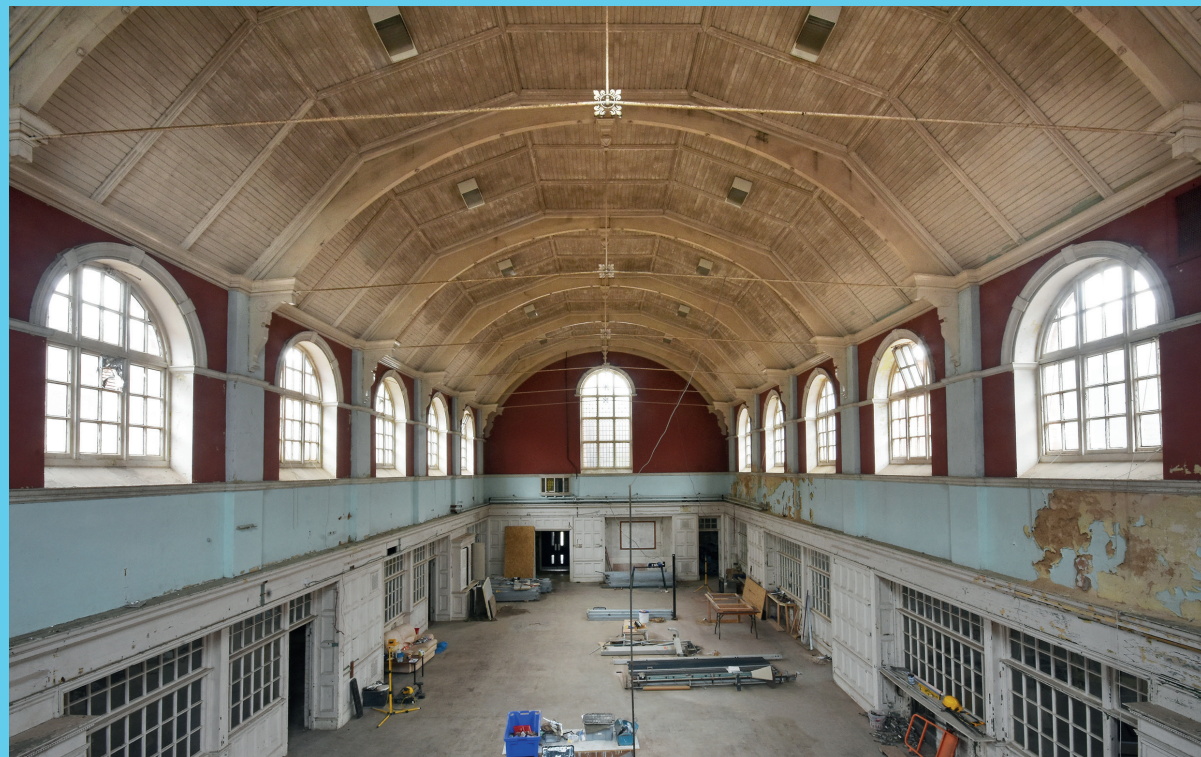


SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

48
2018



CBA SOUTH MIDLANDS GROUP
archaeologyuk.org/cbasm

SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

NUMBER 48, 2018

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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2017.

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EDITORIAL

Once again this edition begins with a colourful round-up of some of the many treasures reported to the region's Finds Liaison Officers. Thanks to Anni Byard and colleagues from the Portable Antiquities Scheme for putting this together.

In addition to the usual summaries of archaeological work readers may find the annual round-ups submitted by the archaeologists for Bedford Borough, Bucks County, Milton Keynes and Oxford City of interest.

This edition also features a number of longer illustrated notes and articles including: KDK Archaeology's excavation of an Iron Age and Roman settlement at Sandy RSPB reserve in 2016; Oxford East's excavation of high status medieval buildings at Biddenham; Multi-period excavations in Thrapston by Albion Archaeology; and South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group's long-running excavations of Gatehampton Roman villa.

And finally a note from our Hon. Secretary: following the dissolution of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council in March this year, CBA South Midlands agreed to take over publication of the *Bedfordshire Archaeology* journal, which is edited by our Secretary, David Ingham. The journal will be funded primarily by page charges, supplemented by sales; the Council's remaining funds were also transferred to our account to cover the upfront costs involved. Past issues of the journal are already freely available on our website.

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 49*. Copy date is 31st March 2019; please refer to Notes for Contributors (back page).

Nick Crank
Editor

CBA South Midlands website: archaeologyuk.org/cbasml

On this site are:

Scanned copies of SMA 1–46

The cumulative index to SMA volumes 1–37

The CBA Group 9 Industrial Bulletin Nos 1–16 (1967–71)

Scanned copies of Bedfordshire Archaeology / Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal and several of the Bedfordshire Archaeology monographs

SMA – Notes for Contributors

Front cover:

Aerial view of overlying Roman and medieval buildings, Area A, Wood Burcote Court, Towcester

Back cover:

The hall, looking north-east, former Victoria Junior School, Wellingborough

CONFERENCES IN 2017

SPRING CONFERENCE

Bedfordshire Archaeological Review

Sunday 2nd April 2017 –Haynes Village Hall, Haynes, Bedfordshire

10:40am David Baker: former Bedfordshire Conservation and Archaeology Officer

Elstow Abbey 1965–72: a backlog coming forward

11:25am June Barnes: Sharnbrook Local History Group

Investigating the 12th-century moated earthwork in Castle Close, Sharnbrook

11:55am Kathy Pilkinton: Supervisor, Albion Archaeology

Two Roman excavations: The Guinea, Moggerhanger and the Woodside Link, Houghton Regis

LUNCH

1:40pm Marcus Brittain and Jonathan Tabor: Project Officers, Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Exquisite landscapes of the Ivel and the Great Ouse: recent work at Willington and Broom

2:25pm Jim Brown: Senior Project Manager, MOLA Northampton

Seizing the day: opportunities for multi-period research at the A5-M1 Link and M1 Junction 12

TEA

3:40pm Mike Luke: Project Manager, Albion Archaeology

Community excavation of a Roman site at Manton Lane, Bedford

4:05pm David Ingham: Editor, *Bedfordshire Archaeology*

Roman Bedfordshire: back of beyond, or imperial estate?

AUTUMN CONFERENCE AND AGM

Oxfordshire Archaeological Review

Sunday 5th November 2017 – Village Hall, South Green, Kirtlington, Oxfordshire

10:35am Rob Atkins: Project Manager, MOLA Northampton

Prehistoric and Roman sites at Hanwell Fields, Banbury

11:20am South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group

A Roman site near Henley, a Roman villa at Goring, and a Saxon building at Blewbury

11:50am Ruth Gibson: Acting Secretary, Henley-on-Thames Archaeological and Historical Group

A building boom in 15th-century Henley

LUNCH

1:20pm CBA South Midlands AGM

1:35pm Graham Keevill: Consultant Archaeologist, Keevill Heritage Ltd

Recent work at Christ Church, Oxford

2:05pm Chris Ellis: Senior Project Officer, Cotswold Archaeology

Circles in the sand: excavations at Thame 2015

TEA

3:20pm John Boothroyd: Senior Project Manager, Oxfordshire Archaeology

15,000 years in a decade: excavations at Bridge Farm, Sutton Courtenay

3:50pm Steve Lawrence: Senior Project Manager, Oxfordshire Archaeology

A busy year in Bicester: Mesolithic camps, Iron Age enclosures, Roman towns and deserted medieval villages

THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN THE SOUTH MIDLANDS

By ANNI BYARD, with contributions from DOT BOUGHTON, ELLIE COX, AIMEE HINDS, ARWEN JAMES, BEN JONES, VANESSA OAKDEN, ROD TREVASKUS, ANNA TYACKE, PHILIPPA WALTON and DAVID WILLIAMS.

The year 2017 saw the 20th anniversary of the instigation of the Treasure Act 1996, which came into force in September 1997. Museums across the region held special displays promoting the Act by showcasing some of the many Treasure finds acquired by museums through the Act. The number of Treasure cases continues to increase year-on-year, with 1268 cases reported (1239 from England, 28 from Wales and one from Northern Ireland – Scotland has a different system). A total of 97 potential treasure cases were reported across the four South Midland counties in 2017, 26 more than in 2016. It was also a busy year for non-treasure finds, with 79,355 individual artefacts recorded in 57,777 records across England and Wales. Across the four South Midlands counties 6,182 individual objects were recorded on the PAS database, a reduction of 15% on 2016 (two Roman coin hoards of c.2000 coins increased the 2016 figures). By period the finds recorded break down as the following:

	Beds	Bucks	Northants	Oxon	Total
Palaeolithic	0	1	2	2	5
Mesolithic	0	1	51	2	54
Neolithic	4	6	46	20	76
Bronze Age	1	15	17	66	99
Iron Age	3	30	35	80	148
Roman	53	517	875	1740	3185
Early-medieval	7	26	34	95	162
Medieval	32	263	294	541	1130
Post-medieval	27	218	327	679	1251
Modern	3	3	17	10	33
Unknown	1	7	11	20	39
Total	131	1087	1709	3255	6182

The PAS selectively records post- AD 1700 objects to those that are unusual or tell a local story or that fall within the remit of the Treasure Act (pre-AD 1718). More information on the Treasure Act is available on the PAS website (www.finds.org.uk/treasure). Below are some of the highlights recorded from each county in 2017 (termed ‘finds of note’), although many more can be found on the PAS website. The records are 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 (i.e. county, parish), artefact type (brooch, pilgrim badge), period (Mesolithic, medieval) or by entering the specific find identification number (i.e. NARC-C70281).

Bedfordshire

Total objects = 131; Treasure cases: = 5

An incomplete copper alloy strap fitting or strap junction of later Iron Age to early Roman date. The strap junction is formed from three loops of which only one survives intact.



Figure 1: Iron Age strap fitting from Wicken (BERK-F01D1E)

In the centre of the fitting is a central boss decorated with a stylised human head in relief, oval in form with a hollow/concave reverse. The face has deep set eyes situated very close together, a triangular nose and a shallow indentation representing the mouth. No hair or headdress is visible. Similar objects depicting stylised human faces are noted from Suffolk (SF-4428F7) and Northamptonshire (NARC-565894). Strap distributors or junctions formed from three rings are known in the later Iron Age and early Roman periods, and Hutcheson publishes a similar example with human face from Fring, Norfolk noting less elaborate parallels at Camerton (Hutcheson, 2004: pp. 108, no. 38). They may have been used on horse harnesses or alternatively on human dress fittings or accessories. They are dated to the 1st century BC/AD.



Figure 2: Roman coin from Streatley (BH-1EF52D)

A copper-alloy Roman contemporary copy of an as of Claudius I (AD 41–54) (Reece period 2). The reverse depicts Minerva advancing right holding a javelin and a shield, with S C (Senatus Consulto) in the field. This is a copy of RIC I, pp. 128 & 130, nos. 100 & 116; cf. an example in the British Museum (1934.0905.129). Robert Kenyon, following on from the work by the French scholars P-A Besombes and M Bompaire (in *Trésors Monétaires* XXI, 2005), is assigning many so-called Claudian contemporary copies to Roman auxiliary mints which operated at Lyon (Gaul) and in Spain.



Figure 3: Post-medieval knife handle from Bromham (BUC-55E2F5)

This complete copper alloy cutlery (knife or fork) handle dates from c.17th century AD. The handle is in the shape of an open-work crowned lion holding a long oval shield. The lion is standing on its hind legs with the tail hanging in between. On the body of the lion are three raised curved lines representing the ribs. The shield is placed in front of the body, with the lion's paws resting along the top of the shield. There is no visible decoration on the shield. The lion has an anthropomorphic face and is moulded with rounded cheeks, a long nose and oval eyes. There is a circular indentation either side of the mouth, one of which on the left side is filled with copper alloy. On the sides and the back of the head the mane is represented by moulded crescents, which are scale like. The crown sits on the top of the head and is decorated with openwork, with four bands curving up to two circular knops which sit on the top. In between each band is a rounded knop. The handle is oval in cross section with a circular opening at one end for attachment. Other similar cutlery handles have been recorded on the database, including WILT-9203F7, DENO-63EDB7, LIN-896356 and SOM-A2C8CF.

Normally artefacts dating from the 20th/21st century are not recorded on the PAS database, but this entry was made to showcase a very accurately made replica of an early medieval strap end used, and possibly lost, e.g. for and during Viking re-enactment battles. The strap end is of base metal and is decorated in the Jelling style, a style of decoration used on Scandinavian or Anglo-Scandinavian metalwork in the 10th century AD; there are many contemporary examples on the



Figure 4: Modern replica strap end from Cranfield and Marston Moretaine (LANCUM-8BF7FA)

PAS database. The interlace decoration depicted is not an exact replica of a known 10th century strap end, however, the design was made up based on known Jelling style decorated metalwork. An exact parallel for this strap end can be found on www.vikingjewellery.com.

Buckinghamshire

Total objects = 1087; Treasure cases = 31



Figure 5: An Early Iron Age razor from Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell (BUC-58FFF8)

An incomplete copper alloy Early Iron Age trapezoidal 'Hallstatt' razor of Jockenhövel's 'Flörsheim' type, dating to the Lyn Fawr phase of the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, c.800–600 BC. The razor is sub-triangular or trapezoidal in shape with openwork decoration, and has a single curved cutting edge. The razor has one circular attachment loop surviving although originally it probably had two loops. Two strengthening bars separate the blade from the attachment loop. Below these are two decorative triangular perforations. The razor is slightly bowed in profile. Jockenhövel suggests that in general, the razor's area of origin would have been somewhere in Western Europe where these razors (and those of related types) represented the most typical group of Early Iron Age razors. Jockenhövel's suggested Western European distribution of this type can now be underlined with seven new finds from the southern half of England: Wickham Skeith, Suffolk; St Alban's, Hertfordshire; Salisbury/Netherhampton hoard, Wiltshire; Bowerchalke, Wiltshire; Royston, Cambridgeshire, Attleborough, Norfolk and a recently recorded example from Newbury, Berkshire. Early Iron Age razors like these are usually found singly or in hoards, and another individual one has come up recently from Milnthorpe, Cumbria, recorded in LANCUM-220D90 (Dot Boughton pers comm). Similar razors on the PAS database include NMS-01D7D8, LANCUM-DB7650, WAW-FB0A73, LANCUM-220D90, WILT-05B23D and NMS-01D7D8.



Figure 6: Roman provincial coin from Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell (SUR-90AECA)

This copper-alloy Roman provincial coin of Gordian III (AD 238–244), dating to the period AD 242–243 is a very unusual coin for Britain. The reverse of the coin depicts a female figure wearing a chiton, extending her two hands over the heads of a bull and a lion that stand to her right and left. Issued by the mint of Viminacium (Moesia Superior, now parts of the Balkans), this is the first example of a large bronze issue from Viminacium recorded through the PAS. An increasing number of Roman provincial issues are being recorded, some of which are likely to be more recent rather than genuine ancient losses. Obverse: IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG laureate (and draped?) bust right; Reverse: P M S C-OL VIM / AN IIII.

An incomplete silver medieval penny of Stephen (AD 1135–1154), dating to the period AD 1135–1150. Coins of Stephen are not common finds, with only c.300 recorded on the PAS database. Many, like this example, are in poor condition and / or were poorly struck. The obverse of this coin has a crowned bust right with rosette in front. The

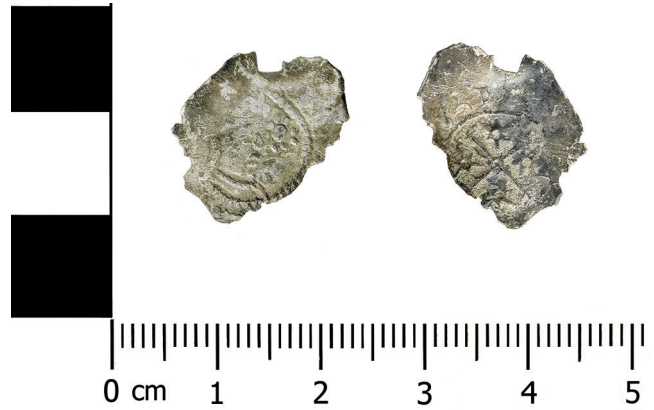


Figure 7: Penny of Stephen from near Haddenham (BERK-413EB8)

reverse has a cross with a mullet in each angle. This is a very rare coin, probably from a local or irregular issue, typical of the Southern variants from Oxford struck by the moneyer, Adam. The coin is in poor condition, struck off centre with most of the rim now missing. North (1994) no. 887.



Figure 8: Medieval harness pendant from Woburn Sands (BUC-CCEC34)

An almost complete Medieval copper alloy horse harness pendant dating from 1300–1500 AD. The pendant is made of two pieces hanging from a rectangular attachment which would have secured the pendant to the horse harness. The openwork outer frame of the pendant is quatrefoil in shape, with the frame narrowing and extending up to the circular attachment loop. In each corner of the quatrefoil the frame projects out and has a knop at each end. The lower right knop is broken and missing. The inner pendant is trefoil in shape with a central knop which extends through to the reverse of the pendant, suggesting this is attached by a rivet. There is a rounded knop at the end of each trefoil terminal. The inner frame extends up into the narrow gap of the outer frame and is attached by a circular copper alloy pin. Other examples

Portable Antiquities Scheme

on the database include SUSS-49AE0A, LIN-6751A4 and SF-3A22D1.

Northamptonshire

Total objects = 1709; Treasure cases: = 15



Figure 9: Iron Age miniature object from Brigstock (WMID-640304)

A cast copper alloy miniature object, possibly a votive offering in the form of a wheel, of probable Late Iron Age to Early Roman date (c. 100 BC–AD 100).

The object is circular in shape and consists of a ring forming the rim of the wheel and four internal arms for wheel spokes terminating at a short, solid cylinder representing the hub. From the centre of the wheel hub protrudes a bar from either side, which tapers and has a slightly rounded end, forming the axle. One side of the axle is collared where it extends from the hub. The object is undecorated. Abrasion, caused by movement within the plough soil, has also resulted in the loss of some original surface detail. Similar examples



Figure 10: Roman coin from Barnwell (LVPL-E1F72D)

on the PAS database include DENO-0BBA52 and HAMP-7A34A2. Parallels can also be found in the Morel Collection, including 1753 and 2162 (Stead & Rigby 1999:137). This example appears to be particularly detailed.

A copper-alloy Roman Q-Radiate of Allectus (AD 293–296) (Reece Period 14). Reverse: VIRTUS AVG; Emperor standing right holding transverse spear and globe. C Mint, S [P] // C. (RIC V, pt 2, p. 122var). There are one or two other specimens of this particular coin recorded – the only one with a known location is in the Ashmolean Museum; this coin has kindly been donated to Oundle museum by the finder and landowner. The PAS has recorded over 1600 coins of Allectus from England, the largest single group known from any one source. Amongst these coins there are many new types and many rare pieces, such as this coin, which are helping us to understand better the coinage of this British emperor. Sam Moorhead is working on a new volume of *Roman Imperial Coinage* for Carausius and Allectus and the PAS is contributing up to 10% of the significant coins to be included.



Figure 11: Small early-medieval coin hoard from Grafton Regis (BUC-295FAC)

These two silver early medieval coins of Offa (AD 757–796) belong to the Light Coinage issue dating from c.AD 765–92. The first coins reads **OFFA REX** in the angles of a long cross of lobes springing from a short cross of lobes or quatrefoil and **BAHHARD** in two lunettes divided by a line of pellets with a small cross at each end; struck by the moneyer Bagheard in London (North 1994 no. 279). The second coin reads **OFFA REX** in the angles of a long cross bottonnée on a small saltire of lobes and **EOBA** on the limbs of a Celtic cross with small cross and pellets in the centre and a pheon in each angle. Struck by the moneyer Eoba in Canyrbury (North 1994 no. 276.). These two coins were considered under the Treasure Act as they were found together – one single gold or silver coin of over 300 years old is not considered to be treasure but two or more, from the same findspot could qualify. These coins did qualify but no museum was able to acquire so they were returned to the finder.

A complete copper alloy post-medieval trade token dating to between AD 1648–1672. This rare token was issued by Robert Hiller of Beddington, Surrey; it is the only token issued in Beddington and appears to be the first recorded on this database. Hardly any reference to this token can be found but it does appear in W. G. Searle, *The Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society*, Fourth Series, Vol. 2 (1902), pp. 378–384. It does not appear in the Norweb catalogue of tokens but is listed in Williamson (Surrey) as no. 13.



Figure 12: Post-medieval trade token from Warkworth (BERK-0E5CEC)



Figure 14: Roman brooch from Letcombe Bassett (WREX-F20705)

Oxfordshire

Total objects = 3255; Treasure cases: = 46



Figure 13: Middle Iron Age brooch from Cuddesdon (BERK-93F6CC)

An incomplete cast copper alloy brooch of Middle Iron Age date, c.400–200 BC. The brooch has a high arched (humped) bow in the centre of two sets of horizontal arms all of which are sub-triangular in plan and terminate in rounded knops. At the head of the brooch and the foot are vertical projections also of sub-triangular form with rounded knop terminals, although the foot knop is broken and missing. On the reverse of the brooch, located on the cross bar of the arms, is the catch-plate and a double lug for the pin, which is now missing. This brooch is difficult to classify; the humped bow is similar to Hull & Hawkes Types K and L, and also to La Tène 2b forms, but without the more elaborate mouldings usually seen on this class of brooch. No exact comparison could be found however a very similar example from Wootton, Oxfordshire (BERK-B9D492) has also been recorded on the PAS database. This brooch is one of several unusual Middle Iron Age brooches recorded from the county.

A copper alloy Roman zoomorphic plate brooch dating to c AD 100–200. The brooch is in the shape of a hen or cockerel. It is incomplete, with part of the pin and catch plate are missing. The main body of the brooch is hollow and oval in plan but rises at one end to form the head of the bird which has a ring and dot eye. At the other end there is a curved projection forming the tail. The tail has a small circular hole at its base. The back of the bird is decorated with cells filled with pale blue, dark blue, red and yellow enamel. The underside is hollow and plain. The cockerel was

associated with Mercury, god of merchants and travellers. Mercury is often depicted with horns and animals such as goats and rams are also often associated with his cult.



Figure 15: Early-medieval brooch from Nuffield (SUR-8F3008)

This early medieval copper-alloy circular brooch would originally have been enamelled. The brooch is slightly domed and displays an outlined profile bust facing right. The bust has multi-strand long hair swept back to rest on the shoulders. The eye and ear are both clear in outline but other features are more perfunctorily rendered. The shoulders and upper torso are clad in a tunic. A speck of blue enamel survives in one cell. On the reverse is a hinge and catch-plate, arranged so that the catch-plate is upper most in relation to the orientation for the bust. This brooch appears to be a development of a group of late Early Medieval 'nummular' brooches, which are based on late Roman coinage. On these the bust is often encircled with a ring of pellets. In view of the enamel a date of c.AD 900–c.1100 may be suggested.

A complete copper alloy pipe tamper with integral pipe cleaner dating to the post-medieval period. The tamper is a composite piece, comprising a bulbous multi-collared stem with flat base (the tamper), with an integral spike at the opposing end (the cleaner). The spike fits in to the upper section of the tamper, which is a frame formed of two upright pipes with the bowls facing outwards, and three cross bars joining the two pipes together at the top, centre and bottom, and through which the cleaning spike is fitted. A smaller spike is located at the top of frame. The upper frame bends backwards, as does the tamper/cleaner, which



Figure 16: Post-medieval pipe tamper from Cassington (BERK-32983C)

still swivels freely but cannot be removed from its housing. The frame does not appear to have a function other than to keep the tamper and cleaner in a decorative housing. Two similar objects have been recorded on the database; a pipe cleaner in a pipe frame (LEIC-77FD1E) and a tamper and cleaner within a square frame (BERK-048562). Suggested date: AD 1650–1850.

The finds featured above are but a few of thousands recorded across the four counties in 2017. For many,

many more finds and for information on the PAS visit the website www.finds.org.uk/database. Amberley Books are publishing a '50 Finds' series with each book focussing on PAS finds from specific counties; 50 Finds from Surrey and 50 Finds from Oxfordshire are available from bookshops and online.

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BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORD BOROUGH 2017–18

Fieldwork Projects

Development-related archaeological fieldwork projects have revealed several interesting sites within the Bedford Borough Council Area during 2017–2018. The sites identified have covered a broad range of periods from the prehistoric through to the medieval. Some of the more significant projects include an archaeological excavation by MOLA Northampton on land to the south of Fields Road in Wootton. The work identified evidence for a late Iron Age to early Roman rural settlement together with a cremation cemetery of similar date located some 200m to the north-east. The settlement comprised several circular enclosures varying from three suspected roundhouses with internal postholes to a large enclosure slightly to the north measuring 50m across. A total of 21 cremations were identified of which fifteen were found with complete or near complete urns and thirteen also contained ancillary vessels ranging between one and seven in number. The cremation vessels can be closely dated to the mid-1st century AD which is

close to the later end for the date range identified at the nearby settlement.

In rather snowy conditions during December 2017 Worcestershire Archaeology undertook a small excavation in Felmersham which identified three burials considered to be potentially Saxon in date. Whilst the burials were undated they were cut by later occupation features of 12th–14th century date. The skeletons were sealed by a series of rubble limestone surfaces that may be contemporary with a nearby large stone filled pit which has been provisionally identified as an aisle post for a substantially sized building. A stone-built oven, likely to be a bread oven, was recorded further to the west. The three skeletons were all supine adults aligned approximately east – west with heads to the west, two of the individuals appeared to be within a single grave cut. During the 1980s occupiers of the neighbouring house had identified inhumations within their garden indicating a cemetery extending beyond the area identified by the most recent work.



Figure 1: Cremation burial 20 (MOLA)



Figure 2: Cremation burial 13 (MOLA)



Figure 3: General view of the Felmersham site (Worcestershire Archaeology)

Historic Environment Record (HER)

During Autumn 2017 and Spring 2018 work has progressed creating new monument entries as well as updating existing records in the HER based on the results of the Phase 1 National Mapping Project prepared by aerial archaeology specialists Skylarkaeology. The bulk of the updating has been undertaken by our HER volunteer/part-time assistant, Matthew Tuohy, as part of the project. The results of Phase 2 of the NMP Project are starting to come in and be added and updated as monuments associated with these. We have also had confirmation that Phase 3 of the project covering the final remaining part of Bedford Borough will go ahead.



Figure 4: Skeletons (143) and (144)
(Worcestershire Archaeology)

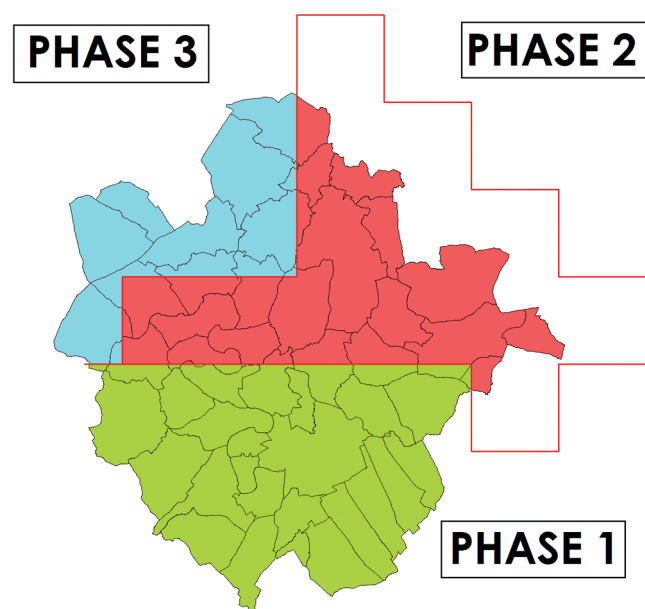


Figure 5: The three phases of the Bedford Borough NMP

Initial results of the Phase 2 NMP are very promising with numerous new cropmark sites identified on the clay uplands which form much of the northern part of Bedford Borough.

Previously these areas away from the fertile river valleys were thought to be largely devoid of archaeological interest but recent aerial photography has confirmed this is not the case and the ongoing NMP is helping to illustrate this in greater clarity than ever before.

Community Archaeology

Excavations at Manton Lane undertaken as part of the 'Bedford Roman Villa Project' (<https://www.bedfordromanvilla.co.uk/>) continued last year with a new focus on the opposite side of Manton Lane in the grounds of Edith Cavell School. Following on from a development led investigation undertaken in advance of a new classroom being constructed an area was opened which revealed evidence of Romano-British structures on the south side of Manton Lane.

Investigations at the medieval moated site of Castle Close, Sharnbrook were also continued last year by the Sharnbrook Local History Group (<http://slhg.org.uk/>). In August 2017 they returned to the site of the corn dryer initially investigated in 2015 and extended the previous excavation area to better understand the remains here.



Figure 6: Damage to the northern wall caused by Storm Doris

The popular programme of test pitting at Willington Dovecote and Stables took place on the weekend of the 15th and 16th July 2017, three test pits were opened. The events are organised by members of the local community and the Willington Local History Group and the excavations in past years have been supervised by archaeologists from the National Trust and Albion Archaeology. The results confirmed the location of the NE corner of the demolished barn which seems to have had a projecting buttress. Many artefacts were recovered from the test pits examples of which were displayed at the site in August at an Open afternoon.

Monument Management

Historic England and Bedford Borough Council match-funding for a condition survey of the monastic precinct walls of the Scheduled Monument of medieval Newnham Priory, Barker's Lane, Bedford has now been secured and the work is underway. The work is due to be completed in mid-2018 and will lead to a further funding-bid for conservation repairs and maintenance ensuring that this important part of Bedford's heritage is safe for residents and visitors to enjoy.

VANESSA CLARKE, Senior Archaeological Officer & GEOFF SAUNDERS, Archaeological Officer, Historic Environment Planning Services, Bedford Borough Council

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford, 2 Church Lane (TL 0755 5076)

BEN BARKER and RICHARD GREGSON

Evaluation uncovered multiple archaeological features of post-medieval or modern date. These included quarry pits, a refuse pit and part of a wall. It is likely these features relate to the renovation of Goldington Hall and its grounds in the 19th century.

OASIS ID: albionar1-282510
Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.37

Bedford, Bedford Academy, Mile Road (TL 0597 4783)

ROBERT WARDILL and BEN CARROLL

Evaluation uncovered a small number of late Iron Age–Roman features associated with settlement activity.

OASIS ID: albionar1-293729
Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.92

Bedford, Bedford College Technology Building (TL 0490 4940)

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI, ADAM WILLIAMS and MARK PHILLIPS

Observation during groundworks did not uncover any archaeological features or deposits, only extensive modern build-up and disturbance sealing buried cultivation soils and superficial geological deposits.

OASIS ID: albionar1-154102; albionar1-257743
Accession no.: BEDFM 2013.35

Bedford, Edith Cavell School, Manton Lane

(TL 0423 5098)

ROBERT WARDILL, KATHY PILKINTON and VICTORIA GUY

A single trial trench revealed only layers associated with car park construction and no archaeological features.

OASIS ID: albionar1-259128
Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.55

Bedford, Goldington Green Lower School

(TL 0272 5041)

ROBERT WARDILL, BEN BARKER and RICHARD GREGSON

A watching brief on 97 foundation pad pits revealed no pre-modern archaeological deposits or features, only substantial recent disturbance related to school buildings and services.

OASIS ID: albionar1-280875
Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.28

Bedford, Manton Lane (TL 0414 5099)

The fifth season of a community project, supported by Albion Archaeology, saw a test-pit opened within the grounds of Edith Cavell Primary School in an area where a possible Roman wall had been found in a pipe trench. The wall survived as one course of mortared, squared stones on at least two courses of stone footings (Fig. 7), which extended into the presumed interior of the building, suggesting an extensive foundation raft of closely packed stone. No floor surface survived but two possible stone tesserae were found in the vicinity. Fragments of roof and flue tiles and mortar/plaster were also recovered and are presumed to be associated with this building or one of the others known within the settlement. Other finds included three coins and a bronze spoon with a pear-shaped bowl and offset handle.



Figure 7: The masonry wall within the test-pit

Bedford, St Paul's Square (TL 0495 4965)

JEREMY OETGEN and ADAM WILLIAMS

Human remains were uncovered by utility workers within the extent of the former churchyard of St Paul's. These remains were within the backfill of an earlier utility trench and limited excavation around the void yielded no further archaeological evidence.

OASIS ID: albionar1-302912
Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.112

Bedfordshire

Bedford, Unit D, Derwent Place (TL 0493 4853)

MARK PHILLIPS

Historic building recording was carried out at the former Bedford Sanitary Laundry, built 1898. No original fixtures or fitting survived after the building was converted to industrial use.

OASIS ID: albionar1-248459

Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.22

Bedford, Warwick Avenue (TL 0423 5043)

JEREMY OETGEN and BEN CARROLL

Small-scale open-area excavation uncovered a concentration of early-middle Iron Age quarrying, several undated features and the remains of a post-medieval field system.

OASIS ID: albionar1-219558, albionar1-250673

Accession no.: BEDFM 2015.59

Blunham, 52 Park Lane (TL 1521 5107)

GARY EDMONDSON and MARK PHILLIPS

An evaluation of four trenches uncovered deposits and features of post-medieval and modern date. These included two pits, a possible well and a soil horizon buried beneath 20th-century yard surfaces.

OASIS ID: albionar1-257406

Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.50

Bolnhurst and Keysoe, Manor Cottage, School Lane (TL 0854 5985)

GARY EDMONDSON and GARETH SHANE

Observation of groundworks identified no archaeological features or deposits, only evidence for modern disturbance associated with the adjacent property.

OASIS ID: albionar1-294869

Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.97

Bromham, 14 Grange Lane (TL 0056 5112)

GARY EDMONDSON and IAN TURNER

Monitoring of footing trenches uncovered traces of a cultivation soil buried beneath modern construction deposits. The only archaeological feature was the base of a pit of uncertain function and date.

OASIS ID: albionar1-268332

Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.83

Bromham, Bromham Lower School (TL 0046 5130)

ROBERT WARDILL, BEN BARKER and RICHARD GREGSON

An evaluation of four trenches uncovered no archaeological remains.

OASIS ID: albionar1-282702

Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.38

Clapham, Ursula Taylor Academy, High Street (TL 0339 5239)

ROBERT WARDILL, BEN BARKER and KATHY PILKINTON

No archaeological deposits or features were uncovered during a watching brief on an extension to the school.

OASIS ID: albionar1-255706, albionar1-277247

Accession no.: BEDFM 2016 43

Clophill, 118B High Street (TL 0423 5098)

ROBERT WARDILL and SLAWOMIR UTRATA

Evaluation of eight trenches identified medieval pits and ditches. Thick alluvial deposits in the southern part of the site, along with a lack of features, indicate that this area of low ground (closer to the River Flit) was marginal land and prone to flooding.

OASIS ID: albionar1-265841; albionar1-290497

Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.76

Cranfield, 84 High Street (SP 9534 4186)

GARY EDMONDSON and KATHY PILKINTON

An evaluation of two trenches revealed post-medieval and modern deposits and features. These were associated with the modern dwelling and earlier arable land use.

OASIS ID: albionar1-277596

Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.17

Dunstable, Ashton Middle School (TL 0161 2233)

ROBERT WARDILL, VICTORIA GUY and MARCIN KOZIMINSKI

Evaluation of six trenches uncovered no pre-modern archaeological deposits or features but did locate a soakaway pre-dating the school and the remains of one of the school's WWII air-raid shelters.

OASIS ID: albionar1-252912, albionar1-269486

Accession no.: LUTNM 2017.14

Eastcotts, Rookery Farm, High Road, Cotton End (TL 0806 4578)

ROB WARDILL and MARCIN KOZIMINSKI

An evaluation of fourteen trenches revealed sub-surface remains that corresponded with medieval settlement earthworks at the north end of the site.

OASIS ID: albionar1-279709; albionar1-302320

Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.24

Eaton Bray, The Old Police Station, 25 High Street (SP 9721 2070)

GARY EDMONDSON and SLAWOMIR UTRATA

Monitoring of building footings uncovered an extensive buried ploughsoil and undated ditch, which survived beneath substantial disturbance from modern construction and demolition.

OASIS ID: albionar1-260103

Accession no.: LUTNM 2017.16

Elstow, Wixams Northern Expansion Area (TL 4456 4597)

MIKE LUKE, IAIN LESLIE and VICTORIA GUY

Open-area excavation in advance of construction of an employment park uncovered an Iron Age and Roman settlement with limited Saxon and medieval remains.

Iron Age

The presence of small quantities of residual Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork hints at activity during these periods; however, the earliest firm evidence for permanent settlement dates to the Iron Age. The Iron Age settlement was characterised by a large D-shaped enclosure with a NE-facing entrance (Figure 8). Dating evidence suggests that the settlement was established in the middle Iron Age but most of the remains, including the D-shaped enclosure, date to the late Iron Age.



Figure 8: Provisional plan of the Iron Age and Roman phases

Internal activity was focussed within the south-eastern part of the enclosure. Three circular ditches probably surrounded roundhouses, for which no structural evidence survived. Several curvilinear ditches in this area may have been designed to assist in the corralling of livestock. Discrete features included pits and post-holes. The only direct evidence for structures were four '4-post structures', which are generally interpreted as raised granaries. Contemporary features were scarce in the north-western part of the enclosure, which may have been used for livestock and/or small-scale cultivation.

A cremation cemetery containing twenty graves was found c.100m to the north-east of the D-shaped enclosure and directly in line with its entrance. A further nine isolated

cremation burials were dispersed across the area to the north of the enclosure. Although most of the cremated remains were un-urned, there were several examples of the use of urns. Some burials included accessory vessels and grave goods (Figure 9).



Figure 9: Urned Iron Age cremation burial with accessory vessels under excavation

Finds dated to this period include c.40kg of pottery, large quantities of animal bone, a brooch, a copper alloy coin, a bun-shaped rotary quern and a circular knife (deposited as a grave good).

Roman

The late Iron Age settlement layout appears to have survived until the 1st century AD when it was reworked and expanded. The D-shaped and circular enclosures were replaced by more regular and extensive rectilinear enclosure systems (Figure 8), with trackways extending into the hinterland. As is often the case on Roman rural settlements there was no clear evidence for any buildings or structures, although a preliminary study of artefact distribution suggests a focus of domestic activity in a similar location to that of its Iron Age precursor. Discrete features included pits and occasional post-holes as well as two large water-pits. The north-western part of the settlement contained evidence for numerous episodes of quarrying, which appeared to target seams of gravel and/or clay. Initial analysis suggests that the farmstead was occupied into the 4th century.

A later Roman inhumation cemetery, comprising eight graves, was focussed on a partially infilled boundary ditch. A high proportion of the burials were of immature individuals. In one case, three individuals were simultaneously interred within the same grave (Figure 10). Grave goods included a copper alloy 'snake' bracelet, a bone hair pin and hobnails (suggesting the wearing of leather shoes).

The farmstead also featured a pottery kiln. Its form was slightly unusual in that it had an integrated tongue pedestal. Poorly fired 'seconds' from the kiln and a nearby ditch suggest the production of shelly wares.

Finds dated to this period included c.60kg of pottery as well as substantial quantities of animal bone. A large metalwork assemblage included c.130 coins, brooches, hair pins, spoons, finger rings and bracelets.



Figure 10: Three late Roman burials in the same grave

Saxon and medieval

The recovery of low levels of early Saxon pottery (c.600g) within the upper fills of features across the site probably suggests that settlement continued into this period. However, no features that contained exclusively early Saxon pottery were identified.

The presence of furrows suggests that in the medieval period the excavation area was part of an open-field system, utilised for strip cultivation.

OASIS ID: albionar1-264569
Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.74

Houghton Regis, Houghton Hall Park, Houghton Regis (TL 0266 236)

ROBERT WARDILL and IAN TURNER

Investigation uncovered a boundary ditch containing a small amount of early-middle Iron Age pottery.

OASIS ID: albionar1215645
Accession no.: LUTNM 2017.5

Houghton Regis, Thorn Turn Waste Park (TL 0005 2407)

ROBERT WARDILL, RICHARD GREGSON and DAVID INGHAM

A strip, map, sample investigation revealed late Bronze Age to early Iron Age field systems, trackways, and a small amount of settlement-related activity. A large well or water-pit that was associated with heating water also dated to this period. A Roman trackway was identified, as well as the remains of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, and post-medieval field boundaries and a sunken track.

OASIS ID: albionar1-224456
Accession no.: LUTNM 2017.6

Luton, 49-57 Castle Street (TL 0916 2084)

BEN BARKER

Investigation close to the 12-century castle of Robert de Waudari did not reveal any pre-modern archaeological remains. The site had suffered extensive truncation associated with modern services, foundations and a buried fuel tank.

OASIS ID: albionar1-273114
Accession no.: LUTNM: 2018.3

Luton, STEM Building, University of Bedfordshire (TL 0945 2110)

MARK PHILLIPS

Observation of groundworks identified isolated post-medieval features: a quarry pit, part of a brick wall belonging to an 18th/19th-century brewery and a possible cess pit. These features survived substantial truncation by 20th-century ground reduction and basement excavations.

OASIS ID: albionar1-278113
Accession no.: LUTNM 1272

Marston Moretaine, Moreteyne Farm, Wood End (SP 9852 4132)

BEN BARKER and JEREMY OETGEN

Mitigation work adjacent to Marston Moretaine Bypass revealed significant, multi-period features, including a late Iron Age to late Roman enclosure system, a possible driveway and at least eight late Iron Age cremation burials.

OASIS ID: albionar1-259161
Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.57

Marston Moretaine, 2 Station Road (SP 9963 4149)

MARK PHILLIPS

No archaeological features were uncovered during groundworks associated with a house extension.

OASIS ID: albionar1-264120
Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.73

Maulden, Black Moor Farm, New Road (TL 5398 6688)

DREW SHOTLIFF and IAN TURNER

Investigation revealed two multi-phase Roman boundary systems. The relatively large quantities of artefacts within the ditches suggest that the enclosures were associated with domestic occupation, although no building remains were found. Part of a pipe-clay Venus figurine was recovered, similar to others known from this part of the Flit valley.

OASIS ID: albionar1-253448
Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.38

Maulden, Branksome, George Street (TL 0822 3773)

ROBERT WARDILL and MARK PHILLIPS

Three trial trenches uncovered several pits, some of which were quarry pits, and ditches. All features were post-medieval or modern in date and are probably associated with early 19th-century buildings that once stood on the site.

OASIS ID: albionar1-277242
Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.16

Roxton, Church Farm, High Street (TL 1528 5446)

ROBERT WARDILL and RICHARD GREGSON

Evaluation revealed sparse archaeological features of uncertain, but probable medieval date, surviving beneath considerable post-medieval disturbance associated with the use of the site as a farmyard.

OASIS ID: albionar1-284912
Accession no.: BEDFM: 2017.54

Roxton, The Royal Oak, 33 High Street (TL 1529 5459)

ROBERT WARDILL and SLAWOMIR UTRATA

Several post-medieval features were identified during groundworks. These included an exterior wall, water tank and remains of a cellar, all belonging to the earlier Royal Oak building. Pre-dating the structural remains were post-medieval plot-division ditches and several pits at the periphery of the plot.

OASIS ID: albionar1-122196

Accession no.: BEDFM 2012.25

Sandy, Land to the North of Sunderland Road (TL 1658 5102)

ROBERT WARDILL and MARCIN KOZIMINSKI

Evaluation uncovered extensive, multi-period archaeological features. The earliest was an early-middle Iron Age enclosure system and associated settlement activity. Two late Iron Age / early Roman settlements superseded it to the west and north. The northern settlement, though smaller, included possible quarry pits, a stone surface and possible cremation burial.

OASIS ID: albionar1-295217

Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.98

Sandy, Land at Warren Farm, New Road (TL 1751 4811)

GARY EDMONDSON, WIEBKE STARKE and MARCIN KOZIMINSKI

Eight trial trenches revealed predominantly late Saxon to medieval features: ditches, pits and post-holes. Also identified was a prehistoric ring ditch and associated activity.

OASIS ID: albionar1-293729

Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.92

Sandy, The Green, Beeston (TL 1698 4805)

ROBERT WARDILL and VICTORIA GUY

Eight trial trenches revealed a small number of archaeological features: three ditches of probable post-medieval date and an isolated pit.

OASIS ID: albionar1-266359

Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.80

Sharnbrook, John Gibbard Academy, High Street (SP 9968 5961)

ROBERT WARDILL and KATHY PILKINTON

Observation of the excavation of 41 foundation pads and a small open area revealed a post-medieval ditch and a possible Iron Age ditch on the same alignment as the current field system. Deep soil deposits suggest the site was in use as pasture before being incorporated into the school grounds.

OASIS ID: albionar1-259131

Accession No.: BEDFM 2016.56

Shillington, Chiltern View, Higham Gobion (TL 0945 3215)

HANNO CONRING, KATHY PILKINTON and GARY EDMONDSON

Stripping of a new access road was monitored. Whilst there was little disturbance from modern activity, the investigation

only revealed a former cultivation soil above the undisturbed geological strata. No artefacts were recovered.

OASIS ID: albionar1-217419

Accession No.: LUTNM 2018.01

Lower Stondon, Land off Station Road (SP 9534 4186)

JEREMY OETGEN and IAN TURNER

Trial-trench evaluation revealed isolated early-middle Iron Age features, comprising a possible windbreak, a pit and two post-holes. The paucity of recovered artefacts suggests these features were far from any settlement focus. Most of the other features were medieval or post-medieval in date and related to cultivation.

OASIS ID: albionar1-277596

Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.17

Lower Stondon, Mount Pleasant Golf Club (TL 1605 3526)

JEREMY OETGEN and KATHY PILKINTON

An early-middle Iron Age enclosure and isolated late Bronze Age / early Iron Age water-pit were identified during an evaluation.

OASIS ID: albionar1-222622; albionar1-250670;
albionar1-268397

Accession no.: LUTNM: 2015.344

Studham 35 Church Road (TL 0159 1592)

ROBERT WARDILL and KATHY PILKINTON

No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered during a watching brief on the stripping of the footprint for a new house.

OASIS ID: albionar1-262485

Accession no.: LUTNM 2018.02

Toddington, Land off Luton Road (TL 1280 8334)

BEN BARKER and IAN TURNER

Small-scale evaluation uncovered three modern ditches, two of which may form a trackway associated with the site's former use as allotments in the early-mid 20th century.

OASIS ID: albionar1-273303

Accession no.: LUTNM 2017.17

Wilstead Cotton End Road (TL 0709 4669)

ROBERT WARDILL and MARCIN KOZIMINSKI

An evaluation comprising 25 trenches uncovered an isolated late Iron Age ditch or pit, a post-medieval pond and evidence for post-medieval woodland clearance.

OASIS ID: albionar1-248349

Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.27

Wymington, 12 Manor Lane (SP 9549 6446)

GARY EDMONDSON and GARETH SHANE

Monitoring of foundation trenches uncovered one archaeological feature — a modern pit of uncertain function.

OASIS ID: albionar1-285612

Accession no.: BEDFM 2017.55

Bedfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Arlesey, Green End Farm (TL 1925 3530)

NIOMI EDWARDS

The trial trench evaluation demonstrated the presence of no archaeological features pre-dating the post-medieval and modern periods. Three sherds of residual medieval pottery were found. Features post-dating the medieval period included ditches, a pit, gullies, postholes and a pond deposit.

Bedford, The Ship Inn (TL 5053 2499)

GARETH BARLOW

Following a single trial pit evaluation in 2016, revealing a pit of possible Saxon date, a modern brick structure and service trenches further archaeological monitoring was carried out during the construction of a rear extension. The works recorded a pit containing two sherds of medieval pottery and four residual Saxo-Norman sherds. The charred plant remains from a pit demonstrate the use, if not cultivation, of free-threshing type wheat and oat at the site during the early 13th-14th century. This complements evidence for free-threshing type wheat and barley from 10th-12th century, which was sampled during previous trial trenching. This indicates continuation of domestic activity on the site during the 13th-14th century, although the evidence of two environmental samples is insufficient for a detailed comparison of diet and economy over time.

Bedford, 18–20 St Peter's Street (TL 0514 5008)

TANSY COLLINS

Historic building monitoring and recording took place during refurbishments, following an initial Historic Building Appraisal in 2015. This second report built upon evidence gathered during the 2015 visit augmented with secondary visits during works. The primary range is of early 18th century date, with the west range of a similar but somewhat later date having been constructed against the pre-existing structure. A rear range attached to the west range is possibly contemporary, while a second rear range added in the re-entrant angle is of several phases of 18th or 19th century date. The early 20th century saw the ground floor frontage of No. 20 removed for the accommodation of a wide shop front, at which point the building was occupied by a tailor's shop. The entire building has suffered repeated phases of

remodelling, rebuilding and replacement throughout the 20th century so that only incomplete elements survive and no fixtures and fittings.

Blunham, Land adjacent to 75 The Hill (TL 6620 4188)

NIOMI EDWARDS

Archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a new dwelling, revealed a large feature, possibly a quarry pit not easily defined within the confines of the trenches but appeared to represent a continuation of the same feature across two trenches. A pit and tree hollow were also present.

Bolnhurst, Mavourn Farm (TL 0709 5764)

MARK BLAGG-NEWSOME

Following a trial trench evaluation in 2016 archaeological monitoring and recording revealed a stone-built rectangular structure that contained a high proportion of stone cobbles and ceramic building material and probably resulted from the demolition of the stone-built structure. The CBM report suggested a post medieval date for roofing tiles found, and while this can reflect re-roofing of an earlier structure it may be suggested that the structure itself was post-medieval in date, and most likely an agricultural or similar outbuilding. The thickness of the walls is notable though no evidence was revealed to suggest an original function.

Meppershall, High Street (TL 1350 3625)

MARK BLAGG-NEWSOME, ANDREW NEWTON, ANDREW PEACHEY and TANSY COLLINS

Archaeological evaluation and built heritage assessment were carried out prior to the determination of a planning application.

Trial trench evaluation

Nine trenches found features in each trench comprising post holes, pits, Quarry pits, ditches and gully terminals. The majority were undated but finds included residual Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery sherds and Late Saxon to Early Medieval sherds. It is likely that many of the sherds are in a secondary context and that they are indicative of former archaeological features which have been disturbed by later activity.



Figure 11: View of the roof during works to 18–20 St Peter's Street, Bedford.



Figure 12: No. 100 High Street, Meppershall.

Built heritage appraisal

The built heritage appraisal as part of a Heritage Statement assessed the earliest building surviving within the site comprises Bury Villa, a dwelling constructed in 1932. The Fletton brick buildings located to the rear were constructed with the development of the site into a nursery in the mid-20th century and are all entirely standard and utilitarian construction. Such standardised type and form continues to be used from the 1920s through to the 1950s, but the use of aluminium tubing in the glass-houses themselves might suggest the Fletton brick ranges were constructed in the post-war period.

Milton Ernest, Land adjacent to Village Farm

(TL 0148 5614)

THOMAS MUIR

Two trenches were cut before the construction of two residential dwellings on the site. Numerous features were recorded including five ditches, five pits, three postholes, a gully and a modern pathway. Most features were undated but three features in the second trench contained medieval pottery dating to between the 11th to 14th centuries.

Wyboston, Land at 20 & 48 The Lane (TL 1622 5672)

THOMAS MUIR

Three trenches recorded principally pits and ditches and two possible ponds. Five of the archaeological features contained no finds, and one of the ponds contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery. The remaining features contained post-medieval finds. The features which contained post-medieval pottery contained a high percentage of residual medieval and transitional pottery. The condition of the sherds suggests that medieval deposits have been disturbed by later activity, but the pottery sherds have not moved far from their original place of deposition. A 'strip, map and sample' excavation is to follow.

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES**Harrold, School Lane (SP 9485 5663)**

BOB ZEEPVAT

In October, BHS monitored the excavation of footing trenches for a replacement house at *Willowmeade*, School Lane. The development site is close to the site of Harrold Priory, some distance from the historic core of Harrold village and had the potential to contain buried heritage assets, most likely of medieval date. The observations did not reveal any buried heritage assets or artefacts.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.**Bromham, Land off Stagsden Road (TF 6807 4167)**

MARTA PERLINSKA

A quarry pit revealed in Trench 3 (0304) was visible on the geophysical survey, contrary to the similar quarry pit in Trench 2 (0204) which – though having comparable dimensions – did not give the same result. Both quarry pits (0204 and 0304) are part of the 'Limestone quarry', indicated on 1885 and 1902 OS mapping. It is not shown on the 1927 OS map. The two massive features in Trenches

8 and 9 (0804 and 0904) are present on the geophysical survey. They form a wide curve running approximately parallel to the present stream bed and correspond to the former course of the stream on mapping prior to 1885. They were both considerably deeper than the modern stream, which indicates that in the past it could have been more like a river. This further corresponds with the abundance of the cropmarks visible on the western side of the stream where a settlement benefiting from the proximity to the water could have once prospered.

Melchbourne, Land at R.C. Moss, Vintage Bentleys

(TL 02837 65777)

MARTA PERLINSKA

The watching brief and preservation *in situ* recovered limited but useful information. The features encountered, though in themselves difficult to interpret, indicate the existence of a Medieval settlement. This could be the settlement called 'West End', mentioned in 1544 document (BLARS J 16). Its location within the Site area was suggested by 1628 survey (HER MBD9665).

The features encountered, especially a pavement and a ditch with nearly complete jug, all point towards a high-status household (or households) in this area. Together with the existence of the marketplace nearby, one can suggest that this was in fact a merchant dwelling. Though no coins were found, an iron padlock suggests a well-appointed owner with goods to keep safe. Further evidence, though not direct, was found in the stone surface covering part of the site (021). This was a floor tile, which very rarely occurs outside high status contexts. If we were to take this interpretation even further, the fact that there was a possible iron furnace on the edge of the paved area could suggest that the owner of the household was not a merchant, but a blacksmith or farrier.

The location of the modern pond corresponds directly with the course of the former road recorded during 1628 survey and overlain on modern OS map during 1979 Parish Survey (White 1979). The former road, 'Crow Lane', was leading from Melchbourne to Yelden via site of Crowsfield Farm (HER MBD9664). It is still visible in the form of hollow way at the entrance to the Site. The fact that it was a hollow way road, lowered into the ground, may have explained why it was chosen as a location for the pond.

CHILTERN ARCHAEOLOGY**Clophill, 95 High Street (TL0908 3824)**

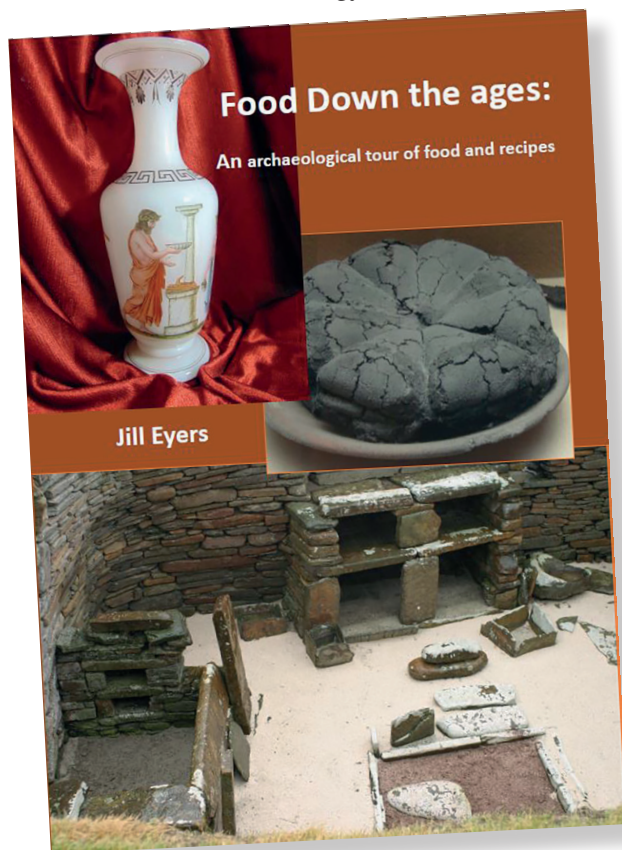
JILL EYERS

Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the garden of No 95 High Street, Clophill – one trench to explore the area of the new house footprint and the other for the area of the new garage and part of the drive. A combined total of 52.3 m² of trench were excavated on 25th May 2017 (this combined the evaluation trenching along with four test pit observations). The work was required by a condition of planning CB/16/03850/FULL. The combined evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds. OASIS Reference: chiltern1–282024

Bedfordshire

Publication: Food down the ages: an archaeological tour of food and recipes

JILL EYERS (Chiltern Archaeology)



Immerse yourself in an archaeological tour of food through the ages with informative and sometimes surprising new facts emerging from recent research. The diet of *Homo sapiens* has changed dramatically over the millennia. Is this for the better? We are certainly healthier than we have ever been in our entire evolution – life spans topping 100 years are a regular occurrence today. If you were alive in the Neolithic period, when we first settled as farmers, the mid-twenties was ‘middle aged’.

