

SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2018.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 49.

Firstly, thanks this year to Albion Archaeology for providing the images and sponsoring the front and back covers. Once again this edition begins with a colourful selection of the many treasures reported to the region's Finds Liaison Officers. Thanks again 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 also find annual round-ups from the archaeologists for Bedford Borough, Bucks County, Milton Keynes and Oxford City Councils of interest.

This edition also features a number of longer illustrated notes and articles including: Albion Archaeology's community-led dig in Ampthill Great Park; Chess Valley's excavation of a scheduled moated site at Frith Hill; MOLA Northampton's investigation of Canons Ashby House; Bronze Age activity in Wallingford uncovered by Cotswold Archaeology; and Winchester University's multi-disciplinary project at Stanford in the Vale.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who sent in reports and ask that they, and anyone else, send in articles for SMA 50. Copy date is 31st March 2020; please refer to the Notes for Contributors (back page).

Nick Crank
Editor

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

On this site are:

Scanned copies of SMA 1–47

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:

Roman square-shaped drying oven discovered at Houghton Regis North 1, Bedfordshire

Back cover:

Volunteers and Albion Archaeology staff at Ampthill Great Park Community Excavation

CONFERENCES IN 2018

SPRING CONFERENCE

Buckinghamshire Archaeological Review

Sunday 15th April 2018 – Winslow Public Hall, Winslow, Buckinghamshire

10:35am Susan Fern: Site Director

A community in action: excavating the Maids Moreton Mound

11:20am David Ingham: Project Officer (Albion Archaeology)

An Anglo-Saxon settlement at Kickles Farm, Newport Pagnell

11:50am Andrew Manning: Senior Project Manager (Wessex Archaeology)

Berry Hill Farm, Taplow. Tales from the gravel: a stunning multi-period rural settlement with early prehistoric activity ... and a cow

LUNCH

1:40pm Sandy Kidd: Principal Archaeology Advisor (GLAAS) and **Eliza Alqassar:**

Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeology Officer

Joining the dots: research into the landscape history of the Icknield Belt around Aylesbury

2:25pm Claire de Carle: Project Co-ordinator

The work of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research & Recording Group

TEA

3:40pm Doug Stuckey: Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society's Active Archaeology Group

Keeping the Grand Junction afloat

4:25pm Gary Marshall: National Trust Archaeologist

'This glaring searchlight': recovering the remains of Lord Astor's generator house at Cliveden

AUTUMN CONFERENCE AND AGM

Buildings Archaeology in the South Midlands

Sunday 28th October 2018 – Haynes Village Hall, 25 Northwood End Rd, Haynes, Bedford, MK45 3QB

10:40am Paul Brown: Chairman, Leighton Buzzard & District Archaeological & Historical Society

The oldest house in town? Investigating the past inhabitants and construction of Leighton Buzzard's Tudor House.

11:25am Tim Upson-Smith and Amir Bassir: Historic Buildings Officer, MOLA Northampton

Recent findings at Canons Ashby House and reinterpretation of its development

LUNCH

1:20pm CBA South Midlands AGM

1:35pm Bob Zeepvat: Principal Archaeologist, Bancroft Heritage Services

tbc

2:20pm Tom Gibb: Partner, Haverstock

Brackley Town Hall: restoration of an 18th-century market hall

TEA

3:30pm Tim Skelton: Chairman, Milton Keynes Forum

It's all about the axe-head: the modern archaeology of Milton Keynes

4:00pm Brian Giggins: Building historian

The Historic Towcester Survey

THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN THE SOUTH MIDLANDS 2018

By ANNI BYARD. With contributions from DOT BOUGHTON, SUSHEELA BURFORD, AMY DOWNES, MATTHEW FITTOCK, SAM MOORHEAD, JOHN NAYLOR, JOE REY, ROD TREVASKUS and ARWEN WOOD.

The British Museum releases the Treasure Annual Report on behalf of the government towards the end of each year. In December 2018 (releasing the report for 2017), Heritage Minister Michael Ellis announced the first major review of the Treasure Act in 15 years following a 'record-breaking' year of discoveries (with a total of 1,267 treasure cases reported); in the 20 years since the Treasure Act was enacted, there has been an 1,500% increase in the reporting of such finds. The minister said "The search for buried treasure has captivated people's imagination for centuries. And in recent years the number of finds has continued to increase. However some outstanding artefacts of great archaeological and cultural importance have been lost to private sellers simply because they do not meet the current criteria for treasure. These new proposals will help our museums acquire these treasures and make it harder for nationally important finds to be sold for personal profit." The consultation closed at the end of April 2019. Any amendments will require secondary legislation and will have to be approved by both Houses of Parliament.

A total of 87 potential treasure cases were reported across the four South Midland counties in 2018, 10 less than in 2017. For non-treasure finds 71,662 individual artefacts were recorded in 50,743 records across England and Wales; a reduction of c. 10% on the previous year. Across the four South Midlands counties 6,571 individual objects were recorded on the PAS database, a 6% increase on 2017. By period the finds break down as the following:

	Beds	Bucks	Northants	Oxen	Total
Palaeolithic	0	1	0	3	4
Mesolithic	3	1	67	29	100
Neolithic	4	4	51	32	91
Bronze Age	2	18	66	83	169
Iron Age	12	28	17	105	162
Roman	197	591	461	2322	3571
Early-medieval	11	48	21	90	170
Medieval	105	380	222	450	1157
Post-medieval	69	280	231	453	1033
Modern	1	1	8	18	28
Unknown	3	15	5	63	86
Total	407	1367	1149	3648	6571

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 2018 (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. PUBLIC-470702).

Bedfordshire

Total objects = 407; Treasure cases: = 8



Figure 1: Bronze Age spearhead from Cople (BH-FB08EE).

Discovered back in 1982 but only recently offered for recording, this complete cast copper-alloy socketed spear dates to the Acton Park II – Penard phase of the Middle Bronze Age (c. 1500–1250 BC). The spear has a leaf-shaped blade and bevelled blade wings, both of which are worn



Figure 2: Roman coin from Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley (PUBLIC-470702)

Portable Antiquities Scheme

and damaged. The blade has a central rib running from tip to base, and wings that gradually expand before tapering inwards to connect to the socketed shaft. The shaft, which is circular in section, increases in diameter towards the open-ended terminal and has an undrilled side-loop halfway along each side. The spear measures 116mm in length while the internal diameter of the socket is a maximum of 17mm. The spear weighs 68.8 grams.

The PAS database enables individuals to record their own finds without having to visit a FLO. One 'self-recorder' discovered and recorded this copper-alloy Roman radiate of Carausius, dating to the period AD 286–293 (Reece Period 14). The reverse legend is unclear: it is possibly (PA?)(X?)(A?)(VG?) or (LI?)(T?)(I?) (AV?)[G?] – This might be a blundered version of the LITIT AVG series. The type is Providentia standing left, holding globe and cornucopiae. The style of the obverse suggests it is quite possibly an official issue from an 'Unattributed Mint'. This coin is included in Sam Moorhead's Corpus for RIC, there being no other similar example recorded. When the new RIC volume on Carausius is complete, this coin might be better understood.

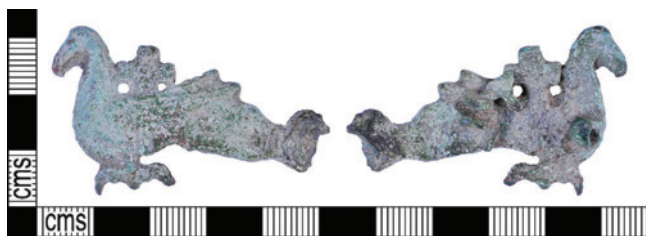


Figure 3: Early-medieval brooch from Pulloxhill (BH-A3BA59)

Cross-on-bird brooches are a relatively uncommon type of brooch, but examples are recorded from England as well as Denmark, Germany and France. This incomplete copper alloy example dates to the middle Early-Medieval period (AD 750–850).

The bird is depicted in profile facing left. A Greek cross with a ring and dot in the centre projects upwards behind the head from the centre of the bird's back. Both side arms of the cross are connected to the body, forming two circular perforations beneath. The end of the bird's tail, which consists of moulded ribbing, extends to a broken circular-shaped plate. The feet of the bird project from the underside of the body and consist of opposing bent pointed talons facing away from each other. The underside of the brooch is undecorated. The brooch is mostly intact with only part of the tail and the pin on the reverse missing. Other copper-alloy cross-on-bird brooches on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database include SF-BCC403, SF-7B3CA5 and BERK-5DED86, while silver and gilded silver examples are also recorded (KENT-9F6987 and SUSS-44F203 respectively).

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 probably lost, for and during Viking re-enactment. The interlace decoration on the silver strap end is not an exact replica from a known strap end but was made up based on known Jelling 'dragon-style' decorated metalwork by the actor and Viking reenactor Alban Depper.



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

The type of decoration was used on Scandinavian or Anglo-Scandinavian metalwork in the 10th century and there are many examples on the PAS database. An exact parallel to that recorded here is shown at: <http://www.vikingjewelry.com/fittings.php>. A similar modern 'strap end' was found in a churchyard in Jericho, Oxford, and may have been made as a re-enactment piece, or by an enthusiast and left in the churchyard (BERK-06E444).

Buckinghamshire

Total objects = 1367; Treasure cases: = 30

This complete copper alloy scabbard chape dates to the Late Bronze Age, c. 1150 – 800 BC. The chape is sub triangular in shape with a lozenge-shaped cross section. At the open end the chape curves upwards into two convex arms, creating a crescent shape. The outside edges curve down gradually to half way down the chape before narrowing at a steeper angle. The chape terminates with a rounded knop, at the end of which is a circular hole and rivet to attach the knop. Running down the centre of the chape on both sides is a raised mid-rib. To the right of the rib roughly in the centre is a circular perforation, probably for a rivet. The inside of the chape is hollow. The chape has a light green patina, with patches of brown and bronze showing through. Similar scabbard chapes were found as part of the Guilsfield hoard and have been dated to the Late Bronze Age. Similar records on the database include GLO-7C86FA and SOMDOR-9ADF54.



Figure 5: Bronze Age scabbard chape from Slapton (BUC-E3E35D)



Figure 6: Iron Age brooch from Gayhurst (BUC-2C800C)

Parallels for this unusual La Tène III One Piece brooch have been found in contexts dating back as far as 90 -50 BC, although they are more commonly found in later 1st century BC contexts. At the head of the brooch is the spring with three of the four coils surviving. The bow extends outwards from the spring, then curves at ninety degrees before narrowing to a worn break at the foot. Below the curve there is moulded decoration consisting of a bulbous boss flanked by two raised collars. At the foot of the brooch the incomplete openwork catch plate projects out from the reverse; it is sub rectangular in cross section and worn. The brooch has a dark green patina. It measures 45.9mm in length, 9.9mm in width, and weighs 5.47g. A similar brooch is illustrated in Mackreth (2011, chapter 2 part 1, 1.b1, number 3762) and in Hattatt (2000:152, specifically numbers 751 and 748). A similar brooch on the database is LIN-92B4C0.

A rare survival in ploughsoil, this copper alloy buckle and plate is of late Roman date (c. AD 350–450). The buckle is D shaped in plan with two horse's heads projecting from the outer loop, both 'back-to-back' and facing in different directions. Each head is decorated with incised lines depicting the horses' features; a ring for an eye and C-shapes



Figure 7: Late Roman buckle from Quinton (BUC-E114D2)

running down the mane and neck. The mouth is open in a V shape. The remaining loop is decorated with a motif of pellets and double lines. Between the heads is a triangular-moulded groove for the pin rest (the pin is intact) while the plate bar is narrowed.

The buckle plate is damaged but is formed of a single sheet of copper alloy that wraps round the pin bar creating two plates. The outer surface of the top plate has incised linear and geometric decoration consisting of a square between two lozenges. Each shape has incised circular motifs on each corner and is decorated internally with cross-hatching. Running around the edge of the buckle plate is a border of incised 'C's. At the attachment end of the buckle plate are two copper alloy rivets securing the two halves of the plate together; there is no trace of the strap within. The reverse of the plate is undecorated.

A buckle similar to this was found in a woman's grave in Dorchester, Oxon (Hawkes and Dunning 1961:2, fig. 16 and page 46, figure 15a). Buckles such as this are often associated with the late Roman military and settlers from the Continent. Another complete example recorded on the PAS database is BERK-EB3477 from South Leigh in Oxfordshire.

Found on Dorney Common while walking a dog, this rather amusing post medieval pipe tamper depicts a squatting female with skirt pulled up, apparently urinating. The figure is well moulded; the woman has an elaborate hair style or bonnet and a prominent bust line. The folds of her skirt are held up by her right hand at the front and left hand at the rear. Beneath her feet, the object extends into a cylindrical tamper, flaring from the figurine handle to the flat tamping end.

This object falls under the category of bawdy objects, mainly pipe tampers, which were no doubt used to titillate and amuse. Bawdy scenes were important features of eighteenth-century popular art, literature, and material culture. A very similar example is NLM-4EF087 and HAMP-63CDA1 is also a good parallel. In the latter record, Julie Cassidy, former Northants FLO, comments "There were no public lavatories and no underwear in 17th century England, so squatting in the street was not an unusual sight. Pepys mentions it (in disgust) asking the government to legislate against it".



Figure 8: Post-medieval pipe tamper form Dorney (SWYOR-C3DE5C)

while the socketed end flares into an undecorated collar of rectangular section. The striking face of the hammer is flat and shows evidence of use/wear.

Burgess (1968) describes two socketed hammers from the Kilnhurst hoard in Yorkshire, one short and the other long which is similar to the example here. Early examples tend to be plain with no collar, whereas later examples have collars and moulding. The example described here is more likely a later example in the Penard Phase. Burgess also parallels Penard metalwork to continental examples and in particular western France.



Figure 10: Early-medieval strap end from Crick (NARC-0FF365)

Northamptonshire

Total objects = 1151; Treasure cases: = 17



Figure 9: Bronze Age socketed hammer from Hartwell (NARC-5B738E)

The earliest cast bronze hammers were created in the Middle Bronze Age Taunton metalwork phase however hammer finds are more defined in Late Bronze Age hoard discoveries, and this example from Hartwell fits into the later dating (1000–800 BC) of the Penard phase (c1200–950BC). The hammer is rectangular in cross-section and a tapering sub-rectangular shape in plan. The sides are slightly bevelled

This complete copper alloy strap end of Thomas Class E, Type 1 is of early-medieval date (AD 875–1100). The object is of openwork design in the Winchester style, with both zoomorphic and ‘inhabited’ plant-scroll decoration. Being U-shaped in plan and moulded in the round, the strap end has a recessed flat end with three circular rivet holes spaced equally along it. The moulded decoration takes the form of two vertically-arranged abstract birds facing each other with a plant of three stems between. Each bird’s ‘snout’ curves upwards to form the lower outer edge of the frame. The remaining central upper portion depicts the sub-ovate head of a serpent or bird with two curvilinear plant stems above and beyond the recessed portion. Thomas (2004) states that the distribution of this class of strap-end suggests a focus for the Winchester style in the South and South East. A similar example is illustrated in (Griffiths et al 2007: 64, ref: 334) where it was noted the design owes something to the Ringerike art style of the 10th and 11th century.

A number of enamelled disc brooches have been recorded on the PAS database however this is the first with an inscription. Cast in copper alloy this brooch dates to the early Roman period (c. AD 80–250). The brooch is discoidal in plan and flat in profile. The face of the brooch has been stamped with an inscription across two lines reading: SIA // MAS. A raised horizontal ridge separates the top line of lettering from the bottom line. Some traces of red enamel adhere to the face of the brooch around the letters. The reverse of the object is undecorated with a few vertical scratches possibly from filing while an integral lug and the remains of a catch plate are evident but the spring and pin are now missing.



Figure 11: Roman disc brooch from Orton (WMID-746CF7)

According to Sally Worrell (National Finds Advisor) the inscription translates to ‘if you love me’. Worrell comments that “it’s basically a love-token. A brooch from Richborough suggests what the response could be in an equally romantic [manner]: *SI AMAS EGO PLUS* – ‘I love you more’”. John Pearce (Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, Kings College London) also added a provisional note on the database record saying that “...This is typical of a group of romantic texts where the reader must supply further words to make complete sense of the text. Longer texts on...rings and brooches give some possibilities for what form a more fully phrased text might have taken in a recipient’s mind...Others include ‘*Escipe si amas*’, i.e. ‘Take (this gift) if you love (me)’ (e.g. an S-shaped brooch from Treignes, Namur, Belgium) or ‘*Escipe si amas pignus amoris*’, i.e. ‘If you love (me), take this token of my love’, quite widely attested (e.g. a bronze ring from Matagne la Petite, Namur, Belgium: Fontaine 2012 nos 5 and 7).”



Figure 12: Medieval miniature vessel from Higham Ferrers (NARC-104225)

An increasing number of these small cast copper alloy miniature vessels or flasks are being recorded by the PAS. The flask has a thin neck and bulbous body flaring towards a rounded base. There are small twin perforated lugs for handles at the rim. A drilled hole is present in one side of the vessel, not an original feature. There is no decoration over the surface of the vessel. The flask’s rounded base means that it could not be stood upright; these vessels are chrismatories, small flasks which contained holy oils that were carried suspended from the waist probably of the local priest. A parallel found in Surrey (SUR-FA2AB0) was inscribed with ‘OLEVM CHRISM’ which further supports the identification as a chrismatory. Examples from Norfolk

have crosses inscribed upon them. They are usually found as single examples but occasionally as a set of three, cast in one piece. The three holy oils used in the medieval church were *oleum infirmorum* for the sick; *oleum catechumenorum* for baptism; and chrisma or balm, used for confirmation, ordination and certain consecrations. They were probably in use throughout the medieval period until the Reformation (c. AD 1540).



Figure 13: Post-medieval token from Warkworth (OXON-C3A60B)

Post-medieval cast lead tokens are common finds from the ploughsoil but they remain little studied. Many often go unrecorded. This worn token from Warkworth bears the faint remains of a raised grid pattern on one side and an abstract pattern on the other. The pattern on the reverse, at first glance seemingly randomly abstract, appears to be a representation of a plough, with stars above, presumably a reference to the constellation *Ursa Major*. If this is the case, then this would be the first example of such – grids are not uncommon on lead tokens but depictions of machinery are very uncommon (windmill sails are known). A grid paired with a plough strongly supports the theory that grids represent plough lines in the fields; the triple reference to ploughs or ploughing seen on this token is a first.

Lead tokens had a wide variety of potential uses such as use as tallies, gaming pieces, weights, small change etc. and are believed to have been locally produced; they are therefore difficult to date precisely. As with this example, as well as indicating a probable agricultural use, lead tokens may well have been used in a similar way to more modern hop tokens, where workers were ‘paid’ in tokens which could be redeemed locally for services or food. This example is likely to be late 17th or early 18th century in date.

Oxfordshire

Total objects = 3640; Treasure cases: = 32

Early Iron Age chapes such as this are rare finds amongst the corpus of British Early Iron Age metalwork. They are part of the British Llyn Fawr metalwork assemblage (that is Halstatt C0 or Halstatt C1a in Central European chronology) and often associated with bronze Guendlingen swords. In Britain both Guendlingen swords and winged chapes like this are often found singly and rarely in Early Iron Age metal-work hoards. Like the other two recent stray finds from Cambridgeshire (recorded as CAM-9B8BB8 and CAM-DD5580), and another fragmentary survival from

Portable Antiquities Scheme



Figure 14: Iron Age winged chape from Marsh Baldon (BERK-8D38B7)

Crowmarsh, also in Oxfordshire (SUR-05401D), this example is of Rieth's *Barrieres* (Indres)' Type (Rieth 1942; Gerloff 2004, Fig 17.9.1).

Dating from the Early Iron Age, c. 800–600 BC, the chape is missing sections from the ends of both wings and is damaged and distorted in the central section. In plan the chape has two long swept-back wings which are sub-triangular in section and that taper as they extend away from the hollow central section. The opening for the scabbard is of pointed-oval form with a raised collar above and around the opening, however this is now damaged and distorted. The lower, outer edge of the chape has a stepped moulding to the rounded basal section. It is possible that these objects were designed so that a horse rider could steady the end of the sword with their foot and draw the sword with one hand. The finder Jill Marshall has kindly donated this object to the Oxfordshire Museums Service



Figure 15: Roman lion head terminal from Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney (BERK-3243DB)

This recently recorded two-tone copper alloy protome in the form of beast/lion head terminal is of uncertain use but of Roman date c. 50 – 350 AD. The head depicts the animal with a wide open mouth with pronounced canine teeth to the upper and lower jaw. There is then a well-defined, downward curved tongue, forming a clear gap/hole beneath. The eyes are deep-set above the protruding cheeks and may have contained enamel. The mane is stylistically cast with the fringes being well depicted. The surface is decorated post-casting with unevenly applied ring and dot motifs. The lower edge of the object appears to have been sliced through at an angle; there are no saw or cut marks therefore how the break was accomplished is unclear. The head of the animal has a prominent silver (tin?) appearance while both some of the ring-and-dot motifs and areas below the

mane retain traces of a white metal coating. The eyes and tongue of the animal are brighter green in colour, showing that different copper alloys were used in the production of this piece.

It is uncertain as to the actual origin/use of this object, it could be a mount from perhaps a chariot or a handle from a household implement such as a patera. However the small size of this object does suggest it may be a knife or key handle. If it is a pommel, or knife terminal, the method of fixing remains unclear, barring it being a single cast for the whole handle. Further research is being conducted and comparisons sought.



Figure 16: Early medieval hanging bowl from Sparsholt (ASHM-17FFEB)

An early-medieval copper-alloy escutcheon for a hanging bowl dating to c.AD 625–675. It is round and slightly dished in shape, with an overall diameter of 40mm and a large central hole (11 mm in diameter). The front is decorated with eight interlaced peltae forming an equal-armed cross around the central hole, and the design is filled with enamel. The rear of the escutcheon is undecorated. The escutcheon would have included a frame, into which this piece would have been fitted, and a hook. Parallels from Bruce-Mitford & Raven (2005) include Corpus no.12 – Castor (Cams) p111–2; Corpus no.20 – Morden (Gtr London) p125. Other finds from Oxfordshire: (mid-late 7th century); Lowbury Hill (Corpus 74), White Horse, Uffington (Corpus 76), Oxford (unprovenanced, possibly Eynsham) (Corpus 75). A similar example on the PAS database is LIN-CC7FA. This appears to be the first PAS-recorded example from Oxfordshire.



Figure 17: Early medieval penny of Aethelred II from Merton (BERK-D5B883)

This comparatively rare hammered silver early-medieval penny of Aethelred II ‘The Unready’ (AD 978 – 1016) is complete and only slightly worn. Dating to the period AD 991–997, the obverse has a diademed bust left and the reverse is the ‘Crux’ type. The coin was struck by Leofwine in Wallingford (North 770). Obverse description: Bust left, sceptre in front. Obverse inscription: +AETHELRED REX ANGLOR[X]. Reverse description: Voided short cross with pellet at centre; CRVX in angles. Reverse inscription: + LEOFPINE (NE ligated) MO PELI (literally Leofwine moneyer Wallingford).

The finds featured above are but a few of thousands recorded across the four counties in 2018. For more finds and for information on the PAS visit the website www.finds.org.uk/database. Further ‘finds of note’ from Oxfordshire are published annually in *Oxoniensia*.

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BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORD BOROUGH 2018–19

Vanessa Clarke, Senior Archaeological Officer; Geoff Saunders, Archaeological Officer, and Matthew Tuohy, Historic Environment Project Assistant: Historic Environment Planning Services, Bedford Borough Council

Fieldwork Projects

Throughout 2018–2019 development driven archaeological fieldwork projects have continued to reveal interesting remains within Bedford Borough.

Amongst these, significant projects included geophysical survey and evaluation trenching followed by archaeological excavation at Whitworth Way, Wilstead undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeology (Northampton) which revealed the remains of a hitherto unknown part of the medieval village within an arable field adjacent to the modern settlement. The work identified a linear settlement with large enclosures formed between three ditches running on a northwest – southeast alignment. A number of large pits considered likely to represent watering holes were revealed

within the enclosures, as well as a number of smaller pits, some possibly forming postholes for structures. The dating of recovered artefacts suggests a 12th century date for the settlement, much earlier than the surviving 14th to 15th century parish church which lies directly to the northwest of the site at approximately 300m distant. Does this suggest the location of settlement at Wilstead shifted during the medieval period?

Throughout the latter part of 2018 Archaeologica and Albion Archaeology undertook largescale open area excavations at the former RAF airbase at Cardington to the east of the airship sheds. The fieldwork uncovered multi-period activity from the Iron Age comprising several roundhouses and droveway through to the Saxon period with a number of post-built structures. Post-excavation work on the project is still ongoing and we hope to be able to provide a fuller summary on this interesting site in a future CBA South Midlands roundup.

Albion Archaeology undertook an open area excavation on the western side of St John's Street in Bedford during summer 2018. The site is located within the core of the southern burh at Bedford and the work revealed the site had seen extensive use from the early medieval period onward. The site contained a high number of intercutting pits of



Figure 1: Stone-lined pits at St John's Street, Bedford (Image courtesy of Albion Archaeology)

medieval and post-medieval date including a fine example of linked stone-lined pits from the latter period (Fig. 1). As with the recently excavated site immediately to the north a number of the pits contained a reasonable quantity of cattle horn core. A programme of post-excavation analysis is still ongoing which will hopefully lead to fuller understanding of the significance of the fieldwork results which can be summarised in a future edition.

At the start of 2018 Albion Archaeology undertook an archaeological excavation within Cotton End in advance of the construction of a new school. The excavation area contained part of an early medieval settlement within a ditched enclosure. Within the enclosure evidence was revealed indicating internal sub-divisions, storage pits and a post-built structure. The finds assemblage was relatively modest indicating that the part of the settlement revealed was likely peripheral to the main domestic focus, the post-built structure probably representing a storage structure or lean-to. Surrounding evidence appears to confirm this with extensive well-preserved earthworks immediately to the north-west extending broadly parallel with High Road likely representing the domestic focus of the settlement. Whilst the majority of features dated to the 12th–13th century the presence of residual Late Saxon pottery in a number of features indicates an origin for the settlement in the 9th–11th century.

A number of smaller sites have also yielded informative results, amongst these was a small scale excavation at The Red Lion, Stevington was undertaken by Heritage Network. The work revealed a number probably quarry pits excavated for the extraction of limestone together with a 15th century domestic rubbish pit. The work recovered two well-preserved late medieval cu-alloy objects including a havette (or harbick) (Fig. 2) which was a type of hook used by shear-men to secure newly woven cloth to a cropping board, the other was a complete annular brooch with pin (Fig. 3). A further small scale excavation was undertaken at Colmworth by Albion Archaeology in advance of the construction of a new dwelling to the east of Church Road. Of particular note the excavation area included a large broadly northeast – southwest aligned ditch possibly associated with a partially extant moat that fronts onto Church Road. Pottery recovered from the large ditch indicates a date in the 10th–12th centuries. The ditch also yielded a later 10th–12th-century bone box or casket lid mount fragment which displays linear and ring-and-dot decoration (Fig. 4).



Figure 2: Late Medieval Havette (or Harbick) from Stevington (Image courtesy of Heritage Network)



Figure 3: Late Medieval Annular Brooch from Stevington (Image courtesy of Heritage Network)



Figure 4: Decorated Bone Plaque Fragments from Colmworth (Image courtesy of Albion Archaeology)

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

During autumn 2018 work continued to create new monument entries as well as updating existing HER records based on the results of the Phase 2 National Mapping Project (NMP) prepared by aerial archaeology specialists Skylarkaeology. The bulk of the data entry has been undertaken by our HER volunteer/part-time assistant, Matthew Tuohy. The results of Phase 3, the final stage of the project, are starting to come in, and these will also be added and available to interested parties by autumn 2019. Just as with Phase 2, Phase 3 appears to have identified a number of new sites.

Matthew has already started to employ the results of the NMP project in his wider research as part of his PHD in the landscape archaeology of the borough. He has summarised his initial findings as follows:

The NMP data has been of vital importance in the early stages of research focussed on the north-western third of the borough for the early-to-post medieval periods; this area was part of the Hundred of Willey and Half-Hundred of Bucklow

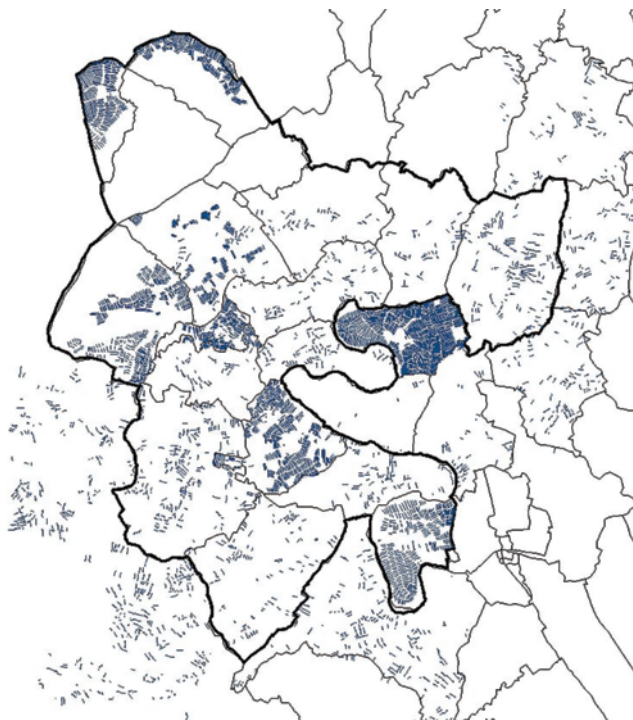


Figure 5: Former ridge and furrow in the northwest of the borough (from OS and Historic England/Skylarkaeology data)

in the medieval period. The NMP data has been used along with other HER and archival sources to help recreate the extent and alignment of former ridge and furrow (open field cultivation, and to investigate the possibility of open field boundaries crossing parish boundaries which might suggest either co-operation between communities or the creation of a boundary line after the formation of the open field. The latter is particularly exciting, because research in Cambridgeshire has suggested such patterns might imply a continuity of the basic field pattern from prehistory (Oosthuizen, 2003).

On a more localised basis, the NMP data helps streamline research into the various medieval settlement earthworks

which are scattered across the study area. Chellington, a deserted medieval village in the middle of the Hundred, is usefully transcribed, creating a digitised resource of information which was previously only available as paper maps. The other DMVs across the study area have also been mapped and allow for detailed research of these settlements and landscapes to begin.

It has also been possible to produce an up-to-date plot of the various moated sites which exist across the uplands of the study area, demonstrating patterns of high-status sites across the parishes; some of these moats were previously unknown prior to the NMP. In the south-westernmost part of the Hundred, on the Buckinghamshire border, initial analysis of the dispersed settlement pattern of the study area with its 'Ends' and 'Greens', and associated high-status moated sites, suggests that manors with their own small power bases formed a key part of the creation, or at least continuity, of settlement dispersal in this part of the county.

In other news, the HER has successfully bid for Historic England and council match-funding to enable data from the National Record of the Historic Environment (held at Swindon) to be reconciled with data held locally by the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (the 'HIAS' project). This work will be undertaken from April to August 2019 and make it much easier to research records on the borough's historic environment, as all the data will be eventually held in one place by the local record. It will also mean that data not previously known to the borough record (but held by the national record) will be transferred into the database and GIS mapping of the HER.

Monument Management

Significant Historic England grant-aid and Bedford Borough Council match-funding for the repairs to and conservation of the precinct wall of the Scheduled Monument of medieval Newnham Priory, Barker's Lane, Bedford has now been secured and the work is underway. This follows receipt of funding for the initial condition survey which we reported on last year.

Ahead of repairs, trees have been cut back and the worst of the ivy has been removed where its retention would have

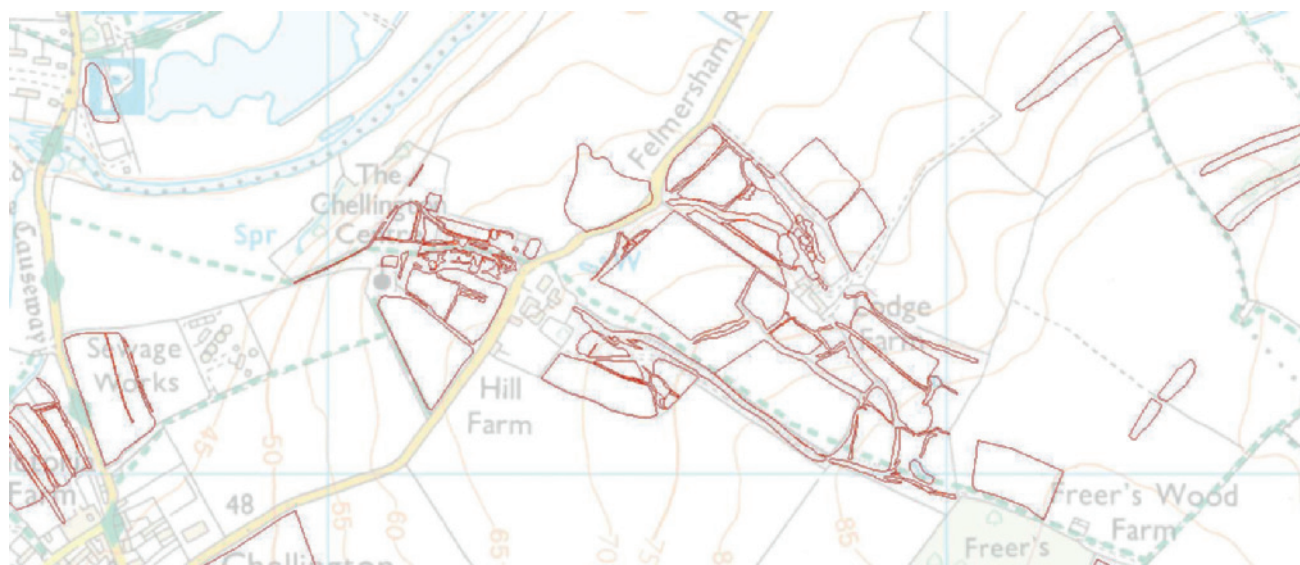


Figure 6: NMP data for Chellington DMV (from OS and Historic England/Skylarkaeology data)

continued to damage the fabric of the walls; in other areas where its impact on the walls is benign, it will be left. Repair of the precinct wall proper will begin with the northern section which was badly damaged by Storm Doris in the winter of 2017. This is being undertaken by local building contractors who specialise in the repair of historic buildings and under the supervision of Historic England and specialist conservation architects. Work will then move onto the longest stretch of wall, the eastern section, which is over 300m in length! Capping, brickwork and stonework needs replacing and repointing is necessary in many areas. Once the work is complete in autumn 2019, it is proposed to enhance the visitor experience by installing new interpretation panels, dependent on further funding. A management plan will also be put in place to help the council and its tenant conserve the monument for the long-term public benefit.



Figure 7: Damage to eastern precinct wall, Newnham Priory, Bedford

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Amphill, Feoffee Almshouses TL 0371 3824

WIEBKE STARKE

Albion Archaeology provided a precautionary watching brief during the installation of a length of foul drain and a manhole immediately to the north of No 1 Feoffee Almshouses, within the churchyard of St Andrew's parish church, which dates to the 14th–15th centuries. The foul-drain trench excavation only disturbed topsoil. A small number of artefacts were retrieved from the graveyard soil and were reburied at the base of the trench. These comprised a small assemblage of disarticulated animal and human bone fragments as well as post-medieval pottery and clay pipe fragments and a pipe-clay wig curler. No in-situ human burials were encountered and no significant archaeological remains were revealed.

OASIS ID: albnar1–315728

Accession no: BEDFM 2014.43

Amphill Great Park Community Excavation

TL 0257 3840 / TL 0304 3860

JEREMY OETGEN and ADAM WILLIAMS

In July and August 2018 a community-led archaeological investigation took place in Amphill Great Park. It was part of Amphill Town Council's HLF-funded 'Parks for People' project. The Grade II registered park (NHLE 1000378) is of considerable historical and archaeological significance.

It was once a deer park surrounding a late medieval palace known as 'Amphill Castle' (scheduled monument NHLE 1009630). The palace was famously the residence of Queen Catherine of Aragon during her divorce from Henry VIII. In the 18th century Lancelot 'Capability' Brown remodelled the park (Phibbs 2016) and Amphill Town Council's project aims to restore Brown's landscape as well as promote the awareness of all aspects of the park's heritage.

A community dig in 2009 (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2011) trial trenched the site of Amphill Castle itself. In 2018, the fieldwork was entirely outside the scheduled area and comprised three trial trenches plus eight test-pits. The community excavation was overseen by professional archaeologists from Albion Archaeology. Over 40 volunteers took part and more than 1,000 visitors came to see the work in progress (Fig. 8). The investigations focused on the following.



Figure 8: Visitors to Amphill Great Park Community Excavation, August 2018

A possible Anglo-Saxon settlement east of Amphill Castle T) 0257 3840

Early-middle Saxon pottery was unexpectedly found on the hill during the 2009 trial trenching. A further trial trench (Trench 1) sought to confirm the nature of any Saxon settlement.

Trench 1 produced clear evidence for a middle Saxon settlement. This was characterised by boundary ditches, pits, postholes and a sunken-featured building (SFB) (Fig. 9). The SFB consisted of a shallow pit, 3.95m long and 3.65m wide, with four postholes cut into the base — two larger end posts and two smaller posts at the north edge of the pit. This suggests a relatively small, asymmetrical structure with a wall along the north edge and a pitched roof descending to ground level on the south side. The finds assemblage from the trench predominantly comprised Saxon pottery and animal bone. In addition, a Saxon loom weight, a copper alloy fragment (possibly part of the arm from a set of tweezers) and a Roman, turquoise, frit melon bead (dated to the 1st/2nd century AD) (Fig. 10). The boundary ditches coincided with linear anomalies on a magnetometer survey by Amphill & District Archaeological & Local History Society (Fadden et al 2011); this indicates that the enclosure system extended over an area of at least 1ha.



Figure 9: Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building in Trench 1



Figure 10: Roman, turquoise, frit melon bead from the sunken-featured building in Trench 1

'The Standing', a late medieval or early post-medieval tower in Laurel Wood TL 0304 3860

Trench 2 targeted the presumed site of a hunting lookout tower that was later used as a feature in Capability Brown's landscaped park. The aim was to confirm the location of the building and find out if it is the 16th-century tower or another one built a century later.

Trench 2 was located approximately 100m into Laurel Wood. It was hand-excavated by a team of volunteers, under close archaeological supervision (see back cover image). Trench 2 contained evidence for a late medieval to early post-medieval structure, consisting of a substantial make-up deposit of re-deposited subsoil and structural features such as post holes. The structural evidence was confined to the south-east extension of the trench and appeared to extend beyond its limits where trees prevented any further investigation.

The finds assemblage from Trench 2 was predominantly ceramic building material (CBM) and mortar, supplemented by pottery and animal bone. In addition, a Tudor copper-alloy dress pin, an iron nail, clay pipe fragments and glass fragments were identified.

Possible evidence for Neolithic, Mesolithic and Bronze Age occupation in Laurel Wood TL 031 386

A significant assemblage of worked flint was collected in Laurel Wood by a local amateur archaeologist, the late Cyril Woodcraft (HER 18269). Teams of volunteers were able to dig and record their own test-pits in the hope that it would help interpret Woodcraft's discoveries.

Eight 1m-square, hand-dug test-pits were located in clearings throughout the wood. Excavation was undertaken by a team of volunteers, under close archaeological supervision. The test-pits were dug in 10cm spits with the arising scanned for artefacts by eye. Placement of the test-pits was guided by Woodcraft's sketch plans. (We are grateful to The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford, for the loan of the archive).

Prehistoric finds were confined to Test-pits 4, 6 and 10; they consisted of a late Neolithic/late Bronze Age flint core and a late Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint blade. Several other, clearly worked flint artefacts were recovered but were not typologically datable. These flints appear to residual evidence for prehistoric activity on the Greensand Ridge. However, it was noted that the finds were distributed close to the main path through the wood, so it is possible that they might have been imported to the site along with the aggregate used in the construction of the path.

The test-pits produced finds of various other periods distributed widely across the wood. Artefacts of all periods were recovered from spits at all depths within the test-pits, suggesting significant soil disturbance as might be expected in a woodland setting. The post-medieval to modern finds, mainly CBM and vessel glass, appeared to be concentrated in the test-pits alongside the main path running from Bedford Road. Some of these may be related to the construction of the central path, with waste CBM being used to consolidate the ground. Post-medieval and modern finds were also recovered from the test-pit located nearest to Trench 2 (the possible site of The Standing). Late medieval finds were identified in test-pits located nearer the periphery of the wood with a single find-spot located centrally. Additional finds of unknown date included clinker (the stony residue from burnt coal or from a furnace), coal and a fired clay fragment.

Trial trenching at the supposed location of an ice house associated with Ampthill Park House TL 025 384

An exploratory dig (Trench 3) was attempted to relocate the remains of the ice house serving the late-17th-century Ampthill Park House. The structure was situated on the north-facing scarp of the Greensand Ridge; it had been revealed following a land-slip in 2017 but had been rapidly reburied for safety reasons. The trench was hand-excavated by professional archaeologists due to the steepness of the slope. Unfortunately, the work had to be abandoned because the slope was too steep and rendered unstable by numerous rabbit burrows. It is worth noting that a considerable amount of early 20th-century refuse was observed during the course of the work, including items such as a heel iron possibly from a WWI British army boot. It is probable that this is material

was dumped during the occupation or decommissioning of the army camp that stood in Amptill Park between 1914 and 1919.

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OASIS ID: albionar1-320883

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.42

Arlesey, Land West of High Street

(BETWEEN NOS 249 AND 267) TL 1913/3685

TORI GUY and JEREMY OETGEN

Archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken in February and March 2018 in advance of residential development. Historically, Arlesey comprised three 'ends': Church End, Dean End and Green End, ranged from north to south along the 3-mile-long main street. The site was located in the gap between Church End and Dean End, close to the edge of the River Hiz floodplain.

The earliest remains comprised a rectilinear field system on the floodplain at the west end of the site. The boundary ditches were not securely dated but their alignment did not conform to the medieval or modern boundaries; a small fragment of early/middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from one ditch.

The middle of the site was traversed by a trackway on a north-west to south-east alignment. The flanking ditches exhibited multiple episodes of re-cutting, suggesting it was a long-lived route. The alignment suggests it might have linked an early settlement at Dean End with the moated enclosure at Arlesey Bury (HER 3382), which lay c.300m to the north-west. The trackway seems to have gone out of use in the early medieval period.

The most significant remains were a group of early-medieval, rectilinear enclosures excavated at the western edge of the site, directly adjacent and perpendicular to the modern High Street. The layout suggests a 'burgage' plot, c.40m wide, running west from High Street. A major realignment of the landscape is evinced in this phase, with the earlier trackway going out of use and a new route being established on the line of the modern road. The line of the new road is implied by the existence of a medieval ditch along the modern highway frontage. The burgage plot featured a number of sub-divisions. The 'rear' (western) half of the plot was possibly gardens, storage or animal enclosures. The eastern portion of the plot contained a rectangular post-built structure c.5.5m long by c.3.5m wide. It is thought unlikely that this was a habitable building because relatively little domestic refuse was recovered; it is more likely to have been a barn or byre.

OASIS ID: albionar1-299756

Accession no: BEDFM 2016.28

Bedford, Land at Fairhill TL 0343/5094

IAIN LESLIE AND MIKE LUKE

A hybrid planning application was prepared for the erection of a microbrewery with access road and ancillary works. Trial trenching of the site took place in July 2018. Archaeological remains were identified in three of the six trenches. In two of them evidence for post-medieval/modern quarrying was identified, whilst in Trench 5 an undated and heavily truncated ditch survived. Elsewhere only modern ditches were present.

OASIS ID: albionar1-317216

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.29

Bedford, Land east of Meadow Lane TL 0870/4965

WIEBKE STARKE and JEREMY OETGEN

A pre-application consultation was submitted regarding a proposed commercial glasshouse development and packing facility. Trial trenching was undertaken, with scheduled monument consent, to verify the location of a scheduled monument described as a 'Mortuary enclosure 800m west of Octagon Farm, Bedford', (NHLE1007331). Two intersecting trenches targeted the site of a crop-mark recorded on aerial photographs. No archaeological features were identified within the trenches and the only man-made feature was a modern land drain. No artefacts were found and there were no other items, such as animal or human bones, that might constitute archaeological evidence of past human activity. It was therefore concluded that the crop-mark observed on aerial photographs was not of archaeological origin. An application for de-listing was, therefore, submitted to Historic England and the monument was removed from the Schedule on 10th September 2018.

OASIS ID: albionar1-311080

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.18

Biddenham, Land off Deep Spinney, Gold Lane

TL 0166/5024

IAIN LESLIE and MIKE LUKE

Trial trench evaluation identified eight areas of differing archaeological character and potential, spanning the early Bronze Age to the modern period. The earliest evidence related to a probable early Bronze Age ring-ditch. Apparently laid out in reference to this was an extensive linear boundary with associated enclosures to the north-west. Whilst these are currently tentatively interpreted as Iron Age, the absence of dating evidence leaves this open to debate. A single pit contained a concentration of late Saxon finds as well as moderately large amounts of charcoal, suggesting domestic activity of this date in the vicinity.

To the east, further Iron Age and Romano-British settlement was identified. Here, the Iron Age remains characterised by curvilinear enclosures and a possible roundhouse appeared to be superseded by more regular Romano-British enclosure systems of a slightly different alignment and character. The nature of the remains, along with their relatively modest finds assemblage, is consistent with a rural farmstead.

The presence of furrows along with geophysical and LIDAR data suggest that by the medieval period the area had become utilised as an open field. This land appears to have remained in agricultural use until the present day.

Bedfordshire

OASIS ID: albionar1-316920

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.28

Biggleswade, Stratton Business Park, Phases 5A and 5C TL 2100/4370

BEN CARROLL, JEREMY OETGEN and HEATHER WHITE

Archaeological mitigation was carried out as condition of development on two adjacent plots at the north end of Juno Place, the new access road. Evaluation results had suggested potential for remains of medieval settlement associated with Stratton Park moat (scheduled monument NHLE1012161). Some medieval enclosure ditches were found but most of the features comprised numerous postholes and pits in a vaguely rectilinear array across both plots. The features were clearly of 20th-century date (evinced by various metal items, including wire fragments, iron fixings and a surviving piece of a creosote-treated softwood post). Nothing is apparent on aerial photographs that would help explain the features; however, the current, very tentative, interpretation is that they were obstacles erected during WWII by soldiers billeted at Stratton Park. The ongoing post-fieldwork assessment will further investigate this possibility.

A small number of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pits and a group of five undated cremation burials were also found. These indicate that the area was significant for mortuary and ritual practices in these periods.

OASIS ID: albionar1-288553

Accession no: BEDFM 2017.63

OASIS ID: albionar1-325710

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.58

Bletsoe, Church of St Mary TL 0234/5832

MARK PHILLIPS

Building recording and archaeological investigations were undertaken during a project to repair the vestry and chancel, which had been disused since the 1970s. The project was organised by Bletsoe Parochial Church Council and was carried out with the help of Heritage Lottery funding. Volunteers from the village took part in the archaeological works as part of a wider programme of public engagement and participation.

Building recording included detailed masonry recording prior to widening of the mid-19th-century vestry and chancel doors. Ground reduction inside the building for new floors involved the removal of a sandy soil layer, imported during the 1860s. This uncovered some ledger stones and broken grave stones that had been re-used in pew bases. Further confirmation of the development sequence for the 14th-century chancel was obtained.

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during excavation of drains and service trenches in the churchyard. A number of burials were found and recorded before being re-interred as close as possible to the place of discovery. In one of these, a pattern formed in copper-alloy studs in a coffin lid was found in-situ and included the date 1746. To the south side of the church a rare medieval discoid-shaped grave marker was found. It is one of the most elaborately decorated examples known in England. It has a cross on one side and a rosette pattern on the other, with stiff-leaf foliage which dates it to the 13th century (Fig. 11)



Figure 11: Bletsoe, Church of St Mary, Medieval grave marker (scale 40cm)

OASIS ID: albionar1-302224

Accession no: BEDFM 2017.110

Bletsoe, Land south of North End Farm

DAVID INGHAM and MIKE LUKE

In **January 2017**, a metal-detectorist dug a trial hole in a field north of Bletsoe to investigate a high reading on his detector. He exposed what appeared to be the rounded top of a possible stone coffin; a strong metal signal detectable along its length suggested that the possible coffin might have been lead-lined. After the discovery was reported to Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team, discussions with Historic England's Inspector of Ancient Monuments led to the design of a multi-stage approach to investigate the object in question. Albion Archaeology undertook the initial stage, which involved excavating a small test-pit so that the object could be observed more closely in order to ascertain whether it actually was a coffin or not.

Excavation of the test-pit revealed that the object in question was not in fact of archaeological significance but merely a layer of concrete over a modern pipe, presumably helping to protect a repair to the pipe that had included metallic components (thereby causing a reading on the metal-detector). No further archaeological investigation was therefore required.

OASIS ID: albionar1-324512

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.52

Blunham, Church of St Edmund or St James

TL 1531/5111

MARK PHILLIPS

A faculty for works to install a new kitchen and toilet was granted to the church. The works involved the installation of a new foul drain running from the south side of the tower to Park Lane. Ground disturbance was minimised by using a pumped drainage system installed using a mole drain. The groundworks comprised a shallow area of hand-dug trench next to the south side of the tower, a machine-excavated trench for the installation of the pumping system and four machine-excavated trenches. No significant archaeological deposits were exposed.

OASIS ID: albionar1-329080

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.70

Bolnhurst, Hare House, School Lane TL 8555/5976

MARK PHILLIPS

Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission for the replacement of an existing garage with a new timber structure. The development area is situated within the perimeter of a scheduled ancient monument, Manor Farm Iron Age univallate hillfort and medieval moated enclosure (SM11529, NHLE1012066); accordingly, the groundworks were archaeological monitored. The topsoil contained a single abraded sherd of pre-'Belgic' Iron Age pottery. Subsoil was exposed over much of the base of the trench; it probably derived from an old plough soil and was similar in character to the underlying glacial till. No archaeological features were observed cutting the subsoil layer in the base of the trench or the drain runs.

OASIS ID: albionar1-320616

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.41

Chawston, Chawston Cross Roads TL 1526 5617

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and GARY EDMONDSON

Archaeological monitoring took place during the reduction and levelling of sloping ground over an area of 49 × 23m. A layer of stone rubble was deposited across the stripped area to create a level surface. Subsequently, 17 foundation pad pits for a new building were machine-excavated; they were c.1.4–1.8m across by c.1m deep and were dug into the underlying geological strata. Excavation of the pad pits revealed a post-medieval ditch and an undated large pit (possibly a quarry).

OASIS ID: albionar1-305546

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.01

Chawston, Land west of Brook Cottages TL 1603/5581

HEATHER WHITE and GARY EDMONDSON

Trial trenching revealed four features dated to the post-medieval to modern period. There was a possible Roman ditch and a wide, shallow feature produced prehistoric worked flint. In both cases the small quantities of abraded artefactual material cannot provide reliable dating for the feature — they could be residual in later features. The rest of the features were undated.

OASIS ID: albionar1-323620

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.49

Clophill, 118B High Street TL 0915/3815

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and JEREMY OETGEN

Archaeological investigation was carried out between March and May 2018 in advance of residential development. The excavation covered an area of 0.23ha and focused on features that had been identified by evaluation in 2016. Remains dating from the early medieval to modern periods were uncovered.

A number of undated tree-throws indicate one or more episodes of tree clearance prior to enclosure of the land in the early medieval period. Residual late Saxon pottery provided tentative evidence that settlement existed in the 10th–11th century in the vicinity of the site, which is consistent with references in Domesday Book, recording Clophill's pre-Conquest existence.

The early medieval phase comprised five enclosures with a small number of internal features. The evidence indicates expansion of the settlement in Clophill from its historical core, located to the west. There were no domestic structures and the character of the remains suggest that this area on the eastern outskirts of the village was used for livestock management and industrial processing (results are awaited of specialist analysis of plant remains that might indicate retting of fibres). The enclosure system evolved into the late medieval and post-medieval periods, with evidence of butchery on a significant scale.

OASIS ID: albionar1-290497

Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.76

Colmworth, Moat Cottage TL 10914 58677

BEN CARROLL and GARY EDMONDSON

Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission for the erection of a two-storey detached dwelling and garage. Investigation of the site revealed evidence of activity from the medieval to modern period. A residual fragment of Roman flue tile suggests contemporary activity in the general area.

The main evidence for medieval activity dated to the 10th–12th century. It comprised a large, broadly NE-SW aligned ditch with a possibly associated hedge line along its western edge. This feature may have defined a land division associated with the possible moat, situated immediately to the south. The ditches extended for at least 11m from the limit of excavation in the north to the south where they were truncated by a later series of ditches. These remains and associated finds suggest that there was domestic activity in the vicinity, associated with the development of the historic settlement. Notable amongst the finds was a fragment of a late 10th–12th-century bone box or casket lid mount. The object displays linear and ring-and-dot decoration (Fig. 4, above).

Evidence for post-medieval and modern activity comprised five ditches, a pit, a posthole and a stakehole. These features probably represent field/property boundaries and garden features. The ditches appear to define the continuation of the northern arm of the possible medieval moat, which is still visible in the area.

OASIS ID: albionar1-327342

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.66

Bedfordshire

Cople, Land adjacent to 8 Bedford Road, TL 1059/4926 JO BARKER and BEN CARROLL

Archaeological features were identified in one of ten trial trenches, providing evidence of activity on the site dating from the post-medieval or modern periods. Most of the area was devoid of archaeological remains apart from a palaeochannel that did not contain any evidence of human activity.

OASIS ID: albionar1-308407

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.11

Cotton End, Rookery Farm, High Road TL 0806/4578 MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and IAIN LESLIE

Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission for the erection of a new primary school, drop-off area and car park and associated landscaping works. Albion Archaeology carried out archaeological mitigation works, which included open-area excavation and strip, map and sample investigation.

The archaeological investigations uncovered remains dating from the early medieval to modern periods. The vast majority of the remains dated to the early medieval period (Fig. 12). They comprised an area of enclosed settlement and wider peripheral activity. The settlement, enclosed by a ditch, included evidence for internal division, storage pits and a post-built structure. Whilst the remains were part of a wider settlement, the relatively modest finds assemblage suggests the investigated area was not a domestic focus. The post-built structure, rather than representing a domestic building, probably represents a less substantial storage

structure or lean-to. The remains almost certainly represent the southernmost limit of the settlement identified as earthworks to the north, which includes hollow-ways, ponds and at least one moated site. Only limited peripheral activity was present in the vicinity of the settlement, with the presence of a heavily truncated furrow suggesting the south-west part of the site was open fields during the medieval period.

The remains uncovered during the investigations are somewhat limited in their analytical potential by the fact that only a very small portion of the settlement was uncovered, with the vast majority existing to the north. Nonetheless the investigations add to our understanding of the development of medieval Cotton End. The presence of residual late Saxon pottery confirms that, although no cut features of this date were present, the settlement did exist in the 9th–11th centuries, which is consistent with references in Domesday Book.

The majority of dateable artefacts were of 12th–13th-century date, suggesting this part of the settlement was predominantly in use during the early medieval period, with limited evidence for settlement activity beyond this date. This part of the settlement probably went out of use in the 13th or 14th century. Activity dating to the late medieval/early post-medieval period was also identified. This was characterised by a boundary system defined by ditches, associated with rural land management outside of any settlement focus.

OASIS ID: albionar1-302320

Accession no: BEDFM 2017.24

Dunstable, Land to rear of 21 Regent Street TL 1564/2359

WIEBKE STARKE and GARY EDMONDSON

Planning permission was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the construction of a new two-storey one-bedroom house. Investigation focussed on the areas of the development that required significant ground reduction — the footprint of the building, the patio area of the garden to the south-east and the car-parking space to the west.

The higher terrace away from the street frontage revealed undisturbed chalk geological strata, apart from a modern service and manhole shaft. The lower terrace parallel to the street frontage revealed a variety of features, including the truncated remains of a small post-medieval gully, aligned roughly NE-SW. An area of disturbance may be associated with the construction of cellars for the adjacent properties. Other features included service trenches and associated manhole shafts, along with modern rectangular pits containing building waste. A modern brick-lined planting pit was also revealed close to the pavement.

OASIS ID: albionar1-252242

Accession no: LUTNM: 2019/01

Edworth, Edworth Manor, Church End TL 2233/4076 GARY EDMONDSON and GARETH SHANE

Planning consent was granted for the demolition of an existing barn and construction of a new agricultural storage barn. The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of 10 foundation pits for the new barn. Most were cut through the concrete floor of the former barn. The pits measured c.1.2 by 1m and extended up to 1m below the existing ground

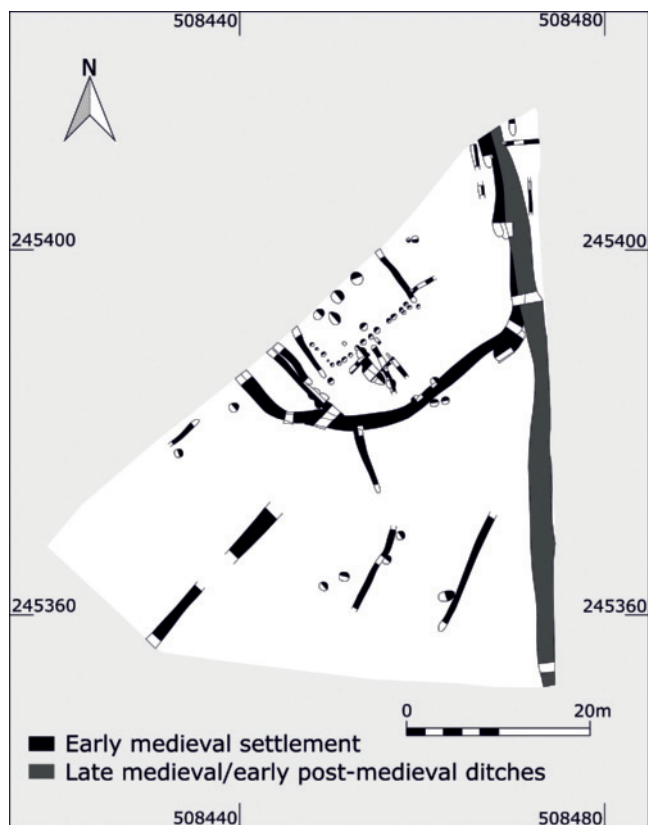


Figure 12: Cotton End, Rookery Farm, Plan of the open-area excavation

level, into the undisturbed geological stratum. Only modern deposits associated with the construction of the former barn were present, indicating that the former soil profile had been removed to the geological stratum. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no artefacts were recovered.

OASIS ID: albionar1-318896

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.35

Everton, Land at 21 Sandy Road TL 2008/5206

BEN CARROLL and IAIN LESLIE

Archaeological features were identified in four of five trial trenches. They provide evidence of activity on the site dating from the late medieval to the modern period. Late medieval remains were identified within one trench. They comprised a large N-S aligned ditch and three pits, sealed by a late medieval soil layer. The recovered pottery and charred plant remains suggest that this activity was domestic in nature. Three further trenches contained ditches, pits and structural features representing field boundaries, refuse pits and footings for former street-front buildings and gardens — all dateable to the post-medieval / modern period

OASIS ID: albionar1- 310313

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.16

Houghton Regis, Land south of the Bungalow, Bedford Road, Bidwell TL 0124/2452

TORI GUY and ROB WARDILL

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological trial trenching to support a planning application. The site comprised an area of c.1.45ha to the west of the A5120. Archaeological features were identified in all ten trenches, providing evidence of activity on the site dating from the early Iron Age through to the post-medieval/modern periods.

Iron Age features were revealed within three trenches and included a number of sizeable boundary ditches and a human burial. Roman features were identified in four trenches — a series of ditches and isolated pits. Late medieval/early post-medieval activity consisted of a large cobbled surface and associated pit, and a chalk-lined pit. Dispersed, isolated features and the remains of an undated structure may also be associated with the late medieval/early post-medieval period.

OASIS ID: albionar1- 307600

Accession no: LUTNM: 2018/6

Houghton Regis North 1, Site HRN3205 TL 0387/2422

JO BARKER, WES KEIR, MIKE LUKE and KATHY PILKINTON.

Between July and September 2018 Albion Archaeology undertook the first of several open-area excavations within the Houghton Regis North 1 development area. The HRN3205 site comprised a 1.45ha open-area excavation at the northern end of Pastures Way, adjacent to a previous excavation undertaken in advance of construction of the Woodside Link road. The work uncovered a possible middle Bronze Age boundary ditch, which was modified to form a trackway in the late Iron Age/Roman period. Next to the trackway were a cremation cemetery and two

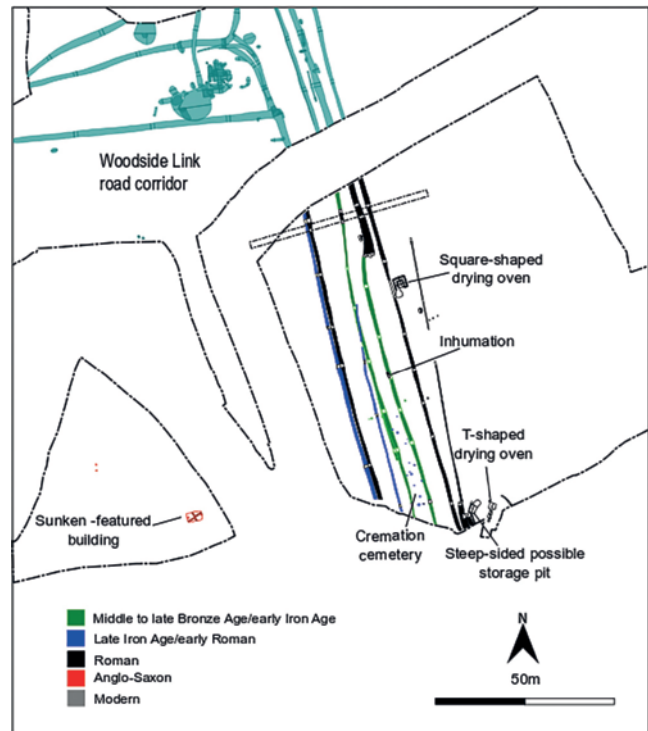


Figure 13: Houghton Regis North 1, Plan of all phases

crop-processing areas. Evidence for post-Roman activity comprised one Anglo-Saxon building and medieval furrows.

Middle to late Bronze Age/early Iron Age

The boundary comprised two broadly parallel ditches, c.3m apart, one of which had been re-cut on the same alignment at least twice (Fig. 13). A number of small pits and postholes were dug adjacent to the boundary and, sometimes, into it. They produced late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery, suggesting that the boundary might have originated in the middle Bronze Age.

Late Iron Age/early Roman

During the late Iron Age a trackway was established following the course of the Bronze Age boundary. A cremation cemetery with fourteen burials (three urned and eleven unurned) was located on the east side of the trackway. The urned burials contained a small number of grave goods, including accessory pottery vessels (two) and fragments of two brooches. Finds dated to this period include c.3kg of pottery.

Roman

The trackway remained in use into the Roman period, although it underwent several episodes of modification, resulting in a much wider corridor. Two crop-processing areas were identified on its eastern side.

The crop-processing areas were c.65m apart and each contained a single drying oven. One of the ovens was square in plan with a flue extending from one corner; it was lined with chalk and flint nodules (Fig. 14 & front cover image). It was similar in form to one found within the adjacent Woodside Link investigations. Most of the lining of the other oven had been robbed, except for fragments of quernstones that appeared to form the junction between the



Figure 14: Houghton Regis North 1, Square-shaped drying oven



Figure 15: Houghton Regis North 1, Robbed-out, possible T-shaped drying oven with quernstone fragments

flue and stoking pit (Fig. 15). The surviving elements of this oven suggest that it had been T-shaped in plan.

Charred plant remains recovered from both ovens indicate that they were probably used for the drying and parching of hulled wheat; there was no substantive botanical evidence for malting. Next to the T-shaped oven was a steep-sided, flat-bottomed, rectangular pit with charred planks on its base and postholes in its corners, perhaps to support



Figure 16: Houghton Regis North 1, Charred planks just visible on the base of the rectangular, possible storage pit

boarded sides (Fig. 16). The identification of storage pits on Roman sites is relatively uncommon but a comparable pit with evidence of a timber structure was found at Cams Hill School, Fareham, Hampshire (Eddisford 2009, 91–2). A curvilinear arrangement of gullies appeared to enclose the T-shaped oven and the rectangular storage pit but it was not obviously structural in nature.

Although the excavation produced 3.6kg of Roman pottery, no definitive evidence of domestic activity was identified; the nearest known settlement is located c.100m to the south. A single inhumation with no grave-goods was found in the vicinity of the trackway.

Anglo-Saxon

A single sunken-featured building was uncovered c.50m west of the Roman trackway. It comprised a rectangular sunken area (4.3m × 2.6m × 0.2m deep) with a pair of opposing postholes on the long-axis. Two sherds of early Saxon pottery were recovered along with Roman pottery.

Eddisford, D., 2009 'Excavation at a multi-period site near Cam Hill School, Fareham, Hampshire: Germanic influence on the Late Roman Hampshire coast', *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society*, **64**, 81–104



Figure 17: Houghton Regis, Thorn Turn, Plan of all phases

Houghton Regis, Thorn Turn SP 9995 2435

DAVID INGHAM and BEN CARROLL

A strip, map and sample excavation on land destined to become an employment park revealed evidence of human activity dating from at least the early Neolithic onward. The remains largely consisted of field ditches and contained few finds, although episodes of Iron Age and medieval settlement activity were identified (Fig. 17).

Alluvial silts from a large palaeochannel were contemporary with the earliest remains — a tree-throw and pit tentatively dated to the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic. The earliest efforts to divide up the landscape, however, came in the form of three pit alignments; these are thought to have been contemporary with a small ring ditch and two other ditches, although dating evidence consists of no more than a few scraps of pottery that appear to be late Bronze Age.

The earliest evidence of settled activity comprises three early-middle Iron Age roundhouses, which existed amidst a network of enclosures, field systems and a possible trackway. A single, poorly preserved inhumation burial may be of a similar date. There were clusters of pits within the field systems, but the volumes of pottery and animal bone recovered from them were only small. Some of the field systems were long-lived, with evidence that they continued to be used (with modifications) into the late Iron Age or even the early Roman period.

Remains of a small medieval farmstead were identified at the very western end of the site, adjacent to Watling Street.

There were five buildings and lesser structures built using beam slots or earth fast posts, as well as two fence-lines and related enclosures. Items such as iron nails, horseshoes, a paving stone and part of a wooden plank were recovered but quantities of finds were still generally low. Evidence for subsequent activity was confined to the presence of numerous post-medieval field ditches, some of which can be linked to boundaries recorded on historical maps.

OASIS ID: albionar1-281601

Accession no.: LUTNM 2018/16

Kempston, Kempston Manor, CILEx car-park extension TL 0449/4990

KATHY PILKINTON

Planning permission for the extension of an existing car park and ancillary works was granted by Bedford Borough Council. The works comprised turf removal followed by ground reduction. Undisturbed geological deposits were not exposed and the depth of excavation (< 0.2m) was not sufficient to reveal archaeological features. No artefacts were found.

OASIS ID: albionar1-258517

Accession no: BEDFM 2016.53

Bedfordshire

Kempston Hardwick, Land off Woburn Road

TL 0224/4558

WIEBKE STARKE and GARY EDMONDSON

Trial trenching revealed extensive modern made-ground and other modern disturbance, below which lay a series of archaeological features — three ditches and two pits. Although no datable material was recovered, the apparently later ditch in the sequence correlates with the continuation of ditches identified as part of a late Iron Age/Roman farmstead, associated with the adjacent Marsh Leys investigation. The parallel, apparently earlier, ditches have an alignment similar to the undated ditches revealed to the south-west, along the road corridor for the A421 Improvements scheme. They may define a trackway. The nature of the ditch fills and the lack of finds suggest that the features define boundaries located away from any focus of human habitation.

The pits appear to be of contrasting date, based on their relationships to the subsoil. The larger pit truncated the subsoil, implying a more recent date (possibly post-medieval) to that of the smaller pit. The small pit could be contemporary with the ditches as it was also sealed by the subsoil.

OASIS ID: albionar1-323091

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.47

Leighton Buzzard, Site 17B, Grovebury Farm

SP 9286/2356

TORI GUY and JO BARKER

In 2012, outline planning permission was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the construction of 125 dwellings with associated play space, landscaping, parking and access. Evaluation in 2006 had produced an assemblage of abraded Roman pottery from subsoil in one part of the site. This area was targeted by a strip, map and sample investigation in January 2018, covering an area of c.0.2ha.

Residual Iron Age pottery and a saddle quern fragment hint at prehistoric activity. However, the earliest identified features (six pits) dated to the early Roman period. Pottery was recovered from over half of them, which together with two rotary quern fragments suggests an association with domestic activity. In the absence of any other settlement-related features it is presumed that the pits represent peripheral settlement activity, with the main settlement focus situated elsewhere. No continuation of the contemporary bedding trenches seen on Site 17A to the west was found. The presence of two furrows indicates that in the medieval period the area formed part of an open-field system.

