



SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

50
2020



CBA SOUTH MIDLANDS GROUP
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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, unless indicated otherwise, to work carried out in 2019.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome, from your editor and committee to this, the delayed ‘bumper lockdown edition’ of South Midlands Archaeology, our 50th volume.

Firstly, thanks again 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. Special thanks this year to Sasha Cobby, interim Finds Liaison Officer for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes and her 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 multi-period excavations in **Houghton Regis** (Beds) and **Lathbury** (Milton Keynes (MK)); Cotswold Archaeology’s Community Excavation in **Great Linford** (MK) and Witham’s work in **Olney** (MK); for those interested in buildings and industrial archaeology would advised to look at the entries by Souterrain, MOLA Northampton and the Oxfordshire Buildings Record; while the amateur / educational sector is once again well represented by the work in Oxfordshire by the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG) and the Oxford University Dept. for Continuing Education OUDCE.

On a more sombre note, we mourn the passing of former CBA South Midlands Group Chairman Dr Richard Ivens in May 2020. An obituary will appear in the next volume of Records of Buckinghamshire.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who sent in reports and ask that they, and anyone else, send in articles for SMA 51. Copy date is 31st March 2021; please refer to the Notes for Contributors (back page).

Nick Crank
Editor

CBA South Midlands website: archaeologyuk.org/cbasml
On this site are (Journals):

Scanned / PDF copies of SMA 1–48

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: Excavation by Albion Archaeology of a medieval building at Raunds, Northamptonshire (Albion Archaeology)

Back cover: Looking south-east towards the River Great Ouse across Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement at Lathbury, Milton Keynes (Albion Archaeology)

CONFERENCES IN 2019

SPRING CONFERENCE

Northamptonshire Archaeological Review

Saturday 6th April 2019

Bugbrooke Sports and Community Centre, Camp Close, Bugbrooke, Northampton NN7 3RW

10:20am Stephen Young (CLASP: Archaeological Director)

Continuity in the Landscape: new perspectives from the watershed of the River Nene

11:05am Chris Chinnock (MOLA: Reports and Publications Project Officer),

John Walford (MOLA: Geophysical Survey Project Officer) and **Fred Kay** (CLASP: Geophysical survey coordinator)

Current work at Borough Hill, Daventry: news of one of Northamptonshire's best kept secrets

11:50am Chris Chinnock and Rob Atkins (MOLA: Project Manager)

Excavations and geophysics close to Borough Hill, including Daventry Apex and Monksmoor

LUNCH

1:30pm Jim Brown (MOLA: Senior Project Manager)

The Road to Good Practice: working with Northamptonshire Highways on the A45

2:15pm Steve Lawrence (Oxford Archaeology: Senior Project Manager)

Buckton Fields, Northampton: a little bit of everything

TEA

3:30pm Peter Boyer (Cotswold Archaeology: Post-Excavation Manager)

6000 Years of Occupation at Brixworth: excavations at Saxon Rise 2

4:15pm Derek Robert (Middle Nene Archaeological Group: Site Director)

Three seasons of research excavation on a planned Roman farmstead in Nassington

AUTUMN CONFERENCE AND AGM

Roman Villa Landscapes of the South Midlands

Sunday 20th October 2019 – Winslow Public Hall, Elmfields Gate, Winslow, Buckinghamshire MK18 3JA

10:40am Martyn Allen: Senior Project Manager (Post-Excavation), Oxford Archaeology

Villas in context: landscape and economy of the Roman South Midlands

11:25am Keith Westcott: Association of Detectorists

Broughton Castle's courtyard villa and the Itinerary Triangle

LUNCH

1:25pm CBA South Midlands AGM

1:40pm Andrew Hood: Project Manager, Foundations Archaeology

Excavations at Cholsey Roman villa, south Oxfordshire

2:25pm Steve Ford: Director, Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Excavations at Tackley Roman villa, north Oxfordshire

TEA

3:40pm Hazel Williams: President, South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group

The Roman villa at Gatehampton farm, Goring

4:10pm Liz Friendship-Taylor: Upper Nene Archaeological Society

From roundhouse to villa to imperial estate? Piddington Roman Villa, Northants

THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN THE SOUTH MIDLANDS 2019

By SASHA COBBY. With contributions from ANNI BYARD, EDWARD CASWELL, HELENA COSTAS, ELLIE COX, MATTHEW FITTOCK, ROD TREVASKUS and ARWEN WOOD.

INTRODUCTION

2019 was another busy year for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). The Heritage Lottery Funded PAST Explorer project, which focused on building volunteer and public engagement with the scheme, came to an end after a successful five years. The year also saw the prosecution of four individuals involved in the concealment and theft of a £3m Viking hoard, with two detectorists receiving a jail sentence of 18.5 years between them.

Recorded finds were up by 12% from 2018 and there was a 15% rise in treasure cases across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire both saw an increase in the number of finds recorded (297 and 379 respectively), whilst Bedfordshire and Oxfordshire saw small reductions. However, the South Midlands region reported 133 treasure cases in 2019, compared to 87 in 2018, resulting in a significant 53% increase. Metal detecting remained the dominant discovery method, with 97% of objects found during detecting. By period, the finds for 2019 are as follows:

	Beds	Bucks	Northants	Oxon
Palaeolithic	0	0	0	1
Mesolithic	3	29	76	1
Neolithic	1	10	55	16
Bronze Age	1	17	8	49
Iron Age	7	29	16	52
Greek & Roman Provincial	0	0	0	1
Roman	144	299	628	1,221
Early-Medieval	1	36	58	106
Medieval	64	832	383	422
Post-Medieval	67	209	288	536
Modern	2	5	13	15
Unknown	7	6	5	33
Total	297	1,472	1,530	2,453

Objects that are post-AD 1700 are not normally recorded (unless they constitute treasure) but if they are unusual or tell a local story they are recorded at the discretion of the local FLO.

The following artefacts represent just some of the highlights recorded from each county in 2019 and have been selected by the county's FLO either due to their 'find of note' status or because they represent particularly good examples from the area. To see the object's full record please visit www.finds.org.uk/database and search using the record ID e.g. BERK-A940D9. The database also allows for advanced searches such as by area (i.e. county, parish), artefact type (coin, vessel), period (Bronze Age, Post Medieval), material (gold, lead) or by manufacture method (struck, cast).

Bedfordshire

Total Objects: 297 Treasure Cases: 14



Figure 1: BH-956274: Early Bronze Age 'personal ornament' from Marston Moretaine.

A fragment of gold sheet, 'personal ornament', dating from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (c. 2500BC–c. 2200BC). The surviving plaque is broadly U-shaped in cross-section with a rectangular plate. Two inwardly bent and tangs project opposite each other mid-way along the



Figure 2: BUC-C83F21: Roman nail-cleaner from Studham.



Figure 3. BH-6AF8AB: Post-Medieval silver verve (hawking ring) from Bletsoe.

straight edge upper edge and are bent inwards. A single line of finely punched dots decorates the edge of the plaque but does not form a recognisable pattern.

Although rare finds, a small number of similar Early Bronze Age objects are recorded on the database (e.g. BERK-F548E6 and IOW-62FFD2). Belonging to the earliest phases of metallurgy in Britain and are usually associated with burials dating to the earliest phase of the Bronze Age, (c. 2400–2200BC). Rolled into a basket shape, they are probably personal ornaments in the form of ‘basket earrings’ or ‘hair rings’.

A complete copper-alloy ‘Baldock type’ Roman nail cleaner dating to the first to second centuries AD. The main plate of the cleaner is leaf shape and flat with bowed shoulders either side. It tapers towards the terminal, which is formed of two rounded prongs separated by a notch. An incised line extends around the edge of the plate on both faces. The attachment end sits at 90 degrees to the nail cleaner and consists of a sub-triangular-sectioned loop with a circular perforation in the centre.

Similar nail cleaners are known in Britain where they have been recorded, for example, by Eckardt and Crummy (2008, p. 119, fig. 21) and Crummy (1983, p. 58, no. 1874). Several others have also been recorded on the database, including BUC-D62441, BUC-9F4DC6 and BH-19766A, all of which are of a similar date. Some of these would have been part of larger sets of cosmetic instruments that would have included ear-scoops, tweezers and spatulas, all connected together by a loop through their respective handles. Together they highlight the importance of personal grooming during the Roman period and some of the various ways that people did so.

A complete Post-Medieval silver verve (hawking ring) dating to the period c. AD 1530–1560. The hoop of the verve consists of a small band made from a rectangular strip of silver, which is engraved on the outer surface ‘IOHN’ LORD;S’ IOHN.’ Crudely soldered to the top of the band is a flat oval-shaped bezel, one side of which is bent downwards. A depiction of a hawk perched upright on a branch is etched on the bezel’s upper face. The falcon has a rounded head, pointed beak, outstretched wings and is wearing a collar around its neck.

This ring may be associated with a similar verve found in Bletsoe (NARC811), which appears to bear the coat of

arms of St. John of Bletsoe. This latest discovery displays the crest of St. John of Beltso – *On a mount vert a falcon rising or, belled of the last, ducally gorged gules* (Burke, 1884: 888). Sir John St. John (fl.1495–1558) was MP for Bedfordshire in 1529–36 (probably), 1539–40 and 1542–4, and was knighted in 1526. His son Oliver (c. 1522–1582) was created 1st Baron St John of Bletso in 1558/59. Oliver’s son was another John St. John (d.1596), was 2nd Baron St John of Bletso, and could be a likely candidate for this verve.

Rings like this were used in falconry to identify the owners of birds of prey and were attached to the animal by means of the leather jesses that looped around their feet.



Figure 4. BH-539F24: Post-Medieval cuff link element from Bletsoe.

A complete stamped silver Post-Medieval cuff link element, likely dating to the period c. AD 1650–1700. The cuff link is circular in plan, flat on both the front and reverse faces. On the front, the link is decorated in relief design consisting of a raised scalloped border and a central design of two clasped hands surmounted by a single-arched crown and two hearts with a pellet above each below (possibly intended to be flaming hearts). The reverse is undecorated apart from the hollow relief of the scalloped border and a central soldered circular-sectioned loop (3.1mm aperture).

Comparable silver cuff links can be seen on the PAS database (SOM-E05190, KENT-451A33, ESS-2592A7), while similar examples with two hearts and a slightly different crown design include LVPL-790824, DUR-59FB0A, SOM-CE0B8B, SWYOR-A44AE3 and LANCUM-9F0203. All are silver and date between AD 1650 and 1700, though none of these examples feature the scalloped border that this one does.

Buckinghamshire

Total Objects: 1,472 Treasure Cases: 33

A complete cast copper alloy strap junction dating to the late Iron Age to early Roman period (late 1st century BC - early 1st century AD). The harness fitting comprises three conjoined loops with a central horse’s head projecting from the upper edge on the front surface; above the lower loop and between the two upper loops. The horse’s head is decorated with incised grooves detailing the mouth, nose and mane, and a ring and dot for each eye. The copper alloy has a mid-green to dark patina.



Figure 5. BERK-A940D9: A complete late Iron Age to early Roman strap junction from Upper Winchendon (Find of Note designation: *regional Importance*).

Such strap dividers are thought to date to the late Iron Age, the late 1st century BC or early 1st century AD. Similar examples can be seen on the PAS database (LON-C12241, NARC-565894, HAMP2961, HAMP-7794C4) and also in literature (Bushe-Fox, 1926, 47, Plate XV:no.29) but these have an anthropomorphic face instead of a zoomorphic head.



Figure 6. BUC-15BAF5: A Complete Roman finger ring from Lacey Green.

A complete, cast copper alloy Roman finger ring of Henig Type IX, or Guiraud Type 9a and dating to the period c. AD. 200–410. The hoop has an octagonal outer form and a trapezoid shaped cross-section. It has a smooth circular inner and is undecorated on both inner and outer faces. Overall, the finger ring has a dark grey patina overlaying a coppery-gold colour base.

In comparison to other examples from the PAS database (BERK-B52E6F, ASHM-9168DA, HESH-8A7309), this ring seems to be an unusually small example with an external diameter of 16.38mm and an internal diameter of just 12.79mm.

A complete Early-Medieval silver pendant set with a Roman intaglio and probably dating to c. AD 500–700. The frame is a grey-silver colour and oval in shape. The lower part of the frame has a circumventing rounded lip set with small circular incised pellets. Along the edge of the frame is a border of incised lines running towards the reverse.

On the reverse, the pendant is flat with four central petal shaped perforations, through which the reverse of the intaglio is visible.

Irregular, semi-circular sheet clasps hold the oval intaglio in place. The intaglio is black in colour with flecks of bright red contained within. It is engraved with a chariot scene depicting a charioteer holding a whip up high over four rearing horses.



Figure 7. BUC-F9F6C1: An Early-Medieval silver pendant set with a Roman intaglio from Kingsey (Find of Note designation: *county/local importance*).

A suspension loop formed of a grooved strip of sheet silver is situated at the top of the pendant. The loop is set along the edge that the horse and chariot face, which would have caused the intaglio design to have hung on its side.

Similar records on the database include NARC-06E2CB and KENT-B8F318.

An Early-Medieval silver penny of Edward the Confessor (AD. 1042–66), PACX type dating to c. AD 1042–1044. Minted by the moneyer Godwine at Thetford.



Figure 8. BUC-18BB6A: An Early-Medieval silver penny of Edward the Confessor from Slapton (Find of Note designation: *county/local importance*).

The obverse depicts a diademed bust facing left with a sceptre in front with the inscription: EDPARD REX. On the reverse, a voided long cross with a central circle and each limb ending in a crescent divides the legend: GO/DPI/NE O/N IDE; PACX in the angles. North (1994:179), no. 813.

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This coin appears to be die-linked (obverse and reverse) to Pagan (2011:91), no. 447. With thanks to Dr Rory Naismith for the information provided on this coin.

Northamptonshire

Total Objects: 1,530 Treasure Cases: 30



Figure 9. NARC-0352D0: Roman dolphin buckle from Cransley.

A copper alloy buckle dating to the second half of the Roman period (AD. 200–410). This type of buckle belongs to the crested dolphin type, which was popular throughout the Roman army (Apples and Laycock, 2007, 167).

The buckle comprises of a D-shaped frame decorated with two inward facing dolphin heads. These are C shaped with curved necks, sub triangular heads and long tapering crest above the head and neck. In the centre of each head are dot in circle stamped eyes. The crest is picked out with repeating transverse incised lines.

The frame is recessed just between the two heads to provide a pin rest, which is flanked by expanded collars. The object has a fixed circular strap bar, which has a central circular perforation and recess to facilitate the attachment of the wire pin, which is retained. Flanking the strap bar are raised areas with two ring and dot motifs on each.

The back of the object is smooth and flat with the exception of a single central, circular integral rivet in the backplate.



Figure 10. NARC-5DBF29: A silver penny of Cnut from Irchester.

A silver Early Medieval Scandinavian issue penny of Cnut the Great (AD. 1016–1035), dating to the period AD. 1017–1023. Quatrefoil obverse type. Minted by the moneyer Ornst in Cambridge.

The obverse depicts a crowded bust facing left with the inscription: CNVT REX ANGLO'X. Reverse on quatrefoil with pellet at apex of each cusp, long cross voided, each limb terminating in three crescents, with the inscription: +OR/NST/M O/GRA. North (1994:169), no. 796.

An incomplete copper alloy Book Clasp dating to the Medieval period (AD. 1200–1400). The object is a decorative clasp of Howsam type A.1.3. The clasp is semi-



Figure 11. NARC-97BAA7: An incomplete Medieval Book Clasp from Badby.

circular, flat, with faceted edges, and with a central circular rivet. The object is composed of two plates with a forked spacer retained between.

The central circular portion of the clasp is decorated with an outer circumferential border of incised repeating double line triangles with repeating incised lines between each. The inner portion of the plate is recessed with a raised quatrefoil border. There is a central retained pellet and four evenly spaced perforating rivets within the outer border. The object terminates with a tapered zoomorphic ram's head with raised horns (falling within the outer border of the circular plate) a rounded muzzle and open mouth. The back of the object is undecorated.

Clasps of similar style and shape are noted in Egan (1998:278–279) and Egan and Pritchard (1991:154–155). This example would have originally been attached to the end of a leather strap and fixed to the book itself by means of a pin or rivet (see Egan, 1998:279).



Figure 12. NARC-DE2466: An incomplete Medieval strap junction from Dodford.

An incomplete copper alloy strap junction dating to the Medieval period (AD. 1250–1450). The object is composed of a projecting upper scallop recurved hook, attached by a rectangular tab to an integral circular loop.

Three recurved waisted plates with scalloped terminals are fastened to the loop. Each plate has a single iron perforating rivet in the lower portion, except the left-hand plate which has a second smaller perforation below the iron rivet.

The front of the object is decorated with an integral raised linear design and is symmetrical on each of the plates. The back half of the plate is undecorated and terminates in a tapering point. The hooked terminal is curved and tapers at the top to form a shell shape, it is decorated with radiating raised lines and an upper collar.

The metal is dark green in colour, with areas of brown iron corrosion, and has a predominantly smooth patina.

A similar example (HAMP-454CE4) can be seen on the PAS database and also slightly different forms including lozengiform (BH-008CF6), circular (YORYM-BD3881).

Oxfordshire

Total Objects: 2,453 Treasure Cases: 56



Figure 13. BERK-EF7823: A Late Bronze Age dagger scabbard chape from Rotherfield Peppard (Find of Note designation: *regional importance*).

A cast copper alloy Late Bronze Age 'bag-shaped' dagger scabbard chape associated with the Carp's Tongue complex. The chape is formed from a single sheet of copper alloy, beaten and folded over to form the bulbous crescent shape. A section of the back has been lost in antiquity, the front, which remains intact, has three rivet fixing holes. There is the remnant of one hole, to the broken rear of the chape. The surface has a mid-green, roughened patina.

Similar bag-shaped chapes on the PAS database include: NARC-5DEF37, NMS-99FB70, HAMP-095061, WILT-D4F151, SUSS-C65251 and DOR-BD9AED. Neil Wilkin (SUSS-C65251) notes that other parallels include the Mininis Bay hoard from Kent (Gerloff 2004, fig.59, no.12) and the Salisbury hoard (British Museum: 1961.006.7; 1998.0901.149).

Thanks to Peter Reavill for providing more information on this type of chape. For further discussion on bag-shaped chapes, please see Neil Wilkin's comments for SUSS-C65251.

A complete Early-Medieval Merovingian gold tremissis, late pseudo-Imperial or National Coinage, dating to c. AD 560–585. Probably minted at Cirilia (Aveyron), Rodez (France). The obverse depicts a right-facing diademed bust with square shoulders enclosing linear decoration, with the inscription: C[...].S. On the reverse, a seated figure, facing right holding a figure in hand (probably Roma holding a Victory), in front, an altar can be seen with the inscription [...].O[...]./[...] in ex.

The coin is comparable to others listed from Cirilia and Rodez (Prou 1892:395, nos.1910–11; Belfort 1892: 428,



Figure 14. OXON-1C2E42: An Early-Medieval Merovingian gold tremissis from Ascott-under-Wychwood (Find of Note designation: *county/local importance*).

445, nos.1509, 1570; Depeyrot: 119 (vol IV), Rodez 3-2A). A comparable coin has been recorded on the PAS database (SUR-40F667) with similar bust style and reverse design, albeit the latter with the figure seated left, not right. That coin is attested to (possibly) Theodebert II (AD. 595–611) and also to Rodez. Another coin (HAMP-38D124) from Rodez with a similar obverse bust style has also been recorded.

With thanks to Rod Blunt for his help in the identification of this coin and to Harry Bain of The Searcher for providing the information.



Figure 15. OXON-4E677E: A medieval silver penny of Stephen (AD.1135–1154) from near Wheatley (Find of Note designation: *regional importance*).

A Medieval silver penny of Stephen (AD. 1135–1154), Irregular Issue, Midlands and South-Western Area (North 887; cf. Mack 181–2). Minted by the moneyer Rogier at Oxford. North 1994: 206–7; Mack 1966: 69–70.

The obverse depicts a crowned bust facing right, rose of nine pellets in front, with the inscription: +STIEF[...]. On the reverse, a cross with three pellets at end of each arm; mullet in each angle with the inscription: +ROGIER:O[]OXEN. Similar to the typical 'Watford' type (North 873) upon which it is based. However, this type differs in having no sceptre in front of the bust but rather a pellet rose. The coin is complete and hardly worn but has been straightened by the finder.

At the time of recording, this is only the second coin of its type known for the moneyer Rogier at Oxford. The other was found in 1989 as part of the Wicklewood hoard (British Museum: CM 1990, 6–29, 20; Allen 2012: 114). This coin has been acquired by the Heberden Coin Room at the Ashmolean Museum.



Figure 16. OXON-FD3896: A Post Medieval pocket sundial from North Leigh.

A complete copper alloy pocket or portable sundial dating to the Post-Medieval period (c. AD 1600–1800). Circular in plan and made up of two soldered annular bands and a semi-circular wire loop which attaches the two bands together, through which a separate slider ring of sheet copper alloy passes through.

On the outside of the band, the first letter of the first six months is stamped facing down on the lower half and the second six months are stamped facing upwards on the upper band. Opposite the months but on the inner face are two bands of engraved numbers bordered and separated by four engraved parallel longitudinal lines.

Sunlight would have passed through a washer-like ring on the slider, through the piercing on the band to the inside of the dial. When aligned to the sun, according to the date read from the other side, the dots and the gradations would have permit fractions of an hour to be read.

Conclusion

This concludes the highlights of just a fraction of the diverse range of finds from the South Midlands region during 2019. Without a doubt, the 2020 roundup will be equally No doubt the 2020 roundup will be equally heterogeneous as a result of the rise in garden finds during the coronavirus epidemic.

For information regarding other finds from 2019, please visit finds.org.uk/database, and use the advance search facility. Additionally, the *50 Finds* book for Oxfordshire and other counties is available online and in bookstores. The *50 Finds* book for Buckinghamshire is also available for pre-order.

With thanks to the regional FLOs and Ian Richardson of the Treasure Team for their contributions and support with this article.

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BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORD BOROUGH 2019–20

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

Archaeological fieldwork carried out as part of the development process has continued to identify new and interesting archaeological sites within Bedford Borough.

A large-scale archaeological evaluation of c. 141ha of land to the south of Bedford ahead of a proposed Business Park development was undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology (Northampton) (Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation comprised a combination of geophysics together with trial trench evaluation. The work identified 3 farmstead sites that appear to have been established from the Middle Iron Age to early Roman period with activity apparently continuing through to the late Roman period. Two of the farmsteads appear to be focussed on a north-east to south-west oriented routeway with a further farmstead on higher ground. A fourth farmstead was identified by geophysics to the north but access issues have currently prevented trenching of the site. It was possible to undertake some phasing of the farmsteads from the trenching results, with reworking including the creation of larger enclosures and truncation of the routeway appearing to occur in the 2nd century AD. Artefacts recovered during the trenching indicate that activity continued until the 4th century AD.

A medieval moated site in the southern part of the area was also identified. Early aerial photographs demonstrate that the moat remained at least partially extant until the mid-20th century AD. The trenching established that the moat was in use approximately between the 12th-14th centuries AD. A further possible moated site has been tentatively identified from the geophysics in the area to the north which is yet to be trenched. These preliminary works have further expanded our knowledge of the long-lived archaeological activity that has taken place within the vicinity of the Elstow Brook. Should the development proceed then further trenching and archaeological mitigation is proposed.

During the second half of 2019, an open area excavation was undertaken on land at The Bury, Kempston by Albion Archaeology. The works followed an initial programme of historic building recording by Pre-Construct Archaeology of the Bury itself which is due to undergo conversion as part of the development proposals. Work on preparation of the post-excavation assessment report is still underway however preliminary results demonstrate dispersed multi-period activity across the site from the Prehistoric through to the Post-Medieval periods. The results appear to fit into the known archaeology of the surrounding area which was revealed during the large scale 'Land West of Kempston' investigations.

In addition to these large-scale investigations, numerous works on smaller development sites have continued to produce interesting results. A trial trench evaluation at Heddings Farm, Wyboston by Souterrain Archaeological Services identified activity at the site in the form of pits and

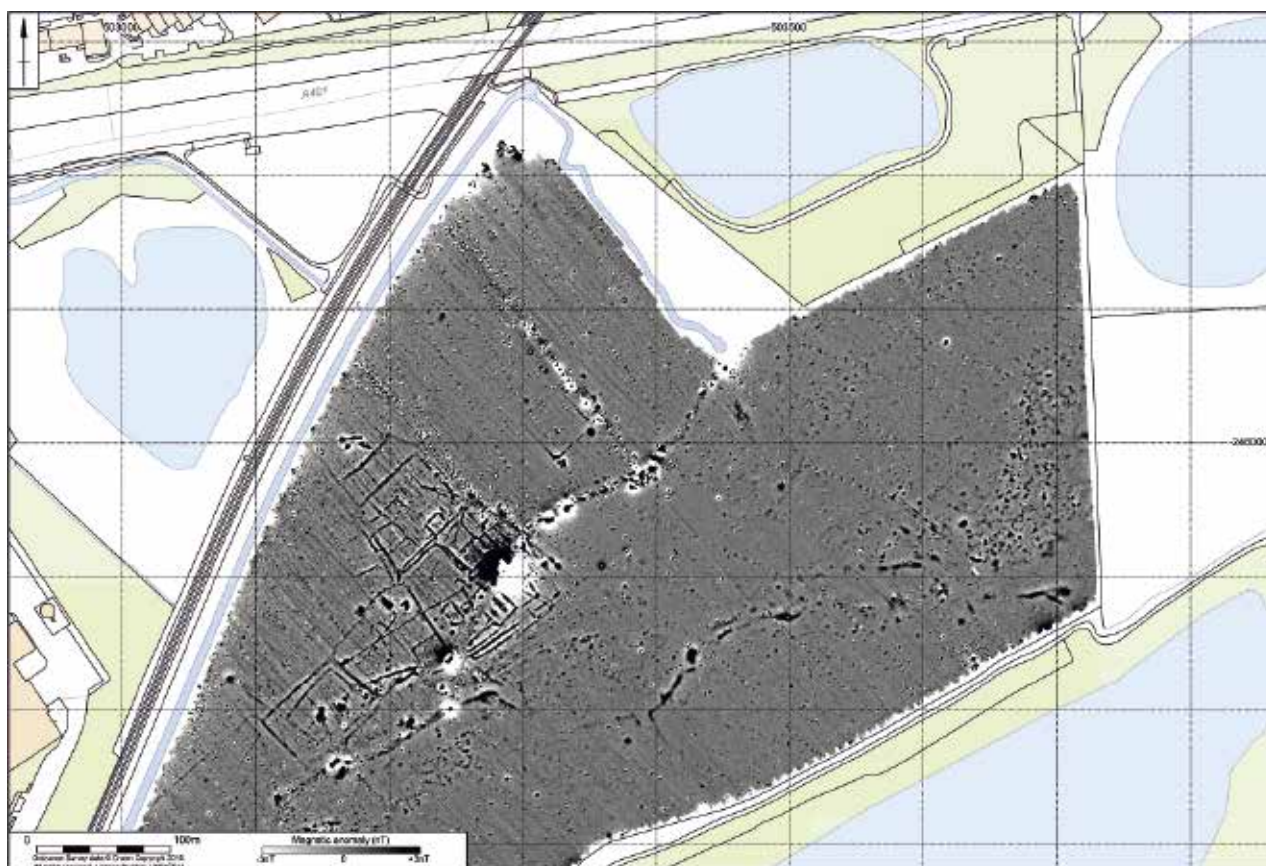


Figure 1: Geophysics plot from the northern part of the proposed Business Park (MOLA Northampton)

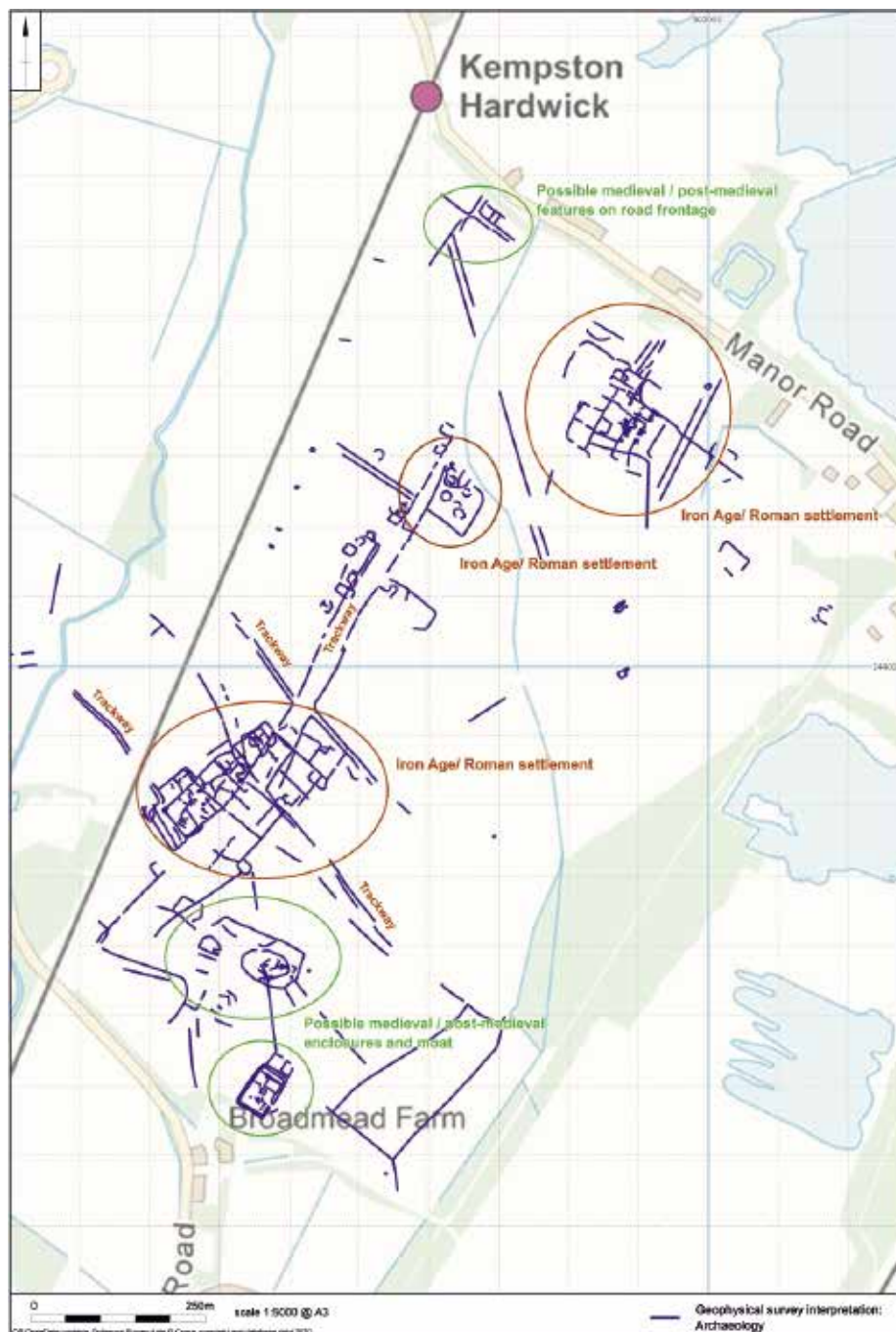


Figure 2: Geophysics interpretation from the southern part of the Business Park site (MOLA Northampton)

gullies from the 10th–11th centuries AD and later medieval period. Following an apparent break in activity, the site was reoccupied in the 18th–19th century AD. A trial trench evaluation followed by limited excavation was undertaken at the former Three Horseshoes site in Renhold by Albion Archaeology. The works identified a number of boundary ditches of medieval-early post-medieval date together with a number of quarry pits of similar date, although a small assemblage of residual Late Saxon pottery indicates earlier activity in the vicinity. A trial trench evaluation was carried out by Groundworks Archaeology ahead of development proposals for the expansion of the Swan Hotel, Bedford (Fig. 3). The earliest deposits comprised probable alluvial layers of medieval date, evidence of an early-mid 18th century timber framed structure possibly associated with the original Swan Inn, and the remains of a stone building

with an internal lime mortar floor also of 18th century date.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

During the last year, substantial amounts of new material has been added to the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (HER) through participation in the NRHE to HER project (part of the larger Historic England Heritage Information Access Strategy) and the final phase of the National Mapping Programme for the Borough. The former covered the whole of the Borough and contributed new sites all over the north of Bedfordshire, whilst the latter focused on the north-west corner of the Borough. Both



Figure 3: Trench 2 at The Swan, Bedford showing external cobbled surface, beam slot, and internal lime floor of early-mid 18th century structure (Groundworks Archaeology)

projects have led to hundreds of new monuments being added to the database, and thousands more being edited, revised and accurately mapped. This provides a much-improved evidence base to underpin local planning and land use decisions, the development and implementation of planning policy, archaeological investigation, and academic and public research. Notably, these two projects have significantly added to the data for wartime sites, especially the airfields and their peripheral sites, including new records and additional details for existing records. At this time of reminder, when significant wartime anniversaries are taking place, it is more important than ever to recognise and protect the Borough's wartime heritage, an objective which can be helped by the availability of this new data within the HER.

Meanwhile, in particular, recognition of the quantity and quality of prehistoric and Romano-British cropmark complexes within the Borough has been reinforced by new data – the final phase of the NMP adding new sites and additional detail to existing settlement and ceremonial records. With major new infrastructure projects underway and on the horizon, as well as an increase in housing development, the availability of this new material to the HER is timely and will be used in decision-making and consideration of sites for scheduling.

Over the past 6 months the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record has also successfully completed an audit, overseen by Historic England. The process has provided the Archaeology Team with an up-to-date overview

of where improvements are required to the Record and helped them focus on key tasks that need to be prioritised to improve the HER and the quality of service and advice it provides. After his many years volunteering and working on externally funded projects, the team has also welcomed Matt Tuohy as our fixed-term HER officer.

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Arlesey, Etonbury Academy, Stotfold Road
TL 2040 3715

LEWIS BUSBY and JEREMY OETGEN

Mitigation of construction works revealed further evidence of early to middle Iron Age settlement, with some late Bronze Age and late Iron Age evidence. Evaluation in 2014 (SMA 2015) had found a series of Iron Age enclosures. Due to a planning oversight, development of the [Victoria] Pendleton sports centre took place without mitigation, but it is thought that the remains still survive beneath the all-weather sports pitch. In 2019, another development was undertaken on the site, comprising a new teaching block and play areas – this included an additional sports pitch to the south of the previously evaluated area.

Archaeological monitoring of the new building works and play areas revealed few archaeological features. However, groundworks for the new sports pitch revealed a southward continuation of the enclosures recorded in 2014.

Bedfordshire

Therefore, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist recommended an open-area excavation to investigate and record the remains (Fig. 4).

The earliest features related to late Bronze Age activity. A large pit that produced animal bone and pottery would have originally functioned as a water-pit but was later reused as a shallow storage pit. A grouping of twelve postholes surrounding the pit indicates that the feature was enclosed during its use.

Early to middle Iron Age remains consisted of a sequence of intercutting sub-circular enclosures, which clearly formed the continuation of the enclosure system identified by earlier evaluations on the site. Internal features included two roundhouses, postholes and a number of pits, one of which contained the burial of a horse in a supine position. A sequence of eight storage pits was located outside the main enclosure area to the south-east. One pit was repurposed as a grave; it contained the burial of a juvenile, placed in a supine position with a drum-shaped jet/shale bead and a brooch (Fig. 5).

A moderate assemblage of domestic pottery was recovered from the site, dominated by 4.45 kilograms of early to middle Iron Age pottery. 15.4 kg of animal bone was also recovered from the site, as well as five Iron Age metal objects, including two nails, two brooch fragments and the socketed blade of an agricultural tool or spearhead.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2018.87
OASIS Number: albionar1-336511

Arlesey, St Peter's Church TL 1919 3753

GARETH SHANE

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the hand-excavation and improvement of an existing French drain on the south side of the church nave, the excavation of new drains, and the repair of existing ones surrounding the church. The excavation of the French drain on the south side of the nave exposed the full depth of the foundation, allowing its form of construction and state of preservation to be recorded.

The nave foundation comprised randomly coursed, roughly hewn clunch stone, sat upon a bedding layer of mid-brown-orange, loose sand with limestone fragments. The latter represents the 'outer edge' of a deposit placed within the foundation trench and tamped down to form a construction base. In addition, the near full depth of the pilaster buttresses was exposed and recorded. The buttresses sat on large unshaped limestone blocks and had been subject to multiple repairs, using differing materials.

Four other drainage trenches exposed little that was unexpected of a typical churchyard – a mixture of modern disturbance (where old drainage works were improved and renewed) or graveyard soil occasionally revealing disarticulated human bone in the areas that broke new ground.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.43
OASIS Number: albionar1-348426



Figure 4: Etonbury excavations in progress, showing Iron Age enclosures emerging from beneath the existing sports pitch, with storage pits and burial in foreground. (Photo by John McBurney on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council)



Figure 5: Recording of the Iron Age juvenile burial

Bedford, Britannia Gate, Champion Way TL 0442 4895
JEREMY OETGEN and KATHY PILKINTON

Planning consent was granted for a residential development on part of the former Britannia Ironworks site. Trial trenching had demonstrated considerable modern truncation, but Iron Age features survived at the western edge of the site and an undated burial was recorded just outside the development, to the north-east. The development was designed to minimise archaeological impact. However, there was considerable uncertainty as to the level of archaeological survival, so precautionary archaeological monitoring of construction groundworks was carried out.

The observations enabled a clearer definition of the extent of modern truncation – with reference to previous trial trenching, engineer's test-pits and piling logs, as well as historical maps and aerial photographs. The ground in north-east part of the development had been reduced by c. 2m for the basement of a large ironworks building. However, the south and west sides of the development had not been truncated. Here, a ditch was found during excavation of ground-beam trenches. It was undated, but likely to be contemporary with the Iron Age remains found in the nearby trial trench.

The large ironworks building had extended beyond the development area to the north-east. This means that the human remains found c. 2m down in the trial trench must have lain immediately below the floor of the ironworks basement. It raises the possibility that the remains had been

found during the construction of the basement and reinterred at the time below the basement floor.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.83
OASIS Number: albionar1-367679

Bedford, Land at 275 London Road or 63 Willow Road
TL 0546 4877

BENJAMIN CARROLL and JEREMY OETGEN

Archaeological trial trenching took place within an active building site. Three trenches were excavated – two were devoid of archaeological features, but one revealed two parallel gullies containing sherds of Romano-British pottery. The gullies were c. 1m apart and on a broadly NE–SW alignment. They were probably part of a field system associated with the Roman kilns that have been discovered c. 100m to the east at Kingsbrook School.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.03
OASIS Number: albionar1-340217

Bedford, Land at Fairhill, Great Ouse Way
TL 03432 50943

ALLAN KING, GARETH SHANE, and IAIN LESLIE

A hybrid planning application was submitted for the erection of a microbrewery with access road and ancillary works and for mixed-use development, to include employment land, leisure and hotel uses. Archaeological trial-trenching

Bedfordshire

identified archaeological remains in seven of the eight trenches. A re-cut late Iron Age/early Roman boundary ditch was identified whilst medieval furrows were also present. Elsewhere a single undated ditch was identified along with evidence for modern activity.

Additional investigation in the north-west part of the site revealed more of the late Iron Age/early Roman boundary, which was shown to curve to the north-west and east, presumably enclosing an area to the north beyond the limits of the site. An additional contemporary ditch and posthole were also identified. A modest finds assemblage suggests domestic activity was taking place nearby, possibly associated with a late Iron Age/Roman farmstead previously identified, c. 100m to the north.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.50

OASIS Number: albionar1-349489

Biggleswade, 'Symmetry Park', Stratton Business Park Phase 6 TL 2130 4320

BENJAMIN CARROLL, JEREMY OETGEN, IRENE SALA, and
GARETH SHANE

Open-area excavation of c. 3.3ha took place, prior to the construction of a large distribution warehouse within a c. 23ha development site north-east of Stratton Farm and Market Garden Road. Field evaluation in 2015 had identified three foci of settlement dating from the early-middle Iron Age to the early Roman period. The mitigation strategy combined open-area excavation with areas of preservation in situ (Fig. 6).

Two of the settlement foci were revealed to be elements of a much more extensive linear settlement, comprising multiple interconnected systems of enclosures and activity areas, which extended beyond the limits of the development site. South-west of Stratton Farm, the main ditch alignments could be traced in previous excavations west of Market Garden Road. On open farmland to the north-east, further traces of settlement were evident from geophysical survey.

The earliest firm evidence for permanent settlement dated to the early-middle Iron Age. This was characterised by a large D-shaped enclosure with an east-facing entrance and field boundary ditches, although no clear evidence of occupation was uncovered.

Evidence of later Iron Age settlement was widespread within the southern part of site, comprising multiple enclosures and field systems. The main area of occupation was located immediately north-east of the Stratton Farm curtilage; it was bounded by ditches was focused around clusters of storage pits and several roundhouse gullies. One of the boundary ditches appeared to have been strengthened by a palisade running alongside it.

The late Iron Age settlement appears to have survived the transition into the Roman period. Ditches were reworked and expanded into larger, more regular enclosures and field boundaries. There was no clear evidence of buildings and structures from this period, although several large water-pits correlated with the earlier activity on site suggesting some continued activity in the area. Finds evidence suggests that the activity in the area persisted into the later Roman period.

Despite the extent and density of archaeological features, no evidence for funerary activity was uncovered from



Figure 6: Biggleswade 'Symmetry Park': aerial view of the site in December 2019, looking north. The main foci of Iron Age settlement are ringed.

any period (but it is still possible that unrecognised small fragments of human bone might be identified during detailed examination of the animal bone assemblage). One piece of Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the upper deposits of the larger ditches, hinting at a possible continuation of settlement after the Roman period.

There was no evidence of medieval settlement, and occasional traces of ridge and furrow (mostly identified during soil stripping) suggest that the land was under cultivation at the time as part of an open-field system. Later features included a few infilled ponds or quarry pits and post-Enclosure field boundaries, correlated with OS maps.

Accession no.: BEDFM 2018:64
OASIS ID: albionar1-326938

Dunstable, Globe House, 84–88 High Street South
TL 02045 21613

ALLAN KING and TORI GUY

Archaeological investigation was undertaken within the footprint of new buildings, covering an area of *c.* 11m × 9.5m. A buried subsoil survived beneath modern make-up layers, sealing post-medieval features. They consisted of two pits, a ditch and a potential wall foundation. The quantity of material recovered from the later pit (including animal bone, brick and Totternhoe Stone (clunch)) suggests reuse as a rubbish pit. The short length of foundation was constructed of re-used peg tile. It was heavily truncated by a curving post-medieval ditch, which represented a later phase of land division.

The site was presumably levelled prior to the construction of a modern building, represented by two parallel foundations. One of these was truncated by a later wall foundation, which was probably associated with the police station that formerly occupied the site. A modern drainage ditch running parallel to Friars Walk may have been contemporary with one or both of these buildings.

Accession Number: LUTNM 2019/60
OASIS Number: albionar1-350731

Dunstable, 46 Kingsway TL 0217 2213

LEWIS BUSBY

Archaeological monitoring of a house extension revealed a NNW–SSE aligned ditch, which could date back to the post-medieval or, more likely, the early modern period. A footpath is marked in a similar location and alignment on maps dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Accession Number: LUTNM 2019/64
OASIS Number: albionar1- 359072

Land at 21 Sandy Road, Everton TL 2008 5106

IAIN LESLIE, TORI GUY, LEWIS BUSBY, and JACKIE WELLS

Small-scale, open-area excavation in advance of a residential development uncovered medieval remains, including a late medieval pottery kiln. This is the second such kiln identified in Everton, the first being located *c.* 300m to the north-east (Slowikowski, 2011).

Early medieval

The earliest remains within the investigation area comprised a series of nine early medieval storage pits. These were

located in the east of the excavated area, at the rear of what would have been medieval burgrave plots.

Late medieval

Late medieval remains comprised a hollow way, pottery kiln and associated features. These features appeared to broadly respect the earlier phase, suggesting a continuity of land boundaries, even as the use changed.

The east-west orientated hollow way probably provided a route between the main road and the open fields to the east. Perpendicular to the hollow way, a series of ditches may have represented the boundaries between domestic and non-domestic activities within the burgrave plots.

The pottery kiln is thought to have had at least three phases of construction. The first phase was a simple 'bowl-shaped' bonfire kiln, which was almost entirely truncated by later phases. Evidence suggests the superstructure may have collapsed, instigating the second phase of construction, which comprised a large, single-chambered, sunken kiln, with surviving stoke hole, flue, and pedestal (Figs. 7 & 8). The size and complexity of the construction, as well as the recovered pottery assemblage, suggests production on an industrial scale. The final phase saw a return to a simpler bonfire kiln.

The finds assemblage was extremely large, even for a kiln of this type and date: *c.* 10,000 fragments (*c.* 180kg) of late medieval reduced ware, common within Bedfordshire, with the majority associated with backfilling of the kilns. Forms included jars, bowls, jugs, and cisterns, with simple decoration restricted to: Thumbled bases and cistern bungs; sparse horizontal combing on body sherds; and stabbed, slashed and thumbled jug handles. Poorly applied purple-brown glaze occurs on the exterior of a small number of jugs. A proportion of the assemblage comprises wasters and/or usable seconds, evidenced by a range of defects (crazing, cracking, spalling/flaking, blistering/bloating, overfiring, partial vitrification and fire clouds).

Slowikowski, A. M., 2011 'Genius in a Cracked Pot': Late Medieval Reduced Ware: A Regional Synthesis, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 4.

OASIS ID: albionar1-359459

Accession no.: BEDFM 2018.16

Flitton and Greenfield, Land to rear of 7–8 Moat Farm, Greenfield TL 0494 3451

JO BARKER and GARETH SHANE

An evaluation comprising eight trial trenches revealed no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A layer of rubble was spread across the southern half of the investigation area beneath the topsoil.

Accession Number: LUTNM 2019/10
OASIS Number: albionar1-335647

Houghton Regis, Land at The Gates, Bidwell
TL 0135 2477

ERNIE RIZZO, IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

Ten of the thirteen trenches revealed archaeological remains. In most cases, the small quantities of recovered artefacts mean that the features can only be tentatively dated. A small number of possible early medieval features were revealed,



Figure 7: NE- and SE-facing sections of the kiln, showing the first two phases of construction



Figure 8: The single-chambered, sunken kiln under excavation

as well as a possible late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit. Less significant late medieval/early post-medieval and modern features were also revealed, together with a number of undated features.

Accession Number: LUTNM 2019/13

OASIS Number: albionar1-341407

Houghton Regis North 1: Site HRN3206 TL 035 252

MIKE LUKE and JO BARKER (Fieldwork led by WES KEIR and IAN TURNER)

Between August 2018 and February 2019 the largest of several open-area excavations took place within the Houghton Regis North 1 development area on the north-east edge of Houghton Regis. The results of the HRN3205 excavation were presented in last year's journal (Barker *et al.* 2019). Site HRN3206 comprised a 5.3ha open-area excavation (Fig. 11) and revealed evidence for activity from the late Neolithic to the post-medieval period (Fig. 9). The following summary is based on the Assessment and Updated Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2019).

Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age

The earliest evidence for human activity comprised a ring-ditch monument located at the northern limit of the excavation area and an isolated unurned cremation burial. The latter was dated to the early Bronze Age date by radiocarbon determination and was located *c.* 220m south of the ring-ditch.

The initial ring-ditch defined a sub-circular area with an internal diameter of 5m. Its ditch (0.6–0.8m wide and 0.5m deep) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. This was replaced by a ditch that defined an area with a diameter of 15m and completely enclosed the original monument. This ditch was much wider (1.9–2.7m) than the original and was 0.7m deep. A layer of firm mid-orange-brown silty clay sealed the inner ditch; it is likely to pertain to mound material associated with the later ring-ditch. Notable was the absence of a buried soil beneath the possible mound material, suggesting that the area was cleared of topsoil prior to the construction of the original monument. The two episodes of ditch-digging and the monuments' dimension are similar to a ring-ditch investigated on the Woodside Link, *c.* 1km to the south-east (Albion Archaeology 2018; Barker forthcoming).

Mid-late Bronze Age

A field system was established in the northern half of the excavation area during the mid to late Bronze Age. Situated to the south of the fields was an area of dispersed activity, including six cremation burials, an inhumation, two post-built structures, pits and postholes. In addition, a single cremation burial was also identified adjacent to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age ring-ditch.

The field system comprised at least three rectilinear fields, all of which were defined by truncated lengths of ditch, on a broadly east-west or north-south alignment. Two field boundaries had been partially recut at least once, on the same course and alignment. The boundary of one field had been dug across the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age ring-ditch monument; it has been suggested that where this occurs the earlier monuments 'served as nodal points', e.g. Barleycroft Over, Cambs. (Evans and Knight 2001, 85).

Six cremation burials and an inhumation were situated to the south of the field system, near the southern limit of the excavation area. Four of the cremation burials (three urned and one unurned) were clustered in a cemetery and the inhumation was also situated *c.* 20m to the west of the cremation cemetery. The individual had been placed in a crouched position, with its head to the west. Although three of the cremation burials were urned the pottery could not be closely dated. Therefore, assignment of the cremation burials and inhumation to this phase was based on radiocarbon determinations.

Early/middle Iron Age

Evidence for activity during this period comprised dispersed roundhouses and occasional pits located to the south of the mid-late Bronze Age field system. Approximately six heavily truncated roundhouses were identified. All were less than 12m in diameter and where they could be identified had east-facing entrances. The recovered finds assemblage was small and may suggest the settlement was short-lived or temporary in nature.

Late Iron Age/early Roman

An enclosed farmstead was established in the north-west part of the excavation area during this period. It was of at least 1.7ha in extent but clearly continued beyond the development area. It comprised at least three inter-linked enclosures/fields, generally square or rectilinear in plan.

The focus of the farmstead was indicated by a concentration of pits, postholes and structures in one enclosure, although pits and postholes were occasionally encountered in other enclosures/fields. Water-pits, defined by their depth (up to 2m deep) and size (1.7–7.6m in diameter) rather than the presence of waterlogged material, were located in the corners of two of the enclosures.

Roman

During the Roman period, a settlement was established over the southern part of the excavation area and it seems likely that it extended beyond the development area. The settlement comprised enclosures attached to either side of a trackway. The layout of the settlement altered over time, but the trackway remained the determining factor in its development. The apparent small number or even absence of rectangular buildings, in contrast to roundhouses, has been noted on many sites of this date. Therefore, as part of the assessment, an attempt was made to postulate the location of rectangular buildings based on the shape and size of enclosure ditches (Fig. 10).

Establishment of the settlement

The initial settlement was located away from the late Iron Age/early Roman settlement. It was at least 1.7ha in extent and focussed on an east-west aligned trackway, defined by two parallel ditches spaced *c.* 23m apart, with enclosures on either side. The enclosures to the south were defined by ditches that had been recut at least once, on the same course and alignment. A single roundhouse was identified; it was *c.* 12m in diameter with an east-facing entrance. The evidence for activity north of the trackway included a roundhouse that was *c.* 11m in diameter with a SE-facing entrance. In addition, there were dispersed pits, quarry pits and a pond. The northern part of the settlement featured a possible livestock 'race', defined by two parallel ditches that were 1.5–5m apart.

Bedfordshire

First modification of settlement layout

The first significant modification to the layout of the settlement comprised the establishment of new enclosures on the north side of the trackway and the reorganisation and replacement of pre-existing enclosures to the south of the trackway. The c. 2.1ha settlement was defined on its south side by a substantial boundary ditch (2.1–3.5m wide and 0.7–1m deep), which had been recut at least twice. The settlement was still organised around the east-west trackway, the ditches of which were recut at least twice on the same alignment. However, the position of the northern trackside ditch was moved, reducing the width of the trackway to c. 13m.

Reorganisation and replacement of pre-existing enclosures boundaries to the south of trackway resulted in new enclosures, some of which had a curved layout and narrow entrances possibly used to control the movement of livestock. Several water-pits (c. 1.2m deep) were also associated with two of the enclosures. Positioned within one enclosure was a possible long-hearth drying oven. It comprised a NE–SW aligned flue (1.6m long, 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep) with a semi-circular chamber (1.7m in diameter and 0.6m deep) at the south-west end. Interestingly, its location coincided with a roundhouse assigned to the initial settlement phase and it is likely that the roundhouse ditch or perhaps remains of its walls were deliberately maintained. Several pits in the vicinity of the former roundhouse produced assemblages of metal artefacts, including hobnails, a pruning hook and a knife.

Approximately 15 new enclosures of various sizes were established to the north of trackway. Evidence for internal activity comprised a number of small pits and a water-pit, but no obvious structures were identified. However, the size and shape of several enclosures, including one on the periphery, may indicate that they contained a rectangular building. A stone surface may have been associated with this putative building – perhaps a yard or entranceway.

Second modification of settlement layout

A second significant modification to the layout of the settlement extended it northwards. It comprised alterations to the layout of enclosures to the north of the trackway and the establishment of fields and other activity beyond these to north. Small sub-rectangular enclosures established in this area may represent livestock pens or even rectangular buildings. No new enclosures were identified to the south, but it is possible that the pre-existing enclosures were retained.

The existence of two crop-processing areas was indicated by the remains of two heavily truncated drying ovens. One was probably of the ‘E-shaped’ form, similar to examples excavated at Hall Farm, Orton Longueville, Peterborough (Mackreth 1996, 75–7) and Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire (Moore 2017, 101–6). The HRN3206 oven was located within a semi-circular ditched enclosure with an internal diameter of 13m. Its central position within the enclosure suggests that they were contemporary; a similar arrangement was seen for the long-hearth oven (above) and for an oven on site HRN3205 (Barker *et al.* 2019, fig. 13). The enclosure also contained a number of pits, including a water-pit.

The second drying oven was probably of the rectangular-type (Morris 1979, 101–3, fig. 11); it was located in the northern part of an adjacent enclosure. A narrow ditch to the west suggests that the oven was situated in a sub-enclosure. Little of the oven survived; it was defined by small lumps

of limestone, charcoal and scorching on the sides and base of a shallow cut. Like the other drying oven it was also associated with a water-pit.

Final modification of settlement layout

The final redefinition of the settlement’s layout comprised the establishment of new enclosures and the occasional recutting of earlier enclosure boundaries; its extent was reduced to c. 1.5ha. The trackway did not appear to be maintained at this stage, although the location of enclosures suggests that it may have still existed as a routeway. Two new rectangular enclosures were established to the north of the trackway; they incorporated a number of the earlier enclosures and it is possible that many of the earlier boundaries also continued to be utilised.

Finds assemblage

There are some possibly unusual aspects to the finds assemblage from the Roman settlement, including a large number of coins (93), objects with possible military associations (two spearheads, a bolt head and possible apron fittings or strap mounts) and a votive stone carving (Fig. 12). The latter is thought to be of the god Mercury and is crudely fashioned from local Totternhoe clunch (ht. 148mm; w. 89.5mm; th. 66mm (at base)). The nature of the carving is suggestive of an amateur sculptor, and the object is thought to be unparalleled from Eastern Britain (pers. comm. Dr. Martin Henig).

Medieval

Two arrays of furrows indicative of medieval open-field systems were present. They followed a slightly different alignment to the Roman ditches.

Post-medieval

Ditches defining two fields were identified. One was positioned almost at right-angles to the medieval furrows and may have followed a former medieval headland.

Albion Archaeology, 2018 *The Woodside Link, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire: Assessment and Updated Project Design* (Unpubl. Rep. 2018/007)

Albion Archaeology, 2019 *Houghton Regis North Site 1, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, Development Areas F1 and F2: Assessment and Updated Project Design* (Unpubl. Rep. 2019/073)

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Moore, R., 2017 ‘A Roman corn-drying kiln at Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire, found in 1962’, *Northamptonshire Archaeology* 39, 101–106

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Accession no: LUTNM: 2018/19

OASIS ID: albionar1-290129



Figure 9: Houghton Regis HRN3206, Phased all-features plan

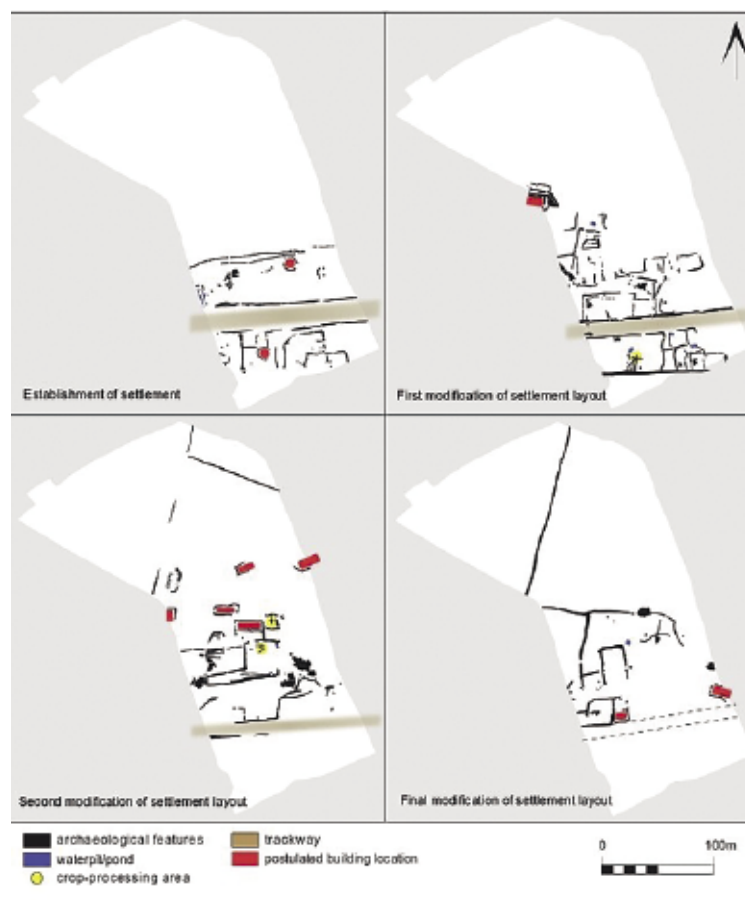


Figure 10: Houghton Regis HRN3206, Changes in the layout of the Roman settlement



Figure 11: Houghton Regis HRN3206, View of the excavation area looking north (Aerial-Cam)



Figure 12: Houghton Regis HRN3206, Stone carving (Adam Williams)

Houghton Regis North 1: Site HRN3455 TL 0160 2543
MIKE LUKE and KATHY PILKINTON (Fieldwork led by Wes Keir, Tori Guy, and Kathy Pilkinton)

Open-area excavation was undertaken along a 3.5m-wide, c. 350m-long corridor adjacent to the Ouzel Brook (Fig. 13). The following summary is based on the Assessment and Updated Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2019).

Late Iron Age/early Roman

The earliest evidence of human activity comprised a single ditch containing late Iron Age/early Roman pottery with no later Roman wares. Evaluation had indicated the presence of an enclosure which may have been part of a larger settlement of this period (Albion Archaeology 2012)

Roman

The investigations revealed part of a large settlement believed to extend over 5ha identified by geophysics and trial trenching undertaken as part of the evaluation (op. cit.). A series of NW–SE and NE–SW aligned ditches were present confirming the presence of the series of large enclosures indicated by the evaluation. A cobbled surface, which is interpreted as a yard, appeared to have been constructed within a shallow hollow measuring c. 6m × 3.5m. The stone-free deposits above the surface contained 13 fragments of human skull.

A dozen pits were found within the excavation corridor; some had vertical sides and a flat base suggesting a storage

function. They contained Roman pottery (c. 1.7kg) with the majority deriving from a single pit. One of the more unusual pottery sherds bears a Latin inscription written in black ink (Fig. 14). This has been translated by Roger Tomlin as: 'For a flagon of the gods Jupiter and Vulcan' (2019, 496–7). There is other evidence from elsewhere in Roman Britain for the cults of these two deities being combined. As Roger says, 'The purpose of this flagon can only be guessed, but perhaps it held wine to refresh a guild of worshippers'.

Albion Archaeology, 2019 *Houghton Regis North 1, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire: Phase 1 AIW within ACA2, ACA8 and ACA9: Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design* (Unpubl. rep. 2019/94)

Albion Archaeology, 2012 *Houghton Regis North Development, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Unpubl. rep. 2012/151)

Tomlin, R. 2019 'North of Houghton Regis', in 'III Inscriptions', *Britannia* 50

Accession no: LUTNM: 2018/37

OASIS ID: albionar1-335887

Houghton Regis North 1: Site HRN3456 TL 0236 2560
MIKE LUKE And KATHY PILKINTON (Fieldwork led by Wes Keir and Kathy Pilkinton)

A c. 2.5ha open-area excavation was undertaken to the south of the Ouzel Brook (Fig. 15). The investigations uncovered a N-S palaeochannel, a large number of tree-throw holes

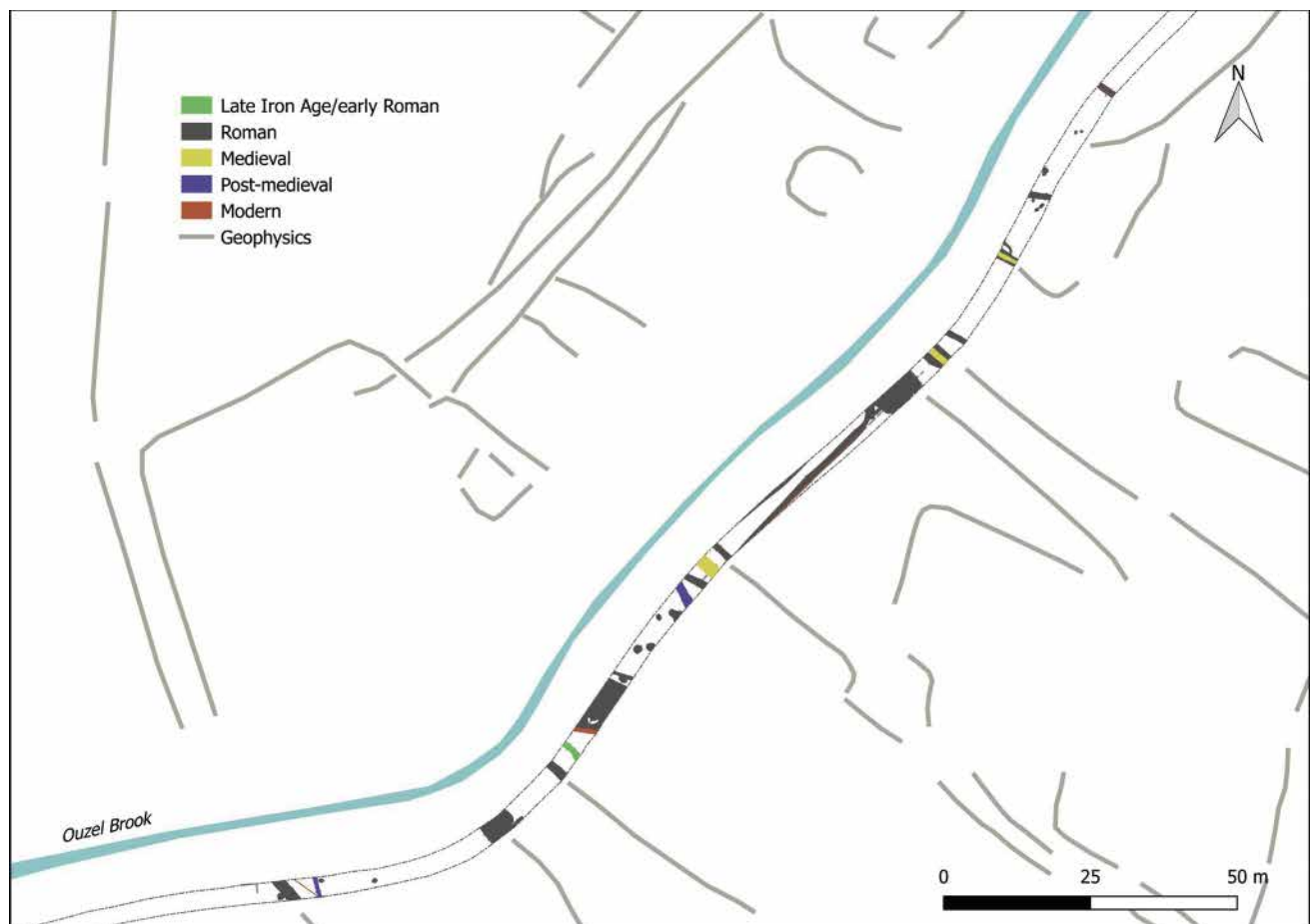


Figure 13: Houghton Regis North HRN3455, Phased all-features plan



Figure 14: Houghton Regis North HRN3455, Flagon sherd with Latin inscription (photograph by Adam Williams)

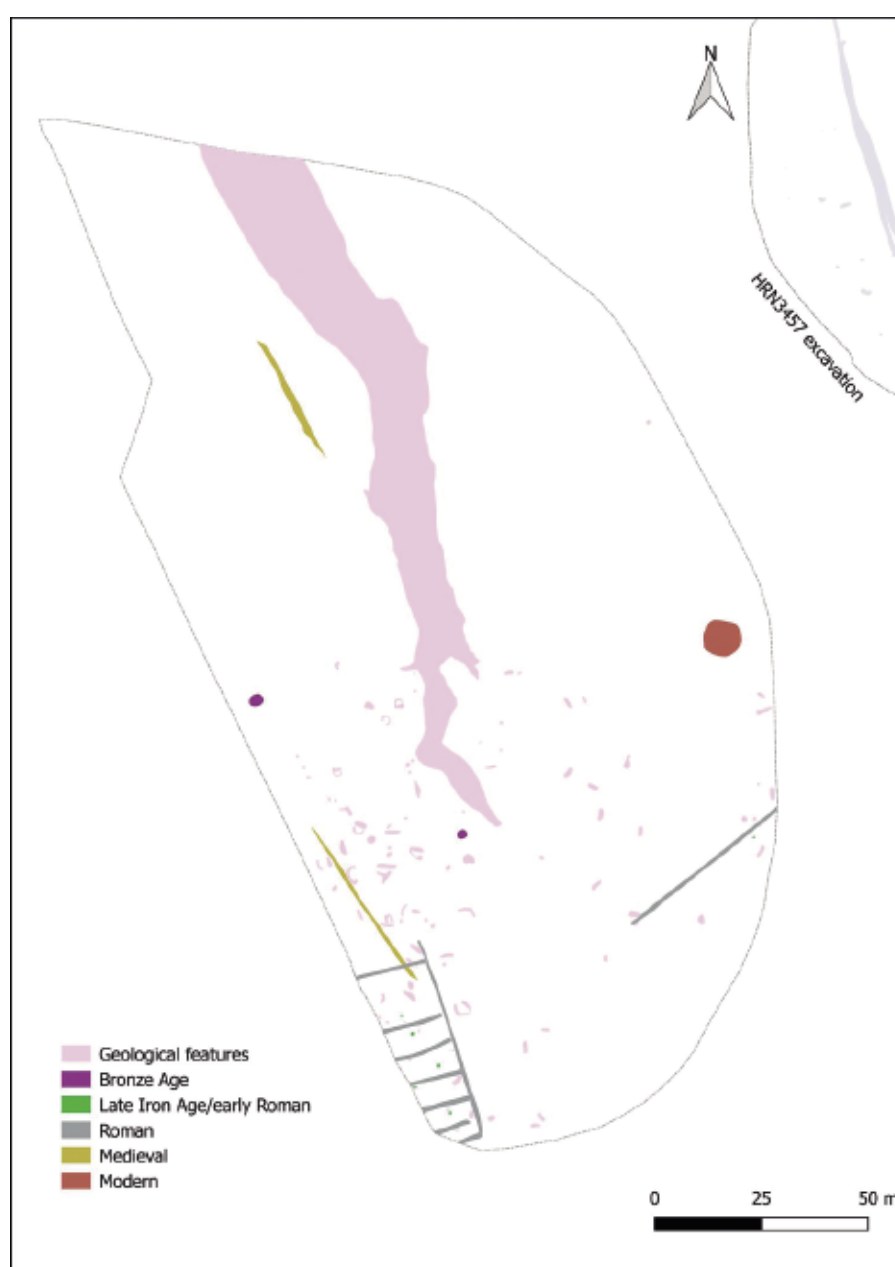


Figure 15: Houghton Regis North HRN3456, Phased all-features plan

and dispersed evidence for activity of several periods. The following summary is based on the Assessment and Updated Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2019).

