an earlier structure, though it was not possible to determine its original form and function. EMK 1200

Milton Keynes, Wavendon, Magna Park (SP 9100 3880)

John Walford and James Burke

Magnetometer survey followed by trial trench evaluation recorded remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and a pair of ditches which produced a little abraded Roman pottery. These are likely to be peripheral features associated with a settlement site previously excavated to the east. AYBCM: 2014.8



Fig 4. The multivallate defences and the southern half of the Roman town of Magiovinium, near Bletchley

Buckinghamshire

Milton Keynes, Wolverton, Moon Street, Bushfield School (SP 8190 4080)

James Fairclough

No archaeological features or finds were discovered in any of the trenches excavated across the proposed area for the school extension and car park. EMK1248

Stone, Bishopstone Road (SP 785 122)

Ian Fisher and Ben Kidd

Detailed magnetometer survey and trial trenching recorded boundary ditches defining plots of land fronting onto Bishopstone Road, all dated to the 11th and 12th centuries. The pits, seen in the survey, were originally quarries later used for domestic rubbish, which included two pieces of decorative bone strips of 13th century date used to embellish wooden caskets or similar items (Fig 5). AYBCM:2015.6

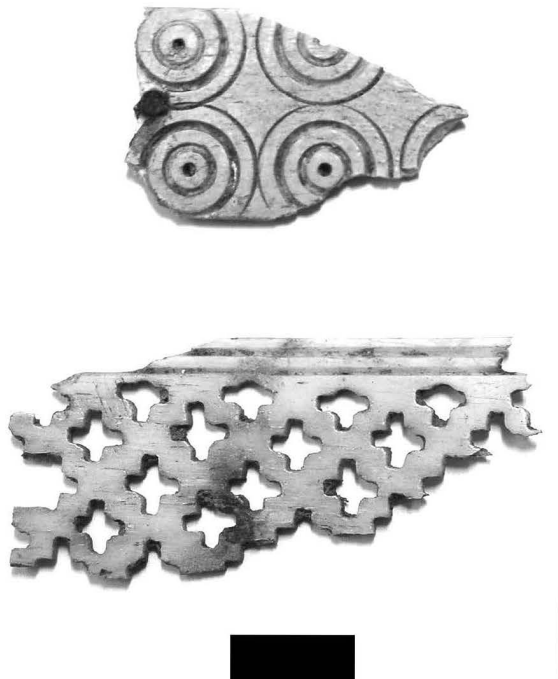


Fig 5. Medieval decorative bone strips from Stone, Bishopstone Road

Tingewick, Main Street (SP 660 327)

John Walford

A detailed magnetometer survey of 6ha of land on the eastern edge of Tingewick, between Main Street and the A421 detected a small group of undated ditches, widespread traces of ridge and furrow and a few other minor archaeological features. Areas of disturbed ground were detected in the south of the site, alongside the A421.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Rachel Clarke

Sherrington, Road Barn, The Manor, High Street (SP 888 463)

James Fairbairn

building recording comprising a photographic survey was undertaken of a barn located within the Manor courtyard, adjacent to extensive gardens that include a moated site. This

showed evidence that the building had undergone a number of repairs and episodes of remodelling, reflecting its changing use over time. (OA East Report 1728)

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Haddenham, Land to the North of Aston Road (SP 7458 0833)

Vix Hughes

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by Pegasus Group to undertake a trench evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development at Haddenham. The work was undertaken in November 2014. A total of 23 trenches were excavated across the site.

A single ditch of possible Bronze Age date was recorded in the north-eastern part of the site. Three parallel ditches in the western part of the site could be of prehistoric date although no dating evidence was recovered from them. In general, the paucity of prehistoric finds indicates that the site is not located in the vicinity of any settlement activity of this date.

A sub-rectangular pit and associated postholes were found in the south-western part of the site. The form of the feature suggests that it is the remains of a sunken featured building of early-middle Saxon date. Pottery, fragments of loom-weights, a fragment of spindle whorl and a bone pin were among the artefacts recovered from the feature. A pit containing Saxon pottery of similar date was also found further to the west within the site. The medieval agricultural landscape is represented by a low headland bank and associated ditch along with a number of field boundaries, one of which has been preserved as an extant public footpath. Remnants of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture were also present in the form of shallow furrows within some trenches.

A number of quarry pits dating to the late medieval or post-medieval period, were present. It is thought that the pits were for the extraction of clay for the production of wychert, a building material long associated with Haddenham.

Iver, Land Adjacent Grand Union Canal, Hollow Hill Lane (TQ 0219 8003)

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by BPA to undertake an archaeological watching brief during installation of a section of pipeline beneath the Grand Union Canal at Shreding Green, Iver. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the thrust pit and reception pit that were dug for the installation of the pipe, as well as the stripping of topsoil for the associated working area and a compound and temporary haul road.

The only feature of possible archaeological origin that was exposed during the stripping was a gravel deposit that produced modern pottery and glass and may have been associated with the construction of the canal.

Whitchurch (SP 8094 2225)

Paul Booth and Carl Champness

In October 2014 Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by Buckinghamshire County Council to undertake an archaeological excavation at Whitchurch, Aylesbury Vale. The work was undertaken to investigate a

potential burial assemblage that was identified during a metal detecting rally. The findspot is located adjacent to a suspected Roman villa within an arable field that has previously produced a concentration of Roman finds. The excavation revealed a late 2nd century AD wooden box burial (1.10m long by 0.70m width) with a rich assemblage of grave goods including 2 samian ware cups, 2 samian ware dishes, a pottery flagon, 2 glass vessels, a bronze jug with decorated handle, bronze patera, iron lamp, 2 unidentified lead objects and an urned cremation burial. The remains of the wooden box were identified as an outline of iron nails and organic deposits within the burial pit. The grave goods were found in-situ but have been disturbed by ploughing and potentially squashed by the use of heavy farm machinery. The burial lies at the western edge of the distribution of a group of relatively rare cremation burials found across south-eastern Britain which contain glass and bronze vessels and lighting equipment, making the burial one of only a handful with a 2nd century date. The present burial is an important addition to this body of evidence, containing a characteristic combination of object types, of which the decorated jug is individually the most significant, with its religious scene depicting human figures worshipping in front of an altar. Because of the apparently unique detail of this decoration it is a piece of national importance, enhanced by association with a securely dated burial context.

SOUTERRAIN SERVICES LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Lavendon, 1694 House, 33 Northampton Road
(SP 914 536)

Martin D Wilson

Archaeological investigations were made by Souterrain during ground preparation for a single storey rear extension. The removal of topsoil revealed wall foundations and floor deposits of an outbuilding whose origins appear to have been in the 16th/17th century. Two shallow pits found beneath the out-building contained pottery sherds of broadly 13th century date consisting of cooking pots, jars, dishes and bowls, all of which have been locally produced; all typical of domestic discard. It is considered likely that the site was occupied by a medieval tenement and is thus a positive contribution to knowledge of the distribution of settlement at Lavendon during the High Medieval period. HER Event No. EMK1240; OASIS Ref. souterrai- 192190

Old Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bradwell Memorial Hall
Martin D Wilson

In August 2014, Souterrain carried out a watching brief during the hand-excavation of foundation trenches for a rear extension to Bradwell Memorial Hall. The hall, built in the early 1920s, is located within the northwestern bounds of a motte and bailey earthwork known as Bradwell Castle Mound (National Monument No 19002). The results suggested that this side of the bailey was probably terraced prior to the construction of the hall. There were no deposits earlier than the 19th/20th century. OASIS Ref. souterrai- 189737; HER Event No. EMK1245

Olney, No 8 Church Lane, Emberton, Milton Keynes

Martin D Wilson

Souterrain carried a watching brief during ground preparation for an extension to a 19th century cottage within the medieval core of Emberton village, adjacent to the churchyard. The works revealed that the hill slope was probably terraced in the 19th century to enable the construction of cottages. Nothing of archaeological significance was present. OASIS Ref. 183475; HER Event No. No. EMK1233.

Olney, No 24 High Street Milton Keynes (SP 889 514)

Martin D Wilson

Archaeological investigations were made by Souterrain during ground-works for a new bungalow within the site of a former medieval burgrave plot on the east side of High Street, Olney. The burgrave plots are understood to have been created in the 13th century (English Heritage n.d). The excavation of foundation trenches revealed a series of medieval to post-medieval pits and a post-medieval cellar. Three of the pits were rubbish-filled and dated to the 13th century. One of these, of substantial size and depth, may have been either a cess pit or a well. The medieval animal bone assemblage suggests that primary butchery and possibly skin-processing took place within the vicinity, as witnessed elsewhere in the high street burgrave plots (Wilson, 2014). A service trench dug along the east side of the burgrave plot revealed a large stone- and clay-lined pit, used for a process that involved burning. The pit was possibly medieval date and lay partly below the remains of a possible post-medieval boundary. OASIS Ref. souterrai- 183162; HER Event No. EMK1234.

References:

English Heritage n.d. (post.2008); Olney Historic Town Assessment (Draft)
Wilson M D 2014; *SMA* 44, p.30

Woolstone, Milton Keynes, Rectory Fields
(SP 487459 239251)

Martin D Wilson

In September and October 2014, Souterrain investigated a site for three new houses in the historic core of the village of Little Woolstone. Occupation evidence was discovered which dates to the late Saxon or early Norman period.

The site, which was historically glebe land, is situated on the north side of Mill Lane and about 100m northeast of the parish church (The Holy Trinity) which has its origins in at least the 12th century.

The earliest archaeological feature was a large 11th/12th century midden composed predominantly of hearth ash. It was cut through by two of a series of shallow linear features containing household waste of 11th/12th century date. The original function of the linear features is unclear. The quantity and state of pottery sherds denote that domestic habitation was close by, suggesting that the site formed a part of a tenement. Subsequent layers of buried soils suggest that the western half of the site was open ground, possibly pasture, from the 12th/13th century through to the 19th century. In contrast, a 13th/14th century occupation layer was present in the eastern half of the site; where a succession of

Buckinghamshire

inter-cutting ditches also attested to continuation of land-use until the 17th/18th century.

To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of archaeological evidence for 11th to 13th century domestic settlement in the historic core of Little Woolstone. It is possible that the 11th century occupation evidence relates to one of the seven tenements recorded in 1086. OASIS Ref. souterrai- 199566; HER Event No. EMK1248

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Amersham, 70-78 Whielden Street (SU 9564 9698)

Andy Taylor

Evaluation in advance of residential development revealed no deposits or finds of archaeological interest: parts of the site had been previously truncated.

Amersham, 80 High Street (SU 9548 9736)

Andy Taylor

Evaluation in advance of residential development revealed two pits of post-medieval or modern date but no earlier deposits or finds of archaeological interest.

Bierton, Badrick's Farm (SP 8375 1548)

Steven Crabb and Andy Taylor

Nothing of archaeological interest was noted during a watching brief on barn conversion.

Chesham, The Cock Tavern, 96 The Broadway (SU 9597 0177)

Aiji Castle

A watching brief was maintained on the digging of footings and drains for new buildings; nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

Frieth, St Benedicts, Parmoor Lane (SU 7943 8943)

Susan Porter

A single-trench evaluation on the site of a new house revealed only made ground and disturbed ground.

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

Daniel Bray

Excavation at Fort End revealed a series of linear ditches of an 11th-12th century property boundary, most likely relating to a 'croft'. The boundary was redefined, certainly five and possibly as many as seven times, within a short time frame at the end of the 11th century and the early years of the 12th. No structural remains were present. The corner marked by the ditches could provide the north-east corner of a plot whose south-west corner is reflected in the unusual layout of Fort End, suggesting an early date for the latter, and the early existence of a street corresponding with modern Banks Road. Other features were contemporary with the property boundary. Unusually, this abandonment in the 12th century is well before the commonly observed phases of abandonment in the 14th century, in Haddenham and elsewhere, and provides a marked contrast with that at Townsend to the north. The results (along with the site at Townsend) have

been published more fully as TVAS Occasional Paper 6 (details below).

High Wycombe, RAF Daws Hill (SU 8700 9150)

Genni Elliott

Buildings of the former RAF and USAF airbase were recorded prior to demolition for redevelopment. RAF Daws Hill appeared to be a largely piecemeal development laid out to requirement rather than organized plan. Apart from separating out the residential areas, leisure, work and school facilities were mixed within the technical area. There was little to identify its use as an American air base except in the naming of roads, residential estates and two school accommodation blocks.

Ivinghoe, Ivinghoe and Pitstone Chapel, High Street (SP 9432 1610)

Genni Elliott

The Italianate-style chapel was subject to a building recording in advance of conversion. It was built in 1865, with additions prior to 1879, and possibly later stalls.

Lillingstone Lovell, Brookland, Church Lane (SP 7129 4059)

Dan Strachan

The footings of a new house revealed a possible well whose fill included a single sherd of medieval pottery.

Long Crendon, 18C Chearsley Road (SU 6992 0915)

James McNicoll-Norbury

A single evaluation trench was excavated in advance of a proposal to build a new house; nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

Long Crendon, Church of St Mary the Virgin (SU 6995 0910)

David Platt

Four test pits and a single drainage trench were excavated around the eastern side of the church. No graves or disarticulated human remains were encountered and no deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed.

Long Crendon, land to the rear of 1 The Square (SU 6942 0867)

James McNicoll-Norbury

Two evaluation trenches were excavated in advance of building a new house. Two linear features and a likely pit of early medieval date were recorded, and a few sherds of unstratified early medieval pottery recovered.

Stoke Poges, Slough Cemetery Extension, Stoke Road (SU 9775 8163)

Genni Elliott

Evaluation in advance of the cemetery extension revealed a series of deposits including an early medieval (11th to 13th century) pit complex. A few sherds of Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery were also recovered.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

Compiled by Mathew Morris

Aston Clinton, land at Stablebridge Road (SP 889 116)

Mathew Morris

Over the summer of 2014, a team of archaeologists from ULAS excavated a nine-acre site at Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton, near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. Work was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey (South Midlands) and was carried out in advance of new housing development.

Results to date are preliminary as post-excavation analysis is at an early stage. However, the excavation has found evidence of Iron Age and Roman settlement within the 'Icknield Belt', a corridor following the chalk escarpment of the Chiltern Hills known to have been favoured for settlement in prehistoric and later periods. The site also lies close to Akeman Street, the Roman road between St Albans and Cirencester, which runs through the village.

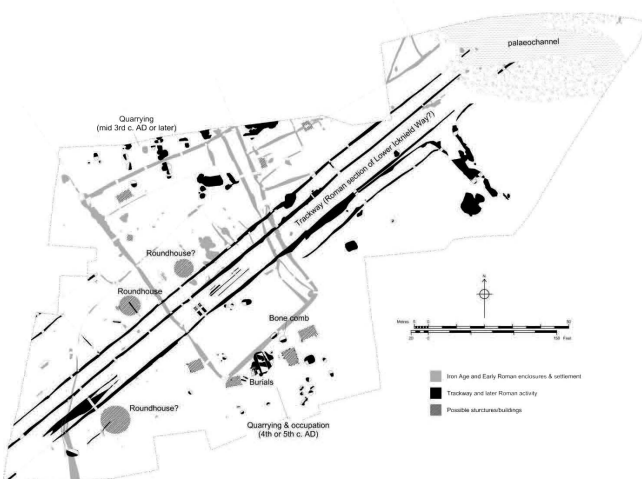


Fig 6. Plan of the excavation area showing the principle activity on the site.

Work on the site has revealed a large ditched rectangular enclosure (measuring *c* 80m by *c* 55m) surrounded by the remnants of other smaller ditch systems, some perhaps pre-dating the enclosure and others contemporary with its use (Fig 6). A number of rectangular and circular post-built structures have been recorded, including several 4-post structures and roundhouses (Fig 7). At least one well has been identified as well as a sunken hearth or corn-dryer and pits close to the structures typically produced good assemblages of domestic material.

This settlement activity is bisected by a wide trackway running across the site from the south-west to the north-east, disappearing at the northern end of the site into an area of boggy ground, possibly the course of a palaeochannel. The trackway is *c* 13m wide, its edges defined by long, straight ditches. A number of articulated cow and horse skeletons found in the upper ditch fills suggest animal carcasses were being disposed of as the ditches fell out of use. Narrow 'wheel ruts' have also been identified along parts of the carriageway; some were filled with packed flint, possibly evidence of people repairing pot-holes, whilst other broader spreads of flint may be the remains of metallurgy. When viewed on maps of the wider region, the alignment of the

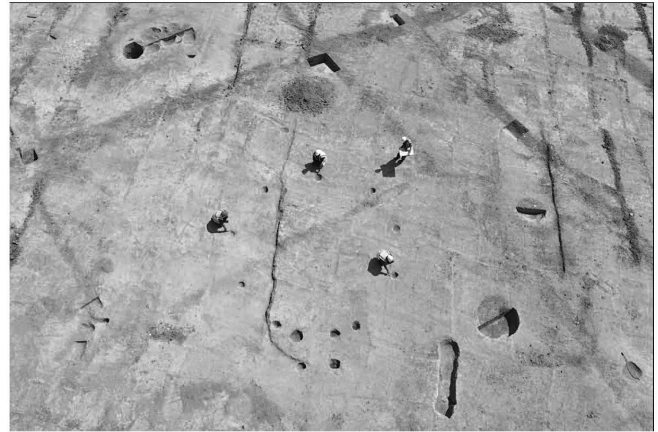


Fig 7. One of the post-built roundhouses, atypically with an entrance to the west. Looking east. Image: AerialCam.

trackway matches the projected course of the Lower Icknield Way, so may have its origins in the Iron Age or earlier although excavation suggests that this section was entirely Roman in construction.

Provisional dating suggests that the enclosure and trackway date to the 1st or 2nd century AD with activity in the area continuing through to the 4th century AD. Several features are also producing bits of Roman tile, predominantly box flue, suggesting that more substantial Roman buildings are present in the vicinity, although none have been found on the site itself. Pits to the north of the trackway produced mid-3rd century material and may be evidence of quarrying for clay. A quantity of unfired clay bricks have been found in features across the site. Whilst, south of the trackway a cluster of rectangular structures, large quarry pits and a small group of human burials may be evidence of 4th or 5th century settlement. A composite bone comb was found in one of the pits (Fig 8).

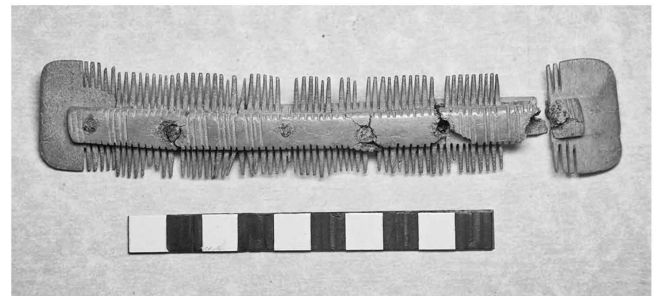


Fig 8. A late Roman composite bone comb found on the site.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy April 2015

Wing, Land at Moorlands (SP 8846 2338)

S Fairhead.

An archaeological evaluation comprising two trial trenches was carried out by Wessex Archaeology on a 4.6ha site at Moorlands, Wing, in advance of a residential development. Most of the anomalies detected in a preceding geophysical survey were found to be geological in nature. The only other feature identified was a probable tree-throw hole.

2014 saw the second year of the Wing Archaeology Project which consisted of test pits in villagers gardens. We carried out 9 test pit excavations throughout the village, bringing the total number to date to 25. The Group was set up in 2013 as part of the Wing Neighbourhood Plan to help inform the Plan Team and to help bring the community together. In December 2014 we also ran a very successful Finds Morning in our Community Library with Bucks County Museum, Portable Antiquities and one of the metal detectorists from the area. The reports below are a synopsis of the final report for 2014 written by Martin Cuthbert.

Wing Garden Test Pits (TP) 2014 (SP 8812 2257)

TP17 located 0.98km east-northeast of the church and TP19 northeast periphery of the village

Sadly neither of these two test pits contained anything other than modern deposits. The topsoil from TP17 only went 0.3m deep and the subsoil 0.35m. TP19 consisted only of 0.1m deep for both topsoil and subsoil before it hit the natural clay.

TP18 located c 325m east of the church, in the rear garden of a Victorian property

The stratigraphy within TP 18 comprised:

Modern Topsoil - soft silty clay loam, modern and Victorian pottery, brick and glass, 0.3m deep.

Buried topsoil - soft silty clay with frequent animal bone, Victorian pottery and glass, 0.15m deep.

Subsoil - Moderate to firm silty clay, gravel inclusions and Victorian pottery, glass and animal bone, 0.25m deep

Natural - Solid orange-yellow sandy clay, frequent gravel

A small sub-circular pit or posthole was revealed just below the topsoil, cutting the subsoil. As no find were recovered it was probably a modern posthole or root hole. There was one sherd of Roman, the only piece to pre-date the post-Medieval period.

TPs 20 and 22: located c 430m & 330m northeast of the church respectively.

TP 22 was surrounded by earthworks interpreted as ridge and furrow of the medieval open field system. The stratigraphy within both test pits comprised:

Topsoil - Soft dark brown silty clay loam, 0.3m deep

Subsoil - Moderate to firm mid brown-orange silty clay, frequent gravel inclusions, 0.35m deep

Natural - Solid orange sandy clay, frequent gravel

The oldest finds were three sherds of Roman pottery from TP20 subsoil and a single sherd from TP22 topsoil. It was concluded there was Roman activity in the TP20 and 22 vicinity. An assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil deposit of TP 22. The sherds were worn and suggest movement through plough activity. A medieval pottery assemblage dating between AD950-1600 was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits of TP20. The condition of the pottery suggests a place of deposition close by, and suggests the test pit is located outside the medieval open field system. A copper alloy (CU) horse harness fitting in the shape of a shield was recovered from the spoil heap. The fitting measures 28mm long by 18mm wide and dates to

the 14th century. Sadly no detail or markings survive on either side.

TP21 located at the northern end of the High Street, c 150m north-northeast of the church and 20m from Castle Hill (SAM 19057).

The stratigraphy within TP21 comprised:

Modern topsoil - Soft dark brown silty clay loam, 0.25m deep

Made ground - Yellow-mid brown silty clay, with frequent brick and tile, 0.3m deep

Buried Topsoil - Dark brown silty clay, 0.3m< deep

Natural - not reached

17 sherds of medieval pottery dating between 900-1600 were recovered throughout the three deposits, and a single sherd of Roman in the topsoil. The assemblage suggests that the site has been in use from the late Saxon period through to the later medieval period. The single sherd of Roman pottery may be a stray find; however its un-worn condition and large size suggests it was deposited close by the test pit. There is little evidence of activity after AD1650 until the Victorian period, when the current house was constructed on the site.

TPs 23 & 24 located in the rear garden of the Queens Head Pub, an 18th building, c 150m east of the church.

The stratigraphy within both test pits comprised:

Modern topsoil - Soft dark brown silty clay loam, 0.2-0.3m deep

Subsoil - Moderate to firm mid brown silty clay, frequent gravel inclusions, 0.35-0.4m deep

Natural - Solid orange-yellow sandy clay, frequent gravel

A limited assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposit of TP23, dating to 975-1600. An assemblage of twenty-seven sherds of Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits of TP24, dating to AD 975-1600.

This suggests that the site has been in use from the late Saxon period through to the later medieval period. There was a linear feature, interpreted as a possible gully, was identified at the base of TP24 cutting the natural. The gully was aligned west-northwest-east-southeast across the centre of the test pit and continued beyond the limit of excavation. The gully measured 0.2m wide and 0.09m deep and contained a single fill, consisting of soft mid brown silty clay. No pottery was recovered from its fill; however nine sherds of fired clay/daub were recovered. The assemblage of Saxo-Norman pottery recovered from above the gully date to AD 1100-1200 and may date this feature when it fell out of use. Re-excavation of TP5 located at the northern end of the High Street, c 250m north-northeast of the church and 40m from Castle Hill (SAM 19057).

TP5 was located in the gardens of a 17th century listed building. It was excavated in 2013 and then backfilled. Approximately 0.55m of depth of soil was excavated from the TP5 and the natural geology was not reached. The pottery assemblage from the 0.55m of excavated soil identified a number of Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman sherds. It was decided to re-excavate the backfilled spoil and continue excavation below this in 2014. The stratigraphy, comprised:

Modern backfill from previous excavation - Mixed dark -mid brown silty clay c 0.55m deep

A modern soakaway truncated the southeast end of the TP. A modern wall, identified in 2013 truncated the upper soakaway deposits. A feature, interpreted as a possible pit, was located at the un-disturbed northeast end of the TP and continued outside the limit of excavation. The full dimensions of the pit could not be ascertained, but it was over 0.60m deep and contained two distinct fills. The upper fill comprised soft, mid brown, silty clay. Sixty-five sherds of pottery were recovered dating to the early-mid Saxon period and the Late Saxon Period *c* AD 450-1100. The lower fill comprised soft, dark brown, silty clay. The pottery assemblage suggests there has been continuous habitation within the vicinity of TP5 throughout the Saxon period, with a peak of activity between AD 900 and AD 1100.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Brackley, Northampton Road (SP 5922 3820)

Mike Luke, Ben Barker, Marcin Koziminski, Adam Williams and Jo Barker

Between June and October 2014 Albion Archaeology undertook open-area excavation in advance of mixed-use development by Albion Land plc on land off Northampton Road, Brackley. An area of *c* 3ha was excavated divided into two unequal parts exposing an unenclosed middle Iron Age settlement.

The main part of the settlement extended over *c* 1.6ha and was located over the northern part of the northern excavation area, possibly continuing beyond the limit of the development area (Fig 1). It was characterised by roundhouses, ditched enclosures, post-built structures and an abundance of storage pits. Similar features were found to the south and in the southern excavation area, although these were smaller in number and occurred in a much lower density than in the main settlement area.

Roundhouses

Evidence for *c* 20 roundhouses was identified. They were defined by penannular gullies with east-facing entrances. The area defined by the gullies ranged from 8-15m in diameter, whilst the gullies themselves were generally shallow and only a few had been redug. The majority of the gullies are assumed to have served a drainage function with no structural slots associated with the outer walls being identified. Many contained postholes which may have provided roof support or internal divisions, although no obvious patterns could be identified.

Ditched enclosures

Four ditched enclosures were identified, defined by ditches *c* 1.6m wide and 1.4m deep. Along with having larger ditches they also differed from the roundhouses in that they were larger and defined sub-oval areas. Similar to the roundhouses, they often had east-facing entrances and the interiors contained pits and postholes. The ditch defining one of the enclosures, at *c* 3.5 wide and 1.2m deep, was exceptionally large in contrast to all others within the settlement. This enclosure was located away from the main cluster of roundhouses. The excessive dimension of the ditch

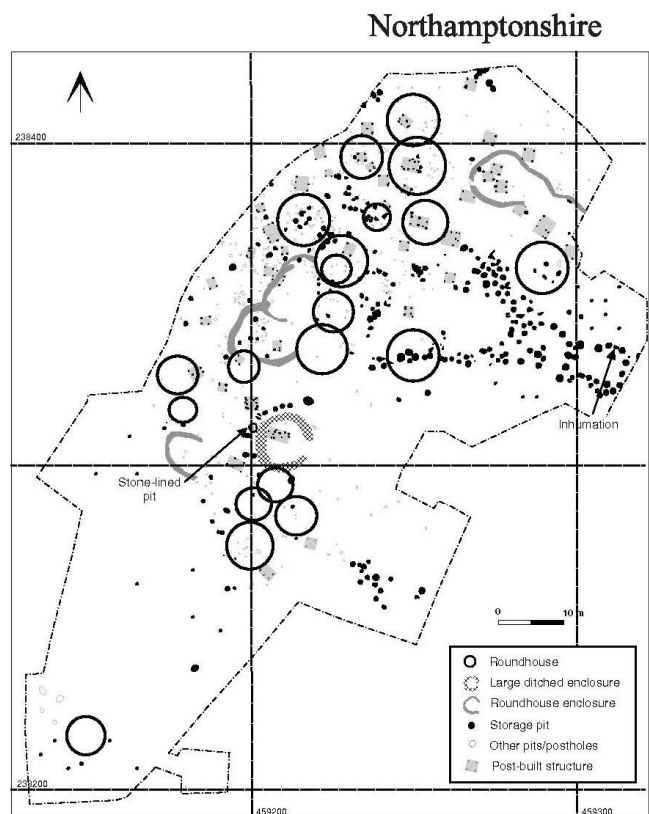


Fig 1. Northampton Road: Iron Age features (northern area).

is difficult to explain in practical terms so it may have been dug to emphasise the importance of the enclosure or its occupants.

Post-built structures

At least 40 possible post-built structures were identified within the excavation areas. They were characterised by four or more postholes in square or rectangular arrangements. The majority were clustered in the vicinity of the roundhouses and away from the storage pits.

Storage pits

The majority of the *c* 150 pits investigated were of the classic storage type, ie circular, steep-sided and flat-bottomed. Their depths varied from 0.1-1.1m but this is considered to be an effect of variable plough truncation. The majority of the storage pits were located, in broad clusters, away from the roundhouses, although they also occurred in smaller clusters on the periphery of the occupied zone.

Stone-lined pit

One pit, adjacent to the enclosure defined by a large ditch, was exceptional in that it was lined with neatly constructed dry-stone walling (Fig 2). It was circular, *c* 2.5m in diameter and 0.6m deep with a flat base. Although rare in lowland England six were recently investigated within a contemporary settlement, *c* 1km to the northwest at Radstone Fields (see below for fuller discussion).

Other pits and postholes

Approximately 100 non-storage pits and postholes were also found. The pits were generally less circular in plan, shallower and/or with less steep sides than those interpreted as storage pits. Some of these may have been dug as localised

Northamptonshire



Fig 2. Fully excavated stone-lined pit.

quarry pits. Although some of the dispersed postholes may have been associated with post-built structures, they are difficult to interpret because they are either isolated or did not form any obvious patterns.

Burials

Only one formal burial was found within the investigations - a crouched inhumation, placed within a grave on the east side of the northern settlement. A small number of features contained disarticulated human bone but the precise number is unknown at this stage.

Southern excavation area

Three roundhouses, at least five post-built structures and eight storage pits were present in the southern excavation area (Fig 3), which was *c* 120m to the south of the main settlement described above. The layout and size of the roundhouse gullies and post-built structures were similar to those to the north, although internal pits and postholes occurred in just one of the roundhouses. The pits were of the

classic storage type, although they were rarely deeper than 0.3m.

Finds

The majority of the pottery assemblage (54kg) is dated to the middle Iron Age, although some early and late Iron Age types were present. Although not all of the other artefacts can be closely dated, it is likely that they are contemporary, given the absence of earlier and later settlement. Artefacts found include ceramic loomweights, a weaving comb, a bone bobbin and a tanged knife. The range of crafts carried out at the settlement included textile production, antler and bone working, possibly leather working (awls), iron smelting and possibly non-ferrous metal working. Agriculture is attested by the presence of a pruning hook and grain-processing by saddle querns. The best-dated artefacts in their own right were a copper alloy *La Tene* II involute brooch, and a possible iron involute dress pin, which attest to settlement in the middle Iron Age. As yet unparalleled, is a possible iron socketed 'standard' tip (Fig 4), found within a fill of a pit which also contained middle Iron Age pottery.

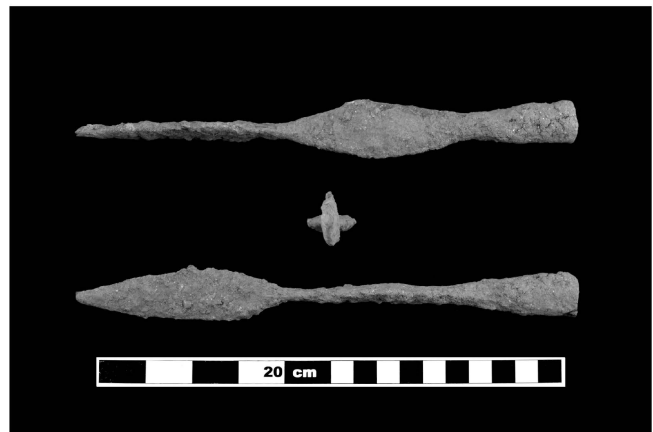


Fig 4. Possible iron socketed 'standard' tip.

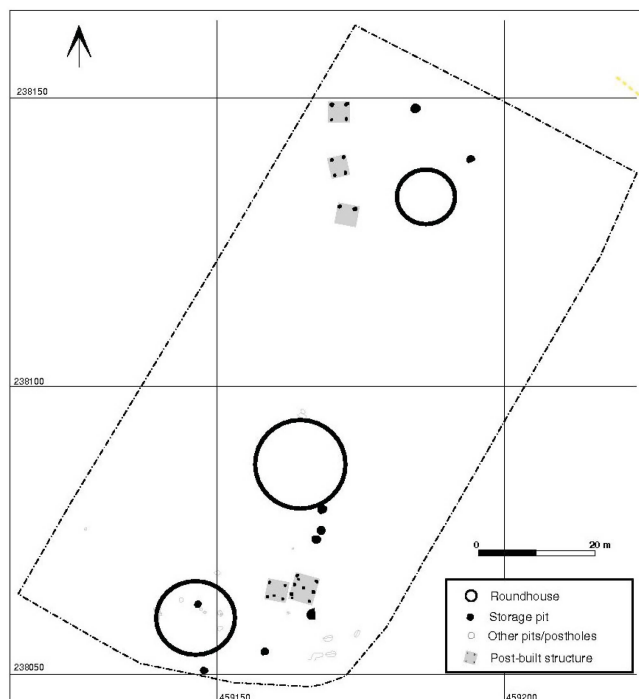


Fig 3. Northampton Road: Iron Age features (southern area).

Summary

As is the case with the Radstone Fields settlement, preliminary examination of the pottery assemblage suggests that it will be difficult to be certain whether the excavated evidence represents a single large settlement or several smaller settlements shifting location every few generations within the same broad area. If the latter is the case, this may explain the presence of clusters of roundhouse, four-post structures and pits to the south of the main settlement (within the southern part of the northern area and within the southern area). OASIS ID albionar1-169608

Brackley, Radstone Fields (SP 5887 3878)

Mike Luke, Ben Barker and Iain Leslie

Between July and December 2014 Albion Archaeology undertook open-area excavation in advance of residential development at Radstone Fields, Brackley. The archaeological works were managed by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Barratt Homes and Taylor Wimpey East Midlands. An area of *c* 7ha was excavated exposing a large unenclosed middle Iron Age settlement.

The settlement extended over an area of *c* 4ha and broadly followed the crest of the ridgeline running northeast-southwest across the excavation area. It was

characterised by roundhouses, ditched enclosures, post-built structures and an abundance of storage pits. In addition, six stone-lined pits, two stone surfaces and a stone-lined ditch were uncovered.

Roundhouses

Evidence for c 40 roundhouses was identified. These were generally defined by penannular gullies with southeast-facing entrances; however, one example displayed a west-facing entrance whilst others were defined by unbroken annular or sub-pentagonal gullies. The area defined by the gullies ranged from 7-14m in diameter, whilst the gullies themselves were generally shallow and only a few had been redug (Fig 5). The majority of the gullies are assumed to have served a drainage function with only a small number being associated with the outer wall of the roundhouse. Many contained postholes which may have provided roof support or internal divisions.