OASIS ID: albionar1-300581

Accession no: LUTNM: 2018/7

Northill, Land to the rear of 33-43 Ickwell Road

TL 5065/6294

JO BARKER and WIEBKE STARKE

Planning consent was granted for the erection of four detached dwellings with associated garages. The archaeological investigations were undertaken in two stages. Trial trenching demonstrated that Area B was largely devoid of archaeological remains, apart from a modern ditch. The

investigations within Area A identified further pits and ditches of post-medieval date.

OASIS ID: albionar1-315259

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.26

Podington, Christopher Reeves VA Primary School

(SP) 9411/6237

BEN BARKER and GARETH SHANE

Initial works comprised the excavation of a series of wall footing trenches for a new building on an existing tarmacked play area. Monitoring of ground reduction within these footings revealed only features related to the agricultural landscape — a single probable cultivation furrow and two adjacent ditches, representing the redefinition of a post-medieval or later field boundary.

OASIS ID: albionar1-304238

Accession no: BEDFM 2017.114

Sandy, Potton Road TL 1811/4886

IAIN LESLIE and MIKE LUKE

Archaeological trial trenching identified part of an Iron Age settlement as well as part of the known Roman 'small town' at Sandy. The pre-'Belgic' Iron Age settlement appeared to be concentrated in the south-west part of the PDA. It comprised both ditches and a cluster of pits. It is uncertain if this evidence represents an isolated farmstead or is part of a more extensive Iron Age settlement that was the precursor to the Roman town. However, the recovery of three late Iron Age coins (similar to other such finds nearby) suggests that the settlement's status may have been higher than that of a farmstead.

The evaluation demonstrated that the Roman 'small town' of Sandy was more extensive than previously thought. The remains within the PDA may represent ribbon development along the Baldock to Godmanchester road, which was identified within the PDA. The remains comprised ditched enclosures containing buildings and other structures, including one associated with ironworking. The densest activity was unsurprisingly found adjacent to the road. The finds were dominated by pottery and animal bone. However, a range of metal objects included forty-five coins, two brooches, two spoons, a pewter bowl, a bracelet and a pair of tweezers.

The dry valley ran NE-SW across the PDA, creating a c.2ha zone of complex vertical stratigraphy. Dispersed post-medieval to modern pits and a ditch were identified in three trenches.

OASIS ID: albionar1 325991

Accession no: BEDFM 2018.59

Stotfold, Manor Farm TL 2208/3729

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and JEREMY OETGEN

Six trial trenches in the immediate vicinity of a medieval heritage asset (Stotfold Green) showed little evidence for activity of the period. One trench revealed a ditch that contained two abraded sherds of medieval pottery; the feature may date to the medieval period but it is equally likely that it is later in date (with the pottery being residual). Late post-medieval/modern features included a number of pits, some containing animal burials, and a possible pond

or quarry pit. Foundation trenches were also revealed which correspond with post-medieval farm buildings and farmyard enclosures demolished between 2005 and 2008.

OASIS ID: albionar1-329488
Accession no: BEDFM 2018.73

Swineshead, Land adj. Shepherd's Cottage, High Street
TL 0591/6577

WIEBKE STARKE and ROB WARDILL

One of two trial trenches revealed a layer, quarry pits and a possible linear feature, which all dated to the post-medieval/modern period (17th to 19th century).

OASIS ID: albionar1-302051
Accession no: BEDFM 2017.109

Toddington, Bedford Arms TL 0091/2861

BEN BARKER

Planning permission was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the erection of eight 2-storey dwellings with associated parking. Trial trenching revealed only relatively modern features.

OASIS ID: albionar1-323622

Wootton, 41-43 Cause End Road TL 00769 45390

BEN BARKER and WIEBKE STARKE

Trial trenching revealed archaeological features in two of four trenches — a probable furrow, a small gully and a probable roadside ditch. A modern make-up layer and some late post-medieval/Victorian make-up deposits were also revealed.

OASIS ID: albionar1-308477
Accession no: BEDFM 2018.12

Wrestlingworth, Land at Potton Road TL 2569/4750

WIEBKE STARKE

Trial trenching identified a small number of archaeological features — a small pit, two ditches on roughly similar alignments and a large quarry. The findings suggest that the site contains sparse archaeological remains. Although some contain late Saxon pottery was recovered, it was residual in later features.

OASIS ID: albionar1-307415
Accession no: BEDFM 2018.07

Wymington, St Lawrence's Lower School (SP)

5474/4421

WIEBKE STARKE

Bedford Borough Council Children's Services obtained planning permission for the erection of a two-classroom extension building and the construction of an off-site car park in the grounds of the nearby Community Playing Field off Manor Lane. The archaeological works identified two significant (and sequential) boundary ditches within the footprint of the school extension. A small assemblage of medieval pottery dates both ditches to the 12th–13th century. Both also contained abraded, residual sherds of earlier pottery — early to middle Saxon and late Saxon — attesting to earlier activity on the site. No further archaeological

features were observed during the extension groundworks apart from two modern pits. No significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed within the off-site car park.

OASIS ID: albionar1-312253, albionar1-322378
Accession no: BEDFM 2018.20

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Bromham, Land adjacent to 52 Oakley Road

TL 01150 52000

COSTA, B. SUMMERS, J.R. and BESCOBY, D.

In April 2018 a magnetic gradiometer survey was carried out in relation to a planning application for a residential development. The primary findings of the survey were two large enclosure forms, bounding numerous smaller enclosures and sub-divisions, and associated features. This included five possible thermoremanent anomalies characteristic of the remains of heated structures, such as hearths, kilns or furnaces. In addition to the main enclosures and internal features were two possible droveways formed by anomalies, a possible small satellite enclosure, and a number of discrete positive anomalies representing pit type features and indicating continued activity outside the enclosures to the east. In form, the enclosures and internal features are indicative of prehistoric origin and it is possible that multiple phases of activity are represented by the anomalies. A number of discrete positive magnetic anomalies, predominantly to the east of the enclosures, are likely to represent pit-type features.

Clophill, 126 High Street TL 0935 3809

VINCENT MONAHAN

In December 2018 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken to fulfil requirements of planning condition for the residential development of land, based on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists. The evaluation revealed peat and evidence of wet ground conditions. A peat deposit concentrated in the southern end of the site, and the underlying alluvial clays are likely to have formed in marshy conditions in the floodplain close to the River Flit prior to the historic drainage of the area. Historically, the former course of the river and a subsidiary channel can be seen running through this part of the site on the 1716 Clophill and Cainhoe Estate map and the 1828 Enclosure map. Geotechnical investigations on the site have identified peat deposits at greater depth overlying the terrace gravels. Features were present in two trenches comprising post-holes and ditches. The features were undated or of post-medieval and modern date. The lack of earlier features will be related to the site's wet ground conditions.

Great Barford: Evidence for late Iron Age settlement

TL 13275 51575

ANDREW A. S. NEWTON and MARK BLAGG-NEWSOME

Summary

In November and December 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation on land on land at Oakfields, 126 High Street, Great Barford, Bedford

Bedfordshire

MK44 3LF. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential for remains of multi-period date. It is located to the south west of the historic core of Great Barford. Extensive cropmarks are located close to the north and west of the site, and comprise multiple circular, rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures, possible pits and structures. They remain uninvestigated and undated but their form suggests a prehistoric or Romano-British origin. Their position and orientation suggests that they may continue into the current site at Oakfields. Excavation at the current site identified two groups of intercutting ditches running in alignment with, and seemingly representing the continuation of, at least one element of the adjacent cropmark complex. Investigation of these features has indicated that they are of late Iron Age date. They contained a variety of artefactual evidence indicating that they were associated with domestic settlement somewhere close by. This suggests that the adjacent cropmark complex may also be of late Iron Age date. Artefactual and environmental evidence suggests similarities in patterns of pottery consumption but perhaps some degree of agricultural specialisation between the settlement identified here and the late Iron Age settlement activity recorded along the route of the A421 Great Barford bypass.

Introduction

Great Barford (Fig. 18) is a village in Bedfordshire lying on the River Great Ouse and is well known for its 15th century bridge which is Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 1004505) and a Grade I listed building. Great Barford is located c.5.5km to the east of the county town of Bedford and is bypassed to the north by the A421 which runs to the south of Bedford, linking the M1 and the A1 at the Black Cat Roundabout.

From September 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) began archaeological work at a site in the southern part of Great Barford at Oakfields, 126 High Street (Fig. 18). This work was required as part of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the residential redevelopment of the site. The Oakfields site lies in an area of archaeological potential for remains of multi-period date and is located to the south-west of the historic core of Great Barford (recorded on the Bedford Historic Environment Record – BHER17150).

Cropmarks representing ring-ditches and enclosures are located at the crossing point of the river to the east and west of the village. They are mostly thought to be Bronze Age in date, although some are classified as ‘prehistoric’ (BHER 613, 1842 & 600). An area on the northern border of the village, between New Road and Addingtons Road, was excavated in 1998 revealing ring-ditches and rectilinear enclosures with a concentration of small pits and post holes, indicative of settlement activity (BHER EBB628). One of the pits contained early Bronze Age pottery and flint artefacts of a similar date were also recorded (BHER 604). A similar area of enclosures, ring ditches and trackways has been identified in the fields directly to the west of the site (BHER MBB21733); these are clearly visible on aerial photographs and probably relate to other areas of cropmarks further to the west (BHER 600).

At College Farm, 350–400m to the north, a pit alignment, running for approximately 125m before extending beyond the limits of the excavated area in either direction, and five ditches which ran parallel to it, was recorded. Together, the pit alignment and ditches formed a major land boundary which was considered characteristic of the Iron Age and this

date was confirmed by the presence of a small amount of dateable artefactual material (Albion Archaeology 2005). Excavation to the north-west of Brewers Hall Farm in Great Barford recorded middle Iron Age activity that mainly consisted of pits and ditches, thought to be associated with a settlement, possibly located to the south (BHER 18224). Within a later phase, a roundhouse and associated pits were present. Eventually the site appears to have reverted back to agricultural use and an enclosure was constructed. During the late Iron Age the enclosure continued in use but internal activity was limited to a single pit.

Trial trench evaluation (Bedfordshire HER 15492) of a series of cropmarks to the south of Brewers Hall Farm recorded evidence for Iron Age pits, ditches, postholes, a water hole, and a metal surface. The features were dated by the finds evidence of which a large portion was ceramic. A square enclosure, another metal surface, linear features, pits and postholes were all ascribed a late Iron Age to Roman date.

During archaeological excavation carried out ahead of the construction of the A421 Great Barford bypass, to the north of the village, some trace of late Iron Age occupation was recorded at six of the excavated sites with fairly substantial settlement evidence recorded at four of them (Webley 2007a). This evidence consisted of roundhouses and associated settlement enclosures, artefactual evidence of domestic occupation and evidence for agricultural activity. A programme of archaeological trial trenching which preceded excavation along the line of the A421 Great Barford bypass recorded an inhumation of possible late Iron Age date (Carlyle 2004, 7).

Possible Iron Age settlement was recorded to the north of Cuckoo Bridge in the mid to late 1970s during archaeological work in advance of the Southern Feeder gas pipeline. A number of ditches and pits, heavily disturbed by land drains were recorded at this site which hampered recording of the features. All of the recorded features contained clay and gravel fills along with large quantities of charcoal and shell-tempered Iron Age pottery (Catherall *et al* (eds.) 1984, 18–19).

Roman archaeology is focused along the route of the Roman road from Sandy to Sharnbrook. The road runs on a north-west to south-east alignment c.300m to the north-east of the site where it crosses the Great Ouse to the north of Barford Bridge (BHER 728). Other cropmarks and enclosures have been recorded to the south of the village and are thought to be indicative of field systems dating to this period (BHER 609).

Saxo-Norman features c.230m to the north of the site, within the medieval village core, indicate possible seasonal occupation dependant on the flooding of the river (BHER MBB21782). The Domesday Survey lists Great Barford as an important settlement perhaps associated with the river crossing. Although the current Barford Bridge was not built until the 15th century earlier structures can be conjectured. Current understanding of the layout medieval Great Barford suggests that the focus of settlement was limited to the area north of the river crossing and concentrated around the parish church of All Saints (BHER 1011), the earliest known fabric of which is 15th century in date although the presence of a 13th century font (Page 1912) might indicate earlier origins; a trial trench evaluation conducted at College Farm identified areas of medieval settlement activity (BHER 17150) in the southern part of the area investigated. Earthwork remains

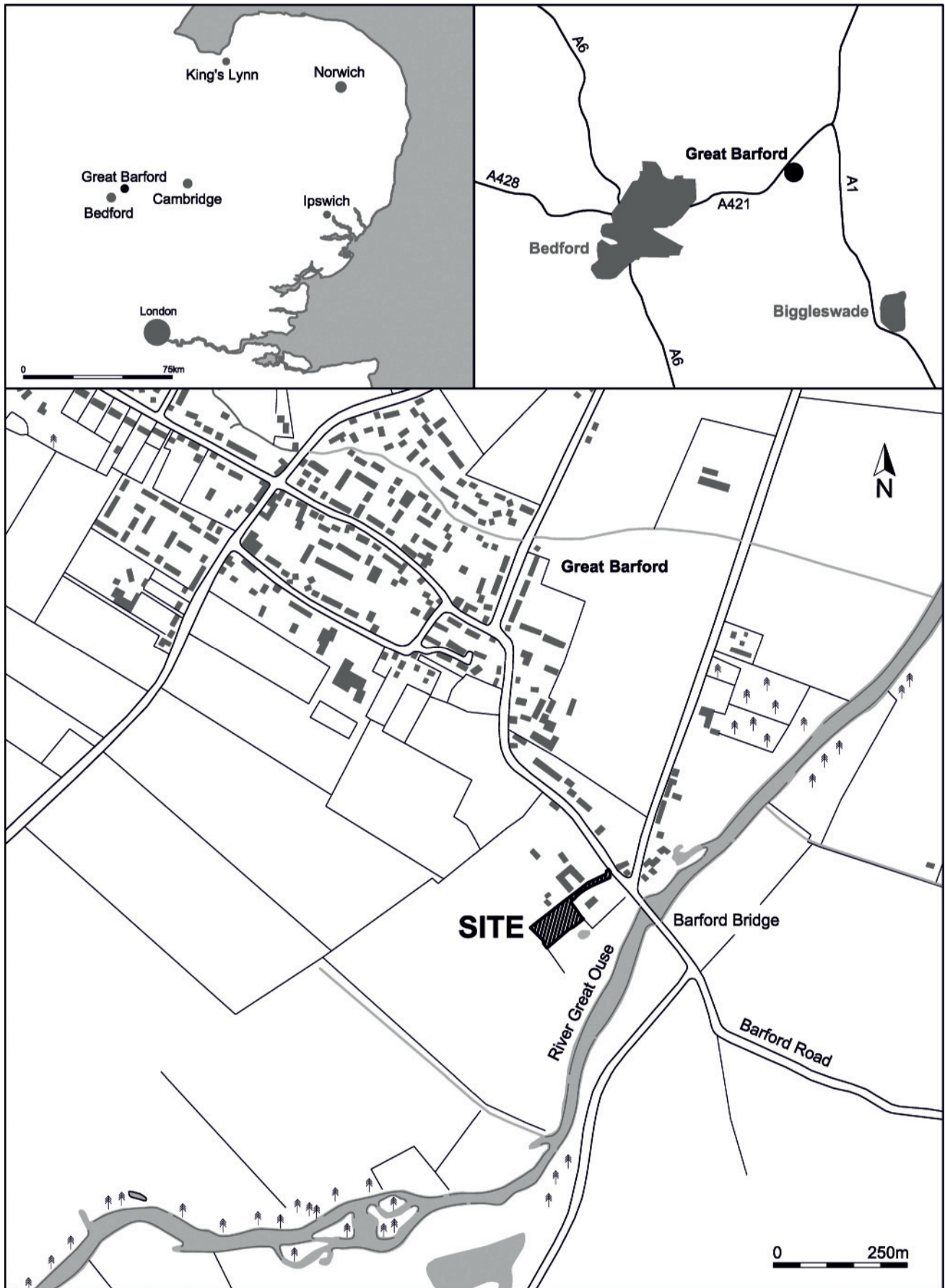


Figure 18: Great Barford, Site Location Plan

of a possible moated site are located directly to the north at Bridge Farmhouse, a c.1600 structure with later additions (BHER 752 & 2323).

Introduction

As a result of the findings of the trial trench evaluation a programme of archaeological mitigation, consisting of a 'strip, map & sample' investigation, was required with the specific aims and objectives of identifying, excavating

Specific attention was paid to:

- Establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site;
- Establishing the relationship of any remains identified to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- Recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of a regional type series; and
- Recovery of palaeo-environmental remains in order to determine local environmental conditions

The archaeological ‘strip, map & sample’ investigation was carried out across the area of the proposed new development, consisting of house plots and a central yard (Figs. 18 & 19). The topsoil was mechanically excavated under close



archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

Results of the ‘strip, map and sample’ investigation

The investigation identified a total of 35 features of archaeological origin (Fig. 19). Over half of the excavated features were pits or postholes but the bulk of the artefactual evidence came from a number of ditches and gullies that were mostly concentrated in two intercutting located in the south-western part of the excavated area. These corresponded to the archaeological features previously identified during the trial trench evaluation (Walker 2016; Fig. 2).

On the basis of artefactual and stratigraphic evidence, four phases of archaeological activity were identified (Fig. 19). The first two of these phases may be considered to be contiguous, occurring in the late Pre-Roman Iron Age with the second phase possibly extending into the early Romano-British period. Although the ceramic material from these two phases of activity is discussed solely as a late Pre-Roman Iron Age assemblage (Peachey 2017), spot-dates derived from the initial analysis of this material suggested that some stratigraphically significant features contained pottery of types with a currency which extended into the earlier part of the Romano-British period. This may be considered to be consistent with observations made with regard to the late Iron Age sites recorded along the length of the A421 Great Barford bypass, with which the current site and its ceramic assemblage are directly comparable, at which the late Iron Age phase should be regarded as potentially continuing for several years or even a few decades beyond the Roman conquest, due to the patchy uptake of ‘Romanising’ ceramics during the mid-1st century AD in this region (Webley 2007a, 54). Later identifiable phases of activity are dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods, both of which are represented by single features.

Phase	Period	Date
1	Late Pre-Roman Iron Age	<i>1st century BC to 1st century AD</i>
2	Early Romano-British	<i>1st century BC to early/mid-2nd century AD</i>
3	Medieval	<i>11th to 13th century AD</i>
4	Post-medieval	<i>AD 1500 to AD 1750</i>

Table 1: The phases of activity represented at the Oakfields, Great Barford site

Phases 1 and 2: The late Pre-Roman Iron Age and later

Phase 1 features

The ditches in the Phase 1 ditch complex were all aligned north-west to south-east, with the exception of Ditch F2061 which was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west, and were all located in the south-western portion of the site

(Fig. 19, grid locations A2 to B1). The ditches varied in length with the shortest measuring 2.38m long (F2061) and the longest measuring 38.40m (F2021). There was limited variation in the composition of the fills of the ditches with the majority containing a variation of either sandy silt or silty sand fills, varying between orangey brown and greyish brown in colour. All contained flint inclusions which were either sub-angular or angular in shape, and with the exception of F2005, F2032 and F2061, all contained at least two fills. With the exception of F2061 (which was dateable due to stratigraphic relationships), all of the features contained dateable artefactual evidence. Animal bone was also fairly abundant, whilst there were isolated instances of shell (F2021B) and struck flint (F2005E). Ditch F2009 (L2031) contained a penannular brooch of Booth’s type C (2014, 116). Booth suggests that this type of brooch spanned the 1st and early 2nd century AD, with Late Iron Age origins.

The stratigraphically earliest ditch in the group was F2005, the middle 12m of which was truncated by the later Ditch F2021. The similar alignment and intercutting nature of ditches F2009, F2032 and F2037 would suggest that these were stratigraphically and chronologically consecutive features that fulfilled a similar function.

Contemporary with this ditch complex were Pits F2035 and F2059. The former measured $1.5 \times 0.90 \times 0.30\text{m}$ and was sub-oval whilst the latter measured $0.20 \times 0.20 \times 0.07\text{m}$ and was circular in plan. ‘Belgic’ pottery was recovered in relative abundance from both these features; the forms of the pottery would suggest that these pits contained domestic waste from a moderately affluent settlement (Peachey 2017).

Slightly to the south-west, in the area that would become the location of the Phase 2 ditch complex, were Ditch F2052 and Pit F2055. Ditch F2052 appears to represent a precursor to the slightly later Phase 2 ditch complex while Pit F2055 was a modestly sized pit measuring $1.27 \times 0.95 \times 0.81\text{m}$ that extended beyond the western limit of the excavated area. A small assemblage of animal bone (70g) and eight sherds of pottery (96g) were recovered from this feature.

Phase 2 features

Within the south-western part of the excavated area, a second group of intercutting ditches was recorded. Its constituent features were all arranged running on a north-west to south-east alignment parallel and *c.*1.4m to the south-west of the Phase 1 ditch complex (Fig. 19; Grid Locations A1 to B1). At the south-eastern end of this group, was Ditch F2103, which was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. The ditches were variable in length with the shortest, F2103, measuring *c.*2.60m in length, whilst the longest, F2057, was *c.*13.40m in length. There was no variation in the composition of the fills as all contained sandy silt deposits, with some variation in colour, consistency and inclusions present. All of the ditches, with the exception of F2025, contained only one fill. Pottery was present throughout all of the features, with animal bone also very abundant. Occasional finds of struck flint (F2057B, F2079A), fired clay (F2057A), a whetstone (F2057A) and CBM (F2079A) were also recovered from these features.

Overlying ditch F2057 in the south (Grid Location B1), was a shallow occupation layer, F2079, which at its deepest point measured 0.16m. A rich finds assemblage was recovered from this deposit, including pottery (24 sherds, 478g), animal bone (60), struck flint (2 frags, 5g) and CBM

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(14g). The pottery assemblage is suggestive of domestic waste. This corroborates with the animal bone assemblage where a preponderance of rib fragments and chopped shaft elements indicates domestic waste probably from the production of food.

Two features associated with Phase 2 were located in association with the Phase 1 ditch complex, these were Ditch F2007 and its re-cut F2092, and Pit F2049. Ditch F2007 ran on the same alignment as the earlier F2009 and crossed over the earlier ditch at several points. At some point later, ditch F2007 was re-cut by Ditch F2092. Pottery finds were abundant from F2007, with finds particularly prevalent in fills L2014 and L2015. The forms and soot patterns suggest that some of the pottery from F2007 was used for cooking, whilst other forms are indicative of domestic detritus probably from occupation in the immediate vicinity (Peachey 2017). Pit F2049 cut the eastern side of F2007, 0.80m south of ditch terminus F2032. Artefactual evidence suggestive of domestic occupation was recovered from this feature alongside burnt bone and animal remains.

The function of the intercutting ditch groups

It has previously been suggested that, as the alignment of the ditches in these groups followed the natural slope of the land in the direction of the river Great Ouse, that these ditches had a drainage function which would have led to them silting up and thus necessitating their regular re-cutting (Blagg-Newsome and Newton 2017). While this cannot be entirely ruled out, a more logical way of managing drainage ditches would be to remove silty deposits at regular intervals rather than waiting until a ditch had become completely clogged with silt and compacted, thus rendering it ineffective, and then cutting a new ditch adjacent to or partially cutting the earlier one. Furthermore, there appears to be little logic in the way that these recuts occurred; in several instances, particularly within the more south-westerly group, the later features do not recut the full length of the earlier ditches, suggesting that they would have been ineffective in draining water away from further upslope. Crucially, however, it should be noted that the site is located on free draining soils, suggesting that drainage is unlikely to have been a problem.

A number of boundaries and enclosures at the Iron Age and Romano-British site at Fordham Road, Soham, Cambridgeshire were marked by ditches that had been recut several times. These boundaries ran on several different alignments irrespective of the local topography, suggesting that drainage was not their primary function and that the deposition of silt within them as a result of such a function was not what necessitated their re-cutting (Newton and Quinn 2015). At least two of the earliest enclosures at middle Iron Age to Roman site at Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire were demarcated by repeatedly recut boundary ditches (Newton 2012). It is possible that this is the result of the continuing development of the site during the middle to late Iron Age phase of activity in which they were first established. At the early to middle Iron Age site at Topler's Hill, Bedfordshire, a major boundary ditch forming part of a field system was recut on at least three occasions with the latest two recuts seemingly representing adaptation to a double-ditched boundary (Luke 2004, 36–37).

In all of the cases cited above, the repeated re-cutting of boundary ditches appears to be associated with wider development or adaptation within the site. As the ditches

represented in this part of the site appear to relate to the cropmark complex to the west and north-west of the site, it appears possible that the repeated re-cutting of these ditches is consistent with change and development within the wider settlement as was identified at Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (Newton 2012). In some cases, redevelopment, and therefore, re-cutting of boundary ditches at these sites may have been carried out because they had become infilled and indistinct. If this is the case, however, the boundaries which they denoted must have been augmented with a hedgerow, fence line or bank made from the upcast of the original ditch, and for which no evidence was recorded at the current site, otherwise they would have ceased to function effectively long before re-cutting was carried out.

The intercutting nature of the ditches and the small window onto the overall layout of the site that the excavated area affords make it difficult to determine exactly what form the boundary took and whether or not the fact that Ditches F2021 and F2005 did not extend further to the north-west indicates that there was at some point a gap or entrance in the boundary. It is possible that those ditches considered to be of slightly later date might represent a double-ditched boundary, potentially suggesting that the boundary was being deliberately emphasised and made bolder. Hingley (1990, 96) asserts that boundaries constructed on Iron Age sites may have been associated with social status and Collis (1996, 90) states that boundaries can represent a display of status to outsiders; it is possible that this was the motivating factor behind the creation of a possible double-ditch boundary and, indeed, possibly goes some way to explaining the apparent repeated reworking of this boundary.

Rees (2008), in his study of later Iron Age sites in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire suggests that the reason enclosure ditches were allowed to silt up (or, indeed were backfilled) and then required re-cutting was because of the dual symbolic and functional significance of the boundary (Hill 1996, 102); the boundary may disappear from view but its position was known and respected by the inhabitants of the settlement.

Enclosures can be created for a variety of purposes; to contain animals, to keep animals out, to keep people out, to denote ownership, to denote status, to indicate areas in which different behavioural norms should be observed, to denote areas of particular symbolic importance, to indicate clear differences between the interior and exterior, and even for protection. In many cases enclosures may have fulfilled more than one of these functions. The function of an enclosure might be indicated by the features recorded within it or by the finds recovered from features associated with it. Associated features are limited, so interpretation regarding the nature of the enclosure that these ditches represent rests mainly on artefactual assemblages present within it. The animal bone assemblage consists mainly of primary and secondary butchering and food waste (Curl 2017) while the deposition of pottery mostly appears to represent low intensity accumulation of waste and refuse while deposition into the stratigraphically late Ditches F2007 and F2057 represents a specific episode or short-duration phase of disposal, perhaps indicating final infilling and closure of the boundary (Peachey 2017). The character of these assemblages, and particularly the low intensity accumulation of refuse material, is suggestive of domestic habitation nearby.

The late Iron Age economy

Elements of the pottery assemblage indicate links to other contemporary sites in the surrounding area in terms of the patterns of pottery consumption and supply. Imported pottery types are present at these sites and this indicates a flourishing pre-Roman economy that was probably supported by the relative proximity and transport connections to important 'central places' at locations such as Baldock and Milton Keynes (Peachey 2017). These connections, and the distribution of pottery, may have taken the form of commercial trade but could also have been part of a system of exchange designed to create and mediate relationships (Moore 2007, 92).

Both at the current site and at College Farm to the north (Albion Archaeology 2005, 31) limited evidence of crop processing was identified, suggesting that the basis of the agricultural economies at these sites was pastoral. Summers (2017) suggests that this is because the loamy and clay-rich soils of the surrounding area would have been poorly suited to Iron Age cultivation methods. However, abundant cereal grain, chaff, and seeds from weeds associated with arable land were recorded at sites investigated along the line of the A421 Great Barford Bypass (Druce 2007, 366–367). As Summers (2017) notes, the lack of evidence for crop processing at the current site does not necessarily indicate that the settlement that it represents was not engaged in arable agriculture; however, the lack of evidence for such activity at this site and at the nearby College Farm site (Albion Archaeology 2005, 31) and the presence of it at sites on the A421 Great Barford Bypass (Druce 2007, 366–367) potentially suggests settlement specialisation, perhaps with the settlements to the north supplying, either through commercial trade or a system of exchange or tribute, the sites closer to the river with ready-processed cereal and perhaps with other commodities flowing in the opposite direction.

The basis of the pastoral economy upon which the agricultural practices undertaken by the inhabitants of this site was focussed appears to have been the raising of sheep and/or goats (see Curl 2017). Sheep/goat was the most well-represented species in the animal bone assemblage, this was followed by cattle. This appears to have been supplemented by pig/boar and possibly occasional other species. It is more than likely that the majority of these food animals were bred, raised and slaughtered at the current site, although it is reasonable to suggest that some trade or exchange of animals was carried out in order to keep bloodlines refreshed and to avoid in-breeding. As the majority of the assemblage appears to consist of butchery and food waste, there is limited scope to evaluate breeding practices and the extent to which animals were utilised for other products such as milk and wool.

One particularly interesting element of the faunal assemblage is the equid tibia found in Ditch F2005C which bore knife cuts which suggest skinning and possible meat use. Meens (2002, 6) suggest that horseflesh formed an important part of people's diets in Iron Age Britain, comparing it to 1st century BC Gaul where horse makes up between 1 and 10 percent of the animal remains that can be linked to human consumption. However, Jay and Richards (2007, 184) state that the smaller presence of butchered horse bones in the archaeological record suggests that such consumption was limited and not a staple element of the diet. The absence of younger horses in these assemblages and the fact that horse

bones are much less frequently cut or fragmented than cattle bones, suggest that horses were not kept primarily for meat (Maltby 1996, 23). Maltby (1985) and Coy (1987) have demonstrated, however, that there are some sites, notably in the Hampshire area, where there is evidence to show that horse carcasses were treated in the same way as cattle in this respect. At Outgang Road, Market Deeping, in Lincolnshire where horse was the third most numerous species (in terms of skeletal elements present) it has been demonstrated that horse carcasses were disposed of in a similar way to those of the main meat animals, suggesting that it is probable that horse meat was eaten although it is considered that horse were mainly bred for riding and transportation (Albarella 1997). This suggests that the knife cuts on the pony bone from F2005C could represent the consumption of horse meat although it could equally represent something else such as the use of the animal, perhaps after it died of natural causes for secondary purposes, which could include the production of glues, grease and other products, although evidence of bone smashing, which might be consistent with this, is lacking.

The presence of disarticulated dog bone is also of note. The Ancient Greek god of medicine, Asklepios, was frequently depicted with a dog as his animal companion (Hill 2014) and dogs were also attributed to a variety of other deities in the ancient world and Gaul and it is notable that dogs were often common components in special or 'ritual' deposits (Grimm 2007; Chilardi 2006). It is possible that there was some symbolic significance in the deposition of the dog bone recovered from the recovered from the current site but, as it came from a context which also contained bone from cattle, sheep/goats, big/boar, and an unspecified medium to large mammal displaying evidence for butchery (Curl 2017, table 10), it is perhaps more likely that it simply represents the disposal of remaining elements of a long-dead animal that had perhaps been allowed to decay elsewhere prior to deposition as the back fill of Ditch F2005. However, as Brück (1995, 255) notes many societies view rubbish as being a source of symbolic fertility and regeneration, at least in part due to its potential for use as manure; this means that even deposits which appear to represent refuse material were not necessarily discarded and forgotten about in the way that analogous material is treated in modern western society.

Late Iron Age archaeology in the surrounding area

Significant Iron Age archaeology has been recorded at College Farm in the form of the major land boundary formed by the pit alignment and sequence of five ditches recorded at this location (Albion Archaeology 2005). In addition, fairly substantial settlement evidence has been recorded at sites along the route of the A421 Great Barford bypass (Webley 2007a). This is in addition to evidence for Iron Age activity recorded in the vicinity of Brewers Hall Farm (Bedfordshire HER 18224 & 15492), ditches and pits recorded to the north of Cuckoo Bridge in the mid to late 1970s (Catherall *et al* (eds.) 1984, 18–19), ditches containing Iron Age pottery recorded during archaeological trial trenching associated with the Great Barford flood attenuation scheme (Meckseper 2006, 13), and unstratified finds of Iron Age date including pottery (CHER 14962) and a late Iron Age coin (CHER MBB19900).

Iron Age settlement is, therefore, well represented in the area surrounding Great Barford. The archaeology recorded



Figure 20: Great Barford, Comparison of cropmarks with excavated features

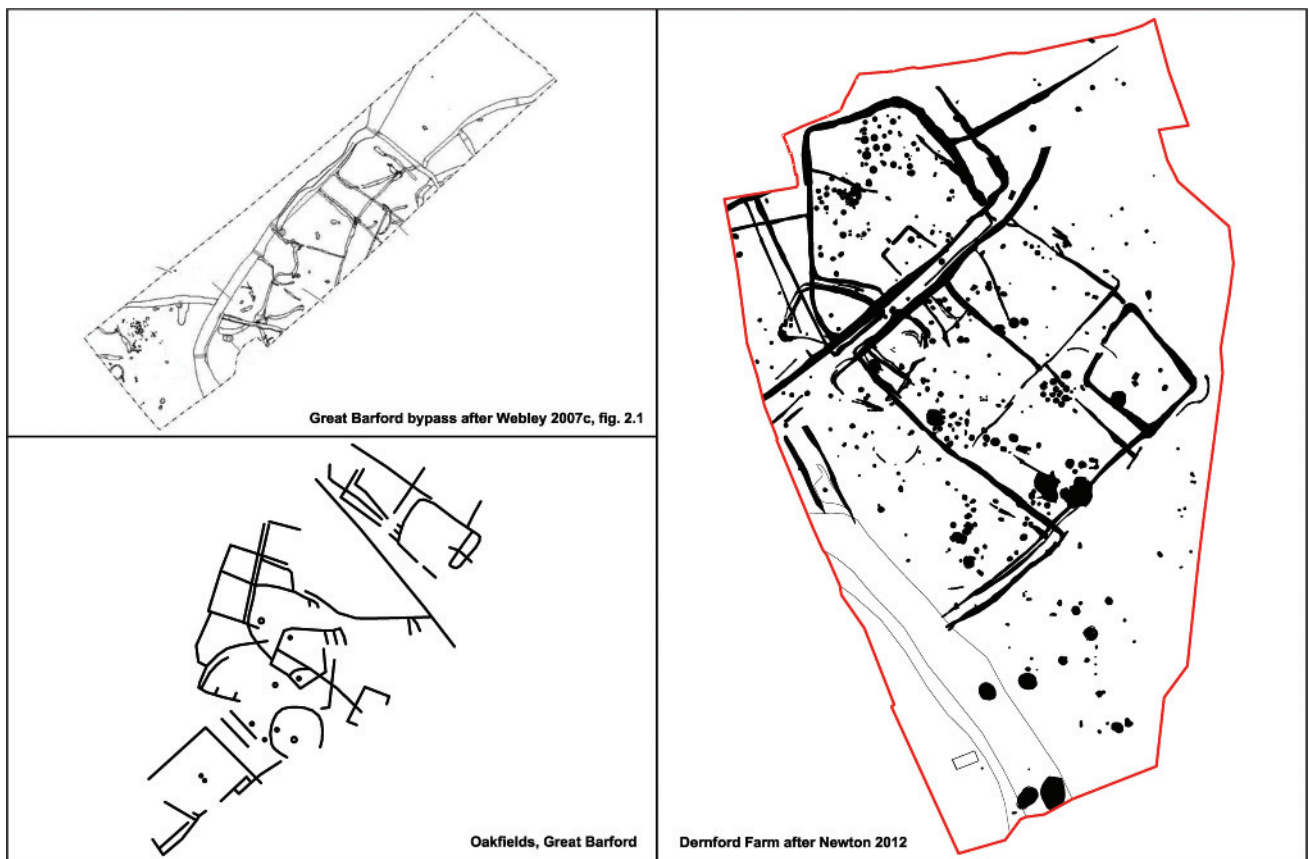


Figure 21: Great Barford, Comparison of cropmarks with contemporary sites

at the current site forms part of a wider Iron Age landscape which, given the differences in date between some of these sites, may represent the growth, spread, and relocation of settlement over time. No direct links can be drawn between this site and the broadly contemporary activity in the surrounding area, at least in part because of the small scale of the archaeology recorded here, but it is possible that the current site had direct links with the major boundary recorded at College Farm (Albion Archaeology 2005) and possibly communicated with the settlements to the north and west. Certainly there are societal similarities between this site and those recorded on the Great Barford Bypass inasmuch as the pattern of pottery consumption appears broadly consistent between these sites (Peachey 2017; Webley 2007b, 234). Due to their contemporaneity, it appears likely that there must have been some kind of interaction between the settlement represented at the current site and the late Iron Age settlements recorded along the line of the bypass.

The current site and cropmark evidence to the north and west

Cropmarks showing ring ditches and enclosures have been identified in the fields directly to the north and west of the site (BHER MBB21733, 600); these are clearly visible on aerial photographs and google satellite imagery. A linear component of the cropmark complex slightly to the west of the 'ladder' system within this group runs on the same alignment as ditches recorded during the excavation at the current site (Fig. 20). This suggests that this cropmark may represent the north-westerly continuation of the boundary that these ditches represent and indicates that this area may be the focus of the settlement activity of which the excavated features are considered to represent one small part.

The form of the cropmarks, especially those at the eastern extent of the complex, is very similar to the 'ladder' form of the contemporary settlements (Fig. 21) at sites such as Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (Newton 2012), site 2 at the A421 Great Barford Bypass (Webley 2007c, fig. 2.1), and at the Leighton Buzzard Flood Alleviation Scheme (Phillips 2006).

It is not possible to be entirely certain that all of the cropmarks represented here are directly contemporary with one another and what in fact may be represented is a palimpsest of activity representing occupation of this area over a prolonged period. However, the similarities displayed by at least part of this set of cropmarks to the known late Iron Age settlements at Dernford Farm (Newton 2012), the A421 Great Barford Bypass (Webley 2007c, fig. 2.1), and the Leighton Buzzard Flood Alleviation Scheme (Phillips 2006) suggests that at least part of it may be of this date.

Possible late Roman activity

Located in the north-east of the site (Grid Location A3 to B3), was a gully, F2073, orientated north-west to south, c.8.38m in length, and cut at either end by postholes F2075 and F2077, respectively. All three features contained a mid-greyish brown sandy silt fill, with the only variation being that the consistency of the fill of the postholes was friable as opposed to the gully's firm composition. Pottery and animal bone were recovered from each of these contexts except those pertaining to the southern posthole F2075.

The arrangement of Gully F2073 and Postholes F2075 and F2077 is suggestive of a structural configuration. It may

represent a similar construction method to that observed in the much larger late Iron Age Building 5 at Gorhambury in Hertfordshire (Neal *et al* 1990, 25, fig. 31). The ground plan of this structure consisted of two parallel trenches with postholes cut into the bases to support upright timbers. In this case it is uncertain why trenches were required but it is speculated that it may have allowed for more flexibility to make adjustments to the positioning of the posts during construction (*ibid.*). However, the proportions of F2073, F2075, and F2077 indicate that this must have been a much smaller example than the Gorhambury building and, as no corresponding gully was identified, it cannot be categorically stated that this represented an entire building. It could, however, have represented some kind of small-scale simple structure, such as a two-post drying rack (after Cunliffe 1986; Megaw and Simpson 1981, 382).

The majority of dateable artefactual material from this group of features has been dated to the late 1st century BC to mid-1st century AD. However, a sherd of mid-3rd to 4th century AD Roman mortarium was recovered from posthole F2077. This material may be intrusive and not reflective of an accurate date for the feature or the group of which it forms part. Although this constitutes only minimal evidence for later Romano-British activity, its presence suggests that occupation of this date may have occurred in the vicinity. Although the evidence clearly indicates that the majority of features recorded within the current site represent very late Iron Age activity, this single piece of mortarium raises the possibility that at least part of the complex of cropmarks to which this site appears to be related may, in fact, be of later date.

Later activity

The proximity of the Oakfields site to the moated site at Bridge Farm suggests that the minimal medieval evidence that was recorded, in the form of Ditch F2090 and the 11 sherds (105g) of medieval pottery that it contained, is likely to be related to occupation here. It is interesting to note that Ditch F2090 ran on a similar alignment to (and broadly parallel with) the late Iron Age ditches to the south-west but this is not necessarily unusual as, due to natural or human geography and topography and other factors, the orientation or alignment of boundaries and other man-made elements of the landscape can adhere to similar alignments over very prolonged periods; one such example is the village of Bottisham in Cambridgeshire where the modern layout of the settlement follows similar alignments to Roman boundaries identified during excavation in the north of the village (Newton 2016, 41). The identification of Ditch F2090 as a medieval feature does little to alter the understanding of the layout of medieval Great Barford, although it indicates the possible presence of a boundary at this location.

Gully F2099 has been dated as post-medieval although, like F2090, it contained residual late Iron Age finds. Its relationship with Gully F2097, which it cut and which it lay at a right angle to, might indicate a shared function. The location of the site might suggest that the function of this feature might be an ancillary one, perhaps representing back yard or minor agricultural activity associated with properties closer to the road.

Conclusions

The archaeology recorded at the Oakfields site was small-scale in extent and consisted mainly of linear features, the

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precise function of which cannot be conclusively ascertained from the evidence recorded during the excavation. What the evidence, in form of artefactual and faunal remains, does indicate is that these ditches were associated with a settlement site. The proximity, and similarity of alignment, of the cropmark complex to the north and west of the current site strongly suggests that this is the location of the settlement site to which these ditches were related.

This, therefore, indicates that the southern part of Great Barford contains a potentially significant late Iron Age settlement site. Proximity and other similarities, such as patterns of pottery consumption, suggest that this site formed part an interconnected landscape of settlements which included the sites identified along the route of the A421 Great Barford bypass and potentially with the boundary recorded at College Farm.

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Potton, Land off the Paddocks, east of Sutton Mill Road
TL 21800 48950

DR JOHN SUMMERS

In April 2018 a magnetic gradiometer survey was carried out on the advice of Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists prior to the validation and determination of a proposed planning performance agreement to construct a new residential development of a minimum of 90 dwellings with 0.5ha space for allotments. The survey identified a number of positive linear anomalies of possible archaeological origin. Three anomalies may represent boundary ditches, incorporating a ditched trackway, while three linear anomalies were present but had no discernible relationships. A pair of curvilinear anomalies may represent a small sub-circular enclosure but this is tentative due to the weak nature of the response. A further discrete positive anomaly was indicative of a cut and infilled pit type feature. A sinuous and branching positive anomaly could also be archaeological in origin, although a modern source could not be discounted.

Ridgmont, 2–4 Eversholt Road SP 97519 35912

LAUREN WILSON

In June 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd conducted an historic building appraisal as a heritage asset ahead of a proposed development. The building is a Grade II listed pair of very modest early 19th century cottages. Many of the original internal partitions appear to survive, or later partitions follow the same lines, meaning the original layout of the cottages is preserved. In the 1980s the building was repaired and upgraded. Most of the windows and doors date from this period of upgrading.

Toddington, Toddington Manor, Park Road

TL 00246 29871

LAUREN WILSON

In August 2018 an historic building appraisal was carried out on the manor's listed greenhouse to set out the heritage aspects to be affected by any proposed repair of its curtilage. The greenhouse was constructed in 1913 and considered to be of some historic importance due to its continued use as a greenhouse from first construction to relatively recently with little alteration.

Wyboston: Medieval, Post-Medieval and 19th / 20th Century Archaeology at The Lane

ANDREW A. S. NEWTON WITH PETER THOMPSON, ANDREW PEACHEY and JULIA E. M. CUSSANS

Summary

In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of land between 20 & 48 The Lane, Wyboston, Bedfordshire. A trial trench evaluation had previously been undertaken demonstrating the presence of post-medieval and modern activity which had disturbed earlier medieval deposits. The excavation revealed medieval boundary ditches and pits, post-medieval ditches possibly representing a small enclosure, and a 19th /20th century ditch, pond and activity associated with the infilling of a possibly natural depression. The site produced a very mixed artefactual and ecofactual assemblage, containing pottery representing all periods from the 11th century onwards, and demonstrating a notable degree of residuality in several contexts. The character and dating of the archaeology is consistent with the site's location within the postulated extent of the medieval settlement of Wyboston and with its use in the later post-medieval/early modern period as a close associated with a roadside farmstead.

Introduction

Wyboston is a straggling hamlet of some size formerly in the south-east of the parish of Eaton Socon (Page 1912) but now forming part of the civil parish of Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden in Bedfordshire. The eastern part of the village is dominated by the A1 Great North Road (Fig. 22). The Lane, is a road leading away from the A1 Great North Road to the west-north-west where it eventually meets the north/south running Roxton Road. Situated on The Lane is a plot of land at numbers 20 and 48 which was the subject of an archaeological trial trench evaluation (Muir and Henry, 2017) and later an archaeological strip, map and record excavation, conducted by Archaeological Solutions Ltd. This work was carried out as part of planning consent attached to redevelopment of the site and was designed to



Figure 22: Wyboston, Site Location

address the requirements of a brief issued by the Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team.

The site lies on the north side of The Lane at Wyboston, within a locally designated Area of Archaeological Interest

which is based upon the area believed to have formed the original medieval settlement, some 150m to the west of the junction of The Lane and the A1 trunk road (Fig. 22). The site is an area of grass and scrub, extending to some 0.45ha,

with a boundary to an agricultural field to the north. It lies at c.19m AOD on higher ground above the valley of the River Great Ouse c.500m to the east. The area displays a generally quite flat relief, sloping gently downwards to a height of c. 15m AOD on the banks of the River Great Ouse to the east and rising gently to the west.

Previous work at the site

The trial trench evaluation recorded archaeological features in each of the three excavated trenches. These were principally pits and ditches, and including two possible ponds. Five of the archaeological features contained no finds, while one of the two possible 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 were considered not to have moved far from their original place of deposition.

The results of the investigation

The strip, map and record excavation recorded 29 archaeological features. On the basis of the dateable artefactual assemblages (pottery and CBM) recovered from the site and the stratigraphic sequence, it was possible to assign these features to three distinct phases of archaeological activity (Table 1). Features that did not yield sufficient diagnostic material were phased based upon their stratigraphic or spatial relationships with dated features where possible.

Phase	Period	Date
	Struck flint	Prehistoric
Phase 1	Medieval	10th – 12th Century
Phase 2	Post-medieval	17th -18th Century
Phase 3	Modern	19th – 20th Century

Table 1. The phases of activity represented at The Lane, Wyboston

Prehistoric evidence

Three pieces of struck flint, recovered as residual material in later features, suggests prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. Of these artefacts, one is suggestive of a Mesolithic to early Neolithic date, a second appears to be of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age technology, while the third is considered to be Undiagnostic. The lack of contemporary features indicates that these items are unlikely to represent human occupation during these periods at this location; instead, these items may have arrived here through accidental loss or discard, potentially representing the movements of human populations through this area from or to settlement locations in the wider surroundings. The probable dates of these items, and the un-patinated, fresh condition in which they were found, indicates that they are unlikely to have arrived here along with the alluvially deposited river terrace gravels, as may be the case with the lithic artefacts of greater antiquity.

Pit F1017 contained a blade (4g) with parallel dorsal scars that has wear on both lateral edges. The blade appears to

have been snapped (after wear), removing the distal end, probably in use, and is consistent with Mesolithic to early Neolithic technology. In contrast, Pit F1067 contained a side scraper (12g) manufactured on a broad-squat flake with a pronounced bulb of percussion and partially shattered platform indicative of hard-hammer percussion. The dorsal surface exhibits similar multi-directional flake removals and abrupt retouch has been applied to one slightly convex lateral edge, traits most common on implements in late Neolithic to early Bronze Age assemblages. A further un-diagnostic chip (1g) was contained in Irregular feature F2025.

Phase 1. Medieval

With the exception of the ephemeral activity represented by the small quantity of struck flint, the medieval period (10th – 12th century) was the earliest phase of activity at the site and was largely confined to the western sector of the excavated area. It was comprised a series of predominantly east-south-east to west-north-west aligned ditches, several small discrete pits, and two large quarry pits. No structures were identified.

The medieval archaeology appears to represent limited cultural activity, probably on the periphery of a settlement and may relate to the development of historic Wyboston. The spatial distribution of features might suggest a focus of settlement to the west/north-west of the excavation area.

Ditch F2038 (Fig. 23) ran on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment and extended beyond the limits of excavation to the west-north-west. It was assigned to Phase 1 on the basis of the 10th – 12th century pottery (12; 153g) that was recovered from it. Along with Ditch F2052 (= F1009 Evaluation Trench 1; Fig. 23) it appeared to represent a form of boundary delineation. Undated, but early, Ditch F2029 (Fig. 23) adhered to the same west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. On this basis, it has been suggested that the stratigraphically earlier ditch represents broadly contemporary activity and has thus been assigned to Phase 1. The west-north-west to east-south-east alignment that these ditches ran on was evident in subsequent phases. Together the ditches appeared to represent a series of broadly parallel, interrupted ditches maintained over some period of time.

Six pits were assigned a medieval date. Five of these (F2010, F2017, F2019, F2021 and F2040) were located in the western sector of the excavation area (Fig. 23). The sixth, F2042, was located towards the central part of the excavated area, some 10m from the nearest contemporary feature (Fig. 23). The function of F2042, and Pits F2019 and F2021 is unclear; they are possible refuse pits but only contained small assemblages of pottery and bone. The three largest pits, F2010, F2017 and F2040, however, have been tentatively suggested to represent quarrying or the extraction of the underlying river terrace gravels.

Phase 2. Post-medieval

The post medieval period (17th – 18th century) activity at the site and was confined to the eastern half of the excavated area. It comprised two perpendicular intercutting ditches, a north-west to south-east aligned ditch, a possible pond, and two pits.

Ditches F2054 (=F1004 Evaluation Trench 1; Fig. 23) and F2056 (Fig. 23) may represent boundaries associated with square or rectilinear enclosures. F2056 ran on a similar west-north-west to east-south-east alignment to the earlier Phase

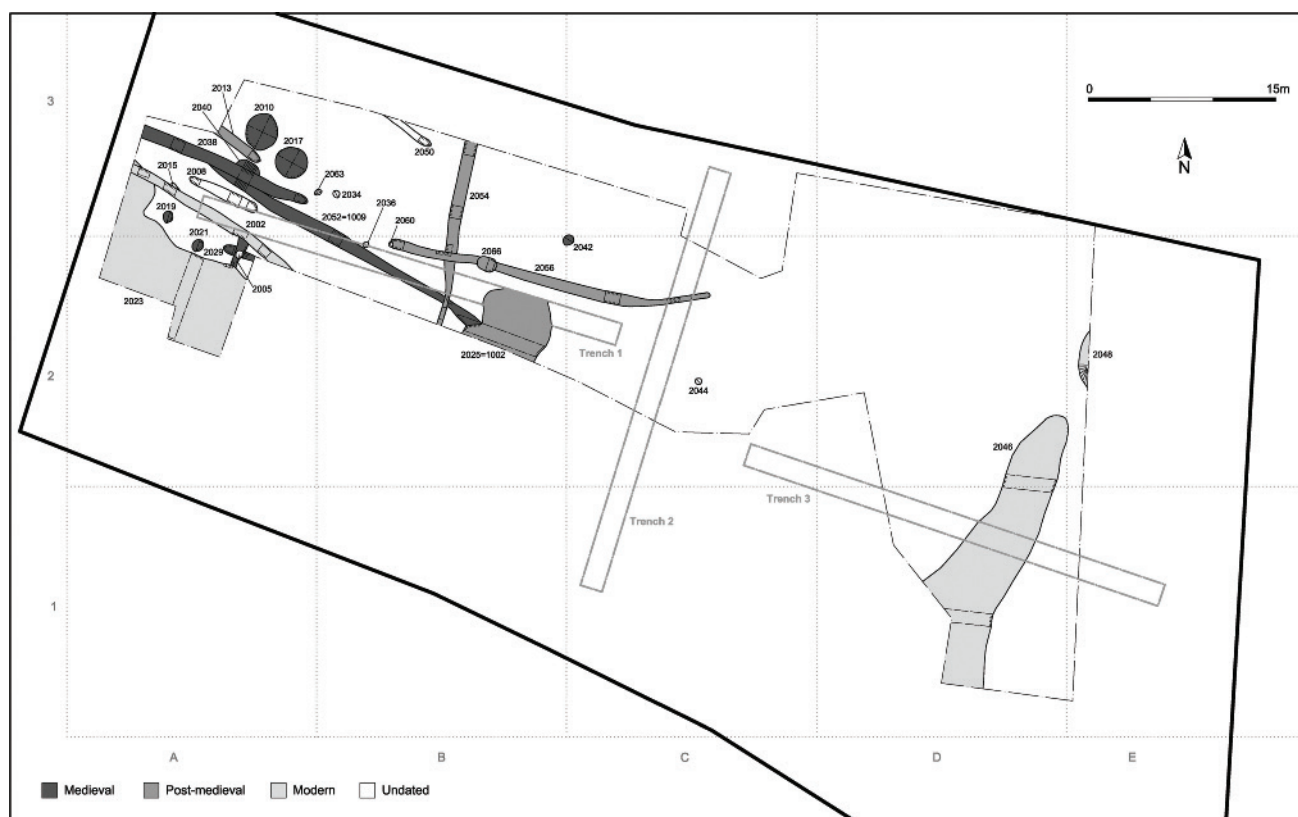


Figure 23: Wyboston, Phased all-features plan

1 ditches. It cut F2054 which was aligned at a right angle to it and continued to the south, suggesting the presence of two or more enclosures.

The date range for pottery from Ditch F2013 (Fig. 23) spans the 14th – 17th centuries. It was assigned to the post-medieval period based on the most recent date. However, the similarity of its alignment to those of the medieval ditches might be considered to support a suggestion that an earlier date is possible for this ditch.

Phase 3. Modern activity

Modern activity was present towards the southern edge of the excavated area and in its south-eastern corner. In the south-western part of the site, this period was represented by a ditch (F2002), which followed a similar west-north-west to east-south-east alignment to the earlier ditches in this part of the excavated area (Fig. 23), and Pond F2023 (Fig. 23). This pond was dated as modern on the basis of the 40 sherds (579g) of 19th -20th century pottery and the 4 fragments (48g) of 19th -20th century CBM recovered from it. However, sherds of medieval pottery and a fragment of early peg tile (all of which are likely to have been residual) and the feature's relationship with F2002, which cut it, suggest that an earlier date may be possible. In the eastern part of the site, modern features consisted of a pit (F2048) and an infilled, possibly natural, depression (F2046).

Undated features

Nine features recorded at this site contained insufficient artefactual evidence from which their date could be determined; these consisted of two linear features and seven pits. All of these, with the exception of Pit F2044 were located in the western half of the site.

Ditch F2050 (Fig. 23), located at the northern edge of the site, ran parallel to the Phase 1 Ditch F2052, suggesting that they may have functioned in conjunction with one another were therefore potentially of similar date. Similarly, F2008 (Fig. 23) ran parallel to Phase 1 Ditch F2038. Again, this is suggestive of a possibly similar date. The short linear feature F2015 (Fig. 23), which was cut by Phase 3 Ditch F2002, may have been a natural feature.

Pit F2027 (Fig. 23) cut two Phase 1 ditches (F2005 & F2029) indicating that it must have been of contemporary date or later. Pit F2060 (Fig. 23) cut the terminus of Phase 2 Ditch F2056 and must therefore be of contemporary date or later.

Three undated pits (F2034, F2036, & F2063; Fig. 23) located in close proximity to medieval features in the western half of the site were initially tentatively considered to be contemporary with the surrounding features. Sufficient dating evidence was not present in F2034 and F2036 and a small fragment of brick present in F2036 would suggest that a post-medieval date is more likely as no medieval brick was present in the overall assemblage.

Discussion

Artefactual Evidence

The fairly small pottery assemblage (which consisted of 407 sherds of pottery weighing 4.280kg) is very mixed due to successive phases of occupation in the area, and there is a large amount of residuality both within the range of medieval sherds present, and also with post-medieval sherds appearing with medieval ones. One of the potentially earliest features on the site is Pit F2010 (L2011) which contained 25 abraded St Neots and St Neots type sherds along with a glazed Stamford ware sherd. Likewise

the adjacent Pit F2017 (L2018) also contained 7 sherds of St Neots ware only. Pits F2019, F2021, F2042, and Ditches F2005 (L2007C) and F2038 (L2039), also contained St Neots ware only. The remaining features that contained pottery all included post-medieval sherds among them. The pottery has been drawn from over a wide area probably reflecting different trade patterns and trends over time, and appears to reflect continuous occupation from the 10th /11th centuries.

Excavations recovered a total of 129 fragments (7096g) of CBM in a highly fragmented and moderately abraded condition. The CBM includes peg tile and brick (Table 4), most likely to be entirely of post-medieval origin although it is conceivable that the most common variant of peg tile could have been produced from the late medieval (late 15th century) onwards. The bulk of the CBM was contained in ditches and a depression dated (by pottery) to the 17th -19th centuries, and the CBM is never present in any concentrations that may indicate a direct association with nearby buildings, therefore is likely to have been deposited through the scattering of debris onto fields and into field boundaries, potentially as part of soil or drainage improvement.

Ironworking slag was recovered from Phase 3 pond F2023 and the irregular Phase 2 feature F2025. The larger piece of material from F2023 is dense and heavy with moderate porosity and is plano-convex in form. All of these are characteristics associated with plano-convex smithing bottoms or 'smithing slag cakes'. These form in the smithing hearth just below the blowing hole and, despite their name, do not usually form in the base of the hearth (Crew 1996). It appears likely, therefore, that this material results from smithing or bloom refining although this material lacks the magnetic response that is usual for smithing hearth bottoms. The 19th /20th century date assigned to this context, and the location from which it was recovered, suggest that it came from the workshop of a rural blacksmith. The material from F2025 also appears to derive from smithing or bloom refining and may represent fuel ash slag or fragments of clay hearth lining mixed with slag. The evidence is insufficient to indicate that a blacksmith's workshop was present at the site itself but may be considered to be indicative of such an establishment in the surrounding area.

The animal bone assemblage is dominated by domestic mammals, particularly cattle and, in Phase 2, sheep/goat. A small quantity of wild mammals and birds were also exploited. When the degree of residuality noted in regard to the pottery assemblage is considered, the faunal assemblage appears fairly typical for medieval bone assemblages from Bedfordshire and elsewhere. Murphy (2007) indicates that cattle, sheep, pig and horse were all common; dogs, domestic fowl, other birds and fish were also present. Red, roe and fallow deer were also present at some sites but were only found in significant quantities at Bedford Castle (Grant 1979, cited in Murphy 2007), suggesting that they were largely reserved for the elite. Cattle certainly provided meat, given the high frequency of butchery marks, and possibly other resources given the mix of ages present. Sheep/goat are also likely to have been exploited for meat amongst other things. If sheep were present then wool will almost certainly have been exploited. The lack of sheep/goat bones in the medieval period (Phase 1) is unusual given the importance of wool in the medieval economy (Grant 1984, Sykes 2006) and is most likely a

product of the small sample size. Mutton was also popular at this time with animals often being slaughtered at around four years (Albarella 1997) having provided a few fleeces but still being in good enough condition to provide good quality meat. Horses were important as work animals in the medieval period (Grant 1984) and are unlikely to have been eaten. However, the butchery evidence seen here certainly suggests some sort of carcass processing and post-mortem utilisation of horses. Grant (*ibid.*) notes that they were important as pack animals in association with the wool trade and Albarella (1997) asserts that they gradually took over from cattle as the main traction animals in the later medieval and post-medieval period. While detailed interpretations on animal husbandry are not practical for such a small assemblage as recovered from Wyboston, the patterns of taxa present and the small amount of age data available are not at odds with the patterns of animal husbandry and economy observed for the medieval and post-medieval periods in England at large.

The finds assemblages associated with the various phases of occupation appeared to be consistent with the deposition of domestic refuse and waste, possibly for the purposes of in-filling disused features, aiding drainage, or possibly as part of the distribution of midden material to improve the soil. The degree of abrasion and fragmentation noted within the pottery assemblage, and less so in the ceramic building materials, might be considered to be consistent with this material having been accumulated in one location and later redeposited or reused elsewhere. Notable degrees of residuality noted in the pottery assemblage, and postulated as being the cause of some possible biases or anomalies in the animal bone assemblage, might also be a reflection of such practices. It has been noted that the pottery assemblage appears to reflect continuous occupation from the 10th /11th centuries. This suggests the deposition of artefactual remains in small quantities over a prolonged period and may indicate that the site has consistently been marginal land on the periphery of the settlement that has been used for associated, probably semi-agricultural, purposes.

The Medieval activity

The earliest archaeology recorded at the excavation site consisted of ditches and pits of early medieval or medieval date. The presence of archaeology of this date is not unexpected as Wyboston is a known medieval roadside settlement stretching along the Old Great North Road and The Lane. The site lies within an area of activity relating to the postulated medieval settlement core of Wyboston, locally designated as an Area of Archaeological Interest (BHER 17149). The site also retains a potential for remains of ribbon development along The Lane, as the village developed in a linear form along this road and the Great North Road. An area to the south-east is recorded as having been in use as the medieval village green until 1799 when it was enclosed (BHER 8621). On the opposite side of The Lane is a Scheduled Ancient Monument comprising a medieval moated enclosure and associated building platform, which is likely to have been a medieval manorial site (NHLE 1012076; BHER 474). The moat has prominent external banks to the eastern and western sides, and is dry. Hollows within the moated platform represent the locations of former buildings, and an original entrance may be indicated by a platform outside the enclosure to the north-

Bedfordshire

east. Eastwards, at least five rectangular platforms may be the remains of associated buildings, directly opposite the proposed development site.

The alignment of the Phase 1 linear features, running in a west-north-west to east-south-east direction, is broadly parallel to The Lane at this point and suggests that they be related to the demarcation of roadside plots of land. Peasant houses in a medieval village were usually arranged with a smaller 'toft' fronting the street and a larger 'croft' at the rear (Gies and Gies 1991, 34). The roadside position of the plots possibly represented by the Phase 1 features suggests that it is possible that they represent such holdings. However, there was no structural evidence indicative of the dwellings that would have occurred if this was the case.

The finds assemblages recovered from features assigned to Phase 1 consisted of the detritus of domestic occupation, consisting of small to moderate quantities of pottery, ceramic building materials, fired clay, animal bone, and oyster shell. However, the degree of fragmentation and abrasion displayed on the pottery assemblage suggests that this material may not have been in its primary depositional location and may in fact represent refuse material imported to this location for the purposes of infilling the various features rather than representing refuse generated in the immediate vicinity. This is perhaps demonstrated by the archaeobotanical remains from Phase 1 which contained very little evidence for the kind of crop processing activities that might be expected in association with areas of domestic occupation.

It has been tentatively suggested that Phase 1 pits F2010, F2017 and F2040 may have been associated with the quarrying or the extraction of the underlying river terrace gravels. Gravel was often used for creating metalled surfaces in medieval England. Jørgensen (2008, 552) indicates that are often the earliest surviving form of paving and cites the case of the first archaeological evidence for the metalling of streets in Norwich, where a gravel surface was laid down in the Friary precinct in the 13th century and was later replaced by flint rubble.

The post-medieval archaeology

The most significant aspect of the Phase 2 archaeology was the arrangement of ditches F2054 and F2056 perpendicular to one another. Although F2056 was observed to cut F2054, the spatial arrangement of the features suggests that they functioned together as part of a boundary system. Like the medieval/Medieval linear features their alignments, whether following or at right angles to, appeared to respect the position of The Lane, suggesting that they were roadside plots.

The 17th to 18th century period that they Phase 2 features represent was one of significant social change, conflict, and inequality leading to marked polarisation between the rich and the poor (Blomley 2007, 1). English agriculture attained a high level of labour productivity at this time, leading to relatively rapid population growth and a shift in economic activity towards manufacturing and services (Solar 1995, 1). Changes in the layout of the site, indicated by the differences between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 features may reflect changes in the organisation of the land brought about by these social changes and the associated shifts in agricultural practice.

Limited changes appear to have occurred in arable agricultural practice between Phases 1 and 2, based on the data recovered from environmental sampling. Free-threshing

wheat, oats, and rye were present in the samples taken from features from each of these phases with the only significant difference being the presence of barley in the samples from Phase 2.

Possible changes may have occurred in pastoral agricultural practice. Sheep/goats are limited in the Phase 1 animal bone assemblage which is dominated by cattle. However, a greater quantity of sheep/goat remains was present in Phase 2 contexts, possibly suggesting that these species became more important in the post-medieval period. It is possible, however, that this is a bias caused either by the small sample size from Phase 1 contexts or from the large amount of residuality and mixing of dateable material due to successive phases of occupation in the area as noted with regard to the pottery assemblage.

The artefactual assemblage associated with the post-medieval features was, like that associated with the medieval features, probably the result of refuse deposition or the dumping of material. The post-medieval CBM assemblage, for example, is too small to be associated with a building in the vicinity and is more likely to have derived from the scattering of debris onto fields and into field boundaries, potentially as part of soil or drainage improvement practises. A large proportion of the animal bone from this phase displayed butchery marks and it may be that this material represents waste or refuse from food processing or other forms of carcass utilisation. The assemblage is suggestive of domestic occupation in the vicinity but probably not at this site itself.

The 19th /20th century features

Ditch F2002 followed a similar alignment to the linear features recorded in earlier phases of activity. This alignment appears to broadly respect the position and route of The Lane and its continued use reflects the antiquity of The Lane as a thoroughfare and its continued influence over the rest of the man-made landscape.

Ditch F2002 cut Pond F2023, indicating that this larger feature pre-dated the ditch. Although the pond has been assigned a modern date, it did contain a small amount of medieval pottery and some early peg tile. This material may be residual, but could also suggest the possibility that the pond was excavated in the medieval period and backfilled more recently. Artificial ponds have been constructed at all periods since the Iron Age and for a wide variety of purposes. Sometimes it is possible to link a pond to a particular origin and role but frequently the age, origin, and function is difficult to determine (Muir 2004, 209). There is no indication that the pond could have functioned as a millpond, or a hammer pond or furnace pond (ponds utilised in similar ways to millponds to provide power for ironworking) despite the presence of a small quantity of smithing slag within the feature. Any water powered structure in the area is more likely to have been located on the Begwary Brook, to the south, or the Great Ouse, to the east. It seems unlikely that it was a fishpond associated with the medieval manorial site located to the south on the opposite side of The Lane due to both the dating evidence recovered from it and the distance from this moated enclosure. It is possible that it was used simply as a source of drinking water for farm animals pastured in this area.

F2046, located to the east, was initially identified as a possible infilled natural depression. Its form in plan and

section and the similarities in composition of its fills to those of Pond F2023 could indicate that this too was a pond, although notably shallower than the other feature.

Ironworking residues, which appear to be derived from smithing, rather than smelting, were recovered from F2023. The presence of this material would suggest that there was a blacksmiths shop operational in the surrounding area. This would not be unusual for what would have been a fairly rural settlement in the 19th and early 20th century. The quantity of material, the lack of the remains of a building which may have served as workshop, and the lack of any evidence for features, such as hearths, which may have been associated with this, indicate that any such blacksmith's establishment cannot have existed within the bounds of the excavated area and probably lay at some remove from the wider development site. It is possible that this material derives from the blacksmith's workshop which is understood to have existed at 68 The Lane around 1834 (<http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk>).

History and development of Wyboston

Oake (2007, 14) notes the importance of understanding Bedfordshire's varied medieval settlement pattern and notes the role in this that acquiring information about the origins and development of villages from within or around the edges of existing settlements can have. This echoes the work of Thomas (2006) and Lewis (2010) which has demonstrated the way in which synthesis of small-scale archaeological interventions has led to greater understanding of the development of rural settlements.

This investigation has demonstrated the presence of medieval archaeology at 20 and 48 The Lane, which is in accordance with its position within the postulated extent of the medieval settlement of Wyboston (HER 17149). In this respect, the investigation has proven that the accepted understanding of the development of the settlement of Wyboston is accurate. The Bedfordshire HER records the site as being the location of a farm homestead and close shown on the enclosure map of 1799 (HER 8618). No clear evidence for the presence of a building was recorded during the archaeological investigation and the building materials that were present were not considered to have derived from a building in close proximity. This may indicate that the buildings depicted on enclosure map lay outside of the excavated area or that this historic cartographic source contained some inaccuracies; the HER entry notes that the farm building was depicted as lying opposite Dovehouse Farm but it remains possible that it was offset slightly to either side. The character of the artefactual assemblages from the site, however, which are suggestive of domestic occupation in the vicinity but not at that specific location, might be considered to be consistent with the use of this land as a close associated with a roadside dwelling.