Bronze Age

Evidence for this period consisted of two large pits. The large size (3.5m × 2.9m × 1.1m) of one suggests that it was a water-pit, although no waterlogged deposits survived near its base. It contained distinct chalky fills suggestive of deliberate backfilling. Although no firm dating evidence was recovered, the pits are similar to better-dated examples found on other HRN1 investigations.

Late Iron Age/early Roman

Two clusters of small pits (all less than 0.8m in diameter and 0.4m deep) were identified. They produced a small amount of pottery dated to this period.

Roman

A system of bedding trenches was located in the SW corner of the excavation area and clearly continued beyond its limit. It comprised seven NW-SE aligned trenches, c. 1m wide, 0.25m deep and c. 6m apart, all of which terminated at a NE-SW aligned ditch. Similar, apparently small blocks of bedding trenches, are known elsewhere in Bedfordshire, e.g. West of Kempston (Luke 2016, 292–4).

A NE-SW boundary ditch terminated c. 50m east of the bedding trenches; it corresponds with a ditch identified within the adjacent HRN3457 excavations (see below).

Medieval

Two heavily truncated furrows survived within the excavation area, indicating the presence of a medieval open-field system.

Modern

A shallow but almost perfectly round depression was found to the west of the excavation area.

Albion Archaeology, 2019 *Houghton Regis North 1, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire: Phase 1 AIW within ACA2, ACA8 and ACA9: Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design* (Unpubl. rep. 2019/94)

Luke, M., *Close to the Loop: landscape and settlement evolution beside the Biddenham Loop, west of Bedford*, East Anglian Archaeology 156

Accession no: LUTNM: 2018/38

OASIS ID: albionar1-335888

Houghton Regis North 1: Site HRN3457 TL 0254 2569

MIKE LUKE and KATHY PILKINTON (Fieldwork led by Wes Keir and Kathy Pilkinton)

A 2.5ha open-area excavation was undertaken adjacent to the Ouzel Brook and c. 40m from site HRN3456 (Fig. 16); an isolated 5m × 5m box, c. 200m to the east, also targeted an inhumation found during evaluation. The following summary is based on the Assessment and Updated Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2019).

A N-S palaeochannel, similar in nature and alignment to that within HRN3456 to the west, predated all archaeological

features. Its alignment was followed by ditches from the Bronze Age onwards. A large number of tree-throw holes were also present.

Bronze Age

A short length of SE-NW aligned ditch (including its terminal) was investigated within the box (not shown on Fig. 16). The burial was placed in an oval grave dug into the ditch terminal. The skeleton was flexed with its head to the NW. No grave goods or other finds were present, but the skeleton was radiocarbon dated to 1636–1501 cal BC (GU52376).

A boundary ditch was dug c. 40m to the west of, and parallel to, the palaeochannel. Stratigraphically it was the earliest feature within the main excavation area. It was not firmly dated but comparisons to similar ditches on other HRN1 sites suggest that it was probably dug in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age.

Late Iron Age/early Roman

At least two enclosures were established during this period, with a possible third extending beyond the northern limit of the excavation area. These enclosures were on the same alignment as the earlier boundary ditch but did not utilise it. A series of pits broadly corresponded to the enclosed area, but where a stratigraphic relationship was visible, the pits were always earlier than the enclosure ditches, suggesting that at least some of them represent slightly earlier, unenclosed activity. Two of the larger pits had the distinct 'bell'-shaped profile of storage pits and at least three four-post structures were present. The nature of the features and finds assemblage, which included 1.3kg of pottery, suggest this area was inhabited but perhaps only for a short period of time.

Roman

Roman activity was characterised by the enlargement of the pre-existing enclosures, with the new, larger enclosures encompassing the area of two of the earlier enclosures. Very few features were present within the enclosures. Two large pits situated to the south of the main enclosure were deep enough to have functioned as water-pits; however, no waterlogged deposits survived. The nature and number of the surviving features and the small finds assemblage suggest that the enclosures were on the periphery of a settlement.

A boundary ditch on a NE-SW alignment (different to that of the enclosure ditches) terminated at the southern limit of the main enclosure, suggesting that it may have been contemporary. It is the continuation of a ditch found within HRN3456, c. 130m to the south-west.

Anglo-Saxon

A sunken-featured building (SFB) was found centrally within the western enclosure that had originated in the late Iron/early Roman period. It was 3.5m long × 3m wide and dug into the chalk bedrock to a depth of only 0.1m. It had a pair of opposing postholes (up to 0.5m deep) on its long axis and a smaller central posthole (Fig. 17). Despite its shallow depth, c. 0.5kg of early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from its fill along with two iron nails, a fragment of a glass vessel and a Roman coin.

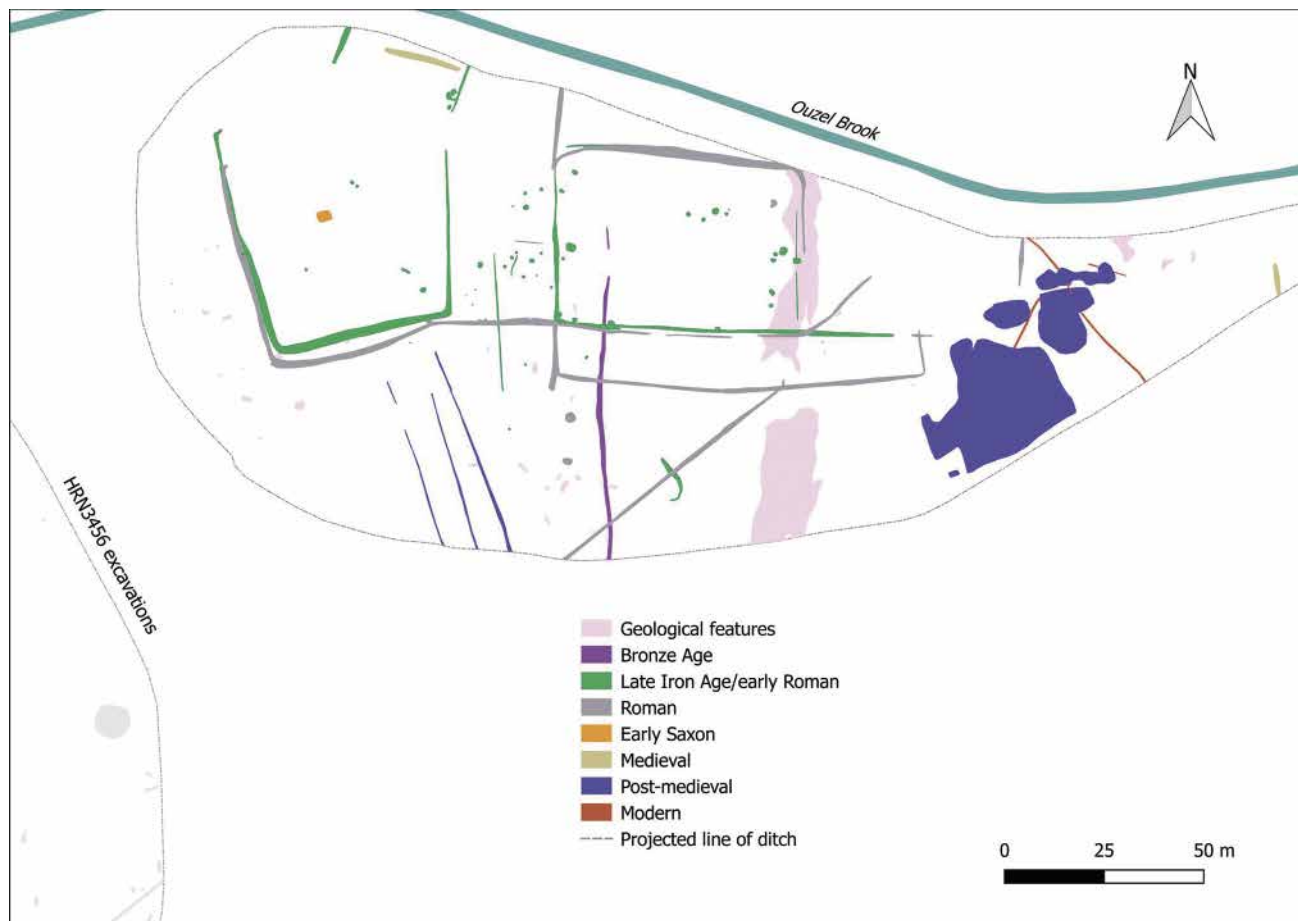


Figure 16: Houghton Regis North HRN3457, Phased all-features plan



Figure 17: Houghton Regis North HRN3457, Fully excavated sunken-featured building

Medieval and post-medieval

Two heavily truncated furrows survived within the excavation area, indicating the presence of a medieval open-field system. A series of quarry pits in the eastern part of the excavation area appeared to be of post-medieval date.

Albion Archaeology, 2019 *Houghton Regis North 1, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire: Phase 1 AIW within ACA2, ACA8 and ACA9: Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design* (Unpubl. rep. 2019/94)

Albion Archaeology, 2012 *Houghton Regis North Development, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Unpubl. rep. 2012/151)

Accession no: LUTNM: 2018/39

OASIS ID: albionar1-335889

Langford, Land off St Andrew's Way TL 1877 4151

ALLAN KING and WES KEIR

Ahead of residential development an open-area excavation revealed remains dating from the early Bronze Age through to the modern period, with most activity dated to the middle to late Iron Age (Fig. 18). The earliest features comprised several pits dating to between the Bronze Age and early Iron Age. The middle to late Iron Age features included a sub-square enclosure located on the northern edge of the site which measured 21m across and was formed by a large ditch, re-cut on multiple occasions. Two entrances were visible within the enclosure ditch. A roundhouse gully was located near to the enclosure as well as several pits and postholes.

A large curving ditch, which had also been re-cut on at least one occasion, was partially revealed on the eastern edge of the site and may represent a second enclosure. A NW–SE aligned boundary ditch appears to mark the southern limit of the settlement activity and several ditches on a similar alignment to the south may represent field boundaries. Later features included a Roman WNW–ESE aligned trackway, a horse burial possibly dating to the medieval period and several pits and postholes dating to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods dispersed within the western half of the site. Numerous undated small pits and postholes were scattered throughout the site. An undated pit contained an un-urned cremation.

Accession no.: BEDFM 2019.11

OASIS no: albionar1-343329

Lidlington, The Green Man, High Street SP 9901 3879

KATHY PILKINTON and WES KEIR

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of residential development; three 2m-wide trenches were excavated. Evidence of extensive landscaping during the modern period was revealed. The large amount of building material present within these layers is suggestive of demolished buildings, although no in-situ building remains were present. The only pre-modern features were two drainage ditches and a soakaway, all dated to the post-medieval/early modern period.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2016.91

OASIS Number: albionar1 -269790

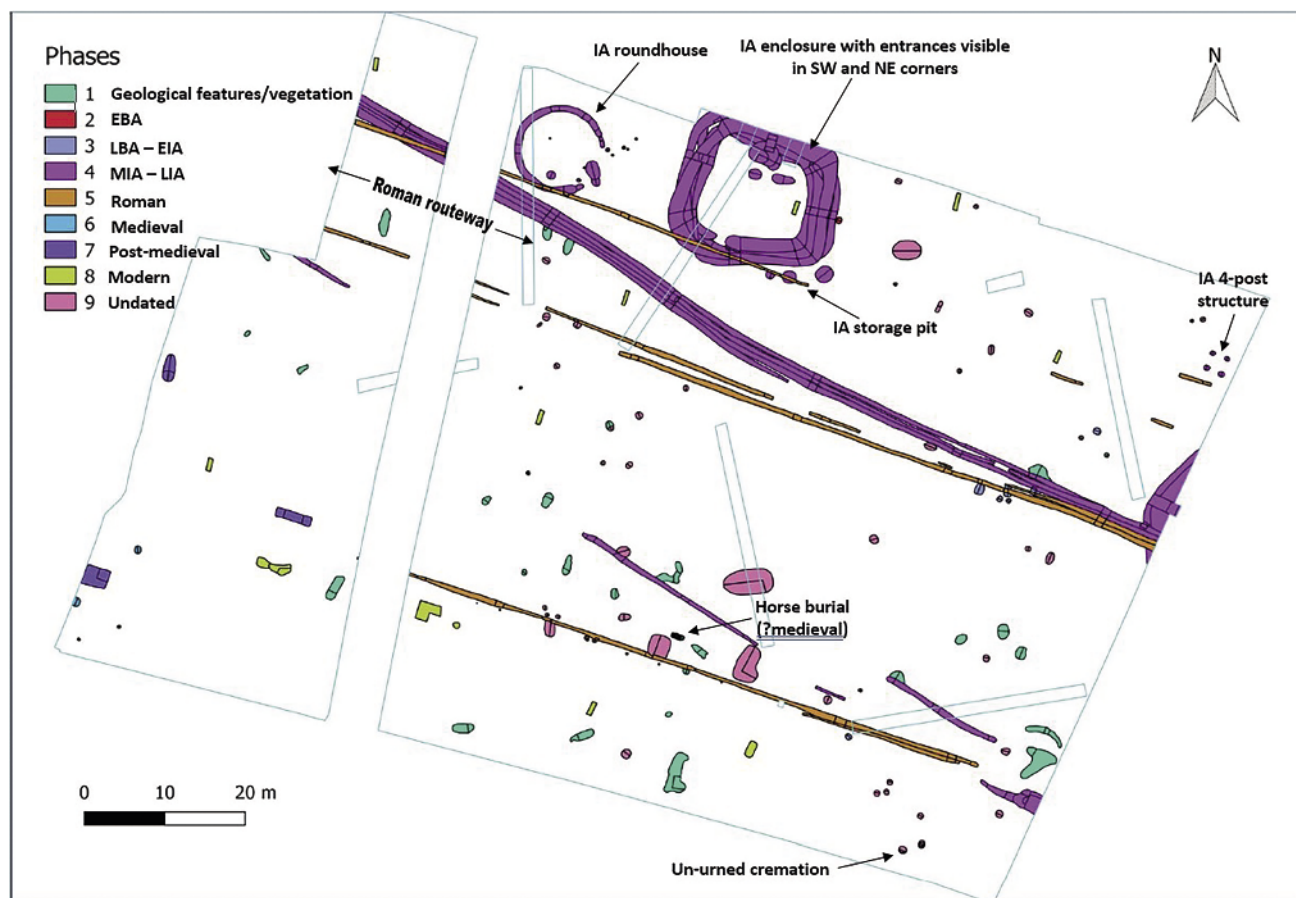


Figure 18: Features revealed during open-area excavation at St Andrew's Way, Langford

Bedfordshire

Meppershall, Land off Shefford Road TL 1428 3179

MARCO CAPARDONI, IAN TURNER and WES KEIR

Planning permission was granted at appeal for the demolition of 59 Shefford Road and associated buildings, and the erection of up to 145 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system. Trial trenching revealed few features of archaeological interest, including a substantial ditch (and re-cut) corresponding with a boundary illustrated on the 1845 Tithe map. The remainder of the features (three ditches, three pits and two postholes were undated), although a small amount of animal bone was recovered. The few dateable finds recovered date to the post-medieval period.

Accession Number: LUTNM: 2019/67

OASIS Number albionar1-367956

Renhold, Former Three Horseshoes PH, 42 Top End

TL 9557 5278

IAN TURNER and WES KEIR

Trial trenching ahead of the erection of three detached houses was followed by open-area excavation of two small areas of the site. The works revealed a small number of medieval and post-medieval archaeological features. Ditches defining a boundary that appears to have spanned the medieval to early post-medieval period were revealed within the western half of the site. Nearby was a ditch that is likely to have defined one side of the medieval precursor to Top End road, which would have linked the medieval hamlets of Salph End, Church End, Lane End, Top End, Workhouse End and Water End. The eastern side of the site was characterised by a number of medieval and post-medieval quarry pits, dug to extract the underlying clay. Although lying within the bounds of medieval Top End (as defined by the HER), the features appear to represent activity peripheral to the core of the settlement. The relatively small finds assemblage supports this conclusion.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2017.104

OASIS Number albionar1-299858

Sharnbrook, St Peter's Church SP 9935 5959

MARK PHILLIPS

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook is a grade I listed building; its fabric dates mainly to the 13th to 15th centuries, and it was restored in the mid-19th century. Drainage improvements were carried out to the tower, south aisle and chancel. The faculty from the Diocese of St Albans permitting the works included a requirement for archaeological investigation and recording.

Recording showed that the south porch and south aisle have foundations which are similar in character, with a narrow-offset foundation in small to medium-sized rubble and roughly squared limestone blocks. The foundations of the chancel are very different in character, with a much wider offset up to 450mm wide in large rubble blocks. Differences in the masonry show that the south aisle and chancel belong to different phases of construction; however, extensive repair works to the masonry of the chancel have obscured the relationship between the aisle and chancel.

Later alterations were noted in the foundations and walls. An expanded foundation slab at the south-east corner of the

south aisle may represent later repair. This included part of a reused 13th-century grave cover on which one arm of a cross with a trefoil terminal was visible. At the west end of the chancel the foundation had been partly removed by later activity associated with a deposit of disarticulated bone. The lower part of the chancel walls show evidence of extensive repair works, probably as part of the mid-19th-century restoration. A heavily weathered drip moulding or basement moulding appears to have been trimmed flush with the face of the wall and the section of wall below the moulding was refaced with ashlar masonry.

A small amount of disarticulated bone was found, including a concentration adjacent to the south wall of the chancel. In-situ burials were found during the excavation of three soakaway pits. The two to the south of the church contained at least two sequential layers of burials. The depth of burials varied between 740mm for the shallowest and c. 1m for the deepest, with the presence of limestone bedrock at around 1m probably a significant factor. Based mainly on the presence or absence of coffin nails, the burials appeared to be a mixture of confined and un-confined. The majority produced no dating evidence. A wrought iron coffin handle associated with a burial in the upper part of Trench 4 indicates a broadly post-medieval date. A similar coffin handle and copper alloy studs of the type used to decorate coffins during the 18th and 19th centuries were associated with the disarticulated bone found adjacent to the chancel.

Artefacts recovered from the 'grave earth' comprised 17 sherds of pottery and one fragment of clay pipe stem. The earliest pottery is a single late Roman sherd; the majority is dated to the Saxo-Norman and early medieval periods, with one sherd dating to the late medieval period.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.88

OASIS Number: albionar1-369488

Silsoe, Wrest Park, Bath House Grounds, Orangery Wetlands, Bowling Green/Yew Quarter and Greater Gardens SP 5928 3842

JO BARKER, HESTER COOPER-READE and LEWIS BUSBY

Archaeological monitoring during 2018 and 2019 was undertaken in conjunction with restoration work in the Bath House Grounds and south of Brown's Column, and drainage works south of Brown's Column. The works included: restoration of all pathways in the Bath House Grounds to their original extent, using information from the first edition OS map and archaeological evaluation; clearance of a ditch to the west of the Bath House Pond, as seen on the first edition OS map; monitoring of works associated with a new drainage pipe to the south of Brown's Column; monitoring of dredging works in Old Park Water; and monitoring of works associated with the reinstatement of the Cascade water supply at the head of the Bath House Pond. The latter comprised the installation of a submersible pump on the edge of Old Park Water and associated pipe and electric trench extending from the back of The Orangery.

OASIS Number: albionar1-331029

Silsoe, Wrest Park, Italian Gardens SP 5928 3842

JO BARKER and HESTER COOPER-READE

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the improvement of drainage

in the Italian Gardens. The groundworks comprised two trenches (c. 0.3m wide and c. 0.3m deep) and associated drainage chambers excavated in the western gateway of the Italian Gardens and by the side entrance to the house. The soil sequence in the trenches and chambers was predominantly a 0.1m-thick layer of fine reddish gravel, associated with the current path surface and an underlying former path surface, comprising a band of dark grey-brown gravel (c. 50mm thick). Underlying make-up layers contained brick fragments and small to large-sized stones; similar material has been identified elsewhere in the grounds and most likely represents bedding layers for the path surfaces and/or landscaping material.

Underlying layers in the drainage chamber excavated in Trench 2 was a layer of dark blue-grey silty clay. The layer was very moist, and layers of iron-pan and manganese had formed throughout. It is possible that this deposit was associated with the construction of the house and may represent backfilling of a foundation cut associated with the adjacent basement.

OASIS Number: albionar1-331029

Steppingley, Land off Fordfield Road TL 0174 3650

BENJAMIN CARROLL, ALLAN KING, JEREMY OETGEN and GARETH SHANE

Trial trenching in support of a planning application for a new crematorium targeted anomalies identified by geophysical survey and apparently 'blank' areas. Archaeological features were identified in six trenches. These mostly comprised field boundary ditches broadly dating to the Iron Age, medieval furrows and post-medieval/modern field boundaries. The trenching was followed by a small (c. 50m by 85m) open-area excavation that confirmed that the earliest remains

comprised enclosure ditches, droveways and other features, mainly from the early to middle Iron Age (Fig 19).

Accession Number: LUTNM: 2019/11

OASIS Number: albionar1-332586

Stotfold, Land East of Hitchin Road, Fairfield

TL 2093 3513

ADAM WILLIAMS and WES KEIR

Archaeological strip, map and sample investigation was undertaken within c. 3.5ha of the site. Although few artefacts were recovered, the investigation revealed evidence of activity dating to the Iron Age through to the post-medieval periods, some of which is associated with features identified during the adjacent open-area excavation carried out in 2017. The earliest features appear to span the Iron Age and include a large enclosure and attached boundary ditch, which truncates two ditches possibly defining a trackway. Perpendicular ditches to the trackway are perhaps representative of a field system. A small number of pits appearing to date to the early-middle Iron Age were also revealed. The series of Roman bedding trenches revealed within the previous open-area excavation continued into the current area; within one part of the site they appeared to respect an area of five un-urned cremation burials suggesting they are contemporaneous. A number of Anglo-Saxon features were identified, representing activity on the periphery of the settlement focus identified within the previous open-area excavation. These included a sub-circular enclosure, a small number of pits and some boundary ditches. Medieval/post-medieval cultivation furrows were present throughout most of the site.

Accession Number: BEDFM: 2016.19

OASIS Number: albionar1-262902

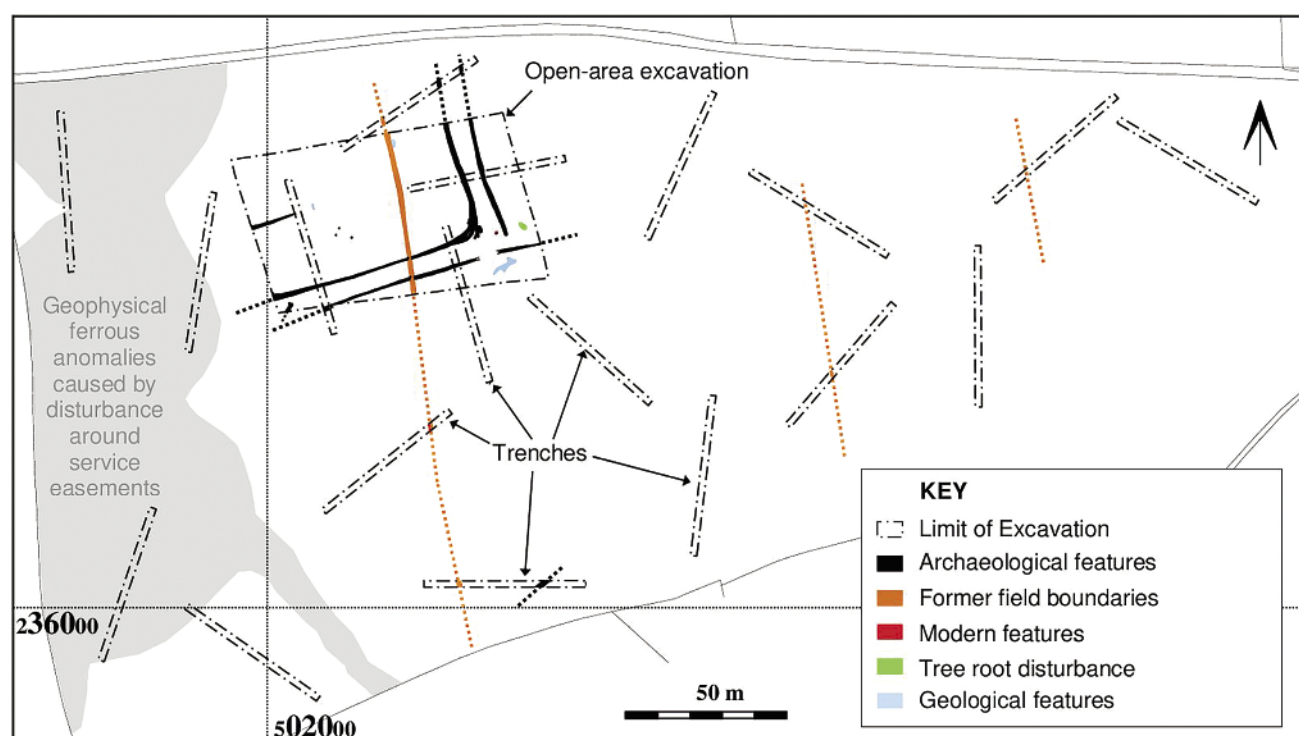


Figure 19: Steppingley, Land off Fordfield Road, Iron Age enclosure ditches, droveways and other features

Bedfordshire

Stotfold, Pix Brook Academy Access Road TL 2095 3721
MARCO CAPARDONI and WES KEIR

Archaeological strip, map and sample investigation revealed a significant number of archaeological remains, the majority associated with a Roman routeway and settlement identified within a previous excavation carried out in 2016 at the adjacent Stotfold Football Facility site (Fig. 20).

The c. 30m-wide Roman routeway was defined on either side by a series of ditches. It was aligned NE–SW and connected with the NW–SE aligned Roman routeway revealed within the previous excavation to the east. A number of enclosure ditches adjoining the routeway represent contemporaneous Roman settlement activity. Some activity also appears to pre- or post-date the use of this section of the routeway, including a large probable water-pit and roundhouse located directly within the course of the routeway. Two urned Roman cremation burials were revealed close to the northern boundary of the routeway. A significant quantity of finds were recovered, largely consisting of 1st–3rd-century Roman pottery and animal bone.

Accession no.: BEDFM 2018.54
OASIS no: albionar1-362858

Sundon, 56 Streatley Road TL 0487 2767
GARETH SHANE and IAIN LESLIE

Three archaeological trial trenches targeted the footprint of a proposed housing development. A pit and ditch of post-medieval/modern date as well as a modern pit were identified.

Accession Number: LUTNM: 2019/12
OASIS Number: albionar1-339013

Sutton, Village Farm, High Street TL 2241 4741
MARK PHILLIPS

Historic building recording ahead of conversion revealed the farm buildings associated with Village Farm to be the product of a single construction phase with evidence for only minor later modifications and repairs. The materials and design of the buildings are consistent with a construction date in the second half of the 19th century, probably in the 1860s or later.

The buildings take the form of a planned farmstead with a regular courtyard plan, partially open on its west side where it faces the farmhouse. All of the functions of the farm were integrated into a single continuous range of buildings. The

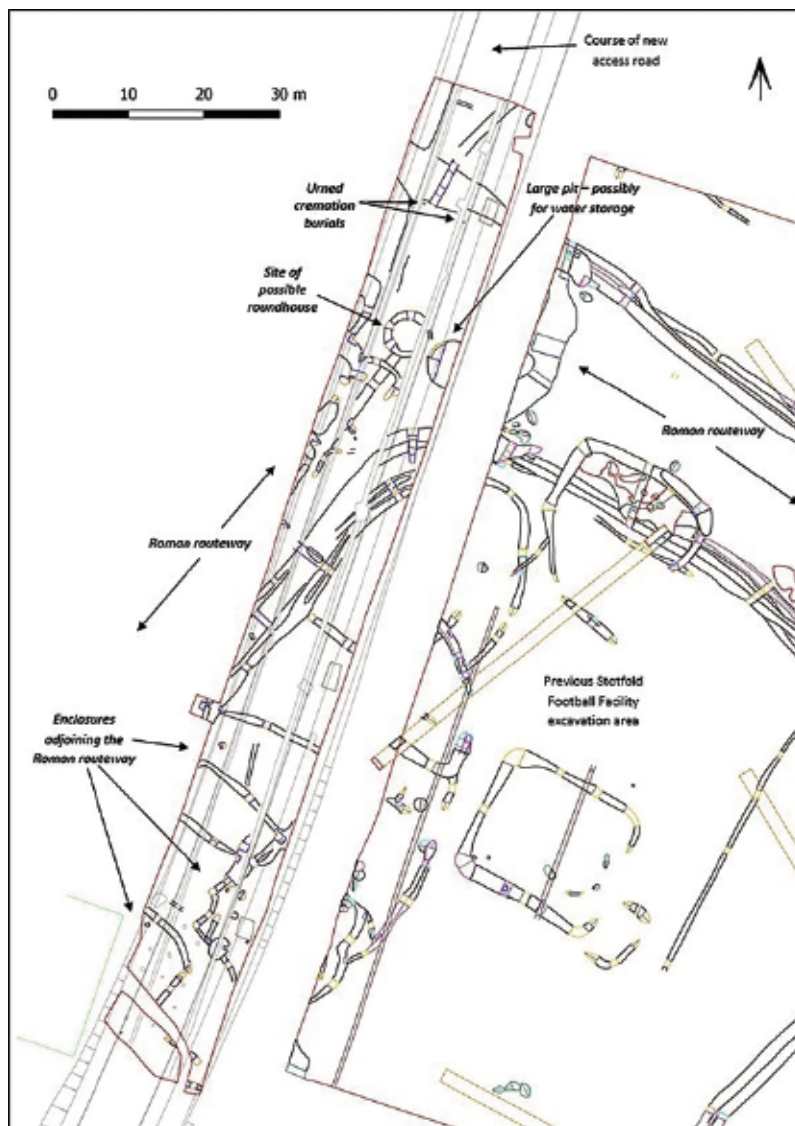


Figure 20: Features revealed Pix Brook Academy, Stotfold

functions of the various farm buildings suggest the farm was designed for a mixed agricultural economy. They include cart/implement sheds, storage barns and stables associated with arable farming, as well as shelter sheds and stockyards for cattle rearing.

In the 1920s, when owned by Bedfordshire County Council, the farmhouse and farm buildings were let as two smallholdings. The farm buildings were probably built during the 1860s or 1870s, during the period of Victorian 'High Farming' between the 1840s and 1870s. The plan suggests a mixed farm economy but with the emphasis possibly on animal husbandry. This reflects general developments at this time when farms were being developed with more and better housing for cattle in response to the rising price of meat.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.10

OASIS Number: albionar1-342974

Sutton, Village Farm, High Street TL 2241 4741

MARK PHILLIPS

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during machine excavation of service trenches and drainage works in the yard enclosed by the farm buildings and immediately to the north of the farm buildings where a soakaway pit was constructed. No archaeological evidence was found for any activity predating the construction of the 19th-century farm buildings.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.10

OASIS Number: albionar1-342973

Thurleigh, Baptist Chapel, High Street TL 0556 5849

MARK PHILLIPS

Historic building recording was undertaken ahead of conversion of the chapel into four flats. The first Baptist Chapel in Thurleigh was built in 1827; it was enlarged in 1841 and again in 1849. Due to a need for a larger chapel and provision of a school room, the old chapel was demolished, and the present building erected on the same site in 1888.

The building is T-shaped in plan, with a double-height chapel forming the front part and a two-storey school room block at the rear. There are three entrances, comprising double doors in the south end of the chapel and two doors in the south side of the lower school room. It is in brick with some stone details. The south elevation is in an Italianate style with round arches, keystones, projecting quoins a broken pediment gable and some gauged brickwork.

The interior of the chapel had a lobby formed by a partially glazed timber screen. Originally the gallery was accessed by stairs at either end of the lobby but at some time one of the stairs was removed. The interior fittings of the chapel are in varnished pine. The lower school room is accessed by two doors in the north wall of the chapel to either side of the pulpit. A roller shutter across the middle of the lower school room was installed as part of the original construction and allowed the room to be subdivided into two rooms. The upper school room is accessed by a stair in the north-east corner of the building.

The chapel is a single-phase building with minor 20th-century alterations and additions. A single-storey extension on the east end of the school room block contained a kitchen

and toilet. During World War II the iron railings around the building were requisitioned. Repairs to the roof include the replacement of slates with concrete tiles and the removal of the stonework of the pediment on the south gable end.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.14

OASIS Number: albionar1-344230

Thurleigh, 4 High Street TL 0545 5849

TORI GUY and ADAM WILLIAMS

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the erection of a replacement single-storey, rear extension. The excavation of two foundation trenches, c. 0.6m wide, 4.3m long and 1.1m deep, did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.53

OASIS Number: albionar1-350059

Wilden Top Farm, Shrubbery Lane TL 0824 5605

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI

Archaeological monitoring of ground reduction within the perimeter of a new access and driveway covered an area c. 100m long by c. 3m wide; two areas for passing bays also excavated. Topsoil and modern dumped material layers were revealed at the formation level of the new access and driveway; no features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed in the base of the trench.

Accession Number: BEDFM 2018.69

OASIS Number: albionar1-329082

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Biddenham, Land North of Great Spur TL 01698 51049

JOSEPH LOCKE and PETER THOMPSON

Trial-trenching within land to the north of Great Spur, Biddenham, revealed no evidence of archaeological remains. The location of the site, adjacent to the course of the River Great Ouse, is likely to have made it unsuitable for sustained occupation. This is likely to have resulted in the absence of archaeological features; however, use of the location as seasonal pasture is quite possible given the proximity of prehistoric and medieval settlement activity.

Millbrook, Land at Sandhill Close TL 01495 38885

JOSEPH LOCKE and LIAM PODBURY

Trial-trenching within land at Sandhill Close revealed evidence of ridge and furrow agricultural activity, with six furrows being identified. The furrows were identified within the easter side of the site, within Trench 3. The alignment of these furrows does not correspond with any of the historic field boundaries of the large field that contains the site, but does correspond with several long field boundaries in the local area that are depicted on the early edition Ordnance Survey maps that succeed Jeffrey's map in the late 19th century, therefore it seems likely they are a remnant of post-medieval cultivation close to the village core. A posthole containing 19th to 20th century CBM and an undated pit were also revealed.

Bedfordshire

Sandy, The Kings Arms TL 1650 4941

JOSEPH LOCKE, KATE HIGGS, and LIAM PODBURY

Trial-trenching within land to the east of London Road revealed a series of pits a single ditch, dating to the 19th – mid 20th century. The features do not correspond with any of the former structures on the site depicted on cartographic evidence dating to 1799, 1883, and 1901. The 19th to mid-20th century features likely relate to the 20th century redevelopment of the area to the rear of the The Kings Arm's public house.

Upper Caldecote, Land between 15 and 35 Ickwell Road TL 16433 45811

KEELEY JADE DIGGONS and LIAM PODBURY

Trial-trenching within land between 15 and 35 Ickwell Road, Upper Caldecote, revealed no archaeological remains excepting a single tree throw. No finds were found in association with the tree throw. No evidence that could shed further light on the character of later prehistoric or Roman settlement in the Ivel valley, or the medieval settlement of Upper Caldecote. Historic cartographic sources depicted the site as likely having an agricultural function throughout the post-medieval and modern periods.

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Haynes: Silverend Road TL 0971 4199

BOB ZEEPVAT

In September 2019, a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the construction of side and rear extensions to 3 Northwood Lodge, Silverend Road. The property lies close to the core of one of the historic 'ends' of Haynes, with the possibility that evidence of medieval occupation might have survived there. The available cartographic evidence suggested that the site had remained undeveloped until the 20th century, forming part of a wooded area adjacent to the former drive to Haynes Park.

Monitoring of the footings for the rear extension only revealed two brick-filled soakaways associated with the construction of the present house in the mid-late 20th century. Monitoring of the footings for the side extension revealed several modern buried services, running parallel to the west side of the house. No buried heritage assets were noted during the monitoring programme.

Milton Ernest: Bedford Road TL 01959 55942

BOB ZEEPVAT

In February 2019, historic building recording was undertaken of a range of buildings at The Old Maltings, Bedford Road, prior to their demolition for residential redevelopment of the site. The brewery/maltings at Milton Ernest was built between 1803 and 1881, probably around the middle of the 19th century. The brewery/maltings was developed by the Gibbins family of Milton Ernest, remaining in their ownership until at least 1890. The site appears to have continued to function as a brewery/maltings, possibly until the 1930s. During WW2, the site was turned over to light metal fabrication. Before 1979, the north-east

range of buildings on the site disappeared, either through accident or deliberate demolition. At this time, the east end of the surviving range appears to have been reconstructed in its present truncated form. During the second half of the 20th century, the remaining buildings had a variety of light industrial and retail uses. The central part of the range, originally a walled yard, was given an upper storey and flat roof during this period. The survey revealed scant evidence for the original functions of the buildings.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford, No. 26 Harpur Street TL 04881 50168

FLORIAN WEBER

Groundworks excavations for a three-storey extension and basement were carried out between September and October 2019 under archaeological observation to the rear of the former office building within an area measuring approximately 10.10m × 8.25m (max). Engineering depth was c. 0.98-c. 2.10m. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed during the groundworks.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.

Luton, Luton Airport Access TL 11077 20477

CASSANDRA CLAY

CFA carried out an archaeological watching brief to prospect for possible Palaeolithic material within solution hollows, on the site of a proposed Luton Airport's Direct Air-Rail Transit (DART). No archaeological features were seen, however the geological feature (solution hollow) found in the evaluation was explored further.

Sewell, Stable Cottage, Manor Farm SP 99514 23018

ADAM GRIFFITHS

CFA carried out a trial trench evaluation at Stable Cottage, Manor Farm, Sewell. This evaluation consisted of two trenches of 15 × 1.8m and 10 × 1.8m. A third trench was added as contingency which measured 6 × 1.8m. A large pond or watercourse was discovered which encompassed the entire of Trenches 1 and 3 and an edge was only located at the southern end of Trench 2. This feature contained a significant amount of finds which included Roman pottery, medieval tile, bone, and wood.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford, Land West of Odell Road, Harrold

SP 9533 5754

BETHANY HARDCASTLE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a large pit containing Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint and several post-medieval quarry pits. An undated ditch was also present.

Biddenham, Land adjoining Bromham Road

TL 0158 5076

ANDREW WHELAN

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

Biggleswade, Land South of Old Warden Park, Old Warden TL 1547 4334

BETHANY HARDCASTLE and RALPH BROWN

An excavation and watching brief identified two post-medieval field boundary ditches and alluvial and fluvial deposits likely derived from an older stream flowing through the base of a shallow valley through which an existing boundary ditch ran. An early/mid-20th century bridge was also recorded, which was demolished during the excavations.

Houghton Regis, Land east of B5120 TL 0135 2457

EMILY TROAKE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a single shallow pit containing Early Neolithic and possibly Late Bronze Age pottery.

Little Staughton, Little Staughton Solar Development TL 1194 6181 and TL 1428 6226

BETHANY HARDCASTLE

A watching brief identified two undated but possibly Iron Age field boundary ditches.

Luton, Land at 102 Markyate Road, Slip End TL 0747 1820

DALE LANGFORD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified three undated ditches.

Luton, Newlands Road TL 0785 1969

ADAM HOWARD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified six undated ditches.

Sandy, The Sidings TL 17849 48640

SAM WILSON

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a probable colluvial layer containing Late Iron Age/Roman pottery potentially deriving from activity occurring near the site.

Stotfold, Land between Astwick Road and Taylor's Road TL 2176 3786

JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified three undated features, comprising a ditch, a pit, and a posthole.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY**Rookery South Resource Recovery facility TL 50148 24221**

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with Rookery South Resource Recovery Facility, Bedfordshire. This included the excavation of cable trenches, the construction of access roads, and the excavation of land within Rookery Pit itself. Archaeological monitoring took place between 04/04/2018 and 03/10/2019 mostly at locations where previous groundworks (service installations and ground-making) had

already occurred. No archaeological remains or artefacts of archaeological interest were found, despite previous archaeological investigations having produced evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in the vicinity. It may be that the extensive ground disturbance has truncated any remains which may have once existed in this area.

Headland Archaeology – Hodgson, T. Oasis Ref: headland4-386899

HERITAGE NETWORK**Barton-le-Clay, Land to the rear of The Bull Public House TL 08120 31084**

MARK SYCAMORE

In response to a condition on planning consent for residential development at Land r/o The Bull PH, 77 Bedford Road, Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. The site is presently a beer garden and car park for The Bull, PH, consisting of a rectangular plot on the western side of Bedford Road and to the rear of The Bull PH, centred at TL 08094 31087. It is bounded to the south by nos. 22 to 25 Nicholls Close, to the west by no.20 Nicholls Close, and to the north by a play area occupying former allotments. The site falls within the Barton-le-Clay Conservation Area, as designated by the Central Bedfordshire Council. The development proposes the construction of two x one-bedroom dwellings, with associated access and parking.

Two trial trenches, both measuring 12m in length and 2m in width, were excavated across the area of the proposed development. Both trenches revealed layers of made ground directly above the natural, indicating possible reduction and subsequent levelling of the ground at some point in the past.

The base of a small pit was revealed at the south-western end of Trench 1. This had been cut through the lower made ground, indicating a probable post-medieval date, but no other features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were encountered in the course of the investigation. The recorded feature is considered to be of low significance and, on this basis, the risk that the proposed development might disturb significant archaeological remains may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

Chalgrave, All Saints Church TL 00860 27430

PERI HORSLEY

Following the advice of the Diocesan Archaeological Adviser, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the Chalgrave PCC, to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring during alteration works undertaken at All Saints' Church, Chalgrave, Bedfordshire. The works include provision for a new disabled WC in the west tower, with associated drainage, improved access to the tower and chancel via ramps, and ancillary works.

Chalgrave is one of the earliest parishes in the county with origins in the 10th century. All Saints' Church is an isolated building located to the east of Dunstable Road, on the site of an earlier church. The oldest work in the present structure dates to c. 1230, with the chancel and south arcade of the nave rebuilt c. 1330 and the tower added in c. 1380. It is a Grade I listed building (NHLE 1321351) comprising chancel, nave, north and south aisles, a south porch and a

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west tower. The upper stage to the tower collapsed in 1889, damaging the roofs of the nave and north aisle, and it has never been rebuilt. The church was subsequently neglected until the 1930s, since when a series of restoration and repair works has been undertaken.

The works for the present project involved ground reduction within the west tower and the excavation of a small trench at the western end of the nave. These revealed probable bedding layers below the present floor surface. No evidence for the earlier church on the site was encountered and no new information on the construction of the present building was found during these works.

The external works involved the excavation of a drainage trench across the churchyard and a cesspit at its southern end. The stratigraphy revealed in the drainage trench sections was fairly uniform and comprised topsoil above cemetery soil, with the natural clay encountered at depths of between 0.38m and 0.62m. Finds, including nails and fragments of disarticulated human bone, were recovered from the cemetery soil. These were passed to the care of the churchwarden.

Excavation of the cesspit located against the southern boundary to the churchyard, revealed a considerable depth of overburden and significant disturbance. Examination of historic OS mapping shows mature trees along this boundary in the late 19th century. It is probable that the tip lines visible between contexts (105) and (106) and between (106) and (107) relate to disturbance by tree rooting.

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the present project. Overall, the limited extent of the works, the adoption of hand excavation where possible, and the careful location of the service trenches, has kept the impact on the archaeological resource to a minimum.

Cople, Land to the rear of 10A Willington Road

TL 10379 48574

PERI HORSLEY

In order to investigate the archaeological potential of a proposed single dwelling development site located to the east side of Willington Road, Cople, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a field evaluation by trial trenching.

Two trenches were excavated across the site: one trench was 14m in length, and one measured 10m, both 2m in width. No features were exposed in Trench 1, but two shallow potential features were investigated in Trench 2. Both of these have been interpreted as being natural in origin. No archaeological finds were recovered, and no other potential features or deposits were observed.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might have a negative impact on remains of archaeological significance may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

Flitton, Church of St John the Baptist TL 05941 35857

PERI HORSLEY

Following the advice of the Diocesan Archaeological Adviser, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring during the excavation of a ventilation trench at the Church of St. John the Baptist, High Street, Flitton, Bedfordshire.

The site is located in the centre of Flitton, on the northern side of High Street, centred on NGR TL 05941 35857. It is bordered by Church Lane to the north, no. 23 High Street to the east, High Street to the south and Brook Lane to the west.

The church of St. John the Baptist is a Grade I listed building (NHLE 1113903) which dates from the 15th century. It is constructed of coursed ironstone rubble with ashlar dressings and comprises a chancel, a nave and south aisles, a south porch and a west tower. The de Grey Mausoleum was added to the north side of the chancel soon after 1600 and was extended to the east of the chancel in 1705 (Bedford Borough Council, Community Archives).

The stratigraphy encountered in the trench was uniform and comprised modern flooring above a layer of limestone rubble in a mortar matrix which appeared to butt the inner face of the north wall. Pale yellow bricks were noted in the north facing section, at a depth of 0.1m below the present floor, indicating that this area has been subject to disturbance in the later post-medieval period.

A fragment from a memorial stone was recovered from the limestone rubble layer. Not enough of the stone was recovered to identify any individual. This was photographed and handed to the churchwarden.

Millbrook, Church of St Michael and All Angels

TL 01362 38528

LISA WALDOCK

As part of the faculty requirements for the works to provide surface water drainage around the perimeter of St Michael and All Angels Church, Millbrook, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a watching brief on the groundworks. The works comprised the removal of the existing concrete drainage channel around the church, the provision of new land drains around the perimeter of the church, with new gullies, inspection chambers and drainage for surface water, and alterations to existing downpipes.

The village of Millbrook is located on a ridge of high ground c. 2km to the north-west of Ampthill. The church of St Michael and All Angels lies approximately 300m to the south of the village, to the east of Sandhill Close, centred on NGR TL 01362 38528. It is a Grade II* listed building (NHLE 1113934), set at the southern end of the churchyard, built of coursed ironstone rubble with ashlar dressings. The earliest part of the building is the nave, which has 13th century origins. The south aisle and arcade are of 14th century date, while the tower, north aisle and arcade were added in the 15th century. The church was restored and reworked in the later 19th century.

The present project involved the replacement of an existing French drain immediately adjacent to the church (Phase 1) and the excavation of a new drain within the churchyard and surrounding the building (Phase 2), with linking trenches running between them.

The stratigraphy exposed in the sections to both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 works was fairly uniform and consisted of a topsoil, approximately 0.20m in depth, above a cemetery soil. The impact depth of the present works did not expose the natural substrate and no cut graves were encountered.

Phase 1 revealed that the church has very shallow foundations, only c. 0.30m below the existing ground level. This suggests that the difference in ground level between the exterior and interior of the church, particularly noticeable

around the chancel, is the result of ground reduction within the church, rather than a build-up of soil on the exterior.

Several fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered during the excavations. The remains were passed to the vicar for reburial. The risk of encountering disarticulated human bone was expected and no cut graves or articulated remains were exposed. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed during the course of the present project

Pulloxhill, 11 High Street TL 06280 34085

HELEN ASHWORTH

In response to a condition on planning consent for residential development at 11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the site owners to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. The site is currently in use as a second-hand car dealership with vehicles displayed on the frontage and associated workshops along the north-east boundary of the site to the rear. A single storey extension to the adjacent residence at no. 9 High Street, extends onto the site. The development proposed the demolition of the existing buildings on the site, including the extension to no.9, and the construction of two new residential units.

The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation of a single trial trench, located at the north-western end of the site to avoid known services and petrol tanks. It was originally proposed that the trench should measure 25m in length, however, due to the presence of previously unknown services, and with the agreement of the Archaeological Team at Central Bedfordshire, the trench was shortened and slightly relocated.

Trench 1 was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 19m in length, between 1.80m - 2.40m in width and 0.95m in depth. The excavated trial trench demonstrated a consistent stratigraphy, with make-up layers above buried top and sub-soils. Modern disturbance at the north-western end of the site was confined to the upper layers. A single north-east to south-west aligned linear feature, [101], was encountered at the north-western end of the trench, which produced one abraded sherd of medieval pottery from its fill. Historic mapping covering the site has been consulted to try and identify the feature as an historic boundary, including a map of 1828, prepared for Amabel, 1st Countess Grey (Bedfordshire Archives L33/9), and both the 1st and 2nd editions of the 25-inch County Series Ordnance Survey maps. The 1828 map shows a building along the south-western boundary of the site, towards the frontage, which had, apparently, been removed by 1881, the date of the 1st edition OS map (not illustrated). Another building is shown on the frontage at this date, with a small garden to its north-east, encroaching into the present site. A similar layout is shown on the 2nd edition OS map of 1901. The excavated feature could not readily be identified from the mapping consulted, but the boundaries around the present site appear to have been somewhat fluid in the late post-medieval period.

Roxton, Park View, 6A Ford Lane TL 15152 54253

DAVID HILLELSON

As the result of a condition on planning consent for the conversion of a barn at Park View, 6a Ford Lane, Roxton,

the Heritage Network was commissioned to create a record of the building in advance of the conversion works.

The observed evidence for the barn shows that it was built in the late 19th century as a dual-purpose farm building with a grain loft above a three-bay cart-shed and an enclosed fourth bay to the north, used, possibly, for feed preparation.

The barn appears to have been remodelled at an early date, to separate the cart-shed into three separate enclosed stables. It appears to have continued in agricultural use until around 2004, when the present property was created.

Stagsden, 45 High Street SP 98208 48965

DAVID HILLELSON & PERI HORSLEY

In order to meet the requirements of planning consent for development at 45 High Street, Stagsden, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the development footprint, and to prepare an historic building record of a barn on the frontage that was due to be demolished as part of the scheme.

The recorded evidence demonstrates that the footprint of the new build had been previously reduced, and reprofiled with demolition rubble. No evidence for activity pre-dating the late post-medieval / early modern period was revealed during the course of the present works and, on this basis, the risk that development of the site might impact significant archaeological remains that contribute to the research aims of the project, may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

The building recording has established that the existing barn is not the same as that shown on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1883 and, while of late 19th century date, it is of little historical significance. The fabric of the barn, which has been reduced in size by one bay and has been re-roofed in modern materials, is formed of sawn softwood framing of poor quality and it is in poor condition.

Stevington, The Red Lion Public House, 1 Park Road SP 98960 53260

HELEN ASHWORTH and GREG JONES

In response to a condition on planning consent for residential development on land adjacent to The Red Lion Public House, 1 Park Road, Stevington, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. The development involved the demolition of a brick barn and single storey timber structure to the side and rear of the Red Lion, the construction of two new two-storey semi-detached dwellings, and a single-storey link building containing two letting rooms, together with associated services, parking and landscaping.

The archaeological fieldwork on the present site was carried out in two stages. Stage 1 included the excavation of a trial trench across the footprint of the new dwellings, together with the recording of footings trenches excavated prior to the Heritage Network's involvement with the project. Stage 2 comprised an open area excavation of the footprint of the new buildings.

Archaeological fieldwork on the present site has demonstrated that it has been occupied since at least the 15th century. Five features were encountered, of which four appear to have been small undated quarry pits, presumably dug to extract limestone, while the fifth appears to represent a domestic rubbish pit of 15th century date.

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No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the course of the investigation.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Houghton Regis, 74–76 High Street TL 01721 23821

DAVID FELL

An evaluation was undertaken within the historic core of Houghton Regis, at 74–76 High Street. Two trial trenches were opened and two sherds of medieval pottery and a number of post-medieval or modern extraction pits were present.

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Amphill, 8–10 Church Street TL 03520 38151

ELLEN SHLASKO

In November 2018, a Heritage Asset Assessment was prepared of 8–10 Church Street, Amphill, Bedfordshire. The building is currently undergoing renovation, including the reintroduction of a Victorian style shop front. The current proposal calls for the construction of a third storey under a mansard roof, to house additional residential units. 8–10 Church Street is located within the bounds of the Amphill Conservation Area. Although the buildings may originally date to the 18th century, the structure underwent major remodelling in the 20th century. The choice of a mansard roof will minimise the impact of the proposed development on the Conservation Area.

Arlesey, Land at Green End Farm, Bedfordshire
TL 1922 3538

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL and CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

In February 2019 an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation was undertaken at Green End Farm, Arlesey, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of new residential property on the site with associated parking and access. The project was required under the terms of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as Condition 3 of planning permission.

The excavations uncovered the remains of a number of medieval features in the form of ditches, gullies and pits, along with a post-medieval ditch and a modern pit and gully. Several of the features are continuations of those identified in a previous excavation immediately to the southeast which were of agricultural origin (Shlasko, 2018). However, there were a number of pits which could suggest the site is closer to the edge of settlement.

Blunham, Land between 73–85 Grange Road
TL 15220 51988

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In January 2019, an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken of the Land between 73–85 Grange Road, Blunham, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of two new dwellings on the site. The trenching contained a possible oven/hearth of unknown date but suggestive of domestic occupation and also a post-medieval pit.

Blunham, Maltings Farm, 49 Grange Road
TL 1527 5189

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR and BECCA BRADFORD

Between July and August 2019 a programme of Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at Maltings Farm, 49 Grange Road, Blunham, Bedford, in order to fulfil a condition of the planning permission for the development of the site. Three trenches were excavated, and two contained archaeological cut features, including a possible pit/pond, drainage gullies/ditches and a pit. Small assemblages of animal bone, 12th century pottery, and medieval/post-medieval CBM were recovered from multiple contexts. The cut features were used for the disposal of waste and, probably, to demarcate agrarian property boundaries.

Dunstable, Grayfriars, Bullpond Lane TL 01762 21585

LAURA DODD and BARNEY KING

In March and April 2019, a Strip, Map, and Sample Excavation and an Archaeological Watching Brief were undertaken at Grayfriars, Bullpond Lane, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. During these excavations a pit and a shallow ditch were revealed containing late Iron Age and Roman potsherds and brick/tile. Most of the assemblage was Roman, with the latest potsherds dating to the 4th century AD. The Iron Age potsherds were residual. The development site is situated c. 500m southwest of the core of the Roman settlement of *Durocbrivis*.

Houghton Regis, The Orchard, Bedford Road, Bedfordshire TL 0115 2519

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL and BECCA BRADFORD

In September 2019, an Archaeological Evaluation was conducted at The Orchard, Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, with the excavation of seven trenches close to, or within the footprint of the development. The only archaeological remains were revealed in Trenches 1 and 7. There were three postholes in Trench 1 which may have formed part of a boundary or structure; two of the fills contained late Iron Age pottery. A gully/ditch documented in Trench 7 was undated. A large possible palaeochannel, was revealed in Trenches 3, 4 and 6, north of the Iron Age remains. There was no evident link between the archaeological features and the paleochannel, though Iron Age activity/settlement has been recorded on other sites in the Houghton Regis area.

Leighton Buzzard, Former Baptist Chapel, Hockliffe Street SP 92227 25094

KARIN KAYE

In March 2019, an Historic Building Appraisal was carried out of the former Baptist Chapel, Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire in order to inform development proposals. The building is said to date from c. 1803 when it was built as a Methodist Chapel. It was sold to the Baptist Church in 1865 when it was extensively remodelled, at least internally. The building ceased to serve as a place of worship in 1892 when the new Baptist Chapel was erected on the opposite side of Hockliffe Street. It is known that it was used as a hall in the early 20th century, but other uses remain uncertain before it was incorporated into the retail premises

in number 14 Hockliffe Street, since when it has been used as part of the showroom and stores.

The building has been found to be structurally unsound and it is proposed to replace it with a 3-storey block of flats, the height and mass of which are similar to that of the existing chapel. The main entrance on Hockliffe Street would be set in a courtyard behind numbers 12 and 14, both of which would benefit from having an architecturally interesting and structurally sound building as a backdrop. The south elevation, which overlooks the car park, would have the greatest visual impact on the surrounding area. The architectural detailing would improve the overall setting of the site, which would also be enlivened by introducing more residential units.

Moggerhanger, St John's Road TL 13926 48801

LAURA DODD

In March 2019, an Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at 65 St Johns Road, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of a single detached dwelling. The trench was situated within the grounds of the former Gardener's House and the excavation revealed several features, probably of post-medieval date. A line of three stake holes orientated east-west, a wide shallow drainage ditch and a square pit were exposed as well as four natural features caused by the presence of trees. The majority of features produced a large quantity of post-medieval artefacts; however, two sherds of late St Neots ware (AD1000-1150) were found among the assemblage.

Salford, 2 Brittens Lane SP 9347 3923

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In January 2019 an Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at 2 Brittens Lane, Salford, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of a side and rear extension to the existing house on the site. Aside from a single post-medieval pit containing ceramic building material no other archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

Shefford, St Michael and All Angels' Church

TL 14355 39079

KARIN KAYE

Between September 2018 and January 2019, a Historic Building Watching Brief of St Michael and All Angels' Church, Shefford, Bedfordshire was carried out in order to fulfil a Faculty condition for the restoration of the church. The church is a Grade II listed structure and the tower dates from the 14th or 15th century, although the remainder of the church is predominantly 19th century. The tower was extensively repaired in the 1920s and the 1980s. The present restoration involved the complete removal and replacement of the render on the upper stage, which revealed the original clunchwork, which is a complete contrast to the ironstone with flint/cobble of the lower stage. A variety of repairs ranging from patches of ironstone/flint/cobble or brick to extensive rebuilding of the southwest corner in brick. Each elevation also had short layers of tiles inserted at different levels within the stonework, presumably to act as a basis for the render. Handmade nails had also been hammered into the wall for the same purpose. Putlog holes level with the label stops on the hoodmoulds indicated the break in the building lift in the upper stage. Of particular interest is the change

of building material to clunch, which and although it can be suggested that this was due to a generous benefaction in the later stages of building, may well have been for other reasons.

Tempsford, Land off Sawford's Meadow TL 1608 5278

ELLEN SHLASKO

In December 2019, a Heritage Asset Assessment was prepared of Land off Sawfords Meadow, Tempsford, Bedfordshire. The proposed development site, which is currently a meadow, is outside the Tempsford Church End Conservation Area, but forms part of the setting of Gannock's Castle, a medieval moated manor and Scheduled Ancient Monument. Development to the west of Church Street, where the proposed development is located, would impact that setting and change the settlement pattern that currently exists in the village. In order to minimise the impact of development, the proposed design uses variations in roof form, building placement and carefully chosen materials to reference historic farmyards, such as those seen in the historic core of the village.

Tempsford, 15a Church Street TL 16217 52963

ELLEN SHLASKO

In February 2019, KDK Archaeology Ltd a Heritage Asset Assessment was undertaken of 15a Church Street, Tempsford, Bedfordshire, as part of the pre-planning application process. The site is located within the Tempsford Church End Conservation Area, in the core of the medieval settlement. Currently in use as a garden, development on the site will impact the setting of the Conservation Area and any potential surviving below ground archaeological resources. The proposed design, for a single two-storey residence, is in keeping with the surrounding structures and will have a neutral impact on the setting. A programme of archaeological evaluation or observation and recording may be required to mitigate the impact of construction.

Totternhoe, Lockington Farm, Church Road

SP 99054 21096

BARNEY KING and CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In September 2019, a programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation was undertaken at Lockington Farm, Church Road, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, prior to the construction of two detached 4-bedroom houses. This project was required under the terms of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Condition 15 of the Planning Consent for the development of the site. The excavation revealed a series of cut features within the development area. Associated artefactual remains include residual Roman CBM and pottery, and medieval to early post-medieval CBM, and medieval to modern pottery. The ditches, gullies, and linears probably provided local land drainage, with some, particularly the larger cut features probably demarcating (agricultural) land boundaries.

Wrestlingworth, 7 Church Lane, Bedfordshire

TL 2589 4741

LAURA DODD, CHRIS MARTIN TAYLOR and BARNEY KING

In May 2019 Stage I of a programme of Archaeological Evaluation followed by a Stage II programme of

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Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation was carried out at the Land adjacent to 7 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire, as a condition for the development of the site. Two trenches were excavated, which revealed three ditches and two pits. Trench 1 was subsequently expanded for the Strip, Map and Sample, which revealed five ditches, a ditch/gully and ditch terminus/pit, six pits, and a pit/posthole, many with fills containing pottery dated to the late Anglo-Saxon to the medieval period (12th century). The cut-features and environmental data suggest an agrarian settlement.

MOLA

Stewartby, Stewartby Brickworks TL 01720 42753

ANNA NICOLA

A standing building survey was carried out at the site of Stewartby Brickworks, in December 2018. The site comprised two Grade II listed Hoffman kilns, constructed using red/yellow Fletton bricks laid in English bond, and four Grade II listed chimneys. The plant was part of the London Brick Company brickworks and was the largest brickworks in the world during the early to mid-20th century, having produced over 500 million bricks per year during its peak in the 1930's. It ceased to operate in 2008 and had remained derelict since. A Level 3 Heritage England building recording was required, however due to the instability of the structures, access to the site was not possible so MOLA used an unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) to produce a detailed and scalable photographic record of the structures, and a 3D model of the chimneys.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

A5-M1 Link Road and M1 Junction 12 A5-M1 between SP99602 24460 and TL0383 2587; M1 Junction 12 between TL01947 29821 and TL01699 30297

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) has just published excavation results relating to two adjacent road schemes, some 4.5km apart. A series of archaeological works took place on the A5-M1 Link Road between 2006 and 2015 and at M1 Junction 12 between 1992 and 2011. The A5-M1 Link Road was reported in this South Midlands CBA journal in volume 46 (2016), 18 and volume 47 (2017), 19; whilst M1 Junction 12 was reported in volume 42 (2012), 7.

Evidence for Neolithic activity was scarce, it comprised sparse flint scatters and a polished stone axe which was residual in a later context. A site at the top of the Ouzel Brook valley near Chalton was occupied in the middle-late Bronze Age. Occupational evidence comprised a few pits and clusters of postholes including four-post and six-post structures, but the modest quantity of artefacts and broad date ranges suggest this activity was intermittent and perhaps seasonal. A number of sparse, scattered pits of this period were also identified on other sites along the valley below. Two pit alignments were located more than 2km apart. In the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age a large settlement emerged in the valley bottom. This settlement continued in use until the late pre-Roman Iron Age and was abandoned before the

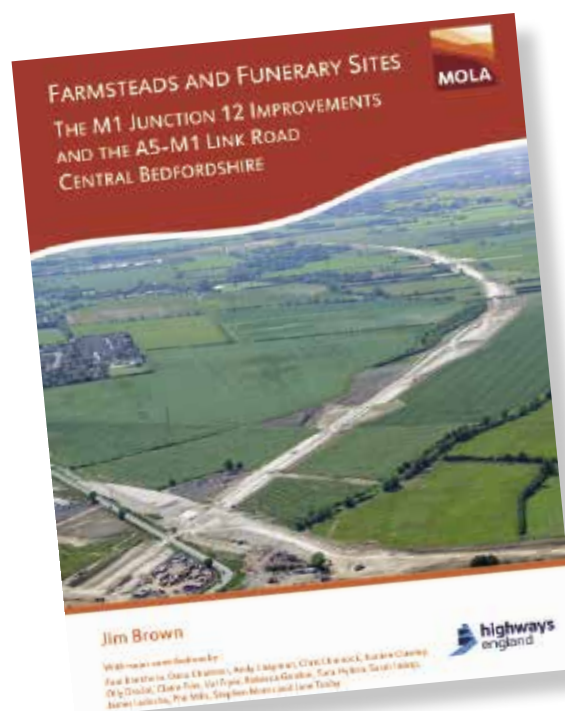
Roman Conquest. Parts of a further contemporary earlier-middle to late Iron Age settlement lay at the top of the valley.

There were at least two further settlements in the late Iron Age in the valley bottom and on the hilltop, with other land boundaries upon the valley sides that continued into the Roman period. On the valley ridges there were cremation cemeteries; one small plot predominantly well furnished with Aylesford-Swarling urns; the other in a funerary enclosure with largely unurned burials including *busta*, but with few accompanying grave goods. Occupation was relatively brief and settlement was abandoned in the early 2nd century AD.

Another settlement was also probably established near Toddington in the 1st century BC. Boundary ditches lay close to a large cremation cemetery at Harlington Road and on the opposite side of the Flit valley a pyre was raised, burnt and a small cairn of stones placed on top. The cemetery at Harlington Road continued in use well into the late 2nd century AD and saw the orderly development of the burial ground, from a circular arrangement into two neat rows. On the opposite valley slope boundary ditches, hearth waste and roof tile suggested the presence of a building and nearby occupation extending into the 4th century.

In the late 7th century, a possible Christian conversion period cemetery lay between Chalton and Lower Sundon, with inhumation burials accompanied by a range of objects, including a rare workbox, knives, brooches, chatelaine keys and a spearhead.

Medieval settlement remains were uncovered to the south-east of Chalton, comprising enclosed areas occupied by buildings, with a sequence of development, abandonment and clearance that spanned the late 11th–14th centuries. Further medieval settlement was found near Thorn that included a timber-framed building of the 12th century, and medieval boundaries that are likely to have been a part of the manor of Houghton Regis. A potters' working area was found north of Toddington where a large 12th-century jar was sunk into the ground to provide a cistern for water and a substantial pot bank of wasters was created nearby. After the 15th century the pot bank was flattened and a cob wall



was built over it, and two part-timber/part-stone buildings occupied the site in the 17th–19th centuries.

The MOLA book titled: Farmsteads and funerary sites: the M1 junction 12 improvements and the A5-M1 Link Road, Central Bedfordshire, by Jim Brown. It is a hardback book, xxiv+596 pages, and can be brought direct from the publishers, Archaeopress Archaeology at www.archaeopress.com priced at £120.00. ISBN 9781789692600. Epublication ISBN 9781789692617. Of it can be obtained by downloading at this location as free Open Access.

