

SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, unless indicated otherwise, to work carried out in 2020.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome, from your editor and committee to this our 51st 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 Ellie Cox, Finds Liaison Officer for Northamptonshire and her colleagues from the Portable Antiquities Scheme for compiling this.

In addition to the usual summaries of archaeological work readers may also find annual round-ups from the archaeologists for Bedford Borough, Buckinghamshire Council, Milton Keynes, North Northamptonshire and Oxford City Councils of interest.

This edition also features a number of longer illustrated notes and articles including: A reassessment of the small Roman town at **Sandy**, Beds. by Albion Archaeology's Mike Luke; evidence for post-medieval tanning on the site of The Old Vicarage, **Olney** by Souterrain Archaeology; and buildings archaeology from both the Historic **Towcester** Survey Group and **Oxfordshire** Buildings Record. The amateur / educational sector is once again well represented by entries from the Bucks Arch Soc Active Archaeology Group (BAS AAG) in **Great Linford**, the Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS) at **Piddington** Roman Villa, and work in **Oxfordshire** by the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG) and the Oxford University Dept. for Continuing Education (OUDCE).

With regret we note the passing of two archaeologists with strong associations with both Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire: Dr David Hall, notable for his significant contribution to landscape archaeology through his research into the Midland open field systems and his role in the Fenland Project and his association with Northamptonshire Archaeological Society and the Northamptonshire Record Society; Secondly, a deeply missed colleague, Lesley-Ann Mather, County Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire for whom an appreciation appears under the entry for North Northamptonshire Council in this issue.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who sent in reports and ask that they, and anyone else, send in articles for South Midlands Archaeology 52. Please refer to the Notes for Contributors (back page).

Nick Crank
Editor

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

Scanned / PDF copies of South Midlands Archaeology 1–49

The cumulative index to South Midlands Archaeology 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

South Midlands Archaeology – Notes for Contributors

Front cover: Rothwell, Northants – middle–late Iron Age enclosure complex
(Albion Archaeology)

Back cover: Milton Ham Farm, Northants – restrung Anglo-Saxon necklace (Albion Archaeology)

THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN THE SOUTH MIDLANDS 2019

By ELLIE COX, with contributions from SASHA COBBY, EDWARD CASWELL, MATTHEW FITTOCK, SIMON MASLIN, TERESA GILMORE and ANDREW BROWN.

INTRODUCTION

2020 was a challenging year due to the Covid19 pandemic. When the first lockdown was announced in March, the challenge was for us to remotely provide advice to members of the public who discover items of archaeological date and to continue facilitating the Treasure Act (1996) and maintain outreach and recording across our counties.

Recording numbers were reduced on the previous year, as the ability for metal detector users, field-walkers and others to spend time searching for objects was restricted for a portion of the year alongside meeting in person and take objects in for recording being off limits for much of the year. However, the Finds Liaison Officers of the region continued working, largely from home, focusing on updating older records on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database, clearing backlogs of objects and processing existing Treasure cases along with digitally processing new Treasure cases where possible.

Recorded finds were down by 40% from 2019 and there was an 18% drop in treasure cases across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The South Midlands region reported 95 Treasure cases in 2020, a reduction of 29% from 133 Treasure cases in 2019. This is primarily due to the restrictions in place during periods of full lockdown, which prohibited activities such as metal detecting club meetings, from taking place. However, overall 91% of all objects recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database, were discovered by people using metal detectors.

By period, the finds for 2020 are as follows:

	Beds	Bucks	Northants	Oxon
Palaeolithic	0	0	0	1
Mesolithic	9	6	34	5
Neolithic	8	4	29	11
Bronze Age	2	13	62	17
Iron Age	6	27	41	42
Greek & Roman Provincial	0	1	0	0
Roman	47	111	200	950
Early Medieval	2	13	14	40
Medieval	20	153	209	289
Post-Medieval	20	152	154	353
Modern	0	0	11	7
Unknown	2	4	2	15
Total	116	484	756	1730

The following artefacts represent a selection to highlight some of the varied finds recorded across the south Midlands in 2020. To see the object's full record please visit www.finds.org.uk/database and search using the record ID e.g. BH-22835B. The database also allows for advanced searches by spatial or temporal filters or form, function, material or manufacture of object.

Bedfordshire

Total Objects: 116 Treasure Cases: 1



Figure 1: BH-22835B: Bronze/Iron Age Fob from Bletsoe.

An incomplete copper-alloy Bronze to Iron Age Fob dating to 2500–100 BC. The object takes the form of a rectangular-sectioned wheel with four equally spaced and slightly curved rectangular-sectioned spokes. The front has five cone-shaped knobs with rounded terminals; one in the central at the point the spokes meet, and one where each spoke meets the outer frame. The spokes are undecorated, but the outer frame is decorated with a series of crudely incised triangular motifs in each quadrant. The underside is also undecorated, and there is a circular-sectioned rivet projecting from the centre with an old worn break. The object has a relatively even brown patina with a few small patches of lamination that are light green in colour.

The function of fobs or 'danglers' is poorly understood and may have been hung from items of equipment, personal apparel or harness decoration (Jope 2000, 285). Jope also records seventeen known examples of danglers and related 'hangers' from Britain.



Figure 2: BH-5C4893: Roman enamelled plate Brooch from Hyde

A complete Roman cast copper-alloy enamelled plate brooch with a zoomorphic design, dating to between AD 200–400. The symmetrical plate is broadly hexagonal with longer upper and lower edges and decorated with alternating blue and yellow enamel trapezoidal fields with ring and dot motifs in the centre of each. The upper projecting plate is trapezoidal and decorated with orange enamel with another central dot. From the lower edge the short narrow plate extends to a raised transverse collar and a triple-knopped terminal. A flat attachment loop projects from the reverse

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of the upper plate, to which is attached a circular-sectioned pin that tapers to a point and rests on the curved catch plate.

Mackreth (2011, Vol 1:168 & Vol 2:113, plate 110) shows a similar example, no. 11654. He categorises this type as plate and Continental (PL CONT) and of a group (1.a4) that has: zoomorphic terminals; a variety of shapes; a marked right angle at the top; fairly elaborate mouldings on the flat head. The only dated example in this group is given as 'probably 4th century' but as it comes from a temple site this should be 'treated with considerable caution' (*ibid*). These are suggested to be second century and of British manufacture (pers. comm. Nina Crummy) who also commented that similar types were found on the continent.



Figure 3: BH-BAF98B: Roman Nummus from Bletsoe.

A complete Roman copper-alloy nummus of Maximinus Daia (AD 305–313) dating to the period AD 307–308 (Reece period 15). Obverse reads: GAL VAL MAXIMINVS NOB CAES and depicts the head of the Emperor, laureate, facing right. GENIO CA-ESARIS CMH, reverse type depicting Genius standing left, modius on head, naked except for chlamys over left shoulder (falls low), holding patera from which liquid flows, and cornucopiae. Mint of Nicomedia.

As RIC VI, no. 55. Maximinus Daia was the son of Emperor Galerius' sister. He was born in Eastern Serbia and gained distinction after joining the army. He shared rule of the Eastern Empire after his uncle's death with Licinius. Maximinus allied himself with usurper Maxentius. After losing the battle of Tzirallum in AD 313 against Licinius, Maximinus fled to Nicomedia (in Turkey), where this coin was minted. Later feeling to Tarsus (also in Turkey) where he died of possible natural causes.

This is only the second coin of Maximinus Daia from the mint of Nicomedia recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database.



Figure 4: WMID-7E1098: Iron Age Potin from Wootton (Find of note and has been designated: *Regional importance*).

A complete copper alloy Iron Age Potin of the Kent Region / Cantiaci, dating to 150–100 BC. Thurrock MA type. Obverse: Bust of Apollo facing left. Reverse: Degraded butting bull right with 'MA' above. As ABC, p. 33, no 120; Hobbs BMC no 660-66x.

This small cast coin represents some of the earliest coinage in Britain. This example is unusual due to the location in which it was found. The distribution of such coins is focused on Kent and London with some being found in East Anglia.

Buckinghamshire

Total Objects: 484 Treasure Cases: 29



Figure 5: BH-33B8C2: A Bronze Age Spear Head from Chenies.

An incomplete cast copper-alloy Middle Bronze Age socketed spearhead, in two conjoining pieces, dating to the period 1500–1150 BC. The spearhead has a leaf-shaped blade that tapers towards the tip and bevelled wings that gradually expand from the tip before tapering inwards towards the socketed shaft. The wing edges are very worn and damaged in several places, and a circular cross-sectional rib extends from tip to base.

The shaft is broken where it connects to the head. It is broadly sub-conical in shape, being square in cross-section beneath the head before transitioning gradually to circular in cross-section as it increases in diameter towards the open-ended terminal. There are small loops either side of the shaft. A circular hole perforates the body of the shaft next to one of the loops and there is a parallel semi-circular notch of damage extending into the lower edge of the socketed terminal.

The spear has an even dark-brown patina with small patches of green where pitting occurs across both faces of

the blade and the body of the socket. This looped spearhead is part of the Acton Park 2, Taunton (Cemmaes) or Pennard metalworking traditions and is dated to the Middle Bronze Age.



Figure 6: SUR-85710E: An Early Medieval Sceat from Leckhampstead.

An Early Medieval silver sceat, of the Transitional pre-Primary phase series Pa III (PADA type; c. 675–80) of a late bust style influenced by Visigothic coinage. Obverse: double diademed Romanised bust with braided hair facing right with legend VN[...] / AVNC. The reverse depicts a plain central cross with annulets in each quarter, all within a beaded circle, with a runic inscription CFWF (PADA), followed by an illegible legend [...]SVI mostly lost due to off-centred striking on the small flan.



Figure 7: BH-1FF373: A Medieval Zoomorphic buckle from Longwicks-cum-Ilmer.

An incomplete copper-alloy Medieval zoomorphic buckle dating AD 1100–1300. The buckle is sub-rectangular in form and cross-section and takes the form of a forward-facing animal – probably a lion rather than a dog – sat on its haunches. Its body is thin with a pronounced chest, shoulders and thighs, and it has a narrow waist. A tail extends from its rear and loops up and around to join the body at the lower back. Only one front leg with a flattened three-toed paw survives. The other leg is broken just below the shoulder. The two back paws are elongated and have a slightly pronounced heel. These again have three paws and face forwards parallel to each other.

The head of the animal is small with small pronounced rounded ears either side, two round shallowly moulded eyes and a triangular nose. The mouth is open and from it projects a flat round-ended tongue that is broken slightly at the tip. Beneath this, the neck and chest are decorated with

lightly moulded striations to give the impression of a mane. A broken semi-circular-shaped moulding sits on the back of the animal, while on the underside a narrow groove extends between the length of the two back feet.

The buckle has a mottled mid- and dark-green patina with small areas of brown on the neck. There is also a small patch of red colouration on the back of one of the hind-legs.



Figure 8: SUR-EE54C2: A Post-Medieval Hunting Whistle from Leckhampstead.

A pewter hunting whistle cast dating to AD 1700–1800, in the form of a dog's head with distinctively moulded features including eyes, snout and a mouth which appears to be snarling. Within the dog's mouth is a loop formed by the tongue and teeth for a suspension ring. Behind the head is a cylindrical whistle body which has a sound hole and terminates with an angled mouthpiece.

The whistle is similar to an example displayed in Benets Artefacts (2003) No P20-0301, p. 594; but appears to differ in the absence of an iron suspension loop on the published example.

Northamptonshire

Total Objects: 756 Treasure Cases: 22

A complete iron Socketed Axe of early Iron Age date (800–600 BC). The object of the late Bronze Age form and is wedge-shaped with a rectangular socket aperture (inner dimensions: 57.55mm 39.73mm) and 89.31mm in depth. The upper face retains shallow loop. The body of the axe is rectangular in profile, with an expanded, crescentic blade. The iron is dry and stable but flaking and requires conservation.

This object is one of a small number of socketed axes made from wrought iron. While the form is relatively easy to cast in a two-part mould and a clay/sand core to form its hollow socket, it would be very difficult to produce as a forging. Iron socketed axes were rapidly replaced by axes in which the haft passes through an eye, the type that remains in use today. This axe therefore represents the transition from bronze to iron.



Figure 9: NARC-3EFF7D: Iron Age, Iron Socketed Axehead from Courteenhall (Find of note and has been designated: *Regional importance*).

Parallels exist for iron socketed axes with examples from Walthamstow, Essex (Smith 1925, Fig. 82) and Cold Kitchen Hill, Wilts (Cunliffe 1975, p 268, Fig. 14:2 5) neither of which is quite like this find although the latter shares the curved loop side and straight back seen on the Middleham axe. A better parallel was found during excavations at Fiskerton, Lincolnshire.



Figure 10: NARC-0E2248: A gold Stater of the Ambiani from Clipston.

A complete gold Gallo-Belgic Uniface Stater of the Ambiani, 'Gallic War Uniface' type dating to the period 60–50 BC. Obverse description: Plain Reverse description: Sinuous horse right, pellet and crescent below, two pellets above. As ABC 16; VA 50–56.

Known as the 'Gallic War uniface' stater these coins were struck by the Ambiani in northern France almost certainly during the Gallic War (c. 60–50 BC) and imported into Britain during the late first century BC. These gold coins are frequently found in southern Britain where they circulated in large numbers, and where some may also have been produced.

An incomplete cast copper alloy Stirrup Strap Mount of late Early-Medieval date (AD 1000–1100) Anglo-Scandinavian period. This is an unclassified Williams Class



Figure 11: NARC-5A11C4: An Early-Medieval Stirrup Strap Mount from Cranford.

A, a hybrid between type 1 and type 8, with parallel being No's. 55 and 133–135. The mount is triangular in shape with a projecting ledge at right angles along the centre of the lower edge. There are three rivet holes, two along the lower edge with the third in the centre of the upper edge. The upper hold is only partially retained due to a transverse break resulting in the loss of the upper terminal. The outer edges of the lower edge retain two zoomorphic terminals with moulded round ears and muzzles and incised circular eyes.

The central panel of the object has an incised motif composed of a double parallel line, asymmetrical, interlaced design depicting a single serpentine beast facing right. No wire or niello infill is retained, however the design is infilled with a cream-coloured enamel. The back of the object is slightly concave due to raised edges and is undecorated

See Williams 1997, Figs 23 & 32. The metal is dark green in colour with a smooth patina.



Figure 12: NARC-80CAA2: A Medieval Book Clasp from Clipston.

An incomplete copper alloy Book Clasp of Medieval date (AD 1300–1400). The object is a rectangular book clasp, formed of front and back plates joined by separate copper alloy rivets; Howsam Type A.7.1.

The object is composed of two rectangular plates with a single circular hole that extends through the centre of both plates. There are four rivets joining the plates, one in each corner of the rectangle. The rivets are formed of rolled copper alloy sheet. The rivets at one end protrude through the front plate projecting from the back plate. The front plate is decorated with incised decoration composed of two pairs of longitudinal lines along the longer edges, to the outer edge are repeating incised transverse lines. The upper plate has addition decoration comprising openwork trefoils in the centre of the shorter sides. There is a small triangular notch missing from one of the long edges, possible due to post-depositional processes. The back plate is undecorated. The metal is dark green in colour with a smooth patina.

Similar mounts are illustrated by Egan and Pritchard (1991:225) including 1207 which has four rivets. This is dated to c. 1350 to 1400 but other examples are dated to c. 1450–1500. Egan and Pritchard (1991: 227) suggest the use is unknown but may be decorative rather than functional as examples found on straps do not always have the leather pierced in line with the hole through the plates and while some link two ends of straps, others do not. This type of simple pierced clasp has historically sometimes been recorded as a belt mount.

Howsam suggests objects of this form are book clasps with the hole designed to fit over a peg. She categorises this form as her Type A.7.1, and notes that they are often decorated along their edges with cusps, notches and apertures (2016:37). Many such fasteners are known from ecclesiastical sites but also from urban contexts. Compare a very similar example from Fountains Abbey which still retains its under plate (Howsam 2016, fig. 2.20, no. 159).

Oxfordshire

Total Objects: 1730 Treasure Cases: 42



Figure 13: OXON-992040: A Palstave of Middle to Late Bronze Age date from near Wheatley (Find of Note designation: *Publication ready*).

A complete, looped, Middle to Late Bronze Age palstave axe with medium/high flanges, and a high stop ridge, dating to 1200 to 1000 cal BC.

The butt of the axe is flat, c. 18.6mm wide and 3.8mm thick. It is slightly worn having lost one small sub-rectangular chip on one of its wide surfaces. The septum measures 66.4mm in length and grows in thickness from 3.8mm at the butt to c. 10.9mm adjacent to the stop-ridge.

The flanges of the axe begin 15.3mm after the butt and smoothly widen up the remaining length of the septum before narrowing again to the blade quite quickly after the

stop-ridge. This gives the upper and lower surfaces of the axe a sub-triangular form before the blade. After this point the blade narrows slowly towards the cutting edge.

The blade is c. 19.5mm thick just before it meets the stop-ridge, which is slightly thicker. At this point it is 20.8mm wide. From here, the blade begins to shallowly expand outwards for about four fifths of its length to a width of 29.4mm. It also narrows to a thickness of 10.8mm. After this the blade flares more quickly to its maximum width of 45.8mm. It also narrows to its blade edge which is 2.4mm thick. The wings of the blade are not perfectly curved with each tip being flattened. This looks to have been deliberate rather than as a result of later damage. The body of the blade is decorated on each surface with an ornamental impressed design placed just after the stop ridge. This takes the form of three shallowly impressed triangles projecting from the base of stop ridge which converge to form a larger impressed triangular impression.

There is a single loop on one of the narrow edges of the palstave. The loop begins before the stop and is 23.4mm long ending slightly after it. The loop is an oval shape in cross section and projects 7.1mm from the body of the axe leaving a loop that is c. 3.6mm high and 9.4mm wide.

The axe is a very dark green colour with the patina chipped away to reveal a medium dark green colour beneath. This has been the result of the axe originally being coated in oil following its discovery. The axe blade narrows more extremely one side than the other this may be the result of sharpening although the remaining patina on the object make this difficult to be certain of. Traces of a casting seam can be seen running along the length of each narrow edge although it is quite shallow such that it might have been filed slightly.

The axe is almost identical to a palstave within the Ashmolean collection (Catalogue number AN1927.2571)



Figure 14: BH-4FAE3D: An Iron Age Swans Neck Pin from Cholsey (Find of Note designation: *Regional importance*).

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which is described as a transitional palstave by Smith (1959, fig 7.2). This parallel was part of the Crediton Hoard, Devon (HER Reference No: MDV13977). O'Connor attributed this Palstave to the Norman type (1980, 320 no 5, List 7B, 3) and has suggested the hoard therefore fits a Penard phase date (c. 1350–1150 cal BC following Roberts et al 2013). Another comparable example is a single find from Ashburton, Devon (Pearce 1983, 432–3, No.184, pl.23).

A complete Iron Age cast copper-alloy 'swan's neck' pin. The head of the pin is circular, flat and sub-rectangular in cross-section with rounded edges. Each face of the head is decorated with a central ring-and-dot motif formed of a circular recession with one concentric groove and another circumferential groove towards the edge. Side decoration next to the pin consists of two sets of incised triangular bows with a plain lozenge between them. The sections of each bow comprise two or three triangular grooves around a linear groove. Part of a similarly formed lozenge pattern is visible over the apex of the head but this is worn. The integral shaft of the pin is circular in cross-section and tapers to a point. Below the head the shaft has a distinctive curve that characterises this particular pin type.

The surfaces of the pin have a dark-grey-green patina with some light- and mid-green and brown corrosion in places. Other minor areas of pitting and abrasion cover some areas of the head and shaft.

Andrew Lamb has highlighted another close parallel from Traprain Law, East Lothian, Scotland, where it is recorded as a *Sonderform* type. This particular example is so far unique and is difficult to date given its unmatched form and decoration. MacGregor (1976, Nr. 267) assumes a date of the 1st century AD but, like the broader range of 'swan's neck' pins already known of a later Iron Age date is a more suitable suggestion without further evidence.



Figure 15: OXON-B7A88D: An Iron Age Brooch from Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor (Find of Note designation: *County/local importance*).

An incomplete cast copper alloy brooch of Middle Iron Age date, 300–150 BC. The brooch is another example of the regional 'Vale brooch' type from the Oxfordshire / Berkshire area.

This example is made of two bulbous domes, forming a figure of eight shape. Each dome has a convex front and then a potentially concave hollow reverse, however these are now full of concreted corrosion product such that it is difficult to be certain of this. The join between the two domes is marked by an uneven horizontal line slightly narrower than the domes that may have been a collar now very corroded.

The reverse retains the double-lug for the pin to hinge in with a rod of the hinge pin surviving between the lugs.

While a potential catch plate survives this now remains only as corroded unevenly domed lump projecting from the centre of the reverse of one of the domes. It may be that it was originally folded over 180 degrees to provide a rest for the pin. Traces of the pin survive as a rounded tube running between the double lug and the corroded catch plate.

The brooch is a dark reddish-brown colour throughout.

This is another example of a rare type of Middle Iron Age brooch, Hull and Hawkes (1987) Type 2B (also Adams' 2013 Type 2Bb2). These brooches are characterised by their bulbous mouldings and appear in a variety of shapes including lozenge, cross (quatrefoil around a central dome or variant), square and circular. This is the first on the database with only two domes. The type appears to be concentrated on the West Berkshire / Vale of White Horse (Oxfordshire)



Figure 16: OXON-6480CB: A Hooked Tag of Post-Medieval from Chinnor (Find of note designation: *Noted as an interesting find by the recorder*).

border over the Ridgeway and may indicate a local source.

A near complete cast copper-alloy hooked tag dating to the Early-Medieval period, AD 750–900.

The artefact has a sub-rectangular (almost oval) main body with very rounded corners. From the top two corners project two semi-circular knops. Each of these knops is pierced by a hole used for attaching the fastener.

At the opposite end of the tag, its base, extends a small trapezoidal projecting plate from the end of which projects a tapering curving hooked element. This hook projects 7.9mm before curves backwards over itself slightly before terminating in a worn break.

The front of the main body of the plate has incised zoomorphic decoration following Stalin's style 1 of disjointed and scattered animal parts including legs, tails, bodies and at least one eye. The reverse is flat and plain.

The hooked tag is a light green colour.

Hooked tags were in use from the second half of the 7th to the 11th century AD. They were probably all-purpose fastenings used to secure clothing, purses, etc. The form of the hooked tag corresponds to Read's (2008: 24) class D/1 being a flat plate with two attachment knops or Lewis and Naylor's (2013) Class A.1.e.iii (lobed). A similar example with similar decoration is illustrated by Read (2008: 28, No.113) from Essex.

Conclusion

In summation then, 2020 was a year of unexpected challenge which caused the Finds Liaison Officers and others within the Portable Antiquities Scheme to adapt in order to conduct their work during lockdown. Each region and county responded in its own way to facilitate remote or digital recording, the clearing of backlogged finds or the improvement of existing records on the database. This has resulted in the continuation of the services provided by the Portable Antiquities Scheme throughout the pandemic.

For information regarding other finds from 2020, please visit finds.org.uk/database and use the advance search facility. Additionally, the **50 Finds** books for Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and other counties is available online and in bookstores. The Portable Antiquities Scheme has released volumes one and two of **Finds Identified** also available to purchase.

With thanks to the regional FLOs for their contributions and support with this article.

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BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORD BOROUGH 2020

Fieldwork Projects

Over the last year archaeological work has continued at sites all over Bedford Borough, both as one-off small-scale studies and ongoing, larger infrastructure projects. Below, two of the more notable sites and projects are outlined.

In December 2020 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an evaluation at a site along Main Road, Biddenham ahead of the construction of a new dwelling within an existing domestic plot. The result was the discovery of an intensive area of medieval archaeology focused in one trench which contained pits, post-holes and ditches, as well as an intriguing stone lined culvert running through one end of said trench. It is believed that these features are associated with a medieval building which would have been part of a “well developed settlement core” around Biddenham Green. Find scatters in the trench demonstrated occupation of the site between the 10th and 15th centuries, with the majority of the finds local coarse wares mixed with some Potterspury and St. Neots Wares. Butchered bones and domestic nails and fittings were also excavated.

Most notable however was the discovery of a walrus ivory knife handle (Fig. 1) which, with the discovery of a trimmed pig bone, may indicate a site of some status and the presence of domestic craftsmanship. The suggestion of such activities around the Green provides intriguing new evidence for life in the area of a distinctive medieval village form within Bedford Borough. Post excavation analysis is ongoing, and the HER awaits the final report.

Another piece of potentially interesting work was recently carried out by Archaeological Solutions Ltd in Renhold ahead of the construction of a new dwelling. It identified evidence of medieval activity in an area identified by the HER as the likely core of the dispersed settlement of Salph End, with an extensive complex of pits and ditches spread across the trenches. Notable was a very substantial mass of ceramics including locally produced jugs and cooking pots, and some rare glazed jug sherds. A lava stone quern or millstone suggests cereal processing and by extension gives clues to the local economy, as do the discovery of predominantly sheep bones and fired clay, indicative of ovens. It is suggested that Salph End had a diverse but self-contained economy based upon both crops and livestock.

Given the extensive network of “End settlements” present across Bedford Borough, any new work on their economies and culture in the medieval period is extremely useful. As with Biddenham, post-excavation analysis and the writing of the final report continues.

Larger scale projects, such as work around Black Cat Roundabout, are ongoing, and it is hoped that their findings will be available for the next issue.

In March staff from the department gave a talk over Zoom to the Bedfordshire Local History Association on *Local History during a Pandemic*, discussing the practicalities of local government archaeological work over the last year. Geoff Saunders described the process of moving to remote hosting, as well as the latest developments in some of the

ongoing commercial archaeological projects in the Borough, whilst Matt Tuohy covered the use of the HER during 2020, its use in local history and general academic projects, and recent findings made using HER data.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

Since the last journal work has continued to update and improve the HER, the process of working from home aided by the move to remote hosting. This has ensured that the work of adding new events and monuments to the system has been able to continue even in the dramatic change in circumstances seen in 2020. Whilst the NRHE to HER and NMP integration is now complete, further enhancements are ongoing.

Several small projects have taken place inputting data from regional and national societies carrying out research on particular site types, including the addition of eighty wartime sites courtesy of the UK Pillbox Study Group, which has been a valuable and detailed addition to our airfield sites (Fig. 2).

Meanwhile, the continuation of archaeological fieldwork during the coronavirus pandemic has meant a constant flow of new event reports for addition to the system. Time dedicated to overall enhancement of the database has allowed for progress on the creation of new monuments derived from the findings of this most up-to-date archaeological work.

Other enhancements have included the addition of the newest data from the Environment Agency’s Lidar programme, with the DSM layer already having proven itself a valuable addition to the system.

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ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford, 8–10 Howard Street TL 0509 4995

ADAM WILLIAMS, BEN CARROLL and JEREMY OETGEN

A single trial trench was excavated to the rear of the standing building. Beneath the existing car park surface and make-up were the remains of buildings demolished in the 1970s. The foundations of these 19th- to 20th-century buildings cut down into relatively thick deposits of garden soil, containing pottery dating to the 10th–11th centuries onwards. At the southern base of the trench, undisturbed geological deposits were revealed.

As the site is situated within the postulated north *burh* of the town, Saxo-Norman finds recovered from the garden soil are likely to relate to the urban settlement of Bedford. It also appears from the evidence of this trial trench, that the 19th- and 20th-century buildings did not have large cellars. This suggests that, apart from the foundations of the buildings demolished c. 1970, this part of the town has suffered little from post-Industrial intrusions. OASIS ID: albionar1-399086 Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.48

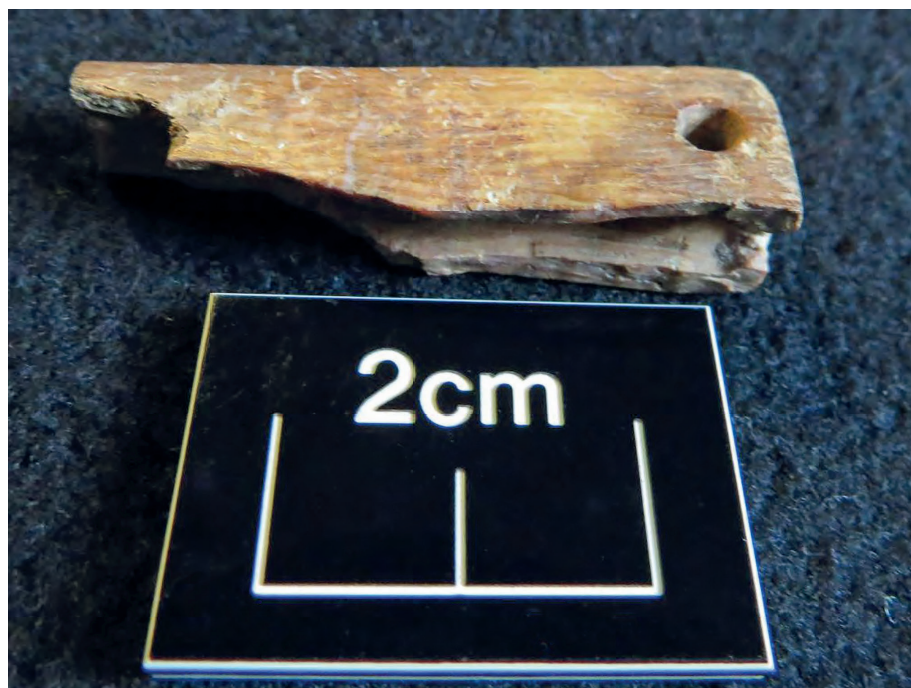


Figure 1: Walrus Ivory Knife-Handle, Biddenham



Figure 2: RAF Thurleigh, Blast Shelters added to HER using data from UK Pillbox Study Group

Bedfordshire

Bedford, 28 Kimbolton Road, Coach House

TL 0530 5030

MARK PHILLIPS

Planning permission and listed building consent were granted for the repair and rebuild of a storm-damaged former coach house, which is curtilage listed. It is a late 19th-century brick building of one-and-a-half stories, comprising a ground floor and loft. The building is aligned approximately north-south with its main elevation facing east, towards the rear of the house. In its original form it was in three compartments: the coach house on the left, a two-stall stable in the centre, and a tack room on the right. The tack room contained a small fireplace, pegs for harness equipment and a saddle rack. Access to the loft was via a first-floor door in the south gable end. During the 20th century the coach house and stable were merged into a single interior space and a narrow lean-to extension was added at the rear of the building.

Numbers 24, 26, 28 and 30 Kimbolton Road are two matching pairs of semi-detached villas. Historical maps and documents show that this development dates from c. 1840. The houses were constructed on a green-field site on what was at the time the north-west edge of Bedford. The coach house is not shown on a map of 1878 and first appears on an OS map surveyed in 1881/82. An extension at the rear of the house, which also first appears on the 1881/82 map, has brickwork closely matching that of the coach house suggesting that both formed part of the same phase of construction.

OASIS ID: albionar1-390700

Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.35

Bedford, Manton Lane Junction Improvements

TL 041 509

MIKE LUKE, ERNIE RIZZO, CATIE WATTS and JACKIE WELLS

Bedford Borough Council is improving the road layout of Manton Lane adjacent to Bedford Modern School. The works are in an area of known Roman settlement. Due to the presence of substantial buildings (some with heated rooms), tiled roofs, glazed windows and stuccowork, it has been speculated that the settlement was a villa (Luke et al. 2017, 210–11).

Two main episodes of watching brief were undertaken linked to the main phases of construction groundworks: road widening undertaken between June and July 2019 mainly on the south side of Manton Lane; pedestrian bridgeworks undertaken between August and September 2020 on both sides of Manton Lane. The watching brief allowed the identification and investigation of several Roman features and the recovery of Roman finds, including roof and flue (hypocaust) tile. The most westerly feature was a substantial WNW–ESE ditch. This could represent the outer boundary of the Roman settlement, although this suggestion must remain speculative.

Luke, M., Cocking, S. and Sayer, E., 2017, 'A Roman Settlement at Manton Lane, Bedford: report on the archaeological investigations', *Beds. Archaeol.*, **27**, 203–12

OASIS ID: albionar1-355018

Accession no.: BEDFM 2019.69

Biggleswade, Edward Peake Middle School

TL 2007 4556

KATHY PILKINTON AND WES KEIR

Investigations in advance of the construction of a new classroom, car park and playground extension revealed only three potential archaeological features. Their irregular form indicated that they were most likely to be associated with the removal of trees. OASIS ID: albionar1-357026 Accession no.: BEDFM 2019.69

Bletsoe, New House, Long Haydons TL 0170 5874

CATIE WATTS and IAIN LESLIE

Archaeological monitoring took place during construction of a horse manège. No archaeological features or deposits earlier than the modern period were present within the area of ground reduction. The lack of archaeological features, along with the absence of any artefacts (other than those dated to the modern period), suggests that the prehistoric and Roman remains previously identified to the south of the site did not extend into this area. OASIS ID: albionar1-407190 Accession no.: BEDFM 2019.73

Bolnhurst, Manor Farm, School Lane TL 0852 5986

MARK PHILLIPS

Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission and listed building consent for the restoration and refurbishment of the main barn and associated workshop outbuilding to create two new dwellings.

Manor Farm stands inside a large earthwork consisting of an Iron Age hillfort and a medieval moated enclosure. The farm is located within the north part of the earthwork. Manor Farm is probably the site of a medieval manor house. The present farmhouse is a Grade II listed timber-framed house, dating from the 17th century. In the late 18th century the farmstead is shown on the enclosure map as a loose courtyard plan with farm buildings on the east and west sides of an elongated yard. Later maps show that the farm buildings were replaced to form an enclosed yard.

The barn is a nine-bay, timber-framed and weatherboard building with opposed double-doors, the northern three bays separated by a brick partition with a loft over the northern bays. It has a brick sill wall and is framed with machine-sawn softwood with mostly nailed fixings. The weatherboard is applied in bay-long panels between the main wall posts, which are visible in the exterior elevations. The barn is shown in an 1874 sales particulars plan; the materials and construction techniques suggest a probable construction date in the 1870s.

The stable is a four-bay lean-to on the east side of the barn. It is an early-20th century replacement for a similar building shown on 19th-century maps. The end walls are in fletton brick and the roof in corrugated iron. It is first shown in 1924 sales particulars where it was described as a lean-to, open shed. The front was later enclosed with blockwork to form stables.

The south range is a timber-framed structure with a tall brick sill and a corrugated iron roof. It was built in the early 20th century to replace a similar range of buildings located slightly further north. It contains enclosed compartments at either end of a central, open-fronted section. It is described in the 1924 sales particulars as “newly erected...consisting

of large loose box, a 2-bay open shelter hovel and a large loose box or implement shed”.

The workshop is a range of brick buildings located on the east side of the farmyard. Buildings on the present footprint are first shown on a plan surveyed in 1900, replacing an earlier range of buildings shown on the 1884 OS map. The present buildings have a complex development sequence. A brick wall along the centre of the range may be a remnant of the buildings surveyed in 1900. A plan accompanying the 1924 sales particulars is the first to show buildings matching the present building footprint. Most of the range was rebuilt in fletton brick with Crittall-type steel-framed windows, probably during the 1920s and 30s. The building included a compartment with insulated walls and doors, which was used as an apple store. This range was converted into workshops used for vintage car restoration, which has removed any evidence of former use apart from than the apple store.

OASIS ID: albionar1-383814

Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.06

Broom, Land north of Southill Road TL 1750 4303

MATTEO PALOMBELLI and JEREMY OETGEN

Trial-trench evaluation targeted the area of development impact, i.e. the proposed residential area. The proposed parkland and existing tree belt on the south and east edge of the site were not trenched, because minimal groundworks were proposed there. Archaeological features were identified in 14 of the 15 trenches. The earliest recovered artefacts dated to the late Anglo-Saxon period, but these were residual. The most significant remains comprised medieval features in the north-west of the site that are probably related to the margins of medieval Broom. Later features included post-medieval field boundaries, which make up most of the evidence recorded. Almost all the field boundaries produced no finds but could be dated by comparison with historical maps. A cluster of large pits containing late 19th-/early 20th-century refuse and ‘bottle dump’ material were also found. These were probably dug as borrow-pits for aggregate extraction. The refuse was contemporary with the occupation of the nearby mansion known as Broom Hall. OASIS ID: albionar1-398962 Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.47

Caddington, Heathfield Lower School TL 0647 1960

MATTEO PALOMBELLI, IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

Between June and October 2020, geophysical survey, geoarchaeological test pitting and trial trenching were undertaken on this former school site. No Palaeolithic evidence was revealed within the four test pits dug to check if dolines had preserved earlier prehistoric deposits. The trial trenches demonstrated the survival of early medieval features at the north-west limit of the site. Ditches included a possible property boundary that contained numerous pottery sherds and some charred cereal grain. Postholes associated with a structure or building appeared to be aligned parallel with the boundary. A contemporary field boundary ditch was identified at the south end of the site. Across the other trenches features of post-medieval and modern date were present.

Oasis ID: albionar1-389578

Accession no.: LUTNM:2020/18

Carlton and Chellington, Church of St Mary the Virgin SP 9102 2681

MARK PHILLIPS

The church is Grade I listed, with fabric dating back to the late Anglo-Saxon period. To remedy damp problems a French drain was excavated along the east end and north side of the building with two soakaway pits dug in the churchyard to the north. The following observations were made:

Late Anglo-Saxon (later 10th or 11th century)

In this phase the church had a two-cell plan consisting of a nave and chancel, with the chancel being approximately square in plan. The chancel is built of roughly coursed rubble with areas of herringbone work and irregular rubble quoins. The foundations have an offset up to 180mm wide and are constructed from a single course of sizeable (up to 600mm long) rubble blocks. The surviving masonry at the corners of the nave is heavily patched and has irregular rubble quoins. The foundation recorded at the north-west corner of the nave had no offset and included a single course of large (up to 400mm long) roughly squared blocks near the base.

Late Anglo-Saxon to Saxo-Norman (11th century)

The tower is comparable to other church towers in the area believed to be Anglo-Saxon in date, such as Clapham and Lavendon. It is most likely that the tower was a later addition to the original two-cell building. The walls and foundations of the tower are different in character to those of the nave and chancel. It is constructed from small, mostly thin stone in uncoursed masonry. The foundations have a small offset and are constructed from coursed, small thin rubble slabs. Where investigated in the trench, evidence for the sequential relationship between the nave and tower was inconclusive.

Fourteenth century

The north aisle is probably a little later than the south aisle of c. 1300 and the eastern extension to the chancel has features which suggest an early 14th-century date. These parts of the building are constructed with coursed squared stone. The foundations for the north aisle and east extension of the chancel are different in character. The former are quite substantial, constructed from large blocks or slabs with an offset between 150mm and 240mm wide. Those for the east extension of the chancel are more irregular and are mostly in smaller rubble with no offset in the east end wall and an irregular, narrow offset elsewhere. The buttresses at the east end of the chancel have quite poorly constructed foundations in random rubble.

Fifteenth century

Evidence from this period within the French drain trench consisted of the buttresses which were added to the tower. These were clearly later additions, with stepped foundations made with large, roughly-finished rectangular stones up to 700mm long.

Soil layers

The soil layers around the base of the church walls consisted of topsoil, above a layer containing limestone rubble (presumably construction debris), above a homogenous ‘grave earth’. The rubble layer extended all the way around the areas investigated on the east end and north sides of the

Bedfordshire

church, becoming deeper towards the west. The layer appears to extend several metres from the building, with similar material recorded in a trench to the north of the chancel. Human burials and disarticulated bone were recorded in the two soakaway pits that were excavated on the north side of the church. OASIS ID: albionar1-384032 Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.08

Harrold, 37 High Street SP 9526 5682

ADAM WILLIAMS and JEREMY OETGEN

A programme of archaeological observation was undertaken during construction of two house extensions. The permitted development was located in an area of archaeological interest, with potential for medieval remains. However, no archaeological features or deposits earlier than the modern period were present within the footprint of either extension. No artefacts were found. OASIS ID albionar1-391377 Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.37

Henlow, 41 High Street TL 7625 8311

ALLAN KING and WES KEIR

Open-area excavation of three areas in the east half of the site revealed five pits, two ditches, the remains of a cellar, one modern pit and two tree-throws. The most significant remains comprised the pits, three of which produced sherds of 12th–13th-century pottery. The moderate finds assemblage, which included pottery, animal bone and cereal grains, suggests the features are likely to represent refuse pits associated with medieval domestic backyard activity. No related structural features were identified, although this may be due to the limited nature of the excavations. OASIS ID: albionar1-318441 Accession no.: BEDFM 2018.33

Henlow, Welch's Transport Yard TL 1761 3813

CATIE WATTS and IAN TURNER

Trial-trench evaluation revealed no features pre-dating the post-medieval period, although the presence of a few small, residual sherds of early medieval pottery hints at earlier activity in the wider vicinity. The post-medieval features included a substantial ditch. No boundary is illustrated on any historical maps in this precise location, although the feature's alignment suggests it is associated with property boundaries illustrated on the 1938 OS map. A number of post-medieval postholes, a large quarry pit and two large pits were also revealed as were a small number of undated features. OASIS ID: albionar1-401636 Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.56

Houghton Regis, Kingsland Secondary School, Parkside Drive TL 0326 2512

ADAM WILLIAMS and WESLEY KEIR

Between June and December 2020, geophysical survey and trial trenching were undertaken on the site of the new Kingsland Secondary School. The geophysical survey identified the presence of rectilinear enclosures together with smaller enclosures, possible ring-ditches and other ditch-type anomalies, which were presumed to be an extension of the late Iron Age/Roman settlement previously identified within the Houghton Regis North 1 site (HRN3206) to the east (Luke and Barker, in prep.). Archaeological features were revealed within 18 of the 22 trenches. They mostly

comprised ditches representing enclosures, boundaries and routeways, and to a lesser extent pits – all are further evidence for the late Iron Age/Roman settlement to the east.

Luke, M. and Barker, J., in prep, Late Neolithic to Roman Land-use on Site HRN3206, Houghton Regis North 1, Houghton Regis

Oasis ID: albionar1-392239

Accession no.: LUTNM:2020/19

Houghton Regis North 1, Lidl Store Site TL 0338 2543

MATTEO PALOMBELLI, IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

Between October and November 2020, a strip, map and sample investigation in advance of construction of a new food store revealed one of the few distinct foci of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age settlement yet found within the HRN1 development area. The principal evidence comprised three four-post structures, two probable storage pits that produced charred barley and wheat grains, and a substantial number of other postholes that hint at the presence of other structures. Evidence for contemporary field systems had been found on previous investigations to the south-east and north-west.

Later features comprised late Iron Age/Roman field boundaries and evidence of medieval/early post-medieval cultivation. The former are a continuation of boundaries previously revealed within the HRN1 development area and are further evidence of the widespread field systems that dominated the surrounding agricultural landscape at that time. Oasis ID: albionar1-406088 Accession no.: LUTNM 2020/20

Houghton Regis North 1, Linnere Phase 2 – Hub Street (West), Visitor Centre and Basin 8 TL 0325 2541

MARCO CAPARDONI, IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

Between January and February 2020, a strip, map and sample investigation revealed few archaeological features apart from boundary ditches that appear to be part of a widespread Roman field system. They provide further landscape context for the numerous Roman settlement foci that have been identified within and around the HRN1 development area. Evidence of activity from other periods was largely confined to furrows associated with medieval/early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Oasis ID: albionar1-380081 Accession no.: LUTNM 2020/04

Houghton Regis North 1, Linnere HRN1 Primary School 1 Site TL 0272 2543

MARCO CAPARDONI, IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

Between February and March 2020 a strip, map and sample investigation revealed a small number of features, the earliest of which were two early-middle Iron Age pits. Ditches associated with a Roman field system were also found. Oasis ID: albionar1-364431 Accession no.: LUTNM:2020/06

Houghton Regis North 1: Site HRN3486 TL 0270 2560

MIKE LUKE, MARCIN KOZIMISKI and CATIE WATTS

Between April and December 2019, strip, map and sample investigation totalling c. 11.5ha was undertaken within the HRN1 development area on the north-east edge of Houghton Regis. The results of adjacent excavations within HRN3206 (Luke and Barker 2020), HRN3456 (Luke and Pilkinton 2020a) and HRN3457 (Luke and Pilkinton 2020b) were

reported on last year. Site HRN3486 revealed evidence for activity from the late Mesolithic to the post-medieval period (Fig. 3).

Natural features

Two palaeochannels L1 took the form of dark bands of silty material within natural hollows that increased in depth towards the north (i.e. towards the present course of the Ouzel Brook) (Fig. 4). Both had previously been investigated within excavation areas HRN3456 and HRN3457. Almost 550 tree-throw holes L5 were present within the investigation area; half were subject to hand investigation. As in the adjacent excavations, they did not produce any finds and are undated. Their form gave no indication that they were directly associated with human tree clearance, and they were filled with similar deposits to the palaeochannels, suggesting that they may be part of a contemporary natural landscape, which preceded the later Mesolithic activity.

Later Mesolithic

Following completion of the fieldwork, radiocarbon dating of animal bone from three large pits returned unexpected late Mesolithic dates. Similarities in feature shape/profile, dimensions, depth and spatial layout suggest that up to 13 other pits may date to this period (Fig. 4). None produced firmly dated artefacts and most fills were sterile. Given the rarity of features of this period, this was a significant discovery and a preliminary report on them (Albion 2020) was produced.

In broad terms, the pits can be categorised as follows. All radiocarbon dates are at 95.4% probability.

- G8 – an arc of four large pits, one of which contained an animal bone assemblage that included an aurochs horn core dated to 6443–6271 cal. BC (SUER 95057). These pits were generally 2.1–2.3m in diameter and 1–1.3m deep. The largest was 3.2m across; the deepest was 1.7m deep. Two of the pits were slightly asymmetric in profile but they all generally shared similar steep-sided to near-vertical profiles.
- G10 – two isolated large pits near G8. These were similar in size and profile to pits G8: 2–2.5m in diameter and 0.9–1m deep; they had asymmetric to steep-sided profiles.
- G19 – the location of four large pits suggested that they may have been part of a 140m-long NE–SW alignment. One of them contained an animal bone assemblage that included a large mammal bone dated to 5712–5627 cal. BC (SUER 95055). The pits were typically 2.2–3.1m in diameter, although the pit at the south-west end of the alignment was c. 5m in diameter. The two pits to the south-west were 1.3–1.5m deep; the two to the north-east were shallower, <0.8m deep. All had similar steep-sided to near-vertical profiles. A similar-sized and shaped pit was found in an evaluation trench, approximately 120m to the north-east.
- G50 – two isolated, very large pits, one of which contained an animal bone assemblage that included a bovine astragalus dated to 6636–6498 cal. BC (SUER 950585). These pits were 2.7m and 4.3m in diameter and 1.6–1.7m deep. Both had steep-sided profiles with some stepping towards the base.

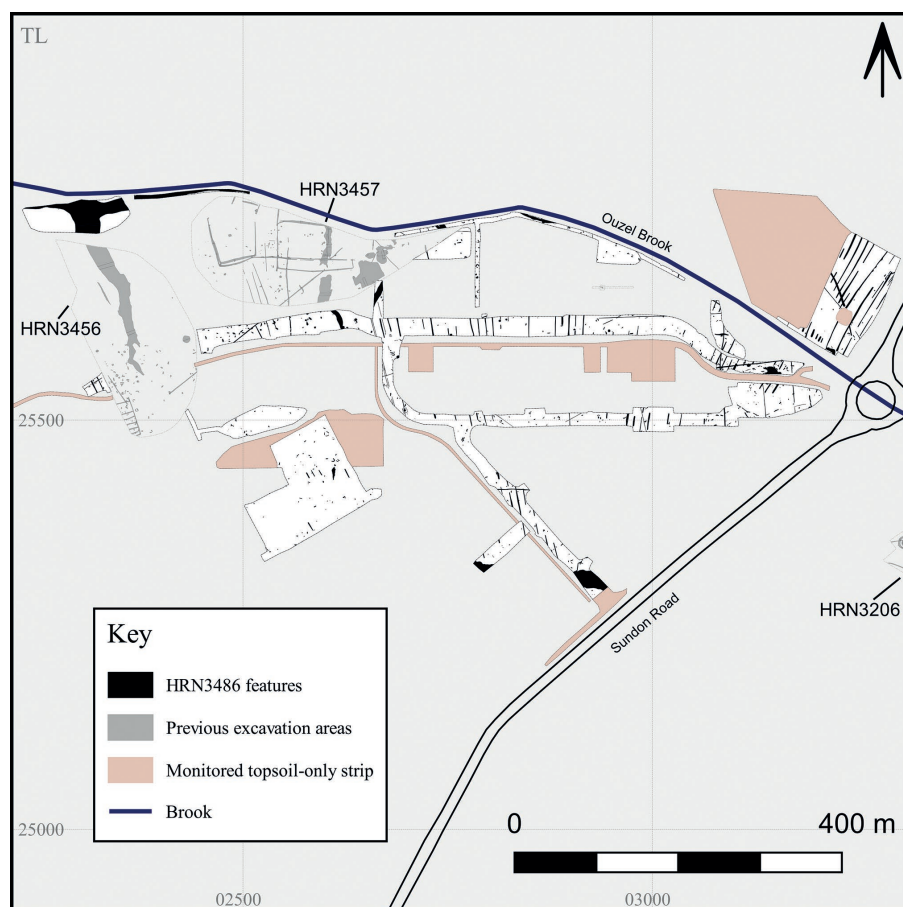


Figure 3: Houghton Regis HRN3486 all-features plan with adjacent investigations

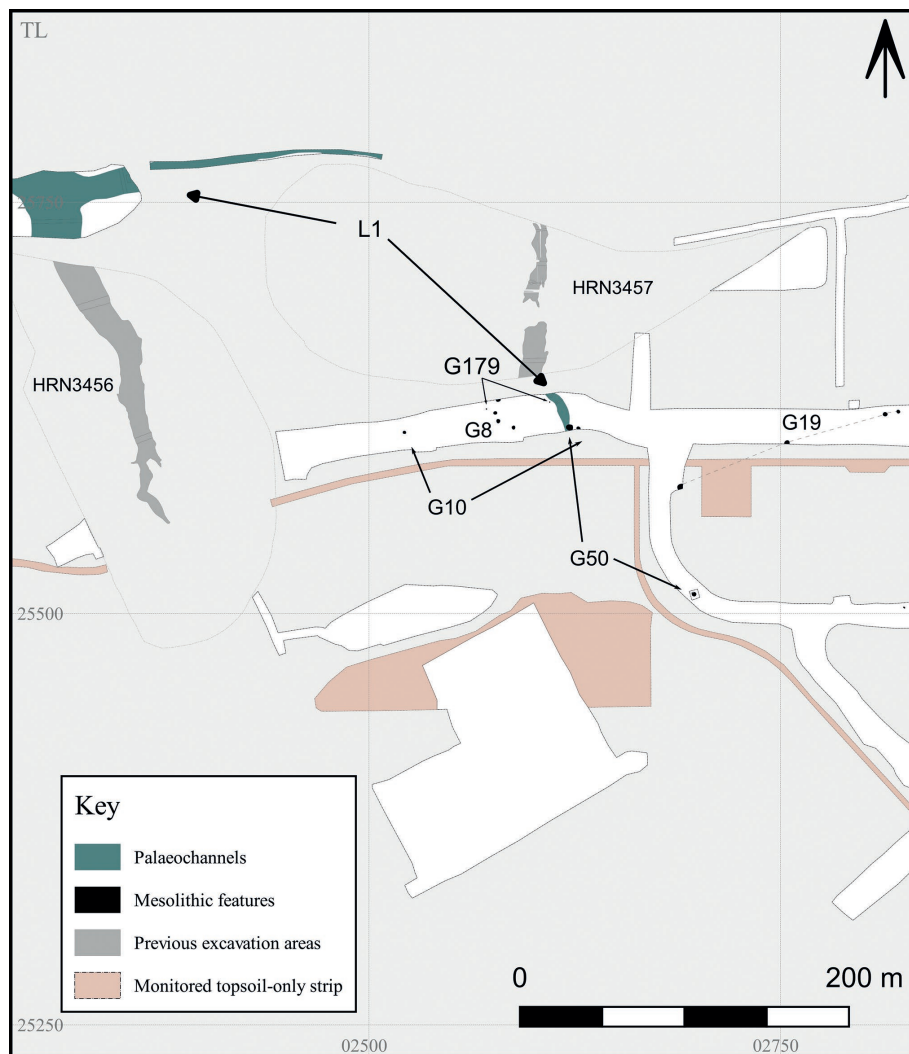


Figure 4: Houghton Regis HRN3486 later Mesolithic pits and undated palaeochannels

- G179 – two small pits on either side of pit arc G8. They were 0.65–0.75m in diameter and 0.3–0.4m deep. Both had similar steep-sided profiles.