This foodie feast will take you on a journey through available ingredients, their gathering and preparation to cooking methods. The tastes may then be explored via authentic recipes. This includes a delicious selection of dishes from each era, but it will also showcase some of the distasteful ‘specialities’ of the time.

The beautiful images accompanying each chapter show not just the ingredients and completed dishes, but the equipment used and kitchens of the day. Archaeology combined with food – what could be better? This book is a very different and intriguing insight into one of the staples of life – food, glorious food.

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159 pages, A4 size, full colour

174 colour images, 17 chapters

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COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Aspley Guise, Land South-East of Milton Keynes, Cranfield Road (SP 9364 3798)

ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Late Iron Age/Early Roman farmstead dating from the early 1st century AD to the 3rd or 4th centuries AD. The finds assemblage indicates that cattle were bred on site and both cattle and sheep/goat were butchered. Crop-processing and metalworking were also carried out in the vicinity. Medieval and post-medieval boundary ditches and furrows were also present.

Bedford, Land off Goldington Road (TL 08462 50835)

ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Bedford, The Residence, Lurke Street (TL 05171 50008 and TL 05268 50019)

RALPH BROWN

An excavation and watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology revealed an Anglo-Saxon pit and an east-west-aligned ditch which corresponded with the line of the Bedford north burh ditch. The presence of medieval finds in the ditch indicates extensive later re-cutting. Medieval pits were also identified. The presence of an alluvial deposit suggests a hiatus in activity associated with flooding of the River Great Ouse during the late medieval/early post-medieval period, following which a 19th-century brewery and a 19th to 20th-century building occupied the site.

Luton, Power Court (TL 09603 21263)

PETER BOYER

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded deposits associated with a former row of post-medieval houses.

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Caddington, Land North of Dunstable Road (TL 058 195)

ANDREW HOOD

On the 4th July 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on land north of Dunstable Road, Caddington. The archaeological works comprised the monitoring and recording of three geo-technical investigation pits. The watching brief identified the presence of stratified natural/geo-archaeological deposits, which included clay-with-flints and possible brickearth. A total of two Prehistoric struck flints were recovered during the monitoring.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Arlesey, Land to the rear of 54 High Street (TL 19260 35790)

DANIEL PHILLIPS

To investigate the archaeological potential of a proposed new residential development located on land to the rear of 54 High Street, Arlesey, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of evaluation by trial trenching. A single trench was excavated, which revealed a considerable depth of overburden, suggesting that the present site has been subject to significant disturbance in the post-medieval and modern periods. A single feature was encountered at the south-western end of the trench, which contained a compact clay fill. A length of modern cable was recovered from the fill. Evidence from archaeological investigations on the west side of High Street suggests that this feature may represent a former extraction pit, possibly related to the local brick-making industry, which has subsequently silted up. No evidence for any features or deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period was recorded.

Arlesey, Land to the rear of 234 High Street (TL 19320 36748)

MARK SYCAMORE

Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in advance of a planning application for residential development on land at 234 High Street, Arlesey. Excavation of the trench revealed a significant depth of overburden above the natural substrate. These layers included an imported topsoil, laid above an earlier topsoil, and a degraded subsoil above the natural clay. Little evidence for significant disturbance of the site was encountered during the archaeological fieldwork. Part of a cobbled surface was seen in the sections at the north-eastern end of the trench, below the earliest topsoil layer. Cartographic evidence indicates that this relates to a small structure erected on the northern boundary in the late 1890s and demolished between 1939 and 1976. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed during the present project.

Arlesey, Land at West Drive (TL 19219 35503)

GREG JONES

Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a field evaluation by trial trenching. Owing to the presence of trees on the site, the three evaluation trenches were located on the eastern edge of the proposed development. These revealed a considerable depth of modern overburden, with heavy tree rooting, immediately above the natural substrate. The evidence, including the presence of plastic bags in the made ground, indicates that the site has been subject to significant disturbance in recent years. A buried soil was encountered below the made ground in Trench 2, but this did not appear to extend to the north or north-west. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during this work.

Dunstable, Land to the rear of 23 Edward Street (TL 01576 21987)

DANIEL PHILLIPS

In response to a planning condition on the conversion of an existing workshop outbuilding into a single storey dwelling to the rear of 23 Edward Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire (Figure 1), the Heritage Network was commissioned by the landowner to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring on the development groundworks. The monitoring of the development groundworks at the rear of 23 Edward Street revealed a stratigraphic sequence consisting of a layer of modern imported topsoil for the existing rear garden, above a thick deposit of made-ground, which contained post-medieval debris. This directly overlay a buried subsoil. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the present investigation and no evidence for activity pre-dating the 19th century was noted.

Langford, Land off St Andrew's Way (TL 18745 41495)

HELEN ASHWORTH

Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a field evaluation including the use of geophysical survey and trial trenching. The geophysical survey identified several potential archaeological features, including a possible enclosure, a circular feature on the northern edge of the site, with a north-west to south-east aligned ditch to the south. A series of possible pits were recorded in the southern half of the site. Eight trial trenches were subsequently excavated across the site, revealing several features including ditches and pits. Where these produced dateable artefacts, they demonstrated activity on the site between the early – middle Iron Age and the late pre-Roman Iron Age. However, the presence of free-threshing wheat grains in the bulk soil samples from features in Trench 3 indicates the possibility that some of the undated features may be of Saxon or medieval date.

Luton, Bramingham Centre, Weltmore Road (TL 06510 24486)

GREG JONES and MARK SYCAMORE

Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a field evaluation by trial trenching. Seven trenches were excavated across the site, revealing that terracing had previously taken place in the north-eastern corner. Elsewhere, a make-up layer, possibly from the construction of the Bramingham Centre, appears to have been deposited above the subsoil. Fifteen archaeological features, including ditches and pits, were encountered in the southern half of the site. These dated to between the early 1st and the 3rd centuries AD. The earliest features lay in the eastern half of the site, while features associated with the main phase of activity, in the late 1st and 2nd centuries, were in the western half of the site, suggesting that the settlement may have moved westwards. The pottery dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries is of local coarsewares, indicating a small rural settlement of relatively low status. However, imported finewares appear on the site in the late 2nd and 3rd centuries, indicating a possible increase in wealth. Evidence from the processed bulk soil samples, demonstrates that the inhabitants were engaged in some crop husbandry and processing, and in iron smithing.

Bedfordshire

Pulloxhill, Land adjacent to 'The Willows', Flitton Road (TL 06510 34265)

GREG JONES

In response to a planning condition on the construction of a proposed new development on land adjacent to The Willows, Flitton Road, Pulloxhill, Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. Monitoring of the excavation of the footings trenches for the new dwelling and garage revealed a large feature, over 1m in depth, which ran approximately north-west to south-east across the centre of the site. Late 19th century mapping showed a line of mature trees crossing the centre of the site, which had apparently been removed by the early 20th century. It is possible that the feature recorded on the site represents the hollow left by their removal. This had apparently been deliberately backfilled in the late 19th or 20th century as fragments of brick and ceramic drain were noted in the backfill. No other features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during this project.

Shefford, 'Pinehurst', 17a Ivel Road (TL 14660 38684)

GREG JONES and MARK SYCAMORE

Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a field evaluation by trial trenching. Fifteen trenches of varying lengths were excavated across the site, exposing a mixed geology including sand and clay. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered, however.

Shillington, 65 Church Street (TL 12498 33973)

GREG JONES

In response to a planning condition on the construction of a proposed extension at 65 Church Street, Shillington, Bedfordshire, Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. Monitoring of the ground reduction for the new extension on the front of the existing building revealed traces of the footings to an earlier structure on the site, shown on 19th century mapping, but no dateable artefacts were present. Monitoring of the development groundworks revealed a layer of made ground directly above the natural clay, which probably relates to the demolition of the original structure and the construction of the present building. No other features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during this work.

Shillington, The Old Post Office, 91 Church Street (TL 12406 33934)

DANIEL PHILLIPS

In response to a planning condition on the construction of a proposed new development at 91 Church Street, Shillington, Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. Monitoring of the development groundworks revealed a thick layer of made ground, containing brick, tile and slate, which directly overlay the natural chalk. A single cut feature, containing modern glass bottles, tins, metal and plastic, was encountered within the footings trenches. The lack of topsoil or subsoil suggests that the existing ground level has been reduced, possibly when the former outbuilding was constructed. No features, deposits

or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during this work.

Westoning, Church of St Mary Magdalene

(TL 02823 32792)

GREG JONES

In response to the requirements of a diocesan faculty, Heritage Network was commissioned to implement a programme of archaeological monitoring during the re-excavation of a French drain and the excavation of a new footpath at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Westoning. The present project involved monitoring the groundworks for new drainage at the west end of the church. These works revealed the foundations for the tower and the west wall of the nave, which consisted of very roughly coursed flint and limestone rubble. The evidence suggests that the tower and the west wall to the nave are contemporary, dating to the construction of the tower in the 15th century. The observed stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a layer of topsoil sealing a cemetery soil over 0.30m in depth. No grave cuts or other significant features were encountered. A small quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered during the monitored groundworks. This was collected and placed in the care of the sub-contractors to be handed to the Church Warden for re-interment.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Hockliffe, Brook Side (SP 9706 2690)

DAVID FELL

An archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of eight trial trenches was undertaken at Brook Side, Hockliffe in advance of the construction of a small housing development. The site lay on the periphery of both the medieval settlement of Hockliffe and the later medieval and post-medieval settlement which developed along Watling Street. No significant archaeological remains survived and most of the site had been truncated during the 20th century.

Wilstead, Duck Barn (TL 06053 44088)

GERWYN RICHARDS and DAVID FELL

A standing building survey of the Wheat Barn, formerly part of Duck End Farm, Duck End, Wilstead was undertaken in advance of its conversion to residential accommodation.



Figure 13: The Barn at Wilstead

The barn is a well-built example of a timber framed barn and was originally built as a threshing barn for Duck End Farm. There is little to confirm the exact age of the barn, but cartographic and limited physical evidence supports the listed building description which suggests c.1800. The barn was originally part of a much larger farm complex, one of at least two large barns on the site. The other barn and the buildings were lost in the late 20th century. The barn shows interesting evidence of the diversification of farming with the addition of open fronted shelter sheds on south east facing elevation for animal housing. Further evidence of this can be seen in the construction of an all new milking parlour to the north west in the 1950s.

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Aspley Guise, St Botolph's Church (SP 9425 3625)

LAURA DODD

In February 2017, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of St Botolph's Church, Aspley Guise, during groundworks to improve drainage along the north elevation of the church. The north aisle of the church was constructed in several phases starting in the medieval period, and has undergone extensive rebuilding, mostly in the 19th century. The original construction, as well as later rebuilding phases, was evident in the different construction methods observed in the exposed foundations. Trenches also revealed the remains of a 19th century boiler house adjacent to the church and an undated brick-built crypt near the modern Chapter House. Although one of the trenches ran through the churchyard, only a single, disturbed burial was encountered during this exercise.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-266323

Accession Number: BEDFM 2016.79

Bedford, 77-79 High Street (TL 05056 49928)

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In May-June 2017 an archaeological evaluation and observation and recording project took place at 77-79 High Street, Bedford during the conversion of the property to a shop and apartments, and the construction of a single storey rear extension. An evaluation trench was situated within the footprint of the new extension and uncovered the remains of a Saxo-Norman pit, interpreted as backyard activity from the High Street. A stone wall foundation was also exposed representing a structure or building pre-dating the existing building on the site (pre-1795), and a single course of post-medieval bricks were also found. The site also displayed a series of modern made-up ground deposits, with a sondage excavated to expose the natural strata. The footing trenches for the new extension were also monitored, which were primarily excavated through made-up ground.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-283442

Accession Number: BEDFM 2016.63

Clifton, 27 Broad Street (TL 1657 3884)

LAURA DODD

In June 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of 27 Broad Street, Clifton,

Bedfordshire. This was done as a condition of planning permission to build a new extension to the east of the property. This exercise revealed a post-medieval/modern brick built well close to the existing building which is contemporary with the late 19th century house.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-168661

Accession Number: BEDFM 2014.03

Haynes, Land rear of 3 Park Palings Walk

(TL 09727 41939)

DEREK WATSON and LAURA DODD

Between May and November 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at land to the rear of 3 Park Palings Walk, Haynes, Bedfordshire, under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Note 15 of the Appeal Decision. An area of approximately 30m² was monitored with the ground reduced by a maximum depth of 1.06m, fully exposing the natural geology. The general stratigraphy of the site comprised variably thick modern made-ground (up to 0.43m), overlying heavily rooted subsoil (c. 0.34m) and natural geology comprising yellowish-brown clay with occasional nodules of flint.

No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were discovered during this project. The presence of subsoil suggests that the site may not have been significantly truncated during construction of the older adjacent residential properties and area landscaping. However, even partial vertical truncation of the local stratigraphy may account for the absence of archaeology. Alternatively, it may have been that the site was small and fell between what may have been widely dispersed features, or that the development area is located beyond that which has been historically occupied.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-275622

Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.07

Leighton Buzzard, Chamberlains Barn Quarry

(SP 92580 26746)

LAURA DODD

In September 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a Strip, Map and Sample Excavation at Chamberlains Barn Quarry, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire following several phases of archaeological evaluation on the site, which has been granted planning consent for mixed use development (CB/11/01937/OUT). A geophysical survey undertaken within the development area had suggested several anomalies of potential archaeological interest (Stratascan 2008). In response to these findings an Archaeological Evaluation was conducted in 2016 which uncovered a suspected medieval triple ditched enclosure (Headland Archaeology 2017). The Strip, Map and Sample Excavation undertaken by KDK Archaeology revealed a wide but not particularly deep, probably late medieval or early post-medieval ditch, that had subsequently been re-cut and later still consolidated with a post-medieval land drain. A series of ditches and gullies were also present, though other potential features identified in the geophysics survey proved to be variations in the natural geology.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-293277 Accession Number: 1314

Bedfordshire

Little Staughton, Hilltop House, High Street (TL 1049 6267)

KARIN KAYE

In January 2017, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation at Hilltop House, High Street, Little Staughton, Bedfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. Two trenches were excavated across the area of a proposed development, revealing three linear features, a ditch and two hedgerows. These features were part of the former eastern boundary of the field on which the present houses on the street frontage were built in the 20th century. A single posthole between the former boundary and the road is likely to represent more recent activity on the site. No artefacts were recovered from any of the features.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-268330

Accession Number: BEDFM 2016.85

Old Warden, Gostwick Mansion, Warden Abbey, Bedford Road (TL12062 43854)

LAURA DODD

In March 2017, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Photographic Recording and Archaeological Observation and Recording at Gostwick Mansion, Warden Abbey, Bedford Road, Old Warden, Bedfordshire. This programme monitored renovations to the existing building and included work on both the interior and exterior. Gostwick Mansion is a Grade I listed building, constructed in the mid-16th century on the site of a Cistercian monastery that was established in 1135. The mansion was largely demolished in 1790, and what remains is a portion of the north wing of the Tudor building. Excavations at the site took place in 1868, 1960–61 and the 1970s, and each excavation revealed various monastic features. The current investigation revealed defunct underfloor heating and several thin layers of concrete beneath the clay tile floor. Despite this modern disturbance, part of an earlier floor and a red brick wall were observed. Excavations outside the building produced no further archaeological features.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-276812

Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.12

Ridgmont, 65 High Street (SP 97561 36121)

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR and ELLEN SHLASKO

In June 2017, KDK Archaeology conducted a Heritage Asset Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation at 65 High Street, Ridgmont, Bedfordshire. The site is in the historic centre of Ridgmont, a village characterised as a linear estate village with several dwellings built by the Bedford Estate in the mid-19th century. The archaeological evaluation uncovered a post-medieval pit of uncertain function that cut an undated, possible drainage ditch. The site contains no standing heritage assets, but this study examined the impact of development on the surrounding Ridgmont Conservation Area and the historic buildings that overlook the site. Whilst the replacement of the current timber buildings with a new dwelling will change the setting, the thoughtful placement and design of the new building would have a beneficial

impact on the heritage assets that surround the site without compromising their significance.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-282371

Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.33

The RSPB Reserve, Potton, Sandy – Excavations in 2016

LAURA DODD MSc ACIFA and DAVID KAYE BA ACIFA

Introduction

Between August and September 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd carried out an excavation in Sandy, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of a wind turbine and the installation of associated cabling at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Reserve, Potton Road, Sandy (NGR TL 1971 4858) (Fig. 14; Dodd 2016). The excavation uncovered several Iron Age and Roman features, the most notable being a large roundhouse measuring c.16m in diameter characterised by a series of postholes surrounding a central and a possible secondary hearth. The archaeological landscape of the area is well documented and an Iron Age presence has been recorded in the form of three hillforts located within a 1.3km radius of the site. Within the heathland in the adjacent field, there are a series of mapped, but unexcavated cropmarks potentially signifying Iron Age occupation in the immediate vicinity of the newly built turbine.



Figure 14: Site location

Topography, Geography and Geology

The site was irregular in shape, and covered approximately 1660 square meters, lying on the crest of the Greensand Ridge within the catchment of the Great Ouse. To the south runs the River Ivel, a branch of the Great Ouse, which courses down through the town to the west. The national headquarters of the RSPB occupies the 19th century Elizabethan style manor known as 'The Lodge' which is situated to the southwest of

the excavation. The landscape is a mixture of heath, acid grassland and woodland within which are deep craters and the scars of a disused sand quarry. The local geology consists of sandstone from the Woburn Sands formation.

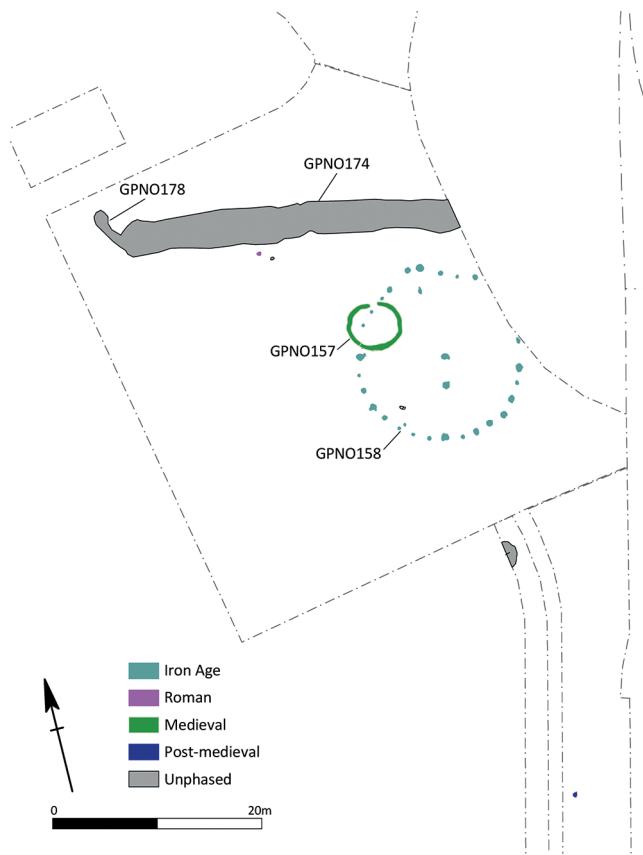


Figure 15: Overall site plan

The Excavation

The main excavation was in the heathland to the east of the reserve, and produced several archaeological features, the majority of which were located to the north of the site close to Potton Road (Fig. 15). The most notable of these was the remains of a substantial roundhouse [GN158], c.16m in diameter, comprising 24 postholes of varying depths and diameters spaced at approximately 1.5m intervals, with an entrance to the north (Figs. 16–17).

Roundhouses of this size and form are not uncommon in Britain and during the Iron Age. These structures typically had an east or south-east facing entrance, which is believed to have a cosmological significance (Champion 2004:223). Given the disadvantages of a north facing entrance to a building in the winter, the alternative alignment in the Sandy example may be indicative of the importance of the viewshed to the north, though the hillforts of The Lodge, Galley Hill and Caesar's Camp are all to the west and northwest (Fig. 18).

Fired clay was the most common artefact recovered from the fills of the postholes. Many of the fragments displayed irregular surfaces and wattle imprints from the wall panelling (Fawcett 2016:50). Burnt bone and charcoal were also present in several the fills and sherds of early-mid/late Iron Age pottery were recovered.

Within the roundhouse were two areas of burning, which are likely to have been hearths. The first was centrally located but was no more than a patch of sand which had been

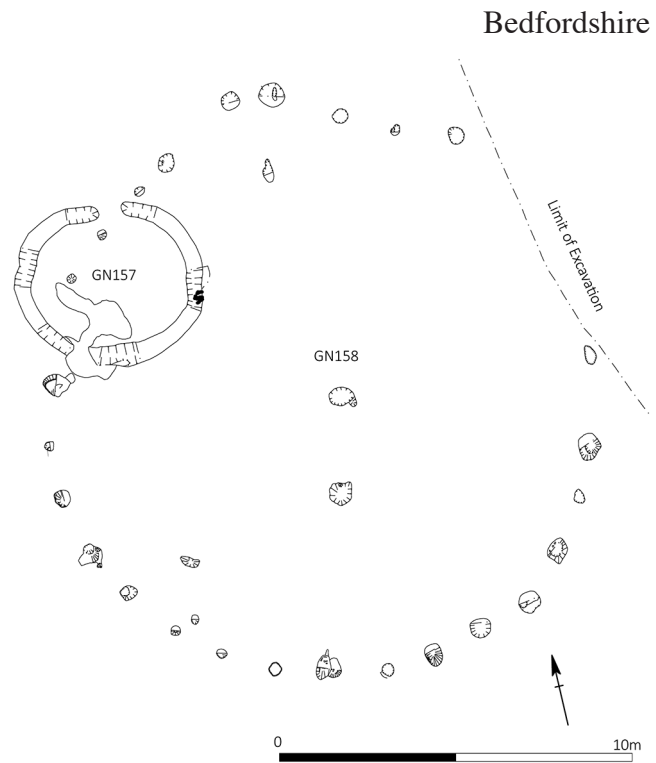


Figure 16: Detailed plan of roundhouse [GN158]



Figure 17: Aerial view of roundhouse [GN158], north to right

exposed to high temperatures. The second area was off-set 11.18m from the northern entrance and 4.74m from the southern wall and contained a high concentration of daub and charcoal flecks, which were subsequently carbon dated and produced a date of 761–430BC.

There was no evidence of food preparation or consumption from either artefactual or environment data recovered. However, the environmental sampling and copper-alloy residue from one of the fired clay fragments would suggest that there may have been activities associated with metal working taking place in the near vicinity (Fawcett 2016:50; Small 2016:51).

A second smaller circular enclosure [GN157] was recorded cutting the northwest quadrant of the roundhouse. It was northeast facing and consisted of a single curvilinear gully which measured 4.32m in diameter with an entrance to

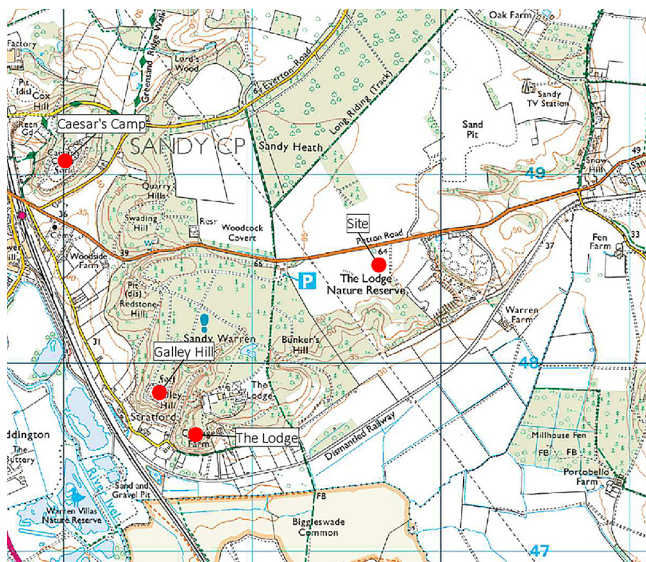


Figure 18: The site in its wider landscape

the northeast. The area had been heavily disturbed by animal activity and the single sherd of pottery from the gully fills, which dated from the 12th to the 14th century, is likely to be intrusive.

A large shallow ditch [GN174] orientated west south-west to east south-east was located close to the roundhouse and the circular enclosure. The ditch was 3 metres wide, over 31.5 metres in length and appeared to terminate to the west south-west where it cut a second, smaller curved ditch [GN178]. The extent of this smaller feature was unclear due to its shallow nature. However, it was possible to determine that it turned northwest before it seemed to terminate. As no artefacts were recovered from the fills of either feature it is difficult to understand the relationship between the ditches and the other features on the site. It is possible that the larger of the two ditches acted as a boundary for the roundhouse enclosure, though this is by no means certain.

Two apparently isolated postholes [166] and [168] containing pottery from the mid-1st to the 2nd century AD, were located *c.*10m northwest of the roundhouse, close to the edge of the larger ditch, though little can be concluded about their presence.

Discussion

Bedfordshire has never been heavily urbanised, traditionally being thought of as a rural farming county containing small pockets of urbanisation such as the small Roman towns at Sandy (Oake 2007:11). This excavation has highlighted the potential pre-historic importance of Sandy prior to the construction of the Roman town and expanded our understanding of Iron Age and prehistoric activity within the local area.

The catchment of the Great Ouse is widespread with the course of the river running through Buckinghamshire before passing eastwards into East Anglia and joining the North Sea via the Wash.

Human interaction in this area predates the Iron Age and within the middle and lower parts of the Valley several ceremonial complexes attributed to the Neolithic period have been recorded, including cursus monuments, long mortuary enclosures, round barrows and pit alignments (Meade 2003:78). One such monument, the Biggleswade

Cursus is situated to the south of Sandy and consists of an elongated oval enclosure surrounded by massive ditches (Abrams 2010:48). Environmental evidence from Ivel Farm suggests that woodland clearance had been undertaken from the Neolithic through to the Bronze Age to the southwest of the RSBP site (Abrams 2006:18). The excavation also produced evidence of Iron Age settlement, *c.*2.2km to the southwest of the site, with possible ritual and funerary practices and possible stock rearing towards the end of that period. Iron Age cremations as well as pits, ditches and small post structures have also been identified 3.5km to the southwest at Sandy Quarry (Albion Archaeology 2005).

With the development of agriculture, the density of occupation sites rose significantly from the late Bronze Age and settled villages began to appear such that by the early Iron Age most people lived in single farmsteads or within small hamlets (Bradley 2007:236; Hoskins 1981:23). The decline in the supply of bronze from the continent at the beginning of the 1st millennium BC had consideration social ramifications on the prehistoric communities. The demise of long distance trade left parts of Iron Age Britain isolated and where prestigious metal works were once a source of social power, a diminishing supply forced Iron Age communities to shift their efforts to raising livestock and increasing food production (Thomas 1997:213; Bradley 2007:237). Generally, the focus of power shifted away from prestigious material, and Iron Age settlement became focussed on the hillfort and roundhouse, features which would have dominated the landscape (Bradley 2007:270). Whether or not this is the case for Iron Age sites in Bedfordshire has been debated, as evidence for settlement hierarchy is far less obvious compared to other regions, particularly in southern Britain (Webley 2007:65).

Certainly, the presence of three hillforts close to Sandy suggest a strong Iron Age presence. Caesar's Camp which is believed to be early Iron Age in date, is perched on the Greensand ridge on a heavily wooded hillside overlooking the modern town (Dawson 1995:64). Approximately 1.5km north-west of this monument, within the RSPB reserve, lies the Sandy Lodge Hillfort This promontory landmark which overlooks the Ivel Valley to the west and Biggleswade Common to the south, was established either in the late Bronze Age or very early in the Iron Age, as determined by the simplicity of its construction and the available artefactual evidence (Dyer 1971:14). Approximately 150m west of Sandy Lodge, also overlooking the Ivel Valley is the slight univallate (one line of defences) hillfort on Galley Hill. Pottery recovered from the interior of the fort indicates that this monument was constructed in the early Iron Age after the Sandy Lodge Hillfort (Abrams 2006:9). Understanding the relationship between the hillforts at Sandy and the surrounding settlements is problematic particularly due to the limited investigation and therefore understanding of the features within these structures. However, it is possible that within the Ivel Valley there were several co-existing settlements occupying the hillforts and the immediate surrounding area.

The Iron Age landscape of this area is characterised by small dispersed settlements set on high slopes well above the floodplains. The area contains several hillforts, single or multiple enclosures, and roundhouses are a common attribute throughout the Ouse Valley (Dawson 2000:115). That part of the RSPB site which was excavated at Sandy exhibits at least some of the characteristics that could be

typical of Iron Age settlement within the area. However, the site was relatively small, and it might be considered fortuitous that such a large structure as the roundhouse was exposed within the development footprint. It was, after all, the only evidence of permanent habitation identified. It can be speculated that whilst single, isolated Iron Age dwellings are not unheard of in Bedfordshire, it is more common that they occur in groups and that this structure could be part of a larger settlement associated with the nearby hillfort. It is also notable that there are no other directly comparable structures of this size or construction within the area and that roundhouses are more commonly identified by the remnants of a drip gully, therefore, implying that there was some greater significance to the building and probably the site as a whole.

Bedfordshire boasts several prehistoric sites that have produced several roundhouses and circular enclosures such as Fairfield Park, Stotfold (Webley et al, 2007), Roxton and Great Barford (Timby et al, 2007) and Biddenham Loop (Luke 2008). Within these sites the roundhouses were typically represented by a ring ditch or eave-gully. The complexes in which they were situated comprised several dwellings and enclosures; the early Iron Age settlement at Fairfield Park for example, had a total of seven confirmed and five suspected roundhouses whose sizes varied between 6.0 and 13.9 meters in diameter (Webley et. al, 25:2007). In comparison, Roundhouse [GN158] was a post-defined structure more reminiscent of the late Bronze Age roundhouses at Shorncote Quarry, Somerford Keyes (Hearne & Adam 1999:49) and at Springfield Lyons, Essex (Brown & Medlycott 2013). Although alike in construction technique, the structures at Shorncote Quarry and Springfield are notably smaller than [GN158], the largest being 10.7m in diameter. In addition, the Shorncote Quarry and Springfield roundhouses were not isolated features but part of a complex of structures within large circular enclosures.

Although [GN158] was excavated as an isolated structure with later smaller enclosure [GN157] cutting its north-western side it seems unlikely that a structure of this size would have constituted a single dwelling, and it is more probable that it would have served a communal function and was perhaps part of larger group of structures. There are several mapped, but unexcavated cropmarks to the west of it, which may be indicative of associated settlement. It should also be noted that the archaeological features uncovered within this programme of works were not visible as cropmarks, and that their density is potentially far greater than the visual record suggests.

Acknowledgements

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Thurleigh, Land Adjacent to 15 Vicarage Green (TL 05323 58507)

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In September 2017 an Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at the Land Adjacent to 15 Vicarage Green, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of a single dwelling. The works uncovered the remains of what was thought to have been a pond containing finds of post-medieval pottery, tile and clay pipe stems.

OASIS: kdkarcha1–295361

Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.94

Thurleigh, Thurleigh Lower School, High Street (TL 05202 58554)

ELLEN SHLASKO

In March 2017, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at Thurleigh Lower School, High Street, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire. The watching brief monitored the augering of over 60 boreholes for the foundation piles for a new structure at the school. An undated ditch, possibly related to the outer defences of Thurleigh Castle, was observed in the boreholes.

OASIS: kdkarcha1–276922

Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.15

Toddington, Willow Farm, Fancott (TL 0206 2769)

ELLEN SHLASKO and CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

In July 2017 a programme of Observation and Recording was undertaken at Willow Farm, Fancott, Toddington, Bedfordshire to fulfil a planning condition for the development of the site.

The condition was imposed as the site lies within the boundary of the medieval settlement of Fancott and has been identified as the possible site of a moat. However, the groundworks did not extend deep enough to impact

archaeological deposits, and no archaeological features were observed.

OASIS: kdkarcha1–270081

Accession Number: LTNMG 1264

Upper Caldecote, 15 Ickwell Road (TL 09084 38242)

ELLEN SHLASKO

In May 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at 15 Ickwell Road, Upper Caldecote, Bedfordshire. The site lies on the western edge of Upper Caldecote, a medieval rural settlement. A total of four evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. These trenches revealed extensive modern disturbance throughout the site, with made ground, concrete foundations or tarmac paving appearing in every trench. The only below ground features were a line of modern postholes in one of the trenches. No other archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

OASIS: kdkarcha1–276923

Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.14

Willington, 11 Chapel Lane (TL 11382 50147)

LAURA DODD

In July 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of 11 Chapel Lane, Willington, Bedfordshire. This was undertaken as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

Willington village has produced a great number of sites of archaeological significance and there has been human occupation from the prehistoric period onwards. Many of these sites can be seen as cropmarks throughout the village. Number 11, Chapel Lane is adjacent to a medieval moated site with associated docks.

Despite the wealth of archaeological material in the area, the development site produced no archaeological deposits, finds or features.

OASIS: kdkarcha1–276722

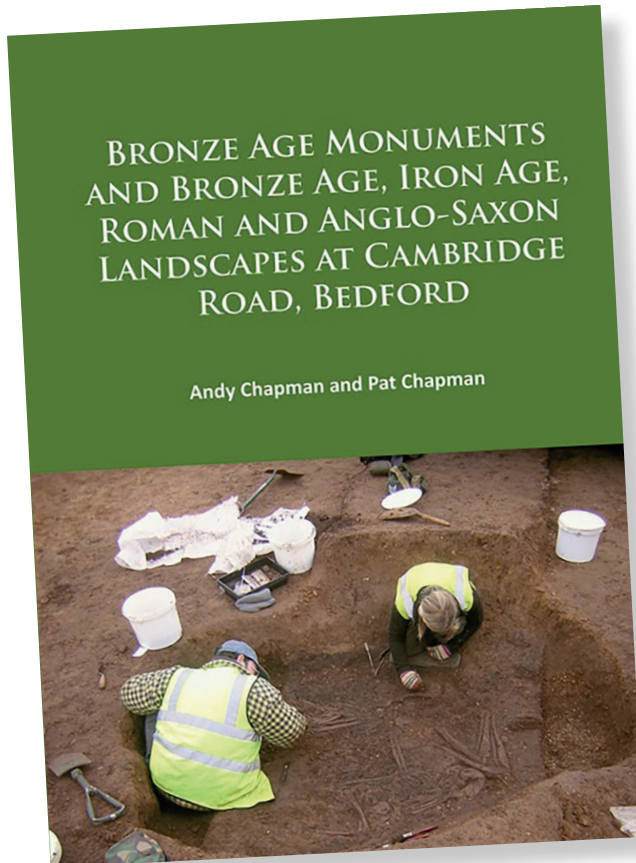
Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.11

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Bedford, Cambridge Road – Excavations 2004–5 (TL 0756 4807)

Open area excavation on 14.45ha of land at Cambridge Road, Bedford was carried out in 2004–5 in advance of development by Northamptonshire Archaeology, now MOLA Northampton. The site has just been published as an Archaeopress Monograph. This summary updates the 2006 assessment of the site recorded in SMA (vol 36, 4–5).

A background scatter of early Neolithic flint, including a Langdale stone axe, may be related to the nearby presence of the Cardington causewayed enclosure. Two early Bronze Age ring ditches sat on a low-lying gravel ridge between the River Great Ouse and the Elstow Brook. A causewayed ring ditch, 30m in diameter, had a broad entrance to the southwest, where a shallow length of ditch either silted or had been filled in. Adjacent to the shallow ditch was a pit containing three crouched burials, probably in an oak-lined chamber, radiocarbon dated to the early middle Bronze



Age. A nearby small round barrow enclosed a deep central grave containing the crouched burial of a woman, probably within an oak-lined chamber. An L-shaped ditch to the east, radiocarbon dated to the middle to late Bronze transition, may have been the final feature of the monument group. It parallels the addition of L-shaped ditches/pit alignments at other contemporary ring ditch monuments.

Shallow linear ditches formed a land boundary extending north and south from the Bronze Age ring ditch, and other contemporary ditches comprised remnants of a rectilinear field system, contemporary with a scatter of irregular pits and a waterhole. This phase came to an end at the late Bronze Age/ early Iron Age transition, when a large assemblage of decorated pottery was dumped in the final fills of the waterhole.

By the middle Iron Age there was a new linear boundary, comprising three near parallel ditches, aligned north-south; a rectangular enclosure and a complex of intercut pits. The pottery assemblage was sparse, but the upper fills of both the deepest linear boundary ditch and the pit complex contained some Roman pottery. To the south-east an extensive Roman ladder settlement is dated to the 1st to 4th centuries AD. Only the northern fringe lay within the excavated area, comprising successive boundary ditches, along with pits, a stone-lined well, an inhumation burial and animal burials.

In the early Anglo-Saxon period (5th-6th centuries AD), there was a loose cluster of three sunken featured buildings with another to the south. In the middle Saxon period (8th-9th centuries AD) a small rectangular mausoleum contained a single inhumation burial, with a second inhumation to the immediate west. Subsequent land use comprised truncated furrows of the medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation and post-medieval quarry pits.

Available from Archaeopress Archaeology
(<http://www.archaeopress.com>)

Biddenham, land west of Gold Lane (TL 017 504)
GRAHAM ARKLEY and JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey of c18.3ha of land west of Gold Lane detected sets of magnetic anomalies which relate to enclosures, a ring ditch and possible track way. Most of these features are probably prehistoric to Roman in date. Other anomalies comprised medieval ridge and furrow and a probable post-medieval gravel quarry. OASIS 279360

Biggleswade, land at St Andrews Lower School
(TL 2072 4525)
SAM EGAN

A small excavation took place at St Andrews school over a c70m by 20m area. This found part of a late Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure whose ditch had been recut. Very few artefacts were found but included 28 sherds (0.38kg) of c1st century BC pottery. The southern part of enclosure and the majority of the associated Iron Age to Roman settlement had been investigated previously by Albion Archaeology (Barker 2016). OASIS 273898

Bromham, land west of (SP 996 505)
JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey of c19ha of land west of Bromham, Bedfordshire mapped a group of enclosures, pits and associated features of Iron Age or Roman date. Two groups of undated ditches, possibly representing parts of a field system and another enclosure, were identified further to the north. The survey also detected a large (c5.5ha) zone of magnetic disturbance in the north of the survey area, which very probably relates to a modern layer of made ground.

Haynes, land at Silver End (TL 1005 4249)
JOHN WALFORD

On an area of c0.5ha a magnetometer survey of land west of Silver End, including the suspected site of a medieval moat and the known site of a post-medieval farmstead, Rooktree Farm, was carried out. The survey results revealed the probable remains of a building, two former field boundaries and some ridge and furrow, as well as a large spread of debris presumed to relate to the demolished farm. OASIS 284358

Old Warden, Warden Abbey (TL 119 439)
JOHN WALFORD

MOLA was commissioned by the Old Warden History and Heritage Society (OWHHS) to undertake a magnetometer and earth resistance surveys on the site of Warden Abbey, a Cistercian abbey located near Old Warden in Bedfordshire. The survey revealed much of the ground plan of the abbey and elements of the post-dissolution Gostwick Mansion. Some probable medieval tile kilns were also detected. Thanks are due to the OWHHS volunteers who worked alongside MOLA on this project. OASIS 286561

Bedfordshire

Wootton, 'Belmont', Woburn Road (TL 0087 4324)

CONOR MURPHY

In June 2017 an archaeological trial trench evaluation consisting of seven trenches found no archaeological remains. OASIS 289561

Wootton, Fields Road South (TL 01046 44592)

PAUL SHARROCK and LIZ MULDOWNEY

An excavation took place in an area previous evaluated by two phases of trial trenching. These had identified Iron Age ditches and pits as well as two cremations, one of which was dated to the first half of the 1st century AD. A late Iron Age/early Roman rural settlement was uncovered in two separate mitigation areas. The Iron Age activity comprised five circular enclosures, including three possible roundhouses, boundary ditches, pits and short linear features. The Iron Age to early Roman transition cremation cemetery contained 21 cremations along the eastern edge of a possible track way of similar date. OASIS 304231



Figure 19: Burial 20 and accessory vessels

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Bedfordshire: Biddenham Loop Reinforcement Water Main (TL 01320 47363 centred)

Oxford Archaeology East
Rachel Clarke and Nick Cox

Introduction

During 2016, excavation of a 520sqm area along part of the route of the Biddenham Loop Reinforcement Water Main (Figs 20–23) to the south-west of Bedford targeted the remains of a group of probable high-status medieval buildings revealed by an earlier evaluation. Located on solid geology of Peterborough Member mudstones, the site lay at a height of c.37m OD in a fallow field to the west of the Bedford Western Bypass where archaeological work had identified late Saxon to post-medieval settlement remains. Further to the north the ground drops down towards the

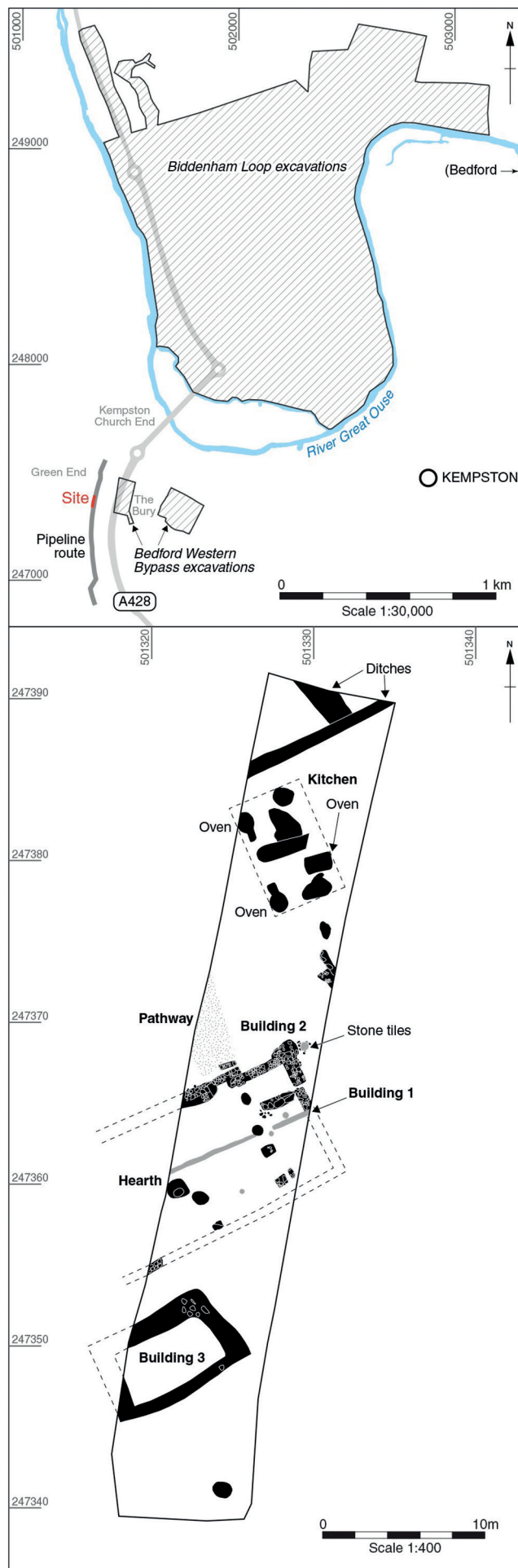


Figure 20: (Right) Biddenham Loop Reinforcement Water Main 2016 excavation in relation to Albion Archaeology sites

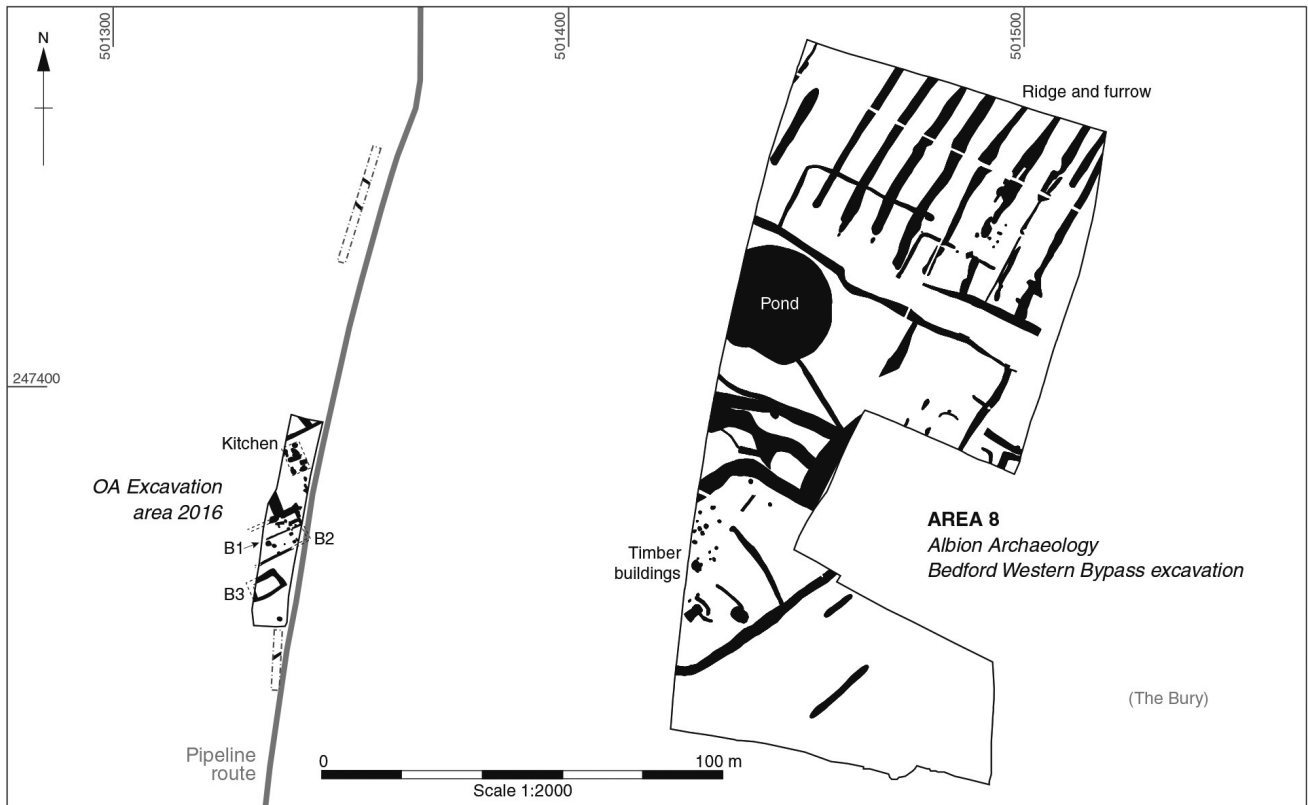


Figure 21: OA East 2016 excavation in relation to the Albion Archaeology Bypass excavations

floodplain of the River Great Ouse, where extensive multi-period activity has been revealed as part of the Biddenham Loop project (Barker and Luke 2008; Luke 2016). The excavation report (Cox and Clarke 2017) with all specialist contributions is freely available to download from the OA Library (Document id: 3178).

Medieval buildings

Overlying a small group of truncated late Saxon pits were the partial foundations of a timber building aligned north-east to south-west (Building 1; Fig. 20), represented by two beam slots and several postholes. The full footprint was not exposed but the (undated) building would have measured at least 9m long.

At some point, probably in the late 12th or 13th century, the timber structure was replaced by a more substantial domestic building with stone foundations (Building 2), on the same alignment. Measuring 9m wide and at least 13.5m long in plan, the building contained a hearth and remnants of a paved floor (Figs 20 and 23), while a pathway led from a doorway in the north wall. The building may have had a second storey, indicated not only by the varying widths of the foundations but by the presence of a line of large stone-packed postholes within its eastern end. These would have held timbers supporting the floor above and may have served to divide the main hall from a (rather narrow) parlour on the ground floor, presumably with the private chambers above. The building may have had a stone-tiled roof, suggested by the presence of dumps of broken stone roofing tiles near its north-east corner (Fig. 22) and a general lack of ceramic roofing tiles of contemporary date found in the vicinity.

To the immediate south of Building 2 was a smaller rectangular structure (Building 3), that measured 6.25m long

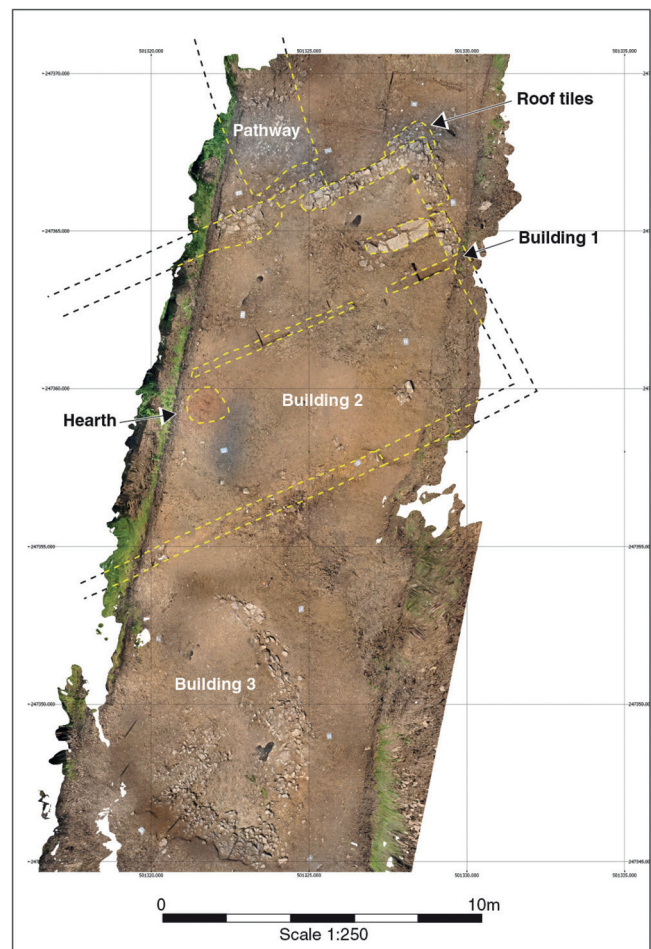


Figure 22: Aerial view of Buildings 1–3

Bedfordshire

and 3.5m wide (c. 8m × 6m externally). The foundations of this building had been heavily robbed, but it appeared to have been of solid construction. Although no internal features or obvious doorways survived, its proximity to Building 2 indicates a possible domestic function.

Positioned a few metres to the north of the main dwelling (Building 2) was a detached kitchen, represented by several ovens and pits with burnt fills that extended across a roughly rectangular area measuring c.6.5m by 4.5m. Two of the 'key-hole'-shaped ovens had opposing flues and were on the same north-west to south-east alignment, suggesting contemporaneity. Environmental evidence indicates that they were bread ovens, although they probably also served other functions such as corn dryers (see below). A rectangular oven in this group contained a silver farthing of a type issued at the London mint for Edward I in c.1279–1280 AD.

Beyond the kitchen lay several boundary ditches on the same alignment. These were also laid out on a general north-east to south-west axis, mirroring that of the main enclosure and ditches identified during the bypass excavations located c.100m to the east (see below and Fig. 21; Barker and Luke 2008; Luke 2016, 351).



Figure 23: Working shot showing Building 2 in foreground with Building 3 in background, looking south-west

Ceramic evidence indicates that intensive occupation of the site had probably ceased before the 15th century. The buildings were subsequently demolished, with any usable materials removed, and open features such as the ovens, pits and ditches filled in. By the post-medieval period the site had reverted to open fields.

Associated finds and environmental evidence

Post-Roman pottery recovered from the site amounts to 433 sherds weighing 3.899kg, all of which is in relatively good condition with large sherd sizes. The assemblage is entirely domestic in character, spanning the late Saxon to late medieval periods. It appears to be a typical rural assemblage with many forms being paralleled amongst the Bedford series and in other local assemblages. Much of the material derived from disuse and demolition/robbing deposits, although a large part of a Brill/Boarstall type glazed jug with brown and pale slip strips was found in a foundation of Building 2. The foot of a cauldron or skillet of later medieval date (c.13th–15th centuries AD) was also recovered, which is heavily sooted. Other metal finds include three possible

iron hinges along with various nails and bolts, indicative of the presence of wooden internal fixtures, fittings and/or furniture within the buildings. A find of note (although intrinsically uneatable) is a highly polished small fragment of jet, with a D-shaped cross-section, the curving upper surface of which is decorated with groups of four ring-and-dot motifs.

Cattle, sheep, and to a lesser degree pig form the main components of the small and fragmented animal bone assemblage (23 specimens), although bird (fowl) and fish are also present. Some evidence of butchery was identified, while occasional gnaw marks on bones may point to the presence of dogs within the settlement. Charred plant remains are generally poorly-preserved, although the most productive samples were recovered from the medieval ovens and are primarily composed of wheat grains, with some barley and vetch seeds, along with peas and small beans. Small quantities of charred seeds of crop weeds such as stinking mayweed, cornflower, clover/medick and scentless mayweed were also found, while one of the ovens also produced numerous rush seeds which may indicate the use of this wetland plant as fuel.

The site in relation to the Bedford Western Bypass excavations

Excavations adjacent to The Bury undertaken as part of the Bedford Western Bypass project to the immediate east of the current site revealed broadly contemporary (1150–1500) enclosures, buildings and associated settlement features extending on both sides of a trackway leading to Kempston Green End (Fig. 21). This settlement, which clearly had its origins in the late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period and possibly earlier, was surrounded by open 'strip' fields to the north and south (Luke 2016, 351–9). Interestingly, the animal bone assemblage from this settlement was also limited (Maltby 2016, 30), with cattle being the main identifiable taxon and displaying evidence of primary butchery waste, while horse remains were better represented than is usual on sites of this date. Conversely, a rich charred plant assemblage was recovered, mainly comprising cereal grains with a high percentage of free-threshing wheat, with smaller amounts of barley, rye and oats (Luke 2016, 371).

Manor or 'End'?

The settlement pattern across much of Bedfordshire is 'characterised by a series of inter-connected hamlets or 'Ends' ', some of which may have developed in times of population increase (Luke 2016, 359). The buildings and other remains identified by the current excavation clearly formed part of a larger swathe of settlement that may have extended westwards in the direction of Kempston Green End and Church End (Fig. 20) and possibly eastwards via The Bury towards Kempston East End.

At the time of the Domesday Survey the manor of Kempston was assessed at 10 hides and was held by the Countess Judith (Page 1912, 296). By the early 13th century (1237) Kempston had been divided into three manors: Kempston Dauberry, Brucebury and Greys or Hastingbury (Wood 1984, 34; Luke 2016, 370). It had been thought that the 19th-century house known as The Bury may have been located on the site of the manorial complex associated with Kempston Brucebury, although the absence of corroborative evidence from the bypass excavations led to

the conclusion that this interpretation was unlikely (Luke 2016, 370). A possible large fish pond was the only feature deemed to be indicative of a manorial site here, but this was tempered by the lack of high status foodstuffs, such as venison or pheasant. Manorial sites might also be expected to incorporate a church and possibly a mill; neither of which have so far been identified near The Bury. Further to this, manorial centres in the Great Ouse valley tend to be located close to the river, suggesting that Kempston Box End or Kempston Mill might be more suitable candidates – or possibly Kempston Church End given the presence of All Saints Church here.