Fig 5. Roundhouse enclosures and storage pits (photo taken by Aerial-Cam).

In five cases the roundhouses were defined by larger ditches which had often been heavily recut. Whilst these may have been dug to provide drainage or bar the access of livestock, their excessive size and their absence from the majority of roundhouses suggest that they may have performed a less obvious function. This may have been to provide a visible and physical reminder of the importance of the enclosed space or of its occupants. The most obvious of these is the largest, located centrally within the settlement, which appears to have a conspicuous absence of activity in its vicinity and especially to the southeast where its entrance was located.

Ditched enclosures

At least 12 ditched enclosures were identified. Several were D-shaped whilst others were sub-circular or rectilinear. At least two incorporated roundhouse gullies to form one or more of their sides. However, they generally contained few internal features, perhaps suggesting they were animal paddocks.

Post-built structures

At least 45 post-built structures were identified across the settlement. They were generally characterised by four or more post-holes in square or rectangular arrangements. Such features are often interpreted as above-ground grain stores.

One rectangular arrangement of post-holes is much larger in extent than the others, covering an area of 11.5m by 10m. This may represent a large post-built structure or a fenced enclosure. Approximately 140 additional post-holes were investigated but do not appear to be part of a recognisable structure.

Pits

Approximately 400 pits were present within the settlement. These comprised a mix of classic circular, steep-sided and flat-bottomed grain storage pits and pits with less steep sides or more concave bases. The storage pits often appeared in tight clusters set away from roundhouses, whilst other pit types were more evenly spread across the settlement. Several areas of probable quarry pits were also identified.

Stone-lined pits

Six stone-lined pits were discovered during the excavation. All were circular ranging from 1.8-3m in diameter and up to 0.55m in depth. Four retained sides lined with neatly constructed dry-stone walling (Fig 6). The remaining two were heavily truncated and whilst one contained what may have been the lowest course of similar walling, only the base



Fig 6. Lower fills of stone-lined pit under excavation.

of the other pit survived. The bases of the pits showed a greater variation with three being stone-lined, two holding a thin clay lining and one having no surviving lining at all. It is of course conceivable that the base may have been lined with wood or other organic material that did not survive or leave any trace. Four of the six were located within clusters of non-lined pits and as with the storage pits they were all located outside and away from contemporary roundhouses. Comparable pits with stone lining do not appear to be common in lowland England and numbers have not increased, at least in the Nene and Ouse Valleys, since Knight over 25 years ago identified four possible examples including one in the hillfort at Hunsbury, Northampton (Knight, 1984, 109). However, one was investigated within the nearby contemporary settlement off Northampton Road, Brackley (see below). Their similarity in profile and location to other storage pits suggests they may also have served a similar function, although the obvious differences in construction suggest a different product - perhaps meat or dairy products.

Northamptonshire

Stone surfaces

Two stone surfaces were present within the settlement. The smaller of the two was heavily truncated, but covered an area of c 4m by 3m and was constructed of small and medium limestone slabs set in an irregular fashion. Although located within a possible roundhouse, it is not certain whether the two were contemporary.

The other surface was much larger, covering a square area of 10m by 8m and bounded by a ditch on three sides (Fig 7). The stones were set flat in an irregular arrangement with some very large slabs surviving. The remains of a possible dry stone wall was present on one side suggesting the surface may at one point have been enclosed by a wall. Storage pits clustered along the outer edge of the ditched enclosure and a nearby pit contained abundant burnt grain, possibly supporting the idea that the surface was used during the processing of crops, perhaps as a threshing floor.

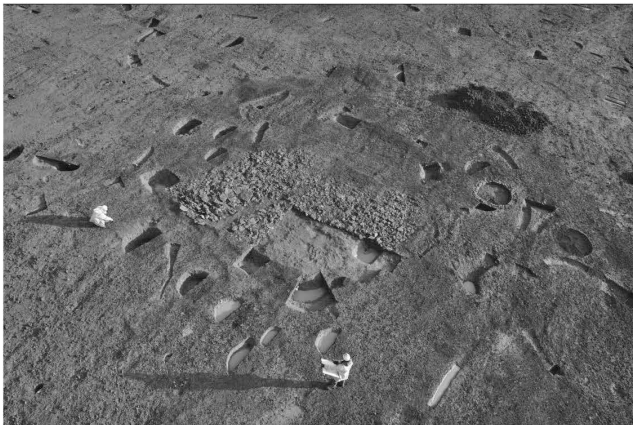


Fig 7. Stone surface and adjacent storage pits (photo taken by Aerial-Cam).

Stone-lined ditch

At the northwest periphery of the settlement an unusual curvilinear ditch was revealed. The ditch formed an upside-down “C” shape and had been recut several times. The latest of the recuts was lined on its outer edge with a finely made dry stone wall similar to those present in the stone-lined pits (Fig 8). Comparable partially stone-lined curving ditch features were found at Dalladies in Kincardineshire, Scotland (Watkins 1980). These were described as ‘souterrain-related structures’ and it was suggested that they performed a similar function to souterrains, ie communal grain storage (Watkins, 1980, 162). Whatever the function of the structure at Radstone Fields, it is unusual and also interesting in that it is located away from the main settlement area.

Burials

Two possible cremation burials were identified, although the quantity of bone is small and only one appeared to be in its own individual grave. One animal burial was also identified. A small number of disarticulated human bones and animal bone groups were present within settlement features, a relatively common occurrence on Iron Age sites, but the precise number is unknown at this stage.

Artefacts

The recovered assemblage includes 32kg of pottery and 53kg of animal bone. Although not all of the other artefacts can be

closely dated, it is likely that they are contemporary, given the absence of earlier and later settlement. Artefacts include an antler cheek piece, three ceramic loomweights, a copper spiral ‘snake’ bracelet, a mortise chisel, saw, reaping hooks, ploughshare and iron brooch. The presence of such finds attests to craft production and agriculture.

Summary

The largely undiagnostic but consistently middle Iron Age pottery assemblage along with modest stratigraphic evidence means it is uncertain if the evidence represents a single large settlement or several smaller settlement shifting location every couple of generations within the same broad area. A similar and contemporary settlement has been recently investigated in Brackley c 1km to the southeast, off Northampton Road. The evidence from both settlements indicates that they were occupied by mixed farming communities who undertook some craft production. The stone-lined features are testament to their skill in dry stone walling, the exploitation of local raw materials and perhaps even the spread of ideas from as far afield as Scotland or southwest England where souterrain-type features are more commonly found. OASIS ID albionar1- albionar1-171614

References

Knight D 1984; Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Settlement in the Nene and Great Ouse Basins, *Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser.* 130 (Oxford)

Watkins T 1980; ‘Excavation of an Iron Age open settlement at Dalladies, Kincardineshire’, *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.* 110, 122-164



Fig 8. Stone-lined ditch (photo taken by Aerial-Cam).

Chapel Brampton, Land off Northampton Road (SP 5350 5225)

David Ingham

Seven trenches were excavated in order to test anomalies identified by geophysical survey, as well as supposedly blank areas. The trenching confirmed the results of the geophysical survey. An Iron Age enclosure was defined by a pair of large ditches, which contained a possible roundhouse and other settlement-related features. A linear feature also crossed the eastern half of the site on a west-northwest-east-southeast alignment; this was either a

repeatedly re-cut ditched boundary of uncertain date, or more likely a hollow-way, with traces of associated flanking ditches. This would appear to roughly correlate with a boundary shown on the 1758 'Isted' Estate Map. OASIS ID albionar1-194247

Lilbourne Wind Farm (SP 5700 7760)

Ian Turner

Investigation in advance of the construction of the wind farm revealed a number of enclosure ditches dating to the late Iron Age/transitional early Roman period. The moderate assemblage of recovered pottery suggests that the enclosures could have been part of a small settlement. OASIS ID albionar1-166835

Raunds, White Gables, Brook Road (TL 003 733)

Marcin Koziminski and Christiane Meckseper

Investigations in advance of the construction of a new house and garages revealed medieval and post-medieval ditches on a northwest-southeast alignment. Their function is uncertain. No evidence for medieval or post-medieval settlement was revealed within the investigation area. However, the good preservation of pottery within the ditch fills and a moderate assemblage of charred plant remains suggest the presence of a focus of domestic activity in the vicinity. OASIS ID albionar1-166837

West Haddon, Land at Victoria Close (SP 6340 7220)

Wiebke Starke and Ben Barker

Trial trenching, targeted on an earlier geophysical survey, identified a number of probable archaeological features. To the north, a series of ditches appeared to form enclosures and converging trackways associated with the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement identified previously along the route of the bypass. To the south, an area of smaller rectilinear enclosures was revealed. The sparse finds assemblages suggest that these enclosures were remote from any settlement focus. OASIS ID albionar1-207811

Woodford cum Membris, Farndon Road, Hinton (SP 5350 5225)

Richard Gregson, Gary Edmondson and Jackie Wells

A programme of archaeological evaluation revealed a prehistoric ditched feature, which correlated with a c 15m diameter geophysical anomaly. A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the feature, including small undiagnostic fragments of calcined bone. No internal features were identified. Given the absence of other contemporary features in the vicinity, this feature may be the ditch of a burial monument rather than a roundhouse drainage ditch.

A number of undated features, including the flanking ditches of a possible trackway, detected by geophysical survey parallel to the present road, were also investigated. OASIS ID albionar1-168050

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING SERVICES

Gerwyn Richards

Boughton House, The Stable Block (SP 90077 81559)

An archaeological standing building survey was carried out prior to conservation work at the Stable Block, Boughton House. The Boughton House Stable Block is an exceptional example of 18th century French-inspired grand architecture and is justifiably Grade I listed in its own right. The work carried out by Boughton Estate Ltd allowed a rare opportunity to record those elements of the stables affected by the works. Recording work was limited to the roof structure and graffiti on the east wall. As expected of a single phase roof, there is little of historical interest to be seen within the roof structure; the roof is simple trusses carrying butt purlins and bridled common rafters. Some of the rafters are modern replacements added in the 1980s. The graffiti, consisting of lists of names are more historically significant and provide an interesting insight into the local casual labourers employed by the estate as and when such labour was required.

Easton on the Hill, 37 West Street (TF 01034 04461)

37 West Street and its associated outbuildings are an interesting group of buildings. The outbuildings represent the historic land use, having been used as a market garden for almost 150 years, the property having remained in the ownership of the same family for potentially several hundred years. Physically, the outbuildings are stone-built and mainly 18th and 19th century in date. The northernmost frontage outbuilding contains sufficient evidence to suggest it originated as a domestic building, possibly in the early 17th century. The domestic building of number 37 has a more complicated history, the house is Grade II listed and described as being 17th century and re-modelled in the 19th century. Sufficient evidence to support this was observed by the historic building recording but a number of ambiguities of plan hint at a potentially more complex and potentially longer history.

Kettering, Broughton Grange (SP 85797 76497)

The outbuildings associated with Broughton Grange are largely late 19th or early 20th century in date, but have retained some limited structural elements of earlier buildings on the site. There are a number of unusual characteristics within the buildings, most notably the roof structure of building A, which is of an archaic design. The roof coverings are also unusual and are of a type normally found in the south west of England. The recorded buildings are likely to represent the change from a largely arable farm to a mixed or more livestock-oriented farm, probably a change brought on by the rapid industrialisation and population growth in nearby Kettering in the 19th century.

Hardwick, Hardwick Lodge (SP 83689 70139)

The outbuildings associated with Lodge Farm have undergone significant maintenance and re-building work which has undoubtedly truncated or concealed historic fabric. There are two phases of buildings; the earliest is likely to be late 18th or early 19th century, followed by late 19th century building work. This work is likely to represent the

Northamptonshire

change from a largely arable farm to a mixed or more livestock-oriented farm. Both cartographic and placename evidence suggests that Lodge Farm may have originated as the lodge for the adjacent managed Hardwick Wood, a wood likely to have medieval origins. The historical evidence revealed by this historic building recording provides useful background information despite a lack of physical evidence recorded within the buildings.

Thenford, Lower Farmyard (SP 51949 41688)

The outbuildings are mid 19th century in date, built as an additional farmyard, probably for stock rearing to the south of the existing Home Farm. The buildings are simple in design, the northernmost little more than lean-to built onto an existing property wall. The southernmost building is an example of a cart shed, built following traditional pattern of facing away from the farmyard.

West Haddon, Sedge Hollow (SP 62630 71118)

The outbuilding is mid 19th century in date, an inscribed brick records the date 1840; it is likely to be accurate, probably built as a field hovel for stock rearing as part of one of the village farms of West Haddon. The building is a simple and common design with a few unusual features, including occasional use of flared headers as a design touch. The southernmost bay is slightly unusual in plan form, but is likely to be also for stock rearing, possibly calf pens. There is a lack of historical evidence for the building, but early Ordnance Survey maps indicate there were a number of fold yards to the south and to the east of the building, now lost.

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Deanshanger, Pocket Park (SP 7714 3953)

Bob Zeepvat

In May a watching brief was maintained on the excavation of a wildlife pond in the park, which lies east of the village core and adjacent to the site of Deanshanger Roman villa, discovered in 1957. The excavation revealed only a post-medieval land drain, following the former alignment of a footpath across the field.

Paulerspury, Plumpton End (SP 7246 4545)

Bob Zeepvat

In May the excavation of geotechnical test pits in a former builder's yard in Plumpton End was monitored. The test pits revealed only relatively modern deposits and disturbance, connected with the use of the builder's yard.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Northampton Waterside, Midsummer Meadow and proposed Waterside Campus

(SP 7631 5997 and SP 7646 5959)

Steven Sheldon and Sam Wilson

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded post-medieval/modern reclamation adjacent to the River Nene.

Duston, Cemetery Extension, Berrywood Road (SP 7165 6144)

Derek Evans

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded two shallow, undated ditch-like features, both cutting the subsoil. One of these was truncated by the remnants of a medieval ridge and furrow field system.

Northampton, Park Campus (SP 7633 6442)

Jeremy Mordue

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed two shallow post-medieval or modern ditches; these are not shown on historic maps but probably relate to Moulton Park House.

Woodford, Club Lane (SP 9689 7687)

Dan Stone

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a post-medieval/modern stone-lined cesspit and a boundary wall.

Rushden, Goulsbra Road (SP 9668 6557)

Mo Muldowney

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified seven ditches. All related to post-medieval to modern boundaries, although two contained residual Roman pottery.

Brixworth, Saxon Rise 2 (SP 7494 6939)

Peter James

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded ditches, pits and a stone wall. These features displayed a broad correspondence with the results of preceding geophysical surveys. Artefactual material indicated that the features were mainly Iron Age and Roman in date, although there was also limited evidence for Mesolithic and Bronze Age activity. The features exposed by the present evaluation were broadly similar in nature and date to those recorded previously to the immediate north, and the area appears to have been in continuous occupation during the Iron Age and Roman periods until abandonment in the later Roman period.

Yelvertoft, Yelvertoft Marina (SP 5998 7416)

Peter James

Cotswold Archaeology carried out an earthwork survey of extant ridge and furrow and a programme of recording during groundworks. The work demonstrated that the site covered parts of three medieval/early post-medieval ridge and furrow agricultural fields.

Abthorpe, Handley Park Solar Farm (SP 6707 4605)

Peter James

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity, comprising a pit and a ditch. The remains of a small Roman settlement, probably a farmstead, and an associated field system were also identified. The Roman features contained pottery, animal bone and fragments of Roman roof tile, the latter indicating that there may have been a building in the vicinity. Middle/Late Saxon remains were also present and comprised a circular or oval enclosure associated with pottery dateable to the 7th to 10th centuries AD, a fragment of an iron pin or

bobbin and a metal fragment, possibly part of a bucket, with mineralised wood.

Weldon, Proposed Pumping Station Site (SP 9313 8991)

Derek Evans

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology uncovered no archaeological features or deposits.

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES LTD (IS Heritage Ltd)

Earls Barton_ (SP 85493 63716)

A small set-piece excavation was undertaken in order to fulfil a condition placed on planning approval for a development at Doddington Road, Earls Barton. A number of ditches and gullies, probably enclosures or part of a wider boundary system, were exposed. Pottery dated to the late Iron Age. A single sherd of early Roman pottery from a shallow gully indicates some continuity of activity into the Roman period although any domestic focus seems to have shifted elsewhere.

Isham, Middle Street (SP 8860 7400)

As a condition of planning consent, IS Heritage Ltd undertook a small set-piece excavation prior to the construction of two houses at Middle Street, Isham. A pit and gully both contained Roman pottery and appear to be part of a wider area of activity. Further features, including a well, gully and pits, all dated to the medieval period and are likely to be part of back-plot activity associated with buildings on the Church Street frontage.

Northampton, Delapre Abbey (SP 7595 5908)

Planning and Listed Building consents have been granted for the conservation and re-presentation of Delapré Abbey, Northampton. IS Heritage Ltd undertook the part excavation of an accumulated layer of material was undertaken in the sub-floor compartments beneath the drawing room of Delapré Abbey in order to inform proposals for the insertion of a plant room. Originally thought to be a centuries-long, gradual accumulation of rubbish, the excavation has shown that it is more likely to have been a demolition deposit associated with 18th/19th century modifications to the south wing of the house. The excavation has revealed a length of wall that formed part of the 'lost' 16th -17th century south wing built by the Tate family. A range of finds from the demolition layer include architectural fragments dating from the medieval abbey and the 16th century house.

Rushden, 65 Sartoris Road (SP 949 669)

Level 2 building recording took place as a condition of planning permission prior to the demolition of this former boot and shoe factory. The original detached house, built in the period between 1886 and 1900, was probably connected with the boot and shoe industry from its construction, with two large garden workshops at the rear. The property was associated with the company of W W Chamberlain from around 1913. A range of three north-light sheds, replacing the workshops, had been added by 1926. A fourth was

quickly added to the rear. The company were originally leather dressers, curriers and manufacturers of leather stiffeners for shoes, later heel manufacturers as well. The company remained at Sartoris Road until 1973. Subsequently, it was used as the cut sole department for Ashford and Campion and later by William James, present until at least 2009. The house was probably used as an office connected to the factory sheds for much of its lifetime and the relatively sparse décor reflects this function.

Warkton, St Edmund's Church (SP 893 798)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by IS Heritage Ltd during the replacement of the existing French drain around the chancel of St Edmund's Church. The trenches were cut entirely through grave earth; there were no cut features. The ashlar foundations of the chancel, which was built in 1749 after the death of the second Duke of Montagu, were revealed. At the north-western corner, the foundations lay on an area of loosely packed rubble including architectural fragments that may have been the remains of the earlier chancel, although it is not known whether they were in situ.

Wellingborough, The Old Railway Club (SP 8861 8286)

Following on from a trial trench evaluation undertaken earlier in the year, the excavation of two areas within the grounds of the former Railway Club was undertaken as a condition on planning approval. Much of the rest of the site had been quarried during the post-medieval period. Along the Broad Green frontage was a series of irregular hollows, suggestive of planting holes. They were notable, however, for the large quantity of pottery, dating between 1250 and 1350, that appeared to have been deliberately deposited within them. The second area, along the former route of Outlaw Lane, demonstrated further evidence for quarrying.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Compiled by David Gilbert

Banbury, National Filling Factory (SP 47698 40342)

Steve Leech

An archaeological watching brief was conducted as a condition of English Heritage granting Scheduled Monument Consent (S00097689) for the excavation of a new trench for an electrical cable on the remains of a former World War I National Filling Factory, Banbury (HA 1409811). The work involved the monitoring and recording of a North/South trench, 0.8m wide, 700m long and 1m deep across the site. Much of the trench was situated in ground previously disturbed by the construction of the M40, however remains of concrete slab floors and brick walls of the former factory were observed in places.

Northamptonshire

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

(formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology)

Summaries for 2014 compiled by Pat Chapman and Andy Chapman

A45 Northampton to Daventry Link Road (Weedon-Flore Bypass) (SP 6721 5947 to SP 6207 6008)

Jim Brown, Christopher Jones, John Walford, Simon Markus, Jonathan Elston

Geophysical survey and trial trench excavation confirmed the presence of substantial archaeological remains in focal areas along the Weedon to Flore Bypass. The broad flanking ditches of two adjacent Neolithic long barrows, aligned near east to west, and crossed by ridge and furrow cultivation, sit on a broad plateau overlooking the Upper Nene Valley to the south and the tributary valley that joins it from the north-west. The long barrows may be viewed clearly from all of the surrounding high points of land, therefore lying within a natural topographical amphitheatre. Medieval ploughing had removed all remains of the mounds. The south-eastern barrow is c 60m long by 25m wide, open to the east with a straight length of much narrower ditch forming a square end to the west. The north-western barrow is c 70m long by 20m wide. Unusual for a long barrow, it is open to the west with a pronounced flaring of the side ditches towards the opening, with a narrow ditch forming a rounded eastern end (Fig 9). The worked flint from the barrow ditches is of late Mesolithic to early Neolithic date while the pottery from the ditches is early and middle Neolithic in date. A few sherds of Bronze Age pottery were also recovered. Following realignment of the road corridor to avoid the long barrows, geophysical survey and trial trench excavations confirmed

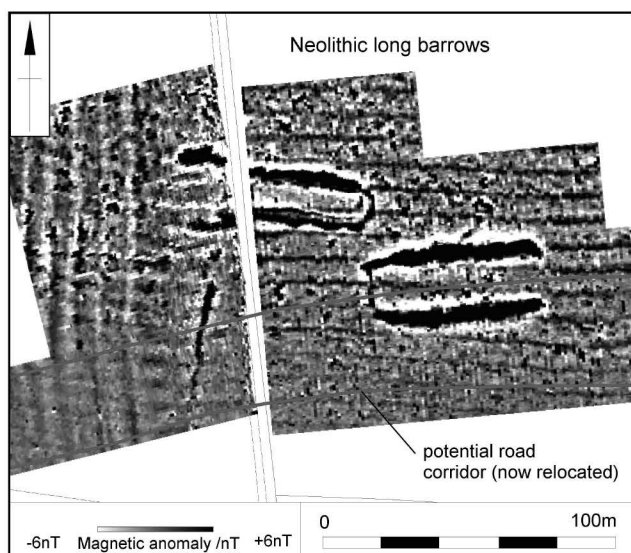


Fig 9. The two Neolithic long barrows north of Weedon.

the continuation of a nearby ditch, aligned north-south. A rectangular enclosure of the late Iron Age lies adjacent to the railway near Dodford. An undated, but possibly late Iron Age trackway with flanking ditches was identified within the realigned road corridor. Boundary features and pits produced finds of Roman date that were probably associated with a settlement site, the larger part of which was lost during

construction of the M1 motorway. Much of the land in the vicinity has been subjected to quarrying. The line of the late medieval road between Flore and Dodford was confirmed to the north-west of Flore Hill Farm, Flore. Two roadside ditches were investigated, and a deposit synonymous with the former greenway was identified between them.

Abthorpe, 42 Wappenham Road (SP 6493 4644)

Jason Clarke

A watching brief found no archaeological features or finds.

Ashton, Stoke Road (SP 7632 4994)

Jason Clarke

Excavation, following evaluation (*SMA* 44 (2014), 39), identified one ditch dated late 1st century AD date. Another ditch is dated to the 11th-14th centuries, broadly contemporary with the moated manor to the north (*SMA* 28 (1998), 37 and 29 (1999), 24). There was also part of a recently backfilled post-medieval pond. The site produced a small pottery assemblage.

Barnwell, Lilford Lodge (TL 040 851)

Anne Foard-Colby

A watching brief during groundworks associated with construction of a solar park found no archaeological features or finds.

Boughton, Welford Road (SP 7365 6494)

John Walford and Sam Egan

A geophysical survey identified some strong magnetic responses, indicative of geological processes. However, no archaeological features or finds were found during trial trenching.

Brackley, 2 Bridge Street (SP 5843 3675)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Building recording in advance of the demolition of a barn and its two brick extensions, to the rear of 2 Bridge Street, was undertaken on behalf of Dentalcare. The main building and barn, pre-dating the 18th century shop front, have undergone several phases of extensions and alterations from the 18th century through to the 20th century.

Brackley, 8 Halls Lane (SP 5834 3689)

Amir Bassir

A heritage assessment was carried out ahead of a proposed re-development of three adjoining structures of a mid-18th century origin, historically associated with the Crown Inn, formerly serving as stabling, coach houses or barns. For much of the 20th century, the site has functioned as a greengrocers' with the first floors having latterly been converted into flats.

Brackley, 18 High Street, Town Farm (SP 58560 37120)

Amir Bassir

Historic building recording was carried out on a farmhouse of 18th century origins, operating originally as an Inn called the Butcher's Arms until the early 19th century when it moved towards purely agricultural use. This change was accompanied in the following decades by the construction of barns, stables, pigsties and other smaller structures as well as

Brackley, 38 Market Place (SP 5844 3693)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief carried out during construction work at 38 Market Place, recorded a former stone quarry of possible post-medieval date. Within the levelling or make up layer to support the, now demolished, walls of the 18th century annexe was a small group of 12 clay tobacco-pipe fragments, including a bowl dating to c 1640-60. Patches of mortar adhering to their surfaces suggest that this is the remains of a pipe kiln muffle, the second now recovered in Brackley (see entry above) and the only evidence for a kiln/workshop as early as the mid/late 17th century. Event No ENN107885



Fig 10. Swan-neck gas light bracket in the sitting room at Town Farm, Brackley.

an enlargement of the farmhouse to include a kitchen and dairy. Further changes in the 20th century saw a part modernisation of the farmhouse utilities and the construction of garages, pole barn and greenhouse. The farmhouse retained many historic fixtures and fittings including cast iron fireplaces and redundant gas light brackets (Fig 10). It appears that the farming practises were modernised in the mid 1960s with the installation of the grain dryer and new piping for the milking parlours. The enclosed kitchen gardens at the western end of the site occupy former medieval open fields. A watching brief was carried out during groundworks relating to residential development of the site but no archaeological features or deposits were identified.

Brackley, 115 High Street (SP 5888 3753)

David J Leigh

A watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling on the east side of High Street, recorded a clay tobacco-pipe waster pit dating to the 18th century. A group of c 180 clay tobacco-pipe fragments of one generic type, together with a small quantity of the remains of a pipe kiln muffle was recovered, recorded and then returned to the owner. This material is of importance as the first instance of clay tobacco-pipe manufacturing recovered in Brackley (see entry below), and confirms documentary evidence for the presence of a master pipemaker in this location in the early-mid 18th century.



Fig 11. Iron Age iron sickle with bone handle from Brackley sawmills (scale 20mm).

Brackley, Northampton Road, Brackley Sawmills

(SP5910 3840)

Mo Muldowney

Part of an Iron Age settlement has been excavated, and one area has shown a level of preservation rarely seen on such sites, as one of the roundhouses was sealed beneath a soil horizon itself dating to the Iron Age. A pit within this house produced a complete iron sickle still attached to its square-sectioned bone handle (Fig 11). It appears to have formed part of a placed deposit in a partially clay-filled pit, and lay on top of a pottery jar.

Broughton, 56 Church Street (SP 8367 7580)

Simon Markus

An investigation recorded areas of recently disturbed ground and remains of recent housing demolished by 1972. No earlier archaeological finds or features were identified.

Bulwick, The Old Rectory (SP 9633 9424)

Jason Clarke

Historic building recording was carried out on an outbuilding associated with The Old Rectory. The surveyed building pre-dates the mid-19th century, likely contemporary with the early 19th century alterations of the main rectory. The building formerly functioned as a coach house, stores and stables, with two timber stable partitions surviving *in-situ* at the time of the survey, and accommodation for coachmen over.

Burton Latimer, Higham Road (SP 906 744)

Ian Fisher

A detailed magnetometer survey identified medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and probable lengths of undated enclosure ditches and pits. Parts of the area were shown to have been previously quarried.

Burton Latimer, Higham Road (SP 9018 7408)

Ian Fisher

Earth resistance survey was carried out south of Higham Road where a magnetometer survey had identified a penannular feature and a trial trench had exposed Roman building remains. The results did not clarify the layout of the Roman building, but they did identify a possible continuation of a ditch previously observed in a trial trench, some medieval ridge and furrow, two relatively recent linear features and a high resistance anomaly of uncertain, but possibly natural, origin. Event No ENN107811

Northamptonshire

Burton Latimer, Kingfisher Way (SP 8904 7456)

Edmund Taylor

Excavation recorded features previously identified from evaluation, comprising an Iron Age pit and undated ditch, with the addition of a pit and short gully. No further artefacts were recovered during the works.

Byfield, Boddington Road (SP 5151 5337)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A post-medieval ditch and posthole, and remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow were recorded in trial trench evaluation. A build-up of material was noted along the eastern side of the site.

Charlton, Main Street, Palmeira Cottage (SP 5277 3585)

Jason Clarke

A watching brief during groundworks for a new house failed to find any archaeological features or artefacts.

Clipston, former Old Red Lion Public House (SP 7108 8165)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Building recording and trial trench evaluation was undertaken prior to conversion and building on associated land. There is documentary evidence of a pub dating to 1701, however, the building does not appear to be older than the 19th century, but has undergone several phases of extensions and alterations. No features or artefacts were observed in the trenches.

Crick, 10 Boat Horse Lane (SP 5918 7214)

Ben Kidd

No archaeological remains were uncovered during trial trenching, apart from modern deposition and disturbance. Event No ENN107710

Crick, Oak Lane (SP 5899 7279)

Simon Markus

Archaeological excavation was carried out across two areas, separated by a hedge, to a total of 0.5ha. The area contained a dense palimpsest of features, mainly linear ditches. There was some limited Iron Age activity, comprising a curvilinear gully and some pits. In the late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period (10th-12th centuries AD), there was a complex and changing system of linear boundary ditches, and a possible small timber structure was defined by a single slot and some postholes. By the 13th century these had been replaced by an L-shaped ditch system, which as a result of recutting was broad, at up to 4m wide, but no more than 0.7m deep. Late 13th to early 14th century pottery occurred most commonly, but this ditch evidently survived as an earthwork into the post-medieval period, as the fills of the subsidence hollow contained a coin, a buckle, lead shot and pottery dating to the 18th century. Two supplementary trial trenches did not contain any archaeological remains.

Crick, Watford Road (SP 591 718)

Adam Meadows

Geophysical survey of c 5.4ha of pasture land recorded a palimpsest of rectilinear enclosures, ditches and roundhouses of likely Iron Age or Roman date. These

remains are overlain, and partially masked, by medieval ridge and furrow earthworks. Event No ENN107680

Daventry, Monksmoor Farm (SP 579 644)

Jim Burke

Evaluation between 2005 and 2006 had identified an Iron Age settlement. Trial trench evaluation targeted two areas north and east of the Iron Age settlement. The features comprised a rectangular enclosure, within which were a ring ditch and a pit, of probable Iron Age date. Fragmentary remains of ditches and postholes suggest outfield boundaries associated with occupation. There was also extensive evidence of medieval ridge and furrow and later deep ploughing, as well as post-medieval and modern field boundaries, drains and modern dumping associated with the now demolished Monksmoor Farm. There was also a possible palaeochannel adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site.

Deanshanger, Hayes Road (SP 767 398)

Ian Fisher

Detailed magnetometer survey identified a prehistoric pit alignment, a possible prehistoric enclosure, possible elements of a Roman field system, and undated quarry pits on land east of Hayes Road. A number of 19th century field boundaries were also detected, as was the infilled Buckingham Arm of the Grand Union Canal. Event No ENN107525

Deanshanger, 2-4 Hayes Road (SP 7669 3975)

Simon Markus and Gemma Hewitt

A watching brief during groundworks associated with a new residential development found no archaeological features or artefacts.

Desborough, Harborough Road, Straight Furlong (SP 797 840)

Jim Burke

Excavation targeted features identified in trial trench evaluation. A ditch system may have been part of a larger enclosure and a single sherd of Roman pottery indicates that it was of Roman or later date. There were also furrows of a former medieval to post-medieval field system and post-medieval field drains on the same alignment.

Desborough, Harrington Road (SP 7939 8327)

Jim Burke

Trial trench evaluation recorded surviving ridge and furrow earthworks, but no other archaeological features. Event No ENN107778

Earls Barton, Spinney Quarry (SP 8478 6247)

Jim Burke

Mitigation works at Spinney Quarry recorded a linear ditch which contained Roman tile and a sherd of post-medieval pottery. Remains of a wall that had formed part of a stockyard related to the existing post-medieval barn was also noted.

East Haddon, Church Lane, Forge House (SP 6680 6807)

Amir Bassir

Building recording was carried out during groundworks and alterations at Forge House, a 17th century building, grade-2 listed. The new door openings showed that the east and northern elevations are of cob with ironstone rubble foundations, rendered externally.

Easton on the Hill, 48 Stamford Road, The Oak Inn

(TF 0111 0400)

Amir Bassir

Building recording was undertaken prior to development. The inn is a 19th century structure, initially built as a private residence and converted to a public house in the early-mid 20th century. The alterations relating to this conversion had removed most of the earlier layout and features of the building.

Edgcote, Edgcote Lodge Farm (SP 5140 4670)

Amir Bassir

Building recording was undertaken on two buildings of early 19th century date, originally functioning as single storey, open-fronted, stone-built cart sheds and stables, within a large farm complex. They had undergone repairs and re-roofing in the mid-late 19th century and in modern times.

Farthinghoe, Wall Tree Farm (SP 5444 3983)

Chris Chinnock and Simon Markus

A detailed magnetometer survey and trial trenching recorded a series of Roman ditches, dating between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD, and a small ring ditch, all probably part of a rural farmstead. Remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation predates the current field boundaries.

Fotheringhay, Fotheringhay Bridge (TL 0604 9298)

Amir Bassir

A watching brief was undertaken on three exploratory test pits on the surface of Fotheringhay Bridge (SM No: 543761). These were excavated to ascertain the nature of the bridge make up and the thickness of the bridge arches to inform future mitigation and strengthening of the bridge. The bridge dates to 1772 and replaces an early bridge of 1573. It is constructed of local stone and may well incorporate material taken from the former castle, the demolition of which was completed by the time of the construction of the bridge. The historic core of the bridge was undisturbed and comprised sandstone rubble overlain by a modern tarmac surface.

Geddington, Stamford Road (SP 8932 8346)

James Ladocha

Archaeological trial trench evaluation recorded an undisturbed stratigraphy of natural cornbrash substrate overlain by subsoil and topsoil, with no archaeological features, deposits or finds.

Guilborough, High Street, The Old Manse

(SP 6751 7302)

Tim Upson-Smith

Building recording was carried out prior to the conversion of outbuildings to domestic use. The stand-alone building at the end of the garden was a later building that may have

incorporated elements of the former Baptist Chapel, which stood at the end of the garden. The south-west range on the rear of the property was formerly a stable and coach house with a hayloft over. This building, although slightly altered over the years, retained some original features. The garden pond is the old baptistry for the Chapel.

Hanging Houghton, Clint Hill Farm (SP 7524 7377)

Amir Bassir

Building recording was carried out on a farmhouse and associated structures. The earliest phase of building was found to date to the mid-late 18th century with a range of extensions through to modern times. The survey demonstrated that the site is an example of a typical evolving agricultural property.