Bedford, Graze Hill TL 05888 53666

PAUL SHARROCK

An evaluation of thirty-three trenches was carried out. Archaeological remains included one possible Iron Age ditch, a Saxon pit, several medieval ditches and a 19th-century brick kiln. In addition, three ditches and a pit of unidentified date were recorded. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation on the site was limited. There was an accumulation of build-up soils within the site which comprised both alluvium due to the presence of a steep hill to the east and stream to the west. OASIS 357310

Bedford, Mowbray Road, Mowbray Road Recreation Ground TL 056 476

GRAHAM ARKLEY

A geophysical survey covered c. 2ha of land and revealed agricultural remains including medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow, as well as two small areas of possible post-medieval quarrying. Remains associated with former allotments were also encountered in the eastern half of the survey area. OASIS 343584

Brogborough, Marston Gate, Unit DC10

SP 95900 37770

RACHEL CLARE

Seventeen trenches were excavated as part of an evaluation. Archaeological features, comprising seven undated ditches, were identified in five trenches within the development area. The ditches were on a variety of alignments that did not match the orientation of the furrows which were noted in five trenches. Evidence of bioturbation and geological anomalies were also investigated in six of the trenches. OSIS 350456

Northhill, land North of Bedford Road TL 14753 46658

CHRISTOPHER JONES

An archaeological trial trench evaluation comprising six trenches was undertaken. Iron Age and early medieval activity was recorded in the western portion of the site in trenches one and six. The remaining excavated trenches did not have any archaeological remains. OASIS 358440

Northhill, land north of Bedford Road TL 14753 46658

RACHEL CLARE, ADAM DOUTHWAITE and CHRISTOPHER JONES

Following on the evaluation an archaeological excavation of a sub-square area measuring 0.13ha was investigated. In the west of the area late Saxon activity, comprising boundary ditches and associated discrete features, was identified. In the 12th century AD, the land was reorganised, and a new boundary ditch was established, again with associated pits.

Activity on the site ceased in the 14th century AD which likely corresponds to the shrinkage of the village, a common phenomenon at this date. The land then was used as common grazing land until the modern period. An aborted house footing trench was also noted within the excavation area,

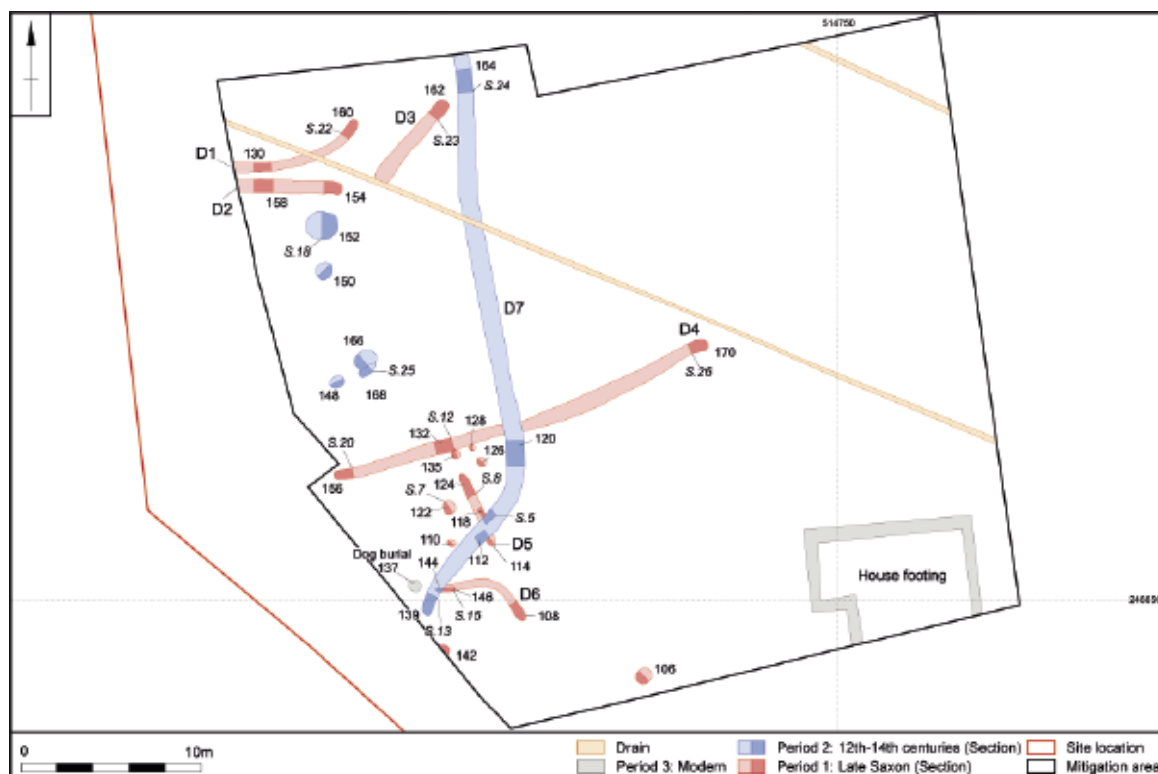


Figure 21: Northhill excavation, phase plan

Bedfordshire

which represents the only modern activity in the site. OASIS 373790

Roxton, School Lane TL 154 547

GRAHAM ARKLEY

The results from an archaeological geophysical survey included a set of possible medieval yard surfaces, as well as evidence for possible pits. An isolated rectangular structure in the north-east and a possible circular structure in the north have also been detected. Weak traces of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow lie across the survey area, while a possible earlier extraction pit can be seen in the north-west. The service trench for a wastewater pipe has been detected crossing the south-west corner. OASIS 372582

Stewartby, Bedford Business Park TL 503000 245000

GRAHAM ARKLEY

A geophysical survey covered c. 142ha of land and revealed several multi-phased settlements of an Iron Age or Roman origin within a wider network of trackways, possible roundhouses and enclosures. The survey has also detected medieval or post-medieval archaeological remains including a moated enclosure and field boundaries. In Block 2 there is evidence of probable Roman cultivation trenches. The survey also identified the location of a former stream channel linking to the Elstow Brook in Block 1, service pipes, telegraph poles and field drains. OASIS 354775

Stewartby, Bedford Business Park TL 025 440 (Area 1) and TL 033 459 (Area 2)

ADAM DOUTHWAITE and RACHEL CLARE

Following the geophysical survey an archaeological trial trench was undertaken. The development area comprised two areas; the northern Area 2 was not intrusively investigated in this phase of works, but is discussed based on the results of the geophysical survey and the evidence from the adjacent Marsh Leys excavations. In the southern Area 1, 64 trenches were excavated which targeted anomalies detected in an earlier geophysical survey, which identified four potential areas of archaeological interest (Sites 1–4). Archaeological remains comprising ditches, pits and furrows were present in 35 of the trenches confirming the survey results with regards to Sites 1 (Roman farmstead), 2 (Iron Age enclosures and routeway), 3 (Iron Age and Roman enclosures) and 4 (medieval moated enclosure and enclosures). Evidence for use of land cultivation from at least the medieval period onwards was also identified. OASIS 371541

Totternhoe, 155 Castle Hill Road, Poplar Farm

SP 15861 03058

ESTHER POULUS

A Strip, Map and Sample as part of works relating to the construction of a new barn was observed. Although the works sporadically touched upon the undisturbed natural soil, no archaeological features or artefacts were observed. OASIS 343554

Wilstead, Whitworth Way TL 06748 43303

RACHEL CLARE

An irregular shaped archaeological excavation area measuring 0.63ha was investigated. Activity on the site started in the early 12th century with the establishment of two rectangular one-acre plots, which most likely fronted onto a local medieval routeway, representing a lost 'end' of Wilstead. Neither plot was exposed in its entirety but the northernmost plot, Plot 1, contained one timber structure, most likely agricultural in nature, as an area of trampling activity associated with livestock was present in close proximity to this structure. It is likely this excavation has exposed the rear of Plot 1.

The southern plot, Plot 2, contained two timber structures, presumably a domestic structure which fronted onto the routeway to the east of the plot, and possibly an ancillary agricultural structure on the west; there was also a well for the inhabitants of the farmstead. Beyond the western boundary of the plots was an area with a watering hole most likely utilised by livestock grazing; this area was either associated with another plot or located in an adjacent field. In the later 12th century, the plots were subdivided, indicating a either a change in function for some areas of the plots or a possible change of land ownership. The plot and structures were not in use beyond the late 12th to mid-13th century and the only later activity was the continued maintenance of boundary ditches across the excavation area. By the early 14th century, the site seems to have reverted to agricultural use until the present day. This is testified by the furrow remnants recorded across the site. OASIS 344292

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Biggleswade, Land off Furzenhall Road TL 1945 3462

ROBIN WEBB

Evaluation was undertaken within an area of proposed residential development. The earliest remains consisted of an Iron Age enclosure with associated ditches and pits in the south-eastern corner of the site, and two smaller enclosures to the north. Roman features included ditches on varying alignments and pits which probably related to activity on the periphery of a settlement. A ditched road, which continued to be used in the medieval and post-medieval periods, may have had its origins in this period. Additional ditches in the post-medieval period form part of the landscaping for the Shortmead Housing Estate.

Biggleswade, Turnpike Farm, Potton Road

TL 20326 46491

RONA BOOTH

Evaluation conducted in advance of a planning application to construct a lake and plant trees revealed four ditches and two pits. One of the pits produced Early Bronze Age pottery, while Middle to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the remaining features. Early Neolithic activity was represented by worked flint recovered from across the site.

41

Bedfordshire

Clapham, Clapham Road TL 03718 51865

EMILY ABREHART

Evaluation undertaken for a water treatment works uncovered limited evidence of Middle to Late Iron Age activity, mainly consisting of boundary and drainage ditches. A wide, shallow hollow with a metalled surface at its base, and a medieval to post-medieval extraction pit were also encountered.

Leighton Buzzard, Chamberlain Barns SP 91975 26274

DAVID BROWNE

A watching brief was undertaken on a short stretch of pipeline and two drill pits in parkland on the flood plain of the River Ouzel. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Millbrook, Millbrook Road TL 0183 4013

TIM LEWIS

Evaluation was conducted ahead of the proposed development of an electricity sub-station and gas pipeline. The continuation of a known Romano-British settlement was revealed in the north-west of the development area, while scattered features of indeterminate date were encountered along the route of the pipeline to the east and south-east.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Wilstead, Dines Close and Village Farm TL 06539 43901

JOHN BOOTHROYD

In late September 2017 Oxford Archaeology carried a trial trench evaluation at Dines Close and Village Farm, Wilstead, Bedfordshire in advance of a proposed residential development. Eight trenches were excavated forming the first phase of a two-stage evaluation. The trenches revealed evidence for medieval and post-medieval agriculture and land management in the form of furrows and a single boundary ditch.

SOUTERRAIN

Carlton, The Royal Oak SP 95680 55848

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

A disused historic outbuilding at the rear of The Royal Oak public house was recorded by Souterrain to Level II/III, prior to demolition (Fig. 23). The work was undertaken on behalf of G Nichols Building Ltd. The structure, locally referred to as a barn, was examined as closely as health & safety would permit, sufficient to understand its historic significance and to obtain an adequate photographic and drawn record.

The physical evidence revealed that the building was purpose-built as a stable and cart shed, with a large hay loft above. The historic cartographic evidence indicated a post-1798 construction date. Built in distinctive chequered Flemish Bond brickwork, it was likely to have been a main feature of the rear courtyard of an antecedent public house (also known as The Royal Oak), destroyed by fire in 1902. The cart shed appears to have gone out of use by the late 19th century, whilst the stable was still in use as such in 1925. The building was later used as a storage facility for the public house.

The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of observations, by means of digital photographs and scale plans, elevations, cross section, and phase drawings. OASIS ref.: souterrai-350502.

Wyboston, Land adjacent to Heddings Farm, The Lane TL 15807 56902

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

A pre-determinative evaluation was undertaken of a plot of disused scrubland (1900 sq.m) within the historic core of Wyboston village, northeast Bedfordshire, in advance of a planning application for three new houses. The plot had potential for buried remains pertaining to the origin and development of the medieval linear settlement of Wyboston.

Three trenches were excavated in the area of proposed development impact, covering a total sample area of 66 sq. m. One of the trenches revealed evidence of medieval land-use: a pit containing late Anglo-Saxon / early Norman (10th / late 11th century) pottery sherds; and a pit and two gully-like linear features. The plant macro-fossil assemblage from all features was consistent with a medieval agrarian economy, while the arable crop *taxa* comprised a range of carbonised remains of primarily clean grain, indicative of domestic activities and nearby occupation.

A shallow pit containing a varied assemblage of mid/late 18th century pottery (Fig. 24) supported cartographic evidence of 1799 which suggests domestic occupation of the site. Most of the features had suffered from deep ploughing which occurred across the greater part of the evaluated area in the mid/late 20th century. Another trench exposed a 18th / 19th century brick-lined, below-ground hearth, with adjoining patch of compacted ground presumed to have been a remnant of floor; which probably belonged to a cottage depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884. OASIS ref.: souterrai-356872

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Shefford, The White Hart Hotel TL 14424 39186

W. SANTAMARIA and M. DENYER

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Heritage Planning Services ('the client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks related to the construction of three detached dwellings, focusing on the areas of greatest impact: the soakaways and the area to be stripped for road construction (bell mouth).

The watching brief has confirmed, as previously observed during the archaeological evaluation phase, the presence of 19th and 20th century made ground to the west and south of the site. A degree of truncation had occurred on site before the ground was raised during the 19th century, as these made ground deposits were observed directly overlaying the natural. This truncation has probably eradicated the archaeology that could predate the 19th century occupation of the site in this part of the site.

An isolated feature in form of pit, dating to the Iron Age, was found in the centre of the site during the prior evaluation works. A possible alluvial deposit was encountered to the south of the site, beneath several layers of made ground which sealed the natural horizon. Despite the presence of possible undisturbed ground, no archaeological features

were found in this part of the site whilst monitoring the excavation of soakaways.

A single possible rubbish pit was found in the west of the site. This pit is thought to represent remains of modern (19th

or 20th century) occupation of the site, probably a dump of domestic refuse from previous dwellers of the White Hart building, prior to its conversion to hotel.



Figure 23: Carlton, The Royal Oak outbuilding



Figure 24: Wyboston, Heddings Farm, C18th pit and pottery

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Aylesbury, AVDC MOT Centre SP 8282 1399

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI

Planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of an existing vacant commercial site. Trial trenching revealed no archaeological remains or artefacts predating the modern period. Modern remains appeared to correspond to an industrial estate that had been demolished prior to the commencement of the archaeological evaluation.

Accession Number: AYBCM 2018.146

OASIS Number: albionar1-335901

Lathbury, Lathbury Quarry SP 8758 4573

JO BARKER, GARY EDMONDSON and CATIE WATTS

Between February and May 2019 Albion Archaeology undertook the excavation of two archaeological zones identified by geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation in 2000 (Bedfordshire County Archaeological Service 2000). The excavation of Zone 1 (c. 3ha) identified activity spanning the late Bronze Age/early-middle Iron Age to the post-medieval period (Fig. 1 & rear cover). Zone 3 (c. 0.04ha) was found to contain an iron-tapping furnace of possible Roman date.

The late Bronze Age/early-middle Iron Age activity comprised two foci of small-scale settlement evidence. The earliest dated features were two pits that contained late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery (forty-nine sherds, 0.28kg), although a polished Neolithic axe, Neolithic scraper, flint core and flake represent the earliest activity on the site.

Activity increased during the late Iron Age/early Roman period with the establishment of a 'complex'-type farmstead (cf. Allen and Smith 2016, 28–33) and associated field-system. The farmstead and outlying fields covered most of the excavation area (c. 2.8ha) and clearly continued beyond the site boundaries. Similar enclosures were identified further to the south by geophysical survey (Bedfordshire County Archaeological Service 2000, fig. 14), indicating that a series of enclosures and possibly farmsteads were situated along the western side of the Great Ouse during this period. Domestic-related activity, in the form of human burials, pits and postholes, were concentrated in enclosures in the southern half of Zone 1. No conclusive evidence of structures was identified, but it is likely that some sub-enclosures and internal partitions may have marked the location of buildings.

Farmstead activity continued unbroken into the Roman period, with the establishment of at least six new enclosures in the northern half of Zone 1 and the likely utilisation of existing late Iron Age/early Roman fields to the south. Pottery recovered suggests that it remained occupied into the 4th century. An area of crop-processing was indicated in one of the new enclosures by a drying oven and square stone surface (Fig. 2). Only half the oven had survived later truncation, but its shape indicates that it was T-shaped, the most identified type of Roman drying oven in the region (Lodwick 2017, 56). Similar occurrences of both ovens

and stone surfaces have been identified in the region at Campbell Park, Milton Keynes (Barker 2019) and Harrold, Bedfordshire (Luke and Preece 2012, 7–8, fig. 6). The remains of a stone wall also hint at a building in an adjacent enclosure.

Evidence for bloomery iron smelting in Zone 3 was evidenced by a tapping furnace, heavy scorching and c. 41kg of slag and other metalworking debris. It has been tentatively assigned to the Roman phase, based on its proximity to the farmstead, although tapping-type furnaces were commonly used during both the Roman and medieval periods.

The Roman occupants themselves were represented by two inhumation burials, one with a 1st–2nd-century beaded torc (Figs. 3 & 17). Both had been deposited in ditches, whilst a cattle burial was found in a purposefully dug grave inside one enclosure.

Evidence of Saxon occupation at Lathbury Quarry comprised thirteen sunken-featured buildings (SFB), as well as a small number of pits and postholes. Contemporary pottery and artefacts (pin beaters, bone comb, worked antler, copper-alloy mount) were recovered from most of the buildings. The SFBs formed three clusters, plus one isolated building. The continued utilisation of late Iron Age and Roman fields and enclosures during this period was suggested by the positioning of the buildings adjacent to the earlier ditched boundaries, sometimes dug into them. The buildings were roughly rectangular in shape (2 × 1.8m to 4.2 × 3.2m) and contained the standard two opposing postholes, although several also contained additional postholes arranged along the edges or inside the sunken area.

Allen, M. and Smith, A., 2016 'Chapter 2: Rural Settlement in Roman Britain: Morphological Classification and Overview', in Smith, A., Allen, M., Brindle, T. and Fulford, M., *The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain*, Britannia Monograph No. 29, 17–43

Barker, J., 2019 'A Roman Crop-Processing Site at Campbell Park Canalside, Milton Keynes', *Records of Bucks* 59, 39–72

Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service, 2000 *Land to the North of Home Farm, Lathbury, Bucks: Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Report 2000/55)

Lodwick, L., 2017 'Arable Farming, Plant Foods and Resources', in Allen, M., Lodwick, L., Brindle, T., Fulford, M. and Smith, A., *The Rural Economy of Roman Britain*, Britannia Monograph No. 30, 11–84

Luke, M. and Preece, T., 2012 'Evidence for multi-period activity at the former Bridgeman Joinery Works', in Ingham, D. and Shotliff, D., *Harrold: 5,000 years of life and death in a North Bedfordshire village*, Albion Archaeology Monograph 1, 1–39

OASIS ID: albionar1-336083

Accession no: AYBCM 2018.145

Soulbury, Land at Boot Field SP 8829 2675

ALLAN KING, GARY EDMONDSON and BENJAMIN CARROLL

Planning permission was granted for up to 10 dwellings with associated access, parking, landscaping, drainage and engineering works. Earthwork survey identified four lynchets or terraces, aligned roughly NE–SW across the slope, three possible building platforms towards High



Figure 2: Lathbury, Possible threshing floor (?)



Figure 3: Lathbury, Inhumation containing a beaded torc (see also Fig. 17)



Figure 1: Lathbury, Phase plan

Buckinghamshire

Road and traces of boundaries comprising ditches and low earthworks. Trial trenching revealed medieval and post-medieval features across the area. They comprised ditches, internal/external surfaces, a single posthole, and other layers associated with the earthworks. The earliest dated features were a series of ditches, which were either directly dated to the medieval period by associated finds or indirectly by alignment or stratigraphy. The low quantity of finds suggests that these ditches represent field boundaries located away from any focus of human settlement. They did not appear to respect the terraces, suggesting the latter were associated with a variety of post-medieval features and deposits, including numerous make-up layers and cobbled and gravel surfaces. These most likely relate to buildings recorded on the 1769 manorial plan. They were investigated further during the subsequent open-area excavation.

The open-area excavation also provided evidence of activity dating from the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Peripheral settlement activity was represented by a small, isolated enclosure system with associated pits. An isolated ditch and two postholes are probably part of a field boundary. Several of the ditches showed evidence of re-cutting, indicating that they were maintained over an extended period. A small assemblage (7kg) of pottery and fired clay – almost entirely of local provenance – was recovered.

Accession Number: AYBCM 2019.3

OASIS Number: albionar1-338484; albionar1-361657

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Stoke Hammond, Land east of Fenny Road

SP 8822 2963

LINDSAY LLOYD-SMITH, KEELEY DIGGONS, and SAMUEL THOMELIUS

In June and July 2018 Archaeological Solutions carried out two areas of excavation in two adjacent fields on land to the east of Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond (Fig. 4). The excavations took place ahead of housing development. An earlier geophysical survey of the site had identified a small sub-square enclosure, c. 15m across, and a prominent N–S ditch which delimited a series of side enclosure ditches projecting off its eastern side particularly in the southeast area of the site. In the northern field, the prominent N–S ditch appeared to meet the southern of two parallel E–W ditches. A subsequent trial trench evaluation targeting the features identified in the geophysical survey, as well as testing areas in between, determined the majority of features date to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, with a concentration of features (including a stone-lined corn-drier) and finds in the southeast area of the site dating to the late Roman period. In addition, a probably medieval double-ditched boundary/droeway was identified running parallel to the southern edge of the site. Subsequent to the results of trial trench evaluation, the development plans were amended to preserve the southeast area of the site (Area 3) in situ, and two areas excavation took place in the north-eastern (Area 1) and south-western (Area 2) areas of the site.

During the early Roman (mid-late 1st century AD) an east-west droeway was made across the north of the site (Area 1). Projecting off the south side of the droeway,

was a rectangular enclosure (c. 57m × 37m), with a possible southern entranceway. Dispersed postholes, pits, and shallower pit/hollows in and around the rectangular enclosure are likely contemporary with the enclosure; a possible rectangular structure within the enclosure and a possible four-post structure just southwest of the enclosure were identified, their constituent features containing mid-1st to early 2nd century Romano-British pottery.

By the middle of the 2nd century AD the rectangular enclosure appears to have gone out of use and was bisected by a recut SW–NE ditch, which abuts the southern droeway way ditch to the north and passes through the southern entrance of the rectangular enclosure. Based upon the ceramic assemblage from the sub-square enclosure, it is thought that it went out of use shortly before, or at the same time as, the prominent SW–NE boundary ditch was created. At this time also, a (partial) recut was made to the broad NW–SE late Iron Age ditch line, with two smaller ditches projecting off at approximately right-angles to the south suggesting a re-organisation of land-use during the early/mid-2nd century AD.

Additional late Roman features and finds in the north of the site include shorter, curvilinear ditches ‘projecting’ off the east side of the prominent SW–NE boundary ditch, possibly functioning as an entrance way leading towards the southeast corner of the site. Late Roman (2nd–4th century AD) finds from Area 1 include a near complete jar containing unburnt and burnt bones of a possible human pre/neonate and hare, as well as charred remains of possible plant-based food, and a large assemblage of charred plant macro-fossils. The jar had been placed into a pit dug into the infilled northern droeway ditch, and alongside it was found the remains of a most of the foreleg of a dog, and the upper hind leg of a horse. This feature is likely a cremation of a pre/neonate, or a votive offering including plant-based foods and deliberate selection of animal parts.

Three phases of post-Roman ditches/land boundaries were identified at the Fenny Road site. Three small ditches-oriented NW–SE or SW–NE, and at variance with the early and late Roman enclosures, droeway and boundary ditch, overlay late Iron Age features or are cut by medieval ditches. Although only containing probably residual Iron Age/early Roman or likely intrusive modern material, these ditches are tentatively assigned broad post-Roman date and may represent parts of Saxon/early medieval land/field boundaries.

Three ditches, two forming a possible track/droeway (Area 2) and a single E–W aligned ditch (Area 1) are oriented parallel to the present-day field boundaries. Four sherds of 12–13th century AD medieval pottery in one of the track/droeway ditches made in the evaluation, suggest an (early) medieval date. This double-ditch alignment along the southern edge of the site possibly formed an earlier northern boundary to an extant medieval manor house located adjacent to the south. The probable medieval ditch in the north of the site may have been associated with the parallel ridge and furrow field system still evident in this field in an aerial photography taken in 1946. Also visible in this photograph is the one post-medieval ditch (later edged by field drains) recorded in the excavation aligned N–S across the northeast side of Area 1 and cutting through the probable medieval ditch in this area.

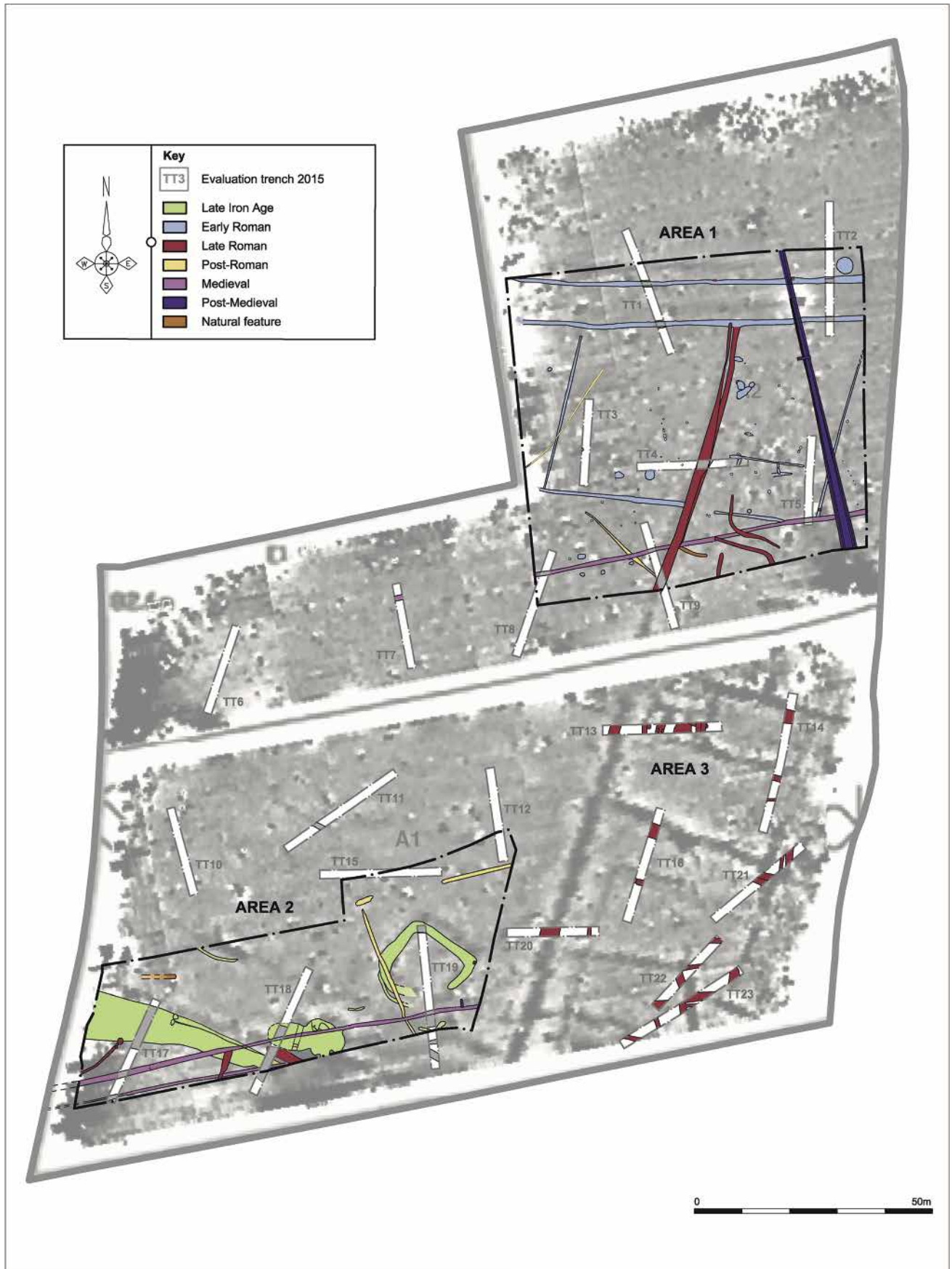


Figure 4: Stoke Hammond, Phase Plan & Geophysics

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Steeple Claydon: Queen Catherine Road SP 7022 2686
BOB ZEEPVAT

In May 2019, a programme of historic building recording was undertaken on 'The Phoenix', a former public house on Queen Catherine Road, during remedial work and conversion for residential use.

The earliest parts of the building most likely date from the 17th century and comprise the body of the building, a box-framed, thatched structure of 1½ storeys. Though much of the original framing had been replaced with brick, some the original gable end frame remained. There was also some early wattle and daub in the east wall, though it is uncertain how this relates to the rest of the structure at the east end, which appears to be mostly brick. Another distinctive original feature is the large fireplace in the former bar which, though partly rebuilt, retained several original niches (recently restored) in its rear wall, and a fire window to the south.

From the historical evidence it is clear that the building started life as a village homestead, and did not become a public house until the first half of the 19th century, the first record of the 'Phoenix Inn' dating to 1853. It seems likely that a two-storey brick extension was added to the west end of the building at this time and that the east end was extensively modified to create the cellar and the arrangement of rooms on the floor above, including the rear stairs. Much of the replacement of the original timber frame with brick likely dates from this period. The name of the inn derives from the fire insurance plaque on the front wall, which is probably of early 19th-century date.

During the later 19th and early 20th centuries the 'Phoenix Inn' appears to have continued to trade without much change, other than a series of extensions to the rear, presumably to provide additional bar space, toilets etc. Space was obviously a continuing problem, as extensions continued to be added up to the end of the 20th century.

Stoke Goldington: George Inn Place SP 8367 4880
BOB ZEEPVAT

In August 2019, a programme of historic building recording was undertaken on a disused barn at 3 George Inn Place, prior to its conversion for residential use. The barn is not listed, though it falls within the Stoke Goldington Conservation Area.

The building is an eight-bay stone structure with a slate roof, last used agriculturally for rearing pigs, though the three-bay north-western end was last used as an equipment store by the local Scout group until their demise in the mid-1990s. Cartographic evidence indicates that the north-western end of the building was built by 1880 – probably in the late 18th or early 19th centuries. The remaining five bays appear to have been added between 1880 and 1900, utilising existing stone boundary walls for the basis of the south-west and south-east sides. Little remains of any internal features.

Weston Underwood: Weston House SP 8672 5078
BOB ZEEPVAT

Between February 2018 and July 2019, a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken at Weston

House during the installation of a ground-source heating system, excavations for the construction of a swimming pool and groundworks for associated structures. The present house, which is Grade II listed, comprises one of two wings, added in the early 18th century to a late 16th-century mansion built for Sir Robert Throckmorton. The mansion was pulled down in 1828, after which the surviving wing was extended, and part of the adjoining Roman Catholic chapel constructed.

Observations made during excavations for the swimming pool revealed the fragmentary remains of the footings for the front (north-west) wall of the mansion, part of an internal floor, which had apparently been surfaced with plain glazed tile and a possible cellar, a rectangular area inside the mansion excavated into the underlying natural clay and backfilled with orange sandy clay containing limestone and occasional brick/tile fragments. No artefacts or other dating evidence was recovered during the watching brief. Based on the fragmentary nature of the surviving structural evidence for the mansion, it appears that its demolition in the 19th century was very thorough, and probably accompanied by some major landscaping which removed most remaining traces of the building.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area SP 80820 37190
ANDREW NETTLETON

Archaeological Field Evaluation was undertaken between 23rd and 26th April 2019 in an area identified as 'Land Parcel D: Field 11' or 'GEBA 11' which forms part of the proposed development area within Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (MKWEA), Area 10.

Thirty-two evaluation trenches were opened across Field 11 to identify and investigate any areas of archaeological potential.

Trench 001 revealed a pond feature, since infilled, and first depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map of 1881 whilst Trench 011 contained limited evidence of post-medieval ridge and furrow activity, similar to that encountered in neighbouring fields. Post-medieval to modern agricultural activity was identified in the remaining 30 trenches and the site was thus deemed to be of low archaeological significance.

Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area SP 80920 37100
GIUSEPPE CASTELLI

Archaeological Field Evaluation was carried out 23rd April and 17th June 2019 in an area identified as 'Land Parcel D: Field 13' or 'GEBA 13' forming part of the proposed development area at Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (MKWEA) Area 10.

Forty-nine trenches were opened revealing post-medieval furrows correlating with the latest extant phase of ridge and furrow shown on LiDAR survey data. These ran NE-SW and NW-SE across the central and southernmost areas of the site.

A small assemblage of heavily abraded sherds of pottery dating to the 1st and 2nd Century AD represented a background scatter of material, some of which became incorporated in later features as a result of natural silting.

Fields 1, 2 and 5, Western Expansion Area

SP 80430 37900, SP 80330 37720 and SP 80560 37690

ANDREW NETTLETON, CATHERINE SINNOTT and GIUSEPPE CASTELLI

One hundred and twenty-eight evaluation trenches were opened. Work was carried out in Field 1 (42 trenches) between 10th July 2019 and 13th April 2019, in Field 2 (25 trenches) between 3rd September 2019 and 20th September 2019 and in Field 4 (61 trenches) between 9th September 2019 and 1st October 2019.

Of these, 17 contained archaeological features and a further eight containing features with no apparent dateable evidence which are believed to be of archaeological interest; the remainder were either blank or contained post-medieval features such as land drains and furrows. The concentration of archaeological features was within the NW half of Field 1, with evidence for the corner of an enclosure possibly associated with a more focused area of activity recorded immediately to the NE at Common Farm.

Fields 5 & 7, Western Expansion Area SP 80460 37120 / SP 80480 37370

ANDREW NETTLETON and JOE FRANCE

Archaeological Field Evaluation was undertaken between October and November 2019.

Twenty-five evaluation trenches were opened across the two fields, of which Trenches 005, 006 and 007 towards the NW of Field 5 contained a series of linear ditches that appeared to form part of a square enclosure of approximately 1099.632m² from which several sherds of Late Iron/Age to Early Romano-British period pottery were recovered. No finds were recovered from the internal area but slag pieces were recovered from some of the ditch fills.

Trench 008 immediately SW of the enclosure revealed a series of smaller gullies and a larger feature, possibly a natural depression, whilst Trench 015 towards the centre of Field 5 revealed a stone-filled posthole associated with Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British finds suggesting the presence of a structure.

Shenley Park, Whaddon SP 81863310

JOE FRANCE

Archaeological Field Evaluation and Geophysical Survey was carried out on behalf of Crest Strategic Projects in connection with a proposed residential development.

Of the 296 trenches, 89 contained features and deposits of archaeological significance, which included a Romano-British enclosure complex, together with features associated with the Medieval deer park of Whaddon Chase and others relating to a Second World War Transmitter Station known as Tattenhoe Bare.

The enclosure comprised a number of linear ditches, with probable stock enclosures at its southern end. This remained in use from the Early 1st Century AD through the 3rd Century AD as attested by the later addition of ancillary enclosures on its eastern and northern sides. It contained at least two 1st Century AD roundhouses, with evidence for ditched areas, beam slots with associated postholes and ring gullies recorded. A single un-urned sub-adult cremation was found to the E of the enclosure, close to its entrance.

Pottery and metalwork recovered from these features suggest a main phase of occupation during the 1st Century

AD and 2nd Century AD, with very limited 3rd Century AD material recovered. Other artefactual material included ceramic building material (*tegula* and *imbrex*).

These finds are consistent with the large number of Romano-British artefacts, including pottery, roofing tile and quern stone fragments, previously recovered during fieldwalking within the eastern boundary of the site.

A series of cobbled surfaces and colluvial deposits with associated drainage gullies were revealed along the central line of the enclosure, probably representing former working surfaces. Romano-British ceramic building material recovered from these deposits suggests the presence of a substantial structure within the vicinity.

A Post-Medieval foundation wall and wood-lined pit uncovered to the SE may have been associated with the management of Whaddon Chase, the boundaries of which remained intact until 1840, with Post-Medieval ditches seen in several of the trenches. Modern foundation pits for possible telegraph poles or similar were seen to the NE, likely associated with the World War Two transmitter of Tattenhoe Bare.

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL:
ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE 2019**

The County's Archaeological Service formed part of the Transport, Economy and Environment Services Environment Team within Environment Services and covered County and the Districts of Aylesbury Vale, Wycombe and Chiltern and South Bucks. From April 2020 and the creation of the unitary authority, Buckinghamshire Council, we have become the Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Service and provide the same service as previously. Phil Markham is the Senior Archaeology Officer, Lucy Lawrence is the Archaeology Officer, Julia Wise is the Historic Environment Record Officer (part time) and Paul Clements is the Historic Environment Record Assistant. We have had a busy year with major infrastructure projects taking up a lot of our time.

Development Management

High Speed 2: We continue to provide advice through the HS2 Ltd Heritage Sub-Group with 2 or 3 meetings each year. The Schedule 17 works consultations (similar to planning applications) usually came through the district council planning departments and we are usually consulted when the applications come in; although this has been known to fall through the gaps on occasion. This was addressed by Historic England. Schedule 17 meetings are usually undertaken at Amersham and include HS2, Fusion, Planning, Highways and the Environment Agency amongst others. These are often productive and additional archaeological works are considered and incorporated into plans where practical.

Field work has and is taking place in a number of areas and Fusion and/or their archaeological contractors supply us with draft project specifications for comment and we sometimes request minor amendments. The evaluation field work around St Mary's Stoke Mandeville has been completed for the time being while a mitigation strategy is drawn up. Lucy and I have provided comments on a draft Project Plan and we expect to see a revised version in the near future. Works are expected to re-start spring/summer 2020 once the route of the access road has been agreed.

Buckinghamshire

Our two Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy (HERDS) Managers, Rachel Wood and Dan Hounsell, employed by Fusion, keep us informed on works. They 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. We are, however, aware that reports have been produced but not currently supplied and this issue is being addressed and will be escalated if required.

East–West Rail: We were continuing to have discussions over the documents and conditions which should be included in the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO). The environmental statement was not clear in places and this was agreed by Atkins. To address the archaeological evaluation and mitigation issues another document is going to be produced, the Heritage Delivery Strategy and the contents of this have been discussed. After a flurry of sites earlier in the year this project has been relatively quiet. We received some draft geophysical survey results from Fleet Marston which extends the ladder settlement to the east along Akeman Street.

Heathrow New Runway: There were a number of meetings throughout the year over various aspects including the Masterplan, the PEIR (Preliminary Environmental Information Report) and the Heritage Strategy. Comments from us, the other local authority archaeological services involved and Historic England have been made. A statement of was produced by the archaeology services' which was agreed by Buckinghamshire County Council and Historic England's Advisory Committee. The main issue was the lack of proposed evaluation where this would be possible.

The statement was in line with the Planning Inspectorate and Government Policy. We received a number of documents from the consultants and the Air Photography report says that over 200 new sites have been recorded within the Heathrow study area some of which are within Bucks. A service level agreement to pay for our time spent on this scheme has been agreed. For Bucks the largest impact is likely to be from the proposed flood mitigation sites.

Western Rail Link to Heathrow: Archaeological evaluation and field work has been undertaken and a report supplied. Due to access and ownership issues further evaluation will be required following consent. We have responded to the Development Consent Order consultation and 'issues and asks' meetings are continuing. Part of the route is currently a mineral extraction site and excavation has been undertaken prior to each phase. An Iron Age settlement is likely to be in the next phase; although mineral companies regularly amend their plans.

Oxford/Cambridge Expressway: We attended a meeting in April and little has been forthcoming since for the historic environment. The consultants Jacobs said that there would be an update meeting in the spring. We have contacted Jacobs over this but have not had a response.

Archaeological Fieldwork

Lucy undertook a site monitoring visit to a John Moore Heritage Services site near Longwick recently. One of the field team who had only been working for 8 months recovered this Neolithic axe head from the plough soil. An envious Lucy said that he was not likely to top that for a while, if ever!

During April two hoards comprising a silver hoard and a gold hoard were discovered during a metal detecting rally. Lucy and Paul went out with the Oxfordshire Finds Liaison Officer Anni Byard and excavated a small area. The hoards



Figure 4: Images of St Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville, at varying stages of investigation (HS2 Ltd.)



Figure 6: Neolithic axe-head from Longwick (L. Lawrence)

appeared to have been within a wall of a structure and spread through ploughing. The subsequent excavation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered approximately 200 coins in addition to the 400 silver and 12 gold coins already excavated. All were 13th–14th century.



Figure 7: Gold coin from Edward I–III

Historic Environment Record

A business case for HBSMRWEB (a new web-based version of the HER) has been through three Technology Boards to

assess its viability and value for money. It was hoped that we would be in a position to commission the move to HBSMRWEB in the Autumn, which ultimately will provide better public access to the HER online.

The HER volunteer working on the milestones project is still making final edits to the existing entries. The new HER volunteer who had been creating and enhancing records of schools was offered a full-time job with the Natural history Museum in London and left in May.

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research and Recording Project is continuing to make good progress with 63 reports completed, 3 report in draft and work underway on a further 11 gardens. In addition the volunteers are also researching artists' gardens in Buckinghamshire, which will probably be published as a short article.

Countryside Stewardship Consultations

In 2019 the HER was consulted on 27 Countryside Stewardship applications covering 7,916 hectares within Buckinghamshire. Of these, 15 (55%) were for Higher Tier schemes and 12 (44%) were for Mid-tier schemes. The HER was able to provide added value to 41% of the applications and we responded to all the consultations within the 20-day period required by Natural England. The numbers of Stewardship consultations have dropped considerably this year as a direct result of the Rural Payments Agency making significant changes to the consultation process in an attempt to cut costs. The bulk of Mid-tier applications were processed without any input from the HER; we are hopeful that there aren't significant detrimental impacts on heritage in the county as a consequence of these changes and are yet to hear whether the scheme is expected to continue in future years.

Outreach and Publicity

Lucy has been working hard to improve and update the archaeology service web pages and together with Paul has produced the BCAS Blog which will be updated monthly. Various talks were given to a number of groups and Eliza Alqassar, the Environment Team Manager, was interviewed by Wycombe Sound and attended the Bucks County Show to promote the team.

Chalk, Cherries, Chairs and Chilterns Hillforts Project: These are two projects being run by the Chilterns Conservation Board. Members of the Environment Team attend steering group meetings and provide advice; we have also provided financial support to both projects.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Buckingham, Cornwall's Meadows SP 69800 34118

ADAM GRIFFITHS

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological strip, map and record on land at Cornwall's Meadows, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire. The proposed development covered an area of approximately 0.56 hectares, with the area to be stripped totalling 0.1490144. The strip located features which can be generalised to four phases of activity, the first is the earliest activity on site which consisted of mid 11th century, the second of 13th century activity, the third was evidence of commercial activity in the 15th century, the fourth were post-medieval features – report in prep.

Buckinghamshire

Calverton, Fairfield Future Playing Fields

SP 80116 38664

LEE BAYLIS

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation for Milton Keynes Council on the site of a proposed development for playing fields at the Fairfield Primary School. Twenty trenches were excavated; Trenches 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 revealed the large part of a part of an enclosed settlement and peripheral activity in the form of a series of Iron Age round houses, pits, postholes and linear features.

Olney, New Caravan base, Lavendon Road

SP 89684 52907

MARINA GENNA

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for the installation of a new Caravan base on the site at Walkers Bridge Field, Lavendon Road, Olney. A 6m x 12m foundation slab was dug for the installation of the Caravan, but it did not reveal any archaeological features. However, numerous sherds of Roman Pottery have been recovered from the subsoil while digging. These probably came from the nearby Roman Town.

Wavendon, Glebe Meadows New Primary & Secondary School Site

SP 91595 37664

LEE BAYLIS

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation for Milton Keynes Council on the site of a proposed school development on land at the Glebe Meadows New Primary & Secondary School Site. Twenty eight trenches were excavated: nine of the trenches revealed Iron Age and Roman activity including ditches and gullies.

Wavendon, Playing Fields and Community Building

SP 91101 37489

ALAN WHITAKER

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation for Milton Keynes Council in advance of a development involving the creation of playing fields and a community building.

Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was recorded in 26 trenches across the Site. Recent archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 05, 12, 13, 23 & 25 and comprised of two ditches, two gullies, and one potential pit feature.

The ditches identified during the evaluation probably represent field boundaries and/or drainage features. All features, except one, yielded artefactual evidence including a sherd of 18th century glazed pottery from gully [1305] and an iron nail from possible pit [0505] suggesting the features encountered were post medieval in date.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Amersham, 18 High Street

SU 9573 9728)

BETHANY HARDCASTLE

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

Broughton, Aston Clinton Road

MDA SP 8488 1326

JEREMY CLUTTERBUCK

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a group of Early Neolithic pits together with three undated post-built structures of probable prehistoric date. Middle to Late Bronze Age boundary ditches and subsidiary field boundaries appeared to represent at least two phases of development. Late Iron Age/Roman trackways, boundary ditches and a small structure of this may represent domestic settlement. Medieval furrows and the poorly-preserved remains of two later medieval structures were also present.

Cheddington, Land west of Cheddington

SP 9187 17487

PETER BOYER

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified six phases of activity dating from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period to the post-medieval. The earliest features included two enclosures with pits and a working hollow and may represent the periphery of a settlement associated with the final occupation of Southend Hill, a multivallate Iron Age hillfort (SM 1017517). Early and Late Roman enclosures, pit clusters, inhumation burials and ditches were also found, along with evidence of smithing. Two graves were identified (Figs. 8 & 9), one of which contained two female adults, simultaneously interred. The remains of a foetus were associated with one of the burials, either still-born or died *in-utero*. The second grave contained the remains of an adult male.

Following a hiatus between the 5th and 9th centuries, the site was re-occupied as a series of small enclosures on the edge of a medieval settlement which evolved into the modern village of Cheddington. The medieval and post-medieval phases were characterised by pit digging, and the maintenance of property boundaries, between the village and the fields surrounding the nearby moated manor. During this period a large deposit of garden soil began to accumulate across the site, containing a large assemblage of domestic objects consistent with midden material. From the 17th to 19th centuries the site included a network of small fields focused on a small farm building or barn, recorded on the Tithe Map of the parish, constructed immediately to the east. This had been demolished by the late 19th century, with evidence surviving on site as a spread of demolition rubble.

Excavations and Community Project at Great Linford Manor Park, Great Linford, Milton Keynes

SP 8520 4238

BY ANNA MOOSBAUER and MARK HEWSON

An archaeological investigation and community project at Great Linford Manor Park, Great Linford, Milton Keynes was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in two phases during April and July 2019 (Stage 1 and 2 respectively). The site was located in an area of the park which extends to the south of the Grand Union Canal and comprises part of the Wilderness and the area between the Manor House and current Arts Centre (SP 8520 4238). The project was commissioned by The Parks Trust to inform a larger-scale National Lottery Heritage funded project, the *Reveal, Revive and Restore* project, to improve the site and wider park as a visitor destination. This project includes revealing, restoring and recreating aspects of the 18th century formal



Figure 8: Cheddington, Skeleton SK2453 in grave 2451, looking south-west (1m scale)



Figure 9: Cheddington, Skeletons SK2395 (left) and SK2396 (right), looking south-west (1m scales)

Buckinghamshire

grounds. Seven trenches were targeted on known features of interest and were also informed by the results of a preceding programme of geophysical survey (AOC Archaeology Group, 2017; Fig. 10).

The fieldwork revealed the full profile of the ha-ha wall 702 (Trench 7; Fig. 2, Section AA), which formerly bisected the eastern end of the park, including a well-preserved drystone retaining wall. The ha-ha wall survived to a height of just over 1m above the present ground level and was covered by a layer of topsoil and vegetation (Figs. 11 & 18). It represents an element of intensive re-landscaping of the manor grounds in the later 18th century, which also saw the introduction of the Water Gardens, a Cascade and a Doric Seat, consistent with the English Landscape style. An isolated shallow ditch was encountered in Trench 2 approximately 30m south of the ha-ha wall (Fig. 10), however, it was not possible to determine the feature's date or function.

Immediately west of the Manor House, likely foundation pit 101 for an ornamental sundial, dating to the mid-20th century, was investigated (Trench 1). Its approximate location had been identified on historic photographs dating to the 1960s and was subsequently confirmed by the fieldwork. The 'L'-shaped remains of a probable stone wall (107) were also identified c. 2.0m south-east of the former sundial location. These remains comprised rough, undressed limestone fragments of varying sizes. The individual stones and general construction method were similar to the walls encountered in Trench 3 (see below). Immediately adjacent to wall 107, a possible demolition layer (109) was also evident.

In the area of the Doric Seat (314, Trench 3; Fig. 12), two walls (302 and 311; Figs 15–17) were encountered, cut by the Doric Seat foundations (Fig. 13, Section CC). It is possible that these features indicate activity within the area which pre-dates the establishment of the manor and park. However, due to the restricted time and scope of the project these features were not investigated further and a decision was made to preserve them *in-situ* for potential future investigation. A possible ornamental plinth base (305) was also identified in Trench 3. It was roughly square in plan, measured 0.84m long and 0.78m wide and was constructed from bricks (307) partially overlain with a mortar-like material. It may have marked the former location of an ornamental urn, said to have been placed in the Wilderness area when the manor was used as the headquarters of the Chilstone firm between the 1950s and 1970s.

Approximately 40m east of the South Pavilion, a possible robbed-out wall line was encountered, together with an associated layer interpreted as a possible occupation deposit and a possible pit dating between the 12th and 14th century, which, similar to the two walls in Trench 3, pre-dated the manor and formal parkland (Trench 4; Fig. 10).

The excavation of Trench 5 (Fig. 10) was abandoned due to its proximity to the pond just to its north, a public footpath and a number of mature trees. No archaeological features or deposits of any date were observed in Trench 6 (Fig. 10); however, a small assemblage of mainly modern artefacts was collected from the topsoil.

The finds assemblage recovered during the fieldwork comprised 107 sherds of pottery recorded from 16 deposits, which included pit and ditch fills, wall construction cut fills and layers. Approximately half of the assemblage (53 sherds), including material of earlier Anglo-Saxon and

medieval date, was derived from the topsoil in Trenches 1 and 3–6. Despite this, the condition of the assemblage exhibited minimal abrasion and there were some large joining sherds present from among these deposits.

A total of 14 sherds dating to the early Anglo-Saxon period (c. AD 450–AD 750), are presumed to be residual, occurring in association with later-dated pottery or other material. Unfeatured body sherds in handmade fabrics make up the majority (Fig. 15) and the fabrics compare to types known locally, for instance at Pennyland, Milton Keynes. There were also two rim sherds from the topsoil in Trench 3 and the fill of the wall cut (303) of wall 302.

Much of the remainder of the assemblage (43 sherds) was of post-medieval origin; recorded from ten deposits (Fig. 16) including topsoil, a rubble layer in Trench 3, which probably derived from collapse of wall structures 302 and 311, the possible occupation layer in Trench 4, from within the silted in gaps in ha-ha wall 702, and from ha-ha ditch 701 in Trench 7.

A particular focus was placed on public engagement and community involvement throughout Stage 1 of the fieldwork programme. A total of 84 volunteer members of the Public were able to participate in the investigation and recording of features alongside and guided by Cotswold Archaeology staff. A Public Open Day held at the end of the Stage 1 fieldwork facilitated further engagement with a variety of visitors to the park and included the presentation of finds and preliminary site interpretations during guided site tours.

On-site engagement was supplemented by social media campaigns throughout both stages of fieldwork, showcasing progress and raising awareness for the project. A short segment filmed for the local ITV evening news, and broadcast at the start of the fieldwork, also successfully raised awareness among the local residents. In addition, a time-lapse video documenting the progress of the excavation around the Doric Seat was produced during the Stage 2 fieldwork and made available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oD2haHTaZUc>). Further videos about the project may be found on The P:arks Trust YouTube channel.

The archive has been compiled and will be deposited with Milton Keynes Museum under accession number AYBCM: 2019.36

Haddenham, Drainage Works at Church Farm House, Church End SP 7419 0802

CALLUM RUSE

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

Princes Risborough, Land between Longwick Road and Mill Lane SP 8062 0445

ALICE AMABILINO

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in January identified a rectangular or D-shaped enclosure associated with late prehistoric pottery and containing discrete features. The remains likely represent stock management at the periphery of a settlement. A ditch to the north-west yielded a single fragment of Roman box flue tile. A medieval/post-medieval extraction pit and the remnants of ridge-and-furrow cultivation were also present.

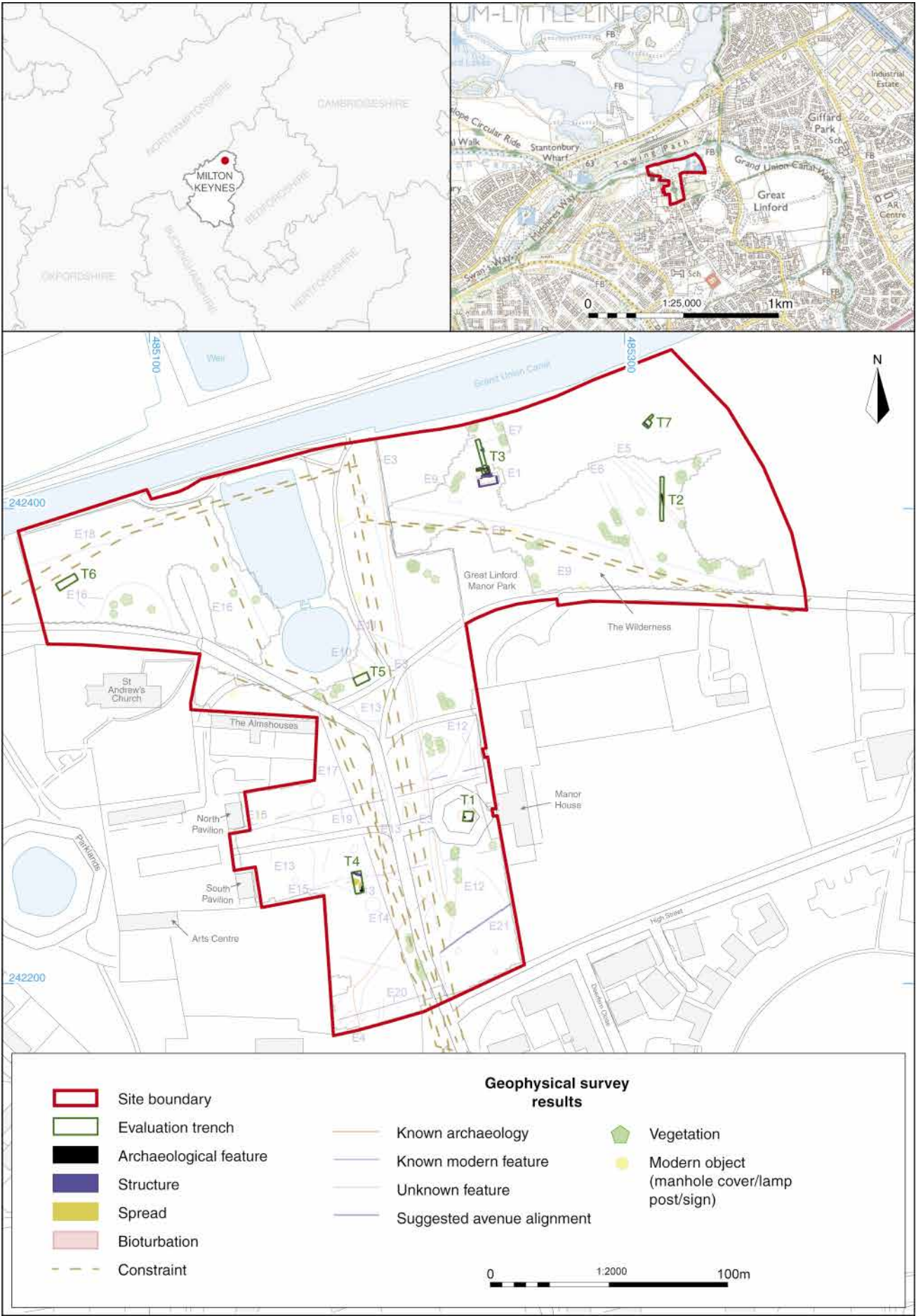
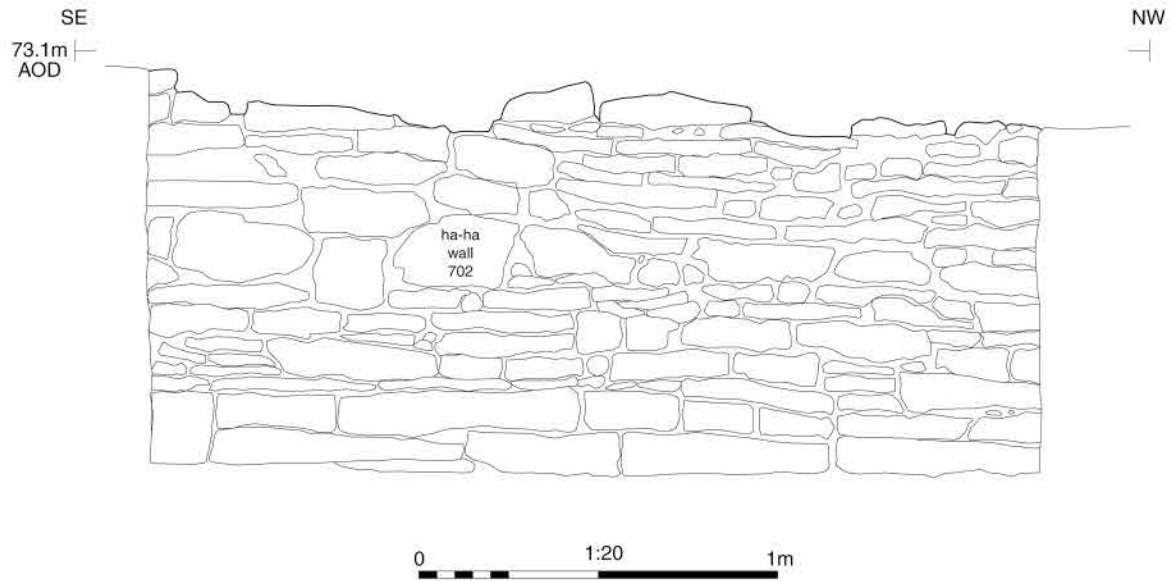


Figure 10: Great Linford Manor Park, trench locations

Section AA



Ha-ha wall 702, looking south-west (2m scale)

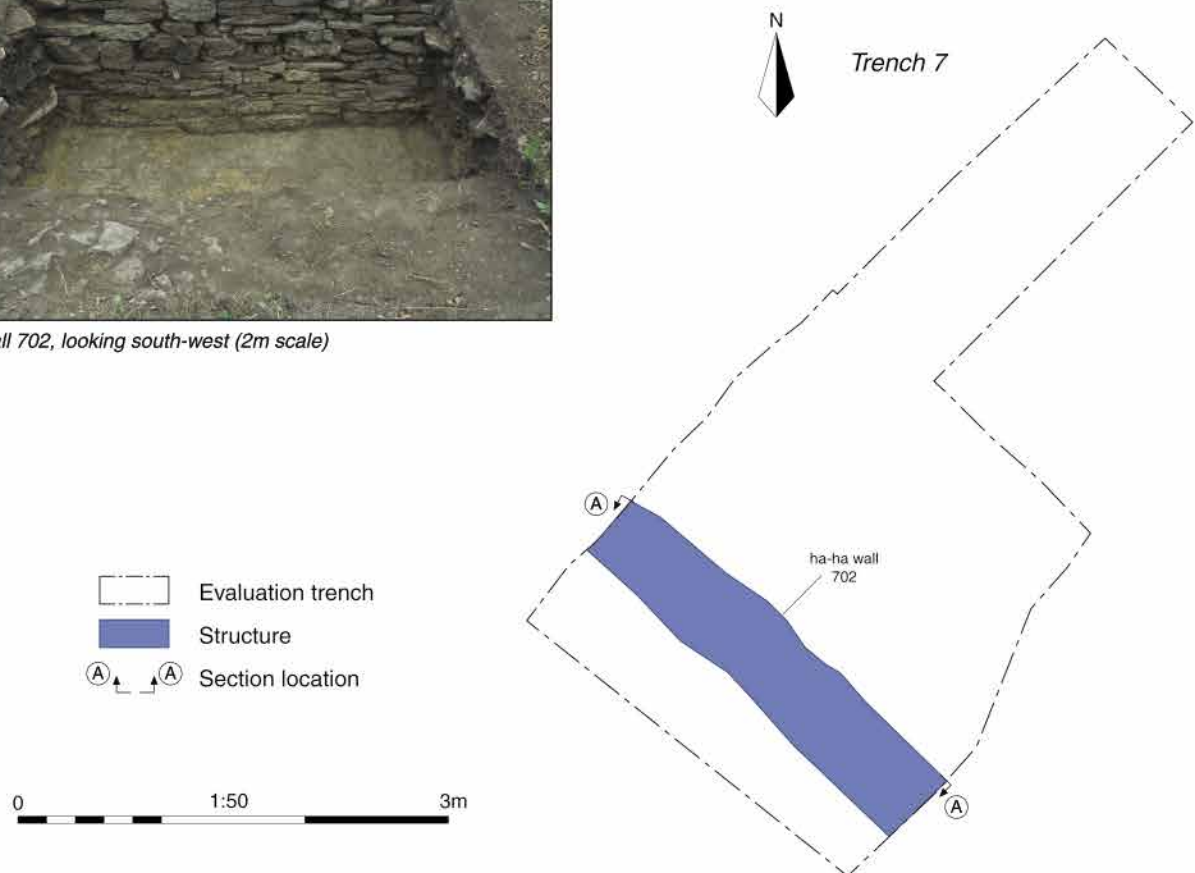
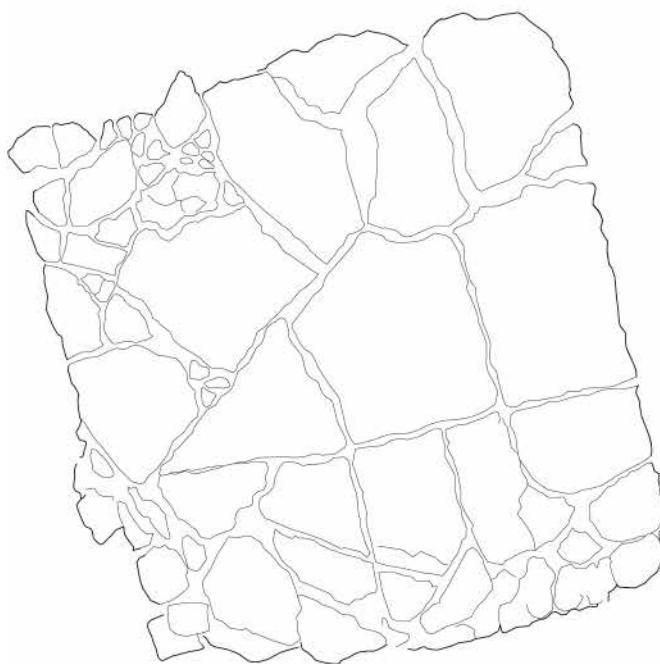
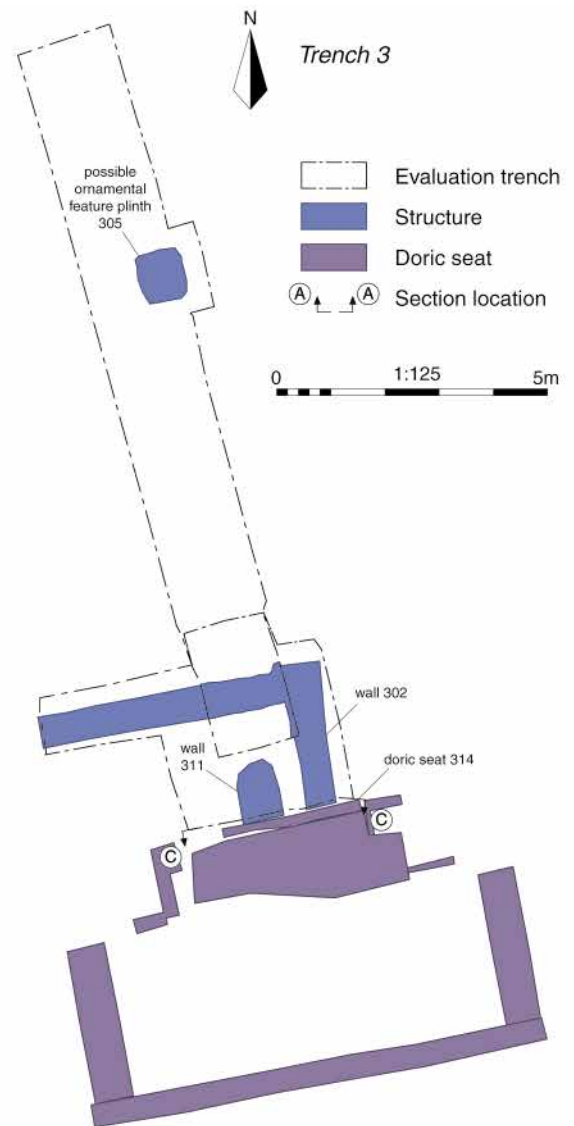


Figure 11: Great Linford Manor Park, Trench 7 Ha-Ha wall and ditch (see also Fig. 18, below)



Mid-excavation trench shot prior to widening, looking north (1m scales)



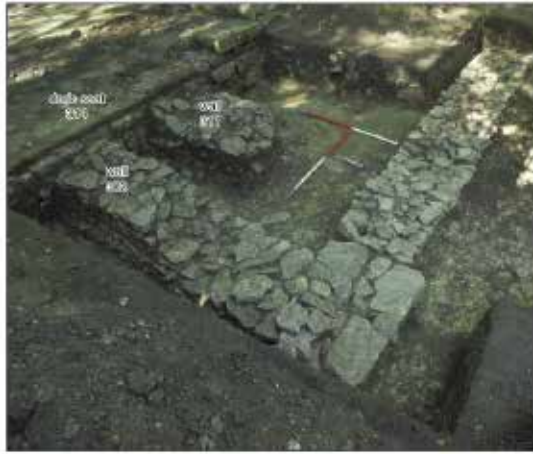
Possible ornamental feature plinth 305

0 1:20 1m



Possible ornamental feature plinth 305, looking east (1m scale)

Figure 12: Great Linford Manor Park, Trench 3



Overview of Doric Seat 314, and walls 302 and 311, looking south-west (1m scales)



Section of Doric Seat 314, and walls 302 and 311, looking south (2m scale)

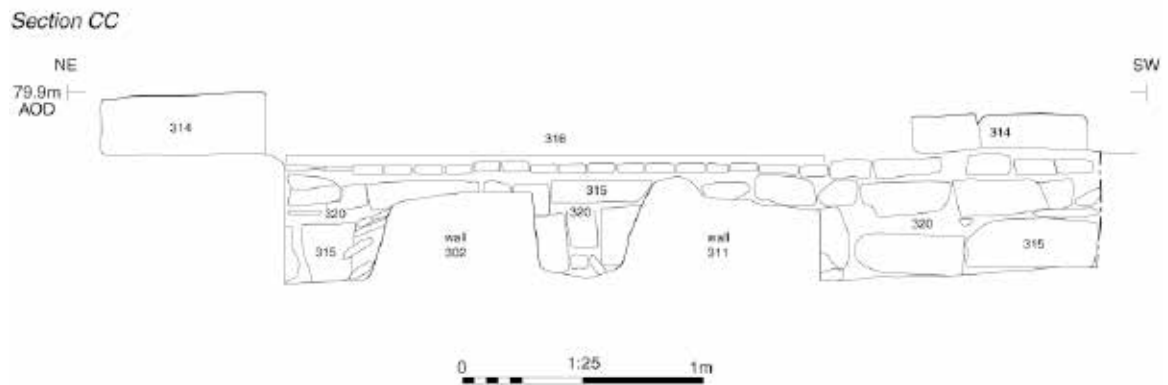


Figure 13: Great Linford Manor Park, Trench 3



Figure 14: Great Linford Manor Park, Trench 3 working shots



Figure 15: Great Linford Manor Park, early-medieval pottery

Stoke Mandeville, Land east of Lower Road

SP 8327 1073

ANNA MOOSBAUER

An excavation identified a group of five pits containing Bronze Age pottery and one stakehole containing Early Iron Age pottery. Undated pits and stakeholes are likely to date to this period. Roman field boundary ditches and cultivation bedding trenches, medieval/post-medieval furrows and post-medieval field boundary ditches were also present.