It is of note that the name 'The Bury' was originally associated with the field to the west of the current house (see below), recorded as 'the Berry' on the 1804 Inclosure map, and within which the current pipeline excavation was located. Buildings 2 and 3 were clearly of some status given their construction using stone foundations, especially when combined with the possibility of an upper storey in Building 2 and the presence of a detached kitchen to the north. Whether these could represent part of a manorial complex remains open to interpretation, although if they do then the position of the manor appears to have shifted eastwards over time.

The manor of Kempston Brucebury was sub-divided in 1417, which may possibly tally with the abandonment and demolition of Buildings 1 and 2. From 1624 The Bury was owned by a succession of wealthy landowners, including the Cater family, and documentary sources include reference to a brick mansion with a dovecote that was built in 1628 'a little to the east of the old house' which was called 'the Place' (Wood 1984, 37; Page 1912, 300). This lay to the east of the extant house known as The Bury: its location is shown on historical maps and has been confirmed by geophysical survey (Luke 2016, 360; fig. 6.12). Evidence from the excavations around The Bury indicates that the focus of settlement had again moved slightly eastwards from its medieval location during the post-medieval period.

Conclusion

The identification of previously unknown medieval buildings of substantial construction combined with the presence of a detached kitchen is of some significance, especially when viewed within the immediate context of the extensive settlement remains recorded around The Bury to the east. The buildings may have formed part of a manorial complex associated with Kempston Brucebury or one of the other 'lost' Kempston manors, but could equally represent expansion related to one of the various hamlets or 'Ends' that characterise the pattern of medieval settlement in this area.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was commissioned by Anglian Water; thanks are extended to Jo Everitt. Nick Cox and James Fairbairn supervised the fieldwork, with the assistance of Matt Brooks, Louise Bush, Zoe Clarke, Anthony Haskins, Neil Holbrook, Ted Levermore, Steve Morgan, Richard Scurr and the late Chris Swain. Aerial photographs (Fig. 22) were taken by James Fairbairn using a 'polecam'. The various specialists are also thanked for their work which is summarised in this article: Sue Anderson (ceramics), Andrew Brown (metal finds), Rachel Fosberry (environmental samples), Angelos

Hadjikoumis (animal bone) and Chris Howard-Davis (jet). The project was managed for OA East by Matt Brudenell and was monitored on behalf of Bedford Borough Council by Geoff Saunders and Vanessa Clarke.

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Cranfield, Land at Wharley End (SP 93484 42567)

NICHOLAS COX (OA EAST REPORT 2149)

Evaluation was undertaken from September to October 2017 in advance of a proposed residential development. The northern field produced mostly post-medieval agricultural features dating to the 16th to 17th centuries, and features relating to a demolished farmstead. Two small ditches of Roman date were also identified. At the southern end of the field were the remains of a small cellar, with a brick floor, probably of 18th century date. A Roman ditch complex was revealed in the south-west part of the southern fields, dated to the 2nd century. At least one enclosure was recorded in the south-east, most likely dating to the 12th to 13th centuries.

Dunton, Dunton Lower VC School (TL 2360 4418)

STUART LADD (OA EAST REPORT 2107)

Evaluation was undertaken in April and May 2017 in advance of the building of an extension to the rear of Dunton Lower VC School. This revealed post-medieval pits sealed by a 19th century pond with a flint cobble lining which may correspond with a feature or features shown on the Enclosure and historic Ordnance Survey Six Inch maps. A modern brick-lined possible well truncated the backfill of the pond. This had been used as a cess pit or soak-away for a modern toilet block, the footings of which were also present.

Multi-parish, Felmersham to Carlton Water Main Replacement (SP 9562 5570)

CHRIS THATCHER (OA EAST REPORT 2109)

Monitoring was carried out in June 2017 during the excavation of three drill pits for the drilling of the mains pipeline close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Chellington Tri-Focal Deserted Medieval Village (NHLE 1013277; BBHER 711). No *in situ* archaeological remains or finds were observed.

Buckinghamshire

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Lower Stondon, Station Road (TL 15963 35741)

JOHN BOOTHROYD

In early September 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of 18 trenches targeted on the results of a geophysical survey. Cropmarks within the site suggested the presence of Iron Age enclosures forming a small settlement in the central southern part of the site. This was confirmed by the results of the geophysical survey. The survey suggested that archaeological remains were confined to the area of the cropmarks with only features related to medieval or modern agricultural practices recorded across the rest of the site. Ditches recorded within the trenches correlate well with the focus of activity identified by the non-intrusive surveys. The nature of the features, along with pottery, butchered animal bone and quern stone fragments, are indicative of a small early to middle Iron Age settlement. Several ditches were also recorded to the east and west of the main focus of activity and some have a similar early to middle Iron Age date, with evidence suggesting continued use into the late Iron Age. These more isolated features have been interpreted as forming part of the rural hinterland supporting the small settlement recorded in the central southern part of the site.

Post-medieval plough furrows were also present in the eastern half of the site.

SOUTERRAIN

Church Barn, Church Green, Milton Ernest (TL 019 560)

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

An evaluation trench (5 m × c.1.9 m) was excavated by Souterrain at a proposed house plot within the historic core of the Milton Ernest village, in an area of potential for buried medieval archaeology. The trench revealed that the ground had been truncated by a 20th century farm access. There were no archaeological features or artefacts.

OASIS ref.: souterra-1283279.

Chestayne Cottage, Gold Street, Podington (SP 940 626)

MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Souterrain prior to the construction of a rear extension to an 18th century stone-built cottage, in the historic core of Podington village.

The removal of mid/late 19th century topsoil from an 82 sq. m plot revealed a narrow stone-built culvert in good state of preservation. Visible for 11 m, the culvert had been carefully built of roughly-shaped limestone blocks (each generally 0.3 m × 0.22 m × 0.1 m) and capped with flat pieces of limestone. Pottery suggested a construction date of mid-17th to mid-18th century. The culvert had once run beneath a row of tenements or farm outbuildings, which are depicted on a map of 1765.

OASIS ref.: souterra-1-295168.

Reference: Draft Tithe Award of Podington 1765, Bedford & Luton Archives, OR917.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD.

Haynes, Land at Silver End Road (TL 1007 4252)

DANIELLE MILBANK

Evaluation trenching prior to submission of an application for a housing development revealed only features of post-medieval date, with no deposits of earlier periods represented.

Henlow, 95 High Street (TL 1758 3869)

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Magnetometer survey of the site in advance of a small housing development was hindered by very strong magnetic interference making interpretation of weak anomalies difficult. One positive anomaly may be a ditch but even this is unclear.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Land off Lychwood Lane, Shefford (TL 13796 38824)

W. SANTAMARIA and T. PIGGOTT

As part of a heritage assessment, Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Heritage Planning Services Ltd to undertake trial trench evaluation ahead of conversion of existing buildings and residential development. Two parallel stone walls were encountered which appear to be associated with a Romano-British building identified in the 19th century as a 'temple' (Inskip 1850).

Reference

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Aston Clinton, Land off 93 Aylesbury Road (SP 8728 1231)

ROBERT WARDILL, WESLEY KIER and IAN TURNER

Evaluation uncovered several undated ditches and pits, most likely associated with medieval field systems. This was

followed by open-area excavation. The earliest and most notable archaeological features were boundary ditches and an enclosure dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. Their location and, albeit small, finds assemblage suggest that the related settlement focus is likely to have lain to the west and north-west of the site. Later features were largely associated with the site's agricultural use during the

medieval and post-medieval periods, consisting of a series of furrows pre-dating the upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks within the site. A distinct area temporarily given over to quarrying, probably during the late medieval/early post-medieval period, was also revealed.

OASIS ID: albionar1-267779; albionar1-281061
Accession no.: AYBCM 2016.125

Bow Brickhill, Land at London End Lane
(SP 9070 3435)

GARY EDMONDSON and ANNA REBISZ-NIZIOLEK

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during monitoring of the foundations of a new house.

OASIS ID: albionar1-251769
Accession no.: AYBCM 2016.74

Campbell Park, Land East of Overgate, Milton Keynes
(SP 8680 3945)

WES KIER and ROBERT WARDILL

Archaeological open-area excavation was undertaken in advance of the development of a land parcel to the east of Overgate. The earliest evidence comprised the remains of a late Iron Age/early Roman rectilinear field system. In the 2nd century AD a different series of field systems was established and in the 2nd–3rd centuries the central and eastern parts of the site became the focus for intensive

crop-processing activities; two drying ovens and two processing floors were revealed (Figs. 1 & 2). Few features characteristic of a domestic-style settlement were present, although the modest pottery and animal bone assemblages along with the presence of two infant burials do indicate settlement in the vicinity. By the 4th century, these activities appear to have largely ceased; the structures were replaced by several curvilinear enclosures located near the southern boundary of the site.

OASIS ID: albionar1-277434
Accession no.: AYBCM 2017.64

Lavendon, Land South of New Row (SP 9136 5365)
GARY EDMONDSON, BEN BARKER and WIEBKE STARKE

Six trial trenches identified part of a medieval to post-medieval agricultural system, surviving as sub-surface remains and slight earthworks.

OASIS ID: albionar1-298023
Accession no.: AYBCM 2017.208

Longwick-cum-Ilmer, Land at Ivy Farm (SP 7943 0456)
ROBERT WARDILL and DAVID INGHAM

No archaeological deposits or features were uncovered during an evaluation of the site.

OASIS ID: albionar1-269783
Accession no.: AYBCM 2017.7

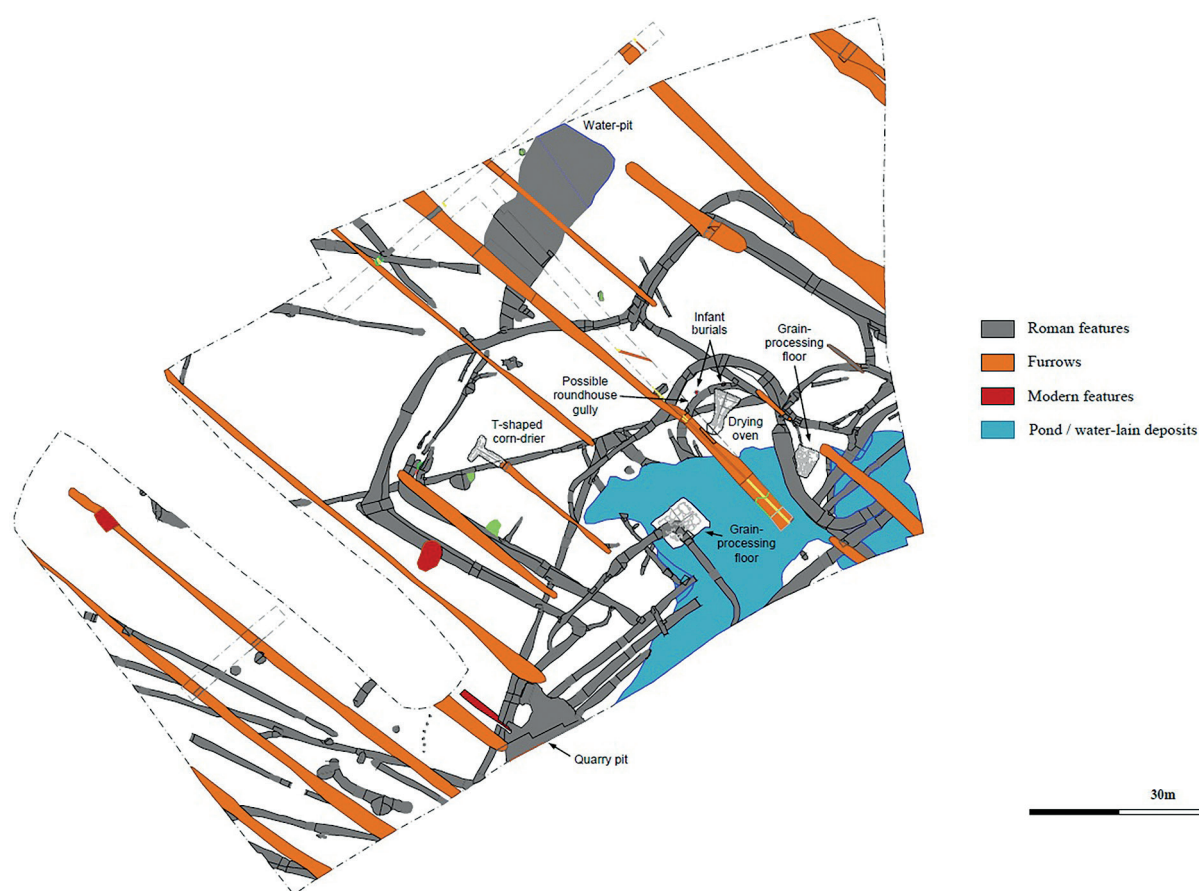


Figure 1: Campbell Park all features plan



Figure 2: Roman corn drying oven

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Aylesbury, Beeston Lane (SP 80767 15624)

REBECCA WATTS

Between the 30th May and 2nd June 2017 archaeological monitoring of ground works was undertaken during the location and repair of a leak within a water main.

Natural geology was reached during ground reductions, appearing at an upper height of 0.30m BGL, and comprising mixed orange grey sandy boulder clay. This was directly overlain by topsoil. No archaeological remains were identified during the works.

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-292286

AOC Project Number 33495

Taplow, Mill Lane, Thames Footbridge (SU 90356 81696)

STEFANO RICCHI and ASHLEY BRYANT

The work, in July 2017, comprised the archaeological monitoring of all intrusive ground works undertaken in the area being prepared for the construction of the footbridge abutment on the eastern side of the River Thames.

At the site of the eastern abutment, the watching brief identified no significant archaeological finds or features. A linear chalky deposit was observed, and has been interpreted as redeposited natural material, possibly representing a former embankment which underwent consolidation.

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-290866

AOC Project Number 33119

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Worminghall, Cold Stream Farm (SP 6381 0819)

ANDREW FAILES

An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken prior to a residential development on behalf of Peter Dean Estates. Work was carried out between 6th and 10th June 2016. The site lies close to the historic core of the village. The investigation revealed prehistoric activity represented by a single Mesolithic to Early Neolithic worked flint flake and a possible Mid to Late Iron Age ditch. There was evidence of medieval occupation probably relating to agriculture, including the possible bases of two agricultural furrows. A single ditch attested to a post-medieval presence at the site, while disturbance in the south eastern corner was 19th century or later in date. Several undated ditches and pits were also recorded across the western end of the site. Finds recovered during the investigation comprised several fragments of animal bone, a single flint, medieval pottery and tile, post-medieval pottery and brick fragments, an iron nail and probable post-medieval scissor handles.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

East Claydon, New Farm (SP 73800 25730)

GARETH BARLOW

The archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the demolition of the existing barns at New Farm and construction of a residential development. The site had potential for evidence relating to the late Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval development of the area. In the event

no archaeological remains earlier than modern brickwork, likely the remains of a soak-way, were uncovered.

Olney, Walkers Bridge Field (SP 8966 5281)

JULIE WALKER

Monitoring of the excavations for the footings of the new agricultural building in the north-eastern corner of Walkers Bridge Field revealed a Roman ditch, orientated northwest/southeast and a Roman century pit. The latter cut an undated pit. The fill of the undated pit consisted of a compact pale grey, with red, orange and yellow mottling, crushed limestone. This suggests the possibility that the feature may have been a footing or pad for a large post, suggesting the Roman pit may represent the deliberate removal of the post.

Swanbourne, Deverells Farm (SP 8019 2729)

GARETH BARLOW and LAUREN WILSON

Prior to residential development a trial trenching evaluation and historic building recording took place. Three trenches were cut in which archaeological features were present in all. The earliest finds were pieces of residual struck flints. All the features were large and deep pits, excluding a single ditch, all containing medieval pottery. Associated finds included small quantities of animal bone and shell. Altogether the features were indicative of settlement remains. A historic building recording to Level 1 was carried out on a series of barns on the site before demolition and conversion to a dwelling could take place. The buildings had seen much rebuilding and alterations. The main barn (Fig. 3) was a three-bay 19th century barn with a double-framed king post

roof, utilising some reused materials. Some structural event necessitated the supplement of a secondary roof structure, directly abutting the original truss form. The second range had the characteristics of an 18th century barn in its timber-framing, originally built up against a building which predates the current main barn in the same position. It once extended further to the south but has been truncated with the building of further ranges in the 20th century.

Swanbourne, Mursley Road (SP 8040 2731)

GARETH BARLOW

Four trenches were cut prior to residential development revealing finds and features in the north-eastern half of the site. The earliest features are of Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age date and comprise two ditches and a pit. The latter, a discrete feature, is suggestive of settlement. Two medieval (11th – 12th / 13th century) features, both ditches, were recorded. Pottery sherds were few (two in each feature) and abraded, so it is possible that the pottery is residual. A residual late medieval (15th – 16th century) peg tile was present. Post-medieval and modern features were present, including ditches and a Hollow Way.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MARLOW

Warren Wood (SU 8715 8972)

MARTIN FOWKES

Between March and October, Archaeology in Marlow continued its investigation of the double bank and ditch



Figure 3: Interior of the barn at Deverell's Farm, Swanbourne.

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enclosures to understand the structures and activity within the inner enclosure, and to find dating evidence. A trench was excavated across the inner enclosure bank (Fig. 4) and ditch to try and date this earthwork construction. The small amount of pottery and tile found is of a similar date to the material found within the enclosure, suggesting a construction date of 12–13th century. A test pit within the enclosure yielded large quantities of medieval roof tile and flint rubble. The flint rubble probably came from wall footings but it was not possible to determine wall positions. The pit also contained Medieval pottery but this has not yet been analysed or dated. In February the surrounding woodland was looked at and a few features were noted for potential further investigation. This survey work will be continued in 2018. Reports on this site from previous years can be found in Records of Buckinghamshire volumes 53 and 55.



Figure 4: AIM volunteers excavating a test pit in the inner enclosure

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Calverton, Upper Weald (SP 7995 3775)

BOB ZEEPVAT

BHS undertook a programme of historic building recording in November on an outbuilding at Fairfield Farm, Upper Weald, prior to conversion for residential use. The building was constructed, probably *c.*1877, as the coach house and stables for Fairfield House, the residence built at that time for the steward of the estate of Lord Egmont. There is little evidence of its subsequent history, but it appears to have retained those functions until the first half of the 20th century before changing to its present use as a chemical store and workshop, for which it earned the epithet 'The Old Tool Store'.

The building (Fig. 5) is a single-storey brick structure with brick floors under a boarded roof, now clad in modern machine-made pantiles. Internally there are two rooms, separated by a full-height brick partition wall, the coach house being at the south-west end. The larger stable was originally divided by timber partitions into two loose boxes, with an open area between. The timber partitions and other fittings, such as iron hay baskets in the rear of the loose boxes, have since been removed and a work bench installed. Externally, the building retains most of its original door furniture and its original metal-framed windows with 'hit-and-miss' ventilation, made at a foundry in Bedford.

New Bradwell, Bradwell Road (SP 8320 4118)

BOB ZEEPVAT

Historic building recording was undertaken in January by BHS of a large outbuilding within the curtilage of the Grade II-listed *New Inn*, Bradwell Road, prior to its demolition.



Figure 5: Calverton, coach house with Fairfield House in background

The *New Inn* was opened in 1804 to serve the adjacent canal wharf and boatmen on the Grand Union Canal. By the late 19th century the stone-built public house had been extended to the south in brick, and was surrounded by several brick outbuildings (stables, granaries, coke and salt houses, pigsties, brewhouse, wash-house etc.) which were related to its function and that of the adjoining wharf. During the 20th century these outbuildings gradually disappeared, and the public house was subject to several phases of alterations.

The building forming the subject of the survey does not appear on Ordnance Survey mapping until 1969, though from its construction it probably dates from the late 19th or early 20th century. Most recently used as a garage and store, local sources suggest it was previously a fire station, housing a fire engine. A tall pole adjacent to the building is believed to have carried an air-raid siren.

Newport Pagnell, Silver Street (SP 8755 4358)

BOB ZEEPVAT

In November historic building recording was undertaken by BHS of an outbuilding to the rear of 49 Silver Street, prior to its demolition as part of a wider refurbishment of the property. The outbuilding was probably constructed in the 1870s, about the same time as the house. Originally it formed part of a row of outbuildings along the boundary with Eton Court: the other structures were demolished by the early 20th century. It appears that this outbuilding was constructed as a cart store and stable, in connection with the occupation of the first recorded occupant of 49 Silver Street, Enoch Holland, as a 'general carrier'. The building appears to have fulfilled this function for only a decade or so, after which it was retained for more general use.

From the survey it is apparent that the building has undergone some structural changes during its existence. The roof, probably originally slated, has been re-clad with corrugated iron sheeting. The original opening at the rear of the cart store has been walled up with reclaimed brick. The external doors have been removed from cart store and stable and the floor of the hayloft above the stable has been repaired on several occasions.

Olney, Market Place (SP 8887 5125)

BOB ZEEPVAT

In August and September, refurbishment works at the *Bull Inn*, Market Place, were monitored by BHS. The inn is on the market square in the historic core of Olney, and the development had the potential to reveal buried heritage assets relating to the Grade II-listed, 18th-century inn or earlier.

Archaeological monitoring failed to reveal any significant buried heritage assets. The excavation of footings for a new kitchen extension encountered only modern redeposited layers and a Victorian rubbish pit. Reduction of the former inn yard area revealed a well, which formerly provided water for the stables on its west side. Finally, ground reduction for a car park to the rear (west) of the existing buildings revealed the floor of a former 19th-century WC and associated boundary/garden walls of the same date.

Wavendon, Crow Lane (SP 9298 3783)

BOB ZEEPVAT

Following a thatch fire, in November BHS undertook historic building recording of Chimney Cottage, Crow Lane, Lower End, to inform rebuilding. The house was originally constructed c.AD1600, as a four-bay, one-and-a-half-storey house of the 'lobby' or 'baffle entry' type, probably for a smallholder or yeoman farmer. As built, the house had two brick chimney stacks, the larger central stack incorporating a bread oven, and a timber box frame infilled with wattle-and-daub. Much of the latter remains *in situ*, though much of the north end of the building has been rebuilt in brick. Internally there are three downstairs rooms including a kitchen and parlour: the original layout upstairs is uncertain. At some later date, a single-storey lean-to, possibly a wash-house with its own chimney stack, was added to the south end of the structure.

By the late 19th century, the building had been divided into three cottages. In the late 19th or early 20th century the central and northern parts of the building were at least partly rebuilt in brick and the upper floor in the northern cottage was replaced. The cottages reverted to a single dwelling between 1925 and 1963, by which time the building had been re-roofed with corrugated iron sheeting. In the late 1960s the building was extensively renovated: further works have taken place since. It was listed Grade II in 1984.

The fabric of the southern part of the building appears to remain largely unaltered, with much of the timber framing and a fair amount of wattle and daub infill still in place, though on the ground floor some wattle and daub has been replaced by brick. In contrast, part of the central bay and much of the northern one have been rebuilt in brick, and exterior walls have been rendered. Internally, the ground floors have been concreted or surfaced with modern slabs. The enclosed staircase on the west side of the kitchen seems likely to have been the original access to the upper floor, the steep stairs near the north end probably having been inserted when the building was in multiple occupation.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Calverton, Field south-west of Oakhill Lane (SP 80744 37549)

2nd November 2017 to 23rd November 2017

Archaeological field evaluation comprising 49 trenches revealed a single posthole in the northeast of the site containing pottery provisionally dated to the Romano-British period. Further investigation around the posthole revealed no further related features. No further finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

OASIS Ref: borderar1-309523

Accession No: Pending

Calverton, Land at Lower Common Farm adjacent to Calverton Lane (SP 80559 38100)

September 2015 to November 2017

Several Romano-British wells, one of which contained an *in-situ* wooden step and part of a wattle fencing panel, were revealed during open-area excavation, together with the stone foundations of a square structure, an adult cremation and the.

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These finds formed part of a settlement which provisional pottery dates suggest may have remained in continuous occupation from the Middle-to-Late Iron Age throughout the Romano-British period up until the late 4th century AD when occupation appears to have ceased although the reason for abandonment at this time is unclear as no destruction layer was found.

The settlement was defined by large boundary ditches, with droveways of at least 100m running northeast-southwest. The ditches enclosed what appeared to be a small settlement or hamlet which in the Late Iron Age-early Romano-British period comprised at least 10 roundhouses, with interior diameters of 7–12m, set within D-shaped enclosures. The largest enclosure covered an area of 1600m² and contained seven roundhouses, with at least two phases of occupation visible. Dating is based on provisional interpretation of pottery recovered from the roundhouses.

A cobbled surface constructed towards the end of the earlier occupation period in the area of the main concentration of roundhouses is thought to represent an eastern entrance to the settlement.

A further phase of occupation is attested from the 2nd century AD onwards when several of the Late Iron Age-early Romano-British ditches went out of use and were overlaid by a metalled surface extending over a wide area in the northwestern part of the site. The surface appeared to be related to contemporary structures or working areas with stone foundations. The pattern of occupation remained largely unchanged throughout the early Romano-British period based on evidence for re-cut boundary/enclosure ditches.

A large rectangular stone structure with an interior space of 214m² and an entrance to the north was recorded in the southwest of the site and is of enough importance to justify preservation *in-situ*. The structure overlay an earlier roundhouse and utilised the earlier enclosure ditches as foundation cuts for the walls, with evidence suggesting that, in places, these were 'levelled-up' for the purpose. No clear occupation layer was found and there was no trace of internal walls or roof tiles, although there was some evidence for robber trenches. The structure's function is uncertain: it may be that the masonry served as the foundation for a timber superstructure with a thatched roof although there is some evidence to suggest it may have enclosed a garden.

Water was collected from wells, several of which were recorded within the settlement area. The remarkably well-preserved wattle panel found in one of the wells measured 2.09m × 1.10m and, together with the *in-situ* wooden step, offered a rare insight into the daily lives of a Romano-British community.

The fully articulated remains of an extended supine human burial were found in the fill of a ditch towards the southwest of the site representing the later phase of occupation. A cremation burial, which preliminary analysis suggests is that of an adult, was found at the northeastern extent of the settlement area. Parallels with similar cremations suggest a date of the 2nd century AD.

The small finds from the site, viewed in the context of its rural agricultural character, suggest a typical Late Iron Age-Romano-British settlement with connections to the wider Central Belt area and beyond. Remnant traces of medieval ridge-and-furrow field cultivation were present throughout the site.

OASIS ref: borderar1–309516

Accession no: AYBCM: 2016.81

Calverton, Land adjacent to Two Mile Ash Farmhouse (SP 81213 38330)

30th October to 24th November 2017

Archaeological evaluation of three fields immediately southwest of Watling Street and approximately 420m southeast of Calverton Lane on the western outskirts of Milton Keynes revealed post-medieval clay extraction pits in two of the 47 trenches but no significant archaeological finds or features.

OASIS Ref: borderar1–309520

Accession No: Pending

Calverton & Shenley Church End, Whitehouse Secondary School (SP 80800 37700)

April to May 2017

Archaeological evaluation of this 106,400m² site revealed a series of Late Iron Age-mid-1st century AD ditches running largely north-northwest-south-southeast across the northern part of the site, with a single late 1st century AD ditch to the south. These ditches were considered to relate to a droveway or sequence of squared stock-enclosures. Evidence for iron-smithing was also found in this area, although no clear focus of ironworking activity was identified.

By contrast with the above, the archaeology towards the southeast of the site was likely to have been of 2nd to 3rd century AD date.

Of the 57 trenches excavated, 16 were found to contain features of potential archaeological significance. Dating was supported by the pottery evidence, almost all which was either grog-tempered or shell-gritted, or a combination of both, and probably locally produced.

The archaeological and palaeo-environmental evidence suggested the ditches were not continually recut or maintained and were not sited near domestic waste disposal, suggesting that they formed part of the wider farming landscape located some distance away from occupation.

No evidence was found for arable cultivation, molluscan analysis indicating an environment of short-tufted grassland suitable for grazing. This is consistent with the results of previous and ongoing works around Common Farm, which suggest that Iron Age and Romano-British occupation was domestic in nature, with considerable evidence for cattle-raising.

OASIS Ref: borderar1–309595

Accession No: AYBCM:2017.164

Wavendon, Newport Road (SP 91085 37605)

September to October 2017

Archaeological evaluation undertaken in advance of the proposed Newport Road junction revealed three possible pits and a linear feature running northeast-southwest which produced several fragments of bone but no pottery or other finds.

The site lies to the southwest of the A5130 Newport Road and approximately 100m east of Stockwell Road. Five trenches were excavated, four of which contained evidence of rooting.

The pits were slightly irregular and elongated in plan but with regular profiles, suggesting a possible anthropogenic origin.

A furrow of probable medieval/post-medieval date was also recorded, its orientation being consistent with that of furrows identified by geophysical survey in 2007.

OASIS Ref: borderar1-309550

Accession No: Pending

Wavendon, The Gables (SP 91488 37683)

February to March 2017

Strip, map and record excavation of land northeast of The Gables revealed six postholes and three stake-holes in the south eastern part of the site. Two of the stakeholes and two postholes were set in conjoined shallow pits. Five small sherds of possible Late Iron Age-early Romano-British pottery were recovered from the fill of the largest posthole.

The site lies at the junction of the A5130 Newport Road and Lower End Road, approximately 1.50km northeast of Wavendon Gate. The project was undertaken prior to construction of a temporary balancing pond serving proposed residential development. Previous geophysical survey, together with the results of evaluation trenching, indicated an area of significant archaeological potential.

Excavation revealed extensive evidence for bioturbation, together with deposits resulting from water action. The fill of a shallow ditch running broadly north-south across the north-western part of the site, produced three small sherds of abraded pottery, provisionally dated to the late Iron Age-early Romano-British period. The ditch had been truncated by modern land drainage and deep ploughing.

Two post-medieval furrows in the south-eastern part of the site aligned broadly with features identified by the geophysical survey of the adjacent area.

OASIS Ref: borderar1-309553

Accession No: AYBCM:2017.168

Wavendon, Eagle Farm South East (SP 92630 38180)

June 2016 to March 2017

Open-area excavation within two fields to the south of the A421 on the eastern outskirts of Milton Keynes revealed an enclosed Mid-to-Late Iron Age/early Romano-British agricultural landscape, including a small group of inhumation burials. The excavation comprised five separate areas, these being Area A in the south-western corner of the site, with Area B roughly 150m to its north and Area C some 100m north of Area B. Area D lay 100m east of Area C with Area E in the south-eastern corner of the site.

Area A

Two postholes and a pit were recorded along the north-eastern edge of the site. These produced a small assemblage of pottery sherds provisionally dated to the late Iron Age-Romano-British period. A series of north-south plough furrows also extended across the site.

Area B

A D-shaped enclosure was revealed towards the eastern extent of the site. The ditches showed evidence of re-cutting on the north-western and south-western sides. A series of internal ditches/gullies and a small number of pits were

identified. Pottery provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age-Romano-British period, as well as fragmentary animal bone, were recovered from features in this area. Several concentric curvilinear ditches representing a possible ancillary enclosure occupied the western part of the area. These showed evidence of re-cutting suggesting maintenance with ditches being periodically re-established. A small number of possibly associated pits and postholes were situated nearby. The limit of archaeological features in Area B seemed to be bounded by a single ditch running northwest-southeast from the southeast of the Area towards its centre. A series of plough furrows ran north-northeast-south-southwest orientated were also recorded.

Area C

A large boundary ditch aligned east-northeast-west-southwest measured up to 3.15m wide and 1.07m deep and was probably banked on its northern side. The ditch was associated with several small, interconnecting drainage/boundary ditches. The large ditch revealed the disarticulated remains of an adolescent of 14–20 years displaying evidence of peri-mortem green-bone breakage/trauma in the long bones. A single, urned cremation burial was located to the southeast of the large boundary ditch in the eastern part of Area C. Associated with the cremation vessel were burnt human remains, most likely representing an adult. The bone had been burnt at a high temperature, but aging, sexing and pathology were constrained by the very small quantity of material present. Two other pottery fragments were found associated with this burial. The eastern half of Area C also contained possible 'wind-breaker' features, several pits – one of which produced two flint blades – and evidence of 'slash-and-burn' activity. Pottery dates suggested Late Iron Age/Romano-British activity, while the lithics were potentially Neolithic.

Area D

Two large probable stock-enclosures were identified in the northern part of Area D; these were separated by a droveway following the same north-northwest-south-southeast alignment as that identified at Eagle Farm North (BA forthcoming). The southern and easternmost parts of the site seem to represent settlement activity, with several multi-phase enclosure and boundary ditches throughout the area, although no discernible structural elements were identified. A mixture of alluvium/colluvium and dumped habitation waste was also evident across the lowest point of the site to the south. Numerous discrete features were identified as pits, postholes and areas of rooting while a series of east-northeast-west-southwest orientated plough furrows was also recorded. A large assemblage of pottery was recovered and dated to the Late Iron Age-early Romano-British period. Two articulated animal skeletons and several copper items, some of which dated to the 2nd century AD, were also recovered.

Area E

A series of multi-phase enclosure/boundary ditches were revealed, together with a small cemetery containing both inhumation burials and a cremation. Several phases of re-cutting were noted, mainly along the north-western extent. This possible enclosure feature was devoid of internal features and may thus have been used for livestock purposes.

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A cemetery, located within the eastern part of this Area, seemed to be bounded by a horseshoe-shaped enclosure ditch adjoining and contemporary with the possible enclosure system. A cremation pit measuring approximately 1m in diameter marked the south-eastern extent of the burials and contained several distinct bone deposits. A concentration of cremated bone was identified along the northern edge of the pit, which had been burnt to a high standard, with a definite human cranium, patella and ribs present. The cremation pit also contained six vessels comprising urns and plates. Two vessels contained burnt bone, but the low weight and high fragmentation of the bone precluded further determination. The fragmented and poorly preserved remains of a skull with thickened cranial vault possibly indicative of pathology lay directly to the west of the cremation pit. Several inhumations were recorded, generally in a very poor state of preservation and heavily fragmented. One skeleton was covered by a layer of dense wood charcoal.

A small quantity of pottery provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age-early Romano-British period and fragmentary animal bone were recovered from several features. A series of northwest-southeast orientated plough furrows also extended across the area.

OASIS Ref: borderar1-309543
Accession No: AYBCM:2016.82

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE 2017

The County's archaeological service forms part of the Transport, Economy, Environment Service's Environment Team within Environment Services.

Development Management

It has been another busy year for the team and the highlights include:

Berry Hill Farm Taplow

Archaeological excavation has been undertaken on this site for several years as different phases of sand and gravel extraction have been programmed. These works have been undertaken by Wessex Archaeology and prior to excavation a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching took place. A prehistoric to Romano-British settlement site was recognised at an early stage and its excavation was timetabled so that it could be fully recorded prior to the sand and gravel extraction. Although carefully timetabled aggregate demand was such that it was agreed that the site would be worked north to south and completed areas would be signed off when completed. With flexibility on both sides this was amicably achieved and field work has now been completed. As work progressed and the site weathered further features came to light with what appear



Figure 6: Berry Hill, Taplow burial

to be several phases of 'ladder settlement' and earlier hut circles. Two sunken floor buildings were recorded and although appeared to of a typical Saxon plan were dated to the Roman period. Two interesting burials were found: a full cow skeleton and a human burial (Fig. 6). We look forward to the report in due course. A training day run by Wessex Archaeology for the BCC Planning Team was a great success.

Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme

This scheme had been pending for several years and has now taken place. Difficulties had arisen over this complex scheme as the site has several stakeholders and contains significant archaeological features such as Neolithic/Bronze Age burial mounds (which are being preserved) and other prehistoric features. The BCC Archaeological Service had been in discussion with the Environment Agency, their in-house archaeological advisers, the Marlow Archaeological Society, Trent and Peak's archaeological field team and Wycombe District Councils Planning Department. Some of the difficulties had been over the Marlow Archaeological Society gaining access to undertake their investigations, the timing of the field work and the extent of the ground works and the height of the required bund which will go over the burial mounds to protect them. Meetings were held prior to the field work taking place to get everyone 'singing from the same hymn sheet' and as the site work progressed weekly site meetings took place. This is a complex site and may be part of a ritual landscape used over a period. Two linear features appear to be a trackway leading from the River Thames to the burial site. An open day took place at the end of September 2017.

Wainwrights Long Crendon

On a smaller scale to the above sites, excavation here was undertaken by TVAS prior to a residential development and revealed a moderate number of linear features, pits



Figure 7: Marlow prehistoric pottery

and post-holes, much of which was not identified by geophysical survey, but was revealed in some of the earlier evaluation trenches. The earliest activity is represented by a few finds of prehistoric struck flint and sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery. The earliest features are dated to the Iron Age and comprise several ditches. Most of the deposits appear to reflect the presence of early/middle Anglo-Saxon occupation. Most early and middle Saxon occupation is recognised by the presence of houses, either sunken floored buildings or halls, neither of which were recorded here. The most significant and unusual feature observed was a curvilinear ditch with pottery and a radiocarbon date of the late 7th or 8th century. Along with the modest amount of animal bone, these features all suggest occupation on the site. A single fragment of smithing hearth bottom from the ditch is scant evidence for smithing on the site, and while the bone-handled awl is suggestive of leatherworking, it cannot be definitively tied to this period. Environmental remains were limited but suggest arable crops and the usual domesticated animals were consumed on the site. In summary, this modest amount of fieldwork and modest range of finds has, nevertheless added to an understanding of the historic topography of Long Crendon before nucleation of the village in medieval times.

Major Infrastructure Schemes

High Speed 2

We continue to advise HS2 Ltd on draft documents and revisions and these documents now resemble standard practice through the Planning system and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. We provide advice through the HS2 Ltd Heritage Sub-Group. This group generally has two meetings per year which alternate between London and Birmingham. Of the 14 activities which HS2 will provide funding for, the historic environment is included or will have an input in 6 of these. Geophysics is still being undertaken when HS2 has access. There are some interesting results from around Fleet Marston. Archaeological groundworks have now begun, mostly in Hertfordshire but evaluation works at Stoke Mandeville, Doddershall and Calvert have now begun (as of December 2017). It is expected that significant archaeological works will continue along the route for several years. This is expected to lead to a shortage of available archaeological field teams for normal Planning and road schemes.

East-West Rail

This has been ongoing for several years and consultants have been in touch with us over the environmental statement and for providing advice on approximately two dozen ecological mitigation sites. These sites are now beginning to appear on the district council's planning weekly lists. Where agreed these sites will usually have a geophysical survey and trial trenching, on smaller sites a strip, map and sample excavation will take place. A service level agreement has been agreed for our input into this infrastructure scheme. The HER has provided data for an updated environmental statement.

Heathrow Expansion

We have been invited to several meetings on this and have provided advice on a few documents and the forthcoming

Buckinghamshire

environmental statement. A service level agreement has been agreed for our input into this proposal. The HER has been approached to supply data for the environmental statement and is awaiting agreement to proceed.

Historic Environment Record

The HER database and GIS were upgraded to the latest version of the specialist industry-standard software (HBSMR) in January. Due to the complexity of the Bucks HER bespoke elements, we were the first HER to upgrade to version 5 and the consultants spent a lot of time and effort ensuring the upgrade went to plan. Paul is continuing with geo-rectifying AP plots and contractors' geophysical surveys and loading them into GIS. Julia has recently acquired and loaded a 2012 update of surviving medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks for 6 priority parishes in the north of the county. Progress is still being made by one of the HER volunteers on the milestones project. The other regular volunteer has completed inputting new records for the turnpike roads in Buckinghamshire and is moving on to recording theatres and cinemas.

Julia was involved in a national project piloting the enhancement of Historic England's online National Heritage List by external partners and members of the public through the submission of additional information, website links and images. The HER was one of only three HERs testing and developing the software, which is now live. Julia has also been involved in developing national HER outcomes and detailed performance indicators in partnership with Historic England and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers. She was one of 5 HER Officers working on the project which sets national standards against which all HERs can be measured as part of regular audits.

Future

Budget pressures continue but we retain the support of senior management and elected members and trust the service will continue in the years to come.

PHIL MARKHAM
Senior Archaeology Officer

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Mursley, 12 Main Street (SP 81794 28536)
ANTONI NOWAK

Although the site was in the centre of the historic village and within a 16th century garden wall which is grade II listed, no archaeological remains were found. Three pet burials had clean rectangular cuts in plan and were visibly cut from the level of the topsoil. No datable material was recovered from the features. The evaluation did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. Natural sediments directly underlay relatively thin topsoil.

CHESS VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Missenden Abbey Rediscovered

YVONNE H. EDWARDS, MARION WELLS and JILL HENDER

The report on Missenden Abbey, its history, excavation and associated finds was finalised in December 2017. The associated text, tables and images have since been assembled, double checked, and will appear in a 'Records of Bucks' volume in 2018.

Early Excavation, Identification and Assembly

Peter Yeoman for Bucks County Museum led the 1980's excavations and watching briefs at Missenden Abbey. He and his colleagues deposited descriptions of their excavations, associated drawings and photographs and some specialist reports at Buckinghamshire County Museum Resource Centre, Halton. During 2013–16 all of these were recovered, examined and where necessary enlarged and revised by CVAHS.

The Missenden Abbey Report

The first section of the volume includes a careful account of the founding and development of the abbey from the 12th C to the 16th C. Amongst many other aspects, in-house canons with their variable frequency and prosperity across the early 12th C to 16th C, posed an interesting picture. It seems that the reputation of the abbots became low in status due to money problems so that by the 15th C many repairs were being made. The conditions of the church and the canons living quarters was poor at the time of the dissolution of the monastery in 1538. The house was largely rebuilt in the 18th C and the roof and other wood-work remade in the late 20th C following on from a catastrophic fire in 1985.

A major feature of the site is the large open area north of the present-day building (Area 1) which was identified as 'the crossing' of the church. This area was explored by Peter Yeoman who encountered, layer by layer, time phases dating from the 11th C to the 16th C. Each phase yielded information which was accumulated as text and drawings and which CVAHS have further developed. This has added significantly to our understanding of this area of the church and such insights, proved to be very useful in several other locations. For example, in the 1980's interesting and diverse observations of medieval walls and floors from many other areas of the site were located and associated with the transepts, various ranges, the cloister and external buildings.

Records of the work were assembled by Peter Yeoman and Mark Collard together with several specialist reports. Where necessary, this work was further developed by CVAHS and colleagues. For example, reports on the early animal bones and the medieval pottery finds were written. The reports on the metal finds, glass, architectural stone etc. were all revised and expanded and photographic archives on metal finds and the floor tiles have been deposited at Halton. All have been dated and, in some cases, drawn. The finds associated with the early Abbey area included graves from Area 1. Pottery was also recovered dating from 12th C to 19th C. Metal finds were high in number and included multiple copper-alloy objects dating from the 12th to 16th C and beyond, and many other items such as coins, knives and nails. Glass objects of various types and origins were also recovered.

Floor tiles particularly those of the Penn-Type from 14th C have been located, examined and dated carefully along with several other less common types. Numerous other items including roof tile, tobacco pipes, flints, charcoal and slag have been examined, edited and in two cases measured and photographed.

Records of Buckinghamshire Volume 58, part 2, 2018 contains our volume which we have named, 'Archaeological Investigations at Missenden Abbey 1983–88'. Missenden Abbey will have copies of this book.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Aylesbury, Land off Lower Road (SP 82730 11461)

RALPH BROWN

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Bronze Age ditch which probably formed part of a field system or land division. A small quantity of animal bone and Late Bronze Age pottery was retrieved from the ditch and included a sherd decorated with a shoulder cordon with tool-made vertically incised lines (Fig. 8.1). Similar pottery was retrieved from two pits of an undetermined function located either side of the ditch. The larger of these produced a sherd with a fingernail decoration on the body, similar in style to Late Bronze Age decorated assemblages from Southern England (Barrett 1980, 302) (Fig. 8.2). The smaller pit contained a moderate assemblage of animal bone and pottery, one sherd of which was made with a finer flint temper than much of the assemblage. A few natural features potentially relating to Bronze Age tree clearance were present, some of which contained Bronze Age pottery. The pottery assemblage for the site is typical of Late Bronze Age domestic assemblages from this region and is suggestive of a settlement in the vicinity. A Roman field boundary ditch and probable medieval furrows were also present.

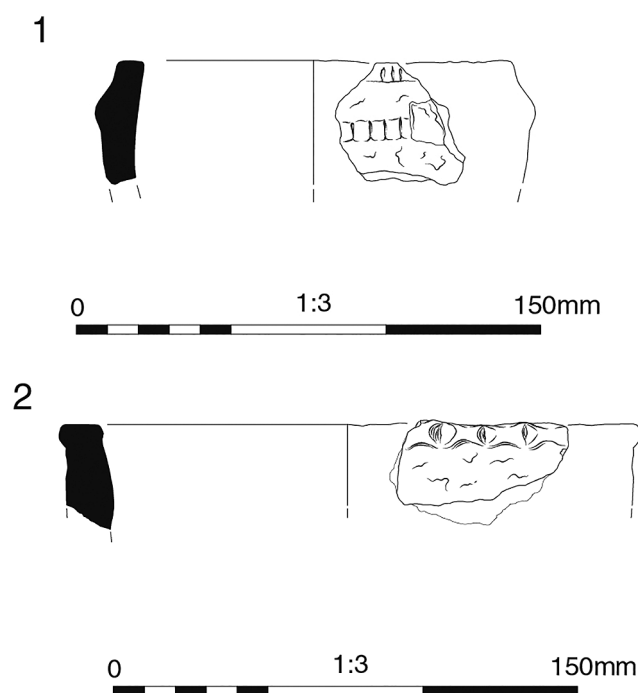


Figure 8: Bronze Age pottery

Reference

Barrett, J. 1980 'The Pottery of the Late Bronze Age in Lowland England', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 46, 297–319

Aylesbury, Land West of Lower Road (SP 82603 11125)

DANIEL STANSBIE and ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation and excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an isolated Middle Bronze Age urned cremation burial and two Middle Bronze Age field system or enclosure ditches. A Middle Iron Age settlement comprised two roundhouses which were later truncated by Middle to Late Iron Age/Early Roman sub-rectangular enclosures. A Roman boundary ditch and medieval/post-medieval furrows were also present.

Aylesbury, St Michael's Catholic School, Weedon Road (SP 81073 14855)

RALPH BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed an isolated late prehistoric posthole and two probable Roman field ditches. Several post-medieval quarry pits, a trackway and five small pits were also present.

Aylesbury, Stocklake Urban Improvement Scheme (SP 82739 14097)

SAM DIXON

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified ditched enclosures or field systems containing Late Iron Age to 1st-century AD pottery, overlain by a 2nd to 4th-century field system. A few undated but probably Roman ditches were also present.

Aylesbury Vale, Land west of Cheddington (SP 91853 17510)

ALISON ROBERTS and RAY HOLT

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered a single sherd of residual late prehistoric pottery. Roman rectilinear enclosures yielded a finds assemblage indicative of settlement activity. Medieval furrows and a trackway were also present.

Great Linford, Great Linford Manor Park (SP 85159 42330)

ANNA MOOSBAUER and SAM BITHELL

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded several post-medieval stone features, possibly relating to a structure at the Hine Spring visible on the 1841 Tithe map.

Little Brickhill, Land at Eaton Leys (SP 88942 33168)

RALPH BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a small pit containing a sherd of prehistoric pottery. Features of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date were identified 330m south of the Roman settlement of *Magiovinium* (Scheduled Monument 1006943). Two trackways running south from the settlement were adjoined by a series of enclosures. Quarry pits, ditches and pits containing domestic waste were also identified, as were nine dispersed cremation burials, possibly associated with a previously recorded early to mid-Roman cremation.

Buckinghamshire

Marlow, 66–70 High Street (SU 8495 8642)

RALPH BROWN

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a probable post-medieval limestone courtyard.

Pitstone, Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road (SP 93509 15464)

ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified several probable Roman field system ditches later re-cut by a medieval field system. Undated ditches and postholes were also present.

Stoke Hammond, Land East of Fenny Road (SP 88248 29641)

SAM DIXON

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Stoke Mandeville, Lower Road (SP 83304 10672)

PETER BOYER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified probable prehistoric features comprising multiple phases of a subdivided enclosure, a rectilinear ditch system, and pits. Two possible roundhouses were also present. Medieval/post-medieval furrows were also identified.

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Aston Clinton, Land South of Aylesbury Road (SP 869 122)

TRACY MICHAELS

From 19th to 23rd June 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Aylesbury Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire. The evaluation has identified that the site contained archaeological activity from the Middle Bronze Age, Roman and Post-medieval/late Post-medieval periods. Much of this archaeological activity was not identified by the geophysical survey. A single large linear in Trench 8 contained forty sherds of pottery characteristic of the cordoned-decorated bucket urns of the Deverel-Rimbury Tradition. The Middle Bronze Age activity present was unexpected, and the quantity of material recovered could suggest the presence of settlement activity of this date within the vicinity.

Roman activity was mainly contained within Trench 11 and consisted of two linear features, one of which terminated within the trench. The possible Roman CBM present in linear [1302] was most likely residual in nature. It is interesting to note that this area of activity is located at least 200m from the Roman road.

The rest of the archaeological activity on the site was either of Post-medieval/late Post-medieval date or undated. The presence of a probable Post-medieval co-axial system within Trench 11, along with possible ridge and furrow within the field which contained Trenches 1 to 8, suggests agricultural activity of Post-medieval or earlier date within the study area.

Haddenham, Haddenham Business Park (SP 737 092)

TRACY MICHAELS

On 7th and 8th February 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation of eight 30m trenches on Plot A, Haddenham Business Park, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire. The evaluation has identified that the site had undergone some degree of Modern modification across the whole area. This was in the form of made ground deposits, which were present within all the evaluation trenches. The depth of this deposit varied considerably across the area. It is most likely that this deposition occurred post-war and was related to commercial buildings south of the site.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Aylesbury, Land off 54 Castle Street (SP 81575 13825)

GREG JONES

To characterise the archaeological potential of land to the rear of 54 Castle Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake an archaeological field evaluation. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority. The archaeological evaluation revealed a considerable depth of overburden in both trenches, some of which may have been imported to level the site following the demolition of the buildings that formerly bounded the site.

A modern brick wall, sitting on a concrete foundation, was encountered in Trench 2. This appeared to act as a boundary between a more disturbed area to the west and a less disturbed area to the east. Boundary walls are shown in the north-eastern corner of the site on mid to late 20th century mapping and it is probable that this feature relates to one of these. Two undated linear features were observed in Trench 2, in the north-eastern corner of the site. They were cut by the wall, but no dating evidence was recovered from their fills. These have been interpreted as possible boundary or garden features by the excavators, but it was not possible to investigate them owing to considerations of safe access. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed.

Haddenham, Land to the S of Haddenham Airfield (SP 73 08 to SP 73 09)

In response to a condition on the outline planning consent for the redevelopment of land to the south of Haddenham Airfield, Haddenham, Bucks., the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake a series of archaeological evaluation and monitoring within an area of archaeological potential, which had been defined following previous stages of work involving desk-based research, geophysical survey and trial trenching. These had demonstrated that the site had been in use as agricultural land throughout most of its history, with local pockets of late post-medieval quarrying and substantial modern make up and levelling layers, probably associated with the construction of the World War II airfield. Two linear features which may be late Bronze Age/early Iron Age or, alternatively, Saxon in date, cross Areas A and E on diverging south-east to north-west alignments and may indicate trackways leading from a

point to the south-east of the site. It was considered that the further investigations in 2017 had the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of the origins and development of Haddenham from the prehistoric period onwards.

Area A: Zone 2, SP 73365 09050. Daniel Phillips.

The works in this area comprised the monitoring a site strip for new sports playing fields. Despite the difficulty in identifying any potential features due to onsite constraints resulting in poor visibility, two substantial ditches and a single large pit were identified. These features had been previously identified and investigated by earlier phases of archaeological mitigation on the site. The results of the evaluation identified that the ditch in the north-eastern side of site probably represented field boundary, whilst the large pit was identified as a medieval quarry. The identification of these features confirmed the results from the previous stages of archaeological work.

Area E: Zone 5 SP 73435 08915. Greg Jones & Mark Sycamore

The works in this area comprised the monitoring of the ground reduction for an access road and an attenuation tank. Five linear features were revealed during the work, four in the access road area and one in the attenuation tank area. The accumulated evidence suggests that three of the linear features recorded in the access road represent the bases of medieval or post-medieval furrows. Cartographic evidence indicates that the southern linear feature in the access road and the feature encountered in the area of the attenuation tank to the west are likely to represent boundaries established by 1820, and which survived at least partially within the landscape until the late 1930s. The recovered evidence indicates that the site has been used for agriculture since at least the medieval period.

Area D, SP 73150 08750. Greg Jones.

The works in this area comprised a programme of evaluation by trial trenching. Area D is the proposed site of a Sustainable Drainage System. Seven trenches were excavated across the area, which was formerly public open space with a drainage pond and defined areas of plantation. These supplemented a single trench excavated during an earlier phase of investigation, carried out to support the planning application. No archaeological features, finds or artefacts were encountered during the present investigation. The only features present took the form of modern drainage channels and services.

Loughton, 20 Leys Road (SP 8399 3757)

GREG JONES

In response to a planning condition on the construction of a new dwelling, with detached garage and associated access, services and landscaping, on land at 20 Leys Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes, Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the construction groundworks. Monitoring of the development groundworks revealed a uniform stratigraphy across the site. This consisted of topsoil and subsoil above the undisturbed natural clay, which was encountered at approximately 0.40m below the present ground level. A modern soakaway was exposed within the centre of the footprint of the new

dwelling. This had been excavated about 12 years ago, when 20 Leys Road was built. No other features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were encountered.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Bierton, Land north of Cane End Road (SP 8410 1686)
STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at land north of Cane End Road, in November 2017, for a new crematorium. The eight trenches were mostly devoid of any archaeological features and various furrows on an east-west alignment were present within some of the trenches. Three modern features were identified in Trenches 2 and 8 and one Post-medieval linear ditch was excavated in Trench 5.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-302119

Marsh Gibbon, Land Adjacent to Sunnymead, Station Road (SP 64772 23269)

STEVE LEECH

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services on a trapezoidal parcel of land previously occupied by a small garage, situated on the western side of Station Road, immediately to the north of the Church of St Mary, Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire. This was undertaken in 23rd May 2017, for a new residential dwelling. Two evaluation trenches were excavated down to the natural clay. Trench 1 contained a post-medieval wall foundation, stone-lined pit and a ditch. Trench two was heavily disturbed by three modern services.

A subsequent watching brief was carried out in October 2018 during development groundworks. Two ditches relating to the former north boundary of the adjacent churchyard were found along with further remains of two phases of the former post-medieval buildings on the site.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-287028

Pednor, Little Pednor Farm (SP 92566 02793)

DR STEPHEN YEATES

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services, in April 2017, for an extension to the domestic property. The site was located adjacent to the remains of a Scheduled Monument and consequently a request was made by Buckinghamshire County Council for archaeological investigations and a building assessment. Pednor, or Little Pednor, is a hamlet that was originally located in the historic parish of Chesham, but is now located in the civil parish of Chartridge. It lies in the historic and modern county of Buckinghamshire. It is now located in Chiltern District.