Harpole, Northampton Road (SP 6928 6033)

Jim Burke

Trial trench evaluation recorded three ditches and a posthole/small pit. One ditch produced a single sherd of Iron Age or earlier pottery, while the other two produced post-medieval pottery and a clay tobacco-pipe stem, indicating that they are likely to be recent boundary/drainage ditches. Another sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from a remnant furrow of the medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow field system.

Helmdon, Wappenham Road, former Baptist Church

(SP 5895 4406)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A watching brief was undertaken at the former Baptist Church, built in 1841, prior to redevelopment into a private dwelling and the demolition of the extension built as a school in 1954. The baptismal pool was still in place and burials dating to the 19th century were recorded in the front of the church.

Hemington, Ellands Farm (TL 0815 8464)

Carol Simmonds

A watching brief at Ellands Farm recovered pottery, dated to the late 2nd to 3rd centuries AD and 11th to 14th centuries AD, from the topsoil, all abraded and worn. No archaeological features were identified within the development area.

Hemington, Main Street, Burnham Bungalow

(TL 0898 8521)

Tim Sharman

A linear ditch, likely to be of post-medieval date, was identified during the monitoring of footings trenches for a new dwelling. Fragments of coal within the ditch fill may be contemporary with the former smithy which, after falling out of use, was incorporated into Squirrel Cottage. The non-residential use of the earliest structure on the site of Squirrel Cottage was confirmed by the presence of bull-nosed bricks on the door jambs and window ledges, observed during demolition. Such bricks are normally used in agricultural or industrial contexts.

Northamptonshire

Higham Ferrers, Kimbolton Road, Castle Fields (SP 9613 6871)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A watching brief was undertaken during the installation of notice boards within the Scheduled Monument of Castle Fields (SM No 13607) following work in the same area (*SMA* 43 (2013), 37). No pre-modern deposits or artefacts were recorded.

Higham Ferrers, John White Close (SP 9613 6871)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A watching brief was undertaken during the installation of reinforced grass parking bays within the Scheduled Monument of Castle Fields (SM No 13607). No pre-modern deposits or artefacts were recorded.

Kelmarsh, Kelmarsh Wind Farm (SP 7193 7879)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief during construction of an access road recorded the removal of topsoil and subsoil to formation level. No archaeological features were observed. Event No ENN 107806

Kettering, Pytchley Lodge Farm (SP 873 756)

Ian Fisher

An extensive set of archaeological remains of Iron Age to Roman date, including ditched enclosures, roundhouses, a pit alignment and a possible square barrow was identified by a detailed magnetometer survey, with further settlement to the west known from aerial photography (Fig 12). The most prominent element is a large rectangular double-ditched enclosure and central roundhouses and inserted sub-divisions, and annexes at either end. Event No ENN107474

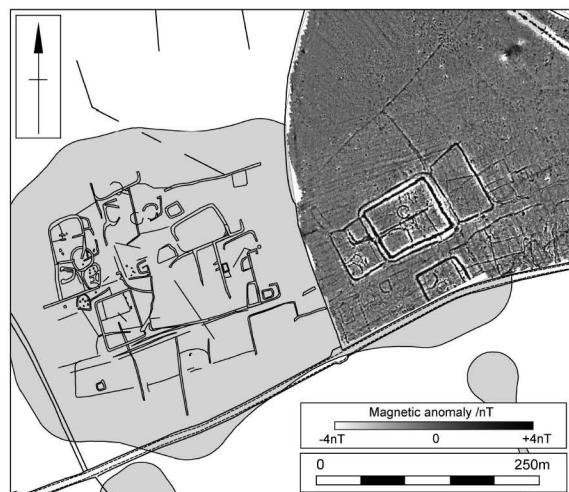


Fig 12. Iron Age and Roman landscape at Pytchley Lodge Farm.

Kilsby, Barby Road (SP 558 711)

Adam Meadows

Detailed magnetometer survey identified traces of medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and also some slight linear features of indeterminate nature. Event No: ENN107557

Kilsby, Daventry Road (SP 563 707)

Ian Fisher and Chris Chinnock

Magnetometer survey and trial trenching recorded a series of ditches and pits, dated to the 12th century AD, as well as later post-medieval bank and ditch earthworks. Dumped waste material and other disturbance associated with the construction of the M45 motorway, which lies immediately south of the site, was present across much of the site. Event No: ENN107528

Kings Sutton, Banbury Lane (SP 4952 3656)

Ben Kidd

Trial trenching recorded features that are largely undated; though pottery from one ditch possibly dates to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Two ditches were a continuation of ditches associated with Iron Age settlement to the east. Most features are probably associated with an Iron Age settlement that continues to the east and south of the site (*SMA* 43 (2013) 39). Probable furrows of a former field system survived in part of the site. Event No ENN107472

Long Buckby, 8 Harbidges Lane (SP 6238 6764)

Jim Burke

Six test pits were excavated on a proposed development to the rear of 8 Harbidges Lane. A possible post-medieval or medieval field boundary was recorded in one test pit.

Middleton Cheney, 5 Braggintons Lane (SP 5050 4163)

Christopher Jones

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of residential development. No significant archaeological features were present.

Middleton Cheney, High Street, former Red Lion public house (SP 4990 4185)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A trial trench in the car park recorded a beam slot, with the timber beam still *in situ*, forming the corner of a small timber building of probable post-medieval date. No earlier features or finds were present.

Moulton, Moulton College (SP 773 675)

John Walford and Christopher Jones

An archaeological evaluation comprising a geophysical survey followed by trial trench excavation in advance of a planning application for a new athletics ground, recorded only geological variations, the remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and modern land drains.

Naseby, Church Street (SP 6865 7782)

Chris Chinnock

Trial trenching recorded a shallow pit containing 11th century pottery. Substantial wall foundations are dated to the 13th century by pottery from the overlying fill. A sub-square levelled area in the north-eastern half of the site had a small linear earthwork around the perimeter and seems to be on a similar alignment to the walls. This could be a house platform. An undated ditch produced a fragment of daub with a wattle impression. A large earthwork, thought to be related to other medieval earthworks in the vicinity, was

found to be a large modern dump of clay and construction/demolition debris.

Northampton, Angel Street (SP 7548 6026)

Jim Brown and Jonathan Elston

Prior to the Norman Conquest the area was mostly open land outside the Saxon burh. By the mid-12th century a small timber-framed building stood on the street frontage. Discarded debris of offcuts and rough-outs from a local workshop, operating from the mid 12th to mid 13th centuries, manufacturing items from red and fallow deer antler, included two incomplete medieval stylised chess pieces. A tapered antler peg, 15mm diameter and 25mm long, formed a head with a face of ring-and-dot eyes and a cross-cut top providing a simple crown. This head, if finished, would have been inserted into a cylindrical body to form either a king or queen (Fig 13, left). In addition, a complete Bishop, standing 42mm high, was also recovered nearby. This piece was probably damaged and discarded when fashioning the two projecting stylised heads. The heads represent the tusks of an elephant, the Arabic symbol for the vizier, which became the bishop in European chess (Fig 13, right).



Fig 13. Medieval chess pieces, head of king/queen, left, and bishop, right.

In the 13th century a stone building with a cobbled floor lay towards the centre of the excavated frontage. Behind the building were five wells and three ovens. A small malting oven lay at the east end of the rear yard and a much larger malting oven lay to the west. The brewery occupied the site into the 14th century, before the town went into the economic decline and the site was robbed for stone and became a dump for soil and domestic refuse. The excavation of two medieval malting ovens, one of which was nearly complete below ground level, attracted local press interest and the base of this oven has been lifted by staff from the local Phipps Brewery and will be reconstructed in their premises, to mark the long tradition of brewing in Northampton (Fig 14).

The area was re-occupied by a stone building, comprising three rooms each with a clay floor, during the 16th century. There was a kitchen, containing a range incorporating a bread oven in one corner with open hearths on either side. Behind the kitchen was a small yard space, with a latrine, and

a side alley leading to a well. The perimeter of the plot was bounded by a stone wall. Beyond this boundary the rest of the site remained open space. Another building was established in the 17th century on the adjacent Fetter Street, the first indication of this street's existence, which was mapped in 1610.

Northampton, Berrywood Road, Duston School

(SP 7115 6164) Simon Markus

An archaeological trial trench evaluation at Duston School playing fields, recorded a levelling layer linked to the school's use of the land.

Northampton, Bridgewater Drive, former Abington Vale Middle School (SP 7831 6134)

Chris Chinnock

Trial trenching recorded modern terracing, levelling and landscaping that had destroyed much of the original ground surface across the site. Two undated archaeological features were investigated in those areas least disturbed. The larger feature, with steep sides and flat base, may relate to the nearby ponds of medieval origin in Abington Park.

Northampton, Crestwood Avenue, former Goldings Middle School (SP 7992 6411)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A trial trench evaluation recorded a modern ditch and an undated ditch. Modern areas of disturbances were also noted, which included service trenches, geotechnical test pits, modern pits and landscaping.

Northampton, Dallington Grange (SP 726 635)

Ian Fisher

A detailed magnetometer survey of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure near Dallington Grange successfully defined the extent of the monument and identified a few features not previously known from cropmarks. However, the clarity of the survey results was diminished by the adverse magnetic properties of the local geology.



Fig 14. 13th century malting oven with staff from Phipps Brewery.

Northamptonshire

Northampton, 29-41 Derngate (SP 758 604)

Mark Holmes

An archaeological evaluation determined that the site had probably been gardens or cultivated land from at least the post-medieval period up to the 20th century, confirming the sequence of historic map evidence. A feature, containing pottery of 12th century date, was observed cutting the natural 1.25m below modern ground surface. Natural geology was sealed by the deposits of post-medieval garden soils overlain by 20th century demolition and other activity. No significant archaeological features were present within at least the top 1m of deposits across the site. Event No ENN 107676

Northampton, Lady's Lane, Greyfriars Bus Station and Greyfriars House (SP 7532 6064)

Amir Bassir

Building recording was carried out at the Greyfriars Bus Station and Greyfriars House in January 2014, prior to the demolition of the structure. The bus station was a good example of the controversial Brutalist architecture popular in the 1970s, which focused largely on functionality and cost effectiveness, using materials which allowed for rapid construction such as concrete, steel and glass. It was designed by ARUP Associates on behalf of Northampton Borough Council and was constructed in the mid 1970s to encourage growth and increase visitors to the town centre and the newly constructed Grosvenor Centre. Built with six levels including an underground concourse, ground level bus station, mezzanine, car park and three office levels, the structure utilised an innovative skeleton of post-tensioned, reinforced concrete trusses to carry the offices and car park over the station below. A locally famous feature of the Greyfriars Station is the office level gardens and atria, accessible from the first office level. The two central gardens are rectangular in plan with walkways leading around rectangular areas of ponds and vegetation. Two smaller, more private gardens were located at the east and west gable ends of the first office level. The stylistic choice of bronze tinted glass was to remain visually impressive and added a great deal to the overall look of the building. At the time of the survey, the three office levels and car park were derelict and in a state of disrepair, whilst the concourse, bus station and mezzanine were still in use. The main areas of the building including the tower and associated walkway were accessed. The roof level plant rooms were deemed unsafe and were not entered.

Northampton, Flaxwell Court, Standens Barn Primary School (SP 7990 6188)

David J Leigh

A watching brief during groundworks recorded a truncated natural substratum throughout the investigation area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

Northampton, Harlestone Quarry

Jason Clarke

Fieldwork has been carried out for Peter Bennie at Harlestone Quarry, an ironstone quarry on the outskirts of Northampton, for more than 10 years. Fieldwalking in 2003 was followed by geophysical survey, trial trenching, watching brief and a succession of four open areas each in advance of a new extension to the quarry. The latest

fieldwork in 2013-14 has taken the area examined to 4.35ha. The importance of this site is that it contains a Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age landscape, uncluttered by middle Iron Age or Roman settlement. It also lies close to the Dallington Neolithic causewayed enclosure, making it part of one of the area's earliest landscapes. The principal feature examined has been a 200m length of a pit alignment of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. The alignment followed a straight, if slightly wavering line. The pits were originally square in plan, with steep sides and flat bases. However, with the surface geology varying from shattered ironstone through clayey silts to soft sands, there have been differing processes of erosion distorting the original plan shapes to varying degrees, so many now appear roughly circular at surface level. To the north of the pit alignment, a curving ditch with an angle corner may be part of a large enclosure, at least 130m by 100m, extending beyond the excavated area to the north and west. There was also a scatter of pits, mainly within the enclosure but with a few beyond. These have produced a little pottery including one near complete vessel. However, the most outstanding find has been a collection of pyramidal fired-clay loomweights, perhaps a complete set from an upright, warp-weighted loom (Fig 15). They each weigh 2.5kg and the cords inserted through the single perforations have worn deep grooves in the sides of the weights. The settlement is broadly dated to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, and may largely pre-date the pit alignment, which is undated.



Fig 15. Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pyramidal loomweights (scale 50mm).

Northampton Innovation Centre, Green Street (SP 7482 6036)

Christopher Jones

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of five test pits in advance of piling. The ground was heavily disturbed by post-medieval earthmoving and landscaping and as the trenches could only be observed from the surface no additional cleaning or investigation was possible. In these circumstances, no pre-modern archaeological deposits were observed in the five locations examined. This site lies on the line of the Saxon and medieval town defences, with Northampton Castle to the north and a previously excavated length of the defences to the south (*SMA* 27 (1997), 37-38). Previous trial trenching on this site went no deeper than the post-medieval deposits, and had failed to establish whether any remains of the town defences survived. With the limitations of both the evaluation and the watching brief it

has not been possible to determine whether any remains of the town defences were present on the site. However, given the construction technique of a shallow raft supported on piles, it is possible that early deposits may have been preserved beneath the current development, the Innovation Cube.

Northampton, Hayeswood Road, Lings Primary School (SP 7982 6362)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief during construction work found no archaeological features or finds.

Northampton, M1 Junction 15 (SP 7519 5474)

Anne Foard-Colby

A watching brief during the excavation of geotechnical test pits adjacent to Junction 15 recorded medieval ridge and furrow cultivation in the northern part of the site. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. Event No ENN107576

Northampton, Pineham Expansion (SP 705 588)

Adam Meadows

A detailed magnetometer survey of land to the south-west of Northampton recorded a number of features of probable late prehistoric or Roman origin, comprising three pit alignments and several ditched enclosures with an associated trackway or linear boundary, which could have an origin as a late Bronze Age field system. Medieval ridge and furrow was also recorded across the survey area, along with traces of field boundaries post-dating parliamentary enclosure. A probable palaeochannel was detected in the far north of the area, and modern disturbance was detected from overhead cables and a gas pipeline. Event No ENN107573

Northampton, Towcester Road (SP 7508 5998)

Jonathan Elston, Anne Foard-Colby

The circular brick foundation walls of two gasholders, an associated brick building and various large cast iron pipes of the 19th and 20th century gasworks were observed during excavations to decontaminate the ground. The interior of the brick gasholder 2 was recorded during remediation work. Gasholder 2 was 30m in diameter and deeper than the 5m that was exposed. The wall, 0.57m wide, was built with flat perforated red brick, using a variation on English Cross Bond with cement. Faint lines on the interior of the brickwork suggested the positions of vertical metal pipes at regular intervals, which brought the gas into the gasholder during use. Gasholder 5 was 45m in diameter and a little over 6m deep. The base of the tank had been lined with clay to provide an impermeable seal. The sides of the tank were constructed of red brick using a variation on the English Cross Bond, held together with coarse grey cement mortar. No evidence of earlier archaeological features or finds was present. Event No ENN107716

Oundle, Benefield Road (TL 0342, 8821)

John Walford and Tim Upson-Smith

Geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation on land at Benefield Road recorded no archaeological deposits or features. A small amount of post-medieval pottery was

recovered from the interface between subsoil and the natural geological horizon.

Oundle, Barnwell Road, South Bridge (TL 0371 8780)

Tim Upson-Smith

The test pits excavated during a watching brief demonstrated that the structure of the historic core of the bridge over Arch 3 was undisturbed and the layers of made ground firm. The test pits over the later widened part of the bridge showed that although there were fewer layers of made ground, those which were present were firm and again undisturbed.

Oundle, Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle Lodge (TL 024 873)

Ian Fisher, Jonathan Elston and Tim Sharman

The four ditched enclosures identified by magnetometer survey were confirmed and pottery dating to the late Iron Age was recovered. Further archaeological remains comprising a pit and a possible ring gully were also identified. Remnant furrows of a former ridge and furrow field cultivation system were recorded. The subsequent watching brief during construction work recorded three undated ditches, likely to be associated with the Iron Age settlement identified in the evaluation, and a stone-lined drain of likely medieval origin.

Passenham, Gardeners Bungalow (SP 7795 3959)

Gemma Hewitt

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new dwelling with detached garage. No pre-modern deposits or artefacts were present.

Potterspury, 43 Watling Street (SP 7546 4329)

James Ladocha

Evaluation around a 1970s building prior to its demolition, found narrow limestone walls, perhaps 19th century in date, which were probably walls of a small out-building shown on historic maps from 1884 to 1958. The tile surface and brick additions are probably from remodelling of this structure in the late 19th or early 20th centuries. Features dating to the 20th century were also present and the whole site appears to have been levelled, probably at or after the building construction in the 1970s, which sealed the previous ground level.

Ringstead, The Church of St Mary (SP 9860 7512)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief was carried out during construction works at the church. The remains of the limestone/ironstone churchyard wall were seen in a pipe trench. A post-medieval brick-lined vault within the church was c 2m deep. On the floor of the vault, approximately 2m below its barrel-vaulted roof, lay a timber coffin. The sides appeared to be intact but the lid had collapsed, especially where debris from the vault roof had fallen in at the west end of the vault. Above the coffin were four iron support bars fixed to the vault walls ready for the insertion of another coffin.

Rothwell Football Ground (SP 815 816)

Adam Meadows

A detailed magnetometer survey identified four linear anomalies, probably medieval or post-medieval plough furrows.

Northamptonshire

Rushden, Rushden Hospital (SP 9589 6593)

Edmund Taylor

A small excavation recorded a semicircular gully and associated postholes, probably Iron Age date, although no dating evidence was recovered. Two poorly-preserved inhumation burials may have been of Roman or early medieval date. There were remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and a ditch on the same alignment was probably of medieval origin. This ditch was retained as a boundary feature up to the middle of the 20th century even following the introduction of a system of ditches set at right angles to it.

Silverstone, Catch Yard Farm (SP 672 438)

Adam Meadows

A detailed magnetometer survey on c11ha of land identified a few anomalies which have been tentatively interpreted as relating to medieval or post-medieval quarrying and land division.

Silverstone, Towcester Road (SP 6713 4471)

James Ladocha

An undated ditch, a narrow gully and a pit were recorded during evaluation as well as a number of medieval or post-medieval agricultural furrows. Event No ENN107642

Stanwick, West Street (SP 974 715)

Ian Fisher

Detailed magnetometer survey detected medieval to post-medieval settlement remains, remnant furrows of ridge and furrow and possible trackways. However, the presumed prehistoric or Roman cropmark did not produce a convincing magnetic response, and is possibly spurious.

Sulgrave, Rectory Farm (SP 5589 4540)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks of the conversion of a 19th century farm outbuilding. Excavation for the groundworks uncovered an organic clay layer at formation level. Along the barn the base of a stone-wall was uncovered. In the area of the wooden partition four stone slabs were uncovered, possibly the base of a stone-lined drain or the base for the footings of a partition wall. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Thrapston, Chancery Lane (SP 99640 78760)

Edmund Taylor

Watching brief recorded a Roman ditch and an undated gully.

Titchmarsh, Islington (TL 0185 7976)

Liz Muldowney

Evaluation was undertaken to investigate a possible Cursus monument and any other archaeology within the proposed development area. The ditches of the supposed Cursus monument did not continue on the projected course. Features associated with medieval occupation within the plot were identified.

Towcester, 33 Brackley Road, Park House

(SP 6898 4861) Tim Sharman

A watching brief during construction work at Park House recorded one shallow ditch containing Romano-British pottery and one small pit. Event No ENN107677

Towcester, 27 Richmond Road (SP 6917 4855)

Simon Markus

A watching brief was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new house on land adjacent to 27 Richmond Road. A cobbled surface formed part of a Roman road, dating to the late 1st to 3rd centuries AD, emerging from the adjacent Roman town and linking with the Alchester Road to the south-west. The relationship of the road to a ditch 3m to the south is unknown.

Towcester, Water Lane (SP 6912 4849)

Tim Sharman

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of geotechnical test pits at Water Lane. A possible ditch was detected near the northern corner of the site. No evidence of the Alchester Roman road was detected.

Upper Benefield, 'Stonepits' quarry south of Lammas Farm (SP 9790 8870)

Carol Simmonds

A trial trench evaluation on arable farmland at 'Stonepits' quarry recorded remnant furrows of the medieval ridge and furrow open field systems in one trench. No other archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Walgrave, Hannington Lane, Hall Farm (SP 817 718)

Ian Fisher

A detailed magnetometer survey identified medieval or early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and a single linear feature of unknown origin but little else of archaeological significance.

Weedon, Farthingstone Road (SP 627 589)

Ian Fisher, W B Boismier

Magnetometer survey detected minor archaeological features, and trial trenching confirmed the presence of a small number of ditches and gullies dating from the 11th-13th and 15th centuries, remnant medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and debris from a small 19th century building. Part of a ditched enclosure seen in the survey was not confirmed in evaluation.

Weedon Lois, 10 High Street, Green Farm (SP 6015 4699)

Simon Markus

A watching brief in advance of the construction of a new swimming pool recovered Roman pottery from the upper fill of one ditch, and further ditches were dated to the 13th century.

Wellingborough, Buckwell End, former Sunlight Laundry site (SP 8864 6808)

Chris Chinnock and Tim Sharman

Medieval ditches, possibly relating to domestic tenement plots fronting onto Buckwell End/Short Lane, and larger

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boundary ditches and a possible well dating to the 11th-12th centuries were recorded during a watching brief. The pottery suggests that the main focus of activity occurred in the 11th-12th centuries with a hiatus around the 13th century, followed by activity into the late medieval and post-medieval periods. Much of the site has been severely truncated by modern industrial activity associated with the laundry.

Wellingborough, east (SP 9065 6866)

Carol Simmonds

Trial trench evaluation on land to the east of Wellingborough followed a geophysical survey in 2005 and trial trenching in 2007. This evaluation recorded a landscape prone to flooding, as indicated by the continuous build-up of alluvial deposits across the basin of the River Ise. Archaeological remains relating to the post-medieval agricultural improvement of the River Ise valley and the infrastructure associated with the ironstone industry were also identified. Event No ENN107643

Wellingborough, Irthlingborough Road (SP 9063 6740)

Amir Bassir and Jason Clarke

There was building recording of a former rail embankment and bridge parapet of a mid-19th century date, which formerly carried the loop line connecting the Northampton to Peterborough and the Midland Rail lines. This line ceased to operate in the mid 1960s and the rail bridge over Irthlingborough Road was removed. From this time the embankments were disused and fell into disrepair. The abutments each comprise a central straight section of wall c 20m long. This is flanked at each end by wing walls which end with 1.5m high piers. The structures are constructed primarily of Midland blue engineering brick in English bond with brick coping, and padstones of machine-cut sandstone blocks at the top of the central walls. These padstones would have supported an iron girder deck bridge, a design common across the British rail network.

Wellingborough, Northampton Road (SP 8764 6679)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Evaluation recorded remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow, identified by geophysical survey (*SMA* 41 (2011), 34-5). Event No ENN107678

Wellingborough, Sywell Road, Appleby Lodge Farm (SP 855 682)

Jason Clarke, Christopher Jones, Jim Burke, Simon Markus
Within an open area excavation and surrounding trial trenches there were parallel trenches from a Romano-British cultivation system, possibly a vineyard. Pottery dating to the 2nd century AD was recovered from two of the cultivation trenches. A small number of undated ditches and gullies were also present, together with remnant furrows from the medieval ridge and furrow cultivation system.

West Haddon, 15 Gillsborough Road (SP 6320 7190)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Trial trench evaluation recorded four ditches of uncertain date and two post-medieval sand-extraction pits. Event No ENN107880

Introduction

The planning archaeology service is provided by Planning Services, part of the Environment and Planning Division which is within the Environment, Development and Transport Directorate of the County Council. The Historic Environment Record is based within the Archives and Heritage Services section of the Customer, Culture and Place Division of the Public Health and Wellbeing Directorate.

The County Archaeological Advice Service (CAAS) 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 all 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 including pub and agricultural conversions.

The recording has covered a range of buildings ranging from agricultural buildings (Ecton Hall, Wellingborough), through to commercial and industrial, particularly with reference to former shoe factories. This is demonstrated in the number of historic building reports commissioned as part of the advice service and deposited within the Historic Environment Record. In the period 2013-2014, 136 reports were deposited reflecting a large range of predominately vernacular buildings. A number of examples of archaeological recording within each of the districts are given within Section 5 illustrating the range of the recording which is undertaken.

Development-led planning advice has increased significantly since the inception of the service in 2010. The CAAS provided a total of 567 planning responses in 2013-2014, compared with 562 in 2012-2013, 521 in 2011-12, 389 in 2010-11 and 77 in 2009-2010. The increase in the last year, although less pronounced than the previous years, was still just over 6%. In 2013-14 a total of 6755 planning applications were made to the Northamptonshire local planning authorities. Each was assessed for archaeological potential, resulting in the production of a total of 243 briefs for archaeological work and 97 site visits. The constant increase in the figures year on year demonstrates the value of and need for archaeological planning advice within the County.

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 HER has contributed to our understanding of Northamptonshire's historic environment. This is demonstrated in the number of historic building reports commissioned as part of the advice service and deposited within the Historic Environment Record. In the period 2013-2014, 136 reports were deposited reflecting a large range of predominately vernacular buildings. A general overview of selected investigations from 2013-2014 is discussed in more detail below illustrating the range of the recording which is undertaken.

Northamptonshire

Saxon Rise (Land East of Northampton Road), Brixworth, Northamptonshire

From May 2012 to November 2013, Cotswold Archaeology carried out a series of archaeological investigations (geophysical survey, trial trench evaluation and open-area excavation) in advance of the construction of the Saxon Rise residential development, which lies to the east of Northampton Road, on the southern outskirts of Brixworth, Northamptonshire.

While a large part of the site had been disturbed by post-medieval quarrying, a series of archaeological features was revealed around the northern and western edges of the site. Artefactual material was not abundant; however, most of the features were found to be Iron Age in date, and there were also two substantial (up to 4m wide and 1.65m deep) Bronze Age boundary ditches.

The Iron Age features generally comprised further large boundary ditches, which formed part of at least one rectilinear enclosure in the northern part of the site. This enclosure contained two circular ditched features, but there was no clear evidence to suggest that these were round barrows or small roundhouses. Other Iron Age features recorded by the evaluation included a series of pits (including a “bell”-shaped storage pit) and a possible four-post structure.

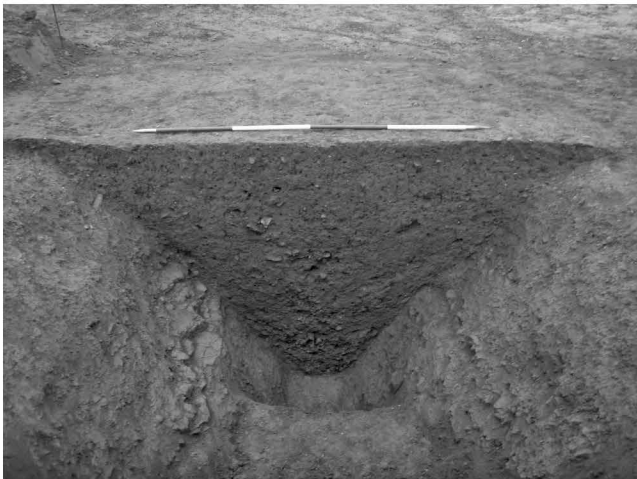


Fig 16. Profile of boundary ditch.

East Kettering development area

The excavation undertaken by Oxford Archaeology East identified activity which was more interesting than the evaluation had suggested. The strip revealed a few pits, a roundhouse and an enigmatic rectangular structure. The roundhouse was quite large, with a diameter of 12m and an entrance almost 5m wide. There were few settlement-related features near the roundhouse.

The rectangular structure was 20m long, with a width of 15m and was re-cut on at least three occasions. It was clearly a structural feature, judging from the beamslots which formed it, but there were no postholes to suggest a roof. Such buildings are usually called shrines. This is not just because they are different from roundhouses, but also because there are a few examples of rectangular Middle Iron Age structures being replaced by Late Iron Age and Romano-Celtic temples. Unfortunately, while Romano-Celtic temples are characterised by the abundance of artefacts they contain, Middle Iron Age ‘shrines’ are often

characterised by the lack of any material within them. This proved to be the case at Kettering and only a few pieces of pottery were found. The shrine and the roundhouse were next to each other, adjacent to the boundary, exactly half way between the two settlements.



Fig 17. Rectangular structure (possible shrine).

Moat Lane, Towcester

During the summer of 2013, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an excavation of five areas adjacent to Moat Lane, Towcester, close to Roman Watling Street, prior to regeneration of the area. Evidence of Romano-British settlement including ditches and pits was found, along with well-preserved evidence for the Roman town wall, a substantial cellared stone building and the remains of some of the inhabitants of *Lactodurum*. ‘Dark earth’ was also observed in some of the excavated areas, a phenomenon observed on excavated urban Roman sites.

The substantial Roman stone building was built in the later 2nd century AD and lay in a back-plot, between Watling Street and the disturbed remains of the 2nd century defences, about 40m away from the projected street frontage.

The stone-founded building replaced an earlier phase of building on this plot of which little remained. It incorporated a cellar formed of a double thickness of limestone walling set in clean blue clay that had been deposited both between the walls and outside the outer wall. The floor also consisted of a layer of blue clay 0.3m thick. The cellar had clearly been made waterproof with a lining probably intended to keep it



Fig 18. Excavation of the Roman Building

dry, although it equally enabled it to hold water, as demonstrated during the excavations.

Demolition debris from the cellar included an unusual number of cattle skulls and at least six complete vessels dating to the 3rd or 4th centuries - mostly jars but also vessels that had been used for cooking. As well as the complete pottery vessels recovered from the building, finds included a piece of a face pot, a well-preserved Roman key, toilet implements and part of a ceramic Venus figurine. Many of the finds were exhibited at Towcester Museum. Post-excavation work continues and it is hoped the results will be disseminated during 2016



Fig 19. Pottery in the cellar of the Roman building.



Fig 20. Venus Figurine.

Pineham Barns, Upton, Northampton

University of Leicester Archaeological Services carried out an open area excavation on part of the Taylor Wimpey site at Pineham. The investigations identified earlier prehistoric activity consisting of Neolithic and Bronze Age pits, an Iron Age roundhouse and field systems. Most of the activity dates to the late Roman period; consisting of a late Roman farmstead which was built onto an earlier field boundary. The farmstead consists of field boundaries / paddocks, a large water hole (containing surviving timber revetment and fragments of a leather shoe), cobbled surfaces, ovens/kilns, and a small stone-built rectangular structure set within a small enclosure.



Fig 21. Recording the Roman water hole.

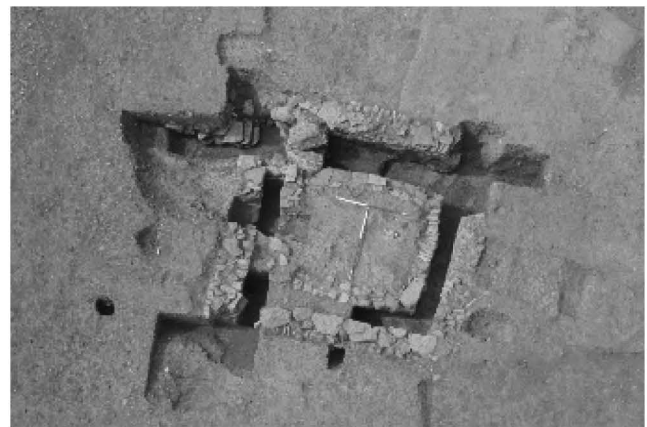


Fig 22. Aerial shot of the square stone building.

The site produced many great finds but one of the best and least expected came directly from a metal detector signal within a part of the site that had been excavated. Within a narrow ditch forming part of the southern boundary of the enclosure complex 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 $c \frac{2}{3}$ of the side of the tank that had been flattened out. The pieces appear to have been cut to a portable size, suggesting they were 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.

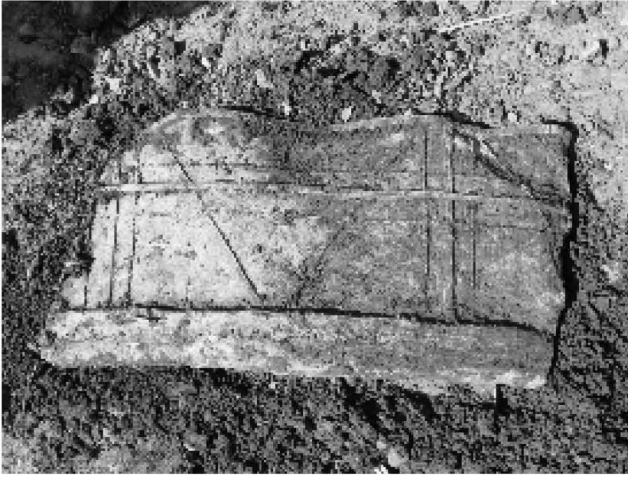


Fig 23. One of the pieces of lead tank.

Angel Street, Northampton

The archaeological excavations in advance of the construction of the new County Hall at Angel Street, Northampton were concluded in September 2014. The works were undertaken by MOLA-Northampton and identified a range of activity within the area. The site contained a range of medieval and post-medieval activity. The earliest structure, possibly mid 12th Century, on the site was a timber framed building. This was positioned on St Johns Street and within it was found worked antler in the form of chess pieces and knife handles. The investigations also identified evidence of brewing within the site with the identification of malting ovens and a number of wells. A number of open days were held on site to allow members of the public to view the site and to discuss and view some of the finds with the archaeologists. The excavation and the presence of the malting oven led to interest from the local brewery, Phipps NBC. Their interest in the 13th century malting oven resulted in the floor being removed and it is now displayed in the Albion Brewery in Northampton. The brewery ceased to exist in the 14th century and the site was robbed and filled with tannery waste. The previous timber building was replaced in the 16th century by a stone tenement which contained a kitchen with ovens and a latrine to the rear. A 17th century building also stood on the site until it was demolished in the 18th century to make way for tenements on Feters street. The mid 19th to 20th century saw a number of uses of the site the last being as a car park. The completion of the fieldwork is only the start of the process and the post excavation works are currently being undertaken by MOLA.



Fig 24. The 13th century Malting oven.

The results of these will lead to a greater understanding of medieval Northampton.

Ecton Hall, Wellingborough

Iain Soden Heritage Services recorded the remains of a kitchen garden at Ecton Hall ahead of redevelopment of the site. The recording identified a sequence of development beginning with the establishment of the kitchen garden just before 1781. Livestock buildings were added in the first half of the 19th century and gradually either went out of use or were converted to horticultural uses, being joined by a number of purpose-built structures including a greenhouse, a peach house and a cucumber house.