Wendover, Chiltern Way Academy MUGA, Church Lane SP 8726 0717

BETHANY HARDCASTLE

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

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Berryfields, Lower Fleetmarston Farm SP 77064 17990

ANDREW HOOD

Between May and July 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of a water main at lower Fleetmarston Farm, Berryfields, Buckinghamshire. The groundworks exposed indeterminate clay substrates, situated directly under topsoil. No archaeological features, finds or artefacts were present within the monitored areas.

Eythrope and Upper Winchendon SP 75859 13965

ANDREW HOOD

Between May and July 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of a water main between Upper Winchendon and Eythrope, Buckinghamshire. The groundworks exposed indeterminate clay and chalk sand substrates, situated under intermittent subsoils and/or topsoil. A single undated probable agricultural ditch was present within the monitored

area. No other significant archaeological features, finds or artefacts were present.

High Wycombe Abbey Barn SU 8741 9137

SAM McADAMS

Following a geophysical survey by TVAS in 2018 Foundations Archaeology undertook an evaluation in March 2019 on land at Abbey Barn, High Wycombe.

On the whole, the results of the evaluation did not correlate with the results of the geophysical survey. Of the 47 evaluation trenches, only 17 of these contained archaeological features. There was a paucity of dating evidence across the entire site, with all the possible archaeological features, with the exception of a linear in Trench 42, which contained Post-medieval CBM, remaining undated. The majority of the identified linear features were agricultural in nature.

Artefactual evidence within the evaluated trenches was restricted to two fragments of residual Medieval pottery and one fragment of residual Roman greyware, along with Post-medieval CBM and Modern artefacts.

Kingswood, Kingswood Lane SP 68482 17859

ANDREW HOOD

Between May and October 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of a water main in Kingswood Lane, Kingswood, Buckinghamshire. The groundworks exposed indeterminate clay substrates situated under either road surface deposits, or an intermittent subsoil and subsequent topsoil. No significant archaeological features, finds or artefacts were present.

Quinton, Station Road SP 74655 20044

ANDREW HOOD

Between June 2017 and April 2018 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of a water main at Station Road, Quinton, Buckinghamshire. The groundworks exposed

Buckinghamshire

indeterminate clay substrates, situated under probable road make-up layers, which were sealed by a Modern road surface. A single brick-built drain, of likely Post-medieval to Early Modern date, was present at the east of the monitored area. No other significant archaeological features, finds or artefacts were present.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Great Missenden, land to the rear of 82 High Street
SP 8945 0114

DAVID FELL and JONATHAN HUNN

An evaluation was undertaken on land to the rear of 82 High Street, Great Missenden on the periphery of the medieval settlement. Four trial trenches were excavated but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were present.

Great Missenden, Kingfield, Kings Lane SP 8741 0298
JONATHAN HUNN

A watching brief was maintained at Kingsfield, Kings Lane, near Great Missenden adjacent to the site of a Roman villa (Head 1964). No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present.

Head J, 1964 'A Romano-British Site at Great Missenden' in *Records of Buckinghamshire* **17**, 228–3

Mursley, 16 Main Street SP 8176 2866
GERWYN RICHARDS and DAVID FELL

A watching brief and historic building recording took place to the rear of 16 Main Street, Mursley. The site is within the

historic core of the village but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed during the watching brief. The outbuildings to the rear are known heritage assets, curtilage listed at Grade II, but following a planning appeal, were demolished as part of the development. Part of the building was pre 19th century in date, confirmed by cartographic sources but was so altered that a more accurate dating was impossible. The remaining part of the building dated to the early 20th century. The outbuildings were an interesting range of buildings probably representing the remnants of a pre-enclosure village farm that persisted well into the 20th century, most likely as a small dairy business supply milk to the village.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Buckingham, Market Hill, Old Latin House
SP 6955 3404
GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during ground reductions at the rear of the Old Latin House, Buckingham in June 2018. Aylesbury Vale District Council had granted planning permission for the erection of a new stairwell to the rear of Old Latin House and the creation of three flats (Ref. 10/00977). The excavations revealed made ground deposits across the site which overlay pits and areas of intercutting features and general ground disturbance. Possibly the earliest features identified were several pits/negative features in the west of the excavated area, dated by the pottery to the 15th and 16th centuries. The rest of the site was dominated by widespread deposits that were the fills of large cut/intercutting pits some of which



Figure 16: Outbuildings at 16 Main Street, Mursley, 1m scale (photograph by Gerwyn Richards)

may have been related to small scale quarrying for sand and gravel. Material recovered from the fills of these features provided dating broadly in the post-medieval and no earlier than the 17th century. The deposit of a large cut feature in the north of the site contained modern pottery.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-346685

Lacey Green, Lily Bottom Lane, Ironbeech Cottage SP 8308 0149

NATASHA DJUKIC

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in January 2019 at Ironbeech Cottage, Lily Bottom Lane, Buckinghamshire. Wycombe District Council had granted planning permission for the erection of a detached double garage (17/07/530/FUL). The evaluation was undertaken due to the proximity of the site to the line of the Buckinghamshire Grim's Ditch, which terminates 16m north of the site before continuing 55m to the south. A single trench was excavated measuring 6m in length by 1.6m in width. A large cut feature at least 1m in depth that extended beyond the limit of the trench was recorded; however, due to the small size of the trench it was not possible to view the feature fully in plan or profile. The interpretation of the feature was therefore uncertain. However the most likely explanation is that the feature represents a backfilled quarry pit associated with 'Ironbeech Kiln' a possible brickworks of 17th and 18th century date known from historic maps to have been located in the area of the site.

Oasis ID: johnmoor1-341156

Longwick, Thame Road, Land South of Rose Farm SP 7860 0506

TOM ROSE-JONES

An evaluation was undertaken in August 2019 at land south of Rose Farm, Longwick, Buckinghamshire. Wycombe District Council had granted outline planning permission for the construction of 65 dwellings with access from Thame Road (16/06673/OUT). Of particular interest were two small pits containing charcoal rich fills in trenches 8 and 10; charred hazelnut recovered from the pit in trench 10 was subject to radiocarbon dating, which returned a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. Ditches and shallow gulleys were present in trenches 1, 4, 8 and 11; with the exception of trench 11 these were found in association with possible posthole features. The date of these features is unclear, however they did not appear to correspond to the alignment of the later ridge and furrow seen in the area, perhaps suggesting that they are associated with the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit recorded in trench 10. An unstratified polished flint axehead of Neolithic date was found in the topsoil of trench 8. Extant ridge and furrow was visible across the southern half of the site and furrows were seen to truncate the natural geology in places. The shallow depth of many features and the lack of a natural subsoil indicates that medieval and post-medieval ploughing of the site has resulted in relatively substantial truncation of any surviving archaeology.

Oasis ID: johnmoor1-364001

Shabbington, Dukes Close, Land Adjacent to Franklins Farm SP 6640 0670

GRACE GRIFFITH

John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological watching brief at land adjacent to Franklins Farm, Dukes Close, Shabbington between September and November 2019. Aylesbury Vale District Council had granted planning permission for a residential development of 8 dwellings (17/02204/APP). The watching brief encompassed an area stripped for the proposed road and parking, as well as the excavation of footings for housing plots 7 and 8. The watching brief identified two possible linear features in the stripped area of the road, which were probably natural features, potentially formed due to gleying. Over the course of the groundworks it became clear that the features identified in the evaluation did not appear to continue into the stripped area as expected and were instead likely to represent natural features.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-373737

Stoke Mandeville, Land to the rear of 19–21 Lower Road SP 8302 1049

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at the land to the rear of 19–21 Lower Road in December 2019. Aylesbury Vale District Council had granted planning permission for the erection of two dwellings, alongside other ancillary works (19/03898/APP). Seven trenches 30m in length were excavated. The evaluation confirmed the existence of a number of ditches for paddocks or enclosures. Two very small sherds of pottery was found in the ditch in Trench 7 that continued into Trench 1. The pottery specialist tentatively considered that these were of medieval date based on the thickness of the sherds. No other medieval activity is known in close proximity to this site though two medieval moated sites lie 180m west and 130m south of the site. However these are likely to be nucleated and not have paddocks or enclosures so far away from them as on this site. Therefore the sherds may be of earlier date and be prehistoric. The ditches therefore could be similar to the undated features found east of Lower Road by Cotswold Archaeology that were considered to be of later prehistoric date. No further finds were recovered from the rest of the features during the evaluation. Additionally, the features that were uncovered were not substantial in their size, and are likely associated with small-scale agricultural activity. Settlement activity on the site should have produced more artefacts. Trenches 4 and 6, which were located in the south-western area of the site, were devoid of archaeological features

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-377623

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

East Claydon, New Farm, 2 St Mary's Road SP 4737 2255

KARIN KAYE

The historic timberwork within the north, south and east elevations was recorded at New Farm, 2 St Mary's Road, East Claydon, Buckinghamshire in April 2019 in order to

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fulfil a condition placed on Listed Building Consent for the repair and restoration of the building as a whole. This Grade II listed house was first documented in 1675 when it was a village inn and was remodelled by the lord of the estate, Edmund Verney and his wife Mary. The building appears to have been constructed in the 16th century and features internal bracing, gently sloping jowl posts, bridle butted scarf joints in the wall plates and a single panel of wattle and daub. The infill, which had largely been removed prior to the survey, consisted of narrow red bricks. The remains of a timber mullioned window were noted in the south elevation immediately above a late 19th or early 20th century casement window. The evidence suggests that this was one of a series of five windows in this elevation. Two further mullioned windows were revealed when the plaster was removed from the inside of the north wall and two complete windows survive at ground floor level in the same wall. Two brick-built fireplaces in the north wall are likely to post-date the brick infill, and may well have been installed in the later 17th century.

Great Horwood, Land off Nash Road SP 77237 31490

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In December 2018 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of new residential dwellings and associated access. The general site stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, underlying subsoil onto the natural stratum. Aside from a possible linear feature which may have been an undated small ditch, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

Little Brickhill, Little Brickhill Service Station

SP 9112 3235

DEREK WATSON and BARNEY KING

Between May and August 2019 a programme of Observation and Recording was carried out at Little Brickhill Service Station, Watling Street, Little Brickhill, Milton Keynes in order to fulfil a condition of planning permission for the construction of six detached dwellings and an access road. The stratigraphy of the excavated areas comprised made-ground and concrete overlying natural geology, and the absence of any sub-soil indicates that the ground had been extensively disturbed and truncated within the footprint of the development. The truncation of the area and subsequent deposition of tarmac, concrete, and made-ground, appears to have occurred during the 20th century, during the construction of the Little Brickhill Service Station. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

Little Horwood, Fernfield, Warren Road

SP 80100 32400

BARNEY KING

In September a programme of Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken at Fernfield, Warren Road, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire, prior to extending the property to create a 4-bed dwelling with an attached granny annexe. The evaluation was required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Condition 4 of the Planning Consent for development of the site. On completion of this investigation, no archaeological remains were revealed within the single evaluation trench. The absence of archaeology within the development footprint

suggests that any potential archaeological remains within the general area are widely dispersed, and that the investigated area was probably situated at the periphery of local human occupation/activity.

Stoke Hammond, The Mellows, Hillersdon Chase

SP 87975 29406

LAURA DODD

In January 2019 an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken at The Mellows, Hillersdon Chase, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire. Four trenches were excavated to the natural geology or the archaeological horizon where appropriate. A single undated posthole was exposed during this investigation but no further archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

Wavendon, Wavendon Golf Centre, Lower End Road

SP 68067 31821

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

Between March to June 2019 an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken at Wavendon Golf Centre, Lower End Road, Wavendon, Milton Keynes, prior to the construction of a new housing development of up to 400 new homes with landscaping and supporting infrastructure. The evaluation documented settlement activity dating from the mid/late Iron Age and Romano-British period in the form of ditches, gullies, pits, post-holes, ceramics, and animal bone, with the potential existence of relatively high-status structures in a rural environment. Later activity comprised medieval ridge and furrow, and post-medieval to modern land-drainage and management.

Wendover, Land to the rear of Bank Farm, Hale Road

SP 8710 0785

KARIN KAYE and DEREK WATSON

In July 2019 a Heritage Asset Assessment was prepared of Land to the rear of Bank Farm, Hale Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire, to support the planning application. Bank Farm, which lies on the periphery of the medieval core of Wendover, dates from the 15th century and formed part of the Vicarial Glebe in 1795. The proposed development site comprises part of a paddock to the rear of the farmyard and the site of a modern barn in the farmyard itself. The historic record suggests that the site has been used for agricultural purposes since the late Saxon period. The archaeological record indicates the potential for earlier activity on the site as it lies within a fairly extensive prehistoric landscape that includes the two tracks including the Icknield Way, which in part is overlain by the Tring Road, a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age hillfort on Boddington Hill and Neolithic/Bronze Age burials on Bacombe Hill. Peripheral activity is attested for the Roman and Saxon periods to the south of Bank Farm, which includes two burials.

Wendover, Wellwick House, Ellesborough Road

SP 85238 07882

KARIN KAYE

Between December 2018 and July 2019 Historic Building Recording and a Historic Building and Archaeological Watching Brief were carried out at Wellwick House, Ellesborough Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire.

Wellwick House was originally constructed c.1616 for Sir Thomas Brudenell who later became the Earl of Cardigan, in a style that had been popular some decades earlier. Originally mostly built of flint and rubble with brick dressings, the main elevation was later refaced in brickwork. The size and form of the bricks used suggests that this was done in the later 17th century. The house was extended in the 19th century to provide new kitchen facilities and a single storey structure to the west of it. The western end of this north wing was rebuilt in the early 20th century to provide a 2-storey addition, and an earlier outbuilding was replaced by the present garage/workshop. Internal as well as external alterations have been numerous, but many historic features have survived including a number of the stone mullioned windows, part of the original oak staircase, fireplaces and the 18th century panelling and staircase.

Archaeological investigations in the excavations for a swimming pool and a large pond documented extensive made-ground, and adjacent to the main house, the potential remains of a late 18th century, or later, brick wall. The absence of artefacts/structures pre-dating the 17th/18th centuries is probably a consequence of locally comprehensive soil truncation and landscaping pre- and post-dating the construction of Wellwick House.

Willen, Willen Hospice, Milton Road SP 87845 41148

ELLEN SHLASKO

In September 2019, a Heritage Asset Assessment was prepared of Willen Hospice, Milton Road, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by Jackson Coles Ltd on behalf of Willen Hospice as part of the pre-planning application process. The hospice is located in Manor Farmhouse, a Grade II listed building immediately adjacent to the Grade I listed Church of St Mary Magdalene in the Willen Conservation Area. The proposed development calls for the partial replacement and remodelling of modern extensions, built since the 1980s to the west of the farmhouse.

Wingrave, Maltby's Farm, 40 Mill Lane SP 87244 18870

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

From November 2018 to January 2019 a programme of Historic Building Recording was undertaken at Maltby's Farm, 40 Mill Lane, Wingrave, Buckinghamshire as a condition of Listed Building Consent for renovations to the farmhouse on the site. This primarily entailed the recording of the north elevation and roof timbers of the house. The fabric of the building has undergone relatively little change from its original structure, being timber framed with brick in-fill. The hand-worked timber frame exposed in the north elevation is in-filled with red brick. The main part of the house is located in the west range, which has a three-bay staggered butt purlin roof, the exposed timbers of which revealed a series of carpenters' assembly marks, as well as a variety of mortice and tenon joints. Some machine-cut rafters were present on the west side of the roof indicating repair in the recent past. The roof over the east range, which appeared to be a single trenched or clasped purlin structure with two bays, had undergone more change. The rafters had been repaired and replaced in an ad hoc fashion, resulting in a far less uniform structure but more a patchwork of reused timbers and makeshift bracing. The east range did not possess the distinctive carpenters' marks of the west range.

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL: CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2019

Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Conservation & Archaeology Team received 953 planning consultations during 2019, 531 of which were for the Senior Archaeological Officer.

During 2019 two major developments were completed which involve the Grade II Listed Shopping Building in Central Milton Keynes. The first of which was the construction of a multi-storey car park at the north eastern end of the Shopping Building. The distinctive 'waffle' designs of the wall sections infilling the building frame, colonnades and separation from the Shopping Building resulted in a building which does not read as part of the listed building, but respects its setting by utilising similar structural proportions.

The other major scheme involved extensions and alterations to 116 Silbury Arcade, the former BHS and now Primark unit, to provide additional retail trading floor and associated roof top plant. The design of the development replicates the original 'reflective glass panels within a steel frame' construction of the listed building. Overall, the scheme has resulted in less than substantial harm to the special interest of the listed building, which when balanced against the economic benefits of the development, was deemed acceptable.

FIELDWORK

2019 was another busy year for fieldwork with 28 projects notified to the Historic Environment Record (HER), full list appended. Projects comprised:

1 historic building record; 16 trial trench evaluations, 2 geophysical surveys; 4 excavations and 5 watching briefs.

In addition to the Community Dig in Great Linford (see below), highlights included the excavation by Albion Archaeology in advance of sand at gravel extraction at Lathbury. This revealed Iron Age, Romano-British and early Saxon occupation. The early Saxon occupation comprised 12 sunken featured buildings, a Romano-British inhumation burial was also excavated accompanied by an unusual copper alloy beaded torc and bracelet (Fig. 17).

NEW HERITAGE DESIGNATIONS

In 2019 six heritage assets were considered for inclusion on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE). One of these – Campbell Park in Central Milton Keynes – is still under consideration. Three – The Agora Centre in Wolverton, The Point Cinema in Central Milton Keynes and the Bicycle Wall artwork in Stantonbury – were not listed.

Two sites were added to the NHLE: Wavendon House garden was made a Grade II Registered Park and Garden and the New Bradwell War Memorial Clock Tower was listed at Grade II.



Figure 17: Copper alloy beaded Torc from Lathbury (Albion Archaeology)

HERITAGE AT RISK

The Heritage at Risk register was first published in June 2018. Work to update the register took place during 2019, with publication of the updated register in January 2020. The January 2020 version of the register lists 38 heritage assets that are at risk. Each asset is assigned a risk rating, ranging from 'A – *immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed*' through to 'F – *repair scheme in progress and (where applicable) end use or user identified; functionally redundant buildings with new use agreed but not yet implemented*'. Of these 38 assets, 7 have been marked as 'to be removed' from the Register (see table right for details), reflecting the fact that due to positive intervention they are no longer considered to be at risk.

CONSERVATION AREAS

During 2019, restoration work to the roof of Block H at Bletchley Park – home of the National Museum of Computing – was completed. This marked the end of works supported by the (MKC / Historic England) funding stream linked to the Conservation Area Partnership Scheme for Bletchley Conservation Area (established in 2009). Prior to these works taking place, the roof of Block H was not watertight.

The council is currently engaged in the process of reviewing its 27 Conservation Areas. During 2019, four Reviews of the Bradwell, Milton Keynes village, Shenley Church End and Great Linford Conservation Areas were completed. Work started in 2019 on four other Reviews for the Stony Stratford, Willen, Woughton on the Green, and Bletchley Conservation Areas. During 2019, a 'General Information

Heritage Assets to be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register (as of January 2020).

Asset Name & Location	Designation
Fenny Stratford Mortuary Chapel, Bletchley	Non-Designated Heritage Asset
Bradwell Abbey Chapel	Grade I Listed Building and Scheduled Ancient Monument
The Barn, Thirlby Lane, Shenley Church End	Grade II Listed Building, Conservation Area
St Peters Church (Ruin), Stanton Low, Stantonbury	Grade II Listed Building
Tower of Church of St Mary Magdalene, Stony Stratford	Grade II* Listed Building, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Conservation Area
26/28 High Street, Stony Stratford	Grade II Listed Building, Conservation Area
Filgrave Clock Tower, Filgrave	Grade II Listed Building

Document' of the Conservation Area Review Programme was also produced for consultation. This document gives an overview of the Conservation Areas within the borough, the Borough of Milton Keynes' development over time, the areas geology and topography, building materials and national planning policy context.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Progress towards creation of a 'Local List' known as the New Town Heritage Register was made during 2019, with 225 nominations being finalised. As of January/February 2020, work is progressing on selection of definite list entries. Publication of the first of 50 list entries to be added to the Register is expected by September 2020.

After the last audit revisit in 2016, it has been agreed with Historic England to undertake a full HER audit commencing in April 2021.

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

A community dig was held by The Parks Trust in Great Linford Manor Park between Monday 8th and Saturday 13th April 2019, with seven trenches being dug in front of the Manor House, near the ponds and in the Wilderness garden. Supervised by **Cotswold Archaeology** (see full report above) with input from the Council's Senior Archaeological Officer, the dig was held as part of the National Lottery funded project to Reveal, Revive and Restore the historic parkland.

The trenches were targeted on known features of interest and the results of a preceding programme of geophysical survey. Key findings included:

1. The full profile of the ha-ha which formerly bisected the eastern end of the park, including a well-preserved drystone retaining wall which survives to a height of just over 1m (Fig. 2, above);
2. Between the pavilions and Linford Manor, a robbed out wall line was encountered, together with an occupation deposit and pit dating to the 12th to 14th century, pre-dating the manor and formal parkland;
3. Similarly, in the area of the Doric Seat, two walls were encountered, cut by the Doric Seat foundations. It is likely that these features also indicate activity pre-dating the establishment of the manor and park.

A total of 84 volunteer members of the public participated in the dig. A public Open Day at the end of the week engaged with a variety of visitors to the park, including the presentation of finds and guided site tours.

OUTREACH

2019's 13th Milton Keynes Archaeology Day: 'Archaeology in the Community' was another successful and well-attended event. This year's 'hand's on' activity for young people was provided by Cotswold Archaeology and proved very popular. Billed as '3D Techniques in Archaeology' they offered the chance to get hands on with some of the latest 3D



Figure 18: Archaeologists and volunteer revealing the Ha-Ha wall at Great Linford (Cotswold Archaeology)

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scanning and virtual reality equipment and software as well as colouring and mosaic designing for the younger ones.

Another popular aspect of the event is the displays from active local fieldwork groups and societies. This year participants comprised 4 groups: Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society's Active Archaeology Group (Bucks AAG), The Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS), Woughton Heritage Group, and Wing Heritage Group. The extensive displays of the 4 metal detectorists proved as popular as ever and included Archaeology Day regulars since 2008 Mick and Mel from the Magiovinium Metal Detector Club.

As in previous years the biggest draw of the day was the talks. The afternoon featured 4 half-hour talks on the event theme 'Archaeology in the Community'. 2020's MK Archaeology Day will be held in Milton Keynes Central Library on Saturday 7th November.

In addition to the Archaeology Day the Senior Archaeological Officer also delivered talks on recent archaeological work in the borough to local societies in Bletchley and Little Woolstone.



Figure 19: Mayor of Milton Keynes, Cllr. Sam Crooks at MK Archaeology Day

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Great Horwood, Little Horwood Road SP 77600 31200

PAUL SHARROCK

An evaluation comprising four trenches was undertaken. Archaeological remains found included two undated ditches and an undated pit. Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation on the site was extensive appearing within each of the four trenches and clearly visible on the surface as extant earthworks. OASIS 360268

Lavendon, land at Olney Road SP 9159 5323

JIM BURKE and ALEX SHIPLEY

An archaeological trial trench evaluation revealed archaeological remains within the eastern part of the development area comprising Iron Age activity defined by ditches, gullies and pits. The western part of the site had been heavily truncated by post-medieval quarrying and dumping. Small areas of medieval furrows relating to the open field system were present. OASIS 349945

Lavendon, land at Olney Road SP 9159 5323

GEMMA HEWITT

A small excavation (0.28ha) targeted features recorded during an earlier geophysical survey and trial trench on the site and aimed to clarify the extent and character of Iron Age remains found. The visibility of the remains in the evaluation works had been hampered by the varied natural and also a high frequency of metal debris from the topsoil. The periphery of part of a middle Iron Age settlement was uncovered and consisted of a ditch and a number of pits. These features were sufficiently close to the occupation area to have produced a moderate quantity (1,996g) of well-preserved Iron Age pottery with low abrasion levels. In pit [4064] there was burnt silty clay and large quantity of burnt stones. Later activity comprised remnants of medieval/post-medieval furrows relating to an open field system. OASIS 366629

?????? Fig Excavation of pit [4064] ??????

Olney, land west of Yardley Road (SP 88239 52502)

ALEX SHIPLEY

In June 2019 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken. The site had been subject to desk-based assessment and a previous geophysical survey on the site. A pit alignment and Iron Age settlement were found. In the north-east area of the site in Trench 72 the last two pits of a pit alignment were identified; a length of the rest of the alignment had been identified in previous excavation directly to the east of the present development area. In the southern extent of the site the location of a small Iron Age settlement was confirmed and comprised three possible ring gullies and a potential boundary ditch with an elongated pit. Later modern dumping and disturbance was recorded in the south-eastern corner of the site. OASIS 361486

Steeple Claydon, land at Buckingham Road

(SP 470450 227142)

RACHEL CLARE and CHLOE CRONOGUE-FREEMAN

A pastoral field system/settlement was probably established at the end of the middle Iron Age. Two possible stock enclosures and drainage ditches were dated to the late Iron Age. This settlement developed during the late Iron Age/early Roman transition to encompass a boundary ditch as well as a further possible enclosure and drainage ditches. One early Roman Aylesford-Swarling type cremation was found deposited in the boundary ditch. In the middle to late Roman period the earlier stock enclosures were modified and further ditches were established possibly to ease the drainage. In addition several large pits were located in the southern area of the site. The settlement was in use until the mid-3rd century AD. Furrows were recorded across the site.

Wavendon, Eagle Farm (SP 92676 38218)

TRACY PREECE

An archaeological mitigation over a 0.87ha area revealed evidence of archaeological features which comprised enclosure ditches and pits which dated to the Iron Age. A small quantity of Iron Age pottery was recovered. The Roman period was identified through new enclosures; there were two distinct phases of activity. The initial phase of construction saw the establishment of several sinuous ditches defining at least three enclosures. A second phase shows a more rectilinear form with elements of four enclosures. The majority of the pottery was dated to the period AD 40–70. A probable north to south routeway c. 12m wide was located on the western edge of the enclosures. OASIS 350270

NATIONAL TRUST**Stowe Gardens** centred on SP67633728

GARY MARSHALL, NATIONAL TRUST ARCHAEOLOGIST

During 2019 a number of archaeological investigations were carried out in the grade I registered gardens, primarily for the purpose of providing evidence to assist with their on-going restoration. The Trust are particularly grateful to Museum of London Archaeology for undertaking a trial ground-penetrating radar survey of three sites in the gardens to assess the workability of the equipment and its application to garden archaeology. In two of three cases this proved highly successful, revealing evidence which had been missed by the more conventional techniques of resistivity and magnetometry. The first of these sites was over the former location of the Lake Pavilions on the southern margin of the gardens (SP67753689). The pavilions (1722, probably designed by Sir John Vanbrugh) still remain in the gardens but were dismantled and re-positioned in the 1750s when the south-front vista at Stowe was expanded. This survey successfully located what appear to be surviving in-situ foundations for both of the pavilions in their original 1720s location when they were sited much closer together. The second site was over the line of the infilled ha-ha defining the east edge of the Hawkwell Fields area of the gardens. This proved less successful, possibly because the small survey area (SP67913735) lay slightly too far west of the line suggested by the 18th century maps.

The third survey area was undertaken on the lawn east of the Doric Arch in the Elysian Fields area of the gardens (SP67683718). This was undertaken with the aim of locating statue bases associated with the arch (1768), and potentially the elusive 'Spring of Helicon' which is known to have existed in this area of the gardens. The GPR indicated the existence of a c. 5m square anomaly circa 28m north-east of the arch. Trenching undertaken with the assistance of a mechanical excavator quickly determined that the anomaly corresponded with a four-sided enclosure contained by substantial masonry walls up to a metre thick. Rubble infill within the enclosure suggests the walls enclosed a cellar extending to a depth of c. 1.8m below ground level. A mortared rubble plinth for a step or threshold was found extending externally from the south face of the southern wall. Pottery and clay pipe recovered from the fill of the possible cellar would suggest a late 17th or early 18th century date for its destruction, suggesting this enigmatic and previously

unrecorded feature may originate from Stowe's 16th or 17th century phase of occupation. The size of the walls would suggest a substantial dwelling or service building, almost certainly the former Vicarage which is known to have existed somewhere to the south of the 14th century church and is thought to have been removed in the 1750/60s.

A slightly later phase of excavation at the Doric undertaken by Stephen Wass of Polyolbion Archaeology in 2019 was undertaken as part of a watching brief over the excavation of pits for new statue plinth foundations and a new path at the arch. Previous phases of excavation (2002, 2017 and 2019) had located four of the potential ten bases associated with the statues of Apollo and the Nine Muses. In this case no further bases were located, although the watching brief did succeed in recovering evidence of a large masonry wall on the north side of the arch. Early map evidence suggests this may form part of a boundary wall around the aforementioned Vicarage, rather than being a feature associated with the 1760s landscaping when the arch was built. Evidence was found of a well-formed horseshoe-shaped gravel path on the east side of the arch, again according with evidence from the historic maps suggesting the statue group was originally laid out in a tight horseshoe-shaped formation around the arch before it was later reconfigured in a more concentric semi-circle.

A second focus for excavation within the Elysian Fields has been the site of the Temple of Modern Virtue (SP67633727). This lay just south of the Temple of Modern Virtue and as an elaborate ruin was built by Lord Cobham c. 1737 as a satire on the state of contemporary politics. It incorporated a headless statue, which some thought represented the hated prime minister, Sir Robert Walpole. The ruin had been removed by 1777. Excavations by Polyolbion Archaeology have uncovered further sections of masonry, extending the footprint of the building which was first excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2002. Despite this new evidence there is still some uncertainty about the extent of this building, which is otherwise suggested from an engraving of 1750. It is uncertain how much of it may have been removed when a sunken path was created leading up to the west side of the Temple of Ancient Virtue in the early 19th century. Excavations have been hampered by the roots of large sycamore trees.

Also within the Elysian Fields, further investigations have taken place at the Worthies River and dam with a view to restoring one of the core areas of the garden developed by William Kent in the 1730s (SP67773719). These investigations were first reported on in 2018 (SMA 48) when timbers, including a re-used timber pipe used for draining the lake, were recovered from the base of the 1950s concrete dam. During the current phase of work the concrete facing was removed (2018) from the north face of the adjacent causeway which lies immediately south of the dam. This exposed monumental rusticated stone-facing, replicating that found on the south face and believed to date from the 1830s. During 2019 a series of machine-dug trenches monitored by Polyolbion Archaeology were excavated along the course of the causeway and these appear to have identified an earlier land surface at the base of the causeway, suggesting that the current height is the result of dumping of gravel layers, perhaps in the 20th century. Unfortunately, this is one of the few areas in the gardens where no contemporary drawings exist, hence the proposed restoration is likely to be based on

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conjecture, supported by the limited available archaeological evidence.

Two other recent recording projects undertaken in the gardens are the recording of the 1930s pump house on the north-west corner of the Octagon Lake (SP67603699) prior to its dismantling in 2018 and a watching brief maintained over the dismantling of the 1930s rifle range in the Hawkwell Fields (SP67833754), also in 2018. These were both undertaken by the National Trust.

Finally, as the National Trust are poised to take possession of the golf course at Stowe and commence restorations of the south front and Home Park an aerial photogrammetric survey has been commissioned from Museum of London Archaeology. The arising photogrammetric plots have identified a number of subtle earthworks relating to the early 18th century landscape, subsequently swept away in the 1750s – tree holes, a formal pond, grass terraces and paths, as well as what appear to be earlier features, including relict ridge and furrow ploughing. Assessment of this evidence will allow for informed decisions to be taken about which paths can be reinstated, where trees can be planted and which archaeological features can be protected.

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY

Buckingham, 10 Tingewick Road SP469 233

CIARAN FEENEY and NATHAN BERRY

An evaluation and subsequent excavation undertaken during development works at 10 Tingewick Road, Buckingham between October 2018 and June 2019 recorded a multi-phase site, beginning with a single late Bronze Age inhumation, a group of Iron Age features and a partial pre-Saxon field system, including a large possible boundary or enclosure ditch. In addition, an unusual feature was recorded that appeared to have been used as a well in the late Saxon period before going out of use and having a considerable amount of kiln material dumped into its upper fills. No evidence of dwellings was recorded however, the majority of the features produced settlement waste, such as pottery and animal bone, indicating settlement was likely close by. Activity on site appeared to have increased during the late Saxon period through into the 11th–12th centuries with the only evidence for activity after this period coming from late medieval and post-medieval finds recovered from the upper fill of a single pit.

Stewkley, Land adjoining 66 High Street North SP850 265

CIARAN FEENEY

A watching brief and controlled strip were undertaken during developments work on the High Street in Stewkley between February and June 2019. These works confirmed the presence of an Iron Age field system first identified during a previous evaluation as well as furrows dating from the medieval period or later.

Stowe, Lamport Lodge SP682 375

STEPHEN THORPE

A watching brief undertaken during the installation of a new oil pipe at Lamport Lodge, Stowe recorded only deposits of made ground likely to date from the post-medieval / early modern period.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Hanslope SP 8084 4686

NEAL MASON

Monitoring was carried out for the laying of a new water pipeline. A pit containing Middle Iron Age pottery was truncated by a ring gully, which yielded an assemblage of Late Iron Age pottery along with residual Middle Iron Age sherds. The gully also produced a piece of saddle quern, a quantity of burnt stone and fragments of animal bone. An undated pit was also uncovered to the south-east.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Aylesbury, Kingsbrook SP 8488 1482

JIM MUMFORD and MARK DODD

In July 2019, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Kingsbrook, Aylesbury. The work comprised the excavation of 69 trenches, and archaeological features were identified within four of these. A Roman boundary ditch was revealed at the western end of the site. This may have formed part of a series of rectilinear enclosures which were identified in a previous evaluation to the west. A concentration of shallow pits or naturally silted hollows were recorded in one trench to the north of the site and were dated to the post-medieval or modern period. These pits also contained several sherds of residual middle to late Iron Age pottery. A trench in the eastern part of the site revealed a shallow post-medieval ditch or possible plough furrow.

Broughton, Glebelands SP 9176 3918

STEVEN TEAGUE

Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation at Glebelands, Broughton, between September and November 2018. This revealed a Bronze Age cemetery comprising eight pits containing deposits of cremated bone. A variety of burial practices were evident. One burial was contained within an urn of early to middle Bronze Age type, while another was found within a pit with scorched sides and appears to be a form of *in situ* or ‘bustum’ cremation burial. Two further burials each contained remains from at least three individuals – two adults and a child in each case – which is suggestive of family groups. One of these individuals returned a radiocarbon date in the early part of the middle Bronze Age. The other burial pits contained only very small amounts of cremated bone. During the Roman period, a small open-ended rectangular enclosure was constructed. Pottery from its ditches suggests that it was in use between c AD 170–250. Finds were sparse, and there were very few internal features. The enclosure may have been associated with a settlement previously investigated at Magna Park to the south.

Newport Pagnell, Portfields Rise SP 853 440

DIANA CHARD

In April and May 2018, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 14 trenches at the site of a proposed housing development. Cropmark evidence and the results of a geophysical survey indicated the presence

of several rectangular enclosures and a circular enclosure within the proposed development area.

The results of the trial trenching correlated well with the results of the geophysical survey. A trapezoidal enclosure of Roman date was identified within Area 1, adjacent to an undated circular enclosure that may be contemporary or of prehistoric date. An early Roman farmstead was identified in Area 2, comprising two closely adjacent rectangular enclosures, the smaller of which contained two probable roundhouses. The enclosures were adjoined to the south-west by an area of smaller enclosures, possibly including further buildings. These were enclosed to the north and east by a ditched boundary. Artefactual evidence from the farmstead included an iron arrowhead and a rare example of a roughcast indented beaker in a colour-coated fine ware (Fig.20).



Figure 20: Newport Pagnell, Roughcast indented beaker

Olney, Warrington Road SP 8895 5260

JOHN BOOTHROYD

In April 2018 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of a site to the west of Warrington Road, Olney. The works comprised the excavation of nine trenches and were undertaken in support of a planning application for a mixed-use development. A geophysical survey of the site had identified the presence of a rectangular enclosure and associated features. It was believed this activity was associated with the known Roman settlement located directly to the east, which is a Scheduled Monument (NHL: 1006918). The archaeological features identified in the trenching were confined to the eastern half of the site. The

presence of the rectangular enclosure was confirmed, along with the remains of a Roman building with a tiled roof. The recovered artefacts, including pottery, CBM, animal bone, glass and metal objects, suggest the features date to the late Roman period, although an origin for the settlement earlier in the Roman period cannot be ruled out. Historic mapping and LiDAR survey both indicated the presence of a trackway within the northern half of the development area. Linear features recorded within the north-eastern part of the site may represent a trackway, but these were only found within one trench.

Wavendon, Wavendon Lodge SP 93095 38271

CYNTHIA POOLE

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation at Wavendon Lodge, Milton Keynes between May and July 2019. An area of 0.44ha was excavated, revealing a sequence of ditched enclosures dating from the late Iron Age/early Roman period to the late Roman period. Late Iron Age/early Roman features comprised a small ditch, a waterhole, and an L-shaped ditch that defined the corner of a field. In the early Roman period, an array of small ditched enclosures was laid out on a different alignment to the earlier features. These were probably small paddocks for livestock management and were replaced by three more substantial ditched enclosures, laid out on the same alignment and recutting some early Roman features. This arrangement was maintained through the middle and late Roman period. A ditch, orientated north-south, probably defined one side of a trackway between the enclosures. A penannular ditch, with an entrance on the east side, probably enclosed a circular structure, although no internal features were found. Other features were sparse, but included an oblong oven, possible hearths, and several pits. Artefacts included pottery, ceramic building material, fired clay, animal bone, stone, metal and glass artefacts, predominantly of Roman date. Several ditches and pits were sampled for environmental evidence. The site forms the periphery of an Iron Age – Roman settlement lying to the east on the opposite side of Cranfield Road.

SOUTERRAIN

Soulbury, The Boot Field SP 8828 2675

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

In February 2019, Souterrain undertook an analytical archaeological earthworks survey of a part of an enclosed field off High Road, in the village of Soulbury (Fig. 21). The survey was carried out on behalf of Albion Archaeology. The purpose of the survey was to obtain an accurate measured record of the historic earthworks prior to their loss or damage in the course of development.

The earthworks originated from the medieval / post-medieval agrarian landscape. They comprised: lynchets and boundary ditches in a reasonably good state of preservation; a series of rectilinear enclosures in extremely low relief; and three possible building platforms. The lynchets are likely to have been formed during the period of medieval open field cultivation, while the rectilinear enclosures and platforms represent later encroachment and (pre-Parliamentary) enclosure.

Buckinghamshire

The earthworks were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and orthometric heights using RTK Differential GPS. The report provides an illustrative and descriptive account of the earthworks, using a combination of computer-generated graphics and conventional survey drawings (hachure plan), supported by digital photography. OASIS ref.: souterra1-344081.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Cuddington, land north of Aylesbury Road

SP 7405 1117

JOSHUA HARGREAVES

Evaluation trenches on the site of a proposed housing development revealed only late post-medieval, modern or undated features.

Haddenham, land at St Mary's C of E School, Church End SP 7432 6795

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

A magnetometer survey on the site proposed for new school buildings recorded relatively few anomalies, which most likely represent furrows, and a large area of magnetic disturbance around the edge of the field. Nothing that was obviously of archaeological interest was identified.

High Wycombe, Leigh Court, Leigh Street

SU 8562 9326

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

An evaluation and watching brief on an area of mixed development encountered no finds or features of archaeological interest other than two World War II air raid shelters.

Marsh Gibbon, land at Castle Street SP 6484 2300

WILL ATTARD and PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Ten evaluation trenches were excavated in advance of a residential development, which uncovered numerous features of possible archaeological interest across the site with pottery dated from Roman and late Saxon to Post-Medieval times. A single prehistoric struck flint was also recovered. The significance of these deposits was, however, considered likely to be modest at best. A subsequent excavation confirmed that the suspected features revealed by the evaluation were simply subsoil infilling natural dips in the geology, although this did contain a mixed pottery assemblage, mostly of Medieval date with some Roman material, testifying to manuring practice.

Steeple Claydon, land north of Queen Catherine Road

SP 7042 2686

JOSHUA HARGREAVES

Evaluation trenches on the site of a proposed housing development revealed only late post-medieval, modern or undated features.

Steeple Claydon, land at North End Road

SP 7003 2746

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK and JOSHUA HARGREAVES

Magnetometer survey on the site of a housing development identified no anomalies of any archaeological potential, but parts of the area were inaccessible. Evaluation trenching revealed only a post-medieval ditch.

Stoke Hammond, land at Brook Farm, Leighton Road

SP 8801 2919

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK and JOSHUA HARGREAVES

Prior to a small housing development, a range of magnetic anomalies were recorded by a geophysical survey, but probably only the remnants of a field boundary and ridge-and-furrow. However, the subsequent evaluation trenches recorded two ditches (not visible in the geophysical survey) tentatively dated to the late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age.

Waddesdon, Church of St Michael and All Angels

SP 7403 1697

ANDREW MUNDIN

Observations continued on works in the interior of the church. Beneath 19th-century layers, the grave slabs of two probably 13th-century burials were recorded *in situ* but not disturbed. An external pipe trench was mostly dug through modern made ground, although a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered.

TVAS Publications of potential interest to SMA readers:

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

Luis Esteves, David Sanchez and Andy Taylor, 2019, *Iron Age and Saxon occupation in Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire*, TVAS Occasional Paper **34**, Reading

Jo Pine, Susan Porter and Steve Preston, 2019, *Further Later Bronze Age landscape, and an Urnfield, at Springfield Quarry, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire*, TVAS Occasional Paper **37**, Reading

WITHAM ARCHAEOLOGY

Olney, land off Lavendon Road SP 8952 0727

C J MOULIS

Proposed residential development on the north-eastern outskirts of Olney, Buckinghamshire, prompted an archaeological excavation conducted by Witham Archaeology between 10th June 2019 and 30th August 2019. The site was considered to have high archaeological potential as it lay just south of an area known as Ashfurlong, in which an extensive complex of cropmarks is protected as a Scheduled Monument. An archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site conducted by Witham Archaeology in June and July 2017 had established the presence of archaeological remains, and a significant assemblage of pottery of Romano-British date indicated contemporary occupation in the area.

Based on the results of the evaluation, two areas were defined for formal archaeological excavation: Area 1, to the west, which measured 0.57 hectares, and Area 2, at the eastern edge of the development, which was 0.61 hectares in extent. Full analysis of the data from the excavation is



Figure 21: Soulbury, Earthworks Survey



Figure 22: Olney, phased site plan

ongoing, and what follows is a provisional account based on the findings so far (Fig. 22).

In Area 1, the ditches revealed by the evaluation resolved into a pattern of land division of Romano-British date, the most prominent element being a north-east to south-west aligned ditched trackway. The carriageway of the track was approximately 5m wide and intermittently retained gravelly deposits interpreted as the remains of metalling. The alignment of the trackway conformed with the alignment of cropmarks in the scheduled area approximately 120m north-east of the site, demonstrating an association between the Ashfurlong cropmarks and the archaeological features revealed in the excavated area. In the area west of the trackway, three linear features indicated further landscape sub-division. A broad, shallow north-west to south-east orientated linear depression in the central part of Area 1, was approximately perpendicular to the ditched trackway and may be interpreted as the worn hollow of a trackway and probably another element of the Romano-British landscape. A small ditch partially revealed towards the northern end of the area was similarly aligned and probably associated with the same scheme of landscape division. A north to south oriented ditch which crossed the entire western side of the site, was aligned obliquely to the ditched trackway, and excavation at the northern edge of the area indicated that the ditch was an addition to an existing pattern of boundaries, although still of Romano-British date.

In addition to the evidence of land division and the routeway, nine cremation burials were recorded. Two of the cremation pits were found some distance west of the ditched trackway, while the remaining seven were found scattered along its south-eastern side. A distinct cluster formed by three of these cremation burials was revealed towards the southern end of the site (Fig 23). None of the cremations were furnished with accessory vessels or artefacts, although all contained iron nails (hobnails?) in varying numbers, including 150 recovered from pit [2776]).

Area 2 was located to investigate a particular concentration of activity, identified by the evaluation at the eastern end of the site. The excavation revealed a sequence of archaeological evidence for quarrying, industrial processing (probably iron smelting), and occupation. The latter was manifest in spreads of stone laid down as rudimentary metalling, in post-holes and pitched-stone post settings, and, more generally, in the pottery, coins and other artefacts recovered through the course of the excavation. Unfortunately, no complete building plan survived for identification and no suggestion of masonry walling was present within the excavation area.

The earliest Romano-British activity within Area 2 appears to have been the excavation of numerous shallow pits, mostly concentrated in the central part of the area. Very few artefacts were recovered from the fills of the pits, indicating that the activity pre-dated occupation in the immediate vicinity of the excavation area. Gravel extraction



Figure 23: Olney, cremation group Area 1

Buckinghamshire

is the most plausible explanation of the pitting, particularly as natural deposits contained proportionately less fine-grained material than natural deposits recorded elsewhere on the site and would have been suitable for use as rough surfacing.

Romano-British activity and occupation subsequent to the extraction phase was largely delimited by a pattern of ditched boundaries, the principal axis of which was marked by a substantial west north-west to east south-east aligned ditch. Other lesser ditches, aligned approximately parallel and perpendicular, defined a broadly rectilinear series of enclosures, on approximately the same alignments as the trackway and associated boundaries in Area 1, and, by extension, with the pattern of cropmarks revealed in the Ashfurlong scheduled area 120m North of Area 2.

As indicated by the trial trenching, most of the evidence for Romano-British occupation was revealed at the eastern end of Area 2 (Fig. 24). Investigation of a dark grey layer at the base of the subsoil revealed an irregular north to south aligned band of material which was rich in charcoal and slag, and which probably comprised an industrial residue. This deposit sealed some of the earlier quarry pits but was itself sealed and truncated by subsequent Romano-British features. The most obvious elements of this later activity were discrete areas of flat limestone fragments, presumably laid down as consolidation over the dark grey deposit (Fig. 25). The irregular character of the metallised areas suggests they are more likely to represent yard surfacing than internal flooring. Around eighteen probable structural features were revealed and recorded in the excavation. These were mostly post-holes but included three small pads of pitched flat limestone fragments which were interpreted as the settings for structural timbers. A number of the post-

holes were identified only by the vertical flat limestone fragments inserted as packing around former timbers. As there was no clear pattern in the distribution of the recorded structural features, it is not possible to be certain whether they represent the vestiges of buildings, or fences and shelters associated with yard areas.

West of the metallised areas, towards the middle of Area 2, a substantial sub-circular feature, up to 7m in diameter, was located just north of the principal west north-west to east south-east aligned ditched boundary. Excavation of the feature revealed that it had most likely served as a water-source, which had been cleaned out and re-cut throughout its period of use. Analysis of environmental samples is ongoing, but a fine silt forming the upper fill of the feature could indicate a period of inundation at the end of the Roman period. A north north-west to south south-east aligned ditch recorded just east of the large pit yielded Romano-British finds but was demonstrated to post-date the main axial ditch. The alignment of this later ditch clearly did not conform with that of the earlier Romano-British pattern, or with the subsequent medieval layout, indicating a yet undated phase of land management.

In both Areas 1 and 2, medieval and post-medieval open field cultivation was represented by a pattern of furrows revealed by the excavations. Across the middle part of Area 2, two parallel north to south aligned ditches were interpreted as post-medieval agricultural boundaries, probably arranged in conformity with the medieval layout of furlongs. In the south-western part of Area 2, large refuse pits of 19th or 20th century date were recorded, centred around a small pit or pond recorded on early Ordnance Survey mapping.

A full publication report is in preparation for the 2022 volume of Records of Buckinghamshire.



Figure 24: Olney, drone photo, south east end of Area 2



Figure 25: Olney, stone surfaces Area 2

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Chelveston, Church of St John the Baptist SP 9885 6913

IAN TURNER

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with a new path to the church and a water-pipe trench. The latter revealed that separate graveyard soil layers exist to a considerable depth – only a small patch of natural geology was exposed south of the church. Four burials and an additional probable burial were identified; their precise date is unknown. The trench for the access path from Caldecott Road revealed evidence for earlier surfaces and for consolidation of the entrance to the graveyard.

The only part of the church foundations exposed by the service trench was at the south-west corner of the porch. The foundation was 0.6m deep and extended 0.3m beyond the porch wall; it comprised roughly hewn, unmortared limestone blocks. A loose group of large stone blocks recorded close to the south aisle is judged to be a probable demolition deposit. Layers either side of the graveyard entrance produced a small quantity of relatively unabraded Roman pottery. Their presence accords with earlier records

of the discovery of Roman pottery within the churchyard and with known contemporary sites within the village.

Event Number: ENN109609

OASIS Number: albionar1-365104

Raunds, Land at Northdale End TL 0018 7346

IAIN LESLIE, BENJAMIN CARROLL and MIKE EMRA

Trial trenching and open-area excavation in advance of residential development on the north-east edge of Raunds identified late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains. Assessment and analysis is currently underway; therefore, the following summary represents an interim statement of results.

Excavation revealed two settlement foci. The south-western focus, near to Brick Kiln Lane, was characterised by ditched enclosures as well as two drying/bread ovens, pits and some potential post-built structures. Whilst there were some scattered late Iron Age/Roman features in the area, including an un-urned cremation burial, the majority of the remains dated to the late Saxon and early-high medieval periods.



Figure 1: Raunds, A building with internal drain under excavation



Figure 2: Raunds, A building with internal and external stone surfaces under excavation

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

The north-eastern focus, adjacent to Brooks Road, comprised late Saxon enclosures, pits and a potential post-built structure. These were superseded by a more extensive medieval settlement, including at least thirteen stone buildings, trackways, wells and cobbled/pitched stone surfaces (Figs 1 & 2). The settlement was located near to what appeared to be the former course of the brook to the south-east, with evidence for open fields to the north-west.

The remnants of the buildings survived as partial stone walls. Some included post settings, internal and external pitched or cobbled stone surfaces, thresholds, beaten-earth floors and several examples of stone drains. There appeared to be a mix of domestic and agricultural buildings. Two stone trackways, abutted by buildings, bisected the settlement.

Many of the buildings appear to have been constructed in the early or high medieval periods and have persisted into the late medieval and possibly post-medieval periods. A hoard comprising thirteen silver coins of James I and Elizabeth I had been deposited within the demolition rubble associated with one of the buildings.

OASIS ID: albionar1-340441

HER event code: ENN109357

ALLEN ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

Weldon, land off Stamford Road SP 9297 8980

CHARLOTTE TOOZE and JULIAN THORLEY

Four trenches were excavated during the works, measuring 1.6m wide and between 8 and 13.3m in length, in support of a proposed planning application for a residential development. The archaeological activity was limited to one trench, where evidence of terracing, cut into the sandstone bedrock was recorded. The terracing is likely to have been constructed and utilised for agricultural purposes to form level elongated fields. The date of the terracing remains inconclusive as the site was completely devoid of in-situ dating material. A very-small assemblage of pottery sherds dating to the 10th to 15th centuries was recovered from the topsoil, however, this does not provide firm dating evidence for the terracing.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING SERVICES

Cosgrove, Land at Stratford Road SP 79077 42548

SAMUEL EGAN and ANDY PEACHEY

A trial trench and 'strip, map, and sample' evaluation on land at Stratford Road, Cosgrove, revealed archaeological remains that appear to relate to medieval settlement activity in the historic core of the village. Three robber trenches were recorded during the trial trench evaluation. The robber trenches in were comparable in form and broadly parallel. Two of the robber trenches contained medieval (mid 13th – 14th century) pottery and all of the features are thought to be contemporary. The subsequent 'strip, map, and sample' evaluation revealed ten more features; a medieval/post medieval kiln or oven, two medieval ditches, four medieval pits, a post medieval limestone culvert, and two undated limestone rubble walls.

Blisworth, High Street SP 7243 5345

BOB ZEEP VAT

In July 2019 a programme of historic building recording was undertaken at the former 'Sun, Moon & Stars' public house in Blisworth High Street. The work was undertaken as the first stage of a planning condition relating to the conversion of the building to apartments, which required HE Level 2/3 recording followed by a watching brief on groundworks for new houses on the site. The watching brief will be reported separately.

The public house was built in 1797 by John Linnett, on the ruins of 'The Chequers', an earlier stone-built inn, elements of which survive in the present building. Linnett's new public house was called the 'Half Moon'. In 1822, it was purchased by Pickering Phipps, becoming part of the Phipps & Co tied house estate. During the mid to late 19th century, it became known as the 'Sun, Moon & Seven Stars' as a result of its association with the Manchester Oddfellows Society, whose logo includes those items: this became shortened to the 'Sun, Moon & Stars', though locally the original name 'Half Moon' was still used. The building remained a public house until the 1960s, when Phipps & Co became part of the Watney Mann brewing empire, and the premises were sold and delicensed. Since then, the building has housed an Arts & Crafts gallery, a café and a licensed restaurant, the latter closing in 1988 when the outbuilding containing the restaurant kitchens was demolished by a runaway lorry. At this time the building was listed Grade II. During the following decade it deteriorated and was eventually compulsorily purchased by South Northants Council in c. 2004.

The 'Sun, Moon & Stars' is comprised of two ranges of two and three storeys respectively, each with a cellar, in an L-shaped plan. The building is largely constructed of brick, with some sections of the three storey wing in stone, presumably the remains of the previous inn on the site. While some of the layout of the ground floor of the inn can be determined, the fact that the building ceased to have this function over half a century ago makes interpretation difficult. The process was further hindered by some of the less-than-sensitive alterations carried out by past owners, such as the stone 'cladding' of part of the cellar, the removal of the floor above and the conversion of the second floor as accommodation for the landlord. Some repairs evidently made since the late 1980s have also been less than sympathetic, such as the use of modern block walling.

Brixworth, Church Street SP 7469 7120

BOB ZEEP VAT

In May 2019, historic building survey was undertaken of the Brew House and Coach House at the Old Vicarage, prior to their refurbishment and conversion to use for holiday letting.

The Brew House and Coach House form part of a group of outbuildings built to provide a range of services to the Old Vicarage, a Grade II listed building constructed in the early 19th century to the west of All Saints' Church. Both buildings (now in varying states of collapse) have two storeys and are constructed in local limestone, originally with slate roofs. Photographic evidence reveals that the upper part of the west

Northamptonshire

elevation of the Brew House was originally weatherboarded, presumably on a timber frame.

The Brew House is very ruinous and few clues as to its original function survive. Notwithstanding its name, it seems unlikely that a 19th-century vicarage would be provided with a brewhouse. Its final function was as a youth club: this only seems to have hastened its decay.

The Coach House contains all the elements that confirm its function: somewhere to store a small horse-drawn vehicle; a stable for horses; a tack room and loft storage for hay and fodder. However, it is also evident from this survey that the building had an earlier phase of use, with a different function which it has not been possible to determine. Its more recent uses were as a garage for the vicar's car, and most recently as a workshop.

Helmdon, Sulgrave Road SP 5861 4394

BOB ZEEP VAT

In July 2019, a programme of historic building recording was undertaken on a Grade II-listed, derelict 18th-century barn at Priory Farm, Helmdon, Northants, as a planning condition relating to its reconstruction and conversion for residential use.

Priory Farm appears in the historic record to have originally been the site of Netherbury, one of three medieval manors in Helmdon. From at least the early 14th century until the Dissolution it may have belonged to Biddlesden Abbey. In 1538 it was granted to Sir John Cope of Canons Ashby, and held by his family and others until the early 17th century, at which time it began to be known as 'Priory Farm'. Following a gap in the historical record of over two centuries, the farm belonged to the Wood family before being purchased by the client's great-grandmother in the 20th century. The farmhouse, which is also Grade II listed, is believed to date from the early 17th century, with 19th-century additions.

The barn is an 8-bay structure aligned west-east, with walls of coursed limestone rubble and a slate roof. Access is by cart doors both sides of one of the central bays and four smaller doors near the east and west ends. North and south walls each have five ventilation slits. The two westernmost bays have an inserted upper floor, accessed by a loading door to the south, with animal stalls or byres on the ground floor, partitioned off from the rest of the barn. The roof is of fairly lightweight construction, comprising simple trusses with no diagonal bracing, and is pitched far steeper than necessary for slate cladding.

Isham, Orlingbury Road SP 8701 7341

BOB ZEEP VAT

In April 2019 an historic building survey was prepared for a disused water tower in Orlingbury Road, Isham, Northants, in advance of its conversion for residential use.

Isham water tower was built for Wellingborough Rural District Council as part of a local water supply scheme for the village and parish of Isham, the whole scheme being completed in 1911. The tower is brick-built, square in plan and c. 17 metres in height, with distinctive double-arched bays – three to a side – and other brick detailing. A 25,000-gallon iron tank inside the top of the tower was fed with water from a brick-lined well beneath the tower, by a wind engine mounted on the roof, driving a pump located in

the well by means of a drive shaft passing down the centre of the structure. A supplementary oil engine and pump were located in the well house, a single-storey structure which projects from the north-east side of the tower. Water was fed to the village mains from the tower by gravity. The system worked well and largely without incident until the summer of 1944, when it failed for over three months during a drought. The supply eventually recovered, but as a precaution, an additional source of supply was sought. Initial attempts were made to augment the existing supply with a second well feeding into the tower: however, following objections from the County Medical Officer of Health, in 1947 the County Council decided instead to approve and fund connection of the Isham water main to the existing supply in neighbouring Orlingbury, which belonged to Wellingborough Urban District Council. After this was completed, the Isham water tower was decommissioned, and has remained disused until the present day.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Cogenhoe, The Manor House, 42 Church Street

SP 83142 60845

CAMILLA ZEVIANI

CFA carried out an archaeological watching brief within the conservation area south of the historic core of Cogenhoe village and in the setting of the Manor House. A swimming pool and a foundation slab for the installation of an ancillary living accommodation were excavated: however, the excavations only revealed a pig or boar skeleton. The work was carried out in two phases. Phase one was carried out in February 2019 and consisted of the excavation of the swimming pool, while phase two was carried out in April 2019 and consisted of the excavation of the foundation slab.

Daventry, Care Home and Housing, Middlemore Farm

SP 56395 64702

ADAM GRIFFITHS

CFA carried out a trial trench evaluation on land at Middlemore Farm, Daventry, for a proposed development of a 'mixed tenure Continuing Care Retirement Community' (CCRC). The Evaluation uncovered a ditched enclosure with a former hedge line on the outside. The enclosure is rectangular and is located at the NE edge of Site with a large, shallow Pit at its entrance. The pottery recovered is Iron Age. All other trenches contained no Archaeology. Of the 14 trenches, one could not be excavated (Trench 14) due to the positioning of large hedges and a fence.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Barton Seagrave, Land at 2 Polwell Lane SP 8858 7686

JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Roman field boundary ditch.

Corby, Zone 3 Priors Hall Park SP 9280 9020

ANNA MOOSBAUER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology defined the extent of a previously identified Roman villa complex and

associated trackways, identified an undated but probably Roman pit and a pebbled surface and associated gully and ditch. A large pit containing primarily Roman and a small quantity of medieval artefactual material is likely to date to the medieval period, associated with the disposal of material following extensive field clearance.

Cosgrove, Land at Badgers Farm SP 7773 4391

JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a small probable Late Iron Age and Roman period settlement or farmstead comprising a boundary ditch, possible enclosure ditches, pits and two perpendicular trackways (Fig. 3). Other remains were identified as former field boundaries and pits, probably relating to contemporary or later agricultural activity. Extant medieval ridge-and-furrow activity and a small number of undated pits and ditches were also present.



Figure 3: Cosgrove, South-west trackway ditch (1m scale)

Daventry, Land at Mickle Well Park SP 5710 6540

JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology further recorded the remains of a settlement which forms the periphery of a previously identified Late Iron Age and Roman settlement. Roman field system ditches, an undated trackway and several pits and medieval plough furrows were present.

Irchester, Land to the south of James Street SP 9270 6523

ANNA MOOSBAUER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified part of an Iron Age enclosure and Roman field system ditches and an associated trackway. Four large undated quarry pits and medieval/post-medieval furrows were also present.

Little Harrowden, Land adjacent to 31 Hardwick Road SP 8680 7113

ANDREW WHELAN

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a single post-medieval field boundary ditch.

Stoke Bruerne, Woodcote House SP 7406 4974

EILIDH BARR

A programme of archaeological work identified a probable Iron Age ditch with an entrance gap forming part of an

enclosure or field boundary. The ditch was associated with pits and ditches of a similar date identified in the 1950s. A tree bole which truncated the westernmost ditch contained 18th – 20th century material and probable hearth/oven waste.

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES

Apethorpe Palace TL 02340 95440

Archaeological monitoring accompanied works of alteration inside and alongside the principal palace facades. Work continues into 2020.

Boughton, The Old House, Church Street SP 7536 6582

A Heritage Asset Survey was carried out pre-planning to better understand the origins and development of this property which is not identified as a heritage asset but lies in the Boughton Conservation Area.

Canons Ashby, Canons Ashby House SP 58620 50878

A series of geotechnical boreholes and window-samples were monitored which were put in to investigate the ingress of damp in the National Trust house, which is part of a Scheduled Monument (SM 13643). A deposit model was created, with other depth-data from recent works included.

Great Doddington, Top Farm SP 88396 64934

A Heritage Asset Survey was carried out pre-planning to better understand the grade II listed farmhouse and outbuildings ahead of plans for conversion of the farm.

Grendon, Union Chapel, Main Road SP 8795 6040

Historic England Level 2 building recording took place before the 1861 chapel was converted to domestic accommodation. The chapel benefits

Hannington, Marston Farm Barns SP 82477 70841

Historic England Level 2 Building recording was directed at this two-range brick farm of the third quarter of the 19th century. The range included farmhouse, feed barn and animal shelters. Other buildings had been lost.

Lyveden, The Old Bield SP 98168 85882

Archaeological Monitoring and targeted building recording followed on from evaluation works and widespread building recording in 2017–18. The works were conditional upon a National Trust programme to unite the Old Bield and the neighbouring New Bield as a single visitor-attraction. Very little medieval or later archaeology was present in the areas monitored, which were either marginal to historic occupation or had been heavily truncated by 1970s groundworks.

Moreton Pinkney, Wood Farm, Banbury Road SP 5683 4568

Historic England Level 2 building recording was carried out in accordance with a planning condition for demolition of a 19th-20th-century brick range comprising animal sheds and cart hovel.

Northamptonshire

Northampton, Angel Street, Vulcan Works SP 75567 60309

Archaeological monitoring took place on groundworks for a major redevelopment on Angel Street. Remains of a 19th century foundry were recorded, including part of an iron-working cupola furnace (Fig. 4), alongside the rear wings of the former (Grade II listed) Vulcan works. Part of a programme of works since 2014.

Northampton, (Hardingstone), Delapré Abbey Drainage Outfall SP 75829 59291–SP 75837 59174

Archaeological monitoring accompanied the digging of new drainage outfall pipe following seasonal flooding adjacent to the new abbey car park. The area is part of the Registered Battlefield of the Battle of Northampton (1460). No battlefield archaeology was disturbed and only a few unstratified finds made, thanks to strategic metal-detecting.

Oundle, Lime House and no. 6 East Road TL 043 880

A Heritage Asset Survey accompanied alterations to the late 17th-century Grade II listed 6 East Road, together with an assessment of impact of joining it to its immediate neighbour. The two houses were once combined from around 1710 and probably will be once more.

Watford village (Welton), George Varney's Haulage Yard SP 5955 6780

Archaeological monitoring took place in conjunction with groundworks for the extension into an agricultural field of the haulage yard which lies at the conjunction of Watford, Welton and Ashby St Ledgers parishes adjacent to Watling Street. No Archaeology was present. Metal-detecting survey before and during earthmoving recovered only two coins, 1500 years apart.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Harrington, 43 High Street SP 7754 8025

DAVID FELL and JONATHAN HUNN

An evaluation was undertaken at 43 High Street, Harrington. The site lies within a former 16th century park, known as "The Falls" (RCHM 1979 75–78, Fig 74) and extensive terraces survive as earthworks which have protection as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). The site was within the SAM. Two trial trenches were opened, but no archaeological features or artefacts were present. The fieldwork demonstrated that the site was undisturbed and that modern property boundaries respect the layout of the 16th century park.

RCHM(E) 1979 *An Inventory of Archaeological Sites in Central Northamptonshire* Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)



Figure 4: Truncated Victorian iron-working cupola base, Angel Street, Northampton; brickwork behind is the base of a former 50ft chimney; scales 1m

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Brackley, Mill Lane, former Hawkins Salmon site
SP 5945 3713
GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at the former Hawkins Salmon site, Mill Lane, Brackley, in July 2017. South Northamptonshire Council had granted planning consent for the demolition of existing buildings and a development of 7 dwellings with associated landscaping and parking (S/2015/2758/FUL). The evaluation identified a post-medieval mill stream ditch in the east of the site on a NNW-SSE alignment running towards the millstream. In the north of the site the ground was disturbed by modern services and made ground. In the south-west of the site three features were identified including a small undated pit, an undated ditch and a ditch containing single rim sherd of Roman pottery. This report constitutes a summary report of the background to the archaeological work and the results of the evaluation. A fuller report of all the phases of the archaeological programme of works will follow the completion of archaeological works on the site. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-326381

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Brixworth, Land at Holcot Road SP 474960 270760
CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In March 2019 a programme of Observation and Recording was undertaken on Land at Holcot Road, Brixworth, Northamptonshire, during the demolition of an existing garage on the site and the construction of four new dwellings with associated garages. The only archaeological remains found during the excavation were a 'dumped' deposit of sediment with 3 post-medieval/modern glass bottles. The lack of archaeological features/artefacts suggests that such remains may be diffusely distributed within the immediate area of the development site, and given the abundance of settlement evidence to the northwest, it was situated outside the area of core settlement.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Brackley, 2 Bridge Street SP 58438 36752
CHRIS PENNELL

After the demolition of a stone barn archaeological works comprised observation of the digging of foundation trenches for three buildings. Two medieval pits and two undated pits were recorded. One sherd of pottery from one pit was broadly dated to AD 1100 to 1400. Environmental analysis of one pit produced wood, molluscs, seeds and insects. The beetle taxa found suggest a degree of household refuse, and that the pit was waterlogged with foul water, and therefore probably left open for some time. OASIS 353799

Broughton, 5 Church Street SP 8348 7572
ADAM REID

During archaeological observation, investigation and recording of the foundation trenches no archaeological finds or features were observed. The thickness of the subsoil

recovered suggested it had either been imported onto the site, or that it may have derived from flattened medieval cultivation earthworks. There was no evidence that the medieval village extended as far south as Church Street. OASIS 364305

Bugbrooke, land south-west of The Firs SP 6720 5693
GRAHAM ARKLEY

The results from an archaeological geophysical survey indicate evidence for medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and quarrying. A large area of disturbance in the north-west could be attributed to the construction of either the nearby canal or nearby bridge, or possibly to demolition of the former Swan public house. No further features of archaeological interest were detected. OASIS 364702

Cogenhoe, land at Manor Works, 50 Church Street
SP 83110 60889
JONATHAN ELSTON

A watching brief identified post-medieval pits and an undated ditch. The earliest cartographic evidence for the site is the Ordnance Survey map of 1885 which show the buildings that are still present on the site. Identified archaeological features recovered comprised post-medieval waste pits and a possible drainage ditch. OASIS 342316

Corby, land at Weldon Park SP 935 897
CHRIS PENNELL

an archaeological mitigation was undertaken around a pit located in a previous evaluation on the site. A 10m x 10m trench was investigated, with this pit re-found, but no further archaeological features were identified. OASIS 376828

East Haddon, land at Dairy Farm, Church Lane
SP 66670 67731
YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

An archaeological trial trench evaluation comprising two trenches were excavated. These revealed post-medieval/modern quarry pits. Extraction of clay in the countryside for locally made brick and tile was not uncommon. Finds recovered from one of the backfills dated to the 18th-19th centuries. OASIS 351342

Daventry, Monksmoor SP 579 6440

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) has intermittently investigated archaeological remains in three stages between 2012 and March 2015. Three interim statements on this work were recorded in the South Midlands CBA journal in volume 43 (2013), 36, volume 45 (2015), 40 and volume 46 (2016), 40.