The large pits are comparable in dimensions and profile to contemporary pits found in the Stonehenge car park (Vatcher and Vatcher 1973; Allen 1995). The hint of an alignment in pits G19 is also intriguing. Three of the Stonehenge pits appeared to be aligned on a tree-throw hole and an alignment of *c.* 12 large pits was found at Warren Field, Aberdeenshire (Murray et al. 2009), although at both these sites the spacing of the pits was much closer than those at HRN3486.

Middle Bronze Age–early Iron Age

Features were assigned to this period mainly on the basis of the presence of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery and three middle Bronze Age radiocarbon dates. Other undated features have been assigned on the basis of similarity to and/or proximity to the dated features.

An enclosure L18/L20 defined by segmented ditches was tentatively identified. It would have been polygonal in plan and *c.* 60m in diameter (Fig. 5). It appears to have formed the main focus of activity during this period. Internal features included possible post-built structures, a single water-pit and an area of intercutting pits.

Away from the enclosure were other segmented ditches, which may have been part of an extensive field system. A number of possible post-built structures were identified within the narrow investigation area adjacent to the Ouzel Brook.

Late Iron Age/early Roman

The field or enclosure ditches assigned to this phase contained late Iron Age/early Roman pottery or were associated with features that did. The one possible structure comprised six short linear gullies and seven post-pits, although in plan they did not obviously form a building.

Roman

Most of the features assigned to this phase contained Roman pottery and comprised ditches indicative of fields laid out on N–S alignments over *c.* 30ha (Fig. 6). An exception was NE–SW aligned ditch L11, which was also present found within both the HRN3456 and HRN3457 excavation areas.

Isolated pit G68 contained seven pottery vessels and an iron knife (Fig. 7). While it seems likely that this is a grave, no human remains were found. Two possible post-built structures in the narrow investigation area to the north-west are presumed to be associated with known Roman settlements, although the latter are some distance away.



Figure 5: Houghton Regis HRN3486 possible middle-late Bronze Age enclosure



Figure 6: Houghton Regis HRN3486 Roman all-features plan

Medieval and later

Two arrays of furrows were the sole evidence for medieval activity. Post-medieval remains comprised two trackways, fields, and a small area of quarry pits. One of the trackways was found in adjacent excavation area HRN3457 as were similar quarry pits.



Figure 7: Houghton Regis HRN3486 pottery vessels within pit G68 as first exposed prior to 100% excavation

Bedfordshire

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OASIS ID: albionar1-343705

Accession no.: LUTNM: 2019/47

Kempston, The Bury TL 0157 4736

MIKE LUKE, MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and CATIE WATTS

Between October and December 2019, a 0.5ha open-area excavation ahead of development at The Bury revealed remains spanning the Roman to the modern periods. The Bury's principal 19th-century building was retained within the new development but its outbuildings were demolished. The site is located in an area known to contain evidence for Bronze Age to post-medieval activity (Luke 2016).

The earliest remains comprised two un-urned Roman cremation burials and a heavily truncated linear feature interpreted as a possible bedding trench. Both graves produced a large number of nails/tacks, which did not appear to form an identifiable pattern and were evenly distributed throughout the fills. Rather than simply being explained as nails already in timbers used in the pyre, they may be evidence of either a bier or wooden objects. Given that three other cremation burials containing nails were found within the West of Bedford project (ibid. 309), it is possible that these are part of a local tradition in this part of the Great Ouse valley.

Small quantities of residual early Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered but no actual features of this date were identified. A series of late Anglo-Saxon boundary ditches and a pair of pits appear to be positioned between the two known contemporary settlements found within earlier, adjacent excavations to the east and west (ibid. fig. 6.2).

Part of a medieval settlement was represented by a series of enclosures that were perpendicular and to the north of a trackway. Some of the enclosures contained pits and evidence for buildings (Fig. 8). Building G18 was the most convincing; it comprised two parallel NE–SW aligned rows of post-holes and post-pads. They defined a rectangular area, c. 8.5m wide and over 7m long, which contained two further post-holes. The western part of the settlement had previously been investigated within the Bedford Western Bypass corridor (ibid. 351 and fig.6.8) and within a pipe

trench further to the west, which revealed buildings with stone foundations (Clarke and Cox 2018). The latter are significant because the settlement is often considered to correspond to one of Kempston's medieval manorial sites; it may have extended as far as Kempston Green End. Although still poorly understood, the overall layout of the settlement appears too 'shallow' to conform to the archetypal 'toft and croft' layout of medieval villages.

The post-medieval remains (Fig. 9) can only be understood when the archaeological evidence is combined with the geophysical survey and historic map evidence (Albion Archaeology 2006). The development area is known to contain the below-ground remains of a 1630 brick-built mansion, which are to be preserved within open space. Its surviving Grade II listed garden walls are also to be a retained feature within the modern development. The excavation revealed evidence for contemporary outbuildings, a stone-lined well G84, gardens and a range of other features. Perhaps the most interesting of the latter was a network of brick-built drains. While most were culverts formed of parallel rows of bricks, c. 0.3m apart, G98 was a 1.3m-wide, barrel-vaulted culvert constructed of unfrosted hand-made bricks. It is likely to be the source of local stories of a 'secret tunnel' linking The Bury and All Saints' Church at Kempston Church End (HER 11542; Luke 2016, 363).

The existing house of The Bury was constructed in the mid-19th century. The foundations of its demolished outbuildings were present as features within the excavation area. Their constituent bricks suggest that they were built using materials salvaged from the 17th-century buildings. Other contemporary garden features included a pet cemetery.

OASIS ID: albionar1-366614

Accession no.: BEDFM 2019.79

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Kempston, Halsey Road TL 0332 4805

MARK PHILLIPS

Bedford Borough Council planned to undertake engineering works at Halsey Road and Addison Howard Park, an area where 19th- and early 20th-century quarrying had revealed extensive prehistoric and Roman remains. Ten trial pits notionally c. 1.5 × 1.5m in extent were dug to a maximum depth of 1m. No significant archaeological deposits or evidence for former quarrying were revealed.

The trial pits contained deposits related to the construction of Halsey Road during the mid-20th century, a subsoil layer representing a former cultivation horizon and geological deposits. The road's sub-base was unusual in that it consisted of two layers of whole bricks that had been carefully arranged by hand on a bed of cinders. It would have been very labour-intensive work, requiring a large number of bricks, probably sourced from the nearby brickworks at Stewartby. OASIS ID: albionar1-400290 Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.53



Figure 8: The Bury Kempston - plan of medieval features



Figure 9: The Bury Kempston - plan of post-medieval features

Bedfordshire

Leighton-Linslade, Former Magistrates' Court, Hockliffe Road SP 9262 2531

IAN TURNER and WES KEIR

Demolition of the former magistrates' court and police station buildings was to be followed by the erection of a new care home. Five trial trenches were positioned to test the main development area, but no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present. OASIS ID: albionar1-404454 Accession no.: LUTNM: 2018/35

Northill, Land to the rear of 43 Ickwell Road TL 1510 4637

SABINE PESCHECK and ADAM WILLIAMS

Trial-trench evaluation prior to the erection of two detached dwellings did not identify any archaeological features. OASIS ID: albionar1-382054 Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.05

Riseley, Land adjacent to 156 High Street TL 0463 6316 ALLAN KING

Trial trenches identified seven ditches, some of which produced a small number of pottery sherds that broadly date the features to the medieval period. Four parallel ditches on a NE–SW alignment probably represent a succession of recuts to a significant boundary, running on a similar alignment to the High Street. Two other ditches were on an approximately perpendicular NW–SE alignment. These features may represent a mix of boundary/drainage ditches within a medieval 'plot' fronting on to the High Street. OASIS ID: albionar1-380067 Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.03

Sandy: A Preliminary Summary of the Evidence for the Defences, Layout and Extent of the Roman 'Small Town' at Sandy

MIKE LUKE with figures by CATIE WATTS

Introduction

This note is mainly based on a review of the evidence from investigations undertaken by Albion Archaeology and AOC over the last fifteen years. The results of earlier work undertaken by BCAS (Albion's previous name) are only included where they make a significant contribution to our understanding of the town. Only the investigations mentioned more than once in the text are shown on Fig. 10.

The Roman 'small town' at Sandy has been discussed by various authors, e.g. Johnston 1974, Johnston 1975, Dawson 1995, Albion 2003, Dawson 2007, although it was not included in Burnham and Wachter's seminal work, *The 'Small Towns' of Roman Britain*, published in 1990. The last summary discussion of the town was published in 2007 by Dawson, but it was largely based on an earlier article (Dawson 1995), which itself was based on the unpublished excavations of 1988–1992 within Sandy Municipal Cemetery (BCAS 1996; A on Fig. 10). At that time this was the largest excavation undertaken within the town and is still the only one where vertical stratigraphy was present.

Location and origins

The Roman town lies to the east of the River Ivel on the south-east margins of the modern town (TL 179 487). It is located at a change in alignment of the Baldock–Godmanchester Roman road, on lower ground at the point

where the road rises to pass through a gap in the Greensand Ridge. The routing of the road in the Sandy area presumably reflects the fact that there was a pre-existing and significant settlement that needed to be served by the road network.

Whether in use or not at the time of the Roman Conquest, the three hillforts within 1km of the town illustrate the importance of Sandy in the Iron Age. Evidence for pre-Roman settlement has been found in the form of middle–late Iron Age pottery and features within an evaluation of land adjacent to Potton Road (Albion 2019, 30), a large late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditch within a small open-area excavation at Saddlers (Albion 2012, 8), and the presence of late Iron Age pottery and some features within the Municipal Cemetery excavations (BCAS 1996, table 5.4; Dawson 1995, 171). In addition to the dozens of late Iron Age coins found in the Sandy area (recorded in the HER), there were three from the Potton Road evaluation (Albion 2019, 30) and 37 from the Municipal Cemetery excavations (BCAS 1996, table 5.4). It has been suggested that Sandy may have been the site of a tribal mint (Dawson 1997, 2).

Defences

In recent years the consensus has been that the town was not enclosed by defences (Simco 1984, 114–5; Albion 2003, 22), although there are suggestions, albeit ambiguous, that at least one 17th-century antiquarian believed that it was walled (R. Blome *Britannia* (1673, 45) quoted in Watkin (1882, 269)). Two excavations undertaken by AOC have revealed evidence that proves that the town was indeed defended and re-examination by the author of the results of previous investigations has enabled the course of the defences to be determined over the majority of their length.

Ditch

The first firm evidence for possible defences was a major ditch (D1 on Fig. 11), 11.5m wide and 2.5m deep, which extended for 35m across the Tesco store excavation (B on Fig. 10) (AOC 2013, 12, fig. 8 and plate 8). Another length of large ditch (L. Capon, pers. comm.), initially interpreted as a palaeochannel, (D2 on Fig. 11) was found within the allotment excavation, c. 250m to the north-east (C on Fig. 10). It had similar dimensions to D1 and, although it was on a different alignment, it is now clear that both are part of the same circuit. The ditch was not found to the north of the allotment excavation within the Potton Road evaluation (E on Fig. 10), indicating that it must have changed course to a NW–SE alignment.

While no evidence for a large ditch was reported during intermittent observation of modern grave-digging within the Municipal Cemetery, this is hardly surprising given the limited extent of the graves. However, the absence of any Roman features in the northernmost graves, as plotted by Johnston (1974, Fig. 3), could indicate that a large ditch was present in this area (D3 on Fig. 11).

With the benefit of hindsight it is clear that a third length of large ditch (D4 on Fig. 11) was found by the Woodside Farm geophysical survey (D on Fig. 10) in the field to the south-east of the Municipal Cemetery. Here a large N–S linear anomaly was 'thought to be a Roman road' (GSB 1996, 2 and fig. 4). However, the report states that as an anomaly it was a 'broad relatively quiet band', which seems unlikely to be the signature of a Roman road. The anomaly is c. 12m wide and extends for 60m across the survey area.

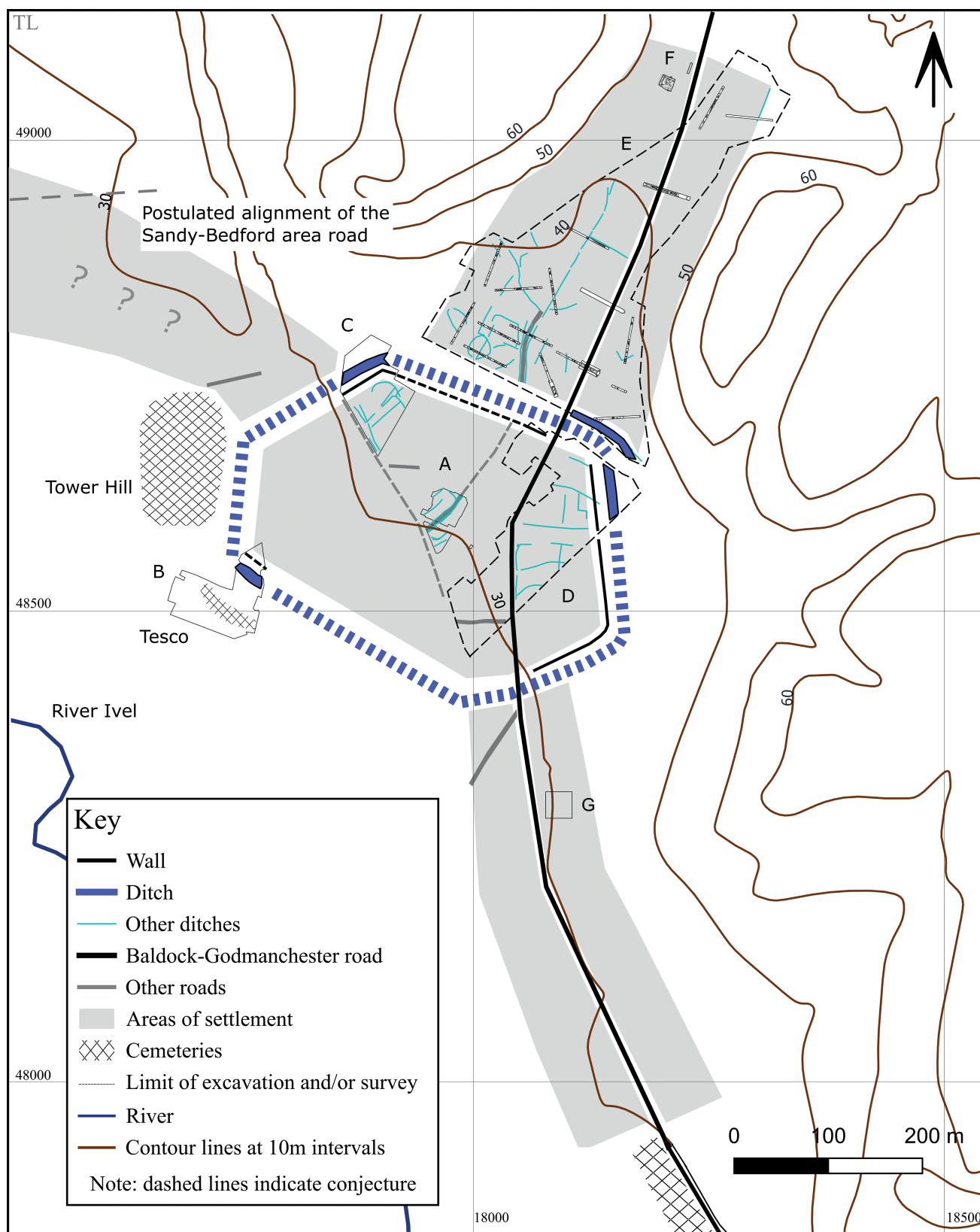


Figure 10: Overall plan of the Roman 'small town' at Sandy

A corresponding anomaly or feature was not found within the Potton Road evaluation to the north (Albion 2019), so the ditch is presumed to have turned and partly underlie the modern Potton Road and the northern part of the Municipal Cemetery.

The alignments of the four ditch lengths (D1–D4 on Fig. 11) would suggest that the defences were polygonal in plan.

If so, there are probably only one or two lengths where no evidence has been found to date. Almost all of these would now underlie the railway and modern Sandy (Fig. 10) and, even if they had not been destroyed, they would be difficult to detect in anything other than open-area excavation.

There is some evidence to suggest that on their north-east side the defences may have featured a second ditch (D5 on

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Fig. 11). Here, on the southern periphery of the Potton Road evaluation (E on Fig. 10), a c. 5m-wide NW–SE ditch was located in two trenches (Albion 2019, 31). The ditch was unusually large compared to the others within the evaluation. Its position corresponded with a geophysical anomaly that appeared to be turning south, but as this was observed on the edge of the survey area adjacent to modern field boundaries its interpretation was uncertain. However, it seems possible that, at least on this side of the walled area, the defences comprised multiple ditches.

Wall

The first and only firm evidence for a town wall is a c. 3m-wide robber trench (filled with mortar and occasional sandstone fragments) within the allotment excavation (W1 on Fig. 11). In some places within the robber trench coursed, mortared sandstone blocks survived. The wall was aligned NE–SW, parallel to and c. 8m from ditch D2. It changed direction onto a NW–SE alignment in the east part of the excavation area. At this point there was a c. 3 × 3m mortared sandstone foundation, which may represent a small internal tower or large buttress (L. Capon, pers. comm.).

Again reviewing the evidence from the Woodside Farm geophysical survey, there was a N–S linear anomaly running parallel to and c. 10m from ditch D4. The anomaly was c. 3m wide and it was interpreted as modern in the report (GSB 1996, 2 and fig. 4). It now seems possible that it represents a robber trench along the town wall (W3 on Fig. 11). The anomaly does not appear to continue as far as the modern Potton Road and there is a suggestion that it changed to a NW–SE alignment. To the south a faint linear cropmark, visible on an aerial photograph (Northants CC SF2503/25), continues the alignment to the south before changing onto a NE–SW alignment (W4 on Fig. 11). The linear nature of the cropmark becomes less distinct towards the Baldock–Godmanchester road, which is also visible as a broad faint linear cropmark. The putative intersection of the wall and the road does appear different, but there is no firm cropmark evidence for a gateway.

With the benefit of this new information, it is possible to argue that the town wall was seen during modern gravedigging within the Municipal Cemetery but was, understandably, not recognised for what it was. The evidence is based on observations made mainly by the Cemetery Keepers (Johnston 1974, 39 and fig. 3). It includes three significant records of: ‘gravel metalling and mortar’; ‘concrete metalling, 10–12ft [3–3.6m] wide, below layers of sand and fine limestone, and clay (prob disturbed by trenching)’; and, perhaps more convincingly, ‘sandstone blocks were found in quantity’. Johnson interpreted these as evidence for roads and buildings. Although the location of these remains is not precisely known, Johnson does mention that the ‘sandstone blocks’ were found near the modern chapel which corresponds with the projected alignment of the proposed wall (W2 on Fig. 11).

No firm evidence for a wall has been found west of the railway, but an arrangement of stones within the Tesco store excavation is a possibility (W5 on Fig. 11). These comprised a 4.3m length of a single course of sandstone fragments, interpreted as ‘the remains of a small wall or the edging of a pathway’ (AOC 2013, 9). These appear to be parallel to and c. 10m from ditch D1, which would correspond to the position of the wall within the allotment excavation. It is also

possible that they represent an intra-vallum road or the base for a rampart. No firm evidence for a rampart has yet been detected, but its existence is highly likely and its position can perhaps be inferred from the gap in features adjacent to the defences within the allotment excavation and, less convincingly, by a similar pattern of anomalies within the Woodside Farm geophysical survey.

Roads

The arrangement of the roads in the Sandy area is considered here, but only in so far as it has a bearing on the extent and layout of the Roman town. The precise course of the Baldock–Godmanchester road through the Sandy area has been a matter of speculation for some considerable time, despite (and probably because of) the limited nature of the evidence (Viatores 1964, 515; Johnston 1974, fig. 1; Dawson 1995, fig. 15.2). Previous suggestions were largely based on the alignment of the road to the north and to the south of Sandy as, until recently, only one trench in the town’s environs (at The Bungalow, Stratford Road) had produced reliable physical evidence (Viatores 1964, 237).

The course of the road has now been identified in three trenches within the Potton Road evaluation (Albion 2019, 16–17). If projected to the south its course would correspond with linear anomalies within the Woodside Farm geophysical survey, which at the time were interpreted as streets within the town rather than as the main road itself (GSB 1996, fig. 4). Although discontinuous due to the limits of the survey area, these anomalies clearly change alignment within the survey area, are respected by ditch-type anomalies (Fig. 11), and to the south correspond with the broad linear cropmark mentioned above. The road, therefore, does not pass centrally through the proposed defensive circuit (discussed further below). This is perhaps not surprising, as the defences are likely to have been constructed later and only designed to enclose part of the existing settlement – as seen at other towns, e.g. Water Newton (Burnham and Wachter 1990, fig. 18).

To the south of the town, the evidence from the trench at The Bungalow (G on Fig. 10) was used to suggest that the road lies c. 50m east of modern Stratford Road (Viatores 1964, 237). However, Stratford Road itself is more likely to represent the road’s alignment. The remains at The Bungalow took the form of rammed gravel, which could be a side street or yard within the wider settlement. The presence of a large Roman cemetery adjacent to Stratford Road further south (BCAS 1999; AFU 2005) lends support to the idea that the Roman road underlies the modern road.

The existence of other ‘major’ Roman roads connecting Sandy to the ‘small towns’ at Cambridge and Irchester and to the Bedford area has been proposed (Viatores 1964, routes 224, 225 and 226; Johnston 1974, 39–40). Of these only the Sandy to the Bedford area road has so far produced convincing evidence in the form of two parallel cropmarks identified at several different locations along its route. However, the nearest of these is 2km west of Sandy on the other side of the River Ivel. Projecting the cropmark’s alignment eastwards would bring the road c. 200m north of the defences (Fig. 10), although clearly it may well have changed course as it neared the Roman town.

In terms of roads within the town, a 50m length was investigated within the Municipal Cemetery excavations (R1 on Fig. 11). Here a gravel road was bounded by side ditches,

whose recuts narrowed its width (Dawson 1995, 173; fig. 15.3). Two parallel ditches within the Potton Road evaluation would appear to represent the northern continuation of this road, although no gravel surface was present (Albion 2019, fig. 3). This road was broadly parallel to and c. 60m west of the Baldock–Godmanchester road. It is of particular interest because current evidence suggests it would have been blocked when the defences were constructed.

The Woodside Farm geophysical survey produced good evidence for at least one E–W road perpendicular to the main highway (R2 on Fig. 11). Another postulated road (R3 on Fig. 11) is evidenced by observations during modern gravedigging: ‘an E–W gravel track, running roughly in the direction of Tower Hill’ (Johnston 1974, 39, fig. 3 label 3). Johnston notes that it was ‘also observed in the part of the Cemetery to NE’ (ibid. 39), but it is uncertain if the findspot is what he labelled as ‘2’ on fig. 3. The latter would actually correspond well with the projected alignment of R1.

It is possible that part of the modern Stratford Road overlies a Roman road within the defended part of the town (R4 on Fig. 11). This suggestion is supported by evidence from the allotment excavation, e.g. the way in which Roman ditches appear to respect this alignment (Fig. 11), and the presence of areas of gravel adjacent to the modern road (L. Capon, pers. comm.). In addition, an area of undated gravel was observed in the side of a foundation trench during a recent watching brief adjacent to Stratford Road (Albion 2020, 9). Finally, there is a hint that the Roman road and ditches found on the south limit of the Municipal Cemetery excavation area (adjacent to the modern Stratford Road) were just beginning to turn as if to respect a perpendicular road. The evidence is by no means definitive and some of the recorded remains could be associated with a wider (perhaps post-medieval) version of the modern Stratford Road. However, given the overall layout of the defences and the extent of the town, the existence of further roads would seem likely.

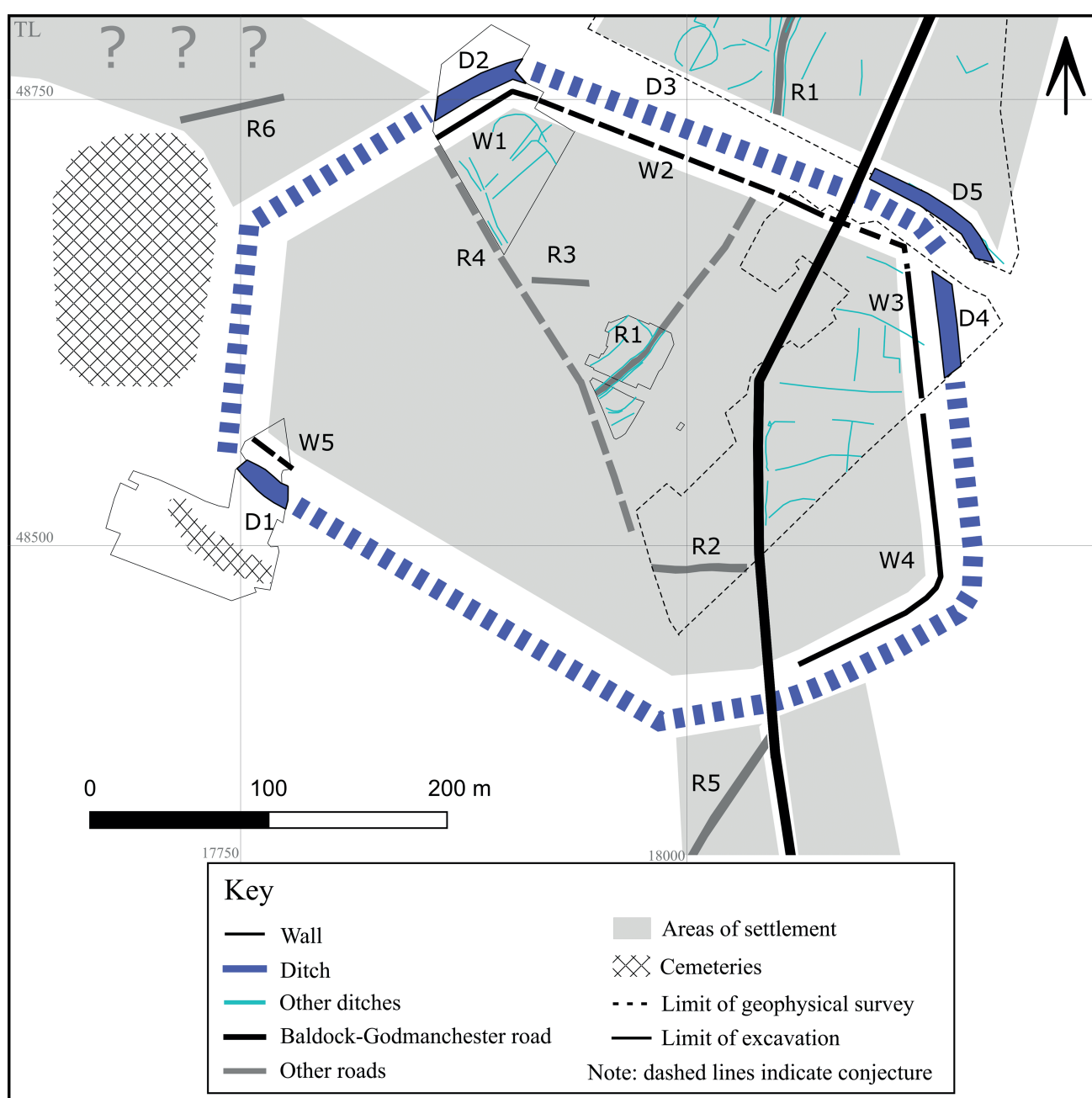


Figure 11: Postulated layout of the defended part of Roman Sandy

Bedfordshire

Outside the defended part of the town a cropmark on the same aerial photograph mentioned above may indicate the existence of a NE–SW road that would have joined the Baldock–Godmanchester road near the postulated south gate (R5 on Fig. 11). This may have been heading to a crossing of the River Ivel and the known Roman settlement on the opposite bank (Dawson and Maul 1996).

Another possible road was identified on the basis of observations within two narrow trenches near the Tower Hill cemetery (Viatores 1964, 271). It would be located just outside the defensive circuit (R6 on Fig. 11) near a postulated gate.

Extent

The defensive circuit proposed here would have enclosed an area of *c.* 11ha. Thus the excavations at the Municipal Cemetery (Dawson 1995) were located centrally within the defences, with those at the Tesco store (AOC 2013) and the allotments (L. Capon, pers. comm.) in more peripheral locations adjacent to the defences. Unsurprisingly the evidence for settlement is not restricted to the area within the defences. It is now clear that the extent of the town was much larger than the previous estimate of 10ha (Dawson 1995, 168); a figure in the region of 25–30ha seems quite likely.

The Extensive Urban Survey suggested considerable ‘roadside settlement’ along the line of the Baldock–Godmanchester road to the south (Albion 2003, fig. 4). The limited evidence is based on a small number of watching briefs and small excavations, but it seems likely that ribbon development along the road was quite extensive, possibly extending as far as the large cemetery (BCAS 1999; AFU 2005) *c.* 500m to the south of the defences (Fig. 10).

At the time of the Extensive Urban Survey no settlement evidence was known along the Godmanchester road to the north of the town, but the Potton Road evaluation has identified extensive ribbon development in this area too (Albion 2019, 31–2). In addition, the presence of densely packed Roman features within a small excavation at Saddlers (Albion 2012) *c.* 380m north of the defences can now be re-interpreted as part of this ribbon development. The limit of the settlement to the north is still to be determined.

There is currently only limited evidence for contemporary settlement activity to the north-west of the defences but much of this area underlies the modern town. Some investigations have been undertaken but these mainly comprised watching briefs and small open-area excavations, some of which were devoid of evidence of Roman activity. Dawson has suggested that the settlement may have extended along the north side of the River Ivel (1995, 168) and, based on the current evidence and until the course of the road to the Bedford area is more precisely determined, this seems possible. A large cemetery, destroyed by quarrying in the late 19th century, is known to have existed at Tower Hill (Johnston 1974, 40–1). Its location can now be placed, as would be expected, just outside the town defences (Fig. 11). It is possible that the smaller cemetery identified within the Tesco store excavation (AOC 2013, 10–12) was actually an outlier of the Tower Hill cemetery (Fig. 11).

Summary

There is now good evidence that part of the Roman town at Sandy was enclosed within a ditch, wall and presumably a

rampart. Their nature and dimensions are similar to those of other ‘small towns’ in Eastern England (Woodfield 1995, 140 and table 12.1). The *c.* 3m-wide wall is comparable to those at Irchester (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 146), Cambridge (ibid. 249), Godmanchester (ibid. 128) and Water Newton (Perrin 1999, fig. 28). The *c.* 11.5m-wide ditch is comparable to those at Godmanchester (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 128) and Cambridge (ibid. 249). Multiple ditches are also known at Irchester (ibid. 146).

The 11ha size and polygonal shape of the defended area is comparable to Godmanchester (ibid. fig. 34), the next ‘small town’ to the north, and Cambridge (ibid. fig. 81), the next small town to the east. The construction date of the Sandy defences is currently unknown. Given the way they appear to truncate the course of some ditches and at least one road (R1 on Fig. 11), they were clearly late additions, designed to enclose only part of the overall settlement – as is often the case with Roman towns and cities in Britain (ibid. 13). This probably explains why they do not enclose equal areas on either side of the Baldock–Godmanchester road.

At present, the main evidence for the settlement outside the defences is concentrated in both directions along the Baldock–Godmanchester road. The north suburb has been identified within the Potton Road evaluation (Albion 2019, 31–2) and at Saddlers (Albion 2012). The nature and extent of the settlement to the south is less certain but it may have extended as far as the known cemetery (BCAS 1999; AFU 2005) *c.* 500m south of the defences. It seems likely that the settlement extended outside the defences to the north-west, possibly along/towards the Sandy–Bedford area road; the presence of the modern town in this area will make this difficult to prove. The town is now known to be much larger than the previous estimate of 10ha (Dawson 1995, 168) with the defences enclosing 11ha of a settlement that could be 25–30ha in extent.

A fuller description of the evidence for the defences, layout, extent and other aspects of Roman Sandy will be published in the next volume of *Bedfordshire Archaeology* (Luke in prep.).

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Sandy, 4 Stratford Road TL 1790 4859

MIKE LUKE and CATIE WATTS

A watching brief was undertaken in November 2020 within foundation trenches associated with the erection of a single-storey house extension. The site was located within the postulated walled area of the Roman small town (Luke this journal) and on the opposite side of Stratford Road to the excavations undertaken within the modern municipal cemetery.

A layer of colluvium, up to 1.1m thick, was revealed. Excavations within the municipal cemetery and evaluation to the north have shown this to be an extensive deposit, formed within a dry valley, and sealing Roman remains and deposits. Below this, and at the very base of the trenches, fragments of sandstone may have derived from the foundation of a Roman building, although they were not obviously linear in arrangement.

Gravel deposits in the east part of the trenches may represent road make-up. No dating evidence was recovered. It is most likely that these deposits were associated with a wider, perhaps post-medieval, version of Stratford Road, although it is not impossible that they are associated with a Roman road that may underlie the modern road in this area.

OASIS ID: albionar1-398689

Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.46

Shefford, Hillfoot Farm TL 1480 3850

ALLAN KING, BENJAMIN CARROLL, WESLEY KEIR and JACKIE WELLS

Between September 2020 and February 2021, a c. 2.95ha open-area excavation in advance of residential development was carried out on the south-east outskirts of Shefford.

Field evaluation in 2016, combining geophysical survey (SUMO 2016) and trial trenching (Heritage Network 2016), identified a large, trapezoidal enclosure that had previously been recognised from aerial photography. Other linear, curvilinear and sub-circular ditches suggested that the site contained the remains of multi-phase late prehistoric/Roman settlement, overlain by modern ploughing

The open-area excavation confirmed and expanded upon the results of the evaluation, with evidence of later Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity, a late Iron Age settlement that was occupied into, and remodelled during, the Roman period and evidence for medieval open fields (Fig. 12). The post-fieldwork assessment and analysis is currently ongoing. A preliminary chronological summary of the results is provided below.

Bronze Age to early Iron Age

Apart from one seemingly isolated pit, the evidence for this period consisted of a small number of residual artefacts found in later features, including small, late Bronze Age pottery sherds and an early Bronze Age barbed-and-tanged arrowhead.

Pre-'Belgic' Iron Age

The earliest significant evidence for settlement activity comprised a 'figure-of-eight'-shaped enclosure, field boundaries, groups of small to medium-sized storage pits, and two large water-pits. The quantity of residual artefacts of this date in later features suggests that elements of this settlement were incorporated into, and partially 'erased' by, the subsequent development of the site.

Late Iron Age/early Roman

Evidence of later Iron Age settlement was widespread, with the site continuously occupied throughout this period and into the Roman period. The focus of occupation was a large trapezoidal enclosure, which was 0.46ha in extent and situated on the higher ground within the site (Fig. 13). The enclosure had been sub-divided into smaller enclosures, some

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of which were probably used for corralling stock. Features within the enclosure included a rectangular building defined by postholes and foundation trenches, probable storage pits, and a number of pits which contained the remnants of fires. The location of roundhouses was hinted at by some short curvilinear gullies. There was an inhumation within the south-west corner of the main trapezoidal enclosure. Two unurned cremation burials and a further inhumation lay outside the enclosure to the north.

Material culture from this period comprised a large amount of domestic waste – c. 40kg of pottery from storage and cooking vessels as well as over 80kg of animal bone. The quantities of material recovered are indicative of a relatively long-lived settlement, possibly of relatively high status given the nature of some of the decorated pottery and metal artefacts.

Roman

The late Iron Age settlement continued into the Roman period with the addition of interconnected square or rectilinear enclosures to the north of the trapezoidal enclosure; some appear to be part of a 'ladder'-type field system. There was no clear evidence of buildings or structures, although an oven, probably used for grain-drying, was built within an earlier roundhouse gully to the east of the trapezoidal enclosure. Several large water-pits also appear to have still been open during this period. The recovered artefacts suggest that settlement persisted until the late 4th century when it appears to have been abandoned.

Recovered finds include c. 12kg of pottery as well as a large amount of animal bone and small amounts of fired clay and shell along with coins, brooches, an iron socketed axe head and other metal artefacts.

Medieval to post-medieval

There appears to have been a hiatus in activity following the apparent abandonment of the settlement during the late 4th century. It is possible that this absence of evidence simply reflects a continuity of a pastoral landscape up until the Middle Ages, when the site was taken into agricultural use, with at least one phase of ridge and furrow cultivation clearly evident. Post-medieval remains were confined to land-drains and post-enclosure field boundaries.

Heritage Network, 2016, Land at Hillfoot Farm, Shefford, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation, Report no. 1034

References

SUMO, 2016, Geophysical Survey Report: Land at Hillfoot Farm, Shefford, Bedfordshire

OASIS ID: albionar1-345576

Accession no: BEDFM 2019.36

Staploe, Bassmead Manor TL 1409 6125

ERNIE RIZZO and BEN CARROLL

Five trial trenches opened within the footprint of a proposed woodland wedding area revealed a small number of modern archaeological features, a 19th-century pit and the remains of a surface from an agricultural trackway. OASIS ID: albionar1-388731 Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.14

Sutton, Village Farm, High Street TL 2233 4740

MARK PHILLIPS

Archaeological monitoring of the foundations of three houses and a garage was undertaken on land to the rear of the farmhouse at Village Farm. The farmhouse is Grade II listed and is believed to originate from the 17th century; it was extended in the 19th century. The investigations identified an undated, east–west aligned ditch with a possible return towards the High Street at its west end. The dark-coloured fill contained occasional flecks of charcoal and one poorly preserved fragment of animal bone but no other finds. This ditch may represent an earlier north boundary to the plot. OASIS ID: albionar1-383781

Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.07

Wilden, Bryher Farm POW Camp 72 TL 1097 5621

MARK PHILLIPS

Planning permission was granted for the demolition of an existing storage unit and the erection of a new factory unit. The building subject to demolition had been part of a World War II POW camp. The camp was a standard working camp (Camp No.72). It was opened in 1942 and originally held Italian POWs, who undertook agricultural work on farms in the area. In 1944, the Italian POWs were replaced by Germans. The camp still held POWs in June 1946 and it is possible that it may have remained in use until 1948. It was used in the 1950s as an Agricultural Hostel.

The building subject to demolition was Building 10. It was 26m long by 6m wide with a small rectangular projecting section on the south side. It was constructed with a reinforced concrete frame consisting of wall posts and roof beams. It was clad externally with pressed concrete panels with concrete blocks for the roof and hollow clay bricks lining the inside of the walls.

The building is a British Concrete Federation (BCF) Clear Span Hut. Four other examples remain on the Bryher Farm site and further examples appear to exist in the neighbouring Dacca Farm site. The building was located within what was the prisoners' compound; the guards' compound was located to the north on what is now Dacca Farm. Paint 'shadows' on the roof beams and wall scars indicated the location of internal walls that had been removed during the later reuse of the building. Examination of blocked flue holes in the roof, contemporary photographs and comparison with plans of other standard camp buildings show that Building 10 was the camp cook house. One graffito survived on a roof beam, reading "VV Mussolini" (Fig. 14) and illegible fragments of painted text remained on a wall within the projecting section on the south side of the building.

OASIS ID: albionar1-394009

Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.39

Wootton, 41–43 Cause End Road TL 0076 4539

MARK PHILLIPS

Building recording of two dwellings that were to be demolished and replaced was carried out. The historic core of the building consisted of a pair of one-and-a-half-storey cottages, both with two rooms on each floor. The plan of the cottages was that of a pair of two-unit houses, i.e. each having a kitchen/living room and parlour with the larger heated ground-floor room being the kitchen/living room.

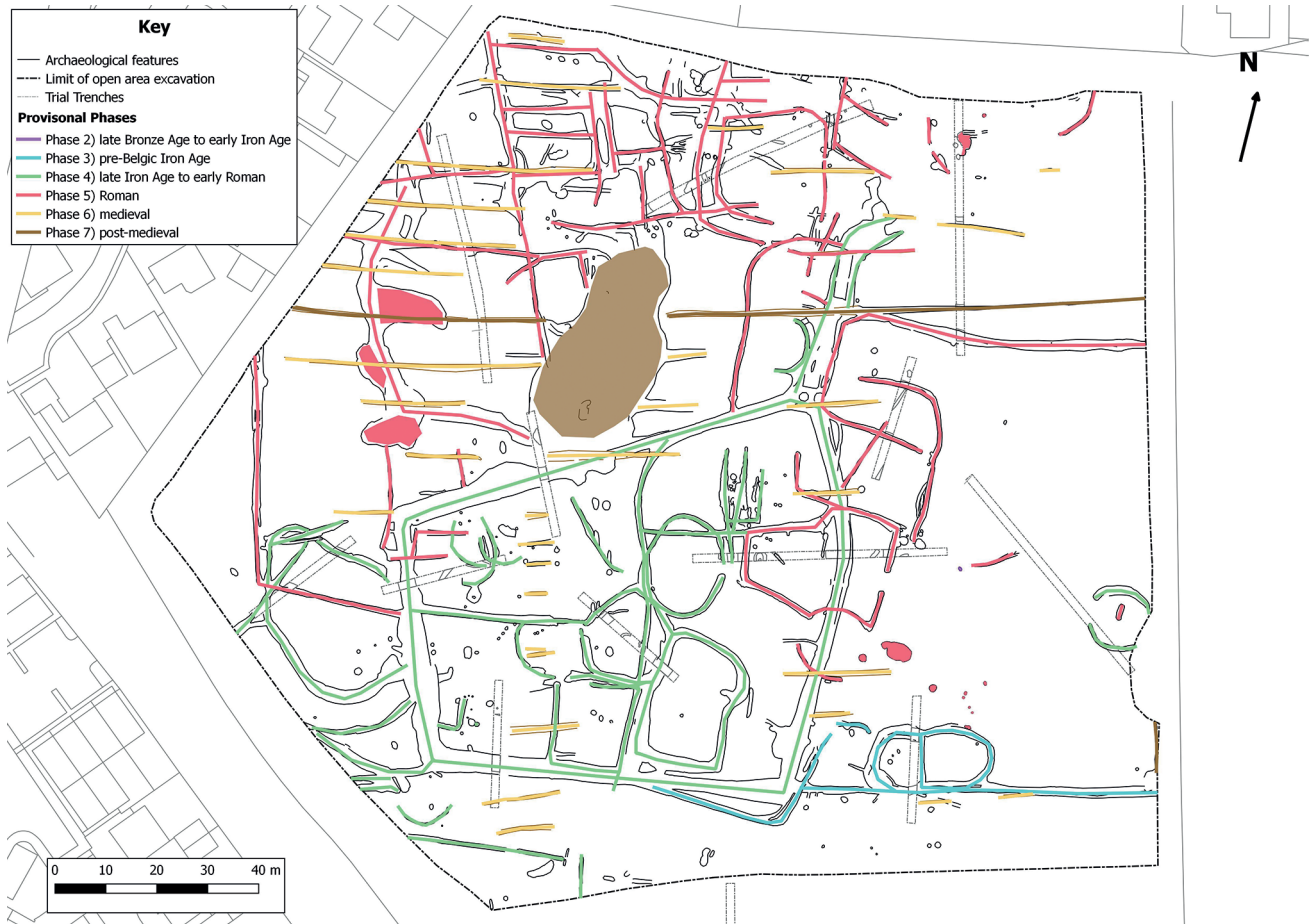


Figure 12: Hillfoot Farm Shefford provisional phased all-features plan



Figure 13: Hillfoot Farm Shefford late Iron Age/early Roman trapezoidal enclosure



Figure 14: Wilden, Bryher Camp - Graffiti reading “VV Mussolini”, probably standing for viva (“long live”)

The cottages at nos. 41–43 represent the developed form of this plan where the front door is placed slightly off centre, forming a direct entry in the corner of the larger room, with the stairs located between the two rooms.

The available evidence suggests a construction date for the cottages in the earlier 19th century. The earliest available historical map, from 1838, shows a building at this location and on the same alignment as the present building. The earliest dateable fittings in the building were 19th-century in date. The cottages evidently remained in single ownership through the late 20th century, evidenced by the addition of matching porches and rear lean-to extensions.

OASIS ID: albionar1-385166

Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.11

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Cranfield, Astwood Road SP 9626 4530

BOB ZEEPvat

In November 2020, a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken during excavations for footings for a new business unit on land at Astwood Road. The site lies to the immediate south-west of moated site (HER42) which is a scheduled ancient monument (NHLE 1009594), and appears to have had a range of uses since the late 19th century, though there is no evidence for occupation. Monitoring of the footing trenches revealed only a pit/trench

filled with modern rubbish. No buried heritage assets were noted during the monitoring programme.

Pulloxhill, Fieldside Road TL 0648 3399

BOB ZEEPvat

In August 2020, a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken during excavations for footings for a detached house on land adjacent to 20 Fieldside Road, Pulloxhill. The site lies on the eastern edge of the modern village, c. 400m north-east of the parish church, in an area that appears to have remained as open fields until residential development from the 1950s onwards. Monitoring of the footing trenches revealed only modern services associated with 20 Fieldside Road. No buried heritage assets were noted during the monitoring programme.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford, 64 Harpur Street TL 0488 5016

FLORIAN WEBER

Archaeological observation was undertaken in connection with the construction of a three-storey extension to an existing former office and conversion of the premises to flats. The site was located within the Bedford Conservation Area. Twelve foundation trenches were excavated to the rear of the existing 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 course of the groundworks.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archive reports referred to may be found at <https://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>

Bedford, Priory Marina, Barkers LANE TL 06890 49240
ED GRENIER AND ANDREW WHELAN

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology within the scheduled Newnham Priory (SM 1005391) recorded no *in situ* archaeological remains, although broken blocks of dressed medieval to early post-medieval stone were recovered from a modern levelling layer. CA Typescript Report No. MK0104_1

Caddington, LAND ADJOINING MANCROFT ROAD TL 06102 18827
MOLLY DAY

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an undated ditch on the same alignment as several extant post-medieval boundary ditches. Geoarchaeological test-pits did not identify evidence of anticipated doline features or brickearth deposits. CA Typescript Report No. MK0089_1

Clifton, Land off Broad Street TL 16896 38763
BETHANY HARDCASTLE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a possible prehistoric field boundary or enclosure ditch, although this was on the same alignment as post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation remains. Several undated ditches and pits were also present. CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Clophill, 66A High Street TL 08820 38000
RAY KENNEDY and OLIVER GOOD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered a residual prehistoric worked flint. A post-medieval ditch and layer, and several undated ditches were also identified. CA Typescript Report No. MK0211_1

Dunstable, THE FIRST AND LAST, CHURCH STREET TL 02480 22022
JOE WHELAN and JAY WOOD

An excavation and evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits pre-dating the modern period. Residual medieval and post-medieval finds were recovered from several of the modern features. CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Haynes Church End, Haynes Park TL 07832 42114
JAKE STREATFIELD-JAMES

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified several Mid to Late Iron Age enclosures with evidence of settlement activity, including a possible hearth. A small quantity of Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery suggests that the settlement may have continued into the Roman period. Two post-medieval drainage ditches were also found, as were features associated with the temporary use of Haynes Park as a Signal Service Training Centre for the Royal Engineers

(Signal Service) during World War One. CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Keysoe, Briar Barn, Hatch LANE TL 07380 60888
ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded an undated ditch. CA Typescript Report No. MK0249_1

Luton, Land east of Luton Airport TL 13139 21761
ANNA MOOSBAUER and ADRIAN SCRUBY

An evaluation identified a Neolithic pit and the remains of a small Roman building within an enclosure and series of refuse pits. The building contained evidence to suggest that it was furnished with under floor heating, including an *in situ* pilae stack. The building was demolished, and the enclosure infilled, in the 3rd to 4th centuries. These remains are likely associated with Romano-British activity previously identified to the north and north-west. CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Moggerhanger, Land to the south of Bedford Road TL 13820 49220
RALPH BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified several post-medieval field system ditches. CA Typescript Report No. MK0183_1

Renhold, LAND OFF HOOKHAMS LANE TL 07476 52872
ADRIAN SCRUBY

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified several ditches forming part of an Iron Age agricultural enclosure system. Two Iron Age ditches broadly correlated with the position of a ring-ditch identified by a preceding geophysical survey. The finds assemblage from the ditches was indicative of occupation in the immediate vicinity. Remnants of medieval or post-medieval furrows were also present. CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Riseley, Riseley Lower School, Church Lane TL 03831 62817
RALPH BROWN

An evaluation, excavation and watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified several late medieval ditches and a probable quarry pit. A late medieval to early post-medieval pit was also present. CA Typescript Report No. MK0300_1

Stotfold, Land at Arlesey Road, Phase A TL 20703 36935
JONATHAN ORELLANA and OLIVER GOOD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a possible Middle to Late Iron Age rectangular enclosure. Late Iron Age/Early Roman remains comprised a large D-shaped settlement enclosure containing a possible dwelling and accompanied by smaller rectilinear enclosures or field system ditches. CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Stotfold, Stotfold Phases B – E TL 20816 36682
FRANCESCO CATANZARO

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a probable Early Iron Age pit. An undated ditch and burnt deposit were also present. CA Typescript Report Forthcoming



Figure 15: East of Luton Airport, south-west facing section through structure, looking north-east (2m scale)

Totternhoe, Bradwell House, Knolls View

SP 97629 22366

JAKE STREATFEILD-JAMES

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a post-medieval pond, and a ditch or culvert. The lack of medieval features suggests that activity associated with the nearby Totternhoe Castle and adjacent medieval quarries did not extend as far as the site. CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Chicksands, Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane TL 11924 40155

POVILAS ČEPAUSKAS

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted a Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on land at Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, Bedfordshire., between 10th-11th March 2020. This was in advance of the construction of a machinery storage building and was in response to a condition placed on planning consent. No archaeological remains were uncovered during the excavation, with no evidence for the deserted medieval village which was thought to be in this general area.

Maulden, Clophill Road TL 06443 37704

TOM HODGSON

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a measured earthwork survey on Land North of Clophill Road,

Maulden, Bedfordshire. A study of LiDAR data for the site was also produced to complement this and followed by a trial trench evaluation taking place in late January 2020. The work was commissioned by Mulberry Homes in advance of the construction of approximately 49 residential units and to discharge a planning condition requirement. The measured survey produced a detailed, topographic data set of the earthworks and a comprehensive digital photographic record. A study of LiDAR data identified one area of ridge and furrow covering the site and 19 further relic landscape features in the wider study area.

Archaeological trial trenching revealed discrete activity dating to the Iron Age and Saxon periods. The Iron Age remains included a substantial pot found in a sub-circular ditch, possibly the remains of an earlier Prehistoric barrow, although barrows are known in the Iron Age and medieval period. Saxon remains comprised the remains of a probable field system and a pit containing Saxon pottery and metalworking waste, although the precise nature of the latter considering the limited evidence is unclear.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Biggleswade, Biggleswade Conservative Club

TL 18850 44535

LISA WALDOCK

In response to a planning condition on the construction of three separate single storey extensions and a glazed link at

the Conservative Club, St Andrew's Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

A previous Heritage Statement had demonstrated a *Low* overall potential for encountering evidence of archaeological features from the prehistoric to medieval periods, and a *High* potential for the post-medieval and modern periods.

Monitoring of the development groundworks revealed a number of undated, but apparently substantial features. Those encountered in Areas 3 and 4, at the southern end of the site, are likely to relate either to garden and landscaping features or to the 19th century conservatory located against the south elevation of the building. Those in Areas 1 and 2, at the northern end of the site, may represent linear features or backfilled quarry pits, predating the construction of the building in the early 19th century.