Observations were made during the ground work for the foundations of a house extension to Little Pednor Farm. This identified the remains of two features, the most significant of these was a broad cut feature over 2.5m across and 0.3m deep. This had a layer in its base that was packed with flint nodules. The feature aligned with the bank associated with the moat, so it is believed that this represents a foundation for the location of an extension of the moat rampart. The other feature was an area of flints that lay above the natural and below the topsoil. This is the remains of a cobbled surface

Buckinghamshire

located inside the banks of the moat. A Level 1 recording exercise was carried out on a barn that was to be dismantled. The barn was of a 20th century origin.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-305946

Shabbington, Franklins Farm (SP 66495 06781)

TOM ROSE-JONES

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services in February 2017, for a housing application. Three trenches were excavated, recording a series of linear features representing the remains of a series of undated boundary or enclosure ditches overlain by ridge and furrow cultivation of Medieval and Post-Medieval date. Extant ridge and furrow earthworks were visible within the field. A single small pit containing an iron nail of Post-Medieval date was also recorded.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-312899

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

High Wycombe, Land adjacent to 23 Easton Street (SU 8693 9287)

LAURA DODD

In October and November 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of The Land Adjacent to 23 Easton Street, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. In the post medieval period a house known as the Limes was built on the site which was replaced c.1960 by three buildings associated with Wycombe College. When these buildings were demolished in the mid-1990s the site became a carpark. The footprints of the proposed construction were excavated to the required depth under archaeological supervision. Several walls associated with the Wycombe College building were discovered, however, due to the high level of disturbance on the site, no features or artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed.

OASIS kdkarcha1-225851

Accession Number: AYBCM 2015.161

High Wycombe, 1-3 Priory Avenue (SU 86641 93210)

LAURA DODD

In July 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of 1-3 Priory Avenue, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire in advance of the construction of part two-storey and part three-storey side and rear extension to a pre-existing building. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were observed during this exercise; however, much of the ground reduction had taken place without archaeological supervision. The site had also become heavily truncated during the construction of the existing building.

OASIS kdkarcha1-278608

Accession Number: AYBCM 2017.65

Olney, 8 High Street (SP 88982 51404)

ELLEN SHLASKO

Between June 2015 and February 2017, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at 8 High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire. The work monitored the excavation of a series of footing and service trenches. Several medieval and post-medieval pits were observed during the investigations, which took place in an area thought to encompass two medieval burgrave plots in the historic core of Olney. The investigations also uncovered evidence of a post-medieval stone building foundation and post-medieval brick boundary and garden walls.

OASIS kdkarcha1-206282

Accession Number: AYBCM 2015.82

Olney, 100 High Street (SP 88939 51759)

LAURA DODD and KARIN KAYE

In August 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Historic Building Recording and Observation and Recording of 100 High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire. The development site is situated to the northern end of the High Street, within the medieval planned borough. The building development lies within the curtilage of the 18th century Grade II listed Coach House and the area investigated for the purpose of this exercise comprises a 19th century workshop and storage area with attached garage and WC to the east. Two footing trenches were excavated to the north of the WC which revealed the foundations of a limestone wall. No further features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed.

OASIS kdkarcha1-288185

Accession Number: AYBCM 2017.144

MAIDS MORETON MOUND PROJECT

The third and final season of excavations at Maids Moreton Mound (NGR: SP 70222 35549) yielded more information regarding the high-status building uncovered in 2015. Two 5 x 5 metre trenches were cut across the mound, on the periphery of the known building to ascertain its possible dimension. There was also a test pit around the edge, which uncovered part of what appears to be an enclosure wall.

The pottery retrieved for the areas excavated have been dated to mainly 11th-12th century as in previous excavations. However, the distribution and type suggested that we may have uncovered the domestic area of the building. Soil analysis from two areas of burning gave us a Late Saxon date, and this tied in nicely with the find of bronze tweezers, also of Late Saxon date. Once again green glazed roof tile was uncovered which appears to be 13th/14th century.

The site shows continual occupation from the Late Saxon period and was, at some point in the early 13th century, expanded and a building of some status was erected. Documentary evidence implies that this building could have been the early manor of Maids Moreton. We are still awaiting further soil analysis but are confident that this site was of great importance during the early medieval period,

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL: CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2017

Fieldwork

Thirty-three fieldwork projects were reported to the HER in 2017 (list attached). Projects comprised:

5 historic building records; 11 trial trench evaluations, 6 geophysical surveys; 1 excavation and 9 watching briefs.

Highlights included:

Albion Archaeology's excavation close to the Grand Union canal at the east end of the Campbell Park grid square which revealed two 2–3rd century stone-built corn drying kilns with adjacent stone slabbed crop processing floors (malting floors?) (see Albion Archaeology's contribution above for more detail and images from this site).

Building Conservation

After a few years of listing related activity involving New Town structures and public art, 2017 was a relative disappointment with no new listings of New Town structures, despite assessments being carried out of the modernist Cotton Valley sewage works and Bucks County Architects designed Summerfield School in Bradwell Common. Elsewhere in the borough there were additions to the list with the war memorials at Bow Brickhill, Chicheley (Sir Herbert Baker FRIBA RA) and New Bradwell Cemetery listed at Grade II. Finally, the much altered and extended Grade II listed Parkside Hotel (formerly Woughton House) and its former stables and coach house in Woughton –on-the-Green were removed from the list at the request of the sites owners.

Consultants working for the Council completed the first group of draft conservation area reviews in the autumn (Bradwell, Great Linford, Milton Keynes Village, Shenley Church End) alongside the overarching policy document. Draft reviews have also been received for comment for the group 1b areas: Stony Stratford, Bletchley, Willen, Woughton on the Green. And site visits and preparatory work is underway for the group 2 areas: Castlethorpe, Clifton Reynes, Emberton, Hanslope, Lavendon, Newton Blossomville, North Crawley, Olney, Ravenstone, Sherington, Stoke Goldington, & Weston Underwood.

Nominations to the Milton Keynes New Town Local Heritage Register opened on January 23rd (MK's 51st Anniversary) and closed on Friday March 23rd. More information here: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-and-archaeology/new-town-register>

Heritage at Risk

A borough-wide register of heritage at risk was published on the Council's website on the 6th February 2018, the culmination of a 2-year project. This list seeks to identify heritage assets at risk, monitor them and take necessary safeguarding action. Heritage assets are prioritised so that action is taken on those buildings at the greatest risk of loss. Where a heritage asset is identified as requiring works, the Conservation and Archaeology Team will contact the owners to provide advice and agree the course of action required to safeguard the asset. Should owners refuse to take

the necessary steps to secure either the short term or longer-term preservation of the asset, the Local Planning Authority will use the powers available to it under the 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act. The register may be viewed here: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-and-archaeology/heritage-at-risk>

Historic Environment Record (HER)

Work has continued with the items on the Historic England approved HER Action Plan for 2017–2019.

Outreach

The Senior Archaeological Officer worked with the Parks Trust and contractor Cotswold Archaeology on Phase 1 of the Great Linford Manor Park project. This involved geophysical survey (high resolution resistivity and magnetometry) to identify and trace former parkland features, in addition to archaeological monitoring and recording during hydrological works aimed at reinstating the Hine Well (a natural spring) and the cascades. A funding application has been submitted to the HLF for Phase 2, which if successful will incorporate community archaeological opportunities informed by the Phase 1 surveys.

The 11th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day was another successful and well-attended event attracting people of all ages from Milton Keynes and beyond to enjoy the talks, displays and activities on offer. With a venue change due to building works at the Central Library the new venue of Christ the Cornerstone forced a slight rethink of the day with the programme focussing on displays and activities in the morning with two guest speakers in the afternoon.

This year's 'hand's on' activity for young people was provided by Albion Archaeology of Bedford who brought along the 'cave' from their successful Saturday Archaeology Workshops at The Higgins Museum for a session of 'Painting the Past' with participants able to use a range of materials to produce their modern take on prehistoric art. This year's 12th MK Archaeology Day will be held at the church on Saturday 3rd November.



Figure 9: Painting the past at MK Archaeology Day

NICK CRANK, Senior Archaeological Officer
Conservation & Archaeology Team, Milton Keynes Council

MOLA

Taplow, Cliveden Spa Pavilion, Cliveden Estate (SU 90970 85295)

HELEN VERNON

A watching brief in January was undertaken in the walled garden area of the Cliveden estate and spa during works planned at the site. A photographic record of the garden walls and other significant structures was also undertaken to provide a basic visual record prior to the works. Above the natural Gerrard's Cross sand and gravel, the earliest features were three brick wall foundations of the greenhouses constructed in 1872. Modern intrusions from the construction of the spa building and from multiple services were also observed on site.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Dinton, Dinton Castle (SP 76540 11548)

CLAIR FINN

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was carried out at Dinton Castle, Dinton, Buckinghamshire. The works, which observed service runs and ground interventions on the site, formed part of an approved planning application for restoration and refurbishment of an 18th century folly into a residential dwelling. Archaeological features identified included an undated limestone wall, two small gullies, four post-medieval pits, a section of metalised footpath trackway and a disturbed inhumation burial. The human remains are thought to be disturbed charnel remains from a nearby Saxon inhumation cemetery which had been partly excavated in 1994.

Grendon Underwood, land at Lawn Farm (SP 69045 19917)

PAUL BEERS

An evaluation comprising six trenches contained no archaeological features or artefacts apart from land drains.

Soulbury, Liscombe Park (SP 8858 2565)

PAUL CLEMENTS

An archaeological trial trench evaluation found medieval remains dating to the 11th-14th centuries. The deserted hamlet of Liscombe is known to have been located to the east of the development area. Features recovered consisted of ditches, some of which had been recut, as well as a substantial pit and a posthole. Primary butchery waste was found in some of the ditches. Environmental remains from the pit indicated a level of cereal processing or cereal storage had taken place on the site, with wheat being the predominant crop. The paucity of medieval pottery from these features suggests they were related to agriculture, associated with, but away from, the main settlement.

A large post-medieval ditch dating to the 16th to 17th centuries has the same alignment as an east-west boundary depicted from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of 1881 map. This 16th to 17th century material correlates with the construction date of the current house on the site. Neonate or juvenile cattle, sheep and pig bones from the ditch may suggest that a variety of animals were being utilised on site.

Stoke Mandeville, land at Wendover Road (SP 843 102)

ADAM MEADOWS

A magnetometer survey, covering an area of c18ha revealed two faint linear trends that may represent archaeological remains in the southern field.

Wavendon, Site 410 of the Glebe Land development site (SP 917 392)

JOHN WALFORD, PAUL BEERS and MO MULDOWNNEY

An archaeological geophysical survey covering c9ha of the Glebe Land development site, detected anomalies relating to a Roman enclosure and associated features. Further anomalies revealed remnants of medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation extending across almost the entire survey area.

A subsequent evaluation of 33 trenches was undertaken across the development area. At the southern edge were two ditches and two pits infilled with a good assemblage of finds which dated to mid-1st to mid-late 3rd centuries AD. Results from environmental samples and artefacts suggest largely agricultural and domestic waste had been deposited. These features were possibly associated with a Roman driveway recorded less than 100m to the south (Chapman and Chapman 2017). In the northern half of the area eight undated small ditches, two of which were parallel, and these may have formed a possible trackway.

NATIONAL TRUST

Taplow

A watching brief maintained by the National Trust over the excavation of two pits for the temporary installation of artworks at Cliveden proved negative. The first pit in the Rushy Valley (SU91158522) measured 2.6 x 2m and 0.45m in depth and revealed several dump layers continuing to below the trench. The second pit located at the lower end of the Spring Drive close to the Thames (SU90928473) measured 3.4 x 2.3m and 0.5m in depth and revealed a layer of pea gravel and chalk rubble over light brown sandy soil over soft brown sand natural.

Stowe Gardens

As part of its on-going restorations of the gardens at Stowe the National Trust has been reinstating several missing urns and statues, most of which were removed following the great sale of the estate in 1921. Many of these are well-documented, however, one item of garden furniture which receives only a fleeting mention is the urn dedicated to William Cowper. The only reference to this is on a garden plan of 1827 where it is shown on the southern edge of the Eleven Acre Lake and referred to in the legend as 'The urn to the Memory of Cowper the Poet'. With a view to the potential reinstatement of this urn the Trust undertook a series of trial trenches to locate surviving evidence – usually the former locations of statues are marked by rubble foundations. Unfortunately, the evidence proved negative, and the likelihood is that the urn was sited under Stowe School's sculling hut. The trenches did, however, reveal evidence of a narrow semi-circular path laid with a base of rough stone cobbles on the approximate site of the urn (grid ref. SP67463679). This is an unusual

formation for Stowe as the paths are usually formed of graded orange gravel laid directly over the underlying clay loam. There is no documentary evidence for this path and the reality is that it was probably a short-lived structure dating from the first half of the 19th century. Based on the current limited evidence the Trust will not be proceeding with the reinstatement of the urn.

Trial excavations have been more successful in locating evidence for the group known as Apollo and the Nine Muses located in a horse-shoe shape around the Doric Arch (SP67653717). Excavations in 2017 revealed a stone footing for one of the statues, adding to a tally of three known footings revealed by earlier excavations in 2002. The recent excavations also revealed an orange gravel path running alongside the east front of the arch. Evidence derived from the maps in the historic Seeley guidebooks (1744–1827) suggests this path dates from the 1760s/70s, connecting the Temple of Ancient Virtue with the Octagon Lake. Based on the available archaeological evidence the Trust will be proceeding with the restoration of this statue group, however, due to the presence of mature trees the horseshoe will have to assume a slightly adjusted configuration!

2017 also saw the restoration of the Gothic Cross in the Elysian Fields at Stowe (SP67637248). The cross is a relatively late addition to the gardens, c.1814, as suggested by a date cast into one of the Coade stone panels forming the plinth. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the cross was destroyed by a fallen yew tree in the 1950s. The subsequent recovery of various fragments, combined with documentary evidence, has allowed for its accurate restoration on the original brick footing. Excavations in 2016 confirmed a gravel path leading up to the east side of the cross and forming the surface to a 'dark walk' formed by overhanging yew trees.

Trial excavations in 2016 at the site of the Roman Wrestlers group at Stowe unfortunately proved negative,

failing to find any footprint for the statue (SP67083691). They were successful in revealing the course of a straight gravel path running from Queen Caroline's Monument to the east Boycott Pavilion. As the statue group was located on this path it has proved possible to locate the restored statue on an authentic location. Indeed, the excavations revealed a wider terrace of gravel coming off this path at the appropriate location and based on this evidence the Trust has instated a wider apron of gravel around the Wrestlers. Excavations also revealed a stone-built culvert, probably dating from the second half of the 18th century. Numerous brick and stone culverts have been discovered at Stowe, usually providing a temporary solution to problems of localised waterlogging.

Extensive excavations to locate the foundation for the statue of Thalia at the Fane of Pastoral Poetry in the Grecian Valley proved negative (SP67743815). Consequently, the location of the reinstated statue will be based on limited documentary evidence.

Excavations at the dam forming the 'Worthies River' in the Elysian Fields at Stowe (SP6773720) furnished interesting evidence relating to the management of water in the gardens. The existing 1950s concrete dam was leaking badly and therefore needed replacing. The excavations confirmed that the 1950s concrete had been poured over a much earlier stone-built dam, possibly originating from the 1730s when this area of the gardens was laid out to the designs of William Kent. Dense blue clay had been packed around this stone structure and associated with it was a 1.72m long oak pipe connected to an aperture at the base of the dam (Fig. 10). The pipe was square in section, measuring 0.33–0.37m in cross section and had an internal circular bore of 0.15m. A rectangular hole had been cut into its upper surface at the upstream end of the pipe. This hole could be stopped by a shaped wooden plug known as 'tampion' which was attached to a vertical pole. Extracting the plug would allow for the pond to be drained with the water filtering through pierced



Figure 10: The substantial Oak water pipe

Buckinghamshire

wooden trash grilles forming an enclosure around the hole (source GM Binnie 'Early Dam Builders in Britain' 1987). A comparable arrangement was found when the Eleven Acre Lake was drained in the early 1990s, in this case leading to the recovery in-situ trash grilles and the original tampion.

The arrangement at the Worthies River was found to rest on deep beds of peat extending to a depth of about 1.4m. Samples taken for radio-carbon dating and analysed by Museum of London Archaeology suggest that the basal layer of the peat overlying alluvial gravels provides a late-Devensian date (14140 – 13831 Cal BP, Beta 471352) and the top radiocarbon date provides a likely post-medieval date (1669 – 1780 Cal AD, 281 – 170 Cal BP, Beta 471351). Throughout the peat sequence an onsite environment of grass-sedge-dominated fen is represented with some indicators of periods of standing or slow flowing water and then increased wetness related to the more humid Holocene conditions, in addition to slight indications of drier periods in the plant macrofossils. The adjacent terrestrial zone is initially dominated by grass communities surrounded the grass-sedge fen with occasional dwarf willow and juniper bushes. Then birch and more diverse herbs migrate into the region and subsequently early Holocene seral woodland develops with the addition of hazel and pine. Eventually hazel begins to dominate in late Boreal age woodland for the upper levels of peat.

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY

Buckingham, Buckingham town cemetery (SP 689 432)

JACQUI HUTTON

During the excavation of a new grave in apparently undisturbed ground at Buckingham town cemetery in February 2017 several human bone fragments were recovered. A subsequent excavation identified a pit containing an un-urned cremation deposit. Neither feature produced any dating material although the cremation and human bone fragments were pre-medieval in date.

Buckingham, Vinson Centre, Hunter Street (SP 693 334)

JACQUI HUTTON

An excavation, undertaken in advance of construction of a new teaching centre at Buckingham University in June 2017, revealed a few brick and stone walls, likely the remnants of 19th/20th century outbuildings. Subsequent machining revealed a substantial limestone wall that potentially dated to the 13th / 14th century and truncated a series of soil layers that likely dated to the medieval period. Below these soil layers were a few quarry pits, these also considered to be medieval in date whilst the pottery evidence suggests that Saxon occupation may exist within the vicinity of the development area.

Ravenstone, Yew Tree Farm (SP 848 504)

STEPHEN THORPE

A level 3 historic building survey and subsequent watching brief were undertaken during renovation and development works at Yew Tree Farm, Ravenstone between February 2016 and January 2017. This work recorded the existing 18th to 20th century farm buildings with the watching brief identifying two ditches and a pit, all of which produced

small quantities of Iron Age pottery. An undated post-built structure, possibly an earlier barn, was also recorded along with further undated ditches, pits, drains, a sheep burial and bonfire. A single sherd of middle Neolithic pottery was also recovered from the subsoil.

Stowe, New boys boarding house, Stowe School

(SP 673 373)

STEPHEN THORPE

An excavation undertaken in advance of construction of a new boys boarding house at Stowe School between April and June 2017 identified a possible prehistoric land surface along with several post-medieval and early modern features, including planters, paths and postholes, likely associated with the evolution of the landscape gardens.

Stowe, Stowe School science block (SP 672 374)

STEPHEN THORPE

An intermittent watching brief maintained during the installation of a new drainage trench at Stowe School in July 2017 recorded evidence of a filled-in 18th century ha-ha along with layers likely associated with the 20th century development of the Stowe estate. A small amount of worked stone recovered during these works likely dated to the 18th century and may have originated from the re-development of Nelsons Seat.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Bletchley & Little Brickhill, Manor Fields

(SP 88659 33781)

ROBIN WEBB

A watching brief was carried out over three days between October and December 2017 on land to the south of Watling Street, at Manor Fields Pumping Station, Bletchley ahead of excavations for drill pits for inserting sewage pipes. No archaeological finds or remains were observed.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Aston Clinton, Land off Weston Road (SP 8688 1201)

VIX HUGHES

Oxford Archaeology carried out archaeological evaluations during two phases of trenching between 20–21 December 2016 and 17–18 January 2017. A total of 15 trenches were excavated across the site and confirmed the absence of archaeological features indicated by a previous geophysical survey. Alluvial deposits were recorded within all the trenches, resulting from past overbank seasonal flooding from the adjacent stream. The risk of flooding may have deterred occupation within the area and thus explains why the site had hitherto only been used as agricultural land.

Aylesbury, Berryfields (SP787160)

KATE BRADY

Between the 1st of July and 19th August 2016 excavation of an area measuring 0.64ha took place at Aylesbury Berryfields. This work filled a gap left by a series of earlier excavations undertaken sporadically from 2007 to 2014 in

advance of residential development. A ladder settlement of middle Roman date had been previously identified during evaluation to the west of the area and has been preserved *in situ*. The 2016 phase of excavation identified the presence of two related enclosures on the same alignment extending to the south-east in the later Roman period suggesting expansion of the settlement in this direction. A single waterhole of middle Iron Age date was identified, at the junction of three ditches, which although undated may represent field boundaries. This is related to a wider landscape of middle Iron Age activity related to a settlement with its focus in the west and revealed by an earlier phase of work.

A355 Beaconsfield Eastern Relief Road

(SU 95100 90750)

MARIUSZ GORNIK

A total of 54 trenches 25m long and 1.9m wide were excavated from the 7th–24th March 2017. Seventeen of the trenches were devoid of archaeology. In the northern field there was a scatter of undated ditches and probable pits that represent human activity of one or more periods. The absence of finds suggests that this activity was peripheral to settlement. The ring ditch suggested by the geophysical survey was investigated but proved to be a large pit containing finds indicating an 18th or early 19th century date. The purpose of this feature is still unclear. Finds from the north-west end of the site were largely post-medieval except for two flint knives, a whetstone and a couple of small pieces of Roman pottery. Trenches alongside the eastern edge of the northern field contained colluvial layers overlaying natural geology as well as some ditches and a pit. None of the ditches contained dating evidence, but the pit contained small fragments of early Roman pottery, showing that the colluvium here was Roman or later.

Archaeological features were more distinct, and more numerous, in the central and southern part of the site where concentrations of struck flints and Roman pottery were found as well as a small piece of possibly Roman window glass, fired clay and burnt flint. This area also produced evidence two enclosures and a charcoal-filled pit. Residual struck flint was recovered from several trenches and two pits, one of which was 5m across and was not bottomed, so could represent a shaft rather than a pit. Post-medieval field boundaries were also found.

Longwick, Land adjacent to Thame Road

(SP 7875 0525)

TOBY MARTIN and KIRSTY SMITH

From the 3rd to the 6th April 2017 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned undertake an archaeological evaluation of sixteen 25m by 1.8m trenches. The evaluation confirmed the presence of a modest number of linear features, laid out on an approximately NW-SE alignment. Some of those in the two most northerly fields were parallel with present-day field boundaries. Roman pottery was recovered from one of these linear features, but the rest remain undated. Medieval pottery was recovered from unstratified contexts.

Between the 27th June and the 3rd July 2017 Oxford Archaeology returned to the site to carry out an archaeological excavation of some of these features. Two Areas were excavated (1 and 2). The results of the excavation revealed

part of a possible Roman trackway orientated NNW-SSE, which may have linked to the Lower Icknield Way (a prehistoric or Roman trackway) to the south. This trackway was formed by two ditches 10m apart containing Roman ceramic building material and pottery. One of these ditches appeared to be the same ditch found during the evaluation where pottery was found dating to the 2nd or 3rd century AD.

The excavation also revealed several undated parallel ditches orientated north-west to south-east, which may be evidence of medieval to early post-medieval strip farming.

Taplow, Cliveden Estate, Blenheim Pavilion

(SU90842 85712)

JONATHAN GILL

Historic Building Recording was undertaken on the Grade I listed Blenheim Pavilion at Cliveden during a programme of repair works which has included the removal of plaster from the internal walls of the structure.

The Blenheim Pavilion is one of the most significant garden structures in the grounds at Cliveden. It was designed by the Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni and it was constructed in the 1720s to the north-west of the mansion, forming a distant, eye-catching structure along two avenues. It formed part of the wide landscape improvements at Cliveden undertaken by the Earl of Orkney and it is believed to commemorate the Battle of Blenheim, when the Earl served under the Duke of Marlborough and led the final assault.

The removal of plaster has revealed two blocked doorways in the rear wall which corresponds with the evidence of an original plan of the building showing doorways here leading to a further set of rooms which included a central bath-house but which no longer survive. It has previously been uncertain whether the bath-house extension was ever constructed but the doorways provides strong evidence to suggest that it was.

Taplow, Cliveden Estate, Flint House (SU91231 84971)

JONATHAN GILL

Historic Building Recording was undertaken on a small, circular grotto-type structure known as the Flint House, in the grounds at Cliveden. The recording was undertaken in association with a programme of conservation works which has helped clear detritus from the structure and expose parts of the structure which were previously hidden.

The structure appears to have been constructed in the third quarter of the 19th century as part of wider works to create a naturalistic designed landscape in the Rushy Valley to east of the mansion. The structure is constructed from flint and it is likely that it was built to provide a simple shelter on walks through the woodland and to provide a platform above where views could be enjoyed looking west towards the Octagon Temple.

The work to clear the top of the structure has exposed six small circular holes which continue down through the walls and it is believed that these probably formerly supported posts which supported a simple roof over the upper viewing platform. This may well have been a thatched, rustic style conical roof with open sides but probably incorporating a timber balustrade.

Buckinghamshire

Taplow, Cliveden Estate, SSP Trench (SU 91396 85525)

JONATHAN GILL

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Cliveden during the excavation of a long trench for an SSP cable through areas of the grounds to the north of the house. The main excavations were through the overflow carpark and alongside the Grand Avenue directly north of the mansion. The excavations were relatively shallow, and no significant archaeological features were encountered.

West Wycombe Park Temporary Toilets

(SU 82773 94614)

ADAM FELLINGHAM

In March 2017 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief between 20th and 23rd March 2016 at West Wycombe Park as commissioned by the National Trust to allow for new drainage, water and electrical services to be laid across the western car park for the construction of temporary toilets. The watching brief was maintained during the groundworks. The excavation of these trenches revealed little to no significant archaeology other than a flint quarry pit of unknown date.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Aston Clinton, Land at Aylesbury Road (SP 8698 1223)

LUIS ESTEVES

Two small areas were excavated on the site of a new housing development. One area contained only modern features but the other revealed a Middle Bronze Age ditch and an early Roman ditch.

Granborough, land at Winslow Road (SP 7672 2546)

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

In advance of the construction of five new houses, a magnetometer survey revealed a series of positive and negative linear anomalies that represent a buried bank and ditches. A group of four parallel linear positive anomalies probably represent furrows. Evaluation trenching confirmed the furrows (which contained modern material) but revealed no other features or finds of interest.

Haddenham, 23 High Street (SP 7398 0852)

JO PINE and ANDY TAYLOR

A small excavation in advance of housing re-development explored mainly medieval settlement features. Results are still being analysed but it appears the main phase of occupation was early medieval with little if any continuity into the later medieval period, which seems to chime with similar results from other excavations in Haddenham.

High Wycombe, Ruskin Works, Oakridge Road

(SP 8552 9359)

LUIS ESTEVES

Monitoring of new service trenches for a building conversion revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

Long Crendon, Wainwrights (SP 6975 0861)

LUIS ESTEVES, KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Development of a 1.9ha plot for housing was preceded by an investigation consisting of magnetometer survey (largely inconclusive) and evaluation trenching which led to two areas being targeted for excavation. The excavation revealed three north-south aligned ditches, probably all of prehistoric date (some certainly later Bronze Age); and a curving ditch and a few other features more certainly of early/middle Anglo-Saxon date indicating occupation of this period. Finds were few but the Anglo-Saxon chronology is supported by a 7th- to 8th-century radiocarbon date.

Nether Winchendon, St Nicholas' Church, Barrack Hill (SP 7735 1225)

LUIS ESTEVES

Observations were made for the excavation of the trenches for new drainage from the church roof. The trenches revealed 0.6m of made ground below the topsoil but did not reach natural geology. No features of archaeological interest were observed but a very worn Roman coin, pierced for use as a pendant or medallion was recovered from the graveyard soil.

Old Amersham, 15 Market Square (SU 9577 9733)

CECILIA GALLEANO, LUIS ESTEVES and ANDY TAYLOR

A watching brief during erection of an extension to the listed building revealed layers which initially appeared to be medieval but which overlay clearly post-medieval material. The rear wall of the existing building, which is thought to predate most of those around it, was also recorded photographically before the new extension concealed it.

Shabbington, The Vines (SP 6659 0711)

LUIS ESTEVES

A small residential development gave the opportunity for an excavation in the heart of the village, which revealed medieval pits and boundary ditches, and a small amount of residual Roman pottery.

Standlake, Croft Farmhouse, 77 Abingdon Road (SP 3888 0326)

CECILIA GALLEANO

Evaluation in advance of submission of a proposal for new housing revealed a moderate number of cut features, but most of these are clearly of modern or late post-medieval date. One gully contained a single sherd of medieval pottery and nothing later, and so may be of this period, while another gully and a pit are undated.

Waddesdon, Church of St Michael and All Angels (SP 7420 1697)

DAVID SANCHEZ, GENNI ELLIOTT, ANDREW MUNDIN

Two phases of watching brief were conducted on various minor works in the churchyard and in the interior of the church. Disarticulated human remains, inevitably, were recorded, with some articulated remains noted in one grave in the nave, but left undisturbed. No features and no other finds of archaeological interest were noted.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Aylesbury, Waddesdon to Aylesbury Parkway (SP 74957 16312 to SP 78598 15386)

J. SMITH

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by John Grimshaw Associates to undertake detailed gradiometer survey on 12ha of land along a proposed 4.1km cycle route between Waddesdon Manor and Aylesbury Parkway Station. The central part of the route lies along the projected route of Akeman Street, a Roman road. Ditch-like features were detected in four areas. At the western extent of the survey, to the east of Wormstone, there is a concentration of linear features which may be associated with a possible nearby Roman building or farmstead. To the south-west and south-east of Cranwell Farm, there are several short linear ditch-like features located near to the route of the known Roman road. In the east of the route, to the west of Fleet Marston,

several ditch-like features lie in an area where extensive Romano-British activity has been previously identified. Akeman Street itself is poorly represented within this dataset, although there are two areas where it is possible to identify features where the road may be present. Additionally, two areas of ridge and furrow ploughing have been identified.

Bicester to East Claydon Cable Installation

(SP 59690 23771 to SP 75424 26112)

A. ZOCHOWSKI

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Glanville Projects on behalf of SEN to carry out a watching brief on the installation of 18km of underground cable between the Bicester Sub Station, Oxfordshire, and East Claydon, Buckinghamshire. Previously known ridge and furrow was observed near the village of Twyford and a modern rubbish pit was encountered to the west of Steeple Claydon.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Bozeat, Church of St Mary the Virgin, Church Walk (SP 9062 5920)

DREW SHOTLIFF and IAN TURNER

Observation of drain excavations around the building uncovered parts of the foundations of the church, but no evidence of earlier structures. To the south-west a soakaway excavation revealed ten graves of post-medieval date.

OASIS ID: albionar1-292322 Event no.: ENN108812

Finedon, Land adjacent to 14 Avenue Road (SP 9134 7205)

GARY EDMONDSON and GARETH SHANE

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during groundworks associated with construction of a new house.

OASIS ID: albionar1-290555 Event no.: ENN108791

Thrapston, Land off Huntingdon Road (TL 0011 7812) MIKE LUKE, BEN BARKER and ADAM WILLIAMS

Open-area excavation in advance of residential development on the eastern outskirts of the town uncovered evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity (Fig. 1). Assessment and analysis, including radiocarbon dating, is underway; the following summary represents an interim statement of results.

Bronze Age

The landscape of the excavation area was transformed, probably in the middle Bronze Age, by the creation of enclosed fields, hedges and a possible trackway — all defined by ditches on a NE-SW and SE-NW alignment. The pale ditch fills, typically for this period, produced very few datable finds.

Although constructed in the late Bronze Age, a circular enclosure or 'ring-work', defined by a deep ditch was probably contemporary with the fields. It had been partly

investigated ahead of the construction of the housing estate to the north, where it was interpreted as a 'mini-hillfort or elite residence of a type particular to eastern England' (Hull 2001). Because of its significance the part of the enclosure within the David Wilson Homes development was preserved as an open space of heritage value. Four trenches were dug as part of the archaeological work reported on here to ensure its accurate location and thus its preservation.

Few finds of this date were recovered. They included 9g of pottery, a copper alloy awl and possible axe fragment, a ceramic loom weight and a bone awl dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. All were residual within later features.

Iron Age

Evidence for dispersed Iron Age activity took the form of several pits. The larger examples were almost certainly dug as quarries and water-holes; the smaller ones were dug for storage. Experiments elsewhere have shown that if an airtight seal is maintained (e.g. a clay capping), pits can provide an effective way of storing grain. Once the seal is broken, however, all the grain needs to be removed and used within a relatively short period of time. For this reason, such pits are likely to be used as stores for seed grain ready for planting in the fields.

Some 3.5kg of pottery was recovered from Iron Age deposits as well as 7kg of animal bone. Other finds include a bone gouge and ceramic loom weight.

Roman

The landscape was transformed in the Roman period, with earlier field boundaries abandoned and replaced by a field system on a completely different alignment. The layout was now on a north-south axis with a possible east-west trackway to the south. These ditches had much darker fills than the Bronze Age ones and nearly all contained pottery and animal bone. Much as in the Iron Age, several large pits were dug, presumably to quarry clay and limestone for building work.



Figure 1: Provisional phase plan

One unusual aspect of the Roman remains was the survival of evidence for approximately twelve post-built, rectangular buildings, up to 13.5 by 6m in size (Figs. 2 & 3). The Roman settlement produced a relatively modest number of finds, including 1.3kg of pottery and 1.2kg animal bone. Also recovered were several coins, a stone quern and a copper alloy toilet spoon. The finds suggest that the settlement may have been occupied until the 4th century, perhaps on a short-term or even seasonal basis — possibly linked to the quarrying.

Saxon

Limited evidence for Saxon activity comprised three moderate-sized pits, spaced *c.* 70m apart on a NE-SW aligned axis. The pits were variable in shape, 1–5m in diameter and 0.25–1m deep. The recovered finds included a ceramic loom weight, 272g of animal bone and 264g of pottery.

Medieval and post-medieval

Part of the development site contained ridge and furrow earthworks — common in the county and evidence for



Figure 2: Close-up plan of some of the rectangular Roman buildings



Figure 3: One of the Roman timber buildings under investigation

Northamptonshire

strip cultivation within open fields. They were surveyed before the open-area excavation began and the bases of some furrows were visible within the excavation area. The alignment of the strip cultivation is the same as that of the Roman field boundaries, perhaps suggesting that the latter were still present in the landscape when the medieval fields were laid out.

Evidence for more recent land-use came in the form of extensive post-medieval and modern quarry pits. These were probably dug over a long period of time to extract both limestone and gravel.

OASIS ID: albionar1-278205 Event no.: ENN108629

Reference

Hull, G., 2001 'A late Bronze Age ringwork, pits and later features at Thrapston, Northamptonshire', *Northamptonshire Archaeology* 29, 73-92

ALLEN ARCHAEOLOGY

Harlestone, Whites Lane (SP 7131 6322)

FEENAGH JOHNSON

Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, in support of a planning application for a residential development. Four targeted trenches were excavated across the proposed development area, with three trenches measuring 40m long by 1.8m wide and one trench measuring 20m long by 3.6m wide. The trial trenching identified features of potential archaeological interest in two of the four trenches, with Trenches 2 and 4 containing deposits of possible buried plough soil but no archaeological features. Trench 1 contained two pits, [103] and [105] that form part of the northwest to southeast oriented pit alignment. Trench 3 contained a single pit, [303], from which 11 sherds of pottery were recovered and are tentatively dated to the Iron Age.

Nassington (TL 0563 9614)

ROBERT EVERSLED

Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by the Middle Nene Archaeological Group to undertake a geophysical survey using magnetometry on land near Nassington, Northamptonshire to help place an excavated Roman barn within the greater landscape and to inform future excavations for a community project. The site was identified by Derek and Andy Roberts, initially due to a high density of surface finds recovered during fieldwalking. A geophysical resistance survey identified potential structural features likely of a Roman date, and this was followed by excavations in August 2016 and 2017 with volunteers from Middle Nene and Fane Road Archaeological Groups. The excavations revealed a large stone built Roman barn and ancillary features, including a corn dryer.

The survey identified potential parallel ditches, possibly flanking former trackways, along with linear features likely to represent former boundaries or enclosures. The orientation of a number of these linear anomalies goes some way towards suggesting that some existing field boundaries reflect relict landscapes dating at least as far back as the Roman period. There are numerous amorphous features likely to represent pits, soil-filled hollows or former ponds.

These archaeological features appear to be on at least two separate alignments, suggesting different phases of occupation and activity. Linear features cutting across the survey area within the centre and southeast parts of the site are likely to represent ridge and furrow cultivation, most probably of a medieval date.

The survey has shown the Roman barn is not an isolated monument, and that it lies within a much wider and active archaeological landscape, the full extent of which remains unknown.

Yarwell, Dovecote Close (TL 0705 9760)

RUPERT BIRTWISTLE

Allen Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to fulfil a condition of consent for a residential development. The evaluation comprised the excavation of five, 20m long trenches across the proposed development area. No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered. A single modern boundary was encountered in Trench 4.

Wellingborough, 30 High Street (SP 88966 68041)

CHARLOTTE TOOZE and MARK ALLEN

Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, following a planning appeal approval for the erection of 12 supported living apartments. Two 15m long by 1.8m wide trenches were excavated across the proposed development area and following a scheduled site meeting with the Archaeological Advisor, the northeast end of Trench 2 was extended.

Trench 1 exposed the remains of several undated archaeological features except for a post-medieval rubbish pit and a posthole containing a sherd of pottery dating to the Anglo-Saxon period. Trench 2 revealed a severely heat-affected brick wall that may have been part of a structure that burnt down during the Great Fire of Wellingborough in 1738. Most of the features in Trench 2 comprise intercutting pit and ditch features that appear to have been predominately used for the disposal of refuse between the 18th and 20th centuries: 10th and 11th century material was recovered from a single archaeological feature that was sealed by a later post-medieval rubbish pit. This suggests that additional features of this date may be present below the other post-medieval pits and post-medieval levelling layer in Trench 2.

Following on from the programme of evaluation by trial trenching, Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record exercise.

The earliest phase of activity encountered comprised a small number of pits and postholes, and most notably, several large ditches running northeast to southwest at the north and south ends of the site. On balance it is possible that these relate to a previously unknown prehistoric phase of activity. No Roman activity was evident beyond a small artefact assemblage of limited interest. A small number of pot sherds of late Saxon and Saxo-Norman date suggest limited activity of this date also. In the 12th and 13th century there was an upturn in activity with several drainage gullies and a ditch excavated at the east end of the site, as well as a pit with evidence of crop processing and weeds associated with waste ground, roadsides and cultivated fields. The decline of the later 13th and 14th centuries is evidenced

by an absence of activity on the site, and in the mid-15th century this was restricted to the excavation of two small pits. In the 18th century the natural bank towards the eastern half of the site was levelled because of deliberate ground raising, possibly related to redevelopment after the Great Fire of Wellingborough in 1738. This was followed by the excavation of several refuse pits.

The investigations have provided a significant new interpretation of the former activities in this part of Wellingborough, especially evidence that likely pre-dates the town and which should be further pursued in any future investigations of the surrounding area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING SERVICES

Winwick, Winwick Grange (SP 61819 74131)

An archaeological standing building survey of outbuildings associated with Winwick Grange, Winwick, Northamptonshire carried in advance of the proposed conversion of the buildings to residential use. Grange Farm is an interesting range of buildings built on an established farmstead dating to at least the 18th century. Winwick was formerly owned by the Cistercian Abbey of Pipewell. The exact location of the original grange is unknown. It is possible that the current Winwick Grange may be an indication of the location of the Grange, however, there is no pre-20th century documentary reference to the farm being called "Grange". Structurally, the buildings are of a common design. There is evidence of an earlier, 18th century building within the complex as well as evidence of extensive mid to late 19th century rebuilding. The layout however, is uncommon, consisting of an irregular loose yard on a sloping site. Later animal sheds are located upslope to the earlier barn, suggesting animal rearing replaced arable. It appears that these later ranges were constructed following an existing boundary which dictated the current layout.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Brigstock, High Street (SP 9457 8554)

ANDY PASCOE

An archaeological investigation was conducted during the excavation of footings for a new dwelling at 42 High Street Brigstock, Northamptonshire. The fieldwork was carried out on the 27th July 2016. The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, located within the core of the Saxon and medieval settlement of Brigstock. The monitoring of the excavation of the footings revealed a possible early modern pit. No other archaeological features were recorded. A single sherd of 19th century date was retrieved but not retained.

Collyweston, Pond Yard, Back Lane (SK 9382 2922)

NEIL PARKER

A programme of monitoring and recording was carried out during groundworks for an extension at Pond Yard, Back Lane, Collyweston, Northamptonshire. The site lies within the former grounds of Collyweston Manor and on the edge of Collyweston Deer Park. The monitoring did not reveal any archaeological deposits and no artefacts were retrieved.

Wollaston, Roman Road (SP 922 627 to SP 928 612)

ANDY PASCOE and MARK PEACHEY

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the excavation of 25 pits, for the insertion of electric cables via mole drilling, along the green lane known as Roman Road on the eastern edge of Wollaston parish, Northamptonshire. This was because the trackway was thought to lie on the course of a possible Roman road heading south from Irchester. The work was carried out between 5th and 15th September 2016. The monitoring and recording revealed occasional patches of rounded flint cobbles within build-up layers for the modern trackway. However, these are more likely to be remnants of previous trackway surfaces than a Roman road. Finds retrieved during the investigation comprised post-medieval and early modern material, including pottery and animal bone.

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Benefield, Causin Way (SP 9921 8877)

BOB ZEEPVAT

In April a historic building survey was undertaken by BHS of The Coach House, Causin Way, Lower Benefield, prior to its refurbishment and conversion for residential use. The building, of limestone under a gabled roof clad in Collyweston slate, was originally constructed in the early 18th century as the coach house to the adjoining Grade II-listed Berkeley House, with stabling for possibly four horses, storage for tack and a trap or similar vehicle on the ground floor and hay/feed storage on the floor above. Latterly one of the stable units had been stripped out and turned into a cart shed, with the insertion of large double doors in the front elevation. In the late 20th century the doors of the central bay had been replaced with a modern roller shutter, serving as a garage. Although some of the doors and windows had been replaced, the building retains many original features, such as the mangers and hay traps in the stable, fittings in the tack room and most of the original flooring.

In July and September, a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of footing trenches and service runs for a rear extension to the Coach House and detached garages to the west and south of the existing building. Observations for the extension revealed the remains of a cobbled yard surface to the rear of the existing building, probably connected with the original access to the central loft on the upper floor, which appears from cartographic evidence to have had an external ladder. Other than the cobbled yard, excavations for the garages and services did not reveal any heritage assets.

Cold Higham, Watling Street West (SP 6655 5411)

BOB ZEEPVAT

The excavation of twelve pits for stanchion bases for a new agricultural barn at Rectory Farm, Fosters Booth, was archaeologically monitored by BHS in January. The development site is on the edge of the settlement, close to Watling Street and an area of cropmarks suggestive of Romano-British settlement and had the potential to contain buried heritage assets of late Iron Age or Roman date. The observations did not reveal any buried heritage assets or artefacts.

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Evenley, Church Lane (SP 5851 3514)

BOB ZEEPVAT

In July a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken by BHS on the construction of a timber-framed, open-sided 'barn' in the rear garden of *Beechwood House*, Church Lane. The site is within the historic core of the village, adjacent to a known medieval moat, and had the potential to contain buried heritage assets of medieval or later date. The observations, undertaken during the excavation of five postholes for the new building, were limited and did not reveal any buried heritage assets or artefacts, being dug into modern deposits and redeposited soils.

Northampton, Dunster Street (SP 7600 6095)

BOB ZEEPVAT

A programme of historic building recording was undertaken in October by BHS of the former shoe factory at 54 Dunster Street (Fig. 4), in advance of the building's refurbishment and conversion to apartments. The present structure comprises three- and two-storey blocks, constructed of orange-red brick under slate roofs, with a distinctive detailing scheme on the street frontage, executed in blue engineering brick. The street frontage also retains taking-in doors and associated hand crane on the upper floors, typical of smaller 19th-century shoe factories in the town.

Based on the available cartographic and historical evidence, the building was constructed in the early 1890s,



Figure 4: Shoe factory, Dunster St, Northampton

presumably for Facer & White, boot manufacturers, who were listed as occupants in 1896. The original building comprised the present three-storey structure occupying the northern half of the site, along with a small block containing WCs on each floor, and an adjacent enclosed yard to the rear. Dating the construction of the rear two-storey extension has been more problematic, as there are conflicts between the cartographic and structural evidence. On balance it seems likely that the extension to the factory was built either for Facer & White or their successors, George Wearing & Co, who had taken over the building by 1906.

By 1912, the building was being used as M Moss & Sons' leather warehouse, a function which it appears to have retained until the mid-20th century. The only remaining features relating to the building's original use are those concerned with moving materials between floors, and therefore also relevant to warehousing. In the latter half of the 20th century, 54 Dunster Street was the premises of R.G. Engineering, a precision engineering company working in the aeronautics and automotive industries.

Northampton, St Giles Street (SP 7580 6053)

BOB ZEEPVAT

In August, BHS undertook historic building recording of St Giles Clinic, 67 St Giles Street, prior to demolition and redevelopment of the site. The clinic, a single-storey, flat-roofed brick building built in a restrained Art Deco style, was constructed in 1936 as a purpose-built health clinic on the north side of St Giles Street, on a site which had largely been undeveloped since the mid-18th century. Following the establishment of the NHS the clinic continued to operate until it closed in 2014, having served as an 'Infant Welfare Centre' (c.1962) and more recently as a Health Centre, offering dental and medical services and a family planning clinic. Apart from the fabric of the building itself, little remains of any period detailing apart from a glazed transom in the entrance foyer, the tall north-facing windows in the central waiting area, the parquet floors and the two glazed hatches, now disused, on the south side of the waiting area. Following demolition, a programme of archaeological monitoring will be undertaken on groundwork for the new building.



Figure 5: St Giles Clinic, Northampton

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Northampton, St Peter's House, Castle Street
(SP 74986 60650)

TAMLIN BARTON

The watching brief revealed only 19th century deposits showing that any earlier archaeological deposits and any medieval remains that might derive from Blackfriars, probably lie at a much greater depth. The 19th century layer of made ground exposed in the footprint of the new building (0203) is likely to have been laid as levelling in preparation for the construction of buildings along Little Cross Street. These buildings are shown on OS maps surveyed between 1883 and 1923–4 prior to the construction of St Peter's House. The Well, which is cut into this deposit, is also 19th century and would have been a water supply for one of these buildings. In all likelihood it was situated in one of their back yards. The exposed wall foundation (0104) is also likely to be related to these buildings and was perhaps the footings of a building or yard wall. With no deeper investigative works it has not been possible to ascertain if these 19th century building remains and deposits have truncated earlier archaeology or have simply been built on top of them.

CLASP – COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY PROJECT

CLASP is a community-based landscape archaeology group based in west Northamptonshire that was established in 2002, obtaining charity registration the following year. We then obtained a significant grant from the HLF, together with supporting grants from other charitable sources, to further our initial work investigating the Romano-British landscape in west Northamptonshire. This initial phase, called Local People – Local Past, not only provided more information on previously recorded sites in the area but also identified others that were previously unknown. To understand this project in depth we suggest that you visit our website: www.claspweb.org.uk

Most of this work was carried out by non-intrusive archaeological investigation – field walking, metal detecting, geophysical survey (we have our own magnetometer and resistivity equipment) together with the normal tools of desk-based assessment. We have additionally undertaken significant open area excavation including that undertaken by our member organisation, the Whitehall Roman Villa and Landscape project at Nether Heyford. This was a third to fourth century villa with two multi-phased bath-houses. The latest firing of the final bath-house praefurnium was mid-fifth century. On the same farm, adjacent to the Romano-British Watling Street our metal detecting colleagues have located a very early post Romano-British cemetery. This cemetery is in two phases, the earliest consists of east – west burials of fifth century, contemporary to the late bath – house finding. The later phase, late 6th to early 7th is Anglo-Saxon, all male, buried on a N – S axis with weapons and shields.

Our work with this site continues; we have further excavations to complete, followed by scientific testing to endeavour to define the origins of these people, the first inhabitants of this area in the post Romano-British era. We hope in fact that this work will throw more light on the population of this era across west Northamptonshire.

The other projects we are working on currently include further work at the Romano-British town of to the east of Daventry and the medieval deserted village of Thrupp just to the north with its earlier Romano-British connections. CLASP is also working with MOLA on a joint project to investigate in depth the Bronze and Iron Age hill-fort at Borough Hill, Daventry, reportedly the second largest in the country. Our initial work on this has been by way of geophysical surveys carried out both by MOLA and CLASP, for us this work has been undertaken by our members producing high quality results. Geophysics has been an area that we consider we have produced some exciting results identifying several previously unknown archaeological features.

CLASP is a vibrant group producing good results, if you like to join us please visit our website for details.

DAVE HAYWARD
Chair of Trustees

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Brixworth, Saxon Rise 2, Northampton Road
(SP 74940 69390)

PETER BOYER

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Two Early Neolithic pits and one Early Bronze Age pit as well as several pits and ditches broadly dating from the Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. Middle to Late Iron Age enclosures, two possible ring-ditches and numerous pits were also present. This activity was replaced by a Roman 'linear complex' farmstead comprising sub-rectangular stock enclosures, drying ovens and ditches. Medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow remains and post-medieval quarry pits, ditches and a boundary wall were also recorded.

Corby, Priors Hall Park (Zone 3) (SP 92900 92000)

JAMES COYNE and PETER BOYER

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Crick, DIRFT III Ridge and Furrow Survey

(SP 5648 7540)

PETER BOYER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology of medieval/early post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks identified a buried soil horizon on a floodplain which sealed a Late Iron Age or Roman field system.

Duddington, Collyweston Quarry (SK 9931 0076)

JAKE STREATFIELD-JAMES

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Lilbourne, Dunsmore Farm, Watling Street (A5)

(SP 54845 77046)

JAKE STREATFIELD-JAMES and DANIEL STANSBIE

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a skeleton uncovered during the excavation of a service trench. The remains were radiocarbon dated to 666–863 cal AD (95.4% probability; SUERC-74117).

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Lilbourne, Night Owl Truck Stop, Watling Street (SP 5513 7664)

JAKE STREATFIELD-JAMES

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified late 1st–2nd-century AD boundary ditches relating to the organisation of the landscape following the construction of Watling Street. These were superseded by a 2nd–4th-century domestic enclosure with internal divisions and evidence for animal butchery.

Northampton, Northampton Waterside Campus, Nunn Mills (SP 76120 59720)

SIMON CARLYLE

A wooden stake was retrieved from a palaeo-channel during a geotechnical watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology and produced a radiocarbon date of 1324–1441 cal AD (95.4% probability, SUERC-63306).

Passenham, Land at Manor Farm (SP 77710 39870)

ANNA MOOSBAUER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Paulerspury, Land off Grays Lane (SP 7255 4560)

ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no archaeological remains.

Wellingborough, 46 Westfield Road (SP 88391 67904)

HANNAH SHAW

Historic Building Recording by Cotswold Archaeology of the former 1920s Boot and Shoe factory on Westfield Road identified that it had undergone only limited alterations but is of limited architectural and historic value.

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Islip, Toll Bar Road (SP 984 785)

NICK WELLS

In September 2016 Foundations Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a single ploughed field directly west of Toll Bar Road, Islip. The evaluation identified a relict ridge and furrow system orientated broadly east-west across site with a possible headland at the southern end of Trench 8 orientated northeast-southwest. The concentration of geophysical anomalies identified in the north-western part of site were found to be depressions in the natural or two very shallow clay-filled features. In Trench 3 these depressions were relatively deep (0.45m) and contained Roman material. It is likely that this represented plough spread from the known Romano-British activity to the west.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Great Billing, Northampton (SP 836 621)

An archaeological trial trench evaluation and a geoarchaeological auger survey were carried out on land

next to the waste water treatment plant at Great Billing, Northamptonshire. The evaluation consisted of 107 trenches and 14 test pits excavated within selected trenches to investigate the alluvial deposit for their archaeological potential. Eight ditches were identified alongside discreet small pits. Remains of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow system was noted across the site with later traces of modern mechanical ploughing. A few occasional prehistoric debitage flint chips and a Neolithic scraper were retrieved as well as post medieval pottery and fragments of building material. Industrial magnetic residue, indicative of burning was also recovered from fill from some of the features. The geoarchaeological auger survey confirmed deposits of fine grained inorganic alluvium over sub-alluvial gravels typical of lowland valley floors in Britain. No archaeology was identified from the excavation of the test pits.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Brampton Heath Golf Centre, Church Brampton (SP 72663 65426)

GREG JONES

In response to a series of planning conditions on the extension of Brampton Heath Golf Centre, Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring on the development groundworks. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the present investigation. The recorded evidence indicates that the ground has previously been reduced, presumably during the construction of the clubhouse and car park.

IAN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES

Brackley Town Hall (SP 585 369)

Archaeological observation and recording during March-May 2017 of the floor reduction in Brackley Town Hall for Brackley Town Council and HLF recorded the 1883 flagged floor, its sub-floor, together with piers from the 1707 layout of the building with added 19th-century 'lock-up' cells and finds from the construction period; also, some of a network of stone drains which underlie the building.



Figure 6: Brackley Town Hall during excavations

Burton Latimer, 8 Bridle Road, (SP 8922 7482)

A watching brief in February 2017 on the foundations of two new houses demonstrated that there had been no use of the land before the mid-20th century other than for agriculture or horticulture. The site was devoid of archaeology.

Burton Latimer, 29 High Street (SP 902 747)

A Level II building recording survey was carried out in January 2017 on land behind 29 High Street, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire in advance of proposed re-development of the currently disused and partially derelict building to provide residential accommodation. The former factory building was a complicated multi-phase 19th century structure which has undergone a series of alterations. The earliest structural remains appear to relate to a domestic dwelling which apparently saw rapid expansion converted to provide small-scale working spaces.

Canons Ashby House, Visitor Centre (SP 58620 50878)

In November 2017 Iain Soden Heritage Services carried out observations for The National Trust in connection with a new visitor services centre and in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent. A machine-dug cable trench close to the existing National Trust gift shop / former coach house did not disturb any pre-modern layers. No archaeology was exposed.

Earls Barton, Land Adjacent to 95 Station Road (SP 8530 6335)

Archaeological monitoring in July 2017 during digging of the foundations for a new bungalow demonstrated that there had been no evidence for use of the land before the mid-20th century other than for domestic horticulture.

Earls Barton, Bowlers Yard (SP 853 638)

Level II building recording was undertaken between May and June at the former boot and shoe factory located within Bowlers Yard on the south-east side of the High Street. It had undergone considerable changes to its fabric, both during its original life as a boot or shoe factory and subsequently, when it was used for several purposes including a pie factory, wine importing warehouse and joinery workshop. Following demolition, a watching brief recorded probably medieval post holes at the portion of the site closest to the High Street.

Ecton, West Lodge (SP 819 642)

A Level II building recording survey was undertaken in February on a single storey former agricultural building range at West Lodge, Sywell Lane, Ecton, Northamptonshire proposed for conversion to domestic use after many years of abandonment. The single storey range, once connected with Ecton Hall, represents a simple animal shelter commonly found on farms dating to the nineteenth century and later.

Isham, Monk and Minstrel public house (SP 8839 7403)

Four evaluation trenches in July showed that the main A509 road close to the former Monk and Minstrel PH had a discontinuous frontage in the post-medieval period with no evidence of anything earlier. Behind the public house the land of this plot had been extensively quarried, producing

pronounced differences in levels with adjacent ground to the west and the plot to the south. No archaeology had survived the quarrying which probably took place in the 19th century.

Level II building recording showed that the former PH is of 18th-century origin and was adopted by 1762 as The Red Lion, a public house which remained as such under different names until it closed in 2015. The building began as a small single-room structure, later with numerous, undated extensions to meet the changing needs of the licensing trade. Its ground floor interior was subsequently opened out and most early fabric, but the remaining shell, was lost when the pub was overhauled in around 2006.