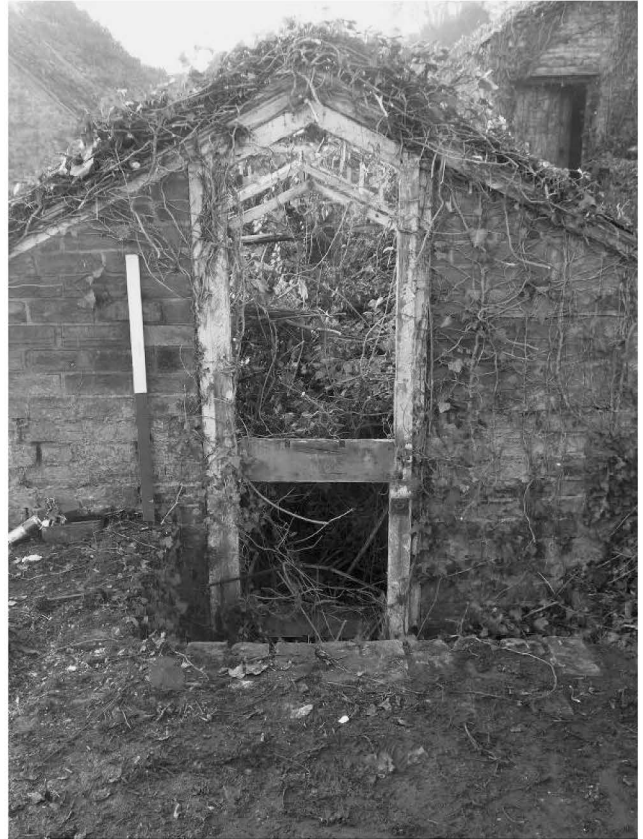


Fig 25. Elevation of the cucumber house.

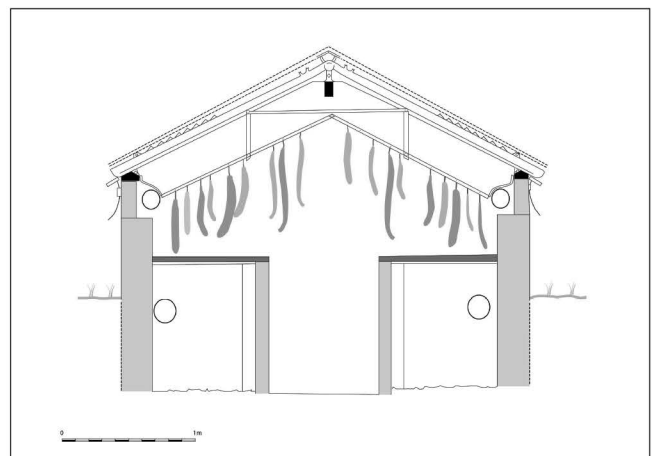


Fig 26. Reconstruction of the cucumber house.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Rachel Clarke

**Burton Latimer, Land South of Higham Road
(SP 904 738) Pat Moan**

Evaluation identified a number of Roman pits and the limestone foundation of a circular building. The location and quality of construction of the building may indicate that it was a Romano-British temple: it displayed evidence of significant burning during its demolition. Finds from the demolition layer suggest that it had fallen out of use by the late 3rd century AD. (OA East Report 1664)

Kettering, Land East of Kettering: Field 15, South of Cranford Road (SP 8981 7655)

Nick Gilmour

The evaluation identified a very shallow ditch, possibly of Roman date, along with a second undated ditch. In addition, a post-medieval pit (possibly a quarry), three tree throws and several probable medieval furrows were present. (OA East Report 1595)

Long Buckby, Land west of Long Buckby (SP 6222 6701)

James Fairbairn

Excavation revealed evidence of an early Roman farmed landscape and associated settlement nearby, possibly to the west of the site. At least two phases of activity were identified, with the majority of the features, which included ditches, pits, a possible structure and an oven/cooking pit, dating to the mid/late 1st century AD to early 2nd century AD. One of the ditches may possibly have continued in use into the second half of the 2nd century AD. (OA East Report 1579)

**Long Buckby, Water Inlet Main Replacement
(SP 654 685) Pat Moan**

Archaeological monitoring on four areas of the pipe route recovered two sherds of Roman pottery and two struck flints; no other archaeological finds or features were recorded. (OA East Report 1684)

Moulton, Moulton Relief Road (SP 7915 6558)

Robin Webb

The evaluation uncovered five undated ditches that were probably associated with a medieval or post-medieval agricultural field system located to the northwest of the site. (OA East Report 1709)

**Old Stratford, Old Stratford to Kiln Farm Water Main
(SP 7875 3964)**

Pat Moan

Evaluation along the route of a new water main identified an area of Romano-British remains consisting of ditches, gullies and pits. Early to mid-Roman pottery and lead artefacts from these features are indicative of relatively high status and possibly ritual activity in the vicinity. Trenching along the rest of the pipe route indicated little activity here; surviving ridge and furrow earthworks were recorded in two of the fields. Elsewhere, adjacent to the A422 in the westernmost part of the route, a single Roman coin and a sherd of greyware pottery were recovered during stripping of the topsoil. (OA East Report 1667)

Raunds, Warth Park (SP 9833 7317)

Louise Bush

Evidence for archaeological activity spanning the late Neolithic through to the middle Saxon period, in addition to remains of ridge and furrow, were revealed by the 4ha excavation and 3ha watching brief. Late Neolithic remains consisted of three unurned cremations containing sherds of highly decorated pottery. Most of the archaeology was of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, comprising pit groups and posthole structures adjacent to a cobbled trackway. Artefacts recovered from these features include pottery, animal bone, baked clay loom weights and glass beads. A number of solution hollows were also present, which contained low levels of highly abraded early Iron Age pottery. Roman activity was represented by a number of large postholes and a pit group containing notable amounts of pottery, including a complete Samian bowl. Anglo-Saxon features comprised six sunken-featured buildings that contained large quantities of Early to Middle Saxon pottery, along with loomweights and animal bone. Other finds recovered from the SFBs included a set of copper alloy tweezers, multiple iron nails, fragments of glass, bone combs and bone pins. (OA East Report 1572)

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH**Wood Burcote Court, Towcester (SP 697 473)**

Gerry Thacker

In April 2014 Oxford Archaeology South undertook the second phase of a trial trench evaluation on land at Wood Burcote Court, Towcester for WYG Planning and Environment. The evaluation consisted of 9 trenches each measuring 40m by 1.8m. Trenches in the north of the site targeted areas of ridge and furrow to assess whether any archaeology survived below the agricultural intrusions. Trenches in the south of the site were targeted on geophysical anomalies to expand on the results of the phase one evaluation in 2013. The resultant work showed that archaeology was not present below the ridge and furrow while the southern trenches confirmed that this was an area of high archaeological potential.

A number of ditches were identified of Roman or post-medieval date. Some roughly laid possible stone surfaces yielded Roman and medieval pottery but the underlying postholes and substantial ditch contained only medieval pottery, identifying the Roman finds as residual. A water channel found in the previous phase of evaluation yielded post-medieval brick.

**SOUTERRAIN
SERVICES LTD****ARCHAEOLOGICAL****Bozeat, Land adjacent to No 5, Dychurch Lane
(SP 90815 58976) Martin D Wilson**

Archaeological investigation was carried out during ground preparation for a new house (c 100m²). Two thirds of the site had suffered truncation in the late 20th century. No archaeological features were present. OASIS Ref.souterrai-178027.

Northamptonshire

Raunds, Land between 5 and 9 Clare Street

(SP 99880 72557) Martin D Wilson

A strip, map and sample investigation was carried out during the preparation of foundations for a new building (approx. 132m²). There were no buried archaeological features or artefacts present. OASIS Ref. souterra1-204730.

Rushden, 112 Irchester Road (SP 944 668)

Martin D Wilson

A strip, map and sample investigation was undertaken prior to the preparation of foundations for a plot for four new houses (approximately 1382m²). A considerable depth of colluvium was found to be present. Due to site constraints, an iterative approach to the investigation was adopted. There was no buried soil horizon below the colluvium. There were no artefacts or archaeological features present. OASIS Ref. souterra1-202397.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Compiled by Steve Preston

Banbury, M40, Land at Overthorpe Road (SP 4588 9654)

James McNicoll-Norbury

A proposal to construct a new warehouse/industrial unit close to the known site of a First World War munitions factory led to field evaluation. No archaeological deposits were identified, though modern truncations possibly relate to the former munitions factory to the east. A boundary ditch at the western edge of the site was also found to be modern. A subsequent recording action identified an area of disturbance that probably relates to the removal of a railway siding in advance of the construction of the M40. This contained some early 20th century material that may have come from the factory.

Barby, 71 Daventry Road (SP 5434 6975)

Lizzie Lewins

Magnetometer survey was requested in advance of determination of a proposal for residential development. A range of magnetic anomalies recorded by the survey primarily represent the ridge and furrow farming system that is visible as earthworks across the northern half of the survey area. Three weak anomalies may indicate the presence of buried archaeological deposits although due to their nature there is the possibility that they represent natural variations in the underlying geology. Further work is expected to follow.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

Compiled by Mathew Morris

Brixworth, land close to Pitsford Reservoir

(SP 75076 69372) Steve Baker

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS of approximately 7ha of agricultural land between the A508 and Pitsford Reservoir, Brixworth. Work was undertaken as

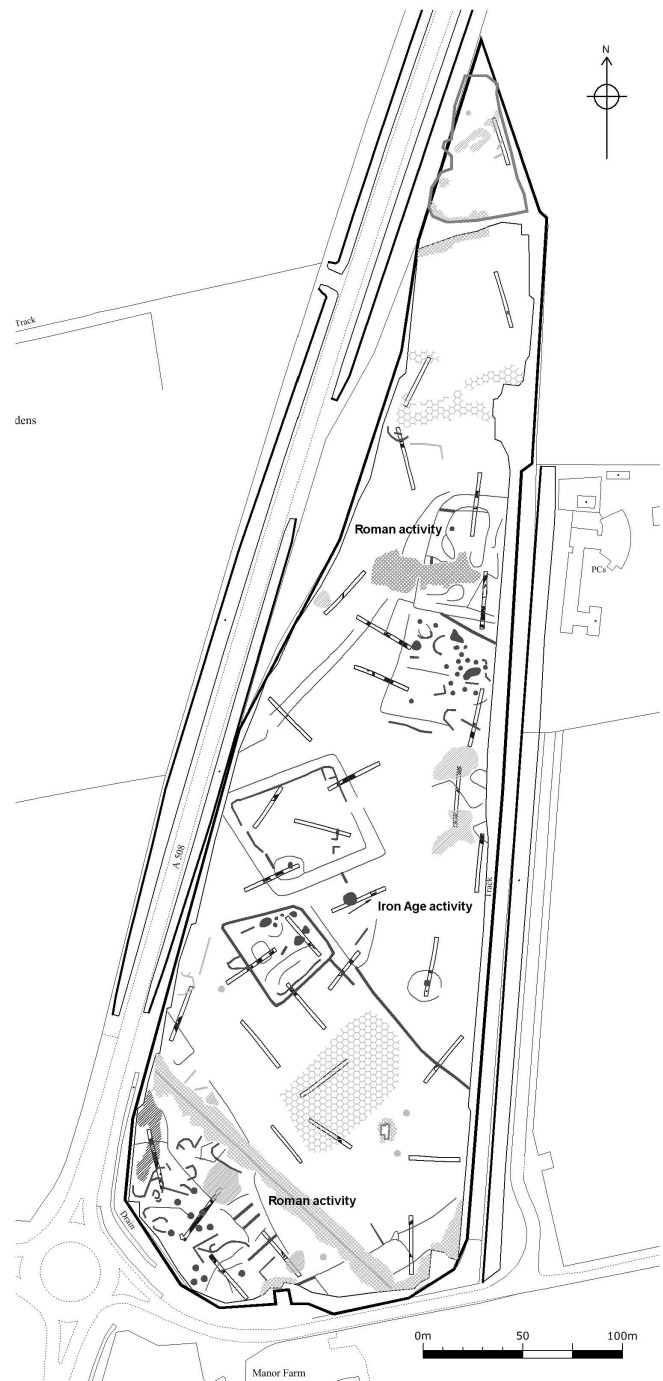


Fig 27. Plan showing geophysical results and trench locations.

part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of proposed residential development.

Work targeted known geophysical anomalies (Fig 27.) and revealed an array of archaeological features including ditches, gullies and post-holes. These appear to represent a series of enclosure systems, property/land boundaries and possibly structures including one roundhouse; evidence of intensive local occupation dating from the mid Iron Age through to the 2nd century AD. Of the thirty-five trenches investigated, twenty-eight contained archaeology.

Iron Age activity focused around three enclosures and a trackway on a north-west to south-east alignment in the centre of the site. The size and steepness of the enclosure ditches might suggest a defensive function or expression of status; however, the small finds assemblage could point to a

non-domestic site. Double-ditched enclosures similar to those at Brixworth are relatively common in Northamptonshire and there are several known examples of small enclosure groups of a similar date and size.

To the north and south two discrete areas of complex Roman archaeology were identified, dating predominantly to the late 1st-2nd century AD. At present, the function of the Iron Age enclosures is unclear. Substantial quantities of charred grain from several features indicate cereal processing close-by but an otherwise scant finds assemblage perhaps suggests a non-domestic function. Roman archaeology was well preserved and appears to be of a domestic nature.

The site lies in an area rich in archaeological deposits from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period with the landscape divided by a series of long linear boundaries with broad or double-ditched enclosures abutting them. Continuation of occupation from the Iron Age to the Roman period seems to be a consistent feature, although there is no evidence from the excavations at Brixworth to suggest the utilisation of an older Bronze Age landscape.

Crick, land west of Junction 18 of the M1 Motorway

(SP 57500 72100) Miraya González Rodríguez

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during a programme of ground investigation associated with the installation of wind turbines adjacent to Junction 18 of the M1 Motorway. Monitoring of topsoil stripping identified an area of metalised surface crossing the central area of the main access road, possibly a section of a Roman road associated with the adjacent line of Watling Street. No further archaeological deposits or finds were disturbed by the groundworks.

Guiltsborough, land at West Haddon Road (SP 665 739)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS over approximately 2ha of arable farmland at West Haddon Road, Guiltsborough. Groundworks consisted of seventeen trenches within the footprint of a proposed new solar farm. Several features, ditches and a single post-hole, were identified and a low density of early Roman pottery was recovered. Several residual flints were also identified.

Hackleton, land at Great Lane (SP 81086 55174)

Steve Baker

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land at Great Lane, Hackleton, Northamptonshire as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development. The evaluation revealed archaeological deposits consisting of ditches, gullies and postholes representing property/land boundaries or structures that dated from the late Saxon through to the medieval period, and further features and surviving wall foundations dating to the Post-Medieval/Modern period. Other undated archaeological deposits that were uncovered, together with residually recovered worked flint may hint at prehistoric activity at or in the vicinity of the site.

Irchester, land at Station Road (SP 92923 65819)

Mathew Morris

An archaeological evaluation of three fields east of Irchester has uncovered tantalising glimpses of a lost medieval

iron-smelting industry in the village. The work was undertaken by ULAS for the landowner in order to assess the likely impact of a proposed housing development on any underlying archaeology. Of the twenty-five trenches excavated, archaeology was found in five trenches close to the village along Station Road (Field 1). The rest predominantly revealed naturally occurring limestone brash beneath a thin layer of topsoil (Field 2 and Field 3).

The archaeology was typically medieval in character, comprising pits, post-holes, ditches and the stone footings of a building. In some trenches the evidence was ambiguous. Seven possible post-holes in a trench close to the village may be evidence of activity dating to the 12th or 13th century, possibly timber buildings or fence-lines. However, a tithe map of the village dated 1845 shows that this area was formerly woodland and it is possible that, rather than being post-holes, these features are the remains of root boles from trees or other vegetation.

Better evidence of archaeological activity in this trench was a ditch running parallel with Station Road, perhaps an old field or property boundary, and ditches recorded in two other trenches probably also represent medieval field boundaries.

Investigation of one trench close to Station Road in Field 1 found considerable evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity - a building, possible trackway or yard surface and associated pits and ditches. The building was probably of timber construction resting on a shallow stone plinth and an entrance on its eastern side suggests it faced downslope towards a stream running across the project area (Fig 28).

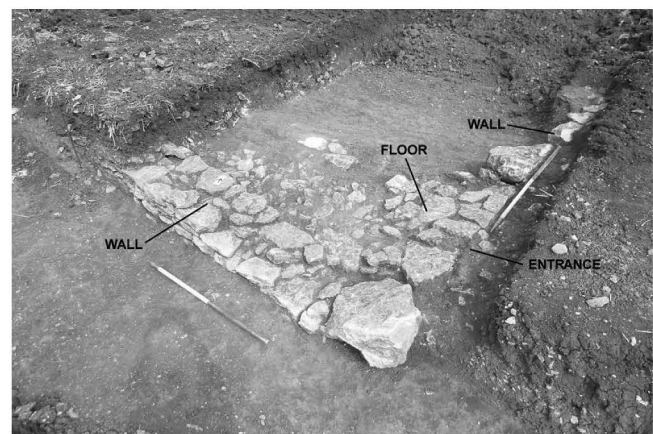


Fig 28. The south-west corner of a medieval building. Parts of the wall, floor and an entrance still survived.

Overall, a few sherds of St Neots ware and Stamford ware hint at a late Saxon or Saxo-Norman presence in the area (10th to 12th century) but the pottery assemblage as a whole suggests that much of the activity across the site is broadly contemporary, dating to the early 14th century.

Large quantities of tap-slag, furnace lining and unprocessed iron ore was recovered from a number of adjacent features, suggestive of iron smelting occurring in the vicinity. Iron ore deposits surround Irchester, rising to within 3m of the ground surface, and iron rich deposits of ironstone have been noted in the field adjacent to the newly discovered medieval building. Iron production in the region can be attested as far back as the Iron Age and major Roman smelting sites have been excavated nearby at Kettering and Higham Ferrers. However, few medieval production sites are known.

Northamptonshire

Typically, manufacturing centres need access to large quantities of fuel (charcoal) and iron ore in proximity to each other, as well as water for power-driven forges. This site on the edge of Irchester, close to a stream, iron deposits and the Northamptonshire charcoal industry potentially affords all three for a small-scale iron production industry in the village. In Field 2 a possible disturbed grave was identified. Twenty other trenches proved negative of archaeological deposits. These were situated across the northern half of Field 1 and Field 2 and across Field 3 in its entirety.

Although this site has yet to be explored in any detail and no furnaces have so far been found, it is hoped that future work will provide valuable new insights into this poorly understood aspect of medieval Northamptonshire.

Isham, land at The Sorrels (SP 88466 74228)

Leon Hunt and Andrew McLeish

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land at The Sorrels, Isham, Northamptonshire in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site. Seven trenches (six approximately 30m long and one approximately 24m long) were excavated across the site. Three trenches were negative for archaeological activity; Trench 2 at the far west and Trenches 6 and 7 at the far east. In the centre of the site, however, on the highest part of the ground Iron Age archaeology was discovered in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5. These comprised a number of gullies and pits, as well as a ring gully that could represent a roundhouse. These features may represent an Iron Age settlement. Ridge and furrow associated with medieval and later ploughing was also identified across the site.

Kislingbury, land at Mill Lane (SP 370 965)

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS within the grounds of 17 Mill Lane, Kislingbury, Northamptonshire in response to an application for three new dwellings on the site, in order to assess the impact of the development on any potential archaeological remains. The site is located within the settlement core of the medieval village. Work comprised the excavation of four trenches (varying between 8m and 15m in length) targeting the footprints of the proposed new dwellings. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 revealed a series of features comprising ditches, gullies and beam-slots, representing occupation and possible plot boundaries. Pottery suggests that the activity was late Saxon or early medieval, continuing into the 13th or 14th centuries. Animal bones and charred plant remains also survived, although in small quantities.

Marston Trussell, land at the former Sun Inn, Main Street (SP 6921 8590)

Sophie Clarke

A small archaeological excavation was carried out for Tofino Homes by ULAS on land at the former Sun Inn public house, Main Street, Marston Trussell. Work was undertaken in advance of residential development of a former car park located to the north of buildings fronting onto Main Street. Part of the site lies within the medieval shrunken village and fieldwork was carried out under Scheduled Monument Consent from English Heritage.

Mid-late Saxon pottery and a 9th-10th century spindle whorl (Fig 29) indicates activity in this part of the village from the Saxon period. The excavations identified a small number of individual features such as post-holes, pits and gullies that



Fig 29. Hemispherical spindle whorl manufactured from pale grey sandstone, Walton-Rogers' Form A1, 9th-10th century.

could be Saxon or early medieval in date.

The bulk of the identified archaeology, however, comprises a dense concentration of pits and ditches possibly related to quarrying for building materials. The intercutting of these features makes it difficult to assign a date beyond medieval and the fragmentary nature of the pottery suggests that this activity lies beyond the main occupation areas. Activity on the site continues into the 15th-16th centuries, although the earliest date for building, comprising the Sun Inn, is c 1700.

There is no obvious correspondence between the recorded archaeology and the mapped earthworks of the shrunken village although the features do lie on a similar alignment. The excavated features continue beyond the boundary of the Scheduled Monument and appear to represent peripheral activity such as quarrying. The finds and environmental data suggest agricultural and domestic activities consistent with medieval life in Northamptonshire, but beyond that add little to our knowledge of the Scheduled Monument itself.

Northampton, Pineham Residential Area (SP 714 585)

James Harvey and Dr Gavin Speed

A large-scale excavation covering 12ha took place over two fieldwork seasons from April to November in 2013 and 2014 at Pineham (Fig 31), in advance of major residential development for Taylor Wimpey (East Midlands). The excavation focused on two fields targeting archaeological evidence previously identified in geophysical survey (Smalley, 2012) and evaluation (Buteux and Laurence 1999). It formed the final phase of archaeological work,

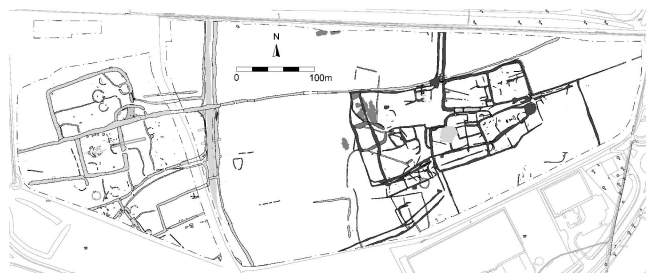


Fig 30. Site plan of Pineham.



Fig 31. Roundhouse 100% excavated, note the eaves drip gully is serving its purpose in keeping the interior dry.

following on from earlier excavations to the south and south west in the commercial development areas (Brown and Carlyle, 2007).

In the west field, the majority of the archaeological evidence consisted of Iron Age settlement enclosures, with multi-phase roundhouses (Fig 31), associated ditches, and field systems. The Iron Age enclosures were added to a pre-existing ditched boundary, seen running east-west for over 1km in length, and were connected on its eastern edge to a well preserved gravelled trackway that extended over 300m (and beyond the site limits in both directions).

Both enclosures were surrounded by exceptionally deep ditches, reaching 5m in width and 2.2m in depth. The southern enclosure was 0.2ha in area and contained a centrally-placed roundhouse, sub-enclosures, pit clusters, and post-holes. The enclosure entrance way was just 1.5m wide and contained a large post-hole set to one side. The northern enclosure was over twice as large (0.5ha) and appears to be multi-phase (being incorporated with the gravelled driveway to the east at some point). It contained three roundhouses and sub-enclosures. A complete iron currency bar was recovered from one ditch, seemingly deliberately placed in the bottom of the ditch at the apex of a later 'D'-shaped enclosure, at the location of the original southern terminus of the northern enclosure. It is possible the



Fig 32. Entrance into Iron Age enclosure showing very large ditches.

bar may indicate the settlement had trade links with nearby Hunsbury Hill fort (located 2km to the east) where it has been suggested that these types of objects may have been manufactured (Fell, 1936, 67). It adds to the increasing number of currency bars located in ditches from settlement contexts (Hingley, 2005, 192).

These huge enclosures (Fig 32.) with the deep ditches and (presumably) internal banks would have looked visually very impressive, with their function surely beyond simply defensive - these lay at the bottom of the valley close to the river and flood plain. The scale is certainly similar to some other Iron Age enclosed settlements in the East Midlands termed 'Wootton Hill Style Enclosure' (Dix and Jackson, 1989).

In the east field the majority of the evidence consisted of a substantial multi-phase Roman rural settlement; the early Roman phases consisted of some field boundaries and enclosures. In the later Roman period activity intensified, with numerous enclosures and paddocks added to a pre-existing linear ditch, forming a gridded arrangement. These fields contained evidence of a variety of agricultural activities, including a large water hole (containing surviving timber revetment and fragments of a leather shoe), cobble surfaces, ovens/kilns and wells. A small stone-built



Fig 33. Stone 'smoke' house or drying oven at Pineham. Image: AerialCam.

rectangular structure (Fig 33.) was set within one small enclosure. The structure was square-shaped with a stone flue running around the internal perimeter and stoke hole on one corner, it may have been a 'smoke' house or drying oven. Clusters of human burials were located on the edge of the activity areas, some lying within the enclosures, others overlying the enclosure ditches, and one within a ditch. Pieces of a circular lead tank (which had been cut up into flattened pieces) were laid individually along a short section of a ditch forming the southern boundary of the enclosure (Fig 34.).

The excavations in the east field also revealed evidence for significant Anglo-Saxon settlement activity – this included buildings of various forms and sizes, along with pottery and other Saxon objects.

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Buteux S and Laurence J 1999; *Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at Pineham Barn, Upton, Northamptonshire*.



Fig 34. Decorated side piece and half of the circular base of the lead tank during excavation. Length of decorated piece 0.75m

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, The University of Birmingham, unpublished report UPN00.

Dix B and Jackson D 1989; Some Late Iron Age Defended Enclosures in Northamptonshire. *Midlands Prehistory. Some Recent and Current Approaches into the Prehistory of Central England*. BAR 204, 158-179.

Fell C I 1936; The Hunsbury Hill-Fort, Northants. A New Survey of the Material, *The Archaeological Journal*, 93, 57-100.

Smalley R 2012; *Geophysical Survey Report for Pineham, Northampton*. Stratascan unpublished report J3078.

Historic Building Recording

Brigstock: Kitchen and bin store at Fermyn Woods Hall, Causin Way (SP 95816 87120)

Oundle: Courtyard building at Tansor Lodge Farm, Oundle Road, Elmington (TL 05541 89885)

Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Northamptonshire

Brixworth, Hill Farm, Northampton Road (SP 75250 69700); **Desborough**, land at 135 Rothwell Road (SK 8041 8270); **Earls Barton**, The Butchers Yard, No. 2, High Street (SP 85253 63777); **Moulton**, land at No. 4, The Avenue (SP 79196 65782); **Rushden**, land adjacent to Skew Bridge Ski Slope, Northampton Road (SP 9380 6784); **Thurning**, land at Clopton Road (TL 0805 8265).

WILLIAM WINTLE, JOHN HAWES AND SUSAN WALKER

Geophysical Survey at Steane, Brackley

Introduction

In 1976 a copper-alloy, half-life-sized head was found in a field near Brackley. The head was reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 2009 and was subsequently purchased by the Ashmolean Museum (Walker, 2014; Worrell, 2010). To provide an archaeological context for the head, Susan Walker arranged for William Wintle to undertake a geophysical survey in the field in which it had been found. An initial three day survey was performed in September

2012 which revealed a small, previously unknown, Romano-British settlement. A subsequent two day survey was performed in March 2013 to find the northern edge of the settlement. This report provides a brief account of these two surveys.

The 2012 and 2103 Geophysical Surveys

The primary objective of the 2012 survey was to see whether an archaeological context existed for the find of the copper-alloy head. If such a context existed this might suggest the head was still close to its position of use in the Roman period rather than a stray find.

As there was no record of any Roman finds at Steane, a maximum of three days was allocated to the survey, which took place from the 28th to 30th September 2012. Fig 1 shows the processed results of the 28 grids which were surveyed. Unexpectedly, the survey revealed a settlement. The morphology of the features, together with finds of Roman pottery on the surface, suggested a Roman date. The settlement appears to be bounded on the east by a trackway or ditch but its northern, southern and western limits were not determined.

A second survey added another 11 grids on the 8th and 9th of March 2013 and had the objectives of locating the northern limit of the settlement and suggesting possible places for excavation, which might provide dating and further context information on the copper-alloy head. Fig 2 provides a map of the two surveys. The northern limit of the settlement appears to have been reached although there may be some further features to the north. In the south, the main survey extended to the southern field boundary. Two grids were surveyed in a small field further south which revealed additional features, although these may not be related to the settlement.

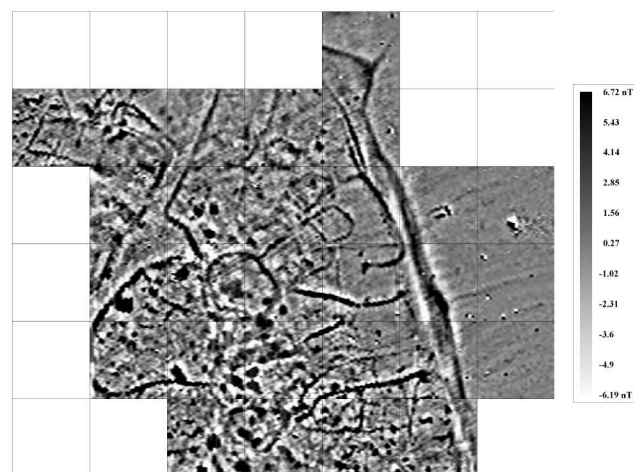


Fig 35. 2012 Geophysical Survey at Steane (Grids are 30m squares. North is approximately at the top. Survey by William Wintle, John Hawes, Paula Levick and Anni Byard.

Discussion

A previously unrecorded Romano-British settlement has been detected at Steane which may provide a rural settlement context for the copper-alloy head. The settlement appears to be bounded on the east and north by a ditch or trackway and contains a range of small regular and irregular plots defined by ditches. A trackway runs through the settlement, and a

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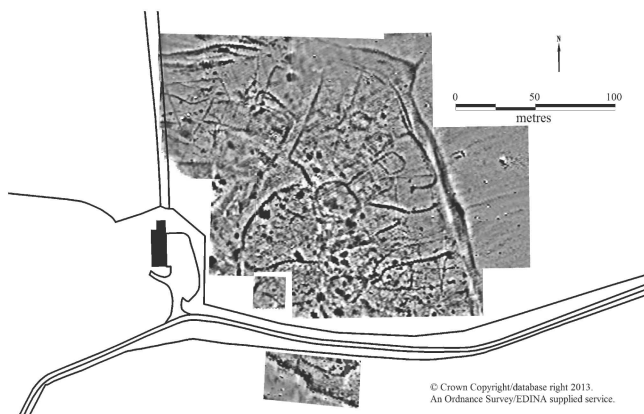


Fig 36. 2012 and 2013 Geophysical Surveys at Steane.

circular feature is possibly connected to the trackway. The nature of the ditches suggests that elements of the settlement are of multiple phases but the survey itself provides no dating evidence.

It is hoped to do further geophysical survey work on the site during 2015 with the aim of locating the settlement's western boundary.

Survey Technique

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

Acknowledgements

The authors are very grateful to Lady Connell for permission to conduct these two geophysical surveys and to Mr and Mrs Smith for their assistance and interest in the surveys.

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Binsey, Thorney (SP 485 079)

A magnetometry survey was carried out for Dr John Blair. This indicated that there could be highly burnt remains underground which may bear little relationship to the bank and ditch visible on the surface. The report is on the Archaeology Data Services grey literature system ref 194599.

Drayton (SU 477 951)

A magnetic gradiometer survey was carried out to seek to resolve discrepancies between the magnetometry which had been carried out in 1995 and that carried out as part of a planning application (ref. P14/V2504/FUL) in 2014.

The earlier work was carried out by Alister Bartlett for the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) in 1995/6. A note on that work was put into *SMA* 1997 p 45, albeit with an incorrect grid reference.

The latest magnetometry survey supports the earlier excavation conclusion that this is not a normal barrow as it does not appear to have a ditch around it. There are various alternative explanations ranging from a Roman barrow, to an Anglo Saxon one to a windmill mound or even a small motte and bailey. The main curvilinear ditch appears to have fills which vary in their magnetic intensity along their length, which is reminiscent of the segmental fills of causewayed camps. There are also 2 areas of rectilinear enclosures, 2 possible ring gullies and various pit-like anomalies and ridge and furrow. Hopefully the evaluation being carried out as part of the planning application will clarify these anomalies.

The initial conclusion from comparing the magnetometry results was that the developers' survey using caesium sensors was good at locating ridge and furrow. The single vertical axis fluxgate gradiometer surveys appear to be better at locating ditches and similar cut archaeological features.

It is proposed to put the AAHS work and this magnetometry onto the Archaeology Data Services grey literature system.

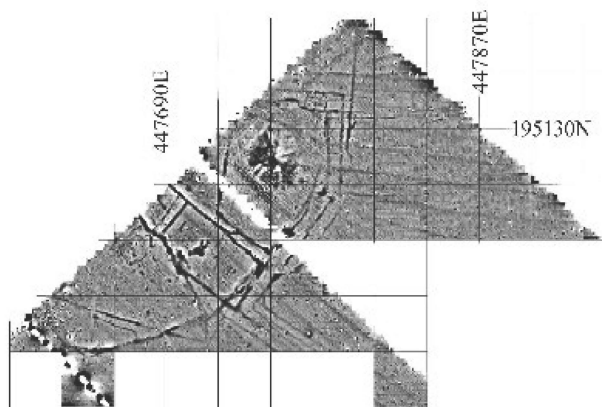


Fig 1. Drayton Tumulus area magnetometry.

Oxfordshire

Ewelme North (SU 640 923)

This survey, as part of the South Oxfordshire Project, has now been published in *Oxoniensia* 2014. It appears to have located an anomaly which could be a sunken featured building. It will be report no 199181 in the Archaeology Data Services grey literature system when it has been signed off by the Historic Environment Record.

Radley Church (SU 521 993)

A small earth resistance survey for the Radley History Club failed to locate a north aisle which documentary records indicate may once have existed. Graves, trees and other disturbances affected the results. A large area of high resistance could indicate the possibility of there being a barrow in the cemetery.

Wigginton (SP 392 334)

An earlier 1.3ha survey for the Phoenix Archaeology and Historic Research Group has been put on the Archaeology Data Services grey literature system, Ref 186304. This shows a probable road and other enclosures associated with this villa.

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Catherine Edwards

Wallingford, Land adjacent to Larkrise (SU 61840 87884)

An archaeological watching brief on behalf of GHG Organisation was undertaken on the construction of a ground-mounted photovoltaic system as 6 excavation trenches and a single service trench at land adjacent to Larkrise, Wallingford. The work comprised the monitoring of intrusive ground works, in the form of multiple pits for the erection of solar panels measuring 0.9m in diameter and a maximum depth of 0.6m and a single cable trench aligned north-south along the modern hedgerow. Natural chalk was observed across the site overlaid by subsoil and topsoil. No evidence of archaeology was observed during the excavations on this site. Due to the lack of significant archaeology at this site and nature of the project, it was recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. OASIS ID: aocarcha1-182964

BLEWBURY LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY GROUPS

Blewbury Big Dig - Test Pit Programme - 3rd Interim Report SU 531 859 (village centre)

Dave Carless

Introduction

It had been anticipated that 2014 would be the last year of the Blewbury test pit programme but unexpected discoveries (see below) caused a delay in the programme and opportunities for further investigations. We now aim to complete the work in the nucleated village area in 2015. Because of this we are again presenting only a short interim report here.