Two brick-built structures were encountered in Area 1. These appear to extend west from the northern block, but were apparently unrelated to each other. They may form part of a drainage or heating system associated with former stables.

Bromham, St Owen's Church TL 01345 51260

HELEN ASHWORTH

In response to a condition placed on the planning consent, and a proviso on the diocesan faculty consent, for the creation of disabled access and the construction of an extension at St Owen's Church, Bromham, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation covering the development groundworks.

The project involved five stages of investigation and recording, comprising the monitoring of groundworks associated with alterations to the south porch to create disabled access; a rapid photographic record of the interior and exterior parts of the church to be affected by the construction of the northern extension; a record of the gravestones located within the footprint of the extension and affected by the works and the excavation of a trial trench within the footprint of the extension; the subsequent excavation of the footprint of the new extension to the development impact levels; and, the monitoring of all other groundworks associated with the development.

The works exposed and recovered over 100 human burials, which spanned the medieval and post-medieval periods and included a mixture of young individuals with a paleopathology indicative of childhood stress, and a well-fed and long-lived adult population. Demographically, the exhumed population was random and, following osteological assessment, was not considered of sufficient academic significance to justify a funded study, although the possibility of a community project was explored.

No other remains of archaeological significance were exposed, and all the human remains were reinterred within the churchyard.

Langford, Land to the rear of 76 Station Road

TL 18800 40440

PERI HORSLEY

In order to advise the local planning authority regarding the archaeological potential of a proposed development site on

land to the rear of 76 Station Road, Langford, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a field evaluation by trial trenching.

Nine trenches were excavated across the site, and three features were identified and investigated. These did not produce dateable artefacts and have been interpreted as boundary features of probable post-medieval or modern date. They are considered to be of negligible archaeological significance.

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.

Tebworth, Lane Farm, The Lane SP 98950 26990

DAVID HILLELSON and HELEN ASHWORTH

The Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake archaeological recording of the site at Lane Farm, The Lane, Tebworth, Beds. The works included historic building recording of the agricultural structures and monitoring of the development groundworks.

It was considered that the historic building recording had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of Lane Farm.

The Chalgrave Enclosure map, dated 1800, shows ranges of buildings located to the north, east and south of a central courtyard. Some changes are visible on the 1st edition OS map of 1882, though the basic layout has remained since 1800. The farmhouse at the eastern side of the yard has been extended and a further building erected on the southern side of the farmyard. A series of structures, set around a small yard, have been constructed immediately to the north of the main yard, and west of a large thatched barn. Lane Farm lies on the north-east side of The Lane, a trackway leading to Watergate Farm. The farmhouse closes the north-east side of a farmyard that opens onto The Lane and which is currently being redeveloped for housing.

Lane Farm has fallen out of agricultural use, and the older farm buildings have been undergoing conversion to dwellings, with additional new-build dwellings replacing the more modern barns. The farmhouse, which forms the focus of the farmyard when viewed from the road, is considered uneconomic to convert and will be replaced by a sympathetically designed pair of semi-detached dwellings on a similar footprint.

Recording of the farmhouse in advance of its demolition showed that in its earliest form the building is vernacular in style, and of modest scale, possibly being agricultural in purpose. It underwent a series of functional enlargements in the course of the 18th century, and gentrification in the course of the 19th century. An early single-storey core of at least two bays is demonstrated by a timber-framed gable forming the north elevation of the first floor landing, and a timber-framed partition forming the south elevation of a bedroom off the landing, both of which may be contemporary with the lower half of the eastern elevation, which incorporates at least three bands of reused brick of different origins. The central core was raised, and subsequently extended to both north and south, and augmented with the addition of two-storey bay windows to the principal rooms.

Recording of the agricultural buildings demonstrated that the early timber framed structures were built of re-used material, brought in from elsewhere. Poor building

Bedfordshire

techniques were also demonstrated in the construction of a barn at the western end of the farmyard, running parallel to The Lane. Repairs and alterations to the fabric of the buildings was also noted.

It was also considered that the archaeological monitoring on the groundworks had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origin and development of Tebworth from the prehistoric period onwards and to the development of Lane Farm. The recorded evidence indicates significant disturbance to the ground in the farmyard in the post-medieval period. A small number of cut features were identified, but only one, pit [101] may be of archaeological significance, but no finds were recovered from its fill and the date and function of this feature could not be determined.

Although no clear evidence for activity pre-dating the post-medieval period was revealed during the course of the present works, the present project has increased our knowledge of the development of the site at Lane Farm.

Upper Caldecote, 21 Manor Place TL 16650 45830

SARAH EBBAGE

In response to a condition on planning consent for a proposed new dwelling at 21 Manor Place, Upper Caldecote the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.

Manor Place is located at the western end of the village of Upper Caldecote, to the south-west of the 19th century parish church of All Saints. The present site lies in the rear garden of no. 21, which is located on the northern side of Manor Place. Historic mapping shows that the site lay in open fields, probably associated with Manor Farm, to the south of the study area. In the late 19th and early 20th century it formed part of a large field lying between Manor Farm and the church.

Two trial trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed new dwelling and its access drive. These revealed a simple and undisturbed stratigraphy comprising topsoil and subsoil above the natural sandy gravels. Relatively heavy rooting was noted in the overburden, a reflection of the site's former use as a garden.

No archaeological features, deposits, or finds were encountered in the course of the investigation, and, on this basis, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

Upper Caldecote, Land at The Pound TL 18745 41495

SARAH EBBAGE

In order to advise the local planning authority regarding the archaeological potential of a proposed development site on land at The Pound, Upper Caldecote, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a field evaluation by trial trenching.

Seven trial trenches were excavated across the site revealing a number of features including gullies, a pit, and possible cultivation furrows. The identified features suggest an earlier agricultural landscape, possibly spanning more than one period, with some probable tree cover. The only feature that suggests occupation is the pit in Trench 4, which had two separate fills, each containing a separate class of finds – animal bone in the primary fill and pottery in the secondary fill. The pottery dates the feature to the early to

mid-Iron Age. This was the only dating evidence recovered in the evaluation.

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 *High* for the early to mid-Iron Age and the medieval periods, reducing to *Low* for all other periods. Such remains have the potential to contribute to regional research agenda but are considered unlikely to be of a quality or condition to warrant preservation in situ.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Dunstable, 46 High Street South TL 0193 2173

JONATHAN HUNN

A strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken at 46 High Street South, Dunstable. The site is situated in the centre of the Roman and medieval settlement. No Roman or medieval features were present. Three 19th/20th century brick constructed structures were recorded.

Harlington, Station Road TL 0351 3025

DAVID FELL

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken at Station Road, Harlington. The site lay on the periphery of the medieval settlement and ground reduction and monitoring of the excavation of a pipe trench were undertaken. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed and it is likely that the site was truncated when the area was laid out as a railway goods yard during the 19th century.

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Biggleswade, The Old Maltings TL 18954 44659

LAURA DODD and KARIN KAYE

In 2018 a programme of Historic Building Recording and Observation and Recording was undertaken at The Old Maltings, Church Street, Biggleswade, as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. Footing trenches for the garden walls and a new building to the south of the site, along with new service trenches and a large soak away were excavated within the courtyard to the west of the building. Within the new soak away a posthole and two possible rubbish pits were exposed which contained post-medieval finds. The brick wall of a building shown on the 1838 Tithe map was exposed to the south of the site as well as the foundations of the recently demolished 19th century barn. Beneath the latter foundation was a brick feature of uncertain function.

Cockayne Hatley, 19 Village Rd TL 26095 49602

BECCA BRADFORD

In March 2018 a programme of Strip, Map and Sample was undertaken as part of a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework at 19 Village Road, Cockayne Hatley prior to the construction of an extension. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed throughout the project.

Cople, Glebe House TL 10191 48437

DEREK WATSON

In May 2020 an Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at The Glebe House, 5 Grange Lane, Cople. Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the development footprint and despite the site's location within the postulated core of the medieval settlement of Cople, and the proximity of earlier remains in the general area, no archaeological features or artefacts were encountered. This absence suggests that the development area was either situated outside of the core medieval settlement or was located between widely dispersed features within that village.

Dunstable, Former Norman King Pub TL 0217 2196

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

Between September 2018 and March 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Strip, Map and Sample and Observation, Investigation and Recording at the Former Norman King Public House, Church Street, Dunstable, during the redevelopment of the plot to a garden and extra parking for the Old Palace Lodge Hotel. The works revealed several cut features, including pits and a gully dating from the medieval period. The remaining features were dated primarily to the post-medieval period, consisting of stone and brick foundations, ditches, pits and post-holes. It is likely that were associated with Kingsbury Farm which is known to have existed on the site of the former Norman King and beyond.

Felmersham, Wills Farm SP 98927 57576

BARNEY KING

In June 2018, a programme of Observation and Recording was undertaken at Wills Farm, Town Lot Lane, Felmersham, as part of a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework and condition 3 of planning consent.

The work consisted of ground reduction within the footprint of a new outbuilding and seven associated footing trenches. No archaeological cut features or deposits were recorded, and the site stratigraphy consisted of made ground overlying subsoil and the natural geology.

Leighton Buzzard, Chamberlains Barn Quarry

SP 93018 26760

LAURA DODD

In 2017 a Strip, Map and Sample Excavation was undertaken at Chamberlains Barn Quarry, Leighton Buzzard following several phases of archaeological evaluation on the site, which has been granted planning consent for mixed use development). The excavation revealed a wide but not particularly deep, probably late medieval or early post-medieval ditch, that had subsequently been re-cut and later still consolidated with a post-medieval land drain. A series of ditches and gullies were also present, though other potential features identified in the geophysics survey proved to be variations in the natural geology.

Pulloxhill, Mentmore, 4 Greenfield Rd TL 06194 33995

BARNEY KING

In October 2018 KDK Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at Mentmore, 4 Greenfield Road, Pulloxhill in order to fulfil Condition 2 of the Planning

Consent for this site. No archaeological features or finds were encountered, probably as a result of previous demolition and modification of the site.

Roxton, Great North Road TL 15266 55162

LAURA DODD

In February 2018 a programme of Observation and Recording was carried out of the Land at Great North Road, Roxton prior to the conversion of the site to be used for open storage. Only minimal ground reduction was required and consequently excavations did not reach a depth to which any surviving archaeology could be observed. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were noted.

Shefford, All Angels Church TL 14357 39067

KARIN KAYE

In August 2020 a programme of Observation and Recording was undertaken on the car park to the rear of the Church of St Michael and All Angels, High Street, Shefford as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The car park was stripped by up to 170mm revealing only made ground including building debris comprising 19th century red and gault bricks. One area of gault bricks at the eastern end of the car park appeared to form a cohesive surface, possibly a pathway, but there is insufficient archaeological or documentary evidence to confirm this. No archaeological features or finds were otherwise revealed.

Silsoe, High Street TL 0822 3543

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

In February 2020 a programme of Observation and Recording of Orchards, High Street, Silsoe was undertaken in order to fulfil the requirements of planning permission. 7 footings trenches were excavated to the north and east of the extant house, 3 service trenches to the north and west, and a soakaway pit to the west. No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified during the project. It is possible that the site lies between widely dispersed archaeological features, or that the site has never previously been settled in any period.

Wilstead, Northwood Farm TL 07155 43823

CARINA SUMMERFIELD-HILL

In April 2018 an Archaeological Evaluation was carried out on Land adjacent to Northwood Farm, Wilstead prior to the construction of a single dwelling with access and garage. The works revealed a late medieval pit containing mid-14th century pottery and late medieval roof tile, a ditch containing 15th century pottery and late medieval roof tile, a possible post-medieval pit dating to the 18th century and modern dumping. The site is within the postulated extent of the medieval settlement and the late medieval pit and ditch found likely represent peripheral activity to the historic core of the village to the west. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1880 depicts a building extending into the development site with which the later features found during the investigation may have been associated with.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Bedford, Salph End, Hookhams Lane TL 075 528
GRAHAM ARKLEY, ADAM MEADOWS, and JOHN WALFORD

A geophysical survey on c19.5ha of land identified several areas of probable archaeological remains. A large but seemingly incomplete trapezoidal enclosure lay in the north-east of the survey area, a possible very small ring ditch lay on the eastern boundary, and a probable roundhouse lay close to the southern boundary. These features cannot be closely dated but are most probably late prehistoric and/or Roman. Medieval ridge and furrow, post-medieval field boundaries, and a number of undated ditches were also identified by the survey.

OASIS 403785

Roxton, land north of School Lane TL 15422 54733
STEPHEN MORRIS

Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken following on from a geophysical survey on the site, which was reported in SMA 2020 (vol 49). The earliest features were two intercutting Bronze Age pits. The deposits from the later of the two pits contained pottery dating between Middle/Late Bronze Age and a crucible used in copper alloy casting. The pit also included charred cereal grains and frequent charcoal, as well as small quantities of calcined bone and fragments of amber. The majority of the features probably represent linear medieval plot boundaries, comprising mainly ditches and a possible fence line, corresponding with the layout of the historic core of Roxton. A pit produced a quantity of Iron slag suggesting metal working was undertaken in the vicinity. There were traces of east-west aligned medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation across the site.

OASIS 406939

Wootton, land at Marston Vale TL 010 438
JONATHAN ELSTON

An archaeological trial trench evaluation and mitigation was carried out at Wootton, Marston Vale. The area examined was directly to the north of a site evaluated in 2018, which was reported in SMA 2019 (vol 49) and where a single late Iron Age pit was found. It was also directly to the east of an excavation at Wootton Fields South where part of a Late Iron Age to Early Roman settlement was uncovered (SMA 2018 (vol 48, 26)).

The present evaluation identified a Roman ditch in Trench 49 at the far western extent of the site, which appeared to have been part of a ring ditch. This area was immediately targeted by a mitigation excavation. The work found the ditch to be part of a Roman enclosure system that dated from the late 1st century AD to the 2nd century AD and extended beyond the area of investigation to the west into Wootton Fields South. The present excavation found the easternmost extent of the 2018 settlement. Three separate phases of activity were identified within the enclosure system through stratigraphic relationship sections and pottery analysis. A small collection of artefacts and ecofacts were recovered including 80 Roman sherds. There was also post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation remains uncovered.

OASIS 391187

Wootton, Bedford Commercial Park, Marston Vale
TL 010 438
PAULO CLEMENTE

An archaeological evaluation comprised 12 trenches 50m long and two at 25m in length. This phase of the evaluation follows on from earlier phases of investigation and was intended to open up trenches that could not be accessed previously. On the north part of the site a single posthole produced three sherds of pottery of undiagnostic shell tempered fabric. In the same broad area there were a few undated features consisting of a pit, a gully terminus, and three ditches. Two of the ditches were parallel field boundaries which predated the boundaries showed in late-19th century cartographical evidence. Along the eastern edge of the site, a number of ditches, probably for modern drainage purposes were also identified, along with one possible undated pit and one possible posthole.

OASIS 407922

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Willington, Sandy Road (TL 11747 49545)
STUART LADD

Evaluation prior to development work revealed one undated ditch and an undated possible post hole. Three smaller features were potentially natural in origin. Shallow medieval plough furrows were also identified across the site.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Houghton Regis, Flood Storage Area TL 0413 2438
PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological excavation of a proposed flood storage area to the east of Houghton Regis in June 2020. The works comprised the monitoring of the topsoil and subsoil stripping of the footprint for embankments, and the realignment of Houghton Brook. The excavation recorded a silted-up shallow pond or former marshy depression in the north-east part of the site, adjacent to the Houghton Brook. Two residual late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint flakes and Iron Age pottery were recovered from its surface. The feature was levelled in the post-medieval or modern period with a chalk deposit, used to reclaim the area for agricultural purposes.

Lower Stondon, Station Road TL 15963 35741
CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

In February to May 2019 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation north of Station Road, Lower Stondon, in advance of a proposed residential development. A preceding geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation in 2017 established the presence of predominately Iron Age remains, suggestive of settlement and agricultural occupation. Three excavation areas, totalling c 1.4ha, were subsequently targeted upon the Iron Age remains.

A small quantity of residual worked flint of broadly prehistoric (Mesolithic to late Bronze Age) date was recorded across the excavation areas. This provides evidence of a limited and perhaps transitory presence in the landscape during the earlier prehistoric period.

A small quantity of early Iron Age pottery was recovered during the excavation, with a few pits tentatively phased to this period. While most of the early Iron Age pottery was found to be residual in later features, it attests to some form of activity at this time. The majority of archaeological features identified on site dated to the middle Iron Age and were largely concentrated in the south-west of the site. The remains included several ring gullies defined roundhouse structures, a possible trackway, boundary ditches and a possible posthole fenceline. Occupation of the site during the middle Iron Age developed with the establishment of several large enclosures probably related to agricultural activities, such as livestock management. Other discrete pits and postholes provide evidence of associated activity. No clear evidence of late Iron Age land use was apparent within the three excavation areas.

Remnants of ridge and furrow, as well as land drains, are indicative of medieval/post-medieval and modern agricultural activities.

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Saxon Drive, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
TL 20625 43959

CHRISTIANE MECKSEPER and RITA PEDRO

Between 17 February and 31 October 2020 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological excavation on Land off Saxon Drive, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire (Fig. 16).

The archaeological potential of the excavation area had been established by large scale excavations undertaken to the immediate west of the site in advance of residential development between 1992 and 2001, which found extensive remains of Saxon and medieval settlement evidence (Shotliff and Ingham forthcoming). The site lies to the immediate north of the Stratton Park scheduled moated and associated manorial earthworks (NHLE 1012161).

Three evaluations undertaken on the development site itself highlighted that Saxon and medieval features continued onto the development site, as well as establishing the presence of a focus of hitherto unknown concentration of Roman settlement features in the north of the site.

The excavation uncovered evidence starting in the mid-to late Roman period and continuing through the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. The main significance of the excavations lies in the uncovering of a Roman infield system and possible industrial area and later dark soil, which lie on the edge of a settlement most likely located to the east of the site. Preliminary assessment of the small finds and stone assemblages has shown that this was likely to be a settlement of some status. The dark soil contained a rich finds assemblage of pottery, animal bone, coins, a jet and copper alloy bracelet, nails and hobnails, fragments of three glass vessels, at least 18 quern stone fragments and two whetstones.

Saxon and medieval remains are mainly in the form of enclosure systems, representing agricultural and pastoral enclosures as well as settlement-edge activity continuing eastwards from the Saxon and medieval sites

and farmsteads identified to the west. Three burials, two Saxon inhumations and one as yet undated juvenile, were part of the archaeological record. The excavations also revealed the eastern half of a medieval moat with associated settlement activity to its immediate exterior. The interior of the moat was subject to horizontal truncation, most likely by ploughing, and no internal settlement evidence survived.

Overall, the area represents marginal land in the Saxon and medieval period, located between the main settlement in the west and a small north-south aligned stream in the east. Post-medieval evidence is in the form of boundary and drainage ditches and ponds. Boundary alignments survived from the Roman period to the present day.

Shotliff, D. and Ingham, D (forthcoming) *Stratton, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire: the evolution of a rural settlement from the early Anglo-Saxon to the post-medieval period.*

SOUTERRAIN

Keysoe, Former site of Toby Cottage, Keysoe Row East
TL 09015 61816

MARTIN D WILSON

Groundwork for a new house and garage was overseen at the site of a 17th century timber-framed cottage, destroyed by fire in 1990. The primary interest was the site's potential for evidence pertaining to the medieval to post-medieval linear settlement of Keysoe Row. Foundation trenches covered an appreciable area of the site, in total around 328 sq.m. The site of the cottage was not proven. Nineteenth century field drains traversed the development area, suggesting that the new house is located within former pasture land, beyond the reach of patterns of domestic discard associated with the cottage.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-404561

Maulden, Land at 29 Clophill Road TL 0622 3785
MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

An analytical earthworks survey was undertaken of an enclosed tract of grassland (c. 2.3 ha.) on the side of Clophill Road, on behalf of Albion Archaeology. The purpose of the survey was to obtain an accurate measured record of historic earthworks prior to their loss or damage in the course of development.

The earthworks originated from the medieval to post-medieval agrarian landscape. They comprised fragmentary remains of cultivation ridges in extremely low relief, a short stretch of medieval headland in a reasonable state of preservation and a post-medieval cart-track. All features were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and orthometric heights using a RTK GNSS receiver. The report provides an illustrative and descriptive account of the earthworks and places them into historic context, using a combination of computer-generated graphics and conventional survey drawings (hachure plan), supported by digital photography.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-393749

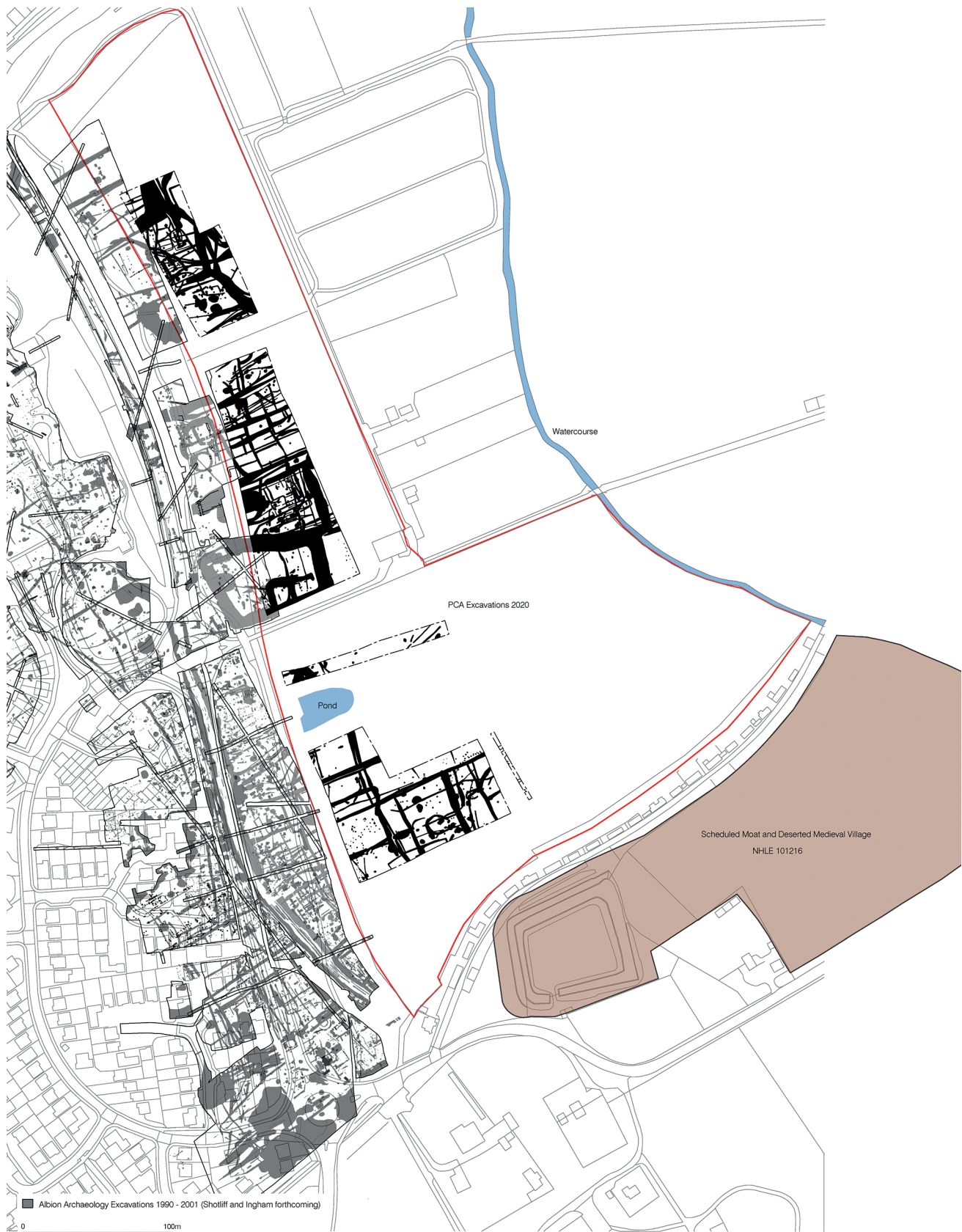


Figure 16: Biggleswade, Saxon Drive – All features plan showing Albion Archaeology excavation and Stratton Park Moat and DMV

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Houghton Regis, Land at Bidwell West TL 0084 2484
DAVID SANCHEZ

An evaluation in September 2020 on the site of a housing development relatively low volume of archaeological features, mostly ditches considered to be field boundaries spanning along a long period of occupation from Late-Medieval/Early Post-Medieval date to modern times. Two wide linear features, perhaps part of the same large ditch or water channel, and one small ditch, all of Late Medieval date, were also recorded in the western half of the site. Further work is planned.

WARDELL ARMSTRONG (FORMERLY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS)

Bedford, Renhold, Wilden Road TL 0806 5207
GARETH BARLOW and KATE HIGGS

– **Bedford, Renhold, Wilden Road** TL 0806 5207
LIAM PODBURY and DAN RYAN

In August 2020, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (now WA) conducted an archaeological excavation at 14 Wilden Road, Renhold, Bedfordshire. The work was carried out to provide for the final requirements of a planning condition and followed the trial trench evaluation at the same site. The excavation recorded two phases of activity. The earliest phase, dated broadly to the 12th/13th to 15th century, was characterised by a trackway, a single ditch, a small number of pits, and an infilled natural hollow. The subsequent phase of activity on the site was less substantial and was dated to the 14th to 16th centuries. It consisted of three pits with highly organic fills. Few excavations have previously been conducted in this area and so the evidence revealed during this work makes a significant contribution to our understanding of medieval Renhold.

Biddenham, Main Road TL 0204 5000
PETER CLARKE and GARETH BARLOW

In December 2020 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (now WA) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Lavender Lodge, 42 Main Road, Biddenham, Bedfordshire. The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition. The evaluation recorded pits, postholes and ditches with a dense distribution within a single trench. A possible stone culvert, or French drain, within a construction cut was also recorded. The features are medieval in date and associated with a potential former building within the well-defined medieval village core. The site produced a sparse scatter of finds, notably pottery that spans the medieval period (10th-11th/12th; 11th-13th; 12th-

14th and 13th-15th century in date). Also present was scarce butchered bone and iron nails/fittings relating to domestic occupation. Most notable were a walrus ivory knife handle and a trimmed pig bone representing both domestic craft production and, potentially, high status activity.

Sandy, London Road TL 1647 5000

KEELEY-JADE BINGHAM, GARETH BARLOW, and KATE HIGGS

In April and May 2020 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (now WA) carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation at 91 London Road, Sandy as part of a heritage statement to provide further information prior to the determination of a planning application for residential development. Three undated linear features and an undated pit were recorded. In addition, modern features, possibly associated with a recently demolished terrace, were observed cutting the subsoil. The results of the evaluation are consistent with other sites investigated along London Road, where a small number of undated and modern features have been recorded.

Sandy, Potton Road TL 1983 4868

SAMUEL THOMELIUS

In November and December 2020, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Potton Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire during groundworks associated with gas main works. During monitoring of the groundworks, three undated ditches and two undated pits were recorded. The ditches were located towards the western end of the pipeline trench and were aligned north-west to south-east. Their position was similar to that of cropmarks recorded in the area (HER 13689). The pits were considered to potentially be linked to a small group of undated previously recorded to the south of Potton Road (HER 20778). No evidence that could be directly linked to the Roman road which runs adjacent to Potton Road was identified.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Aylesbury, Kingsbrook Primary School SP 8460 1460

MARK SARGENT and LOTTIE FARRER

Archaeological field evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of Kingsbrook Primary School, part of an urban extension to the east of Aylesbury. Two trenches were opened, both of which revealed modern made-ground deposits overlying natural clay, with no topsoil or subsoil present in either trench. The extent of modern disturbance confirmed that any archaeological deposits that may have been present in this area had been entirely removed in the recent past.

Calverton, Land adjacent to Fairfield's Primary School SP 80197 38778

KONSTANTINOS PAPAGIANNAKIS and CATHERINE SINNOTT

Border Archaeology was instructed by L&Q Estates to undertake archaeologically controlled trench excavation for the installation of an electricity cable crossing the site of a probable Iron Age enclosure adjacent to Fairfield's Primary School within the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area.

The work was undertaken in connection with the Fairfield's Community Facilities Project and comprised a 66m section of trenching forming part of a longer trench running northeast-southwest for the diversion underground of an overhead power line supplying floodlights for an artificial sports pitch.

A single feature was encountered towards the southwest extent of the trench and interpreted as forming part of a substantial enclosure ditch of probable Iron Age date recorded initially during geophysical survey in 2007 and again during excavations carried out by Border Archaeology on the adjacent school site in 2016.

Woughton on the Green, 17 The Green SP 8728 3740

CATHERINE SINNOTT

Archaeological observation was undertaken of the excavation of a trench for a gas connection, due to the site lying partially within the Scheduled area of the Shrunken Medieval Village of Woughton on the Green. A single trench, approximately 10m long, was hand-excavated across a track, but no features of archaeological significance were revealed during the course of the site works.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, ACTIVE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP (AAG)

Great Linford, Great Linford Manor Park

SP 85346 42322

DOUG STUCKEY

The parkland at Great Linford is managed by the Parks Trust with part of the park still belonging to the Manor house. Near the eastern side of the park a shallow ditch marks the line of a Ha-ha, running north-south for circa 220 metres. In 2019 Cotswold Archaeology excavated a section at the

Northern end of the Ha-ha, exposing a dry-stone wall 1.7m high built on bed rock (CA project 661033). This section of the Ha-ha is associated with a garden feature called the Wilderness which dates from 18th century. Further south the section behind the Manor garden may be earlier.

In September 2020 the AAG with support from the Friends of Great Linford Manor Park and the Parks Trust put three trenches across the Ha-ha ditch behind the Manor garden (Figs. 1 & 2). The intention is to understand the condition of the Ha-ha in this section, with a view to reconstruction/conservation. Excavation continued until lock-down closed our activity in December 2020. Two of the trenches have uncovered sections of the wall line, which is degraded and collapsed into the Ha-ha. Finds to date range from 20th century Coca-Cola bottles to mid medieval pottery (initial analysis suggest St Neots ware). The medieval finds are in keeping with the excavation by Cotswold Archaeology and suggest residual pottery in the topsoil of the park that has tumbled into the ditch with the collapse of the wall. Work with recommence when Covid restrictions allow.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE 2020

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, the team has become the Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Service (BCAS) and provides 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. The Team worked hard to deliver an excellent service to our customers throughout the pandemic and had a busy year with major infrastructure projects taking up a lot of our time.

Development Management

High Speed 2:

BCAS continued to provide advice through the HS2 Ltd Heritage Sub-Group and have meetings approximately every 6 months. Few Schedule 17 works consultations came through early in the year but increased as the year progressed.

Fieldwork continued during the pandemic, following government guidance, and took place in a number of areas with some significant archaeology being recorded. Fusion and/or their archaeological contractors supply BCAS with draft project specifications for comment with requests for minor amendments being made on occasion. HS2 and their partner organisations have decided that the process of drafting project plans, agreeing field work and updating project plans should be streamlined as the scheme is progressing rapidly and everyone wants sufficient time to appropriately address the required field work. BCAS has agreed that this is a sensible approach.

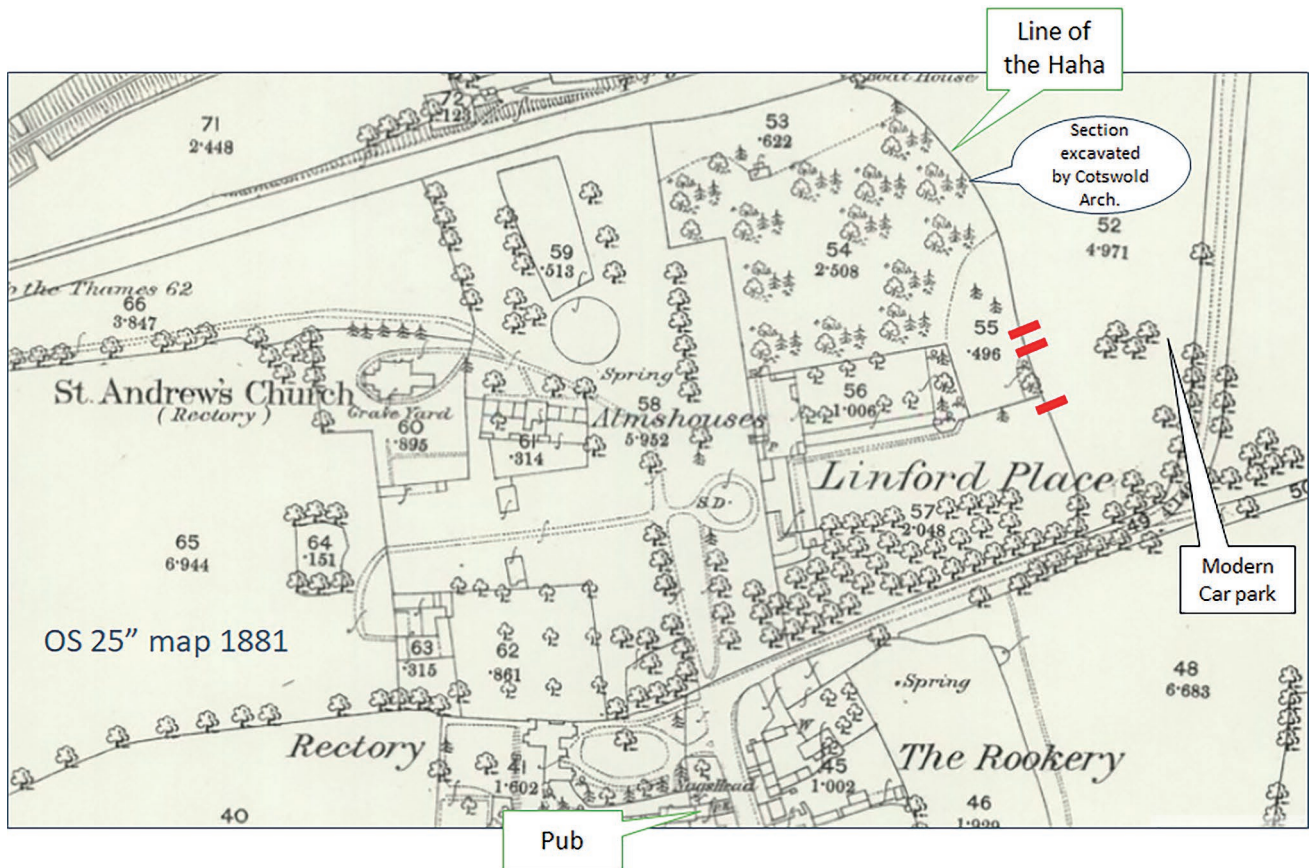


Figure 1: Great Linford, map showing line of Ha-Ha and AAG trenches



Figure 2: Great Linford, AAG volunteers opening trenches across Ha-Ha

Buckinghamshire

The two Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy (HERDS) Managers, employed by Fusion, keep BCAS informed on works, and have been joined by a third Manager due to the large number of sites coming up. They ensure that all field work and recording is undertaken to the same standard and format. BCAS is invited to monitor the work and make comments, which appears to be working well. So far there are 177 HS2-related fieldwork events completed and ongoing in Bucks. This number will rise as new sites come on-line.

Works continued to the north of St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville and works on the graveyard are expected to commence during 2021. Significant features and finds have been excavated near Wendover, as detailed in the press releases from HS2/Fusion and the Council. This site included a Neolithic/early Bronze Age large pit circle 65m in diameter and a high status Roman burial in a lead coffin. Unfortunately this site and the St Mary's site cannot be preserved in situ as there are directly impacted by the line of HS2.

East-West Rail:

BCAS has been working hard over this period assessing nearly one hundred Project Plans/Written Schemes of Investigation (WSIs) which have been supplied by Atkins who are working for Network Rail. These need to be approved by conditions attached to the TWAO consent (Transport and Works Act Order). Unfortunately, this is was not the most simplistic system. Many of the near one hundred WSIs are for relatively small areas of work such as road widening and passing places to upgrade roads for development traffic.

Heathrow New Runway:

During the year the archaeological consultant ceased working on historic environment issues. Heathrow appealed to the government's decision and in December 2020 the Supreme Court ruled the proposal was legitimately based on previous, less stringent, climate targets at the time it was agreed. This enables Heathrow to now seek planning permission for the new runway. BCAS expects to be consulted during 2021.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

External Hosting and HER Website Project:

Following two weeks of user testing, the move to external hosting was made on 9th April, with the database upgraded to the latest version of the HBSMR software. It has taken several months to ensure that the HER is able to have access to the latest versions of the corporate and OS mapping but this is now completed. The switch to remote hosting was extremely timely as it has meant that BCAS has been able to provide an advice and enquiry service from home and haven't been subject to many of the network interruptions experienced by our colleagues. The remote hosting has also seen a huge improvement in database speed, as was anticipated.

Development of the new website got underway in June, with particularly intense periods of work and testing in July and early August. The website went live with a 'soft launch' on 13th August and a press release and other publicity followed after a short period to ensure that the website

was running successfully through the corporate website. The website is now externally hosted but using a sub-domain URL and re-routed through the corporate website. Redirections are also in place to preserve existing hyperlinks to and from other websites and users' bookmarks.

The new website has a fresh look and feel, with a dedicated blog and moderated user feedback. It's designed to be accessible on most laptops, tablets and mobile phone formats and has intuitive text searching and mapping tools better suited to contemporary users. Information from the HER database is published live, so new records will be available immediately. Additional HER datasets will be accessible to our conservation and historic buildings colleagues through the website.

Analytical tools were applied to the website at the end of August and statistics on user numbers and page views have been collected monthly from September onwards.

	Users	Page views	% new users	% regular users
September	1,177	7,188	87%	13%
October	1,994	17,444	83%	17%
November	1,952	10,159	86%	14%
December	2,403	6,918	89%	11%

Initially 85–89% of Heritage Portal users were based in the UK, but it has been gratifying to see the geographic spread of users widening and we now have users in every continent and sub-continent, possible including Antarctica!

HER Audit

The HER Audit was completed on schedule at the end of March, with Historic England's Heritage Information Partnerships team assessing the HER against nationally agreed standards and best-practice. BCAS is pleased to report that the HER received a clean bill of health, with particular strengths in record content and coverage and in public access and engagement. Progress has already been made with the agreed Action Plan to address outstanding issues and areas for future work.

HER Enhancement and Volunteer Projects

The HER was updated with the latest information from the Portable Antiquities Scheme database in May and June. This has added 7,279 new records to the HER, all of which have needed editing to make them compatible with the HER database.

The Pillbox Study Group made their records available to the HER and these sites have been added to the HER.

The HER volunteer working on the milestones project is currently editing the existing entries with additional new information and has been working from home during lockdown.

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research and Recording Project is continuing to make good progress with 73 reports completed 6 reports in draft and work underway on a further 7 gardens. The volunteers have completed a discrete project researching artists' gardens in Buckinghamshire and are now researching public parks and gardens as a contribution to a national Gardens Trust project.

Countryside Stewardship Consultations

In 2020 the HER was consulted on 23 Countryside Stewardship applications covering 3,464 hectares within Buckinghamshire. Of these, 10 (43%) were for Higher Tier schemes and 13 (57%) were for Mid-tier schemes. The HER was able to provide added value to 43% of the applications and responded to all the consultations within the 20-day period required by Natural England.

The number of Stewardship consultations remain low 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; BCAS are hopeful that there aren't significant detrimental impacts on heritage in the county as a consequence of these changes, however it is understood that a couple of landowners felt unable to proceed with recent agreements despite their applications being approved, due to the inflexibility of the scheme requirements. The Countryside Stewardship scheme is expected to continue until 2024 when a new Environmental Land Management scheme, currently being piloted, will come on stream.

Outreach and Publicity

In February 2020 BCAS gave a talk on the Archaeology of HS2 in Buckinghamshire to a joint meeting of Archaeology in Marlow and Marlow Archaeological Society members.

In March 2020 BCAS prepared a poster display on Buckinghamshire Hillforts for a joint Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and Prehistoric Society lecture on hillforts held in Amersham.

A number of planned public outreach events had to be moved online following the Covid-19 lockdowns and subsequent restrictions on activities during the year and BCAS continues using social media, online displays and presentations for public outreach.

In August 2020 BCAS launched the Heritage Portal with press releases and a radio interview by the Environment team Manager on Mix96. In September a live demonstration of the new website was given at the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society's online AGM.

In October a themed poster display was produced on Buckinghamshire breweries and public houses as part of a virtual 'market stall' for the online Bucks Local History Network Conference. The Heritage Portal was publicised throughout the 2-week national online Festival of Archaeology in October and probably caused the massive spike in numbers of page views the website experienced that month.

In November a live demonstration of the website was given to members of Marlow Archaeological Society and Archaeology in Marlow. BCAS has continued to give talks to local societies when invited. A recent talk to Amersham U3A attracted over 170 participants.

BCAS has maintained the team's profile on social media by adding new posts on the two Blogs, initiating 'Random Record Wednesdays' and running a Buckinghamshire twist on the 12 Days of Christmas on Facebook and Twitter.

Chalk, Cherries, Chairs and the Chilterns Hillforts Project:

These two projects are run by the Chilterns Conservation Board. Members of BCAS and the Environment Team attend steering group meetings and provide advice and have

provided financial support and HER information to both projects. The Beacons of the Past, Chilterns Hillforts Project has been running for the last few years and has recorded hundreds of new archaeological sites from the lidar data. The HER will receive detailed information as the work progresses. This has been a very successful partnership with the CCB.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.

Castlethorpe, The Maltings SP 48002 24421

ALESSIO AURICCHIO

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological mitigation following a trial trench evaluation on the site of a proposed residential development at the Maltings, Castlethorpe. The work was carried out on behalf of Snowdon Homes Ltd. The proposed excavation covered an area of c.0.4996ha, targeting the location which contained possible archaeology identified by three evaluation trenches and a geophysical survey. The archaeological mitigation has revealed several ditches, pits, and gullies. Pottery recovered was middle to late Iron Age and Roman in date and suggests a rural settlement.

Milton Keynes, Land North of Glebe Roundabout, Campbell Park SP 8670 3951

ALESSIO AURICCHIO

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on the site of a proposed residential development with associated parking immediately north of Glebe Roundabout, Campbell Park, Milton Keynes. The work was carried out on behalf of The Parks Trust. Four trenches, which were positioned to give a general coverage of the site, were excavated. The evaluation exposed no archaeological features nor deposits, with three of the trenches exposing significant ground disturbance, most likely associated with the construction of Glebe Roundabout in the late 20th century.

Wavendon, Glebe Meadows New Primary and Secondary School Site SP 80116 38664

ALESSIO AURICCHIO

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. The Site spreads from the east of Glebe Farm and covers an area of approximately 2.5 hectares. This excavation campaign has revealed several ditches, pits, and gullies. Pottery recovered was to late Iron Age and Roman in date and suggests a rural settlement on or near the Site.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archive reports referred to may be found at <https://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>

Buckinghamshire

Broughton, Aston Clinton Road MDA SP 84925 13300
ANNA WOLF and ANDREW WHELAN

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded undated ditches.

CA Typescript Report No. MK0168_1

Marsh Gibbon, Land South of Castle Street SP 65124 23045

JOE WHELAN and ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an undated gully.

CA Typescript Report No. MK0133_1

Stony Stratford, The Old George Inn, High Street SP 78758 40427

ANDREW WHELAN

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

CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Wavendon, Land at Church Farm TL 13139 21761

MARK HEWSON and JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Roman agricultural ditches and features dating between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD and likely associated with the Roman settlement previously identified at Wavendon Gate (HER 1515).

CA Typescript Report No. MK0172_1

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Station Road, Quainton SP 74081 19083

POVILAS ČEPAUSKAS

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted a trial trench evaluation on land off Station Road, Quainton, in advance of residential development of the site. This evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches. A single agricultural furrow was identified within the trenches (supporting the results of the geophysical survey). No other archaeological remains were identified.

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES

Lenborough, Hill Farm barns SP 68954 31585

In succession to a foregoing Heritage Asset Survey of Hill Farmhouse in 2017, Level 3 Building recording on a former wash-house, and a 2020 programme of recording on the farmhouse roof, a similar approach subsequently recorded the former stable block and barn behind the property. The block was probably completed in 1842 and has undergone numerous alterations, not least being now a private home unconnected with agriculture. The buildings, mainly of brick but with some stone, comprise former stables, a cart hovel and tack-room with groom's accommodation above, and a probable former feed/fodder store. None has fulfilled their intended use for many decades.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Bellingdon Brickworks SP 9376 0465

JONATHAN HUNN

An excavation took place on land to the rear of the former Bull public house, Bellingdon, covering an area of 0.245ha. Part of a late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure was revealed comprising a ditch, a circular building, post-holes and pits. The principal activity was the smelting of iron ore with the associated production of ceramic building material and fired clay. Fire cracked flint was also present along with an assemblage of 1st century AD pottery and possibly associated poorly preserved cremated bone. No metal objects or coins were present.

Haddenham, Dollicotts Paddock SP 7385 0920

DAVID FELL and JONATHAN HUNN

An evaluation was undertaken at Dollicotts Paddock, Haddenham. Three trial trenches were excavated but no significant archaeological remains were present.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Brill, The Green, No.18 SP 65725 13804

GAVIN DAVIS

In August 2020 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 18 The Green, Brill, Buckinghamshire, during the removal of contaminated soils. The watching brief recorded a layer constructed of broken bricks in a sooty clay deposit which may have served the purpose of a rough levelling layer, maybe for a path or driveway. The deposit contained post-medieval brick and tile some of which may have derived from alterations or repairs to adjacent buildings. Pottery recovered from the deposit would indicate that the deposit was laid down no earlier than the 19th century.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-411015

Long Crendon, Chilton Road SP 69553 09155

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Devonia, Chilton Road, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire in June 2020. A single feature of probable natural origin was identified; no archaeological features or deposits of note were recorded, despite the close proximity of the site to Madge's Farm, where previous excavation had recorded an Iron Age and Romano British settlement and field system.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-396137

Long Crendon, Notley Farm SP 71263 09181

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Notley Farm, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire in May 2020. Two trenches, 20m in length, were excavated within the footprint of a proposed industrial building. A single small linear ditch was recorded; the date of this feature was uncertain though the lack of any nearby features perhaps indicates it was associated with agricultural activity.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-393721

North Crawley, 1 Crawley Grange SP 93259 44974
TOM ROSE-JONES

In August 2020 John Moore Heritage Services carried out a photographic building recording of a curtilage listed outbuilding at Crawley Grange, North Crawley. The building, of red brick with a corrugated metal roof, was formerly a stable associated with Crawley Grange.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-400307

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Ashley Green, Chalky Fold, Grove Lane SP 9871 0414
ELLEN SHLASKO

In July 2020 a programme of Strip, Map and Sample excavation was carried out at Chalkyfold, Grove Lane, Ashley Green. Chalkyfold is a Grade II listed barn conversion situated within the bounds of the Grove Farm medieval moated site, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The investigations focused on a small area adjacent to the north wall of the listed building, the site of a single-storey extension. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during these excavations.

Cheddington, 97 High St SP 9247917050
BARNEY KING

In February 2020 an archaeological evaluation was carried out at 97 High Street, Cheddington as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The site is located in the village and civil parish of Cheddington, which originated in the Saxon period, though earlier settlement, possibly Neolithic, has been documented at a nearby multi-vallate hillfort constructed on Southend Hill. The area was deemed to have potential for archaeological survival; however, no cut features, deposits or artefacts were observed throughout the evaluation.

Hawkrige, St Marys Church SP 95013 05906
CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

In May 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Observation and Recording project at St Mary's Church, Hawkrige, Buckinghamshire during the excavation of two rainwater discharge gullies serving newly installed downpipes. The two pits were excavated to a depth of only 0.3m and, therefore, did not reach the archaeological horizon. As a result, no evidence of archaeological activity was identified during the project, although deposits may lie undisturbed at a deeper level.

Mentmore, 3 The Cottages SP 9049 1976
BARNEY KING and ELLEN SHLASKO

In August 2019 a programme of Archaeological Observation & Recording was carried out at 3 The Cottage, Mentmore in order to fulfil a planning condition for the construction of a single storey flat roofed side extension. Archaeologists monitored the initial ground reduction and the excavation of three footing trenches. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during this project.

Mentmore, The Old Laundry TQ 67743 87621
KARIN KAYE

In August 2020 an Impact Assessment at The Old Laundry, Mentmore was carried out in order to inform development proposals. The property is a Grade II listed building, originally constructed c. 1880 as part of the Mentmore estate to provide a lodge, laundry and servants accommodation. It was converted to three residences in the 1950s. In order to resolve persistent flooding in the front courtyard due to faulty pipe and drainage works, a new pipe that runs through dead space that was formerly the Boiler Room of the laundry beneath the passage has been proposed. In addition, the full restoration of the Boiler Room and the late 19th century features that have survived within it and the installation of a small hatch in the passage by which to access the space are also proposed. The loss of historic building fabric is small and considerably outweighed by the restoration of the Boiler Room and its associated features.

Stone, 38 Eythrope Road SP 7823 1256
DEREK WATSON and CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

In June 2020 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Land adjacent to 38 Eythrope Road, Stone in order to fulfil conditions of the planning permission for the development of the site, following on from a geophysics survey which identified unmapped orthogonal enclosures of uncertain date, a small number of pit features and amorphous, linear and curvilinear features of undetermined origin across the site. Two trenches were excavated and these revealed portions of two ditches and a ditch terminus. Small assemblages of animal bone and Romano-British potsherds dated to the 1st – 4th centuries AD were recovered from one of the evaluation trenches. The cut features may have been situated at the 'northern' periphery of the Roman settlement and were used for the disposal of waste and, probably, to demarcate agrarian property boundaries.

Taplow, Taplow House Hotel SU 909 818
KARIN KAYE and DEREK WATSON

In September 2018 a Heritage Asset Assessment of The Taplow House Hotel, Taplow was prepared. This is a Grade II listed building dating from the mid 18th century and extended and altered in the 19th C. It became a hotel in the late 20th C. It is set within a rich archaeological landscape that includes the early Saxon Taplow Barrow, an Iron Age hillfort and chance finds dating from the Palaeolithic. The development proposals are considered to have an overall positive impact on the setting whilst losing little historic building fabric. Although the footprint of the development is relatively small and adjacent to the building, there is a low-medium possibility that archaeological remains pre-dating Taplow House survive beneath the present terraces.

Wendover, Wellwick House, Ellesborough Rd
SP 85238 07882
KARIN KAYE and DEREK WATSON

Between December 2018 and July 2019 a Historic Building Recording and a Historic Building & Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out of Wellwick House, Ellesborough Road. The house was originally constructed

Buckinghamshire

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 may be due to the location of the excavations falling between widely dispersed features or that there was no significant occupation of the site prior to that date. It is also possible that archaeological remains were lost in the areas that were excavated without being monitored.

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL: CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2020

Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer, with contributions from Martin Ellison, Chris Hooper & Simon Peart, Conservation & Archaeology Team, Milton Keynes Council

Development Management

The Conservation & Archaeology Team received 885 planning consultations during 2020, 480 of which were for the Senior Archaeological Officer.

During August 2020 the Senior Archaeological Officer took part in an online planning public inquiry (Ref: APP/Y0435/W/20/3251121) concerning a refused application for outline permission to construct a warehousing and distribution site at South Caldecote, Bow Brickhill. The application was initially refused as it would lead to the loss of regionally significant archaeological remains comprising a Roman road and adjacent plots and possible structures relating to the nearby scheduled monument of the small Roman town and fort of Magiovinium.

During the course of the inquiry the appellant negotiated a new scheme preserving in situ the most significant remains within public open space as part of a revised layout. The revised scheme was put before the inspector and ultimately the appeal was allowed with the appellant paying the majority of the Council's legal fees.

The Bicycle Wall Mural, Stantonbury (Fig. 3) has been taken down and re-erected in a different position within the same site, as part of a comprehensive redevelopment of the local centre into a supermarket.