Kings Cliffe, 8–10 West Street (TL 006 971)

A Heritage Asset Survey of 8–10 West Street, Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire was carried out in March prior to proposed internal alterations and repairs with the intention of restoring the interiors of the two properties which are Listed Grade II along with the adjoining house to the west, number 12, all share a similar configuration, materials and architectural detailing on the street frontage. The buildings started as late seventeenth-century dwellings but were re-fronted during the late eighteen-century or early nineteenth-century. All have undergone subsequent internal alterations, primarily separation into separate dwellings.

Little Harrowden, 15 Kings Lane, (SP 8695 7150)

Level II building recording in July showed 15 Kings Lane, Little Harrowden is a tiny vernacular cottage dated before 1810 which for a while may have been part of a longer range. It has retained considerable character from original construction materials, most notably because those rustic elements have been smothered by modern coverings. Modern extensions outside the core have done nothing to enhance its historic character.

Lower Benefield, Manor Farmhouse (SP 987 884)

A Heritage Asset Survey was undertaken between August and September to understand more fully the surviving elements of the Grade II listed building. The property has in the recent past been the subject of a sequence of alterations which had compromised the historic integrity of the structure. The building contains sixteenth- and seventeenth-century elements and was extensively remodelled during the eighteenth- and nineteenth-centuries.

Lyveden, Manor House 'The Old Build' (SP 981 858)

A Level II-IV building recording survey was undertaken in August for the National Trust at the Grade I Listed Lyveden Manor House, also known as The Old Build, which was almost certainly built, or at least significantly reconfigured, by Lewis Tresham (c1575 -1639). The building essentially replaced Rushton Hall, the principal family seat, which was sold after a period of financial and social diminishment caused mainly by the devotion of the family to the Catholic faith and association with the Gunpowder Plot. Subsequently the house became either a secondary seat for its owners or simply a tenanted farmhouse. The original staircase was removed and sold to America during the 1920s. During the third quarter of the twentieth century the associated ancillary buildings were demolished and subsequent renovations to

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the remaining structure removed almost all remnants of internal detail. A faithful replica of the staircase has to some degree restored the internal circulation routes. In 2013 the building was acquired by the National Trust which also owns the adjoining site, Lyveden New Build.

Lyveden Terraces Project (SP 981 858)

Trial excavation during September and October for The National Trust has indicated that foregoing published interpretation of Aerial Photographs regarding putative lower Garden terraces at Lyveden Old Build, between the orchard and the Old Build are very much off beam and such terraces lack any physical or documentary evidence. The landscape observations of Col KC Brown in the 1930s have been borne out – the slope was traversed by a very large ditch which began to be infilled in the mid-17th century. In addition, further trenching produced no evidence for a western approach to the Old Build.

Maidford, King Street (SP 6085 5245)

Observations in August during ground preparation for a new development of two houses at King Street, Maidford showed that modern demolition of a former cottage had grubbed out the former frontage, in places exposing natural geology. Behind the frontage clean subsoil and deep loamy topsoil betokened a long-lived former garden.

Northampton, Delapré Abbey (SP 7594 5908)

Observations in October and November took place adjacent to the Grade II* Delapré Abbey attending upon a strictly-controlled car park construction methodology within the Registered Battlefield of Northampton (Wars of the Roses – 1460). No battlefield-related archaeology was exposed, and metal-detecting recovered 40 metal items, mainly 19th-20th century coins and 18th-19th century lead shot.

Slapton, Manor Farm (SP 639 468)

A watching brief in May on the foundations a new barn range to provide bed and breakfast accommodation demonstrated that after the previous part demolition of former farm buildings to create a slurry yard, the ground had been reduced. No archaeology was present.

Strixton, Manor Farm (SP 90133 61783)

Level II building recording in September showed that stables at Manor Farm were originally built as a single-storey shed of indeterminate purpose. The building had a second storey added in the 19th-century and was converted into stables with tack room and carriage house adjoining, and a hayloft with groom accommodation above. The stabling function was lost long ago, and the building is now an agricultural store.

Wellingborough, 24–32 Gold Street (SP 88898 68411)

Archaeological trial trenches in January indicated that remains of a potentially 17th-century frontage survive directly below a surface car park at 24–32 Gold Street, Wellingborough, but that the rear of the former plot has been probably extensively quarried in the 19th century.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Farthinghoe, Abbey Lodge (SP 53584 39797)

DR STEPHEN YEATES and STEVE LEECH

A series of archaeological investigations was commissioned on Abbey Lodge (a grade II* listed building), Farthinghoe. This was undertaken between September 2013 and August 2017. The building was being refurbished and the work was carried out as a condition of planning permission. Investigation of the building during refurbishment works determined that there were some six recognisable phases, which had not been fully assessed in a former statement of significance. The earliest phase saw the construction of Block A, which contained a hall and two adjacent rooms on two levels. The date of this is not properly defined and is interpreted from negative data as 15th century. The key features are the surviving timbers that were over the hall.

Phase 2 saw the construction of a second hall at right-angles to the first, which is noted in the form of a butt joint and rebuild. This hall does not appear at first to be internally divided. A blocked window in the east wall, has a later wall butted against it. The building can be compared to Castle House, Castlethorpe, Buckinghamshire, which has a plan of a house with two halls so arranged dated to 1291. The third phase of activity is 16th century in date and associated with a date stone of 1581. This saw the insertion of the chimneys in Block A, the internal walls in Block B, and an extension on the north side of Block B. It is possible that Block C2 dates to this phase also. Phase 4 saw the insertion of Block C1. A 16th or 17th century date is the case here. Phase 5 saw the partial removal of the extension on the north side of Block B, and the construction of Block D. The inside of Block C1 was reworked. Both have details that would date them to the 17th century. The reworking of Block C1 must be associated with the initial addition of a porch with passageway above. Phase 6a and 6b are both of a 19th century date. A watching brief was maintained during groundworks which revealed traces of earlier walls which assisted in the determination of the history of the building.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–299088

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Towcester, Land at 55 Brackley Road (SP 68895 48572)

LAURA DODD

In July 2017 an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken at 55 Brackley Road, Towcester, Northamptonshire prior to planning permission of the conversion of the existing building into several housing units, the construction of other housing units to the rear and the construction of car ports and garages. The development site is located within the conservation area in the town. Several features were observed within the three evaluation trenches excavated including a possible medieval boundary ditch and several post medieval stone walls.

OASIS: kdkarcha1–290053

Accession Number: ENN1108789

Towcester, Land rear of 173 Watling Street
(SP 69292 48624)

CHRIS MARTIN TAYLOR

In June 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd conducted an Archaeological Evaluation of the land to the rear of 173 Watling Street, Towcester, Northamptonshire, prior to the commencement of a small housing development. The evaluation uncovered evidence of Roman occupation in the shape of the partial remains of a stone surface, found within a small test pit. This was below an occupation deposit of unknown date, which in turn was below modern made ground. A Victorian well was also found at the southwest end of the same trench.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-274981

Accession Number: ENN108597

MIDLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Rushden, 3 Northampton Road (SP 934 673)

STEVE WILLIAMS.

A programme of archaeological trenched evaluation was undertaken by Midland Archaeological Services on land at 3 Northampton Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire. The fieldwork was a condition attached to a planning application for residential dwellings on the site of a former house and area previously used as an abattoir. Northamptonshire County Council Planning Services had identified that the application area may have been potentially archaeologically sensitive as the site is believed to lie within the area once occupied by the medieval Hospital of St James.

Results

Two trenches A and B were targeted across the areas to be developed; these were machined down to a recognisable archaeological layer and then hand cleaned. Trench A produced a solitary feature [500] and a small pit that extended beyond the confines of the trench northwards. The feature was relatively shallow and contained two deposits, (006) a basal layer and (007) a secondary fill: the latter produced a single neck sherd of a green-glazed jug in Lyveden-Stanion 'B' ware, fabric F320, dated to AD 1200–400. Environmental evidence from this deposit showed that wheat, a fragment of indeterminate legume and a very small piece of hazel nutshell were present, as well as pieces of a black porous material (probably derived from the combustion of the cereal grains). The remainder of this trench to the west of [500] comprised of disturbed/redeposited ground (002) and (003), most likely associated with the former 19th–20th century use of the site. Trench B had been severely truncated by the previous dwelling, its footings still evident throughout the trench, whilst made/disturbed ground (003) and (004) were present throughout.

Conclusions

The evaluation concluded that natural soil (001) was present across the site area but that the site had been truncated by the previous development and contained much disturbed and made ground most likely associated with the site's former use. No evidence of the medieval hospital was found, although it is entirely possible that the pit which is dated to

between the 12–14th century AD may be associated with it, perhaps lying on the periphery of the hospital location.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Ashby St Ledgers, former site of Ashby Lodge
(SP 555 692)

JOHN WALFORD

An earth resistance survey took place on the former site of Ashby Lodge. The lodge was an early 18th-century country house and was demolished in the 1930s. The survey detected the surviving foundations of the lodge, together with elements of the associated gardens and driveways. Other anomalies, possibly representing remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also detected.

Brackley, land at Foxhills (SP 592 387)

STEPHEN MORRIS

An archaeological excavation took place following an earlier magnetometer and trial trench evaluation (the latter two have been reported in the SMA 2013 (vol 43, 35)). The earliest evidence of activity was a small amount of residual Neolithic/early Bronze flint work. The site displayed limited early Iron Age activity with only two possible postholes. The main occupation was middle Iron Age and comprised three separate foci within an agglomerated settlement (Figs. 7 & 8). Each focus contained much the same type of features and structures that collectively comprised up to 22 ring ditched roundhouses and small enclosures, a rectilinear building, 46 four-post or six-post structures and as many as 110 grain storage pits were also uncovered. There was also five large intercutting pit clusters. Other discrete pits and postholes were also present, with some of the postholes possible forming parts of fence lines. There were clearly phases of reorganisation on more than one occasion throughout this period which was evident from the shift in land use in each of the settlements. The settlement declined by the late Iron Age by which point activity was limited to two circular enclosures, a stone spread and a few storage pits.

A moderate assemblage of finds and ecofacts included locally made pottery, animal bone, eight saddle querns, some charred cereal grains and a small amount of slag pieces. The presence of many probable grain storage facilities in association with the moderate number of saddle querns retrieved indicates grain production and processing was probably central to the function of this settlement during the middle Iron Age. Other finds mainly from the early to middle Iron Age comprised 16 copper alloy and iron objects; 10 pieces of worked bone and antler. The artefacts included copper alloy jewellery items; a segmented brooch/ring, an armlet fragment and a glass bead; Functional items include a vessel/container handle made from copper alloy "wire", a possibly iron cauldron hanger hook and a sharpening stone. Craft working implements comprise an almost complete bone weaving comb and needle, a pointed bone blade and a decorated antler handle.

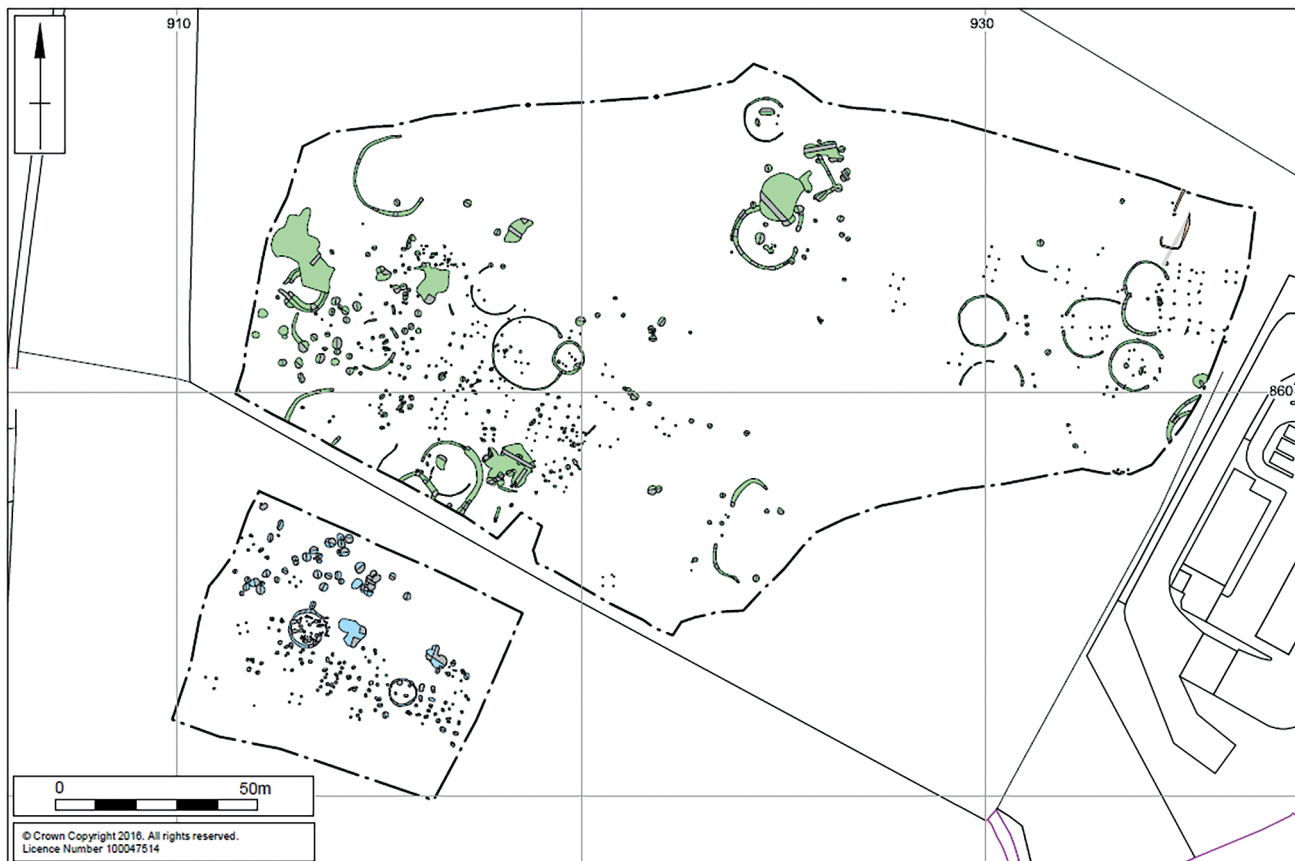


Figure 7: Plan Brackley Foxhills site and Brackley Sawmills site, 1:1250



Figure 8: Aerial view of ring ditches, Structures 2, 3, 4 and 6 in Foci 1, facing west

Bugbrooke, land at Peace Hill (NGR SP 673 569)

PAUL SHARROCK

An archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches recorded a series of post-medieval or modern postholes, furrows on an east-west alignment and modern wheel ruts.

Burton Latimer, 51 Finedon Road (SP 899 740)

PAUL BEERS

An archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches found an undated field drainage ditch and post-medieval field drains. No other archaeological remains were present.

Castle Ashby, Falcon Hotel (SP 85995 59549)

AMIR BASSIR

Historic building recording was undertaken during conversion and remediation works to the building. The building originated as a 17th-century inn and has been subject to alterations and extensions in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. These alterations included the raising of two adjacent single cell blocks from single storey to two storeys in the mid-18th century and converting them for use as accommodation. Also recorded were an 18th-century stables and an 18th century coach house, both of which were subject to alterations in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Clipston, land to the east of Kelmarsh Road (SP 71543 81354)

IAN FISHER

A watching brief observed the removal of three wooden poles, two stay wires and the excavation of a cable trench for an earth wire within a Scheduled Monument and Conservation Area. No archaeological finds were recovered, and no archaeological features were observed.

Clipston, land adjacent to the Scheduled Monument (SP 70841 81527)

IAN FISHER

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was carried out during electrical improvement works on land adjacent to the Scheduled Monument. Medieval ridge and furrow was observed. However, no archaeological finds were recovered, and no other archaeological features were observed.

Corby, former Kingswood School (SP 861 874)

CHRIS CHINNOCK

A series of archaeological work encompassing an evaluation of 15 trenches and mitigation works, involving a watching brief and an area of archaeological excavation, were undertaken prior to the proposed residential development of the site. The excavations have shown that settlement started in the middle to late Iron Age. Whilst all the excavated features were found to date to the late Iron Age period, three phases were identified. Two large, broadly parallel ditches were present at the southern edge of the development area and together make up the earliest phase of activity. Given the activity previously noted to the south and the absence of further archaeological activity to the north, it may be reasonably concluded that these ditches represented a shifting physical boundary for a probable Iron Age settlement lying

beyond the current limit of excavation. The second phase comprised a series of much smaller, broadly contemporary, ditches. These have been interpreted as possible drainage ditches and/or field boundaries. The third phase comprised a small section of a possible enclosure ditch and a large watering hole, which may have supported grazing livestock rather than a well providing water for a nearby settlement. Key finds included a moderate assemblage of Iron Age pottery, evidence of metalworking and a fragmented copper finger ring.

Crick, land south of Main Road (SP 59317 725000)

TIM SHARMAN

An archaeological watching brief noted a former field boundary of possibly modern date and the possible remains of a petrol station.

Flore, land north of High Street (SP 650 601)

CAROL SIMMONDS and JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey within the site suggested the presence of two ditches which may pre-date the surviving medieval ridge and furrow earthworks. Parts of the survey area, particularly in the west and south-east produced evidence for modern disturbance. A rectangular patch of magnetic debris in the southeast perhaps indicates the footprint of a demolished building, and another area of magnetic debris in the south-west is tentatively suggested to indicate a small, backfilled quarry pit.

Grendon, Hall Farm (SP 875 613)

JOHN WALFORD and GRAHAM ARKLEY

An archaeological geophysical survey of c8ha of land identified medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation extending across almost the entire site. No other definite archaeological remains were detected, although a few anomalies at the south-eastern corner of the site could possibly be interpreted as pits and a short length of ditch.

Hargrave, land at Church Street (TL 0310 7115)

GRAHAM ARKLEY, IAN FISHER and PAUL SHARROCK

An archaeological geophysical survey covering c1.6ha of land and detected features which may relate to medieval or post-medieval settlement alongside Brook Street, at the north-eastern end of the site. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and a post-medieval pond were also detected. A subsequent trial trench evaluation of five trenches recorded only one trench with archaeological remains. The 13th century ditch, east to west aligned, with two re-cuts contained two articulated mammals (one horse and one pig). The remains lay close to and perpendicular to Brook Street, which leads north from Hargrave to Bottom Farm.

Hellidon, Hellidon Grange (SP 51577 58015)

AMIR BASSIR

Hellidon Grange was an early commission by William Butterfield who was a forerunner of the Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th century. Following a historic building assessment, the house was subject to renovation and modernisation works between 2013 and 2017. The works were carried out in a sensitive manner which minimised the impact on the historic fabric, and retained, as far as possible,

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all original features and fittings. The works uncovered a previously unknown window and a well in the former bakehouse, and a flagstone floor in the former kitchen.

Irchester, 9 Townwell Lane (SP 92702 65904)

TIM SHARMAN

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording were carried out during groundwork and uncovered six features (a wall and five ditches) and a layer. The remains were sparse and spread across the site in no concentration. One shallow ditch contained a small fragment of undiagnostic shell gritted pottery, which on balance is more likely to be Roman in date. An environmental sample from this ditch produced a moderate assemblage of ecofacts including charred bread wheat seeds and a few fish bone fragments. There was an undated ditch and a modern ceramic drain identified in the main excavation area. Three undated probable ditches, one layer of uncertain date and one wall footing of possible 19th century date were revealed within the confines of a service trench.

Irchester, Lime Avenue, Chester Farm (SP 91984 66704)

STEPHEN MORRIS

Between November 2014 and May 2015 MOLAN Northampton carried out an archaeological excavation at Lime Avenue, Chester Farm. This was required by Northamptonshire County Council as part of the improvement of the access road along Lime Avenue which formed part of the development of this site as visitor attraction. The archaeological excavation provided a section across an extensive Roman cemetery of the 4th century, from which the remains of 75 inhumations were identified. A further 30 graves were identified, but these were left undisturbed. Other remains included a Roman landscape of discrete features, primarily boundary ditches and pits, pre-dating the burials and a ditch which may have been recut as the cemetery boundary. A track or hollow-way post-dated the cemetery and probably belonged to the late Roman or Saxon period. The site was sealed by plough soils of the medieval agricultural landscape and later post-medieval landscaping. Remains of a post-medieval metalled limestone track/road leading from Lime Avenue to Chester Farm formed more recent activity, the route of which still endures to the present day.

Irthlingborough to Burton Wold underground cable route (SP 94528 69963 to SP 89469 73045)

TIM SHARMAN and STEPHEN MORRIS

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording work was carried out by during groundworks on the route of the Irthlingborough to Burton Wold underground cable. Archaeological remains were uncovered on the south-eastern edge of Irthlingborough belonging to a former late 19th to early 20th-century brickworks and later tannery. These consisted of brick and concrete walls and a brick floor. A possible tramway cut a nearby refuse dump. The finds all dated to this period and came mainly from the refuse pit, which included several hundred domestic bottles and glass containers, stoneware bottles, a stoneware hot water bottle and a First World War British army cap badge.

Irthlingborough, land at Nene Business Park (SP 95365 71024)

PAUL BEERS

Archaeological trial trenching comprising five trenches (totalling 270.5m in length) were excavated across the site. Iron Age pottery had previously been found in field walking within the site, but the evaluation found no features (or artefacts) dating to this period. In total eight features were uncovered. Four shallow features, all aligned north-west to south-east, were likely to have been furrows. One undated ditch in the southern part of the development area was aligned at a different orientation. The other undated possible features comprised a possible spread, an undated gully at the north extent of the site and a tree bowl. Two Roman pottery sherds were recovered, and a small quantity of animal bone was also found.

Kettering, Boathouse at Wicksteed Park

(SP 88311 76982)

AMIR BASSIR

A historic building recording of the Boathouse at Wicksteed Park was undertaken. This prefabricated concrete building dated to the earliest years of the park in the 1920s and was a simple, practical structure, built to accommodate boats for use on the adjacent lake. Unfortunately, the building was damaged by a fire in November 2016 and it was determined that it should be demolished and replaced. This survey provided a record of the structure prior to demolition.

Long Buckby, Harbidges Lane (SP 62352 67586)

ADAM REID

An archaeological excavation of an area measuring 0.08ha was carried out. Although relatively small, is the largest yet to have taken place in Long Buckby. This work has added new information on the founding of medieval settlement in this location, its restructuring in the 13th century, and its subsequent abandonment in the 14th century. The site fronted onto the northern side of the postulated former Coventry to Northampton Road. Occupation on the site started in the 11th century, contemporary with the establishment of Long Buckby castle ringwork in the late 11th or 12th century. This earliest phase of activity at the Harbidges Lane site comprised two timber structures within a single defined plot on the eastern side of the site which fronted the former Coventry to Northampton Road. The western side comprised one or two probable fields which also fronted the road. The second phase of occupation appears to have emerged in the middle to late 13th century and was marked by the restructuring of the site, including the replacement of the former wooden buildings with larger stone structures adjacent to the west and east of a cobbled trackway, aligned for the most part north to south. It is possible the stone was acquired from the site of the former castle which was located more than 100m to the east. These features lasted for around a century before the site was abandoned in the mid/late 14th century. The site reverted to agricultural use until the present day.



Figure 9: Aerial photograph of the Harbidges Lane site, showing stone building and trackway

Moulton, Moulton College Food and Drink Innovation Centre (SP 773 675)

PAUL BEERS AND STEPHEN MORRIS

During an archaeological evaluation six trenches were excavated and these contained no archaeological features or artefacts.

Northampton Castle, St Andrew's Road (SP 7490 6056)

JOHN WALFORD AND ANDY CHAPMAN

An earth resistance and ground-penetrating radar (GPR) surveys took place on a part of Northampton Castle. The survey area, a narrow strip of open ground on the eastern side of St Andrew's Road, provided a transect across the inner bailey, north gate and barbican of the castle. The resistance survey did not provide any archaeologically useful information, but the GPR survey identified several wall foundations. Whilst many of these are likely to relate to medieval structures (including elements of the north gate) it is possible that some relate to more recent buildings.

Northampton to Daventry Link Road, 'Site A' Green Bridge, A45 (SP 63750 61260)

CLAIRE FINN

A programme of continuous archaeological monitoring and responsive recording was undertaken in two parts at the Green Bridge development at Site A, north of Flore. Five possible pits and a ditch terminal were excavated. The terminal belonged to an undated ditch identified during the former trial trenching possibly associated with Neolithic long barrows to the north of the bridge works. No other archaeological finds or features were identified.

Northampton, Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and the Old Gaol (SP 7557 6038)

AMIR BASSIR

A programme of historic building recording of the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery and the former County Gaol was carried out. The former council offices at Guildhall Road were also photographically recording.

Northamptonshire

A programme of archaeological observation and recording was carried out during ground work. The gaol was opened in 1846 with capacity for 150 inmates. It comprised two galleried wings with single-occupant cells arranged along the walls at four floors. Legislative changes rendered the gaol redundant and the east wing was converted for use as a library, public reading room and a museum. The west wing became a Salvation Army barracks with mineral water factory in the basement. In the 1920s the west wing of the gaol was converted into offices by the County Council and was subject to a general re-fenestration and internal re-flooring and re-partitioning. The museum eventually expanded into the full extent of the east wing which was also subject to remodelling.

Northampton, Overstone Green (SP 804 674)

JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey covered c130ha of land and revealed five principal archaeological sites together with some dispersed features which may also be of archaeological interest. The sites comprised an enclosure and roundhouse of probable Iron Age to Roman date, a large enclosure of uncertain date (but probably pre-medieval), two small enclosure complexes each likely to date to the Iron Age or Roman period, and the remains of a post-medieval building, Sywell Lodge. It is not known when the lodge was built but it was certainly extant in 1827 and demolished prior to 1885. Other archaeological features including medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and the remains of a historic trackway were also detected by the survey.

Northampton, land at Pineham Zone H (SP 70533 58827)

CAROL SIMMONDS

A programme of archaeological excavation and strip, map and sample was undertaken. Four separate lengths of pit alignment were recorded across the excavation areas. Three of the pit alignments were aligned from a sinuous Bronze Age ditch which had been redefined and maintained on several occasions suggesting it was of significance in the landscape. Around the boundary ditch was a pair of tightly crouched undated inhumation burials (HB2 and HB3). To the north of the boundary ditch, the remains of two sub-rectangular post-built structures were identified.

The Iron Age and Roman peripheral activity represented part of a small farmstead in the south of the development with probable livestock enclosures in the excavation area. The main occupation areas may be to the south of the excavation area. A ring ditch was set within rectangular enclosure ditch. The enclosure encompassed over 2500 sq. metre. Within the enclosure were two large wells. The late Iron Age settlement was directly replaced from the 1st century AD by a set of enclosures and fields defined by ditches on a different alignment, which extended the settlement area to the north. In the northern part of the enclosure was the remains of a fragmentary child burial.

A possible Saxon barrow was found to the south of the site, defined by a continuous ditch. It had an external diameter of c15.20m. There were no surviving internal features or burials within the ring ditch, but situated adjacent to it were seven Saxon inhumations, all but one of which were in shallow graves and one grave contained a knife and

spearhead. Between the 5th and 9th centuries a field system comprising a set of conjoined enclosures or plots was constructed on the north-facing ridge line, encompassing an area of at least 3.51ha. The individual rectangular plots themselves were defined by ditches.

Northampton, Purple Oaks Academy Special School (SP 75629 63820)

CHLOE CRONOGUE-FREEMAN

A watching brief carried out during works for a new school building revealed only the footprint of the previous school built on the site in the 20th century.

Old Stratford, land south of Towcester Road (SP 7753 4122)

STEPHEN MORRIS

The excavation comprised a 1st century BC to 1st century AD Iron Age landscape, containing a series of linear field boundary ditches and a linear routeway. Small occupation foci were associated with field system(s) that included ring ditches and a few discrete postholes and pits indicative of small farmsteads. These settlements were linked by the routeway, defined by parallel ditch boundaries. The tight dating of the sites was based on a relatively large assemblage of diagnostic Iron Age pottery. Metalworking evidence included small fragments of copper casting crucibles.

Overstone, A43 Moulton Bypass (SP 79649 66070)

CLAIRE FINN

The area designated for the construction of a roadway for the Moulton A43 bypass was subject to a programme of excavation, a Strip, Map and Record exercise and an Earthwork Survey. Two narrow undated shallow ditches were observed to lie parallel on a north-east to south-west alignment and may have edged a droveway.

The two Sunken-Featured Buildings were found, and the material recovered from these fills suggests both buildings went out of use before the later 5th century. The pottery, registered finds and animal bone waste suggests a possible distinction in use between the two buildings. SFB1 may have been domestic, with activities including possible brewing, craft manufacture including textiles and cooking. SFB2 may have had a more utilitarian function including storage in jars and meat preparation. Two 3rd and 4th-century coins had pierced holes and had presumably been curated. Other areas of Anglo-Saxon activity have been identified near the excavation with two truncated SFBs excavated around 800m to the south-west of the current site (Chinnock 2017).

A probable post-medieval boundary ditch, furrows and a palaeo-channel was also identified. The earthworks comprised two long banks and were probably post-medieval headlands.

Overstone, Overstone Leys (SP 7925 6575)

CHRIS CHINNOCK

An archaeological excavation of 0.35ha was undertaken prior to the development of the site. The archaeological remains included a possible Iron Age enclosure, dated by a single sherd of pottery but contained several placed deposits of cattle skulls. Anglo-Saxon features comprised the truncated remains of two 'sunken-featured buildings' (SFBs). One or

both may have gone out of use by the second half of the 5th century AD. The articulated remains of an adult male individual had been placed in the base of the SFB, after the destruction of the building but before the main pit had been backfilled. Pottery recovered from the fill of the SFBs, likely to derive from midden material, suggests an early to middle Anglo-Saxon date with the pottery from SFB 2 probably dating from second half of the 5th century AD. Six objects of worked bone and antler were recovered from SFB 1 and have been dated to the early Anglo-Saxon period, with a date *c.*AD 425–525 likely. This early date for these artefacts suggests the SFBs went out of use *c.*AD 500. This is a rare early date and suggests that the settlement is amongst the earliest Saxon domestic remains in the county. Other notable finds included two decorated antler spindle whorls and other worked bone tools found within one of the SFBs. There was also a single undated pit.

SFB 1

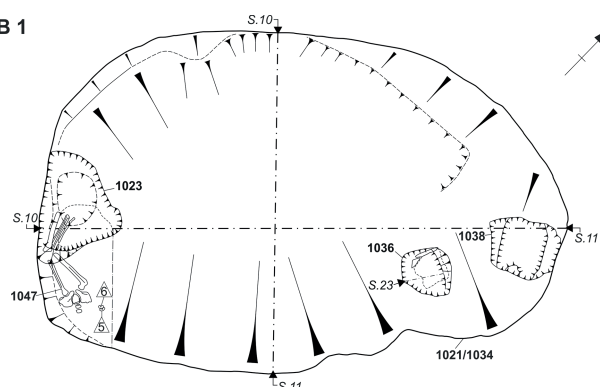


Figure 10: Plan of SFB 1



Figure 11: Skeleton overlying posthole in SFB 1

Road, Threeways, 13 Hartwell Road (TL 476005 251582)

TIM SHARMAN and PAUL THOMPSON

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording during groundwork revealed the remains of a possible medieval stone wall, a post-medieval building, a post-medieval pit and a ditch of unknown (probably pre-medieval) date.

Road, 16A London Road (SP 755 518)

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

A watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a dwelling with garage and service trench. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed.

Rushden, Eastern SUE (SP 974 668)

JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey covering *c.*215ha of land and revealed six discrete areas of Iron Age to Roman rural settlements, a possible medieval or post-medieval enclosure and the possible site of a Second World War aircraft crash. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also detected across the great majority of the survey area.

Silverstone Fields Farm (SP 681 462)

JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey of *c.*9ha of land mapped part of an Iron Age enclosure, a second undated enclosure, part of a trackway, some possible kilns or furnaces, extensive traces of medieval ridge and furrow and several post-medieval quarry pits.

Slapton, church of St Botolph (SP 64012 46885)

TIM SHARMAN

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording were carried out during the excavation of the drainage trench on the north side of the church of St Botolph. The footings of the tower and the north aisle of the church were revealed and consisted of courses of roughly dressed limestone blocks. A blocked doorway on the north wall of the nave was also recorded.

Strixton, Greenfield Lodge (SP 91070 60735)

AMIR BASSIR and YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

Greenfield Lodge is an agricultural complex which comprised Grade II Listed mid-19th century farmhouse with associated ranges of barns, stables, sheds, and outbuildings. Building recording indicated that a linear stable range pre-dated the farmhouse and probably dated to the late 18th or early 19th century. It was re-modelled and reroofed as part of a wider phase of renovation works at that time of the construction of the farmhouse in 1848. A two-storey outbuilding or extension to the farmhouse had a domestic use and contained a bread oven and fireplace.

Further building recording at Greenfield Lodge took place on a T-shaped stable range that was constructed in two phases. The eastern range pre-dated the farmhouse and was likely to date to the early 19th century. The second phase, which extended west and east, was probably contemporary with the construction of the farmhouse in 1848. Further smaller rooms and other alterations subsequently took place including the addition of concrete troughs in the 20th century.

Titchmarsh, land at Islington (TL 01856 79762)

IAN FISHER

A strip, map and sample excavation was carried out in area of eleven house plots with associated car parking, access

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roads and service trenches. The excavation recorded a series of linear features on a north-east to south-west, or south-west to north-east alignment. Although only one produced any datable material, a single middle Saxon sherd of pottery, it is likely that they are all broadly contemporary. The low level of artefactual material indicates that the features lie at a distance from core settlement activity and probably represented either plot boundaries or paddocks.

Towcester, 59 Brackley Road (SP 68887 48512)

CHRISTOPHER JONES

An archaeological trial trench evaluation of two trenches revealed a single post-medieval gully or furrow.

Towcester, South (SP 7040 4761)

PAUL CLEMENTS

A trial trench evaluation targeted anomalies indicated by an earlier geophysical survey. These anomalies were found and comprised a re-cut ditch, two possible pits or ditch terminals and two parallel features. Additional pits and ditches were also identified in the trenches. In general, the fills of the features were sterile silting deposits overlain by colluvium. It is likely that this made some of the features undiscernible from the background geology; suggesting why these features were not detected by the geophysical survey. A sherd of pottery recovered from a ditch dated from the late Iron Age to early Roman period, making the feature contemporary

with the Iron Age to Roman farmstead on the ridge just to the south-east of the site. Furrows were recorded on a north-east to south-west alignment.

Towcester, Sun Yard, Watling Street (SP 95305 56863)

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

Archaeological monitoring took place during the excavation of building foundations. A previous trial trench evaluation in 2015 on the site had revealed a large 18th-century deposit of horn cores in a pit. Further horn cores and animal bones were recovered in the watching brief and it is likely these remains derived from tanning activity. The ground had later been levelled up in the 18th-19th centuries using discarded waste material. The closest contemporary tannery was at 8 Watling Street, a short distance to the south-east of the site.

Towcester, land at Wood Burcote Court (SP 6951 4721)

SUSAN PORTER and CLAIRE FINN

Truncated Iron Age occupation was identified during excavations on the high ground with an enclosure ditch following the natural curve of the slope defining the area of settlement. A defined area of Roman settlement of 1st to 3rd century date comprising a post-built fence, malting oven (Fig. 12), rectangular building of indeterminate purpose (see front cover), and possible granary was located on the ridge of ground situated adjacent to ponds, natural springs and marshy ground. There were attempts at cultivation and



Figure 12: Malting oven SS6, looking south (2m scale)

grain drying in the early Roman period, but this was largely abandoned by the 3rd century. Peripheral settlement remains of medieval date, likely to have been part Wood Burcote village, was located on the same ridge also dedicated to grain drying/ malting. The area of occupation was divided from the cultivation and pond areas by boundary ditches, however this was largely abandoned by the 15th century as the village shrunk. Some post-medieval backyard activity was noted along the western edge.

Wappenham, 3 Brookside (SP 63024 45618)

BEN KIDD

A watching brief undertaken during groundworks for a single residential dwelling modern garden disturbance was observed and no archaeological remains were present.

Weedon Lois, Green Farm (SP 604 467)

JOHN WALFORD

An archaeological geophysical survey of c2.5ha of land identified two infilled ditches which may have been drainage channels associated with medieval fish ponds, two other possible ditches of unknown date and traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

Wellingborough East Area 3 (SP 9159 6776)

LIZ MULDOWNEY

An archaeological trial trench evaluation consisting of fourteen trenches targeted geophysical anomalies recorded in an earlier survey. A settlement dating from the latest Iron Age into the Roman period was found. Features were encountered in every trench and these comprised a probable roundhouse, enclosures, field boundaries, a Roman road and pits.

Wellingborough, former Victoria Junior School

(SP 89746 68154)

AMIR BASSIR

A historic building recording of the former Victoria Junior School carried out. The school is one of three principal buildings of the former school which included the former infants' school and schoolmaster's house, though these are not the subject of this recording. The Junior School, which opened in 1895, is to a design by the architect Walter Talbot



Figure 13: Wellingborough, Victoria Junior School

Brown of Talbot Brown and Fisher and is a good example of late 19th century Victorian civic architecture (Fig. 13). The building is in the Queen Anne revival style and rendered in red brick with stone dressings and comprises an amalgamation of classroom and entrance blocks surrounding a central double-height hall with a barrel-vaulted ceiling (see back cover). The hall retained a full complement of original panelling with matching cupboards and glazed screens to the classrooms.

Wootton, Church of St George the Martyr

(SP 76240 56530)

TIM SHARMAN

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording were carried out during groundwork on land at the church of St George the Martyr, Wootton, Northamptonshire. During the work at least two possible medieval grave cuts were noted within a service trench in the churchyard. Fragmentary, redeposited human remains were also noted in excavations under the floor at the west side of the nave where a 19th century underfloor heating system was exposed.

Yardley Gobion, Manor Farm, Unit 2 (SP 76787 44705)

CHRISTOPHER JONES

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation recording, and analysis was undertaken but no archaeological features were present within the site.

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY

Brackley, Land between Manor Road and Market Place (SP584 369)

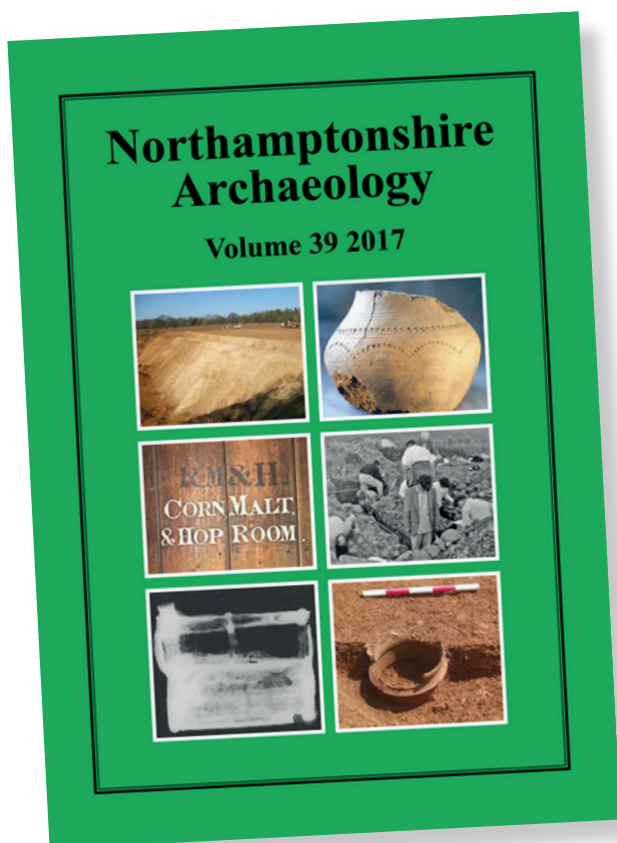
STEPHEN THORPE

A watching brief and controlled strip undertaken during development works between Manor Road and Market Place Brackley between April 2016 and May 2017 identified two early modern stone-built structures with evidence of possible earlier medieval activity taking place. One of these structures had a floor consisting of re-used malting tiles which would have been originally used as a drying floor for grain, indicating that the building may have had links to the brewing industry. A further vaulted subterranean stone structure, stone well, possible icehouse and several post-medieval/early modern pits were also identified.

Shutlanger, 5 Main Road (SP726 498)

STEPHEN THORPE

An excavation undertaken in advance of development works at Main Road Shutlanger between March and June 2017 identified several post-medieval quarry pits, plot boundaries, pits and drains. Small assemblages of Romano-British and medieval pottery were also recovered although these were considered residual within later features.



In November 2017 NAS published volume 39 of the county archaeological journal, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, with the first copies collected by those who attended the society AGM.

It contains the following articles:

An Early Neolithic enclosure near West Cotton, Raunds, *Andy Chapman*

Late Neolithic pits and an Early Bronze Age cremation cemetery at Middleton Chase, Banbury Lane, Middleton Cheney *Martin Cuthbert and Bob Zeepvat*

A Bronze Age and Early Iron Age landscape at Harlestone Quarry, Northampton *Andy Chapman, Jason Clarke and Anne Foard*

A Middle Iron Age settlement at Banbury Lane, King's Sutton *David Ingham*

Iron Age and Roman Settlement to the north-west of Crick *Andrew Mudd, Nicola Powell and Dan Stone*

A Roman corn-drying kiln at Cogenhoe found in 1962 *Robert Moore*

Late Iron Age to Early Roman and Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement at Darsdale Farm, Raunds *Adam Reid*

Late Saxon burials at All Saints Church, Little Billing, Northampton *Chris Chinnock*

Late Iron Age settlement and a medieval windmill north of Brick Kiln Road, Raunds *Carol Simmonds*

Late Iron Age to early Roman settlement and medieval settlement at Harley Way, Benefield *Claire Finn*

Medieval and later activity in the former precinct of St John's Hospital, Northampton *Simon Carlyle, Jonny Geber and Philip L Armitage*

Historic Building Recording at the Anchor Brewery, Oundle *Amir Bassir*

Notes: A Bronze Age cairn at Wakerley Great Wood *Graham Cadman*

A Claudian pit group of bone hinges and box fittings from a 'military' latrine pit beneath the proto-villa at Piddington Roman villa *Roy Friendship-Taylor*

A Roman military harness pendant from Wellingborough *Robert Moore*

Recent Publications

Archaeology in Northamptonshire 2014 *Compiled by Pat Chapman*

Archaeology in Northamptonshire 2015 *Compiled by Pat Chapman*

Archaeology in Northamptonshire 2016

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Volume 40 will be a Northampton special edition looking at the middle to late Saxon origins of the town and the archaeological record for Northampton's lost Royal Castle, where Henry II brought his former friend and ally Thomas Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury, to trial, ending in his escape to temporary exile on the continent. It is hoped that this volume will be available for distribution by Easter 2019.

ANDY CHAPMAN, NAS Secretary and Editor

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Kettering, Kettering Sewage Routing (SP 901 741)

ANTHONY HASKINS (OA EAST REPORT 2169)

An emergency excavation was undertaken in February 2017 of a double burial uncovered during service works for the Anglian Water pumping station on a new pipeline on the outskirts of Kettering. Previous archaeological work had shown that there was Romano-British occupation within the area. The burial comprised two partial skeletons, one with significant head trauma, likely to have been the cause of death. Both skeletons were buried within a small pit suggesting the individuals were killed or executed and then dumped into the feature. The burials have been radiocarbon dated to 80–237 cal AD (95.4% probability; SUERC-73739; 1850±33).

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH**Brixworth, Northampton Road, Victor Barns**
(SP 7667 6911)

PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Victor Barns off Northampton Road, Brixworth, Northamptonshire between 12th-15th December 2017. A total of 13 trial trenches were excavated revealing a single linear ditch aligned NW-SE and three or four probable quarries. The upper fills of the quarries produced a small range of artefacts dating from the 19th century. No datable material was encountered within the ditch although this is aligned parallel to one shown on the 1st edition OS map. It is most likely that the ditch was a former boundary related to the historic field arrangement. The evaluation did not produce any evidence for activity at the site predating the post-medieval period.

Daventry North-East (SP 5900 6400)

MARTYN ALLEN

Oxford Archaeology carried out a 70-trench evaluation on a 247ha site to the north-east of Daventry in April 2017. Forty-five evaluation trenches were dug in the southern part of the site in Field 1, which revealed evidence of a Roman rural settlement dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. Trial trenches exposed numerous ditches, probably relating to enclosures and other field boundaries. The most significant find was a stone-lined corn drying kiln with well-preserved environmental remains deposited in the flue of the structure. Preliminary analysis of this material suggests that the corn drying kiln was used to malt cereal grain, possibly for ale production. A relatively high quantity of pottery from the site suggests that domestic activity was intensive, while the recovery of cattle, sheep and horse bones indicates that the settlement operated a mixed agricultural economy.

The settlement was located close to the foot of Borough Hill, an Iron Age hillfort that was refortified at its northern end. A Roman villa dating from the 2nd and 4th centuries was built within this enclosure, and a 2nd-century barrow cemetery was located to its south in the middle of the hillfort. The site also lies c 3km west of the Roman town of Bannaventa, which was established on Watling Street.

Evidence for possible late Iron Age activity was identified on the development site, just to the east of the Roman settlement. This may have been associated with a trackway (identified by geophysical survey) which led to the north-east of the site. A series of ditches were found to the west of the northern end of the trackway in Field 5; these features remain undated.

Geophysical surveys identified three possible pit alignments in different areas of the site. However, the evaluation trenches only managed to locate features associated with one of these, close to the western periphery of the site in Field 2. No dating evidence was recovered from these features.

Several post-medieval quarries were located just to the north of the Roman settlement in Field 1. Other isolated and undated ditches were identified across the site, as well as remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow and modern agricultural land drains.

Edgecote, Trafford Bridge Farm (SP 5069 4739)

ROBERT MCINTOSH

A geophysical survey of the Site was undertaken on the 16th and 17th of June 2016 in a field west of Trafford Bridge Farm. The site lies within the registered site of the battle of Edgecote fought in AD 1469 during the so called 'Wars of the Roses'. The survey aimed to identify any potential archaeological deposits and the hope was that it might help to provide further clarification of the position of the site in relation to the battle. The survey detected ground disturbances and magnetic anomalies, some of which suggested penannular gullies or linear boundaries, and others of which were difficult to interpret. A fieldwalking and metal detecting survey was subsequently carried out in the week commencing 7th August 2017. The field was gridded in 20m transects aligned NNE, and finds were collected in 20m lengths along each transect. Where the geophysical survey had indicated concentrations of possible archaeological features, the fieldwalking transects were only 10m apart, and finds were collected in 10m lengths along each transect. The fieldwalking was conducted by two OA staff.

Metal detecting was carried out by volunteers, most of the area by members of the Oxford Blues, and the northernmost part of the east side of the site by Keith Westcott, a local detectorist. All metal finds were recovered, and their co-ordinates recorded by hand-held GPS. Excluding unidentifiable scraps of iron and clearly modern finds, a total of 80 metal finds were recovered. Other types of find that were retrieved comprised pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), struck flint and glass.

A scatter of struck flint was found across the whole of the field, with identifiable pieces of Mesolithic/early Neolithic and early Bronze Age date. There were clusters of two or three pieces, but no concentrations sufficient to indicate working or occupation areas. Only a single sherd of Roman pottery was found, and this did not overlie any of the penannular enclosures suggested by the geophysical survey results. The bulk of the pottery and CBM were of medieval or post-medieval date, with an emphasis on the late medieval/early post-medieval period, but there were no significant concentrations.

The metal finds did not include any prehistoric, Roman or early medieval objects, but there was a fair number of medieval and late medieval/early post-medieval finds. The majority of these were horseshoe nails or horseshoes, plus several spurs and buckles. A number of lead finds of later date were also found. The preponderance of metal and ceramic finds of late medieval/early post-medieval finds is suggestive, and the metal finds were concentrated in the south-east and north-west of the field, but there is nothing conclusive to confirm that this was part of the battlefield site.

Irthlingborough, Land at Church Street (SP 9485 7075)

ROBERT MACINTOSH

In May 2017 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical test pits in the footprint of a proposed new retail development. The aim was to help establish the depth of made-ground deposits and levels of archaeological preservation present across the site. The presence of 20th-century made-ground was recorded across the area, varying between 0.20-2.1m

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in thickness, overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were observed, but this is not surprising considering the small size of the test pits.

Northampton, Buckton Fields West (SP 7408 6508)

GERRY THACKER and CHRIS PICKARD

During June to August 2017 Oxford Archaeology South undertook two stages of trial trench evaluation comprising a total of 41 trenches targeted on the results of a geophysical survey, and to test 'blank areas'. The evaluation uncovered evidence for activity from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods in the form of isolated struck flints, and a few features of middle Iron Age date.

Evidence for occupation of the site during the later Iron Age into the early and middle Roman periods was more extensive and took the form of an extensive array of ditches and pits focused on the central and western parts of the evaluated area. Large un-abraded sherds of pottery were recovered from several of these features suggesting that it was deposited near settlement. The presence of imported pottery suggests a site of at least moderate status. Fired clay derived from a domestic or crop processing oven, and possibly from a metalworking furnace. The remains of fallow deer were found, which are very rare from Romano-British contexts. The presence of axially split cattle bones also from Roman contexts may indicate that specialist butchery was carried out within the site. Waterlogged material of probable Roman date was present in a lower lying area within in the south-western part of the site.

Several trenches contained closely spaced parallel ditches, which did not have the form of medieval or later plough furrows. These were present on several alignments, and where dated contained Roman material. These could represent arable cultivation of Roman date.

Rushden lakes, Ditchford Fields (SP 93390 67800)

ROBIN BASHFORD

Between 24th April and 2nd May 2017, Oxford Archaeology completed a trial trench evaluation on land within Ditchford Reserve Local Wildlife Site (LWS). The evaluation revealed a variety of geological deposits, reflecting the location of the site at the interface between the solid and superficial geology at the edge of the floodplain.

Several possible features with very sterile sandy fills were identified but, where sample excavation took place, were predominantly interpreted as being of probable geological origin. A number of these were more regular in plan and profile and may have represented ditches, but no artefactual material was present beyond the topsoil interface with the feature fills. The deposits that filled the features were also very similar in composition to the geological deposits.

A small assemblage of worked flint artefacts was present within two of the trenches indicating prehistoric activity at this location. However, the association between these artefacts and the possible features remains unclear. Several modern field drains were identified, one of which appeared to be draining from a low-lying area into the reed marsh to the north.

A further phase of works took place between 14th and 24th August 2017, when 50 trenches were subjected to evaluation. The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record reported the presence of a prehistoric settlement in

the western half of the evaluation area. This was corroborated by geophysical survey which provided greater resolution of the settlement, increasing our understanding of its limits and layout. The evaluation established the presence and survival of several archaeological features associated with the settlement and provided dating evidence which placed it in the middle-late Iron Age, between the mid-3rd century and the late 1st century BC.

Further archaeological features, consisting of a few ditches and a pit, were encountered in the far eastern part of the evaluation area. Little could be discerned of their character and function, though the recovery of a small amount of Roman pottery suggests that they may have been features of this date.

The geophysical survey also identified ridge and furrow in the western half of the evaluation area, along with signs of modern disturbance and services. No evidence of any other archaeological features was established by the evaluation. The route of a disused railway line, seen on historic maps, defines the northern boundary to the evaluation area. Evaluation trenches in this area encountered made-up ground relating to this former embankment.

SOUTERRAIN

Clipston, The Acacias, Oxendon Road (SP 713 822)

MARTIN D WILSON

Archaeological monitoring and investigation was carried out during soil stripping for a new agricultural grain store (1,400 sq. m) adjacent to the abandoned medieval settlement of Clipston (SM 1418334). Linear undulations of the subsoil horizon, in very low relief, denoted the former course of medieval ridge and furrow, which had been razed by earthmoving machinery in the mid-20th century. There were no other features present, and no artefacts.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-290882, HER Event No. ENN108754.

Greatworth, Kepple Gate, Church Road (SP 551 424)

MERCEDES PLANAS and MARTIN D WILSON

A historic building record was made of a stone-built barn to the rear of Church Road, Greatworth, prior to its conversion to a dwelling (Fig. 14). The report provides a descriptive and illustrative, 'as found' account of the building, which includes photographs and scaled elevations and plans. The barn probably dates from the late 18th or early 19th century. It was formerly a component of Fleet Farm, which operated a grazing economy throughout the 19th century, until at least the mid-20th century. Of additional interest are two cranked transverse ceiling beams with chamfered edges, which were presumably reclaimed from a dwelling.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-292093, HER Event No. ENN10875

Higham Ferrers, 44 Saffron Road (SP 95970 68694)

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

Archaeological excavation was carried out by Souterrain prior to groundwork preparation for a house extension (c. 30 sq.m) in proximity to the upstanding medieval remains of Chichele College (SM 1013829). A specific objective was to ascertain whether remains of an ancient dovecote survived, and, if so, to agree a suitable course of mitigation.



Figure 14: Greatworth barn interior

Demolished in the late 19th century, the dovecote had once stood in the grounds of Chichele College (est. 1422) and is depicted on a 16th century map. Later historic maps indicate that the dovecote stood just beyond the area of investigation.

The excavation revealed that stratified archaeological layers survive at the site up to 1 m in depth. The earliest was a buried soil, 0.14 m – 0.28 m thick, dated by pottery to the 12th / 13th century. This yielded a quantity of carbonised plant macro fossils, including a range of cereal crops (hulled barley, free-threshing type wheat, oat, rye and bread wheat). The soil was considered to pertain to a former burgage tenement, since it is documented that several tenements were acquired for the creation of the College and grounds. The layer was sealed beneath made-up ground (c. 0.3 m), which consisted of rubble and clay and contained 13th / 14th century pottery. Above the made-up ground, a spread of broken clay roof tiles and limestone rubble denoted the proximity of the demolished dovecote. In the early 19th century the land was in use as a paddock, and possibly continued as such until the mid-20th century. Limestone blocks, presumably salvaged from the dovecote, had been used for the foundation of a substantial wooden-framed building, possibly a stable block.

OASIS ref.: souterra1–302859, HER Event No. ENN108845

Higham Ferrers, 24 Saffron Road (SP 95958 68587)

MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Suterrain during the digging of foundation trenches for a 400 sq.m. residential development at a former medieval burgage plot in Higham Ferrers. The site was located c.45m south of the

upstanding late medieval remains of Chichele College (SM 1013829). Excavation revealed a fragment of limestone wall foundation on the southern boundary of the burgage plot, which was cut by a small pit dated to the late 17th or 18th century. Also cutting the southern boundary was a possible stone quarry, which had been back-filled in the 19th century. Elsewhere, there were no deposits earlier than an extensive layer of broadly post-medieval rubble and soil.

OASIS ref.: souterra1–304213. HER Event No. ENN108696

Irthlingborough, The Horseshoe Inn, High Street

(SP 94481 70507)

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

A historic building study was made of a former public house known as The Horseshoe Inn, at Irthlingborough, prior to its conversion to residential apartments (Fig. 15). The report provides an illustrative account of the building in its 'as found' state, by means of photographs and scaled elevations and plans. Archaeological observations made during the 'stripping out' phase of the conversion project enabled broad phases of the building's development to be identified. The historical account of the building draws principally on primary sources and is supported by historic photographs.

The inn evolved from a 17th / 18th century house and shop. It was set up as a beer house in the early 1850s, a social establishment for the consumption of ales. A licence was obtained to sell wines spirits in 1865, thereby acquiring Public House status. The Horseshoe Inn was a tied-house of the brewery Smith & Co., Oundle, Northamptonshire for at least 87 years (c. 1868 – 1955). Between 1962 and the late 20th century the public house passed through the hands of three of the UK's major beer producers and suppliers, as a part of their tied-estate. Unsurprisingly, the report identifies numerous landlords throughout the period.



Figure 15: The Horseshoe Inn, Irthlingborough

The northeast half of the existing inn is the original (i.e. 17th / 18th century) building. Constructed in the local vernacular coursed limestone rubble, it comprised two-stories, attic rooms and a cellar, with a buttressed chimney at the southwest end. The attic room retains a partition wall with wattle and daub.