The excavations at Monksmoor Farm on the north-eastern edge of Daventry took place in six different areas. The earliest archaeological features lay in Area 6 at the southern end of the development area, where two pits were radiocarbon dated to the early Neolithic. They contained a moderate assemblage of worked flints along with sherds of early Neolithic pottery. In the middle Iron Age a settlement was established in the same location comprising a roundhouse and several enclosures.

Northamptonshire

Two other contemporary settlements are thought to have originated in the late Iron Age/ early 1st century BC and were identified in Areas 1 and 2 between c. 0.2km and 0.5km apart and 500m to the north of Area 6. Area 1 contained evidence for a cluster of eight roundhouses with associated enclosures clearly showing sequential activity, while in Area 2, a large ditched enclosure defined as a Wootton Hill type, within which another roundhouse was present. It is possible that the Wootton Hill type enclosure in particular may have a slighter earlier origin than the limited pottery assemblage suggests. Sparse early Roman features were also found in Areas 3, 4 and 5.

This settlement continued in use through the later 1st to 2nd century AD. During the early Roman period the settlement in Area 6 was greatly expanded with large rectilinear ditched enclosures along with smaller enclosures and paddocks being established on either side of a routeway indicating movement of livestock was important.

The MOLA book is titled: Early Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman settlement at Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire by Tracy Preece. It can be brought direct from the publishers, Archaeopress Archaeology at www.archaeopress.com priced £30. ISBN 978-1-78969-210-5. It can also be brought as an Epublication at £16. ISBN 978-1-78969-211-2.



Daventry, 7-13 Warwick Street SP 57036 62403

PAUL SHARROCK and CAROL SIMMONDS

No archaeological remains were found on the site during a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works during the re-development of the site. However, the possibility of identifying archaeological features was reduced due to a large portion of the ground works having been carried out prior to archaeological visit. OASIS 360496

Earls Barton, Whites Nurseries SP 8460 6280

KAMIL ORZECZOWSKI

Four archaeological trial trenches were investigated. In two of the trenches there were two small irregularly shaped features of most likely natural origin. A machine-cut pit was also observed, as well as service pipes and these modern features almost certainly related to greenhouses which had once occupied part of the development area. OASIS 374262

Ecton, Leathermills Sluice SP 8313 6154

STEPHEN MORRIS and MARK HOLMES

An archaeological excavation at Leathermills Sluice was undertaken in advance of restoration work to the existing sluice and ancillary structures. The excavation found evidence for a 13th century stone-built mill building with internal dividing walls and a surviving floor surface (Figs. 5 & 6). The medieval watermill was replaced by a slightly larger mill structure in the 16th century that continued in use until the early to mid-19th century when it fell into disuse and was eventually demolished. A third undated rectangular structure was sited close to the medieval mill building. This building had no visible internal features and its function is unclear. An upstanding 19th century barrel arched, stone-built boat house/shelter lay to the west side of the post-medieval mill. The excavated structures were explored sufficiently to characterise them but were not fully excavated, instead being re-buried to preserve them *in situ*. OASIS 345782

Fotheringhay, Fotheringhay Castle TL 062 929

STEPHEN PARRY

Aerial and geophysical surveys comprising Ground Penetrating Radar and magnetometer techniques, combined with a new analysis of resistivity data surveyed in 1991, has provided evidence of a tower on the motte and buildings and yards or rubble in the inner bailey of Fotheringhay Castle (Fig. 7). The ground plan of buildings within the inner bailey is at variance with the only known depiction of the castle before its demolition in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (Fig. 8). The reason for this discrepancy is uncertain but could suggest either that the drawing is inaccurate, or that an otherwise undocumented phase of post-medieval buildings was constructed after the demolition of the castle. Only selected excavation would provide dating evidence for the buildings. Survey to the north and east of the castle has also identified historic remains including hollow-ways, tenements, foundations of small buildings one of which may be a dovecote and the moat surrounding the outer courts of the castle. OASIS 349811

Gretton, land at 9 Station Road SP 89638 94162

GEMMA HEWITT

An archaeological evaluation comprising of three trenches were investigated within a 4,623 square meter area. The investigation identified intense disturbance from the reducing and levelling of the site, construction and destruction of a building. Modern pottery was recovered from the layers of demolition. OASIS 350668

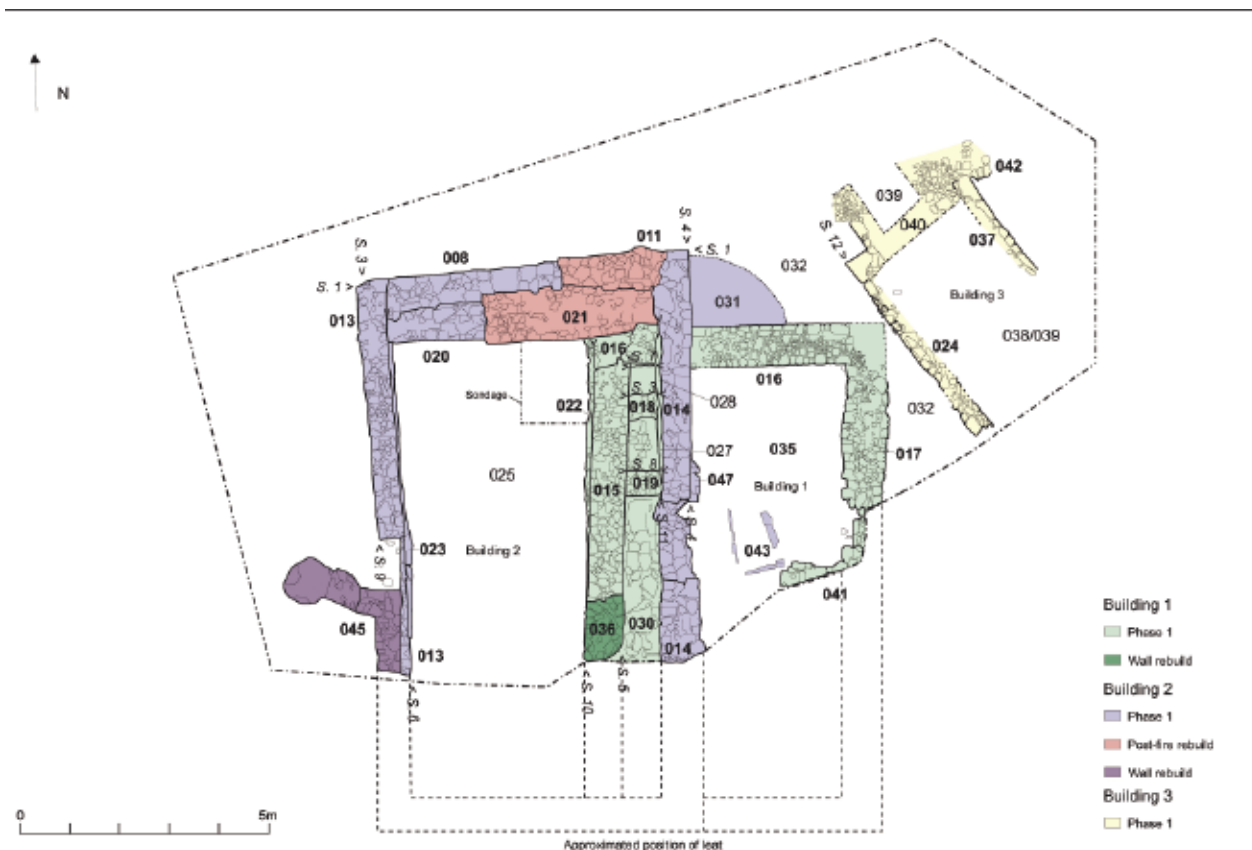


Figure 5: Ecton, Leathersmills building 1,2 and 3



Figure 6: Ecton, Leathersmills drone photo

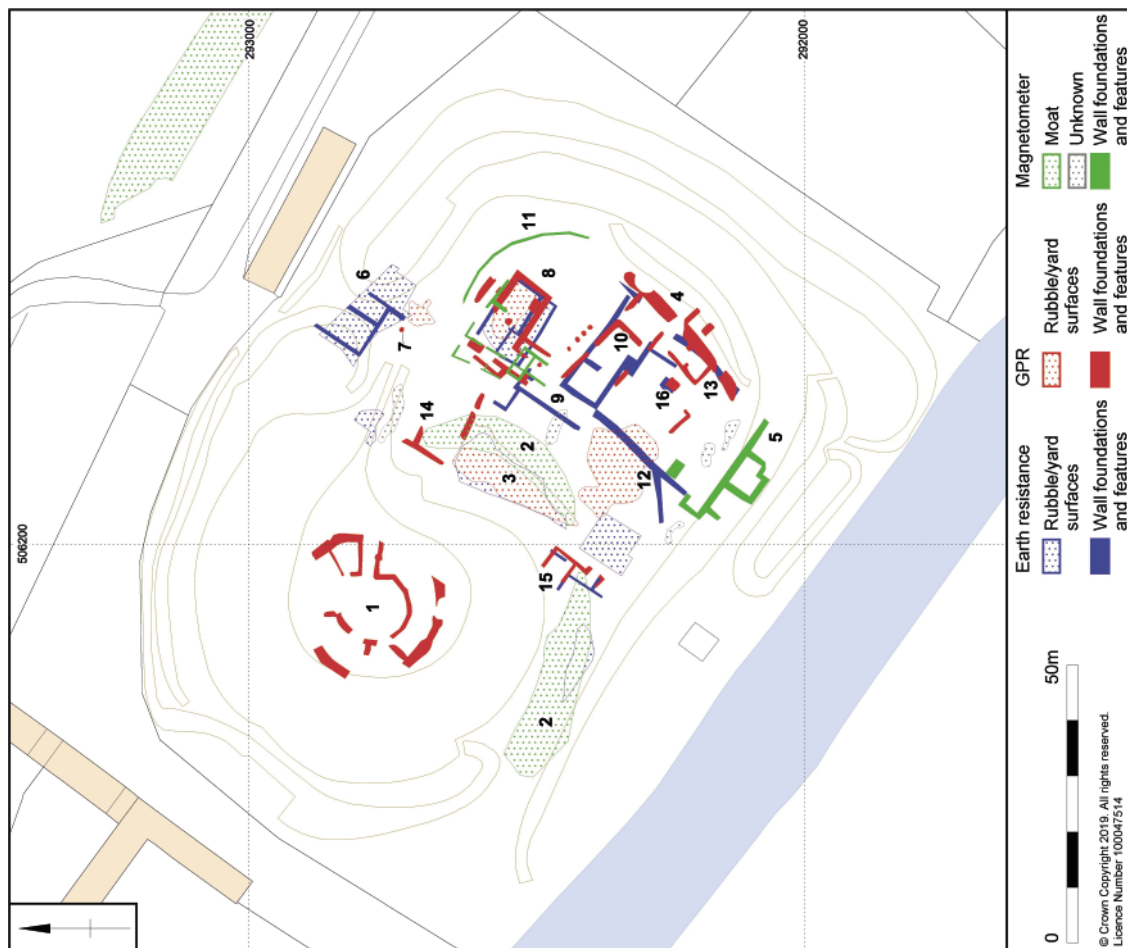


Figure 8: Fotheringhay Castle survey results overlaying plan of the castle

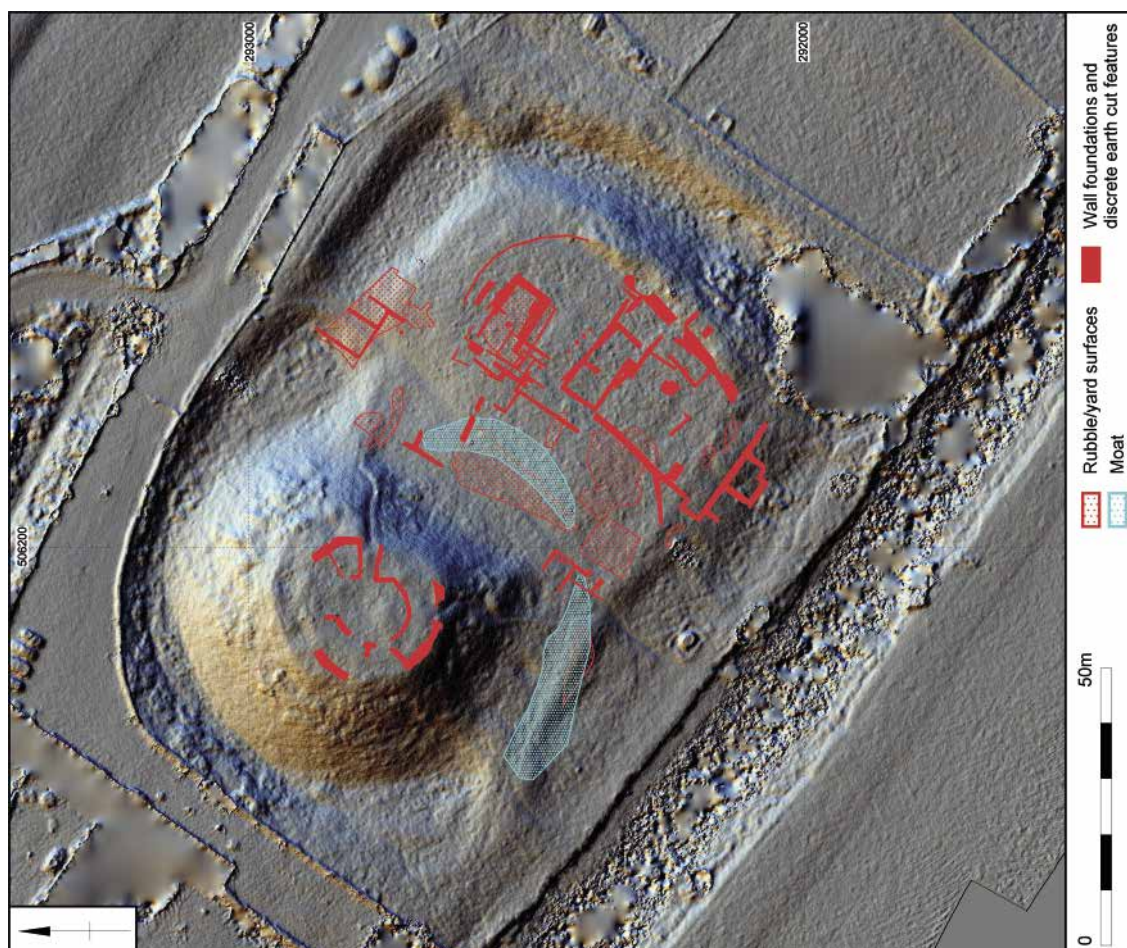


Figure 7: Fotheringhay Castle survey overlaying lidar



Figure 9: King's Cliffe Enclosures 1 and 2 and intercutting quarry

Hargrave, Nags Head, 4 Moor Cottages TL 03869 70819

PAUL SHARROCK

During the watching brief no archaeological remains were found on the site which comprised of house footings and service trenches for a single residential building. OASIS 363038

Kettering, land at 163 Beatrice Road SP 86989 80240

IAN FISHER

A programme of archaeological observation, recording and analysis was undertaken after the demolition of the existing building, a single bungalow with garage. The four new dwellings will be built within the footprint of the former bungalow and garages. No archaeological features or finds were found. OASIS 347253

King's Cliffe, Wansford Road, land at Rockingham Forest Park TL 03831 97470

ADAM DOUTHWAITE and ADAM REID

An excavation uncovered part of a possible pit alignment in Area 1. A four-post structure identified within this same area was dated to the Iron Age. In Area 2 part of a middle Iron Age settlement were found and this comprised two enclosures as well as numerous intercutting circular or sub-circular pits (Fig. 9). Other period features in this area consisted of a series of trackway and boundary ditches dating to the post-

medieval period. A number of other undated features are also likely to relate to the post-medieval and/or modern use of the site. OASIS 361720

Kislingbury, The Mill SP 69413 59436

LAUREN WILSON

A programme of historic building recording encompassed the mill building, the cottage, and associated outbuildings (Fig. 10); all non-designated heritage assets. At the time of recording the buildings had been partially demolished and works had commenced. The site represents continuous mill activity from at least the 17th-century, perhaps much earlier. Kislingbury is recorded as having a mill from Domesday however a direct link to the site is likely, but undetermined. The cottage and barn represent the earliest structures in their Northampton sandstone construction. However, they have now been stripped and there is little to determine their original form. The Mill and associated Outbuilding date from the mid/late 19th-century and represent a growth in the mill activity on the site. The expected growth in wealth is represented in the building of the main house not long after. Electricity overtook traditional milling techniques in the early 20th-century and as a result milling ceased here during the First World War. Their use as workshops in the mid/late 20th century has stripped them of most of their original features, as well as the original milling machinery. OASIS 356052



Figure 10: Kislingbury, The Mill

Pytchley, land at Butcher's Lane SP 85933 74479

PAUL BEERS and CHRIS CHINNOCK

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication revealed a small number of ditches dated to the 3rd/4th centuries AD may define part of a Roman field system. A small number of pits and postholes are likely to also date to this period. A single inhumation, buried in a prone position, was discovered cut into the upper fill of one of the Roman ditches. The burial has been radiocarbon dated to the mid-7th to early 8th centuries AD and may relate to other early medieval burials previously excavated in the vicinity. OASIS 347172

Northampton, Billing Brook Road SP 7936 6431

ADAM MEADOWS

The results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation revealed numerous land drains and disturbed ground resulting from nearby construction works and modern landscaping activities. No archaeological finds or features were identified. OASIS 365835

Northampton, Brackmills, land at Brackmills Point – Decathlon SP 7880 5890

CHRIS CHINNOCK

An archaeological topographic survey and excavation revealed a large and complex series of archaeological features indicative of a multi-period settlement site spanning the late Iron Age to late Roman periods was present on the site. The site had been first identified during geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. A series of enclosures and boundary ditches were present on site as well as pit groups,

timber and stone-built roundhouses, substantial rectangular stone-built structures, burials, pottery kilns (Fig. 11) and a drying oven. A large artefactual assemblage was recovered, which comprised pottery, animal bone, environmental remains, ceramic and stone building material as well as coins and other metal artefacts. The site shows some evidence of earlier prehistoric activity in the form of a linear pit alignment, and early medieval activity as represented by a single sunken featured building though settlement appear to have largely ceased by the end of the 4th century AD. OASIS 349958

Northampton, Duston, 9 Holyrood Road

SP 73722 61080

IAN FISHER

A watching brief undertaken during the excavation of the foundation trenches revealed no archaeological features or finds. OASIS 347260

Northampton, Kingsthorpe, Mill Lane SP 7464 6284

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

An archaeological trial trench evaluation of five excavated trenches revealed no archaeological remains. A late 17th or early 18th-century pottery sherd was found in the topsoil in Trench 4. OASIS 368520

Northampton, Overstone, A43 Moulton Bypass between SP 79458 66305 and SP 78877 65072

ADAM REID, ALEX SHIPLEY and ADAM MEADOWS

In March 2018 and February 2019 MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) Northampton carried out an



Figure 11: Brackmills, Pottery kiln 2

archaeological trial trench and test pit evaluation on land between roundabouts at Overstone Road and Spinney Hill, as part of the A43 Moulton bypass, Northamptonshire. The evaluation revealed evidence of a curvilinear Iron Age enclosure ditch, a large sub-rectangular Roman enclosure and an early-middle Saxon sunken featured building (SFB) or “Grubenhaus”. Additionally, a possible post-medieval well and five adjacent stone-lined drains were found. Two undated palaeochannels were revealed on the south side of the site following the valley, which may represent sections of the same feature. A single undated ditch was also recorded. The only artefact of interest was a pinbeater used in the manufacture of textiles, found in the fill of the Saxon SFB. Twenty test pits were also excavated in and around the woodland located along the eastern side of the A43, north of Spinney Hill roundabout. No archaeological remains were found at this location. OASIS 346672

Northampton, St Andrews Road, Northampton Castle
SP 7491 6055

ALEX SHIPLEY

In October 2019 archaeological works on the site of the inner bailey of the former Northampton castle were carried out. The works were designed to evaluate the survival of archaeological features prior to a potential forthcoming community excavation. A test pit was excavated in the south-east end of the site that uncovered sections of a surviving wall foundation relating to the castle. OASIS 373095

Overstone, Sywell Road, land at Overstone Farm
SP 79731 66211

JAMES FAIRCLOUGH

A geophysical survey identified three ring ditches at the centre and to the east, and several linear features to the south. Sixteen trial trenches were excavated to target these features as well as to investigate and appropriate sample the remaining area. The presence of the ring ditches was confirmed and a single pot sherd, prehistoric in date, and animal bone being recovered. The other features identified were undated. OASIS 384109

Paulerspury, Kennel Lane SP 722 454

GRAHAM ARKLEY

The results from the archaeological geophysical survey indicate evidence for medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. A probable service ditch crosses the survey area to the west of the pond, and possible buried cables radiate from the telegraph pole in the centre of the southern field. No further features of archaeological interest were detected. OASIS 367575

Preston Capes, The Old Rectory SP 57488 54887

CHRISTOPHER JONES

An archaeological evaluation of six trenches was undertaken in the proposed area of two new ponds. None of the trenches excavated revealed any archaeological remains except

Northamptonshire

Trench 1, in the area of the small pond, which contained the remains of a post-medieval pit. Trench 6 was positioned across an earthwork bank that likely formed part of post-medieval landscaping; there were no other deposits other than subsoil and topsoil in this area. OASIS 350368

Raunds, land north of Brick Kiln Road SP 9943 7402

SIMON MARKUS

An archaeological excavation was carried out comprising two areas (Area 1 and 2) totalling 0.04 hectares. Each area revealed an isolated pit, one of which was dated to the mid-late Iron Age during the previous evaluation. Four parallel undated ditches were located in Area 2. OASIS 342097

Rothwell, 9~~9~~11 High Street SP 81458 81115

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

During a watching brief five test pits were observed and recorded. In one test pit part of the foundations of an undated wall could be seen, and in another was the layer of an old metallised surface. OASIS 377909

Thrapston, land at Haldens Parkway TL 0103 7887

CHRIS PENNELL

An archaeological evaluation of 13 trenches were investigated, identifying medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow as well as four undated postholes. OASIS 357105

Towcester, Bell Plantation SP 68710 49822

ADAM DOUTHWAITE and YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

The archaeological work on this site revealed the expansion of the northern suburbs of *Lactodorum* located along Watling Street. This work has extended the known extent of this part of the town. A preceding trial trench evaluation within the site revealed the presence of a middle to late Roman human inhumation (radiocarbon dated) and Roman features. A small excavation found the first evidence of activity was a probable early Roman boundary which was later redefined as well as evidence of quarrying activity within parts of the site. In the middle Roman period a routeway headed towards Watling Street and was aligned perpendicular to it. A cluster of postholes lay directly to the north of the routeway and may suggest structure(s) had once fronted this route. A watering hole/well, which was backfilled with a notable quantity of later 2nd century AD domestic waste and a little industrial material, lay directly to the south of the routeway. By the middle-late Roman period this occupation and routeway was replaced by a possible enclosure, which was defined by three ditches, and may have been parallel to Watling Street. A small quantity of 3rd century pottery was recovered and it is likely that occupation on the site had ceased by the 4th century. OASIS 359083

Towcester, land at Bickerstaffes Road (Water Lane)

SP 69179 48486

ALEX SHIPLEY

Archaeological trial trench evaluation recorded Roman archaeological features consisting of two ditches, a pit, a metallised surface and stonework that may represent the edge of the agger of the Alchester Road or a stone structure. The metallised surface was later quarried either during the late Roman, post-Roman or medieval-post-medieval period.

The features produced a large quantity of pottery and metal finds, including imported amphorae, a well-preserved late 2nd-century Roman coin and a cosmetic spoon. OASIS 364821

Towcester south, Trial Trenches 13–2 SP 7040 4761

CHRIS PENNELL

A total of nine trial trenches were excavated. Archaeological remains comprising ditches, pits, a gully, a posthole and a cremation deposit were identified in four of the trenches. Four of these pits had limestone lined bases. All dateable features were late Iron Age with the single exception of the cremation, dating to the Roman period. These features probably were peripheral activity associated with a late Iron Age and early Roman settlement. Post-medieval ridge and furrow was investigated in two trenches. OASIS 377983

Towcester, Tiffeld Park SP 694 502

WALFORD, J

An archaeological geophysical survey of c. 26ha of land was undertaken. The survey identified a probable prehistoric ring ditch, several sets of enclosures likely to date from the Iron Age and Roman periods, medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, a historic parish boundary and the remains of a short-lived late 19th-century iron works and railway. Some very intense anomalies of uncertain origin were also detected. The majority of the detected archaeological remains were concentrated in the north-western portion of the survey area. OASIS 349101

Towcester, Tiffeld Park SP 6942 5014

JONATHAN ELSTON

The archaeological trial trench evaluation identified pits, gullies and a ditches associated with enclosures dating from the Iron Age to the Roman period along with post-medieval field systems, iron works and other undated features. OASIS 375088

Warmington, 18~~8~~20 Chapel Street SP 0778 9123

PAUL SHARROCK

The earliest archaeological features observed during a watching brief dated to the medieval period (mid-12th to late 15th century) including postholes from a medieval building which existed along the present roadside. A series of gullies and some pits were located within the southern and eastern half of the site. Other evidence within the site comprised modern activity including a boundary ditch and spreads/foundations related to the creation and demolition of a working men's club which existed on the site prior to these works. OASIS 373616

Wellingborough, works at Area 14 SP 90921 68483

ADAM REID

An archaeological watching brief noted recent disturbance, which reduced the possibility of identifying archaeological features but the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were present in addition to a modern boundary ditch and a post-medieval quarry pit. No other archaeological finds or features were present. OASIS ?(website not in use due to virus)

Wellingborough, land at Wellingborough East, Area 3
SP 7880 5890

CAROL SIMMONDS and TRACY PREECE

Between April and December 2017 MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out an archaeological excavation at Flood Relief Area 3, Wellingborough East. The site revealed a landscape of multi-phased archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic, and settlement spanning the Iron Age to late Roman period. Neolithic activity comprised a causewayed enclosure (Fig. 12) which was only partially excavated and an isolated pit containing Neolithic pottery. The site appears to have been continually occupied from the Iron Age through to the late Roman period. Iron Age settlement comprised at least eleven sub-circular enclosures and seven ring ditches as well as other associated features such as pits. The pottery assemblage indicates that the use of this settlement spanned the 3rd to 1st centuries BC with a continuation into the early 1st century AD. In the early to mid-1st century AD, a rectilinear enclosure system was established. Other features comprised paddocks, evidence for buildings with stone footings, a metallised surface defining a trackway and part of the Irchester Roman road. Two inhumations and one unurned cremation burial were also identified. Occupation continued on the site until the late 3rd to the mid to late 4th century. OASIS 351637

Wellingborough, HMP Wellingborough, Doddington Road SP 890 659

CHRIS PENNELL and YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

An archaeological mitigation of c. 0.5ha identified two phases of late Iron Age remains probably dating to the 1st century BC. These consisted of part of a field system comprising two or more boundary ditches, several postholes and two pits. In the second phase a probable sub-rectangular enclosure cut the boundary ditches. OASIS 343957

Wellingborough, Stanton Cross, Area 3 SP 910 699

ALEX SHIPLEY

Archaeological trial trenching undertaken on parcels of land within the Stanton Cross development area followed on from a geophysical survey of the whole Stanton Cross site. The trenching recorded a possible Roman road, ditches, a pit and hedgerows, all overlain by medieval ridge and furrow. A tramline was also identified associated with local Ironstone extraction industry in the modern period. OASIS 349270

Wellingborough, Stanton Cross, Flood Relief Zone 5
SP 925 674

JOHN WALFORD

The geophysical survey, of c. 13.5ha of land, identified a group of sub-circular enclosures, roundhouses and pits and another group of rectilinear enclosures. It is likely that these

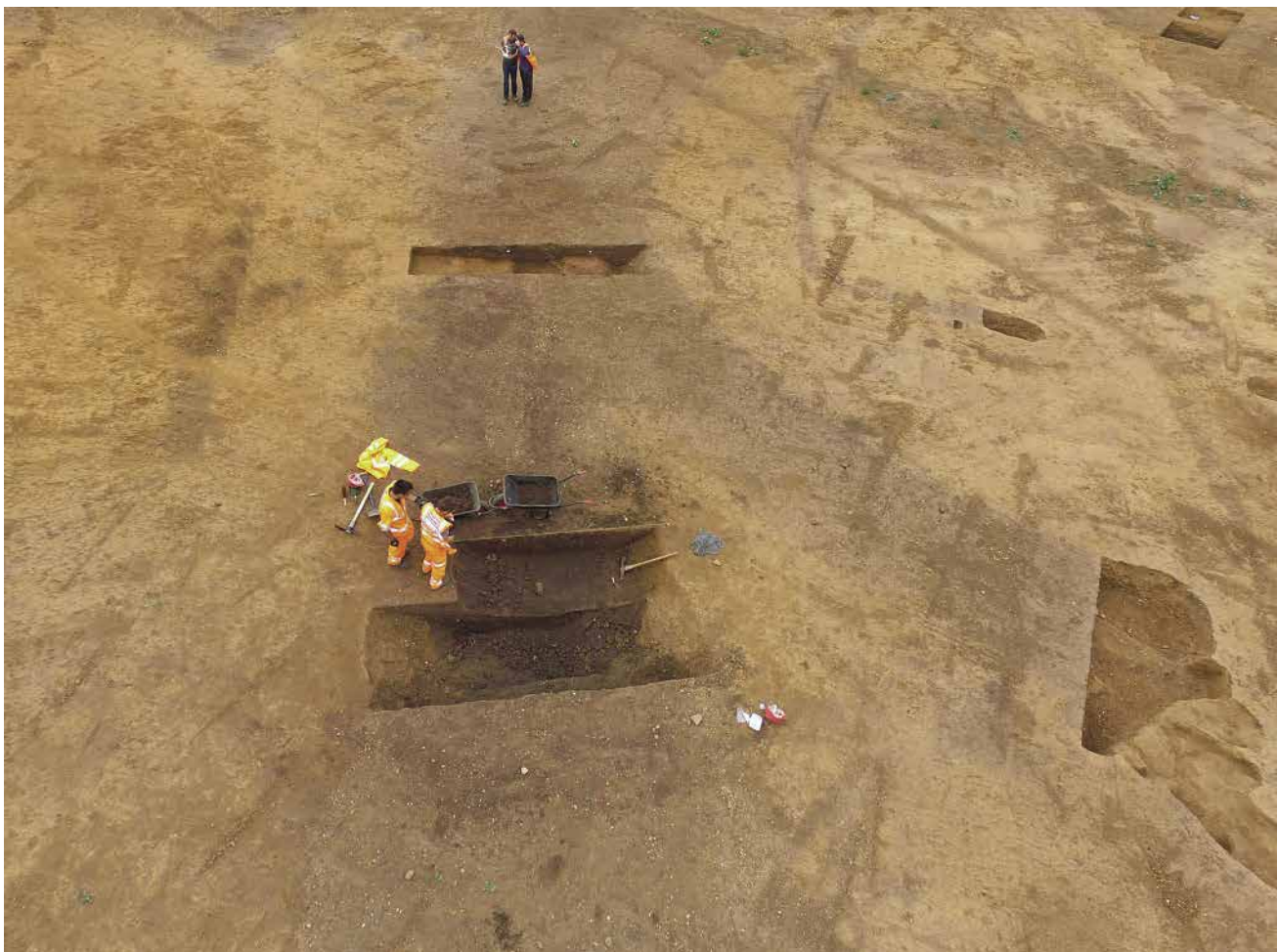


Figure 12: Wellingborough, Neolithic causeway ditch being excavated

Northamptonshire

remains relate to separate phases of Iron Age and Roman activity on the site. A curving ditch, perhaps part of a very large enclosure, was also identified. Other features detected by the survey included ridge and furrow, palaeochannels, former ironstone quarries and a modern pipeline, the latter lying almost immediately alongside the south-western edge of the survey area. OASIS 368034

Wellingborough, Stanton Cross, Flood Relief Area 5 SP 9247 6743

ADAM DOUTHWAITE

Sixteen trenches targeted archaeological remains previously identified through geophysical survey. The evaluation recorded an area of middle to late Iron Age ditches, enclosures and pits, as well as a series of late Iron Age enclosures. OASIS 372914

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Wellingborough, Land north of Hardwick Road SP 483 270

ROBIN WEBB

Monitoring work was undertaken ahead of the laying of a replacement water main. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Boughton, Buckton Fields SP 7395 6490

ANDREW SIMMONDS and STEVEN TEAGUE

Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation at Buckton Fields, just to the north of Northampton, between June 2018 and April 2019. Phase 1 of the archaeological work has been completed and this reports on the Phase 2 excavation. The Buckton Fields site is located in an east-west valley sitting slightly above the floodplain of the Brampton Branch of the River Nene. A small spring issues from higher ground and drains along the valley axis onto the floodplain.

In the base of the valley, a series of lateral sondages uncovered a sequence of spring deposits that accumulated between the early Neolithic and the Anglo-Saxon period. An alignment of wooden stakes, one dated by radiocarbon analysis to cal AD 428–598, may be the remains of a revetment intended to maintain an open channel.

During the middle Iron Age, a small settlement was established at the top of the northern slope of the valley, the surrounding enclosure of which was recut and redesigned on several occasions. A single possible roundhouse location was identified, and assemblages from pits within the enclosure provide an opportunity to investigate animal husbandry and the arable crops grown.

Roman features comprised a cemetery and agricultural landscape associated with a settlement. The cemetery included 35 inhumation graves and three cremation burials, almost entirely of adults. Four individuals were interred within stone cists and other burial rites include seven prone burials and four decapitations. Two burials were dated by radiocarbon analyses to cal AD 132–330 and cal AD 244–531, suggesting that the cemetery was in use for an extended period during the middle and late Roman phases. Field boundaries and enclosures extended across both sides of the

valley, and a ditched trackway extended along the base. Of particular note was evidence for crop processing, in the form of debris dumped in an early Roman ring gully at the west end of the site and an unusual stone-built structure to the east that is probably a malting oven.

An Anglo-Saxon settlement of 22 sunken-featured buildings extended across both slopes but notably avoided the damper ground of the valley base. Pottery indicated that the settlement was probably occupied during the 5th to 7th centuries, contemporary with the channel revetment. As each building passed out of use it was backfilled with soil that included domestic refuse including remains from spinning, weaving, and antler, horn and bone-working.

Braybrooke, Substation SP 75835 85804

IAN SCOTT and CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

In September 2019 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation on the site of a proposed new substation and access road within the parish of Braybrooke, following an earlier evaluation (see SMA 49). The excavation revealed a substantial ditch on a north-south alignment, and an adjacent complex of slighter boundary ditches and enclosures extending over an area of at least 275m. The dating evidence from the ditches is very ambiguous, being limited to a few sherds of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery, and at least one sherd of Ipswich ware dated to AD 720–850. While there are stratigraphic relationships between some ditches, these do not provide a clear sequence of development of the ditch complex as a whole. It is possible that the earliest elements of the ditch complex were laid out in the late Iron Age or early Roman period, and that there was a separate subsequent phase of enclosure in the Saxon period. Alternatively, the whole complex may date to the Saxon period or later and the late Iron Age/Roman sherds may be residual. The ditches are likely to have defined fields or paddocks of agricultural use, or possibly outlying plots associated with a nearby settlement. The very low quantities of artefacts and animal bone recovered, and the absence of charred plant remains other than a small amount of charcoal, imply that any settlement focus was not directly adjacent to the excavated area. Evidence for later activity was limited to a post-medieval pit, and furrows of medieval or post-medieval date.

Daventry, Apex Park SP 55630 64480

CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation in 2019 within the Phase 4 area of Apex Park, Daventry, in advance of development. A geophysical survey and two phases of trial trench evaluation preceded the excavation in 2018 and 2019. This work established the presence of prehistoric remains, notably a ring ditch. The excavation area, totalling c. 0.53ha, was subsequently targeted upon the ring ditch.

The excavation exposed the c. 16m-diameter ring ditch. Its construction has been tentatively dated to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age, with the recovery of abraded early Bronze Age, late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery from its upper fills suggesting that the ring ditch continued to form part of the landscape into the Iron Age. It is likely that the ring ditch surrounded a barrow, though no primary burial was encountered within the centre of the monument. An unurned

cremation burial recorded during the 2019 evaluation to the east of the ring ditch may have been a satellite burial. Radiocarbon dating of this burial is awaited. The monument lies a short distance from a larger segmented ring ditch of early Bronze Age date previously excavated in the wider Apex Park development area (Marcus and Morris 2019).

Together with Iron Age pottery recovered from the ring ditch, a small number of Iron Age pits and postholes were scattered across the excavation area. This provided evidence of outlying activities associated with a settlement previously excavated to the west (ibid.).

Marcus, S. and Morris, S., 2019 Early Bronze Age, Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon landscapes at Apex Park, Daventry, *Northamptonshire Archaeology* **40**, 47–75

Daventry, Middlesmore SP 56343 64821

ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed residential development at Middlesmore, Daventry. The evaluation was undertaken over three days during May 2019 and comprised eleven trenches.

The evaluation revealed a rectangular later Iron Age enclosure within the south-eastern part of the site. A large pit of similar date to the west of the enclosure contained large quantities of charcoal and small amounts of animal bone. This may indicate that it was used to deposit domestic waste. A linear trackway orientated broadly north-east to south-west crossed the northern edge of the site. The undated trackway was formed of two parallel ditches. A central compacted metallised surface around 10m wide was recorded at one location between the two ditches.

Desborough, Braybrooke Road SP 7921 8397

JIM MUMFORD and ALEX DAVIES

In March 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation at Braybrooke Road, Desborough. The evaluation consisted of 45 trenches arranged across the site, following a geophysical survey. The evaluation revealed an absence of archaeological features in the majority of the site, although features were recorded in the central and eastern part of the western field. This included a hollow-way which contained a small quantity of late Iron Age pottery, five undated pits and eight undated linear ditches that appeared to form a field or enclosure system. Although the possible field system was undated, one of the ditches truncated the upper fill of the hollow-way and was, in turn, overlain by ridge and furrow cultivation.

Northampton North-West Relief Road SP 7333 6530 to SP 7383 6336

STEVE LAWRENCE and ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation along the proposed route of the north-west relief road on the outskirts of Northampton. The evaluation fieldwork was completed between May and July 2019 and comprised 123 trenches.

The evaluation revealed four distinct areas of significant archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric and Roman period. Early prehistoric activity was identified at the edge of the floodplain and a middle-late Iron Age settlement was also recorded. Evidence for part of a late Roman settlement

was recorded in the form of an enclosure ditch at the western edge of the site. This ditch may have formed the easterly extent of a series of enclosures that were recorded by a geophysical survey. Further late Roman features and possible structures were recorded c. 250m south-east of this enclosure ditch. The southern area of late Roman activity included evidence for crop processing of wheat, barley and oats. Isolated features were encountered elsewhere within the evaluation, including post-medieval stone drains and undated ditches.

Trenching across the floodplain also revealed significant depths of alluvial deposits and sediments relating to former watercourses. Well-preserved waterlogged remains were recovered from the palaeochannel deposits indicating a slow-moving watercourse or possibly areas of standing water. Radiocarbon dates were obtained from material in the base of the channels at two locations providing ranges from 3365–3104 cal BC to cal AD 386–538 (Neolithic to Roman).

Wellingborough, Windermere Drive SP 8757 6844

JAMES MUMFORD

In April 2019 Oxford Archaeology completed a six-trench evaluation on land off Windermere Drive, Wellingborough. Two ditches were identified, one containing a possible Iron Age sherd of pottery. Furrows were also recorded on a different alignment to the two ditches.

SOUTERRAIN

Northampton, former Dickens Brothers Ltd Leather Manufactory, Kettering Road SP 76109 61003

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

A former leather manufactory building in Northampton was recorded by Souterrain to Level II/III, prior to its conversion to residential apartments. The factory forms an integral component of the Northampton Boot and Shoe Conservation Area.

Formerly known as Dickens Brothers Ltd., the factory was purpose-built in 1900. It was located a short distance to the east of the town centre, an area characterised by rows of late 19th century terraced houses, interspersed with large contemporary edifices – boot and shoe factories, schools and places of non-conformist worship. The business was run by the same family until its closure in 2019 and was one of the UK's longest operating leather producers.

The building is four-storied plus an attic, rectangular in plan and gabled ended. It is typically built in red brick, roofed in Welsh slate and has blue brick door jambs and window sills. A main architectural design feature of the building's interior is a twin colonnade of cast-iron columns (Fig. 13), on three levels, which provide the main internal structural support system up to third floor level.

The report greatly expands on a preliminary study of the building and record of its exterior, made by English Heritage in the course of the 'Northamptonshire Boot & Shoe Industry Rapid Survey' (1999). Principally, the present study derives information about the building's historical context from an interview held during the course of research with Mr Brian Roy Dickens, former director of Dickens Brothers. The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of the building's interior and exterior in its present 'as found' state by means of photographic catalogue, scaled elevations



Figure 13: Northampton, former Dickens Brothers Ltd Leather Manufactory

and plans. It includes a number of detailed photographs of leather-production operations inside the factory which were taken in 1929 to mark the company's 20th anniversary (Fig. 14).

HER Event No. ENN109702
OASIS ref.: souterrai-382056

Earls Barton, Mercer's Farm, 9 High Street
SP 85271 63903
MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

A group of historic farm buildings in Earls Barton village was recorded by Souterrain to Level II/III, prior to their conversion to residential usage by Lexicus Developments (Wellingborough). The buildings belonged to Mercer's Farm, the layout of which was first mapped in 1771. The former farmstead is centrally located in the village, situated within an ancient close.

The comparison of historic maps shows that the farm underwent a planned re-organisation in the late Victorian period, from dispersed layout, to courtyard form. Documentary analysis suggests that this transformation and key period of investment was completed by the mid-1880s. Although a mixed farm, the courtyard buildings reflect an emphasis on stock-rearing and milk production. The Victorian buildings are typically brick-built, in Flemish Garden Wall Bond, and are largely roofed in Welsh slate. Two sides of the courtyard were formed by an L-shaped range. One side the range was composed of two cow-houses/

milking houses for nine cows, a loosebox and an open shelter. The other side comprised an open-sided cow-house for eight cows, calving area and a loosebox. A free-standing cow-house bordered the third side of the courtyard, while the fourth side was formed by a stone-built bank barn used for fodder; the latter a modified relic of the pre-Victorian farmstead (Fig. 15).

The internal features of the cow houses and milking houses were variable. Brick-built mangers survived in three buildings, while one cow-house retained a brick floor. Each milking area had a formed-concrete trough and concrete floor with cleansing passage, features which were undoubtedly a response to the introduction and re-working of regulations for cow-houses and milking houses from 1879 and 1885 onwards.

The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of the building's interior and exterior in its present 'as found' state, by means of photographic catalogue, scaled elevations and plans. It draws on a wide range of primary documentary sources, identifying the main phases of development, and traces the majority of proprietors and tenants from the 1870s to the present day.

The farmhouse itself has a deceptive 19th century appearance, both externally and internally. Preliminary observations suggest that a late medieval building is concealed. Since the farmhouse forms a part of the proposed re-development programme, yet falls outside of the remit



Figure 14: Northampton, former Dickens Brothers Ltd Leather Manufactory, Shaving & Splitting 1929



Figure 15: Earls Barton, bank barn

Northamptonshire

of the planning condition for a historic building record, a separate study of observations is to follow in due course.

Northampton HER Event No. ENN109717.
OASIS ref.: souterra1-388472.

Thrapston, 30 Horton's Lane SP 99679 78591

MARTIN D WILSON

In November 2019 an archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain during groundwork for a new dwelling on a plot of land (c. 487 sq. m) in the centre of Thrapston. Based on previous archaeological discoveries c. 15 m to the west, the site was considered to have potential for buried remains of Romano-British and medieval date.

The new house footprint (c. 148 sq. m) for the most part, occupied the footprint of a 19th to late 20th century dwelling, which was demolished prior to the investigation. The investigation revealed that almost half of the new building footprint had suffered deep disturbance. There were no archaeological remains present earlier than domestic waste pits dug in the mid-19th century. Northampton HER Event No. ENN109679. OASIS ref.: souterra1-382333.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Banbury, Central M40, Phase 4, Land at Overthorpe Road SP 4742 3965

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK and DAVID SÁNCHEZ

A geophysical survey in July/August and evaluation trenching in September in advance of a large industrial development covering about 4ha revealed a relatively high volume of archaeological features. The trenches in the south field of the eastern area identified postholes, pits and ditches, several of the latter corresponding with geophysical anomalies, and providing a small assemblage of Iron Age pottery. This is likely to represent the continuation of the occupation site identified to the west and confirmed its extension until at least the limit of the field and the edge of the bank of the motorway to the east. Excavation followed in 2020.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

Barton Seagrave, Latimer Art College SP 89112 76916

ROGER KIPLING and RICHARD HUXLEY

The monitoring of groundworks associated with construction of a sports hall and an all-weather sports pitch at Latimer Art College was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). A small cluster of pits of late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date were encountered during soil stripping in advance of construction of the sports pitch (Fig. 16).

A small area measuring c. 9m × 6m comprised of a cluster of several shallow circular and oval pits. The features measured c. 0.8m-2m wide × c. 1m-4.75m and 0.05m-0.2m deep. A pit produced two joining sherds of Beaker ware pottery dating to between c. 2200 and 1900 BC. The thin-

bodied vessel (4mm) was manufactured in a micaceous clay fabric employing fine shell and grog as opening materials (Fabric G1), and was about 120mm in diameter. The external surface and margin at oxidised to an orange buff colour, whilst the core and internal margin are grey and the internal surface is brown. Two joining fragments of fired clay wattle and daub were also forthcoming from the same fill. Another pit produced a tertiary flake in very fresh condition, and a third pit contained a fragment of a retouched secondary blade and a denticulated blade. All three pieces could be contemporary with the Beaker pottery. ENN109233.

Clipston, Naseby Lane SP 70907 81538

STEVE BAKER

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an intermittent watching brief on land at Naseby Lane, Clipston in September 2019, during the stripping of, and ground reduction associated with the preliminary formation levels for one of two residential properties. Much of the ground was disturbed from previous land use and no archaeological deposits were observed. ENN109619.

Corby, Great Oakley Hall SP 87144 85968

ANDREW HYAM

A level 2 historic building survey was undertaken at the Garden Room (gazebo), Great Oakley Hall, Northamptonshire by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The survey studied the 18th century gazebo and the attached 19th century laundry which form part of the Grade II* listing for the Hall. Presently the gazebo is unused and in need of repair, the former laundry is currently used as a garden workshop. Very few internal fixtures and fittings remain from either building. ENN109403.

Desborough, Stoke Road SP 80540 84440

CLARE BROWN

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) undertook an archaeological observation in a field near Desborough Grange, Stoke Road, Desborough, in advance of residential development. No archaeological deposits were encountered. ENN109441.

East Fardon: Home Farm SP 71788 85264

ANDREW HYAM

A Level 2 Historic Building Survey at Home Farm, Back lane, East Farndon, Northamptonshire was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The survey studied the former barns and outbuildings belonging to Home Farm and which have listed building consent for them to be converted and extended to create a new dwelling. Home Farm House is a Grade II listed mid-18th century building with 19th century alterations. The barns and outbuildings consist of a mid to late 19th century brick-built two storey structure, a single storey stone-built structure of early 20th century date and a late 20th century timber and metal-built barn. A brick-built row of open-fronted former pens or stables runs alongside the barns. The redundant buildings represent an interesting example of the development and changes to agricultural buildings from the 19th century through to the present day. ENN109495.

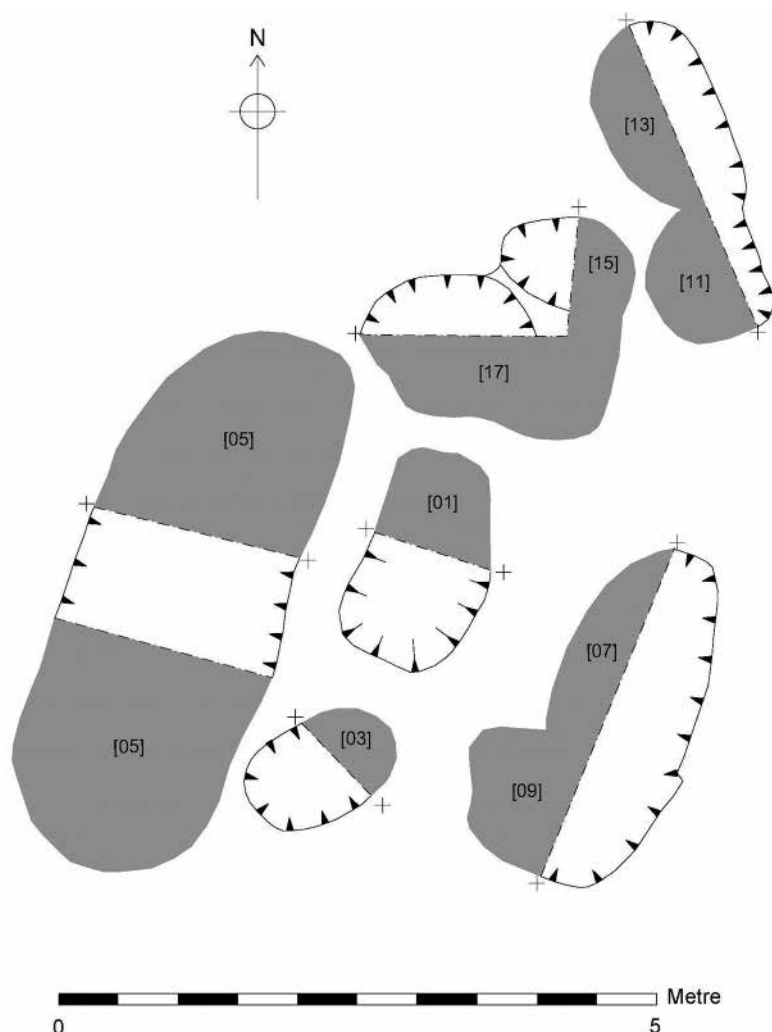


Figure 16: Barton Seagrave, all features plan

East Fardon, 4 Home Farm Close SP 71788 85264

CLARE BROWN

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) undertook an archaeological observation at 4 Home Farm Close, East Farndon in advance of extensions to a property. The development lay close to fields to the north-east where earthworks of the shrunken medieval village and hollow-way are visible (Scheduled Monument NMO30076). No archaeological features or finds were uncovered. The land had been heavily disturbed by the building of the present house and drainage and the overburden contained building rubble including brick and concrete. ENN109495.

Elmington, Tansor Lodge and Tansor Lodge Farm

TL 05541 89885

ANDREW HYAM

A Level 2 historic building survey was carried out on a number of barns and outbuildings at Tansor Lodge and Tansor Lodge Farm by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The survey looked at a row of agricultural outbuildings running between Tansor Lodge and Tansor Lodge Farm. The Grade II listed buildings consist of a barn, a possible former cart shed and a gig house and date from the late 18th century. Planning permission had been granted to refurbish the buildings and convert parts into residential accommodation. ENN109428.

Glaphthorn, land off Benefield Road TL 01974 90504

CLARE BROWN

An archaeological excavation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land east of allotments off Benefield Road, Glaphthorn, Northamptonshire, in advance of the construction of two cottage-style houses and associated garages and hardstanding. This excavation identified evidence of large irregularly shaped pits probably the result of clay extraction that had been backfilled with material rich in metal working slag. No evidence of burning or industrial processes connected to metal working was found anywhere on the site. The east of the site revealed smaller, more discreet features such as small oval shaped pits, post-holes and ditches more suggestive of settlement activity containing medieval pottery, mainly dating between AD 950–1400. One of the pits produced a complete copper alloy annular buckle of medieval date (1350–1400). ENN109384.

Norton, land off Goulden's View SP 60168 63405

LEON HUNT

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) undertook a trial trench evaluation on land at Goulden's View, Norton, in advance of the proposed development for twelve dwellings. The land was part of a larger pasture field at the southern end of the village. Ridge and furrow

Oxfordshire

was visible within the field, these were observed during the works running north-east to south-west. No archaeological deposits were encountered. ENN109686.

Rushden, Lakes SP 93335 67590

CLARE LACOMBE

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) undertook observation of 12 machine excavated trial pits to a depth of up to 4m, on land off the A45 Higham road on the north-western edge of Rushden. No archaeological deposits were encountered. ENN109454.

Sulby, Sulby Abbey Farm SP 65815 80444

NATHAN FLAVELL

Archaeological trial trenching was carried out at Sulby Abbey Farm, Naseby Road, Sulby, Northamptonshire by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The work was undertaken in advance of a new driveway and tractor shed. The evaluation trenches revealed a post-hole linear alignment. These appeared to be parallel with Naseby Road, but were unfortunately undated. However, they appeared to be sealed by the subsoil, so were probably pre-medieval. ENN109452.

OXFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS

Eye and Dunsden – Spanhill SU 753 774

ROGER AINSLIE

We assisted in work being carried out by Janet Eastment as part of her research degree with the University of Winchester. Her interim note on her work is in the South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group bulletin 72, 2018.

We appear to have located a causewayed camp which was not identified in a 1974 professional excavation investigating cropmarks prior to a, fortunately discontinued, road scheme. As she says, this illustrates the vulnerability of prehistoric monuments that are not visible on the ground surface when it comes to development planning decisions.

Report OASIS number abingdon1-381350

Radcot SU 284 999

ROGER AINSLIE

We have carried out several surveys in this vicinity and have now put these onto the Archaeology data services Grey literature library to assist further research.

Initially we discovered a, probable 10th century, castle which was used as the basis for a Time Team programme. Fortunately, our surveys show the remains before the excavations took place. Our later surveys revealed a possible planned village or small town to the north of the castle in addition to other remains, which could be of Roman and Iron Age date.

Our report is at: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1057553>

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Oxford, Land at Hill Top Road SP 5391 0576

ALLAN KING and IAIN LESLIE

Ahead of a proposed housing development geophysical survey identified several anomalies, some of which were interpreted as potential kilns. Trial trenching to test the geophysical anomalies identified no archaeological remains or unstratified artefacts. Modern deposits, including brick and concrete, were found to overlie and be mixed in with the topsoil, suggesting material had been dumped in this area and the existing topsoil disturbed during the process. The

thicker areas of these deposits broadly correlated with the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey as possible kilns.

Accession Number: OXCMS: 2019.94

OASIS Number: albionar1-359480

Steeple Aston, Land off South Side SP 4697 2584

LEWIS BUSBY and IAIN LESLIE

Ahead of a proposed housing development, archaeological trial trenching identified no dateable archaeological remains or unstratified artefacts. A single undated small pit or posthole was present in one trench. Otherwise, only tree bowls or modern features were identified.

Accession Number: OXCMS:2019.125

OASIS Number: albionar1-369649

ALLEN ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

Bletchington, College Farm SP 5287 1716

CHARLOTTE TOOZE and SHONED NIA JONES.

The works comprised the strip, map and record of a 3ha area as a condition of planning consent for the construction of six poultry units. Iron Age to Roman activity was represented by several truncated ditched enclosures producing small quantities of pottery and animal bone. There were also several undated ditches and pits recorded, some of which may be associated with the Iron Age and Roman activity. The limited finds assemblage and lack of clearly defined structural features suggest the site was peripheral to any focus of settlement activity. Medieval activity consisted of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned broadly east to west across the site.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Stoke Lyne, Nr Bicester, The Orchard SP 5667 2842

CASSANDRA CLAY

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation for the landowner in advance of an application for planning permission for housing at The Orchard, Stoke Lyne, Oxfordshire. Four trenches were excavated, no significant archaeological features were observed.

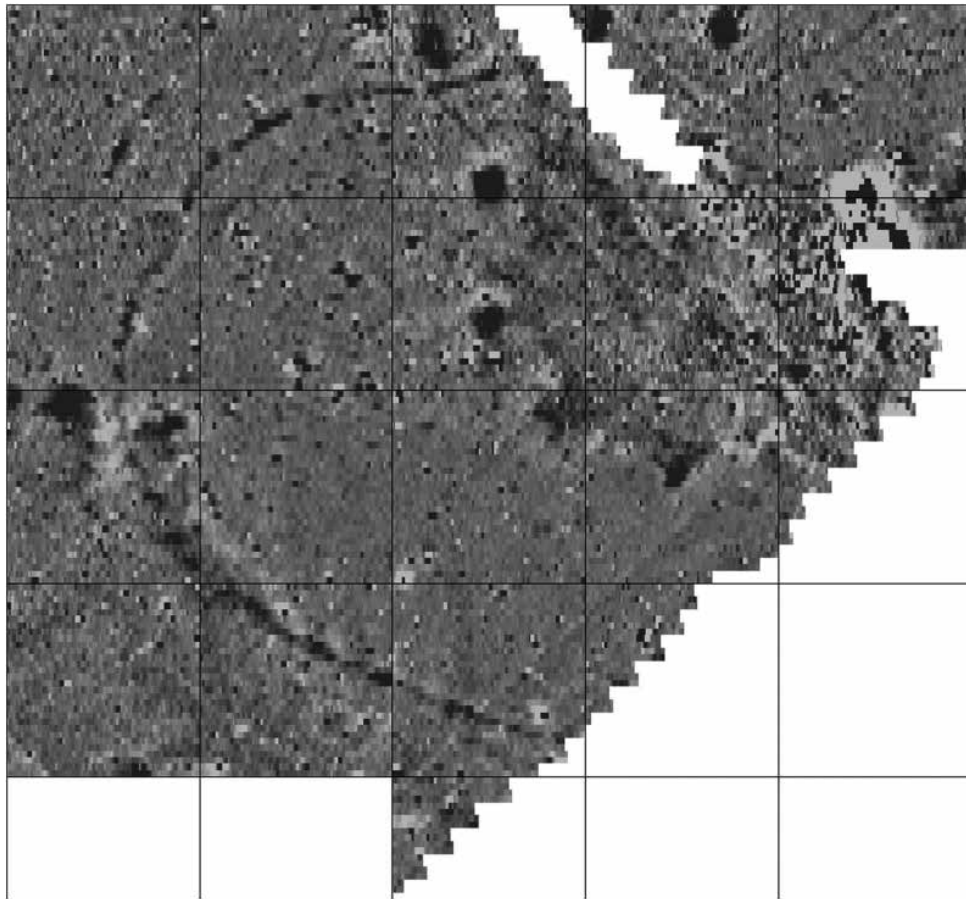


Figure 1: Dunsden, Magnetometry survey. 30 metre grids

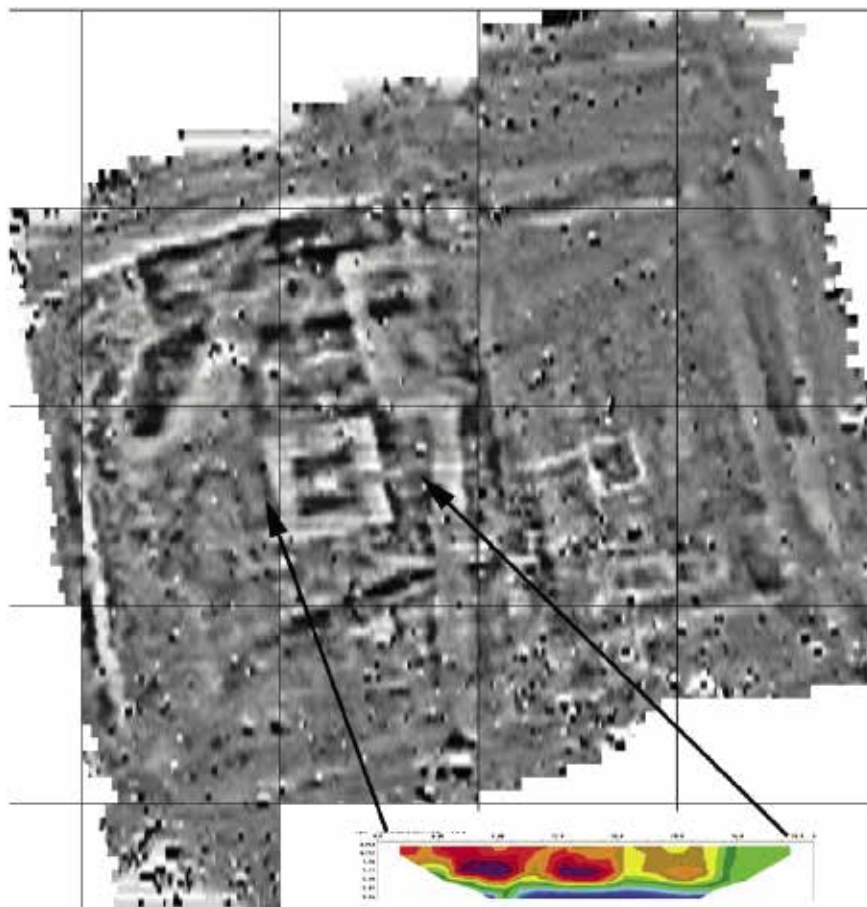


Figure 2: Part of magnetometry survey at Radcot with earth resistance pseudo section. 30 metre grids

Oxfordshire

Stoke Lyne, Bicester, West Meadow, Lower Farm

SP 56317 28611

ANTONI NOWAK

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an evaluation for the extension of ploughing into West Meadow, a field belonging to Lower Farm at Stoke Lyne, near Bicester in Oxfordshire. The work was carried out as a response for a request for an archaeological investigation by Natural England prior to determining part of an appeal to remove a hedge and put the north part of West Meadow (the Site) under the plough. Three hand-dug test trenches targeted undated earthworks and presumed ditches associated with them. The date of the earthworks was not determined and no significant archaeological remains were found. No ditch was found in one trench and the other two trenches revealed very slight sub surface remains. The layers with the trenches indicated ploughing ceased some 150 years ago (in line with historic map evidence).

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Bicester, Catalyst Bicester SP 5752 2097

JOE WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology confirmed the presence of a late prehistoric/early Roman cremation cemetery along with a series of associated ditches and discrete features in the vicinity of the Roman road which ran from Bicester to Towcester.

Bicester, Howes Lane SP 5631 2300

EMILY TROAKE and STEVEN BUSH

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Middle Iron Age to late Roman activity. The earliest features comprised a series of ditched boundaries, a roundhouse and several discrete features dating from the Middle Iron Age. Later Iron Age and Roman activity primarily comprised a series of boundary ditches of rectilinear layout. A later phase of 2nd-3rd-century boundaries replaced the earlier layout. A number of discrete features, including pits and a group of intercut, curvilinear ditches also date to this period. A late Roman phase, of 3rd-4th-century date, included a series of quarry pits, one of which contained a stone-built well shaft. Two poorly-preserved, inhumation burials, of probable Late Roman date, had been inserted into earlier ditch fills.

Cherwell, Land west of Hook Norton Road, Sibford

Ferris SP 3543 3706

MOLLY DAY and DALE LANGFORD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified middle to late Iron Age activity comprising an enclosure, boundary ditch and several isolated pits and a ditch. A Roman enclosure and an undated but possibly associated enclosure were also present.

Cholsey, Wallingford Road, Phase 2 SU 5944 8680

SAM WILSON

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified several Late Neolithic ditches most likely forming part of a larger agricultural system of enclosures and drove ways. A pit containing evidence of hearth waste also dates to this

period. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age field system ditches including small paddocks or enclosures and trackways/drove ways as well as pit were also present.

New Marston Swan School and Meadowbrook College

SP 5252 0837

JAMES COYNE

An excavation and watching brief identified two ring ditch and several pits that were possibly associated. Isolated ditches and pits also date to this period. Two Late Iron Age to Early Roman enclosures, with internal ditches and pits were recorded. Roman activity comprised two phases of enclosures along with a pottery production kiln and two inhumation burials. Medieval plough furrows were also present.

North Leigh, Land Adjacent to the A4095 SP 3892 1264

ADAM HOWARD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a single undated pit.

Wallingford, 99 High Street SU 6093 8952

JEREMY CLUTTERBUCK

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified post medieval and early modern levelling deposits and a 20th century chalk surface.

Wallingford, Land at CABI Headquarters, Nosworthy Way SU 6119 8825

ADAM HOWARD and MATT NICHOL

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a number of isolated pits and postholes within one area, some of which contained Bronze Age pottery. Several other undated pits and ditches were dispersed across the wider site. A curvilinear ditch containing a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was also present.

Woodstock, Land south east of Woodstock SP 4539 1618

SIÂN REYNISH and ANDREW MUDD.

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Late Bronze Age copper-alloy shield found laid face down in an irregular feature (Fig. 7). The shield belongs to the Yeltham type, which is common to the British Isles. Three Iron Age ring ditches and a ditch as well as medieval/post-medieval plough furrows were also present.

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Faringdon, Brightside House, 10 Regent Mews

SU 288 956

EMELIE FRANSSON and TRACY MICHAELS

A programme of archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in December 2019 during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new two storey dwelling and garage at 10 Regent Mews, Faringdon.

The watching brief revealed a single linear cut feature which appeared to be Modern in origin. Artefactual evidence consisted of two sherds of late Post-medieval/Modern pottery, which were noted but not retained. No further



Figure 3: Aerial photograph of excavation area at Howes Lane, Bicester



Figure 4: Howes Lane, Bicester, Stone-lined well within a quarry pit, looking west (0.4m scale)



Figure 5: New Marston; Pottery production kiln 2237, looking west



Figure 6: New Marston; Skeleton SK 6085, looking south-west (scales 2m)



Figure 7: Woodstock; Late Bronze Age Yeltham-type shield, plan view (0.4m scales)

archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the stripped area. However, it should be noted, that due to the sloping nature of the study area, only part of the site exposed the natural substrates, so it is possible that potential archaeology was masked across the remaining the area.