The mural is a substantial piece made up of a number of tiles, created by John Watson and fired at the local school, Stantonbury Campus, during the late 1970's. Such 'community artworks' were part of the creation of the new town aimed at creating a sense of place and identity, often involving the community in their creation. The mural was taken down tile by tile (cut to include the brick backing), stored, then re-erected in its new position (currently still covered in scaffold).

It is nominated to the New Town Heritage Register, but yet to be considered. Nonetheless the C&A Team and the local planning authority considered the mural to be a non-



Figure 3: Stantonbury, Bicycle Wall Mural from Draft New Town Heritage Register [full page width, both columns]

designated heritage asset as defined in Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and were able to require its retention through re-location. The owners, ALDI, have recently involved Kirsten Ramsay (from BBC's 'Repair Shop' programme) to advised on the final stages of tile conservation.

Fieldwork

Despite the pandemic 2020 was another busy year for fieldwork with 22 projects notified to the Historic Environment Record (HER), full list appended. Projects comprised:

- 6 trial trench evaluations, 3 geophysical surveys; 6 excavations and 7 watching briefs.

Highlights included a watching brief by Souterrain Archaeological Services at The Old Vicarage, Olney, the former home of the reformed slaver Rev. John Newton (1725–1807). While revealed little that could be directly connected to Newton's time, the work uncovered evidence for the possible use of the site as a tannery yard during the late 17th to early 18th century in addition to recovering some interesting post-medieval ceramics including a Staffordshire-type earthenware posset pot dating to c. 1690 to the early 1700s (Fig. 4; full summary below in entry by Souterrain Archaeological Services).

Heritage Designations

One site was added to the National Heritage List for England (NHLE): Campbell Park in Central Milton Keynes was designated as a Grade II Registered Park and Garden in August, the first national designation of a Milton Keynes New Town designed landscape. NHLE record here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1467405>

The designation report states that the park survives little altered from the masterplan of 1980 and has both historic and design interest alongside the group value it has with the Shopping Building and Central Library (both grade II listed buildings) The report states that: *'the park is one of the largest to be laid out in England in the C20 and C21 and takes influences from C18 and C19 landscapes and fuses them into a contemporary design... the design respects the natural landscape and the industrial archaeology of the Grand Union Canal, but also forms a point of transfer between the city centre built on a grid pattern and the wide, natural landscape beyond... the design is representative of the pioneering spirit of Milton Keynes'*.

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 2021. The January 2021 version of the register lists 31 heritage assets that are at risk (38 in the previous year.) Each asset



Figure 4: Staffordshire-type earthenware posset pot, The Old Vicarage Olney (image: Souterrain Archaeological Services) [half page, both columns]

Heritage Assets at reduced risk on the Heritage at Risk Register (From January 2020 January 2021).			
Asset Name & Location	Designation	January 2020 Risk	January 2021 Risk
G Block, Bletchley Park	Conservation Area	C	E
Farmhouse at Bradwell Abbey	Grade II Listed Building & Scheduled Ancient Monument	E	F
Longueville Court, Old Wolverton	Grade II Listed Building	C	F

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.*'

Work continues to decrease the level of identified risk at each of these buildings with the aim of removing them from the Heritage at Risk Register. Movement from A towards F on this scale indicates successful progress of cases towards no longer being at risk and no longer requiring inclusion on the Heritage at Risk Register.

Items at category F are at minimal risk and will be considered for removal within the next review cycle.

Conservation Areas

The council is continuing to review its 27 Conservation Areas. During 2020, three more reviews were completed for Bletchley, Willen and Stony Stratford Conservation Areas. Woughton on the Green, Castlethorpe, Hanslope, North Crawley and Stoke Goldington will be completed during 2021. The 'General Information Document' supplementing the Conservation Area Review Programme was also completed during 2020. This document gives an overview of the Conservation Areas within the borough, the Borough of Milton Keynes' development over time, the area's geology and topography, building materials and national planning policy context.

New Town Heritage Register

The New Town Heritage Register (a local list) was put on hold during 2020 whilst waiting for a corporate decision in order to allow it to proceed. It has been given this approval in principle, with a further decision to proceed due in August, dependant on the situation in respect of COVID-19 having significantly improved. In the meantime, the Conservation and Archaeology Team have secured £32K from MHCLG to progress the project. The funding requires projects to be complete or largely complete by the end of 2021.

Historic Environment Record

After the last audit revisit in 2016, it has been confirmed with Historic England that a full HER audit will commence in April 2021.

Outreach & Community Archaeology

2020's scheduled 14th Milton Keynes Archaeology Day was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Opportunities for 'community' or 'public' archaeology were curtailed during 2020. However, the Active Archaeology Group of Buckinghamshire Archaeological

Society (BAS AAG) led by Doug Stuckey have continued the investigations into the C18th landscape park at Great Linford Manor reported on last year. Between lockdowns the group have commenced three trenches across the line of the southern end of the former Ha-Ha attracting interest from members of the public and the Friends of Great Linford Manor Park as well as the landowner Pete Winkelman, Chairman of MK Dons FC. Full summary report above under BAS AAG entry.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Bletchley, The Lakes Estate SP 87701 31655

ADAM REID

Archaeological trial trench evaluation at the Lakes Estate in Bletchley undertaken in February 2020. Twenty-four trenches were excavated, 22 of which were devoid of archaeological features. A ditch and one possible posthole of uncertain date were found in the remaining trenches.

OASIS 389151

Castlethorpe, 11 School Lane SP 79944 44415

LAUREN WILSON

A programme of historic building assessment was carried out. This was required to provide an independent, impartial, factual specialist report to confirm the significance of the tiled floor within the property prior to the submission of an application for its replacement.

The building comprises a former two-bay hall house along School Lane. The hall house is of raised cruck construction, now split into two properties; No. 9 to the south and No. 11 to the north. One of the crucks lies within the party wall between the two houses, the other is evident within No. 11. This report focuses on No. 11 and the apparent historic floor within the ground floor southern room, within the former open hall. Five areas of different tiles were found and these were recorded as tile types 1, 1a, 2, 3, 4 and 5. These types ranged from hand made to machine made and dated from between the 18th to the 20th centuries.

OASIS 404469

Stowe Landscape Gardens, Western Gardens

SP 67500 37300

CAROL SIMMONDS

An aerial survey took place to help inform the planning of the restoration of the gardens which will follow a land exchange between the Trust and Stowe School. The survey augmented the existing data set for the gardens and mapped

newly identified features that were represented by subtle changes in contour. The archaeological features range from remnants of the open field system, last ploughed in the early 17th century, up to the present-day nine-hole golf course.

OASIS 383405

Wolverton, Galleon Cottage SP 80517 41387

LAUREN WILSON

Prior to demolition of the building in line with proposals to construct a new detached dwelling a programme of historic building recording at Galleon Cottage was undertaken. The non-designated heritage asset sits within the canal development of Wolverton Wharf. The Grand Junction Canal was originally built as a route linking the industrial Midlands with the River Thames and construction began in Wolverton in the first few years of the 19th century. The cottage was most likely constructed as housing associated with this function, and although now stands isolated, would have been an integrated part of the function of the canal.

Any historic character or surviving fixtures and fittings have been eradicated by a mid 20th-century refurbishment which saw the roof replaced as a single-storey rear extension was raised to create more accommodation. The refurbishment included the removal of the original staircase and the dividing wall between the ground floor rooms. Overall the refurbishment swept away the historic nature of the cottage in an attempt to create a 'ye olde' decorative scheme. Fictive ceiling joists, robust timber window lintels, and a stone clad fireplace all contributed to the replacement of the historic fabric.

OASIS 381197

Wolverton, land at High Park Drive SP 80409 40664

CAROL SIMMONDS

A total of four trenches were excavated as part of an archaeological trial trench evaluation. Ground reduction and disturbance related to an earlier tennis court and nearby construction had affected the majority of the site. No archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches.

OASIS 402182

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Broughton, Manor School SP 89985 39615

VICTORIA GREEN

In February 2020, Oxford Archaeology undertook a three-trench archaeological evaluation at the proposed location of a residential development at Broughton Manor School, Broughton. A previous evaluation by Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd in 2013 recorded Iron Age and Roman boundaries and enclosure ditches just south of the site. A 19th century posthole was recorded along with a refuse layer containing late 19th century pottery. Several undated features were also recorded including a ditch, pit and five possible furrows. None of the earlier features in the sequence could be directly linked with prehistoric and Roman features recorded during the 2013 evaluation to the south.

High Wycombe, Terriers Farm SU 87981 94951

PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology undertook a ten-trench evaluation in November 2020 at Terriers Farm, High Wycombe in advance of a proposed residential development. The evaluation identified a small pit with evidence of burning, which produced pottery dated to the prehistoric period. Two ditches were also identified, interpreted as late medieval or post-medieval field boundaries and drainage features.

SOUTERRAIN

Olney, The Old Vicarage, Church Street SP 88997 51126

MARTIN D WILSON

An intermittent watching brief was carried out by Souterrain, from July to October 2020, during development groundwork in the rear walled garden of The Old Vicarage. The house, erected in 1767, is renowned as the former home of the reformed slaver, Rev. John Newton (1725–1807), a principal character in the Evangelical Revival of the Church of England. The site also falls within the hypothesised Anglo-Saxon to medieval core of Olney.

Ground reduction and trenching for a new double garage and sections of garden walls to the northeast of the house revealed eight substantial pits of late 17th to early 18th century date (Fig. 5), cut into the geological stratum (river gravel). At least four of the pits were sub-rectangular in plan with near-vertical sides. Each appears to have been in-filled in a single event. Some contained dumps of ashy, sooty limey soil. Others were filled predominantly with dirty gravel. An early 18th century pit contained many hundreds of cattle horn cores, the analysis of which points to tannery waste. Amid four of the pits was a well-laid cobbled working yard or walkway (Fig. 6), constructed at some time between c. 1680 and 1720. Comparative analysis of excavated post-medieval tannery sites, in particular, Northampton (Shaw, 1996) and Otley, Yorkshire (Williams, 2009), strongly suggests that the Olney site was a tanyard, while primary documentary sources suggest that tanners were active in this neighbourhood in the 17th and 18th century.

The discovery is the first of its kind in Olney. It has been surmised that the medieval and post-medieval tanneries were located in the vicinity of a 19th century tannery on the southwest periphery of the town, close to the River Great Ouse (Green, Beckley & Taylor Moore 2010), which still remains a possibility, although no evidence of such was found in open-area excavations nearby in 2003.

The artefactual evidence from the Old Vicarage site (largely pottery, clay pipes and glassware) suggests that the pits were not in use at the same time. The earliest pit became redundant at some juncture between the latter decades of the 17th century and the first decade of the 18th century, while the latest pit was deliberately in-filled at some time in the first three decades of the 18th century. The pottery assemblage represents a minimum number of 67 vessels, and includes several near-complete items, including a Staffordshire-type slipped and decorated earthenware posset pot (c. 1690s–early 1700s) (Fig. 4, above under Milton Keynes Council entry). A variety of local and regional wares includes tin-glazed stoneware, slipped earthenware, manganese mottled ware, and glazed earthenware. In addition, 38 clay tobacco pipe bowls were recovered; the majority from two pits. The pipe

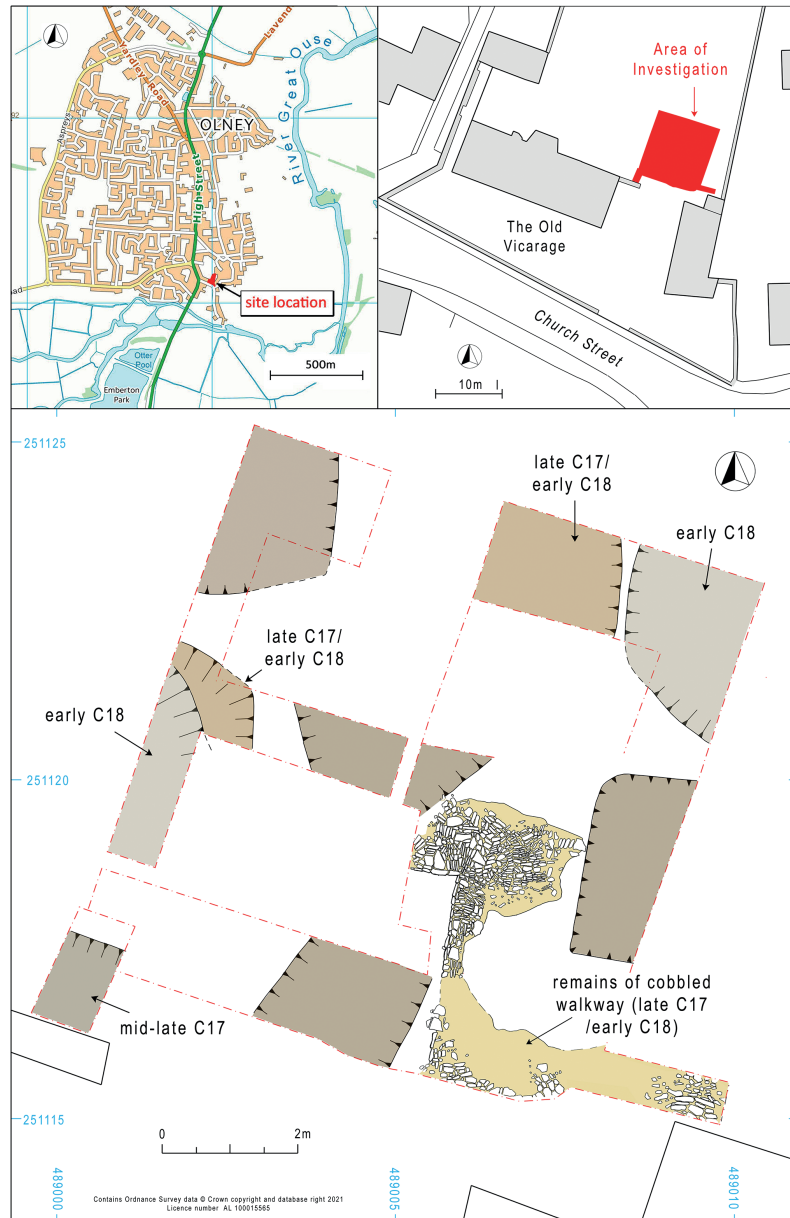


Figure 5: Olney, Plan of probable post-medieval tanning pits



Figure 6: Olney, Cobbled walkway between tanning pits

bowls from the pits represent two distinct chronological groups. The first group (12 items) spans the period c. 1660–c. 1710. The second group (21 items) fall within the date range 1710–1740 and includes 17 with a relief stamp ‘T’ and ‘S’ on either side of the heel; possibly made by Thomas Simpson of Bedford, who was active between 1724 and 1732, his workshop possibly at a cottage in Cuthbert Street.

Despite the reasonable assumption that the site lies in the Anglo-Saxon core of the town, there was no evidence of the period. The earliest finds were three sherds of un-abraded medieval pottery (12th/13th century and 13th/14th century) from the west side of the site, indicating that medieval occupation deposits were disturbed in the course of vicarage construction in 1767, and again during an unmonitored phase of groundwork in 2019.

HER Event No. EMK1425.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-410201

References

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- Shaw M 1996. ‘The excavation of a late 15th to 17th century tanning complex at The Green, Northampton’ *Post-medieval Archaeology*, Vol. 30, pp 63–127
- Williams D, et al. 2009. ‘Bondgate and Gay Lane, Otley, West Yorkshire Archaeological Service Excavation and Watching Brief Assessment Report’ WYAS Report No.1897

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Haddenham, land at Churchway SP 7404 0948

MAISIE FOSTER and KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

A magnetometer survey in April 2020, which revealed only ridge and furrow and a field boundary, was followed in

July by evaluation trenching over the site of a new housing development. Thirty-one of the 48 trenches opened revealed features related to the post-medieval ridge and furrow or other agricultural features. Six trenches contained other features, which potentially might have been of archaeological interest, but none of these appeared to be earlier than late post-medieval.

High Wycombe, Ashwells Field, Cock Lane, Tylers Green SU 8999 9340

DAVID SÁNCHEZ

Evaluation trenching on the site of a housing development in November 2020 revealed mainly only undated features, but one large feature of uncertain type, possibly a quarry, and one ditch contained medieval pottery and tile.

Oakley, St Mary’s Church, Bicester Road SP 6419 1228

JON TIERNEY and ANDY TAYLOR

A single articulated burial (in part) was recorded in a watching brief in July 2020 during the digging of a pit for in the septic tank, along with the stains of three wooden coffins, the latter being left *in situ*. A few artefacts of late post-medieval date were observed along with some disarticulated human bone from grave soil. No other deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Olney, Lavendon Road SP 8914 5233

JOSH HARGREAVES

In 2020 TVAS undertook excavation prior to a housing development in Olney, Buckinghamshire to the south of the extensive scheduled Roman settlement site at Ashfurlong and north of the 2019 excavations by Witham Archaeology (SMA Vol. 50, 70–74). The excavations revealed part of a Roman metalled trackway (Fig.7), many coins from the 3rd and 4th centuries were recovered from this trackway



Figure 7: Olney, aerial view of site with Roman trackway running left to right (north to left)

Northamptonshire

along with a substantial assemblage of roman pottery. Large quarry pits were also recorded and it was evident that the materials from these pits had been used to stabilise and level the trackway over multiple phases of use and repair. Excavations also uncovered large rubbish pits and the edges of two square enclosures. These contained a verity of roman metallic finds and locally made pottery.

Princes Risborough, The Spinney, Upper Icknield Way, Whiteleaf SP 8201 0475

JON TIERNEY and WILL ATTARD

A watching brief in May 2020 on a site for two new houses revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

Wexham, George Green Quarry SU 9985 8095

WILL ATTARD, STEVE FORD and DAVID PLATT

A programme of archaeological fieldwork in advance of gravel extraction from 2015–2017 had revealed a range of settlement deposits of Late Neolithic, Bronze Age, Early Roman, Middle and Late Saxon dates. Reporting was delayed as further monitoring continued until 2020, in particular for Palaeolithic remains (nothing of this period was found). Details of the publication report can be found below.

The Late Neolithic was represented by a single pit radiocarbon dated to 2704–2568 cal BC and perhaps a few residual struck flints. The Early Bronze Age was represented by a few poorly dated pits forming a very loose cluster. The Middle Bronze Age was better represented, again

in the form of a small cluster of postholes and pits, the latter sometimes with *in-situ* pots. A radiocarbon date of 1125–929 cal BC spanned the Middle to Late Bronze Age transition. Later Bronze Age deposits were more numerous, with four clusters of pits and postholes perhaps representing individual occupation foci. A radiocarbon date of 912–797 cal BC was obtained for this phase.

Evidence of renewed settlement in the 1st century AD mirrors that of the preceding periods, namely clusters and spreads of pits and postholes. There were no house sites nor enclosures but a few linear features hint at land division, without recognizable fields being evidenced. The Roman activity ceased in the 2nd century AD.

The final significant activity on the site was dominated by a dispersed group of deposits of Saxon date. A Middle Saxon phase was represented by a small cluster of pits surrounding a well which produced radiocarbon dates of cal AD 642–689 and 682–744. A second cluster of features including a post-built structure was tentatively assigned to a Late Saxon phase, supported by a radiocarbon date of AD 946–1027.

TVAS Publication of potential interest to SMA readers:

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

Published in 2021

Late Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Occupation at George Green Quarry, Wexham, Slough, Buckinghamshire, by David Platt, Will Attard and Steve Ford. TVAS Occasional Paper 45. ISBN: 978–1–911228–57–8

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS

Culworth, Sulgrave Barrow SP 559 471

ROGER AINSLIE

Earth resistance and magnetometry was carried out as part of a larger scheme including excavation and topographical survey by Keevill Heritage Ltd to inform the location of anti-badger fencing and record this Scheduled Monument. The survey found little apart from that the mound may not have had a ditch around it, bringing into question whether it really is a Bronze Age burial mound. We have encountered these ditch-less mounds elsewhere, such as at Drayton, near Abingdon. Report available via ADS here: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1084379>

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Northampton, Milton Ham Farm, Towcester Road SP 72941 57335

IAIN LESLIE and ALLAN KING

Open-area excavation in advance of construction of a distribution centre to the south of Northampton uncovered evidence of Iron Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon activity (Fig. 1).

Iron Age

No direct evidence of Iron Age settlement (such as structures) was discovered within the excavation area, but the presence of scattered pits, a possible trackway and a substantial landscape boundary suggests that permanent settlement was established in the vicinity by the middle–late Iron Age.

During this period, a significant NW–SE aligned boundary was constructed in two phases. Initially formed in two parts from small pits and lengths of ditch, it was later re-defined as a single continuous boundary with the construction of a pit alignment. The pit alignment comprised evenly spaced, circular pits up to 3m wide and 1.3m deep. A total of c. 100 pits, extending over 320m were revealed, with the pit alignment continuing beyond the boundaries of the development area to the north-west and south-east. Two parallel ditches, 5m apart, that ran on the same alignment as the pits probably represent a contemporary trackway, used for the movement of people and livestock along the boundary. A correlation between pit alignments and water courses has frequently been noted and it appears that the pit alignment at Milton Ham Farm may have cordoned off a parcel of land within a meander of the Wootton Brook (to the north).

Finds dated to this period include c. 1.7kg of pottery, as well as a small quantity of animal bone. A small assemblage (c. 270g) of residual worked flint was also recovered from the pit alignment.

Romano-British

Evidence for Romano-British activity was limited to a series of 44 bedding trenches, which formed three separate field systems, covering c. 2ha. They comprised parallel trenches up to 0.8m wide and 0.5m deep, which were spaced c. 5m apart and spread over the shallow hilltop and south-facing slope. It is likely that they were used for the cultivation of grape vines or fruit hedges.

A 2008 excavation had identified a Romano-British 'ladder' enclosure system in the north-east corner of the development area (Carlyle 2010). It formed part of a Romano-British settlement, the main focus of which was thought to lie further to the north-east, beyond the development area. Artefactual evidence showed that the settlement was established in the 2nd century, and continued in use until the late 4th century, at which point it was abandoned. The bedding trenches represent evidence of the settlement's agricultural hinterland.

Only three finds of this date were recovered, including two sherds of pottery and a pair of copper alloy tweezers.

Early Anglo-Saxon

Scattered evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity comprised a sunken-featured building (SFB), a timber structure and a small cemetery, dated to the 5th/6th century. It is unclear whether the area was continuously occupied, following abandonment of the Romano-British settlement (albeit less intensively) or whether there was a short hiatus in settlement.

The SFB took the typical form of a shallow sub-rectangular pit (measuring 3.6 × 2.6m), with a single posthole at either

end of the long axis. The pit itself contained a large quantity of fragmented pottery and charcoal, animal bone and four worked bone pins, suggesting that this building may have been occupied rather than simply used for storage. Some 70m to the north, eight postholes in a broadly rectangular arrangement (measuring 9.8 × 4.6m) represent the surviving elements of another timber structure. A shallow depression potentially caused by trampling may represent the entrance to the building.

A small cemetery of four inhumations was discovered c. 120m east of the SFB. The burials took two forms. Three were aligned east–west and supine, with no grave goods. The fourth was aligned north–south and laid on its side; it was accompanied by a number of grave goods, including a pottery vessel, two copper alloy cruciform brooches (each with a stylised animal head on the lower foot) and a necklace comprised of 37 plain and patterned glass beads (back cover illustration).

Further information

Analysis of the results of the investigations is ongoing. The results will be disseminated by detailed archive report, which will be available via the Archaeology Data Service Library.

Carlyle, S. 2010, Neolithic cremations and a Romano-British enclosure at Milton Ham, Northampton, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report no. 10/109

OASIS ID: albionar1-377866

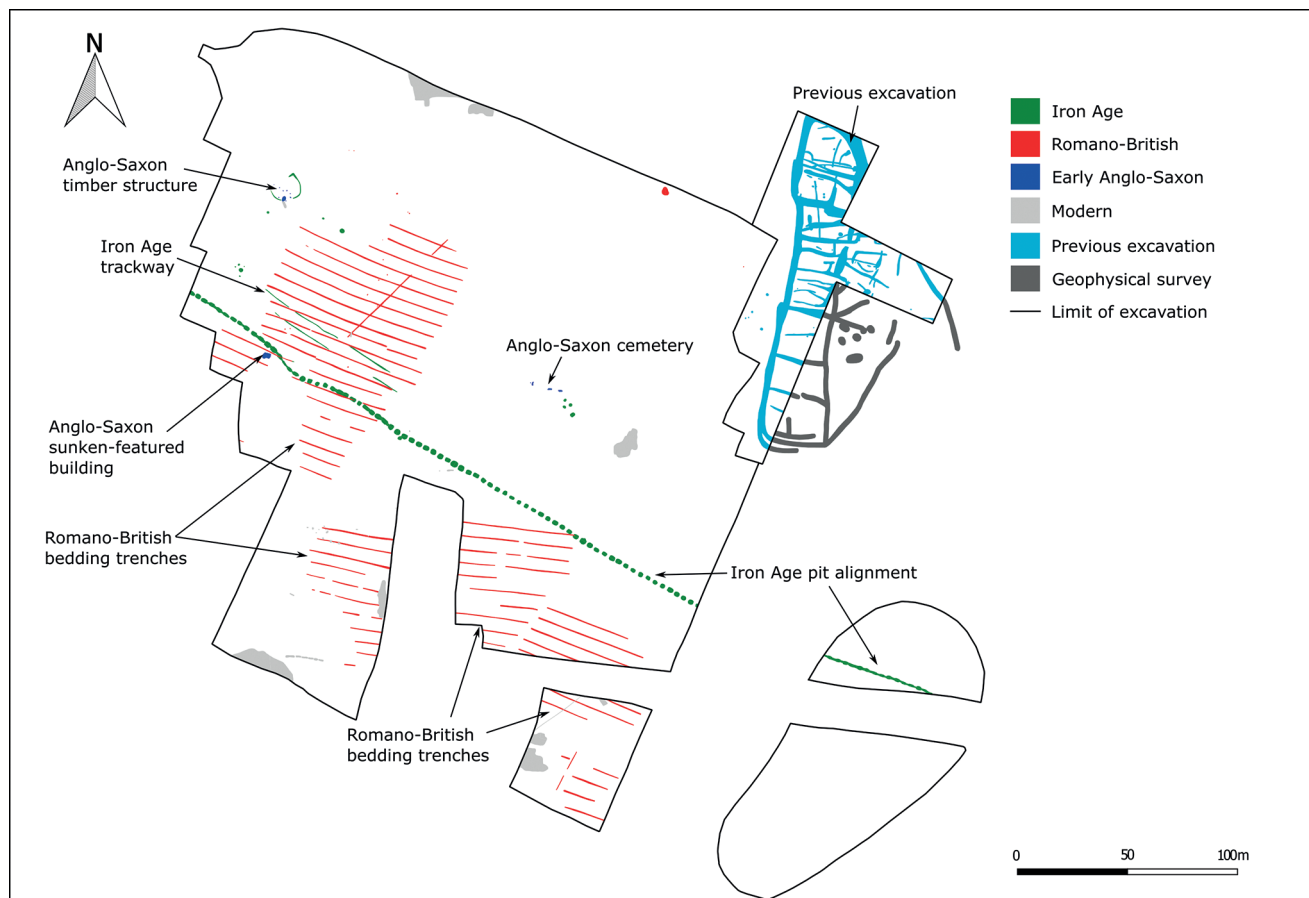


Figure 1: Milton Ham Farm phased all-features plan

Northamptonshire

Rothwell, Land at Rothwell North SP 8064 8159

IAIN LESLIE, MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and MARCO CAPARDONI

A second phase of open-area excavation, totalling c. 8.8ha, in advance of housing development revealed extensive middle–late Iron Age and Roman settlement remains. The middle–late Iron Age remains comprised a mix of enclosed and unenclosed settlement, which included c. 18 roundhouses. Most of the roundhouses were in the unenclosed part of the settlement to the south, but there was also a cluster within a circular enclosure defined by a very large ditch (front cover illustration). This enclosure was located on the crest of a hill within a further sub-rectangular enclosure, itself defined by another substantial ditch. Various smaller enclosures and trackways were appended to the central sub-rectangular enclosure, forming a complex enclosure system. Other features included three inhumation burials.

The settlement appears to have persisted through the late Iron Age, into the early Roman period, when its focus shifted to the north. The Roman settlement was characterised by further sub-rectangular enclosures, albeit generally smaller and defined by less substantial ditches than their Iron Age precursors. The settlement fell out of use some time in the 2nd or early 3rd century.

OASIS ID: albionar1-336859

Silverstone, Land at Dadford Road SP 6668 4236

IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

Racing Point F1 Team received planning consent to construct a new building to house their headquarters with workshops and a design office. Evaluation of the site had revealed a ditch containing a substantial amount of Roman pottery (Hewitt 2020). A c. 800sqm open-area excavation revealed more of this ditch and a second parallel ditch. The ditches are likely to represent field/enclosure boundaries on the very periphery of a settlement; the concentration of pottery appears to represent a distinct, singular event of rubbish disposal, perhaps from some short-lived localised activity.

Hewitt, G. 2020, Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation on land at Dadford Road, Silverstone, Northamptonshire, MOLA Report 20/077

OASIS ID: albionar1-408595

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

Blisworth: High Street SP 7243 5345

BOB ZEEP VAT

Between September 2019 and September 2010, a watching brief was maintained during groundworks for footings for a pair of new cottages and a detached house on land adjacent to the former ‘Sun, Moon & Stars’ public house, a Grade II listed building dating from the late 18th century. This followed a previous stage of work in 2019, comprising historic building survey of the listed building before its refurbishment and conversion to apartments.

The new cottages were located to the immediate south of the former public house, on the site of a large single-storey outbuilding, latterly used as the pub kitchen, which had been demolished by a runaway lorry in 1988. The detached house was located at the south end of the site, overlooking the Grand Union Canal, on land that had been a paddock in the

19th century, and more recently part of the pub car park and garden. Apart from a 19th-century brick-lined well located to the rear of the cottages (shown on early OS mapping), the watching brief did not reveal any buried heritage assets.

Brackley: Pebble Lane SP 5883 3725

BOB ZEEP VAT

In March 2020, historic building recording was undertaken at the Old Cottage Hospital, Pebble Lane, prior to refurbishment and conversion of this former cottage hospital into two dwellings.

The earliest structure on the site, acquired as the original nursing home in 1876, is a three-bay stone house with a small rear wing: this now forms the south-east corner of the present hospital complex. This building is probably of 18th-century date, along with the adjoining row of cottages, all of which are shown on the 1830 map of Brackley. A second, similar-sized building on the street frontage to the west could also have been part of the hospital.

In 1887, an L-shaped, single-storey extension was added to the site, containing wards and a kitchen, with a lean-to corridor to the rear linking it to the existing building. Also, the rear wing appears to have been enlarged. The extension was erected by public subscription, as recorded on its exterior.

During the early 20th century the hospital continued to develop, an operating room being added in 1908. Following WW1, the hospital gradually fell into disrepair, and it was not until 1936 that major rebuilding and refurbishment took place, coincident with the hospital’s 60th anniversary. At this time, the original rear wing was demolished, being replaced by the present two-storey rear wing and the southern part of the long single-storey wing on the eastern boundary.

During WW2 the hospital was designated as an Emergency Medical Services hospital, and in 1948 it passed to the NHS. A final phase of refurbishment took place in the late 1980s, when the single-storey rear wing was further extended. The hospital transferred to a charitable trust in 1991, then became a nursing home, closing finally in the early years of the present century.

Evenley: Church Lane SP 5842 3518

BOB ZEEP VAT

In March 2021, historic building recording was undertaken of The Old Barn, Church Lane, prior to conversion for residential use. The building, which is the last of the farm buildings at the former Park Farm to be repurposed, is a range consisting of a barn, stables and a small lean-to, located on the west side of the former farm complex. It is not listed.

Though firm dating evidence is scant, it appears that the barn was possibly constructed in the 18th century, followed by the stables and the lean-to. As built, the barn had large opposing doorways and could possibly have been used for threshing, though it is small when compared to other threshing barns. It was converted into six loose boxes for horses, probably during the 19th century, using for the conversion unusually high-quality fittings, possibly salvaged from stables belonging to a country house in the locality. In the latter half of the 20th century the loose boxes were removed; the building has since been used for storage.

The lean-to on the west side contains no features or fittings to suggest its original function or date.

As built, the stables were open-fronted to the east: the trough running the length of the building suggests it was originally a cow byre. The east side of the structure was later walled up in stock brick, and partitions were inserted internally to create three loose boxes, probably when the adjoining barn ceased to be a stable. The building remains in use as a stable.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Aynho, Plots 1–3 Aynho Park Corner SP 52050 33190

ANDREW NETTLETON

Archaeological observation of groundworks for the construction of a property on Plot 3 at Aynho Park Corner revealed a series of early-middle Saxon burials.

The excavated groundworks covered an area of approximately 435.878m², which was later extended to 1952.336m² to include observation of areas for a swimming pool and soakaway.

Archaeology was encountered on the western area of site and in total, the remains of nine individuals were recovered, consisting of seven articulated human remains and a further two from disarticulated bone material. All of these deposits are thought to be Anglo-Saxon in date due to associated finds and features.

The western area of site also contained two parallel linear features of probable medieval date running east-west, which continued westward beyond the site boundary.

A small volume of pottery was recovered from both hand recovery and environmental sampling. The majority of the pottery consisted of 17 sherds of early-middle Saxon date, with two sherds dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval period and a further two were post-medieval.

Four iron objects were recovered consisting of three blades and a sword, all recovered from graves, which are currently undergoing specialist assessment and conservation.

Yardley Gobion, Moorgate Farm, Moorend Road SP 75005 44014

LOTTIE FARRER

Archaeological observation was undertaken during the erection of an agricultural livestock building and associated works at Moorgate Farm, Yardley Gobion. The groundworks area measured approximately 100m × 21m and was excavated by machine down to the geological horizon; no subsoil was present. A northwest/southeast cultivation furrow was revealed towards the midpoint of the excavated area. The single fill contained no finds but was sealed by topsoil, suggesting a post-medieval date. No other archaeological finds or features were encountered.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archive reports referred to may be found at <https://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>

Glaphthorn, Land at Benefield Road TL 01287 90301

JAY WOOD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance. CA Typescript Report No. MK0290_1

Grafton Underwood, Grafton Underwood Solar Farm SP 92347 81441

DANIELE PIRISINO and ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology confirmed the results of a preceding geophysical survey and identified Iron Age and Roman ditches, potentially associated with settlement enclosures. CA Typescript Report No. MK0184_1

Northampton, Swan Valley, Land adjacent to Tithe Barn Way SP 71719 57793

RALPH BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified extant medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow remains. CA Typescript Report No. MK0206_2

Northampton, University of Northampton Avenue Campus, St George's Avenue SP 75786 62069

BETHANY HARDCASTLE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance. CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Towcester, 233 Watling Street West SP 69145 48859

EILIDH BARR

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance. CA Typescript Report No. MK0341_1

Weedon, Dodford Wharf Farm, High Street SP 62874 60089

JONATHAN ORELLANA

An evaluation identified several undated ditches, pits and a posthole. CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Fosters Booth, Red Lion PH SP 6669 5399

BONNIE KNAPP

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation at the Red Lion pub, Fosters Booth, Northamptonshire between 4th and 5th of May 2020. The work was commissioned by PR Architecture in advance of a planning application for the construction of 3 houses, an entrance canopy and a rear car park. Evidence for post-medieval activity (ditches and pits) were uncovered to the east of the pub, and an undated ditch to the north of the pub. The post-medieval activity dates to the 16th / 17th century and included a number of drinking vessels suggesting the presence of an earlier pub on or close to the site.

Northamptonshire

Higham Ferrers, Chelveston Road School

SP 96792 68842

BETH DOYLE

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of Chelveston Road, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, between 24th and 25th of February 2020. The work was commissioned by ISG Construction Ltd, in response to a pre application submission for a new secondary school. One ditch terminus of indeterminate date was identified.

Kettering, Symmetry Park SP 88079 75370

ROBERT FALVEY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted an open area excavation on land to the east of the A509 at Symmetry Park, Kettering. This excavation, conducted between 28th September to 20th October 2020, was commissioned by EDP on behalf of Tritax Symmetry in advance of work associated with the construction of warehousing, distribution and associated office space and infrastructure. The work comprised of the stripping of a 1.1ha area down to the archaeological horizon.

The investigation identified a small number of archaeological features primarily in the form of three ditches and five pits located in the southern extent of the excavation area. One of these pits contained a high concentration of near complete pottery which was dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman periods (1st to early 2nd centuries AD). A second pit, also containing large quantities of Roman pottery, was recorded nearby. These large concentrations of Roman pottery probably stem from deliberate dump fills.

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES

Brackley, 11 Egerton Close SP 591 375

Archaeological monitoring took place during foundation-digging for a new house. The site lies within the area of Brackley 'old town'. The site had been terraced in the modern period, removing the possibility of archaeological survival.

Canons Ashby, Park Cottage SP 5862 5087

Archaeological monitoring on the introduction of a new septic tank and related pipework for the Dryden Discretionary Estate, under the aegis of the National Trust. Park Cottage is the former game larder for Canons Ashby House and lies within the same Scheduled Monument as the house, priory and DMV. No archaeology was present.

Grafton Regis, St Mary the Virgin church

SP 75892 46922

New drainage was put in at St Mary the Virgin Church, Grafton Regis. Mostly it replaced existing drains, and disturbed very little new ground, except for a deep 2m x 2m soakaway north-east of the church in which three articulated burials were located, with cuts for five other graves noted. Remains of two late-18th- or early nineteenth-century burials were discreetly excavated, assessed and reburied beneath the soakaway.

Mears Ashby, Village Farm SP 840 665

Level 2 building recording noted that Village Farm, Mears Ashby can be shown to have been part of the nearby Overstone Park estate from at least 1846 when almost the whole of the surviving farmhouse and farmyard complex was complete. Most of the other structures were constructed by 1884 and they survive today with relatively little alteration. The same family tenanted and then owned the farm from at least 1846 until the turn of the 21st century and this long occupation may have resulted in the relatively complete survival of the buildings-ensemble.

Norton, Noborough Farm SP 609 627

Level 1/2 building recording showed that Noborough Farm comprises the remaining three stone ranges of disused farm buildings, two of which date from the eighteenth century and one from the nineteenth. A number of other former buildings have been lost during the twentieth century. The whole complex is well mapped back to 1812 and it had reached its maximum size and complexity by 1884. One surviving range, containing a former stable, contained three *in situ* Upper Cruck first-floor/roof trusses in good condition.

Paulerspury, 15 Lumber Lane SP 7197 4539

Archaeological monitoring during groundworks for a new house at the south end of the village exposed only an undated pit, midway along the lane between other sites of medieval and post-medieval date.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Stanion, Willow Lane SP 9165 8682

DAVID FELL and JONATHAN HUNN

An evaluation was undertaken at Willow Lane, Stanion. Eight trenches were excavated targeting anomalies from a previous geophysical survey. A single archaeological feature was present in the south of the site. This contained iron smelting debris, including tap slag and it is likely that an iron-smelting furnace is present in the area.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Middleton Cheney, 55 Main Road SP 50456 41765

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 55 Main Road, Middleton Cheney, Northamptonshire in February 2020. The purpose was for the construction of a single dwelling. This particular area had potential for remains pertaining to the early medieval and medieval periods, including the potential for human remains. However, during the course of the watching brief, no archaeological features were or remains were discovered from these periods; only a single early 20th century pit feature.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-384424

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**Towcester, 14 Moat Lane SP 69306 48810**

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR and DEREK WATSON

In August 2019 a programme of Observation and Recording was carried out at 14 Moat Lane, Towcester as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The site is situated near Bury Mount, a medieval motte and bailey castle that has been designated a Scheduled Monument in an area noted for late Iron Age and Romano British settlement. However, no archaeological finds, or cut features or deposits were exposed during this programme of works and the area appeared to have been heavily disturbed by modern activity.

Towcester, Richmond Road SP 69294 48605

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

In June and July 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Observation and Recording of Land to the rear of 14 Richmond Road, Towcester as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The work comprised the excavation of foundation trenches and interior ground reduction for five new buildings. The plot at the far northeast of the site contained stone surfaces complete with pottery and a large assemblage of samian ware dating to 1st and 2nd centuries. There was also a large assemblage of animal bone with evidence of butchery, as well as a small knife found wedged inside a bovine humerus.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON**Ashton, 15 Roade Hill SP 76575 50058**

KAMIL ORZECZOWSKI

A watching brief took place after the demolition of an existing single-storey dwelling and during the erection of a new, two-storey dwelling. Archaeological works were limited to observation of groundworks related to footing excavation of new dwelling which was located within the earlier footings. No associated services were observed as these reoccupied previous trenches. During observation one former service trench was noted. It contained a modern ceramic pipe. No other features of archaeological nature were present. It was noted that the ground level of the northernmost part of the developed plot had been reduced prior to the monitoring.

OASIS 402759

Astcote, 2 High Street, Manor Farm House

SP 67672 53179

JIM BURKE

Four trenches were excavated on land west off the High Street for an archaeological trial trench evaluation. Evidence for remodelling of the land was present in one of the trenches, which indicated that there may originally have been a pronounced terrace towards the west end of the plot that had been levelled and smoothed to a gentle slope by the deposition of imported soils and limestone rubble. Other intrusive activity was limited to isolated deposition of modern building materials, such as bricks and slate tiles. Examination of the topsoil and subsoil overburden revealed infrequent sherds of medieval pottery.

OASIS 395538

Clipston, land at Naseby Road SP 71020 81613

CHRISTOPHER JONES

An archaeological trial trench evaluation did not identify any archaeological features pre-dating the post-medieval period. A brick and ironstone wall and two modern ditches of the early 20th-century were investigated and recorded.

OASIS 390081

Cottesbrooke, land at Cottesbrooke Hall

SP 71087 73733

ESTER POULUS

Archaeological observation was carried out during works. This included four pits measuring approximately 2.0m by 1.2m were excavated to facilitate the passing through of an underground service by means of drilling. The stratigraphy within the pits was observed, but no archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.

OASIS 390667

Courteenhall, Milton Malsor & Blisworth, Rectory

Farm SP 74629 54319 & SP 75143 54412

LAUREN WILSON

Historic building recording was undertaken on two barns. The report covers two foci of historic agricultural buildings, comprising five barns in total, within a rural setting. These may represent one farm complex, but equally could relate to different ownerships. The earliest barn is Barn 2 which appears on cartographic sources from the 1820s. Barn 1 dates from the 19th century and although has some constructional similarities with Barn 2, represents a different phase of development, perhaps associated with the need for more storage space within the farm. Barn 5 is an early 20th-century stable range with trough and hayrack. Barns 3 and 4 are late 20th century in date and correspond to the date at which Barn 1 was converted to other usage. Overall this is an interesting example of continued farming and how changing demands within agriculture is reflected within the change, addition or extension of historic buildings.

OASIS 405604

Courteenhall, Milton Malsor & Blisworth, land between

SP 74629 54319

RACHEL CLARE

The site has been subject to previous phases of geophysical survey and consequent trial trench evaluation. This phase of archaeological trial trench evaluation consisted of the excavation of a total of 309 trenches which targeted areas that had not been subject to previous investigation. The trial trench evaluation broadly corroborated the results of previous works, as the areas of archaeological activity were largely concentrated in the vicinity of previously identified Iron Age and Roman activity. This evaluation enabled the full extent of such activity to be established to further inform the consequent phase of mitigation works currently underway across the development area. Part of a Late Iron Age La Tène bowl recovered from one of the ditches (Fig. 2). The archaeological remains largely comprised Iron Age and Roman ditches, pits and two potential kilns. Two medieval ditches were also noted in the south of the area. The remnants of furrows were present in 119 of the trenches.



Figure 2: Courteenhall, La Tène bowl recovered from ditch

Post-medieval and modern landscaping and waste disposal was also noted across the site.

OASIS 405960

Courteenhall, Segro Logistics Park Flood Compensation Area SP74945 53585

PAUL SHARROCK

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken at the southern end of the Segro Logistics Park development site. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 62 trenches dispersed across a proposed Flood Compensation Area associated with the development. Very few features of archaeological interest were identified during the evaluation with most of the archaeological remains relating to medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. The results of the evaluation have confirmed that the site is external to the foci of Iron Age and Roman occupation identified to the north within the proposed development area for the Segro Logistics Park Rail Freight Terminal.

OASIS 500662

East Northants Resource Management Facility Proposed Extension TL 00308 99890

CAMILLA COLLINS

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 50 trial trenches and the results indicated low levels of agricultural activity concentrated in two distinct areas of the site. In one area,

evidence was found for two ditches that had been identified by the geophysical survey, which may form part of a larger late Roman enclosure. This enclosure was in use for a relatively short period, perhaps for stock management. The animal bone assemblage recovered indicates that cattle, sheep or goat are the most probable species of livestock which may have been managed within this system. Potential evidence for small-scale charcoal production was also encountered, though the date of this activity remains unknown. A sparse artefactual assemblage was recovered during the investigation, which has left the majority of the encountered archaeological features undated.

OASIS 408127

Everdon, Church of St Mary SP 59452 57451

MARY ELLEN CROTHERS

The Church of St Mary, Everdon, is a Grade I Listed Building, dating to the early 14th century. Settlement remains of the medieval period lie in the landscape to the south and east of the church.

During the watching brief four burials and a deposit of disarticulated bone were observed, one of which had been truncated by a pipe trench. Three of the burials were articulated and lying on an east to west alignment. One disarticulated burial and a disarticulated bone deposit were found close to the north-west footpath and had been disturbed and reinterred during the rebuilding of the footpath during the 20th century.

The burials represent common burial practices of the medieval and post-medieval period. The burials form one of the final phases of interment in the area immediately surrounding the church before the graveyard was extended to the south. No grave cuts were visible in section and no charnel was encountered, suggesting that the grounds had been raised during landscaping after the burials had taken place.

OASIS 418263

Foster's Booth, Watling Street East, land north of the Red Lion SP 66726 53946

PAUL BEERS

Archaeological works were undertaken prior to the construction of a row of three terrace houses. An initial visit comprised three hand-dug test-pits one of which contained a thin, dark organic layer. A second visit was undertaken during the excavation of the footings which revealed a probable pit containing a similar dark and organic matter. No other features or finds were present.

OASIS 400980

Higham Ferrers, Castle Fields SP 9614 6885

STEPHEN MORRIS

During a watching brief within Higham Ferrers castle, a Scheduled Monument, SM 13607, no archaeological features were encountered, but four of modern layers were recorded in small hand-dug trenches. The deepest deposits encountered, up to 0.45m below modern ground level, comprised 20th century allotment soils. This layer

was overlaid by make-up/levelling layers all containing a mixture of 18th-20th century pottery, brick and tile, as well as two pieces of medieval roof tile, in addition to modern metal and glass debris. The deposits were all sealed by a topsoil and turf layer.

OASIS 407721

Higham Ferrers, Chelveston Road School SP 970 685

JOHN WALFORD

An archaeological geophysical survey was undertaken (Fig. 3) as it had been thought, given the results of previous archaeological investigations, that part of an Iron Age and Roman linear settlement would lie close to the south-eastern corner of the pitch. The results of the survey showed that, whilst this was indeed the case, the detectable archaeological remains lay entirely outside of the development footprint.

OASIS 409122

Higham Ferrers, Newton Road SP 9710 6840

GRAHAM ARKLEY

An archaeological geophysical survey of c. 5ha of land identified Iron Age to Roman settlement remains, comprising a series of enclosures and roundhouses alongside a boundary ditch. These lay mainly in the northern half of the survey area. The remains are part of a linear settlement which previous archaeological works have shown to extend at least 1km west from the present survey area, beneath the A6 and towards the grounds of Ferrers School.

OASIS 383836



Figure 3: Higham Ferrers, geophysical survey in progress

Northamptonshire

Long Buckby, Sharpes Lane, Castle House SP 6262 6756 YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY and PAUL THOMPSON

Three foundation trenches were observed and recorded during a watching brief. The upper fill of a ditch, an ironstone wall foundation and a cobbled yard surface, all of post-medieval date, were exposed and recorded.

OASIS 407038

Middleton Cheney, land at Thenford Road SP 50770 41820 JIM BURKE

During the archaeological trial trench evaluation the remains of post-medieval quarrying and backfill were discovered in six of the trenches. The shallow remains of ridge and furrow cultivation and a modern ditch were the only features identified within two of the trenches nearest to the Thenford Road. The remains of demolished farm buildings and evidence of the new development were noted in Trench 3. Examination of the remaining topsoil and subsoil revealed infrequent inclusions of modern material.

OASIS 390500

Northampton, Fraser Road SP 78926 64669 LEVENTE BALASZ

The programme of archaeological evaluation was preceded and informed by a geophysical survey. Levels of preservation varied across the site but features of archaeological interest were concentrated towards the western and central areas of the site. These remains included undated features comprising five ditches and five postholes in addition to a small number of medieval furrows. The undated features may have been part of a Roman field system recorded during an excavation conducted in 2013 to the west of the site at Booth Rise.

OASIS 407124

Northampton, St Mary's Court and Berkeley House SP 75129 60594 JAMES FAIRCLOUGH

Six test pits were excavated in green areas surrounding residential flats due to be demolished. The work took place in the centre of Northampton within the bounds of the late Saxon burh and within an area of known medieval remains identified by other archaeological works in the surrounding area.

There were deeply stratified deposits in all of the test pits, mostly consisting of layers. Due to the depth of these deposits the natural substrate was not encountered in any of the test pits, which lay beyond the limits of safe working practise. The earliest recorded remains within the test pits comprised soil layers, which varied in date from the medieval through to the 19th century. Sealing or cutting those deposits there were structural remains dating from the early-middle 18th century with 19th and 20th-century remains in four test pits.

A typical urban finds assemblage was recovered consisting of pottery, glass, animal bone, clay tobacco-pipes and ceramic building materials. In addition, there are 44 registered finds that primarily comprised post-medieval dress accessories recovered from a fireplace.

OASIS 389834

Northampton, Upton Park, South of Weedon Road SP 7140 5970

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY and JIM BURKE

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by RPS Group PLC, on behalf of Morris Homes, to undertake an archaeological excavation and strip, map and sample on land at Upton Park south of Weedon Road, Northampton. The excavation areas targeted known anomalies identified during the geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation.

There were two palaeochannels possible feeders of a Pleistocene glacial lake, which formed in the Nene Valley. The palaeochannels were c. 60m wide and c. 100m apart. They were roughly orientated north to south, truncated by the two late Bronze Age / Iron Age pit alignments and a Roman trackway.

The barrow monument had a diameter of approximately 26m. Its ditch appears to have been continuous and was re-cut; it varied in width between c. 1.50m and c. 2.90m and was up to 0.76m in depth. The original ditch and most of the re-cut was backfilled with largely sterile material. In the re-cut the eastern section of the barrow ditch was backfilled with a different material which comprised dark brown-grey sandy silt overlain by mid to dark grey-brown sandy silt. This deposit produced a large amount of worked flint and a small amount of pottery including a small sherd of Beaker pottery possibly indicating this backfill derived from a different source. Cutting into the top of the re-cut barrow ditch was an unurned cremation within a pit. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was associated with it. Analysis of the cremation fill revealed the presence of small amounts of hazelnut shell and significant quantities of charcoal. Enclosed within the barrow ditch there was only one internal undated feature, a small pit (Fig. 4). In another part of the excavation there was an isolated pit which produced a Beaker fragment (Fig. 5).

To the north of the probable barrow were two separate sinuous arrangements of pits, forming two pit alignments (Fig. 6). These pits lay roughly parallel to each other for c. 50m, aligned north-east to south-west. While the southern arrangement (PA2) continued on this alignment for another c. 420m, after this distance the northern pit alignment (PA1) diverted more to the north-west and continued for another c. 440m. In a later phase some of the pits were cut by small lengths of ditches and gullies which may have been due to a restructuring of the boundary. Most of the pottery sherds recovered from the pits were in a poor condition, being highly fragmented and most had evidence of post-depositional abrasion. Therefore, most of the pottery can be dated only generally to the Iron Age.