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by Gareth Barlow. Illustrations and graphics are by Tom Light and Kathren Henry. Pottery was analysed by Peter Thompson. Flint and CBM were analysed by Andrew Peachey. Metalwork was analysed by Rebecca Sillwood. Metalworking residues were analysed by Andrew A. S. Newton. Animal bone and shell were analysed by Julia E. M. Cussans. Environmental samples were analysed by John Summers.

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BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Thurleigh, High Street TL 0526 5848

BOB ZEEP VAT

In December, archaeological monitoring was undertaken by BHS at Pound Cottage, 16–18 High Street, Thurleigh, during groundworks for the construction of a detached single garage and study/guest bedroom in the garden of this Grade II listed cottage, adjacent to the moated site known as Bury Hill Camp, a scheduled ancient monument. Removal of topsoil and overburden from the footprint of the proposed new building revealed only modern building rubble and a few fragmentary glass and china vessels, all of late 19th or 20th century date, directly overlying the natural clay, suggesting that the site may have been stripped on a previous occasion.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.

Cranfield, Land south of Ivy House, Lodge Road

NGR not supplied

TAMLIN, BARTON

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out a trial trench evaluation on the site of a bothy, kitchen glasshouses and gardens formerly belonging to Cranfield Court Estate. The remains lay to the south of Ivy House, Lodge Road in Cranfield, Central Bedfordshire. The work was carried out on behalf of Archaeology Collective to support an outline planning application for housing. The evaluation revealed former cultivated ground and a central garden path inside the kitchen garden, but no significant archaeology. A trench excavated along the inside of an upstanding wall in the northern part of the site exposed the foundations of glasshouses. The remains of a bothy and tool shed mentioned in a 19th century sales catalogue were exposed in a trench dug to the north.

Hulcote, Land at Church House NGR not supplied

ADAM GRIFFITHS

Several archaeological features forming ditched enclosures denoting a part of an Iron Age settlement were found during an archaeological strip, map and record on land at Church House, Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote. During the preceding archaeological evaluation, Iron Age features had been revealed consisting of a series of ditches and a pit.

Odell, Land north west of Valley Farm, Dungee Road

NGR not supplied

ADAM GRIFFITHS

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out a trial trench evaluation on land north west of Valley Farm, Dungee Road, Odell, for an agricultural barn and pond. The evaluation involved excavating 8 trenches; five for the permitted development

and 3 further trenches for possible further barns. At the north east of the site, just off the road, an ENE-WSW orientated, undated ditch was discovered. Next to this was found evidence of agricultural activity on the then roadside, which was confirmed to be a past allotment space. Near the middle of site a narrow shallow gully was found which at its base was lined with large flat stones suggesting a man-made watercourse, again, this was not dated. To the SE of the site a large tree-throw pit was found which contained modern pottery, this suggests recent land clearance.

Campton, Top Farm, Rectory Road TL 12623 38278

ANTONI NOWAK

No archaeological features were found during an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new house.

Luton, Luton Airport Access TL 11077 20477

ANTONI NOWAK

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation on the Site of a proposed Luton Airport's Direct Air-Rail Transit (DART) project. No archaeological features were found, but a solution channel or solution hole in Trench 3. This geological feature was considered to have a potential for Middle Palaeolithic remains.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford, Land off Goldington Road TL 08381 50828

SAM BITHELL

Excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified possible Roman pits and agricultural ditches.

Brogborough, Marston Gate II SP 97234 37266

STUART JOYCE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered a small assemblage of residual worked flints. Iron Age enclosures and settlement features were also found, along with penannular ring gullies and probable boundary ditches. Medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation remnants were also present, along with undated pits and an undated ditch.

Caddington, Caddington Care Village, Millfield Lane

TL 05590 18692

ANDREW WHELAN and ANNA MOOSBAUER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no archaeological remains.

Clifton, Land west of New Road TL 16209 38499

STUART JOYCE and BETHANY HARDCASTLE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a palaeochannel. A small assemblage of residual worked flints came from the topsoil. Two Iron Age enclosures, potentially representing a dispersed settlement, were also identified and may be contemporary with a further enclosure and an associated field system. Medieval furrows and ditches were also present along with undated pits and ditches.

Houghton Regis, Oakwell Park, Bidwell

TL 00358 24975

ANNA MOOSBAUER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an Early to Middle Iron Age ditch that may have been contemporary with two other ditches. A Late Iron Age to Early Roman ditch was also present. These remains are likely associated with an Iron Age and Roman settlement previously identified to the north, west and east of the site.

Stotfold, Land at Arlesey Road TL 20895 36862

RALPH BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a possible Roman enclosure with two internal pits representing outlying settlement activity. Cropmarks indicate the presence of an additional D-shaped enclosure to the west. A possible post-medieval ditch and several undated ditches and pits were also present.

Wilden, Walnut Tree Farm School, Renhold Road

TL 08850 54412

BETHANY HARDCASTLE

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

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY**Shefford, Land East of Ivel Road** TL 1475 3820

T. MICHAELS

The evaluation comprised of ten evaluation trenches within the area of proposed development. Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10, with furrows or probable furrows present in Trenches 2, 3, 8 and 10. Pottery evidence would suggest a later Iron Age date for the majority of the archaeological features, with a small number of Post-medieval and Modern features also present. The evaluation has identified the presence of at least four Iron Age enclosures within the study area. This activity appeared to be restricted to the northern edge of the site, with evidence identified in Trenches 4, 8, 9 and 10. The works have also identified features within the enclosures which may relate to their activity. The southern edge of Enclosure 2 displayed evidence of a re-cut, which would suggest at least two phases of activity. Further later Iron Age activity was identified to the south of the enclosures in Trenches 7 and 8 and to the west in Trench 4. The evaluation also identified the line of Nuns Lane in Trenches 1 and 2.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY**Bedford, Land at Aspects Leisure Park** TL 06603 49424

TAMSIN SCOTT

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief and evaluation of land at Aspects Leisure Park, Newnham Avenue, Bedford between 1st October and 1st November 2018. The work was done in advance of a planning application for a residential, hospitality and retail development. Four heritage assets were identified, comprising areas of medieval and Tudor structural and

earthwork remains and nineteenth to twentieth Century industrial activity. The trial trenching revealed the remains of a previously identified Tudor wall and associated ditch in Trench 1. Previously unrecorded medieval, dissolution and post-medieval features were concentrated in Trench 2. Medieval ground levels were identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 6. Evidence of previously recorded and further unrecorded earthworks was concentrated in Trench 3. A single medieval dressed stone was recovered from Trench 6. Late post-medieval quarrying and industrial activity was concentrated in Trenches 6, 7 and the east of Trench 2. No evidence of the medieval Newnham Priory cemetery or Tudor garden soils was identified during the evaluation. The medieval earthworks and buildings were found to be more extensive than previously identified.

OASIS ID: headland4-329130

Accession no: BEDFM2018.74

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES**Carlton, Northey Farm barns** SP 9520 5420

Historic England Level 2/3 archaeological building recording took place on most of this isolated 19th -century farm complex which was built as part of a reformatory, now an Emmaus complex. The work will be concluded when all elements of the farm buildings are vacated, prior to conversion for residential purposes.

Stevington, 3-5 Court Lane SP 988 533

Historic England level 2 building analysis accompanied extensive alterations to this property in a Conservation Area which as originally built comprised two very simple timber-framed cottages of identical size and layout. Each contained two simple rooms on the ground and first floors set around a central brick chimney stack. A watching brief on groundworks showed that mid-20th -century extensions and earth-moving relating to the existing property had previously removed all potential for archaeological survival.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**Higham Gobion, The Pig Pen** TL 0965 3225

DAVID FELL

An evaluation was undertaken at the Pig Pen, Higham Gobion, in advance of development at the site. Five trial trenches were opened and a possible updated pit and a post-medieval or early modern ditch were present. No other archaeological features or artefacts were present.

Higham Gobion, Manor Farm Grain Store

TL 1081 3290

DAVID FELL

An evaluation was undertaken at Manor Farm, Higham Gobion. Archaeological features were present in three of the four trial trenches. A north to south aligned ditch, dated between the 12th to 13th centuries was recorded in two of the trenches. A number of undated pits, provisionally interpreted as settlement activity associated with the ditch were present in the trenches on the north side of the site.

Bedfordshire

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Arlesey, Land at Green End Farm TL 1922 3538
ELLEN SHLASKO

In February and March 2018, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Strip, Map and Sample excavation of Land at Green End Farm, Arlesey, Bedfordshire. The investigations revealed a number of ditches, pits and gullies across the site, with artefactual evidence of land use beginning in the early medieval period. These features seem to reflect an agricultural use for the site, with a predominance of drainage ditches, sumps and land drains, along with two larger site boundaries. Early maps corroborate this interpretation, showing the site on the periphery of settlement.

OASIS: Kdkarcha1-306970
Accession Number: BEDFM 2018.09

Beeston, Manor House, The Green TL 1666 4822
CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In October 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Manor House, The Green, Beeston, Bedfordshire prior to the demolition of the existing garage and the erection of a new residence. The single trench excavated demonstrated that the site had been subjected to disturbance with a series of made-ground layers overlying the natural. A number of post-medieval brick features were also exposed consisting of a pump base, two sections of brick wall and a brick and mortar foundation pad.

OASIS: Kdkarcha1-326817
Accession Number: BEDFM 2018.63

Biggleswade, 20 Back Street TL 19213 44566
ELLEN SHLASKO

In March 2018, KDK Archaeology Ltd conducted a programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording at 20 Back Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. Whilst the proposed development is located in the historic core of the town, modern construction prior to the current project has erased any evidence of previous occupation. The groundworks associated with the development included ground reduction within the footprint of the new building as well as the excavation of five footing trenches and a service trench, which revealed made ground containing builders' brick and other discarded building materials. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-279239
Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.18

Cardington Home House, Cople Road TL 08914 47805
CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

Between December 2017 to July 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording and Home House, Cople Road, Cardington, Bedfordshire during the construction of a single new dwelling with associated garage. Part of the site had previously been built over and the stratigraphy consisted of made-ground overlying a possible trace of sub-soil overlying the natural

stratum. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-291699
Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.65

Cotton End, Land Adjacent to the Bell, 61 High Road
TL 08542 45321
BECCA BRADFORD

In January 2018 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by KDK Archaeology Ltd on land adjacent to The Bell, 61 High Road, Cotton End, Bedfordshire, prior to the construction of two 4-bed dwellings and associated works. Four trenches were excavated on the site, in which a possible post-hole and post-medieval ditch were revealed.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-304636 Accession Number: 2017.117

Dunstable, Land r/o 36 Kirby Road TL 01499 21546
BARNEY KING

In April 2018 KDK Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 36 Kirby Road, Dunstable. No archaeological features or finds were encountered possibly as a result of later disturbance as several modern footings and rooting were present throughout.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-306595
Accession Number: LTMNG 1323

Luton, St Mary's Churchyard TL 09510 21221
LAURA DODD

In June 2018 a programme of Observation and Recording was undertaken by KDK Archaeology Ltd at St Mary's Churchyard, Luton, Bedfordshire following the collapse of a chest tomb within the churchyard. The tomb, belonging to the Haydon family, had become engulfed by a rosebush which had been thriving on the site since before the Second World War, and as a result of water and root damage, the tomb and stone ledger had fallen into the vault below. No human remains or funerary furniture were observed during this investigation.

OASIS: Kdkarcha1-319721 Accession Number: 2018/1

Potton, 1 Orchard Close, Market Square TL 2234 4932
CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In February 2018 an Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at 1 Orchard Close, Market Square, Potton, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of a single dwelling and garage. Two trenches were excavated which exposed the remains of a gully, stone foundation, rubbish pit and a ditch/pit. Only the gully was securely dated as post-medieval.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-280455
Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.26

Roxton, Land Adjacent to 12 Poplar Close
TL 15365 54324
CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In May 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording on land adj. to 12 Poplar Close, Roxton, during the construction of a single new dwelling. The general stratigraphy consisted of a single

homogenous deposit of some depth that appeared to indicate that dumping may have been carried out on the site. The site also appeared to have been truncated, as sub-soil was only observed along the southern side of the site. Ordnance Survey mapping points to buildings having once existed on the site from at least 1884 up until 1973. By 1973 the buildings were no longer present and the roadway for Poplar Close had been constructed. Such activities on the site may explain why the site had been truncated.

OASIS: Kdkarcha1-306309 Accession Number: BEDFM 2018.02

Sandy, The Lodge Wall, RSPB

TL 18424856 to TL 18744861

LAURA DODD

Between September and October 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of the Lodge Wall, RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire as a condition of the planning permission for the development of the site. Ground reduction was undertaken in two areas along the length of the wall where the re-profiling of the tree covered slopes to the south of the main road had taken place. During this investigation, a root filled ditch was observed within the trench of the eastern development area. No dating material was recovered from the fill of the ditch and its function is unknown. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were exposed.

OASIS: Kdkarcha1-326414 Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.88

Sharnbrook, Land adjacent to 24 Odell Road

SP 99095 59259

Chris Martin-Taylor

In January 2018 an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to 24 Odell Road, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire as a planning condition prior to the construction of a single dwelling on the site. Despite Bronze Age crop marks in the immediate vicinity, as well as evidence for occupation in Sharnbrook dating to the Saxon period, there were no features or finds revealed within the excavated trenches.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-298438

Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.103

Stotfold, 9 Coppice Mead TL 2128 3662

Laura Dodd

In February 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at 9 Coppice Mead, Stotfold, Bedfordshire as required by a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The site lies to the south of the medieval core of Stotfold and is situated in an area that is rich in Bronze/Iron Age and Saxon activity. Several modern features had been cut into the subsoil, including a small pit, a posthole and a dog burial. Two features were observed cutting the natural geology which remain undated. The form and function of these features could not be ascertained as they extended beyond the limit of excavation.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-306295

Accession Number: BEDFM 2018.03

Wilden, Southend Farm, Renhold Road,

TL 09010 53921

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In January 2018 an archaeological evaluation was carried out at Southend Farm, Renhold Road, Wilden, Bedfordshire, prior to the construction of a new Horticultural Worker's Dwelling with associated access and the erection of a polytunnel. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-301563

Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.107

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Elstow, land at Medbury Park TL 052 464

GRAHAM ARKLEY

A magnetometer survey of c12ha of land at Medbury Park identified some ditches and pits of probable archaeological interest, but these were poorly resolved and their layout was too incoherent to support any detailed assessment of their date and function. OASIS 307429

Totternhoe, land at 165A Castle Hill Road

SP 98132 21658

CHRISTOPHER JONES

Three 20m long trenches were excavated in the proposed development area with a further trench not excavated due to a live electric cable. A medieval ditch in Trench 4 was dated by a single sherd of 13th – 14th-century pottery. Two undated features were found in Trench 1 and comprised a ditch terminus and a pit. These three features may relate to either of the former settlements of Lower or Middle End of Totternhoe, which are thought to have been located in this area. OASIS 312758

Totternhoe, land at Lockington Farm SP 99053 21089

CHRISTOPHER JONES

A trial trench evaluation comprising two 20m long trenches and one trench measuring 12m long were excavated. A number of linear features were found in the trenches and consisted of up to two different phases of activity. Five probable furrows were aligned broadly north-west by south-east and contained pottery dating from the 12th-century. A later arrangement of probable furrows was aligned north-east by south-west and contained two sherds of 12th-century pottery. OASIS 312999

Wilstead, land at Whitworth Way TL 06729 43327

LIAM JS POWELL

An archaeological field evaluation comprising six 50m long trial trenches revealed archaeological features in four of these trenches, which were primarily concentrated towards the centre and along the north-east edge of the site. The archaeological results largely confirmed the results of a prior geophysical survey on the site. The archaeological remains comprised a series of linear boundary ditches, up to 3.35m wide and 1.10m deep, and associated gullies and pits. The majority of features contained pottery which dated from the 12th to 13th centuries but one ditch contained 16th century

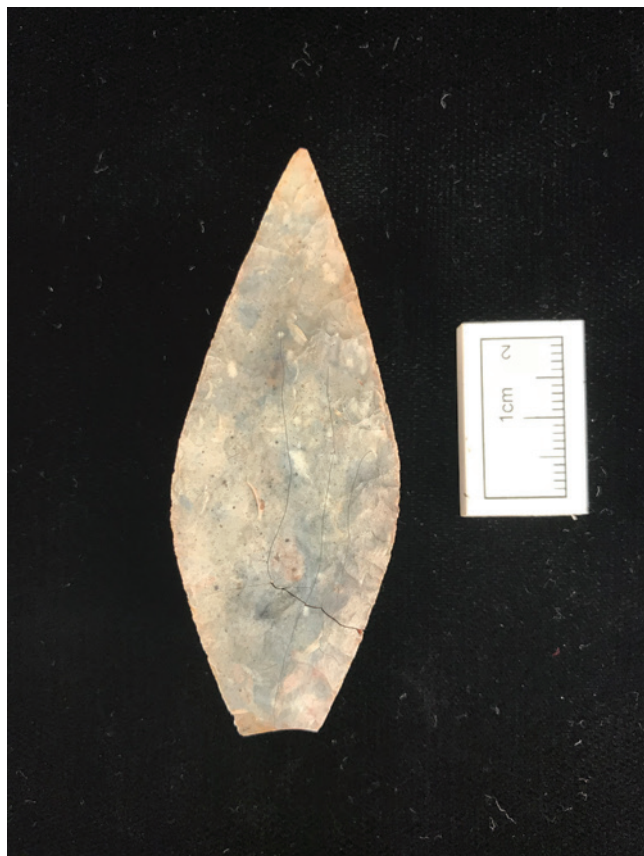


Figure 24: Wilstead, Early Neolithic flint arrowhead, 1 x 2cm scale

sherds. A small quantity of animal bone and three quern fragments were also recovered. A well-made unstratified early Neolithic leaf-shaped flint arrowhead was also found (Fig. 24). OASIS 319219

Wootton, Marston Vale TL 010 438

JONATHON ELSTON

A trial trench evaluation split into three areas, comprised Phase 1 of the works, and constituted forty-six 50m long trenches: In the first area the evaluation identified an irregular shaped pocket of silty clay material in the geology that was likely a natural pond. OASIS 309919. The second area uncovered a small pit dating to the Iron Age, post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation which was aligned east to west as well as associated field drainage ditches and a hedgerow. OASIS 312614. The third area found a small pit, gullies and a ditch dating from the Iron Age to the Roman period. OASIS 312616

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Leighton Linlade, PH1 mains replacement scheme

TL 00256 34515 to TL 01459 35252

DANIEL FIRTH

Evaluation was undertaken in May 2018 along the route of the proposed Leighton Linlade PH1 Mains Replacement Scheme, revealing archaeological features and deposits in thirteen of the twenty-four trenches. Whilst many of the features investigated were natural, a small number of

features concentrated in Trench 12 yielded a significant assemblage of medieval pottery. Subsequent excavation, in July 2018, revealed ditches or gullies, and several pits, some containing medieval pottery.

Luton, M1 to A6 Link Road

TL 04225 26031 to TL 07836 27078

LOUISE MOAN

Evaluation was undertaken in December 2018 ahead of the proposed construction of a link road between the M1 and A6. Archaeological remains were identified along the length of the route in discrete clusters of activity, corresponding with the results of the geophysical survey. At the western end, Field 1 contained undated driveway ditches, probably relating to a hollow way or former field boundary. Field 2 contained a concentration of pits and ditches dating to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods, with the finds indicating industrial activity. Field 4 contained a cobbled trackway and an associated roadside ditch of Mid Roman date, while a large number of ditches were encountered across Field 6, with associated pottery dating from the Middle Iron Age through to the Late Roman period. Of note from Field 6 was a large pit containing several high-status cremation vessels and cremated human remains. Field 9 towards the eastern end of the link route contained pits and ditches dating from the Middle Iron Age through to the Early Roman period. At the easternmost end of the route Field 10 contained a series of parallel ditches containing sparse Roman pottery. The remains are likely to be related to agricultural settlements, with associated industrial and funerary activity, linked to known routeways and settlement areas.

Stotfold, Land off Hitchin Road, Fairfield Park

TL 20606 35428

MALGORZATA KWIATKOWSKA

Evaluation was conducted in December 2018, revealing a small number of undated features in the eastern half of the area, possibly representing a continuation of post-medieval agricultural ditches recorded directly to the south of the site. However, no datable material was recovered from these features.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Dunstable, Aldi Stores Car Park Extension

TL 02006 22058

MARTYN ALLEN

A watching brief was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in August 2018 to monitor the groundworks of a car park extension at the rear of an Aldi store in Dunstable, Bedfordshire. The watching brief followed a previous evaluation of the site and further excavations to the south that revealed numerous Roman, medieval and post-medieval features. The watching brief exposed the remains of two ditches and two pits. The pits dated to the medieval period and were sealed by an overlying subsoil. One of the ditches cut this subsoil layer, and was later recut by the second ditch. Examination of early-mid-20th century OS maps show that the ditches align with a small enclosure and a bowling green, and both may relate to these modern features.

SOUTERRAIN

Cotton End, Land South of Rookery Farm, High Road TL 0834 4540

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

An archaeological topographical survey was undertaken of a part of an enclosed field at Rookery Farm, in the village of Cotton End, c.4 km to the southeast of Bedford. The purpose of the survey was to obtain a comprehensive measured record of earthworks resulting from medieval agrarian practices, prior to site development. The survey was carried out by RTK Differential GPS, integrating traditional drawn survey techniques.

The Survey Area comprised a near-complete medieval furlong field (c. 1.84 ha) containing cultivation strips and headland surviving as earthworks in a reasonably good state of preservation. The remains, which owe their survival to having been set to pasture within a pre-parliamentary enclosure, are understood to have belonged to the manor of Harrowden (now a hamlet), a settlement in existence in the late Saxon period. The furlong field was once situated within Slowgap Field, one of Harrowden's three great, open common fields.

In view of the quality of the earthworks and their rarity in Bedfordshire (less than 2% extant in the post-war period survive today) (LUC, 2014, 12), they were considered to be a heritage asset of regional significance; with the potential of national significance when considered in the context of other earthwork elements of Cotton End's medieval settlement.

Twelve near-complete *selions* (earthwork ridges) were recorded with additional fragments along the sides of the

field. In plan, the *selions* had the shape of an elongated inverted 'S', a characteristic of cultivation strips formed by ploughing using a team of oxen. Each *selion* was c. 180 m (197 yards) long, which was probably close to their original *furlong* length; customarily the distance that a plough team could cover without stopping for rest.

The report provides an illustrative and descriptive account of the earthworks, using a combination of conventional survey drawings and computer-generated graphics, supported by digital photography. It discusses both the historic context of the earthworks and their county significance. OASIS ref.: souterrai1-321575

Farndish, Farndish Manor House, Irchester Road

SP 92615 63477

MARTIN D WILSON

Archaeological monitoring took place during ground reduction for a new highway access and curvilinear driveway (c.330 sq.m) through the garden of Farndish Manor House. The Grade II listed building is a three-storeyed house built in the late 18th century, constructed of coursed limestone rubble and roofed in Welsh slate. The purpose of the investigation was to record evidence of earlier manorial buildings at the site. Nothing of archaeological interest was exposed. The work represented the first phase of ground reduction associated with the planning permission, the remaining works, indefinitely postponed, are to include landscaping, demolition of a brick outbuilding and a barn conversion, all in proximity to the manor house.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Buckingham, Tingewick Road SP 6865 6649

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and ROB WARDILL

Aylesbury Vale District Council granted outline planning permission for the erection of up to 400 dwellings with associated facilities within two parcels of land located to either side of Tingewick Road to the north of the A421 in Buckingham. Geophysical survey and subsequent trial trenching demonstrated that the southern parcel of land located between Tingewick Road and the A421 contained significant archaeological remains. Open-area excavation of four discrete areas within the western field was undertaken.

Archaeological features were identified within three of the four areas, providing evidence of activity on the site from the late Iron Age/early Roman period and from the post-medieval/modern periods. The Iron Age/Roman remains represent the westernmost extent of a settlement focus revealed in the eastern field during the trial trenching. Peripheral settlement activity is represented by a small, isolated enclosure system. An isolated ditch and two post-holes were also recorded and are probably part of a field boundary.

Several ditches showed evidence of re-cutting, indicating that they were maintained over an extended period. A small assemblage (7kg) of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and fired clay (1.2kg) — almost entirely of local provenance —

was recovered from the features, suggesting continuity of the settlement into the Roman period as well as limited trade links with other than local settlements. The very limited animal bone and charred plant remains assemblages were typical of a rural farmstead site of the period, although the quantities were too small to support any detailed analysis of the site's palaeo-environmental conditions or its arable economy.

OASIS ID: albionar1-299755

Accession no: AYBCM: 2017.224

Great Missenden, Former Police Station SP 8963 0108

IAN TURNER and GARY EDMONDSON

Planning permission was granted for the demolition of a former police station, dwellings, care home and ancillary buildings, and the erection of a sheltered housing scheme. Trial trenching revealed layers and features that mostly contained ceramic building material that is difficult to date more precisely than the late medieval to post-medieval/early modern period. However, most of the features and deposits appear to correlate with details shown on the 1878 25-inch OS map.

OASIS ID: albionar1-302882

Accession no: AYBCM: 2017.223

Buckinghamshire

Hanslope, Land off Long Street Road SP 7982 4789

DAVID INGHAM and ADAM WILLIAMS

Thirty-one trial trenches dug in advance of a housing development revealed a small concentration of Iron Age and medieval remains. This led to an open-area excavation covering 1ha, immediately south-west of Long Street Road, to investigate them further (Fig. 1).

Middle to late Iron Age

The remains of a small middle to late Iron Age settlement were revealed. It was fundamentally unenclosed in

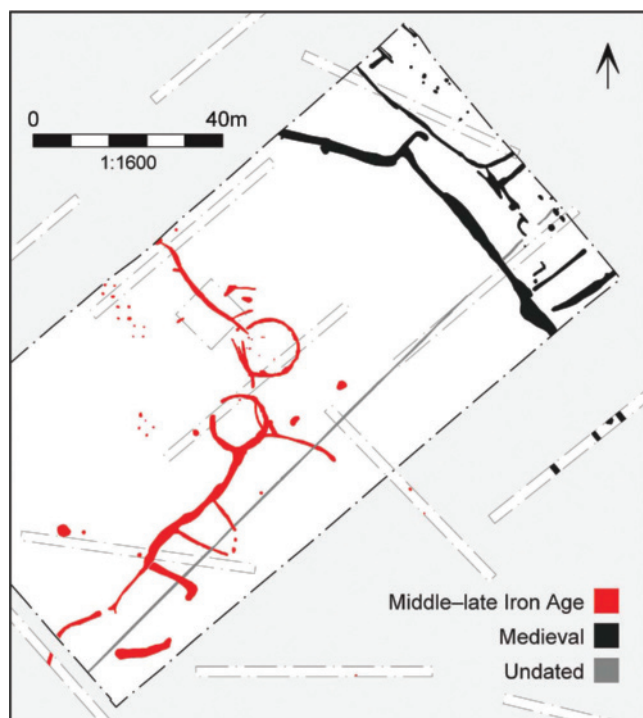


Figure 1: Hanslope, Plan of the Iron Age and medieval remains

character, and consisted of two roundhouses near the centre of the area, both 10–11m in diameter, with ditches leading away from them. The southern roundhouse (Fig. 2) is likely to have been a replacement for the northern one. Several postholes survived within the roundhouses, while each roundhouse also had associated short lengths of gully to its north, probably relating to animal pens or other ancillary structures. The ditch to the south-west of the roundhouses had two small enclosures on its south-eastern side. Pits were also found near the roundhouses, but these were relatively few in number and contained lower densities of animal bone and pottery than the ditches and gullies. Four four-post structures were also identified, three of these arranged diagonally side-by-side.

Medieval

The medieval remains are likely to represent activity associated with small plots of land to the side of Long Street Road. Pottery dates these features primarily to the 12th–14th centuries, with a limited amount of activity through to the 16th century. The presence of a narrow agricultural or industrial outbuilding is suggested by a short length of stone footings, perpendicular to which were two parallel gullies with a small hearth between them. A more substantial building may also once have existed here: large amounts of building stone were observed within the subsoil and in the tops of some of the features in this area, and some of it had also been packed into a cluster of four pits.

Small amounts of pottery and animal bone were found in the medieval features, as well as several metal items including a copper-alloy spur buckle. Six medieval silver pennies (or parts thereof) were also recovered from the subsoil by metal-detecting, some of which were reported under the Treasure Act.

OASIS ID: albionar1–332796

Accession no.: AYBCM: 2018.105



Figure 2: Hanslope, Southern roundhouse, looking south-east (scale 1m)

Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes, Snelshall East, Sites A & B
SP 83677 33424

BEN BARKER

Trial trenching demonstrated that the two fields within the proposed development area were very different in character. The majority of the north-western field had been subjected to substantial modern landscaping. In contrast, the south-eastern field appeared to be relatively undisturbed. However, it contained only one archaeological feature, a furrow. This is indicative of medieval arable cultivation and the absence of other furrows is suggestive of significant truncation by modern ploughing.

The north-western field contained a single feature of human origin — a small ditch. Its fill contained two small sherds of highly-abraded early Romano-British pottery. However, the location and orientation of the ditch suggests that it was probably associated with a post-medieval field boundary visible on the 1926 OS map.

OASIS ID: albionar1-327641

Accession no: AYBCM: 2018.102

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Denham, Denham Park Farm TQ 0230 9015

ANDREW NEWTON

Excavations carried out at Denham Park Farm between **2006 and 2017**, in compliance with a planning condition for mineral extraction have been consolidated in a publication report 'Late Bronze Age Settlement and Romano-British Enclosures and Industrial Activity at Denham Park Farm', revealed a multi-period archaeological landscape with the most extensive activity dating to the late Bronze Age and Romano-British periods. Further, but quite limited, evidence of Neolithic, medieval, post-medieval and modern activity was recorded. No Bronze Age activity has previously been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site and, similarly, very little material associated with human activity during the Roman period has been recorded locally, despite the purported route of a Roman road running nearby. The late Bronze Age archaeology represented activity adjacent to, or on the periphery of, a settlement, possibly to the west commanding views of the surrounding landscape and particularly the valley of the river Colne. The Roman archaeology consisted of a set of boundary ditches representing a field system or set of enclosures and associated pits located in the western part of the site. Further Roman features were sparsely distributed across the eastern part of the site. To the north of the Roman enclosures was a focus of industrial activity associated with iron smelting (Fig. 3). The activity may represent areas appended to a low-status agricultural settlement in the immediate vicinity but alternatively could represent a small part of a larger estate focussed on the villas and high status sites known from the Colne valley.

Newton Longville, Borough Farm SP 8558 3072

LAUREN WILSON

In November 2018 a historic building recording was carried out ahead of demolition of the existing farmhouse. The building conformed to a c.1850 date, in the form of a typical mid-Victorian tenant farmhouse in its form and plan. The



Figure 3: Denham, Two furnace bases at either end of a cut depression

house retained its original layout and many of its fixtures and fittings, however an upgrade in the mid-20th century saw the introduction of services and a bathroom. Several fire surrounds, door handles, kitchen units, and wall paper also conformed to this date. It was later in the 1970s that the roof covering was replaced, and most likely that of the veranda as well. A lean-to was constructed between 1880s and the 1910s and was entirely utilitarian, most likely used as a back kitchen.

Stoke Hammond, Land East of Fenny Road

SP 8822 2963

LLOYD-SMITH, L.

Between May and August 2018 an archaeological excavation was carried out which ahead of residential development. The excavation yielded 977 sherds (10.190lg) of Roman pottery of mainly late 1st to early 2nd century date, but there were also some earlier Belgic grog tempered sherds and some late Roman pottery of probable 4th century date. The pottery came from 37 features, mainly ditches which included enclosures and a possible driveway. The sparse to moderate pottery distribution was indicative of low level domestic activity. Twenty-one pieces of slag from five contexts suggests that ironworking was carried out in the area, but not necessarily in the immediate vicinity. A possible prenatal/neonatal cremation in a ceramic pot (Fig. 4) was identified by small bone fragments which also included canine bone, while the majority of the animal bones from the site were from cattle and indicative of butchery and meat waste, which provided the bulk of the meat from the site. Sheep, pig, dog and red deer bones, while an oyster shell had been transported from the coast. Environmental remains indicated the late Iron to early Roman economy was based mainly on spelt wheat with hulled barley and oats, while a single pea/bean seed was also recovered.

Swanbourne, Old House, 6 Mursley Road

SP 80300 27258

TANSY COLLINS

In September 2018 a historic building recording was carried out on the porch of Old House in order to fulfil the



Figure 4: Stoke Hammond, Late Roman wheel-made shell tempered jar that containing a possible neonatal burial

requirement of a pre-application response which required its recording to Historic England Level 2. The porch is referred to in the listing description as late 19th /20th century and the brickwork is consistent with a 19th century date and a porch is visible on the 1880 OS map which may suggest a date in the 1870s.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MARLOW

Little Marlow, Warren Wood SU 8715 8972

MARTIN FOWKES

Between March and October, Archaeology in Marlow completed its third phase of its investigation of the double bank and ditch enclosures. The aim of this work was to understand the structures and activity within the inner enclosure, and to find dating evidence. A test pit within the enclosure yielded large quantities of medieval pottery and roof tile and flint rubble. The flint rubble probably came from wall footings but it was not possible to determine wall positions. The pottery is similar to that found in other test pits and is probably medieval, but it has not yet been analysed or dated. This phase will be written up in 2019. In February and March the surrounding woodland was looked at and various features were noted for potential further investigation (Fig. 5). Reports on this site from previous years can be found in Records of Buckinghamshire volumes 53 and 55.

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Great Linford, The Wharf SP 8549 4255

BOB ZEEPVAT

In July, BHS undertook a programme of historic building recording at 6 The Wharf, Great Linford, in advance of extensions to the existing cottage. The cottage (Fig. 6), along with an adjoining outbuilding, was constructed in c.1816/17 by the Newport Pagnell Canal Company alongside the



Figure 5: Little Marlow, The woodland survey team with a saw pit



Figure 6: Great Linford, 6 The Wharf

entrance lock to the canal – a branch off the Grand Junction Canal at Linford Wharf – to house the lock keeper and toll collector. Following the closure of the Newport canal in 1864, the entrance lock was filled in, becoming part of the cottage garden, and the property was sold by auction in 1867. Until at least the start of WW1, the cottage was let to a succession of tenants, either local agricultural workers or tradesmen working in Wolverton or Newport Pagnell.

The two-storey cottage is constructed of brick, beneath a slated roof, with chimney stacks at each end. Set into the side of the entrance lock to the canal, only the upper floor is visible to the north, with its central ‘front’ entrance. To the south, both storeys are visible, with a central ground-floor entrance. Apart from a flat-roofed, single-storey brick extension added to its west end in the 1960s, the cottage largely retains its original external appearance, though windows have been replaced with modern UPVC casements and the original living room window has been replaced by a rectangular UPVC bay window. Internally, the cottage retains its three original fireplaces, quarry tiled floors and many other features. The interior layout also appears largely unchanged.

To the south of the cottage, the present single-storey outbuilding is constructed of brick, beneath a hipped gable slated roof with a single chimney stack. It was probably built at the end of the 19th century, replacing a larger structure on a different alignment, probably contemporary with the cottage. Internally, the outbuilding comprises two rooms, a workshop and a store. Apart from some recent internal decoration it appears largely unaltered. Its function remains uncertain.

Hanslope, High Street SP 80325 46925

BOB ZEEPVAT

In November, archaeological monitoring was undertaken by BHS during groundworks for a new dwelling adjacent to *The Cock* public house in the High Street, Hanslope, as a planning condition. The site lies on the former green within the historic core of the settlement, and had the potential to reveal evidence of medieval and later activity. Examination of historic mapping showed the site had been part of the rear garden of cottages fronting Gold Street, before becoming the garden of the pub. Removal of topsoil and turf revealed nothing of significance and very few finds, all of post-medieval date. The footing trenches encountered an undated

spread of limestone rubble beneath topsoil and above the natural clay, presumably material that had been dumped, levelled and buried in the cottage gardens.

Hardmead, Church Farm SP 9380 4858

BOB ZEEPVAT

In November, historic building recording was undertaken by BHS of an outbuilding at Church Farm, Hardmead, prior to its refurbishment and conversion for residential use as an annex to the Grade II-listed farm house. Church Farm was established in the 18th century: the farm house was reputedly built with stone recovered from the demolition of Hardmead manor house. The section of stone wall incorporated into the outbuilding may date from that period. The outbuilding is a single-storey, 5-bay structure, constructed of brick beneath a tiled roof, probably in the mid-19th century. Its internal floors and roof structure show frequent use of recycled bricks and timber from earlier buildings. The outbuilding served a range of functions: fuel store for the farm house, stables, tack room/workshop, and housing for a trap or similar vehicle. Apart from repairs to its fabric and fittings, the building appears to have undergone little change since it was constructed.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Calverton, Land to the SE of Calverton Lane

SP 80744 37549

NETTLETON, A

Forty-nine evaluation trenches were opened in an area of predominately pastoral farmland to the SE of Calverton Lane and to the SW of Oakhill Lane. Three trenches contained archaeological features; Trench 005 contained a possible post-hole [005004], which exhibited a potential recut [005007]; finds from the fills of both cuts comprised fragments of medieval (or later) CBM, which suggests a relatively late date. A sub-circular possible pit, containing no finds, was identified in Trench 006, while a hedgerow was identified in Trench 012.

Calverton, Land at Two Mile Ash Farm Fields 1, 2 & 3

SP 81213 38330

FRANCE, J

Forty-eight trenches were opened in an area of predominately pastoral farmland situated to the south of Watling Street at Two Mile Ash Farm. Ten trenches contained features of varying archaeological significance, largely dating to the post-medieval period, and comprised possible clay extraction pits (Field 1), a single post-medieval gully (Field 2) and remnants of ridge and furrow, as well as an associated field boundary, and areas of rooting containing residual late prehistoric or Romano-British pottery (Field 3).

Calverton, Land at Two Mile Ash Farm Field 4

SP 81025 38466

FRANCE, J

Forty-six trenches were opened at Two Mile Ash Farm, which forms part of the Milton Keynes Western Area Expansion – Area 10. The site consisted of mixed agricultural land utilised predominantly as pasture. Twenty-five trenches were found to contain features of varying archaeological significance,

Buckinghamshire

largely dating to the post-medieval period. Of these, 18 contained probable post-medieval agricultural features; however, in addition, an ENE-WSW ditch terminus was revealed in Trench 090, which contained the largest pottery assemblage recovered during the course of the evaluation, comprising Late Iron Age grog-tempered, reddish brown ware. While its function remains unclear, the moderate to abundant charcoal present within the ditch fill, together with a limited palaeodietary signature, suggests a non-domestic function, the feature being located some distance from habitation.

Calverton, Land Parcel D: Field 8 SP 80700 37270 NETTLETON, A

Thirty-two evaluation trenches were opened to identify and investigate areas of archaeological potential within 'Land Parcel D: Field 8', which will form part of the Milton Keynes Western Area Expansion (MKWEA, Area 10).

Activity was concentrated in the eastern part of the site where a series of linear features were identified. None of the features could be conclusively assigned a function owing to a paucity of dating and environmental evidence. Limited conclusions drawn from the environmental sampling suggest that the linear features were at some remove from occupation and probably associated with agriculture. Whilst some pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), glass and slag were recovered from soil samples, they proved undiagnostic and did not assist in the dating of the features from which they derived.

Two linear features uncovered in Trenches 059 and 060 were located in close proximity to one another, the former being the only feature to contain datable finds material consisting of two sherds of ceramic, dated to the mid-1st century AD pottery sherds probably from a globular beaker or jar. Whilst this linear may date to the Romano-British period, the presence of undiagnostic slag and CBM could suggest a later date. It must also be considered that the pottery may be residual, as Romano-British activity is recorded in the surrounding areas. The second feature was found in Trench 060 appeared U-shaped in plan which might suggest part of a boundary, possibly the corner of an enclosure. Only a short segment was exposed and investigated and no finds were recovered; it was not found to extend through the neighbouring trench following its projected alignment and its function thus remains undetermined.

Calverton, Land Parcel D: Field 9 SP 80890 37430 NETTLETON, A

Evaluation comprising 18 trenches in an area identified as 'Land Parcel D: Field 9' which will form part of the Milton Keynes Western Area Expansion (MKWEA).

Linear features were identified in seven of the 18 trenches, notably in those trenches located close to the current field boundary. A few of the linear features were found to cut the subsoil and stratigraphically deemed to be of relatively modern date. The only datable material recovered during the evaluation was a single fragment of ceramic, similar to locally produced early Romano-British pottery found throughout the Milton Keynes area, albeit this was recovered from the fill of a modern dated linear and is thus considered residual. The only other archaeological material recovered

was burnt mammal bone and an undiagnostic animal bone fragment.

Overall, the archaeological sterility of these features suggests they were positioned at some distance from occupation, possibly serving an agricultural function. A number of plough scars noted in the southwest area of the field suggest previous arable use and it may be that at least some of the undated linear features may be representative of a relict field system.

Calverton, Whitehouse Secondary School SP 80900 37740 BREWER, E

Open-Area Excavation was undertaken on behalf of Gallagher Estates of 1700m² of land in the Milton Keynes Western Area Expansion Area 10 designated for Whitehouse Secondary School.

Four phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1 comprised Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British activity, comprising four drainage ditches/gullies, two of which were considered with a third isolated ditch whilst the fourth ditch as seen to cut an earlier post-hole [2124].

Phase 2 represented Early Romano-British activity dated Late 1st Century AD/2nd Century AD in the form of two rubbish pits likely related to the same activity; their contents appeared to be domestic, although no evidence of habitation was identified in the vicinity

Phase 3 consisted of Romano-British activity dated to the 3rd Century AD, comprising a rubbish pit that appeared to contain domestic waste; three drainage ditches, one of which cut an earlier ditch along its entire length and was considered a re-establishment of the earlier feature; and a possible clay extraction pit that may have been waterlogged after its excavation. This latter feature produced by far the largest proportion of the 56 vessels, mainly jars, that were recorded from the site, based on rims and diagnostic sherds.

Phase 4 dated to the post-medieval period and was represented by three north-northwest-south-southeast orientated drainage ditches, with another noted on a north-south alignment.

Wavendon, Land at Newport Road SP 91085 37605 LUXFORD, R

Five evaluation trenches were opened in an area of land to the SW of the A5130 Newport Road relating to the proposed Newport Road Junction, which will form part of the Milton Keynes Eastern Area Expansion. Of the five trenches excavated, only Trench 003 revealed a feature of potential archaeological interest; [3004] was interpreted as a hedgerow, although this conclusion remains circumspect due to disturbance by nearby rooting. The vast majority of the features were interpreted as rooting or suspected rooting and, as such, the finds that were recovered from these features indicate the presence of human activity in the vicinity.

Wavendon, Stockwell Lane Extension SP 91028 37555
FRANCE, J

Archaeological Field Evaluation on behalf of Gallagher Estates in an area of approximately 3,464m² land southwest of, and adjacent to, the A5130 Newport Road and to the east of Stockwell Road forming part of the proposed Newport Road Junction within the Milton Keynes Eastern Expansion Area.

Five trenches were excavated, within which no features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE
2018**

PHIL MARKHAM, Senior Archaeology Officer

The County's archaeological service forms part of the Transport, Economy, Environment Service's Environment Team within Environment Services. Philip Markham is the Senior Archaeology Officer, Lucy Lawrence, formerly from Cotswold Archaeology, is the Archaeology Officer, Julia Wise is the HER Officer (part time), Paul Clements is the HER Assistant and Eliza Alqassar is the Environment Team Leader.

Development Management

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

Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond: A Roman ladder settlement has been partially excavated by Archaeological Solutions at Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond in advance of residential development. The main part of the site is being preserved in situ as open green space as part of the development scheme. The excavation has revealed a Roman trackway, square enclosure, boundary ditches and a cremation burial. An open day was held in August 2018.

Weston Turville/Broughton: A multi-period site has been excavated at Weston Turville/Broughton ahead of major residential development. Cotswold Archaeology uncovered archaeological remains stretching back to the Neolithic period as well as Roman enclosures, trackways, and medieval house platforms. Members of Bucks Arch Society were invited to visit the site in July 2018.

Buckingham: Network Archaeology is currently excavating (November 2018) an interesting burial site where remains have been interred singularly and multiply and in various positions and orientations (Fig. 7).

There have currently been few finds but the buckle below (Fig. 8) is provisionally dated to the tenth to the twelfth century.

Major Infrastructure Schemes

High Speed 2: We continue to provide advice through the HS2 Ltd Heritage Sub-Group on route wide issues and with Fusion and a number of Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy (HERDS) Managers on site work. Historic England keeps us updated on Schedule 17 works



Figure 7: Buckingham, medieval burials (Network Archaeology)



Figure 8 Buckingham, medieval buckle
(Network Archaeology)

and we discuss appropriate responses where required. The Schedule 17 works come through the district council planning departments and we are usually consulted when the applications come in.

Field work has and is taking place in a number of areas including Calvert, Fleet Marston, Stoke Mandeville, Great Missenden and in the Colne Valley. Fusion supplies us with draft project specifications for comment and we sometimes request minor amendments. The field work around St Mary's Stoke Mandeville has been taking place for a number of months and an open day took place on Sunday 9th September from 12pm to 5pm at the Stoke Mandeville Village Community Centre.

The service level agreement between HS2 Ltd and Bucks County Council has now been signed and we are now being paid for our time spent on this project. Fusion and HS2 will ensure that all field work and recording is undertaken to the same standard and format. We are being invited to monitor the work and make comments which appears to be working well. It is envisaged that the information produced will be in an appropriate HER format for easy data entry although this has not yet been agreed with the HER community. HS2 has agreed a three year service level agreement for our HER data.

East-West Rail: We attended a meeting with Atkins at their Birmingham office to discuss the cultural heritage chapter of the environmental statement included with the TWAO (Transport and Works Act Orders). We responded to our strategic planning colleagues consultation over the TWAO saying that as the Environmental Statement was not clear and the document to address the archaeological issues had not yet been produced it would be appropriate to apply a number of conditions to any consent so that the archaeology is adequately covered by the scheme. We have good working relations with Atkins and have agreed a number of ecological mitigation schemes associated with this development. It is understood that this scheme goes to public inquiry in March 2019. At the meeting with Atkins it was hoped that the historic environment content could be agreed so that this would not be an issue to take time at the inquiry.

Heathrow New Runway: A number of meetings have taken place over the heritage strategy and comments from us and other local authority archaeological services have been acknowledged and documents have been revised. We are expecting a draft document covering the archaeological issues to be made available in the autumn. A service level agreement to pay for our time spent on this scheme has been agreed.

Western Rail Link to Heathrow: We attended a Network Rail meeting at their Reading Offices to discuss their overarching written scheme of investigation for the works. We and the other local authority archaeological services had made comments on their draft and our points were accepted as being reasonable and acceptable. Network Rail expects to complete the evaluation works (where land access is available) before the end of 2018. These works tie in with the current excavation works taking place at the Langley/Richings Park CEMEX mineral site where Wessex Archaeology are working.

Oxford/Cambridge Expressway: We have attended a number of meetings over this and have expressed the need to assess the historic environment implications of the proposed corridors and routes. The Highways Agency said that this would not be done until the corridor has been chosen and that the historic environment information would inform the chosen route. We expect that an HER information request to inform the scheme in the near future. At the time of writing they have not requested the HER information.

Historic Environment Record

The HER has had a busy year and in addition to supplying consultants, developers and the public with information the team has been working on checking and creating new database records for South Bucks Metal-Detecting Club finds dating from the 1980s and 1990s in the West Wycombe area.

The HER volunteer working on the milestones project is still making final edits to the existing entries. As previously reported, if she wishes to continue volunteering for us, we may ask her to tackle the turnpike tollhouses. The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research and Recording Project is continuing to make good progress with 51 reports completed, 4 reports in draft and work underway on a further 10 gardens. In 2017 and 2018 the volunteers have also been researching the 16 parks and gardens in Buckinghamshire where Humphry Repton was involved, as part of the national Repton 200 festival, which culminated in an illustrated publication on Repton's work in Buckinghamshire and a conference at Ashridge in August. In 2018 the HER was consulted on 157 Countryside Stewardship applications covering 15,713 hectares within Buckinghamshire. Of these 15 (10%) were for Higher tier schemes and 142 (90%) were for Mid-tier schemes. The HER was able to provide added value to 54% of the applications and responded to all consultations within the 20 Day period required by Natural England.

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.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Aston Clinton, New Build Phase 3 Off Chapel Drive TM 1775 3143

CATHRYN SHEAN, TAMLIN BARTON

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation for a residential development of 7 dwellings with access and associated works on Land off Chapel Drive, Aston Clinton. The work involved excavating 3 trenches over a site measuring 0.27 hectares in extent. A 6m wide track of medieval or post-medieval date was found running along the SW side of the Site. This was replaced by a later chalk track. The tracks appear to have been a route running around the NE side of Aston Clinton that was replaced after the enclosures. Various undated features were also uncovered including a post-hole and irregular linear features thought to be a drainage channel and a property boundary ditch.

Castlethorpe, The Fishponds SP 796 443

ADAM GRIFFITHS

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for Castlethorpe Parish Council on the site of a play park for a new zip wire foundation within the Scheduled Fishponds of Castlethorpe Castle. Six trenches were excavated revealing a modern (likely 20th century) dumping spread, and the sewage drain which was laid in the late 1990's.

Shenley Church End, The Barn, Thirlby Lane

SP 8329 3658

ADAM GRIFFITHS

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for Project Design Studio Ltd. during the works for a barn conversion at The Barn, Thirlby Lane, Shenley Church End. This work was the trenching for the new footings within the Barn. No archaeological features were discovered but long bone fragments and another bone showing butchery marks came from a low-laying soil layer, these cannot be dated.

CHESS VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Great Missenden, Moated Site in Chalkdell Wood, Frith Hill SP 90019 01285

DR YVONNE H. EDWARDS and JOHN GOVER, GEOPHYSICIST

The scheduled moated site of Chalkdell Wood, Frith Hill (NHLE 1014600) has been the focus of the attention by CVAHS. Excavation identified a fortified defensive structure which comprised a moated site and is situated in an area of woodland. One side of the moated site is associated with the 'hollow-way' which turns abruptly at the enclosure's south western-corner prior to descending through the wood towards Frith Hill Road. A narrow bank with a pronounced outer scarp extends between the corner of the enclosure and the hollow-way forming a small platform, indicating that the two features were contemporary.

Following on from our initial work using resistivity and a Wenner array we decided on excavations at three different positions (Fig. 9). These chosen excavations comprised three

ditches each of which was 1m wide from side to side of the cut. Tr. 1 was a 4m long trench, across an area positioned at a lower level than Tr. 2. Tr. 2, in a 4m length, was positioned across the top most area. Tr. 3 was positioned in the deepest, outermost ditch and a 5m long trench was cut across the ditch.

Excavation of Three Trenches

Trench 1 (Fig. 10) was positioned to cut across the width of the ditch. The south-west end of the ditch was overhanging a significant drop-down to Tr. 3 some distance below. Excavation at the outermost, southwest end of Tr.1 exposed a darkish soil. This lay above an area interspersed with large and small flints, beneath which lay many broken pottery fragments to some considerable depth. The trench dipped down towards its north-east facing end, showing a decline in the frequency of pot sherds.

Eventually, the pottery and associated soil was removed and the present trench floor and surrounding walls were squared-up. The soil immediately below this level was of a more compact nature with numerous flints varying in depth. Further excavation led to the exposure of an unusual pale yellow/orange feature situated more than c. 1m 30cm from the south-west end of the trench and at c.45–50cm depth from the curving uppermost surface. This proved to be part of a wall crossing the centre of the trench with evidence of wall collapse in one direction to the north-east.

This lay immediately above a solid chalk floor. Further excavation at the outer 'drop down' end of the trench uncovered a significant layer of stiff red-brown clay. This may have been placed here in the past, perhaps to upkeep a firm outer floor area, bearing in mind the initial deposition of pottery at this position.

Trench 1 Pottery

Marion Wells and colleagues worked on the pottery which yielded 1083 sherds and these have been recorded and listed. c.88% were recorded as South Hertfordshire Reduced ware and others as Flint Tempered ware.

Trench 2 proved to be an unusual feature which was excavated through a deep deposit of loose soil mixed with debris. The contents comprised post-war building works, including house bricks, sewage pipes and demolition material from buildings, as well as large quarry tiles and cast iron rainwater fittings. It was eventually backfilled. These building works were positioned in an unstable chalk 'mound' which was holding the dump in place.

Trench 3 (Fig. 11) was explored by gradual removal of top soil, showing a downward trend of chalk rubble, flints and some clay. The various trench levels were named Ctx A to Ctx H, labelled by the recognition of soil deposits at varying depths downwards.

Ctx A was distributed as chalk rubble at the uppermost level of the excavation. Ctx B was also associated with the outer bank and top soil covering the upper-most surface area. Ctx C was about 0.5m in depth and comprised dark soil together with chalk, flints and some clay. In addition it yielded a few pottery fragments along with a numbers of slag pieces which also occurred in Ctx D. The latter exposed a dark to medium soil with chalk, flints and clay additions, and further early

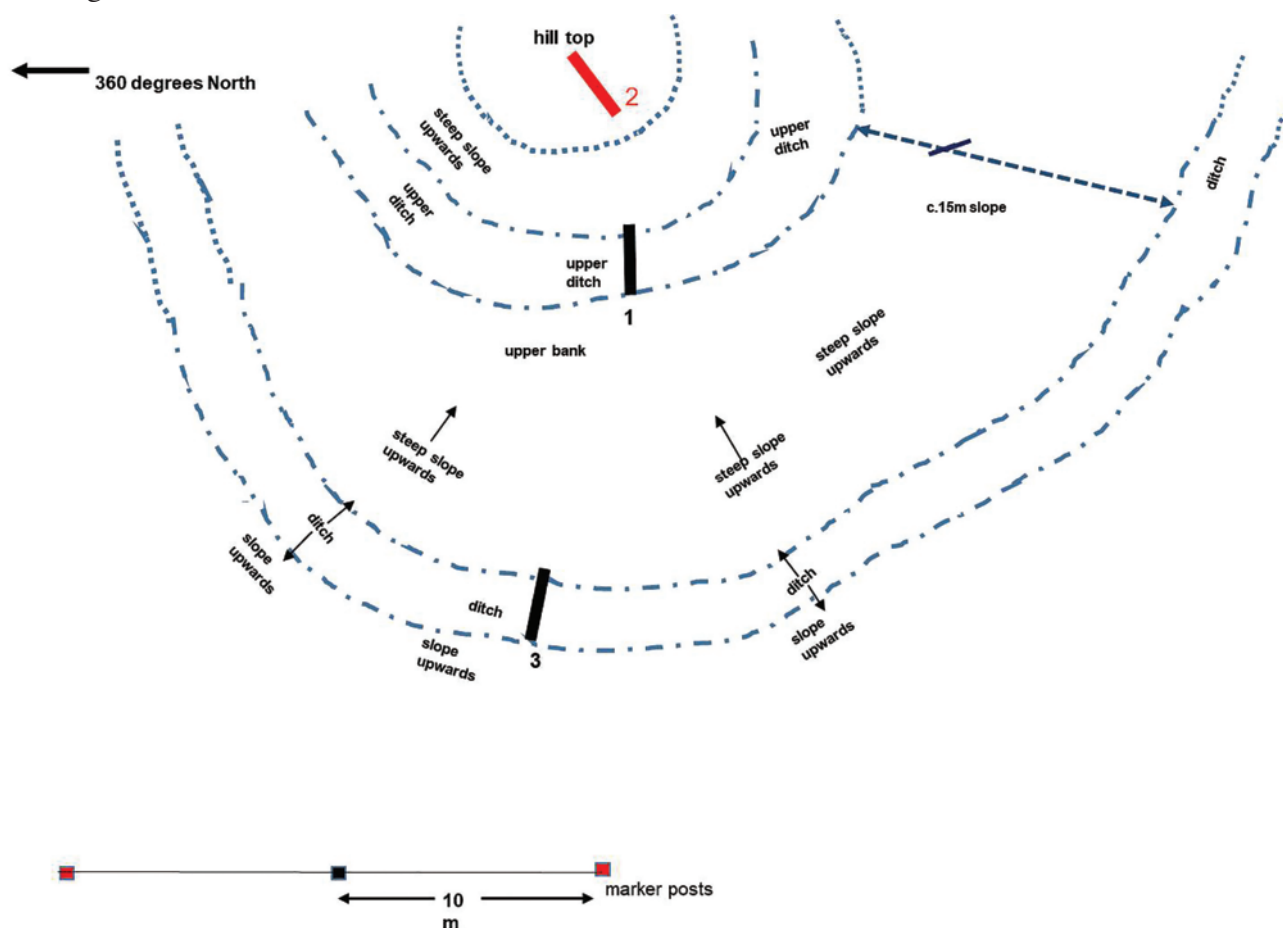


Figure 9: Gt. Missenden, site plan with trench locations

pottery pieces and animal bones. At c.1 metre depth there was a significant burnt area, Ctx E, distributed across the south-east side to the north-west side. It was associated with some flint and a scatter of pot fragments, mortar and flint.

The underlying area, Ctx F was in a narrowed cut from back to front, varying from c.1.8–1.3m width and in places 0.4–0.7cm in depth. At this stage hard hats were worn. The down-hill slope, from the south west end, cut downwards sharply, providing a sharp decline in the ‘back to front’ width of the trench. The soil deposits on either side of the trench, varied somewhat having higher levels of clay and small chalks. However, there was a significant change to the opposing back and front face of the trench bottom. Here strong stone blocks, Ctx G and Ctx H, appeared to have been neatly and vertically cut into, such that the two faces ‘north-east’ and ‘south-west’, opposed each other. At the level of Ctx H, the surfaces of the stone were a significant size and were orange grey/white. The facing walls were c. 0.8m high at the back and c. 0.6m opposite. A continuous firm stone surface formed the final base.

Trench 3 Pottery

Marion Wells and colleagues also worked on the pottery which yielded 275 sherds and these have been recorded and listed. They have been variously labelled as ‘Grey sandy rough ware’ or ‘Calcite gritted ware’.

Summary and final thoughts on the 2018 Excavations

Excavations have yielded interesting and diverse observations.

Trench 1. Recognition of the pot finds are very similar to those found at nearby Missenden Abbey (Recs. of Bucks 58, part 2, 2018) and it may be that the pottery was dumped here at some relatively early period. Another possibility is that the ceramics were made and prepared on-site in the open area of Chalkdell Wood/Frith Hill.

Trench 3. The division of levels from Ctx C to Ctx F showed variation in soil types, animal bone pieces and slag, with Ctx E implying a burning dump sometime in the past. At lower levels the ditch becomes notably narrower and at 2.2m depth was associated with two neat, opposing walls. It is certain this outline of width, shape and depth will be encountered along the entire outer ditch and is likely to be commensurate with the shape and size of this early enclosure.

Trench 1

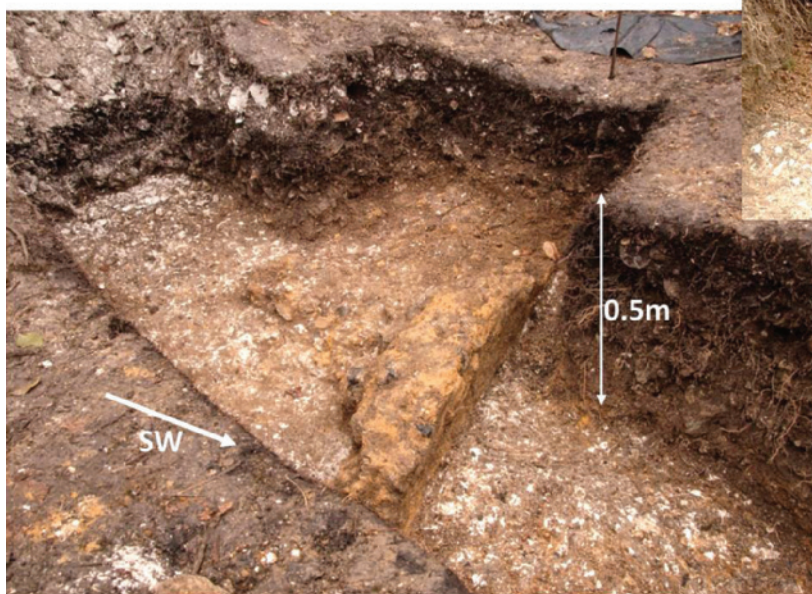


A.

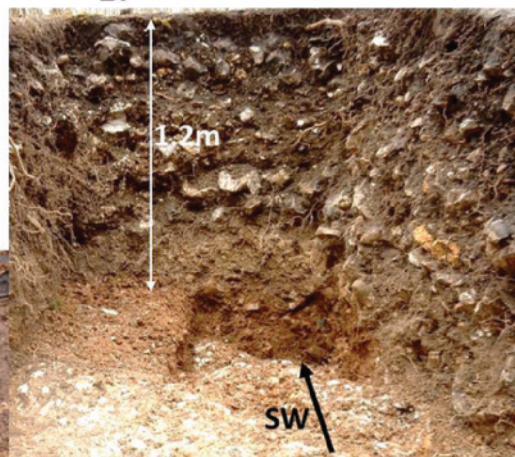


B.

Trench 1



A.



B.

Figure 10: Gt Missenden, Trench 1 features and finds

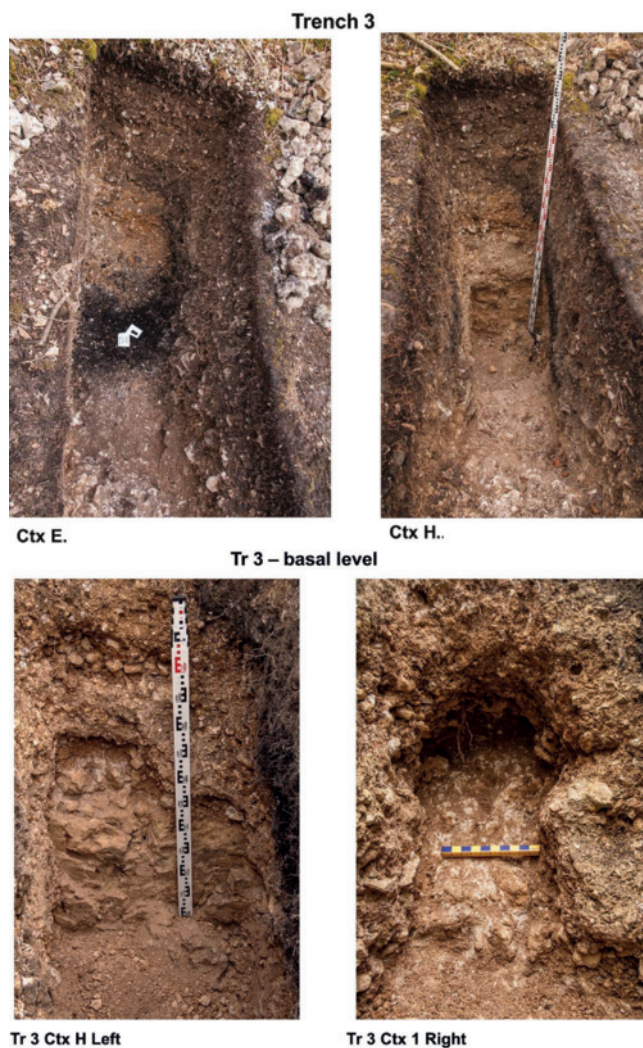


Figure 11: Gt Missenden, Trench 3 features

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Amersham, Land at 1 to 3 Alpha Court and rear of 60 to 64 Whielden Street SU 95673 97030

RALPH BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no archaeological remains.

Aston Clinton, Park Farm, Church Lane SP 87790 11990

PETER BOYER

Excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified evidence of the establishment of land boundaries in the 12th century. These developed into more extensive ditched enclosures throughout the medieval period up to the 14th century, and maintained into the early post-medieval period. Late post-medieval ditches were also present.

Aylesbury, Weston Mead Farm, Aston Clinton

SP 85276 13162

FRANCESCO CATANZARO

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a ditch which contained a Mesolithic flint and prehistoric pottery. A Roman ditch was found, along with a further ditch which correlates to the location of a farmstead boundary ditch depicted on the 1960 Ordnance Survey map.

Aylesbury, Beechwood House, Wotton Underwood

SP 68673 16074

JAMES COYNE

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

Broughton, Aston Clinton Road MDA SP 84881 13268

JAMES COYNE

Excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified three foci of prehistoric activity comprising ditches, pits (Fig. 12), a possible hearth and a circular post-built structure. Medieval agricultural features including boundary ditches, a trackway, pits, furrows and an occupation soil were also identified as were numerous undated pits and ditches.



Figure 12: Broughton, prehistoric pit containing quernstone fragment

East Claydon, East Claydon to Iver Overhead Power Lines Maintenance Works SP 89110 03511

RALPH BROWN

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

Great Horwood, Land south of Little Horwood Road SP 77743 31125

EMILY EVANS

Excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an Early to Middle Saxon ditch and post-medieval furrows. An undated pit was also present.

Hanslope, Land at Castlethorpe Road SP 79825 46969

RALPH BROWN

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a possible Middle/Late Saxon enclosure and associated droveway. 11th to 13th-century enclosures related to the former hamlet of Green End were reworked and expanded in the 14th century.

Newport Pagnell, Tickford Fields, North Crawley Road SP 88910 43710

STUART JOYCE and MOLLY DAY

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered a small assemblage of residual Neolithic/Early Bronze Age worked flints. A Roman ditch and pit were also found, as were four medieval enclosures with internal divisions which produced remains indicative of a small rural settlement. Two possible ovens (Fig. 13) and a metalled trackway or surface are also likely to date to the medieval period. Structural remains potentially representing the 17th-century tomb of local attorney Mark Slingsby were found along with post-medieval quarry pits, medieval and post-medieval furrows and undated pits.



Figure 13: Newport Pagnell, medieval ovens

Princes Risborough, Land between Longwick Road and Mill Lane SP 80623 04456

ALICE AMABILINO

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Mid to Late Iron Age rectilinear enclosure and two ditches and a pit of the same date. A fragment of Roman ceramic building material was recovered from a ditch which also contained late prehistoric pottery. A medieval pit and evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was also present.

Stoke Mandeville, Land off Marsh Lane SP 83126 10350

BETHANY HARDCASTLE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified two undated, but probably post-medieval ditches.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY**Walton, Land adjacent to Walton Manor SP 8883 3636**

BONNIE KNAPP

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of the land adjacent to Walton Manor, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire in October 2018. Heritage Assets were identified, comprising a likely Iron Age ring ditch and associated postholes in the northwest corner and medieval cultivation, possibly of Saxon origin, spread across the site. A probable Iron Age date for the ring ditch has been identified through the pottery assessment. It may relate to the prehistoric cropmark known to the south of the PDA. The evaluation found evidence for cultivation in the form of furrows, though with the absence of dating evidence these could not be given an absolute chronology. It does however indicate that this area was probably used as the agricultural hinterland of the deserted medieval hamlet of Walton. The Saxon pottery, in conjunction with the earlier Saxon brooch findspot, is indicative of early medieval activity that became the hamlets of Walton or Simpson.

OASIS ID: headland4-329112

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**Preston Bissett, Church Farm SP 6572 2993**

DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during works to convert disused farm buildings to residential units at Church Farm, Preston Bissett (Fig. 14). The farm lies in the historic core of the village, close to the church. The groundworks were monitored but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.



Figure 14: Preston Bissett, Church Farm buildings during conversion

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES**Buckingham, Fleece Yard, Market Hill SP 69558 34078**

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

In August 2018, an evaluation was carried out after planning permission was granted for the demolition of two commercial

Buckinghamshire

units (No. 8 & 9) and the erection of 5 new dwellings and associated parking at Fleece Yard. Upon inspection, the area showed signs of truncation from Victorian residential use and 20th century commercial redevelopment. The excavation revealed that the earliest features were two post-medieval pits. The pits contained brick and tile fragments, animal bone and a small amount of diagnostic pottery. A further pit contained mid to late Victorian pottery but which was earlier than the overlying 19th century floor tiles. These earlier features were followed by the remains of 19th century buildings. There were also several undated pits which could only be identified as predating the modern layers and two pits related to the demolition of the Victorian building. The fragmentary remains of an undated drystone wall possibly post-dated the demolition of the Victorian buildings but could have been earlier. Only one fragment of medieval pottery was recovered during the excavations and no features could be dated to earlier than the 17th Century.

OASIS-ID johnmoor1-321483

Medmenham, Ferry Nab, Ferry Lane SU 80596 83794

CARLOS FERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ

In March and April 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief on groundworks at Ferry Nab, Ferry Lane. The reason for this work was that Wycomb District Council granted planning permission for the construction of an in-ground swimming pool at the site (17/07387/FUL). A ditch and a foundation wall of flint and chalk rubble were identified. The finds analysis and the study of historical maps give a possible date for the ditch before the mid-19th century. In the case of the wall foundation, a wine bottle provided a possible *terminus post quem* of the late 18th Century, although the uncertainty of its context made this difficult to determine.