Harwell, Land at Long Reach SU 50501 89445

Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation in December 2019 on land at Long Reach, Harwell, Oxfordshire. The evaluation identified natural clay marl substrates overlaid by a clay silt subsoil, which was in turn sealed by a clay silt topsoil. A total of four furrows were present in the southern part of the site. No other archaeological features or finds were present within the evaluation trenches and, therefore, the site is considered to be of low archaeological potential.

Long Wittenham, Moonfield House, 12B High Street SU 5427 9365

IAN SALISBURY

A programme of archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in April 2019 during the construction of an outhouse building, garage conversion and extension at Moonfield House, Long Wittenham.

There were no archaeological features, finds or deposits present within any of the watched areas. The only finds were recovered were from the topsoil, these were modern in date and consisted of pottery, animal bone and plastic. However, it should be noted that the natural deposits were only revealed in some of the excavations, so this negative result, does not

preclude the possibility of further archaeological remains being present elsewhere within the vicinity of the site.

Milton, 87 High Street SU 48598 92128

ANDREW HOOD

Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation in April 2019 on land at 87 High Street, Milton, Oxfordshire. The evaluation identified two former land boundaries, one of which was located parallel and to the east of the High Street. The only other feature was a small pit of uncertain function. Due to a general paucity of artefacts, the identified features remained poorly dated, although the presence of Roman and Medieval pottery within stratified contexts indicated that they may be of some antiquity. The results of the evaluation trenching suggest that any archaeological remains present within the site are likely to be agricultural in nature.

North Stoke, Land off Wallingford Road SU 6131 8614

ANDREW HOOD

A programme of archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in April 2019 during groundworks associated with the construction of two new residential dwellings on land off Wallingford Road, North Stoke.

The archaeological works recovered a flint assemblage which suggested two phases of Prehistoric activity within the site, dating to the Late Mesolithic and Late Neolithic – Bronze Age periods. Further evidence for on-site Prehistoric activity was present in the form of a probable Prehistoric pit, which contained struck flints and animal bones.

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Three large cut features possibly represented a former quarry pit and two roadside ditches were present within the north and eastern areas of the site. The interpretation of these features remained uncertain, although, limited dating evidence suggested that they were unlikely to have been related to the on-site Prehistoric activity, with the quarrying provisionally dated to the later Medieval/Post-medieval periods.

Land between Sutton Courtenay and Milton Park SU 49745 92349

Between October 2017 and October 2018 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring during the removal of a below ground off-site discharge pipe within the area of a Scheduled Monument. The archaeological works successfully ensured that the pipe removal groundworks did not impact inappropriately upon the Scheduled Monument. The excavations comprised the exposure/removal of modern backfill deposits and effluent pipes, within the previously excavated pipe trench. Three possible postholes and a possible pit, all of which were visible in section at the edge of the previously excavated trench, probably represented archaeological remains associated with the scheduled settlement site.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Preston Crowmarsh, between 51 Preston Crowmarsh and Lower Farmhouse SU 6160 9093

DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained on a plot of land between 51 Preston Crowmarsh and Manor Farm House, Oxfordshire, within an area of Iron Age and Roman settlement. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

Toot Baldon, Queens Cottage SP 5687 0075

DAVID FELL and BOB ZEEPvat

A watching brief during construction works at Queen's Cottage, Toot Baldon. The site was within the medieval village but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Abingdon, Land to the rear of 39 Ock Street SU 4942 9706

ALESSANDRO GUAGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Land to the rear of 39 Ock Street, Abingdon in January 2019 ahead of a planning application for the demolition of two existing workshops and erection of two new residential buildings. The investigation identified only modern and post-medieval activity on the site, in the form of three pits. The lowest deposit is possibly a medieval buried soil deposit, similar to what has been witnessed elsewhere in Abingdon, and it is possible that earlier archaeology is stratified below this. Unfortunately due to the depths of the deposits in the area, and health and safety concerns, the evaluation trench could not be excavated to a greater depth.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-339625

Abingdon, 4 Northcourt Walk SU 5014 9791

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief in March 2019 at 4 Northcourt Walk, Abingdon-On-Thames. Planning permission had been granted for the demolition of an existing conservatory and the erection of a full-width single storey rear extension (P18/V3108/HH). This particular area had potential for medieval remains; however, during the course of the watching brief, no archaeological features or remains were discovered from that period. However, the works did uncover two 19th century pit features.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-347282

Adderbury, Land west of Horn Hill Road SP 4649 3531

NATASHA DJUKIC

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological investigation in May 2019 at Horn Hill Road, Adderbury. Cherwell District Council had granted planning permission for residential development of a single dwelling, including access and landscaping (17/00588/F). The investigation included an area of excavation within the footprint of the proposed dwelling and three evaluation trenches. The only feature identified within the area of excavation was one curving Roman ditch (this was previously identified through earlier evaluation). Within the evaluation trenches a small medieval ditch, an undated pit and a furrow were recorded. The remains encountered therefore suggest the site was on the peripheral edges of activity during both the Roman and Medieval periods, possibly within an area of fields.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-362403

Ambrosden, Merton Road, Meadow Barn SP 6015 1927

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation in April 2018 at Meadow Barn, Ambrosden. Planning approval was granted by Cherwell District Council for the erection of two new detached dwellings (18/01076/F). Three trenches were excavated. The evaluation identified an undated linear ditch containing animal bone, a pit containing post-medieval material and what was either a large pit or several intercutting pits containing a mixture of material which included medieval pottery but also later brick and glass.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-350978

Bainton, The Woodyard SP 5773 2708

STEPHANIE DUENSING

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at The Woodyard, Bainton, in July 2019. Cherwell District Council had granted planning permission for the erection of a building for the dry storage of forestry products and associated machinery (17/01856/F). The site was located approximately 40m to the north of previously investigated medieval houses dated to the 10th to 12th centuries and is within the area of the deserted medieval village of Bainton. A single trench 25m in length was excavated. Within the trench a single ditch was recorded, running on a N-S alignment, from which 30 sherds of early medieval pottery were recovered. It appeared that the ditch had been initially

left open to be filled by slow erosion processes, likely during use. It then appears to have been intentionally backfilled, possibly only in part, with surrounding refuse including the pottery recovered in this intervention.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-359174

Barton, 7 Barton Village Road, Land adjacent to Barton Manor SP 5507 0783

NATASHA DJUKIC

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at land adjacent to Barton Manor in July 2019. Oxford City Council had granted planning permission for the erection of two houses and associated features (17/01834/FUL and 17/01835/LBC). The investigation revealed part of a large feature that extended outside the confines of one of the trenches. It is possible that this was a large boundary ditch associated with the manor house. Apart from this feature, a number of other features were identified; two post-medieval gullies and ditches, a post-medieval well, and the remains of construction cut which that was likely associated with the two post-medieval cottages that previously occupied the site.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-379067

Benson, 22–24 Blacklands Road and land to the rear of Blacklands Road SU 6222 9208

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI and STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

Archaeological mitigation and monitoring took place during development of land behind 22–24 Blacklands Road, Benson, Oxfordshire over the course of several visits between August 2018 and September 2019. Planning permission was granted by South Oxfordshire District Council for the erection of 11 dwellings (P16/S3501/FUL); a previous evaluation had indicated that the site had archaeological potential. The most notable discovery during the monitoring were the remains of an Anglo Saxon period Sunken Featured Building (SFB) and associated postholes. This was centrally located within the open area of excavation in advance of the creation of an access road. The SFB was of a standard 2 post type, and showed evidence that it had been dismantled prior to backfilling of its pit. Alongside the SFB, there was also a pit to the west of the site which also dated to the Anglo-Saxon period. These two features are considered to be related to a main area of domestic activity further south, which followed the line of the brook, linking Anglo-Saxon Ewelme and Benson.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-367205

Bletchington, Spring Hill, Bletchington Park SP 5053 1802

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed developments to the land surrounding Bletchington House, located on the Bletchington Park estate in Bletchington, Oxfordshire (18/01945/F). A total of 42 trenches ranging from 3m to 30m in length and 1.9m in width were strategically placed in five areas across the estate. Areas 1 & 2 were in the northern field systems which were thought to be of low archaeological potential based on historic maps and records. However,

due to the long standing nature of the use of the land for agriculture associated with the estate, and the limited amount of archaeological testing in the immediate area, it was determined to be prudent to produce a sample of the area. Of the 42 total trenches, 24 were placed between these two areas, but only three of these contained evidence of activity earlier than that associated with modern agricultural use. The archaeological evidence showed a series of three separate ditches, two running on a N-S alignment and one on a E-W alignment, were present prior to the modern layout of the fields and tracks. Area 3 was located to the northwest of the main house directly south of the fish-ponds which were being heavily renovated. The topsoil had been previously removed prior to monitoring of the excavation of the seven trenches, but the natural clay was immediately present below the removed topsoil. No archaeological preservation was observed in this area.

Areas 4 & 5 were to the south of the main house and were determined to be of archaeological potential. Of the 11 remaining trenches in these two areas, all but two contained archaeological remains. Evidence of the earlier medieval road leading from the village to Saint Giles Church was seen in two trenches. There was evidence of previous garden landscaping including level formation deposits and spatial division methods (i.e. walls and ditches), a garden boundary wall running parallel to the road, multiple ditches and pits which were likely to predate the current main house, and a substantial foundation wall which could have associated with a fairly substantial structure. The features all dated to roughly the same High Medieval time frame, between the 11th and 14th centuries.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-363553

Cassington, Eynsham Road, Manor Farm SP 4529 1068

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during August 2018 and January 2019 at Manor Farm in Cassington. Planning permission had been granted for the demolition of existing barns, and the erection of 10 residential dwellings. The archaeological works undertaken during the course of the project proved the existence of minimal medieval activity comprising a single, shallow pit. The archaeological works primarily uncovered numerous modern features that were associated with the pre-existing farm and its associated outbuildings, including the recently demolished Dutch barns. There is no evidence to suggest that this particular area saw periods of activity prior to the medieval period.

Chinnor, High Street, Tall Trees SP 7570 0097

TOM ROSE-JONES

A watching brief was maintained at Tall Trees, High Street, Chinnor during groundworks in July 2019. South Oxfordshire District Council had granted planning permission to construct an extension (P19/S0265/HH). The sequence of medieval and post-medieval features and deposits recorded during excavation at The Rectory, immediately to the northeast, did not appear to extent south into the monitored area (SMA 46, p.60); only two archaeological features were recorded. A large pit, interpreted as a quarry pit, and a smaller pit containing a fill rich in organic material; though no dating

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evidence was recovered both were truncated by the footing of Tall Trees, indicating that they pre-date the construction of the house in the 1960s.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-364001

Churchill, Churchill Farm, Kingham Road

SP 2810 2410

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

A second stage of archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Churchill Farm, Kingham Road in June 2018. The site was formerly occupied by derelict farm buildings and a yard, which had been demolished prior to the second stage of the archaeological evaluation; West Oxfordshire District Council had granted planning permission for the erection of 10 dwellings with associated garages, car parking and landscaping (ref. 16/03533/FUL). The site showed signs of previous, extensive truncation and levelling associated with the construction of the formerly upstanding farm buildings. In three of the trenches a number of modern services were found. Two modern pits associated to the farm buildings were also identified. One ditch terminus, or pit, was identified in trench 9. No other archaeological material was found within the study area.

Oasis ID: johnmoor1-320377

Eynsham, 4 Oxford Road SP 43667 09577

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Coach House, 4 Oxford Road in February to March 2019; West Oxfordshire District Council had granted planning permission for the erection of two dwellings (15/03956/FUL). This watching brief was preceded by an evaluation, undertaken in 2015, and a watching brief, undertaken in 2017 (SMA 46 and 48). The first stage of groundworks uncovered features dating from the Early-Medieval to the Post-Medieval periods, including a substantial linear ditch and two pits. The second stage revealed numerous features from the Roman period, early medieval and medieval periods, and the 19th century. These features included six linear ditches and terminus features and three pit features.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-374759

Gatehampton Road, Gatehampton Farm, Nursery Farm SU 6073 7980

GRACE GRIFFITH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Nursery Farm, Gatehampton Road in October 2019. South Oxfordshire District Council had granted planning permission for the construction of a garage/workshop and office area (P19/S1152/FUL). The development site lies 100m SW of the site of a Roman villa, which has been extensively excavated by the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group; however, the watching brief did not identify any evidence of archaeological activity at the site.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-372234

Great Tew, St Michael and All Angels Church

SP 3976 2849

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Great Tew, in January 2018. The work consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of five small test pits that cut through the topsoil and graveyard soils. No articulated human remains were encountered and any charnel bone was reinterred into the test pits. No other archaeological features were present.

Oasis ID: johnmoor1-310842

Holton, The Old Barn SP 6057 0629

TOM ROSE-JONES

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the course of groundworks at The Old Barn, Holton in September 2019. South Oxfordshire District Council had granted planning permission for a 'Proposed stable and fodder store with an upper floor storage area, accessed by an external staircase' (P18/S2582/HH). Analysis of LIDAR imagery demonstrated the presence of extant earthworks surrounding the site: the groundworks were located within a sub-rectangular enclosure located south of the moated site of Church Farm House. A service trench was excavated across the former line of the moat. A made ground deposit was recorded in the trench that may be the upper level of moat backfill, deposited when the moat was backfilled in the 20th century; however, the service trench was not deep enough to record any direct evidence of the moat. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in the footprint of the proposed stable.

Oasis ID: johnmoor1-366031

Long Hanborough, Land south of Witney Road SP 4120 1400

TOM ROSE-JONES with contributions from JOHN MOORE and JANE TIMBY

An excavation was undertaken at land south of Witney Road, Long Hanborough in 2017; this followed a previous evaluation, undertaken in early 2017 (SMA 48, p.83). The excavation area was approximately 6100m² and targeted a concentration of Iron Age features recorded during the evaluation. West Oxfordshire District Council had granted outline planning consent for the development of up to 160 dwellings on the site (14/1234/P/OP).

The activity found within the area of excavation consisted of a small enclosure and associated pits. The enclosure formed a triangular area against the south western boundary of the examined site and it seems likely that excavation encountered only a small portion of its extent, with the majority located beyond the limit of excavation to the south west. The enclosure comprised five ditch segments; with the exception of three gullies there was no evidence of recutting, perhaps indicating that the enclosure had a relatively short lifespan. The ditches of the enclosure were associated with two large pits that displayed evidence of burning in situ and as such are thought to represent hearths.

The ditches enclosed an S-shaped gully, likely to be the remains of a foundation trench for a wattle fence or similar structure. It is likely that this structure was originally longer,

as substantial truncation appears to have taken place as a result of later ploughing. Charcoal and baked clay found in the upper fill suggest that the structure was burnt down, possibly signalling the decommissioning or abandonment of the site.

A ditch extended north from the enclosure; this may be related to the division of the area into different zones, activity areas or fields. This is broadly supported by the archaeological evidence, which appears to demonstrate a change in the concentration of pits across the site from northwest to southeast, corresponding with the location of the ditch. Of particular interest is the fact that all the cremated deposits were found northwest of this ditch.

Pits containing cremated remains included: a pit containing cremated bone found in association with a pottery vessel, considered likely to be an urned burial; a large piece of conglomerate and a number of heat affected pebbles found in a pit, and three pits with charcoal rich fills which also contained cremated remains. These remains are perhaps deposits of pyre debris, unfortunately the degradation of the features as a result of ploughing precludes a more detailed interpretation.

While more, and perhaps the majority, of this site remains to the west of the excavated area the results do pose some interesting questions. The number of deposits of cremated bone within a relatively small area adjacent to an interrupted ditched enclosure (with one deposit in part of the enclosure ditch) perhaps points to some particular funerary or ritual function.

The pottery assemblage suggests a very modest rural site dating from the pre-Roman Iron

Age into to later 1st or 2nd century. The assemblage was dominated by grog-tempered wares of later Iron Age to the early Roman date. The other main fabrics noted were a grog and limestone-tempered ware, various calcareous and sandy with calcareous inclusions and a few fine sandy sherds which are more likely to be of early Roman date.

The remains encountered are therefore likely to represent a low status rural settlement of later Iron Age or early Roman date. It is likely that the majority of the settlement was situated on the higher ground immediately to the west of the area of excavation, with excavation encountering the eastern most edges. The finding of nine deposits of cremated human bone and 621 fragments of fired clay is interesting, and may point to a more specialised activity use for this area of the larger settlement. The date of this settlement site appears to be contemporary with the North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch (Thomas 1957, Fine 1976, Copeland 1988) with the latter stating the first quarter of the 1st century. This feature has recently been identified just to the north of the site on the other side of Witney Road (Leech 2018; Oasis ID: johnmoor1-310740) and the line of it would be just to the west of this excavation site.

The LIA-Roman features were truncated by six Medieval/Post-Medieval furrows; additional Medieval agricultural activity was seen further to the south east where two linear ditches and three pits were recorded that contained Medieval pottery.

Copeland, T., 1988 The North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch: a Fieldwork Survey. *Oxoniensia* LIII, 277–292

Fine, D., 1976 An Excavation of the North Oxfordshire Grim's ditch at North Leigh. *Oxoniensia* XLI, 12–16

Leech, S., 2018 An Archaeological Evaluation at Land North of Witney Road, Long Hanborough, Oxfordshire. Unpublished John Moore Heritage Services Report

Thomas, N., 1957 Excavations at Callow Hill, Glympton and Stonesfield. *Oxoniensia* XXII, 11–54

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-317342

Long Wittenham, Didcot Road, Challis Farm SU 54594 93692

CRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Challis Farm between October and November 2019. Planning permission had been granted by South Oxfordshire District Council for the demolition of an existing barn, and the erection of a 4 bed dwelling. This particular area had potential for various remains; including Iron Age, Roman, Anglo Saxon and Medieval. However, during the course of the watching brief, no archaeological features or remains were discovered from any of these periods; only a single 19th century pit.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-372598

Long Wittenham, St Mary's Church SU 5484 9404

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Mary's Church, Long Wittenham intermittently, between July 2017 and October 2018. South Oxfordshire District Council had granted planning permission for construction of an extension to the north aisle to provide a WC and wheelchair access (P16/S3959/FUL). The watching brief was successful in recording several inhumations and a series of graveyard soil layers. A compact layer of material located immediately below the topsoil and spread over a wide area to the north and west of the Church may be associated with renovation works undertaken in 1850.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-336219

Northmoor, Standlake Road, Patchfield Barn SP 4134 0285

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Patchfield Barn on the north side of Standlake Road, Northmoor in May 2018. Historic England issued Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for conversion and extension of 'Patchfield Barn' to provide a single dwelling. The site is located in Scheduled Monument 1006343 – Prehistoric and later settlements near Northmoor; however, no archaeological features or deposits were encountered in any of the monitored excavated areas.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-318630

Oxford, 1a Cranham Street SP 5068 0709

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at 1A Cranham Street, Oxford in Januar 2019. Planning permission was granted on appeal for the erection of a three storey apartment building to provide two flats (APP/G3110/W/17/3184277). A single evaluation trench was

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excavated down to the natural gravel and revealed made ground over the remains of a wall for a former garage/workshop, a modern pit, and a large pit with pottery dating to the 19th Century. The stratigraphy of the site indicated 20th century activity above what was possibly an earlier post-medieval buried soil. No earlier finds or features were identified during the excavations.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-342123

Oxford, Land East of Warren Crescent SP 5480 0590

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during initial groundworks at land east of Warren Crescent in September 2019. Oxford City Council District Council had granted planning permission for the erection of 10 × 3 bed dwellings (13/01555/CT3). Due to a planning appeal a single footing was excavated in order to ensure that planning permission was implemented. No archaeological features or deposits were present. However, the excavation indicated that the site, at least in this area, has been subject to relatively little truncation and as such there is the potential for the survival of archaeological remains in the vicinity of this initial work.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-379441

Oxford, 12 Norham Gardens SP 5131 0744

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

A watching brief was maintained during the course of groundworks at 12 Norham Gardens, Oxford from May to September 2018. Oxford City Council had granted planning permission for alteration, demolition and extension to the building (16/02279/FUL); Norham Gardens is located within an extensive prehistoric ritual and agricultural landscape, identified through cropmarks within University Parks and excavation in previously developed areas. During the excavation of the basements, a truncated ditch terminus was investigated and recorded. Five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the feature which was roughly 2m in total length. External works on the site revealed only 19th and 20th century material, which was likely to be from the construction phase of the house and the continuing use of the extant structure and gardens from the mid to late 19th century onwards.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-334408

Oxford, University Parks SP 5171 0745

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at the University Parks in January 2019. Oxford City Council had granted planning permission for the erection of a swift tower in the University Parks (18/02112/FUL), which has a high potential for both Prehistoric and Roman remains; however, during the course of the watching brief, no archaeological features or remains were discovered.

OASIS ID: johnmoor-339880

South Hinksey, Southern Bypass Road, Hinksey Heights Nature Park SP 5011 0462

STEFFAN KLEMENIC

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hinksey Heights Nature Park in October 2019. Two newt ponds were excavated, one pond was located in the north of the site (SP 50110 04625) and one in the south (SP 50336 04403). No archaeological deposits or features were encountered during the course of the monitoring.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-372458

Sutton Courtenay, The Green, All Saints Church SU 5049 9420

TOM ROSE-JONES

A watching brief was maintained during the course of groundworks at All Saints Church, Sutton Courtenay. Vale of White Horse District Council had granted planning permission for the erection of an extension to the north side of the church to provide a meeting room with kitchen and toilets (P15/V3024/FUL-8).

A total of 28 inhumations were recorded during the watching brief in addition to four brick built vaults and extensive disarticulated human remains. Without exception the skeletons were found within earth cut graves; however the cuts of the graves were rarely visible, except where truncation of an earlier burial had occurred. The date range is uncertain, though a late medieval or early post-medieval date is likely based on the shallow depth of burials, which were encountered between approximately 0.75 and 1.3m below ground level. A proliferation of shrouded burials was also evident. Four probable 18th or early 19th century burials were also recorded.

The nature of the work did not allow for detailed skeletal analysis and due to the type of groundworks no complete inhumations were recorded; however, some brief observations can be made. Of the burials excavated 20 adults were identified, 3 subadults, 1 juvenile and 1 infant; 3 remained of undetermined age due to poor preservation. Skeletons 30 and 36 were the only earth cut burials associated with coffins, while two well preserved wooden coffins were present within a brick vault. The surviving coffin furniture was dated to the late 18th or early 19th century on the basis of the lid motifs, examples of which were previously identified on coffins at St George's Church, Bloomsbury (Boston et al, 2009, pp. 148–172).

Boston, C, Boyle, A, Gill, J and Witkin, A, 2009 'In the vaults beneath' Archaeological recording at St George's Church, Bloomsbury. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd

Oasis ID: johnmoor1-364013

Wallingford, Land off Saxon Close SU 6005 8929

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at the site of former garages, Saxon Close, Wallingford in January 2020. South Oxfordshire District Council had granted planning permission for the erection of four flats, three bungalows and associated works. Three trenches were excavated. An undated ditch was identified in the easternmost trench, orientated north-east to south-west. To the west of this was an area of possible intercutting ditches

which was later interpreted as the result of a large tree throw hole. Four possible ditches were identified towards the west of the site. These features were undated and showed signs of bioturbation and may also be the result of natural processes. A pit to the north of these possible ditches was undated and may also have been the result of bioturbation. To the south of these ditches was a modern pit which contained machine cut bone, plate metal and modern ceramic brick and tile.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-380416

Wallingford, 16 Castle Street, The Elms SU 6071 8965

STEFFAN KLEMENIC

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Elms, 16 Castle Street, in October 2019. South Oxfordshire District Council had granted planning permission for a variety of alterations to the listed building. The west side of a Post-Medieval cut feature was recorded within soakaway 1 while a variety of modern features and ground levelling deposits were also encountered.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-370942

Weston-on-the-Green, The Moat SP 5347 1837

CARLOS FERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ and STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief on the south-west side of Northampton Road, Weston-on-the-Green between October 2017 and May 2018. Cherwell District Council had granted planning permission for the demolition of an existing dwelling, the erection of a replacement dwelling and the extension of ancillary building (17/01193/F). Evidence of the historic moat with evidence of at least one recut was recorded. Medieval pottery was recovered from a buried soil horizon that post-dated the latest deposits of the moat. Two ditches and two possible ditches were found that were orientated approximately perpendicular to the moat ditch. There were also multiple potential cut features which could be drainage ditches, however, due to the irregular placement and high water content they were identified as natural buried watercourse ways or glacial features. These potential features produced no finds.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-318690

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Henton, Chinnor, Manor Farm SP 7630 0251

LAURA DODD

Between June and July 2019, an archaeological evaluation was carried out at Manor Farm Henton, Chinnor, Oxfordshire as a requirement of Conditions 4 and 5 of the planning permission for developing the site. In total 14 archaeological features were identified in three of the six trenches excavated, which included five ditches, two pits, four postholes, and area of scorched earth. The majority of these features were located to the northwest of the site within a disused paddock. The site is adjacent to the remnants of a medieval moat, and historical Ordnance Survey Maps show that a number of substantial earthworks are contiguous with the site. This investigation exposed a series of ditches that formed part of the medieval settlement's earthworks. The

largest of these may have formed part of the moat or it was simply a wide medieval enclosure ditch. In addition, the alignment of postholes within Trench 1 indicates a fence line, or a standing structure(s) to the northwest of the site. It was evident that a large amount of ground management has taken place during the late 20th century to prepare the grounds for use as a cattle farm and later as a livery yard.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Coleshill, Coleshill House SU 2385 9365

WALFORD, J

A geophysical survey covered approximately 4ha of land south-west of Coleshill House and targeting part of a former garden. A rectangular pattern of anomalies was detected, probably defining compartments of a 17th to 18th-century formal garden, whilst other anomalies related to 19th-century features including garden paths, an icehouse and part of a model farm. Earlier phases of remains, including small areas of medieval ridge and furrow and part of an undated enclosure ditch were also identified. OASIS 353126

Kirtlington, Heyford Road, Akeman Spinney SP 500

203

CHRIS PENNELL

The archaeological mitigation and watching brief on land at Akeman Spinney, revealed the presence of an Iron Age ditch and pit that contained a small assemblage of early Iron Age pottery. The Iron Age ditch lies almost exactly along the former route of the Roman Road of Akeman Street. Also recovered were two phases of medieval boundary ditches which dated to the 11th to late 12th-century and a number of associated postholes and pits were recorded. These may indicate the presence of burgage plots. OASIS 345809

Oxford, South Parks Road, Rhodes House

SP 5152 0680

GRAHAM ARKLEY JOHN and WALFORD

An earth resistance survey across the gardens of Rhodes House indicated a possible garden path or drain along the east of the survey area, as well as some linear features of unknown character. Other, less coherent anomalies perhaps relate to construction of the present house or levelling works for the lawns. Nothing was identified that could be positively associated with the adjacent Civil War defences of Oxford. OASIS 374451

NATIONAL TRUST

Chastleton, Chastleton House centred on SP 2483 2907

Four small test pits, intended to assess the potential impact of recreating flower beds within the Best Garden at Chastleton, were excavated in early 2019. Stone foundations, believed to date from the 14th century, have been found in the Best Garden, hence concerns around the potential archaeological impact of recreating these beds. No significant archaeology was found, the pits confirming that the iron-rich limestone bedrock lies at a depth of about 0.75m below the current ground surface and is overlain by a buried soil at about 0.5m depth.

Oxfordshire

Work during the course of the provision of services for a new visitor centre at Chastleton House, including improvements to the accessible car park and the cutting of several hundred metres of service trenches, revealed foundations of two hitherto unknown stone buildings. The watching brief was carried out by Stephen Wass of Polyolbion Archaeology in 2018. One lay immediately to the south of the existing stable block (SP24802900) and consisted of the foundation course of two sides of a large stone building with a smaller annexe attached to the west end. Its function remained unclear but there was good evidence for it having had glazed windows and a stone tiled roof. An early 17th century date seems likely for the building, potentially this could be the 'Wool Howse' described in an inventory dating from 1633.

The second structure lay to the south of the church in the adjoining meadow (SP24892901). Here a well-laid pitched stone yard was partially uncovered adjacent to a second stone building with a well-preserved stone flagged floor existing just a few centimetres below ground level. This was almost certainly an outbuilding for the former C16th? Greenwood House which stood to the north east. Evidence from finds provided no clues as to a construction date for these buildings but did indicate that both were carefully taken down and the ground levelled sometime in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

Rotherfield Greys, Greys Court SU 7240 8329

A watching brief was maintained by National Trust archaeologist Gary Marshall over an IT cable entering the southern side of the 1950s estate yard buildings. Little of note was found, although a 9-inch brick wall was encountered, probably the remains of lean-to piggeries associated with the estate buildings.

NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Swalcliffe, Upper Lea, Roman Site SP 393 387

EDWARD SHAWYER

We started digging on this site in 2017 by opening two small test trenches (1 and 2) upon the densest area of roman finds and discovered the remains of a wall running NW to SE with a clay floor to the south of it and a stone floor to the north, with traces of a possible clay floor beneath.

In 2018 we dug 3 small trenches (A, B and C). Trench A to the east just exposed what looked like an area of local stone brash on the edge of the ridge, so it was closed down.

Trench B, a 2.6 × 1.6 trench located just north of trench 1 uncovered a stretch of stone floor, the same as found before. The stones were medium sized (that is neither pebble nor large building stones nor slabs). Many were fire reddened, among which were a fair number of white limestone slates, which in other buildings were used as floor material as well as roof tiles. This floor was just 30 cms below the surface and where it was eroded away an earlier white clay floor was detected, which itself rested upon a layer of smooth pebbles. Below this was the natural orange coloured ironstone soil about 45 cms from the surface, which soon gave way to thick clay.

We sited Trench C, 10.5 metres west of Trench B and here we exposed 6m of stone brash just 30cms from the surface with no occupation save one small posthole. Just to

the north of this stretch of stony ground we found a metre wide v shaped ditch running E -W. The fill of this feature was formed of a dark humus, stones, many fire reddened, charcoal and animal bones. Shell tempered, Iron age pottery was found in the ditch.

The trench cut through the natural orange coloured soil and it also cut through a circular clay lined storage pit, which was identical to those we excavated on the Iron age village in 2007 (see CBA Newsletter 2008).

In 2019 we dug trench D (6x2m) about 20m to the north east of trench B. Here we found a 3m stretch of the same stone floor which ended in a 70cm wide robber trench full of a dark, loose soil. There were a few flat stones laid obliquely on the edge, marking where the wall ended. This technique we have noted before in the construction of walls and floors.

To the north of this trench were the scanty remains of a stone surface with lots of bones and burnt stones. Below this were patches of an earlier clay floor laid upon a pebble surface. A section was dug through the robber trench and the floor, which revealed shell tempered Iron age pottery and bone in the orange soil beneath the early clay floor. Just 60cms from the surface the natural gave way to a thick, yellow clay layer.

In conclusion our excavation has revealed part of a roman building, of which two phases have been detected so far with iron age features adjacent and possibly beneath the roman. The dates so far seem to be 1st to 3rd century AD from analysis of the pottery which has just simple rims and not overhanging ones like the later forms. In Trench D we found an Iron Age silver quarter stater coin of the Dobunni showing a 3 tailed horse and rider on the obverse and a stylized head on the reverse. So far we have recorded 11 Iron age coins from Swalcliffe Lea, 10 of which belong to the Dobunni tribe and 1 late coin to the Catuvellauni tribe.

The Upper Lea site has now been shown to be part of the Lower Lea settlement by two geophysical surveys carried out in 2018 and 2019, which show that the farmstead was linked to the main site by a small road or lane. Other outlying sites exist by the Rowbarrow and near Round hill. All these peripheral buildings circle around Madmarston hill, which also had late Roman occupation. Just two fields to the east was the large villa complex discovered just over 3 years ago. What is interesting is that the roman settlement of the Lea seems to be built upon an earlier dispersed, late Iron age settlement, which is sited in the fields around the hillfort.

Swalcliffe, Lower Lea Survey 2018 NGR not supplied

EDWARD SHAWYER

A survey by Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics was carried out by Roger Ainslie's team at the request of Keith Westcott who had found a large villa near the Lea in 2016 and excavated part of it. Naturally this renewed interest in the roman settlement next door, which unknown to NOAG had been downgraded in importance by a re-assessment carried out by Historic England. The site was described as just 10 minor buildings and a villa along a road. Unfortunately I had been misquoted since when asked to describe the settlement I said that "so far 10 buildings had been exposed by excavation". Also our fieldwalking survey wasn't examined (see CBA Newsletter 1998), nor earlier groups discoveries, which are not well documented or easy to obtain.

So, when Roger Ainslie conducted his survey he detected over a 0.93 hectare strip of land in the "flat" field and his

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

findings corresponded quite closely with our fieldwalking survey. Extensive building remains, ditches, enclosures and another road were found. When we began our work at the Lea in 1996, the settlement was estimated as covering 52 acres, since then we have found extra outlying sites and have proved that part of the settlement extended to the upper lea. So far about 13 buildings have been partially excavated some of which were large compound farms which could have housed a number of families. The site had a number of stone lined wells and cobbled lanes and seems quite prosperous. The houses were in no way minor constructions, but quite large and well-made buildings.

Swalcliffe, Upper Lea Survey 2019 NGR not supplied

EDWARD SHAWYER

This year Roger Ainslie carried out a survey of 1.3 hectares for us around the upper lea roman site. Unfortunately, the shallow remains, compressed and eroded by heavy farm vehicles left only patches of high resistance where the building was. Magnetometry however clearly defined deeper features and a lot of ditches, possible iron working, pits and enclosures showed up along with three probable Iron age hut circles covering nearly all this area. The importance of this survey is that it has located part of the late iron age settlement. Both Madmarston hillfort (excavated 1957–8) and the Iron age village below (excavated 2007–8) have been dated to the early and mid- Iron Age. Nothing much was known about the Late Iron age settlement, though iron age ditches were dug on the flat in 1959 and 1968 by the Oxford University and Shipston on Stour archaeological societies. Then in 1998 we excavated a 1st century AD hut circle beneath the villa. Also two rectangular enclosures showed up on aerial photos to the east side of the upper and lower leas. Iron age finds have been made on the Round hill site and flintwork across all the settlement. The early-mid Iron age settlement was a nucleated cluster of over 13 hut circles at the southern foot of the hillfort. The late Iron age settlement seems to be a dispersed settlement of hut circles and enclosures in the fields around Madmarston hillfort. The subsequent Roman occupation merely carried on in the same spots, since the Dobunni were pro-roman and quickly romanized, with their tribal area becoming very prosperous during roman rule.

Swalcliffe, Round Hill Roman Site SP 3845 3935

EDWARD SHAWYER

The Round hill site extends over two fields, the southern one belonging to lower lea farm and the northern field to Upper lea farm. The northern field seems to have had the main building while the southern one had possible outbuildings. We excavated part of one of these buildings in 2004 (see CBA Newsletter 2005).

From 2016–2018 we dug three 2m × 1m trenches on the southern edge of the main site, here we found a clay floor covered by a thick layer of charcoal and burning. No walls were found, but loose worked building stones were instead. Because of the clay soil, the site dried out quickly and made excavation more difficult. We seem to nevertheless have found the location of some building of roman date.

The whole field is rich in roman finds, pottery, building stone, tegulae and imbrices, and also has yielded some Middle Iron age pottery and Neolithic flintwork.

Abingdon, Dunmore Road SU 49170 98768

ALEX DAVIES and MARTYN ALLEN

Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation at Dunmore Road, Abingdon, between January and March 2019. The excavation uncovered evidence of activity dating to the Neolithic, late Bronze Age, Iron Age, early Roman, and medieval/post-medieval periods.

A small assemblage of Neolithic pottery and some contemporary worked flint was mostly residual in later features, though one pit may have been of this date. Four pits were dated to the late Bronze Age or late Bronze Age/early Iron Age transition. One pit possibly dating to the late Bronze Age had evidence of *in-situ* burning, and a large amount of well-preserved pottery of this date was recovered.

Early Iron Age evidence comprised four post-built roundhouses and five or six that were defined by penannular ditches. Two enclosures also dated to the early Iron Age as well as a six-post structure and 11 pits. The settlement continued to be occupied into the middle Iron Age. Features of this date included three adjacent, recut rectilinear enclosures, as well as two larger enclosures. One possible small post-built roundhouse, 11 pits and a crouched inhumation burial also dated to the middle Iron Age.

Late Iron Age evidence comprised a long linear ditch, the alignment of which was probably based on the position of the middle Iron Age enclosures. This ditch led to a square enclosure encompassing c. 3900m². The enclosure was recut three times in the early Roman period, with a latest-phase annex being added to enclose a rectangular building. An early Roman trackway comprising two parallel ditches, again influenced by the positions of the middle Iron Age enclosures and the late Iron Age ditch, extended across the entirety of the site. Areas of metallurgy were discovered between the trackway ditches, the best-preserved comprising small pebbles overlaid by silt and larger limestone blocks. This feature may represent a road leading into Abingdon from the north-west. The site was abandoned in the early-mid 2nd century AD. The site was used for arable farming in the medieval/post-medieval period as seen from a series of furrows that cut across earlier features.

Abingdon, Northcourt Lane SU 5016 9824

RACHAEL DANIEL

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation to the north of Northcourt Lane, Abingdon. Two trenches were excavated and two ditches dating to the medieval period (900–1250) were recorded.

Abingdon, Oxford Road SU 4996 9960

LEE SPARKS

In June 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation for a residential development west of Oxford Road, Abingdon. A total of 99 trenches were excavated across the site. The trenching revealed no significant archaeological remains from any period. The earliest features identified were distinct areas of former ridge and furrow of medieval and post-medieval origin. A ditch marking the parish boundary was also identified. This was found to have been re-established during the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Oxfordshire

Ambrosden, Graven Hill SP 58863 20834

MARTYN ALLEN, ALEX DAVIES and STEVEN TEAGUE

Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation at Graven Hill, just south of Bicester, towards the end of 2016 and in 2017. Following earlier trial-trench evaluation (see SMA 46 and 47), five areas (A–E) and an additional watching brief area were identified for further excavation. The results of this work revealed remains dating to the middle Iron Age, the late Iron Age/early Roman, Anglo-Saxon, later medieval and post-medieval periods.

A small middle Iron Age settlement was found in Area E. This comprised two rectilinear enclosures and two waterholes structured around a north-south linear ditch. Other middle Iron Age activity comprised a pit in Area A and single ditches in Areas C and D.

A probable late Iron Age settlement was discovered in Area C, comprising three roundhouses and other minor features. Other late Iron Age activity included three parallel ditches of uncertain purpose in Area A. The site then witnessed several changes, probably in the early Roman period, when the settlement in Area C was replaced by a series of linear boundaries and a pit alignment. A section of Akeman Street Roman road was found constructed across the parallel ditches in Area A. The road surface comprised patches of limestone rubble placed upon redeposited natural clay. It was flanked by ditches with enclosures representing minor roadside activity. Limited late Iron Age/Roman activity was found in Area B, comprising a linear ditch and a scatter of postholes.

A group of Saxon brooches, pins and amber beads were discovered in the subsoil in Area C. These may have been a collection of grave goods, though no clearly associated human remains were found, other than a possible cremation burial that was found nearby. This cremation burial is currently undated, and no further Saxon evidence was discovered at the site.

The most significant discoveries were made in Area D, where the remains of a medieval rural farmstead built around a central courtyard was found. The buildings were constructed of stone and date to the 12th–14th century. Other features included a large trackway, enclosures and pits. Substantial assemblages of pottery and other finds were recovered. The farmstead appears to have been abandoned during the 14th century, possibly coinciding with the desertion of the medieval village to the north at Wretchwick (Scheduled Monument No: 1015549). A rectilinear field system was found in Area B and was broadly contemporary with farmstead. This may have been maintained for longer, however, as it was later bounded on the same orientation to the south by a long post-medieval ditch.

Benson, Hale Road SU 61680 92280

RACHAEL DANIEL

In September 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation to the west of Hale Road, Benson. The trenches were targeted on the results of the geophysical survey which identified ferrous spreads and a potential linear feature. The trenching identified two pits and two linear features. One pit was of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date and the second was undated but perhaps of the same phase. The artefactual and ecofactual evidence recovered from the pits was indicative of domestic activity. One of the

linear features contained an assemblage of burnt flint and may have been associated with the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pits. The second ditch was the one identified by the geophysical survey. Although undated it is possible that this feature is a medieval or post-medieval boundary ditch.

Bicester, Old Place Yard SP 5835 2220

ANDREW SIMMONDS and STEVE TEAGUE

Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation and watching brief in 2016 on the site of Bicester Priory at Old Place Yard, Bicester. Investigation of two areas, comprising a strip, map and sample excavation (Area A) and a series of four evaluation-style trenches (Area B), uncovered evidence associated with Bicester's Saxon minster and medieval Augustinian priory. The Saxon features may have been situated within the minster precinct and included a possible trackway leading to a crossing of the River Bure and two cesspits that had been backfilled with an extremely large quantity of animal bone. The trenches in Area B confirmed elements of the plan of the priory church and cloister. These had been previously recorded by John Dunkin at the start of the 19th century. A stone grave cover was also recorded within the chapter house; this probably covered the burial of a prior or other high-ranking official.

Chalgrove SU 6429 9663

ANDREW SIMMONDS, KIRSTY SMITH and CARL CHAMPNESS

Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation at the east end of the village of Chalgrove between December 2018 and January 2019. The excavation focused on three areas of activity that were identified during a previous evaluation in 2017. Within Area A, in the north-east of the site, a middle Iron Age settlement was recorded comprising a sequence of roundhouse gullies and one or more posthole structures of uncertain form. Within Area C, in the centre of the site, a pair of converging trackways were recorded adjoined by rectilinear enclosures, which were constructed during the second half of the 1st century AD and passed out of use early in the 2nd century.

Area B was situated in the south-west of the site, adjacent to the Chalgrove Brook. Two curvilinear enclosures and a rectilinear enclosure were found in this area. The rectilinear enclosure was ascribed to the late Roman period, but not enough of the enclosure was exposed within the development area to establish the character of any internal activity. Nevertheless, the enclosure may provide a context for the late Roman copper alloy 'Irchester Bowl' that had been found at the south-west corner of the field by a metal detectorist in 2011.

Chalgrove, Monument Road SU 64327 97107

WENDY MORRISON and RACHAEL DANIEL

In November 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development to the west of Monument Road, Chalgrove. The work comprised the excavation of 26 trenches. A geophysical survey had identified possible archaeological features, but on excavation these were found to be either medieval furrows or not present. Archaeological features were found within the southern part of the evaluation area and comprised a prehistoric pit of uncertain date and features dated to the late Iron Age and Roman period. The latter are

likely to represent a continuation of a field system that was identified in a previous evaluation immediately south-east of the site.

The site partially falls within the Registered Battlefield of the Battle of Chalgrove, a Civil War skirmish. No features or finds of this date were found during the evaluation, despite a programme of metal detecting.

Deddington, Clifton Road SP 47387 31757

MARIUSZ I GÓRNIK

In September 2019 Oxford Archaeology undertook a six-trench evaluation at the site of a proposed housing development at Clifton Road, Deddington. The site lies close to the historic centre of Deddington and 90m north of the scheduled monument of Deddington Castle (NHL: 1014749). The trenches revealed only two archaeological features, comprising a large pit in the southernmost trench and a pit in the easternmost trench. The large pit may represent part of a rubbish pit or quarry pit. One small pottery sherd was found within the pit, which could either be Roman or medieval in date. The undated pit within the easternmost trench contained a single piece of animal bone.

Great Tew, Beaconsfield Farm north of farm:

SP 40592 27679; proposed manège: SP 40477 27698

TOM BLACK and RACHAEL DANIEL

Oxford Archaeology undertook two evaluations to the north and north-west of Beaconsfield Farm, Great Tew, respectively c. 90m north and c. 150m north-west of the scheduled site of Beaconsfield Farm Roman villa (NHL: 1006352).

In May 2019, the first evaluation took place north of the farm and comprised the excavation of single trench measuring 230m by 1.6m. The trench was targeted on the results of a geophysical survey which identified linear features forming several rectilinear enclosures. Archaeological features correlated well with the results of the geophysical survey. A focus of activity was recorded in the in the south-western end of trench, some 90m north of the Roman villa complex. The remains represent numerous rectangular enclosures and associated features. Although not all dated, artefactual evidence suggests the enclosures are contemporary with the villa. Although it is not possible to ascertain their full form or function within the confines of the evaluation, the features are likely to form part of an agricultural estate associated with the villa.

The second evaluation was undertaken in November 2019 and comprised two trenches excavated within the footprint of a proposed manège, located north-west of the farm. Both trenches were devoid of archaeological features.

Grove, Grove Airfield SU 3922 8948

MARTYN ALLEN

Oxford Archaeology undertook a 1.9ha excavation at Grove Airfield in 2018 in advance of housing development, following an earlier evaluation (see SMA 49). Five phases of activity were encountered. A field system and possible stock enclosures were marked by ditches dating to the middle Bronze Age. In the late Iron Age or early Roman period, the area became used for agricultural purposes once more with new land boundaries being dug and signs of habitation including a possible roundhouse. The settlement was

reorganised around the beginning of the 2nd century AD and was enlarged in the 3rd century, having a more formal rectilinear layout and several enclosed areas. By the 4th century, the settlement appears to have become more open and there was a shift towards intensive arable production and processing, signified by the construction of a large corn-dryer. The settlement was abandoned by the end of the 4th century. Three inhumations, at least two of which are probably Roman, were buried in different parts of the site.

Oxford, Corpus Christi College, New Sub Main

SP 51633 06003

BECKY PEACOCK

In July 2019, Oxford Archaeology carried out an intermittent watching brief at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, on works to replace sub main cables. Two main sections of cable trench were monitored, and the walls of several buildings were recorded. Two of these walls were cut by features containing material of 13th–14th century date. In addition, a pit was recorded containing roof tile of a similar date as well as residual early medieval pottery. Corpus Christi College was founded in 1517 and so these features may have been associated with academic halls that predate the college. The former halls were set out on a slightly different layout to the current college buildings.

The watching brief also covered intrusive groundworks associated with the alterations to the college kitchen that were subject to separate building recording survey. The bases of extant walls were found during these works. A basement structure and former floor were also uncovered inside the western range of the college buildings.

Oxford, Gibbs Crescent SP 50543 05814

TOM BLACK

In May 2019 Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation at Gibbs Crescent, Oxford in advance of redevelopment. The investigation comprised three trenches which were located c. 140m south of the site of Osney Abbey. They abbey was founded in c. 1129 and was extant until the 16th century when it was systemically robbed and demolished. A previous salvage excavation in 1982 found evidence of 12th–13th century buildings in the vicinity of the site. These buildings may have been located along the waterfront of the River Thames and within the original precinct of the abbey (Sharpe 1985).

Archaeological features were recorded in the two westerly trenches. An alluvial sequence overlying gravel was identified in the base of the trenches, and this in turn was overlain by medieval reclamation deposits. The garden soils recorded above the reclamation surface dated to after the Dissolution. The remains of a potential hearth were identified on the medieval reclamation surface at 1.4m below ground level in the westernmost trench. A layer of *in situ* burning associated with the hearth contained 19 sherds of 13th to mid 14th century pottery. Possible structural remains were recorded 1.6m below ground level in the central trench. These included c. 15 stones in a NW–SE alignment which may have formed part of a structure and two postholes which cut the lower reclamation deposit. The two postholes were not excavated.

Sharpe, J, 1985 Osney Abbey, Oxford: Archaeological investigations, 1975–1983. *Oxoniensia* 50: 95–131

Oxfordshire

Oxford, Jowett Walk, Balliol College Master's Field SP 5195 0667

ADAM FELLINGHAM

In May 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation in advance of development at Balliol College sports ground, Jowett Walk, Oxford. The evaluation comprised three 12m by 4m trenches. The earliest feature recorded was a possible medieval pit or ditch terminus dating to the late 11th or 12th century. The limestone foundations of a substantial medieval building were also uncovered, and this was modified during the post-medieval period. The barn was demolished in the later 19th century. Other post-medieval features were recorded in three of the trenches including quarry pits, a rubbish pit and a boundary ditch running NW–SE, which was later replaced by a wall. The post-medieval activity within the site was sealed by late 19th-century made ground.

Oxford, New Road, Castle Hill House SU 15763 89598

JOHN CARNE

In October 2018, Oxford Archaeology monitored geotechnical works, consisting of five test pits and three boreholes, on the site of Castle Hill House, formerly the Central Oxford Conservative Club. The test pits were designed to investigate the current buildings' foundations and revealed only late post-medieval and modern deposits. The boreholes were all located over the north-eastern corner of the former bailey ditch of Oxford Castle and revealed potentially up to 8m of infilling. The upper fills of the ditch contained occasional finds of post-medieval date.

Oxford, Old Road Campus, IDRM Building SP 54460 06255

ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation in April 2019 at the site of IDRM Building, Old Road Campus, Oxford. The evaluation comprised seven 10m by 1.80m trenches. Five undated features were uncovered including a ditch and four shallow pits. It is possible that the undated features, such as the ditch, could relate to the area being used for agricultural purposes during the late post-medieval period.

Oxford, Paradise Square SP 5102 0602

ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation at Paradise Square, Oxford, during September and October 2019. The evaluation comprised three trenches that measured 12m by 5m.

One trench contained an undated ditch and pit which were truncated by a feature (possibly a sunken building) dating to 1050–1300. Two of the trenches contained walls and timber-beam slot foundations dating to the medieval period which were probably part of a single building. These buildings were located just south of the medieval town wall of Oxford. Multiple gravel floor surfaces were recorded within the structures and these were interleaved with occupation deposits. A cess pit and rubbish pit were also recorded. Documentary evidence has shown that the site lies in an area where the second church of St Budoc's and the Friars of the Sack were located. It is possible that the medieval

structural elements recorded within the site could relate to these monastic institutions.

Within all the trenches the medieval structural and occupation evidence was sealed by a series of garden soils. This may relate to change in ownership when the Oxford Greyfriars acquired this area in the early 14th century. The upper horizons of these soils probably relate to the use of the site as market gardens in the 19th century. One trench also contained the brick and concrete foundations of a 20th-century bathhouse, as shown on the 1939 OS map.

Oxford, 17 Russell Street, former Osney Power Station SP 50356 06054

LEE SPARKS and STEVEN TEAGUE

Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation in March–April 2019 at the former Osney Power Station, Oxford, in advance of redevelopment. Four trenches revealed floodplain deposits overlain by thick makeup layers probably associated with Osney Abbey. Structural remains contemporary with the abbey included a substantial robber trench, a shallow wall foundation and a stone drain, together with evidence for gravel surfaces. After the destruction of the abbey in the mid 16th century a garden soil developed over the site. Slight evidence for surfaces relating to 19th century buildings predating the power station were also revealed. The site has been subject to some truncation by services associated with the power station and its later use as part of the University of Oxford.

Oxford, 84 St Aldates SP 51390 05846

STEVEN TEAGUE

Following an earlier watching brief (see SMA 45), Oxford Archaeology undertook a strip, map and record excavation at 84 St Aldates, Oxford, in December 2019. The work was undertaken during groundwork for a residential development. The site had previously been occupied by the timber-framed rear wing of 84 St Aldates, which was built in the 17th century and dismantled in 2012. The groundwork was largely limited to 19th-century and later levels and revealed a cobbled path surface, along with a stone-lined well and later wall that lay within the footprint of the former building. An enamelled sign listing fares for horse-drawn hackney carriages, of late 19th or early 20th century date, was recovered from a modern rubble deposit. A photogrammetric survey was also undertaken of the extant stone wall, possibly of 17th-century date, that bounds the southern side of the site.

Oxford, 114–19 St Aldates and 4–5 Queen Street SP 5132 0613

EDWARD BIDDULPH and STEVEN TEAGUE

Following an earlier evaluation (see SMA 46), excavations at 114–19 St Aldates and 4–5 Queen Street were carried out in 2016 and 2017. The earliest evidence comprised sunken floors and pits that date to the middle/late Saxon period. The evidence, relating to wooden buildings, predates the Saxon burh, which was founded by the early 10th century. A series of later rubbish pits dating to the late Saxon and early Norman period was cut through this horizon. The pits contained pottery and bone fragments, representing general rubbish, as well as faecal material and the raked-out fuel waste from ovens, fires and hearths. A stone-lined latrine

cut through the rubbish pits. The latrine contained a rich assemblage of 12th or early 13th century pottery, animal bone and other domestic material. The well-constructed nature of the feature suggests that it was associated with a house of a wealthy individual. It is known that during this period part of the site was in Jewish ownership, and this is supported by the faunal remains and organic residues on pottery, which are consistent with Jewish dietary laws. A stone-built structure, part of a cellar, lay to the east of the latrine. The later fills of the cellar contained a small assemblage of 15th or 16th century pottery, which almost exclusively comprised drinking vessels that are likely to have derived from Battes Inn (by then known as the Fleur de Luce) on St Aldates. Another latrine, of 17th and 18th century date, contained an assemblage of pottery, vessel glass, clay pipes and fruit remains that indicate wealthy inhabitants here during this time. Subsequent levels were poorly preserved owing to modern truncation.

Oxford, St Hilda's College SP 521 056

ALISON DE TURBERVILLE

Oxford Archaeology undertook historic building recording and a watching brief at St Hilda's College, Oxford, in 2018 prior to the redevelopment of the entrance area to the college. This redevelopment included the demolition of two buildings, the Milham Ford Building constructed in 1906 and the Porters Lodge with the Middle Common Room which was constructed in 1960. Both of these buildings were recorded to Historic England level II.

The Milham Ford building was located on the site of a former 18th/19th century farmstead and cottages and this has influenced the irregular footprint of the building. A school moved to the site in 1898 and took its name from the adjacent Milham Ford. The Milham Ford School building was constructed in 1906 and remained in use as a school until 1938. After WWII it was used as Oxford School of Architecture until it was purchased by St Hilda's College in 1958. Following this acquisition, the building was extensively remodelled and expanded and the nearby Porters Lodge range was constructed in 1960.

A targeted historic building watching brief was also undertaken during the demolition of the Milham Ford building to monitor the possibility of the building incorporating earlier fabric. The demolition did not reveal any evidence of earlier structures but did reveal some areas of interest in terms of the construction methods and former decorative schemes of the school building.

Oxford, St James' School SP 53978 03844

JONATHAN GILL

Oxford Archaeology undertook historic building recording at St James' School in Cowley prior to the conversion of the building to residential use. The building is unlisted, but it is within the Beauchamp Lane Conservation Area and is of local heritage interest.

The building was constructed in 1834 as part of the 'National School' movement, an attempt to provide free education to children of the poor based on the teaching of the Church of England, and notable pupils have included the industrialist William Morris and the actress Dame Maggie Smith. The school was almost doubled in size in 1907 when a large extension was constructed. A series of photographs

were taken in 1907, shortly before the start of the building works, and we therefore have a good understanding of the building before the alterations. One of the interesting aspects of the building prior to the 1907 works is how strongly it had an ecclesiastical character, reflecting the fact that it was built under the auspices of the Church of England. This was partly based on many Gothic arch windows, almost all of which were replaced in 1907 with square-headed windows.

The current investigation has allowed a record of the building to be made prior to the conversion and it has also enhanced understanding of the evolution of the structure. This understanding has been helped by the fact that plaster and other coverings have previously been removed from the internal surfaces.

Oxford, Tumbling Bay SP 50221 06578

TAMSIN JONES

In November 2019, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Tumbling Bay in Oxford during groundworks associated with the construction of a fish pass. The watching brief encountered remains from Tumbling Bay Bathing Place, which existed from the mid-19th century until 1990. In total, 16 structures were recorded including buildings and pavements. During the 19th century, the site comprised a parkland area adjacent to and north of the Bulstake Stream and an associated weir. A ferry house and a toll house were located in the eastern part of the site and a bathing place and buildings were located to the west of the weir sluice. From the 1920s onwards, the bathing place was enlarged to the east and the north.

The watching brief uncovered evidence of landscaping, with the ground level being raised to prevent flooding. The Bulstake Stream was converted into pools with concrete sides and steps and was jettied by footbridges connecting the north and south sides. New buildings were constructed, aligned with the northern boundary of the site. Recording of the concrete foundations shows that the site had a guard house and toilet facilities between 1921 and 1957. The buildings erected during the following decades were more robustly built with brick walls, among them locker rooms, connected by concrete paved and walled pathways.

Oxford, 10 Walton Street SP 50925 06771

JONATHAN GILL

Oxford Archaeology undertook a historic building watching brief in 2019 at No. 10 Walton Street in Oxford during a programme of refurbishment and repairs at the property. The overall terrace (Nos 4–15) of which No. 10 forms a part is listed (Grade II) as a group.

The terrace was one of the earliest parts of the new suburb of Jericho to be laid out on the north side of Oxford in the 1820s, and it illustrates the type of middle-class housing that St John's College (one of the principal landowners to develop Jericho) was constructing. In contrast to the much smaller terraces in the lower lying areas towards the canal the terrace which includes No. 10 Walton Street incorporates front gardens and a relatively high level of architectural Regency detailing (internal and external) a significant proportion of which survives. No. 10 has a coach house (Fig. 8), illustrating the middle-class nature of its occupants, and census information has also confirmed that the occupants of No. 10 had a servant through much of the 19th century.



Figure 8: Oxford, Rear view of the Coach House at No 10 Walton Street

The recent works at the property have included a general refurbishment of the main house, extensive repairs to the coach house and the total rebuild of a rear service wing. Oxford Archaeology also undertook a historic building watching brief during the works to record any previously hidden features or fabric. Many minor features of note were exposed during the work including evidence that the rear service wing was a secondary extension to the main house. In addition, a blocked former window was recorded in the coach house which confirmed that the eastern element of this structure was also a later addition.

Sutton Courtenay, Bridge Farm SU 51498 94340

JOHN BOOTHROYD

In 2016 Oxford Archaeology returned to Bridge Farm, Sutton Courtenay, a mineral extraction site the company has been working on for over a decade. Previous excavations have revealed extensive archaeological remains dating from every period from the Upper Palaeolithic to the post-medieval period. Previously completed geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation of the new area, Phase 5, suggested this area was on the periphery of the main focus of activity, identifying only a handful of enclosure ditches and a very well-defined ring ditch which was interpreted as a barrow. The area of the ring ditch and the enclosure ditches was stripped.

Stripping revealed an entranceway in the eastern part of the ring ditch along with several pits (including one just by the entranceway) and a three-sided enclosure ditch which respected the ring ditch. Pottery from the pits indicate they are of Iron Age origin and were probably used as storage pits. The enclosure ditch was also dated to the Iron Age. A

curve in the north-south segment of the enclosure reflected the ring ditch suggesting both features were in existence at the same time.

The ring ditch was formed of three intercutting ditches, and two of these may have been contemporary including an inner ditch approximately 0.8m deep and an outer narrow ditch 0.3m deep. These were superseded by a deeper, steep-sided ditch. Artefactual evidence from the fills of the feature were Iron Age, although the lower fills were sterile, so the ditch may still have had a Bronze Age origin. No evidence of the bank survived.

A small cluster of pits in the west of the enclosure ditch produced Saxon pottery, a small knife and some Roman pottery. A sunken-featured building with two external postholes was also excavated.

The other targeted area revealed a series of land management ditches dated to the Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval periods. Two crouched inhumations were also excavated reflecting the continuation of previous phases of archaeological excavation to the east.

Phase 7 of the work has been undertaken more recently and has found a number of Roman enclosure ditches and pits containing Neolithic pottery and flint. This work is ongoing.

Upper Heyford Airbase SP 511 276 – centred

JANE PHIMESTER

The former airbase at Upper Heyford is considered to have an international significance because of its surviving Cold War landscape. This has been recognised by its Conservation Area status as well as the scheduling and listing of a number of its Cold War structures. Over the last 10 years Oxford Archaeology has undertaken a series of investigations at



Figure 9: Example of war art at USAF Upper Heyford

Upper Heyford, and the most recent of these has been a project to record the collection of war art that survives on the walls of various building (Fig. 9). This was produced by USAF service men and women, particularly during the 1980s and 1990s. At this time such artwork was actively encouraged under 'Project Warrior' to improve group cohesion and 'esprit de corps'. This war art is the largest collection of Cold War art in Europe. In total 122 examples were recorded for this project.

Much of the war art is positioned in areas of high visibility such as communal rooms, corridors and entrance foyers and it encompasses a vast array of styles and diversity, some of which are impressive examples whilst others are more amateur in style. All however are significant in providing information about the military and social operation of the airbase, and popular culture of the period. Squadron emblems are a common theme within the war art collection and the artwork also provides evidence of the use of the space. For example, there are cartoon images of ravens (referring to the EF-111a Raven aircraft based at Upper Heyford) within the Scheduled Avionics Maintenance Facility as well as

a barrack block where the servicemen who worked in the Avionics lived. The artwork also often depicts popular culture such as cartoon characters from the popular 1980s comic strip 'Bloom County', as well as Garfield the cat and the Flintstones. Others refer to popular music including the Grateful Dead and the Beatles.

In addition to the war art recording, Oxford Archaeology undertook historic building recording in 2018 on Building 100 at RAF Upper Heyford, as a condition of planning approval for its redevelopment. Building 100 was the guardhouse at the airbase and as such it was a key structure within the site, providing the first and last point of access. The building was constructed in 1925 and was later used by the USAF 20th Security Police in the 1980s and 1990s. The building is constructed predominantly in red brick with a covered walkway at the front and it retains its 1920s airfield character, although it was substantially extended and internally reconfigured in the 1980s. The building has been recorded at level 2, with level 3 photography, in accordance with Historic England guidelines.

Oxford Archaeology undertook excavations at Slade End Farm, Wallingford, between July 2017 and June 2018. The excavations revealed evidence from almost every period of prehistory. Mesolithic activity was limited to four diagnostic flints, including two tranchet adzes. At least 13 pits and two tree-throw holes could be dated to the early Neolithic, although a further 10 pits and another tree-throw hole might also be of this date. The pits included isolated examples as well as pairs and a group of three, spread over multiple areas of the site. Finds include pottery from the sequential Carinated Bowl and Plain Bowl traditions, indicating multiple instances of occupation. The largest flint assemblages from the pits included at least 1712 pieces but perhaps upwards of 2500 pieces, and many of the pits had substantial assemblages of charred plant remains and charcoal. A single sherd of middle Neolithic pottery was discovered, and this was residual in a later context.

At least nine pits dated to the late Neolithic or late Neolithic/early Bronze Age (Beaker period), forming two clusters and two isolated examples. An additional three pits and a tree-throw hole dated to the early Bronze Age. Significant finds from these include Grooved Ware pottery tempered with calcined bone, associations between Grooved Ware and Beaker pottery, some substantial flint assemblages and charred plant remains and charcoal. A hollow surrounded by charcoal-rich pits could also not be dated artefactually, although charcoal from one of the pits has produced a radiocarbon date of 2400–2140 cal BC. One or two poorly dated penannular enclosures or ring-ditches also probably belong to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

The middle Bronze Age evidence comprised a series of droveways and rectilinear enclosures defined by ditches, crossing the majority of the site. A middle Bronze Age waterhole produced a preserved log ladder (Fig. 10). Notable middle Bronze Age faunal remains include a possible aurochs bone, a pike bone and a cattle burial. A group of six cremation burials was discovered in the northern part of the site, one dating to the middle Bronze Age. Two further cremation burials from the southern part of the site that had heat-affected natural around the rim of the pits; cremated bone from one of these has been radiocarbon dated to 1260–1110 cal BC. These may be ‘bustum’-related burials, where the body was burnt in situ above the pits.

Two Iron Age settlements were discovered in the southern part of the site. Activity appears to have begun in the earliest Iron Age, with early Iron Age roundhouses and four-post structures present in both of the areas. A double pit alignment was found crossing the southern part of the site, exposed over c. 375m and encompassing c. 343 pits. A crouched inhumation burial was discovered in the upper part of one of the pits. A second pit alignment was found, of much more limited extent. Activity increased in the middle Iron Age in both settlement areas, with increasing emphasis on enclosure over time. Up to 29 roundhouses were discovered, mostly defined by penannular ditches but including post-built examples and those with more complex architectural evidence. One roundhouse produced evidence of iron smithing and crucibles for non-ferrous metal working. Up to 18 four-post structures and a six-post structure was also found. One of these appeared to have been burnt in situ with abundant grain and oak charcoal found in its postholes. At least six middle Iron Age waterholes were found and up



Figure 10: Wallingford, Middle Bronze Age log ladder

to 15 metallised surfaces. Notable Iron Age finds include a complete La Tène copper alloy bracelet.

Roman evidence was limited to a few ditches closely following the orientation of the latest middle Iron Age enclosure system. Medieval evidence comprised a small number of isolated features of little significance. An inhumation burial was found in the northern part of the site, adjacent to another poorly dated burial found during the evaluation. The skeleton was buried with a worked bone pin of probable Iron Age to Saxon date.

Witney, 8–10 Market Square SP 35543 09727

BERNADETTA RZADEK

In July 2019 Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief on behalf of Keble Homes at 8–10 Market Square, Witney. The watching brief uncovered the remains of three post-medieval buildings, as well as evidence for more recent truncation. Buildings corresponding to the alignment of the recorded walls are depicted on historic Ordnance Survey maps issued between 1878 and 1921 but these may have had an earlier foundation.

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

DAVID CLARK

The Oxfordshire Buildings Record investigated 47 buildings in 2019, eighteen of which were houses in Hook Norton, where we are working with the Victoria County History to develop as complete an understanding as we can of the built character of the village for volume XXI. In the other ongoing projects, the Chipping Norton Buildings Record completed the fieldwork for another four buildings as part of the Historic England project on 'Early Fabric in Historic Towns', and two further houses were recorded in Chalgrove, as part of a continuing project in the village. Four more buildings in

Abingdon were recorded. One house was recorded in South Oxfordshire for the VCH volume XX. The remaining 18 houses were recorded at the request of the owners.

The Gables, East Hagbourne SU 52854 88348

DAVID CLARK

This is a multi-phase house (Fig. 11) consisting of three main timber-framed ranges (A-C in Fig. 12). A is the principal two-storey four-bay range; B and C are two single bay ranges. There are also two modern brick-built ranges (D and E) which provide domestic interconnections between the historic timber-framed ranges – these were not surveyed by the OBR and do not form part of this report.

The key features of Range A are shown on the measured drawing of the west wall (Fig. 13). It is a square-panelled timber frame built upon a rendered stone or brick plinth. The northernmost bay (bay 4) is partly rendered; historic timbers visible in the southern bays are heavily weathered and covered in thick black paint. The position of the storey posts suggests a three-bay construction, but internally it is evident that the southernmost bay is divided into two, with one bay containing the chimneystack, and probably the original lobby-entry at its east side. Although today the first floor is reached by another route, alterations to the ceiling joists offer a number of possible options for its original position. The features that point to a construction date for range A are contradictory: there are medieval features such as flat-laid joists, curved windbraces and some smoke-blackened roof timbers, but the timber frame has straight bracing, queen-posts and chisel-stamped assembly marks suggesting construction in its present form in the early seventeenth century. But interpretation is further confused by the presence in Bay 4 – possibly a later northern extension – of a diamond-mullion window facing east at ground floor level. This bay may therefore have been built for an agricultural rather than a domestic function.