The background and methodology we are employing were presented in the 1st interim report in *SMA* 43 and so are not repeated here. In addition to the 25 test pits completed in 2012 and 2013, pits at a further 3 sites have now been completed and a programme of geophysical surveys of open spaces within the village has been undertaken. As the programme will continue and potentially be completed in 2015 detailed results of these are not presented here.

The locations of test pits for 2013 to 2015 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?

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 have been used to investigate these spaces, and test pits have also been dug within them to complement the surveys. Surveys have been undertaken in four locations: Play Close, Hall Barn Close, the Manor and the Rectory. These have revealed a number of interesting anomalies which are the target of further investigations to be undertaken in 2015 and reported next year.

Extent of Early settlement

Saxon pottery has now been found at the most northerly limit of the present village showing that the area settled, at least at some time during the Saxon period, included most of the area of that shown on the 1805 Inclosure Award map.

Also at our most northerly test pit we found our first two sherds of Roman pottery. The site is on one of the branches of the Mill Brook, close to one of the village mills which is believed to have been one of the mills in Domesday Book. Furthermore it is also close to a possible Roman farm which has been identified from crop marks visible on aerial photographs. This will be the subject of further investigation.

Early Saxon Settlement Evidence?

As reported earlier, at a number of sites dispersed though the village we have found organic-tempered pottery dated to the early/mid Saxon period. In 2014 one test pit produced not only a large quantity (over 180 sherds) of organic-tempered pottery but also a few sherds of decorated pottery and a rich deposit of small finds including glass beads, bone comb fragments, metal objects, fossil fragments and Roman pottery reshaped into discs. All of this material is consistent with a date around the 6th century AD. (Figs 2 and 3)

The site was further investigated by geophysical survey, auger survey, metal detecting survey and further test pits. These suggest that the rich deposit lies in a small area of a few metres square. It is not yet clear if this is a burial site or a redeposit in a settlement site, though the latter is looking

more probable. Further investigation will be undertaken in 2015 by excavating a larger area.



Fig 2. Blewbury. Decorated Saxon sherd.



Fig 3. Blewbury. Saxon Beads.

Discussion

The Blewbury Big Dig continues to be a success as a community archaeology project. We 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 only slightly changed:

No evidence was found of prehistoric settlement within the present village curtilage

With the exceptions of the most northerly part of the village no evidence was found of Roman presence within the present village curtilage

There is evidence of continuous occupation from the early Saxon period through to the present day

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

In addition to the completion of the test pit programme a number of larger excavations to investigate targets identified

by the geophysical surveys and earlier test pits are planned for the 2015 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, Geoff Deakin for use of his gradiometer and Richard Miller for photography. We are also most grateful for generous financial support from Sustainable Blewbury.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

North Leigh, 71-81 Park Road (SP 3922 1303)

Peter James

Cotswold Archaeology carried out an evaluation adjacent to an area where sizeable quantities of Roman tile were discovered in the 1970s. The evaluation recorded a ditch or pit containing Early Roman finds. Roman roof tile and pottery were present in the topsoil and subsoil across the entire site. Other features comprised a post-medieval ditch and an undated pit.

Uffington, Station Road (SU 3085 8948)

Sam Wilson

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology found evidence for Roman settlement, including enclosures, a possible cobbled path and large amounts of iron working slag. Large quantities of pottery were recovered covering a broad span stretching from the Middle Iron Age through to the 4th century AD. An occupation layer evident across much of the site yielded large quantities of Roman finds. Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing was also identified.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Compiled by David Gilbert

Abingdon, land adjacent to Drayton Road (SU 4855 9572)

Steve Leech

An archaeological excavation was conducted in advance of planning proposals. Four separate areas were opened up to be excavated. The archaeological remains of land use during the Iron Age cut into natural gravels and clay laid down during the Pleistocene (the upper layer of gravel contained a small assemblage of disarticulated animal bones).

Six phases of activity during the Iron Age have so far been identified in all four areas. The early phases were represented by northwest-southeast segmented ditch enclosures that seemed to focus on a paleo-channel possibly relating to the River Thames. The segmented ditches enclosed an area containing various postholes and pits, some forming fence-lines within the enclosure. A post built roundhouse and associated pits was identified South of the enclosure.

Oxfordshire

The later Iron age phases showed a re-organisation of the immediate landscape in a more northsouth, eastwest orientation, this included the cutting and re-cutting of a continuous length of ditch, onto which three further phases of enclosures were then added. Additionally a single crouched inhumation was situated near the junction where the earlier and later phases of activities converged.

Aston Tirrold, The Old Rectory (SU 55600 86000)

Gavin Davis

Only the remains of a garden wall and a robbed wall were discovered during the excavation of the foundations for the new build. No dating evidence was present for the robbed wall. The majority of the site was quite heavily disturbed.

Banbury, Calthorpe Street, Calthorpe House

(SP 45450 40345)

Gwilym Williams

Demolition of the building had already taken place and the archaeological watching brief consisted of monitoring the removal of six large concrete piers and the lift-shaft of the previous structure.

Bicester, Old Place Yard, St. Edburg's House Care Home (SP 5835 2220)

Andrej Čelovský

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during demolition works at former St. Edburg's House Care Home. Remains of the Priory church were still preserved within the monitored area under the former building. The most significant features were remains of the church walls, and floor surfaces recorded in the area of the former lift shaft. Further work is expected to take place prior to construction on this site.

Carterton, Swinbrook Road (SP 27619 08535)

Mark Woodley

Seven evaluation trenches were excavated by machine revealing one linear ditch of presumed post-medieval date. No significant archaeological features or finds were recorded.

Cassington, Yarnton Road, Farways (SP 4553 1122)

Andrej Čelovský

An archaeological excavation and recording action was undertaken in advance of a housing development. The site is located on the second gravel terrace approximately 1.5km north of the confluence of the River Evenlode and the River Thames at an approximate height of 65m above OD. The site was known to contain a number of cropmark features including a ring ditch identified from aerial photographs. The ring ditch had been part of a wider barrow cemetery formed of at least three barrows situated on the second gravel terrace overseeing the flood plain to the east.

The overall development area was approximately 0.42ha, 40% of which was reduced to the natural geological layer. Where the thickness of subsoil was greater than 0.3m (60% of development area), only the plough soil was removed. This area was later the subject of a watching brief. During the archaeological investigations 84 features were investigated; 35 of these features were securely dated and covered the

period from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age to the late Roman period, the rest of the features were undated.

A pit containing Beaker pottery with associated postholes was recorded. The character of these features suggested domestic or short-term, task-specific activities. The Beaker pit seems to predate the digging of the ring ditch.

The ring ditch was dated to the early Bronze Age, and 42% of it was exposed during the excavation. The outer diameter was c 25m, while the ditch was between 2.7-2.8m wide, while the depth varied from 0.86m to 1.12m. It had relatively steep side and narrow flat base.

Three major phases for this ditch were established during the investigation. The lowest deposits of the fill consisted of natural eroded material from either the sides of the ditch or the mound. The ditch had silted to a considerable depth before two inhumation burials 190 and 269 were inserted into the fill of the ditch. Both burials were female and well preserved. One in a very unusual seated position, providing a radiocarbon date of 1391 calBC.

The third phase was represented by gradual silting of the ditch during the course of middle and late Bronze Age. This phase was associated with a large assemblage of pottery and animal bone, the majority of which was dated to the middle Bronze Age, apart from fragments of one vessel dated to late Bronze Age. The bones represented a range of domestic animals, in particular cattle, sheep/goat and pig. Two fragments of human bones were recovered from upper fills of the ring ditch as well.

Eleven Bronze Age satellite cremation burials were recorded; eight were located to the east of the ring ditch, with three dug into the upper fill of the ring ditch. Only one example was placed in a Globular Urn.

Although the centre point of the ring ditch was exposed during the excavation, there was no indication of a central primary burial. The barrow mound did not survive as a visible earthwork, and the ring ditch was fully silted by the beginning of Iron Age. During this period the area was divided into fields with boundary ditches although a cluster of postholes may represent short-term settlement activities or activities related with stockbreeding.

This field system appears to have been reorganised in the Roman period with the cutting of new ditches. Post-medieval and modern field boundaries were also observed.

Chalgrove, Langley Hall Farm (SU 6230 9620)

Gwilym Williams

A watching brief conducted during the construction of a solar farm on land between the villages of Newington and Chalgrove failed to reveal any archaeological remains.

Chalgrove, Solar Farm (SU 6546 9724)

Mark Woodley

Fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated by machine revealing five discrete undated linear features and one distinct post-medieval ditch.

East Hagbourne, Main Road, Lime Tree Farm
(SU 5274 8828)

David Gilbert

A watching brief was conducted during the renovation work at Lime Tree Farm. The investigations revealed earlier features associated with the Hall House as well as providing a better understanding of the sequence and date of the later alterations, with reworking of the western end of the house possibly associated with the Great Fire of Hagbourne in 1659. However, this remodelling could be associated with the removal of the pantry and buttery at a similar or slightly later period due to social factors: these rooms being demolished and replaced with a barn.

Eynsham, Eynsham Primary School (SP 4365 0978)

Tom Rose-Jones

No archaeological remains were recorded during the watching briefs associated with construction of a single storey, two classroom building.

Faringdon, All Saints Church (SP 8687 5596)

Linzi Harvey, Simona Dennis and Gwilym Williams

An excavation on the north side of All Saints Church, Faringdon, within the footprint of the proposed Barber Rooms, was carried out as part of the applicant's grant of planning permission. This was within the cemetery and a number of burials were encountered.

A total of 341 individuals were lifted, in addition to significant quantities of charnel. The charnel recovered comprised c 2m³ of mixed human bone, indicating that the overall total of historic inhumations was undoubtedly in excess of the number of present burials. The date of the earliest burials is uncertain, although a significant proportion of the burials investigated dated from the post-medieval period, with a number of inhumations also characterised by coffin furniture.

Rural Anglican cemeteries have been less frequently subject to archaeological investigation than urban churchyards, primarily on account of there being generally less pressure on space in respect of development needs. The data-set from All Saints, Faringdon, therefore, provides an important corresponding population to those excavated urban, Dissenting and Catholic cemeteries for the investigation of mortality rates, nutritional factors, disease, dentition and so forth in the later medieval, early modern and modern periods. The population data indicates good medical care in the case of several individuals; an amputee, a possible cancer-sufferer as well as a number of other individuals with less unusual pathologies were recovered during the excavation. There is also good representation of sub-adult remains.

The excavation also revealed that during the use of the area as a cemetery, it had temporarily functioned as a building site, associated with the construction of the Pye Chapel. A spread of mortar-rich material containing late 13th/early 14th century floor tile and 15th century pottery was found, heavily truncated in places by later graves. Under the cemetery were a number of pits and ditches, dating from possibly the Roman period to the 11th or 12th centuries. The relationship between these features and the Late Saxon church, or postulated minster, is unclear.

Harwell, Diamond Synchrotron in the Science & Innovation Centre (SU 4776 8619)

Gavin Davis

A watching brief during the ground reduction within the footprint of a new building at the Harwell Science and Innovation Centre, located three undated pits on the west side of the site.

Highmoor, Swanwood (SU 69594 85604)

Stephen Yeates

Despite there being archaeological features recognised to the north which were of an Iron Age or a Roman date, no significant archaeological deposits were noted in any of the trenches. The only feature recognised was in Trench 2 were a pit with evidence of burning was noted. This pit was either contemporary with the construction of the house in the late 1930-40s or at sometime after.

Long Wittenham, Northfield Farm (SU 55849512)

Andrej ěelovský

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for outbuilding at Northfield Farm. Two large pits backfilled with late 20th century material were recorded during the fieldwork.

Long Wittenham, Northfield Farm (SU 55849512)

Mark Woodley

Two trenches and one test pit were excavated to the natural geology. To the east of the farmhouse were archaeological features consisting of two pits and two ditches all of which were undated, along with natural disturbance and a modern fire pit. To the east of the barn no archaeological remains were discovered.

Milcombe, Main Road (SP 41048 34592)

Gavin Davis

No archaeological features were located during the watching brief.

Milton, Drayton Road (SU 4863 9265)

Gavin Davis

A total of ten evaluation trenches, were opened across the proposed area of development at Drayton Road, Milton. Three linear ditches were discovered towards the west of the site and were all filled by a similar grey clayey fill. One ditch was undated and the other was identified as Victorian or later. These two ditches may have been continuous with each other although the alignment in plan appeared slightly off. A third ditch contained three pieces of Roman pottery, and this was also the only pottery identified across the entire area of excavation. All other finds were topsoil and subsoil finds from the west of the site and dated broadly as post-medieval. A small irregular-shaped undated pit was also identified as well as several modern features. The modern features were related to the recent use of the site as allotments.

Oxford, Littlemore, Minchery Farm (SP 5450 0230)

Paul Murray

An archaeological excavation was undertaken on the site of a 12th-16th century Benedictine nunnery at Minchery Farm, Littlemore. The excavation targeted the footprint of a

Oxfordshire

consented hotel complex located to the north of the up-standing dormitory range of the nunnery. The excavation exposed the heavily robbed foundation trenches of the nunnery church and recorded over 90 burials from the interior and exterior of the church. A likely bell pit associated with the church tower was also identified.

Littlemore priory was probably founded late in the reign of Stephen (1135-54), by Robert de Sandford, one of the knights of the abbot of Abingdon. In 1239 Robert's son, also called Robert, gifted the priory to the Knights Templars, who in 1240 moved from Cowley, Oxford and established a Preceptory less than 1km to the east of the priory. The east range of the cloister garth still survives on the site, although much altered in the 16th century when it was converted into a farmhouse and further altered in the 20th century when it became Minchery Farm Country Club. The east range exists as a two story building, with the nun's dormitory likely to have been on the first floor and the chapter house and other rooms probably occupying the ground floor. It is assumed the cloister is located to the west of the east range, as is the traditional layout of Benedictine Priories.

A total of 92 burials were excavated, with a further 6 burials identified but not excavated as they were not impacted by the development. The majority of the burials (52) were confined to a small area outside of the church to the east of the choir, where up to seven phases were identified. This area was particularly dense in burials with frequent intercutting graves and the resultant quantities of charnel.

The most prominent burial was a female aged 45+, likely to be a prioress, who was interred in a constructed limestone cist, the foot of which was located at the exact centre of the crossing. Eleven burials, broadly in a row, were located towards the west end of the choir, one a neonate interred in a casket. Another appeared to have been interred in an earlier grave, perhaps indicating a familial relationship. The north transept contained seven burials in two phases, whilst the chapel contained two intercutting burials, the earliest of which is likely to be contemporary with the chapel. Five burials were placed within the nave, two at the east end, and three to the west.

One particularly interesting burial at the west end of the nave was a young female (19-25), buried in a prone position. Although rare this practice is not unheard of, and it could be suggested this may have been at the behest of the deceased probably to atone for her sins in life. Her grave was truncated by a grave containing the remains of an infant (6 months+), but they are unlikely to be related as the infant's grave removed her legs. Other graves excavated include a single grave to the south of the nave, presumed to be the cloister and three graves to the south of the choir. Seven graves were excavated on the north side of the choir, thought to relate to the final phase of the church, at least three of which cut into the levelled/robbed remains of the transept and chapel. Perhaps as expected females make up the majority of the burials, at 35, and males 28; with the remainder (29) being undetermined or indeterminate.

The age of the burials ranged from neonate to 60+ years. Older adults (45+ years) account for the majority of the burials (32), with nine estimated to be 60+ years. Adults (16-40 years) account for the next biggest group (23). Children (3-10 years) account for 11 of the burials. Young adults (18-28 years) and mature adults (25-45 years) account for 16 (8 in each group) of the burials. Prime adults (25-35

years) account for four of the burials. Adolescents (8-16 years) also account for four of the burials. A single neonate was excavated from the south side of the choir and an infant was excavated from the area to the east of the choir. There did not appear to be any significant correlation between the age of the buried individual and its location within the church. Eleven of the burials were interred within wooden coffins. Three of the graves had been earth cut with head niches, whilst a single grave, interred in the crossing, was buried in a stone cist with a head niche. A further grave to the east of the choir had roof tiles placed around the head, apparently to form a niche. Shroud pins (copper alloy) were recovered from three burials, one producing seven pins, another three pins, with the final grave producing a single shroud pin. Other notable finds include a gold wire loop or ring placed on the abdomen of a female burial within the choir. A silver ring had been found on the hand of a burial within north transept.

Decorated and glazed floor tiles account for the majority (60) of the small finds. At the time of writing the tiles are still undergoing study, although a rapid scan indicated they were almost exclusively Wessex stabbed tiles, dated between 1270 and 1330.

In the 16th century the church is estimated to have been 85-90% robbed of re-usable stone when the priory was converted into a farmhouse. The remains of two buttresses and a small section of foundation survive on the north and south sides of the choir. Foundations relating to the north and west wall of the north transept also survive, revealing the foundations were constructed from two layers of un-bonded limestone, the lower pitched vertically and the upper horizontally. Excavation of the robber trench on the south side of the nave provided tentative evidence for its construction method with the imprint of a rectangular, presumably limestone block in the base of the cut suggesting the nave walls were trench built. Foundations relating to the west wall of the belfry also survive, revealing a similar construction method to the choir. These foundations had only been partially robbed; interestingly the robber backfill was distinguished by the high percentage of limestone mortar inclusions (opposed to the typically un-bonded foundations), almost certainly indicating an ornate stone doorway to the belfry. Two pits were excavated in the belfry. One suggestive of a bell-casting pit, including a central strickle hole, although there was no evidence of burning or waste metal as perhaps would be expected. An excavation conducted by Archaeology East Oxford to the west of the priory did identify evidence of industrial activity and it is possible, if not likely, that the alloy was formed here and moved the short distance to the belfry. The other pit in the belfry was filled with some 60% broken limestone roof tiles, and probably discarded during a phase of construction or repairs.

Oxford, Littlemore, Sandford Road, Lawn Upton House
(SP 5374 0263)

Gavin Davis

A watching brief was undertaken during ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches at Lawn Upton House, Littlemore. The excavations revealed layers of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural sand and isolated layers of stone. The only identified feature was modern and none of

the building material recovered from the site was considered to be any earlier than the Victorian period.

Spelsbury, Ditchley Park Estate (SP 38182 20825)

Stephen Yeates

A watching brief was undertaken during the erection of a new chip store at Model Farm. A series of undated features that form either pits, ditches, or gullies that lay to the east of the original Model Farm site was recorded.

Steventon, Barnett Road (SU 4659 9228)

Gwilym Williams & Mark Woodley

An archaeological evaluation was carried out after a geophysical survey. This identified evidence for possible Prehistoric or later agricultural enclosures or field systems underlying late Medieval/early Post-Medieval cultivation. Evidence for a trackway of potential medieval date was also revealed as well as a linear stone feature, possibly representing a drain, also sealed by ridge and furrow which was present across the investigation area. Later modern dumping has created a height of land running north/south across the middle of the investigation area, up to 1m in depth. None of the archaeological features were recorded by the geophysical survey.

A follow-up excavation was undertaken to establish the nature and date of the stone structure. This was shown to be situated at the highest spot in the field and the underlying land drain was the closest to the land surface in the field. Excavation has determined that the stone construction forming the drainage culvert within the short length revealed to be constructed in this manner and exposed by the excavations appears to have simply been a method for protecting the land drain from modern ploughing techniques. The investigation area also showed that the remains of an earlier field system of uncertain, but possibly prehistoric date, was present on the site. Although no dating evidence was established from the fills, the form of the linear features, along with the nature of the fills is consistent with prehistoric and Romano-British field systems in the area.

Thame, Chinnor Road (SP 7198 0474)

Gavin Davis

The evaluation only recovered two fragments of post-medieval pottery, five fragments of tile, including one fragment of peg tile, two undiagnostic brick fragments and two fragments of land drain. All finds were retrieved from the lower ploughsoil and despite the nearby presence of Roman and Prehistoric archaeology, within 400m of the area of the site location, no other finds and features were identified.

Thame, Oxford Road (SP 6964 0623)

Paul Murray

The evaluation, prior to the construction of a housing development, consisted of 46 evaluation trenches representing a 2% sample of the development area. This identified a rich archaeological landscape with remains and artefacts dating from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval periods focused around an area of natural springs. Flint artefacts broadly dating from the Mesolithic to the Late Neolithic periods indicates the landscape has been utilised,

probably for hunting on a seasonal basis, in the early prehistoric period.

Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity is focused to the south of the site. One trench revealed human remains that had been placed in a tightly crouched position. This trench also revealed numerous pits associated with grain storage. Further evidence for settlement activity in the form of enclosure and boundary ditches and house gullies were found within two trenches.

The focus of extensive Later Iron Age and Roman activity was found in the west and south-west of the site. A substantial ditch would appear to form a large circular enclosure dominating a plateau at the highest point of the site.

The two late Iron Age/Roman burials were located and are c 100m apart, and thus unlikely to be within same cemetery, although this cannot be discounted, and are perhaps more likely to be within smaller mortuary enclosures. Both were associated with complete pottery vessels.

Evidence for industrial activity was limited to the backfill of a ditch in one trench which contained a high percentage of fragmented burnt clay thought to represent the dismantling of an oven or kiln. Evidence for Roman buildings is limited to three fragments of roofing tile, two *tegulae* and a one *imbrex* from the same trench.

The evaluation has also revealed a large number of undated features, largely ditches, which are likely to broadly date to the Later Iron Age and Roman periods. They are on a variety of alignments and vary in dimensions and character. Clearly they form enclosures and landscape divisions, likely to relate to a number of phases of activity that cannot be meaningfully interpreted at this stage.

Wallingford, 1 Crispin Place (SU 6053 8924)

Gavin Davis

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a building extension. No features of archaeological interest were identified and no finds were identified during the excavations.

Watlington, St Leonard's Church Hall (SU 6852 9469)

Gavin Davis

An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land adjacent to the church hall in Watlington. Several features were identified including an undated narrow drainage gully, a layer of Medieval or Post Medieval rubble.

Witney, Coral Springs, Thorney Way (SP 3390 0900)

Gavin Davis

An archaeological watching brief took place during construction. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

LITTLEMORE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Littlemore, Oxford (Centred on SP 5372 0215)

Julia E Brocklesby

The Background Noise of History Project

Members of Littlemore Local History Society and local residents are working together on three major objectives:

Oxfordshire

To make accessible a synthesis of archaeological and historical records, including grey literature

To investigate and record local life by excavating an ongoing series of 1m x 1m archaeological test pits

To find and record the extent of the Oxford Roman pottery industry in Littlemore (Young, 1977)

Littlemore village is 3 miles southeast of Oxford centred on SP 5372 0215 at between 62-90 m OD. Created an ecclesiastical parish only in 1847, its origins are obscure and historical records such as Poor Law and Census data were based on differing administrative areas. Our method is to investigate older routeways from early maps and historical reports, and attempt to "join up the dots" of development-driven archaeology using public access databases and archives. We are grateful to David Radford, the Oxford City Archaeology Officer, for much help in accessing this literature.

History

The Victorian County History (Vol 5 p 207) suggests Littlemore was a small and perhaps quite new agricultural settlement in 1086, worked between the Templars' desmesnes of Cowley and Sandford. Littlemore tenants of Iffley manor were parishioners of Iffley, Littlemore manor was attached probably pre-Conquest to the parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford. Archaeologically the area is rich and continually yielding new data. Amongst the finds records are Mesolithic flint scatters, Bronze Age metalwork deposited in the river, an Iron Age banjo enclosure identified in 2013, kilns and enclosures of the Oxford Roman pottery industry, Anglo Saxon settlements and various medieval ecclesiastical buildings including Littlemore Priory and Sandford preceptory. In an area of continued housing and industrial development pressure there is both the need and the opportunity for recording and preserving some archaeological features, for example to provide information in establishing a green corridor for wildlife preservation beside the early east-west township boundary of Littlemore Brook.

The geology is the localised Littlemore Member (which contains lacustrine marl bands of the Corallian Limestone, with pockets of clays, and Beckley Sands (BGS Sheet 237 Memoir). Littlemore is located between ridges of Corallian west of the Thames, and Shotover, with east-west running streams which at times seem to have been substantial to the Thames in the west. A network of tracks and footpaths run west-east linking across well-watered agricultural land to the northeast-southwest, Roman Alchester to Dorchester road in the east, and a second north-south route along the gravel spit beside the Thames from North Hinksey south through Sandford to Wallingford. Some of the early paths have become modern roads.

To make a start, we chose a front garden of a 1930s development in Newman Road for our first test pit NR14, as the road is marked as a path skirting what seem to be old field boundaries to Iffley on old maps, and may therefore have linked the two north-south major routes through the area. It is a continuation of Long Lane coming from Garsington road in the east to the Thames in the west. The old land surface, marked by wavy line brick fragments identical to those in the house, was clearly visible 39cm below the present garden surface. Below this a ploughsoil probably from an orchard



Fig 4. Littlemore. Finds from Context 004.

covered the natural Beckley Sand to a depth of 19cm. The disturbed garden soils yielded a mixture of small abraded ceramic sherds including prehistoric, Roman and characteristic green glazed medieval. Further analysis of fabrics is underway as expert help is needed to distinguish some apparently prehistoric unglazed wares from later medieval.

A small number of Roman sherds were also present which were provisionally identified as typical products of the Oxford Roman pottery industry. Excavation by hand trowelling and sieving, and recording using the East Oxford Project forms, was completed by members of the society, several of whom had volunteered on the East Oxford project (forthcoming). As non-professional local residents we are on a learning curve with techniques and procedures; the story of Littlemore is rich and varied, we want to combine the physical artefacts with historical records, for example our oral reminiscence group recorded a local resident who remembered her aunt, employed at Littlemore laundry, smoking a clay pipe in the early 1920s of the type we found. A local resident, now in his eighties, recalled the footpath which became Newman Road bordered by a varied species rich hedge beside an orchard.

The finds (table below) from our first test pit in Newman Road, Littlemore, indicated a plough soil lying below the 1930s build which had been manured with domestic waste. Analysis of the pottery is continuing, a specialist is booked to teach us how to distinguish some of the prehistoric sherd fabrics from the superficially similar medieval, using Mellor's 1994 synthesis. All the sherds were small, averaging 2.3 grams in weight and some very abraded.

Site:NR14	All Contexts No. of pieces	approx % of sample	Weight gm	Average weight gm
Animal bone	16	2	58	3.6
Animal teeth	8	0	35	4.4
Floortile	10	2	83	8.3
Ceramic roof tile	3	5	41	13.7
Stone roof tile	0	0	0	0.0
Generic CBM	213	26	1972	9.3
Slate	6	0	18.5	3.1
Shell fossilized	38	4	99	2.6
Shell	4	1	1.5	0.4
Pottery	130	17	294	2.3
Flint	37	4	137	3.7
Clay pipe	5	1	7.5	1.5
Glass - bottle	10	2	103.5	10.4
Glass inc window	11	1	17.5	1.6
Mortar/plaster	1	1	18	18.0
Charcoal/slag	159	9	440	2.8
Fe - iron	21	3	105	5.0
Pb - lead	0	0	0	0.0
Cu - copper	1	0	7	7.0
Other	133	24	2971.5	n/a
Totals	806	100	6793	8.4

The archives are held by Littlemore History Society and may be viewed on request to us at Littlemore Community Centre, Giles Road, Littlemore, Oxford OX4 4NL. We would be very pleased to hear others experiences and suggestions.

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MOLA NORTHANTS

Adderbury, Aynho Road (SP 4779 3592)

Mo Muldowney

Excavation north of Aynho Road recorded boundary ditches and a possible enclosure, all undated, and a post-medieval ditch, two pits and a number of plough furrows. OXCMS:2013.157

Adderbury, Banbury Lane (SP 4719 3659)

Chris Chinnock

Evaluation recorded one large curving ditch of a possible enclosure of Bronze Age or Iron Age date, and shallow ditches of unknown date. OXCMS: 2014.180

Banbury, Hanwell Fields (SP 4356 4279)

Chris Chinnock

A series of small to medium-sized enclosures dated to the late Iron Age into the early Roman period (1st century BC to 1st century AD) were recorded. Internal features include a surface from which pottery, animal bone and two iron nails were found. Two clusters of pits may post-date the enclosures. OXCMS: 2014.202

Bloxham, Milcombe, Rickfield Farm (SP 4051 3401)

Jim Burke

A trial trench evaluation recorded linear gullies and possible pits or ditch terminals. Roman pottery was recovered from two features. Pottery of post-medieval came from the subsoil layers. OXCMS:2014.8

Bodicote, Banbury Road (SP 4654 3600)

Ian Fisher and Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation found a scatter of Neolithic worked flint. There was a large sub-rectangular enclosure with substantial ditches and a separate ring ditch both of late Iron Age to Roman date. Further linear and curvilinear anomalies were also recorded. Two possible cremation burials were not excavated. Remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and post-medieval field boundaries were also recorded and part of a backfilled ha-ha. Two prehistoric pits, Iron Age settlement and remnant furrows were also recorded in the adjacent field to the north by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2010 (*SMA* 41 (2011), 46).

Fritwell, 100 East Street, The Farm (SP 5265 2893)

Jason Clarke

A watching brief during groundworks for residential development observed no archaeological features or artefacts. OXCMS:2014.75

Fritwell, East Street (SP 527 293)

Adam Meadows

A detailed magnetometer survey identified two possible ditched enclosures and a complex pattern of positive magnetic anomalies which are not fully interpretable.

Harwell, Reading Road (SU 489 887)

John Walford

A detailed magnetometer survey identified anomalies of modern origin, but nothing of certain archaeological significance. The evaluation confirmed those results, identifying an undated ditch with a pit cutting its terminal. No other archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were observed or recovered during the evaluation. OXCMS:2014.181

Launton, Yew Tree Farm (SP 6093 2285)

Tim Upson-Smith

Trial trench evaluation, following geophysical survey in 2013 (*SMA* 43 (2013), 58), observed ditches in four of the excavated trenches, unfortunately flooding precluded further investigation.

Marcham, Priory Lane (SU 4575 9652)

Ian Fisher

A detailed magnetometer survey identified possible traces of ridge and furrow cultivation and a few minor anomalies of unknown significance.

Merton, land north of Main Road (SP 5771 1787)

Ian Fisher, John Walford and Mo Muldowney

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the recorded earthwork remains of the Shrunk Medieval Village of Merton. Magnetometry was followed by targeted earth resistance survey which identified the location of two possible stone building groups. Earthworks surveyed comprise hollow-ways, banks and possible house platforms. No definite buildings were identified in trial trenching, although two hearths overlying later deposits indicate that there was some domestic or small scale industrial use of the site. It is probable that there were houses and crofts on the site from the 11th to 18th centuries. However, they were masked by a layer of modern material spread after the site was used as a storage area during the construction of the nearby Nursing Home. Accession No: OXCMS:2013.177

Oxford, Woodstock Road, Northern Gateway

(SP 494 105) Adam Meadows

Detailed magnetometer survey on the proposed 'Northern Gateway' development site, between the Peartree and Wolvercote roundabouts in north Oxford, detected medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow and some areas of recently disturbed ground. An earth resistance survey of five sample areas within the development detected medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow, a possible outcrop of terrace

Oxfordshire

gravel, and some small rectilinear anomalies which could possibly represent buildings.

Steventon, Abingdon Road (SU 4735 9250)

Olly Dindol

The only archaeological features detected by a detailed magnetometer survey consisted of remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Anomalies of modern origin were also detected.

Wardington, Home Farm (SP 4908 4643)

David J Leigh

A watching brief was undertaken during demolition of an existing building and groundworks for the extension to a former smithy for conversion to a dwelling. A disturbed stratigraphy was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

NORTH OXON ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Edward Shawyer

This year we started excavating a new site in the Roman settlement of Swalcliffe Lea. The dig ran from August to October and was our only group activity save for helping on another group's excavation just 5 miles away at Warmington, Warwickshire.

This was the Iron Age/Roman settlement we had started excavating in 2008 in co-operation with two other local groups and which has continued under the guidance of a local archaeologist, David Freke. New finds include a Bronze Age

burial site, near to which the early Roman coin hoard was hidden.

Another development this year was the discovery of a late Iron Age farmstead next to the Saltway, an ancient track on the edge of Banbury, by Cotswold Archaeology. This site is very close to Crouch Hill, where we have found Neolithic and Bronze Age flint work. The two neighbouring fields to the west have yielded more flint work and a Bronze Age axe head, as well as the Roman farmstead of the old Pike Farm, which had an early Roman phase.

Two fields to the east of the new site is a medieval farmstead we discovered in 1996, near to its successor 17th/18th century present farmhouse. And right opposite that is a Neolithic causewayed enclosure found by aerial photography in the 1990s.

The new site provides extra evidence that Saltway was a prehistoric trackway since it links a number of Iron Age sites, for instance at North Newington and Rainsborough camp. In addition Saltway bypasses Banbury; if it were medieval it would surely have been more lucrative to divert the track's trade through the town and not past it. Also the Roman road 56a, which passes through Swalcliffe Lea also led to the salt mines at Salinae (Droitwich) and follows a parallel path.