OASIS ID – johnmoor1-144954 Museum Accession number: OXCMS: 2012.17

Princes Risborough, Land to the rear of 24–26 Bell Street SP 80850 03245

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at the rear of 24–26 Bell Street, Princes Risborough in February 2018. Wycombe District Council had granted planning permission for the building of 1 × 3 bed detached dwelling with associated parking and external works (15/07096/FUL). The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of the initial ground reduction and excavation of the foundation trenches. Excavations revealed Post-medieval disturbed ground layers directly overlying the natural. Cutting these layers were one small pit, one garden feature and one undated tree throw hole.

OASIS ID – johnmoor1-325912 Museum Accession No: AYBCM: 2017.6

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Akeley, Land adj. Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane

SP 70996 37838

LAURA DODD

In March 2018 an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken at land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane, Akeley to fulfil Condition 17 of Planning Consent for the construction of a bungalow on the site. A single trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development which revealed three features of late post-medieval/ modern date. The features included; two possible plough marks, and a small pit containing a high proportion of bottles.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-309033 Accession Number: AYBCM : 2018.54

Aylesbury, 67–71 Walton Road SP 82551 13367

LAURA DODD

In August 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at 67–71 Walton Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire to inform a development proposal for the demolition of existing properties and the construction of seven new dwellings on the site. Walton, which is a suburb of Aylesbury, is one of a number of areas within Buckinghamshire where there is evidence for continued occupation from as early as the Neolithic period.

Two trenches were excavated to the rear of 67–71 revealing a number of features which can be attributed to the Roman period onwards. Within Trench 1 a possible pit containing Roman pottery, a natural feature and an undated calf burial was observed. More cut features were exposed in Trench 2 including a pit, a ditch and several features whose shape were obscured by the limit of excavation. These features have produced pottery spanning from the Roman through to the medieval period.

During the Victorian period, the site was situated within the boundaries of the engineering works whose main building was located to the northeast. The remains of a 19th century structure exposed in Trench 2 are likely to be part of a small rectangular building shown on late 19th century Ordnance Survey that was associated with the engineering works.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-321767 Accession Number: AYBCM: 2018.87

Drayton Parslow, Holy Trinity Church SP 8373 2841

LAURA DODD

Between November 2017 and March 2018 a programme of Observation and Recording were undertaken of the Holy Trinity Church, Drayton Parslow during the installation of new soakaways and drainage through the cemetery. These were excavated to the north of the chancel and from the southwest corner of the nave. Every attempt was made to avoid any known burials on the site but a single articulated burial which comprised the lower leg and feet of an adult individual was nonetheless revealed.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-301748 Accession Number: AYBCM : 2018.5

Gawcott, Brendale, Church Street SP 68067 31821

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

In June 2018 Historic Building Recording was carried out of the barn at Brendale, Church Street, Gawcott to fulfil a condition of planning permission for the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a new dwelling on the site. This 3-bay barn was built between 1862 and 1880 and is a mixture of brick and timber framed construction under a corrugated metal roof. It contains a number of hand worked timbers that have been reused from elsewhere. The building has three rooms that are not consistent with the bay division. The easternmost room was used as a clubhouse for Buckingham Wine Circle and the western one as a garage. Although containing some original fabric, the building has been extensively reworked.

OASIS: Kdkarcha1-316231

Accession Number: AYBCM: 2018.72

Hanslope, Land to the rear of The Globe PH, Hartwell Road SP 79529 47997

LAURA DODD

In July 2018, KDK Archaeology Ltd prepared a Heritage Asset Impact assessment of land to the rear of the Globe, Hartwell Road, Hanslope. The site is located in an area of open ground to the rear of the 18th century public house, The Globe, which is situated to the northwest of the Hanslope Conservation Area and village core. Although little information is available about the site, cartographic evidence would suggest that this plot of land was wooded from at least the 18th century through to the late 20th century. Prior to this investigation KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a watching brief at the Globe Public House, the results of which produced a dry-stone wall believed to be associated with a stone barn that was once located on the site. However, no further archaeological features or finds were revealed. Due to the presence of woodland on the proposed development site in antiquity and the lack of remains exposed during recent construction work at the Globe, the potential for finding archaeological remains on the proposed development site is low and further archaeological intervention may not be required.

OASIS: kdkarcha1 Accession Number: AYBCM:

Longwick, Land adjacent to Thame Road SP 7904 2074

REBECCA BRADFORD

In February 2018 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by KDK Archaeology Ltd on land adjacent to Thame Road, Longwick, Buckinghamshire, prior to a residential development. Seven trenches were excavated on the site, in which no archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-305945

Accession Number: AYBCM: 2018.4

Soulbury, Liscombe Park SP 8857 2566

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

In October 2018 a programme of Strip, Map and Sample Excavation was undertaken at Liscombe Park, Soulbury, Buckinghamshire prior to the excavation of a swimming pool. This project identified a number of natural features

affected by bioturbation, as well as a linear feature marking the presence of a removed hedge. A sub-circular discrete feature interpreted as a small tree throw also contained degraded animal bone and ceramic building material, similar to the ceramic brick and tiles found throughout the subsoil, no doubt related to past building works to Liscombe House and the neighbouring chapel. The works did not uncover the system of medieval and post-medieval features previously found during a trial trench evaluation, consequently the excavated footprint may lie between the aforementioned features.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-323918 Accession Number: AYBCM: 2018.139

Wendover, 1 High St SP 86965 07858

LAURA DODD

In July 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at 1 High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire as a condition of planning permission for the construction of a new dwelling. Ordnance Survey maps dating to the late 19th century show a north-south orientated range to the rear of 1 High Street. The excavation was undertaken within the footprint of this now demolished range exposing a thick chalk layer which appears to be the compacted base of the internal floor for this building. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-302046 Accession Number: AYBCM: 2017.229

Westcott, Land East of Ashendon Road SP 72012 16909

LAURA DODD

In **November 2017** KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at the Land East of Ashendon Road to inform proposals for the development of the site. Five evaluation trenches were excavated within the footprints of the proposed buildings. The development area has large mounds to the north and west creating a bowled effect in the centre of the site. No archaeological cut features or deposits were recorded. The stratigraphy and topography of the site suggests that the centre of the site may have been a dew pond.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-291131 Accession Number: AYBCM: 2017.162

Westcott, Land West of Ashendon Road SP 7190 1692

LAURA DODD

Between December 2017 and February 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Land West of Ashendon Road, as part of a pre-application process for the development of the site. A total of 10 trenches were excavated revealing a number of medieval features, the most notable being the remains of a limestone building which had been constructed on top of an earthen platform to the north of the site. Several limestone spreads, a large number of ditches and several pits were also observed whose dates ranged from the Romano-British through to the medieval period. The presence of relatively high status building material and artefacts may suggest that this was once part of one of the medieval manorial complexes before

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL: CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2018

NICK CRANK, Senior Archaeological Officer

Development Management

The Conservation & Archaeology Team received 1000 planning consultations during 2018, 599 of which were for the Senior Archaeological Officer.

Fieldwork

2018 was a busy year for fieldwork with Twenty-seven projects notified to the Historic Environment Record (HER), list appended. Projects comprised:

2 historic building records; 12 trial trench evaluations, 5 geophysical surveys; 5 excavations and 3 watching briefs.

Highlights included two excavations in Hanslope: The first by Cotswold Archaeology revealed several phases of early medieval occupation dating possibly from the Middle/Late Anglo-Saxon period until the 14th century, including 11th and 13th century enclosures relating to the now deserted hamlet of Green End; the second by Albion Archaeology focussed on an area along Long Street Road and revealed a small unenclosed middle to late Iron Age settlement and roadside occupation of the 12th -14th centuries.

Building Conservation

Listing activity in 2018 was largely confined to war memorials as First World War commemorations draw to a close, with a total of 20 being added to the list.

The first group of draft conservation area reviews (Group 1a: Bradwell, Great Linford, Milton Keynes Village, Shenley Church End) were published for consultation in March alongside the overarching policy document. Written work for the group 1b areas: Stony Stratford, Bletchley, Willen, and Woughton on the Green should be completed in time for a Spring 2019 publication.



Figure 15: Newport Pagnell, volunteers briefing during geophysical survey

Heritage at Risk

The Conservation & Archaeology team have been working with the Historic England South East Heritage at Risk team and the City Discovery Centre to secure repairs to the scheduled monument and Grade I listed former chapel to Bradwell Abbey. It was added to the Heritage at Risk register because the roof is leaking, endangering the medieval walls and their important wall paintings.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

Work has progressed with the items on the Historic England approved HER Action Plan for 2017 – 2019. This year an updated Action Plan will be produced.

Outreach

In August a geophysical survey (Ground penetrating radar and magnetometry) was carried out by a team from Magnitude Surveys Ltd, along with members of the public and volunteers from the Bury Field Commoners Association, across an area containing earthwork banks and ditches of the Civil War defences (Scheduled Monument: 1021389), on Bury Field Common, Newport Pagnell (Fig. 15). The objective was to identify the below-ground extent of the defences and any related surviving structural elements.

The combined survey recorded distinct anomalies around the bank and ditch – or enceinte – which formed the outer defensive enclosure around the town. A distinct linear feature of great depth (up to 1.5m) along the centre of the bank has been interpreted as a foundation cut feature, such as a slot cut to support a wooden wall atop the bank; furthermore, to the east of the previous foundation cut, an unrecorded parallel linear anomaly has been recorded to be associated with the Civil War defences (Fig. 16). Deposits of material were detected within the outer ditch, which may represent debris from the demolition of the defences in 1646. The full technical report may be accessed here: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1050089>

The 12th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day was another successful and well-attended event. After the previous event in the Church of Christ the Cornerstone, the decision was made to once again hold the event there, making full use of the spacious and versatile main worship area. The event was formally opened by the Mayor, Martin Petchey who also launched the newly published 'Wulfhere's People' detailing the 2008 excavation of an extensive late 6th to 7th -century Anglo-Saxon cemetery, the largest found in Buckinghamshire.

This year's 'hand's on' activity for young people was provided by Border Archaeology and proved as popular as ever. Another popular aspect of the event is the displays from active local fieldwork groups and societies. This year participants comprised 3 groups: The Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS), Woughton Heritage Group, and Milton Keynes Heritage Association. Each group provided an activity, the various activities promoting interaction between those viewing the displays and the stall holders (Fig. 17).

As in previous years the biggest draws of the day were the talks, with up to 70 in the audience for each. This year featured 3 shorter talks on recent development related fieldwork on the Western and Eastern Expansion Areas (Border Archaeology), Eaton Leys / Magiovinium (Wessex Archaeology), and Kickles Farm, Newport Pagnell (Albion

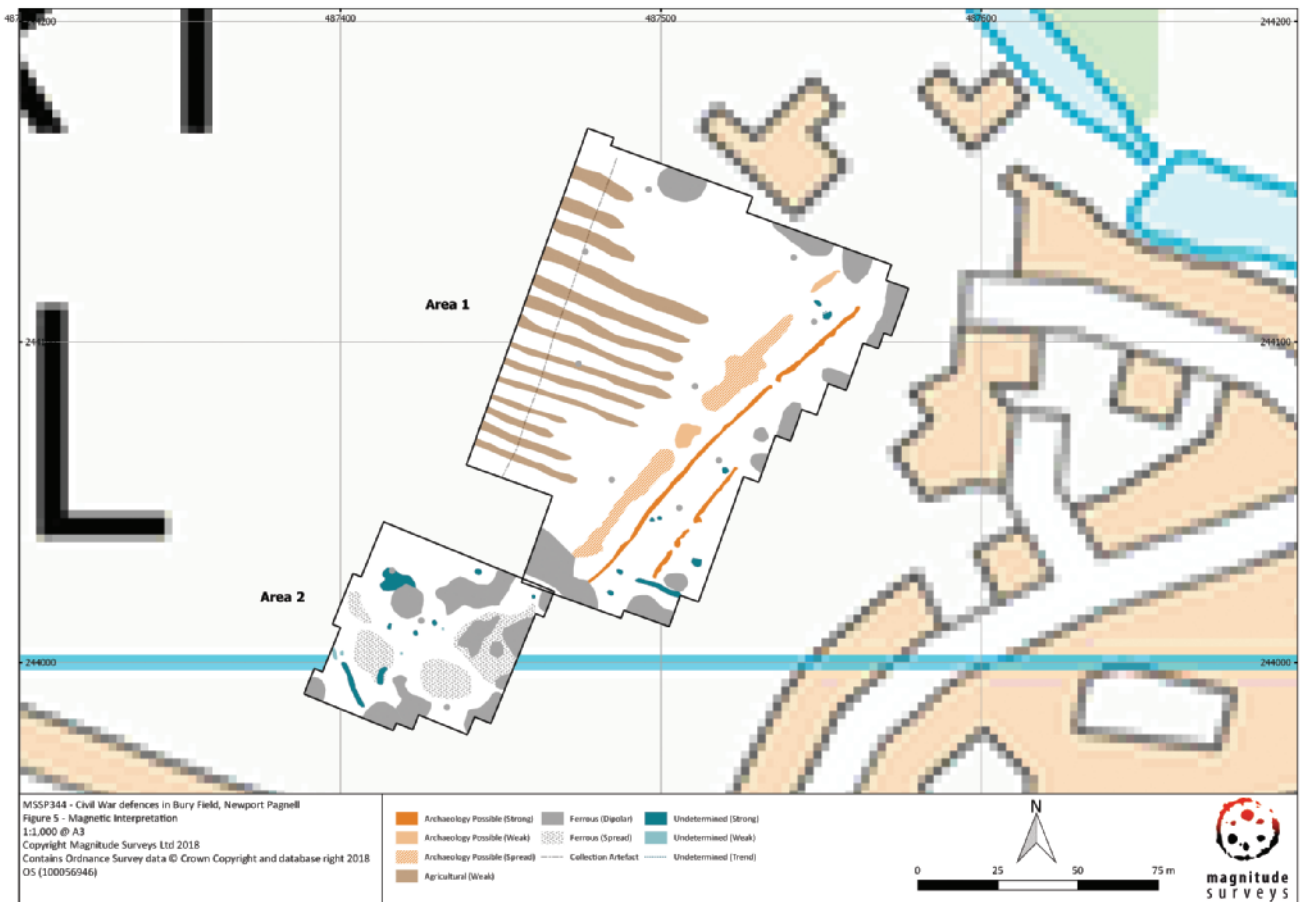


Figure 16: Newport Pagnell, interpretive plot of magnetometer survey



Figure 17: Visitors to MK Archaeology Day at the Portable Antiquities Scheme stand

Archaeology). Additionally a longer, lively talk was given by Elliott Wragg on the Thames Discovery Programme's investigations along the Thames foreshore, finishing off the day. This year's MK Archaeology Day will be held at the church on Saturday 2nd November.

MOLA

Amersham, Chiltern Centre, Chiltern Avenue
 SU 96784 98370
 SUSAN PORTER

A pre-determination trial trench evaluation was undertaken in December on the playing field to the east of the existing leisure centre complex, which is itself due for demolition as part of the proposed redevelopment of the site. Three evaluation trenches were excavated to a depth of c.0.50m, where natural geology (Head Deposits) was encountered. The southernmost trench was devoid of archaeological deposits, whilst drainage gullies and a shallow linear feature, potentially the remains of a hedge boundary, were recorded in the central and northern trenches. The sparse amount of pottery recovered, although 12th-14th-century in date, appeared residual and the archaeological remains are therefore considered to be the remains of limited post-medieval agricultural activity on the site, likely associated with the known 17th-century Woodside Farm, (or an earlier predecessor), which is known to have stood on the western part of the site.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Aston Clinton, east of College Road SP 487486 213838

RACHEL CLARE

Thirteen trenches were excavated during an evaluation on land east of College Road, Aston Clinton. Archaeological features comprising seven ditches were identified in five trenches within the development area. At least three of the features have been dated by pottery to the Roman period, but the other features remain undated, although it is likely that they are from the same period. Two parallel, north-east to south-west oriented ditches in Trench 14, were identified as a possible routeway. The remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological features, but had been subject to heavy modern disturbance. OASIS 317011

Aylesbury, land at Aston Clinton road SP 8477 1290

KAMIL ORZECOWSKI

Between **May and July 2016** an excavation at Aston Clinton Road was undertaken. Sparse features were found dating to the early to middle Iron Age (5th-century BC to early 1st-century BC) over a c100m by 50m area, suggesting intermittent activity. A farmstead was established in the early to mid-1st-century AD. It comprised a late Iron Age/early Roman boundary ditch, a rectangular stock corral, a midden-like organic layer, a pit cluster group and some small discrete features (Fig. 18)



Figure 18: Aston Clinton Rd, Area A, looking north

In the mid-1st century to 2nd century AD a routeway with fields laid perpendicular to it was established. A roundhouse with associated discrete features was located at the heart of the settlement, within the northern area of the site adjacent to the east of the routeway. There was secondary evidence for craft activities including pottery production. In the 2nd century to 3rd / 4th century AD a substantial sub-rectangular enclosure was constructed in north-east corner of the site. Within the enclosure were pits along with a large midden layer but no structures were observed. Medieval furrows were recorded across the site. OASIS 310993

Bierton, land at Gib Lane SP 844 157

JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey of c3ha of land west of Gib Lane, Bierton has detected a palimpsest of archaeological features in the north-eastern corner of the survey area. These comprise at least two different phases of enclosure ditches which probably define part of a settlement of Iron Age or Roman date. The extent of the detected remains is less than 0.5ha but it is evident that further remains must lie outside the survey area, continuing eastwards under Gib Lane and northwards towards the Aylesbury Road. Away from the north-eastern corner, the only archaeological features identified are remnants of medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. OASIS 308257

Bow Brickhill, Land south of Caldecotte SP 892 341

JOHN WALFORD and ADAM MEADOWS

A magnetometer survey area close to the scheduled remains of the Roman town of *Magiovinium* detected a Roman road leading north from the town. This had suburban settlement or industrial remains lying to either side, and a separate area of Roman suburbs was detected in the southernmost part of the survey area. Few archaeological remains were detected elsewhere, apart from a large isolated enclosure of possible Iron Age or Roman date and medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow. OASIS 314347

Denham, Amersham Road, Denham Holder Station

TQ 0206 8754

AMIR BASSIR



Figure 19: Denham, General view of 1926 frame-guided Gasholder

A programme of historic building recording carried out of Gasholders 1 and 2 at the Denham Holder Station, Amersham Road. Gasholder 1 (Fig. 19) was built in 1926 and was a frame-guided gasholder with above-ground tank. Gasholder 2 was a spiral-guided gasholder with above-ground tank and was built in 1967 following the conversion to Natural Gas and significantly increased the site's storage capacity. OASIS 330718

Edlesborough, land at High Street SP 9732 1923

JIM BURKE and TRACY PREECE

An archaeological field evaluation comprising twelve trenches revealed archaeological remains in six of the trenches. The features found dated from the post-medieval to modern date. The majority were for drainage and associated with a disused Manor Farm moated site on the eastern edge of the present development. In addition a single boundary ditch was identified as well as several postholes indicating a former fence line. Examination of the topsoil and subsoil bulk revealed post-medieval and modern material across the whole site. OASIS 327113

Great Horwood, north of Little Horwood Road

SP 776 312

JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey of c1ha of land north of Little Horwood Road, detected three possible pits of indeterminate date, as well as ridge and furrow dating from the medieval to early post-medieval period. OASIS 323302

Sundon-East Claydon OHL4YJ Refurbishment

SP 75356 25760 to TL 02880 27503

IAN FISHER

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the refurbishment of the Sundon – East Claydon overhead power lines. No archaeological features were observed. OASIS 310427

Taplow, Cliveden Estate SU 913 848

JOHN WALFORD and RACHEL CLARE

Geophysical and earthwork surveys on the National Trust estate at Cliveden focused mainly on an area located 300m to the east of Cliveden House, formerly part of Taplow Common. The geophysical survey identified several areas of disturbed ground which may be sites of small scale quarrying or industrial activity, and one other area of disturbance which may relate to a structure in an 18th-century garden nursery. Many pipes and field drains were also detected. The earthwork survey mapped some fragmentary features, the most substantive of which appears to be a former line of a drive leading to Cliveden House. Additional geophysical survey was undertaken on paddocks further south in the estate, but this work revealed nothing of archaeological interest. OASIS 319535

Weston Turville, land south of Aston Clinton Road

SP 852 128

GRAHAM ARKLEY and PAUL CLEMENTS

A magnetometer survey of c.5ha of land south of Aston Clinton Road, mapped a former field boundary as shown on the 1878 Ordnance Survey map in the south-west of site, with discrete sets of medieval ridge and furrow to the north and south. The survey also detected a small zone of magnetic noise, which likely indicates an in-filled pond or similar feature. OASIS 312349

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY**Buckingham, 10 Tingewick Road SP 69210 33850**

NATHAN BERRY

Trial trench evaluation in advance of residential development identified a number of features, predominantly pits and ditches, indicating that the site lay on the periphery of a 10th to 12th century settlement. Fieldwork continuing into 2019.

Lavendon, Land to the east of Castle Road

SP 91778 53915

STEPHEN THORPE

Trial trench evaluation undertaken in advance of residential development recorded a number of ditches likely associated with a field system dating from the Roman, late Saxon or medieval period. The evaluation also recorded a post-medieval field boundary and a possible furrow.

Stowe, Home Farm SP 67172 37694 (CENTRE)

STEPHEN THORPE

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during road improvements between Stowe School and Home Farm recorded a post-medieval / early modern brick drain and various undated features including former road surfaces, a possible quarry and a possible former service-duct.

Swanbourne, Breakfast Field SP 80584 227376

JACQUI HUTTON

Strip, map and record undertaken in advance of residential development recorded a small number of ditches considered to be associated with an Iron Age field system overlain by medieval ridge and furrow. No direct evidence of settlement activity was identified.

Swanbourne, Deverells Farm SP 80153 27297

GREG CREES

Strip, map and record undertaken in advance of residential development recorded evidence of an Iron Age field system superseded by medieval settlement including a number of ditches and pits likely associated with burgage plots for buildings fronting onto Mursley Road. Two kilns or ovens provided evidence of possible low-density industrial activity whilst postholes and pits showed that activity on the site continued through the post-medieval and early modern periods. Further evidence of early modern activity likely associated with the farm estate came from a stone garden wall, a brick-topped well and the remains of a possible dovecote.

Water Stratford, Green Pastures SP 65240 34500

GREG CREES / STEPHEN THORPE

Trial trench evaluation and subsequent mitigation excavation undertaken in advance of residential development recorded a small number of stone structures, including two ovens, likely indicative of settlement activity dating between the 13th to 16th centuries. The evaluation also recorded a small number of medieval to post-medieval boundary ditches and an undated infilled pond.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Pitstone, land south of Cheddington Road SP 9297 1599
DANIEL FIRTH

A watching brief undertaken in October 2018 monitored topsoil stripping at the proposed site of a works compound. Metal detecting and surface collection resulted in the recovery of a mix of ceramic building material and various metal artefacts, predominantly dating to the post medieval and modern periods. No features were uncovered.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Aylesbury, Kingsbrook SP 8488 1482
JIM MUMFORD

In April 2018 Oxford Archaeology carried out a 30 trench evaluation on land at Kingsbrook on the eastern edge of Aylesbury. The work was commissioned by Barratt David Wilson Homes and was part of the new urban expansion development to the east of Aylesbury. The evaluation followed previous geophysical survey that had identified ridge and furrow cultivation features. The evaluation confirmed the presence of shallow furrows across much of the area and identified probable former field boundaries at two locations. No other archaeological features were encountered.

Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes SP 82715 39516
DEIRDRE FORDE

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Kier Construction in 2017 to undertake an archaeological watching brief and recording during below-ground works and repairs to the buildings at Bradwell Abbey. This site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (no. 19062) comprising a complex of listed buildings (no. 1009540).

Bradwell Abbey is located to the north-west of Milton Keynes and has several standing medieval structures of archaeological significance, including the Pilgrim's Chapel and other buildings incorporating elements of the medieval abbey. The site would have originally comprised a church, refectory, living quarters, barns, and kilns. During its life as a manor house from the 16th century onwards, the medieval buildings that remain were altered significantly.

The first phase of investigative works comprised the excavation of six shallow test trenches at the footings of selected buildings, primarily to investigate historic issues with drainage around the foundations. During this work, one return wall was in part exposed extending eastwards from the east foundations of the bake house. No other features of archaeological significance were detected. Recording of exposed lintels in the farmhouse was also carried out, and a preliminary investigation and photographic record was made of the walls of historic buildings that will be the subject of trial pointing and lime washing.

Burnham, land to the rear of 73 High Street
SU 9307 8255
MARK DODD

Oxford Archaeology carried out a single-trench evaluation ahead of residential development to the rear of 73 High

Street, Burnham, Buckinghamshire, in December 2018. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered. A probable former topsoil was identified below the existing car park surfacing and made ground, suggesting limited prior truncation.

Cliveden, ANPR Trench SU 90984 85332
JONATHAN GILL

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in February and March 2018 by Oxford Archaeology on behalf of the National Trust during trenching works in the grounds of Cliveden House in Buckinghamshire. The trenches related to the laying of cables for the site's security system and were located in two areas to the north of the house. The first area was immediately west of the walled-garden car park by the Hedsor Lodge and the second area was immediately north of the spa area (north-west of the mansion).

The most significant features revealed were the remains of what was probably a service building, on the north side of the large wall which now forms the north side of the spa. This bricks which formed this building were suggestive of an 18th-century date and the structure had a brick-paved floor.

It is most likely that this was a small shed or privy built against the tall garden wall, which itself appears to pre-date 1749, but there is the possibility that it pre-dates the tall wall and instead represents the north end of a longer building that extended further southwards. The relationship between this brick structure and the tall spa wall was not exposed in the trench.

Hughenden Manor, Effluent Disposal Project
SU 85967 95248
RACHAEL DANIEL

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of an effluent pipe disposal system within the National Trust landholding of Hughenden Manor. The pipe ran in a broadly south-westerly direction from Hughenden Manor to Coates Lane. The watching brief was carried out between January and April 2018. A brick wall was recorded to the south of the south gate to Hughenden Manor, which is suspected to be of 19th-century origin.

Marsh Gibbon, Castle Street, Box Farm SP 6485 2307
RACHAEL DANIEL

In July 2018 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation at Box Farm, Castle Street, Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire. The work was undertaken for a proposed new bungalow. The site is located within the conservation area of the historical village and to the rear of Grade II listed 17th century farmhouse and barn. The evaluation consisted of single trench excavated within the footprint of the proposed new building. The trench revealed a general sequence of mixed topsoil and subsoil deposits sealing natural geology. A modern backfilled feature, possible a former pond, was identified in the northern end of the trench. No archaeological remains were identified.

West Wycombe Park, IT Cable Trench SU 84104 93873
MARK DODD

Between late March and early April 2018, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief, monitoring the excavation of an IT cable trench at the east of West Wycombe Park, Buckinghamshire, for the National Trust. The fieldwork revealed a series of levelling and made-ground deposits for the existing road surfaces, overlying two 19th-century wall foundations. Historic mapping suggests the walls relate to outbuildings and a boundary wall. No further archaeological remains were revealed.

SOUTERRAIN

Olney, 22 – 22A High Street South SP 88910 51228
MARTIN D WILSON

An 'as found' photographic record was made of the first and second floor interiors of an early 19th century three-storey town house in Olney prior to their conversion from offices to residential. The record serves to illustrate 21st century adaptation and re-use of early 19th century living space. The Grade II listed building has undergone extensive modernisation in recent decades, including the insertion of several partition walls and the blocking of fireplaces. Original *in situ* fixtures comprise a stair handrail with scroll end and curved end with rounded newel post; panelled cupboards over the staircase; and twelve-light sash windows. The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of observations by means of digital photographs and scale floor plans. OASIS ref.: souterra1–311994

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Bierton, Land to the west of Rowsham Road
SP 8436 1617
KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Evaluation trenching in advance of a small housing development revealed three pits most probably dating to the 12th century AD, and several large quarry pits, at least one of which was modern.

Great Kimble, Great Kimble C of E School, Church Lane
SP 8245 0606
JON TIERNEY

A watching brief on the foundations for a new building revealed no deposits of archaeological interest.

High Wycombe, Abbey Barns South SU 8750 91300
KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Magnetometer survey in advance of submission of an application for development covering c.19ha identified a range of magnetic anomalies, but most were of no archaeological interest (geological or made ground). Only two were felt likely to reflect buried archaeological features and a series of parallel anomalies most likely represent previous agricultural activity.

High Wycombe, Leigh Court, Leigh Street
SU 8562 9326
GENNI ELLIOTT

A building recording was carried out in advance of conversion and partial demolition. The site was first built on in 1901, though Leigh Street itself was laid out between 1897 and 1899. The earliest block was set back from the street frontage and was characterized by wooden beams and columns. It is possible that this building was extended to the south-east prior to the initial building of Birch House along the street frontage in 1913. The houses Malvern and Llanberis as well as the 'embroidery building' date between 1908 and 1925. Birch House was extended in 1926. The majority of the rest of the extensions including blocks A and C, the rear embroidery building and Wheelers Yard occurred between 1925 and 1937 with only relatively minor extensions later.

Princes Risborough, Land at Duke Street SP 8070 0355
ANDY TAYLOR

Evaluation trenching in advance of a small housing development exposed a small number of pits beneath made ground and a buried soil. One of the pits was of late medieval date. The other pits were similar but contained no datable finds.

Princes Risborough, Princes Risborough School, Merton Road SP 8093 2088
JON TIERNEY

No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed in an extension to a car park.

Stoke Poges, Slough Cemetery Extension, Stoke Road
SU 9775 8163
WILL ATTARD

Excavation of two small areas north of the existing cemetery revealed a range of archaeological features, including a series of medieval pit clusters, and ditches. Post-excavation analysis is ongoing. Of particular note is the evidence for medieval blacksmithing.

Waddesdon, Church of St Michael and All Angels
SP 7420 1697
ANDREW MUNDIN

Two further phases of a long-running watching brief were conducted on various minor works in the churchyard and in the interior of the church. Excavation located stonework underlying the existing Chancel's eastern foundation, as was also the case to the south and south-east, and below the chancel arch. This will all be of earlier than 14th century date. A second stone foundation was recorded under the buttress to the east of the rebuilt south porch. Disarticulated human bone was recovered generally throughout the areas of excavation, though the higher proportion was recovered from overburden deposits on the exterior of the north aisle door. Two sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered from overburden deposits exterior to the south aisle. Part of a badly truncated vault was located in the eastern bay of the south arcade, its backfill dating to the mid-17th century or later. Parts of the previous under-floor ducting truncated

Buckinghamshire

Medieval levels in the north-east nave. Four undated graves cut through the Medieval horizon.

Wavendon, Land at Eagle Farm, Lower End Road SP 9297 3820

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Magnetometer survey in advance of a housing development detected a number of magnetic anomalies representing ditches of archaeological interest as well as those of agricultural origin. Evaluation trenching is planned for 2019.

Wavendon, 34 Newport Road SP 9141 3718

LUIS ESTEVES

Ten evaluation trenches excavated in advance of a housing development revealed only a modern ditch.

Wolverton, Wolverton Cemetery extension, off Woburn Avenue SP 8095 4040

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated in order to inform an application for planning permission for an extension to the cemetery. No evidence for an extension of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery lying to the west was found or any other archaeological features or finds.

Publication of potential interest to SMA readers:

(available from TVAS, email tvass@tvass.co.uk)

Jo Pine, *Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon burials and occupation on land to the west of The Lea, Denham, Buckinghamshire*, TVAS Monograph 32

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

Ickford, Little Ickford Cottage SP 6533 0715

ANDY HYAM

A historic building survey was undertaken at The White Cottage, 2 Bull's Lane, Little Ickford in July 2017. The survey studied a late medieval cruck-framed cottage which had recently suffered a severe fire resulting in the loss of the thatched roof and damage to the roof timbers. The cottage consists of three bays although evidence suggests that there may have been another bay at the southern end which may have been removed when the adjacent Ickford House was extended. The cruck frame is a base cruck and the blades show evidence of re-use from elsewhere. The roof structure consists of roughly shaped common rafters pegged to the purlins. Remains of the original board and wattle wall panels are still present within the apexes of the roof. Daub, known locally as witchert or Ickford Daub, is still present in many places of the building.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Pednornmead End River Restoration Scheme, Chesham SP 95511 01338

G. FLOOD

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Buckinghamshire County Council to undertake a photographic survey and

archaeological watching brief prior to, and during, the restoration of a 150 m reach of the Missenden Stream at Pednornmead End, Chesham. The works comprised a Level 2 photographic survey of the watercress beds and any associated infrastructure, particularly the two weirs (Weirs 1 and 2) as well as a short account of the watercress industry. Following the photographic survey, the groundworks were monitored by an archaeological watching brief.

The groundworks were very shallow and confined to the digging of a new, deeper river channel. This limited the opportunity to reveal archaeological evidence, although a mortared brick surface was uncovered approximately 25 m east-north-east of Weir 1. This corresponds to a gap in the river depicted on the 1843 Tithe and later 19th century Ordnance Survey maps and is labelled as a footbridge on the 1963–64 Ordnance Survey map. In addition, unstratified burnt flint and fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the field north of Weir 2 as well as modern artefacts found within the topsoil of the river channel.

Watercress production on an industrial scale began in the early 19th century and grew rapidly in the mid-19th century as railways made transportation to town markets more efficient. Photographs available online appear to show that 19th century watercress beds were initially constructed of wood, superseded by concrete structures in the 20th century. Structures associated with watercress production include beds, bunching sheds, reservoirs for storing the fresh cress and some sites had their own rail tracks. However, no evidence of structures definitively associated with the watercress industry were found on Site during the photographic survey or watching brief.

East Burnham, East Burnham Quarry SU 95050 83790

J. McCARTHY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological works on a 12 hectare parcel of land comprising the Phase 2 Extraction area at East Burnham Quarry. This document presents an initial statement on the results of the first two stages of archaeological strip and record excavation. Extraction Phase 2/1a and 2/1b were undertaken between 12 July to 2 August 2015 (Phase 2/1a) and 2 to 12 May 2016 (Phase 2/1b). Extraction Phase 2/2a and 2/2b were undertaken between 19 and 29 June 2017 (Phase 2/2a) and 29 May to 15 June 2018 (Phase 2/2b). Extraction Phase 2/3a was undertaken in two stages between 22 August and 6 September 2018 and 9 April and 24 May 2019.

The strip, map and record excavation was successful in identifying a number of archaeological features of significance. Phase's 2/1a and 2/1b identified five probable field boundary ditches, which were thought likely to derive from two separate phases of land division. Though not conclusively dated, the available evidence suggests that these phases of land division were of post-medieval and/or possibly medieval date. No significant traces of activity predating the medieval period were revealed, beyond a small quantity of work flint deposited in later features.

This phase of the fieldwork confirmed expectations that the interpretation of a cropmark, which had previously been identified as the potential remains of a Neolithic long barrow or enclosure were erroneous. The feature, which had also been detected by an earlier geophysical survey, was clearly demonstrated to coincide with an infilled ditch that can be

correlated with a field boundary depicted by the 1841 tithe map.

Phase's 2/2a and 2/2b identified two probable field boundary ditches, which are thought likely to derive from a single phase of land division having been identified on the 1841 tithe map. These were also not conclusively dated; but the available evidence again suggests that this phase of land division is of post-medieval and/or possibly medieval date. No significant traces of activity predating the medieval period were revealed.

Phase 2/3a identified two pits, an enclosure ditch, five field boundary ditches and a series of brick earth quarry pits. Pottery recovered from the pits and enclosure ditch date them to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British whilst the remaining features are largely undated. The majority of the archaeological remains are focused in the north-east corner of the site, suggesting the potential for a settlement to the east/north-east of the site.

Little Brickhill, Land at Eaton Leys SP 88940 33160

H. DABILL and P. DANIEL

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake archaeological mitigation work at Eaton Leys, Milton Keynes. The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission for a residential development.

Six areas occupying 2.95 ha in total were investigated by means of strip, map and sample excavation. This work followed on from a scheme of earlier investigations comprising desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, evaluation trenching and fieldwalking. The most significant remains from the strip, map and sample excavation were in Area A and Area D. Area A contained ditches forming droveways and a co-axial field system. These appear to be Late Iron Age/early Romano-British in date, with at least some forming part of the hinterland of the former Roman town of *Magiovinium*, which lies just to the north of the excavated area. A total of five cremation graves and five other features containing cremation-related deposits, some forming loose groupings, were also identified in Area A. Most were undated, although three belong to the 1st century AD. The group of vessels from one grave is particularly significant, containing as it does decorated samian vessels, which are rarely found in funerary contexts. Area D contained an early/middle Saxon cremation cemetery containing over 30 burials. The majority had been placed in urns. A potential small four-post structure representing a mortuary house or shrine was found alongside the graves. Areas B–C and E contained further cremation-related deposits, along with minor linear features and discrete pits and postholes; the majority were undated but some are assumed to be Romano-British. Area F proved to be archaeologically sterile. Flintwork provides clear evidence of earlier prehistoric

activity taking place in the vicinity of the site, probably from the Mesolithic and/or Early Neolithic periods, although the assemblage is small and redeposited.

The majority of the finds assemblage comprises Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery – other material types are not well represented, and are in generally poor condition (particularly the animal bone). Of most interest are the human remains, pottery, metalwork and glass from urned and unurned Saxon cremation burials. These are significant as cremation assemblages of this date are very rare within this part of the country. Some evidence for cremation in the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British period was also encountered. Further analysis of the human bone will provide more detailed demographic data and further information related to the mortuary rites. Over 300 environmental samples were collected from a range of features, although in general, they are not particularly informative. The environmental remains recovered from the samples are dominated by wood charcoal; the majority originates from cremation-related deposits, and likely represents fuel for funeral pyres. Within the assemblage, there is scope for recognising potential changes in the choice of pyre fuelwood between the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods. Charred remains of cereals and other plants are generally rare and poorly preserved and were found in secondary deposits.

Waddesdon, Land West of Warmstone Lane

SP 74882 16622

A. ZOCHOWSKI

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample and watching brief on a parcel of land at Warmstone Lane, Waddesdon. The strip, map and sample excavation covered an area of 1.2 ha. The strip map and sample area was targeted on two trial trenches excavated during the evaluation undertaken by Wessex Archaeology on the site in 2015. These two trenches revealed a small area of medieval activity. The watching brief area covered the rest of the field to the north and west of the targeted strip map and sample area.

The strip map and sample excavation revealed a small number of shallow pits and postholes dating to the medieval period immediately adjacent to those found in Trench 19, furthering the suggestion that medieval activity had occurred in the area. Two shallow gullies, interpreted as field boundary or drainage gullies, were observed to the south of the concentration of pits and produced pottery sherds dating to the medieval period. A possible pond was also shown to be present on site.

The watching brief revealed further evidence of medieval activity including a possible fence line and further shallow rubbish pits to the north and east of those uncovered in the excavation.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Brackley, Apex Site, Land off Northampton Road and Turweston Road SP 5922 3820

IAIN LESLIE and ALLAN KING

A combination of strip, map and sample investigation along with archaeological observation was undertaken during construction of a pub restaurant with associated access, parking and landscaping. The investigations revealed a small cluster of Iron Age remains, predominantly comprising quarry pits, but also including four small ditches and two post-holes. The remains are likely to represent peripheral activity associated with the middle Iron Age settlement excavated immediately to the south-west at Land to the East of Northampton Road, Brackley. The finds assemblage included pottery, animal bone, ferrous smithing slag, vitrified clay lining and an iron nail.

OASIS ID:albionar1-169608

Higham Ferrers, Chichele College SP 9599 6859

MARK PHILLIPS

Chichele College was founded in c.1422 by Archbishop Henry Chichele as a chantry college. Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for masonry repairs to a boundary wall. The repairs involved dismantling and rebuilding an 8m-long section of wall. Archaeological works comprised recording the wall, excavating a test pit and monitoring the excavation of new footings.

The existing boundary wall, in coursed rubble masonry, showed evidence of previous repairs or rebuilding with the upper half of the wall containing a cementitious mortar. Historical maps show that this part of the boundary wall formed the rear wall to an outbuilding when the site was in use as a farm. The farm buildings were demolished by the Ministry of Works after 1948.

The earliest deposit in the base of the new foundation trench was a buried topsoil layer, which contained a small amount of animal bone, oyster shell, roof tile and a few sherds of late-medieval pottery (c.1400–1500). Three north-south aligned limestone rubble walls were found above the buried soil layer in the base of the trench. These are the demolished remains of structures that predate the present northern boundary of the college site. The walls were covered by a mixed soil layer containing limestone fragments, interpreted as a construction build-up or dump layer. The truncated remains of an east-west aligned wall on the line of the present boundary wall were found at the west end of the trench. It was abutted on its north side by a possible internal floor or external yard surface and a stony make-up layer that contained a small amount of late-medieval pottery.

OASIS ID:albionar1-346724

Higham Ferrers, 19 College Street (SP) 9603/6835

MARK PHILLIPS

Planning consent for alterations to the Grade II listed house included a condition requiring archaeological building recording. The street-frontage range of the house dates from

the mid- and late 18th century with the northernmost bay being a late-18th century addition. The form of the house with a wide frontage, a central entrance hall and fireplaces in the end walls is a plan form that came into widespread use during the 18th century. The first-floor rooms in the front range have 18th-century doors and doorcases. It is unclear if there was a rear range to the building during the 18th century; a two-storey section in limestone at the west end of the rear range could be of this date.

In the 19th century work was carried out to the ground floor rooms and all of the doors and doorcases in the ground floor of the front range date from this time. The brick-built section of the rear range dates from the 19th century, although the evidence of the floor beams suggests it may incorporate the remains of an earlier, narrower structure.

A large barn attached to the west end of the house was built during the 19th century. Observations during construction of a new door opening between the barn and rear range showed that the barn post-dates the limestone structure at the west end of the rear range.

OASIS ID:albionar1-309224

Wellingborough. Bechers, Nags Head Lane, Hargrave (SP) 0380/7084

GARY EDMONDSON AND GARETH SHANE

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the initial removal of the footings of a former bungalow and garage. Apart from evidence of a former cultivation soil surviving at the western margin beyond ground disturbance associated with the modern bungalow, no evidence of former human activity in the form of archaeological features or artefacts was revealed.

OASIS ID:albionar1-248352

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING
RECORDING SERVICES**Daventry, 54b & 54c High Street SP 57227 62546**

An archaeological standing building survey of 54b & 54c High Street, Daventry, Northamptonshire carried out in advance of the proposed conservation of the building and conversion to residential use. The building is an historically interesting range of buildings occupying part of a probably medieval in origin burgage plot; cartographic sources suggest 54b & 54c may occupy the footprint of an earlier building. The only potential physical evidence of which is the stone built east facing elevation. The building has clearly undergone some significant, if not total 19th century rebuilding work, leaving an essentially 19th century building of limited architectural interest. The building has an interesting history, having had a variety of uses ranging from school room to public house to coopers workshop, reflecting the origins and evolution of such buildings in small to medium regional market towns.

Hollowell, Hollowell Grange SP 69513 73014

An archaeological standing building survey of outbuildings associated with Hollowell Grange, Hollowell, Northamptonshire carried out in advance of the proposed conversion of the buildings to residential use. Hollowell Grange is an extremely interesting range of farm buildings built in a single phase, probably between 1820 and 1848. The farm was built on land belonging to the Cottesbrooke Estate following a model farm design. The farm appears to have originally been a farm of some status, with an attractively finished house and modern buildings. The buildings are of a common design grouped around a central yard. Internally, there is little evidence of the building's former use, but the farm appears to have been largely used to rear dairy or beef cattle. One of the more interesting features is the survival of a sunken dairy adjacent to the house.

Whilton, Church Gate & Outbuildings, The Green SP 63649 64770

An archaeological standing building survey of Church Gate and outbuildings, Whilton, Northamptonshire carried out in advance of the proposed conservation of the house and conversion of the outbuildings to residential use. Church Gate is an interesting range of buildings built as a village farm in the mid to late 17th century, its location, immediately adjacent to the church suggests it may have originally been a house of higher than average status. Cartographic sources indicate that the outbuildings were originally more numerous and were demolished in the early 20th century. This suggests the demolished buildings may have been 17th century also and the site ceased to be a working farm in the early 20th century. Both the domestic house and outbuildings have suffered as a result of modern alterations, leaving little of historical or architectural significance. There is sufficient structural evidence to confirm the 17th century date attributed to the building by the listing description and the outbuildings do retain a number of interesting features; most notably the mullioned window fronting the Green and the attractively finished gable. There is also a cob-built wall in A3, dating cob buildings is notoriously difficult, cartographic sources confirm the wall is likely to be early 19th century at least, its location marks the boundary with the churchyard which is medieval in date, so the wall itself could be much earlier.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS**Potterspury, 13 Sanders Lane SP 75705 43273**
TANSY COLLINS

In April 2018 an archaeological monitoring was commissioned during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling within the existing garden land adjacent to No 13. Test pitting revealed a late post-medieval (18th –19th century) pit, while residual medieval (12th –14th), late medieval (15th –16th) and post-medieval (17th –18th century) pottery was found within the topsoil and made ground layers. The pit may have been a clay extraction pit associated with the kilns known from neighbouring plots. The monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new dwelling revealed only modern made ground layers. No archaeological features or finds were present.

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES**Northampton, Albion Place SP 7573 6024**
BOB ZEEPVAT

In August, a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken by BHS on excavations for an external front access stairway to the cellar of 13 Albion Place, Northampton, and a soakaway in the front garden. This terraced house is of early 19th -century date and is listed Grade II. All excavations were undertaken by hand. Those for the stairwell revealed only that there had once been a flower bed fronting the house, its eastern extent probably marked by brick or ceramic edging. No buried archaeological features were present and no finds were noted.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**Kings Cliffe, Hall Farm, OS NGR not supplied**
ANTONI NOWAK

CFA Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to carry out a trial trench evaluation on an area of proposed ménage construction on land to the south of Hall Farm, Kings Cliffe, East Northamptonshire. The work was carried out on the 14th of December 2017. The proposed ménage partly overlies undated cropmarks identified on the County HER. Three fifteen meter long trenches were excavated to find the cropmarks, revealing no archaeology.

Milton Malsor, Rail Central SP 725 546
TAMLIN BARTON

CFA carried out an archaeological evaluation on the proposed site of a rail freight terminal. The boundary of the SRFI Site measured approximately 293 hectares in extent and is located in between Milton Malsor and Blisworth to the south-west in Northampton and is currently mixed farmland. A total of 733 trenches (most measuring 1.8m x 50m) were excavated including with a number targeted on geophysical anomalies. No remains were found in the clay valley between the two settlements but the evaluation identified 15 archaeological sites representing areas of Iron Age, Roman and medieval farming remains and settlements mainly located on a band of sand running east-west to the south of Milton Malsor. The sites identified were:

Site 1 – a medieval enclosure, possibly for stock, to the south-west of Milton Malsor located on a small hill. Earlier Iron age remains, possibly part of a round house, were found on the same hill; Site 2 – a group of ditches and pits which are part of a Roman settlement on the west side of the Milton Malsor to the south of Gayton Road; Site 3 – an area of Roman gullies, possibly marking settlement or land boundaries, to the west of Site 2 that may be contemporary with the latter; Site 4 – an area of likely Roman cultivation channels cut into the north-facing hillside close to the Blisworth Marina on the opposite side of the A42; Site 5 – a group of enclosures identified on the geophysical survey south of Milton Malsor which were found to be well preserved. The central enclosure was square and marked by a deep V-shaped ditch containing some Iron Age and Roman pottery. An overlapping smaller D-shaped enclosure was located to the east which was found to have a shallower western ditch and a ploughed out eastern ditch. Pits and

Northamptonshire

a post hole containing Iron Age and Roman pottery were found inside the two enclosures representing domestic settlement activity; Site 6 – a rectilinear field system and an east-west track of apparent Roman date to the north of Manor Farm. A small group of post-holes possibly on the south side of the track possibly represents the remains of a wooden structure; Site 7 – a possibly Iron Age rectangular field enclosure marked by ditches with a series of pits at the north end located in the field to the north-west of Lodge Farm; Site 8 – a Roman settlement to the west of lodge farm with associate remains to the south. The main part of the site is a large rectangular enclosure crossed by small divisions, possibly representing tracks or more formal pathways. The evaluation revealed that the edges of these are marked by shallow linear gullies. Next to one of these was a large pit which produced a roman pottery vessel. The north site of the enclosure was marked by a series of ditches one of which contained roman glass. Investigations of the west side of the enclosure found a group of pits for likely sand extraction. The southwest corner of the enclosure was found to be a 5m wide U-shaped ditch which had been recut. Remains to the south of the enclosure included a series of intercutting drainage channel and an area of pits and ditches possibly marking the site of a building; Site 9 – a series of plough-truncated pits, gullies and ditches next to two railway cuttings situated between Blisworth and Courteenhall Estate. The remains include possible Roman structural remains represented by gullies and, pits and post holes on top of the hill, and to the south a series of circular pits, possibly dug for sand extraction. One of these had a fill containing an inhumation. Irregular pits containing Iron Age pottery were located nearby and at the south end of the Site was a large shallow ditch of possible Roman date cut into the south-facing slope of the hill with post holes on the up slope side; Site 10 – an area of sparse features to the east of the A43 representing a Roman field system; Site 11 – rectangular enclosures of unknown but likely Roman date found in a geophysical survey to the west of Milton Malsor, and partly verified by the evaluation; Site 12 – a waterlogged area, possibly a natural depression, in the valley on the west side of Milton Malsor. The feature may have potential for environmental evidence dating to the early Holocene; Site 13 – narrow gullies on the east side of the railway to the south-east of Lodge Farm. The gullies appear to be Roman and relate to field drainage connected to a possible settlement west of Rectory Farm identified in a geophysical survey; Site 14 – a gully found on the east side of the railway to the east of Lodge Farm likely to be for field drainage, possibly Roman; Site 15 – an isolated hearth and a curved ditch to the north of Site 1 that produced no dating evidence. The hearth may be evidence of settlement and possibly be contemporary with Site 1 to the south.

Northampton, Land At St Andrews Road and Scarletwell Street, OS NGR not supplied

ANTONI NOWAK

Several archaeological features were found during an initial watching brief on a plot south of Scarletwell Street which led to small archaeological strip, map and record of the southern part of the area. During the excavations, further medieval features were revealed together with remains

of 19th-century buildings. No archaeology was found on the smaller plot to the north. The Site was a construction site for social housing on two plots of land on either side of Scarletwell Street both bordered by St Andrew's Road (A5095) to the west, approximately half a kilometre north-west of the historic centre of Northampton. The larger plot fronted Lower Bath Street and contained garages and a grass lawn. The garages were demolished prior the works and the rubble was used to level up the western and northern parts of the site.

Northampton, 33 Little Cross Street SP 74958 60673

ANTONI NOWAK

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief on a construction site 300m north-west of the historic town centre of Northampton on the west side of Little Cross Street bordered by Lower Bath Street to the north and Fitzroy Place to the south. Overall the plot measures 1840 square meters. The development comprised of demolition of a block of two storey flats and construction of new buildings. The development was centred on OS grid ref. SP 74958 60673 and was essentially flat at 69m aOD with the former patios terraced into the hillside to the west and the level of Little Cross Street 2m above this. The archaeological monitoring focused on works which had potential of disturbing natural geology – especially digging the foundations and a soakaway ditch. The remains of 19th century buildings overlying large feature probably the moat of the medieval barbican were found within the latter.

Road, Cottage Farm, Hartwell Road SP 7789 5121

ASTRID L. NATHAN

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation for a proposed Green Burial Ground site on Land at Cottage Farm, Hartwell Road, Road, Northamptonshire (centred on SP 7789 5121). Five trenches were excavated across a sample area measuring 1.43 hectares at the north of the 3 hectares development site. One trench contained the shallow remnants of a ridge and furrow. No other archaeology was identified on the site.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Collingtree, Land off Junction 15, M1 SP 74752 54766

SAM BITHELL and STUART JOYCE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a technically undated ditch sealed by a Middle Bronze Age deposit. Middle Iron Age settlement activity comprised enclosures, possible roundhouses and pits which continued to be a focus of occupation into the 1st century AD. Expansion during the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period resulted in three enclosed settlements including roundhouses, enclosures, possible paddocks, trackways and ditches. The northernmost settlement potentially had origins in the mid-1st century but was a focus of occupation during the 2nd to 4th centuries. Two Roman settlements identified to the north during previous investigations were occupied until the mid-2nd century and it is possible the settlement focus shifted south, to this site. Medieval furrows were also present.



Figure 1: Hellidon, Leam House eastern elevation

Daventry, Apex Park (PHASE 4) SP 55718 64652

BETHANY HARDCASTLE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Late Neolithic or Bronze Age ring ditch representing the remains of a barrow. Worked flint and a sherd of intrusive Iron Age pottery was recovered from the barrow ditch. Medieval furrows were also present.

Hellidon, Leam House SP 51829 58126

HANNAH SHAW

Historic building recording by Cotswold Archaeology of Leam House, a 19th-century farmhouse (Fig. 1), identified the building as being divided into two components, the eastern extent being the domestic end with Neo-Gothic, high-quality detailing, and the western extent being of a more utilitarian appearance and probably associated with farm activities. A heavily remodelled late 18th or early 19th-century stone threshing barn and several 19th-century loose-box ranges are associated with use as a cattle farm in the 19th century.

Higham Ferrers, Land at Higham Ferrers

SP 96585 68371

ANNA MOOSBAUER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered residual prehistoric worked flints. An Iron Age boundary ditch defined the northern extent of a Middle to Late Iron Age and Roman settlement previously recorded to the south of the evaluated area. Medieval furrows and a probable post-medieval ditch were also present.

Little Harrowden, Land adjacent to Hardwick Road

SP 86802 71130

MOLLY DAY

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified two ditches containing worked flints, including a knife of possible Late Neolithic to Early Bronze date.

Oundle, Oundle Bridge North Station Road

TL 04451 88877

DAVID JONES

Historic building recording by Cotswold Archaeology of Oundle Bridge North identified that the bridge which was originally constructed in 1571, replacing an earlier medieval bridge which was completely destroyed by flooding in 1570, has been subject to several phases of repair, rebuilding and widening since the mid-18th century. The 1571 bridge (Fig. 2) was found to have been largely replaced with, or encased within, later work, although several arches spanning smaller backwater channels appear to contain elements of the earlier bridge structure.

Thrapston, Land at Midland Road SP 99919 77941

RALPH BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified two Mid to Late Iron Age enclosures. A set of two concentric ring gullies was located between the enclosures. A possible medieval ditch, a post-medieval ditch and several undated ditches and pits were also present.

Northamptonshire

Silverstone, 4 Church Street SP 66739 44200

EDMUND GRENIER

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



Figure 2: Stone commemorating the 1571 rebuilding of Oundle Bridge

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Toll Bar Road, Islip SP 984 786

T. MICHAELS

Foundations Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a single ploughed field directly east of the A6116, Islip, Northamptonshire. The evaluation comprised the excavation of four 50m evaluation trenches, within an area subject to geophysical survey by GSB Prospection Ltd in 2014 (Report G1495), the results of which indicated the presence of complex archaeological deposits, including rectilinear enclosures, ring ditches, ditches and pits. An earlier evaluation on the eastern side of the field was undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in 2016 (Report No. 1189).

This phase of evaluation identified concentrated archaeological deposits within all four of the excavated trenches. A sample of these probable features were archaeologically investigated and showed that the area contained well-preserved archaeological evidence with a number of phases of activity. Artefactual material was limited, but the majority of the datable evidence, in the form of both pottery and coins, was from the Roman period. Two copper alloy objects were identified in the subsoil of Trenches 1 and 2 by metal-detector during the evaluation. These comprised a belt buckle of early Post-medieval date and a button of similar or perhaps slightly earlier date. The

evaluation has revealed that the archaeology in this area was more frequent and complex than that indicated by the previous investigations and included a probable posthole, which most likely would have been too small to register on the geophysical survey. The evaluation also identified a relict ridge and furrow system orientated broadly west northwest-east southeast across site.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Wellingborough, Land off Park Farm Way

SP 86903 67044

TAMSIN SCOTT and BETH DOYLE

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of Park Farm Way, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, between 10th and 17th of September 2018. The work was commissioned in advance of a 600-dwelling development. Two heritage assets comprising of boundaries which form part of the modern farming landscape; along with several farming indicators were identified. A single small pit was investigated in Trench 17. This is indicative of late Iron Age activity peripheral to the enclosure and nearby settlement in the south-eastern field of the DA. Two medieval furrow alignments were identified in the DA. The proximity of the two alignments in the north-western field suggests that two phases of ridge and furrow occurred during the medieval period.

OASIS ID:headland4-329135

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES

Canons Ashby, Canons Ashby Priory SP 58620 50878

A machine-dug trench was opened in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent to establish the presence of a suspected culvert in order to confirm its location, depth, construction and condition on land belonging to the National Trust, east of the church of St Mary's, formerly the priory church of Augustinian canons. The land currently comprises pasture which is located within the Scheduled Monument of Canons Ashby (SM 13643). The culvert, comprising ironstone side walls and shallowly arched brick vault, was located at roughly 1.5m below current ground surface. In the trench the culvert was complete. Its brick arch suggests a nineteenth century date. Overlying soils displayed evidence of tip lines suggestive of ground raising indicating the culvert was constructed within a larger depression and then covered, rather than being trench-built.

Canons Ashby, Canons Ashby House SP 578 507

Observation of foundation-digging in 2016 within the gardens of Canons Ashby House (SM 13643) and in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent exposed no stratified archaeology. A single residual architectural fragment probably derives from the nearby Augustinian Priory site. Nearby, in 2018, monitoring of a new service trench related to insertion of a water pipe, also disturbed or exposed no archaeology.

Charwelton, Catesby Tunnel SP 534 565

The redundant Great Central Railway Catesby Tunnel of 1897 was recorded in accordance with a Historic England Level 2 record, while a nearby related road-bridge due for demolition was recorded to Level 1 equivalent. An archaeological trench uncovered remains of a goods-yard building and the former mainline track-bed with the foundations of the station platform. A former 1897 signal box layout was also excavated (Fig. 3). The work was in line with planning consent given to Daventry Aero Research Partnership for the creation of a technology park on the site of the former Charwelton Railway Station, Northamptonshire, and for the conversion of the nearby Catesby Tunnel into a high-end aerodynamics testing tunnel, principally for the automotive industry.

Irthlingborough Baptist Chapel SP 949 708

Historic England Level 2/3 Building recording was carried out on the 18th -century unlisted former Baptist Chapel, Meeting Lane, Irthlingborough. The fieldwork recorded the exterior and interiors before selected demolitions and conversion to apartments, while outside a row of gravestones was also recorded before being moved for long-term preservation. Protection measures were put in place for an adjacent Grade II listed boundary wall.

Long Buckby, 46 West Street SP 6232 6779

Archaeological observations during groundworks for two new houses adjacent to 46 West Street, Long Buckby showed that this elevated hillside site had been utilised only for agriculture or horticulture. It had not been affected by the construction of the former Gas works on the plot immediately to the north-west.

Lower Benefield, Castle SP 98719 88460

Three archaeologically-monitored test pits showed that part of the Scheduled Monument of Benefield Castle, Lower Benefield (Monument number 1015535), had previously been stripped in places to natural geology. No buried archaeological features were located. A modern rubble and topsoil bund was re-spread by machine to restore a level, pre-2005 ground surface in the same area. There were no pre-modern finds. Further work will conclude this in 2019.



Figure 3: Charwelton, 1897 Great Central Railway signal box layout

Lyveden, The Old Bield SP 9810 8600

Trenching for fibre-optic cabling for the National Trust stretched from Harley Way to the Grade I listed Lyveden Old Bield. However, the restricted nature of the works and previous landscaping ensured that no significant archaeology was either exposed or impacted by the works. The work strongly indicates that the site from the road to the manor benefits from a protective blanket of modern overburden some 400mm-thick.

Northampton, Former Amalgamated Tyres site, Fetter Street SP 7556 6029

Following an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (2014) and subsequent Field Evaluation (2018), wider excavation recorded a small area of preserved medieval archaeology, restricted on all sides by modern disturbance. Beneath deep homogenous garden soils contiguous with the 2018 evaluation trench were pits and gullies which lay as back-yard features cut into natural geology. There had been some medieval quarrying. The site and comparison with its neighbour indicates a very varied, discontinuous frontage to the medieval St John's Street, which originally linked the existing Bridge Street and Cow Lane.

Northampton, Vulcan Works, 34–36 Guildhall Road SP 75567 60309

Follow-up building recording took place in selected stripped-out areas of this Grade II listed former factory after an initial widespread programme of recording in 2016. The new works recorded possible squatter occupation of the roof-spaces during the 20th century, with surreptitious pods constructed above industrial-shed ceilings and linked by walkways from truss to truss.

Twywell, Twywell barn SP 9485 7855

A former simple farm barn on the south side of the High Street, Twywell, Northamptonshire, was recorded to Level 2 before conversion into a home. Map evidence showed it was also the former location of a windmill.

Winwick, St Michael and All Angels Church SP 62559 73868

Reduction of the tower floors for a new WC in the Grade II* listed Winwick Church revealed no significant archaeology. Much of the area had been disturbed in relation to 19th -century heating. In the churchyard a related new drain was sufficiently shallow not to disturb the burial environment.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**Towcester, 5 Sollys Way SP 6910 4800**

DAVID FELL

Observation, investigation and recording were undertaken at 5 Sollys Way, Towcester, close to an area of known Roman settlement. The ground reduction works in advance of the construction of a new house were monitored but no archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Alderton, The Nook, Church Lane SP 73977 46981
PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

In June 2016, John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Nook, Church Lane, Alderton. South Northamptonshire District Council had granted planning permission for a single storey side extension to the existing dwelling (S/2015/1131/FUL). One archaeologist was present on site during the ground reduction (approximately 0.35m deep) and digging of the foundations (1m deep, 0.60m wide, 8.70m long) for the extension. The footprint of the extension was about 21.62m². Previous groundwork to allow access to the back of the house for the machine and dumper was not monitored.

The excavation for the foundations and the ground reduction for the planned new single storey extension of the existing building did not reveal any archaeological evidence.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-257079

Clipston: Land R/O 1 Kelmarsh Road SU 71474 81447
STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

In **November 2016** an investigation of the potential for archaeological remains on land adjacent to 1 Kelmarsh Road, Clipston, occurred. This was because Daventry District Council granting outline planning permission for demolition of an existing agricultural building and construction of a detached dwelling and garage (DA/2014/0546). No archaeological remains of significance were present.

OASIS ID – johnmoor1-279133

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Stoke Bruerne, Land Adjacent to Peppercorns, Church Lane SP 74128 49807
LAURA DODD

Between September and October 2018, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Strip, Map and Sample as a condition of planning permission for the construction of a single dwelling on the site. A number of features were exposed, including boundary ditches, pits and postholes. In addition to features, two fragments of Anglo-Saxon antler comb and several iron artefacts were recovered from the fills of the ditches. It is likely that this site was within, or just outside, an Iron Age settlement which was abandoned, or at least not exploited, during the Roman period. The site was once more utilized during the Anglo-Saxon period.

OASIS: Kdkarcha1-322499
Accession Number: ENN108916

Towcester, Units 4 & 5, 55 Brackley Road SP 68895 48572
BARNEY KING and LAURA DODD

In July 2018, a programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording was undertaken at Units 4 & 5, 55 Brackley Road, Towcester, Northamptonshire, in order to fulfil Condition 5 of Planning Consent for the construction of new houses on the site. This programme of works was undertaken following an initial Archaeological Evaluation

that was undertaken in 2017 by KDK Archaeology. This previous investigation exposed two possible medieval ditches, a post-medieval wall and a number of linear stone features believed to be a system of simple land drains. The stone features exposed in 2017 were also observed during this investigation; however, no other archaeological features or finds were present.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-312423
Accession Number: ENN109059

Towcester, Windsor House, Heath Terrace SP 69106 48846
CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In August 2018 KDK Archaeology undertook an Observation and Recording Project at Windsor House, Heath Terrace, Towcester, Northamptonshire during minimal ground reduction to the rear garden of the property. The works revealed that the stratigraphy consisted of made-ground, and exposed the remains of a post-medieval stone foundation, a modern concrete foundation and gas pipe, and finds that included a fragment of disarticulated human bone and a fragment of Romano-British Grey Sandy Ware. Further human remains have been found previously on the site, suggesting that an undated cemetery exists in the vicinity of the site.

OASIS: kdkarcha1-32313 Accession Number: ENN109169

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Badby, Church of St Mary the Virgin SP 5597 5874
STEPHEN MORRIS

Archaeological investigation was carried out during work to the nave and along churchyard path and in the south porch (Fig. 4). The Church lies towards the southern end of the village within an area thought to have Saxon origins. The surviving architecture in the church dates from the 14th century with various alterations in the 15th, 18th and 19th centuries. The church has retained its graveyard, although it closed to burials in 1886.

There were three soil horizons below the 16th century porch, with 12 articulated burials, showing burial here had been a long term occurrence (Figs. 5 & 6). None of the burials can be dated except to say they pre-date the porch. The number of sub-adult burials in this location is significant, with seven of the skeletons recorded here were between neonatal and teens in age. The practice of burying young children in close locality to the church has been recorded at other sites, including Raunds, Furnells in the early medieval period. It was possible they were buried in this location as it was believed that the closeness to the church and rain falling from the roof of the church onto the burials had a greater sanctifying affected on them. One of the child burials had a pillow stone.

Beneath the churchyard path were the remains of 27 individuals dated between medieval and Victorian periods. The most interesting finds were a pewter paten and chalice fragment found with one of the burials. These are known artefacts placed with the interment of priests, a practice that generally occurred countrywide between the 13th and 16th centuries. The work within the nave revealed two of



Figure 4: Badby Church porch before excavation, looking north

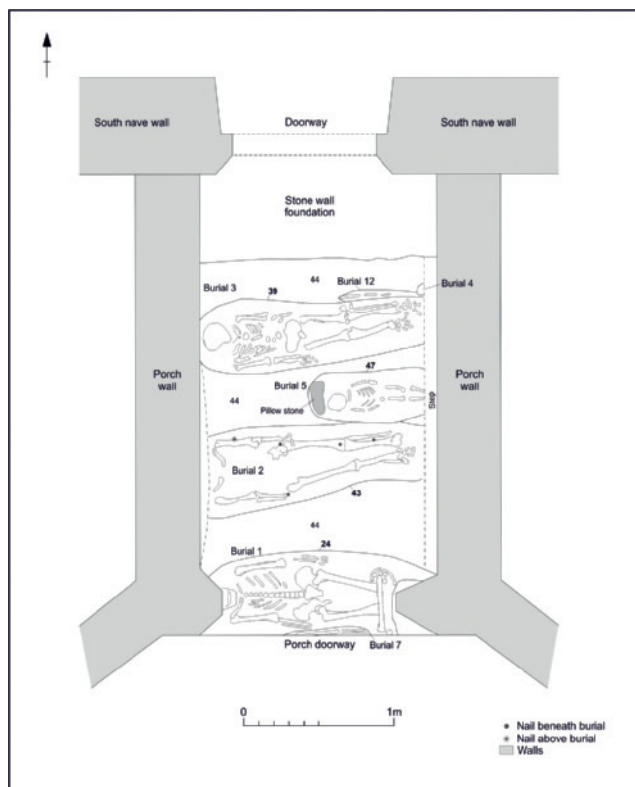


Figure 5: Badby Church Porch level 3 plan



Figure 6: Badby Church, Child Burial 5, with a pillow stone, facing south

Northamptonshire

the medieval pier bases still displayed some of the original mortared stone foundation, which may represent part of an earlier church structure. Much late 19th century restoration work was also observed. OASIS 328082

Blisworth, Buttermilk Hall Farm SP 73601 51116

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

A programme of historic building recording at Buttermilk Hall Farm, Blisworth was undertaken prior to the conversion of a barn and stables to a residential dwelling. The origin of the farm lies in the mid-18th century; by the early 19th century, maps show an L-shaped plan comprising the threshing barn, stables and a cowshed connecting the barns and farm house. The Ordnance Survey Map of 1885 depicts the development of the farm into an F-shaped plan with the addition of an open animal shelter. Over the next century only small alterations had been made, which included the addition of a pigsty, the enclosing of the open animal shelter, renewal of the roofs and replacement of the doors and windows.

OASIS 317145

Bozeat, Bozeat Quarry SP 897 600

MOLA has undertaken intermittent archaeological work within Bozeat Quarry over a twenty year period from **1995–2016** covering an area of 59ha. Two interim statements on this work were recorded in the South Midlands CBA journal in volume 27 (1997), 35 and volume 32 (2002), 26–7.

The earliest archaeological features lay in the extreme northern area where a Bronze Age to Iron Age cremation burial was possibly contemporary with an adjacent late

Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit alignment. In the middle to late Iron Age a settlement was established at the southern part of the site over a c170m by 150m area. It was a well organised farmstead, mostly open in plan with two roundhouses, route way, enclosures, boundary ditches and pits.