Figure 11: The Gables, East Hagbourne

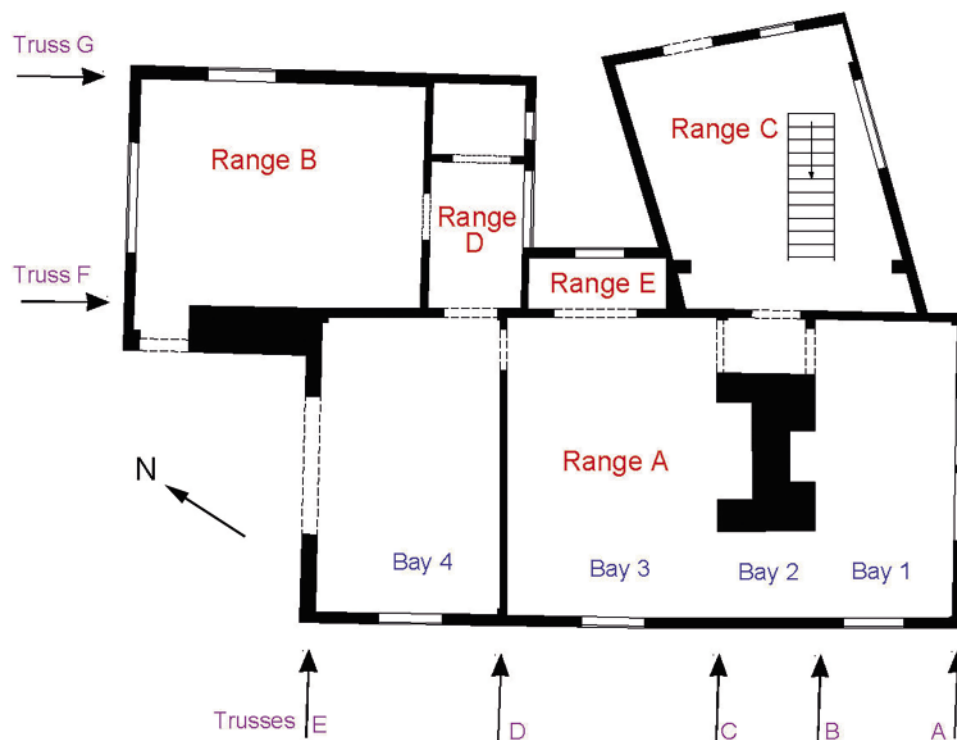


Figure 12: The Gables, East Hagbourne, Range, bay and truss plan

Range B is a single bay, two-storey, cube-shaped timber-framed building, butted against the east face of Range A at its northern end, though only overlapping Bay 4 of Range A by 6 ft (2m), yet blocking the early window mentioned above. A two-flue brick chimney stack servicing Range B stands in the angle between Blocks A and B but is external to both ranges. The western truss (F) of range B is shown in Fig.14. Below the collar a pair of queen struts are single-pegged between tie beam and collar, with an empty mortice in the soffit of the collar indicating a missing crown strut. Above the collar, a king strut extends to the apex, clasped by the principal rafters, which are 4ins (10cm) wide by 6ins (15cm) deep.

The king strut is not the same as the 'northern' king posts that rise from the tie-beam but terminate beneath the joint that links the principal rafters at the apex. Neither is it like any of the roofs discussed by Julian Munby, Margaret Sparks and Tim Tatton-Brown in their 1983 paper on Crown-post and King-strut Roofs in South-east England (*Med. Arch* 27 pp. 123–135). The only similar roof seen by OBR is in a house in Market Street, Chipping Norton, which has a king post – supporting the ridge – standing on a collar, with a crown strut below. This, however, is a medieval roof, albeit unusual for Oxfordshire. Our conclusion here is that this roof is not the product of a 'foreign' carpenter working in a different tradition, but more likely a local carpenter adding some additional timbers for strength in what is a very wide truss.

The timber frame of Range C has nothing in common with the other two main ranges and appears to be rather a make-do structure using second-hand materials of probably considerably later construction. Its purlins reach across to range A which suggests, if the purlins are primary, that the building was never an independent structure. It seems to have had a first floor and domestic function by the end of the nineteenth century. A separate doorway known to exist in 1952 suggests the range may also have been separately

occupied. This is not to say that the range was constructed as a separate dwelling – it was perhaps more probably created as an ancillary agricultural building, possibly replacing bay 4 when that was converted to domestic use.

The Gables thus appears to be of a transitional form of dwelling created when the hall house was being superseded by the more private baffle or lobby entrance style. Its west timber-framed wall suggest a typical seventeenth-century lobby entrance plan form but there are sufficient features to suggest that here the earlier, more traditional open hall had been retained while still adopting the more private baffle entry in favour of the more public cross-passage. This happens at a time when many existing cross passages were being filled with new chimney stacks so it may have been created with that form in mind, before the general abandonment of the open hall in the sixteenth century. The large rear range B was probably created very shortly after as part of the same trend when kitchens served by chimneys rather than open hearths were being created. The buildings appear to have ended up with multiple stairs by chance rather than design, but their presence made the group ideal for adaptation into multiple dwellings in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

25 & 24 High Street, Chipping Norton SP 31412 27211
PAUL CLARK

24/25 High Street (Fig. 15) lies near the north end of Top Side within 27 properties, all with classical facades, which constitute the east side of Chipping Norton Market Place. Constructed from the eighteenth century the row is the focal point of the Cotswold town (Fig. 16). 24 & 25 occupy two burgrave plots which, together with the rest of the market place, were laid out in the second half of the twelfth century.

The building comprises a main range parallel to the street (A, Fig. 17) and two separated ranges extending into the burgrave plot at the rear (B & C Fig. 17). All are constructed in local limestone and the front retains its Cotswold stone

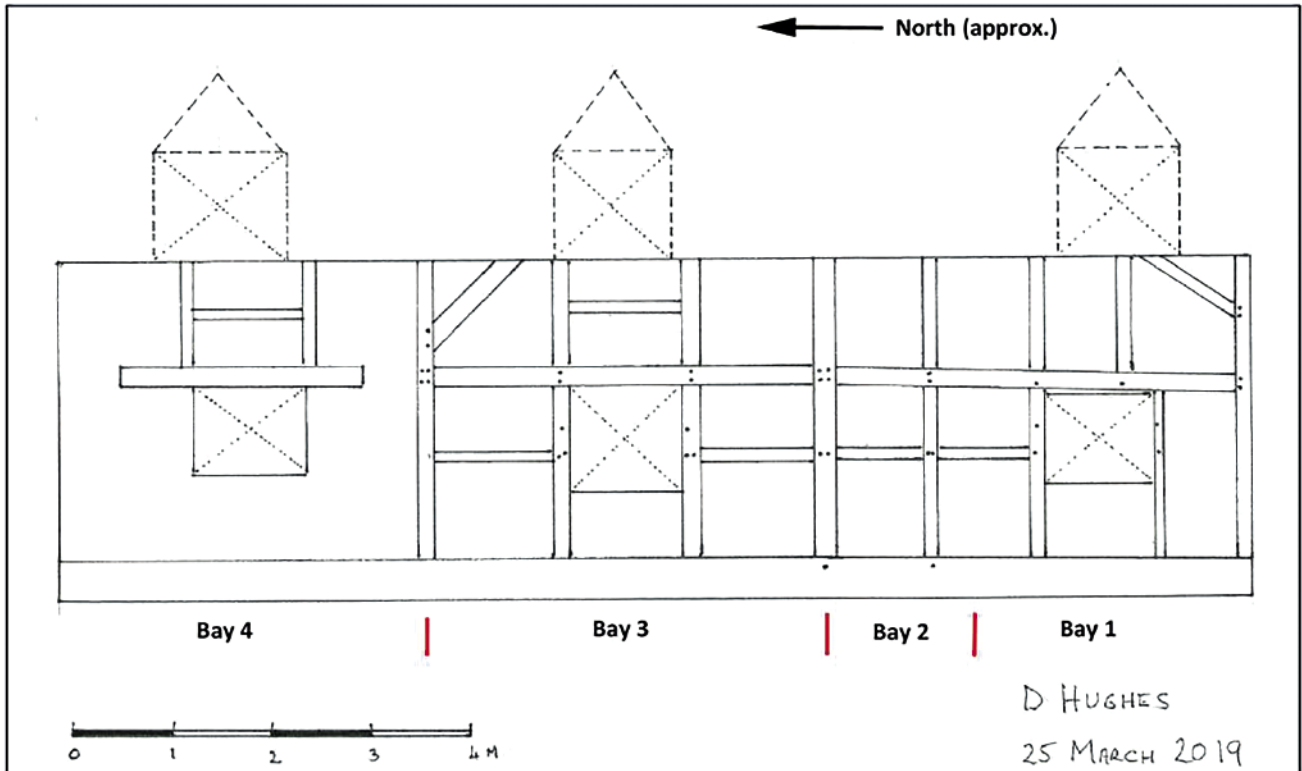


Figure 13: The Gables, East Hagbourne, West elevation

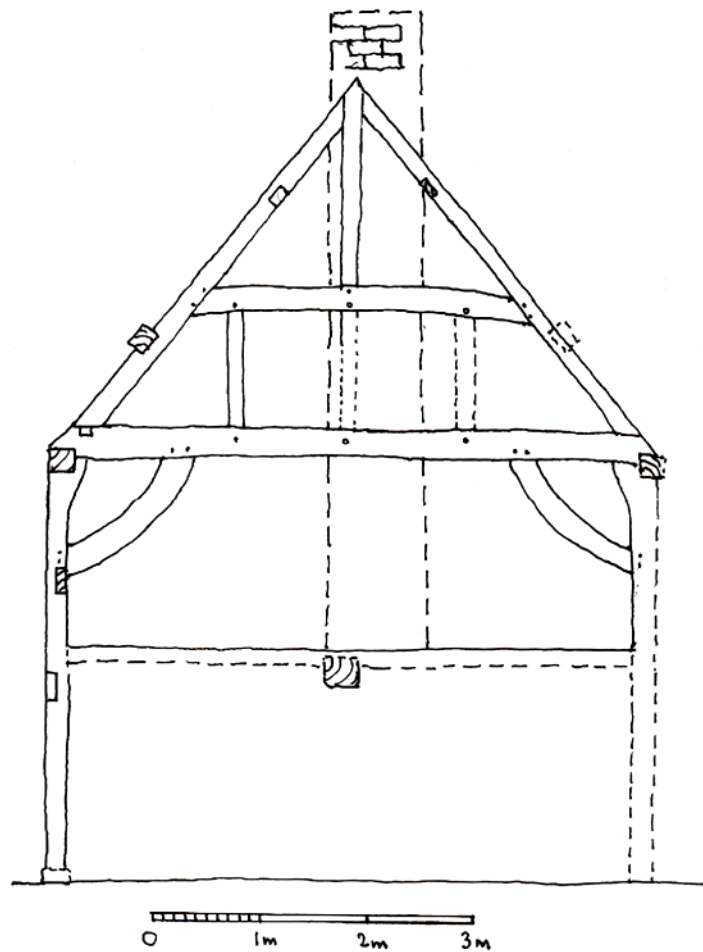


Figure 14: The Gables, East Hagbourne, Range B truss F



Figure 15: 25 & 24 High Street, Chipping Norton



Figure 16: 25 & 24 High Street, Chipping Norton, Market Place Top Side

slates. Although divided into two properties the facade presents a single unified building with two ground-floor shop windows either side of a Gibbs-style doorway surround and a carriageway at the left. The first-floor window range achieves symmetry over the shop fronts but is disturbed by an isolated window over the carriageway. The windows are

all below cambered heads and tall keystones reach to the full-width cornice and below, an ashlar storey-band arches as it passes over the carriageway basket arch. The design appears as early eighteenth century which is confirmed by ornamented water heads dated 1730. The building is therefore amongst the earliest in the town to adopt classicism.

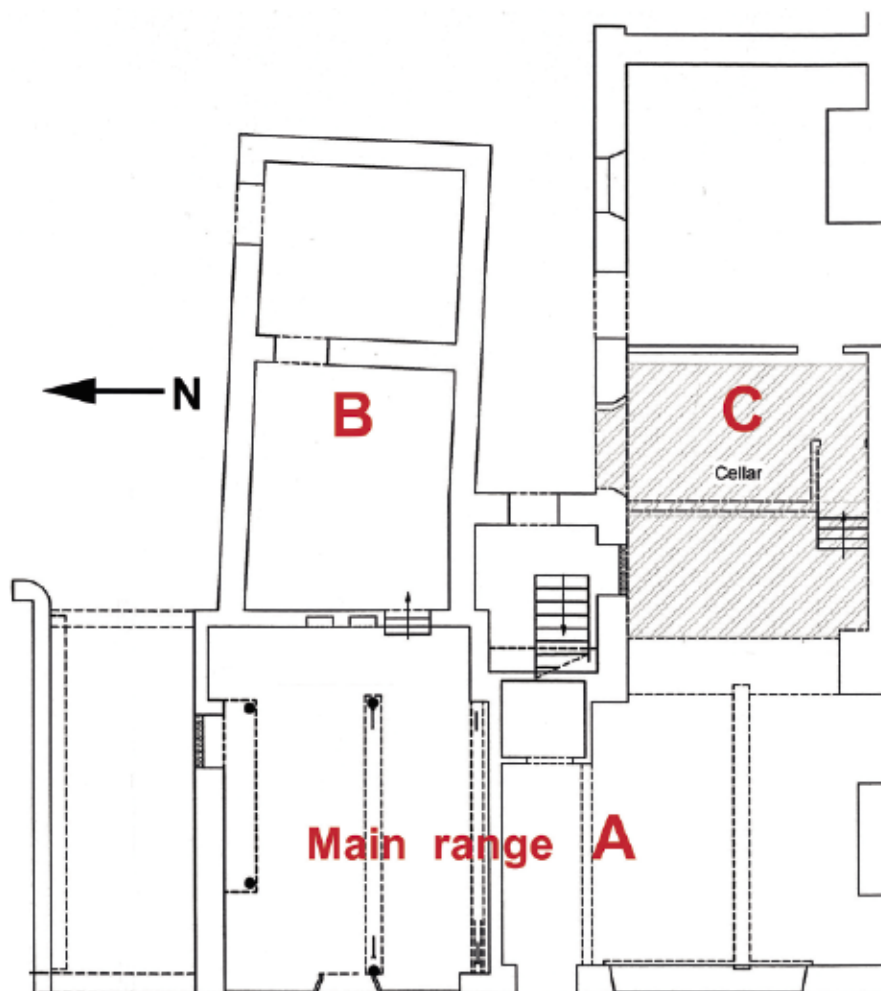


Figure 17: 25 & 24 High Street, Chipping Norton, ground floor plan

However, closer inspection reveals this is not all eighteenth century work. Within the carriageway the north gable wall is built on a timber beam supported on corbels from the neighbouring building and internally the ground-floor chamfered transverse ceiling beams, as well as reflecting an earlier style, also fail to reach the rear walls. Separating the building from the carriageway a large chimney stack rises through the building disrupting the first-floor room plan which is served by a rear corridor and a set of stairs winding to the attic at the north end. A second set of stairs are within a square stair tower which intrudes through the rear wall as does a large chimney stack on the west end of the range C. This cuts awkwardly into the main-range 5-bay roof structure which has been built around the stack. Roofs of both ranges are of well-prepared oak with two rows of housed butt purlins on loose tenons, but while in Range C the rafters are paired, in the main range they are separated by a diamond set ridge piece. The main range roof also includes timbers with redundant mortices indicating they been rearranged from an earlier roof, possibly over the same or an earlier building.

Documentary evidence supports a construction phase of circa 1730 but the internal architectural evidence, as well as other documentary evidence indicate that this is refurbishment of an earlier building. The short ground-floor ceiling beams, together with the position of the south rear range and main range roof structures are surviving features

of that earlier building. The presence of a square rear stair-tower is indicative of a seventeenth-century floor-plan, perhaps similar to that of nearby 44 West Street, carbon dated to 1679–1695 (OBR 317). The presence of a central stair tower in the seventeenth-century structure suggests this was a large building which then occupied the two burgage plots. The symmetrical 5-bay arrangement about a central door with an additional wider bay to take account of the carriage entrance is very typical of the eighteenth century. With the carriageway hard against the south wall of neighbouring No 26 and a wide chimney-breast between that bay and the next, a window centrally above the arch would have appeared too far to the left, so the asymmetrical window arrangement is something of a compromise. The redevelopment clearly followed soon after the rebuilding of No 26, known to have occurred in 1728, and the carriageway arch depends on its new front wall for support. The puzzling element is the apparent retention of at least part of the earlier party wall on the corbels.

It is strongly suspected that the west wall of the south rear range represents the line of the rear wall of the earlier main range. Judging by the roof structure, the rear range can only be slightly earlier than the present main range. This may have been built onto the earlier front range to provide accommodation while the main range was demolished and then rebuilt to a wider span, allowing for a corridor and new stair along the east side.

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY IN OXFORD CITY 2019

In 2019 the focus of archaeological investigations shifted from central Oxford to new housing sites and school development or improvement schemes in the suburbs, leading to the identification of a number of previously unknown Iron Age and Roman sites. Within the historic core of Oxford a number of previously well-studied medieval sites were subject to further targeted work at Osney Abbey and the hospital of St John the Baptist. Elsewhere in the central area medieval extra-mural settlement remains were investigated at Parks Road, Paradise Square and St Cross Road. Other distinctive projects include the further investigation of the Royalist Civil War rampart on Mansfield Road and the discovery of features belonging to an eighteenth century formal garden at Trinity College.

A selective summary of 2019 fieldwork projects

In March an evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology (OA) in Arthur Street, located at the northern end of the former precinct of Osney Abbey. This revealed a wall foundation, gravel surfaces and a stone drain along with roof and floor tiles, fragments of leather and wood and 15th-16th century horn cores. Also in March a watching brief by OA during geotechnical investigations within Magdalen College Kitchen Yard revealed that the foundations of the 17th century college range to the west appeared to reuse an earlier wall that may be a former internal wall of the infirmary the medieval hospital of St John the Baptist.

In April an excavation was undertaken at land to the rear of Littlemore Hospital by Thames Valley Archaeological Services. Previously an evaluation had identified a locally rare example of an Iron Age banjo enclosure and the new development has been designed to preserve this in open green space. A geophysical survey was undertaken and suggested that the enclosure was located within a large field or enclosure. The excavation targeted the corner of this, revealing a series of Iron Age and Roman ditches and a small number of Roman cremation burials.

Between April and May an excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology at the site of the proposed new Swan School in New Marston revealing enclosures and droeways associated with Middle and Late Iron Age settlement that were subsequent reworked and added to in the Roman period. One well defined Roman enclosure contained a well preserved 3rd century mortaria kiln.

In May New College held an unveiling ceremony for a new plaque marking the line of the Royalist Civil War defences on Mansfield Road (Fig. 18). Fieldwork in May included an evaluation by OA at Gibbs Crescent which revealed a medieval hearth and walls located within the southern part of the precinct of Osney Abbey and further excavation by OA at Balliol College Master's Field where the remains of the medieval and post-medieval tithe barn at Holywell were excavated.

Between May and September recording was undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA) at the site of New College School on Savile Road prior to the construction of a major new development for New College. The remains



Figure 18: Excavation of the Royalist Civil War rampart on Mansfield Road (looking east)

of the Royalist Civil War defensive rampart and a potentially earlier bank below were investigated.

Between June and December phases of geophysical survey, evaluation and excavation were undertaken at land near Armstrong Road, Littlemore, by Sumo Geophysics and OA prior to the development of the area for housing. Pits, ditches and post-holes were recorded associated with Early Iron Age through to late Roman settlement activity (Fig. 19). Further Roman remains, comprising series of large ditches and pits relating to domestic settlement activity, were excavated between June and August at Headington School by Foundations Archaeology.

In September trial trenching by OA at Paradise Square within the footprint of a new hotel development produced evidence for floors, walls and hearths of likely medieval date. Subsequently the foundation design was amended to secure substantive preservation in-situ and between October and December OA undertook targeted excavation revealing an 11th-14th century sequence of partially revealed wooden and stone buildings. Notable features included multiple hearths and a large stone drain.

In November an evaluation was undertaken by MoLA at the site of the former petrol station on Between Town Roads, Cowley, revealing a series of pits and ditches of Roman date that are likely to be associated with the pottery manufacturing zone previously identified to the south near the old Conservative Club. Finally between September and December excavations were undertaken by OA in the

gardens of Trinity College on the site of a proposed post-graduate building. The excavation revealed a medieval oven, pits and plot boundaries associated with the medieval tenements that formerly fronted onto Parks Road and also serpentine paths and a large circular clay and stone-wall lined water feature (Fig. 20), with a massive stone lined bottle-shaped soakaway or well beneath, which are likely to belong to the former 18th century formal college garden.

Outreach work

Media coverage over the year has included Oxford Mail story on the Swan Motors Roman site in Cowley and a feature in *Current Archaeology* on the OA excavations at Nos 114–119 St Aldate's and Nos 4–5 Queen Street. Outreach events included the public open day held by Cotswolds Archaeology at the Swan School in May and a guided tour by the city council archaeologist around the Westgate Centre for the Festival of Archaeology in July. Social media output over the year has included a video diary of the Swan School excavation (<https://twitter.com/OxfordCity/status/1177296782641885184>) and a successful 'Top Five Digs of the Year' twitter feature (https://twitter.com/DavidRadford_ox) (both accesses 17/4/2020). Advice was also provided to the production team for of an episode of the 'Britain's most historic towns' series that looked at Oxford's role in the English Civil War.

David Radford, Archaeologist
Urban Design and Heritage, Oxford City Council



Figure 19: View of Early Iron Age pits at Armstrong Road, Littlemore (looking north)



Figure 20: View of the clay lined 18th century water feature at Trinity College (looking west)

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Stadhampton, Ascott Park, C17 Manor House

SU 6114 9823

IAN CLARKE and ROELIE REED

Introduction

A detailed introduction to the Ascott Park project and a summary of earlier work on the site appeared in *SMA No 44 (2014)* and *SOAG Bulletin No 68 (2014)* (Clarke 2014a & 2014b). First interim reports for the current project appeared in *South Midlands Archaeology No 49 (2019)* and *SOAG Bulletin No 73 (2019)* (Clarke & Reed 2019a & 2019b).

In brief, the current project covers an investigation of the site long held by local tradition to be that of William Dormer's new manor house at Ascott, which burnt down in 1662 when close to completion and was never occupied. This 'traditional site' is marked by substantial earthworks (see Fig. 21) comprising a large rectangular hollow (a basement) which fronts a linear earth bank (a terrace) overlooking what were once formal garden terraces to the south. The principal aim of the project 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). Two earlier excavations on the site, the first by Oxfordshire Museum in 1969 directed by Susanna Everett (now Dr Susanna Wade-

Martins) and one by Oxfordshire Buildings Trust in 2009 directed by Brian Dix, gave inconclusive results (Everett 1969; Dix 2012).

The current excavations were planned to take place over three years, 2018–20, but may now be extended. Progress is measured with reference to four areas of investigation outlined in the project plan as:

- Establishing the ground plan
- Determining the construction of the basement
- Re-examining the terrace fill
- Additional areas of research (not having a direct bearing on the principal aim)

The SOAG led excavations are open to volunteers from other local archaeological/historical societies, students and the local community. This interim report summarises the findings from the 2019 season and makes proposals for 2020.

Site Grid

We elected to use a Site Grid aligned with a baseline between the facing corners of the dovecot and 'granary/icehouse', two octagonal buildings located either side of the hollow (see Fig. 21). These buildings are 16th/17th century and Grade II listed. The length of this baseline is 92.1m and its orientation gives a Site Grid (SG) rotated 24.4° clockwise relative to the British National Grid (BNG). The virtual SG was positioned so that the easternmost corner of the dovecot has coordinates E100/N330, which places the origin of the

grid just outside the SW corner of the park. Chris Michel (formerly of the Ordnance Survey) resurveyed and corrected the coordinates of the corners of the dovecote and granary/icehouse and surveyed the reference points for the Total Station.

The selection of this baseline was not arbitrary. It was previously used by Everett in 1969 (hence we call it the Everett baseline) but more importantly an earthwork survey in 2007 by English Heritage (now Historic England) strongly suggested that the alignment of the dovecote and granary/icehouse is square to the main axial alignment of the 17th century house and garden layout, although this was not highlighted in the body of their report (Bowden & Rardin 2007). Our 2018 results confirmed that this is indeed the case, with the surviving masonry of the terrace and house being closely aligned to the SG. The immediate availability on site of measurements aligned with the buildings is extremely helpful and significantly reduces analysis time.

Conversion between SG and BNG coordinate systems

The spatial coordinates at Ascott Park are referenced to the SG and recorded in an Excel database. In preparation for the 2019 season we recognised the desirability for quick and easy conversion from SG coordinates to BNG coordinates and *vice versa*. As both coordinate systems are two dimensional, a set of simple equations (planar trigonometric transformations) was derived so that the equivalent BNG coordinates are automatically calculated from the SG coordinates within the Excel database. The cumulative errors from doing this are small and insignificant for archaeological purposes.

Trench numbering

Brian Dix excavated a total of fourteen trenches at Ascott Park in 2009, although only four of them (Nos. 5, 6/13 & 7) were on the hollow and bank site (Trench 13 was a continuation of Trench 6 westwards separated by a narrow baulk). So to avoid any possible confusion in the future we chose to start our trench numbering at 21. Dix's Trench 7 across the hollow and bank was laid out 'by eye' and was found to be angled 5° clockwise relative to the SG. Susanna Everett excavated a single trench across the hollow and bank square to her baseline, i.e. aligned to our SG. We refer to this simply as Everett's Trench. The locations of these earlier trenches are shown in Fig. 21.

Progress summary 2019

Work in 2019 was again primarily focussed on recovering the ground plan of the terrace and house, including a possible 'annexe' on the east side of the house. The emerging ground plans are shown in Fig. 21 and the following is a summary of the key findings.

Terrace and 'annexe' ground plan

In 2018 the terrace overall width (north-south) was determined at 10.1m (33ft or 2 poles). Work to determine the length was not completed but indicated a length/width ratio close to the predicted 6:1. In 2019, further excavation of the southwest corner and excavation of the northwest corner of the terrace (Fig. 22) revealed that the western end retaining wall had been robbed out. The survey results confirmed an overall terrace length of c. 60m, close enough

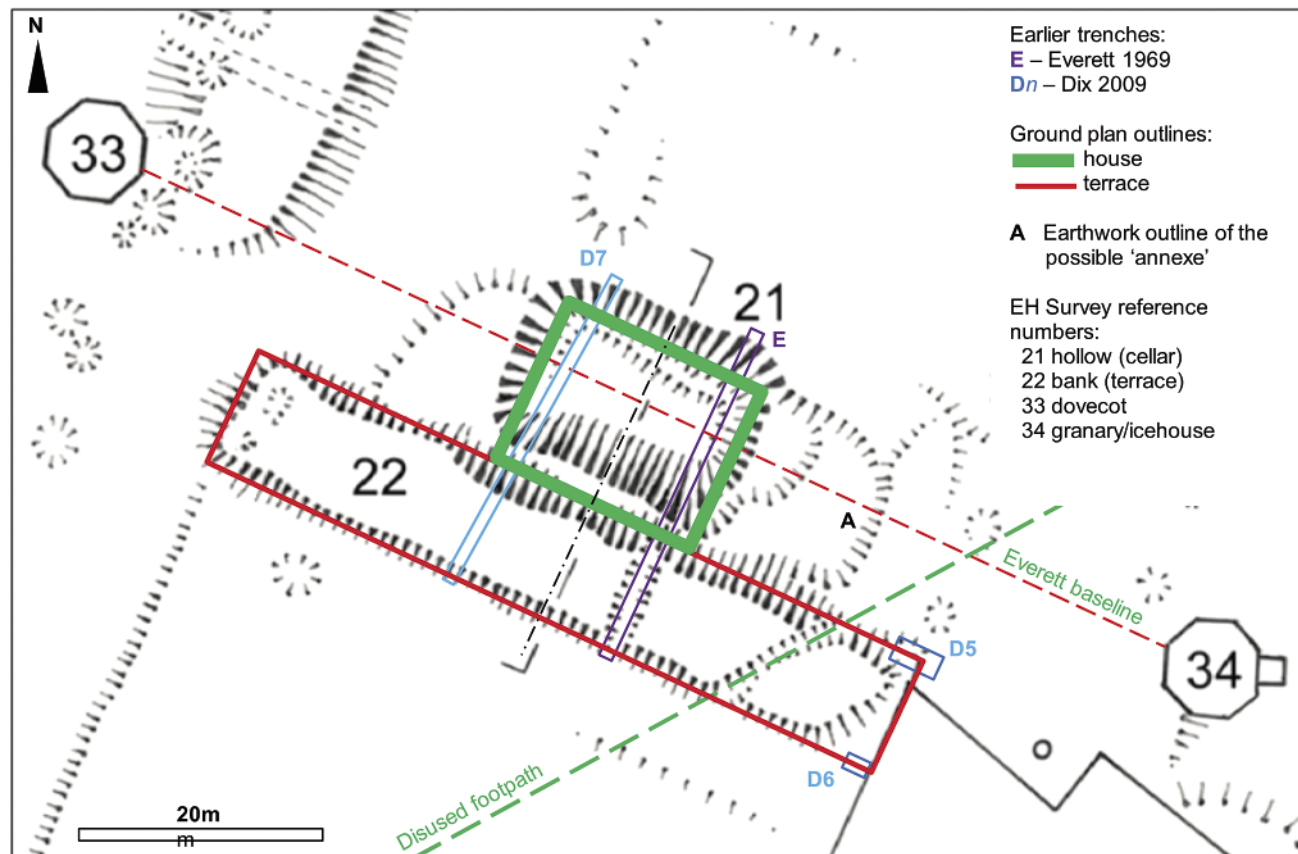


Figure 21: Ascott Park, Provisional ground plan of the house and terrace superimposed on the earthwork survey of the traditional 'hollow and bank' site



Figure 22: Ascott Park, The western end of the north-west terrace retaining wall looking south

to the predicted 60.35m (198ft or 12 poles) and a length/width ratio of 6:1.

The robbed out west end terrace retaining wall was contiguous at its SW corner with the robbed out west garden wall (the existence and line of which had earlier been proved by Dix in Trench 10 (Dix 2012, Fig.4)) and with another wall continuing northwards from the NW corner. The latter mirrors a similar discovery by Dix in Trench 5 at the northeast corner of the terrace (Dix 2012, PL.4) and suggests there were walled enclosures north of the terrace on each side of the house. Part of a mortar floor was discovered at the NW corner north of the terrace wall (foreground of Fig. 22).

The upper levels of the western half of the northeast terrace wall were uncovered in a search for a possible T-junction marking the line of the 'annexe' east wall. No such junction was found at the level excavated but 5.9m from the western end of the terrace wall a second wall was discovered built against the north face of the terrace wall (Fig. 23). This additional wall is crudely built of rough-hewn limestone and occasional brick rubble and has no foundation. It is certainly a later addition and of uncertain purpose but its neatly squared western end may possibly mark the location of the east 'annexe' wall. This will be examined further in 2020. The NE terrace wall is well preserved here with the lower courses of brickwork still in place and this revealed that the wall had decorative recessed panels, one identifiable as being c. 3m (10ft or 13 bricks) long and 50mm (2in or ½ brick) deep.

The western end of the NE terrace retaining wall, where it joins the house south wall, was excavated to a greater depth



Figure 23: Ascott Park, Looking east at the later wall built against the outside face of the north-east terrace retaining wall



Figure 24: Ascott Park, In the foreground is the 0.85m wide house south wall. Beyond it is the north-east terrace retaining wall



Figure 25: Ascott Park, Looking east along the line of the house south wall

in 2019 to further examine the partially robbed out terrace wall foundation/retaining wall of the 'annexe' basement. This revealed a concrete floor *c.* 1.0m below the top of the terrace foundation (Fig. 24). The floor wraps around the end of the house wall for a short distance but extends beneath the surviving masonry of the partially robbed out terrace wall foundation. First thoughts were that the terrace wall was built on top of the floor (and so postdates it) but in building construction terms this would seem unlikely. Suspicion surrounds the presence of clean, soft builders' sand of a distinctive bright orange colour, quite alien to the site, filling the narrow gap between the floor and the house wall. So it is possible that the floor was laid in modern times and trowelled beneath the already robbed out foundation wall. This will be investigated further in 2020.

The level of the concrete floor is *c.* 0.6m above that of the 'natural sandy layer' basement floor identified by Dix in Trench 7. A short section of the south house wall beyond the west edge of the floor was exposed and found to extend only *c.* 0.15m deeper than the concrete floor before reaching what appeared to be sand natural, although the area to work in was very tight. If correct, this would give a level for the basement floor at this point some 0.45m above that found by Dix in Trench 7. This also requires proper investigation in 2020.

House ground plan

The excavations confirmed that the nominal width of the house east-west is 18.3m (60ft) and, on the best evidence available, the nominal depth north-south is 15.0m (49ft).

Oxfordshire

These dimensions suggest a double pile house, 5 bays wide by 4 bays deep. The house is centrally located on the north side of the terrace with the south front in line with the south face of the north terrace walls. The south house wall and northeast terrace wall foundations are of integral construction; the northwest terrace wall foundation also shows evidence of probable integration with the south wall although the latter has here been robbed out.

Dix encountered a '1.35m deep steep cut' on the line of his Trench 7 which appeared to define the construction cut for the basement pit. Our 2018 excavations had shown this 'cut' to be aligned with the inner (north) face of the south wall, so it was concluded that any continuation of the south wall on the same line must here have been built at a higher level. The 2018 trenches on the line of the south house wall were reopened and extended westwards in 2019 to investigate this, but what emerged was that the south wall had in fact continued at the same depth throughout. The wall has survived to a similar level for around two thirds of its original length with the western third robbed out (Fig. 25), probably to the full depth of the wall although time constraints prevented absolute proof. The excavations reached a maximum depth on the line of Dix's Trench 7 at the limit of his excavation (the 'natural sandy layer') which depth gives a surviving height for the wall of at least 1.3m. This is significantly less than the c. 2.0m recorded by Everett in her drawing 'Ascott Hall: section through earthworks' (Everett 1969), a difference that we must try to reconcile.

The western end of the robber trench was in part filled with a compacted mass of dusty, loose mortar and stone debris, of the same width as the south wall and c. 0.8m deep, level for about two metres then forming a natural slope eastwards to the bottom of the robber trench (foreground of Fig. 25). From the stratigraphy north of the wall line it appears that this robbing out event happened in modern times by quarrying straight down into the earth and rubble slope that had accumulated over time in the hollow on the north side of the wall. It seems likely that the stones, once lifted, were cleaned up on site and the resulting debris of mortar and stone fragments were then dumped in the western end of the resulting deep trench. The remainder of the trench was then backfilled with mixed gravelly soil from the bank, with inclusions of limestone fragments and occasional broken CBM. It was the northern face of this mortar/stone debris deposit (disguised by a partial encrustation of soil) that Dix found, forming a ghost wall where part of the south wall had once been. Behind the deposit we uncovered a small part of the original cut made in the ground when the basement pit was dug in the 17th century. The debris deposit extended up close to the end of the surviving NW terrace wall foundation, finishing at a well-defined vertical face defining the west end of the south wall.

The shallow 2018 trench at the centre point of the south wall was enlarged to look for evidence of masonry foundations on the south side that might have supported external steps but none such was found.

The extremities of the south wall determine the lines of the east and west house walls. A trench was opened across the line of the west wall of sufficient length to intersect Dix's Trench 7 as a reference. This was excavated to the level of Dix's 'natural sandy layer' (which level was a little above that revealed in Trench 7 where there was evidence of slight

over-digging with the mattock). Disappointingly, there was no discernible evidence of a robbed out west wall.

Sections of Dix's Trench 7 and Everett's Trench were reopened across the probable line of the north wall and excavated to the level of the same 'natural sandy layer'. For the line of the north wall, Dix had identified a 'robber trench' which was re-examined and found to be bounded on its north side by a sand glaciais with a slope of c. 0°. A similar feature was found on the line of Everett's trench but without a corresponding 'robber trench', the probable line of the wall here being defined by a softer and lighter colour sand containing small fragments of possible mortar. These probable wall-line features are coincident with a clear linear anomaly in the resistivity geophysics (Clarke & Latham 2015) but are hardly satisfactory to explain it. A further examination of the line of the north wall is planned for 2020.

The sand glaciais immediately outside the presumed line of the north wall requires explanation. Is this simply re-deposited natural, or is it a sloping cut made in the 17th century through an upper natural sand deposit to the level of a lower (and firmer) sand deposit the level of which defined the floor of the basement construction pit? Attempts were made to take hand borings outside the hollow to determine the undisturbed depth of the sand deposits but without success due to the dry conditions. We will try to obtain borings before the 2020 season but if this is not possible the natural layers will be examined by box section.

The unbroken inner (north) face of the south house wall (Fig. 25), the upper courses of which we exposed in 2019 for the two thirds of its surviving length, shows no evidence of internal dividing walls. This offers *prima facie* evidence that the basement was vaulted with the springing being above the surviving masonry, although of what form we cannot say.

Discussion and proposals for 2020

A problem encountered by both Susanna Everett and Brian Dix, the earlier excavators at Ascott Park, was the notable lack of physical evidence for masonry structures or traces of demolition debris within the basement hollow. After two seasons of excavation we are still wrestling with the same problem, which leads to some uncertainty concerning the ground plan of the house. As outlined above, the 2019 excavation firmly established the width of the house E-W at 18.3m [60ft] based on the length of the (very substantial) south wall and this at least gives us the lines of the east and west walls, even if they do prove to be entirely robbed out. But the depth of the house N-S at 15.0m [49ft] is less certain as the line of the north wall is so far based only on indirect and somewhat unconvincing evidence. This inevitably leads us to question whether we really have found the level of the 'natural' floor of the basement construction pit and if we have, then what demolition and post-demolition processes have, apparently, so completely removed all traces of masonry. In planning for 2020 we have placed these issues at the forefront of our thinking.

In his report on the north wall 'robber trench' feature Dix notes: "*A line of stonework visible in the surface nearby could represent the more complete survival of the wall that was otherwise taken away; it would repay further investigation.*" This masonry is now hidden under the turf and could not be found in 2019 by surface inspection and probing, so in 2020 we will mechanically strip the turf over the central area of the northern slope of the hollow to relocate it. If it is an

in situ remnant of the north wall, excavation will provide certainty over the location of the north wall and confirmation of the 17th century floor level of the basement pit at this location; the latter can then be compared to levels we have been finding (or assuming) elsewhere. It should also offer an opportunity to further explore the nature of the 'sand glacis' features noted above.

Whilst we have *prima facie* evidence for basement vaulting from the south wall, we have so far been deterred by the above uncertainties from searching for direct evidence of vaulting (or other structures) within the basement. Once we are sure of the N-S depth of the house and the original level of the basement pit, we can calculate the possible location of vaulting pillars (based on equal 5x4 bays) and select a location for a test trench to look for evidence. If this should prove fruitless then an open-area excavation of a substantial part of the basement (in 2021 or later) will be the only option; this certainly is the only way to gain a better understanding of the post-demolition processes.

During back filling in 2019, a substantial chunk of stone masonry was accidentally uncovered by the excavator driver, Kevin Hicks, which appeared to be on the line of the east house wall some three to four metres north of the south wall. Needless-to-say examination of this masonry is a prime target for 2020. If it proves to be an in situ part of the east wall (not just loose masonry or a later structure) we will explore its relationship to the south wall.

As noted earlier, the line of the 'annexe' east wall has yet to be proved so further investigations are planned for 2020 along the NE terrace wall. If possible, this will also include re-investigation of the concrete floor at the junction of the terrace and house walls, particularly the depth of the house wall and basement floor level at this point.

Re-examining of the terrace fill by sectioning the earth bank is scheduled for 2020 but this is dependent on the level of support which is not known at the time of writing. Given the magnitude of the above tasks, we may choose to postpone this to 2021, along with the desirable but not essential 'additional areas of research' listed in the Project Plan.

Finds

Only a brief mention of finds will be made at this stage. In the area of the house along the south wall, we are encountering significant quantities of demolition rubble in the form of rough-hewn building stone, mortar and stone fragments, broken brick and roof tile. One sample of stone moulding has been recovered; also occasional fragments of thin window glass and a rare lead glazing came. Fire damaged building materials are rare so far but fragments of charcoal are frequent along the line of the south wall. All this supports a near complete house on the site, built in stone and brick with leaded lights and a tiled roof. Away from the house site along the terrace walls, brick fragments predominate except in the area of the 'annexe' where again there is much broken stone. Over the area of the basement hollow, away from the south wall, the distinct absence of demolition rubble is notable and demands explanation, as mentioned above. Special finds are rare but include fragments of a wine glass and a glass bowl, both of which can reasonably be dated to the first half of the 17th century.

COVID-19

At the time of writing the global pandemic of Covid-19 and the lock-down is upon us, indeed completion of this report was delayed by urgent activities relating to that event. We do not yet know if this will force a one year postponement of our 2020 season at Ascott Park but such is possible, perhaps likely.

Acknowledgements

Our sincere thanks go to: Oxfordshire County Council for permission to excavate in the delightful surroundings of Ascott Park and to Richard Oram of County Archaeological Services for his valued advice and support; to Oxfordshire Buildings Trust for their continuing support and encouragement; to the many in the local community who have expressed their keenness to resolve the doubts raised by earlier researchers, not least to former tenant farmer the late and much loved John Godfrey whose valuable knowledge and presence on site will be sadly missed; to Jeremy Mogford the current tenant, Phil White of D'Oyleys Farm and farm hand Ash who look after the Park; to the many volunteer diggers from SOAG and elsewhere who worked so incredibly hard and successfully in another hot summer, although thankfully not as hot as 2018; and to Kevin Hicks who skilfully operated the excavator to refill the trenches and made a possibly significant discovery in doing so.

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THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Cholsey, Bloom Buildings, West End SU 5808 8592

ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG

A watching brief during the construction of new houses revealed the partial layout of buildings that could be tentatively associated with the abbey of Cholsey founded in the 10th century or with a grange or lodging attached to the later inheritors of this abbey. Several massive wall foundations, some robbed, as well as internal divisions and changes in plan can be discerned. No structural feature was investigated as everything uncovered was preserved *in situ*. Although the massive masonry walls are plausibly medieval, no real dating evidence was secured. A few additional postholes were dug but also did not provide much dating evidence.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 26 Martin's Lane SU 5790 9452

ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG

Evaluation in advance of the construction of a new house confirmed that the site has archaeological potential. Cropmarks interpreted as ditches located beyond the settlement boundary 100m to the east of the site could not be shown to extend into the site itself but other features did appear to be ditches of both the Roman and Medieval periods.

Goring-on-Thames, St Thomas' Churchyard and Lybbes Almshouse SU 5982 8071

BENEDIKT TEBBIT

The hand excavation of an 8m long gas pipe trench was archaeologically monitored. Three features were observed, including part of a medieval tiled floor, an undated wall foundation and undated gully.

Harwell, land off Orchard Way SU 4881 8915

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

An excavation covering 2300 sq m on the site of a new residential development uncovered ditches, gullies and pits spanning Late Iron Age/Early Roman to later Roman times. They included a refuse pit, possible well or water hole, parts of enclosures, several parallel gullies that could be traces of land exploitation and two other perpendicular gullies that might have defined a pathway. A cremation burial was unurned but contained within a container of perishable material, such as a casket, which had been highly decorated with nails.

Henley-on-Thames, 3 Bell Street Mews SU 7611 8278

WILL ATTARD and DAVID SANCHEZ

No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were encountered in a watching brief on a house extension.

Kingston Bagpuize, The Spinney, Oxford Road

SU 4112 9822

ANDY TAYLOR

No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed in an evaluation on the site of a proposed residential development.

Launton, land off Blackthorn Road SP 6110 2246

MAISIE FOSTER

Evaluation trenching in advance of a housing development revealed what appear likely to be only post-medieval ridge and furrow, although a single prehistoric struck flint was recovered.

Minster Lovell, land south of Burford Road

SP 3085 1070

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Evaluation trenches were opened on the site of a new residential development. A single undated field boundary ditch was observed. Other anomalies detected in a previous geophysical survey proved to be of natural origin.

Moulsford, land at Moulsford Preparatory School, Reading Road SU 5899 8449

STEVE FORD

Fourteen trenches were excavate in advance of the development of extra school classrooms. A cluster of linear features and small pits was revealed, and some of these contained pottery of Late Bronze Age and Roman dates.

Oxford, land adjacent to Littlemore Hospital, Littlemore SP 5320 0261

DAVID SÁNCHEZ

A recording action and subsequent watching brief on the groundworks for a housing development revealed a moderate number of archaeological features completing the results shown by previous geophysical survey and trial trenching on the site. Two large boundary ditches and two shallow gullies of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date, and four Roman human cremation deposits were uncovered.

Oxford, Wolvercote Mill, Mill Road Wolvercote

SP 4878 0976

ANDREW MUNDIN

Evaluation trenching on the site of a proposed development recorded a modest range of features of various dates: one potentially late prehistoric gully, one medieval ditch, what appear to be pre-19th-century foundations and a large 19th-century quarry pit. A single sherd of Roman pottery was also recovered.

Shipton-under-Wychwood, land at Milton Road

SP 2733 1792

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Archaeological excavation on the site of a new housing development saw an area of 6680 sq m stripped to expose deposits of Neolithic, Middle to Late Iron Age, and possibly Anglo-Saxon occupation. The Neolithic evidence was scarce, mostly consisting of a few dispersed pits. This occupation was probably much disturbed by later phases as Neolithic

pottery was commonly found mixed with later assemblages and features. Initially determined to be of Late Bronze Age during the previous evaluation, but now revised as Iron Age, there was probably an initial early occupation with a post-built roundhouse and some curvilinear gullies. This unenclosed settlement was masked by a more substantial phase, consisting mostly of pens/paddocks and some enclosures. The main enclosure was left almost empty and probably had livestock management purpose. In a possibly later stage, clusters of pits (a total of about 175) developed inside and out of this enclosure. Other peculiar features were noted: a low stone platform encircled by a gully and three pits with a clay base in the bottom and fills that differed from the usual infill. One of them had a stone lining. There was no trace of any Roman activity and if the pottery and features have been identified correctly, there could have been an Anglo-Saxon presence in the form of two sunken featured buildings and a few pits.

Shrivenham, land south of Townsend Road
SU 2337 8846

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

A magnetometer survey in advance of the preparation of a planning application recorded significant magnetic disturbance around the site boundaries as well as a series of parallel positive linear anomalies which most likely represent agricultural activity. Nothing to suggest the presence of buried archaeological features was identified.

Sonning Common, land at Kennylands Road
SU 7069 7963

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK and ANDY TAYLOR

A small number of magnetic anomalies indicating the presence of possible features of archaeological interest were detected in the course of a geophysical survey in advance of determination of a planning application for a housing development. Subsequent trenching, however, revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

Sonning Common, land at Blounts Court SU 7137 8072
KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Eighteen evaluation trenches were dug on the site of a proposed new research facility, and two areas of archaeological interest were revealed. One area contained a number of cut features, likely to represent part of an occupation site. Only one feature was dated, to the Roman period (or later) but it seems likely that the remainder are of similar date. The other area of interest corresponded with a geophysical anomaly and may represent a Roman pottery production site. A few struck flints point to a low level of prehistoric activity in the area.

Sonning Common, Little Sparrows, Blounts Court Road SU 7134 8048

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

A magnetometer survey on a site for a proposed new retirement community recorded a range of magnetic anomalies across the site. They include areas of positive readings, which may represent changes in the underlying geology, and large discrete positive circles, which likely indicate quarry pits. Trenching will follow in 2020.

Warborough, Six Acres, Thame Road SU 5985 9338
DAVID SANCHEZ

Excavation on the site of a new housing development revealed a number of recut ditches and gullies forming a trackway of Late Bronze Age – early Iron Age date. Although dating evidence was not plentiful (39 sherds of pottery and a few flints), it was all reasonably consistent.

Wallingford, 47–20 St John's Road SU 6045 8908
PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief on a house extension.

Wallingford, 11–12 St Martin's Street SU 6066 8928
DAVID SANCHEZ

Archaeological evaluation on the site of a new retail development revealed a large volume of features and deposits typically consisting of cluster of inter-cutting pits of Late Saxon to Medieval date dug into deposits of earlier date. A complex stratigraphic sequence was revealed with evidence of domestic activity along with metalwork taking place in the vicinity. A destruction horizon followed by made-ground deposits of 19th to 20th century date was also observed in the three trenches excavated.

Wallingford, land to the rear of 17–20 St Mary's Street
SU 6075 8928

AIDAN COLYER and JAMIE WILLIAMS

No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief on new house foundations.

Wallingford, Park Farm House, Castle Street
SU 6077 8987

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Evaluation of the site of a new pond revealed only two post-medieval pits containing pottery, ceramic building material and clay pipe fragments.

Watlington, Britwell Hill Farm, nr Britwell Salome
SU 6884 9183

WILL ATTARD, DAVID SANCHEZ, ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG and
PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Trenching for footings and services for a new house extension, and stripping for a new access road took place under archaeological supervision. However no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed.

Watlington, St Leonard's Church SU 6874 9474
ANDREW MUNDIN

A watching brief during ground reduction for a new extension revealed three large gravestones that had been cut and placed face down to make a pathway. Partially articulated human remains were recoded within the homogenous mixed graveyard soil. At the base of the excavation four *in situ* burials were encountered, and pottery with two of these suggests they might tentatively be dated to the 11th to 13th centuries.

Oxfordshire

Wilcote, Wilcote Manor Farm Barns SP 3691 1533

ANDREW MUNDIN

Observations were undertaken on the various works for a single new house. No archaeological deposits nor finds were encountered.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, DEPT. FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project (AAARP) Excavations at Broadmoor Field, Appleton
SP 4391 0133 centred

JANE HARRISON, LEIGH MELLOR and WILLIAM WINTLE

Introduction

Excavations in 2018 and 2019 in Broadmoor field near the village of Appleton recorded elements of an extensive, complex and long-lived, early-middle Iron Age settlement, with some slight evidence for Romano-British and early Anglo-Saxon activity. All the archaeological features were truncated by medieval and later ploughing. The work was undertaken by the AAARP (see previous article on the test pit programme), with local volunteers, and students from the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education (OUDCE).

The excavation site lies on the Corallian ridge south-west of Appleton and about 900m south of the Thames. The complex underlying geology belongs to the Hazelbury Bryan Formation of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. The field slopes gently south-east from c. 91m OD to c. 86m OD, with the trenches located at around 88m OD across the middle of the field.

Previous Archaeological Work

Considerable archaeological work has taken place on the Thames gravels north and west of the Thames and also at sand quarry sites in the Vale of the White Horse at Hatford and Stanford-in-the-Vale. Additionally, the prehistoric and Romano-British ceremonial and settlement site at Marcham-Grilford was excavated between 2001 and 2011 by the University of Oxford (Kamash *et al* 2012). The only major excavations of any kind in the AAARP research area were at Tubney Manor Farm ahead of commercial sand quarrying (Bradley and Hey 1993, Simmonds *et al* 2011). There has otherwise been little archaeological investigation in the AAARP area on the Corallian ridge where the geology is primarily clay or mudstone with sandstone and siltstone. The land has neither produced cropmarks nor been targeted for gravel extraction. Most of the archaeological records are antiquarian, stray finds and metal-detector discoveries.

The following summarises the most significant known archaeology for the relevant periods:

Iron Age: over thirty later Iron Age pits were located in the quarry excavation south of Tubney Manor Farm, just over a kilometre to the south-east of Broadmoor, indicating likely settlement. Iron Age seasonal settlement linked to exploitation of floodplain pasture was discovered when Farmoor reservoir, north of the AAARP area, was extended (Lambrick and Robinson 1979).

Romano-British: the nearest known archaeology is co-located with the Iron Age sites at Farmoor and Tubney Manor Farm. The sand quarry excavation recorded late

Roman burials and Romano-British field boundaries. A little Roman pottery was found in AAARP test pits, but all very abraded, suggesting field scatters rather than the near proximity of settlement.

Anglo-Saxon: during the seventh century much if not all of the land in the area was granted to Abingdon Abbey at its foundation. Later, the Abbey held a grange and significant church at Cumnor. The sand quarry excavations at Tubney revealed a seventh century burial. AAARP test pits (AP17 TP10 and TP21) suggested earlier Anglo-Saxon activity around the Plough pub in Appleton, with the discovery of *in situ* post-holes and gullies containing pottery of the period.

Initial Survey 2017 and 2018

Five geophysical (magnetometer) surveys were undertaken in fields adjacent to South Lawn in Appleton in July, August and September 2017. The surveys were performed by William Wintle, Steve Nicholson, Leigh Mellor, Derek Chambers and Charlie McCarthy using a 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 four times a metre along each traverse. The magnetometer was set to a scale of 100nT with a sensitivity of 0.1 nT.

Of these five surveys in only one, Broadmoor field west of South Lawn, were archaeological features detected (Fig. 26). The magnetometer survey revealed ridge and furrow in the north and south of the field and a more complicated and interesting set of features in the middle. It appears likely that the ridge and furrow is continuous from the north to the south of the field in a gradual S-curve typical of medieval ridge and furrow. There is some variation in the spacing of the furrows, but they appear to be about 15 metres apart. The centre of the field contained what appears to be an Iron Age and/or Roman settlement with small fields or paddocks defined by ditches, and possible roundhouses defined by either foundation trenches or drip-gullies. The most obvious circular feature may have an entrance in the west. Usually entrances to Iron Age roundhouses are in the east or south-east.

Subsequent fieldwalking in October 2017, focused on the central area of geophysical anomalies, produced meagre results: one Iron Age sherd, two Romano-British sherds and 15 Medieval sherds, all small and in poor condition. However, one of two test pits excavated in June 2018 on the eastern field margin (AP18 TP37) contained sherds of early-middle Anglo-Saxon pottery recorded in a cut feature, possibly a posthole or gully.

Excavations 2018 and 2019

The four trenches were located using the 2017 geophysical survey (Fig. 26). Two trenches were excavated in September 2018 and two in July-August 2019. In 2018 Trench 1 (12m west-east by 8.5m north-south) was opened to explore the clearest circular ditch-like anomaly at its intersection with what appeared to be two linear north-south ditches. Trench 2 (ten metres north-west to south-east by six metres north-east to south-west) targeted the widest linear north-south feature where it intersected with narrower ditches. In 2019 a diffuse anomaly and selection of ditches and pits were explored in Trench 3 (max. 11m WNW-WSW by 24m NNE-SSW) and Trench 4 (13m west-east by 11m north-south) was opened over intersecting ditches including a wide west-east linear

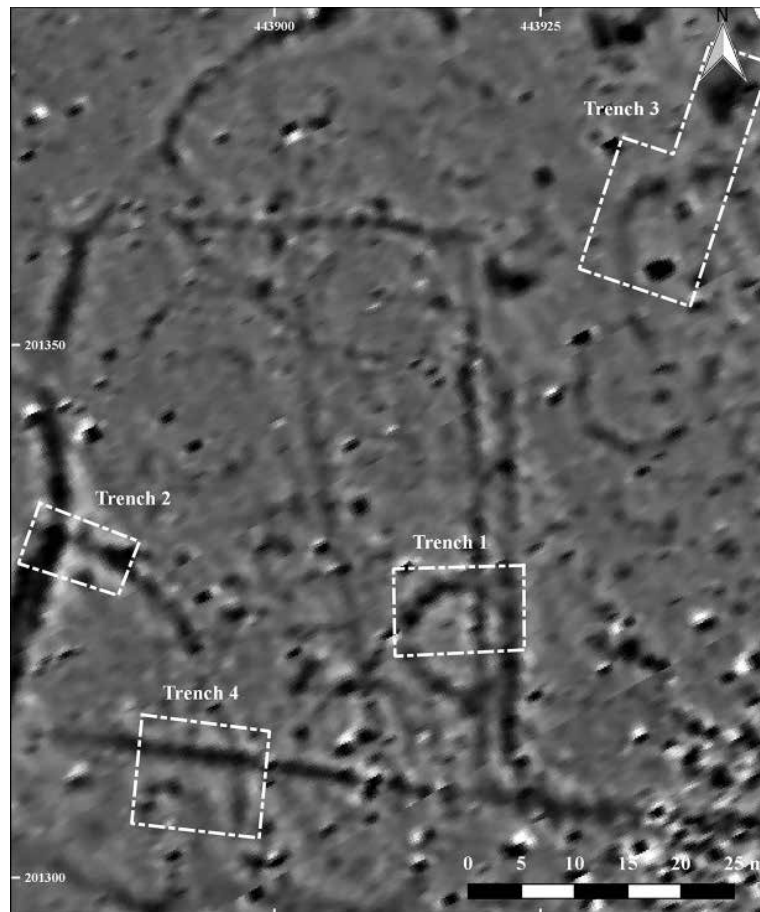


Figure 26: central area of the magnetometer survey of Broadmoor field with 2018 and 2019 trenches marked

anomaly and possible pits. The topsoil was stripped by machine, with a sample sieved and hand-searched. Thereafter all features were hand-dug, with metalwork, and collections of artefacts and ecofacts recorded in three dimensions.

All the features excavated in Broadmoor field were heavily truncated and hot, dry weather created challenging ground conditions in both years. However, the two seasons of work have revealed details of a multi-phase and complex early-middle Iron Age settlement, including: phases of roundhouse settlement, unenclosed initially but enclosed by a large ditch in a subsequent phase; field, enclosure and stock management ditches, with some suggestion of placed deposits in the probable enclosure ditch; evidence for pottery production; an extensive midden-related pit cluster; a large sub-rectangular enclosure; and a range of pits from large postholes to grain storage pits. The boundary ditch also produced an Iron Age weaving comb (Fig. 27) as well as considerable clusters of pottery. At least one substantial early Anglo-Saxon posthole was recorded. The site, as with the test pits in the village, was notable for the lack of Romano-British features; fewer than 20 sherds of abraded pottery of the period were found, all in the ploughsoil.

Excavation Results

Trench 1

The machining and clean-up layer *c.* 0.35–0.4m deep comprised both upper and lower plough soils down to a compacted layer created by the ploughing in which archaeological features began to be visible. The circular drip-gully could be identified as a wide circular sweep of



Figure 27: Iron Age weaving comb after conservation.
Photo by Sarah Morton

darker fills with two broad linear darker features running N-S in the east of the trench (see Fig. 28). The broad linear adjacent to the eastern baulk comprised up to three closely set and intercut ditches, one of which may have been the drip-gully. The linear just to the west clearly intersected with the drip-gully and was either a single ditch, or a combination of drip-gully and ditch. All the upper fills of the cut features had been spread as well as truncated by the ploughing.

The roundhouse drip-gully, Stratigraphic Grouping [1031]: the drip-gully was investigated in three interventions: one in the west of the trench, which cut across the gully alone, one in the north centre, which looked at the drip-gully and a narrow likely enclosure ditch immediately to the north, and a third intervention to the south-east which looked at the intersection of the drip-gully with the western of the linear north-south ditches. There was no evidence for an entrance within the area of the trench.

The furthest west intervention revealed the full width of the recut drip-gully, running north-east to south-west (Fig. 29). A 0.4m width of the original gully [1010] had survived re-cutting after being backfilled with redeposited natural. The recut [1014], to the south-east, was 0.6m wide at its spread top, narrowing to 0.4m at its gently concave base; 0.4m of its depth survived. The fills of the gullies were initially indistinguishable, but the more disturbed upper layer contained sherds of sandy Iron Age pottery and fragments of poorly preserved bone, all found above the area of the later ditch. Below this layer, the fills could be distinguished as the later gully-fill was notably siltier and charcoal-rich.

In the central intervention the full width of the later drip-gully was not caught. The full width of the original ditch, here [1007], was recorded running near west-east, with a

small segment of the recut ditch to the south. The fills could not be easily distinguished and the recut was only clear in section. The sandy Iron Age pottery came from both the original and the later gully, but mostly from the latter. The more disturbed upper layer in this intervention combined the fill of a narrow enclosure ditch just to the north [1009] with those of the two gullies. Most of the pottery – 22 sherds of sandy Iron Age pottery – and bone in that layer came from above the enclosure ditch.

The third investigation of the drip-gully was 1.75m to the east of [1007] where c. 0.8m of the later gully was sectioned. Here the west-east running drip-gully [1024] was beginning to curve south and was cut by western north-south linear ditch [1023]. The full width of the gully was not caught but again it survived to 0.4m in depth and was U-shaped in profile. The fill was initially indistinguishable from that of the linear ditch, but 12 sherds of sandy Iron Age pottery all came from around the drip-gully, while a single sherd of Iron Age grog-tempered pottery came from the south-east corner above the linear ditch. After less than 0.1m in depth the two features were easily separated. The fill of the drip-gully contained six further sherds of sandy Iron Age pottery.

Finally, it was also possible that the drip-gully was seen in the intervention furthest to the east and against the east centre baulk: ditch [1028] (part of SG [1016]; Fig. 28), may have encompassed a segment of the gully curve running near north-south as it was cut by one of the north-south linear ditches, or indeed may simply have been the drip-gully.

The linear ditches, Stratigraphic Grouping [1016]: the north-south ditches were investigated in two interventions, one in the east centre against the eastern baulk, and one in the north-east corner of the trench. The former slot revealed

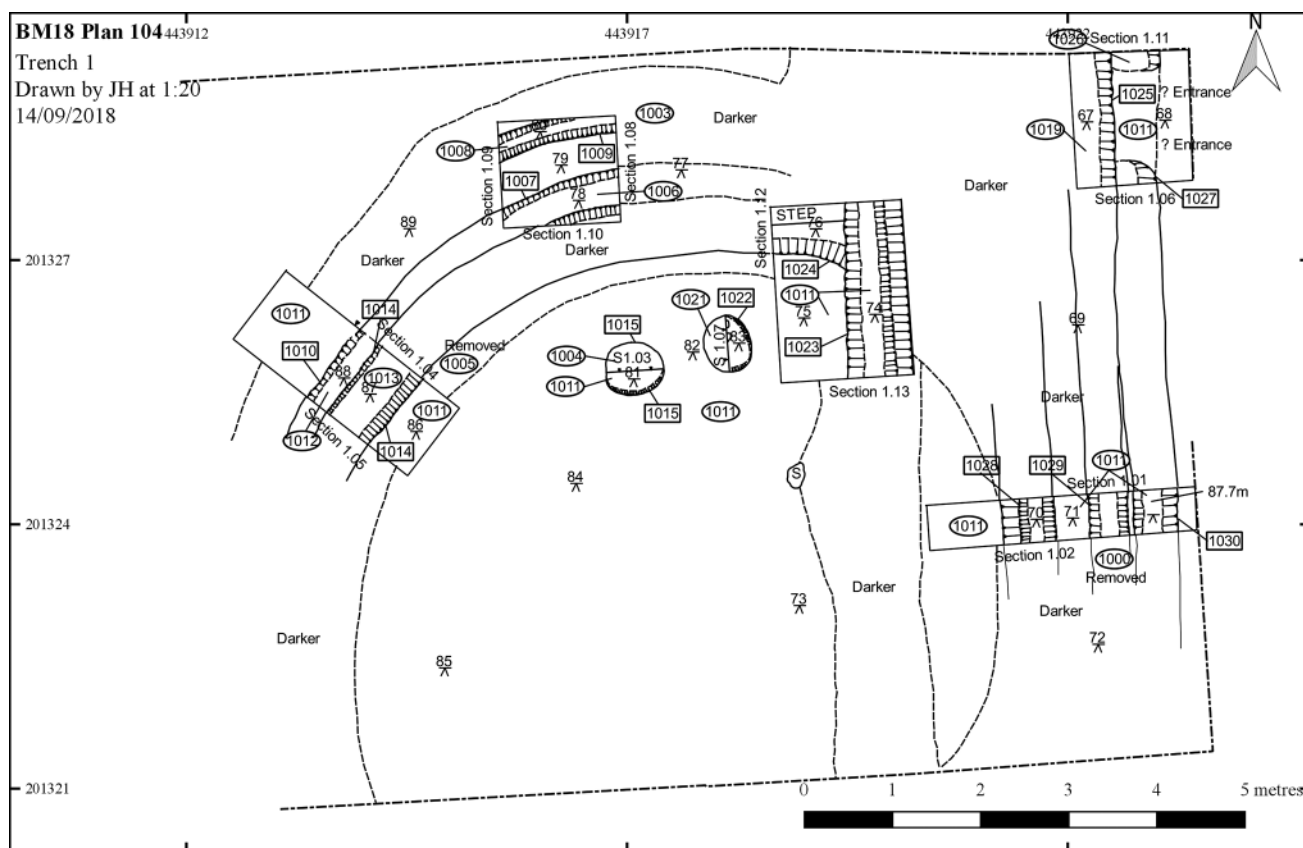


Figure 28: BM18 Plan 104, Trench 1 post-excavation

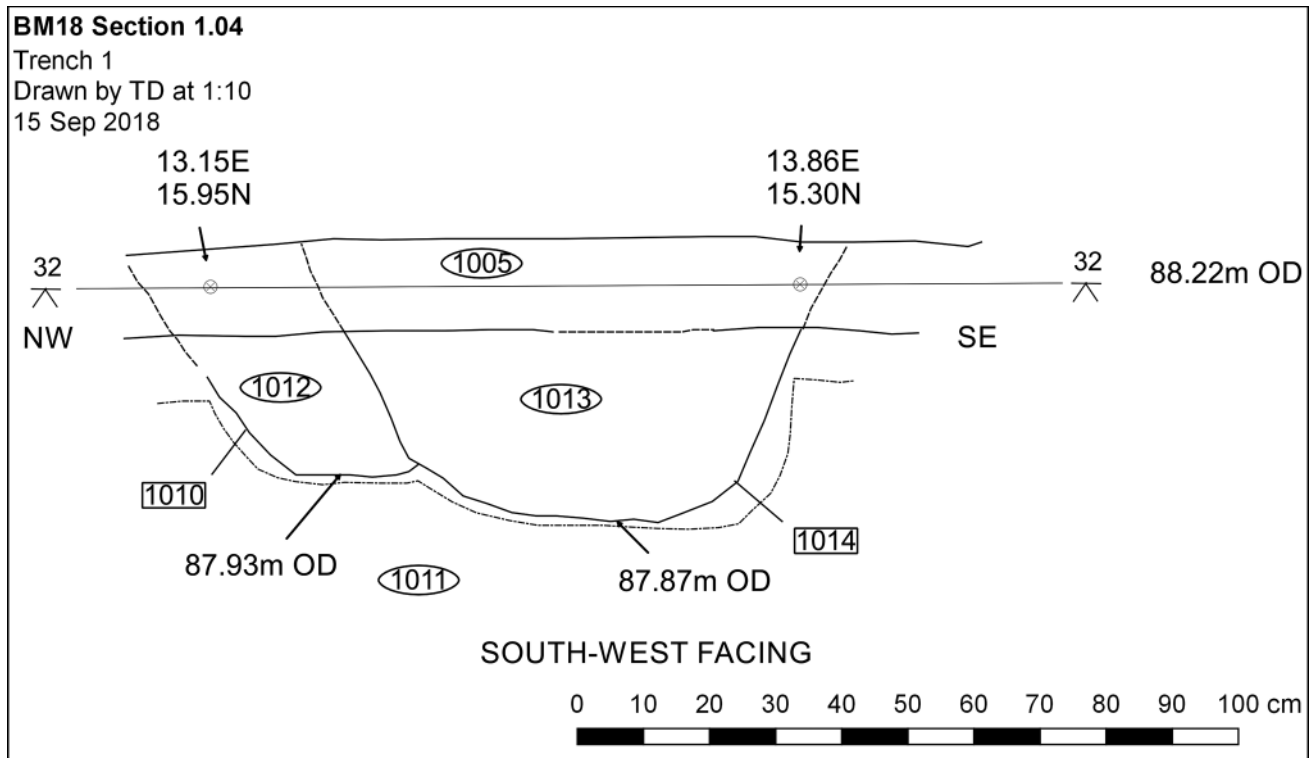


Figure 29: BM18 Section 1.04, recut roundhouse drip-gully

three cut features. The sandy silt fills of these linear features, dominated by redeposited natural, were indistinguishable and contained seven sherds of sandy Iron Age pottery and degraded bone. Cut feature [1028] in the west may have incorporated, or indeed been, the drip-gully, now running north-south, as discussed above. The truncated top was spread and c. 0.6m wide, the ditch/gully an open U-shape and 0.35–0.4m deep. [1028] may have intersected with [1029] immediately to the west, but the truncation of both features made it impossible to be certain. The middle ditch [1029] was a truncated open U-shape to the west but the eastern side was near vertical. This feature was c. 0.45m wide and slightly deeper at 0.45m and clearly cut the ditch to the east [1030]. That most easterly ditch [1030] was also U-shaped to the west but very gently sloping in the east, c. 0.5m wide, but shallower at 0.3m deep. On the geophysical plot these three ditches had merged to produce one anomaly.