A Roman trackway lay within the western part of the development area and it was possible to identify the trackway for nearly 900m across the landscape. If it continued further to the east, the trackway would have met perpendicularly the projected route of a main road from Duston Roman town. It comprised two sinuous ditches, aligned east to west, on average 6.5m apart and measured between 0.30m to 0.85m wide and 0.14m to 0.15m deep. Where the trackway crossed the remains of the palaeochannel, a cobbled surface had been constructed, presumably to consolidate the ground. Medieval drainage ditches and field systems relating to part



Figure 4: Upton Park, Bronze Age barrow



Figure 5: Upton Park, Bronze Age beaker fragments



Figure 6: Upton Park, Iron Age pit alignments

Northamptonshire

of the medieval settlement of Upton lay within the eastern part of the development area.

OASIS 43922

Oundle, St Osyth's Lane, The Angel PH TL 04247 88065 LAUREN WILSON

A programme of historic building recording was undertaken at The Angel prior to works being undertaken on the building (Fig. 7). The site comprises No. 4 St Osyth's Lane, former public house, which is a Grade II listed building. St Osyth's Lane runs south-east from the Market Place and is mentioned in Oundle's Conservation Area Appraisal as retaining modest vernacular cottages. The building is in two distinct ranges that the list description dates to 18th century (north) and early 19th century (south). Although the current story of the building is a commercial one, the use of this site as a public house is relatively modern. The level of alteration and continuous small-scale development, as well as the stripping-out of the building on its conversion to a public house, has removed extensive historic fabric. However, despite this it is clear that the south range and north range originated as two separate structures with their own rear ranges (Fig. 8) and yard access via an alleyway between them, now blocked.

OASIS 382246

Paulerspury, land to the north of Gray's Close SP 72551 45772 JIM BURKE

A total of five trial trenches were excavated but no archaeological features were identified in any of them.

OASIS 395689

Rothersthorpe, 20 Church Street SP 71463 56617 PAUL THOMPSON

A watching brief was undertaken for new electricity service cable into The Garden House but no archaeological features, remains or deposits were uncovered.

OASIS 396101

Silverstone, land at Dadford Road SP 66567 42456 GEMMA HEWITT

An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Dadford Road was undertaken. Nineteen trenches were excavated and two ditches were identified, one of Roman date and the other was undated, but pre-dating the ride and furrow. Post-medieval plough furrows were identified across the site.

OASIS 408257

Towcester, Towcester South Trenches 22–50 SP 7040 4761

AMELIA FAIRMAN, YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY and CHRIS PENNELL

Of the 29 evaluation trenches excavated, approximately 50% revealed features of archaeological interest. Archaeological features, mostly comprising ditches and pits, were found in fifteen trenches. A number of fills contained dateable material which suggest these features predominantly dated to the

earlier part of the late Iron Age. Additional features (albeit tentatively identified) included two possible cremations and an inhumation burial. Medieval features dating to AD 1100–1400 and post-medieval material were found in two different single trenches. The remnants of ridge and furrow were noted in six trenches.

OASIS 500699

Wellingborough, land at Wellingborough North SP 87702 70523 ALEX SHIPLEY

The trial trench evaluation found both a ridge and furrow system along with late medieval field boundary ditches.

OASIS 388099

Wellingborough, Stanton Cross (Plot 17) SP 915 685 JOHN WALFORD

The geophysical survey followed on from similar works conducted by MOLA on other parts of the development site between 2016 and 2019. It detected dispersed archaeological remains of probable Iron Age and Roman date, including a small ditched enclosure in the north of the field, a short length of probable Roman road in the west, and a pattern of other ditches which may be elements of a former field system. Some traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also detected.

OASIS 402295

Wollaston, east of Hookham's Path SP 9150 6265 ADAM REID

Seventeen trenches were excavated as part of an evaluation, of which three contained archaeological features in the south-western part of the area. A cluster of features, probably parts of enclosures, largely dated to the late Iron Age period. The presence of a small quantity of early Roman pottery would imply possible continuity into this period.

OASIS 397292

Wood Burcote, Sheppards Farm SP 69561 47087 ADAM REID

The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of three trial trenches measuring 10m in length. A single ditch was encountered which has been dated by artefactual evidence to the early to mid-19th century.

OASIS 500874

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTHANTS 2020

Despite lockdowns, 2020–21 saw a good deal of archaeological work carried out in county as companies generally found ways to work efficiently while keeping their staff safe.

Fieldwork

2020 saw the excavation of Iron Age sites at Milton Ham (by Albion Archaeology) on the outskirts of Northampton,



Figure 7: Oundle, Angel PH front



Figure 8: Oundle, Angel PH rear

Northamptonshire

and Chalker Way, Banbury (by TVAS, Fig. 9), at the very edge of the county and on the Oxfordshire border. Milton Ham produced an interestingly complex pit alignment with a number of phases and adaptations, as well as a surprise Saxon element comprising a sunken-featured building and four inhumations. The work at Chalker Way continued on from a previous phase of excavations which had investigated a small part of a Middle Iron Age settlement; the entire settlement has now been investigated ahead of commercial development. Evidence for metalworking was found as well as areas of domestic activity.

MoLA continued their investigations at the Segro Logistics Park, also known as Northampton Gateway, which is giving us an opportunity to examine not only small areas of Iron Age settlement but also the use of the wider landscape around that settlement, and the changing uses into the Roman period.

Similarly at Stanton Cross (east of Wellingborough), MoLA excavated a small but complex site adjacent to the Nene and found that it was likely to have been used seasonally; large ring ditches were repeatedly recut, probably after inundation, and activity moved over time further away from the watercourse as each successive area became unusable. Each ring ditch was associated with large numbers of pits, the purpose of which is unclear but which presumably needed to be close to a source of water.

At Priors Hall, Corby, the first phase of excavation by OA East concluded – many of you will have seen the press releases – with a fascinating glimpse at life on the edges of a villa estate, where a temple/mausoleum (Fig. 10) was repurposed into a tile kiln, surrounded by limekilns and extraction pits. No doubt essential for the upkeep of the villa itself, and carefully tucked away out of sight of the boss's house.

An investigation by Border Archaeology in Aynho Park, Aynho, produced a number of Saxon inhumations which was unexpected, while a small evaluation by CLASP, on the line of a proposed access road past the known Saxon cemetery at Nether Heyford, proved negative.

Publications

In publication news, the MoLA monograph on the Angel Street/Fetter Street/ St John's Street excavations went through its final edits and is with the printers.

Archive store, Chester House Estate

Northamptonshire now has a purpose-built archive store at Chester House, Irchester, and will start accepting archives this summer. It has taken a tremendous amount of work to get to this stage and we're grateful to all those whose efforts have finally paid off.

Council reorganisation

Northamptonshire County Council and the several districts and boroughs have been replaced by two unitary authorities – North Northants (formerly Corby, East Northants, Kettering and Wellingborough) and West Northants (formerly Daventry, Northampton and South Northants). Those of us at the county council providing a county-wide service have been "homed" with one, with a Service Level Agreement to provide services to the other as well. Planning advice and the archive store are in North Northants while the HER and Record Office are in the West.



Lesley-Ann Mather

Finally, in late 2020 we were devastated to lose the County Archaeological Advisor, Lesley-Ann Mather, after a short illness. Lesley-Ann had worked for the former Northamptonshire Archaeology early in her career as well as for Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (now Albion Archaeology) and the Birmingham University field unit. She moved into Development Control work in 2000 in Leicestershire before spending several years in Bedfordshire and returned to work in Northants in 2009. She was a prime mover in getting the archive store set up and creating an Assistant Advisor post to ensure that all the districts and boroughs had access to advice on all levels of development, not only larger schemes. Her drive and passion for archaeology informed all of her work, and she set an example of integrity, dedication and dynamism while also being good-humoured and enjoying life outside the office. She is deeply missed by friends and colleagues as well as family. A full obituary will be published in the journal of the Northants Archaeological Society.

Liz Mordue

*Archaeological Advisor
North Northants Council*

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Barton Seagrave, Plots R20 and R21, Land east of Kettering SP 89740 77059

TIMOTHY LEWIS

Excavation revealed Iron Age remains, concentrated in the northern half of the site. Within a large enclosure were two smaller D-shaped enclosures, associated with which were several fragments of human skull. Superimposed on these enclosures were a pair of south-facing, semi-circular ditches; the terminus of one contained a large dump of clay which has been interpreted as a failed or unused oven. Later medieval and post-medieval land use was evident from two later ditches, and in the system of ridge and furrow found across the site. Ephemeral Bronze Age remains were also uncovered.

Burton Latimer, R25, Land east of Kettering SP 90218 76365

JAMES FAIRBAIRN

An excavation uncovered three isolated cremation pits. One of the cremations (radiocarbon dated to 2030–1890 cal. BC)



Figure 9: Part of the Middle Iron Age site at Chalker Way, Banbury (TVAS)



Figure 10: Priors Hall, Corby – the Roman temple/mausoleum, later repurposed as a tile kiln (OA East)

Northamptonshire

was interred in an upturned Collared Urn with a jet bead placed inside. Extensive remains of an Iron Age farmstead were revealed, associated with assemblages of Middle Iron Age pottery, ironworking slag (mostly smelting with some smithing), fired clay and animal bone. A central roundhouse uncovered at the eastern end of the site, defined by a large and extensively recut ring-ditch, lay within an enclosed part of the settlement. It was accompanied by two further roundhouses (defined by simpler penannular ring-gullies), pit groups and a four-post structure.

This presumed domestic focus produced the bulk of the finds. A large D-shaped enclosure uncovered in the western part of the excavation area encompassed a further possible roundhouse gully and discrete features that included the truncated base of a possible burnt mound or midden. A further enclosure was partly revealed to its south. Only a very small quantity of diagnostic Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered, suggesting that this farmstead was abandoned by the 1st century BC. Also present were former field divisions of medieval or later origin, whose orientation was later respected by a set of agricultural furrows.

Cranford, Hanwood Park, Land east of Kettering

SP 90941 77497

TIMOTHY LEWIS

Evaluation identified seven discrete areas of archaeological activity, relating to activity from the Iron Age through to Anglo-Saxon periods. Of these areas, four were predominantly Middle to Late Iron Age in date, possibly representing individual farmsteads, dominated by large enclosure ditches.

Two of the sites were of Early to Mid Roman date, with pottery assemblages consisting of locally produced coarsewares and small quantities of imported wares. Additionally, a copper alloy bracelet terminal with snake's head decoration was recovered from a ditch. The final area of activity revealed evidence of Mid Roman iron production and working, with finds including fragments of vitrified furnace lining, tap slag and other diagnostic elements of small-scale iron production. This area also produced evidence for Early Anglo-Saxon occupation dating to the 5th–7th centuries AD, including a possible sunken-featured building.

Deene, Zone 3, Area A, Priors Hall, Corby

SP 92463 91807

PADDY LAMBERT

Excavation of the first of several areas at Priors Hall uncovered rare evidence of a Late Romano-British villa estate that underwent a transformation of function. Its earliest phase comprised a large stone-built temple-mausoleum and a trackway, activity that is believed to be linked to an earlier phase of the adjacent villa, probably in the 2nd century AD.

At some point in the 3rd century, the site was adapted into an industrialised landscape of manufacture, with pottery, ceramic tiles and lime being produced on the site. The earlier temple-mausoleum structure underwent a dramatic transformation into a large tile and pottery manufactory, with two tile kilns and three pottery kilns being established within its central surviving structure and immediate courtyard. The preliminary analysis on the pottery has established a date range of between AD 200 – 400. This later activity

was accompanied by the exploitation of natural resources, evidenced on site by stone and clay quarries.

The industrial activity is a rare example of infrastructure work associated with a later phase of villa expansion or rebuild. A series of small, localised field systems and post-structures are associated with this burgeoning manufacturing centre. A final phase of use in the late 4th century AD involved the systematic close-down and backfilling of the quarries and pottery kilns, although the tile kilns may have continued for slightly longer. Subsequently, the site showed no signs of activity until the post-medieval period, with a series of furrows evident across the site.

Kettering, Plot R11, Land east of Kettering

SP 89948 78036

EDMUND COLE

Evaluation prior to development work revealed several undated features along with a ditch, from which a small assemblage of Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered. The continuation of this feature had previously been investigated during excavations immediately to the north, where more extensive remains of Iron Age activity were recorded.

Milton Malsor, Land off Lower Road SP 73707 55884

EDMUND COLE

Evaluation uncovered part of a medieval ridge and furrow field system on the outskirts of Milton Malsor's historic core. These furrows were identified on two different alignments and followed the topography of the field. Also revealed were undated gullies containing no artefacts, potentially representing a field system that pre-dates the ridge and furrow.

SOUTERRAIN

Earls Barton, 39 Manor Road SP 85225 64161

MARTIN D WILSON

Groundwork for a new dwelling was monitored by Souterrain on a plot of land (c. 450 sq. m) adjacent to a house erected c. 1958. The investigation was prompted by previous discoveries of Romano-British rural settlement evidence to the northeast and southwest of the site. No archaeological features or artefacts were exposed, the ground having been severely truncated during mid-20th century construction activities.

HER Event No. ENN109819.

OASIS ref.: souterra1- 409615

Eastcote, Garden House, Birds Hill Road

SP 67886 54094

MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain during ground reduction for a new dwelling (c. 782 sq. m) in the garden of a 20th century house. The works took place in a possible zone of early medieval settlement, and on the site of a WWI prisoner of war camp. The investigation uncovered nothing earlier than an early 20th century post-hole, the entire site having previously suffered truncation during 20th century landscaping and construction of a tennis

court. A relict fragment of medieval/ post-medieval ridge and furrow was noted in the north-western corner of the site; which was left undisturbed.

HER Event No. ENN109814.
OASIS ref.: souterra1- 397064.

Gretton, 76 High Street SP 89943 94150

MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain during groundwork for a new dwelling on a vacant plot of land (c. 300 sq. m) on the south side of High Street. A historic characteristic of the plot is a stone boundary wall fronting the road, which was once part of a two storey post-medieval dwelling (Fig. 11). The rest of the building was dismantled in 1958. The date of the building was unknown, although a late 16th century map shows a tenement at this location. Thus, the main purpose of the work was to gain a better understanding of the historic occupancy of the site.

The investigation confirmed that an L-shaped stone building had occupied the site for around three centuries. From at least the late 19th century the building had comprised two separate dwellings, both known as Japonica Cottage. The archaeology comprised remnants of lower wall courses built of coursed rubble, floor surfaces, including a pozzolanic floor, and a cellar. The cellar was long and narrow, over 2 m in depth, and appears to have been timber-lined. A construction date for the cottage and could not be established, although the cellar provided the best indication

of the antiquity of the tenement. It had been in-filled in a single event. Pottery sherds denoted that it took place in the late 1600s or early 1700s. A portion of one cottage remains buried in the garden of the new development.

The report includes photographs (from private collections) of some of the main residents from the late 19th century onwards, namely two Baptist families, the Colemans and the Spendloves. The analysis incorporates a reconstruction of the broad planimetric layout of the cottages, achieved by combining the 2020 archaeological site survey with historic mapping. Overall the results of the investigation open a new window to historic occupancy at High Street.

HER EVENT No. ENN109595.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-406533

Irchester, 1A London End, SP 92690 65580

MARTIN D WILSON

In May 2020, two archaeological trial pits, each 2 m x 2 m, were hand-excavated in the rear garden of an early 17th century house in the centre of Irchester. The property was considered to overlie part of a 13th century manorial farm complex, a large extent of which was uncovered to the northeast of the house prior to construction of a housing estate in 1967.

The trial pits were 14 m apart. Beneath a 17th century garden soil in one of the pits was a substantial deposit of dark greyish brown loam, c. 0.6 m thick. It yielded an extensive range of plant macrofossils and carbonised cereal,



Figure 11: Gretton, post-medieval dwelling retained in boundary wall

Northamptonshire

and was broadly dated by pottery to the 13th century. A likely interpretation would be a midden associated with the manor farm.

The other trial pit located a layer of limestone rubble set in a clay matrix, which had the appearance of a building foundation, resonant with discoveries made nearby in 1967. A single sherd of late medieval pottery was found in a thin band of occupation soil covering the rubble.

HER Event No. ENN109871.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-396185

Kilsby, Land at The Limes, Main Road SP 56026 71020

MARTIN D WILSON

Ground reduction and trenching was monitored by Souterrain at the site of a new dwelling (c. 700 sq. m) in the historic core of Kilsby. The site was formerly part of the rear garden of The Limes, a Georgian house built in 1825, and prior to this was located at the rear of a row of cottages built in 1721.

The investigation revealed that the development area had witnessed little or no disturbance for three centuries. A single archaeological feature was revealed, at the north-eastern end of the plot. This was a very large pit, at least 3.4 m in diameter and over 0.8 m deep, which was possibly dug to extract marl, or clay to make bricks or tiles. A meagre assemblage of pottery sherds suggested a probable 17th century date. So far, no other archaeological evidence of the period has been recorded from stratified contexts within the historic core of the village.

HER Event No. ENN109864.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-395789.

Little Addington, Land adjacent to Meadow View

SP 96194 73898

MARTIN D WILSON

Five archaeological evaluation trenches (each c. 42 sq. m) were excavated within a small enclosed parcel of grazing land (0.47. ha) on the east side of Irthlingborough Road in the village of Little Addington. Archaeological interest of the site was drawn primarily from the postulated course of a Roman minor road which runs through the field and a Roman villa complex (scheduled monument) which lies c. 190 m to the northeast.

Notably, the land parcel contained relict remains of medieval to post-medieval cultivation strips and a portion of a headland, all of which survived as fairly substantial earthworks. The evaluation revealed no features other than cultivation furrows, while the earliest artefacts were of post-medieval date.

It is interesting to note that when an area of limestone bedrock was first exposed on the projected line of the 'Roman road', the manner in which the rock was naturally folded and eroded gave it the resemblance of an *agger* with well-laid limestone flags and cobbles. It was only after careful cleaning, and after a greater extent of the stratum was exposed, that geological characteristics became evident.

The absence of evidence for a Roman road at this location site draws attention to the contested claim of its discovery in a field to the north of the site in the mid 20th century, where, at best, the evidence remains inconclusive.

A 3D digital terrain model was produced of the earthworks (surveyed using RTK GNSS receiver) on to which the trench locations were super-imposed.

HER Event No. ENN109936.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-401845.

Wellingborough, Cambridge Street SP 89319 68016

MARTIN D WILSON & MERCEDES PLANAS

A Level II/III building record was made of a historic corn store and mill in the centre of Wellingborough, prior to its conversion to residential usage. The building (non-designated) is located in a rear yard on the north side of Cambridge Street, between Nos. 4 & 5. The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of the building in its 'as found' state, by means of photographic catalogue, scaled elevations and plans.

The building's history is explored through a combination of oral tradition, primary documentary sources and material evidence. It is deduced that it was purpose-built, in the late 1870s, by John Hobson Bearn, who ran a long-established corn dealership and bakery business, primarily based at Silver Street, Wellingborough. The Cambridge Street premises were purchased in 1900 by George William Hollis, a baker and confectioner of Wellingborough, who also bought up the Silver Street elements of Bearn's bakery.

The corn store and mill is essentially a two-storied brick-built structure, with a façade of regularly coursed stone (Fig. 12). It is parallelogram in plan, c. 13.25 m long by 5.5 m wide, with a dual-pitched roof. Its rear wall (stone) belonged to an earlier building which stood on the property boundary. Only the first floor of the rear elevation is above ground level. The façade is comprised of two types of locally-quarried stone – oolitic limonitic ironstone and limestone – which is employed randomly throughout. The coign-work is red brick, as are window reveals and door jambs. The roof is covered in red-orange pan-tiles. The building was lit by cast-iron framed windows, each with a 5 over 5 pane arrangement, fitted with a hinged lower central casement, 3 over 3.

The ground floor is partitioned, by a brick wall, into two unequal bays, north and south, each with a trapezoidal floor space. The northern bay (the larger of the two) has two sets of overhead flat-belt driven counter shafts with pulley wheels, bolted to floor joists, which was part of the apparatus for driving at least one gas-powered corn crusher. The southern bay was the cart house, with internal access to the first floor corn store via a hooded wooden stair-case on the south wall. The corn store is open-plan, with a central double-door loading bay at the front.

The floor structure of the corn store is notable for its construction design. Three substantial timber cross-beams (0.42 m × 0.22 m × 4.8 m long) run parallel to the gable ends. The west end of each beam is seated in the front internal brick wall, while the the east end rests on a brick pillar. Longitudinal joists are trenched within the cross-beams. The floor boards (each c. 0.17 m wide by c. 0.024 m thick) have a groove routed along their sides into which an iron tongue is inserted.

HER Event No. ENN110019.

OASIS ref.: souterra1-412574



Figure 12: Wellingborough, late C19th Corn Store and Mill

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Banbury, Central M40, Phase 4, Land at Overthorpe Road SP 4750 3960

DAVID SÁNCHEZ, PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE and JOSH HARGREAVES

Continuing work in 2020 on this large site allocated for industrial development involved the excavation of an area of about 4.5ha. Results are still being processed but the chief focus is on a dense area of Middle to Late Iron Age occupation incorporating at least nine phases. Work continues.

Brigstock, Land at Washpit House, Grafton Road SP 9423 8294

JOSH HARGREAVES

An earthwork survey and watching brief in November 2020 on the site for a new house showed evidence of a slight sunken trackway running N-S towards the remains of a medieval dam and post-medieval causeway. Survey further mapped the slope of natural valley sides. The observation of ground reduction works revealed a bank revetment probably relating to the medieval hunting lodge and its pond (The Great Pond). A large post-medieval quarry pit was also observed and partly investigated.

Greens Norton, Land at Mill Lane SP 6734 4962

WILL ATTARD

Evaluation in October 2020 on the site of a housing development, targeting geophysical anomalies and seemingly blank areas, revealed a range of archaeological features, predominantly of Late Iron Age date with others of Early Roman date and later in the Roman period. A single Medieval gully was also revealed. A small collection of flintwork includes several pieces certainly and probably of Mesolithic date. Further work is expected.

Kings Sutton, Church of St Peter and St Paul SP 4975 3610

JOSH HARGREAVES and JO PINE

Five soakaways were excavated for drainage in July 2020 and a watching brief was maintained. All contained human inhumation burials aligned west (head) to east; often in rows. Eighteen grave cuts containing 19 skeletons, and 34 other skeletons (lacking clear cuts) were distinguished. It was possible to work out the burial phasing for some of the skeletons. Two presumed grave cuts contained no bones while two others had two and three burials in one cut. Many of the burials contained post-medieval or early modern finds such as pottery, glass, shell and brass and/or pewter buttons, clinker and clay pipe stems. Drainage trenches were also excavated. In one, to the north of the church, part of an early

Northamptonshire

modern paved surface was recorded. Human remains and finds were returned to the church for reburial.

TOWCESTER: THE HISTORIC TOWCESTER SURVEY GROUP

BRIAN GIGGINS

Over the last three years, this volunteer group has been undertaking research into the pre-1750 buildings of the Northamptonshire town of Towcester, as part of Historic England's 'Early Fabric in Towns' project. Following initial fieldwork training by Allan Adams, the group has undertaken measured and photographic surveys plus extensive documentary research, to create chronologies of the owners and occupiers of many of the town's buildings. Historic England have provided some funding for the project and have so far arranged three dendrochronology surveys. It is intended to complete this research by the spring of 2023.

Some of the owners and occupiers of the domestic and commercial properties have welcomed the interest of the group in their buildings, but there are often difficulties in surveying commercially owned properties. These are often split into several leasehold units, with the upper floors usually let as flats or separate offices, making it difficult to obtain the consent of all the parties. Undertaking surveys in busy shops is quite difficult and requires much patience by all concerned. Some owners are very wary of recording taking place as they fear it will affect listing, whereas in reality, the production of a report on their building may assist them when submitting listed building consent applications.

The attached map of Towcester circa 1900 (Fig. 13), indicates in red, those properties where pre-1750 fabric has been identified. These are chiefly located along Watling Street, the principal thoroughfare, with a surprising concentration on the west side of the Market Place, where there are remnants of three medieval inns, the Angel. The Talbot and the Swann. These, like most of the early Towcester buildings, were timber-framed; stone becoming the dominant walling material after 1650 and brick after 1750. Some of the areas where pre-1750 material appears to be absent, may be the result of fires in the eighteenth century which destroyed many buildings.

Examples of recorded buildings:

Church Cottage, Church Lane SP469439 248642

It was initially thought that this small stone and thatch cottage would predate 1750, but documentary and map research indicates that it was built shortly after 1810 and therefore is outside the date range for the Historic England project. It is the last surviving example of a thatched roof in the town and although erected as a single dwelling was split into two 'one up, one down' cottages shortly after erection. It is also the last of a row of cottages that formerly formed the southern and eastern boundary of the churchyard, but was demolished circa 1880.

The Mint House, 21 Park Street SP469188 248723, Fig. 14

The eastern half of a substantial house, which was dendrochronologically dated to the end of the sixteenth

century and may have been the town's Manor House. It was divided into two in the early eighteenth century. The Mint House half was the service wing containing a substantial inglenook fireplace on the ground floor and a chamber above with a timber-framed partition that appears to have divided off a rear stair. The rear addition originally contained a brewhouse which was converted into a back room with chamber above in the early seventeenth century, and a probable stable that was converted into additional rooms at a later date. It was a private girls' school in the Victorian period.

239 Watling Street West SP469134 248886, Fig. 15

The building is currently Green's Antiques but was formerly the Nelson's Arms P.H. At the core of the building is a late sixteenth century lobby-entry building with a projecting rear stair, of which only the ceiling beams and parts of the external walls survive. The original back-to-back fireplace, staircase, and features on the upper floor, have all been removed leaving predominantly nineteenth century fabric. Documentary evidence suggests that the public house use started circa 1800 when the owner, Edward Nelson, called it the Admiral Nelson to celebrate both himself and the naval hero! It was closed during WW1.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

Cottingham, Berryfield Road SP 84280 90330

ADAM CLAPTON

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out a trial trench evaluation on land at Berryfield Road, Cottingham in advance of the proposed development of the land for a new village hall with associated access road and car park. The land formed the north-east corner of a larger recreational area on the north-east edge of the village. Plough furrows were located within all three evaluation trenches, running broadly northwest to south-east across the site suggesting that this area was previously agricultural fields. No other archaeological deposits were identified.

ENN109887.

Eastcote, south of Greenway SP 46815 25406

NATHAN FLAVELL

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out a trial trench evaluation on land south of Greenway, Eastcote, to provide preliminary indication of any heritage assets. The four trenches revealed remnants of plough furrows, and a post-medieval quarry pit.

ENN109949.

East Farndon, Back Lane SP 71721 84727

GEORGE ISSITT

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out a watching brief on land at Back Lane, East Farndon, during groundworks associated with the conversion of the existing outbuilding. The outbuilding is a Grade II 18th century Listed Building. The excavations revealed thin disturbed subsoil, lying over the natural stony clay. No

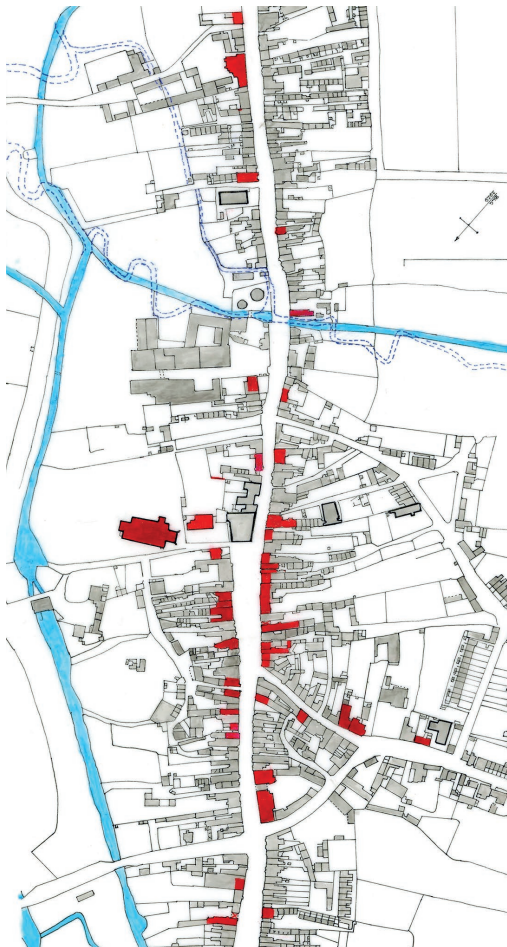


Fig 13: Map of Towcester circa 1900 showing pre-1750 buildings in red

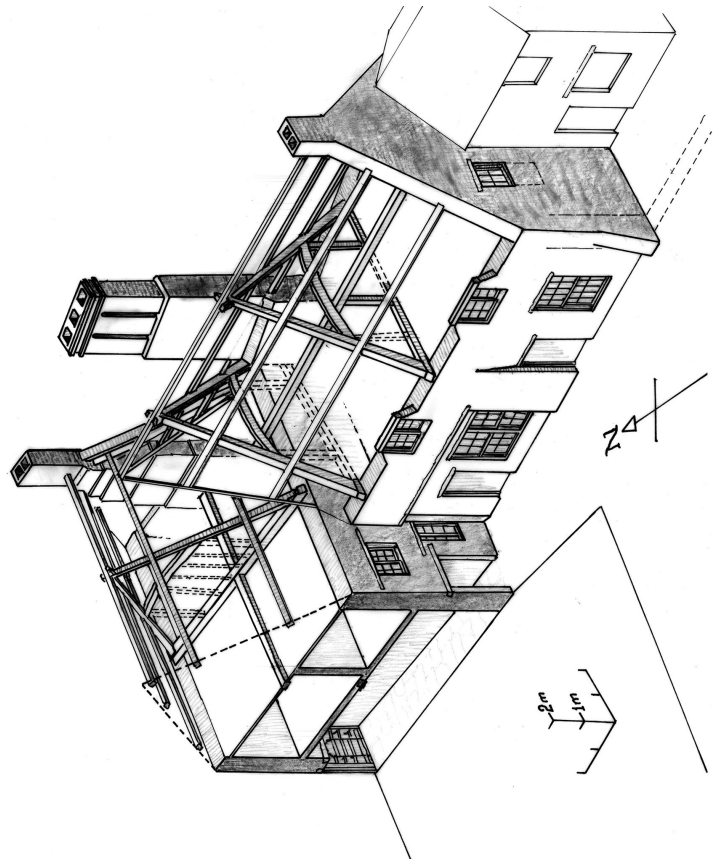


Fig 14: Towcester, isometric drawing of the Mint House from the south-west

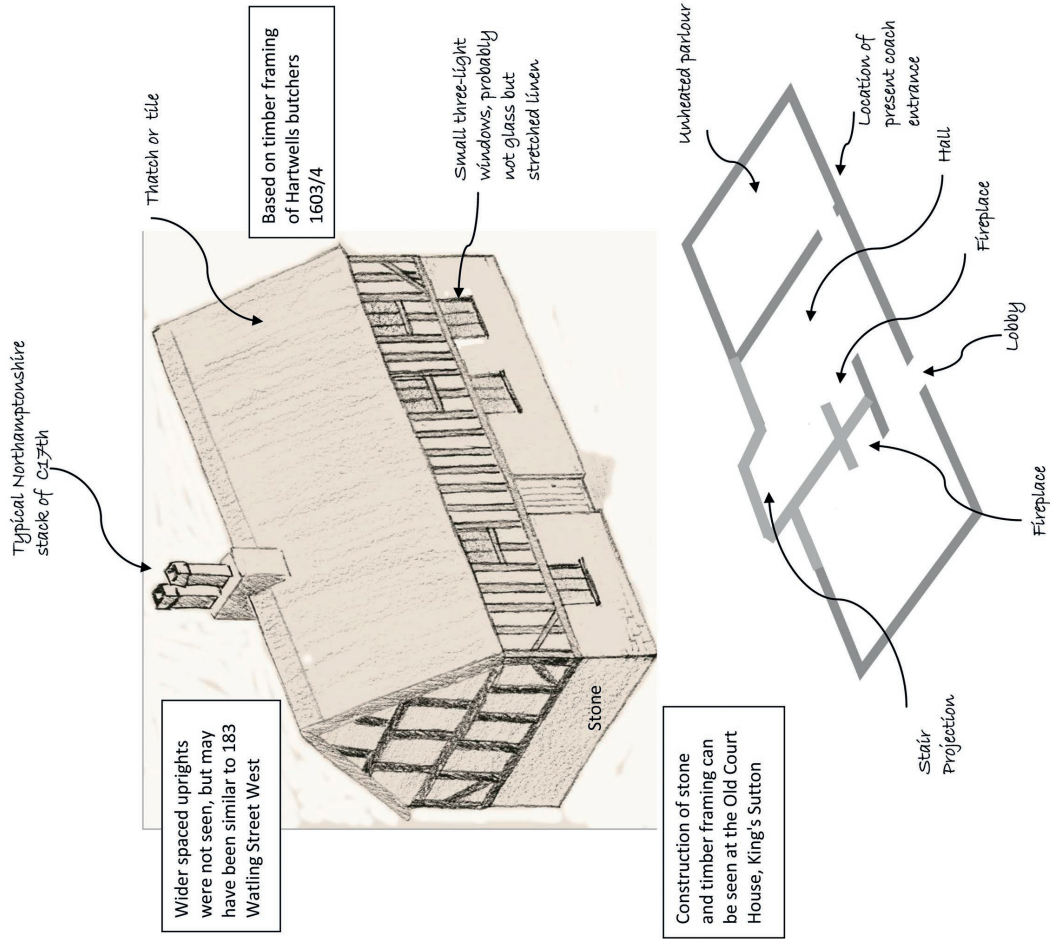


Fig 15: Towcester, reconstruction of what 239 Watling Street West may have looked like circa 1600

Northamptonshire

archaeological finds or features were retrieved or revealed during the watching brief.

ENN109495.

Oundle, Gascoigne Building, Oundle School

TL 04190 88260

CHRISTOPHER NAISBITT

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out a trial trench evaluation at Oundle School in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the Grade II Listed Gascoigne Building. Historical sources suggested that the site may have been the location of a royal Saxon manor. For this reason, the site was designated by Historic England as a Scheduled Monument (No. 1006619). Three trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. Archaeological remains were identified in all three trenches, including pits, ditches, and extensive evidence of structural activity including post holes and stone walls. The remains were likely to represent habitation and associated domestic and iron working activities of Saxon and medieval date.

ENN109826.

Sulby, Naseby Road SP 65815 80444

JEN BROWNING

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out a watching brief during groundworks for a new extension at Sulby Abbey Farm, Naseby Road, Sulby. The site is surrounded by the scheduled area of Sulby Abbey and lies c. 350m from the main earthworks (HE List Entry No1017186). No archaeological deposits were encountered during this work.

ENN109915.

Western by Welland, Barn Farm SP 47695 29135

RICHARD HUXLEY

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an excavation, in advance of a new barn. The farm is located at the site of a Roman marching camp and previous work has found the enclosure ditch, stake holes and pits. The stripped area was shallow and heavily disturbed with east to west furrows and north to south orientated plough marks scarring the natural. Despite the disturbance several features were found in the north-eastern corner and a concentration was found along the western edge. Several sporadic post holes were found in the north-east along with the edge of a pit or gully containing medieval pottery. The group close to the western edge was heavily disturbed and ploughing had incorporated fragments of clay pipe into the tops of features and natural substratum. Within the group there were also extremely shallow square and rectangular marks which were spaced 0.08–0.18m apart. These could be the shallow remains of stake holes however they had a similar orientation to the plough scars and could be disturbance from more recent agricultural machinery such as a subsoiler. Amongst the disturbance two post holes were found to be appropriately spaced and orientated to relate to the marching camp. One of the post holes contained an abraded sherd of mid-1st century pottery which is consistent with the suspected structures identified during previous excavations. Because of the ephemeral nature of structures at marching camps, the potential mixture of remains and the high level of truncation it is not possible to be certain whether they are associated with the camp.

ENN110027.

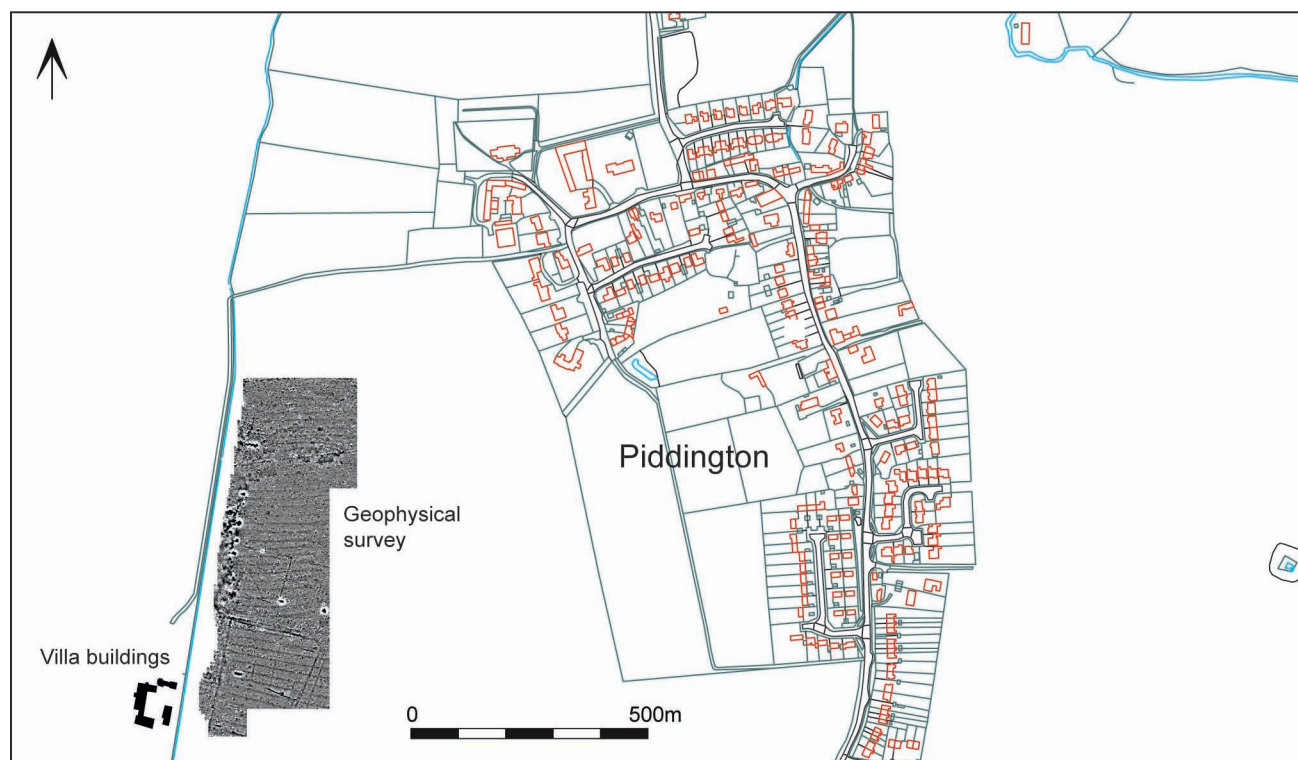


Figure 16: Piddington, Location of the survey area

UPPER NENE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

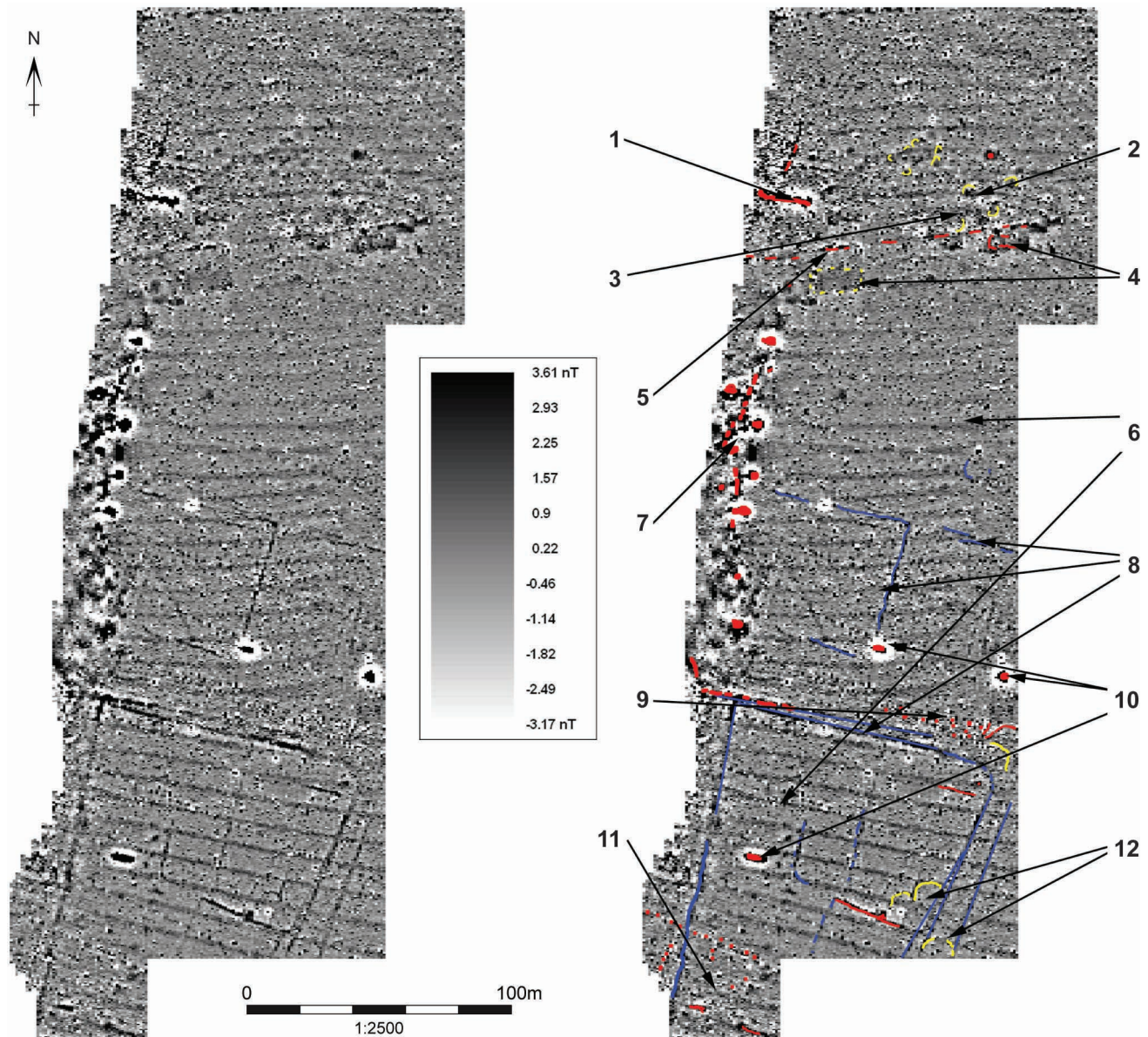
Piddington Roman villa SP 7980 5408

DAVID INGHAM

Ongoing excavations at Piddington over the last 40 years have revealed a substantial Roman villa, as well as a smaller precursor, and prehistoric activity stretching back to at least the Bronze Age. The excavations have also led to the theory

that a Roman fort existed at the site: Claudian-period samian ware and other early imported continental wares have been recovered, alongside a significant quantity of artefacts with military associations.

A rock-cut ditch which takes a similar line to the north-south hedgerow immediately east of the villa (Fig. 16) has been postulated as the westernmost ditch of the fort. A combination of excavation and geophysical surveys have been interpreted to show two ditches running parallel with this, while Royal Commission aerial photographs show



1. High magnetic response from soil in gully. Cluster of probably ceramic anomalies to the west: demolition waste?
2. Two furrows on different alignment to others in this area.
3. Hollow on ground surface: former quarry?
4. Possible rectangular features.
5. Possible former fence line.
6. Ridge and furrow: less distinct and slightly curved in the northern part of the area; straighter in the southern part.
7. Areas of high readings in a curved line, becoming less distinct to the south and west. Kilns?
8. Multi-phase field/enclosure ditches.
9. Probable ceramic debris: a greater concentration of demolition-type debris than usual was visible on the surface.
10. Small areas of high readings: possibly pieces of iron, or small ditches with magnetically enhanced soil in them.
11. Small high anomalies: these often prove to be ceramic debris.
12. Curvilinear anomalies: possible roundhouses.

Figure 17: Piddington, Greyscale magnetometer plot and interpretations

Oxfordshire

features that resemble two large ditches forming the north-west corner of the putative fort's defences. The evidence is inconclusive, however, so UNAS commissioned Roger and Sally Ainslie of Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics to produce a more detailed magnetometer plot of what was believed to be the western side of the fort.

The results (Fig. 17) singularly failed to show the outline of a Roman fort. Nothing to correspond with the features identified in the aerial photographs was apparent in the north-western part of the survey area, and they may instead relate to post-medieval quarrying known to have happened in this field. Enclosure ditches revealed in the southern half of the area are likely to have been associated with the villa. They have the appearance of fields or stock enclosures, but may yet prove to contain further buildings: the depth of colluvium in this area is likely to be sufficient that magnetometry is unable to distinguish limestone walls from the background of boulder clay. Additional buildings to the main range of the villa have already been excavated between the survey area and the hedgerow immediately to the west; these may account for the possible spreads of ceramic debris identified at the southern end of the survey, but a different

origin is probable for those further to the east – whether Roman or modern.

Is there a Roman fort at Piddington? Despite the discouraging results of the magnetometer survey, this possibility cannot be fully discounted: the presence of such early Roman pottery and the number of artefacts with military associations still demand an explanation. Lying roughly equidistant between the known forts at Longthorpe, Peterborough and Alchester, Bicester, the overall geographic location is still plausible for the site of an early post-conquest fort. There may yet be a currently unidentified fort or lesser military installation nearby, either close enough to account directly for the pottery and military-type artefacts or slightly further away, in which case trade and the movement of soldiers within the local area may have led to their presence.

Regardless of the presence or otherwise of a fort at Piddington, the geophysical results have at least helped to define the broader landscape within which the villa is set. It is hoped that further magnetometry will be able to reveal yet more of this landscape, with complementary resistivity surveys to fill in the details of any masonry structures.

OXFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS

North Leigh, land at East End SP 401 144
ROGER AINSLIE

In **2004** Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics carried out magnetometer and earth resistance surveys over a scatter of Roman roof tile. The features detected appeared to be too large to be a kiln so no further work was carried out. Recent

work by Oxford Archaeology East at Priors Hall, Corby, investigated a Roman tile kiln within a 20m square enclosure (See OA East entry and Fig. 10, above). The survey at East End appears now to possibly be a similar arrangement, of a kiln surrounded by a 20m square enclosure (Fig. 1). The report is now on the ADS grey literature library. <https://doi.org/10.5284/1083873>

Water Eaton SP 508 116
ROGER AINSLIE

A small magnetometer survey was carried out to see if a Roman villa could be detected. It located various ditch-like anomalies but could not detect a building in the location suggested. This is not unusual for magnetometer surveys as often stone buildings can only be detected using earth resistance, if at all. The ground was too wet for useful earth resistance results.

Wolvercote, Port Meadow aerodrome SP 488 092
ROGER AINSLIE

Magnetometry for the Wolvercote WW1 Aerodrome Memorial Project located traces of canvas aircraft hangars and a corrugated iron building which were removed 100 years ago. This has probably been assisted by the use of cinder and ash for surfacing and the area not having been ploughed, which may have lessons concerning the survival of remains in other grassland areas. The report is on the ADS grey literature library <https://doi.org/10.5284/1084675>. An article about it was in *Current Archaeology* for February 2021 and a YouTube video has also been made of it.

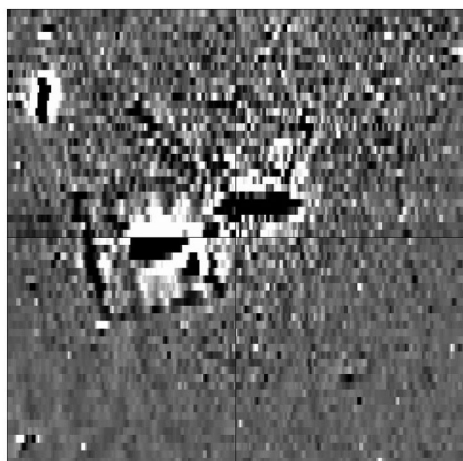
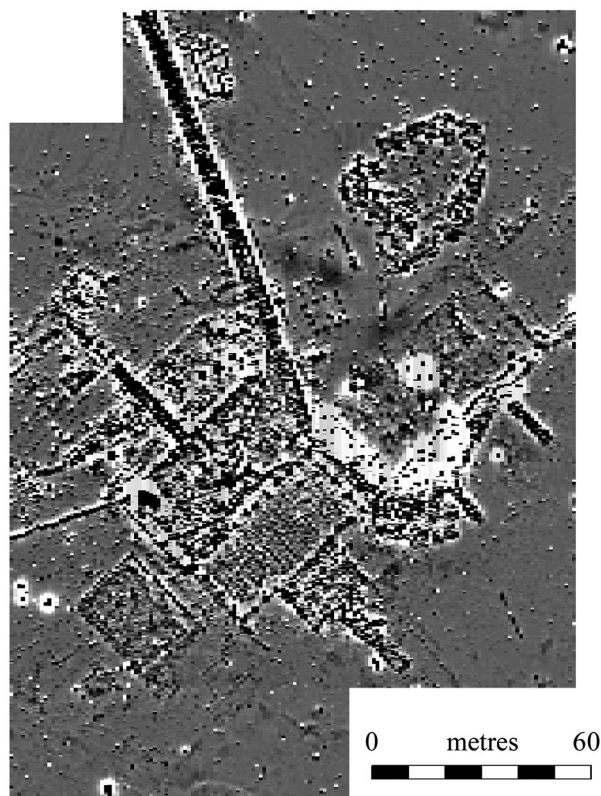


Figure 1: North Leigh, magnetometer survey



Central area clipped to +/-9nT

Figure 2: Wolvercote, magnetometer survey

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Bicester, Land at Wretchwick Farm SP 60200 20650

WILLIAM KELLY

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological strip, map and record excavation on land at Wretchwick Farm, near Bicester, Oxfordshire. The work was carried out within an area of proposed development in advance of determination of a planning application for the development (Planning ref: 20/00530/F). Dating evidence from pottery recovered from the site indicated predominantly late prehistoric land use with some Roman material also present, indicating continuity into the later period. The fieldwork identified a series of furrows similar to those found to the southwest and thought to be part of a vineyard. The fieldwork was unable to establish the overall extent of the field systems as it extended beyond the site limits.

CHARNEY BASSETT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

DAVID ASHBY

Introduction

The Charney Bassett Archaeological Research Project (Grid reference: SU 379 946) is an on-going project which commenced in 2017. The project currently has two main aims: 1. To gain a further and greater understanding of the archaeology of Charney Bassett; 2. To get the community involved in their local heritage and archaeology.

During the project from 2017 to 2020, several archaeological investigations, including geophysical survey and test pitting, have been carried out within the village and its surrounding fields, which will be discussed in this article. This article will also discuss the work that is proposed to be carried out during the 2021 project season, however this is dependent of COVID-19 government restrictions.

Geophysical Surveys:

Charney Manor (Resistivity) SU 380 944

A resistivity survey was undertaken within gardens of Charney Manor, to the north and west of the Grade I listed Manor House building. The survey was carried out in 1m traverses with readings being taken at 1 m intervals. From the survey data several archaeological features were identified, split into three main groups. The main group of features identified on the data are the foundations of a demolished section of the medieval Grange (Manor House) as highlighted in Fig. 3 in green. These features indicate both external and internal walls of the building including internal rooms and the base of a possible spiral staircase, indicating a two-storey structure. A number of wall features seen on the data correlate with those found during the 1964 excavations carried out on the site, including a continuation of the extant solar wing further to the west (Wood, 1976, 45). However, the data also indicates this wing of buildings extends much further to the west than previously thought, forming two further rooms, as well as a second wing at 90° to the solar, possibly forming a medieval hall. This wing likely continues under the current 17th century house. This likely means that the medieval Grange (Manor) was either U or L-shaped during the medieval period.