In the early 1st century AD, cAD 30, two separate settlements lay c0.5km apart. The former southern Iron Age farmstead had perhaps shifted location c150m to the north-west and a there was new farmstead to the north. Both settlements were located on a west facing slope of a valley side and were sited on sands and gravels at between 64m and 66m aOD. The Northern Settlement was only occupied for about 150 years and was involved in pastoral farming, but local coarseware pottery production was of some importance with a group of 12 pottery kilns dated to the middle to late 1st century AD. This is seemingly the largest number of pottery kilns from a single settlement of this period yet found in the regionally important Upper Nene Valley pottery producing area.

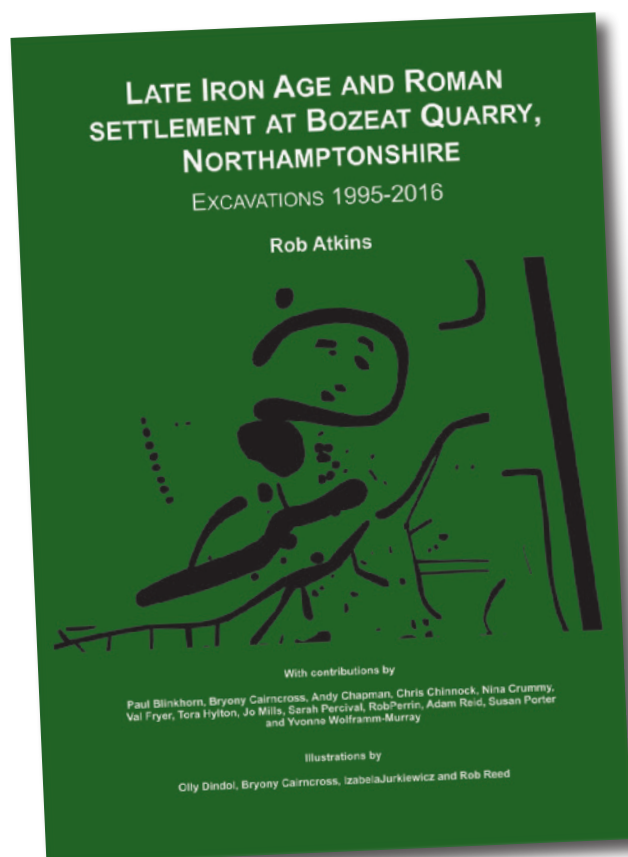
The Southern Settlement was larger and continued to the end of the Roman period. In this area there was a notable scatter of 12 Iron Age and 1st century AD Roman coins as well as 24 contemporary brooches found over an area measuring c170m by c130m. This collection of finds may suggest the presence of a shrine or temple located in the area. It is perhaps significant that in 1964 directly to the west of the excavation, a middle Roman round stone building was found, perhaps an associated shrine. Within the excavation area in the latest Iron Age to early Roman period there was a possible roundhouse, a large oval enclosure and a field system. The latter largely related to pastoral farming including areas where paddocks were linked to routeways suggesting significant separation of livestock had occurred.



Figure 7: Blisworth, Buttermilk Hall Farm

Four cremation burials, including one deposited in a box, and an inhumation lay in three locations. Pastoral farming was a significant activity throughout the Roman period with enclosures, paddocks and linked routeways uncovered. In the late 2nd to 4th century there were two stone buildings and a stone malt oven at the extreme western extent of the site, within 50m to the east of the probably contemporary shrine recorded in 1964.

There was minor evidence of early to middle Saxon occupation within the area of the former middle to late Iron Age settlement. No structures were found, although a few pits may date to this period and mark short stay visits. A small cemetery of five individuals respected the former Roman field system and probably dated to the late 6th to 7th centuries. The burials included a decapitation and a burial with a knife and a buckle. The site was then not re-occupied and became part of the fields of Bozeat medieval and post-medieval settlements.



The MOLA book is titled: Late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Bozeat Quarry, Northamptonshire: excavations 1995–2016 by Rob Atkins. It can be brought direct from the publishers, Archaeopress Archaeology at www.archaeopress.com priced £40. ISBN 978-1-78491-895-8

Bradden, Water Lane SP 464644 248144

CHRISTOPHER JONES and ESTHER POULUS

A programme of archaeological investigation and recording was carried out during the groundworks for the footprint of the new building as well as associated services. Only two archaeological features were identified: a small posthole and pit, with no dating material found.

OASIS 322273

Burton Latimer, 23 Regent Road SP 8954 7489

YVONNE WOLFRAM-MURRAY

An archaeological field evaluation comprising four trenches was excavated of which none contained archaeologically significant features. Two sherds of unstratified medieval century pottery were recovered from the subsoil whilst 19th/20th century pottery and glass were recovered from a pit.

OASIS 329848

Canons Ashby, Canons Ashby House SP 57720 50645

AMIR BASSIR

A comprehensive programme of historic building recording was undertaken at Canons Ashby House (National Trust) between October and December 2017. This work sought not only to provide a detailed record of the house but also to examine the sequences of development of alteration which were undertaken in the nearly five hundred year period since its construction. Recording comprised a complete photographic survey of the external elevations and all accessible rooms and roof spaces, and a drawn record which included doors and windows, timber-framing, roof trusses, and sections, elevations and plans. A laser survey was also carried out which allowed the house to be mapped to a high level of detail, and an aerial drone survey provided high level photographs from which a full photogrammetric model of the house exterior was produced (Figs. 8 & 9).

The house comprises four interconnected ranges enclosing a central courtyard and stands adjacent to the former Banbury Lane drivers' route. Adjacent to the house are formal gardens and pasture fields leading to a small lake. The remains of a former medieval priory are located a short distance away from the house and provided some of the building material for its construction.

The present house was expanded and modernised by John Dryden in the period 1551–1584 around a farmhouse which forms the north-western corner of the building and possibly parts of the east range. This survey suggests that the farmhouse comprised a two-part structure with a storied bay at the north containing parlours, and a possible hall to the south. The extension by John Dryden resulted in an H-plan house with tower. This formed the basis for later developments which expanded the structure into a courtyard plan form. Later developments, particularly in c1710, altered floor levels, room layout and access, fenestration, and overall aesthetics and decoration.

OASIS 322973

Castle Ashby, The Falcon Hotel SP 85995 59549

KAMIL ORZECOWSKI

Between June and September a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, and analysis was undertaken. These works were part of a larger project which focussed on historic analysis of the Falcon Hotel and the impact of the present development on the existing heritage assets within Castle Ashby. The current works were limited to the observation of the groundworks related to construction of the new extensions located to the north-west and the north-east of the existing building. During the observation no archaeological features, surfaces or finds were present,



Figure 8: Canons Ashby, vertical photograph

probably as the result of deep disturbance related to earlier demolition activity.

OASIS 330110

Chelveston, The Airfield, 20MW energy battery storage facility, Chelveston Renewable Energy Park
TL 01334 68672

The watching brief encountered no significant archaeological remains within the present development area. This part of site lay outside of the area of Iron Age and Roman period activity identified to the south.

OASIS 332363

Cold Higham, on land adjacent to the Old Rectory, Church Lane SP 66228 53563

LIAM JS POWELL

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis was undertaken in an area heavily truncated by modern landscaping. Two features were not affected by the disturbed area and these comprised an undated pit which contained the partially articulated skeletal remains of an adult horse and a stone wall which was constructed with lime mortar. This wall foundation was near the north-western edge of the excavation area and aligned

with the extant wall of an adjacent outbuilding which had presumably originally extended to the south-west to form the boundary of a yard.

OASIS 321804

Corby, land at Weldon Park SP 935 897

KAMIL ORZECOWSKI

An archaeological field evaluation comprising of 74 trenches followed an earlier magnetometer evaluation. During the excavation one undated ditch was found in Trench 62. The geophysical survey indicated the likely presence of ridge and furrow on the site but this has not been confirmed by the evaluation.

OASIS 329612

Earls Barton, Earls Barton Spinney Quarry SP 845 621

JOHN WALFORD

Extensive archaeological remains were identified during a magnetometer survey of 19ha of land at Earls Barton Spinney Quarry, focused largely in the northern and central parts of the survey area. These included possible prehistoric ring ditches, a pit alignment, enclosures and roundhouses of probable Iron Age or Roman date and some possible Iron Age or Roman field system ditches. Later remains include

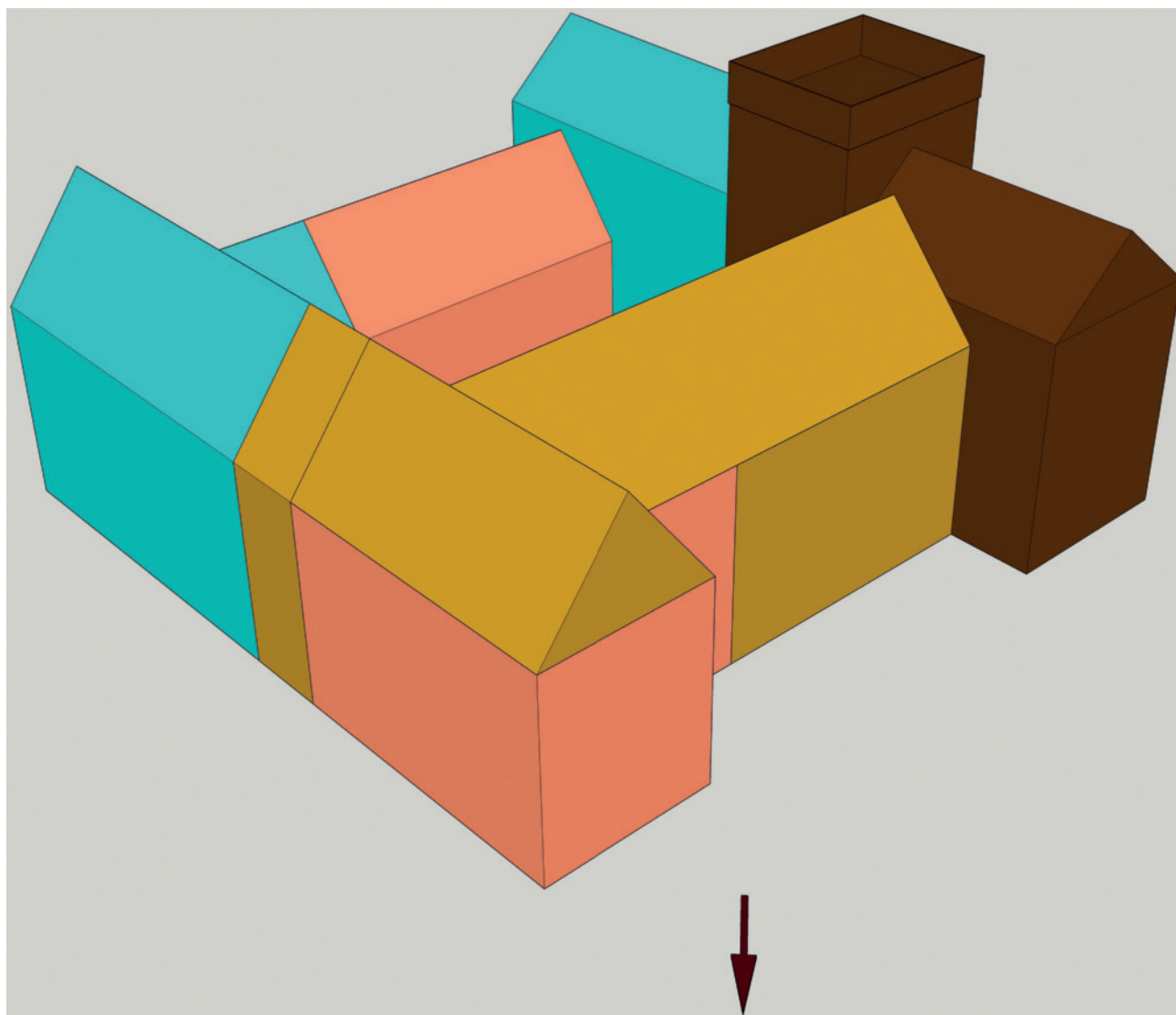


Figure 9: Canons Ashby, phased reconstruction

medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow and a post-medieval or modern brick culvert were also detected.

OASIS 312161

Earls Barton, Phase 1E at Earls Barton Spinney Quarry
SP 85230 62150

PAUL SHARROCK

An archaeological field evaluation comprising of 19 trenches were excavated revealing a series of ditches spread across the site in varying directions, most of which were shallow and undated. One ditch contained a large quantity of heat affected stones whilst another, curvilinear in plan had not been visible within the geophysical survey. The densest remains were encountered in the north-west part of the evaluation area decreasing to the south and west. The pottery assemblage from the site has yet to be examined, but is likely to date to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

OASIS 319279

Hardwick, Manor House, Manor Farm SP 85110 69763
YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

An archaeological observation and recording on the excavation of the foundations of a new extension at Hardwick Manor House was carried out. The work also included a historic building assessment report on the existing extension through the owner's photos and plans. The house was constructed in the 14th century with 15th and 16th-century modifications. The former great hall, which stood on the eastern side, was destroyed in the 17th century. This area was evaluated by the northern trench, where a possible wall cut foundation was found which contained a 15th century pottery body sherd. Beyond this main wall remains were found to suggest that had been another building with external walls, possibly brick or stone, and this had internal timber walls.

A building recording survey took place of an existing extension which had a 1775 date stone present below a window. This was a single-storey brick extension with a

Northamptonshire

cellar and a thatch roof which was expanded in 1887 to form a two-storey building with a slate roof.

OASIS 334465

Higham Ferrers, Saffron Moat SP 95828 68698

IAN FISHER

The installation of a new information and display board at Saffron Moat, Higham Ferrers, required a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording. No archaeological finds were recovered and no archaeological features were observed.

OASIS 310205

Irthlingborough, Addington Road SP 9505 7092

John Walford

An earth resistance survey of c0.4ha of land to the east of Addington Road was undertaken after a previous magnetometer survey and trial trench excavation had found evidence of medieval settlement in this area. The purpose of the resistance survey was to provide further information about the layout and extent of the remains. Only one archaeological feature – most probably a metalised track surface – was clearly detected although some less distinct anomalies of possible archaeological relevance were also present in the data.

OASIS 306589

Irthlingborough, Nene Business Park SP 95364 71024

Christopher Jones

The area for development was stripped of soils down to the natural ground level. The only features observed were the continuation of the furrows and a ditch seen in the earlier trenching on the site. No finds were recovered. The south side of the development area was heavily disturbed by a spread of modern rubble including stone, concrete and brick.

OASIS 312135

Kettering, Hazelwood Lane SP 86615 78457

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

During an archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis the stone and brick footings of three buildings were identified. There were two phases of development of the site in the 18th and the 19th centuries; the latter phase corresponded to buildings recorded on maps from 1826 and 1886. Other features included a cobbled surface, pits, a possible well, a posthole, and later drains and surfaces.

OASIS 314592

Kettering, William Knibb Centre SP 8708 7891

AMIR BASSIR

During investigations into a buried underground structure at the late 19th-century William Knibb Centre, Montagu Road, an archaeological observation and recording was carried out. The structure, which was identified as a Second World War air raid shelter, comprised a grid of interconnected tunnels, lined and ceiled with pre-cast concrete slabs set into a pre-cast concrete frame. Due to safety concerns the

structure was investigated via a series of test holes and with a remotely operated vehicle with on-board camera.

OASIS 308398

King's Cliffe, Jack's Green TL 038 974

JOHN WALFORD, ALEX SHIPLEY and CLOE CRONOGUE-FREEMAN

Archaeological evaluation work took place in two stages. Firstly an archaeological geophysical survey of c6ha was carried out. This survey detected an area of possible industrial activity and a large number of ditches defining enclosures, a trackway and boundaries. Although the ditches are most likely to date from the Iron Age or Roman periods, some could relate to medieval or post-medieval forestry activity. Other features detected by the survey included a possible former stream channel and some remains probably associated with the Second World War King's Cliffe Airfield.

OASIS317028

Secondly, an archaeological trial trench was undertaken. This produced a low density of archaeological remains but included a probable Iron Age pit alignment and part of an Iron Age enclosure. An extensive irregular boundary ditch of uncertain date and two undated parallel boundary ditches or possible trackway drainage ditches were also recorded. A low number of pits and postholes were also present that were likely to be of Iron Age date although direct dating evidence was limited.

OASIS 330831

Kislingbury, land at Rothersthorpe Road

SP 69787 59088

TRACY PREECE

An archaeological field evaluation comprising of eight trenches followed an earlier magnetometer evaluation. The geophysical survey had defined positive magnetic anomalies forming rectangular enclosures and sub-divisions and a ring ditch. All eight trenches contained archaeological features comprising 24 ditches, with a number of these corresponded with the geophysical survey. It is likely that these features represent a late Iron Age settlement located just to the west of previously investigated Iron Age settlements in the vicinity. Several of the ditches showed evidence of being re-cut indicating that they were maintained or modified over time. High distribution of pottery and animal bone were recovered from some ditch sections suggesting that domestic occupation had probably been close. In contrast other ditch section produced fewer artefacts and these may represent enclosures associated with agricultural functions. Those ditches which are undated are likely to be of a similar period. A post-medieval boundary and ridge and furrow cultivation remains were also found.

OASIS 320291

Long Buckby, 8 Harbidges Lane SP 623 676

ADAM MEADOWS

Sparse medieval (c12th century) to modern features were found at 8 Harbidges Lane. The site lay at the rear of former back plots which fronted both Harbidges Lane to the east and West Street to the north. The c12th century western plot boundary gully of Harbidges Lane may have been found and

this suggests that Harbidges Lane may have been laid out in this period. The low quantity of features recovered from all periods may imply these peripheral back plot areas could have been used for agriculture related activities.

OASIS 305976

Moulton, A43 Moulton bypass, land between roundabouts at Overstone Road and Spinney Hill

SP 79458 66305 AND SP 78877 65072

ADAM REID and ADAM MEADOWS

An archaeological field evaluation comprising of thirty trenches took place on land to the east of the A43 at Moulton. Archaeological features comprised Iron Age ditches, a probable Saxon sunken-featured building, an undated well adjacent which was adjacent to two small stone drains, and three other drains including one of brick.

OASIS 317729

Moulton, Moulton Heights SP 79030 67440

KAMIL ORZECOWSKI and LIZ MULDOWNY

In February 2018 the second phase of the archaeological trial trench evaluation took place on land at Moulton Heights, Moulton with fifty-five trenches targeted on known cropmarks and geophysical anomalies. Archaeological features comprising predominantly ditches and pits were encountered in thirty-four trenches. The features were mainly boundary and enclosure ditches related to prehistoric and Roman archaeological sites identified during geophysical survey. A small assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery has been recovered from 13 different contexts. The presence of a post-medieval drainage system was also recorded in south-western corner of the evaluated area. OASIS 323216

Moulton, Moulton College Hydroponic Greenhouse site

SP 770 673

JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey of c4ha of land north of Moulton College's Pitsford Centre, Moulton, was undertaken prior to the proposed construction of a hydroponic greenhouse. The survey detected one possible undated pit, as well as ridge and furrow dating from the medieval to early post-medieval period.

OASIS 323353

Northampton, Barnes and Becks Meadows

SP 76906 59443

IAN FISHER

During electrical improvement works on land within the boundary of the Registered Battlefield of Northampton 1460, Northamptonshire (NHLE 1000028) a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was carried out. The applied methodology ensured minimal ground disturbance. No archaeological features were observed, however, the metal detection survey did recover six post-medieval finds dating to the c16th and 17th century.

OASIS 309644

Northampton, Northampton Castle, St Andrew's Road

SP 7490 6056

JOHN WALFORD and JAMES LADOCHA

A topographic survey of part of the site of Northampton Castle was undertaken to compare the results with those of a spot height survey undertaken in 1956. This led to the identification of several locations where there were variations in level, presumably due to recent landscaping of the site.

OASIS 314351

Northampton, adjacent to St Edmund's Terrace, St Edmund's Road SP 76115 60782

JONATHAN ELSTON

Archaeological observation, investigation recording, analysis and publication of works on building plot adjacent to St Edmund's Terrace, St Edmund's Road, Northampton was carried out. The works identified walls, buried soils and a possible well dating between the 19th and 20th centuries.

ASIS 334779

Northampton, land south-east of Grange Park

SP 770 542

JOHN WALFORD

On land south-east of Grange Park, Northampton a geophysical survey was undertaken. This identified three archaeological sites: a small enclosure complex of probable Iron Age to Roman date, an area of post-medieval settlement with possible medieval antecedents and a group of probable prehistoric monuments including three ring ditches and a pit alignment.

OASIS 326492

Northampton, land at Mere Way, Wootton Park

SP 75368 57823

ESTHER POULUS

An evaluation on land at Mere Way, Wootton Park, identified furrows indicative of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, possible pits and tree root disturbance from a hedgerow.

OASIS 334699

Northampton, land west of Upton Lane, Upton Park SP 7205 5955

John Walford

The archaeological geophysical survey of c1.5ha of pastureland lying west of Upton Lane, Upton Park detected remnants of medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and two modern pipelines.

OASIS 333739

Northampton, Wootton Park School SP 770 542

JOHN WALFORD

A geophysical survey at Wootton Park School detected medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and other anomalies which relate to modern services, landscaping and sports pitches.

OASIS 328458

Northamptonshire

Raunds, land at Midland Road

TL 00547 73216 and TL 00373 73288

JONATHAN ELSTON

Archaeological excavations were undertaken on land at Midland Road, Raunds. A small middle Bronze Age cemetery comprising five cremations was found in the eastern area of the site. Three of the cremations were urned but the vessels were severely degraded by the wet conditions and had reverted back to a clay-like state. The remaining two cremations were unurned.

Activity started on the site during the late 11th century AD and represented peripheral settlement remains. Two timber structures lay in the far north-eastern part of Area 2. During the 12th to 13th century the settlement pattern changed with the formation of larger enclosures that replaced the smaller paddocks. Peripheral areas became more agricultural and livestock orientated. Towards the frontage on Midland Road a large cluster of postholes were present from which only one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered.

In the 13th century to 14th century the area underwent further reorganisation. Five rectilinear enclosures were uncovered and these were larger and more regular in layout than the former paddocks. The main enclosure ditches were aligned north-east to south-west, replaced the earlier enclosures. A manorial farm complex also developed in the south-west corner of the site during this period with a stone-built circular dovecote standing a little way back from the frontage on Midland Road (Fig. 11).

By the 14th century the enclosures and field systems appear to have gone out of use with the manorial complex on the Midland Road frontage expanding. The circular dovecote was demolished around the 16th century and replaced with a square dovecote of similar size with a yard on the south-west side that was shared with a malthouse. A stone rubble trackway separated the dovecote from a possible field shelter with cobblestone yard area to the east-north-east, a pitched limestone yard surface with surrounding boundary wall to the north-east and a large stone barn to the north. The dating of the buildings is problematic with the absence of occupation deposits and the use of the buildings resulted in little datable material surviving. The fields surrounding the manorial farm were given over to ridge and furrow cultivation and appear to have been used regularly for sport shooting with lead pistol shot being found across the site in the subsoil.

OASIS 315011

Rushden, Eastern SUE development site

SP 974 668

JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey across the site of the proposed Rushden Eastern Sustainable Urban Expansion (SUE) was undertaken. The survey covered c215ha of land and revealed six discrete areas of Iron Age to Roman rural settlement, 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 majority of the survey area.

OASIS 297550



Figure 10: Raunds, Midland Road drone aerial

Spratton, Spratton Hall School SP 71669 70556

JAMES FAIRCLOUGH and CHRIS JONES

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording were carried out during the ground works for tennis courts, changing room pavilion and test pits. The areas investigated had previously been levelled and terraced by landscaping for the existing playing fields which had destroyed any archaeology that may have existed in the areas.

OASIS 324463

Towcester, Towcester South, Phase 1a development

SP 70800 47170

IAN FISHER

Between March 2017 and April 2018 a programme of archaeological observation, investigation recording, analysis and recording was carried out during ground works. The applied methodology ensured minimal ground disturbance. No archaeological features were observed, despite Iron Age and early Roman features being identified in previous geophysical survey and trial trenching.

OASIS 316457

Towcester, Wood Burcote SP 6968 4729

IAN FISHER

An archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and recording took place during the installation of a new path. The archaeological works observed the ground surface reduced by up to 0.35m onto subsoil.

OASIS 321811



Figure 11: Raunds, Circular dovecote overlaid by square dovecote, looking north

Upper Stowe, land adjacent to Sheepfold Grange, Main Street SP 6468 5662

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

Five trenches were excavated during archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Sheepfold Grange, Upper Stowe. In Trench 5 a late Iron Age ditch was found, a furrow was excavated in Trench 4, and in Trenches 1 and 2 there were post-medieval stone deposits, the latter of which corresponded with the location of a possible kiln identified by a previous geophysical survey.

OASIS 337846

Wellingborough, HMP Wellingborough SP 890 659

JOHN WALFORD, RACHEL CLARE, CAROL SIMMONDS and ESTER POULUS

A series of archaeological work took place during the rebuilding of HMP Wellingborough. On the line of a proposed new access route to HMP Wellingborough a geophysical survey and subsequent trial trench evaluation recorded seven middle to late Iron Age ditches and two pits as well as eight medieval to post-medieval furrows. In the eastern area of the site there was a roundhouse. These remains are probably part of the same settlement found in previous work to the south of the development area. In the western area of the site medieval ridge and furrow and a modern boundary ditch were also identified. OASIS 330408

An archaeological observation and recording of the site took place during the removal of deep foundations of the former 20th century prison. These extensive former foundations had penetrated to depth greater than the archaeological horizon. As a consequence no archaeological features or overburden comprising topsoil or subsoil deposits survived.

OASIS 334639

In the north-east part of the site a trial trench evaluation found an undated linear feature, a drain and several furrows. A possible fragment of medieval roof tile was recovered from one of the furrows. No other artefacts were recovered.

OASIS 337157

Wellingborough, Stanton Cross

SP 915679 AND SP 911695

GRAHAM ARKLEY and JOHN WALFORD

A geophysical survey of c70ha of land to the east of Wellingborough, ahead of the proposed Stanton Cross development scheme was undertaken. The survey covered two irregular parcels of land, extending from north of Finedon Road to south of Irthlingborough Grange. Two extensive sets of archaeological remains were identified, each appearing to be broadly late prehistoric to Roman in date, with various enclosures and other occupation features

Northamptonshire

present. A Roman road was traced intermittently over more than a mile, and elsewhere there were a number of linear ditches and two pit alignments. The survey also mapped parts of several backfilled quarries and former tramways associated with the late 19th to early 20th century ironstone industry. A large palaeochannel, perhaps Pleistocene in date, was also present. OASIS 335121

Wollaston, Wollaston Quarry SP 886 5628

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) has just published excavation results relating to a high status Anglian burial found in **1997** from Wollaston, Northamptonshire. This original recovery was reported in this South Midlands CBA journal in volume 28 (1998), 38–9.

The burial was found during archaeological work on behalf of Pioneer Aggregates UK, now part of Hanson UK, in advance of gravel extraction. It was a remarkable late 7th century ‘warrior’ burial featuring the best preserved Anglo-Saxon helmet ever found in a burial context – only the fourth burial so far which has contained a helmet from this period and its boar crest remains only the second ever seen, evoking scenes recorded in Saxon poems such as Beowulf. Boar-adorned helmets are mentioned six times including a description of a funeral pyre “heaped with boar-shaped helmets forged in gold”. In addition other burial goods with the burial included a pattern welded sword and a bronze hanging bowl.

This elite individual had been buried next to the River Nene, adjacent to a Roman road and at a possible important land division (adjacent to the south-western corner of the Late Saxon Higham Hundred boundary where it meets the River Nene). Circumstantial archaeological evidence also

suggests that he had been buried under a mound. In death the remains had been sited where they would have the effect of reinforcing the control of a landscape by an elite. There are similarities with Beowulf’s burial where a mound was raised over his tomb so that it was visible to seafarers and was hung about with helmets.

The MOLA book is titled: The Pioneer burial: A high status Anglian warrior burial from Wollaston, Northamptonshire by Ian Meadows. It can be brought direct from the publishers, Archaeopress Archaeology at www.archaeopress.com priced £24. ISBN 978–1–78491–766–1

The Pioneer burial artefacts are on long term display at the Royal Armouries, Leeds.

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY

Raunds, St Peter’s Church TL 00038 73088

STEPHEN THORPE

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken during groundworks associated with the installation of a new drain through the Church graveyard recorded a total twenty partial inhumation burials, all oriented broadly east to west. Where possible, the remains were left *in-situ*, but some had to be removed and subsequently re-buried in another portion of the graveyard.

Towcester, Foundry Place SP 69164 49404

JACQUI HUTTON / NATHAN BERRY

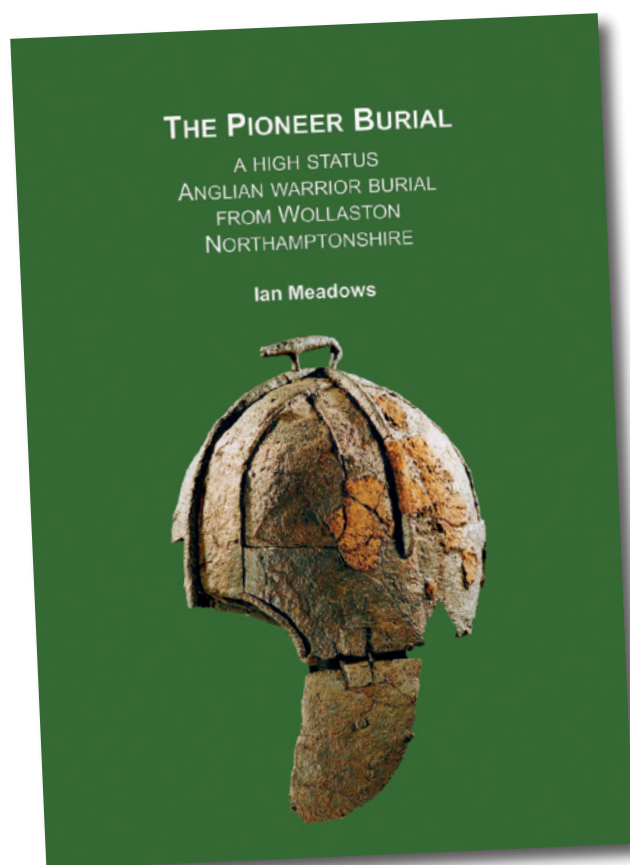
Trial trench evaluation undertaken in advance of industrial development recorded features associated with medieval to early modern agricultural activity as well as modern demolition deposits and a soakaway.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Raunds, Land off Meadow Lane SP 98183 72660

LOUISE MOAN

Between November 2017 and June 2018 excavation was conducted ahead of construction of an industrial estate. Early Neolithic remains were represented by the presence of a monumental double ditched enclosure, recorded in the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record as Cotton Henge. A small number of Late Neolithic pits were also identified. During the Middle Bronze Age a field system was constructed, which seemingly incorporated the inner ring of Cotton Henge and in the Iron Age a dense area of settlement remains was recorded across the north-easternmost portion of the site, consisting of ring gullies, post-hole structures and numerous storage pits. Romano-British activity dominated the site, with peripheral settlement-related and industrial remains encompassing the western half of the site. The features identified included ditches, pits and postholes, gravel quarrying, a cobbled trackway, a pottery kiln, a corn drier, five inhumations, a cremation and six stone lined wells. Low-level Anglo-Saxon remains in the form of six Sunken Feature Buildings, a ditch and a small rectangular enclosure were also identified. From at least the early 18th century the site has been under cultivation and has consequently



suffered from the effects of continual ploughing, resulting in some earlier features being highly truncated.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Braybrooke, Braybrooke Substation SP 756 859

KATE BRADY

In September 2018 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 20 trenches at the site of a proposed substation at Braybrooke, Northamptonshire. The evaluation identified two concentrations of archaeological features, situated in the north and south-western parts of the evaluation area. All the features were ditches and it is likely that they represent the boundaries of enclosure complexes or groups of fields. Only two features produced dating evidence – one in the northern group and one in the south-western group. In both instances the pottery was Roman, and further Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil of a third trench. The small amount of pottery recovered from the site is indicative of peripheral activity, perhaps suggesting that the features were not particularly close to any associated areas of domestic occupation.

Chipping Warden, Mill Lane SP 499 481

BERNADETTA RZADEK

Between 4th-22nd June 2018 Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief on behalf of Thames Water Ltd in the grounds of a water treatment works at Mill Lane, Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire. The watching brief was undertaken on trenches excavated for new duct and pipework routes. No archaeological deposits or finds were encountered. Modern truncation and disturbance was observed in several of the trenches.

Edgcote, Trafford Bridge Farm SP 50699 47397

BEN ATTFIELD and ALEX DAVIES

This site comprised part of a cultivated field west of Trafford Bridge and south of Edgcote, Northamptonshire. Archaeological investigations were carried out in November 2017 to January 2018 in advance of the construction of a new gallop including a geophysical survey, fieldwalking and metal-detecting, an evaluation and a strip, map and sample excavation. Geophysical survey of the field had indicated former linear boundaries and a number of possible small penannular enclosures crossed by the line of the gallop, and historic maps and local information confirmed that the north-east quadrant of the gallop had formerly been quarried. This site is located within the registered site of the Battle of Edgcote, fought in AD 1469, and so fieldwalking and metal-detecting was carried out to determine whether surface finds make it likely that the site was actually part of the battlefield. The results included a number of finds of the late medieval period, but nothing to suggest that the site was involved in the battle.

The undisturbed part of the gallop was evaluated by nine trenches. These revealed several curvilinear ditches in the north-west of the site producing Iron Age pottery along with several postholes and a pit. In addition there were a

number of linear ditches and furrows across most of the targeted areas of the site, some producing medieval/early post-medieval finds, and a probable quarry pit was identified to the north-west of the site.

The evaluation stage was followed by an open area strip, map and sample excavation which targeted two areas of the site (A and B). Area A measured 110m in length by 8m in width, and Area B measured 145m by 6.5m. Area A targeted evaluation trenches 2 and 3 and Area B targeted evaluation trenches 5 and 6.

Area A revealed further elements of the Iron Age penannular enclosures exposed in Trenches 2 and 3, along with a third enclosure located between them. One of these enclosures was of two phases, with a third Iron Age phase indicated by pits dug into the later phase of the enclosure. Evidence for a larger Iron Age rectangular enclosure ditch could be seen on the geophysical survey surrounding one of the penannular enclosures, and this was partially excavated. Pits and postholes associated with these enclosures were also found, along with evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation. In addition ditches forming a post-medieval trackway were also identified. Area B revealed evidence of former field boundaries and a number of postholes and pits at its eastern end. Further evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was also revealed. A second trackway was found, and this appeared to be medieval in date.

Harpole, M1 Motorway Junction 16 SP 6825 5963

ANDREW SIMMONDS

Oxford Archaeology investigated five excavation areas and an area of watching brief in advance of construction of a business park adjacent to Junction 16 of the M1 motorway. The investigations took place between July 2017 and April 2018. Prehistoric remains included a Mesolithic flint scatter, possible Bronze Age-early Iron Age enclosures, and a middle Iron Age settlement that consisted of at least seven roundhouses and was enclosed on at least two sides. A pit alignment was established during the middle Iron Age and appears to have remained open into the late Iron Age/early Roman period, when it formed the western boundary of a ditched field system. During the second century AD the landscape was reorganised, presumably as part of the agricultural land surrounding a villa that is situated immediately to the north of the site. A complex of rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures was established close to the villa, slighting the earlier field system, and new fields were laid out on the opposite side of the outwash channel of a spring. Of particular significance were a rectangular, stone-founded building beside the channel, which may be a shrine or mausoleum, and an area dedicated to crop processing. The latter area comprised four corn-drying ovens, a threshing floor, and three stone-lined tanks that may have been used for steeping of grain as part of the malting process, providing evidence for the production of beer. This arrangement persisted until the end of the Roman period, one of the latest elements being the addition of an aisled building. Post-Roman activity was represented only by ridge and furrow cultivation, which was present throughout the site, and the boundaries of the modern fields.



Figure 12: Harpole, late Roman corn-dryer under excavation

SOUTERRAIN

Higham Ferrers, 2 Cemetery Lane SP 95979 68757

MARTIN D WILSON

An investigation was carried out by Souterrain during groundwork for a new house within the historic medieval core of Higham Ferrers. At the same site in 2002, trial trenching revealed significant evidence of medieval burgrave tenements, and was followed in 2003 by an open-area excavation (132 sq. m) confined to a proposed house footprint (Jones & Chapman 2003).

In 2018, the archaeology was thus understood to be about 0.3 m below the surface and, as such, the approach was intended to be a Strip Map and Sample excavation of c. 150 sq. m. Initial ground reduction however, indicated that archaeology, if at all present, was likely to be at a far greater depth. In order to avoid both unnecessary archaeological impact and undue client costs, a revised, informed approach then took place in agreement with the county's Archaeological Advisor. Four trial trenches were initially excavated to determine the existence of the previously assumed archaeological horizon. They revealed modern made-ground well exceeding the proposed depth of the major part of the development footprint. Since only strip foundation trenches would impact any archaeology, controlled investigation and recording was subsequently undertaken during their excavation.

The foundation trenches revealed that the ground had been severely disturbed in the late 20th / early 21st centuries, to a depth of 1.1 m – 1.3 m below the existing ground surface. A probable post-medieval quarry was encountered, cut into the geological stratum. There was no indication of medieval archaeology having been disturbed by modern groundwork, and no artefacts present. It is presumed that the archaeological features found in the evaluation of 2002

represented a random pocket of survival in an otherwise heavily disturbed area.

Reference: Jones C & Chapman A. 2003. *Archaeological Excavation at College Street, Higham Ferrers*, Northampton Archaeology

OASIS ref.: souterra1–331991. HER Event No. ENN109100

Kettering, Avenue House, Rockingham Road

SP 86443 80182

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

A historic building record (Level II/III) was made of a combined late Victorian villa and early 20th century mansion located on the northern periphery of Kettering town. The recording was carried out by Souterrain prior to the building's conversion to residential care apartments.

Formerly known as Avenue House, the mansion originated as a moderately large detached villa in the late 1890s. It was built by the Kettering Coal and Iron Company, in relative proximity to (and in full view of) Kettering Furnaces, to house its managing director Henry James Preston and his family. The company (effectively the Prestons) wielded power and influence over the town and its environs, with around 100 dependent families in 1881, rising to 600 families by 1911. Essentially, the report examines the *raison d'être* of the building's construction within the social-political context of the late 19th and early 20th century, a period when British industry was frequently disrupted by escalating worker-unrest. The first serious dispute to hit the Kettering Furnaces occurred in 1890, the next in 1905, each lasting many weeks. The mansion was arguably a show of power: a grand residence, purposefully built by a private industry to enable its proprietors to exercise a tighter grip on company operations and, importantly, their workforce.

Avenue House is a bold and impressive, two-storey building with L-shaped plan (Fig. 13): a north-south wing and an east-west wing, occupying a footprint of about 342 sq. m. It is built in red brick with limestone dressings and has a tiled roof. There are 14 main rooms and an extensive basement. The north-south wing is effectively the late 19th century villa (11 or 12 main rooms), which has a double-gabled (M-shaped) roof with a cross-gable on either side (offset). The external appearance reflects Victorian eclecticism. The most conspicuous architectural components are: a wide two-storey canted bay window on the western elevation, the lower bay of which has a central Romanesque arch and spandrel lights; a first floor corner window to the northeast; and a stone-dressed external chimney breast rising from a first storey gable end. Other architectural detail of the villa includes dressed stone string coursing, corniced eaves and eaves stops.

The salient architectural features of Avenue House, however, belong to the east-west wing, which was constructed during the reign of George V; completed in 1914. A significant aspect is the symmetry of its southern elevation. This has two sub-octagonal stone-dressed turrets situated at the southern corners and a pair of two-storeyed, stone-dressed bay windows, all of which are united by an ashlar parapet and moulded stringcourse. Each bay window has a gable, set back from the parapet. The roof is primarily gable-to-gable (i.e. dual-pitched) with two intersecting gables above the bay windows.

In the late 1940s the mansion was purchased by the British Boot and Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association, which operated the SATRA Innovation Centre from the property until the 21st century. The western elevation of the Victorian wing was disfigured by the insertion and attachment of a covered walkway to a large laboratory complex. The building interior has undergone various stages of modernisation and redecoration and, as such, very few original fixtures and fittings survive. One feature of particular note is a large oak fireplace surround and overmantel (2.58 m high × 2.36 m wide) elaborated carved in the Jacobean style (Fig. 14) which stands against the east wall of the east-west wing.

The report provides a comprehensive descriptive and illustrative account of the building in its present 'as found' state by means of photography and scaled elevations and plans.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-333285. HER Event No. 109158

Old Stratford, 38 Cosgrove Road SP 78046 41243

MARTIN D WILSON

A soil strip of 106 sq.m. took place under the guidance of Souterrain in advance of ground preparation for a new house, 140 m to the northeast of Watling Street. The investigation was prompted by the knowledge that an assortment of Roman-period artefacts was found during quarry work in the 1960s just 30 m to the south west of the site. The soil strip however, revealed only a truncated stone-built field drain which most probably belonged to the 18th century inclosure of Cosgrove's medieval open fields.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-313404. HER Event No. ENN108862

Towcester, Paynes Nurseries, Watling Street SP 690 490

MARTIN D WILSON

Four archaeological pre-determination evaluation trenches were excavated by Souterrain at a former plant nursery fronting Watling Street, at the northwest end of Towcester. The site lies just beyond the defensive perimeter of the Romano-British settlement of *Lactodorum*.

In each trench a succession of made-ground layers was encountered, to a depth of c. 0.75–0.8 m. The deposits directly overlay alluvium, up to 0.2 m thick, above boulder clay, denoting that the site was historically situated on the floodplain of the River Tove. The made-ground originated in the late 18th or early 19th century and is understood to represent land reclamation between Watling Street to the southwest and a late 18th century mill race embankment to the northeast. There were no earlier ground deposits and no residual artefacts.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-315587. HER Event No. ENN109064

Wellingborough, R. Rudlen & Co. Ltd., Mill Road

SP 89605 6812

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

A historic building record was made of an abandoned late 19th / early 20th century boot and shoe factory in Wellingborough prior to its conversion to residential apartments. The report greatly expands on a preliminary study, and record of its exterior, made in the course of the English Heritage *Northamptonshire Boot and Shoe Survey* (2000). Essentially, by means of primary sources, the present study explores the social historical context of building's early decades as a boot and shoe manufactory.

Formerly known as R Rudlen & C. Ltd., the building is located in the north-western quarter of the town, an area once known as the Victoria Estate, which is characterised by rows of late 19th century terraced houses, interspersed with large contemporary edifices – former footwear factories, schools and places of non-conformist worship. Founded by Robert Rudlen in 1862, it was one of a few Wellingborough footwear firms which manufactured the complete article. After Rudlen's death in 1891, the business was developed as a limited company (R Rudlen & C. Ltd), and continued to expand and prosper over the next three decades, until being sold to another footwear manufacturer in 1936. Footwear production at the premises ceased in the 1970s.

The factory is brick-built and comprised of three storeys and a basement. It has an L-shaped plan with its frontages on Strode Road and Mill Road (Fig. 14). The external walls are load-bearing, with each storey carried on steel beams and the roof supported by a steel frame. Five main phases of construction and development are identified. The first phase, completed in 1898, consisted primarily of a three-storey rectangular block (c. 22.2 m × 8.5 m) with its frontage on Strode Road. An enclosed yard to the rear housed a detached single storey workshop (c. 11.2 m × 7.05 m). The premises occupied a land parcel of c. 740 sq.m. It is thought to have had the capacity to directly employ about 100 to 120 workers. The second phase occurred at some juncture prior to 1913. This comprised almost doubling of the size and capacity of the factory with an adjoining three-storey Mill Road wing (c. 16 m × 8.5 m) and additional outbuildings at the rear. An unusual feature of the factory was a traction lift. In June 1913 the factory was gutted by fire, leaving only its



Figure 13: Kettering, Avenue House, elevation of East-West wing



Figure 14: Wellingborough, The Former R. Rudlen & Co. Ltd.

brick shell (the ground floor of the Strode Road wing was partially saved). Remarkably, the Mill Road factory was repaired, restored, and up and running by the end of the year, with 330 workers already back to work by February 1914. In the late 1920s or 30s a three-storey bay was added to the Phase I wing and a second lift installed. The final phase saw the building converted into an engineering tool-making factory in the 1970s, whereby outbuildings were demolished to create a modern factory floor. Surviving *in situ* internal fixtures and fittings of the post-1913 factory (at the time of the building survey) include a three-storey baluster staircase, traction lift mechanisms, and a cork factory floor.

The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of the building's interior and exterior in its present 'as found' state by means of scaled elevations and plans and digital photographs. It includes historic photographs from the collection of Wellingborough Castle Museum.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-336160. HER Event no. ENN109221

Wellingborough, 46c Oxford Street SP 88857 67760

MARTIN D WILSON

Four Environmental Risk Assessment trenches excavated prior to land redevelopment were archaeologically monitored and inspected by Souterrain. The site comprises a long, narrow land parcel (55 m × c. 7 m) and lies in a postulated zone of medieval tenements within the historic core of Wellingborough. The excavations exposed a sequence of 19th / 20th century deposits which lay directly above geological stratum. The assessment concluded that there was little likelihood of any remains of archaeological significance at the site.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-315125. HER Event No. ENN108893

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

Ashton, Green Farm TL 05712 88224

Andrew Hyam

An archaeological building survey was undertaken at a number of barns and outbuildings associated with Green Farm, Ashton, in **July 2017**. The Level 1 survey studied a threshing barn, a small stone barn and stable block all of 19th century origin. An early 20th century barn was also part of the Level 1 survey. The Level 2 survey studied two Grade II listed buildings comprising a 19th century row of former stables, more recently used as garages, and a thatched barn with raised cruck blades of probable 18th century date. The buildings form part of the Green Farm property which was part of the Ashton Estate belonging to Lionel Rothschild. As part of the renovation and conversion programme Green Farm house has already been the subject of a Level 2 building survey.

Clipstone, Pegs Lane SP 70752 81692

Mireya Gonzalez Rodriguez

Archaeological attendance during groundworks was undertaken in **March 2017** in advance of the construction of a rear and side extension at Cherrywell Cottage, 11 Pegs Lane, Clipstone. The development site lies within the scheduled monument of Clipston medieval settlement. No

archaeological features or deposits were located within the proposed area.

Corby, Deene Park SP 95036 92721

Claire Brown

Archaeological attendance and recording was carried out in December 2018 during groundworks for new paths and flower beds adjacent to the eastern elevation of Deene Park. The work revealed the presence of disarticulated human remains including skulls and long bones in the topsoil as well as one articulated skeleton *in situ* in its grave cut of which only the lower half was revealed (Fig. 15). The loose bones were unstratified and there was no dating evidence with the *in situ* burial; however the location of the skeletal remains at the site of a demolished medieval chapel makes a connection between the remains and the early chapel likely. It is probable that the loose charnel was the result of previous intact burials being disturbed when the chapel and surrounding terrace was removed and some overburden removed to level the ground in the 18th century. The skeletal remains lie in an area previously occupied by a medieval chapel and post-medieval raised terrace. It is likely that the grave and charnel were related to the chapel in some way, perhaps burials of ecclesiastical or lay people associated with the Manor when it was part of the Abbot of Westminster's holdings. The graves may have been disturbed when the chapel and terrace were demolished in the 18th century. The intact burial is to be protected with Terram and sand before being covered by gravel for the path, and the loose bones will be re-interred nearby.

Corby, West Corby Urban Expansion SP 85567 88490

Tim Higgins

A second phase of archaeological field evaluation was carried out in advance of the proposed West Corby Urban Expansion scheme between September and November 2017. It concentrated on a block of 16 fields representing Phases 2, 3 & 5, part of Phase 4 and the northern access road of the development. The evaluation consisted of 187 trenches and followed on from an initial stage of trial trenching that took place in 2016 (SMA 2017). The recent work was located in the northern and south-western parts of the application area. As with the previous evaluation, trial trenches were located to evaluate archaeological anomalies identified through geophysical survey, and also to sample the surveyed areas where no anomalies had been identified. The results of the geophysical survey indicated that archaeological remains survived extensively across the area covered by the second phase of evaluation.

The evaluation results have shown that well-preserved archaeological remains are present across the development area. Similar to the picture presented by the previous evaluation the latest trenching has helped confirm the interpretations of the geophysical survey, but has discovered remains that were not previously known within the apparently 'blank' areas. The overall picture appears to be one of an archaeological landscape containing several core settlement areas, within a network of landscape boundaries and smaller areas of occupation. Sample excavation of the archaeological features in the core settlement areas showed that they were well-preserved, and contained a range of artefactual and environmental evidence. Excavation also revealed that the

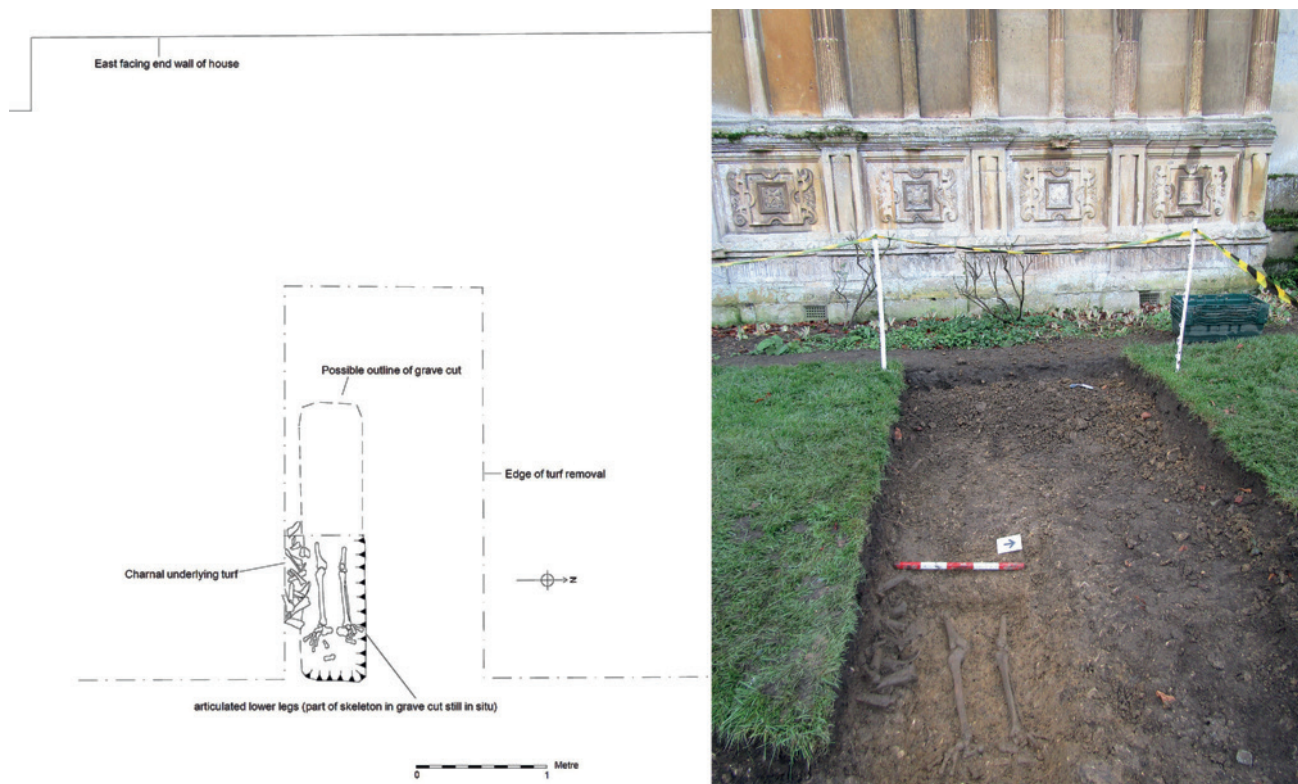


Figure 15: Plan and view of burial at Deene Park, Corby

Iron Age settlement remains were more complex than had been anticipated from the geophysical survey results, with several overlapping phases of occupation represented. The pottery retrieved from these features ranged from the Mid-Late Iron Age to Late Iron Age 'Belgic'-style forms dating to c.AD 20–60.

Activity in the areas located to the north and west of settlement foci consisted of land allotment boundaries, possible isolated roundhouses and burnt pits/hearths all of which were common across the evaluation area although not all were identified through the geophysical survey. The Iron Age remains have the potential to add important information on later prehistoric occupation of a large part of the Northamptonshire landscape that has seen little previous archaeological work. The Roman remains also have the potential to add to our understanding of the transitional period between the Iron Age and Roman periods, and perhaps provide information on how use of the landscape changed over time. The previous evaluation also revealed archaeological features relating to activity within the Royal hunting grounds of Rockingham Forest, in particular the remains of a hunting lodge. Nothing similar was revealed in the second phase of trenching although a cobbled surface found in Field 58 may have once related to a trackway through the forest.

Daventry, 3 and 3a High Street SP 57351 62566

ANDREW HYAM

An archaeological building survey was undertaken at Number 3/3a High Street, Daventry, Northamptonshire in July 2017. The work looked at the north-facing street frontage of a mid to late 15th-century timber-framed building following the removal of modern fittings and render and prior to restoration

and refurbishment. The timber-framing had been altered, and damaged during the late 18th or early 19th century when more fashionable wide windows were inserted into the late medieval frontage. Further damage has been caused to the original fabric by the use of modern and unsuitable building materials in the later 20th century. Despite this a large amount of the original structure remained and showed that this was a well-built and important building which was constructed in a key location within late medieval Daventry. In keeping with the high quality of the timber-framed frontage the roof structure was also built using substantial timbers which were designed to be seen.

Daventry, Mickle Well Park SP 57220 65419

LEON HUNT

An archaeological inspection during the excavation of exploratory trial pits was carried out at Mickle Well Park, Ashby Road, in October 2017. No archaeological remains were observed during the observations carried out during the excavation of the test pits and no archaeological artefacts were retrieved from the spoil heaps.

Deenthorpe, 35 Deenthorpe Lane SP 95713 91842

RICHARD HUXLEY

Archaeological attendance and recording was carried out in advance of a house extension in May 2018. A linear stone feature which may represent a path related to an early 19th century building was identified surrounded by mortar and stone rubble containing medieval and early post-medieval pottery. This mortar and stone rubble layer overlay a post hole which contained medieval pottery dating from 1225–1400. No further features were identified.

Great Addington, Cranford Road SP 95643 74883

MATT BEAMISH

An archaeological earthwork survey by LiDAR study was undertaken in September 2017 for land to the west off Cranford Road, Great Addington, in advance of the proposed re-development of the site, which is currently under pasture. Previous desk-based assessments and geophysical survey identified the remains of well-preserved earthworks surviving from medieval ridge and furrow field systems, possible enclosed platforms and some possible archaeological features. LiDAR analysis has further confirmed the survival of these features and some of the possible archaeological features surviving as earthworks.

Gretton, Kirby Road SP 90174 94399

DONALD CLARK

An evaluation by trial trenching on land on the western side of Kirby Road, Gretton, Northamptonshire was undertaken prior to a proposed residential development in October 2017. Four 30m trenches were excavated within the proposed development area. These trenches produced no archaeological deposits.

Horton, 7 Captains Court SP 819 313

CLAIRE BROWN

Supervised stripping and excavation was undertaken during groundworks in August 2018 on land adjacent to No. 7, Captain's Court, Horton (directly east of the parish church of

St. Mary Magdalene). The work revealed medieval activity, likely to be the remains of part of the medieval village settlement. At least two phases of medieval activity were identified (Fig. 16). Several ditches represent the earliest phase of activity (possibly 10th -11th century) and may be boundary ditches around the early medieval village core, or perhaps demarcating the edges of ecclesiastical land around the church. The later phase (dated to the 12th – 13th century) consisted of cobbled surfaces, possible wall fragments, shallow ditches and pits and demolition layers, possibly the remnants of buildings and/or track ways (Fig. 17).

Irthlingborough, Nicholas Road SP 94543 70099

MIREYA GONZALEZ RODRIGUEZ

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the rear of Nicholas Road in November 2017. Fourteen trenches were excavated to evaluate a field adjoining a recently developed area, where it is proposed to construct 124 new dwellings. The archaeological evaluation recorded two gullies of uncertain date in Trench 1 and a possible Bronze Age cremation in Trench 5. Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 revealed mixed burnt deposits possibly related to the brick and tile industry.

Kettering, London Road TL 05712 88224

ROGER KIPLING

Archaeological attendance and recording was carried out in January 2017 on land at 116 London Road, Kettering. No archaeological activity was identified across the area

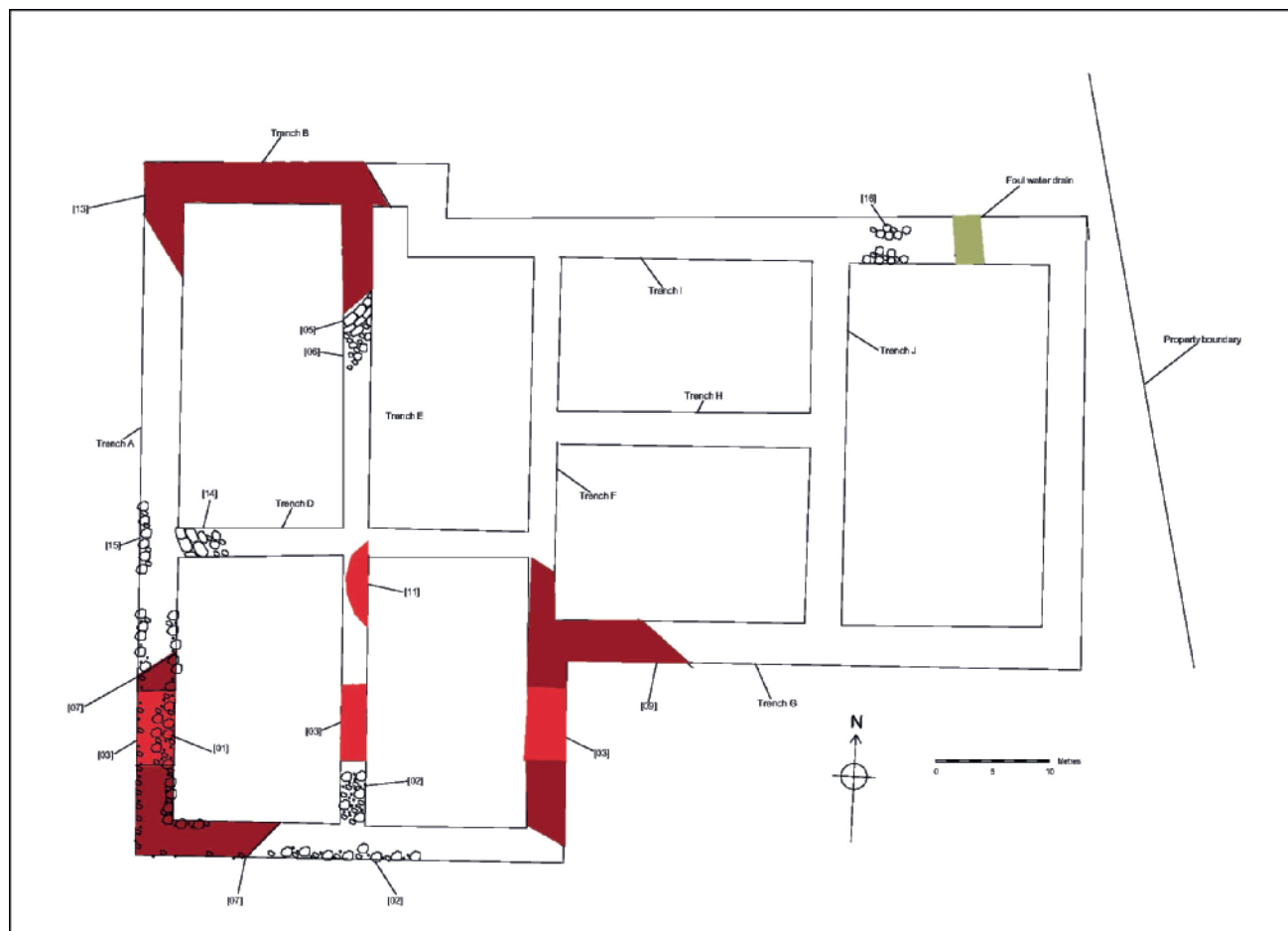


Figure 16: Horton, Plan showing archaeological features (shaded) within new foundation trenches, SE of church

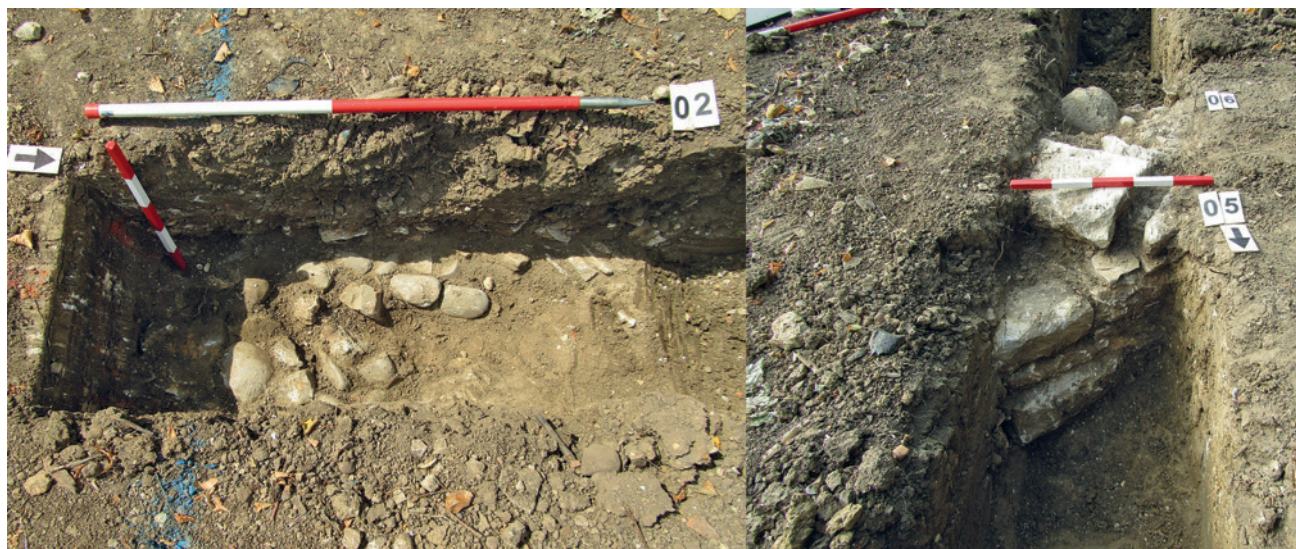


Figure 17: Horton, Left shows a rough surface (02) in foundation Trench E, looking west. Right shows a stone wall, looking south

of development, potentially in part due to the presence of modern buildings with substantial foundations.

Marston Trussell, 20 Main Street SP 69094 86005

CLAIRE BROWN

Archaeological attendance and recording was undertaken at the Old Woodyard at the rear of 20 Main Street and an adjacent area to the front of 21/22 Main Street, Marston Trussell, between October and December 2017. This took place during groundworks for the construction of three properties on the former site, and two properties on the latter site. The excavation of the foundations of the three properties in the Old Woodyard revealed no archaeology. The excavation of the foundations in front of 21/22 Main Street showed evidence of demolition rubble and post-medieval pottery; no earlier features of archaeological interest were found.

Moreton Pinkney, Willowbank, The Square

SP 57380 49325

REBECCA DAVIS

An aerial photogrammetry survey was conducted on land at Moreton Pinkney, Northamptonshire in 2018. Several earthwork features were detected, many of which have unclear origins. Other earthwork features that have been identified include the former route of a watercourse, ridge and furrow cultivation and possible boundaries or headlands.

Naseby, Purlieu Farm, Thorby Road SP 468772 77588

JON COWARD

A Historic Building Survey of a barn at Purlieu Farm, Thornby Rd, Naseby was carried out in April 2018 in advance of conversion to residential use. The building is likely to have started life in the later nineteenth century as a cart barn. In the 1970s the first floor granary was converted into a museum commemorating the Battle of Naseby (1645) which was fought just to the north west of the village.



Figure 18: Weekley Wood Lane, Plan showing medieval activity

Nassington, Fenn Close TL 06014 96509

GAVIN SPEED

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of Fenn Close, Nassington, in October 2018 in advance of residential development. No archaeological finds or features were revealed.

Raunds, Brooks Road TL 00817 74428

DONALD CLARK

An evaluation by trial trenching on land to the south-west of Brook Farm, Brooks Road, Raunds, took place prior to a proposed residential development in September 2017. Two trenches were excavated within the proposed development area. These trenches produced features including the possible remains of a wall and two shallow ditches. Pottery found in association with these features indicate a date range between the 12th and 15th century.

Rushton, Rushton Hall SP 83646 82758

JON COWARD

An assessment of the nature, extent, and probable date of historic fabric revealed in the north-western corner of Rushton Hall, Northamptonshire SP 83646 82758 was carried out in October 2017. The client would like to create an opening in one of the walls, which is a Grade I listed building. The aim of the survey was to assess the impact of this proposal on any fabric of architectural or historic importance. The conclusion of the assessment is that there is relatively recent fabric in the area of the proposed opening, and as long as the proposed work is kept within the area of recent fabric, it should have little detrimental effect on the building as a whole.

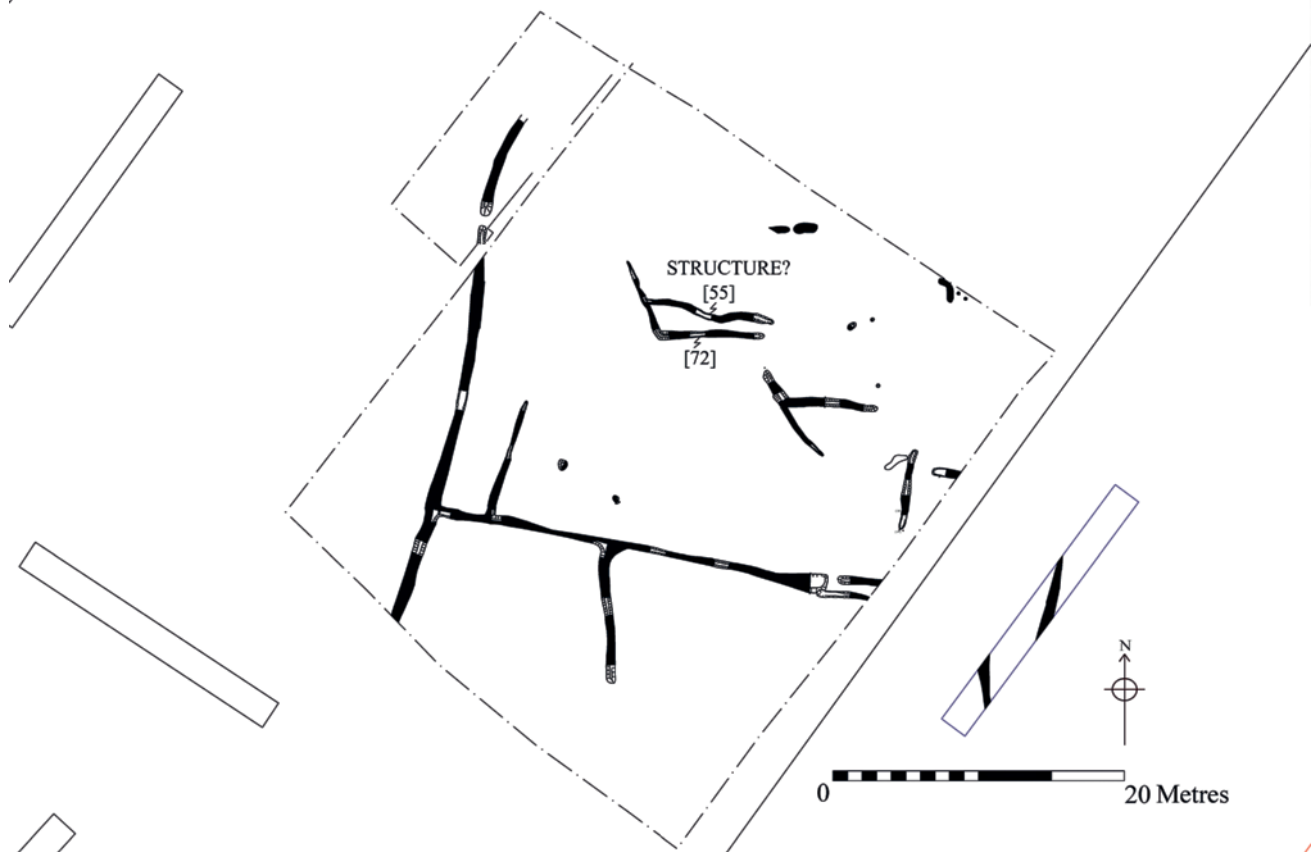


Figure 19: Plan showing Roman activity at Oundle Rd, Weldon, and general view of excavations underway

Northamptonshire

Thrapston, 38 Huntingdon Road SP 9996 7852

ANDREW MCLEISH

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the rear of 38 Huntingdon Road, Thrapston, in December 2018. Three trenches, were excavated to evaluate the area in advance of a proposed residential development. Evidence for nineteenth century activity was recorded in one of the trenches (most likely remains of pig pens formerly on the site), with an undated linear feature in another.