Two of this group of linear ditches were seen again in the intervention in the north-east corner of the trench. Ditch [1025] was almost certainly a continuation of [1029] to the south, and in this intervention ditch [1025] also clearly cut [1027] to the east. Ditch [1027] appeared to be a continuation of ditch [1030] to the south. Here, the revealed length of ditch [1027] encompassed an entrance about 0.85m wide. Both ditch ends were rounded.

Enclosure/boundary ditch, [1009]: just north of the west-east running drip-gully [1007], as seen in the central north intervention, the full width and 1.3m WSW-ENE of a narrow possible enclosure ditch [1009] was investigated. This ditch was c. 0.45m wide at its truncated top resolving to 0.3m wide, with a v-shaped base and 0.3m of depth surviving. The lower fill was notably silty with very degraded pottery and bone that did not survive excavation. The upper fill comprised the spread and indistinguishable fills of the enclosure ditch and the drip-gully, but there were many more finds of Iron Age pottery and degraded bone

over the enclosure ditch at this level. This ditch could not be detected with certainty on the geophysics plot.

Postholes, [1015] and [1022]: the truncated remains of two large postholes were discovered within and just over a metre to the south of the inside edge of the northern curve of the drip-gully. The western of the postholes [1015] was c. 0.65m in diameter with vertical sides, and 0.2m deep with a flat base. The silty fill contained only two large stones of likely post-packing. The posthole about 0.8m to the east [1022] was very similar in size and profile; its fill produced early-middle Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Discussion

The roundhouse drip-gully survived to a depth of c. 0.4m and was originally U-shaped and 0.4–0.5m wide; the backfill was mostly silty, organic and contained early-middle Iron Age pottery and bone. It had been recut once and would have created an internal enclosure about eight metres in diameter for the building. In the east the gully was cut by north-south linear ditch [1023], one of a group of four ditches, detected running for up to 50m north-south in the geophysics but appearing in the plot as two ditches: [1023] separately to the west and the three together in the east [1028]-[1029]-[1030] as one anomaly. The most westerly of the ditches [1023] produced a sherd of grog-tempered Iron Age pottery but the group of three in the east produced only sandy Iron Age pottery. It is hard to be entirely confident of the chronological relationship of this group of ditches with the roundhouse drip-gully. While ditch [1023] was definitely later than the gully, and [1028] may have cut, been cut by or indeed have been the drip-gully, the two most easterly ditches could be contemporary with, earlier or later than the drip-gully. All contained middle Iron Age pottery. It is possible that [1025]-[1029] and [1027]-[1030] were enclosure ditches for one or more of the phases of the roundhouse, with the stretch of [1030] in the north – [1027] – including an entrance into

Oxfordshire

the roundhouse's enclosure. A narrow likely enclosure ditch – perhaps for a paddock or small field – was captured in the north centre of the trench [1009] running west-east just north of the roundhouse, but had no stratigraphical relationship with the drip-gully and, although also middle Iron Age, could have been earlier, later or contemporary with the roundhouse. The only other features found were two large postholes. These had no horizontal relationship with the drip-gully and the only pottery found in posthole [1022] was early-middle Anglo-Saxon suggesting that both postholes were later features.

Trench 2

Based on the geophysical anomalies, the hypothesis was that the wide near north-south ditch might have been an enclosure ditch for one or more phases of the settlement, with the less significant ditches dug as paddock, stock control or small field boundaries. The machining and clean-up layer, 0.35m deep, comprised both upper and lower ploughsoil down to the compacted layer in which again archaeological features began to be visible. The large ditch could be discerned as a wide band of darker fill, cut across by a deep plough-strike; a large oval cut feature could be seen in the south of the trench, with another band of darker fill running from the eastern baulk to merge with the large ditch's fill. The latter resolved into set of curving and inter-cutting ditches. All the upper fills of these cut features had been spread as well as truncated by the ploughing.

The main enclosure ditch: two interventions were made across the ditch (fig. 5), one in the south and another against the northern baulk. In 2018 the aim was to date and characterise the large ditch, which appeared on the geophysics to narrow as it ran NNE as well as producing

a weaker magnetic response; the intention is to return to explore further the relationship between the large ditch and the ditch/ditches approaching from the east.

The slot in the south explored the width of the re-cut ditch as delineated by the dark spread of fills. The upper 0.1–0.15m of fills were extremely dry and hard and excavated in a box section. Below that the fills were friable, humic and silty, and dug stratigraphically. The earliest ditch [2019] was originally 2.9m wide at this point, an open U-shape, 0.7m at its deepest in the west, rising to 0.5m in the east. This suggested the ditch was originally over a metre in depth. Widths of c. 0.25m in the west and 0.2m in the east of the original ditch fill had survived re-cutting and were notably humic, dark and silty. In the west the fill produced a considerable amount of slag, charcoal and burnt stone. The weaving comb (SF5; fig. 2) was found in this area, surviving as the fill was more amenable to preservation than those deposits dominated by natural. This area of fill also contained 11 sherds of sandy Iron Age pottery: some of the sherds were very large and sharp, and tended to be grouped in caches with animal bone and burnt stone. The western edge of the ditch may have been disturbed by a cut feature extending beyond the baulk but the boundaries between deposits were so diffuse in the upper layer it was impossible to be certain: the geophysics does suggest another linear feature running WNW from ditch [2019] at around the point that the slot was placed (possibly a continuation of ditch [2006] to the east of [2019]).

Ditch [2019] was back-filled and re-dug as [2005], in the same location, again as a fairly open U-shape and down to the base of the first ditch. However, the later ditch was only 2.4m wide and dug closer to the original eastern side so that the centre line of the ditch moved eastwards.

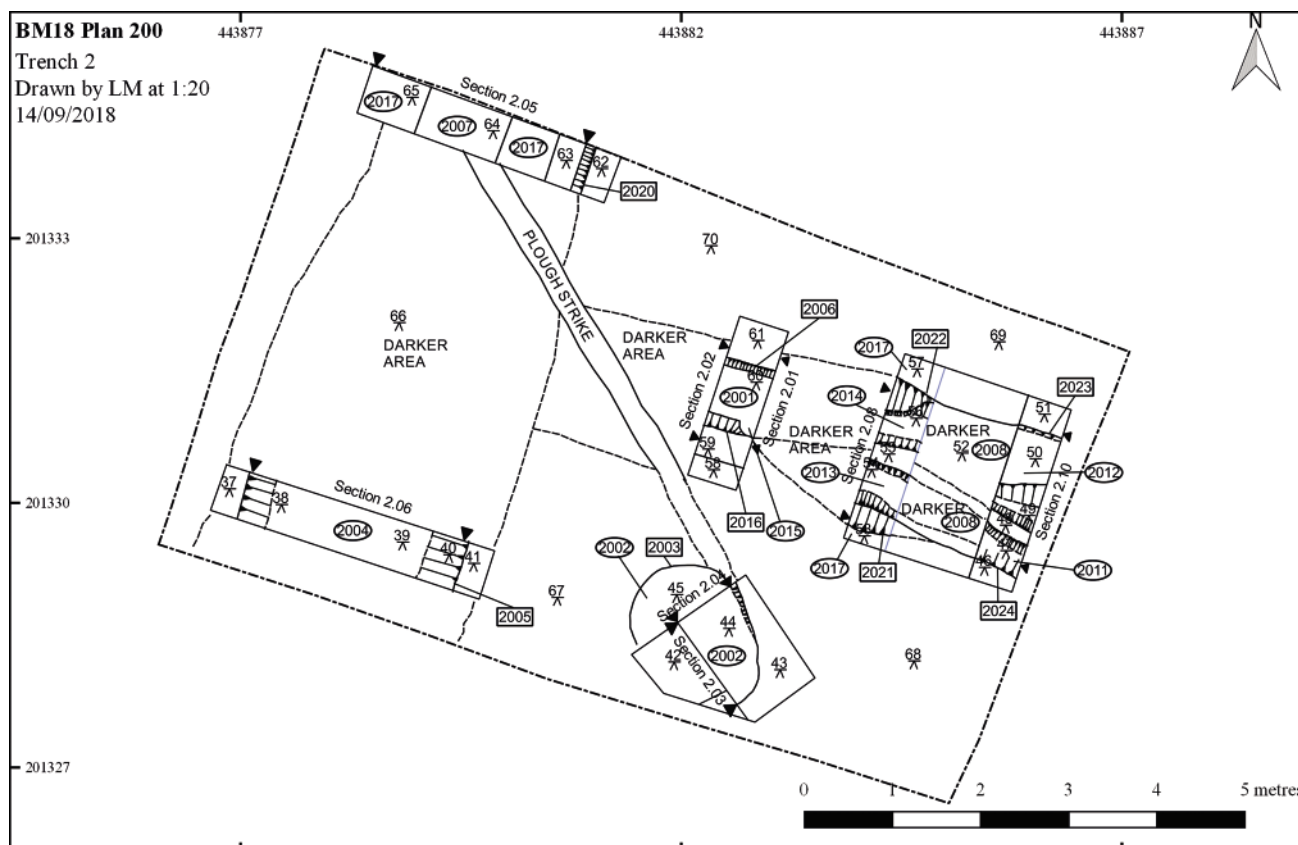


Figure 30: BM18 Plan 200, Trench 2 post-excitation

In the geophysics plot to the south of Trench 2 the large enclosure ditch does appear to bifurcate, possibly indicating that [2005] was a newly configured ditch although, in the area of Trench 2, dug in a similar location to a backfilled predecessor. The fill of the later ditch was not homogenous but composed of many dumps of material: humic sandy silt was interleaved with sandier lenses and streaks of grey clay, with charcoal flecks throughout. The fill also contained over 60 large sherds of sandy Iron Age pottery, again discovered in clusters with animal bone and occasionally burnt stone, rather than distributed more evenly through the fill.

The narrower stretch of ditch to the north of that just discussed above was investigated in a slot against the northern baulk. This stretch of ditch [2020] had not been recut or re-dug and was 2.4m wide, so correlating with the later ditch [2005] to the south in width. It had gently sloping sides with a concave base, about 0.7m deep, again echoing the later ditch to the south. The greatest contrast was in the fill of the northern stretch of ditch: the sandy silt was much more homogenous, contained very little charcoal and 31 sherds of sandy Iron Age pottery, none of them very large and dispersed throughout the fill, with only occasional bone fragments.

Large oval cut feature: south-east of the large ditch the south-east quadrant of a large oval cut feature [2003] was excavated. Its overall size was 1.75m NW-SE by 1.4m SW-NE and depth 0.7m, with near vertical sides and a flat base. The fill was not homogenous: the upper layer was humic silty sand and produced a small cluster of bone and over 30 sherds of sandy Iron Age pottery in the near centre of the feature. That upper fill merged with and was interleaved with a finely laminated greasy and ashy lower layer. The lower fill may have been cooking-related but contained no pottery or surviving bone.

Central and eastern ditches: these ditches were investigated in two areas, one in the north-east corner of the trench and another further west. All of the two-metre square area in the north-east was initially covered with darker deposit, and this was dug to a depth of 0.25m at which level the ditches could be discerned and excavated stratigraphically. The two ditches revealed were excavated in two narrower slots against the western and eastern baulks of the original intervention. In the upper layer most of the finds of 32 sherds of Iron Age pottery, burnt stone and possibly slag, seemed to come from the area above the southern ditch [2021]-[2024]. That ditch was possibly a paddock/field or stock run boundary: the western stretch [2021] was 0.4m deep (so closer to 0.8m deep originally), 0.4m wide narrowing to 0.2m with a flat narrow base. The east side sloped steeply, and the west side changed with a break of slope from a gentle to lower steep slope. To the east the ditch [2024] was a steeply sloping V-shape, 0.4m wide by 0.55m deep. The fills were dark humic sandy silts, contained animal bone, and produced three sherds of Iron Age pottery. This ditch was cut by the ditch to the north [2022]-[2023] and also appeared to be the feature seen in the geophysics curving from south to east across the field before intersecting with large ditch [2005]-[2020].

The northern ditch [2022]-[2023] cut ditch [2021]-[2024] and correlated on the geophysics with a shorter stretch of ditch running east-west into Trench 2. In the east, ditch [2023]'s south-east side sloped steeply to a gently concave base, the opposing side being long, gently sloping and

undulating, possibly reflecting another intersecting cut feature at this point. The ditch was 1.4m wide at its top narrowing to 0.35m at the base, by 0.47m deep. To the west the ditch, here [2022], had steeply sloping, v-shaped sides and was 0.4m wide and 0.55m deep. This ditch may have been up to one metre in depth originally. The fills were very similar to the southern ditch and contained some sandy Iron Age pottery and animal teeth fragments.

The final investigation of the two near west-east ditches was made in a slot towards the centre of the trench. Here a wider and deeper ditch [2006] cut gully [2016]: these features appeared as one ditch on the geophysics. The gully was probably the continuation to the west of ditch [2021]-[2024], echoing the profile of that ditch, with steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. The fill contained one sherd of Iron Age pottery. The later ditch [2006] was the western continuation of ditch [2022]-[2023] and had a steeply sloping east side, a more gently sloped west side and an open v-shaped base. It was 0.7m wide at the top and 0.25m at its base and c. 0.45m deep. The fill produced eight sherds of abraded sandy Iron Age pottery.

Discussion

The wide anomaly running across the west side of the trench comprised two ditches, one the re-cutting [2005] of an earlier backfilled ditch [2019]. The later ditch may have continued northwards as [2020]; the original ditch may have linked with ditch [2016]-[2021]-[2024] curving away to the south-east to meet with the southern extension of large ditch [2005] to form a sizeable D-shaped enclosure. Ditch [2016]-[2021]-[2024] was also the earlier of the two ditches running near west-east across the trench. It is possible that ditch [2006]-[2022]-[2023] formed a large sub-square enclosure with the northward extension of enclosure ditch [2020].

The large oval flat-bottomed pit-like feature [2003] remains a puzzle, having dug like a sunken featured building. It was perhaps the base of a small wooden structure or possibly a large fire-pit, although there was perhaps neither sufficient charcoal nor ash for the latter to be the case.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located to investigate a spread of magnetic anomalies, along with possible pits and post-holes and a series of ditches, two of which appeared to be opposing ditch-arms creating a north-west facing entrance into a large, near north-south aligned sub-rectangular enclosure (Fig. 31). The northerly ten metres of the trench was six metres wide, the southern 13 metres wider at 11 metres. After the removal of ploughsoils to 0.35–0.4m below field-surface, the dark spread in the north could clearly be seen against the pale natural [3016], as could the pits. The sweeping arc of ditches, now obviously more than one cut feature, was partially obscured by two wide medieval furrow bases up to two metres wide running NNW-SSE across the trench, [3005] and [3013]. Two other furrow bases could be seen in the north of the trench and these furrows can be traced on the geophysics as paler bands blurring the other archaeologically-derived anomalies. As in 2018 the truncation of all the features ensured that stratigraphical relationships could only be discerned where features directly intersected, and not always then.

The northern pit cluster: the upper amalgamated and disturbed layer of this area of dozens of tightly intercutting

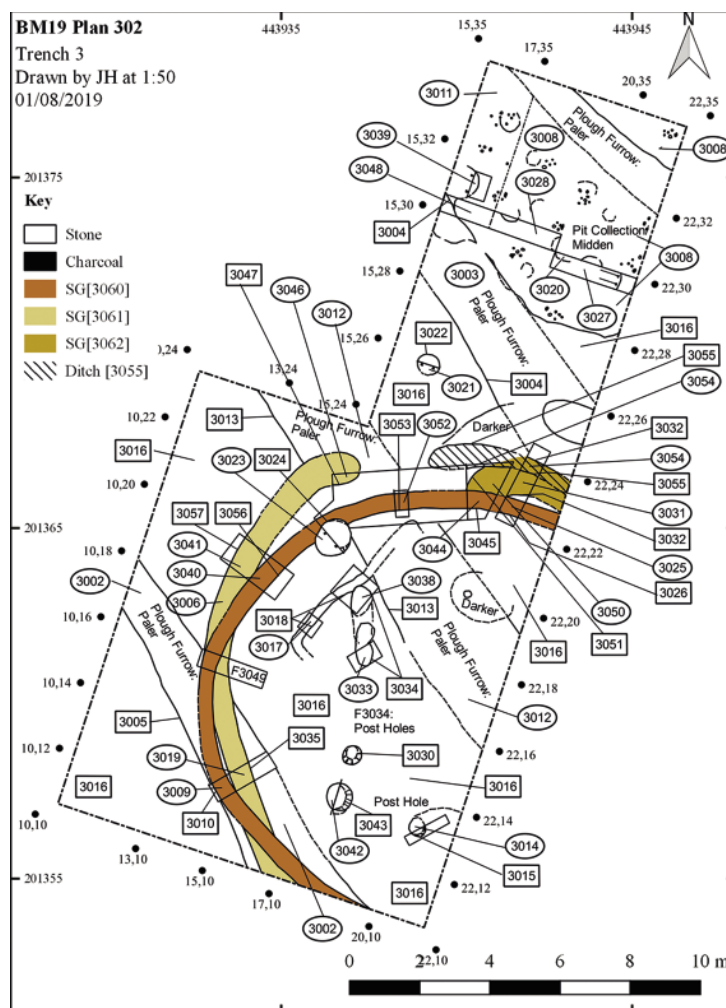


Figure 31: BM19 Plan 302, Trench 3 post-excitation

small pits was excavated first as one spit (3008), around six metres square in the trench and no more than 0.1m deep. From two slots dug west-east through the surviving depth of the pit cluster it was apparent that the pits were generally between 0.2m-0.6m in diameter and originally between 0.6–0.7m deep. As seen in section most were steep-sided with near flat bases, with a few narrower pits more v-shaped in profile. Below the more disturbed upper layer the cuts of a handful of pits could be detected in plan, and pit-profiles only really showed in section. All were intercutting at the level of truncation; separate bases emerged towards the bottom of the profile. Hence the appearance in the geophysics of one diffuse spread. The upper amalgamated fills and laminations, like the lower fills, were dark and humic, with fine clay lenses, and produced a range of abraded small sherds of probably Iron Age pottery and degraded bone, especially teeth. The lower fills were very similar, with neither concentrations of finds, nor better-preserved bone or pottery. The western slot revealed a collection of eight stake holes running into the natural below the pits. The midden area may have been fenced in various places as it developed, to keep livestock on or off, or the stakes may perhaps have been individual tethers for animals feeding on the midden-material.

Pits and postholes [3022], F[3034], [3030], [3043], [3015] and [3024]; gully [3018]: this section deals first with all the cut features seen separately from both the pit midden and the arc of ditches, and finally with the large likely grain

storage pit [3024]-[3037] cut into the backfilled ditches in the west centre of the trench.

Pit or large **posthole [3022]** lay two metres south of the pit-midden and the same distance north of the arc of ditches. A depth of 0.4m survived of the circular feature, which was 0.8m wide at its spread top, narrowing to 0.6m. There were indications that a considerable post had been withdrawn from the west, and the posthole backfilled with predominantly natural. A very small amount of extremely degraded pottery and bone in the fill did not survive excavation. This posthole was very similar in size and profile to the two discovered in Trench 1.

In the centre of the wider southern part of the trench, an intercutting series of postholes and a meandering gully were investigated. The run of **postholes F[3034]** was very disturbed by both contemporary intercutting and post-medieval ploughing. There were at least four postholes running near north-south for c. 2.3m. Each intercut posthole was sub-oval and between 0.5–0.6m in diameter with between 0.1–0.3 m of their depth surviving. No finds were recovered from the fills. The most northern posthole cut a narrow, slightly meandering **gully [3018]** running 4.5m broadly south-west to north-east about 1.5m south-east of the ditch arc. This gully seemed to turn in a right angle at each of its ends before becoming shallower and so lost to later disturbance. It may have described a sub-square or sub-rectangular enclosure. The gully fill was more humic than the fill of the postholes, but again contained no finds; the

feature was 0.25–0.3m wide and at most 0.2m deep. It was impossible to tell if the postholes and gully were related or belonged to completely different phase(s) of activity.

Posthole [3030] three metres south and also within the ditch arc was revealed immediately beneath ploughsoil as packed with burnt stone. This stone layer was at most 0.4m deep and comprised half-a-dozen larger stones up to 0.4m long and many smaller ones; these were likely post-packing. The posthole was 0.6m in diameter and thus very similar in depth and size to posthole [3022] 11.25m to the north. One of the postholes in F[3034] also lay on a line between these two postholes. There were no finds other than the stones.

Posthole [3015] lay 2.5m south-east of [3030] close to the baulk. This feature had been heavily disturbed by post-medieval ploughing, like F[3034], but appeared to comprise a posthole 0.4m in diameter and surviving to a depth of 0.15m, possibly adjacent to the end of a narrow gully curving into the baulk to the east. The fill of the pit was very organic and produced a few small sherds of probable Iron Age pottery.

Pit kiln: the final cut feature not directly associated with the ditches was **pit [3043]**, just half a metre south of [3030], although it is impossible to say whether any of these features belonged to the same phase. The feature survived to a depth of 0.5m, was inverted bell-shaped, 0.9m in diameter at the top, narrowing to 0.64m about 0.2m from the top (Fig. 32). The sides were vertical thereafter with some undercutting in the SSW. The upper fill in the more open portion of the kiln was extremely black, orange and silty with clay lenses and considerable amounts of ash and charcoal, producing both crumbling sherds of reddened pottery and larger sherds of coarse pottery. Below that layer were at least five – and probably more – complete, upturned but crushed red and greyish black pots, interleaved with sherds of broken pot, ash, burnt stone, burnt clay and ash. A small whetstone SF4 was also found amidst the pottery. This feature was probably a pit kiln.

Grain storage pit: the outline of **pit [3024]-[3037]**, located a metre north-west of gully [3018] was initially obscured by the base of medieval furrow [3013]. The pit was also cut into the backfilled roundhouse drip-gully SG[3060], see below, curving near east. Before its truncation and spreading by ploughing the pit was 0.95m wide at the top (Fig. 33). Around 0.45m down from the surviving top, the pit narrowed to 0.75m wide before gradually widening back to 0.95m above a deeply concave base; the pit survived to 1.1m deep and so must have been *c.* 1.5m deep originally. The pit was probably recut [3024] to a depth of *c.* 0.35m: the upper, silty more disturbed fill of the recut contained degraded bone, and also pottery sherds and burnt stone found in small clusters. The lower, sandier fill of the original pit [3037] contained more, and more complete, animal bone, less pottery and more charcoal with depth. This may originally have been a grain storage pit.

Roundhouse drip-gully, Stratigraphic Grouping SG[3060]: the gully was the stratigraphically earliest of the ditches making up the group of curved features describing an arc across the wider southern sector of the trench, sweeping from the south-east corner, across nearly to the western baulk and back to the eastern side 12 metres to the north. The stronger magnetic signal of the earlier, larger ditch masked the course of the gully in the geophysics. The gully would have created a circular enclosure of *c.* 11.5m in diameter, the entrance presumably sited to the east and outside the trench.

To explore the various stratigraphical relationships the gully was investigated in five slots. In the south the gully, here [3010], was found cutting the earlier ditch [3035]; the gully was 0.2–0.4m wide and 0.2m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The fill contained a little degraded pottery and bone. Two metres north the gully, now F[3049], was recorded cutting more decisively into the earlier ditch but presenting an almost identical profile and fill. Another two metres north and the gully, here [3056], was caught swinging to the east, again clearly cutting the earlier ditch.



Figure 32: Pit [3043], looking north-west. Photo by Lynn Amadio

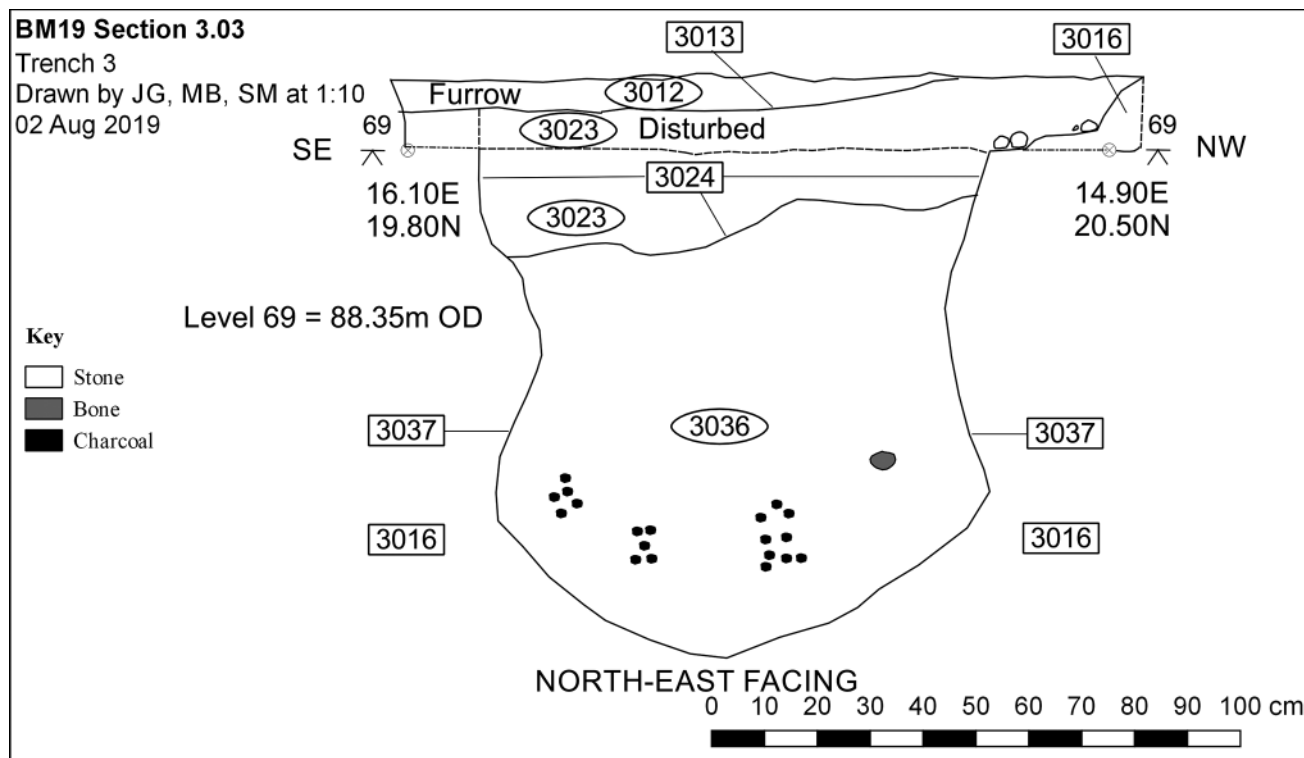


Figure 33: BM19 Section 3.03, probable grain storage pit

Survival was better here as the features were not as disturbed by later ploughing. The gully presented a similar profile but survived to a depth of 0.25–0.3m and a width of 0.5m. The fill contained more animal bone, burnt stone and sherds of Iron Age pottery, some of which were deposited in clusters.

The gully was picked up again four metres to the north-east, as [3053], running between the terminals of the earlier ditch. In this location the gully was again disturbed by a plough furrow and its profile and fill were identical to the furthest south profile, [3010]. The final exploration of the gully was a further two metres to the east close to the baulk. Here the gully was recorded, as [3045]–[3026], cutting what was probably the opposing ditch terminal for the earlier, wider enclosure ditch. Once again, the gully survived to 0.2m deep and up to 0.5m in width, with fills containing a small amount of degraded bone and coarse pottery sherds.

Although this gully created an enclosure around three metres wider than that discovered in Trench 1, the width, depth and fills of both of the probable drip-gullies were similar. The final specialist report will indicate whether identifiable pottery fabrics were also the same.

Enclosure ditch, western arm SG[3061]: this ditch ran around six metres north-east to south-west from a slightly curved terminal in the west centre of the trench, before straightening to run near north-south for about seven metres into the southern baulk. The ditch's geophysical response suggests it may continue for at least another six-seven metres, curving slightly to the south-east in the final two-three metres, thus possibly creating a sub-oval enclosure some 17 metres long by about 12 metres wide.

The western arm was explored in three interventions with a further section across the terminal end. In the southern slot the ditch, here [3035], cut by the drip-gully and truncated by furrow [3005], was recorded as a metre wide, but because of the furrow only survived to a depth of 0.2m. The sides were

slightly sloping and the base near flat; the silty fill produced degraded bone and some coarse pottery fragments. Two metres north the ditch, F[3049], although the same width survived to c. 0.3m deep; the fill was similar but with more coarse pottery sherds. The large intervention two metres further north provided the best opportunity to characterise the enclosure ditch, here [3057]. Undisturbed by large medieval furrows, the ditch survived to 0.4m deep, suggesting it was not far short of a metre deep originally, and at least 1.2m wide at its top. The western side sloped more gently, with the eastern side a little steeper producing a slightly sloping but open and near-flat base. The upper fill had contained clusters of burnt stone, coarse pottery sherds and animal bone, including a boar's tusk; the lower fill produced only burnt stone. A quadrant of the curved ditch end was captured in section as [3047] but produced no notable finds. The end was shallower than the body of the ditch.

Enclosure ditch, eastern arm SG[3062] and ditch [3055]: the eastern ditch end was seen in two interventions close to the eastern baulk, here as [3032]–[3051]. The shallower terminal survived to 0.2m deep and the body of the eastern arm produced a very similar fill and profile to the western arm, being 0.4m deep and a metre wide with slightly asymmetric sides and an open and near-flat base.

The eastern arm of the enclosure ditch was cut by both the drip-gully and in the north by another ditch [3055], which ran west from the baulk for four metres before ending in a slightly curved terminal. This ditch could be detected in the geophysics within the trench but could not readily be reconciled with any geophysical anomalies continuing beyond the trench outline. The was very similar in size and profile to the drip-gully: 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep with a concave base. No finds were discovered in the small amount of fill excavated.

Discussion

Trench 3 allowed an exploration of the probable eastern edge of the settlement. The midden pit-cluster (3008) is characteristic of certain Iron Age settlements, but it was interesting to discover evidence for the fencing of, or animal tethering in, parts of the midden. The midden cannot be conclusively linked, before radiocarbon results are forthcoming, to any of the ditches or features to the south. One of the earlier phases of activity south of the pit-cluster was indicated by the 17m long, sub-oval enclosure, with a 3.5m wide entrance in the north-west. It was impossible to associate any particular use to this enclosure, because of the truncation of all the archaeology, but it is possible that kiln [3053] and some of the smaller cut features found within the enclosure were contemporary. In a later phase, a roundhouse was built across the north-western end of the backfilled ditches of the enclosure, and some of the posthole sequence F[3034] and posthole [3015] could have been part of the structure of the building. Finally, the backfilled drip-gully was cut by a grain storage pit [3024]-[3037]. Again, one or two of the cut features within what had been the roundhouse interior, such as narrow gully [3018], could have been contemporary with that pit. The two larger postholes, [3030] and [3022] might have been early Anglo-Saxon.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located to investigate a substantial near west-east linear ditch where it intersected with other curved ditches, and, in the south-west corner, a semi-circular arrangement of pits or postholes (Fig. 34). The trench was 12 metres west-east by ten metres north-south. After the removal of plough-soils to 0.35–0.4m below field-surface, the linear ditch could be clearly discerned, cut across by a medieval furrow, as could elements of the curved ditches, especially in the east of the trench, and some of the pits in

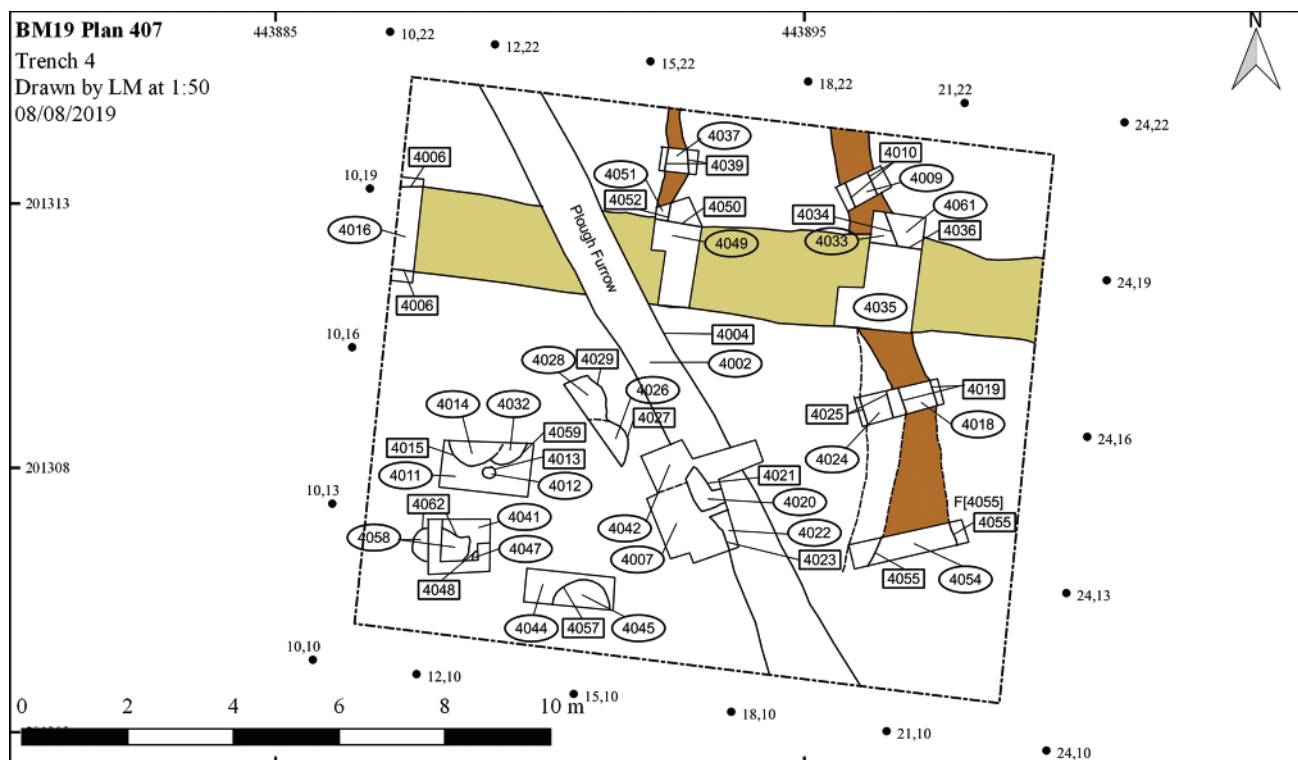
the south-west. It was apparent from the outset that the pit arrangement and cut features south of the main ditch were more complex than suggested by the geophysics. However, all were also very truncated and disturbed, making it difficult to tease out relationships.

Linear ditch [4006] and intersecting ditches: the near west-east ditch ran across the full width of Trench 4 (Fig. 35). Its full profile was investigated against the western baulk, where the ditch was 1.6m wide at its spread, truncated top, narrowing to 0.8m wide at the bottom. The southern side had slumped, but the ditch was originally U-shaped and survived to 0.7m deep, so was originally over a metre deep. The fill produced fragmentary animal bone and teeth, some coarse pottery sherds and burnt stone.

Five metres to the east, this ditch cut **ditch [4039]** running near north-south. About 0.5m wide and surviving to a depth of 0.25m, the U-shaped ditch contained some degraded coarse pottery and animal bone. Ditch [4039] could not be traced south of the west-east ditch, here [4050], but may have been associated with similar gullies in that area, discussed below.

Three metres further east a second ditch intersected with [4006]. **Ditch [4010]-[4034]** was also cut by the larger west-east ditch, here [4036], had survived to 0.25m deep, was slightly wider than [4039] at 0.6m but similar in fill and profile to that ditch. However, ditch [4010] emerged clearly south of the later ditch, where a number of cut features intersected in the south-east corner of the trench. These features may have included pits/postholes, but the combination of truncation and later ploughing disturbance meant relationships were in general hard to clarify.

The intervention along the line of ditch [4010] one metre south of the later linear ditch recorded the profile of two ditches, [4019] and [4025]. **Ditch [4019]** running near north-south was the likely continuation of ditch [4010]-



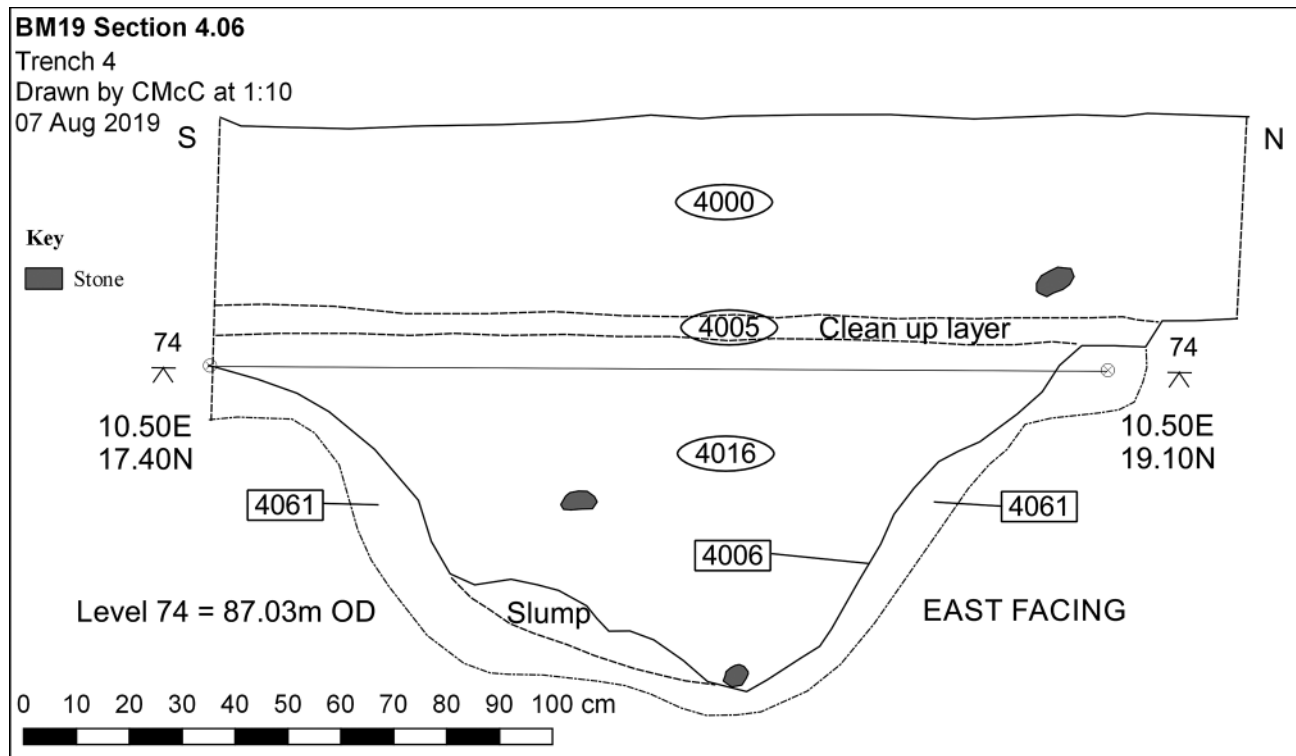


Figure 35: BM19 Section 4.06, large linear ditch

[4034], with a very similar profile and fill. **Gully [4025]** to the west was narrower at 0.45m and very disturbed and shallow. This gully appeared to be curving towards ditch [4019] and, although it emerged south of the large ditch, and was cut by it, could not clearly be traced north of that feature. These ditches were explored in another slot three metres to the south. At this point the narrow gully cut the larger ditch as it curved gently south-west **F[4055]**, and both had been cut by a later pit about 0.5m in diameter. The fills produced very occasional coarse pottery sherds, animal bone and burnt stone.

The central area of the trench south of the west-east ditch had been most disturbed by medieval and later ploughing [4004], but produced an intercutting pit and gully, and the largest collection in the trench of considerable sherds of likely Iron Age pottery. **Gully [4023]** ran south-east to north-west was steep-sided and around 0.2m wide and 0.25m deep, so similar in size and direction to gully [4025], some three metres to the east. It is plausible that both of these may have been roundhouse drip-gullies. Gully [4023] was distinguished by the quantity of pottery discovered in its fill, including near complete pots. To the north the gully was cut by **pit [4021]**, which was only partially excavated but was sub-oval 0.7m in diameter and c. 0.25m deep, with a fill containing some pottery, burnt stone, animal teeth and degraded bone. This pit was probably associated with those to the west, in particular pit [4062], discussed below.

Pit cluster of five elements in the south-west quadrant, including **pit [4021]** discussed above, **pit [4059]-[4015]**, **pit [4029]-[4027]**, **pit [4062]** and **pit [4057]**: the west central of the possible pits/pit clusters had appeared below ploughsoil as a pit with a posthole near-centre (fig. 1). On excavation it resolved into recut **pit [4015]** with posthole [4013] on its southern edge. The posthole was very shallow and c. 0.25m in diameter; above the level of truncation it had probably cut into the edge of the later pit of the pair. The earlier **pit**

[4059] was small: c. 0.45m in diameter and 0.15m deep. The sub-oval pit that cut its western side was 1.2m in diameter but barely 0.1m in depth. The disturbed, slightly silty fill(s) containing some very fragmentary bone and were difficult to distinguish.

Intercutting **pits [4027]** and **[4029]** just to the north-east were similar. The earlier pit [4029] was a metre in diameter and 0.15m deep, with gently sloping sides and near flat base; the later pit [4027] cut the south-east quadrant of [4029], was 1.1m in diameter and a similar depth. Again, the only finds were animal bone including two jawbones, and there were hints of possible postholes. The fifth element in this cluster of pits lay just to the south of pit [4015] but on excavation of **pit [4062]** revealed a different character, more like pit [4021] just over four metres to the north-east. This pit was deeper at c. 0.3m, sub-oval with a diameter of 0.8m and vertical sides; the fill was much siltier, charcoal-rich and produced sherds of Iron Age coarse pottery. Just to the east, close to the southern baulk a fifth pit-related feature, **pit [4057]** was investigated. This pit was not intercut, was a metre in diameter and survived to 0.2m deep, with a gently concave base and gently sloping sides. The fill was silty, charcoal-rich and contained some larger sherds of coarse pottery.

Together these five pits/pit clusters were the features that produced the sub-circular arrangement of pit-like geophysical anomalies in the south-west corner of the trench. More may be discovered about their purpose with the final specialist and environmental reports.

Discussion

Despite the disturbance and truncation some phasing can be suggested for Trench 4. The near north-south ditch [4010]-[4019] was an early feature, cut by both gully [4025], a pit and the large west-east ditch. That curved ditch [4010]-[4019] is probably the southern end of a ditch investigated

in 2018, which was also likely earlier than a large enclosure ditch in that part of the settlement. There were two possible roundhouse drip-gullies [4023] and [4025] in Trench 4, in a subsequent phase, which were cut by the later circular arrangement of five intercutting pits and postholes, and by the large west-east ditch [4006]. It is not possible to say whether the pit circle was earlier, contemporary with, or later than the linear ditch. Thus, the area of Trench 4 may have begun as part of a stock/field enclosure system, then seen an unenclosed phase of roundhouse settlement, which was followed by the pit arrangement and the creation of a more enclosed phase, including the large linear ditch.

Conclusion

The AAARP surveys and excavations in Broadmoor field have revealed something of the character of a multi-phase, early-middle Iron Age settlement. Further details and more confident phasing will be added as final specialist reports and radiocarbon dating results are incorporated. The settlement clearly changed over time and shifted focus around the area delineated by the geophysical anomalies. A considerable number of roundhouses were part of the layout, with evidence for the re-cutting of encircling drip-gullies. The magnetometry was not able to pick up all the drip-gullies and their presence in Trench 3 and probably Trench 4 suggests there were even more buildings than indicated by the survey. In different parts of the field the roundhouses were both preceded by a large ditched enclosure (Trench 3) and succeeded by linear ditches and pits (Trenches 1, 3 and 4), indicating the dynamic layout and character of the settlement. There was evidence for enclosures, probably for small fields and gardens as well as for stock; and for midden

management, pottery manufacture, grain storage, weaving and possibly metal-working. The settlement was both unenclosed and enclosed at different times in its occupation, before its apparent abandonment in the later Iron Age.

The evidence for Romano-British activity was slight, with no pottery in features and only a small battered assemblage from ploughsoils. The field may have been worked in the Roman period but there is as yet no evidence for nearby settlement. However, the earlier Anglo-Saxon pottery found in a posthole hints at the presence of structures of that period, with other cut features containing earlier Anglo-Saxon pottery discovered in test pits on the eastern field margin and 300m to the ENE by the Plough pub. In the medieval period the whole field was again being ploughed and appears to have remained under cultivation since that time.

Acknowledgements

The Project team – Jane Harrison, Leigh and Gill Mellor, Trevor Rowley and William Wintle – are extremely grateful to the landowners Felicity and Richard Dick, and to the farmers of the field, Andrew and Richard Farrant, for their support, enthusiasm and kindness. The Appleton with Eaton History Society have been invaluable partners, especially: Roger Gilkes, Monica Price and John Page. Many Appleton villagers, including school children, visited the excavations, on the Open Days and at other times, and a number took part: many thanks to you all for your enthusiasm. Huge thanks to the terrific excavation team of locals, volunteers and students, too many to list, but special thanks go to the onsite team: Lynn Amadio, Amanda Eames, Katie Hambrook, Charlie McCarthy and Leslie Wilkinson. William Wintle digitised the site drawings. The Trustees of AAARP are very grateful



Figure 36: Trench 3 under excavation by OUDCE students and volunteers, looking north-east. Photo by Jane Harrison

Oxfordshire

to the Council for British Archaeology for a generous grant from the Mick Aston Archaeology Fund.

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Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project (AAARP): Test Pits in Appleton Village

SP 4428 0159, centred

JANE HARRISON, LEIGH MELLOR and WILLIAM WINTLE

Introduction

The AAARP Project is researching 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. The first AAARP fieldwork was undertaken at Appleton Manor, a moated site with a surviving twelfth century hall-house, and included four test pits located close to the manor house within the moated area (Fig. 37). These excavations and the known history of the Manor are described in Bond *et al* 2017. Further fieldwork undertaken in 2017 and 2018 is summarised in Harrison and Rowley 2019.

The research area is topographically and geologically distinctive and archaeologically largely unexplored. The Project is seeking to understand the changing character of its past landscapes and settlement, focusing on the Iron Age to Medieval periods. Ultimately it will be exploring whether this area is distinctive within the Upper Thames Valley.

An important aim of the AAARP fieldwork is to understand and date the formation and development of the village of Appleton. Some indications of its later development can be discerned by studying historic maps such as nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey maps, the Tithe map and the 1831 Enclosure map. Such analyses may result in villages being assigned a likely settlement class according to the regularity of streets and house plots, the presence or absence of greens, and the number of focal points in the village (Roberts 1982, 5–14; Roberts 1987). In Appleton, as in many other villages, the surviving manor house and church are in close proximity. But this does not necessarily imply that this was the initial or primary focus of settlement and village development. Indeed, in Appleton this was almost certainly not the case.

Summary

In order to provide a framework for investigating its development of the village, around 40 test pits have been dug within the village so far (Fig. 37). The pottery collected from these test pits indicates that, before the Norman Conquest, Appleton was probably a scattered, linear distribution of dwellings and farms, rather than a village clustered round in the location of the post-Conquest church and manor.

The pre-Conquest foci that have been discovered were around South Lawn in the south-west, the Plough Pub in the modern centre of the village, and perhaps the Appleton end of Eaton Road to the north-north-east (Fig. 38), which continued into the Medieval period and beyond. Even after the church and Appleton Manor were built, the village continued for some considerable time as a more dispersed, strung-out settlement. Evidence gathered thus far suggests that the village coalesced into near to its modern shape only in the later sixteenth to eighteenth centuries when the test pit results show, for example, the expansion of settlement along Park Lane and England's Lane.

The results from test pits excavated around Tubney Manor Farm and the deserted manor of Besselsleigh will be reported on next year when they can be analysed alongside other survey and excavation work.

Test pit pottery analysis by archaeological period (see Fig. 38)

Roman

The research area is notable for its absence of Roman archaeology, in stark contrast for example to East Oxford. No more than one or two small sherds of Roman pottery were found in any Appleton test pit. Similarly, although the morphology of the geophysical survey at Broadmoor field in Appleton might have suggested a Roman component, in two seasons of excavation only a few battered sherds have been discovered in ploughsoil (*see article below*). There may be evidence for field manuring but none as yet for settlement in the close vicinity.

Anglo-Saxon

Poorly surviving early-middle Anglo-Saxon pottery is rarely recovered from test pits, even when settlement is close by, yet sherds were found in a cut feature in test pit (TP) 37 on the eastern margin of Broadmoor field. A large posthole excavated in 2018 in the field also produced pottery of that period (*see article below*). Three areas were identified where test pit pottery indicated a likely later Anglo-Saxon component to activity: around South Lawn; around the Plough Pub (TPs 10 and 21) and possibly around the southern end of Eaton Road. None of the pottery from test pits excavated in and around Appleton Manor grounds suggested pre-Conquest settlement clustered round or immediately preceded its building.

Medieval

Despite the establishment of the Manor the settlement pattern continued to be relatively dispersed, and there is no evidence from test pits that Medieval building focused around the Manor site. For example, TP20 in the Manor's walled garden, and very close to the church, produced only one small sherd of possible Medieval pottery; the remainder was seventeenth-century to modern. Either no Medieval or only a slight Medieval component were found in TPs 5–7, 8, 14, 16, 26 and 46. The moated manor at Appleton, sited on low-lying and damp land, may have been one of a type identified as established on relatively unattractive ground and amidst more dispersed settlement (Aberg and Brown 1981; Bond *et al* 2017).

An interesting west-east split in evidence for the development of the village either side of the Netherton-Eaton

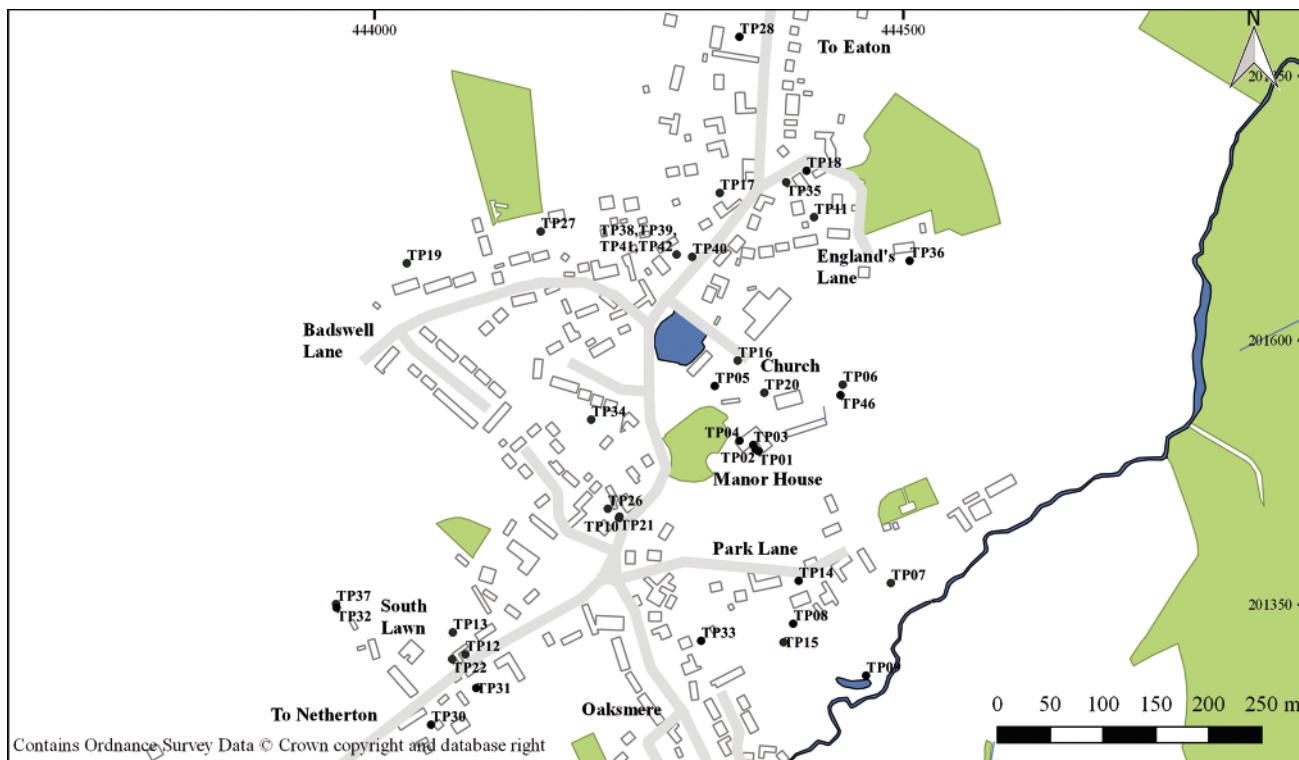


Figure 37: test pit locations in Appleton

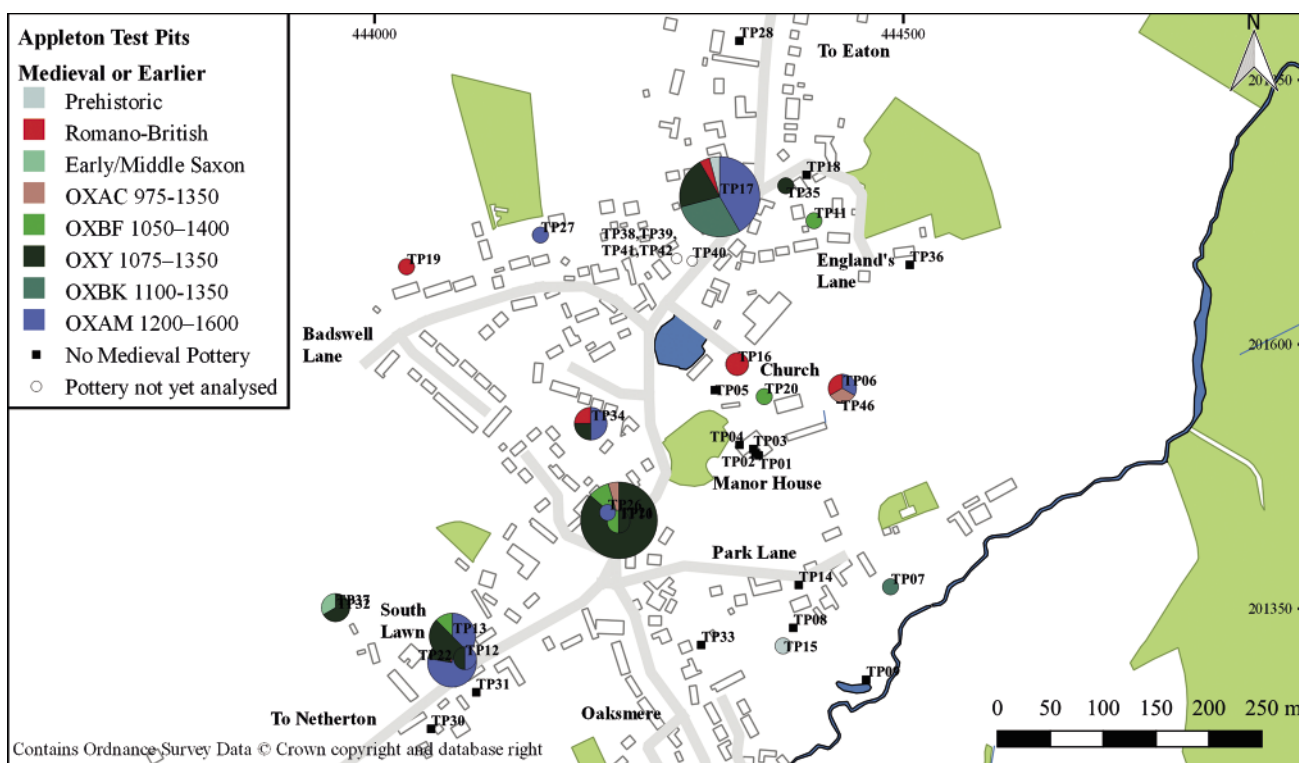


Figure 38: test pits 1–37 with full analysis of pottery collected

road is emerging. The Medieval farms and small hamlets seem to have been located predominantly on the higher, drier ground to the north-west of the line of these roads. Medieval pottery was unearthed in the grounds of South Lawn and in TP22 west of the road. But, on the immediately opposite side of the road, and so east of the road line, two test pits, TPs 30 and 31, produced no Medieval pottery at all, but interesting evidence for late eighteenth-nineteenth century

cobbled farmyards and contemporary iron-working. TP33 at the village end of Oaksmere, and again east of the road line, produced no pottery pre-dating the seventeenth century.

Pottery from TPs 38–42 suggested the development along the west side what later became the northern village green happened predominately post-Conquest, and that the Medieval village may also have expanded from South Lawn northwards. TPs 18, 35 and 36 along England's Lane



Figure 39: test pitting in action in Appleton

indicated that the housing along that road only began to be established in the seventeenth century. Results from other test pits away from the main through roads, such as TPs 11, 19 and 27 support the idea that the Medieval village remained relatively linear and notably poly-focal.

Conclusions

These can only be interim hypotheses, but already the test pits are presenting new ideas about Appleton's village development. The village did not grow from a cluster round the location of the twelfth-century manor; the settlement pattern continued to be notably dispersed until at least the seventeenth century. There is no evidence for immediate post-Conquest village planning in Appleton. Rather, the village seems to develop organically outward from the various earlier foci: with no apparent drive for nucleation or radical re-organisation. Perhaps, in considering Appleton's past, closer attention should be paid to the village's name, which means either 'orchard place' or 'place that supplies apples'. Appleton is graced now by the remnants of many orchards, but the name is old, mentioned in a charter of AD942 and recorded in Domesday Book. Was pre-Conquest and later Appleton essentially a scatter of dwellings and farms, whose work focused at least in part on growing apples for local estates and communities? Future work will explore this and other questions.

Acknowledgements

The authors and the AAARP team would like to thank all the villagers who kindly allowed test pits to be excavated on their land, the Appleton with Eaton History Society and all the wonderful volunteers and students who dug the test pits, reported on them and cleaned the pottery. The Trustees of AAARP are very grateful to the Council for British Archaeology for a generous grant from the Mick Aston Archaeology Fund.

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Geophysical Survey and Test Pit Excavation at Chimney Meadows, Chimney 2019

WILLIAM WINTLE

Introduction

The nature reserve of Chimney Meadows is located south-east of Bampton on the north bank of the River Thames surrounding the hamlet of Chimney. It is the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust's (BBOWT) largest nature reserve in Oxfordshire. Formerly a commercial farm, the natural landscape and wildlife has been restored since the Trust took over in 2003. Part of the site is a National Nature Reserve, owned by Natural England, and whose wildflower meadows form one of England's largest areas of unspoilt grassland.

A late Anglo-Saxon cemetery was investigated at Chimney in 1988/89 (Crawford 1991) and Roman pottery has been found in adjacent fields. Medieval ridge-and-furrow is visible in nearby fields. Settlement at Chimney is likely to have been centred on a restricted area of higher ground. The current settlement at Chimney is on the southern point of this area and overlies the late Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The deserted medieval village and chapel is assumed to lie to the east of the current Chimney settlement, on slightly lower ground. Three Oxfordshire HER numbers for Chimney are listed in table 1.

HER PRN	Name
951	Deserted Medieval Village
2457	Anglo Saxon Inhumation Cemetery
3073	Supposed Site of Chapel of Ease, Hamlet of Chimney

Table 1. Oxfordshire HER Entries for Chimney Meadows

In 1993 Dr Sally Crawford directed a field walking investigation to the north of what is now Chimney House in an area they termed 'Back' field. The field walking results were subsequently analysed by Elizabeth Anscombe, a student from Birmingham University, for a BA dissertation (Anscombe 1998). Her analysis demonstrated that over half the pottery assemblage by weight was of Roman date. The rest was predominantly medieval and post-medieval. More recently volunteers at BBOWT have collected sherds of Roman pottery from badger setts in Church Field, which lies to the east of Back Field. This suggests that the distribution of Roman pottery and other material extends further east than the area examined in 1993.

The main area of medieval settlement is believed to lie to the east of Chimney Farm and in the BBOWT fields West Cavets and possibly East Cavets. A glimpse of the medieval settlement in 1279 is given in the Hundred Rolls

(Stone 1968, 76–77) where 16 tenants are listed holding 12 yardlands (approximately 360 acres).

The Magnetometer Survey

The magnetometer survey was undertaken using a dual-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 four 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 TerraSurveyor and are presented as block shaded images using a grey scale in Fig. 40.

Church Field was surveyed in March and April 2019 and showed a settlement site each side of a wide track or lane running south-west to north-east. As it appeared the settlement should continue further to the south, the two small fields East and West Cavets were surveyed in September 2019. Unfortunately, these fields appear to have been deeply ploughed, probably in the 1960s or 1970s, in an attempt to improve drainage. This ploughing appears to have damaged the archaeology so that very little survives to be detected through a magnetic survey.

The survey of Church Field was undertaken with the aim of identifying potential Roman settlement. It is unclear from the morphology of the settlement whether it is Roman, medieval, or medieval overlying Roman. It was therefore



Figure 40: Chimney Meadows Geophysical Survey

Oxfordshire

decided to place two small test pits, each 1m by 1m in extent, over two of the ditches in order to obtain dating material.

The Test Pits

Test Pit 1 (CH19 TP1) was located over the large ditch on the western side of the track at a junction with another ditch which ran north-west. It was excavated in spits to one metre depth, with the final 0.2m dug in a smaller 0.5m² sondage. Below the topsoil, the fill was a homogenous sandy silt, changing only to a sandier deposit at the base of the sondage. No ditch cut was visible. This suggests the ditch was backfilled rapidly in one episode, and also that it was originally at least a metre deep and a metre wide in the location of the test pit. Pottery sherds, fragments of animal bone and teeth were found evenly distributed throughout the fill in small quantities, with over half of the ceramics being Roman greyware. The change in fill towards the base of the excavation indicated the bottom of the ditch was being reached and, at that depth, a near complete greyware jar was revealed (Fig. 41). The results suggest that the field had been the location of both medieval and Roman activity and that it had not been ploughed intensively enough in any period for a deeper ploughsoil to develop.

Test Pit 2 (CH19 TP2) was positioned 20 metres further north on a ditch within the settlement area and produced very similar results to TP1. TP2 was excavated to 0.7m in spits, with the final 0.05m dug in a 0.5m² sondage. The fill was also homogenous and silty, although it was becoming sandier at the base of the sondage suggesting the base of the ditch was being reached. This indicates that the width of the ditch was at least one metre but it may have been about

0.2m shallower than the TP1 ditch. The finds were also very similar to TP1 although less numerous.

Conclusions

The geophysical survey located a settlement whose morphology appears more similar to a medieval settlement than a Roman settlement. The two test pits have recovered Roman and medieval pottery, with the Roman predominating. The full analysis of the pottery is still outstanding. This suggests that parts of the medieval settlement may overlie an earlier Roman settlement. It is hoped to do further geophysical survey in 2020 in an attempt to identify other elements of Roman or medieval activity.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Lisa Lane, Louise King and Lucy Garrod of BBOWT for permission to conduct these surveys and their interest in the results. BBOWT volunteers Rick Saunders and John Melling assisted with the geophysical surveys and Chris Hughes and David Haynes with the test pits. The test pit excavation was organised by Leigh Mellor and supervised by Leigh Mellor and Lynn Amadio. The test pits were excavated by Leigh Mellor, Steve Nicholson, Ruth McLean, Lynn Amadio, Eileen Anderson, Chris Hughes and David Haynes.

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Figure 41: Greyware jar in Test Pit 1. Photo by Leigh Mellor



Figure 42: Excavating Test Pit 2

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WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Blackthorn to Piddington Embankment Works

SP 64829 17733 TO SP 62538 20179

J. MCCARTHY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake archaeological evaluation of a 19.4 ha parcel of land located along the railway line between Blackthorn and Piddington in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The evaluation area is between NGR 462538, 220179 and NGR 464829, 217733. In addition to the evaluation, archaeological monitoring of a topsoil strip centred on NGR 463631, 218899 was undertaken for a proposed spoil storage area as part of the archaeological works. The archaeological works were undertaken between the 21 and 25 October, and on the 5 and 6 November 2019.

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 23 archaeological trial trenches along the proposed route of a new access road either side of the railway. A total of 60

trenches were proposed for the scheme, 13 of which were identified as having existing site constraints which made excavation not feasible and a further 24 were inaccessible during fieldwork due to ecological constraints and/or flooding. The monitoring of the topsoil strip was within a 4000 m² parcel of land to the north-west of the bridge rail crossing, within the field occupied by trenches 21 and 22.

A total of 15 trenches out of the excavated 23 uncovered archaeological remains, almost exclusively in the form of either drainage ditches or ridge and furrow. The central part of the scheme identified numerous parallel drainage ditches either side of the railway. No dating was recovered from any of the ditches however they all appear to follow the alignment of the surviving ridge and furrow, with some of the ditches clearly having been excavated into the existing furrows. The south-eastern area identified minor evidence of former ridge and furrow as well as providing an opportunity to record the surviving ridge and furrow present in the fields at the south-eastern most end of the scheme, north of the railway.

During the course of the archaeological monitoring for the spoil storage area, it was determined that there would be no impact to the archaeological horizon, as the excavations comprised the removal of topsoil only, leaving a 0.25 m buffer of subsoil to protect any potential archaeology. No archaeological features or deposits of Romano-British date, and so relating to the Roman road that follows the route of the existing A41, were identified during the course of the works.

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name of the writer or compiler followed by
body of the article with suitable headings and sub-headings.
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name of the site followed by
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name of the person who wrote the site report followed by
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