Roman Circular Building (SP 39120 38490)

We began our excavation near to the centre of the settlement and immediately found a number of walls within the first week, one of which belonged to a round structure. The other walls had been badly robbed, maybe in medieval times since we found a few sherds where robbing had taken place; also a modern service trench had damaged some sections as well. The only clear structure visible was a big round building

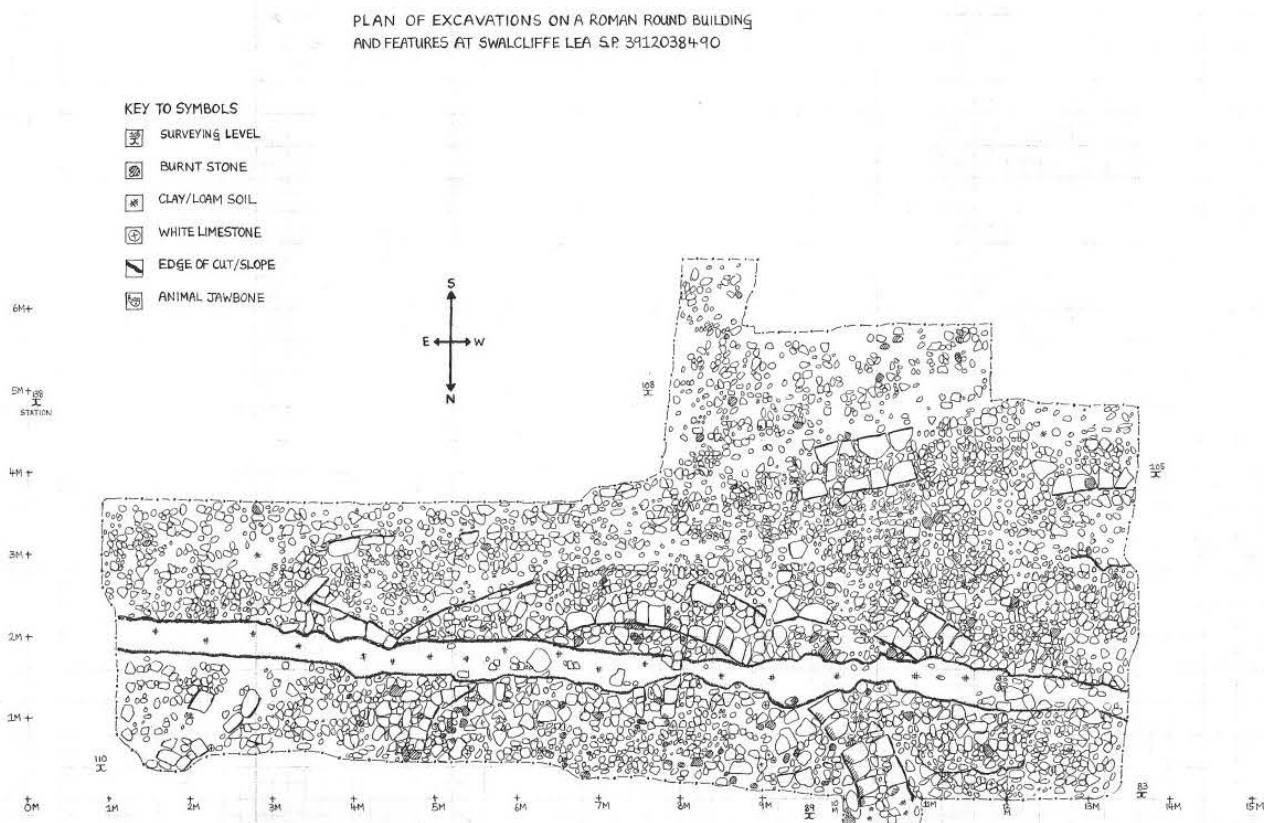


Fig 5. Swalcliffe Lea. Plan of excavations.

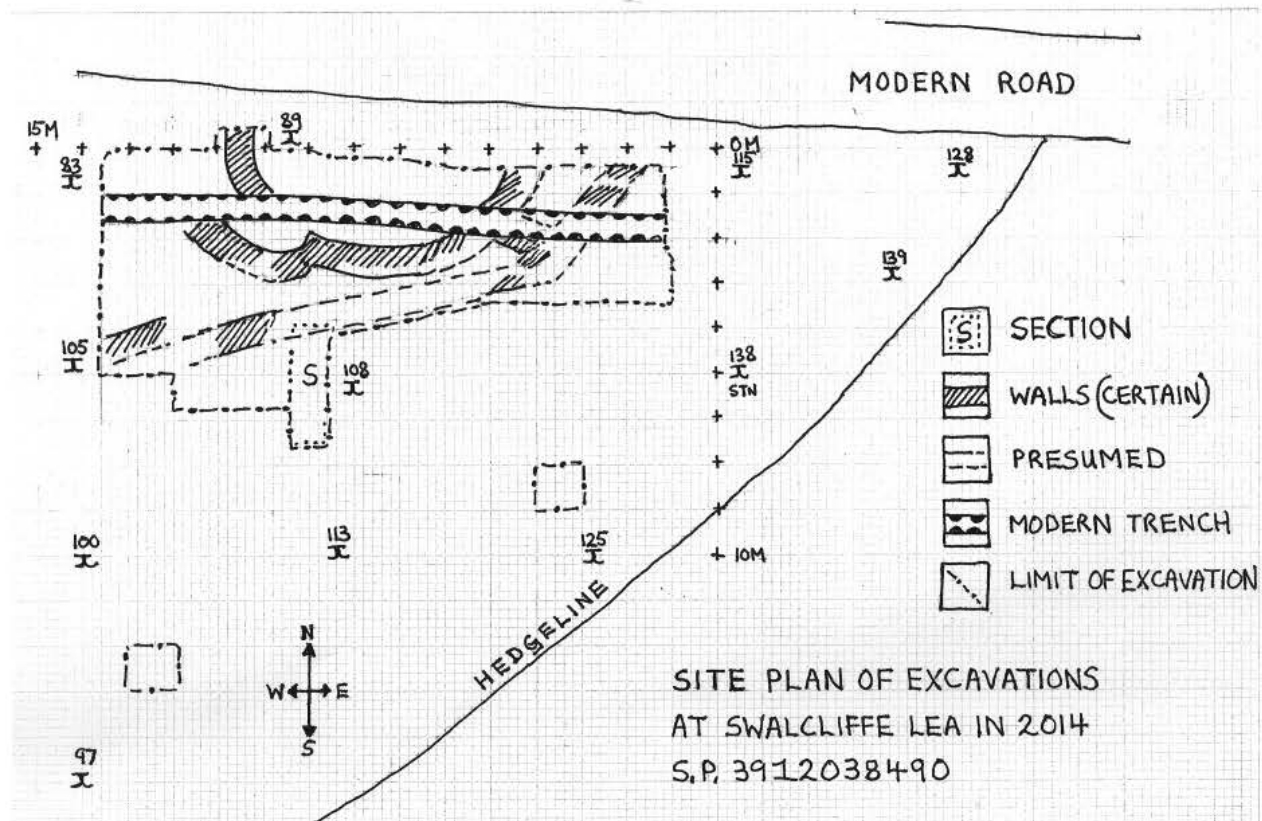


Fig 6. Swalcliffe Lea. Site plan of excavations.

about 7m in diameter with a semi-circular wall appended to it on its western side and a possible opposing one on its eastern face. The other wall appears to dog-leg and was thought at first to be a boundary wall since there was a fine metalled yard north of it, but just a fragile, small stone surface to the south. The round building is rather enigmatic in that we don't know what purpose it served. The pottery found inside and around it was the usual 3rd/4th century domestic assemblage we usually find, common grey wares, shell-tempered pottery, Spanish amphorae, and the finer wares such as Samian, Oxford and Nene Valley colour-coated pots as well as some glossy Gaulish ware.

Other finds included some bronze needles, green wall plaster and some fragments of a fine glass vessel as well as 3rd century coins and bones, with indications of food preparation, as evidenced by jawbones of domestic animals. There was also a lot of fire reddening along the inside of the wall and a possible hearth. The favoured theory at present is that it was a late Roman round house, indeed just 500 yards (522m) further west another late round building was found by the Oxford University Archaeological Society in 1959. In addition another example can be mentioned at Alchester, near Bicester.

The only oddity is the semi-circular appendage to the west, which might be explained as being a wind-break to an entrance, since the prevailing winds in our area come from the south-west off the Atlantic.

The putative appendage to the east, though damaged, appears to be more like the corner of an earlier rectangular building that may have been demolished to make way for the round building.

Other theories for the round structure were that it was part of a large corn dryer or a kiln of some kind, since the floor gave

the appearance of having flues, which oddly had small amounts of charcoal and Iron slag in them. However, these "flues" were just traces of stone coursing and the charcoal had come from possible hearths inside. The idea of a kiln was rejected since the temperatures required would have turned the walls to glass.

So having eliminated practical uses of industry and farming the only other theory is that it was part of a bathhouse, or even a circular temple or church. These possibilities cannot be proved since the rest of the structure lies beneath the modern road through the hamlet.

Perhaps the late round houses are a curious hybrid of Roman and "Barbarian" styles of construction, since the wall we found was well built and still had three courses remaining in stretches. Also the method of construction was identical with all the other Roman buildings.

The hypothetical boundary wall, which appears to dog-leg, now looks like being part of a rectangular building abutting the round house to the south since a section we dug south of it revealed a burnt white clay surface resting on a small stone layer which probably was a floor. Beneath this there are earlier layers of occupation.

The overall appearance at present is that we have a late Roman farm yard with various structures lined around its edges. Hopefully further excavation in 2015 will shed more light on the subject.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Ambrosden, St Mary's Church, Church Walk (SP 6030 1941) Louise Loe

In September and October 2014, Oxford Archaeology South carried out an archaeological watching brief as commissioned by PBA Designs on behalf of the Incumbent and Church Wardens. It was carried out during the installation of a wheelchair accessible disabled WC extension and the digging of service trenches in the churchyard. Eighteen earth cut graves were revealed within the foot print of the WC extension and a further 28 were uncovered within the service trenches. From these, 44 skeletons (33 adults and 11 juveniles) were excavated. Iron coffin fittings and two lead coffins indicated that at least 21 of the burials were of post-medieval date. The remainder (25 burials) were possibly medieval. No archaeological remains of the earlier church were encountered.

Ardley, Ashgrove Farm (SP 5362 2621) Angela Warner

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned to record Ashgrove Farm as it stood in March 2014, ahead of the proposed conversion of several of the agricultural buildings to domestic use, including the demolition of some of the twentieth-century agricultural buildings. Ashgrove Farm is a fairly small farm, set roughly around a farmyard. The current range of buildings date from the early-mid eighteenth century to the mid twentieth century and briefly consist of limestone threshing barn, pigsties, stables and looseboxes, modern open barns and a brick built early-mid Victorian farmhouse. The early-mid 18th century threshing barn, listed as Grade II in 1988, lacks its original roof covering and barn doors, but retains the roof trusses and brick threshing floor.

Bampton, Cobb House (SP 3120 0345) Rebecca Peacock

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by Richard McBrien to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a swimming pool and foundations for a pool house at Cobb House, Bampton.

Two pits of the Late Saxon period were found, both towards the west side of the area, and a range of medieval pits, mostly of later 13th or 14th century date, were clustered in the central part of the site. One later medieval pit was found on the west side of the site, and a horse burial was also either of this or of early post-medieval date. The northern and eastern part of the site was taken up with post-medieval features, with a concentration of activity of the later 18th century. The post-medieval features also extended southwards in the centre of the site, truncating earlier pits on the west, south and east. A Victorian sewer ran diagonally from south-east to north-west across the middle of the area, truncating all earlier deposits.

The character of the finds is of domestic waste, such as might be expected in a tenement at the centre of the settlement. The Late Saxon remains include non-local pottery from St Neots in Cambridgeshire and a probable harness buckle, the medieval remains include a stylus, while the post-medieval finds include a hinged spur and a sherd of North Devon ware, which had been traded well beyond its normal range.

Buckland, Rushey Weir (SP 3227 0003) Mike Donnelly

In April 2013 Oxford Archaeology South carried out a field evaluation on behalf of the Environment Agency. The evaluation comprised machine excavation of four short 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 treethrow 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 treethrow or paleochannel 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 period.

Cassington, Dove House Vix Hughes

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by PCA Architects to undertake a watching brief of the site of a proposed extension to an existing residential property (Dove House). The work was undertaken on 14th August 2014.

The work revealed the foundations of the current building and boundary wall, and a series of deposits which had been used to level the area. The small assemblage of artefacts recovered dates from the 16th century onwards. The original topography seen in the underlying gravels demonstrated a steeper original gradient, sloping down from north to south, which had been levelled by the addition of several layers of soil. No evidence of medieval settlement or associated features were uncovered during the watching brief.

Denchworth, Church View Barn (SU 3809 9173) Angela Warner

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned to record Church View Barn ahead of its proposed demolition and replacement with a single storey dwelling on a similar footprint. Church View Barn appears on the earliest available map of 1801 and retains the same footprint until the present day. Alterations and repairs to the brick and limestone structure occurred regularly, particularly in the 20th century; the latest phase of use as offices and a store ended recently and the building is disused.

Didcot, Hadden Hill (SU 5411 8988). Stuart Foreman

In February 2014 Oxford Archaeology South carried out an evaluation as commissioned by Bovis Homes on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council on a site of proposed residential development at Hadden Hill, Oxfordshire. The site lies in an

area of archaeological potential, in particular for Neolithic and Bronze age remains. The features uncovered largely consisted of visible ridge and furrow and plough furrows. The only feature of note was the pit found in trench 15 which was difficult to date due to the scarcity of finds. The plough scars were largely found on the southern part of the site.

Didcot, Primary School Site, Great Western Park
(SU 5105 8947) Jim Mumford

Oxford Archaeology South completed a 12 trench evaluation at the site of a new Primary School within the Great Western Park development to the south of Wantage Road on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire. The evaluation identified a single undated linear ditch traced between several trenches. Several modern field drains and a historic field boundary ditch were also encountered. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

East Challow, Land off Windmill Close (SU 3793 8767)
Gerry Thacker

During June 2014 Oxford Archaeology South carried out a trial trench evaluation on land off Windmill Close, East Challow, on behalf of Bovis Homes. The evaluation comprised 20 trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.5m arrayed across the site. The evaluation uncovered several shallow linear ditches some of which contained a small assemblage of abraded prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery, and a single struck flint of prehistoric origin. Most of the features were aligned broadly north-west to south-east, mirroring both the orientation of the present field boundaries and the field plots shown on historic maps of 1753 and 1780. Roman pottery retrieved from two of these features may hint at a Roman origin for these remnant field systems, given the proximity of the known Roman villa to the north, but given the abraded nature of the sherds and small size of the assemblage, may equally be residual.

East Hagborne Vicarage (SU 5257 8826)
Robin Bashford

In March 2014 Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by Sarah Maitland Parks to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of footings for the rebuilding of a boundary wall. The watching brief revealed a probable pit which produced post-medieval finds and an undated north-south aligned linear feature adjacent to an existing property boundary. The diffuse western edge of this feature may have indicated a hedge-line with the more well defined eastern edge representing an adjacent ditch. The overlying deposits reflected the use of Vicarage garden and comprised a buried soil horizon beneath a very humic deposit of varying thickness which is likely to represent an imported topsoil.

Fritwell, Goose Farm (SP 5245 2919)
Ben Attfield

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by Lady Georgina Bowman-Shaw to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Goose Farm, Fritwell. The site was considered to have moderate archaeological potential as it is located just to the south of the 12th century St Olaves church and within an area where prehistoric and medieval features have been previously identified. Four trenches were undertaken over

one week in early July 2014. The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural limestone and revealed topsoil, subsoil, and recent demolition rubble containing asbestos in the area of the proposed pond. No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered and no finds were recovered.

Middleton Stoney, Dewars Farm Quarry (SP 540248)
Steve Lawrence

Oxford Archaeology South were commissioned to strip and record a 3.7ha area of rural Oxfordshire ahead of limestone quarrying. This is the third return visit to this site as part of the 15 year programme covering 24ha of quarrying with an expansion beyond this now looking very likely. A linear arrangement of early-middle Iron Age features were found butting up to a pit alignment. The collection of pits, postholes and short lengths of ditches does not easily define itself as a settlement of typical form for the period. At the point where the Iron Age features meet the pit alignment we did recover a few pottery sherds, however, and a stratigraphic sequence that suggests that some of the alignment pits were open during the Early Iron Age or may even date from this period.

North Leigh Roman Villa (SP 397 154)
Alexander Peter Vellet

On April 2, 2014, Oxford Archaeology South undertook an archaeological watching brief during the installation of new visitor information signs at North Leigh Roman Villa.

The watching brief observed two layers potentially associated with the levelling of the villa courtyard, or buried ploughsoil. These deposits contained ceramic building material, and a pottery sherd, which could only be broadly dated to the Roman period. The lower of these deposits was observed to be overlying a possible stone and mortar structure, although the limited extent of the excavations made the true extent, form and function of this structure impossible to determine. Additionally two deposits likely to represent spoil from the early 20th century excavations of the Villa were observed to the north-west of the central range.

Oxford, Botanic Gardens (SP 5205 0601)
Jonathan Gill

Oxford Archaeology South undertook a small project to record a well which has been partially exposed towards the southern corner of the walled garden at the Botanic Gardens, Oxford. The stone-lined well has a diameter of 85 cm and although it is largely filled with water it was possible to confirm that it was at least 2.8 m deep (below ground level). The stone-lined walls of the well stop c 50cm below the current ground level and above this there appears to be the fragmentary remains of a rougher structure which may once have converged to form some form of a cover over the well. This is probably the remaining section of a rudimentary cap constructed over the well when it fell into disuse although it is possible that it related to a pump on top of the well. There appears to be no clear documentary reference to a well here and it is not shown on historic maps. The Ordnance Survey 1:500 town plan from 1876 shows the path distinctly curving around this point, as if there had been a feature here such as a well, but there is a tree shown on the footprint of the well. Presumably the well had been a relatively early feature (18th century?) and had already been removed by 1876, possibly with a tree placed over it to form a simple cap.

Oxfordshire

Oxford, First Quad Works Jesus College (SP 5140 0635) Robin Bashford

In April 2014, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Savills (UK) Ltd on behalf of Jesus College, Oxford, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a new platform lift and the excavation of service trenches for electric lighting and sprinkler system within the First Quad, Jesus College, Oxford. Most of the trenches did not impact below the 19th century garden soils of the quad. No significant archaeological deposits or features were revealed except two brick-lined drainage channels which were aligned off existing downpipes within the quad. As the existing downpipes appear to be contemporary with the crenellations added to the buildings in the early 19th century it seems likely that the brick drainage channels date from this phase of works.

Oxford, Headington School, Headington Road (SP 5359 0669) Carl Champness

Oxford Archaeology South were commissioned by West Waddy ADP on behalf of Headington School to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new sports building and classroom extension at the school. The watching brief revealed a cluster of early Iron Age pits that may have been associated with unlocated domestic focus situated somewhere to the south and/or west beyond the boundary of the site. Other features revealed included an isolated undated pit, the base of a possible furrow, and a brick well or soakaway of probable 17th-18th century construction. Additionally, a relatively linear configuration of postholes was revealed and are likely to represent a modern fenceline.

Oxford, Jesus college (SP 5139 0635)

Gerry Thacker

In July 2006 Oxford Archaeology South carried out an archaeological watching brief that was commissioned by ADP Architects in advance of the excavation of new cable duct trenches. The watching brief revealed a layer of undisturbed soil possibly predating the college construction. This was sealed by made ground probably relating to the construction of the second quadrangle. Its existence suggests a potential for earlier archaeology to survive below, however the depth of the current excavations will have minimal impact on these deposits. These layers contained fragments of clay pipe stem and two bowls, together with bottle glass, fragments of butchered bone and lead glazed pottery. Spot dating of these finds suggest a 17th or 18th century date. Feature 7 and its fill 6 may be the remnants of an WWII air raid shelter.

Oxford, Keble College Robin Bashford

In May 2014, Oxford Archaeology South undertook an archaeological watching brief at 23 Banbury Road, Oxford as commissioned by Keble College in advance of the construction of an extension to the rear of 23 Banbury Road. Excavation of the strip foundations revealed the natural gravels overlain by a post-glacial loessic subsoil which overlies the gravel terrace upon which Oxford sits. The loess was in turn overlain by a buried topsoil deposit which was directly overlain by landscaping and bedding deposits

associated with the existing car park surface. The gravel, loess and buried topsoil had been truncated by a large discrete feature which was likely to be a pit, but the function and date of the feature were unclear.

Oxford, 21 Leckford Road (SP 5073 0744)

Mariusz Gorniak

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by Perioli Man Architects on behalf of Mazhar Khan to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a basement and associated foundations and service trenches for an extension to the existing house at 21 Leckford Road, Oxford. The work was carried out in September 2014, during which time the main part of the basement area was stripped to the natural gravel under archaeological supervision. Two small garden features, one of Victorian or more recent date, the other undated, were found close to the east wall of the property, and probably represent planting holes or garden features associated with the property.

The absence of any burials or other human remains perhaps indicates that the burial or burials found in the 19th century in the grounds of the adjacent school did not come from an extensive cemetery.

Oxford, Luther Court, Thames Street (SP 513 056)

Chris Pickard

In May/June 2014, Oxford Archaeology South carried out a watching brief on demolition of existing late 20th century buildings, followed by an evaluation by trenching and borehole drilling at Luther Court, Thames Street. The work was commissioned by Exel Construction Ltd on behalf of A2 Dominion Homes Ltd. The evaluation revealed a considerable depth of modern made ground, beneath which in most trenches was a dumped layer later cultivated as a garden soil, cut by shallow broad features filled with Victorian occupation debris, presumably from activity in the backyards of the tenements known from documentary evidence to have been established on the site in the mid-19th century.

In Trenches 1 and 3 were pits with those in Trench 3 containing large numbers of horn cores, suggesting that hide preparation, glue-making or some other process connected with leather-working was carried out in the vicinity. Although the pits cut a layer that contained one small 19th century sherd, pottery and tile of 16th or early 17th century date came from their fills.

The pit in Trench 1 was cut into a sequence of dumped layers, evident in most of the trenches across the site, representing reclamation of this low-lying area in the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries. This fits the historic map evidence, which reveals the gradual narrowing of the Shire Lake channel of the Thames by reclamation during this time. No features were found within this sequence in any of the evaluation trenches, and the historic maps show this area as open ground without significant occupation. Below these soils in two trenches were channel fills containing finds of 16th century and late medieval date, the latter possibly derived from occupation of the Blackfriars Friary just to the north of the site from the 13th century to the Dissolution. No features of medieval or earlier date were found within the impact depth of the drainage diversions, nor were any finds earlier than the period of the Friary found.

Oxford, New College, Oxford (SP 5179 0648)

Mike Sims

In March 2013 Oxford Archaeology South conducted an archaeological watching brief during the installation of temporary kitchens. The watching brief observed post-medieval deposits dating to the 18th and 19th century down to a depth of 1.5m below the current ground level. These are the probable result of the infilling and levelling of the medieval city ditch associated with the construction of the range of college buildings to the north and the landscaping of the Holywell Quadrangle in the late 18th and 19th centuries. No evidence of earlier activity or of any earlier structures either fronting Holywell Street or forming part of earlier phases of the college was encountered.

Oxford, President's Garden, St John's College, St Giles (SP 5132 0669)

Lena Strid

Between January and early February 2014, Oxford Archaeology South carried out a field evaluation commissioned by St John's College at the President's Garden, St John's College, St Giles, Oxford. The evaluation consisted of three trenches of various sizes which represents c 7% sample (54m²) of the development footprint (c 800m²). The evaluation revealed that the natural horizon, and original ground level, had been heavily truncated by later activity. There was a lack of pre-medieval fills and finds, although a complete absence of pre-medieval activity can not be ruled out. There was evidence for medieval activity from as early as late 12th century, with the majority of medieval finds dated to the later centuries of the medieval period (c 1250 - 1500). Evidence of such activity was represented by pits of varying sizes, the smaller ones possibly of a domestic nature, and the larger almost certainly indicating quarrying for sands and gravels from potentially as early as the 13th - 14th century.

Oxford, Oxford University College Radcliffe Quad

Robin Bashford

In July 2014, Oxford Archaeology South undertook an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a new damp proof membrane along the west range of the Radcliffe Quadrangle at University College, Oxford. The watching brief revealed the construction cut for the east wall of the cellar of the west range of the quad, which was constructed between 1675 and 1676. Additionally, a series of imported garden soils and landscaping deposits were revealed.

Oxford, The Queen's College (SP 5176 0634)

Mike Sims and Jane Phimester

Oxford Archaeology South were 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 Queens College. The programme of work included the demolition of an existing garden store, which OA have 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.

An archaeological watching brief was also undertaken. This recorded 19th and 20th century deposits and features forming the current garden landscape overlying a brick vaulted chamber, probably the cess pit associated with the original gardener's toilet and store which had been constructed in the mid to late 18th century. Evidence for remedial work along the base of the boundary wall was also encountered. No evidence pre-dating the 18th century was observed during the course of the investigation.

Oxford, Radcliffe Infirmary

Robin Bashford

In June 2014 Turnberry Planning Limited appointed Oxford Archaeology South to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the conversion to office use of the former Outpatients Building at the Radcliffe Infirmary. The watching brief focussed on the excavation of the extension to the basement at the western end of the existing building. Any archaeological features or deposits had been truncated during the construction this building, and as the planned eastern extension is no longer going ahead, the watching brief was discontinued.

Oxford, St Clare's college (SP 5094 0830)

Robin Bashford

In August 2014, Oxford Archaeology South undertook a trial trench evaluation at St Clare's College. The evaluation comprised two trenches, the first of which revealed that significant truncation had occurred during the early 20th century construction of the building which currently fronts on to the Banbury Road. However, the second trench to the rear of the property revealed three east-west aligned linear features which are likely to represent the remnant of an 18th century ridge and furrow field system.

The ploughsoil and the fills of at least two of the furrows appeared to have been cut by narrow, rubble-filled linear features which are likely to represent rudimentary field drains, probably contemporary with the ploughsoil, which were installed to replace the redundant furrows. A series of small late 19th/early 20th century pits of indeterminate function were seen to truncate the furrows, and almost certainly the ploughsoil. As the cartographic sources show the area around the site as enclosed fields until the late 19th century development at the northern end of the Banbury Road, it is possible that these relate to the construction of either the adjacent property to the north (constructed between 1878 and 1899), or 121 Banbury Road itself (constructed 1903).

Oxford, 7-11 St John Street (SP 510 066)

Robin Bashford

Between July and August 2014, Oxford Archaeology South undertook an archaeological watching brief at 7-11 St John Street. The watching brief revealed the sand and gravel of the second (Summertown-Radley) gravel terrace, which was

Oxfordshire

overlain by a post-glacial loessic subsoil. The subsoil and gravel had been truncated by a steep-sided feature that was only partially revealed within the trench for a new light-well to the rear of number 11. The composition of the fill was predominantly re-deposited loess, which is characteristic of prehistoric and late Saxon features excavated elsewhere within the city. A number of Bronze Age ring ditches have been excavated in the immediate vicinity of the site, and it is feasible that this feature represents one such. However, no dating evidence was recovered and the shape of the feature in plan was uncertain. Additionally, a possible pit - also undated - was revealed within the same trench. The loess and the fills of the features were overlain by a homogeneous, humic deposit which is likely to represent a buried topsoil. This deposit and the fill of the steep-sided feature had been truncated by a stone-lined, square-cut pit, the fills of which produced a large quantity of mid-late 19th century artefactual material. It is likely that this represents a stone-lined cess pit to the rear of number 11, which was backfilled in the 1870s following the introduction of mains sewerage into the city.

Oxford, St Peter's College (SP 5111 0625)

Robin Bashford

In August 2014, Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by Waterman Project Management Ltd on behalf of St Peter's College, Oxford, to undertake the excavation of an evaluative test pit on the site of a proposed soakaway pit in the Linton Quadrangle of the college. The evaluation revealed a 16th-17th century pit cutting through a series of earlier deposits of uncertain provenance. The pit is likely to represent occupation associated with properties fronting on to New Inn Hall Street (formerly Little Bailey). The fills of the pit were overlain by a series of fairly homogeneous 18th-19th century deposits which are likely to represent landscaping contemporary with the construction of Wyaston House (now Linton House) in 1797. The remaining deposits are likely to represent a second phase of landscaping, possibly associated with the construction of St Peter's Church (now the college chapel) in 1874.

Oxford, Savile House, Music Practice Rooms, New College (SP 5172 0671)

Robin Bashford

In September 2014, Oxford Archaeology South undertook an archaeological evaluation and topographical survey of the 17th century civil war defences at Savile House Music Practice Rooms, New College, Oxford. The evaluation revealed the sand gravel of the second (Summertown-Radley) gravel terrace, which appeared to slope gradually from south to north and had been truncated by a single undated post hole. The fill of the post hole and the natural gravel were directly overlain by a possible trample deposit associated with the construction of an earth bank which formed part of the inner civil war defences constructed around Oxford in the 17th century.

Oxford, 84 St Aldates (SP 5139 0584)

Robin Bashford

In April 2014, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Jonathan Ungar to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of six geotechnical pits and two boreholes. The work was in advance of the re-construction of

the recently dismantled rear wing of the property, which is likely to be of 17th century date. The watching brief revealed natural gravel of the floodplain terrace, overlain by a series of alluvial deposits potentially indicative of a channel of the Thames which later became the Blackfriars Mill stream. A number of the test pits also revealed a fairly homogeneous silty clay deposit, very similar to deposits identified elsewhere at the interface between the second terrace and the floodplain and interpreted as 12th-13th century land reclamation. This was overlain by a series of mixed, post-medieval deposits, which may represent construction debris from the recently dismantled structure. Evidence for the nature of the footings of the remaining standing walls of the structure and the associated southern boundary wall of the site was also revealed, together with a possible internal division within the structure.

Oxford, Stanford House, High Street (SP 519 062)

Brian Dean

Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by BGS Architects, on behalf of Stanford University, to carry out an archaeological watching brief on a geotechnical trial trench in advance of the erection of a garden building at Stanford House, High Street, Oxford. Late 19th century and modern services were revealed; no deposits pre-dating this period were observed during the watching brief.

Oxford (SP 517 065)

Robin Bashford

In July 2014, Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by ADS Design to undertake an archaeological evaluation at The Turf Tavern, Oxford. The evaluation comprised three small trenches, two of which were excavated against the northern wall of the terrace garden to the rear (east) of the property, and one against the eastern wall of the same area. The northern wall is on the projected line of an abortive late 13th century attempt to apply the principles of concentric castle architecture to the north-eastern corner of the defences of Oxford - with an outer curtain wall being constructed along the inner edge of the partially backfilled City ditch which then appears to have been re-cut further to the north and east. The evaluation revealed evidence for a substantial earlier wall on the same line as the existing wall of the terrace garden. This may either represent the late-13th century outer curtain wall itself, or a later wall built off it. There was also evidence that a section of this wall had been re-built during a re-configuration of the garden in the 19th century. The earliest deposit encountered was within a series of augered boreholes in the base of the trenches adjacent to the north wall. It may represent the City ditch, which has then been re-cut to the north following the construction of the outer curtain wall in the late-13th century.

Some evidence was recovered for an earlier courtyard surface overlying this deposit. The surface comprised limestone 'cobbles' and a linear configuration of kerb stones marking its northern extent. Overlying this surface, the majority of the deposits excavated within the trenches strongly suggested that the creation of the existing terrace was the result of a phase of landscaping in the 19th century. Some evidence was recovered for a possible brick surface overlying the raised terrace and pre-dating the existing flagstone surface.

Oxford, 54 -56 Woodstock Road, St. Anne's College
(SU 4524 9671) Deirdre Forde

Oxford Archaeology South were commissioned by Ridge Construction on behalf of St. Anne's College, Oxford, to carry out a photographic survey of numbers 54 to 56 Woodstock Road prior to their demolition for the purposes of redevelopment. The description below is provided as a compliment the photographic survey. The two buildings are on the site of St Anne's College and face west onto the Woodstock Road. Number 54 is a cottage, described in the survey as the Caterer's Lodge due to its current function, that pre-dates the establishment of the college on this site in 1952. It is believed to have been built by a Mr Durell on the grounds of 'Springfield', 33 Banbury Road, in 1882 as a gardener's cottage (Walker 2010). The building has been subject to considerable alteration in the 20th century. The Gate House was built in the mid sixties to provide further accommodation for students at the site. It sits imposingly immediately to the north of the cottage and immediately to the west of Hartland House. It is built in the Brutalist style, which is characteristic of 1960s architecture.

Piddington, Muswell Hill Manor, Brill (SP 536 967)

Gerry Thacker and Rebecca Peacock

During April and May 2014 Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief on the construction of a new drive, garage and turning area at Muswell Hill Manor, Brill, Piddington, Oxfordshire. An evaluation trench was also excavated to try to date the ditch surrounding a large rectangular enclosure known as 'The Wilderness'. The watching brief uncovered a ditch of medieval date, presumed to be a former field boundary, and a buried garden soil that could date to the 15th or 16th century. Tile fragments recovered from the ditch surrounding the Wilderness also dated to the 15th or 16th century, and may indicate that the enclosure was originally constructed as a garden feature.

Tackley, Land at Wootton Balk (SP 4645 2024)

Mariusz Gorniak

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an evaluation of Land at Wootton Balk, Tackley. A total of five evaluation trenches were excavated across the site in March 2014. The trenches were located to investigate a complex of geophysical anomalies that appear to represent enclosures and field boundaries. Three pieces of struck flint was recovered during the evaluation. Although all were residual finds in later features or the subsoil, their presence does indicate human exploitation of the area during the Mesolithic and/or early Neolithic period. No archaeological features of this date were present.

The evaluation confirmed the presence of a number of rectilinear enclosures and other features in the southern part of the site. Artefactual and environmental evidence suggests that they represent a settlement of 1st century AD date. It is considered reasonably likely, moreover, that the settlement post-dates the Roman conquest. There was no evidence that settlement began at an earlier date or that it continued beyond the end of the 1st century, and such a tight chronological span is unusual in the region. However, 3rd-4th century Roman pottery recorded in an earlier fieldwalking exercise may suggest that the focus of settlement shifted in the later Roman

period. The evidence in the northern part of the site is more ambiguous. A possible trackway, almost certainly associated with the settlement area to the south, was recorded both as geophysical anomalies and as archaeological features. A number of other anomalies, apparently representing enclosures, were not found within the trenches. However, the anomalies were of a discontinuous nature and it remains possible that corresponding archaeological features exist beyond the excavated trenches.

Wallingford, 91 High Street

Gerry Thacker

Between February and April 2014 Oxford Archaeology South undertook an intermittent watching brief on works to remodel the rear of 91 High Street. The works uncovered occupation deposits of 12th to 15th century dates lying just below the current concrete floor. Two probable chalk wall footings were observed to cut a layer of 12th or 13th century date, and may represent the remains of a building that fronted onto the High Street. Excavations to the rear of the property only uncovered made ground of recent date.

Wantage, Grove, land west of Station Road

(SU 40566 9070) Kate Brady

Between June and August 2013, Oxford Archaeology South carried out an archaeological excavation as commissioned by CgMs Consulting on the site of a proposed housing development. The excavation revealed the north eastern side and entrance of a middle Bronze Age enclosure with a structured deposit associated with the entrance consisting of a large Deverel-Rimbury Pottery vessel in a pit. Other pits in the vicinity of the enclosure were of a similar type and also contained middle Bronze Age pottery. A field system of similar date was identified by gullies and ditches across the site and a trackway on a northwest-southeast alignment and a waterhole also formed part of this. The smaller excavated areas revealed a group of burials which were radiocarbon dated. Two cremation burials dated to the middle Bronze Age period (2975-3033 cal BP and 3014-3072 cal BP) and one to the early Roman period (1805-1863 cal BP). A single inhumation burial dated to the latter part of the early Roman period (1795-1847 cal BP). A large boundary of late 19th century date and an associated system of ditches was excavated and was dated by map regression.

Yarnton Nurseries, Yarnton (SP 4758 1319)

Mike Donnelly

In February 2013 Oxford Archaeology South carried out a field evaluation comprising the machine excavation of eight trenches. Occasional archaeological features, including ditches and a single posthole, were encountered in four trenches but, with the exception of a single pit of modern date, no artefacts were recovered. The features are likely to be of agricultural origin although some, at least, may be associated with the recent use of the site as a garden centre.

Oxfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGY IN OXFORD CITY 2014

David Radford, City Council Archaeologist, Heritage and Specialist Services, Oxford City Council.

Fieldwork Projects

This was again a busy year for development-led archaeology in Oxford reflecting the continuing trend of infrastructure improvement projects by the University Colleges and a notable increase in commercially driven development. Over the course of the year 40 development-related archaeological investigations took place.