The second group of features identified is formed of two possible structures to the north of the current house, which may form further buildings associated with the medieval Grange (Manor House) complex (indicated in red on Fig. 3). It may be surmised that these structures form a continuation of the eastern wing of the Grange, to the south, with a possible adjacent and separate kitchen structure. However, excavation in this part of the site would be required to confirm the exact date and function of these structures.

The third feature identified is a possible linear ditch feature running north-south (indicated in Blue on Fig. 3), to the north east of the current Manor house. This ditch feature may either be medieval or Saxon in date, and represents the eastern boundary of the complex. However, due to only a small section of this anomaly being identified, it is difficult to determine the exact extent of the ditch and therefore further work would be required within this area to determine this.

Manor Farm Field (Resistivity) SU 380, 947

A resistivity survey was undertaken within Manor Farm field, to the east of Longworth Road and the north of The Green road. The survey was carried out in 1m traverses with readings being taken at 1 m intervals. From the survey data four archaeological features were identified, split into two main groups. The first formed of a trackway, with metaled surface and two linear parallel ditches, one running down either side, and relates to a raised earthwork feature within the field. This trackway is thought to be medieval in date, as

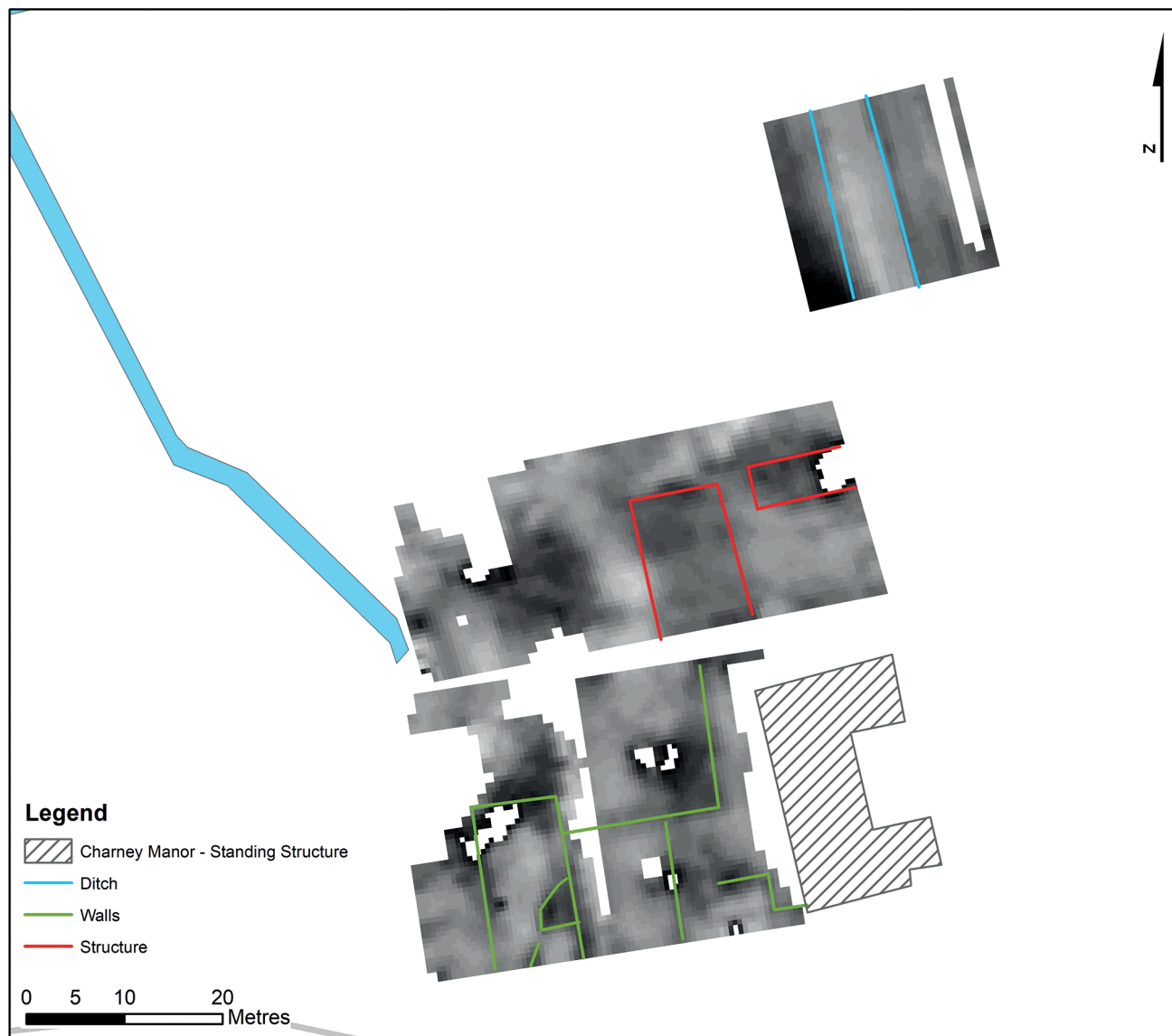


Figure 3: Charney Manor house and gardens resistivity data, indicating possible archaeological features

it coincides and respects the burgess plots which form the second group of features identified on the plot.

The second group of features is formed of three medieval Burgess plots, two fronting Longworth Road, and the third fronting the trackway which ran through this field. These Burgess plots and adjacent track are important, as they do not relate to any modern or post medieval housing on the site and therefore indicate a possible abandonment of this central area of the village during the later medieval to early post medieval periods. However, to confirm the date of this abandonment archaeological excavations would be required.

Test Pitting (test pits 1 to 9)

During the 2017–2020 project seasons, 9 test pits were dug in the gardens of properties and public land within the modern village settlement. These test pits were located, based on permission, available access and space for the test pit and spoil heap. Each test pit was 1 m square and was dug in 0.10 m spits to the depth of either the natural geology or 1 m dependent on which was reached first.

The pottery remains from the test pits enabled a large amount of information to be gained about the changing nature of the settlement over time, as seen in Table 1. The

table indicates that all the test pits, bar TP 5, 6 and 7 contained post medieval and modern pottery. Test pit 2 contained two sherds of Iron Age pottery, possibly indicating activity of this date within the area of the Village Green. Roman pottery was recovered from TP 3 (Mill Cottage), TP 7 (Charney Manor) and TP 8 and 9 (Wick Cottage). All four of these test pits were dug within close vicinity of each other and therefore may indicate Roman activity within the southern area of the current village settlement. Saxon pottery was also recovered from test pits 8 and 9 (Wick Cottage) and therefore may indicate a continual use of this area of the village from the Roman and into the Saxon period. Lastly, small quantities of medieval pottery were recovered from TP 1 (Village Green) and TP 3 (Mill Cottage), with larger quantities (19 and 23 sherds respectively) recovered from TP 8 and 9 (Wick Cottage). This may indicate the expansion of the village from the original settlement in the south, expanding further north during this period.

A large quantity of flint material, both worked and debitage, was also recovered from these test pits. This material dates from the Mesolithic period with a microliths, as well as Neolithic flint material also being recovered from all the test pits excavated across the village. The largest

ID	TP No.	Iron Age	Roman	Saxon	Medieval	Post Med
1	1	0	0	0	1	12
2	2	2	0	0	0	5
3	3	0	1	0	4	67
4	4	0	0	0	0	1
5	5	0	0	0	0	0
6	6	0	0	0	0	0
7	7	0	6	0	0	0
8	8	0	3	1	19	31
9	9	0	3	3	23	37

Table 1. Table shows the quantities of pottery by period recovered from each test pit excavated in 2017–2020, from Charney Bassett

quantity of worked flint material was recovered from the base of TP 8 (Wick Cottage) which comprised 15 microliths, 10 blades, 25 scrapers and a number of possible cores, as well as a large quantity of debitage all dating to the Neolithic to Mesolithic periods. This likely indicates a flint working area within the vicinity of this test pit, as seen on other sites in the Thames Valley close to a natural water course, in this case the River Ock.

Other finds material recovered from the test pits included a large quantity of animal bone mainly composed of sheep and cattle but also including pig, bird, and horse. A quantity of iron slag was also recovered, mostly dating to the post medieval to modern periods. Further artefacts have also been recovered from all test pits, including metal finds mostly dating to the post medieval to modern periods and fragments of clay pipe.

Small finds were also recovered from the test pits including: a small lead ball, possibly a fishing weight, a Cu alloy button and a fragment of clay pipe with a makers stamp (all from TP 9, Wick Cottages), all dating to the post medieval period.

Lastly, a series of features and structures were also identified within the nine test pits excavated. This includes: a rammed limestone surface at the base of TP 1 (Village Green), possibly related to medieval/post medieval market activities on the Green; a 14-course high limestone wall, forming the edge of the Mill leat found in TP 4 (Mill Cottage), post medieval in date; and a single post hole 0.15m deep, possibly prehistoric, in date found at the base of TP 5 (Charney Manor). Lastly, one gully feature 0.12 m deep was identified at the base of TP 9 (Wick Cottage) which contained large quantities of Neolithic worked flint material. This feature is thought to represent the earliest evidence for a settlement underlying the current village of Charney Bassett, within the vicinity of this test pit.

Summary of Project to Date

Through the work undertaken on the project since 2017, the archaeological remains unearthed demonstrate the development of the area of Charney Bassett from the Mesolithic period to the modern day. These includes Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint from around the

village, recovered from test pitting. Also, a Neolithic feature and large quantities of worked flint have been identified, in the vicinity of Wick Cottage on the south of the settlement close to the River Ock. This may indicate that the origins of the settlement of Charney developed within this area, and thereafter expanded overtime. A small quantity of Iron age pottery was also found in the area of The Green, indicating possible activity of this date occurring within the settlement. However, it is likely that most activity of this period (Iron Age), associated with Charney Bassett instead occurred in the fortified enclosure to the north, Cherbery Camp (Bradford, 1940).

The Roman settlement at Charney Bassett is then indicated by a small volume of Roman pottery recovered from test pitting, mainly found in the southern area of the modern settlement close to the River Ock, and later the Church. This may indicate a small rural Roman settlement in this area formed of a Roman farmstead. More evidence is required to better understand the Roman archaeology at Charney Bassett. The data then indicates that the settlement continued and grew in the area of Charney Wick during the Saxon period, likely forming into a small village. During the medieval period, archaeological evidence indicates that the village grew, shifting north to surround the Village Green, as demonstrated by the presence of medieval burgess plots fronting both current, as well as extant, roadways in the location of the modern village. The Village Green likely formed a market place at this time, with an area of hardstanding found within TP1, likely associated with the market. A comparable example was found within test pitting at Stanford in the Vale on the Church Green which also formed a market place during the medieval period. However, as demonstrated from pottery evidence from test pitting (TP 8 and 9) some domestic habitation continued in the area of Charney Wick, close to the River Ock and to the west of the Denchworth Road. This shift in the settlement further to the north is likely due to the construction of Charney Grange by Abingdon Abbey. As indicated by the geophysical survey the Grange was a large and impressive stone structure, likely two storeys. Auxiliary buildings to the Grange were also constructed at this time, including a water mill, with an associated leat system as demonstrated by TP4, and the small stone parish church of St Peters.

Evidence has been identified for the post medieval and modern settlement. As seen from pottery recovered from test pitting Charney Bassett continued to grow during these periods. However, some areas of the settlement also shrank, as demonstrated by the geophysical data, with the area of the medieval burgess plots close to the centre of the current village being abandoned and thereafter reverting to pasture.

Although a great deal of information has been identified using the techniques utilised during the 2017 to 2020 project seasons, further work is needed to better understand the way in which Charney Bassett has changed through time, including the location of the Roman and Saxon settlements, and to better understand the changing nature and expansion of the settlement during the medieval period.

Aims of 2021 Fieldwork

During the 2021 project season, three main types of archaeological work are hoped to be undertaken.

Firstly, geophysical surveys will continue in open areas of land within the village and its surrounding fields, with

Oxfordshire

the aim of producing a comprehensive map of the buried archaeology of the settlement. This will mainly be carried out using resistivity survey; however, GPR will also be further utilised where suitable sites are identified and magnetometry will be used within large fields on the edge of the current settlement.

Secondly, further test pitting will be undertaken within the village, mainly in built up areas or areas of difficult access, where it is not possible to carry out geophysical survey work. This keyhole excavation technique should improve the understanding of these areas within the settlement. The ability to use this technique will further show how the settlement and landscape has changed in these areas through time.

Thirdly, it is hoped that standing building recording can commence of several historic buildings in the village, including the Church and Manor House, including the utilisation of 3D laser scan techniques.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations who have helped me during the 2017–2020 project seasons. Special thanks go to all the landowners in the village who have let archaeological fieldwork be undertaken on their land. Thanks, should also be given to the members and committee of the Charney Bassett Local History Society, and the Parish Council who have helped to get the local community involved in the project and to disseminate information about the project to the local villagers. A special thanks must go to Ian Graham, Chair of the village's History Society and who instigated this Archaeological research project in Charney Bassett.

References

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- Wood, M. 1976. Excavations at Charney Bassett Manor by Derek Buchanan. *Transactions of the Newbury and District Field Club*, 12, 42–47.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archive reports referred to may be found at <https://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>

Abingdon-on-Thames, Land to the West of Wootton SU 49028 98771

RAY KENNEDY

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Late Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch potentially related to an Iron Age/Roman settlement identified during an evaluation to the east of the site. An undated ditch was also present.

CA Typescript Report No. CR0524_1

Bicester, Arncliffe Solar Farm SP 59964 17034

SARA-JAYNE BOUGHTON

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an enclosure or foundation trench/drip gully for a domestic or agricultural structure of probable Roman date. A small number of ditches and pits of a similar date were present.

The work also revealed the remnants of medieval and/or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Cuddesdon, Dovehouse Farm SP 60158 03063

BETHANY HARDCASTLE

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

CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Eynsham, Aurora Solar Farm SP 40767 09248

PAOLO GUARINO and JESSICA COOK

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified features relating to a Late Iron Age to Early Roman settlement identified by a preceding geophysical survey. The remains included enclosures, ditches, pits, and a stone-built crop-processing oven (Fig 4). The remnants of medieval and/or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and deposits related to the former Great Western Railway's Oxford, Witney and Fairford Branch Line were also present.

CA Typescript Report Forthcoming



Figure 4: Eynsham, Crop-processing oven, pre-excavation, looking east (1m scales)

Finnere, Finnere Quarry SP 62710 32521

JAKE STREATFIELD-JAMES

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology confirmed the results of a preceding geophysical survey and identified two probable ring ditches of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date (Fig 5). A series of late Iron Age boundary or enclosure ditches, respected the earlier ring ditches. Several post-medieval ditches and undated, but potentially modern, pits were also present.

CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Iffley, Court Place Gardens SP 52669 03362

FRANCESCO CATANZARO

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an Early Roman ditch along with two similar undated ditches.

CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

**Longworth, Land West of Haugh House
SU 38577 99431**

CRAIG JONES and RAY KENNEDY

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified Iron Age ditches and pits. Medieval agricultural ditches and pits, and post-medieval garden walls associated with the use of the site as gardens and orchards from the 17th century, were also recorded.

CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Marston, Hill View, Mill Lane SP 52300 09200

FRANCESCO CATANZARO

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified the remnants of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Stadhampton, Mill Fish Passage SU 60434 98390

KATHERINE HEBBARD

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

CA Typescript Report No. AN0197_1

Swinbrook, Land East of South Lawn SP 28797 14785

MARINO CARDELLI

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a post-medieval field boundary ditch, a pit or ditch and a pit containing an animal burial. Several undated ditches were also present.

CA Typescript Report No. CR0280_1

**Thame, Land to the East of Tythrop Way
SP 72106 05797**

RAY KENNEDY

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

CA Typescript Report No. AN0219_1



Figure 5 Finnere, Probable Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age ring ditch and recut, looking west (2m scale)

Oxfordshire

Watlington, Land at Britwell Road SU 68211 94495
STEVE BUSH

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology corroborated the result of a preceding evaluation and identified the continuation of a possible posthole alignment, potentially forming part of a post-built structure or post-marked boundary.

CA Typescript Report No. MK0250_2

Watlington, The Howe, Howe Road SU 69693 92228
TIM STREET and STEVE BUSH

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

CA Typescript Report Forthcoming

Woodstock, Land North of Shipton Road
SP 45761 16722
MONICA FOMBELLIDA

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified ditches and pits of late prehistoric and/or Roman date (Fig. 7) representing agricultural or domestic activity centred on a rectilinear enclosure. A possible well and cremation grave were recorded within the enclosure.

CA Typescript Report No. CR0066_1

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES Wroxton, Alpha Cottage SP 40986 41720

Alpha Cottage is an early 19th century Grade II listed agricultural cottage which has acquired and then partly lost considerable outbuildings. Its basic original form conforms strongly to a known type in a sub-region known as 'Banburyshire'. Modern conservation and re-ordering has maintained this in part while beginning to expand the range of accommodation as needs have changed.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Ashbury, Church of St Mary the Virgin SU 26535 84915
STEFFAN KLEMENIC

In January 2020 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Mary the Virgin Church, Church Lane, Ashbury, Oxfordshire. Excavation of a service trench took place in the north of the churchyard, however due to the shallow nature of the excavation no archaeological features were observed. A small quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered and reburied.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-382407

Beckley, Otmoor Lane SP 5665 1148
TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Crestan, Otmoor Lane, Beckley, Oxfordshire in May 2020. South Oxfordshire District Council had granted



Figure 6: Watlington, General view of excavation



Figure 7: Woodstock, Probable Late Prehistoric pit, looking west (0.3m scale)

planning permission for a dwelling and associated works. Two evaluation trenches were excavated in areas of potential impact; no archaeological features or deposits of archaeological merit were encountered. The absence of any Roman remains perhaps suggests that the route between Beckley Villa and the Alchester – Dorchester road passed to the north or south of the site. The two pit features recorded in one of the trenches contained artefacts dating to the late 19th and early 20th century and as such are likely to be associated with the cottages previously located in the area of the current residence, as seen on historic mapping (OS county series sheet Oxfordshire XXXIV.1).

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-395703

Drayton, Land West of 7 Oday Hill SU 4856 9512

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at land west of 7 Oday Hill, Drayton, Oxfordshire in July 2020. Planning permission was sought for the erection of a farm building, apron and access. The site is located within an area of considerable archaeological potential. Located on the south west corner of the proposed development was a circular feature, identified as a cropmark ring ditch (quarry ditch for a ploughed out round barrow). The evaluation also identified a series of archaeological features extending to the east of the barrow. These included post holes, pits and ditches from which a number of artefacts were recovered, including pottery, flint and animal bone. One sherd of pottery was dated to the Late Iron Age while one flint flake was of possible Mesolithic or Earlier Neolithic date. The

remains encountered therefore appear to represent activity dating from the Mesolithic or Neolithic, the Bronze Age and also the Iron Age.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-399245

Garsington, The Green SP 580 022

GAVIN DAVIS

In June 2020 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief on Land adjacent to The Green, Garsington, Oxfordshire during the excavations of the foundations for a new build. The site was located in an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of the settlement, however no archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-401331

Great Tew, St Michael and All Angels' Church

SP 39926 28874

SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief during groundworks for an extension at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Great Tew in August 2020. Despite the evident potential no articulated or disarticulated human remains were encountered during the watching brief. A single possible archaeological feature was encountered that may be associated with renovation of the church in the 19th century; however this remained unexcavated as it was situated below the level of impact and thus remains intact.

Oxfordshire

Harwell, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

SU 4753 8601

STEFFAN KLEMENIC

Between January and March 2020 an archaeological watching brief/strip, map, sample and record exercise was carried out at part of the former Blue car park for the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory prior to the erection of an employment building with associated car parking and landscaping. The northern portion of the site had been reduced significantly during previous development, therefore only the southern portion of the site was monitored. This watching brief provided further evidence for an Iron Age to Roman settlement formerly found to the east of the site, parts of which had been uncovered during previous phases of construction at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. Features recorded included linear ditches and pits of Middle Iron Age date, with linear features, a rectilinear enclosure, a well and a partial track way of Late Iron Age date. Occupation appeared to be continuous from the Iron Age into the Roman period; Roman occupation included pits, gullies, post holes and spreads of material, typical of a small scale Romano-British farming settlement.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-212346

Holton, Land Adjoining St Bartholomew's Church

SP 60471 06406

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at land adjoining St Bartholomew's Church, Holton, Oxfordshire in August 2020; the evaluation was undertaken ahead of a proposed change in use from agricultural land to an extension of the burial ground. The site is located adjacent to the 12th century St Bartholomew's Church, within the historic core of Holton village. Three trenches, 5, 10 and 15m in length were excavated within the proposal site, targeting slight earthworks seen on LIDAR imagery. A single trench contained archaeological features, comprising a substantial linear ditch and a smaller gully, both of which contained a range of pottery dating to the medieval period. The form of the larger ditch is indicative of a substantial enclosure or boundary ditch, perhaps associated with the nearby moated site at Church Farm, an early churchyard boundary or an element of a park pale associated with nearby Holton Park.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-401859

Long Wittenham, Fieldside Cottage

SU 54850 93894

STEPHEN YEATES

In August 2020 John Moore Heritage Services carried out historic building recording of Fieldside Cottage, Long Wittenham ahead of proposals to demolish the existing building and erect a replacement dwelling. A previous heritage statement had previously suggested that the building was probably an 18th century cottage, with a possibility that it could be 17th century, and that it had been reworked in the 19th century; however, this study was limited because of its non-intrusive nature.

The opening up of the walls during the building recording enabled further analysis of the structure to be made; demonstrating that the possible 17th century was perhaps an underestimate. The removal of the internal plaster identified the remains of wattle and daub walling in numerous rooms,

which was seen to be relatively intact. Timber framing also survived, but was largely infilled with brick at a later date. The surviving wattle and daub panels were interpreted as internal walls, protected by aisles or outshots, or the other half of the cottage. One section of internal walling, located alongside the stairwell, was contemporary with the original structure, while the others were a later insertion, probably of late 18th century date.

Based on the structural evidence recorded during the investigation the first phase of the building was a hall house, with a parlour and a gallery above the parlour with aisles or outshots on the northwest and northeast sides. If aisles, the structure may have been an aisle-derivative house of the late 13th to early 14th centuries, while if these were outshot structures with no chimney stack evident, then it may be a structure of the late 15th to early 16th century. Later phases saw the internal reorganisation of the house, including the insertion of a stairwell and chimneystacks.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-401664

Long Wittenham, High Street, Wittenham Court

SU 5450 9386

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief at Wittenham Court, Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire during groundworks for a greenhouse in December 2020. Despite the potential for Iron Age, Saxon and medieval remains no archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-410268

Long Wittenham, Northfield Farm

SU 5551 9488

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

In November 2020 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham. The purpose of the watching brief was for the erection of new entrance gates. During the watching brief, two separate foundation pads were excavated. This particular area had potential for Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman remains. However, over the course of the watching brief, no archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1_409194

North Stoke, 4 Whitehouse Road

SU 61362 86044

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

In October 2020 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 4 Whitehouse Road, North Stoke during the construction of a two storey side and single storey rear extension. During the watching brief, a series of foundation trenches were excavated, as well as an area excavated for the purpose of constructing a new manhole drain. This particular area had potential for prehistoric remains. Over the course of the watching brief, a modern manhole drain was uncovered, alongside active sewage pipes and other modern services. However, no significant archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-407197

Oxford, 8 Hollybush Row SP 50693 06193

SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out archaeological monitoring at 8 Hollybush Row, Oxford, during excavation for a short foundation in May 2020. A series of post-medieval to modern made ground layers were observed. No other archaeological features were present. Further work is planned.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-402966

Oxford, Barton Village Road SP 5507 0783

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out a series of archaeological investigations at Barton Village Road, Oxford between June 2019 and July 2020. An initial programme of historic building recording identified two separate structures, both with possible medieval origins (Fig. 8). The earliest, southern, building is considered to be a structure of the 13th to 14th century AD, as indicated by surviving details seen in historic photographs. The northern building, which was later converted into two cottages, appears to have been butted up to the southern building and is therefore likely of later date. The date of this structure is uncertain, though may have initially been part of a medieval structure abutting the south structure. Archaeological evaluation recorded a boundary ditch along the western boundary of the site, considered likely to have been the medieval property boundary. A supplementary watching brief revealed this to be a substantial boundary, at least 3m in width and 1.6m in depth. Additional features recorded during the evaluation included the rear wall of the post-medieval buildings and a well, also associated with the buildings and depicted on historic mapping. There was clear potential for the presence of further archaeological remains, however further investigation was unfortunately not possible due to development within the site prior to archaeological consultation.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-403778

Oxford, Blenheim Drive SP 50070 09540

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

In November 2020 three evaluation trenches were excavated ahead of a planning application for the demolition of no 20 Blenheim Drive and subsequent erection of eight houses. This particular area had potential for Palaeolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains. Over the course of the evaluation, an undated ditch feature, a modern pit feature and two natural features were uncovered. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1_410068

Oxford, Meadow Larkins, Headington SP 54598 07667

TOM ROSE-JONES

In August 2020 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Meadow Larkins, Larkins Lane, Headington, Oxford ahead of a proposed extension and landscaping. Two trenches 15m in length were excavated in areas of potential impact. No significant archaeological features were identified within one trench located within the area of the proposed extension. The other trench, sited within the

proposed parking area, contained a series of archaeological features. These comprised a substantial stone wall foundation and four small gullies. The stone wall did not correspond to any identified through historic map regression; stone slate recovered from the fill of the wall's construction cut provided a broad date, from the medieval period onwards. The linear gullies present did not appear associated with the wall as they were on a different, irregular alignment; a single sherd of 13th–14th century pottery was recovered from one of these features.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-401855

Oxford, Botley, Seacourt Park and Ride, Botley Road

SP 49295 06463

STEFFAN KLEMENIC

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief to the east side of the existing Seacourt Park and Ride. A number of deep services were monitored before agreement with the City Archaeological Officer to cease monitoring of these. A late 19th–20th century dumping area was exposed during the turf removal in the south portion of the site and a possible cut feature was observed along the length of a service trench. However, the site was then shut down over the winter of 2019 due to flooding. In the summer of 2020 JMHS was informed by the developer that work had finished on site.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-401854

Oxford, The George Public House, Littlemore

SP 53669 02675

GRACE GRIFFITH and SCOTT GORDON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at the land to the rear of The George Inn, 5 Sandford Road, Littlemore, Oxfordshire in November 2020. The site was of interest because it is located close to recorded Roman remains and within the historic core of the Late Saxon and medieval settlement of Littlemore. The evaluation comprised two trenches, both of which revealed substantial disturbance from bioturbation. All other observed deposits and features were modern.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-409462

Oxford, University College Main Quad, Room 1:3

SP 51715 06220

SARAH DOHERTY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out a programme of historic building recording at University College, Oxford in February 2020. Room 1:3 is located in the west range of the main quadrangle at University College, Oxford. The main quadrangle has four ranges, of which the north one borders the High Street. The other ranges are bounded by the University College grounds.

University College is a designated heritage asset with the buildings across this College site containing 12 different listings. The West range of the main quadrangle is a Grade I listed structure (LB 1300275). As University College grew, work began in 1634 to replace its medieval buildings with a new front quadrangle; the west range was built first and completed in 1635.

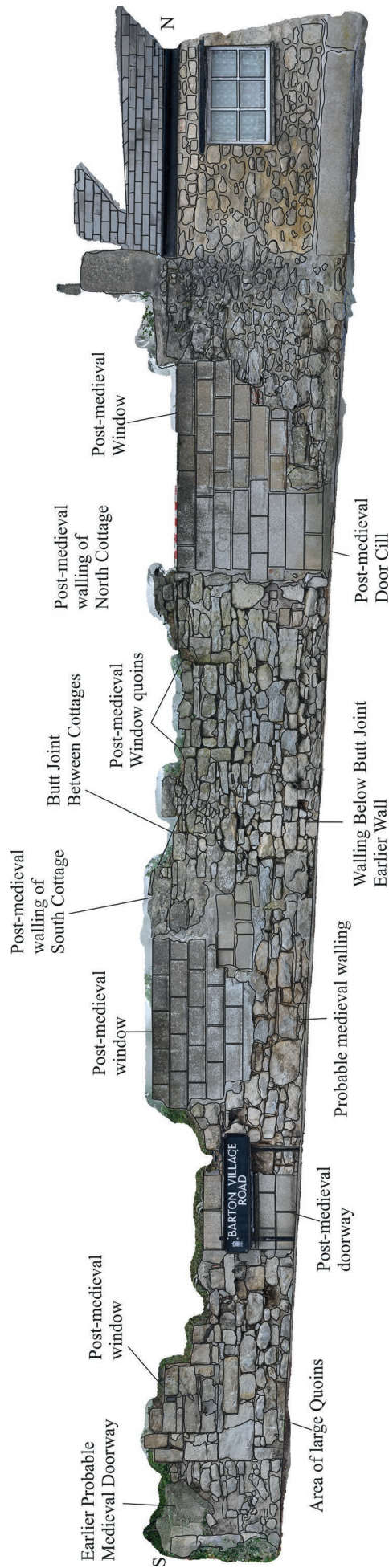


Figure 8: Oxford, Barton Road, Elevation showing phasing

The development was for internal alterations to the second floor of staircase 1 to create a fellows set with en-suite facilities, part of which included the creation of a new doorway. The planning conditions included an intermittent watching brief to record the creation of the new doorway.

It is likely that the West Quad experienced at least four phases of minor alterations and refurbishments, occurring every one hundred years or so from the 17th-20th century, with the most recent in the 1990s. During the stripping out works, a possible earlier wall was noted on the floorboards of Room 1:3. This could indicate a now removed room or corridor. The newly created doorway may have previously been in the location of a previous door, which was blocked up in the 1990s. Alternatively, it may have been opened to provide access for service pipes for the modern bathroom.

Oxford, Wolvercote Primary School, Wolvercote

SP 4975 0977

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Wolvercote Primary School, Wolvercote, Oxfordshire, during the excavation of a service trench and excavations for a chamber in August 2020. The excavations identified a possible ditch which was undated. It was possible that the feature had been created due to bioturbation connected to the large conifers that were in close proximity to the western area of the excavation; however the feature possibly aligned with an undated ditch found during an earlier evaluation on the site (SMA 44) and may have been continuous with that ditch.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-401630

Shipton-on-Cherwell, Church of the Holy Cross

SP 48020 16520

TOM ROSE-JONES

In June 2020 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Church of the Holy Cross, Shipton-on-Cherwell, Oxfordshire ahead of determination of a planning application for the construction of a new W/C building and associated works and at the request of the Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee. No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, demonstrating that the area proposed for the W/C, on the peripheral edge of the churchyard, had not been used for burials. This is likely due to the topography of the location, which is on the very edge of the churchyard and in an area of sloping ground that drops away steeply to the south.

OASIS ID: johnmoor1-395697

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Elsfield and Beckley and Stowood parishes, north of Bayswater Brook

SP 54505 08696

JOHN BOOTHROYD

In March to May 2020, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation north of Bayswater Brook in the parishes of Elsfield and Beckley and Stowood. The 212 trenches were positioned to enable the investigation of potential features identified by geophysical survey and from cropmarks.

In general, the results of the evaluation suggest an agricultural landscape with land management ditches comprising the majority of the archaeological features identified. Enclosure ditches of Roman date were recorded across the central and eastern parts of the site. No evidence of Headington Wick Roman villa was identified within the trenches despite the suggestion that the villa may extend into the development area. In addition, boundary ditches and a trackway of post-medieval date were present. The boundary ditches correspond to features identified from historic mapping.

Eynsham, Cotswold Garden Village SP 43007 10428

LEE SPARKS, JIM MUMFORD and CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on the site of the proposed housing development north of Eynsham between September 2019 and January 2020. A preceding geophysical survey undertaken in 2019 detected a range of anomalies of possible or probable archaeological origin, including two circular/curvilinear anomalies suggestive of ring ditches and a series of linear anomalies interpreted as a series of enclosures or sub-enclosures. The geophysical survey results also reflect variations in the natural geology and medieval/post-medieval to modern agricultural land use.

A total of 93 trenches were investigated across five areas of the proposed development site, some of which were targeted upon selected geophysical anomalies interpreted as being of possible archaeological origin. Of these, 22 trenches were found to contain archaeological remains of pre-modern date generally comprising ditches, pits and postholes.

A ring ditch in the north of Area 4 may have been of early Bronze Age date, and the remains of a possible associated bank and buried topsoil were also identified. A second ring ditch excavated further to the south-east in Area 6 may have been of similar date, though only Iron Age pottery was recovered from the feature. It is possible that the ring ditches represented the remains of Bronze Age barrows that continued to occupy the landscape into the Iron Age.

Evidence of more intensive prehistoric land use activity on site is dated to the Iron Age, with a notable concentration of inter-cutting ditches suggestive of agricultural activity revealed in the centre of Area 4. A number of undated features in the same area of the site may be indicative of related Iron Age activity.

In the south of Area 3, the remains of a series of ditches and a few pits were recorded providing evidence of an enclosure system that extended further southwards as the geophysical survey results suggested. The pottery, animal bone and fired clay assemblages, together with the charred plant remains, are suggestive of a small-scale Romano-British rural settlement.

Limited medieval/post-medieval to modern remains, mostly comprising evidence of ridge and furrow and land drains crossing the site, are demonstrative of a continued agricultural use of the landscape during these periods.

Eynsham, Polar Technology, Oasis Business Park

SP 42761 08768

ANDREW SIMMONDS

Between April and July 2018 Oxford Archaeology excavated an area of c 1.7ha in advance of construction of an extension

Oxfordshire

to Polar Technology Management Group Ltd's offices at Oasis Business Park. The site was situated adjacent to a scheduled cropmark complex comprising Bronze Age ring ditches and barrows and Iron Age/Roman enclosures and settlement sites. Topographically, the site was located 1km north-west of a northern loop in the River Thames by means of which the river circumvents the limestone outcrop of Wytham Hill before turning south to pass through Oxford.

The excavation revealed a large number of small- to medium-sized pits ranging in date from the early Neolithic period to the 19th century, many of which could not be dated. The majority of the datable pits contained middle Neolithic Peterborough ware pottery, as well as small quantities of animal bone and flint. Of particular note within one of these pits was a crouched burial (Fig. 9) similar to contemporary examples previously excavated within the Upper Thames Valley at Stanton Harcourt, Radley, Berinsfield and Newnham Murren (Morigi *et al.* 2011, 395–8). Three pits dated from the earliest Iron Age and there was evidence for small-scale gravel quarrying during the Roman and medieval periods. A single early to middle Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building was found, which contained a stone palette for mixing cosmetics or medicines that had presumably been scavenged from an abandoned Roman settlement somewhere in the vicinity.

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time: the archaeology of the gravel terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames. Early prehistory to 1500 BC, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph 32, Oxford

Great Milton SP 65035 03070

MICHAEL DONNELLY

In May 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation in Great Milton parish. The main purpose of this evaluation was to test the quality and date of a series of rectilinear enclosures identified through geophysical prospection and to investigate the presence of a putative villa complex. The evaluation identified a sequence of very late Iron Age to late Roman activity on site, but the evidence suggests a large enclosed rural settlement rather than a villa complex. The evaluation also confirmed a middle Iron Age date for a series of ring ditches that were also present on the geophysical plot. The evaluation also identified very limited early prehistoric flintwork of probable Mesolithic or Neolithic date.

Harwell, Didcot Road SU 5043 8942

BEN ATTFIELD

In September 2020, Oxford Archaeology carried out a twelve-trench archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed housing development east of Didcot Road, Harwell. The site lies just to the west of Didcot, which is a landscape rich in prehistoric, Roman and Saxon archaeology. Only two of the evaluation trenches contained archaeological features, in the



Figure 9: Eynsham, Middle Neolithic burial, view to north, scale 1m

form of two undated ditch systems and a potential pit. No finds were recovered. The ditches appeared to form part of undated field system.

Littlemore, Northfield School SP 54727 02475

ROBERT MCINTOSH

In February 2020, Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation on a site proposed for the construction of new buildings for Northfield School, Littlemore. A total of three trenches were excavated across the site, and two undated ditches were recorded, along with a series of modern ditches and drains.

Long Wittenham, Rosehurst Farm SU 54767 93595

GERRY THACKER

In August 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation comprising 17 trenches at Rosehurst Farm, Long Wittenham. The trenches were targeted on the results of a geophysical survey. The evaluation revealed two parallel ditches interpreted as a trackway, and a parallel sequence of ditches, all of Roman date. Other similarly aligned ditches were undated, but also potentially of similar date. A rectilinear feature identified by the geophysical survey was formed of parallel linear features, potentially beamslots, one of which had been cut by a posthole containing pottery of 5th-7th century date, and may represent an Anglo-Saxon hall. A similar geophysical anomaly was also tested by trenching but remained undated, whilst a third comprised a shallow linear feature and a modern posthole and is less convincing. A large feature also contained pottery of 5th-7th century date, and was interpreted as a pit. A potential hall identified from cropmarks was not present on the geophysical survey. A trench targeted on the cropmark's position revealed a single undated linear feature, interpreted as a ditch. A potential pit alignment remained undated and may comprise a series of postholes forming a fenceline. Other geophysical anomalies proved to be quarries of late post-medieval date.

Middleton Stoney, Bullmarsh Close SP 53077 23594

PAUL MURRAY

In March 2020, Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation of the site of a proposed new residential development at Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire. The evaluation of two trenches recorded a buried soil horizon, two pits and a well. One of the pits produced a small assemblage of pottery representing at least six medieval vessels. The second pit, the buried soil and the well were undated, but they may be of medieval date. The evaluation established that the upper structure of the well had been levelled to a depth of c 1m below present ground level. A 20th century deposit, c 0.8m in depth, recorded in both trenches indicated that the area had been landscaped relatively recently, and is likely to be contemporary with the construction of nearby houses.

Oxford, Convent of the Incarnation SP 52634 04778

ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief of five areas at the site of Convent of the Incarnation, Fairacres, Oxford between February and June 2020. The watching brief confirmed the continuation of the Roman ditch previously

recorded during the evaluation. This ditch is significant as Roman activity is known in the east Oxford area, although not in close proximity to the site. This ditch extended northwards through Areas 2 but there was no evidence for the ditch continuing south into Area 3. This suggests that the ditch either terminates or changes direction between the two areas. The watching brief also recorded previously unknown 19th-20th century structures including a limestone soakaway.

Oxford, Corfe Field House SP 50582 08948

PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief in February and September 2020 during the construction of an attenuation tank and drainage swale at St Edward's School, Woodstock Road, Oxford. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the works, although a number of dumped rubbish deposits containing a significant quantity of earthenware vessels and glass bottles were recorded dating to the 1950s.

Oxford, Dragon School SP 51448 07876

PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at the Dragon School, Oxford in October 2020. The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches within the footprint of a proposed new Music School, a link to Lynam Hall and associated landscaping. The evaluation recorded three shallow gullies and terracing deposits for the current tarmacked sports area. Although no datable artefacts were recovered from the gullies, they possibly represent garden features to the rear of Lane House, which appears to have originally extended further to the north-east prior to the construction of the sports area.

Oxford, Exeter College Library Project SP 5150 0639

ELIZABETH KENNARD

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at Exeter College Library in August 2020. Exeter College Library (HE: 1046722) is a Grade II listed building, built by George Gilbert Scott in the 19th century. The building comprises a two-storey library which has a single-storey annexe at the eastern end. A total of six test pits located across the site were hand-excavated to depths ranging between 1m to 1.30m below ground level. Test Pits 1, 2, 6 and 7 were located within the annexe and Test Pit 3 was located within the eastern extent of the library. Test Pit 4 was in the external alley to the east of the annexe and Test Pit 5 was located within the Rector's Garden. Several test pits were also hand-augured to retrieve information about deposits below the limits of the hand-excavations. Test Pit 2, located within the annexe building against the eastern wall, had to be abandoned.

Archaeology was encountered between 0.15m and 0.40m below ground level within all excavated test pits. Terrace gravels were only encountered in one auger hole in Test Pit 6 at 61.84mOD. In other test pits archaeological deposits were observed within hand-auger holes to extend below this level, and this is thought to indicate the presence of archaeological features. The gravels and features were overlain by homogenous deposits of humic garden soils in all test pits, except Test Pit 7 where fills were observed

Oxfordshire

instead. Two of the test pits (3 and 7) contained cut features containing medieval finds. Structural deposits and features were present within Test Pits 1, 5, and 6, and comprised a thin mortar surface and potential limestone walls which were overlain by medieval garden soils.

Two individual pieces of disarticulated human bone were recovered, one in the backfill of the construction cut for the annexe in Test Pit 5 and the other within garden soil recorded within Test Pit 3 in the library. This indicates that a nearby cemetery may have been disturbed. These human remains may have been associated with the 14th century Exeter College chapel which was located in the vicinity of the annexe. In addition, an unusual thick flat tile was recovered from Test Pit 6. It is possible this was a reused Roman tile or an unusual type of post-medieval ceramic building material.

The post-medieval limestone foundations of the existing structures were also recorded along with garden soils of this date. A north-south aligned limestone wall and mortar surface were also recorded in the southern part of the site. This may relate to the previous library building, which was constructed in 1664 and demolished in the later 18th century. Test Pit 5 also contained a well-preserved cobbled surface with an overlying heavily compacted gravel surface.

Oxford, Hertford College SP 51621 06498

ELIZABETH KENNARD and ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief in September 2020 at Hertford College. A total of five trenches were excavated across the college to facilitate the installation of new electrical services. These were located within Old Quad, New Quad and Holywell Quad. The trenches varied in size and ranged in depth from 0.40m to 0.90m below ground level.

Within the Holywell Quad, a north-south aligned limestone wall was recorded at the northern end. This may relate to the post-medieval tenements that would have fronted onto Holywell Street during this period. Archaeological deposits and features were also recorded within Old Quad. These could be contemporary with the demolition and redevelopment phase of Hertford College during the 19th century.

Oxford, Magdalen College, Winter Common Room SP 5210 0616

TOM BLACK and ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Magdalen College, Oxford in October to December 2019. The watching brief was undertaken as part of the works associated with the Winter Common Room Project. These areas included the kitchen drain, ground reductions in the maintenance yard, the ground floor of the Chaplains East Range and ground floor areas in the southern range. The watching brief recorded remains of disparate lengths of limestone foundations immediately beneath the existing floors, as well as the uppermost courses of the foundations to extant walls. The foundations to the extant outer walls date to the 15th century and the 17th century. The internal remains probably relate to previous structural divisions within the southern range of the Great Quad and the Chaplains East Range. Their undiagnostic construction combined with the

lack of any associated datable artefactual evidence prevents an accurate date estimate. The structures in the south range of the Great Quad may predate the 18th century partitioning and those in the Chaplains East Range probably date to the later 19th or 20th century partitioning.

Oxford, Mitre Inn SP 5144 0625

STEVE TEAGUE, ADAM FELLINGHAM and LIZ KENNARD

Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological works at the Mitre Inn, Turl Street, Oxford in July 2019 to March 2020. Targeted excavation and watching briefs near to the Turl Street frontage recorded a redeposited natural gravel layer that contained late Saxon pottery, cut by several pits dating to the Norman period. A subsequent garden soil was truncated by a large stone-built oven dated to c 1150–1250 (Fig. 10). The oven was probably contained within a structure, of which only robber trenches survived. A later cobbled surface located immediately adjacent to the Turl Street frontage had been resurfaced on at least one occasion. The surface had been cut by north-south wall foundation that probably formed the frontage of a building of later medieval date. It had subsequently been robbed, possibly between c 1690–1720 or later. Elsewhere on the site, two wall foundations and several cobbled surfaces were recorded, all likely to be of later medieval date. Garden soils were recorded within a number of trenches during the watching brief, both within the Mitre Inn and the alley leading from its rear. The latest contained clay pipe fragments dated to 1630–55.



Figure 10: Stone oven dated to the late 12th-early 13th century

Oxford, Paradise Square SP 5102 0602

STEVEN TEAGUE and BEN ATTFIELD

Proposals for a new hotel at Paradise Square, Oxford, led to a programme of archaeological work by Oxford Archaeology. This comprised a watching brief undertaken between September and October 2019 followed by targeted excavation between October and December 2019. The site lies immediately outside the west gate of medieval Oxford and on the site of the second St Budoc's church, constructed c 1222–3. Around 1272, part of the site was acquired by the Friars of the Sack and subsequently granted to the Friars Minors (Greyfriars) in May 1309.

During the late Saxon period, the site remained low-lying, and the earliest level comprised alluvial deposits that contained a sherd of late Saxon St Neots ware pottery. Subsequent dumping was cut by two possible beamslots, a pit and a ditch, the latter containing pottery dated to the early Norman period. Further and more substantial dumping raised the ground level by up to 0.36m after which a number of rubbish pits containing pottery dated to the late 12th or early 13th centuries were dug. The remains of up to three stone buildings were revealed, likely to have been constructed by the early 13th century. Their date and the presence of hearths within them precludes their identification as St Budoc's church or the buildings pertaining to of the Friars of the Sack. The buildings were demolished and a rutted cobbled surface, possibly a track, was laid over their remains. Its makeup contained a large amount of pottery dated to c 1250–1350. From the late 14th century thick accumulations of garden soils developed over the site, likely to be associated with Paradise Gardens that once formed part of Blackfriars.

Oxford, St Edmund Hall, Old Dining Hall Ramp SP 5185 0630

ELIZABETH KENNARD

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief in August 2020 at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. This was undertaken during the construction of a new disabled access ramp for the 17th century Grade I listed Old Dining Hall (HE: 1369683), on the west side of the Front Quad.

A single trench was machine excavated to between 0.45m and 0.60m below existing ground level (60.27maOD) and was located adjacent to the eastern wall of the Old Dining Hall within the Front Quad. The earliest deposit encountered within the trench was an undated garden soil, a possible limestone surface, and a garden soil dating from the late medieval to early post-medieval period. These deposits probably predate the construction of the existing college West Range and indicate survival of late medieval-early post-medieval archaeological sequences at the site. The limestone foundations for the Old Dining Hall were also partially revealed. The joint between foundation and wall probably indicates the level of construction for the existing West Range. Although no construction cut was visible, this horizon appears to separate the pre-mid-17th century archaeological sequence from the post mid-17th century deposits.

Oxford, St James School SP 53994 03851

JOHN BOOTHROYD

In March 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation at St James' School, Beauchamp Lane, Oxford.

The works comprised two trenches which revealed four undated pits and part of an undated mortar surface, overlain by a series of post-medieval levelling deposits.

Oxford, Somerville College Kitchen SP 5101 0700

ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Somerville College, Oxford between October and December 2020. This work was done as part of the renovation of the kitchen and dining hall. Whilst untruncated natural gravel survived within the site, no archaeological deposits or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were observed. The construction deposits associated with the kitchen and dining hall were recorded along with 19th-century garden soils.

Oxford, Trinity College SP 5144 0657

STEVE TEAGUE and ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation and watching brief at the site of a re-development at the college during July to November 2019. The site lies within the northern suburb of medieval Oxford was within the vicinity of Durham College, constructed during the 1290s and re-founded as Trinity College in 1555.

The earliest activity included a number of gravel quarries containing pottery dated between the mid-12th and 14th centuries. Within one pit were the heavily robbed remains of a keyhole-shaped oven. The pits may have been delimited to the north by a ditch, possibly a property or other land division, perhaps with Durham College. After a hiatus of activity until the mid-16th century, gravel extraction resumed, largely within areas that had not previously been subject to pit excavation. One pit contained a large assemblage of early flowerpots dated to 1650–1700. Later features included the remains of a labyrinth or maze incorporating a sculptural fountain-like structure that was constructed within the gardens of Trinity College in c 1706 (Fig. 11).

Oxford, Worcester College, Staircases 3–6 SP 50898 06526

ANGELA WARNER

In 2018–2020, Oxford Archaeology undertook an historic building watching brief at Worcester College, Oxford during works to Staircases 3–6 of the Grade I listed north range. The works comprised reservicing, various internal and external repairs, alterations to the attic storey which was added in 1926 and replacing the copper roof covering.

The north range was constructed in two phases in the 18th century, replacing a range of medieval buildings, and it is evident that there have been numerous phases of alteration to the range during its lifetime, particularly with the opening-out of the sets, originally arranged in the same manner as the medieval sets in the surrounding buildings, and the provision of bathrooms in 1966.

Oxford, Worcester College, Staircases 7–10 SP 50899 06477

ANGELA WARNER

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken historic building recording in 2019 at Worcester College, Oxford on the western part of the south range of medieval camerae (known



Figure 11: Oxford, Base of water fountain (c. 1706) at Trinity College

as Staircases 7–10). The investigation was undertaken in the form of a watching brief during essential upgrading and reservicing work.

The range was constructed in the 15th century as individual buildings for monastic scholars at what was then Gloucester College. Each building was originally two-storeyed, with the first floor open to the roof, but an additional second floor was inserted into each in the mid-17th century. It is not possible to say which order owned which property, but the building which is now staircase 9 appears to have been of a slightly higher status. Evidence of various phases of modernization and reservicing were recorded including features relating to the installation of gas lighting in the 19th century and electrical services in the early to mid-20th century.

Upper Heyford, Former Upper Heyford Airbase, Hardened Aircraft Shelters SP 50571 26970

JON GILL and CONAN PARSONS

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken numerous projects in recent years at the former Cold War airbase at Upper Heyford. One element of this work in 2019–20 was the photographic recording of floor markings in two hardened aircraft shelters. These shelters (building numbers 3008 & 3009) are in the Quick Reaction Alert area which is a scheduled monument. Photogrammetry was used to produce scaled orthoimages of the floors within each shelter.

Wallingford, Lupton Road SU 5993 8902

STEVE LAWRENCE

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at Lupton Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire in January 2020.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches and shallow linear ditches and pits were recorded in all trenches. Artefactual evidence was entirely absent and therefore all features were undated. The arrangement of linear features is suggestive of field boundaries or enclosures. The absence of artefacts and any obvious settlement-related features, such as postholes or penannular gullies, suggest that the site is located away from its contemporary areas of occupation.

Wantage, Crab Hill SU 40510 89010

MARTYN ALLEN and ALEX DAVIES

In September 2018 to May 2019, excavations to the north-east of Wantage, Oxfordshire, uncovered a long-lived Iron Age and Roman settlement alongside more ephemeral evidence for earlier prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon activity. The earliest archaeological remains comprised a small number of residual early prehistoric worked flints. A small assemblage of largely residual late Bronze Age pottery suggests the presence of settlement activity nearby.

The first clear evidence of settlement remains dated to the earliest Iron Age. The settlement appears to have been established in the 8th or 7th century BC, represented by a large post-built roundhouse containing All Cannings Cross pottery. A further five post-built roundhouses and six roundhouses defined by penannular ditches dated to the earliest or early Iron Age. A further post-built roundhouse was not dated, but probably stood during this phase. Also dated to the earliest/early Iron Age were two adjacent linear pit groups, a four-post structure, and nine pits including one that contained an infant and the disarticulated bones of one or more juveniles. A total of 15 roundhouses defined by

penannular ditches dated to the middle Iron Age, alongside 12 pits, a four-post structure and several linear features. Another four-post structure, a possible six-post structure, 19 pits and other minor features were broadly dated as 'Iron Age' (pertaining to either the early or middle Iron Age). Late Iron Age activity was represented by a substantial circular enclosure that may have surrounded a building.

The settlement was significantly reorganised early in the Roman period. Two rectilinear enclosures and minor subsidiary enclosures were established, with a ditch cutting and possibly purposefully slighting the late Iron Age circular enclosure. The Roman enclosures were recut multiple times throughout the following centuries and the organisation of the site remained remarkably consistent until it was abandoned at the end of the 4th century AD. A middle Roman corndryer (Fig.12) and two late Roman corndryers were discovered, along with two late Roman wells. A fragment of a quern made from raw material quarried in the Channel Islands or northern France was also discovered. One early Saxon sunken-featured building was discovered, probably dating to the 6th or 7th century. This phase of occupation is not likely to have immediately followed on from the Roman settlement. The later medieval period saw the site come under arable cultivation, signified by the presence of numerous furrows. A trackway of late 15th–16th-century date was found to extend southwards towards Wantage.