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At some juncture in the early to mid-19th century the premises was given an extensive facelift, extended to twice its original size and modified to provide a Public Bar, Lounge Bar and additional accommodation. The end windows of the original building were blocked up and a chimney was built into its northeast wall. Most notably, the front elevation of the building, old and new, was given a brick facade in Flemish bond, with a single course of dogstooth corbel runs beneath the eaves. Nonetheless, the level and character of the two pairs of window openings at first floor level betray the two distinct phases of construction; the pair in the south-western half with stone voussoirs and sills, while those of the original building, at a lower level, with extended wooden lintels and no sills. The use of bond timbers in the north-western extension seems to suggest that the conversion project took place prior to the mid-1840s.

OASIS ref. souterra1–310560, HER Event No. ENN108901

Newton Bromswold, Church Walk House, Church Walk (SP 997 657)

MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain during ground reduction for a new extension at Church Walk House. The property is located within the historic core of the former medieval to post-medieval settlement of Newton Bromswold, surrounded by earthworks of the shrunken village. Given that the development (101 sq. m) would remove a 6m stretch of a postulated medieval linear earthwork over 20m in length, a detailed localised topographical survey was undertaken (900 sq.m) prior to ground reduction; this to illustrate the disposition of the earthwork and enable a better understanding of its context. Ultimately, the exposed section of earthwork proved to be the result of 20th century landscaping works, suggesting that the remainder could be likewise. Observations made on the northeast side of Church Walk House suggest that other purported historic earthworks may also be the product of 20th century landscaping. There were no buried soils, and no historic features or artefacts present.

OASIS ref.: souterra1–306537, HER Event No. ENN108839

Northampton, Art Deco Public Lavatories, Abington Square (SP 76105 60806)

MARTIN D WILSON

A comprehensive historic building study was made of a disused early 20th century Public Lavatories building at Abington Square, Northampton, prior to its conversion to a residential unit. The building (Fig. 16) stands on Wellingborough Road, on the south side of the square, one of the town's busiest public esplanades. Notably, the building's design and use of materials combined vernacular architecture with artisanal Art Deco modernity. A topic of planning discussions for several years, the lavatories building was finally erected in 1929, when it was incorporated into an ambitious scheme of town re-development. It survives today as a unique form of architectural expression in the decade-long transition of Abington Square, which took place c.1928 to 1938.

The report explores the historical context the lavatories building largely via primary records newspaper archives and the Minutes of various Borough Council committees

(e.g. Public Health, Improvements, Public Conveniences and Transport). It provides a descriptive and illustrative account of the building in its 'as found' state, by means of photographs, scaled elevations and plans, and identifies phases of development.

OASIS ref. souterra1–279297, HER Event No. ENN108611



Figure 16: Detail of lettering, Public Lavatories, Northampton

Wellingborough, The Victoria Infants School, Stanley Road (SP 89727 68206)

MARTIN D WILSON

A comprehensive historic building study was undertaken of a late 19th century Board School, prior to its conversion to residential apartments. Formerly known as Victoria Infants School, the building stands on Stanley Road, in the north-western quarter of Wellingborough town where it shares a Grade II list entry (No.1392597) with an adjacent Junior School (also disused). The neighbourhood, once known as the Victoria Estate, was built in the 1880s and 1890s and is characterised by rows of terraced houses, interspersed by boot and shoe factories and houses of worship.

The Infants School was erected concurrently with the Junior School in 1895, both inaugurated the following year. The schools' purpose was to provide children of working class families with an education to elementary level in accordance with government requirements. They were built with a government grant and were essentially non-denominational. Their creation was made possible by Gladstonian reforms and heralded as a landmark achievement of the Wellingborough Liberals. The schools were designed by eminent Wellingborough architects, Messrs. Talbot Brown & Fisher and built by a local building contractor Messrs. Edwin Brown and Son. The Victoria Infants School functioned until the late 20th century when it became a local education centre...

The historic building report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of the Victoria Infants School in its 'as found' state, by means of scaled elevations and plans, photographs, and a plan showing its broad phases of development. The school was planned on the Central Hall System, flanked by eight classrooms, each with a part-

panelled glazed partition on its hall side, permitting the head mistress to simultaneously observe each classroom. The hall is particularly grand, lit by a pair of large round-arched windows at the west end and clerestoreys above the classrooms. At the east end there is a gallery with a stick balustrade. The roof has depressed arch braces and carved brackets. Another feature of note is the state-of-the-art Grundy (Tyldesley, Manchester) smoke-consuming heating and ventilation system, which pervaded all the rooms.

The report investigates the school's early decades of existence, principally by means of primary material, the school Log Books (recently discovered), historic photographs, newspaper archives, Wellingborough Congregational Sunday Schools records, and the construction contractor's accounts books. Essentially, the report looks at the school's local social and political background, traces the origins of infant schooling on the Victoria Estate, and identifies foremost characters – head mistresses, staff, school inspectors and pupil-teacher apprentices.

OASIS ref. souterra1–290325, HER Event No. ENN108697

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Banbury, Central M40, land at Overthorpe Road
(SP 4750 3990)

GARRETH DAVEY

Evaluation trenching in advance of a new industrial development revealed the foundations of a First World War munitions factory (already well-documented). A follow

up recording action showed that these mainly matched the available mapping quite closely but revealed but nothing further of interest.

Corby, Little Lane, Stanion (SP 9148 8715)

GARRETH DAVEY

Prior to submission of an application for housing development, evaluation trenching revealed only a single sherd of medieval pottery from the topsoil but no archaeological features.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Kingsthorpe, The Coach House, Harborough Road
(SP 75187 63119)

R. WILLIAMS

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an evaluation comprising four trial trenches ahead of development. The evaluation identified a terrace which had truncated deposits approximately 1.5–1.7m below the current ground level. A mixture of redeposited natural and 19th century dumped material overlay the truncation cut. Any archaeological remains are likely to have been removed by the terrace.

OXFORDSHIRE

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Didcot, Harwell SPS Rising Main Diversion
(SU 50299 90241)

CATHERINE EDWARDS

The work in November 2016 and April 2017, comprised the monitoring of intrusive ground works involved in the diversion works at the site of the Harwell SPS Rising Main Diversion. The natural geology observed was grey brown clay. A possible pit, truncating the natural clay, was identified in the north of the site, and contained a single sherd of abraded Iron Age pottery. The overlying alluvial layer yielded further pottery sherds (11) of a prehistoric date. The alluvial deposit was also recorded on adjacent land evaluated by Cotswold Archaeology in 2002 (Cotswold 2003, 14), who also identified prehistoric activity in the form of a Bronze Age ring ditch just to the north of the proposed rising main alignments, as well as ditches and pits of possible late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age settlement activity. Pottery recovered from both the pit and alluvial deposit suggests prehistoric activity near the site of probable Iron Age date, which is in keeping with the known archaeological record.

OASIS ID: aocarcha1–253096
AOC Project Number 33412

Banbury, Noral Way, Banbury Sewer Link
(SP45665 42845)

REBECCA WATTS

The work between the 4th May to 11th June 2017, consisted of monitoring the excavation of two manhole shafts and an open cut pipeline trench for the installation of a new foul water sewer and surface water drain connection. The underlying natural geology across the site was observed as series of green-yellow to dark blue clays. Overlying the natural was a red brown sandy subsoil. No archaeological remains were identified during the works.

OASIS ID: aocarcha1–297707
AOC Project Number 33436

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Land west of Charlbury, West Oxfordshire
(SP 3590 1875)

MARK BLAGG-NEWSOME and DR DAVID BESCOBY

Archaeological geophysical survey was commissioned following a desk-based assessment prior to residential development. The data was dominated by high amplitude responses from modern services which effectively masked

Oxfordshire

any weaker (archaeological) responses from a significant portion of the site. However, away from this interference, the survey identified a small number of magnetic anomalies which could be of archaeological origin. These included faint parallel positive linear anomalies, potentially representing infilled ditch features and positive elongated anomaly/anomalies indicative of cut and infilled pit type features. A series of parallel negative responses of varying amplitudes and lengths were recorded, which are likely to represent the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Sarsden, Squire's Clump (SP 29790 23357)

Archaeological observation of groundworks associated with the installation of badger-proof fencing at Squire's Clump was carried out under instruction from the Sarsden Estate. Squire's Clump, an Anglo-Saxon burial mound and Scheduled Ancient Monument located near Sarsden, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, is listed on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register as being in a vulnerable condition, with significant localised problems due to animal (badger) burrowing. To address this issue, it was proposed to exclude the existing badger colony by erecting badger-proof wire-mesh fencing incorporating one-way gates to allow badgers to exit from but not to enter the fenced area. The work was timed to coincide with the badgers' natural migration pattern and involved removing an existing fence and establishing the new fence 1m outside both the former fence-line and a 2m 'buffer zone' specified by Historic England to safeguard any associated archaeological deposits around the base of the monument. All ground disturbance was monitored, including fence-post removal and subsequent excavation by machine of a shallow installation trench. The trench measured 0.55m (average width) × 0.39m (average depth). Finds included two post-medieval iron nails and a sherd of post-medieval pottery. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.

OASIS Ref: borderar1-304959

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Dorchester-on-Thames, Forge Cottages, Malthouse Lane (SU 5774 9430)

SOPHIE GINGELL and TAMLIN BARTON

Four foundation pad holes were cut through the yard surface which comprised sandstone crazy paving and cement. In all the holes except pad hole 3 (which revealed a sewer) this lay directly above a garden topsoil. The topsoil in pad 1 contained 19th Century blue glazed china, animal bone and fragments of oyster shell.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Abingdon, Dunmore Road (SU 4918 9884)

ALISTAIR BARBER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified at least two phases of a Middle Iron Age to Early Roman settlement comprising possible roundhouse drip gullies and postholes,

and a series of rectilinear stock enclosures. Medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow remains were also present.

Adderbury, Land North of Milton Road (SP 46450 35090)

DAN STANSBIE and ANDREW WHELAN

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified the truncated remains of an Early Bronze Age hengiform enclosure associated with a post-ring. A central sub-rectangular pit contained burnt timbers. A ring ditch representing a barrow was located to the south-east of the enclosure and a Roman trackway and medieval/post-medieval hollow-way were found, along with undated ditches and pits.

Bampton, Aston Road (SP 3226 0346)

JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Roman field boundary ditch and two possible un-urned cremation burials. Undated disarticulated human remains were found redeposited within a late medieval boundary ditch. Medieval and late medieval field systems and a post-medieval gravel extraction pit were also present.

Banbury, Land off Warwick Road (SP 43389 42062)

CHRIS ELLIS

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an undated hollow-way and several post-medieval boundary ditches.

Banbury, Longford Park (Site D073) (SP 46941 39010)

SIÂN REYNISH

An evaluation and watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified no remains of archaeological interest.

Benson, Land to the North East of Watlington Road/The Sands (SU 62065 92490)

OLIVER GOOD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded an Early Neolithic pit containing three pottery vessels. A Middle to Late Bronze Age hollow-way, boundary or enclosure ditch, a possible Saxon beam slot and several undated pits and a ditch were also identified.

Benson, 21 Watlington Road (SU 6225 9222)

OLIVER GOOD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified two Middle Bronze Age ditches and at least two Saxon sunken-featured buildings. A late medieval ditch and refuse pits associated with the rear of one of the medieval tenements which ran along Brook Street to the south of the site were also recorded.

Chinnor, Land off Lower Icknield Way (SP 76010 01860)

JOE WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a Late Iron Age ditch, possibly part of an enclosure perpendicular to Icknield Way, a prehistoric trackway. A Roman drainage ditch was also present.

Cropredy, Land at Station Road (SP 4659 4635)

JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Roman sub-circular enclosure and associated field system. Medieval/post-medieval extant ridge and furrow and a post-medieval hollow-way were also recorded.

Didcot, Land east of St High's Rise (SU 53698 89247)

RAY HOLT

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified late prehistoric and Roman field systems and a Roman pit.

Didcot, Willington Down Gas Pipeline Diversion

(SU 52507 92184 to SU 54495 92290)

RAY HOLT

An evaluation and watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified no archaeological remains.

Drayton, Land at Halls Close (SU 4480 1939)

MARK BRETT

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed a prehistoric pit and a ditch containing worked flints and possible Neolithic pottery. An Early Iron Age ditch, a 6th to 7th-century probable sunken-featured building, medieval ditches, a post-medieval trackway and several undated pits and ditches were also identified.

Dorchester on Thames, Bull Cottage, 59 High Street

(SU 5773 9437)

RAY KENNEDY

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded residual Roman pottery. A cobbled yard surface and refuse pits, likely related to Bull Cottage's former use as a coaching inn during the 16th and 17th centuries, were also observed.

Duns Tew, Duns Tew Manor (SP 4570 2850)

TIMOTHY LEWIS

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded an undated sand extraction pit.

East Challow, Land at Challow Park (SU 38410 88065)

JEREMY CLUTTERBUCK, JONATHAN HART and MARK BRETT

An evaluation and excavation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a small quantity of residual prehistoric flints and Roman artefacts. Two distinct areas of 6th to 7th-century features were also identified, comprising two sunken-featured buildings and a ditch, with pits and postholes 45m to the north-west.

East Hagbourne, Land Adjacent to the Village Hall

(SU 52436 88456)

JOE WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a small assemblage of residual Neolithic worked flints. An Early Iron Age enclosure ditch and associated pits yielded a finds assemblage indicative of domestic activity.

Grove, Land North of Grove (SU 3997 9087)

SIMON SWORN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an Iron Age settlement near a brook, comprising ring-gullies and a storage pit. To the west, on slightly lower ground, were stock enclosures and agricultural ditches. The settlement continued to be used during the Roman period and underwent expansion with the creation of stone structures, gullies, pits and postholes. The finds assemblage, which included box flue tile and *tegulae*, samian pottery and brooch fragments, indicates a higher status than the Iron Age agricultural settlement. Dating evidence shows that the settlement was occupied until the mid-3rd to 4th centuries AD. Medieval field boundary and drainage ditches were also present.

Henley-Upon-Thames, Cottage Site, Highland's Farm

(SU 74157 81383)

ADAM HOWARD and DR FRANCIS WENBAN-SMITH

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology within an area of known Palaeolithic flint scatters recorded no Holocene deposits but did identify undisturbed Pleistocene deposits which produced a small quantity of flint artefacts.

Henley-Upon-Thames, Highland's Farm (SU 7424 8133)

ADAM HOWARD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a palaeo-channel and a small assemblage of residual worked flints.

Milton, Milton Park (SU 49600 92130)

NOEL BOOTHROYD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Milton-under-Wychwood, Land off the High Street

(SP 26335 17720)

ALEX THOMSON

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch and an undated ditch and posthole.

Shillingford, Land at Thame Road (SU 59745 93083)

ANDREW WHELAN and PETER BOYER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a probable Early Bronze Age trackway and a Middle Bronze Age waterhole containing pottery and a loom weight fragment. A ring-ditch may represent a small round barrow, and several linear ditches are likely to represent a Bronze Age field system. A late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditch and a post-medieval ditch as well as several undated ditches and pits were also present.

South Oxford, South Oxford Science Village

(SP 5515 0150)

CHRIS ELLIS

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a small assemblage of residual Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flints. A Middle-Late Iron Age roundhouse was identified as were two sub-rectangular enclosures and four penannular ring-ditches which may represent further settlement activity, although the morphology of these features is also like

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funerary enclosures and barrows. The roundhouse was superseded by an Early–Late Roman planned settlement and pottery production site originating in the 1st to 2nd centuries AD and intensifying into the 3rd to 4th centuries. The finds assemblage includes metalwork, kiln furniture and pottery; human remains were also identified. Post-medieval field boundary ditches, furrows and quarry pits were also present.

Stadhampton, Land East of Newington Road (SU 60266 97986)

MATT NICHOL and RICHARD MASSEY

An evaluation and excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified several phases of a Late Iron Age enclosed settlement which yielded a finds assemblage including domestic pottery, worked flint, occupation waste and metalwork items. An undated hollow-way to the west was cut by Late Iron Age ditches and may represent an earlier phase of prehistoric activity. A roundhouse within a rectilinear enclosure, several storage pits, postholes, a cremation burial, and a pit containing metalworking residues, were also recorded. Approximately 500m to the south, a large Late Iron Age pit had been excavated to utilise a natural spring as a water source.

Steventon, Land at Bramble Grange (SU 44475 92756) LIAM WILSON

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified two Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditches that are likely to have related to field systems. Undated ditches were also present.

Stonesfield, Charity Farm (Phase 2) (SP 39837 17081) CHRISTOPHER LEONARD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest, suggesting that a dry valley formed the northern boundary of Stonesfield Roman Villa.

Sutton Courtenay, Land off Harwell Road (SU 5018 9281) JOE WHELAN and ADAM HOWARD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed a continuation of a scheduled Iron Age/Roman farming settlement located 200m to the west (PRN 8467). The identified features were situated on an elevated plateau above marshland and comprised multiple phases of enclosures, pits, postholes and a trackway. An isolated rectilinear enclosure to the north of the site yielded Iron Age pottery but most of the finds assemblage indicates that the settlement was predominately occupied during the 1st to 4th centuries AD.

Tackley, Land to the North of Nethercote Road (SP 4832 2088) PETER BOYER and ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Middle Bronze Age pit and ditch, and a large post medieval pit.

Towersey, Thame Solar Farm, Windmill Road (SP 7360 0598)

PETER BOYER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded ploughed-out medieval furrows.

Witney, Land off Burford Road (SP 34655 10507) ALEX THOMSON

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a small pit containing Early Neolithic worked flints. Two Middle Iron Age ditches, an undated but probable Iron Age storage pit, and an Early to Middle Saxon sunken-featured building were recorded, as well as undated pits and postholes.

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Cholsey, Land off Celsea Place (SU 591 861) ANDREW HOOD

Between 6th and 22nd May **2015** Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation, which was supplemented by a geophysical survey undertaken by AB Heritage, on land off Celsea Place, Cholsey. The project comprised the excavation and recording of twenty-three evaluation trenches and subsequent geophysical survey across a proposed development area.

The evaluation and geophysical survey identified part of a relatively substantial Roman building, which was in the southwest corner of the site, in Trenches 10, 11, 21 and 23. The building appeared to be rectangular in plan and was situated on a northwest-southeast alignment. The building remains comprised multiple external and internal walls and at least one floor surface, as well as substantial rubble deposits and other associated features. Plough scores present in Trenches 10, 21 and 23 indicated that the building had previously been subjected to a significant degree of plough damage. There was no evidence for substantial building remains to the north or east of Trenches 10, 11, 21 and 23.

The occurrence of significant amounts of box flue tile within the area of the building suggested the presence of a hypocaust heating system, which, along with the presence of *tegula*, *imbrex*, painted wall plaster fragments and a Roman stylus, suggested that the building was likely to be relatively well-appointed; although, limited excavation yielded a small assemblage of generally poor quality Roman pottery and there was a lack of evidence for *tessellated pavements*. The Roman building most likely represents the northern extent of a well-appointed farm or villa complex, which possibly extended to the south and southwest of the site.

The main part of the site, outside the area of the building, contained a significant number of features, which predominately comprised ditches, as well as pits, postholes and other cut features. The evaluation and geophysical survey indicated that the ditches probably represented multiple phases of linear boundaries, enclosures and possible droveways.

No dense clusters of pits or postholes were discernible; however, Trench 2 contained five possible pits/postholes, as well as another possible feature. Two probable postholes were present in Trench 6 and one of these contained placed artefacts, which may have represented packing at the base of the posthole. Due to the limited nature of the investigation,

it was uncertain if the postholes in Trench 6 represented the remains of a former post-built building.

The recovered dating evidence was dominated by Roman pottery and CBM. A small amount of later Prehistoric, possibly Iron Age pottery, as well as a small number of struck flints, indicated that the site activity most likely spanned the later Prehistoric to late Roman periods.

The features outside the area of the Roman building appeared to be largely agricultural in nature; although, the occurrence of a piece of possible slag and fired clay hinted at possible localised industrial activity and the geophysical survey suggested the presence of a possible kiln. The recovered artefact assemblage included later Prehistoric, Roman and Post-medieval pottery, CBM, including *tegula*, *imbrex* and box flue tile, a Roman metal stylus, other metal artefacts, painted wall plaster, struck and burnt flint, animal bone, possible slag and fired clay.

Chinnor, Land Southeast of Crowell Road (SP 751 000)

TRACY MICHAELS

This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in December 2016 and January 2017 across two plots of rough grassland southeast of Crowell Road, Chinnor. The work consisted of twenty-two 50m evaluation trenches and one 30m trench across the study area. The trenches were targeted to investigate geophysical anomalies highlighted by a geophysical survey undertaken across the site in 2013, as well as to provide a representative sample of the available site area.

The evaluation revealed archaeological evidence dating from the late Bronze Age to the early Post-medieval period, with at least four distinct phases of activity noted. Late Bronze Age activity within the study area was noted from two sherds of pottery in the upper fill of a ditch in Trench 17. From the western side of the site also within Trench 17, were archaeological deposits mainly associated with the Iron Age period, which included a single large pit containing a large quantity of loom weights and a broken quern stone (Fig. 1). This would suggest settlement evidence of this date nearby.

Most of the Roman evidence was contained in the north-eastern corner of the site within Trenches 5 and 7. Close to this area within Trenches 7 and 10 were three possible cremations, which remained unexcavated, which were likely



Figure 1: Chinnor, Iron Age Pit with *in situ* loom weights

to be of Roman date and it is likely that there are further burials within the site. Early Medieval to early Post-medieval activity was restricted to the small field in the northwest of the site, which is closest to the Oakley Conservation Area. From the results of both the evaluation and the geophysical survey, the archaeological remains appear to be contained within the northern half of the site.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Banbury, Archaeological Excavation on land at Bretch Hill, 2016 (SP 43251 41193)

STEPHEN THOMSON

Archaeological Excavation was undertaken by Headland Archaeology in November 2016 on Land at Bretch Hill, Banbury, Oxfordshire (SP 43251 41193) in advance of residential development. The excavation identified evidence of late Iron Age and Romano-British occupation in the form of a partially exposed possible enclosure, land division and a limited number of associated midden pits and post-holes. The focus of this activity appeared to lie to the west, beyond the excavation area. The site displayed high levels of later agricultural truncation.

Five phases of ditches on north-south and north/north-east and east-west alignments were recorded (Fig 2). The ditches appeared to represent land division and field boundaries. The fourth phase of ditches was represented by a continuous ditch which turned east-west and suggested the eastern extent of a possible enclosure which measured greater than 62m north-south and 10m east-west. Pottery recovered from the ditches dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries.

A limited number of discrete features were identified with no evidence of structural remains. A midden pit measuring 2.85 x 2.18m and 0.82m deep contained a sequence of four fills which contained dumped domestic detritus. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered, with barley and wheat grains identified within an environmental sample. An AMS date of 2003 BP (± 25) was obtained from a barley grain from a secondary fill of the pit. Later Iron Age pottery was also recovered from a second probable midden pit, though this contained less domestic material. Other finds recovered from the site suggested domestic occupation in proximity with a fragment of probable disc quern and briquetage also recovered.

The restricted extent of the mitigation area made full understanding of the site difficult with the apparent focus lying to the west in adjacent fields. However, it appears that limited domestic occupation commenced in the later Iron Age, with land division or field systems and a possible enclosure developing and adapting during the 1st and 2nd centuries. The lack of material later than the 2nd century suggests that the focus of occupation may have moved around that time.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Thame, 1 and 2 Moats Crescent (SP 7100 0596)

DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of footing trenches for two houses. The site lay to the north of the medieval planned town of Thame, but no significant archaeological remains were observed.

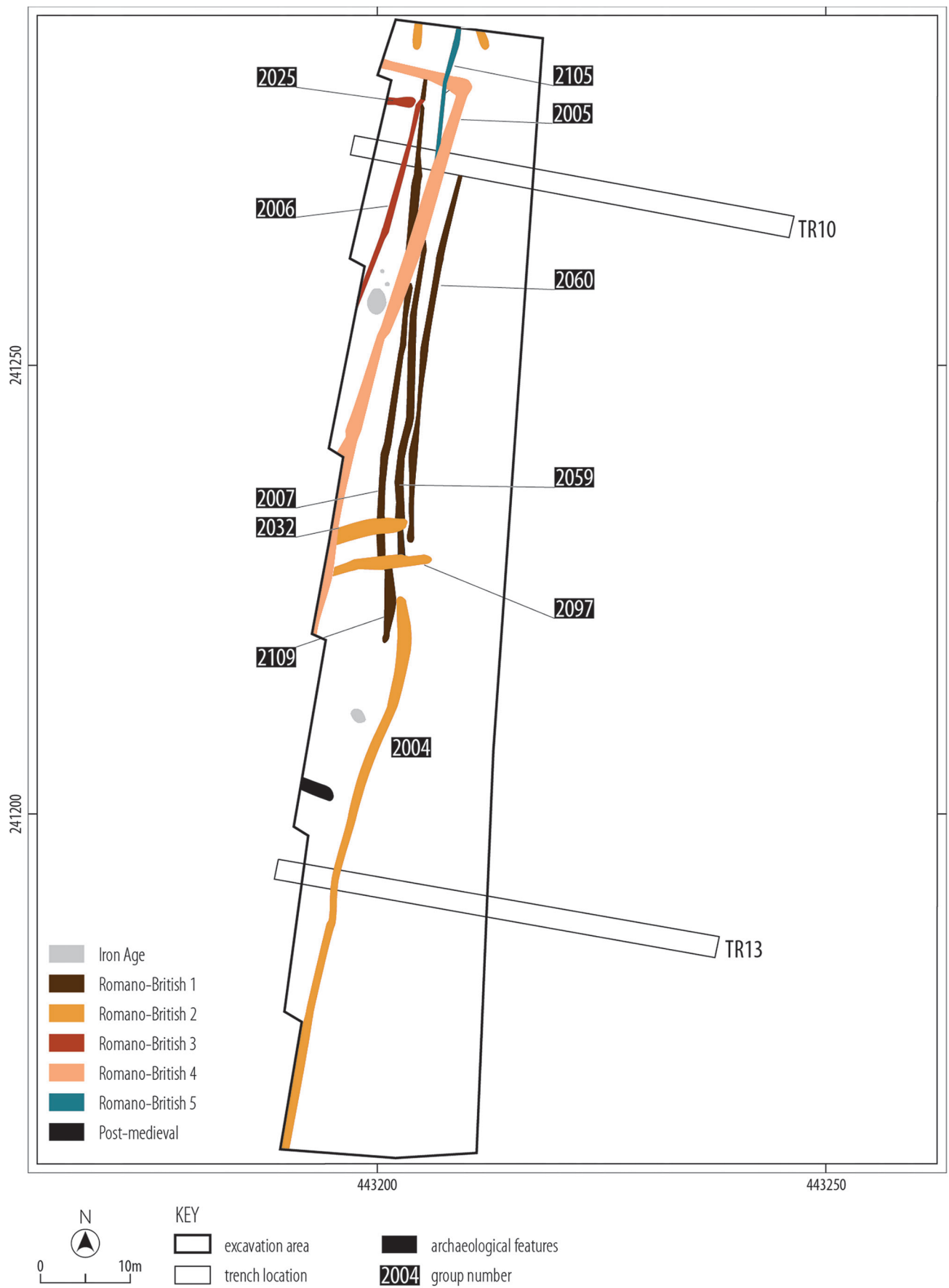


Figure 2: Banbury, Bretch Hill, Site plan showing archaeological phases

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES**Abingdon, 35–37 Stert Street** (SU 49798 97177)

DR STEPHEN YEATES and ED PEARSON

A watching brief was carried out by John Moore Heritage Services at 35–37 Stert Street, Abingdon during the construction of an extension to the property and internal refurbishment of the existing building following an initial Historic Building Assessment. This was carried out in November **2016**.

An initial assessment of the town building suggested the structure originated in the 17th century and that it was remodelled and extended in the 19th century. Further assessment of the structure during building works and the recovery of pottery from the homogenous soil horizon into which they were dug suggests that there was a more complicated origin. The stripping back of the walls of the structure revealed a stone wall on the north side of the rear part of the original building. This stone wall contained the remains of a limestone rubble wall on which was set a timber structure. There was very little of the timber superstructure surviving, but what survived were the location of former timbers that had been patched with brick and rubble limestone. At either end of the wall it was possible to identify the original location of a corner post. This structure was located 6m back from the current street frontage, indicating that Stert Street was probably far wider in the medieval period.

It is often assumed that medieval roads in towns were probably far wider in England than they now are (being more as they survive in scale on the continent). However, the demonstration of this is often lacking. One possible question here is how was this encroachment possible of the King's Highway? It may have been the case that there was a makeshift stall extending onto the road, which was incorporated or how encroachment occurred. In the 17th century, probably early, the area of Stert Street appears to have been encroached upon by the addition of a 2 ½ storey structure. This had a timber frame and steeply pitched roofs. The structure at this time did not conform to the London regulations introduced after the Great Fire, and these alterations, may have affected the probable 18th century infilling with bricks, the reconstruction of the main chimneybreast in brick and the 19th century frontage and rear rebuild.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–306029

Abingdon, St Helen & St Katharine, Faringdon Road (SU 48811 97719)

EDWIN PEARSON

John Moore Heritage Services undertook an archaeological watching brief from July to August 2016 at the school during the construction of a new building. The watching brief was conducted during the removal of tarmac, hardcore and concrete footings of the car park. This was relatively shallow, only around 0.5m below the current ground level in places. The excavation revealed the extent of a tarmac surface on top of a rubble hard core above a disturbed layer of sandy clay rich natural and silty subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–273847

Adderbury, Land West of Horn Hill Road (SP 46490 35317)

TOM ROSE-JONES

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services in April 2017 for an application for a new residential dwelling. One trench 20m in length was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. The evaluation recorded a likely Post-Medieval field boundary and a small gully of uncertain date. One sherd of Red Earthenware was recovered from the field boundary fill; in addition, late Roman pottery was recovered from both features.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–305713

Appleford, Land Part of the Croft, Barnards Close (SU 5263 9369)

EDWIN PEARSON

John Moore Heritage Services undertook an archaeological watching brief in August 2016. Groundworks consisted of the excavation for the footings of a new 5-bed dwelling and garage. A total of six pits were found. Five were of medieval date and one, containing an antler, was likely early prehistoric. Medieval pottery and considerable late – post medieval material was recovered from disturbed topsoil. The site shows significant archaeological potential and is set within the vicinity of Roman remains and a Saxon burial ground.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–237867

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Little Martins Field, Land East of Waterman's Lane North East of Didcot Road (SU 57841 91130)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Little Martins Field in September 2017 as part of the consideration of a planning application for housing. Part of a Mid Iron Age settlement was found in the south part of the site that seems to include a least one timber house site. Roman pottery suggests a settlement of that date off-site in the vicinity. Saxon activity was recorded although it appears to have been sparse on the proposal site. Late medieval activity was found just west of Beauchamp Grange indicating there was a late medieval farmstead or similar under this property that originally extended westwards onto the evaluation site.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–301721

Burford, Frelands Farm, Westwell (SP 22800 10000)

DAVID GILBERT

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Frelands Farm, Westwell, Burford during March 2014 as part of the consideration of future use of the site. The investigation involved the mechanical excavation of five trenches across the site of a known Neolithic Henge. Geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014) had highlighted the presence of the remnant of an external bank surviving as well as the possibility of a double ditch to the west and an internal bank to the south. Internal features were also recorded, and weak anomalies were suggestive of possibly external features.

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Trench 1 failed to locate any evidence for a potential split or double ditch the upper fill appears to be remnant bank material pushed in to level the ground. Any variation may be caused by localised sequences of the fill rather than a separate ditch, although it should be noted that only a very small sample was excavated compared to the size of the ditch. It remains a possibility that separate ditch sequences are only preserved at lower levels as seen at the inner ditch of Condicote Henge (Saville 1983).

The potential inner bank speculated at by the geophysical survey was not evident within Trench 2. However, at the point the bank was thought to be located the bedrock was very close to the surface. This is the probable cause of the readings interpreted as a bank. The arc of anomalies in trench 2 was excavated revealing these to be relatively shallow features cut into the bedrock. It is highly likely given the nature of these features that they represent a portion of a ring of stone settings following the internal edge of the surrounding ditch. The pottery evidence would suggest that these stones may have been removed or altered in the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age.

Trench 3 located the anomalies that had been recorded by the geophysical survey. These consisted of large deep cut postholes indicating a phase of timber construction near to the centre of the monument, however shallower features such as cut 3/02 could indicate potential stone settings as well.

Quarrying was noted within Trench 4 as expected, the possible anomalies noted on the geophysical survey can be explained by the difference in the material used to back-fill certain areas of the quarry.

Trench 5 failed to locate any evidence for external features, however this does not rule out the possibility that they do not exist elsewhere, even just outside the excavated area. A patch of natural bedrock was noted that could be responsible for the faint anomaly seen on the geophysical survey results.

Iron Age activity at the site is noted from the presence of pottery sherds. The site lies within the region of the Dobunni and there are several examples of earlier monuments being reused by this tribe. This often takes the form of reuse of or the creation of enclosures around earlier monuments. Such activity is not always associated with settlement or domestic activity (Yeates 2008). Major re-working of the monument would not necessarily have taken place at this time and Burl (1976) points to continuity of use at some stone circles into the Iron Age.

The finds of Roman pottery are also interesting as the county HER records no finds or sites of a contemporary date within the area. The monument may well have remained a focus of interest during this period. Roman material was also present in upper sequences at Condicote Henge (Saville 1983). While the small scale of the excavation gives an indication of the preservation and potential phases of activity associated with the monument, it is clearly insufficient to be considered totally representative of the site. What is clear is that the Henge is not a single phase monument but has a later history of reuse and remodelling.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-290635

Clifton, Orchard House, Chapel Close (SP 49016 31677) STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at the west side of Chapel Close, Clifton, Oxfordshire. This was undertaken in October 2017 as a condition of outline planning permission for a single dwelling. The two 10m long trenches consisted of a garden soil overlying a made ground layer that overlay the natural and both trenches were devoid of any archaeological features.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-301879

Charlbury, Land at Little Lees (SP 3629 1910) EDWIN PEARSON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Little Lees on the eastern side of Charlbury, Oxfordshire (NGR SP36291910 centred), during January 2017 as part of the consideration of a planning application for housing. The five trenches excavated were devoid of any archaeological features.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-273912

Churchill, Churchill Farm, Kingham Road (SP 281 241) PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services as a first stage of a programme of archaeological work as a condition of planning consent for a housing development. This was undertaken in July 2017 Apart from an undated gully containing some animal bones, the six trenches excavated have proven empty with only a residual late Iron Age or early Roman sherd of pottery being present.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-291434

Cowley Barracks, James Wolfe Road, Oxford (SP 5116 0511) PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at British Telecom Depot, former Cowley Barracks, during September 2017 as a condition of planning for new student accommodation. Of the seven trenches opened, five yielded no archaeological remains earlier than the 19th / 20th century, consisting mostly of services and possible remnants of the military barracks. In the two other trenches, a late medieval deposit was encountered. It overlaid a narrow but deep undated possible gully in one. In the other trench was a shallow linear feature or depression, presumably of modern date.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-296426

Dorchester-on-Thames, 24 Bridge End (SU 57871 93865) STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services from the in May 2017 for an extension to the house. Archaeological material recorded related to the earlier garden soils and construction levels associated with the late 18th century construction of the extant residence (c.1797). No earlier archaeological deposits were encountered.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-306128

Dorchester-on-Thames, Overy Farmhouse, Overy
(SU 58150 93946)

STEVE LEECH

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services between May and June 2017 for an extension to the house and a new detached stable building. The two development areas were devoid of any archaeological features.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-305776

Dorchester-on-Thames, 47 Watling Lane
(SU 5768 9406)

STEVE LEECH

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services during October 2016, with a following site visit in May 2017. This was for a new extension replacing an earlier one. No archaeological features were identified during the groundworks. However, the lowest layer (1003) at the base of the foundation trench, although un-dated, could be the vestiges of the destroyed bank material of the Roman town defences. Various artefacts of a Post-Medieval date were recovered.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-285330

Eynsham, Newland Street (SP 43667 09577)

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services in December 2016 and January 2017. This was carried out as a condition of planning consent for new housing. Two parts of a ditch of a medieval date were revealed on the eastern side within the area of impact. These were in line with a medieval ditch discovered in a 2008 evaluation of the area. Though excavation did not allow for the full extent of the ditches to be determined, the width and alignment demonstrate a strong likelihood that they are part of the same feature. Relative dating from pottery gives a positive medieval date. A third linear feature was discovered which appeared to be associated with a historic wall, either of a small structure or part of a boundary. Only a 3m long section in the western most edge of the limit of excavation was captured in this phase of work. No finds were recovered and so no date was established.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-302709

Eynsham, Southfield Barn (SP 4252 0832)

STEVE LEECH

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services between November 2012 and June 2017. This was for the alteration of the use of the barn to residential use and new residential building replacing outbuildings. Various stages of work were carried out from 2012 to 2017. The area in front of the barn contained a substantial amount of disturbed ground, however there were several un-dated features identified across the development site that could have been of a Prehistoric / Roman date together with a series of linear ditches forming a trackway recorded as a cropmark that was utilized from the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

periods. There was also evidence of Post-Medieval gravel extraction pits.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-302010

Kingston Bagpuize: The Corner House (SU 4077 9820)

STEVE LEECH

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services during June 2017 for a new house. This involved monitoring the excavation of the new house foundation trench which was devoid of any archaeological features. This tied in with the results of the evaluation carried out on the adjacent land to the east and south of this site.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-302812

Kingston Bagpuize: Land off Oxford Road
(SU 4082 9816)

STEVE LEECH

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services in April 2017 as part of the consideration of an application for housing development. The six evaluation trenches were devoid of any archaeological features apart from one small Late Post-Medieval rubbish pit in Trench 6. Two modern service trenches were identified in Trench 3.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-302745

Long Hanborough, Land South of Witney Road
(SP 412 140)

STEVE LEECH and PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services following a desk-based assessment by Thames Valley Archaeological Services and a geophysical survey by Stratascan. This was undertaken during November 2016 as part of the consideration of a planning application for new housing. Most of the 31 excavated trenches contained nothing but furrows. Archaeological remains were sporadic and concentrated on the western part of the site. The only dated features were three prehistoric pits, one containing some early Iron Age pottery and another with body sherds from several middle Iron Age vessels. There also were a series of six undated ditches or gullies, as well as another undated pit and a possible posthole. An intrusive medieval potsherd was collected from one of the features.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-272212

Milton, St Blaise Church, Church Lane
(SU 48536 92417)

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING and TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services undertook an archaeological watching brief at St. Blaise Church, Milton, Oxfordshire between February and April 2017 during replacement flooring works and new drainage installation. In the north east corner of the extant North aisle, there was what appeared to be some of the remains of the 1817 north aisle extension which was subsequently replaced in the 1852 rebuild by E.G. Street (Tyack et al 2010:385). Also, an historic vaulted crypt to the west of the extant Ledger Stone located on the floor of the Nave was also located and recorded but left otherwise undisturbed. Excavation of a service trench through the graveyard revealed five inhumations, which were recorded,

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lifted and reburied. In addition, a series of gravel deposits thought to be associated with late 19th century alterations to the curtilage of the graveyard were recorded.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–280899

Milton, Land at Milton Heights (SU 4845 9050)

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Milton Heights, Milton, Oxfordshire, in January and February 2017 as part of the consideration for a planning application for housing. The 85 trench excavation of the site at Milton Heights not only confirmed the results of the geophysical survey but indicated archaeological remains that were much more widely spread than had been indicated by the geophysical survey. The early to mid-Iron Age activity on the site consisted of enclosure ditches and postholes. Early Roman period activity (mid-1st-mid 2nd century) seems to be focused in a small part of the site in the NE corner. It may suggest that the prehistoric sub-rectangular enclosure was built upon and expanded during the early Roman period. This area of activity expanded in the mid-2nd – mid 3rd century.

The largest part of the assemblage of Roman pottery is dated to the 4th century although the area of occupation appears to have contracted from the dated features. Remnants of a building dating to this period were found on the west side of the settlement area. It included part of a cobbled surface with an articulated limb of a mammal present on the surface. Six coins and many animal bones, many showing signs of butchery, were also collected from the area of the building.

A total of six coins were found within the building located within a rich layer (9/14) that was deposited above a cobbled surface 9/42. Many animal bones were also collected from Trench 9 many showing signs of butchery. On the surface of the cobbled floor was the articulated limb of a mammal and it is possible that this is of ritual purpose as evidenced at late Roman temple sites. In addition, the large boundary ditch in Trenches 85 and 23 were found to contain many examples of butchered animal bones.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–224904

North Leigh, Butchers Ground (SP 438220 213000)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Butchers Ground, New Yatt Road, North Leigh. This was undertaken in December 2017 as part of the consideration of a planning application for housing. The four trenches were devoid of any archaeological features.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–303665

North Leigh, Land North of Yatt Road (SP 3813 1314)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land north of Yatt Road, North Leigh. This was undertaken during October 2017 again as part of the consideration of a planning application for housing. The evaluation consisted of seven 30m long trenches and all the trenches consisted of a topsoil overlying the natural deposits. All seven trenches were devoid of any archaeological remains except for the

remains of a series of ridge and furrow earthworks in the southwestern extent of site.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–302102

Oxford, John Coombes House, 28 St Thomas Street (SP 506 061)

EDWIN PEARSON

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services at John Coombes House, 28 St Thomas Street, Oxford during February and March 2017. This formed part of the application for the demolition of part of Combe House and Galilee rooms and erection of single storey extensions to north, south and west elevations. The investigation involved the hand excavation of four trial pits to establish the wall depth of John Coombes House, the presence or absence of burials and/or archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie these remains. The investigation yielded a relatively deep soil sequence which comprised Post Medieval to Modern made ground deposits all containing domestic material. Disused 19th century drainage systems were also recorded, and no evidence of former burial activity was present on site.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–283514

Oxford, Northway Flood Elevation Scheme (SP 53578 08243)

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage in February 2017. There were two areas under investigation – Area A, Northway Community Field and Area B, which is adjacent to Court Place Farm Nature Park. Both Area A and B were shown to have been extensively built up and no archaeological features were observed.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–306220

Oxford, 7 Norham Gardens (SP 5128 0737)

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services on land at 7 Norham Gardens. This was carried out during January and February 2017 as a condition for a new garage on a concrete slab foundation. No archaeological remains were encountered during the programme of works carried out.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–302726

Oxford, 28 Norham Road (SP 51400 07710)

EDWIN PEARSON with contributions by

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services at 28 Norham Road, Oxford in May 2017. This was as a condition attached to planning permission for a new lower ground floor and side extensions. The excavation for the support beams and the drainage within the existing building did not reveal any archaeological evidence.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1–306175

Oxford, 96 Walton Street (SP 50647 07212)

STEVE LEECH

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services to monitor a cellar extension. This was carried out between September 2016 and January 2017 as a condition of planning. The site was devoid of any archaeological features. A modern service pipe was exposed, and a possible construction cut for the house was observed within the cellar excavation.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-286980

Oxford, Old Bank Hotel, High Street (SP 5166 0620)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation in the car park situated to the rear of the Old Bank Hotel in October 2017 as part of the consideration of a planning application for new build. The trench consisted of modern deposits overlying two Post-Medieval robber trenches cut into the northern wall of the now demolished medieval Grimsted Hall. Residual evidence for occupation was recovered dating from the Medieval to the Post-Medieval periods.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-301850

Oxford, Seacourt Park and Ride, Botley Road (SP 49295 06463)

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Seacourt Park and Ride, Botley Road, Oxford during November 2017. This was part of the consideration of a planning application for an extension to the park and ride. The site was largely truncated by a modern 19th-20th century area of dumping activity, which contained large amounts of ceramics and glass. The areas of the two trenches which were unaffected by this modern activity proved to have no archaeological features within them. Trench 1 only showed evidence of earlier natural features below an overlying alluvial deposit, one of which contained fragments of pottery and bone. In Trench 2 no archaeological features or material was encountered.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-302771

Standlake, Mulberry Bush School, Abingdon Rd (SP 392 027)

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Following an evaluation phase, John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief at Mulberry Bush School, south of Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 392 027). This was undertaken from November 2016 to January 2017 as a condition of planning for the demolition of an existing structure and erection of new pupil housing. Except for two undated pits, it did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits earlier than post-medieval or modern periods. Several walls were seen that were part of the foundations of the former cottages. Residual medieval pottery indicate the possibility of some form of occupation at this period near the new buildings.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-273559)

Stoke Talmage, Land to South of the old school house (SU 67843 99224)

CARLOS FERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ

John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief for the excavation of the new house foundation trench and the adjacent parking area. This was carried out in September 2017 as a condition of planning. The site was devoid of any archaeological features. Some artefacts of a Post-Medieval date were recovered from the topsoil, mainly from the 18th and 19th century.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-299180

Sutton Courtenay, All Saints Church, The Green (SU 50484 94190)

SIMONA DENIS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services at All Saints' Church in Sutton Courtenay during April 2017. Three trenches were excavated to determine the levels of preserved burials in the area north of the Church. Ten burials were uncovered at depths ranging between c.51.31–51.61 m AOD.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-306186

Sutton Courtenay, Primary School, Bradstocks Way (SU 49826 92529)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief in the grounds of Sutton Courtenay Primary School, south of Bradstocks Way, Sutton Courtenay (NGR SU 49826 92529). This was carried out in August 2017 as a condition of planning permission. Three archaeological features were present within the Phase 1 school extension footprint trench indicating some archaeological activity within the development area. Only one pit could be dated and is possibly of Roman date and contained a residual prehistoric flint flake. A residual prehistoric flint blade was also recovered from a modern layer during the haul road works.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-302797

Thame, 14 Aylesbury Road (SP 7070 0629)

STEVE LEECH

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services where the excavation of foundation trenches for a house and garage were monitored as a condition of planning. This was carried out during October 2016. The two foundation trenches were devoid of any archaeological features and consisted of a garden soil overlying a subsoil representing a former plough soil that overlay the natural gravels.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-305676

Woodstock, St Mary Magdalene Church (SP 44386 16716)

CARLOS FERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at St Mary Magdalene Church by John Moore Heritage Services. This was carried out June and July 2017, for reasons of

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conservation/restoration. Three test pits were excavated in the northern courtyard of the Church and one of them revealed a vault crypt that was filled with a soil deposit. The deposit was not excavated but, on the surface, pottery was found that dates to the 19th century. Three trenches were dug inside of the Church. In one of them located in the threshold of the famous Norman doorway, an alignment of two sandstone blocks was recorded that have been interpreted as the medieval wall foundations of the south aisle which was built in the 13th century.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-296743

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Chinnor, 47 & 49 Oakley Lane (SP 74750 00582)

BARNEY KING

In September 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of 47 and 49 Oakley Lane, Chinnor, Oxfordshire, in preparation for the erection of two detached two storey dwellings. During this programme no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-284628

South Moreton, The Manor House, Paper Mill Lane (SU 56233 88284)

LAURA DODD

In March 2017 an Archaeological Observation and Recording programme was undertaken at The Manor House, Paper Mill Lane, South Moreton, Oxfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development, restoration and conversion of the site. This work included internal ground reduction throughout most of the ground floor area and underpinning of the central range walls.

The present house, which comprises a central range with later cross wings to the east and west, is thought to date from the 13th century but has undergone significant remodelling in the subsequent years. Several features were observed from ground reductions within the house which are believed to be contemporary with the earliest phases of construction of the manor house. These include a central hearth, a cobbled surface and a chalk wall. There are other features which are believed to predate the construction of the manor and are probably related to the earthworks surrounding the site which are understood to be 11th century in date and part of a moated enclosure. These features include a pit, a large ditch and a posthole.

In addition, an unstratified Neolithic polished hand axe was found beneath the floor of the former open hall.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-275221

Accession Number: OXCMS: 2017.102

LITTLEMORE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY (LLHS)

Littlemore, LLHS Background Noise of History Project 2014-2017 (SP 5372 0215)

JULIA E BROCKLESBY

In October 2017 a 1m x 1.5m test pit (DC17) was opened in the back garden of a C17th Grade II listed house on one of the two main early routes through Littlemore village (Jeffrey's map 1767). Bad weather forced a halt when at a depth of 83cm. In this context 109, which is incompletely excavated, were 14 large (up to 170mm x 86mm) sherds of some of the earliest medieval possibly C11th pottery we have so far identified in the centre of the village (Fig. 3). This layer is present across the whole trench. Irregular, un-abraded small local limestones, are bedded in increasingly yellowish sandy Beckley Sand as we hand trowel down. The sand is a component of the local Corallian natural (BGS, 1995) but more work will indicate whether the spread of small limestones and brown quartzite pebbles is natural



Figure 3: All finds so far from Context 109

The ground was uneven at the surface and disturbed, many garden makeovers seem to have occurred. The trench contained an animal burrow, lenses of gravel, sand and small limestones. Jeffrey's map shows a roadside ditch, and a stream running from the road in front of the house, north of the house to the east then south across the site, to join another (now culverted) linking to the Northfield Brook near Littlemore Priory (less than 1km to the south east). This may explain the wet soil and a need for cobbled surfaces.

Most finds reflect domestic activity in an agricultural/horticultural setting, the house and garden are identifiable in the Inclosure Award of 1819. In total 749 sherds of pottery weighing 2.2 kg were found. There is evidence of long occupation, 5 sherds of possible IA/Romano-British, 16 early Brill sherds, 22 sherds of post medieval red inside glazed dairying type ware (OXDR), and much white/creamware (293 sherds) mixed with Victorian and Edwardian ornaments. The finds are perhaps typical of modest households, including simply carved bone and shell buttons, small iron and metal objects, small fragments of worked bone spoon, and attractive slipped and glazed tableware. A variety of white and creamed glazed sherds were plentiful, but average size very small, classifying and dating the different fabrics is underway.

A standing buildings survey with the Oxfordshire Buildings Record is planned for 2018. The house is listed as a hall house (Fig. 4), and shows signs of many uses and alterations, having several ovens and fireplaces, and fine beams in the roof space. The owners have agreed to give us

an opportunity to investigate also the depth and nature of the platform the current house is on, to the depth of the possible limestone pebble surface (Context 109) in the test pit.



Figure 4: Rear of house and location of test pit DC17

Recent archaeological work in Littlemore (Oxford Academy/Cotswold Archaeology, 2013), Oxford Science Park (Moore, 2001)) has revealed Anglo Saxon sunken featured buildings, but we have yet to locate dwellings of that date. It is possible that Littlemore Priory (also known as Sandford Priory or Minchery Priory) was founded at an already existing pre-conquest holy/ecclesiastical site as suggested possible by Woods (1891–1900). The building in 1836 of Littlemore parish church revealed east/west burials of 22 skeletons on site (Newman 1835–6), suggesting that the centre of the village has much yet undiscovered history and archaeology for us to reveal.

The archives and a local reference collection are held by Littlemore History Society (LLHS) 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; after final analysis the finds will be returned to the owners who may be contacted through LLHS and an entry sent for inclusion in the Historic Environment Record.

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MOLA

Milton, Milton Heights (SU 4836 9072)

SUSAN PORTER

As part of a scheme of residential development and following an archaeological evaluation in early 2017 by John Moore Heritage Services, work on six parcels of open area excavation took place at Milton Heights, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, just south of the Didcot junction of the A34 between August and December. The natural geology, a mix of Upper Greensand Formation and Limestone with clay and gravel patches, was overlain by sandy clay subsoil and topsoil. Above this a multi-phase site was uncovered with activity dating from at least the late Iron Age through to the medieval period, although post-excavation assessment has only just begun and any dates in the text are unconfirmed and subject to potential change.

The prehistoric (probably Iron Age) activity on the site was characterised by eight ring ditches located in the central northern area of the site, several which showed signs of re-use. Only one ring ditch demonstrated evidence of internal structures, however all are currently considered to be roundhouse gullies rather than animal enclosures. Several linear ditches of probably Iron Age date are also indicative of land use and suggest the presence of a small agricultural settlement.

Roman activity seems limited to linear enclosure boundaries, however a substantial amount of Samian ware has been recovered, as well as many box tile fragments and several pieces of roof tile that suggest the nearby presence of a building. The field evaluation did not suggest any such building within the confines of the development area, so if one was present, it is likely to lie outside of the site boundaries, probably to the north. Possibly associated with the Roman features, at least 6 horse skulls were recovered from the western area of the site along with a fully articulated horse burial. The horse was accompanied by the articulated remains of three dogs and the disarticulated bones of what are believed to be cattle, sheep and possibly a cat. Elsewhere on the site four inhumation burials in very poor condition were recovered and are of potential Roman date, although there were no finds to confirm this interpretation. Several possible cremation burial pits are also thought perhaps to be of Roman date.

One rectangular pit may represent Saxon activity, but the finds need further examination, particularly specialist confirmation of typological spot-dating, to follow up on that initial interpretation. Three inhumation burials very tentatively identified as Saxon or later date were recovered from very shallow grave cuts. Again, the dating of these burials needs to be verified as part of the post-excavation process.

Oxford, New College, 1 Savile Road (SP 51673 06694)

MARTIN BANIKOV, BOB COWIE

Several phases of evaluation took place between December 2016 and October 2017 before redevelopment of the site. Natural sandy gravels were seen across the whole of the site. In the north these were sealed by a series of earthen dumps with reddish loamy deposits. This deposit is thought to be part of an eroded bank that formed a defensive feature around Oxford dating to the 10th or 11th century and which

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may have influenced the location of the 17th century civil war inner defences. In the centre, the red loam produced a prehistoric flint scraper dated to the Mesolithic/Neolithic period, Roman pottery and animal bone. This was sealed by dumps producing pottery dating to the 12th-14th centuries with the top of the sequence dated to the 18th/19th century. Further east, the “red loam” was sterile, but overlay a dump producing 12th-14th century pot. Later features further south included a 16th/17th century limestone block-built well towards the centre of the site, and to the east of this a late 19th-c rubbish pit containing, amongst other things, the remains of medicine and soda water bottles.

Oxford, St. Hilda's College, Cowley Place (SP 52202 05855)

SUSAN PORTER

In July, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken, targeted at the footprint of the proposed development. Four trenches were excavated three of which were in the car park and access road areas of the college and a fourth on the sloping green to the north of the Milham Ford building, immediately east of the River Cherwell. Several pit-like features of unknown date were recorded on the higher ground to the south of the main St. Hilda's building, whilst a pit of 17th century date was seen along the road west of the main college entrance. A late 19th / early 20th century stone culvert was observed in the area of the green and was probably associated with the former school building in the area of the existing Milham Ford building. No evidence was found to support a potential river crossing in the grounds of the proposed development.

Watlington, Britwell Road (SU 68136 94619)

MARTIN BANIKOV

Following a geophysical survey in November 2016 which detected part of a set of 19th-c watercress beds in the north of the site, an evaluation prior to proposed residential development in February revealed the natural to be bluish-grey alluvial clays in the north and chalk bedrock across the remainder of the site. In the south-east a series of three post-holes was seen to cut the natural and a rounded pit containing some evidence of burnt clay, together with other shallow pits and gullies were also recorded; although no datable material was recovered, their form and shape suggests human activity in the area, possibly connected to the agricultural use of the surrounding fields. In the north of the site a series of north-west to south-east orientated field drains were recorded cut into the natural, consisting of ceramic pipes in the middle of a chalk bedding.