Significant fieldwork projects included the excavation of the church and cemetery of the medieval Benedictine Nunnery at Minchery Farm, Littlemore. This work was undertaken over the spring and summer by John Moore Heritage Services prior to the construction of a new hotel at the site. The excavation identified inconclusive evidence for a small rectangular church, likely to date to the priory's establishment in the mid-12th century, later replaced by a more substantial church consisting of a choir, crossing tower, nave and belfry in the 13th century. A total of 92 burials were excavated. The most prominent burial was a female aged 45+, likely to be a prioress, who was interred in a constructed limestone cist, the foot of which was located at the exact centre of the crossing tower. Burials were recovered from the choir, north transept and the nave, with the remaining burials largely confined to a small area outside of the church to the east of the choir. One particularly interesting burial at the west end of the nave was a young female (aged 19-25), buried in a prone position. The age of the burials ranged from neonate to 60+ years, with 35 females and 28 males identified. Another medium-sized suburban excavation was undertaken at Barns Road over the summer by Avon Archaeology. This involved the investigation of medieval enclosures and quarry pits and 18th century agricultural buildings on the periphery of the former village of Church Cowley.

Notable investigations within the historic core of Oxford included the excavation of a cellar link within the kitchen yard at New College. Here intercutting medieval and post-medieval rubbish pits were recorded containing significant quantities of bone waste from the processing and consumption of larger land animals, a very large assemblage of smaller bones from fish and fowl, and abundant charred plant remains. These assemblages will hopefully complement the evidence recovered during investigations within the adjacent 14th century kitchen in 2013. Elsewhere small scale investigations were undertaken at Jesus College, University College, St Peter's College and St John's College and projects started towards the end of the year at Brasenose College and Magdalen College. A significant number of watching briefs and building recording projects were also undertaken across the city.

The Oxford Archaeological Action Plan 2013-2018

As part of the implementation of the Oxford Archaeological Action Plan the Urban Archaeological Database was migrated onto the same HBSMR platform as the County Council's Historic Environment Record in March. The City Council Heritage Team has also taken on HER search responsibilities for the whole of the city area and has input

the outstanding backlog of reports for the area of the city outside the Urban Archaeological Database.

The City Council Archaeologist participated in a joint project with Oxford Archaeology to produce a report entitled *Assessing and Mapping Significant Heritage Assets in a Medieval University City* which will be made available on the Archaeological Data Service website. The report was commissioned by English Heritage as part of the National Importance Programme, which is looking at the assessment of non-designated but potentially nationally significant archaeological assets by local authorities under the provision of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Outreach

Outreach work for the year included public talks by the City Council Archaeologist at the County Oxpast and Festival of Archaeology events. Regular reports of recent archaeological work in the city, produced for the Oxford City and County Archaeological Forum (OCCAF), are made available on the council website and an annual summary of archaeological work in Oxford is also produced for the journal of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society (*Oxoniensia*).

The year saw the conclusion of the fieldwork phase of the East Oxford Community Archaeological Project (Archeox) and the commencement of post-excavation work leading towards the publication of a monograph summarizing the results of extensive fieldwork undertaken by the project

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

David Clark

Lockinge Estate Works Yard, Ardington

(SU 43157 88505)

Introduction

The Oxfordshire Buildings Record were invited by Vale of White Horse conservation officer to record the buildings of the Lockinge Estate yard at Ardington, prior to their conversion to domestic uses. The objectives of the survey were to understand the dates and phases of the buildings and their uses over time. The site is shown on a plan of the village at Fig 7.

The 'estate villages' of Ardington and Lockinge have been studied in depth and the findings were published in 1966 and 1999 (Havinden, 1966, 1999). In 1859 Robert Loyd-Lindsay bought a farm in Ardington owned by the trustees of John Pollexfen Bastard (who had owned the manor of East Lockinge) and in 1840 farmed by Thomas Richards and the estate yard was built on this farmyard - and some of the farm buildings were still there in the 1960s being used to house the smithy and other trades

Although the Loyd-Lindsays became the largest landowners in Berkshire, with over 20,000 acres, their management of the Lockinge Estate was special in a number of ways: the family farmed 65% of the farmland themselves, at a time when most landowners let their estates to tenant farmers. This meant that there could be economies of scale, and the estate yard was an example of this in practice. They had unorthodox but enlightened views about labour management and they supported the estate throughout the agricultural depressions of the late 19th century and in the 1920s,

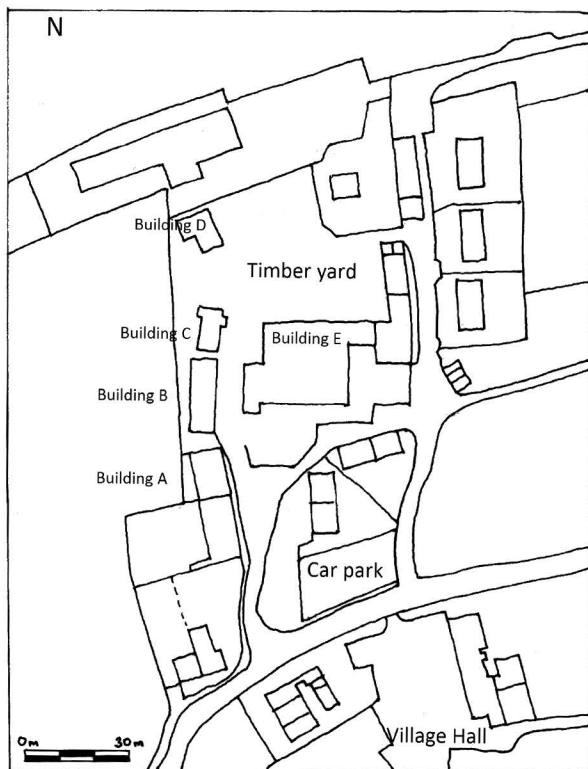


Fig 7. Works yard in 2014 showing buildings scheduled for conversion.

introducing new machinery, power sources and improving the workers' cottages.

None of the buildings A-E were present at the time of the 1876 Ordnance Survey, but a partial plan of the yard from the estate archives was very useful in the interpretation of the buildings, although its date and purpose were unstated. However, elevation drawings which reflected the plan exactly were entitled 'Proposed Improvements to Works Yard for Col. Sir R L Lindsay MP VC KCB' showing they were drawn up between 1881 (Lindsay was knighted) and 1885 (when he was ennobled as Lord Wantage).

Lady Wantage later wrote that "The timber-yard and carpenters' shops play an important part in the estate, for through them all things connected with building operations are, with a few exceptions, carried out; and the newest inventions and best appliances in machinery have been put up." (Wantage, 1907) The main activity in the estate yard was the conversion of estate-grown timber. New house building had virtually ceased by 1930, but renovation and improvements continued. There were also wheelwrights, blacksmiths, painters, plumbers and bricklayers. Around 1900 there had been 60-70 employees under the Clerk of Works; in 1945 there were 28. By 2008, the workforce at the yard had fallen to 14, and it was closed a year later, the essential functions having been moved elsewhere on the estate.

The buildings

Building A was in use as an office and was not recorded. It was not shown on the estate plan, and seems to have been built in the early 20th century as an electricity sub-station, replacing the previous steam engine. It has stylistic details reminiscent of the boiler house, and was clearly designed to fit in with the architecture of the rest of the works.



Fig 8. Building C.

Building B was a purpose-built open drying-shed for sawn timber. It was a 7-bay open-sided timber structure with a corrugated iron roof and built probably in the 2nd quarter of the 20th century. It was a utilitarian structure, without the refinement of detail evident in the brick buildings of the yard. It was later altered to create two wider openings in the east wall, probably for improved access as the estate acquired larger vehicles. Its value lies in survival of an ephemeral building type which has been superseded by changing technology.

There were eight trusses supported on 5inch square oak posts, height 103 inches from slab to wallplate. Each bay was 255 inches/530cm wide by 115inches/292cm long; height to the ridge is 474cm. All the roof timbers were machine-sawn softwood. The wall plates were halved into the upper face of the tie beams, with the principal rafters birds-mouthed over the wall plates. Raking queen struts supported the principals, while a steel king tie was bolted from apex to tie beam, holding the truss in tension.

Building C (Fig 8) seems to have been a purpose-built single-storey office and store for the yard, part of the 1881-5 improvements. Built in brick (largely laid in Flemish Bond) the elevations bore the signs of altered doors and windows, although original openings had some fine gauged brickwork. The store had been in the southern two-thirds, with the office to the north (Fig 9). Both spaces were heated with back-to-back fireplaces, but these and the chimneystack had

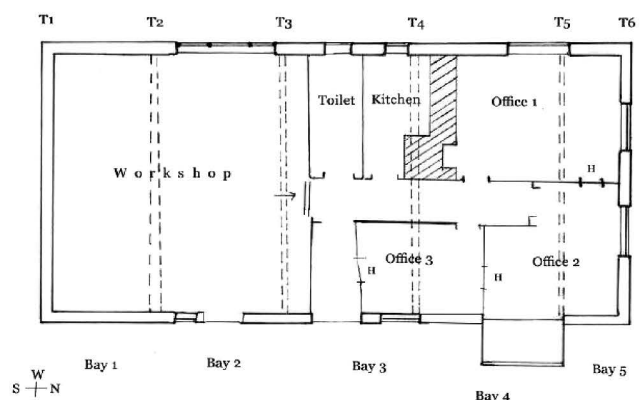


Fig 9. Plan of store/office, exterior 1:100, interior not to scale.

been removed, probably in the 1970s when other internal alterations had been made to expand the office area to occupy half the building, and to provide a toilet and kitchen. This building was separate from the other workshops, reflecting the differences then seen between manual and office work,



Fig 10. Building D.

and perhaps the desire to keep particularly valuable store items under the control of the office rather than being held closer to the workshops. It served essentially the same purposes for over a hundred years.

Building D (Fig 10) was at the far north-west of the site, some distance from the other structures, and consisted of a tall weatherboarded shed and a small lean-to outshut to the south. It had housed a large mobile steam-driven engine. It was timber-framed on a brick plinth laid in English Bond, with a roof covering of Welsh slate. The main building had four A-frame trusses, the principal rafters of which were tenoned into posts and pegged in place (Fig 11). One tier of purlins was supported on the backs of the principal rafters by wedge-shaped blocking pieces. The roof trusses were completed with arch bracing in four segments, each tenoned into long slots in the posts, principal rafters and collar. The bracing was fixed in place with long iron bolts.

At each end of the building were tall (approximately 12ft 6ins) openings, each having had a pair of outward-opening timber doors supported by long top and bottom hinges on pintles. The pair to the west was in situ; one of the eastern leaves had been removed.

Building D seems to have been built in the 1881-85 phase of development. The shell of the building had a neo-vernacular grandeur and an interesting structure that was worthy of retention as a visible and useful part of any conversion.

Building E (Fig 12) housed the yard workshops; although it extended to the right, the recording was confined to those

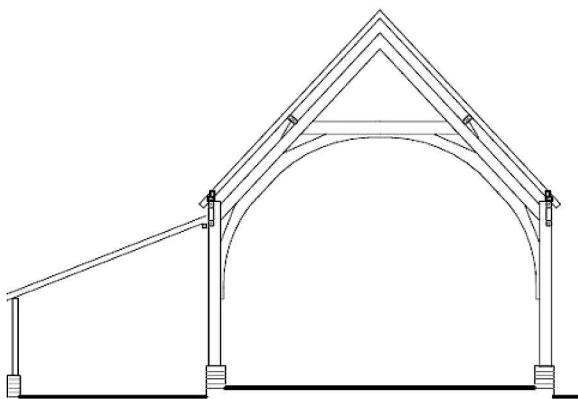


Fig. 11. Building D section (Mathewson Waters Architects, 2014).

parts shown on the 1880s estate plan (Fig 13) as comprising the boiler house, engine room, sawing shed and joinery workshop.



Fig 12. Building E - main workshops, south elevation.

The building appeared to be mostly of the same phase, in yellow brick with red brick detailing, but various bonds were used, including English Bond and Monk Bond. Special treatment had been given to the boiler and engine house with brick cornice and pediment, blind arches, plinth and decorative ridge tiles, reflecting its prominent position by the entrance and the importance of steam power to the estate. Comparing the plan with the standing buildings showed that the size of boiler needed was larger than that provided for in the plan, and hence a longer building was built.

The boiler was below ground level at the south where the bricked up flue to the (demolished) chimney stack was visible. There was no evidence for a coal store – apparently a cart went daily to Wantage to collect coal from the railway station. The engine was at ground floor level, with the drive being taken down to a network of cellars beneath the workshops. In these were a series of bearings, aligned with the engine house bearing, which would have carried the line shaft power distribution beneath the sawing shed and the joinery workshop.

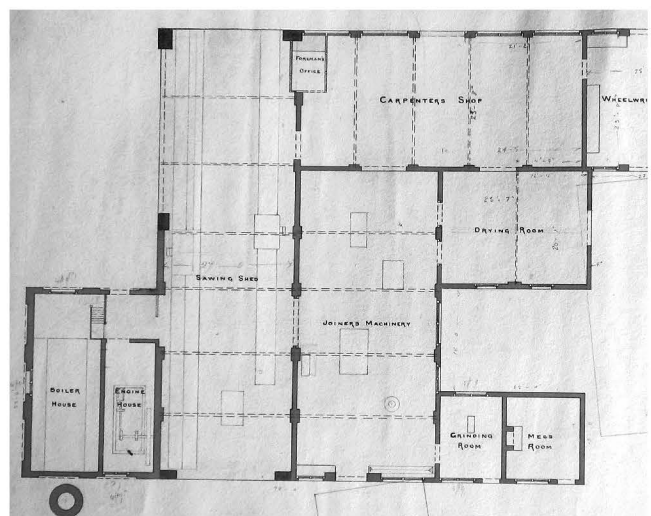


Fig 13. Main workshops on estate plan (estate archives - undated but probably 1881-85).



Fig 14. View east to joiners' shop.

Eastwards was a long passageway (Fig 14) in which there were a number of brick bases with slate tops and mostly with screwed bolts for fixing bearings for the line shafting. Other fixings (Fig 15) were for circular and frame saws. Frame saws were equipped with multiple or "gang" blades so that they could produce multiple planks in one pass. The sawdust would exit the saw blade gullets and fall down below the floor through the frame opening hence a considerable amount of sawdust found in the basement.

The sawing shop above was conceived as a long gabled shed stretching the width of the workshop complex from north to south with wide doors at each end and with weatherboarding above them as an architectural symbol of the activity within. The northern gable retained its boarding and sliding doors but the south gable was filled in with yellow brick at some stage. The roof consisted of joggled and jowled queen-post trusses of a standard design with raking struts, the posts being fixed to the tie-beams by iron bolts. Two tiers of purlins were carried on the backs of the principal rafters. There was a large glazed area on the west roof slope.

Trees and saw timber was moved round on trolleys - a pair of rails survived in the (wooden) floor and a trolley ran across the shed under the roof.

To the east of the sawing shed was the joinery machine shop (Fig 16). All fixed equipment had been removed, and evidence for drive equipment was minimal - one line shaft bearing survived in the east wall. At the north end of the



Fig 15. Beneath sawing area to north



Fig 16. Joinery shop.

joinery shop was a recently-partitioned area used by estate glaziers. A photographic record was made.

Conclusions

The map evidence showed that the structures C, D and E were erected in the period around 1885 on the former Ardington estate farmyard. The use of English Bond for the brickwork was typical of vernacular revival buildings of this period but the use of yellow brick was anomalous, as the local colour is red; they may have come from the Oxford and Berks Brick Company which supplied yellow bricks until 1883.

The buildings were not erected exactly according to plan. The steam boiler was larger than expected and the building was erected around it and the traction engine shed was set away from the entrance either for security reasons or because it was easier for moving materials around the yard. The site of the yard office seems to have been decided upon in order to give the clerk of works a good view of the entire site - the bay window provided sight lines to the entrance and every point in the yard and rear of the main workshops.

The spaces in the main workshop had logical connections with each other and residual evidence survives in the floors and walls of where the heavier equipment was placed and where the line shafting was mounted. Later 20th century changes were also still legible. Of great interest and potential significance was the underground basement of the main workshop, and its use as a space in which power was transferred to the machinery at ground floor level. The model for Ardington may have been the estate yard at Longlands, on Lord Leicester's great estate of Holkham, Norfolk. This was built in the 1850s and also had underground line-shafting, and perhaps Loyd-Lindsay visited it at some stage.

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THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Adderbury, Fleet Farm Barns, Aynho Road
(SP 4775 3575) Aiji Castle, Genni Elliott

Evaluation on a site for small-scale residential development revealed a single ditch dating to the early medieval period or later, but no features were located on the footprint of the proposed new structures.

Alvescot, St Peter's Church (SP 2738 0460)
Andrew Munding

A further phase of watching brief was maintained on drainage work at this site. Two walls underlying the existing church are thought to be contemporary with a wall noted in previous work, and a ditch appeared to underlie these in turn. The walls could relate to an earlier (?Saxon) church, or even a Roman building. Four unstratified sherds of late Saxon or early medieval pottery, and two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered.

Aston Upthorpe, Frimley Stables, Thorpe Street
(SU 5530 8640) David Platt

A single pit of medieval or later date was identified during a watching brief on new house footings, and a sherd of residual Roman pottery: this adds to the Bronze Age, Roman and medieval features from earlier evaluation.

Bicester, The Willows, Sycamore Road, Launton
(SP 6102 2272) Andrew Munding

Footings for a new house and garage were observed but there were no finds or features of archaeological interest.

Bicester, Rowles Farm, Weston on the Green
(SP 5345 1653) Andy Taylor

Evaluation trenching on the site of a new solar farm revealed a range of deposits of Middle Iron Age and Roman date, some corresponding with a known cropmark complex, but others apparently extending those enclosures.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Mackney Court Farm
(SU 5789 9019) Steven Crabb

The works for construction of new farm buildings exposed very little of the archaeologically relevant horizon, and no finds or features were observed.

Clanfield, Windmill Farm (SP 2811 0082)
James McNicoll-Norbury

A watching brief on the stripping of a large area for the construction of a new grain store revealed nothing of interest, but deeper foundation pads exposed several Middle Iron Age features, some of which correspond with a known cropmark complex.

Eynsham, Salutation Farm Solar Park (SP 3968 1069)
Steven Crabb

A watching brief revealed that most of the works involved in the creation of the solar farm did not penetrate to archaeologically relevant levels; where deeper trenches were excavated they revealed no archaeological features.

Henley-on-Thames, Old Ship House, Wharfe Lane
(SU 7628 8288) James McNicoll-Norbury, Natasha Bennett, Andrew Munding

A watching brief was maintained during building extensions. A flint foundation was exposed on the northern boundary wall under render for the previous garage, but no deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

Henley-on-Thames, 226 Greys Road (SU 7445 8164)
Andrew Munding, Andy Taylor

A watching brief during house extensions revealed no deposits or finds of archaeological interest.

Henley-on-Thames, Old Bell House, 9 Northfield End
(SU 7604 8299) Andy Taylor

Several areas of ground reduction and trench digging were observed in a watching brief in the garden of Old Bell House, which is a listed building dating to the 18th century. No archaeological deposits were revealed but a small collection of pottery of late medieval or early post-medieval date was recovered.

Marcham, Willow Farm, Abingdon Road (SU 4588 9654)
Susan Porter

Evaluation trenching recovered an unstratified sherd of Roman samian pottery but no deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

Mongewell, Tickledown, Wallingford Road
(SU 6157 8716) Andrew Munding

Footings were observed during excavations for a new extension. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Moulsford, Merlebank, Wallingford Road
(SU 5921 8333)

Steven Crabb, Tim Dawson

A watching brief during excavation of footings for a new house revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

Moulsford, 12 Glebe Close (SU 5885 8402)
James McNicoll-Norbury

Footings for a new house extension were observed. No archaeological deposits were encountered nor finds retrieved.

Oxford, Minchery Farm Allotments, Priory Road
(SP 5443 0260) James McNicoll-Norbury

Evaluation trenching in advance of residential development had revealed a single feature, thought to be a Saxon sunken-featured building (SFB), but interpretation was hindered by modern disturbance. An area 20m by 20m was therefore opened up around it to explore the feature and its surroundings. The feature did indeed prove to be an SFB. No other features were identified, but it was located close to the south edge of the site and could be part of a larger settlement. The building (2) is on the small side, at 2.64m by 1.7m and just 0.14m deep (Fig 17). It was filled with grey-brown silty sand. It was excavated in four quadrants (53-56) all of which had been disturbed by roots from the allotments. Sherds of Saxon pottery were recovered from several numbered

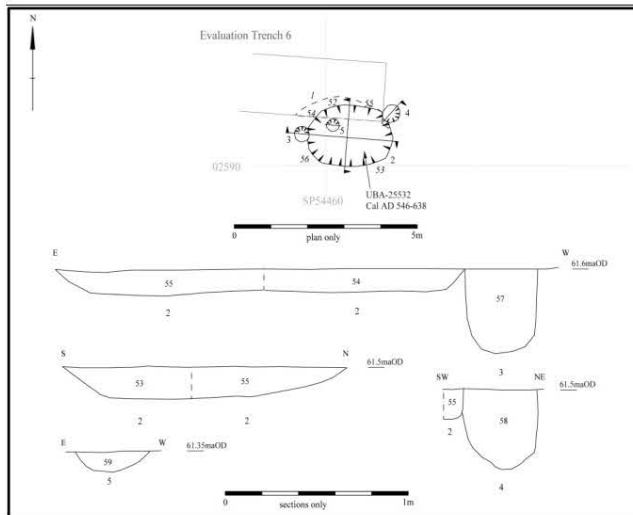


Fig 17. Oxford, Minchery Farm Allotments, plan and sections of SFB.

contexts, which were in fact all a single deposit infilling the hollow. Two postholes (3 and 4) were found at the western and eastern ends respectively which were 0.4–0.5m in diameter and up to 0.5m deep, with vertical sides and rounded bases. Posthole 3 was located on the central axis of the building but posthole 4 was offset to the north. Both were filled with grey-brown silty sand (57 and 58) from which Saxon pottery was recovered. A single grain of *Triticum* sp. (rivet or bread wheat) and a little oak and *Pomoideae* charcoal came from sieving samples from the fill of the main hollow.

A third possible posthole (5) was sealed below the base of the building: no finds were recovered from it and it need not be related to the building.

A sample of charcoal from context 53 was submitted for radiocarbon dating to the Queens University Belfast Chrono Centre. The calibrated age was calculated using

UBA-25532 charcoal	Radiocarbon Age	Calibrated date	Probability
SFB 2, Fill 53	BP 1478 ± 25	cal AD 546–638	95.4%

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage, from the hollow and the two postholes, comprised 17 sherds with a total weight of 167g. All the sherds were in the same fabric, as follows:

Sandy. Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 1.5mm, most 0.5mm or less. Rare sub-rounded iron ore up to 0.5mm.

Most of the pottery is undecorated and cannot be closely dated other than to within the broad early-middle Anglo-Saxon period (c AD 450–850). However, a single small rimsherd from context 56 has a single incised line just below the neck carination, and is therefore of early Anglo-Saxon date, as pottery of this type was usually only decorated during the 5th – 7th centuries. Incised line decoration was used throughout that period (Myres, 1977). Two other rimsherds were noted, both from small bowls. The sherds are rather small and some show slight signs of wear, so it seems likely they are the products of secondary deposition, probably brought in with midden material to back-fill the hollow of the SFB after the building fell into disuse. The fabric of the sherds is very similar to that of some of the pottery from the Early Anglo-Saxon settlement at Littlemore Science Park (Blinkhorn, 2001, 189), and it is likely that they are broadly contemporary.

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Shrivenham, Land at Highworth Road (SU 2325 8920)

Daniel Bray

Trenching over an area of around 1.5ha in advance of residential development revealed a high density of ditches, gullies, pits and postholes, mainly dating to the early to middle Iron Age, suggesting the presence of a settlement on or very close to the site. Roman pottery was also recovered from a small number of features. Previous work nearby had suggested the presence of both Iron Age and Roman settlement.

Standlake, 91 Abingdon Road (SP 3892 0316)

Andy Taylor

No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief on house extensions.

Wallingford, Glebe House, Reading Road (SU 6068 8892)

Genni Elliott

A watching brief during house extensions revealed the tops of up to a dozen graves, in a location close to the site of the former St Lucian's church. Radiocarbon dating of one of the burials places it in the mid-10th to mid-11th century AD. It had previously been thought that St Lucian's could have been a pre-Norman foundation.

Wallingford, 46 Wood Street (SU 6076 8913)

Aiji Castle

Digging of a footing trench for an extension to the existing house fronting Wood Street revealed three pits, two of which contained Medieval pottery.

Wallingford, Land at Western Bypass and Hithercroft Road (SU 5950 8900) James McNicoll-Norbury

An evaluation in advance of determination of an application for industrial development revealed the presence of linear features probably representing field systems and enclosures, perhaps on the periphery of more densely occupied areas. Most of the features were undated, but small amounts of Roman and medieval pottery suggest activity within these periods.

Watlington, St Leonard's Church (SU 6847 9474)

Andrew Munda

Excavation for utilities trenches and replacement of a pathway revealed the tops of up to 14 graves, dating from the 18th or 19th centuries. The path had been partly created from re-used grave slabs. Two sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered.

Oxfordshire

Woodstock, land at Shipton Road (SP 4573 1622)

Geophysical survey and evaluation trenching over a large site (over 60ha) which includes the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Blenheim Roman villa revealed surprisingly little of archaeological interest beyond the known cropmarks around the villa, although the Scheduled Area has been shown to exclude part of the main range of buildings. Two areas, to the north and north-east of the villa, containing a cluster of geophysical anomalies, have been confirmed as representing non-villa Roman settlement complexes. A third area towards the north, where no geophysical anomalies were evident, also contains further Roman deposits. Two other areas of geophysical anomalies to the north-west and south-east, as well as several isolated anomalies have been shown to be either natural features, or modern. The site of an isolation hospital known from early 20th century mapping was found to contain few below ground traces.

Iron Age and Roman settlement west of Wallingford

Steven Crabb, Steve Ford, Jane Timby and Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd conducted two small excavations just beyond the western outskirts of Wallingford, both providing evidence for occupation in the middle-to-late Iron Age and middle-to-late Roman period. These limited results are of local interest as evidence for these periods has hitherto been rare in the Wallingford area. The sites are also important as they extend beyond a previously known cropmark complex, suggesting that more such evidence remains to be discovered in this area. Although the first site was excavated a few years ago, as they are so similar, the opportunity has been taken here to present them together.

60 Radnor Road

At the first site, adjacent to 60 Radnor Road, Wallingford (SU 5989 8954), Sean Wallis initially conducted a field evaluation in 2009 which was followed by a small open-area excavation, funded by Feltham Construction and directed by Steve Ford.

The site lay about 500m west of the historic core of Wallingford, at 47.5m above Ordnance Datum, on Second Terrace River Gravels. The site also lies approximately 500m east of a large area of cropmarks, which were thought to represent prehistoric or Roman settlement.

Initially, two evaluation trenches revealed two gullies and a pit, along with a large feature which could have been a large pit or a ditch. The excavation joined up the area between the evaluation trenches, resulting in a rectangular area of c 75m² (Fig 18). The whole area was covered by demolition rubble and modern made ground up to 0.35m thick, which sealed buried soil deposits, unusually deep at about 0.55m thick, which in turn lay above the natural geology, into which all of the archaeological deposits were cut. All features were fully excavated, within the area opened.

In the area between the two initial trenches, just one additional pit (7) and a post-hole (6) were added. The excavation did expose more of the two gullies (2 and 5), but it was not possible to extend the area further east to reveal more of the large pit or ditch (3). Soil samples from the Iron Age gullies and Roman pits were wet sieved to recover carbonized plant remains, which were present in only tiny quantities. Both the cereals being used (spelt wheat and



Fig 18. Radnor Road, Wallingford, site location plan and detail.

hulled barley), and the fuel being burnt (hawthorn/apple and oak), are typical of the Iron Age and Roman periods in the region. Although most features contained a little animal bone, it was all highly fragmented and none could be identified to species.

Middle to Late Iron Age

Two gullies (2 and 5) in the western part of the site contained Iron Age pottery. Gully 2 was aligned northeast-southwest for 2.4m before disappearing out of the southern limit of excavation. It was 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep, and as well as thirteen sherds of Iron Age pottery, its single fill contained a broken quartzite cobble (unworked) and a flint spall. Gully 5 extended south-east from the eastern section for 2m. It was 0.45m wide and 0.1m deep, and its fill yielded three sherds of middle to late Iron Age pottery. The limited extent exposed of these gullies restricts their interpretation but the pottery indicates that they are broadly contemporary. They could represent the terminals forming an entrance of a ring gully structure, which would have a diameter of 11.25m, although the gap of 4m is rather wide for a doorway (though cf. the similar gap in the Sherwood Farm ring gully, below); an entrance to a larger enclosure seems more likely. Although the evidence is limited, the gullies, with pottery, animal bone and cereals, do provide a good indication of middle to late Iron Age occupation in the area.

Iron Age Pottery

At least eighteen sherds (190g) of hand-made pottery are dated to the middle or later Iron Age, though none of the

pieces is closely datable. At least three fabrics were present, a coarse shelly ware, glauconitic sandy ware and black sandy ware, the latter with a burnished finish. Most of the sherds were recovered from gully 2 with a few from gully 5 and a single residual sherd of flint-and-grog-tempered ware from pit 8.

Roman

The remaining features all appear to be Roman and, where they can be more closely dated, suggest settlement during the 3rd to 4th century. This suggests that the site was not continuously occupied, although it is possible that more evidence may exist outside the limits of excavation. Two pits (1 and 7) and a posthole (6) were noted in the south-west corner of the area, and two possible pits (3 and 8) against the eastern limit.

Pit 1 was 0.75m in diameter and 0.09m deep, with a flattish base. Its fill included one Iron Age and three Roman pottery sherds. A further sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from pit 7. This feature was 0.1m deep, with a flattish base, and 0.6m in diameter. Posthole 6, 0.15m in diameter but only 0.05m deep, south-east of pit 7, contained two sherds of Roman pottery, dated to the 3rd century.

The large feature (3) against the eastern section had been fully excavated with the available area during the evaluation. As no more of it could be exposed during the excavation, it was still not possible to establish whether it was a large pit, or part of a ditch. It contained nearly fifty sherds of Roman pottery, which date from the late 3rd to 4th century, along with three iron hobnails, a small piece of unworked burnt flint and fragments of animal bone, all from its upper fill (54), with no finds in its lower fill (55).

Feature 8 was irregular in plan, at least 0.4m by 0.35m, and was probably a pit. It had a single fill of grey sandy clay (62), 0.15m deep, which yielded a sherd of early Roman pottery and one residual Iron Age sherd.

Roman Pottery

The bulk of the pottery assemblage, some 58 sherds plus some crumbs, was typical of the Roman period. Most of the sherds were local oxidized, reduced or grog-tempered sandy wares, with no fine wares present. Two sherds of Dorset black burnished ware from feature 3 were the only traded items present.

There were few featured sherds to allow close dating but in broad terms the wares appear to indicate a date between the 2nd/3rd and late 3rd-early 4th centuries. The earliest sherd is probably a grey ware jar with a simple incurved rim from feature 8, perhaps early Roman. The later date is indicated by a flanged conical bowl in a grey sandy ware from feature 3. Several sherds from locally-made large grog- and sand-tempered storage jars, mainly from feature 3, have quite an extended lifespan.

The impression from the pottery is of a modest rural settlement with a limited repertoire of wares mainly locally procured. There does not appear to be any continuity of occupation on the basis of the wares present between the Iron Age and subsequent Roman occupation as just one sherd hints at an early Roman presence.

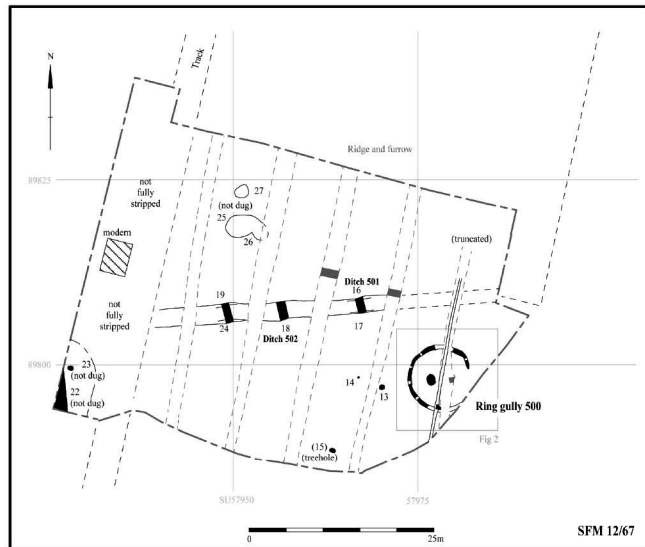


Fig 19. Sherwood Farm, Mackney, site plan.

Sherwood Farm

The second site saw a small excavation at Sherwood Farm, Mackney, south of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell (SU 5796 8981) funded by MES Dart and Partners and directed by Steven Crabb. This site was again located close to a series of cropmark enclosures, probably of Iron Age or Roman date (Benson and Miles 1974, map 71), with some further limited Roman evidence in the vicinity; at Sherwood Farm itself, a small medieval cemetery was uncovered during the 1960s (Pike, 1964). The site lies at 55m AOD on the plateau of a low rise which marks the watershed between numerous small streams (Kibble Ditch to west, Mill Brook to south, unnamed streams to north and east) which feed the Thames at Wallingford. The geology on site was 2nd Terrace River Gravels and greensand with malmstone.

The excavation was limited to a small area that was to be affected by development. Some features were recorded in plan but not excavated, as they would be preserved *in situ*. Below traces of ridge and furrow earthworks were revealed a Roman ditch and an Iron Age ditch, ring gully and pits (Fig 19).

The earliest deposits were a ring gully roundhouse (500) and associated pits of middle Iron Age date (Fig 20). The ring gully was 8m in diameter, between 0.4-0.6m wide and 0.05-0.2m deep. An entrance, not less than 2.6m wide and perhaps as wide as 4m, lay on the east side but only one terminal was present, as a corresponding one would lie beneath the baulk. Eight slots (4 to 6 and 8 to 12) were dug through gully 500 which was thus close to fully excavated, except where truncated, and it contained 34 sherds of middle Iron Age pottery. Two pits (3, 21) within the gully produced respectively 19 and 6 sherds of middle Iron Age pottery, while two more sherds came from a nearby posthole (14), one from an unexcavated pit (23) and four from the surface of an unexcavated ditch (22) which might relate to the cropmark complex to the west.

The site would appear to be either a small, self-contained farmstead or, as adjacent areas were not examined, perhaps part of a larger farming complex. Sieving for plant remains produced just a single weed seed (*Chenopodium*) and some indeterminate cereal grains that point towards arable production. A radiocarbon date was obtained.