Weekley, Wood Lane SP 88570 80843

RICHARD HUXLEY

An archaeological investigation was carried out during groundworks for a new dwelling on land adjacent to The Abbotts, Wood Lane, Weekley in June 2018. The work revealed large medieval quarry pits which contained heated ironstone and iron slag (possibly quarry pits excavated for the recovery of ironstone to smelt) (Fig. 18). Four of the medieval features found across the development area consisted of large pits measuring 3–4m long. The pits were all found to have a similar depth ranging from 0.24–0.4m and were only dug through the upper superficial geology without penetrating the hard limestone bedrock below. These features dated from AD 1100 to 1640 and represent a continuation of land-use on the site, with a particular concentration of activity between 1100 and 1450. The results from this excavation are comparable to No. 52, Weekley Wood Lane located on the opposite side of the road to the development area.

Weldon, Oundle Road SP 93262 89119

NATHAN FLAVELL

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Oundle Road, Weldon from February to March 2017. Part of a small Roman farmstead enclosure was uncovered consisting of ditches and gullies dating to the 2nd century AD (Fig. 19).

The site appears to comprise a series of enclosures with small gullies separating them and may well be a small section of a larger ladder enclosure system associated with a farmstead. The majority of the pottery came from the central area of the enclosure from two L-shaped gullies and dates from the first half of the 2nd century, with a small amount dating from the second half of the 2nd century. Most of the pottery comprised fairly local grey wares with a few from further afield in the Midlands and the occasional imported ware.

Most of the animal bone including butchered examples also comes from associated contexts. As these gullies do not seem to form a sub-enclosure, that could form part of an early structure, the gullies acting as drainage. Certainly the pottery is evidence for domestic activity in close proximity and the fired clay and possible quern fragments are also indicative of nearby settlement. The date of the pottery assemblage ties in with the construction date of Weldon Roman Villa (MNN13974) nearby suggesting that they were contemporary.

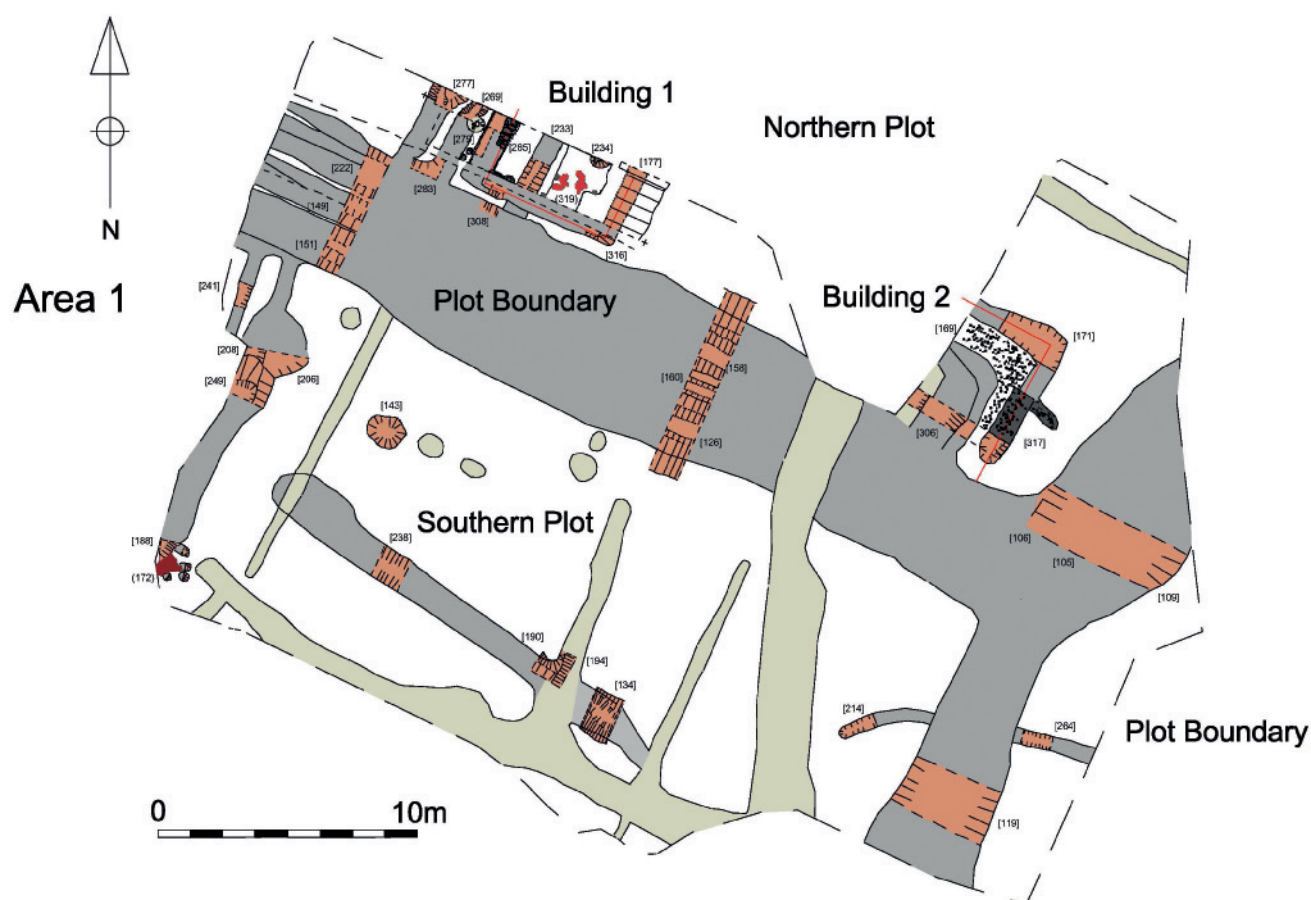


Figure 20: Plan of medieval features at Newlands Rd, Welford



Figure 21: Working shot of medieval features at Newlands Rd, Welford

Welford, Newlands Road SP 63945 80035

TIM HIGGINS

An archaeological excavation was undertaken between August and September 2017 at Newlands Road, Welford. The fieldwork was a post-determination requirement for a proposed planning application for a residential development. Preliminary geophysical surveys and evaluations had provided indications of the survival of medieval village properties running back from the West End road frontage, and a scheme of archaeological excavation was undertaken in order to mitigate the potential impact of the development on the archaeological remains.

The excavation revealed evidence for an initial phase of 11th century property boundaries prior to the establishment and occupation of two properties during the 12th century on the south eastern edge of the village fronting West End road. The plots were occupied by probable cob built structures with stone footings with one constructed within a shallow rectangular pit. A ditch flanking the eastern side of the plot appeared to demarcate the of the village from the ridge furrow fields to the east, The plots appear to have been abandoned in the 14th century but reoccupied in the 17th century. Excavations within another area revealed a potential Roman field ditch and a medieval ditch that divided two ridge and furrow field systems.

OXFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS

Chipping Norton, Chipping Norton Castle SP 311 274

ROGER AINSLIE

Magnetometry and earth resistance surveys were carried out for the Chipping Norton Buildings Trust for research purposes. Although there is documentary evidence for the medieval castle, the banks and surrounding ditch make it

resemble an Iron Age hillfort. The earth resistance results showed that the banks were usually collapsed buildings (Fig. 1). OASIS: abingdon1-323724

Holton, Barn Piece SP 608 059

ROGER AINSLIE

Research work was carried out for the landowner who recalled excavations by Magdalen College school there in the 1950's. Magnetometry (Fig. 2), earth resistance, test

Oxfordshire

pits and evaluation trenches revealed Roman settlement pits and ditches of approximately 1 hectare in extent. The site has been obscured by earth having been dumped over the field, possibly when the A40 dual carriageway was built. Comparing test pitting with machining down to archaeological deposits and then hand digging indicates that the latter, a conventional evaluation technique, missed some 85% of the finds. The percentage will vary from place to place and between excavators, but it would be good to know what it is for each excavation.

OASIS: abingdon1-342219 Oxfordshire Museums Service no. OXCMS:2018.75

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Bicester, Bicester Office Park SP 57634 21610

JAIME LEVELL

The earliest archaeological evidence from the evaluation comprised a single abraded flint collected from the topsoil. The only dated feature was a ditch which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. Another ditch sealed by alluvium and peat was observed in three trenches. Several shallow irregular pits and a single post hole were also identified.

P.S. BARNWELL

Oxford, Former stables, Kellogg College, 62 & 64 Banbury Road SP 5116 0752

P.S. BARNWELL

In **2016**, following the granting of planning permission to Kellogg College, Oxford, to demolish the damaged and partial remains of stables and associated buildings in the gardens of 62 and 64 Banbury Road, Oxford, to allow the construction of a social centre, the author made a Level 3 record of the buildings, which was only completed in 2018 after the new building had been erected. The site falls within the North Oxford Victorian Suburb Conservation Area, and no. 62 is grade II listed. The buildings were erected at the same time as the houses (first leased in 1865 (62) and 1873 (64)), or very soon thereafter, since both are shown on the 1876 Ordnance Survey map. They were a rare example of domestic stables on the Norham Manor estate in north Oxford, the developer, St John's College, having normally prevented the construction of such buildings on account of the disturbance they caused; most householders used a nearby livery stable.

The main surviving building (Fig. 3) was a former stable for 64 Banbury Road, to the south which originally comprised a small yard and then another building which had been completely demolished, though the footings and floor surfaces of it and the yard largely remained. The surviving building had few remaining internal features: window bars, partially-remaining vents in the north wall at horse-head height, indicating four stalls; the floor of a first-floor hayloft, a taking-in door for which remained above inserted double doors in its east elevation. The original (though altered) entrance was to the yard at the south. The fact that there were two buildings and quite a large yard between suggests that more horses were kept than would have been required for domestic purposes, possibly reflecting the fact that the

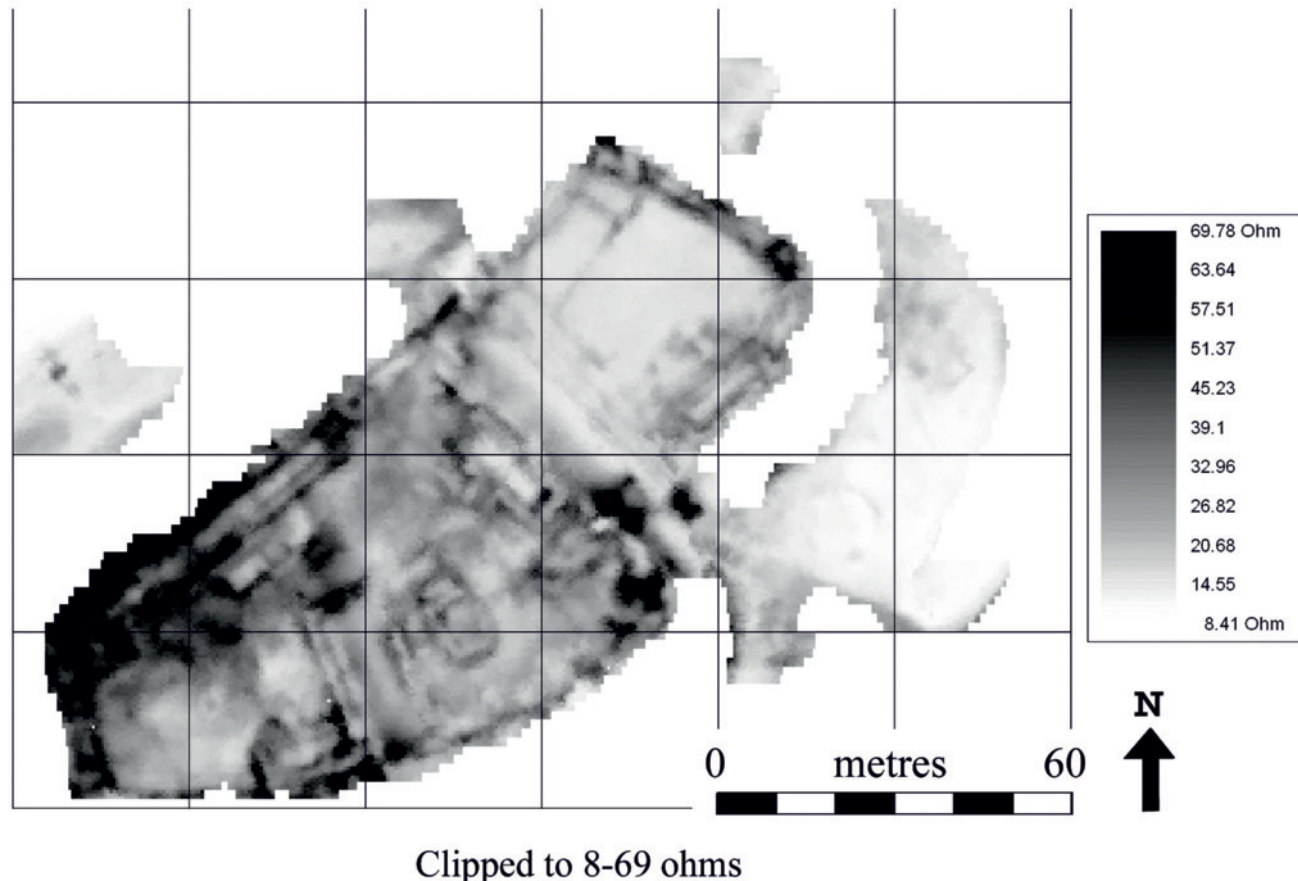


Figure 1: Chipping Norton Castle – Earth Resistance survey

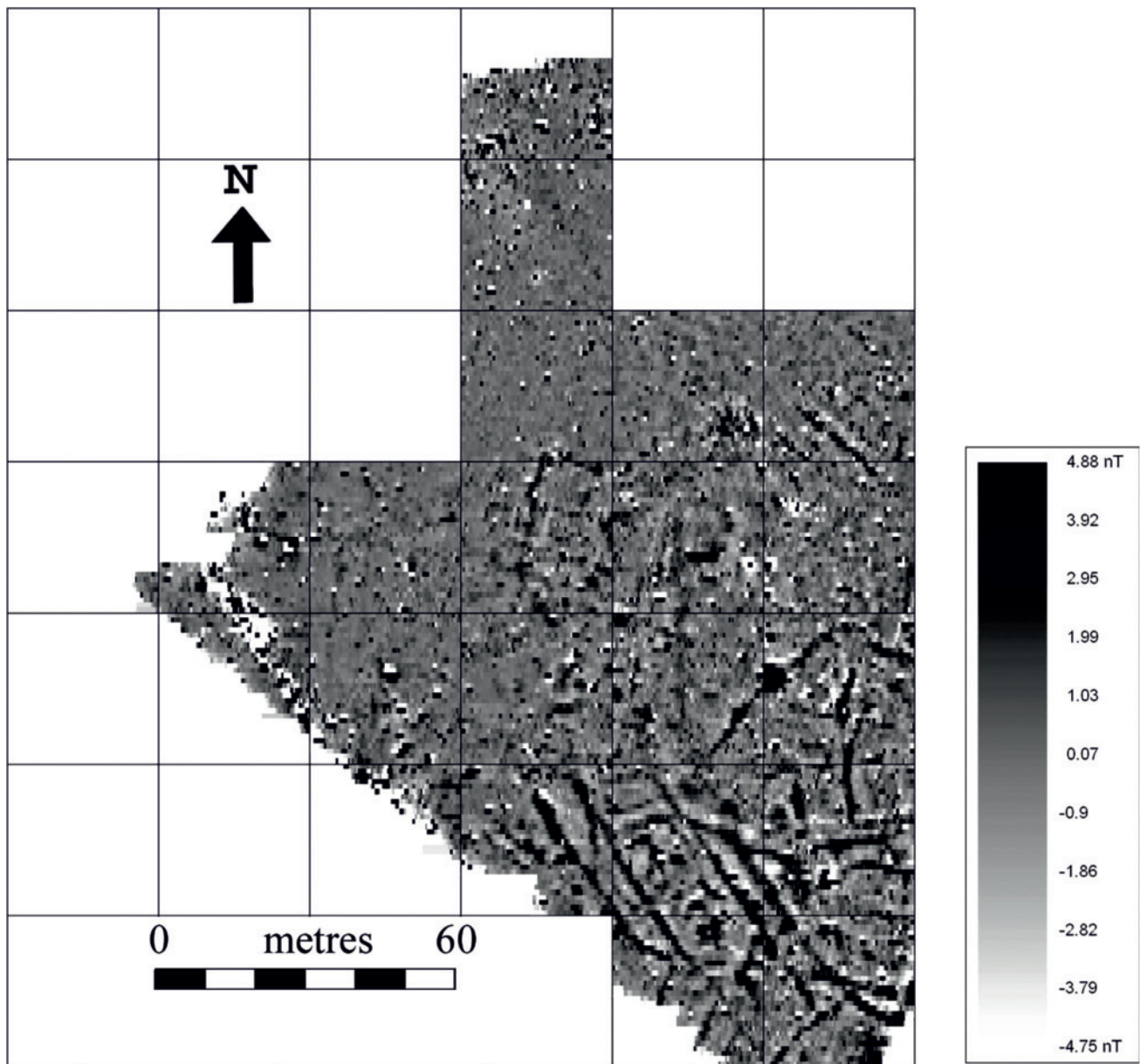


Figure 2: Magnetometry at Barn Piece, Holton, nr Wheatley

first lessee was a corn-dealer who may have needed horses for his trade.

Immediately adjacent, in the garden of 62 Banbury Road were the partial remains of another stable block, shorn of its roof and with its south front crudely remodelled in more than one phase. The building was originally divided into three rooms, in which no original internal fixtures survived other than a fireplace in the corner of one, suggesting it was a tack room; the other two were probably a stable and trap house. The first lessee of the house was the Revd R. St J. Tyrwhitt, a clergyman, who may have needed access to horses at times when the livery stable was closed.

Both sets of buildings were altered during the first half of the 20th century, that at 62 more than once, to create garages. It was probably for this purpose that the double doors were inserted in the surviving building at 64, while the demolished building has evidence for what was almost certainly an inspection pit, suggesting the creation of a motor house. The buildings were significant not only for



Figure 3: Former stable complexes at 62 (right) and 64 (left) Banbury Road, Oxford

Oxfordshire

being unusual in the area in their original form, but because their later history illustrated the middle-class switch from horse to car.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Wallingford, Land to the South of Hithercroft Road/ Lupton Road SU 5992 8905

CASTELLI, G. and SARGENT, M.

Nine evaluation trenches were opened on behalf of Lidl UK on a 1.1580ha site prior to demolition works and food store. Two trenches were found to contain archaeological features, the first (Trench 002) contained two gullies: [002007], which was orientated NNE-SSW, and [002012], which was aligned roughly NE-SW. Trench 007 contained a single NNE-SSW orientated gully [007005]. While no finds were recovered from any of the gullies, a tentative date of medieval/post-medieval was suggested.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Bicester, Symmetry Park OS SP 595 211

ANTONI NOWAK

CFA Archaeology Ltd recorded a Roman vineyard just east of Bicester. The work was carried out as an archaeological strip, map and record between 11th June and 27th July 2018. The overall plot measured c. 6.4ha of which 4.7ha was stripped during the archaeological excavation. The strip exposed over 4500m linear length of archaeological features (Fig. 4). They were ditches and gullies which formed the ditched enclosures and vine cultivation furrows of a vineyard. Three periods of land use could be identified. The earliest – probably Iron Age or very early Roman fields were cut by an early Roman enclosure system. During the Roman period, these fields were reorganised, and large scale viniculture was introduced. The Roman field system covered the entire Site and the vineyards occupied 3.1ha. The Site was separated into halves by two double-ditched boundaries on NW-SE alignment. One of these was abandoned during the lifetime of the vineyard. The fieldwork was unable to establish the entire extent of the vineyards as the field system clearly continued towards NE and NW. The Roman transformation of the Site had long-lived character. The doubled ditched field boundary created in the Roman period probably survived until the end of the 19th century.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Bampton, Land east of Mount Owen Road SP 32276 03394

SHARON CLOUGH AND ALISON ROBERTS

Excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a small funerary site comprising seven cremation graves, one of which was radiocarbon dated to the Middle Iron Age. An iron object that may have been a dress fitting or brooch accompanied one burial. Medieval furrows and post-medieval boundary ditches were also present.

Besselsleigh, Parklands School SP 45264 01043

STEVEN BUSH

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an undated and isolated tree-throw hole.

Cholsey, East End Farm SU 59173 86756

SAM WILSON

An evaluation and excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age field boundary ditches, a trackway and storage pits. An Early Saxon sunken-featured building, a medieval gully and several undated pits were also present.

Cropredy, Cropredy Cricket Club SP 47055 46363

SAM WILSON

A watching brief and metal detector survey identified no features or artefacts of archaeological significance.

Culham, Project Swift SU 50862 95739

CHRISTOPHER LEONARD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Neolithic to Bronze Age boundary ditch and a penannular ring ditch, probably representing a Bronze Age barrow. The ditch produced Early Neolithic pottery. An Early to Middle Iron Age enclosed settlement on the plateau of Culham Hill, comprising a sub-rectangular or D-shaped enclosure and internal ditches, was also identified. Medieval and post-medieval boundary ditches and furrows were also present.

Ducklington, Land off Standlake Road SP 36272 07192

LUKE BRANNLUND

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Roman rectilinear enclosures and associated trackway or boundary ditches. Evidence of Roman gravel extraction was also present and the identified features represent the continuation of remains excavated to the south in the 1970s. Two probable Saxon pits were also identified.

East Challow, Land at Challow Park SU 38410 88065

MARK BRETT and JONATHAN HART

Excavation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered Roman and prehistoric boundaries and hollow ways, together with late prehistoric post pit alignments and a Late Iron Age/Roman enclosure complex. A group of Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings were found and, along with several pits and a ditch, dated to the 6th to 7th-centuries AD. A 15th to 16th-century ditch was also identified.

East Hagbourne, Land adjacent to the Village Hall, Main Road SU 52436 88456

OLIVER GOOD

Excavation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered residual Neolithic worked flint within an Early Iron Age rectilinear enclosure. Early Iron Age settlement activity comprised several four-post structures, pits and ditches. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation remnants were also present.



Figure 4: Bicester, Symmetry Park all features plan



Figure 5: East Challow, working shot during excavation (Adam Stanford, AerialCam)

Faringdon, Grey Fox Stables, Hatford SU 35377 94961
SIÂN REYNISH

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Roman ditch. Undated ditches and pits were also present.

Moulsford, Cranford House School SU 5881 8410
STEVE BUSH, SAM WILSON and RAY KENNEDY

An evaluation and watching briefs by Cotswold Archaeology identified no archaeological remains.

Oxford, Bear Inn SP 51476 06145
SHARON CLOUGH

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded three burials associated with the burial ground of the former 12th–14th-century church of St Edward.

Oxford, The Harlow Centre, Raymund Road
SP 52394 08390
BETHANY HARDCASTLE

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

Wallingford, Land at CABI Headquarters
SU 61190 88250
ADAM HOWARD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a prehistoric cremation grave, a medieval ditch and an undated ditch.

Wallingford, CABI Headquarters, Nosworthy Way
SU 61190 88250
ADAM HOWARD and MATT NICHOL

Archaeological excavation was undertaken in May and June, 2018, prior to redevelopment, at the headquarters of the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), Nosworthy Way, Wallingford (NGR: SU 61190 88250). Six small excavation areas targeted features identified by evaluation across the 7.26ha site (Cotswold Archaeology 2018), which is situated on a gentle, north-east facing slope, at an elevation of *c.*47m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). This is located immediately north of Nosworthy Way, which follows the westernmost section of the South Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch (Cromarty *et al.* 2006, 167–71; Hinchliffe 1975; Fig. 6), and is situated 250m from the eastern bank of the River Thames. The excavated Late Bronze Age and Iron Age riverside site at Whitecross Farm is located approximately 350m to the west, across the River Thames (Cromarty *et al.* 2006; Thomas *et al.* 1986). Numerous Bronze Age finds and features have been recorded locally, including metalwork from adjacent reaches of the river (Thomas 1984; Dawson 2011, 59–60). Natural geology comprised a range of chalky clays and sandy silts of depths averaging 0.4m, over West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey 2018).

Bronze Age

Of the small number of dateable features recorded, almost all of which were of Middle/Late Bronze Age date, and restricted to Area 1, close to the south-eastern margins of the site. Area 1 contained three sub-circular pits, 2003, 2011 and

2019, with steep sides and flat bases, together with posthole 2024 (Fig. 7). Pit 2011 measured 0.58m in diameter and 0.12m in depth, with a lower fill of grey brown silty sand, containing charcoal and Middle/Late Bronze Age sherds. These included chalk, shell and flint-tempered fabrics, with two ellipsoid rim-sherds from undecorated vessels, associated either with barrel-shaped jars/urns of the late Deverel-Rimbury style (Davies 2018, 276–8; Gibson and Woods 1997, 144, fig. 98 nos. 2–3), or with ellipsoid Form B jars of Late Bronze Age type (Brudenell 2012, 120, fig. 4.1). Samples from this fill contained charcoal of blackthorn/cherry, hawthorn and oak, together with cereal grains. An upper fill, of brown/black silty sand, contained a similar range of wood charcoal taxa and charred cereal remains. Pit 2003 measured 0.74m in diameter and 0.23m in depth, with a single fill of grey/brown silty clay and similar Bronze Age pottery, but no charred plant remains.

Pit 2019 measured 0.88m in diameter and 0.26m in depth, with a lower fill of grey/brown silty clay, containing worked flint and shell-tempered Middle/Late Bronze Age sherds, of which the flint-tempered element also appeared to be of Deverel-Rimbury type. Wood charcoal included blackthorn, hawthorn, buckthorn and oak, with a small, mixed assemblage of cereal grains. A similar upper fill contained flint chips, flint-tempered sherds and fragments of fired clay. Poorly-preserved animal bone from this fill appeared to represent a single episode of refuse disposal, with cattle and sheep/goat identified, together with a fragment of red deer antler. The range of cattle ages suggested that some older animals had been retained for traction and/or milk.

Pit/posthole 2004 in Area 1 contained a sandy clay upper fill, with a flint-tempered Bronze Age sherd, fired clay and a stratified flint flake.

Iron Age

In Area 4, a short exposed length of curvilinear ditch 4003 measured 0.83m in width and 0.1m in depth, with gently-sloping sides (Fig. 7). An upper fill, of brown/grey silty clay, contained animal bone and sand-tempered Middle/Late Iron Age pottery. No other trace of this ditch was identified by evaluation. This feature may relate to the earlier phases of later prehistoric activity sealed by the adjacent Grim's Ditch (Cromarty, Barclay and Lambrick 2006, 163–9).

Medieval

Evaluation trench 16 identified a medieval ditch containing 12th–14th-century pottery, including Brill/Boarstall ware, and roof tile. This feature may relate to the findings of an evaluation to the west of the site (Thames Valley Archaeological Services 2012).

Undated

A number of isolated postholes, and possible tree-root hollows, were recorded in Areas 1, 2 and 4 (Fig. 7). An undated pit or ditch terminal, 3503, was recorded in Area 3, within which a silty clay secondary fill contained charred cereal grains. An indeterminate feature, 4504, in Area 5a, may represent a length of ditch, while Area 5b contained a north-west/south-east alignment of five postholes with yellow/brown clay silt fills, together with three non-aligned postholes and two small pits (Fig. 7). This concentration of features suggested a post-built structure of indeterminate type. A ditch terminal, 4526, within the eastern end of Area

Figure 6: Wallingford, CABI Headquarters site, with locations of Excavation Areas 1–5b, and evaluation trenches.

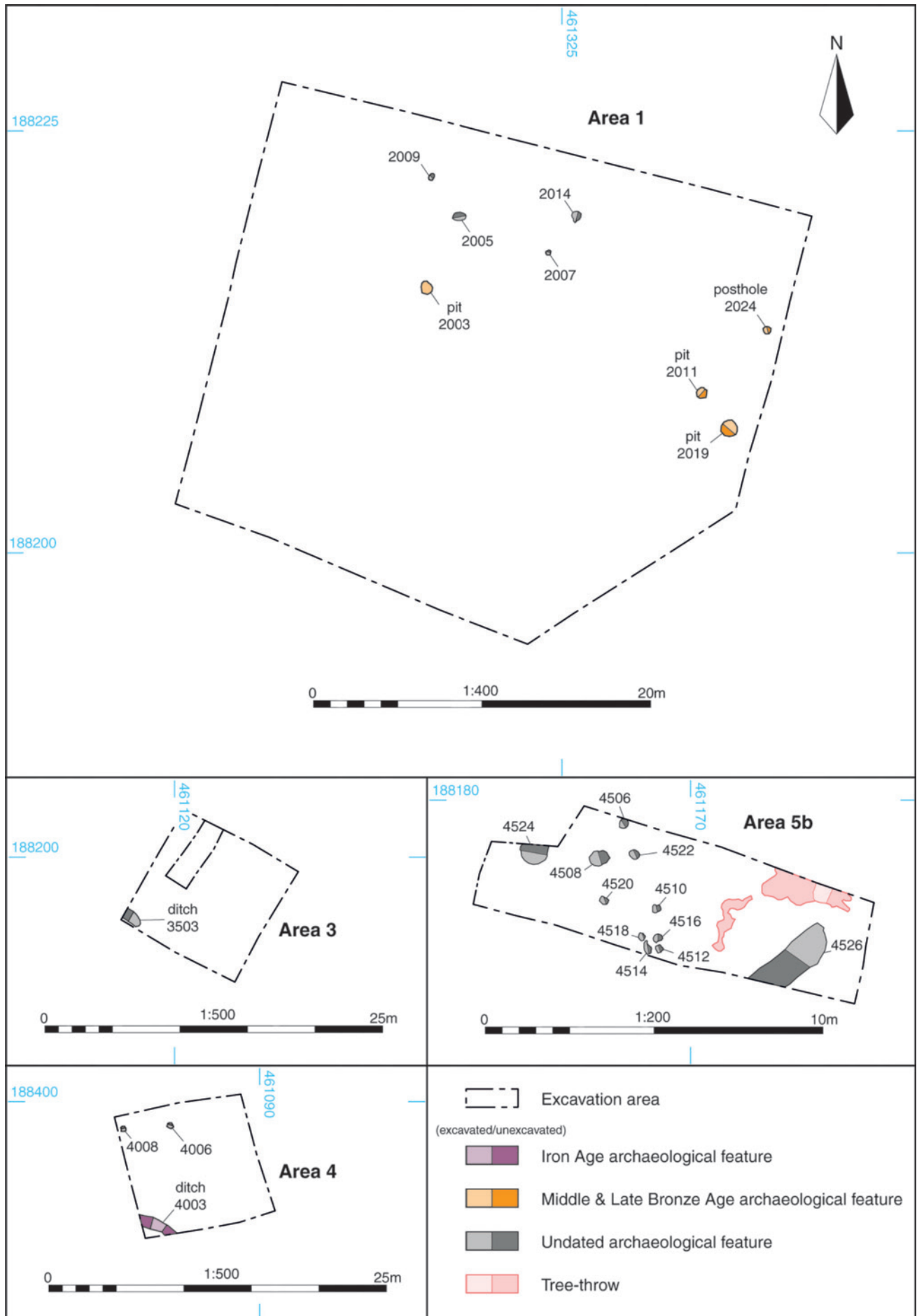


Figure 7: Wallingford, CABI Headquarters site, excavation areas

Oxfordshire

5b, measured 0.84m in width and 0.47m in depth, with a single secondary fill of brown/black sandy clay.

The CABI site may represent an outlying area of Middle/late Bronze Age activity within the hinterland of Whitecross Farm and other high-status sites located within the River Thames corridor (Lambrick with Robinson 2009, 99–101).

The presence of mixed wood charcoal and cereal grains in Area 1 pit fills suggests the presence of a domestic focus beyond the eastern limits of the site. Such peripheral depositions of domestic material have been interpreted as marking the limits of the domestic sphere and the margins of settled land (Bradley 2005, 108–11; Brück 1999; see Davies 2018, 372–4, table A9.2).

Reporting of pottery and fired clay was undertaken by Ioannis Smyrnaios, worked flint by Jacky Sommerville, faunal remains by Matilda Holmes and charcoal and charred plant remains by Sheila Boardman. The illustration was prepared by Aleksandra Osinka. Fieldwork and post-excavation stages of the project were respectively managed by Ray Kennedy and Richard Massey. The full report, including specialist reports and data (Cotswold Archaeology 2018b), can be found on the Cotswold Archaeology website: <http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>.

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Wantage, Elms Farm Business Park, Grove Road

(SU 40219 89136)

TIM SPERRING

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered a small assemblage of residual prehistoric, Roman, medieval, and post-medieval pottery from the subsoil.

Wantage, King Alfred's Academy (SU 3865 8802)

ALEX THOMSON

An evaluation and watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified two undated ditches and recovered a small assemblage of residual prehistoric, Roman and medieval material from the subsoil.

Witney, Land off Burford Road (SP 34655 10507)

LUKE BRANNLUND

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an Early–Middle Saxon isolated sunken featured building, and an undated pit and posthole.

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Abingdon, Baptist Church, 35 Ock Street

SU 49444 97095

A. HOOD

The watching brief comprised monitoring during groundwork excavations associated with alterations to the church. The monitoring works identified a total of nine inhumations, which were located within and just to the south of the current church building. The inhumations represented former church burial ground internments and, as such, they were subject to basic recording, exhumation and appropriate storage, prior to reinternment within the church grounds. No archaeological features were present, although, it should be noted that the on-site excavations did not penetrate to the base of the stratigraphic sequence.

Cholsey, East End Farm SU 59269 86725

A. HOOD

The works comprised the excavation and recording of ten evaluation trenches across a proposed residential development area. The evaluation identified the presence of Prehistoric pits, ditches and other features, some of which possibly date to the Bronze Age. It was most likely that these features represented former settlement. There was limited evidence that the remains of more than one phase of Prehistoric activity may be present in the vicinity

of Trench 9. The majority of features were situated at the southeast of the site, on the plateau (Trenches 8, 9 and 10); however, a ditch and pit were also present in Trench 1, at the northwest, on the lower ground. There was a distinct lack of features and finds within the trenches on the sloping ground (Trenches 3 – 6). Partial investigation of two linear earthworks (LiDAR Features A and B), present within the south eastern part of site indicated that they comprised a slight thickening of subsoil, which formed relatively wide and low ridge profiles. The earthworks were demonstrably later than the possible Bronze Age settlement activity and a piece of possible Roman ceramic tile, present within LiDAR Feature A, indicated that they may represent Roman or later activity. A small finds assemblage included Bronze Age, Medieval and Post-medieval pottery, Prehistoric struck flints, possible Roman tile and animal bone.

Cholsey, Land North of Charles Road SU 5986 3012
S. McADAMS

The project comprised the excavation and recording of six 30 metre evaluation trenches within the area of the proposed residential development. The proposed development was within an area of high archaeological potential. Recent archaeological investigations on land immediately west of the site; which comprised geophysical survey (Richardson, 2015, Report No J8998), evaluation (Foundations Archaeology, 2015, Report No 1062), and area excavation (Foundations Archaeology, forthcoming); had revealed the presence of significant archaeological remains. Part of a probable Roman villa was located immediately east of Celsea Place, approximately 100m southwest of this current study area. Recent archaeological evaluation on the fields to the north and east of the site revealed a small number of Neolithic pits, as well as Iron Age and Roman enclosure or field ditches, a possible ditched trackway and dispersed pits and postholes (MoLA, 2016, Report No. 16/127). It is likely that at least some of the Iron Age and Roman features present were related to the villa settlement located immediately to the west of the current study area.

The current evaluation identified a number of linear and sub-circular pit like features, all of which did not contain any artefactual evidence, with the exception of ditch [607], which contained a single sherd of Prehistoric pottery. Viewed in the context of the surrounding archaeology, the linear features recorded during the evaluation appear to show a continuation of the Prehistoric and Roman activity recorded during the excavation immediately to the west, specifically a continuation of the previously identified driveway. Within Trenches 83 and 85 of the evaluation undertaken by MoLA in 2016; to the northeast of the current evaluation area; there were also ditches of a similar profile and nature on the same alignment, therefore the driveway most likely continued to the northeast of the current study area. No structural remains were encountered within the evaluation trenches, however, the possibility of further structures similar to those present in the Phase 1 works cannot be entirely discounted.

Oxford, Junction of Botley Rd & Abbey Rd
SP 50364 06251
S. McADAMS

The watching brief consisted of the archaeological monitoring during the works to install a pressure reducing valve (PRV)

on the existing water mains. There were no archaeological features, finds or deposits present within any of the watched areas. The presence of layers of possible natural deposits directly sealed by Modern backfilled deposits would suggest that the area had been previously stripped. This would most likely have removed any possible archaeological deposits, with the exception of deep, negative features.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Christmas Common, land adjacent to the Old Church
SU 7143 9305
DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during development on a plot of land adjacent to the Old Church in Christmas Common. The site lies in the historic core of the village and had the potential to reveal archaeological remains ranging from the prehistoric to medieval periods. The stripping of soil from the footprint of the proposed new house was observed but no archaeological features or artefacts were present.

Horspath, Yew Tree Cottage SP 5712 0485
DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during groundworks at 7 Church Street, Horspath. A post-medieval working area/rubbish pit was revealed. The medieval church of St Giles lies immediately north of the site and the features observed may be associated with work undertaken at the church in 1852, when the north wall of the nave was rebuilt and a north transept added. Part of a pond, shown on the tithe map was also revealed.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Black Bourton, The Studio, Burton Abbots,
Burford Road SP 2870 0409
STEPHANIE N. DUENSING and SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Studio, Burton Abbots, Burford Road, Black Bourton, Oxfordshire in April 2017. This was due to West Oxfordshire District Council granting planning permission for partial demolition of the entrance lobby and construction of new lobby to the side of existing house (15/00578/HHD). Three pits were identified during the excavations; two were determined to be medieval from pottery recovered with the fill, the other was a post-medieval feature containing pottery and brick fragments.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1–320755 Museum Accession:
OXCMS: 2015.213

Chalgrove, Land Adjacent to Irton House,
Warpsgrove Lane SU 6514 9753
DAN STONE

In June 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at land adjacent to Irton House, off Warpsgrove Lane, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire. The reason for this work was that planning permission is being sought from South Oxfordshire District Council for a mixed use development

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of offices and industrial business units in use classes B1/B2 and B8 on land adjacent to Irton House, off Warpsgrove Lane, Chalgrove.

The evaluation followed earlier work in the surrounding area suggesting high potential for Iron Age and Roman activity. The site is also associated with the periphery of the Civil War battle of Chalgrove. The evaluation confirmed the presence of ridge and furrow, potentially of medieval and post medieval date, along with ditches parallel with contemporary field boundaries and ditches on other alignments. A metal detecting survey of the trenches was negative for finds associated with the Battle of Chalgrove or for the presence of any other significant finds. Post-medieval material was recovered from two furrows in the north-west of the site and Roman and Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fills of three ditches in the south-east of the area of the site. Despite the dating of these finds the pottery was in generally poor condition and was considered to be residual, however, the presence of ditches shows evidence for activity in the SE and the presence of Iron Age & Roman pottery suggests activity of these dates probably relating to known activity further east.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-321524 Museum Accession:
OXCMS: 2018-52

Chipping Norton, Dunthorp House, Heythrop

SP 3540 2820

GAVIN DAVIS

In November and December **2017**, and May 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks ahead of a new build and an excavation of a swimming pool at Dunthorp House, Dunthorp Road, Heythrop, Oxfordshire, a Grade II Listed Building (LB 1052780). The watching brief only identified two undated pits and one pit which contained modern material. Of the two undated pits, one contained fragments of slag and the other no finds. The largest pit, identified as a possible quarry pit, was dated as modern and contained modern pottery, a piece of medieval pottery, medieval tile fragments, modern brick, and a post-medieval iron fitting. No other archaeology was present on the site.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-319998 Accession Number:
OXCMS: 2016.57

Chipping Norton, Springhill SP 3116 2776

TOM ROSE-JONES

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the course of groundworks for a new dwelling at Springhill, Church Lane, north of Chipping Norton. Evidence of medieval or post-medieval cultivation in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks was present over part of the site, although these were primarily visible as extant earthworks. No other archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the course of the groundworks.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-306975 Museum Accession:
OXCMS2017.14

Cumnor, St Michael's Church SP 46140414

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

In November **2016** and September-December **2017**, monitoring took place of excavations for archaeological

and human remains at St Michael's Church, Cumnor, Oxfordshire. During the scheme of proposed work for the existing porch to be extended to provide a new WC and improvements to the existing pathways and external lighting granted by the Vale of White Horse District Council (P15/V3024/FUL), charnel and four articulated human burials were unearthed. These four articulated burials were all found within a 10m radius from the North entrance to the church in the existing graveyard. Three burials were recorded, removed and reburied in the same location after works had completed the ground reductions in the area. A further burial was recorded but left in situ. Three burials were found at the limit of excavation but were covered over and left undisturbed.

The Faculty issued by the church Diocese was adhered to at all times and all human burials were treated in accordance to their instruction therein. In addition to the human remains, one medieval floor tile was recovered in Test Pit 3 on the interior of the church. This was retained on the premises. Finally, in unmonitored works to the North Porch, the workmen found an architectural element which appears (from photographic analysis only) to be a medieval finial, possibly damaged in its carving. This too remains in the possession of the church.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-312408

Dorchester on Thames, 60 Watling Lane SU 5768 9394

STEPHEN LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at 60 Watling Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. The evaluation consisted of one 10m long trench across the development site. The resulting trench contained part of a large Post-Medieval quarry pit. Planning permission has been granted by South Oxfordshire District Council for demolition of existing dwelling; erection of 2x2 bedroom semi-detached dwellings. Within the trench was a quarry pit that was 1.6m wide, 8.5m long and 0.88m deep, with a moderate slope and an undulating base. It was filled by a single fill of mid-brown silty clay 1/05 that contained 10 sherds of 17th – 18th century pottery, 1 glass fragment, 6 small fragments of tile and brick and two sherds of residual probable Roman pottery.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-244425 Museum Accession no:
OXCMS2015.91

Enstone, Land at Enstone Airfield SP 40260 26440

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

In April 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land at Enstone Airfield, Oxfordshire. This is due to an outline planning application being considered by West Oxfordshire District Council for development on land at Enstone Airfield, Oxfordshire. Five evaluation trenches measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide were excavated across the proposed site. The trenches were located using a sub-meter accuracy GPS unit, and were opened up from the east of the site to the west. It was later decided to extend the length of the eastern end of trench 3 by 2.7m to expose the full profiles of a series of ditches which were evident there.

The evaluation followed a geophysical survey that had identified a number of features across the site, with a denser cluster present in the eastern half of the site. The evaluation

confirmed the presence of some of these features, recording two pits, 4 gullies, and 5 ditches, in the eastern half of the site. All the pottery found within these features dated the site to the Late Iron Age, and the faunal assemblage supported this date range, suggesting a diet based on goat and sheep, a diet which was common in the Iron Age. Trench 3 proved to present the most archaeological features of the five evaluation trenches which were excavated. A boundary ditch, which respected the topography of the site, enclosed a small rural settlement area, on top of a hill, situated south of trench 3. In the eastern edge of trench 3 were seen a number of ditches which were orientated north to south, continuing towards the top of the hill. A sample was taken from a fill of one of these ditches, which contained one small residual fragment of either shell or cremated bone.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-315469; Museum Accession no: OXCMS2018.37

Epwell, Connemara Pony Stud SP 34975 40517

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

In June 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at the site of Connemara Pony Stud. The site is located in an area of archaeological interest along the line of the route of the Roman Road from Finmere to Droitwich (Margary Road 56a). The line of this projected road was confirmed to the south east at Swalcliffe during an evaluation which recorded the southern roadside ditch and the metalled surface of the road. The line of the Roman road and a probable roadside settlement has been recorded from aerial photographs as part of Historic England's National Mapping Programme 200m north east of the proposed site. Two trenches, one of 20m in length and 1.8m width, and one of 30m length and 1.8m width, were mechanically excavated to expose the surface of any underlying archaeological horizons or the natural geology.

The site showed signs of previous truncation from recent agricultural use and the dumping of agricultural materials. The only features within the area of impact were a cut from a modern water pipe and a modern rubbish pit, which contained modern tools and general waste, including plastic and other modern building materials. No evidence associated with the Roman Road from Finmere to Droitwich (Margary Road 56a), nor any prehistoric activity was seen within the site. OASIS No: johnmoor1-319809

Hagbourne, Hagbourne Hill Farm SU 497870

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hagbourne Hill Farm, West Hagbourne, Oxfordshire in April 2016. The work was undertaken due to the receipt of South Oxfordshire District Council granting planning permission for a new garden room at the rear of property and external works to form new patio area. No archaeological features were recorded. Some fieldwalking to the south of the excavated area revealed some prehistoric and later potsherds, confirming ancient occupation in the immediate vicinity of the site.

OASIS ID johnmoor1-279472; Museum Accession no: OXCMS:2015.188

Hagbourne, Sadlers Orchard, 9 Church Close

SU525882

BRENT CULSHAW

In June 2016 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Sadlers Orchard, 9 Church Close, East Hagbourne, Oxfordshire. The works monitored were within an 18m x 18m and a 6.5m x 6.5m area and consisted of 0.6m wide foundation trenches for a new house and garage. No archaeologically significant deposits were identified.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-273981

Henley-On-Thames, Land to R/O Northfield House,

11 Northfield End SU 76009 82983

SIMONA DENIS

In August 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief to the rear of Northfield House, 11 Northfield End, Henley-on-Thames. The reason for this work was South Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission for the erection of a pair of two bedroom houses with associated parking and amenity space provision. Groundworks consisted of the removal of the current parking surface, the partial reduction of the area and the excavation of footing trenches. No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

OASIS ID johnmoor1-327345

Islip, Woodeaton Quarry Haul Road, Wheatley Road, SP 53712 12907

STEPHEN YEATES

In February and October 2016, an investigation of the potential for archaeological remains under the line of the B4027 at Islip, Oxfordshire. Islip is an historical parish that was located in Ploughley Hundred and Oxford County. It is now located on the edge of Cherwell District and is in the modern County of Oxford.

The road has been suspected of being the location of a Roman road and earlier trackway, but this had not been categorically proven. During the construction of a new haul road to Woodeaton Quarry it was requested that archaeological investigations be carried out to see if this theory could be better substantiated. The B4027 runs from Wheatley to Samson's Plats, the latter the location of a Roman town or nucleated settlement. This road crosses the River Ray at Islip, a location where two ridges converge between the Thames and Cherwell valleys on the southwest and Otmoor on the northeast. Iron Age and Roman archaeology is known from the vicinity of Woodeaton Roman Temple and Islip Roman villa.

The stripping back of the verge uncovered the remains of a number of road surfaces, which could be associated with four phases of activity. The lowest layers of the road were recognised as a series of bands, which were indicative of a Roman ager being sliced through, although this was not seen in profile. A dark soil horizon lay above this on the surface of the truncated surfaces. This is presumably a period of decay to the road surface. In the latter part of the medieval period or post-medieval period dry limestone walls were placed through the probable medieval soil horizon. These walls were probably built and rebuilt, there are indications of two possible periods of construction. A road surface

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was laid between the limestone wall and over the medieval soil horizon. This is undoubtedly associated with the main London to Worcester coach road in use in the 17th and 18th century, but becoming less significant in the 19th century. The post-medieval road was truncated in the 20th century as a new layer of rubble was laid down with a tarmac surface.

That the historic London to Worcester road probably has a Roman origin, has wider implications. At around 602 to 604 AD Bede reported that Saint Augustine held a meeting with British bishops on the boundaries of the Hwicce and West Saxons. Previous assessments have claimed that Noke by Down Ampney was the location of this meeting, however, this assessment ignored one key factor in that the recognised 11th century boundaries of the Hwicce were certainly not those of the early 7th century. The Hwicce lost land in North Wiltshire and West Oxfordshire from the 7th to 11th centuries. Indeed the eastern boundary was probably near the Cherwell. The meeting of the bishops has also undergone further analysis; the bishops of English origin being associated with the West Saxon territory and those of British origin with the Hwicce. The later Christian centre of the Hwicce was associated with Worcester.

This road is the historic London to Worcester road and it contains a site called Noke (The Oak) to its north, just as it approaches the Cherwell, the ancient eastern boundary of the Hwicce. The identification of the B4027 as a Roman road makes this suggestion plausible.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-288208; Museum Accession No: OXCMS: 2015.176

Littlemore, The Priory, Grenoble Road SP 5455 0231

STEPHEN YEATES and PAUL MURRAY

A series of Archaeological Investigations were carried out at the site of Littlemore Priory, later known as Minchery Farm, located at Littlemore in the City of Oxford. These took place over a number of years and culminated in the excavations and watching brief across the site in **2014** and **2015**. The site was located in an area of Oxford that is now set aside for industrial and commercial development. Planning consent was given for the erection of a hotel on the site and the archaeological work was carried out as a means of mitigation.

Scant history was known about the Priory although as a small nunnery it had through the documentary evidence gained some notoriety in the alleged behaviour of its nuns. The Priory was known to have been founded by Robert de Sandford, and is considered to have seen initial construction in the reign of King Stephen. The major phase of development is known to have occurred in the 13th century about 1245–1247.

After this point there is little information available on the subject, until a number of visitations occur under the office of the Bishop of Lincoln towards the end of the 15th century and early in the 16th century. The priory was suppressed and dissolved 1524–1525. Initially the Priory was sold to Cardinal Wolsey and his establishment of Cardinal College, later Christ Church. With Wolsey's demise the Manor of Sandford, and Littlemore Priory, which formed a part of that manor passed into lay hands. The excavations managed to identify a general plan of the church and indicate roughly where other buildings would have been located, and to some extent it managed to indicate a probable phasing. The

phasing was problematic due to the extent of robbing that had occurred across the site.

The earliest phase of the mid-12th century saw the choir and *retro-choire* or crossing constructed. This is evidently the case because there was evidence of a clasping buttress on the northeast corner of the choir. This feature is associated with Norman architecture and is suggestive of the choir and crossing being constructed at this date and then being retained. There is a slight deviation in the line of the nave, and it is possible that this was only partially constructed before the Priory's revenue stream dried up. The major phase of activity took place in the 13th century (1245–1247), and this included either the completion of the nave or the rebuilding of the nave and west tower. This detail is evident in the apparent angle buttress on the northwest corner of the west tower. The angle buttress is a feature of Early English Gothic.

Other developments of the mid-13th century appear to be the addition of a structure in the normal location of the north transept. Later accounts indicate that this was the Chapter House, and alongside it a small cell was constructed. There are walls running to the south of the choir and nave that indicate structures located on the south side of the church. It is assumed that these were constructed also about this time, as very little evidence survives to date this architecturally. To the south of the choir and retro-choir there appears to be a chapel, and to the south of the nave it has to be assumed that this was the location of the cloister.

A chapel was added on the north side of the choir at a date prior to 1427, and floor tiles may indicate that this occurred about 1300 or just after. Some 91 burials were recovered from the site, which represents one of the few collections of remains from a small English nunnery and thus for aspects of medieval gender studies and social attitudes the remains are important. The site has also produced a significant amount of glazed medieval tile that enhances our knowledge of this particular industry and trading patterns between territories to the south of the Thames and to the north.

In the post-medieval period it is apparent that the site passed into lay hands and became Minchery Farm. The date at which some of the outbuildings were constructed is indicated by an illustration by Thomas Hearne who described the site and provided a view of the site in 1722 (Pantin 1971, 26), which shows some of the later barns. One of these barns survived in a reworked 19th century form in a ruined form prior to the development of the site.

Pantin, W A 1971 Minchery Farm, Littlemore, *Oxoniensia* 35, 19–26

Oasis ID: johnmoor1- 209325; Museum Accession No: OXCMS: 2014.114

Littlemore, 31 Cowley Road SP 538876 02970

EDWIN PEARSON

Between January and March **2017** John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological investigation at 31 Cowley Rd, Littlemore. An earlier evaluation had been carried out at the site in 2011 (JMHS 2011). Groundworks consisted of the excavation for the footings of a 1 × 3-bed dwelling house. All archaeological activity on the site was derived from the Post-medieval period. A total of three pits were discovered in this stage of investigation. An open well

and associated floor surface belonging to a former coach house was also discovered with subsequent robber trenches.

OASIS ID – johnmoor1–319743; Museum Accession No: OXCMS2016.181

Long Hanborough, Land North Of Witney Road

P 41114 14236

STEVE LEECH

In February 2018, John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at the north side of Witney Road, on the west side of the village of Long Hanborough due to a proposed residential development in the area. The evaluation consisted of 28 trenches, of which 9 trenches contained archaeological features. The evaluation revealed the remains of a large boundary ditch, which was essentially undated, and was still open in the medieval period. It is possible that this feature has a prehistoric origin. There were a series of former field boundaries and a small enclosure dating to the Post-medieval period. Such Post-medieval boundaries and enclosures are common in the area.

OASIS ID – johnmoor1–310740 & johnmoor1–302460; Museum Accession No: OXCMS: 2017.12

Mongewell, Lychgate House SU 6109 8790

TOM ROSE-JONES

In December 2017, January 2018, and February 2018 an archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a single detached dwelling. The watching brief was successful in recording the remains of Mongewell Rectory, a substantial post-medieval

building. Archaeological evidence indicates that prior to the construction of the rectory the area was under cultivation, while finds of Roman period pottery from this cultivation soil suggest activity nearby. No medieval remains were identified, suggesting that the medieval rectory was located elsewhere, however, three pieces of worked stone likely to date to the 12th to 14th centuries may have come from this building. The post-medieval rectory was built in the mid to late 17th century (Fig. 8). The structure appears to have been almost entirely rebuilt in the 1770s under the direction of Dr Robert Price, the rector at the time. In the mid to late 19th century the house saw further additions to the southeast before being demolished in the mid-20th century.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1–313972; Museum Accession No: OXCMS: 2017.123

Oxford, 48 Plantation Road SP 508 074

Steve Leech

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 48 Plantation Road, Oxford in August 2016. The work was undertaken due to Oxford City Council granting planning permission for the erection of a part single, part two storey extension to the side elevation and two storey extension to the rear elevation. It involved the monitoring of trenches that revealed late post-medieval pits, a foundation trench for an extension on the eastern side of the property that was devoid of any archaeological features. The extension on the western side of the property was not archaeologically monitored.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1–286257

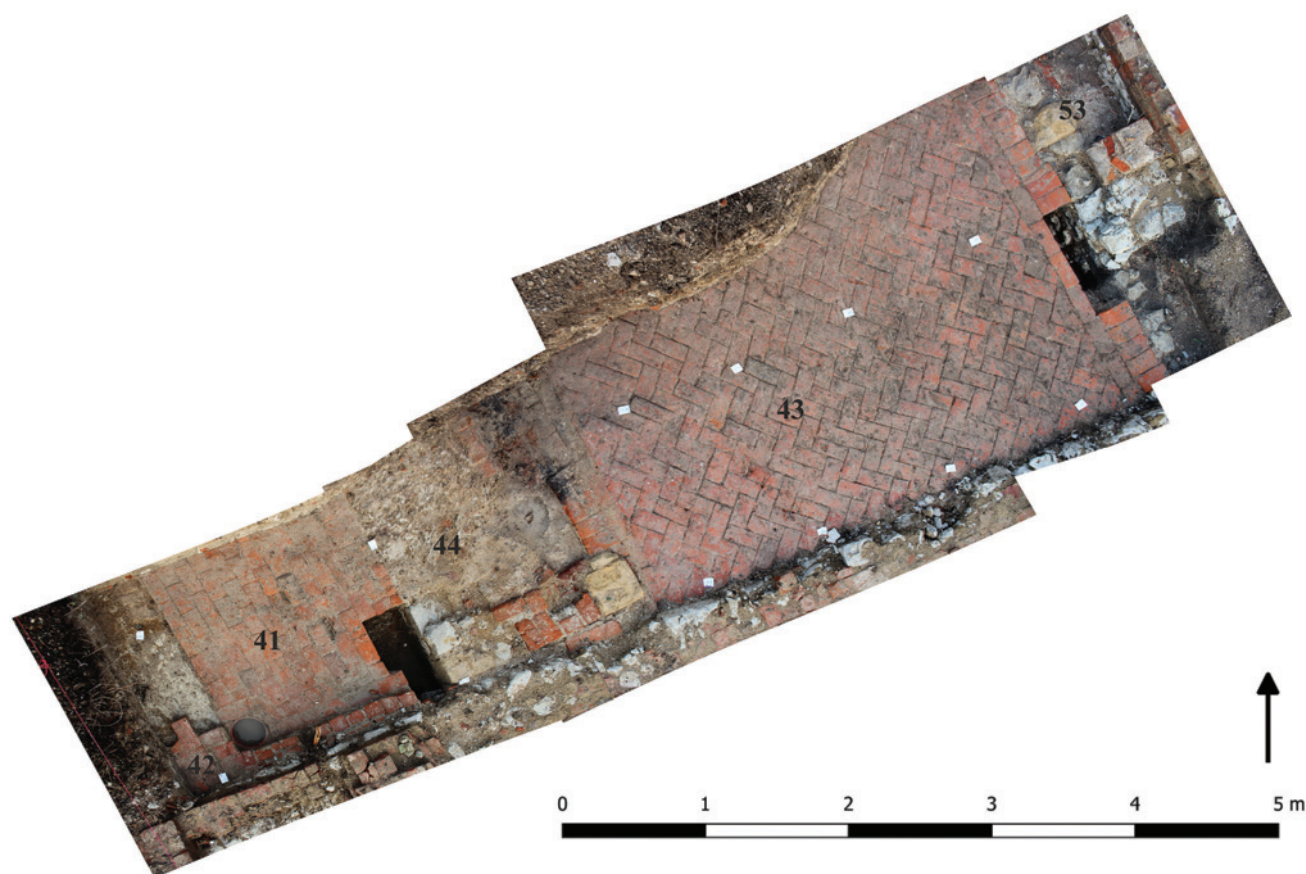


Figure 8: Mongewell Rectory Floors and hearth associated with phase 1

Oxfordshire

**Oxford, Kellogg College, 62/64 Banbury Road
SP 51177 07552
Stephen Yeates**

An evaluation in October **2015**, building recording in July **2016**, and excavations in August and September **2016** were carried out on the Coach House, garage and four boundary walls within the grounds of Kellogg College on Banbury Road, Oxford. The recording was carried out as part of a condition for planning permission, which has been granted for the demolition of the recorded structures and the erection of a new building. The development consisted of the demolition of the Coach House, garage and parts of four boundary walls followed by a programme of archaeological strip, map and record during the groundworks for the new building called the “Hub” building at land to the rear of Kellogg College.

The site was located in Norham Manor a part of the North Oxford development towards the mid to late 19th century. Historically this area was located in the parish of Saint Giles’s from the 12th century, prior to that it was probably located in the parish of Saint George, which was probably created out of the lay church of the royal manor of Headington. The minster church of this parish being St Frideswides.

Analysis of the standing structure, archaeology, maps and historic data is indicative of there being some 10 phases on the site, most of which were carried out in the mid to late 19th century. The earliest phases are ephemeral in nature, phase 1 probably represents prehistoric activity on the site and may contain the oval pit that was noted as part of a Bronze Age burial. A series of plough marks were noted, which do not conform to the known direction of ploughing in the medieval, post-medieval and post-Inclosure. It is thus assumed that this phase 2 activity is older and probably Roman in date. The next phase 3 concerns the accumulation of a soil horizon, which has phase 4 cut into it that is an 18th century pit. Late 19th and 20th century pottery was all across the site and absent from this pit. There are a series of phases that subsequently relate to the 19th and 20th centuries and the foundation of Norham Manor. The stone foundations (phase 5) appear to mark the initial laying out of the properties c. 1860–65. The red brick phase 6 was dated 1865–1872. There is a phase 7a dated to 1873, while phase 7b is dated 1873–1876. Phase 8 is dated later than 1876, while phase 9 is the 20th century activity. The last phase dates to the evaluation trench in 2015.

The watching brief was carried out on the 27th August 2015, and the evaluation on the

3rd September 2015. The watching brief involved the monitoring of four small, shallow hand excavated test pits. The evaluation comprised a single trench, measuring 7.6m in length, and targeted a test pit excavated in 2005 (JMHS 2005. Project 1402). A Watching Brief previously carried out during the excavation of the 2005 test pit recovered human remains and Bronze Age pottery from the spoil. A feature identified in section was interpreted as a grave, although unconfirmed.

The evaluation identified a single undated feature containing the fragmented remains of a small mammal. Two narrow, shallow features possibly represented plough scars were recorded. No other significant archaeological deposits or features were identified during the watching brief or evaluation.

The evaluation successfully located a 2005 Test Pit, although did not identify the feature interpreted as a grave.

In addition a probable geological feature was investigated. A layer representing a garden soil dated to the late 19th-early 20th century was also identified.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1–325355, johnmoor1–231909,
johnmoor1–288213; Museum Accession number
OXCMS:2005.80; OXCMS: 2015.176

**Oxford, Land R/O 18 Hawkswell Gardens SP 5117 0949
CARLOS FERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ**

In February and March 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Land R/O 18 Hawkswell Gardens, Oxford. The reason for this work was that a planning application had been made to Oxford City Council for erection of 3 × 6 bedroom dwelling houses. This was refused but is being appealed. The City Archaeological Officer issued a brief that indicated that as part of this appeal an archaeological evaluation should be carried out followed by further mitigation if required. Two evaluation trenches were excavated across the proposed site of 0.3 ha. The intended dimensions for both trenches were 15m × 1.65m but due to the presence of services in the area next to Trench 1, it was decided to extend Trench 2 by 2m and shorten trench 1 by 1.5m. Both trenches were excavated to the archaeological soil horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first. The evaluation revealed a linear ditch that has been interpreted as a field boundary as it runs parallel to the northern and southern land boundaries of the site. No finds were recovered from either of the two trenches.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1–311492; Museum Accession:
OXCMS: 2017.114

**Oxford, 1 Fisher Row SP 50890 06158
SIMONA DENIS**

In August **2017** archaeological monitoring of two geotechnical pits was carried out within the rear extension to 1 Fisher Row, Oxford. The reason for this work was that a planning application had been submitted to Oxford City Council for conversion of a dwelling house to create 1 × 1-bed and 2 × 2-bed apartments (Use Class C3), including demolition and erection of a two storey rear extension, and first floor rear extension and formation of rear terrace at second floor. Some geotechnical pits are to be excavated to inform the engineering of the construction. The monitoring revealed a sequence of deposits indicating several phases of occupation and redevelopment of the building, dating between the post-medieval and the modern period.

At least three previous phases were recovered in the former kitchen area, represented by a brick floor revealed at a depth of 0.5m below the current stone floor level, dated to the post-medieval period, a mortar floor and a later clay floor, recovered at a depth of 0.35m below the current surface, indicating that this area underwent a possible change of use during this third phase. A post-medieval hearth was uncovered at a depth of 0.5m ca. below the present stone floor in the vault area. A possible later surface or floor level was also observed, only visible in the north-facing section of the excavated area. The current stone slab floor, recorded in both rooms, is dated at least to the 19th century and represents the latest redevelopment of the building.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1–295185; Museum Accession:
OXCMS2017.122

Oxford, 12 Crick Road SP 51395 07573

JOHN MOORE

In August **2017** John Moore Heritage Services carried out a small evaluation at 12 Crick Road, Oxford to inform a planning application for extension to, and refurbishment of, an existing dwelling. Crick Road lies in a poorly understood part of the gravel terrace located between the known find clusters of Bronze Age and early medieval material south of Park Town and an extensive landscape of monuments and field systems recorded in University Parks. An undated, but probable prehistoric, gully was recorded during at evaluation in 2007 at Lady Margaret Hall (Oxford Archaeology, 2007; UAD No 1708). An Iron Age pit has been found at 6 Crick Road and a burial of possible Anglo-Saxon date accompanied by a knife was encountered at the adjacent property of 10 Crick Road.

A middle Iron Age pit was found. It might be associated with an Iron Age pit known at 6 Crick Road on the opposite side of the road, diagonally NNE. The amount of pottery recovered from the pit on the site suggests settlement activity of the middle Iron Age in this part of Oxford. It is probably related to the field system known in University Parks. Another pit of post-medieval date (18th – early 19th century) and a later dog burial were encountered as well.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1–340885; Museum Accession No: OXCMS2017.134

Oxford, St Edward's School, Woodstock Road SP 50604 08956

GAVIN DAVIS

In September and November 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land at St Edward's School, Oxford. The reason for this work was that Oxford City Council had granted planning permission for the demolition of an existing school hall and the construction of a new hall, library, teaching accommodation and associated landscape works and alterations to a listed building at St Edward's School, Woodstock Road Oxford (16/01725/FUL). The evaluation was to be carried by way of three trenches equal to a combined length of 90m of trenching with each trench being 1.65m wide. Due to the constraints of the site and the avoidance of active services the evaluation resulted in 81m of trenching.

The evaluation identified modern pits and building disturbance along with disturbance from tree planting. A tree throw hole was identified and one small undated pit towards the north of the site. Possibly the earliest finds on site were two fragments of London Stoneware. Other finds included modern brick and tile and white earthenware. Concrete block foundations that had been part of a recent structure were identified in the centre of the site. No other archaeological finds or features were identified.

OASIS No: johnmoor1–335396; Museum Accession No: OXCMS: 2018.6

Shillingford, Land to rear of 25 Henley Road SU59539277

EDWIN PEARSON

Between May and June **2017**, John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at land to rear of 25 Henley Road, Shillingford, Oxfordshire. This was due

to South Oxfordshire District Council granting planning permission for the demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of single storey dwelling (P14/S0948/FUL). Groundworks consisted of the excavation for the reduced area of a sunken single storey dwelling. A total of three features were found. This consisted of two pits and one gully containing two internal post holes which were devoid of finds. Stratigraphic evidence indicates former long term agricultural use of the land. Early 19th century bottles were present in the disturbed garden topsoil.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1–318527; Museum Accession No: OXCMS2017.85

Shipton-under-Wychwood, Shaven Crown Hotel, High Street SP27711788

SIMONA DENIS

In July **2016**, John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at the rear of the Shaven Crown Hotel in Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire. This work was undertaken due to West Oxfordshire District Council granting planning permission for the erection of detached dwelling and garage to the north and the rear of the Shaven Crown Hotel in Shipton-under-Wychwood (15/03132/FUL). The works monitored were within a 19m × 30m area and consisted of 0.2m deep stripped area and 0.6m wide foundation trenches for a new building. No archaeological features or deposits were observed, although the relatively frequent medieval materials recovered prove the existence of pre-modern activities in the area.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1–323122; Museum Accession No: OXCMS2016.50

South Moreton, The Manor House, Paper Mill Lane SU5626 8826

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

In February 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological recording action at The Manor House, Paper Mill Lane, South Moreton, Oxfordshire. The reason for this work was that South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) had granted planning permission for the creation of a natural swimming pond with decking area. The archaeological recording action was subject to a strip, map and record exercise of the development area. An area of 88.1m² was opened up. The excavation revealed a large rectangular pit containing dumped modern material. This was underlying topsoil but cut through a thin layer of subsoil and into the underlying natural. No other features were identified.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1–312689

Towersey, St Catherine's Church SU 5174 0935

STEVE LEECH

In February 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Catherine's Church, Towersey, Thame, Oxfordshire. This was due to Oxford Diocese granting permission for the repair and re-ordering works together with the introduction of a clean water supply and waste water removal works. The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of a service trench from the western side of the church following a footpath northwest to the church gateway. The trench was 0.75m deep and consisted of a

Oxfordshire

topsoil overlying a graveyard soil. No human remains or archaeological deposits were present in the trench.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-310825

Waterperry with Thomley, Thomley Barn, Menmarsh Road SP 62853 09376

STEVE LEECH

In February 2018 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Thomley Barn, Waterperry with Thomley, Oxfordshire. South Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission for the erection of a single storey garage block comprising 3 bay carport, (of which 2 bays will be used for the temporary stabling of the owner's retired horses), incidental to the enjoyment of the property (P15/S0087/HH). The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of a foundation trench for the stables. The trench was only excavated down to a depth that still lay within the subsoil layer, thus any archaeological deposits remained below the level of impact.

OASIS ID – johnmoor1-310793

Witney, The Harcourt Arms, Main Road Stanton Harcourt SP 41528 05710

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Harcourt Arms. This took place after a previous historic building assessment. This second phase of work can be divided into multiple stages. A first stage was conducted the 18th November **2015** with groundworks consisting of the excavation of footings trenches for a new village shop. Only modern pits and layers were revealed during this phase. A second stage for extensions to the public house, consisting of ground reduction, saw multiple prehistoric and medieval features unearthed.