Woodstock, Blenheim Net Zero Project SP 45588 18056
CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed solar farm that forms part of the

Blenheim Net Zero Project, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, in October 2020. A preceding geophysical survey of the 12ha site undertaken in May 2020 detected a small number of anomalies of possible and probable archaeological origin. These were suggestive of successive trackways or field boundaries, a D-shaped enclosure and a ring ditch. The geophysical survey results also reflect numerous variations in the natural geology and modern agricultural land use activities.

A total of 66 trenches were investigated across an 8.9ha area of the site, the majority of which were targeted upon geophysical anomalies. Of these, seven trenches were found to contain archaeological remains comprising a small number of ditches and pits concentrated in the south of the site. A small quantity of worked flint and a pit containing broadly middle Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery provides limited evidence of low-level prehistoric activity on site and within the surrounding landscape.

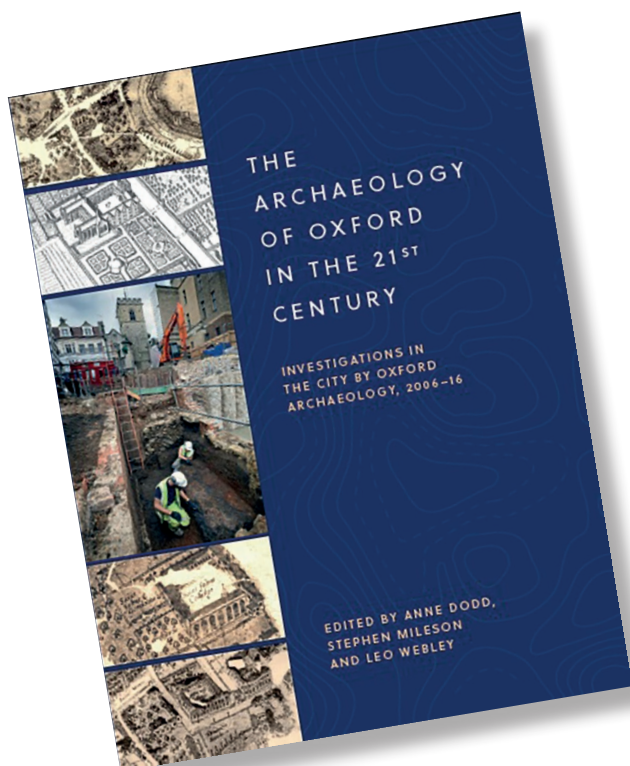
A series of parallel ditches appear to have delineated a trackway that crossed the south of the site on an ENE–WSW alignment. The offset nature of one of the ditches is suggestive of a different phase of the same trackway or perhaps an associated field boundary. Small quantities of early and middle Roman pottery and animal bones provide evidence of deposition that may have been related to nearby settlement activity. Earthwork and cropmark evidence suggest that the trackway was connected to a nearby Roman farmstead (Scheduled Monument No. 1006357). The trackway perhaps formed part of a local network associated with Akeman Street located to the north, connecting nearby settlement and villa sites to the major Roman road.



Figure 12 : Wantage, Middle Roman corndryer

The Archaeology of Oxford in the 21st Century

BY ANNE DODD, STEPHEN MILESON, LEO WEBLEY



A major new contribution to the archaeology and history of Oxford, including introductory chapters by Tom Hassall and David Radford.

The results of a 2016 excavation within the area of the former Oxford Jewry on St Aldate's have been published in a new book, 'The Archaeology of Oxford in the 21st Century'.

The volume, the first in a new series of Occasional Papers published by the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society, presents the results of eleven excavations carried out by Oxford Archaeology within the historic walled city of Oxford and in the extramural area just to the north.

The investigations shed fresh light on the character of medieval Oxford, both before and after the Norman Conquest, and on the early modern city, including its Civil War defences. Of special interest is evidence from St Aldate's which offers what is very likely to be the first medieval Jewish signature in British zooarchaeology. The site, located in a tenement on St Aldate's behind what is now Sainsbury's, is recorded as having a Jewish owner in the late 13th century.

The findings are set within a larger context by a chapter outlining the key findings, a new synthesis of current knowledge of Oxford's archaeology, and an examination of the changing aims and methods of archaeology carried out in the city over the last fifty years. Viewed as a whole, the book represents a significant new contribution to knowledge of Oxford's archaeology and history. Available to purchase from: <https://oahs.org.uk/>

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

Needless to say, 2020 was not a 'normal' year for the Oxfordshire Buildings Record. Nevertheless 16 buildings were investigated, four 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. Most of the other buildings were recorded at the request of the owners or arose through site visits carried out during examination of listed building planning applications by members who are also OAHs caseworkers. Two were recorded by students on OUDCE courses working under OBR supervision.

David Clark, OBR

Botley, Apple Acres, Eynsham Road SP 475 059

DAVID CLARK

Apple Acres (Fig.13) seems to be one of the surviving buildings of the grange of Abingdon Abbey at Dean Court. Although studied in some detail in the 1990s, this building was not part of that investigation.¹ It lies to the south of the Eynsham Road, with the surviving fragment of the medieval house opposite to the north. The house consists of two main parts, a rubble stone one-and-a-half storey thatched cottage aligned north-south, linked to a two-storey rendered block at right angles to it at the north. The floor plan is shown at Fig. 15.

The cottage range has a number of early features, including a wide C17 fireplace on the ground floor with a bread oven and a timber bressumer with a burn mark. There are also two diamond-mullion timber windows, one at ground floor level with early leaded glass; the other in a heavily sooted context within the attic space above (Fig.14).

The northern range was clearly later, and as it does not have an external doorway or an internal staircase, was built as additional accommodation contemporary with the link structure that contained these features.

A detailed survey was made and can be read at <https://obr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/415-87-Eynsham-Road-final-2.pdf> along with a timeline from documentary sources. Interpretation of this evidence was not straightforward, as many of the features were idiosyncratic and untypical of 'normal' building types. Nevertheless, a tentative development history of Apple Acres was produced that suggested that its origins lay in a C15/C16 detached kitchen for Dean Court House adjacent. It also had other service rooms to the north. In the late C16/early C17, when cooking at Dean Court House was taken into the house, the redundant service range was converted into cottages and fireplaces inserted. It remained as three cottages through various changes until occupied by the Inness family, who in c.1840 rebuilt their (northern) part. The whole house was converted to a single dwelling around 1945.

Chipping Norton, 8 Market Street SP 31335 27222

PAUL CLARK

8 Market Street (Fig. 16), a grade II listed building (NHLE Number 1183239), is situated on what was probably the west side of Chipping Norton Market Place before infilling with what is now Middle Row. The Market Place slopes

1 Allen, Tim et al (1994) 'A Medieval Grange of Abingdon Abbey at Dean Court Farm, Cumnor' in *Oxoniensia* LIX pp.219-448



Figure 13: Botley, Apple Acres from the south-east



Figure 14: Botley, Sooted window within roof space

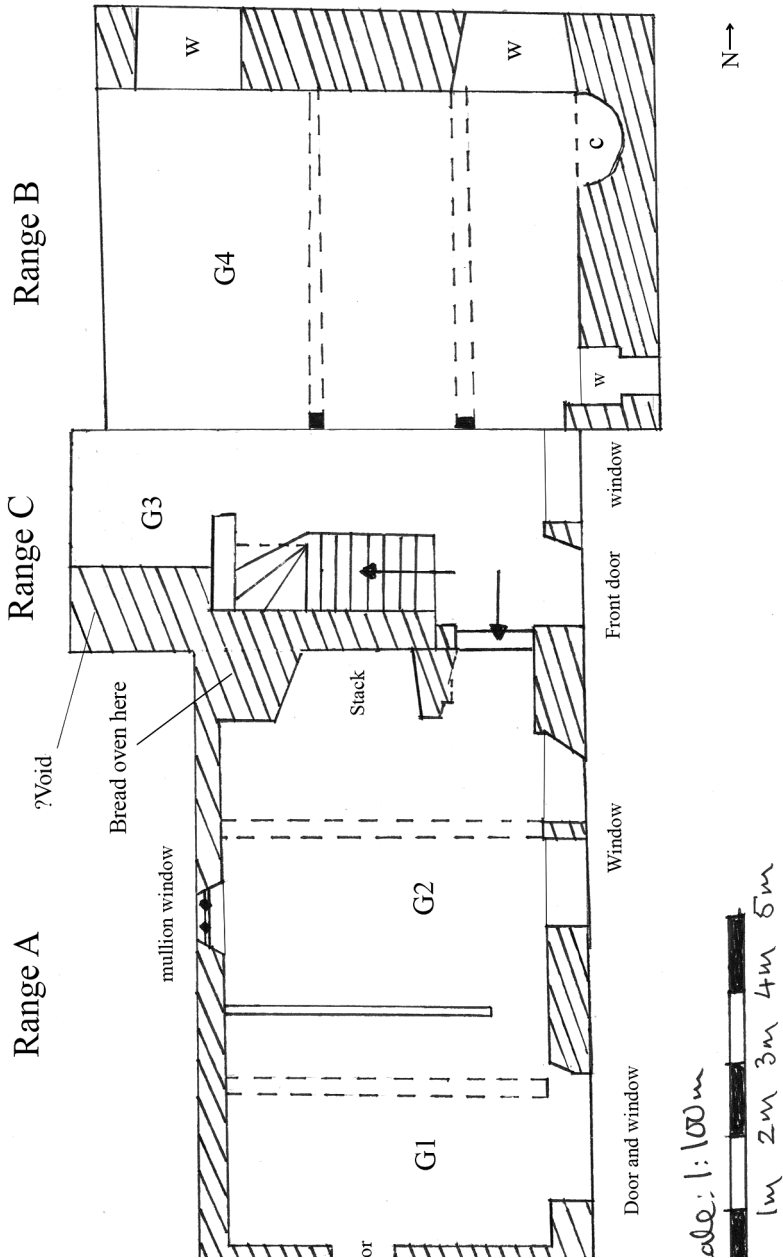


Figure 15: Botley, Ground Floor Plan



Figure 16: 8 Market Street, Chipping Norton

steeply down to the west with the rear elevations of Middle Row properties raised up on a bank above Market Street. The opposite west side of Market Street comprises mostly residential dwellings, the facades of which all now present a typical eighteenth or nineteenth century streetscape.

8 Market Street comprises a two-storey, two-bay main range parallel to the street (G1, Fig. 18) and a two-bay rear range at approximately right angles to the main range, (G2 Fig. 18). Both are constructed in local limestone with tile and grey-slate roof covering. The east front facade presents a rendered and painted two-window range with a full height canted bay to the left and a central doorway.

Street levels have risen such that the front door now opens onto three steps down into the main range, which is now an undivided room except for a modern entrance vestibule. Opposite is the main-range rear doorway with a c.AD 1400 style stone surround with pointed arch, leading to a yard on the south side of the rear range. (Fig. 17 and detail Fig. 19). A former cross passage is indicated by two parallel transverse ceiling beams, one with mortice evidence for a framed side wall, and between these three, wide, flat in-line ceiling joists. These were subject to dendrochronological sampling and revealed a likely felling date range of AD 1428–60.

The first floor of the main range includes a single front room extending the full length of the range but intrusively divided by the central roof truss extending into the room several feet below the ceiling, (Fig. 19). The remainder of the truss is closed and accessible within the roof space. The truss, which is situated above the south wall of the cross passage divides the range into two unequal bays and supports two pairs of side purlins and a ridge purlin. Evidence in the form of mortices in the truss and purlins indicates there were three tiers of wind braces in the north bay, each tier comprising four braces arranged in two sets. The narrower south bay had a single tier of just one set of braces between the side purlins. Smoke blackening in that bay suggests a service area beside the higher status north bay which the pattern of multiple wind braces suggests was a room of some significant importance. Together with the pointed-arch cross passage doorway these features indicate the former high status of this building. The roof truss, which also exhibits high status carpentry, was also subject to dendrochronological sampling and revealed a likely felling date range of between AD 1426–61, almost identical to the cross passage ceiling below.



Figure 17: West doorway viewed from with the main range (Photo: V. Hubbard)

A special characteristic of the roof truss is the presence of a triangular block immediately below the apex, and most unusually for Oxfordshire, a king strut below that. The block, which is tenoned and pegged into each principal below a vertical butt joint, is a feature more commonly associated with cruck trusses (apex type L2) than a framed truss, but several examples of this, and examples where the block is replaced by a slip tenon, have now been discovered in early buildings around Chipping Norton Market Place. Some of these have also been dated to the fifteenth century. Close to 8 Market Street at 1–5 Spring Street a framed truss, dendro dated to AD 1444–77, includes a slip tenon apex. That building's plan form is very similar to 8 Market Street, with a single smoke blackened bay adjacent to a two-bay suspected first-floor hall. There the central truss of the two-bay hall is unusual for Chipping Norton town as it is of the raised-cruck derived form, having principals with curved feet. The close proximity of Chipping Norton to the adjacent Banbury region, where many rural historic roof trusses derive from the curved-foot raised-cruck form, may be a factor in the design of 8 Market Street truss with its cruck style L2 apex. However, a rare example of a similarly arranged triangular block with king strut exists in an arch-braced truss in Burford, 11 miles south west of Chipping Norton. That truss was surveyed by the OBR and dendro dated to AD 1314–53 (OBR.97).

Historic king-struts roofs in Oxfordshire roofs are rare but the association of these two similar trusses may be signifying something about the development of trusses in West Oxfordshire, while the region's close proximity to the Banbury region may be indicating something of the

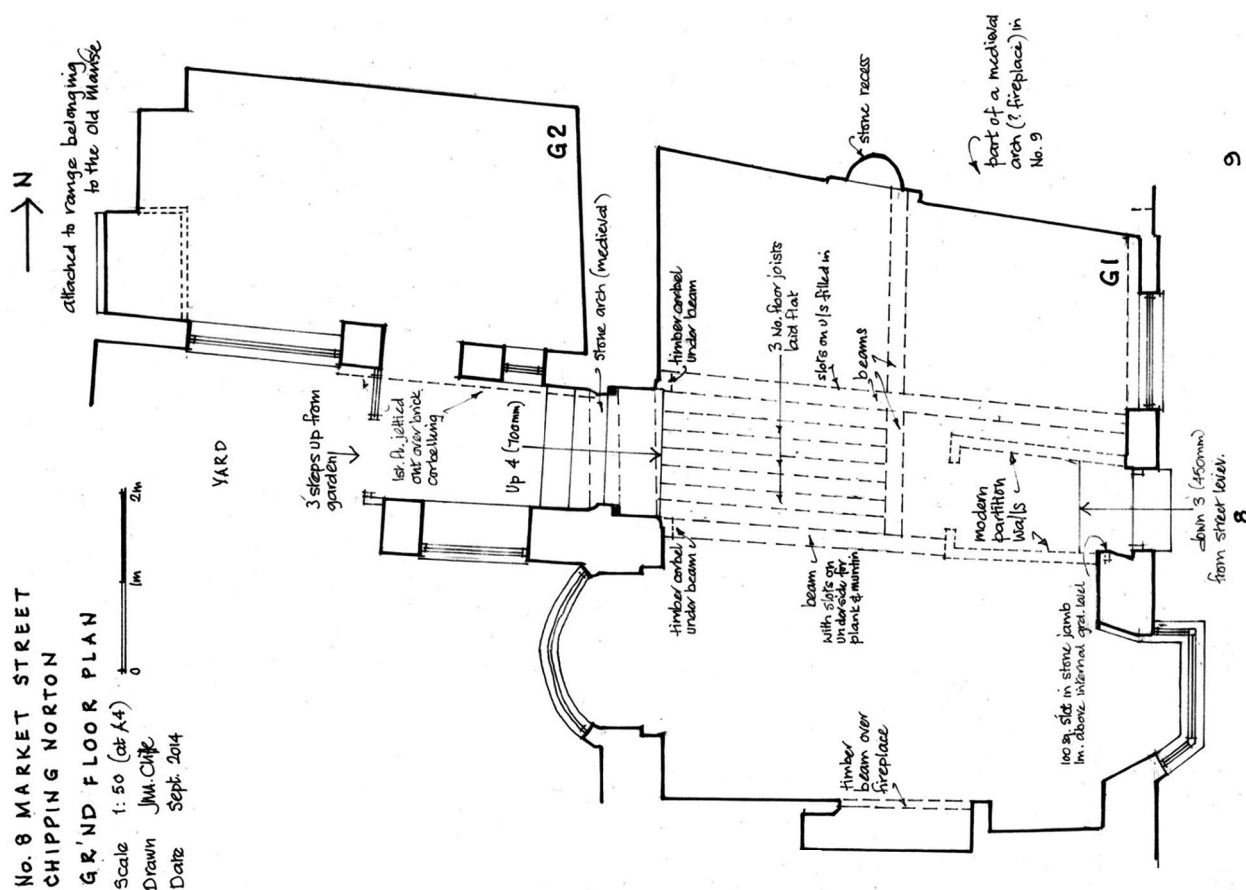


Figure 18: Chipping Norton, Ground-floor plan © J. Cliffe

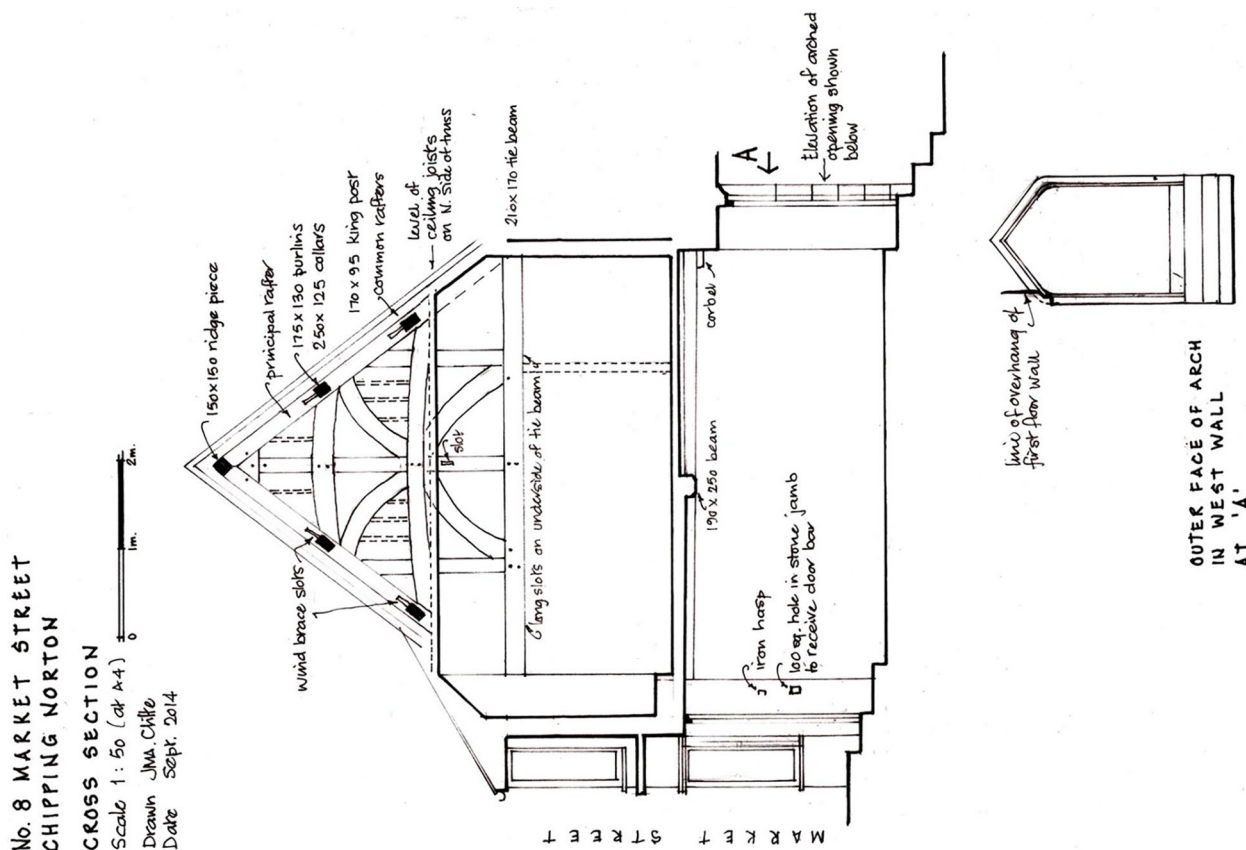


Figure 19: Chipping Norton, Section A – A1 © J. Cliffe

Oxfordshire

transition of styles from the cruck form to the framed form of historic roof trusses in the north of the county.

Forest Hill, Minchin Court SP 58593 07985

DAVID CLARK

Minchin Court (Fig. 20) lies to the north of the village centre of Forest Hill, where four early roads meet. The house and associated agricultural buildings are situated on high ground overlooking the valley of the Holton Brook and further north, the great basin of Otmoor. The name suggests an association with a nunnery, and indeed it is known that Minchin Court in the Middle Ages was a 'capital messuage' of the prioress of Littlemore. The question we set out to answer was whether the present house contained any surviving medieval fabric, and if so, what sort of building was it at that time?



Figure 20: Minchin Court from the west

The tall northern range shown in Fig. 20 and an adjacent section to its south were clearly nineteenth-century structures, while the southern wing (with the gable-end stack) dated from the seventeenth century. A long central range, however, consisted of a stone ground floor on which a timber-framed structure had been erected (Fig. 21).



Figure 21: Timber framed structure on stone base (from south-east)

Although much of the carpentry showed such traditional elements as jowled storey posts, wind-braces and secret-bridled scarf joints, the use of a ridge, and chiselled assembly marks are not medieval techniques, and there was no smoke-blackening of any of the timbers. The stone substructure, however, had substantial walls and the list description reported that the 'remains of a shallow jetty carried on cross beams suggest a possible medieval origin'.²

A key feature was the discovery in a small modern toilet on the ground floor of a bressumer embedded in a stone structure deep within the house. This had belonged to a fireplace – and it even had a burn mark typical of such a location – which faced north. Door positions suggested that it had been built backing on to a cross-passage, and thus the building had at one time extended further north than is apparent today. We concluded that the stone substructure was likely to be a survival from the medieval building, which had probably been of the usual three unit plan.

Following the dissolution of the priory in 1525 and the acquisition of the manor by New College, the lessee in the 1630s, Sir Thomas Denton, seems to have rebuilt it as a more up-to-date farmhouse, probably with 'end reversal' – the north became the 'high' or private end, while the former hall became the service or 'low' end of the building. As a New College property there was little incentive for later tenants to spend money on the house, but when the college sold it in 1884, the new owner, John Thomson (of Woodperry), a 'Banker, Magistrate, M.A. Oxford, Farmer of 468 Acres Employing 21 Men 3 Women 6 Boys'³ seems to have wasted little time in converting it to a substantial residence, which is essentially what we see today.

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY IN OXFORD CITY 2019

DAVID RADFORD, OXFORD CITY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGIST

The Urban Design and Heritage Team at the City Council moved rapidly to home working after the advent of the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020. Planning advice and HER provision was unaffected as staff were already equipped for remote working. Archaeological fieldwork continued throughout the year, although the volume of activity was lower than in recent years.

A selective summary of 2020 fieldwork projects

In January a borehole survey was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at Castle Hill House on New Road. A sample taken from the bottom of the castle bailey ditch produced an 11th-12th radio carbon date suggesting that, for this part of the circuit at least, the base of the ditch was not cleared out or recut in later periods. The consented development at this site will employ piled foundations designed to bridge across the laminated basal deposits of the ditch in order to secure their preservation-in situ.

Between January and February an excavation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology prior to the construction of an attenuation tank and soakaway located between Jesus College Inner Quad and a new retail development on Cornmarket, Northgate House. The investigation was

² List entry number: 1181390 The List Search Results for 1181390 | Historic England

³ TNA Ref RG11, Piece 1495, Folio 61

located between a large modern basement and the 17th century west range of the quad. Remarkably the relatively narrow space between these structures preserved the limestone walls and floors of a building of likely 15th-16th century date, containing a number of brick-built hearths or ovens (Fig. 22). This building was set well back from the street frontage, and between it and the street were the well preserved remains of a limestone yard and stone well. These features have been provisionally interpreted as part of a workshop, potentially for metal-working.



Figure 22: Oxford, late Medieval or Post-Medieval ovens at Northgate House

Between February and June intermittent excavation was undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology at New College School on Saville Road. The footprint of a former school building built on the line of the Royalist Civil War defences was investigated. At the base of the sequence Roman features were recorded including possible drip gullies, a small oven or kiln and two female inhumation burials. Above the Roman layer a possible Late Saxon or medieval bank deposit was tentatively identified and above this a thin layer of gravel likely to represent the raising of the bank in the Civil War period. The tentative bank deposit produced a mid-late Saxon scientific date and micro-morphological analysis has shown it was comprised of stacked turf. However, sections through the bank deposit, excavated in sieved spits, produced a small quantity of post-Conquest pottery, leaving a question mark over its age and the likely extent of historic bioturbation.

Between March and July further recording took place by John Moore Heritage Services at land adjacent to Barton Manor on Barton Village Road where a new house has

been constructed. A detailed survey was undertaken of the former frontage stone wall prior to its reconstruction and it is suggested that the lower part of the wall may have been medieval in origin with 17th century cottages later built into it. The north gable wall of the possible medieval structure remains, forming a boundary wall along the northern perimeter of the plot. The excavation of a foundation trench to the rear of the new property revealed the continuation of a previously identified ditch, a substantial boundary of medieval date.

In September Abingdon Archaeological Surveys undertook a geophysical survey at Port Meadow to locate the remains of the former WWI airfield and its infrastructure on behalf of the local Wolvercote WWI Airfield Project. Magnetometer and earth resistance surveys proved to be very successful in detecting the locations of timber huts, a corrugated iron building, canvas aircraft hangars and a firing range which had been removed approximately 100 years ago.

Other news

Two significant new publications on the archaeology of Oxford were published this year. One volume, *The Archaeology of East Oxford: Archeox: the development of a community*, reported the results of the East Oxford Community Archaeology project, which ran between 2011 and 2015. This involved a wide range of volunteers from across east Oxford undertaking surveys, excavations, test pits and local historical research. The volume, edited by David Griffiths and Jane Harrison, can be viewed and downloaded from the ADS website here: https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/archoex_hlf_2020/

The second monograph, *The Archaeology of Oxford in the 21st Century*, was published by the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society and contains the results of eleven excavations undertaken by Oxford Archaeology between 2006 and 2016 and a series of overview chapters on the history and prospects for archaeological research in the city (see description under OA South entry). The book is available via the OAHS website here: <https://oahs.org.uk/>

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Goring, Gatehampton Farm Roman Villa SU 6079 7985
HAZEL WILLIAMS

SOAGs longest running project, the excavation of a substantial 3rd-4th century building, ended early in 2020 after more than 20 years of excavation and survey on the site (Fig. 25). The villa is part of a Roman farmstead set out in the 2nd century and surveys of the surrounding landscape have shown the elements of a complex Roman farmstead with ditched enclosures, tracks and outbuildings including a corndrier. Excavation began at the site in 1993 and has continued every year since then. It was at first a small-scale project, but during the years 2006 – 2017 large trenches over sections of the building allowed hundreds of volunteers to participate in the excavation and this was an important element of the project. The last major trench was completed in 2017 and was reported in SMA 48 2018, however it was clear by then that a second bath house had been discovered in the southern corner of the building with the result that

Oxfordshire

a smaller scale excavation continued in 2018, 2019 and Spring 2020.

The priority at the start of 2018 was to discover the layout and if possible, the dating of the bath house, but also to look at several large pits and gullies found beyond the eastern end wall of the villa building. Late in 2018, the L shaped walls of an earlier building or enclosure were also discovered. The high-level photograph (Fig. 26) shows the completed trench over the southern corner of the villa building. The end wall of the building can be seen clearly to the right. Beyond that top right and centre are pits and gullies, along with an L shaped earlier wall at an angle to the villa building. In the foreground are the rooms of the bath house, from right to left; the stoke-room is in the corner, next to a metre wide robbed out tile channel leading to a possible furnace flue beyond the edge of the trench. A partially excavated channel between a long tile plinth and the baulk leads through to the clearly defined hypocaust in Rooms 15 and 14. Beyond is the unheated Room 12, with the tiled plunge pool 13 projecting from the south-western side of the building.

The earlier enclosure or building

At the end of 2018, an L shaped flint wall was discovered, the corner just tucked under the end wall of the villa building. It was not as substantially built as those of the later villa and in the small area exposed had no evidence of flooring and the inner surface only just discernible. It was only possible to excavate a small part of the feature, but geophysical survey has shown that one section of the 'L' extends east at least ten metres from the corner. Unfortunately, the section extending southwards is under hard standing.

The pits and gullies

The stratigraphy in the area outside the building was complex with many intercutting and overlying pits and gullies in a relatively small area of excavation. Several pits were excavated, or half sectioned, the earliest pre-dated the L shaped wall and had been backfilled with large flint stones and rubble under the wall line to accommodate its construction. Two large clay lined pits with a connecting gully may have been contemporary with the walled enclosure (Fig. 23). The thick clay lining suggests they could be used



Figure 23: Gatehampton, Large clay lined pit

to hold water and they also resemble tanning pits, but no evidence was found to confirm their use. A lack of slumping and regular layers of fill consisting of rubble and burnt deposits within the pits suggests they may have been used as rubbish pits when they went out of use.

The bath house

The bath house consists of a series of small rooms in the south corner of the building, most of it was excavated except for a section along the south side that lay under a modern building. The stoke room was connected via a tiled underfloor channel to two heated rooms (15 & 14) with a further unheated room (12) and cold plunge (13).

In the stoke room over the partly mortared floor were alternate layers of burnt and sooty deposits interspersed with thin layers of crumbled mortar, all sloping on two sides down towards the assumed position of the furnace flue. The burnt deposits included many pottery and tile fragments and a coin of Antoninus, the earliest found on the site. It was not possible to confirm the presence of furnace flue by excavation because that part of the trench was close to the wall of a modern building and other obstacles. However, the tiled underfloor channel, formed by tile plinths, appears to have led from the furnace flue through to the hypocaust of Room 15 (Fig 24). The long, narrow channel had a series of large rectangular tiles laid along the base. Layers of soot and ash were found deposited on the floor of the channel with a



Figure 24: Gatehampton, View of the Hypocaust

greater concentration of heat indicated at the south eastern end where the tiles were also heat damaged.

Rooms 15 and 14 were found to be originally one heated space, a substandard wall dividing the two spaces had a layer of sooty deposits beneath it. Four tile plinths dividing the two areas of the hypocaust formed three apertures; a central half metre gap and on either side narrower angled channels that would have increased the flow of air into the heated area furthest away from the heat source, the Venturi effect. It appears that this may not have been effective as there is evidence that the hypocaust area of Room 14 was eventually backfilled with a dense matrix of opus signinum fragments, wall plaster, mortar and tile and was covered by

an *opus signinum* floor up to 120mm thick. A similar re-modelling of two heated rooms was seen in the western bath house. Most of the later floor surface of Room 14 survived, broken into large slabs still *in situ*. In the centre one square slab had the impression of a pattern of nine tiles. In Room 15 the fill was looser and consisted of smaller fragments of a thick *opus signinum* floor, much more tile, mostly that used for *pilae* and flooring. A regularly spaced pattern showing the positions of the *pilae* can be seen in both rooms, the stacked tiles of seven *pilae* were found in Room 15, most with 2 or 3 tiles, one with six tiles. Extra inner walls appear to have been inserted along the inner side of both room 15 and 14, with deeper foundations than the original wall line to accommodate the hypocaust. The exterior wall also had deeper foundations and the materials used in its construction suggest a modification of an existing wall.

No further work was done in Room 12, an unheated room that led to the cold plunge pool (13). However, the exterior wall of the plunge pool was uncovered revealing the outlet of the lead pipe used to drain the pool. Some experimental archaeology by young archaeologists showed that the pipe drained the pool quite efficiently. The bath house rooms are within the parallel lateral wall lines of the long south-western side of the villa building. These have shallow foundations, and it appears that additional inner walls were constructed (shown red in Fig. 23) within the original layout to accommodate the deep areas of the hypocaust.

Between the stoke-room and Room 15 is a metre wide robbed out area with vestiges of a large, tiled channel feature that extended from the north-eastern wall of the building close to the cess pit, to the furnace flue. The substantial flint

structure, essentially a double width wall has a collapsed tile channel running along the surface. The southern half was robbed out but was clearly identified within the bath house trench. It appears to connect the cess pit (and latrines?), a possible kitchen/workshop area and the bath house. It may have been built to distribute water from a source, probably a well, on the northern side of the building, to all these areas as well as supporting tanks for cold and hot water.

The eastern end of the villa building lies across a hedge line and is close to modern buildings and obstructions. It was also excavated in three trenches at different phases of the project. A complex area covering several phases that will require more analysis. However, the most straightforward interpretation at this stage is that it starts with early pits and channels within the villa enclosure. Some pre-date a later L-shaped walled enclosure, others like the larger clay lined pits may be contemporary or later than the early enclosure. There is no definitive dating for these later pits, but they are too close to the later villa wall to be still in use when it was constructed. The bath house then seems to have been added to the existing southern corner of the building and was the earliest of the two bath houses of the villa.

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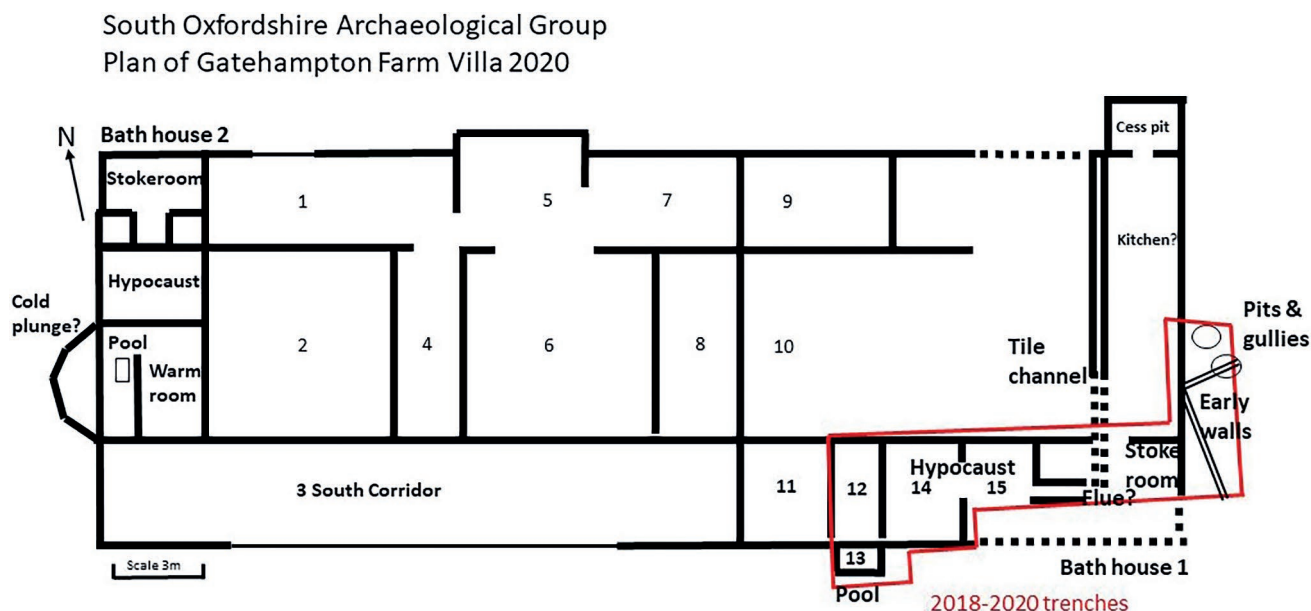


Figure 25: Schematic plan of Gatehampton Roman villa showing 2018–2020 trench

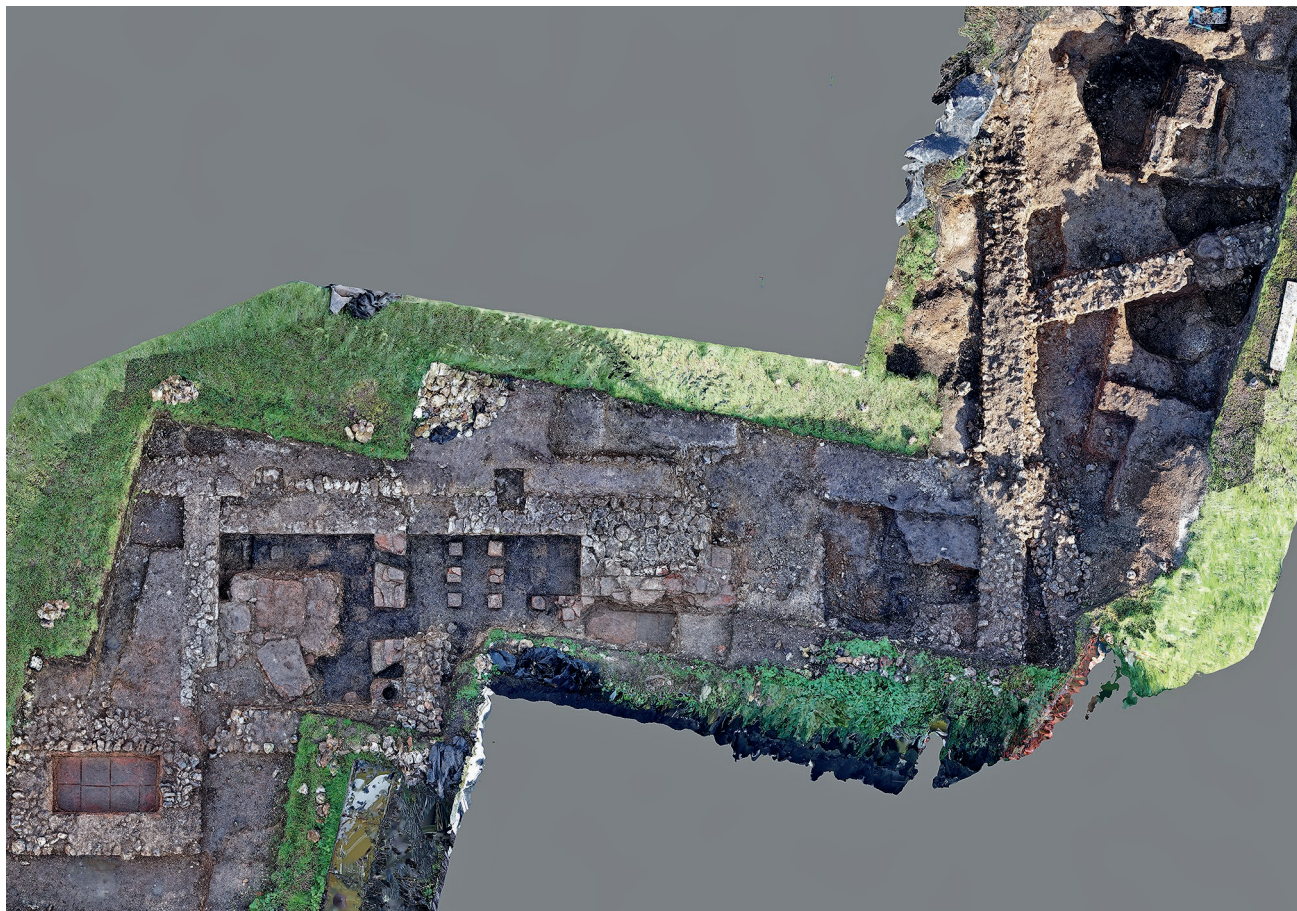


Figure 26: Gatehampton, High level photo of the trenches (Photo: R. Miller)

Smokedown Project – 1st Interim Report (SU 3020 9874)

JOHN SCARBOROUGH

Introduction and Background

The Oxford Blues Metal Detecting Club (OBMDC) have been prospecting this site and surrounding areas, for 4 years. They have unearthed approximately 150 coins dated Later Pre-Roman Iron Age to Romano-British C4, and fragments of a fine silver vessel thought to be of this period, and the farmer was interested to know more about what lies beneath his soil, and Rob Wadley of OBMDC suggested that SOAG could help.

The site lies 1.5km south of the River Thames on a gravel terrace on Oxford Clay formation, and is an arable field with loam overlaying sand and gravel.

Cropmarks for the wider area have been analysed by English Heritage who have recorded two monuments in the field. Monument 1058799 is recorded as “Prehistoric or Roman Settlement, hut circles, enclosure, field system and field boundary” and monument 1058800 is recorded as “Probable enclosures, trackways and field boundary, probably later Prehistoric or Roman”.

The majority of the artefacts found by OBMDC were found in a third section of the field, and field walking in Spring 2020 confirmed the presence of CBM, Roman and LIA pottery and flue tiles in this third area. The farmer has commented on removing masonry from this area following ploughing.

In October 2020 a grid of 20m squares was established over this part of the field and a range of techniques including, geophysical surveys (magnetometer and resistivity), metal detecting survey, and field walking were used.

Geophysical Surveys

The magnetometry and resistivity results show a roughly 60m by 80m enclosure, possibly with a trackway on four sides, a known feature of some Roman sites, including villas. Inside the main enclosure is an area of enhanced response, likely corresponding with focussed human activity (perhaps occupation). See Figure 27.

There are many intriguing features, including, just outside the enclosure to the SW, a 10m square negative with a strong 5m circular positive in the centre. We surmise this could be a fire pit for the hypocaust, a kiln or a corn drier. Inside the enclosure there are signs of further ditches and/or walls.

Metal Detecting Survey

The metal detecting survey produced two Roman buttons, a heavily degraded minim, small fragments of lead, a fragment of silver (possibly statuary or table decoration) and a small latch.

Field-Walking

Field walking in the enclosure area produced 16kg of CBM, 3.9kg of flue tile and 3.2kg of pot sherds (mostly unclassifiable grey ware, some (C4) Oxfordshire ware and two pieces of possible Samian (C1-C2).

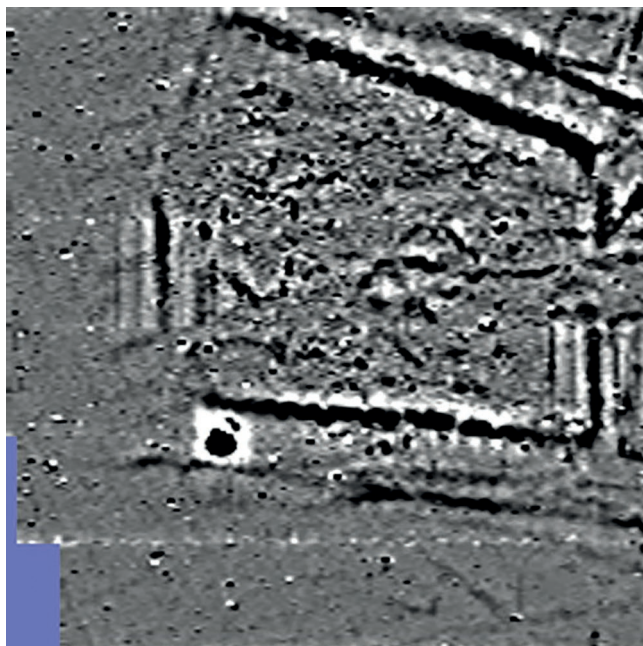


Figure 27: Smokedown, Magnetometer survey (not scaled)

Continuation Plans

In 2021 SOAG aims to see more detail in the enclosure area by re-surveying at closer traverse spacing, and plans to complete the magnetometry survey of the field. Excavation will begin with test pits and some trenches.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Viner Family, landowners. Thanks to Steve Clark and Richard Miller for the geophysical survey analysis. Thanks to Rob Wadley of Oxford Blues MDC.

STANFORD IN THE VALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

DAVID ASHBY

Introduction

The Stanford in the Vale Archaeological Research Project (Grid reference: SU 342 935) is an on-going project which commenced in 2008. The project currently has three main aims: 1. To gain a further and greater understanding of the archaeology of Stanford in the Vale; 2. To either prove or disprove the hypothesis: Stanford in the Vale was planned as a 10-acre medieval market town which had failed by the end of the medieval period. At this point Stanford in the Vale formed into a village; 3. To get the community involved in their local heritage and archaeology.

During the 2011 project season, the project expanded from looking at one field in the village, to examining the village settlement and its surrounding fields. During 2018 and 2019 project seasons, the tenth and eleventh years of the project, the archaeological fieldwork comprised of two main areas. These included: The re interpretation and re dating of the standing building of St Denys Church (from data collected in 2016–2017); and the excavation of seven test pits (51–57). Using these techniques, archaeological features and finds materials were identified dating from the Mesolithic to modern periods. These included the re dating

of both the above and below ground standing remains of the village Church of St Denys, with its earliest phases dating to the 8th to 10th C, and thereafter major rebuilding and alterations in the 12th – 14th C. Also, the seven test pits excavated within gardens in the village have provided new and important insights into the underlying archaeology and heritage of the settlement from the Mesolithic to modern periods, including evidence for the earliest origins of Stanford during the Bronze Age, as well as further evidence for the Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement at Stanford.

During the 2020 project season, further work was carried out within the village and its surrounding fields, which will be discussed in this article. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic hitting the UK in March 2020, only a small amount of fieldwork was able to be undertaken in the village, from January to March, with all other investigations postponed due to government restrictions and social distancing. During the short three-month period three test pits were excavated. This article will also discuss the work that is proposed to be carried out during the 2021 project season, however this is dependent of COVID-19 government restrictions.

Test Pitting (test pits 58 to 60)

During the 2020 project seasons, 3 test pits were dug in the gardens of properties within the modern village settlement. These test pits were located, based on permission, available access and space for the test pit and spoil heap. Each test pit was 1 m square and was dug in 0.10 m spits to the depth of either the natural geology or 1 m, dependent on which was reached first.

The pottery remains from the test pits enabled a large amount of information to be gained about the changing nature of the settlement over time, as seen in Table 1. The table indicates that all the test pits contained post medieval and modern pottery. The pottery evidence also suggests the location of medieval activity within the settlement, with medieval pottery being recovered from all test pits. Roman pottery was recovered from TP 58 and TP 60 (Cottage Road and Anvil Court), with the largest quantities recovered from test pit 58 (5 sherds), where 9 fragments of Roman CBM were also found, possibly indicating the presence of a high statues Roman building within the Area of Cottage Road.

ID	TP No.	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Saxon	Medieval	Post Med
58	58	0	0	5	0	4	33
59	59	0	0	0	0	2	17
60	60	0	0	1	0	1	8

Table 1: Table shows the quantities of pottery by period recovered from each test pit excavated in 2020, from Stanford in the Vale.

A large quantity of flint material, both worked and debitage, was also recovered from these test pits. This material dates from the Mesolithic period with a microlith, as well as Neolithic flint material also being recovered from all the test pits excavated during this season of work across the village. Within test pit 58 (Cottage Road), several of these flint artefacts were found to be associated with an alluvial deposit at the base of the test pit, possibly

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indicating episodes of flooding in this area during these periods.

Other finds material recovered from the test pits included a large quantity of animal bone mainly composed of sheep and cattle but also including pig, bird, and horse. A quantity of iron slag was also recovered, mostly dating to the post medieval to modern periods. Further artefacts have also been recovered from all test pits, including metal finds mostly dating from the post medieval to modern periods and fragments of clay pipe (recovered from TP 59, Faringdon Road), dating to the 17th to 19th centuries, including a stem fragment with a maker stamp of 'D, RDW, MO', dating to the 19th C.

Small finds were also recovered from the test pits including: an iron belt buckle, a copper alloy button, and a glass seal from the front of a glass bottle, all dating to the post medieval period.

Lastly, a series of features and structures were also identified within the three test pits excavated. This includes: a layer of demolition rubble found within TP 58 (Cottage Road), thought to be associated with the demolition of an earlier house on the site and a post medieval limestone garden path with brick edging, found within TP 59 (Faringdon Road) thought to relate to the adjacent house. Two features were also found within TP 60 (Anvil Court), underlying one another. The first was the butt end of a limestone wall footing, forming part of a post medieval (possibly 19th C) structure, likely to be either part of a blacksmith's workshop or a timber mill previously located on this site. Below this a 0.17m deep pit feature was found. As no datable finds were recovered from this feature it is difficult to date, however due to the overlying archaeology it is thought to be early post medieval in date.

Geophysical Survey: 3 Cottage Road SU 340 937

A Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey was undertaken in both the front and rear gardens of 3 Cottage Road. The survey was carried out in 1m transects with readings being taken at 2.5cm intervals, to a depth of 4m. No archaeological features were identified on the site, with the only features identified from the survey data relating to either modern buried services or the underlying geology. This may be due to the likely removal of topsoil on the site prior to the building of the modern house in the 1970's.

Summary of the Project to Date

Through the work undertaken on the project since 2008, large quantities of archaeological remains, dating from the Mesolithic period to the modern day, have been unearthed. These include Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint from around the village, recovered from both test pitting and trenching works. Also, two Neolithic features have been identified, one close to Upper Green in the north of the settlement, and the other close to the River Ock in the south. This indicates a split settlement during this period; however, it also indicates the earliest settlement activity underlying the village. The presence of Bronze Age pottery at the southern area of the village, as well as beaker period flint material, likely indicates that the settlement expanded from the southern Neolithic settlement, speeding north towards the northern one, forming a single settlement seen today. Evidence has also been indicated for a significantly sized prehistoric enclosure with a deep ditch located in the

north of the settlement, partially located on Upper Green. Due to its size, shape and form, as well as the only Iron Age pottery being found within this area of the modern village, this feature gives the only evidence for Iron Age activity underlying the modern settlement.

The Roman settlement is then indicated by a fortified ditch enclosure with the High Street running through its centre, which extended as far west as the A417, with a *vecus* located on its outskirts extending up Chapel Road. Evidence also suggests an early Roman settlement to the west of the A417, prior to it becoming marshland later in the period. The data then indicates that the settlement grew further during both the Saxon and medieval periods, with large medieval stone buildings being excavated within the grounds of Prior's Farm (Ashby, 2011), Ashdown House, Cox's Hall and Horsecroft field, and identified in areas where geophysical work has been undertaken. This includes multi-phase Manor House activity dating from the Saxon period to the modern day, a large medieval stone hall within the grounds of Cox's Hall and facing Faringdon Road, and multiple phasing of Church construction, including the identification of two phases of Saxon church and thereafter four phases of medieval construction, commencing in the 12th C, which comprise a large proportion of the church seen today. Furthermore, shops and industrial buildings fronted the High Street and adjacent roads, and in some cases were terraced into the underlying geology. A two-phase stone medieval mill has also been found in the field adjacent to Horsecroft Lane, as well as a series of large timber framed (post hole built) structures in the central area of the settlement, likely Saxon in date.

The project has also demonstrated that Stanford in the Vale has shifted over time. The Roman settlement located mainly around the present High Street, but also running towards Upper Green in the north and the A417, and Spencers Close, in the west. The Saxon settlement located more towards the centre and north of the current village, stretching up to Upper Green, and down to the area of Cox's Hall, and surrounding both the Church and Manor House at its centre, and the medieval settlement spreading more than 600 metres further south than at present. Due to the medieval settlement being nearly twice the size of the modern village of Stanford in the Vale, and due to the quantity of craft and industrial activities undertaken within the settlement during this period; evidence indicates that the Stanford was likely a market town during the medieval period. Also, evidence has been identified for the post medieval settlement, including structures within the Brickworks on Bow Road and Civil War activities, as well as evidence for structures associated with Shellingford Airfield during WW2.

However, even though a great deal of information has been identified using the techniques utilised during the 2020 season, further work is needed to better understand the way in which Stanford has changed through time, including the location of the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlements, and also to better understand the reasons why the medieval settlement of Stanford in the Vale shrunk from a town into a village during the late medieval period.

Aims of 2021 Fieldwork

During the 2021 project season, three main types of archaeological work are hoped to be undertaken.

Firstly, geophysical surveys will continue in open areas of land within the village and its surrounding fields, with

the aim of producing a comprehensive map of the buried archaeology of the settlement. This will mainly be carried out using resistivity survey; however, GPR will also be further utilised where suitable sites are identified and magnetometry will be used within large fields on the edge of the current settlement. This work will also include an extensive GPR survey of the Millennium Green.