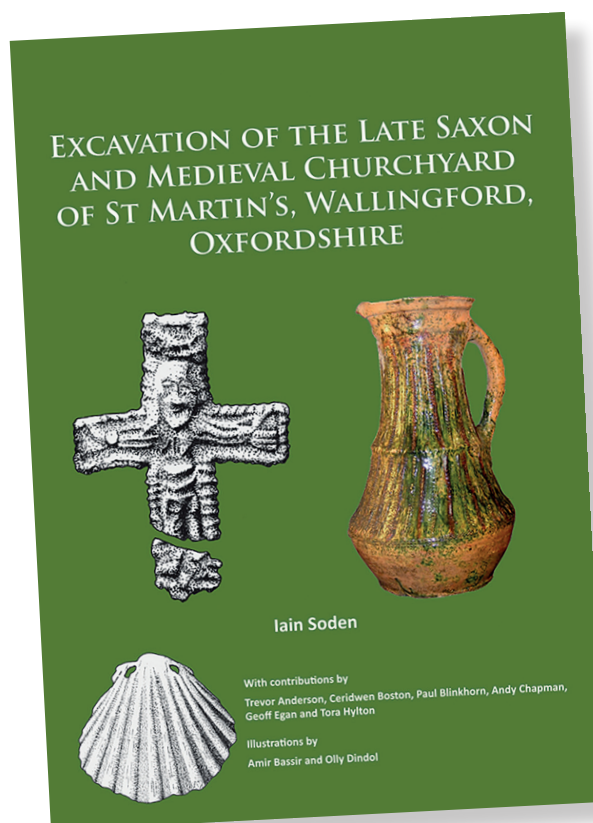
MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Kirtlington, land at Akeman Spinney, Heyford Road (SP 50040 20387)

ALEX SHIPLEY

An archaeological evaluation comprising two trenches found a middle to late Iron Age posthole, medieval postholes and ditches as well as undated ditches. OASIS 298147

Wallingford, church of St Martin's – Publication



Northamptonshire Archaeology, now MOLA Northampton, undertook excavations over 2003–4 at the former St Martin's churchyard, Wallingford, Oxfordshire. The evaluation and excavation stages have been mentioned previously (SMA 34, 66 (2004) and SMA 35, 66 (2005) before the full report (Soden 2010) and the recent publication as an Archaeopress Monograph.

St Martin's, one of perhaps eight churches of late Saxon Wallingford, was in a prominent position in the centre of the burh. No middle Saxon activity was found, and the earliest remains consisted of a layer sealing the natural subsoil which contained a probable late Saxon lead cross. Earliest use of the churchyard has been dated to the late 10th to early 11th century by radiocarbon dating, and burials continued until the end of the 14th century, serving a dwindling parish population, before the cemetery rapidly fell out of use thereafter. No burials post-date 1412. Part of the cemetery has not been disturbed by the present development. The unexcavated areas and previous post-medieval and modern disturbances have meant the original size of the cemetery remains unknown.

A late Saxon mortar mixer found on the site has added to a growing number of this distinctive early constructional feature. While its presence indicates the vicinity of the late Saxon church, no foundations of St Martin's church appear to have survived cellar digging and quarrying for gravel that occurred in the early 18th century.

Osteological analysis of 187 of the 211 excavated skeletons of the cemetery has depicted a lay population which was almost equally split between males and females, with only a slight bias towards males. Their distribution showed no observable cluster within the churchyard by age

or gender. A high proportion of children is notable but newborns and very young children were comparatively rare. The significance of this is unclear since so many disarticulated remains were also present due to later disturbance. Both degenerative pathologies and inherited conditions affecting bone were noted, as were a high frequency of trauma, some of it violent. Generally, the population could be shown to have led healthy early lives compared to other urban assemblages, although evidence of tuberculosis and iron deficiency suggest that living conditions and diet at the heart of medieval Wallingford were far from ideal.

Within the excavated area of the cemetery, a number of the burials demonstrated known pre-Conquest burial rites and there are some aspects which may be peculiar to the area, suggesting local variations to common rites. Eight pre-Conquest burials had their heads supported mostly by stones, but one had his head supported by two disarticulated skulls. One 30–40-year-old male was buried wearing a pierce scallop-shell, presumably a pilgrim badge from Santiago de Compostella. Four burials were interred in stone-built cists and these ranged from a c1 year old to adults of both sexes. A further six burials lay in stone-built cists without a cover. All post-Conquest burials were earth-cut examples.

Available from Archaeopress Archaeology (<http://www.archaeopress.com>)

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY

Banbury, Land to the north of Noral Way (SP456 429)

STEPHEN THORPE

A watching brief undertaken during development works between November 2016 and March 2017 identified no definite archaeological features or deposits.

Cropredy, Land parcel 2783 (SP456 429)

STEPHEN THORPE

A watching brief undertaken during topsoil stripping for a new stable block and associated hard standing in July 2017 identified features related to post-medieval/modern drainage.

NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Swalcliffe, Round Hill 2 Roman site (SP 385393)

EDWARD SHAWYER/MURIEL WILLSON

In 2016 the group finished the excavation of the apsidal building in Swalcliffe lower lea and dug a three-metre square trench (trench 1) on the Round Hill 2 site on Upper lea farm. The site had been field-walked in 1998 and a part of it lying on neighbouring Breaklands farm was excavated in 2004. This was a possible out-building of the main complex. In 2016 there were no traces of any structure found, but indications of a floor; this was confirmed in 2017 when a 10cm layer of burning and traces of a clay floor was found. There were large, worked, building stones found hinting at the presence of stone sleeper walls at least. Late roman pottery and other signs of occupation were found. Further work is anticipated in 2018.

Swalcliffe Upper lea Roman site (SP 393387)

EDWARD SHAWYER/MURIEL WILLSON

The main efforts of the group were concentrated on a trial trench on the other roman site found on Upper lea farm. This site was found by fieldwalking in 2000 and lies upon the edge of a small hill just 300 metres north of the main roman settlement of Lower lea. A test trench (trench 1) was opened on the densest area of roman finds and straight away found the traces of a wall and clay flooring just 0.3 metres deep. The stones of the wall had been largely displaced by centuries of ploughing; however, the alignment of this wall seems to run NW to SE. A clay floor was found to the south of this wall and a small stone surface and burnt stones to the north of it. Another small trench (trench 2) just a metre to the south of the main one was opened, and this revealed a small stone surface with traces of clay flooring. Finds included the usual 3rd–4th century standard wares, a La Tene III 1st century brooch, 2nd to 3rd century samian, barbotine decorated pots and black burnished wares. Other finds include nails, animal bones, iron slag and fire reddened stones.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Abingdon, 11 Ock Street (SU 49146 97009)

ROBERT MCINTOSH

Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed retirement complex. It was carried out between the 1st and 2nd of June 2017 and comprised two 15m long trenches. The trenches uncovered stone walls comprising part of a malt-house shown on the 1874 ordnance Survey town map, as well as a smaller outbuilding. A further feature, possibly a ditch, had been backfilled with roof tile that probably derived from the demolition of a 15th–17th century building, but no *in situ* evidence for such a structure was found.

Banbury, Hardwick Business Park, Upper Court (SP 45905 43005)

LEE SPARKS

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a trial trench evaluation on the site of a proposed housing development located 170m to the west of the deserted medieval village of Hardwick. The work was undertaken in early April 2017 and comprised the excavation of a single trench measuring 19m × 1.5m. No archaeological feature or deposits were recorded within the trench. Removal of a tarmac surface covering most of the development area revealed significant levels of truncation across the site, including a substantial drain and several other services.

Branston, Land off Tatenhill Lane (SK 2173 2113)

PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation, comprising eleven trenches. This took place between the 20th–22nd February 2017. A geophysical survey conducted in advance of the evaluation which identified several anomalies. All but one of the trenches targeted these anomalies. The evaluation revealed that the geophysical anomalies represented geological

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variations, surface disturbance and land drains. The only archaeological features were two shallow ditches which, although undated, were of modern character and probably represented a garden plot. No other archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation.

Brighthampton, Standlake, Land at Malthouse Farm (SP 3857 0338)

ROBIN BASHFORD

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation between 13th and 16th of March 2017. The works comprised ten 30m × 1.8m trenches representing a 2% sample of the investigation area. The trenches were arrayed to investigate anomalies revealed by a geophysical survey and to otherwise form an evenly distributed investigation across the site. The results of the evaluation confirm the presence of medieval activity at a moderate density across the area. Pits and ditches dating to the 11th-14th centuries were uncovered, although no certain evidence was found for buildings. Finds comprised a range of local, domestic material and included a complete jug of glazed Minety/Wychwood type dating *c* 1250–1400. No certain features of other periods were discovered, although a small number of late Saxon sherds and a single Roman sherd suggest activity of these periods in the vicinity.

Buckland, Carswell Golf Course (SU 32822 97302)

ASHLEY STRUTT

On 23rd October 2017 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an evaluation on the site of a proposed motorcycle assembly shop and showroom. The site lies within the hamlet of Carswell, approximately 1.7km south-west of Buckland village. The works comprised the excavation of three 30m trenches targeted on the footprint of the proposed development. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

Colehill Estate, The Stables (SU 2393 9381)

JONATHAN GILL

During 2017 historic building recording was undertaken for the National Trust on a set of 19th-century stables at the Colehill Estate. The work focused on the north range of the stables, which was severely damaged in a fire in 2016, prior to the partial reconstruction of the range. The stable yard had been constructed in the 1830s a short distance to the north of Colehill House (which no longer survives) and prior to the fire the exterior of the building remained close to its original form. Some alterations had been undertaken to the interior, partly relating to a phase of re-use during the Second World War which was one of the most interesting aspects of the building's history. During this period, it was reused by the Auxiliary Units, a highly secretive organization which would have formed an important part of Britain's resistance in the event of a German invasion. The investigation has helped to confirm the nature of the construction of the building, the different uses of each area and the secondary alterations to the structure.

Didcot, Land East of Park Road (SU 51712 88661)

ROBERT MCINTOSH

Between the 23rd and 25th May 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed housing development. The evaluation comprised seven trenches and uncovered a total of three ditches, three postholes and a feature interpreted as a possible tree-throw hole. The main focus of features, comprising the postholes and two of the ditches, were in Trench 2, in the north-eastern part of the evaluation area. One of the ditches was dated by ceramic evidence to the Roman period and the other to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Only one of the postholes was excavated but produced no dating evidence. The paucity of artefactual material suggests that the features are likely to be situated away from, or on the periphery of, any associated settlement.

Dorchester on Thames Allotments Oxford University/ **Oxford Archaeology Training Excavation**

(SP 5773 9410)

PAUL BOOTH

The training excavation run by the Dorchester Project team in the allotments overlying the south-west quarter of the Roman settlement continued in July 2017 in the same 30m × 20m area as in previous years, with the main north-south Roman road through the settlement at its eastern margin. A few small features and a more substantial west-east ditch examined in the western part of the site were broadly dated to the middle of the 1st century AD. South of the ditch a deep (*c* 1m+) vertical-sided pit, cut by a large later pit (4004, see below), was partly excavated and produced pottery also of mid-? late 1st-century date. Individual finds of this broad phase included an unstratified Iron Age coin and a sherd of a Terra Nigra dish with a stamp of CANICOS, dated *c* AD 25–50. The early features were overlain by a widespread deposit of clayey loam up to *c* 0.25–0.30m thick, which appears to date to the later 1st century.

In the 2nd century the central part of the site was occupied by a complex of large pits. The largest of these (feature 4004, roughly 8m × 6m) in the south part of this area was roughly vertical-sided and had a maximum depth of *c* 1.85m. The lower fills were not particularly finds-rich, but the middle part of the fill sequence produced substantial quantities of finds of 2nd-century date. The date at which the pit was originally dug remains uncertain.

North of pit 4004 a complex sequence of layers examined in 2016 was shown to overlie, or perhaps represent the very final stages of, a sequence of further large intercutting pits. Parts of several of these were excavated and appear to date to the 2nd century. In the extreme south-west corner of the site part of the northern edge of another large feature, more likely another pit than a linear feature, produced another substantial finds assemblage mostly of 2nd-century date.

In the eastern part of the site three sections were excavated through the road. A pre-road context produced a coin of AD 72–73, demonstrating that the road was not a primary feature of the sequence and was probably not built much before the end of the 1st century AD. The relative complexity of the road constructions, with indications of considerable variation in detail both laterally and longitudinally, was underlined. Evidence for definition of the western margin of the road was uncertain, except when it involved adjacent

linear features, which included traces of a probable roadside wall of cob. In addition, probable beam slots were in one of the three slots, and a tightly packed east-west cluster of c 20 large stakeholes in another, lying just east of the line of the probable cob wall. The interpretation of these disparate structural elements is not yet clear, but they do not seem to indicate the presence of roadside buildings.

East Hanney, Land north of Summerstown
(SU 4160 9260)

MARTYN ALLEN

Between the 16th and 19th January 2017 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on the site of a proposed housing development. Eleven trial trenches were excavated in total across the development area. Only one trench contained remains of archaeological interest. Trench 9, located in the south-western corner of the site, contained a single ditch section. A worked, prehistoric flint was recovered from the main fill of the ditch. The find appears to be Bronze Age in date, though no other finds were found to confirm the date of the feature. In other trenches, only modern intrusions were encountered.

East Hanney, Malthouse Bungalow (SU 418929)

PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation. This took place between the 30th January and the 1st February 2017. Three parallel shallow undated linear features were identified in Trenches 4 and 5 and their east-west alignment and spacing suggest that they relate to the system of ridge and furrow illustrated on Rocque's map of Berkshire of 1761. The gullies themselves are, however, too narrow and deep to represent furrows themselves and may have been drainage trenches dug along the furrows. Similar gullies seen in Trenches 1 and 3 on different alignments may have belonged to a system of drainage for small enclosures following the enclosure of the open field at the start of the 19th century. Another possibility is that the ditch and gullies were dug for drainage of the land prior to the planting of an orchard in the 19th century, as illustrated on the Ordnance Survey maps dated 1875 and 1883. The evaluation also identified a large feature, either a large pit or a substantial boundary ditch, close to the south-eastern boundary of the development. A boundary is shown in the appropriate position on the First edition Ordnance Survey maps dated 1875 and 1883, but is not marked on Rocque's map of Berkshire, dated 1761, or on the Inclosure map of 1803, suggesting that the boundary was only established in the 19th century. It had been replaced by the current boundary by 1913, when the second edition Ordnance Survey map was issued. A sequence of shallow pits identified in Trench 4 dated to the 18th or 19th century.

Emmer Green, land off Peppard Road (SU 7235 7777)

VIX HUGHES

Between 20th February and 1st March 2017 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new housing development. The works involved the excavation of an initial fifteen 50m x 2m trenches. A further five trenches were subsequently excavated as a contingency allocation to investigate the extent of remains revealed in the initial

trenching. The results of the evaluation confirmed the presence of prehistoric activity at a low density across the area and the presence of a probable Roman farmstead focused on the central and eastern areas. The farmstead was represented by boundary ditches, pits, two ovens/kilns and a possible cremation burial. No certain evidence was discovered for buildings, although a single possible wall footing was identified.

Eynsham, Polar Technology, Geotechnical Test Pits

(SP 4276 0882)

JOHN BOOTHROYD, MARIUSZ I. GORNIK and GERRY THACKER

During 2016 and 2017, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook archaeological evaluations and watching briefs at Eynsham. During the latter part of March and early April 2016 this consisted of a trial trench evaluation comprising 20 trenches targeted on both geophysical anomalies and cropmarks, and to test potential blank areas. Within the northern and central part of the site several undated ditches were identified, as well as a flat based pit which contained pottery of 5th-7th century date and could represent a sunken featured building. Within the scheduled area a pit containing struck flint, pottery, animal bone and charred hazel nut shells is likely to be of early Neolithic date. Other ditches present were of probable Roman and post-medieval date, although very little datable material was recovered. In January 2017, OA monitored the excavation of geotechnical test pits. These identified no archaeological deposits and demonstrated that the underlying geology had been truncated by the construction of both a former railway line and the current 20th century buildings. On the 19th July 2017 Oxford Archaeology monitored the excavation of a further three test pits ahead of water infiltration testing. A fourth proposed test pit could not be opened due to access issues. A single undated pit was recorded within Test Pit 2. The remaining test pits were devoid of archaeological features or remains.

Faringdon, Coxwell Road (SU 278944)

KATE BRADY

Oxford Archaeology undertook the excavation of 2.1ha between the 17th July and 5th October 2017. The excavation revealed part of a settlement of late Iron Age to early Roman date with two main phases of activity and with areas of industrial and settlement activity defined by ditches forming rectangular enclosures.

The earliest enclosed area was situated in the north-west of the site and was defined by a ditch on two sides and continued to the west of the excavation boundary. No dating material was found in this ditch and there were no features within the enclosure, but excavation showed that other ditches had been cut through it. Overlying this was a system of ditches laid out on a NE-SW and NW-SE alignment defining at least three larger areas in the north-west of the site and eight or nine smaller ones in the south-east. The ditches in the north-west contained smaller amounts of pottery suggesting this was away from the focus of the settlement. There were also fewer other features here suggesting these areas may have been used as stock enclosures or small fields.

The eastern part of the site revealed three enclosed areas. One contained the remains of a circular house gully and one contained a well, a corn drying oven and the remains of another possible building that had been backfilled with

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domestic refuse including large amounts of pottery and some worked stone blocks.

The central area of the site appears to have been the focus of activity even though the only remains of buildings were dumps of rubble and a few postholes. There was a trackway leading into this area from the direction of Coxwell Road. There were also rubbish pits with a large amount of pottery and another well suggesting that there had been houses nearby.

Most of the large pottery assemblage is of late Iron Age to early Roman date. There were only small amounts of other finds such as animal bone, CBM and metalwork.

Goring, Icknield Road, Land to rear of Cleeve Cottages (SU 6078 8157)

ROBERT MACINTOSH

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of six trenches at the site of a proposed housing development. A small number of possible archaeological features were observed, and all were sample excavated, but did not yield any material culture, and it is entirely possible these had resulted from relatively recent bioturbation. A SW-NE orientated 15m wide flinty loam-rich deposit was recorded overlying chalk-rich colluvium. This was investigated in a few sondages, where it was consistently composed of a high density of flint nodules and gravel loosely packed within a reddish-brown silty matrix measuring between 0.2 – 0.4m thick, but with no evidence for any metalting, compaction, or wheel ruts on its surface. Although this deposit is orientated parallel to the contours of the hill-slope to west and north (as would be expected of a routeway) it is probable that it was a result of a significant but localised colluvial event rather than representing a man-made surface.

Islip, Land north of Islip (SP 5307 1483)

ANDREW SIMMONDS

Between the 24th and 28th July 2014 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of four trenches. The evaluation identified a ditch associated with an alignment of shallow, sub-rectangular pits in Trench 2 and a pair of parallel ditches in Trench 4. No artefactual material was recovered from any of the features. Interpretation of the features and understanding of their significance were hampered by the absence of artefactual material and consequently of evidence for their date. This absence indicates that the features were not situated close to contemporary settlement and they most likely represent field boundaries, albeit of unknown date.

Kingston Bagpuize, Land North of Abingdon Road (SU 413 981)

KATE BRADY

In October 2017 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site of a proposed new residential development within three fields. A barrow previously identified by geophysical survey was confirmed in the central field and an additional ditch identified by the evaluation may represent an outer ring ditch or an associated enclosure, potentially of Bronze Age date. A small number of early prehistoric struck flints, mostly in later features may represent knapping activity in this landscape. Trenches in the

northern field revealed large ditches and a small number of pits, along with a large pottery assemblage of early to middle Iron Age date. A triangular hearth/oven brick and a worked bone point suggest domestic activity in the vicinity. An animal burial was poorly dated and may represent structured deposition of a young sheep near the barrow but may equally represent the deposition of dead stock at any time from the Roman period onwards. Land drains in the southern field attest to the drainage associated with the WWII airfield that occupied the site.

Letcombe Bassett, Old Rectory (SU 37458 84983)

ANGELA WARNER

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken a building recording watching brief at the Old Rectory, Letcombe Bassett in Oxfordshire during repair and alteration works. The recording followed a previous historic building assessment and was intended to add to our understanding of the house. The current house is a Grade II listed building and it was constructed in the 17th century, extending an earlier building. A truss comprising cusped principal rafters and a cranked tie-beam in the roof structure suggests that the origin of this earlier building may lie in the early-14th century, although this early phase had already been considerably altered by the 17th century. In the late-18th century, a single-storied brick extension was constructed to the rear of the house and the older building remodelled. In turn, this extension underwent alteration a century later when the roof was raised, and the upper rooms were added. Throughout the 20th century, minor improvements were undertaken, with the construction of a conservatory and the fitting of a modern kitchen and utility room occurring around the time of the turn of the current century.

Lyford, St Mary's Church (SU 3900 9420)

ROBERT M^cINTOSH

During March and June 2017 Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief upon new drainage works at St Mary's Church. The watching brief included monitoring the hand excavation of a trial pit just outside the graveyard boundary, a drainage trench around the western end of the Nave and a drainage trench running through the southern side of the church yard, leading to a soakaway located just outside the boundary. The drainage trench excavated around the Nave revealed the footings for the Nave but remained within the backfill of a previously excavated storm drain. The trial pit only exposed topsoil layers, it did not go deep enough to expose subsoil or natural geology. The drainage trench through the church yard carefully followed the backfill of a previous drainage trench and uncovered neither human remains nor any grave cuts. The watching brief did not identify any archaeological remains of significance, although it did allow the footings of the nave to be recorded in detail.

Moulsford, 1 The Street (SU 5901 8421)

PAUL MURRAY

On the 5th and 6th September 2016 Oxford Archaeology conducted a watching brief at 1, The Street, Moulsford Oxfordshire (NGR: SU 59019 84212). No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the works.

Oxford, Oxford Academy New sports Pitch

(SP 54362 02736)

ROBERT MCINTOSH

Between the 4th and the 7th of April 2017 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological controlled strip of an area of around 3300m² ahead of the construction of an artificial sports pitch. The previous excavations in the vicinity indicated that there was a high potential for archaeology if the site was undisturbed, but the results of geo-technical test pitting suggested that the area had been disturbed prior to the construction of the existing pitches. No archaeological features were present, and the recorded levels on the natural sands confirmed that the area had been partially truncated during the creation of the existing sports facilities.

Oxford, Barton Park (SP 5450 0830)

TOBY MARTIN and CARL CHAMPNESS

During October–December **2015** an area of land west of Barton Park on the outskirts of the City of Oxford was excavated by Oxford Archaeology. The excavated features comprised the remains of Romano-British and later field systems including rectilinear enclosures and possible drove ways, perhaps representing several sequential attempts to cultivate an area of poor and frequently waterlogged land. These features were overlain and truncated by medieval ridge and furrow on a different alignment again. The pottery assemblage from the site was paltry, comprising little more than 40 identifiable sherds of Roman or medieval date. There were, however, some notable isolated finds including a middle Bronze Age pit, an early Roman cremation burial and a single 1st century AD Roman coin. Furthermore, residual finds of a spearhead and knife, although more than 200m distance apart, indicate the possibility of an early Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery in the vicinity. Finally, a modest assemblage of medieval and post-medieval horseshoes was also recovered, providing an indication that the site was once situated along on a traversable route, perhaps between the medieval settlements of Headington and Wick.

Oxford, University Department of Zoology

(SP 51827 06782)

MARK DODD

Oxford Archaeology were commissioned to undertake two watching briefs and an archaeological evaluation between Mansfield and St Cross Road in June and August 2017. Just five possible archaeological features were observed but as no finds or environmental information were recovered, these features remain undated.

Oxford, Folly Bridge, Arch 4 (SP 51446 05513)

ALEX DAVIES

A watching brief on the Grade II listed Folly Bridge, Arch 4, was commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council ahead of repairs. This took place between 26th September and 3rd October 2017. Three previously unknown walls were found within the fill of the bridge, constructed on the bridge vaults. No finds were recovered during the works, although the position of the walls suggests that they were related to the horse-tram system in use between 1887–1914. The features may have been built to consolidate the ground directly

beneath the tracks. No features pre-dating the 19th-century were found.

Oxford, Merton College Lift, Patey's Quad

(SP 5173 0606)

STEVE TEAGUE

Between 18 July and 2 September **2016**, Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological work at Patey's Quad for Merton College, Oxford in advance of the construction for a new lift. The earliest evidence comprised several rubbish/quarry pits dated to the 12th – early 13th century. They were probably contained within the rear of the property of Henry Herprut who was residing there by 1235–6. Two of the later pits contained roofing tiles offering evidence for the refurbishment or construction of his house. Later during the 13th century, a garden soil developed over which a succession of gravel surfaces and a stone drain were constructed. They probably relate to a path leading from a gatehouse on Merton Street built during the construction of the college buildings between 1289–1311. Post-medieval evidence included a wall that formed part of a probable toilet block linking the medieval Mob Quad with the 17th century Fellows' Quad. A stone-lined well filled during the late 18th century probably served the nearby kitchen in the Fellows' Quad.

Oxford Northern Gateway, Wolvercote, Phase 1

(SP 4948 1056)

PAUL MURRAY

In April 2017 Oxford Archaeology were commissioned to conduct an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed new retail and housing development. The evaluation of the site followed on from the submission of an archaeological desk-based assessment, geophysical surveys and previous phases of evaluation that covered part of the development area. The geophysical survey identified the remains of medieval ridge and furrow. The evaluation identified deposits and a linear feature representing the remains of the medieval field system which appears to have been truncated by later 19th century plough horizon. No other significant archaeological remains were identified.

Oxford, Osney, Student Castle (SP 50589 05921)

REBECCA PEACOCK and ANDREW SIMMONDS

Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Student Castle during the sinking of four geotechnical boreholes in January 2017. The proposed site is situated on the possible location of the east end of the remains of the medieval Osney Abbey and may include part of the abbey church and burial ground. The projected extent of the abbey church lies under the new car park, which is not proposed for groundworks, but other parts of the development footprint lie within the projected extent of the precinct. Remains of structures and burials may therefore be present. Six boreholes were originally intended but due to access restrictions and contaminated ground conditions only four were possible. Natural gravel was reached within the geotechnical and historical boreholes at 3.4–2.6m below ground level. This was overlain by alluvial deposits that have a good potential to contain undisturbed archaeological remains. This sequence was sealed by 1.2–2.4m of modern

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made ground deposits, dating from the construction of the railway and goods yard during the 19th century.

Oxford Archaeology subsequently undertook evaluation of eleven trenches at the same site between the 4th-14th September 2017. A layer of alluvium was present throughout the trenches and probably derived from alluviation of the Oxford floodplain that was underway by the late Iron Age and continued throughout the Roman period, slowing or perhaps ceasing thereafter before resuming during the late Saxon period. Pits dating from the mid-13th-14th century were found in Trenches 1, 1a and 2 at the northern end of the evaluation area, which corresponds with the precinct of Osney Abbey as understood from documentary and cartographic evidence. No evidence was found for the abbey church or associated burial ground, which are believed to have extended into the north-western part of the evaluation area, but which evidently did not extend as far east as Trenches 1-2. No features were identified to the south, beyond the abbey precinct, apart from a single possibly modern ditch. The archaeological features were overlain by modern made ground 1.3-2.42m thick, which was deposited during the construction of the railway during the 19th century to raise the ground level of the railway and goods depot above flood level.

Oxford, 14-119 St Aldate's and 4-5 Queen Street (SP 51320 06130)

CARL CHAMPNESS

In July 2015 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of three test pits within the basement of existing buildings to investigate levels of archaeological preservation at the site. The site is located within the heart of the Saxon Burh and medieval walled town of Oxford and any archaeological remains are likely to be considered highly archaeologically significant. The evaluation revealed the remains of undisturbed late Saxon/early medieval horizons underneath the current basement levels. A series of pits containing domestic waste and demolition material were exposed during the excavations. The possible presence of walls and a compacted gravel surface demonstrates the potential for structural remains to also be present. An absence of clay pipes and modern material suggests that the archaeological horizons may have been sealed in the early post-medieval period. A small assemblage of late Saxon pottery was recovered from later features and a possible crucible fragment indicates that small-scale processing of bronze or precious metals may have occurred on the site. The historical records show that several large houses occupied part of the site during this period and formed part of the Jewish quarter of Oxford.

Most of the features and deposits revealed during the evaluation date from the 13th-14th century. They include two potential walls, a compacted gravel surface and three rubbish pits. The pottery, animal bone and tile assemblages are predominately domestic in nature and presumably originated from the buildings with frontages on Queen Street and St Aldate's. Rare semi-waterlogged organic remains were recovered from one of these rubbish pits, including food waste, 'cessy' material, mineralised insect remains and a leather shoe.

Oxford, Somerville College, Walton Street (SP 5093 0689)

ROBIN BASHFORD

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of the proposed Catherine Hughes Building. This took place between 26th June and 10th July 2017. The evaluation revealed the top of the second terrace gravel, which in one trench was overlain by a layer of post-glacial brickearth. Several features contained fills predominantly composed of re-deposited brickearth and gravel, which elsewhere in the city has been indicative of prehistoric or late Saxon features. However, a single sherd of 12th-14th century pottery was recovered from a soil sample taken from the fills of one of these features indicating a possibly later date. Little other evidence for medieval occupation was revealed; this area probably lay within open fields in the medieval period.

A north-south aligned linear feature in the south-western corner of the site produced artefactual material dating to the late 17th to early 18th centuries, and it almost certainly correlates to part of the Civil War defensive network around the city, as illustrated by Bernard de Gomme in 1644 and a section of earthwork shown as extant on David Loggan's later plan of 1675. A series of deeply stratified deposits of a similar date was also revealed to the north-east of this feature. Although the extent of these deposits was not revealed within the confines of the trench, it seems likely that they represent the backfill of the eastward return of the north-south aligned feature described above. Several walls were revealed which broadly correlate with structures shown on the OS 1st edition map of 1876. Additionally, most of the trenches contained a series of large 19th-century pits which almost certainly represent occupation associated with these properties. A stone-lined well of similar date was also revealed.

Oxford, 109 to 110 Walton Street (SP 507 071)

STEVE TEAGUE

In July 2017, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a watching brief during rear extensions to properties at 109 to 110 Walton Street, Oxford. The site is near the poorly understood historic core of the medieval settlement of Walton. Excavation of strip foundations was monitored during the construction phase. The excavations encountered buried topsoil and natural gravels with modern disturbance underneath the existing hard standing. No significant archaeological deposits or finds were recorded.

Radford Semele, Spring Lane (SP 34215 64219)

ANDY SIMMONDS

Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) undertook an archaeological excavation on the site of a proposed residential development. The excavation was carried out between 19th October and 2nd November 2017 and encompassed an area of c 0.01ha. It uncovered part of a ditched boundary aligned N-S, with a return on the east side and an entrance, confirming the results of a previous geophysical survey. The features are likely to form part of a field system dating from the late Iron Age/Roman period, probably associated with an unidentified settlement located somewhere in the vicinity. The paucity of artefactual evidence suggests that the settlement was not particularly close.

Radley, White's Lane (SU 5200 9900)

RACHAEL DANIEL and STEVE TEAGUE

During September 2017 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation for Radley College. The evaluation trenches revealed prehistoric features in the south-eastern part of the site, where geophysical survey had recorded a dense spread of anomalies. Two postholes contained possible Neolithic pottery. Several other features were dated to the Iron Age, including ditches forming three sides of an enclosure visible in the geophysical survey. Within the area of this potential enclosure were several pits and postholes, many yielding pottery sherds, fired clay and animal bone fragments, suggesting domestic activity. A single piece of slag may indicate ironworking. This activity represents the continuation of an Iron Age settlement previously recorded immediately to the south. Later activity within the evaluation site was represented by plough furrows and a modern field boundary.

Shrivenham, Land off Townsend Road (SU 2310 8851)

MARK DODD

Between January and February 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 20 trenches. A geophysical survey of the site had previously identified several linear anomalies and possible archaeological features. These were targeted during the evaluation and were proven to be the remains of ditched enclosures. The remains included an undated possible D-shaped enclosure within Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5, towards the west of the site. A late Iron Age L-shaped enclosure was in Trenches 7 and 9 and a previously undetected possible Bronze Age or early Iron Age ditch in Trench 4. Additional features included three undated pits in Trenches 1 and 8, which each contained burnt remains, and two possible ditches in Trench 14.

Overall, it appears that the archaeological activity on the site was limited to the later prehistoric periods and was predominantly agricultural in nature. Potentially spanning a long period between the Bronze Age and late Iron Age, it is not possible to determine whether this activity was the result of continuous occupation within the vicinity or represents distinct and separate phases. Either way it appears to have been low intensity activity which may have been at the periphery of a more significant settlement.

Southmoor, Springhill (SU 3897 9795)

MARK DODD

Between 13th and 21st February 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 23 trenches on the site of a proposed residential development. Archaeological features were present in 13 of the 23 trenches, representing at least three phases of activity on the site. The earliest phase dated to the Mesolithic and early Neolithic period and was indicated by a small assemblage of worked flints recovered from across the site and within tree boles. The second phase of activity was located within the south-west of the site and comprised middle Iron Age features including a small enclosure and associated pits in Trench 2 and a dense pit cluster in Trench 7. The third and final phase was focused in the north-east of the site and consisted of post-medieval field boundaries and a probable 19th-century building.

South Leigh, Oxfordshire, Gill Mill New Quarry

(centred SP 372 081)

PAUL BOOTH

Oxford Archaeology carried out work in three different areas of Gill Mill Quarry. At the north-west end of the quarry further work was undertaken in adjacent Areas 2A (centred SP 3630 0835) and 2B (centred SP 3640 0815), adjoining the south side of the part of Area 2A examined in 2016. In total an area of c 5.27ha was stripped. This lay entirely within a zone suggested by an earlier geophysical survey to be occupied by relict channels of the eastern arm of the River Windrush which defines the western boundary of these areas. The 'channel' features proved to be mostly superficial and must have been mainly contained within the alluvial deposits overlying the gravel subsoil. A small palaeo-channel section was recorded and sampled for environmental remains in Area 2B but there were no archaeological features or finds.

Area 3, adjoining these areas to the east (centred SP 366 084), contains an extensive area of settlement features identified on aerial photographs and by the geophysical survey and was examined in an evaluation comprising 39 trenches, each 30m x 2m. A small flint assemblage from the south-west half of the area suggested activity here in the Mesolithic period and in the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The principal settlement focus (centred c SP 3655 0840), as located by the geophysical survey, was continuously occupied from the middle Iron Age (possibly no earlier than c 200 BC) up to the early Roman period. The middle Iron Age settlement included ditched enclosures and at least one probable roundhouse location defined by a circular gully. Associated finds consisted mainly of pottery in local traditions, and the economy was probably based on mixed agriculture, although herding of sheep may have been the most important component.

A late Iron Age-early Roman settlement covered the area of its middle Iron Age predecessor, but in addition occupation of this period extended further to the south-east and was also encountered in the north-east half of Area 3, where a small ring gully, perhaps surrounding a fodder stack, was probably of this date, and a post-built structure almost certainly of this period. The main elements of the late Iron Age-early Roman settlement were again boundary and enclosure ditches. More pottery was dated to this period (380 out of a site total of 567 sherds) and suggests that the settlement, with a similar economy to that seen earlier, was perhaps going out of use by about AD 100.

No later Roman features were identified. Two small pits in the north-eastern half of the site were of medieval date. Medieval (and probably also later) plough furrows from a NE-SW aligned ridge and furrow system were widespread across the site, most obviously in the north-eastern half, lying mainly, but not exclusively, north-east of a substantial NW-SE-aligned ditched boundary of post-medieval date.

In Area 5A, at the south-east end of the quarry, an area of about 2.49ha (centred SP 378 075) immediately adjacent to areas examined in 2015 was subject to strip, map and sample excavation. At the western end of this area a few irregular gullies of probable middle Iron Age date were related to features seen further west in 2015. A NE-SW aligned Roman ditch was a continuation of a feature examined in Area 5A in 2015, the known length of which is now more than 250m. No other certain Roman features were identified. Irregular post-medieval quarry pits and a substantial boundary ditch

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were encountered in the west end of the area and correlate with features previously seen further to the south and west respectively.

Sutton Courtenay, Bridge Farm Phases 5–7

(SU 521 941)

MARK DODD

Between 4th and 10th January 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 34 trenches on three areas of land: Phase 5 immediately to the west of the existing quarry, and Phases 6 and 7 are on the lower lying floodplain to the north and east.

Archaeological features were present in 11 of the 34 trenches excavated. Apart from a ditch in Trench 34, all features were located on the higher ground within the Phase 5 area. Geophysical survey of the site had previously identified an L-shape enclosure, a ring ditch and linear anomalies within the Phase 5 area.

Three distinct phases of activity were identified within the Phase 5 area. The earliest phase of activity dates broadly to the early Neolithic period and was represented by several worked flints. The second phase dates to the middle Bronze Age and is primarily focused between Trenches 18 and 30, where well-preserved sherds of middle Bronze Age pottery and several struck flint flakes were recovered from boundary ditches. Although the ring ditch in Trench 7 only contained abraded sherds of middle Iron Age pottery, it is likely that this feature also belongs to the Bronze Age phase of activity as similar features have already been recorded to the south-east. The third and final phase is dated to the middle Iron Age and is focused in the north-west portion of the Phase 5 area as evidenced by an L-shaped enclosure and abraded pottery within the ring ditch.

A palaeo-channel observed within previous excavations to the south-east was expected to continue across the Phase 5 area but was not observed during these investigations. However, alluvial sequences observed within the Phase 7 area indicate that further palaeo-channels are present within this low-lying zone. It is likely that fluvial activity within this area prevented long-term or substantial habitation or activity.

Sutton Courtenay, Sutton Courtenay Lane

(SU 5034 9237)

PETER VELLETT and CARL CHAMPNESS

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake a trial trench evaluation comprising 23 trenches. The work was undertaken within the surrounding waste ground amongst the derelict warehouses of the site. Due to restrictions caused by ground contamination, 11 of the excavated trenches were either wholly or partially abandoned.

The results of the evaluation demonstrated a high-level of archaeological activity in the northwest of the proposed development. Concentrations of prehistoric and Roman remains including large settlement enclosure ditches were identified in trenches 6–15. This activity appears to represent a distinct complex of linear and curvilinear enclosure ditches, smaller boundary ditches and discreet features comprising pits, gullies and post holes. The frequency of inter-cutting features, particularly of the enclosure ditches, was representative of a multiple phase settlement, where the re-establishment of boundaries was clear. This settlement

spanned the Late Iron Age to Late Roman periods, with possible hints of Saxon activity within the wider area.

The pottery assemblages dated to the middle Iron Age concentrated in trenches 7, 8, 9, and 11 in the north-west corner of the site, while the late Roman groups were recovered from trenches 6, 10, 11, 13, and 14, also in the north-west corner of the site, but extending further east and may indicate a shift in settlement focus through time at the site. Crop marks identified immediately to the north clearly shows the settlement continuing outside of the site boundary and indicate a large rectangular enclosure with internal small rectangular and circular divisions surrounded by field systems and animal enclosures.

The remains of dispersed field systems and other low-level activity were identified during the evaluation to the east and south of the settlement area. Areas of contaminated and disturbed ground were also located across the site and relate to previous phases of landscaping and warehouse development. The nature of archaeological preservation within these areas is either reduced or uncertain.

A single coin of Constantine II (AD 337–340) was found within one of the enclosure ditches. Two decorated weaving combs provide evidence for the production of domestic textile at the site. A fragment of worked antler also indicates bone working was being carried out in the vicinity. Furthermore, the environmental sampling in this area of site produced charred remains and animal bones indicative of arable farming and settlement activity within the vicinity. Fired clay fragments interpreted as oven structure were also recovered.

Two military pillboxes and two large concrete water tanks were also recorded at the north-west and south-west corners of the derelict distribution centre. These relate to the former WWII military warehouses that were located at the site.

Thame Cricket Club (SP 70462 06219)

GERRY THACKER

On the 14th December 2017 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a trial trench evaluation on behalf of Thame Town Council on the site of a proposed new Cricket Pavilion. The site is located within the south-west part of Thame Cricket Club. A single evaluation trench along the footprint of the proposed pavilion contained no archaeological features. An earlier phase of work (5th June 2016) monitoring a single geotechnical test pit which also uncovered no archaeological deposits or features.

Wallingford, Land at Wallingford Road

(SU 60381 88087)

KIRSTY SMITH

During October 2017 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation in advance of the construction of a new retirement home. The evaluation revealed two ditches, which were undated. Trench 1 contained a shallow-sided north-east to south-west orientated ditch and Trench 5 contained a substantial north to south-orientated ditch. No finds or archaeologically rich fills were identified but the ditches may relate to prehistoric activity in the wider area, which includes numerous examples of prehistoric ditches, enclosures and trackways.

Wallingford, Winterbrook, Land West of Reading Road
(SU 604 886)

VIX HUGHES

In January 2017 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new housing development. The works involved the excavation of 14 trenches 30m in length and were designed to supplement a previous evaluation carried out by Wessex Archaeology in 2009 (Trenches 1–8). The 2017 trenches (numbered 9–22) aimed to better define and characterize a phase of Iron Age activity identified at the site.

The results of the evaluation helped to further confirm and define the presence of a middle Iron Age settlement in the northern part of the site. Ditches in Trenches 10, 13 and 15 were confirmed by the presence of artefacts as being of Iron Age date. The features were all ditches and appear to form part of the enclosed middle Iron Age settlement. A medieval pit, 1006, and probable linear feature, 1009, was also discovered in Trench 10. Both these features date to the 11–12th centuries and indicate early medieval activity within the site.

Wantage, Naldertown (SU 3921 8813)

MARK DODD

On the 6th and 7th of July 2017, Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches on the site of a proposed housing development. Archaeological features were present within all three trenches. Numerous ditches revealed during the investigation are likely to represent the remains of Roman enclosure and field systems. Stone roof tiles, ceramic building material, nails and large limestone fragments suggest that there may have been a structure or structures near the site. A Victorian soakaway or well was also present and can be associated with a structure shown on the historic maps.

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

The Oxfordshire Buildings Record completed 22 building reports in 2017, 10 of which were of cottages in Chalgrove, as part of a continuing project in the village, though two (Great Barn and College Barn) were investigated as part of a project funded by Historic England and managed by Dr Martin Bridge of UCL to investigate the potential for tree-ring dating of elm timbers. Although the timbers in these barns failed to date, the recording did explain the anomalous list description which dated the Great Barn to the 16th century despite it having a cranked inner principal roof structure typical of the mid-18th. It was found that the lower walls of the Great Barn were indeed early and that it had been extended to the south – to create the College Barn – and the whole edifice was re-roofed at the same time. The carpentry of the Great Barn suggested an initial phase of around 1600, and the weathering on the southern gable truss – visible only in College Barn – pointed to a gap of at least 100 years before the reconstruction was carried out.

The Chipping Norton Buildings Record have also completed the fieldwork for another Historic England project, on Chipping Norton for their ‘Early Fabric in Historic Towns’ study. Some of the work was published

during 2017 in the form of a paperback, ‘The Making of Chipping Norton’ by Adrienne Rosen and Janice Cliffe (Phillimore, Stroud).

The Target, Port Meadow (SP 487 094)

DAVID CLARK

One of the most unusual buildings recorded by OBR was the ‘Target’ (Fig. 5) a concrete shell near the Shire Ditch on the boundary between Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common to the north-west of Oxford. The building relates to the use of Port Meadow as an airfield from c.1910. For its detailed history see P Smith, *Port Meadow Aerodrome, Wolvercote, Oxford*.¹ As the last remaining structure associated with the WW1 airfield at Port Meadow, the Target is of considerable historic interest. The documentary research suggests that it was built between 1916 and 1918 as a refuge for ground crew laying out targets and overseeing bombing and shooting practice at a triangular target laid in the ditch a short distance to the north of the hut.

The Target consists of four walls, each approximately 2620mm wide and 2210mm high, with a doorway on the south side and an opening on the east side. The roof is a single slab of concrete overhanging the structure on all sides by some 400mm. It also had a concrete floor, only fragments of which survive. Over the years, continual damage and flooding of the site has resulted in deep mud inside the building so details of the construction of the floor and foundations could not be determined. The building was found to be tilting over slightly to the east.

The structure was built using formwork – here of corrugated iron – where a temporary mould is used into which fresh concrete is poured and allowed to harden. Slight changes in texture and cracking suggested that the formwork was filled in ‘lifts’ of some 2–3 feet, each layer left to dry out somewhat before succeeding layers were poured. There was a mortar rendering over the concrete which revealed, where erosion had occurred, aggregate consisting of angular pieces of brick of 10–13 mm, tiles, pottery fragments, as well as river stones and pebbles. The Target was constructed *in situ* rather than offsite. The overhanging roof seems to have been added as a single slab once the concrete had dried out enough to hold its weight. The roof was of large-grain concrete poured into a box of timber plank shuttering using iron piping as internal reinforcement.

The doorway contained a wooden door – there is a rebate on both sides of 12mm, which held a wooden frame, which was part of the shuttering when the concrete was poured. Nails were hammered into the frame and acted as fixings for it when the concrete had dried. There is a window facing east, with no evidence for a frame or shutter.

The afterlife of the Target is also not without its interest. It has clearly suffered impact damage in several places, and probably was therefore used for target practice at some stage. Whether it is this that has caused the structural damage evident today is difficult to say, but the tilting over and some of the cracks must be due to the changes in the course of the Shire Ditch with the annual flooding and drying of the meadow. In general, however, it has survived largely because of its inaccessibility.

¹ <http://greatwar.history.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Aerodrome-history-overview-July-2015.pdf>

Oxfordshire

Cote, Fireplace painting in a farmhouse (SP 3526 8027)

DONNA THYNNE

During a recent building survey of a yeoman farmhouse in the hamlet of Cote, a rare example of wall painting of a monochrome pattern was found on the lining of a fireplace (Fig. 6).

The technique appears to have originated from the time when flues were lined with mortar to prevent brick chimneys from smoking. The mortar was also applied on to the back and cheeks of the fireplace which was then whitewashed. It seems that the temptation to decorate the whitewashed surface was irresistible and using sgraffito techniques the black soot was scrapped back, in a pattern, to reveal the white plaster underneath. Later examples mimic this technique but were painted on to the whitewashed surface. It is thought that layers of paint were applied over each other as the design was continually blackened by smoke (see James Ayres (2003) *Domestic Interiors – A British Tradition 1500–1850*. Yale University Press).

Some research has been carried out regarding the origin of the geometrical pattern and it has been found in a few fireplaces in the West Country, Massachusetts in the USA, and in Denmark. Early examples have been found on 14th century floor tiles in churches in the South Midlands. Called gyronny, the pattern originates from a heraldic scheme, although in this context, it is thought not to refer to any coat of arms. It is seen as a ‘poor man’s’ version of Dutch tiling popular in the 17th century.

The example found in Cote probably dates from the late 17th century, then within a newly created gentrified bay of a working farmhouse.

Only rare examples exist, as the painting can be easily destroyed when layers of fireplaces are removed during modern renovations. The Cote example only survived due to the careful demolition of later fireplaces by the present owner. It is interesting to note that another house viewed in nearby Aston showed similar building phases to the Cote house, so other painted linings may yet exist.

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY IN OXFORD CITY 2017

The Westgate Shopping Centre

The newly rebuilt and expanded Westgate shopping centre had its ‘soft’ opening in October 2017 when medieval tiles recovered during the 2016 excavation of the Franciscan Friary at the site were put on display (Fig. 7). The 13th-14th century ‘Stabbed Wessex’ floor tiles were recovered from the corner of the main cloister and are suspended on the wall in the Middle Square of the new centre. Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England and former digger at the 1970s Westgate dig, formally opened the display in early 2018 and further archaeologically inspired art and interpretation is due to be installed later in the year.



Figure 5: The Target, Port Meadow



Figure 6: Cote, painted fireplace detail

A selective summary of 2017 fieldwork projects

The year saw a notable change of focus for archaeological investigations within the city with several projects taking place outside of the historic core. Between January and October, a staged programme of evaluation and phased excavation by Salford Archaeology took place on land adjacent to the BMW sports ground. Here settlement remains of Late Iron Age through to 2nd century AD date were examined encompassing enclosure ditches, field boundaries, post holes, pits and a single crouched inhumation.

Between August and October, a total of 189 trenches were excavated to the west of the city by Oxford Archaeology along the route of the proposed Oxford Flood Alleviation Channel in the Thames floodplain. The project straddles the City of Oxford and the Vale of the White Horse and encompassed an extensive programme of soil and sediment sampling from archaeological features, palaeo-channels and alluvial sequences which allowed a comprehensive set of scientific dates to be obtained, giving an almost unbroken 8000-year chronology of floodplain evolution spanning the Mesolithic to Modern periods. A full summary of the results of this large project is beyond the scope of this note however one evocative discovery was a previously unknown metal stone causeway encountered to the south of Willow Walk, complete with cart ruts and late medieval horseshoe. The project also provided the University of Oxford Science Research

Laboratory a chance to test a new refined approach to OSL dating on ridge and furrow earthworks. Thanks are due to the Environment Agency and Oxford Archaeology for facilitating this experimental work.

In December an excavation by the Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit at the former Swan Motor site on Between Towns Road revealed one of the largest assemblages of Roman pottery to be recovered from the city for over a decade (Fig. 8). Dumps of pottery were recovered from a series of ditches likely associated with the previously recorded Roman pottery manufacturing site located further east along Between Towns Road.

Elsewhere within the historic core of the city recording projects included a small excavation by Oxford Archaeology on the site of the former Morris Garage on Holywell Street. Here between June and October the brick foundations of the early 20th century Morris Garage (which gave its name to the MG car mark and where Morris designed his first car in 1914) were uncovered along with two concrete and brick car pits. Detailed recording was undertaken of the remains which will be partially preserved below a new accommodation building for New College.

In September an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at Wadham College next to the college Junior Common Room and the Goddard building. The evaluation revealed a single burial, likely to belong to the medieval Austin friary which occupied this site between



Figure 7: Oxford, Westgate Centre, medieval floor tiles *in situ* and on display



Figure 8: Oxford, Swan Motor site, Decorated Roman pottery

1268 and the Dissolution and medieval pits dating to the 12th–13th century.

DAVID RADFORD
Archaeologist, Design and Heritage,
Oxford City Council.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Goring, Gatehampton Farm Roman Villa

(SU 6079 7985)

HAZEL WILLIAMS

This is SOAG's longest running project, the excavation of a substantial 3rd–4th century villa building. Most of the building has been excavated over more than 20 years and the project has included surveys of the surrounding landscape that show elements of the farmstead associated with the

villa. The 2017 season of digging was planned to be the final stage of the excavation but emerging evidence of a possible second bath house at the eastern end of the building has meant that further excavation is planned for 2018.

The plan of the villa (Fig. 9) shows the size and layout of the building and the position of the current trenches. The rooms are numbered simply for reference purposes and do not indicate any sequence of building. The villa is over 40 metres long and almost 15 metres wide constructed using the local flint and chalk, with large terracotta tesserae used for some floor surfaces and extensive use of opus signinum as cement and render in the bath house. Small mosaic tesserae have been found, mainly in demolition deposits outside the building. The only exception to this was a deposit of over 100 tesserae found lodged in a small gap between the walls of Rooms 9 and 10. However, no evidence of laid tesserae was found despite extensive excavation and it appears that any mosaic floors were comprehensively removed at some stage. Part of the villa enclosure ditch is shown on the north east side of the building.

Dating evidence for the building falls within the range of mid third to late fourth century. The area around rooms 9 and 10 has internal walls built of chalk, in contrast to the western end of the villa. This may have been the earliest part of the building, dating from the mid-late third century, with the villa extended westward in the early to mid-fourth century. A hedge line has prevented excavation to find the eastern extent of this early section of the building. In the workshop area further east, evidence of butchering and the production of bone pins was found and a channel leading to the sluice of the cess pit. Excavation in 2017 was focussed in three areas; the remaining part of Trench 7, emerging bath house type features in Trench 18 and on the completion of the cess pit excavation in Trench 16.

South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group Plan of Gatehampton Roman Villa 2017

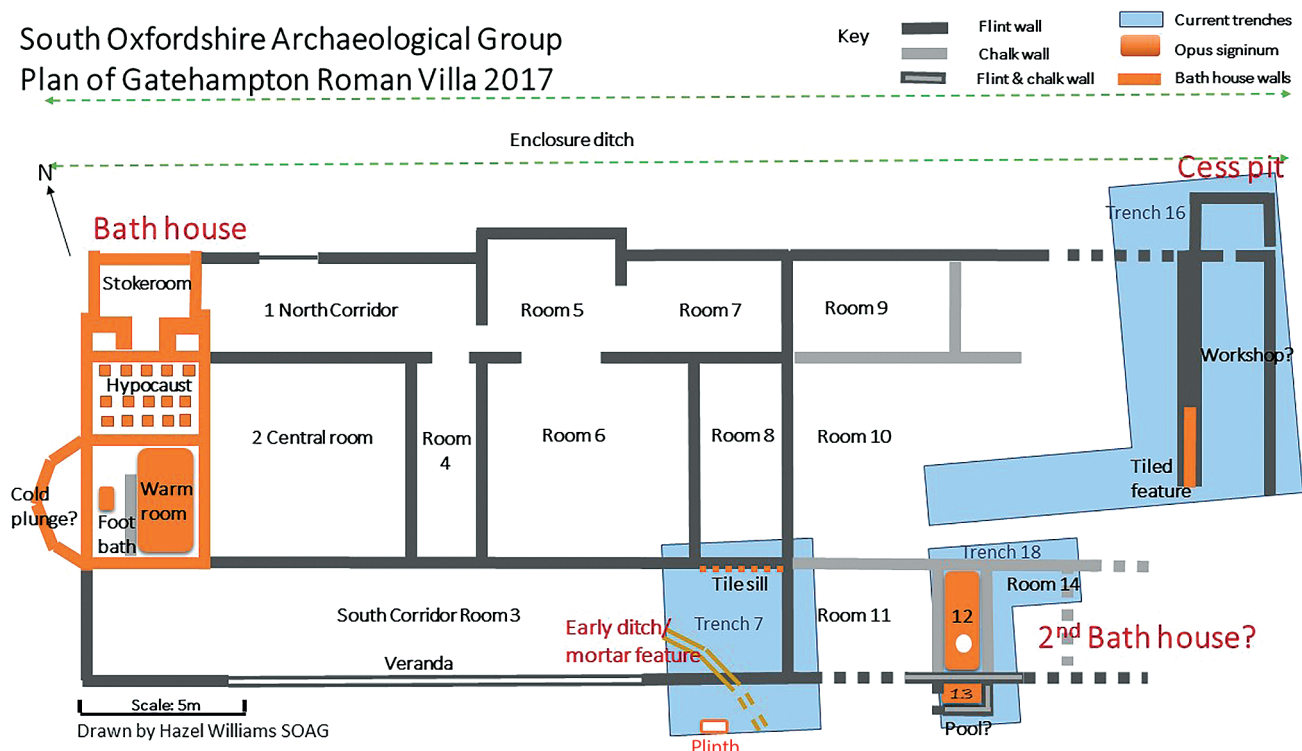


Figure 9: Plan of Gatehampton villa



Figure 10: Sunken pool with *in situ* lead drain pipe

Trench 7

In 2016 a curved mortar feature was discovered on the south side of Trench 7 that clearly pre-dated the exterior south wall of the building and the construction of the South Corridor Room 3. It had a flat surface half a metre wide with two deep grooves running across it at one point and it extended for almost five metres. In 2017 it was sectioned in two places and found to be the capping of a small ditch or wall foundation; it was less than half a metre deep, U shaped, packed with flint rubble but with no primary fill. The mortar surface appears to be laid in approximately two metre sections that are slightly angled to form a curve. This is very similar to the wall foundation of the apsidal room with a cold plunge pool in the bath house and may be evidence of an earlier building. As often happens in excavation, right at the end of the season, a new feature was found in the enclosure or villa

garden south of Room 3. A very solid rectangular mortar plinth, measuring 1.5 metres by one metre and up to 300mm deep was found with probable small post holes around it within a chalk surface. The plinth may be a garden feature, strong enough to support something like a water tank, but pottery and other finds associated with the chalk surface suggest it may be part of the interior of an earlier building.

A second bath house?