The prehistoric part, concentrated to the south-east of the main building, included a ditch, several postholes or small pits and a possible cremation burial. Dates provided by the pottery point towards an occupation through all the Iron Age period. The principal phase of medieval occupation of the site, to the south, is probably to be dated between the 12th and 14th century with at least six main linear features (and their recuts), a massive pit and one posthole. Only two ditches can be assigned to late medieval activity (15th – 16th century). Further developments occurred during the post-medieval and modern periods in the form of plantation or rubbish pits (among which one contained a piglet burial).

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-273275

Wootton, Sansomes Farm Studio NGR SP45031898

KIRSTY BONE

In July **2016** John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Sansomes Farm Studio. The watching brief was carried out at this location due to West Oxfordshire District Council granting planning permission to construct single storey extensions, a new director's office and landscaping works to form an informal amphitheatre at the studio (15/02331/FUL). The excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the student common room exposed one ditch orientated east to west which contained no finds. The excavation of foundation trenches for a further

extension, for a single storey office also exposed several linear archaeological features, none of which contained any dateable material.

OASIS ID:johnmoor1-279518

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Mongewell Park, Mongewell House, Former Carmel College SU 608 875

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR and BECCA BRADFORD

In June 2018 historic building recording was carried out at the former Carmel College, Mongewell Park, Oxfordshire in order to fulfil a condition of planning permission and listed building consent for the development of the buildings on the site. The building was constructed in 1890, some distance to the south of the original Mongewell House. It is primarily in the William and Mary Style, though the interior changes radically throughout, ranging from Gothic Revival in the western rooms, through to Georgian and modern to the east. The house possesses a number of notable features including finely decorated staircases and fireplaces throughout.

MOLA

Oxford, Lucy Faithfull House, 8 Speedwell Street SP 51217 05799

SUSAN PORTER

Three 12m long trenches and a single targeted 2m x 2m trench were excavated in September at the recently demolished Lucy Faithfull House, on the site of the 13th century Blackfriars Friary. The trenches to the north and south located wall foundations which coincide with walls on the projected plan of the friary and thereby confirming elements of the plan. The walls were in a noticeably better state of preservation at the northern end of the site.

The smaller trench was targeted at locating human remains previously identified during excavations in the 1960s, to determine if the remains had been removed or left in-situ. The remains of up to five individuals were located within the trench in various states of articulation, with four considered to be potentially fully articulated; all were recorded without disturbing. Also within the smaller trench was a corner portion of the Friary wall which survived in good condition, indicating that perhaps substantial structural remains could exist in the space between the trenches at the northern end of the site.

Later features including a wall constructed from stone reclaimed from the Friary and a pit full of cattle horn most likely represent use of the site for industry, likely tanning, following the dissolution of the Friary in the 16th century. Several layers of post-medieval build-up ground were also recorded in the trenches, indicating ground levelling.

Oxford, New College School, Savile Road SP 51673 06694

SUSAN PORTER

Following previous work in 2014 by Oxford Archaeology which recorded the civil war embankment and a possible Saxon ditch, to the north of the site; and a three phase 2016/2017 evaluation by MOLA, (see previous summary

by Banikov/Cowie) which recorded a 19th century well, a watching brief was carried out on groundworks in July and August 2018 to assess if related archaeological remains existed to the south. Natural geology was not observed, however two brick soakaways and two fragments of chalk wall were seen. It is possible that these walls are related to the north-south oriented building marked on the 1876 and 1900 maps of the site. Alternately it may be a garden wall not shown on any of the maps. A service run was also excavated as part of the watching brief revealing made ground overlying the sandy gravel natural geology.

Tetsworth, Mount Hill Farm, High Street and The Mount SP 68916 01615

SUSAN PORTER

An evaluation of 14 trenches took place between July and August 2018 prior to residential redevelopment. The natural geology was highly changeable across the site with gravel encountered in the central areas, heavy clay to the south and degraded chalky clay to the north. Archaeological survival was at its highest to the west and south-east of the site. A number of linear features, which, broadly, either followed or bisected the natural southward slope of the field, were identified and these appear to be associated with agricultural activity, possibly an extension of the ridge and furrow visible in the north-west of the site. A few sherds of Roman pottery were recovered however these were all deemed to be residual with other finds from the linear features indicating a 12th-15th-century date for this activity. Modern disturbance meant little archaeology survived within the central and northern areas of the site.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Banbury, land south of Salt Way Bloxham Road SP 4397 3890

JAMES WEST

An archaeological watching brief uncovered no archaeological remains.

Bicester, Caversfield SP 57917 25122

LIAM JS POWELL

An archaeological geophysical survey and subsequent trial trench evaluation was undertaken within the site. The trial trench work examined both the origin of earthwork features in the east of the site which was located near to a 10th – 11th century church and medieval shrunken Village as well as geophysical anomalies and crop mark features. The trenching found that the earthworks did not relate to archaeological features but instead they most likely relate to modern surface disturbance within the eastern area of the site next to the main road. The trenching did reveal that this modern disturbance masked early medieval remains in the form of a possible hollow way and two ditches. These features were on the western side of the main road that appeared to have formed the boundary to the domestic settlement. Pottery recovered from these features dates from 11th to 13th century indicating the field system did not continue into the later medieval period. OASIS 326704

Bodicote, land at Oxford Road SP 4671 3731

TRACY PREECE

In 2018 a programme of archaeological excavation on land at Oxford Road was undertaken. Four separate excavations areas were investigated totalling 0.3625ha/3,625sqm. Although there was a small amount of worked flint of Neolithic date, no archaeological features are assigned to this period. The excavation revealed evidence for late Iron Age, early Roman and Saxon activity.

The earliest significant feature was a substantial middle to late Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure at c.90m long and at least 75m wide, with its enclosure ditches at between 2m and 3.5m wide and up to 2m deep. The Bodicote site enclosure possibly falls into the noted form in the Solent-Thames regional frameworks as a “defensive enclosure”. The very low quantity of domestic material and the lack of associated internal features such as structures would suggest that its purpose may have been at least primarily utilised for livestock. Later features included a curvilinear enclosure in the south-east part of the site and continued beyond the excavation limit.

Early to middle Saxon occupation comprising four sunken feature buildings, two post-built structures and associated pits. Artefacts recovered comprised small quantities of pottery, animal bone and some personal objects. Three of the SFBs ranged between 3.10m × 2.95m and 3.9m × 1.70m and up to 0.30m deep and may date to the 6th to 7th century. One of the SFBs [3181] (Fig. 10) was c4.5m by 3.8m and 0.65m deep and dated to the 7th to 8th century, and is unusual in being very large and having a stepped profile. The recovery of small to moderate quantities of grain may suggest it could have functioned as a grain store and that if this structure had a suspended floor then this would have created a dry environment for the storage of grain. Two objects from this SFB, a complete antler and horn comb (Fig. 9) and the partial remains of another typically date to the 7th to 8th centuries. Three undated cremations were also found with human bone weighing between 45g and 393g and a further three adjacent pits had bone weighing between 0.7g and 2.7g.

OASIS 329605

Kidlington, Stratfield Farm SP 495 124

JOHN WALFORD

Of c9ha approximately half of the land was suitable for geophysical survey, the remainder being overgrown or otherwise obstructed. In the area surveyed the only definite archaeological features present were remnants of medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. A few other anomalies could have represented short sections of ditch but were too weak and scattered for this interpretation to be secure.

OASIS 329311

Tetsworth, land at Lobb Farm SP 6671 0325

CHRIS PENNELL

A trial evaluation comprising 30 trenches took place on land at Lobb Farm, in advance of a proposed Gas Fired Electricity Generating Facility. Features were found in two trenches and these consisted of a single shallow ditch identified in Trench 8 and two shallow pits were found in Trench 2. One

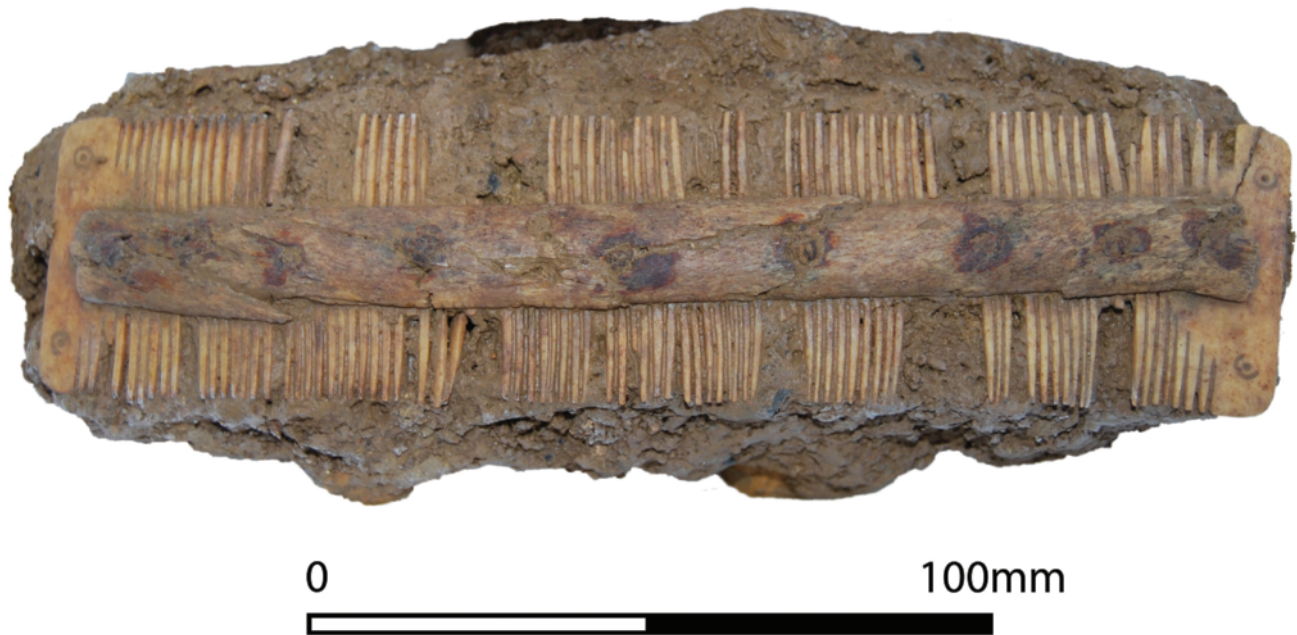


Figure 9: Bodicote, Middle Saxon comb from SFB [3181]



Figure 10: Bodicote, Sunken feature building [3181], looking north-east

of the pits contained one piece of late post-medieval pottery, a fragment of clay-tobacco pipe, fired clay and coke. A few pieces of modern brick came from the ditch.

OASIS 334513

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY

Adderbury, Land to the rear of Horn Hill Road
SP 46461 35232
GREG CREES

Trial trench evaluation undertaken in advance of residential development recorded low-density prehistoric activity in

the form of a pit or posthole which contained the truncated remains of a pottery vessel. The evaluation also recorded a small number of undated ditches as well as modern features including a former garden wall.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Abingdon, Beech Court, Abingdon School SU 4935 9739
ASHLEY STRUTT, PETER VELLETT and TIM ALLEN

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Beech Court, Abingdon School between February and March **2017** in advance of the construction of a new classroom, access and garage. Three tree-root test pits (TPs 10–12) were monitored, and three additional trenches (Areas 5–7) excavated to trace the extent, character and date of the stone wall revealed in Test Pit 12.

Test Pit 12 was dug to investigate the spread of tree-roots in the western part of the site. It located a stone wall not visible on any historic maps. Due to the survival of large tree-roots, it was not possible to determine the full dimensions of the wall, or to establish its date. Three further trenches (Areas 5–7) were excavated along the projected line of the wall to clarify its character, date and extent. The southernmost trench (Area 5) did not find a continuation of the wall, but encountered two features cut into the natural gravel at the base of the trench. One of these features was excavated and contained the partial skeleton of a dog, together with an 18th century sherd from a Chinese porcelain bowl.

Area 6, close to Test-Pit 12, found a rectangular stone pier roughly in line with the wall in Test Pit 12, overlying the fills and capping layers of a large feature. The capping layers contained finds of 18th century date. The pier was 0.86m by 0.72m, and survived two courses deep, but was truncated in part by a brick pier, probably a repair, of 19th century date. Area 7 was opened up between Areas 5 and 6, and located another rectangular stone pier, overlying the fill of a different, and undated, large feature that cut subsoil containing a late 17th / 18th century clay tobacco pipe stem. The pier measured 0.8m by 0.63m, and survived three courses deep.

These three stone structures were around 3.5m apart (centre to centre) and their upper surfaces were all at similar heights above OD. They are believed to represent supports for a timber-arcaded structure of late 18th to early 19th century date.

The finds and animal bones indicate activity concentrated in the late 17th and 18th centuries, probably related to occupation at the adjacent Lacies Court. A concentration of horse bones, many of which were dog-gnawed, may indicate that horseflesh was used as dog-meat.

Area 3 in the eastern part of the site between Areas 1 and 2 was found to have a number of pits and a tree throw hole, all of which appeared to be post-medieval in date. This area also included drainage works which extended westwards towards the central area of site. Trench 3 was found to have a construction cut and a tree pit, both of which appeared to be of 19th to 20th century date. Trench 4 exposed part of a large quarry pit which was thought to be post-medieval in date.

Abingdon, Abingdon Science Park, The Quadrant
SU 50699 97332

PETER VELLETT

In April 2018 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at The Quadrant, Abingdon Science Park. The evaluation confirmed the recorded historical landfilling of the proposed development area between 1967 and 1971. Two distinct episodes of landfill were identified, overlain by a sand and gravel capping deposit and subsequent levelling deposits.

Banbury, Calthorpe Street SP 45432 40341

STEVE TEAGUE

In June **2017**, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Thames Water to carry out a watching brief along the route of a proposed new water main installation on Calthorpe Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire. The presence of 20th century made ground deposits was recorded across the site along with the remains of the 20th century terraced housing that once stood on site. Significant truncation has taken place across the site and the lack of natural deposits would suggest that this has removed any archaeological deposits that may have existed. The only find of note was a complete stoneware spirits flagon dating to c. 1880–1950 recovered from the rubble of former house foundations.

Bampton, Weald, Glebe Farm SP 30840 02169

PAUL MURRAY

In September 2018, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development at Glebe Farm, Weald, Bampton, Oxfordshire. The works comprised the excavation of five evaluation trenches targeting the footprints of the proposed houses. The evaluation did not identify any archaeological remains, although it did establish that the site had been extensively truncated by agricultural buildings which previously occupied the site.

Bicester, Bicester Heritage Hotel SP 59250 24783

BERNADETTA RZADEK

In May 2018 Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation on the site of a proposed hotel development. Twelve evaluation trenches were excavated within Bicester Aerodrome, Oxfordshire (now known as Bicester Heritage and formerly RAF Bicester). This site lies alongside the A4421, which follows the line of the Roman Road from Alchester to Towcester.

The site was first developed in the later stages of the First World War as a Royal Flying Corps (RFC) Training Depot Station. By the end of hostilities in 1918 facilities within the site boundary comprised a row of three hangars and associated workshops, stores and taxiways. The site was demolished in 1920 and for a short time returned to agriculture. From 1925 the site was redeveloped as part of the RAF Bicester bomber station.

The evaluation revealed one significant archaeological feature pre-dating construction of the WWI airfield – a Roman ditch in Trench 3, which lay parallel to the Roman Road. It was set too far back from the road to be interpreted as a roadside ditch and is likely to be a field boundary. There was no sign of a continuation of the ditch in trenches to the

Oxfordshire

north or south, and it could have been truncated in these locations by the First World War or later developments.

Traces of buildings relating to the RFC Training Depot Station were identified in eleven trenches, mostly comprising drains, electrical services and occasional concrete strip foundations. The First World War features appear to be poorly preserved, the site having been thoroughly demolished in 1920. Some of the utilities encountered could relate to the later RAF station.

Bicester, Old Place Yard SP 5835 2220

ANDREW SIMMONDS

Oxford Archaeology excavated a series of four evaluation-style trenches on the site of Bicester Priory and undertook a strip, map and sample excavation of an area c. 100m to the west. The trenches confirmed elements of the plan of the priory's church and cloister that had originally been recorded by John Dunkin at the start of the nineteenth century, and exposed a stone grave cover within the Chapter House that probably covers the burial of a prior or other high-ranking monastic official. The excavation area uncovered features that may have been situated within the precinct of Bicester's Anglo-Saxon minster and included a possible trackway leading to a crossing of the River Bure and, most significantly, two cesspits that had been backfilled with an enormous quantity of animal bone and yielded radiocarbon dates from the eighth to tenth centuries. Analysis of the bone assemblage is ongoing but a substantial number of specimens were recovered from and include good evidence for standardised butchery practice, providing an insight into Saxon butchery at the minster. Among these specimens are horse bones which have been butchered in the same way as cattle bones, providing good evidence for the consumption of horse in the town at this time (the developing taboo against which remains an area of research interest in British early Medieval archaeology). The bird bones include a rare occurrence of white tailed eagle. Cess pits contemporary with the priory were also found in the same area.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Little Martin's Field

SU 5784 9115

ANDREW SIMMONDS and JOHN BOOTHROYD

Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation at Little Martin's Field, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell in January and February 2018 in advance of a proposed residential development. The site comprised two adjacent pasture fields situated at the western end of the village. The excavation uncovered two middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury urns that had been buried in purpose-dug pits. The vessels contained no human remains but were similar to those used in contemporary cremation burials. This may suggest these vessels could represent cenotaphs or other deposits associated with funerary rites. Part of a middle Iron Age settlement was also uncovered, comprising two possible roundhouse locations, a ditched enclosure and associated pits and postholes. In addition a boundary ditch with several recuts was attributed to the Roman and/or Anglo-Saxon period.

Brize Norton, Carterton East development

SP 29396 07625

ALEX DAVIES and GERRY THACKER

An early Bronze Age ring-ditch encircling a central cremation burial was excavated by Oxford Archaeology in the summer of 2018 (Fig. 11). The work was preceded by a desk-based assessment, a geophysical survey and an evaluation. The work was undertaken in advance of residential development. The ring-ditch had an internal diameter of 12–13.5m and was 1.5–2.1m in width, and 0.35–0.54m deep. Collared Urn sherds were found in the basal fill of the ditch, and small amounts of middle Bronze Age pottery were discovered in the upper fill. The ditch also produced a thumbnail scraper and a perforated limestone object. A central cremation burial was the only human remains discovered, and this was from an adult, possibly male. A small copper alloy awl was found with the burial, along with a few sherds of probable early Bronze Age pottery.

A radiocarbon date was taken from the cremated bone, and returned a surprisingly late date of 1427–1288 cal BC. The ring-ditch and cremation with associated objects appear to belong to single phase of activity that is typically early Bronze Age in character. The radiocarbon date either provides evidence for the very late occurrence of an early Bronze Age practice, or the reuse of the monument in the middle Bronze Age with the associated objects being residual. Alternatively, the possibility that the radiocarbon date is anomalously late should be considered.

Crowmarsh Gifford, Benson Lane, Oxfordshire

SU 61805 89483

KIRSTY SMITH

In September 2018 Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by Triskelion Heritage on behalf of Bloor Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed 7.2ha residential development at Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford. The evaluation revealed a very limited number of features including a possible furrow, a ditch, a hedge-line and the remains of a headland. These features were undated although they most likely relate to the medieval and post-medieval use of the site as agricultural fields.

Cuxham, Manor Farm, The Coach House SU 6657 9516

ADAM FELLINGHAM

In March 2018, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at Manor Farm, Cuxham, Oxfordshire. The work was commissioned as part of the renovation of the existing Coach House. The excavations of the foundations for the new porch and wall footings were monitored during the construction phase. The excavations encountered buried topsoil, subsoil and bedrock underneath the existing concrete. No archaeological deposits or finds were uncovered.

Dorchester on Thames, Allotments: Oxford University/Oxford Archaeology Training Excavation SP 5773 9410

PAUL BOOTH

The final season of the training excavation run by the Dorchester Project team in the allotments overlying the south-west quarter of the Roman settlement ran for four



Figure 11: Brize Norton, working shot of the ring-ditch, looking south-east

weeks in June and July 2018 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 previously-identified roughly west-east aligned ditch of late Iron Age/early Roman date was examined further in the western part of the site, and a possible northward return of this feature was located in the centre of the site, the area between being truncated by later pits (see below).

In the eastern part of the site, evidence for the early Roman fort identified by Frere in excavations in 1963 (Frere 1984) was found beneath the road. This consisted of east-west and north-south wall slots of timber buildings, apparently of more than one phase, some indicated by voids marking the presence of decayed timber uprights. These features, almost certainly of military character, lay within an area only c 12m × 8m, so interpretation of the structures represented is very difficult. Associated finds were very few. Objects potentially related to this phase, but not necessarily directly associated, included a fired clay sling bullet, a Claudian copy *as*, two Hod Hill type brooches, a possible strap fitting and a fine copper alloy mount with a head of Silenus. The relationship of the military features to slightly later north-south linear features at the western margin of the road remains to be clarified.

A small shallow pit in the south-west corner of the site was of Flavian date. The central part of the site was almost completely occupied by a north-south zone of pits, some partly examined previously. These were very substantial,

typically up to 1.8–2m deep with very steep-sided profiles, and were probably dug originally as quarries for gravel and brickearth. In view of their size they could only be sampled. The largest pit (feature 4004, roughly 8m × 6m) lay in the south part of the central zone of the site and was almost completely excavated. Its lower fills were not particularly finds-rich, but one produced a fairly fresh coin of Hadrian dated AD 134–138, while the middle part of the fill sequence produced substantial quantities of finds of 2nd century date. Infilling was not complete until the late Roman period. Pits to the north, set back from the road edge and probably dug in the later 1st century, also certainly had fill sequences that continued into the 2nd century, while further pits between and just to the east of these features and pit 4004, approaching the edge of the roadside zone, were probably later in date. This suggests that access from the road towards features further west, including a large previously excavated 2nd century and later building, probably set within a ditched enclosure at the western margin of the site, was not straightforward. Gravel surfaces of the middle Roman period overlay the northern pit cluster and extended westwards up to the front of the building, but were completely absent in the southern half of the site, where feature 4004 seems to have remained partly open. The space west of 4004 between it and the building and its associated enclosure ditch does not seem to have been intensively used in the middle Roman period. Late Roman features have been described previously.

Oxfordshire

Frere, S S, 1984 Excavations at Dorchester on Thames, 1963, *Archaeol J* **141**, 91–174

Great Haseley, Little Rycote DMV SP 66049 04078

RACHEL DANIEL

In March 2018 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation at Rycote Park, Oxfordshire. The works comprised the excavation of five trenches targeting the results of a geophysical survey. The survey identified the suspected remains of the deserted medieval village of Little Rycote, comprising house-plots, ovens/hearths and a trackway. The trenching identified a series of land management ditches and several pits that corresponded well with the results of the geophysical survey. While many of the features remained undated the artefactual evidence recovered, pottery and an iron nail, suggest that the features dated to the 12th to 14th centuries.

Grove Airfield SU 3907 8955

DAN SYKES and STEVE TEAGUE

In May 2018, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Grove Airfield near Wantage in Oxfordshire. This work was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (Wessex) in accordance with a condition of planning permission for a residential development with associated infrastructure. A total of 34 trenches revealed features dating to the middle and late Iron Age and the early to late Roman periods. The focus of the activity, probably representing settlements of these periods, appears to be located within the south-eastern part of the evaluation. Ditches located beyond the apparent settlement focus most probably relate to associated field systems.

Henley, Greys Court, The White Tower SU 72541 83441

ALISON DE TURBERVILLE

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by the National Trust to carry out historic building recording of the White Tower at Greys Court, Henley prior to repair works. The recording took place in the summer of **2016**. The repair works covered the west and south faces of the tower and the east face of the curtain wall extending south from the tower. The work comprised various repairs to the external masonry and merlons within the battlement at the top of the tower. Before the archaeological recording began, OA carried out a photogrammetric survey of the elevations and these were used as a basis for the on-site recording and will enable the recording for future phases of work to the tower.

Previous research by Barry Jones for English Heritage (2005) has shown that the earliest phase of the structure is a section of wall on the west elevation that forms the gable wall of a much earlier 12th century high-status range. To each side of this segment of wall are sections of curtain walling added at different times. The southern curtain wall was added in the mid-13th to mid-14th century and the northern curtain wall was constructed at the same time as the tower. The tower construction overlaps the southern curtain wall.

The tower itself probably dates from the mid to late 14th century as a licence to crenelate was issued in 1346. It is of flint construction with dressed stone windows and string course. The tower abutted the earlier 12th century high-status

range and it is thought that the roof to the high-status range was replaced at this time; the outline of the replacement roof can be seen in render traces on the west elevation, although the shape has much eroded in recent years. The west and south elevations were examined closely during repair works and the different phases were noted, as were the different render traces that formerly covered the tower giving it the name White Tower.

Later alterations to the tower include a new roof and upper elevations in the late 16th to 17th century with distinctive banding in flint, brick and stone and reworking of the upper section of the tower in the late 18th century to replace the gable roof with a crenelated parapet.

Hook Norton, Sibford Road SP 3564 3383

ANDREW SIMMONDS

In March **2017** Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation on the site of a proposed housing development in Hook Norton. The results of the trenching supported those of the geophysics and suggested a multiphase Roman trackway crossed the northern half of the site before splinting to the south and east. Apart from two burials adjacent to one of the trackway ditches, little other archaeology was present. From October 2017 to February 2018 Oxford Archaeology returned to fully excavate the site. An area of approximately 1.7ha targeting the trackway was opened up.

The excavation phase uncovered a small assemblage of prehistoric flintwork, a middle Iron Age pit containing a neonate burial, and an area of Roman settlement. The Roman activity could be divided into two broad phases. The earlier phase comprised a ditched trackway adjoined by a sequence of boundaries that were reorganised and rearranged recurrently over a period during the 1st and early 2nd century, as well as the remains of a neonate buried in a ditch and a cremation burial of an adult. This was superseded by domestic occupation that continued until at least the late 3rd century and included at least two rectangular stone-founded buildings, cobbled yard surfaces, a corn-drying oven and seven burials. The burials exhibited a surprisingly large range of funerary practices, despite their small number, including two prone burials and two individuals who had been decapitated and the heads placed near the legs, the latter two being buried in graves with stone linings (Fig. 12). Evidence from charred



Figure 12: Hook Norton, decapitated inhumation with skull placed by the feet within stone-lined grave

plant remains and animal bones indicated that the settlement was primarily engaged in farming, growing spelt wheat and maintaining herds of cattle and sheep with a much smaller number of pigs and horses. The investigations provide the first excavated evidence for Roman occupation at Hook Norton, where it has long been suspected that a settlement of some sort was present due to antiquarian reports of finds of coins and burials.

Kingston Bagpuize, 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 to the north of Abingdon Road, on the eastern side of Kingston Bagpuize. 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 fairly large pottery assemblage of early to middle Iron Age date. A triangular loomweight or 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 in the vicinity of the barrow but may equally represent the deposition of deceased livestock at any time from the Roman period onwards. Land drains in the southern field relate to the Second World War airfield that occupied the site.

Little Wittenham, Long Oat Lands SU 56205 93698

MARK DODD

Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation in May 2018 by trenching of a 15ha field known as Long Oat Lands, Little Wittenham. Archaeological features were found in 14 trenches. In the north-west part of the site two un-urned cremations were found, of which one was excavated and radiocarbon-dated to 1130–930 cal BC (the late Bronze Age). A small pit containing calcined flint-tempered pottery was found in both Trench 5 and Trench 6, and may represent associated activity. An undated small pit in Trench 1 may also have been related. Single small pits containing similar pottery were also found in Trenches 22 and 26 at the south end of the field, and these may be of late Bronze Age or middle Iron Age date. Three undated postholes were also found in Trench 25 adjacent, and may also have been associated.

A north-south ditch containing late medieval ceramic building material was found in Trench 9, and a possibly continuation in Trench 13. Undated ditches in Trenches 14 and 21 may represent further boundaries along the east side of the field, parallel to the stream running down the eastern field boundary.

Furrows on a NNW-SSE alignment were found in Trenches 4, 5 and 8 at the north end of the field, and that in Trench 8 contained medieval pottery. An undated ditch on the same alignment was also found in Trench 8, and a ditch or furrow on the same alignment in Trench 26 at the south

end of the field. Undated ditches were found in Trenches 8 and 10 at right angles to this, as was a broad furrow or ditch in Trench 13, and may relate to cropmark ditches plotted crossing the field. These WSW-ENE ditches match the orientation of slight banks marked on the LiDAR survey of this field, and correspond with former field boundaries marked on 19th century historic maps. Other slight banks visible on the LiDAR were also confirmed by the evaluation, and presumably mark further former field divisions of medieval or later date, ploughed out in the 20th century.

Northmoor, Moreton Lane SP 41728 02493

ANDREW SIMMONDS

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a strip, map and sample excavation in October **2017** at the site of a proposed dwelling at Moreton Lane, Northmoor. The site lay within a Scheduled Monument comprising an extensive area of cropmarks thought to be principally of Iron Age and Roman date. Watching briefs had previously been undertaken close to the site in 1995 and 2007 in advance of construction of agricultural buildings. The excavation uncovered ditches of mid to late Roman date that defined the boundaries of rectilinear enclosures that abutted a trackway to the west, part of which had been uncovered by the 2007 watching brief. There was no definite evidence regarding the function of the enclosures, but it is evident from the artefactual assemblage that domestic occupation lay somewhere nearby, although no structural remains were uncovered.

Nuffield Place, IT Cable Trench SU 67871 87792

MARK DODD

In March 2018, Oxford Archaeology monitored the excavation of an IT cable trench through the grounds of Nuffield Place for the National Trust. No archaeologically significant deposits were observed and no artefacts were recovered.

Oxford, 15 Paradise Street, Cooper Callas Building

SP 5089 0612

ANDREW SIMMONDS

Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of excavation in February to March 2018 on a site within the western suburb of the medieval city of Oxford. This site was situated on the Wareham Bank, an island between the Castle Mill Stream and the Wareham Stream. A borehole transect across the site demonstrated that the Castle Mill and Wareham streams had once formed a single much wider channel, although radiocarbon dating will be required to establish its antiquity. The area was reclaimed for occupation by deposition of a sequence of levelling layers during the 11th to early 13th centuries. The earliest structural evidence comprised a wall, presumably part of a building that was constructed during the 13th century and was replaced during the 14th century by a rectangular building. Both these buildings were constructed end-on to Paradise Street, with the Wareham Stream forming the rear of the tenement, but a reorganisation during the late 15th or 16th century saw them replaced by buildings close to the road frontage with pits in the yard behind. A large circular stone-built oven measuring c.2m in diameter was

Oxfordshire

inserted into one of the buildings, although its function is currently uncertain. The buildings were swept away for the construction of the Swan Brewery, which was in existence by 1718 and became Hall's Brewery in 1795. The brewery was represented by substantial levelling layers and buildings including the bottle-washing shed. A very large assemblage (c 600 sherds) of stoneware spirit flagons and bottles were recovered (Fig. 13), most marked with the brewery name and some with inscriptions that may relate to individual public houses that the brewery supplied.

Oxford, 22 Charlbury Road SP 51221 08353

GERRY THACKER

In July 2018 Oxford Archaeology monitored groundworks relating to the construction of a new basement to the rear of 22 Charlbury Road, Oxford. The footprint of the impact area was reduced to the surface of the natural geology, and no archaeological features, deposits or finds were present.



Figure 13: English stoneware spirits flagon from Halls Brewery Ltd/Swan Brewery, Oxford dated c.1896–1940

Oxford, former Acland Hospital, Keble College

SP 5132 0639

MIKE SIMS, KIRSTY SMITH and ANDREW SIMMONDS

Between March 2016 and January 2017 Oxford Archaeology conducted a series of archaeological investigations at the former Acland Hospital, Keble College, Oxford, in association with redevelopment of the site as student accommodation. The excavation uncovered a Roman field boundary ditch and two areas of medieval activity comprising a roadside ditch or boundary ditch parallel to Woodstock Road and a group of three pits on the Banbury Road frontage. The medieval features are situated beyond the northern limit of contemporary suburban development and may represent off-site activity such as gravel quarrying,

although they could alternatively be associated with an outlying farmstead, such as the historically-attested hamlet of 'Buricroft'. Two pits dated to the 17th century were also recorded.

The site was subject to extensive quarrying during the 18th and early 19th centuries before the construction of Northgate House during the 1840s and the development of Acland Hospital during the late 19th and 20th centuries.

No evidence was found for a Civil War bastion shown close to the south-western corner of the site on de Gomme's map of 1645, which presumably lies further south.

Oxford, Littlemore Mental Health Centre

SP 53341 02318

DIANA CHARD

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust to undertake a trial trench evaluation in September 2018 at the site of a proposed extension to Littlemore Mental Health Centre. The work consisted of the excavation of two trenches. No archaeological features or deposits were identified. A made ground deposit was recorded and suspected to extend across the majority of the site, probably resulting from the original construction of the Mental Health Centre.

Oxford, Merton College, Great Hall Lift phase 1

SP 5173 0606

STEVE TEAGUE

Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological work at Patey's Quad, Merton College, Oxford, in July to September 2016 in advance of the construction of a new lift. The earliest evidence comprised several rubbish/quarry pits dated to the 12th to early 13th century. They were probably contained within the rear of the property of Henry Herprut, who resided there by 1235–6. Two of the later pits contained roof 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, Merton College, SCR Lift Installation

SP 51731 06065

ALISON DE TURBERVILLE

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by James Roach of BGS Architects, on behalf of Merton College, Oxford to undertake a programme of archaeological building recording and watching brief during the installation of a new lift extension to the Senior Common Room (SCR) at Merton College. The building recording took place from November 2016 to August 2017.

The lift was to be installed in a new extension located on the east elevation of Patey's Quad which was constructed in 1610 and forms the west range of Fellows Quadrangle. This range extends southwards from the Hall and currently

contains the college kitchen and potwash on the ground floor, servery and buttery on the first floor and Pantry and Senior Common Room on the second floor. The kitchen and east elevation of Patey's Quad had been extensively refurbished in 1960–2 which included the demolition of a series of buildings within Patey's Quad, the re-facing of parts of the east elevation within Patey's Quad and the blocking of a passageway between Patey's and Fellows Quads.

The lift installation works included the opening up of two windows (first and second floors) to allow access to the lift and the rearrangement of some late 19th to early 20th century doors that were erected as a screen concealing the pantry on the second floor. No works took place on the ground or third floors, although the external face is now enclosed by the lift extension. The areas exposed during the works were photographed and recorded in detail prior to and during the works.

Oxford, Merton College, St Alban's Quad SP 5179 0610

STEVE TEAGUE

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief in July and August **2016** during construction work within the east wing of St Alban's Quad at Merton College, Oxford. The archaeological work was commissioned by Ridge and Partners LLP on behalf of Merton College for the conversion of existing workshops into a new music room. A number of rubbish or quarry pits were revealed and subjected to limited excavation to formation level. These were dated to the 12th – 14th centuries, after which a garden soil developed over the site which contained a late 14th or early 15th century French jetton together with late medieval pottery. Post-medieval evidence included wall fragments that probably formed part of a building within the late-17th to mid-19th century Principal's Garden.

Oxford, New College, JCR Lift Installation SP 51786 06430

ALISON DE TURBERVILLE

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Oliver Architecture, on behalf of New College, Oxford, to undertake a programme of archaeological building recording and watching brief during the installation of a new lift to the Junior Common Room (JCR) at New College, Oxford. The building recording took place in **2017**.

The lift installation utilises a small space usually used for storage located behind the college stairwell no. 7 which is located within the southern range of the Grade I listed Garden Quadrangle. The Garden Quadrangle was constructed in 1682–3 to the east of the college Great Quadrangle and this included the main element of the JCR. The contracting mason is known to have been a William Byrd of Oxford. The block containing the JCR was extended in 1912 enclosing a former external wall and forming a passage leading to the 14th century Long Room behind the range.

The insertion of the new lift necessitated some changes within the layout to allow access to the new lift. The basement silver store created in the 1960s was demolished and a new corridor and silver store created with the silver store door reused in the new store. Removal of material here revealed the primary stonework of the 1682–3 build.

On the ground floor a new corridor was created within the room adjoining the stairs and removal of store cupboards

on the partition between the stairs and room revealed the wall to be of timber frame with lath and plaster covering. Some evidence of reused timbers was observed as well as fragments of different wallpapers revealing earlier decorative schemes. The elevation had a large amount of smoke damage which had then been covered by the addition of early 20th century cupboards. On the first floor a section of the timber frame partition wall forming the entrance to the small store room was exposed. This revealed a rebate or moulded detail around the doorway.

Oxford, New College, Long Room WCs SP 5180 0640

ROBIN BASHFORD

In November 2018, Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief during alterations to the ground floor WCs within the Long Room to the north of Queen's Lane. Due to the limited impact of the works, no archaeological horizons were encountered during the watching brief.

Oxford, New College, Morris Building SP 5192 0645

STEVE TEAGUE

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Austin Newport Ltd on behalf of New College to undertake an archaeological investigation ahead of development at the former Morris Garage Building, Longwall Street, Oxford. The recording of seven geotechnical test pits in 2014 was followed by an archaeological strip, map and sample during the course of the groundworks between August and November **2017**.

Although excavations were restrained to post-medieval levels, part of a 19th century brick-built livery stable block was revealed and a pathway leading to it from Longwall Street. Two earlier stone walls were also revealed, one of which was on the line of the outer city wall of Oxford. Both walls cut dumps of makeup deposits dated to the mid-late 18th century that were probably associated with the final levelling of the city wall ditch. Cutting the remains of the stable block were the brick and concrete foundations of the William Morris Garage, built in 1910. Part of its rear workshop containing a vehicle inspection pit were revealed together with a small ancillary block, possibly a washroom/toilet, and a second inspection pit contained within the main garage area.

Oxford, New College, Savile House Music Practice Rooms SP 5172 0671

STEVE TEAGUE

Between September **2015** and September **2016**, Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation and watching brief at Savile House, Mansfield Road, Oxford, prior to an extension to the building. An earthwork bank forming part of the inner Civil War defences of Oxford was found to seal postholes of medieval date that probably formed part of a field boundary that the earthwork later followed. The bank was carefully constructed with two main dumps comprising reddish brown loam over which was compacted gravel, likely to have derived from a ditch dug on its north side. From the late 17th until the mid-19th centuries, pitting suggests that area of the bank was used for the dumping of rubbish.

Oxfordshire

Oxford, New College, Savile House and Warham House SP 51710 06697

JON GILL

In August 2018 Oxford Archaeology undertook building recording at the New College Savile site. The development included the construction of new student accommodation blocks. As part of the development two unlisted buildings of local heritage interest were recorded prior to demolition. Both of these buildings were good examples of architecture from the first half of the 20th century. The two buildings were Warham House, which was constructed in c 1922 by the college bursar as a private house in spacious surroundings; and the Savile House extension which was constructed in 1935 as a large extension to the late Victorian Savile House which faces Mansfield Road.

Warham House is the work of the architect Robert Langton-Cole. Its design was in the arts and crafts tradition, particularly influenced by the work of Richard Norman Shaw with tile-hung walls, leaded lights and stone mullioned windows. This building has been designed to avoid symmetry and regularity, with variety in the roof forms, window types and other structural features. It appears that the building is intended to look as if it has evolved naturally through additions and alterations undertaken in different phases. The exterior of the building remained close to its original form but the interior had been more altered with a major refurbishment in 1994 which saw the replacement of all the doors and comprehensive redecoration. The building had also lost almost all of its original fireplaces.

The 1935 extension to Savile House was designed by a local architect, NW Harrison, who undertook numerous commissions in Oxford, particularly the development of North Oxford in the Edwardian period. It was a carefully designed building with good-quality detailing and an overall Queen Anne aesthetic. This building had always been used for student's accommodation and the interior comprised a regular series of repeated rooms.

Oxford, Oriel College, Staircase 8 Test Pits SP 5162 0611

ROBIN BASHFORD

In March 2018, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of two small test pits within the existing cellar below Staircase 8 at Oriel College, Oxford. The work followed on from earlier test pitting and trenching carried out in 2015 and a borehole transect across Second Quad which was undertaken in 2017.

During the 2015 works, possible Oxford Clay was encountered at the base of the stratigraphic sequence, with the lack of overlying gravel suggesting that it had been truncated by a feature within the projected alignment of the putative ditch of the primary burh. However, terrace gravel was encountered in both test pits at approximately the same elevation as the top of the gravel observed during the borehole transect and the earlier test pits and trenching, which suggests that the feature encountered during the 2015 works is more likely to be discrete rather than linear.

No dating evidence was recovered from the fairly homogeneous silty clay deposits which overlay the gravel, but it is possible that they correspond with the sequence of medieval occupation observed in the previous phases of work. As with the earlier observations, no evidence for the

post-glacial brickearth which overlies the gravel terrace was revealed, which may suggest that these deposits are filling negative features.

In one of the test pits, the silty clay deposit had been truncated by a deposit of limestone rubble in a sandy gravel matrix which may have represented the rubble core of an earlier wall, although the extent of this deposit was not revealed.

Oxford, Pembroke Street, Story Museum SP 5133 0604

ROBIN BASHFORD

In August 2018, Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation at the Story Museum, comprising two trenches and a further watching brief trench. A stone wall foundation was uncovered, that was cut by two pits containing pottery of 13th to 14th century date. A demolition or construction horizon dating to the late 14th to 16th centuries overlay these features. The recovery of significant quantities of glazed roofing and flooring tiles attests to the presence of a high-status building on the site during the 13th to 14th century.

Oxford, St Aldate's, Service Repair Works SP 5134 0616

JOHN CARNE AND STEVE TEAGUE

In October 2018, Oxford Archaeology monitored the excavation of two service repair trenches on St Aldate's, Oxford, for Morrison Utility Services. No archaeological features or deposits were observed, and no artefacts were recovered.

Oxford, St Cross College SP 511 606

ANDREW SIMMONDS, JULIAN MUNBY, KIRSTY SMITH and CARL CHAMPNESS

Oxford Archaeology undertook archaeological investigations at St Cross College, Oxford, in advance of construction of a new building in the north-west corner of the college grounds to complete the northern and western sides of the West Quad. The investigations comprised a trial-trench evaluation in April **2013**, a survey of historic walls in January **2015** and an excavation in February-March **2015**. The area of the excavation was formerly the rear part of three adjacent tenements fronting onto St Giles that were probably in continuous use from the 12th century. Only



Figure 14: Oxford, St Cross College, C17th female inhumation

limited evidence was found for activity earlier than the 17th century, by which time historic maps depict this part of the tenements as cultivated gardens. The most unusual feature was a burial (Fig. 14), dated by two coins and radiocarbon to AD 1640–70, representing a rare instance of extra-cemetery interment during a period when burial within the parish graveyard was virtually universal. Part of a Grade II Listed wall that was believed to be the precinct wall of the medieval Beaumont Palace was also investigated and was found to be a later construction, probably no earlier than the 17th century, albeit perpetuating the line of the medieval boundary.

Oxford, St Hilda's College Front SP 5218 0584

STEVE TEAGUE

During November and December 2018, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation at St Hilda's College, Cowley Place, Oxford in mitigation of the New Front redevelopment. Two late 17th century and 18th century ditches were revealed, that probably marked the eastern boundary of a farmstead that was first depicted on Loggan's map of 1675. The ditches were superseded by a stone wall that probably formed the boundary for the garden of Cowley House which occupied the site from the late 18th century. Several pits of later 18th and 19th century date were also revealed, probably associated with this garden. Additionally, two stone-lined pits and a stone-lined drain of 19th century were recorded, probably associated with buildings that later occupied the southern end of the garden.

Oxford, Trinity College, New Teaching and Residential Building SP 5144 0657

LEE SPARKS

Between July and September 2018, Oxford Archaeology carried out an eight-trench archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new teaching and residential building in the college grounds. The evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological remains, as well as modern truncations probably relating to the construction of the Cumberbatch Building in the 1960s. Evidence of 12th to 14th century land division was followed by 15th century gravel quarrying. Quarrying extended into the post-medieval period, and appears to have come to an end when the area was given over to formalised gardens, with decorative pathways, trees and borders, as shown on 18th century plans. A number of gravel paths and a possible tree planting pit were identified from the late 17th to early 18th century.

South Leigh, Gill Mill New Quarry SP 372 081

PAUL BOOTH

Oxford Archaeology carried out work in two main areas of Gill Mill Quarry. At the north-west end of the quarry, excavation in Area 3, evaluated in 2017, covered some 7.25ha. The principal settlement focus of roughly 4ha (centred on SP 3655 0840), as located by a previous geophysical survey, was continuously occupied from the middle Iron Age up to the early Roman period, the only earlier feature being a small pit probably of later Neolithic date. The 2018 excavations took place between August and October 2018.

The earliest phase of the middle Iron Age settlement appears to have consisted of unenclosed roundhouses defined by penannular drainage gullies, while subsequent middle Iron Age phases were characterised by oval enclosures of varying sizes and forms. The overall axis of the settlement was broadly NW-SE parallel to the line of the River Windrush to the west. A trend towards the laying out of more rectilinear enclosures but referencing the earlier features may have started in the later Iron Age. A third and final phase of boundary features, of broadly mid-late 1st century AD date, formed fairly regularly rectilinear enclosures, but the ditches were mostly quite slight. These features concentrated towards the eastern side of the main settlement focus – and some of the latest features, including a roughly east-west aligned trackway, lay still further south-east. Two small rectangular enclosures, less closely linked to features of the main settlement focus, lay just to the west of it and were probably also of early Roman date. Two probable 'stack ring' gullies were also located in this area, while a small number of four-post structures were scattered across the occupied area. A shallow stone-lined well lay towards the southern margin of the settlement. The relationship of structures to the sequence of ditches has yet to be resolved, but at least 20 penannular gullies, most if not all probably defining roundhouses, were identified. The number in use at any one time is not yet known; most may belong to the earlier phases of occupation.

The agricultural economy is likely to have been focussed on pastoralism, with rearing of both sheep and cattle important. Finds assemblages were mostly unremarkable, but the early Roman pottery included significantly more south Gaulish Samian ware than would normally be expected in a lower status rural settlement in this region, and a single sherd of Lyons 'Italian type' sigillata, probably of Augustan date, is a most unusual find for a site of this type.

The majority of occupation may have ceased by about AD 100, and no Roman features were certainly dated after about AD 120. A few small quarry pits in the north-eastern part 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, lying mainly, but not exclusively, north-east of a substantial NW-SE-aligned ditched boundary of post-medieval date that cut through the northern edge of the main focus of earlier settlement.

In Area 5B, at the south-east end of the quarry, an area of about 3.1ha (centred SP 377 075) immediately adjacent to Area 5A reported last year was subject to strip, map and sample excavation. At the western end of this area a moderate number of ditches and gullies of middle Iron Age date were related to features seen further west in 2015 and seem to represent fairly dispersed settlement. A NE-SW aligned Roman ditch previously seen to the south extended into the northern part of Area 5B, and two or three further widely dispersed lengths of boundary ditches were probably of this period but no other certain Roman features were identified. Associated pottery was dated to the 2nd century. The area was traversed by a substantial post-medieval boundary ditch on a very similar alignment to that of the main Roman ditch but c 85m further to the north-west.

Oxfordshire

Sutton Courtenay, Sutton Courtenay Lane SU 50078 92420

JOHN CARNE

In September 2018 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a watching brief on land east of Sutton Courtenay Lane, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire, along a 250m service trench. This was the first phase of archaeological mitigation works for a new warehouse development being constructed on the site.

While large sections of the trench were heavily truncated, either by modern landscaping or extensive rooting, several concentrations of archaeological features were identified. This activity appeared to be associated with the Iron Age and Roman settlement activity identified in an adjacent evaluation in 2016. At least four main areas of archaeological features were identified in the trench consisting of intercutting ditches, pits, gullies and a posthole.

The pottery assemblage ranged from the middle Iron Age through to the early Roman period. The watching brief assemblage appeared to be predominantly middle Iron Age in date and may indicate that the main focus of late Roman activity was further eastwards towards the previous evaluation area. The work was also able to demonstrate evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in the form of a possible sunken-featured building.

A well-preserved faunal assemblage of horse, cattle and sheep/goat with evidence of butchery and de-fleshing was recovered from these features. Evidence of wartime remains and rubbish deposits was also identified within or close to the service trench.

Overall the watching brief provided further evidence of a multi-phase settlement within the north-west of the development associated with middle Iron Age to Roman enclosures and structures. There is a clear settlement focus of middle Iron Age activity within the service trench, with a possible shift to the east during the late Roman period. The finds assemblage is suggestive of a moderately high-status middle Iron Age settlement that continued in use into the Roman period.

Wallingford, Reading Road, former Police Station SU 60710 89010

TIM ALLEN

Oxford Archaeology evaluated this site in 2013 with an excavation in November 2018 to February 2019 on the footprint of a housing development. A watching brief of the site is currently in progress. All parts of the site contained evidence of occupation between 1000 and 1200 AD (Fig. 15), indicating a dense cluster of activity of the Saxo-Norman period south of the ancient Saxon burh and its earthen defences.

Three buildings have been partly or wholly exposed, together with short lengths of ditch and groups of large and deep intercutting pits containing animal bones, pottery and other finds. The groups of pits are arranged in rough lines, and most are on the same alignment as the ditches, suggesting that the site was organised, and perhaps divided up into plots.

The two larger buildings were rectangular, and were around 5m long; the complete example (Building 1) was 3.5m wide. They were both partly underground, Building 1 being 1m deep, Building 2 being 1.2m deep, and these

were probably cellars. Building 3 was less than 0.5m deep. The corners of Buildings 1 and 2 had postholes to take the vertical posts supporting the roof, and in both there were other stakeholes or postholes indicating that the sides were lined. One building had two more large postholes along the long side, with a row of stakeholes right against the edge, probably from the uprights of woven wattle panels. The other also started with posts along the edges, but later changed to horizontal timbers in slots around the edges. These were presumably sill-beams into which upright posts were fixed, with horizontal planks behind them to keep the sides from collapsing.

The domestic items found in the pits and buildings include cooking pots with traces of burning from cooking, shallow bowls or pans used for dairy products and fragments of glazed jugs or pitchers used for drinking, as well as iron knives and keys. Animal and fish bones are very numerous, indicating a varied diet. The animal bones from several of the pits include many horn cores left over from bone working, and unusually, many of the horns come from goats rather than cattle.

Iron finds include part of a pair of shears that may have been used to clip wool, and we have found two chalk spindle whorls from the making of wool into thread. Some of the potsherds are stained with purple madder, a plant used to dye wool red or purple, and a polished bone pointed at both ends was a 'thread-picker' used to keep the threads apart in weaving. All this suggests that textile manufacture was carried out on or very close to the site.

Wallingford, Winterbrook, Reading Road SU 604 886

CARL CHAMPNESS

Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation in 2016 and an excavation in Summer 2017 at the site of a proposed residential development at Winterbrook, Wallingford. The excavation uncovered seven phases of activity, ranging from the Mesolithic to modern period. Over 300 worked flints were recovered although the majority of the probable Mesolithic flint had been redeposited in later contexts. The earliest in situ datable material came from two pairs of pits that contained Neolithic Peterborough Ware.

Part of a rectilinear field system was uncovered, defined by shallow ditches aligned NW-SE and NE-SW. A NW-SE aligned ditch near the south-western corner of the excavation may define the limit of the field system in this direction, and two ditches that extended toward the north-east at right angles to this feature may represent significant lateral divisions. A group of eight inhumation burials were closely associated with the boundary ditches; five were buried within the south-west boundary ditch, two beside it and one within a NE-SW ditch. No grave goods were recovered from any of the burials, but radiocarbon dating of two skeletons produced dates of 1506–1310 cal BC and 1426–1236 cal BC respectively, placing them within the middle Bronze Age.

This excavation also uncovered evidence for a middle Iron Age settlement which was situated within a square enclosure defined by a V-shaped ditch 1.5m wide and 1m deep. A smaller sub-enclosure with two phases was situated in the north-western corner of the main enclosure. Further ditches that extended off the main enclosure indicated that it was associated with a ditched field system. Six roundhouses were identified within the enclosure, represented by



Figure 15: Wallingford former Police Station, all features plan

Oxfordshire

penannular gullies with internal postholes. Two rectangular enclosures, both with east-facing entrances, were identified in the north-west corner of the middle Iron Age settlement. The enclosures appeared to represent successive phases of possible animal enclosures/pens.

A single pit close to the western edge of the site produced a Roman coin and dumps of Roman pottery. Other isolated Roman features and finds indicate that activity during this period was at a low level.

Three possible sunken-featured buildings were identified in the western part of the excavation area. Pottery definitely identified as Anglo-Saxon was only recovered from one of these features, but the others are likely to be of similar date. Anglo-Saxon pottery is very similar to middle Iron Age material and it is possible that further Anglo-Saxon sherds will be identified when full analysis of the pottery is undertaken.

A rectilinear arrangement of ditches produced a pottery assemblage with a date range of 11th to 13th century. A rectangular pit with a flat base produced a rich assemblage of charcoal and metal objects, including a spearhead and knife dating from the 12th to 13th centuries. Slag from this feature indicates that metalworking was being undertaken in the vicinity. Shallow features with evidence of burning or scorching were also recorded, but very little in the way of charcoal or other finds was recovered.

A complex of rectangular post-medieval enclosure ditches was identified to the east of the site from properties that once fronted onto Reading Road. The plan of these properties can be traced through historical mapping.

Woodstock, Rectory Lane, Woodstock House

SP 44362 16590

MARK DODD and RACHAEL DANIEL

Oxford Archaeology undertook an intermittent archaeological watching brief between April and July 2018. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of the removal of topsoil and subsoil within the footprint of a new swimming pool and pool house and associated works. A ditch and a pit were revealed, both producing pottery dating to the medieval period.

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

During 2018 the OBR investigated 23 buildings in the county. Nine of these are part of an ongoing project in Abingdon and will be the subject of short reports on the town's website (www.abingdon.gov.uk/partners/history). Four were carried out under the auspices of the Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project (see <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/the-appleton-area-archaeological-research-project>) and three were studied in support of the Victoria County History for Oxfordshire, Volume XIX – Wychwood – due to be published during 2019 with some material available at https://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/sites/default/files/work-in-progress/wychwood_overview_web.pdf. A milestone for OBR during 2018 was the deposit in the Oxfordshire History Centre of the first tranche of 51 completed reports.

This report highlights the key features of a major archaeological survey of Chipping Norton Castle and a note

on one of the most significant buildings recorded during the year, Rectory Farm Barn, Letcombe Bassett.

DAVID CLARK, OBR

Chipping Norton Castle SP 312 144

PAUL CLARK

In 2018 Chipping Norton Buildings Record (CNBR) in association with the OBR commissioned a geophysical survey of the town's Castle (today just a bumpy field) to try to understand how it may have affected the layout of the town as well as to encourage more research into the site. The results of the survey are set out below.

Chipping Norton was established as a market town in the late twelfth century by the Fitzalans, then occupiers of the castle. The town's plan, burgrave plots surrounding a triangular market place, is typical of a twelfth-century planned market town. The castle is located just to the north west of the town, unusually lower down the hill. The medieval church, a magnificent 'wool' church, is also below the town, between the market and the castle. The unusual configuration of these two important buildings, lower than the town, was inevitably a decision by the castle owners. The site of the Saxon settlement which predated all three remains unknown.

The town's layout and early history was therefore greatly influenced by the castle. However, despite its acknowledged importance as a Scheduled Monument the site had never been studied in detail. It is only speculation which suggested its structure as Norman motte and bailey and there is no certainty where any of its entrances may have been. There is even speculation that the site may once have been an Iron Age fort.

The CNBR has been researching the early town as part of Historic England's project 'Early Fabric in Historic Towns: Chipping Norton's Historic Vernacular Buildings'. This led to questions about how the castle affected the plan of the town, in particular the routes between the two and the buildings which may have once lined them. So it was decided to see if we could learn more about the castle's plan and perhaps where the entrances may have been. As it was a Scheduled Monument we needed the permission and cooperation of Historic England to do this.

With grants from the OBR, the OAHS, the landowners and the Mick Aston Archaeology Fund we commissioned Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics to conduct two surveys of the site. A HE license was obtained and a magnetometer survey suggested a more detailed earth resistance survey would be worthwhile.

Results were exceptionally good with a large amount of features suggesting walls, pits and ditches survived below the grass (see Fig. 1, above). In the words of our HE contact the result "confirms the huge archaeological potential of this site."

Roger Ainslie, the author of the geophysical reports, provides his interpretation of the features in the combined report on both surveys. This may be viewed at http://obr.org.uk/PDF/CN-Public/2018_05_ChippingNortonCastleGeophys.pdf which has a detailed interpretation of the features on pages 7 – 9.

OASIS ID: abingdon1-323724.

Rectory Farm Barn, Letcombe Bassett SU 37482 84967 DAVID CLARK

Rectory Farm barn was first published in 1968, as one of only four cruck barns in the Oxford region known to the author. Today, the VAG's Cruck Database shows 22 examples of 'true cruck' barns in Oxfordshire, and of these, two have since been tree-ring dated (Calcott's, Shippon, and Titcomb's, Burford). Rectory Farm Barn was last reported in this journal in 1982, but an opportunity arose in 2018 to revisit the barn to carry out dendrochronology and a more detailed analysis of the fabric.

The former Rectory lies on the road that rises up from the churchyard in Letcombe Bassett towards the Ridgeway on the Berkshire Downs to the south. The barn is at right angles to this road, oriented WSW to ENE (hereafter W-E) with its present main cart entrance facing the side of the house. There is a distinct upward slope from the road to the eastern end of the barn, which lies in a shallow depression in a field that rises up to the south and east (Fig.16). It is listed grade II*.

Rectory Farm barn is timber-framed, with eight trusses – four crucks and four box-framed. The walls are weatherboarded and the roof is thatched. The crucks sit on large sarsen stones set within a chalk plinth, with some brick strengthening at the corners and small buttresses on the north side. The dendrochronology showed that the crucks were felled in the winter of 1391/2, and although the box-framed section is later, the primary phase may have had eight bays. Evidence in the frame suggested the infill at this time was wattle-and-daub. The barn stored the Rector's tithes, and if threshing was carried out, this was probably on a limited scale, as it lacked the usual opposing cart doorways.

In the 18th century the barn – probably semi-derelict – was substantially rebuilt with a brick plinth and weatherboarding to the walls, the western truss removed and parts of it re-sited to the east. East of the threshing floor, the cruck frame was demolished, but the wall-plate retained and some crucks were used in a box-framed replacement which incorporated a new east-west threshing floor at the north side. The main north doorway was enlarged and a further opening inserted in the south wall opposite it.

In the early 20th century: dairy cattle were introduced and stalls and mangers were created for them along the south wall. A doorway for a dung cart was inserted in the east wall. Later changes – running through to the 21st century – were responses to improvements in animal welfare. After farming ceased, the barn was used for storage, including firewood and garden machinery. Ponies were stabled in the east end.

The plan is shown at Fig. 16. The cruck trusses delineate the entrance bay and the two to the west. The box-framed section to the east is L-shaped with aisles to either side of the east-west range and a north-south cross wing, which also had a cart entrance to the east (now blocked). There were also other openings, as shown on the plan.

T1 forms the half hip of the roof and the crucks are truncated above the collar, in a form of apex known as Type W.¹ The collar has empty mortices for studs and staves in the soffit though these bear little relationship to the present studs. Some of the infill timbers are relatively modern sawn

softwood. Evidence for reconstruction can be seen also in the differences between the two cruck blades; one has primary mortices for horizontal timbers which do not correspond to any on the other.

T2 (Fig. 16) has a Type F1 apex, scratched III assembly marks and a triangular 'snap' from trestle sawing. The blades were cut from the same tree.

T3 has a Type C apex, assembly mark IV and is fair-faced to the east; truss T4 is fair-faced to the west, though the scratched V assembly marks are on the east side. Its apex is also a type C. This feature, whereby the fair faces of adjacent trusses look inwards is characteristic of a long-established tradition of respecting and honouring the threshing floor of the barn through its carpentry. This was the place where the wealth of the farm was created – where the growing crop was converted into a saleable commodity. The carpentry shows us that the timber from which the barn was made was also a growing crop – here converted into a cultural and symbolic object.

The crucks support a ridge and three tiers of purlins, of which only the central is primary. These are trenched into the backs of the cruck blades near the upper collar, and where visible, the timbers were joined with splayed scarf joints. Between the primary purlin and the crucks there are (or were) cranked wind braces. The wall-plates in this part of the barn seem to sit on top of the spurs, which in turn are supported by posts in 'reverse assembly'.² Over the years the joints have sprung apart but there is one original spur still in situ at the north side of T2.

Trusses T5 and T6 have posts with gunstock jowls supporting tie-beams, with slightly curved arch braces between. The tie-beam of T5 is a reused cruck from an end wall of an earlier building. The main joints are numbered using chisel-stamped Roman numerals. T5 also marks the start of the aisled section of the barn. At the north, the wall-plate of the cruck range is carried through, clasped between the jowled main post and tie-beam as the arcade plate of the east range, where it is arch-braced to the posts. The aisles are compartmentalised by tension-braces from the posts to timber sills resting on low brick plinths.

T7 is the last full frame of the main barn and forms the western wall of the cross wing. Its southern section is similar to T6, but as well as supporting the tie-beam, the mid-post also supports the arcade plate of the cross wing, and is the western post of T8, the central truss of the wing. T8 is a queen-post truss similar to T5, with purlins clasped at the collar and a lower tier butted to the principal rafters. Again, there are reused timbers in this part of the building, including some of the 'dragon ties' that join the wall-plates in the wing.

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY IN OXFORD CITY 2018

This year saw a number of modest excavations related to college developments and a substantial excavation in the medieval suburb of St Thomas at the former Cooper Callas site on Paradise Street opposite the Castle Mill Stream and St George's Tower. The latter site represents the first of a

¹ Alcock, N (1981) Cruck Catalogue p.97

² In normal assembly the horizontal timber (here, the spur) clasps the wall-plate to the top of the post. Reverse assembly is an early technique often found where accurate alignment cannot be ensured (such as in a cruck building). The joint illustrated here is a variant of reversed assembly.

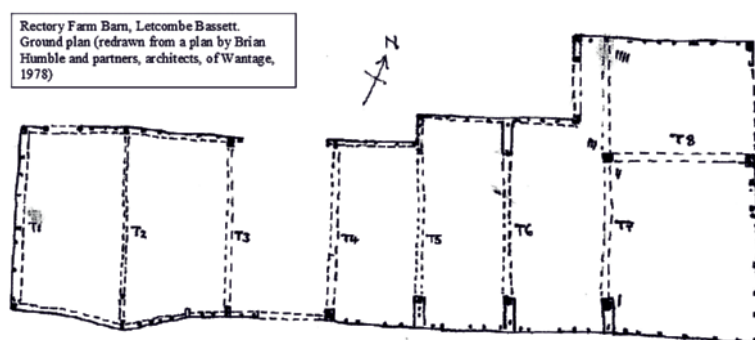


Figure 16: Rectory Farm barn, Letcombe Bassett – Ground Plan and detail of Truss 2



Figure 17: A medieval kiln or oven on the Cooper Callas site (Oxford Archaeology)

number of hotel developments that are forthcoming and reflect a market adjustment to address the shortage of hotel capacity in the city. Another notable development was the identification of an area of previously unrecorded Iron Age settlement activity east of the river Cherwell.

A selective summary of 2018 fieldwork projects

In January a phased strip and record excavation and watching brief was undertaken at Balliol College Masters Field by Oxford Archaeology recording medieval and post-medieval waste and quarry pits and a large ditch that formed part of the Royalist Civil War defences.

Between March and May an archaeological excavation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at the former Cooper Callas site that recorded the remains of part of the 19th century Swan Brewery including walls, yards and a curving brick wall that defined the edge of a cart way. Below the brewery remains were a sequence of medieval structures (Fig. 17) and a cobbled yard or street surface that had been established on top of 12th -13th century reclamation deposits. Notable finds included part a redeposited Norman stone window arch. An archaeological borehole survey was undertaken in order to establish whether there was any evidence for reclamation and potentially channel redirection of the Castle Mill Stream in the late Saxon period. The scientific dates from this work are still forthcoming however the initial borehole results suggest that a Holocene channel in this location was subject to dumping and land reclamation in the post-Conquest period.

A watching brief was undertaken between April and May by Oxford Archaeology during the concluding ground works for the Catherine Hughes Building at Somerville College recording post-medieval and early-modern pits relating to settlement along Walton Street and Little Clarendon Street.

Between July and September a staged evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology to investigate the proposed footprint of a new building within the 'Wilderness' part of Trinity College garden. The trenching recorded residual medieval pottery and a boundary ditch indicating limited activity from the late 12th century. The site was been extensively quarried from the late medieval period through the early post-medieval period and subsequently landscaped in the early 18th century when the college gardens were first formalized. Traces of these earliest formal pathways were revealed.

Following the identification of likely parch marks from google earth images reported in a desk based assessment by RPS Consultants evaluation trenching was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August at the Harlow Centre site in New Marston. The trenching identified evidence for previously unrecorded Iron Age and Roman rural settlement. A series of ditches, ditch terminals and pits containing Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and 2nd–4th century Roman pottery and bone indicate the presence of long term rural settlement activity of perhaps intermittent character in this area.

Another project undertaken in August was a rare opportunity to investigate medieval activity along Pembroke Street. Here a series of trial pits were excavated by Oxford Archaeology in the yard of the Oxford Story Museum in advance of the construction of new service trenches and a lift pit. The evaluation identified a sequence of deposits dating from the early 13th-mid-16th century sealed by 18th –19th material. The earliest remains comprised a section of wall that may be from a semi-basement or stone lined pit and was overlain by 13th 14th century pits and dumps of material that included cess-like waste.

In October targeted excavation and a watching brief was undertaken at Wadham College prior to the construction of a

Oxfordshire

new graduate centre. Isolated walls, pits and a burial likely associated with the medieval Austin Friary were recorded. Finally the end of the year saw an archaeological strip and record excavation by Oxford Archaeology at St Hilda's College in December. This was undertaken prior to the completion of a new 'Front of College' redevelopment and revealed a limited sequence of features including a boundary wall, ditch and a stone lined rubbish pit associated with the nearby post-medieval house and a 19th century stone lined cess pit.

Outreach

Outreach work over the year included the publication of a short book *'The Archaeology of Oxford in twenty digs'* summarising both the results of key historic excavations in the city and also more recent archaeological investigations that has yet to be published. Tentative steps were also made into the world of social media with a ten minute video diary of the Cooper Callas excavation made available on the council's Facebook and you tube pages.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

High Wood, Harpsden SU 75017951

ALAN HALL

South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group continue their annual campaigns to reveal a range of buildings of C4 date with an enclosure encompassing an area of 200 square metres (Fig. 18). The northern range of buildings and part of a western wall have been found and future work will be designed to reveal the southern and eastern ranges – which are suggested by scatters of building material – and to characterise the settlement. Signs of earlier occupation are evident in waste pits, a possible ore-roasting furnace and a dump of bloomery slag.

Stadhampton, Ascott Park SU 611 981

IAN CLARKE and ROELIE REED

Introduction

A detailed introduction to the Ascott Park Project and summary of earlier work on the site appeared in *SMA No 44 (2014) pp 80–81* (Clarke 2014a).

Ascott Park was once a country seat of the Dormer family who resided there for many generations. William Dormer (d.1683) commissioned a new manor house and extensive remodelling of the grounds c.1660 but the house burnt down in 1662 when close to completion and was never occupied. Despite much recent research and fieldwork by and for the Oxfordshire Buildings Trust, culminating in an excavation in 2009 on the 'traditional' site of the 1662 house, its location remains disputed and unconfirmed.

The 'traditional' site is marked by earthworks comprising a large rectangular hollow (a former cellar or basement) which fronts a linear earth bank (a former raised terrace) overlooking what were once formal garden terraces to the south. Two earlier excavations on this site: the first by Oxfordshire Museum in 1969, directed by Susanna Everett (now Dr Susanna Wade-Martins) and one more recently by Oxfordshire Buildings Trust in 2009, directed by Brian Dix, both gave inconclusive results. A large-area geophysical survey by the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group

(SOAG) in 2013 concluded that the traditional site is still by far the most likely location (Clarke 2014a; Clarke & Latham 2015). An alternative interpretation of the archaeology revealed by Everett and Dix was proposed that supports this conclusion (Clarke 2014b).

The alternative interpretation is based upon two premises: (i) that the basement of the house was masonry vaulted and thus escaped destruction in the fire and (ii) that the terrace was not finally filled until sometime after the fire and so contains evidence of that event and the subsequent clear up. If these are proved to be correct, the difficulties Everett and Dix had in reaching a positive conclusion can be largely overcome.

In 2018 the Project Design for a new excavation by SOAG was approved by Oxfordshire County Council, the principal aim of which is to test the working hypothesis: that William Dormer's new house was built on the traditional site and that the archaeology of the hollow and bank is what remains of that house (Clarke & Reed 2018).