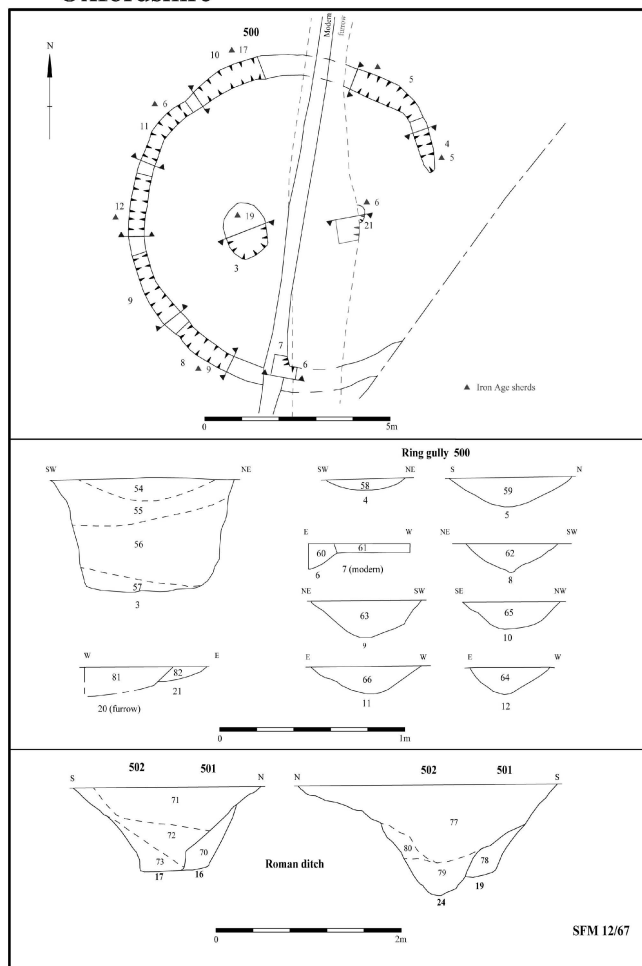


Fig 20. Sherwood Farm, Mackney, detail of roundhouse, and ditch sections.

This date is unexpectedly early for the associated middle Iron Age pottery and the seed may be considered redeposited. Several hundred years following abandonment of the Iron Age settlement, a substantial Roman ditch (501) was dug and recut (502) (Fig 20). The original cut of the ditch contained no finds, but its recut contained later Roman pottery (*c* AD240-400), a hobnail, a small amount of animal bone, and a fragment of millstone grit. This ditch was 2.1–2.8m wide and 0.9–1.45m deep with a steep V-shaped profile. It does not correspond with any of the cropmarks to the west (the depth of the deposits above it will have prevented any cropmark formation), but it seems that the cropmark complex can now be considered to include a Roman component. The millstone grit fragment, while small (218g), had a curvature suggesting it is likely to be derived from a stone used in a water-powered mill rather than a hand-operated quern. Animal bone preservation was poor: a single cow and a sheep/goat could be identified.

Iron Age Pottery

Pottery of probable middle Iron Age date was recovered from twelve features, mainly parts of the ring gully, plus some redeposited and associated with Roman sherds. Four main wares are present: calcined flint-tempered ware, sandy wares, limestone-tempered ware and an organic-tempered ware, all used to make handmade vessels. The only featured sherds were two rims from the ring gully: a simple everted rim globular jar and a small rim fragment. Some of the sandy wares had a burnished or smoothed finish and one

flint-tempered ware from the gully was decorated with three horizontal grooves.

Roman Pottery

Eight sherds of Roman pottery included five from the ditch recut: three sherds of Oxfordshire colour-coated *mortarium* which is partly burnt, and a white-slipped oxidized local ware indicating a date after *c* AD 240.

Conclusion

There had been little previous evidence of early/middle Iron Age activity in the area around Wallingford. Monitoring in advance of the Wallingford Bypass produced little evidence of Iron Age activity before the 1st century BC. Some of the pottery from a site at Bradford's Brook, about 1km south-west of these two sites, could date from the middle Iron Age, and similar pottery was found during excavation of rectilinear enclosures at Newnham Murren, south of the Radnor Road site. The situation seems to have changed dramatically during the late Iron Age, with new settlements appearing along the Thames corridor, which had become increasingly important for trade, although the river may also have acted as a tribal boundary (Cromarty, *et al*, 2006).

Although Roman coins have been found in the area around Wallingford, there is little substantial evidence for settlement in the town at this time. No structural remains had been recorded, and most of the Roman finds have come from either the western part of the Saxon walled town, or the area outside it, eg, from allotments between the town defences and the Radnor Road site (Cromarty, *et al*, 2006). The deposits recorded here therefore appear to indicate Roman occupation in this western area of Wallingford, and extending further west, on the Second Terrace rather than the floodplain.

Although the area investigated at both sites was small, so that the apparent break between the middle Iron Age and the middle Roman period cannot be conclusive, it does in broad terms match the regional evidence for settlement discontinuity, with very few sites occupied from the middle Iron Age into the early Roman period, nor (other than major centres) from beginning to end of the Roman period.

The archives will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service with accession codes OXCMS:2009.61 (Radnor Road) and OXCMS: 2012.119. (Sherwood Farm)

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- Cromarty A M, Barclay A, Lambrick G and Robinson M 2006; *Late Bronze Age ritual and habitation on a Thames eyot at Whitecross Farm, Wallingford: the archaeology of the Wallingford bypass 1986–92*, Oxford Archaeol Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr 22, Oxford
- Pike G 1964; 'A Medieval cemetery at Mackney Court Farm, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell', *Berkshire Archaeol J*, 61, (for 1963-4), 40-7

TVAS Publications for the year include the following of interest for this area:

- Bray D and Weale A 2014; *Medieval Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: Excavations at Townsend and Fort End, 2011 and 2013*, TVAS Occasional Paper 6, Reading

Lewis J, Pine J, Platt D and Preston S 2014; *Medieval Occupation in Marston, Oxford*, TVAS Occasional Paper 4, Reading

Platt D and Tabor R 2014; *Medieval Settlement at Oak Farm, Milcombe, Banbury, Oxfordshire: Excavation in 2012*, TVAS Occasional Paper 7, Reading

Wallis S 2014; *The Oxford Henge and Late Saxon Massacre, with Medieval and later Occupation, at St John's College, Oxford*, TVAS Monograph 17, Reading

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

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.

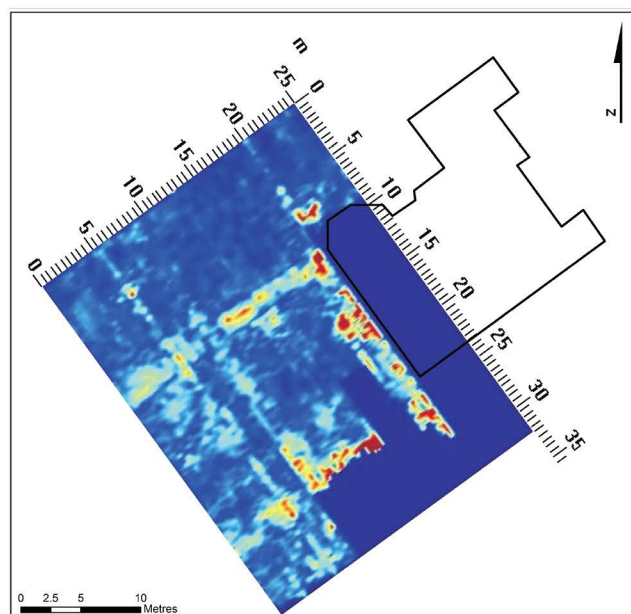
During the 2011 project season, the project expanded from looking at one field in the village, to examining the village settlement and its surrounding fields as a whole. During 2013's project seasons, the third year of the expansion of the project archaeological fieldwork comprised three main areas. These included: a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the interior of St Denys Church; excavation of Tr15 at Ashdown House; and the excavation of nine test pits (8-16). Through the use of these techniques, archaeological features and finds material were identified that dated from the Mesolithic to modern periods. These include the identification and location of both the Saxon and 12th century churches beneath the current church floors, identified by GPR survey, and the identification by excavation of a Large Roman enclosure ditch that surrounded a large part of the settlement (Tr15). Lastly, the nine test pits excavated within gardens in the village have provided new and important insights into the underlying archaeology and heritage of the settlement from the Mesolithic to modern periods.

During the 2014 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 (GPR), full excavation and test pitting at seven sites in the village. Furthermore, detailed laser scanning of the church was also undertaken as part of this season's work, but due to the complexity of the data it is still under analysis and, therefore, will not be further discussed at present. This article will also discuss the work that is proposed to be carried out during the 2015 season.

Geophysical Surveys (GPR)

Cox's Hall (SU 340 931)

The GPR survey was undertaken within the gardens of Cox's Hall to the west of the current house. The survey was carried out at 0.5m transects with readings being taken at 2.5cm intervals, to a depth of 3m. The main feature identified from the survey data was the foundations of the demolished western wing of the Hall (Fig 21). From this data, the size of the structure can be identified, measuring 16m long by 14m wide, with 2 m thick walls. However, the data also indicates the likelihood that the western wall of the structure was nearly fully robbed out during the demolition. The data plot also indicates that this wing contained deep internal cellars, also identified through excavation in 2012, which may help to explain why there is only one small internal cellar under the present house.



Cox's Hall GPR Survey

Legend
 Cox's Hall, Present
 GPR 0.90m to 1.00m
 RGB
 Red: Band_1
 Green: Band_2
 Blue: Band_3

Fig 21. Cox's Hall.

This evidence, along with that obtained through excavations undertaken in 2012, suggest that the western wing of Cox's Hall is medieval to early post-medieval in date. This is supported by historical data that indicates that the western wing was formed of a large stone hall subdivided into rooms at a later period (Maine, 1866, 83). The archaeological evidence also indicates that the hall at this date would have faced Farringdon Road, rather than the High Street, and that the present Cox's Hall building is a later extension to the earlier house. This evidence is important as it indicates a large impressive building at this early date within the southern part of the village.

Excavations

Ashdown House (Trench 16) (SU 342 934)

[illegible]

The archaeology within the trench was found to be split into 8 main phases of activity. Phase 8 was composed of the modern top soil and turf, overlying Phase 7, a post medieval midden deposit. This deposit was found to cover Phase 6 activity, which comprised a series of post-medieval demolition deposits. These deposits are likely to relate to the fourth phase of Manor House construction activities observed on the site, as they contained a large quantity of limestone rubble. However, a quantity of medieval glazed roof tile and ceramic louvers were also found within the deposits dating to this phase. This indicates the possible presence of high status standing medieval structures within the Manor House complex prior to their demolition during the post medieval period of the site.

part of a possible ancillary structure of the Manor House out-buildings.

Phase 3 was formed of a series of deposits relating to the medieval Manor House platform, associated ditch and structure. The platform, like that seen in Phase 5, was formed of sandy silt and limestone rubble construction. The finds material recovered from the platform deposit included 1.5kg of animal bone, iron slag and pottery dating to the Roman, Saxon and medieval (889g) periods. The rubble platform then formed the foundation of a large stone structure. The walls of the structure were constructed of limestone blocks, very well faced on both sides with some mortar bonding, and four courses in depth. To date, the wall is one of the best constructed and most substantial medieval structures found within the village. Abutting the wall to its east, a deposit was found that indicates this is the exterior of the building, with an interior deposit being found abutting the west side of the wall. From these deposits finds material was recovered, including 467g of medieval pottery and a fragment of kiln lining. Also, as in Phase 5, an associated ditch enclosure was found at the SE end of the trench. The ditch was filled by a single deposit with associated finds material including animal bone (326g) from cattle, sheep, pig and bird, a small amount of burnt daub, and pottery dating to the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. From the archaeology, as well as comparable sources, evidence suggests that this phase of activity on the site is likely to relate to the rebuilding and remodelling of the Manor House by William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby in the 1230s AD (Victoria County History, 1924, 478-485)

The final archaeological phase of activity identified within the trench is Phase 2, formed of two truncated post holes and their associated fills. Little finds material was removed from either of these fills, with only a small quantity of charcoal being found, therefore it is hard to date their construction. However, it is currently thought that both of these features have been cut by the 13th century ditch (Phase 3). Both these post holes are cut into the underlying geology, Stanford Formation Limestone, which forms Phase 1 of the trench. From stratigraphic evidence, it is thought that these post holes are likely to relate either to an early phase of Manor House construction (possibly a timber phase) and therefore date to the Saxon period, or to Roman activity on the site. This trench demonstrates multi-phasing of the Manor House construction with associated platforms and ditches dating from the modern to Saxon periods. However, due to the deep stratigraphy and complex nature of the platforms, no further evidence was found of the Roman ditch identified in Tr15. This ditch is most likely located within the central part of the trench which was unable to be excavated to its full depth, the underlying natural Stanford formation limestone. Therefore the only features found within the trench possibly dating to the Roman period found within the Trench were the two possible post holes.

Test Pitting (test pits 17 to 23)

84

The pottery remains from the test pits enable a large amount of information to be gained about the changing nature of the settlement over time, as seen in Table 1. This table indicates that all of the test pits contained post-medieval pottery apart from TP 17 and TP 19 which mainly contained quantities of modern pottery. This is largely due to TP 17 being located within the vicinity of the brickworks and brick kilns (and due to the complex nature of the remains, the natural geology was not reached) and TP19 being located within agricultural field systems on the outskirts of the village settlement. The pottery evidence also suggests the location of medieval activity within the settlement, with medieval pottery being recovered from TP 18, TP 20, and TP 23, which are located within the vicinity of Church Green, the High Street and close to Upper Green, so indicating a spread of medieval settlement activity close to the historic roads running through the village. Saxon pottery was also recovered, from TPs 22 and 23, indicating Saxon settlement activity within the vicinity of the High Street. One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from TP 19 (Chapel Road) and six sherds were also recovered from TP 23, as well as 14 fragments of Roman ceramic building material. Due to the quantity of pottery and ceramic building material dating to the Roman period recovered from TP 23, and due to its location within the boundaries of the Roman settlement enclosure, this data may indicate the location of a possible Roman building within this location close to the High Street (53 High Street).

Table 1. This table shows the quantities of pottery by period recovered from each test pit to date from Stanford in the Vale.

ID	TP Number	Roman Pot Quantity	Saxon Pot Quantity	Medieval Pot Quantity	Post Medieval Pot Quantity
17	17	0	0	0	0
18	18	0	0	3	32
19	19	1	0	0	0
20	20	0	0	1	81
21	21	0	0	0	74
22	22	0	2	0	4
23	23	6	2	2	5

A large quantity of flint material, both worked and debitage, was also recovered from these test pits. This material dates from the Mesolithic period, including a worked flint core from TP 19, and the Bronze Age period, including a large quantity of flint scrapers found within test pits across the village. It should also be noted that a large quantity (18 artefacts) of Neolithic worked flint material and a quantity of burnt flint were recovered from a gully feature at the base of TP 22 (24 Chapel Road). This is important as it indicates the possible location of the earliest settlement activity at Stanford in the Vale, within the area of Chapel Road and Upper Green.

Other finds material recovered from the test pits included a large quantity of animal bone mainly composed of sheep and bird but also including cattle, pig, rabbit, fish, dog, rodent and deer. Complete animal skeletons were also recovered from TP 20 (Mallard duck) and from TP 21 (a cat skeleton with severe osteoarthritis). A quantity of both iron and glass slag was also recovered from TPs 17, 18, 19 and 22, dating to the post-medieval to modern periods, and metal artefacts have also been recovered from all test pits dating to this period. However, one Roman hobnail was also recovered from TP 19, indicating possible Roman activity within this area. A large quantity of clay pipe fragments, including three fragments of decorated bowl, and dating from the 17th to 19th centuries, were recovered from TP18 and 20 to 22. Small

finds were also recovered from these test pits including: a Roman coin of Valens, dated to 367 to 375 AD from TP 18; a post-medieval copper alloy button recovered from TP 20; and a modern iron knife and copper alloy buckle dated to the 18th century from TP 21. Of the small finds, the Roman coin recovered from TP 18 is the most significant, as it is the first Roman coin to be found in test pitting or trenching within the village. Because of this evidence, the test pit's location close to Church Green and the current absence of further Roman coinage within the village, it may indicate that the area of Church Green was used as a market area for trading not only during the medieval period but also during the Roman period of the settlement.

Lastly, a series of features and structures were also identified within the seven test pits. This includes World War II features identified in TPs 21, which formed the foundations of a possible reinforced concrete air raid shelter, and the foundations of a Nissen hut identified in test pit 22. Furthermore, post-medieval features were identified in test pit 23, a hard standing cobbled surface likely to relate to the adjacent 19th century house, and features relating to the brickworks, including a water pipe and foundation for the brick kiln, identified in TP 17. Lastly, and most importantly, as discussed above, a Neolithic gully was found at the base of TP 20, 0.67 m below ground surface, dug into the natural underlying Stanford formation limestone geology.

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 modern periods. The data collected from the 2014 project season has increased our knowledge of Stanford in the Vale's history during the Neolithic, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval to modern periods.

The data indicates that during the Mesolithic, people were roaming the landscape close to the River Ock (TP 19) and working flint material. As people began to settle, the likely location for the earliest settlement of Neolithic Stanford was close to Upper Green in the north of the present settlement (TP 20). Also, a large quantity of Bronze Age worked flint material was found from across the settlement indicating that people within this period were also working and settling within the vicinity of the modern village settlement.

From the 2014 data, further evidence can be seen for a Roman settlement of Stanford. This includes coinage found within test pit 18, possibly indicating the location of a Roman market area close to Church Green, and also Roman pottery material recovered from other test pits within the village. Test pit 23 also indicates the possible location of a Roman building with a large quantity of Roman ceramic building material recovered, however no formal structures of this date have currently been found. Two post holes (either Saxon or Roman in date) also indicate a possible structure of this date within the area surrounding the Manor House. Apart from these two postholes, all other Saxon material recovered has been in the form of a small amount of pottery from trenching and test pitting in the village, and so the evidence from these features helps us further to understand the type, size and date of the settlement during this period.

As you move into the medieval period, the archaeological evidence recovered increases in volume. This includes the possible location of a large medieval stone hall, within the

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grounds of Cox's Hall, as well as four phases of construction activity at the Manor House in the centre of the settlement. This includes evidence for the possible location of the rebuilding of the Manor House and associated platform and ditch in the 12th century, within the area of Tr16. From the post-medieval and modern periods, evidence has also been unearthed for the brick works, just off Bow Road, including evidence for the kilns themselves. Lastly, from two of the test pits, TP 21 and 22, evidence for Stanford during WWII, associated with Shellingford airfield, was uncovered. This included a reinforced air raid shelter and a brick Nissen hut foundation.

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, have been unearthed. These include Mesolithic and Bronze Age flints from around the village, recovered from both test pitting and trenching work, as well as the first Neolithic feature identified in TP 20, and indicating the location of the earliest settlement activity underlying the village. However, to date little evidence has been found for an Iron Age settlement at Stanford, apart from part of a possible ditch enclosure passing through Upper Green.

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), Ashdown House and Cox's Hall, and identified in areas where geophysical work has been undertaken. This includes the multi-phase Manor House activity dating from the Saxon period to the modern day, a large medieval stone hall within the grounds of Cox's Hall and facing Faringdon Road, as well as multiple phasing of the Church, including the identification of stone foundations for the Saxon and 12th century church. 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 with the High Street running through its centre, the Saxon settlement being located more towards the centre and north of the current settlement, stretching 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. Due to the medieval settlement being nearly twice the size of the modern settlement of Stanford in the Vale, and due to the quantity of craft and industrial activities being undertaken within the settlement at this time, the evidence indicated a high likelihood that the settlement was a market town during this period. Also evidence has been identified for the post-medieval settlement, including structures within the brick works on Bow Road, as well as evidence for structures associated with Shellingford airfield.

However, even though a great deal of information has been identified using the techniques utilised during the 2014 season, further work is needed to better understand the way in which the settlement changed through time, including that of the possible location of both the Neolithic and Iron Age settlements, and also to better understand the reasons why the medieval settlement of Stanford in the Vale shrank from a town into a village during the late medieval period.

Aims of 2015 Excavations

During the 2015 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 and Magnetometry will be used within large fields on the edge of the current settlement. This work will include examining the area to the north of Upper Green, to examine the possible location of the Iron Age enclosure and settlement.

Secondly, further full excavations will be undertaken in areas of archaeological interest identified through the geophysical survey results. Excavations will also be undertaken within a second field in the village to determine the extent of a possible medieval mill found during the Priors Farm Excavations of 2009, in Tr11.

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 2015 project season. Special thanks go to all the landowners in the village who have let me undertake archaeological fieldwork on their land. Thanks should also be given to the members and committee of the Stanford in the Vale Local History Society, who have helped to get the local community involved in the project and to disseminate information about the project to the local villagers. I would also like to thank the main archaeologists who have helped me out carry out the field work and post-excavation on the project, including Dave Grant, Dr Katie Tucker, Briony Lalor, Nathalie Barrett, Giles Carey and Nick Watson. 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.

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WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy

Harwell, Land south of Grove Road (SU 4887 8942)

J Powell

A 2.6ha site on land south of Grove Road, Harwell was subject to an archaeological evaluation by Wessex Archaeology, ahead of residential development and associated infrastructure improvements. Densely distributed and intercutting archaeological features, indicative of a multi-phase settlement, were found in all 13 trenches. Most were of Early to Middle Iron Age and Romano-British date, with a few of post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon date. The presence of residual worked flint and pottery sherds suggest prehistoric and medieval activity in the wider vicinity.

The earliest phase of settlement was represented by a series of small enclosures, pits, ditches and ring-gullies, representing probable roundhouses and associated occupation activity. Continued occupation of the site was demonstrated by a series of Romano-British and post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon pits and ditches. An apparent rectilinear field system was probably established during the Romano-British period.

Excavations were undertaken later in the year, the results will be published in due course.

Hook Norton, Land at Bourne Lane (SP 3554 3366)

C Harrison.

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an evaluation, comprising 27 trenches, on land at Bourne Lane, Hook Norton, in advance of residential development. An undated gully and a number of post-medieval or modern field drains were found.

Marcham, Land to the North of Priory Lane

(SU 4563 9655) G Wakeham and J Warrender.

Wessex Archaeology conducted an archaeological excavation in advance of residential development on land north of Priory Lane, Marcham. The remains of medieval and post-medieval settlement, predominantly of 11th-13th century date, demonstrate the establishment and use of plots or tofts towards the south-west edge of the village. The paucity of later remains may reflect subsequent settlement shrinkage.

In the north of the site, a north-northwest-south-southeast aligned 11th-13th century boundary ditch probably defined the back of a 70m long plot which fronted Mill Road. Later remodelling involved a small extension (20m), and the construction of an internal bank, perhaps stone-faced or associated with a wall. At least two rubbish pits were contemporary with these plot boundaries.

The limestone foundations of a relatively long and narrow structure, possibly an agricultural or ancillary building, lay in the northwest part of the site. It is unclear whether it was of medieval date, being similarly aligned to the medieval plot, or post-medieval.

A second ditch-defined plot, probably 12th-13th century, was identified to the south of the site. A pit within the plot contained a significant quantity of slag, indicating iron smithing in the vicinity. Substantial modifications are

indicated by a boundary wall, which apparently re-established the plot some metres to the east, and a little to the south. The foundations of a later building were recorded towards the western end of the boundary wall, apparently post-dating it.

The pottery is broadly typical of rural sites such as this. The charred plant assemblages from the pits were relatively rich, especially in cereal remains.

Marsh Baldon, Land adjoining Seven Stars Public House (SU 5626 9921) O Good.

An evaluation (three trenches) was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology ahead of residential development on land to the west of the Seven Stars Public House, Baldon Lane, Marsh Baldon. Although most of the area was heavily disturbed, it was possible to identify a small pit or ditch terminal, from which a single sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved.

Oxford, Waitrose, 110-120 Botley Road (SP 4977 0627)

P Orczewski.

An archaeological evaluation, comprising three trenches, was conducted by Wessex Archaeology in advance of commercial redevelopment on land at 110-120 Botley Road, Oxford. No archaeological features or deposits were identified although a number of concrete and brick foundation walls were uncovered. These are probably associated with the 1930s buildings demolished in the late 20th century.

Oxford, Harris Manchester College, 24 Holywell Street (SP 5173 0655) R Davis and S Thompson. (2013)

Wessex Archaeology produced a Level 3 Historic Building Record and conducted an archaeological evaluation at Harris Manchester College, 24 Holywell Street, Oxford. The work preceded the demolition of the rear section of 24 Holywell Street, the erection of student accommodation and clock tower, alterations to the existing boundary wall and the formation of a new gated entrance.

This site is of interest as it involves development within Oxford's medieval northern suburb and the demolition of part of a Grade II listed stone built tenement boundary wall and the demolition of a Victorian building that forms part of the curtilage of a Grade II listed 17th century building.

Analysis of the building, together with a well-documented historical narrative, has shown that it was probably built in the first half of the 19th century as a modest dwelling, replacing the structures shown on late 18th century maps. The property was constructed from a softwood timber frame with a brick east elevation built directly on top of an existing stone boundary wall. Originally the building had a single open ground floor room heated by a single chimney. Internal refinements at this time included a large window in the north wall. A small narrow staircase to the rear provided access to two first floor rooms, one of which still retained many original decorative features and was clearly of higher status. The other was more modest, possibly suggesting an original use as a servant's room.

The building became part of Harris Manchester College in the late 19th century and both documentary sources and fabric evidence suggest that it was divided into separate student accommodation at this time. The ground floor was divided

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into two; a mid-20th century toilet and shower room now occupy the south end.

The boundary wall pre-dated the building and may date to at least the 17th century. Two phases of construction were recorded within its fabric. The earliest phase was constructed in coursed stone blocks with a weathered coping, and an opening at the southern end. This opening may have been blocked during the construction of the later building. The north end of the wall was constructed from a mixture of rubble stone facing and red brick. The two gated openings were created in the wall during the 20th century.

Following the demolition, an evaluation (four trenches) to the rear of the 24 Holywell Street and the boundary wall revealed the remains of a probable medieval oven or kiln and a number of gravel extraction borrow pits or quarries, some probably medieval, others more likely to be of post-medieval date. There followed a period of large-scale landscaping, probably of 18th century date, which saw the raising of the old land surface by some 1m. The boundary wall and a narrow stone-walled and brick-vaulted cellar revealed in one of the trenches post-dated the made-ground. It is thought that the cellar relates to the long thin buildings shown on 18th century mapping. The cellar was probably infilled during preparations for the construction of the now-demolished building described above.

Thame, Land south of, Site C (SP 7138 0473)

P Roberts

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an evaluation (12 trenches) on an area of agricultural land south of Thame in advance of a proposed residential development. A large natural feature (possibly a tree-throw hole) contained a number of Middle Bronze Age pottery sherds, whilst remnants of ridge and furrow associated with post-medieval artefacts were also recorded. Amongst the small assemblage of unstratified artefacts was a fragment of medieval roof tile, the remainder being post-medieval and modern.

WILLIAM WINTLE AND JOHN HAWES

Geophysical Survey in East Hanney 2006 to 2010

Introduction

Between 2001 and 2011 the University of Oxford excavated a late Iron Age and Roman site at Marcham/Frilford as both a research and training excavation (Kamash *et al*, 2012). The excavation stimulated wider research into the landscape of these periods in the Vale of the White Horse. In 2006 this included fieldwalking and geophysical survey in East Hanney in the vicinity of a Roman villa where substantial amounts of Romano-British pottery and ceramic building material were collected and mapped (Boyer *et al*, 2007). The area containing the highest concentration of pottery and ceramic building material appeared to be related to a feature in the geophysical survey situated to the right of a long linear ditch.

Previously, in the 1990s, an extensive commercial archaeological investigation including geophysical survey and trial trenching had been undertaken in East Hanney in connection with a potential new reservoir for Thames Water Ltd. This had located Iron Age and Romano-British material,

together with a trackway leading north towards Frilford (Hearne, 2001).

This report discusses University of Oxford geophysical surveys in East Hanney performed between 2006 and 2010, and also the results of the earlier commercial archaeological investigations undertaken for Thames Water Ltd.

The Geophysical Survey

In 2007 the geophysical survey area was considerably enlarged both northwards and southwards beyond the initial 2006 survey (Boyer *et al*, 2007, 24, Fig 4). The 2007 survey is illustrated in fig 23 and shows a ditch or track running approximately north-south with rectangular and circular enclosures lying mostly to its west. A further survey in 2008 demonstrated that the ditch and settlement extend much further southwards as shown in Fig 24. There is an un-surveyed area of about 250m between the southern part of the 2007 survey and the 2008 survey but it seems reasonable to assume this is the same settlement. The settlement and enclosures probably continued further south beyond Cow Common Brook. In 2010 the survey was extended to the northern boundary of the field surveyed in 2006 and 2007, and then into the next field to the north as illustrated in Fig 25 and 26.

The surveys between 2006 and 2010 confirm Hearne's (2001, 9) description of an extended settlement based on a long ditch or track heading approximately towards the religious complex at Marcham/Frilford. A limited number of further surveys were undertaken on this line between East Hanney and Frilford but failed to locate any evidence for a ditch or track. This does not exclude a direct connection between East Hanney and Frilford but does suggest that if there was a track, it was no longer accompanied by a ditch.

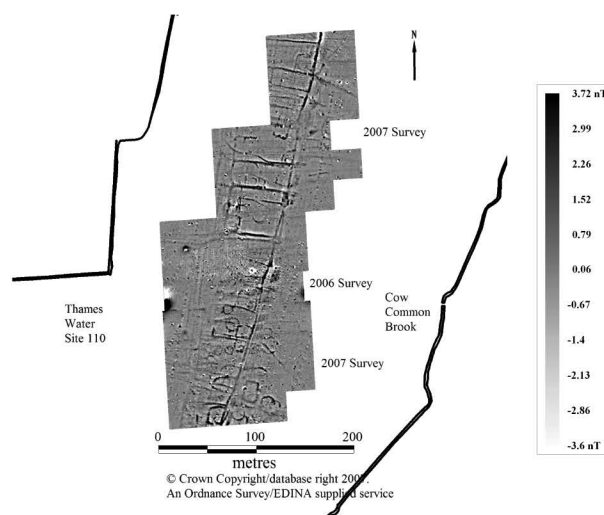


Fig 23. Geophysical Survey in East Hanney 2006 and 2007.

Discussion

The geophysical surveys illustrated in figures 1 to 4 extend for 1.5km, although there is a 250m section not surveyed. This suggests that the overall length of the settlement, with its organised, mostly rectangular enclosures, is at least 1.5km. This aspect differs from other Romano-British settlements studied in the Vale of the White Horse. For example, a settlement on a track was investigated east of Cherbury Camp, where although the length of the track was not determined, the settlement was only 200m in extent

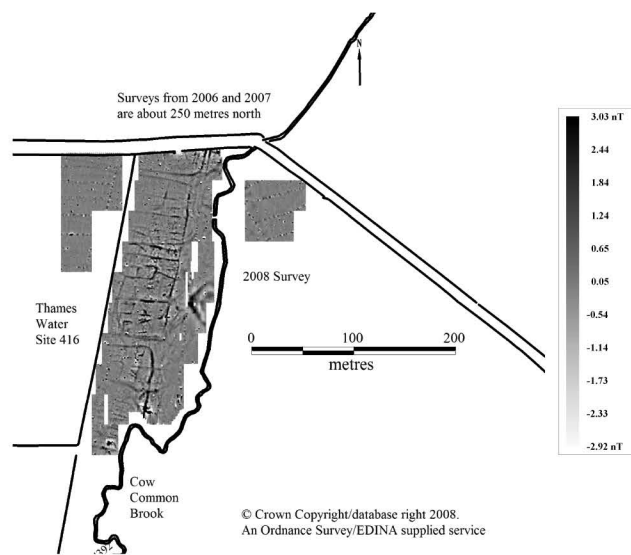


Fig 24. Geophysical Survey in East Hanney 2008.



Fig 25. Geophysical Survey in East Hanney 2010.



Fig 26. Geophysical Survey in East Hanney 2010.

(Wintle *et al.*, 2009, 69, Fig 31). The settlement at East Hanney contains a villa, as do settlements at Frilford (Boyer *et al.*, 2008, 53, Fig 1) and Garford (Wintle and Hawes, 2011, 70, Fig 28). Geophysical surveys at these three locations have demonstrated very different settlement layouts.

Rural Romano-British settlements have been studied by Taylor (2007) using a nationwide survey of HER data. He (2007, 19) simplified the diversity of settlement evidence into three morphological types: enclosed, open and linear. It seems sensible to place the settlement at East Hanney into Taylor's class of linear settlement.

It is possible to provide a date for the occupation of the linear settlement at East Hanney from evidence obtained from the evaluation excavations from the Thames Water Abingdon Reservoir Proposal (Hearne, 2001). The settlement extends over three sites as defined by Thames Water: these are from north to south, site 110 (Hall, 1994), site 196 (Barber and Thomas, 1998) and site 416 (Thomas 1998). At each site seven evaluation trenches were excavated and produced middle Iron Age and 3rd and 4th century AD material. There does not appear to be any settlement continuity from the Iron Age into the Roman period and it seems that the East Hanney linear settlement is largely a development of the later Roman period, although incorporating some earlier, smaller, Romano-British elements.

This type of linear settlement does not appear to be restricted to East Hanney. East of Cow Common Brook, in Drayton and Stevenon, is a set of cropmarks which appear to define a similar linear settlement at Thames Water sites 126 North, 126 South and 407 (Winton, 1999). Site 126 North consists of a series of enclosures and trackways representing a late Romano-British settlement (Weaver 1998). Site 126 South is a less well defined set of cropmarks extending southwards and apparently on a similar alignment to Site 126 North. The majority of the pottery from the excavation of this site was late Roman (Weaver 1996). Further south, site 407 in Stevenon may be a continuation of Site 126 and occupation seems to have occurred in two distinct periods: in the middle Iron Age and from the 2nd to 4th century AD (Barber and Thomas, 1998).

In East Hanney the north-south trackway appears to be defined by a single ditch with the majority of the enclosures to the west. As illustrated in figures 1 to 4, trackways lead west between these enclosures to further fields and possibly into open areas further west. The Drayton-Stevenon settlement appears similar, but reversed, with a single or double ditched trackway to the west of a set of rectangular enclosures. The two settlements are separated by Cow Common Brook. The northern and southern limits of the East Hanney and Drayton-Stevenon trackways are not known and it is unclear whether they only serve the visible enclosures or form part of a longer north-south route across the Vale. If the latter, the route would be archaeologically undetectable unless accompanied by a ditch.

The development of Romano-British trackways in the upper Thames Valley and their association with ditched field systems and settlement enclosures has been discussed recently by Booth (2011). He has linked their growth to changes in property ownership, agricultural intensification, increased mobility and a greater use of wheeled vehicles such as carts and wagons. Ditched trackways and field systems provide control of movement and access to both humans and animals. Similar control can be achieved by

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hedges, but it is the increased use of ditches which makes the ordering of the landscape more visible in the later Roman period.

The double ditched trackway near Cherbury Camp (Wintle *et al*, 2009) appears to be a long distance route controlling movement between settlements whereas the track and associated ditch at East Hanney seems to be related to a linear system of enclosures and may not extend beyond them. The linear enclosures may represent changes in the late Roman agricultural landscape to allow a more intensive use of the land. It is interesting to speculate how the land adjacent to Cow Common Brook and lying between the East Hanney and Drayton-Steventon settlements was managed. This emphasises our lack of knowledge of how land was owned and controlled within Roman Britain.

Survey Technique

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

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