Secondly, further full excavations will be undertaken in areas of archaeological interest identified through the geophysical survey results.

Thirdly, further test pitting will be undertaken within the village, mainly in built up areas or areas of difficult access, where it is not possible to carry out geophysical survey work. This keyhole excavation technique should improve the understanding of these areas within the settlement. The ability to use this technique will further show how the settlement and landscape has changed in these areas through time. This will include the excavation of two test pits on the Millennium Green.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations who have helped me during the 2020 project season. Special thanks go to all the landowners in the village who have let me undertake archaeological fieldwork on their land. Thanks should also be given to the members and committee of the Stanford in the Vale Local History Society, who have helped to get the local community involved in the project and to disseminate information about the project to the local villagers, and to Alan Bond for his donation to the project. I would also like to thank the main archaeologists who have helped me carry out the fieldwork and post excavation on the project, including: Dave Grant, Dr Katie Tucker, Briony Lalor, Nathalie Barrett, Giles Carey, Nick Watson, Dominic McAtominey, Eden Richards, Mike Brace, Chloe Hill, Oliver Bell and Oliver Mattingley. Lastly, thanks should also be given to my colleagues, the students and staff of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Winchester, as without their help it would not be possible to undertake the project.

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THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Chinnor, Manor Farm, Henton SP 7636 0268

ANDREW MUNDIN and WILL ATTARD

Observations were undertaken in August 2020 during the groundworks for a new house. A layer of overburden no earlier than the 18th century in the south western area of the site covered the natural geology and a truncated chalk layer and compacted tile areas, represent possible abandonment deposits of the same date. Two postholes were exposed, one of which contained a single sherd of medieval pottery, but

the other was post-medieval and it seems likely that the two features belonged together.

**Cholsey, Lollingdon Farmhouse Westfield Road
SU 5707 8572**

ANDREW MUNDIN and ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG

Groundworks for a house extension and septic tank were observed in November and December 2020, recording chalk and brick foundations of an earlier building (undated but likely 19th century, or possibly earlier) and a late post-medieval pit.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 26 Martin's Lane SU 5790 9452
ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG

The evaluation trenching in March 2020 in advance of construction of a new house confirmed that the site had archaeological potential for the Roman and medieval periods. Cropmarks interpreted as ditches located beyond the settlement boundary 100m to the east were not shown to extend into the site but ditches and postholes containing Roman and medieval pottery were present. Subsequent excavation of a small area in December confirmed the presence of a Late Roman ditch, pit and postholes, and Medieval pits. There was a horse skeleton mostly under the west baulk and barely visible. The Late Roman features appear to indicate extra-mural settlement and cast some doubt on the idea that the occupied area was contracting in the later Roman period.

**Drayton, Land adjacent to 3 Church Lane
SU 4800 9427**

ANDREW MUNDIN

A watching brief in October 2020 during groundworks for a new house revealed several ditches/gullies and pits of Medieval and Post Medieval date. They presumably related to properties aligned on Church Lane but which had gone out of use in Post-medieval times.

**Faringdon, Chinnham Farm Extension, Bowling Green
Farm Quarry SU3155 9475**

MAISIE FOSTER and DAVID SÁNCHEZ

A further phase of work in September 2020 in advance of mineral extraction at the quarry site revealed a low volume of archaeological features. Eight pits formed a small cluster, with one outlier to the south and a notable lack of features in the whole remaining area of the site, with the exception of two small, undated pits by the western limit of the area. The pit cluster contained a surprisingly dense group and range of finds and two radiocarbon dates confirm that it represents a relatively short-lived use of the site in the 8th or 7th century BC. An especially concentrated deposit of pottery vessels in particular suggests the filling of the pits was the result of feasting. As is often observed, there were no associated structural remains to indicate permanent settlement and it may be that some symbolic occasion was being celebrated in a one-off event.

Oxfordshire

Goring, 1 & 2 Little Court, Grange Close

SU 5984 8057

ELSPETH ST. JOHN-BROOKS

A watching brief in September 2020 during the excavation of footings for a new house extension found a ditch which contained a single small sherd of probable Roman pottery from the lowest fill along with an assemblage of charred grain, but with Post-Medieval brick/tile from the upper fill.

Goring, Land east of Wallingford Road SU 6048 8175

STEVE FORD and KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Geophysical survey in October 2020 on the site in advance of an application for residential development, having revealed nothing of obvious archaeological interest, evaluation trenching in November revealed just a single shallow ditch, or furrow, containing a single sherd of Medieval pottery.

Harwell, Gibbs Yard, Didcot Road SU 5029 8949

DAVID SÁNCHEZ

Evaluation of the site of a commercial development revealed no features nor finds of archaeological significance.

Harwell, STFC Car Park Site, Severn Road, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory SU 4791 8603

DAVID SANCHEZ, ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG, PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE and KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

No features or finds of archaeological interest were encountered over the course of a watching brief which ran from November 2019 to January 2020 on the construction of a new car park.

Marcham, Upwood Park, Tubney SU 4550 9999

ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG and PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

The 2020 phase of excavation on this c. 40ha quarry site revealed pits and ditches (enclosures, trackway) of a Roman settlement. Work continues.

Marston, Land at Hill View Farm SP 5220 0939

MAISIE FOSTER

An evaluation in November and December 2020 in advance of a planning application revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

Moulsford, Moulsford Preparatory School, Reading Road SU 5899 8449

STEVE FORD

Evaluation on the site of new classrooms in 2019 had suggested Bronze Age and Roman features were present so an excavation of about 500 sq m followed in January and February 2020. The excavation revealed a cluster of Bronze Age pits and a pair of Roman gullies. The earliest feature was a single very deep Early Bronze Age pit, radiocarbon dated to 2139–1893 cal BC containing antler picks and animal bone including those of aurochs. The main features revealed were a cluster of intercutting pits of Late Bronze Age date, one of which returned a radiocarbon date of 770–533 cal BC. Two Roman gullies probably represent a hedge line: oddly they appear to have respected the location of the

Bronze Age pits. A few Mesolithic flints were recovered as residual finds. A full report appears in *Oxoniensia*.

Moulsford, Land at The Old Vicarage, The Street

SU 5892 8394

JAMIE WILLIAMS

Evaluation trenching in October 2020 on the site of new care facilities was limited by numerous live services and modern truncations but of the area successfully excavated, three ditches of undetermined date were exposed.

Oxford, St John's College Porter's Lodge

SP 51249 06624

GENNI ELLIOTT

A building recording was made during internal renovations in February and April 2020. Most of the interior in this part of the building was modern but stairs and some internal divisions might date from between 1546 and 1566, and some decoration in the south-eastern room appears to be early 18th-century.

Rollright, Duck End, Hook Norton Road, Great Rollright SP 3295 3127

ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG

A watching brief in December 2020 on the re-building of the shed were of limited extent but revealed a single pit or ditch (undated except that it pre-dates the shed) and a squared marlstone block that could have been part of the former demolished shed wall.

Shillingford, Peartree Cottage, 15 Wharf Road

SU 5945 9267

ELSPETH ST. JOHN-BROOKS

In December 2020, monitoring of the area stripped for a new pool revealed a pit and ditch, the former certainly of Medieval date, the ditch more probably post-medieval. A collection of charred plant remains was recovered from the medieval pit suggesting the processing of arable produce nearby.

Shrivenham, Land south of Townsend Road

SU 2337 8846

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

A geophysical survey in advance 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 represents agricultural activity. Nothing to suggest the presence of buried archaeological features was identified.

Swerford, St Mary's Church SP 3723 3113

ANDREW MUNDIN

A watching brief was maintained on drainage and other works from February 2018 to July 2020. Human burials were located in the excavation of two new soakaways, and on the south churchyard path. One small sherd of pottery from soakaway 2 might be medieval. No other finds earlier than the 19th century were noted. The remains were returned to the church for reburial.

Wallingford, 54 High Street SU 6051 8951

ANDREW MUNDIN

A new extension to the existing house frontage in November 2020 required archaeological observation during excavation for a raft foundation. Initially, a quarry tile floor and brick wall were observed which, according to historic maps, formed part of a malthouse, later warehouse, that was eventually replaced by No.54 and the other extant row of houses. After the floor was recorded, it was removed and the ground reduced further by 0.2m but only revealed further made ground, probably a pre-19th century levelling deposit, likely for construction of the malthouse. A small collection of Late medieval and early Post-medieval pottery (16th-17th century) was also recorded.

Wallingford, 11–12 St Martin's Street SU 6065 8928

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Following prior evaluation of the site which confirmed the survival of Late Saxon, Medieval, and Post-medieval deposits on the site, a mitigation strategy was drawn up to preserve-in-situ the majority of archaeological deposits on the site by a suitable foundation design. Archaeological excavation took place in April 2020 on smaller areas in advance of unavoidable deeper groundworks, namely a soakaway and drainage trench. Excavation for the drainage trench was not deep enough to impact on the relevant archaeological horizon, but the soakaway trench revealed seven pits of Late Saxon, Medieval, and Post-medieval date, which contained a typical range of artefacts variously of pottery, animal bone including a horse burial, charred plant remains metal objects, and some tile fragments.

Woodstock, St Mary the Virgin Church, Wootton

SP 4390 1987

ANDREW MUNDIN

Archaeological observations were made in September 2020 during the excavation of a new service trench, north-west of the north aisle and tower. The investigation of an existing drainage pipe linked up beyond the west boundary, uncovered partly articulated human remains at over 1m depth. A few very fragmentary of pieces disarticulated human bone were encountered during the excavation of the drainage trench.

TVAS Publications of potential interest to SMA readers:(available from TVAS, email tvass@tvass.co.uk)

Published in 2020

A Roman Villa at Street Farm, Tackley, Oxfordshire, by David Sánchez, D, 2020, TVAS Monograph 41. ISBN 978–1-911228–52-3

Published in 2021

Neolithic, Iron Age and Saxon occupation at Milton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, by Pierre-Damien Manisse, TVAS Monograph 42. ISBN 978–1-911228–56-1

A Middle Bronze Age field system, occupation and burial with Neolithic and Saxon pits and Roman ditches at Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire, by Andy Taylor, TVAS Occasional Paper 46. ISBN: 978–1-911228–58-5

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, DEPT. FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION**Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project (AAARP)****Survey, Test Pits and Evaluation Trenches at the Old Manor House in Besselsleigh SP 4558 0104**

JANE HARRISON, LEIGH MELLOR and WILLIAM WINTLE

Introduction

The AAARP Project is researching an area around the village of Appleton in collaboration with local people. This area includes the modern settlements of Appleton, Eaton and Besselsleigh, the deserted medieval village of Tubney and the old manor house of Besselsleigh, the site of which lies next to the surviving twelfth century church of St Lawrence. Fieldwork undertaken in 2017 and 2018 was summarised in Harrison and Rowley 2019 and the Appleton test pit campaign was described in Harrison *et al.* 2020.

This report provides an initial description of the geophysical and topographical surveys, three test pits and two evaluation trenches which have been undertaken in the area of the demolished medieval manor house and possible deserted medieval village at Besselsleigh. AAARP volunteers carried out the excavations, while OUDCE postgraduate and undergraduate students performed the geophysical and earthwork surveys.

The Site

The area discussed covers the site of a demolished medieval and early-modern manor house, possibly with a neighbouring medieval village, the manor farm buildings which survived until the nineteenth century, together with gardens and parkland. The site was described in the early 1540s by the antiquary John Leland in his *Itinerary*:

“Bleselles Legh a litle village is a 3. mile from Hinkesey fery in the highe way from Oxford to Ferendune, alias Farington. At this Legh be very fayre pastures and woods. The Blesells hathe bene lords of it syns the tyme of Edward the First or afore, and there they dyd enhabite. The place is all of stone, and stondithe at the west end of the parochie churche” (Toulmin Smith, 1910, 72).

The relative locations of the sixteenth century manor house and village are not clear from this passage, nor is it apparent whether the manor house alone was built of stone, or both the house and the village. The manor house was demolished in 1784 not long after a major fire but a farmhouse and ancillary buildings to its north remained until the later nineteenth century. The surveys and exploratory excavations at the site were shaped by the following project research questions: was there pre-medieval settlement on the site; what was the layout and character of the medieval manor house; was there a village associated with the medieval manor house, if so, what was its extent and when was it founded and abandoned; and what are the relationships between the manor house site and the modern village of Besselsleigh?

The Geophysical Surveys

Much of the land available to survey at Rye Farm, Besselsleigh, has been covered by magnetometer surveys conducted by groups of OUDCE students in 2018, 2019 and 2020. In the area of the earlier manor house and associated farm buildings the surveys have detected magnetic anomalies

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which appear to represent either demolition rubble or the foundations of former buildings known from historic maps. In the wider parkland the surveys have not detected definite archaeological features such as ditches or pits.

A smaller area over and adjacent to the former manor house has been covered by resistivity surveys conducted by groups of OUDCE students in 2018, 2019 and 2020. The resistivity surveys have identified distinct areas and lines of high and low resistance which in some cases do appear to represent archaeological features. These features have been and will be targeted by test pits and excavation. The general impression is of a well-used and relatively disturbed environment. An area of high resistance just west of the western end of the church may be related to the demolition of a farm building that survived into the nineteenth century – possible demolition debris was discovered in the western end of the 2020 evaluation trench.

A Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey was conducted in July 2019 by OUDCE MSc ALA student Ruth Halliwell in association with Kris Lockyear from University College London. As with the previous surveys it was conducted over the main area of interest – the medieval and early-modern manor house. This survey showed more clearly than both the magnetic and earth resistance surveys a number of linear features which it may be possible to associate with features on eighteenth century drawings of the manor house. Some of these features had previously been identified as parch marks recorded during the hot summer of 2018.

The Plane Table Surveys

Between 2018 and 2020 OUDCE postgraduate and undergraduate students carried out plane table surveys of the topographical features surviving in the parkland to the west and north of the churchyard of the twelfth century church of St Lawrence. The amalgamated surveys are shown in figure 1. In the east, the slight earthworks capture the line of a hollow way, seen as a track on an early eighteenth century depiction of the site, running north-north-west beyond the eastern churchyard wall. In the north are depressions, platforms and banks which may be associated with farm buildings, some of which survived until the late nineteenth century. South of these earthworks and west of the north-west corner of the churchyard is a significant depression located at the heart of the manor house complex. To the south are slight banks linked to the courtyard south of the manor house and to the west of the courtyard is a large rectangular area, again delineated by slight but decided banks. This last feature can be linked with the outline of a plot called 'The Paddock' depicted on the 1842 tithe map.

It is planned to extend the plane table survey in the future.

The Excavations

In 2019 three test pits, TP47 to TP49, and a small evaluation trench (Trench 1: 1m by 3m) were excavated. This was followed in 2020 by a further small evaluation trench (Trench 2: 1m by 3m). Due to restrictions on the number of people allowed to work in Trench 2, deeper excavation was restricted to a sondage 1.6m by 0.45m in the south-eastern corner of the trench.

Geophysical survey had revealed areas of high resistance along a probable hollow way, also seen on eighteenth century estate maps. Test pit TP47 was located over this track. Excavation revealed the line of the track in this



Figure 28: Besselsleigh, Evaluation Trench 1

section was positioned on a floating cap of hard limestone concretions associated with bedrock. The surface of the concretion was smoothed, perhaps by vehicles and people using the hollow way. Test pit TP48 was located to the north-west of the churchyard wall and just to the north of a circular depression captured in the topographical survey (Fig. 30). It was assumed to be within the central area of the later manor house. A floor surface was discovered alongside the trench of a robbed-out wall which ran on a similar north-west to south-east alignment as wall-lines captured in the GPR and parch mark surveys. Test pit 49 was sited to the north of TP48 in an area which probably lay within the northern quadrangle of the manor house (Fig. 30). At only 0.2m depth a rough cobbled surface was found, probably a yard or other exterior surface.

All three test pits and the evaluation trenches produced medieval pottery (Fig. 31). This suggests that evidence for medieval occupation may survive to be discovered in larger excavations. Test pit 48 was particularly significant, as medieval sherds were found underneath a later floor surface associated with sixteenth to eighteenth century pottery.

The two evaluation trenches were placed over wall lines to the west of the churchyard and known from parch marks

and the GPR survey. Those lines were on broadly the same north-west to south-east alignment as the churchyard wall. While the western wall line could be linked with a courtyard wall seen in plans of the manor house and gardens, the eastern wall line cannot be convincingly accounted for in known plans and depictions of the site. Both trenches were three metres long and one metre wide. The 2019 trench (BL19 Trench 1) across the western wall line revealed a double-faced, stone-built wall 0.6m high, 0.65m wide and surviving to six rough courses. The nature of the upper deposits suggested that, in the past, different activities were carried out to the west and east of the wall (Fig. 28). BL20 Trench 2, excavated in 2020 closer to the churchyard wall, discovered another wide double-faced stone-built wall lying just over 20m north-east of the wall uncovered in 2019 (Fig. 29). The western end of the 2020 trench included a deposit of nineteenth century floor tiles and demolition debris, probably originating with the farm building just to the north and in use until the nineteenth century. It is intended to explore these walls further in future excavation.



Figure 29: Besselsleigh, Evaluation Trench 2

Summary and planned future work

The fieldwork conducted to date at the deserted manor house site indicates that there is some archaeological survival of elements of the manor house, and some indications of medieval activity and archaeological features that cannot be explained by reference to known plans, drawings and photographs. A larger excavation is therefore planned for summer 2021 to explore the heart of the manor house and its surroundings. Further test pits will investigate other earthworks and geophysical anomalies in the wider area of the park, and it is hoped to conduct a test pit campaign in the modern village of Besselsleigh to discover more about its origins and development.

Acknowledgements

The authors and the AAARP team would like to thank the volunteers and students who carried out the surveys and excavated the test pits and evaluation trenches, reported on them and cleaned the pottery. We are extremely grateful to John May for permission to work on his land and for providing access and training opportunities to OUDCE undergraduate and postgraduate students and AAARP volunteers. 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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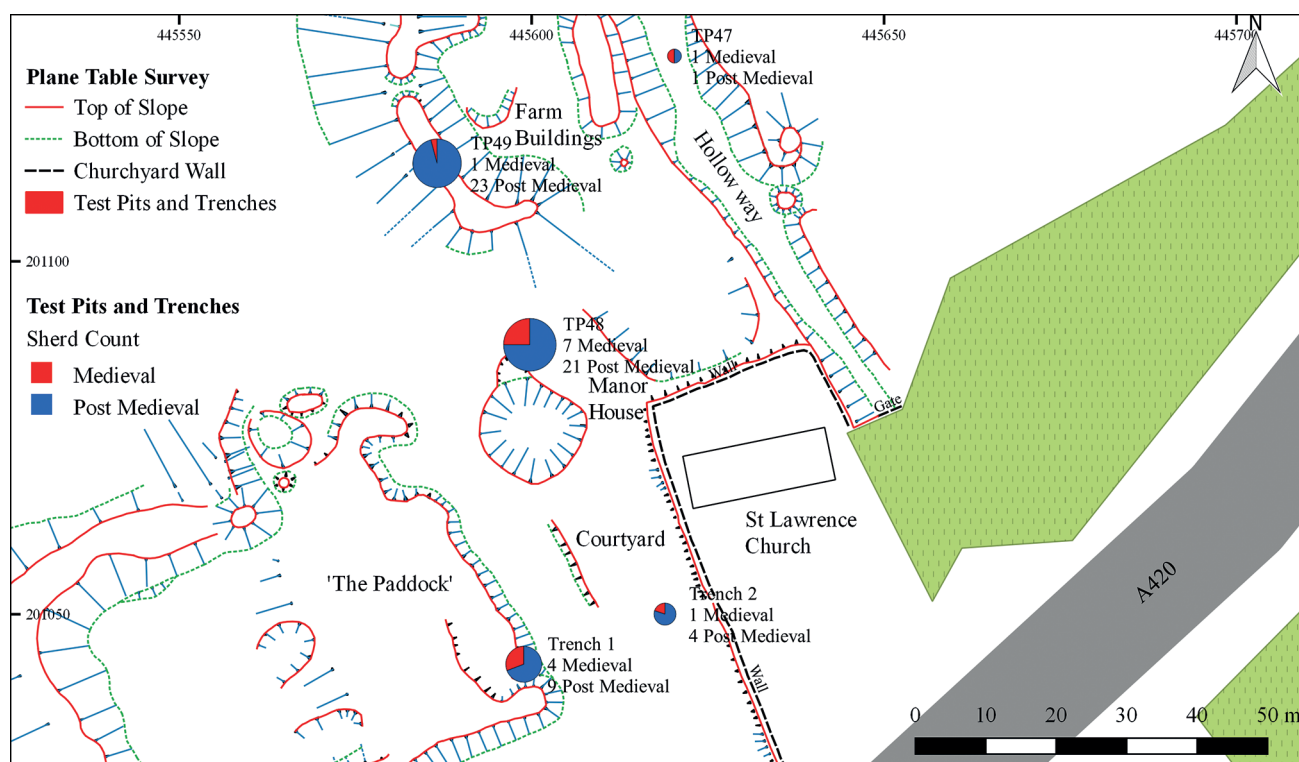


Figure 30: Besselsleigh, Topography and Location of Test Pits and Trenches

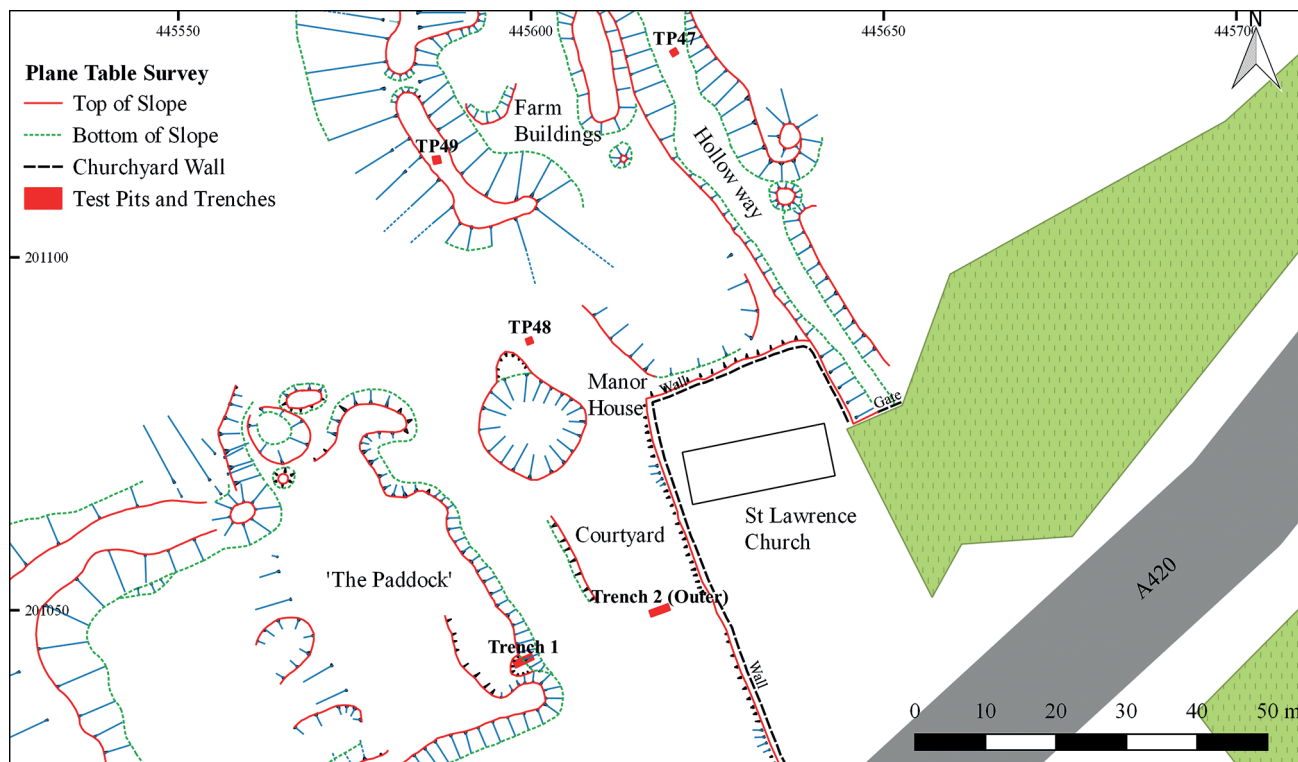


Figure 31: Besselsleigh, Pottery Analysis of the Test Pits and Trenches by sherd count

Test Pit Excavation at Chimney Meadows, Chimney 2019

LEIGH MELLOR and 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.

In 2019 a geophysical survey was undertaken in Church Field and two smaller fields to the south and west with the aim of identifying potential Roman settlement. Ditch features indicating a settlement were discovered but it was unclear from the morphology whether the settlement was Roman, medieval, or medieval overlying Roman. In October 2019 two test pits were dug, each 1m by 1m in extent, over two of the ditches in Church Field to obtain dating material (Wintle 2020). This report discusses the results from these two test pits.

The Test Pits

Test Pit 1 (CH19 TP1) was located over a large ditch on the western side of the track which runs through the settlement 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. 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 twenty 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.

The pottery has been analysed by Paul Blinkhorn and the summary results are listed below in table 1. For trench 1 Paul Blinkhorn has commented "The sherds from the lower contexts, particularly 106, include many that are large and fresh and with individual vessels well-represented, indicating a primary deposit."

These results strongly suggest the ditch features are Romano-British and are overlain by a medieval field system and not a medieval settlement. Thus the Romano-British settlement at Chimney has been located, but the exact location and extent of the deserted medieval settlement is still to be determined.

Test Pit	Iron Age		Romano-British		Early to mid Saxon		Medieval	
	Count	Weight	Count	Weight	Count	Weight	Count	Weight
1	0	0	134	1459	1	3	3	11
2	2	8	61	368	1	6	3	30

Table 1: Summary of Test Pit Pottery at Chimney

Conclusions

It had been hoped in 2020 to continue both the geophysical survey and the test pit programme but this has not been possible. Instead, it is hoped that this work will now continue in 2021. It is planned to continue the geophysical survey in a field to the north of the BBOWT buildings, while the test pit program may continue in the south-west in an attempt to locate medieval settlement.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Lisa Lane, Louise King and Lucy Garrod of BBOWT for permission to excavate these 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, and BBOWT volunteers Chris Hughes and David Haynes. The pottery was analysed by Paul Blinkhorn.

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Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project (AAARP)

Test Pits and Geophysical Survey at Tubney Manor Farm (SP 4460 0093 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. Fieldwork undertaken in 2017 and 2018 was summarised in Harrison and Rowley 2019 and the Appleton test pit campaign was described in Harrison *et al.* 2020.

This report provides an initial analysis of the pottery recovered from three test pits at Tubney Manor Farm together with the results of geophysical survey.

The Site

Domesday Book records Tubney as a small estate of one hide held by Rainbald from Abingdon Abbey. In 1086 the population consisted of two villeins, sixteen bordars and two slaves having arable land for six ploughs and 15 acres of meadow (Morgan 1979). Although the nature and location of this estate in the eleventh century is not known, it is probable it lay in north Tubney at what is now Tubney Manor Farm. The settlement survived the Black Death of 1348–49: in 1327 and 1332 there were 21 and 18 taxpayers respectively, while in 1394 there were still 18 tenants holding 20 of the

27 available holdings (Brooks 1984, 125). But no taxpayers are recorded in Tubney in the 1524 and 1525 lay subsidies (Brooks 1984, 126). Settlement desertion is confirmed by John Leland's description in the late 1530s which appears to relate to Tubney.

"I rode half a mile and came to Towkey where had been a village. The church or chapell yet remaineth, & ther by in a wood was a manor place, now clene down. It longethe now as a ferme to Magdalen College in Oxford." (VCH 1924, 379).

The reasons for the desertion of the village between 1394 and 1524 are unclear. Tenants may have left to obtain better holdings elsewhere, or the lord may have had a policy of engrossment and enclosure, forcing the removal of population (Brooks 1984, 127). Subsequently, the parish was repopulated but in a new location further south. Ten households contributed to the hearth tax of the 1660s and in 1801 a population of 79 lived in 13 dwellings (Brooks 1984, 128). As part of the re-population of Tubney from the seventeenth century a new farmhouse was constructed on the site of the former manor house and within the area enclosed by the medieval moat. This may have been an initiative of Magdalen College, possibly to house a tenant farmer. The construction of this new farmhouse may have used materials taken from the nearby abandoned church.

Tubney Manor Farm and the fields surrounding it are represented in a number of maps ranging in date from the 1750s to the 1870s of which two are discussed here. First, the Tubney tithe map of 1841 shows the farmhouse situated within three arms of the moat. To the south-east are some farm buildings and there are further buildings on the track to the south-west. Of considerable significance is the representation of a churchyard through dotted lines. The dots suggest there was no physical boundary around the churchyard although earlier boundaries or grave markers, may have been visible. There is no indication of the earlier church.

The second map is the first edition 2.5" to the mile Ordnance Survey map published in 1876. Between the 1840s and the 1870s the western arm of the moat has been filled in. Unlike the Tithe Award map which showed the outline of the churchyard but not the location of the church, the Ordnance Survey map provides a location for the church but does not show the churchyard. It is unclear on what basis the Ordnance Survey has provided the location of the church. The position of two stones are marked to the south-west and north-east of the site of the Church. If the outline of the churchyard, as taken from the Tithe Award map, is added, it seems these stones mark the northern boundary of the churchyard. The Ordnance Survey location of the church seems to have been chosen as the midway point between these two stones.

Oxfordshire

The outline of the churchyard as mapped by the 1841 tithe map and the position of the church as suggested by the Ordnance Survey are shown on figures 3 and 4.

Tubney Manor Farm Test Pits (2017 and 2018)

Three test pits (TP23, TP24 and TP25) were excavated near Tubney Manor Farm, the original manorial complex of Tubney. A post-medieval farmhouse now stands within the moated enclosure, adjacent to the deserted medieval village and lost church. Two test pits (TP23 and TP24 in 2017) were placed in an open area of grassland to the west of the farmhouse which may form part of the deserted medieval village. The third test pit (TP25 in 2018) was located further west, in a small field to the north of modern housing. The locations are illustrated in figures 33 and 34.

The pottery was analysed by Paul Blinkhorn who provided counts and weights per fabric type. Figure 32 provides an overview of the counts and weights for each pottery ware. It has a simple colour coding of orange (pre-medieval), yellow (medieval) and green (post-medieval). The vast bulk of the material recovered is medieval with only very small amounts of pre- and post-medieval pottery.

Table 1 summarises the counts and weights of the medieval pottery in these three test pits. The figures for TP23 and TP24 are largely identical and although TP25 has fewer sherds the overall assemblage is predominantly medieval. These results can usefully be compared with Appleton where 29 test pits produced 77 medieval sherds with a total weight of 598g. The three test pits at Tubney Manor Farm have produced about 70% more medieval sherds and only a tiny amount of post-medieval material. This difference is perhaps not unexpected, as Appleton remains an occupied village, where continued demolition, alteration and new building have damaged or removed medieval contexts and provided large quantities of post-medieval material. The substantial quantity of medieval pottery found in the three test pits at Tubney Manor Farm confirm the existence of a deserted medieval settlement, with TP25 perhaps near its edge.

Test Pit	Count	Weight
TP23	58	369
TP24	64	366
TP25	11	57
	133	792

Table 1: Medieval Pottery by Test Pit

Although the geophysical survey has identified a number of ditches it has not provided conclusive evidence of settlement. Figure 32 provides useful chronological information. In all three test pits the most common fabric type is OXBF, dated to AD 1050–1400. This, together with the very small amount of fabric type OXAC (AD 975–1350) does not provide strong evidence for pre-conquest settlement. There is a reasonable amount of fabric type OXAM (AD 1200–1600) but the historical evidence suggests the site was deserted before the 1520s. The pottery evidence is consistent with occupation from the eleventh to the fifteenth century.

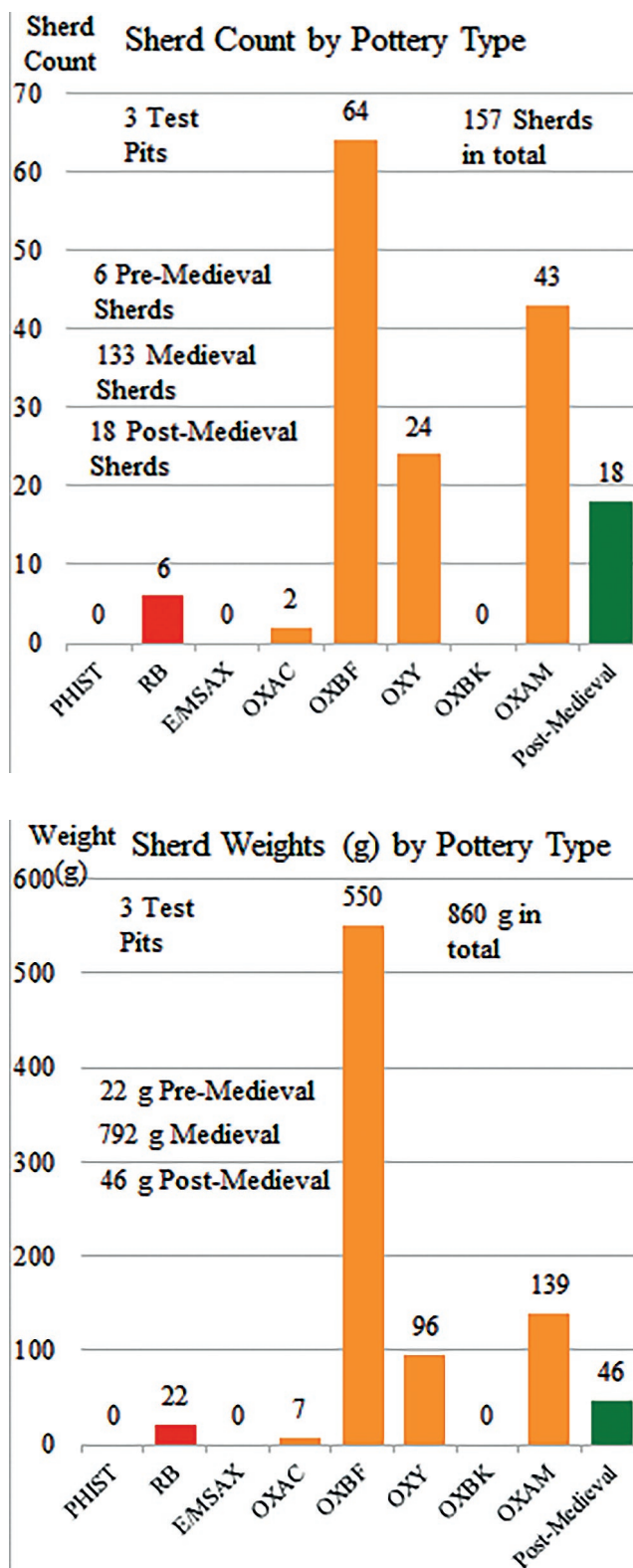


Figure 32: Tubney Manor Farm, Test Pit Pottery by Type (Counts and Weights)

Geophysical Survey at Tubney Manor Farm (2018)

The location of the geophysical survey lies to the west of the farmhouse in an open area of grassland which may form part of the deserted medieval village and is a possible site of the medieval church. An initial magnetometer survey covered all the field and was subsequently followed by an earth resistance survey in the southern part of the field.

The magnetometer survey was performed using a dual sensor Bartington Instruments GRAD601-2 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 results have been processed by TerraSurveyor and are presented as block-shaded images using a grey scale in figures 2 and 3.

Four approximately linear positive magnetic anomalies, shown as dark lines, run from the western boundary into the field, but only perhaps the one in the south may reach the eastern field boundary. Such positive magnetic anomalies are usually interpreted as ditches and this seems a reasonable assumption here. An alternative interpretation could be a path. Test pit TP23 lies on one of these probable ditch features. The homogenous nature of the spits excavated from the test pit supports the assumption that it was located on the fill of a ditch. This ditch may have been filled in around the time the village was abandoned.

There are large numbers of ferrous metal objects represented by dipoles, i.e. adjacent points of black and white. In some cases they appear to follow linear alignments but it is not clear whether this has any significance. The intensity of these features, and also features suggesting ground disturbance, increases towards the south-eastern boundary. However, they do not appear to resolve themselves into any archaeological features. In this area is test pit TP24 which exposed an undisturbed, stone cobbled surface, possibly a yard, path or outbuilding rather than a domestic internal floor surface. However, the geophysical survey does not add any further information to this.

Figure 33 contains an interpretation of the possible archaeological features. The north-east of the survey area is dominated by a very strong linear anomaly shown as alternating black and white areas and this is almost certainly

a metal pipe, probably for water. It may be leading towards the Tubney Manor Farm buildings, or to water troughs in the adjacent fields. Also present in this figure are the location of the two earlier test pits (TP23 and TP24), the outline of the churchyard in the south-east as taken from the Tithe Award map, and the location of the church as suggested by the Ordnance Survey.

The earth resistance survey was performed by two groups of OUDCE MSc Applied Landscape Archaeology students using a Geoscan Research RM-15D resistivity meter. The grids were twenty-metre squares and were walked in a clockwise “zig-zag” pattern with traverses one metre apart and readings taken two times a metre along each traverse. The resistivity meter was configured as a twin probe array with the mobile probes 0.5 metres apart. The results have been processed by TerraSurveyor and are presented as block shaded images using a colour scale in Figure 4. Low resistance readings are represented by dark green, high resistance readings as red, and various shades of green, yellow and orange indicate intermediate resistance values.

Figure 34 clearly shows a rectangular, high resistance feature in the south-west of the survey area and two parallel linear features running south-west to north-east to the east of the rectangular feature. The ends of these two parallel features are not easy to determine and they may converge in the west. In the east they disappear into a low resistance feature. If this is their eastern end it aligns well with the eastern boundary of the churchyard from the Tithe Award map. The visible length of the parallel features is approximately 45 metres.

The rectangular feature measures 10 to 11 metres on its longer axis and about 7 metres on its shorter axis. It appears to represent the rectangular foundations of a building whose interior floor has been removed. The high resistance would indicate stone or rubble foundations. This is how a ruined or demolished church might be expected to appear in an earth

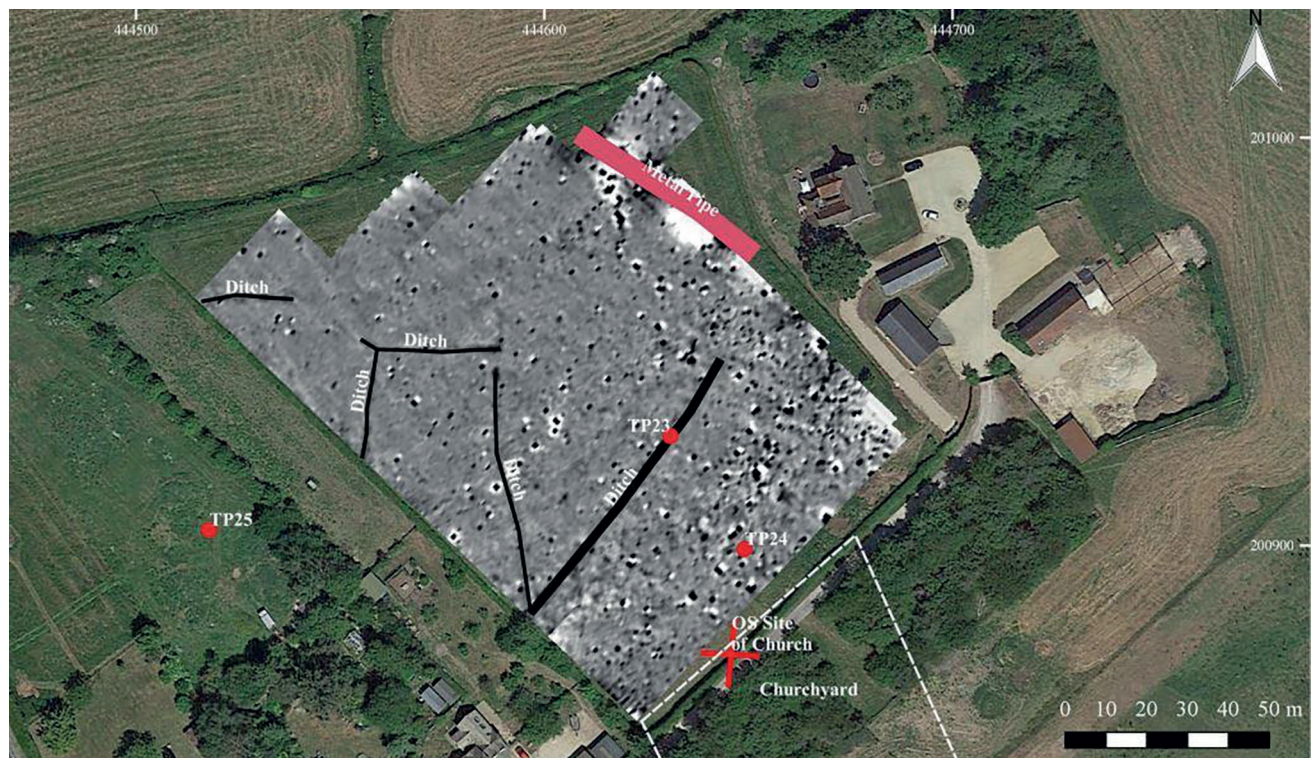


Figure 33: Tubney Manor Farm, Magnetometer Survey Interpretation

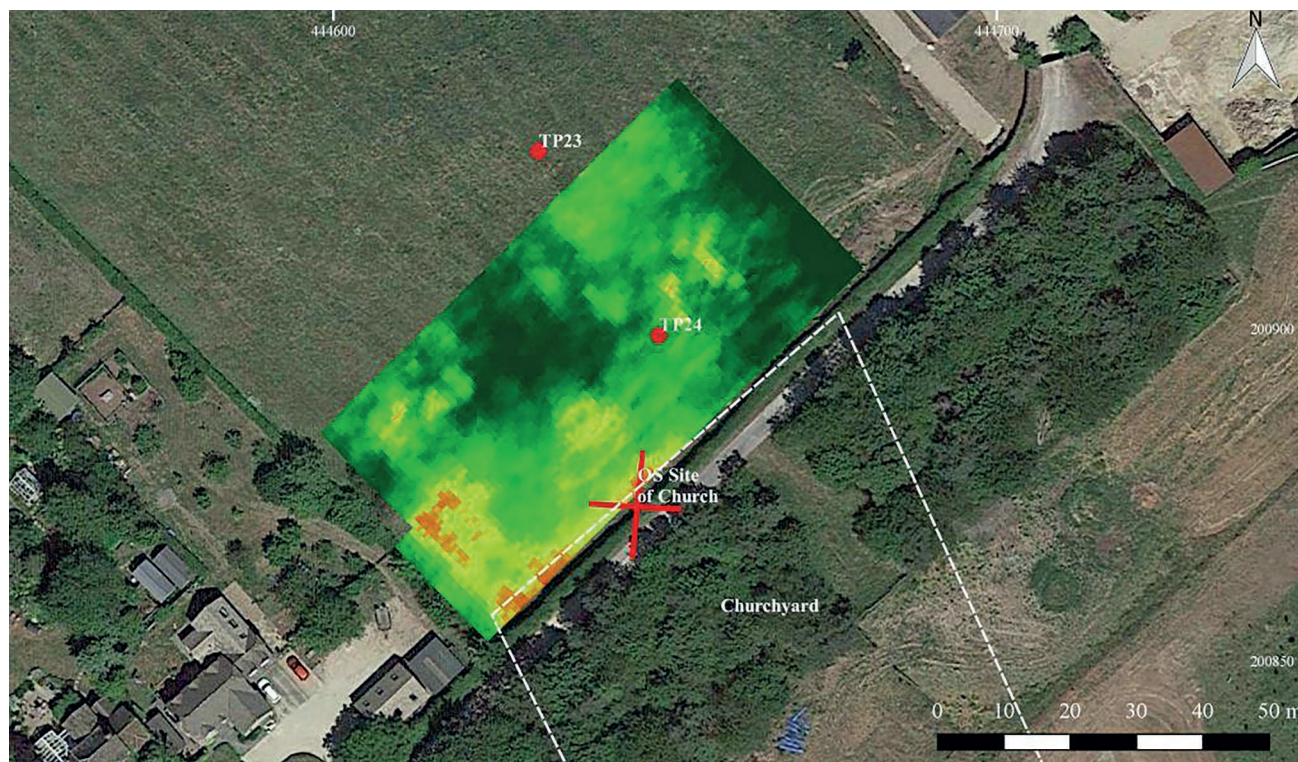


Figure 34: Tubney Manor Farm, Earth Resistance Survey

resistance survey. In addition, it is close to the area where a church was likely to be. But there are at least two problems with interpreting the feature as a church. Firstly, the building is quite small: at 11 metres by 7 metres it is about half the size of the church at Besselsleigh. By itself this is not an insurmountable problem. More importantly, the building is not aligned on or near to an east-west axis as would be expected for a church.

There are further high resistance readings along the south-eastern boundary of the survey, one of which corresponds, probably fortuitously, almost exactly with the Ordnance Survey location of the church. These high resistance areas are more difficult to interpret as they are incomplete – they may be parts of archaeological features or alternatively they may relate to the construction and maintenance of the track to the south-east. In the east of the survey area are two small, irregular areas of ‘highish’ resistance. Test pit TP24 is close to one of these. The area with the lowest resistance is in the centre-north of the survey area. There are irregular areas of higher resistance to the east and west of this low resistance area.

Discussion

An extensive area to the south-east of Tubney Manor Farm was excavated by Oxford Archaeology (OA) between 2001 and 2009 (Simmonds *et al.* 2011). The north-west limit of this excavation approached the south-eastern boundary of the churchyard as represented on the 1841 Tithe Award map. Medieval features, primarily ditches, were found in this north-western area. Just within the excavation limit a major ditch was located, aligned south-west to north-east and largely parallel with the presumed south-eastern boundary of the churchyard. This ditch appears to have been recut several times and its fill contained pottery dating from the late twelfth to the early fifteenth centuries. Short lengths of other ditches were found, one of which contained pottery dated from the eleventh to thirteenth century. A further

feature produced pottery indicating a thirteenth to fourteenth century date. (Simmonds *et al.* 2011, pages 123, 139 and 164). These pottery dates are in good agreement with those from the three test pits.

The OA excavation appears to confirm the south-eastern boundary of the churchyard and may provide evidence for the south-eastern limit of the medieval settlement. The alignment of the main ditch confirms the medieval date of the south-west to north-east alignment of the south-eastern boundary of the churchyard. This same alignment is seen in the track which leads from Tubney Manor Farm to the Appleton road, and by the two parallel features observed in the earth resistance survey. These two parallel features may indicate a ditch (or ditches) marking the north-western boundary of the churchyard in the same way that the ditch excavated by OA marks the south-eastern boundary. Figures 2 and 3 demonstrate that the alignments of the ditches detected in the magnetometer survey do not share this south-west to north-east alignment. Closest is the southernmost ditch, in which test pit TP23 was located.

The three test pits have provided significant quantities of medieval pottery and confirmed the site as a deserted medieval village. Test pit TP23 appears to have been located on a ditch and test pit TP24 provided evidence of a cobbled surface. The character of the excavated spits in both test pits suggests layers have been virtually undisturbed since the desertion of the village.

A plausible location for a church would be somewhere within the churchyard and therefore south of the trackway to the Appleton Road. The earth resistance survey examined the area to the north of the trackway and located a rectangular structure probably having rubble or stone foundations. It is unlikely this is the church or chapel at Tubney as its small size and orientation argue against it. It may instead represent some other building within the village. In this case it might be expected that more of these features remain to be detected within the medieval settlement.

Conclusions

The aim of the test pits and geophysical surveys at Tubney Manor Farm was to determine the extent of the medieval settlement and provide dating information. The test pit pottery supports a date range from the eleventh to the fifteenth century. It is possible the settlement began before the Norman conquest but clear archaeological evidence for this has not yet been found.

The settlement appears to have been quite extensive but its boundaries have not yet been located. To this end it is hoped that future test pits and geophysical surveys will more accurately delimit the settlement. The field to the north of the geophysical surveys and test pits TP23 and TP24 contains a number of depressions which Brooks (1984, 131) has interpreted as holloways within the medieval settlement. The area to the south of the trackway is more difficult to survey as it contains a belt of trees and then a fence. To the south-east of this fence is a narrow strip of land before the edge of the earlier excavation and sand quarry is reached.

It is also hoped to place a small excavation trench over the possible building foundations detected in the earth resistance survey.

Acknowledgements

The authors and the AAARP team would like to thank those who kindly allowed test pits to be excavated on their land, and the volunteers and students who dug the test pits, reported on them and cleaned the pottery. In particular, we are extremely grateful to Erla Rafnsdóttir and Michael O'Byrne for permission to excavate two test pits and conduct geophysical surveys on their land and for providing access and training opportunities to OUDCE undergraduate and postgraduate students. 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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WALLINGFORD HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Crowmarsh Gifford, Coldharbour Farm SU625894

LINDSEY BEDFORD

In August 2020, The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS), revisited Coldharbour Farm in Crowmarsh Gifford, a site where 28 years previously a metal detectorist unearthed a Roman lead coffin. This led to an excavation by the group resulting in

the discovery of a small cemetery of 25 internments of men, women and children in one field and a corn drier in the field opposite. This was recorded in CBA South Midlands Group Newsletter No. 26. Pp 71–76.

The current long term project is being led and carried out by volunteers from TWHAS but also includes friends from our neighbouring societies. There is such a wealth of expertise and experience across the different societies, often restricted by modern county boundaries, that it is lovely when a project can disregard those boundaries and work in collaboration.

The project aims to survey all the fields surrounding the original investigation, to see whether we can reveal evidence for occupation. There are 9 fields in the survey area and 4 different survey methods will be carried out on each; magnetometry, resistivity (on targeted areas), metal detecting and fieldwalking.

The first field that became available after harvesting in 2020 was the one with the corn drier. Unfortunately, the magnetometry was not as conclusive as hoped due to ground conditions being very dry, relatively shallow topsoil over solid chalk and quite a lot of ferrous contamination. The resistivity picked up the previous archaeological interventions and several linear features, probably field ditch boundaries. It was clear from the geophysics that the focus for occupation was not in this field.

The fieldwalking collected a 20% sample across the whole field and recovered much ceramic building material and pottery. Being surface finds and subjected to weather and farming, much of the material was highly abraded. Nevertheless, the majority of the Roman pottery picked up was concentrated in the area of the field closest to the corn drier. The Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern sherds were scattered right across the field showing continuity of use for many years.

This continuity was also demonstrated with the metal detected finds. The earliest metal finds included a Roman snake ring (Fig. 35) and 15 Roman coins. There were also 5 Medieval silver coins (5 cut half pennies and 1 full penny). The 3 earliest are short cross cut half pennies dating from AD 1180–1272 and all bear the name HENRICVS. Unfortunately no more can be read of the inscriptions so the issuing ruler could be Henry II, Richard I, John or Henry III as the legend did not change across their reigns. One of the long cross coins (a cut half penny of Henry III), has a Carlisle mintmark. As this mint was only operational from AD 1248 – 1250 that makes this quite a rare coin.

In addition to the coins, there were many other finds. These included part of a sword belt hanger, lead tokens, part of a purse bar, a Georgian fob seal with CREDI inscribed in amethyst and a 13th century vesical seal (Fig. 36) portraying a pelican feeding her chicks with the blood from her breast. Around the edge of this was the inscription S' RADVL[F...] (the seal of Ralf....), unfortunately the rest is illegible.

We were lucky to be able to undertake this work between the 1st and 2nd Covid lockdowns. Although we obviously had to keep to strict and challenging guidelines, it was an enormously important event at a time when people's mental health was really suffering. Being able to work outdoors with friends old and new, doing what we love doing was a huge boost to everyone's wellbeing. Hopefully we will continue the work this year and for several more years to come.

Oxfordshire



Figure 35: Crowmarsh Gifford, Roman Snake Ring



Figure 36: Crowmarsh Gifford, C13th Vesical Seal and impression

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NAC

Revised: 20th February 2018