The excavation is taking place over three years, 2018–20. Progress will be measured with reference to the Project Design, Section 5: Aims of the Excavation (ibid pp4–6). The detailed work required is separated into four areas under paras 5.3 – 5.6 as follows:

- 5.3 Establishing the ground plan, etc.
- 5.4 Determining the construction of the basement
- 5.5 Re-examining the terrace fill.
- 5.6 Additional areas of research (not having a direct bearing on the principal aim)

Work in 2018 was concentrated on 5.3 and 5.4 and this will also be the case in 2019. Work on 5.5 and 5.6 are scheduled for 2020. This interim report summarises the findings from 2018 and outlines the future work.

Progress summary 2018

The work in 2018 was primarily focussed on recovering the ground plan of the terrace and house (including a possible 'annexe' on its east side) and examining their structural relationships. We also hoped to begin to understand the constructional style of the basement. Progress in the first few days was slow as we had difficulty in locating Susanna Everett's 1969 trench and were unable to find a key locational feature on the line of Brian Dix's 2009 Trench 7. These setbacks were eventually overcome and meanwhile the surviving masonry of well-constructed terrace retaining walls and the south wall of the house began to emerge from our new trenches.

The following is a summary of the key findings so far.

- The terrace retaining walls (Fig 19) are of brick on a limestone foundation (as previously found by Dix). The foundations appear to have survived largely undisturbed and significant brickwork remains along the northeast section and towards the southwest end. The terrace overall width is 10.1m (33ft or 2 poles) and the length appears to be c.59.4m (c.195ft or just under 12 poles) giving a length/width ratio of very nearly 6:1. The retaining walls are confirmed as generally 1½ bricks thick (c.14in or 0.35m) in English bond on a c.18in (0.45m) wide limestone foundation.

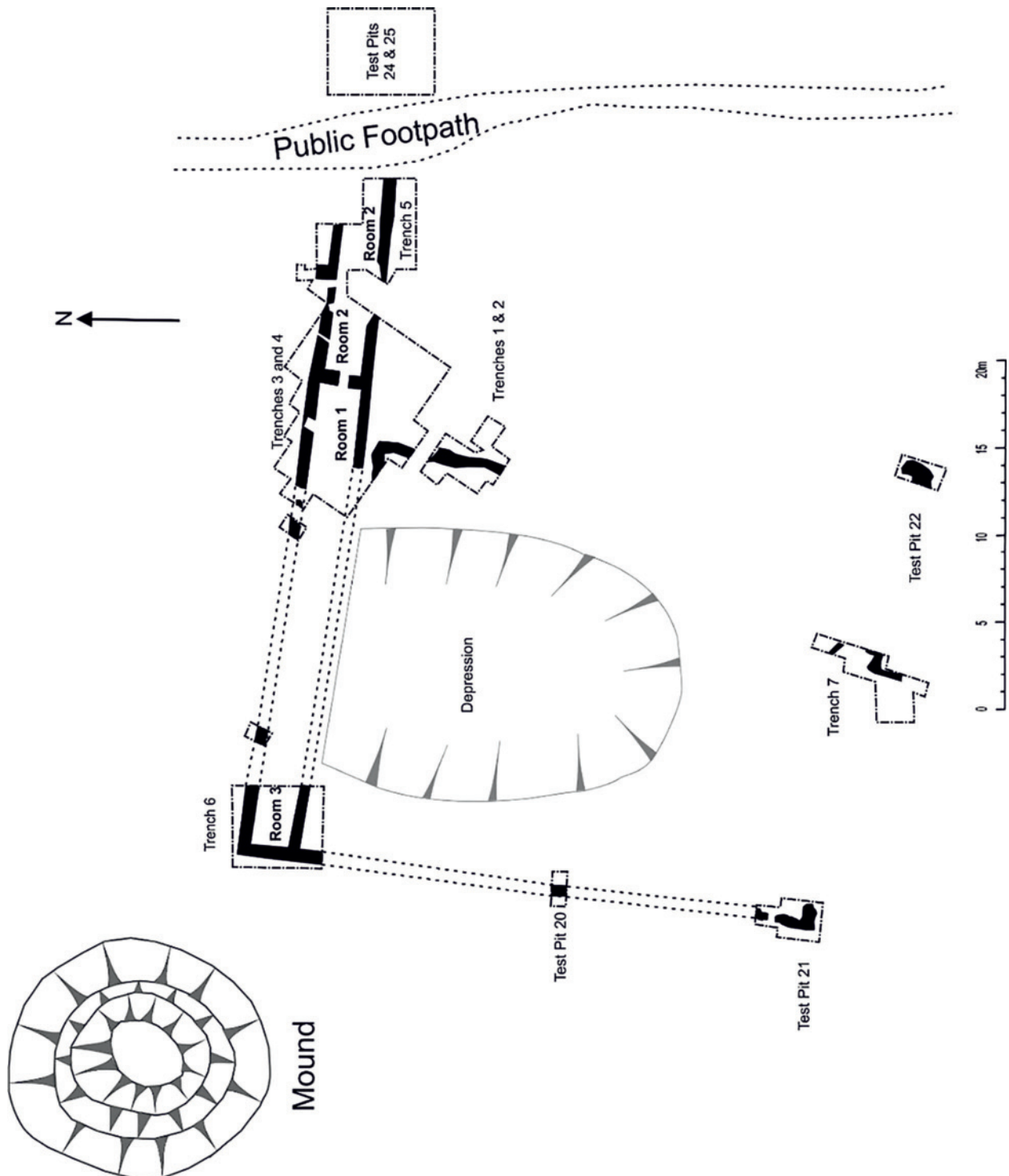


Figure 18: Harpsden, plan of High Wood excavation



Figure 19: The southwest terrace retaining wall on its stone foundation close to the SW corner

- The house wall (Fig. 20) on the south side of the basement hollow (as previously found by Everett) is of rough-hewn, randomly-coursed limestone with a rubble core, well dressed on the inside but undressed on the outside facing the side of the hollow. It is 0.85m (2ft 9in) thick and survives towards its eastern end to an estimated height of 1.9 – 2.0m.



Figure 20: The south house wall. The deep excavation is on the line of Everett's 1969 trench

- The unbroken inner face of the south house wall (Fig. 21), the upper courses of which we exposed for just over half its length, shows no evidence of internal dividing walls. This provides *prima facie* evidence that the basement was vaulted with the springing being above the surviving masonry, although we cannot yet say what form the vaulting took.
- Based on the evidence available so far, the house is a compact rectangle in plan, being a minimum of 18.3m (60ft) wide (possibly up to 18.9m (62ft)) and an estimated 15.0m (49ft) deep. Both figures have yet to be confirmed and may increase. The west, north and east walls are almost certainly robbed out but we have not yet revealed their foundations.



Figure 21: The unbroken inside face of the south house wall, looking east from the estimated mid-point

- The outside face of the south house wall is in line with the north terrace walls, not set back. The south house wall and northeast terrace wall (western end) foundations appear to be of integral construction. The northwest terrace wall (eastern end) foundation also shows evidence of probable integration with the south house wall, although the latter has here been robbed out.
- The NE terrace retaining wall (Fig. 22) extends right up to the end of the south house wall and is supported at this point on a deep foundation, the inner (north) face of



Figure 22: The western end of the NE terrace retaining wall where it meets the south house wall

which has been robbed out exposing a rough core. This foundation being also the retaining wall of the 'annexe' basement, the robbed-out face may possibly be from the demolition of a vault but more work is needed to be certain. If there was an annexed building it must have been built behind the northeast terrace wall, i.e. set back from the line of the house. Equally, the 'annexe' may be an underground extension at cellar level only or even simply a sunken yard.

- A post-excavation effort finally located the elusive Dix feature, a '1.35m deep steep cut', on the line of his Trench 7, the latter being close to the western end of the house. This appears to be an original construction cut for the basement hollow. Unexpectedly, it proved to be aligned with the inner (north) face of the south wall, so any continuation of the south wall here on the same line must have been built at a higher level, which may explain why the western end of the wall has been robbed out.

Proposals for 2019

Our effort in 2019 will focus on completing the work of recovering the ground plan of the house, 'annexe' and terrace and in answering the various questions posed by the 2018 results. To achieve this, five of the 2018 trenches will be reopened and extended, and up to eight new trenches are proposed. The latter will be prioritised so that only those necessary and sufficient to achieve the aims are opened. As in 2018, some trenches will be little more than test pits to locate surviving masonry and obtain coordinates.

We will also progress the search for evidence of basement vaulting, although final confirmation of the style of such vaulting (by a large open-area excavation of the basement floor) has been postponed to 2020. Re-examining the terrace fill by sectioning the earth bank is also scheduled for 2020.

Although the results of 2018 are encouraging, progress was slower than intended and consequently we missed some of our targets. This was in part due to the aforementioned difficulties with the Everett and Dix trenches but also due to the sheer scale of heavy digging required to remove significant depths of backfill and overburden. Although heavy digging is an expected part of excavation, the exceptionally hot and dry conditions of 2018 inevitably limited the time diggers could go on using heavy tools. For 2019 (as anticipated in the Project Design, para 6.3) a mechanical excavator will be employed to ensure that skilled digging resources are used more efficiently and that we are more likely to meet our targets.

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THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Barford St Michael, Blackingrove Farm, Summerley

OS NGR not supplied

LUIS ESTEVES

Nothing of archaeological interest was observed on the site of a new barn. In places the works did not penetrate below an area of modern made ground relating to a former garage.

Benson, land at Littleworth Road SU 6120 9200

ANDY TAYLOR

Excavation of close to 5ha of land in advance of mixed-use development extended from summer 2018 into 2019. Post-excavation analysis is ongoing. The fieldwork examined an extensive spread of archaeological deposits representing several periods. The majority of features were of Late Iron Age to very early Roman date (1st century BC to 1st century AD) comprising linear features forming parts of field systems, considerably extending those of similar date recorded recently to the south.

Bicester, St Edburg's Church, Church Street

SP 5831 2227

ANDREW MUNDIN

A watching brief was undertaken on various drainage works around the perimeter of the church. Human remains, with two disturbed, but distinct fragments from skulls from two different burials were located in graveyard soils. Sparse finds indicated that all of the remains identified were of Post-Medieval date (not earlier than 17th century or more likely 18th century).

Bicester, Land to the north of Coopers, Buckingham Road SP 5912 2418

ANDY TAYLOR

A recording action prior to construction of a care home revealed a series of shallow gullies that appear to represent parts of an early Roman field system, perhaps including a trackway. The fieldwork adds some detail to the layout of the Roman site in this location which is so far only recorded by evaluation.

Botley, West Way Shopping Centre SP 4860 0605

Andrew Mundin

A watching brief was undertaken during refurbishment of the shopping centre, on areas where a farm, thought at least to be of Post-Medieval date had existed before the 1960s development. No archaeological deposits or finds were encountered.

Oxfordshire

Chilton, A34 Interchange, Service Area SU 4874 8622

DAVID SÁNCHEZ

Nine evaluation trenches uncovered thick deposits of modern made ground and redeposited chalk overlying the chalk natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed; potential features investigated were all either modern or natural.

Didcot, land adjacent to the A4130 SU 5190 9097

ANDY TAYLOR

Excavation of two small areas in advance of a residential development uncovered a limited number of features, but of some interest. A Bronze Age pit contained fragments of a mould for a flange-hilted sword and charcoal that was radiocarbon dated to the 13th or 14th century cal BC, somewhat earlier than expected for this type of sword. A few sherds of later Neolithic Peterborough ware or Grooved ware were also recovered. Other features included ditches defining a corner of a medieval field, which also produced redeposited Roman pottery.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 64 Watling Lane SU 5773 9393

ANDREW MUNDIN

Two small evaluation trenches were excavated to target on the site of a proposed replacement house. These located deep deposits of made ground, overlying a large pit, possibly a quarry, containing Roman pottery.

Eynsham, Land west of Thornbury Road SP 4251 0943

ANDY TAYLOR

Evaluation covering c.7.5 hectares in advance of a housing development revealed no deposits or finds of archaeological interest.

Henley-on-Thames, Harpsden Wood house, Harpsden Wood SU 7572 8050

LUIS ESTEVES

No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were revealed in a watching brief on construction of a new garage.

Henley-on-Thames, Hunt's Green Barn, Harpsden Bottom SU 7436 8059

WILL ATTARD

A watching brief monitored ground reduction for a new building. Half of the plot had been previously disturbed and truncated in post-medieval times. A single undated ditch was the only feature observed.

Newington, New Stables, Newington House, Thame Road SU 6083 9637

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

A watching brief was maintained as the location for new stables was stripped of overburden. No archaeological deposits were encountered and only modern finds retrieved.

Northmoor, Bints Yard, Chapel Lane SP 4202 0294

ANDREW MUNDIN

Evaluation trenching in advance of a small residential development revealed a ditch and two probable quarry

pits, of medieval date, with two other linear features, very tentatively thought likely to be medieval. Other parts of the site had been deeply truncated.

Play Hatch, Land at Foxhill Close SU 7412 7614

ANDY TAYLOR

Only post-medieval features were noted in evaluation trenches on a site for four new houses.

Pusey, Bushey Barns, near Buckland SU 3658 9584

JOSHUA HARGREAVES and ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG

No archaeological finds no deposits of archaeological interest were revealed in watching brief observations of footing excavations for two new houses.

Shipton-under-Wychwood, land at Milton Road

SP 2730 1790

ANDREW MUNDIN and PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Evaluation trenching on the site of a housing development revealed a concentration of archaeological features in the centre of the site. These suggested occupation in the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. A few Mesolithic flints were also retrieved. Follow-up excavation ran on into 2019 and is still being analysed (expect results in next year's round-up) but certainly revealed a densely used site with pits, at least one post-built roundhouse, ring gullies, and enclosure ditches.

Shrivenham, land at Highworth Road SU 2334 8926

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

An excavation on the site of a housing development revealed a surprising density of archaeological deposits. Post-excavation analysis is still in progress but the majority of the deposits recorded appear to be of Middle or Late Iron Age date, the most distinctive of which are c. 15 circular gullies which are variously house sites or pens for holding animals, frequently recut on the same lines and forming several phases. The ring gullies are associated with numerous rubbish/storage pits and postholes. Perhaps four post-built round houses are also present which are more likely to be of Early Iron Age date. Roman activity on the site is relatively modest with a number of stone-lined wells and a few substantial boundary ditches which were also redefined several times. It is anticipated that the core of any Roman settlement lies away from the excavations here.

Sonning Common, land at Blounts Court

SU 71367 80723

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Several magnetic anomalies were identified by geophysical survey on the site of a propose research facility. These include an area which may represent a buried structure, possibly a kiln as suggested by archaeological fieldwalking, and a series of discrete anomalies which may indicate rows of pit-like features.

Standlake, Land at The Downs SP 3918 0411

ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG and PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Evaluation in advance of determination of an application for consent for a residential development revealed a large

number of features. Many of these were medieval or post-medieval furrows, but more significant deposits represent occupation of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Roman and Early Saxon dates. A few prehistoric struck flints and medieval pottery were also recovered.

Tackley, Street Farm, 22 Nethercote Road SP 4809 2068
DAVID SÁNCHEZ

An archaeological recording action covering some 1.3ha revealed a Roman villa, the existence of which had first been signalled by the Tackley Local History group in 2011 and confirmed in an evaluation by Oxford Archaeology in 2012. Post-excavation analysis is ongoing but the chief results concern two building ranges, with at least four phases, one including a mosaic floor.

Thame, The Elms SP 7084 0557
PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

An archaeological excavation in two areas in advance of a care housing development targeted features identified in earlier evaluation, which had located linear features of Medieval date. Continuations of the ditches and further Medieval features were uncovered. In total, six ditches were identified, with a series of pits cut close to their course. Pottery recovered indicates a date of 13th-16th century, with limited evidence to suggest the one of the ditches was as early as 12th century. The coins and metal finds give a wider range date of site use as parkland, though most were recovered from the topsoil.

Thame, land to the rear of 4 East Street SP 7098 0570
ELSPETH ST. JOHN-BROOKS and ANDREW MUNDIN

Observations were made on excavations for footings for a new house. Deep made ground deposits of 19th-20th century date were observed but the natural geology was not exposed. A single pit was probably the same date as the made ground.

Publication of potential interest to SMA readers:
(available from TVAS, email tvass@tvass.co.uk)

Andy Taylor, *Earlier Neolithic pits and Late Iron Age settlement at Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire*, TVAS Occasional Paper 29

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, DEPT. FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project (AAARP)

JANE HARRISON and TREVOR ROWLEY, with KATIE HAMBROOK, LEIGH and GILL MELLOR, WILLIAM WINTLE and the APPLETON with EATON HISTORY SOCIETY

Introduction

This Project is investigating an area around the village of Appleton which includes the settlements of Eaton and Besselsleigh, the deserted medieval village of Tubney and the deserted manor of Besselsleigh adjacent to the surviving church of St Lawrence. Appleton village lies south-west of Oxford on the Corallian ridge which runs south-west from the heights of Boars, Cumnor and Wytham Hills.

AAARP is a multi-disciplinary research project rooted in community training and collaboration and has links to the teaching and research of Oxford University Department for Continuing Education (OUCDE) and to the Oxfordshire Buildings Record. Volunteers trained under OUCDE's East Oxford Archaeology Project are involved in fieldwork, and in teaching and engaging new, local volunteers. The fieldwork includes test pitting and excavation, geophysical and topographical survey, field walking, and analysing and recording buildings. This is supported by place-name, documentary, map and historical research focusing on landscape and settlement change from the later prehistoric period to around AD 1450.

There has been little previous archaeological investigation in the AAARP area. It is not an area of gravel terraces and has therefore neither produced cropmarks nor been targeted for commercial gravel extraction. The only major excavations have been south and east of Tubney Manor Farm in advance of commercial sand extraction (Bradley and Hey 1993; Simmonds *et al* 2011). Most of the remaining archaeological records are antiquarian, stray finds and metal-detector discoveries.

The section of the Corallian Ridge on which Appleton, Eaton and Cumnor are situated lies within a large loop of the Thames – indeed this loop is its most northerly reach. As a result, the ridge and its associated passes command the approaches from south and west to crossings of the Thames into Oxford and further east. The Thames has always been a border, so this north-flung loop may often have been strategically significant. The Thames has been a boundary between Iron Age tribes, Romano-British territorial units, the early medieval kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex, briefly between the Danelaw and the south and west of the country, and finally in the English Civil War, thus providing a long-standing focus for interaction, conflict and negotiation.

The first AAARP fieldwork was undertaken at Appleton Manor – a moated site with a surviving 12th century hall-house – and included four test pits located close to the manor house within the moated area: these excavations and the known history of the Manor are described in Bond *et al* 2017.

Test Pits

Forty-six test pits have been dug, all within Appleton village apart from one in Eaton and two at Tubney Manor Farm. The pottery from the Appleton test pits seems to demonstrate that the village retained a relatively dispersed and poly-focal character until it coalesced into more-or-less its current shape during the 16th -18th centuries. Earlier immediately pre- and post-Conquest expansion had taken place north-west of the Eaton-Nethererton roads from small foci south of the war memorial, around the present Plough pub and on the west side of the post-Conquest northern green (north of the current village shop). The Manor and the church (which has at least 12th century origins) seem not to have been the centre around which the village nucleated. Village growth south-east of the Nethererton-Eaton roads was clearly constrained by the building of the 12th century Manor and laying out of the associated park, demesne land and fish ponds.

The two test pits at Tubney Manor Farm discovered evidence for the location and date of the deserted medieval village associated with a second moated manor site, while

Oxfordshire

the excavation in Eaton revealed earlier origins to a 17th century house in the village.

Geophysical and topographical survey

Several geophysical surveys have been undertaken with the most productive being around Tubney Manor Farm, which discovered elements of the deserted medieval village and associated enclosure or field ditches, and in the south of Appleton village where a probable Iron Age to Romano-British settlement site was revealed. This latter site has been field walked, metal-detected and investigated in one season of excavation in 2018. A second season will take place in 2019.

Topographical and geophysical survey west of the church of St Lawrence has begun to explore the surviving earthworks and below-ground signature of the early manor house of Besselsleigh.

Summary of excavation in the south of Appleton village

Excavation of two trenches in 2018 explored the wide enclosure ditch of a middle-late Iron Age farm, associated ditches and pits, and the gully and postholes of one of the roundhouses within the enclosure ditch.

Acknowledgements

The Trustees of AAARP are very grateful to the Council for British Archaeology for a generous grant from the Mick Aston Archaeology Fund. The Trustees are also very grateful for the essential work, enthusiasm and support of all the volunteers, local people, landowners and householders who are involved with the Project.

For details of any AAARP work and full interim reports ahead of further publication please contact: Jane Harrison janeharrison@clara.co.uk

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Long Wittenham, Sylva Foundation SU 5509 9371

JANE HARRISON with WILLIAM WINTLE and LEIGH MELLOR

Excavations in **2017** in the south-west corner of a field belonging to the Sylva Foundation in Long Wittenham revealed a probable middle-late Iron Age roundhouse, with some slight evidence for Romano-British and possibly Anglo-Saxon activity, all truncated by medieval and later ploughing.

The 2017 excavations were the completion of a programme of archaeological works begun in 2014 under the auspices of the *Origins of Wessex Project* (Hamerow et al. 2013). In 2016, a small, high-status early Anglo-Saxon hall building had been excavated some 80m to the north in the same field (McBride, Hamerow and Harrison forthcoming). The 2017 excavation investigated a site in the south-west of the field, identified some time ago through cropmarks and pinpointed recently using geophysical survey (SMR 8519; see below). The cropmark suggested a sub-square enclosure

ditch (c. 60m by 60m) around a circular ditch some 14m in diameter, with an entrance to the east. It had been interpreted as an Iron Age roundhouse with enclosure (Allen et al. 2010, 219). The site lies some 500m south-east of the Thames, at approximately 51mOD, on the second gravel terrace just east of the village of Long Wittenham.

Archaeological background

The site is part of a rich prehistoric and later archaeological landscape, dominated by the twin hills of Wittenham Clumps two kilometres to the south-east, and the town of Dorchester-on-Thames just over the River Thames from the Clumps (Allen et al. 2010, 8–14). An Iron Age hillfort is located on Castle Hill, the eastern of the Clumps, and Dorchester-on-Thames' history as a town begins with an Iron Age oppidum and runs continuously through the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods to the present day. Investigations around the hillfort have revealed Iron Age settlement, in particular at Hill Farm (Visitors' Car Park site), which provides an excellent comparison to the Sylva site (Allen et al. 2010, Ch. 5). During the Iron Age, the surrounding agricultural landscape was well-exploited, especially on the gravel terraces, where the lower terraces were dominated by pasture with arable located mainly on the upper terraces, along with grassland and managed woodland (Booth et al. 2007). People in the middle Iron Age Upper Thames Valley seem often to have lived in small dispersed farms, probably supporting single extended family units. The size and shape of associated enclosures, both around the domestic roundhouse and for fields and animals, varied hugely and the arrangement seen in cropmarks at the Sylva site is not unusual. Iron Age settlements with potentially contemporary phases within two kilometres of the Sylva site include Northfield Farm. Ahead of the planting of Neptune Wood in the field immediately to the south-east, Oxford Archaeology carried out limited excavation of archaeological features (Allen et al. 2010, Ch. 8). This included the furthest south-east corner of the likely Iron Age enclosure ditch around the Sylva site (Allen et al. 2010, 220). Small-scale excavation of that corner had dated the ditch, provisionally, to the early or middle Iron Age.

Summary

Only the gully of the roundhouse and other cut features survived, but the near-circular gully had been re-dug on at least two occasions, suggesting phases of use of the building. Each surviving and excavated gully terminal was packed with burnt animal bone and stone, along with pottery including near-complete vessels of middle-late Iron Age date. The entrance into the house's interior, through the break in the gully-ring, faced east. Two large postholes/pits within the entrance were probably large door-posts for the roundhouse. One of the postholes had been back-filled with organic material containing corroded fragments of copper alloy, either artefact fragments or scraps. Two smaller postholes found in what would have been the central area of the building were probably part of a central ring of posts. Both had been packed full of small mammal bones after the posts had been withdrawn. The western half of the gully had been much disturbed by later activity, which was probably Romano-British but not associated with any discernible contemporary structures within the excavation area. Metal-detector finds suggested some Anglo-Saxon activity in the

immediate vicinity, although no artefacts or features of the period were found during excavation.

Excavation results

The trenches were located using the 2015 geophysical survey by Adam McBride and William Wintle (Fig. 23) to explore the eastern arc of the circular gully/ditch, including the entrance (Trench 1: 10m north-south by 6m west-east), and the possibly more disturbed western curve of the ditch (Trench 2: 7.5m north-south by 4.5m west-east), with an extension from the south-east corner of Trench 2 joining with the western baulk of Trench 1 (Trench 2 Extension: 2m north-south by 9m west-east). The topsoil was stripped by machine (c. 0.35m deep), with a sample of the topsoil sieved and hand-searched. Thereafter all features were hand-dug, with all metalwork, suspected near complete pots, and collections of artefacts and ecofacts recorded in three dimensions.

Once the topsoil had been removed, the gullies and several other cut features were clearly apparent in Trench 1. All the gullies and postholes had been cut through the subsoil and into the sandy gravel/silty sand natural below. In Trench 1 the northern F[1008] and southern F[1009] arcs of the main gully, either side of the 3.4m wide entrance, and the more ephemeral recuts in the north and in the south, were

all visible below topsoil, as were large postholes/pits [1003] and [1020] inside the entrance, and smaller postholes in the south-west of Trench 1, F[1030] and F[1031]. Concentrated deposits of pottery (all middle-late Iron Age), and often burnt animal bones and stones were eroding into the topsoil from the terminals of the gullies and these were recorded together, where possible, with the related finds still securely held within the terminal fills. The rich, organic fill of large posthole [1003] produced nine badly corroded copper alloy fragments. All the slots were dug as box-sections to reveal the gully profiles as the erosion of the sandy/gravelly sides into the gullies made discerning cuts in plan extremely difficult.

No clear cut features were immediately obvious in Trench 2; it was apparent that this arc of the gully and its interior and immediate exterior had been much more disturbed by both later activity and animal burrowing. Considerable quantities of hand-made nails were discovered in the north-western area of Trench 2 in the topsoil and subsoil, and plough-strikes were clearly visible running north-north-west to south-south-east across the trench, with a possible second set running north-east to south-west towards the southern edge of the trench. Ephemeral traces of the possible western arcs of the gullies, and an intersecting later ditch, were faintly visible in the south-east [2011] and F[2013]. A few

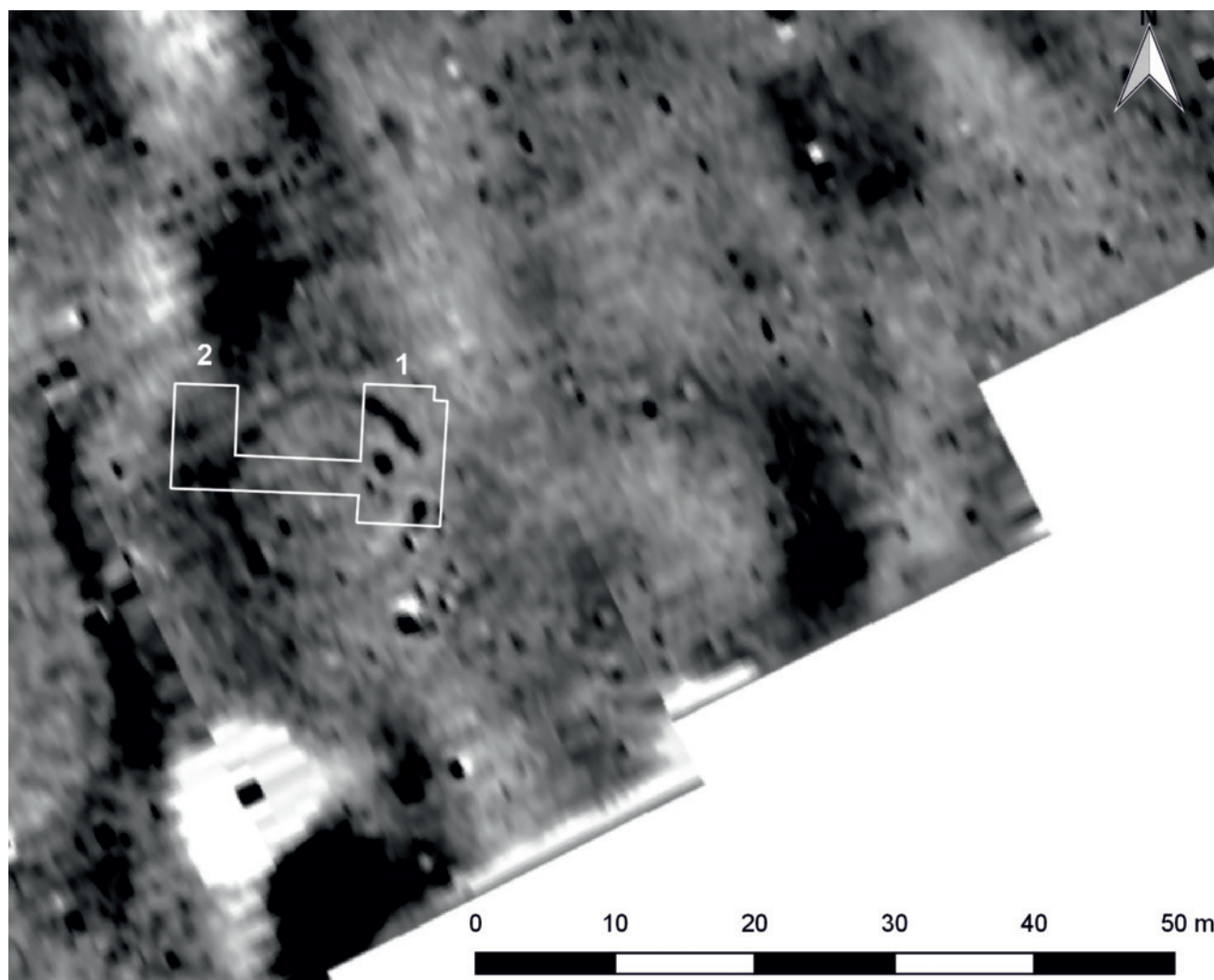


Figure 23: Long Wittenham, geophysical survey with 2017 trenches marked.

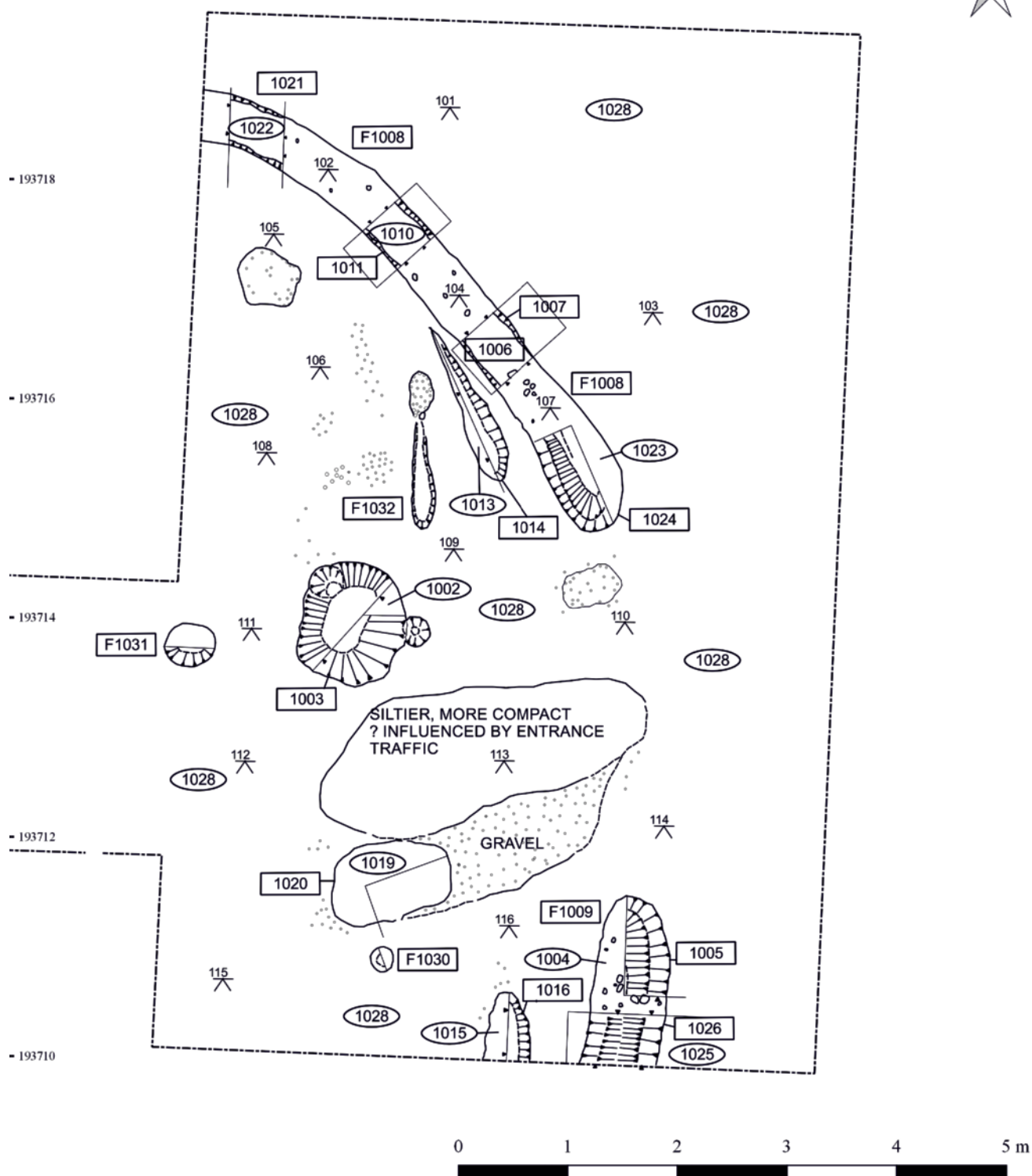


Figure 24: Long Wittenham, Trench 1 post-excavation plan

sherds of the pottery in the topsoil were Romano-British and medieval.

Almost all of the Trench 2 Extension was revealed as undisturbed sandy silt subsoil under topsoil, but two small postholes/pits were immediately apparent, in the eastern end of the extension [2005] and [2007]. These features were half-sectioned and then the two postholes fully excavated.

Trench 1: details (Figs. 24–26)

The widest and deepest gully/ditch F[1008] and F[1009], survived well despite truncation and erosion of the gully-sides. About 5.5m of its northern arc F[1008] were revealed, curving north-west to south-east. Across the entrance gap, 1.6m of the southern side of the gully F[1009] were also visible running near north-south. The gullies were wider at their terminals (c. 0.6m) narrowing to c. 0.3–0.45m; the

depth ranged between c. 0.3–0.4m, with the terminals being slightly deeper, suggesting the ditch may originally have been up to around 0.7m deep. The northern gully terminal [1024] was packed with burnt often fractured cobbles and pebbles, mixed with burnt animal bone fragments and pottery sherds. All the pottery was middle-late Iron Age in date: some of the sherds were large and relatively un-abraded, and were from near-complete vessels. The southern terminal [1005] had suffered more erosion with a good deal of natural gravel and sand collapsed into the gully from the sides. The earliest fills were also packed with heat-fractured cobbles and pebbles, burnt animal bone and large sherds of similar pottery.

One slot was dug across the southern gully close to the terminal. The gully was here still over 0.5m wide with a gently concave base. The fill contained only a couple of small abraded sherds of Iron Age pottery and occasional burnt animal bone fragments. Three slots were dug across the northern gully at roughly one metre intervals. All contained just a few fragments of animal bone and some smaller fragments of pottery in their fills. Very occasionally, larger and complete animal bones were discovered. The fills in the body of the gully were thus markedly different from those of the terminals.

There was virtually no surviving horizontal stratigraphy and so it was difficult to know whether the more ephemeral gullies were later or earlier than each other and the “main” gully. Gully [1014], with a terminal 0.2m west of the northern arc of the main gully, survived only in a one metre stretch. It described a slightly different curve and may have been cut by and earlier than F[1008]. This surviving terminal was matched by a southern terminal, and 0.7m of gully [1016], disappeared north-south into the southern baulk about 0.4m west of the southern main gully F[1009]. Finally, there was a third, most westerly and most ephemeral northern gully F[1032], with no surviving southern counterpart: this feature may perhaps have been other than a ring-gully, although fragmentary pottery was found in its terminal. Around a metre of this gully survived running near north-south, 0.2m wide but barely 0.03m deep.

With its centre 2.4m south-west of the main northern gully terminal, large posthole/pit [1003] seemed most likely to have once held a substantial door-post. In which case large posthole/pit [1020], lying the same distance due west from the southern gully terminal, represented the opposing door-post. The entrance into the roundhouse between these posts would have been c. 0.8m wide. Both postholes had been disturbed, and although it was impossible to be certain in the sandy deposits, this may have been initially by re-cutting and finally by the withdrawal of the posts and backfilling of the pits, as well as later erosion.

Door posthole [1003] was 0.85m wide north-south by 0.95m north-south. It was only 0.3m deep but packed with charcoal-rich silt, with some burnt pebbles, animal bone and occasional smaller sherds of Iron Age pottery. The fill also contained nine badly corroded copper alloy fragments: there was considerable evidence for burning and the posthole had clearly been backfilled rapidly. Posthole [1020] was more sub-oval in shape, spread by erosion and disturbance to c. 2m west-east in width, but actually closer to just over a metre wide in that direction by 0.7m west-east. Like [1003] the posthole was around 0.3m deep. The possible post-pipe was humic dark silty sand similar to the fill of [1003] and

contained fragmentary, burnt animal bone and occasional pottery, but no copper alloy fragments.

Two small postholes survived within the ring-gully: features [1030] and [1031]. F[1030] lay only 0.2m south of posthole [1020] and may have marked the beginning of the wall-supporting structure of the roundhouse. The posthole was 0.2m in diameter, survived only to 0.04m deep and produced no finds. Posthole [1031] was also similarly slight in depth and the same width, with no finds. This feature lay 0.8m west of doorpost [1003] on the western edge of Trench 1 and may have been related to two small postholes in Trench 2 Extension, although the lack of horizontal stratigraphy means this cannot be proved either way.

Although surfaces inside and outside the main gully were truncated there were observable differences between them. The inside surface was everywhere more gravelly and the path running between the gullies and the entrance postholes was decidedly more compact and siltier. This may have been the result of traffic in and out of the roundhouse affecting the lost entrance surface above.

Trench 2 Extension: details

The two small postholes noted above, [2005] and [2007], at the eastern end of Trench 2 Extension were notable for the small mammal bones packed into their surviving depth. [2005] was, like the other postholes, about 0.2m in diameter but over 0.2m deep. Its fill contained a great deal of fragmentary animal bone. Posthole [2007], less than half-a-metre south-west of [2005] had been recut although post-depositional processes obscured the cut sequence. This feature was wider, at 0.32m, which was likely the result of the re-cutting, and also deeper at 0.52m. The sides were eroded and undercut and half of the fill comprised small mammal bones, predominantly sheep, with some pottery. These postholes along with F[1031] may have been part of a central partition or roof support inside the roundhouse, but may equally have belonged to a pre- or post-roundhouse structure, such as a four-post arrangement. Nothing further survived to indicate the character and use of the interior of the roundhouse.

Discussion

The excavation recorded the surrounding ring-gully of a middle-late Iron Age roundhouse, which may have been recut on at least two occasions, indicating more than one phase of occupation. The gully defined an enclosure about 14m in diameter, which is very similar in size to those excavated at Hill Farm and outside Castle Hill hillfort and therefore also similar in size to other middle Iron Age roundhouses in the Upper Thames Valley (Allen *et al.* 2010, 265 and 267–8). The roundhouse itself, if defined by its two doorposts was thus roughly 10m in diameter and very similar to Structure 532 in the Visitors' Car Park trench at Hill Farm (*ibid.* 268, 131 and 138). There were other similarities between the LW17 roundhouse and Structure 532 other than the diameters of both gully and roundhouse. Both had massive doorposts and an entrance gap facing east and c. 3.5–4.5m wide, with the suggestion of a ring of postholes defining the roundhouse; in both cases gullies of similar widths and depths were probably replaced at least once. Both also had possible internal rings of postholes in the centre of the structure. However, the gully terminals of Structure 532 were not packed with pottery and animal bone,



Figure 25: Long Wittenham, Trench 1 looking north



Figure 26: Long Wittenham, Trench 1 working shot

indeed there were no finds at all in the gullies as excavated (ibid. 134), although a small deep pit in the roundhouse interior produced a large deposit of animal bones and stones (ibid. 143).

Conclusion

Placed deposits in the terminals of Iron Age penannular enclosure gullies are not an uncommon phenomenon in the Upper Thames Valley (Allen *et al.* 2010, 269). However, as reported they have more commonly featured animal skulls rather than the pottery-dominated deposits at Long Wittenham. It was clear here, from the great concentration and contrast with the remainder of the gully fill, and the inclusion of near-complete pots that the deposits in the gully terminals were deliberate. This site is therefore particularly interesting for and perhaps only distinguished by the intensity of the deposition in postholes and gullies, and for the inclusion of copper alloy fragments in the door posthole backfill. These may all be closing deposits made at the end of the domestic use of a roundhouse of several phases.

Acknowledgements

The team – Jane Harrison, William Wintle, Leigh and Gill Mellor – are very grateful to the Sylva Foundation. Many Long Wittenham villagers visited the excavation, on the Open Day and at other times, and some took part: thank you. The living history group *Wulfheodenas* brought the period wonderfully alive on the Open Day. Huge thanks to the terrific excavation team: Eileen Anderson, Lynn Amadio, Mandy Bellamy, Shirley-Anne Clarke, Sabrina Dragoni-Long and Andy, Amanda Eames, Georgia Fancett, Heather Fletcher, Nicholas and Catherine Geering, Vicky Hummel, Charlie McCarthy, Jenni Laird, Christopher Lewis, Tricia Marsh, Marie Morgann, Caroline Morrell, John Moughton, Steve Nicholson, Hannah and Rosie O'Toole, Phil Price, Roelie Reed, Richard Simmons, Leo and Molly Storey, Martin Stuart, Liz Styles, Chris Turley and Sarah Upstone.

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Warborough, Church Piece Roman Cemetery

WILLIAM WINTLE

Introduction

In 2015 magnetometer and earth resistance surveys were undertaken at Church Piece Roman Cemetery in Warborough. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument which is being damaged by badgers. The aims were to record the entire cemetery area through a magnetometer survey and estimate the extent of badger penetration by an

earth resistance survey. This report provides the results of the magnetometer survey.

Church Piece is located about 700 metres to the north-west of the north of Warborough village and about one kilometre east of Dorchester-on-Thames, to the east of the river Thame. The cemetery lies on the first gravel terrace and is about one or two metres higher than the alluvial deposits in the field to the west, Priest's Moor, through which the river Thame flows. The underlying solid geology is Gault clay.

The cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure at Church Piece were first recorded by Allen (1938) and are visible in his figure 20 and plate XVII. The field was also photographed by St Joseph (1966, 122–123, Plate 59) who suggested the features might represent the site of a seventh century college of secular canons or cathedral buildings following the establishment of the first bishopric. The cropmarks were mapped by Benson and Miles (1974, 67–69, map 36; 91–93) based on the photographs of Allen and St Joseph. In August 1975 a lead coffin was brought to the surface during subsoiling and the area was subsequently investigated by four trenches (Harman *et al.* 1979).

In 1780 a stone coffin, possibly Roman, and containing human remains was found about 18 inches below the surface near Priests' Moor and near the river Thame (Field 1908; VCH Oxon 1939, 344).

The Magnetometer Survey

Two separate magnetometer surveys were undertaken using a single sensor Bartington Instruments GRAD601 gradiometer. The grids were thirty metre squares and were walked in a clockwise "zig-zag" pattern with traverses one metre apart and readings taken eight times a metre along each traverse. The magnetometer was set to a scale of 100nT with a sensitivity of 0.1 nT. The results have been processed by ArcheoSurveyor and are presented as block shaded images using a grey scale in figure 27.

The first survey detected the northern and part of the eastern boundary ditch of the main enclosure. The Roman cemetery is in the north of the main enclosure and is bounded in the south by two parallel ditches about 20 metres apart. It is possible the cemetery initially occupied only the northern part of the enclosure and was then subsequently extended further southwards (Harman *et al.* 1979, 8). In this gap between these two parallel ditches are three small circular features which may be of Roman date and associated with the cemetery. Alternatively, they may be earlier ring ditches, possibly associated with barrows.

The second survey revealed the eastern and part of the southern boundary ditch of the main enclosure. Of note in this area are a small rectangular enclosure attached to the east of the main enclosure and a possible building in the south-east corner of the main enclosure. In the centre-west is a small enclosure which is also visible as a cropmark.

The surveys allow a more accurate measurement of the principal features than was possible from aerial photographs and table 1 summarises some of these measurements.

The size of the three ring ditches is given by Harman *et al.* (1979, 8) as between 8 and 12 metres. The two western ring ditches have a diameter of about 10 metres and the smaller, eastern ditch has a diameter of about 6 metres.

Oxfordshire

	Length (N-S)	Breadth (E-W)
Main Enclosure	180	110
Initial Cemetery	48	110
Extended Cemetery	68	110
Small enclosure	25	12–14?

Table 1: Size of Principal Features in metres.

Discussion

The geophysical survey has confirmed the aerial photographic evidence of a rectangular enclosure in Church Piece which extends into the field to the east. The survey has captured almost all the northern, all the eastern and much of the southern boundary ditch of this enclosure. The western boundary is missing and would have been located in what is now Priests' Moor but has now been eroded away. The 1975 excavation examined the enclosure's north boundary ditch and established it was 4.2 metres wide and 1.8 metres deep (Harman *et al.* 1979, 12). As Priests' Moor lies one to two metres below Church Piece the chances of locating the western boundary, either by geophysical survey or excavation are slim. There do not appear to be any gaps in the surviving sections of boundary ditch so any entrances may have been in the west.

Both geophysical survey and aerial survey provide a plan of all the features present but with little or no information about relative or absolute dating. Dating is often based on the morphology of the feature. The appearance of the enclosure ditch suggests it was constructed in one phase. The enclosure may not necessarily be of the same date as the cemetery, presumed to be late Roman. The enclosure may date to the earlier Roman period and have been utilised in the third or fourth century AD as a cemetery. Alternatively, the cemetery

and enclosure may be contemporary late Roman features with the expectation the cemetery would ultimately expand to fill the entire enclosure. At least one phase of expansion does seem to have occurred.

Also within the enclosure is a building in the south-east corner. This is described by Harman *et al.* (1979, 9) as a tripartite building of ten rooms with wings in the east and a rear corridor on the west. Both the cropmarks and the geophysical survey indicate the foundations have been robbed out. Harman *et al.* (1979, 15) link this cropmark with a report that in 1766 the foundations of a building had been robbed out (Field 1908). The geophysical survey does not quite tally with the 1979 report. Instead, it suggests there are a total of twelve rooms: four small rooms in the north, four small rooms in the south and four larger rooms in the middle. It is not clear how the internal rooms would have been lit. It is possible that additional internal subdivisions have been added when the foundations were robbed. Table 2 compares the size of the building as recorded in 1766 with the geophysical survey. Possibly the process of removing the foundations has increased the size of the foundation trenches.

	Field (1908)	Geophysical Survey
East-West	19.5 (64 feet)	21.0
North -South	18.4 (60.5 feet)	19.4

Table 2: Size of Building in south-east of Main Enclosure in metres.

Two additional ditches project westwards from the building. There is no clear temporal relationship between the enclosure ditch and the building and there does not appear to be a break in the enclosure ditch at the point it is crossed by the trackway.



Figure 27: Warborough, Church Piece Geophysical Survey

This south-east of the survey area contains a complicated set of rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures, on different alignments, both within and outside the main enclosure. These may either pre-date or post-date the main enclosure and presumably relate to agricultural activities. Similarly, further north the geophysical survey has confirmed the earlier aerial survey results in revealing a complicated set of ditches, tracks and enclosures both within and to the north of the main enclosure. These are likely to span a range of dates, possibly from the late Iron Age and through the Roman period.

A small sub-rectangular enclosure in the south-west of Church Piece, abutting the boundary with Priests' Moor, is visible in the aerial photographs and in the magnetometer survey. Harman *et al.* (1979, 9) suggested it had an entrance in the north although this is less apparent in the magnetometer survey. However, some support for an entrance was provided by the earth resistance survey.

The route connecting the cemetery with Dorchester-on-Thames is unclear. It may either have been on the west of the River Thame with a crossing at Priests' Moor, or on the east of the River Thame, following the line of Priests' Moor Lane south-west towards Overy to cross the river at Dorchester-on-Thames. There is a cropmark of a track to the east of the main enclosure which runs south-south-east rather than south-west towards Dorchester-on-Thames. Some distance further east is the cropmark of another trackway which crosses Overy Field from the north-east to the south-west. The south-western part of this field has been surveyed by Roger Ainslie (2011, 36) who detected this track or road running into a Roman extra-mural settlement area lying south-east of Dorchester-on-Thames. However, as this track or road lies about 500 metres to the south and east of Church Piece it is probably not the route to the cemetery.

Conclusions

The geophysical survey of the scheduled monument at Church Piece and land to the east has provided useful information on the main features of the monument such as the main enclosure ditch, the cemetery, the building in the south-east and the small enclosure in the south-west. The outlines of these features, as defined by earlier aerial survey mapping, has been confirmed and considerable additional detail has been added to a range of other features including tracks and small enclosures which lie within and outside the main enclosure.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Mr Joe Blackstone and Mr David Belcher for permission to conduct these geophysical surveys on their land and to Mr David Wilkinson of Historic England for a Section 42 licence to allow these surveys to take place on a Scheduled Ancient Monument. I am grateful to Derek Chambers, Alice Harvey-Fishenden, Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, Leigh and Gill Mellor, Steve Nicholson and Karen Selway Richards for their assistance in carrying out the surveys.

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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 2016 and 2017 project seasons, the ninth and tenth years of the project, the archaeological fieldwork comprised three main areas. These included: a GPR survey of Upper Green and Church Green; a magnetometer survey of the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields; excavation of Trench 19 at Ashdown House; and the excavation of fifteen test pits (36–50). Using 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 paddock relating to multiple phases of medieval buildings fronting the adjacent road. Furthermore, the GPR survey of Upper Green also identified further evidence for the Iron Age enclosure at the northern area of the village. Lastly, the fifteen 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, including evidence for the earliest origins of Stanford during the Neolithic and Bronze Age.

During the 2018 project season, further work was carried out within the village and its surrounding fields, which will be discussed in this article. However, it should be noted that due to heavy snow fall early in 2018 and then an extremely hot and dry summer, less work was undertaken in 2018 than was hoped to be carried out during this project season. Though, the work which was undertaken included: test pitting at 7 sites in the village, and the completion of the re dating of Stanford Church. This article will also discuss the work that is proposed to be carried out during the 2019 project season.

Oxfordshire

Test Pitting (test pits 51 to 57)

During the 2018 project seasons, 7 test pits were dug in the gardens of properties within the modern village settlement. These test pits were located, based on permission, available access and space for the test 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. The table indicates that all the test pits contained post medieval and modern pottery. The pottery evidence also suggests the location of medieval activity within the settlement, with medieval pottery being recovered from all test pits. It should also be noted that a large quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from TP 52 (18 sherds) and TP 54 (23 sherds). These test pits were excavated in Spencers Close and the High street and were both found with thick deposits of homogenised plough or garden soils dating to this period. Saxon pottery was also recovered, from test pits 52, 54 and 57; with the largest quantity found in TP 53, (Neville Way). This is the largest quantity of Saxon pottery found in a single test pit to date (20 sherds) and includes 8th C grass tempered ware and Anglo-Norman pottery, and therefore indicates Saxon activity in the vicinity of this test pit. Roman pottery was recovered from all test pits, with the largest quantities recovered from test pit 52, where seven cut Roman stake holes and a small pit were also found, as well as a Roman coin dating to the mid-4th C AD. These features were found underlying a thick deposit of plough soil (discussed above), and therefore indicate that the area was inhabited, with the presence of structures during the Roman period, but during later periods was mainly used for agricultural use. It should also be noted these features were found close to TP 41, also dug in Spencers Close, where a Roman gully was found. These features indicated significant Roman activity underlying this area of Stanford, which was previously unknown.

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 microliths, as well Neolithic flint material also being recovered from all the test pits excavated during this season of work across the village. Apart from flint material one sherd of Bronze

Age pottery was also found in test pit 54 (37 High Street), which is the only fourth sherd of Bronze Age pottery found in the village to date. This is significant as this test pit is close to 11 Marlborough Lane where three further sherds were found. This further gives weight to the theory that the early settlement at Stanford formed in this area of the current village and then spread north. However, further work is needed in this area to confirm theory this.

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 house. 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 52 and 53 which is thought to date to the Roman and Saxon periods, which may indicate industrial activities being undertaken within these areas of the settlement (Spencers Close and Neville Way). Further artefacts have also been recovered from all test pits, including metal finds mostly dating to the post medieval to modern periods however some dated to the Roman period were found in TP 52 and 53, as well as Saxon and Roman daub recovered from TP 52. Furthermore one possible Roman tesserae found in TP 57 (Manor Crescent), indicating the possibility of a high status building of this period within the vicinity. Fragments clay pipe, dating to the 17th to 19th centuries were found in the majority of test pits.

Small finds were also recovered from the test pits including: Cu alloy buttons from TP 51 and TP 56, as well as a Cu alloy pin; and a whetstone, either Roman or medieval in date, from TP 53. The most significant small find recovered was from TP 57 (Manor Crescent), and comprised a worked bone tuning peg with hole at one end which dates to the medieval period and would have been used to tune a stringing musical of this period, such as a rebec (the predecessor of the modern violin). This is significant in two ways: firstly, as bone tuning pegs are a rare find on archaeological sites of this period, as very few musical instruments were present during the medieval period. Secondly, the presence of a rebec at Stanford, indicates high status activities, as these were high class expensive instruments, and therefore are more likely to be associated with urban areas such as towns, rather than small rural villages. Therefore, this further indicates that Stanford was a town during the medieval period.

ID	TP Number	Bronze Age Pot Quantity	Iron Age Pot Quantity	Roman Pot Quantity	Saxon Pot Quantity	Medieval Pot Quantity	Post Medieval Pot Quantity
51	51	0	0	3	0	1	8
52	52	0	0	30	5	18	3
53	53	0	0	15	20	9	3
54	54	1	0	15	1	23	35
55	55	0	0	1	0	5	4
56	56	0	0	3	0	6	23
57	57	0	0	4	1	2	0

Table 3. Table shows the quantities of pottery by period recovered from each test pit excavated in 2018, from Stanford in the Vale.

Lastly, a series of features and structures were also identified within the seven test pits excavated. This includes: a post medieval linear ditch and underlying undated stake hole in TP 51 (Horsecroft), the later which correlates to a land boundary seen on the 1874 OS map; a concrete footing for a timber WWII 'Officers/Sergeants Latrines' building found within TP 52, as well as the seven Roman stake holes discussed above; evidence for a palaeochannel at the base of TP53 (Neville Way), which correlates with surrounding test pits in the area; a modern pit in TP 54 as well as a layer of duped slag material thought to related to the construction of the adjacent Methodist Chapel in 1888; the corner of a limestone wall, and associated footing cut for a medieval timber building fronting a burgess plot on the High Street found in TP 55 (Stones Farmhouse) as well as a linear cut gully thought to be either Saxon or Roman in date; a large square post hole, 0.50m² by 0.50m deep, cut into the underlying limestone geology dating to the medieval period found at the base of TP 56, and thought to form part of a substantial high statues timber hall building fronting the Chapel Road during this period; and a Roman or prehistoric post pit found at the base of TP 57 (Manor Crescent).

Building Recording

St Denys Church SU 341 934

During 2016 and 2017 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. From this work, as well as with observations made of the current church structure, the GPR survey undertaken in 2013 and documentary sources, it has been possible to re-date the phases of construction of the church and push back the earliest phase of construction of the current building by more than 200 years.

The earliest evidence for a church at Stanford in the vale, which forms Phase 1, dates to the 8th C, with evidence for a single small timber nave on the site forming the church at this time. This was replaced in the 10th C by the first stone church at Stanford, which comprised a small stone nave which is likely to have had a thatched roof (Fig. 28), surrounded by a ditch enclosure, as revealed by a GPR and resistivity survey of the site. This forms Phase 2 of the church's development.

In the late 12th C the earlier Saxon (10th C) stone nave was demolished and the associated ditch infilled, with a new, much larger nave and chancel were constructed, forming Phase 3. This new building included an external staircase and doorway to the rood screen loft, which was accessed from the exterior; an ornate carved south doorway; large stone quoin blocks and a steep pitch roof. A reconstruction drawing can be seen in Figure 29. This 12th C structure still forms a major part of the nave and chancel as seen within the church today.

During phase 4 of construction, in the early 13th C, three small window lights were inserted into the top of the north nave wall, giving more light into the nave. These were long narrow windows, the tops of which can still be seen just above the arches which split the aisle and nave.

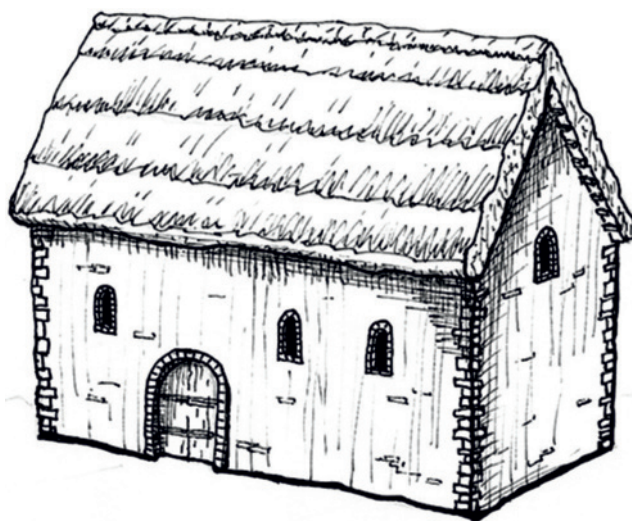


Figure 28: St Denys Church during the 10th C (Phase 2) (Mike Brace).



Figure 29: the later 12th C St Denys Church (Phase 3) (Mike Brace).

Phase 5 of construction occurred in the late 13th C, when the next phase of major construction works was undertaken. At this date the bottom two thirds of the tower were added, which include a series of single light windows, up to the corbels and corbel table, with access given through the insertion of the triple arch into the nave. Also, at this time, the northern aisle with its stepped windows at each end and doorway with pointed arch and stiff leaf capitals was constructed. The window at the eastern end of the aisle is now blocked. The construction of an aisle at this date (13th C) is important, as it is an early date and is only seen within significant churches of this period; in turn this may indicate the significance of Stanford in the Vale at this time. Further features built into the church during Phase 5 of construction, include: the squint, used as a corridor to give access to the staircase and therefore access to the rood screen loft, from the chancel; the addition of the chancel arch and arcade, and with this a reduction in height of the windows added in the early 13th C, leaving them one-third of their original size; two small windows added at the top of the south wall of the nave and the addition of the reliquary to the chancel. It should also be noted the chancel windows contain fragments of 13th C stained glass; however, the apertures in which they are contained do not date to this period. The addition of these features would have indicated the church's wealth and prosperity within the Stanford. The church would have been seen by local people as being significantly sized and an



Figure 30: the later 13th C St Denys Church (Phase 5) (Mike Brace).

important structure, as well as by traders and others moving into the settlement at this time. A reconstruction drawing of the church at this period can be seen in Figure 30.

Phase 6 of construction occurred in the early 14th C. During this phase, the third storey of the tower was added, plus the addition of a spire at its top; this spire no longer exists as it blew down in a storm in 1631. However, the spire is seen on a tapestry map, housed in the Ashmolean Museum, showing Stanford in the 1500's. Also, during this period the vestry was added to the east end of the aisle and the window blocked. The new vestry re-uses an earlier exterior door into the chancel, with a new exterior door inserted into the chancel adjacent to it, to the east. Within the chancel the old 12th C windows were removed, and replaced by a series of new windows, with the 13th C stained glass then re-used. At

this time the chancel was also rendered on its exterior, and most likely white washed, making it stand out as a prominent feature. Lastly, during this phase, the north porch was added; two new windows were inserted into the nave and three new windows were inserted into the aisle, with the outer wall also being replaced at this time. A reconstruction drawing of the church by the mid-14th C can be seen in Figure 31. With the addition of the upper part of the tower and spire, this made the church an impressive and easily seen within the surrounding landscape. It would have made it a large navigational marker within the area, drawing people from far and wide into the settlement.

Phase 7 of construction occurred in the 15th C with both the chancel and nave being reroofed, lowering their pitch, and at the same time a new top section of wall was also added to the nave and a new ceiling added in the chancel. New windows were also added into the nave, including three new clerestory windows above the arcade in the north wall and a large new window in the south wall, above the south

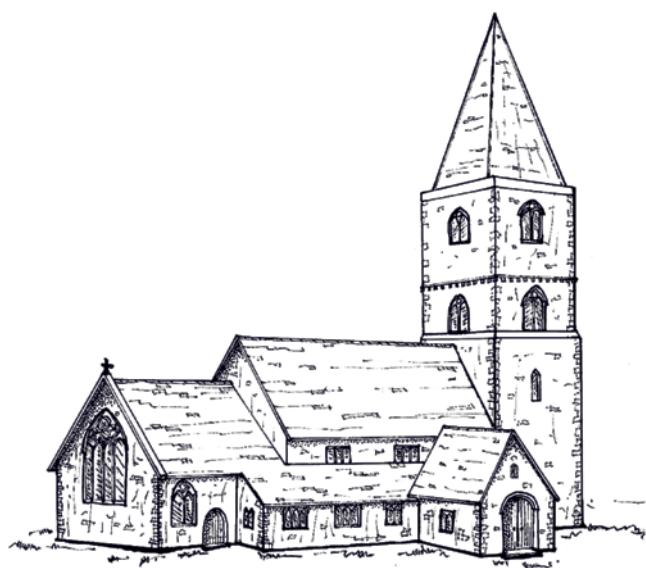


Figure 31: St Denys Church (Phase 6) in the mid-14th C (Mike Brace).



Figure 32: 3D Laser Scan Data, showing leaning Chancel Wall.



Figure 33: south elevation 15th C St Denys Church (Phase 7) (Mike Brace).

doorway. A new south porch was also built at this time; celebrating the wedding of Richard, Duke of Gloucester (later Richard III, King of England), to Anne Neville in 1472. Their family crests can be seen either side of the exterior part of the doorway. This porch would have given a more formal entrance for the Lord and Lady of the Manor to enter the church direct from the adjacent Manor House. The crenulations were also added to the top of the nave, tower and south porch at this time. Structural problems are also seen to have started to occur in the Church at this time, as through 3D laser scanning data, it is possible to observe that the south wall of the chancel started to lean outwards at its top by 5° (Fig. 32). It may be surmised that this structural problem was caused by the location of this wall as it is close to the edge of the backfilled Saxon ditch, which surrounds the church, and therefore, the base of the chancel wall had started to sink into this feature. To counteract this problem, a series of buttresses were added, during this period, along the south wall of both the chancel and nave, as well as to the base of the tower. A reconstruction drawing showing the church at this date can be seen in Figure 33.

Phase 8 of construction occurred in the 16th C, where few changes were made to the church; however, during the Reformation, the roodscreen and its associated loft were removed, which separated the chancel and the nave. In turn the top of the rood screen stairwell was also blocked, and the organ was relocated into the chancel, with the bellows for the organ located in one half of the room, now taken up fully by the vestry. The exterior section of the chancel roof was also re-roofed at this time.

Phase 9 occurred in the 17th C, when a new ceiling was added to the nave roof, using a selection of existing ornately

carved corbels, as well as a series of new carved corbels. Large horizontal tie beams were also added into the nave roof to further combat the possible subsidence first seen 200 years previously, in the 15th C. The north side aisle was also re-roofed, with a steeper pitch. Apart from these additions one other major alteration was made to the church. Up until this time the church had a spire located on top of the tower, however as documented in the Church Wardens Accounts, in 1631 the spire blew down in a storm and its remnants were removed (Howse, 1987). The spire was not replaced, and so the tower is all that survives to this day. A reconstruction drawing of St Denys Church in the 17th C can be seen in Figure 34.



Figure 34: north elevation of the 17th C St Denys Church (Phase 9) (Mike Brace).

Oxfordshire

Phase 10 of the works undertaken on the church, were to a much lesser extent than seen in previous periods, with little work being undertaken on the structure itself and more work being undertaken on its permanent fittings. In the 18th C a set of eight church bells were added to the tower and a new clock and associated mechanism. The clock face and mechanism were built and fitted by G.Nethercott of Wantage, in 1768. The clock was then renovated and restored in 1887 to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Other additions were also made to the church in the 19th C. These included: the installation of a new organ, with the removal of the old bellows room and blocking of the associated door into the bellows room/vestry. The render was also removed from the exterior walls of the chancel, revealing the bare stonework seen today. Lastly, new vibrantly coloured stained glass was added into most of the windows in the church as seen to this day. In 1885 the graveyard was also extended to the west, to give room for further burials.

Phase 11 forms the final phase of construction at St Denys Church, with few further amendments being made during the 20th C. Within the tower, the kitchen was added into its base and in 1963, when cracks appeared in the walls of the tower, the bells were replaced by 8 lighter ones. In the nave the old box pews were removed and replaced with wooden pews, and a new oil-fired central heating system was fitted, with the boiler located under the south porch. In the chancel, in 1983 the organ was replaced by an electric one. Restoration work was also undertaken on the church in two phases, firstly in 1983 and secondly in the early 2000's when the outer walls of the church and windows, at the east end were consolidated. This brings us to the Church which is seen today.

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 2018 project season has increased our knowledge of Stanford in the Vale's history during the Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval to modern periods.

The data indicates the presence 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 gives further evidence that the Bronze Age settlement at Stanford was located in the southern area of the current village, adjacent to the River Ock, and then spread further north during this period.

From the 2018 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 series of stake holes found at the base of TP 52, demonstrating further evidence for Roman habitation underlying this area of Stanford, and within the fortified Roman enclosure. Further evidence for the Saxon settlement has also been indicated, mainly through pottery from test pitting, as large quantities of both 8th C grass tempered ware as well as later Anglo-Norman pottery have been found. As well as two sequential Saxon phases of early church structures at Stanford.

The 2018 fieldwork has also presented further evidence for medieval occupation within the settlement. This includes a large quantity of medieval pottery recovered through 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, high quality quern stones and evidence for musical instruments. Also features found dating to this period give further evidence for structures fronting both the High Street and Chapel road during this time, most likely related to burgess plots to their rear. Laser Scanning and building recording of the church has also shown how significant the church was at Stanford during this period, as well as pushing back the date of the current structure by nearly 200 years. The phasing of construction of the church also lends further weight to Stanford being a town during the medieval period, due to the early construction date of the side aisle in the 13th C, which is usually related to urban settlement during this period.

Lastly, from the post medieval and modern periods, evidence has also been found for later phase of church construction and renovation, but to a lesser extent than seen during the earlier periods. Also, though test pitting features have also been found relating to the construction of the Methodist Chapel on High Street in 1888, and WWII structures at Sponsors Close, relating to Shellingford Airfield, during this period. Lastly, the presence of interchangeable geology underlying the current settlement has been found, including the presence of alluvial deposits relating to a palaeochannel underlying the village which silted up during the Mesolithic period.

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 indicates 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 are of the village, as well as beaker period flint material, likely indicates that the settlement expanded from the southern Neolithic settlement, speeding north towards the northern one, forming a single settlement seen today. 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, which extended as far west as the A417, with a vicus formed on its outskirts extending up Chapel Road. 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, and multiple phasing of Church construction, including the identification of two phase of Saxon church and thereafter four phase of medieval construction, commencing in the 12th C, which comprise a large proportion of the church seen today. Furthermore, shops and industrial buildings can be seen to have fronted the High Street and adjacent roads, and in some cases were terraced into the underlying geology. Two phase stone medieval mill have also been found in the field adjacent to Horsecroft lane, as well as 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 in the north and the A417, and Spencers Close, in the west. 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, including new evidence for musical instruments being present at Stanford; evidence indicates that the Stanford was likely a market town during the medieval period. Also, evidence has been identified for the post medieval settlement, including structures within the brickworks 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 2018 season, further work is needed to better understand the way in which Stanford has changed through time, including the location of the Bronze Age, 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 2019 Excavations

During the 2019 project season, three main types of archaeological work will be undertaken.

Firstly, geophysical surveys will continue in open areas of land within the village and its surrounding fields, with the aim of producing 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.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations that have assisted during the 2018 project season. Special thanks go to all the landowners in the village who have let me undertake archaeological fieldwork on their land. Thanks, should also be given to the members and committee of the Stanford in the Vale Local History Society, who have helped to get the local community involved in the project and to disseminate information about the project to the local villagers, 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 Carey, Nick Watson, Dominic McAtominey, Eden Richards and Mike Brace. Lastly, thanks should also be given to my colleagues, the students and staff, of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Winchester, as without their help it would not be possible to undertake the project.

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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.
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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.

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