The western bath house is constructed with extensive use of reddish opus signinum mortar, used to line the walls of the hypocaust, to cement the *pilae* stacks, used for flooring above the hypocaust and in the warm room and to line the small tank. Recent excavation at the eastern end of the villa has resulted in the discovery of an opus signinum floor in Room 12 with a circular depression in the surface, and a

mortar floor in Room 14 with a rectangular tile and opus signinum feature in the centre. There is also a linear tile feature in the adjacent workshop area that may be a collapsed covered tile channel, perhaps related to water or heating. The most significant discovery in this part of the building was of a sunken pool feature (13), similar in construction to the small tank or pool in the western bath house but larger in size (Fig. 10). The pool is 1500mm long, 800mm wide and approximately 400mm deep; it is lined with a 40mm thick layer of opus signinum render. Most remarkably it has a lead drainage pipe still *in situ*, positioned at the base of one of the long sides and probably leading to the exterior of the building. One end of the pool is still partially unexcavated and the area outside the building is yet to be explored. The fill deposit within the pool consisted mostly of collapsed painted wall plaster in a black and white design.

The cess pit

The villa cess pit is rectangular, measuring approximately three metres by two metres and is enclosed by purpose-built walls that extend to a depth of two metres on three sides. There is a sluice on the shallower south side and a well-constructed drainage culvert exiting under the wall on the east side. The sequence of deposits demonstrates that after initial use as a cesspit, plaster was dumped on to the solidifying contents. Use as a cess pit was then re-established but when this

function ceased, the area was levelled with a thick layer of rubble and mortar from elsewhere. With continued shrinkage of the organic layers below, the pit eventually slumped and became a dumping ground for domestic waste. The 2016 excavation of part of the cess pit provided a remarkable find of a fragmented but almost complete *Moselkeramik* motto beaker made in Trier, with the inscription 'IUVAT' or 'this helps' (Fig. 11). In 2017 a second motto beaker was found, again almost complete but less fragmented and this has the motto 'AMANTIDA' or 'give to the lover' (Fig. 12). Both were found in the lowest level of the cess pit, just above the natural. At the same level several pig foetuses were found and three large greyware pots; all easy to reconstruct as the fragments were not dispersed. This and a lack of other pottery fragments does suggest that these pots were thrown into the pit when it was constructed. These beakers are well known but rare; perhaps 30–40 have been found in the last 100 years, so to find two examples is quite unusual.

Participation

The excavation will continue on a limited scale in 2018 to find further evidence to support the hypothesis that there is a second bath house. Encouraging participation in excavation is one of the important elements of the project and is a key part of what SOAG aims to do. The project is a voluntary one and participation was good in 2017, with a hard-working



Figure 11: Gatehampton villa, Trier motto beaker 'IUVAT' (R Miller)



Figure 12: Gatehampton villa, Trier motto beaker 'AMANTIDA'

team of experienced SOAG diggers and local volunteers. The annual Open day in September attracted almost 100 visitors and local children enjoyed the opportunity to learn how to dig.

During 2017 Trench 7 was finally closed; this trench was opened in 2000 and continued as the main trench on site as the building was excavated in phases. There was some nostalgia in this event but also the awareness that hundreds of people, many of them new to archaeology, have dug in Trench 7 over the years and enjoyed the experience.

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THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Abingdon, Sutton Wick Quarry, Oday Hill (SU 4880 9494)

ANDY TAYLOR

Excavation of around 2ha prior to mineral extraction revealed two phases of Late Iron Age activity beneath alluvium. This mostly consisted of linear features forming a series of fields with associated paddocks. Nine pits were also observed. Finds were very sparse, but the limited pottery assemblage suggests most features date from the 1st century BC to 1st century AD. A few struck flints hint at Neolithic to Bronze Age activity, and one shallow pit is possibly from this period.

Aston, land north of Cote Road (SP 3449 0325)

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Twenty-two trenches were excavated in the area of a new housing development. Apart from a single pit, a series of ditches that appear to represent an agricultural landscape were uncovered, representing medieval, post-medieval and modern activity. Two linear features contained abraded Roman pottery, but are not considered to be of this date. A single Neolithic or Bronze Age flint scraper was also recovered.

Aston Tirrold, Lower Hill Farm (SU 5513 8347)

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

The digging of a new slurry lagoon did not disturb any archaeological deposits.

Banbury, land off Broughton Road, Crouch Hill (SP 4404 3959)

LUIS ESTEVES

Twenty-one trenches were excavated in advance of a housing development but only a single undated gully was observed.

Benson, Littleworth Road (SU 6120 9200)

ANDY TAYLOR

Excavation in advance of a housing development examined an extensive spread of archaeological deposits representing several periods. The earliest finds were a cluster of four earlier Neolithic pits, two of which were dated to c.3600–3500 cal BC. They contained a range of flint and pottery finds with charred hazelnut shells but no cereals, along with

part of the skull of a child. The Bronze Age was represented by a single Middle Bronze Age pit and a scatter of residual pottery. The main findings, however, dated to the Late Iron Age with a series of enclosures and other boundary features recorded. A rich cremation grave lay outside the enclosures. Both the grave and the enclosure ditches contained a surprising quantity of imported (continental) pottery. Other cut features were surprisingly few suggesting that the site may have functioned as a part of the animal husbandry regime with more intensively occupied areas located elsewhere. Unexpectedly the settlement did not continue in use into early Roman times. A little Saxon pottery and a medieval trackway were also recorded.

Bodicote, Bodicote Pipeline (SP 4648 3718)

LUIS ESTEVES

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed during the stripping of the easement for the laying of a drain, while the deeper works for the pipe itself were entirely within the sterile natural geology.

Cholsey, 16 Honey Lane (SU 5881 8644)

ANDREW MUNDIN

Monitoring of the excavation of footings for a new house and garage revealed several natural features and a ditch of, probably, fairly recent date.

Cholsey, Bloom Buildings, West End (SU 5808 8592)

LUIS ESTEVES

Only a single undated ditch was identified in an evaluation ahead of housing development.

Dorchester-on-Thames, Bishops Court Farm, 91 High Street (SU 5744 9465)

LUIS ESTEVES

Three trenches were excavated to inform an application for construction of a new house and garage. The only features observed were a post-medieval ditch, an undated tree throw and a probably modern pit.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 13 Tenpenny (SU 5772 9386)

LUIS ESTEVES

The excavation of three footing trenches for a house extension was monitored. A small group of Roman pottery (6 sherds) was found in the subsoil but there were no cut features.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 70 Watling Lane (SU 5776 9392)

ANDREW MUNDIN

An extension footing was excavated to replace an existing structure. No archaeological deposits or finds were revealed.

Faringdon, Highworth Road (SU 2783 9480)

DAVID SANCHEZ and ANDREW MUNDIN

In support of an application for new housing development, a total of seventy-nine trenches were excavated across two fields. Most of the site contained little of archaeological interest with medieval and post-medieval plough furrows being the only features frequently encountered. One area,

however, contained a small collection of features of Iron Age and possibly Bronze Age date with a second area containing undated postholes and a gully.

Faringdon, Bowling Green Farm Quarry Phases 4

(SU 3152 9491) and 4b (SU 3157 9491)

ANDREW MUNDIN

These phases of work at the quarry revealed a small group of pits, two containing Iron Age pottery, a short length of gully, and the continuation of a ditch identified in a previous phase of work. The recovery of a small but consistent assemblage of Iron Age pottery confirms the dating previously assigned to this ditch which has now been traced for over 300m.

Henley-on-Thames, Parrots Yard, 15 Thameside

(SU 7629 8257)

LUIS ESTEVES

Prior to demolition for a new office block, evaluation trenching mainly revealed that the site had been disturbed and no archaeological finds or features were present.

Kennington, 43 Sandford Lane (SP 5269 0108)

ANDREW MUNDIN

A watching brief on the construction of two new houses identified no archaeological deposits and only modern finds.

Milton, land adjacent to The Poplars, Blackbird Lane (SU 4890 9230)

ANDREW MUNDIN and LUIS ESTEVES

Observations were undertaken during stripping of the site of a new house, garage and access. No archaeological deposits or finds of interest were encountered.

Milton Hill, land adjacent to Bramley Cottage

(SU 4803 9080)

STEVE FORD

Five trenches were opened on a site proposed for housing development. No deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were observed.

Sandford-on-Thames, 37 Church Road (SP 5329 0168)

ANDREW MUNDIN and MICHAEL JOHNSON

A watching brief during terracing for a new house uncovered only modern made ground layers.

Stanton Harcourt, Butts Piece, Blackditch

(SP 4127 0563)

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Evaluation in advance of a planning application recorded a dense spread of archaeological deposits across most of the site. Predominantly these relate to an earlier Iron Age settlement, but with Late Iron Age and medieval features also present. A few prehistoric flints and a couple of sherds of Roman pottery suggest the possibility of further activity in these periods.

Oxfordshire

Thame, Priest End allotments adjacent to St Mary's Churchyard, Priest End (SP 7032 0628)

DAVID PLATT

Evaluation in advance of an extension to the churchyard demonstrated the archaeological potential of the site with occupation deposits of late Saxon and early Medieval dates. This seems to indicate a component of Thame existing before the later planned town.

Wallingford, 18 Wood Street (SU 6079 8917)

ANDREW MUNDIN

Observations were made during ground reduction for a new extension. Only modern finds were observed.

Wallingford, land at Cherry Orchard, Mongewell (SU 6136 8801)

LUIS ESTEVES

No archaeological finds or features were recorded in an evaluation in advance of construction of a new house.

Wallingford, Cromwell Lodge, Thames Street (SU 6091 8920)

ANDREW MUNDIN and KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

A recording action was carried out during the excavation of a swimming pool. Several deposits were recorded, which became thicker as they sloped down towards the river. The upper layers contained pottery of a range of dates, the latest indicating a 19th century date. The lower layers of the sequence produced pottery of 11th century date. At the bottom of the sequence was a patch of laid tiles, probably a pier base or possible hearth.

Wallingford, land at Winterbrook (SU 6020 8828)

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

No features or finds of archaeological interest were recorded in evaluation trenches along the line of a new access road.

Warborough, Land to the rear of The Old Vicarage, The Green (SU 5987 9376)

ANDREW MUNDIN

Observations were carried out on topsoil stripping and the digging of footing trenches for a new house. Most of the area was occupied by a backfilled pond. No archaeological deposits or finds of interest were encountered.

TVAS Publications of potential interest to SMA readers:

Jo Pine, Steve Preston and Andy Taylor, 2017, *Archaeological Excavations on Roman, Saxon and Medieval Sites in Harwell and Longcot, Oxfordshire*, TVAS Occasional Paper 26, Reading
Tim Dawson, Andrew Munding, Jo Pine and David Platt, 2017, *The Southern Cemetery of Roman Dorchester, and Roman, Saxon and Medieval occupation: archaeological excavations on three*

sites in Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, TVAS Occasional Paper 27, Reading
(available from TVAS, email: tvass@tvass.co.uk)

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, DEPT. FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Geophysical Survey at North Farm 2016

WILLIAM WINTLE and DAVID GRIFFITHS

Introduction

In 2016 the MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology programme, taught by Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, located its field survey training week at the Earth Trust in Little Wittenham. The field survey training was administered and financed by the Department and directed by David Griffiths. This report provides a summary of three geophysical surveys undertaken on the Earth Trust's land at North Farm, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. One of these surveys was performed during the field survey week and two were performed later in the autumn of 2016.

North Farm

In 2008, 2010 and 2012 the MSc field survey training week had been held in Dorchester-on-Thames as part of the Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames Project (Booth *et al.* 2012; Wintle *et al.* 2016; Wintle and Griffiths 2017). The

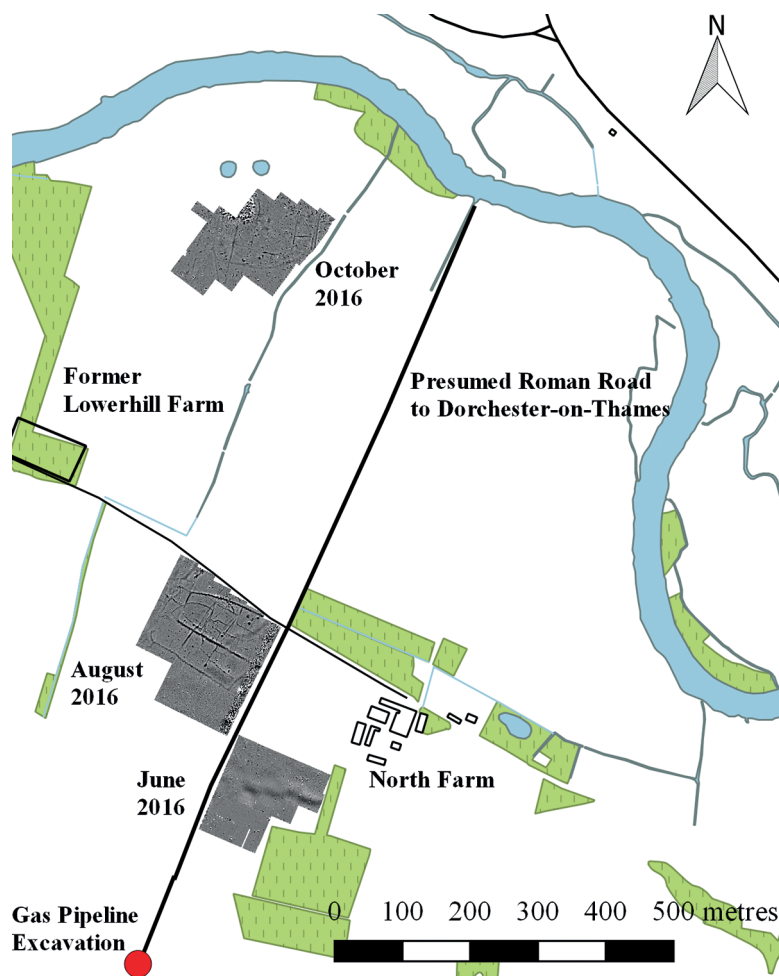


Figure 13: Overview of Geophysical Surveys

2016 training week provided an opportunity for survey training to take place on sites south of the River Thames. The Earth Trust (formerly the Northmoor Trust) is based at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham. An extensive archaeological survey of the land at and adjacent to Hill Farm was performed in the early 2000s (Allen *et al.* 2010). More recently, the Earth Trust has purchased adjoining land further east at North Farm in Brightwell. Training in earthwork and topographical survey took place on Castle Hill, Little Wittenham, and geophysical survey training was located at North Farm, Brightwell. The modern North Farm also includes land previously known as Lowerhill Farm.

Passing through North Farm is a bridleway way which is presumed to represent the line of the Roman road linking Silchester and Dorchester-on-Thames (Oxon HER 8924; Grundy 1918, 133–134; Malpas 1988). In 2004 a construction trench for a gas pipeline cut through this bridleway and a cobbled surface measuring about 6 metres in width and up to 20 cm in depth was observed in both trench sections. Two iron hobnails were found, one in the cobbled surface and one nearby. This provides a limited amount of evidence for a road surface dating to the Roman period (Wilson 2008, 288).

The Geophysical Surveys

Figure 13 illustrates the relationship between the three sites surveyed, the River Thames and the line of the presumed Roman road to Dorchester-on-Thames. The three sites all lie

south of the River Thames and a short distance south-east of the Iron Age Dyke Hills enclosure. Also shown on figure 1 is the location where the gas pipeline crossed the presumed Roman road. The first site was surveyed in June 2016 as part of the MSc field survey training week and had been chosen because of its proximity to the Roman road and its use as pasture grazed by sheep.

The only feature appears to be a wide ditch running east-west across the survey area, possibly fading out before reaching the Roman road in the west. This may be a geological feature as it is very close to the boundary between greensand (to the south) and clay (to the north). Such a boundary would serve as a spring line and the feature may indicate a ditch to drain water from springs.

The second survey (Fig. 14) took place in late August 2016 on stubble after a cereal crop had been harvested. The site was previously known from cropmarks and is recorded as NMR Number SU59 SE144 and Oxfordshire HER 12305. The survey suggests the ditches may be more than one phase, with two prominent east-west ditches either cutting or cut by a series of fainter linear and curvilinear ditches. These latter may continue westwards beyond the survey area. The dappled linear feature in the east, parallel to the Roman road, represents a temporary trackway constructed to allow spoil dug from the 'River of Life' project area adjacent to the River Thames (Sims 2014, 77–78) to be transferred to a site further south.

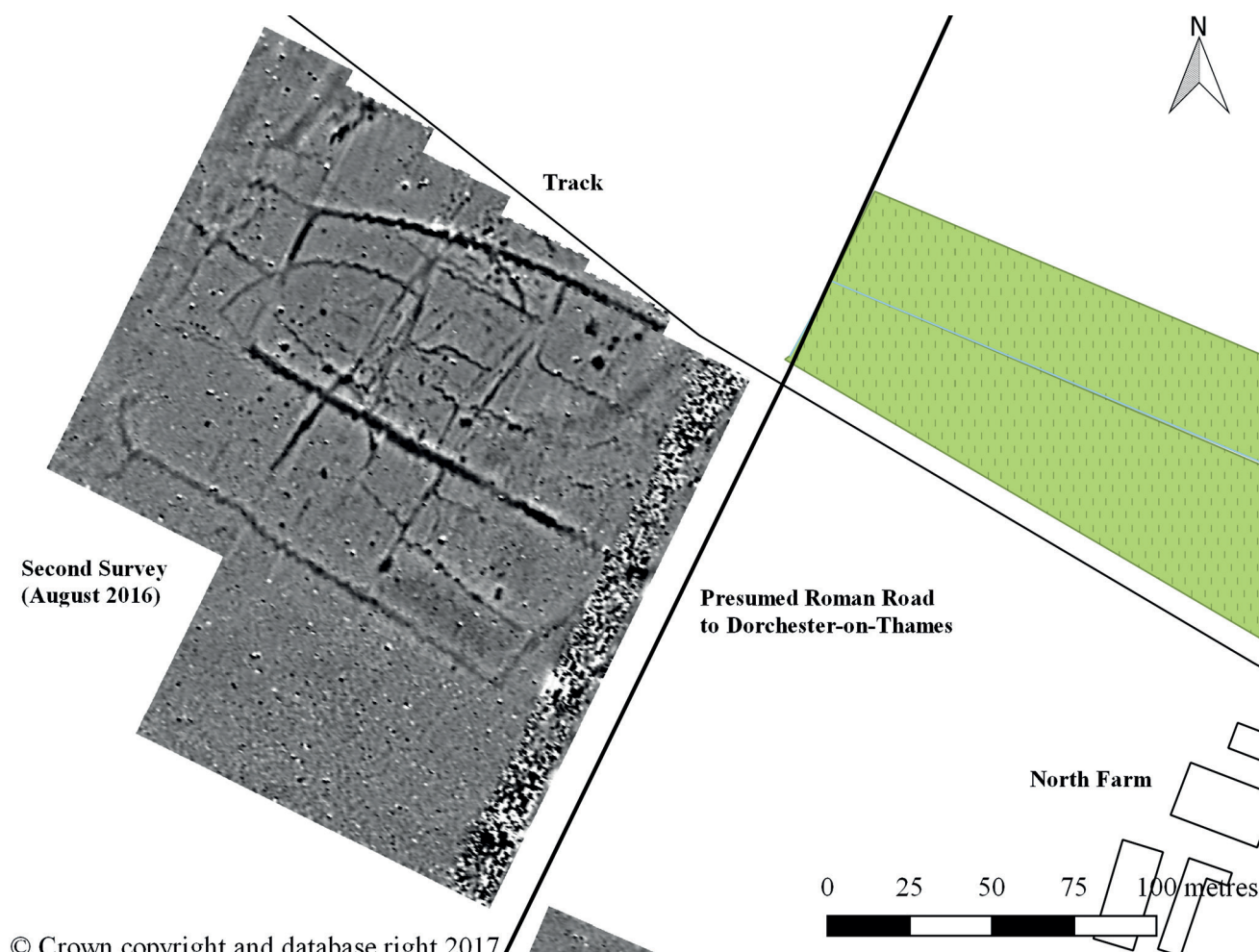


Figure 14: Survey west of North Farm

Oxfordshire

During the survey pottery was collected from the surface of the field. This included 40 sherds of Roman date, including a few sherds of Samian and two of mortaria. Both the morphology of the features and the pottery evidence indicate a Roman date for many of the features.

The third survey, illustrated in figure 15, took place in October 2016 after a bean crop had been harvested and the field ploughed. The site had been observed as containing cropmarks and grass marks on Google Earth by one of the MSc students (Margaret Dean) and appears to correspond to NMR Number SU59 SE49. In 1895 Samian and other Roman pottery had been found in a gravel pit about 500 yards north of Lowerhill farm (Manning 1898, 44). The location of the gravel quarry is recorded in the 1883, 1912 and 1932 6-inch Ordnance Survey maps. The 1960 Ordnance Survey map of SU59 shows the quarry as a slight feature and indicates the findspot of Roman pottery. By 1963 the quarry was disused and overgrown and by October 2016 the quarry had been backfilled with sand and other material (including shells). The quarry and its backfill are the cause of the substantial magnetic anomalies in the north-west part of the survey area.

The features detected by the geophysical survey correspond closely with those observed in Google Earth. It is probable that the features extend further west in the field, and also further north into a grass field adjacent to the River Thames and the 'River of Life' project. Some dating is provided by a small amount (7 sherds) of Roman coarsewares which were collected from the ploughed surface during the survey. Earlier, in July 2015, one of the authors had found a large Samian sherd about 200 metres east of the survey area, near the River Thames and not far from the line of the Roman road.

Discussion

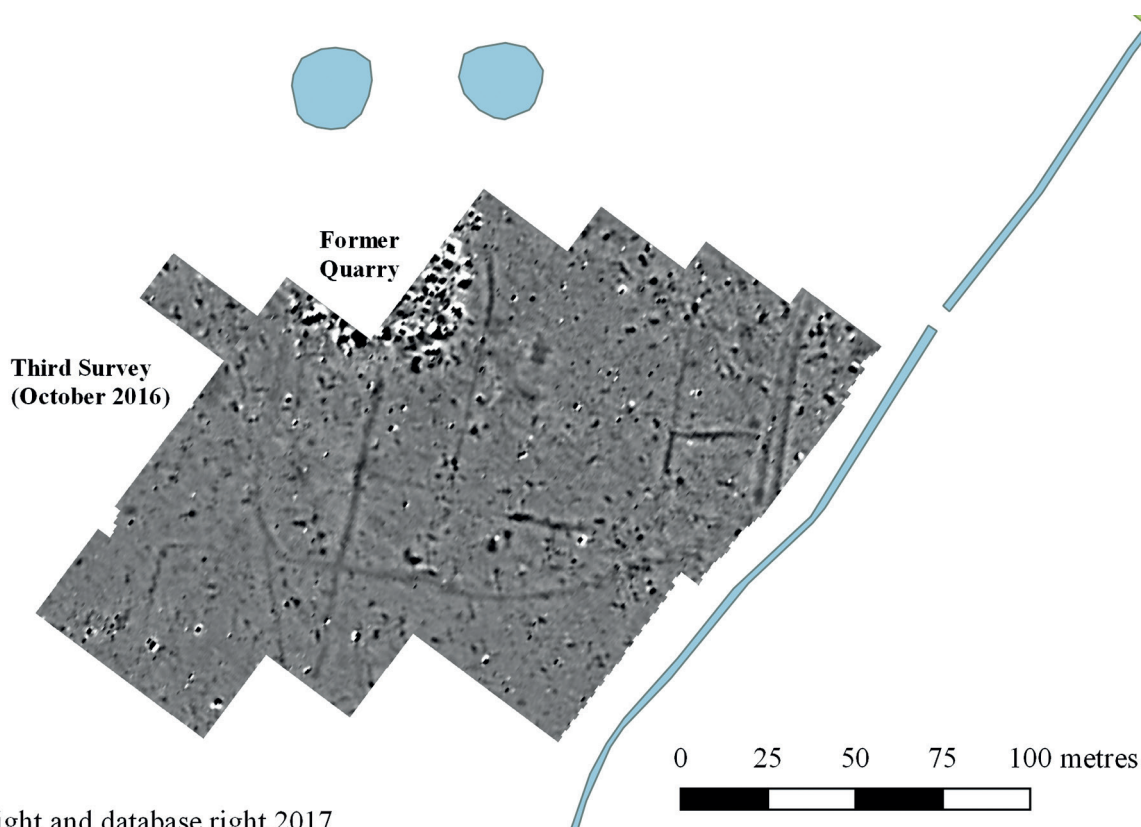
Three sites have been surveyed close to the presumed line of the Roman road leading from Silchester to Dorchester-on-Thames, and very close to the point where the road would have crossed the River Thames. Two of the sites suggest Roman and possibly earlier occupation. The site surveyed in August 2016 lies very close to the road and may have some spatial relationship with it. In contrast, the site surveyed in October 2016 lies further from the road and there do not appear to be any features linking it to the road.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Dr Kerry Lock, Head of Research and Skills, and to Mr Chris Parker, Head of Land Management, at the Earth Trust for permission to conduct these surveys and for their assistance and interest. In addition, we are grateful to Leigh Mellor for his assistance with the second survey and MSc students Margaret Dean, Edrys Lupprian and Derek Chambers for their assistance with the third survey.

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Figure 15: Survey north-west of North Farm

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Witney, Geophysical Survey at Cogges Manor Farm

WILLIAM WINTLE and DAVID GRIFFITHS

Introduction

Oxford University Department for Continuing Education (OUDCE) has a long tradition of archaeological training and research at Cogges Manor Farm in Witney (Rowley and Steiner 1996). Work between 1986 and 1994 included excavation adjacent to the buildings and also building recording and analysis. More recently, in 2013, 2014 and 2017, students from the OUDCE's Post-Graduate Certificate in Archaeology and MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology courses have undertaken field survey training and research in fields to the south and south-west of the manor house (Wintle 2016, Wintle 2017). These field survey courses were directed by David Griffiths and the geophysical surveys were taught by Olaf Bayer, Tony Johnson and William Wintle. This report provides a short summary of the geophysical surveys.

Cogges Manor Farm

Cogges Manor Farm and its associated buildings lie east of the river Windrush and the town of Witney lies to the west. The site contains earthwork features of the early medieval period such as a double moated enclosure which is the location of an earlier manor house. Surviving medieval buildings include the parish church, St Mary the Virgin, and the old Vicarage, which contains elements of a twelfth-century Benedictine priory. To their east lie the buildings of Manor Farm with a manor house and farm buildings located around a yard (Rowley and Steiner 1996, 1).

The farmhouse and surrounding fields are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Oxfordshire County SAM 183). The geophysical survey was performed in compliance with a Section 42 Licence issued by Historic England.

Magnetometer Survey

Figure 16 illustrates the extent of the magnetometer surveys in 2014 and 2017. Between 2014 and 2017 a number of changes took place to the field boundaries. In the south-west the fences subdividing three small fields had been removed to form one large field. The southern field, originally one large field, had been subdivided into three smaller fields.

Starting firstly in the west the 2017 survey revealed three north-south features – the eastern two showing mostly as a negative anomaly and the western mainly as a positive anomaly. Apart from this and some possible features in the west near the river bank, the survey area is largely featureless. There is one intense magnetic anomaly near the centre which is most likely caused by a large piece of ferrous metal, and also a scatter of small ferrous objects.

Turning next to the southern field, most of which was surveyed in 2014. In 2017 five grids were laid out along the



Figure 16: Magnetometer Surveys at Cogges Manor Farm, Witney, Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire

southern boundary, four contiguous grids were placed in the middle part of the new subdivision and one grid was located in the eastern subdivision, adjacent to the resistivity survey. There is strong magnetic interference along the southern boundary and in the eastern grids.

Resistivity Survey

The aim of the 2017 survey was to extend the 2014 resistivity survey south and east over an area which in the nineteenth century had contained buildings and yards. Magnetic survey had recorded considerable disturbance in this area. The survey revealed in the west a band of medium resistance, bounded to its east by a linear band of slightly higher resistance. Further east is a large area of low resistance with an approximately circular feature of low resistance to its north. Further north are areas of medium and high resistance. The eastern third of the survey area is mainly low resistance.

Discussion

The geophysical surveys have provided useful information on possible surviving archaeological features in the fields to the south and south-west of the manor house. In the field to the south of the manor house the magnetic surveys have detected a number of linear features which may represent post-medieval drains, paths or boundaries. Two in the north of the field appear to lead towards a gate in the southern wall and a boundary in the wall. The eastern end of the field has considerable magnetic disturbance and has been investigated by a resistivity survey. This has detected linear and circular features which appear to relate to nineteenth-century activity. Despite the undulations in the south-west of the field there is no positive evidence for a deserted medieval settlement. The features suggest quarrying rather than settlement but no firm conclusions can be drawn. There is a strong metallic signal in the extreme south-west which may be a drain or water pipe. Perhaps the low elevation and the proximity to the river make this an unlikely settlement site.

The fields to the south-west are located on the alluvium of the river Windrush floodplain. The only features detected correspond to three north-south linear depressions. It has been suggested these depressions correspond to medieval or later fishponds, seventeenth- or eighteenth-century water meadow systems, or flax retting ponds, or combinations of the above. The geophysical survey has not provided any further information about their date or function. Other archaeological features may be present but remain undetected, either because there is insufficient magnetic contrast between soil and subsoil or because of the depth of alluvium close to the river.

The survey results and reports have been made available to the Cogges Heritage Trust to help inform the management of the site and its landscape.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to the Director, Mr Colin Shone, and the staff and volunteers of the Cogges Heritage Trust for their assistance and interest in the survey work at Cogges. We are also grateful to Eliza Alqassar and Chris Welch of Historic England for permission to survey a scheduled ancient monument.

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UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER, DEPT. OF ARCHAEOLOGY

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 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 2015 project season, the eighth year of the project, the archaeological fieldwork comprised three main areas. These included: a GPR survey of Ashdown House field; excavation of Trench 17 and 18 within a field to the north of Horsecroft Lane; watching brief of the re-excavation of the village pond at Ashdown House; and the excavation of twelve test pits (24–35). Through the use of these techniques, archaeological features and finds materials were identified dating from the Mesolithic to modern periods. These included the identification and location of a series of archaeological features located within the Ashdown House field, as well as the formation of the village pond within this area. Furthermore, excavations of Trench 17 and 18 within Horsecroft field indicate the location of a stone medieval mill structure, and associated features, likely to be one of the mills mentioned in the Domesday Book record for the settlement. Lastly, the twelve 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 2016 and 2017 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 survey, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and magnetometry; 3D Laser Scanning; full excavation and test pitting at 15 sites in the village. This article will also discuss the work that is proposed to be carried out during the 2018 project season.

3D Laser Scanning: St Denys Church (SU 341 934)

A detailed 3D laser scan (accurate to 3mm) was undertaken within the interior and exterior of St Denys Church, to create an accurate record of the structure as well as to better understand its layout, form, phasing and construction. The data was collected using both a Leica ScanStation P30 instrument and iStar 360° rapid imaging unit, and with survey experts from SCCS, helping to collect and process the data.

Due to the volume of data collected, its interpretation is currently ongoing; however present interpretation has indicated the following aspects: 1. The chancel is on a slightly different angle to the adjacent nave structure. This may indicate an earlier phase of church construction on a slightly different angle, possible related to the 12th C church. 2. Within the first floor bell ringing room of the 13th C tower, holes are still present in its internal walls for the scaffolding structure used during its construction. 3. The significant thickness of the walls at the base of the tower, which may indicate the possibility of an earlier superstructure, now not present, at its top. 4. The presence of a blocked-in doorway between the vestry and the squint. 5. The presence of graffiti carved into the stonework around windows in the porch, and written in pencil/charcoal on the interior walls of the church tower. Further interpretation, including the production of drawings and phasing, will be undertaken over the coming year.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

Upper Green (GPR) (SU 341 938)

The Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey was undertaken in Upper Green, adjacent to Cottage Road and Bow Road. The survey was carried out in 1m transects with readings taken at 2.5cm intervals, to a depth of 4m. A series of modern features were identified, including a tarmac track and buried services. A single archaeological feature was also identified, a curvilinear feature, which runs from east to west across the Green. This feature correlates with the anomaly identified on the Upper Green resistivity survey undertaken in 2012 (Ashby, 2012, 73), and therefore is interpreted as the possible Iron Age ditch enclosure at Upper Green. However, unlike the resistivity data further information can be gained about this feature from the GPR data, including Fig. 17, a V-shaped cut, cut into the top of the Limestone geology, depth 1.70 m from top to base. This gives further evidence that the feature is likely to be a substantial enclosure ditch,

possibly enclosing an Iron Age fortified settlement. Lastly, the GPR data also indicates that the underlying geology, Stanford Formation Limestone, occurs from a depth of about 1.2 m below current ground level.

Church Green (GPR) (SU 342 935)

A GPR survey was undertaken on Church Green, adjacent to the Church and Manor House. The survey was carried out in 1m transects with readings being taken at 2.5cm intervals, to a depth of 4m. The survey data indicated many features within this area, however none of the features identified are thought to be of archaeological interest, and therefore, either associated with modern paths, as seen on the surface, or underlying modern electrical service cables. The reason why no archaeological features are shown on the survey may be due to the reflective nature of the sediments, being of a similar nature in comparison to the surrounding archaeology and geology. Lastly, the survey indicates the top of the underlying Stanford Formation Limestone geology at 1.10 m below current ground surface.

Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field (Magnetometry) (SU 335 937)

A magnetometry survey was undertaken within the norther area of the Queen Elizabeth II Playing field, at the junction of the A417 and Cottage Road. The survey was carried out in 1m traverses with readings being taken at 0.25 m intervals, with about one third of the field surveyed. A single curvilinear ditch was identified in the in the North West corner of the field, thought to be prehistoric in date. However, few features were identified, apart from a modern footpath, on the survey plot, as it is thought that modern ploughing has removed most of the other underlying archaeology within the area surveyed.

EXCAVATIONS

Ashdown House (Trench 19) (SU 343 934)

Trench 19 was excavated within the paddock of Ashdown House, adjacent to the High Street and close to Church Green. The trench was excavated to examine two main areas: 1. a series of anomalies identified on the resistivity survey undertaken in 2012; 2. the reason for the height difference between the field and adjacent road. Trench 19 was 10 m long by 2 m wide, and at right angles to the adjacent wall and road.

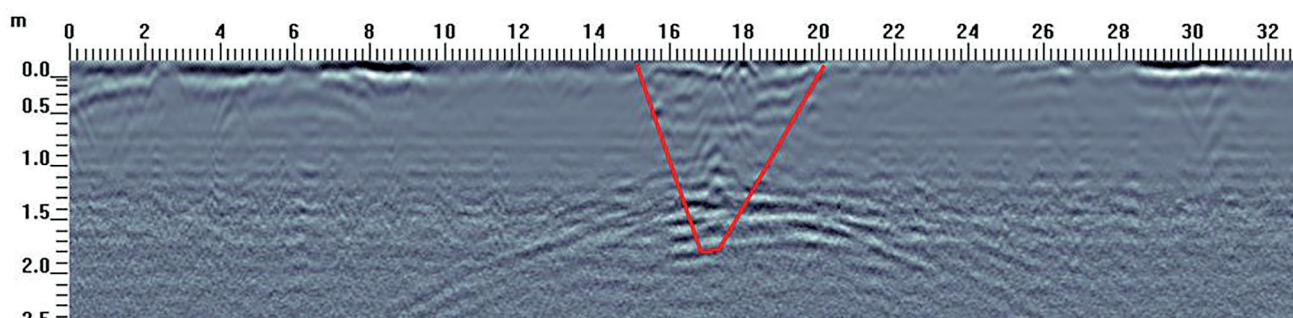


Figure 17: A pseudo-section from the GPR data collected from Upper Green, showing the cut and fill of the possible Iron Age ditch enclosure (red line).

Oxfordshire

The excavation of Trench 19 has indicated a series of medieval and possible earlier structures located in this area and facing the road. However, these were overlaying by later phases of activity. Phase 12 formed the modern topsoil and turf, with phase 11 formed of a modern cut and fill feature related to a steel and timber ground anchor, thought to relate to a removed telegraph pole. This overlaid phase 10, formed of a post medieval soil deposit, possibly related to the field of the Manor House farm land during this period. Two significant finds were recovered from this layer: 1. a fragment of chainmail which may relate to civil war or earlier post medieval activity on the site; 2. a fragment of a stone casting mould, thought to be medieval in date. This overlaid phase 9, a linear cut and fill ditch feature running parallel with the adjacent boundary wall, and may relate to its construction. Finds material recovered from this feature included a cat skeleton.

Phase 9, was found to cut through a limestone cobbled surface which formed phase 8 of the activity on the site. From pottery recovered, it indicates the surface dates to the later medieval period. This limestone surface was found to overlay a series of four phases of cut features, possibly related to structures fronting the adjacent road (Fig.18). The first, phase 7, was a large cut linear feature, containing two fills and 0.60m in depth. A large quantity (2.8kg) of burnt daub was recovered from its fills, as well as a quantity of medieval pottery. Taking this into account, as well as its location, this feature is thought to relate to a possible medieval building fronting the road, and terraced into the adjacent slope. This was found to cut through phase 6 (the second cut feature); an earlier medieval cut and fill feature also fronting the road. This was formed of a large cut and fill, 0.23m deep, also found to date to the medieval period through pottery remains, however predating the feature identified in phase 6. Due to the feature's location and the finds material recovered from it, as well as its depth, it is thought to form a medieval roadside ditch.

Phase 5 formed the third cut feature facing the road, a large cut 0.30m deep, also indicated to date to the medieval period through the finds material recovered, however predating the feature seen in phase 6. The finds material included a large fragment of iron slag (1.5kg), indicating significant iron working in the area. This feature is interpreted as either relating to an early construction phase of the road, or the base of a roadside building, terraced into the adjacent geology. Phase 4 forms the fourth, and earliest of the four phases of



Figure 18: Intercutting features in Trench 19

linear cut feature facing the road and was found to be 0.48m in depth, and contain two fills. Pottery recovered from the feature dates to the medieval period and due to its location adjacent to the present road, and its depth, it is interpreted as a possible an early phase medieval roadside ditch, which forms the earliest phase of these intercutting features close to and fronting the road.

Phases 3 and 2 form two timber framed post hole structures found to cut into the underlying geology, located in the main area of the trench (Fig. 19). The later of these two structures (phase 3) was formed of five post holes within the trench, forming the gable end of a large timber framed building running parallel to the adjacent road and 4.6m in width. The length of the building was unable to be determined as it extended outside of the trench. The earlier of these two structures (phase 2) was also found to be formed of five post holes within the trench. Unlike the later structure, this was found to be aligned at a 45° angle to the adjacent road. The structure is estimated to be at least 4.80m by 4.20m in size. No datable finds material was recovered from any of the post holes, from either the phase 3 or 2 structures, and therefore it is difficult to determine a date for their construction. However, due to their form, construction and location, they are thought to be either Saxon or possibly Roman in date. These features, as well as most of those fronting the road were found to cut into phase 1 of the site, formed of the underlying geology, Stanford Formation Limestone. The formation of the geology is also important in understanding the site's formation, as within the majority of the trench the



Figure 19: Postholes in Trench 19

top of the underlying geology was 0.40m below current ground surface. This is significantly higher than the areas surrounding it, where the underlying geology is reached at between 1m to 2m below this height.

From the archaeology within this trench it can be demonstrated that there is significant evidence for a number of features and structures located within this area of the village, within the present Ashdown House paddock. This includes four phases of overlying structures and ditches fronting the current adjacent road and dating to the medieval period, including at least one major medieval structure, likely to be a shop or craft building, which is terraced into the adjacent underlying geology. Furthermore, evidence has also been presented indicating the presence of two timber framed post whole structures, likely to be Saxon or possibly Roman in date. These structures indicate that historically this was an urbanised part of the settlement during both the Saxon and medieval periods, in comparison to its current use as a pasture field. However, further work is needed to better understand the structures within this area of the settlement. Lastly, it is important to note the high area of solid geology in this field, with the adjacent road possibly following a natural terrace, which has later been enhanced during the construction of the road and other related structures as indicated within this trench.

Test Pitting (test pits 36 to 50)

During the 2016 and 2017 project seasons, 15 test pits were dug in the gardens of properties within the modern village settlement. This included TP 36 and 37 dug on Church

Green in the centre of the village as part of the Festival of British Archaeology, 2016 event and TP 43 and 44 dug on Upper Green, in the northern area of the village. These test pits were located, based on permission, available access and space for the test pit and spoil heap. Each test pit was 1 m square and was dug in 0.10 m spits to the depth of either the natural geology or 1 m, dependent on which was reached first.

The pottery remains from the test pits enabled a large amount of information to be gained about the changing nature of the settlement over time, as seen in Table 1 (below). The table indicates that all the test pits contained post medieval and modern pottery, apart from test pit 50. The pottery evidence also suggests the location of medieval activity within the settlement, with medieval pottery being recovered from all test pits (apart from TP50). It should also be noted that a large quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from TP 37 (35 sherds), TP 46 (76 sherds) and TP 49 (39 sherds). These test pits were excavated in: the northern area of Church Green, possibly indicating the location of the medieval market area (TP 37); and possible medieval settlement activity at the rear of burgess plots adjacent to Frogmore Lane, and Marlborough Lane. It should also be noted that TP 36, excavated on the western area of Church Green, little medieval pottery was recovered, possibly due to later disturbance as TP 36 indicted a large post medieval limestone surface within this area of the Green. Saxon pottery was also recovered, from test pits 37, 38, 41 and 46 to 49 indicating Saxon settlement activity within the vicinity of Church Green, the Manor House (Manor Green), Upper

ID	TP Number	Bronze Age Pot Quantity	Iron Age Pot Quantity	Roman Pot Quantity	Saxon Pot Quantity	Medieval Pot Quantity	Post Medieval Pot Quantity
36	36	0	0	0	0	2	24
37	37	0	0	11	1	35	60
38	38	0	0	4	3	13	2
39	39	0	0	1	0	1	9
40	40	0	0	9	0	2	8
41	41	0	0	2	2	11	3
42	42	0	0	0	0	1	1
43	43	0	4	11	0	0	4
44	44	0	0	1	0	3	30
45	45	0	0	0	0	10	2
46	46	0	0	7	2	76	10
47	47	0	0	3	2	0	4
48	48	0	0	26	2	25	8
49	49	3	0	25	2	39	8
50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Table shows the quantities of pottery by period recovered from each test pit excavated in 2016 and 2017, from Stanford in the Vale.

Oxfordshire

Green and the High Street, close to Cox's Hall, including 8th C grass tempered ware. Roman pottery was recovered from all test pits apart from TP 36, 42, 45 and 50, with the largest quantities recovered from test pits adjacent to Marlborough Lane. It should be noted that the Roman pottery recovered from TP 37, may indicate continued use of Church Green, possibly as a market area, during this earlier period.

A large quantity of flint material, both worked and debitage, was also recovered from these test pits. This material dates from the Mesolithic period with a large quantity of microliths, as well as a large quantity of Neolithic flint material also being recovered from test pits across the village. This includes a series of Neolithic blades and scrapers recovered from TP 36, 37 and 41, indicating the presence of Neolithic activity within the areas of Church Green and Cox's Hall. Furthermore, a large quantity of debitage and Neolithic worked flint was found at the base of TP43 (Upper Green) which is interpreted as a flint working area. Also, a single barbed and tanged, beaker period, flint arrow head was found within TP48, adjacent to Marlborough Lane. Significantly, three sherds of Bronze Age pottery were also found in an adjacent test pit (TP 49), in this area, which is the only Bronze Age pottery found in the village to date. Bronze Age worked flint material was also recovered from TP 37, 38 and 40 (Church Green, Manor Green and Manor Farm) indicating activity of this period occurring within the area. Lastly, 4 sherds of late Iron Age pottery was found in TP 43 at Upper Green, which is the only Iron Age pottery found at Stanford to date, and therefor may indicate Iron Age activity in this area of the modern village.

Other finds material recovered from the test pits included a large quantity of animal bone mainly composed of sheep and cattle but also including pig, bird, and deer. A quantity of both iron and glass slag was also recovered, mostly dating to the post medieval to modern periods. However, a small quantity of both iron and glass slag was recovered from TP 37 and 41 thought to date to the medieval period, which may indicate industrial activities being undertaken within these areas of the settlement (Church Green and Cox's Hall) during this period. Further artefacts have also been recovered from all test pits, including metal finds dating to the post medieval to modern periods, as well as clay pipe fragments, 17th to 19th centuries. Small finds were also recovered from these test pits including: an 1861 Cu alloy coin and Cu alloy furniture handle fitting recovered from TP 36; a lead object, possibly medieval in date, an iron knife, bone button and stone marble, from TP 37, all of which were recovered from the two test pits dug on Church Green; the end of an iron, medieval, stone working chisel from TP 46.

Lastly, a series of features and structures were also identified within the 15 test pits excavated. This includes: a rammed limestone surface found at the base of TP 36, possibly a post medieval area of hard standing located on Church Green; a post hole and ditch feature or structure related cut feature, both post medieval in date, found within TP 37 on Church Green; a modern soak-away in TP 38; a limestone surface possibly related to WW2 or post medieval activity in the area of TP 39 (Joyces Road); and two intercutting gullies, with the later one dating to the medieval period, found at the base of TP 41; a retaining wall, bank and limestone surface, forming a medieval pound which correlates with a rectangular earthwork on Upper Green, (TP 43); a post medieval land drain in the base of TP44;

a medieval inner ditch in the base of TP45; and a modern path found in TP49. However, at the base of TP 40 the most significant cut feature was identified, a curvilinear gully dating to the Roman period. This feature is significant as it indicates early Roman settlement activity on the outskirts of the current village, close to Manor Farm, where habitation of this date has previously been unknown. TP 40 also indicates, by the end of the Roman period and into the later periods this area went out of use and is likely to form marshland, with alluvial deposits seen (also seen in TP 29, Horse and Jockey Pub), and thereby the early Roman settlement in this area abandoned at this time.

Summary of Data

From the data presented above, the archaeology within the village can be seen to be extremely important and dates from the Mesolithic to modern periods. The data collected from the 2016 and 2017 project seasons have increased our knowledge of Stanford in the Vale's history during the Iron Age, Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval to modern periods.

The data indicates the presence of large quantities of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age high quality worked flint material from across the settlement, indicating that people during these periods were present, as well as most likely settling from the Neolithic onwards, within the vicinity of the modern village. Pottery also indicates both Bronze Age activity in the southern area of the settlement, adjacent to the River Ock, and Iron Age activity in the northern area, at Upper Green.

From the 2016 and 2017 data, further evidence can also be seen for the Roman settlement of Stanford. This includes quantities of Roman pottery found within test pitting throughout the settlement, as well as the significant gully feature found at the base of TP 40, demonstrating new evidence for Roman habitation located to the west of the A417. Further evidence for the Saxon settlement has also been indicated, mainly through pottery from test pitting, however Trench 19 has also indicated the location of two phases of possible large timber framed buildings located in the area of Ashdown House paddock during this period.

The 2016 and 2017 fieldwork has also presented further evidence for medieval occupation within the settlement. This includes four phases of medieval cut features, including possible buildings fronting the road, as seen in Trench 19, as well as gully features in the area of Cox's Hall, (TP 41) and in the area of Frogmore Lane (TP46), both possibly related to burgess plots in these areas. Also the location of the medieval pound has been seen on Upper Green, formed of an earthen back with stone retaining wall. A large quantity of medieval pottery has also been recovered from test pitting indicating the further extent of the medieval settlement during this period, as well as industrial processes and trading within the centre of the settlement including iron working and market trading. Laser Scanning and building recording of the church has also shone further light on the construction and form of the church structure in the centre of the settlement, with further interpretation of this data to be carried out over the coming months.

Lastly, from the post medieval and modern periods, evidence has also been unearthed for features located on Church Green, from these periods including a rammed limestone surface and a possible ditch feature, indicating the

Green's use during these later times. Evidence has also been presented from Trench 19 for Civil War activities, test pitting indicating possible WW2 activities on Joyces Road and modern features on Upper Green (land drain) and a modern garden path at Marlborough Lane. Lastly, the presence of interchangeable geology underlying the current settlement has been found, including the presence of alluvial deposits.

Summary of Project to Date

Through the work undertaken on the project since 2008, large quantities of archaeological remains, dating from the Mesolithic period to the modern day, have been unearthed. These include Mesolithic and Bronze Age flint from around the village, recovered from both test pitting and trenching work, as well as the two Neolithic features identified, one close to Upper Green in the north of the settlement, and the other close to the River Ock in the south. This may indicate a split settlement during this period; however it also indicates the earliest settlement activity underlying the village. Further evidence for Neolithic activity can also be seen from the volume of worked flint material from this date recovered from trenching and test pitting throughout the village. The presence of Bronze Age pottery at the southern end of the village, as well as beaker period flint material, suggests that the settlement expanded from the southern Neolithic settlement, spreading north towards the northern one, forming a single settlement. Evidence has also been indicated for a significantly sized prehistoric enclosure with deep ditch located in the north of the settlement, partially located on Upper Green. Due to its size, shape and form, as well as the only Iron Age pottery being found within this area of the modern village, this feature gives the only evidence for Iron Age activity underlying the settlement.

The Roman settlement is then indicated as being formed of a fortified ditch enclosure with the High Street running through its centre and a vicus in the vicinity of Chapel Road. Recent evidence also suggests an early Roman settlement located to the west of the A417, prior to it becoming marshland later in the period. The data then indicates that the settlement grew further during both the Saxon and medieval periods, with large medieval stone buildings being excavated within the grounds of Prior's Farm (Ashby, 2011), Ashdown House, Cox's Hall and Horsecroft field, and identified in areas where geophysical work has been undertaken. This includes 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, shops and industrial buildings fronting the High Street and adjacent roads, and terraced into the underlying geology, multiple phasing of Church construction, including the identification of stone foundations for the Saxon and 12th C church, a large two phase stone medieval mill in the field adjacent to Horsecroft lane, and a series of large timber framed (post hole built) structures in the central area of the settlement, likely Saxon in date.

Furthermore, the project has also demonstrated that Stanford in the Vale has shifted over time: the Roman settlement located mainly centred around the present High Street, but also running towards Upper Green to the west of the A417. The Saxon settlement located more towards the centre and north of the current settlement, stretching up to Upper Green, and down to the Cox's Hall area, and surrounding both the church and Manor House, and the

medieval settlement spreading more than 600 metres further south than at present. Due to the medieval settlement being nearly twice the size of the modern village of Stanford in the Vale, and due to the quantity of craft and industrial activities undertaken within the settlement during this period, the evidence indicates a high likelihood that the settlement was a market town at this time. Also, evidence has been identified for the post medieval settlement, including structures within the brick works on Bow Road and Civil War activities, as well as evidence for structures associated with Shellingford airfield during WW2.

However, even though a great deal of information has been identified using the techniques utilised during the 2016 and 2017 seasons, 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 Iron Age and Roman settlements, and also to better understand the reasons why the medieval settlement of Stanford in the Vale shrunk from a town into a village during the late medieval period.

Aims of 2018 Excavations

During the 2018 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 be further utilised where suitable sites are identified and magnetometry will be used within large fields on the edge of the current settlement. This work will also include an extensive GPR survey of the Millennium Green.

Secondly, further full excavations will be undertaken in areas of archaeological interest identified through the geophysical survey results. This is likely to include the excavation of the possible Iron Age enclosure identified on the Upper Green GPR survey data, to date the underlying archaeological remains.

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. This will include the excavation of two test pits on Millennium Greens.

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I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations who have helped me during the 2016 and 2017 project seasons. 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, and to Alan Bond for his donation to the project. I would also like to thank the main archaeologists who have helped me carry out the fieldwork and post excavation on the project, including: Dave Grant, Dr Katie Tucker, Briony Lalor, Nathalie Barrett, Giles

Oxfordshire

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WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Bicester to East Claydon Cable Installation

(SP 59690 23771 to SP 75424 26112)

A. ZOCHOWSKI

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a watching brief on the installation of 18km of underground cable between the Bicester Sub Station, Oxfordshire, and East Claydon, Buckinghamshire. Previously known ridge and furrow was observed near the village of Twyford and a modern rubbish pit was encountered to the west of Steeple Claydon.

Burford, The Old Brewery Yard (SP 25020 12250)

R. WILLIAMS

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief at The Old Brewery Yard, Burford during works associated with residential redevelopment following demolition of the existing building. A deposit of modern made ground was 1.5m thick and the natural geology beneath the made ground had been severely truncated by previous construction. There is minimal potential for archaeological survival.

Chinnor, Land at Crowell Road (SP 74925 00262)

W. SANTAMARIA

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out evaluation on land at Crowell Road, Chinnor in advance of redevelopment for housing. Twelve trenches revealed

boundary and drainage ditches along with settlement related rubbish pits dating from the Late Iron Age/Romano British to the medieval period. Undated features were also recorded, and three small abraded sherds of Beaker attested to residual Bronze Age activity. The features recorded within the evaluation support the historic background of the site on the border between agricultural and settlement activity.

Henley-on-Thames, Land south of Fair Mile

(SU 75329 83465)

T. BLENCOWE

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 3.74ha parcel of land comprising excavation of seven trenches. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered, confirming the low potential of the site as previously indicated by desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and a watching brief on the site.

Henley-on-Thames, Sheephouse Farm, Reading Road

(SU 76911 81030)

J. SANIGAR

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake evaluation of a 3.3ha parcel of land located at Sheephouse Farm, Henley-on-Thames ahead of redevelopment. Eleven trenches revealed that the site had been partially subject to landscaping and raising of the ground surface. In some areas, layers of modern made ground were over 2m deep. Two residual prehistoric flint flakes were recovered from subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

Marcham, 6 Mill Road (SU 45450 96580)

B. DAVIS

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a watching brief during groundworks associated with the demolition of existing outbuildings, the conversion of an existing workshop into a dwelling, and the erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings. Underlying natural limestone deposits were identified in all monitored areas. The remains of a possible stone wall were recorded which may represent a post-medieval agricultural building or boundaries. Pottery recovered from the topsoil has been dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods, and was likely deposited as a result of manuring. The absence of archaeological remains suggests that the site lay at some distance from the focus of settlement at Marcham.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

1. The submitted article should follow the format of South Midlands Archaeology. That is:
name of the County followed by
name of the organisation (if applicable) followed by
name of the writer or compiler followed by
body of the article with suitable headings and sub-headings.
2. If the article consists of many separate site reports, each site should be reported as follows:
name of the site followed by
grid reference (e.g. SP 1234 5678 [alphabetic prefix must be included]) followed by
name of the person who wrote the site report followed by individual site report with suitable headings and sub-headings.
3. One purpose of SMA is to act as a record of the work carried out in the area; this does not mean that it need be dull. Contributors are asked to be as interesting as possible for the many members of CBA South Midlands who are not archaeologists but who have a lively interest in the past.
4. If, during an investigation, nothing was found, don't be afraid to say so in simple terms. **Always include the reason for the investigation.**
5. When the article is submitted please ensure that all text (including captions) and pictures, as separate files, are included and clearly identified.
6. The preferred method for receiving text is as a Rich Text File (rtf extension) sent by email to: nick.crank@milton-keynes.gov.uk with a subject of "SMA contribution". Please do not send documents with embedded pictures. Each illustration must be a separate file in bmp, jpeg or tiff format. If you are unable to comply with the above please contact the Editor. (Nick Crank – 01908 254259 or at the above email address).
7. Pictures and diagrams should be of the highest possible quality; the printed version can be no better than that submitted.
8. Proofs will not be sent to contributors.
9. Contributors are responsible for the accuracy of their data.
10. Please note that charges are as follows: Professional/commercial – 1 free page, remainder charged at £20/page; Amateur group – 2 free pages, remainder charged at £20/page. The submission of an article will be taken as an agreement to pay the charge. Invoices will be sent out during the summer and payment is expected prior to publication in the autumn.

NAC

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